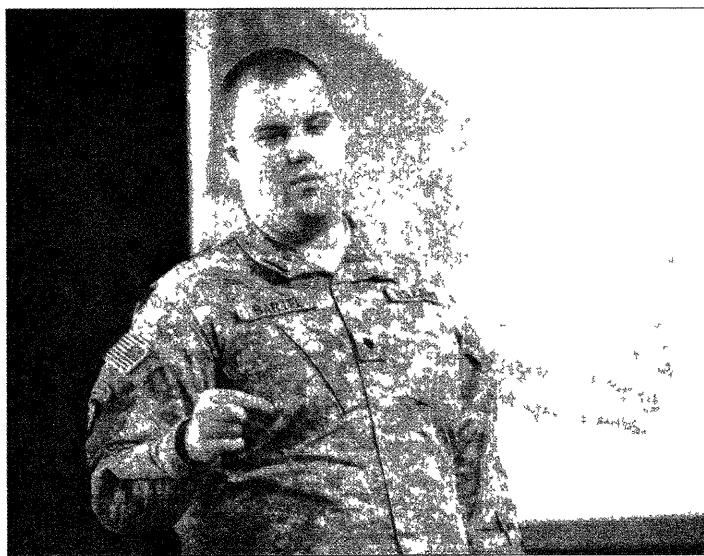


SUNDAY February 4, 2007

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Army Specialist Adam Bartel appeared at Bentley Elementary Thursday to speak to students about his experience in Iraq

Lessons from the field

Former student tells what it's like in Iraq



Regional fire piques interest

Community reps gather for preliminary talks on joining forces

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WR TER

The combination of improving fire and emergency medical services while at the same time saving money were enough to get representatives from seven local communities to the table Tuesday afternoon to discuss the possibility of moving toward establishment of a regional fire department

More than a dozen delegates from Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Westland, Livonia and Northville Township met for two hours - no strings attached - in the first of what could be several meetings to determine if theres value in continuing discussions on consolidating fire services

That could be determined soon, as the group is expected to hear the scope and costs of a feasibility plan by consultants Plante Moran at a second meeting, at which time each community will have to decide if its worth patting money toward further discussions

the feasibility study Who knows what it will look like, maybe a regional fire authority or maybe just sharing some equipment," he said. "Or, maybe we go at it for a year and find out that given all the factors we're not going to save any money and everybody goes away with that information That's good government '

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume admitted his Board of Trustees were cool to the idea of regionalization when it was thought only the Northvilles and Plymouths would be part of the discussion But, with the additions of Canton Township, Westland and Livonia, Reaume said his board became more interested

"The larger the group, the more likely it would be more economically advantageous," Reaume said "Economics drives it and I think we need to look at the short term and long term goals, and assumptions

Reaume noted intergovernmental agreements aren't new to Plymouth Township, and pending the cost of the feasibility study, hed like to move forward "We're already in two formal agreements, police dispatch and fire, with the city of Plymouth,' Reaume said

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WR TER

To emphasize what its like to be a soldier in Iraq, Army Specialist Adam Bartel of Plymouth Township told Bentley Elementary students in Canton Township Thursday the kinds of conditions military personnel face daily

When we go out with our gear, it probably weighs about 60 pounds,'

Bartel told groups of kindergartners through fifth-graders "That made it feel like 10 degrees hotter outside So, when it was 140 degrees out, it made it feel like 150

About 3 or 4 in the afternoon, we d have a sandstorm and it turns every thing orange,' he said Just like a snowstorm leaves layers of snow, it leaves a layer of sand over everything

PLEASE SEE IRAQ, A5

Bentley students hung signs in the hallways to welcome Army Specialist Adam Bartel, who appeared at the school Thursday to talk to students about his experience in Iraq

i ne more communities you get involved, the more compli cated it gets, but the better your odds of getting some real sav ings, said Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, who lobbied government leaders of the other six communities to at least attend the first session The representatives from each of the communities will look at it hard and careful to see if they want to be a part of

'We jointly sponsor the hazardous waste day with Plymouth And, we work with the Plymouth Community

PLEASE SEE FIRE, A5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAN L PPITT

Canton resident Lauren Christiansen 24, has been a member of Automotion the Detroit Pistons dance team since last summer She is a 2001 graduate of Canton High School



BY TIFFANY L PARKS STAFF WRITER

As Automotion's name booms across the stadium, 19 perfectly coifed ladies take to the center of the court and begin to dance In the midst of it all is Canton resident Lauren Christiansen

"Being surrounded by that many people is an excitement I ve never had before, said Christiansen, who joined the Detroit Pistons dance team last summer

Having since memorized every coordinated twist and turn, the 2001 Canton High School graduate has become a co captain of the team

It's been more than I ever imagined,' said Christiansen, 24, who auditioned with hundreds of other women last summer



endar full of practices, games and community events, the Central Mıchıgan University graduate said

being involved with the dance team leaves little room for much else

"This is what I do," Christiansen said, adding that she moved back home with her father after college 'It fills up a lot of your time so I can't see anywhere else it would fit in my life before I get married and have children '

Being a member of

Automotion, which was created 11 years ago, involves more than learning dozens of rou-

tines and dressing in sparkly costumes Calling themselves the hardest working dance team in the NBA," the group serves as goodwill ambassadors for the Pistons and makes more than 400 community appearances a year

"The reaction is wonderful when we go out," said Christiansen, who has a Bachelor's degree in public relations 'The kids always ask 'Are you really the dancers?' and adults are always appreciative (of our presence)

A dancer since she was 4 years old, Christiansen is Miss February in Automotion's 2006-07 calendar and will soon help teach a dance clinic for a special half-time performance

PLEASE SEE AUTOMOTION, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting a grip on success

Chicago White Sox pitcher Charlie Haeger (left) of Plymouth Township and Detroit Tiger Nate Robertson, who lives in Canton work out together during the off season at Canton's High Velocity Sports Plymouth/Canton Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright recently sat down with the two See today's sports section for his column on Robertson, who overcame much adversity to make it to the major leagues Thursday's sports section will feature Wright's column about Haeger, who has an opportunity of cracking Chicago's starting rotation this year

Coming Thursday © The Observer INDEX 7-Month CD Special & Eccentric in Filter Newspapers E2 For Home APARTMENTS AUTOMOTIVE E6 Delivery call **C**1 HOMETOWNLIFE Volume 32 New Liberty (866) 887-2737 CROSSWORD £2 Number 63 Bank CLASSIFIEDS D1 E8 D2 Joss 1333 W Ann Arbor Rd - Plymouth E1 St. Valentine's Day NEW HOMES (734) 455-1511 Obituaries C5 Whether you like a stage show www.newlibertybank.com PERSPECTIVES A7 the bar scene a romantic dinner D4 Member FDIC REAL ESTATE or even a simple CD we ve got Annual Percentage Vield (APV) of 5.20% for our 7 month Cartificate of Deposit aublication Rates ava lable for cartificates of \$500 to \$99,000 Substantia penalt for a limited time only Please cal for details E5 SERVICE GUIDE SPORTS ideas for you **B1**

Correction

A story in Thursday's issue of the Canton Observer should have said the addition to the Wayne Memorial High School Alumni Arena will include an official competition volleyball court and that the gymnasium has seating for 400 people

Euchre tournament

The Exchange Club of Canton will hold it fourth annual Euchre tournament 4-10 p m, Feb 17 at Summit on the Park in Canton Proceeds from the event will benefit local scholarships for Plymouth-Canton youth The event will include trophies and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as door prizes, a silent auction, raffles and more

Tickets for the event are \$50, which includes food and an open bar For Ticket information call Richard Piwko at (734) 981-1149 or (734) 231-2688, Jon LaFever at (734) 398-5570, or David Loveland at (734) 207-8943

Public safety hours

Canton Public Safety's Records Bureau will process the following services on Wednesdays, from 9 30 a.m -430 p m

🖬 Ĥandgun purchase permits

Handgun safety inspections

Records clearances

Fingerprinting On Mondays, Tuesdays,

Thursdays and Fridays, the service hours will continue to be 8 30 am -4 30 pm Also, Records Bureau fingerprinting for concealed weapon permit

applicants remains suspended until further notice For further information contact the Canton Public Safety Records Bureau at (734) 394-5410

Newcomers anniversary party

The Canton Newcomers will celebrate the group's 35th anniversary with a "This is your Life" salute, a white elephant birthday gift exchange, refreshments by Buffalo Wild Wings and Back Home Bakery, door prizes and a raffle for a local charity The social, civic and charitable organization welcomes the community (including former members --particularly founding members) to attend our celebration, which is at 7 15 p m , Feb 7 at the Sunflower Clubhouse (45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center) Bring a neighbor or friend

People will be able to sign up for monthly activities including Bunko, Scrapbooking, Playgroups, Euchre, Ladies Night Out, Creative Kids, Couples Social and many more Visit cantonnewcomers org for club information, including a complimentary newsletter For questions about the bash, call (734) 981-0486 You don't have to be "new" to be a Newcomer

Early childhood meeting

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Department will host a Preschool Parent Informational Meeting 7 p m Wednesday, Feb 28 at

Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford in Canton At this meeting, parents will

learn about preschool programs and be able to get enrollment materials for the 2007-08 school year

For more information, contact the Early Childhood Office at (734) 416-6190 or check the Web site at web pccs k12 mi us/earlychildhood

Canton BPW meets

The Canton Business & Professional Women meet 6-8 30 p m Monday, Feb 12, at Palermo's Restaurant, located in the strip mall behind Murray's Auto Supply on the north side of Ford Road, east of Canton Center and west of Sheldon

Guest Speaker Lynn Jarrett, president of LifeQuest Training & Coaching, will discuss balancing all life offers Jarrett is a best-selling author, motivational speaker, life coach and a resident of Canton

RSVP by Friday, Feb 9 Contact Canton BPW president June Nicholas, junenicholas@comcast net or

(313) 610-2561

New lieutenant

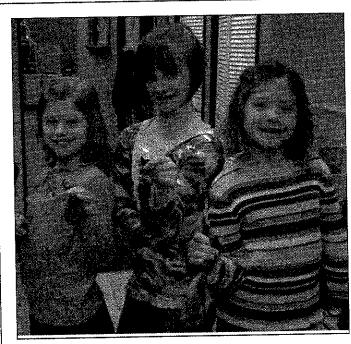
After an extensive testing process, the Canton Police Department recently promoted Sgt Mark Schultz to the rank of lieutenant Schultz was hired by the department in 1990 as a patrol officer

During his 16 years of service, Schultz has received 17 departmental awards and citations He has worked as a department instructor, field

training officer, Schultz evidence technıcıan and as a detective assigned to the detective bureau

According to Public Safety Director John Santomauro, eight very qualified candidates participated in one of the most extensive, challenging testing processes he has seen in 36 years of law enforcement The components of the test provided an in-depth evaluation of the candidates communication and leadership skills

Schultz has been married 13 years to his wife, Leslie They have two children,



Donation from the heart

Park, 46000 Summit

open to the public

guest speaker Dave

Parkway, Canton The cost for

lunch is \$20 and includes a

full buffet lunch, beverages

and dessert This luncheon is

The luncheon will feature

Beachnau, executive director

of the Detroit Metro Sports

Commission Beachnau was

instrumental in the research

development and hosting of

international sporting events

During the summer of 2003,

he oversaw the largest multi-

sport event held annually for

vouth in the United States --

Games In 2005 he received

the AAU Presidential Award

for his efforts and support of

"We are thrilled to have

chamber said Dianne Cojei,

president of Canton Chamber

Seating for the luncheon,

someone of Mr Beachnaus

stature speak at our local

the AAU Junior Olympic

the AAU

of Commerce

the regional, national and

in metropolitan Detroit

development of the DMSC,

and is responsible for the

commissions day-to-day

operation including bid

Emma Wright, 7 of Saline (from left) Cassidy Sargent, 8, a third grader at Bentley Elementary and Erin Berger, 7 a second grader at Dodson Elementary, show off the hair they recently had cut off, which they have donated to an organization called Children with Hair Loss which is based in South Rockwood, Mich The organization provides hair pieces to children with any form of medically-related hair loss including from chemotherapy, radiation, burn accidents and all types of Alopecia They provide hair replacements, bands of hair and complete care kits once a year if needed until age 21 at no cost Unlike Locks of Love, which requires a 10-inch minimum, Children with Hair Loss only requires donated hair be a minimum of six inches long. For more information about the group and how you can donate, visit their Web site at www.childrenwithhairloss.us

School registration

Registration for the 2007 2008 school year at St Michael Christian School in Canton begins on Thursday, Feb 8 The school offers 3year-old preschool through fifth grade The academic program is taught by qualified and credentialed teachers The school also strongly supports the development of the whole child in a small class size setting The public is invited to an open house 6-8 p m , Feb 8 For more information, call (734) 459-9720

Alzheimer's support

An Alzheimer s disease support group meeting for families and friends whose loved ones are afflicted with dementia is held the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p m at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, 42500 Cherry Hill Road in Canton Everyone 1s welcome to attend

For more information please contact Dolanda Crawford (734) 981-5070, or visit www.waltonwood.com

Radio auction

Businesses and individuals can sponsor half-hours and hours of the auction broadcast The station is also looking for businesses interested in a more significant sponsorship for a title sponsor, major sponsors and key sponsors

www.hometownlife.com

Sponsorship not only helps the station but is a great way to introduce your business to our listeners,' said Bill Keith, station manager In addition to our regular listeners, many additional people tune in just for the auction Sponsorship is a very cost-effective way to reach them

Anyone interested in sponsoring the auction can contact Keith via e mail at keithb@pccs k12 m1 us or by calling (734) 416-7732

Firefighters graduate

Canton Township Fire Captain Thomas Davison, Captain John Hunter and Lt David Champagne recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff and Command School class No 8

These officers completed the class that is a competence based intensive undergraduate and graduate level study program consisting of 350 hours of classroom instruction for which they prepared papers and projects The course takes the fire officer beyond traditional operational methods and exposes them to conceptual thinking and problem solving

Champagne was the recipient of the Class Leadership Award, presented by classmates to the individual that demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities during the course of the class

Sagear scholarship

With its Sandra Sagear Scholarship, the Rotary Club of Plymouth A M is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District high school sen-10r who has overcome adversi-

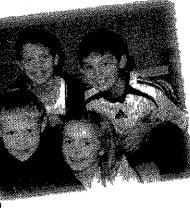
ty The club is looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community

The recipient of this award will receive the \$500 Sagear scholarship, named after Sandra Sagear, a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio Application deadline is April 7 For more information go online to http //www.storytellerdesign com/sandrasagear h tml

Huron Valley Catholic School

Passion for Learning, Passion for Christ

"We chose HVCS for its excellent test scores. wonderful teachers, smi class sizes and Christian education. Our children have made wonderful friendships and continue to grow in a positive and healthy environment. We would highly recommend Huron Valley Catholic School " ~Bert and Sheila Kozlowski, Canton





A2 (C)



their families welcome Thursday, February 8, 2007

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Limited Availability Registrations accepted at Open House. Call or click for more information, www huronvalleyschool org

Davton, 11 and Myah 19months-old

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its February networking luncheon on Feb 7, 2007 at 11 30 a m at the Summit on the

which is being sponsored by Super Bowl of Canton, 15 limited and reservations are needed To make your reservation, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040 Deadline for reservations is Friday, Feb 2

Local businesses can support WSDP 88 1-FM, the student-run radio station serving the Plymouth-Canton school district, by sponsoring the stations annual auction, scheduled 9 a m to 10 p m Saturday, May 12



More than 60 local businesses to show off at Consumer Expo

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WR TER

More than 60 local business es will have displays set up at the Consumer Expo Thursday at Summit on the Park in Canton The event, which runs from 5 7 p m , will be held in the Summits Grand Ballroom and give residents an opportunity to learn what the local business scene has to offer

The expo, which is put on by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Downtown Development Authority, will feature a wide variety of businesses, including banks, insurance and travel agents, pet services and carpet cleaning Canton Leisure Services will also have a booth set up which will feature infor mation about its programs

Many of the vendors have participated at the event in the past, but several businesses will making their Consumer Expo debut, including Buffalo Wild Wings, Starbucks, and Ginger Restaurant All the participat ing businesses are chamber members

Mainly we want people to come and learn about all the businesses and realize they can stay here in Canton to do all their shopping, said Chamber President Dianne Cojei Attendees have the opportunity to meet local business owners and learn about the great products and services they have to offer

The Consumer Expo is held twice annually in February and October Cojei said there is always a demand by chamber members to be involved with the event

Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance said she has had a booth at all but one Consumer Expo For her, the event is all about reaching out to an audience that might not know about her business and she feels the event is a great way of doing that

I have noticed that the crowds have continuously grown the last couple years I think the community is just more aware of it, said Robin

Former student ticketed for trespassing at Salem High

A former Plymouth-Canton School District student has been ticketed for violating a trespass notice given to him in September

The 19 year old Canton man was spotted in Salem High School as well as the schools parking lot Police were called in to assist the district's security officers

The man who acknowledged he had previously signed a trespass notice said he was on the high school campus to give money to his girlfriend and didn t plan on staying long He was ticketed and given a February court date

Stolen check cashed

A Canton woman may have

COP CALLS

taken Pizza Huts gather round the good stuff" slogan too far when she fraudulently cashed a check from the national chain

A New Boston man report ed to police Tuesday that he fired the woman from his lawn maintenance business in November 2005 and claims she stole a \$535 check that Pizza Hut made out to the company in early 2006

When the man who provid ed snow removal for some Pizza Hut locations called the company about the status of the check, a representative told him it had already been cashed After receiving a copy of the

check which had been cashed at a gas station in April 2006 the man noticed it beared his former employees address Its unknown how the woman gained access to the check

Identity theft victim

A Canton man has reported to police that his wife is an identity theft victim

The 58-year old womans husband told police that his wife received a letter in early January from a bank regarding a credit card application that she hadn t filed

The application listed the Canton womans name and a Detroit address After being instructed to

active accounts the couple discovered an unauthorized cell phone contract on her credit report

Depressed man ends life

After recent talks with a neighbor about depression a Canton man apparently committed suicide Tuesday at his Bunker Hill Road residence

The 30-year-old man suf fered a head wound from a shotgun He was discovered on a courch in his garage by his father who had come by to take him to an appoint ment

The man, who didntl eave a suicide note was

put a fraud alert on all of their recently arrested for drunken driving

Car windows shattered

The two passenger-side windows on a Canton womans 1999 Ford Escort were shattered early Tuesday morning The woman, 33, who lives on Old Michigan. told police she heard a loud bang at 2 30 a m that caused her dog to bark but said she didn t see anything upon checking the area Later that morning, she discovered her smashed windows Their value 1s estimated at \$400 Police have no suspects

Tiffany Parks



who win have items on display that will be for sale

Admission to the Consumer Expo is free and open to the public According to Cojei each vendor will bring a door prize that will be worth a minimum of \$25

For more information about the Consumer Expo or the Canton Chamber of Commerce, log onto www.can tonchamber com



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throughout the store during our One Day Sale

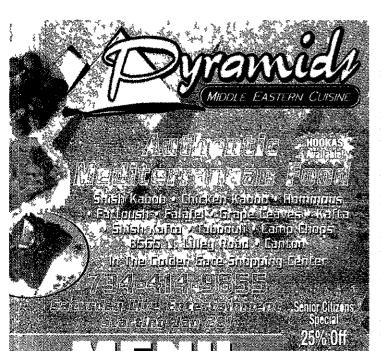


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Open a store account during the sale and save an extra 10%, in addition to the Seniors' discount! Subject to credit approval. Some exclusions apply see sales assoc ate for details

Schools and nonprofit groups Sion up today for our March 3 Community Day Event By selling coupon booklets for \$5 each community organizations like yours have raised over \$38 m I on companywide. For more information or to sign up ivisitiour website www.communitydayevent.com or contact you localistole

One Day Sale prices and Seniors discount effective Wednesday February 7 2007 [13453A]



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BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

A stray Lab mix dog who spent a handful of days squatting at the intersection of Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads in Plymouth Township - presumably waiting for his lost owner to show up — and caught the attention of passing motorists, is now safe and sound

The only thing left is to find the happygo-lucky lost soul a loving home

Nicknamed by Plymouth Township police records clerk Donna Pawlowski Haggerty, because he kept running up and down Haggerty Road," police dispatchers took in several dozen calls about the dog from Friday afternoon until a Plymouth woman was able to coax him into her car Monday

"Everyone who called was concerned about him," Pawlowski said "Officers tried to catch him with snacks, but he would eat them and run off'

Paula DeMember of Plymouth Township kept a close eye on Haggerty, and even tried to catch him

"He was just walking all over the street, right in the intersection," DeMember said "I pulled into the Kmart parking lot and tried to call him over, but he was just scared, with his tail between his legs Its almost a miracle he survived all this



Officials at Parkway Veterinary Clinic are trying to "find either the owners or an adoptive family for this stray dog, which they ve nicknamed "Haggerty" because the dog hung out at Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads

DeMember's sister, Kathryn Row of Canton Township, said she saw Haggerty at the intersection for three days

"We spotted him at Sheldon and North Territorial on Saturday, but he ended up back at Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road, Row said "I think he caused a couple of

Police report Good Samaritans would leave food at the intersection for Haggerty, who was able to survive the below-freezing temperatures

"He looks well-fed," said Pam Comben at Parkway Veterinary Clinic in Plymouth, which is the dog pound for the Plymouth and Northville communities "And he's super friendly"

Comben estimates Haggerty is 1 to 2 vears old, and not neutered She said they keep the dogs for five days before trying to find a rightful owner or someone to adopt

"We canvass the neighborhoods, send out e-mails, put out flyers and call other animal clinics to find owners or someone to adopt," added Comben, who said Parkway gets a handful of strays each week "The best way to guarantee a dog will come home is to have it microchipped"

While some who contacted the Observer were concerned Haggerty would eventually be euthanized, Comben said at Parkway they try to find every stray a family

"We've had a German shorthair pointer since Dec 31," Comben said "Our staff is very passionate in finding every stray a home'

L . A. S. MART

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459 2700

car accidents because he was in the intersection

Valentine's Day

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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT PARENT PREVIEW NIGHT Monday, February 5, 2007 7:00 pm

TOUTE

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IRAQ FROM PAGE A1

We'd either have to stay inside or get something to cover our mouths so we wouldn't breathe in the sand "

Bartel, 24, was asked by Bentley first-grade teacher Alıce Chrenko – hıs first-grade teacher at Bırd Elementary – to tell students about hıs tour of duty ın Iraq

"While you guys were eating Thanksgiving dinner in November 2005, I had that for breakfast that day because I had to get on a plane from Kuwait to Iraq, Bartel said "They sent me home when you were getting into school last September (2006)"

SHARING STORY

Bartel, who was a radio operator in Iraq, said he welcomed the opportunity to tell his story to students

"I want to teach them about something that someone in their community did," said Bartel, who spent 4 1/2 years in the Army "Many people don t understand what the Army is all about, and I wanted to let them know that what s going on (in Iraq) is not necessarily as bad as they are hearing"

Among his slides were a picture of Bartel with US Sen

Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, who visited troops in Iraq on Memorial Day Both were wearing Detroit Tigers hats

"She brought us Tigers hats because the Tigers were playing so well," Bartel said "And some dried cherries from Traverse City, so we could have something from home"

Students had questions about any battles Bartel may have taken part in

'Nobody in my particular unit was shot," said Bartel, who noted bullets from his 12pound rifle could travel three football fields "We were shot at, but none of my guys were injured or shot '

Third-grader Lucas Martin, 8, said he learned a few things while listening to Bartel

'I thought it was a lot harder to be in the Army," Lucas said "I thought the guns would be a lot heavier I know I would be scared"

Jillian Yuhas, 8, said she 'thought it was pretty cool' Bartel visited her school

They had to learn how to cut (barbed) wire and get up at 5 in the morning, Jillian remembered 'I thought it was pretty dangerous"

TIME TO LEARN

Second-grade teacher Nancy Weycker said learning about the Army and Bartel firsthand is important for students, even



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bentley students ask Adam Bartel, an Army specialist from Plymouth Township, questions about his experience during his visit to the school Thursday

those in the younger grades

"Current events are very important, we want them to know whats going on,' Weycker said. "When we have one of our own come to talk, it makes it feel more real for them"

Bartel, dressed in the Army's new fatigues, said he decided to join the Army, in part, because his grandfather served in World War II and his father was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam conflict When asked if he ever was embarrassed to walk around in his Army uniform, Bartel stood tall while giving his answer To me, this is a source of pride," Bartel said 'I know what I ve done and I'm proud of my country, and it doesn t embarrass me at all to wear this uniform" Chrenko, a teacher for 33

years, said she's proud to see how he has developed as a young man

'It's neat for the kids to see a real soldier, who is doing something for our country," Chrenko said

It's really nice to know you taught somebody years ago and they're here giving some thing back'

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

Council on Aging with programs'

Canton Township Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher said he and his bosses are always interested in ways to deliver fire services better and cheaper

"If we get any ideas to maintain that high-level of service and become more cost-effective, we want to listen,' Rorabacher said "You have to be forward thinking on this"

Rorabacher said consolidation of services isn't totally new to the communities who began discussing regionalization this week

"Through mutual aid we have a Hazmat team that is made up of individuals from 24 fire departments," he said "That s a very expensive service to provide But, for the cost of two people from my department to go for training, I have

Hazmat team should I need it " Pete Kunst, Livoma's director of public safety, said barring the cost of the feasibility study becoming prohibitive, he would like to see what the experts say can be achieved through regionalization

at my disposal a 50-man

"Exploring these possibilities is the right thing to do as you plan long term, in light of revenue issues, particularly the cuts from Lansing," Kunst said "Fire and EMS services are fairly standardized compared to police service, which can be different from community to community

"But, the devils are in the details as it would take a lot of work to overcome a lot of obstacles – including politics – to come up with a plan ' he said "We also want to do right by our community and fire fighters by being cognizant of salaries, benefits, training and career opportunities"

Dwyer said representatives from Plante Moran, who are also working with Downriver communities on regionalization of fire departments, indicated communities could save from 20-25 percent with consolidation of services

If the savings were that big, we could save \$250,000-\$300,000 a year, Dwyer said That encourages me to look at it further, no matter how long it takes'

Westland Fire Chief Mike Reddy said his community wanted to be on the ground floor of regionalization discussions before making a decision if consolidation will work

Our department is always active in finding new ways to provide service, said Reddy, who referenced the Auto-Aid program with Garden City, Wayne and Inkster, in which fire departments from all four cities respond to a commercial fire in any of the communities We want to take a look and explore it to see if theres merit to it

'Certainly we can get ideas

and see what equipment the other cities are using, and maybe join together on purchases of specialty equipment to save money, he said Its something we want to take a look at and take back to our elected officials'

Michigan State University professor Eric Scorsone, an extension specialist for state and local governments, said there are many examples of successful consolidation efforts that have achieved cost savings and maintained service quality in outstate Michigan and other states

One can create some kind of fire joint venture in a fairly reasonable time frame, but cost savings and improved service definitely can take sev eral years to realize,' Scorsone said 'Communities may need to rethink where operations are located, staffing patterns and overcome transition costs"

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AUTOMOTION

FROM PAGE A1

"I'm so excited to be apart of this organization, she said "We have a great program and the motale is high because the Pistons are a winning team."

On game days, Christiansen arrives at the Palace of Auburn Hills at least two hours before game time to get dressed, go over costume changes and rehearse Contact with the basketball players is limited

"Everyone always asks if we

Get on the ball.

all hang out,' Christiansen said But they have a job to do and we have a job to do '

The group has two major performances during each home game and they change costumes three times

Christiansen, who must audition for her spot again in the summer, said she's enjoying every moment of being on the team

I love dancing and I love the Pistons," she said

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WTUA expansion part of planning meeting agenda

The Canton Planning Commission will meet 7 p m on Monday, Feb 5 on the first floor of Cantons Administration Building Items on the agenda include

PUBLIC HEARINGS

📕 WTUA Lower Rouge

expansion -- Consider special land use request for a sanitary sewer pump station and basin Property is located east of Haggerty Road and north of Michigan Avenue

Township zoning text amendment -- Consider zoning text amendment to Articles 6A 11, 6A 17, 6A 23 and 6A 25 relative to signage

SITE PLANS

■ Hampton Inn Hotel & Suites -- Consider site plan approval Property is located south of Ford Road and east of Haggerty Road

NEW BUSINESS

D & D Water and Sewer -- Refer review of devel-

oper instigated revisions to staff Property is located west of

Sheldon Road and south of Michigan Avenue

Dinner to help woman fighting blood disease

A Redford family is hosting a fund-raising dinner to help pay for the treatments for a Canton mother of three with a blood disorder that could lead to leukemia

Lesley Govan has myelodysplásia, a rare disorder of blood cell production

So far, she's responding to chemotherapy treatments at Garden City Hospital, but she has at least two more to go and they are taking a toll

"Its just been awfully hard,"

Govan said tearfully from her hospital bed Friday "I wish I could be better

Lesley Govan, 59, used to manage a deli until last spring when she began feeling ill, but it wasn't until last fall that doctors determined the cause

Her family and friends organized a spaghetti dinner to raise money to help offset the cost of health care, doctor bills and prescriptions

"The insurance that they have does not cover chemo," said her brother-in-law, Alan Canton in 2001 Govan The fund-rais

Govan It's very expensive'

Lesley Govan moved to the area from England and became a U S citizen in the early 1960s She and husband Ken hived in Redford for more than 20 years before moving to The fund-raiser will be held from 5 to 9 p m Saturday, Feb 24, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 25280 Five Mile Road in Redford The suggested dona-

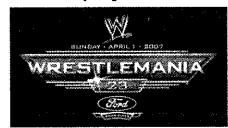
tion is \$10 for adults and \$6

for children younger than 6

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Detroit Zoo seeks piece of state budget pie

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo, is seeking \$12 million from the state for zoo operations, but not all state legislators are buying

The Legislature appropriated \$4 million for the zoo in 2006, following a public outcry over the possibility of the landmark at Woodward and 10 Mile in Royal Oak closing

"We don't have any money," state Rep Chuck Moss (R-Birmingham) said, noting the state's \$800 million deficit 'We're looking at trying to protect money for schools and health care

"I love the zoo," Moss added, noting he takes his kids there "It generates money for the region We just plain don't have the money

Moss, a first-term legislator, noted similar cutbacks in private industry such as General Motors and Ford, and noted there could be cuts elsewhere such as state police or mental health services

"It's a pretty bad time to be asking for extra money from Lansing," Moss said 'I hate to be Scrooge here, but we just

don't have the money The state of Michigan is not in a position to be a sugar daddy right now"

Kagan, reached Tuesday, noted the discussions with the state have been ongoing for some time Zoo officials have asked the state for help following last year's transition to the zoo being operated by the nonprofit Detroit Zoological Society

"At that time, they said they would help us with Part A We're not expecting an outcome for some time," Kagan said

Gov Jennifer Granholm is scheduled to introduce her budget next week

"I think everybody in Michigan is concerned with the state's finances," Kagan said "We understand that has to be resolved

"I think it's been excellent," he said of the transition to DZS operation "The transition has gone really well"

Attendance was up about 50,000 last year, and zoo membership is around 50,000 families, the largest of any cultural institution in Michigan

"There is a cost in doing all of that," Kagan said of animal



Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo

preservation and other zoo work "We need some public support

Kagan's plan is for a regional tax to appear on the ballot in 2008. he notes many other cities have similar taxes and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks tax has been assessed locally for many years

"We are hopeful that the community will be supportive of that," Kagan said of the regional tax Last year's public outcry showed "clear community support and recognition of the value" of the zoo, he said

Kagan said the zoo brings an economic value to the region, including jobs "We just need this one-time state assistance to get us to the regional piece' The governor and

Legislature have already shown they understand the zoo's value, he said

Zoo offers free admission to children

Looking for a cure for the kids' cabin fever? Look no further than the Detroit Zoo One child ages 2-12 will receive free admission to the zoo on Mondays and Tuesdays during the month of February when accompanied by one adult at the regular admission price The offer 1s available only with a printable coupon which can be found on the zoo's Web site at www.detroitzoo org

While a number of the zoo's animals seek shelter when the temperature drops, others take the opportunity to play The Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys, can often be spotted enjoying their outdoor hot tub in the winter months The Amur tigers, wolverines, red pandas, Asıan wild horses, elk and bison also adapt well to colder temperatures

A popular attraction any time of year is the Arctic Ring of Life, featuring the 70-foot Polar Passage with its spectacular views of swimming polar bears and seals When it's time to warm up, visitors can head over to the Butterfly Garden where the temperature is always a balmy 75 degrees and enjoy more than 40 species of butterflies from Costa Rica and El Salvador Other indoor experiences at the Zoo include the National Amphibian Conservation Center, Penguinarium, and Holden Museum of Living Reptiles

Kids of all ages can enjoy the Wild Adventure Simulator, an educational, action-packed thrill ride which offers a unique you-are-there experience from the comfort of a specially equipped, motion-simulated big-screen theater seat Passengers must be at least 36 inches (three feet) tall, and it is recommend that they be at least 5 years of age or older Located in the Ford Education Center, the Wild Adventure Simulator is open during regular Zoo hours, show times vary Tickets are \$4

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m to 4 p m November through March and 10 a m to 5 p m April through October For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org

State education savings plan a good gift for a child

We just had a newborn grandchild and we would like to begin to save for his college education. Any suggestions? Congratulations on your new-

born grandchild. I think it is great that you are thinking about a college education, as I believe it is never too early to begin to save for college

My recommendation is to make a contribution into the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) The Michigan Education Savings Plan (wwwmisaves com) is what is known as a 529 Plan and these types of programs have a number of advantages First, the income from this investment grows on a tax-free basis as long as it is used to pay for college expenses In other words, when your grandchild uses the money for college, there are no tax consequences on the distributions In addition, you can deduct contributions you make off your Michigan income tax return

There are numerous 529 Plans on the market, however, the MESP is the only plan that you are allowed to deduct your contributions from your Michigan income tax return You can deduct \$5,000 of contributions on a single return and \$10,000 on a joint return. The MESP, unlike many other plans, is commission-free and has very low fees

Many people are under the mistaken belief that money from the MESP can only be used in Michigan schools This is not the case You can withdraw money from the MESP for basically any public or private institution in the country In addition, the money can be used not only for tuition, but also room and board and all required fees

Through the MESP, you have a variety of investment options that you can choose from For a newborn, I generally recommend the moderate age-based allocation option. What this investment option does is invest the money in a variety of investments geared for long-term growth As the child gets older and closer to college, the portfoho gradually becomes more conservative

One of the beauties of the MESP is that it only takes \$25 to start a plan and you never have



to add any additional money One last note regarding the MESP is that it does not have to be a child or grandchild for you to start a plan Basically, anyone can open a plan for any child.

For those of you who are looking at buying a gift for a child, I believe the Michigan Education Savings Plan is an excellent program to consider

My broker has recommended an S&P 500 fund for my portfolio. I notice that the class share of the mutual fund is a B Share. What are your thoughts?

I am not a fan of B Share mutual funds and I never recommend them In the mutual fund industry, there are a variety of different classes of mutual funds Each one of these classes of mutual funds has different fees associated with them. As an example, in most B Share mutual funds there are very high ongoing management fees charged on a year-by-year basis In addition, in a B Class Share mutual fund, there is typically a five-year penalty provision if the fund is sold. What this means is that if you liquidate the investment prior to five years, you have to pay a penalty to the company My philosophy has always been that investors need flexibility and low costs and that is something that does not exist with B Share mutual funds

When you purchase a mutual fund, it is important to understand all of the fees involved Every mutual fund charges a management fee The management fee is how the mutual fund company itself makes money In addition to the management fee, some mutual funds will also charge commissions or what is known as loads Commissions are on top of the management fees and, in most cases, fund companies that have commissions also have high management fees

In the situation at hand with the B Share mutual fund, this type of class share has one of the highest management fees associated with it. Therefore, when an? investor purchases this type of fund, they are going to pay high. er yearly fees My recommendary tion is that an investor should never use a B Share mutual fund as they are not investor friendly

I recognize that many of the commission salespeople that sell mutual funds will tell you that the B Share mutual fund is noload or has no commissions Technically, they are right, because there is no commission deducted from your initial investment, but they are not telling the whole story B Share mutual funds have substantially higher ongoing fees as well as surrender penalties if you get out, generally, in less than five years Therefore, whether you 👶 call it a commission or a fee, it is still money coming out an investor's pocket, which lowers their return

In the situation at hand, as opposed to buying a B Share S&P 500 fund. I would recommend that you consider purchasing the Vanguard 500 Index Fund (800-992-8845) Vanguard 1s a no-load company. and has very low management fees When a fund is no-load, it means that 100 percent of your money goes to work for you and no money is paid in any sales charge

As far as I am concerned, there is one reason and one reason only that people invest money and that is to make money To do that, investors need to be concerned with costs as well as performance Therefore, if your goal is like mine, to keep more money in our pockets and fewer commissions in the hands of brokers, then avoid B Share mutual funds and concentrate on the commission-free funds Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee only financial adviser Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymat ** ters@hometownlife.com For more information visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com

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Nursing group plans bocce ball fund-raiser

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fund-raising event, Bocce for Bucks III sponsored by Complete Infusion Services, offers patrons a unique opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players The event will be held on 2-6 p m Sunday, April 22, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township

Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tournament play, ideal for families and people of all ages, an Italian buffet, silent auction and much more New this year, is a private benefactor reception to be held 6 p m Sunday, March 25, at Park West Gallery in Southfield

Funds raised will help provide an innovative, life-saving system - VNA's TeleHomecare program TeleHomecare is a tool used by VNA to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits

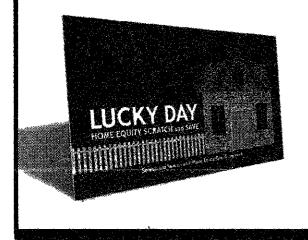
For sponsorship, advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III, please call (248) 967-8324 or visit vna org

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Schools of Choice signups start

Parents interested in changing their child's school can now sign up for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Schools of Choice program for the 2007-2008 school year

A8 (C)

The program is open to students in kindergarten through the eighth grade

The Schools of Choice program offers parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district provided there is room available in the school Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parents or legal guardian

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2007-2008 Schools of Choice application available in every Wayne Westland school

Schools of Choice applica-tions for middle school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland, through March 2

Schools of Choice applications for elementary school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office between March 12 and April 20

No new Schools of Choice applications will be accepted for high school students

Applications during the submission period will permit selected students to begin the 2007- 2008 school year in their school of choice, if space ıs available,

If more students apply for a grade or building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students The names of students not selected will be placed on a waiting list for the 2007-2008 school year

Current Schools of Choice students must reapply to remain eligible for the program

After the deadlines, Schools of Choice applications will be accepted until Sept 7 at the elementary or middle school the parent or guardian would like the child to attend Those names also will be added to the 2007-2008 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first served basis

Building principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an open- \mathbf{ing}

They will be allowed to place Schools of Choice students only through Sept 21

A Schools of Choice student can be moved back to his or her home school, if an overcrowding situation occurs within the first 10 weeks of the school year

After 10 weeks, the student will be permitted to remain in the school of choice for the remainder of the school year, provided all other conditions continue to be meet



According to owner Melissa Bila Regan (far right), Harmony and Me is beneficial to young children including infants

Getting into harmony New center teaches youngsters how to open up using the beat of music

BY TIFFANY L PARKS STAFF WRITER

In 1999, Melissa Bila Regan and her 18-month-old daughter, Brennan, began taking Music Together classes

Brennan, now 9, has moved on from the interactive childrens program, but her mother 18 just getting started

Regan, a Farmington Hills resident, is about to launch her own Music Harmony and Me, at 7311 N

I absolutely love this prochildren open up Available to newborn

through kindergarten-age kids, the Music Together program is

HARMONY AND ME

Owner: Melissa Bila Regan Location 7311 N Lilley Road in Canton Phone: (248) 489-9330

Web site: www.HarmonyAndMeKids

com Offers the Music Together program divided into nine weekly 45-minute classes that feature songs instru ments chants rhymes and dance The classes are open to newborn through kindergarten age children

divided into nine weekly, 45 minute classes that feature songs, instruments, chants rhymes and dance

While many are accompanied by parents, some children take the informal classes with grandparents, aunts, uncles or their caregivers

This is not just putting on a CD or popping in a tape said



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Melissa Bila Regan will soon launch her own Music Together center called, Harmony and Me at 7311 N Lilley Road in Canton

Regan, who's taken a break from her career as a nurse The kids get a real sense of parent participation and the parents end up loving it, too"

The Music Together program was made public in the late 80s and 1s based on the notion that all children are musical Its Web site, www.musictogether.com, states 'All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture, provided that their early environment supports such learning"

Regan says the programs impact is evident on her own children Her youngest daughter, Julia, 5, recently crossed the threshold that marked the end of her Music Together participation

Its amazing, she said "Brennan 1s very comfortable musically and can do various styles of dance and Julia can sing in harmony

Regan also said she's seen how the program has brought families together

"I had a family that was having a hard time bonding with their adopted child and I ended up getting a letter that said how much the program did for their relationship,' she said 'It was so beautiful that was a gift they received from thıs'

The first nine-week session begins March 13

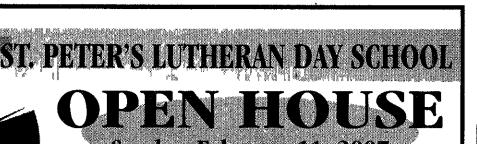
Registration, which includes two music CD's, an illustrated songbook and a parent's guide, is \$145 per child or \$102 each for siblings Siblings under 9 months old are free

Free 30-minute sample classes will take place at 9 30 am, 10 30 am and 11 30 am Thursday, Feb 8 at the center

Regan will host another free session at 11 a m on March 3 at The Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill Road in Canton

For more information or to register for a sample class, call (248) 489-9330 or log on to www.HarmonyAndMeKids com

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Together center called, Lilley Road in Canton

gram and have got to experience it as a parent and as a teacher" said Regan, who started teaching music classes in 2003 Its incredible to see



Israel offers many surprises for its first-time visitors

s my family and I finalized plans for a city, or of that country long-awaited trip to Israel recently, many friends and other family members reacted with horror, fearing for our safety, as if we were planning to walk into



an active war zone Mention Israel, it seems, and thoughts reflexively turn to the Arab-Israeli conflict

This attitude is a sad consequence of that conflict because our 11-day trip to Israel in December was an amazing and eyeopening experience for

us, and would likely prove equally enjoyable for many, regardless of religion or ethnicity Anyone interested in history, art and culture, or who wants to see evidence of the very best, and very worst, in human nature should make the trip

It's also a land that will surprise you, no matter how well-informed you are regarding its history or its current events Israel is a place that must be experienced with your own senses before you can begin to understand it

For example, its one thing to know, intellectually, that Jerusalem is sacred to the world's three major monotheistic religions It's another thing to take a 20minute walk that begins at the Western Wall — the only remnant of the second great Jewish Temple, which lies literally in the shadows of the Dome of the Rock — then continues through an Arab market, with calls to prayer booming over local mosques loudspeakers, and ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus was buried

Its one thing to read about the First Century Roman conquest of Jerusalem, when approximately 1 million people were killed and the city was practically burned to the ground It's another to view the scorched stone walls of a 2,000-yearold home, to see the remnants of that horrific fire, and feel anger inside at that ancient, but all-too-familiar atrocity, the senseless destruction of Jews

After walking out of those excavated ruins in Jerusalem's Old City, however, I felt fierce pride to view the Israeli flag flying from neighboring buildings, to see that Jews once again thrived within the city the Romans once demolished with such vigor

But here, again, no doubt many of your thoughts are returning to today's Arab-Israeli conflict My pride at witnessing Israel's flag in Jerusalem, after all, is not shared by the Arab inhabitants of that

But traveling to Israel forces you to see the conflict differently

And that leads to the biggest surprise of our trip

After spending six days in Jerusalem, we were scheduled to drive to Tiberias, in the Galilee area I assumed we'd travel on Israel's side of the pre-1967 borders, as a necessary safety precaution Not so Our guide packed us in our Ford van and drove east, through the middle of the West Bank, before turning north through the Jordan Valley area

Before returning to pre-1967 Israel, we passed numerous small villages - some Jewish, some Arab, as our guide matterof-factly pointed out - within easy walking distance of each other

I was in Israel as a tourist, not as a journalist, so I couldn't investigate the villages further I don't know their histories I don't know much about their interactions, although our guide said the Jewish and Arab villagers generally engage in some commerce, but otherwise stay out of each others' areas

Nevertheless, I know what I saw, and what I didn't see There were no guards, military personnel or checkpoints between the villages There were no large fences or other barriers Arab villagers could walk unhindered to a neighboring Jewish village in minutes, and vice-versa

In other words, Jews and Arabs were living on disputed territory, in peace

Now, those Jews may believe the entire West Bank rightfully belongs to Israel, while their neighboring Arabs would likely rather live in an independent Palestine

But at least they're not fighting about it So, based on my experience, anyone whos interested in visiting Israel but fears the violence, should make the trip Unless theres an active shooting war going on, the most danger you're likely to face is on the roads - Israelis tend to be very aggressive drivers

As for the Arab-Israelı conflict? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers there I just wish that today's version of the ancient Roman legions, i e, those who call or work for Israels destruction, would learn something from those West Bank villages I witnessed Certainly, peace between nations is a more difficult and complex achievement than peace between villages But peace between villages is a start

Mike Rosenbaum is the sports editor of the Southfield and West Bloomfield Eccentrics He can be reached at (248) 901 2589 or by e mail at mrosenba@hometownl fe com

Readers offer suggestions on state money crisis

Editor's note. We asked readers to offer their suggestions to Gov Jennifer Granholm and state legislators as they struggle with the state s financial crisis. We ran several letters in Thursday's paper and online. Here are some more responses

Watch the spending

Thank you for allowing citizens some input on how to handle the current state finance crisis

When operating a family budget, Michigan citizens decide what they can and cannot afford to purchase It is our belief that the state government should do the same When the family budget comes up short for a Michigan family, we are forced to look at income vs outgo This is what you need to do

1 Clean house And we don't mean from the bottom up We mean from the top down Get rid of every special committee, every "created" position and every person that is not crucial to running the state This action alone will save the state millions Learn to make decisions by listening to your on site advisers and using your own judgment Don't form a special committee for every problem that comes up

2 When you are considering cutting 'government services" such as money to schools and local government, remember this These are not government services These are essential tools that are provided for by the citizens of Michigan in the form of taxes The tax you collect from the citizens is not your personal pocketbook. Michigan cannot afford government spending sprees

3 When you have an \$800 million deficit, you are spending too much If you don't have the revenues, you should not be spending That should be clear enough

4 If you have an \$800 million deficit and you receive some windfall money (big tobacco settlement), it makes sense to balance your budget and THEN you consider the amount left over as surplus Since this was not done with your tobacco money, are we to assume that you don't consider the state in a financial crisis? You earmarked the money for your pet projects and then you form a special committee to figure out how to solve the budget deficit In truth, you had the power to take care of the deficit and did not

5 Michigan has the second highest paid legislators in the nation but we are one of the most financially troubled states Our state legislators make good wages They have very short work weeks If the state 15 in need of a 'special committee," please catch some of our legislators on the two-three days off during the week and draft them to sit on the committee

6 You have a powerful workforce at your disposal Michigan workers have strong work ethics and a good sense of what is right Re-train your unemployed blue-collar workers Dont let their unemployment benefits run out and then tell them to take out grants and loans to get degrees necessary to obtain these high tech positions It was blue collar workers who made this state into the automotive capital of

the world, not the state government Don't forget us Help us, and we will help you out of this mess you have created

> A. Parrish Troy

A9

(*)

Redundant bureaucracy

I remember the time when we in Michigan had no state income tax, no sales tax, and no SBT tax, nevertheless the state government functioned just fine Perhaps Gov Granholm's 12-member emergency commission should study how that was done, and accordingly make suggestions to the governor

I think that the present budgetary problem in the state has a lot to do with overgrown, overcompensated, often redundant, and underworked bureaucracy Probably it can be reduced by half without adverse consequences We would then have a leaner, more efficient, most likely friendlier to the public, better functioning state government

We should learn how they do it in the private industry, for example at Ford, General Motors, and other companies From huge losses they recently incurred, apparently they are now on the way to profitability with considerably reduced workforce, and scaled down wages and benefits What works to their advantage, it could work just as well to the advantage of the State of Michigan without more taxing already overburdened with taxes public

Joseph Wira

Cut compensation

1 Do not raise taxes

2 What do we cut? The level of compensation of state, county and city government pensions, retirement and lifetime medical benefits I'm talking teachers, elected officials etc Make them similar to their private sector workers plans We can't afford the 55-year-old retirees with all of those expensive perks for life The only exception would be police and firefighters These folks go to do their public service each day with the risk that they may not come home at the end of the day Please note that I have a problem with their benefits package, not their salaries They have been very smart to defer much of their compensation to their retirement packages which no one ever seems to scrutinize

3 Let education dollars follow the student I pay \$2,500 a child for a Catholic education that vastly outperforms the \$9,500 spent on public school students Too much 1s wasted on bureaucracy

4 Don't spend \$80,000 on a chief of staff for the governor's husband

5 If 35 or 40 other states all have a part-time legislator (like Michigan used to) and many are much more populated than Michigan, go back to the parttime legislature like we had before

Mike Hayes Livonia 🔹



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Muses, Mistresses and Masterpieces Feb. 15, 7-9 p.m. (Sargent, Picasso & Wyeth)

He Said/She Said: Great Artistic Couples Feb. 22, 7-9 p.m. (Stieglitz, Rivera & Pollock)

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Churchill spikers bump Salem in WLAA Lakes duel, Page B2



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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem senior forward Nate Werda tormented Plymouth Friday night with three goals in the Rocks' 5-3 victory. The triumph clinched the Kathy Lash Cup for Salem



BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Nate Werda pulled double-duty for the Salem hockey team Friday night during its cross-campus clash with Plymouth at the Compuware Sports Arena

Werda not only carried the Rocks to a 5-3 victory over the rival Wildcats,

lease on the coveted Kathy Lash Cup, the trophy that goes to the P-CEP hockey team that compiles the best record against the other two Lash was instrumental in the development of the three boys hockey programs at the Park

Werda registered a hat trick for Salem, including an empty netter with 44 seconds left that all but iced the

"Nate's been on a roll for us lately," said Salem coach Fred Feiler "He's scored a couple of goals in our last two or three games When he was walking in tonight, I told him I thought he was going to get three goals and, sure enough, he dıd

"Nate's been a great player for us He's playing unselfishly and it's really

DI CACE CEE HOCKEV B2

Carlson paces Chief swimmers

For complete results on the meet see B3

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

The waves the Canton's boys swimming team are creating in the Western Lakes Activities Association are getting more substantial each week

The Chiefs hope they're tidal wavesized by Feb 13 when they host fellow WLAA unbeaten Northville in a pivotal showdown set for 7 p m

On Thursday in Canton's Phase III building, coach Ed Weber's squad improved its dual-meet record to 6-0 with a convincing 109-77 victory over cross-campus rival Plymouth After the Wildcats grabbed an early lead by winning the meet-opening 200-yard medley relay, the hosts took charge by touching first in eight of the final events to secure the 32-point win

Canton senior captain Matt Carlson was his usual productive self, winning the 100-yard butterfly (56 55 seconds) and the 100 breaststroke (1 07 00) while also contributing to the Chiefs first-place 400 freestyle relay victory

Other individual first-place showings for the Chiefs were turned in by Ross Schwarz, who won the 200 freestyle in 1 54 96, Jon Templeton, who took gold in the 50 freestyle, and Chris McGinnis, who outdistanced all other competitors in diving with 144 45 points

Mike Conger enjoyed a strong meet for the Wildcats as he took first in the 200 IM (2 10 88) and the 100 backstroke (57 04) Conger also was the lead leg in the Wildcats' first-place finish in the 200 medley relay

Chris Wilson was the only other Plymouth swimmer to notch a first He won the grueling 500 freestyle in 5 31 06, less than a second ahead of Canton's Jordan Gorzalski

The setback dropped the Wildcats' dual meet record to 3-3

metownlife.com (734) 953-2108



MHSAA honorees

February 4 2007

LANGER WITH

The Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

www.hometownlife.com

Two Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student-athletes are among 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 2006-07 Scholar-Athlete Award Canton's Cheisea Selden, a multi-letter winner in gymnastics and diving, and Plymouth s Chelsey Quinian, a three-sport standout for the Wildcats, are among the students who are finalists for the 12 Class A scholarships

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, will honor 32 indik viduals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least, one sport in which they association sponsors a postseason tournament

Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites Insurance underwrites the award and will pres-ent a \$1,000 scholar-ship to each recipient This year, 2,205 appli-cations were received from 492 schools

To be eligible for the award, students must 🐇 have had a cumulative grade-point average of 3 50 (on a 4 0 scale) and have previously

won a varsity letter

Webb shines

Level 6 Euro Stars gymnast Caitlyn Webb, a 10 year old resident of Canton, placed first, in her age division at the 2007 ' Coaches Cup" competition held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in January Webb's scores were 9 425 on floor (first place), 9 400 on vault (first), 9 375 on bars (first); and 9 200 on beam (third) Webb won the all-around with a 37 375

Fire & Ice The Canton Amateur

Hockey Association with be hosting the 2nd Annual Fire and Ice game Feb 10 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena, which is located on Michigan Ave In Canton. The showdown between the Canton , hockey coaches and the Canton Fire Department kicks off at

Much pain, much gain

Robertson's path to Majors paved with injuries, perseverance, faith

THE BOOK ON ROBERTSON

Name: Nate Robertson Age: 29 Home: Canton Family: Wife, Kristin Occupation: Detroit Tigers starting pitcher 2006 accomplishments: 13-13 record, 3 84 earned run average; earned a win in the Tigers' series-opening game against Oakland in the American League Championship Series, Major League debut: Sept. 7, 2002, for Florida against Pittsburgh; Robertson's advice for young baseball players that aspire to play at the next level: "Work hard, enjoy the game and play other sports. You don't need to attend all the showcase camps and all that stuff Talent supersedes everything

If you have it, you'll make it."

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

The most memorable voice-mail message Canton resident Nate Robertson ever received came, as he vividly recalled Thursday morning, "In the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere"

It was the first week of September 2002 and Robertson, who at the time was a starting pitcher in the Florida Marlins' minor-league system, and his soon-to-be-wife, Kristin, were driving from Portland, Maine (the site of his final minor-league game that season) to Wichita, Kansas, his hometown

"The Marlins had already made a wave of call-ups to the Major League team and I wasn't one of them, so I was a little disappointed because I had had a pretty good year," remembered Robertson "It was just after midnight and we were somewhere near the West Virginia-Kentucky border - out in the middle of nowhere - when I checked my voicemail"

The lone message on Robertson's phone was left by the Marlins' minor league coordinator, who asked the then-24-year-old left-hander to call him back, ASAP

WELCOME TO 'THE SHOW'

"He didn't have any emotion in his voice on the message, so I had no idea what he was calling about," said Robertson "When I called him back, the first thing he asked was, How close are you to Pittsburgh?' He told me there was a spot open in the (Marlins' Major League) rotation on Saturday and he wondered if I d like to take the start against the Pirates'

"Kristin was driving at the time, so I asked her to pull over My heart started racing and obviously we got pretty emotional We got out of the car and jumped around It was an unbelievable feeling"

and Kristin for a variety of reasons First of all, his life-long dream of



Canton resident Nate Robertson displays the split-The news was extra-sweet for Nate fingered fastball grip that helped make him one of the top left-handed pitchers in the American League last season Robertson went 13-13 and earned a series-opening victory against Oakland in 645 p m PLEASE SEE ROBERTSON, B4 the American League Championship Series



www.hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Feb 6 WL Northern at Salem 7 p m 777-Plymouth at Northville 7 pm Canton at W L Western 7 p m Oakland Christian at PCA 7 p m Canton Agape at Macomb 7 p m Friday, Feb 9 Salem at W L Central 7 p m WL Western at Plymouth 7 p m Wayne at Canton 7 p m PCA at Parkway 7 30 p m Canton Agape at Franklin Rd 7 30 p m PREP VOLLEYBALL Monday, Feb. 5 Salem at Livonia Stevenson 7 p m Plymouth at Canton 7 p m Tuesday, Feb 6 PCA at Inter city Baptist 7 p m Wednesday, Feb. 7 WL Northern at Salem 7 p m Plymouth at Northville 7 p m Canton at W L Western 7 p m Thursday, Feb 8 Roeper at PCA 7 30 p m Saturday, Feb 10 Salem at Bedford Invite 8:30 a m Plymouth and PCA at U M Dearborn Invite 9 a m PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Feb. 6 West Bloomfield at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center 7:30 p m Cranhrook at PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge 6 30 n m Wednesday, Feb. 7 Salem at Livonia Churchill at Edgar Arena 8 p m Redford United at Canton at Arctic Edge 8 p m Friday, Feb. 9 Canton at Livonia Franklin at Eddie Edgar 6 pm Saturday, Feb 10 Salem at W L Northern at Lakeland Arena 8 p m PCS Penguins at G P South at City Sports Arena 11 30 a m PREP WRESTLING Thursday, Feb 8

B2

(CP)

WLAA cross overs Saturday, Feb. 10 **WLAA Conference Meet** at Canton 9 a m **BOYS SWIMMING** Tuesday, Feb. 6 A A Huron at Canton 7 p m Thursday, Feb 8 Salem at WL Central 7 p m Northville at Plymouth at Canton H S 7 p m Canton at Wayne 7 p m Friday, Feb. 9 MISCA Diving at EMU 5 30 p m Saturday, Feb. 10 MISCA Swim Meet at EMU 10 a m GIRLS GYMNASTICS Monday, Feb 5 Northville/Novi at Salem at Plymouth H S 7 p m Canton at Livonia Red/Blue at Churchill 7 p m Wednesday, Feb 7 Plymouth at Hartland/Milford/Lakeland 7 p m Thursday, Feb 8 Canton at Farmington 6 p m MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Feb 7 Schoolcraft at Wayne County 7 30 p m Madonna at UM Dearborn 730 p m Saturday, Feb 10 Delta CC at Schoolcraft 3 p m Madonna at Cornerstone 3 p m WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Feb 7 Schoolcraft at Wayne County 5 30 p m Saturday, Feb 10 Delta CC at Schoolcraft 1 p m Cornerstone at Madonna 1 p m ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, Feb 9 Whalers vs Owen Sound at Compuware Arena 7 05 p m Saturday, Feb. 10 Whalers vs Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena 705 p m Sunday, Feb 11

Whalers at Windsor Spitfires 2 p m

TBA - time to be announced

BY ED WRIGHT Staff Writer

Pity the poor forearms that find themselves in the path of the meteoric kills of Lavonia Churchill hitters Kyndra Abron and Lauren Krupsky On Wednesday night in a battle of Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division unbeatens, the Chargers' dynamic duo's spikes bruised the Salem gymnasium floor more than the Rocks' arms in Churchill's comefrom-behind 23-25, 25-16, 25-18, 25-20 victory over the Rocks

Krupsky, a senior who will be hitting for Central Michigan University in the fall, ripped 32 kills while Abron, a junior bound for Michigan State University in the fall of 2008, notched 22 floor-shaking kills

The triumph improved stateranked Churchill's record to 28-2-1 overall and 5-0 in the Lakes Salem shipped to 24-3-1 and 4-1, respectively

"Kyndra and Lauren are obviously big-time players,' Churchill coach Mark Grenier said following his team's conquest of the Rocks "We live and die with what they do and they certainly didn't disappoint us tonight."

While the Chargers' one-two front-row punch is formidable, it's far from the only reason they're ranked seventh in the state in Division 1, Gremer emphasized.

"Above and beyond some of those big bangers we have, I also have kids who fill roles, who pass really well and serve tough," said Gremer "Outside of the homerun balls that Lauren and Kyndra hit, I have some kids that deserve equal billing with some of the efforts they make with their great defense

"Everyone sees the home-run ball, but we always talk about the fact that they wouldn t be possible without ball control and defense"

Kelly Archer (19 dıgs), Stephanie Bradshaw (13 dıgs), Anna Gatt (eight digs) and Kelsey McKenzie (31 set assists) were the Chargers' top non-hitters against the Rocks

Churchill spikers bump Salem in WLAA Lakes duel

During the early going, the Rocks looked like they may duplicate last year's three-game home sweep of Churchill when they rode strong front-row play from Lauren Kurtz and Teresa Coppiellie to a game-one win. However, Salem seemed to lose its rhythm during the opening points of Game 2 and was never able to regain it.

"We came out strong in the first game, but then as the second and third game went on, our passing kind of broke down and we didn't get a lot of defense against Churchill's big hitters," noted Salem coach Amanda Suder "If you don't have the blocks, it's hard to dig up some of those hits that come from Kyndra and Lauren Overall, I think we played at about 50 to 60 percent of what we re capable of playing at But give Churchill credit They played very well

"We'll see them again later on this season, so this certainly wasn't our last dance with Churchill" Kurtz shined for Salem, netting 17 kills and 15 digs Teresa Coppiellie (10 kills and 11 digs) and Jansan Falcusan (33 assists, seven digs and two blocks) also turned in stellar performances

Salem led throughout most of Game 1 and clunched it when Kurtz broke a 23-all tie with a kill and a tip

The Chargers bolted to an early lead in the second game thanks to eight kills from Krupsky and strong serving from McKenzie.

Salem never led in games 3 or 4

The match ended in bizarre fashion when, with Churchill in front 24-20, a Krupsky hit was ruled barely in by a Churchill junior varsity player who was serving as a back-line judge The Chargers' celebration was muted, however, when one of the referees overturned the call, saying the ball hit just outside the line

Given new life, the Rocks celebrated — until the two referees met for 15 seconds before ruling Krupsky's hit was in, ending the match

Pats' aces hand Wildcat spikers 5-game loss

Livonia Franklin coach Linda Jimenez called it "the turning point."

After splitting the first two games Wednesday night at Plymouth, the Patriots found themselves down 15-10 in the third Sam Wensing came off the bench to serve five straight aces and the Patriots got back on track, pulling out a 16-25, 25-15, 25-20, 22-25, 15-10 girls volleyball win over the Wildcats

Wensing finished with six aces on the night as Franklin improved to 11-13-3 overall and 4-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association

Plymouth falls to 13-13-3 and 1-4

Semor Liz Dempsey was

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Tires** Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416 2746 Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734 416 3040 Sealed bids are due to the EJ McClendon Educational Center (attin Bus Tire Bid) 454 S Harvey Plymouth MI 48187 on or before 2.30 pm Friday, February 23 2007 The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district

> Board of Education Plymouth Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN Secretary

Franklin's top attacker with 20 kills and six blocks, while Laura Marshall added 11 kills and six digs Junior setter Kelly Powers had 51 assist-to-kills on the night, while libero Cassie LaPrairie returned all 15 serves

The Wildcats were led by Chelsey Quinlan (12 kills and 12 digs), Clare Baptist (23 digs and six kills), Rachel Heaton (19 digs and 16 kills), Courtney Buttermore (25 assists)

MUSTANGS TOPPLE CHIEFS

Northville strengthened its hold on first place in the WLAA's Western Division Wednesday night with a 25-11, 25-19, 25-19 victory over Canton in a match played in the Mustangs' gymnasium Northville improved to 5-0 in the division while the Chiefs shipped to 2-3 "Although we didn't win, we played a lot better and played like we did earlier in the season,' said Canton coach Jen Barnes "We struggled on serve-receive in the first game, but we made a few adjustments and did better in the following two games '

The Chiefs were paced by middle hitter Marie Martin, who racked up four kills and seven blocks

'Marie stuck with their hitters and had a great day at the net,' said Barnes

Ellie Kenny, in her first match as an outside hitter, responded with five kills Setter Kacy Moran also played well, accumulating four kills, three aces, 12 assists and seven digs

'We were really impressed with Kacy's hustle Wednesday might," said Barnes 'She also made good choices and took control on the court"

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Parts** Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416 2746 Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734 416 3040 Sealed bids are due to the E I McClendon Fducational Center (atth Bus Parts Bid) 454 S Harvey Plymouth MI 48187 on or before 200 p m Friday February 23 2007 The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district

Leagues Available:

SPRING REGISTERATION

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 17th

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

1309 Penniman Ave. • Plymouth

(1/4 mile East of Sheldon Rd.)

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Minor League 7-10 Major League 11-12 Junior League 13-14

League is open to all Plymouth Canton residents Proof of residency and birth certificate to register

www.cantonlittleleague.net or info@cantonlittleleague.net

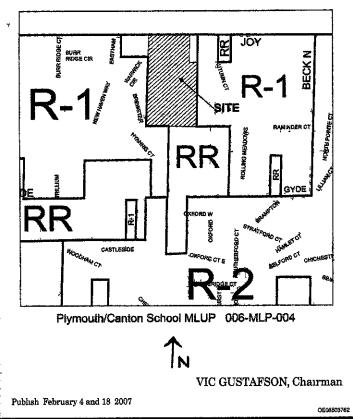
PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Public Act 263 of 2001 of the State of Michigan as amended, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township will hold a Public Hearing on Monday March 5, 2007 in the *First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building*, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 700 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan

PLYMOUTH/CANTON SCHOOL FUTURE LAND USE <u>AMENDMENT</u> CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO VERY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR PARCEL NO 017 99 0009 001 Property 1s located south of Joy Road and west of Beck Road

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building 1150 Canton Center S prior to Thursday, March 1, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review



The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction February 6 2007 at 10 00 AM The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing 6375 Hix Rd, Westland MI 48185 The vehicles will be sold as is starting bid is for towing and storage

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD.

CANTON, MI 48188

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1999	FORD	TAURUS	4 DR	1FAFP53U6XG199256
1996	FORD	TAURUS	4 DR	1FALP57U9TG177517
1991	MERCURY	CAPRI	2 DR	6MPCT01Z9M8609735
1996	FORD	RANGER	P/U	1FTCR14U2TPA36466
1999	SATURN	SLI	4-DR	1G8ZH5286XZ176860
1994	HONDA	CIVIC	2 DR	1HGEJ1221RL024845
1 99 0	HONDA	ACCORD	2 DR	1HGCB7256LA065959
1996	CHEVY	VAN	VAN	1GCGG25R2T1042780
1994	BUICK	LESABRE	4 DR	1G4HR52L6RH501305
1996	PONTIAC	GR AM	2 DR	1G2NE12T3TM534048
1983	CHEVY	PICK UP	P/U	1GCCC14H7DF365112
1994	PLYMOUTH	ACCLAIM	4 DR	3P3AA4637RT324394

Publish February 1 & 4 2007

Publish February 4 & 11 2007

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a *Bid for Site-work at Pioneer Middle School along with Eriksson, Farrand, Fiegel, Hoben, and Hulsing Elementary Schools* Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager McCarthy & Smith Inc 24317 Indoplex Circle Farmington Hills MI 48335 FW Dodge Plan Room Southfield Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills Daily Construction Reports Plan Room Detroit, Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids Construction News Service Grandville and Reed Construction Data Novi, MI

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 a.m on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the Pioneer Middle School project trailer, located at 46081 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule project scopes of work and to answer any question that bidders may have <u>Bidders are strongly encouraged</u> to attend

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted Bids are due to the PCCS E J McClendon Educational Center on or before 1 00 p m Wednesday February 28 2007 where they will be opened and read publicly These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416 2746 The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district

> Board of Education Plymouth Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN, Secretary

Board of Education Plymouth Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN Secretary CE0560417.

PLYMOUTH TWP. POLICE DEPT. 734-354-3232 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 02/09/07 at 10 00 a m at Mayflower Auto Transport 1179 Starkweather Plymouth MI 48170 a public auction of the following

1992	HONDA	CIVIC	JHMEG8657NS033347			
1998	FORD	WINDSTAR	2FMZA5146WBC09104			
2001	PONTIAC	GRAND AM	1G2NE12T11M639684			
1993	CHEVROLET		1G1BL53F3PW129015			
1993	FORD		1FTEX14N5PKA59847			
1996	FORD		3FASP11J3TR149322			
1992	MERCURY					
	DODGE	TRUCK				
	FORD					
		MOTOR HOM	1E			
		BUS				
On 02/09/07 at 930 a m at B&B Towing 934 Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth MI 48170 a public auction of the following						
1992	HONDA	CIVIC	JHMEG8657NS033347			
1992	HONDA	01110	011011000000000000000000000000000000000			
Publish February 4 2007 OE08504 47						

Canton Charter Academy 49100 Ford Road Canton, MI 48187 734-453-9517 (voice) 734-453-9551 (fax)

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2007-2008 academic year is Tuesday, 9/5/2006 at 8 00 a m through Wednesday, 2/28/07 at 5 p m Applications may be mailed or faxed for grades K-8 An answering machine is available for messages Should the applications exceed available space, a random-selection drawing will be necessary The drawing, if needed, will be Tuesday, 3/20/2007, at Noon at the school Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, firstserved basis for remaining openings Waiting lists will be formed accordingly

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Canton Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs

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Publish February 4 2007

Publish February 4 & 11 2007

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OE0850 920

Thornton's jam sparks Canton's win

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

It's amazing what kind of impact a rim-rattling, crowdpleasing, out-of-nowhere dunk can have on a high school basketball game

Case in point Friday nights Canton-Plymouth showdown, which was an up-for-grabs, nip and-tuck contest mid-way through the fourth quarter

That's when Canton senior forward Enc Thornton secured a give-and-go pass, cut down the baseline and slammed the ball through the hoop to spark the Chiefs' 48-36 triumph

'Eric's dunk really got us going,' said Canton coach Charhe Paye, whose team improved to 8 5 overall and 5-1 in the WLAA Western Division It really got the crowd into it, too Then he came back and hit a big jumper right after that.'

'The dunk was the biggest play of the game, no doubt,' Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner agreed "It was just another example of one of their role players stepping up and making a huge contribution'

Neil Sharma came off the bench to register a team high 12 points for the Chiefs, who also got strong play out of Steve Paye and Ryan Waidmann, both of whom netted 10 points Waidmann also chipped in with a team-high six boards

Junior guards Myron Puryear, Brandon Roberts and Dan Jeong paced the Wildcats with 13, 10 and six points, respectively Jeong nailed a couple of long threes in the second quarter to keep the Wildcats afloat.

Canton led 14-7 after one quar ter and 24-22 at the half before the 'Cats rallied to grab a 30-29

advantage heading into the fourth

'Defensively we were solid," said Paye 'We held them to just six points in the fourth quarter You have to step it up against their guards because they don't need much space to hurt you Puryear had nine points in the first half, but we held him to just two in the second"

Canton drained 8-of-12 free throws The Wildcats were 3-of-9 from the stripe

STEVENSON 58. SALEM 55: Luke Knochel enjoyed a big night, scoring 26 points and dishing out seven assists Friday as host Livonia Stevenson (3-10, 2-4) upset the second-place Rocks (7-5, 4-2) in a WLAA-Lakes Division game

Knochel hit five triples on the night as the Spartans built a 45-32 advantage through three quarters before holding on

Derek Severson, who iced the game with a pair of free throws with only seven seconds remaining, finished with nine points along with Chris Mulcahy

"It was good to be back at home after playing four of our first five division games on the road,' Stevenson first-year coach Brad Miller said "The first three quarters we were really solid.

'We kind of reset our goals coming into this game Instead of winning the division title, our goal now is getting into the playoffs'

Nate Wilson also contributed to the win with seven points and 10 rebounds

Our post players stepped up and played hard," Miller said 'We also played smart"

Stevenson made 11-of-13 free throws on the night, including 9of-11 in the final period as Salem outscored the Spartans, 23-13

Grant Stone led Salem with 23 points, while Ross Davis added 15

"We didn t do a good job on the defensive end tonight," said Salem coach Bob Brodie "They hit a lot of threes and we were behind right from the start We just had a tough time staying with them

We did a good job scrapping our way back after falling behind by 14 '

The Rocks were 13-of-22 from the foul stripe.

AGAPE 70, BAPTIST PARK 42: The Wolverines raced to a 21-11 firstquarter lead and never looked back as they improved their record to 9-3 overall and 4-0 m the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division The Wildcats slipped to 7-5 and 3-1, respectively

'Everybody played well tonight,' said Agape coach Keith Anleitner "This win kind of puts us in the drivers seat in the division We control our own destiny now, which is nice We ve beaten the other two top teams now, but we have to play them again, so it's far from over

The Wolverines were bolstered by a balanced scoring attack led by Ty Majeski's 16 Other key contributors were Terrell Pierce (12), Joel Ruffin (11), Jack Anleitner (9) and Jared Miller (7) Showla Olojo paced the Wolverines on the glass with nine boards The winners shot an amazing 41 free throws, canning 26 Caleb Thompson led Baptist Park with 15 points, five below his season average

Agape led 33-19 at the half and 51-37 with eight minutes to play

"Our defense was the story for us again tonight,' said Anleitner 'It was an up-tempo game, too, which was to our advantage

HOCKEY FROM PAGE B1

paying off for him Salem earned the 2006-07 Lash Cup after splitting its pair of games with Plymouth and sweeping two games against Canton Plymouth needed a victory Friday night to reclaim the prize it captured last vear

The Rocks improved to 7-9-2 overall while the Wildcats slipped to 12-6-2

During the early going it appeared as if Plymouths Jason O'Guinn was the one who would be registering a hat trick The offensive-minded defenseman scored a pair of goals in the game's opening 15 minutes and 15 seconds to give the Wildcats a 2-1 advantage

O'Guinn's first score at 11 55 of the first was assisted by Anthony Fuciarelli and Luke Merandi

Werda knotted the game at 1-all with a power-play goal with just 24 seconds left in the period Kris Brant and Steve Heisler assisted

The Zamboni barely had enough time to get off the ice before O'Guinn gave the Cats a 2 1 lead at the 14 45 mark of the second period off assists from Joe Perkovich and Mark Olivier Werdas power-play goal tied things up again at 2-2 with 1 36 left in the second stanza

The Rocks took the lead for good just over a minute later when freshman Kurt Driscoll scored a short-handed marker off assists from Aaron Markwell and Mike Haburne Heisler scored mid-way through the third period to extend Salem's lead to 4-2 Fuciarelli gave the Wildcats new life when his goal with 6 48 left cut their deficit to 4-3 Fuciarelli was assisted by Michael Manner and Merandi Werda's empty netter with 44 seconds left sealed the deal

Any time you play a Park rival its a big game and one that you look forward to, said Feiler We definitely had this one circled on our schedule It was extra special because we were playing for the Lash Cup, too

We had a couple of guys who didn't play in the first period because they were late getting here tonight As much as I hated to sit them rules are rules They played the second and third periods and responded well

Salem net-minder Ralph Aspenwall turned in a solid effort for the winners, stopping 24 shots Plymouth goaltender Justin Desilets turned away 18 shots

Ralph has been stellar for us all year, said Feiler, referring to his senior goalie He's definitely faced more than his share of shots this season, but hes done a nice job He plays the angles well and he's stingy with the rebounds

WATERFORD MOTT 3, SALEM 2 On Tuesday night at the Plymouth Cultural Center, the Rocks lost a heartbreaker to Mott on Greg Smiths game winner with 8 42 left

Smiths late goal off-set brilliant efforts from Salems Nathan Werda, who scored both his teams goals - both within the first minute of the game - and goal-tender Ralph Aspenwall, who stopped 33 shots

Werdas first goal was assisted by Mike Haburne and Aaron Markwell Steve Heisler picked up a helper on Werda's second lamp-lighter

Ryan Phillips and Chris Drake also found the back of the net for the winners The Corsairs received strong goal-tending by Mark Noel, who turned away 20 Salem shots

SWIM RESULTS

CANTON 109 **PLYMOUTH 77** Thursday at Canton

200-yard medley relay: 1 Plymouth (Mike Conger Kyle Dull Paul Snyder Chris Wilson) 1 49 82 2 Canton (Robert Blaesser Kevin Karlinski Mike Booker Chris McGinnis) 153 91 3 Plymouth (Adam Wing Dan Stoscup Jack Distel Tony McLaughlin) 2 00 15

200 freestyle 1 Ross Schwarz (C) 15496 2 Richard Zhang (C) 1 57 02 3 Chris Wilson (P)

200 IM 1 Mike Conger (P) 210 88 2 Robert Blaesser (C) 214 33 3 Kevin Karlinski (C) 219 86 50 freestyle 1 Jon Templeton (C) 2415 2 Chris McGinnis (C) 24 60 3 Chris Marinica (C) 25 03 1-meter diving 1 Chris McGinnis (C) 144 45 points 2 Kyte Wilkinson (P) 135 95 3 Ben Ambrose (P) 114 35

100 butterfly 1 Matt Carlson (C) 56 55 2 Ross Schwarz (C) 1 01 69 3 Jack Distel (P) 1 05 10 100 freestyle 1 Jon Templeton (C) 52 16 2 Chris Marinica (C) 55 47 3 Paul Snyder (P) 55 62 500 freestyle 1 Chris Wilson (P) 5 31 06 2 Jordan Gorzalski (C) 5 3173 3 Jason Oldani (P) 5 43 66 200 freestyle relay: 1 Canton (Ross Schwarz Chris McGinnis Quest Miller Jon Templeton) 139 59 2 Canton (Chris Marinica, Brandon Tolinski, Patrick Jenner Matt Carlson) 1 40 25 3 Plymouth (Peter Nolan Kyle Dull Joe Eudy Chris Wilson) 140 54 100 backstroke 1 Mike Conger (P) 57 04 2 Robert Blaesser (C) 1 00 22 3 Ben Ambrose (P) 1 04 75 100 breaststroke 1 Matt Carlson (C) 1 07 00 2 Kevin Karlinski (C) 1 09 58 3 Kyle Dull (P) 1 12 21 400 freestyle relay: 1 Canton (Ross Schwarz Brandon Tolinski, Jon Templeton, Matt Carlson) 3 37 05 2 Canton (Chris Marinica Robert Blaesser Richard Zhang Kevin Karlinski) 3 43 89 3 Plymouth (Mike Conger Chris Wilson Paul Snyder Joe Eudy) 3 44 75 DUAL MEET RECORDS Canton 6 0 SALEM 111 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 72

Thursday at Salem

200-yard medley relay: 1 Salem (David Olson Stan Chen Nick Leone Jason Williams) 1 49 55 2 Churchill (Steve Jones Mark Gordon Ben Lamerand Drew Randall) 1 49 77 3 Salem (Jimmy Crabili Nathan Spala Camerson Dunn Doug Fransioli) 1 57 20

200 freestyle: 1 Matt Underhill (S) 1 53 72 2 Ben Lamerand (LC) 1 56 60 3 Jon Babb (S) 2 04 01 200 IM 1 Nick Leone (S) 2 11 18 2 David Olson (S)-2 14 80 3 Drew Randall (LC) 2 15 36 50 freestyle 1 Steve Jones (LC) 2411 2 Jason Williams (S) 24 55 3 Nathan Spala (S) 25 62 1-meter diving 1 Matt Hope (LC) 182 40 2 Travis » Holt (LC) 157 50 3 Andrew Richards (LC) 118 80 100 butterfly 1 Stan Chen (S) 59 26 2 Ben Lamerand (LC) 1 01 51 3 Cameron Dunn (S) 1 08 03 100 freestyle 1 Matt Underhill (S) 51 51 2 Jon Babb (S) 55 42 3 Casey Olson (S) 58 39 500 freestyle 1 Nick Leone (S) 5 08 99 2 Drew Randall (LC) 5 09 22 3 Jake Keeler (LC) 5 42 97 200 freestyle relay: 1 Salem (Jon Babb Nathan Spala Jason Williams Matt Underhill) 1 37 49 2 Churchill (Mark Gordon Jake Keeler Jason Young Matt Castelli) 1 43 39 3 Salem (Cameron Dunn Kevin Smith Joe DeTassanyi Casey Olson) 1 46 96 100 backstroke 1 David Olson (S) 1 03 80 2 Steve Jones (LC) 1 04 98 3 Jimmy Crabili (S) 1 09 45 💪 100 breaststroke 1 Stan Chen (S) 1 05 49 2 Mark Gordon (LC) 1 07 36 3 Nathan Spala (S) 1 11 70 400 freestyle relay 1 Churchili (Ben Lamerand Steve Jones Jake Keeler Drew Randall) 3 35 34 2 Salem (Nick Leone Matt Underhill David Olson Kevin Smith) 3 37 53 3 Salem (Jason Williams Doug Fransioli Casey Olson Jon Babb) 3 50 40

AMERICAN LEAGUE

'Hot Stove' series to end on Feb. 11

The popular "Hot Stove League" series of the Plymouth District Library has many fans during the off-season this winter The final program of the threeevent series will take place Sunday, Feb 11, at 2 p m

Baseball and softball coaches and players of all ages are invited to attend Baseball Isnt Just Baseball Its a Metaphor For Life' presentation Speakers will

be Detroiters Dr Robert Samaras a member of the Windsor (Ont) Sports Hall of Fame, and Raymond Rolak, who has enjoyed a career as a sports broadcaster, professional baseball scout and published author of numerous baseball and ice hockey articles

The February program brought former Orioles broadcaster Michael Reghi to the

Plymouth Library As a thank you to the community, Reghi has shared his personal score sheet of Cal Ripkens last game in Baltimore on Oct. 6, 2001

All program attendees for the Feb 11 segment of the series will receive a copy of this historic keepsake Registration is required by calling (734) 453-0750, ext 4, or register online at www.plymouthlibrary.org





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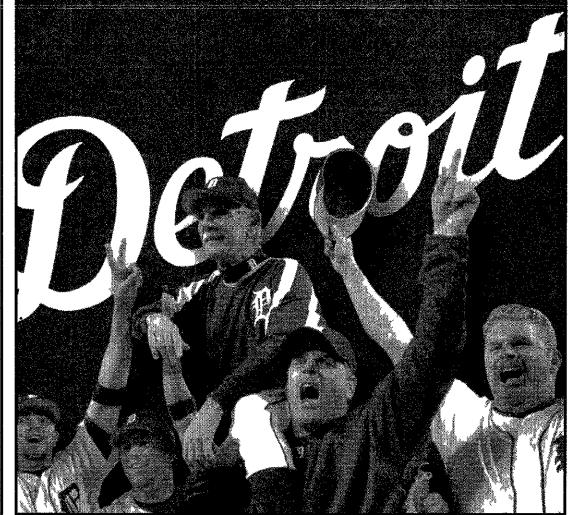
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1



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Whalers throw a **10-spot at Otters**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday February 4 2007

McGinnis and Andrew

for Plymouth

period

Fournier scored one goal each

Kelly Geoffrey scored the

Plymouth dominated special

teams, going a season-best 6-

Plymouth led 2-0 after one

period on power plays goals by

Brophey (11 12) and McGinnis

(16 29) and extended the lead

to 5-0 in the second period on

a pair of goals by Sestito (8 21

and 12 59) and a shorthanded

The Whalers put the game

away in the third period with

goal by Brophey at 17 13

five unanswered goals

(power play at 15 23),

Neal (17 22)

Brophey (9 29), Sestito

Fournier (15 39), Collins

(power play at 16 58) and

for-10 on the power play

Plymouth's league-leading

penalty kill stopped 6-of-7

Erie power plays

lone Erie goal in the second

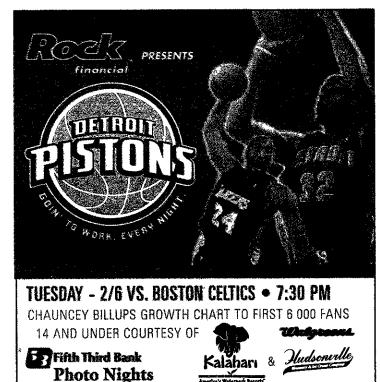
The Plymouth Whalers övercame Thursday's loss in Sarnia in a big way Friday night when they defeated the Erie Otters, 10-1, in an Ontario Hockey League game played at the Compuware Sports Arena

84

(CP)

Plymouth remains in first place with a record of 34-13-1-2, good for 71 points Erie is now 13-35-1-2 and in last place in the OHL's Midwest Division The Whalers set a franchise record with 72 shots on goal in the game The last time Plymouth scored 10 goals was on Feb 12, 2000, in a 10-2 victory over the Mississauga IceDogs

Evan Brophey led the Plymouth attack with three goals and two assists and was named the game's first star Tom Sestito had a hat trick and an assist Dan Collins and James Neal added a goal and three assists apiece, Ryan



THURSDAY - 2/8 VS. LOS ANGELES LAKERS • 8:00 PM CHRIS WEBBER POSTER TO FIRST 10 000 FANS

COURTESY OF REELLE TIRE

SATURDAY - 2/10 VS. TORONTO RAPTORS • 7:30 PM RASHEED WALLACE HAT TO FIRST 5 000 FANS sold out COURTESY OF TOSHIBA

ROBERTSON

FROM PAGE B1

pitching in the Major Leagues was days away from becoming reality

Secondly, the money he'd earn over the next month with the Marlins would help pay for the couple's wedding that was planned for early the next year

And last, but not least, Robertson had proven that a series of serious injuries that had threatened to wipe out his promising pitching career were no match for his incredible resolve and unyielding perseverance

EARLY SUCCESS

It dıdn't take Robertson long to make an impact at Wichitas Maize High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball He excelled in all three sports, but especially baseball

I made the varsity baseball team my freshman year,' Robertson said "The ironic thing was, I made it as a designated hitter, not as a pitcher,' he said, smiling 'I pitched one game that year and I did pretty well, but I was on the team to hit, not pitch

By the time his senior year rolled around, Robertson's hitting was overshadowed by his mound work The powerful southpaw overmatched opposing hitters and impressed college and professional scouts with a fastball that lived in the 86-88 miles-per-hour range and topped out at 89

'When it came time to choose a college, I narrowed it down to Kansas and Wichita State,' he said 'I chose Wichita State because it gave me the opportunity to go to school and play baseball in my own back

"I went through quite a bit with the injuries, both on and off the field. But when I look back now. I realize it all made me a better person, a more complete person."

Nate Robertson Detroit Tigers pitcher

yard for a program that was very successful 'I was drafted by the White

Sox out of high school, but I wanted to get an education first If they had made me an eye-popping offer, I may have thought about it, but they didn't'

ADVERSITY STRIKES

Robertson's perseverance was tested early and often at Wichita State A broken foot sidelined him for most of his freshman season The following year he suffered a serious elbow injury that required season-ending "Tommy John" surgery

"I played three sports in high school - baseball, football and basketball - and never missed a single game, Robertson said "But once I got to college, for whatever the reason, I had a tough time staying healthy

"My faith is what got me through all the tough times In the Bible, the book of James talks a lot about persevering under trial Everybody goes through their trials at some point in their life, whether it's with their occupation or a death in the family Whatever it might be, you have to choose how you're going to get through it For me, it was my faith

'I did my part Each time I got hurt, I worked hard, I

The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1 C is currently seeking proposals to initiate a pilot Transportation Program to serve older adults in western and southern Wayne County

This is a six month pilot program commencing in April 2007 and ending on September 30 2007. The program is based on Demand/ Response and requires the ability to provide door to door service and assistance as needed

The following minimum qualifications are required

- 24 hours a day /7 days a week accessibility for transportation services
- Capacity to provide transportation services throughout western and southern Wayne County and surrounding counties
- Availability of wheelchair accessible vehicle(s)
- Ability to assist consumers with mobility limitations including wheelchair users and assistance to accommodate door to door service as needed
- All drivers and vehicles must be appropriately licensed and inspected as required by the Michigan Secretary of

BILL BRESLER | STAFT PHOTOGRAPHER

ş

rehabbed and I did the things I needed to do to get back out there I knew in the back of my mind that if baseball didn't work out, there'd be another avenue I'd have to take, but I didn't want it to be that way because baseball was my passion'

FLORIDA-BOUND

Following a stellar junior season at Wichita State - he went 8-0 with a 4 13 earned run àverage - Robertson was selected by the Marlins in the fifth round of the 1999 amateur draft He signed his first professional contract a few days later

"I hit another roadblock in the minors when I tore a muscle in my elbow in low-A ball, Robertson said 'So, from my freshman year at Wichita State through 2001, I pitched just one complete season But since 2001, I haven t missed one start, which I'm very thankful for

I went through quite a bit with the injuries, both on and off the field But when I look back now, I realize it all made me a better person, a more complete person"

FULL CIRCLE

Rewind to that memorable night in September of 2002 Kristin eventually dropped Nate off in Lexington, Ky,

where he hopped on a plane bound for Prttsburgh She then drove to Wichita before flying back with Nates family to witness his Major League debut

'The thing I remember the most about walking out on that mound for the first time was how dry my mouth was, Robertson said, chuckling "I also kept in my mind what my dad always used to tell me Work fast and throw strikes

"Well, it turned out to be a pitchers' duel, something I've been in a lot since I've been in Detroit It was 2-0 in the fifth and they took me out after Brian Giles hit a two-run home run off of me

THE REST OF THE STORY

Kristin and Nate were married Jan 10, 2003

"The day after my wedding, the Marlins traded me to Detroit," he said "Well, my boys - the Marhns - went on and won the World Series that year while the Tigers lost 119 games

Robertson has since devel oped into one of the Tigership most dependable - and popular -- players He won 13 games during the 2006 regular season before igniting Detroit's romp over Oakland in the American League Championship Series with a Game 1 victory

"My story relates to every body's life when you think about it, Robertson said "You don t have control over where you're destined to go All you can do 15 do your part and trust ın God

"When I was going through all the injuries and tough times, I didn t get it Now, I think I'm starting to

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953 2108

NOTICE PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works 9955 N Haggerty Rd Plymouth Michigan 48170 Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages Contact the Department of Public Works 734 354 3270 Extension 3 for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup

Thank You PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

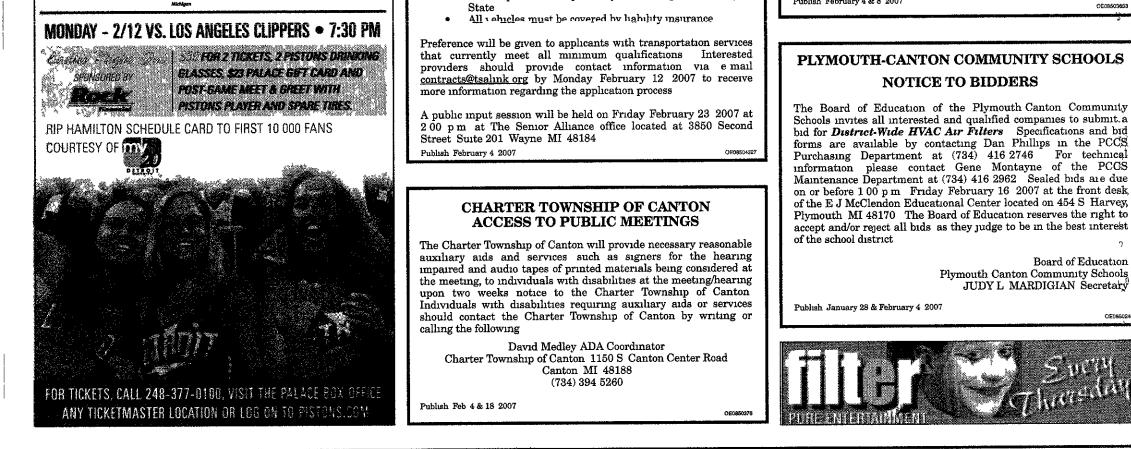
> MARILYN MASSENGILL CMC Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

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Board of Education

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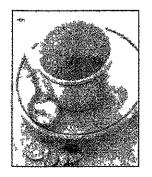


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Decaf may still have a kick PETER'S PRINCIPLES - PAGE C7

HOMETOWN

Low vision aids: Equipment assists visually impaired HEALTH - PAGE C6



INSIDE Anniversaries Announcements Calendar



Sunday February 4 2007 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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

My life, my love and my movies

t s that time of year once again, when the parties are being planned, people are placing their bets and excitement is in the air

No, I am not talking abut the Super Bowl I am talking about the race to Oscar'

It amazes me just how excited people get about the cinema this time of year From the time the Golden Globes end to the time the Academy



Awards air on television, people are in a frenzy to answer that allimportant question - What movie will win Best Picture of the vear?'

Bobbie Jones

For us movie lovers around the world, we all have our picks to win and sometimes we even get lucky But I want to take you on a journey into my world of movies that have changed my life, made me think and made me a life-long fan of the majestic marquee

Although there have been many movies before it, nothing touched my heart more deeply than the 1988 film Rain Man starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise (MGM) I remember thinking this was everything a movie-going experience should be I laughed, I cried, I really cried and then I learned a lesson Tom Cruise played a young, selfish, self-absorbed businessman on the verge of bankruptcy who decides to take and hold his autistic brother hostage in order to contest their fathers will

Well, all I can say is the movie is a classic and boy can I pick em (four Academy Awards, including Best Picture) The lesson I learned from Rain Man, as did Tom Cruise in the movie, was that anyone can have a ton of money, but in life you need love and a heart and that's something money can never buy To this very day, I am so thankful for that movie

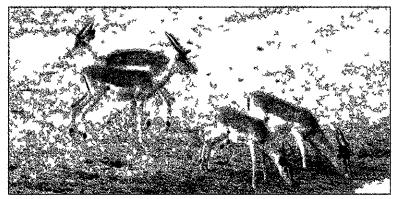
By the time I turned 27, I was busy enough and foolish enough to have let too much time lapse in my movie going career until 1994 rolled around and I was laid off from a stagnant, paper pushing job During that year, I saw three of what I con sider the best movies of all time, all life-changing for me

Quiz Show (1994), which recapped the quiz show scandal of the 1950s, was a necessary story that had to be told and director Robert Redford



An older male elephant walks along the main road through Kruger National Park, creating a Jumbo traffic jam

PHOTOS BY SHARON SHEEHY



A group of impala getting a drink from a watering hole as seen from a Kruger National Park rest camp



Resting up after breakfast this young male lion decided to lounge about just a few feet from the road

Veterinarian visits diverse land of wild animals, great cities

Dr Brad Davis is the medical director for returned, I found that people actually wanted to near about the trip, giving my stories excited rather than humoring attention



did it beautifully

But the biggest movie that year for me was The Shawshank Redemption, which is a prison movie, but more about a lasting friendship and how it satisfies the soul

Although it did not take home the Oscar for Best Picture it had a strong running The movie did pick up an Oscar for cinematography The best testament to its longevity and its quality, I think, is the fact that you can t turn on TNT without seeing Shawshank — another classic and beautifully told story

Shawshank also set me on a path of wanting to learn how to perfect my craft of story-telling and I credit Morgan Freemans eloquent narration in Shawshank with that

But if I had to take my hat off to a movie in 1994 that movie would be Forrest Gump Yes, I called it (Academy Award - Best Picture 1994), and I saw the movie seven times

Call me crazy I conned, persuaded and dragged everyone I could find to see that movie and hoped they were seeing everything on the screen I was seeing

Forrest Gump (Paramount) is an incredibly uplifting and encouraging movie but besides that, its message about true, unrelenting love pulled the entire movie together

Forrest had love of life, love of friends and love of adventure and even if the people he encountered didn t understand him, he never let that stand in his way

Now, I have heard some classify Forrest Gump as sappy-sweet and unrealistic But I can't think of a better way to end my journey into my life, my love and my movies

Good luck with your picks this year

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the Observer She can be reached via e mail at WORKHARD36@aol com

the VCA Garden City He writes a column on pets for the Thursday Hometownlife com section

BY BRAD DAVIS

The name alone inspires thoughts of exotic cultures, of thick jungles filled with animals you've only seen before in zoos. and of unbearable conditions only the most intrepid explorers could survive

When people heard I was planning a trip to Africa, many worried for me, concerned of unknown dangers When I

Movies created the images we have of Africa a dense jungle with Tarzan swinging tree to tree They filmed those movies in central Florida, and the bird that screams in nearly every early jungle movie was a peacock, which is

actually from Asia While the search for the movie Africa might prove impossible, what Africa does offer is the

opportunity to experience a truly PLEASE SEE AFRICA, C2



Drs Brad Davis and Sharon Sheehy stand in front of Blyde River Canyon, near Johannesburg, South Africal Sheehy is a veterinarian and owner of Sheehy Animal Hospital in Livonia

Pastor with passion for music joins Main Street Baptist Church

Howard Meell will join the staff of Main Street Baptist Church of Canton Feb 11 as the church's first associate pastor of Music and Outreach Howard is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who has a passion for music and outreach

Meell worked in a full-time prison and nursing home ministry in Texas and is the founder of Howard Meell Ministries, which oversees a production of a Christmas musical that has been taken into several Texas prisons for the past eight years He and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Canton from Texas in 2004 when Marilyn accepted the position of head of school at Plymouth Christian Academy

Meell had intended to work in Michigan prisons, but found they were not as open to ministry as in Texas He then joined the Church Mobilization Department of SEND

International, a world missions organization, but his heart's desire was to return to the ministries of music and outreach The Meells attended a

MSBC event last year, and were impressed with the churchs efforts to reach out to the community The church

Howard Meell was also seeking a minister of music, so Meell's skills and experience proved to be the perfect match

MSBC, which is located at 8500 N Morton Taylor, just south of Joy, has been part of the Plymouth-Canton community for 43 years and plans to break ground for a building expansion project this spring Its congregation has steadily grown to full capacity over the last seven years

under the leadership of senior pastor Jeff Noble. MSBC's new building will accommodate 400 people, complete with a new sanctuary, expanded classroom space, a playground, improved parking lot, and extensive landscaping MSBC conducts a traditional worship service at 8 30 a.m on Sunday followed by a Sunday Bible study for all ages at 9 45 a.m and a blended worship service at 11 a.m A Sunday evening worship is at 6 p m and a midweek Bible study begins at 7 p m each Wednesday MSBC is also the home of the S.A.FE program (Setting Addicts Free Eternally) 7 p m every Tuesday Child care is available for all services

Contact the church office at (734) 453-4785 or visit its Web site at www.msbc.info

Meell will perform a concert at the 6 p m service on Feb 11 All are invited to attend



AFRICA

(CP)

CZ

FROM PAGE 1

exotic and ancient part of the world, and to see a place where the native animals still live wild

One country cannot define this varied continent, just as the United States can't be defined by one state Picking a country to visit varies by what you want to see and experience

Most people look for a combination of three things culture, geography and animals The country of South Africa, located at the continent's southern tip, could be the perfect spot for a first trip when considering all three of these categories

"South Africa is beginner's Africa," said David de Le Quearra, our tour guide with Southern Circle Tours and a native of Durban, South Africa. "The accommodations are comfortable and first-rate, not like what you might see in the poorer nations"

Tanzania and Kenya both make tremendous destinations for the wildlife watcher, while Uganda, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia also can be great vacation spots, but South Africa boasts the best facilities for comfort, with flora and fauna that rarely disappoint First-time North Americans visiting South Africa also appreciate that signs and most conversations are in English, despite the country having 11 different official languages, including Afrikaans and Zulu

GREAT WILDLIFE VIEWING

South Africa's gorgeous landscape tends to be overshadowed by the amazing opportunities for wildlife viewing in places like Kruger National Park, about a three-hour drive east of Johannesburg Here, you can stay in rest camps in the heart of one of the truly great wild places on earth, where lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes and all the other plains animals exist as they have for centuries

Despite the location, these camps don't cost an arm and a leg to visit, for either the accommodations or for the meals served from the cafeterias

The strength of the dollar against the South African rand (one rand equals about 13 cents) gives you more money to start with, and consistently lower prices help that money go further This affordability is another feature making South Africa such a great vacation

We had dinner for two at a top of the line restaurant in Cape Town, which would cost about \$80-\$100 in the Detroit area, but cost us about \$35, tip included Economics like this allow visitors to live more extravagantly, which adds to the vacation fun

South African people tend to be friendly, with no noticeable anti-American sentiment For South Africans, being so far from the rest of the world makes the world's problems seem very distant

That distance, however, makes getting there no fun at all The flight to South Africa has to be the biggest downside of the trip

Flight time will vary by where your layover is, but our trip to Johannesburg from Detroit, with a layover in Paris, totaled about 18 hours in the sky Europe's disorganized plane loading methods added a few more hours, making it about 20 hours on the plane,

Yes, South Africa is one of the odd nations where the traffic is on the "wrong" side of the road, which can drive a North American driver to the wrong side of crazy After some practice, a little bit of stress and figuring out which side of the car to enter, the driving is not a problem You just need to get used to it

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Once you have arrived and rested, South Africa's top attraction awarts you Kruger National Park, one of the premier national parks in the entire world Beautiful and huge, this park has just about every African species you'd want to see

While stopped on the entrance bridge to check in, we felt like the visitors seeing Jurassic Park's dinosaurs for the first time, as we saw a herd of elephants in the river below. Seeing these animals living wild reminds you why you made this long journey

Much of the area can be toured by car, which is important, as both leaving the road in the vehicle and leaving the vehicle on foot are foolish and strictly prohibited

(The rule about leaving the road in the vehicle is enforced by the rangers The rule about leaving the vehicle on foot is enforced by the rangers and the lions)

Small rest areas allow day visitors to picnic, use the restroom or buy supplies, but the main time out of the vehicles occurs when stopped for the night at the rest camps, which are scattered throughout the park and enclosed with electrified fences

The camps feature comfortable housing, with simple round huts covered in thatched roofs, with the refingerator and kitchen sink on the porch Some rest camps have more amenities than others, even to the point of having museums, fancy restaurants or an overlook of the savannah or watering hole that's outside the fence

At times, the electrified fence can make you feel like you are in a zoo, as the animals will walk right up to the fence, such as the warthog who wandered up to the fence during dinner one evening, just a few feet from our porch, or the hon we heard grunting a few feet away in the darkness

A BRAAI

The rest camps have no telephones or televisions Evenings can be spent listening to ranger lectures, going on a night tour (which enables you to almost see the nocturnal animals, as they disappear from the spotlights quickly), looking at the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere and, of course, the almost obligatory braai, a South

African barbeque that just could not be tastier David de La Quearra loves to make a braai for his guests "It's a tradition," he says '(South Africans) love cooking for people who appreciate it I'm more than happy to cook for my

METRO

DETROIT

American Heart

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Association.

guests every night If I were at home, I'd be cooking a braai by myself, anyway''

Food in a braai can include various meats, including impala or nyala steaks, beef and the wonderful sausage known as boerewors, which become a borderline addiction Should you desire more elegant accommodations, many private lodge areas abut the park on the western edge and offer incredibly luxury Of course, extravagance comes at a cost One night in these lodges can cost more than a week in a rest camp

Time of year makes a huge difference as to what you see in Kruger An October trip, which is springtime in the Southern Hemisphere, will give you the opportunity to view more baby animals, but the brush is thicker because of the early spring rains, so the animals become harder to find This stays true throughout the warm weather

Guides give you the best opportunity to find the big five (lions, leopards, elephants, cape buffalo and rhinoceros, which were the animals most sought after by the hunters) They know the park and the animals tendencies They also help make sure you re where you need to be, allowing you to enjoy your trip without the hassles of trying to drive and spot wildlife at the same time

A two-hour flight from Johannesburg gets you to Cape Town, one of the world's great cities, on the west coast of South Africa. Cape Town can be viewed as a microcosm of South Africa, as some areas of the city burgeon with wealth and opulence, while less than a block away a neighborhood appears blighted

For a visitor, however, the city offers a plethora of activities, including the beach or just shopping at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront

You could visit Robben's Island, an Alcatrazstyle jail where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, or the operating room where Dr Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant

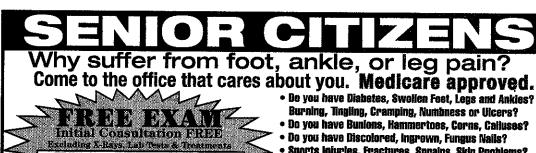
Short drives from Cape Town can get you to the vineyards where they create some of the great wine in the world Numerous nearby national parks and nature preserves let you see the animals native to this part of the country

Cities like Simon's Town feature charming shops and the nearby Boulder's Beach African penguin colony

The multicultural, exciting nation of South Africa gives visitors many options for fun, from extensive activity to a simple rest on a beach. The people, generally pleasant and welcoming of strangers, tend to make you feel more like a guest than a tourist

The country's location, so far into the Southern Hemisphere, the years of apartheid and fears of African travel have helped to keep it hidden as a top-notch travel destination By hosting the 2010 World Cup, South Africa will be discovered as one of the great places to be in the world

I am very glad to have seen it before the attention has a chance to change it



Go Red For Women Luncheon Thursday. February 15

TRAVEL TIPS

Although malaria sounds like a disease from another era, visitors still must protect themselves Before any exotic vacation, contact a facility that specializes in travel medicine, such as Passport Health of Farmington Hills (www passporthealthmi com) They'll make sure you get the vaccines and medications you need

■ When you've decided a trip to Africa is for you, contact a professional with an emphasis in South African tourism, such as Julian Harrison of Premier Tours (www premiertours com), who has been named a top travel specialist for Africa by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine The travel agent should listen to what you want to experience, then try to set up the tour you are looking for within your budget and comfort zone

Crime has long been an issue in South Africa, but when you speak to the people about it, they sound very similar to Detroiters defending their area to those visiting for the Super Bowl Yes, there's crime, but if you stay away from bad areas, don t pick up hitchhikers and don't flash money around, you should stay pretty safe

The monetary unit in South Africa, the rand, is about 13 cents in American money, but that can vary Once you figure out that 100R is equal to about \$13, you can get a pretty good idea about what things cost

Everywhere tourists go, native Africans set up tables of souvenirs, mostly crafts they made themselves and jewelry made from local gem stones The interesting items they sell, the inexpensive cost, plus getting to interact with locals, makes getting souvenirs a good time

■ Check with the airline and airline security Web sites to make sure you will be allowed to bring back souvenirs before you buy them I had two bottles of wine that I purchased from the duty-free shop confiscated when boarding the flight

Though it feels strange at first, it doesn't take long to get used to driving in South Africa The problem I most faced was looking out the window to my right when I was looking for the rearview mirror that was to my left

■ For information on South Africa Tourism, go to www southafricatourism com For information on Kruger National Park, go to www sanparks com For guidebooks, *Frommers* gives you great nuts and bolts information, and Insight Guides (by the Discovery Channel) offer a colorful book titled *South Africa*, with beautiful pictures and information of each region

Thursday, February 15 Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Educational Workshops Health Screenings Inside/Outside Makeovers Fashion Show Silent Auction

Presenting Sponsors



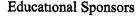


The American Heart Association's annual **GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON** highlights women and their heart health on Thursday, Feb 15, at the Renaissance Center Marriott Hotel in Downtown

Detroit. Keynote speaker and Emmy award winning actress Tracey Conway tops off a morning of seminars, screenings, and a silent auction beginning at 9 a m Emceed by Lila Lazarus of FOX 2, the luncheon and fashion show begin at noon

The Red Dress tour, presented by Deloitte, will also be on display featuring items from national and local celebrities including Dr. Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, Vanna White and actresses Jackie Zemen and Kristen Bell

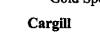
Call 248-827-4214 or visit www.americanheart.org/detroitgoesred



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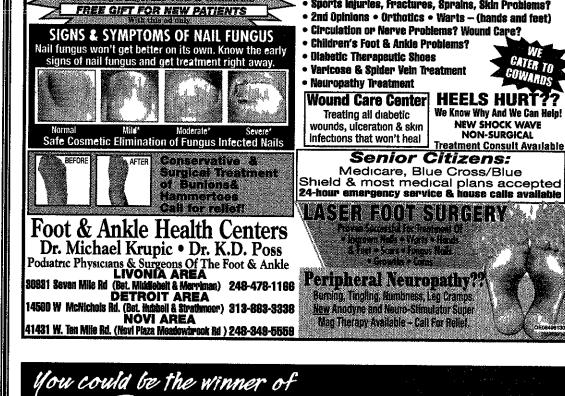
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OUR OS(AR (ONTEST Choose the winners, win prizes¹ The nominees have been announced, and the fun begins. You don't have much time to view as many Oscar contenders as possible and then cast your predictions to us. Those who choose the winners will be eligible to have their names entered in a random drawing for: GRAND PRIZE: "Season Pass for 2" to Emagine Theatres EMAG/NE 2nd and 3rd PRIZES: 4 tickets to "Riverdance" at the Fox Theatre on March 16 at the Fox Theatre Entry deadline is Friday, February 23. The 79th Annual Academy Awards airs Sunday, February. 25. Enter online at: HOMETOWN life.com Or snail mail your entry to: **Oscar Contest** Attention: Lana Mini **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers** © A.M.P.A.S.® 805 E Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

Enter 24/7 online @ hometownlife.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Princess ball

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department hosts the Princess Ball 3 5 pm or 6 8 pm Saturday Feb 24 for girls ages 3 and older and their dads The event takes place at the Recreation Center at Hillside 700 W Baseline in Northville Register by going to the parks and recreation office 700 W Baseline Cost is \$10 and each little princess gets a gift bag cookies and crafts For more information call Cheryl Mudd (248) 349 0203 Ext 1411

Bocce for bucks Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fund raising event Bocce for Bucks III sponsored by Complete Infusion Services offers patrons an opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players The event takes place 2.6 p.m. Sunday April 22 at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tour nament play ideal for families and peo ple of all ages an Italian buffet silent auction and much more. No prior expe rience or equipment needed. Dress is casual and prizes will be awarded to the top teams New this year is a pri vate benefactor reception to be held 6 p m Sunday March 25 at Park West Gallery in Southfield Funds raised will help provide an innovative life saving system VNAs TeleHomecare program used by VNA to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits Tickets are avail able with the following benefits \$100 Guest ticket Receives bocce play Italian buffet dinner beer wine desserts silent auction and exit gift \$150 Patron ticket Receives all of the above plus expert bocce instruction from World Cup Bocce Players one hour prior to event start and \$200 Benefactor ticket Receives all of the above plus invitation to Private Benefactor Reception For sponsorship advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III call (248) 967 8324 or visit vna org Indian culture

The 2007 Wayne State University s Indian Students Association Culture Show takes place 7 p.m. Saturday Feb 17 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center 15801 Michigan Ave in Dearborn Tickets are \$10 and \$12 and may be obtained by emailing wsuisa@omail com with the number of tickets you would like For more infor mation call Milind Gandhi (586) 438 0528

Genealogical societies

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society will be meeting earlier this month due to city schedule changes The group meets from 6 30 9 pm Monday Feb 12 at Livonia's Civic Park Senior Center 15218 Farmington A two hour workshop will feature a beginner's table scanning publishing family book and various ethnic research aides. Those with a brick wal query should e mail in advance to www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs.putting February Workshop in the subject line Visit the Web site for further informa tion or call Margie at (734) 522 4050 The Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan presents a program titled Using City Directories to Find Your Irish Saturday Feb 17 Kathleen LaBudie Szakall will show the impor tance of directories how they can pin point when people came to an area when they married and died names of children and much more LaBudie Szakall is an Ontario resident and is very active in the Bruce/Grey Co Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and in the Polish Genealogical Society The meeting starts at 130 p m at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club in Detroit The club is located at 2068 Michigan Ave (four blocks west of Tiger Stadium) Fenced in parking is available behind the building The pro gram is open to the public free of charge For more information call Michael Brautigan (734) 454 3495 Ewald scholarship The HT Ewald Foundation is accepting



Questers donation

Sandi Pritchard of the Elmwood Station Chapter #1178 of the Questers in Livonia presented Al Johnson, president of the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps with a check for \$1,500 The Questers selected PFDC for their efforts in preserving the history of the country Previous donations from the Questers were used for new hats This year the corps will use the donation to purchase new uniforms. The PFDC ' strives to preserve our nation's musical heritage through the art of fifing and drumming which was used during times of war to relay commands to soldiers, direct movements of units as well as to provide inspiration and marching rhythm PFDC is a junior corps consisting of young men and women ranging in age from 12-18 Corp members are from various local communities including Plymouth Novi, Northville, Livonia, Dearborn Heights and Redford For additional information or to book the PFDC, visit the Web site at www.pfdc.us

applications for its 2007 scholarship program Completed application must be postmarked by March 1 2007 To be eligible one must be a graduating high school student living in Metro Detroit and entering college full time in the fall Scholarship recipients are chosen based on their overall scholarship record leadership abilities community work character and financial need To apply one must send in an official HT Ewald Foundation Scholarship applica tion three or more letters of recom mendation a photograph a minimum of 500 word autobiography and a com plete high school transcript Scholarships are awarded yearly in early August The scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$3 500 and the amount is based on the financial need of the recipient. The number of scholar ships awarded varies every year The scholarships are renewable for up to four years For an application or more information call the HT Ewald Foundation office at (313) 821 1278

Climb Detroit

Registration has begun for the first Climb Detroit fund raiser to benefit the American Lung Association of Michigan The event a stair climb up 70 flights at the Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center Michigan's tallest huilding takes place Sunday Feb 25 Registration is at 7 30 a m the climb starts at 8 30 a m Climbers will be awarded by age group and fastest time Pre registration required by Feb 20 Cost of the cl mb is \$35 with an add tional fund raising minimum of \$65 for the full climb and \$45 for the half climb. To register visit www.climbdetroit.org.or.call.the ALAM office (248) 784 2026

Winter garage sale

Sts Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox

new environmentally friendly technolo gy can turn our trash into electricity Developed by Landfill Energy Systems of Wixom Michigan this one of a kind exhibit demonstrates how methane gas recovery from landfills can be used as an alternative energy source ultimate ly reducing our dependency on other fuels Hours are 10 a m to 5 p m Monday Saturday noon to 5 pm Sunday For information visit www aahom org or call (734) 995 5439 VNA seeks volunteers

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan1s hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life in Wayne Oakland and Macomb counties in as little as two to four hours per week volunteers can provide companionship write a mem oir provide respite for family members or provide office support A free 15 hour comprehensive training program is provided. The next training session is February 10 17 and 24 from 9 a m to 2 p m All training takes place at the Vis ting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield Road Suite 600 For more information or to reg ster call (800) 882 5720 Ext 8361 or visit www.vna.org

Card party/luncheon Victoria Chapter #290 OES Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon 3 p m the second Tuesday of each month Admission is \$6 event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W Seven Mile in Livonia For more information call (734) 459 6063 Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw western Wayne Monroe and Livingston coun ties Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship light housekeeping errand running grief support and clerical services. For more information contact volunteer coord

nator Candice Jones (888) 973 1145 Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading writing and com munication skills The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers Previous experience or a bachelor s degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials and then match you with an adult student in your area Call (734) 416 4906 for more information

Toastmasters meet

Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don t know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered yes' to any of these questions then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6 30 p m at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley just south of Joy In the Golden Gate Plaza For additional information contact Bonnie at (734) 646 2237

Grief support

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their chil dren between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child adults who have lost a parent pet loss and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants If you are grieving or know someone who is please call the office at (248) 348 0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support or visit www.newhopecenter.net

Rotary A M

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A M meets at 7 a m every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer New members are always wel come Contact Mark Hammar president Rotary Club of Plymouth A M by calling (734) 455 6620

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers meet the first Wednesday of each month (September May) for an adult evening of socializing a speaker or an activity Additionally the group hosts more than 20 events during the month including Book Club Bunko Playgroups Creative Kids Ladies Day and Night Out Scrapbooking Walking and many more Request a complimentary newsletter at cantonnewcomers org or call Jennifer at (734) 981 1715 You don't have to be new" to be a Newcomer

Kiwanis Club The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at 715 a m at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer

Street The Club invites you to their morning meetings to discuss communi ty projects and activities Be part of the solution and not just a spectator For more information call (734) 981 0460 or see the Web site (www.pckiwa nis ora)

Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0 5 meet several times during the week at mem ber homes and occasional special events Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends¹ For details contact Janet Keller at (734) 451 1840 or robertplusjanet@aol com

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 13 p m on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered There is no member ship fee but a small donation will be accepted For information call Lucy Rowley 734 462 1768

MOPS meet

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September May for moms and their children

newborn kindergarten at Lakepointe Information call Crystal Johnson (734) 459 1861

Mosaic

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering It 👊 presents speakers on child and family issues has small group discussion time crafts and brunch Child care is provided It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church 42021 Ann Arbor Trail on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month September to May Contact Resha at (734) 207 0658 or resha@juno com

Moms Club

Moms Club of Livonia S/Plymouth Canton and Westland offers a variety of + activities for stay at home moms and their children For more details call Birthe at (734) 458 8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231 6120

DAR

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month γ_{∞} except January July and August A group with ancestors who fought in 44 American Revolution Members participate in community work involving vet ____? erans' hospitals schools and communi 1 ty service Call (734) 420 2775 for fur ther information

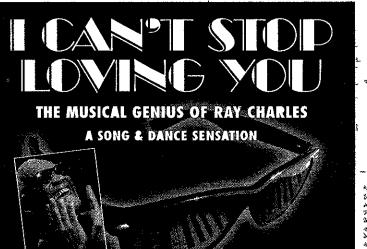
German/American Club of Plymouth Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall

located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road Plymouth Call Mary Ann at (734) 420 0857 for further information

American Legion

Beasley Zalesny Post 112 meets at the IOOF Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7 30 pm. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible Contact (734) 459 7324 for fur ther information

The Plymouth American Legion 18 Passage Gayde Post #391 conducts its 👾 monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7 30 p m at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township All interested mili tary veterans should contact Commander Mike 0 Malley (734) 459 7890 for more information



C3§3 (CP)

Church Ladies Auxiliary hosts its sev enth annual Winter Garage Sale 9 a m to 4 p m (with a bag sale 3 4 p m) Saturday Feb 24 at Sts Peter & Paul Banquet Hall 750 N Beech Dalv (between Ford Rd & Cherry Hill) in Dearborn Heights For more informa tion visit www.spproc.org

Egg-citing science

Crack Open EGG citing Science at the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum's March Sciencepalooza Saturday March 3 and Sunday March 4 For Marchs Sciencepalooza visitors can egg splore the many uses of the egg Sciencenalooza is a special themed event held the first weekend of every month at the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum Sciencepalooza activity hours are 10 a m to 4 p m Saturday and noon 4 pm Sunday The museum is open 10 a m to 5 p m Monday Saturday and noon 5 p m Sunday Call (734) 995 5439 for more information

Waste to Watts

The Ann Arbor Hands on Museum has extended the Waste to Watts exhibition through summer of 2007 due to popul lar demand Waste to Watts shows how

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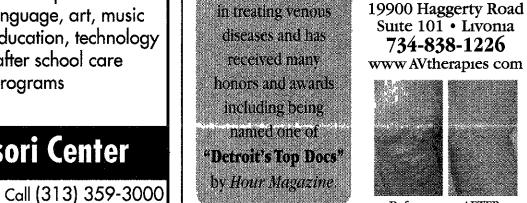
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@ THE LIBRARY

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the library's list of best-sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or on-line at plymouthlibrary org

FICTION

- Plum Lovin "Janet Evanovich 1
- "For One More Day," Mitch Albom 2
- 'Cross,' James Patterson -3 4
- The Hunters," WEB Griffin $\mathbf{5}$
- Exile, Richard North Patterson

NON-FICTION

- 1 The Audacity of Hope,' Barack Obama
- 2 "The Innocent Man," John Grisham

PARENT'S CHOICE

1 "Captain Barnacle's Aquarium," Edward Miller

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Lobby hours

3 'Born on a Blue Day," Daniel Tammet

"Marley & Me," John Grogan

5 'I Feel Bad About My Neck," Nora Ephron

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

or academic achievement during the past term at

Madonna University Julie Abunab, Whitney

- 4 "Moses, When Harriet Tubman Led Her

Many Plymouth students Rotondo of Plymouth and a were named to the Dean's graduate of Mercy High List in recognition for superi-

Madonna University

Bellanger, Sarah Bent, Ginger

Daniel Bowe, Abigail Brown,

Kendall Henaughen, Meghan

Andrea Denkhaus, Kendall

Denski, Theresa Edwards,

Denise Galarneau, Julie

Gaylord, Lindsey Head,

Hıll, Megan Hogue, Kelly

Holka, Lisa Jacobi, Tonya

Kamınskı, Claıre Kazen,

Joelen Kersten, Douglas

Kinney, Karen LeCarpentier,

Kimberly Ledesma, Joseph

Ligreci, Joshua Malinowski,

Mitchell, Kassandra Nedock,

Woo Park, Michelle Pickard,

Posler, Madeline Salvaggio,

Jill Serbay, Jason Singleton,

Kyle Tabaka, Sheila Vander,

Erin Vaquera, Shea Wall,

Scott Runchey, Sport

Albion College

the Prentiss M Brown

Justice

College

Management, Shea Wall,

Criminal Justice Private

Investigation, Homeland

Security Certificate, Criminal

Several local students have

been accepted this fall into

Honors Institute at Albion

Honors students are

required to enroll in four

Great Issues' seminars in

humanities, science, social

science, and fine arts In

addition to the seminars,

ate with a 3 5 cumulative

Honors students must gradu-

grade point average and pro-

Stefanie Mastic, Michelle

Jolanta Nemanıs, Hyeon-

Velorie Placinta, Jillian

Binder, Theresa Bollerud,

School Several local students have been named to the Albion College dean's list for fall 2006 semester Allmond, Ashley Bartee, Sally

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3 5 or above at the completion of the semester This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed

ON CAMPUS

College She is the daughter

of Michael and Karen

Matthew Baciak is a sophomore at Albion College, with a concentration in the Gerald R Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service He is the son of Jan and Ilona Bacıak of Canton and a graduate of Canton High School

Candace Bean 1s a junior majoring in German and theatre and minoring in women's studies She is the daughter of Michael Bean of Detroit and Cathy Crowley of Plymouth and a graduate of Canton High School

Laura Burton 1s a first-year student at Albion College She is the daughter of Lewis and Karen Burton of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School

Sara Fifield is a first-year student at Albion College She is the daughter of Debra Fifield of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School

William Fitzsimmons is a sophomore majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry He is the son of Joseph and Julie Fitzsimmons of Canton and a graduate of Canton High School

Kimberly Heaney is a firstyear student at Albion College

She is the daughter of Michael and Karen Heaney of Canton and a graduate of Salem High School

Ryan Johnson 1s a senior majoring in economics and management and minoring in history He is the son of Carlton and Phyllis Johnson of Plymouth and a graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School

Sarah Jose 1s a sophomore majoring in economics and management, with a concentration in the Gerstacker Liberal Arts Program in Professio-al Management She is the daughter of Richard and Deborah Jose of Canton and a graduate of Salem High School Carrie Õleszkowicz is a junior majoring in chemistry and minoring in cell and molecular biology, with a

concentration in neuroscience She is the daughter of Mark and Cynthia Oleszkowicz of Plymouth and a graduate of Canton High School

Nicole Rotondo is a firstyear student majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish, with a concentration in the Gerald R Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service She is the daughter of Michael and Karen Rotondo of Plymouth and a graduate of Mercy High School

Erica Stoney is a senior majoring in mathematics education, and completing the elementary education program She is the daughter of Matthew and Susan Stoney of Plymouth and a graduate of Canton High School

Olivet College

Heather Michalsen of Plymouth earned a 4 0 gradepoint average on her way to being included among 259 students named to the Olivet College 2006 fall semester Dean's List

To make the Dean's List, a student must be full-time and earn a grade point average of 3 5 or higher

Hope College

Jacqueline Beeler, a sophomore from Plymouth, was among students named to the Dean's List for the first semester at Hope College in Holland

To be named to the Dean's List, students must have a minimum 3 5 grade-point average on a 4 0 scale

Howe Military School

Cadet Melvin Sillmon, an 11th-grader at Howe and the son of Anna and Melvin Sillmon of Plymouth, was among students named to the Headmaster's List for the second six-week grading period of the 2006-07 school year.

Sillmon received the award by attaining at least a 3 0 B average in his studies in a college prep curriculum Sillmon has been attending Howe since January 2006 University of

Northwestern Ohio

Amanda Powers, daughte ${f r}$ of Natalie Powers of Plymouth, has be to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio, to begin classes in the June session, where she will be majoring in the Automotive Performance program Amanda attends Canton High School





- 2 "Hattie Hippo," Christine Loomis 3 "The Mighty Street Sweeper," Patrick Moore
 - People to Freedom," Carol Weatherford 5 "My Book Box," Will Hillenbrand

Drive up hours Monday - Friday 2:30 arm - 2:30 pm Saturday 8:30 a.m. . 4 p.m

auce an Honors thesis Sara Fifield 1s a first-year student at Albion College She is the daughter of Debra Fifield of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School

Nicole Rotondo is a firstyear student at Albion



13-MONTH CD



*Annual Percentage Y eid (APY) is accurate as of 1/31/07 Customers without a "Loyalty Checking Account will receive the Valued Customer Grand Open ng CD rate of 5 30% APY on the 13 month CD "Loyalty Checking Account" rate offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers Minimum opening balance is \$500 and the maximum deposit is \$100 000 Rates are available only on new CDs opened with money not currently on deposit at Flagstar Bank Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal Account fees could reduce earnings Not available for public units Other restrictions may apply **Customer must maintain an open and active checking account at Flagstar Bank with at least one automatic, recurring transaction monthly Grand Opening offer subject to change without notice

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PART OF OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC AND MIRROR NEWSPAPERS

ENGAGEMENTS

Wick-Lambrix

Kathleen and Larry Wick of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra Ann Wick, to Curt William Lambrix of Hart, Mich

The bride-to-be is a 1995 graduate of Thurston High School Her undergraduate studies were at Central Michigan University Her graduate studies were at Bowling Green State University She is employed as a speech and language pathologist in the Charlotte, NC area

The prospective groom is the son of Ellen and Arnold Lambrix of Hart, Mich He is a 1996 graduate of Hart High School and attended Central Michigan University He is employed as an 8th grade

Moriarity-Rozum

Bob and Nancy Mornarity of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori Kathleen, to Charles Joseph Rozum Jr of Livonia

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in education She is a kindergarten teacher in the Wayne-Westland School District Lori is pursuing a master's degree in learning disabilities at Madonna University

Her fiance is the son of Charles Sr and Claudia Rozum of Livonia He is a 2000 graduate of Catholic Central High

Smedley-Bullock

Ronald and Christine Smedley of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Candace Smedley, to Matthew Franklin Bullock of Sagınaw

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School's MSC program She received a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000 She is in the third year of a three-year veterinary pathology residency at MSU for board certification in veterinary pathology

The prospective groom is the son of Frank and Teddi Bullock of Valencia, Calif He is a graduate of William S Hart High School in Newhall, Calif He has a bachelor of science degree Lansing The couple will honfrom the University of



teacher of math in the Charlotte area schools An Aug 3, 2007, wedding is planned for Holy Cross Church in Livonia They will honeymoon in St

Lucia

MISC. SINGLES

Moon-dusters

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8 30 11 p m at the Livonia Civic Center 15218 Farmington Road Livonia Admission guest/\$6 associ ates/\$5.50 members/\$5 Dress Ladies date style clothes gentlemen jack ets and ties for more information call Joe Castrodale (248) 968 5197 Holiday dance 7 10 30 pm Sunday Dec 10 Roma Banquet Hall 32550 Cherry Hill Road Garden City Doors open at 5 p m dinner at 5 45 p m

Formal attire recommended but

Sunday best will do Tickets \$26 mem bers and associates \$29 guests For information or reservations call Joe Castrodale (248)968 5197

SINGLES

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Game Night Challenge

A tournament of board games Friday Feb 9 St Linus Activity Center 6466 Evangeline Dearborn Heights Admission will be a dish of food to pass and \$5 at the door Refreshments will be supplied There will also be a

cash prize For details call Michele at (313)996 8644

Breakfast meeting

Saturday Feb 17 at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road south side in Garden City All separated divorced and singles welcome For details call Kathy M at (734)513 9479 Annual Mass for Divorced and

Separated

2 pm Sunday Feb 25 at St Linus Church 6466 Evangeline Dearborn Heights Light dinner to follow For details call Michele at (313)996 8644

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

(*)

Join our E mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events information (248) 544 6445 Office (248) 851 9919 Monday Friday 9 a m to 12 p m Euchre

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



Dbituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 🚸 fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Long time Redford resident & Beech Lanes employee passed away Jan 25 2007 She will be dearly missed



PATRICIA CORRIGAN SHARP

Age 82 passed away Thursday, February 1, 2007 Patricia was born September 29, 1924 in Detroit MI to William and Emma Corrigan She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a Master's in Library Science from Wayne State University and was employed for three decades as a librarian at Stevenson and Churchill high schools She served as president of the Livonia League of Women Voters She is survived by two daugh ters from her second marriage and grandchildren She will be two missed by her family who loved her The body has been cremated an no services are planned Memorial con-



tributions can be made to the Friends

of the Livonia Public Library

GRACE MARIE NEAL

Age 82 Jan 31 2007 Beloved wife of the late Dale Neal Loving mother of Larry Fairlamb Cynthia (Bob) Grenier and the late Michael Neal Also survived by eight grandchildren and several great grandchildren Funeral service at the R G & G R Harris Funeral Home 15451 Farmington Rd Livonia, Monday at 10 a m Visitation Sunday from 2 9 p m Please sign the online guestbook at www rggrharris com



IN LOVING MEMORY OF WM. TAYLOR BALL

Who Passed away on Feb 5, 2004 You are dearly missed Esther Stuky



MARYLU STEWART LLOYD

On Thursday February 1 2007 Marylu Stewart Lloyd passed away at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte,

JOHN L. "SWEDE" SWANSON

Age 74 of Garden City and formerly Erie PA, died Saturday, December 16, 2006 at Hope Nursing Care Center in Westland He was born January 26,

1932 in Erie, PA, son of the late Carl and Jennie A Adams Swanson He had resided in the Erie area for most of his life prior to moving to Michigan over 20 years ago Swede was a U S Army eteran who served in the Korean War He was a member of American Legion Carl Neff Post #571, as well as the 40/8 Throughout Swedes career, he had been employed in the tool and die industry prior to his retirement He enjoyed fishing and will be fondly remembered for his many acts of kind-ness and charity In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Carl Gustav Swanson and two brothers, William and Melvin Swanson Survivors include two sons, Mike Swanson and wife, Betty, of Harbor Creek, and Chris Swanson and April Sudul of Tionesta, PA, four grandchildren Michael, Matthew, Kyle and Kavla, a dear frond T wife Pat, of Garden City one daughter yle and Kayla, a dear friend, Patty Smith of Michigan, and many niece and nephews Interment was at Eric County Memorial Gardens and he was given full military honors





School. He is employed by the

state of Michigan He is pursu-

A July 2007 wedding is

Michigan, Dearborn

planned at St Robert

Redford Township

ing a degree at the University of

Bellarinne Catholic Church in

California, Davis He received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State in 2001 He is presently practicing emergency veterinary medicine in Saginaw

An Oct 20, 2007, wedding is planned for University United Methodist Church in Lansing followed by a reception at Hawk Hollow Country Club in eymoon in Hawaii



IN MEMORY OF

LAURIE A. JOLY

ROBERT M. JONES

BRIGHTON MI (Formerly of Westland) Age 75 passed away January 31 2007 He was born

September 21 1931 in Detroit MI the

son of Clarence J and Inez P (Ball)

Jones On January 29 1955 in Detroit,

MI Robert married Marlene Richards

Robert was employed with General

Motors before his retirement in 1988

In addition to Marlene survivors

include his children Cheryl Ruszala of

Key Largo FL, Robert (Patricia) Jones

of Spotsylvania VA Donald (Dawn)

lones of Brighton Karen (Martin)

Knoll of Pinckney David (Micky) Jones of Westland and ten grandchil dren His siblings Kathleen Dennis

Clarence (Red) and Jeanette preceded

him in death A Farewell Service will be held 11 00 AM Saturday February

2007 at Borek Jennings Funeral

JUDY O'CONNOR

Motsinger-Bowers

Thomas and Patricia Motsinger of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Anne Motsinger, to Paul James Bowers of Livonia

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Dayton She is employed as an engineer at DTE Energy in Detroit

The prospective groom is the son of Mark and Mary Ann Bowers of Livonia He is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Helis a consultant for Urban Science of Detroit

A May 26, 2007, wedding is



Dominic Luca Giovannini

Erick and Lisa Giovannini of Livonia announce the birth of their son, Dominic Luca Giovannini, on Dec 20, 2006, at Providence Hospital in Southfield

Grandparents are Melvin and Rosahe Wolicki of Livonia and Erick and Denise Giovannini of Livonia

Great-grandparents are Antoinette Wolicki of Dearborn Heights and Ricardo Giovannini of Dearborn

How to submit announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Sunday editions of the Observer

There is no charge to submit an announcement

To obtain a copy of our forms for engagements, weddings, anniversaries and births email Hugh Gallagher at hgallagher@hometownlife com

Or send the information to

Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150 \ Please send photos in a verti-

càl format If you are e-mailing a photo-

graph, please send it as a "jpeg" Photographs may be picked

up after publication, or enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953-2149

Hamburg Chapel Entombment will take place in Washtenong Memorial Park Memorial contribu tions are suggested to the American Heart Assoc Envelopes will be avail able at the funeral home where the family will receive friends on Friday from 1 8PM Please leave a Message of Comfort to Robert's family at 877 231 7900 or visit his guest book at borekjennings com



CORPORAL MARK D KIDD

Age 26 of Milford, died 2007 in the Anbar January 25 province in Iraq while serving his country as a Marine He was born April 14, 1980, in Dearborn the son of Frank & Janet Kidd Mark graduated from Wixom Christian School in 1998 and attended Eastern Michigan University with plans on practicing International Law for the US State Dept He attended Cornerstone Pres byterian Church in Brighton, was a strong Christian man and a true patri ot He enjoyed meeting new people, politics and listening to jazz Mark joined the United States Marine Corps on January 1, 2000 and was on active duty until Dec 31, 2005 In April 2006, Mark was asked to serve his country again and he willingly and proudly returned to active service He volunteered to be deployed back to Iraq in August of 2006 In all, Mark served 3 tours of duty, gladly answer ing his country s call to serve against the war on terror He was proud to be a Marine, and served with honor At the tume of his death, Mark was a Corporal assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve s 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment 4th Marine Division in Mt Clemens Surviving in addition to his parents is his brother Matthew Kidd of Milford his grandparents Hulda & Dan Piercecchi of Livonia and Wanda & Joseph Kidd of Milford He is also survived by numerous extended fami ly members and friends The funeral service was held on Saturday Feb 3 at Cornerstone Church Interment with military honors followed at Brighton Hills Cemetery Brighton In heu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Cornerstone Christian School Brighton, in honor and remembrance of Mark To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit the family web page at www.keehnfuneralhome.com Please click on 'sign and view family guestbook

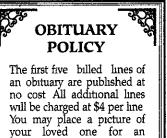
ELTON R (RANDY) EATON

Born to the Sterling Eatons of Plymouth, Michigan on December 10th 1940 in Detroit, passed away peacefully at home on January 28th 2007 His father and grandfather both served in the Michigan Legislature and were distinguished Michigan weekly newspaper publishers After attending Cranbrook School and the Universities of Miami and Michigan Randy was pulled away by the family newspaper business The Plymouth Mail which he successfully took over and ran for many years In Randy's own words, I ve been happily married for 34 years to the beautiful, wonderful and amazing Gillian with three amazing sons and a life lived, but way not complete I've worked as a newspaperman foot ball coach TV commercial actor and brand model, created a swanky blues club in London's Covent Garden worked as a criminal defense associ ate PR guy Montana horse wrangler commercial photographer, and lastly with his sons at Thunderdog Studios on their brilliant toy manufacturing projects He wrote Best of my life has been (and still is) my relationship my sons My best friends greatest supporters and dearest hearts are my sons If I have a moral rudder it is cul tivating friendliness and compassion hat and this Never Quit no matter the opposition During the closing years of his life Randy founded the Detroit Men's Club Organized with the intention of encouraging area busi nessmen and artists to bring a total stranger to a bag lunch at unique and usually inaccessible locations, like back stage at the Detroit Opera House In three years the club grew to over 200 members and many galleries owners businessmen, artists and young entrepreneurs came to know each other As Randy liked to say, my goal is to show people they have more in common than they think and, to uplift them if I can He is survived by his wife Gillian a distinguished theater artist and three beloved sons, Rob Matthew and Tristan, and a chosen and beloved daughter Leslie Five beauti ful grandchildren Alexandra, Peri, Pierce, Roxanne and Harrison, also survive him His dear sister Cynthia Eaton Johanson lives in Florida Randy's rich life was made more joy ful by an astoundingly wide group of beloved friends and family in, fichigan, New York Los Angeles okyo, London Wales and all over the World He and his family are deeply grateful for their generous hearts and oving support especially during the final months of his illness There will be no funeral but there will be a pub lic remembrance in the Spring In the spirit of Randy's life, and in lieu of sending flowers, the family requests well wishers to simply hand a twentydollar bill to a total stranger

family She will be sorely missed by all who knew her She was born December 7 1923 in Ironton Ohio to Joseph Wagoner Stewart and Elizabeth Handley Stewart and grew up close to Cadmus. Ohio in southeastern Ohio She excelled in school, graduating at age 16 A year after graduation she moved to Huntington, WV and attended Huntington Business College where she received a degree She moved to Gallipolis, Ohio but worked across the Ohio River in Point Pleasant WV during WW II In May 1946 she met the love of her life Wendell Eugene Lloyd, who was returning from his WW II assignments in the US Navy They married on December 22 1946 and celebrated over 58 years of mar riage before Wendell's passing in 2005 Marylu was devoted to her fam ily, spending countless hours on her children s activities She never met a stranger and was a very gracious host entertaining hundreds of friends in her home for over 50 years She was very active in numerous charitable church and civic organizations Wendell and Marylu shared a full life of family, friends music golf, bridge, and par ties while living in Michigan, Washington, Texas Ohio, and for the last thirteen years on the Atlantic coastime in the little town of Emerald Isle North Carolina She will be sore ly missed by her five children -John loyd and his wife Sue of The Woodlands, TX Susan Vogel and her husband Steve of Rock Hill, SC Wendy Buechele and her husband Bill Worth, TX, Katie Hill of Troy, Michigan and Melinda Bradley and her husband Thad of Rock Hill SC as well as her grandchildren, Tom Lloyd and wife Andrea, Christopher Lloyd, David Dan and John Vogel, Bryant and Claire Buechele Beth and Jenny Hill and Joe, Tommy and Stewart Bradley Bradley great grandchildren, Madeline and Isabella Lloyd sister in laws Betty Ann Stewart and Marilyn Donaldson, brother in law Don Gothard, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews She will also be missed by countless friends she stayed in contact with through her 83 years of life Marylu was preceded in death by her parents her husband and one brother Paul Stewart A memorial service will be held Wednesday February 7 2007 at 11 00 AM at Wednesday Willis Funeral Home in Gallipolis Ohio followed by her burial at Ohio Valley Memory Gardens Friends and family may call at the funeral home from 6 to 9 PM, Tuesday February 6 2007 Pallbearers will be grandsons Tom and Christopher Lloyd, David Dan and John Vogel, Bryant Buechele, and Joe and Tommy Bradley In heu of flowers memorials may be made in Marylus name to the American Association or Diabetes Swansboro United Methodist Church, 665 West Corbett Avenue Swansboro, North Carolina 28584 Please visit www.willisfuneralhome.com to send e-mail condolences

2007 at the Adventist Car Center in Orlando, Florida

He was a resident of Westland, Michigan from 1961 to 2003 He is survived by his daughters, Bonnie (Tracy) Frenkel of Florida and Ferrie Damask of Texas and his son, David Damask of Michigan, two randdaughters, one sister Anne Herbert) Lee of Ohio and one brother, Earl (Fran) Damask of Florida and many nieces and nephews His wife Eunice predeceased him in 1992 Mr Damask worked in tool and die at the Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant and retired in 1985 He served three years in the Army Engineer Corps in the Pacific during World War II Mr Damask was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Michigan's Upper Penninsula As such he was an avid hunter and fisherman His daughter Bonnie said he never missed a deer He was active in the Boy season Scouts with his son David During his retirement years he was also active with both the Elks and the VFW in Plymouth, Michigan Mr Damask was cremated and will be inurned with his wife at Parkland Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Michigan His daughter Bonnie is planning to hold a memorial service in Michigan this summer Arrangements were made by Resurrection Funeral Home Clinton Township, MI

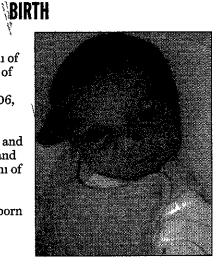


additional cost of only \$6 Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example religious American Flags symbols etc) Deadlines

Friday 4 30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituar es received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue

e mail your obit to aeobits@hometownlife com or fax to Attn Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

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planned for St Colette Catholic

Church

Page C6 (*) Sunday February 4 2007 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953 2149 hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Low vision aids Equipment assists visually impaired

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Four out of five days of the week, Nancy Simmons is on the road showing visually impaired people how the equipment sold in her Livonia store changes lives Born with hereditary retinitis pigmentosa, Simmons was legally blind by age 15 so she understands the importance of low vision equipment such as video magnifiers for those with macular degeneration, moperable cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and other conditions that impair sight

The term low vision means that even with glasses a person can not see well enough to perform daily activities like reading or driving Simmons was able to use video or electronic magnifiers as an aid for 25 years until she could no longer see

"I started investigating the equipment when I got into the workforce," said Simmons, who earned a degree in social work from Central Michigan University before working for a private agency in Detroit By then she needed the electronic equipment which came out in 1971 "I was finding it impossible to get any information It was frustrating I was hugging this machine when I found out there was equipment out there

LIFE'S WORK

From that day, Simmons wanted to make the electronic magnifiers accessible to all visually impaired people so in 1987 she bought a car, hired a driver and began demonstrating and installing the equipment throughout Michigan In 1997, she and husband Sal Falsette opened Low Vision Solutions in Livonia after working out of their Redford home In addition to electronic magnifiers, the store offers handheld magnifiers, talking clocks, key chains, wrist watches, blood pressure monitors, and color identifiers for matching clothes, kitchen and personal care aids, and big print items including calendars, check and deposit registers, and bingo cards Prices range from \$3 for magnifying glass to \$3,000 for a video or electronic magnifier

We have customers from elementary age to 100 plus, visually impaired accountants, teachers and lawyers who couldn't go on working," said Simmons

Standing in front of the latest technology,

store manager Kristina Smith shows how easy it is to operate the electronic magnifiers available from manufacturers such as Humanware, Optelec and Enhanced Vision

'The screen moves, tilts and you can make the screen brighter or darker, said Smith "You can put pill bottles under the machine to read them

The closed circuit television technology of the video magnifier allows Jack Finneren not only to read his prescription on the machine, but newspapers, household bills and directions on food labels The 84-year-old Farmington Hills man has been legally blind for about five years due to macular degeneration, a disease that progressively shrinks vision His independence would be severely limited if not for the electronic magnifier and Gerry, his wife of more than 60 years He also attends a low vision support group in the Farmington Senior Center at 1 p m on the first Wednesday of every month to share and learn tips for living with his impairment

"I had a couple of times in the past where the equipment needed repair or adjustment and when I was without it it was very tough," said Jack Finneren "Today in the grocery stores there's a lot of good meals you can heat I put the directions on how to cook the food on the machine then make my own file for next time'

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES

Like Simmons, Kathy Gargagliano carries an entire line of low vision and blindness products at the Able Zone's Magnifiers and More Store in Troy Before opening nearly six years ago, Gargagliano produced adaptive software and talking hardware for the blind She suffers from age-related diminished vision and works on a large print keyboard at the store

"With computer technology changing so rapidly that has impacted the video magnifiers," said Gargaghano We now have very good cameras that pick up the image and port it over to TVs, LCD computer monitors But before they make a purchase, we do recommend clients see a physician if they haven t

Simmons and Gargagliano both work with low vision physicians throughout the state who help patients enhance their vision with devices, optics such as telescopic and microscopic glasses, and lighting

Dr Carol Marston-Foucher of Marston Optometrics frequently refers patients to Low

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Kristina Smith, top, goes over an enlarging machine with Nancy Simmons in Simmons' Livonia store, Low Vision Solutions, which carries aids for the visually impaired

Low Vision Solutions in Livonia carries a wide variety of aids for the visually impaired including talking thermometers, talking watches, talking clocks, talking

Vision Solutions A Livonia optometrist, Marston-Foucher 1s one of about 29 certified

keychains and Big Eye lights equipped with magnifiers

low vision providers in the state Most of the patients have a physical condition or disease that prevents them from seeing normally with glasses," said Marston-Foucher "We refer patients for electronic magnifiers and for those who physically can't hold print up close if they have a tremor They can set it down on the table and work Many people will tell you they couldn't live on their own without the electronic magnifiers It makes a huge difference in quality of life and independence

COSTS A FACTOR

When Marston-Foucher became an optometrist in 1980, electronic magnifiers were costly and basic Today, voice synthesis for com puters, Zoomtext software, and lighter and thin ner lenses or optics help visually impaired per son maintain independence

"Awareness has changed,' said Marston-Foucher 'Specialists who dealt with the condi tion would say nothing more can be done to treat you Now even if we can't treat it, there is help for you

"Premature infants have a much higher survival rate now but many of them have vision problems We work with the school systems in western Wayne County so they understand the impairments and have access to what they need"

For more information and a list of low vision providers, visit www.themoa.org.or.call.the Michigan Optometric Association at (517) 482-0616

Low Vision Solutions, is at 27520 W Seven Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia Call (248) 777-1100, toll free at (877) 277-1127, or visit www.lvsontheweb.com

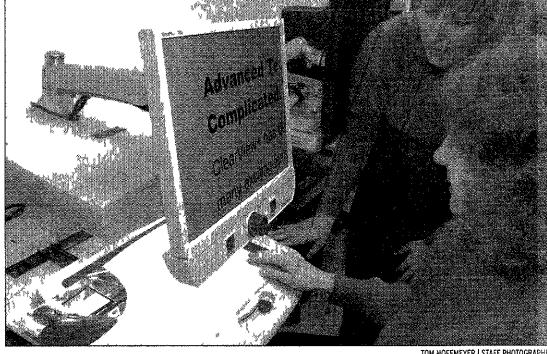
Able Zone's Magnifiers and More Store is at 3456 Rochester Road, north of Big Beaver between 16 Mile and 17 Mile, Troy Call (866) 663-2253 toll free

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Technology Blizzard offers latest assistive equipment

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Julie Burger is excited about showing off the latest assistive equipment for the visually and learning impaired at the Technology Blizzard 8 30 a.m to 4 30 pm Friday, Feb 9, at the Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh, north of Five Mile, Livonia. A teacher for the visually impaired in Livonia Public Schools, Burger 1s always looking for new equipment to help students learn Vendors from across the US will offer a variety of products at the free event which has been held every two years since 1999 Keynote speaker Jay Stateley of the Seeing Eye Dog School in New Jersey talks about how technology has led to his success For more information, call (734) 744-2525, ext. 72292

"We'll have some of the more exciting stuff like the Braille Notes, an electronic Brailler that's like a computer," said Julie Burger "It opens many doors, allows access to the Internet. Its like a laptop For school it's fabulous because you can take it from class to class

"Closed Circuit TVs will read the print to you as well as enlarge it on the screen and have a camera to zoom it on the chalk board The Mimio Board suction cups to a black board and can show up on a computer screen if a student has problem taking notes The Audio Graphing Calculator is done on the computer It puts the graph into an audio form and embosses it into a tactile form Before this there wasn't anything out there for graphs"

10 It took Gary Gaynor nearly years to find low vision equipment after he became legally blind in 1976 The Livonia man was working as an accountant when he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa Today, Zoomtext software allows him to use the computer when updating the Visually Impaired Information Center directory he co-founded with Kathy Fleissner in 1995 Optical Illusions Blind Ski Člub is one of 900 different resources in the 88 page directory with listings for books, magazines and hbraries, computers and electronic equipment, low vision physicians s, recreation and support groups, Braille transcribing and repair, camps, cultural and performing arts, education, government agencies, guide dog schools, and toys and adaptive teaching aids, travel and tourism

For information, call (734) 421-6599 or visit www.vic org

"My life would be terrible without the equipment," said Gary Gaynor "I live alone so it helps me to be more independent '



that she has been cutting back on her caffeine and has been drinking decaf coffee. A Peter's friend told her **Principles** that there is still

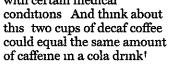
caffeine in decaf. She wants to Peter know if this is Nielsen true.

Connie, your friend is right, there is still caffeine in decaf coffee, and you might be surprised how much!

Researchers at the University of Florida went around to several popular coffee shops and tested the caffeine content in their decaf coffee What they found was very surprising

The decaf coffee had anywhere between 8 6 milligrams to 13.9 milligrams of

caffeine in a 16 ounce serving A regular cup of coffee has about 170 milligrams of caffeine So what's the big deal? This is a very big deal for people who shouldn't have caffeine, such as pregnant women or people



Darcy from Clarkston emails saying she's been experiencing shortness of breath. At first it was only every now and then. Now it seems to be happening more often. What could this be?

Darcy, stop what you are doing right now and call your doctor to set up an appointment¹ Most of us at some time or another have had shortness of breath, but when it is happening often, like it is for Darcy, it could mean something serious is going on Researchers found people who complained of shortness of breath were at an increased risk of death from a heart attack

So if you've been suffering with repeated episodes of shortness of breath, it is important to have your doctor check you out

If you have a health or fitness gues tion you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers e mail Peter through his Website www.peternielsen.com.Contact.him.at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

CHADD meeting

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder support groups offer presenta tions for parents and another for adults 7 30 9 pm (registration begins at 7 pm) Monday Feb 5 at Way Elementary School 765 W Long Lake Road east of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills Free for mem bers \$5 donation per non member family with option to join on site. For informa tion call (248) 988 6716 Parent session will be on Thinking Straight about AD/HD and Mood Disorders with psychologist Steve Ceresnie PhD Adult presentation features a testimonial by Gregg Slubowski on Substance Abuse Confusion and Self Sabotaging Behaviors Hospice volunteer training

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to com fort and support patients at the end of life in Wayne Oakland and Macomb coun ties in as little as two to four-hours per week volunteers can provide companion ship write a memoir provide respite for family members or provide office sup port A free 15 hour comprehensive train ing program is provided. The next train ing session is 9 a m to 2 p m Saturday

Feb 10 17 and 24 All training takes place at the VNA of Southeast Michigan head quarters at 25900 Greenfield Road Suite 600 Oak Park For information or to reg ister call (800) 882 5720 ext 8361 or visit www.vna.org

Blood drive

American Red Cross holds a blood drive 8 30 a m to 2 30 p m Sunday Feb 11 in the Parish Hall at St. Edith Catholic Church 15089 Newburgh Livonia Walk ins welcome Call (734) 464 1222

Feldenkrais class

Are you experiencing back or neck pain? Would you like to be more flexi ble? Michele Schoel physical therapist gives a free Feldenkrais class 6.7 p.m. Sunday Feb 11 at Astarte Yoga Studio 21894 Farmington Road one block south of Nine Mile Registration required call (248) 427 0550 Bring a blanket or mat to lie on and three bath towels to use as supports If you are unable to lie on the floor please let us know when you register Following the intro class there will be a six week series starting 6 7 pm Sunday Feb 18 Cost is \$55 for series \$10 prepaid per class or \$11 per class on a walk in basis For more information on Feldenkrais visit www.feldenkrais.com/method.or call Schoel at (248) 752 0661

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Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860

RHEUMATOID NODULES

Rheumatoid nodules are firm round masses of tissue the size of a pea or marble present in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The nodules may be single or in clusters in the majority of patients nodules are present in the fingers particularly the thumbs the elbows and in the bottom of the feet

Rheumatoid nodules occur as a result of the occlusion of a small blood vessel because of rheumatoid associated inflammation plus the irritation of the surrounding tissue from repeated pressure. For this reason the favorite sites of rheumatoid nodule are the fingers elbows and the bottom of the feet in addition because of the effect of shoes on feet the Achilles tendon and the sides of the feet are at risk for nodules

The rheumatoid nodule serves as a marker for indicating that the arthritis is active and aggressive if you have nodules your doctor will likely place you on two or more disease modifying medications and see you on a frequent basis until he is satisfied you are not ing new nodules

Note that I mentioned above that the "majority of nodules were at areas where arthritis and repeated pressure occur Rheumatoid nodules can appear in other locations The most troublesome site is the lung The appearance of a rheumatoid nodule simulates what the beginning of a lung cancer looks like Even with the best technology available there are times when the doctor needs a lung biopsy to distinguish a harmless nodule from a dangerous cance

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

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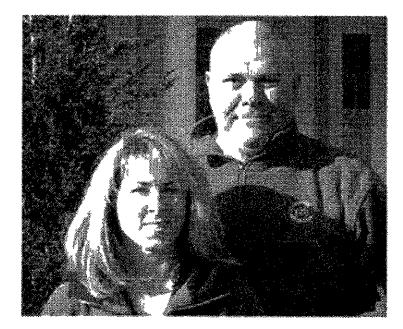
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WEDDINGS

CLASS REUNIONS

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

REUNIONS

Berkley High School Class of 1987

C10 (*)

A 20 year reunion in planned for Nov 24 2007 Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987 Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734)422 0087 or e mail info to kimslia sophia@gmail.com Reunion website is www BHSreunion1987 com for further information and details **Bishop Borgess**

Class of 1987

A 20 year reun on Sept 15 2007 at the Livonia Marriott Contact

borgess87@hotmail com for more information **Dearborn Fordson**

Class of 1977

- A 30 year reunion Friday Aug 3 to Sunday Aug 5 2007 Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox net with your
- current address and phone number

Dearborn Edsel Ford Class of 1967

A 40 year reunion 7 30 p m Saturday Aug 4 2007 at Doubletree Hotel Dearborn Hors doeuvres and cash bar approximately \$35 For infor mation call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336 0192 or e mail efhs67@yahoo com **Detroit Chadsey**

Glass of 1957 A 50th Reunion is being

- planned for the summer of 2007 Looking for January June and Summer 57 gradu - ates if interested in attending
- or know of the whereabouts of other classmates contact Pat Gorski Zielinski (989) 366

9288 **Detroit Cody** Class of 1957 A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites Livonia is Oct 5 2007 Cost is \$90 per per son complete with dinner open bar memory book CD champagne toast and much more This invitation is to all 50s graduates Deadline is June 25 Call 800 859 9502 or email loret@w deopenwest for details

Detroit Denby Class of 1957

A 50th reunion is planned for Sept 7 8 and 9 2007 at the Thomas Edison Inn Port Huron Seeking lost graduates January/June classes if you are not yet on the making list please email maroonfowl@aoi com or call (248) 642 0249 **Detroit Henry Ford** Class of 1967

A 40th reunion will be held 6 30 11 30 pm Saturday Sept 8 at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia Seeking January June and summer graduates from 1967 For information call Ellen (Neihoff) VanderRoest at (248)684 7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast net **Detroit Holy Redeemer**

Class of 1957 A 50 year reunion Oct 12

2007 at 0 Kelley KofC Council Dearborn In interested in attending or know the where abouts or former classmates contact John Duff at oliver lynn@aol com or phone (734)261 3346 Detroit Mackenzie Class of 1957

Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct 19 2007 Call Eleanor at (734)425 8278 **Detroit Western**

Class of 1962

A 45 year reunion will be held in September 2007 Seeking information on classmates from that year All other class es welcome Contact Judy Hull Rakowski at (734) 459 3832 or Judy Spiro Scranton at Jiscranton@yahoo.com



McCloud-Reed

Melanie Joy Reed and Mark Thomas McCloud were married Oct 28 2006 in a beachside ceremony on the lawn of Boca Bay Pass Club, Boca Grande, FL The Rev Wendy Shullenbarger, Chaplain of Venuce Regional Hospital, officiated at the 4 30 p m ceremony

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Sharon Reed of Kingsport, Tenn, and the granddaughter of the late William and Maggie Reed, and the late Kyle Lee and Pauline Williams The bridegroom is the son of Frank and Janet McCloud of Rotonda West, FL formally of Garden City, Mich and the grandson of Howard Wathen and the late Hyla Wathen, and the late George and Janet McCloud

Amanda Junot, friend of bride was maid of honor Bridesmaids were Heather Lanning, Cori Bray and Wendy Weaver all friends of the bride

Rick Lang III friend of the bride groom served as best man Groomsmen were Erik McCloud, brother of the bride groom Jason McCloud cousin of the bridegroom and Justin Jones cousin of the bride Brandon Reed brother of the bride, was usher

The bride graduated from Volunteer High School, received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Milligan College and is pursuing a master s degree in the nurse practitioner program at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Fla She is employed as a registered nurse at Venice Regional Medical Center, Venice, Fla

The bridegroom graduated from Garden City High School received a bachelors degree from Central Michigan University He is employed as a golf professional and manager at Pro Golf of Port Charlotte, Fla

Following a wedding week with family and friends on Florida's Gulf side and a wedding trip to Florida's southeast beaches, the couple resides in Englewood, Fla



Alfison-Helppie

Grant Helppie and Kelh Alhson were married June 17, 2006, at Cranbrook Art Museum with the Rev Stephen Grafe of Cross of Christ Church officiating

The bride is the daughter to Susan Allison of Westland and the late Kenneth Allison She is a 1998 graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School She received a bachelors degree in occupational therapy in 2003 and a master's degree in 2004 from Western Michigan University She is employed at Botsford Hospital

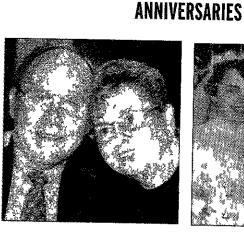
The groom is the son of Richard and Leslie Helppie of Bloomfield Hills Mich He is a 1998 graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School He attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and Grand Valley State University He is employed at ACS Healthcare Solutions

The bride was attended by matron of honor Arien Weber of Westland a friend of the bride, and bridesmaid Susie Bobrowski of Clawson a friend of the bride Ramsı Gınzel of Philadelphia, NY a cousin of the groom, was the flower girl

The groom was attended by best man Ryan Atkins of Corona, Calif the groom s cousin and groomsman Chris Parotte of Pittsburgh, Pa. a friend of the groom The ring bearer was Jakob Atkins of Corona, Calif the grooms cousin

A reception was held at the Troy Hilton The couple honeymooned in Tahiti Bora Bora and Moorea They are making their home in

Livonia



Goudeseunes celebrate 50th

anniversary

Robert M and Barbara (Bates) Goudeseune of Canton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan 26

The Goudeseunes were married Jan 26, 1957, at Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville They have lived in Canton for 35 years

The Goudeseunes have four children Timothy Goudeseune of Westland, Scott (Barbara) Goudeseune of Littleton, Colo, Kimberly (David) Goethe of



40th Anniversary

Roy and Brenda Green of Westland, celebrated 40 years of marriage on Jan 20 The couple met at Northeastern High School in Detroit and married on Jan 20, 1967 at Temple Baptist Church on Grand River in Detroit They raised three daughters Kelly (David) Dole, Stacy (Dan) Jenkins and Amy (Eric) Schilbe



Canton and Robert A (Susan) Goudeseune of Farmington Hills

They have seven grandchildren

Robert 1s retired from Sunset Excavating in Livonia Barbara is retired from Chase Bank

Robert belongs to the Plymouth Elks The couple enjoy good music, traveling and spending time with family and friends

A party was held Dec 30, 2006 at the Plum Hollow Country Club to celebrate with family and friends



Roy Green and Brenda Barnes in 1966 on Belle Isle in Detroit a favorite hang out for the high school sweethearts

and they are the proud grandparents of Abby Megan Mackenzie and Evan

The couple celebrated their anniversary in Niagara Falls, where they spent their honeymoon in 1967

part of Oh Baby! 2006







BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Hiring and maintaining a diverse workforce is a challenge, but Tammy Seals knows it's worth it

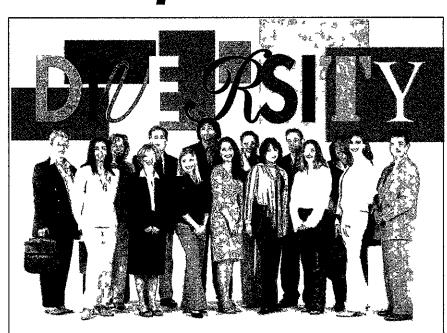
"Now you're not doing it because it's the right thing to do," or just because of a government mandate, said Seals, vice president for diversity at Troy-based Kelly Services Businesses that hire a diverse and talented workforce benefit in many ways

'I think people are getting better because they're starting to see the business case,' said Seals, noting there's a war for talent despite the economy

Staffers at Kelly, which specializes in temporary job placements in a variety of fields, come from all walks of life Seals said it's important to know why diversity makes sense for your business or industry

"Make sure you're reaching out marketing to a diverse base," she recommended

At Chicago-based LaSalle Bank, Wil Lewis recommends a survey of your community "to try to be reflective of that. That's what we do at LaSalle Bank,' said Lewis, first vice president and head of talent acquisition for North America Do some self-reflection would be the first piece of advice I would offer.



He agreed businesses are beginning to realize reflecting their communities is beneficial "We realize it has a direct impact to our bottom line The world in which we do our business is changing." said Lewis, citing Nancy Pelosis presence as Speaker of the House during the recent State of the Union address

Knowing your demographics for job openings matters, for higher level positions, you may recruit nationally and need to know the labor pool

"You really just want to refine the data,' Seals said If your firm only hires men but you find 50 percent of those qualified are women "then why wouldn't you want to recruit in that particular community because you want the best and brightest "

She recommends businesses develop relationships with organizations such as job training centers that can help Professional organizations serving diverse populations are a good source

"If you've got too many, then the

relationship is not going to be as strong," said Seals, who recommends fewer but strong relationships

Colleges/universities that traditionally serve minority students can be a good source 'Universities are a wonderful way," Seals said "They'll be able to tap into the alumni membership as well as the current student population

Kelly has links to such schools, as well as ties to the Inroads program, which links college and high school students with corporate America Kelly has other initiatives to encourage minority recruitment and advancement as well

LaSalle also has initiatives to attract and retain diverse talent, Lewis said, including partnerships with the Urban League, NAACP and faith-based organizations He recommends looking at the talent you already have, and considering such things as age and sexual orientation

There's a Diversity Council at the bank, with groups for those from various ethnicities as well as a young bankers group and one for gay/lesbian/transgender/bisexual staffers, "to help them feel connected to the bank'

When it comes to managing a diverse workforce, "you ve got to stick with the mission of your company,' Seals said "That's how you

bring everybody to the same play ıng field

"Everybody wants to feel engaged and valued for the skills they bring to the organization,' she said, adding that cuts across lines of religion, race, gender and ethnicity Supervisors need to make employees feel valued, she said

"I think education is the most important part of this A team building exercise calling for physical activity, for example, won't help a person with a physical disability who won't feel engaged

'Recognize that family diversity is a big part of it as well, she said, noting some people need greater flexibility

Diversity can be a stay-at-home dad,' said LaSalles Lewis "We want to make sure we're supportive of those different work environments'

He agreed workplace diversity presents challenges "What you do is you tap the folks themselves and say, 'What do you want in the workplace?' Lewis said Staffers should realize all are part of the partnership, LaSalle helps that process with its retiree network + * "There's a lot of knowledge there as well, he said

Every organization, trust me, struggles with this," Seals concluded in discussing workplace diversitv



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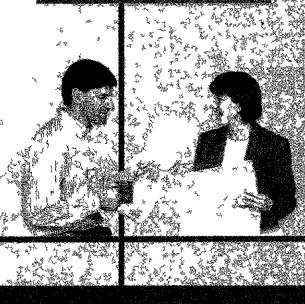
· Ability to work independently multi task, and to troubleshoot and prioritize in a fast pace environment · Flexible with other duties which may be assigned yo you 2 years plus experience in this area

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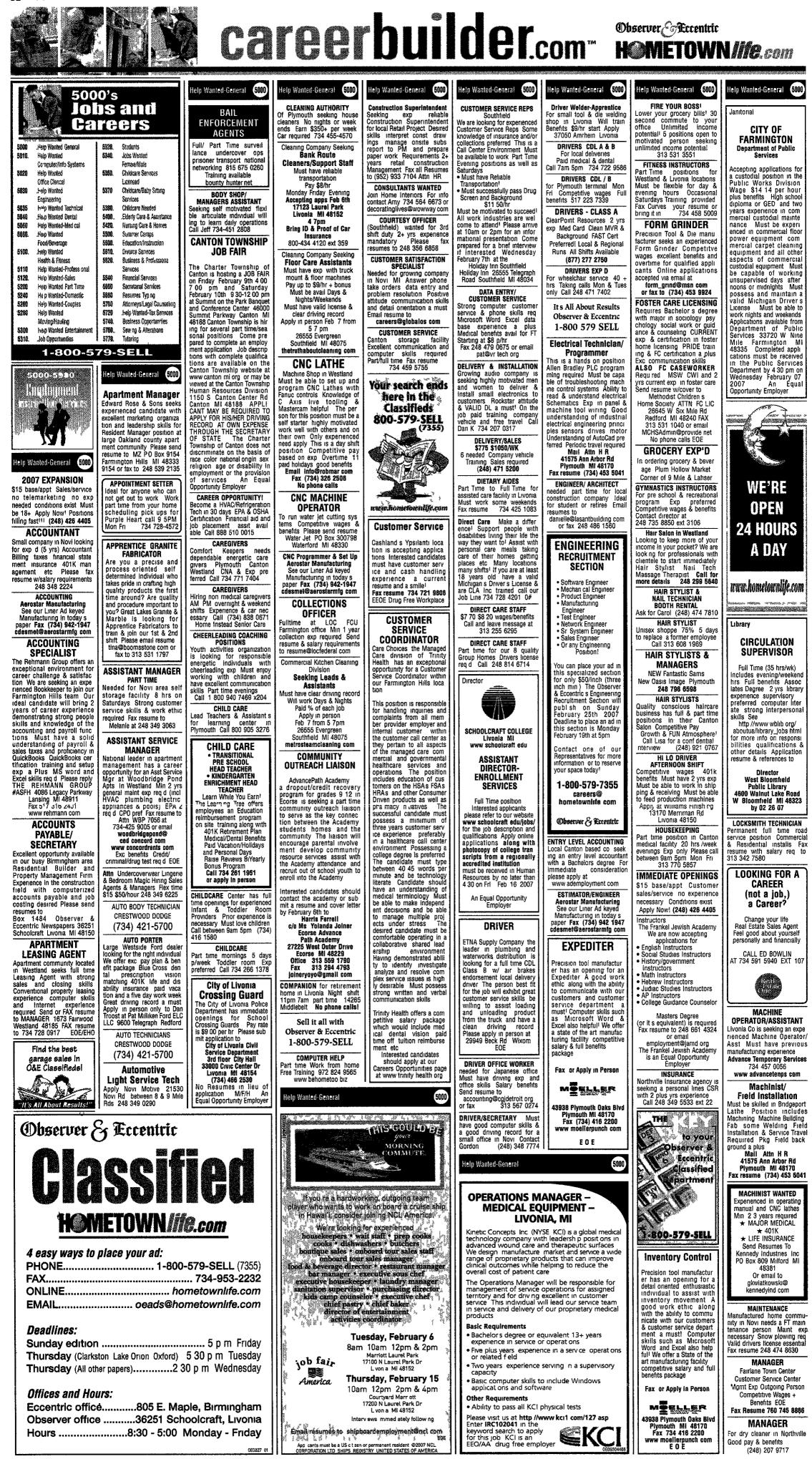
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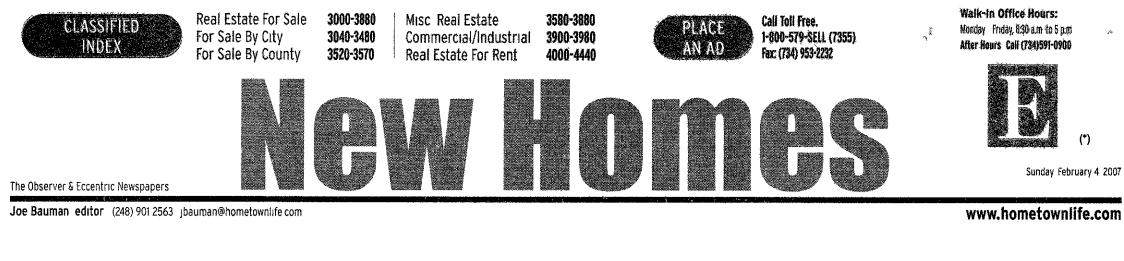
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Moving into a new home stress-free

(NAPSI) — Moving to a new home can be excit ing but also stressful Fortunately, a few tips from the experts can help reduce the moving stress

These following tips were compiled after watching videotapes of actual moving experiences

Pack by rooms so you can unpack by rooms
 Pack one room at a time and by zones within

the rooms This streamlines the unpacking process

Label all the boxes clearly with your name, the room, the contents and where the contents will be stored

Pack important financial documents separatelyPack your cleaning supplies separately so that

when you arrive at your new home you can find them when you need them

Don't overpack boxes If boxes are too heavy, you won't be able to lift them or the boxes may break when you lift them

■ To make sure nothing is lost during the move number each of the boxes and create a checkoff list When in the new home cross off each number as you see the box being removed from the truck

Use hand lotion throughout the day because handling cardboard and paper can dry out your hands

Label the kitchen boxes by the following zones cooking zone, food preparation zone food storage zone and cleaning zone

When unpacking, it is important to know the zones of the kitchen and what items should be stored in those zones

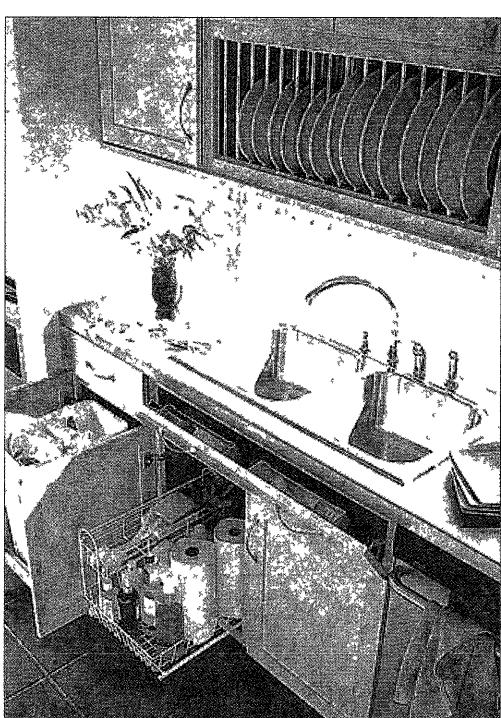
For example the food preparation zone should house cutting boards knives, storage containers and spices The cooking zone includes having the pots and pans close to the stove and oven And the cleaning zone should accommodate all your clean ing supplies in an organized and easy-to use man ner

Before doing anything else say the experts at Merillat Cabinetry who compiled these tips, make the bed so you ll have a comfortable place to sleep at the end of the day Unpack all your toiletries Consider putting all the lamps and pictures in the closets temporarily for safekeeping

There are also some basic pointers that all home owners should know Focus on unpacking the essential items first Take your time to unpack things you don't need right away

When you do get around to unpacking all items carefully consider where you ll store them Think about how often you ll use them and how easily accessible they need to be

Storage ideas for any room in the home can be found at www.merillat.com



One of the keys to a hardworking kitchen is an organized cleaning zone, as it can minimize clutter and make cleanup easier

Property values relate to curb appeal

(NewsUSA) — When a prospective buyer drives up to the home you're selling, the first impression is going to be a lasting one Long before he sees the inside of the house, the exterior makes a statement about the property one that's going to play a role in several decisions that buyer is about to make

First will be the question of whether or not he wants the house based on its appearance, and second will be the issue of the home's value

The impression of your home when the buyer first arrives correlates directly to property value Homeowners could see a return on investment of 100 percent or more resulting from attractive, high-quality landscaping, according to the National Concrete Masonry Association

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Concrete segmental retaining walls are one popular landscaping option because they not only provide pleasing aesthetics but also boast a variety of attributes that may attract buyers

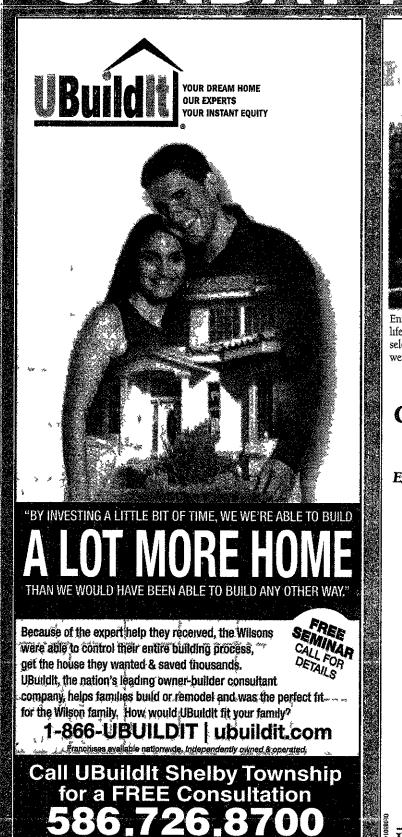
Durability Unlike timber products used in landscaping, concrete segmental retaining walls are resistant to rotting and infestation by rodents or insects

Ease of maintenance Unlike wood, segmental retaining wall units do not need to be stained or treated

Design flexibility The variety of segmental retaining wall unit sizes and placement options enable creative and unique designs to set your home apart For example, the wall units may have a split-face, rugged, natural or tumbled surface appearance With such a variety of designs, concrete segmental retaining walls can satisfy nearly any taste and provide natural, enhanced beauty to many different yard layouts

Environmental friendliness Concrete segmental retaining wall units are made of all-natural materials Unlike wood treated with chro mated copper arsenate, a popular landscaping material that was phased out of use in 2003, concrete segmental retaining wall units do not pose a threat to the environment or a health hazard to your family

According to experts at the National Concrete Masonry Association segmental retaining walls typically offer the best value per dollar when used for a landscaping product For more information visit www.ncma.org





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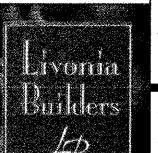


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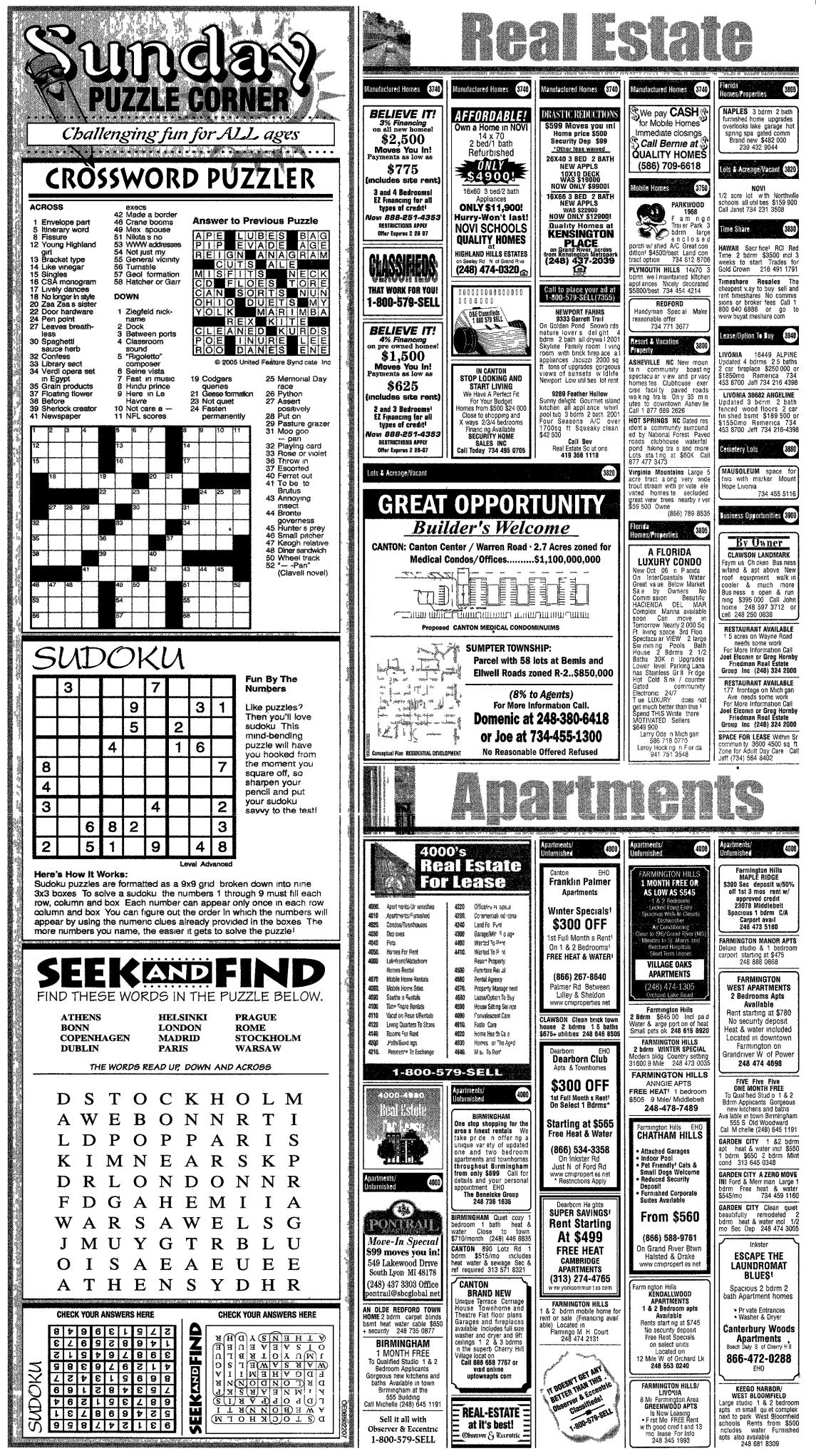
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08 TOWN & COUNTRY A HIGH-TECH MOM-MOBILE

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian **Avanti News Features**

and-butter vehicle, the 2008 Town & Country, which comes out in the fall

minivan market altogether, DCX has stuck with it since the segment rose to prominence 24 years ago

to the Town & Country to stay current and this year is no different

family seating 'This is called the Swivel 'n Go seating system Swivel 'n Go offers second row seats that swivel 180 degrees to face the third row with a removable table that installs between the two rows It also has covered storage bins in the floor of the second row, third-row uncovered storage and fold-in the floor third-row seating

in the second-row chair and a one-touch power-folding third-row bench seat With Swivel 'n Go, second- and third-row passengers can face each other to have a conversation, play games or have a meal on the go

Besides the Swivel 'n Go system, there are two other distinct seating configurations available for the 2008 Town & Country They include a second-row bench seat

With the fold-in-the-floor second and third row seats, the Town & Country can go from a seven-passenger minivan to a two-person cargo van that can carry 4-foot by 8-foot sheets of plywood in less than 30 seconds

Because safety comes first for families, it is a key part of the Town & Country All-row side-curtain air bags, traction control and a patented, energy-absorbing steering column are among standard safety features

To ensure your family is safe in this portly people mover, there s the ParkView rear back-up camera, a rearview interior conversation mirror, which is the same



Automotive

DaımlerChrysler has a lot riding on its new bread-

While other car companies have gotten out of the

DaımlerChrysler has consistently added new features

The newest innovation upgrades DCX's "functional

Swivel 'n Go also offers a built-in child booster seat

and a third-row fold-in-the-floor seat

The 2008 Town & Country designers thought of everything a family needs on the road With a front-row sliding console that is large enough to store a purse, dual glove boxes, second-row covered storage bins, third-

detection system

vehicle segments "

row storage area and even countless other storage bins and pockets there are more places to store things than ever before As for convenience, features include a remote starter,

kind of convex mirror seen in the corner of most

convenience stores, and ParkSense, a rear back-up

Lyons, vice president of the Chrysler Group Front-

wheel-drive Product Team "Integrated child safety

seats, dual-zone temperature controls a power liftgate

and DVD entertainment are just some of the features

that started in a minivan, but are now available in other

"Chrysler Group innovations seem to have an

uncanny way of ending up in other products," said Larry

heated first- and second-row leather or cloth seats, stain resistant, odor-resistant, anti-static cloth fabric a removable flashlight in the rear quarter panel, movable reading lamps, map lights, and power sliding doors

And for comfort there's an ambient halo lighting package that includes a soft green halo light in the headliner This lets passengers see each other when having a night-time conversation Other features that turn journeys into vacations are the second and thirdrow retractable sun shades and a dual or tri-zone

heating and cooling system

DaimlerChrysler wants to continue to be the frontrunner in the minivan market. With a

new entertainment system for the Town & Country and a few other innovations, DCX

thinks it can get people to fall in love with the minivan again.

DaunlerChrysler didn t forget about entertainment when designing the new Town & Country, either, because it knows how important it is to keep the kids from fighting each other on a long road trip

So now, with a dual DVD player that can play two different movies at the same time, you won't even have to worry about the kids fighting for the remote

But the brains of the Town & Country's entertainment system is MyGIG, which has a 20 gigabyte hard drive It can play CDs, DVDs, and MP3s It also controls satellite radio with voice activated capability, has a touch screen and real time traffic and navigation MyGIG even hooks up to UConnect, a hands free communication system with Bluetooth technology

And if you need entertainment from outside sources there are two second-row output/input jacks with a 12volt power outlet and an overhead console with bins large enough to store headphones

Kevin Koloian covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures Write him at kevinkoloian@excite com @2007 Fracassa Communications

2008 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

Vehicle class Minivan Power V6 engine Mileage 18 city/ 25 highway Where built Fenton Mo Base price To be announced

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