

Ice fest special section inside today's Observer



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RICK BLOOM'S MONEY MATTERS
PAGE A9

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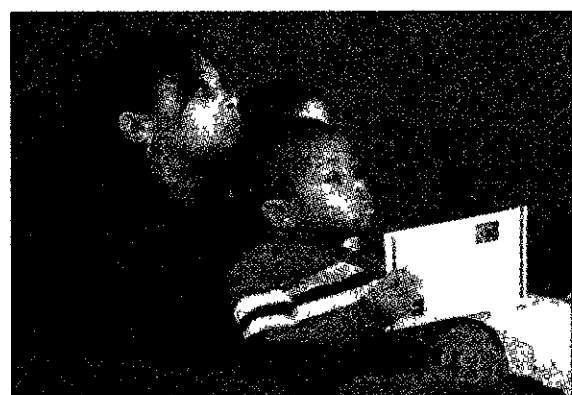
THURSDAY
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CANTON Observer

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Staci Washington and her son Myles Washington listen to the music of the Achievement Women's Choir and the Vision Men's Glee Club from the Detroit School of Arts

Looking for new heroes

MLK event celebrates Canton's diversity, calls on others to make a difference

BY TIFFANY L PARKS
STAFF WRITER

In between tinges of laughter and choruses of "Amen," Isaiah "Ike" McKinnon praised the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraged people to become heroes.

"So many people had found a hero and that was Dr. King," said McKinnon, a motivational speaker and former Detroit police chief. "But if we want heroes (today), look at yourself. Who can you touch? Who can you impact?"

McKinnon, who's penned three books, was the speaker Monday night for the township's keynote celebration of the life and ideas of the slain civil rights leader.

The event, which took place at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, was emceed by Marcia Barker of Canton Public Library and the Rev. Ron Washington of the Worldwide Church of God in Livonia.

Washington, who said King's anti-violence message changed his life, hailed the famed orator's struggle to stamp out divisions between blacks and whites as well as within the black community.

Highlighting a segment from King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech - "the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression" - Washington called the gathering an "evening of celebration, joy and reflection."

The event, which was attended by about 300 people, included musical performances by Vision



The Achievement Women's Choir, from the Detroit School of Arts, performs at One Community, One Voice Canton's celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and Achievement the male and female ensembles of the Detroit School of Arts.

With the boys in black tuxedos, bow ties and cummerbunds and the girls dressed in black floor-length gowns and pearl necklaces, the choirs were met with murmurs of "mmm hmm" and "great job."

This was a wonderful and beautiful evening," said Canton resident Ernestine Perkins.

Her husband, David, encouraged the township to continue the celebration in future years.

"It was lovely and I'm bringing more people with me next year to see this," he said.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack applauded the area's multicultural makeup and said families of all ethnicities have gravitated to the township because of its safe environment.

"We like our differences," he said. "I'm so proud of

PLEASE SEE MLK, A3

District set to pitch bond

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are on the campaign trail, trying to convince voters to approve a \$62.1 million bond issue on Feb. 27.

Superintendent Jim Ryan and all seven elected Board of Education members are meeting with PTOs, community and civic groups as they try to convince voters from five communities - Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Northville Township and Salem Township - of the need to pass a bond proposal that is about half of what was defeated in May 2006.

Next month's bond issue asks taxpayers to support \$31.2 million for a new middle school in Canton Township to replace an aging Central Middle School, and another \$13.6 million to refurbish Central for alternative education (replacing Starkweather Education Center), community education and a curriculum center.

The bond issue, if passed, also includes \$6 million to construct 10 classrooms at Salem High School, \$3.8 million for additional classrooms at Pioneer Middle School, \$3.3 million for six classrooms and a gym at Field Elementary, \$2.1 million for Canton High School cafeteria expansion, \$1.9 million for West Middle School cafeteria improvements, \$2.3 million to reimburse the general fund for the purchase of the middle school property on Cherry Hill Road, just west of Canton Center Road, in Canton.

PLEASE SEE BOND, A5

Thief hits doughnut shop, threatens cashier

BY TIFFANY L PARKS
STAFF WRITER

A man had more than coffee and jelly-filled pastries on his mind when he ventured into Dawn Donuts late Sunday night. He robbed the place.

The man, believed to be between 50-60 years old, entered the Michigan Avenue doughnut shop just after 10 p.m. and told the cashier he would shoot her if she didn't hand over all the money in the bakery.

After pocketing an undisclosed amount of cash, the man left the shop on foot. After his exit, the cashier, a 38-year-old Canton woman, called police.

"No weapon was seen but he implied he had one," said Sgt. Rick Pomorski of the Canton Police Department, adding that the robber kept one of his hands stuffed into a coat pocket.

When police arrived, they received a description of the thief from a nearby gas station attendant and the Dawn Donuts cashier.

The gas station employee told police he spotted the slender, 6-foot-tall man asking his customers for money about 20 minutes before he robbed the doughnut shop. He said the man, who was dressed in a black coat and a yellow hat, appeared homeless.

Police canvassed the surrounding area for the thief without luck.

Sunday night's holdup was the second armed robbery of the year to strike a Canton business.

A Pizza Hut delivery man was robbed after he was lured to a vacant Corinne Street house at about 11 p.m. on Jan. 5.

Pomorski said the thief, who is presumed to have ordered two large pizzas, wanted to make sure the 18-year-old delivery man had cash on him.

"After he placed the order he said, 'By the way, all I've got is a \$100 bill so be sure to bring change,'" he said.

When the teenager arrived at the vacant property, the thief approached him and said he had ordered the food. He then grabbed the victim by the throat and put a knife to his stomach.

The man took an undisclosed amount of money from the teenager and left the area on foot. There are no suspects.

Residents file complaint after tree from Lowe's falls into their yard

BY TIFFANY L PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Unlike many of their neighbors, Walt and Nan Schnabel welcomed Lowe's Home Improvement to Ford Road a few years ago.

The couple didn't have any complaints about the store, which is situated just behind their Westminster Way home, and viewed its close proximity as a bonus while others have railed against bright lights attached to the building, loud generators and semi trucks that idle late into the night.

That all changed for the Schnabels earlier this week when a dead tree on the store's property crashed down on their backyard and sliced through their vinyl privacy fence.

Walt Schnabel, who described himself as a loyal Lowe's customer, said he spoke to a Lowe's manager in July about five dead trees on the store's property.

"I didn't get anything in writing because I didn't think it was necessary at the time," said Schnabel, a retired police officer who has since begun to chronicle the status of trees in detail. "That manager said the store manager



Canton residents Walt and Nan Schnabel stand next to their privacy fence that was damaged by a dead tree on property owned by Lowe's

would contact me but I never heard from her."

What they heard instead, was their fence splitting in half at 4

a.m. Monday morning during the ice storm.

PLEASE SEE TREES, A5

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Coming Sunday in Health



Body exhibit motivates visitors to live healthy

New police officer

The Canton Police Department recently promoted Matthew Roberson to the rank of police officer. Roberson has worked for the department for four years as a public safety service officer (PSSO) and was a participant in the department's Career Development Program designed for PSSOs interested in a career in law enforcement or firefighting.

After four years of service and employee development as a PSSO, eligible personnel are sponsored by the department to attend either a police or fire academy. Upon successful completion of an academy, the employee is given first preference for an open position as a police officer or firefighter.

Roberson, 31, received his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Oakland Community College and his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Oakland University. He graduated from the Oakland

Police Academy in December of 2006, where he received an Academic Achievement Award for placing first academically in his class. Prior to working for Canton, Roberson was in the United States Army for four years. He is married with three sons.

All candidates for the Canton Police Department go through a rigorous testing process that includes a written test, physical agility test, oral board, medical and psychological examinations and an extensive background check. To find out more about opportunities at the department, visit www.canton-mi.org.

Home Improvement

Canton's sixth annual Home Improvement Expo and Parade of Homes will be held Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Canton's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

At the Expo, do-it-yourselfers will find more than 120 exhibitors ready to give tips and information on a wide range of home improvement

and repair projects. The Expo is free to the public and will focus on home modernization, new products and landscaping ideas. The Parade of Homes will also return this year with single-family model homes and condominiums open to the public during the entire event.

How-to workshops will also be held throughout the weekend on a variety of topics from landscaping to product lines and a hands-on project center be hosted to allow children the opportunity to construct a project made from wood. Expo goers will also be able to "Ask the Inspector" how to make their homes safe and code compliant when Canton's Building Inspectors answer questions one-on-one.

A special guest appearance will be made by Murray Gula, Host of "Murray Gula's Home Improvement Team" on WXYZ-TV Detroit. Refreshments will also be served throughout the day and multiple raffles for free prizes will be held.

The event is hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division,

the Chamber of Commerce and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. For more information, please call Canton's Building and Inspection Services at (734) 394-5200 or visit www.canton-mi.org.

Bittinger Team scholarships

Lee and Noel Bittinger of RE/MAX Classic in Canton are once again sponsoring three scholarships of \$1,000 each. These scholarships will be available to any currently enrolled high school senior in the Plymouth-Canton community who is planning on attending a college or university in the fall of 2007.

"The Plymouth-Canton community has supported us for over 20 years. The Bittinger Team Scholarship is just one of the ways that we can say thank you by giving back to our community. We know that education is very important for the values of our properties. This is our way of paving the way for a stronger, happier future for the next generation," said Noel

Bittinger. Applications may be obtained at RE/MAX Classic 43435 Joy Road, in Canton. The submission deadline is March 1, 2007.

Chamber computer course

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is offering a MS Excel Part I course 6-9 p.m., Jan. 31 at Canton Computers, which is located at the southwest corner of Canton Center and Ford Road.

This is one of many computer training courses that the chamber has scheduled in 2007. The classes are open to chamber members and to the public.

Cost for the seminar is \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Class size is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Registration deadline is Jan. 26.

New Liberty scholarship

New Liberty Bank is offering one \$500 scholarship to a local high school senior who demonstrates scholastic achievement and upholds the Bank's "commitment to community" through volunteer service.

"When it comes to financing

a college education, every little bit helps," said New Liberty Bank President and CEO Raymond Reame. "We are very excited to be able to reward one outstanding student for their hard work and community contributions with this scholarship."

Applications are available at the Bank's branch or on-line. All materials must be returned to the Bank or postmarked by March 1. Applicants must be residents of Plymouth, Canton or Northville and planning to attend an accredited U.S. college, university or trade school.

Home Expo applications available

Applications to participate in Canton's 2007 Home Improvement Expo and Parade of Homes are now available on the township Web site at www.canton-mi.org.

The Expo, scheduled to be held next year on March 3-4, is an opportunity for home improvement businesses and builders to promote their products by hosting a display booth or participating in the Parade of Homes.

All vendor applications must be sent to 1150 Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188 by Jan. 15. For questions regarding the 2007 Home Improvement Expo, please call (734) 394-5200.

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MLK

FROM PAGE A1

this community"

Yack said the township's melting-pot atmosphere is most evident within the school district

"It looks like the United Nations," he said, to a round of applause

Standing near a framed black and white poster of King, McKinnon told the audience they can honor his legacy by refusing to be angry and maximizing their potential

Debra Hartmann of Canton said McKinnon's words struck a chord with her

"I can be a hero to my kids," she said "That's such an important message and I'm so glad that I came here"

At the end of the event, the audience locked arms and sang "We Shall Overcome" with the Vision and Achievement choirs

"This was great," said Salem



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Isarah McKinnon, former police chief of Detroit, waits backstage at the Village Theater before his time to speak. He stopped to offer congratulations to choir members after their performance

High School student Kristin Warde, Hartmann's daughter

The final piece of the township's celebration of King, an art exhibit, will be on display until March 4 at the theater

The Rock My Soul exhibition includes more than 20 pieces of artwork and focuses on the

contributions of African Americans to rock and roll

For more information on the exhibit, visit www.artsleague.com/rock_my_soul.htm

tliparks@hometownlife.com
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Petitions now available for May school election

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Petitions are now available for residents of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools who are interested in running for a seat on the Board of Election

Two four-year terms, currently held by board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger and Trustee Skip Mont, will be up for grabs in the election in the Tuesday, May 8, election

"I have petitions ready right now for anyone who wants to file," said Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart who is in charge of the annual election

Residents interested in running must file petitions containing a minimum of 40 up to a maximum of 100 signatures of registered school district voters or pay a \$100 fee in lieu of petitions and an Affidavit of Identity by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13



Pitsenbarger



Mont

The district includes the city of Wayne and portions of Westland, Inkster, Canton, Dearborn Heights and Romulus, and residents of those communities can pick up the necessary paperwork at the clerk's office in Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford, west of Wayne Road, or at the clerk's office in Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, north of Michigan Avenue

Both Mont and Pitsenbarger have indicated they will be seeking re-election

Mont, a Wayne resident who is completing his second

four-year term on the board, said he still feels "he wants to help the district prosper and help the students achieve"

"I feel we're doing a great job," he said "I've had the opportunity to oversee the improvements in the school buildings. That was kind of my roots when I came in and it's the thing I enjoy the most"

Pitsenbarger, also a Wayne resident, is completing her third four-year term and is the current board secretary

"I love the kids and I love seeing so many good things happening in the district," Pitsenbarger said

"If I can be a part of it, I will. It helps when I have people come up to me and tell me that they love the Wayne-Westland schools"

For more information, call the Westland City Clerk's office at (734) 467-3185

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Get your Orchestra Canton tickets online

Tickets for Orchestra Canton's upcoming performance, "Tchaikovsky & Friends" scheduled for Saturday evening at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, can now be purchased online, as well as in person at Summit on the Park and the theater's box office

The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, and will feature the lyrical sounds of Tchaikovsky's "Andante Cantabile," along with his only large-scaled work for string orchestra, the Serenade in C Major. The show will also feature a new

work performed by a quartet of Orchestra Canton musicians Libby Larsen's Four on the Floor, inspired by both "boogie-woogie" and the composer's love of driving fast, is a hilarious parody of contemporary American life

Orchestra Canton tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for children

According to Jennifer Philpot-Munson, executive director of the Plymouth-Canton Symphony Society, this is the first time people can buy tickets by visiting the Orchestra Canton Web site at www.orchestraecanton.org

(look for the link to buy tickets online) She said people can also use the feature to select the seats they want

Available tickets can be purchased online up to two hours before show time. After that they must be purchased at the Village Theater ticket office. Philpot-Munson said there are still a limited number of tickets available for the show

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Summit on the Park, 4600 Summit Parkway or by phone by calling the Summit at (734) 394-5460 x 6 x 0

Suspect pleads guilty in bizarre armed robbery

Ann Arbor resident Barry James Knight pleaded guilty last week to several charges stemming from a Sept. 27 home invasion/armed robbery on Lotz Road near Michigan Avenue. Among the charges Knight, 40, pleaded guilty to are armed robbery, home invasion 1st degree, larceny in a building, and attempt to steal a vehicle. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for Jan. 25 at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge James A. Callahan

According to police reports, Knight broke into the home, and then called a plumber to the location saying there was an emergency. When the plumber arrived, police say Knight pulled out a shotgun and tried to rob the plumber, a 48-year-old Canton man, at gunpoint

But the burglar didn't count on the plumber knowing self-defense tactics

"The plumber grabbed the gun, and the two struggled until the plumber got control of the gun," Canton Sgt. Rack

Pomorski said Knight fled the home on foot, after trying to steal a car which was parked at the house, according to police. But it only took minutes for Canton police, aided by their K-9 dog to find and arrest him

Knight had been on parole and was wearing an electronic tether, after his release from prison for a 1991 conviction for armed robbery

He absconded from parole in August, according to the Michigan Offender Tracking Information System

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Chill hits the air just in time for Plymouth ice festival

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Mother Nature came through this week with her own ice festival, with a dash of frigid temperatures tossed in, only days before the 25th anniversary of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, which runs Friday through Sunday.

"Sometimes you get lucky," said Mike Watts, organizer of the Plymouth ice fest the past 16 years. "You knew the cold weather had to come sometime, and it looks like we'll be blessed with good weather for the event."

The forecast indicates temperatures will range from the mid-20s to near 30 degrees while Fantasyland — carvings with themes aimed at children — is gone from The Gathering, Watts said there will be plenty for youngsters to see at the main venue in Kellogg Park.

"There will be a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex, scenes from *Charlotte's Web*, and students from Henry Ford Community College will carve penguins from the movie *Happy Feet*," Watts said. "There are a number of carvings targeted for children."

Watts is keeping it under his hat, but said a five-member team from Japan will be carving nearly 80 blocks of ice, weighing nearly one ton, for one of their four carvings in Kellogg Park.

"It's really a beautiful scene, and words wouldn't do it justice," Watts teased. "It will celebrate the 25th anniversary, and everyone will be surprised."

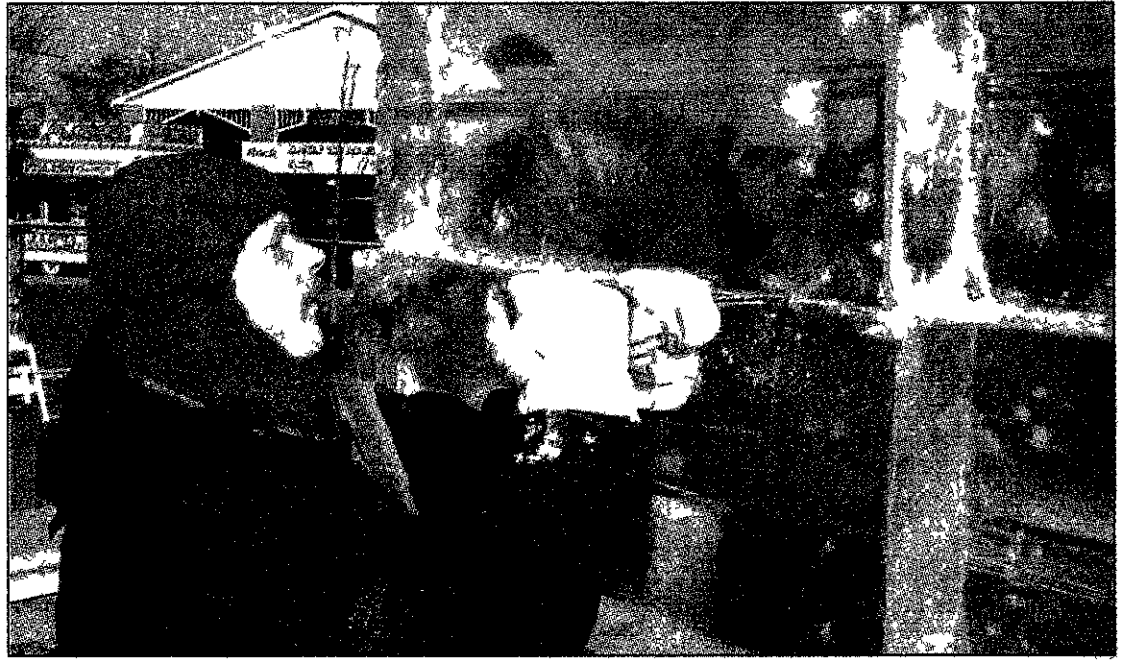
Along with the Japanese team, which has been coming to the show for 16 years, there will be carvings by teams of students from local community college culinary programs, who will compete and carve 1,200 blocks of ice during the three-day event.

On Saturday, world-class carver Jim Bur, a former Livonia resident who now lives in Eastpointe, will demonstrate in Kellogg Park, as he prepares for the world carving championships to be held in Japan, only weeks after the Plymouth ice fest.

"Nine years ago, he and Ted Wakar, an award-winning ice sculptor from Canton, won the Japanese event, the only non-Asians ever to win one of the oldest and most prestigious ice carving competitions in the world," Watts said. "On Sunday, we will have Tajana Raukar, who owns Ice Dreams in Plymouth, and winner of world competitions in Alaska."

Mike Wright, who chairs Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors, said the DDA believes in the ice fest and the traffic it brings to downtown retailers and restaurants.

"Our belief is that is has tremendous value, an event



Canton's Ted Wakar, shown here working on an ice sculpture at last year's Plymouth Ice Fest with Mike Watts, will participate at this year's event, which begins Friday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

that is recognized within the entire region and draws people from beyond Plymouth," Wright said. "We feel so confident, we invested \$2,500 in an

ice sculpture with our new marketing logo that will be carved and displayed." The 6,000-pound, 8- by 10-foot sculpture will feature the

new DDA logo and tag line for downtown Plymouth, "Not Just A Walk in the Park."

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8:50-9:40 pm
Salsa Dancing

Session II
Class Dates March 28-May 9th (No class April 11th)
7:30-8:40 pm
Intro to Ballroom Dancing II
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- ♦ Feb 3 2-4pm Yoga for Emotional Healing - \$30
- ♦ Feb 10 7-9pm Yoga Groove (yoga/dance mix) - \$15
- ♦ Feb 16 6:30-8pm Partner Yoga - \$25 per duo
- ♦ Feb 24 2-4pm Intro to Ashtanga Yoga - Free

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BOND

FROM PAGE A1

\$1.1 million to purchase 13 school buses, \$500,000 for new education program equipment to meet new state mandates, and \$125,000 for high school security.

Trustee Dianne Gonzalez of Plymouth Township, who was elected to the board in May, made it known while campaigning last year she disapproved of the May 2006 bond. This time around, Gonzalez is on board.

"I think my joining the board made everybody take a step backward and look at it

again from the beginning," Gonzalez said. "This is a completely different bond, and I wanted to make sure the administration was doing its homework."

For Gonzalez, that meant going to the different schools to see, firsthand, the problems.

"I saw students at West Middle School stand in long lines for lunch, and then not have enough time to eat it to get back to class on time," Gonzalez said. "Students in the cafeterias at Salem and Canton (high schools) were sharing seats. I visited Starkweather, and the catacombs of Central. I had a genuine concern about all those issues."

Gonzalez, who during last

year's bond wanted a new elementary school built on district-owned Miller Woods acreage in Plymouth Township, said, "I think we still need an elementary school, but we have to stand back and look at the priorities. I had to put my political differences aside and do what's best for the kids in the district."

Plymouth-Canton school officials are confident they're on the right track. In a survey of more than 300 voters, 54 percent said they'd vote "yes," with another 4 percent leaning toward voting in favor of the bond issue. Some 39 percent said they would vote "no" or are leaning toward rejecting the bond question.

Trustee Richard Ham-Kucharski of Canton Township stood as the lone dissenting vote on the school board for the May bond proposal. But, like Gonzalez, Ham-Kucharski said he'll be out helping with presentations to help pass the next bond.

"The big difference this time was the board and administration actually took the time to listen to the community and what they saw as needs for the district," Ham-Kucharski said. "We internally know we have a long list of needs and wants, but it really does come down to where the community is willing to support. We went through the process of due diligence and scaled back what

we were looking at in this package, and it makes sense.

With all seven school board members on board, school board President Barry Smesecu said it will be easier to go out and pitch for voter approval.

"I think the community, this time, is seeing a joint effort," Smesecu said. "The process we used to get there made everybody comfortable in supporting this bond."

There were a handful of district residents who worked against the bond proposals in May One, Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards, said he'll be vocal against this one, too.

"I'm not in favor of doing

anything with the economy the way it is," Edwards said.

"You're putting financial pressure on people when they're trying to pay their own bills."

And, there's the credibility issue," he said. "If housing sales have stopped, you won't have increasing enrollment, and won't have to construct new buildings."

Ryan will be giving tours of Central Middle School and Starkweather Education Center on weekends in February to those who want a look before voting Feb. 27. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 416-2757.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

TREES

FROM PAGE A1

"We both woke up and said 'what do you think that was,'" said Nan Schnabel. "We couldn't believe how (the tree) sliced our fence like butter."

When he called the home improvement store later Monday morning, Walt Schnabel said he spoke to the store manager who said his complaint from July was never given to her. After denying that the trees were the retailer's responsibility, the store manager referred Schnabel to the company's corporate offices.

I want them to acknowledge they've received my complaint and give me the name of their insurance company," Walt Schnabel said. "I also want them to be good neighbors and remove the other dead trees."

Maureen Rich, a Lowe's spokesperson, said on Wednesday the company will foot the bill for the damage connected to the accident.

We are happy to take care of this," she said, noting that the Schnabels will send the North Carolina-based company estimates of the fence repair and tree removal.

Rich also said it's her understanding that the remaining dead trees will be removed.

We don't want this to happen again," she said. "We regret that it happened (at all)."

With branches from the fallen tree resting on their deck, Walt Schnabel said the store's handling of this situation will determine if he remains a customer.

We spent about \$3,000 there this past year," he said. "We like Lowe's and we want them to make this right."

Walt Schnabel has also filed a complaint against a Canton ordinance officer that he called last summer when he didn't get a response from Lowe's. According to Schnabel, the officer examined the Lowe's property but said he couldn't ticket the retailer because the trees are within a buffer area that Lowe's is not supposed to disturb.

Sgt. Rick Pomorski of the Canton Police Department confirmed receipt of Schnabel's complaint.

Mr. Schnabel filed a complaint this week, and we're doing our best to investigate it," Pomorski said.

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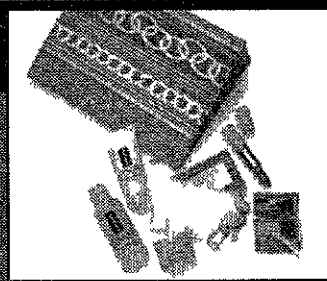
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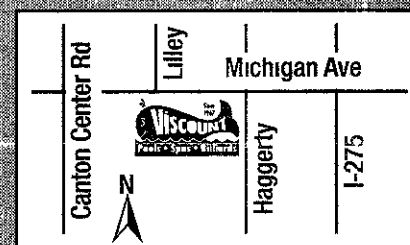
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Troop's first Eagle Scout

Derek W. Bradford Jr. of Boy Scout Troop 735, which began only two years ago and is sponsored by UAW Local 735, is the first member of his troop to earn the status of Eagle Scout.

Nursing administrator

Linda Harden, R.N., has been appointed nursing administrator for the Henry Ford Medical Group (HFMG).



Harden

The Canton resident is administrative manager at the Henry Ford Medical Centers in Taylor and Ann Arbor, as well as administrative manager of the HFMG Cardiology/Surgery Clinic located at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

In her new role, Harden will be responsible for overseeing nursing initiatives, clinical development, standardization of practice, and service excellence standards for nursing to ensure quality, safe clinical practices and regulatory compliance.

and served on numerous HFMG committees. She has also served as adjunct faculty at Henry Ford Community College and has provided volunteer health care work on several medical missions to underserved countries.

Recognition of her leadership includes receiving the Oakland University's Nightingale Award for Nursing Administration, the Crain's Detroit Business Healthcare Award, and being named Michigan Registered Nurse of the Year by the Detroit Free Press in 2002.

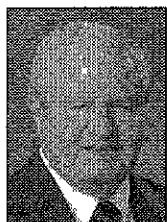
Harden received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from Madonna University, and her Master of Science in Health Care Administration Degree from Bellevue University.

CPA awards

Canton residents and CPAs Michael Foran and Mark R. Bartlett were both recently honored by the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA).

Foran, a professor at the University of Michigan Dearborn, was named the

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Foran



Bartlett

MACPA 2006 Accounting Educator of the Year Award, for excellence in teaching accounting and his many contributions to the CPA profession. Foran, the former associate dean and chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance, School of Management at U of M—Dearborn, has this year returned to full time teaching as a professor of accounting.

He has more than 50 refereed journal articles and published books, developed more than 25 seminar and paper presentations, served as moderator, chairperson, discussant or faculty panel member for more than 20 national conferences and programs, and has received and been the nominee for multiple awards and honors including his military service in the Navy.

Bartlett, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, was honored with the MACPA 2006 Business & Industry Hall of Fame Award for his accomplishments in streamlining systems, reducing costs and strengthening his corporation's overall financial position.

In 1996, Bartlett was featured in Crain's Detroit Business list of 40 Under 40, executive achievers, which features 40 people who have achieved success in business before the age of 40.

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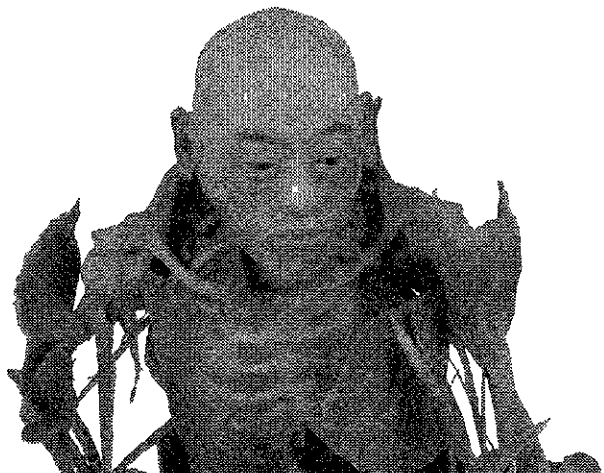
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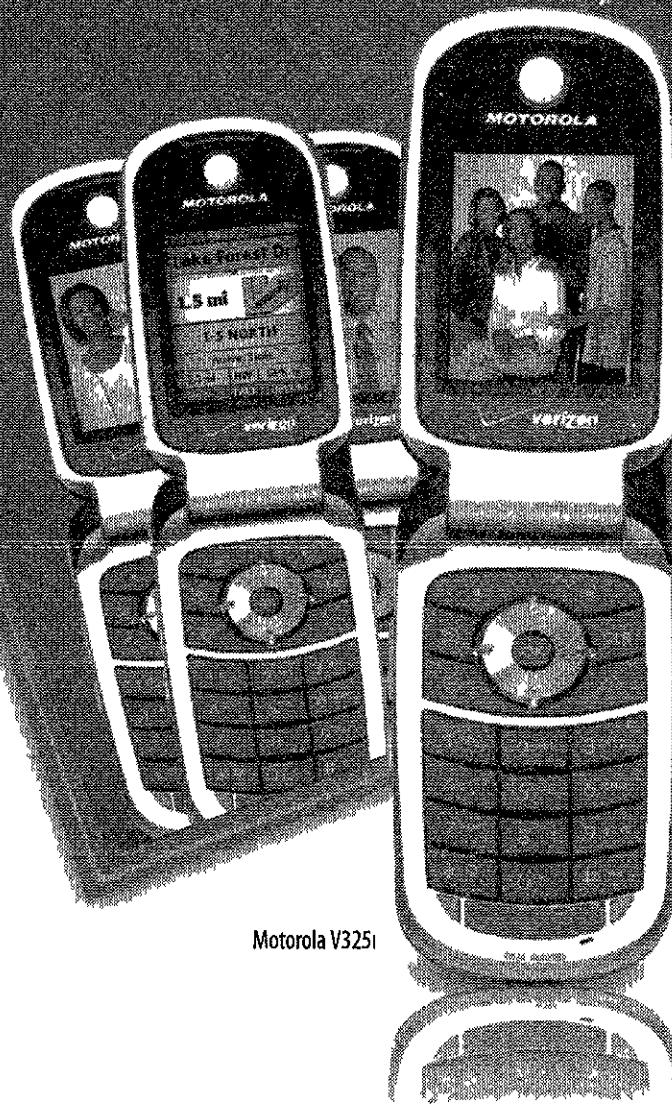
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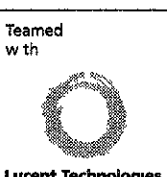
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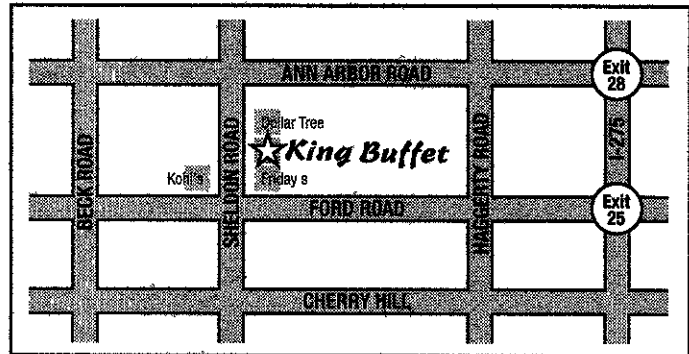
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- 67 Kung Pao Chicken* 7 50
- 68 Almond Chicken 7 50
- 69 Lemon Chicken 7 50
- 70 Moo Shu Chicken 7 50
- 71 Yu-Hsiang Chicken* 7 50
- 72 Szechuan Chicken* 7 50
- 73 Hunan Chicken* 7 50
- 74 Chicken with Snow Peas 7 50
- 75 Curry Chicken* 7 50
- 76 Empress Chicken* 7 50
- 77 Chicken with Vegetables 7 50

Beef

- 78 Mongolian Beef 7 50
- 79 Beef with Broccoli 7 50
- 80 Yu-Hsiang Beef* 7 50
- 81 Szechuan Beef* 7 50
- 82 Hunan Beef* 7 50
- 83 Beef with Vegetables 7 50
- 84 Kung Pao Beef* 7 50
- 85 Moo Shu Beef 7 50
- 86 Pepper Steak with Onion 7 50
- 87 Beef with Snow Peas 7 50
- 88 Sha Cha Beef* 7 50

Seafood

- 89 Sweet & Sour Shrimp 8 50
- 90 Shrimp with Snow Peas 8 50
- 91 Cashew Shrimp 8 50
- 92 Kung Pao Shrimp* 8 50
- 93 Shrimp with Broccoli 8 50
- 94 Moo Shu Shrimp 8 50
- 95 Yu-Hsiang Shrimp* 8 50
- 96 Szechuan Shrimp* 8 50
- 97 Hunan Shrimp* 8 50
- 98 Curry Shrimp* 8 50
- 99 Shrimp with Lobster Sauce 8 50
- 100 Shrimp with Vegetables 8 50
- 101 Yu-Hsiang Scallops* 8 50

Pork

- 102 Sweet & Sour Pork 7 50
- 103 Moo Shu Pork 7 50
- 104 Yu-Hsiang Pork* 7 50
- 105 Twice Cooked Pork* 7 50
- 106 Hunan Pork* 7 50
- 107 Pork with Vegetables 7 50

Vegetables

- 108 Vegetarian s Delight 6 50
- 109 Moo Shu Vegetables 6 50
- 110 Yu-Hsiang Broccoli* 6 50
- 111 Family Style Bean Curd* 6 50
- 112 Bean Curd Szechuan Style* 6 50

Chow Mein

(Crispy Noodle)

- 113 Chicken Chow Mein 6 50
- 114 Beef Chow Mein 6 50
- 115 Pork Chow Mein 6 50
- 116 Shrimp Chow Mein 7 50
- 117 Combo Chow Mein 7 50

Lo Mein

(Soft Noodle)

- 118 Chicken Lo Mein 6 50
- 119 Beef Lo Mein 6 50
- 120 Pork Lo Mein 6 50
- 121 Vegetable Lo Mein 6 50
- 122 Shrimp Lo Mein 7 50
- 123 Combo Lo Mein 7 50

Fried Rice

- 124 Chicken Fried Rice 5 95
- 125 Beef Fried Rice 5 95
- 126 Pork Fried Rice 5 95
- 127 Vegetable Fried Rice 5 95
- 128 Shrimp Fried Rice 6 95
- 129 Combo Fried Rice 6 95

Side Orders

- 130 Steamed Rice 0 50
- 131 Fried Rice 1 25
- 132 Crispy Noodle 0 50
- 133 Fortune Cookie 0 10
- 134 Soft Drink 1 25

Chef's Specialty:

Served with Steamed Rice

- C1 General Tso's Chicken* 8 95
(Chunks of chicken quickly deep fried with red pepper garlic & ginger in a red hot & sweet sauce)
- C2 Sesame Chicken 8 95
(Crispy chicken with sesame in spicy sweet brown sauce)
- C3 Peking Chicken* 8 95
(Crispy chicken with peppers carrots mushrooms & celery in a Peking style special sauce)
- C4 Orange Flavor Chicken* 8 95
(Crispy chicken in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
- C5 Orange Flavor Beef* 8 95
(Chunk slices of beef sauteed in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
- C6 Orange Flavor Shrimp* 9 95
(Jumbo shrimp deep fried in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
- C7 Hunan Double Delight* 9 95
(Jumbo shrimp & chicken with green pepper broccoli, carrots mushrooms & water chestnuts in our special garlic sauce)
- C8 Yu-Hsiang Delight* 9 95
(Beef shrimp & chicken with select vegetables in spicy garlic sauce)
- C9 Scallop Beef 9 95
(Fresh scallops with slices of beef in light brown sauce)
- C10 Happy Family 9 95
(A combination of chicken shrimp beef pork & scallops sauteed with assorted vegetables in chef's special sauce)
- C11 Seafood Combination 9 95
(King crab shrimp & scallops stir fried with vegetables)

* Denotes HOT & SPICY

Lunch Specials:

Served Mon -Sat 11am-3pm

These lunch specials served with Fried Rice or Steamed Rice and choice of Egg Roll or Crab Rangoon

- 1 Sweet & Sour Chicken 4 50
- 2 Chicken with Broccoli 4 50
- 3 Moo Goo Gai Pan 4 50
- 4 Yu-Hsiang Chicken* 4 50
- 5 Cashew Chicken 4 50
- 6 Kung Pao Chicken* 4 50
- 7 Chicken with Vegetables 4 50
- 8 Garlic Chicken 4 50
- 9 Chicken Chow Mein 4 50
- 10 Curry Chicken* 4 50
- 11 Beef with Broccoli 4 50
- 12 Pepper Steak with Onion 4 50
- 13 Yu-Hsiang Beef* 4 50
- 14 Beef Chow Mein 4 50
- 15 Beef with Vegetables 4 50
- 16 Kung Pao Beef* 4 50
- 17 Yu-Hsiang Pork* 4 50
- 18 Twice Cooked Pork* 4 50
- 19 Sweet & Sour Pork 4 50
- 20 Garlic Pork 4 50
- 21 Pork Chow Mein 4 50
- 22 Vegetables Delight 4 50
- 23 Yu-Hsiang Broccoli* 4 50
- 24 Shrimp with Broccoli 4 95
- 25 Yu-Hsiang Shrimp* 4 95
- 26 Cashew Shrimp 4 95
- 27 Kung Pao Shrimp* 4 95
- 28 Shrimp with Vegetables 4 95
- 29 Shrimp with Lobster Sauce 4 95
- 30 Curry Shrimp* 4 95
- 31 Shrimp Chow Mein 4 95
- 32 Garlic Shrimp 4 95
- 33 Sweet & Sour Shrimp 4 95
- 34 General Tso s Chicken* 4 95
- 35 Sesame Chicken 4 95
- 36 Shrimp & Chicken Hunan Style* 4 95
- 37 Triple Delight 4 95

Fried Rice

- 38 Chicken Fried Rice 4 50
- 39 Vegetable Fried Rice 4 50
- 40 Beef Fried Rice 4 50
- 41 Pork Fried Rice 4 50
- 42 Shrimp Fried Rice 4 50
- 43 Combo Fried Rice 4 50

Lo Mein

- 44 Chicken Lo Mein 4 50
- 45 Vegetable Lo Mein 4 50
- 46 Beef Lo Mein 4 50
- 47 Pork Lo Mein 4 50
- 48 Shrimp Lo Mein 4 50
- 48 Combo Lo Mein 4 50

Appetizers

- 50 Egg Roll(1) 1 00
- 51 Fried Wonton(8) 2 25
- 52 Fried Chicken Wings(4) 2 95
- 53 Fried Shrimp(3) 3 00
- 54 Bar-B-Q Chicken (4) 3 95
- 55 Crab Rangoon (3) 2 00 (6) 3 95
- 56 Steamed or Fried Dumplings(6) 4 25
- 57 Pu Pu Tray (for 2) 7 25
(Includes egg roll fried shrimp bar b q chicken crab rangoon and fried chicken wing)

Soups

- 58 Egg Drop Soup 1 50
- 59 Wonton Soup 1 50
- 60 Hot & Sour Soup* 1 50
- 61 House Special Soup (for 2) 4 95
(chicken shrimp scallops)
- 62 House Noodle Soup 5 95
(chicken shrimp beef)

* Denotes HOT & SPICY

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Big 3 cars still favorites with metro Detroiters

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Metro Detroiters like their cars

And, unlike most areas of the country, they still favor the Big Three - General Motors, Ford and Chrysler - when it comes to their favorites at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Exhibition Center in downtown Detroit

"I'm just looking at GM models because I drive one now," said Jennifer Jerore of Livonia, who currently owns a Trailblazer "I won't go back to a car I like the size of an SUV, and that I'm sitting up higher I don't like sitting in little cars anymore, I feel like I'm going to get run down on the road"

Many at the auto show have connections to the Big Three, and are willing to support them, while still getting a glimpse of what the competition has to offer

Paul Hamway of Plymouth

Township said his connection to the auto industry is through Mopar Parts, which produces original equipment parts and accessories for Dodge, Jeep and Chrysler vehicles

"My brother is retired from Mopar, my mother and mother-in-law worked there and I have a 2005 Ram (pickup)," Hamway, 67, said "I'm a domestic car guy because this area is really connected to the domestic car industry"

Hamway said he'd like to see Cobo Center expanded to keep Detroit's auto show No. 1 in the world

"We're supposedly the premier auto show, so they need to expand it so we can stay No. 1," Hamway said "Even though we're losing manufacturing jobs, we're still the center for research and development Even Toyota, Nissan and Hyundai have R&D here We really need to push for the best show"

That buy-American sentiment has spread to Hamway's

daughter, 31-year-old Julie Hamway of Howell

"I like the (Mercury) Lincoln and the (Jeep) Grand Cherokee," she said "I like the expensive cars, especially the American cars"

Jason Rydzewski and George Phillips, both 23 and from Rochester Hills, spent the day looking at some of the fast cars

"I like the new (Chevrolet) Camaro concept," Rydzewski said "It looks tough and retro, like the old Camaro, but with new style"

Phillips said his pick at the auto show is the Pontiac Solstice

Carol Markey of Farmington Hills, who worked for Ford Motor Co., and Art Doty of Redford Township, a Jeep fanatic, had their own battle over which domestic manufacturer had more to offer

"I probably would consider the Ford 500," said Markey, who now drives a 2003 Ford Taurus "Keyless entry is

important. I would pay extra to get it"

Doty was impressed while looking at the options on the Jeep Compass Sport 4x4

"I didn't think you could go away with a four-wheel-drive, 2007 Jeep for \$20,000," said Doty, "with quite a few options like power windows, power door locks, and keyless remote

entry
"That means I can call my friend from Chrysler and get his employee purchase and get it for less than 20-grand," added Doty, who drives a 1999 Dodge and also owns a 1986 Jeep Comanche pickup "It could happen"

In the good-natured sparring on whether Ford or

Chrysler had better products, Markey got in the last word

"We know Ford has better products," she said

The North American International Auto Show runs through Sunday at Cobo Exhibition Center in downtown Detroit

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OUR VIEWS

J.C. Penney should heed Lowe's lesson

As Canton planning officials work with J.C. Penney on the site plan for the retailer's proposed store on Ford Road just east of Sheldon Road, they should do all they can to insure the development doesn't infringe on the properties of adjacent homeowners in the Carriage Hills subdivision.

The officials don't need to look too far away to see how a development can affect the quality of life of residents. J.C. Penney will be built next to Lowe's, a development that residents on Westminster Way have complained about since it was built.

When Lowe's was built, construction crews cleared the woods that once separated the residents from busy Ford Road, with the exception of a few trees, many of which are now dead. The natural wetland was replaced by a stormwater retention pond, and a few small evergreens were planted. Instead of looking at a wooded buffer, residents now look out their back window and see a giant big box store.

Residents also complain about security lights at the rear of the store that brighten up their back yards at night, as well as huge generators that emit constant noise and semis that park behind the store and idle during nighttime hours.

Some of the homeowners on Westminster Way said they wouldn't have bought their homes had they known a big box store was going to be built behind them. That claim is either disingenuous or naive. What did they think was going to be built on Ford Road? Still, all of this could have been avoided with some careful planning, i.e. making sure there was a sufficient buffer between the store and the neighborhood.

To their credit, J.C. Penney officials have met with the Carriage Hills residents and seem to be willing to do all they can to insure there won't be the same kind of problems that occurred with the Lowe's development. But they are still working on the final site plan with the township, and you never know what will happen when you are dealing with a giant corporation.

So the township really needs to do all it can to hold J.C. Penney to its word. Their main objective should be to make sure the development, or any development for that matter, does not impact the quality of life of the township's residents.

Area's Congressional delegation should unite

These are tough times for suburban Detroit's Congressional delegation. Returning to work after the holiday break, the Republican-dominated delegation found themselves in unfamiliar waters. Out of power and shunned to the political sidelines.

With Democrats seizing control of both the U.S. House and Senate thanks to the November general election, there has been a shift of power away from the suburban Republicans, namely Joe Knollenberg and Mike Bishop in Oakland County and Thaddeus McCotter in western Wayne.

Now, veteran Democratic Congressmen John Dingell, John Conyers and Sander Levin, along with U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, have the influence to set—and, indeed, change—the direction of this country.

It is understandable if the Democrats feel the urge for a little political payback time against their Republican counterparts, even if they do represent the same state.

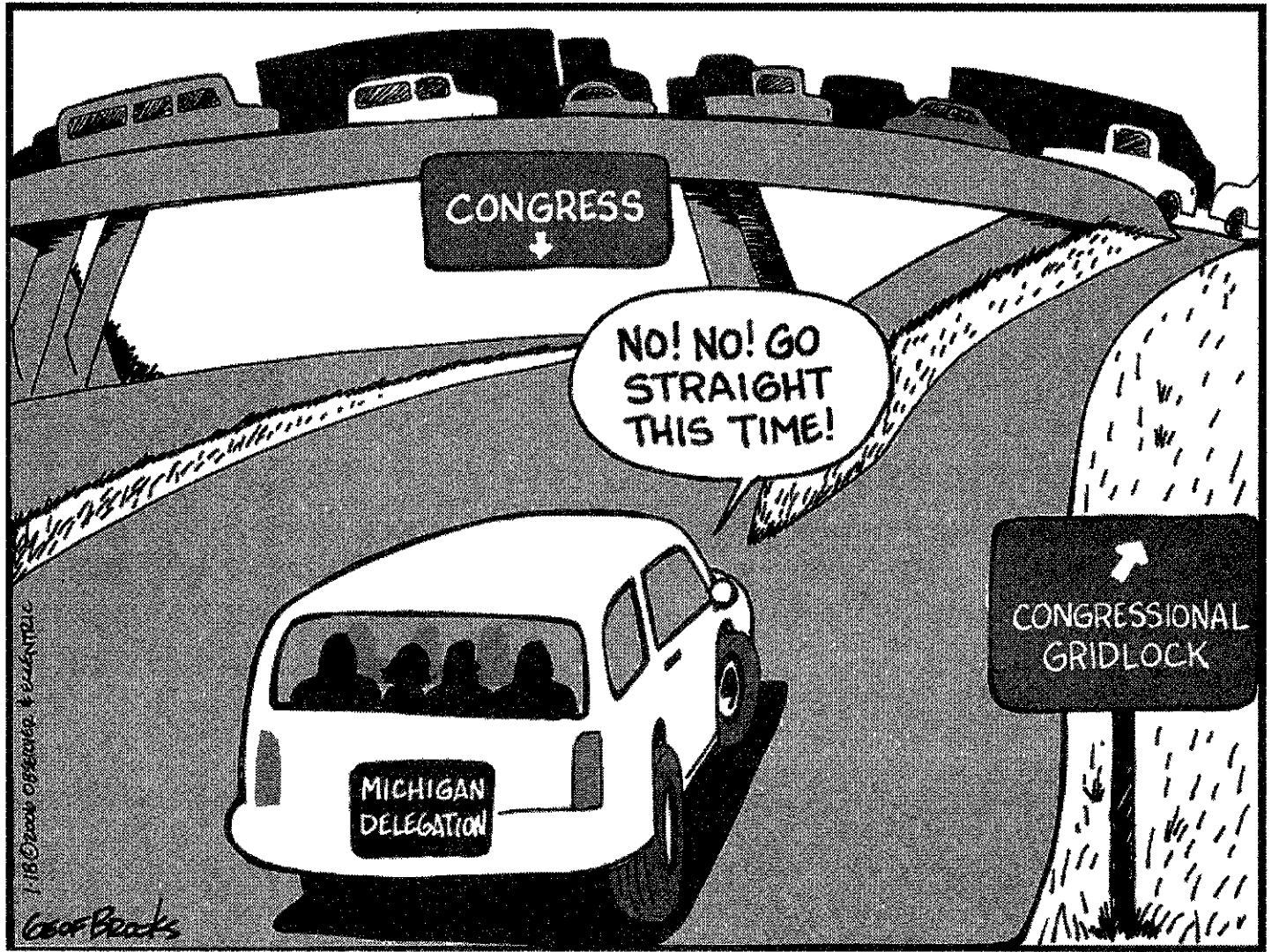
The past six years have been anything but nonpartisan, as the Republicans, led by President George W. Bush, have used their control of both the House and Senate to ramrod an agenda with little interest in hearing from the other side.

The political swagger displayed by Bush and the Republicans has done little to help this nation, and even less to help the state of Michigan. Just ask the Big Three automakers, who had to practically beg on their knees to get a meeting with the president to discuss the crisis facing the domestic auto industry.

But there is no time for two more years of politics as usual. The state of Michigan is in a real crisis, and it needs Washington's help to find solutions.

It is going to take a unified delegation to fight for our state, be it getting its fair share in federal transportation dollars, helping establish sound policy to encourage new and emerging industries to locate in Michigan, or passing tough environmental legislation to help secure and protect the Great Lakes.

The golden rule should also apply to members of Congress when they go about conducting the affairs of the nation.



LETTERS

Give Bush the boot

I am writing in support of the words of Joseph McGlinchey who calls for the impeachment of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. I agree they have to go.

On Jan. 10, President Bush made a speech about his "new" plan for Iraq. Among other things he promised the Iraqi people "revenue sharing" from oil profits. Where is the "revenue sharing" here in the United States? My taxes are pounding me to pay for his adventure in Iraq and for what?

So that Lyndon Bush Johnson can set up a socialist regime in Iraq? The Cold War ended and now President Bush wants to spread communism. The stock markets went nuts the other day when Venezuela threatened to nationalize their television station but Bush nationalizes Iraqi oil in one sentence and no one makes a peep.

Who is going to oversee that "revenue sharing" to make sure that millions of dollars are not turned into weapons to attack the United States? This one point about "revenue sharing" for Iraq while American companies are being driven out of business in Iraq is sickening.

We have seen this administration support Communist China (and even back down to them) while declaring Russia's Putin his friend. What does Republican Red mean these days?

What I think the president means is that Americans will continue to pay for Iraq and to indirectly finance terrorism.

Saddam is dead — where is Osama Bin Laden?

Either we give George Bush the boot or we will end up under it.

Alfred Brock
Canton

Millen is arrogant

Matt Millen says he 'won't quit'. What arrogance. His record is as bad as it gets.

He holds the record for the worst record of any president in NFL history. No one will ever come close to this record, because no owner in the future will ever keep a president that keeps losing as consistently as Matt Millen. What are the owners thinking or not thinking in deciding to keep him?

By the way, is it merely a coincidence that the owners of the lowly Lions are also the owners of the fast-falling Ford Motor Co? I don't think so. Poor management produces poor results — whether it is football or cars.

Albert Calille
Plymouth

Caution: Liberal hand on wheel

Our representatives in the Washington House don't have backgrounds in money, credit, banking, finance, bookkeeping, accounting, budgeting and economics. Yet we elect people who again this year will pass legislation, including the earmarking of tons of pork, that totals many billions of dollars. Imagine the making of business decisions by representatives who cannot read a balance sheet!

It isn't funny, 'tis tragic. They can't wait to pass a federal minimum wage increase, deciding on the wages and salaries to be paid many of the workers in many of our businesses, the small business and the corporation. Some businesses will fail when the proposed legislation becomes law. Sub-marginal business operations will certainly close

their doors, marginal businesses will operate at a loss until sustained losses make them perpetual losers, too.

Many workers, of course, will lose their jobs as businesses close. Not only the minimum wage workers will suffer, but workers making \$7, \$8, \$10, and \$20 an hour will be without work as business after business fails.

And this legislation is only the beginning of the failing government policies supposedly initiated to improve the country's economic condition. Wait until the government keeps its promise to raise taxes. There doesn't seem to be one economist in the leftist ranks who can follow the successful tax rate cut provision sponsored by Kennedy, Reagan and Bush, to name three of the most current crop of those with economic acumen.

Late in November, I began stocking the fruit cellar with canned goods and other food necessities in response to the dire economic conditions that will most likely evolve with the liberal hand on the wheel. Potted meat isn't so bad and I won't have to go to the store.

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

Require a paper ballot

I join the call for a paper ballot for every vote cast in America. It is time for Congress to finally pass an election reform bill in which the American people can have confidence. Any such legislation must require a paper ballot — not a 'paper trail' nor a 'paper record' — for every vote cast.

Please make this a top priority in the upcoming legislative session.

Ronnie Sullivan
Westland

Court must be unbiased

The Supreme Court of the State of Michigan must, in all cases, make unbiased decisions.

If a justice has any personal connection, or appearance of bias, in a case that will be heard, then the justice should recuse himself or herself from that hearing.

I am appalled that the elected justices of the Michigan Supreme Court suddenly made all of their correspondence confidential and that Justice (Elizabeth) Weaver found it necessary to accuse four of the justices of prior bias towards an attorney whose case appeared before them.

Every citizen is entitled to a fair and unbiased hearing. The correspondence between justices should be a public matter subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. If a justice dissents from the majority then that opinion should also be public.

So what is going on in Michigan's elected supreme court? Justice Weaver accuses four of the other justices, (Clifford) Taylor, (Maura) Corrigan, (Robert) Young and (Stephen) Markman, of sitting on a hearing to discipline Geoffrey Feiger, and that they should have recused themselves because of prior discussion. She also says that the sudden decision to make their e-mail correspondence private effectively suppressed her dissent.

As citizens we are entitled to fair and unbiased hearings from our courts. Apparently, this is not happening in Michigan.

Fern Katz
Southfield

NCLB works

The No Child Left Behind Act has been one of the most historic and far-reaching bipartisan laws to impact our society since welfare reform. NCLB's purpose is simple. It requires accountability between public school education and the expenditure of public funds for education. Schools are required to improve performance through the use of student assessment data to drive decisions on instruction, curriculum and business practices.

Many of NCLB's critics have been silenced as the act is making a difference across the country. The number of classes taught by highly qualified teachers is now over 90 percent. Free supplemental educational services and increased public school choice have helped over 450,000 students receive better educational opportunities. NCLB is more about improving education. It is less an ideological debate between Democrats and Republicans.

Student achievement is rising. Nine-year-olds have made more progress in reading in the last five years than in the previous 28 years combined. America's 13-year-olds earned the highest math scores the test ever recorded. Test results show the achievement gap is narrowing. The gap between white and minorities on reading and math assessments has dramatically improved from 5 percent to 10 percent. The results are liberating.

Yet, the work is not done. Education experts agree that NCLB has four areas in need of improvement: Improve teacher quality through incentives and training, empower parents with more choice and school reform, apply standards and accountability to high schools, and assist states in innovative ways to fund public education. Lowering standards and rolling back accountability is not an option. To do so, we would return to the status quo that has failed communities, parents, students, and teachers for decades. NCLB is, thus, critical for enhancing Michigan's economic competitiveness.

Our school board and our city, county, state and federal representatives must act now. They must put aside their gridlock bickering. They must work together to support NCLB reauthorization. They must work together to pragmatically recommend improvements that would best serve the interest of our children and tax payers.

Michael Sullivan
Farmington

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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

QUOTABLE

"Diversity isn't just a one-day activity. We're drafting a diversity plan, which we think will have a stronger impact. It reflects some of the things we're already doing, and reflecting on some areas we need to work on."

- Barbara Rodenberg, assistant superintendent for instructional services, on the schools plan to develop a diversity plan

Protecting state's resources key to approving U.P. mine

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, usually called the DEQ, last week announced tentative approval of Kennecott Minerals Co's application to dig a mine in the middle of one of the Upper Peninsula's most beautiful, pristine and environmentally sensitive regions, the Yellow Dog Plains.

That was big news in the sparsely populated U.P., where a coalition of residents, Native American tribes and environmentalists have been fighting the "Eagle Prospect" mine for years.

Downstate, however, the story was small beer. That's too bad, because this case will have a profound impact on the entire U.P. — and, by extension, the entire state of Michigan.

Right now, the Upper Peninsula is experiencing a land rush of sorts from mining companies which are panting to exploit deposits of nickel and copper embedded in sulfide rock. The big problem with "sulfide mines" is that sulfide rock, when exposed to air and water, produces sulfuric acid and dissolved heavy metals that kill fish.

Kennecott claims it will take safety precautions. Opponents, however, note that no sulfide mine in history has ever been operated without discharges of this "acid mine drainage." Worse, the mine is located smack dab under the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River. This is a famously pristine trout stream that supports the last remaining spawning population on the south shore of Lake Superior of the coarser brook trout, a colorful relative of the brook trout that can reach 25 inches in length.

Fishermen and scholars alike fear once the Eagle Prospect mine starts up, the coasters are toast.

Three years ago, Michigan had no law — none! — regulating "nonferrous metallic mineral mining," or sulfide mining. A group of stakeholders (I was one) worked out a consensus statute and set of regulations, which the state adopted.

These rules are widely regarded as among the toughest in the country. Robert McCann, a spokesman for the DEQ, said, "I think it's safe to say this (Eagle Prospect) proposal has received more scrutiny than all but a few the state has ever looked at."

And in the cash- and job-starved U.P., any prospect of good-paying jobs is normally greeted with enthusiasm. Except in this case, besides the environmental hazards, there's another downside. By Kennecott's own admission, the 120 or so mining jobs would last only a decade or less while the mine is being built and in operation.

And economists and businessmen wonder and worry what would happen to recreation, tourism, hunting and fishing — the long-term economic future of the region — if the mine pollutes the area.

"People up here aren't opposed to mining, they accept mining," says Marvin Roberson, a Sierra Club

official who lives in the U.P. "What they are opposed to is reckless exploitation of the land's most sensitive areas for a few dozen temporary jobs."

Final approval of the mine is not yet a done deal. The DEQ will consider additional public comments at hearings held March 6-8 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette before a decision.

But the stakes are very high. The map of the U.P. that shows in red land leased for mineral exploration makes the entire area look like it has the measles. The Eagle Prospect mine is the first to go through the permitting process set out in the new state law.

Any decision is bound to set an important precedent that will determine the future of sulfide mining activity throughout an area which is the heart and soul of Michigan's glorious natural resources.

The new mining law sets out the various criteria the DEQ is to follow in composing a mining permit, if it decides to issue one. But the draft permit itself is — and will be until it is issued — a secret, now being concocted by bureaucrats inside the DEQ.

Opponents of the mine wonder whether the Office of Geological Survey, the division of the DEQ that is overseeing the process, has a corporate culture that prefers facilitating mining to rigorously regulating it.

Some think that public oversight of a project as important as this one would be improved if the draft permit is made public before it is issued. Gov. Granholm, in a letter to her appointee, DEQ Director Steven Chester, instructed the department to "give thorough and rigorous review to Kennecott's permit applications and ensure that they meet each and every aspect of the new regulations."

"While this project has the potential to provide significant economic benefit to the local community, the irreplaceable natural resources of the Upper Peninsula constitute an extraordinary endowment that we hold in trust for the benefit of our citizens. This sacred trust must be protected," she added.

The stakes are high for the governor, politically and as a matter of good public policy. It's everybody's bad luck that this particular ore deposit wound up in the middle of some of the most environmentally valuable and sensitive woods and waters in all of Michigan.

But merely because rich metals exist in a uniquely priceless and fragile environment is no necessary argument those metals should be mined.

Suppose a valuable gold deposit were to be discovered right at the foot of Mount Rushmore. Would it really make sense to open a mine there that might destroy a national monument? Does it make sense to allow a mine that would destroy a natural treasure?

Phil Power was a member of the work group that drafted the new mining law and is a member of the Huron Mountain Club whose lands are near the site of the proposed mine. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think and do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comments at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Sportsmanship takes beating when fans resort to violence

As I stood in the crowd after the last home football game, waiting for my 16-year-old son to come out of the locker room, a woman approached the man standing next to me.

With sarcasm competing with disdain for prominence in her voice, she said to the gentleman, "I want to thank you for all of the opinions you offered about what a lousy job the coach is doing. He's my son, and every mother loves to hear that."

The man, who had been vociferous in his disapproval over how the coach utilized his players, particularly second- and third-stringers when his team was far ahead in the score, tried to apologize, but the apology seemed forced and hollow.

Since my son is also a second-stringer, I didn't necessarily disagree with some of what the fan said, although I wouldn't have put it as harshly. Parents of youngsters who don't see the field much are naturally skeptical of the coach who won't put them in.

I thought about writing a column about it (my bosses nixed that idea) or saying something to the coach (my son nixed that idea), then decided he was right. It's his battle, and he's old enough to fight it. The best way to do that is on the field, where he seems determined to finally break into the starting lineup next year.

It's hard as the parent of an athlete to watch your child — who works just as hard as the other kids on the team and, in the case of my son's school, pays his \$100 participation fee like everyone else — sit on the bench and not play.

But that's what you sign up for at the high school level, particularly for varsity sports. In my son's district, the student handbook says the fee is a participation fee, and has no bearing on actual playing time.

That shouldn't be true for youth leagues, which are designed to teach kids how to play the game. You can't learn if you don't actually play, no matter how much you practice. Still, the coaches in those leagues are there to determine how the kids are used. If you don't like it, volunteer to coach a team yourself.

What you can't do — but what an increasing number of parents are doing — is take it upon yourself to make your point, especially with violence. It used to be that incidents like the Texas mother who hired someone to kill a cheerleader who beat out her daughter for a spot on the squad were rare. Now, they're becoming commonplace.

In Philadelphia, for instance, 40-year-old Wayne Derkotch thought his son should have been getting more playing time. It was a point he wished to impress upon the 34-year-old coach of the team, so Derkotch went down on the field. First he threw a punch, then pulled a .357 Magnum to emphasize his position.

Spectators were, of course, shocked, as well they should be.

"It was just horrible. Sixty seconds of mayhem, that's the best I can come up with," Shawn Henwood, the game's referee, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "It all happened so fast, but in my mind, it plays back so slow. It was a strange experience that I hope I never go through again."

Nobody should ever have to go through that, but there are lots of things people should never have to go through that happen anyway. We talk about it around the office all the time — the deterioration of sportsmanship in general in sports. Fans, and especially children, see athletes acting like thugs all the time. Think these athletes aren't role models? Think again.

Sportsmanship is becoming extinct. Consider the coach's response when Derkotch asked him why his son wasn't playing. "I like to run up the score before I start putting all the kids in the game," the coach reportedly responded.

Let's not indict all coaches in all youth sports leagues. Nearly all of them are volunteers who are in it for the right reasons. They're dedicated to making life better for our youngsters.

Youngsters in these youth sports leagues are supposed to be learning not only how to play the game, but about how you're supposed to act. They count on the adults in their lives to teach them those things.

In the Philadelphia case, and in many others like it, those adults failed the children. I suspect Derkotch and the others involved — his brother reportedly participated in the scum, though he wasn't charged — were embarrassed about their actions in retrospect. At least I hope they were.

My son is a junior in high school who cringes if I even complain privately about how he's being used in games. Those kids in Philadelphia were 6 and 7 years old and were forced, as are an alarming number of youngsters these days, to witness parent-induced violence at one of their games.

That's what makes me cringe.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.



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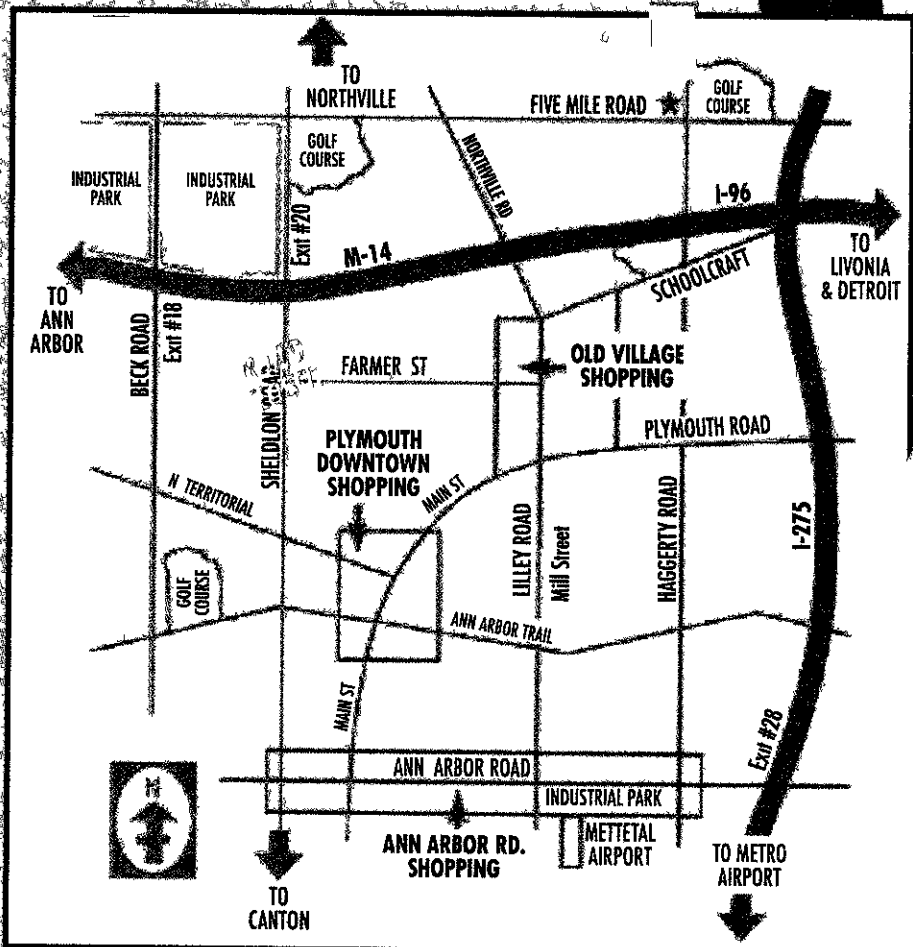
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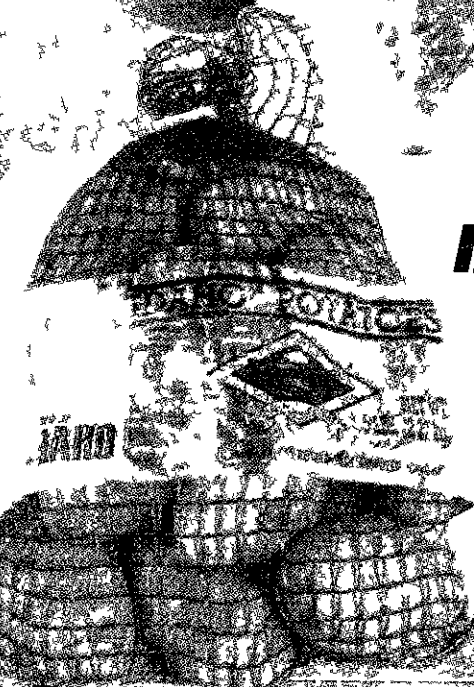
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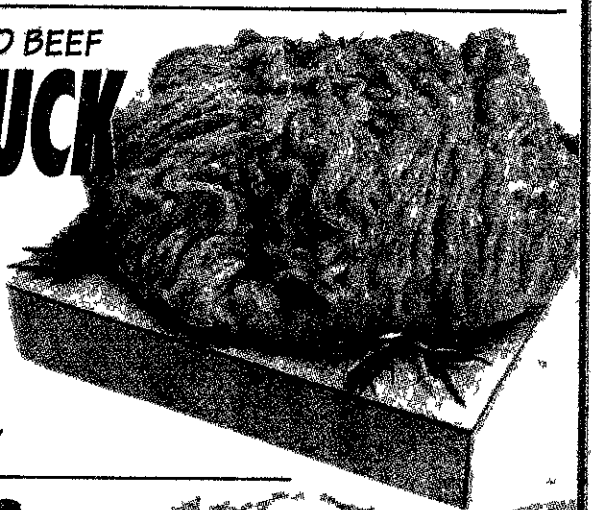


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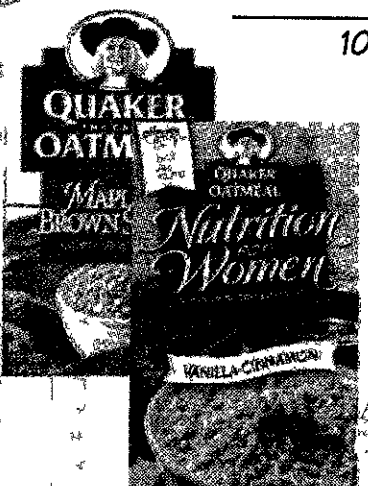
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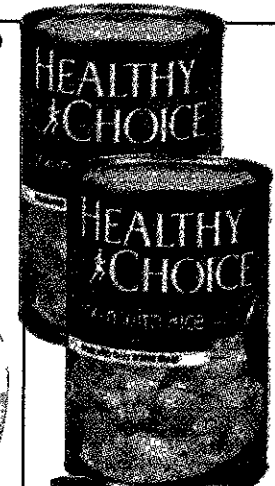
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Review your financial documents for accuracy

We are all swamped this time of year with a variety of financial statements. Before you either shred these documents or file them away, you need to at least review the documents for accuracy.

Never assume that a financial statement that you received from your bank, brokerage house or retirement account is accurate. Financial institutions make mistakes and it is our responsibility to make sure that our statements are accurate.

Whenever you receive a financial statement from your 401(k) or brokerage house, there are some things that you should automatically do. The first is to make sure that the beginning balance is the same as the ending balance from the last statement. If these numbers don't agree, you have a problem. In addition, you need to look at any activity over that statement's period. For example, if this is



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

a statement for a retirement savings account like a 401(k) plan, you need to confirm that your additional contributions have been credited to your account. In looking at account activity, always look for any withdrawals or transfers out of your account. If there is any activity that you don't recognize, you should ask questions. After all, it is your money!

BE PROACTIVE

Another area that investors unfortunately don't spend time with is fees. You should review all your statements to determine if you've been charged any unnecessary fees. If there are fees that you

don't understand or you object to, you should ask whether they can be waived or reversed. You would be surprised how fast you can get fees waived once you get proactive.

If after reviewing your statement, there is an item that you do not understand or if there is a mistake, you need to immediately contact the financial institution. In many cases, there will be a logical explanation for the discrepancy in the statement, however, there are many times where there are problems that need to be corrected. Every financial institution will have its own procedures as to how to correct a discrepancy, however, my advice is to always document the process. Don't assume the financial institution is always correct. More often than not they are, however, they do make mistakes.

If there are no problems with the statement, the ques-

tion is: How long do you need to save the statement? For most statements, my advice is that when you receive the next statement, after you review it for accuracy, you can destroy the previous statement. The one statement that I typically will save is a year-end statement that compiles the entire year's activity. Remember, when you destroy previous statements, don't just throw them out — shred them.

I am frequently asked how long people should save documents. In today's technological society, there are a variety of different ways to save documents, whether manual or electronic. However, no matter how you decide to save your important docu-

ments, the key is to have a record-keeping system. There are numerous record-keeping systems out on the market, whether it is one with all the bells and whistles that technology can offer or whether it is something as simple as an accordion file. The key is to have a record-keeping system and to me the best record-keeping system is the one that you will use.

In deciding what documents you should retain, keep in mind that saving too many documents is just as bad as not saving enough. The key is to save relevant documents and to shred the rest. It is mind-boggling to me that people will save cancelled checks for decades when they have no value

whatsoever. Even things like the supporting documents for your tax returns can generally be shredded after seven years.

As we begin to accumulate year-end documentation, take some time to go through your old documents and decide what needs to be saved or not. Shredding old useless documentation makes it easier to locate the important documents. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee only financial adviser. You can hear him from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK AM (1400) or visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Rick answers reader questions in his Sunday column. Submit a question for answer online to moneymatters@hometownlife.com.



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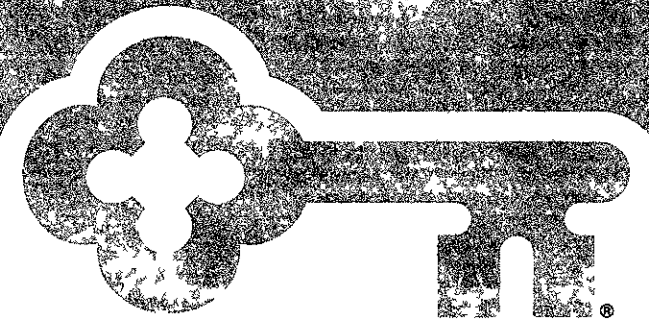
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To international journalists Detroit is still Motor City

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The domestic auto industry may be in turmoil because of declining vehicle sales and lost market share that's resulted in hundreds of thousands of blue and white collar layoffs and buyouts

But, make no mistake about it. Despite the disarray of the traditional Big 3 — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler — many foreign journalists covering the North American International Auto Show still consider Detroit the Motor City.

"I think so, because Detroit (automakers) still has power, they have the technology and much money still," said Shunichi Hisadome, staff correspondent for the Tokyo Shimbun. The Big 3 is a symbol of American rich

More than 6,000 journalists — radio, television and print — from around the world converge on Cobo Center as both domestic and foreign car companies unveil new models and concept vehicles.

"It's very important because it's the initial big motor show, and we can get the strategy of Japanese automakers, as well as GM, Ford and Chrysler," said Hisadome.

As for the Japanese take on Toyota's bid to surpass General Motors as the world's top carmaker, Hisadome said, "It's epic-making."

Italian television producer Milena Ripellino likes attending the Detroit auto show to view the new car line-ups, especially since many of the new product lines aren't as prevalent in Italy and throughout Europe.

"Your cars are huge, faster,

more powerful and more expensive for fuel, which we have to consider in Europe," Ripellino said. "You say your fuel is very expensive, it's not true. We pay \$3 a liter, which is only a quarter gallon. That's the reason why they don't sell a lot of American cars in Europe, unless they sell it in diesel."

"No Italian people can own a Mustang, Corvette or Hummer," Ripellino said. "You have to be very rich to afford American cars. We have more Japanese cars because they are less expensive."

However, that's not the case in and around Toronto, where the Big 3 have a major presence.

"If you drive around, you'll see more American cars than Japanese," said Nauman Farooq, a writer for Driving

Emotion in Toronto. "Maybe it's because of the value, you get a bigger car for less money. Maybe it's more of a favoritism to our neighbor to support the brands."

Farooq said Toronto is the auto capital of Canada, but their auto show doesn't even compare to Detroit's.

Toronto's is a much smaller show, and we don't get too many unveils, Farooq said. "If you want to see all the latest, greatest concept cars, Detroit is the show to come to."

While the car companies may be on a downward slide, the City of Detroit's image is getting two-thumbs-up by journalists.

"I love Detroit because of the history here," said Ripellino. "Something happened in the past that changed the world, the beginning of the production of cars in an industrial way. And for music, Motown was born here."

Ripellino said she feels safe visiting Detroit, but that wasn't the case when she first covered the auto show seven years ago.



JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bernd Wieland of Germany (from left) and Naga Tan and Baeng Halin, both from Indonesia, were among the thousands of members of the media who converged on Cobo Hall for the 2007 North American International Auto Show.

"I had a perception of a town after the war, Ripellino said. "You took the sky train (People Mover) and there were destroyed skyscrapers."

That was the same impression Hisadome had of Detroit during his last visit 10 years ago.

"I saw the city a little bit ruined and not so clean," said

Hisadome, who was trying carefully to be diplomatic. "I came back and I think it's becoming cleaner and there's new construction in certain areas of downtown. I think it's a symbol of recovering of the city."

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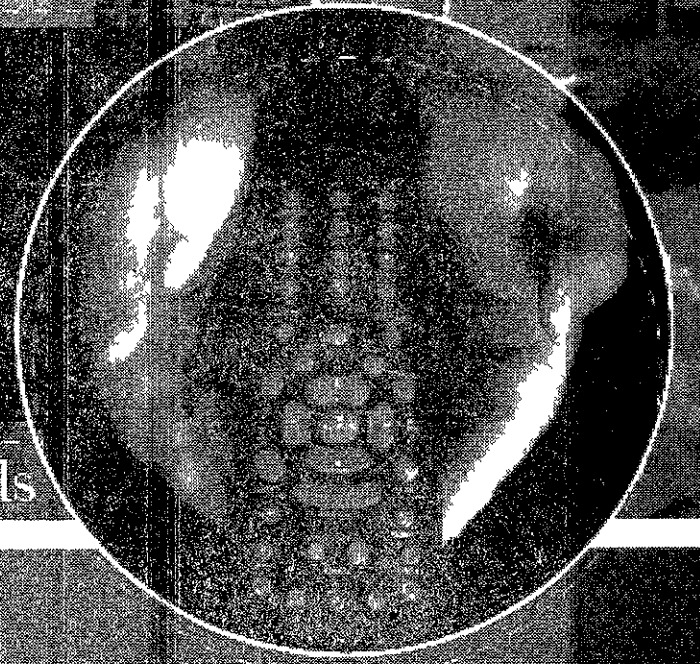
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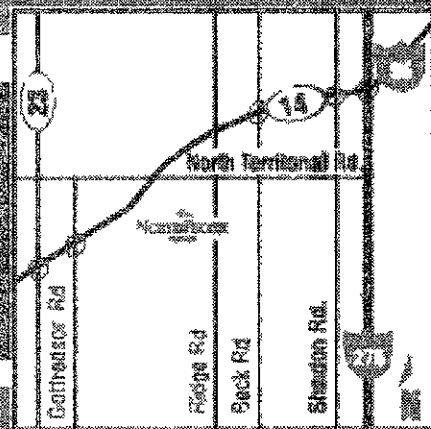
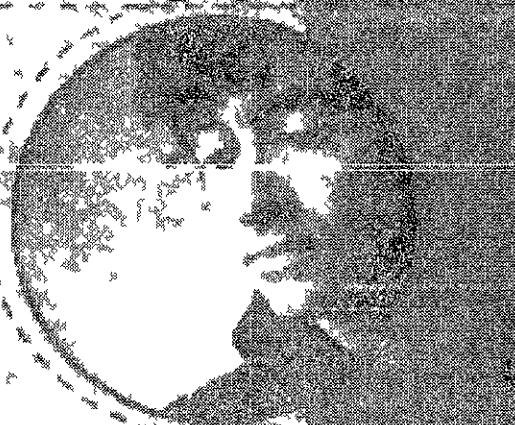
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7:30p

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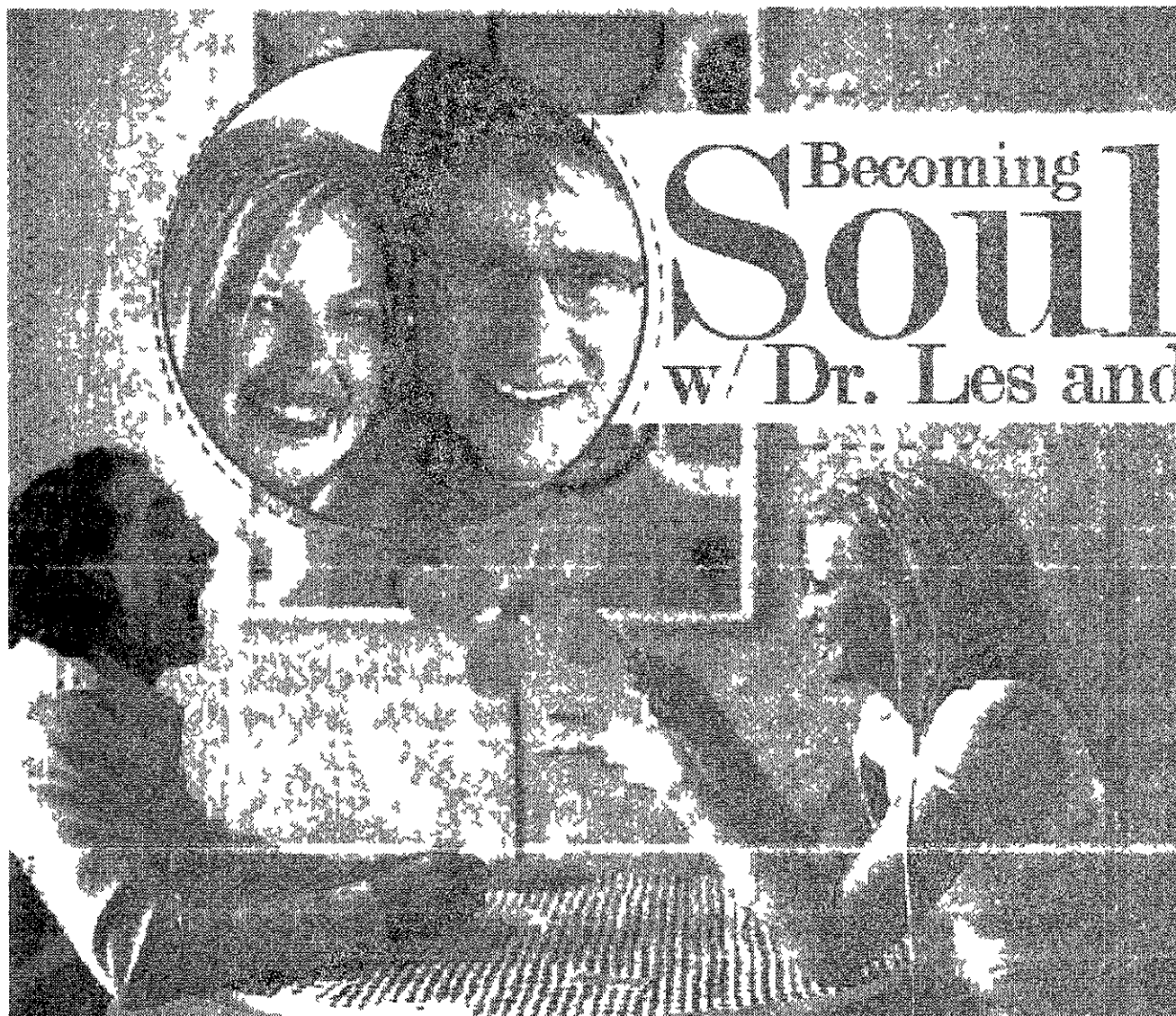
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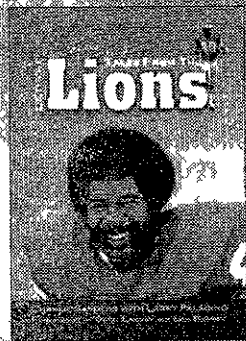
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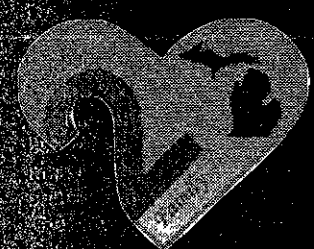
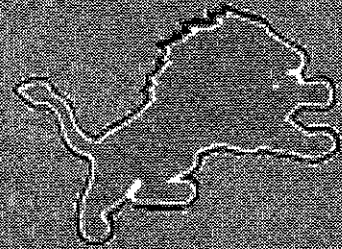
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Thursday January 18 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953 2108 ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Chiefs floor Plymouth with last-minute run

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth High School doesn't have a swimming pool, but that didn't stop Canton basketball player Neil Sharma from executing an Olympic-caliber, arms-extended, floor-burns-be-darned drive during the closing stages of Tuesday night's important cross-campus showdown against the Wildcats.

With Canton clinging to a 40-39 lead, 2:05 left on the clock, and the basketball rolling past half-court and toward Plymouth's basket, Sharma — with a pair of Wildcats players in hot pursuit — went horizontal and grabbed the loose ball

PREP HOOP

while simultaneously signaling for a time out.

The play set the tone for the contest's final two minutes, during which Canton outscored the feisty Wildcats, 7-1, to escape with a 47-40 victory. Canton's fourth straight victory improved its record to 4-4 overall and 1-0 in the WLAA's Western Division. Plymouth slipped to 3-5 and 0-1, respectively.

"We needed the ball back, so I did what I had to do to get it," Sharma said of his late-game effort play. "I like close games like this, especially games with this kind

of energy."

Wildcat coach Tom Van Wagoner said he wants to see more plays like Sharma's — but from his own team.

"We need our guys getting down on the floor like that more," said Van Wagoner. "Canton seemed to get to more loose balls than we did. The same thing happened Friday against Churchill."

"On the positive side, we had a couple guys step up at key times. Dan Jeong made a big three and Kulraj (Sandhu) played well."

The Chiefs' ultra-balanced attack was led by Steve Paye, who netted 12 points and five rebounds. Sharma and senior center Ryan Wardmann both scored 11

while grabbing six rebounds a piece. Senior guard Josh Butler rounded out the Chiefs' balance sheet with nine.

Junior guard Brandon Roberts led the Wildcats with 10 points. Kulraj Sandhu added eight points and four rebounds while junior guards Mylon Puryear and Navraj Sandhu contributed seven points each.

"I thought our kids handled the pressure well at the end of the game and we made at least the front-end of the one-and-one free throws down the stretch," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "Plymouth had a couple of good looks at

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, B5

SideLines

Learn to skate

Beginning Feb. 3, the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton will offer eight weeks of "Learn to Skate" sessions that will run 30 minutes with 15 minutes of free skating time. Open registration will begin Jan. 27. Classes will be grouped by age and ability.

Tot Time classes, designed for kids between the ages of 3-1/2 and 6, at the Arctic Edge will begin Tuesday, Jan. 30, or Thursday, Feb. 1. All sessions, which will run for eight weeks, will be 30 minutes in length with 15 minutes of free skating time.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Summit at the Park and at the Arctic Edge, which is located at 46615 Michigan Ave., just west of Canton Center.

For more information — including levels of instruction, private lessons, teams and competitive opportunities — call (734) 487-7777.

Chief freshmen spikers shine

The Canton freshman volleyball team captured the title at the Canton Freshman Invitational Tournament on Saturday by defeating Salem in the championship match.

Among the standouts for the Chiefs were Miranda Van Auken, Sam McPartlin, Traci Breitmeyer and Anna Larner.

The Chiefs, coached by Steve Johnson, went 5-0 on the day and are undefeated in tournament play this season.

Salem Rocks baseball clinic

The annual Salem Baseball Clinic is set for March 24 and 31. There will be two sessions each day — the first from 9 a.m. to noon; and the second from 1-4 p.m.

Sessions include training in baseball skills by the Salem varsity coaches and players. The \$25 registration fee includes lessons, T-shirts and a snack.

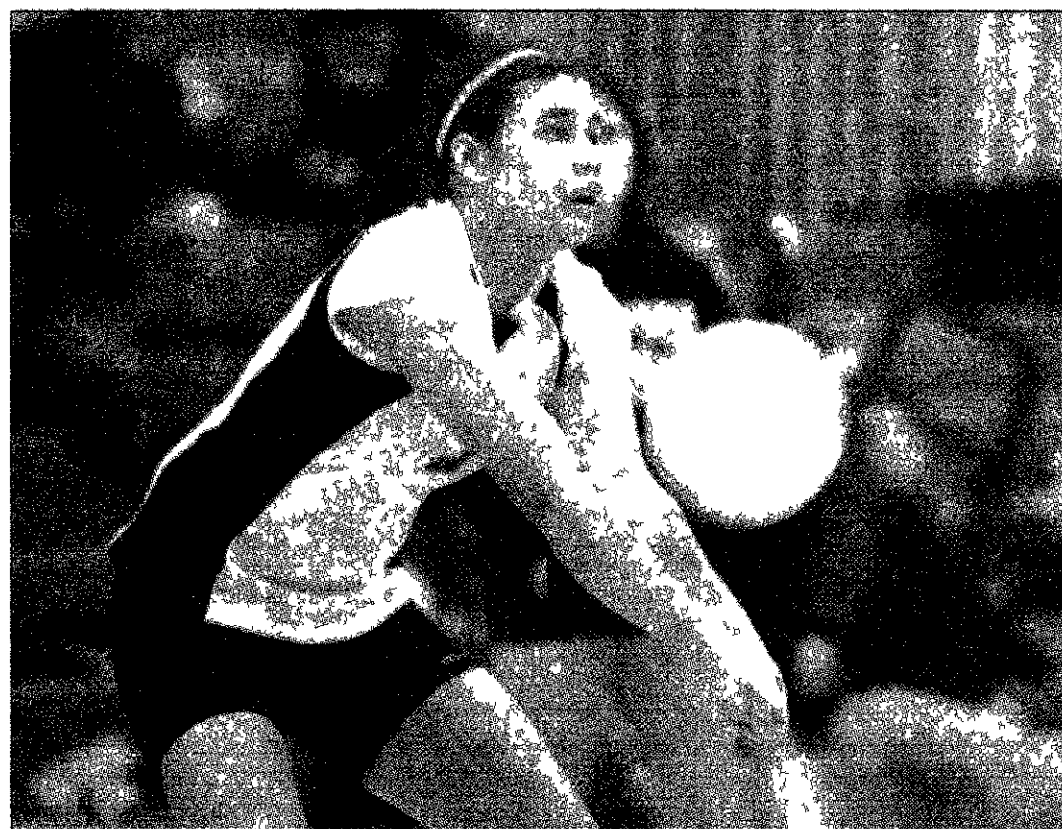
For more information or to register, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026, or send an e-mail to pcmyers@hotmail.com.

Whalers shine

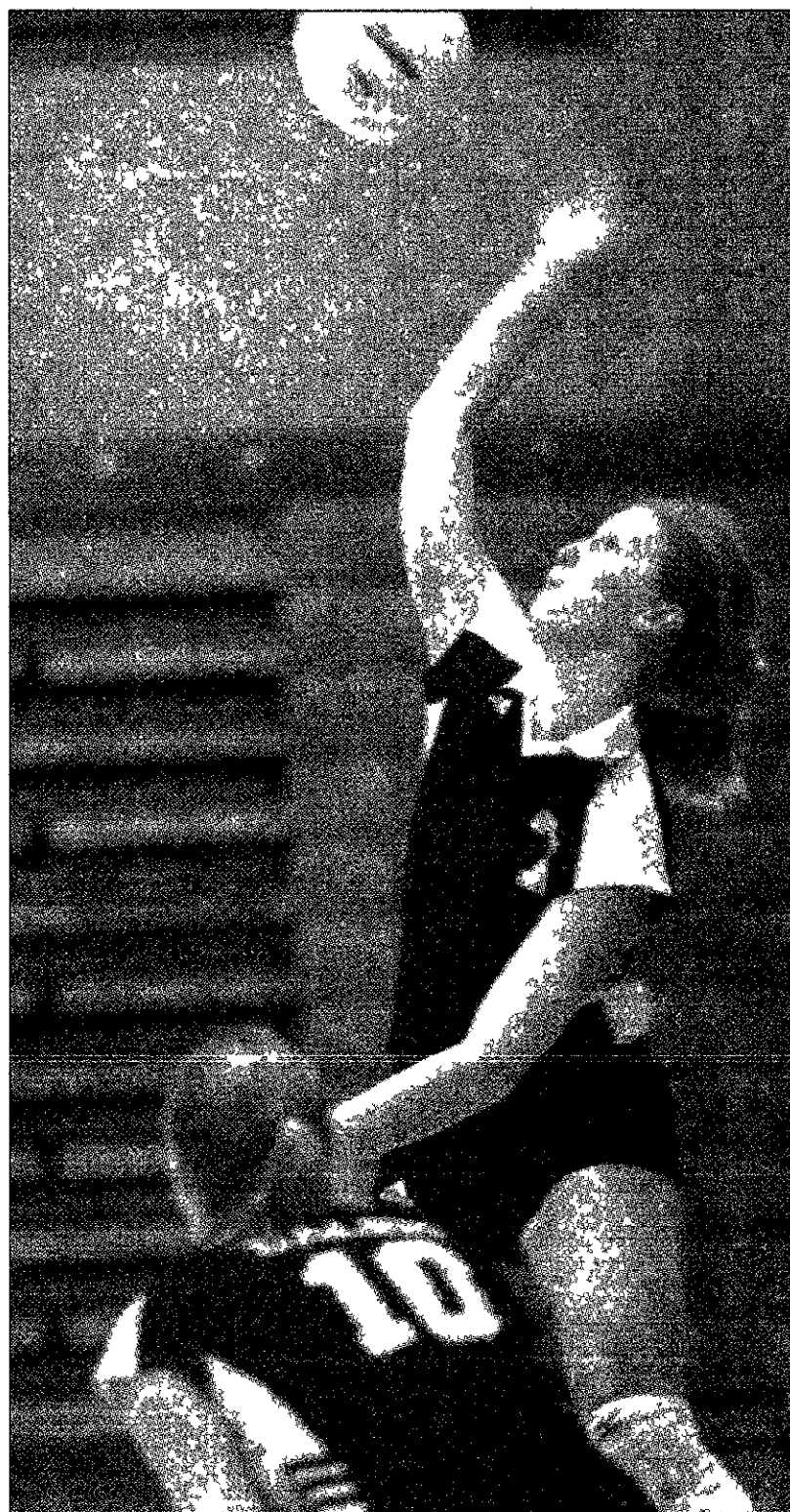
The first-place Plymouth Whalers have landed a pair of players — Evan Brophy and James Neal — on the Western Conference All-Star team for the Ontario Hockey League All-Star Classic, which is set for Jan. 31 in Saginaw.

"We're excited for Evan and James," said Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "They've both worked very hard over the past two seasons and deserve to be on the Western Conference All-Star team."

Brophy is the Whalers' leading scorer with 18 goals and 53 assists in 43 games. Neal, who is 23rd on the Whalers' all-time scoring list, has 18 goals and 24 assists in 33 games.



Plymouth's Clare Baptist receives a serve during Monday night's match against Salem. The Rocks swept the Wildcats in three games.



Salem's Nikki Mersch goes high for a kill during the Rocks' three game sweep of Plymouth Monday night in the Wildcats' gymnasium.

Digging for wins

Salem bumps Plymouth in three games to earn the honor as the Park's finest

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It's far too early to predict how Salem's volleyball team will do in its quest for Western Lakes Activities Association and Division I District titles this season, but this much is already certain: The Rocks rule the "Park."

On Monday at Plymouth, Salem secured its status as the No. 1 team at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park by sweeping the Wildcats, 25-17, 25-11 and 25-14 in a WLAA cross-over match. The Rocks' convincing tri-

umph came on the heels of last week's three-game sweep of Canton.

"Defensively, we played very well, as did Plymouth," said Salem coach Amanda Suder. "We only had eight errors all night, which is very good. We didn't have a lot of service errors either, which helped."

"I was impressed with Plymouth. They're very young, but their back court did a nice job and their blocking was awesome, too."

The victory improved Salem's record to 17-1-

PLEASE SEE SALEM, B3

Supreme courts

HVS adds hoop to its sports menu

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It's OK now to touch a bouncing or airborne ball with your hands at High Velocity Sports without getting whistled for an infraction.

In fact, it's a necessity now that the most renowned indoor soccer facility in the metropolitan Detroit area has added four new, top-of-the-line, hardwood basketball/volleyball courts to its already-impressive sports offerings.

The gleaming new side-by-side courts, which are located in the facility's northwest quarter, replaced a roller-hockey rink as part of an "extreme makeover" project that should make the area's basketball and volleyball enthusiasts smile from baseline to baseline.

"These courts are the best you can get," assured HVS assistant general manager and director of basketball operations Darren Van Hevel. "A lot of places are putting in synthetic wood because it's faster to install and cheaper. But this is hard maple, which is the highest quality court out there. A lot of people think the synthetic courts are more slippery, and they don't hold their finish. The hard maple, on the other

hand, is what is used in college and high school gyms.

Van Hevel said the new HVS courts are very giving, which is ideal for anyone suffering any kind of knee or joint ailment.

"There's a layer of foam stapled under the plywood and the hard maple, so it's more cushiony than the synthetic courts," said Van Hevel. "These courts are more springy than the portable floors."

Hoop traffic has been slow since the courts were finished in late December, Van Hevel said, but he predicted that will change once the word gets out about the popular facility's newest attractions.

"Our ultimate goal is to do with basketball what High Velocity Sports has done with indoor soccer," said Van Hevel. "We're going to offer youth and adult leagues, kids programs and clinics for basketball and volleyball. We're going to focus on getting a lot of walk-in traffic to play pick-up ball and on developing the in-house leagues, but we may have some weekend tournaments, too."

"The feedback we've received has

PLEASE SEE COURTS, B2



A banner announcing the formation of new leagues hangs over the entrance to High Velocity Sports' four new basketball courts.



Van Hevel

"These courts are the best you can get... this is hard maple, which is the highest quality court out there."

Darren Van Hevel, HVS assistant general manager and director of basketball operations

Ignition nips Wave in OT

The Detroit Ignition notched its fourth consecutive victory Sunday when it tamed the Milwaukee Wave, 17-14, in overtime in a game played at the U.S. Cellular Arena in Milwaukee.

The victory improved the Ignition's record to 9-6. The Wave dropped to 6-8.

Novi Marojevic registered the game-winning, three-point goal for the winners at the 1:39 mark of overtime. The victory completed a weekend sweep for the Ignition, which ousted the Wave, 14-6, on Friday at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

On Sunday, with the score knotted at 10-all, Ignition midfielder Ryan Mack netted a two-point goal — his first of the season — off a pass from Jonathan Greenfield at the 4:29 mark to give the first-year club a 12-10 advantage.

Detroit's Worth Sampson, a former standout at Madonna University, extended the lead to 14-10 with a goal eight minutes later.

Milwaukee countered with two late goals to send the game into the extra session.

Sanaldo earned the victory in net for the Ignition, which will host California on Friday in a 7:30 p.m. contest at the Compuware Sports Arena.

National Football League Alumni Gala slated for Jan. 21

The NFL Alumni Detroit Chapter will be hosting a gala during the NFC and AFC Championship games from noon to midnight on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Kickers Entertainment Complex on Plymouth Road, just east of Levan, in Plymouth.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit Caring for Kids and the Family2Family Foundation of Michigan.

Among the members of the NFL Alumni Detroit Chapter expected to attend are Tom Nowatzke, Eddie Murray, Greg Landry, Lomas Brown, Sherman Lewis and Mike Lodish, along with boxer Thomas Hearns.

There will also be a salute to former Lions tight end Charlie Sanders, a

Reservations are suggested. For more information, call Milan Stevanovich at (248) 767-2007. To purchase tickets, call (734) 261-5500 or visit www.kickerscomplex.com.

recent nominee for the NFL Hall of Fame Sanders will also be introducing his new Grid Iron barbecue sauce. Daytime festivities run from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$190 per couple (includes evening gala). The daytime gala includes a raffle drawing with a chance to win tickets and accommodations to Super Bowl XLI, a gourmet tailgate buffet, limited open bar, and other prizes. The night portion of the gala will be

from 5 p.m. to midnight beginning with the NFC Championship game. It features a sports comedy show, jazz band and disc jockey. Tickets are \$35 per couple (includes two drinks). Tickets to VIP Super Bowl events will be auctioned off during the evening. Reservations are suggested. For more information, call Milan Stevanovich at (248) 767-2007. To purchase tickets, call (734) 261-5500 or visit www.kickerscomplex.com.

Football fun(d)raiser set

A unique fund raiser is on tap for the Redford Union football program. At 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 at Wiseguys Comedy Club in Novi, 1984 RU graduate Bill Bushart will be featured for a night of stand-up hilarity.

The cost is \$15 per ticket which includes a 50-percent discount on any appetizers bought during the show. Wiseguys Comedy Club is located at 40380 Grand River. For more information, visit www.wiseguyscomedy.net or call Panthers coach Miles Tomaisatus at (313) 575-4753.

Lions' Furrey

Detroit Lions wide receiver Mike Furrey talked about his path to the NFL, temptations facing young athletes and how character has played a major role in his career Sunday night to student-athletes at Madonna University in Livonia.

Furrey, a Canton resident who led the Lions with 98 receptions this season and posted 1,036 receiving yards, talked about his unique journey to the NFL and how his faith in Christ and personal determination kept him from giving up on his dream.

With more than 100 Madonna student-athletes, coaches and community members in attendance, Furrey hit on the five core values of the NIAA Champions of Character program: respect, responsibility, integrity, service,

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Furry tells MU students about keys to success in athletics, life

leadership and sportsmanship. "You must have respect for your teammates and for the plan God has in your life," Furrey told the crowd assembled at Kresge Hall. "You have a responsibility to yourself and your teammates as a college athlete to always do your best to leave it all on the field."

"Later in life you will have a responsibility to your spouse, your children and your family," Furrey added. "Now you have a responsibility to be the best teammate you can be."

Furrey also talked sportsmanship, citing an example from this year's Detroit Lions team.

"I made it my personal goal this season to be the first person to congratulate Roy Williams (fellow Lions receiver)

every time he caught a ball, Furrey said. "I have the utmost respect for my teammates and other receivers in the league, and I believe that in today's NFL, with many players having a 'me-first attitude, that I would not be that type of person."

The focus of Furrey's message was about the doors that are always open to people in life, even though they may not see them, or take them for granted at the time.

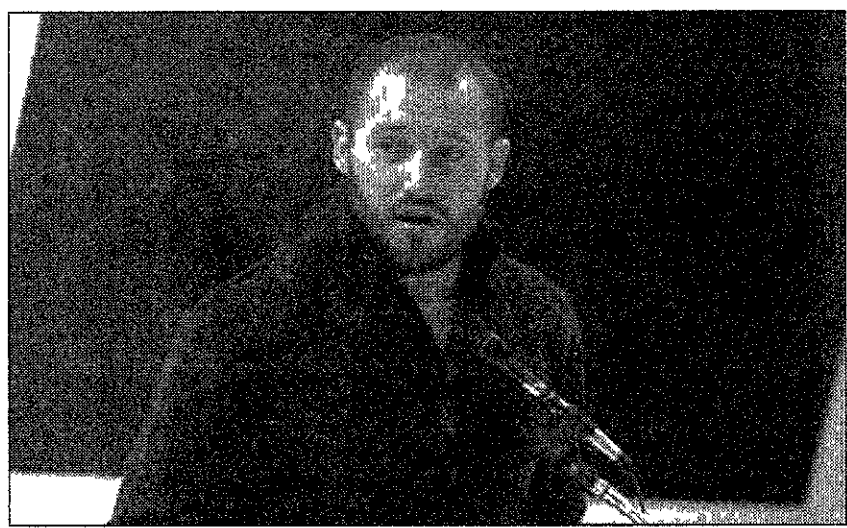
"God has opened so many doors for me," Furrey said. "But it wasn't until I played for the XFL in Las Vegas and began attending Randall Cunningham's bible study that I realized I had to make changes in my life in order to take advantage of what I was being given."

The lighthearted Furrey kept the crowd laughing with stories from the NFL and took questions and answers ranging from life with the Lions to the biggest hit he has ever taken.

"I hate being hit, Furrey said. "Did anyone see the Dallas game (referring to a first quarter shot he took from Dallas safety Roy Williams)? I got my head knocked off."

Furrey ended the talk by telling the Madonna athletes to "exhaust themselves" on a daily basis.

"Always be first, but always be exhausted," Furrey said. "Without hard work, respect for your teammates and coaches, responsibility to yourself, your team and your family and without personal integrity, you may not see or take advantage of the plan that has been set for you."



Canton resident Mike Furrey the leading receiver on the Detroit Lions this past season spoke to students at Madonna University.

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A3 S-LINE

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss
Avanti NewsFeatures



It's all well and good how a vehicle performs in the routine of life or how it meets meaningless demands such as taking off like a dart from a stoplight. But for me, where the rubber really meets the road is whether what I'm driving comes through in times of stress - or even distress.

And on that score alone, the Audi A3 S-line hatchback has won my endorsement. The 3.2 Quattro version of the 2007 vehicle delivered me to and from my destination last weekend - during Sunday's swirling prelude to Monday's metro-wide ice storm - with flying colors.

Sunday wasn't a promising day for travel around southeastern Michigan, but we had to make a five-hour round trip nonetheless. Heading westbound on Interstate 94 between Ann Arbor and Jackson, the reason for all the travel warnings that day became suddenly - and scarily - apparent. I began to notice a car here, a truck there pulled over dangerously to the side of the interstate. And then, in my rear-view mirror, an SUV about a quarter mile behind me began spinning wildly, hurtling into the median and up a ridge therein, and almost into oncoming traffic before the driver could stop it.

But in our A3, we were unperturbed and kept steaming ahead. Three of the vehicle's features, in particular, gave me both confidence and performance that day.

First was the game-saving reliability of Quattro, the four-wheel-drive system that had helped Audi become a pioneer in four-wheel-drive in the U.S. market and that still gives Audi vehicles a huge advantage in the sedan marketplace. Despite the icy treachery beneath the vehicle, I never for a moment felt anything other than a sense of complete control over the A3 and a firm belief that the car could respond 100% to my direction, even on some slick surfaces.



"The S-line's styling is anchored by the full Audi-grille treatment in the front and the lines that taper up and to the rear of the hatchback car."

Our second advantage that day was the fact that I was driving the 3.2-liter version of the A3 S-line rather than the 2.0-liter turbocharged version. The 3.2 is the flagship of the S-line lineup, sporting 250 horsepower compared with the 200 horsepower provided by the 2.0 turbocharged. Both versions offer Audi's excellent, twin-clutch Direct Shift Gearbox automated-manual transmission. But the most germane aspect of the 3.2 here was the simple fact that it weighs a few hundred pounds more than its 2.0 counterpart, giving the A3 I was driving some substantial ballast for a relatively small car.

The third trip-saving feature evident on the A3 on Sunday was a windshield clearing system that automatically provides the right frequency of wiping to match precipitation levels on the window. On a day in which not only the volume of precipitation falling from the sky but also its form - snow, sleet and rain - varied wildly, the automatic wipers not only provided the right visual environment for me but also saved me from having to make dozens and dozens of manual adjustments myself.

It was no surprise, then, to find out that the A3 was named a Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

But the husky-like reliability of the A3 S-line isn't all the car has going for it, of course. Styling-wise,

the A3 provides an interesting interpretation of the usual marks of Audi styling, including a long front grill and oversized tires. The A3's upswept design, as you proceed from the front of the car to the rear, makes it look fast on the outside and feel cozy on the inside.

And of course, at prices topping out around \$40,000, the A3 offers plenty of other amenities, including rear side-impact bags, a navigation system, Bluetooth wireless connectivity, high intensity discharge headlights, satellite radio and a Cold Weather Package featuring heated seats, heated washers and heated mirrors. Another favorite feature of mine is the rear sunroof, which provides a great antidote to the cooped-up feeling that you can get in the back of this vehicle because of the high window lines.

That brings me to the only other significant drawback about this car. It's still pretty small, and a hatchback to boot, so don't count on doing a lot of cargo hauling with the A3 S-line. Even in the front seat, both the driver and passenger seats feel just the slightest bit small.

But if you're looking for a vehicle that cuts through the cold reliably, responds elegantly to your driver's will, and looks good doing so, A3 S-line should be on your list.

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Used car prices take hard tumble

New car incentives push used car marketplace to record low

by J.L. Sims Independent ad features

Livonia, MI - A Livonia dealer is selling 2006 vehicles for one-half of the original manufacturer's list price. And they're offering many other 2006 models far below normal market values. The low financing offered by GM, Ford, and Daimler-Chrysler mesmerized so many buyers that far fewer shoppers even bothered looking at pre-owned 2006 models.

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2006 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,960 plus tax vs \$995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$269 monthly at 3.9% for 60 months on the program model. With the prime at a record low, today's interest rates are very competitive. Many credit unions charge under 6% for auto loans if the applicant has a good credit rating. And when purchasing the used 2006, don't forget that you'll be saving about an additional \$1,000 in sales tax and licensing fees (Taxes estimated at an average of 6%).

John Rogin Buick sold over 150 Buick LaCrosse & Pontiac Grand Prix's in the first 30 days of their sale.

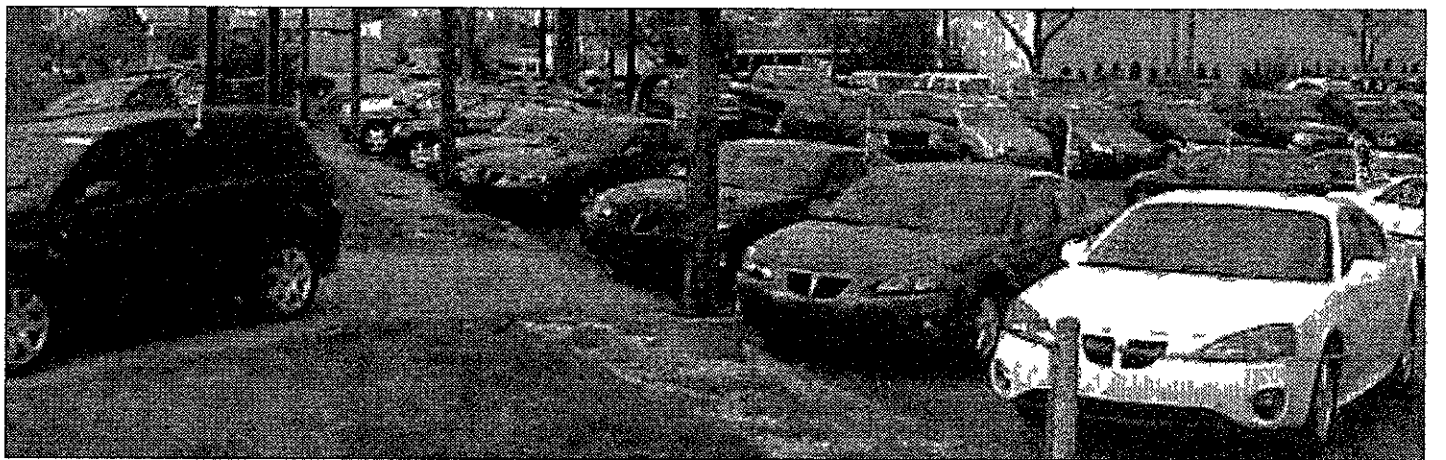
A "program" car is a vehicle that has been leased by a premium rental company through a special "program" from the manufacturer. Strict maintenance is required, and all vehicles are carefully inspected upon return. In many cases, these program units receive better maintenance than vehicles owned by private owners.

John Rogin Buick-Livonia has long been known as Michigan's "bargain hunting" dealer. Currently, they're selling more

2006 Pontiac Grand Prix's than any other dealer in the nation. (Over 150 Pontiacs & Buicks were sold during the first 30 days of their sale.) Last year they sold the most pre-owned 2005 Impalas and Pontiac Grand AMs in the nation from their single location. And the year before they set the sales record selling the most off-lease GMC Yukons and pick-ups.

Today's real bargain can be found at John Rogin in the pre-owned 2006 vehicles. The low financing on new 2006's has left the used models unnoticed and overlooked. So with far fewer dealers purchasing these units, the prices have dropped to record lows.

So once again John Rogin has gone shopping for the vehicles with a huge cart. They have just made a multi-million dollar purchase of these units from General Motors bringing in



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2006 program vehicles

truckload after truckload from across the country. In addition to filling their giant used car facility to the brim, John Rogin had to lease additional storage lots to accommodate their massive acquisition of vehicles. And they

currently stock the largest inventory of 2006 program cars in Michigan.

The purpose of 0% financing is to clear out the remaining new 2006's. In another week or two these vehicles will all be gone

along with the incentives. In the meantime, the 2006 program vehicles are truly today's sleeping bargain. But they'll soon disappear as smart shoppers begin to wake up and recognize the real deals.

John Rogin Buick is located at 30500 Plymouth Road between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. Their used car superstore may be contacted directly at (734) 525-0900 Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

A Beautiful Buick

The 2001-2006 Buicks were the highest ranked Premium Midsize Car in J.D. Powers and Associates Initial Quality Study. This study was based on a total of over 64,900 consumer responses indicating owner reported problems during the first 90 days of ownership. Of those surveyed, Buick owners reported the fewest problems. An outstanding mark of excellence for superb workmanship and a prelude to the satisfaction yet to be experienced during the coming years.

Equipped with a powerful 175-horsepower V-6 boasting 20 mpg city and 29 mpg highway fuel economy, the Buick LaCrosse will capture your heart from the moment you slip behind the wheel. There won't be any need

for a salesperson to explain how to operate all the buttons because this LaCrosse will greet you like an old friend or a comfortable pair of slippers. The cabin is exceedingly driver friendly with all controls neatly laid out before you like an elegant table setting. And everything just seems to fit.

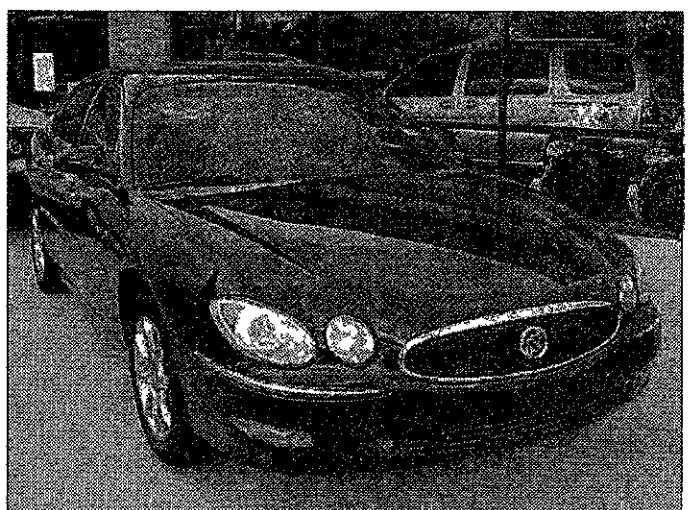
The Buick LaCrosse still retains all the traditional value you've come to expect from Buick. From its luxurious well-appointed interior to the clean flowing exterior design, LaCrosse makes a stylish impression.

The standard features provide evidence that the Buick still remains just one step down from the Cadillac in GM's lineup. Dual (driver and passenger side) heat and air conditioning controls six-

position tilt steering wheel, cruise control, power windows, locks and seats, remote key fobs, operating doors and trunk, rear window defroster, plus a stereo system that will blow you away. Children aren't forgotten with the rear seat upper and lower latch system for compatible child safety seats and rear door child security locks.

Four-wheel independent suspension provides for solid handling and the ride of a magic carpet.

Best of all, the new LaCrosse requires just a little more maintenance than a rock garden. 100,000 miles between spark plug changes, 100,000-mile transmission service intervals under normal driving conditions. Wow.



See the 2006 Buick LaCrosse at John Rogin Buick in Livonia.

It's no wonder that John Rogin Buick Livonia considers the pre-owned 2006 LaCrosse to be the most car they've ever been able to offer for the money. And for the past several weeks they've silently amassed hundreds of these wonderful units from

throughout the country and brought them to Livonia. Best of all today you can purchase a pre-owned 2006 LaCrosse from John Rogin for nearly half its original value of \$24,000 list price new. While they last.

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THE QUAKER OATS COMPANY

Pineapple Macadamia Oatmeal, with its combination of pineapple, ginger and chopped macadamia nuts, turns a simple bowl of oatmeal into a sumptuous treat

Use your PDA or smartphone in fight against fat

Like many people, I packed on a few extra pounds over the holidays. And like many people, I'm now trying to burn them off.

Luckily, I have a secret weapon that's making the job easier: CalorieKing Handheld Diet Diary, a program that runs on Palm OS PDAs (like the Tungsten E) and smartphones (like the Treo).

As you probably know, the only proven way to lose weight is to burn more calories than you consume.

Handheld Diet Diary (calorieking.com) helps you do the math, tracking your caloric intake by logging the foods you eat and calculating the calories you burn through exercise.

Yep, it's a fancy calorie-counter. But it's a really good one, and I've found it has numerous advantages over traditional calorie-counting methods.

Tech Savvy

For starters, because it lives on your PDA or smartphone, it goes where you go. There's nothing extra to carry or remember. Whenever you eat something or exercise, just pull out your device and log it.

The program includes a database of more than 50,000 foods, including thousands of items from popular restaurants, so it's relatively easy to log everything you eat.

What's more, CalorieKing releases an updated food database every week, though you have to download and install it yourself.

Finally, the program keeps a running tally of your allotted calories for the day (based on a profile you

create), meaning you can instantly determine the impact of what you've eaten or plan to eat.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

Read those labels carefully!

Every year we team up with Bob Dorigo Jones from an organization called the Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch.

This isn't some vain attempt on our part to live out some sort of *Law & Order* fantasy. As with most things we try on our little WOMC morning radio show, the end result is supposed to be humorous.

The purpose of our entanglement with the above mentioned group is to decide the winner of the 2006 edition of the Wacky Warning Label Contest.

Dick Purtan and his gang at Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch cull through the many entries they receive and present us with five of the wackiest finalists. We ask our listeners to vote on the winners.

In case you missed the intense on-air campaign I will recall the finalists in reverse order.

In fifth place was a timely warning from the annals of the BellSouth Yellow Pages: **Please do not use this directory while operating a moving vehicle.** We have always preferred using a booster seat, but the advice is well taken.

Coming in at number four was a paper lottery ticket from (where else?) California.

Our friends on the left coast leave no variable unturned when they provide the following warning: **Do not iron.** I hope they provided the same advice in Spanish.

Our third wackiest warning is a true sign of the times. The folks at Motorola recognize that we not only multi-task but we mix out technologies, as well.

Hence the label on one of their cell phones that cautions: **Don't try to dry your phone in a microwave oven.** How unnecessary! Everyone knows you should throw it in the dryer. On delicate.

At number two, and trying harder, was this from a Sea Doo personal watercraft: **Never use a lit match or open flame to check fuel levels.**

Clearly, these folks have never watched an old Road Runner cartoon. I can remember quite clearly Wile E. Coyote doing that very same thing to his rocket or motorcycle or something. Sure, he got a little singed, but he turned out all right.

And finally, our (drum roll) wackiest warning label of 2006 is from a washing machine at a public Laundromat: **DO NOT put any person in this washer.** Duh! Washing machines are for cleaning pets, not people.

This process proves that truth is always stranger than fiction. Try as we might we would never be able to come up with warnings as wacky or uncommon as these.

To think that teams of lawyers spent tons of billable hours poring over every potential litigious possibility to prevent stupid people from hurting themselves. Makes you wonder why, doesn't it?

You can hear Dick Purtan from 5-10 every morning on the Motor City's 104.3 WOMC. Read label carefully before listening.

Wake your day

Get a good start with a healthy breakfast

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Breakfast is called the most important meal of the day.

But when it comes to actions instead of words, breakfast is often treated as though it doesn't matter.

If you've been meaning to take action about eating a healthy breakfast, well, it's a new year. And here's some extra motivation: January is Oatmeal Month.

More about oatmeal later. First: How important is breakfast?

"It's an essential meal. It gets your metabolism revved up," said registered dietitian Gail Posner, nutrition counselor, owner and president of Healthy Ways Nutrition Counseling of West Bloomfield.

"Study after study shows that eating breakfast helps you stay focused and not lose attention during work or school."

"It's very important," said Terry Godfroid-Marecki, who was a cardiac registered dietitian at the University of Michigan Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati Hospitals, and is now a member of the Livonia City Council.

If you're eating the right way, you aren't snacking after dinner, she said.

"You've been without food for

all that time (while you sleep)."

People who regularly eat breakfast are more likely to maintain a healthy weight. And breakfast is a chance for you to get nutrients you might miss out on during the day.

"If you eat breakfast and get hungry you're not eating the right breakfast," Posner said.

A healthy breakfast should consist of protein - such as an egg, meat or yogurt - and fiber - such as toast, fruit or cereal. Protein and fiber will keep you satisfied until lunch.

Some other components are complex carbohydrates and healthy fat. Low-fat yogurt, nuts, whole-grain pancakes, and pancakes with peanut butter are healthy examples.

Avoid sugary cereals, syrups, pastry and white breads. They're digested quickly, and you'll soon be hungry and tired.

"I think the big thing is to balance it out," Godfroid-Marecki said.

"Have a protein, have a fruit, have a carbohydrate. Every meal should be balanced so you have that satiety."

Satiety is the feeling of fullness you get at the end of a meal. The more satiety you feel, the less

PLEASE SEE BREAKFAST, D3

PINEAPPLE MACADAMIA OATMEAL

Preparation time 7 minutes

Cooking time 7 to 11 minutes

Standing time 1 minute

Makes five (1-cup) servings

1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits in 100 percent pineapple juice

Water

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 cups Quaker Oats (quick or old fashioned uncooked)

2 containers (6 ounces each) vanilla fat free yogurt (if artificially sweetened yogurt is used, reduce brown sugar to 1/4 cup)

1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/3 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup coarsely chopped macadamia nuts or almonds

Drain pineapple tidbits, reserving juice. Set fruit aside. Add enough water to juice to equal 3-1/4 cups. In medium saucepan, bring combined juice and water and salt to a boil. Stir in oats. Return to a boil, reduce heat to medium. Cook 1 minute for quick oats, 5 minutes for old-fashioned oats or until most of liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally. Stir in reserved pineapple. Let stand covered until desired consistency.

Spoon yogurt into small bowl. Add ginger, mix well.

Spoon oatmeal into five cereal bowls. Top each serving with brown sugar, nuts and yogurt, dividing evenly.

Microwave directions: In 3-quart microwaveable bowl, combine pineapple juice and enough water to equal 3-1/4 cups, oats and salt. Microwave on high 3 to 6 minutes for quick oats and 8 to 10 minutes for old-fashioned oats or until most of liquid is absorbed. Stir in reserved pineapple. Let stand covered until desired consistency. Spoon oatmeal into five cereal bowls. Top each serving with brown sugar, nuts and yogurt, dividing evenly.

Nutrition information (1/5 of recipe made with fat-free yogurt sweetened with sugar): calories 340, calories from fat 70, total fat 7g, saturated fat 1g, trans fat 0g, cholesterol 0mg, sodium 130mg, total carbohydrates 65g, sugars 40g, dietary fiber 5g, protein 8g

Recipe from the Quaker Oats Company

Super snack

Popcorn goes from game day to gourmet

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
STAFF WRITER

There's nothing like a big bucket of popcorn at the theater, but these days, popcorn isn't just for the movies. This healthy whole grain is high in fiber and low in fat and calories.

Because it can assume flavors ranging from

savory to sweet, it's great for cooking and baking, and can be used to top soups and chili, or bread fish and chicken. At fancy restaurants, well-known chefs are serving popcorn seasoned with exotic herbs and spices.

Upscale popcorn shops are popping up across

PLEASE SEE POPCORN, D3



Try this super snack (caramel almond popcorn clusters) for your Super Bowl party

THE POPCORN BOARD

PINK

WENDSY VON BUSKIRK EDITOR (734) 953 2019 WVONB@HOMECOMM.NET

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Pink Picks

By Cathy Young

As promotions manager for the Observer & Eccentric, Cathy Young is known for her sense of humor and zest for life. When it comes to clothing, this self-described "former hippie" values comfort as much as style. As Young prepares to move to Arizona in February, we asked her to leave us with her top PINK Picks.

Kick It!

Dansko clogs



See It!

Shirley Valentine - a great chick flick

DVD It!

Weeds 3rd Season

Wear It!

Cashmere sweaters

DON'T Wear It!

Too tight jeans

Face It!

Vitamin E oil



Tote It!

Born leather purses

Drink It!

Water with lemon

Eat It!

Ahe tuna - sushi style



J Jill cashmere cowlneck at www.jill.com

TIVO It!

Nine

Read It!

Marley & Me

hear It!

Mark Knopfler and Emmylou Harris

Use It!

Turn signals

Experience It!

The Southwest

Accessorize It!

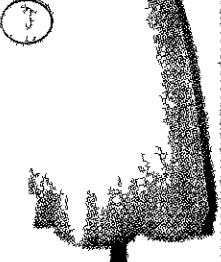
Pearls

Dream It!

Sitting on a beach

FAFFA Finalists

Designers gear up for "ARTrageous" fashion competition



Designer Kate Abraham of Rochester Hills, whose bridal line Kate Bennett is available at Elegant Lady in Oak Park, created this cocktail length vintage gown. Model Rachel Kausek of Saline will present the design at ARTrageous.



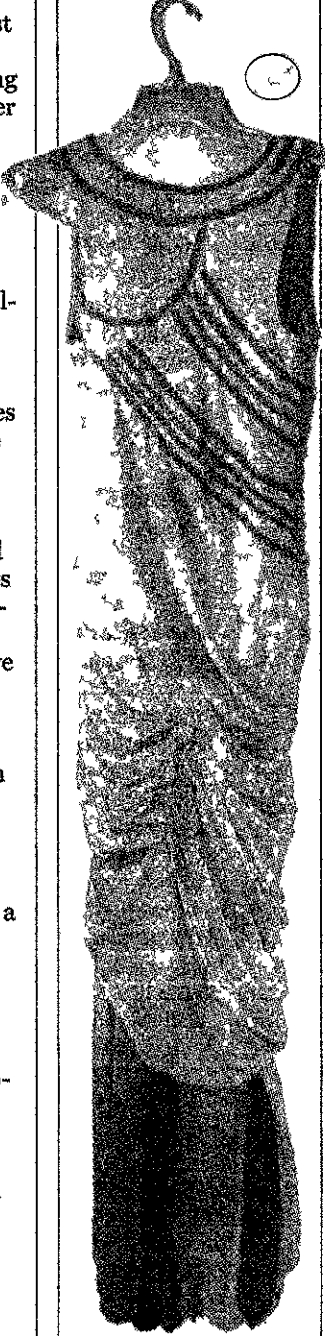
Designer Michelle Ariel Sanders of Canton is working to build a line of clothing while working as a visual merchandiser at Forever 21. Her dress will be modeled by fellow Canton resident Summer Scarborough.

The area's hottest designers and models are tying up loose ends in order to compete in the final leg of the Fanclub Arts Foundation Fashion Awards. Thirty-five models and 49 designers hailing from Michigan, Ohio and Canada entered the FAFFAs by turning in sketches and portfolios by the Dec. 5 deadline.

During a FAFFA Preview Event held Dec. 6 at Playground Photographic Studios in Detroit, 10 designers and 10 models were selected to move on to the finals. The model finalists will wear the designer's finished garments on the runway at ARTrageous, set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at MOCAD. Winners will receive a \$1,000 cash grant and a photo shoot in PINK. In addition, the top model will receive a portfolio shoot by fashion photographer Christopher A. Jablonski, while the top designer is taken on a buying trip to New York City courtesy of Shapes Boutique.

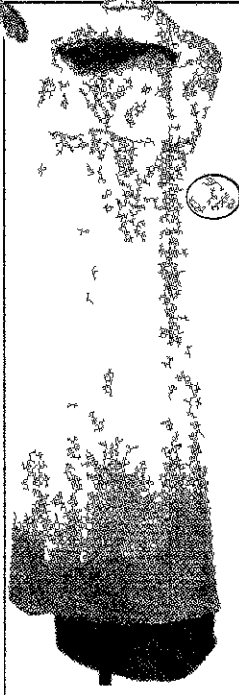
The garments, shown here, are currently on display in the windows at Shapes Boutique, 319 Main Street in Royal Oak.

*Due to illness, Raminta Vilkiene of Livonia did not meet the Jan. 6 deadline. She will not be eligible to win but will finish her garment so model Catherine Helms of Detroit can compete at ARTrageous.



Detroit's Samantha Bullock, director of the former Detroit Design Lab, has been sewing since age 7. Kateland Harris of Big Rapids will model her Asian-inspired dress at ARTrageous.

Photos by Treas Charow



Artist and designer Rosemary Mifsud of Grand Rapids created this light, airy gown, which will be modeled by Christina Long of Clay Center, Ohio.



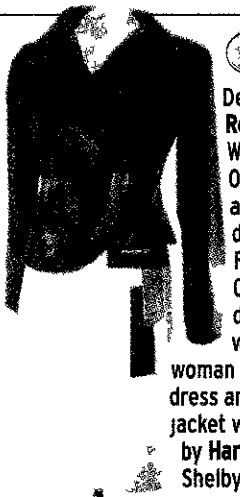
Christina Desmet of Grosse Pointe Woods is currently finishing a degree in apparel and textile design at Michigan State University. She blended fun and funky fabrics to create this evening look, which will be modeled by Strawberry Fears of Lake Orion.



Designer Jill Marie Robertson of Southfield is a freelance designer who studied fashion in London and at Western Michigan University. Her dress will be worn by model Alvana Nicalj of West

ARTrageous Fashion

What: ARTrageous
When: 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Feb. 10
Where: Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)
Why: Artists, musicians, local restaurants and wineries will come together to raise money for Fanclub Arts Foundation, which supports arts education in Metro Detroit. The FAFFA Fashion Awards will conclude with a "Project Runway meets Detroit's Top Model" competition that night.
Tickets: \$100 in advance, \$125 at the door.
Call: (248) 584-4150 or visit www.fanclubarts.com



Designer Morija Reeb of Woodslee, Ontario earned a fashion degree from Fanshawe College and designs for the worldly, artistic woman. Her geometric dress and leather jacket will be modeled by Harley Reaves of Shelby Township.



Blair Grinn of Troy is an independent clothing designer who says she targets young professionals with an appreciation for avant-garde pieces. Her dress will be modeled by Andrea Davis of Detroit.

Designers Jason Humphrey and Amanda Jurban met at Wayne State University and work as a team on their clothing line Super Deformed Robot. Their creation will be modeled by Jen Noser of Rochester Hills.



of Your Favorite Design (pictured above):

Your Name:

Your Address:

Your E-mail:

Vote for your favorite design by mailing this form by Monday, Feb. 5 to PINK, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48167.

The reader's choice winner will be announced at ARTrageous, and published in a future edition of PINK.



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