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THURSDAY  
January 17, 2008

# CANTON Observer

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ken Jacobs will run the Plymouth-Canton school district on an interim basis until a new superintendent is hired.

## District ponders leadership plan

With Ryan, principals  
leaving, schools look  
at several models

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

The transition from the leadership of Supt. Jim Ryan to a new district CEO became more visible as interim Supt. Ken Jacobs sat in the chair next to President Judy Mardigian at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

"I'm not going to try to reinvent the wheel, but I do plan to support the work that's already in progress to provide whatever leadership I can to the process," Jacobs said.

Please see **DISTRICT, A2**

## Back in the game



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Karen Braun and her 4-year-old daughter, Elaina, greet Mitt Romney and wife Ann Romney at Laurel Manor in Livonia on Saturday during a campaign stop to the area.

## Romney sways Canton voters; Clinton tops among Democrats

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

Denise McGovern and her teenage son helped push Mitt Romney to victory on Tuesday.

"I looked at all of the candidates and he is the closest to most of the things I look for," the Canton woman said moments after she and her son, Tom, 19, cast their votes for the former Massachusetts governor.

In the statewide race, as well as in the township, Romney topped his fellow Republican presidential candidates to nab the top spot in

Michigan's presidential primary.

The son of former Michigan Gov. George Romney walked away with 44-percent of the township's 8,733 Republican votes. John McCain captured 24 percent while former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee came in third with 16 percent.

Diana McLean is one of 1,389 Canton voters that supported Huckabee.

"I appreciate his religious stance on issues," she said.

Another township woman

Please see **PRIMARY, A5**

### CANTON ELECTION NUMBERS

Roughly 26 percent of Canton's registered voters participated in Tuesday's primary. Here's how they voted:

- Total ballots cast: 14,540 (8,733 Republican; 5,807 Democratic)
1. Mitt Romney: 3,832 (43.9 percent)
  2. John McCain: 2,080 (23.8 percent)
  3. Mike Huckabee: 1,389 (15.9 percent)
  4. Ron Paul: 525 (6 percent)
  5. Rudy Giuliani: 369 (4.2 percent)
  6. Fred Thompson: 319 (3.7 percent)

Democrat:

1. Hillary Clinton: 3,216 (55 percent)
2. Uncommitted: 2,165 (37 percent)
3. Dennis Kucinich: 185 (3.2 percent)

## Wal-Mart expanding store into 'supercenter'

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

The nation's retail powerhouse has crossed one hurdle in expanding its current operations in Canton.

The Canton Planning Commission has approved Wal-Mart's request to morph its store at Ford and Lotz roads into a Supercenter, thereby widening its grocery department.

If the project is approved by the township board, Wal-Mart officials said they want to have the section open by summer 2009.

"This will be good for me," Plymouth resident Bernice White said as she prepared to leave the department store Tuesday afternoon. "I get my prescriptions here so I know I would use the (grocery section)."

The proposed plan for the store,

which sits beside a Sam's Club, calls for building a 48,000-foot expansion to the west side of the building.

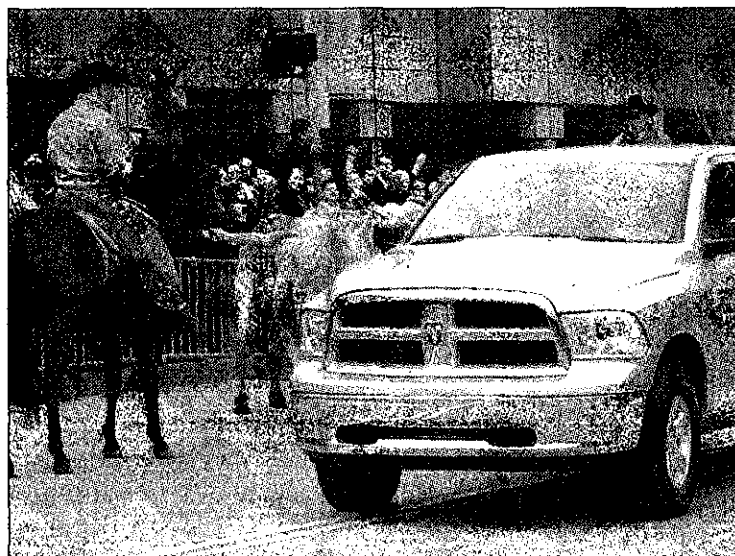
On Monday, commissioners praised Wal-Mart for the building's aesthetics.

"Thanks for keeping the appearance unique," Commissioner Greg Greene said.

The plan also calls for the creation of a traffic circle north of the main entrance used to access both Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. The landscaped area between the two stores will also be realigned. Upon completion, the Wal-Mart will feature two entrances.

Wal-Mart is also expected to start construction on another Canton store on Michigan Avenue at Belleville Road.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Running with the bulls

Chrysler made the biggest splash during the opening week of the North American International Auto Show by herding a group of bulls through the streets of Detroit when it introduced the new Dodge Ram. The show opens to the public on Saturday, Jan. 19. For more coverage of the Auto Show, please see page A6.

## Husband tells jury Poole a 'loving, caring mother'

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

Alan Poole looked down at the toddler bed and his calm voice lowered to a near whisper.

"I cherished her," he said of his 2-year-old foster daughter, Allison Newman, who died in September 2006.

The child, who at the time was in the care of Poole's wife, Carol, suffered head trauma after falling 12 feet over a two-story balcony during a game of "whirlybird," according to his wife.

Carol Poole, 42, of Canton has been charged with felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in Allison's death. Her lawyer has admitted the township woman made mistakes in not taking the child to a hospital immediately and for lying to police about how the girl was injured, but he maintains that the death was an unintentional tragedy.

Alan Poole, who testified Monday, began crying, along with Carol, when Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey IV brought Allison's white bed into the courtroom. The toddler's biological parents, Kenneth Newman and Anne Hirsch, remained calm during the proceedings.

Alan Poole, who was away on business when Allison was injured, said he never saw his wife abuse the child.

"She was always a loving, caring mother," he said, while adding that he wouldn't lie to protect Carol if she had abused the child.

Dorsey, who challenged Carol's claims that Allison would occasionally bang her head against her bed while she was sleeping, questioned whether it was unusual that Carol didn't call Alan immediately about the whirlybird incident.

Allison fell from the balcony before 10 p.m. Sept. 21. Carol called her husband at about 2:30 a.m. the next morning.

When he did learn of the situation, Alan testified that his focus was on Allison's well-being and he didn't ask how the child got injured nor did Carol offer an explanation. Alan did admit that he asked his wife about their dogs and whether their Emily Court home was locked.

Before going to the hospital to see the toddler, Alan said he went home to change his clothing and secure his home, but said that doesn't mean his foster daughter wasn't his main priority.

He admitted that he didn't understand the severity of Allison's injuries until he saw her in the hospital.

Alan said Carol later admitted lying to the hospital while attempting to explain how the child was hurt.

"She said she was afraid," he testified.

If convicted of the murder charge, Carol Poole could be sentenced to life in prison.

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## Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2006-2007 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$9,528,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

\*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 Community Financial

For every new checking account opened in January 2008,  
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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

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## Coming Sunday in Health



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# Chevy Malibu Car of the Year

## Lutz says only way to protect jobs is build better cars

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN  
STAFF WRITER

GM Vice Chairman Bob Lutz predicts a busy year for hundreds of workers at the assembly plant in Orion Township where the Chevrolet Malibu is produced.

"We're now making some investments to break bottle-necks and get the line right up. We see the demand being way beyond what we thought it would be," Lutz said Sunday, moments after the Malibu was named 2008 North American Car of the Year.

"This is the way to protect jobs. Long-term there's only one way to protect jobs and that's to build better cars than anybody else."

The North American International Auto Show bolted out of the gate Sunday with a herd of longhorn cattle muscling its way down Congress and Washington to introduce Chrysler's 2009 Dodge Ram.

### AUTO SHOW FACTS

**What:** North American International Auto Show.

**Where:** Cobo Center, Detroit.

**Media previews:** Sunday, Jan. 13, through Tuesday, Jan. 15.

**Industry days:** Wednesday, Jan. 16 through Thursday, Jan. 17.

**Black-tie charity preview:** 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. Tickets are \$400 per person (\$390 of each ticket is tax deductible). Call (888) 838-7500 for more information.

**Public days:** Saturday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 27.

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Jan. 19-26; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 27.

**Prices:** \$12 for adults; \$6 for seniors 65 or older; \$6 for children ages 7-12; children 6 and under are admitted free with a parent.

**More information:** (248) 643-0250 or www.naias.com.

Inside Cobo Center, dozens of auto manufacturers from around the globe set up giant exhibits, marketing their vehicles on various twists of speed and power, intelligence and green technology.

"Despite the challenges that lie ahead, I feel confident today that Chrysler is on the threshold of full recovery and a return to its former greatness," Chrysler CEO Robert L. Nardelli said to hundreds of members of the international media that were gathered in heated tents outside Cobo Center to get a glimpse of the cattle and new pickup trucks.

"We've been knocked down before but never knocked out." But the industry does appear a bit wobbly.

Even while he bragged about the Malibu winning Car of the Year, Lutz fretted about the challenges his industry faces: tougher fuel standards, rising oil prices and labor costs — not to mention stiffer competition from the foreign auto makers.

Specifically, he estimates it will cost an additional \$6,000 per vehicle to meet the newly-proposed 35-mpg fuel standard by 2020.

"There's just no way we could afford to eat those costs," Lutz said.

At the same time, GM and every other company at the show displayed numerous hybrid models to promote the latest in green technology, promising more fuel efficiency and reduced carbon dioxide emissions while raising the bar on efficiency and comfort.

Even as the industry aims to offer a greener tomorrow, Sunday was a day to show off the new cars and celebrate awards.

"It's a wonderful car to drive," Lutz said about the Malibu, a family sedan specifically designed to compete against the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

"It feels like a \$45,000 luxury car. It's sleek, quiet, refined, has wonderful steering. And look at the exceptionally well-crafted interior and exterior. I think everyone in General Motors, from Rick Wagoner down to the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chevrolet General Manager Ed Pepper is happy. The 2008 Malibu took the North American Car of the Year Award.

least senior hourly worker, wants this car to win."

The Malibu beat out the Honda Accord and Cadillac CTS to win Car of the Year, while the Mazda CX-9 was chosen over the Buick Enclave and Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid to earn 2008 North American Truck of the Year.

Northville resident Mark R. LaNeve, vice president of vehicle sales and marketing for GM, said the Malibu will provide the Big Three a welcomed boost into the mid-sized car market.

"I think it's a key signal to America that you don't have to buy a Japanese mid-car anymore. You can buy a Chevy from an all-American brand, built right here in the United States," said LaNeve.

"We took this new Malibu and right from the beginning we said, 'We're going to build a

car that will beat the Accord and Camry. We want it to look like a \$40,000 car and sell it for (\$20,000). I think that's exactly what we did. It truly is the car you can't ignore."

Giant video screens flash digital images of cars and trucks around the main floor of the auto show. Every known auto maker, from Ford Motors to the Changfeng Group, has their latest car models and concept vehicles on display.

Jaguars and Bentleys, Ferraris and Road Rangers, face off against Corvettes and Chargers, pickup trucks and minivans. Solar cars and racing models... a bumped out Chrysler 300C Hollywood car... the new Dodge Viper... a futuristic Buick Riviera equipped with gullwings... all of them are on display.

The interior of the car also has a niche at the show. Boda

Bozenius, vice president of Johnson Controls, introduced the latest in automatic seating, electronics and other interior features.

He also unveiled the Plymouth Township-based company's new corporate slogan: Ingenuity Welcome.

"When we say 'Ingenuity Welcome,' we mean it in two ways," Bozenius said to a large group of reporters on Sunday.

"The first is that we are always on the lookout for great ideas, and the ability to provide our customers and the marketplace with ingenious products and services."

"Secondly, 'Ingenuity Welcome' speaks to who we are and the kind of employees we want engaged and onboard to make our vision a reality."

The show opens to the public on Saturday.

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**Wednesday, January 16, 2008**  
La Zingara, Windsor, Ontario  
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Book signing and presentation of Elijah of Buxton

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# It takes true discipline to invest during turbulent times

It seems every few months I have to write a column about investing and the stock market.

Last year, there were at least three times where the market had a significant sell-off and the news media was filled with stories of doom and gloom. Once again, we're going through another one of those periods. Last year in February and last summer, the market had a major sell-off then came back over a short period of time. Investors who did not panic and held their positions were rewarded. Although I have no idea when the market will begin to regain its strength, I have no doubt that investors who panic and bail out will significantly underperform the market. I know investors say they don't want to lose any more money and they'll sit on the sidelines until things get better. Unfortunately, this strategy does not work and will result in losing more money.

Being an investor is not easy. Even when the market is doing well, it takes discipline to be successful because a good investor focuses on an overall strategy and not day-to-day returns. Someone who focuses

on the short run is not an investor but rather a gambler.

Whenever I talk about investments, people will ask me whether something is a good investment. The question should be: "Is this a good investment based upon my individual goals and objectives and my portfolio?" For example, if someone had 25 percent of their portfolio invested in energy funds I would recommend selling the

funds because 25 percent is too much in that sector of the economy. On the other hand, if someone had no exposure to energy I would recommend that they add an energy fund.

The issue isn't whether an energy fund is a good or bad but how it fits into your individual portfolio.

Being an investor requires one to think counter-intuitively. For example, the general belief is you stay with the

winners and sell the losers. Unfortunately, that's a failed strategy because being a good investor sometimes requires you to sell the winners and buy investments that are underperforming. The reason you sell winners is they have done well and now they represent too large a portion of your portfolio.

Investors who did not prune the real estate portion of their portfolio were hurt more than

those who had constantly rebalanced. Another example is what happened in the tech boom in the 1990s. Those who continued to buy technology-based investments because of performance were severely hurt.

Investors who constantly prune their portfolios and maintain a balance find that over the long run their portfolios do just fine.

As we go through a soft

stretch in the market, don't let fear dictate decisions. Instead, base investment decisions on your overall strategy. If you don't have an overall investment strategy, now is the time to get one.

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

## Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Being an investor is not easy. Even when the market is doing well, it takes discipline to be successful because a good investor focuses on an overall strategy and not day-to-day returns. Someone who focuses

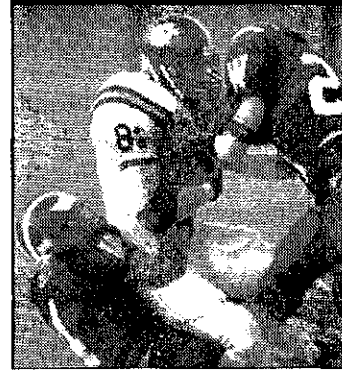
## Orchestra offers passport to Scandinavia

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra performs their first concert in 2008, Scandinavian Holiday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Schmidt Auditorium in Clarenceville High School on Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

The program, conducted by Volodymyr Shesiuk, includes music by Edvard Grieg and John Sibelius. Pianist Julia Siciliano is the guest soloist for Beethoven's Piano Concerto #2. Siciliano was a student in Livonia Public Schools. She is currently doing graduate work at the University of Michigan and teaching part time at Schoolcraft College.

Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$5 for children, and available at all Livonia libraries or at the door. For more information, call (734) 421-1111 or visit [www.livoniasymphony.com](http://www.livoniasymphony.com).

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RELIGION FROM PAGE A8

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant.

of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy

Road, Canton. For information, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomenministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades four-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Wednesday, Sept. 26.

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12).

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton.

Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Come once or more often. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313)534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking

registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the

month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services

Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service. An open discussion 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Classes available for all ages, child to adult. Riverside Park Church of God is at 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST UNITED METHODIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande

Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 313-637-3170

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 734-522-6830

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd.

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

OUR VIEWS

## Dr. King event befitting for town as diverse as Canton Township

Canton's dedication to diversity will be on full display Monday, as the township will host a unique program honoring the legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The free program, "Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." begins at 7 p.m. at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The event will feature several interesting performances, beginning with The Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit presenting Speak For Yourself! The evening's keynote speaker will be Fox 2 News reporter Lee Thomas, who is also author of *Turning White: A Memoir of Change*, which chronicles his battle with a medical condition that is changing his skin from black to white.

Dozens of students submitted essays detailing what the civil rights leader's legacy means both to them personally and to the Canton community, which has certainly benefited from King's message of equality and social justice.

Finally, new Canton Public Library Director Eva M. Davis and *Canton Observer* Editor Kurt Kuban will announce the winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest for local middle school and high school students. Dozens of students submitted essays detailing what the civil rights leader's legacy means both to them personally and to the Canton community, which has certainly benefited from King's message of equality and social justice.

While it really wasn't that long ago, it now seems like ancient history when Canton did not recognize Martin Luther King Day as a holiday. Certainly there have been a few hiccups along the way (the recent episode concerning the Hindu Temple comes to mind), but the town has come a long way and embraced King's legacy. Monday's MLK celebration is one of the best in the area, and it has continued to grow each year, which is fitting because Canton is also one of the most diverse communities in the region.

King, who was one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century, would be proud to see the Canton of the 21st century. Come out and help the town celebrate this diversity.

## Auto show gives industry an international forum

Cars that drive themselves.

Cars that travel 60 miles on a gallon of gasoline or ethanol made from switch grass. Cars fueled by hydrogen cells or batteries that will run for 200 miles before needing to be recharged.

Cars that incorporate all the latest computer technology, from GPS to instant diagnostic reports.

Cars designed for speed or for comfort or for safety. The North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit is the heart of the auto world this week and next. The press has been given the news this week on the latest in advanced auto engineering and design. On Saturday, the doors open to the public.

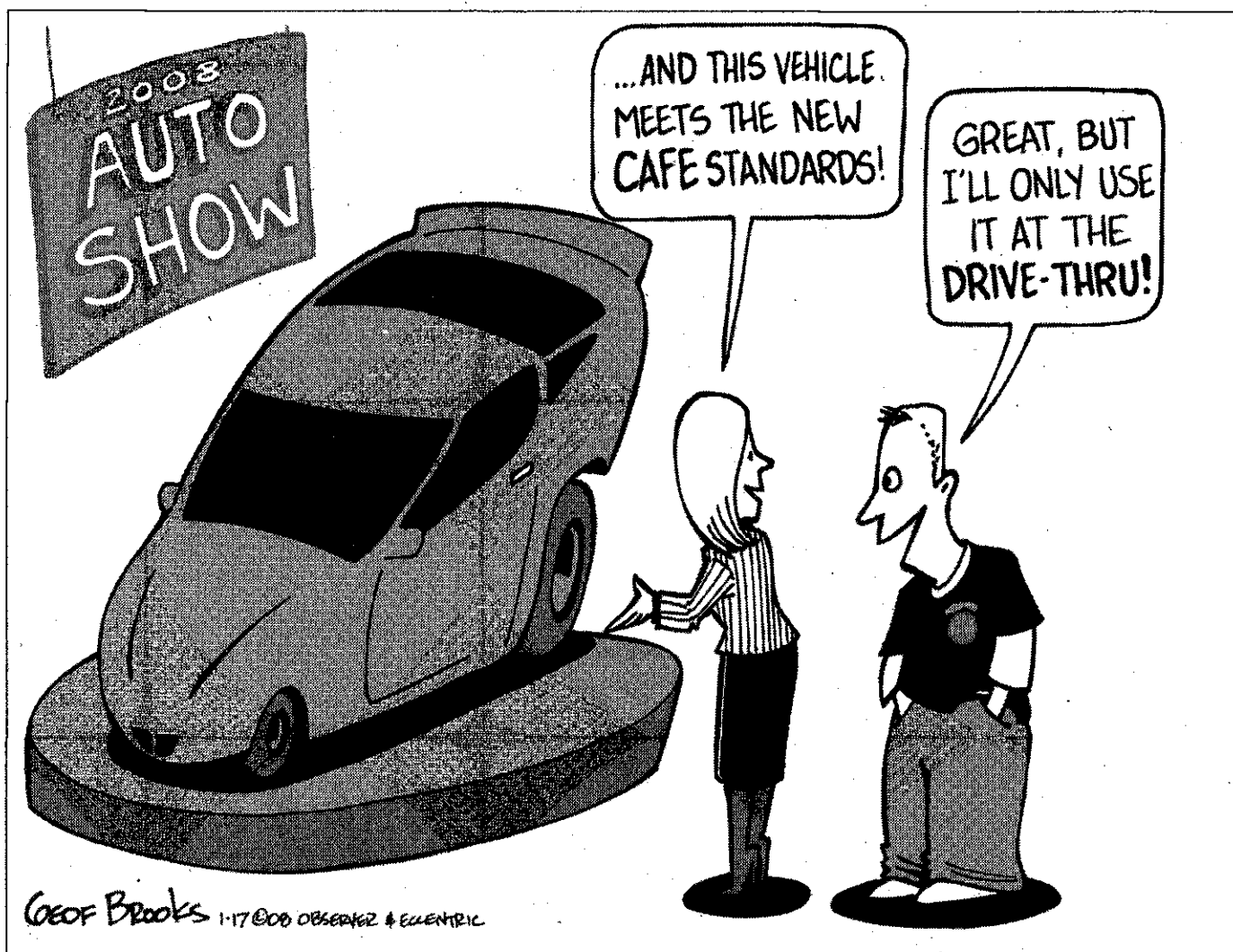
For the Detroit auto industry, the auto show is crucial in its efforts to make its case to an international audience that Detroit takes a back seat to no one in automobile innovation.

Last year, the federal government approved a significant 30 percent hike in the corporate average fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. The auto industry reluctantly agreed to the new standards after winning some concessions, including separate standards for cars and trucks (which lead in U.S. vehicle sales).

Detroit automakers face some stiff challenges in the years ahead to create vehicles that are energy-efficient, safe, well-engineered and designed to capture the public's fancy. They also face challenging economic issues involving their American workforce, which has been reduced to a mere fraction of what it once was.

While this area is trying to develop alternative economic bases, the health of the auto industry remains a key to our economic revival. The success of the auto show and the ideas that it generates will determine our own economic success.

Check out the show and tell us what you think.



### Patterson should help PCCS

After reading Sen. Patterson's letter about the JRROTC in Belleville ("Seeking Sen. Levin's help," Jan. 13), I felt obligated to write. I have contacted Sen. Carl Levin's office regarding my grandfather's WWII military records and I received a very quick response and help. Patterson's quote "Come on Senator Levin, please lend us a hand." Do you actually think Sen. Levin is reading the *Observer*?

Sen. Patterson, when are you going to help fairly fund public schools to the level they should be? Helping the Belleville district for a program is great, but what about properly funding Plymouth-Canton Schools? Is our school district in your district that you live in? We are so much underfunded than our surrounding districts. Why is my child worth less than children of other districts?

One last note, before you give Sen. Levin a hard time, why have you not responded to my 20-plus e-mails and letters over the last 18 months regarding fair and equal funding for Michigan's public schools? Also, if you talked to Sen. Levin like you talked to our ordinary people at your last debate when you ran for re-election, I can understand why he might not contact you.

John Nichols  
Canton

### Comcast customers beware

I recently had an issue with Comcast services. A month after accepting an offer which included two free cable boxes for two years, I was contacted and offered an upgrade, at extra cost, to my service. I accepted.

They did not tell me that by accepting the new offer, I voided my entitlement to the two years of free cable boxes. Three months later, my bill increased (and with all of the abbreviations and miscellaneous charges, it was impossible to figure out). I called and they said I was entitled to a 79-cent credit, but that I was no longer eligible for the free boxes for the two years.

I found the papers and called them back. After talking to the regular rep, she said she could not help me and she would put me through to a supervisor. I was left on hold for one full hour, with no option to leave a number or talk to a person.

When I finally got to the supervisor, she confirmed that I was no longer eligible and had no sympathy that Comcast did not make this clear when I accepted the upgraded service.

Apparently this is all legal. I think it is close to "bait and switch." They did offer to change my service back to the old system. And the people were courteous.

I think people need to know that you must be very wary of offers from Comcast and please be sure you ask how every change affects your bill. Their motto, "It's not complex, it's Comcast," is about as far from the truth as you can get. Trying to get anything done with Comcast is extremely complex.

Peggy Robichaud  
Canton

### LETTERS

#### Money party

Kurt Kuban's article, "Two-party political system has stranglehold on our democracy," made some valid points regarding our current political environment; however, I'd like to add a couple of important comments.

First, we no longer have a two-party system. We have one party known as the "Money Party" with two branches.

Second, our form of government was never intended to be a "democracy." In reality, we're an oligarchy, ruled by a select few. Our forefathers understood the dangers of "majority rule" (democracy) and wisely created a limited constitutional "republic." The term "democracy" is not even written in any of our founding documents. Please read Article IV, Section IV of our Constitution.

In essence, a democracy is two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. Therefore, our individual rights can be voted away under a pure democracy (mob rule).

No, thank you.

Bruce Hartdegen  
Plymouth

#### Church thanks

On behalf of the Senior High Youth Group and congregation of Geneva Presbyterian Church, I would like to thank the Canton and Plymouth communities for their generous support of our 14th annual Boxing Night Clothing Drive for the homeless.

It is a great blessing and encouragement to see how the community rallies behind this project every year. Because of your generosity, we were able to help supply the Fort Street Presbyterian Church Open Door ministry with a large quantity of winter clothing, blankets and outerwear to help clothe the city's homeless during these cold winter months.

Again, thank you, and keep us in mind for this year's Boxing Night beginning Dec. 26.

Bryan Smith  
pastor, Geneva Presbyterian Church

#### Court authority goes too far

It is appropriate to make a few statements regarding the recent story concerning the 35th District Court Authority. It may be the tip of the iceberg, and filter up and down to other mass layers of bureaucracy. The court somehow has authority to give themselves huge salaries, bennies, per day allowances, planes, trains and automobiles, cell phone, brotherhood dues, *et al?*

What happened to asking your neighbors before you demand payment? I don't need many of your services. How many of these rules are moral? That's like a neighbor coming over to your garage, taking your lawn mower without asking.

Charlie Page  
Canton

#### Political flip-flops

I am a 62-year-old veteran and had two political questions (well, maybe more than two). First, how can the candidates cut each other down so bad during the campaigning and then back the party winner 100 percent at the election? Are they two-faced or what? Talk about flip-flop.

And the second question is, if all these intelligent people have the answers to the war, economy and health care, why don't they share it with the world now and save soldiers' lives and people's job before January 2009? Just a couple of thoughts.

Merv Muffley  
Garden City

#### Universal coverage

One big reason local and county governments are short on money is rising health care costs. Each year, the cost of health insurance rises. Companies and government bodies that offer health insurance to their employees and retirees are getting walloped. Meanwhile, the number of uninsured keeps rising.

Most of the uninsured still get treated, usually in hospital emergency rooms, at a huge cost, which is shifted to companies and government bodies who offer health insurance to their employees and retirees. It is the most idiotic, expensive and wasteful health care system in the entire world.

The only way to rein in health care costs is with universal coverage. That is why a group called Michuhcan is petitioning for a constitutional amendment that would guarantee health insurance coverage to every Michigan resident. You can help us gather signatures on our petitions. Go to [www.michuhcan.com](http://www.michuhcan.com) to volunteer or call (734) 812-0664.

Local and county governments face hard times, but this is also an opportunity to fix a broken system.

Tom Regan  
Royal Oak

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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(734) 459-4224

E-mail:  
[kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com)

### QUOTABLE

"Several applicants are already beyond \$200,000, with one from the top of my list in a district about a third of the size of Plymouth-Canton. It's hard for the public to understand that to bring in a new superintendent you'll most likely pay more than the person in the job who has served so well. But that's the market we're in."

Roger Garvelink, consultant for the firm hired by PCCS to find a new superintendent to replace the retiring Jim Ryan

**CANTON Observer**

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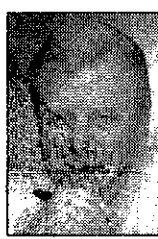
Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

# Future of Great Lakes looms large for Michigan

The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on the globe, and Michigan alone lives nearly totally surrounded by them. Besides their amazing beauty, they account for around 20 percent of the world's total supply of drinkable fresh water.

But there is reason to worry, big-time. Ponder these disturbing facts about the lakes:



Phil Power

■ Water levels everywhere are very low. Experts think Lakes Michigan and Huron could beat their all-time record lows, set back in 1964. Superior's level in September was 1.6 inches lower than it was in the same month at its previously lowest record.

■ Something's going on, big enough to take trillions of gallons out of our lakes. Clearly, global warming is involved in various ways.

■ A new species of invasive, non-native critter (think zebra mussels or the fish-killing virus VHS) invades every six months or so. David Lodge, a researcher at the University of Notre Dame, says some come from discharged untreated ballast water in ocean-going ships.

Another, possibly even more important source: growths on the outside of ship's hulls.

■ Vern Ehlers, a scientist who is also a Republican congressman from Grand Rapids, is circulating a pledge asking candidates for president to fund a Great Lakes restoration strategy.

A recent Brookings Institution study found restoring the Great Lakes (a \$20 billion effort) would result in \$80 billion in economic benefits. But so far, only Hillary Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois — the two from Great Lakes states — have signed.

■ The *Detroit Free Press* asked the eight top candidates running for president about a variety of environmental issues, from diverting Great Lakes water to dry states to supporting a \$20 billion program to restore the lakes, to ways to cope with global warming.

As of last Friday, only one had answered: former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who grew up in Michigan and presumably knows something about the Great Lakes and their water.

I sat in late last week on a sort of summit conference of folks interested in Michigan's environment. It was both fascinating and encouraging. Of course, there were the heavyweight environmental organizations: The Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation and the Michigan Environmental Council.

But there were also folks from the Council of Great Lakes Industries and the Ford Motor Co., as well as from the University of Michigan and Brookings. Taken together, the group was about as knowledgeable as you'll ever find about our environment.

There were plenty of insights. First, take the idea, very fashionable in economics and business circles, that there should be a price set on water that reflects the actual costs of the resource.

Those intent on improving our resources policies say establishing a price system would reveal lots of hidden and expensive subsidies (for farmers in California, for

What emerged from the meeting was this: A consensus that our natural resources — whether Great Lakes, streams, forests, shorelines — are uniquely magnificent. They constitute an enormous competitive and economic resource in providing a great, and affordable, quality of life for people who live here.

instance, or folks with green lawns in Las Vegas).

"Not so fast," counter the environmentalists. That would make our natural resource a commodity like anything else for sale. The moment we put a price on our Great Lakes water, somebody will be willing to pay it ... and slurp! — there goes our water!

The economics surrounding invasive species in the Great Lakes make the shipping industry look silly, if not criminally irresponsible. Best evidence is that the state gets some \$50 million in economic benefit from ocean-going shipping. But the annual cost to local governments to clean out the zebra mussels (which originated in ocean-going ships' ballast water) is around \$5 billion.

Doesn't it seem that somebody ought to sue the bastards? What emerged from the meeting was this: A consensus that our natural resources — whether Great Lakes, streams, forests, shorelines — are uniquely magnificent. They constitute an enormous competitive and economic resource in providing a great, and affordable, quality of life for people who live here.

But for decades, well-intentioned people have had a great deal of trouble getting a handle on how to preserve, protect and defend our resources, especially the Great Lakes. Seven states border the lakes, each with its own parochial interests and political posturings.

Add to that mix Ontario, a province of Canada, and you've added an international dimension. Mix in the fact that we don't really know much about properly managing — let alone restoring — a complex, enormous ecosystem.

Overall verdict: Not easy. Conclusion: "We're not getting much traction." Yet it was equally clear we have to get there.

At the end of the meeting, there was a fair amount of agreement that each of the interests represented at the table — environmentalists, economic developers, businesses, universities, policy think tanks — might individually have some impact.

But think of the tremendous weight to be gained if everybody could work together to identify areas where they could collaborate. Perhaps they could then even take a few baby steps toward a big consolidating organization!

The group is going to get together again in a little while. It could be the start of something very, very big.

Phil Power is a former president of the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He is also the founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of The Center. Power welcomes comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

# Health insurance reform will protect consumers

Early in 2008, the Michigan Legislature will address health insurance reform for individual purchasers. The need for reform is urgent. The number of people expected to find their own health insurance is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 years — but the regulations that govern how insurers treat these



Joan Budden

people haven't changed in more than 20 years.

While at least 34 other states have reformed their individual markets to benefit consumers, there are no basic consumer protections in Michigan's law today. That is the problem the House of Representatives acted

to solve in October, by passing bipartisan legislation sponsored by more than half the members of the House.

The legislation will make some important changes to the individual market place:

■ Limits will be placed on how much people can be charged by any insurance carrier at renewal because they get sick.

■ For the first time, the insurance commissioner would have the power to order refunds on all carriers if insurance rates are deemed excessive.

■ Part of the reform legislation would allow the Blues' Accident Fund subsidiary to sell other lines of insurance. This would enable Accident Fund to continue to grow here in Michigan, creating new, good-paying jobs in our state.

Accident Fund earnings help support the nonprofit Blue Cross to fulfill its mission by providing dollars back to Blue Cross for its health care business.

The bills are now the subject of a campaign by the out-of-state, for-profit carriers who oppose reform to mount a campaign meant to kill them.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), which annually adds huge sums to its bottom line from for-profit insurers, is also against reform in Michigan. Blue Cross has been attacked by those opposed to reform.

These attacks are wrong on the facts, and are meant to distract from the positive aspects of reform.

The argument against Blue Cross' tax status is a distraction from the issues driving the need for reform.

We need a system where insurers are held responsible for covering people, and that helps people maintain their coverage at affordable rates. This is what nonprofit health care is all about, and this is why Blue Cross stands behind individual health insurance reform.

Let's clear the record. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is a nonprofit company, and we do not profit on health insurance. Over the past 15 years, our margin on health insurance averages just one-tenth of one percent.

We also give back to the community four times the value of our tax exemptions:

■ We reimburse hospitals \$150 million annually for uncompensated care.

■ We contribute more than \$260 million annually to hospitals for medical education that improves the quality of care and keeps great doctors practicing in Michigan hospitals.

■ We paid \$70 million over the last five years to subsidize the state's MI Child program, which has helped Michigan be among the leading states for insuring children.

■ We subsidize tens of millions of dollars each year in coverage for seniors.

■ We currently pay better than 20 percent more than the premiums we take in to provide coverage to people as Michigan's insurer of last resort.

The argument against Blue Cross' tax status is a distraction from the issues driving the need for reform. We need a system where insurers are held responsible for covering people, and that helps people maintain their coverage at affordable rates. This is what nonprofit health care is all about, and this is why Blue Cross stands behind individual health insurance reform.

Joan Budden is vice president, individual business at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

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All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of business on Friday, January 25th to be considered. Entries with the correct number of hidden Elmo's will be drawn at random to receive the family 4-pack. The lucky winners will be chosen notified via phone. No purchase necessary. One entry per person please.

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## Celebrate the New Year with New Beginnings and join us for our Happy Hour Open House!

**Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

Experience the sense of belonging you've been waiting for by living in an American House community. Enjoy meals and a full schedule of activities with your new friends.

Housekeeping and maintenance is included and personal care services are available onsite.

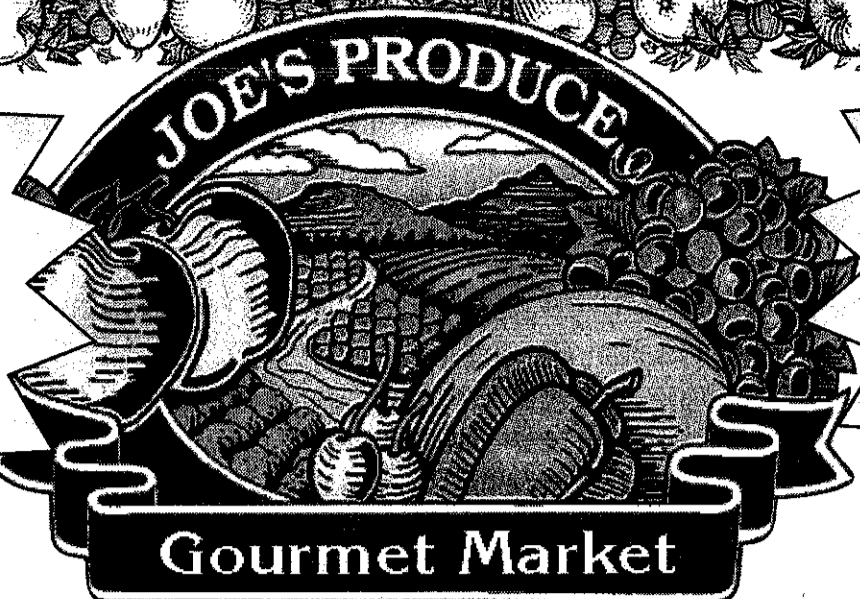
Move in by February 29<sup>th</sup> and receive a **\$500 Visa gift card** upon move in (New move ins only). Call to find the location nearest you or visit us online at [www.americanhouse.com](http://www.americanhouse.com).

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Troy	248-589-3555
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Lakeside II	586-228-8889
Sterling I	586-978-1060
Sterling II	586-979-5340
Parkway	586-792-7231
Birchcrest	586-739-9494
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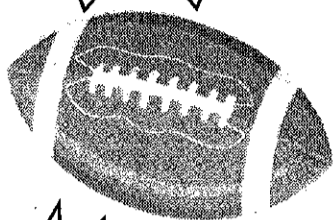
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Deluxe Ham **\$6.49 lb.**  
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Dietz & Watson  
Oven Classic Turkey **\$6.99 lb**  
Gourmet Chicken **\$5.99 lb.**  
Hoffmans Hickory Salami **\$4.99 lb**

Boarshead  
Provolone Domestic Cheese **\$5.99 lb.**  
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## SPORTS

B

(CP)

Thursday, January 17, 2008

The Observer &amp; Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Balanced  
Rocks trip  
StevensonBY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Salem's girls basketball team is doing much more than just staying afloat after one trip around the Lakes.

On Tuesday at Livonia Stevenson, the Rocks reinforced their status as the dominant team in the WLAAs Lakes Division when they jarred the host Spartans, 55-30.

The victory improved the winners' ledger to 10-2 overall and 5-0 in the division. Stevenson dropped to 3-9 and 0-5, respectively.

"Things are setting up well for us in the division," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We had nice balance tonight. Our first quarter was OK, but the girls played dynamite in the second and third quarters."

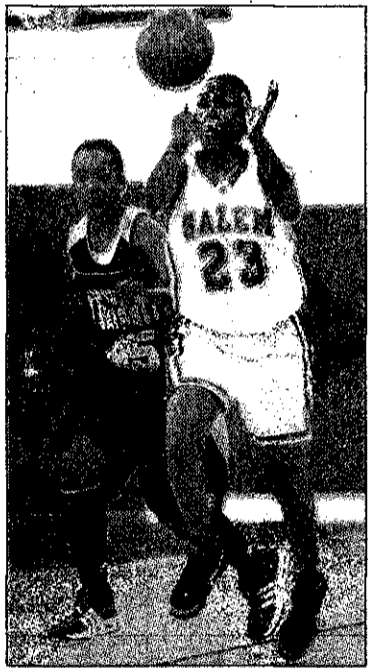
The Rocks, who will begin their second go-around against division foes beginning Friday at John Glenn, rolled despite not visiting the free-throw line once.

Senior guard Alaya Mitchell led the winners' balanced attack with 20 points. Sara Stone (10 points, 10 rebounds, four blocks), Chelsea Davis (eight points, eight assists, 11 rebounds), Victoria Brotz (seven points) and Rachel Norman (six points) also sparkled.

Kaylie McGrath led the Spartans with 14.

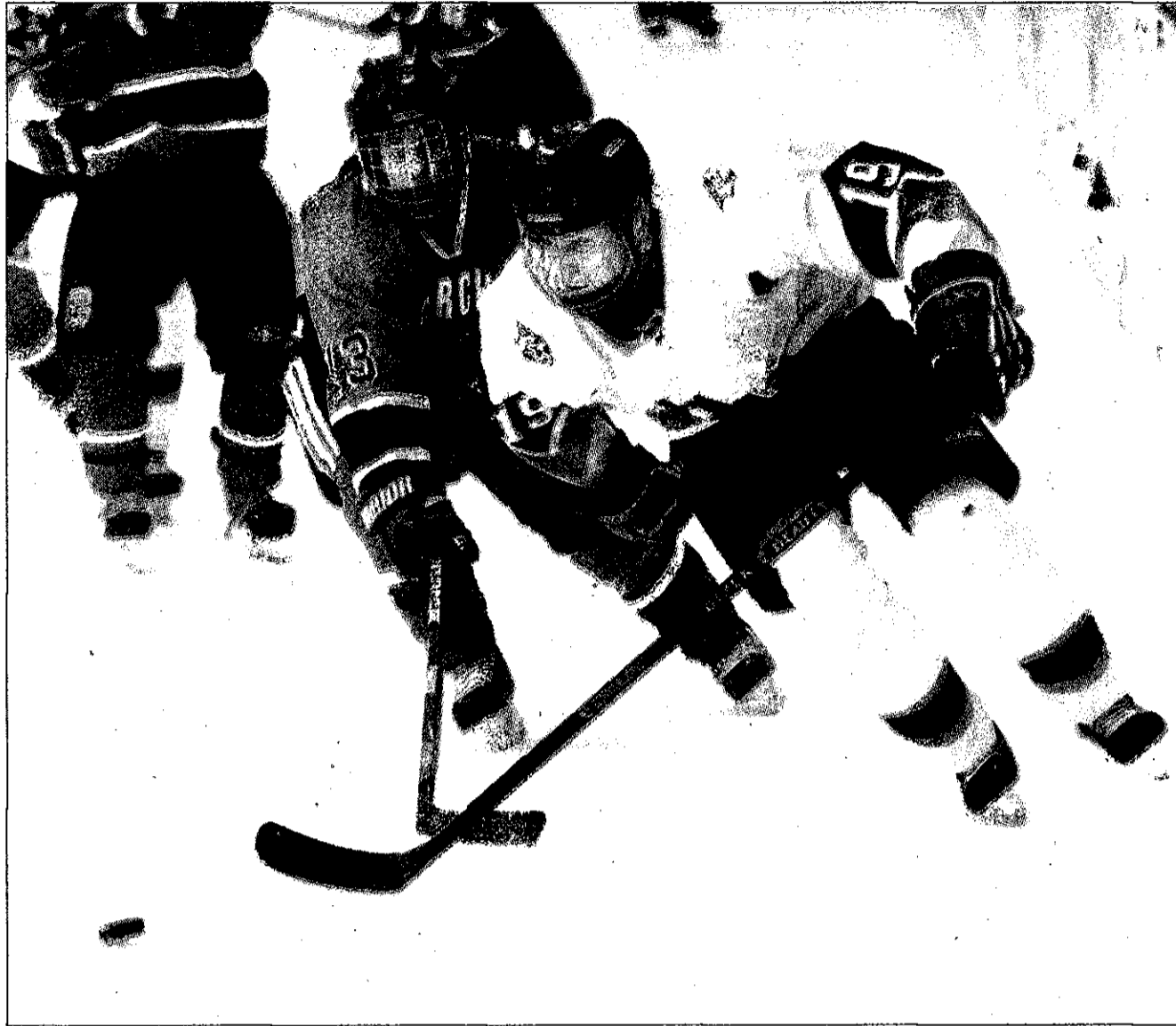
Salem led 14-10 after one quarter, 27-14 at the half and 43-18 with eight minutes left.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Sara Stone, pictured above in a game earlier this year, netted 10 points and 10 rebounds in Tuesday night's victory at Livonia Stevenson.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Jake Jossey pushes the puck up the ice past Livonia Churchill's Scottie Sundberg during Tuesday night's Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game at Compuware Arena.

## SILVER LININGS

Plymouth coach finds encouraging signs in 9-3 setback

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's hockey team discovered something Tuesday night that 11 teams before it already knew: Churchill is not only good, it's relentless.

The state-ranked Chargers' advantage in the experience department was evident from the opening faceoff as they rolled to a 9-3 victory over the Wildcats in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover contest played at Compuware Arena.

Churchill improved to 12-2 while the Cats slipped to 8-6.

"Along with being very good, they work very hard," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender, assessing his team's most recent opponent. "Every time there was a loose puck, there would be one or two red jerseys on it. We were too slow reacting and we did too much watching."

"They have a lot of experienced players in their lineup — I think they have 13 or 14 seniors and five or six juniors

**"Ryan was amazing. The refs and Churchill's coaches even commented to me how great they thought he played. It could have been a quick mercy if he hadn't played as well as he did. They outshot us, 33-9, in the first two periods, so he kept the game going."**

PAUL FASSBENDER, Plymouth coach

while we have a lot of younger players. I saw some good things — we had a nice power play in the third quarter — but not enough to beat a team like that. They're on another level from us."

There were some encouraging signs for the Wildcats, according to Fassbender, most notably the play of sophomore net-minder Ryan Schultz, who stopped 36 of the 45 shots he faced.

"Ryan was amazing," said Fassbender. "The refs and Churchill's coaches even commented to me how great they thought he played. It could

have been a quick mercy if he hadn't played as well as he did. They outshot us, 33-9, in the first two periods, so he kept the game going."

"Eric Olivier and Connor Dresser also played outstanding for us."

The offensive star of the game was Churchill's Keith Yackley, who notched a hat trick. Josh Proben added a pair of lamp lighters and Nathan Milam contributed his 30th goal of the season.

"I liked our pace and I thought we carried the flow pretty well," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "I also liked the fact that a lot of guys chipped in."

Colin Rolfe scored twice for the Wildcats.

Churchill used goaltender Greg Wirick for two periods and Aaron Crouse in the final period.

The Chargers led 2-1 after one period and 5-3 with 15 minutes to play.

Plymouth dropped a hard-fought 4-3 decision to Troy Athens on Saturday at the Farmington Ice Arena.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth resident Bill Zepp realized the dreams of all Little League baseball players when he pitched in the Major Leagues for parts of three seasons with the Minnesota Twins and Detroit Tigers. He pitched well until suffering a career-ending elbow injury in 1971.

## Majors memories

Plymouth resident enjoyed brief but distinguished MLB career

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Why was longtime Detroiters Cheryl Zepp cheering zestfully against the guys wearing the Olde English D caps as she sat in the stands of a packed-to-the-rafters Tiger Stadium on Aug. 2, 1970?

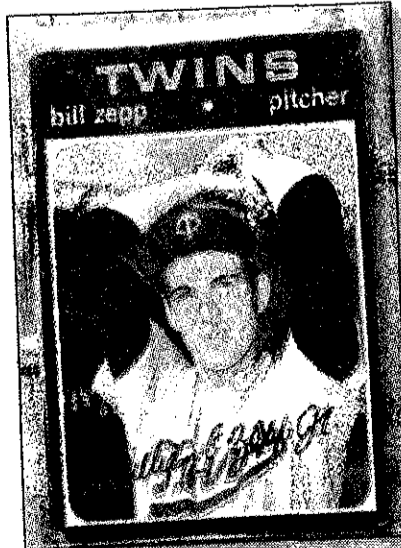
And what inspired the graduate of Detroit Redford High School to applaud every time a Tigers batter — including future Hall-of-Famer Al Kaline — recorded an out on "Al Kaline Day"?

The answers to those questions were as clear as the wedding ring on her left ring finger.

Cheryl Zepp was far from a traitor on that sun-drenched, 80-degree summer afternoon. She was the wife of the visiting team's starting pitcher — Minnesota Twins right-hander Bill Zepp.

"There were probably 50,000 people in the stands and I was one of about 18 who were cheering for the Twins," she remembered with a chuckle. "Since I was from Detroit, I was a little ashamed rooting against the Tigers, but I was there to support Bill."

Bill Zepp — like his wife, a born-and-



Pictured is Bill Zepp's 1970 baseball card. The Plymouth resident pitched parts of three seasons in the Major Leagues — two with Minnesota and one with Detroit.

raised Detroit — sent the masses of Tiger fans home disgruntled as he yielded just six hits in 8.1 innings pitched in the Twins' 4-3 victory.

Kaline, the man of the hour and one of Zepp's childhood heroes, managed just one hit in four at-bats.

The performance was one of several notable accomplishments for Zepp — a resident of Plymouth for the past 22 years — during a relatively brief but memorable Major League pitching career that was cut short in 1971 by a serious elbow injury.

He finished the 1970 season with a 9-4 record and 3.22 E.R.A. — numbers that would earn a 20-something free agent pitcher millions of dollars in today's market.

## Quite a journey

Zepp's path to the Majors began on the sandlots of the west side of Detroit where he was touted as one of the hardest-throwing high school pitchers around in the early '60s.

"There weren't any radar guns around back then, but if I had to guess, I'd say my fastball hit 92, 93," Zepp reflected.

The 6-foot-3, 185-pound flame-thrower helped lead Redford to the 1964 Detroit

Please see ZEPPE, B2

## SIDELINES

## EMU standouts

A pair of PCEP graduates excelled for the host school at Saturday's Eastern Michigan University, which was held on the Bob Parks Track.

Canton graduate Brad Waidmann turned in a stellar performance, placing third in the high jump (6 feet, 4.25 inches) and 12th in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.73 seconds.

Salem grad Brittany Lockhart shined for the EMU women's team as she placed second in the triple jump (38-4.75); fourth in the 60-meter hurdles (9.22) and fifth in the high jump (5-2.25).

## Hockey benefit

Plymouth Canton Hockey Association coaches will be hosting a benefit hockey game that will feature the Junior A Ice Dogs and the Jr. St. Louis Blues on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The coaches will have a pre-game from 6-7 p.m. The event will raise funds for Daniel Zagon, a 3-year-old boy who was diagnosed with autism last year. His family's insurance does not cover the cost of the extensive therapy he is undergoing.

There will also be a silent raffle along with additional raffles during the evening.

For more information, contact PCHA spokesperson Kathy Barile at (734) 453-6579.

## PCS girls lacrosse

Informational meetings will be held for parents and high school girls interested in playing lacrosse this coming spring on Jan. 24 and Feb. 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The meetings will be held in the Canton High School library, not in the cafeteria as was the original plan. The PCS Lady Warriors will field both varsity and junior varsity teams this season.

Tryouts will be held at East Middle School March 10-14 from 5:30-7 p.m. Students must attend all five tryouts to make the team.

For more information visit [www.pcs-lady-warriors.com](http://www.pcs-lady-warriors.com).

## Salem baseball clinic

The 2008 edition of the annual Salem Baseball Clinic will be held March 22 and April 5 in the Salem gymnasium.

The \$25 fee includes hours of instruction from the Salem coaching staff and the varsity team members; a snack and a T-shirt.

The camps will be broken up into four sessions:

#1 - 11-15 year olds,

March 22, 9 a.m. to noon;

#2 - 7-10 year olds,

March 22 1-4 p.m.;

#3 - 7-10 year olds,

April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

#4 - 7-10 year olds,

April 5 from 1-4 p.m.

Space is limited to 75 participants per session. For more information contact Cathy Posler at [Posler5@gmail.com](mailto:Posler5@gmail.com) or (734) 451-0761.





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**2nd Place** **\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE** (Not interchangeable)

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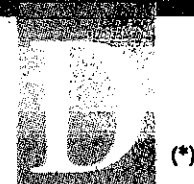












A small sampling of the all natural soaps created by The Great Lakes Natural Soap Company.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Remember vintage '07

Up and down the state of California, vintners are praising the high quality of the 2007 wine grape harvest.

Since wine quality is determined in the vineyard, it's not too early to begin to assess what's coming down the pike from the state that accounts for two-thirds of all wine sold in the United States. Additionally, according to a Gombert-Fredrikson report, California reached another all-time high in 2006 with a retail value of its wines realizing \$17.8 billion.

### WHAT MAKES A GREAT VINTAGE?

Each great vintage has elements that make it great. Broadly throughout California in 2007, a mild winter with below normal rainfall, coupled with a dry spring, led to early bud break. Although cluster counts were high in most locations, a sparse berry set in spring resulted in loose grape bunches (which helps keep disease pressures low). Additionally, berries were small, smaller than many vintners have seen in more than 10 years. This creates a greater skin to juice ratio and enhances quality because grapes develop intense varietal flavors, and particularly for red wines, rich, mouth-filling tannins.

Winemaker Ted Seghesio, of Seghesio Family Vineyards in Sonoma County, noted a crop smaller than previous vintages. "Overall quality at this point appears to be excellent," Seghesio said. "Deeply colored and dark-fruited young wines possessing balanced acidities promise a successful vintage."

### TWO HARVESTS CALLED ONE

In North Coast California wine regions, a cool, moderate growing season heated up in the latter part of August, causing multiple varieties to ripen at the same time. Winemakers scrambled to pick early-ripening varieties before the sugars got too high and acid levels dropped. If this happens, wines have high alcohols and are fat and flabby in the mouth.

When weather turned cool in the second week of September, harvest went on hold in many locations. Although cooler weather and moderate rainfall affected the entire state, the North Coast witnessed the most significant precipitation, particularly in the first week of October.

Weather pattern change allowed for a slower maturation and flavor development of red varieties, particularly cabernet sauvignon and the

Please see **WINE, D2**

## Natural soaps, Michigan style

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BY LANA MINI  
STAFF WRITER

Sharon Czekala is making a living doing what she loves: celebrating Michigan.

The Canton resident, born and raised in the mitten, has created a business making natural, Michigan-themed soaps and through it discovered the loyalty residents here have for their state.

"Even in the tourist areas where we sell our soaps, many of the sales come from Michigan residents," Czekala said.

Her business, The Great Lakes Natural Soap Company, is based out of her home; an endeavor that allows her to raise a family, yet one that is growing faster than she imagined.

There she handcrafts a line of natural soaps all dedicated to Michigan.

Many are made with herbal ingredients grown in Czekala's own front yard and some are imprinted with images of Michigan wildlife such as elk, ducks, hummingbirds, small mouth bass and dragonflies. Her other soaps have Michigan names, scents and themes.

For example, Mackinac lovers may want to eat, rather than wash with, the soap called Fudge Shoppe which looks and smells like dark chocolate fudge.

Beach-goers might decorate their bathrooms in shades of green and blue and include the soap

Please see **SOAP, D2**



Canton resident Sharon Czekala, owner of The Great Lakes Natural Soap Company, stands with some of the soaps she makes out of her home.

### BATH SOAP BOMB

Make your own all-natural bath bomb:

- 4 tablespoons citric acid
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 4 tablespoons coconut or almond oil
- 1/2 teaspoons essential oil (such as eucalyptus, lavender, mango)

Sift dry ingredients into a bowl. Mix well with wire whisk. Put bottle of oil in warm water to melt oil.

Slowly add oil to dry ingredients, then add fragrance and blend.

Scoop mixture by teaspoons and shape into balls, rest them on a sheet of waxed paper for three hours. Gently reshape if needed.

Or press into fun shaped molds, place in freezer until hard, then remove from mold.

Let the soap dry and harden for 24 to 48 hours.

They are fragile so gently package each shape in its own cellophane bag or closed container to keep fresh.

To use, drop one bomb into warm bath water to release fragrance and oils.

Source: [www.alabu.com](http://www.alabu.com)



Great Lakes Natural Soap Company owner Sharon Czekala of Canton works on a new batch of all natural soap.

## Fighting junk e-mail requires time and diligence

A recent report issued by Google claims that spam — junk e-mail — is on the decline. My inbox begs to differ.

I receive hundreds of junk messages every day. However, until recently, very few of them actually ended up in my e-mail program, Outlook Express.

That's because I subscribed to SpamArrest ([spamarrest.com](http://spamarrest.com)), a filtering service that intercepts spam before it reaches my PC.

When the time came to renew, however, I balked at the \$44.95 annual fee. After all, we live in the age of Gmail. Surely I could find a free alternative that would be just as effective at stopping spam.

For instance: Gmail. I already have an account I use for various purposes, like subscribing to newsletters and inviting column readers to contact me.

As it happens, Gmail provides fantastic spam filtering. When I retrieve my messages in Outlook Express, I rarely see any junk.

The problem lies with my personal domain (Broida.com), which I use as my primary mail account. Without SpamArrest standing guard, there's nothing to stem the tide of Viagra come-ons and PayPal scams.

If only I could leverage Gmail's spam filtering for my domain. Guess what: I can! Gmail can fetch mail from up to five other accounts, and it applies the same anti-spam expertise: Junk messages automatically land in the online Spam folder, where I can review them just in case a

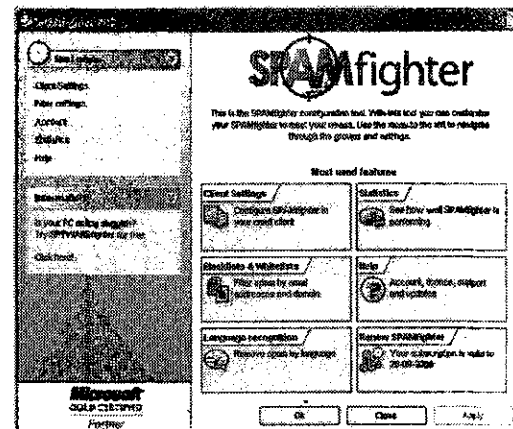
legitimate message gets caught in the net.

Meanwhile, I can retrieve mail in Outlook Express just like always, except now everything filters through my Gmail account. And therein lies a wrinkle: There's no longer any way to distinguish between Gmail mail and Broida.com mail. Everything appears to have come by way of Gmail.

To be honest, I haven't figured out a solution to this yet. (Any Gmail experts out there will undoubtedly suggest an IMAP setup, but I've tried that and it's just not for me.) In the meantime, I'm investigating other spam-fighting options.

For a few weeks I tried shifting to Thunderbird ([mozilla.com/thunderbird](http://mozilla.com/thunderbird)), an e-mail program

Please see **TECH SAVVY, D2**



SpamFighter integrates with Outlook, Outlook Express, and Windows Mail to provide robust spam filtering, but it'll cost you \$29 annually.



**Tech Savvy**  
Rick Broida

# SOAP

FROM PAGE D1

Bluewaters — a translucent bar made to look like the blue-green waters of our Great Lakes, with a beach-like scent. Wine-drinkers might be amused by Leelanau Wine Country soaps that are deep purple in color and scented like a vineyard. And, anyone who has been 'Up North' in the spring — to smell the lilacs and cherry blossoms — might enjoy

the purple Lilac Profusion and the pink Traverse City Cherry Blossom. "The soaps are very popular in states like Florida and Arizona where a lot of Michiganders have retired to or have second homes," Czekala said. The soaps can be purchased online or at variety of specialty shops in the tri-county area. "Many of our products are designed for specific purposes and offer a more natural

approach to skin care than their synthetic counterparts," Czekala said. "We use natural ingredients and skin-friendly botanicals to enrich our products and add texture, color and aroma." The next plan for the Czekala is to expand the company beyond Michigan's theme. Imagine orange scents and manatee shaped soaps for Florida, or perhaps prickly pear shapes in deep pink shades to represent the state of

Arizona. However at least for the moment, her attention is still on Michigan, where she is enhancing homes with soapy scents of trillium and also expanding a pet soap line that uses essential oils of lavender, eucalyptus, cedar wood and tea tree oil that are said to help repel mosquitoes and fleas from animals. There's a lot to celebrate right here at home, Czekala said.

# WINE

FROM PAGE D1

other major Bordeaux varieties. Moderate rainfall does not affect the thicker skins of these grape varieties. Winemakers waited for the "second harvest" which ended about Oct. 25. Overall, winemakers are facing high quality but a quantity reduced 10 to 15 percent below average. The bottom line is always about supply and demand. Lower wine grape tonnage in 2007 will have an eventual tightening effect on the market. Yet, price impacts are not based on a single vintage. For now, there's an abundant supply of wine in the pipeline from the larger-than-normal but very good 2005 vintage.

**MICHIGAN 2007 HARVEST**  
"If a timely harvest was made in 2007, white wines (chardonnay, pinot gris and pinot blanc) from the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas will be exceptional," said Black Star Farms winemaker Lee Lutes. He's also excited about the progress of red wines, particularly pinot noir and cabernet franc. "Most whites were picked early to retain good acidity and produce a recognizable Michigan style," Lutes said. The wines are balanced with clean fruit and well developed flavors. Black Star Farms barrel fermented chardonnay will be stellar with a fairly lean, Burgundian profile and balanced notes of French oak. The pinot gris is showing full palate expression while the pinot blanc is rich and pretty following a long cool fermentation.

"Compared to 2006, pinot noir crop load was down as we've learned to manage the number of tons per acre better. We experienced developed flavor with a deep profile and a bit more concentration. Cabernet franc is also very good, nicely integrated with mature tannins. My big surprise was the 2007 merlot. In the past we were concerned about winter hardiness, but this year we had advanced ripening with great flavor development."

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the "Observer & Eccentric Newspapers." Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

# WINE PICKS

- Best Chardonnay Under \$20**  
2006 Meridian Santa Barbara County \$10  
2006 Concannon Central Coast Selected Vineyard \$10  
2006 Oak Knoll Oregon Unoaked \$10  
2006 Rodney Strong Sonoma County \$14  
2006 Sebastiani Sonoma County \$15  
2005 Newton Red Label \$18
- Best Chardonnay Over \$20**  
2006 Lucas & Lewellen Goodchild Vineyard \$22  
2005 Ferrari Carano Tre Terre \$34  
2005 Arrowood Sonoma County \$35  
2005 Patz & Hall Durell Vineyard \$44  
2005 Patz & Hall Hyde Vineyard \$55
- Best Pinot Noir Under \$35**  
2006 Sebastiani Sonoma Coast \$18  
2005 Lucas & Lewellen Hilltop \$26  
2006 Argyle Willamette Valley \$26  
2005 Logan \$30  
2005 MacRostie Carneros \$30
- Best Pinot Noir Over \$35**  
2006 J. Lohr Fog's Reach Vineyard \$35  
2005 Argyle Reserve \$37  
2004 Sonoma Coast Vineyards \$57 (oakier style)  
2005 Patz & Hall Hyde Vineyard \$60  
2005 Argyle Spirit House \$72  
2005 Patz & Hall Pisoni Vineyard \$80
- Fireside Sips: Warre's Warrior \$17, a reserve Port wine blended from a selection of wines sourced from Warre's quintas (vineyards) is ready for immediate drinking and does not need decanting. It's delicious with a variety of medium to hard cheeses and mixed nuts. Warre's Otima 20 Year Old Tawny Port (\$43/500mL) is a step up in style and character and addictive with dark chocolate.
- If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor, or if it's a domestic wine, order it direct from the winery.

# TECH SAVVY

FROM PAGE D1

from the makers of Firefox. It's similar to Outlook Express but includes built-in spam filtering (and a killer mail-search feature). Unfortunately, it's a bit complicated for the average user, and after 10 days of letting it "learn" what I consider to be junk, it still managed to

filter only about two-thirds of the spam. All the rest I had to delete manually. I've also looked at anti-spam utilities like MailWasher (mailwasher.net) and SpamFighter Pro (spamfighter.com). The former works quite well, but it's a standalone program that you have to run prior to loading your e-mail client. Not for me. As for SpamFighter Pro, it integrates directly with Outlook Express and does an

excellent job junking the junk mail. But it costs \$29 per year, and I'm looking for free. On second thought, maybe free just isn't an option in the fight against spam. Maybe I should pony up the \$29 or \$45 and call it a day. After all, what's a few bucks in exchange for a spam-free inbox? Very worthwhile, if you ask me. What method(s) do you employ to keep junk mail at bay? Have you found a free

solution that works? E-mail me at the address below and I promise you won't end up in my spam folder. Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

# HOME CALENDAR

If you have an item for the home calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

**Green Design Workshop**  
Learn about sustainable 'green' remodeling and building materials as The Community House hosts Green Design: Remodeling Our Homes and Our Future 7-9 p.m. tonight. Instructor Debra Christy-Merriman, interior designer and owner of "Wake Up Your Space," will share how and where to find products and materials that have the lowest negative impact on our planet. The Community House is

located at 380 South Bates Street in Birmingham. Call (248) 644-5832, or visit www.communityhouse.com.

**Get Organized Event**  
January is GO (Get Organized) Month and to celebrate the NAPO-SE-MI chapter is partnering with IKEA from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Jan. 25 for a daylong event to raise awareness of the benefits of being organized. See demonstrations throughout the day and attend informative sessions on organizing principals. This event is free. For more information visit www.napomichigan.com or call Betty Huotari at (810)348-1772.

**PLYMOUTH WHALERS VS LONDON KNIGHTS**  
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**automatic transmission service**  
Change up to five quarts of automatic transmission/transaxle fluid. Inspect and lubricate linkage and controls (where applicable). Road test. Offer valid on most vehicles. Disposal fee extra, if applicable.

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Award recipients will be honored on May 8, 2008.

Friends and colleagues are invited to nominate an exceptional nurse who has put forth much of their time and effort in assisting the needs of others.

Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee and the Dean of the School of Nursing, Linda Thompson Adams.

Nominations must be received by February 1, 2008.

For more information, please visit

[www2.oakland.edu/nursing/nightingale.cfm](http://www2.oakland.edu/nursing/nightingale.cfm)

or contact Amy Holloway at (248) 370-3799

or [hollowa2@oakland.edu](mailto:hollowa2@oakland.edu)



