

IKEA looking for more than a few good hands

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for something to do this summer - or looking to change what you do for a living - then IKEA is

looking for you. The Swedish furniture retail store will open this summer in Canton, and the company is hiring some 400 workers between now and then. To find workers, the company last week began accepting online job applications.

"We haven't yet announced

the exact date we're opening this summer because we're still in construction mode," at the corner of Haggerty and Ford, said IKEA spokesman Joseph Roth. "But we are ready to start looking for co-workers now."

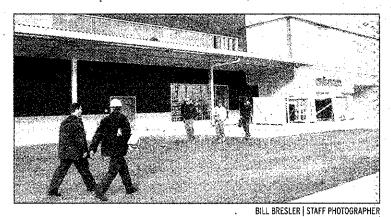
Job seekers may apply on the company's Web site at http://www.IKEA-usa.com. Those with limited access to computers are encouraged to visit the following local libraries where staff members are prepared for residents to navigate the IKEA application

process on the Internet: Canton Public Library, Plymouth District Library, Livonia Civic Center Library, William P. Faust Library of Westland, and the Detroit Public Library.

The company has been named three years in a row by Working Mother magazine as one of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers," and was one of FORTUNE's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list for two consecutive years. The reason for those honors, according to Roth, is that IKEA places value and emphasis on the importance of a work and life balance.

"We are thrilled to offer interested job seekers in the area diverse positions with limitless opportunity at a global company," said Mark McCaslin, store manager. "At IKEA, we realize that the opportunity to be able to do the things in life that bring success and happiness is extremely valuable to our





IKEA, which will open its Canton store this summer, is beginning to hire PLEASE SEE IKEA, A8 employees.

Administrator Kerry Walsh, R.N. keeps Oakwood's ER running smoothly. The facility celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.





Students top MEAP averages BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The latest MEAP scores indicate - once again -Plymouth-Canton elementary and middle school students are generally outpacing students in Wayne County and throughout the state in reading, writing, English language arts, math and science scores. In only one case - third-grade writing - did Plymouth-Canton elementary students rank below the state average with 49 percent proficient, compared to 51 percent statewide. In middle school, where social studies was thrown into the mix in sixth grade, Plymouth-Canton students far and away outdistanced other Wayne County schools, as well as districts statewide. However, because the testing period for the current results was in October, compared to the winter last year, the scores can't be analogized to last year's test results to give administrators and teachers cumulative information on how students are performing. "The state has been clear, this is a baseline period,"said Mike Bender, director of secondary education for Plymouth-Canton Schools. "The test had moved from later in the school year to the fall, which certainly changes the experiences kids had at that grade level." Students are being tested on information taught in their previous grade, which means this year's fifthgraders were tested in October on information they learned in the fourth grade. "A significant amount of time was spent in review, as well as balancing an approach where we began new instruction for kids in that grade level," added Bender. "There is discussion going on right now as to." when the best time is for testing. The challenge for the state is that if the test is moved to winter or spring, will they have the outcome in time to meet the federal regulations which mandate we have our report card and grades (Adequate Yearly Progress) at the beginning of the next school year." It took approximately five months to get this year's results. If the tests were administered later, there's a chance scores wouldn't be available in time to make changes to meet the federal mandates. Also complicating the issue of comparing results: Last year's test was the first time Michigan used the MEAP to test third through eighth-graders in math and reading, increasing the number of students taking the test. We're in the process of analyzing the results and drawing conclusions," said Bender. "We're very pleased and very proud of students and teachers, and the great job they've done."

Oakwood, Canton's only ER, treats the sick and injured from all over western Wayne

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

You won't find George Clooney or Noal Wylie roaming the hallways, or any of the other actors playing fictional characters on NBC's television program, ER.

No, life in Canton's only 24-hour emergency room isn't so glamorous. But the staff at Oakwood Health Care Center-Canton say the scene there can be just as hectic, especially during weekend nights and on holidays. The doctors and nurses see it all + from serious

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. David Weaver, medical director of Oakwood Canton's Emergency Room, examines patient Anthony Wade, who recently visited the ER because he was having trouble breathing.

PLEASE SEE EMERGENCY, A5

State of Township to feature new wrinkle

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack's State of the Township address on Wednesday will be as much about looking back as it will looking forward.

Yack, who will make his 17th annual address at the Village Theater, says this year's speech will be a little. different than those in the past. There will be a short video presentation detailing the "behind the scenes efforts" in Canton over the

course of the past year. The video, which will be shown before Yack's speech, was put together by the township's cable television department.

"They did a great job with this," Yack said. "It will show what happened over the last year, but from a behind the scenes perspective. It will show all the volunteer activity that makes Canton such a great community to live in." As in year's past, the

address will be sponsored by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and be part of

the group's monthly luncheon, which will begin at 11:30 a.m. Yack is scheduled to begin his presentation at 12:45 p.m.

Yack, who has been supervisor since 1988, said he will discuss several issues during his address, especially all the new retail activity that the township has experienced and will experience in the coming year. He said he will also talk about the high-end housing market in the township, as well as public safety issues and cultural opportunities at the

Village Theater and the Summit.

The luncheon is open to chamber members and the public.

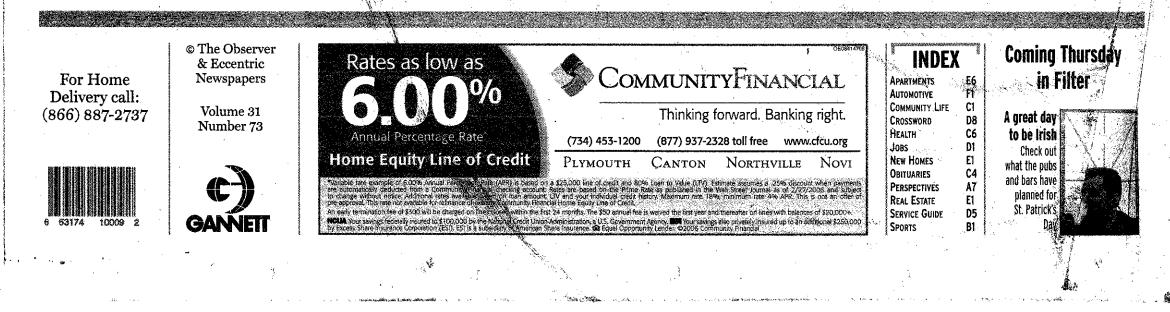
Tickets are \$20 per person, and reservations are necessary. Admission includes networking opportunity, full buffet luncheon, and program. Reservations can be made by contacting the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040 or visiting the chamber's online registration form at www.cantonchamber.com/eventsform.asp.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack will deliver his 17th State of the Township address Wednesday at the Village Theater.

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



Canton Homeowners Advisory Council

The Advisory Council has invited Attorney Ed Zelmanski to speak on March 13. Zelmanski is a partner in the Alexander, Zelmanski and Lee PLLC firm, which specializes in condominium and homeowner law. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the lower level of Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Anyone who belongs to a homeowner or condominium association is welcome to "Ask the Lawyer."

Van Buren Schools meeting

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. March 13 at the Belleville High School cafeteria, 555 W. Columbia Avenue in Belleville. Items on the agenda include MEAP results, electrical usage update, and Van Buren Township transportation request. For more information call (734) 697-9123.

Mathematics achievement

Bohao (Dan) Pan of Canton was among four Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School students who were recently selected as bronze award winners in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) by placing within the top 50 out of more than 14,000 competing Michigan students.

Each of the students received a \$500 stipend for college. Junior Iris Tian of Canton received an honorable mention

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is offered by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America as a way to encourage students to develop their interests and abilities in math. Part 1 of the MMPC is open to all Michigan high school students and consists of 40 multiplechoice questions involving top-

ics from high school mathematics. From there, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part 2, in which students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims. The students with the top 100 scores in the two parts are honored at an awards program. Cranbrook Schools are locat-

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 12, 2006

ed in Bloomfield Hills, and a division of Cranbrook **Educational Community**, which also includes Cranbrook's Academy of Art, Art Museum, Institute of Science, and other affiliated cultural and educational programs.

A century of musical style

An evening of ragtime, early jazz and American folk music will be presented by Michigan pianist, composer and historian Jon Milan on Wednesday, March 15 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The program begins at 8 p.m. and will feature performances by all of the musical groups associated with Milan, including the Brakemen, the Huron Valley Serenaders, Christine & Jon and a rare performance with Milan's longtime songwriting partner Richard (Rick) Pinkerton (Milan & Pinkerton). The event will also feature a special performance by the dance historian and choreographer Cathy Stephens and the Pleasant Moments Vintage Dancers (PMVD).

Ragtime and early jazz will be presented by the Huron Valley Serenaders and vocalist Christine Schinker. In addition to Milan, the group's personnel features Detroit area jazz musicians Tom Bogardus and Mike Karoub.Christine and Jon, a Michigan-based duo, featuring Schinker and Milan specializes in historically accurate renderings of popular songs, ballads and torch songs ranging from 1900 through the present day.

Tickets are \$12 and can be

purchased in advance at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Village Theater ticket office is open one hour prior to each performance.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information about the theater and to view the complete schedule, please visit www.canton mi.org/CPAEC/about.asp.

Family social club

The public is invited to hear Lori Logeway of Room to Change, who will discuss suggestions for achieving a comfortable and functional home with items you already own and cherish at the Canton Newcomers April 5 meeting. The Newcomers is a social club always looking for new members.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Sunflower Clubhouse, located at 45800 Hanford (west of Canton Center). Refreshments will be served. For more information about the Newcomers, please visit cantonnewcomers.org for more information or call (734) 737-0755.

LaJoy hours

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will meet with local residents from 3:30-5 p.m., March 13 at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main Street. He will discuss state government concerns or issues. No appointments are necessary.

Stewart hours

State Rep. John Stewart's legislative assistant, Lynn Babala, will hold office hours for constituents from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at Stewart's local district office, located at 1142 S. Main Street in Plymouth. For information, call Stewart's office in Lansing at (517) 373-3816. Stewart, R-Plymouth, serves Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township (east of I-275), Northville, and Wayne. Illegal immigration

meeting

Michigan Citizens for monigration kelorm will hose a meeting about illegal immigration in the United States, with particular emphasis on how it hurts Michigan. It will

mcfir805@comcast.net, or call (734) 453-5773.

Christmas in Action

Christmas in Action (CIA) is looking for volunteers to participate in their April 29 action day to provide free home repairs and maintenance for elderly and low-income homeowners in Canton. Volunteer teams are needed for general home repair jobs, painting, and yard work. Individuals with special skills, such as plumbing, roofing, and drywall are especially needed.

CIA is a non-profit organization with chapters throughout the country that have been providing free home repairs since 1973. Last year Canton formed their own CIA chapter and with the combined efforts of more than 200 community volunteers, free repairs were done on seven homes. The repairs ranged from simple, but critical, plumbing and painting, to putting on a new roof, siding, windows, and pouring a new concrete driveway. All repair costs were sponsored entirely through donations from community businesses, churches, schools, civic groups and individuals.

Christmas in Action's event day is always the last Saturday in April. To volunteer please contact Pat VanDusen at pvandusen@canton-mi.org or call CIA at (734) 844-8900. For more information on CIA visit christmasinactionwayne@com cast.net.

Fund-raising cookbook sale

United Home Health Services, a non-profit home care agency located in Canton, is sponsoring a cookbook sale as a fund-raiser for its Patient Support Fund. There are 25 different mini- cookbooks to choose from with titles including From the Grill, A Taste of Italy, Five Ingredients or Less, and Crockery Cooking, just to name a few. There are also gift jar cookbooks available.

Each book contains between 136-155 recipes, has a laminated hardback cover for extra durability, and a built-in, selfstanding easel for easy recipe viewing. They sell for just \$5.50 each.

The proceeds go to United's Patient Support Fund, which is used for home care patients who cannot afford basic items such as food, clothing, and medications. It is also used for medical equipment such as

To purchase a cookbook or to make a donation, please contact Mary Jane Swanson at (734) 981-8820.

Habitat applications

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County has scheduled an application orientation 7 p.m. Monday, March 13, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon in Canton (north of Ford and west of Sheldon, across from Baker's Square).

All interested individuals who would like to apply for a Habitat home are invited to the orientation. The session will last approximately 90 minutes. The orientation will include a video presentation, history of Habitat, questionand-answer segment and distribution of applications.

Applicants will be given the option to complete the application at the session and submit with required documentation or return the completed application within two weeks with requested documentation.

Required documentation includes copy of drivers license, W-2 forms or pay stubs (at least three months), federal tax returns from previous year, current utility statements (water, gas, electric and telephone), social security cards of all family members and a \$10 application fee (money order or check made payable to Habitat Western Wayne County).

Habitat conducts employment references, credit checks and all necessary procedures to confirm the ability to pay. The three criteria are (1) demonstration of need, (2) the ability to pay (3) applicants willingness to partner (attend required classes and completion of sweat equity).

For more information, visit Habitat's Web site at www.habitatwwc.org or call (734) 459-7744.

Orchestra Canton

Orchestra Canton will present "Toon Tunes: Cartoon Music Favorites" on Sunday, April 2 at 4 p.m. at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The show features orchestral music that has been featured in popular cartoons. Classical gems like Rossini's Barber of Seville (from Bugs Bunny in "Rabbit of Seville"), Johann strauss Blue Danube Waltz (from in Daffy Duck "A Corny Concerto") and Edvard Grieg's "Morning Mood" from Peer Gynt (featured in countless

Competition winner, Miranda Kalish, will also be joining the orchestra.

Tickets are \$20 for adults. \$18 for seniors, and \$11 for children and may be purchased in person at the Summit on the Park, 4600 Summit Parkway, by phone by calling the Summit at (734) 394-5460, or by calling the Orchestra Canton office at (734) 451-2112. Tickets may also be purchased at the Village Theater box office one hour before the performance. For more information on Orchestra Canton's second season please visit www.orchestracanton.org.

Extended hours

Beginning this week, the Canton Public Safety Records Bureau will extend the hours it is open to the public. The Records Bureau will remain open until 7 p.m. each Monday during the months of March, April and May. This is a pilot project geared toward enhancing customer service to community residents.

During this time all services provided by the Records Bureau will be available, including obtaining copies of reports and gun permit applications. At the end of May the results of the program will be reviewed and the department will decide if the extended hours will continue or be cancelled. For further information contact the Records Bureau at (734) 394-5410.

Join the Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 898 in Canton is looking for young men and parents that enjoy NASCAR racing at Michigan International Speedway. The troop is holding three fundraiser clean-ups scheduled at the track this summer, but is in need of new scouts. There is no requirement of past Cub Scout experience to join the troop.

As a parent consider scouting as an investment in your son's future with the goal of him earning his Eagle Scout rank. For more information, contact Nelson Swanberg at (734) 397-8020.

Rummage sale

The Plymouth Salvation Army hosts its annual rummage sale and bake sale 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, March 31.

This year, the Army is offering tables for rent for any crafters or vendors who would like to showcase their wares.



Signed Michael Jordan jersey stolen

A man called Canton police after someone entered his home on Hanford and took a framed, autographed Michael Jordan Chicago Bulls jersey from his wall. The man said that sometime during the night of March 4, the jersey, which had been hanging in his living room, went missing. There were no signs of forced entry to his home. The jersey is valued at \$1,000.

MISSING FUNDS

A manager at the Burger King on Ford Road called police after it was discovered that money had been missing from bank deposits.

According to police reports, the manager said that during the period between March 2 and March 6, some \$708 from the deposits was missing. Police have questioned employees who worked those days and the case is still under investigation.

FRAUD REPORTED

The owner of a paint franchise in Canton called police after an apparent fraud.

According to police reports, a man came into the store back in December, claiming that he works for a local deck company. He charged more than \$950 worth of paint to the company's account, and left the store. However, this month, it was discovered that even though the deck company is a legitimate company, and a regular customer of the paint store, the man was not authorized to charge material on that account.

WORKER STRUNG UP

Canton police have arrested a 25-year-old Plymouth man after an alleged embezzlement at the Guitar Center in Canton.

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POLICE BEAT

According to police reports, the store reported that between Aug. 25 and March 5, someone had embezzled more than \$1,340 from the store. Store management said the theft occurred when an employee was making false return slips and pocketing the money. Police questioned the suspect worker, and he admitted to having embezzled the money, as well as to having drugs and drug paraphernalia in his car. Police searched the car and found. 2 grams of marijuana, as well as a pipe and a bong, and several apparently fraudulent store receipts.

PHONE-Y WORKER

A Canton man called police after a suspicious man came to his door and claimed to work for a phone company.

According to police reports, the "employee" of the phone company knocked on the man's door on Majestic Court on March 6. He said he worked for AT&T and could get the man a lower rate on his calling plan.

The "employee" dialed a number on the man's phone and handed the telephone to the homeowner. The person on the other end of the line asked the man for his Social Security number and then soon after hung up.

The "employee" had several times asked the man to go get a copy of his most recent phone bill, but the man did not want to let him out of his sight, so he asked the worker to leave, which he eventually did.

THINKING ABOUT

By Carol Marshall

A helping hand

Township's expanded housing rehabilitation program is available for those who qualify

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

It's a problem that's growing faster than Canton Community Services Specialist Gerald Martin would like --- families and senior citizens in the community who manage to get by financially until the furnace dies. Or the roof leaks. Then, there just isn't any money in the budget to make the repair, and the house could be on its way to a condition of blight.

"In this tough economy, we have an awful lot of households that pay their bills and their mortgages every month. They have the things they need and are getting by. But a big \$5,000 hit for a major repair like that is just impossible," Martin said. "This kind of problem is widespread in every sector of Canton."

That's where a township housing rehabilitation program has since 1978 stepped in to help, and next year the program will expand, with approximately double the amount of funding it's had in the past.

The program is funded with federal Community Development Block Grant money. Canton receives approximately \$400,000 per year, and, in the past, has spent \$40,000 or less on housing rehabilitation, but next year the township will spend approximately \$100,000, according to Community Services Director Mike Ager.

"What we usually see is senior citizens applying and single mothers. They have homes and Income limits for the Canton housing rehabilitation program

1 person - \$39,150
2 people - \$44,750
3 people - \$50,350
4 people - \$55,900
5 people - \$60,400
6 people - \$64,850
7 people - \$69,350
9 people - \$473,800

are established in the community, but can't quite make emergency repairs," Ager said. "Then when there are maybe three or four homes in one neighborhood that are in similar condition, it can start affecting housing values and the appearance of the neighborhood overall. That's why this kind of program is so important."

Usually there is a waiting list of six or nine months between the time of application and the time when the repairs are started, but in the case of emergencies — like electrical work or furnaces or other issues which directly impact a home's safety — the township can begin work immediately on the home, Ager said.

"We do a comprehensive job on the house. Most of the time we spend between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per home," Ager said. Once an application is accepted and it's determined that the household is within income level requirements (which are described as moderate income, according to the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

(C) A3

Canton Township's Gerry Martin says there is money available for middleincome residents who need to rehab their homes, like this house on Canton Center north of Geddes Road.

department of Housing and Urban Development), the township conducts an inspection of the home to determine what repairs are needed.

After the work is done, the township puts a three-year lien on the house, which is intended to maintain neighborhood stability by discouraging the property owner from immediately selling the house. After three years, the lien is forgiven.

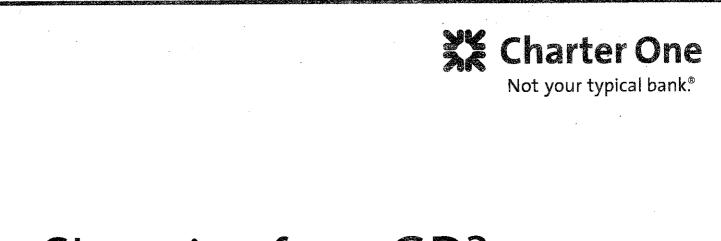
The CDBG program has been cut by the federal government — it took a 10 percent hit last year, and Ager said he expects further cuts despite strong bipartisan support for it in Washington. Even though Ager expects the township will receive less money in upcoming years, he doesn't anticipate the program's elimination due to its popularity and effectiveness nationwide.

"The need is definitely out there unfortunately, because these are tough times for Michigan families," Martin said. "The hurt is pretty evenly spread in this community."

For the first time, the program will next year include emergency repairs on mobile homes, Ager said.

For more information, call Gerald Martin at (734) 394-05194.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700





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LOCAL NEWS

Catch the Fever!

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Canton's Planning Services is currently considering the following items:

Site Plan approval for Applegate Private Drive, located south of Hanford and east of Napier Roads.

■ Planned Development District approval for Wellington Willows preliminary plan, located south of Ford and east of Lotz Road.

Canton's Planning Commission met on Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. Items on the agenda included:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Patel rezoning: Consider request to rezone from O-1,

@ THE LIBRARY

Did Canton Township's Home Improvement Expo and Parade of Homes inspire you to make some changes around the house?

If so, visit the Canton Public Library's Special Collection first at www.cantonpl.org/specialc/homerep2 for indoor home improvement topics including general remodeling, basements, attics and bonus rooms, kitchens and baths, painting, plumbing, flooring and more.

Then click over to the exterior home improvement Special Collection at

www.cantonpl.org/specialc/ho merepr for resources on decks, exterior painting, garden and yard structures, patios, roofing, sheds and garages and more.

Both collections identify books, periodicals, videos and Web sites that make planning and executing your project a more manageable job.

NOW @ THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Kids' Advanced Internet: March 14 or March 14, at 7 p.m. A half-hour session for 4th and 5th graders, it teaches students how to research topics, Internet site evaluation and search tips. Registration began March 4 for either session.

🖬 Celebrate International

PLANNING COMMISSION

Office to C-3, Regional Commercial. Property is located on the northwest corner of Morton Taylor Road and Michigan Avenue. Planning Commission recommended approval.

Cherry Hill Gardens PDD amendment and site plan: Consider request for site plan approval and to amend the PDD. Property is located south of Cherry Hill and east of Denton. The issue was tabled.

■ Canton Auto Sales: Consider request for site plan and special land use for an automobile facility. Property is located north of Michigan Avenue and west of Hannan Road. Planning Commission

@ THE LIBRARY

Month: March 15, at 7 p.m. Storyteller Roan Judd's program includes mime, puppetry Irish drumming and acting. Registration begins March 8 for 5-12 year olds.

■ Kids' Beginning Internet: March 18, at 2 p.m. or March 21, at 7 p.m. A half-hour session on Internet basics for 2nd and 3rd graders. Registration starts March 11 for either session.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Sonya Sones Author Visit: March 15 at PCEP.

Teen Tuesdays: 3 p.m. Come by and make a cool craft, play a game, and hang out.

■ Learn to Play Chess: March 16 at 4 p.m. Register to

reserve your spot. ■ Chess Club: Thursdays at 4 p.m. No advanced registration required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Register for adult programs starting one week in advance by calling (734) 397-0999. Computer classes are free to library cardholders however, a \$5 fee will be assessed if you are a no-show and do not cancel 24 hours prior to computer class time.

■ MS Word 1: March 14, at 9:30 a.m. Basic word processing skills, including text creating, formatting, printing and saving documents.

MS Word Graphics I: March 16, at 9:30 a.m. Create text boxes and columns, use color palette and WordArt to

recommended approval.

SITE PLANS

The Corner at Cherry Hill Village: Property is located at the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Denton Roads. Planning Commission recommended approval.

Cherry Hill Village The Landings Phase VI: Property is located on the southeast corner of Saltz and Denton Roads. Planning Commission approved site plan.

L. Georges Coney Island: Property is located on the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Washburn. Planning Commission approved site plan.

jazz up your flyers, invitations and more.

Excel II: March 18, at 9:30 a.m. Expand your Excel skills and learn about formulas, charts, and printing.

MS Word II: March 21, at 9:30 a.m. Learn to add tables, headers and footers, insert symbols and other more advanced skills.

■ Titan's Clash! Then Death in the Abyss: March 16, at 7 p.m. As part of our Everyone's Reading.. 2006 programs, David Trotter, shipwreck discoverer, author and photographer visits to discuss his discovery that changed Great Lakes history.

■ Evening Book Discussion: March 20, at 7 p.m. We'll be discussing *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.

WHAT'S NEW @ THE LIBRARY

Here's a partial list of materials just in at the library. To see the whole list, visit http://catalog.cantonpl.org/ftli st.

ADULT FICTION

The Amalgamation Polka by Stephen Wright Song of the Cuckoo Bird by

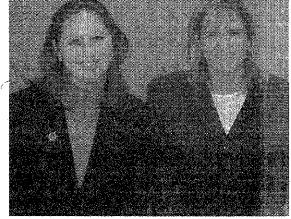
Amulya Malladi Bad Boys Ahoy! by Sylvia Day

ADULT NON-FICTION

 Home By Design: Transforming Your House Into Home by Sarah Susanka
 The Right Decision Every Time by Luda Kopelkina

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

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Katy Krueger and Linda Aubuchon

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

- All-Day Kindergarten in all of our elementary schools.
- Before and after school, latchkey, quality care program (fee-based).
- Art, music, and physical education available for elementary students within the Van Buren Public Schools.
- A well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that includes literacy, mathematics, science, and technology.
- A curriculum that encourages personal and social development.
- All Van Buren Schools are accredited by the North Central Association (NCA).

Your child must be five-years-old on or before December 1st of the given school year to be eligible for kindergarten. **Open house is March 14th through 16th.** Contact your school for more information. If you are unsure which school your child will attend, call our Transportation Department at 699-5100. We look forward to seeing you at Van Buren Public Schools!

Van Buren Public Schools

Your Schools of Choice!

SCHOOLS

VAN BUREN PUBLIG

Todav's Dedication . . . Tomorrow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

EMERGENCY

FROM PAGE A1

head injuries and broken bones, to heart attacks and even the occasional gunshot wound.

"We encounter just about any scenario you can think of. There's really not a typical day," said Dr. David Weaver, medical director of Oakwood Canton's **Emergency Room.** "One minute you have eight, nine, 10 people walk in at the same time, and then over the next hour - no one."

Oakwood, which sits at the corner of Canton Center and Warren roads, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Although the facility houses many specialists, the ER is a main focus of the hospital. Not only is it Canton's only ER facility, it is the only one in outer western Wayne County, drawing in patients from Canton, Plymouth, Belleville, Romulus, Livonia and even Novi.

Weaver says the ER staff members, who work in 12 hour shifts, are fully trained and equipped to handle most scenarios. In many cases, however, Oakwood doctors and nurses stabilize patients so they can be transferred to other hospitals. In fact, Oakwood has a close relationship with University of Michigan Hospital, and even has a landing pad for the Survival Flight helicopter.

Weaver, who has been with the Oakwood system for 15 years at various facilities, became the ER director at the Canton facility about a year ago. One of the things he brought with him from Oakwood's main



Dr. David Weaver, medical director of Canton's only emergency room, said it can get hectic during weekend nights and holidays.

hospital in Dearborn is the 30minute guarantee, which means patients will be seen by a physician - not just a nurse - within 30 minutes. The clock starts the minute the patient walks . through the ER doors.

"ERs are in general known for long waits and lack of personal care. We found some patients got so frustrated they would just leave. That wasn't good for them and it wasn't good for us," Weaver said.

Oakwood keeps close tabs on how many people use the ER, and in 2005, some 20,000 patients walked through the door - the most in the hospital's 25 year history.

For local residents, like Canton's Janeen Foreman, there is a certain peace of mind that comes with knowing there is an emergency facility in the community.

Foreman, 40, has visited the

Oakwood ER on numerous occasions over the years. The mother of two has had to bring her son in because his elbow popped out of socket on several occasions. She also had to bring in her mother, who was visiting from Arizona, after she slipped and fell. And then, more recently, Foreman herself had to visit the ER on Christmas Eve after she became violently ill, losing 10 pounds in three days.

She has been impressed with

the quality of service every time,

especially on the occasion she

Christmas Eve, I was so cold,

greatest Christmas present I

could've asked for," she said.

and this nurse kept bringing me

heated blankets, which was the

Foreman said it is important

that the community has such an

ER. "I've been in there with my

children much more than I

When I went in on

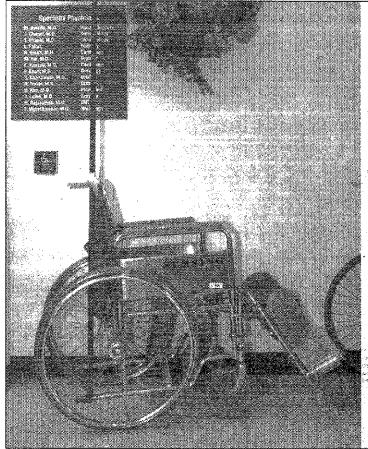
was sick.

cared to," she said. "It's so close to us. It's nice having it so convenient."

One of the main reasons the service is so good is the fact that there has been very little turnover with the nursing staff, according to nurse Corinne Boyd, a Canton resident who has been with the ER for 13 years and with Oakwood for about 30 years.

"We have a lot of old timers here. We work as a team, and help each other out," she said. "My family comes here all the time. I just believe in this place." The Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton is located at Canton Center and Warren roads. For more information about the ER and all of Oakwood's facilities, visit the Web site www.oakwood.org.

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



Canton's only ER is 25 years old.

Back Pain?

Westland, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques very. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-744-2225. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)





(C) A5

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MARCH 6-31

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Giant lessons for tiny tots

Preschool program focuses on academic balance BY TONY BRUSCATO

STAFF WRITER

"It's circle time," Joan Campbell announced Friday morning to the students attending the Tiny Tots preschool program housed at the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps.

As the 4- and 5-year-olds gathered to sit on the oval-shaped rug with the letters of the alphabet, it was 4-year-old Madilyn Choate's turn to be the leader. Madilyn got to pick a number - between one and 40 - she and her classmates would count to, pop a balloon at the end and bring the snack.

"I brought (graham) crackers. I like them because they have sugar," Madilyn said, while reaching into a basket to pick a number between one and 10. "That's to see what your fair share is. That's (five is) enough for every single kid."

This week was dedicated to the letter "P." "P is for purple, P is for paper clips, P is for pear," said Campbell, while pointing to the objects on a giant "P" poster.

Campbell is in her 40th year of teaching, 38 in the public school system - 32 for Plymouth-Canton Schools - and is right at home interacting with the kids in the Tiny Tots program. Campbell doubles as the program's director, as well as its teacher.

"We have manipulative toys and developmentally appropriate programs," said Campbell. "We try to encourage literacy a lot. When they read 10 books, they get to choose a book to keep."

Campbell and the program are the main reasons Sheila Johnson of Canton Township enrolled 5-year-old Christian in the Salvation Army program.

"I knew it would be a good program because two of my other kids had her for kindergarten at Allen Elementary," said Johnson. "There's a good balance between academic-based and playbased activities. He's now interested in writing his name, and has learned not only his ABC's, but also letter recognition. However, he's still allowed to make choices.'

Squeezing and shaping Play-Doh, painting on the big easel, filling containers with macaroni and caring for the two guinea pigs are only part of many activities students get to choose from in the kid-friendly classroom.

"I like to play with the Legos and blocks," said 5-year-old Henry Spielman, who is the train aficionado of the class. "I like to go on the slide and read books."

Henry's mother, Lisa, is Campbell's classroom assistant. Lisa Spielman was pleased when Campbell took over the program last year, remembering the positive experience she had as

American

Together, we can save a life



Wearing a tiara, Julia Carpenter is a princess on stilts at the preschool at the Plymouth Salvation Army.

a child in Campbell's kindergarten class at Miller Elementary.

"Henry's happy here," said Spielman. "These kids get to do everything. It's wonderful."

Campbell said the Tiny Tots program still has openings. The 4- and 5-year-olds attend class three days a week for \$110 a month; and 3- and 4-year-olds two days, for \$90. Information can be obtained by calling Campbell at (734) 453-5464.

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Ä6 (C)

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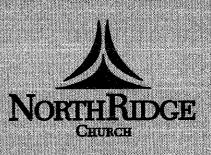
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Set your kids a good example, start them on the reading habit

e probably doesn't know it's Reading Month. But he was certainly into the spirit of the annual celebration Sunday when he said matter of factly, "Let's read Papa."

My grandson, Aidan, $2\frac{1}{2}$, went off to the bookcase and grabbed two books. He's particularly into a book about a snowman building contest with a clear message that working together will allow you to build a bigger, better snowman. It was such a good story he had me read it twice.

Of course, he's a multi-media kind of guy. He sits with Mom or Dad and navigates to his favorite kid-friendly Web sites. He knows how to pop in a DVD. He just attended his first big screen movie to watch one of



his favorite book characters – Curious George – bigger than life. But the reading is an

But the reading is an important part of the mix and the most interactive. He sits on my lap or next to me, listens to the story, asks questions and then talks about the story after we read it. He's get-

Hugh Gallagher

tions and then talks about the m story after we read it. He's getting the habit and it's a good m habit to have. m

March is Reading Month is designed to encourage children to read. It's become a challenge to get children to read anything beyond the bare minimum to get by in the classroom. Reading Month promoters want kids to know that reading is fun, challenging, informative. It's a conversation starter, a project promoter, an escape to exotic lands and wild adventures.

But the competition is steep.

Met a young man last week. He was a middle schooler, talkative and obviously bright. It was a Tuesday, DVD release day, and he was reminded that the latest Harry Potter was being released that day. He'd seen the movie a couple of times and was anxious to see it, and all the extras, on DVD.

We asked if he'd read the latest Harry Potter book (No. 6 in the series). He said he wasn't much of a reader, but had read the first five but not the latest.

The Potter books seem to grow in size and complexity to keep the target audience somewhere around Harry's age. That could turn many middle school readers away. But the fact that the movies are now appearing about three years behind the books might also explain it. Movies are easier.

Ironically, it was the success of Harry Potter in the 1990s that gave educators and parents hope that a reading renaissance was taking place. After stagnant juvenile book sales and a seeming abandonment of the printed word for

As state legislators ponder whether to set mandatory credit hours for high school students, educators are concerned about how many elementary students will be able to meet the standards demanded. Reading is the key, the absolutely necessary component to success in school. Even to properly operate or benefit from a computer, you must be able to read.

television and video games, children were closing themselves away in their rooms to read about the adventures of a bespectacled British schoolboy wizard and his friends. (And many adults also found the adventures appealing.)

As state legislators ponder whether to set mandatory credit hours for high school students, educators are concerned about how many elementary students will be able to meet the standards demanded. Reading is the key, the absolutely necessary component to success in school. Even to properly operate or benefit from a computer, you must be able to read.

Educators know the distractions. It seems every few years a new distraction comes along — sports, movies, phonographs, television,

video games, DVDs, iPods, MySpace and other online services (temptations?).

The important thing is starting good habits early, discouraging bad habits and managing distractions that have good and bad elements (movies, computers, popular music). Easier said than done unless you're with a child 24/7 and keep him or her on a tight leash that doesn't allow for any bad decisions (or good ones, either).

But you can read. You can turn off the television and the computer and take the iPod out of your ears. The sight of an adult reading a book or a magazine or even (please) a newspaper can be a great inspiration. Just as getting out on a bicycle or Rollerblades or taking a hike in the woods can inspire a child to exercise.

And that's what it's all about, exercising the body and the mind. You can distract children into following some good habits.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by email at hgal-'lagher@oe.homecomm.net, by phone at (734) 953-2149, or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

LETTERS Don't blame us for bond defeat and

Don't even begin to place blame on Canton res-

Schools bond. It failed across all precincts, by a 3-

2 margin. It even failed in Belleville by 38 votes.

Apparently this is the only precinct where resi-

dents were even closely receptive to the bond.

This is the second time in two years that a

VBPS bond has been soundly defeated. Surely

done little to recognize the disparity in this dis-

trict when it comes to Canton residents. We are

outsiders, yet we are asked to approve a bond for

a school that is 45 minutes from our homes. We are lied to and cajoled into voting for a bond that

would serve very few of our children, while they

ignore our needs. They said we'd get an elementary school after approving the 2004 bond, yet

In essence, we should support their children,

while VBPS ignores ours. Are we bitter? You bet!

by all the amenities a family could ask for. We live

has planned for growth and planned for an influx

pens to be Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

It is approximately 1,000 feet from my home, and

a hair from my neighbors that back to PCCS. We

live just south of that line, in a district arbitrarily

set in the 1950s, which has done nothing to con-

sider long-range plans and growth in the region.

Most of our Canton neighbors and friends with

families chose to move. The Observer's solution is

simply that the district should acknowledge a

PCCS. It is VBPS and as demonstrated by this

school. What makes the Observer feel that one

day they will build an elementary school in far-

flung Canton? Do they need a new high school?

other VBPS residents) feel their children benefit

from this plan. So rather than listening to what

citizens said Feb. 28, VBPS plans to plow forward

with another bond - the third in two years. The

Observer states that we don't know what's best for

our children. Maybe you should look to the VBPS

Board of Education to see exactly who doesn't

When I read Mr. Szyszko's letter regarding

Todd Caccamo's decision to enlist, I thought he

offered much food for thought. Frankly, I have to

wonder why Todd didn't resign his position when

he decided to enlist. There are many ways to serve

one's country and I respect his decision, however,

he cannot do both. The township loses a trustee

understand what's best for our children.

Letter was form of freedom

Certainly, but very few Canton residents (and

bond, the majority does not want to build a high

need for a Canton elementary. But this isn't

We have experienced just as much growth as PCCS, yet we have no new schools and no plans to

of children. Unfortunately, this second part hap-

We live in a wonderful community, surrounded

in a community that has had the foresight and

this bond set up at least two more bonds that would need to be completed before a Canton ele-

mentary is built.

build any.

Canton residents will be vilified. The Observer has

idents for another failed Van Buren Public

and that loss is on Todd's head.

Ms. Spencer blasted Mr. Szyszko for saying he "served during Vietnam" but didn't actually go to Vietnam. As a Vietnam veteran, I take great issue with her suggestion. Any veteran who served during Vietnam is a Vietnam veteran, whether they actually went or not. I didn't go to Vietnam during my four years of active military service. It wasn't because I decided not to go. I simply never got orders to Vietnam. How dare she suggest Mr. Szyszko and the rest of us are any less because of it? By the way Ms. Spencer, what branch of the military did you serve? I suspect none.

Mr. Stoppiello also attacks Mr. Szyszko, calling his letter "irresponsible, reckless and downright disgusting." He challenges Mr. Szyszko's patriotism because he does not agree with his opinion even suggesting he is a traitor. Like Ms. Spencer, I saw no mention of prior military duty. I'm only pointing that out because they've made such an issue of it.

I take great pride in exercising my freedom of speech. After all, don't we gain greater insight from others opinions? Mr. Szyszko's letter disagreed with Kurt Kuban's column, but he offered ideas for our consideration. What ideas were offered from the other two?

Richard Bantau Canton

(C) **A**7

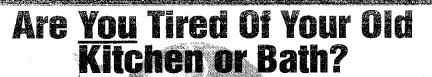
Sell it

I believe that the Charter Township of Canton should sell the municipal golf course on Fellows Creek. I could not make it to the meeting where citizens gathered to express their distaste for selling the golf course, but from what I have heard they oppose it on emotional grounds.

Todd Caccamo on his Web site, the Canton Voice, has loudly voiced his belief that the homes around the golf course could lose 15 to 20 percent of their value . I am sure Mr. Caccamo did not intend to use a block-busting technique in order to excite a real estate panic but the effect of such words in any situation is the same.

In fact the sale of the golf course for this commercial enterprise will allow local residents to walk to stores and services they now have to risk their lives on Ford Road to get to. The entrance will be mainly from Michigan Avenue so increased traffic in the area is not an issue.

The golf course is also treated with chemicals containing mercury and lead (items the DEQ allows them to work with under the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program). The commercial development of the land will actually be more helpful to the water quality in the Rouge River (which we all drink) than the present commercial agriculture use it is put to at this time (the golf course). Now it is time for the charter township to submit to the same laws it has whipped local landowners with for the past 15 years. The offer to buy is reasonable and the golf course has been misrepresented as a money maker. The choice is clear to me. Sell the golf course now. **Alfred Brock** Canton





Brian Kositz

Canton



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A8 (C)

James A. Barnard Sr.

Frederick C. Booth

Bowe, 79, died.

Frank W. Brochert

Mary Ellen Crow

Crow, 85, died.

Franklin D. Ellis

IKEA

FROM PAGE A1

co-workers.

Although the future IKEA

through construction and out-

fitting phases, prospective co-

workers are welcome to apply

furnishings sales, interior dec-

oration, customer service, safe-

THEATERS

O AQUAMARINE (PG)

1:30, 8:50, 9:50

RI/SAT LS 11:10

for available positions in: home

Canton is still progressing

Feb. 21

Barnard, 66, died Feb. 18.

Joan Terese (Mader) Bowe

Brochert, 63; died March 8.

Booth, 80, of Bloomfield Hills, died

LOCAL NEWS

DEATHS

Ellis, 71, of Westland, died March 8. G

George Griffin Jr. Griffin, 86, of Boyne City, died March 3. K Lawrence King King, 76, died March 8. **Rosemarie Kostecke**

Kostecke, 59, died Jan. 19. М Matthew Eric Matzinger

Matzinger, 37, of Wauwatosa, Wisc., formerly of Oxford, died March 7. .Τ

William Vernon Thomas

Thomas, 81, died March 7;

Marion L. Watson

Watson, 91, of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, died March 7.

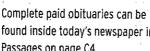
Mildred Yates

Yates, 82, of Hudson, Fla., formerly of Livonia, died Feb. 24.

found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.

ty and security, cashiers, maintenance, goods flow, receiving, warehouse and stock replenishment. Also, setting itself apart from other retailers in the area, IKEA Canton will offer approximately 75 food service opportunities in its restaurant, Swedish Foodmarket, Cafe Bistro and co-worker cafeteria.

IKEA offers full medical and dental insurance to co-workers working 20 hours or more per week with eligibility for



domestic partners and children.

Other benefits include: vacation, paid maternity/paternity leave and IKEA purchases.

store is under construction on 21 acres at Ford and Haggerty Legislature approves water bill

The Michigan House Thursday approved a bill that would take control of the Detroit Water Department away from the city and give power to a suburban majority board.

The House action followed approval by the Senate of a bill whose primary sponsor is state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed a similar bill in 2004 and is expected to veto this version

The House vote followed a vote by Detroit City Council Wednesday that raised rates for suburban communities only by an average of 5.7 percent. The council delayed raising rates for Detroit residents until Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick creates a plan to help lowincome residents cut their water bills.

The water department has two rate systems - one for city residents called retail customers and one to suburban communities called wholesale customers. Suburban commu-

nities then set retail rates, often adding on surcharges for the maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure within the community.

The bill as approved by the House would replace the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners, appointed by the mayor of Detroit, with a new seven member advisory board that would consist of a representative from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee counties appointed by the county boards and three representatives from the city of Detroit appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. The representative from Wayne County can not be a Detroit resident. The arrangement would give the suburbs a 4-3 majority in management of the Detroit Water

and Sewer Department. Toy was the primary sponsor of a similar bill in 2004 that Granholm vetoed and called "divisive."

"Call, write, fax, or e-mail the

governor and tell her that you want your voice to be heard, Toy, R-6th District, urged of residents in a press release Thursday.

If the governor is serious about helping all the residents of Michigan she will sign this bill to bring accountability to a system that supplies nearly half the state's population with life sustaining water."

Toy said that her bill does not take day-to-day operations away from the city of Detroit but allows for a "more accurate" accounting of how rates are set.

"During the past three years instead of seeing the reform that was promised, we have seen more of the same," Toy said. "Although slight progress has been made, the air of uncertainty and suspicion remains, exacerbated by the department's unwillingness to share requested information and continued media reports of questionable contracting practices,"



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6 p.m., Tuesday, April 11 HENRY FORD WYANDOTTE HOSPITAL Multipurpose Room A 2333 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte

6 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES 23050 West Road, Brownstown Twp. (between I-75 and Telegraph Rd.)

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Neet Dr. Steven Hendrick and his iff of the Bariatric Surgery Center at ry Ford Wyandotte Hospital

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Observer

HOOPS – Shooting woes costly to Agape

Section B

Sunday, March 12, 2006

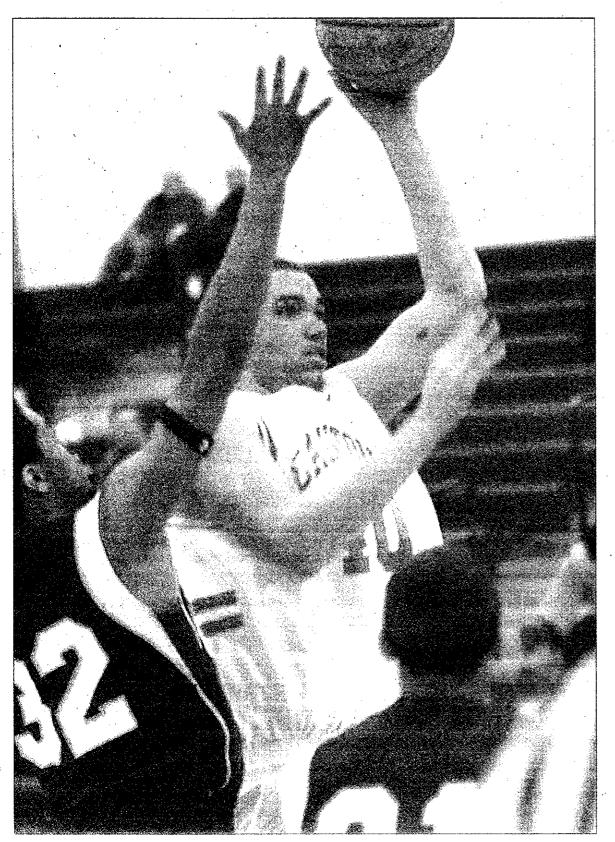
Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 Fax (734) 591-7279 ewright@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

2

3

STATE MEET – Canton 4th, Salem 10th

2006 Class A District Basketball Final -



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior guard Andre Bridges, pictured above in Wednesday's semifinal win over Plymouth, poured in a team-high 23 points to lead the Chiefs to a 69-53 triumph over Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in Friday night's Class A District championship game at Novi High School.

the Chiefs **Canton outshoots Shamrocks** to earn first title since 1996

Hail to

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team saved its best performance of the season for its biggest game in a decade.

The Chiefs captured the school's first Class A District basketball title since 1996 Friday night with a rousing 69-53 victory over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

Using the pinpoint shooting they relied on in their first two District victories, the Chiefs surged to a 7-0 lead during the game's first two minutes and never looked back. Canton led 41-32 at the half and 52-37 after three quarters.

The Chiefs will take a 17-6 record and a ton of momentum into Tuesday night's 6 p.m. Class A Regional semifinal game against Rochester Adams (11-11) at Troy Athens High School.

If they could, they'd probably also take the Novi High School rims to Troy after shooting over 50 percent in all three tournament games this week.

"This feels great," said Canton senior forward Andy Larsen, as his teammates celebrated their achievement a few feet away with members of the school's cheering section. "We knew they were a

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, 82

REGIONAL WRAP What: Class A regional

basketball game between Canton (17-6) and Rochester Adams (11-11). When: Tuesday at 6

p.m. Where: Troy Athens High School, 4333 John R, Troy, MI 48098

How the two teams advanced: Canton defeated Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 69-53, in Friday night's semifinal contest: Adams downed Troy Athens, 62-56 in its semifinal contest.

Who to watch:

Canton's go-to player in the post-season has been 6-foot-3 senior guard Andre Bridges, who scored 23 points in the Chiefs' District semifinal and final victories. Jake Heinrich scored 24 points in the Highlanders' titleclinching victory.

Prediction: Canton 62, Rochester Adams 50.

GCYBSA news

Today marks the final mass registration opportunity for youths interested in participating inthe 2006 Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association season. To 🗉 register, show up at the Summit on the Park ballroom between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will also be a mandatory GCYBSA coaches clinic this afternoon from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Summit. Coaches are encouraged to check in at 3:45 p.m. The clinic will include skill-and-drill stations, guest speakers and raffles.

League director positions are still available. Call (734) 394-5489.

Salem tennis

Students interested in playing for the 2006 Salem boys tennis team should meet at the school's tennis courts after school on Monday. If the weather is poor, the site will be moved to the school's upper-commons area.

Also, a parent/player 🖞 meeting will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the Salem cafeteria. For more information, visit the team's Web site: www.salemrocks.com.

TMD 88's 1st

The Team Mission Detroit 88's, an inline hockey team, captured their second straight tournament on consecutive weekends in the AAU

National Qualifier played

Penguins in finals after 3-0T win

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Last season, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team knocked on the door of a state championship, losing in the semifinal round to Cranbrook-Kingswood.

This season, the Penguins are on the verge of knocking the door down.

On Friday night at the Arctic Edge, PCS earned a berth in Saturday night's Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League's championship game against Grosse Pointe South thanks to a suspensefilled 4-3 triple-overtime victory over Grosse Pointe North. (Due to deadline restrictions, the results of Saturday night's championship game will appear in Thursday's Observer.)

The semifinal game-winner came 3:02 into the third overtime when Katie Zimmerman found the back of the net with an off-speed shot she fired from near the corner.

"Katie shot it from between the hash and the goal," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "It was a slow-moving shot and I think the speed of the puck may have thrown their goalie off a little bit,"

The victory improved the Penguins' record to 18-2. Grosse Pointe South took a 19-1 mark into Saturday's final.

"We played in two overtime games in last year's playoffs, so we know what they're about," said Callahan. "While they were re-surfacing the ice following the second overtime, we told the girls to enjoy the game and have fun. We told

PLEASE SEE PENGUINS, B6

Henderson leads wrestling title chase

A pair of

Konsitzke and

Corey Phillips

- both won

wrestlers -

145-pound

130-pound

Canton

Konrad

One P-CEP prep wrestler was still in the hunt for a state title and three others had All-State aspirations late Friday night in the Division 1 individual wrestling tournament held at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Salem senior Jeremy Henderson advanced to the 189-pound championship match against Davison freshman Richard Kirksey thanks to victories over East Lansing's Anthony Banks (4-2), Birmingham Brother Rice's Matt Shango (8-4) and Lake Orion's Evan Gros (13-5). Henderson, who is making his second trip to the state meet, took a 38-2 mark into Saturday's final. Kirksey was 44-8.

BY ED WRIGHT

STAFF WRITER

Giacomino pulled his stick back a split-

against Salem, Rock defenseman Dave

1. Do the safe thing (get the heck out

2. Do the right thing (hit the ice in

Carey weren't surprised when he chose

"As I went down to block the puck, it

below the bottom of my helmet," Carey

Those in attendance who knew

hit me in the back of the neck, just

recalled. "I remember how much it

hurt and I remember skating over to

the bench. After that, I don't remember

The senior captain could either:

As Canton hockey player Brett

second before unleashing a sizzling

Carey had a decision to make.

an effort to block the shot).

of the way); or

option No. 2.

much."

Henderson their first two

matches before getting knocked down to the consolation bracket. Phillips (55-4), who could still place as high as third, pinned Utica's Anthony Saltarelli and Lake Orion's Jake Varilek before falling to No. 1-ranked Vinnie Colonna.

Konsitzke (49-5), who was also in a position to finish as high as third, ousted New

Baltimore-Anchor Bay's Kyle Moore, 11-3, and Waterford Kettering's Richard Brackins, 6-3, before getting upended by Chippewa Valley's Anthony Biondo, 16-1.

The fourth local grappler with All-State hopes was Salem's Cory Mervyn (32-10), who lost his opener, 19-3, to Bay City Western's Mike Kessler before bouncing back to pin Milford's Kyle Liddell and Walled Lake Northern's Josh Giesey.

The top eight placers in each weight class achieve All-State status.

Canton heavyweight Donnie Laramie and Salem 140pounder Jake Bennett both won their opening matches

before getting eliminated with second- and third-round losses. Laramie, who pinned Port Huron's Aaron Robinson in 39 seconds, finished 47-10, while Bennett, who downed Clarkston's Colton Tweed in his opener, finished 44-10.

Plymouth's Ali Youssef (145) and Steve Korpus (130) both lost their first two matches. Youssef's first loss came on an injury default after he suffered a serious cut above his eye. Korpus, who finished 36-17, dropped a pair of close decisions: 8-2 to Colonna and 12-5 to Battle Creek Central's Brent Hair.

Complete results of Saturday's action will appear in Thursday's Observer.

at the US Blades facility in Rochester. **Tournament MVP** Jason Yokubison (West Bloomfield) scored three minutes into sudden death overtime to lead the TMD 88's past the Hyper Devils, 4-3, in the 18-and-under division

rematch from the previous weekend at the In Line Hockey Center in West Bloomfield.

The TMD 88's lost their first two tourney games. to the Hyper Devils, 4-3, and Dragonmeade, 5-4, but rebounded to post wins over the TMD 87's, 3-2, and Dragonmeade, 8-4.

Robbie Kowalski (Plymouth) was named MVP goalie for the second straight weekend. Other team members

include: Mario Giangrande, Westland; Nick Pesant, Canton; Josh Ruzinsky, Warren; Justin Ascenzo and Tim Staley, Novi; Kevin Etzel; Northville; Kyle Stambersky, Dearborn;an Jason Westfall, West Bloomfield.

Craig Cromie is the head coach, assisted by Dave Westfall.

Baseball clinic

The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Skills **Clinic for players** between the ages of 7 and 14 will be held March 25 and April 1 at Salem High School.

The clinic, which costs \$25 and has four ses- 🚲 sions to choose from, includes three hours of instruction, snacks and a T-shirt. For more information, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026; or at pcmmyers@hotmail.com.



he collapsed and was rolled out of the Arctic Edge Prep Profile Arena on a stretcher. "They kept me in the hospital until about 2 a.m. that night," Carey said. "I was limited in how much I could play

Carey's experience invaluable to Rocks

Carey made it

but just barely. A

few seconds later,

our next game, but I was fine after that."

Although painful, the team-first play was typical for Carey, who served as a role model for Salem's young and inexperienced hockey team with his unselfish, hustling play. As one of only three seniors on the roster, the former AAA junior hockey player knew his leadership skills would be in high

PLEASE SEE CAREY, B6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Carey has been a force on the ice and in the classroom during his four years at Salem. The defenseman/forward was fourth on the team in scoring this season and has compiled a 4.06 grade-point average.

BASKETBALL

Shooting woes costly to Agape

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

On many nights this past season, the rim seemed as wide as the ocean for members of the Canton Agape Christian basketball team.

On other nights, it felt like they were shooting into a Dixie Cup.

Thursday night was a Dixie Cup kind of night for the Wolverines.

In a Class D District semifinal game played at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, the cold-shooting Wolves were sidelined by Lutheran Westland, 70-44, when they managed to knock down just 29 percent of their shots (17for-58). On the flip side, the Warriors were on fire, draining 57 percent of their field-goal attempts.

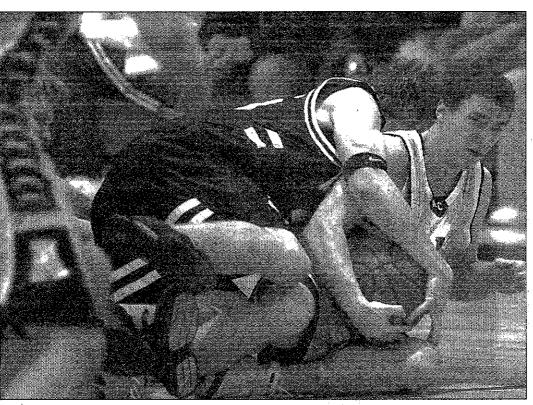
The victory advanced Lutheran Westland (12-10) into Friday night's District title game against Redford Covenant Christian.

"We're a jump-shooting team, so when we're on, we're on. But when we're off, we're off," lamented Agape coach Keith Anleitner, whose team finished with a stellar 14-6 record. "We may have settled for too many outside shots tonight. With three officials working the game, maybe we could have drawn more fouls by taking it to the basket. But we've lived by the outside shots all season. Tonight, we couldn't make the shots."

The Warriors raced to an 18-8 first-quarter lead and a 28-18 halftime advantage thanks to the perimeter play of Kyle Ramthun, who nailed three first-quarter triples. Ramthun finished with a game-high 19 points. Paul Rosin also turned in a strong effort for the winners, netting 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Three players netted seven points for the balanced Warriors: Sean Vanden Brink, Kevin Greening and Kyle Wilson.

"Our defensive intensity was good tonight," said Lutheran Westland coach Dan



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Agape Christian's Matthew Holmes wrestles Lutheran Westland's Paul Rosin for control of the ball during Thursday night's Class D District semifinal game won by the Warriors, 70-44.

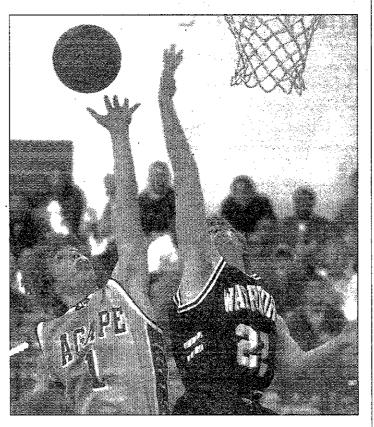
Ramthun. "They looked a little tired at the half, so I told our guys to keep going after them. We only won three games last season, so it's a nice accomplishment for the boys."

Senior forward Derek Leathers paced the Wolverines with 17 points. Junior point guard Jack Anleitner tallied seven points and five rebounds, and sophomore guard Terrell Pierce added six.

Lutheran Westland shot the lights out, hitting 28-of-49 shots (57 percent). Agape connected on just 29 percent of their field goals (17-of-58). The Warriors drained 8-of-10 free throws

A fade-away jumper at the first-half buzzer by Rosin gave the Warriors a 10-point cushion and momentum heading into the final 16 minutes. Lutheran Westland stormed out of the intermission with a 6-0 run to secure a commanding lead.

"We only lose two seniors, so next year looks promising," said Anleitner.



Canton Agape Christian's Deven Bottiaux (left) battles for a rebound with Lutheran Westland's Kevin Greening.





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Steve Paye (11) scored seven points and grabbed seven rebounds in the Chiefs' 69-53 victory over Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Friday night.

CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

good three-point shooting team, so we couldn't give them a lot of open shots. We knew exactly what they were going to do on offense.

"Offensively, we've been making shots all week. We all loved shooting on these rims."

The game was played in front of a large, charged-up crowd that included both schools' student cheering sections.

Bridges followed up Wednesday night's 23-point performance against Plymouth with another 23-point effort against the Shamrocks. The 6-foot-3 guard nailed four three pointers and also yanked down seven rebounds.

After Bridges, the Chiefs' scoring ledger was super-balanced. Junior guard Josh Butler swished a career-high 10 points followed by Ryan Waidmann (nine), Rob Eppler (eight), Steve Paye (seven), Larsen (six) and Neal Sharma (six).

CC's lone offensive bright spot was senior guard Rob Forte, who made all six of his shots and scored a team-high 17 points. Senior forward Aras Butkunas, the Shamrocks' leading scorer coming into the game, connected on just 3-of-20 shots and finished with 11 points.

"Tonight was the best game we've played all year," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "The key for us is that we didn't have any droughts on offense. At the end of the game we got a little

up the inside for us. And Josh Butler had his best game of the year, both offensively and defensively. On defense, we stuck him on No. 4 (Antyrio Raimer), and he did a nice job of shutting him down."

Canton set the tone early when it found the target on nine of its first 12 shots. The Chiefs' largest lead of the first quarter -26-12 – came with 40 seconds left on Larsen's 10-foot banker.

A Bridges triple with 4:10 left in the first half expanded Canton's advantage to 37-20, but CC followed with a 7-0 run to get back into the game.

The third quarter proved to be decisive as Canton's defense clamped down the CC shooters, who converted just 2-of-17 shots. Five different Chiefs accounted for their 11 third-quarter points.

Back-to-back threes from Forte closed CC's deficit to 57-45 with 5:10 left, but Sharma sealed the deal with a jumper at the 2:50 mark followed by a steal and layup 15 seconds later to give Canton an insurmountable 61-45 cushion.

Canton won the rebounding battle, 39-31, as four players -Waidmann (eight), Paye (seven), Bridges (seven) and Larsen (six) pulled down at least six ' boards a piece.

The Chiefs committed 16 turnovers, four of which came during the final two minutes when the game's fate had already been decided. CC only turned the ball over nine times. Canton shot 53 percent from

the floor (28-for-53) and 47 per-



° 82 (CP)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 12, 2006

Canton 4th, Salem 10th at state meet

BY DAN O'MEARA STAFF WRITER

Canton had hoped to be in contention for the championship Friday night in the gymnastics state team finals at Troy Athens, but the Chiefs settled for a fourth-place tie with Holt.

Tri-Farmington won the team title for the third consecutive year with a 146.2 score. Livonia Unified had 144.6, Forest Hills Unified 142.725, Canton and Holt 142.075. Salem finished 10th with a 138.225 total.

"We didn't have a bad day but certainly not a day where we're going to challenge for first or second, and we came in with the potential to do that," Canton coach John Cunningham said.

The Chiefs were the first team up on vault and had some misfortune in that event with minor injuries to Jessie Murray and Kara Ahern, both of whom landed short.

"They did the rest of the meet on sore ankles," Cunningham said. "That made it difficult for them on other events, particularly floor exercise."

Canton, which was ranked third in the state and had the third-best regional score, could have done much better, Cunningham added.

The Chiefs scored 147.1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet and had been averaging 145.

"We were coming off a meet in which we had a 36 in every event, and tonight we had 36 in one event," he said.

"Part of it is the state-meet scoring. You're not going to see any 150s; I'll guarantee it.

They're being fair but low." Alyssa Kelley had the two best events for Canton, and Kate Staley probably had the best overall meet, according to Cunningham.

Kelley had the highest scores among the five Canton girls who competed with 9.4 on



Salem's Autumn Collins jumps high above the balance beam during the **MHSAA Gymnastics Finals at Troy** Athens Friday evening.

vault and floor. Staley scored 8.85 on vault, bars and beam, and she had a 9.1 on floor.

Kaitlyn Burns and Murray had 8.75 each on vault; Murray had 8.65 on bars, Kelley 8.45 and Ahern 8.325.

Ahern scored 9.225 on beam and floor. Murray had 8.7 and Kelley 8.5 on beam; Burns added a 9.05 on floor.

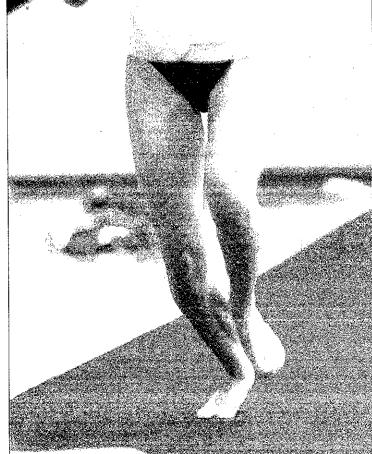
This year's team was the best Canton has had in the 27 years Cunningham has coached the Chiefs. The team's 147 bettered the school record by two points.

Staley improved her allaround score from 34-plus to a high 36 and, Cunningham said, made up for the graduation loss of Meghan Chappo. With four of the five state-meet competitors returning (Ahern is the only senior), the Chiefs look to do as well next year.

"You can plan on it," Cunningham said. "If (the MHSAA) splits Farmington and Livonia, we're looking at one of the (team) trophies over there."

Katie Koetting had the top performances for Salem with 9.65 on floor and 9.0 on vault. Sarah Bugosh scored 8.85 on floor and 8.8 on beam.





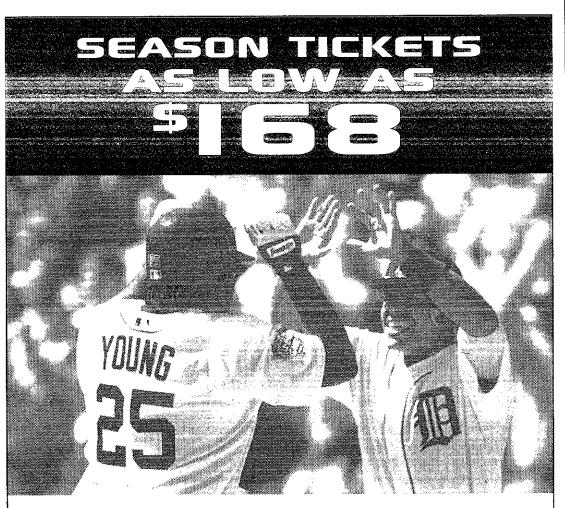
PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THIS AIN'T YOUR

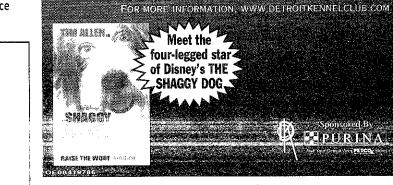
COMING IN MARCIN

DADDY'S RARRERSHOP

Canton's Alyssa Kelley approaches the vault during the MHSAA Gymnastics Finals at Troy Athens Friday evening. Kelley led the Chiefs to a fourth-place finish.







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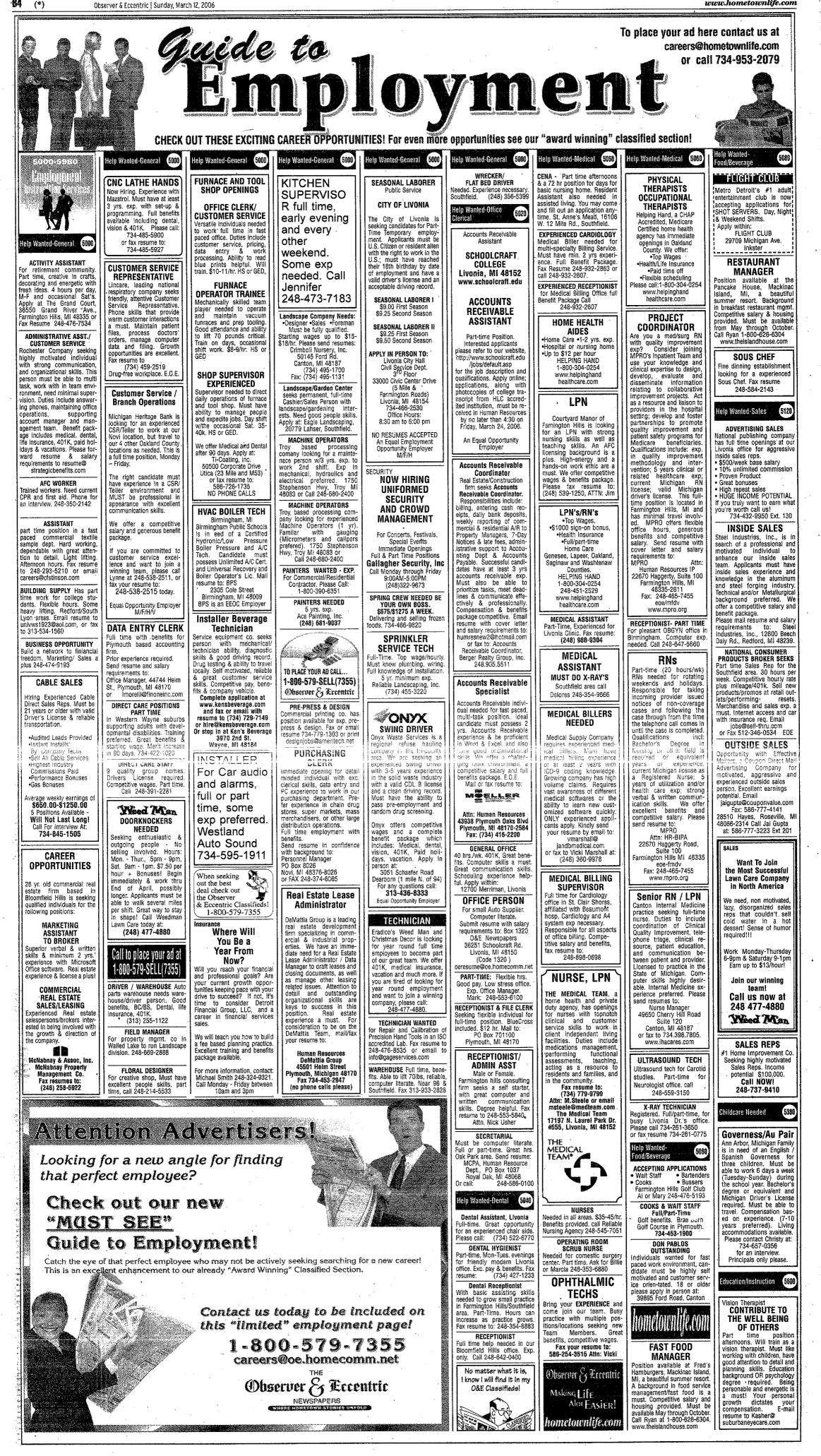
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 12, 2006

-84

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SPORTS ROUNDUP BASEBALL CLINIC

The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Skills Clinic for players between the ages of 7 and 14 will be held March 25 and April 1 at Salem High School.

The clinic, which costs \$25 and has four sessions to choose from, includes three hours of instruction, snacks and a Tshirt.

For more information, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026; or at pcmmyers@hotmail.com.

YOUTH HOCKEY

Youth hockey players can skate on the same ice as the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers and have fun at the same time. The Compuware Sports Arena is gearing up for its 2006 Youth Spring League, a house league that runs from April 1 to May 31. Sign-up costs run from \$210 (mini-mites and mites) to \$220 (squirt) and \$235 (pee wee).

The registration deadline is March 13. Parents must provide a copy of their children's birth certificate and proof of USA Hockey membership - usually a USA Hockey membership card, an IMR form or a copy of your 2005-06 roster.

Costs include all ice times, jerseys, referee fees and team registration fees. Registration forms can be picked up at the Compuware Sports Arena, or check on-line at www.compuwarehockey.com. For more information, call (734) 453-6400.

FIELD OF DREAMS

There will be a "Soccer Field of Dreams" update meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, in the Plymouth High School distance-learning lab.

The agenda will include a summary of the program's funding and facilities successes to date and an informational presentation by Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Ryan regarding the May 2 bond election that includes funding for the "Soccer Field of Dreams" project.

Members of the P-CEP soccer booster clubs are encouraged to attend along with their filendo and any other interested citizens.

For more information, call Bob Harris at (734) 416-1360.

Whalers still in first after edging Otters

Chris Terry's goal at 8:45 of the third period snapped a 3-3 tie and the Plymouth Whalers came from behind to defeat the Erie Otters, 5-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 3,927 at the Tullio Arena in Erie.

Terry's goal — his ninth of the season - gave Plymouth its first lead of the evening. The Whalers came from behind three different times, tying the game at 1-1, 2-2 and 3-3 before taking the lead for good.

Besides Terry, Joe Gaynor (4th), Evan Brophey (17th) Jared Boll (17th) and Andrew Fournier (21st) scored single goals for the Whalers. John Armstrong and James Neal notched two assists each for the Whalers.

Michael Blunden scored twice for Erie, giving him 45 goals.

The win keeps Plymouth in first place in the tight OHL's West Division with a record of 32-27-1-4, good for 69 points. Saginaw remains in second place with 67 points.

Plymouth's victory Friday night eliminated Erie from the OHL's Western Conference playoff race.

Blunden gave Erie a 1-0 lead on a power-play goal at 8:21 of the first period.

Gaynor tied the game for Plymouth at 16:48 of the period when he deflected Boll's shot from the right hash mark and by Erie goalie Ryan Ludzik.

Hodgman gave Erie a 2-1 lead at 12:20 of the second period when he picked up the puck at the lower rim of the left circle in the Plymouth zone, cut across in front of the Plymouth goal and roofed a shot by Whalers' goalie Justin Peters.

Brophey tied the game for Plymouth at 2-2 with 22 seconds left in the second period when he scored on a backhand shot through traffic. Blunden gave Erie a 3-2 lead at 0:19 of the third on a power-play goal.

Plymouth hosts Sault Ste. Marie Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena.

The power of competition. Back where it belongs.

The Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) football program will hold its parents meeting for the 2006 season at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, in the school's gymnasium. OLGC is located at 1151 William St. in Plymouth.

OLGC offers teams for boys in third through eighth grades (as of the fall of 2006). Families that belong to one of the following parishes are eligible: OLGC, St. Kenneth, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas a'Becket, Divine Savior, Resurrection, St. James (thirdand fourth-graders only) and St. John Neumann.

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

For more information, contact Mike Nelson at mikenelson@ameritech.net; or (734) 737-9935.

Also, information about the program can be found at www.olgcfootball.net.

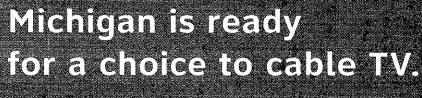
ANN ARBOR RUN

Online registration is open for the 33rd annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Run, presented by Comerica Sunday, June 4.

The featured race is the RRCA Michigan Half-Marathon Championship. Other runs include 10K and 5K run and walks. All races follow picturesque Huron River Drive to the finish on Main Street in downtown Ann Arbor.

Runners can run the river, enjoy the post-race carnival atmosphere, then take the family a block down Main Street to sample the offerings of the Taste of Ann Arbor Festival. Proceeds benefit the Champions for Children Campaign, spearheading fund raising for the new C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Honorary chair Tyrone Wheatley will walk the 5K in support of the fund. Complete information is available at www.dexterannarborrun.com.



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LOCAL SPORTS

Eurostars excel at Interactivity

B6

(CP)

Boys from the Plymouth-based Eurostars gymnastics program excelled Feb. 25-26 at the Interactivity gymnastics meet held in Zionsville, Ind.

The meet was attended by over 200 gymnasts from twenty 20 gyms in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Eurostars had two gymnasts performing at Level 4: Andrew Lytle placed fourth all-around in the 6-7 age group while Daisuke Jiminez finished first all- around in the 8-9 age group.

The Level 5 boys team placed first overall with a team score of 170.9 (out of a possible 180). Members of the team competing included: Logan Pierce (second all-around in the 12and-over division), David Norin, Lucas Schmidt, Charlie Dillon (first allaround in 8-9), Anthony Guerguiev (fifth all-around in 8-9), Taylor Burris (third all-around in 8-9) and Justin Baker (second all-around in 8-9).

The Boys Level 5 team won many individual awards, but the day was highlighted by Dillon, who earned a rare 10 on the pommel horse.

"Charlie had an excellent routine," said gym owner Peter Gueorguiev. "We are very proud of him as this is the first 10 ever scored on our boys program." Eurostars had two gymnasts performing at Level 6: Jack Lytle placed first in the all-around in the 8-9 age group and Hanzo Jiminez placed first in the 10-11 age group.



Pictured are members of the Eurostars Level 5 boys gymnastics team, which finished first at the Interactivity meet held in Zionsville Feb. 25-26. Members of the team are: Logan Pierce, David Norin, Lucas Schmidt, Charlie Dillon, Anthony Guerguiev, Taylor Burris and Justin Baker.

Plymouth Twp. PD 734-453-3869 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Notice is hereby given that on 03/17/06 at 10 am at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather Rd., Plymouth, MI a public auction of the following: 2P4GH2535MR312800 1991 Plymouth Voyager At 9:00 a.m. at B & B Towing, 934 Ann Arbor Road: GMC 1G5CT18B7E05176821984 Jimmy 1991

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: <u>www.plymouthtwp.org</u>.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

> Marilyn Massengill, CMC Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

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 2968, April 1, 50

PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1

them no matter how the game turned out, we were still proud of them."

It turned out just fine, thanks in large part to sophomore goalie Kristie Kowalski, who turned back 31 shots.

"She made some big saves," Callahan said. "Kristie really kept us in it. But this win was a lot like our season has been —

CAREY FROM PAGE B1

demand. "We had a really young team, so, as a senior captain, I felt I had to help pass on to the younger guys what I knew about the sport," Carey said. "We only ended up with four wins (the Rocks finished 4-21), but you could really see improvement in our team as the year went on."

Salem coach Fred Feiler said Carey's contributions to the team went well beyond his four goals and 10 assists.

"Dave was a good leadership guy," Feiler said. "He'd help the younger guys whenever he could — both on and off the ice. He is a really sincere kid who cares about his teammates.

"He's a very good hockey player, too. He played half the year at forward and half on defense, wherever we needed him at the time. No matter where he was, Dave was a force on the ice. He made things happen. He's a first-class kid all the way around."

Carey strapped on his first pair of skates at the age of 7 at

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **PCCS Maintenance Facility Site Work** including mass grading, asphalt, jack & bore for sanitary & water tie-in. Specifications and bid forms will be available <u>after March 14th</u> by contacting Laura Hagan of the PCCS Maintenance Department at (734) 416-2953. Sealed bids are along with a valid familial disclosure form are due on or before 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 31, 2006 and should be addressed to Dan Phillips, RE: PCCS Maintenance Facility Site Work Bid, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

a team effort. Every girl except one played and they all contributed."

PCS skated to a 1-0 lead on a Zimmerman goal from Kellie Bargowski with 29 seconds left in the opening period.

The Norsemen retaliated with three straight lamplighters that spanned the first 10 minutes of the second period to grab a 3-1 advantage. The Penguins' Kristen Schwan tallied a key goal with 4:07 left in the period to cut the deficit to 3-2. Schwan was assisted by

the urging of his dad, Eric.

"My dad and I kind of learned

the sport together," Carey said.

even though he didn't have a lot

"He tried to give me lessons,

of experience with the sport.

We'd go over to the Plymouth

eventually played for a house

team."

ers."

incident.

year at Salem.

Cultural Center and skate and I

As Carey's skills were honed,

he moved up to travel teams and

eventually an Ann Arbor-based

AAA team squad that he played

"Playing AAA was fun, but it

was a huge time commitment."

Carey said. "Every other week-

against a lot of very good play-

suffered an on-ice injury that '

rivaled the puck-to-the-neck

one of my gloves," Carey

During his freshman year, he

"Just as I started a shift, I lost

recalled. "A couple seconds later,

one of the other team's players

stepped on my (exposed) hand

with his skate. I needed 24

Publish: March 5 & 12, 2006

to Chicago, Wisconsin or

Indiana. I played with and

end, we'd get on a bus and travel

with through his sophomore

Lisa Ealy.

"That goal got us back in the game," Callahan said. "But even when we were down two goals, all the girls stayed very positive, which was important."

Schwan added the gametying goal at the 5:57 mark of the third period off assists from Edra Burris and Ealy.

"The rest of the game was a battle," Callahan said of the two eight-minute overtimes and the opening three minutes of the third extra session. ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

stitches and I lost the feeling in the tips of my fingers for a little while."

Even though victories were scarce this season, Carey has never regretted his decision to give up AAA hockey to play for his high school team.

"Not at all," he said. "We didn't win a lot, but it was fun playing with guys I go to school with and hanging out with everybody at practices."

Carey, who was voted to the Western Lakes Activities Association's All-Lakes Division team, is a standout student, having earned a 4.06 grade-point average with just three months remaining in his high school career.

"My parents always pushed me in the right direction when it came to academics," said Carey, who has been accepted by the University of Michigan.

Salem's "Senior Night" game last month against Walled Lake Western couldn't have been more fitting for Carey, who recorded a hat trick in the Rocks' 7-5 victory.

"It was a nice ending to a rough season," he said.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for *PCCS Maintenance Facility Buildings* which include one (1) 40' x 120' prefabricated metal building and one (1) 40' diameter. Salt dome. Specifications and bid forms will be available <u>after</u> <u>March 14th</u> by contacting Laura Hagan of the PCCS Maintenance Department at (734) 416-2953. Sealed bids as well as a valid familial disclosure form are due on or before 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 31, 2006 and should be addressed to Dan Phillips, RE: PCCS Maintenance Facility Buildings Bid, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education' Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary



Publish: March 5 & 12, 2006



(CP)

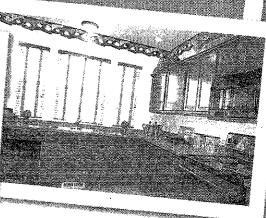
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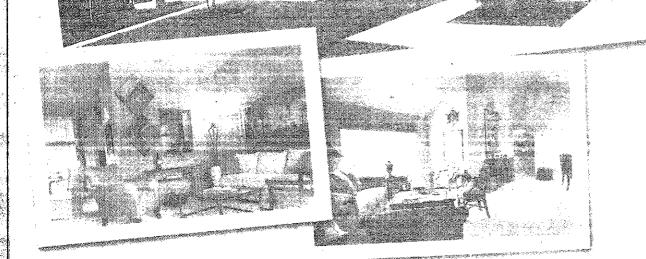
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LOCAL SPORTS

www.hometownlife.com

Longtime official Gibbons earns statewide honor

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

·**B8** (*)

Jim Gibbons knows how to go that extra mile when it comes to education and high school athletics.

The Livonia Churchill High assistant principal was honored last month by the Association of Track Officials of Michigan (ATOM) with its 2006 Distinguished Service Award at statewide conference held at the Doherty Hotel in Clare.

Gibbons has been a part of ever Observerland Relays meet as either an official or coach since 1973. He has also been a registered MHSAA track and cross country official for 24 years where he has officiated many Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association indoor and outdoor state team championship meets.

"It's a pretty nice honor to be recognized by your peers," Gibbons said. "Basically you're a volunteer with an emphasis of helping people out and trying to make sure the kids get a good deal."

Gibbons has also been a meet manager for 10 MHSAA regionals and has officiated or managed numerous track and cross country meets and invitationals

"The state meet, then the regional are the most difficult

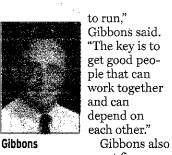
DAC honors top athletes

Twelve of Michigan's most talented scholar-athletes will be introduced Tuesday when the Detroit Athletic Club announces the finalists for its Michigan High School Athlete of the Year Award.

The announcement will be at 9 a.m. during a press conference held at the Detroit Athletic Club. The nominees will be in attendance for photo opportunities and interviews.

Two of those athletes - one male and one female - will be amoud DAC High School Athlete of the Year at the National Motion (wards) The awards will be held on Monday, May 15, at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The National Athletic Awards raise funds in support of March of Dimes efforts to save babies through programs of research, community service, advocacy and education. For more information, visit the Web site at marchofdimes.com or its Spanish Web site at nacersano.org.



spent five years as a member of the MHSAA's Cross Country and Track and Field committees. He also

worked with former Eastern Michigan University coach Bob Parks and took over the Redford Township Junior Olympics.

Professionally, Gibbons' teaching background includes elementary, middle school and high school, as well as one semester of instruction at Eastern Michigan University.

Gibbons coached football six seasons as an assistant at his high school alma mater,

Detroit Catholic Central (1975-81), and also served as Redford Union's varsity coach (1988-88) before moving on to take over as athletic director (1988-2000).

He has also coached track and field, cross country and volleyball (MHSAA and AAU), as well as youth hockey and little league.

Gibbons also serves as an instructor during the fall for USA Hockey's Coaches

Education Program. During his career, among his other honors include: the Catholic Youth Organization's Ed Crowe Award; WDIV Newsweek Teacher of the Year; Wayne County RESA's Golden Apple Award; the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Regional A.D. of the Year; and Observerland Track Coach of the Year. Jim and his wife Gayle have two children.

Kelly is a red-shirt freshman track and cross country runner for Grand Valley State University (which finished runner-up in the NCAA Division II women's cross country meet); while son Michael is a sophomore at Livonia Stevenson High who runs track and cross country, along with being a member of the Spartans' hockey team.



BOYS HOOPS

2005-06 MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL

First team: Halston Hodges, Sr., Taylor Baptist Park (MVP); Jack Anleitner, Jr., Canton Agape Christian; Ryan Height, Jr. Sterling Heights Bethesda Christina; Josh Mansfield, Jr., Novi Franklin Road Christian; Derek Leathers, Sr., Agape Christian. Second team: Mat Swars, Sr., Bethesda

Christian; Richard Zabrzenski, Sr., Westland Huron Valley Lutheran; Caleb Thompson, Soph., Baptist Park; Bernard Stephenson, Sr., Franklin Road.

Third team: Tyler Majeski, Soph., Agape Christina: Jonathon Slevin, Sr., Baptist Park; John Gentile, Sr., Bethesda Christian; Erik Gruenewald, Sr., Huron Valley Lutheran; Justin Kuhnle, Sr., Warren Macomb Christian. Honorable mention: Robbie Miller, Jr., Baptist Park: Marcus Johnson, Sr., Franklin Road; Isaac Jackson, Sr., Macomb Christian; John Sharrow, Sr., Huron Valley Lutheran; Josh Jensensen, Jr., Bethesda Christian; Terrell Pierce, Sr., Agape Christian. Coach of the Year: Andy Cook, Baptist Park. Division records: 1. Baptist Park, 9-1; 2.

Agape Christian, 7-3: 3. (tie) Franklin Road and Bethesda, 5-5 each; 5. Huron Valley, 4-6; 6. Macomb Christian, 0-10.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

2006 ALL-MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CONFERENCE **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM**

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran: Amanda Gruenewald, Jr. (co-MVP); Lauren Adlof, Soph.; Emily Helwig, Soph.; Taylor Baptist Park: Brenita Sprague, Sr.; Bethany Sprauge, Soph.; Canton Agape Christian: Katie Lambert, Jr.; Brianna Chrenko, Jr. (co-MVP);

LoriBeth Holmes, Jr. SECOND TEAM Huron Valley Lutheran: Brittany Hickman, Sr.; Renee Wendland, Sr.; Erin Henkef, Jr.; Agape: Jen Beiton, Sr.; Krystie Bednark, Sr.; Baptist Park: Tarah Pyles, Jr.; Macomb Christian: Rachel Battjes, THIRD TEAM

Huron Valley Lutheran: Melissa Bergemann, Jr.; Agape: Caroline Jungguist, Soph.; Baptist Park: Katie Arent, Soph.; Alexis LaRosa, eighth grade: Macomb Christian: Renee Seservy, Sr.; Abby Kronk, Sr.; Novi Franklin Road Christian: Megan Kish, Sr. HONORABLE MENTION

Huron Valley Lutheran: Staci Hatzung, Fr.; Agape: Denene Bottiaux, Soph.; Baptist Park: Christina Downs, Fr.: Franklin Road: Jackie Vangemert, Sr.; Macomb Christian: Erin Vinson.

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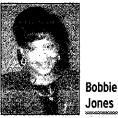
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Stanton key in women's movement

lizabeth Cady Stanton will be forever linked to the women's rights movement but her memory was almost lost and would have been if she had not formed a strong and enduring friendship with another feisty lady known to us as Susan B. Anthony.

Stanton was born Nov. 12, 1815, and already slated as a disappointment to her father because he was hoping for a boy. Stanton was the eighth of 11 children and this was a large family for the small town of Johnstown, N.Y., which was her birthplace.

But even as a young child Stanton was poised to changed the world.

-Stanton had an early introduction to the reform movement. As a young woman she was introduced to fugitive slaves at the home of her cousin, Gerritt Smith. She learned a lot in her cousin's home, especially when it came to making speeches on behalf of slavery.

In 1830 it was time for Stanton to further her education and during her search for an institution of higher learning she discovered that the colleges of her day were not admitting women. Eventually, she settled on an all-women's college and she graduated in 1833. With her degree in hand Stanton was determined to prove to her father that she could be just as successful as any man.

In the early 40's, Stanton met and married Henry Stanton. After her marriage in London, Stanton met and teamed up with Lucretia Mott, who was also opposed to slavery. Mott was in London to attend a world anti-slavery convention.

Once at the convention however, the women that were present were denied their seats. This sparked outrage among the women and Stanton and Mott decided then and there to develop, shape and organize the Women's Rights Organization and hold their own conven-

tion.



Check out this week's hot reads LIBRARY PICKS C2

Moderate caffeine is no problem

PETER'S PRINCIPLES C6

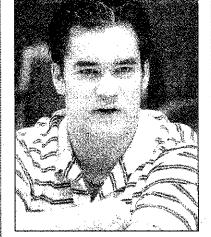
Section C

Sunday, March 12, 2006

Brad Kadrich, editor (734) 459-2700 Fax (734) 459-4224 bkadrich@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

'Some people love it. Some people hate it, but everybody at school has been on MySpace.' Ken Boycott

'Girls I know have 3,000 friends and take provocative photos. Others just go on to talk.' Cella Devitis



Ken Boycott talks about spotting fake profiles on MySpace.com.



Celia Devitis talks about how obsessed she can be with MySpace.com.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Brererton (left) and Brian Evola talk about their use of MySpace.com and how their parents monitor their use.

Internet site is popular

This organization would give women the power to discuss and tackle issues that were important to them.

In 1840, Stanton and her dedicated women recruits devised the first declaration of women's rights. Most of the responsibility fell upon the shoulders of Stanton to get its content onto paper. The key elements presented at the first convention were, temperance, abolition and equal pay for equal work.

Stanton met Susan B. Anthony in 1850 and the two women would remain virtually joined at the hip for the next 50 years, enjoying a rewarding friendship. The two of them fought for and got passed in the 1950s the Married Women's Property Act. This gave women the right to own their own property, a luxury. women didn't have prior to this act. Women also secured the right to keep their own earnings instead of turning them over to their husbands and, finally, women gained the rights to sue in a court of law. However, the big prize — the right to vote - was many years away for women.

She passed her courage along to the women behind her and all of this laid the groundwork for all the rights we as women enjoy today.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the Observer. In March, she's profiling women in honor of National Women's History Month. She can be reached via e-mail at workhard36@aol.com.

with teens, despite warnings

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

espite the concerns of law enforcement, parents and schools, the Web site www.MySpace.com continues to grow in popularity with teens and pre-teens. It seems they don't worry about dangerous online predators.

MySpace.com describes their Web site as a service that allows members to set up profiles that can be linked together through networks of friends. MySpace members can view each others' profiles, communicate with old friends and meet new friends.

Those new friends could be predators. Students' enthusiasm and naivete about the Internet site was apparent during a Tuesday evening panel discussion on the subject.

"Some people love it. Some people hate it, but everybody at school has been on

PLEASE SEE MYSPACE, C3

Law enforcement warns parents about chatrooms

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

The stories told by Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans are scary if you're the parent of a teen or pre-teen.

One of the last predators arrested in a cyber sting in Oakland County hit on an undercover detective twice. Within 2-1/2 hours of the profile being place on the Internet, the predator had sent an instant message, set up a meeting, then rammed one of the patrol cars as he tried to flee.Fortunately this predator was arrested as was one Bouchard calls the Traveler.

"They are sick people," said Bouchard, "One flew across the country with a suitcase full of presents at Christmas. His present to himself was going to be a vacation with an 11year-old girl. He brought presents for her for every day of the week starting with a teddy bear and ending with negligees, sex toys and marijuana."

Over the last three years, the Wayne County sheriff has arrested 70

PLEASE-SEE LAW, C2

For parents, education key to Internet safety

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Jaime DeGrand is quick to offer concerns about the Internet sites her Plymouth Salem High school students use. Although many districts are restricting access on school grounds, teens go home to post private information on their favorite site, www.MySpace.com. That's why she feels it's necessary to teach a unit on Internet safety. At home, she recommends students and parents visit www.wiredsafety.org for information.

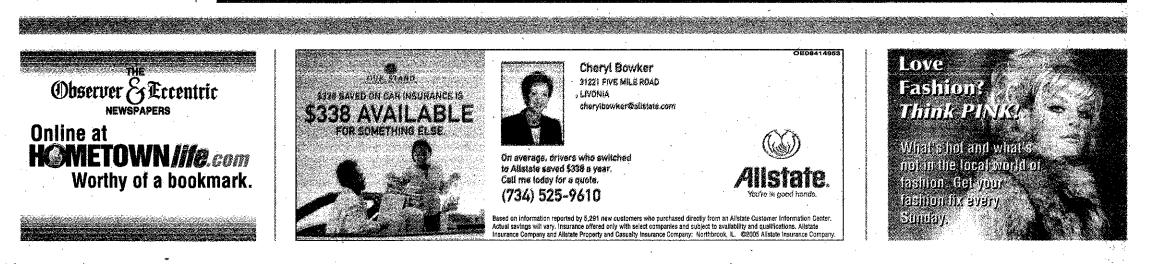
"It used to be e-mail. Now it's MySpace," said DeGrand. "My major concern would be the safety of the students who use the site and putting their information out there. I always tell them to think twice, not to put anything too personal that people could find out where they live."

Judy Nichols is glad she visited her 15-year-old daughter's profile on MySpace.com. The Garden City mother allows her three children to use the site as long as she has their passwords to check for personal information or provocative photos.

Nichols daughter once posted the time and date she was visiting a local teen hang out. Nichols had her remove the information but fears for the children of parents who don't check.

"What scares me is parents who don't know how to go on there," said Nichols. "I told one of my friends her daughter was in a robe and making a kissy face. She went home and made her take it off (the site)."

PLEASE SEE SAFETY, C3



C2



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LAW FROM PAGE C1

predators as the result of stings. One-hundred percent were convicted, some of them twice after responding to Internet profiles created for boys and girls up to age 14.

"The predators are young, old. Some have had prior arrests, some not," said Evans. "It is a behavioral thing. Pedophiles have a tendency to continue that behavior. Our biggest initiative has always been cruising the Internet in an undercover capacity to identify pedophiles who try to solicit sex from minors."

Bouchard started the Oakland County Sheriff's computer crimes unit in 1999 with one investigator. Today, three full time detectives try to prevent predators from sexually assaulting or murdering children.

"We could add two or three more detectives and not keep up," said Bouchard who regularly gives presentations to parents on the dangers of MySpace.com as well as other sites and chat rooms.

At one recent educational session only about one in 10 parents knew about the sites let alone if their child had a profile. Parents need to educate themselves in order to keep their children safe.

"When kids are home and doors locked they aren't necessarily safe. They could be talking to predators," said Bouchard who's visited the sites of his children's' friends to make sure none of their personal information is listed.

"It's a very scary situation.

Every week, the Plymouth

Predators know where children are. They're on the Internet. Parents have to be involved with the activity of their children. Kids are spreading their wings. They have the feeling they're invincible. A little piece of information here and there and a predator can piece them together and begin stalking or hunting you."

Parents need to be involved with the schools as well. Bouchard recommends setting up computers along the outer wall and placing the teacher in the middle so he or she is able to look at the screen instantly.

"Kids aren't bad. They're curious," said Bouchard. "One daughter realized she'd done wrong but was afraid to tell mom or dad. Kids need to feel comfortable to have that talk." Wayne County Sheriff's

Deputy Ray Johnson agrees that parents have to start talking to their children instead of using the computer as a baby sitter.

He's received quite a few calls from parents who found out their child was on MySpace and had been contacted by an older male. Unless the predator makes physical contact or tries to arrange a date or come to the house, there's nothing the Sheriff's department can do.

"Tell them to treat people on the computer just as you would a stranger on the street," said Johnson. "They wouldn't go up to them in the streets and

shouldn't on the computer. "We tell parents, predators don't go and snatch any kid. Predators watch their patterns, where they walk, when. It's not just a spur of the moment thing. They plot out their abduction

LIBRARY PICKS

4. "Last Templar," Ray Khoury

5. "In the Company of the Courtesan," Sarah Dunant

NON-FICTION

- 1. "Marley and Me," John Grogan 2. "My Friend Leonard,"
- James Frey 3. "Manhunt," James
- Swanson

4. "The Year of Magical Thinking," Joan Didion 5. "You're Wearing That?" Deborah Tannen

once they get that personal information where you hang out, go to school, live."

That's why it's important for users not to list personally identifiable information. While predators are becoming smarter to avoid detection, teens are too.

"The kids are so smart. They'll set up a profile to show mom or dad and then set up one where they don't show them," said Johnson. "Parents need to say these people are strangers and can hurt you. Show them the sites where someone's been killed who were on MySpace, girls who were sexually assaulted. We don't want to see anybody hurt, sexually assaulted, or find a dead body."

Sgt. Joe Brian of the Oakland County Sheriff computer crimes department usually receives a call a week from parents who say a predator has contacted their children. One tip Brian offers parents is to make sure their children don't have a password they don't know about.

"If I was a parent I would not allow them to have a profile set up," said Brian. "Online games are the same way. They also have an area to chat in. It's anywhere chatting can take place. X-box when it's hooked up to online it's the same thing. Cell phones, text messages or instant messaging - everything with Internet access is a possible threat."

To schedule an Internet safety presentation by the Wayne County Sheriff, call (313) 224-7103.For an Oakland County Sheriff presentation, call (248) 858-4942.

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- 3. "Good Boy, Fergus!" David Sharmon
- 4. "A Was an Apple Pie," Etienne Delesset
- 5. "Earth to Audrey," Susan Hughes

COLOR TO WIN tickets to

FICTION

1. "The 5th Horseman," James Patterson 2. "Cell," Stephen King 3. "Sea Change," Robert B. Parkei

District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of Best Sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-

0750 or online at www.plymouthlibrary.org



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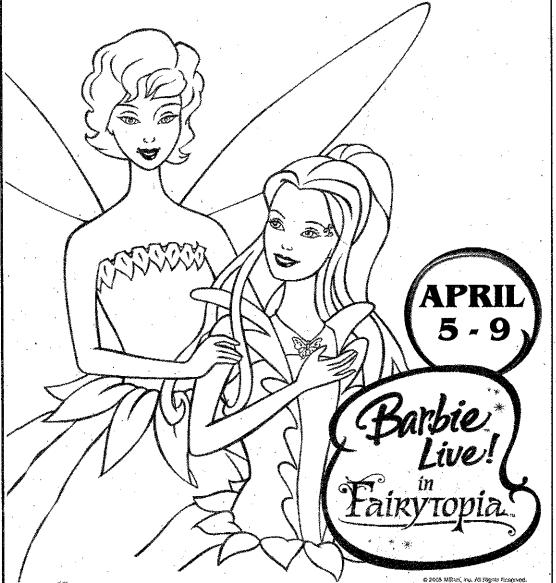
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Presented by Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

MYSPACE

FROM PAGE A1

MySpace," said Ken Boycott, an 18-year-old senior at Franklin High School in Livonia.

Celia Devitis agrees the site is "getting more and more popular." In fact, she thinks some of the teens see it as a popularity contest to post photographs of as many friends as possible.

"They have to see how many they can get as friends," said Devitis, a 17-year-old Franklin High School senior who lives in Westland. "Girls I know have 3,000 friends and take provocative photos. Others just go on to talk."

The attraction isn't limited to high school students though. Sarah Brererton and Brian Evola, eighth grade students at Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, say all of their friends have either created profiles or browsed the site. Brererton even knows of fifth and sixth grade students who have been on MySpace.com. While the age limit for the site is 14, teens and pre-teens do lie about their age. A safety tips page on the site warns that if a user is under 14, their profile will be deleted. It also gives tips about not posting real names, addresses, phone numbers, or photographs that may reveal their residence or even a vehicle license plate which can be traced by a predator. Personally identifiable information allows predators to stalk their victims.

Although cautious about meeting online strangers in person, Brererton befriended a boy who now meets her at Dunckel games.

"It's a great way to learn about other kids," said Brererton, who uses MySpace as a way to meet students at the high school she will attend next fall.

Brererton's mother had her site deleted after the 14-year-old posted her last name and the city she lived in, and therein lies the danger.

Ken Boycott first visited MySpace.com in December 2004 after a friend told him about the site. His mother doesn't know how to use a computer and his father doesn't live with them so Boycott is on his own when it comes to posting personal information like the name of his school. He says he can tell if the person who he meets online is a predator.

"I can tell if they're fake," said Boycott.

Still, he warns parents to take the time to teach their children about online predators.

Devitis' mother has the computer set up so she can check the history of her and her two sisters on the computer, which is located in the family room instead of a private area such as a bedroom.

The students said they mostly visit MySpace from a home computer but have gone to a friend's to access their favorite site. At first it was a kick for Boycott to visit MySpace every day, the same for Devitis. Both say it takes time to check on any messages they receive and comment so they've cut back to every couple of days. Obsession with the site could be an underlying danger when it takes away from school work and other interests.

"All of my friends had one so I got one," said Devitis. "I put on a couple of pictures and then it got really addicting."

Brererton says although many teens were hooked on the site in the beginning, "It's not as popular as it was."

Evola agrees, saying he's not as hooked anymore.

Michelle Pagliaroni catches herself looking at person after person on the site even though the 18-year-old Plymouth Salem High School student is the first to speak of its dangers.

"I've gone to look at friends' sites," said Pagliaroni, a Canton resident. "I won't have one. It's easy for someone to act as if they're someone they're not.

"A lot of people talk about it (MySpace) and try to get on it at school but can't. They don't think. They put everything on there and don't think about the dangers. I have a few friends who met with people, a guy met up with girls. It's not as bad for him, but it is for girls."

The students said they do check the personal information that friends have posted on their sites. They offer a variety of tips for users including not letting anyone know your password. Boycott said for users to be wary of someone who adds them to their list of friends and they don't know them.

"Tell parents to check (their child's profile) every other day," said Devitis. "My mom used to and then stopped."

Evola's mother found his real name on his profile so now he uses a nickname.

"It's on the news a lot," said Evola whose computer is in his bedroom. "My mom has started to check on me."

The teens warn that photographs should never reveal illegal activities such as under-age drinking, because it could come back to haunt them. Devitis' younger sister got into trouble at school for a photograph of her and another girl. In a separate incident a boy posted a photograph of Devitis' sister who was lying on her side. He added a pool of blood, a knife and left a message that he killed her.

Pagliaroni says if parents looked at MySpace, they "definitely would not approve" of the photographs, language, and mean comments made by some users who are cyber bullies. Although none of the students have been victims of bullying as yet, they said it does happen.

"I think people should be more aware of the dangers," said Pagliaroni. "If they really want to get to someone they could."

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SAFETY

FROM PAGE C1

Cheryl Swaim's 12-year-old daughter went into a chat room and said "I'm a 12-yearold in Michigan" after the Farmington Hills mother had talked to her about Internet safety. Swaim allows both of her children on MySpace.com, but is aware of the dangers. Recently she sent out an e-mail on the subject to parents of students at East Middle School.

"You can't monitor everything. We need to stress safe usage," said Swaim. "AOL (America Online) has a parental control area where you can go and set up where they can go and can't.

"Parents need to become.

more savvy about the technology. You can't keep your children from it but can help them understand how to do it safely." Swaim would like to see a class taught on Internet safety

in the schools. "Kids are on there in ele-

mentary and middle school," said Swaim. "They very innocently get on and start instant messaging or get into a chat room and they don't know who they're talking to."

Franklin High School principal Daniel Willenborg is well aware of problems arising from the site. Students at the Livonia school can't access MySpace because of a filter.

"The Internet creates new territory for us," said Willenborg. "A recent newsletter talked to parents saying it's OK if they have them (profiles) but they better know what they de on them. Kids will fake their age. It's important for parents and schools to watch over kids. They have been known to do some pretty dumb things on there, put photos on there that may come back and haunt them. If they're making threatening comments it could end up being a school issue."

North Farmington High School principal Rick Jones has many of the same concerns as Willenborg.

"Kids do things and put things on a Web site that seem ' to be cute or funny at 15 years old," said Jones, "but suggestive things or inappropriate stuff could have a negative impact on an employer or college admissions counselor."

The PTSA at Frost Middle School is offering a presentation for all parents to learn about Internet safety 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at 3041 Stark, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 744-2670, or send e-mail to PTSA president Lisa Hausman at lisa1959@aol.com. "We hear about the sites as

parents. There have been emails from the school district about MySpace in particular," said Hausman, children's librarian at the Public Library of Westland.

"My kids are 16, 14 and 10 and have Internet access at home. The 16-year-old has a MySpace account and I asked to see it. The 14-year-old does not. We have America Online and have good block controls," said Hausman. "The Internet is a phenomenal tool when used properly. Learn to make it work for your household."

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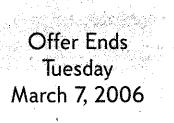


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As space permits, the Observer &

charge, announcements of class

reunions. Send the information to

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son, and a telephone number.

Central High

Class of 1946

Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the

date of the reunion, one contact per-

REUNIONS

A 60-year reunion is planned for June

4, 2006, at Glen Oaks Country Club.

Both January and June classmates

will celebrate over dinner and danc-

ing. January grads contact Al Weiss

(248) 737-9313 or Esther Bornstein

(248) 851-6625. June grads contact

Saulson (248) 932-5177.

(McClennan) Weber at

(586) 739-3840.

at (734) 326-1324.

Detroit Chadsey

Class of 1956

Detroit Cody

Class of 1976

Denby High School

Class of 1956

Barbara Keidan (248) 646-7199 or Saul

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept.

16, 2006, at the Club Venetian in

Madison Heights. Contact Doreen

dajweb@juno.com or Jerry Love at

Looking for classmates. A 50-year

reunion is planned for October 2006.

All alumni from other years welcome.

Contact Ted at (734) 462-2411 or Lillian

A 30-year reunion is planned for Sept.

30. 2006, at Summit at the Park in

Canton, \$60. Make check payable to

Eccentric Newspapers print, without

C4

CLASS REUNIONS

Cody '76 Reunion and send to Laurene Craig, 6736 Elizabeth, Garden City 48135, Contact Pat (Pletzke) Wauford at Swaulor@aol.com; OR Laurene (Zywica) Craig at (734) 536-3195 OR Harry Werwinski at

bognutz@yahoo.com or (313) 274-7763. **Detroit Cooley** Class of 1966

A 40-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Farmington Hills. Buffet dinner, music, dancing, and a souvenir booklet. All interested January and June graduates please contact Julie (McLean) Work at (248) 477-6802 or email: jwork2friends@yahoo.com **Detroit Mackenzie**

Classes Jan. June and Summer 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 16, 2006, at the Novi Sheraton. For more information, call Harold Kappen at (734) 261-0325 or okappen@earthlink.net.

Detroit St. Theresa Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for June 10, 2006, at the Holiday Inn West, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. N. in Livonia, A brunch is planned on June 11. For more information, call Mary Monroe at (734) 427-4526.

Edsel Ford High School

A 50th anniversary will be held over the next year with a series of special events. Final activity will be a "Black and White Ball" on Saturday, May 20, 2006. About the activities www.geocities.com/edsel50th. To contact the committee email edsel50@gmail.com.

A 40-year reunion is in the planning stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (24) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com. **Ferndale High School**

Class of 1975/1976

A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 12, 2006, at the Troy Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver Road, between I-75 and Coolidge Road. For information and to register sign in at www.fhs75-76.org. Discount if you register before Feb. 15. Cost is \$65/person or \$120/couple. Forward payment ASAP to: FHS 75-76 Reunion, P.O. Box 20274, Ferndale, MI 48220 Class of 1966

A 40-year reunion is planned for Saturday, July 29, 2006, at the Sheraton Detroit-Novi, 21111 Haggerty Road (1-275 at Eight Mile Road) Novi. To register send check for \$75 per person to Ferndale High School 1966 Class Reunion, C/O Joan Rockett Horner, 951 W. Oakridge, Ferndale 48220

Fordson High School

Class of 1981 A 25-year reunion is planned for Saturday, May 13, 2006. For more information contact Nancy Davis Zaleski at (734) 427-8254 or fordsonreunion@yahoo.com or go to www.geocities.com/fordsonreunion. Franklin High School Class of 1969

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



WEDDING

Washington-Odom

Joyce Ann Odom and Barry Graham Washington of Singapore were married on June 18, 2005, in a beachfront ceremony in Bali, Indonesia. The Rev. Widhyati Aryawijaya officiated at the ceremony. She is the only Presbyterian minister in Bali. The bride, who was escorted

by her father, is the daughter of Bill and Jo Ellen Odom of Lake City, S.C. Joyce was born and raised in Plymouth, Mich. She is a graduate of the New School for Social Research in New York City and the London School of Economics. She owns and operates The Hidden Host, an events planning business in Singapore.

The groom is the son of Barry and Gladys Washington of Western Australia. Barry was born and raised in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and Swaziland, Southern Africa. He is a graduate of the University of Durban in South Africa and Macquarie in Sydney, Australia. He is employed by Deutschebank in Singapore.

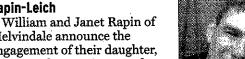
Joyce and Barry's attendants were from seven countries, The United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Canada, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Dawn Emling was chief bridesmaid. The bridesmaids were Kristen English, Melissa Freeman, Sari Indah, Consuelo Jackman, Lisa Moyle, Susan Odom and Joanne Sansoterra.

The best man was Lloyd Mansfield. The groomsmen were Bal Bagary, Barney Burke, Justin Doll, Lionel Earle, Sam Haggag, Duncan Mitchell and Andy Wilson. The readers were Marie-Laure Caille, Sam Haggag and Melissa Freeman. The wedding and reception

were held at Ku De Ta, a beachfront restaurant. in Bali. After a honeymoon to South

Africa and Swaziland, the couple is living in Singapore.



ENGAGEMENTS

Melvindale announce the engagement of their daughter. Patrice Kalisz Rapin, to Jack Timothy Leich of Redford. The bride-to-be is currently a

student at Wayne State University. She will be graduating with three majors: mathematics with honors, Asian studies and university honors. She also will have a minor in computer science.

Her fiancé, Jack, is the son of Jack and Catherine Leich of Redford. He graduated from the University of Michigan-

Edwards-Marshbanks

Mrs. Luella Edwards of Monroe announces the engagement of her daughter, Christine Anne, to Tracy Scott Marshbanks of Canton.

Christine is a graduate of Monroe High School and received a bachelor's degree from The University of Toledo. She is employed in the office at FedEx Ground.

Her fiancé, Tracy, is the son of Mrs. Rosetta Castile of Alma. He is a graduate of Annapolis High School. He is employed as a truck driver with FedEx.

Tracy and Christine are plan-

Kress-Kammer

Jerry Kress of Commerce Township and Tammy Kress of Plymouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Holly Kay Kress, to Luke Vincent Kammer of Novi.

Holly is a 1998 graduate of Farmington High School and a 2005 graduate of Oakland Community College. She is a tax processor at The Rehmann Group in Troy.

Her fiancé, Luke, is the son of Tim and Leslie Kammer of Holly. He is a 1997 graduate of North Farmington High School and a 2000 graduate of ITT Technical Institute. He is manager at Car and Truck Boutique in Novi.

Bowers-Stankov

Jim and Lorraine Bowers of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Tonya Yvette, to Richard David Stankov of Novi.

Tonya is a 1999 graduate of Churchill High School and



Dearborn in 2004 with a bachelor of science with high distinction with a concentration in computer science. He is employed by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Jack and Patrice are planning an October wedding.



ning a July wedding at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Monroe. After a honeymoon to the Bahamas, they will make their new home in Canton.



Luke and Holly are planning an October wedding at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth.



Hassages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

HAROLD E. SMITH

Age 85 of Westland, March 2, 2006. Beloved husband of Nora Hardin-Smith, and the late Lucile Smith. Loving father of Terry (Patricia) Smith Amy (Sidney) Sovoda Scott Smith and the late Timothy Smith. Also leaves eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Harold was a proud C.B.I. WWII Veteran. Funeral service Mon. 10am at Vermeulen



CHARLES LEE

WORTHINGTON

2006. He is survived by his daughter. Tracy (Tim) Roberts; his grandchildren. Travis and

Jessica; his mother, Elizabeth Shillito;

his brother, Robert (Patricia)

Worthington; and his sister, Sue Ann

Gunnison. A Memorial Visitation will

Age 61, lifelong resident of

Plymouth. died March 2,

LAWRENCE W. BLUNK

Age 95, lifelong resident of Plymouth, died March 1, 2006. He was the founder of Deluxe Drapery in Ann Arbor. He was a member of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth, where he was active in the Men's Club. He most enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He

Epiphany Grade School Class of 1966

Funeral Home 980 N. Newburgh Rd, Westland (Btwn. Ford and Cherry Hill). Visitation Sun 1-9 pm. Interment Michigan Memorial Park. Memorial Contributions to the Merriman Road Baptist Church Fund would be appreciated. To leave a message of condolence for the family log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com



B. ELIZABETH "BETTY" KNIGHT Sunrise to Sunset Of Bloomfield Hills had her sunset on February 26, 2006 at Indian River

Memorial Hospital in Vero Beach. Her sun rose on August 23, 1916 in Detroit Michigan. She was the daughter of Walter and Bertha Mary Klein, both also born in Detroit. She attended Wellesley College, University of Michigan and Wayne State University. She taught school after graduation. Betty married her childhood sweetheart Robert B. Knight, also born in Detroit who graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. Betty was blessed with beauty of person as well as strong intellect. While raising her family on Wing Lake near Birmingham, Michigan, she studied Far Eastern History and served on many charitable boards including the Red Cross and Planned Parenthood. She was a member of the Village Woman's Club, Orchard Lake Country Club, the Moorings Club and Riomar Country Club. She was an enthusiastic golfer. Betty is survived by her husband of 65 years, Robert B. Knight of Vero Beach; son, W . Bruce Knight of Detroit, Michigan; daughters, Nancy Croisant of San Diego and Virginia A. Knight of Montana. She also has eight grandchildren. Betty's sunlit life was filled with her family and friends. At her sunset, there was a warm afterglow of love that will not fade. A memorial service at Christ Church Cranbrook will be announced later. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the American Red Cross, Southeastern Michigan Chapter P.O. Box 44110, Detroit 48244.

be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Monday 4-5pm. Memorials may be made to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.



LILLIAN RUTH JACOBSEN

Mrs. Jacobsen passed away peacefully at Sunrise of South Charlotte on Tuesday, February 28th, dressed in pearls and pink. At age 87, she lived her life full of love and compassion for everyone. Lee was never without her beautiful smile and bright blue eyes. She is now at peace with her Lord. Lillian was born May 28, 1918 in Elmira, NY. She spent most of her life in Michigan and resided in Troy, Michigan until 2002 when she moved to Charlotte to be close to her daughter, Debbie McNealy. Lee raised three wonderful children, April Forman, Debbie McNealy, and Paul Jacobsen (deceased at age 20). Her grandchildren were the light of her life and brought her joy and laughter; Josh Forman of Chicago, Dan Forman of Gallup, NM, Beth Forman of Eugene, OR and Matt, Drew, and Molly McNealy of Charlotte. They will miss their 'Grandma Lee' who was the absolute best in their eyes. She felt her sons-in-law Charley McNealy and Bruce Forman were the 'son' she had lost. Lee grew up in Detroit Michigan, graduated from Commerce High and worked as an administrative assistant at J.L. Hudson's. There she met her husband, Hersh Jacobsen, who was the love of her life. She was active at First Presbyterian Church of Detroit and Westminister Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Many thanks to her caregivers and staff at Sunrise of South Charlotte who treated her like a true friend and family. She always felt she was on vacation the entire time she was in Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Hospice & Palliative Care, 1420 E. 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204 or Westminister Presbyterian Church, 1756 Hubbell Ave., Detroit, MI., 48235). Carolina Funeral Service & Cremation Center is entrusted with the arrangements.

is survived by his write of 72 years Ethel; his children, Kay (Frank) Luedtke, Marvin (Katie) Blunk, and Susan (Ed) Barthel; 9 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Dorothy (Louis) Foreman. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 4, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Memorials may be made to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church or Huron Valley Lutheran High School, 33740 Cowan, Westland, MI, 48185. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

MARY TYGHEM

Age 87, March 1, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Maurice. Loving mother of Marvin (Liz), Thomas (Margo), and step-mother of Dorothy (Bud) Baillie. Dear grandmother of five. Dearest sister of Peg McLean. Also survived by several loving nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday, 3-8pm. Funeral Monday, 10am, from McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cist. All additional lines will be changed at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your know one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblers may be included at no cost -(example:American Flags, ndigious syndick, etc.)

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BIRTH



Joseph Peltier Allen

Jamie and Bob Allen of Westland announce the birth of their son, Joseph Peltier Allen, on Feb. 10, 2006, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Joseph's grandparents are Deb and Jim Peltier of Livonia, Michele Allen of Reese, and Chuck and Debbie Allen of Saginaw.

His great-grandparents are Flo and Tom Graham of Tampa, Fla., and Reneé Hashley of Reese.

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. For more information call Joe Castrodale, (248) 968-5197.

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Join the e-mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events. Information (248) 544-6445, Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

Euchre

Every Monday 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/mem-

earned her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University College of Human Ecology. She currently is a recruiter with R.G.I.S. in Auburn Hills.

Her fiancé, Rich, is the son of Mike and Chris Stankov of Canton. He is a 1999 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and earned his bachelor's of business degree from Western Michigan University.

Dubs-Likeric

David and Linda Dubs of Genoa City, Wis., announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Marie, to Jacob David Likeric of Madison, Wis.

Nicole is a graduate of Badger High School, Lake Geneva, Wis., and a 2004 graduate of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind. She is employed in the research field.

Her fiancé, Jacob, is the son of J.B. and Debra Likeric of Garden City. He is a graduate of Garden City High School and graduated cum laude in 2005 from Valparaiso University. He is a technical services engineer at EPIC.

SINGLES

bers, \$6/non-members. Dances

MSP dances from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top 40 DJ, cash bar, hors d' oeuvres (8-9:30 p.m.) and door prizes. Admission \$5/members, \$9/non-members, unless otherwise noted. Attire is dressy casual unless otherwise noted.

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville.

Sunday Fellowship

Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

Bible Studies-Praver Nights

Learner's Bible Study - 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101.

He currently is working as a logistics administration coordinator at Ryder Logistics.

Rich and Tonya are planning a Caribbean destination wedding in March 2007.



Jacob and Nicole are planning an April wedding at Grace Lutheran Church in Richmond, Ill.

🗰 Praying Together - 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church. 🗰 Men's Bible Study - 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office. Lighthouse Café

Friday, March 17, from 7-10 p.m. in Knox Hall. An evening of relaxation and fun while listening to entertainment supplied by other Single Pointers. Games, snack, and specialty coffees. \$5. Free childcare provided. Movie Night

Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m. There will be a choice of five films to watch. Great event for single parents with kids. No ticket or registration.

Karaoke Night

Friday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. in Knox Hall. Perform or simply enjoy the evening, come joins us. Solo or group singers welcome; but you need to register by March 27 to perform. Tickets are \$5. Free child care.

MISC. SINGLES Moon-dusters

65

(CP)

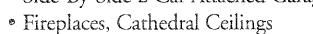
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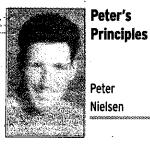
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Moderate caffeine is no problem

Jill from Auburn Hills e-mails for the lowdown on caffeine consumption.

Jill, the fact is that most of us can drink up to three cups of coffee a day with no problems!



Caffeine is found in beverages like coffee, tea and many kinds of pop. It's a mild psychoactive substance that stimulates the nervous system. It can also boost the effects of some pain relievers and is even added to some drugs.

Although caffeine has been linked to many health problems, these claims have been found to be mostly untrue. This is especially the case when habits such as alcohol consumption and smoking are factored in. Another interesting fact is that studies have shown that drinking five to eight cups of unfiltered European-style coffee a day can definitely raise a person's blood pressure. The good news is that most coffee sold in the U.S. is heavily filtered. However, if you experience nervousness or upset stomachs, cutting consumption should do the trick! Remember, everything in moderation!

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter at

www.peternielsen.com. Catch Peter daily on WDIV-NRC 4 & WW.I News Radio 950. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Observer & Eccentric FRANKER

Page C6

Sunday, March 12, 2006

Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 Fax: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

Health camp vacation leads to better life

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Richard Berry was a hard-core smoker until attending the Better Living Seminars Health Camp in Grayling 25 years ago. The Southfield man had previously tried to quit by attending two stop smoking sessions nearer to his Southfield home without much success.

Dr. Arthur Weaver, a retired cancer surgeon, says it's not unusual for smokers like Berry to have trouble quitting without 24-hour support and a change in environment. That's why in 1978, he began offering weeklong camps for smokers who told him they couldn't stop without a live-in program.

Weaver had given stop smoking seminars since 1966 and knew some smokers found quitting more difficult than others. He and his wife, Natalie, took it upon themselves to try to save as many smokers as possible before they developed lung cancer.

Since starting the camps, one of Weaver's surgeon friends quit after smoking four packs a day. An ear, nose and throat specialist quit and lost 35 pounds. Still another camper, a lawyer, stopped smoking but wouldn't eat the vegetarian food served during the weeklong retreat. He's been coming back for 10 years as a volunteer and now loves the meals.

BOOSTING HEALTH

Weaver, 82, estimates that over the years he's helped more than 100,000 smokers to not only quit, but live a healthier lifestyle.

The camp, May 14-21, encourages smokers and nonsmokers to relax in an idyllic vacation setting by horseback riding and walking nature trails through the 800-wooded acres, or canoeing the Au Sable River and private Lake Shellenbarger in between attending sessions to improve their health. All of the staff volunteer their time at the camp to keep the cost down.

"Over the years we added seminars on stress control, weight management, exercise and nutrition at the camp," said Weaver, who performed cancer surgery at Harper, Hutzel, the VA, and Grace hospitals for 40 years. Weaver was a professor of surgery at Wayne State University before retiring. "Once smokers quit their habit they wanted to continue moving toward a healthier lifestyle."

Today, about 1/3 of the campers are there to quit smoking, the rest want to add years to their lives. Weaver estimates 1/3 of cancers are caused by smoking and drinking; at least 50 percent of cancers are related to lack of exercise and poor diet. The Weavers buy cases of broccoli, tomatoes and a variety of vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and dairy products to fix the three meals served daily at the camp. Arthur Weaver says fruits and vegetables are loaded with anti-cancer compounds.

"The campers take steps. They don't do it all at once," said Natalie Weaver, who teaches cooking at the camp and serves as head chef. "We let them come into the kitchen. When we make a burger or meat balls with oats they can't imagine it could taste good and they're surprised when it does."

FAMILY HELP

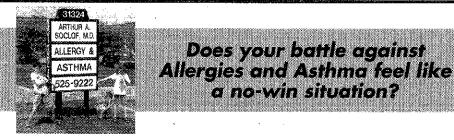
The Weavers have been practicing a healthy lifestyle for all of their 60 married years. Natalie, 82, spends one hour a day on the treadmill before eating a breakfast of whole grains then goes for a walk with her husband.

Arthur Weaver makes the breakfast from whole wheat, oats, rye, and flax, then sprinkles blueberries, strawberries, bananas, and soy milk over the top. On the side, he serves his special scrambled tofu made with onions, garlic, a rainbow of peppers, turmeric, curry, vegetable seasoning, liquid aminos, and a brick of tofu.

The Weavers raised six children on a vegetarian diet. Their son Robert, an oral surgeon in Livonia, gives the session on stress control at the camp. His wife, Jeanie, leads the low-impact exercise classes. Campers days are filled with not only better liv-

PLEASE SEE CAMP, C7





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PURITAN

Colon cancer screenings at age 50 save lives

Are you or a loved one celebrating a 50th birthday this year? One of the best gifts you can give yourself is the peace of mind knowing you are safe from colon cancer. During Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month this March, the American Cancer Society urges all men and women age 50 and older to ask their doctors about colon cancer screening. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer in both men and women in the United States.

Last year, an estimated 104,950 people were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and close to 56,000 people died of the disease. Most of those deaths could have been prevented if detected early when colon cancer has a 90 percent survival rate. If all those eligible for the screenings took action, colon cancer deaths could be reduced by half.

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Colon cancer can occur if you have a family history of

PLEASE SEE COLON, C7

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CAMP

FROM PAGE C6

ing seminars, but birding walks in the morning and social activities in the evening.

His first year, Berry kept his hands busy so he wouldn't want a cigarette. The camp provides three kilns for firing ceramics.

"I did everything in ceramics you could think of. It was stacked up," said Berry, who's been back to the camp every year but one since the early 1980s because he enjoys the get-away. "At camp, they have horseback riding. I fell in love with the horses. You go on trail rides and you're breathing the fresh air which is a lot fresher than down here, and the food is great."

Berry smoked for 50 years, first as a kid then later in the service where he received free cigarettes with rations.

'FINALLY DAWNED'

"I was smoking too much with a cup of coffee right alongside at the desk," said Berry, a retired insurance adjuster. "When I went to two seminars and then the camp that's where it finally dawned on me. If you're really hard core you can't get along without that nicotine fix. After attending the camp and quitting, I was breathing easier. I was able to exercise harder."

One of the oldest campers, a woman in her 80s, could hardly walk when she arrived. Staff walked with her every day and by the end of the week she was walking one mile.

One female camper proved it's never too late to quit smoking. She was 83 when she stopped.

Jennifer Adkins started smoking as a teen and continued for the next 30 years. Half of the time, she wouldn't use matches or a lighter she just lit one cigarette off of another. Adkins quit smoking a few months before the 1998 camp at one of Weaver's Better Living Seminars at the Livonia Civic Center Library. She's continued to changed her lifestyle by attending the camp every May since then. This year, she'll return with her daughter, Sue, 36 and her 1 1/2-year-old.

"It was the most difficult thing I've ever done in my life and the best thing I've done," said Adkins of Livonia. "Since then I have found that the health camp is the best place to go if you're struggling with tobacco. You're away from everybody and there are no smokers there, and Doc Weaver can spend time with you if you're having a particularly hard time."

The cost for the camp is \$475 per person, \$875 with an accompanying spouse, and includes lodging. For more information, call (248) 349-5683 or (313) 531-2179.

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MARCH

Buddhist meditation

6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 14 to April 4, at Center for Lifelong Learning, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Cost: \$29. To register, call (313) 317-1500 or go to www.hfcc.edu/CL2. Under the guidance of Bhanta Sanki, a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka, learn gentle, guided meditation as an ancient tool to relieve stress and anxiety, enjoy inner peace, clear your mind, and heal your body. Bring a 6 to 8-inch pillow or cushion to class; chairs are also available. Stress reduction workshop

Educational event with Dr. Michael Brackney, D.C. 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, and 28, at 8524 Canton Center Road, Canton. No charge. For reservation, call (734) 455-4444.

Teens using drugs workshops

Presented in two parts, second part is 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. No charge and open to public. Parents, teens and people who work with teens are all welcome. Part one is repeated every first Tuesday of the month, October to June, part two repeats the second Tuesday of the month, October to June. For information, call (734) 973-7892, send e-mail to jessa@med.umich.edu or visit www.teensusingdrugs.org,

Divorce support

7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, group discussion, attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come. first served basis; an attorney from the firm Woll & Woll will be available 5-7 p.m. the third Monday of each month to discuss divorce and family issues (anyone interested may sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m. that day), a certified financial planner from Center for Financial Planning is available 5-7 p.m. (sign in begins 4:30 p.m.) on the first Monday of each month, at the Women's Resource Center in Room 225 of the McDowell Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Strengthen your bones naturally

6:30-9:10 p.m. Wednesday, March 15-22, at the Center for Lifelong Learning, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Osteoporosis affects both men and women and produces 1.5 million fractures annually. Protect your bones by joining biochemist Sandy Baumann to discover which common beverages, drugs and medical conditions are bone robbers. Cost: \$54 plus \$12 materials fee. Feel free to bring your bone density report. To register, call (313) 317-1500 or go to www.hfcc.edu/CL2. RNs and LPNs can earn 5 nursing contact hours by enrolling in section for nurses.

Fit fore golf

Seminar for golfers interested learning about posture, flexibility and strength exercises, and prevention of common injuries, especially low back pain 7 ° p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at Oakland Physical Therapy, Providence Park Medical Center, 47601 Grand River, Suite B124, Novi (use northeast entrance). No charge. Reservations required, call (248) 380-3550. Participants should dress comfortably and bring a club.

Internet health information

Internet pro Anita Denard will use various Web sites to check out reliable health information 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 16, at Center for Lifelong Learning, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Cost \$37. To register, call (313) 317-1500 or go to www.hfcc.edu/CL2 . Designed for beginners and seniors with basic Internet and computer skills. Bringyour health or prescription questions.

Basic First Aid

6-8:45 p.m. Thursday March 16, at the Center for Lifelong Learning, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Cost \$39. To register, call 313-317-1500 or goto www.hfcc.edu/CL2.

Sharing & Caring

Arimidex: An Aromatase Inhibitor with a representative from AstraZeneca Oncology 7-9 p.m. Thursday. March 16, first floor conference room at Beaumont Cancer Center, 3577 W. 13 Mile, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers educational and support programs for

breast cancer survivors, their family and friends on Thursday evenings. Call (248) 551-8585. Infant care classes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering an Infant Care Class 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16, in Classroom 1 in the hospital is at 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia.

This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. There is a fee. To register, call (734) 655-1162. For more information about the hospital or programs, visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Health screenings

Oakwood Community Health in cooperation with Life Line Screening is offering to test for a blocked carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis for a nominal fee.

Registration required. The dates and locations follow: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at Newburg 🔬 United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, 👘 Livonia. Cost is \$8; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Wayne Senior Activity Center, 35000 Sims (\$4), and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at First Baptist Church of Canton/44500 Cherry Hill (\$8). Call (800) 543-WELL or visit www.oakwood.org.

Oakwood Community Health is also offering a series of health screenings; including blood pressure, glucose of and cholesterol tests. Registration not required, prices range from \$4 to \$8.

The dates and locations are 4-8 p.m. Monday, March 20, at Pierce Middle School, 25605 Orangelawn, Redford, Free. Participants not required to fast. For more information, call (800) 543-WELL or visit www.oakwood.org. Half hour to health

Educational event with Dr. Michael Brackney, D.C. 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at 8524 Canton Center Road,

Canton. No charge. For reservation, call (734) 455-4444. Thyroid cancer support

Free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends, meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at Costello Elementary Media Center, 1333 Hamman, Troy. For more information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

COLON FROM PAGE C6

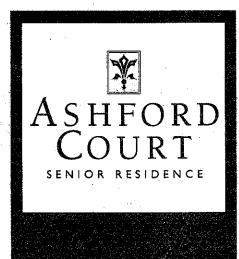
colon cancer, lack of exercise, obesity, improper diet, smoking and alcohol intake. Regular preventive screening can be lifesaving because early colorectal cancer often has no symptoms. Over time symptoms can include rectal bleeding, stomach cramps, changes in bowel habits, weight loss or fatigue.

The American Cancer Society recommends one of the following screening options; a yearly fecal occult blood test (FOBT); a flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years; both a

flexible sigmoidoscopy and FOBT every five years (preferred over either test alone); or a colonoscopy every 10 years, or a double-contrast barium enema every five years. A consultation with your doctor will help you determine which testing option is right for you.

The power of prevention is immeasurable. To lower the risk of colon cancer adults age 50 and over should ask their relatives about family cancer history then ask their doctor for a colonoscopy test. Eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day, and work to stay at or near your ideal body weight.

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Burton Manor, Livonia. Boutique shopping opens at noon, and a fashion show featuring Ms. Black Michigan Camille Anderson, starts at 1 p.m. Tickets, \$50, benefit the March of Dimes. Call (313) 871-4667 or visé www.educbyleh.bca.com

Roma Sposa Trunk Shows Roma Sposa will host Eavis & Brown couture evening wear, March 16-18; Peter Langner Italian bridal, meet the desigr er, March 23-25; Rose Taft couture evening wear and accessories, March 30-April 1. R.S.V.P. at (248) 723-4300.

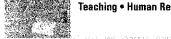




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Section D

Sunday, March 12, 2006

(OF*) Joe Bauman, editor (248) 901-2563 Fax: (248) 644-1314 jbauman@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

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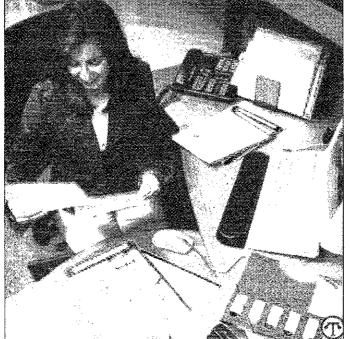
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The psychology of stacking

(NAPSI) - Your desk may reveal more to your co-workers and boss than you may think. In fact, a recent survey conducted on behalf of a desktop solutions line suggests there are three distinct organizational types in the typical office - "pilers," "filers" and "tossers." Chances are, the person who has heaps of piles on the desk sits next to you, the obsessive filer sits across from you and the person who throws everything away is down the hall.

"The fact that you can never find anything on a coworker's desk when you need it seems to suggest that everyone has their own system of organization," said Sharon Mann, organizational expert and president of the 100,000-member I Hate Filing Club. "This recent study supports this belief as it divides workers into three organizational types: pilers, filers and tossers. With pilers comprising the largest segment of the workforce, developing PileSmart - a line catering directly to pilers' needs — was simply the right solution."

According to Mann, your organizational style may actually reveal intimate details about your character.



A recent survey conducted on behalf of a desktop solutions line suggests there are three distinct organizational types in the typical office – 'pilers,' 'filers' and 'tossers.'

So how do you stack up? Popular Pilers, the most common workplace personality (48 percent), may seem disorganized but have the ability to locate items quickly amongst their mountainous stacks. They are also more likely to own a dog and belong to the Democratic Party. Contrary to popular belief, professionals (including lawyers, doctors and accountants) are more than three times more likely to pile important papers on their desk than to file them away.

■ Faithful Filers, at the opposite end of the spectrum, comprise more than one-third of the workforce and are known for appearing ultraorganized. Although they seem calm and collected, filers can sometimes act fussy and anxious. Filers are more likely to be uptight and most likely to identify with the Republican Party. For companionship, filers tend to flock toward birds.

Tart Tossers, the risk takers of the bunch, making up 14 percent of the work world, throw away anything that adds clutter to their work area — even the important stuff. Free-spirited tossers are frequently unregistered voters. Additionally, they are more likely to own a cat, possibly because of their low-maintenance attitude.

"Whether a piler, filer or tosser, everyone can benefit from proper organization," Mann said. "The key to boosting organization in the long run is to set realistic goals, such as keeping 50 percent of your desk clear at all times. Also, choose smarter organizational solutions, such as those in the PileSmart product family, which allow users to 'pile smarter' without altering their organizational style."

Take the Piler/Filer/Tosser Quiz yourself at www.pendaflex.com. And for further organizational tips, log on to www.ihatefilingclub.com.

Jumpstarting your job search

(NAPSI) — Finding the right job is not just what you know or even who you know, but increasingly who your contacts know. Fortunately, the Internet makes it easier to leverage the relationships you already have. Here are five tips to help you land the job you want:

1. Reconnect with former colleagues, classmates, clients and business partners. Online tools can help.

2. Help your contacts with introductions and chances are they will return the favor.

3. Find out which of your colleagues knows people who are currently hiring. New networking sites with integrated job boards make it easy.

4. When you get an interview, use people search engines to research the backgrounds of the professionals who will interview you.

5. Join a professional network such as LinkedIn (www.linkedin. com/jobs), which is the largest with five million users. You can access over four million job listings, and for any job, you can see which of your contacts can refer you to the hiring manager.

Degrees of separation may be more important to help you land that job than your academic degrees. Your network of contacts can help

you obtain referrals to hiring man-

agers.



Executive Director Plymouth Community Arts Council

The Board of Directors of the Plymouth Community Arts Council is seeking an experienced leader for the position of Executive Director. The successful candidate will provide dynamic and innovative leadership for an organization that has provided arts and cultural programming to Western Wayne County children and adults for thirty-six years. PCAC has a long-standing children's theater program, an important and well established Art Volunteer Program that provides arts and cultural education to children primarily in public elementary schools in the Plymouth/Canton school district, on-site art education and art gallery, an innovative mentorship program. live cultural programming for children, adults and teenagers, and the newly formed Plymouth Media Arts Center. In addition, Music in the Park has brought musical productions and entertainment to children throughout the summer every Wednesday at noon in Kellogg Park for more than 20 years.

To be considered for this exciting opportunity, candidates must possess directly relevant experience and have professional success in developing and delivering arts and culture programming to a diverse constituency. Candidates must have excellent organizational. management and problem solving skills. Exceptional oral and written communication skills are essential, as well as experience in fundraising, marketing and membership campaigns. Experience working with and recruiting volunteers is essential. Must be proficient in the use of technology and various software programs for marketing and educational purposes as well as the preparation of proposals and management reports. A Bachelor's degree in arts management, art education, business or a related field is necessary. PCAC is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization and a nondiscriminatory employer.

To be considered, please submit a letter of interest and a resume with detailed job history to:

jobs@plymoutharts.com

Review of candidates will begin on March 27, 2006

www.plymoutharts.com

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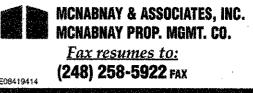
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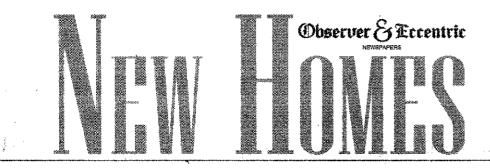
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Section E Suriday, March 12, 2006

Joe Bauman, editor (248) 901-2563 Fax: (248) 644-1314 jbauman@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

A wealth of window design solutions

(NAPSI) — The style, shape and function of a home's windows can underscore a home's elegance, coziness or cutting-edge style. The following are some of today's most exciting formats and treatments:

Adding Elegance

Palladian or arched windows are graceful and elegant, but hard to cover. Fortunately, Hunter Douglas offers a variety of styles to cover unusually shaped windows. For instance, Duette® honeycomb shades come in an arch shape, designed to lift and lower smoothly from top to bottom on "perfect" and "imperfect" arches, allowing for privacy, light control and easy window cleaning.

Lighten and Brighten

Skylights can lighten a room, make a space feel larger and bring a quirky element to an otherwise dull area. When left bare, skylights often allow in too much light and sun that can fade furniture and overheat a room. Duette with Skyrise® is the perfect solution, softening the light and providing energy efficiency. Hardware with rails on all four sides keeps the shade in place safely and securely. What's more, this option is offered with an easy, affordable, battery-operated remote-control system to open and close hard-to-reach shades.

Cutting-edge Sliders

Floor-to-ceiling windows add a dimension of excitement to any structure, while sliding glass doors are modeled after Japan's rice paper shoji screens. Homeowners love the extra light but often get flustered when it comes to how to dress them. Duette with Vertiglide defeats that design problem with honeycomb fabric that is oriented vertically with the shade operating sideways. When open, it folds back to a mere six inches no matter how wide the treatment. It can be manually operated or motorized.

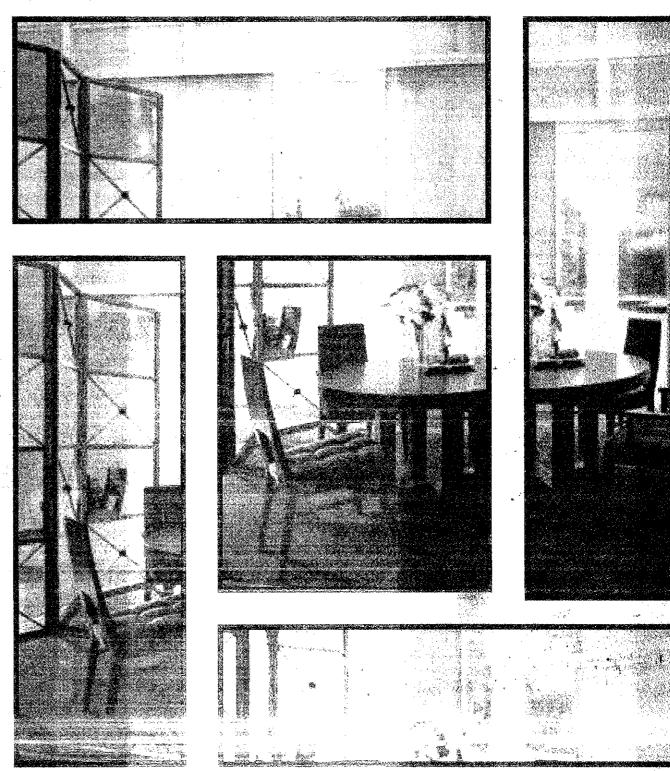
Bay Views

A bay window is typically a center window and two angled side windows. It offers lots of light for a book nook or dining alcove. Ideal for trio windows is a top-down/bottom-up design where the shade opens from the top or the bottom or both ways for privacy as well as a view. **European Allure**

French doors have been popular for decades and slim, trim Duette honeycomb shades don't add a lot of bulk or noisy rattling when these European imports are opened and closed. Sidelight Windows

Those ubiquitous narrow windows found on one or both sides of a door beg for a window fashion solution such as the new Duette Operable Sidelight.

From the tiniest sliver of a window to arches, angles, octagons and trapezoids, virtually all window shapes and types can be beautifully dressed with Duotte honocourts due to For more information, los on to the Weiesite at any chamterologias.com.



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First-time buyers will find lots to like in this house

The 1,149 square foot Singlebode (405-30) is an economical house with a floor plan perfectly suited for the needs of empty nesters wishing to down-size, or for a young family searching for their first home.

The attached garage conve-

niently opens directly into the kitchen. This allows you, regardless of the weather, to unload groceries with a minimum of bother.

The kitchen has lots of room for the cook to maneuver while preparing meals. Amenities include a walk-in pantry, dishwasher, range, and oven. An eating bar is handy for those informal times.

The spacious living room flows unobstructed into the dining room. For a study plan of the SINGLEBODE (405-30), send \$15 to Landmark

as in condos. However, when

there is much more room for

Unfortunately, it's hard to

which is used for cars, to deter-

mine market value for homes.

There are too many variables

My concern is that sellers

and buyers will use these sites

to set asking prices and make

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offers rather than gaining

information from a reliable

source. Perhaps in the future

their accuracy will improve,

but for now I don't believe they

accurately reflect home value.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a

Realtor with Real Estate One. Please

feel free to call him at (734) 748-9621

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Be careful using online home value services

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involved.

How do you feel about the new program where you can find the value of a home online?

I am skeptical of online services that claim to give an accurate value of a house. Most of these services claim to use the information in public records to create a formula to accurately give the value of your house.

They say that they use information about houses in the neighborhood that recently sold to come up with their guestimate.

The online home value services don't have enough information to make a reliable estimate of home value. Some of the reasons for this are:

It's very hard to know sometimes what houses to use in order to compare to the subject property. Different subdivisions in a certain area can vary greatly in value. In fact, even different streets within a sub can show a big difference in value.

I am familiar with several subs where what street you are on makes a big difference in value. That said, even what area of a street may make a difference.

You need someone to eyeball the information and make decisions based on the information that is available and common sense.

An Internet site cannot know what the inside of your house looks like. Whether your house is updated or not can make a big difference in its value. Since the people at the site can't see the inside of your

Ask the Michael Aldouby

house – at least not yet – there is no way they can add those variables into the equa-

Market values change based on time. From my own research regarding the sites there seems to be a lag between the value based on past data and the current available information.

I did a non-scientific test. I picked four houses that I know the market value of and I plugged them into one of the house value Internet sites that has been in the news lately.

Using the first house, the site estimate was \$43,495, while the actual market value is closer to \$118,000. When I plugged in the second house, the site estimated the value at \$79,045, and the market value is around \$160,000.

which was a condo the site stated that the value was \$165,750, and the actual value is around \$154,000. Finally, the fourth test, which was also a condo, the site estimated that it was worth \$150,000, whereas the market value is about \$122,000.

These sites have more of a chance of being accurate if all the properties are similar such

There will be a home buying class sponsored by Michael Aldouby at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 18, in Farmington Hills. Topics will include how to start the home buying process, what is involved, making an offer, the closing and different mortgage options. If you are interested in attending please e-mail Aldouby at michaelsellshomes@realestateone.com or call at (248) 851-4100. Ext. 449.

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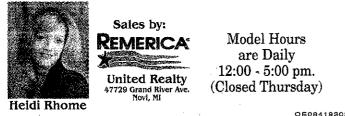
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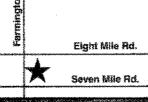
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Homebuyer Class

A free Homebuyer Class at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at Fidelity National Title at Six Mile and I-275 (four-story glass building on the southwest corner.) It is put on by Rosemary Firestone of RE/MAX 100 and Michael Firestone of Golden Mortgage. It will cover all aspects of buying a home such as: why it's important to get pre-approved; what kinds of mortgages are available and to whom; how to avoid "a lemon" and have the house inspected professionally; having a buyer's agent who works for only you; how to get seller's concessions; how to decide on a good price; what are all the papers involved in writing an offer. Call for reservations (24 hours) at (734) 429-9600 or e-mail at: info@rfirestone-team.com.

Education Seminars

The Building Industry

Association of Southeastern Michigan is sponsoring the following:

■ noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, "Masonry Flashing – What Is Its Importance?" at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Registration fees are \$20 for **BIA** or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$40 for nonmembers and guests. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch, pop and cookies will be provided. (248) 862-1033.

■ 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, March 17, "Extreme Makeover Marketing" at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. Registration fees, are \$69 for PMC members and \$79 for BIA members and guests. (248) 862-1033.

🔳 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 21, "Customer Service & Homeowner Relations" at BIA headquarters. 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite

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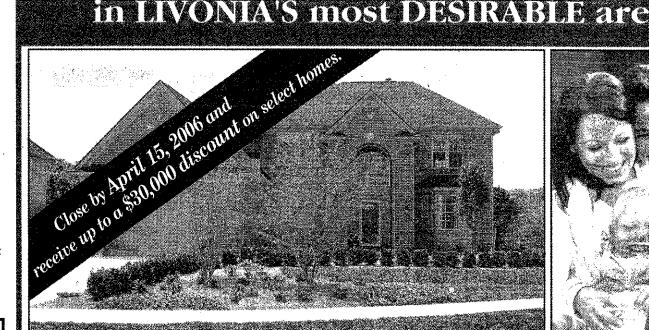
100, Farmington Hills. Registration fees, are \$145 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and

guests. (248) 862-1033. 🖬 6-10 p.m. Thursday, March 23, "Wild Game Dinner and Texas Hold 'em

Tournament" at St. John's Armenian Cultural Center, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Registration fees,

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LIVONIA - Location, quality, value & charm! Attractive 2,400 square foot brick Colonial, 4 BR, 2% BA, FR w/FP, 1st floor laundry, base ment and 2 car garage. New roof & doors. All appliances stay. Call Mike Judge.

LIVONIA - Country in the city, Cape Cod on a cul-de-sac. 88 acres, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement with wet bar, newer high efficiency furnace, windows, siding. Koi pond, large deck, outside lighting. Call Cindy Evans.

\$380,000 (G32501) 313-622-8755



LIVONIA - Well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath Ranch located in Green Brier Estates sub. Half acre lot with mature trees. Home also has a Florida room and a 21/2 car garage. Call Larry Hatfield.

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GENOA TOWNSHIP - Desirable golf community *** Oak Pointe 4-6 bedrooms, 31/2 baths, 3,214 +/- SF plus finished walk-out basement * MBR w/ jetted tub and WIC * FR w/ vaulted ceiling and natural FP * Unique craft/scrapbook room. Visit www.doortodreams.com. Call Derek Bauer, 734-678-4745 \$394.900 (N19735)

INDA S. of Joy, W. of Merrima 24 WESTLAND - One of the nicest homes in this great Westland sub. 2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, immaculate home, Many upgrades, New carpet, custom cabinets, finished basement & large master suite. Livonia schools. Call today for private showing. Call Brian Bundesen.

(B8632) 734-678-9032 \$189,900



LIVONIA - Excellent location in popular sub. Colonial w/ 1.829 sq. ft., 4-5 beds, 1/2 baths and treed private back vard. Large deck, covered porch, fireplace, finished basement. Newer furnace, roof, kitchen and bath. N. off Schoolcraft to Brookfield to E. on Scone. Call Michael Price. 734-216-9920 \$233.900 (S32486)

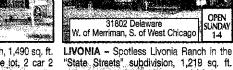


Michael Price. (B6695) 734-216-9920 \$130,000 1.5



LIVONIA - Great 3 BR, 2 bath, 1,490 sq. ft. Bungalow in Livonia n double lot. 2 car 2 story garage. Beautifully treed lot is splittable for the next owners. Large eat-in kitchen & formal dining room, large master BR to. Call Jim Donohoe.

(L27735)



313-570-5511 \$167.500

"State Streets" subdivision, 1,219 sq. ft. newer roof, furnace, windows and AC. Large back yard and ½ block from elementary school and park. New on the market. Call Jim Donohoe.



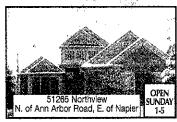
way! Instantly appealing. Upgrades throughout. Two bedroom, 2 bath, den, large great room, 2-way fireplace. Deck, beautifully decorated. Call Carol Hussey.

(D31802) 313-570-5511 \$307,000 (26033981) 734-751-9563



LIVONIA - Low heat bills in this Ranch or a park-like settino!!! Four bedrooms, oak kitchen and fabulous bay window in dining area. Hot water heat! 3-car garage and work shop. Close to half an acre. Ideal for boat/camper storage, etc. Priced to sell Call Joan Smith.

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PLYMOUTH - Exciting, large Cape Cod Condo w/ first floor master bedroom! Please meet us off Ridge Road, N. of Ann Arbor Road at 51265 Northview Drive. Lovely, largest (2,485 sq. ft. Cape Cod). Updates galore, tidy beyond belief, detached Condo, backing to woodlands! Call Jan Foster. 734-502-0448 \$349,900 \$359.900 (25177599)



PLYMOUTH - Wonderfully sized Ranch Walk to downtown from spacious Ranch loaded w/ updates in the last 5 years, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, bonus room. Wooded lot, etc., etc., Call Cathy Rakozy.

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GARDEN CITY - 3 BR. 1% bath well maintained home. Great eat-in kit., irg finished bsmt w/ FP, bar & half bath, oak hdwd firs under carpet. New oak cabs in kit. w/ Wallside doorwall. Brick patio in large back yard. Visit www.judeesellshouses.com. Call Judee Taormina.

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LIVONIA - Great location. Totally updated home, New kit - '06, New elect, & roof - '04, A/C & plumbing - '02. Andersen windows Throughout. Howd floors under carpet. Freshly painted. Large addition to liv. rm. w/ gas FP, fin. bsmt & more. Visit www.burtonhollowonline.com or Call Judee Taormina. \$255,000 734-634-2136 \$265,000 (W16541)

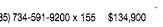


LIVONIA - Check out this 2,000 SF Banch in Burton Hollow! Open floor plan offers gourmet kit. w/ sky light. Updates include: roof, HWH, furn., kit. floor & carpet. Fin. basement w/ sauna & shower. Visit www.burtonhollowonline.com or Call Judee Taormina.

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LIVONIA - Attractive 3 BR brick Ranch 1.300 sq. ft. of quality living area. Family room w/ fireplace, finished basement, two baths. Two car garage, landscaped and fenced yard, new furnace & AC. Call Mike Judge





REDFORD - What charm! This 1947 Bungalow, freshly painted, hardwood floors, loads of storage in attic, 3 bedrooms, plus a den or library, part finished basement, 1/3 acre lot, 100 x 135, 2 car garage, close to



REDFORD - Affordable brick Ranch Freshly painted w/ great curb appeal. Hardwood floors, newer roof, finished basement. Walking distance to Capitol Park w/ children's area, track, tennis courts & ball fields. All appliances stay.

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2006 Mercedes-Benz ML350 has panache





By Dave Menard Avanti NewsFeatures

When I first saw a Mercedes-Benz SUV a few years ago, I thought I heard the voice of Jimmy Durante in my head. "Everybody's gotta get into the act," he used to say, and Mercedes-Benz wanted a piece of the SUV act. I was impressed with the first Mercedes SUVs in the late-90's, and the all-new 2006 ML350 does nothing to change my feelings - it's an SUV with style and performance.

Let's start with the exterior. One look and you know it's a Benz. The classic grille with the symbol known around the world as Mercedes-Benz is front and center. This new version of the ML350 is bigger than its predecessor; it's almost 6 inches longer, almost 3 inches wider and 0.2 inches lower on the road, with a wheelbase that's almost four inches longer, at 114 inches. The ML350 features an aggressive wedge shape complemented by sweeping front fenders with projector beam headlights, dramatic shoulder lines and a sharply angled windshield, 17" seven-spoke wheels, roof rack, and power outside mirrors with turn indicators built in. It's a sharp-looking package that doesn't overwhelm you.

Inside, the feel is comfortable, with plenty of room. The standard power seats provide good support and a good view of the road. Instrumentation includes a tachometer and coolant temperature gauge. What's different about the cockpit in the ML350, and its more expensive ML500 sibling, is that the transmission gear lever is mounted on the steering column instead of in the center console (more on the transmission in a bit).

The ML350 comes with a host of standard features. Dual zone air-conditioning, cruise control, power windows, doors and locks, heated rearview mirrors, and tilt steering column. The standard audio system on the ML350 is a four-speaker, 80watt system with AM/FM/Weatherband/CD



2006 Mercedes-Benz ML350. Vehicle class: Special purpose. Where built: Tuscaloosa, AL. Mileage: 16/20. Base price: \$39,750. Price as tested: \$52,725

stereo and integrated controls for CD changer. You can control its functions from the steering wheel. The CD changer is optional, and you can connect an iPod or other mp3 player directly into the system using an input located in the glove box. An integrated GPS navigation system and Sirius satellite radio are also available.

There's plenty of room and storage in the ML350. The 60/40 rear seats fold down to give you up 72.4 cubic feet of cargo room, and there are plenty of large cupholders, map pockets and auxiliary power outlets.

The ML350 is a full-time four-wheel drive SUV. It's powered by a 3.5-liter, four-valve-per-cylinder V6, that's rated at 268 hp and 258 lb.-ft. of torque. It's mated with a seven-speed automatic touchshift transmission. As mentioned earlier, the lever is located on the steering column, and it's a bit different that what you might be used to. Lift the stalk up for reverse, push down for drive, and push a button on the end for park. Once underway, pushing either one of the shift buttons on the "back" of the steering wheel provides manual gear changes. It's not really necessary to do the gear changes yourself - the transmission shifts smoothly and effortlessly, even when suddenly downshifting. The engine-transmission combination provides plenty of power and acceleration.

The ML350 gives a great ride, too, with inde-

pendent front and rear suspension. The front suspension features upper and lower control arms in a double-wishbone configuration and uses spring struts with coil springs, gas shocks and large head bearings, and a stabilizer bar attaches to the lower control arms. The rear suspension is mounted to a subframe that is isolated from the body by two solid rubber bushings and two hydromounts that are filled with a liquid that helps to dampen vibration. Separate shock absorbers are positioned behind the coil springs, and a stabilizer bar is included.

If you get the urge to take your \$40,000-plus Mercedes off-road, you can. Another standard fea-ture of the ML350 is an "Off-Road" button on the center console. Pushing this gets you ABS at speeds under 20 mph, traction control, higher shift points, and a slower throttle valve for better speed control.

The 2006 ML350 starts at about \$40,000. Add the sunroof, navigation system, air suspension, upgraded audio system and you're at almost \$53,000. A lot for some, but not totally out-of-line compared with other luxury SUVs - and some of those aren't really ready for off-road activity. If your checkbook can handle it, it's a nice SUV to have in your driveway.

Write Dave Menard at avanti1054@aol.com.

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