

### PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

### **Diversity meeting**

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education meets Monday to discuss the district's diversity plan.

The meeting takes place 6:30 p.m. at the E.J. McClendon Education Center, 454 Harvey in Plymouth.

More information is available on the district's Web site at www. pccs.k12.mi.us.

### Special show

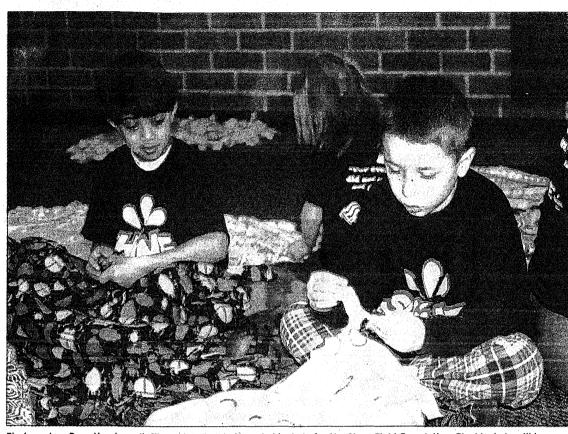
The Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard team and Winter Drumline conduct a special performance for the community at large 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, in the gymnasium at Central Middle School, 650 Church, in downtown Plymouth.

The PCMB Guard Ensembles, Winter Guard and Winter Drumline will all perform. The Winter Ensembles are comprised of students of Plymouth-Canton Education Park and the music program. The Winter Drumline is active in the 2010 competition season, where they have received numerous accolades for their show, "Program Two."

Winter Pee Wee and Junior Guard will also perform. Pee Wee and Jr. Guard are comprised of elementary and middle school students who participated in a special workshop hosted by the Winter Guard Program and director Jennifer Leseth.

#### Safety seminar New Liberty Bank hosts a free

New Liberty Bank hosts a free "Safety in the Home" seminar



First-graders Ryan Varghese (left) and Leo Brackett made blankets for the Sleep Tight Foundation. The blankets will be given to children entering the foster care system.

# Lending their hands PCA students reach out to help others

#### BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The various parts of Plymouth Christian Academy's Project SHINE effort went so fluidly, and so quickly, some of the students were left to ponder what more they could do for others.

The community outreach effort, in which students in grades K-12 took part, was designed to reach out to needy people in a variety of ways. And when it was over, the students simply wanted more. "We were left wondering what more we could do," said Jennifer Koloian, a 17-year-old senior from Plymouth. "It was over so quickly, we just wanted to do more."



# USPS: City branch will be protected

#### BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth officials were breathing easier about the fate of the city's downtown post office last week after learning details of the U.S. Postal Service's plans for the building.

The USPS, which is working to cut costs and trim deficits as its mail volume and revenue drop, intends to sell the 21,000-squarefoot building on Penniman and lease space there, or at a nearby location, to continue current services.

Mayor Dan Dwyer and other city officials recently met with USPS officials, who gave assurances that their preference is for the post office to remain in the current building, Dwyer said.

Dwyer characterized the USPS attitude as open and eager for cooperation. "I find that to be a breath of fresh air," he said Thursday.

Officials also learned the building would be protected from demolition after any sale and that the USPS plans to keep the station's name should it have to relocate its services. The station is named for Carl Pursell, the former Republican U.S. congressman, who died last June.

The building was built through the Works Progress Administration, the federal jobs program created during the Great Depression, and is eligible for a national historic designation, said Marla Larsen-Williams, a USPS real estate specialist for the Great Lakes region. It opened in 1936.

Larsen-Williams plans to drive in from the Chicago area to attend the Monday, April 5, City Commission meeting to explain the USPS plan and take comments and questions from the public.

"The postal service will still have a presence in the community. We are not closing the post office," Larsen-Williams said Friday. The USPS will attempt to negotiate a lease for part of the building's space with a buyer, Larsen-Williams said. Should that fail, she said, the postal service would work with city officials to find an alternate location.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, March 26, at the bank's Plymouth location at 1333 W. Ann Arbor Road.

The seminar will cover topics including child safety, car seats, booster seats, basic first aid and CPR. Refreshments will be served and take-home materials provided, along with a free first aid kit. RSVP suggested but drop-ins are welcome. RSVP to: info@firstchoiceucc.com or call New Liberty Bank for more information (734) 455-1511.

The program will be conducted by Asher Sigler, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Neonatal Advanced Life Support instructor. He's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-certified, with 15 years of training in the medical field.

It's the first in a series of seminars that New Liberty Bank and First Choice Urgent Care Center plan on presenting to the community. Upcoming topics include workplace safety, child care and elder care and summer and sports safety. Some 730 people — students, staff and parent volunteers — served more than 2,000

hours during Project SHINE (Serving Him in Neighborhoods Everywhere). Each grade got involved in a service project for the community in early March. For instance, preschoolers made prayer pillows for people seeking shelter at the Detroit Rescue Mission. Each preschooler then laid their head on a pillow and prayed for the person receiving that pillow.

Kindergarten students made Band-aid boxes and Boo Boo Bunnies for orphanages in Haiti though the Christian Light Foundation. First-graders made blankets for children entering foster care through the Sleep Tight Foundation. Seventhgraders made baked goods and thank-you notes for area fire and

PCA student Catherine Molnar helps stock shelves with hygiene products at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

police stations.

Eighth-graders stocked the pantries at Grace Centers of Hope, while other classes worked with Gleaners Food Bank, Starlight Foundation, the Plymouth Salvation Army, AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center and others.

"The whole project is designed to encourage our students to think outside themselves and think about their communities," said Beth Larabee, who headed up Project SHINE.

Organizers hope Project SHINE, which replaced PCA's annual walkathon, will instill a sense of purpose and dedication to others in their students.

"Our passion is this will spark a lifelong passion to serve," Larabee said. "We're hoping the

Please see PCA, A3



Lydia Chapel and Plymouth Christian Academy fifth-graders helped AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center with their Baby Bottle Campaign.

City officials would prefer to keep the post office downtown, and the USPS would work with the Downtown Development Authority to find a location should the station have to move, Dwyer said.

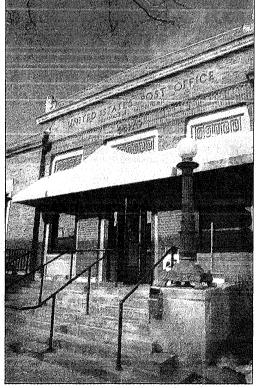
Larsen-William said the station, if forced to move, would need between 1,300 and 2,000 square feet. "A lot of it depends on the configuration," she said.

The USPS is in the midst of getting an appraisal for the post office to help it determine its market value, and Larsen-Williams said she can't finalize an asking price until that is done. The site could go on sale within two months, she said.

Any move of the post office would not be done before the building is sold, Larsen-Williams said. "The postal service will not be leaving an empty building," she said.

In addition to seeing that the building

Please see USPS, A7



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The U.S. Postal Service is considering selling the Plymouth Post Office building on Penniman, in use since 1935, but officials said their preference is to lease the space back from new owners and keep the post office right where it's at.

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# Nearly four years after move, township property sits vacant

#### BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nearly four years after Plymouth Township police officers, firefighters, elected officials and support employees moved into newer, fancier digs, the former township complex sits unused.

The five buildings (two are attached, so it appears there are four) on four acres on Ann Arbor Road just west of Lilley were vacated in mid-2006 in favor of the new township hall, fire station and police station on Haggerty north of Ann Arbor Road, about a mile away.

The slow economy is blamed for the absence of any redevelopment at the old property.

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"The economy has made it a little more difficult to sell," said township Supervisor Richard Reaume.

One parcel, the building at the northwest corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, was sold in December 2006, for \$2 million, to Fifth Third Bank, which had planned to put a branch office there. But, after beginning the process of seeking a site plan for a new bank building approved, the project was put on hold.

The building there had housed the township clerk's department, Reaume said, and before that had been a Friendly's restaurant.

For the remaining township buildings, on 2.75 acres, the township is asking \$2 million and the Board of Trustees is willing to negotiate, Reaume said. "The board would entertain any reasonable offer," he said.

There had been some interest by developers in putting a restaurant at the front of the property and an office building at the back, and a small shopping center had also been proposed, but no deals were reached and "no one's even come forward" to express interest for some time, Reaume said.

Reaume envisions a possible scenario that could have the property split into two parcels for two different types of uses, but "otherwise, it has value as a connected parcel," with

Please see PROPERTY, A7

A2 (P)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

"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

#### Bottles and cans

WSDP 88.1-FM is sponsoring a can and bottle drive to raise money for the student radio station.

Cans and bottles can be dropped off Saturday, March 27, from noon to 4 p.m. at the east end of Salem High School (nearest to the student parking lot). WSDP staff members will also be collecting returnables in their neighborhoods.

"We hope people will save their cans and bottles," said station manager Bill Keith. "Something as simple as donating returnable cans and bottles can go a long way toward helping us raise significant dollars for the station."

Everyone who drops off cans and bottles March 27<sup>th</sup> will receive a wooden nickle, good for a cup of coffee at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

#### Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club

sponsors this year's Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 3,at Plymouth Township Park.

The park is located off Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha. The hunt will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Don't forget to bring baskets, bags and cameras. Club members will also be collecting hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones.

For more information e-mail Debbie Baudino-Dowling at debbaudino@hotmail.com or call (734) 207-7464.

#### Defense meeting

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County hosts a meeting to discuss the public defense system 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Speakers will include attorney Loren Khogali and Stephanie Change, deputy director of the Michigan Campaign for Justice.

"Effective defense representation is part of our US Constitution and fundamental to a working justice system," said Paula Bowman, LWV

#### AROUND PLYMOUTH

president. "But in Michigan, the system of public defense is failing. It fails the taxpayers who fund it, fails the families who rely on it to keep them safe, and fails to adequately uphold the constitutional rights of the accused."

The Livonia Civic Center Library is located at 33000 Civic Center Drive in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 277-2243.

#### Good Friday breakfast

All men and boys are invited to an All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast Friday, April 2, at 8 a.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Rd. in Canton.

This community outreach event includes a powerful message by Pastor Dave Woodby and son Zack. Tickets are \$5 and \$2 for boys 10 and under and can be obtained by calling the church office at (734) 459-3333.

#### Show and tell

"Show and Tell" takes on a new dimension at the Plymouth Historical Museum when collectors display their collections and possibly sell an

item or two. "Show and Tell... and Sell' showcases are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 20, Saturday, April 17, and Saturday, May 15. The March 20 showcase will feature such collections as political folk art, postcards, and snow globes--presented by two child collectors. The May 15 showcase is planned to feature military collectibles. as the event occurs on Armed Forces Day. The museum is still looking for collectors for these events. Details and an application can be found on the museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory. org/Events.html.

The showcases are part of the Plymouth Historical Museum's current special exhibit, "Show and Tell Collectibles," which runs through Sunday, June 13. The exhibit consists of an eclectic mix of personal and Museum collections ranging from antique tools to chatelaines to stuffed animals.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit the museum's Web site at www. plymouthhistory.org.

#### Beekeeper's conference

The 72nd annual Beekeeper's Conference takes place Saturday, March 20, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Schoolcraft College, VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty in Livonia. This one-day event is

designed for all beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. There is no registration fee for SEMBA members. Registration fee at the door for non-members is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. No pre-registration is necessary.

Workshop sessions, featuring a variety of beekeeping topics, will be conducted by Master Beekeepers and others who have kept bees for many years.

#### Senior spellers

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging together with the Northville Senior Center will host the annual Wayne

#### online at hometownlife.com



#### Story time

Local children attended a special story time at the Plymouth District Library sponsored by Community Financial Credit Union in partnership with Detroit's 104.3 WOMC to promote reading during March is Reading Month. Representing Community Financial are (from left) Michelle Richards, Natalie McLaughlin and Brynn Paskauchas along with Detroit's WOMC 104.3 Stacey DuFord, Carol Champagne, the library's Youth Services Coordinator, Plymouth Township firefighters Greg Mangan and Dave Fox, and Plymouth Police Officer Justin Bulmer. DuFord, a Detroit radio media veteran and a children's book author, was a guest reader along with the firefighters and police officer. They shared great stories and offered an opportunity for the children to ask guestions about their occupations.

County Senior Spelling Bee on Wednesday, April 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northville Senior Center located at 303 W. Main Street, Northville.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext.236 to RSVP as a speller or spectator,

Wayne County will offer a free lunch, prizes and raffles for everyone who attends. Remember you don't have to be a speller to participate.

#### Grief seminar

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is sponsoring an eight week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope" beginning on April 14.

This free workshop is open to the community and will be held on eight consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each session will begin with a talk about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Each person will be placed in a group with others who have had similar losses. The workshop will meet at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

For registration information, please call (248) 442-8822. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call (248) 348-0115 or visit the Web site www.newhopecenter.net.

#### Sagear scholars

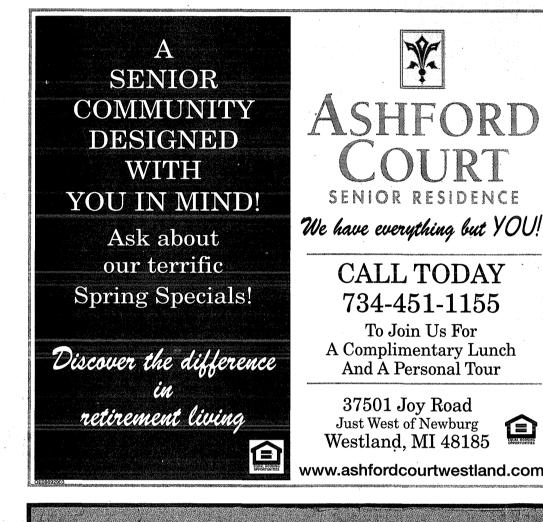
The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School senior who has overcome adversity with the \$500 Sandra Sagear Rotary Scholarship.

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.



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Plymouth Christian Academy preschooler David Washington lays on a pillowcase he decorated for the Detroit Rescue. Mission and prays for the child who will receive it.



seed we plant at this young age will serve people long after they leave PCA."

The younger students took part in projects on-campus, while the school's older students went to stations off-campus. Some danced with senior citizens, others packed and unpacked boxes for Gleaners. Some weren't exactly sure what to expect, others might have gotten exactly the education for which organizers were hoping.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said Michaela Wheeler, an 18-year-old senior from Canton. "It opened my



Plymouth Christian Academy's 11th-graders served meals at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

eyes to the fact other people really need help."

Ethan Walker, a 17-year-old senior from Ypsilanti, said the experience gave him a good feeling "knowing how much we were able to help." "It was cool how in so few

hours we were able to package

so much food for so many people," said Walker, who cleared pallets of food for the Macomb Food Bank.

The seniors packaged some 35,000 pounds of food that will feed some 105,000 people.

"I thought that was very cool," said Blair Robinson, a 17-year-old senior from Plymouth. "It didn't seem like you could help that many people. You got a lot of work done in one day." Larabee said PCA students

did good work for the community throughout the monthlong project.

"The kids rolled up their sleeves and served the community in a real tangible way," she said.

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## Plymouth awaits study on public safety services

**BY MATT JACHMAN** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth officials are looking forward to the completion of a \$68,000 study of the city's public safety system — police protection, firefighting, and emergency medical response — and whether those services could be delivered at a lower cost.

"I know there's a lot of energy to get to work on this," said Mayor Dan Dwyer, who, during a previous term as mayor, pushed for further regionalization of firefighting and emergency medical services.

"If we can provide quality public safety services at a lower price, we're going to do it," Dwyer said. The International Association

of City Managers Consulting Services is in the midst of the study, which the city commission approved last October. Representatives of the group have made visits to the police stations in Plymouth and Plymouth Township (the city relies on the jail and the emergency dispatch center there), to the three Plymouth Community Fire Department stations, and to Huron Valley Ambulance, which provides backup emergency medical response in the city and township and makes most of the ambulance runs to local hospitals.

"Now they're back crunching numbers," Dwyer said.

The mayor said he expects some preliminary numbers, statistics on such things as police and ambulance runs, response times and historical trends, by the end of March. But the entire study won't be completed until this summer, he said.

"That's when the real work really begins," he said.

The study is expected to include recommendations on how the city might save money on public safety, which is the commission's goal in a time of tightening city revenues.

This fiscal year, Plymouth has about \$4 million, more than half of its general-fund budget of \$7.6 million, designated for public safety. That includes nearly \$3 million for the Plymouth Police Department and just over \$1 million for the fire department, which also serves Plymouth Township. The city provides about a quarter of the fire department's revenue.

Officials said none of the possible public safety modifications the study's authors might suggest are beyond consideration at this point, and that there are no foregone conclusions.

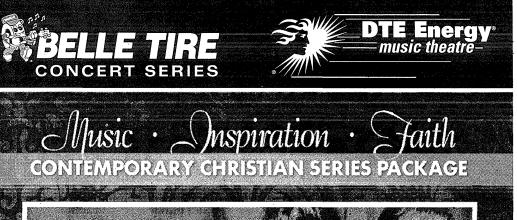
"We don't have any preconceived conclusions or directions," said City Manager Paul Sincock.

The study might, for example, recommend inviting more communities into a regional fire department, or changing the ambulance service arrangement with HVA, or moving to a so-called public safety department, in which police officers are cross-trained to be firefighters and medical first responders. The commission, Dwyer said, would likely not rule out any idea that could deliver the same services more efficiently.

Upon its completion, the study's authors and the city plan public meetings in which the study's results will be discussed and public input sought, Dwyer said.

"I would hope and expect that we would have a crowded house for that stuff," he said.

WHEN YOU DECIDE YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHE



TOBYMAC and CHRIS TOMLIN



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

# Education

# In any language

Workman event celebrates countries, cultures

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH CORRESPONDENT

On Friday, Workman Elementary showcased many different countries and cultures, during its fourth annual Celebration of Diversity celebrating differences while working together in unity.

<sup>\*</sup>Diversity is critical to harmony and understanding of one another," said Sabrina Boykin, PTO President and the night's emcee.

As the guests arrived, they were given a language lesson, which turned out to be one of Prabha Bhat's favorite activities."I liked learning all the different ways to greet [others] in different languages," said Bhat, who helped choreograph dances from India. Also, the first graders sang "Hello to all the Children of the World" as a way to further welcome about 300 guests.

Workman Principal Jim Burt warmly thanked the families for teaching their children tolerance, understanding and respect for people that are different.

For the next hour, the audience was thoroughly entertained and educated by lively cultural music, singing and dancing. Each group wore colorful and traditional dress and seemed to "transport" the audience to other lands and cultures.

In Ireland, they heard the Irish National Anthem, sung beautifully in Gaelic, and were stunned by the rhythmic pounding of Irish dancing. Next, England presented a fun "Spice Girls" remix and dance. Then, China brought on the Chinese New Year with a sweet song and dance, as well as colorful lanterns and umbrellas. In Mexico, the audience was Celebration of Di

Destiny Haywood, Taylor Boykin and Karly Patterson celebrate the African-American culture during Workman's diversity celebration.

further entertained by the "Mexican Hat Dance". Next, India's group performed classical dance with jazz fusion, folk dance and Bollywood modern dance. Then, the African American group performed a "Motown 50th Anniversary Review," which featured songs by famous Detroit singers.

In Japan, they watched the playful So-ran bushi dance, which is traditionally performed in Japanese summer festivals. The audience was then transported back to the USA, with a patriotic song by the 5th graders.

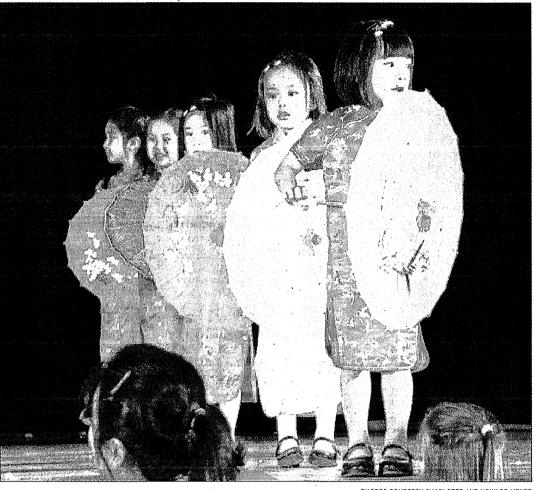
"Passports" were then distributed and the world tour continued. This time, the guests traveled to several classrooms for food tasting, as well as handson activities. Educational and cultural displays were seen throughout the school. Additional countries included Germany, Guatemala, Turkey and Syria/Lebanon.

Parent, Sangeetha Jeneja, said, "It's so surprising to see so much diversity in one place," said Sangeetha Jeneja, a parent. "The way it's presented here, you get to appreciate every single country - the foods, the colors and their customs and traditions."

Rosa Galvan, who helped with the group from Mexico, said she especially liked the customs, clothes and food from India. "I liked tasting the different flavors," she said.

Prabha Bhat especially liked the food sampling from Turkey, while Mary Kelso liked learning about the various African American heroes.

Organizers credited the success of the event to the "hard work and dedication of several staff and custodial members, parents, students and other volunteers." Also, several local businesses contributed. To all who helped in any way, the guests said: "Thank You," "Gracias," "xie xie," "Dhanyavad," "Danke schön," "Iyayraykere," "Shukur," "Balika," "Thuchi chea," "Maharabe," "Thenk Ye," "Boche," "Arigato."



PHOTOS COURTESY CHARLOTTE AND HOWARD MEYER

Adam Sun, Brian Yang, Joshua Zhe and Anna Wang do a dance at the fourth annual Workman Elementary School Celebration of Diversity.



Shirya Mohite, Liam Hurley, Teruki Gibeau, Sarah Kress and Momoka Kusaka celebrate the Japanese culture.

A4 (CP)

### Saturday, March 27th

12:30 p.m. Sharp – Ages 3 & Under and Ages 4-6 12:45 p.m. – Ages 7-9 and Ages 10-12

### Livonia Branch, 37401 Plymouth Road

(SW Corner of Newburgh & Plymouth)

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A5

#### **ON CAMPUS**

#### College of the Holy Cross

Joseph Todaro, a second-year student at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., has been named to the Dean's List for the first semester of the 2009-10 academic year.

Todaro is the son of Jim and Vicki Todaro of Canton. He is majoring in chemistry.

Founded in 1843, the College of the Holy Cross is a selective, exclusively undergraduate college of 2,800 students known for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

#### Alma College

Alma College has named nearly 400 students, including three Plymouth-Canton Community Schools graduates, to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2009 Fall Term.

Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Local students included junior Maricatharine Eggenberger of Canton, a Plymouth High School graduate, and seniors Ashley Jennen of Canton, a Salem High School graduate, and Kelsey Bailey of Plymouth, who was graduated from Canton High School.

#### Lebanon Valley College

Aaron Amin of Canton, a sophomore at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., was honored at a recent ceremony to celebrate the success of new students at LVC who have been recognized as emerging leaders.

Amin was presented with the gift of a zippered pad folio that read on the cover, "LVC, Making a Difference," along with a formal "certificate of recognition." The honored students mingled with faculty and staff at a reception with food and flowers in the atrium of LVC's Neidig-Garber Science Center. LVC President Stephen C. MacDonald challenged the students to continue their success, telling them they were off to a good start, and he was expecting great things from them in the future. The students who won the award were nominated by faculty, administrators, coaches, and staff at the College.

Founded in 1866, Lebanon Valley College is a liberal arts and pre-professional college with an enrollment of 1,600 undergraduate students.

#### Elmhurst College

Jacob Whitecar of Plymouth was among the students named to the Elmhurst (Ill.) College Dean's List for the fall term of the 2009-10 academic year.

The Dean's List is comprised of students who, during the semester, attained a gradepoint average of 3.75 or higher.

Elmhurst College is located 15 miles west of Chicago. It's mission is to prepare students for meaningful and ethical work in a muulticultural, global society. Approximately 3,300 full- and part-time students are enrolled in its 22 undergraduate academic departments and nine graduate degree programs.

#### Hillsdale College

Daniel J. Pauley, a freshman psychology and Spanish major at Hillsdale College, was named to the Dean's List for the 2009 fall semester.

Pauley is the son of David and Christine Pauley of Plymouth and is a 2008 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

#### Hope College

Kevin Soubly is one of two Hope College students studying off-campus during the 2010 spring semester.

Soulby, a junior from Plymouth, is studying in Washington, D.C., through the Washington Honors Semester Program. He is the son of David and Carol Soubly of Plymouth and a 2007 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

### Police investigating school fight

A 14-year-old Plymouth High School freshman was reportedly hospitalized at the University of MIchigan hospital after a fight with a Canton High School freshman Wednesday afternoon.

Canton Township police were called to Canton High School around 1:15 Wednesday on the report of the fight between the two boys. The department's School Resource Officer took a report, and paramedics transported the injured student to Children's Hospital, where police say he is undergoing medical treatment.

Canton Police investigators are looking into the cause of the altercation, as well as waiting for a final determination on the extent of the victim's injuries.

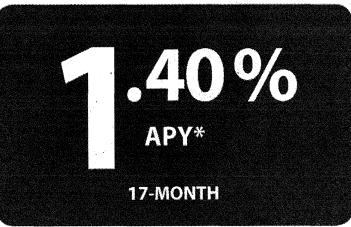
Frank Ruggirello, director of community relations for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, said the district couldn't comment further on the incident because of the age of the students. Both students were initially suspended for four days. The Canton High School freshman was extended to a 10-day suspension, Ruggirello said.

Ruggirello said further disciplinary action could be taken following completion of the inquiry.

Canton Police said the case remains open.



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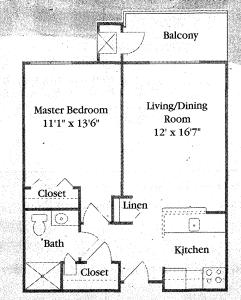
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#### LOCAL NEWS

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

## Mother's life hinges on finding a bone marrow match

#### BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Bracing for a courageous struggle for her life, leukemiastricken Canton mom Kerry Brooks has the same dreams of any good mother.

She wants to watch her son Brendan, 8, and daughter Sydney, 6, succeed in school, learn to drive, attend their proms, celebrate their high school graduations and lead happy lives.

"I have two small children,' Brooks said, sitting at her dining room table Thursday morning with husband Dave. "I have to get better."

Her only hope is getting a peripheral blood stem cell transplant, and her church,\*\* St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church of Canton, has

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answered the call to help her and others like her by asking donors to give blood and register to become bone marrow donors.

Brooks was diagnosed in February with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and, more specifically, the rarer Philadelphia chromosome positive form.

According to the National Marrow Donor Program, more than 10,000 Americans each year are diagnosed with lifethreatening blood diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma, and their best - and sometimes only - hope for a cure is a transplant from an unrelated donor.

Brooks, 45, spent two weeks at the University of Michigan Hospital in February and was released on the same day her

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73-year-old mother, Beverly Walker, died after a long struggle with heart disease.

Brooks had hoped this year would be better - that her family would get past its struggles and face a promising spring, a new beginning.

"I need a bone marrow transplant to be cured," she said matter-of-factly, braving the unknown. "This is what I've been dealt."

Brooks initially thought she had a sinus infection and that she felt tired because she was run-down from worrying about her mother. Yet her diagnosis brought a reality much more frightening.

Doctors have placed her on a pill form of chemotherapy that, for now, has put her leukemia in remission.

"So far, so good," she said. Still, she and her husband have mustered the courage they will need for a potentially long battle. They are doing everything they can to fight her disease. There's no other option. "This is my wife," Dave

Brooks said. Kerry Brooks has a brother, but he wasn't a match for the procedure she needs. Despite her plight, she even managed to joke that her mother and father, Bill Walker of Westland, should have had more children so she'd be more likely to have a matching donor.

Nonetheless, Kerry Brooks, a 1982 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School, has found an extended family through her church, which, along with help from the St. John Neumann Parish of Canton, has organized an American Red Cross blood drive on Good Friday, April 2. The day of the blood drive, donors also may simply stop by without an appointment to become part of the National Marrow Donor Program and Be The Match Foundation.

"The bone marrow test only takes a few minutes," Dave Brooks said, and it merely involves a simple cheek swab. Dave Brooks urged those who can't make it to the Good Friday event to join the national registry by logging on to www.marrow.org and clicking on the "Join the Registry"



BILL'BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kerry Brooks was diagnosed in February with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and, more specifically, the rarer Philadelphia chromosome positive form.

tab. While he said those who join are asked to make a taxdeductible, \$25 donation, it isn't required.

Potential donors should be between the ages of 18 and 60, willing to donate to any patient and meet certain health guidelines. People who are HIV-positive, have hepatitis exposure, suffer from chronic lung disease or who have most forms of heart dis-

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

What: Blood drive to benefit Kerry Brooks Where: St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton When: 8 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 2 Who: Donors should be between the ages of 18 and 60, willing to donate to any patient and meet certain health guidelines. Help: Appointments may be made by logging on to www.givelife.org, clicking on the "enter a sponsor code" tab and typing in CCU, or by calling Cathy Hulett at (734) 981-1333, Ext. 18, or Peggy Greene at (734) 637-8076.

ease or cancer - among other conditions - cannot join, and more medical guidelines are available on the Web site.

In 2009 alone, more than 575,000 potential donors joined the registry. Now, Kerry Brooks can only wait – and hope — that a match will be found for her.



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# Be wary of preparer who won't sign a tax return

Q: Dear Rick: I just had my tax return completed by a new tax preparer (my former tax preparer retired). After I picked up my return, I noticed he did not sign the returns. When I contacted him, he said that he never signs tax returns because it "increases the chance of an audit when you use a professional to prepare your return." Something doesn't seem right to me. Is this true? Should he sign the return? What should I do?

A: His explanation as to why he did not sign your return is absolute nonsense. The fact that someone uses a professional to prepare a tax return will in no way increase risk of an audit. In fact, it probably lowers your audit risk because a professional knows how to prepare a return. The one exception would be if you are dealing with a professional who has had problems in the past with the IRS. Returns prepared by a preparer who has had issues with the IRS may be more scrutinized.

What increases your audit risk more than anything is the failure to report income, mathematical errors or sloppy returns. In regard to signing tax returns, there are strict rules by the IRS that *do* require professional preparers to sign returns. Therefore, the fact that you

Money Mattersfact that you<br/>paid someone to<br/>do your return<br/>and they won't

sign it certainly raises a flag with me. Why are they afraid to stand by their work? It is very troublesome that the preparer will not sign the return.

It is important to realize that you are responsible for your tax return. Ultimately, if there are penalties or additional tax liability, you are responsible. The real issue is whether you should sign the return.

In no way would I recommend that you sign the preparer's name to the return. However, I recommend that you consider having someone else review the return. I don't want you signing an inaccurate return.

When it comes to tax returns, never forget that the ultimate

liability lies with the filer. When you hire a professional to do your return, you don't necessarily want someone who's going to be overly aggressive or very conservative. What you want is someone who will follow the law — and, where there are issues involved, will discuss them with you so you'll understand the consequences.

When it comes to hiring someone to prepare your tax return, there are lots of options. The key is to hire someone who understands the rules regarding tax preparation, who stays current on the changes in the tax laws and who will be there to stand by you and their work if the authorities have issues with your return.

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.

**USPS** FROM PAGE A1 is protected, the USPS also plans to keep the wall mural now in the front lobby entitled *Plymouth Trail*, Larsen-Williams said. The mural, which depicts scenes from Plymouth's past, was painted in 1938 by Carlos Lopez, a Cuban-born Michigan artist who later taught at the University of Michigan.

#### PROPERTY FROM PAGE A1

access from both Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, he said.

The area is zoned for commercial and office use.

Reaume said the existing buildings would likely be torn down by new owners. The former police station still has jail cells in it, he said.

"The buildings are not reusable," he said. "The buildings would be difficult to re-purpose."

Officials with Fifth Third Bank, contacted Friday, could not immediately provide information on the status of the bank's property at that corner. Reaume said the bank's plans for a new branch were shelved in late 2007 due to worsening economic conditions.

If the post office is forced to move to another Plymouth site, she said, the mural could be removed, cleaned and framed and relocated there. If that doesn't prove feasible, she said, the USPS would work with city officials to find a suitable organization to which the mural could be loaned. "We will keep the mural in the community," Larsen-Williams said.

Dwyer said that, despite his initial impulse to protest the

USPS plans, he understands its situation given the economic climate. The current post office has an abundance of unused space, he said.

"I think this what people are looking for government to do, get more efficient," Dwyer said.

Dwyer added: "If they were just going to close up shop and go away, I think you'd get a lot of push-back from the community."

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

#### Township yard-waste pickup to resume

The weekly curbside collection of residential yard waste will resume in Plymouth Township on Monday, April 5.

Yard waste is defined as leaves, grass clippings, vegetative pruning, garden waste, wood debris and brush. It should be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. on the same day trash and recycling are collected, and no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before.

Leaves and grass clippings can be put into the brown paper yard-waste bags available at various retailers, or into trash cans (maximum 35 gallons) identified with yard-waste stickers or each marked twice with an "X" or a "C." Yard-waste stickers are available at township hall. When setting the can out, make sure the marking or sticker is facing the roadway for easy identification by the collectors.

Filled yard waste containers should not exceed 50 pounds.

For more information, call the township's solid waste department at (734) 354-3270, Ext. 4.

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(P)

A7





Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### LOCAL NEWS

# Hamster inspires author's first children's book

#### BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A8

(P)

Inspired by a feisty little family hamster named Hamilton, Canton mom Suzanne MacDermid has penned her first children's storybook.

Judging by the reception she got when she read Hamilton, My Great Life to students in Karen Christensen's second-grade classroom at Dodson Elementary School, she just might have a hit. It didn't hurt that

MacDermid brought



Hamilton pokes his head out of his train and wows the crowd.

Hamilton in a colorful, plastic school bus, along with his



house, train and other playthings. And when she lured him into her hand with a carrot, the youngsters giggled and

watched in awe. MacDermid's book even brought smiles to the faces of visitors George Dodson – a former educator for whom the school is named – and his wife Melba.

"That's a great story," George Dodson said, applauding. "I think it's going to be a best-seller."

MacDermid, a former Beaumont Hospital nurse who quit work to raise 8-year-old twins Lillian and John, wrote Hamilton, My Great Life after she started educating youngsters about hamsters at school, church, summer camps and her children's gymnastics class.

It's one of her many hobbies. She also has dabbled in songwriting, singing, puppetry and other pastimes that tap into

her creativity.

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INO SAD DOGS

Every time she did a hamster program, MacDermid had to go to the library and check out materials. So she finally decided to write her own storybook about Hamilton and how he interacts with her children. The story also is written to educate youngsters that hamsters were first traced to Syria, that they play at night and sleep during the day, and that their favorite food is a



Students Jalen Askin and Swetha Jagannathan learn about hamsters.

mixture of seeds.

Author Suzanne MacDermid reads about Hamilton the hamster to Dodson Elementary second-graders.

Her 24-page book, published through Xlibris Book Publishing Co. of Bloomington, Ind., is illustrated with pictures of hamsters and her children, along with drawings the twins made using colored pencils.

The story has a sad anecdote not mentioned in the book, however. MacDermid titled her story after Hamilton Star MacDermid – "he's the star of the book" - who became critically ill on the same day she recently received her author's copy. He died two days later.

"It was so bittersweet," she said. "I wanted to cry."

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

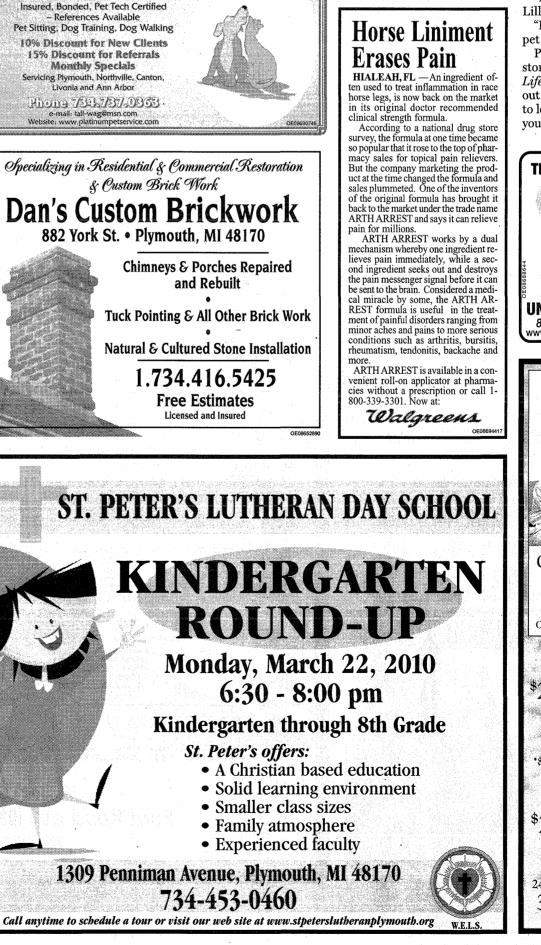
Though the timing of his death couldn't have been worse, she has replaced him with Hamilton Snow MacDermid, named for the snow-white ring of hair around his otherwise light-brown body.

MacDermid's book sells for \$15.99 through Xlibris, but she has ordered 50 copies herself and plans to sell them at cost for \$12.

MacDermid's children like watching their hamster roll around in a plastic ball and tease the family cats, Gracie and Mittens.

'He's fun to play with, Lillian said. "He's really soft when you pet him," John said. Perhaps most important, the story of Hamilton, My Great Life has a moral that closes out the book: "Find someone to love, and love them with all your heart."









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DAVE LE, Canton coach

# Tankers impress at finals

**BY TIM SMITH** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Led by All-American hopefuls from Canton and Salem, the Plymouth-Canton district's high schools made a splash at the Division 1 state boys swimming and diving finals in Holland.

Canton's Victor Zhang and Salem's Adam Seroka finished 2-3 in the 200 individual medley with times of 1:54.15 and 1:55.56, respectively — both good enough for All-American consideration.

"Right now he's ranked 57th in the nation," said Chiefs head coach Dave Le. "So it's a pretty good chance that he'll qualify for All-American status."

Zhang also finished fifth in the 100 backstroke (53.23), to earn All-State honors for a second event.

As a team, Canton placed 22nd out of 35 teams with 31 points.

"It was a nice ending to the season," Le said. "We worked hard all year and it definitely paid off at the end of the season, both at the conference meet and state meet. We made a very good showing at both meets."

For the Rocks, head coach Chuck Olson was satisfied with the overall performance, 13th place with 64 points. Seroka and Matt Collingwood collected All-State honors for the 500 free, with Seroka finishing second (4:40.66) and Collingwood sixth (4:44.12), Olson said.

CRITER 25

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Sara Schmitt (No. 40) drives around Detroit Renaissance's Arrice Bryant during Friday's Class A girls basketball semifinal at Breslin Center. In the background for the Chiefs is Kari Schmitt.

# Phoenished.

### Canton's great run comes to end at Breslin Center

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It took a rising Phoenix to snuff out Canton's championship dreams. flanked by dejected players Kari Schmitt and Alyssa Cottrell. "Our kids competed and gave everything they had, we just came up a few plays short and they made some good plays down said Phoenix head coach Diane Jones. "We threw all of our defenses out at them and they handled that pressure and they hit shots, especially in the first half.



But the Chiefs' girls basketball team gave Detroit Renaissance a battle Friday afternoon at Michigan State University's Breslin Center before falling 50-47 in the Class A semifinal.

<sup>«</sup>Renaissance is a very good team," said Canton head coach Brian Samulski from the Breslin podium, the stretch."

The heart-wrenching defeat meant both teams left the floor with identical 24-2 records. Canton's only other loss also was to Renaissance, in overtime. "Canton was an awesome opponent traight and Leine all kinds of and it

"Canton was an awesome opponent tonight, and I give all kinds of credit to them, they played their hearts out," "... I was really proud of my girls for stepping up and playing under the stress and continuing to battle back and handle their pressure at the end." The game's wild conclusion was fitting for a game of back-and-forth runs

Please see PHOENISHED, B4



Canton sophomore point guard Robyn Mack puts defensive pressure on Phoenix junior guard Elizabeth Badgett.

Please see SWIMMING, B3

### Community-minded Whalers win off ice, too

#### **BY TIM SMITH** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Legend has it that Plymouth Whalers winger James Livingston got the attention of teammates in the locker room this season and led them in an impromptu rendition of *Happy Birthday* for a young fan.

Livingston's only been with the team since midseason, yet he quickly bought into the "Whalers way" of doing things to connect with the Plymouth and Canton communities.

That is just one example of why the Ontario Hockey League franchise is becoming more and more entrenched in the Plymouth-Canton region, to the tune of a 30 percent increase in actual attendance in 2009-10.



During the second half of the season, there were a handful of sellouts and crowds were in the 3,100-3,200 range. Big crowds are expected for the first round playoff series with Sault Ste. Marie (which began Friday).

"I think everyone here would say it's been a team effort," said Denise Ronayne, the team's director of sales and marketing. "We've hit all the cylinders at the same time and it's really across the board (as to how).



"Everything from the right promotions at the right time the right place ... and the combination of the right players on the ice."

#### VALUE-PACKED

Popular promotions such as \$5 Fridays and 4-for-\$44, both being continued for the series with the Greyhounds, 'These 300 or 400 kids go plodding through the locker room, and they stop whatever they're doing and pay attention to those kids.'

are taking root and garnering word-of-mouth buzz. "Our \$5 Friday value has really caught on with the fans,"

said Pete Krupsky, director of communications. "And that's been a big thing." Of course, there's the so-

Please see OUTREACH, B2



Who: Brianna Harris, junior co-captain, Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team. Miscellany: The 16-year-old, whose parents are Gregory and Rolanda Harris, carries a 3.6 grade-point average and also is a varsity athlete in girls soccer (1st team all conference, honorable mention all-state) and volleyball (2nd team all-regional). Captain's job: "It is to lead their team by example and to be the eyes and ears of the coach on the court (and) to encourage and support their teammates." Leadership style: "I'm very intense and I might come across

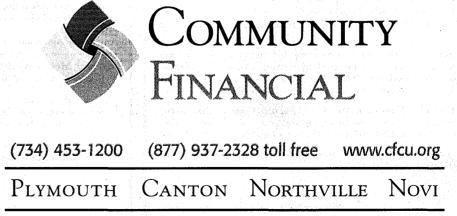
### **BRIANNA HARRIS**



really strong but the girls know it's all out of love for them and the game. I try to help and encourage in any way I can. Why her?: "I would think because they see that I'm a leader and can lead this team and because I'm very committed and know a lot about the game."

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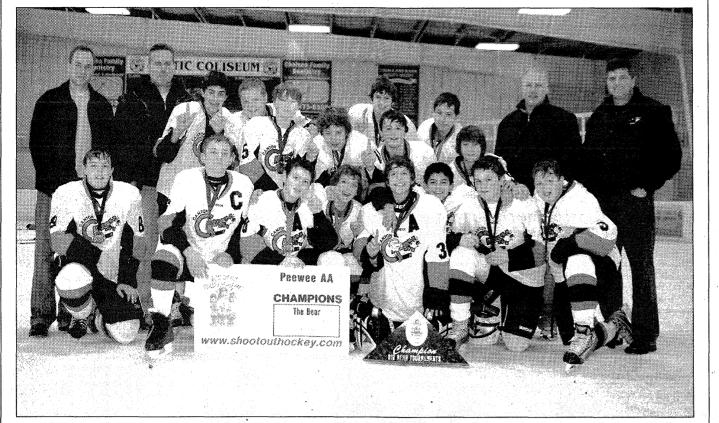


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#### LOCAL SPORTS

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B2 (CP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010



### **Crush-ing the competition**

The Canton Crush PWAA Travel Hockey Team recently won the Big Bear Tournament, defeating teams from Gilmour, Ohio, Kensington Valley and West London, Ont. Canton goalies Andrew 'Rozy' Rozenbaum and Lewis Campbell each recorded shutouts, leading the team to the championship game. Members of the Crush include: (back row) Rick Barr, Cam McCausland, Colin McCausland, Scott Bazner, Jake Smith, Dylan Smith, Nick Glud, Andrew Jossey, Eric Locke, Justin Barr, Dennis Smith and Joe Mitchell; (front row) Ben Chafin, Joe Nevalo, Jared Merandi, Lewis Campbell, Andrew Rozenbaum, David Mitchell, Noah Willer and Tommy Kiddle.

# Whalers stumble in playoff opener

#### **BY TIM SMITH** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

That wasn't what the Plymouth Whalers had in mind for their 2010 Ontario Hockey League playoff opener.

Plymouth clawed back Friday from an early deficit to take a 2-1 lead about eight minutes into the third on a Tyler Seguin goal only to give it right back to the Greyhounds — who skated off with a 3-2 Game 1 victory in the Western Conference first round series.

Sault Ste. Marie came out flying, helped by eight minutes of Plymouth penalties, to go up 1-0 in the first period on a goal by Dominic DeSando. The Greyhounds outshot Plymouth 20-8 and didn't have a bigger lead due to the excellent work of Whalers goalie Matt Hackett.

"I think our guys were a little tentative off the get-go, we kind of sat back and wondered what they'd do," said Plymouth assistant coach Brian Sommariva. "The 5-on-3 didn't help. But there really wasn't an explanation for us. Our play in the first period was purely unacceptable."

That lead held up throughout the second period and it wasn't until early in the third that Plymouth came to life.

Sparkplug winger Ryan Hayes forced a turnover along the right half-wall near Plymouth's blueline and took the puck deep into Soo territory.

He fed a cross-crease feed to center Phil McRae for the tap-in near the left post for the tying goal at 2:23.

The suddenly fired up less-than-capacity crowd at Compuware Arena really had something to cheer about just 5:34 later.

Plymouth winger Tyler Brown sent the puck to linemate Robbie Czarnik in the Soo zone and, from the left wing, he found Seguin cruising between the circles.

Seguin snapped Czarnik's pass under the crossbar past Greyhounds netminder Robin Lehner to put Plymouth up 2-1.

The exhilaration didn't last long because a bad break behind the Whalers goal enabled Jordan Nolan to tie the contest at 9:59. Plymouth's defensemen were behind the net, with one of them losing his stick, and Nolan fired the puck toward the net from behind the red line. It banked in past Hackett, who was brilliant with 41 saves.

"The guy threw it at the net and ultimately it hit something and went in," Sommariva said. "You really don't fault the goalie in a situation like that."

Hard work by the Greyhounds led to the winning goal with just 2:48 left in the third.

Tomas Rachunek dug the puck out from behind Plymouth's goal and centered a pass in front to Daniel Catenacci who made no mistake.

Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci pulled Hackett with under a minute to go, but the Whalers were unable to send the game into overtime. Although Sommariva said the team's

overall performance wasn't something the coaches would be too pleased about, "don't take anything from the way the Soo played tonight. They played very hard and they played well."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

### OUTREACH

called "Seguin Effect" — the correlation between the stunningly talented forward Tyler Seguin and rising interest in the on-ice product and overall family friendly experience at Compuware Arena.

Seguin is touted as one of the top two picks in the upcoming NHL Entry Draft and finished in a tie with Windsor's Taylor Hall for the OHL scoring title.

Big-league scouts routinely visit Compuware to watch him; national (*The Hockey News*) and local publications write about him.

But Seguin finds the time to interact with just about anybody who comes his way, including school kids and their families.

"He (Seguin) helps us on several levels," Ronayne noted. "Clearly (with) national attention. We wouldn't have those articles. XM Radio was interviewing him earlier. We wouldn't have that kind of exposure.

<sup>a</sup>That doesn't necessarily translate into (fans) in seats. But he is a regular kid who will sign a regular autograph for any kid just like any player."

And for any skeptics, there are hundreds of kids who are paraded through the Whalers locker room after every game. (Ronayne estimated 10-15 groups attend every game.)

They come in with their Whalers posters and come out with those being adorned with autographs from Seguin, netminder Matt Hackett and the rest of the squad.

Following the March 14 regular season finale against Saginaw, Hackett greeted a little boy in the corridor who stood shorter than his goalie pads. Everybody, including the moms and dads, always leaves with beaming faces.

#### TIME FOR THE KIDS

"It's amazing (because it's) going on 9:30 at night," Ronayne said. "But I give those players so much credit because whether they win or lose, no matter what ... it's not even discussed.

"They just give back. Somebody did it to them, gave them an autograph or signed a poster for them. These 300 or 400 kids go plodding through the locker room, and they stop whatever they're doing and pay attention to those kids."



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth newcomer James Livingston (No. 26) didn't need much time to figure out how important the community is to the Whalers and vice-versa.

not just about Tyler.

"Tyler Seguin has a lot to do with it (attendance/interest growth)," Krupsky said. "But he has a lot of help from his friends. I would argue that Matt Hackett is just as popular in the community if not more popular with some people, than Tyler Seguin.

"I would argue that Ryan Hayes has a lot of fans, too. He's up for our Humanitarian of the Year for the league."

Krupsky stressed that each player has his own cheering section. "A lot of it has to do with the fact they're out so much in the community."

Another reason for the Whalers forging a bond with the community is many players attend high school at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park — where the team is featured on student radio station 88.1 (The Escape).

"Half our players go to school at the campus, and there's the radio station airing our games," Ronayne said. "We've always had a great relationship with the district itself, we see each other as partners contributing to each other's success."

#### **GOOD HOCKEY HELPS**

Yet Ronayne knows that all the promotions, bargains and community presence in the world only go so far.

The quality of play in the OHL is essential to the mix, something families, high school students and even National Hockey League fans discover after visiting Compuware.

"If you love hockey you get what you need," Ronayne said. "If you understand hockey you're totally rewarded. We have eight kids right now that have been drafted already."

Those NHL prospects and media "beacon" Seguin certainly boost the Plymouth Whalers' profile.

Whether all that turns casual fans into season ticket holders

#### PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

#### SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #26 consisting of Casework Replacement Projects at:

Allen Elementary School Farrand Elementary School Gallimore Elementary School Smith Elementary School Pioneer Middle School Salem High School

Bird Elementary School Fiegel Elementary School Isbister Elementary School East Middle School West Middle School

will be received until <u>2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 30, 2010</u>, at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

#### **Bid Division Description**

108: Interior Architectural Woodwork - ALTERNATE

128: Pre-Manufactured Casework

140: Plumbing

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Associates**, **Inc.** will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids; Construction News Service, Grandville; and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy& Smith Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith Inc.** The bid division being bid is to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00300) and the Proposal Execution Form (Section 00400). The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at the office of the Construction Manager located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. <u>Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend</u>.

Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Bid Package Documents should be addressed in writing to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

The Board of Education for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

This project is to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates.

Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Nancy Eggenberger, Secretary

OE08693412 - 2x10

Publish: March 14 & 21, 2010

#### PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

#### SECTION 00010

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #27:

Kiddie Campus – Canton High School

will be received until 2:00 P.M. local time on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened. Faxed proposals will not be accepted. This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

Bid Division Description112:Trowelable Cementitious Coatings148:Landscaping158:Playground Equipment & Surfacing

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP** Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids; Construction News Service, Grandville; and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI.

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The Board of Education for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

This project is to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates.

Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Nancy Eggenberger, Secretary

Publish: March 14 & 21, 2010

2x9.5 Publish: March 21, 2010

Youth teams from Plymouth-Canton and other communities all over southeast Michigan also skate before OHL games or during intermissions and meet the Whalers as part of the deal.

Krupsky acknowledged the impact of Seguin on overall interest in the Whalers. But it's remains to be seen, of course. "The one thing we can do,

you can say what you are," Ronayne summed up. "But until people come here and you prove what you are, that's where the rubber hits the road."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

#### **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH**

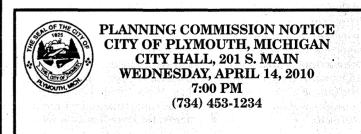
To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: <u>www.plymouthtwp.org</u>. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township 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.

Joe Bridgman, CMC Township Clerk

Publish: Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 7, Apr. 18, May 19, 23 & June 20, 2010 OE08687742 2x25



PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF: Section 78-35, District Regulations

Copies of the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance are available at the Plymouth City Hall, City Clerks office

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance 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 audio tapes 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

OE08693413 - 2x9.5 Pu

#### LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### **B**3 (CP)

### FROM PAGE B1

Collingwood placed ninth in the 200 free with a mark of 1:45.34 while the 400 free relay team of Collingwood (49.21), Noah Santer (50.12), Max Mills (49.28) and Seroka (48.03) totaled 3:16.67 for 12th place.

Although the Plymouth Wildcats did not qualify anybody for the second day of the March 12-13 meet, head coach Doug Schade pointed to personal bests from Ethan Weiner, Adam Wing and Tim Castle during the preliminaries.

"Our season was very successful for our team," Schade said. "We earned a share of our first division championship by winning the division meet. We qualified all three of our relays for the state meet for the first time.

We had tremendous improvement from most of our swimmers, averaging over 30 personal records per meet."

Schade said it felt like his team pushed itself

beyond the limits and overachieved. "It was probably our best time in our eight-year history."

#### **2010 MHSAA BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS** March 12-13 at Holland H.S.

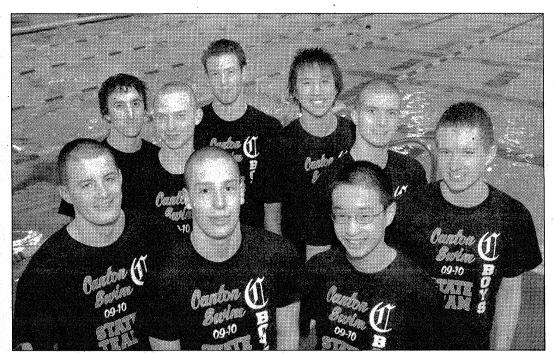
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Saline, 325 points; 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 254.5; 3. Northville, 166.5; 4. Grandville, 147; 5. Zeeland, 134; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 106; 7. Rockford, 105; 8. Holland West Ottawa, 95; 9. Ann Arbor Huron, 87; 10. Birmingham Brother Rice, 86; 13. Salem, 64; 22. Canton, 31 (35 schools). **PCEP FINISHERS** 

200 individual medley: 2. Victor Zhang (Canton), 1:54.15; 3. Adam Seroka (Salem), 1:55.56. 200 freestyle: 9. Matt Collingwood (Salem). 1:45.34.

500 freestyle: 2. Seroka (Salem), 1:55.56; 6. Collingwood (Salem), 4:44.12.

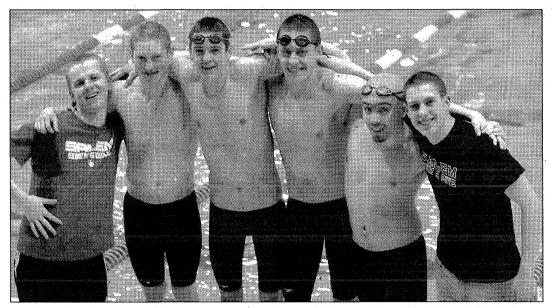
100 backstroke: 5. Zhang (Canton), 53.23. 400 freestyle relay: 12. Salem (Collingwood,

Noah Santer, Max Mills and Seroka), 3:16.67.



HOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An impressive contingent of Canton swimmers went to the Division 1 state meet, including (front row, from left) Chris Krebs, Mike Carlson and Jay Jin; (back row, from left) Patrick Jenner, Evan Champine, Brandon Tolinski, Victor Zhang, Jacob Dillon and Ryan Boes.



Salem sent six to last weekend's Division 1 state boys swimming and diving finals in Holland. Pictured (from left) are Jeremy Wellman, Max Mills, Matt Collingwood, Adam Seroka, Noah Santer and Chad Newton.

### Salem bowlers cap successful year with quailfication in the top eight

One step at a time, but it was a good one for Salem's varsity boys bowling team.

The Rocks qualified for the MHSAA Division 1 boys team finals for the second straight year thanks to a second place finish at the Westland Lanes-hosted regional in late February. But Salem lost to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in the bracket round by 32 pins at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek.

"We met our goal of qualifying this year in the top eight," said Salem head coach Kathie Hahn, "so next year's goal will have to be to make it through the first bracket round."

In singles play, Ryan Clark finished fourth and Kyle Newcomb 10th out of the top 16 boys. Both also lost in their first bracket round, but accomplished the goal set by Hahn of merely qualifying.

"As a coach and friend I couldn't be

more proud of the varsity team and for all three of my singles qualifiers (Clark, Newcomb, Shaun Schmidt)," Hahn said. "It was a wonderful experience again this year, I have a great group of kids and am very sad to be loosing Kyle and Shaun."

Both Clark and Newcomb will bo to Schoolcraft College next year "and I hope for the sake of the coach they try out for their bowling team, they would be a great asset."

#### **REGION 6 AT WESTLAND LANES**

BOYS TEAM QUALIFIERS 1. Westland John Glenn - 4,045; 2. Salem - 4,040; 3. Brownstown-Woodhaven - 3,935. GIRLS TEAM OUALIFIERS

1. Taylor Kennedy - 3,571; 2. Brownstown-Woodhaven - 3,441; 3. Westland John Glenn - 3,440. **BOYS SINGLES OUALIFIERS** 

1. Jordon Hornes, Westland John Glenn - 1,375; 2. Robert Rose, Brownstown-Woodhaven - 1.314; 3. Dustin Rose, Brownstown-Woodhaven - 1,307; 4. Ryan Clark, Salem - 1,290; 5. Shaun Schmidt, Salem - 1,288;

6. Kurt Domke, Brownstown-Woodhaven - 1,222; 7. David Blythe, Canton - 1,207; 8. Elliot Arnold, Wayne Memorial - 1,183; 9. Spencer Defelice, Romulus - 1,171; 10. Kyle Newcomb, Salem - 1,166 GIRLS SINGLES QUALIFIERS

1. Kenna Williams, Taylor Kennedy - 1,169; 2. Alysson Kassab, Westland John Glenn - 1,125; 3. Samantha Qwik, Taylor Kennedy - 1,113; 4. Stephani O'Harris, Wayne Memorial - 1,079; 5. Natalie Brown, Westland John Glenn - 1,067; 6. Casse Pope, Monroe - 1,057; 7. Shelby Rose, Brownstown-Woodhaven - 1,050; 8. Allison Pace, Southgate Anderson - 1,049; 9, Katelyn Ball, Taylor Kennedy - 1,043; 10. Danielle Berryman, Taylor Truman - 1,042



Representing Plymouth at the Division 1 state swim meet in Holland were (listed alphabetically) Tim Castle, Ethan Christensen, Cameron Earls, Alex Jouney, Adam King, Adam Liakos, Ethan Weiner and Chris Wilson.

Schoolcraft College

# Public Safety 2010 Career Expo 2010

Investigate a career in Tuesday, March 23 Law Enforcement 4 to 7 pm Fire Fighting Organizations attending include Livonia Fire & Rescue \* Emergency Medical Technology Michigan State Police Bomb Squad **Drug Enforcement Administration Customs and Border Protection** U.S. Secret Service Huron Valley Ambula /enoy Resumes will be accepted 🛧 No charge for admission 🛧 Open to the public choolcraft College-Radcliff Center 🖈 Room RC 115 🛧 1751 Radcliff Street 🛧 Garden City, MI For more information call 734-462-4421 or e-mail kcox@schoolcraft.edu Betten way to save. WORRIED ABOUT PAYING DELINQUENT 2007 WAYNE COUNTY **PROPERTY TAXES?** TAKE A DEEP BREATH HE OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER WANTS TO HELP YOU. LET'S TALK Last year we helped more than 10,000 property owners throughout Wayne Gounty find ways to pay their taxes and stay in their homes. We don't want your property, we need payment so for your convenience we encourage you to: Important Information About This Offer •Pay what you can as often as you can •Save time and pay online •Mall it in For additional help please call the Wayne County Taxpayer Assistance Department at 313-224-6105 or go to www.treasurer.waynecounty.com **RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ** WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### **SEMIFINALS**

#### online at hometownlife.com



**B4** 

(CP)

and frantic play all over the court from the opening tip.

Detroit Renaissance hit back-to-back treys just moments after Canton sophomore guard Robyn Mack (11 points) put the Chiefs up 43-41 with just under two minutes to go.

#### **FAN-DEMONIUM**

When Mack drained her jumper from the left corner, just inside the three-point line, the Canton-crazy "Reddy Zone" went mad with excitement - perhaps anticipating a victory and a repeat trip to Breslin for Saturday's final.

But Renaissance didn't fold under the pressure, and Phoenix junior guard Elizabeth Badgett (20 points) sank a three-ball from the right corner to put Renaissance back in front.

After Canton could not control the ball at the other end, senior guard Kenyah Dorsey - in the game to keep Mack from going "north-south" to the hole, said Renaissance

head coach Diane Jones - nailed another trey from the opposite corner.

That deflated the Reddy Zone and meant the Chiefs needed to somehow win a free-throw contest in the final minutes to have a crack at sending the hard-fought game to overtime.

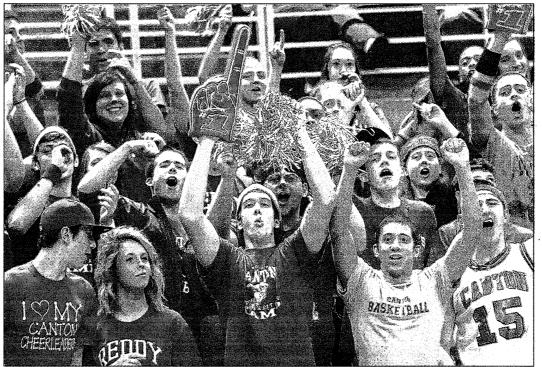
"I thought that was a big part of the game and then after that we sort of got into a free throw thing from there," Samulski said.

Canton still had a chance, with Mack's banker cutting the deficit to 47-45 with 46 seconds to go.

Badgett, fouled at the other end, made her first free throw but missed the second to briefly stir thoughts of a gametying triple for the Chiefs. But senior forward Lorreal Jones pulled down the rebound and drew a foul.

"Lorreal's a great athlete and we wanted to double her on that side," Samulski said. "She did a great job timing it as soon as it (free throw) hit the rim she flipped in and that gave them two extra possessions."

Canton dodged that bullet when Jones missed twice and



Red-clad Canton fans came out to Breslin Center in droves to root on their Chiefs at the Class A girls basketball semifinal.

got the ball back only to miss one field goal and lose another ball out of bounds as the Phoenix closed it out.

first half, the biggest lead c' the day was Renaissance's 14-7 edge in the opening frame following another Badgett trey.

Canton showed it wouldn't disappear, as senior guard Lindsey Winters hit her first of two triples in the opening half and junior forward Sara Schmitt (12 points, seven rebounds) started a 10-0 run with a layup to make it 15-12 after the first.

In the second, twin sister Kari Schmitt (also with 12 points, seven rebounds) started it off with a bucket and the Chiefs went ahead on a layup by junior guard Melanie Pickert.

Winter's second triple, from beyond the top of the arc, gave Canton a 20-15 advantage with 5:45 left in the half.

Renaissance then went on an 11-3 run to go up 26-23 and Canton needed a pair of clutch jumpers by junior forward Kayla Bridges to take a 27-26 halftime lead.

The third quarter was an offensive struggle for both teams, with Canton managing just one field goal (a jumper by Mack).

There were turnovers, scrums and miscues (a Canton throw-in under the Phoenix backboard was picked off and taken the other way for two). But the contest remained tight; Renaissance led 34-31

what would be a last hurrah. "In basketball and life,

that's what this is all about," Samulski said. "Every bounce doesn't always go your way. Every shot doesn't go in all the time. Both these kids and the entire team, they'll go to college, have great careers there and go get jobs. They're not going to get every job they apply for."

Kari Schmitt said playing in Breslin Center "was a good experience" and didn't create any more jitters than a team would normally have.

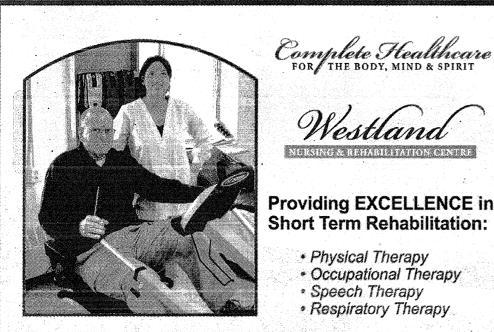
According to Cottrell, a senior, having a large, enthusiastic student cheering section behind the Canton bench made the trip to MSU all the more special.

"I don't think anyone realized we were good enough to make it to the Final Four," Cottrell said. "To have people finally come here and recognize that we made it to the Final Four, (that) we can come here and compete with the team that's now going to play in the finals, it felt good to have our school behind us."

Rénaissance was set to face East Lansing in Saturday's final.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Melanie Pickert eyes the basket Friday as Detroit Renaissance guard Elizabeth Badgett defends.



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enjoyed scoring runs in the

**HANGING IN THERE** Although both teams

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHEE

with one frame to play.

Canton hung around in the fourth, although Renaissance built a 39-34 lead on a Badgett layup.

Then the Schmitt twins each scored and Mack's layup evened things at 41-41 with 3:10 left. Mack connected again to put Canton ahead, in

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010 (WGcReLCP) B5

# NEIGHBORS

# Family shares its knowledge of healthy foods in seminar

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

Dr. Art Weaver is a living example of the lessons he teaches in his Better Living Seminars.

"I've been a vegetarian the past 86 years. My parents were vegetarians. There are all kinds of studies that show less animal product and more fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains that one eats, the less cancer, diabetes, constipation, hernias, obesity one has.

"When you add it all up, there's no question it gives you a significant health advantage."

He'll talk about the latest studies that showing a link between eating animal products and the increased risk of heart disease, cancer and other illnesses during a Better Living Seminar on plant-based diet and nutrition, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday, March 28, at Metropolitan Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, Plymouth. Cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Register by calling (248) 349-5683.

Doctors, dieticians and a certified fitness trainer will offer information on nutrition, exercise, cooking demonstrations, as well as a full vegetarian meal.

The seminar, which Weaver has produced for more than 40 years, comes less than two weeks after Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued a proclamation announcing Saturday, March 20 as "Meatout Day." After a backlash from livestock producers, the dairy industry and the Michigan Senate, which wanted the proclamation rescinded, Granholm also designated the date as "Michigan Agriculture



Natalie, 85, and Art Weaver, 86, on a recent trip to Egypt.

Day," including animal products. A group of meat lovers had planned to celebrate Meatout Day by serving meat and dairy products during a cookout on the Capitol lawn.

But Weaver, a Northville resident, has no interest in eating "dead animals" grilled or prepared any other way and through his years of study, remains firmly convinced that less meat consumption means better health.

"If I asked you if you want a pan of fried worms, you'd probably say no. But I'm sure in some places in the world, they'd think that's great," he said, adding that growing up vegetarian makes it easier to stay with a plant-based diet. Baby steps - eating one meatless meal a week and adding more fruits and vegetables - can help acclimate meat-eaters to a vegetarian diet.

#### TASTY AND EASY

"There are several things to con-



vince people of. Number one is that it indeed is healthier. And I'll quote several studies that all are convincing that the less meat one eats, the better off they are," he said. "Number two is that they have to see it's tasty. No one will eat stuff they don't enjoy.

And number three is that it's economical and easily accomplished." Weaver's wife, Natalie, 85, and daughter-in-law, Jeannie Weaver, a certified fitness trainer who teaches exercise classes at the Plymouth academy, will demonstrate cooking

techniques. Dr. Weaver's daughter, Ellen Higgins, a registered dietician who now works in the radiology department at University of Michigan Hospital, will talk about eating more fiber without experiencing pain from flatulence or cramping.

#### **FAVORITE DISHES**

Higgins also is a lifelong vegetarian, as are her children and grandbaby. She said meat-eaters often envision the plant-based diet as "a whole plate of vegetables," but don't realize that grains and vegetables can be shaped into meatballs, lasagna, "meatloaf," and other favorite dishes.

'They have the preconceived idea that it's not going to taste good," she said. Or they believe it will cost too much or demand too much preparation time.

"I stopped at Randazzo's and came home with nine bags of fruits and vegetables for about \$22. There was so much variety. People ask me how I can afford to buy blueberries yearround. It's because I'm not putting my money into meat and junk food."

She said the move toward a plantbased diet starts with a change in mind-set. Instead of planning an entire meal around a meat entree, consider the animal product as a "condiment" to be added sparingly to the main plant-based entree.

Jeannie Weaver also recommends learning one meatless recipe each week.

"The best changes are going to happen as an evolution, not a revolution," she said. "I'd never tell someone 'you need to quit eating meat right away.' You've got to increase your fruits and vegetables."

### Donate clothing, goods at the Detroit Zoo

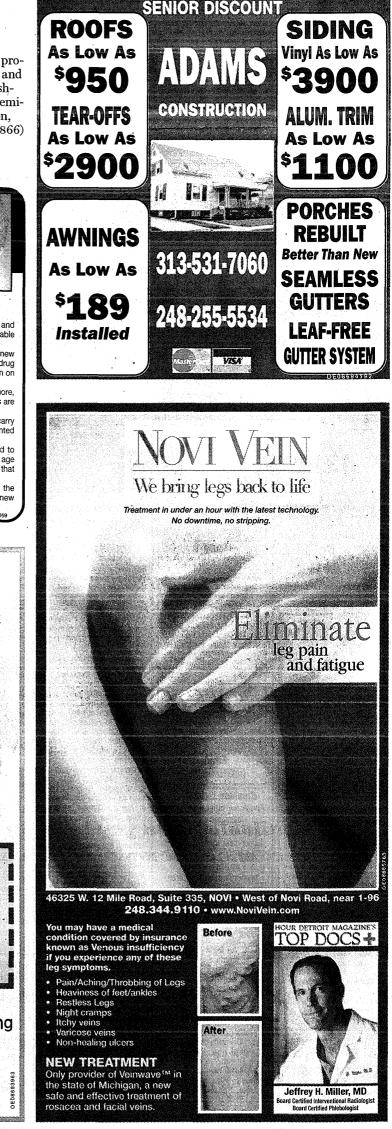
The Salvation Army is collecting gentlyused clothing and household goods from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., today, Sunday, March 21 and Saturday-Sunday, March 26-27 at the Detroit Zoo, located at 10 Mile and Woodward, in Royal Oak.

Contributions to the Salvation Army can

be made without entering the zoo admissions gate. A tax receipt will be available upon request at the time of donation.

Donations to The Salvation Army's Thrift Stores generate total funding for the organization's Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center's 180-day residential

rehabilitation program for adults. The program provides food, shelter, education and counseling services to those re-establishing their lives free from alcohol and chemical dependencies. For more information, visit www.SalArmyThrift.com or call (866) GIVE-TOO.



#### SPRING MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSES OFFERED

Four adventures.

One amazing show.

nic ice lo de o n Presents

April 23-25

Tickets available at OlympiaEntertainment.com, the box office, and all Ticketmaster outlets. Charge by phone 800.745.3000. Groups of 10+ call 313.471.3099

OlympiaEntertainment.com

TICKETS AS LOW AS

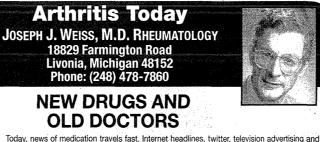
\$15

Learn to become a safer motorcyclist through classes offered by Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education and Professional Development department. Classes are available starting this month and running through fall.

The motorcycle safety program offers a variety of courses from the Basic Rider Course for someone who has minimal experience and wants to get a motorcycle endorsement, to the Experienced Rider Course, which is for licensed cyclists and is specifically designed for large touring motorcycles and sport bikes

Upon successful completion of a Stateapproved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course, the Secretary of State waives the riding skills test required for a cycle endorsement. However, a short written test required for license endorsement will be given at the Secretary of State at the time of endorsement application. A more extensive test also will be given as part of the course.

The fee for each course is \$25. For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Program, visit www.schoolcraft. edu/ces/motorcycle.asp or call (734) 462-4448.



instant messaging mean that individuals with arthritis can learn that a new medicine is available the instant it arrives on the pharmacy shelf.

Such speed creates problems for physicians. Advertisement tells the patient that this new product works wonders in the treatment of arthritis. The physician who would prescribe the drug has the responsibility to know the new drug's risks and likelihood of benefit. Solid information on these questions can be elusive

First, a new drug, even if thoroughly tested, has data on only a few patients. Furthermore, the volunteers recruited to test the new medication are usually otherwise healthy. New drugs are rarely evaluated in an environment of multiple conditions and a myriad of other medications.

In contrast, doctors in general practice see patient who not only have arthritis but who carry additional medical problems such as heart failure, hypertension, diabetes or asthma. Unwanted interactions of new medicines and chronic maladies well may occur.

The medical literature is slow to reveal these side effects because of the time required to her data and prove the risks that accompany the new drug. In addition, few patients over age 70 are included in new drug testing, thus a doctor may not be aware of special precautions that needs to take before using the drug for the elderly individual.

It is not hard for a patient to ask the doctor to try a new drug. However, because of the responsibility to do no harm, it is much more difficult for the doctor to write that new

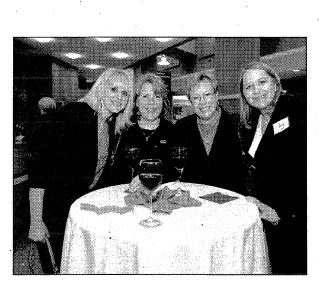


B6 (WGcReLCP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### **NEIGHBORS**

#### online at hometownlife.com

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Christa Cipparone, Transition Center coordinator, Cathy McCardell, assistant director of Enrollment Services, Cheryl Hagen, dean of student services and Stacey Stover, director of the Transition Center.



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

Honorees Emeshe Young, (left) Rick Bame, Kim Andrews, and Carol Koenig with Stacey Stover, director of the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

### Students 'pay it forward' by sharing stories

The Transition Center at Schoolcraft College recently honored four students for sharing their stories with guests at the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow.

The event raises funds for scholarships and grants to help nontraditional students — including adults who are in the process of making a career change — pay for college costs.

"It's heart warming to hear students share their stories," said Stacey Stover, Transition Center director. "They're all on funding of some sort, either a special population grant based on circumstances or they are getting endowment money. We pick a few so people can hear their stories. The students do it as a pay-it-forward. We have one student who sends a donation every year and comes to the dinner, too." This year's honorees

were: • Carol Koenig of Redford, a single mother who lost her job because of the economy, but now studies office information systems, and has found a new job.

• Kim Andrews of Westland is a single parent with two daughters. She's a former union electrician who's now studying to be a nurse.

 Rick Barne of Canton is a former banker who rose through the ranks in business even though he didn't have a college degree. He lost his job and is seeking a new career in nursing. • Emeshe Young of

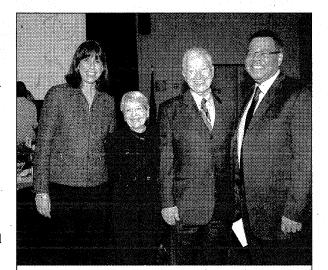
Canton is a single mother who also is studying nursing. Stover said 268

Transition Center supporters attended the fund-raiser.

In 2008-2009, the Center funded students with total awards of more than \$50,000 in endowment scholarships and almost \$90,000 in special population's grants.

Its staff of 42 volunteers also helps students navigate the process of starting or returning to

college. "Basically we're here to help people who need extra assistance," Stover



Vice President of the Livonia City Council Terry Godfroid-Marecki, (left) with Patt and Livonia City Mayor Jack Kirksey, and Schoolcraft College President Dr. Conway Jeffress, at the Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow.

said. "We're now seeing a their jobs." lot of people who have lost -By Sharon Dargay

#### Passports, please

Travel the world through music, dance and food Thursday, April 1 at Schoolcraft College's ninth annual Multicultural Fair.

"We have a lot of people from campus — students, faculty and staff — and we have members from the community all getting involved," said Josselyn Moore, a co-coordinator of the event.

"We'll have two dozen tables with cultures or countries non-stop between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. There's a lot of color and music and sound and things on display, people wearing traditional dress, sampling food and ethnic snacks."

Moore said local restaurants donate much of the food. The Census Bureau will be on hand and performers include an African Drum and Dance troupe, Brazilian Athletic dancers, Irish dancers, a Mariachi band and more.

Last year the even drew between 2,500-3,000 individuals.

It's free and the public is welcome.

"At the door people will be given a passport and they can go to each table and get it stamped with a flag of each country. It's like they are travelers who have come to travel the world."

The fair will be held in the DiPonio room in the VisTaTech Center. For more information call (734) 462-4400.

#### Moms and teachers

If you're a mom who had children at Livona Adams Elementary School or a staff member who worked there, mark Tuesday, March 30 on your calendar for the third annual Livonia Adams Elementary Mom and Teacher Reunion.

"It's been growing every year. The first one was small and the next year we had a few more people and this time we're getting a better response," said Sharon Culbertson, one of three moms who organize the event.

"Someone asked why not dads, but they usually don't want to come to things like this. Basically, it's the moms. It's a big talkfest."

Teachers, including some retired staff members, have attended the events, too.

The organizers, including Culbertson, Kate Turner and Pam Geraci, had children at the school at various times within the past 14 years.

The reunion will include dinner, starting at 6 p.m., at One Under Banquet Center, 35780 Five Mile, Livonia. Pop and desserts are included.

For questions or to RSVP call Culbertson at (734) 261-0068 or e-mail her at rsculbert@sbcglobal.net

- Sharon Dargay



**NEIGHBORS** 

522-7924

Class of 1968

Warren Fitzgerald

**B**7 (CP)

#### **GARDEN & NATURE**

Send garden and nature items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

#### At English Gardens

• Nancy Szerlag tells you how to grow your best garden ever at 10 a.m. at the West Bloomfield store and 4 p.m., in Dearborn Heights. Both sessions are Saturday, March 27.

• Ashton Ritchie, Scotts Company, will share 40 years of lawn care tips and tricks and answer all your questions about weeds, bare spots, shade and other lawn problems, 10 a.m., Saturday, March 27 at the Dearborn Heights store and 3 p.m., Sunday, March 28, in West Bloomfield.

• Faith Savage, of Goldsmith Seeds will talk about the emotions colors evoke and the "feel" of your garden as you bring color to life, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 27, at the West Bloomfield store.

• Learn how to grow beautiful roses at a free in-store presentation, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, at all locations.

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.

#### Livonia Garden Club

Kathy Browne, Master Gardener, will talk about how to use edible wild plants in the home landscape and will show a short video with examples of gardens and containers, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. (734) 464-7915



The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www. hometownlife.com. Submit your 50th reunion festivities in announcement at least two weeks in September will be held at the advance to Sharon Dargay at sdar-

#### **Dearborn Heights Haston High** Class of 1965

gay@hometownlife.com.

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. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

#### Class of 1960

50th reunion will be held Oct. 16 at The Marriott in Livonia. For more information contact: Tim Yarde at (248) 573-7147 or Russ and Judy

#### (Mackinder) Sarns at (734) 464-7166) Berry at karber@comcast.net or Teri

**Detroit Pershing** Class of 1960

#### **Garden City West** Class of 1970

Friedman at sweet1t2001@vahoo.

**Oak Park High School** 

(Gerogeff) Pontius (248) 446-9948

or e-mail to mikecarol91500@att.

net. Or call Tena (Fear) Keith at (

The West Grands Catholic Youth

Organization at the Detroit parish

school plans a July 10 reunion and

is looking for participants. Call Rose

at (248) 437-6621 or Sharon at (734)

248) 437-6827.

St. Suzanne

Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby 40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at in downtown Detroit. For more Hawthorne Valley Country Club in information call Sherry Forbush Westland, Dinner and DJ included (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 for \$50 per person. Classmates from or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) the classes of 1968-72 also invited to 595-7508. attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

#### 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**

Mini-reunion luncheons held the 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@vahoo.com.

Picnic, Aug. 21, in Garden City Park.

#### **KENSINGTON GOLF COURSE OPENS**

Kensington Metropark golf course opened Wednesday, March 17. The 18-hole golf course that covers 6,345 yards with a par of 71 is open, course conditions permitting. Winter rates are in effect: \$13 regular, \$10 seniors (62 and over) plus cart rental of \$7.50 per person. Spring rates are: with cart, 18 holes for \$25, 9 holes for \$18; Senior rate is 18 holes for \$20, 9 holes for \$15; without cart, 18 holes for \$18, 9 holes for \$13; senior rate is 18 holes for \$14, 9 holes for \$10. Regular golf rates are: weekends/holidays, 18 holes for \$26, 9 holes for \$17; weekdays, 18 holes for \$22, 9 holes for \$14; the seniors (62 and over) and juniors (17 and under) rate is 18 holes for \$15, 9 holes for \$11. Power carts for 18 holes are

\$14 per person and \$11 for seniors and juniors (weekdays only). Power carts for 9 holes are \$9 per person and for seniors and juniors (weekdays only), \$7.50 per person. Hand carts are \$2 per person. Golfers can save with discounted rates offered weekdays from 11 am to 3 p.m., and weekends from noon to 4 p.m. Call the course for details

Super Golf Day will be held on Tuesday, June 8, at Kensington Metropark: \$10 per player, includes cart, foursomes required. This offer excludes leagues. Regular golf course hours are 9 am until dusk daily with hours extending as daylight increases. Tee times can be reserved up to two weeks in advance and golfers are advised to call in advance of tee time to confirm course conditions. Golf accessories, beer, wine and food are available at the golf starter building. Coolers are not allowed on the course.

A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark and is only \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors or \$5 daily. The daily permit offers a \$4 coupon, good that day only, off greens fees.

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks operates eight regulation and two par-3 courses. For additional information or to schedule tee times, contact Kensington Metropark at (800) 477-3178, (248) 685-9332, or (800) 23-GOLF-4; or go to www. metroparks.com.

WIT D)





waynehighalumni.com. Class of 1985

Livonia. Tickets are \$25 per person before Aug 1. Includes appetizers and entertainment. Mail payment to JGHS Class of 1985, P.O. Box 871023, Canton, MI 48187 or contact Tracy Dunsmore at tracy1420@wideopenwest.com or (734) 748-8904 for more information.

lziemba1968@aol.com. Wavne High All classes Reunion banquet, 5-10 p.m., Friday, May 14 at Wayne Tree Manor, Wayne. For more information call Wanda

6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 9,

at DeCarlo's Banquet Center, 10

Mile and Mound, Warren, Buffet

dinner and cash bar. Tickets are

\$35. Contact Ken Rix at (586) 781

4552, kenrix@ameritech.net. or

Bill Ziemba at (248) 689-6216, bil-

Boice at (734) 326-7767 or www.

#### Westland John Glenn

25-Year Reunion, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., Sept. 25 at Doc's Sports Retreat in

Class of 1980 30th reunion, July 2-4; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@ yahoo.com **Redford Union** Class of 1960 .50-year reunion, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14. For more information contact Mike and Carol

#### Class of 1960

second Saturday of every month at Road, east of 1-275. Call Gary Simon **Garden City East** 

#### Class of 1964

For more information e-mail Karen

# iversar

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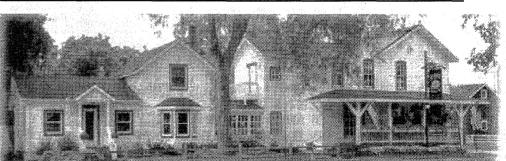
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April 1

Bloomfield

**Congregation B'nai Moshe** 

Location: 6800 Drake, West

Time/Date: 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday,

Details: Passover buffet including

assorted soups and salads, grilled

chicken and chicken tenders, meat-

and French fries, fresh vegetables,

homemade desserts, fresh season-

al fruit with coffee, tea, juice and

soft drinks. Adults \$29, children

ages 5-11, \$18, children ages 0-4,

no charge. Pre-paid reservations

only by Thursday, March 25 with

cash or check preferred to: Elite

Kosher Catering, 6800 Drake Road

(between Maple and 14 Mile Roads)

Coming up: RSVP by Monday, March

29 for the "The Magic of Passover,"

a free Passover program for

loaf and fish, mashed potatoes

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargav@ 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 jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

**B8** 

(CP)

#### **MARCH 21-24 Canton Christian Fellowship** Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m., March 23-25 Location: 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton Details: Winter revival, "Exposed and Accountable: Preaching that Builds Lives!" with the Rev. Otis Moss, III Contact: (734) 404-2480 Faith Lutheran Church Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., March 21.

Birmingham Eccentric

Farmington Observer

· Garden City Observer

Canton Observer

Livonia Observer

Northville Record

· Plymouth Observer

Redford Observer

South Lyon Herald

· South Oakland Eccentric

Southfield, Royal Oak,

Berkley, Huntington

Woods, Ferndale,

Lathrup Village,

Pleasant Ridge

and Clawson

Westland Observer

Milford Times

Novi News

Location: 30000 Five Mile, Livonia Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform works by J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Gabriel Fauré, Francis Poulenc, Sergei Rachmaninoff, John Rutter and more; tickets are \$10 and \$7 and are available at the door or in advance Contact: (248) 988-6715; www. detroitlutheransingers.com **Hosana Tabor Lutheran** Time/Date: Through March 31 Location: 9600 Leverne, Redford Details: Hosanna Tabor Lutheran is collecting gently worn footwear and donations for Soles4Souls, Inc., a national charity that ships shoes to individuals in need, whether they are victims of a natural disaster or living in extreme poverty. A collection box is stationed at the Orangelawn covered church entrance. A \$1 donation per pair of shoes helps defer shipping costs.

Contact: (313) 937-2424 **Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian** 

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

Church Time/Date: 6-7 p.m., March 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 St. Michael the Archangel Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday,

March 24 Location: 11441 Hubbard, south of

Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Associate pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in

Plymouth, the Rev. Charles White will share the story of his conversion from the Baptist faith to Catholicism. Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207 or see the parish Web site at www.

#### livoniastmichael.org St. Robert Bellarmine

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Sunday, March 21 Location: Southeast corner of Inkster and West Chicago Roads, Redford

Details: St. Robert Bellarmine Choir presents "The Seven Last Words of Christ." a sacred cantata by Theodore DuBois; free admission Contact: (313) 937-1500

St. Theodore Catholic Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, March 21

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland Details: All you can eat pancake and French toast breakfast, sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club; pancakes; French toast; ham; sausage; scrambled eggs; applesauce; tea; coffee; milk; juice; cost is \$3 adults and \$1.50 for children ages 2-10

Contact: (734) 425-4421 South Lyon Church of Christ Time/Date: 5:30 p.m., March 21 Location: 21860 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon

Details: Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus will perform Contact: (248) 437-3585 or southly-

oncoc@hotmail.com Trinity Lutheran Church Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, March 22-24,

call to reserve a pick-up time for the church's food pantry on March 27 Location: 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Contact: (734) 459-9557

#### **MARCH 25-31 Christ Our Savior Lutheran**

Church Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Friday, March

26 Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The Wind Symphony and Jazz Band of Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, Mo.; free will donation will be accepted Contact: (734) 522-6830, Ext. 103 **Congregation Beth Ahm** Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday Location: 5075 West Maple Road,

MEMBER

FDIC

#### West Bloomfield

Details: "Beginnings of Judaism" a free weekly lecture series on DVD with Isaiah Gafni; topics for March 24 "The End of Days - Messianic Eschatology" and "Other Lands, Other Jews - The Diaspora." No program on March 31

Coming up: Congregation Beth Ahm's fund-raiser to honor and thank outgoing President Chuck Kessler, begins with Mina and afternoon service, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27. Seudah Shlishit and dinner hors d'oeuvres follow at 7 p.m.; Ma'ariv and a Musical Havdalah at 8:15 p.m.; followed by dinner and dancing to the sounds of The Skye Island Band. Casual attire/ blue jeans; tickets are \$75 per person. RSVP by March 24 to (248) 851-6880. Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail

nancyellen879@att.net.

**Congregation B'nai Moshe** Time/Date: Mincha and Ma'ariv services at 6 p.m. Seder begins at 6:45 p.m., Tuesday, March 30 Location: 6800 Drake, West Bloomfield

**Details**: Congregational Seder on the second night of Passover will include Seder plate, matzo, gefilte fish with red horseradish, salad, roasted chicken, roasted potatoes, sweet baby carrots, sheet cake and fresh fruit with wine, grape juice, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Cost is \$37 for adults, \$20 for children 4-12 and no charge for age 3 and under. Reservations - and requests for special dietary restrictions – by Monday, March 22.

**Contact**: (248) 788-0600 **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church** Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 28

Location: 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills Details: Free Palm Sunday brunch **Contact**: (248) 553-3380 St. John's Episcopal Church Time/Date: Palm Sunday service, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., March 28; prayers, 6:40 p.m. and Mass, 7 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, March 29-30; Prayers, 11:40 a.m. Mass, noon, Wednesday, March 31 Location: 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland Contact: (734) 721-5023

**APRIL 1-7** 

#### families with preschoolers, 10-11:30

in West Bloomfield

a.m., Monday, April 5. The program includes a magic show by Steve Zieman, as well as storytime, songs, crafts and Passover snacks. Contact: (248) 592-0200 or (248) 592-0830 for Passover buffet; (248) 788-0600 for "Magic of Passover" program

#### **Faith Lutheran Church**

Time/Date: Maundy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m., April 1; prayer, noon and service, 7:30 p.m., Good Friday, April 2; Easter vigil service, 7:30 p.m., April 3; Easter celebration service, 10 a.m., with breakfast served 9-10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon, Sunday, April 4 Location: 30000 Five Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 421-7249

#### **Kingdom Builders Christian** Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., April 6, 13, 20 and 27

Location: 23310 Joy, Redford Details: Workshop for couples who are married, engaged or in a serious relationship. Learn to communicate better, respect each other and lessen stress on the relationship. Great for couples at every stage and any age. Dinner and child care provided; pre-registration needed for child care. \$40 per couple for all four weeks. Couples must attend all four sessions.

**Contact**: Marriage Resource Center at (313) 278-4400 or visit www. mimarriage.org

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41	dinners include ONE s	ide choice: Salad, Slaw, Soup, Sp	aghetti, Potato, or Vegetable	
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	3 Shrimp 4 pc. Ribs 2 Meatball	sandwich		
\$	3 Shrimp 4 pc. Ribs 2 Meatball	\$ <b>10</b> 00	\$7.45	DANK

### **FREE Safety in** the Home Seminar

Presented by





#### Friday March 26, 2010 10am-2pm

At New Liberty Bank, 1333 West Ann **Arbor Road in Plymouth** 

> This informative and fun seminar will cover topics including child safety, car seats, booster seats, basic first aid and CPR. Refreshments will be served and take home materials provided, along with a free first aid kit! RSVP suggested but drop-ins are welcome.

> > The Program will be conducted by Asher Sigler, CC EMT-P with 15 years of training in the medical field.

RSVP to: info@firstchoiceucc.com or call New Liberty Bank for more information (734) 455-1511. www.newlibertybank.com

New Liberty Bank

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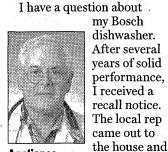
1333 W. Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth (734) 455-1511 www.newlibertybank.com

#### **NEIGHBORS**

### Can a replacement part improve performance of an appliance?

for a while, and in the end my

received an e-mail from Aaron which prompted today's column and it is proving rather difficult to get an answer to define the change in his product's performance. Here is his e-mail:



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

buttons and LED display are part of. After he left. I noticed that the cycle times seemed to be longer. On the wash cycles, it's hard to be precise, since the unit adjusts cycle time based on the incoming water supply temperature. However, on the rinse cycle, the change is quite obvious. The cycle was always seven minutes in length, regardless of water temperature. I was a regular user of the rinse cycle, when it was only seven minutes. Now the rinse cycle is anywhere from 22 to 44 minutes, and I don't use it at all.

replaced the

suspect com-

ponent — the

piece that the

electronic

#### NEW PART

I had the rep back out at it, and he simply replaced the part with a new one, which made no difference. When I pointed that out, he called Bosch and was patched into someone in India. They argued

rep got angry and ended the phone call. I have given up on having the local rep make further attempts. I am an engineer working in the automotive industry, and I have a hunch about what's going on with my service part. For service parts in automotive, certain electronic modules need to be programmed at the dealer for the specific application. The hardware is the same, but the software is modified according to the application. This avoids the dealer stocking several different part numbers. Is this practice also common with appliances? If so can the Bosch unit be programmed by flipping some switches, or pressing/holding certain keys in sequence? I watched the tech take the unit apart and am confident I could get back into the unit to set any switches if I needed to.

#### **ENERGY USAGE**

My reply: My first thoughts on your problem may indicate that the manufacturer is meeting certain energy standards of today on yesterday's products. I know that this has been done with replacement components having to do with water consumption such as washing machines. There are strict guidelines set by the U.S. Energy Department to ensure that appliance makers save energy and water usage on

major home appliances. As a sideline, recent headlines indicate that the energy usage labels posted on products are not being truthful. More to come on that subject.

If this is the case, it seems odd that an increase in time on the rinse cycle from seven minutes to 22 could save energy. But, last year when I attended a service meeting where a manufacturer's representative was taking apart a new model dishwasher of the future, he pointed out that this particular dishwasher was going to save a ton of energy and water during its lifetime. He told us that the length of run cycle on this dishwasher was going to be three-four hours and it made me wonder how such a long run cycle could cost less than the normal one of, lets say 90 minutes.

In the appliance industry, service technicians are taught the basics of replacing certain parts for certain problems. There is no way that we even come close to the high technology developed in the automobile of today. My argument against all of the electronics installed on appliances today is the cost factor of replacement parts creating an obsolete product. Appliances were created to make it easier on the homemaker of America. They are not required to have anti-lock brakes, etc. Then again, who knows what the future holds for the appliance world. I'll soon write about the washer of the future that uses only one gallon of water to wash a full load. Stay tuned.

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.

### Women get job search help

**MORE MILESTONES** 

For a number of years now. Southfieldbased Jewish Vocational Services has been offering a Women To Work program. Its goal is to help women who've been out of the workplace, often with family responsibilities, return to paid employment.

The next information meeting will take place 9-11 a.m., Thursday, April 15. The program starts Tuesday, April 20, and consists of 10 sessions from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except for the final

resume writing and networking to be covered. "There is an assessment that's done, a computerized assessment," she said. The assessment helps participants to focus on a particular area of employment.

Use of the Internet in job searching is covered, a necessity today "more so than ever," she said.

Also covered are areas such as stress management, success in the workplace and financial literacy.

#### **MILESTONES**

A July 2010 wedding is

planned at Cobblestone Farm,

#### **JULY WEDDING PLANNED**

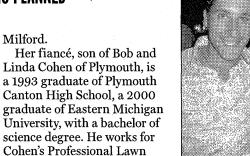
Milford.

Service.

Ann Arbor.

Jamie Wilson and Jason Michael Cohen, both of Livonia, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michelle St. James of Allen Park and Mike and Dawn Lewkowicz of Harland, is a 1993 graduate of Hartland High School and a 2001 graduate of Washtenaw Community College. She is employed as a veterinary technician at Veterinary Care Specialists,



Wilson-Cohen

**B**7



**BETTY JEAN BURKHART** March 14, 2010, age 78. Beloved wife of Donald. Dear mother of Lee Burkhart, Joyce (Kevin) Abraham, Denise (Mark) Bair and Susan (Al) Bednarski. Also leaves six grandchildren and nine greatgrandchildren. Services will be held on Thursday at 11am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

**BEVERLY A. HINSCH** Age 72, formerly of Livonia, Michigan, passed away Friday, March 12, 2010 at her home in Bonita Springs, Florida. She was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 31, 1937 the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth (nee Franke) Corner. Beverly attended Wayne State University and was a proud member of the Delta Zeta Sorority. She was also an avid bridge player. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years James E. "Jim" Hinsch; sons, James Hinsch Jr., Robert Hinsch; daughters, Kathryn (Ben) Hinsch, Debra Renauer; brother, Charles; sisters, Betty Lou Corner, and Dorothy (Mike) Kotzan. Also surviving are her two granddaughters, Morgan and Renee Renauer In accordance with her wishes funeral

services will be private. Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home (239) 992-4982

Family Owned Since 1978





**FLORENCE T. DUNEC** 

Age 91, March 12, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Loving sister of the late Joseph "Ed" Nycek, Mitchell Nycek and Sylvia Fary. Dearest aunt of Mary Ann Dixon, Fran Braum, Toni Hill, Frank Fary, Vince Fary, Pat Fary, Anita Moseley and Ken Nycek. Also survived by brother-in-law Frank Fary, Sr. Second mother and great aunt of many. Her great and great-great nieces and nephews were her joy. Visitation Friday 3-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (bet. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 10am until 10:30am Mass at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh (just south of 5 Mile), Livonia. In leiu of flowers memorials suggested to Angela Hospice or St. Edith Church.

#### GERALD CREWDSON

Age 65, of Novi, March 15, 2010. Gerald was a proud Army Veteran. He retired from Ford Motor Co. after 38

years. He is survived by many cousins. Funeral Friday 11 AM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Visitation Thursday -8 PM. www.thayer-rock.com

#### **In Loving Memory** TOM M. HERLIHY 09-08-36 to 03-21-06 'Til We Meet Again! Love Family & Friends

**ROBERT BROOKES** 

Age 67, formerly of Westland, died March 12, 2010. Retired gas linesman from Consumer's Power Company. Survived by wife, Joan; children, Michael (Catherine) & Cathy, all of Redford & Mark (Dawn) of Roscommon; 15 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren & their grandfather, Andy Sambrone of Redford. Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon

989-275-3600

#### WILDA EARLINE KANE

Kane, Iriline, age 76, of Brownstown, March 17, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Richard. Dearest mother of Vanessa Fults, Melissa (Mike) Harview, Mark Kaljian and Shanta (Bill) Sagert and step-mother to Richard Kane, Joseph (Kathy) Kane and the late John (Kathy) Kane. Dear grandmother of Joseph Sagert. She vas preceded in death by her mother, Hazel Smith. Funeral service is Sunday, 3:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation is Sunday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Entombment at Michigan Memorial Park. michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com



session which will be on Friday, May 21. All meetings are held at JVS, 29969

Southfield Road. Charter One Bank's funding provides the

program free of charge.

"It's been extremely popular, and we've had larger groups than previously," said Judy Richmond, JVS Women To Work coordinator. The need within the community for assistance in conducting a job search is great, she said.

Job hunting strategies, interviewing,

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY** 

Myron and Carol Hopper celebrated

The life-long Plymouth residents were

high school sweethearts who attended

They have two children, Shawn, of

Plymouth and Nicole (Scott) Wright of

Plymouth. Nicole and Scott's children

Myron is semi-retired barber of

McMullen's Barber Shop in downtown

are Brendan, Evan and Caroline.

Plymouth High School together and

their 50th wedding anniversary on

March 19.

married in 1960.

grandmother.

Men may attend the Women To Work sessions, although the program is really geared more for women. It used to be called <sup>•</sup>Displaced Homemakers."

JVS will be closed for Passover March 30-31, and April 5-6. Richmond will be off the rest of the week of March 30.

For information on Women To Work, call Richmond at (248) 233-4232.

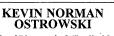
- By Julie Brown

#### **CLARE ANNETTE NEBEL JOHNSON**

Wife of James D. Johnson, born April 1926 at home in Gladstone Michigan to George Thomas Nebel and Isabel Mercier Nebel. Clare grew up in Gladstone Michigan moved with her brother to Garberville, California in 1943 to live with her Aunt Ann and Uncle George while her parents worked in a munitions factory in Oregon. Graduated from Garberville High School, completed Nurses training at St. Lukes in Chicago, Illinois and become a Registered Nurse. Remet her childhood friend James in Ann Arbor Michigan and married September 9, 1950. Raised her family in Livonia, Michigan and North Olmsted, Ohio, later moving to Northville, Michigan. Survived by her husband, James; children Kathleen Johnson (Rob) Bartshe, Stuart (Julie) Johnson, Karen Johnson and grandchildren Audrey (Aaron), James, Helen, William, Michael and Christine. Also siblings Vicky Frantz, Priscilla (Jack) Fisher, Tom (Grace) Nebel, brother in-law John Beahan and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her sister Kathryn Beahan and brother in-law John Frantz. She was a talented artist of oils and watercolors and enjoyed cooking, sewing and knitting. She cross-country skied winters and golfed summers with her husband, James. Clare passed away February 17, 2010, memorial service will be held for the family April 17 at the Livonia Radisson Michigan Room from 1 – 3 and visitation is 3 -5. Donation may be made to Heartland Hospice of Ann Arbor and to Alzheimer's Research.

#### DOROTHY MACK-HARNER

March 17, 2010. Age 87 of Wayne-Westland. Loving mother, homemak-er & nurse. Beloved wife of the late Bernard (Ben) Harner (1960) & the late Dewey Mack (1999). Loving mother of Carol (Jerry) Smith of Canton, Lori Clark of Howell, Rick (Cynthia) Harner of Traverse City & Dennis (Sue) Harner of Gainesville, FL. Dear sister of Nancy (John) Floyd of Stewart, FL. Also survived by ten grandchildren, ten great-grandchil-dren, one great-great-grandchild and many nieces & nephews. Dottie was born April 1, 1922 in Sunbury, PA to Richard & Triffie Peifer and was one of nine children. A memorial mass will be held at 11 am Saturday, March 20 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 34530 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI. The family will be available at the church at 10:30. Cremation rites to be accorded in keeping with Dottie's wishes. Arrangements handled by the Uht Funeral Home. www.uhtfh.com.



Age 47, of Plymouth, MI., died March 16, 2010 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI. Kevin was born Dec. 22, 1962 in Detroit MI. Kevin was an avid outdoorsmen, loved carpentry work and cooking for friends and fam-ily. He is survived by his mother, Janet Callan (Leonard Wieczorkowski), of Lachine, MI., his father Norman (stepmother Margaret) Ostrowski, of Lady Lake, Florida, one brother, Kenneth (Phyllis) of Newport, MI, one sister, Jenise (Charles) Hunley of Plymouth, MI. One neice and nephew, Kaitlyn and Cody, grandmother, Helen Andrews and special friend, Sherri Jones, of Plymouth MI. At Kevin's request cremation has taken place, no

#### MARGARET I. KOENINGER (nee BERG)

services will be held.

March 10, 2010, age 85. Beloved wife of the late Pastor Leonard J. Koeninger and loving mother of the late Pastor Philip J. Koeninger and baby Paul Koeninger. Survivors include her daughter Kristine Wolfe, grandchildren Katherine and Mark Tiefel, Scott and Lindsey Wolfe, Abigail Wolfe and sister Catherine Thomas. Visitation will be at 10am, Saturday, March 20th, immediately followed by a noon Memorial Service at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Penniman, Plymouth, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution suggestions may be found at: www.schrader-howell.com

#### **MARY BUNKER**

Age 79, March 12, 2010, of Garden City. Beloved wife of 50 years of Thorton M. "Ted" Bunker. Loving sister of Virginia McNut, Jean Foster, Robert Armentrout and Richard Armentrout. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Memorial contribution may be made to Angela Hospice.

#### WILLIAM S. LORIMER

75 of Birmingham and Clarkston died 3/19/10 was the loving husband of Bernadine Lassaline Lorimer and deceased wife Patricia Dyer Lorimer. Survivors include 25 grandchildren and 6 children: Dan, Meg, Amy, Julia, Mike and Betsy. However, the number swells to hundreds if listing the people that looked to him as a father figure. Bills artistic talents and solid reputation as a custom Builder spanned over 50 years. He was a naturalist who always had time to listen and provide guidance for those in need. A memorial mass will be held Tuesday 3/23/10 at 11am at St. Daniels in Clarkston, 7010 Valley Park Dr. 248.625.4580. Afterwards there will be a gathering at their home. In lieu of flowers, donations can go to www.landtrust.org/donations

#### WILLIAM O. BARTEL

Age 84, of Livonia, passed away March 18, 2010. Loving husband of 57 years to the late Annabel. Beloved father of Jill (Ronald) Ritzler, Gordon Bartel, Gary (Bernadette) Bartel. Preceded in death by sons William R. and Timothy Lee Bartel.Proud grandfather of Courtney Bartel, Matthew (Jennifer) Ritzler, Jonathan Ritzler, Sarah (Jonathan) Mitchell, Bradley, Steven, Mark, Becky and Adam Bartel. Great grandfather of Rachel, Christian.Emma and Mara. Mr. Bartel served in the United States Army during WWII receiving a Purple Heart and 3 Bronze Stars. He enjoyed farming, collecting model trains, but most of all he loved spending time with his family. Funeral service Monday 11:00am from Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia with visitation beginning at 10:30am. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth, Sunday 2-9pm. Interment Riverside Cemetery

Memorials may be made to the Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church or to Angela Hospice 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48154. Share memories at schrader-howell.com



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

**Deadlines**: Friday 4:15 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 DE08658429



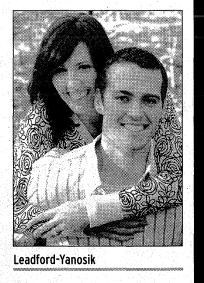
Myron and Carol Hopper of Plymouth

#### **MAY WEDDING PLANNED**

Gary and Sue Leadford of Canton are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Lynn, to Steven Joseph Yanosik.

The bride-to-be graduated from Canton High School in 2002 and earned a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences in 2006 from the Honors College at Michigan State University. Jessica is a fourth year medical student at The **Ohio State University College** of Medicine and will graduate in June 2010. She will specialize in anesthesiology.

Her fiancé, son of Al and Candy Yanosik of Caledonia, is a 2002 graduate of Caledonia High School. Steve holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Michigan State University and is employed by American



Electric Power in Columbus, Ohio.

Jessica and Steve met their freshman year at MSU. A May 2010 wedding is planned at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.



section

#### **B8** (\*)(FWGc)\_(ReLCP-B10) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### HEALTH

#### online at hometownlife.com

### Detroit Medical Center executives get new roles

Two top Detroit Medical Center (DMC) executives, Mary Zuckerman and Timothy J. Ryan, recently received new job titles and responsibilities.

Zuckerman of Livonia has been appointed executive vice president, chief operating officer. She joined DMC in 2004 and is responsible for all hospitals operations and numerous corporate functions including construction, revenue cycle, laboratory, retail pharmacy, nutrition services, radiology, customer service, the chief nursing office and certificate of need. Before joining the DMC, she spent eight years with Wayne County, the last two serving as the deputy county executive. Zuckerman earned a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree from Winona State University. Ryan, of Royal Oak has been appointed senior vice president, chief business development officer. He will oversee physician recruiting, practice management, sports medicine, international services, and physician contracting, among other duties.

Before coming to the DMC in 2007, he was president and CEO of Detroit-Macomb Hospital Corporation and senior vice president of St. John Health. He holds an M.B.A degree and a law degree from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in finance from Kalamazoo College. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives:

"Mary and Tim's proven track records for systemwide improvements and getting results positioned them for their new leadership roles," said Michael Duggan, president and CEO, Detroit Medical Center.

The Detroit Medical Center operates Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit Receiving Hospital, Harper University Hospital, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Hutzel Women's Hospital, Kresge Eye Institute, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Sinai-Grace Hospital, and DMC Surgery Hospital.



Zuckerman

#### MARCH St. Mary Mercy

"Parenting with Love and Logic" for parents with elementary age children, 7 -9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 in Classrooms 1 & 2. The program. uses a common sense approach, teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision-making in children by offering them choices, empathy, and respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings, or lectures. The fee is \$10 per person, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information or to register. Or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

#### Autism conference

Registration is underway at www. asdboards.com for the Second International Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders – including Autism, Asperger's syndrome, AD/HD,

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

RAD and OCD - which runs March 26-28 at Troy Metropolitan Hotel, 5500 Crooks, Troy. The American Medical Autism Board and Dr. Phillip DeMio, present the conference, which will cover such topics as toxins in the environment, recovery stories, unique effective therapy techniques for improving your child's outcome, immunological treatments for yeast, viruses, and other pathogens, implementation of special diets, biomedical treatments for behavioral problems in adoptive children and much more. Cost is \$179 for three full days, or \$79 for any one general session day. Extra charges may apply for health care providers seeking additional course and AMAB credits.

#### APRIL St. Mary Mercy

•"Pet Preparation for Baby," 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 8, in classrooms 1 and

2, will educate dog and cat owners about common behavior problems - and strategies to prevent them - when a new baby is brought into the home. Topics covered are what to expect from your pet, how to prepare for success, simple tips on an easy transition and how to anticipate and prevent potential behavior problems. Registration is required. Fee is \$10 per person. Call (734) 655-1159 for more information, or to register. Register online at www.stmarymercy. org and click on "classes and events". • "Heartsaver" Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class (CPR), 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with the American Heart Association. Learn CPR and choking techniques for children and adults. To register, call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655.8950, or register online at stmarymercy.org.

# Web site, call center offer radiation exposure information

Beaumont Hospitals has launched a radiation safety call center and a radiation safety Web site to help consumers assess their risk to radiation exposure and learn how to reduce it.

There are many diagnostic medical tests that involve radiation exposure, including X-rays and computed tomography scans.

People with medical conditions requiring frequent medical imaging, and children, are at greater risk of harm from radiation exposure.

The call center is staffed 24 hours a day by registered nurses, specially trained and supported by Beaumont's radiation safety experts. The center's toll-free phone number is (888) 388-MYCT (6928).

The radiation safety Web site, with questions and answers on radiation safety, comparisons of radiation doses for various diagnostic tests and a radiation tracking wallet card, can be accessed at www. beaumonthospitals.com.

Beaumonthospitals.com. Beaumont will also be hosting a Web chat with radiation safety and imaging experts noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 24. Go to www.beaumonthospitals.com to participate in the chat.

"In general, the risk of developing cancer from radiation exposure is not a major concern when compared to the benefits of medical imaging procedures," says Dr. Duane Mezwa,

ST. MARY MERCY

SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM

LIVONIA

corporate chief of diagnostic imaging, Beaumont Hospitals. "By asking questions and making wise imaging choices, patients can reduce their radiation exposure when they require medical imaging, especially higher dose exams such as computed tomography.

"New CT technology, such as the Siemen's Somatom Definition Flash CT, significantly reduces radiation exposure for a CT chest scan from an average dose of 8-20 millisieverts (a measurement of medical radiation) to less than 1 millisievert," Mezwa said. "The reduction in radiation exposure is especially beneficial for people with chronic medical conditions requiring frequent imaging, trauma patients, heart patients and children."

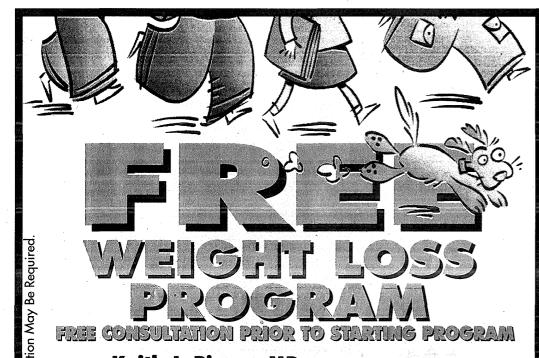
The three Beaumont hospitals are currently the only hospitals in Michigan with Flash CTs.

Radiation exposure may also be reduced when technologists use special "gating" techniques to lower tube voltage during CT imaging tests. In June 2009, a Beaumont-led study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that radiation exposure for heart CTs can be cut in half using these techniques with no effect on image quality. Beaumont cardiologists are leading a statewide collaborative research study of CT heart scanning that includes hospitals throughout Michigan.

In addition to using radiation for diagnostic testing, it is also used in therapies to treat certain cancers through a medical specialty called radiation oncology.

Beaumont radiation oncologists have pioneered new treatments and technology for pinpoint accuracy in targeting cancerous cells, while protecting adjoining healthy tissues and organs from radiation exposure. One of these inventions is Omnibeam, that combines CT imaging and robotic technology with a linear accelerator, a machine that treats cancer with a radiation beam. Invented and patented by Dr. Alvaro Martinez, chairman of Radiation Oncology, Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Omnibeam's real-time imaging allows the radiation beam to be precisely targeted and automatically adjusted to account for movement in a patient's internal organs, changes in patient positioning or breathing.

"It's very important that patients with cancer research their treatment options," Martinez said. "If radiation oncology treatment is recommended, they should choose a center that treats a high number of patients and one that's involved in clinical research, because such centers have greater expertise and can offer the latest treatment advancements."



Keith J. Pierce, MD Internal Medicine 38525 Eight Mile Road Livonia, MI 48152 248.321.6612 Call for Directions!

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-

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To learn more, attend one of our next FREE Educational Seminars 6 to 8 p.m.

> Tuesday, March 23 Thursday, April 22 Tuesday, May 25

To register for a seminar, call the Center for Joint Replacement today at 734.655.2400. stmarymercy.org

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Sunday, March 21, 2010

#### Billing Questions: 313-222-8748 Deadlines: Sunday Edition, 4:30 p.m. Friday Thursday Edition, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Home Delivery: 866-887-2737

30 Jobs that Earn \$30 an Hour

com

Imagine someone walking up to you at the top of every hour and handing you a \$20 bill. You'd be earning approximately the same amount of money that the average American does. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national mean for hourly wages is \$20.44.

That said, wouldn't it be nice to earn more than the average? Not that a \$20.44/ hour gig is anything to sneeze at, but a bigger paycheck is never a bad thing. At least it's fun to daydream about having more money in your checking account. That's why we play the lottery, after all.

We've put together a list of jobs that earn at least 10 dollars more than the national average just to give you an idea of how some people are earning their nice paychecks. Indulge your curious side and take a look at these 30 jobs that earn between \$30 and \$39 per hour.

### 1. Postsecondary communications teachers

teach courses on different types of communications (journalism and advertising, for example) at universities and colleges. Hourly pay: \$39.96

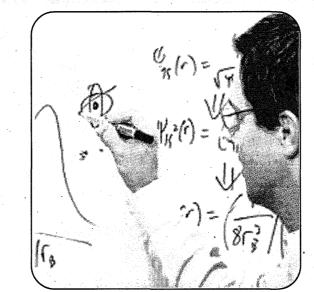
#### 2. Postsecondary education and library science teachers

teach education and library science courses at universities, colleges and other higher education institutions. Hourly pay: \$39.91

#### 3. Purchasing managers

make purchases on behalf of organizations in order to get needed supplies at the best rates. Hourly pay: \$39.80

**4. Environmental engineers** study environmental problems, such as air and water pollution, and they design solutions that governments and the general population can put into practice.



#### 7. Chemical engineers

are involved in the production of chemicals and in troubleshooting any problems that arise in their manufacturing. Hourly pay: \$38.88

### 8. Industrial production managers

oversee the planning and production of manufactured goods. Hourly pay: \$38.60

#### 9. Physician assistants

work under a physician's guidance to provide health-care services to patients. Hourly pay: \$37.84

### 10. Medical and health services managers

oversee and manage the business needs of entire health care facilities or departments. Hourly pay: \$37.82

### 11. Postsecondary education administrators

are responsible for managing the everyday operations of educational facilities. Hourly pay: \$37.51

#### 12. Operations research

### 14. Food scientists and technologists

analyze the composition and properties of food. Hourly pay: \$35.43

#### 15. Nuclear technicians

work with scientists on research and experiments relating to nuclear physics. Hourly pay: \$35.23

# **16. Construction managers** oversee the building of construction projects, from the planning stages to the budgeting. Hourly pay: \$34.77

**17. Set and exhibit designers** construct sets for theater, television and film productions. Hourly pay: \$34.16

# **18. Market research analysts** conduct research on different markets to estimate the business potential for an organization's marketing and promotional efforts. Hourly pay: \$33.79

#### 19. Civil engineers

design and oversee the construction of large-scale public goods, such as bridges, dams and airports. Hourly pay: \$33.06

### 22. Speech-language pathologists

work with patients who need assistance with speaking functions, which can be the result of hearing loss, physical conditions or language barriers. Hourly pay: \$30.71 **23. Chemists** 

### research and analyze different substances, often through different experiments.

#### Hourly pay: \$31.35 24. Training and development managers

plan and organize a company's training for staff. Hourly pay: \$30.63

### 25. Diagnostic medical sonographers

are responsible for ultrasounds that physicians order for patients. Hourly pay: \$30.45

#### 26. Medical scientists

research diseases and their effects on humans in order to understand how they operate and how they can be treated. Hourly pay: \$30.35

### **27. Kindergarten teachers** (except special education)

work in elementary schools instructing kindergarten classes. Hourly pay: \$30.13 **28. Technical writers** 

#### compose documents and communications that contain highly technical information but are easily understood by non-technical readers. Hourly pay: \$30.08

#### 29. Ship engineers

supervise the operations of a ship, from the equipment maintenance to electrical issues. Hourly pay: \$30.04

#### 30. Dental hygienists

perform some dental care on patients and instruct them on other preventative care habits. Hourly pay: \$30.01

#### Hourly pay: \$39.72 5. Postsecondary chemistry teachers

education college and university students on chemistry and related subjects. Hourly pay: \$39.47

#### 6. Animal scientists

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study issues relating to management and operations through engineering and other scientific methods. Hourly pay: \$36.57 **13. Postsecondary art, drama, and music teachers** 

teach courses in educational institutions in their respective fields at universities and colleges. Hourly pay: \$36.50

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work with radioactive materials and equipment used in procedures related to nuclear medicine. Hourly pay: \$32.56 **21. Architects** (except naval) design buildings, homes and other structures for various clients. Hourly pay: \$31.61 \*Salary information based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Anthony Balderrama is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/abalderrama.



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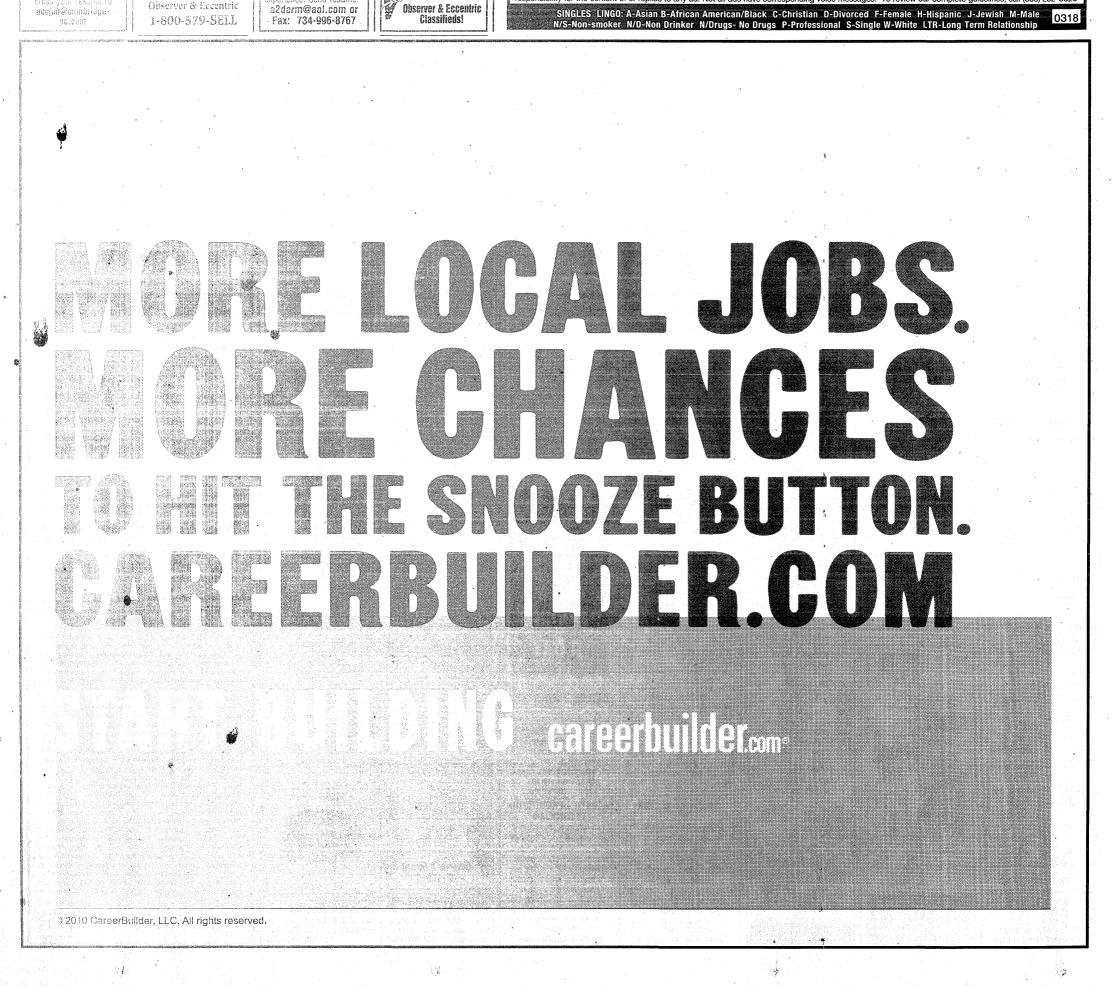
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 21, 2010 (\*)



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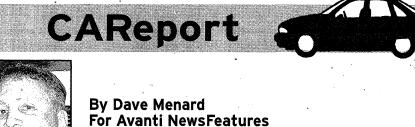






Mini John Cooper Works Convertible: Small Package, Big Fun

Advertising Feature



Have you ever asked yourself what kind of car you would buy if the only consideration was how much fun it was to drive? If you didn't have to worry about whether you could fit the kids' car seats in the back, or if the trunk could hold two weeks' worth of groceries, or if you had to drive cross country for the family vacation, what would you buy? The 2010 MINI John Cooper Works Convertible might make it onto your short list.

This is not a car for the practical family man (or person, to be politically correct), unless you have a minivan or an SUV in the garage next to it. Living up to the MINI name, the rear seat is almost useless, the trunk won't hold much more than your briefcase and you wouldn't be able to take enough supplies for long trip, but it is a ton of fun to drive. And you will get noticed, too.

The MINI JCW Convertible just looks like a small race car; it should have a number painted on the doors. The sloped, round single-lens headlamps highlight a front end that evokes a spirit of European race cars going back to the 1960s. The MINI, though, is taller than those classics, with large wheel cutouts and a more muscular rear section. Foglamps are standard, as are 17-inch alloy wheels.

If you've never been inside a MINI cabin before, it will take some time getting used to. The speedometer sits in the center of the dash between the driver and passenger; the tachometer, on the other hand, sits directly in front of the driver, where you might expect the speedometer to be. That probably shows what MINI thinks should be your priority, right? Watch the tach and worry . about the speed later.

The speedometer is quite large and also holds the fuel indicator – not a gauge, but a series of lights that go out as you use more fuel. The audio system controls (most of them, anyway) are housed in the speedometer display, as well. And that leads to one of the few complaints I have with the MINI layout – it's one of the most counterintuitive audio systems I have ever used.

The knob housed in the speedometer display within easy reach is not the volume knob, but the tuner knob. And turning the knob doesn't allow you to go through the range of radio stations, but instead takes you from one preset to the next; not exactly helpful if you're in a strange area and trying to find a station to listen to.

The volume knob is actually located underneath the separate CD player, which itself is located under the speedometer display. Why the two knobs aren't both in the display, one on the left end and one of the right side, I'll never know. But it takes some getting used to.

The sound itself is fine, and you can order Bluetooth and an iPod connection cable to control the device through the audio head unit (\$500). Audio controls are also located on the steering wheel.

Below the CD player and audio controls are two cup holders, but there is no real storage to speak of, except for the glove box. Other controls, for the power windows and such, are silver flip switches that are set up



in two rows, one below the console and one near the top of the windshield just below the convertible top.

Air-conditioning is standard, as are remote keyless entry, power windows and tilt steering. The standard seats are cloth, six-way manual adjustable, but leather is available. The seats provide good support and are fairly comfortable. There's plenty of head room, which is unusual for convertibles. Of course, you can always put down the power soft top for the ultimate in headroom. It's fairly simple to do and can actually be done while driving, as long as you're driving under 18 mph.

The MINI JCW Convertible is powered by a turbocharged 1.6-liter 16-valve inline 4-cylinder engine. It's rated at 208 horsepower and 192 lb.-ft. of torque, which is more than enough for a car this small to really take off. It's mated with a six-speed manual Getrag transmission; the combination makes it really fun to blow through the gears. There is a "sport" button in the cabin that adjusts the gas pedal map to a more sporting configuration, and adjusts the steering system set up with higher steering forces and enhanced precision.

The suspension system consists of MacPherson struts up front and a multilink system in the rear. It provides plenty of road feel while still taking the sting out of most bumps along the road. Electronic Power Steering is standard, and enables you to actually program various steering 'setups. The MINI is easy to maneuver and The back seat of this MINI is useless, but driving the car is so much fun.

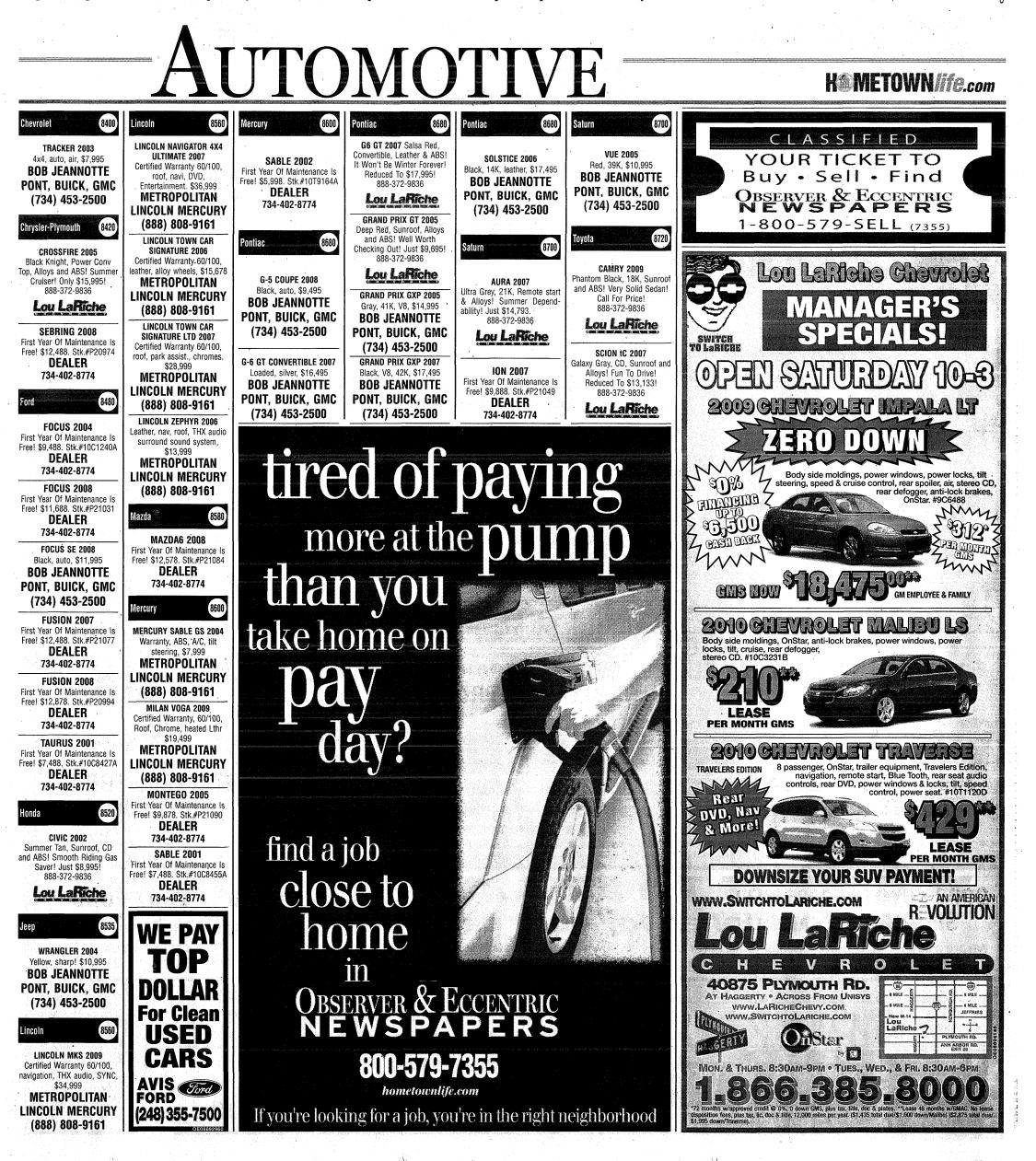
it's size makes it a breeze to park. As with most convertibles, though, backing up is a challenge when the top is closed; the rear window isn't large enough to cover the entire rear area leaving blind spots in the corners. Having a passenger will help there.

ABS anti-lock-brakes are standard, as are Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Cornering Brake Control and Dynamic Stability Control, including Hill Assist, Dynamic Traction Control and a Brake Assist. Dynamic Traction Control lets you touch a button to raise the driving stability response thresholds, intentionally allowing controlled slip on the drive wheels. This might come in handy when you're on snowbound surfaces or loose sand with the front wheels slightly spinning.

The 2010 MINI John Cooper Works Convertible starts at \$34,000. Add the Bluetooth/iPod and the destination charge and you're at just over \$35,000. The MINI is a small car, to be sure, but it packs a lot of fun into that small space. Write to Avanti NewsFeatures auto critic Dave Menard at Avanti1054@aol.com

#### 2010 MINI John Cooper Works Convertible

Vehicle class: Minicompact Power: 1.6 liter 4-cylinder turbocharged engine Mileage: 25 city / 33 highway. Where built: Oxford, England Base price: \$34,000 Price as tested: \$35,300

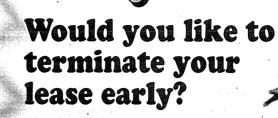


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