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Kim Larrow has been missing since 1981, when she was 15 years old.

Police digging for new clues in girl's 1981 disappearance

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Where is Kim Marie Larrow? It's a question Robert Cooper has asked himself a million times since his cousin's disappearance and he's no closer to the answer now than when she was last seen 27 years ago.

"The worst part is that this has always been hush-hush," said Cooper, a retired police officer.

"I have been told to mind my own business, but I know I'm doing the right thing. I'll never drop this because Kim could be in a shallow grave somewhere. It's like nobody cares — I almost cry thinking about it."

GONE WITHOUT A TRACE

The year was 1981 and the hot June sun beamed down over Canton.

Kim, a cute, rebellious 15-year-old who never stayed in one place for long, had recently packed her bags and left her father's Dundee home and made her way to the township to spend the summer at her

mother's Beaufort Drive residence.

She hadn't been in Canton for more than a week before she vanished from Stroh's Ice Cream Parlor on Sheldon Road.

No one in her family has seen or heard from her since then.

"There is always the possibility that she is existing somewhere else under the

radar, but we just don't know," said Canton police Sgt. Rick Pomorski. "We don't know if she is alive, if she succumbed to an illness or if she met her death by criminal means. It's very hard to trace her."

At the prompting of Cooper and other relatives, including

Please see **CLUES, A2**

Crews begin dismantling historic home for its move

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A window here, a kitchen sink there and a bathtub covered in debris and dust — Melissa McLaughlin had one word to describe the scene: chaos.

"It looks bad right now but there is always darkness before the light," McLaughlin said of the disassembling of the Hugh Clyde historical home at 425 N. Ridge Road.

The two-story home, which will be moved and reassembled alongside Canton's Bartlett-Travis House in Cherry Hill Village, has sat largely hidden by evergreens just west of the Ridge/Roanoke intersection.

As motorists zoomed by the property Thursday, a small group of men kept the sound of snapping wood in the air by taking crowbars to the exterior of the aged home.

"It's been excellent and we're making good progress," said Pennfield Construction owner Robert Babbitt of the project, which began Wednesday morning. "We're trying to save as much of the original frame as possible."

The renovation of the home, which is believed to be among the oldest in Wayne County, is being spearheaded by the

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think public funds should be used to move and restore the historic Hugh Clyde house? Either e-mail your thoughts to editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

Canton Historic District Commission.

After easily rolling out facts about Hugh Clyde and his wife's family, the Houstons, McLaughlin, the commission's vice chair, said she understands that some will question the merit of the preservation, but said it needed to be done.

"This home is among the oldest in Wayne County. The Houstons were a driving force behind development in Canton and, before he died, Hugh Clyde had started to subdivide areas into becoming a village," said McLaughlin, who lives in a historic Houston home.

The first phase of the project, which includes the disassemble, move and reassemble of the 700-square-foot home, is tagged at more than \$100,000.

Please see **HOME, A8**



The original frame of the building will be saved. Robert Babbitt works on the deconstruction.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The family of murder defendant Jean Pierre Orlewicz waited for the verdict then, through their attorney, vowed to appeal their son's conviction.

After trial, families try to move on

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They faithfully wore their Detroit Red Wing jackets as the Wings began the hockey playoffs. They followed the progress of *American Idol*, including one of their picks, crowd favorite David Archuleta.

But for Jim and Kim Sorensen of Westland, nothing took the trial of Jean Pierre Orlewicz very far from their consciousness. Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township was convicted Wednesday of killing the Sorensens' 26-year-old son, Daniel. By Michigan law, he'll spend the rest of his life in prison following his May 12 sentencing.

But there is no Michigan law for how the Sorensens move on, though they know they have to. But it isn't easy.

"From the moment I wake up until I kiss Dan's picture when I go to bed, this has been the focus," Kimberly Sorensen said. "(The trial) has been the total focus."

In addition to providing justice for the victim, Orlewicz's trial was also a way for friends of Sorensen to start to close the wound.

Jennifer Palmer of Livonia was away taking care of personal business when she got the word Sorensen had been killed. She said the trial was cathartic.

"When Dan died ... I wasn't around," Palmer said. "It means a lot to everyone in his whole family that he gets some kind of justice. This is my personal closure."

Kim and Jim Sorensen were quick to point out in the immediate aftermath of the trial they weren't the only family in pain following the conclusion of the trial. Pete and Diane Letkemann of Westland will watch their son,

Please see **TRIAL, A4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The view from Margaritaville

Sarith Ciatti's glasses fit the Margaritaville theme during the Canton Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner auction April 11 at Burton Manor in Livonia. The annual auction is one of the chamber's main fund-raisers. For more photos and a story, please see page A3.

Slavens vs. LaJoy part II

This time its wife vs. son
for state House seat

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Unlike her husband, Dian Slavens has never run for public office before. But that hasn't deterred her from deciding to make her first foray into the world of elective politics.

Slavens, the wife of Wayne County Circuit Court judge and former Plymouth-Canton school board member Mark Slavens, is taking on Todd LaJoy to represent state House District 21, which includes most of Canton, Belleville, and Van Buren Township.

"I just think we need some change in Lansing," Dian Slavens said. "Now that I'm a grandmother, I think we need a brighter future. Lansing is ready for a change."

Six years ago, Mark Slavens ran against Phil LaJoy, Todd's father, for the same seat. Slavens lost to LaJoy by nine percentage points (53 percent to 44 percent). LaJoy is still in office, though he is term limited (and running for Canton supervisor).

Dian Slavens, 50, is a resident of Canton. She works as a respiratory therapist at Henry Ford Hospital.

Slavens said she made her decision to run because up to now LaJoy, a Republican who is a member of the Canton Board of Trustees, is running unopposed.

"No Democrat was stepping up to the plate, so I said I will," Slavens said.

Slavens said she is the process of forming a committee so she can begin raising funds for the campaign. She will have a ways to go to catch up with LaJoy, who has already raised close to \$30,000 for the campaign.

According to recently released campaign finance records, LaJoy reports that he has raised \$29,225. Most of that money — \$25,000 — is his own. He also received \$1,000 from the Michigan Bankers Association political action committee and \$250 from the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association political action committee, which represents road builders.

"At this point in the race, that's a lot of money," said Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a Lansing-based group that monitors campaign contributions.

Robinson estimated it would take close to \$100,000 to win the race.

"In 2006, the average amount raised by winning candidates was \$95,000. Open seats tend to be more competitive and more expensive," he said.

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Coming Thursday
in **fill or**



Cindy Williams
stars in
'Nunsense'

CLUES

FROM PAGE A1

Kim's aunt Rosemary Kunges of Kentucky, the Canton Police Department is taking another look at Kim's disappearance.

Pomorski said the investigation centers around the assumption that Kim is a missing person and not a homicide victim.

"It's slow-going because she had no driver's license and no social security number," he said, adding that if Kim is still alive, she could have changed her name.

Cooper said he knows the police are facing a tough battle in digging up new information.

"This is the true definition of a cold case," he said. "It doesn't get much colder than this."

A TROUBLED LIFE

With her mother, Lucy Larrow, divorced from her father, Arnold Larrow, Kim was often shuttled between their two homes and soon took advantage of her mother's lenient parenting style.

In an newspaper interview from 1984, Lucy Larrow said, "I wasn't a big disciplinarian. I always told my kids you don't have to do anything you don't want to; it's a democracy, after all."

Cooper, who hasn't spoken to Lucy Larrow since 1984 and said their relationship is strained, says Kim took her mother's words to heart.

"She came to live with my family in Milan when she was about 12 or 13," he said. "She was a rebel. She used drugs and did not listen to authority. She wasn't a model kid, but she was still a sweet kid."

After leaving Milan, Cooper said Kim began a pattern of running away.

According to a supplemental report attached to the original police report, Canton police documented that the teenager ran away from her mother's home twice in 1979 and once in 1980.

In her 1984 interview, Lucy Larrow smiled when recalling the time Kim left home and hitchhiked unannounced to Florida with a friend.

"I remember getting calls several times that Kim ran

away again," Cooper said. "She ran with a tough group."

Kunges, a former Trenton resident who calls her niece by her first and middle name, said she was able to look past Kim's defiant behavior and saw a child in pain.

"Just before she disappeared, I had a minute to talk with her and I could tell that she was not happy," she said. "I let her know that she could always call her Aunt Rosie and she said, 'I know.' I think she was just curled up within herself and didn't know which way to turn."

HANGING ON TO HOPE

With Lucy Larrow now living in Arizona, Cooper said the last time he spoke with her, he was told to "drop this."

"I understand she may want to move on but if my daughter went missing, every day of my life would be devoted to finding her," he said. "We have to at least try to find her."

During the resurgence of the investigation, which has been picked up as a project by the University of North Texas, Pomorski said detectives have spoken with Lucy Larrow on a couple of occasions.

With so many years gone by since Kim was spotted, Cooper said he doesn't know if she is still alive but thinks that anything is possible.

"If we find this little girl, well, she wouldn't be a little girl anymore," he paused. "That would be so cool. What a wonderful (thing) if we did find her."

Kunges said it took her a long time to come to grips that Kim may not be alive.

"If I see a blonde, I always look," she said. "But I'm rational about it now, I just want closure. It's hard for me to admit it because Kim Marie had enormous potential. She was a loving child who just wanted to please."

Pomorski said he encourages anyone with information about Kim's disappearance to come forward. To contact him, call (734) 394-5423.

"We would love it," Pomorski said. "We are working on this as best as we can and we are keeping an open mind."

tlparks@hometownlife.com

McCotter to speak

The Canton Rotary Club will host U.S. Rep. Thaddus McCotter as a guest speaker at its weekly luncheon at noon, Monday, April 21 at Carrabba's Italian grill 1900 Haggerty Road in Canton. McCotter, who is up for reelection this fall, will be speaking about his efforts on preserving and promoting manufacturing and small business, as well as fighting to reduce taxes and the size and scope of government.

All local citizens and business owners are welcome to lunch -- cost is \$11. For more information, contact the Rotary Club at (734) 844-7400.

Newcomers to meet

Canton Community Relations Police Officer Debra Newsome will discuss community policing, how to avoid being a victim of crime and much more at the Canton Newcomers 7:15 p.m., Wednesday May 7 adult general meeting. Sign up for activities including scrapbooking, bunko, walking, playgroups, ladies night out, couples social and others. Enjoy refreshments from Ginger Restaurant,

meet Arbonne representative Carol Wassner-Amado, and enter a raffle to benefit a local charity.

Order a complimentary newsletter and learn more about this social, civic and charitable organization by visiting www.canton-newcomers.org or calling Donna at (734) 398-6487. This meeting will be held at the Sunflower Clubhouse, at 45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center.

AROUND CANTON

Enjoying the limelight



Canton's Elisabeth Crawford, Miss Michigan USA 2008, had the opportunity to meet with Donny Osmond in Las Vegas during the Miss USA competition last week. Donny and Marie Osmond hosted the 57th annual MISS USA Pageant from the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, which was broadcast live April 11 on NBC. Crawford didn't win but was thrilled with the experience. "Working with Donny and Marie was an exciting and wonderful opportunity and re-inspired me to redouble my efforts to encourage children to eat responsibly to prevent cancer -- a cause close to my heart," Crawford said.

of the Academy; please contact Deborah Comer - Enrollment Coordinator at (734) 394-0357.

ACA is also holding its 5th Annual Spring Auction from 7-9:45 p.m., April 25. Tickets are available by registering with the ACA office at (734) 394-0357 for \$20 per person/\$35 per couple, or alternatively at the door for \$25.

There are numerous items available with bids starting at \$5 in the silent auction, with a live auction finale.

Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages are included in the ticket price.

Chiefettes tryouts

Canton High School Chiefettes Pom Pon teams will hold tryouts Wednesday, May 7, 6-8:30 p.m. (clinic); Thursday, May 8, 6-8:30 p.m. (clinic); Friday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. (clinic and interviews); Saturday, May 10, 10-11 a.m. (check in) and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (tryouts). All meetings will be held at the Phase 3 Building at Canton High School.

For more information, students should check in their school office.

Agape Christian event

Agape Christian Academy (ACA) is inviting the public to its Spring Open House on campus Friday April 25, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Agape, which is located at 45081 Geddes Road, Canton (between Canton Center and Sheldon), is currently accepting applications for the 2008/2009 school year.

For more information or to set up a private tour

Hindu Temple, Oakwood on agenda this week

Canton Board of Trustees

The board will meet at 7 p.m., April 22 at Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

Public hearing for cherry hill orchard subdivision request to create street light special assessment district.

Public hearing for JLM Restaurant, Inc. requesting to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2007 class c liquor licensed business, with Sunday sales permit, outdoor service and official permit for Nan Inc. located at 6600 N. Canton Center Road.

Public hearing on the assessment roll for the Copper Creek special assessment district. Consider Huntington Bank site plan.

Consider developer instigated revisions for Canton Corner east outlot - site plan for Potbelly restaurant.

Consider special land use request and site plan for the Hindu Temple rebuild.

Consider award of a contract for grass cutting and noxious weed cutting services to Executive Property Maintenance, Inc. for the 2008.

Rouge River trail trees - River Day 2008.

Consider the purchase of 2008 Expedition for fire marshal.

First reading of the indoor pet boarding facility ordinance, chapter 18 of the code of ordinances.

Approval of price quote

for windows for historic Clyde house.

Approve the budget adjustment for the recreation budget - therapeutic recreation.

Fellows creek golf club improvements.

Approve agreement for the golf professional at Pheasant Run.

Canton Planning Commission

The planning commission will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 21, on the first floor of Canton's Administration Building. Items on the agenda include:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Cherry Hill Village Market Place: Consider minor Planned Development District, site plan and site plan modification. Property is located south of Cherry Hill Road and east of Independence Street.

Canton Friendship Church rezoning: Consider rezoning request from RR, Rural Residential, to R-3, Single-Family Residential. Property is located north of Saltz Road and east of Beck Road.

Oakwood Canton medical campus planned development: Consider preliminary PDD. Property is located on the west side of Beck Road, north of Michigan Avenue.

Plymouth-Canton School Board

The Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education on Tuesday will discuss the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park renewal project. After the regular meeting, the board will begin a workshop session on the 2008-09 budget. The board meets at 7 p.m. at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

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 Saturday April 19 10:00 am

DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL 2008: THE COUNTDOWN
 Thursday April 24 7:30 pm

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R)
 11:10, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
 FRI/SAT LS 11:50

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13)
 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

EXPULSED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG)
 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

STREET KINGS (R)
 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

LEATHERHEADS (PG-13)
 FRIDAY-WED 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
 SAT/SUN 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

FRI/SAT LS 11:40 TH 11:10, 1:40, 4:10

NUM'S ISLAND (PG)
 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

THE NUMS (R) FRI/SAT LS 11:45

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Parrothead' Bob Boyer would have fit right in at a Jimmy Buffett concert. At right, Scott LaRiche selects a lei from Mary Wood. It looks like Dr. Michael Brannan approves.



Chamber auction goes tropical

Was it the grass skirts or perhaps the endless supply of leis floating around?

Either way, the Canton Chamber of Commerce's venture to Margaritaville for its annual dinner auction was well received according to organizers.

"People had fun, fun, fun," said Chamber President Diane Cojei. "It was a fantastic night and considering the economy we did very well."

Cojei said she doesn't know the exact amount of money raised for the chamber but said ticket sales were up this year. The theme for this year's event was Margaritaville, a play on the Jimmy Buffett song.

"Even the employees (at Burton Manor) had fun," she said. "People are already saying they want to work the event next year."

The annual auction, which

is one the chamber's biggest fund-raisers, included a prize vacation to Hawaii.

"I have not heard one negative comment about the event," Cojei said. "It was great."

Tiffany L. Parks

At right, Terry Jobbit went for the grass skirt look.



CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Earth Day open house

Mechanical Energy Systems, located at 8130 Canton Center Road, two blocks south of Joy in Canton, will be hosting an Earth Day Open House on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free and will give attendees the opportunity to "see, touch and feel" solar energy and learn how it works.

Involved in the solar industry for more than 27 years, owners Joe and Donna Napolitano have been working hard to educate Michigan residents and businesses about the many benefits of solar technology. Their working showroom features a Solatube Natural Daylighting System, a solar hot water heating system, a solar thermal space heating system and a solar powered attic fan. Other solar and alternative energy applications will also be on display, including a wind turbine. Information regarding federal tax credits will also be provided. For more information regarding solar energy options, please visit www.by-solar.com, or call (734) 453-6746.

New Aldi to open

A 19,000-square-foot Aldi discount grocery store will open in the Canton Shopping Center at the intersection of Ford and Lilly roads, sometime this month, according to the center's owner and property manager, Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc.

In connection with the new Aldi store, Broder & Sachse plans a multi-million dollar renovation of the center - including

a completely new facade and streetscape improvements, says John Humberger, Broder & Sachse vice president - director of real estate services.

Aldi is leasing the former Sears Hardware store that closed in 2006. Other shopping center tenants include bd's Mongolian Barbeque, Chuck E. Cheese and Play It Again Sports.

Administrator honored

Leslie Rowe of Canton has been chosen by Eastern Michigan University Health Administration Program, a division of the School of Health Services, as a Distinguished Alumna of the Year. Rowe is the Assistant Executive Director at Henry Ford Village, a full service retirement community in Dearborn.

Rowe has held the position of assistant executive director since September of 2007. Prior to her appointment, she was the administrator at Renaissance Gardens, the health care facility at Henry Ford Village from March of 2005. Rowe joined the Henry Ford Village team as manager of Home Support Services in January of 2001.

Rowe received her Bachelor of Science in Health Administration at EMU. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Quality Management from Eastern Michigan University's College of Technology. She is also a licensed nursing home administrator.

Rowe received her award at an annual event which recognizes the College's Distinguished Alumni.

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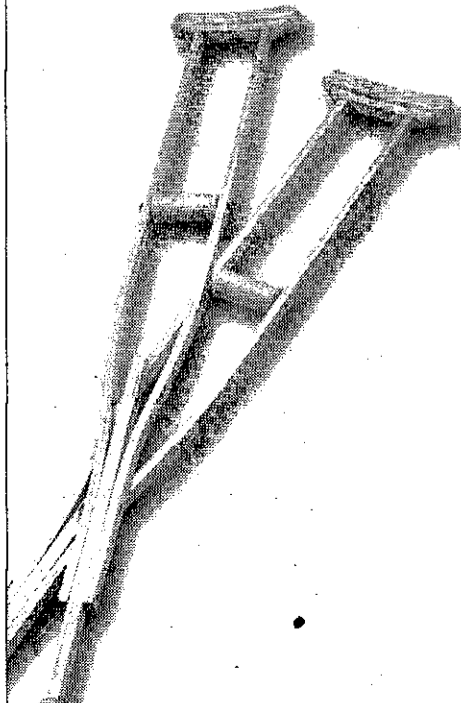


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Accomplice set for sentencing

TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While Jean Pierre Orlewicz found out his fate Wednesday, Alexander Letkemann won't know his for a few more days.

When a Wayne County Circuit Court jury found Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township guilty of first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse, it meant a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole when he's sentenced May 12.

Alexander Letkemann, on the other hand, still has to wait out Judge Annette Berry's decision. The 18-year-old from

Westland, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen, got a deal from the Wayne County prosecutor, who agreed to a sentence recommendation of 20-30 years.

Letkemann's sentencing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday in Berry's courtroom in Wayne County Circuit Court. The deal came in exchange for Letkemann's testimony against Orlewicz.

"I talked to Alex (Thursday), and he's doing well," said Raymond Cassar, Letkemann's attorney. "He told me right from the beginning he wanted to make this right, and that's



Alexander Letkemann of Westland, a former Livonia Churchill student, describes the killing of Daniel Sorensen during testimony in Wayne County Circuit Court Wednesday.

Alexander, be sentenced to 20-30 years in prison for his role in Sorensen's killing, and William and Charlotte Orlewicz will see Jean Pierre be remanded to the state's custody for the rest of his life May 12.

"We lost a son, but for the rest of his life, the Orlewicz have lost the companionship of their son, too," said Kim Sorensen. "We hope the community remembers them in their prayers, too."

The Orlewicz family has declined to comment throughout the case. Orlewicz's attorney, James Thomas, said following the trial his client would appeal.

There will be no such appeal for Alexander Letkemann, the 18-year-old former Livonia Churchill High School student, following his April 1 guilty plea to second-degree murder. It was Letkemann's chilling description of the murder that ultimately convinced jurors to convict Orlewicz.

Letkemann's role in the trial



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

While James and Kimberley Sorensen of Westland are glad their murdered son, Daniel, received justice, they feel for the families of the two teens going to prison for his murder.

drew praise from a surprising source: the victim's father.

"Please understand that I have anger toward Alex," James Sorensen said. "That being said, I'm very proud of Alex. He stood up like a man and took responsibility for his actions."

For Letkemann, the trial was but a subplot on the rest of his life. His parents said they paid some attention to the trial, but remain focused on their own son. Pete Letkemann, who called the Sorensens "amazing people," said his son always wanted to "tell the truth."

"We love Alex and we believe, as does Alex, that his testifying was the right thing to do," Pete Letkemann said. "I don't mean the right thing to do for Alex, but the right thing to do, period."

The elder Letkemann said his son is anxious to get Wednesday's sentencing hearing behind him so he can move on and rebuild his life from prison. Alex Letkemann, who amused observers during his testimony by describing himself as a "beatnik," has an interest in music.

"This is his chance for redemption," Pete Letkemann

APPEALING THE VERDICT

James Thomas, the lawyer for convicted killer Jean Pierre Orlewicz, said he'll appeal Wednesday's guilty verdict.

Orlewicz, 18, was convicted of first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse. He faces a life sentence without possibility of parole when he's sentenced May 12.

Thomas said he'll appeal based on Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry's decision to keep out evidence of victim Daniel Sorensen's criminal past, including personal protection orders taken out against him by four individuals.

Thomas spent much of the trial, trying to paint Sorensen as a violent bully, and said those PPOs would have substantiated that claim.

said. "He wants a second chance."

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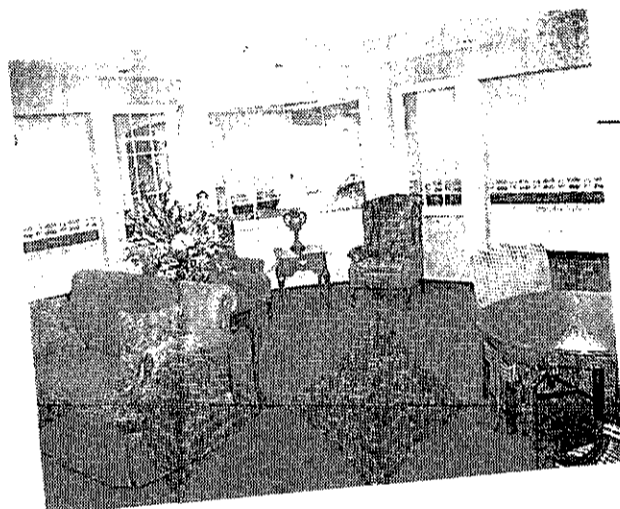


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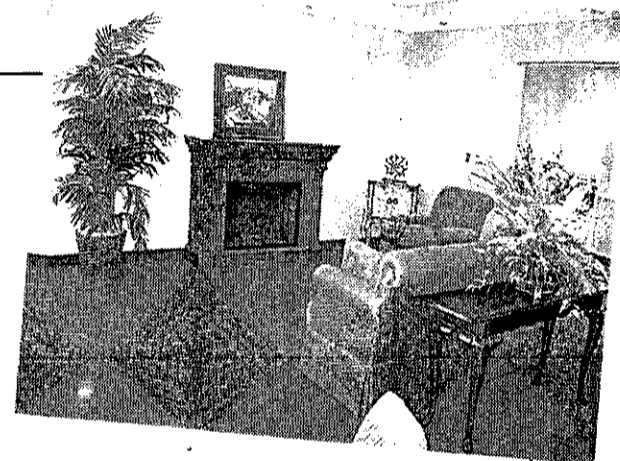
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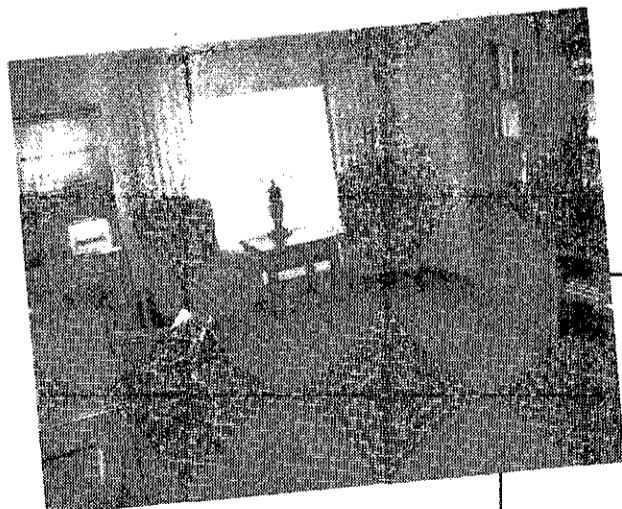
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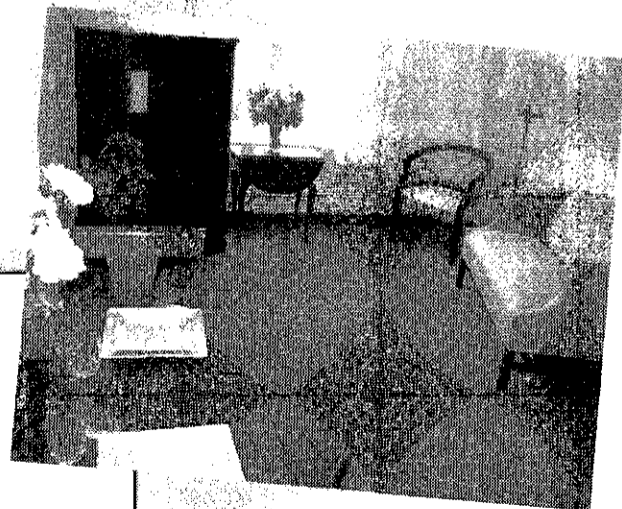
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'... A view of the bay'

Veteran police officer trades city lights for small town life

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After investigating murders, robberies, home invasions, violent assaults and other brutal crimes, Westland police Sgt. David Heater is ready for a slower-paced life.

"I've been going at 90 mph for years," he said. Heater, a Canton resident, left his big-city detective job Friday to become a small-town cop in tiny Harbor Springs, a picturesque place up North that hasn't had a homicide in almost 50 years. He starts his new assignment Monday.

"Westland's loss certainly is Harbor Springs' gain," Westland Police Chief James Ridener said. "They definitely hit a home run

with Dave."

Heater's departure will leave Westland without a polygraph expert, forcing local authorities to rely on other communities. Humble though he seems, Heater is a thinking man's detective.

He grew up in Lansing, the son of a father, William, who was a psychology professor, college administrator and minister, and a mother, Mary Ellen, who had a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan. They didn't want him to become a police officer. They had loftier goals for him.

Heater, 44, studied photojournalism and received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He also earned a master's degree in liberal studies from

Eastern Michigan University. Still, his heart tugged him toward police work, and he eventually enrolled in the same Lansing police academy as his then-new friend, Ridener.

As a student journalist, Heater recalled taking pictures when a local officer was shot dead. He also covered the funeral and won awards for his work, but the story only drew him closer to a career in police work.

Heater's first job in law enforcement came in Westland, where he has cherished his nearly 21-year career. He has worked as a patrol officer, in drug-related special investigations, as a plainclothes officer, as a SWAT team member, as a polygraph expert and as detective bureau sergeant.

unearthed in a Westland backyard, seven years after he was murdered and buried by a homeowner now serving 23-40 years in prison.

Heater also became a leading investigator in Westland's worst massacre on Sept. 11, 2003, when a gunman shot and killed four people and wounded two others at a party store on Newburgh north of Ford. The killer ultimately took his own life, but his female accomplice was convicted at trial and sent to prison for life.

"People often don't realize that detectives are human beings, and we carry this stuff with us," Heater said, adding that the party store massacre "is one of those cases I'll always have in my head."

It's those kinds of cases — and the overwhelming workload that local detectives often face — that has readied Heater for a slower pace, a quieter place where he and his wife of 13 years, Carol, can raise their 8-year-old twin sons, Nathan and Eric. Heater's stepdaughter, high school senior Brittany, will stay behind to attend Schoolcraft College, and his stepson, Mike, will keep his



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland police Sgt. David Heater reflects on his career in Westland before leaving for a small-town job up North.

job in Canton.

NEW HORIZONS

Heater will face major adjustments. He will leave Westland, a city of 86,000 residents, for a town of 1,600 people along the shores of Lake Michigan. He will shift his career focus to duties like issuing traffic tickets, solving petty thefts and settling small disputes between neighbors.

"We're still solving problems," Harbor Springs Police Chief Dan Branson said by telephone. "They're just not murders. They're not robberies. They're not serial rapists."

Heater will patrol Harbor Spring streets, ride a bicycle

through summer festival crowds and maneuver a patrol boat across the shimmering waters of Little Traverse Bay to catch speeders and thwart any potential wrongdoing — not that there is much. On his new job, Heater will even have time to make sure the homes of local folks are locked and secure while they're away on vacations or wintertime getaways.

He will have to adjust to leaving a 100-member police force for a department that employs a chief and four officers.

"Certainly the small-town environment is endearing," he said. "There are few crimes against people. It's a situation where everybody knows everybody else."

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following item:

- Z 08-06 886 N. Mill Non-Use Variance Requested Rear Yard Setback for Lot Split Zoned: MU, Mixed Use Applicant: Dominic Maltese
- Z 08-07 915 Linden Non-Use Variance Requested Front & Rear Yard Setbacks Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Kathleen & Stephen Owsley

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: April 20, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: April 20 & 24, 2008

CITY OF LIVONIA LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Proposals will be received by the City of Livonia-Housing Commission, Michigan as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, through the NAHRO Electronic Procurement System at www.nahro.economicengine.com, at which time said proposals will be publicly announced. The announcement will take place at the Livonia Housing Commission - Newburgh Village, 11999 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI. 48150.

SCOPE OF WORK

For the purchase, delivery and installation of 229 - 30" Free-Standing Electric Ranges for the Newburgh Village and Silver Village senior citizen housing communities. The project is to be funded by the 2007-2008 Newburgh Village operating budget and the 2007-08 Silver Village operating budget.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Specifications and bidding documents will be available on the website beginning Monday, April 21, 2008 at www.nahro.economicengine.com and hard copies of the specification will be available at the Newburgh Village administrative office, 11999 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI. 48150. All proposals are to be submitted via the website address.

The City of Livonia-Housing Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informalities in the bids received. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the Housing Commission.

JAMES M. INGLIS, Housing Director
JACK KIRKSEY, Mayor
CITY OF LIVONIA

Publish: April 20, 2008

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PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 5, 2008, in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

CANTON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT: CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE CANTON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 4.01 (OFF STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS), 6A.09 (EXEMPTION TO SIGN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS), ARTICLE 6A.12 (SIGNS IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS), AMEND SECTIONS 1.03, 6.02, 16.02, 17.02, 21.00 AND 22.00 (INDOOR PET BOARDING FACILITIES) AND CREATE SECTION 2.29 (TEMPORARY PORTABLE STORAGE CONTAINERS)

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S., prior to Thursday, May 1, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: April 20, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA MAY 8, 2008

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Vicki Welty, Steven Johnson, Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

- Joseph and Linda Ringer, 47870 Picadilly Court, Canton, MI 48187 for residential property located at same address, south side of Warren Road between Beck and Ridge Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02, rear yard setback.
Zone R-2
Parcel 029 03 0132 000 (Building)
- 31 Canton Associates LLC, 2025 West Long Lake Road, Suite 104, Troy, MI 48098 for residential properties located at 50810 Mott Road, 5230 Barr Road, and unimproved Mott Road acreage, north of Mott Road, between Barr and Ridge Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02.b, Lot dimensions and proportions, and Article 27.00, Section 27.05.C.5, Approval period.
Zone R-1 and R-4
Parcels 123 99 0004 000; 123 99 0015 000; 123 99 0005 000 (Planning)

Approval of the March 13, 2008 Minutes

All written comments need to be submitted to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Publish: April 20, 2008

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following:

- SITE PLAN APPROVAL:**
SP 08-05 376 S. Harvey Parking Lot Addition Zoned: O-1, Office Applicant: Mike Gladchun
- PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF:**
Recreational Vehicle Parking
- SITE PLAN APPROVAL:**
SP 08-06 605 S. Harvey 2nd Floor Addition Zoned: O-1, Office Applicant: Steven Cupchak & Shale Lapping
- EXTENSION OF PUD APPROVAL**
PUD 08-01 101 S. Union Project Completion Date Extension & Building Revision Zoned: PUD, Planned Unit Development Applicant: Daisy at Plymouth

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: Sunday, April 20, 2008

Women voters enthused about 2008 presidential race

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sally Fedus of Plymouth Township is excited about the possibility of a woman in the Oval Office.

"I am strongly in favor of supporting a woman as president," said Fedus, who retired from the Internal Revenue Service about six years ago. "I think it's long overdue."

She sees U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, the New York Democrat and former first lady, as the first viable woman candidate.

"I'm excited about the possibility of breaking that (gender) barrier. I'm equally excited about breaking the race barrier."

She favors Clinton over U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, the Democrat from Illinois, because she believes Clinton has more experience. "I'm supporting whichever of the Democratic candidates get the nomination," said Fedus. "I would prefer Sen. Clinton. In order to be an effective administrator, I think you need to have some connections."

Fedus has worked on political campaigns in the past, and will become more involved after the Obama-Clinton race is decided. She didn't see the April 16 debate between the two.

"I read the (Detroit) Free Press every morning," said Fedus, who also relies on CNN and MSNBC. She enjoys a lot of political discussions with

friends, which also help to shape her views.

The Iraq war is a major concern for her, "we will hopefully get out of the mess we're in." A national health care policy also ranks high for Fedus: "Of course, the economy is a big issue, too." She's concerned about economic policy going back to the presidency of Ronald Reagan, Reaganomics, and the impact of subsequent Republican administrations on the economy.

Fedus had earlier advocated Obama as a vice president candidate. "Unfortunately, the politics have become a little nasty and they've picked on one another." She'd be pleased to see Clinton and Obama together on a ticket, but acknowledges Clinton likely wouldn't take the No. 2 job.

Fedus would like to see more women and minorities at the polls this year. "I hope that this will stimulate more interest" in voting.

Fedus, vice president for finance for the Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women, supports political candidates with her own money, including Clinton last year. She's supported Gary Peters in his bid against U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, an Oakland County Republican; Fedus has supported financially and voted for GOP candidates with whom she agrees.

Members of Plymouth-Canton AAUW were looking forward to their spring lun-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mickey Edell, a speech and language pathologist for the Plymouth-Canton school district, is state president for the American Association of University Women. She's among women voters taking active roles in this year's election.

cheon April 19, and the chance to both catch up on what's new and discuss politics. State President Mickey Edell of Canton shared her thoughts on the presidential race.

"I am supporting either one of the Democrats who are running," said Edell, a speech and language pathologist in the

Plymouth-Canton schools. "I feel almost equally comfortable with either candidate."

Edell, who works at Hoben Elementary in Canton, likes that Clinton is strong and a seasoned politician. She also likes Obama's "message of change. Frankly, I think a ticket with both of them would

be ideal." She'd like for Clinton to consider the vice president spot.

"There just hasn't been much activity going on," said Edell, who's been active in past political campaigns and has supported candidates financially. She's done work through the Michigan Education Association, her teachers union, and with the Democratic Party.

The war in Iraq concerns Edell. "I think we need to look very closely at the billions of dollars that are being spent." She also lists women's rights, education and affordable health care "so that all people can have access."

Edell relies on TV for news, along with the MEA and National Education Association. She uses the AAUW Web site, which offers voting record information, and also likes discussions "with people who are well-versed."

"I think it's exciting," she said of a woman and black person seeking the top office. "There are so many other countries in the world that have had women leaders."

Edell initially thought women she knows would support Clinton. "I've had the gamut of response," with not all support for Clinton. "Just because she's a woman isn't the deciding factor for women." Edell agreed it's important to get women and young people to vote.

Sharon Belobraidich of Plymouth Township, a retired

Plymouth-Canton elementary teacher, is one of those being courted, the undecided voter. "I don't know," said Belobraidich, vice president for programs for the state AAUW, of her vote. "I really haven't made up my mind. I won't vote Republican because I don't believe in the war. I'm really in a quandary."

Belobraidich will donate money to a candidate if she feels strongly, and has done millage calls, but doesn't consider herself a "political person. I try to listen to what they say. I listen to all kind of different programs" across the political spectrum.

She reads *Time* and *Newsweek*, and other magazines with different slants. Belobraidich listens to debates, and will vote in November, although she's unhappy about Michigan's delegates not being seated at the Democratic convention.

Social Security's future is an issue for her, along with the Middle East. "I think the economy is a mess," said Belobraidich, who liked Mitt Romney's business background when he was in the GOP race.

Terrorism isn't as much of an issue for her ("You educate the children"), but she worries seeing friends lose their homes in Michigan's economy.

"It's just a sadness what's happening in this country because of greed," Belobraidich said.

Forum focuses on '60s civil rights movement

Oakland Community College will present a unique program featuring the memories of children and other relatives of Michigan's civil rights leaders of the 1960s.

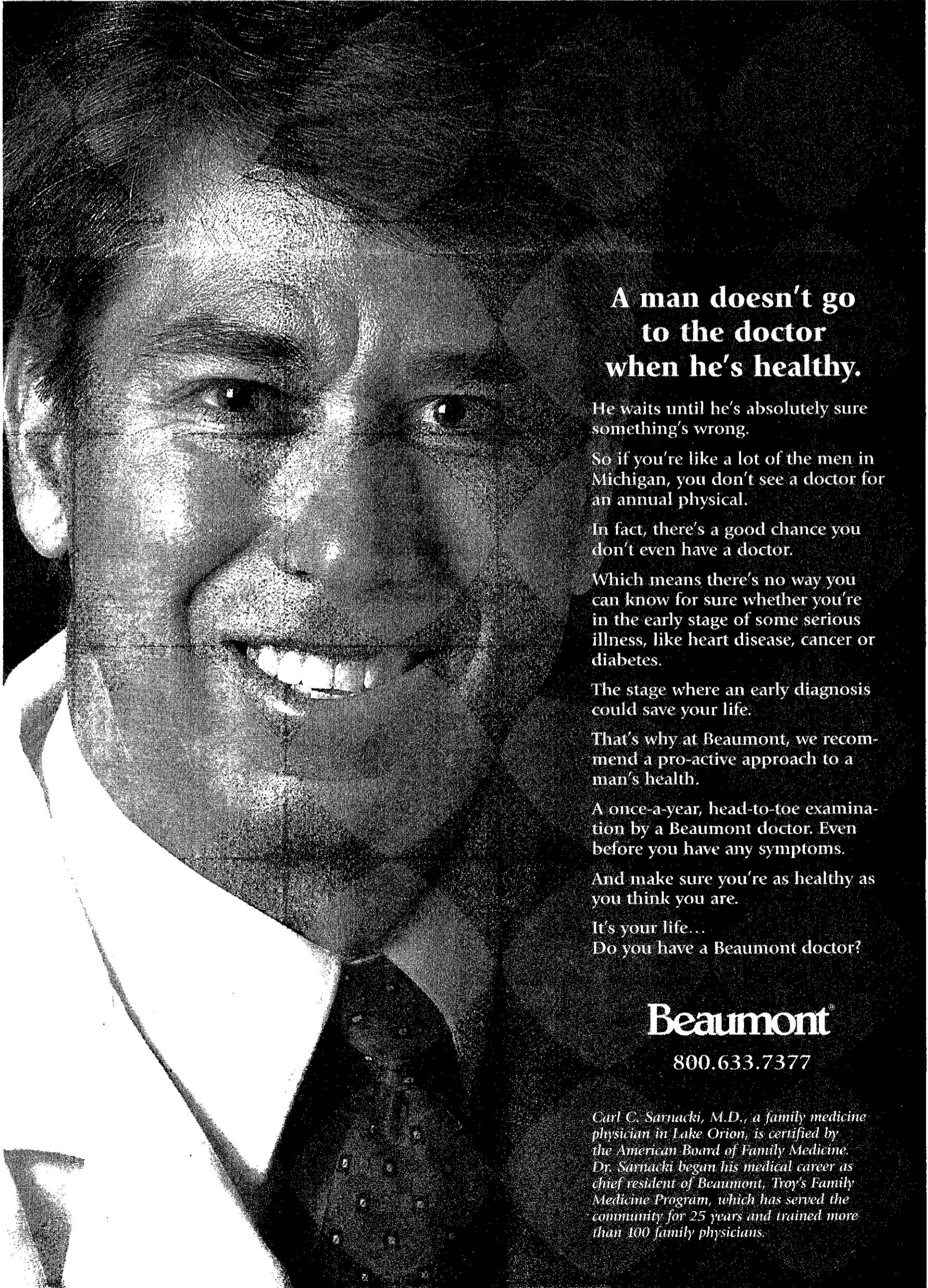
Titled "A Civic Forum" the event will be held in the Smith Theatre of OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Presenters include Detroit City Council President Kenneth Cockrel, Jr., son of the late attorney, broadcaster and journalist Kenneth Cockrel; Dr. Kim Logan-Nowlin, niece of *Michigan Chronicle* publisher Sam Logan; Conrad Mallett, Jr., son of labor leader and educator Dr. Conrad Mallett; and Judge Wade Harper McCree, son of the late Judge Wade Hampton McCree, solicitor general of the United States in the Carter administration.

The presenters will respond to audience questions posed by the program's four facilitators - professors Les Biederman and Peter Stine of the Orchard Ridge Campus faculty, and Drs. Jackie Shadko and Gordon May, presidents of OCC's Orchard Ridge and Highland Lakes campuses, respectively.

For further information call the Orchard Ridge Campus president's office at (248) 522-3900.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Ample free parking is available in nearby campus lots.



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Carl C. Sarnacki, M.D., a family medicine physician in Lake Orion, is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Sarnacki began his medical career as chief resident of Beaumont, Troy's Family Medicine Program, which has served the community for 25 years and trained more than 100 family physicians.

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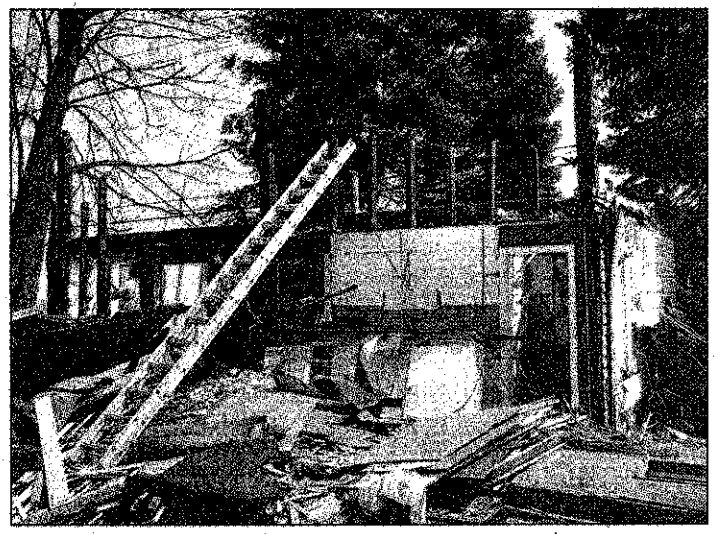
HOME
FROM PAGE A1

Uptown Ridge Investors donated \$29,000 to the venture while the township will kick in about \$75,000.

When the project went before the Township Board late last year, Canton resident Dan McCausland questioned the use of township funds for the preservation and said the completed project would come with annual costs to be financed by taxpayers. McCausland also criticized the suggestion of turning the home into a public restroom facility.

The commission, which is chaired by Township Clerk Terry Bennett, hasn't settled on a future use for the property.

"The restroom (proposal) is not set in stone," McLaughlin said, adding that other possible uses include office space and meeting space.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Clyde house is hidden by evergreen trees facing Ridge Road and many did not know it was there. The new location will be across the street.

The interior renovations, which aren't expected to be completed until funds become available, could cost \$150,000.

"There will always be those who question what we could do without and who want us to stick to the bare bones, but a lot of people move here because of the variety of things we have in the community and our quality of life," McLaughlin said.

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons

use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are.

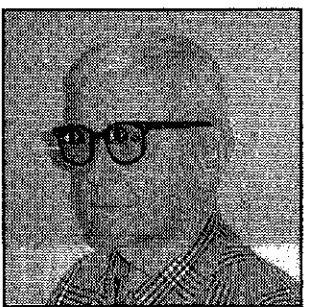
Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May.

Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's



Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.


You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at **1-877-677-2020**.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH



Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

MAINTAINING YOUR DENTURES' FIT

Patients who wear full dentures should continue to visit the dentist once or twice annually. These regular exams enable the dentist to screen for infections and check for signs of oral cancer. In addition, the patient's occlusion (the way that teeth bite together) must be evaluated to make sure that the dentures fit properly. Dentures rest on tissue that overlies the "alveolus," which is the underlying bone that holds the natural teeth in place. In their absence, this bony ridge gradually shrinks.

In addition, edentulous (tooth-free) gums change shape over time. As a result of both bone and gum shrinkage, denture fit must be regularly modified to ensure against slippage and declining ability to chew and speak properly.

Dentures of one form or another have been in use for more than 2,000 years, and today these substitutes for missing natural teeth have never been more effective, easy to use, comfortable, and appealing. However, you still need to take care of them as well as your oral hygiene with regular professional checkups and scrupulous home care. Complete dental care for all members of your family is available at our office, where we utilize only the latest in dental technology for your care and comfort.

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OUR VIEWS

It's time to slay pop-up tax dragon

With the real estate market reeling and foreclosures piling up in neighborhoods all across the state, something must be done to stimulate home sales. State legislators took a crack at putting a moratorium on the so-called real estate pop-up tax last spring, but failed miserably. Given the dismal performance of state lawmakers, their failure to address the inequitable property tax situation in Michigan is sadly all too familiar.

Last year, the House and Senate couldn't agree on how best to attack the problem. The House pushed for an 18-month moratorium on the pop-up tax that would have allowed a home buyer to inherit the property tax bill of the previous owner rather than suffer the fate of uncapping and reassessment, which typically adds thousands of dollars to property taxes. At the time, the state was dealing with a massive budget deficit and many Republicans feared the plan would take too much revenue away from schools and local governments. A treasury official all but killed the plan by testifying that it would deplete state coffers by up to \$100 million over three years.

A tax hike temporarily cured the state budget deficit, but the Legislature didn't get around to addressing property taxes over the winter. That's too bad because the traditional spring house-buying season is upon us and the real estate market is worse than last year. A glimmer of hope recently appeared when the folks up in Lansing once again began talking about the pop-up tax.

This time the Senate took the lead by passing a host of bills designed to spur real estate sales and ease the pain for those who can't sell a house.

Proposal A, which became law in 1994, capped annual property tax increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The unintended consequence are such that two families can live next door to one another in identical houses and pay wildly different property tax bills. It doesn't make sense and something must be done to make property taxes more equitable.

The Senate bills would offer a refundable income tax credit equal to the amount of the pop-up, increase the Homestead Property Tax credit \$100 and extend the principal resident exemption to unsold homes. Sponsors say the tax credit idea is better because it wouldn't take money away from schools and local governments, which are funded primarily through property taxes.

What the Senate plan would do is shift the burden from local governments to the state, likely precipitating yet another budget deficit. The House plan is a better approach due to its simplicity, but certainly there is room for compromise. Of course, neither the House nor Senate bills do anything to address the artificially high property taxes thrust upon anyone who buys a house in a new subdivision. Fixing that, however, would take a thoughtful and politically risky overhaul of Proposal A — something almost no one believes is within the grasp of our Legislature.

So long, Tanith and Ben

I guess the skating team of Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto and their decision to leave Michigan is something only they can explain. I know it's not because of the way Cantonites have treated them. They have been treated like a king and queen since they have been here and justly so, but just because they don't win a medal in one try is no reason to fire the coaches that got them to that status they are accustomed to now and just pick up and say goodbye to a state and township that has made them their ambassadors.

This opens up a few questions. Maybe it's just the fact that they are four years older and their competition is just a little bit better. Maybe it's time for these two to look for other ways to make a living. Heck there's lots of job openings in Michigan for aliens. I hear the Grand Hotel is looking for help.

Robert Denstedt
Canton

Stop Oakwood plan

The issue of Oakwood Hospital was overwhelmingly defeated the last time around by the citizens of Canton Township. Despite apparent support by the present administration at 1150 Canton Center Road South, the representatives of Oakwood were met with a fierce opposition who responded with a resounding "no." The objection was not the hospital per se, but the loss of a future tax base, along with an increase in noise, traffic and congestion. The corner of Beck and Geddes is zoned residential. It defied reason to fill that corner with a non-taxpaying entity of any nature rather than a presence which would justify itself by contributing to the tax base by way of fair compensation. With such a tradeoff, it is little wonder that the Canton electorate reacted in the manner that it did.

Once again, the citizens of Canton will have to endure meetings on top of their usual responsibilities if they are to block the construction of Oakwood Hospital. The representatives of Oakwood have moved their proposed building site all the way across the street, rather than a few miles down the road. The access roads will be on Beck and Michigan Avenue. Yes, the property may be a suitable size. That was not an issue before. Yes, the zoning is industrial and not residential. That was not the main concern previously.

The problem is and has always been the fact that the citizens of Canton are being

LETTERS

asked to give a prestigious home with relevant services to a property it has done without and can continue to do without for years. In exchange, we are asked to receive increased noise, congestion and traffic, just like before. And, like before, we will receive little or no taxes in compensation. It was a terrible bargain before, and it is just short of a debacle now.

Hundreds of citizens came out in opposition the first time. Surely, thousands more were in opposition who did not attend, but whose livelihoods and schedules kept them silent. With an undertaking this grandiose, perhaps its place is on the ballot in November. The ballot is the place to decide such monumental issues, not the meeting halls of politicians who are already "unabashed supporters." Instead of supporting issues which may be advantageous to themselves, perhaps our representatives should actively seek out what the desires of the electorate are. We need a change in November. Complacent politicians all too often become self-serving politicians. We need representatives that do what we hire them to do — represent us.

David Marsh
Canton

Pick up pet waste

Earth Day is a perfect time for pet owners to take a moment and reflect upon the ways they impact the environment. Here in Michigan, we are fortunate to be surrounded by an abundance of water. But did you know that pet owners directly affect the quality of our waterways if they do not pick up and dispose of their pet's waste properly? According to the EPA, "Pets, particularly dogs, are significant contributors to source water contamination." Studies in the Seattle area found nearly 20 percent of bacteria found in water samples matched with dogs as the host animals.

As runoff from snow and rain flows off rooftops, sidewalks, over paved streets and parking lots, across lawns and bare soil, it collects pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This contaminated runoff drains directly into nearby creeks, streams and storm drains without treatment at sewage plants. Pathogens associated with animal wastes are Cryptosporidium, Giardia lamblia, salmonella, e. coli, and toxoplasmosis. Dog and cat feces often contain roundworms and other parasitic nematodes as well.

The most effective way for an owner

to limit their pet's contribution to water contamination is simply to pick up and dispose of their pet's waste. There are several modes of disposal available. If you pick up the waste and put it in your garbage, be sure to enshroud it in degradable plastic bags to reduce taking up landfill space. There are many eco-friendly bags available, some are even flushable. If you choose to flush it down the toilet, be certain that it is not mixed with other materials.

Another option is to bury it, however, this also must be done properly and never near vegetable gardens or food-growing locations because of the pathogens associated with animal wastes. Using pet waste is not recommended for back yard composting.

For those who don't like picking up after their pet, just remember the Clean Water Campaign's slogan, "If you think picking up dog poop is unpleasant, try swimming in it."

Deborah Lawless
Canton

Right time for part time

In a drive to pursue a more efficient and economical state Legislature, a bipartisan group, Turn Michigan Around (www.TurnMichiganAround.com), is circulating petitions to place a proposal for a "part-time" Michigan Legislature on the ballot.

At least 39 other states function adequately with part-time legislatures. In fact, the only two states in the past year that faced a government shutdown were Michigan and Pennsylvania, both with no restrictions on time in session. The current ballot proposal limits the number of days the Legislature can be in session to 100 per year and requires regular sessions to be concluded by May 31, providing stability for the 500-plus school districts that need to have budgets in place by June.

Setting limits on the number of days in session and establishing an end of session date can improve overall legislative performance in Michigan by requiring lawmakers to focus their efforts on important issues.

Even though some Michigan lawmakers have expressed an interest in a part-time Legislature, it's unlikely that such a proposal could be passed in the Legislature. However, Michigan citizens can give this proposal a fair consideration by signing the petition to place it on the ballot.

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STUDY SHOWS INCREASE IN DRIVING COST

AAA's 2008 edition of *Your Driving Costs* shows the cost of driving a passenger vehicle in the U.S. has increased by 1.9 cents per mile in the last year and now averages 54.1 cents per mile.

"While the cost of some driving expenses declined since the start of 2007, higher gasoline prices have more than offset these savings and pushed the overall cost of vehicle ownership and operation higher this year," said Gerry Gutowski, senior vice president AAA Michigan Automotive Services. In 2008, AAA estimates it will cost \$8,121 to own and operate a new passenger car driven 15,000 miles per year. This compares to \$7,823 per year in 2007, or 52.2 cents per mile.

Costs of maintenance, full-coverage insurance and depreciation are all slightly lower this year, while costs for fuel, tires, financing, license, registration and taxes showed increases.

AAA's study calculates the average costs of owning and operating five top-selling models in three popular size classes: small, medium and large sedans. AAA's research shows the annual average cost of driving a small sedan is \$6,320 per year, while a large sedan costs \$9,769 per year. Similar savings can be realized by driving a minivan, instead of a large and less fuel efficient sport utility vehicle. AAA's study calculates the average costs of all expenses associated with owning and operating a vehicle over five years and 75,000 miles of driving. Driving costs are based on the average expenses for five top-selling models selected by AAA. By size category they are:

- Small sedan - Chevrolet Cobalt, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Corolla
- Medium sedan - Chevrolet Impala, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Nissan Altima and Toyota Camry.
- Large sedan - Buick Lucerne, Chrysler 300, Ford Five Hundred (renamed Taurus for 2008), Nissan Maxima and Toyota Avalon.

Though not part of the AAA composite average, SUV and minivan information has been included to help buyers estimate operating costs for these types of vehicles.

SUV models include the Chevrolet Trailblazer, Ford Explorer, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Nissan Pathfinder and Toyota 4Runner. Minivans are the Chevrolet Uplander, Dodge Grand Caravan, Kia Sedona, Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna.

The brochure can be downloaded from the Internet at AAA.com.

Annuity investor should have paid tax only on gain

Dear Rick: About a year ago I took your advice and moved money out of a high cost variable annuity. I paid approximately \$100,000 for the annuity and when I canceled it over 10 years later, it was worth about \$110,000. When I filed my 2007 tax return, I included the entire \$110,000 as income. I had a substantial increase in taxes. Considering the tax consequence, wouldn't it have been better to keep the annuity?

It was not a mistake to cash out your annuity. After all, you held the annuity for over 10 years and during that time received a very low rate of return. Your investment earned less than 1 percent a year. Purely based upon the economics it was a smart move to cancel the annuity.

As for the tax consequence, I believe you made a mistake when you filed your tax return. You should not have reported the entire \$110,000 as taxable income. You should have reported the \$10,000 as gain. The \$100,000 that came back to you was not a return on an investment but a return of your investment.

Many people think annuities



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

operate the same way as IRAs but they do not. If you buy an annuity, in this case a nonqualified annuity (not part of an IRA or other qualified plan) your basis is what you initially invested into the annuity. Therefore in your case, the basis is \$100,000. When you received \$110,000 in proceeds your taxable gain is only \$10,000. The most you should have reported as income is \$10,000.

File an amended return by completing Form 1040X which is available from the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov.

There are two other issues that are important here. The first deals with who should prepare your tax returns. If you go to a professional, it is important to make sure that you are dealing with someone who maintains his or her skills with regards to taxes. Tax laws are changing all the time. A perfect example of staying current on taxes is what happened

this year. In late December, legislation was enacted that created a patch for the alternative minimum tax. Without this, more people would have been subject to the alternative minimum tax. The problem is the IRS did not complete the necessary forms until sometime in February. A tax preparer who wasn't aware of these changes could have cost clients a nice sum of money.

The other issue is that many people are paying more in taxes. Particularly, mutual fund investors whose funds made significant capital gain distributions last year. What is particularly painful is people are paying taxes and their mutual fund balances have been declining.

Although it is always painful to pay more in taxes, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. The first is the goal should never be to lower our taxes. The goal should be to have more money in your pocket. I know it sounds logical to think that by lowering taxes you will have more money, but it just doesn't work that way.

Recently in this area a man won a substantial lottery. Ultimately, he had to pay tens of millions of

dollars in taxes. However, I'm sure his focus is on the substantially greater amount of money that ended up in his pocket. Taxes are important and we want to be smart with them, however, to focus on merely what you pay in taxes is the wrong direction.

Another issue deals with the fact that most investors, when they received their capital gain distributions in December, had them reinvested increasing the number of shares they own. The market doesn't have to come back as much for investors to begin making money again. If you had capital gains and dividends reinvested it also increased your basis which will lower any tax consequence when the investment is sold.

Remember it's not what we pay in taxes, but what ends up in our pockets.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, April 20, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Ignition faces must-win match this afternoon

The uphill battle facing the Detroit Ignition may be daunting, but it's nothing they haven't scaled before.

The Major Indoor Soccer League's No. 1-seeded dropped Game 1 of the 2008 MISL Championship Series Semifinal round to the fourth-seeded La Raza de Monterrey Friday night, 15-11, in front of a rowdy crowd in Monterrey, Mexico.

The Ignition will now have to win Game 2 this afternoon at Compuware Arena (the opening kick is set for 4:35 p.m.), then score first

MISL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

in a sudden-death "Golden Goal" mini-match to advance to next week's finals against the winner of the Baltimore-Milwaukee semi-final series.

The Ignition faced the same backs-against-the-wall scenario last season before ousting the Wave in Game 2 before scoring first in the "Golden Goal."

The home team struck first in Friday's contest as Byron Alvarez netted a two-pointer off a pass from Dino Delevski,

one of the league's most-explosive players, just over three minutes into the game.

The Ignition rebounded quickly, building a 6-2 advantage on goals from Hewerton, Mike Apple and Ryan Make.

Mack extended the Ignition's lead to 8-2 at 5:14 of the second when he beat Monterrey keeper Jose Bonetti with a low laser.

The Ignition's advantage was sliced to 8-4 at the half on Ivan Paredes' goal.

Detroit led 11-6 after three quarters thanks to Vahid Assadpour's unassisted three-

pointer, however, the winners reeled off a 9-0 run over the final 15 minutes to seal the win.

Alvarez finished with four goals for Monterrey, which, like Detroit last season, is an expansion squad.

His biggest net-finder game with just over three minutes left when his two-pointer gave the hosts a 13-11 lead.

Armando Teran added an insurance marker at the 28-second mark.

The Ignition have now lost three of four contests against Monterrey this season.

MAJOR MOMENTS

What: Game 2 of the 2008 MISL Championship Series Semifinal round;

Who: Detroit Ignition vs. La Raza de Monterrey;

When: This afternoon at 4:35 p.m.

Where: Compuware Arena, Plymouth Township;

How the teams stand: La Raza de Monterrey leads the series 1-0 after Friday night's 15-11 win;

What the Ignition needs to advance: Detroit needs to win Sunday's game, then score first in the ensuing "Golden Goal" mini-match;

Tickets: Can be purchased by calling (888) 436-GOAL; or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com.

Sidelines

Plymouth 'Y'

The Plymouth Family YMCA is now offering a variety of spring instructional sports programs.

The focus of these programs will be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction. The programs include: a sports sampler, Basketball, Soccer, T-ball, flag football, golf, and karate.

Classes will run in the evenings and begin the week of April 28. Classes are available for kids' between the ages of 3-10.

For more information, contact the Plymouth YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadeloit.org.

Canton grid camps

The Canton Chiefs football program will be offering the following three summer camps in June:

■ A T/3-4 Football Camp for kids in grades 10-12 will be held June 16 (2-5 p.m.) and June 17-19 (5-8 p.m.) at the PCEP varsity stadium. If participants pre-register by May 26, the fee is \$30; the fee is \$35 thereafter.

For more information, contact varsity head coach Tim Baechler at (734) 455-7691 or at baechlt@pecs.k12.mi.us.

■ A Skills Football Camp will be held for kids in 7-9 grades at the varsity stadium June 9-12 from 5-7 p.m.

The registration fee is \$50 before May 26 and \$60 after. For more information, contact freshman coach Rich Mui at (248) 229-2738.

■ A fundamental Football Camp will be held for kids in 3-6 grades at the varsity stadium June 23-26 from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost before June 6 is \$100 and \$115 after that date.

For more information, contact Enza Lanava at (313) 300-1173 or elanava@wowway.com.

Armed & Dangerous

Plymouth pitchers, hitters shine in win over Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A moon-shot home run, an out-of-this-world catch and a star-in-the-making pitching performance proved to be key components in Plymouth's 9-3 victory over Canton Friday afternoon in a WLAA Western Division baseball clash on the Chiefs' home turf.

The victory improved the Wildcats' record to 4-2 overall and 1-1 in the division. Canton slipped to 4-3 and 0-2, respectively.

The towering three-run home run came in the top of the first inning off the bat of Wildcat first baseman Matt Priebe, who cleared the 355 sign in left center by close to 30 feet, scoring David Harvey and Brad Lineberry.

The Web Gem-caliber catch came in the Chiefs' half of the fourth when Ryan Neu launched a missile toward left-center field. Plymouth center fielder Ronnie Goble twisted his body twice while tracking the liner before going horizontal at the last second to haul in the drive.

The sterling mound performance was

turned in by junior Cliff Buttermore who shook off a rough first inning to limit the Chiefs to three runs and six hits in a complete-game showing. Buttermore walked one and struck out four.

Erik Wright took the loss for the Chiefs, yielding four runs and three hits in two innings or work.

Trailing 3-0, the Chiefs cut their deficit to one in the bottom of the second thanks to singles from Dan Stoney and Alex Dixon.

The Wildcats put a couple base-runners on in the second thanks to two Canton errors, but the Chiefs escaped damage when left-fielder Stoney threw out David Harvey, who was trying to score on a Lineberry base hit with two outs.

Plymouth padded its lead to 5-2 in the third when Priebe was hit by a pitch, Goble reached on a catcher's-interference play and they both came around on wild pitches.

The Chiefs sliced their deficit to 5-3 in the third when Kevin Delapaz led off

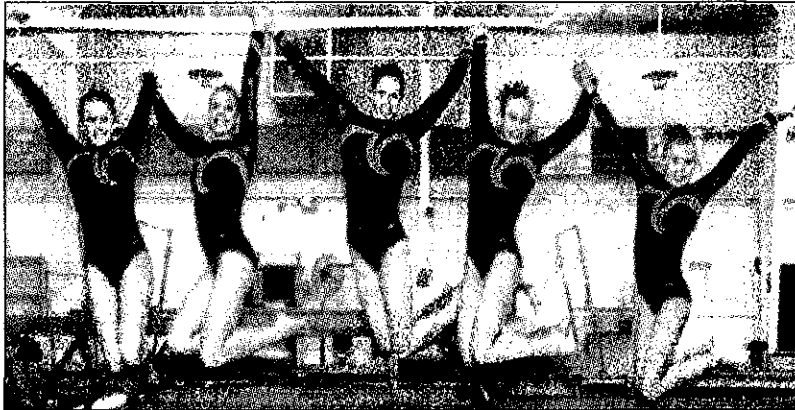


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cliff Buttermore improved his record to 2-0 Friday afternoon as he led the Wildcats to a 9-3 victory over host Canton in a key WLAA Western Division game.

Please see **BASEBALL, B6**

Pictured are the Splitz Gymnastics level 9 gymnasts who fared well at the Michigan state meet April 5 and 6: (from left) Kelsey Stamm, Lindsey Russell, Emily LaFontaine, Megan Valentini and Kayla Spicher.



KRMEDIAONLINE.COM

Splitz gymnasts shine at state meet

Several members of the Canton-based Splitz Gymnastics levels 8 and 9 competitors shined at the state meet, which was held April 5 and 6 in Holt.

Among the four level 8 competitors who excelled was Kelly Valentini, of Canton, who placed sixth on the vault, fifth on bars, ninth on beam and fourth in the all-around with a 36.725.

Two local girls shined in the Senior A Division: Taylor Cortis (Farmington Hills), who placed fourth on floor and Alyssa Peters of Canton, who placed fifth on bars, fourth on floor and 10th all-around with a 36.55.

In the Senior B age group, Nikki Pilmer of Canton placed fifth on beam, sixth on floor and eighth in the all-around with a 36.50. Pilmer was also state champ on the bars with a 9.55.

"I was very proud of the level 9 girls," said Eileen Spicher, the team's coach and owner of Splitz Gymnastics. "It's great when they can all put it together as a team."

Kayla Spicher was spectacular in the Junior A age group as she placed fifth on vault, third on bars,



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The level 8 Split Gymnastics athletes who shined at the state were (from top) Nikki Pilmer, Alyssa Peters and Kelly Valentini. Not pictured is Taylor Cortis.

Please see **SPLITZ, B6**

Rymph's on-the-spot goal lifts Chiefs, 1-0

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some nights, you can't buy a break. Other nights, they fall right into your lap.

The latter happened to Canton's Tracy Rymph during Wednesday night's cross-campus clash with PCEP rival Plymouth.

Just over four minutes into the second half, Plymouth freshman net-minder Marissa Williams bobbed a save off a shot from Canton's Leslie Weisz about 12 yards from the net.

The opportunistic Rymph secured the bouncing sphere, took one dribble around Williams then deposited the ball into the back of the net for the lone goal in the Chiefs' 1-0 victory.

The win improved Canton to 2-2-2 overall and 1-0-1 in the all-important Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division standings. Plymouth slipped to 1-2-2 and 1-1, respectively.

Please see **SOCCER, B3**

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SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

"Defensively, I thought we played very well as a team," said Canton coach George Tomasso. "We're doing a good job of getting numbers back and I thought our defenders did a good job of handling Plymouth's pressure."

"Offensively, we have to start finishing. We're getting good opportunities; we're just not putting the ball in the net."

Tomasso praised Rymph for the persistence she displayed on her goal.

"She did a good job to follow up the initial shot," he said. "Her hard work is what earned that goal and that's what we want out of our forwards."

Plymouth's McKenzie Hengesh nearly tied the game at 1-1 with 1:10 left. She controlled a slick pass from Kelly Dobbs in the box, headed the ball past a Canton defender and ripped a shot that miss left by a foot or two.

Less than a minute later, Plymouth's Kasey Webb fired a laser that soared about a foot over the cross bar.

Canton keeper Bre Bellovary was solid, handling everything the Wildcats kicked at her.

Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich had no complaints about his team's effort.

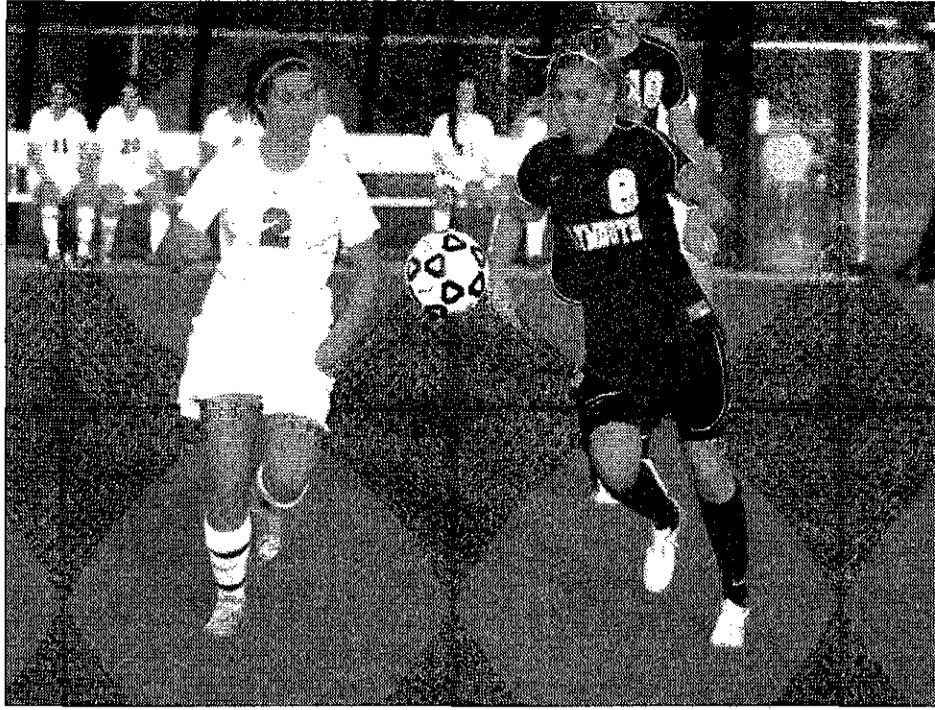
"I thought we had a great performance tonight," said Neschich. "We had that one bad break on their goal, but we had a lot of chances to score down the stretch."

"We're getting better game after game. I don't like losing 1-0, but with all the youth we have, I'm happy with the progress we're making."

Neschich praised the play of Liz Koet, Katie Moss, Webb and Megan Quinlan.

"And our forwards at the end kept the pressure on."

SALEM 1, SOUTH LYON 0: On Friday at the P-CEP varsity soccer field, the Rocks continued their hot play with a defensive-minded victory over the visiting Lions.



Canton's Rachel Kain (left) and Plymouth's Liz Koet race after a loose ball during Wednesday night's 1-0 Chief victory.

Junior forward Jill Behrman was the Rocks' star, scoring the game's lone goal mid-way through the second half. She was assisted by Kristina Klusek.

"Amanda Krause started the play in the mid-field and got the ball on the outside to Kristina," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "Jill made a nice run at the net, Kristina got her the ball and Jill finished from about six or seven yards out."

Ashley Tucker and Kristen Dondzilla combined for the shutout. Tucker played the first half; Dondzilla the second.

The win improved Salem's record to 3-2-2.

PCA 3, LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 0: On Thursday at Plymouth Christian Academy, the Eagles improved their record to 5-0 with an impressive shut-out victory over Clarenceville. Brooke Williams scored all three goals for the winners.

SALEM 2, LIVONIA STEVENSON 0: On Wednesday at Stevenson, the Rocks evened their record at 2-2-2 overall and 1-1 in the WLAA's Lakes Division with an impressive road victory over the Spartans.

Senior goal-keeper Kristen Dondzilla was flawless in net, as she stopped all five shots she face to record her third shutout of the season.

Offensive, the Rocks were paced by goal-scorers Kristen Thompson (assist from Lindsay Newton) and Rachel Gizicki, who was assisted by Kristina Klusek.

"Lindsey Roy, our sweeper, played an amazing game in the back, especially for a freshman," said Salem coach Joe Nora.

Thompson's goal came 15 minutes in while Gizicki's insurance net-finder came with seven minutes left in the contest.

Lady Warriors corral Mustangs

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team bounced back from its first loss of the season Thursday night with a 13-7 triumph over Northville.

The victory improved the Lady Warriors' record to 4-1 while the Mustangs slipped to 5-1-1.

"This rivalry goes deeper than just being a community border school with Northville," said PCS coach Dave Medley. "Northville beat us 9-7 last year and I guess the girls didn't forget."

Northville surged to an early 3-1 lead, however, the Lady Warriors rebounded thanks to the defensive efforts of Stephanie Matusiak, Lauren Koehler, Nicol Sheldon, Emily Cox and goalie Nicol Rottell.

Multiple-goal scorers for the winners were Kate Spangler (five goals), Morgan Franke

(three) and Lauren Ebersole (two). Natalie Sitko, Stephanie Pettovello and Megan Burke each added one.

PCS's first setback of the 2008 campaign came Tuesday when it dropped a 14-7 decision to Brighton.

The Lady Warriors trailed just 8-6 at the half before the highly acclaimed Bulldogs turned it up a notch in the second half.

"We didn't have the muscle or technique to keep the pressure up in the second half," said Medley. "We talked at halftime about getting this down to a one-goal difference as the game labored on, however, the Bulldogs just gradually moved away."

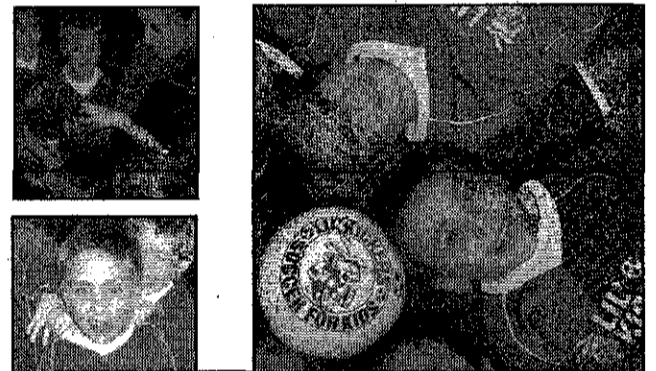
Scoring for the Lady Warriors were Kate Spangler (three goals), Lauryn Ebersole (two), Morgan Franke (one) and Jessica Murray (one).



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Notice is hereby given that on May 13, 2008 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E Michigan Ave. Wayne MI 48184. 734-728-8204.

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- Victoria Gaedke - A261 - Tote
- James Holbrook - A337 - Bikes, guitar, 15 boxes
- Neakia Perry - B128 - Freezer, microwave, 10 boxes
- Latesha Davis - C191 - Curio cabinet, dresser, 5 totes
- Paul Revis - D115 - Air compressor, washer, dryer
- Melinda Gaval - D167 - Washer, mattress, dressers
- Randolph Valentino - RV10 - Cadillac automobile
- Randolph Valentino - RV11 - Ford F-7 truck
- Samuel Stewart - Dodge Ram 1500 custom van
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Don't miss the last chance to see your Detroit Ignition this season!

Sunday, April 20 4:35 pm

vs. La Raza de Monterrey

Game 2 of the 2008 MISL Championship Series Semifinal Round

Tickets are available at the Compuware Arena box office (Box office opens at 11 am)

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Catch the MISL Championship Series Final Live on April 26 at 7 pm on Fox Soccer Channel!

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

APRIL

Blood drive

6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 21, in the Conference Center at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Walk-ins welcome, but appointments encouraged to prevent lengthy waits. Visit www.givelife.org with the sponsor code DMC and choose the HVSH drive.

Detox: Is it Right for You?

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, D.C. No charge. Reservation required. Call (734) 756-6904.

Divorce support group

Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle and/or her partner Wade Jackman of Jackman & Kasody present an overview of the divorce process. 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225), McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. (734) 462-4443.

CPR class

For family and friends, presented by Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River, Novi. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 23. Cost is \$10 and includes a class manual, two wallet cards and a barrier device. Reserve a seat at (248) 473-3100.

Women remembering women

Deadline for reservations for second annual Evening Tea is Friday, April 25. Event is 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Italian American Banquet Hall, 39200 W. Five Mile, Livonia. Call or leave a message for Diana at (248) 915-8221, Sherri at (248) 798-0635, or send e-mail to 4627offices-taff7@hcr-manorcare.com. Provided by Heartland Hospice.

Cuisine for a Cause

Benefits Josephine Ford Cancer Center at Henry Ford Health System, one of 10 metro Detroit charities. A wine-tasting reception will be held 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Ford Conference and Event Center, Dearborn with live auction, more than 60 premium wines and a strolling supper prepared by Opus One. Tickets \$100. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (313) 876-9237.

Diabetes fund-raiser

Women in business holding a vendor/craft event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Gallimore Elementary School, 8375 N. Sheldon, between Warren and Joy, Canton. Admission \$1, proceeds from admission, bake sale, raffles benefit American Diabetes Association. For details, send e-mail to entertainingu@gmail.com.

Lekotek open house

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County holds an open house for its Lekotek program of play sessions for developmentally disabled children (ages 0-12) 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at The Arc, 26049 Five Mile, Redford. To RSVP, call (313) 532-8524 or send email to iana6356@aol.com. For information, visit www.thearcnw.org. Free pizza, raffles, balloon magic and ice cream.

Diabetes education day

Free meters and educational materials noon to 3 p.m. Monday, April 28, at Sam's Club, 39800 Ford Rd., east of 275, Canton. Bring a prescription for an ACCU-Chek, meter, test strips and lancets. Call (734) 981-4460.

Caregiving conference

5:30-9 p.m. Monday, April 28, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. To register, call (734) 282-7171. Conference covers legal and financial planning, home health care, adult day care, nursing homes and assisted living, elder abuse, medical equipment, and support groups for caregivers.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help community based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or send e-mail to marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

The self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Monday St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. For information, call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Workshop to help patients manage chronic diseases

On May 2, The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan will begin hosting the six-week, Personal Action Toward Health program at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road at Five Mile, Livonia. The free community workshop meets once a week to help residents manage chronic diseases.

The Partners on the PATH Workshop is designed to provide knowledge and skills to adults with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, and depression.

Classes are run by professional leaders and trained lay people who hold informal,

small group discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Instructors provide ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from exercise. Participants also learn about self-help devices that can enhance daily activities and are given an opportunity to ask questions about health concerns. The program is suited for both the newly diagnosed as well as those seeking more aggressive management.

The program has been proven to reduce symptoms and physician visits as well as increase self-management abilities and communication with doctors.

Pre-registration for the PATH Workshop is necessary and enrollment is limited. To register, call the Civic Park Senior Center at (734) 466-2556 or the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at (800) 482-1455.

The mission of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is to prevent kidney disease and improve the quality of life for those living with it.

On May 6, the NKFM and Inkster Senior Services will also begin hosting the six-week program at the Inkster Recreation Department, 2025 Middlebelt Road. To register, call (313) 561-2383 or (800) 482-1455.

Treatment advances improve lives of patients with bleeding disorders

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Dave Meuleman never leaves home without his cooler. The Canton man's health depends on factor VIII. Meuleman starts bleeding from even simple injuries like a twisted knee because of a deficiency in factor VIII. A self-infusion of the clotting factor prevents further destruction of his joints. He's already had two knees and a hip replaced.

Meuleman is a survivor. His parents first suspected he had hemophilia 54 years ago when he cut his first tooth and the gum kept bleeding. Back then there was no treatment except for transfusion. Meuleman's grandfather struggled with the primarily inherited bleeding disorder as have two of his brothers, including one who died from AIDS after receiving contaminated blood. Meuleman

DERBY FOR DREAMS

What: Fund-raiser featuring Southern style buffet, fun-filled afternoon of games of chance and live showing of the Kentucky Derby
When: Saturday, May 3
Where: Fox Hills Golf and Conference Center, 8768 N. Territorial, west of Plymouth
Tickets: \$25 individual, \$40 a couple. Proceeds to the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. Call (734) 544-0015.

contracted HIV and Hepatitis C for the same reason. "I was also pre factor so I have more damage to my joints than kids do now," said Meuleman. "When there's a bleed the joints swell up and stay that way for weeks; the joints get distorted. One of my replacement knees, I'm going into the hospital for what they call a revision. When I was born they could never do this surgery. You'd bleed to death. Now they inject a large dose of factor VIII but it stays for only about eight hours so they have to do it again for a couple days and I have to take factor before each physical therapy."

Treatment advances continue to improve the lives of hemophilia patients. Although there still is no cure, Dr. Steven Pipe has seen the difference research makes to patients with the bleeding disorder which mainly affects males. The University of Michigan hematologist/oncologist has been treating hemophilia since 1988. He is presently medical director of the U-M pediatric hemophilia and coagulation disorders program where his boy patients receive factor VIII anywhere from two to three times a week to every other day.

"We now effectively prevent most bleeds, most importantly prevent repeated joint bleed thereby preventing joint disease as adults," said Pipes. "For the immediate future one goal is factor VIII delivery for once a week and still give them a good outcome. For the long term scientists are still working on factor VIII gene delivery to get patients' bodies to make their own factor VIII again."

In addition to reducing the number of infusions required to sustain the clotting factor, researchers like Pipe are trying to lower the cost of therapy. That's why the May 3, Derby of Dreams fund-raiser at Fox Hills Golf and Conference Center west of Plymouth is so important.

The Derby Day event raises money for the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan which provides education, short-term counseling, a camp for children, and advocacy in Lansing for underinsured and uninsured patients.

It can cost as much as \$150,000 a year for infusion therapy. The Foundation also administers federal grants to support treatment centers like the one at U-M.

"We help people wade through the insurance morass," said Ivan Harner, executive director of the foundation started in 1956. Harner estimates there



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Meuleman always packs a cooler that contains clotting factor so that he can quickly treat himself if he has a bleeding crisis.

are about 2,000 patients living with hemophilia in Michigan, 20,000 in the U.S. "We're a nonprofit agency that depends heavily on funds raised from the community. We're going to have a video showing young children giving themselves an injection, a little boy 7 or 8. It brings tears to your eye. Imagine sticking yourself for the first time in your vein."

Dawn Evans' 15-year-old son Dylan infuses factor VIII into his vein three times a week so he can snowboard and play baseball and basketball. Dawn Evans' father had hemophilia.

Until the 1980s treatment consisted of an infusion of untreated blood plasma which many times infected hemophilia patients with HIV and AIDS.

"They've come leaps and bounds since my dad," said Evans. "People like my dad in their 60s are no

longer with us. They died from HIV and hepatitis like my dad. Today there's no human product in factor VIII. It's genetically engineered now because these older guys paved the way."

As special events coordinator, Evans is working especially hard to not only make the Derby event fun, but the Swinging for Smiles golf outing June 9.

"We selected May 3 because it's the Kentucky Derby. We decided to show it live on a big screen and have horse and roulette wheels," said Evans. "We encourage everyone to dress for the derby. There will be a prize for the lady with the best derby hat. We'll have lots of prizes from digital cameras to grills, stereos, \$100 Best Buy gift cards."

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Salem's Posler tosses 2-hit gem

Salem's junior right-handed pitcher Joe Posler had the right stuff Friday afternoon against Livonia Stevenson.

Posler tossed a complete-game two hitter, striking out 10 while yielding just two unearned runs.

"Joe pitched a great game," said Salem coach Dale Rumberger. "Their only two runs came on errant pick-off throws."

The Spartans' Jeff Sorensen also threw well, yielding just seven hits in a complete-game effort.

The victory improved Salem's record to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the WLAAs Lakes Division.

Justin Horger was the hitting star for the winners, going 3-for-4. David Loos, Kyle Powell, David Hales and Heath Parling all had one hit for the Rocks.

Salem scored three in the third inning and single runs in the sixth and seventh. Stevenson scored once in the fourth and once in the fifth.

CHURCHILL 4, SALEM 1: On Monday, Livonia Churchill senior left-hander Shea Dwyer was sharp for all seven innings, pitching the Chargers to a hard-fought WLAAs Lakes Division triumph over host Salem.

The victory improved the Chargers' record to 3-4 overall and 1-1 in the Lakes. The Rocks slipped to 2-2 and 0-1, respectively.

Dwyer allowed just five hits, walked two and struck out nine, out-dueling Salem's Dave Hales, who also went the distance, allowing just five hits and no walks while fanning four.

Brian Runge collected three of Churchill's five hits, including an RBI single in the sixth. Vinny Carozza's suicide squeeze bunt also pushed home a run in the fifth as the Chargers scored three times helped by a Salem infield throwing error bring two more home.

Dana Lorber's RBI groundout accounted for Salem's lone run in the second inning.

FRANKLIN 4, PLYMOUTH 1: Livonia Franklin (6-3, 1-0) scored four times in the top of the sixth inning Monday to beat the host Wildcats (3-2, 1-0).

Mike Basner's 2-run double keyed the surge. He later scored on a wild pitch. Jeff McCullough's RBI groundout made it 1-1.

PREP BASEBALL

Winning pitcher Jesse Carpenter went all seven innings, allowing just four hits and four walks. He fanned four.

Plymouth starter Garrett Rebain, who was lifted in the sixth inning with two outs for reliever Matt Skubik, allowed all four hits and walked six. Rebain fanned four.

Ronnie Goble tallied Plymouth's lone run on a double steal coupled with a Franklin throwing error.

NORTHVILLE 13, CANTON 3:

On Monday at Northville, the Mustangs took the first step toward defending their WLAAs Western Division title with a mercy-rule shortened game against the Chiefs. The victory improved the winners to 8-0 (1-0) while Canton slipped to 3-2 (0-1).

Canton struck first with a single run in the first when lead-off batter Kevin Delapaz singled, stole second and scored on a pair of wild pitches.

The Mustangs retaliated with seven runs in the first three innings off Canton starter Ben Vaughn thanks to Damarii Saunderson's three-run home run, a two-run double by Steve Anderson and seven walks.

Joe Mitchell scored three runs and added an RBI double for the winners. Michael Collins was the winning pitcher for the Mustangs.

Among the highlights for the Chiefs were William Tidwell's two-run, fourth-inning triple and Erik Wright's 1.2 innings of hitless middle relief (two strikeouts).

SALEM 9, PLYMOUTH 2: In Game 1 of a Saturday double-header, the Rocks broke open a 2-2 game with seven runs in the sixth inning to clip the 'Cats.

Junior right-hander Chris Kordick was the winning pitcher, yielding seven hits and three walks while striking out four in five innings of work. Junior lefty Sam Ott closed the victory out for the Rocks with two innings of scoreless relief. Four of the six Ott was credited with were via strikeouts.

The Rocks opened the scoring in the second when Joe Posler walked and eventually scored on Dana Lorber's infield single.

Plymouth knotted the game a 1-1 when Matt Priebe's single scored Garrett Rebain, who had doubled. Plymouth nearly took a 2-1 lead, but Brad Lineberry was gunned down at the plate on a missile-like relay throw from Salem shortstop Heath Parling.

Both teams registered single runs in the fifth. The Rocks' run came on Matt Woster solo home run while Plymouth pushed one across on Priebe's RBI single that plated Rebain.

The big hits in Salem's seven-run sixth-inning uprising were RBI singles from Posler, Justin Horger and Parling, and a sacrifice fly off the bat of Woster.

"I thought both teams played well for an early-season game," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams. "However, our starter, Brad Lineberry, had to leave the game after the fourth due to his pitch count."

"We had some problems in the fifth when we had to go to our pen. We didn't execute on a few bunts and it really cost us. Sometimes early in the season, those things will happen. I will not doubt we will improve in that area as the season progresses."

PLYMOUTH 12, SALEM 1: In Game 2 of Saturday's double-header, the host Wildcats earned a split thanks to outstanding pitching from Cliff Buttermore and a four-RBI game from Kyle Traver.

"Cliff pitched outstanding," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams, whose squad improved to 4-1. "He had great command and was able to keep Salem off balance. Our sticks came alive as well."

The Wildcats scored in all five innings (the game was shortened due to the 10-run mercy rule), including four in the third.

Matt Skubik also had a big afternoon for the Wildcats with three hits and three RBI. Other multiple-hit batters for the winners were David Harvey (2-for-4, RBI), Garrett Rebain (2-for-3, RBI), and Travis Mewton (2-for-2, three runs scored, RBI).

Kyle Powell was 2-for-2 for the Rocks. Powell's performance included a solo home run in the fourth. Senior Justin Horger took the loss for Salem, yielding five runs and six hits in two innings of work.



Plymouth Ronnis Goble slides in safely ahead of the tag of Canton's Nick Tomilenko during Friday night's cross-campus showdown. The Wildcats won, 9-3, to improve their record to 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the WLAAs Western Division.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

with a walk, went to third on an error and scored on Alex Dixon's sizzling left-center field double that missed being a home run by two feet. With runners on second and third and no outs, the Chiefs failed to score as Buttermore set the next three batters down in order on a pair of K's and a fly out to center field.

Plymouth broke open the game in the fourth with a two-out, four-run rally. With one out, Harvey doubled and was plated by Lineberry's triple. Following a ground-out, Priebe walked and Goble singled before Lineberry scored on a wild pitch. Priebe and Goble were plated by Matt Skubik's single.

Canton relievers Dane Staples, Joel Schweibert and Tim Hemmelgarn did a nice job of quieting the Wildcats' bats over the final two frames.

Plymouth's leading hitters were Lineberry (3-for-3, two runs, RBI), Priebe (1-for-1, three runs, three RBI), Skubik (1-for-4, two RBI) and Harvey (2-for-3, two runs).

Canton was led by Dixon (1-for-3, three RBI), Stoney (2-for-3) and Mike Madias (2-for-3).

"I'm just thankful that all these young men got a chance to come out on this beautiful April afternoon and play this great game in front of their parents and friends," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams. "Today, one team won and one team didn't, but in the end it's more about getting the chance to represent your school and compete alongside your teammates. One day, the final score from this game will be forgotten, but the memories and friendships will be what lasts a lifetime."

CANTON 12, JOHN GLENN 2: On Wednesday at Canton, the Chiefs captured a mercy-rule shortened contest thanks to a sterling pitching performance from sophomore Kevin Delapaz and big hitting days from Alex Dixon Ben Vaughn and Nick Tomilenko.

Delapaz won his season-opening start by scattering five hits for 4.2 innings of work. Dixon earned the save.

Dixon went 3-for-4 at the late with a home run, triple and four RBI; Vaughn was 4-for-4 with two RBI and Tomilenko was 3-for-3 with a double and two ribbies.

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SPLITZ

FROM PAGE B1

fourth on beam, fifth on floor and fourth in the all-around with a 37.50. Two girls turned in incredible efforts in the Senior A group: Megan Valentini from Canton who took sixth on vault, 10th on beam, third on floor, and sixth in the all-around with a 36.70. Kelsey Stamm of Canton also had a good day, placing seventh on the vault, fourth on the beam, ninth on the floor and seventh in the all-around with a 36.65. In the Senior B competition, Emily LaFontaine of Plymouth took third on vault, 10th on beam, sixth on floor and second in the all-around with a 37.10. She was also state champ on bars with a 9.55. All the girls have qualified for the Regional meets. The level 8's will be heading to Peoria, Ill. April 26-27 while the level 9's are competing this weekend in Lansing.

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Family helps teen get through rejection

I'm a freshman. In the beginning of the year, my older sister told me not to get in a relationship with an older classman because I was just going to get hurt. As soon as school started, I disobeyed her and my family's wishes. Now, for eight months, through our ups and downs, I've been trying to fix my issues with this boy because I'm too attached. He said it's over, but come on, he's said that before ... right? Monica, what do I do?
Attached Freshman
Garden City

It sounds like you really care about this boy. Unfortunately, it also sounds like he doesn't feel the same way about you. It's very hard to cope with rejection, especially if you and this boy have been going through an on-again, off-again pattern. It can be very confusing and we tend to hold on to hope that things will work out in the end when we have proof that it did in the past. He needs to make up his mind! And, you need to decide if you're willing to settle for someone that doesn't care as much



Monica Fulton

about you as you do about him! Turn to your family for support; your sister obviously cares very much about you and doesn't like to see you get hurt. Your parents can help too; parents love us and nurture us and have a special way of healing our boo-boos ... even emotional ones!

Your sister and your family may say "I told you so" but they will be there to help you. Rely on their strength and go out and find someone that deserves you!

There's this girl that I think is really hot, but I don't know what I should say or do to get her attention. What should I do?
Attention Getter
Garden City

First, the best relationships begin with a friendship. Find out if you have anything in common with this girl. Do you both enjoy sports, art, drama, or music? If so, work up the courage to introduce yourself and then talk about an upcoming event that you both would enjoy. If she seems interested, ask her if she'd like to go with you and your friends. You'll get the chance to see if she's as interesting as she is "hot" in a "no pressure" situation. One small warning: Don't change who you are in order to have something in common with this girl. If you do, eventually the real you will want to be known and the relationship will end. You might miss the chance to find your soul mate by pretending to be somebody you're not!

My friends, and a lot of people I know, seem fake and two-faced. It's getting me mad. What do I do?
Keepin' It Real
Garden City

Finding out that friends haven't been acting like real friends can be very disappointing. If your friends don't really know who they are, or what they want to be like when they "grow up," it might seem as though they're acting like different people in different situations. In a way, they are! It's tough to know who you are when you're more than a kid, but not quite an adult yet. This time in your life is a time when you're discovering what kind of person you want to be.

And that means trying on different roles, attitudes, values, and even personality traits. However, if the people you're hanging with are behaving badly, acting rudely, or being just plain mean to other people, you might want to think about what qualities you want your friends to have. When you've decided what you want in a friend, talk to the people closest to you that are acting fake and let them know that you like their good qualities, not the ones they're "trying on." But, if your friends keep acting in a way that you feel is wrong, it's time to look for people that have the same values as you and make new friends!

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She has a master of arts degree in clinical psychology. She can be reached by e-mail at monicafulton@sbcglobal.net.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tennis students, from left, 4-year-old Jake Kelly, Delaney O'Dowd and Nate Luyben stand at the net waiting to return a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.



Five-year-old Paige Bailey keeps her eye on the ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

LITTLE TENNIS CLASSES

What: Six-week sessions for ages 4-5, and 6-10. Cost \$40-\$77 per session
Livonia Recreation Center: Starts April 21. Call (734) 466-2900. Summer outdoor program starts June 17, (734) 466-2410 or www.ci.livonia.mi.us
Summit on the Park (Canton): Begins May 6. Call (734) 483-5600
Plymouth Canton After-School: Starts May 6 and 8. Call (734) 416-2937



Four-year-old Robert Page works with beach balls during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

Little Tennis

Lessons are fun for pint-size athletes

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

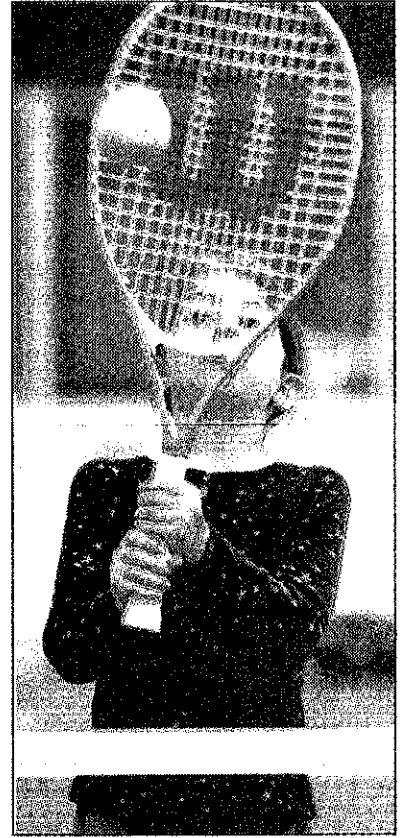
Robert Page hides behind the racquet to ponder why he likes taking tennis classes at the Livonia Recreation Center. The 5-year-old boy can think of only one answer.

"It's lots of fun."

That was the consensus of the more than one dozen 4- and 5-year-olds learning the basics from Karen Buddenborg and Chris Haddad. Josie Piergentili was so excited about getting onto the court the 5-year-old Livonia girl forgot her racquet.

Buddenborg and Haddad have downsized the game and use equipment like beach balls and bean bags to make learning enjoyable. The two Livonia women originally earned certification from the Little Tennis program of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association then came up with their own inventions like balls on a cable to teach their students how to swing. Little Tennis uses a games-based approach to hold a child's interest long enough to receive certificates for completing the six-week course.

"All equipment is tailored to a small child," said Buddenborg of Livonia. "They use smaller racquets, bigger balls which are easier to track for younger or less



Five-year-old Kennedy Marciw returns a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

Please see **TENNIS, C3**

Canton woman creates snail mail for lonely seniors

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cathy Donaldson loves doing things for others, so when she had to give up volunteering to baby-sit her grandson, the Canton woman came up with an idea to make a difference from home. Every quiet moment turned into making cards for older folks who had little contact with the outside world. Before long, Snail Mail for Seniors was born and Donaldson was busy organizing workshops at the Scrapbook Studio in Canton. The next session takes place Sunday, May 4.

SNAIL MAIL FOR SENIORS

What: A workshop to make greeting cards for seniors
When: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, May 4
Where: Scrapbook Studio, 43411 Joy at Morton Taylor, Canton. For details, visit www.snailmailforseniors.com or send e-mail to snailsmiles@hotmail.com

"My own grandmother was in a nursing home for many years and had visitors, but that's not always the case," Donaldson

Please see **SNAIL MAIL, C2**



Cathy Donaldson (right) talks about the Snail Mail project she runs where volunteers create cards to send to seniors in nursing homes. Seated from left are Richelle Fales, Deb Otting, Sue Kalis, and Katie Stam (Donaldson's daughter).

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Shakespeare fest seeks actors

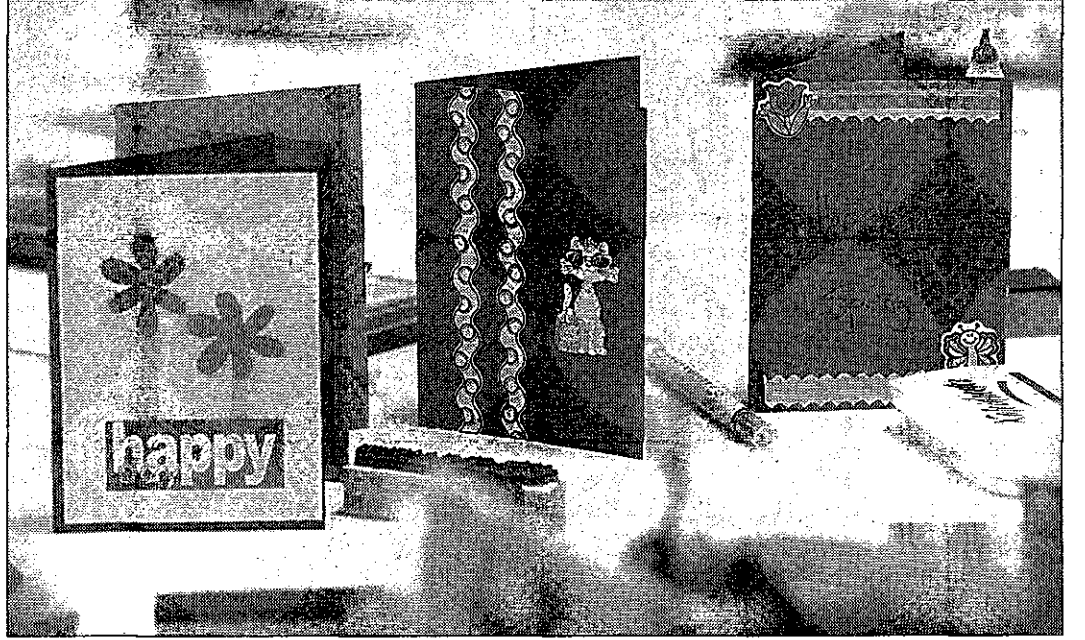
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Geoffrey Kopp is excited about bringing Shakespeare to the community this July. As artistic director of the festival, Kopp is hoping that audiences gain a new understanding of the classic plays, *Twelfth Night* and *Henry IV, Part 1*. Kopp's directed Shakespeare a number of times, including *Hamlet* at Western Michigan University, and played the lead role in *Titus Andronicus* at Schoolcraft College. He taught theater and directed productions at Plymouth Salem High School for two years before becoming a stay-at-home dad. "It's a way for the audience to be exposed to Shakespeare and it provides an opportunity for local actors interested in doing works of Shakespeare,"

said Kopp. "It's not done often in community theater because Shakespeare doesn't sell as well. I want them to be relevant and exciting. It's the same script by Shakespeare but presented in modern times and dress." Kopp is already beginning the process of selecting his acting ensemble by holding auditions for The Village Shakespeare Festival 2008 Acting Ensemble Monday-Tuesday, April 28-29, at The Village Theater of Cherry Hill in Canton. The rotating repertory runs July 23-26, and July 30 to Aug. 2. Actors need to prepare a Shakespeare monologue to audition for the festival supported by the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities. "Part of the challenge is presenting the plays with four

sides of the stage," said Kopp, a graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia. "One company of actors will be in both productions so that will be a challenge for the actor. We're looking for anyone who is interested in Shakespeare from high school age on up because they have to memorize two plays at once. I've already had interest from college students and members of community theater. As long as you have a willingness to work hard and learn. For me as a director and for audience members it's interesting to see them perform diverse roles. The plays share a lot of similar scenes, one's comedy, one history. Thematically there's some similar things. If you see both productions one will inform the other one."

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer scrappers put their tools to work creating cards to be sent to seniors in nursing homes as part of the Snail Mail project.

SNAIL MAIL

FROM PAGE C1

said. "Something as small as a card or something to hang up on their wall gives them so much joy, lets them know someone is thinking about them." Donaldson currently mails cards to nearly 300 seniors in nine nursing and assisted-living centers, including the Lutheran Home in Livonia, Medilodge of Plymouth and Four Chaplains Nursing Care in Westland, as well as private residences, every six weeks. Since August, neighbors, friends, family and strangers have created hundreds of Thinking of You notes with Donaldson's large collection of rubber stamps, but she could always use more help.

While the Scrapbook Studio is serving as a dropoff site for donations of store-bought greeting cards, volunteers are needed to assemble the bulk of the cheerful messages. The Canton Meals on Wheels program alone requires 60 cards per month. Donations of paper would also be greatly appreciated. Donaldson is paying for postage from a small stipend her grandmother left her. "It makes me feel good doing this," Donaldson said. "I love getting my kids and family involved."

Donaldson's daughter Lauren, 16, walks around the store picking up items for a scrapbook she's working on at home. "I like doing crafts and it's nice to help people too," said Lauren Donaldson, a student at Plymouth Salem High School. When Lauren was younger, she used to draw pictures for her great-grandmother, Cathy's grandmother.

Several of the volunteers at a recent workshop were into scrapbooking. Richelle Fales, Donaldson's neighbor, likes to come with her daughter, Amber. She thinks it's wonderful Donaldson wants to reach out to lonely seniors. Deb Otting of Canton wants to support Donaldson's efforts to



Volunteers, from left, Kathy Edwards, Trish Geick, and Lauren Donaldson work on creating cards to be sent to seniors in nursing homes for the Snail Mail project.

brighten seniors lives. Katie Stam of Canton admits she likes scrapbooking and gluing ribbons to everything, so when her mother asked her to help with the project, she said yes.

"It's important to do something for other people," said Stam, Donaldson's older daughter.

Scrapbooker Kathy Edwards of Canton decided to come for exactly the same reason. "I thought it was wonderful they were bringing cheer," Edwards said.

Trish Geick volunteers to make the cards because Donaldson always helps her with a bowling fund-raiser for scholarships in memory of her son Brian. She was there "because it's a nice thing to do."

Sue Kalis taught grades K-6, so she's done a lot of cutting and pasting over the years. The Canton woman belongs to a stamp club, the Midnight Stampers, who meet in Farmington Hills.

"It's lots of fun," said Kalis, who taught in the Wayne-Westland and Plymouth-Canton school districts before retiring.

Donaldson appreciates all of the help, regardless of the reason. She regularly finds cards in her mailbox from Hollyann Stewart, a student at All Saints School in Canton, and Cameron and Courtney Hunter, students at Canton Charter Academy. Mrs.

Schwartz's class at Isbister Elementary helped make Valentine's Day cards and created bunnies for Easter. The Girl Scouts have made cards as well.

"It's growing," said Donaldson, who'd like to start a newsletter with jokes and brain teasers for seniors. "If kids 3 years old want to make something, they love anything that are hand-made. Any donations are welcome — or if they know someone who could use the service — donations of paper, envelopes. There might even be card stores that want to donate. We need postage stamps. If they can't come to the Sunday sessions, they can still help out."

Donaldson finds cards on eBay and at garage sales. She says she can't use get well or birthday cards, but Thinking of You or blank cards are perfect.

"I think it's great what she's doing," said Mary Kunka, who owns the Scrapbook Studio with her sister Michelle Gates. In the past, the two Canton women have held badge workshops for Girl Scouts and had them make cards and then gave the notes of cheer to assisted-living facilities. They donate store space for the Snail Mail workshops.

"One day, we're going to be at that age," Kunka said.

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Livonia Symphony welcomes spring with concert

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra closes its season with Czech This Liszt, a concert featuring Czechoslovakian composers, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Churchill High School auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Conductor Volodymyr Sheshiuk leads the orchestra for the program featuring Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 (Carnival at

Pesth) and Antonin Dvorak's New World Symphony. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$5 children and students, and available at all Livonia libraries or at the door before the concert. For group sales of 10 or more, call (313) 538-2536. Members of the symphony are busy this April and May presenting outreach programs at elementary schools in the Livonia and Clarenceville school districts. On Saturday, May 31,

they hold a fund-raiser at Laurel Manor. The Spring Garden Luncheon includes entertainment by the Livonia Symphony Chamber Ensemble. There will be a garden theme auction and raffle. The Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe will feature sweet treats. The cost for the May 31 fund-raiser is \$25. For more information, call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livoniasymphony.com.

Webkinz Day Extravaganza offers fun for all ages

Thrifty Florist will be party central Friday-Sunday, April 25-27, in advance of Webkinz Day in Webkinz World April 29. The weekend before, all Thrifty Florist locations, will host events with games, prizes and treats for Webkinz fans of all ages. Webkinz pets will be given out to the first 500 cus-

tomers at each store who make a minimum \$10 purchase of any items from the store. For more information, log onto www.thriftyflorist.com. Visitors can download an entry form and coloring pages for a contest where the winner in each age group at every store wins a gift basket full of

Webkinz prizes. Webkinz combine the fun of plush pets with the Internet to give kids a virtual world where they can play and safely chat using constructed messaging. Webkinz World was recently received the Best of the Web Award from the Internet safety group wiredsafety.org.

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Monday, April 28, 2008 • 5:30pm-9pm
Summit on the Park
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Saturday, May 3, 2008 • 9:30am-1pm
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TENNIS

FROM PAGE C1

experienced players."

Haddad and Buddenborg began teaching tennis to 6-10-year-olds at the rec center in 2004 and later added the 4-5-year-old class.

"Parents were asking if there was anything for their siblings," said Haddad of Livonia. "They're successful right away with cable balls then move on to balloons then beach balls then transition balls."

"Activity such as hitting over a net can be difficult. We teach them to swing along the floor first," said Buddenborg who met Haddad on a tennis court where they were taking their first lesson 17 years ago.

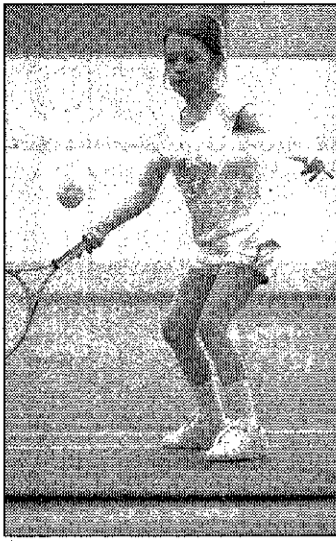
On this afternoon the two friends were having as much fun as the kids and have no plans to take a vacation anytime soon. Pre-school and ages 6-10 tennis starts April 21 and 23, at the Livonia rec center.

Haddad and Buddenborg have a busy summer ahead with classes at Summit on the Park in Canton, Lifetime Fitness in Novi, and the after school program in the Plymouth-Canton district. An outdoor summer program is being offered through Livonia Parks and Recreation.

"It's an introduction to a wonderful game" said Pru Pfeifer of Livonia. Pfeifer was assisting Haddad and Buddenborg. "Tennis is a game you can play all your life."

Jim Page enjoys playing tennis as much as his son Robert. He and Robert's grandmother Joan Flohr were watching outside the gymnasium. Flohr played twice a week for years.

"It teaches the basics, more than just hitting the ball back and forth," said Jim Page, "and it makes him adapt to a group quicker. He goes to swimming and pre-school. It helped with all these things to join a group quicker."



Six-year-old Julia Rintala returns a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

John Caloia brings his daughter Noelle to the classes for a therapeutic reason. The 5½-year old Livonia girl was completing her second session.

"She has CP (cerebral palsy) with limited use of right extremities," said Caloia. "It helps with balance, eye-hand coordination. She has swimming in 20 minutes, ballet on Saturday, soccer. She enjoys it."

Four-year-old John Paul Jabbour dropped out after only two classes but his sister Isabella is having fun and their brother Michael, 2, is already walking around with a racquet in his hand.

"It's something different," said Moj Jabbour, their mother. "It's a good form of exercise in the winter months, something to keep them moving."

Before long class was over and it was time for the 6-10 year olds to line up at the net. The kids rarely missed the balls Buddenborg lobbed their way.

"She started taking (lessons) when she was 5 and has been taking them on and off since then," said Jodi Krawczak of her daughter Emily, 7, a first grade student at Randolph Elementary in Livonia. "She does it because it's fun."

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Concert to raise money, awareness for Kids Against Hunger

The Birchler family of Livonia is hosting Jammin' to end Famine, a concert to benefit Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the U.S. and throughout the world. The concert begins 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. The show features five bands, The Strangers, The B-Bros, The Paisley Fogg, 2 Dayz Gone, and Scratch, with music from the '60s to '90s. The groups are all manned by members of the extended Birchler family.

"I am thrilled to have my four brothers and two sons perform on the same stage," said Tom Birchler. "This will also be the 25th year reunion of Scratch, my band from the '80s and these guys are like brothers to me. Kids Against Hunger uses volunteers to set up food

packaging satellites through partnerships with humanitarian organizations. This enables KAH to deliver its specially formulated rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in more than 40-countries.

"As the immediate past-president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, I was very touched when my brother Tom suggested this event to raise money for Kids Against Hunger, our major project over the past three years," said John Birchler. "As a club we have donated over \$50,000 and thousands of hours in support of this great cause. We have now assisted Kids Against Hunger in packaging over 1 million meals."

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door or in advance by sending e-mail to tbirchler@twml.r.com.

For information about Kids Against Hunger, visit www.feedingchildren.org.



Members of The Paisley Fogg band include (from front to rear) Tommy Anderson; Dave, Keith and Tom Birchler, and Ron Graham. The group performs for the Jammin' to End Famine benefit concert Friday, April 25, at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.

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HURTING ALL OVER

Most of us can remember an experience where we "hurt all over." Such aching accompanies a number of influenza viruses, however, after 3-4 days the aching resolves.

Another type of aching-all-over exists. Its feature is that the aching pain persists. The pain remains day and night and is not improved by rest, activity, distraction, or change in position.

A physician hearing such a complaint faces two dilemmas. First, diagnosing the cause of all-body pain is difficult. Patients with fibromyalgia often experience the problem, and patients taking intense cancer chemotherapy may have a similar response to their therapy. But if the patient does not have fibromyalgia or is not under treatment for cancer, then the doctor has little to work from to pursue a diagnosis.

The second problem is treatment. The patient comes to obtain relief, but without a diagnosis, the physician has no guideline for treatment of the pain. The experience of the medical community is that giving trials of steroids or narcotics only causes a rebound of pain when the cortisone or Vicodin stops.

The way to evaluate and treat hurting-all-over remains an answered question in medicine today. Answers are not likely to come forward soon, as research dollars are focused on cancer, heart disease, and hypertension. When health policy makers recognize the magnitude of work time lost and personal life compromised by this pervasive pain, perhaps funds for research will become available and improved treatment will appear.

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REUNIONS

Berkley High School Class of 1958

Planning a 50th Reunion, Sept 19-21, 2008. All members of January 1958, June 1958 and January 1959 are invited. At Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver Road, Troy. Events include: a Friday evening hospitality party, Saturday afternoon tour of BHS and lunch, dinner Party at the hotel on Saturday evening and brunch at hotel Sunday morning followed by a golf outing. Contact: csingberh-58reunion.org for access to the web-site: www.bhs58reunion.org or call Jackie Yorgen Castine (248)332-5984.

Clarenceville High School Class of 1988

A reunion is being planned for the summer of 2008. Trying to reach as many classmates as possible. Send contact information to Dale Weighill at resource@gfn.org.

Crestwood High School Class of 1968

A 40th class reunion Oct 4, 2008. For information, contact Gail Goodall Welch 313-937-3477 or email CHS1968Sec@yahoo.com.au.

Dearborn High School Class of 1963

A 45-year reunion planned Aug. 1, 2008. Father Patrick O'Kelley Hall, Dearborn. Contact Betsy Cushman at (313) 565-5972 or ecushman@com-cast.net.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Classes of 1958

The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion on Saturday Aug. 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club. Judy Richards Goerke at (313) 562-9031, Judygoerke@yahoo.com or Shirley Chiado Peters at (248) 348-9443, Shirley.peters@villageford.

net may be contacted for further information.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Class of 1968

A 40-year reunion Aug. 2, 2008, at Patrick O'Kelly Knights of Columbus in Dearborn. For more information, contact Janet Wszola Robbins at (313) 277-1418 or Susan Taylor Szalony at (248) 348-6692.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aoi.com or Kathy Shoebridge at Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit Cass Tech Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion, Oct. 11, 2008. For details, call Isabelle at (313)882-4626 and at casstech58.com.

Detroit Chadsey High School Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Burton Manor, Livonia. \$55 per person. Contact, Mike Poterala, (248)548-4829 or mspoterala@com-cast.net.

Detroit Christ the King Elementary Class of 1963

A 45-year reunion is being planned for 2008. Searching for classmates. The reunion date has not been set. Contact Dennis Place at (734) 354-0223 or e-mail denplace@bigfoot.com.

Detroit High School of Commerce Class of 1958 January, June and August

Planning reunion for Sept. 13. Call J. Wilkinson, (313) 861-0834, or B. King, (248) 547-1693.

Detroit Western High School Class of 1978

A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008. For more info, contact Donna Willingham at (313)

605-0377, or email western1978@att.net.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-Reunion Luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Anyone interested in more information can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

Need classmates to register online with names, addresses and e-mail addresses to Paula at gch-1989reunion@hotmail.com and check out web site at www.myspace.com/gchs20threunion.

The reunion date has not been set yet.

Grosse Pointe North Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School 60th Anniversary

The Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School (JACNS) in Detroit is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. A celebration and silent auction are being planned for Saturday, May 24. If you were associated with Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School at any time in the past, as either a student or parent, the school is seeking your memories. For information, email gandjack1@yahoo.com, or call the Shields family at (313) 822-3211.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50 year reunion. Contact: Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbccjgblat.net.

2-day bus trip a mystery for 'girls'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Sue Swims isn't telling where the Girls Just-Want-To-Have-Fun Mystery Weekend is going, but she is promising a fun time.

The two day bus trip leaves Livonia 9 a.m. Saturday, May 3, and returns around 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4.

Swims and her sister Cheryl Bandy started the Escape from Reality adventures as part of their Red Robin Travel business in Livonia.

"We came up with the idea after learning of a company in another state my husband heard about. I planned all kinds of trips for my own family," said Swims of Livonia.

The first day alone includes about six stops before arriving at a hotel where a small surprise awaits the "girls" in their room. The evening ends with a fabulous dinner. Sunday morning begins with breakfast followed by three more stops. The cost is \$189 and



Sue Swims (bottom) and her sister Cheryl Bandy have arranged another of their Girls Just Want-To-Have-Fun Mystery Weekends May 3-4.

includes lodging, transportation, activities, snacks, prizes, and most meals.

"It's all about girls. You sign up with your sister, mother, friends," said Swims. "We might stop at a cute cafe, a country store, someplace where we have an activity and

contest and have prizes. It's just a ton of fun. The women just get pampered."

To learn more about May 3-4 trip, call (734) 838-0227 or visit www.redrobintravel.com. The weekends are also being offered Aug. 9-10, and Oct. 11-12.

ENGAGEMENTS



Drake-Wheatley

Roger and Kathy Drake of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Drake, to Clayton Wheatley, son of Ken and Tracy Wheatley of Fenton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Western Michigan University and is employed at Northland Family Planning.

The future groom is a Western Michigan University graduate and is employed by Ford Motor Co.

A Sept. 6, 2008, wedding is planned for Canton.

Bresler-McIntire

Bill and Susan Bresler of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Katherine Bresler, to Andrew John McIntire, son of John and Faye McIntire, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Michigan State University and received a master's degree from Pace University of New York City in 2007. She is employed by Google in Ann Arbor.

The future groom is a 2004



graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He works at Ford Motor Co. as a Web developer.

An August wedding is planned at Lovett Hall in Dearborn.



Kurc-Jarema

Robert and Betty Kurc of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Cindy Kurc, to Carl Jarema, son of Robert and Cindy Jarema of Gran Blanc.

The bride-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and a graduate of Michigan Tech University. She is an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The future groom is a 2001 graduate of Powers Catholic High School and a graduate of Michigan Tech University. He is a test engineer with Johnson Controls.

An Aug. 16, 2008, wedding is planned for Alpena, Mich.

Bramlett-Kadwell

Don and Ann Bramlett of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lora Bramlett, to Matthew Kadwell, son of Terry and Nancy Hurley and Philip and Debbie Kadwell.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Michigan State University.

She is employed by Koppert Biological Systems.

The future groom is a graduate of Farmington Harrison High School and Michigan State University.



He is employed by Stathakis Painting. A May 10, 2008, wedding is planned for Mount Hope Congregational Church.

Wagner-Marchelletta

Katherine (Kate) Wagner of Livonia and Anthony Marchelletta of Livonia plan to marry Saturday, July 5, at St. Simon Catholic Church.

Kate is the daughter of George and Judy Wagner of Ludington. She is a 2000 graduate of Ludington High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is currently attending Indiana University in Bloomington and will complete her doctor of audiology degree in August. She is currently employed by Henry Ford Health System as a clinical audiology extern.

Anthony is the son of Tony and Karen Marchelletta of Livonia. He is a 2000 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High



School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in food marketing and business. He is currently a sales representative for Kethe Food Distributors.

BIRTH



Aubrey Ann Singleton

Jason and Kristine Singleton of Plymouth Township announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Ann Singleton, on March 31, 2008, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

Aubrey has a brother, Connor Douglas Singleton, 3.

Grandparents are Douglas and Aida Kaiser of Canton Township and Jim and Veronica Singleton of Canton Township.

Great grandparents are John and Lorraine Kaiser of Woodhaven.

Passages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com View Obits On-line@www.hometownlife.com

ANTHONY ANASON Age 74, of Rockford, Michigan, formerly a longtime resident of Plymouth, passed away after a brief illness in Jupiter, Florida on April 17, 2008. Beloved husband of 53 years of Marilyn, Loving mother of Kathryn (Michael) Mekaru, A. Mark (Shari), Roger and David (Stacey). He is also survived by his 11 grandchildren, Elizabeth, Timothy, Steven, Alexa, Brooke, Mallory, Christopher, Emily, Tony, Nicholas and Katelin. Also, surviving him was his sister Anna Solomon. Tony was born on May 20, 1933 in New York and later moved to Michigan. He was a retired employee of the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at the Pederson Funeral Home at 127 North Monroe Street, Rockford, MI. Mass will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford, Michigan. Donations can be made to Right to Life. For more detailed information call 616-866-1515 or log onto www.pedersonfuneralhome.com.



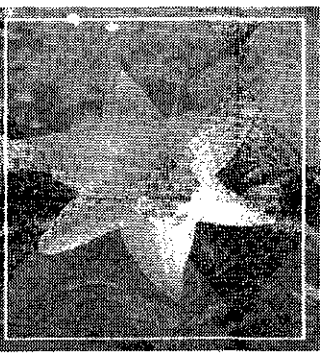
JEAN G. KOMLOS

Widow of George J., mother of Kathleen Kelley, George L. (deceased) and Kurt, passed on April 9, 2008. Grandmother of five: Breeze, Corey, Piper Ann, Zachary and Jasper (deceased). Great-grandmother of Taylor Marie. She was also survived by two sisters: Lee and Frances, and two daughters-in-law: Terry and Valerie. She was a longtime member of the Redford Suburban League, but lived most of her last 30 years in Plymouth, while her last year in Franklin, TN. She made many close friends throughout her lifetime, and will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. A quote from Jean: "my most valuable assets are my 'Friends' and 'Family'". Her ashes will be spread in Franklin, but her memories are spread near and far. Her love for animals requests that any contributions be sent to the Humane Society or shelter of choice.

RICHARD P. NEWTON Age 70, died April 17, 2008. Beloved husband of Marie for 41 years. Dear father of David (Kristan), Michael (Roxane), Christine (Dennis) Clark, Douglas (Yuni). Dearest grandfather of Zachary, Emily, Abby, Jacob, and Angela. Loving brother of Carol (the late Ralph), Jean (Ronald), and the late David. Family will receive friends Sunday 3-8 with a Rosary 7 pm. on Sunday at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral services will begin Monday with prayers 9 am. at the funeral home and 9:30 am. Mass at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. The family appreciates memorial donations to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery Please share a memory with the family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

REV. JONATHAN K. BOMGREN Age 61, Farmington, MI, passed away March 30, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

RUTH H. CARR April 14, 2008, age 99. Honored as a creator and co-founder of BASCC. Wife of the late Jack Carr. Dear aunt of William J. McAfee (Joan), Elizabeth Andrews and Jean Harris. Memorial service Tuesday, May 13 th., 2:00 pm at Canterbury On The Lake, 5601 Hatchery Rd., Waterford. Memorial tributes to Hospice of Michigan. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



DELORES M. MCMANAMON

Age 79, of South Lyon, passed away on April 17, 2008. Born on December 27, 1928 in River Rouge, MI. to Lewis and Marie (Moss) Laginess. Delores was married to Patrick on June 21, 1952; they spent 37 wonderful years together. She moved to South Lyon from Redford where she resided for 34 years. Delores was a school teacher for 32 years with the Livonia Public Schools. Her spirit will lived through each and every person she touched, she will be missed by all. Delores is survived by her children, Thomas (Gay), Daniel (Teresa), Theresa (Steve) Bland, Michael (Ann), Sharon (Marc) Hackman, Karen (Fred) Stuard, and Brian (Joanne); her siblings, Shirley (Donald) McHugh, Ron (Jesse) Laginess, Carol (Ron) Mackool, and Michael (Marylou) Laginess; and 24 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her sister Jeanne Hogan, her brothers, Raymond and James Laginess. A Funeral Mass will be held Monday, April 21, 11am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Father Kenneth Chase will officiate the service. Donations are suggested to U of M, Comprehensive Cancer Center, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

ROBERT H. OTTE, Sr. Age 84, Farmington Hills, MI, passed away April 14, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

GEORGE SKORINA Age 81, of Canton, passed away on April 15, 2008. Born in Detroit on May 9, 1926. He bravely served our country during WWII in the United States Navy. After the war, he would graduate from Western Michigan University earning a degree in Accounting. After he retired from his career in accounting, he would enjoy gardening and traveling. Above all else he would dedicate his life to his loving family. George is survived by his long time companion Nancy Wiggle. Daughters Carol (Jeff) Morgan and Mary (Ned) Sims. Grandchildren: Stephen, Elizabeth, Karl, Spencer and Troy. Brother of Julia McCarty. Preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth and his youngest daughter Kristin. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth on Saturday, April 19, 2008. Share your special thoughts and memories at: schrader-howell.com

LILLIAN R. ZAK Age 88, April 15, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Adolph. Dear mother of Jim (Jan), Rosemary (Dan) Callahan, Adolph Richard, Gerry (Kathy), Liz (Jim) Christopher and Karen (Dan) Lopez. Grandmother of Lauren, Michael, Andrea, Kevin, Colleen, Joshua, Nathan, Scott, Tim, Daniel Paul and Gabriel. Great-grandmother of Olivia and Brendan. Also survived by close friend Vince Enriquez. Services were held. Arrangements by Santeu & Son.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Let others know... When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in 'Passages'... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper. Observer & Eccentric Call 1-800-579-7355

VSA arts festival makes big move

VSA arts of Michigan-Southeast Region is holding its 17th annual showcase of children and adults with disabilities April 25-26, in two different locations this year. In the past, the festival had been held at Livonia Mall.

In 2008, experiential hands-on arts activities will be provided for festival participants in addition to their performances in auditoriums located in Detroit Renaissance High School (Friday, April 25) and Clawson High School during the Arts Alive! event (Saturday, April 26). The VSAMI 2008 Emerging Artists Touring Exhibit will also be featured.

VSA arts of Michigan-Southeast Region provides access and opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to experience and grow

through the arts. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Renaissance High School in Detroit. Performers include students from Jerry White School, Pontiac schools, and Dearborn.

On Saturday, the program runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Clawson High School and includes the talents of Amy Somerville, Scott Wightman, Karen McDonald, the FAR Conservatory Band from Birmingham, Dennis Gordon, and pianist Raymond Wells of Plymouth.

Music therapist Lisa Barnett receives the VSA arts of Michigan Educator of the Year award.

For more information, contact Jody Stark at (313) 273-7762 or catinc@earthlink.net, or Connie Lott at (248) 349-0682.

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 Sunday edition 5 p.m. Friday
 Thursday edition 11:00 a.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:
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 Observer office 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
 Hours 8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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CLEANERS NEEDED
 For Plymouth area homes. \$10 hr. to start. No nights or weekends. Full-Time. Car required. 734-455-4570
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 Energetic & hard-working. Eves. Mon-Fri., 15+ hrs. per week. For appt., 248-615-3554
COLLECTOR
 Plymouth law firm looking for collector. Legal collection experience preferred. Fax resume: 734-254-1025 Attention: Hiring Partner

ACCOUNTANT II
 South Redford School District is accepting applications for the position of Accountant II.
 The Accountant II shall assist the Business Manager in the operational accounting and financial reporting functions for the District in accordance with accepted accounting procedures, including state and federal guidelines.
 A minimal of an Associates Degree, Business Administration and Accounting or Equivalent Experience. Three years of successful experience in accounting and finance plus understanding and knowledge of non-profit business procedures. Additional qualifications listed at:
 http://southredford.net/
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 Requires ten years experience as automotive clay sculptor/model maker.
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 Hiring non medical caregivers am, pm, OVERNIGHT and weekend shifts. Car necessary. Call Mon-Fri, 9-4pm. 734-838-0671. Home Instead Senior Care.
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COLLECTOR
 Plymouth law firm looking for collector. Legal collection experience preferred. Fax resume: 734-254-1025 Attention: Hiring Partner

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39 MONTH LEASE \$391** PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT		39 MONTH LEASE \$166** PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1995		39 MONTH LEASE \$222** PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT	
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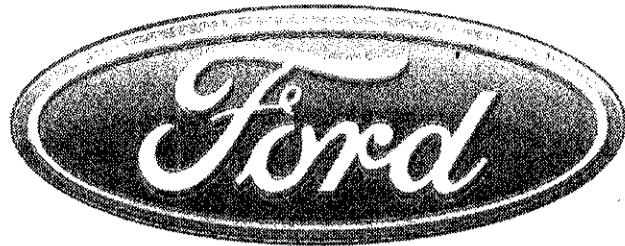


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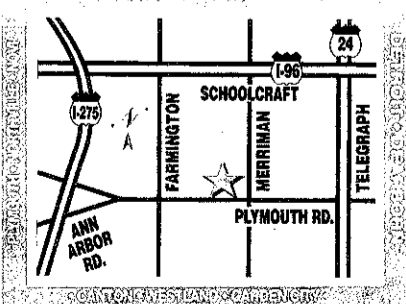
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New Homes

D (7)

Sunday, April 20, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Silverdale's design offers an abundance of silver linings

Looking for a traditional farmhouse that has some extra pizzazz to its façade? The Silverdale (D6711) fits that description. It has a covered porch with railings, a two-car garage, a second story, and a tall chimney. The remarkable features are the large, uniquely

shaped windows both on the front of the home as well as on the garage.

Upon entering this fine home, your guest will be greeted by one large, long open room. The living room is in the front with a fireplace on the left wall, while the din-

ing room is in the rear. Both rooms have large windows that bathe them in light.

In the right rear corner of the Silverdale is a spacious open "C" shaped kitchen. There is a small pantry on the center wall as well as a half-bath tucked between the pantry and the stairs to the optional 749 square foot basement. There are two doors just off the kitchen, one leading to the garage and the storage area in the rear. The other one opens onto a covered porch, great for family gatherings.

Adjacent to the entry to the right is the stairs to the second floor. All the bedrooms are upstairs. The master suite is a large square room with a walk-in closet and a full bath with a tub. Bedrooms 2 and 3 each have large windows, providing an abundance of light for the rooms. Bedroom 2 has a corner walk-in closet, while bedroom 3 has a wall closet. The full bath with a



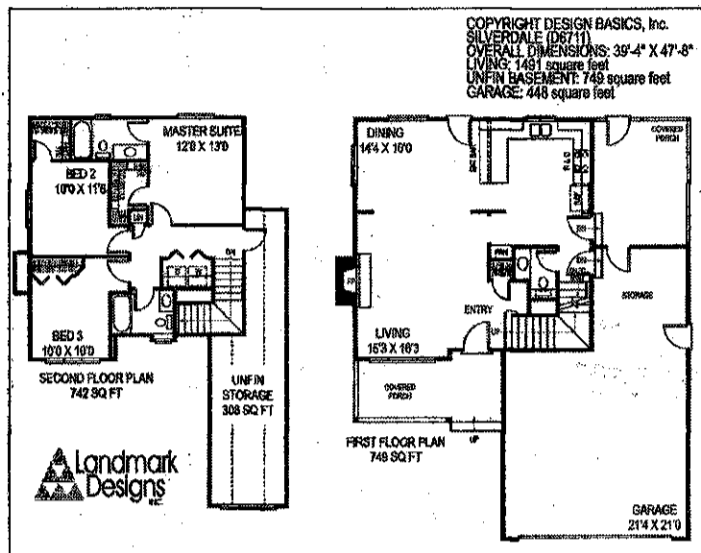
tub is adjacent to bedroom 2. The washer and dryer are also on this floor as it is easier for doing the laundry.

At the end of the hall next to the staircase is a long unfinished 308-square-foot storage area. This is ideal for storing those seasonal items, as well as providing an area for kids to play.

Overall, the Silverdale provides a warm open living space with a usable square footage of 1,491.

For a study plan of the SILVERDALE (D6711), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number.

Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.diplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



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Century 21 Today offers career seminars Tuesday or Saturday noon to 1 p.m. at 28544 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Contact Steve Leibhan at (248) 855-2000, Ext. 238.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a lien law seminar on Wednesday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Marty Burnstein, of the Law Offices of Marty Burnstein,

will discuss "What's New in Michigan Construction Lien Law and Lien Procedures." Registration fees are \$75 for BIA members and \$125 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "Leasing 101: The 2008 Tour" seminar on Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Led by Kathleen Mabie of Success on Site, the seminar will cover competitive analysis of what is being sold, setting up the close, telephone tech-

niques, Internet and e-mail and meet-greet information. The seminar is valuable for newly hired leasing personnel as well as seasoned ones.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a seminar on "Before The Bedbug Bites" on Thursday, May 1, from 9-11 a.m. at Headquarters in Farmington Hills. Bob England and Steve Hodges of

EradiCo will present basic biology, how the problem develops and is spread, and proper control measures. Registration fees are \$15 per person for PMC, AAM and BIA members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "Recovery By Design" on Wednesday, May 7, from 8:30-11 a.m. at Emagine Theater, 44425 W. 12 Mile, Novi (Fountain Walk, Novi Road & I-96). The presentation will cover what people can do as an industry to overcome the challenges of Michigan's economy. Topics include how

to build a partnership with a design professional to create distinctive neighborhoods; how to give buyers a reason to move and minimize risk for builders; and an overview of National Green Building Standard and how they will impact Michigan. Speakers are Dominick Tringali, AIA, NCARB, of Dominick Tringali Architects Inc. and Arni McIntyre of McIntyre Builders Inc.

Registration fees are \$15 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern

Michigan (BIA) will present "The ABCs of Collection" on Tuesday, May 13, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills.

The seminar will be presented by Ron Rich of Ronald B. Rich & Associates. Topics include: proper format for creating credit applications; collections process; making the phone call; when to initiate liens and when to go to arbitration or court. Registration fees, including a continental breakfast, are \$10 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

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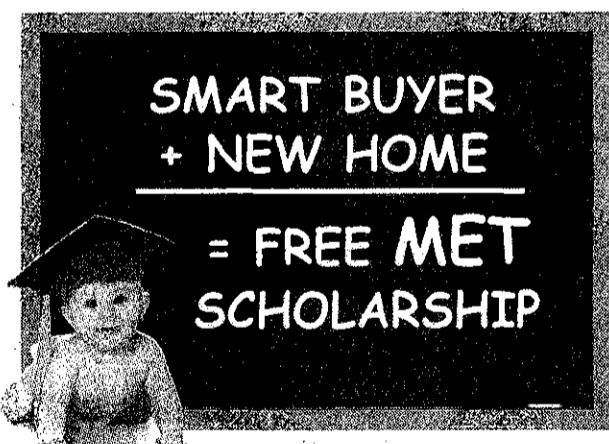


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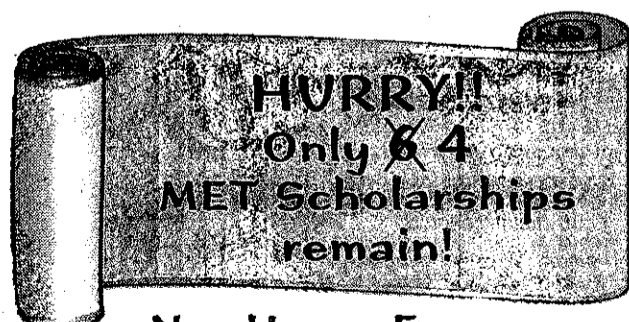
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2.3L 14 eng, 5-speed auto trans, P205/60R16 all season tires, air, speed/tilt wheel, pwr W/L, perimeter anti-theft system, 1st & 2nd row air curtains, fog lamps, 6-way power seat. Stock #82264. Was \$20,535

24 Month Lease
NOW \$17,017* **\$155**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD EDGE SE
17" aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, privacy glass, speed control, tilt, front & side impact air bags. Stock #81751. Was \$26,035

24 Month Lease
NOW \$21,145* **\$184**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD EXPLORER XLT
4.0L SOHC, 5-speed auto OD trans, conven. group, cast alum whls, auto lamp headlights, and much, much more. Stock #80411. Was \$27,845

24 Month Lease
NOW \$21,614* **\$250**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD FOCUS 4 DR. SE
Auto, air, aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, 15" alum wheels, remote keyless, message center. Stock #81402. Was \$17,195

24 Month Lease
NOW \$13,873* **\$145**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD MUSTANG V-6 PONY
Automatic transmission, ambient lighting, HD headlamps, safety pkg., int. upgrade pkg. Stock # 80456. Was \$25,440

24 Month Lease
NOW \$20,335* **\$271**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD F150 S. CAB XLT 4x4
5.4 V8, ilm, slip axle, 7700 GVW, t-tow & go, 17" alum wheels & much more. Stock #82133. Was \$35,855

24 Month Lease
NOW \$24,557* **\$249**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT
Privacy glass, power windows & locks, power seat, fog lamps, auto headlamps, tilt, speed control, AM/FM CD, moonroof, sat. radio, more. Stock #81871. Was \$23,255

24 Month Lease
NOW \$18,954* **\$185**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing

2008 FORD TAURUS X
Power windows, power locks, power seat, speed control, tilt wheel and more. Stock #80316. Was \$27,675

24 Month Lease
NOW \$20,961* **\$275**** Per Mo.
\$2500 due at signing



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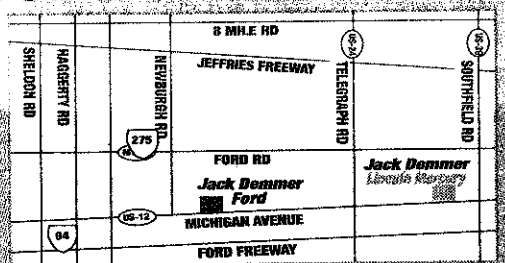
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\$217* Per Mo.
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2008 MERCURY MARINER
2.3L Duratec X-4 eng., 4 spd auto trans, 6 CD/MP3, moon & tune, Sat. radio, speed control, fog lamps, priv. glass, roof rack w/crossbars & much more. Stock #81508

24 Month Lease
\$249* Per Mo.
\$0 Cash due at signing

2008 LINCOLN MKZ
3.5L V6 Duratec eng, 6 speed automatic transmission, fog lamps, message center, side air curtain, wood trim, leather and more. Stock #81670

24 Month Lease
\$331* Per Mo.
\$0 Cash due at signing

2008 MERCURY SABLE
6 speed automatic transmission, 3.5L V6 Duratec engine, P215/60R17 BSW tires. SYNC system, reverse sensing & cargo mgmt. Stock #80325

24 Month Lease
\$279* Per Mo.
\$0 Cash due at signing

2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
P245/65R17 BSW A/T tires, fir mats, color-key carpet, illuminated visors 17" machined alum wheels, auto lamp headlamps, keyless entry w/ keypad, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-spd auto O/D trans, 6180 lb. GVW, adj. pedals, ultrasonic reverse sensing. Stock #81588

24 Month Lease
\$315* Per Mo.
\$0 Cash due at signing

2008 LINCOLN MKX
3.5L V6 engine, auto trans, ultimate pkg. includes 18" chrome-clad alum wheels, adaptive headlamps, power liftgate, reverse sensing system, SYNC voice activated system, more. Stock #81671

24 Month Lease
\$395* Per Mo.
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