



Woman locked in ATM charged with 2 others in robbery

PLEASE SEE BUDGET, A5

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

A woman who had told police she was assaulted,

Catherine Wells receives an Easter basket from Caleb James and the rest of the honor society kids from Plymouth Christian Academy.

PCA honor students deliver Easter joy to Oakwood patients

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

National Honor Society students from Plymouth Christian Academy were guided by their deep Christian beliefs and a strong commitment to community service in bringing smiles to nearly 500 patients at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn Thursday.

The 30 honor students, who maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average, passed out 500 Easter baskets filled with candy and games to bolster the spirits of patients, many of whom will spend Easter in a hospital bed.

"I love doing Christian service, and it was a good thing to do," said senior Dan Monroe. "Instead of doing a building

project, I like going around and seeing people's faces.

"You can see the rewards, and how happy they are when you give to them," added Monroe, 18. People smiling and saying 'thank you' is rewarding, knowing you're doing something good."

Portia Peoples-Green of River Rouge has become just like family to the nurses at Oakwood, having been admitted Nov. 15. Green had a smile when presented with her basket of goodies.

"I think it was really nice of them to bring us a surprise," said Green. "It's really nice they're taking an interest in us."

The NHS project came together when senior Caleb James talked to his mother, Lori Stallings, an emergency room nurse at Oakwood.

"We decided to see how many we could make, and we ended up making enough for the whole hospital," said James. "We have a dress code, and for a dollar on Friday you can wear jeans, and we held one of those and bought all the bags. It looked like we weren't going to have enough candy, but on the last day everybody brought some in.

'We wanted to do something for the community, and we got to hang around together while putting together the bags," he said.

English teacher Michelle Bahr, an adviser to the NHS, said students really pulled together for the project.



Portia Peoples-Green is happy to receive an Easter basket from the students.

"It makes me feel very proud to see them interact with the patients," said Bahr. "There is very little more rewarding in life than reaching out to other people. Seeing smiles on people's faces, that's what it's all about."

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bound with tape, locked in an ATM machine and robbed has been charged, along with her husband and a friend, with embezzlement and



Eric Rigley

Madera

Jennifer Rigley

while working the morning of March 30. She had told police she was servicing an ATM machine at the LaSalle Bank on Michigan Avenue in Canton when a man approached her, demanded she open the bank machine, took the money from inside, and then bound her feet, hands and feet with duct tape and locked her in the machine.

According to police, Jennifer

A customer called police some 90 minutes later, after hearing Rigley inside the machine. When police and fire officials arrived, they used the Jaws of Life to extract Rigley from the machine.

On Tuesday, Canton police officers arrested Rigley and her husband, Eric James Rigley, 26, at their River Rouge home. They are being held on \$25,000 bond. A third person, Lee James Madera, 25, also of River Rouge, was arrested at a Downriver

hotel, and charged with second-degree habitual offender for robbery, and given a \$50,000 bond. The three, who were arraigned April 13 before Magistrate Eric Colthurst at 35th District Court in Plymouth, are being held at the Wayne County Jail.

As of Friday, police were still seeking a fourth suspect in the crime.

According to Canton Sgt. Rick Pomorski, the department received a tip from a Michigan State Police trooper, who had been contacted by a local attorney. The attorney said one of his clients had contacted him after hearing the story about the ATM robbery in the news. The client said he'd also heard information through personal acquaintances, and he

PLEASE SEE ATM, A5



AROUND CANTON

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is hosting a staff appreciation luncheon at 11:45, Wednesday April 26, at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 1900 N. Haggerty Road in Canton. Cost for the event is \$20 per person and includes lunch, dessert, soft drinks, and door prizes.

"Every year our staff appreciation luncheon serves as a wonderful opportunity for our members to say thank you to their staff," said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber.

The luncheon will feature entertainment by Rudy Two Moon, a sleight of hand artist. Rudy has more than 11 years experience creating illusions that will leave you in awe. There is limited seating so reservations are necessary by April 21. Reservations can be made by calling the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or by visiting our online registration form at www.cantonchamber.com/eventsform.asp. **Support troops with**

candles

Do you love candles and supporting your troops? Well now you can do both at the same time. Nicole Kline, 24 of Canton and founder/president of Operation Morale, is also a Partylite candle consultant. Nicole donates 100 percent of her Partylite income to shipping Operation Morale care packages to our deployed troops who do not typically receive mail.

When you host a Partylite show, you will receive 25 percent hostess credit, hostess specials, booking gifts and unlimited half off items. With a \$400 show, you will receive \$100 in free candles and accessories. Operation Morale will receive \$100 towards the shipping of their care packages.

There are several themed shows one can choose from, including wine and cheese party, Hawaiian luau, pj party, banana split party.

Book your show or give a referral in April and you will receive one dozen votives free and a picture profile of one of the troops you helped support. To book your show, have Nicole speak at an event, or for more info, call Nicole at (734) 274-1806, e-mail her at operationmorale@yahoo.com, or visit her Web site at www.partylite.biz/operationmorale.

Banking award

Citizens Bank recently announced mortgage loan



Rankin tivity for 2005. The award is presented annually to originators who excel in both loan closings and dollar production. Citizens Banking Corporation currently has 80 loan originators, with only two receiving the Chairman's Gold Award. Rankin's efforts resulted in the closing of residential mortgages totaling \$25 million in the Novi market.

"We are pleased to have a person of Marvin's dedication and commitment as a member of our mortgage team," said Thomas C. Shafer, Citizens Bank's southeast Michigan president. "He has demonstrated product knowledge and service that has led to strong customer loyalty." Rankin has 18 years of

experience in mortgage services, and is located at Citizens Bank's Novi Centre offices at 28001 Cabot Drive in Novi.

Marketing strategies

As a continuation of the recent series of seven DDA-Chamber morning coffee meetings and part of the DDA 2006 marketing plan, Roger Gallerini from Fishermens Marketing Services, LLC will be conducting a two-part marketing seminar on April 25 and May 2 from 7-10 p.m. at the Summit. Participation is open at no charge for Canton DDA and Chamber of Commerce members.

The primary purpose of this program is to assist any interested business in how to increase their sales by developing and executing a well thought out and planned marketing program.

Topics during the first session will include business analysis, problem and opportunity identification, customer profiling, and establishing a realistic marketing budget.

Topics during the second session will include objective setting, marketing strategies to keep you focused, and tactical elements.

If you have interest in attending, you must register via e-mail no later than Tuesday, April 18 by contacting Roger Gallerini at Fishermens Marketing Services:

Rogergallerini@comcast.net. Upon receipt of your registration you will be notified of how to prepare for and what to bring to the meetings. This opportunity will be open to the first 50 registrations.

Canton visitors guide Canton's first-ever Visitors Guide, a 48-page, full-color glossy magazine featuring Canton lifestyle, entertain-



A major league fund-raiser

Jim 'The Rookie' Morris signs a baseball for Plymouth Christian Academy Board President Jim Zandee at PCA's recent fund-raiser, 'Stepping Up to the Major Leagues.' Morris was the inspiration behind Disney's blockbuster film The Rookie starring Dennis Quaid. The event, which was attended by about 300 people, took place April 8 at Laurel Manor in Livonia, raising \$57,000 to help support program enhancements, fine arts, teacher benefits and more at the Canton school. 'The movie about his incredible story may be called 'The Rookie,' but Jim Morris is sure no rookie at entertaining a crowd. He's one of the most entertaining and captivating speakers I've heard. It was great to have him come and speak at our school's annual fundraiser,' Zandee said.

ment, restaurants and lodging will be ready for distribution this spring. An illustrative map will be the centerfold of the publication, and will be color-coded with the new Downtown Development Authority district branding. With an initial printing of 35,000, the guide will be a great resource for out-of-town guests. It will be available at area hotels, MDOT Welcome Centers and major sporting events in the Canton area.

Advertising opportunities are available for Canton business owners with special discounts for businesses that partner market by color district.

Another incentive for Canton restaurants is the "Hometown Favorites" section. This section will consist of independently-owned restaurants and diners, and is sold at a special reduced rate. These ads will highlight menu items, atmosphere and location, giving visitors a true taste of Canton.

Deadline for inclusion in the Visitors Guide is March 31. For more information on the guide, advertising rates or partner marketing opportunities, please call Canton Creative Marketing at (734) 394-0455.

Meeting postponed

The Canton Council for Community Excellence meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 12 was postponed until Wednesday, April 19.

The CCE will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Township Administration Building, located at 1150 Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 394-5165.

Charity bowling event

The 6th annual bowling event to benefit the American

Diabetes Association is scheduled 6-9 p.m. Saturday May 20 at Super Bowl in Canton.

www.hometownlife.com

The cost of the event is \$35 per couple, which includes three games of Scotch double bowling, pizza, and soft drinks.

Go on line and check out past photos, newspaper articles, letters from The American Diabetes Association and more about the organizers of the event. People can also register

online. For more information,

contact Ray Tuck at (734) 483-4381 or at www.bowling4charity.com

Council looking for members

Canton's Council for Community Excellence is currently looking for new members to help promote and publicize projects that support the vision of excellence for the community as well as acknowledge projects that further enhance the quality of life in the community.

The council meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Canton Township Administration Building in the lower level, and all meetings are open to the public.

Goals discussed at monthly meetings include exploring what other communities are doing to enhance their community, planning an annual awards design excellence program, reviewing Canton's programs and providing recommendations for improvement, and looking for ways to promote excellence in the community.

For more information on the council visit www.cantonmi.org, go to "Quick Links" and click on Community Excellence.

For those interested in becoming an active member, please call Kris Sanders at (734) 394-5165.





(C)

A2 -



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*U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development



Marshmallow scramble

Children rush out to collect their marshmallows Friday during Wayne County's 22nd annual Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills Park on Hines Drive in Westland.

Church summer camp educates children, while stressing fun

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

Summer - it's a time of year when children love to visit the beach, get grubby outside, and learn about science. Yes, really - they like to learn about science as long as they don't know they're learning, according to Kim Marquette, education director at Christ the Good Shepherd in Canton.

The church is launching a

The church has always offered summer programs such as vacation Bible school, and for a long time has had a preschool there.

But Marquette, who is approaching her "empty nest" years, had returned to college to study early childhood education. At the same time, the church had enlisted a new preschool teacher with a real flair for teaching and engaging children.

sessions - one from 9 a.m. to noon, and an afternoon session from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. - and includes such weekly themes as creepy crawly, under the sea, beach week, and dog days of summer.

(rather than full-day child care), the programming is designed to get children out of the house, away from a single full-time caregiver, or to offer some fun time with people other than mom or siblings, Marquette said.

Sessions are limited to 20 students each, and the \$60 per week fee includes a T-shirt, snack and a field trip or guest speaker, as well as the daily activities. Programming is designed for children ages 3-

There will be a registration open house at the church 6-Marquette at (734) 522-1226

west of Lilley.

Candidate forum hits the airwaves

Voters in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district who missed the candidates' forum April 4 get several more chances to see it, thanks to cable television.

The forum, which featured seven of the eight candidates for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, took place in the board meeting room of the E.J. McClendon Education Center in Plymouth.

Those who couldn't attend can watch the forum on television. In Canton, it's scheduled to air 9 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays on cable Channel 12 (Comcast) and 10 (WOW!).

The forum is tentatively scheduled to air 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, on Comcast Channel 18. Other air dates and times are still to be determined.

Topics ranged from the fiscally challenged district budget to the \$120 million bond proposal and health care costs. The forum was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County and the Observer.

Seven of the eight candidates – Brandon Hynes, John Nichols and Steven Sneideman

of Canton and Mark Christenson, Dianne Gonzalez,

John Jackson and Larry Martin of Plymouth Township - spent some 90 minutes answering questions from the audience. Cheryl McKoy of Canton is also on the ballot, but did not take part in the forum

"There are a lot of concerns about the fiscal health of the school district, it's going to be a major concern," Gorman said. "I would like to see school board members support the bond issue. Some were unsure, $\epsilon_{\rm s}$ but we've had a lot of growth and a lot of diversity, so there are a lot of different needs for a -, lot of different groups."



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LASERS

BE CONFIDENT

Celebration Sinfonia, for students with three-plus years of training in string,

wind, brass and percussion instruments, will be featured in the Celebration

Youth Orchestra's spring concert May 3 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in

@ THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Traveling over spring break? Don't rack up overdue fines. You can use your library card to renew materials online, even from Disney World. Visit the Web site at www.cantonpl.org and log on to MyAccount to renew your materials and freeze your books on hold.

If you're not traveling over spring break, bring the kids into the library for crafts and fun. Children ages 5-8 are welcome to come by April 17-21 anytime between 9:30 - 11 a.m. No registration necessary. There are plenty of activities to enjoy at the library. Check out a travel video for a virtual vacation. Sign up for a computer class. Attend a program. Stop in and see why your library card is the smartest card in your wallet.

The Canton Public Library will be closed Sunday, April 16. It will reopen on Monday, April 17 at 9 a.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Spring Break Crafts: April 17-21, 9:30-11 a.m. For kids ages 5-8, drop in and make

@ THE LIBRARY

crafts over spring break. No registration required

TEEN PROGRAMS

Make Your Own Birdhouse: April 18, at 4 p.m. Create a house for our feathered friends or a fun decorative piece for your room. Registration required.

🗖 2/4 Open Mic: April 22, at 2 p.m. Hang out and enjoy the creative vibe.

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

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.

Genealogy Online: April 22, at 9:30 a.m. Explore your roots online with Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest databases.

Evening Book Discussion:

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

readjusted to reflect the decrease in activity and now are projected to be just \$1.2 million, Yack said. That's a significant reduction in the township's general fund, which in 2006 is projected to be \$27.5 million of the township's total \$96 million budget.

The plan also calls for deferment of deposits to the township's community improvement fund. Every year, the township sets aside the money it would have to pay toward waste disposal (but doesn't have to pay, due to Canton's agreement with the landfill south of Michigan Avenue) fees. The amount is projected to be \$500,000, and the township will simply leave that money in the general fund for the next two or three years, finance director Tony Minghine said.

The township will also reorganize some of its administrative functions. Canton will eliminate a director's position in the administrative and com-

among other directors. One of the directors who will take on some of the duties is John Santomauro, director of public safety, who will continue to fulfill police and fire administrative functions through the end of 2007, and will gradually work into a full-time "deputy director" position, and away from public safety.

The police department would then be able to promote one of its deputy chiefs to chief of police, according to Yack.

Canton will also offer some early retirement incentives in order to allow for some of the job cuts through attrition.

Minghine stressed that the township's finances are sound – for now.

"We are not in fiscal crisis," will create a crisis ... We really put at risk the balance of the organization."

tion the demand for inspectors will increase soon, noting that Pulte Homes — one of the area's larger residential construction companies — has laid off workers this year. Because Canton has had such growth in

April 17, at 7 p.m. East of Eden by John Steinbeck Budget Travel Tips: April

20, at 7 p.m. Learn tips from Bob Holley of the Hostelling International Michigan Council.

WHAT'S NEW @ YOUR 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 Books On CD

The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult

Freakanomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the $ar{H}idden$ Side of Everything by Steven Levitt

The Doctor's Daughter by Hilma Wolitzer

Video

Au Revoir Les Enfantes M Brokeback Mountain Memoirs of a Geisha Murder, She Said

Adult Fiction Two Little Girls in Blue by Mary Higgins Clark

Love, Life and Linguine by Melissa Jacobs

Youth orchestra hits stage for spring concert

The Celebration Youth Orchestra presents its Spring concert 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Orchestra officials said the Celebration Youth Orchestra is dedicated to challenging and inspiring students through high level ensemble training and the performance of stanaccomplished, young musi-

The CYO is the youth orchestra supported by the Plymouth Symphony and is conducted by Ariel Toews, Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Canton Assistant Conductor. The CYO currently has two ensembles: the Celebration Sinfonia for students with three-plus years of training in string, wind, brass and percussion instruments, and the Celebration Strings, designed for string players with one-plus years of instruction who wish

The CYO is part of the Plymouth Symphony's Youth **Outreach Education Program**

ATM

FROM PAGE A1

began to believe he may have information about the robbery.

According to Pomorski, officers also saw some things in the bank's surveillance video that made them suspicious of

Jennifer's Rigley's story. Pomorski also said that all three individuals "have given us statements about their involvement in the crime."

led officers to where some of the money had been stashed. More money was then found when police searched two residences. The money was hidden there without the knowledge of

Canton Leisure Services, Plymouth Rotary Foundation, and Plymouth-Canton Optimists. Donations to the Plymouth Symphony's No Kid without a Koncert Education Campaign help to fund the CYO, as well as many other programs for students throughout Southeastern Michigan.

A5 (C)

Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased through Summit on the Park, (734) 394-5460 or at the Village Theater box office one hour before performance. The theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

For audition information or 4 more information please contact the Plymouth Symphony office via e-mail at Jane@plymouthsymphony.org or call (734) 451-2112,

the property owner, Pomorski said.

The last of the money was found in a hotel room, where officers arrested Madera.

The preliminary examination for all three suspects is scheduled for Friday, April 21, at 35th District Court.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

Do you fit with your Financial Institution?

those duties will be divided enue. department reductions will save approximately \$625,000 per year, Yack said, but half the year will be over by the time they are implemented. The engineering department and

he said. "If we don't act now we

He said there is no indica-

enues from permits make up approximately 70 percent of the building department's rev-

planning services are also each

losing one employee and the

internship will not be filled,

and will save \$90,000 and

\$50,000 respectively, accord-

ing to Yack. The township will

net approximately \$229,000

per year from implementing

the reorganization proposal.

More than 20 of the township's 375 employees will quali-

fy for early retirement incen-

tives, and depending on how

lay-offs could be placed in

positions elsewhere in the

township.

many take advantage of them, some of the employees facing

The board will vote on the elements of the proposal at its

regular meeting on April 25.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com

residential housing starts, rev-The building and inspection

dard and new repertoire. Showing off all they have

cians in the CYO will perform a variety of classical and contemporary music, including Tchaikovsky's Little Russian Symphony, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.2, Spring from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and the finale to Beethoven's Symphony No.5.

to learn ensemble playing techniques.

Canton.

Ariel Toews conducts the Celebration Youth Orchestra in its spring concert May 3.

which will impact more than 5,000 students this year. The CYO is supported by

He said one of the suspects





Academy helps autistic kids reach their potential

What: Cross Bridge Academy

Where: Compass Café, Penniman and Main

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

When John Kim saw the kind of progress his son Scott was making at Lorraine Zaksek's Speech, Language and Sensory Motor Systems clinic in Plymouth, he urged Lorraine and her husband George to open a school dedicated to working with autistic children.

With a lot already on their plate, the Zakseks declined. But fate intervened when their daughter, Stephanie Naberhaus, returned to the area. It took another turn when the Zakseks attended a seminar about dealing with autistic kids.

That's what really got Lorraine Zaksek.

"Some of the family testimonials were quite heart-wrenching," she admitted. "We were

VISITING

For Home Bound



with significant language and sensory disorders. Getting in: The school will accept five new students; screening starts April 9.

How you can help: Joey's Comedy Club hosts a fund-raiser, "Comedy for a Cause," 8 p.m. Thursday, May 4. Emcee will be WNIC 100-3 afternoon radio host Kevin O'Neill. Tickets are \$25 each.

elebrate

More info: Call (734) 454-0866.

teary-eyed, and just at that moment John walked by. We grabbed him and said, 'OK, we'll do it."

Stephanie and her husband, Brad, took over the Plymouth clinic, and Lorraine and George Zaksek concentrated on opening Cross Bridge academy, a school they designed for the development of educational programs for "children along the autistic spectrum" and

those with significant language and sensory disorders.

The school, which currently has five students, started in September 2004 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton. Church needs forced Cross Bridge to seek a new home this year (they'll move into Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton next year). Since John Kim had talked them into the school in the first

Traditional Worship

7:45, 9:00, & 10:20 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Nursery and Sunday School

9:00, 10:20 and 11:40 a.m.



Kristen Churches swings Scott Kim as a reward for his performance during the Cross Bridge Academy school day.

place, Kim - who owns Compass Café in downtown Plymouth - stepped up and helped them out.

Kim agreed to build out the lower level of the café to give the school a place to help the children. "I can't say enough about (Kim)," Lorraine Zaksek said. "Certainly he wants what's best for the students. His goal is to bring this to as many children with autism as possible. He's very dedicated."

The Zakseks went about assembling a professional team and designing a program that helps children who are "at a point where they learn best in an individual environment," Zaksek said. Each classroom at Cross Bridge is designed for one teacher and two aides.

They teach using the "Association Method," a phonetic, multi-sensory teaching and learning strategy specifically designed for languagedeficient children. The method incorporates auditory, visual, tactile and kinesthetic cues for learning and has individual teaching time woven into all group-learning activities.

The Association Method was originally designed to help teachers deal with profoundly deaf children, but Žaksek said there are many similarities.

"Many inherent characteristics of this program are suitable for language-impaired kids," she said. "The method builds comprehension of language, reading and writing at the same time. It's very multi-sensory."

According to Zaksek, Cross Bridge students get three hours a week of occupational therapy and an hour of speech and language therapy in a curriculum

development. She said classically autistic children have complex disorders that would be easy to misconstrue.

www.hometownlife.com

"It would be easy to think these children are cognitively impaired," Zaksek said. "But with specialized techniques, we're finding many of them might even be gifted."

The biggest challenge, according to the teachers charged with executing the program, is making it specific to each child. "In a school like this, (the biggest challenge) is trying to individualize it," said teacher Leah Inman, who has a bachelor's degree in special ed from Western Michigan, with endorsements in emotional impairments and learning disabilities. "You have to make it unique to each student's needs, so they get the most out of the program."





It's time to restrict Hines traffic and preserve park

hile driving through Hines Drive recently, I looked in my rear-view mirror at the car that was tailgating me, and saw the angry face of the driver. On the shoulder were bicyclists and joggers. I kept to my 40 miles an hour, and eventually pulled over to let the speedster pass me by.

Part of the reason is that sometimes I'm the



cyclist on the shoulder, and also, I was once ticketed by a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy on Hines for speeding. The deputy basically told me I could go 45, but not 50. Hines Drive has its roots in the

early 1920s when Americans were taking to the road in great numbers, and a drive through the countryside along the Rouge

Countsthe countryside along the Rouge
River in a new Model T Ford was
considered a Sunday outing. Hines served its
purpose very well at the time, when there weren't

as many people or cars. But these days, Hines isn't a country road, it's a freeway used by commuters going to and from work. Driving it isn't a leisurely pastime; it's a tense commute in the mornings and evenings.

Because of that, it's time to look at closing portions of Hines. Portions of it could be closed, and turnarounds established. That wouldn't be much of a shock to drivers who know that when it rains too much, Hines is closed due to flooding.

A Hines Drive with restricted access would be more open to physical activities, and goodness knows we need that in a nation that's becoming the fattest in the world. Also, by simply getting out of the car and walking, running or bicycling, we become more aware of our natural surroundings. Also, in an area so dominated by the auto industry, it would be nice to have one spot where you could get away from them for a while.

Another aspect of restricting access to Hines is environmental. Erosion is one of the worst enemies of the river, and restoration of its banks is crucial to the river's overall health. There are also plenty of community resources, such as the Friends of the Rouge and Trout Unlimited that have experience in stream restoration.

Recently, I was biking through Hines when it was closed by flooding, and realized that the places where the flooding took place were ones that should be closed because they form natural wetlands, which are in need of restoration in our nation.

This isn't to say that all the asphalt should be torn up. Hines Park is a tremendous recreational resource for residents of Wayne County, with great picnic spots and athletic fields which should be accessible to the public. A series of dead ends and improved parking lots, could improve access to such facilities, and cut down on traffic. They would be safer for children.

Also, we need to change the way we look at

Come early exhibit

tables open 1/2 hour before events

Conference Topics:

What is Alzheimer's and

Answers to legal and

where to go for help

Available resources to

help you provide care

Learn about caregivers

stress & depression
Managing arthritis pain
Hear from a represen-

tative of the Medicare/ Medicaid Assistance

Program.

financial issues

parks. Grassy areas are deserts that rain water run off uses as a speedway. Native plants should be restored to those areas because deep-rooted foliage absorbs more water run off than does grass, and cuts down on erosion into the river. Wayne County is already doing that by establishing more no-cut areas, where grass lands will be established. It's also a cost saving for Wayne County.

It would be nice to see a few acres of the park restored to the way it looked 200 years ago. For example, groups such as the National Wildlife Federation and others aggressively work to leverage federal and state funds to restore and naturalize degraded riverbanks. It would be nice to see a few acres of the park restored to the way it looked 200 years ago. There is money for such programs. The National Wildlife Federation has programs to restore riverbanks that use federal money.

Restricting vehicle traffic along Hines would also put us more in touch with the way parks around the nation are now used. There has been a long-simmering debate in the Upper Peninsula at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore where occasionally a proposal is pushed to straighten and pave a rough gravel road that serves the park.

So far the paving proposal hasn't gone anywhere because outdoor enthusiasts think such a project would spoil the experience and simply put more cars on the road traveling at faster speeds..

Less auto access to Hines could also have an economic benefit to Wayne County. There would be less need for traffic enforcement, and road maintenance. That money could go to restoring natural areas or other park improvements, instead of being paid to deputies nabbing speeders or guys plowing snow.

Hines Drive was conceived during an era when it was truly an adventure to get out of your neighborhood for the day and drive to the banks of a river. Overworked factory workers and their families could enjoy nature like the more well-todo. But now it's time for the road to evolve and serve the function of getting us out of our cars to move around and work off our fast food lunches. We also need to turn off our engines to help with the rising cost of gas and global warming.

It's time to re-think the uses for Hines Drive. We should picture a park where nature, and pathways hold sway, not the auto. There are certainly enough roads in western Wayne County to handle the traffic. We don't need to use Hines as another freeway.

Jeff Counts of Livonia is the publisher of *Michigan's* Streamside Journal, a magazine dedicate to fly-fishing and upland bird hunting in Michigan. The Journal's Web site, www.michigansstreamsidejournal.com has links to stream conservation groups in Michigan.

Rotarians carry the motto of 'Service Above Self' in hearts

ust what would bring a diverse group of people out early on a Saturday morning at Schoolcraft College in Livonia? The Rotary District 6400 assembly April 8 was well-attended and inspirational for longtime members and relative new-

comers. "Beca it's the r

Julie

Brown



more selfless."

She owns a Canton insurance agency, but the Rotarian crowd is full of diverse occupations. Kennedy points with considerable pride to the clock in Heritage Park her club put in. "That's kind of cool to see our name associated with the clock," the eight-year member said.

Attorney Bill Fried's active in Livonia Rotary and chairs scholarship efforts for the district. Fried's been a Rotarian since 1980 and is also involved with such efforts as the Heart Fund, Spree and others.

"It's because I give something back to the community," said Fried, who was toting applications for such things as the Rotary World Peace Fellowship and Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship. He's always been interested in education, and that works well with his Rotary involvement.

Fried's a past president for Livonia, the post currently held by Mark Hammar for Plymouth A.M. "Ron Loiselle asked me to attend a meeting. It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed it," said Hammar, a member for several years and facility services director for the Plymouth Cultural Center.

He likes being able to target community needs, such as the special needs youngsters at Tanger Center and the club's annual party for senior citizens. "I'm just proud to be part of the club," Hammar said. "I think it's a great undertaking."

Plymouth's fortunate to have a Noon Rotary too, with Tom Kennedy, an airline captain and financial consultant, among active members. He's a 15-year Rotarian.

"I've flown to almost every country in the world," including Honduras, said Kennedy, who's involved in efforts to spread clean water and education worldwide. "We're building schools, we're doing hospitals.

"Any given day, there's a thousand Americans down there and hundreds of Canadians," he said of Honduras. Closer to home, the Botarians have helped put books in Plymouth-Canton classrooms.

"It's catching," he concluded. Rich Witkowski, outgoing Garden City club president, has found Rotary work dovetails with his work as local school superintendent. He's been a member about six years.

"We're proud of all our projects," added Bill Snodgrass, incoming Garden City president and retired Metro Airport equipment maintenance supervisor. He and Witkowski believe Rotary is a great organization.

"It makes you feel good," Snodgrass said.

Westland's well-represented in Rotary as well, with Jade Smith, 2007-08 president, attending the assembly. The LaSalle Bank branch manager joined last year.

"Also to give back," said Smith, who noted the bank gets a lot of requests for financial desupport. "I wanted to actually volunteer and des give some time."

He and Mary Gregosky, club secretary and co-owner of a Westland print shop, point with pride to their Rotary Park work, purchase of a bicycle for a handicapped boy, providing winter jackets for local needy kids and more. They're also sending sporting goods to Project Chinandega in Nicaragua.

Redford's got a club, too, and like the others welcomes new members. Mark Nadon, service chair, was recently at a Plymouth A.M. meeting for a makeup.

"I believe in supporting groups and individuals based on what I believe in," said Nadon, who likes Rotary's support of community and international endeavors.

"To serve for the purpose of serving, you'll never be disappointed," Nadon added with a smile.

Rotary marked its 100th anniversary in 2005. It's evolved with the times, including the somewhat controversial at the time decision to admit women in the late 1980s.

Club members, like Kiwanians, Lions and others, are proud of their collective efforts.

They enjoy coming together to meet diverse needs, whether in their own immediate communities or in the world at large.

Their efforts deserve recognition certainly, but most toil just for the sense of satisfaction that comes from a job well done to serve the less fortunate. They enjoy spending time with like-minded people as well.

These are busy times for many, but why not consider joining a local service club? You'll find plenty to do and lots of good people to work with.

Julie Brown is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and secretary of the Plymouth A.M. Rotary. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



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COUNTY NEWS

Treasurer extends property tax deadline

The Wayne County Treasurer's Office has extended the deadline dof delinquent 2003 property taxes. Payment will be accepted on or before April 27. Delinquent 2003 taxes not paid prior to April 28, 2006, will result in the sale of the property at public auction in the fall.

On Thursday, Wayne County Treasurer, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, announced delinquent tax collection results for Jan. 1 through April 10 of this year.

"I am pleased to report that we have processed 65,975 transactions valued at more than \$75 million."

Wojtowicz credits an extensive outreach program, the online property tax system, Web payments, and the dedication

of his staff for the success. Wojtowicz said, "It is the mission of this office to collect the delinquent property taxes in Wayne County for every municipality. We make every effort to notify homeowners of the aggressive delinquent tax collection process established by the Michigan Legislature with the passage of Public Act 123 of 1999. Our goal is to collect taxes, not foreclose or acquire property.Our efforts during these months go a long way toward achieving this goal."

In the month of February, payments on 22,071 parcels were received by the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, representing \$24,827,300, with more than \$12 million collected in the last week of the month. For the period March 1 through April 10 31,086 payments were received totaling \$36,532,185.

Of the 9,375 properties remaining with 2003 delinquent taxes outstanding, representing less than six percent of the 160,688 properties that were originally returned to the Treasurer, the collection effort continues. Approximately 2,400 of these properties are occupied.

Financial Hardship Applications are still available to taxpayers that are financially unable to make their 2003 delinquent tax payments on their primary residence.

For information or to pay delinquent taxes online, visit the Wayne County property tax Web site at

www.treasurer.waynecounty.com. More than 600,000 visitors have performed over 3,000,000 property tax searches, at no cost, since February 2004. Payments may be made via the web site, U.S. mail, or in person at the address below. Payments should be made payable to "Wayne County Treasurer."

Inventor talks about sunglasses

The Inventors Association of Metropolitan Detroit will hold their next meeting on Thursday, April 20, in the Grosse Pointe North High School, in Grosse Pointe. Jeff Morton, a businessman and former racecar driver will present the development of his award-winning Brimz sports sunglasses that clip to the brim of a cap or visor. Nearly 400,000 pairs have been sold

worldwide.

p.m. in Room 312 of the Grosse Pointe North High School at 707 Vernier (1.6 miles southeast of the intersection of I-94 and Vernier at the Eight Mile exit) in Grosse Pointe. Admission is free and all welcome. For information, call Frank Wales, club President, at (586) 776-3658, or Keith Dunlop, (248) 391-3909.

Levin: Follow Afghan policy in Iraq

BY ALEX LUNDBERG STAFF WRITER

What the United States has going for it in Afghanistan is what it lacks in Iraq, Michigan U.S. Sen. Carl Levin told a gathering as part of a freewheeling speech Tuesday at Oakland University.

Levin spoke to approximately 300 students, faculty and Oakland County residents on a swing through Michigan.

After being introduced, the senator brought the crowd up to speed on the situation in the Middle East, particularly ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, both of which he visited recently.

"I'm optimistic about Afghanistan," he said. "Obviously, we have great challenges there, but there are things (there) we don't have in Iraq."

Levin said the U.S. has allies in Afghanistan in the form of UN troops, which include a Muslim force from neighboring Turkey. The entire operation there is on the verge of being turned over to NATO forces.

"There are tribal differences, but those have been overcome," he said. "They've been subsumed into the Afghan army."

That's one of the differences between that country and Iraq. where the senator is less than optimistic about the nation's interests there. He said the absence of international support, the underlying tension of disparate religious groups and mistakes made in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq make it a very different operation.

"The decision, made carelessly and recklessly, to dis-



Sen. Carl Levin talked about a wide range of topics including the Iraq war, illegal immigration and the future of manufacturing at Oakland University Tuesday afternoon.

band the Iraqi army was a mistake," Levin said. "The army, not the elite Republican Guard, had the support of Iraqis in general. They were seen as a national asset."

Whether one supports the invasion of Iraq or not, he said, is no longer the question. What is at issue is how the U.S. maximizes the chances of success. Success, he said, will have to be political rather than military.

"The statement from the administration is that we'll be there until we're not needed. Based on that, we'll be there forever," Levin said. "They have to promptly put together a unity government. We are not going to be there for an unlimited period of time."

In reference to tensions with Iran, he said even the discussion of a nuclear option was "hare-brained" and a tactic that could only play into the hands of religious extremists.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Around 300 people showed up to hear Michigan Sen. Carl Levin speak.

www.hometownlife.com

Of those who got up to ask questions of the senator, many wondered about the future of Michigan's economy. Levin said the administration doesn't take the needs of the manufacturing sector seriously and, until that happens, things are going to be bad for states like Michigan.

He favors an "Apollo-type" total-government initiative to transform the manufacturing economy

Justin Zatkoff of Birmingham, a member of the Oakland College Republicans, asked Levin about the outlook for students looking for work after leaving college.

"We need more people in science, math and engineering courses," Levin said. "The administration has made the largest educational cut in U.S. history and there's a direct relation between education and jobs. If we're going to care about jobs, we have to care about education."

Levin said the administration doesn't take the needs of the manufacturing sector seriously and, until that happens, things are going to be bad for states like Michigan.

gy Professor Linda Morrison said it was a good thing for students to hear from someone with the political experience and depth of knowledge Levin has.

"It's incredibly refreshing to hear him speak directly about his experiences," she said. "It made me feel much more connected. I liked his message that you should encourage people you agree with and challenge people you don't."

Oakland University sociolo-

Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free Surgery!" message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com OE0841618





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Hats off to Neal Whalers survive thanks to forward's 3 goals

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Each time the "Urgency Meter" has spiked during the 2006 Ontario Hockey League playoffs, so has the Plymouth Whalers' level of play.

The latest example was Friday night's 5-2 victory over Guelph in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinal series, which the Storm led, 3-2, heading into Saturday's Game 6 in Guelph.

Friday night's triumph improved the Whalers' record to 3-0 in elimination games this spring - a statistic that doesn't surprise Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci.

"This team has responded well all year when its backs have been against the wall," said Vellucci. "They showed it Wednesday night when we were down two goals in the third period and came back to win, and they showed it tonight."

Plymouth's James Neal brought the crowd of 2,804 to their feet three times Friday night when he registered a hat trick.

The 6-foot-3, 190-pound Dallas Stars draftee also made sure that a long journey for two of his relatives Friday afternoon was well worth the gas money.

"My mom (Deborah) and aunt (Liz) made the trip from Whitby (Ontario), which is about five hours from here," said Neal. "They get to as many games as possible. My mom always give me advice.

'We didn't want hockey to end tonight. We wanted to play as hard as we could right to the last whistle and try to take it to a Game 7."

One of the primary reasons for the Whalers' resurgence in the Guelph series - which they once trailed 3-0 — has been the return of Dan Collins, who missed 11 weeks while recuperating from back surgery before returning in Game 3 of the OHL Western Conference semifinals. The re-appearance of the high-scoring forward couldn't have come at a better time, Neal said.

"Dan sees you wherever you are on the ice and all you have to do is give him a yell and he'll put the puck on your stick," said Neal. "He's definitely given us a boost since he's been back. He gives us scoring power.

"I've also got to credit (Evan, Brophey and Bola Vigilante, They were a big boly to me believe Galle back. They've definitely boosted us."

The Whalers' first goal had a baseball feel to it when Andrew Fournier literally swatted a waist-high pass from Wes Cunningham past Guelph goalie Ryan MacDonald to put Plymouth up 1-0 just 3:37 into





GCYBSA news

Several important Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association events will be taking place on Saturday, April 22, at the Canton Sports Center, which is located at 46555 Michigan Ave. Following is a list of events:

A free coaches clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Field 8 of the CSC;

🔳 A free Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run event for players between the ages of 7 and 14 will be held on Field 5. The check-in for players is 10 a.m. and the contest will begin at 10:30 a.m. A free players clinic will be held immediately following the cone test.

🖀 Coaches' uniform 🛣 pick-up will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the CSC's outdoor pavilion (or in the restaurant if it is raining). Each team 🖉 must send a representative to pick up the uni forms on April 22.

I Canton Township will offer a free special event, "The Sky's the Limit.". from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be inflatables, high-flying frisbee dogs and much more.

For more information.

on the events, contact Ann-Marie Carravallah at (734) 483-5600.

Canton golf outin

Outing will be held

The 4th Annual Cantor Chiefs Football Golf

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, B3

Plymouth Whalers forward James Neal notched a hat trick and an assist in Friday night's 5-2 victory over Guelph in Game 5 of the Ontarie Hockey League Western Conference semi-finals.

Plymouth Christian Academy's Bethany Welton (left) advances the ball past Sterling Heights Bethesda's Kyleigh Keyes during Thursday afternoon's 8-0 PCA victory. The Eagles will take a 4-0 record into their April 25 showdown at Michigan Independent Athletic Conference power Oakland Christian.

State State States



PCS edges Mustangs, 13-12

Plymouth-Canton-Salem lacrosse player Mitch French has Northville's number. As a result, the Warriors'

won-loss numbers this year are 3-0.

On Tuesday, French scored seven goals to lead PCS to a thrilling 12-11 come-frombehind victory over the visiting Mustangs (4-2). The Warriors trailed 10-6 heading into the fourth quarter. Sophomore Joey Underwood netted the game-winner with 50 seconds to play. French scored six goals against Northville in a 2005 state playoff game.

"This truly was a game that no team deserved to lose," said PCS coach Mike Costello. "Northville took it to us for

LACROSSE

three quarters, but our best players played their best in the fourth.

"I told our guys that it was gut-check time at the start of the fourth quarter and they all responded with a great effort. I am so proud of all 27 guys." Joining French and

Underwood in the goal column for the Warriors were Johnny Groat (two), John Savino and Jared Ruark. Groat and Nick Cote both contributed a pair of assists while Ruark was credited with one helper.

PCS led 3-2 after one quarter, but the Mustangs rallied with five second-quarter goals

to secure a 7-4 halftime advan-tage. Northville improved its cushion to 10-6 with one quarter to play. The game's statistics were as tight as the final score. Both teams unleashed 25 shots. Northville won 15-of-27 faceoffs while the Warriors notched more ground balls, 26-21. Groat won five of the final six face-offs — and 8-of-10 overall - to give his team valuable late-game possessions. On Thursday, the Warriors

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH WHALERS

dropped Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 10-4. PCS returns to action April 20 when it hosts Ann Arbor

Greenhills at the Plymouth High School junior varsity stadium. The opening face-off is set for 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, begin ning with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start at Fox Hills Classic course in Plymouth Township. For more information on the event, call (734 467-8148 or (734) 981 9385.

The 2005-06 Canto wrestling program earned Academic All-State status from the Michigan Wrestling Association. Teams need ed to have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher to attain the honor.

Chiefs honored

Crusaders triumph

Madonna senior soft ball pitcher Erin Brockert hurled 13 innings Thursday against Concordia.and.earned 2-1 triumph when fresh man Mary Kate Setta sinaled to right, scoring pinch-runner Sarah Zimmer with the winning run.

Brockert (16-3) gave up. one earned run, walking three and striking out 10 in her lengthy stint. Taking a tough defeat for the Cardinals was Auna Shaffer.

Leading MU's 13-hit attack were sophomore third baseman Heather Richardson (Canton) and freshman first baseman Alison Grant, with three hits each. Stephanie Day, a sophomore catcher from Livonia Ladywood went 2-for-6.

Kick-start PCA girls soccer team surges to 4-0 start with Oakland on deck

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

After acing four straight quizzes, the Plymouth Christian Academy girls soccer team should be ready for its biggest test of the season when it returns from Spring Break next week.

The Eagles boosted their record to 4-0 overall and in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Thursday afternoon with a resounding 8-0 triumph over Sterling Heights Bethesda Christian (0-4, 0-3).

PCA, which has outscored its opponents 36-1 so far, will travel to Auburn Hills April 25 to take on MIAC power Oakland Christian. The Lancers will also take an unblemished record into the contest.

"We had another total team effort today," said PCA coach Bob Lorion. "The way we've been playing, I think we have a good chance of going up to Oakland and winning that game. Last year they beat us 1-0, but I think

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, B2

Plymouth squad remains unbeaten

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Two of the best softball pitchers in the Western Lakes Activities Association - Plymouth's Claire Ostrowski and Walled Lake Central's Brittany Burkhardt - squared off Wednesday afternoon in what promised to be a low-scoring duel.

The game turned out to be low-scoring — but only for the Vikings, who were rocked 15-2 by the Wildcats.

The victory improved Plymouth to 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the WLAA. Central slipped to 3-2 overall.

Ostrowski, who hurled a no-hitter in her previous start, held host Central hitless for four innings before yielding an infield hit in the bottom of the fifth.

Even that hit was questionable as Plymouth second baseman Beth Heldmeyer's throw appeared to beat the Central runner by a step after Heldmeyer made a diving stop on the sharp grounder, Plymouth coach Val Canfield said.

The game was shortened to five innings due to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10-run mercy rule.

SOFTBALL

"All of our cylinders are working right now," said Canfield, whose team will be traveling to South Carolina over Spring Break for a week of practices. "Now, the exciting part will be to see where we go from here."

Plymouth never looked back after pouncing on Burkhardt with four first-inning runs.

The Wildcats added one in the second, four in the third, five in the fourth and one in the fifth. Junior catcher Madison Dresser enjoyed a

productive afternoon, going 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles and six RBI.

Other top offensive producers for the winners were Kim Klonowski (2-for-3, double, two RBI), Heldmeyer (3-for-5) and Erin Rodes (two hits). Both Heldmeyer and Rodes are freshmen.

LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 16, 2006

Canton sprints past Warriors to even record

Canton's boys track team returned to its winning ways Tuesday afternoon with an 82-55 victory at Walled Lake Western. The victory improved the Chiefs' dual-meet record to 1-1 -both overall and in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

B2

(CP)

The Chiefs had their 21-meet victory streak snapped April 6 against Plymouth.

Senior Andy Rossow enjoyed a productive afternoon for Canton, winning the 400-meter dash (56.3 seconds) and the 200 (24.1). He also finished second in the high jump (5 feet, 10 inches) behind only teammate Eric Thornton, who won with an effort of 6₈3.

"We ran well in a lot of cases with some kids getting their best times," said Canton coach Bob Richardson. "There were a few cases where we didn't run our best, but we still ran well enough to win."

The Chiefs return to action Saturday when they defend their title at the Dearborn Elks Relays, which will be held at Dearborn High School.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 81, PLYMOUTH 56: On the heels of a huge victory over cross-campus rival Canton last week, the Wildcats were hampered by the absence of three key performers who were sidelined due to disciplinary reasons by coach Kurt Britnell.

Hopefully, the young men who didn't get to compete today learned a

BOYS PREP TRACK

valuable life lesson," said Britnell. "We did have some young guys who really stepped up in their absence and peformed well."

Among the day's top highlights for the Wildcats were Cam Scharchburg's 6-feet, 1-inch firstplace effort in the high jump and the 3,200-meter relay team's victory, Britnell noted.

W.L. CENTRAL 88, SALEM 49: The Rocks (0-2) received a strong effort from Baze Efremov, who placed first in both the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles events.

"I was really encouraged by our team effort," said first-year Salem coach Kyle Metever. "We improved in almost all areas from our dual meet last week against Churchill. we have a very young team, and I was proud of all the younger guys who stepped up and filled roles.

"I look forward to seeing the team grow and improve as the year continues."

CANTON 82 W.L. WESTERN 55 Tuesday at W.L. Western

Discus: 1. Steve Paye (C), 144-9; 2. Joe Zugaj (C), 133-7; 3. Jeff Chapman (C), 109-11. Shot put: 1. Joe Zugaj (C), 44-6.50; 2. Steve Paye (C), 40-3.50; 3. Chris Lanier (C), 39-4. High Jump: 1. Eric Thornton (C), 6-3; 2. Andy Rossow (C), 5-10: 3. Steve Pave (C), 5-8.

Long jump: 1. Monette (WLW), 19-2.25; 2. Kassell (WLW), 18-10.50; 3. Adam Somers (C), 18-9.75. Pole vault: 1. Doyle (WLW), 10-6; 2. Gantchar (WLW), 10-0; 3. Brian Ravovitis (C), 9-6. 3,200 relay: 1. Canton (Scott Zech, Charles Wolfe, Scott Reidsma, Phaltiel Whitlock), 8:53.9; 2. W.L. Western, 9:04. 110 hurdles: 1. Kroll (WLW), 16.6; 2. Tim Belcher (C), 16.9; 3. Skory (WLW), 16.3. 100 dash: 1. Cela (WLW), 11.4; 2. Dalton Walser (C), 11.5; 3. Morelli (WLW), 11.7. 800 run: 1. W.L. Western, 1:37.2; 2. Canton, 1:37.4. 1,600 run: 1. Cheadle (WLW), 4:53.0; 2. Eric Zech (C), 4:54.2; 3. Josh Hurst (WLW), 4:58.3. 400 relay: 1. W.L. Western, 46.5: 2. Canton, 47.9. 400 dash: 1. Andy Rossow (C), 56.3: 2. Monette (WLW), 56.4; 3. Josh Etim (C), 58.4. 300 hurdles: 1. Cyrus Azizi (C), 43.1; 2. Sherif Hassanien (C), 46.2; 3. Tim Belcher (C), 46.9. 800 run: 1. Phaltiel Whitlock (C), 2:11.4; 2. Cheadle (WLW), 2:13.0: 3. Scott Zech (C). 2:14.4 200 dash: 1. Andy Rossow (C), 24.1; 2. Daiton Walser (C), 24.2; 3. Doe (WLW), 24.2. 3,200 run: 1. Mahakien (WLW), 10:51: 2. Charles Wolfe (C), 10:56.2; 3. Duncan Spitz (C), 11:02. 1,600 relay: 1. Canton (Adam Somers, Phaltiel Whitlock. Tim Belcher, Cyrus Azizi), 3:41.2; 2. W.L. Western, 3:52.0. DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 1-1 overall, 1-1 WLAA; W.L.

WESTERN: 0-3, 0-2. LIVONIA FRANKLIN 81 PLYMOUTH 56 **Tuesday at Franklin**

Discus: 1. Bollerud (LF), 135-0.5; 2. Gerald Lou (P), 130-0; 3. Derek Bradford (P), 113-5. Shot put: 1. Shaun Bailey (P), 44-8; 2. Wengert (LF), 42-6.5: 3. Wood (LF), 41.7.5. High jump: 1. Cam Scharchburg (P), 6-1; 2. Chynoweth (LF), 5-7; 3. Wiley (LF), 5-7. Long jump: 1. LaBroderick Caldwell (P), 20-4.25; 2. Woolfork (LF), 19-0.25; 3. Williams (LF), 18-11. Pole vault: 1. Sylvester (LF), 12-0; 2. Nate Sherwood (P), 12-0: 3. Ben Ambrose (P), 11-6. 3,200 relay: 1. Plymouth (Kyle Wallath, Justin Huey, Anthony Scaparo, Sean Dillon), 9:00; 2. Franklin, 9:35. 110 hurdles: 1. Culbertson (LF), 15.42; 2. Nate Gholston (P), 15.43; 3. Nick Plescia (P), 16.05. 100 dash: 1. Kelly (LF), 11.22; 2. Williams (LF), 11.40; 3.

Nate Ghoiston (P), 11.45 800 relay: 1. Franklin, 1:33.40; 2. Plymouth, 1:42.44. 1,600 run: 1. Anthony Scaparo (P), 4:52.0; 2. Kreutovich (LF), 4:52.48; 3. Matt Lewandowski (P), 5:04.24. 400 relay: 1. Franklin, 45.05; 2. Plymouth, 47.2. 400 dash: 1. Hartley (LF), 53.7; 2. Sean Dillon (P), 53.8; 3. Josh Le Duc (P), 54.68. 300 hurdles: 1. Culbertson (LF), 42.92; 2. Nick Plescia (P), 44.51; 3. Nate Gholston (P), 44.54. 800 run: 1. Kyle Wallath (P), 2:05.5; 2. Wood (LF), 2:06.0; 3. Chynoweth (LF), 2:10. 200 dash: 1. Kelly (LF), 23.06; 2. Bell (LF), 23.30; 3. Farthing (LF), 23.6. 3.200 run: 1. Kreutovich (LF), 10:36; 2. Pat Slavens (P), 10:59; 3. Alex Noble (P), 11:11. 1,600 relay: 1. Franklin, 3:44; 2. Plymouth, 4:08. DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Plymouth, 1-1 overall, 1-1 WLAA; Franklin, 2-0 and 2-0.

W.L. CENTRAL 88 SALEM 49

Wednesday at Salem Discus: 1. White (WLC), 120-9.50; 2. Long (WLC), 110-9; 3. Jim Carbill (S), 105-3. Shot put: 1. White (WLC), 43-2; 2. Denison (WLC), 42-5.75; 3. Mo Saiddi (S), 40-7.75. High jump: 1. Atiyeh (WLC), 5-10; 2. Jace Bearden (S), 5-6; 3. Adam Kashoro (S), 5-6. Long jump: 1. Long (WLC), 19-9.50; 2. Robinson (WLC), 19-4.50; 3. Scott Dreaver (S), 19-3.25. Pole vault: 1. J.P. Treusdell (S), 9-6; 2. Luck (WLC), 9-6; 3. Fralick (WLC), 9-0. 3,200 relay: 1. Salem, 9:32.5; 2. Central, 10:20.8. 110 hurdles: 1. Base Efremov (S), 15.64; 2. Armstrong (WLC), 17.7; 3. Fralick (WLC), 18.2. 100 dash: 1. Bahri (WLC), 11.67; 2. Robinson (WLC), 12.07; 3. Adam Kashoro (S), 12.08. 800 rélay: 1. Salem, 1:42.7; 2. Central, 1:46.3. 1,600 run: 1. Maxwell (WLC), 4:51.9; 2. Sanfilippo (WLC), 4:57; 3. Jimmy Walsh (S), 5:03. 400 retay: 1. Central, 47.25; 2. Salem, 48.23. 400 dash: 1. Tisdal (WLC), 54.5; 2. Leggs (WLC), 55.8; 3. Jace Bearden (S), 56.8. 300 hurdles: 1. Baze Efremov (S), 43.15; 2. Richard Lorey (S), 46.07; 3. Fralick (WLC), 46.26. 800 run: 1. Maxwell (WLC), 2:11,2: 2. Leggs (WLC), 2:17.7; 3. Alex Lumley (S), 2:19.0.

200 dash: 1. Bahri (WLC), 25.1; 2. Sesi (WLC), 25.2; 3. Stephen Telenko (S), 25.6. 3,200 run: 1. Sanfilippo (WLC), 10:17; 2. Craig Cowing (S), 11:05; 3. Kevin deBear (S), 11:06. 1,600 relay: 1. Salem, 3:55.3; 2. Central, 3:55.9.

ANN ARBOR PIONEER TRI-MEET April 8 at EMU

Following are Canton athletes who placed Discus: 3. Joe Zugaj, 117-9. High jump: 1. Andy Rossow, 6-2; 3. Eric Thornton, 5-10. Pole vault: 1. Ryan Langdon, 10-6; 2. Rob Lindman, 10-6; 4. Brian Rakovitis, 9-6 400 dash: 1. Cyrus Azizi, 51.1; 3. Andy Rossow, 53.4. 1,600 relay: 2. (Andy Rossow, Phaltiel Whitlock, Ryan Langdon, Cyrus Azizi), 3:35.3.

PINCKNEY 9TH & 10TH GRADE MEET April 8 at Pinckney H.S.

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Grand Ledge, 112 points; 2. Pinckney, 106.5; 3. Canton, 76.5; 4. Adrian, 66; 5. Ann Arbor Huron, 50.

Following are Canton athletes who placed: Discus: 5. Kyle Winconcek/Ben Bosker, 135-3 Long jump: 3. Adam Somers/Tosin Adedeii, 33-1. High jump: 4. Josh Etim/Nick Turnbull, 5-2; Pole vault: 1. Chris McGinnis/Chris Jahoda, 17-6. Shot put: 5. Kyle Winconek/Ben Bosker, 53-0. 4 x 1,600 relay: 4. Josh Hurst, Duncan Spitz, Kyle Clinton, Greg Reed (53 points). Distance relay: 4. Scott Zech, Josh Etim, Josh Hurst, Duncan Spitz, 12:12.7. 300 hurdles: 4. Josh Itim, 48.4; 6 (tie) Chris McGinnis, 49.6. 3.200 relay: 4. Aaron McClellan, Kyle Clinton, Greg Reed; Scott Zech, 9:58.6.

400 relay: 1. Dalton Walser, Adam Somers, Ocie Lewis, Eric Piwowar, 47.0.

800 relay: 3. Dalton Walser, Adam Somers, Ocie Lews, Eric Piwowar, 1:39.3.

Shuttle hurdles: 1. Tim Belcher, Tosin Adedeji, Chris McGinnis, Nick Turnbull, 1:13.1.

1,600 relay: 3. Adam Somers, Tim Belcher, Josh Etim, Dalton Walser, 3:47.5.

Vaulters lead Wildcats to triumph at Franklin

Plymouth's girls track team established itself as one of the teams to beat in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division with a kéy 74-63 victory over Livonia Franklin Tuesday afternoon. With the win, the Wildcats improved to 2-1 overall and 2-0 in the WLAA.

"The key today was our balance," said coach John Dunn, whose team is idle until April 25 when it will compete against Salem and Canton in the City Meet. "We knew Franklin was strong in the field events, which they were, but Katie Hale and Julie Hersey got us eight points in the pole vault which was important. We won three of four relays, too, and when you can do that you're not going to lose too many dual meets."

GIRLS PREP TRACK

CANTON 73, W.L. WESTERN 64: The Chiefs evened their record at 1-1 with a narrow victory over the visiting Warriors.

"Our distance runners were strong all day," said Canton coach Chris Imber. "Our hurdlers also came up big for us."

Senior Becky McCormack had a big afternoon, winning the 1,6° J- and 3,200-meter runs. She also was a member of the Chiefs' first-place 3,200-meter relay team. Beth Pruitt broke the tape first for Canton in both the 100- and 300-meter hurdles. PLYMOUTH 74 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 63

Tuesday at Franklin Discus: 1. Jenna Hudy (LF), 108-6; 2. Robyn Whalen (LF), 103-0; 3. Sam Thrushman (LF), 84-0. Shot put: 1. Jenna Hudy (LF), 38-3; 2. Robyn Whalen (LF), 34-0; 3. Lauren Brown (LF), 30-9. High Jump: 1. Brittany Petty (P), 5-2; 2. Shaakira Haywood (P), 4-7; 3. Sam Culp (LF), 4-4. Long jump: 1. Megan Wilson (LF), 16-1; 2. Stephanie Okolo (P), 14-10: 3. Casev Lynett (LF), 14-6. Pole vault: 1. Katie Hale (P), 7-8; 2. Julie Hersey (P), 7-8; 3. Anastasia Bending (LF), 7-2. 3,200 relay: 1. Franklin (Allison Milican, Kari Aaarela, Devan Walley, Laura Marshall), 10:49; 2. Plymouth,

11:04.6. 100 hurdies: 1. Casey Lynett (LF), 16.36; 2. Brittany Petty (P), 18.18; 3. Amanda Mondella (LF), 18.30. 100 dash: 1. Megan Wilson (LF), 12.66; 2. Stephanie Okolo (P), 12.91; 3. Jill Morton (P), 13.31.

800 relay: 1. Plymouth (Brittany Petty, Chrystien Guyton, Whitney Askew, Janet Hanchett), 1:57.6; 2. Franklin, 1:58.69

1,600 run: 1. Allison Milican (LF), 5:45; 2. Parn Bhullar (P), 5:47; 3. Molly Slavens (P), 5:56.4. 400 relay: 1. Plymouth (Stephanie Okolo. Chrystien Guyton, Whitney Askew, Jill Morton), 53,03; 2, Franklin,

400 dash: 1. Janet Hanchett (P), 1:05.9; 2. Julie Hersey (P), 1:09.7: 3. Killebrew (LF), 1:11.1. 300 hurdles: 1. Casey Lynett (LF), 49.82; 2. Mandy McManus (P), 55.16; 3. Amanda Mondella (LF), 56.1. 800 run: 1. Jackie Beeler (P), 2:37; 2. Laura Marshall (LF), 2:40.38; 3. Sarah Sherwood (P), 2:43. 200 dash: 1. Megan Wilson (LF), 26.98; 2. Stephanie Okolo (P), 27.91; 3. Jill Morton (P), 28.0. 3,200 run: 1. Pam Bhullar (P), 12:33.0; 2. Molly Slavens (P), 13:08; 3. Saarela (LF), 13:26. 1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth (Janet Hanchett, Gabrielle Zuzo, Brittany Petty, Julie Hersey), 4:35.67; 2. Franklin, 4:37. DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Plymouth, 2-1 overall, 2-0 WLAA; Franklin, 1-1 WLAA,

CANTON 73 W.L. WESTERN 64 Wednesday at Canton

Discus: 1. Ashlev McCiellan (C), 78-7: 2. Alvssa Scalera (C), 76-10; 3. Jessica Kolton (C), 71-10. Shot put: 1. Alyssa Scalera (C), 29-2; 2. Ashley McClelian (C), 28-5.75; 3. Sarah Hassan (C), 23-4. Long jump: 1. Tonya Mesta (WLW), 14-10; 2. Carly Zeitlin (WLW), 13-9; 3, Brittany McKinney (C), 13-5, High jump: 1. Jessica Novakowski (WLW), 5-1; 2. Izabela Paszkowska (C), 4-11; 3. Megan Matheny (C), 4-11.

Pole vauit: 1. Krueger (WLW), 7-2; 2. Tovel (WLW), 6-8; 3. Fink (WLW), 6-0.

3,200 relay: 1. Canton (Becky McCormack, Jennifer Thomas, Lisa Clinton, Kelli Bargowski), 10:47; 2. Western, 11:13.

100 hurdles: 1. Beth Pruitt (C), 18.44; 2. izabela Paszkowska (C), 18.83; 3. Lauren Longyear (WLW), 19.56. 100 dash: 1. Carly Zeitlin (WLW), 13.12; 2. Tonya Mesta (WLW), 13.30; 3. Toria Davis (C), 13.44. 800 relay: 1. Canton (Brittany McKinney, Toria Davis, Carrie Hause, Oshia Lewis), 1:58; 2. Western, 2:00. 1,600 run: 1. Becky McCormack (C), 5:46; 2. Wessel (WLW), 5:50; 3. Doherty (WLW), 5:53. 400 relay: 1. Western, 54.62; 2. Canton, 56.18. 400 dash: 1. Jessica Novakowski (WLW), 1:05; 2. Carolina Guimaraes (WLW), 1:10; 3. Carrie Hause (C), 1:10.17. 300 hurdles: 1. Beth Pruitt (C), 56.78; 2. Meghan Howard (C), 57.04; 3. Lauren Longyear (WLW), 57.06. 800 run: 1. Kelli Bargowski (C), 2:36; 2. Jennifer Thomas (C), 2:41; 3. Wessel (WLW), 2:47. 200 dash: 1. Zeitlin (WLW), 30.06; 2. Toria Davis (C), 30.42; 3. Oshia Lewis (C), 31.00. 3,200 run: 1. Becky McCormack (C), 12:39; 2. Doherty (WLW), 12:44: 3. Jessica Carpinalli (WLW), 13:06. 1,600 relay: 1. Western, 4:33.5; 2. Canton, 4:44. DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 1-1; W.L. Western, 0-2.



LOCAL SPORTS





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eye on the ball

Plymouth Christian Academy's Trevor Zinn takes a rip at a pitch during Thursday afternoon's game against Allen Park Inter-City Baptist. Baptist Park won, 7-4, behind the strong pitching of Justin Barber. Further details of the contest were not available at presstime.

Canton sweeps Swartz Creek

A combination of solid pitching and timely hitting led Canton's baseball team to a double-header sweep of Swartz Creek Thursday afternoon, 5-3 and 3-1.

The Chiefs will take a 6-0 record into Tuesday's home twinbill against Saline. The opening pitch is set for 4 p.m.

Junior right-hander Caleb Larner paced the game-one victory over Swartz Creek by tossing a complete-game 4-hitter. Larner struck out four, walked one and did not yield an earned run. Chris Woudstra (2-for-4, run, two stolen bases), Blaine Paden (2-for-3, RBI) and Jon Puskar (2-for-4, RBI) led a balanced Canton offensive attack.

Trailing 3-2, Canton scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth before adding an insurance marker in the sixth.

In the nightcap, junior southpaw Kyle Gring earned the mound victory with 5.2 innings of solid relief, allowing just six hits and one walk while



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Canton's Kyle Gring, pictured above eluding a pick-off attempt during a game 66° earlier this season, contributed at the plate and on the mound in the Chiefs 66° double-header sweep of Swartz Creek Thursday afternoon.

striking out two. Gring helped his own cause with an RBI single and a stolen base. Justin Latin went 2-for-4 with a triple and senior catcher Tarik Khasawneh chipped in with a two-run double.

"Our pitchers did a great job Thursday," said Canton coach Scott Dickey. "They kept the hitters off-balance, threw strikes and hit their spots."

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

contest. John Armstrong also notched an assist on the goal.

Neal doubled Plymouth's lead to 2-0 with 45 seconds left in the opening period when he slipped a rebound shot past MacDonald, who was still recovering from turning away Steve Ward's sizzling blue-line slap shot. Vigilante and Ward assisted.

Plymouth goalie Justin Peters, who stopped 29 shots, set the early tone with 2:30 left in the opening period when he denied Guelph's best player, Matt D'Agostini, with a kick save from short range.

The Whalers' could have started warming up their Guelph-bound bus during the second period, which they thoroughly dominated on the way to a 5-0 advantage. Neal recorded his second goal 1:54 into the second stanza when he re-directed a Fournier shot. Five minutes later, Brophey scored off a rebound.

Neal triggered the heaving of at least three hats onto the Compuware Sports Arena ice surface with 9:25 left in the period when he re-directed a Collins' shot into the back of

BY ED WRIGHT Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn goalie Melissa Frederick did everything but build a brick wall in front of the net during Wednesday afternoon's game against visiting Salem.

But despite Frederick's incredible effort, the Rocks knocked off the Rockets, 5-2.

"She was phenomenal," said Salem coach Joe Nora, referring to Frederick's 14 saves. "She stopped at least four shots in the first half when we were right on the line. It was easy to see why she'll be playing at Eastern Michigan next year."

The victory improved Salem to 2-1-1 heading into Spring Break.

Tara Duncan paced the Rocks' offensive attack with two goals and three assists.

PREP SOCCER

Rocks knock off Rockets

Other Salem players who managed to figure out Frederick were Katie Shull (one goal, two assists) and Kelly Adsit and Miranda Evers, who both netted one goal.

Sophomore keeper Kristen Dondzilla notched the victory for the Rocks.

"It was a tough game; the conditions were very wet and windy," said Nora. "It was kind of a grudge match in the middle of the field and we were able to pull it out."

Melanie Stawkey scored both goals for Westland John Glenn (1-6-1, 0-1).

CANTON 6, FRANKLIN 0: In a WLAA-Western Division game Wednesday, Lisa Ealy had two goals and one assist to lead the Chiefs (4-2) past Livonia Franklin (3-4-1, 1-1).

Despite the loss, Franklin coach Jen Barker singled out the play of senior midfielder Jessica Austin and junior midfielder Cassie LaPrairie.

"We let the game get away from us in the first half," said Barker, whose team trailed 3-0. "In the first 10 minutes of the second half, we put significant pressure on their backs, but couldn't capitalize on the many chances we had in front of the goal.

"The rest of the second half was a much different team for us than what we saw in the first 40 minutes. Ealy gave us some trouble in the back and we couldn't recover. We're still trying to find a way to string 80 minutes of good soccer together and be confident in ourselves."



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the net.

"James is having a great playoffs for us," said Vellucci, referring to Neal. "It seems like the puck kind of follows him around the ice, and he knows what to do with it when he's around the net."

Guelph's D'Agostini and Jason Pitton scored meaningless goals at the 6:17 and 3:48 marks, respectively, of the final period.

Guelph, which pulled MacDonald in favor of Jason Guy before the third period, outshot Plymouth, 31-28.

GAME 4 RECAP: On Wednesday night, Collins' third goal of the game at 10:55 of overtime gave the Whalers a 4-3 come-frombehind victory.

Neal scored the other Plymouth goal and Vigilante added three assists.

Ryan Callahan, D'Agostini and Rafael Rotter scored for the Storm.

Guelph led 2-0 late in the second period when Neal started the Whaler comeback when he scored in tight quarters in front of the Guelph net, beating MacDonald with a backhand shot at 19:05 of the second period.

After Rotter restored Guelph's two-goal lead at 3-1 at 1:30 of the third period, the Whaler power play went to work to tie the game. Both of the goals (8:05 and 15:11, respectively) were by Collins, with hard shots from the left wing that found the back of the net.

In overtime, both teams had a chance to win and Collins hit the goal post about five minutes into the extra session. The teams were skating a 4-on-4 when Cunningham found Collins on the left wing at the Guelph blue line. Collins skated to the left faceoff dot and beat MacDonald with a hard shot for the game winner.

Guelph outshot Plymouth, 42-35, with Peters stopping 39of-42 in picking up his fifth victory of the playoffs.



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SPORTS ROUNDUP

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Canton's High Velocity Sports will be offering all-sport and craft camps during next week's spring break.

The all-sport camp includes several activities, including flag football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball and floor hockey. The camp will be offered daily or weekly. There are also halfday options (9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.) for kids between the ages of 5 and 8. Full-day camps for kids between 7 and 12 will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The camp fee is \$25 per day or \$99 per week for half-day campers and \$45 per day and \$189 per week for full-day participants.

The crafts camp, which will offer tie-dyeing, jewelry designing and many more activities, is offered to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 from 9 a.m. to noon, April 17-21. The cost is \$115, which includes the fee for all supplies.

For more information, visit www.hvsports.com or call (734) HV-SPORT.

HVS's full summer camp schedule is available on the above-listed Web site.

YOUTH GOLF

Plymouth's Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center will serve as one of 105 national qualifying sites for the 2006 Mutual of Omaha Drive, Chip & Putt competition. The event, a free golf skills competition for kids between the ages of 7 and 14, will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at Fox Hills.

More than 35,000 youngster throughout the country are expected to compete in the DC&P. Winners from each local event will have the opportunity to compete in regional championships and possibly represent their hometowns at the national championship in October.

For more information, including a complete schedule and registration form, visit www.TheGolfChannel.com.

GEMS TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Plymouthbased Gems on Ice synchronized ice-skating team will be held on the following dates:

Preliminary/Pre-Juvenile (skaters must be 12 and under as of July 1, 2006 and should have passed FS 2 and at the beginning test levels for moves in the field) — May 4, 6:10-7

Intermediate/Novice (must be between the ages of 11 and 15 as of July 1, 2006, and have passed pre-juvenile moves in the field) – April 23 and April 27;

Juniors (must be 12 years old and older as of July 1, 2006 and have passed intermediate moves in the field) - April 27 and April 30; and

Masters (25 years old and older) - June 4 and June 11, 7:30-9 p.m.

If skaters meet the tryout requirements for multiple divisions, they should attend the tryouts for both divisions. Rosters for all the teams (except Masters) will be announced in early May. The Masters roster will be announced in June.

The tryout fee is \$50 per skater for any and all tryouts.

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.

TOP 50 GOLF

The popular Top 50 Jr. Golf Tour, which is organized by the non-profit National Golf Scholarship Association, has added 10 events in southeastern Michigan to its 2006 schedule. The tour will offer 27 events throughout Michigan for its participants.

Players compete in the following divisions: girls 15 and under; girls 16 and over; boys 15 and under; and boys 16 and over. The tour offers free golf and scholarship opportunities for its member players.

Registration is now open for

he Greater Detroit **Bowling Association** closed the final chapter of a truly great organization that worked tirelessly over the past century (since 1912) to help make the sport of bowling better.

April 3 was the final regular meeting of the

President

directors. Tony

Alley mered down his gavel for the last time and the new Harrison guard will take

AL

the helm on May 1. The era of the Metro Detroit

U.S Bowling Congress Association is about to begin. Certified league bowlers will notice few, if any changes that will affect the game. It's just a matter of what takes place behind the scenes.

One of the most significant activities of the organization has been involved with is providing local competition. There has been and will

continue to be competitive events going on as in the past.

The GDBA had provided tournaments for different classifications, such as team, individuals, masters, mixed league bowlers with virtually something for everyone.

The GDBA had taken lots of pride in being able to provide an annual yearbook of much substance for verifying the averages of over 70,000 bowlers each and every year. This in itself is a huge task,

and the new group will continue to provide this function.

The Metro Detroit USBC will have fewer directors and more representatives who will work directly with the league officers in their respective bowling centers.

Libby Fletcher was elected president, while Jerry Owczarski will serve as vicepresident. Mark Martin will serve as the association manager.

Directors include: Roy Biggs, Ann Block, Laura Dembeck, Jerry DeRuiter, Michael DeRousie, Debra Dickerson, Aileen Hnidy, Patricia Klix, Scott McLeod, Randy Smith, Randy Tambourine, Dorothy Thompson and Tony Zainea. One of the upcoming activi-

ties will be to promote the

sport of bowling at several Thursday and Sunday Detroit Tigers home games.

There will be a display at Comerica Park to be operated in conjunction with the Southeast Michigan Bowling Proprietors Association. Representatives will be on hand to talk about bowling with the baseball fans.

Anyone who would be interested in becoming a house rep with the new association should contact the association office at 1-888-753-6350.

The Wayne Westland Metro Bowling Association has merged with the Tri-City Women's Association along with the Wayne Westland Young American Bowling Alliance to form the Wayne Westland USBC Association.

Their scope has expanded to include Oak Lanes in Westland and Garden Lanes in Garden City, both formerly under the jurisdiction of the GDBA.

Justin O'Hara, 15, of Westland will be traveling in July to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in quest of a qualifying spot on the Junior Team USA.

The sophomore at John Glenn High school has been bowling since the age of four. He certainly has the qualifi-

cations based on past perform-

ance, including one 300 and three more that were not certified, along with a 787 high series and approximately thirty 700 series.

(CP)

He bowls three times per week during the fall-winter season, averaging 217 for his high school team; 203 in the Tuesday Night Majors at Wayne Bowl; and around 195 in the Western Wayne Youth Traveling Classic.

He also bowls in the Dan Ottman Michigan Junior Masters Association (which is sport conditioned) and the Keystone Junior tournaments where he is ranked No. 1 in his age group.

O'Hara qualified to bowl in that event by earning a spot last December as a top qualifier in a Junior Toledo Bowling Association Gold tourney.

He is one of the youngest bowlers trying to earn a place on Junior Team USA, and would consider it a great honor to bowl for his country against competitors from other nations.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association until May 1, 2006 at which time the association will no. longer exist. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839, or e-mail: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net.

Massey Field named one of nation's best

The City of Plymouth **Recreation Department's Don** Massey Field has been awarded the "Field of Excellence" award by the Pioneer Manufacturing Company, which nationally recognizes outstanding athletic fields and the staff that maintains the

fields. Colleges, universities, high schools and other institutions from across the country submitted pictures, letters of recommendation and essays of their facilities and their maintenance programs.

Massey Field was one of 20 national winners.

"The hard work and improvements at Don Massey Field over the past year is a shining example of what can be accomplished by the combined work of governmental and community-based organizations," said Steve Anderson, the deputy recreation director

for the City of Plymouth. "This award could not have been won without the hard work of the City of Plymouth's parttime field maintenance staff and the materials and labor provided by the Michigan Indians Baseball Club, which is managed by Bob Gendron.

DFCU Financial. Same us, only

Lindemann, American Bowling Congress, Michigan and Detroit hall-**Ten Pin** of-famer ham-

Metro bowling scene is in transition

p.m., and May 7, 4:40-5:30 p.m.

■ Juveniles (must be 12 and under as of July 1, 2006, and passed preliminary moves in the field) – April 23 and April 30, 4:40-5:30 p.m.;

local boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. Interested students and parents can visit www.Top50jrTour.com or call (248) 321-9900 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF WILLOW RUN AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RUNWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The Wayne County Airport Authority is preparing an Environmental Assessment associated with the Runway Safety Area Improvements Project, Phase 3. The assessment was prepared in part to address wetland and floodplain impacts resulting from the upgrading of the runway safety areas adjacent to runways 5R, 5L, and 9R. Copies of the Environmental Assessment will be available at the Ypsilanti District Library, and the Fred Fischer Public Library in Belleville, MI. A copy will also be available for public review at the hearing. The hearing will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Marriott Ann Arbor Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Airport officials and consultants will present the Environmental Assessment and answer questions. Publish: April 16, 2006

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works, 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton, Michigan 48188. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Division of Public Works at 734/394-5150 for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

> THANK YOU CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Publish: April 13 & 16, 2006

OE0842794



Publish: April 16, 2006

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 10:00 am, Wednesday, April 26, 2006. The bid opening will be at 10:00 am, Wednesday, April 26, 2006 for the following:

City Hall Cooling Tower Replacement

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: http:// www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities

> Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk City of Plymouth



DFCU Financial has worked hard for 56 years to meet your ever-expanding needs for personalized financial services. We recently mailed our members detailed information regarding a proposed change in legal structure that will better position us to serve members and the community for years to come. Members will still enjoy all of the same great products and services at our convenient branches. We understand that members may have questions and we want them to be as informed as possible. We invite members to contact us at 888-336-2700, visit the nearest branch, or speak directly with the President of DFCU with any questions.

Thank you for placing your trust and loyalty in DFCU Financial. We are looking forward to serving you for another 56 years.



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 16, 2006

LOCAL SPORTS

John Glenn boys hoop coach Lloyd steps down

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

B6

(CP)

Citing family considerations, Westland John Glenn varsity boys basketball coach Joel Lloyd has decided to step down after six seasons.

Lloyd, who went 63-63 with the Rockets, turned in his resignation late last month.

"I saw it coming last summer and I said to myself, 'How much longer can I go?." said the 39year-old Lloyd. "I take things in five-to-six year increments. The reason behind my decision is that I have three boys (ages 17, 14 and 6), and their activities have taken over the calendar.

"Between 80 baseball games with my middle son in the summer, and 30 soccer games with my oldest, I don't have the time to commit like the job requires." Lloyd won or shared four

Lakes Division titles in the Western Lakes Activities Association. His 2001-02 squad, which finished 16-6, captured the WLAA tourney, while his 2002-03 team took the regular season title in the WLAA and wound up 15-7.

Those two teams featured 6foot-6 Darnell Wilson, a threeyear starter at Canisius (N.Y.) College, along with Jerret Smith, who played this season as a freshman backup pointguard at the University of Michigan. (Smith, however, was unhappy and left the Glenn program after his sophomore year and transferred to Romulus.)

Glenn finished 6-14 this season after going 11-10 in 2004-05 and 10-11 in 2002-03. The 2004-05 season was marred by player suspensions and an ugly incident where one of Lloyd's assistant coaches was attacked on the bench by a parent during a game against Northville.

Another key returning player transferred to Romulus and season-ending disciplinary suspensions also marred this season as Lloyd was forced to bring up members of the JV squad to fill out the roster. Lloyd said he was not forced out. The Wayne-Westland middle school teacher said he just could not commit to the program year-round.

"You need to have open gyms and play those 20-to-25 games during that 15-day summer schedule," he said. "It was a good time not only to help my children, but also a good time to do other things that I've wanted to do for a long time.

"This is my 20th season coaching and it was just good timing."

Lloyd, who began his coaching career at Eaton Academy in Birmingham, also spent three seasons (1997-99) as the Glenn varsity girls coach. He also served as an assistant under Chuck Henry at Wayne Memorial.

It's time to register for Goose's camps

The Detroit Ignition, the area's newest professional soccer team, is taking over Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps, it was revealed recently.

The camps, which are gearing up for their fourth year of operation and 15th under the direction of Bryan "Goose" Finnerty, are in a transition mode of ownership.

Finnerty, a former all-star goalkeeper for the Detroit Rockers, was the camp director during his Rockers' days and then continued the popular summer camps once the team folded in 2001.

"It just seemed natural to continue with the camps," said Finnerty. "There are so many kids playing soccer in Michigan and our local clubs are growing at such an impressive pace, that it just made sense to continue with a service that was in demand. Plus, my staff and I love being out in the community and working with kids. We have such a blast."

Although the camps are being shifted into the Ignition's care, they will still be operated by Finnerty and former teammate and camp director Droo Callahan. The coaching staff will include former professional and collegiate players who are all licensed trainers with various clubs, including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Brighton and CW3.

Following is the 2006 camp

Bune 12-16: Bicentennial east in Livonia:

Image: Superior Statement Statem

Park in Canton;

The power of competition. Back where it belongs.

July 10-14: Pioneer Park in Farmington and Walled Lake Northern High School in Walled Lake;

■ July 17-21: Independence Park in Canton (also includes advanced goalkeeper/striker option); and

Aug. 7-11: Plymouth Lake Soccer Park in Plymouth.

Each camp runs from 9:30 a.m.-noon and includes a free ball and T-shirt. The camp fee is \$139 per camper.

The advanced goalkeeper/striker camp fee is \$179. Participants who register by May 1 will receive \$15 off the camp fee and another \$5 discount for registering online at www.Goose22.com.

Additional family members and teams of 10 or more are eligible for an additional \$10 savings.

For more information on Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps, visit www.Goose22.com; or call (734) GOOSE-22.

PREP STATE RANKINGS

Softball

(By the coaches association) Division 1 – 1. Harper Woods Regina; 2: White Lake Lakeland; 3. Jenison; 4. Milford; 5. Portage Northern; 6. Fenton; 7 Grand Blanc; 8. Bay City Central; 9. Plymouth Canton; 10. Howell. Honorable Mention – Flushing, Clinton Township Chippewa Valley, Portage Central, Alpena, Troy, Detroit Cass Tech, Belleville, Romeo.

Division 2 ~ 1. Wyoming Rogers; 2. Comstock; 3. Ortonville-Brandon; 4. Escanaba; 5. Wayland; 6. Trenton; 7. Dearborn Divine Child; 8. Richmond; 9. Dowagiac; 10. Pinconning. Honorable Mention – Flint Powers Catholic, Goodrich, Livonia Ladywood, Stevensville-Lakeshore. Clio. St Clair.

Division 3 – Freeland; 2. Riverview Gabriel Richard; 3. Scottville-Mason County Central; 4. Ravenna; 5. Saginaw Swan Valley; 6. Unionville-Sebewaing; 7. Hemiock; 8. Niles Brandywine; 9. Reece; 10. Ida.

Honorable Mention – Portland, Gladstone, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, Kalamazoo Christian, Watervleit, Buchanan, Gobles, L'ansing Catholic Central, Lake Fenton. Division 4 – 1. Coleman; 2. Custer-Mason County Eastern; 3. Muskegon Catholic Central; 4. Bay City All Saints; 5. Frankfort; 6. Allen Park Cabrini; 7. Elisworth; 8. Petersburg-Summerfield; 9. Maple City-Glen Lake; 10. Hillman.

Honorable Mentlon – Adrian Lenawee Christian, Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, Lake Leelanau St. Mary's, Harbor Springs Harbor Light Christian, Beal City, Blanchard-Montabella, Posen, Wyoming Rogers.



11151

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The Michigan Legislature can be the catalyst

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

www.hometownlife.com

Connecting spiritually

remember when I was a child, there was a certain time of year that delighted me like no other. Spring dresses were plentiful, new shoes were on the mind of every child and Easter baskets were a must.

Once again, the Easter holiday is upon us. As a child not only was the holiday special to me because I knew a new outfit was on the way, but it marked the time of year when my favorite movie, The Ten Commandments, made it to the small screen, and family was always in abundance.



Times have not changed that much since I was a child. Children still primp in the mirror before they head off to church in their new Easter outfits. And myself, I am hoping The Ten Commandments will make its way back on to television this year.

However, these days the

Bobbie Jones

Easter holiday, along with all things spiritual or religious, are vying for our time, money and attention.

In the past 20 years, America has seen an increase in everything spiritual.

An online Time magazine search came back with 9,741 pieces of information on faith and religion. And, if you are a frequent reader of Time you know that Jesus in some form or anther has graced the cover quite a few times in recent years.

In 2004, movie director Mel Gibson set out to prove Hollywood insiders wrong when they told him that Jesus could not carry a major motion picture or turn a profit at the box office. Well, as I recall, The Passion of the Christ not only turned a profit but brought believers and nonbelievers alike out in full force.

The Passion grossed a reported \$83.3 million in its first weekend at the box office. To this day, it holds the title as the highest grossing religious movie of all time. My best friend is convinced that all of this just proves people are searching for something much deeper when it comes to how we deal with



John Glenn High School junior Corey Monroe uses the Play Attention helmet to strengthen his focusing skills.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Great expectations

John Glenn High School junior was having problems with reading until enrolling at the center in Livonia. Three sensors inside the helmet track the 17-year-old Westland stu-

dent's attention span as he controls the

IMPROVEMENTS

screen with his mind.

Monroe first went through the STEP (Sensory Training and Education) program which uses music, light and movement to improve sensory and cognitive processing before using Reading Plus. When a student

our personal lives. I'm not sure she is far off the mark.

The thing that may be taking place in America may just be a "spiritual connect" of sorts. It seems that individuals have this need to feel connected to a higher power, something greater than ourselves.

We find spiritual messages everywhere we turn these days, from books to TV shows. For example, the book The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown hit The New York Times best sellers list in 2003 and has been going strong ever since, and the movie will be in theaters this spring.

And just recently, spiritual author and preacher Joel Osteen hit the best seller list with his book Your Best Life Now. Osteen has a strong friendship with one of my favorite television preachers, Joyce Meyers, an accomplished author herself who has had many of her books hit the best seller list.

The small screen has had its share of spiritually based shows, as well. I remember \hat{I} could not tear my friends away from the TV show Touched by an Angel which aired on CBS in the 1990s. These were not the types of individuals you would find in church on a regular basis, yet the show still touched a nerve.

As human beings and as spirit-led beings we search out that which is greater than ourselves, and no matter what anyone says history proves that we always will. History also proves that religion, God, Jesus and everything associated with those factions will be discussed and debated for a long time to come, hence ensuring its popularity.

And, with all the mediums that the world has to offer us - whether it be TV, books, movies - will just help us inquisitive beings to search, grow and go deeper into what it means to be spiritually connected for ourselves and maybe even teach us some good lessons along the way.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the Observer. She can be reached via email at workhard36@aol.com.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITEF

Parents put

faith in learning

programs

Like all parents, Staci and Steve Bockmann expected their son to talk by a certain age. When Blake continued to babble at $2 \frac{1}{2}$ their concern turned to shock when the diagnosis came back as autism.

Rather than sit and grieve, Staci and Steve sought effective therapies early on. Today they not only have great expectations for Blake, an 8-year-old student in a mainstream first-grade classroom in Canton, but for children with special needs ranging from ADD/ADHD (attention deficit disorders) to behavioral problems, speech and reading difficulties, sensory overload, and autism. Their Great Expectations learning center allows parents to choose from a variety of programs aimed at overcoming the challenges to their children's development.

"There are so many different therapies,"



Blake Bockmann and his mother, Staci, demonstrate the STEP (Sensory Training and Education) program available at Great Expectations learning center in Livonia.

said Steve Bockmann. "It took about 2 1/2 years of research. When he was about 4 we thought, what if there was one place to go to choose from therapies? We offer everything from speech and occupational therapies to sensory therapy, Brain Train, SoundSmart, and Play Attention which is like playing a game."

Corey Monroe uses a Play Attention helmet to control images on the screen and in so doing strengthens his focusing skills. The

wears a pair of computerized eyeglasses for reading, the software program is able to follow his or her eyes. The information allows an evaluator to assess the reading level and

then customize a program for the child. "I liked them all," said Monroe. "The light (STEP program) is fun because I don't have to do anything. Play Attention helps me pay attention more. With Reading Plus I'm reading faster and can understand what I'm reading better."

Holly Sutherland, a 12-year-old student at Marshall Middle School in Westland, has noticed improvement as well since working on Reading Plus.

"I was having problems with reading," said Sutherland. "Now I can stay focused. I'm reading better."

Kent Langlinais brings home less school

PLEASE SEE LEARNING, C3

Plymouth stamp show provides a glimpse into history

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Sue Cousino probably can't count the number of times she's used stamps to teach students over the years. Of course, the Livonia resident has learned a lot from stamps as well.

On April 29-30, Cousino and the rest of the members of the West Suburban Stamp Club will be on the hunt at the 37th annual Plymouth show in Central Middle School on Main. Along with viewing an exhibition of U.S. and foreign postage stamps, postal history and thematic presentations, those attending the show will have the opportunity to buy

stamps from dealers. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, until 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

The Plymouth event is Michigan's largest stamp show and attracts hundreds of colléctors every year. It is put on by the stamp club whose members come from western suburbs including Plymouth, Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

"I'm a pack rat as are most collectors," said Cousino, dean of instruction at Advanced Technology Academy in Dearborn. She originally taught at St. Linus and St. Alphonsus schools beginning in 1963. "I love

PLEASE SEE STAMP SHOW, C3



Judges view materials entered into the American Philatelic **Society's World Series** of Philately exhibit at last year's Plymouth Stamp Show. The Society is the nation's largest organization of stamp collectors, dealers and postal historians.

Love **Cheryl Bowker** THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS OVA WARD 31221 FIVE MILE ROAD Fashion? LIVONIA LIFE CHANGES chardso Think PI OUR INSURANCE SHOULD KEEP UP **Online** at What's hot and what's HOMETOWN /ife.com I can help you save up to 17% not in the local world of on each policy when you hitch your auto policies. Call me today. Worthy of a bookmark. lashion. Get your (734) 525-9610 fashion fix every SIMON

Book fair

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(CP)

AROUND TOWN

Grief series

C2

Coping with the death of a loved one can be very difficult for many of s. Heartland Hospice is offering a sixweek series, "Living With Grief," beginning 4-5:30 p.m. April 20-May 25. The program is a series of weekly sessions offering insights and coping skills for an adult's journey through grief. The series will be held at the Heartland Hospice office in Ann Arbor and is open to anyone. For more information or to register, contact Ann Christensen, bereavement coordinator, at (734) 973-1145 or toll free, (888) 973-1145.

Asthma screening

The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology will conduct its annual Nationwide Asthma Screening Program this May, marking the program's 10th anniversary of helping people breathe easier. Detroit-area allergists will offer free screenings for people who are experiencing breathing problems, such as

chronic coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath at several locations, including May 1 at Richardson's Pharmacy, 42433 Ford Road in Canton. During a screening, adults who are experiencing breathing problems complete a 20-question Life Quality (LQ) Test developed by ACAAI for the program. Children under the age of 15 take a special test called the Kids' Asthma Check that enables them to answer questions themselves about any breathing problems. Another version of the Check is available for parents of children up to 8 years of age to complete on their child's behalf. Participants also take a lung function test that involves blowing into a tube, and meet with a physician to determine if they should seek a thorough examination and diagnosis. To obtain a list of asthma screening sites and dates or to take the online versions of

The 28th-annual Ann Arbor Antiguarian Book Fair takes place 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 14, in the ballroom of the Michigan Student Union, 530 S. State St. There is a \$5 admission charge which benefits the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan. More than 40 book dealers from Michigan and throughout the Midwest offer fine used, rare and out-of-print books, maps, photographs and prints for sale. For more information, contact Jay Platt in care of the West Side Book Shop, 113 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, by e-mail at jplatt@provide.net or by phone at (734) 995-1891. Creative writing workshop

The Michigan Horror Writers presents its Spring 2006 writing workshop, "Revealing Character or What's in Your (Hero's) Wallet?" 3:45-6:15 p.m. Saturday, June 24, in the community room of the Madison Heights Fire Department headquarters, 31313 Brush, Madison Heights. Author Diane Burton offers tips for developing

memorable characters which the reader will either root for or hiss at. Admission is \$25 for Michigan Horror Writers members, \$30 for pre-registered attendees, \$35 for registration after June 3 and \$40 for walk-ins. Attendees should submit a sample of their writing with their registration. For more information or to register email Shelby at president@michiganhorror.com

Inside Dyslexia

The first presentation in Michigan of the documentary "Inside Dyslexia" and discussion with the film's two producers will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, during a free event sponsored by Eton Academy in cooperation with the Michigan Dyslexia Institute. Families who have a child with learning challenges and educators are encouraged to attend this program, entitled "Inside Different Learners: Smart Kids Who Learn Differently." The program includes the film screening, commentary and a panel discussion with the film's pro-

ducers, Josh Easdon and Nate Hamlin, and others who specialize in working with children with learning differences. It will be held at Eton Academy, 1755 Melton in Birmingham. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Resource information will be provided. Admission is free. Parents of students with learning challenges, educators and others who are interested in attending must RSVP by Monday, May 1, by calling (248) 642-1150, Ext. 386, or visit the Eton News section at www.etonacademy.org for more information.

Soup/salad luncheon

The St. Joseph Women's Guild hosts its annual Soup and Salad Luncheon 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 12, in the Parish Activity Center on Third Street in Trenton. The \$7 cost includes choice of soups, salads, desserts and a beverage. The event features two 50/50 drawings and door prizes. Carry-out orders are available. For advance tickets or more information,



The Livonia Historical Society celebrates its 50-year anniversary with a gala banquet at the Alexander Blue House in Greenmead on Eight Mile and Newburgh, 6 p.m. Thursday May 8. Dinner tickets are \$20. Call Joe Soltesz, (734) 422-4061 or President Gene Kramer, (248) 349-5999. Genealogical societies

www.hometownlife.com

The Irish Genealogical Society presents a program titled, "Irish Settlements in Five Southwestern Counties of Ontario," 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Gaelic League/Irish-American Club in Detroit, located at 2068 Michigan Avenue, four blocks west of Tiger Stadium. The presentation includes when the Irish arrived in Ontario, what churches were there, where some of them came from in Ireland and their religion. Guest speaker is Joan Griffin, who has been doing Ontario research for more than 30 years. She was on the planning committee for Ontario Genealogical Society's Seminar 2005 in Windsor and is chair of the Kent County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. The public is invited and there is no charge. For more information call (313) 884-0039. The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 17, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center Building on Farmington Road just south of 5 Mile. Dr. Philip Mason will speak on "The Detroit River and its Impact on Detroit and its History." the meeting starts with a 6:30 p.m. discussion. Open to the public free of charge. For information call Pat at (734) 425-3079. The Livingston County Genealogical

Society meets May 4 with dinner at 6 p.m. and its meeting at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1401 Grand River in Howell. The topic is a re-enactment of the life and times of Mary Bingham, the wife of Gov. Kingsley Bingham from Green Oak Township, with speaker Diane Wynings of the South Lyon Historical Society. For more information, call Margaret at (810) 227-7745.

Lupus meeting The Lupus Alliance of America Michigan-Indiana Affiliate hosts a "Get Connected Meeting for Lupus" 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at the Panera Bread at 3205 Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor, Participants will examine their support network and learn skills on strengthening their relationships with caregivers. For information or to pre-register, e-mail info@milupus.org or visit www.milupus.org or call (800) 705-6677.

the LQ Test and Kids' Asthma Check, visit the ACAAI Web site at www.acaai.org



If your business or organization serves seniors — you'll want to be part of this exciting event!

Swing into Spring at the Third Annual **SENIOR CITIZENS EXPO**

We will hold our third annual Senior Expo Wednesday, May 24, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the beautiful VisTaTech Center on the Schoolcraft College Livonia campus.

Your participation in the Expo will give you the opportunity to meet and talk with prospective clients and gain quality leads from a segment of society with the highest net worth of any group-more than seven trillion dollars.

The Expo will be intensely promoted with ads in 17 award-winning community newspapers for a tremendous 172,300 circulation plus additional promotion. on the Observer & Eccentric website, *hometownlife.com*, which receives more than one-million page views per month.

You will also receive a listing in the center of our colorful Senior Expo section which will include your quarter or full page advertisement.

Participation ranges from \$695 to \$1,195 and includes a covered 8-foot table, two chairs, complementary coffee and donuts and two boxed lunches.

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STAMP SHOW FROM PAGE C1

the historical part. I've learned about geography, biographies of people, dead countries that disappeared. Bosnia disappeared and is back. I'm really intrigued with this.

WAY TO LEARN

"I taught World War II with souvenir stamp sheets that show the Arizona sunk on the bottom of the ocean, the memorial. Since then several of my students have gone to Hawaii and sent back postcards or pictures of that. Other sheets showed before and after the bombing. They saw the footage of this on tape, but when they could hold the picture in their hands it made more sense."

Cousino is a wealth of information when it comes to the history of postage stamps. The first was issued in 1840 under Queen Victoria in Great Britain. The first U.S. stamp came out in 1847.

"The Penny Black was black and cost a penny before then the postmaster at the town a letter was sent to took it to the person and collected postage. Then it went to a prepaid you had to cut out yourself and put glue on them."

In addition to learning about history, those attending the show can view the art known as Cachet, the creative designs on envelopes or covers that carry new postage stamps and the First Day of Issue cancellation applied by the U.S. Postal Service. Cousino is co-chair of bourse where they'll be located on Saturday.

Like Cousino, Joe Picard began collecting stamps as a kid. The Canton man is now project manager at Pfizer in Ann Arbor.

"I've been collecting stamps 30 years," said Picard. "It's a common story. A lot of people start when they're children and then focus on more adult activities for a while, get a career started and come back to it when they have free time. My dad took me to a department store looking for a hobby."

Picard more than likely will be shopping for some of his tavorite stamps, French stamps from the 1860s and 1870s, while working the show Saturday and Sunday as a member of the club.

LOTS OF DEALERS

"The beauty is we have dealers coming from all over the country," said Picard. "There's so much you could collect. I collect worldwide stamps. As a kid that excited me because you would take stamps that people were going to throw away and get into it without spending a lot."

Sandy Strzalkowski of Redford became a collector after her husband, Timothy, and son Phillip, 20, did.

"I found speakers interesting at the club meetings and began collecting," said Strzalkowski, a financial planner at Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Southfield. "It's a hobby you can learn from. I don't read history books, but learn from stamps.

"I collect Great Britain stamps and topical interest stamps with cows or dragonflies. One of our youth collectors collects puffins. I never knew a puffin was a bird until she started collecting."

Andrew Mazzara expects a variety of stamps to be for sale at the Plymouth show for which he is chair. Mazzara recently retired as president of Henry Ford Community College and is living proof that collectors come from all walks of life. The Dearborn resident specializes in stamps of Italy because his parents immigrated from Italy. His first stamps were taken from the letters of relatives when he was a child. That's why he's especially excited about the Junior Booth where children will be able to search through boxes of donated stamps and then take them home for free.

"Part of the show is trying to attract new collectors," said Mazzara, who's especially looking forward to seeing an exhibit dealing with the Toledo Strip which was once a part of Michigan before a bloody dispute was resolved in 1835. "We'd like to get the word

out. Stamp collecting is alive and well."

For more information, visit http://mywebpages.comcast.ne t/waac/plymahow.htm or send e-mail to Me.Inc@comcast.net.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Sugarloaf

E Fair.

LEARNING

FROM PAGE C1

work since going through STEP and Reading Plus which he calls "really good" programs. The 9-year-old is a student at All Saints School in Canton.

"He started in November with the STEP program," said Darlene Langlinais, Kent's mom. "It helped him focus better in school. Since beginning Reading Plus he's reading faster and comprehending. He has better confidence and is starting to improve."

Staci Bockmann cautions parents not to get caught up on labels. Kent has problems staying focused in class, but was never diagnosed with ADD.

"A lot of kids are misdiagnosed and put on medication," said Bockmann. "We always ask why the kids are doing what they're doing, why they're acting out behaviorally, why they're not focusing. We do our own evaluation before looking at results of prior testing.

"We did a lot of research and went off of the experience of our son. When you're living it

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week, the Plymouth 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 FICTION

1. "Gone," Jonathan Kellerman 2. "The 5th Horseman," James Patterson

3. "The House," Danielle Steele 4. "The Tenth Circle," Jodi Picoult

5. "The Templar Legacy," Steve Berry NON-FICTION

1. "Marley and Me," John Grogan 2. "Game of Shadows," Mark Fainaru-

Wada 3. "American Theocracy," Kevin Phillips 4. "The World is Flat." Thomas L.

Friedman 5. "The Jesus Papers," Michael Baigent

PARENTS' CHOICE NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS 1. "What Friends Do Best," Jonathan Emmett

2. "Superhero ABC," Bob McLood 3. "Five Little Ducks," Ivan Bates 4, "The Cat of Strawberry HILL Fran Hodgkins

5. "Fancy Nancy," Jane O'Connor

HOME TOWN

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24-7, you learn that they learn it visually. We had our son try the programs out. Sensory training is basically new technology that the hospitals haven't recognized yet."

SPEECH, LANGUAGE

Reese West was only 3 when he went through the STEP sensory program last year. His mother, Sonja, noticed a difference in his development almost immediately. She drove all the way from Woodhaven to seek help for the boy who was diagnosed with autism through the school system.

"First and foremost it increased his speech and language abilities tremendously, and from day four or five his ability to answer questions and have a little bit of back and forth conversation. That was the biggest improvement, but eye contact improved, socialization with his younger brother and even my husband and I increased dramatically."

In addition to sensory training and educational programs for ages 2 1/2 through adult, Great Expectations' offers

TOM HAWLEY I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holly Sutherland and Kent Langlinais (background) work on the Reading Plus program while Corey Monroe (right) has fun focusing on Play Attention.

tutoring. Liberty Kids, their nonprofit, provides therapy scholarships for children with special needs. For information, visit

www.TheLibertyKids.com. The Michigan Association of Student Councils and Michigan Association of Honor Societies have chosen Liberty Kids as their charity for 2006-07 and will be working to raise money for the scholarships.

"Insurance doesn't cover this therapy. It's out of pocket expense for parents," said Staci.; "We've done it ourselves, mortgaged our house twice for our son?

To learn more about Great Expectations, call (734) 762-0332 or visit www.MyGreatKid.com.

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Make checks payable to: Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast and mail to Sally Buller, Ticket Coordinator, 18858 May/field, Livonia, MI 48152. (The Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, Inc. is a Section 501((c)(3) charitable and religious organization.

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E. BRYCE ALPERN, M.D. With the death of E. Bryce Alpern, M.D. last week, Children's Hospital of Michigan mourns the loss of a champion of pediatrics. Dr. Alpern was not only devoted to helping children and their families; he was also dedicated to helping medical students evolve into empathetic and knowledgeable pediatricians. As a result, his pupils learned how to engender lifelong relationships with their young patients and their families. It has been said by patients and students alike that perhaps there has never been a more caring, compassionate man. A kind and gentle person with a shy smile and twinkling eyes, Dr. Alpern grew up in Highland Park, MI. He was the son of a shoe salesman and his mother was one of the first female lawyers in the state. Late in the 1940s, after graduating from the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins Medical School and after serving World War II, Dr. Alpern became a Children's Hospital of Michigan intern earning \$75 a month. In 1998, at the age of 82, he retired after more than sixty years of practicing medicine and mentoring pediatricians. For decades he touched the lives of thousands of children and their families as well as thousands of medical students. Dr. Alpern, his wife Harriet, his brother Bob and sister-in-law Marjorie gener-ously contributed to create the E. Bryce Alpern, M.D. Innovative Pediatric Education Program at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. and Mrs. Alpern have also funded a very popular pet-therapy program that facilitates canine visits to hospitalized kids. They have brightened the hospital corridors with colorful artwork and even paid salaries for clerical staff in the medical education department during periods of budget deficit Although Dr. Alpern is no longer with us, his legacy continues through the work of his medical students and the countless children he touched. The Children's Hospital Family extends sincere sympathy to Dr. Alpern's wife Harriet and their family. Memorial tributes may be directed to the "F Bryce Alpern, M.D. Innovative Innovative Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, 3911 Beaubien, Detroit, MI 48201; phone 313.964.1300.

FLORENCE M.

RUTH ISABEL JONES Age 80. April 14, 2006. Beloved wife of Raymond Jones Jr. for 58 years. Loving mother of 3 sons; Michael, Robert (Marian) and Paul (Anna). Dear grandmother of Kelly, Amy, Paul Michael and Julianna. Funerai Tuesday 11 a.m. at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation Monday 2-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Redford Presbyterian Church, 22122 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48219. (www.thayer-rock.com).



RICHARD M. HOWELL

Age 75, went to be with the Lord on April 8, 2006. Beloved husband of Claudette for 51 years. Loving father of Diana (Gregg) Hipple, Melissa (David) Place and Brenda (Mark) LaBerge. Cherished grandfather of Katy, Allison, Andrew, Michael, Sarah and Matthew. Dear brother of Robert (Jackie) Howell. Mr. Howell, of Indian River, MI, formerly of Farmington Hills, was born and raised in Indiana. He received a bachelor's degree in Engineering Metallurgical from Purdue University. He worked for National Steel Corporation for 35 years. Richard was a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict and was stationed in Germany as a navigational communications expert. Richard served as an Elder for years at Ward Presbyterian Church, then at the United Methodist Church in

Indian River where he retired in 1992.

Mr. Howell was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Indian River

Masonic Lodge. He was an avid fish-

erman and golfer. A memorial service



MARY JUNE "JUNE" RYAN Was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She was born in Cleveland, Onio. She attended Our Lady of the Angels and St. Joseph's Academy before heading off to college at Ursuline and Bowling Green University. While attending college she met Ken "Kenny" Ryan, also from Cleveland, whom she would later marry. Kenny Ryan attended both Ohio State and graduated from both Ohio State and graduated from John Carroll University and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. Together they spent brief stints in Cleveland, Seattle and Charleston, WV. before moving to Michigan in 1956 - the state they would call home for the next 50+ years. June and Kenny's family grew rapidly as they soon had four sons and one daughter. Their initial Michigan years were spent in the Dearborn area after which they moved to the northwest section of Detroit. During her "Detroit" years, June devoted countless hours to the St. Mary's of Redford and Univ. of Detroit High School Mother's Clubs and was a permanent spectator at school and sporting events of all types in support of her five children. June was a woman dedicated to her family and her faith and was admired by all for her extremely strong commitment to both. In 1969, June lost the love of her life, Kenny (45), very unexpectedly. When others may have given up, June drew strength from her family, friends and faith and set both an example and a standard that would be admired by all for the remaining 37 years of her life. With five young children (ages 10 to 19), she went back to school and soor secured a full-time office management position. It was while attending business school that she received the nick name "Juney Bubbles." A name bestowed upon her by fellow students, many years her junior, due to her upbeat attitude and contagious personality. Thirty-seven years later, she is affectionately called "Bubbles, still "Bubs," and "Granny Bubbles" by her 17 grandchildren and 2 great grand-sons. In 1970, June moved to Foxcroft in Bloomfield Hills and soon became a familiar face, and regular pectator, at Brother Rice and Andover High School functions and sporting dren. It was also with her move to Birmingham that June began her long term, deeply religious relationships with St. Regis and St. Owen parishes.



Shonce-King

Kevin and Jan Shonce of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Joy Shonce, to Michael Paul King, son of Robert and Evelyn King of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan in 2005. She is currently enrolled in the doctorate program for physical therapy at Boston University.

The groom-elect is a 2000 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and received a bachelor of arts degree from Eastern Michigan University in 2006.

A July wedding is planned at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia.

NEW VOICES

David and April Schuler of Canton Township announce the birth of their son Gavin James Schuler on March 19 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. Gavin's grandparents are Keith and Brenda Schuster of Ash Township, Mich., and Arthur and Donna Schuler of Clinton Township, Mich., and Linda Schuler of Schwartz Creek, Mich. Great-grandparents are Bill and Barbara Echols of Westland, Arthur and Alice Schuler of Fertidale and Clarence and PhyEis Lawrence of Westland. Daniel and Christee Reddick of Cantor: Township announce the birth of their daughter Faith Lee Reddick on March 29 at home in Canton and then taken to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Murphy-Cook

Arthur G. and Valerie Murphy of Shreveport, La., announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Bray Murphy of Livonia, to Thomas Roger Cook of Livonia, son of Roger and Susan Cook of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of the University of Mississippi and is now attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She works as a nanny and personal assistant.

The groom-to-be is a 1996 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2001 graduate of Michigan State University. He is now attending Wayne State University. He is employed as an electrical engineer at

Vercruysse-Welch

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Vercruysse of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne-Marie, to Robert Alan Welch Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Welch of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She graduated with class honors from the University of Michigan in 2003 with a dual major in history and communications. She will receive her law degree from Michigan State University in May 2006. She will begin work as an associate with Clark Hill law firm in the fall.

The groom-to-be is also a 1999 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 2003 with a major in economics and a minor in Japanese. He is a sales representative with Payroll 1 in

Thomas-Cordray

Paul and Brenda Thomas of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Thomas of Fairfax, Va., to Alan Cordray of Washington. D.C.

Alan is the son of Robert and Betty Cordray of Butler, Pa.

The bride-to-be is a 1997 craduate of John Glenn Hirb School and a 200 graduate of Grand Valley State University The groom-to-be is a 2001 graduate Butler High School and 2002 graduate of Penn



General Motors.

A June wedding is planned at Broadmoor Methodist Church in Shreveport, Miss.



Royal Oak and is currently pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Wayne State University.

The wedding is planned for August in Plymouth. A reception will follow a Lovett Hall at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. The couple will honeymoon in St. Lucia and will reside in Royal Oak.



DEVRIENDT

Age 79, of Roscommon, formerly of Farmington, died April 10, 2006. A service will be held later at Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington. She was born Aug. 1, 1926, in Plymouth to John and Jennie (Gouch) Konazeski. She married Joseph H. DeVriendt Sept. 11, 1948, in Farmington. He preceded her in death June 29, 2003. Florence was a retired keyliner for the Northville Record newspaper. She was past president of the Farmington American Legion Auxiliary. Surviv-ing are a sister, Margaret (the late Richard) Robinson of Howell and children, Dean Robinson, Michelle Wildey and families, and a sister-in-law, Maryann (the late Richard) DeVriendt of Farmington and children. Richard, Faith Henderson, Russ DeVriendt, Jane Patterson, Amy Mansfield, Richard DeVriendt, Ann Rushlow, Joseph DeVriendt and families. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Hilltop Manor Activities Department, Arrangements by Walsh Funeral Home. Roscommon.

 ∞

FRANCIS DONALD

BROGAN

Age 75, passed away on April 13,

2006 after a long illness. Husband of

Dorothy. Father of Theresa (Mark)

Pechy, Kevin and Christine. Grandfather of Michael and Nicholas

Pechy. Brother of Richard Brogan

and family and the late John Brogan

and family. Burial at Great Lakes

National Cemetery in Holly, MI, at a

later date. Arrangements entrusted to

Edward Korkoian Funeral Home

(248) 541-8325

GEORGE L.

SCHAFFER, JR.

Age 84, of Plymouth, died April 12, 2006, with his family at his side. He was born January 17, 1922, in Detroit, to George L. and Una Rutson Schaffer.

A veteran of World War II, he was a

decorated waist gunner in the United

States Army Aircorps flying B-29's

with 35 missions over Japan. Retired

from Detroit Diesel after 38 years, he

was active in several organizations

through his love of antique cars and

model trains. He was a founding and

active member of the Detroit Diesel Retirees group. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Beverly Jane

Schaffer; his children, John (Pamela)

Schaffer of Columbus, Ohio, Ann (Matt) Greenough of Plymouth, and

James (Tony Dagrosa) Schaffer of

Dallas, Texas; and his grandchildren,

Jennifer (Briann) Rojas, John (fiancée

Brandy) Holmes, Janette Holmes, Katie and J.P. Greenough. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Janis

Holmes, and his sister, Alvena Runde

Services were held Saturday, April 15,

at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to

Angela Hospice.



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

Observer & Accentric

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VIRGINIA (nee URSULIAK) PERROT

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Virginia on March 30, 2006. Our beloved Mother bassed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her children at Covenant Village, Colorado. Virginia was born September 6, 1938 in Windsor, Ontario. It is in Windsor where she will rest for eternity. Beloved Mother to her six children; David (Cheryl); Michelle (Bady); MaryBeth (Edward); Michael; Leslie; and Laurie (Chris). Cherished Grandmother to her nine grandchildren: Kenneth, Matthew and Benjamin; Maylu; Sean and Maeve; Avery, Luke and Charlotte. She is also survived by her two brothers, George Ir.; and Eugene (Marilyn). Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, George and Ellene Ursuliak; and her son-in-law, David Friedkin. She was dearly loved and will be missed by all of her family and friends who had been touched by her love and grace. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated nurse and CNA's of Covenant Village Center in Colorado for their many kindnesses shown to Mom. Donations in memory of Virginia may be made to your local non-profit hospice organization. Visitation will take place Friday April 21, 2006 from 10:00 a.m until the time of funeral service at 1:00 p.m. at Janisse Bros-Marcotte Funeral Home, 1139 Ouellette Ave., Windsor, (519-253-5225). Interment Heavenly Rest Cemetery. The family invites you to share your memories and sight the Book of Condolences at www.janissemarcotte.ca

importance upon her faith and regularattended church services at both ly parishes. One of her favorite sayings was - "Don't Keep The Faith - Spread June will always be It Around!" remembered for her ability to light up a room with her kind words, compli ments and wit. She leaves behind many long-time friends spanning over three generations. For the past 37 years, she has served as a stabilizing force for her family. June is survived by her children, Tom (Diane), Tim (Sharon), Kevin (Mary Ann), Mary Lynn (Jorge) Torriglia and K.C (Heather) and grandchildren, Danny Michael, Jorge, Ross, Charlie, Kenny Megan, Paige, Kelly, Katie, Erin, Emilie, Kathryn, Mary, Elizabeth, Jason and Sean. She is also survived by her great-grandsons, Ryan and William and sister-in-law, Nancy Ryan. June's life and legacy can best be summed up in two words - MIS SION ACCOMPLISHED !! Funera at St. Regis Church, 3695 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301-4055, Wednesday 10a.m. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N Crooks Rd. (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Tuesday 2-8pm. Scripture service 7pm. Interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributic's to Angel's Place, 25240 Lahser Road, Suite 2, Southfield, Michigan 48034 appreciated.

She has always placed a high level of



OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines: Friday 5 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:

Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067

or toll free **866-818-7653** ask for Char or Liz Faith has an older brothers Chandler Aaron, 2, and Jordan Eli, 14 months. Grandparents are Keith and Brenda Schuster of Ash Township, Mich., and Joe and Connie Reddick of Rougemont, N.C.

Great grandparents are Melba Collins of Adrian, Mich., and William and Mavis Bell of Canton and Bill and Barbara Echols of Westland. Dr. and Mrs. Kurt Henkel of Manistee, Mich., announce the birth of their daughter **Lexi Savana Jean Henkel** on March 17 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee. Grandparents are Jim and Sharon Henkel of Livonia and the late Verna Henkel of Livonia and the late Verna Henkel of Livonia and Bill Williams and Loretta Richardson of Charlevoix, Mich., and Chamaine Williams of Warren.

REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Andover High School Jills

The Jills of Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills are celebrating 50 years. A reunion is planned for Memorial Day Weekend. Friday, May 26, a reception will be held at Pine Lake Country Club. On Saturday, May 27, the attending Jills will rehearse 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Andover Auditorium. An afterglow reception will follow. For more information, contact Dorothe Patterson at (248)737-8407 or at Jills50th@comcast.net.

Bishop Borgess Class of 1986

A 20-year reunion is planned for May 20. For more information, e-mail Bishopborgess86@gmail.com or call (734)762-5186

Cass Tech High School Class of 1955-57

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 15-17, 2006, at St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield. Contact Rich Baylerian (248) 735-4495, Barbara Grajek Schanfrankek (248) 543-6353, Joann Ellison Armistead (248) 533-9525, Susan Wilmot Hitchcock at hitchcocksw@hotmail.com. State University. A September wedding is planned at Geneva-on-the-Lake.

Hanson-Peters

Barton and Diane Hanson of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Diane Hanson of Plymouth, to Adam Charles Peters of Plymouth.

Adam is the son of Peter and Valerie Peters of Plymouth.

Lisa Diane is a 2000 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a spring 2006 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in elementary education.

Adam is a 1998 graduate of Catholic Central High School and is attending Eastern Michigan University studying elementary education. He is a preschool teacher at Livonia



Little Tots.

A June wedding is planned at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii.



Decker

Sheldon and Dorothy (Laker) Decker of Livonia are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Deckers were married April 8, 1956, in Detroit. They met while working as reporters at the Wayne University student newspaper.

The Deckers have four children: Randi Decker of S. Fallsburg, N.Y., married to Ken Armstrong; Lane Decker of Mt. Clemens, married to Jeanne Coker; Glen Decker of Fairfax, Calif,; and Dana Doitteau of S. Fallsburg, N.Y. They also have six grandchildren.

Sheldon Decker is a retired Detroit high school science teacher. He has been retired for 20 years after teaching at Henry Ford, Mumford and Northwestern. Dorothy Decker is part time social worker and marriage and family therapist and life coach. The Deckers are active in the Paint Creek Folklore Society.

(248) 543-6353, Joann Ellison Armistead A party is planned at the Italian American Banquet Center in (248) 533-9525, Susan Wilmot Hitchcock at Livonia with children, grandchildren and friends.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 16, 2006

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(CP)







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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

PAGE C6 (*)

Sunday, April 16, 2006

Celebrating survivors



Sisters Mary Akins (left), Lois Dababneh, Sharon Elster, and Leigh Laukka get together before Elster's surgery.



Offer Ends

Sunday

April 23, 2006

HOME EQUITY LOAN

Conference focuses on fight against ovarian cancer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Statistics have changed for the better since Dr. Veronica Schimp began treating ovarian cancer patients at Karmanos Cancer Institute six years ago. Back then, 75 percent of women died from the disease. Today, 40 percent survive.

That message of hope is one the gynecologic oncologist plans to pass on to those attending Celebrating Survivors, the first ovarian cancer conference presented by Karmanos 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at Compuware Headquarters, One Campus Martius, Detroit.

Schimp is especially encouraged by the advances in treatment. Previously, patients underwent surgery and standard chemotherapy. Today, oncologists are using a combination of approaches with surgery. One merges traditional intravenous chemotherapy with a method that inserts a catheter into the abdominal wall to soak the area with chemotherapy. Another therapy, anti-angiogenis, inhibits tumors from making new blood vessels thus limiting their ability to grow.

RAYS OF HOPE

Ongoing studies offer hope as well. Recently, researchers at the University of Michigan reported early success using ginger to kill ovarian cancer cells. The work is still preliminary but shows progress is being made in fighting the disease.

"The diagnosis doesn't mean they should stop living and existing. We want them to maintain a normal life and do what we can to eradicate their disease," said Schimp, a D.O. and member of the Wayne State University faculty. "We are certainly making some great strides

In addition to celebrating the spirit, determination and accomplishments of ovarian cancer patients, the educational forum teaches women to recognize symptoms of the disease such as persistent nausea or bloating, abdominal or pelvic pain, decreased appetite, constipation, and the feeling of fullness even after a light meal. Along with Schimp, Judy Hartwell, district director, office of U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, discusses Johanna's Law which would create a federal campaign to increase awareness about the importance of early detection. Johanna Silver Gordon, a Southfield teacher and West Bloomfield resident, died of ovarian cancer.

pational therapist whose mother died of ovarian cancer. Green talks about the importance of laughter when facing the disease.

"When they leave I want the ladies to feel empowered, to realize that's all any of us have is today," said Sharon Cure, director of patient and family support services at Karmanos. Cure is organizing the conference. "They are prime examples of how to live the new normal. They continue to make a difference in the lives of so many people through their determination, energies, and desire to leave a mark on society.

Sharon Elster and two of her sisters are doing their part to help others even though they don't have ovarian cancer.

PREVENTION

At Karmanos, researchers are working not only to find new ways to treat ovarian cancer but prevent it by asking women to participate in studies. Elster and two of her five sisters decided to volunteer because of their family history. Their mother died of ovarian cancer in 1988 then in October 2004 their sister, Leigh Laukka, was diagnosed with the disease shortly before her 40th birthday.

Elster and her two sisters are part of the GOG (Gynecologic Oncology Group) ovarian cancer prevention study that is following women who are at increased genetic risk. Elster is choosing to have a hysterectomy to avoid the cancer. Her sisters, Mary Akins of Northville Township and Lois Dababneh of Redford, decided to be screened every three months instead.

"I have three daughters and right now all I can do is tell them to go to their doctors,' said Elster of Farmington. "Hopefully, the study will give their doctors more information. I want to do whatever I can. Right now there's no sure way to find ovarian cancer, and I didn't know that my son is also at an increased risk of cancer, prostate cancer, Since going through genetics testing I have become a font of knowledge." A donation of \$10 is suggested for admission to the conference. The money will go to Blooms for Tomorrow, an ovarian cancer support group at Karmanos Cancer Institute. To register for the conference, contact Carol Kudron at (313) 576-9281 or send e-mail to kudronc@karmanos.org.



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Concluding the conference is humorist Carol Green, an occu-

For more information about ongoing studies, call (800) KARMANOS (527-6266) or visit www.karmanos.org.

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HEALTH

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Would you like to learn more about bone marrow/stem cell transplant?

Bone marrow and stem cell transplants are used to treat patients with certain cancers and blood disorders. Each year, more than 35,000 children and adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with diseases for which a bone marrow transplant could be a cure.

Individuals who have received bone marrow or stem cell transplants, their family members and caregivers are invited to learn more at the 11th annual educational forum put on by the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. There is no charge. Call (800) 546-5268 or (248) 358-1886, or visit www.nbmtlink.org/forum. Continuing education credits will be available to nurses.

In southeastern Michigan, 500 bone marrow transplants are performed annually at four transplant centers.

The 2006 Forum will provide updated medical information about autologous (patient as donor) and allogeneic (related or unrelated donor) transplants during concurrent morning sessions. Speakers include transplant physicians, nurses and social workers from the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Henry Ford Health System and University of Michigan Health System.

Concurrent afternoon presentations include nutrition's role in the fight against cancer and survivorship.

The nonprofit National Bone Marrow Transplant Link was founded in 1992 to provide information and support services for bone marrow/stem cell transplant patients and their families.

FDA and CDC issue warning for contact lens wearers

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alerting health care professionals and their patients who wear soft contact lenses to an increasing number of reports in the U.S. of rare but serious fungal infections in the eye that can cause permanent loss of sight. Some patients have reported a significant loss of vision, resulting in the need for a corneal transplant.

A fungus called Fusarium has been identified as the cause of the reported infections. As of April 9, 109 cases of suspected Fusarium keratitis are under investigation by CDC and public health authorities in 17 states.

"This is a serious infection and soft contact lens users should be mindful of the potential to develop this problem," said Dr. Daniel Schultz, director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "We're advising consumers to practice good basic hygiene and follow manufacturers' instructions for proper use, cleaning and storage of their lenses, and report any signs of infection to their doctors."

Clinicians who evaluate patients with microbial keratitis should consider that a fungal infection may be involved and refer the patient to an ophthalmologist, if appropriate to obtain a specimen for laboratory analysis. In addition, the FDA and CDC are urgently advising consumers to take precautions to prevent contamination of the soft lenses and the products used to maintain them. These preventive practices for contact lens wearers include washing hands with soap and water, and dry (lint-free method) before handling lenses. Wear and replace lenses according to the schedule prescribed by the doctor.

Follow the specific lens cleaning and storage guide-

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lines from the doctor and the solution manufacturer. Keep the contact lens case clean and replace every 3-6 months.

Remove the lenses and consult your doctor immediately if you experience symptoms such as redness, pain, tearing, increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, discharge or swelling.

In addition, regardless of which cleaning/disinfecting solution used, wearers may want to consider performing a rub and rinse lens cleaning method, rather than a no rub method, in order to minimize the number of germs and reduce the chances of infection.

Of the 30 patient cases fully investigated so far, 28 wore soft contact lenses and two reported no contact lens use. Twenty-six of the soft contact lens users who remembered which solution they used during the month prior to the infection onset reported using a Bausch & Lomb ReNu brand contact lens solution or a generic brand manufactured by the same company. Five case-patients reported using other solutions in addition to the ReNu brand, and 9 patients reported wearing contact lenses overnight, a known risk factor for microbial keratitis.

"It is important to note that some of the affected patients had used other solutions in addition to the ReNu brand, and that the source of this fungus has not yet been identified. But we're working with CDC and Bausch & Lomb, and we're investigating other possible causes to prevent these infections," Schultz added.

Bausch and Lomb has informed the FDA that they are voluntarily stopping shipment of the ReNu Moisture Loc product from the U.S. plant while they are continuing to investigate the cause of these infections. Clusters of Fusarium keratitis were reported among contact lens users in Asia beginning in November 2005. In February 2006, Bausch & Lomb voluntarily suspended sales of its ReNu multipurpose solutions in Singapore and Hong Kong after multiple reports of the infection among contact lens users there.

On Thursday, Bausch & Lomb chairman Ron Zarrella released a statement saying the company recommends that contact lens wearers "discontinue using ReNu with MoistureLoc for the time being and switch to another product such as ReNu MultiPlus which has been relied on by contact lens wearers for years, the original ReNu Multi-Purpose solution, or to another respected brand."

The company has listed the most frequently asked questions about the infections and ReNu with MoistureLoc on its Web site at www.bausch.com, or call (888) 666-2258.

Fusarium species are normally found in many plants, soil, and tap water. The annual risk of contact lens-related microbial keratitis is estimated in most studies to be between four and 21 per 10,000 patients, depending on whether the lenses are worn only during the day or continuously overnight.

Fungal keratitis can be associated with trauma to the surface of the eye, immunodeficiencies, and contact lens use. Organisms associated with contact lens-related keratitis are usually bacteria rather than fungus, often arising from contamination of lens care products or from contact lens storage cases.

Additional information is available on FDA's Web site http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/041006-kerati-tis.html.

Morning best time to exercise

Rick from Fraser e-mails asking if there is a certain time of day that's best to get the most out of a workout.

Rick, you might want to set your alarm clock an hour earlier because exercising in the morning is definitely your best bet. It kicks your metabolism into high gear and keeps it revving for hours. Many find that exercising also helps regulate their diet for the day and that they aren't as hungry.

Another factor though is consistency. Over 90 percent of those who exercise regularly do it in the morning. Morning exercise can even increase your mental sharpness. My principle for the day: the quicker you get out of you pajamas and into your sweats ... the better! '

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-NBC 4 & WWJ News Radio 950. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.



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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 16, 2006

American idols

Talent show spotlights students with disabilities 3845

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

 $\frac{1}{2}$ Students and staff rush past the more than 30 brown paper bags full of costumes which line the hallway at Visions Unlimited, a continuing education program for young adults with developmental and physical disabilities. The excitement is building as the entire school prepares for their fifth annual talent show being dubbed "Visions American Idol." The one big difference is that no one will be judging the entertainers as Simon does on the TV show that spotlights amateur singers. The event, which took place on a Friday night, was all for fun.

This was the first time the show was held at night. A \$5 admission went to bolster the student activity fund at the facility operated by

"Every student is involved in one way or another," said teacher Lisa Gestro. "The focus is to let them shine and build self-esteem."

anxiously waiting to go on as the lead singer of the school's version of the Spice Girls. noon rehearsal so they could cheer on their classmates as magic until it was their turn to go on. The crowd roared with

Stephanie and later the song, How Do I Live, by Molly.

FRONT AND CENTER

Joyce Rice founded the show to spotlight students of the center-based program for Oakland Schools including West Bloomfield, Southfield, and Clarenceville in Livonia. Every day of the semester, she teaches them about different instruments, dances, and gives them the opportunity to perform songs.

"These students work hard all day and night," said Rice, the fine arts teacher. "They talk about it all year, ask when's the talent show. This is what I want to do. They take the lead on it. It empowers them."

Rice doesn't want any of the credit for producing the show.

"It takes the whole school, a team, a whole school believing in our students and giving them an opportunity to share

"Just because our students



Stephanie performs a ballet dance at Visions American Idol talent show Friday, April 7, in Farmington Hills.

Next year, Principal Lynne Noelke hopes to hold the talent show in one of the Farmington high schools so everyone can applaud not only the performers but staff. Between acts, the teachers escorted students to and from the stage without a hitch. Costuming for each of the more than 30 acts had been placed in the brown bags

Throughout the year, a student's primary goal is to develop skills and increase indeThroughout the year, a student's primary goal is to develop skills and increase independence.

In the past, they've done



C.J., dressed as Cat in the Hat, gives a reading performance of a Dr. Seuss book with special education teacher Herb James.

time and count money when purchasing items at the store. Food preparation is taught in a student kitchen next to the cafeteria.

"This building is an amazing place to be," said Gestro. "The students teach me something new every day. They come with hope and energy. They seem to find the good in everything." Michelle Harmala believes

all 72 of the students have

strengths and excel in different areas. The Talent Show allows them to display their particular talent.

www.hometownlife.com

"The show allows them to be part of what we call community," said Harmala, director of special education for Farmington schools. "It's an important part of what our kids can do."

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(PRWEB) — The American Bartending Association, the No. 1 source for all bartending school and bartending industry information, is pleased to announce the launch of its free bartending 101 training course and affiliate program (www.FreeBartending.com).

"We are extremely pleased to see the overwhelming response to our new training course and affiliate program," said Jillian Reid, vice president of the ABA. "With the new course, we are changing the way prospective bartenders receive their education and training."

Before the ABA's free bartending 101 course, consumers would have to pay \$500-\$1,000 for a 40-hour bartending school course to learn the same information. The ABA's free course provides the customer with a professionally completed DVD and membership card. The customer only pays \$4.95 for shipping and handling. To receive a certificate of achievement, members can take the ABA bartending test online.

"The ABA's program is unique because of its extremely low cost of entry for consumers who desire a positive lifestyle change," Reid said. "Most consumers cannot afford to quit their current jobs to take classes that can cost thousands of dollars with no guarantee of success. The ABA allows them to keep their current job while training for a new career on their own schedule."

Another benefit that the ABA provides to current bartenders is medical, dental and financial services.

The ABA's newly launched affiliate program is a two-tier program using NetTraction software. It has a 365-day cookie expiration, \$5 commission payout, payment threshold of \$20 minimum, monthly payouts with a corporate check payment method and a \$4.95 order cost.

The ABA was formed in 2005 and is the nation's leader in bartender training and assistance. The company is the recognized leader in providing information about bartending, bartending schools and related products and services. The ABA is the place to turn to for all the latest news and information in the industry. To find out more about the ABA and its affiliate program, visit www.AmericanBartendingAsso

ciation.com.





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Joe Bauman, editor . (248) 901-2563 . jbauman@oe.homecomm.net

New homebuyers looking to concrete for durability

(NewsUSA) - Homeowners are becoming increasingly concerned about how the products they use in construction projects interact with the environment.

While many homeowners who purchase pre-built homes or those part of a tract housing development don't have a say in the type of mate-rials used, they do make choices. when constructing do-it-yourself home projects or during home renovations.

In a 2005 research project involving homeowners, the a leading trade association found that close to half of all respondents identified concrete as the most sustainable building product, with wood and steel as the second and third choices.

Three quarters of all respondents were aware of concrete block as a homebuilding product, coming in second only to wood. Overall awareness of concrete homebuilding among homeowners went up 30 percentage points from 1998 to 2005.

What does this mean for the homebuilding market?

"When people have the opportu-

nity to make a choice about how their home is constructed or renovated, they look for construction products that will provide fire safety, mold resistance, durability, energy efficiency, low maintenance, excellent indoor air quality and superior insect resistance," said Harry W. Junk, residential markets manager at the National Concrete Masonry Association. "This research reveals concrete masonry as a clear product of choice. Concern for the environment is growing and people are recognizing their responsibility for making good choices.

Called "The Homeowner Report," the survey's respondents represented all regions of the United States. Half of the homeowners surveyed live in ranch-style homes; one-third live in two-story homes.

Homeowners can download a full copy of the report at

www.ncma.org/2005_homeowner_report.pdf.

For more information about building with concrete masonry, contact the NCMA at (703) 713-1900.



Concrete is known for its durability in home construction.

Consider these when buying new construction rather than existing home

I am going to buy a house and am considering purchasing new construction. How is that different from buying an existing house?

What is appealing about new construction is that it's new, no one has lived in it yet. An added benefit is that the house can be built to your specifications. If you want pink bricks you may request pink bricks and get it.

Because often the house hasn't been built yet there are more variables involved in the sale. For example, when you buy an existing house, you



know what you are getting. You can go inside the house and look around. You either like the house or you don't.

On the other hand, if the house hasn't been built, what you will see is a lot of land. Usually builders have model

homes that you can examine that should be similar to the house that will be built for you. Often builders will tell you

that the price and upgrades are not negotiable. In real estate sales everything is negotiable.

You may offer less than what the builder says it the asking price and/or ask for upgrades to be included. What the builder will accept depends on how badly he needs to sell the house

In this slower market builders are more flexible than in a hotter market. It can't hurt to try. Don't go crazy asking for concessions or the builder may not take your offer seriously.

Builders often want between 10-20 percent of the purchase price before they start building the house. There are two reasons for this: Builders are afraid that if you back out they will be stuck with a house that was custom built for you; and they need the money to complete the house.

Make sure that you get at least a one-year warranty from the builder for structure and foundation. It is usually within the first year that things may shift around.

It's important to research the builder before hiring one to build your house. Because it's a slow market some builders are having difficult financial times and you don't want them to go bankrupt after they collected your deposit and can't pay it back. Some things you can do to research builders are:

题 Find out how long they have been in business

Ask neighbors around the house you want who used the

same builder for input Research if there have been any complaints regarding the builder with the Better **Business Bureau**.

There are the benefits to buying a new construction that you are getting a custom new home, just be cautious and avoid possible future headaches.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. Please feel free to call him at (734)748-9621 or e-mail him at michaelsellshomes@realestateone.com;





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This remarkable two-story home is a perfect fit for a family with college age children or aging parents living in the household. The upper floor of the Pensive is practically an apartment in itself. It has two good-sized bedrooms, one with a built-in writing desk that any student will appreciate.

There is also a small home office/library with vaulted ceiling and cozy window seat. The full bathroom that serves this floor has three basins and a handy laundry chute to the first floor utility. Four hundred three square feet of attic space is at hand for storage.

The interior design of the first floor has an open feeling and allows a free flow of movement throughout the Pensive. The family room is adjacent to the breakfast nook and kitchen with only a serving island acting as a separating factor. Sliding glass doors lead to an expansive back deck that may be the focus of family fun during the summer months. The nook features a bright bay window for enjoying the morning light. In addition to all the built-in appliances, the kitchen boasts a garden window and walk-in pantry.

The vaulted living room, directly in line with the entry, is the perfect spot to entertain your guests. A built-in fireplace will keep everyone snug on the coldest nights. The formal dining room, to the front, has the added benefit of a window seat that projects outward to the front porch.

Located conveniently near the inside entrance to the two-car garage, is a handy utility room with a sink, laundry chute and closet. A half-bath is nearby and there is extra storage space in the garage.

For a study plan of the PENSIVE (335-280), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for you dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.



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By Dave Menard Avanti NewsFeatures

Some people buy an SUV to tow their boat, haul cargo, or to go off-roading. If that's what you're looking for in an SUV, maybe the Mercedes-Benz ML500 isn't really what you're looking for. Not that the ML500 can't handle those things – it has several features designed for better off-road performance. It's just that it looks so good and drives no nicely that you might feel guilty driving through a muddy stream. On second thought, though, it would look good with a boat trailing behind. After all, what says "I have money" more than a Benz towing a boat?

The ML500 is Mercedes' flagship "luxury" SUV. It's bigger and wider than its predecessor – almost six inches longer and three inches wider with a wheelbase that's almost four inches longer than before. Its new lines are sharper and more aggressive-looking, more of a wedge shape than previous versions. I like the headlamp design and the way the whole front fascia comes together. The distinctive Mercedes grille is there complete with the famous logo. Front and rear fog lamps are standard, as are roof rails and 18" wheels.

Inside, the ML500 is luxurious and roomy, with lots of standard features, although some features you'd think would be standard are part of an odd option package; the "comfort package" includes 10-way memory seats, auto-dimming power folding outside mirrors, power steering column and a cargo cover/net. At almost \$1500, there's nothing in that package I can't live without, but maybe that's just me. Let's talk about what the ML500 does have standard. Cruise control, automatic dual-zone climate control, steering wheel controls for the audio system and message center, eight-way power leather seats (heated), power windows and locks, and four 12-volt power outlets. The standard audio system is a AM/FM/weatherband/CD system that provides killer sound. You can add an optional kit that will allow you to connect an iPod or other mp3 device directly to the sound system and control it from the steering wheel (how I wish the test vehicle came with that feature). You can also add a six-disc changer and satellite radio if you like (and have some extra money to burn).

Speaking of available options, you can add a DVD navigation system to the ML500, but I'm not loving the

but I'm not loving the one I had in the test vehicle. It was difficult to figure out, and I couldn't get the audio turn prompts to come through the speakers as they should have. Oh sure, I could have read the manual, but why should I have to? The buttons and menus should be fairly obvious – particularly to someone like me who drives a lot of different cars on a regular basis. Other manufacturers seem to do this particular feature better. Having said

that, the maps were pretty and seemed to be accurate. There's plenty of room in the ML500, for both people and cargo. The rear seats fold down to provide up to 72 cubic feet of cargo space. The seats are comfortable and provide good support. The cabin is luxurious and nice to look at. The instrument cluster is well-designed and, except for the audio controls, is well laid out. Finding a radio station can be tedious, particularly in an unfamiliar area while using the navigation system. There's no shifter in the center console; it's on the steering column and is a breeze to shift. Touch one step up or down, and push the side button to put it into "park." There are two large cupholders in the center console and you can get an optional power rear hatch.

The all-wheel drive ML500 is powered by a five-liter V8 with three valves per cylinder. It's rated at 302 hp and 339 lb.-ft. of torque. The engine is mated with a seven-speed automatic transmission. The shifts are smooth and acceleration is excellent. Gas mileage isn't great - 14/19 - but not totally out of line for a big SUV.

The ML500 does come with four-wheel traction control and an "off-road" button on the console that activates an enhanced ABS mode, off-road traction control, higher transmission shift points and a slower throttle valve to keep the car in lower gears longer, for better traction over uneven terrain. Downhill Speed Regulation is also included; it's like a



2006 Mercedes-Benz ML500. Type: special purpose. Where built: Tuscaloosa, Ala EPA: 14/19. Base Price: \$48,500. Price as tested: \$55,930

low-speed cruise control system for steep descents. Activated by another button on the center console, the driver then uses the cruise control stalk to set the speed anywhere between 4 and 12 mph. The system uses throttle, transmission gearing and automatic braking to help maintain vehicle speed. So we do have a little more than a pretty face here.

The ML500 also handles the tough roads of suburbia in stride. Four-wheel independent suspension smoothes out the rough spots and you can choose to add an optional AIR-MATIC air suspension system. It wasn't on the test vehicle, but Mercedes says it not only improves ride comfort, but also provides flexibility by reducing ride height on the highway, increasing it off-road, maintaining vehicle level when loaded and continuously adjusting the suspension damping as road conditions change. The driver can also select three different levels of damping.

Front side airbags, and front and rear side windows airbags are included; rear side airbags are a \$385 option.

The 2006 Mercedes-Benz ML500 starts at \$48,500. Add the navigation system, power lift gate, upgraded CD system, sunroof, and the above-mentioned "comfort package," and you're at about \$55,000. This SUV can go off-road and get dirty – I'm just not sure I'd spend that kind of money and then take it there. Tackling the wilds of soccer practice and grocery shopping might be another matter. Write the editors of Avanti NewsFeatures at avanti1054@aol.com. Mailto:avanti1054@aol.com.



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