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Residents looking at double-digit increases for water

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Starting in July, Canton residents will pay more for turning on their faucets.

The Township Board set new water and sewer rates at Tuesday's board meeting.

The consumption rate for water will increase from \$2.48 to \$2.61 per 1,000 gallons and the sewage treatment rate will rise from \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.54.

In addition to the consumption fees, the fixed water charge has been bumped from \$7.35 to \$9.81 per quarter.

In the mix of all the rate increases, property owners will see a deduction

How do you feel about Canton raising water rates? Will you use less water as a result? If so, how will you cut back?
E-mail Editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

in their fixed sewer charges. Homes without footing drains will be charged \$6.24 per quarter instead of \$12.78. Homes with footing drains will be billed \$8.61 per quarter.

In raising the rates, Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the township is still attempting to regain ground from a stretch of years where water and sewer rates remained the same despite growing operation costs. "Our costs continue to increase

beyond our control," he said, noting that 80 percent of the water and sewer department's \$32.5 million budgeted expenses are fixed costs from outside vendors. "We control the remaining 20 percent as best as we can but we don't want to get into a situation where we eat into our fund balance. That is not good business."

In addition to the rate changes, the board has approved two modifications to the department's billing methods.

Faas said after listening to the concerns of homeowners last year, as well as conducting an in-house study, it was decided to do away with a cap on sewer charges for residential usage that exceeds 60,000 gallons per quarter. Minimum billing at 15,000 gal-

WATER RATE ESTIMATES FOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Type of user	Quarterly Volume (gallons)	2007 Bill	2008 Bill	Increase
Low	9,000	\$73	\$80	9.4 percent
Average	32,283	\$212	\$247	16.7 percent
Family of five	44,000	\$281	\$330	17.6 percent
High	78,750	\$422	\$579	37.1 percent

lons per quarter was also eliminated.

"The method behind the minimum billing was that we needed to make a minimum amount (of money) to run the system, but it was not fair to those that (conserve water)," Faas said, adding that on the flip side, the 60,000 gallon cap was viewed as an award to those that use more resources.

Using the new rates, it has been estimated that the quarterly bill of Canton's average user will rise nearly 17 percent from \$212 to about \$247. The average township property uses more than 32,000 gallons of water per quarter.

"We have tried to (set rates) in the least painful way," Faas said.

A life changed forever

Drunken driver hopes her story affects teens

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Sarah Panzau stepped on the Salem High School auditorium stage Wednesday morning, hundreds of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park students viewed a slide show of Panzau as one of the top high school and college volleyball players in America, who became a two-time member of the National Junior College Athletic Association women's volleyball All-America team.

Moments later, the pictures changed dramatically, graphically showing Panzau in a tragic drunken driving crash Aug. 23, 2003, when she was only 21 years old.

"I was considered pretty much dead," Panzau, now 26, told the crowd of sophomores, juniors and seniors during a lecture sponsored by Students Against Drunk Driving. "I had no heartbeat, no pulse and no blood pressure."

Please see **DRIVER, A4**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Panzau talks to students about drunk driving and the decisions she made leading up to the drunken driving accident she had, which led to the loss of her left arm and other life-threatening injuries.

Expo on tap May 20: Welcome to the 'Young at Heart'

Seniors, as well as friends and relatives, get ready for the fifth annual Senior Expo Tuesday, May 20, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Sponsored by the *Observer & Eccentric* and Schoolcraft College, this year's expo features more than 50 exhibitors and an activities-packed agenda from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission and parking are free. The VisTaTech Center is located between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads in Livonia.

Travel buffs can enter to win a tropical getaway for two in Jamaica courtesy of Atlas Travel.

The Caribbean paradise with its beautiful beaches, picturesque mountains and dazzling red sunsets was used by author Ian Fleming as a setting in several of his James Bond novels.

Sport fans will have an opportunity to win tickets to a Detroit's Tigers game.

Participants interested in learning how to grow and protect their retirement investments will be treated to a one-hour free seminar at 10 a.m. by financial expert and *Observer & Eccentric* columnist Rick Bloom.

Other fitness activities include: 9:30 a.m. Forever Fit for Seniors (taught by Mindy Hopkins), 11 a.m. Line Dancing (led by Bill Peterson) and 11:45 a.m. Strength Training for Seniors (offered by American Health and Fitness).

Those in the sandwich generation will have a great opportunity to learn about assisted living options as well as retirement housing for parents who are ready to move from the responsibility of homeownership.

Hometown vocalist Barbara Ware will supply the musical entertainment at 11 a.m.

Exhibit topics include:

- Health care
- Legal services
- Fitness
- Assisted living
- Travel
- Insurance
- Pet care
- Home improvement

Lunch is available for purchase at the college's Henry's Food Court. Located in the VisTaTech Center's Waterman Wing, Henry's has a deli, grill, pizza, pasta station, stir fry station, salad bar and daily entrée selections, as well as an assortment of grab-and-go sandwiches and salads.

For a complete list of exhibitors confirmed, go to www.hometownlife.com.

Traveling WWII museum tells tale of American prisoners

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tom Houdek doesn't have to take a tour of the rolling museum dedicated to American prisoners of war in Nazi Germany in order to get a feel of their experience — he lived through it himself.

"When I was captured, I weighed 155 pounds," the

82-year-old Canton man said. "I was 98 pounds when I got out."

Houdek, who turned 19 in prison camp, was held for nearly six months and said he's interested to see what's displayed in the mobile exhibit, Behind Barbed Wire. The museum, housed in a converted

Please see **MUSEUM, A10**



The mobile exhibit 'Behind Barbed Wire' will give a first-hand look at the life of American prisoners of war in Nazi Germany when it visits Canton on May 19.

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Coming Thursday in filter



Movement:
Moby headlines Detroit's electronic music fest.

Correction

In a May 15 Canton Observer story the Democratic candidate running for Canton Township trustee should have been identified as Syed S. Taj.

Willy Wonka on stage

A stage version of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr. will be performed at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The performances are today at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Monday at 9:30 a.m., and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. The show is considered suitable for all ages. Running time is two hours with one 15 minute intermission. Tickets are \$15 for all ages, and can be purchased online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or by phone at (734) 394-5460. They are also on sale at the Village Theater ticket office one hour before the performance.

The play will include all the popular characters and songs (including "The Candy Man" and "Pure Imagination"). The memorable score by Leslie Bricusse (Jekyll & Hyde, Doctor Dolittle) and Anthony Newley, augmented by several new songs, has been neatly fitted into a new script adapted under the auspices of the Dahl Estate.

Memorial Day ceremony

There will be a Memorial Day Service at the Canton Veterans Memorial on Monday May 26.

It is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. The event will feature the Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard.

Caccamo coffee

On Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m., Canton Township Trustee Todd Caccamo will host another special coffee meeting at the Cherry Hill Perk Coffee House (50166 Cherry Hill Rd, just east of Ridge Rd. at the beginning of the CHV downtown section).

He is inviting all residents to attend the meeting, which will also feature Trustees Todd LaJoy, Melissa McLaughlin, Canton Clerk Terry Bennett, and Pat Williams, who is running for township trustee.

They will answer any questions residents have, and discuss their ideas for Canton's future.

Singsation 2008

The PCEP Choirs annual spring concert, *Singsation*, will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 20 in the Salem High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door or \$4 in advance through the choir office located in room 1603 at Salem or by calling (734) 416-7765. For more information visit www.pcepchoirs.org.

This year's *Singsation* concert will feature students performing challenging choral works by Moses Hogan, Arthur Sullivan, and John Rutter as well as popular music from the Broadway musicals *Sweeney Todd*, *Rent*, *Hairspray*, *Grease*, and *Children of Eden*. In addition, solos will be performed by graduating seniors in the choir program.

The combined PCEP choirs will also proudly present the world premiere of new choral work commissioned by the PCEP choirs this spring. Entitled "Song to Tradition," this new work has been crafted by renowned composer Ruth Elaine Schram with lyrics by Chicago area poet Dennis Neumann. This song will also be performed by the choirs at the high school spring commencement ceremonies.

All Saints fund-raiser

All Saints Catholic School 8th graders are raising funds for the American Cancer Society and for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. On May 22 the students will hold a Walk-A-Thon at All Saints Catholic School (48735 Warren Road in Canton) beginning at 8:15 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. The students are accepting donations from family and friends.

Also at the same time, Fourth Grade will be celebrating Michigan Week. The will display creations about Michigan during Michigan Week. Fourth Grade will be displaying their exciting projects in the hallways for everyone to view.

You can see everything from: Trade to sports, to vacations, to inventors to landmarks to lighthouses to manufacturing to Michigan firsts to Michigan food products. There will be over 15 different Michigan products to taste.

All Saints Catholic School, Canton, (734) 459-2490

McCotter talk

Zionist Organization of America-Michigan Region, in commemoration of the Dolphinarium terrorist attack in Tel Aviv on June 1, 2001, presents U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, speaking on The House Anti-Terrorism/Jihad Caucus at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Holocaust Memorial Center. McCotter serves the 11th district of western Oakland and western Wayne counties. He is chairman of the Republican House Policy Committee and serves on the House Anti-Terrorism/Jihad Caucus which educates fellow lawmakers and Americans about militant Islam's long-term threat. Co-sponsor of the event is the Anti-Defamation League. There is no charge. For more information, contact Lisa Glazer, executive director at (248) 282-0088 or by e-mail at lisa@mizoa.org.

Canton Lions anniversary

Come and celebrate Canton Lions Club's 40th Anniversary at a dinner dance on Friday, June 6, at 6 p.m. It will be held at the Cady/Boyer barn behind the Bartlett Travis house at 500 N. Ridge Road.

The anniversary party will include a catered dinner, pop/ coffee, raffles and 50s and 60s music by Canton's own Fairview featuring Ron and Albert Muniz on guitar and lead vocals, Chat Atwell on bass and Karl Zarbo on drums.

The Canton Lions Club is involved in many note-worthy local and world-wide community service projects such as: Liberty Fest and Relay for Life Pancake Breakfasts, August's Corn Roast, White Cane sale and collecting glasses for Third World Countries. All donations will be given back to the community and/or to the blind and hearing impaired.

For more information, please call (734) 981-0486 or e-mail nrybar@yahoo.com.

Rotary raffle

The Canton Rotary Club will host a fund-raising dinner from 6:30-9:30 p.m., June 2 at Summit on the Park. The event will feature a raffle with prizes, a full dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions, cash

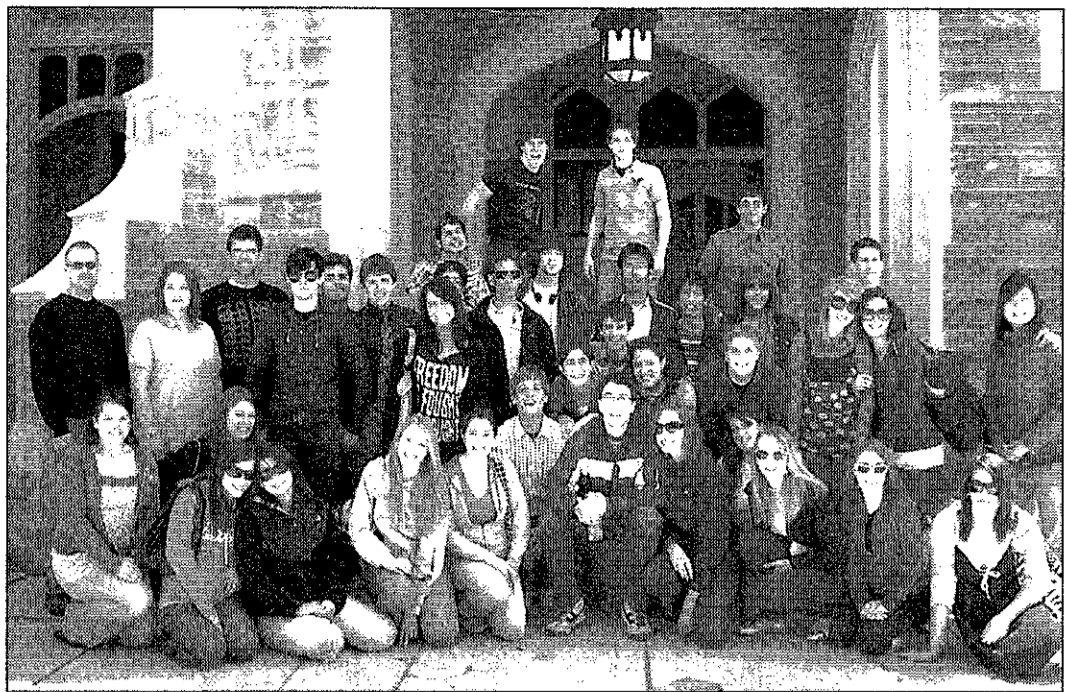


PHOTO BY JENNIFER L. KOPP

International honors

The PCEP Festival Singers pose outside of Toronto's Casa Loma during their trip to Ontario's capital city last week. The PCEP Choirs, under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp, participated in the Music In The Parks Festival in Toronto, in which the Festival Singers earned a first place trophy and a superior rating for their performances of 'No Hiding Place' and 'Sleep.' PCEP's Dulcissima Womens Choir earned a first place trophy and an excellent rating for their performances of 'In Whatever Time We Have' and 'Lily of the Valley.' In addition, the PCEP Choir program was awarded the prestigious Esprit de Corps award, which recognizes participating organizations that display an exemplary attitude of positive support and outstanding personal behavior.

bar, and a chance to network with fellow business people and community citizens. Top prize in the raffle is a \$4,500 vacation plus \$1,500 in taxes paid on your behalf; 2nd Prize is a weekend getaway to Las Vegas; and 3rd Prize is a weekend getaway to Toronto. In addition there will be at least 17 runner up prizes with a minimum value of \$200.

Cost for the event is \$150 for a ticket entitling you to all events of the evening. There will be a minimum of 20 winners, and a maximum of 120 tickets sold. For more information, contact Canton Rotary Club Directors Michelle Burger at (734) 812-2517 or Larry Oldford at (734) 905-7700.

Eucharistic conference

Our Lady of Good Counsel hosts a morning conference on the Eucharist 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 24.

Mass starts at 7:30 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast. Speakers include Steve Ray, "Defending the Eucharist," and Sr. Ann Shields, "The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus."

OLGC also presents Vatican International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles in the Social Hall 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 22; 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, May 23; after the conference Saturday, May 24, until 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OLGC is located at 47650 N. Territorial in Plymouth. For more information, call Margy at (313) 225-0549, or Sarah at (734) 667-2287. There is no charge, though a free-will offering will be taken.

St. Michael registration

Registrations are now being accepted at St. Michael Christian School in Canton for the 2008-09 school year. There are openings in 3 and 4 year old preschool classes, as well as, young fives through sixth grade. Their academic program is taught by qualified and credentialed teachers, and they support the development of the whole child in a small class size setting.

The school is located 7000 Sheldon Road inside St.

Michael Lutheran Church. For more information, call (734)459-9720.

John Glenn reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20 year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Roma's of Garden City. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information please visit the Web site jgh-s88reunion.com.

Grief support group

The Sharing & Caring Coffee Hour is an ongoing grief support group for widows and widowers hosted by Heartland Hospice. The group is held 10-11 a.m. at Heartland Healthcare Center, 4701 N. Lilley Road, Canton. The focus of the group is on the later stages of grief, with an emphasis on learning to live with the loss. This group is held the first and third Wednesday of the month and is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse. There is no charge. For information, contact Ann Christensen, toll-free at (888) 973-1145.

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Badges of excellence

Annual police awards recognize department's finest.

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Chad Baugh nabs bad guys, Erica Godin books suspected criminals and Jessica Toth shines light on township businesses that sell alcohol and tobacco to minors.

All three were honored Thursday at the Canton Police Department's 22nd annual Awards & Citations Ceremony.

Baugh, who began policing the township's streets in 1996, was named Officer of the Year. Godin, a public safety service officer, was recognized as Civilian of the Year and Toth, a junior studying criminal justice at Michigan State University, was given the Director's Recognition Award for her four years of work as an underage decoy.

In addition to these three, dozens of other department officials were honored at the ceremony, which took place at Summit on the Park and was attended by more than 150 people.

Executive Director John Santomauro, who related a story from his childhood to illustrate the bravery that officers display every day, applauded the entire police department saying it takes courage to come at contact with people at their worst. "Responding to an emergency call for service is, frankly, a dangerous thing to do," he said.

Deputy Chief Alex Wilson, Lt. Robert Kerr, Officer Davey LeBlanc and employee Monica Duckwitz were honored for taking the department to an "even higher level of professional police service," through their successful efforts at earning the police force accreditation from the Commission



Officer Chad Baugh, who was named Officer of the Year, stands with Canton Executive Director John Santomauro.



Jessica Toth, a junior at Michigan State University, was given the Director's Recognition Award for having served as an alcohol and tobacco decoy for four years.

on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

For identifying and arresting a man just hours after he robbed a Charter One Bank location, Sgt. Rick Pomorski, Detective Brian Schultz, Detective Michael Steckel and Detective Timothy Wright were awarded a unit commendation. The suspect, who was arrested in Ann Arbor, is believed to have committed two other bank robberies in Wayne and

Westland.

Officer Matthew Roberson was recognized for taking a deeper look at the report of a BB gun being left behind at a Canton motel. After tracking down the identity of the person who had been inside the room, Roberson discovered that he was in violation of keeping his address current with the state's sex offender registry. He also discovered that the man possibly committed armed robbery with the confiscated weapon.

Baugh, who joined the township force after leaving the Hudson Police Department, said he's honored to be Officer of the Year.

"At this point in my career, the best thing about my job is helping people and solving problems immediately," he said.

In recognizing Baugh, Santomauro said he has served in various positions and assignments including field training officer, evidence technician and investigative officer within the detective bureau.

"Officer Baugh's work ethic, character, his desire to consistently develop his talents and his willingness to help new officers, have earned him the respect of his peers and supervisors," Santomauro said.



Captain Pat Irvine (left) and Gloria Gorny, National Association of Letter Carriers sort food donations at the Canton Post Office.

Stamping out hunger

Postal carriers, Salvation Army team on food drive

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers was a huge success locally for the Plymouth Salvation Army corps.

A total of 38,488 pounds of non-perishable food was collected by U.S. Post Office workers in Plymouth and Canton, which was a 19-percent increase from last year. The food drive is considered the nation's largest one-day food drive, and the carriers at the two Plymouth and one Canton post offices donate the food they collect to the Salvation Army.

"This is huge because we absolutely had bare walls in several areas of the pantry," said Captain Jim Irvine of the Plymouth Salvation Army corps. "We were down on dry foods and had simply run out of a number of canned food

items.

"This year's drive was far more critical than last year's," said Irvine. "People are shocked there are poor people in Plymouth and Canton, but the economy is so bad and it's affected so many families that more and more people are turning to the Salvation Army for help.

Irvine said he's seen an increase in people needing help paying utilities, health care, rent and obtaining food.

"I see every day that times are hard out there," said Gloria Gorny, a Canton postal carrier. "There are seven houses on my route that have gone back to the bank.

"The customers on my route that did give food gave a whole bag," she said.

"They were giving more than last year."

Irvine said if the Salvation Army had to buy the food collected by letter carriers from the food bank at 14-cents a

pound, it would have cost the local corps nearly \$5,400 to replenish its pantry.

"It's a huge impact on our budget and ability to help people," Irvine said. "Sometimes we get a mental picture of who our clients are, but even I'm surprised at the spectrum. There isn't one stereotype that fits anymore."

For letter carrier Dan Marek of Plymouth Township it was a day of hard work boxing the food, but well worth the effort.

"It was just a great show of support by the community," said Marek, who works out of the Beck Road post office.

"A lot of people I talked to realize the economy is bad and it's something they felt they needed to do. Since I've been with the post office, this is one of the best efforts we've had in the amount of food collected."

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Two candidates drop challenge to Corriveau

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As the three-day period to withdraw from local political races came to a close Friday afternoon, the picture became crystal clear as to who is staying and who is gone from the race for 20th House District representative.

Three Republicans beat the Tuesday afternoon deadline to face Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville Township, for the 20th House District, which includes part of Canton. But, by Friday, the only one left standing was former state representative Jerry Vorva of Plymouth.

"The time has come to reduce government in Michigan across the board, reduce everyone's taxes and make Michigan the type of state the businesses want to come to, not flee from," said Vorva.

Joe Van Esley of Plymouth Township said he is "concerned about the direction of our state," but felt comfortable with Vorva running against Corriveau and dropped out.

Abe Munfakh of Plymouth Township dropped out of the state House race as well as the township supervisor's race, citing family issues.

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Baseball team is batting clean-up at Flodin Park

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After the success of last year's "win-win-win" fund-raiser, the baseball booster club at Salem High School will be back at Flodin Park today grooming the grounds.

The Salem Dugout Club, in partnership with Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Community Foundation, raised \$4,300 in donations last year after adopting and cleaning up Flodin Park. They are hoping for similar results this year.

While parents and students affiliated with the Dugout Club provide the manpower to spruce up the park, Leisure Services provides all the materials and all donations would go through the CCF, which would make them tax deductible.

"This has been a big benefit to us," said Doug Bricker, Dugout Club president. "With the money raised last year we were able to maintain our field and buy new equipment and uniforms."

Bricker said the club is looking for more businesses to sponsor their work. Last year, his own company, Brickers Box Board, Inc., along with GMAC Financial and Kevin Hatmaker of State Farm Insurance contributed to the efforts.

"We had 75 people out there last year and it went very well," he said. "We got a lot done and we want to motivate other organizations to do (service projects) as fund-raisers."

Bricker, who said the project benefits all involved, said the booster club has enjoyed moving beyond traditional fund-raisers and appreciates the character-building aspects of this project.

Bricker's son, Kyle, 17, and his daughter, Jamie, 15, play on Salem's baseball and softball teams.

"We have students from the varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams helping," he said, adding that this year's tasks include working on the park's cinder path. The group put down landscaping blankets last year to prevent erosion.

The Dugout Club, which was unsure if the program would work last year, is thrilled about its adoption of the park, Bricker said.

"We are visibly beautifying the community while helping to raise funds for a school organization," he said, adding that the money can only be used for school-owned property and not miscellaneous activities such as road trips.

For more information or to make a donation, contact the CCF at (734) 495-1200.

DRIVER

FROM PAGE A1

"Seconds before that I was thrown through my rear window; my left arm was literally torn off my body, I fractured my jaw in seven places and separated my rib cage from my spinal cord," she said. "This wasn't supposed to happen to people like us because we're young, we think we're invincible and immortal. That was the day my life was changed forever ... I chose to drink and drive."

After spending nearly three months in the hospital, and after a long rehabilitation period, Panzau said she's taken control of her life and now spends her time spreading the word that drinking and driving don't mix.

"By drinking when you are young, you are not ready for the decisions that you're going to be faced with, especially if you're going to be intoxicated," Panzau said. "To be responsible is a hard lesson to learn."



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Franklin students listen to speaker Sarah Panzau talk about the drunk-driving accident in which she lost her left arm. Panzau made a similar speech to students at Salem High School Wednesday.

SADD member Dan Stoscup, 16, of Plymouth Township said he believes most students can relate to Panzau.

"I think there are students who drink and drive and it's just a matter of time before one of them gets in a drastic accident similar to Sarah's," said Stoscup. "People make bad decisions, thinking they aren't

drunk enough to be dangerous behind the wheel. But, it's easy to be dangerous if you've had a couple of drinks."

Panzau pleaded with students to look to their parents, even when they know there will be consequences for bad behavior ... such as underage drinking. "You may fear your parents

in that situation, but these are the people that you need to be turning to," said Panzau, who noted before the accident she depended on people she thought were her friends. "I guarantee the consequences you guys think are so terrible aren't going to be as harsh as you think."

"Your parents would rather you upset them immensely, and they would go through all of that, than go what my mother went through," she said. "They are your family and will be there for you, no matter what happens."

Sixteen-year-old Paige Rich of Canton Township said she "doesn't hang out" with the drinking crowd, but gained insight from Panzau's message to become closer with her family.

"I'm not really close with my family, but I feel like I should be now," said Rich. "If something happened to me, I would feel bad about putting my dad through that."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com

Board lowers salaries for elected officials

The Canton Township Board has lowered the compensation for elected officials. The new salaries, which will go into effect in November, were voted in as proposed by an in-house committee.

The compensation of the township supervisor will go down from \$127,073 to \$115,366. The salary for the treasurer and clerk will fall from \$103,730 to \$98,790. The compensation for trustees will go from \$12,537 to \$12,000.

All of the salaries, with the exception of one, were voted in unanimously. Township Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter placed the sole vote against the trustee salary saying that the percentage of all the pay reductions needed to be similar.

Board members have said they wanted the rates established so that candidates running for office will have a clear view of the salaries attached to each elected position.

Also at Tuesday's board meeting,

CALEA Commission Chairman James M. O'Dell formally presented the board with an accreditation plaque from his organization.

The Virginia-based Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. gave the Canton Police Department full accreditation last November.

O'Dell, who is the police chief in Kettering, Ohio, said he was pleased to present the plaque to township officials and added that only a small percentage of the nation's law enforcement agencies have earned accreditation.

Executive Director John Santomauro said the plaque will be hung on the second floor of the Public Safety building.

"This is the accumulation of three years of hard work," he said, adding that he doesn't believe any law enforcement agency will finish the application process the same way it started. "We are truly doing

business different."

Township Supervisor Tom Yack called CALEA preparation process a "long journey" and said the distinction, which is based on more than 440 standards, is hard to come by.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, a resolution for the township to buy and sell a vacant lot on Elmhurst Street, just south of Ford Road and east of Sheldon Road, was tabled for further study.

The lot, which would be purchased for \$39,000 and then sold to Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County for \$1, would be the site of a new home for a low to moderate-income family. At issue is whether that family would be individuals that currently live in Canton.

Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter and Trustee Melissa McLaughlin both said they would like to see a township family considered for the property.

State college savings plan is good investment for grandchild

Dear Rick: We have a new grandchild and want to invest a substantial amount for her college education. We've narrowed our choices to either the Michigan Education Trust (MET), the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) or the variable annuity with the beneficiary being a trust for my grandchild. We are leaning away from the

MET because we don't know where she'll go to school 18 years from now. We are investing around \$25,000 and may add more as time goes on. What are your

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

thoughts?
Congratulations on the birth of your grandchild. I think it is great that you want to buy her a gift of an education. It is one of the greatest gifts a grandparent can give a grandchild. Obviously, most grandparents can't afford \$25,000, but you can start a college savings plan for as little as \$25.

In reviewing your options, I think purchasing a variable annuity and then making a trust the beneficiary doesn't make sense. First, within a variable annuity, there are adverse tax consequences. In a variable annuity, money grows tax deferred but when it is withdrawn, it is taxed at one's ordinary income tax bracket. Also, variable annuities also do not get the beneficial capital gain rate. Using this option will increase your tax

consequences. In addition, most variable annuities have substantial fees, thus eroding your return.

The MET is an excellent program if your grandchild ends up going to a Michigan public university. However, if your grandchild ends up going to an out-of-state college or a private university, the MET is not as favorable. Although it has changed for the benefit of students since its inception, it still is geared toward students who go to a Michigan public university.

I believe the Michigan Education Savings Plan is the best option for you. Whether your grandchild decides to stay in Michigan or not, it doesn't matter. She can use the money in MESP for basically any public or private institution in the country. In addition, when

money is withdrawn, it is tax-free. In the variable annuity, the money that comes out is taxed at your ordinary income bracket while in the Michigan Education Savings Plan, when money is withdrawn for qualified education expenses, it is tax-free. Furthermore, MESP has a fraction of the fees that most variable annuities have, thus keeping more money in your pocket exactly where it belongs.

For anyone saving for a child's or grandchild's education, the MESP is an excellent vehicle.

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.

Cheer for the hometown, read today's **SPORTS** section

CITY OF PLYMOUTH ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals for the construction of the City of Plymouth 2008 Sidewalk Repair Program will be received by the City Clerk, City of Plymouth, Michigan, 201 S. Main Street, until 2:00 P.M. Local Time on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read:

Major Estimated Quantities are:

4" Concrete Sidewalk	15,000 S.F.
6" Concrete Sidewalk Driveway Approach or Ramp	5,000 S.F.
8" Concrete Pavement Replacement	1,400 S.F.
12" Reinforced Concrete Pavement Replacement	1,000 S.F.
3/4" Expansion Anchored Hook Bolts	700 EA.

Specifications may be obtained from Dietrich, Bailey and Associates, P.C., 107 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan after May 5, 2008 for a non-refundable charge of \$30.00 per set. Bid documents will be mailed for an additional charge of \$10.00.

Specifications may be examined at the City of Plymouth Clerk's Office, 201 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan without charge.

Questions on the project may be directed to the City of Plymouth Municipal Services Department at 734-453-7737 Ext. 136.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check in the amount of 5% of the bid, payable to the Owner, as security for acceptance of the Contract. A bid bond in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a Certified Check.

No bidder may withdraw his proposal within 60 days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved by the Owner to reject any or all proposals, either in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities therein.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: May 4, 11 & 18, 2008

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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: May 18 and 22, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, June 5, 2008 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1458, 9501 Terry Dr: The applicant is requesting a variance in fence height from 4 feet to 6 feet. Requested variance is (2) feet.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department at 734-354-3210.

Publish: May 18, 2008

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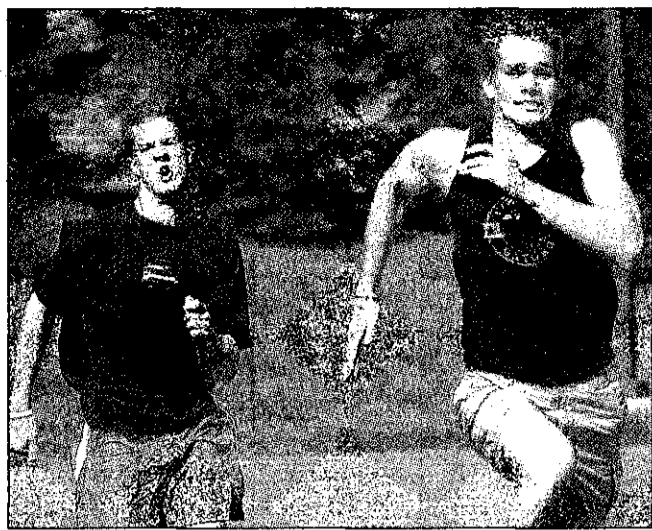
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McCotter files for re-election to Congress



MASS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS (SW/AW) JAYME PASTORIC

SEAL tough

Seth Wilson (left) and Jonathan Greenland fight for the lead during the run portion of the Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge held at Ford Community & Performing Arts Center May 10. The challenge promotes physical fitness and career opportunities within the Naval Special Warfare community. The challenge mirrors the initial physical screening test given to those interested in becoming a SEAL and consists of swimming, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, and running.

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, waited until the last minute Tuesday to file for re-election to his 11th District House seat. He said on Friday that he didn't want to make a "fanfare" about seeking re-election at a time when Michigan and the rest of the country face serious economic problems.

McCotter is seeking his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he serves as chair of the Republican House Policy Committee. He is unopposed in the August primary election. On the Democratic ballot, former Novi city manager Ed Kriewall faces Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin. Ted



MCCOTTER FILE
Who: Thaddeus McCotter, 42
Party: Republican

Family: Wife Rita, three children
What: Seeking fourth term to U.S. House of Representatives
Chair: Republican House Policy Committee
Experience: Michigan Senate, 1998 to 2002, Wayne County Commission, 1992-98

McAvoy of Highland has announced that he will run in the general election as an independent.

McCotter said that if

the nation continues to "trend in the direction of Michigan" it could lead to a serious recession.

"I had to make a decision that I would not be running a traditional campaign. I have to be in Congress working on these problems," he said. "Does this make it more or less doable? I had to think about that seriously."

He said he thought it was important to give the district "two full years of work" in Congress.

The Republican Party has faced losses recently in special congressional elections, but McCotter said he doesn't think it means that the party will face heavy losses in the fall.

"Every state and every election is different. Every candidate is different," he said.

"There were problems in these

states and in our internal operations."

In Michigan, McCotter points to the popularity of Republican presidential candidate John McCain as an example of the strength of the party. He said Michigan has experienced tax and spending policies that have hurt the state's economy.

"In Michigan, we have seen what has not worked," he said.

He said his campaign will depend on his congressional schedule, which, he said, is at the mercy of the Democratic majority in the House.

McCotter said his campaign war chest is good but not great by congressional standards.

"I raise what I need to get by. People in Michigan are hurting and the people who are supporting me are no exception to that rule. In Michigan everyone is suffering," he said.

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Patterson said Senate can improve House energy bills

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An aging electrical system, escalating costs, environmental concerns and contending economic interests have made energy legislation a political hot potato.

On April 17, the Michigan House of Representatives moved a package of energy bills and now it's the Senate's turn to address these contentious issues.

Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, chairman of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee, hopes to have bills ready to move in June.

"I don't want bipartisan, I want apolitical," Patterson said Monday. "I want an apolitical package of bills."

But politics is always a consideration. Patterson said he had expected to have bills from the Democratic-controlled House by the end of February. He said support from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce helped bring some Republicans on

board to support the bills and get them passed in late April.

Of nine tie-barred bills, Patterson said his committee is looking at four bills dealing with re-regulating the public utilities under Public Act 141, energy efficiency programs and a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) to replace a portion of electrical generation through renewable energy (the House bill requires power companies to generate 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2015).

Hugh McDiarmid Jr., spokesman for the Michigan Environmental Council, said his group is generally supportive of the bills passed by the House.

'THREE-TIER APPROACH'

"The bills have a three-tier approach. We are happy with the energy efficiency and integrated resource planning and we think the RPS of 10 by (20)15 is a good start. We think the Senate can make it better," McDiarmid said.

He said his group takes an

"agnostic" view on PA 141.

"The first bill is basically a 141 bill, embraced by the incumbent utilities (DTE and Consumers Energy)," Patterson said. "It will cause the expenditure of considerable amounts of money, a lot of which will be used to build new generation and as a consequence that bill has merit from the standpoint that it will probably serve to stimulate the economy and cause some construction trades to stay busy. That's a plus."

A big minus, according to Patterson, is that it will be expensive and could lead to major rate hikes. New power plants, whether coal or nuclear, have also been strongly opposed by environmental groups.

"We have the oldest fleet of generation plants," Patterson said.

He said he has asked environmental groups how they would replace the energy lost if they did not replace aging coal plants.

"If we accept the proposition that we have to have the same

level of electricity we have now, even if there isn't growth and the plants are aging, who will pay for this and plants they need to build," Patterson said.

Patterson said the major utilities are prepared to invest \$6-\$8 billion on new generation.

"We don't want new coal plants right away, we think renewables can take up the slack," said McDiarmid. "We think integrated resource planning may take it up and coal plants won't be competitive."

He said Wall Street has been reluctant to finance new coal plants.

Independent energy brokers and some large energy users oppose changing PA 141, which was passed in 2000 to allow alternative energy suppliers to compete with regulated energy monopolies, primarily Consumers Energy and DTE.

The House legislation would put a 10 percent cap on power that could be purchased from other sources and give DTE and Consumers Energy the right to pass along the cost of new con-

struction before the plants go into operation.

Patterson said residential power users have been subsidized for years by large commercial customers.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALTERNATIVE

"The energy efficiency bill is a nothing bill," Patterson said. "It doesn't even embrace energy efficiency and slurs energy efficiency and conservation."

Patterson said he wants a bill that favors conservation over efficiency.

He said the House bill does not address net-metering and an improved building code,

which, he said, could reduce energy consumption.

Net-metering allows a customer to gain credits by creating power from alternative sources (such as wind and solar) and putting unused power onto the electric grid.

"That really is going to be a positive over the next decade at least," Patterson said. "A home building code that is going to be more efficient. That's where we're going to save a lot, either by upgrading or new construction."

Again, he said, the cost factor has drawn opposition from house builders, especially with the depressed housing market.

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Foundation, GM donate trailer, truck to Sheriff's Mounted Patrol

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Deputies with the Wayne County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol Unit were beaming Friday when Sheriff Warren Evans officially accepted the donation of a deluxe six-horse Featherlite trailer and Chevrolet Silverado HD 3500 pickup truck.

After making do with two-horse trailers pulled by vans, the new rig offers space for six horses in the trailer and 365 horsepower in the Duramax Diesel engine.

The trailer is a donation from the Restore the Horse Foundation and the truck is a gift from General Motors Chevrolet Division working with the Foundation.

The Restore the Horse Foundation was started in July of last year to support the sheriff's mounted unit.

"The reason we established the foundation is that we firmly believe that mounted police are an essential part of any urban police force," said Brig. Gen. Robert S. Raisch, USMC (Ret.), leader of the Foundation.

Raisch, who lives in Lathrup Village but owned a Detroit sign company for more than 50 years, said the need for a new trailer and truck was obvious when the foundation was started.

"We didn't have the mobility that we needed," he said. "To get six horses to the Thanksgiving Day Parade, it took two or three shuttles back and forth. That wasn't safe or efficient."

The group raised the money for the trailer, working with Michigan Trailer and Featherlite, but the sheriff's department didn't have a vehicle powerful enough to pull it.

"So I went to Denise Lutz (wife of GM executive Bob Lutz), one of my trustees, and I said do you think GM would give us a discount. She said asked them," Raisch said. "I went to GM and a couple days later they came back and said we have good news and bad news. The bad news is we don't do discounts and rebates anymore, but the good news is we



Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans (center) with Don Butler (left) of Chevrolet and Brig. Gen. Robert Raisch of the Restore the Horse Foundation in front of the new trailer and pickup truck donated to the county.

think your cause is so great, we're going to give you the truck."

Don Butler, executive director of truck marketing for Chevrolet, said it seemed like a natural for Chevy.

"It's in our own back yard. You need a solid, capable truck to do it. So with our Silverado heavy duty, one ton dully, it's a perfect fit," he said. "It carries up to five passengers in comfort. The sheriff's people can be comfortable in the vehicle, the horses can be comfortable in the trailer and they can get where they need to go."

Evans is an avid horse rider and owner in addition to being a big supporter of maintaining and growing the county's mounted unit.

"It's unbelievable," he said. "The guys and women are all starry eyed. They can't believe it, we've been limping along so long with beat-up used trailers and vans trying to pull the horses. This gives us great equipment and allows us to take enough horses at one time. We don't have to make multiple trips and this allows us to attend multiple events at the same time."

He said it might come in handy if the Pistons and Red Wings continue to win in the playoffs.

Evans said the donation was a good example of a public-private partnership. He said he always wanted to expand the mounted unit but without using tax dollars. He said he has worked to add horses and staff through fund-raisers and worked with the Restore

the Horse Foundation to raise funds for the more expensive equipment.

The Sheriff's Department Mounted Patrol Unit barn is at Newburgh and Hines Drive in Livonia. The department currently has 14 horses.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149



Wayne County Sheriff's Cpl. Mark Schwartz and Thunder stand proudly before the new horse trailer and truck.

Starfish names two new board members

Starfish Family Services, a human service agency serving families in Southeastern Michigan, has appointed two new members to its board of directors. Rebecca Boylan and Jonathan Citrin will each serve a three-year term and help guide the agency in providing exceptional services to families in the community.

"We are honored to welcome these two successful business leaders and champions of our mission to our board of directors," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services.

Rebecca Boylan is a private investor who specializes in private banking, credit and middle marketing lending and has experience in fiduciary risk management. She has worked for National Bank of Detroit, First Chicago NBD and its successor bank, Bank One. Prior to her career in the banking industry, Boylan worked for Ford Motor Co.

Boylan resides in Ann Arbor.

Jonathan Citrin is the chief executive officer of The Citrin Group, L.L.C., a financial investment company that advises high net worth individuals and various sized businesses on financial and investment issues such as: asset allocation, mean-variance optimization, portfolio selection, succession planning, estate reduction, and financial planning.

He resides in Birmingham.

Starfish Family Services is the largest private, nonprofit human service agency in Western Wayne County. More information can be found at www.starfishonline.org

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YouTube fight video not the only thing students put on Web

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland's executive director of student and legal affairs has a bit of advice for parents: Don't buy your child a camera phone.

The high-tech gizmos are popular with students, but have gotten a few in trouble, including three Stevenson Middle School students who were suspended after video of a fight on school grounds was posted on the popular YouTube Web site.

"A parent saw it and called us,"

said William Camp. "The administrators went on there and saw it. It had a thousand hits. It had been there awhile."

By watching the video, school officials were able to identify the three students, and since the fight happened on school property, the two students who were fighting were suspended for a week. The student who used a cell phone to record the fight also received a suspension.

"It's a violation of the accepted use policy," said Camp.

According to the district's Code of Conduct, students are prohibited

from using or possessing active (turned on) electronic devices on school premises from the beginning to the end of the school day, including during passing times, lunch times and after school detention.

Violation is punishable by administrative intervention up to expulsion.

The fight video isn't the first thing to crop up on the Internet. According to Camp, students shoot video and post it. YouTube, he said, is "a monster."

"If you go to YouTube and type in fights, you'd be horrified at the number of videos that come up and

the number that students have put on the site," he said. "There's a lot on there about the marching bands from band camp."

"If you had two years to look, you'd be surprised at what you'd find."

Camp urges parents to be aware of what their kids are doing. He recalled when the district recovered a cell phone and in looking at its contents to find the owner found photos of a MySpace page with provocative content.

According to Camp, the parents weren't aware that the student had two MySpace pages, the one they

saw and the second one that had been uploaded to the camera phone.

Camp said Attorney General Mike Cox is putting together a mini-seminar that will cover Internet safety and how parents can check where their children have been on the Web.

"Kids are so good that I bet anywhere any day a kid is texting a message from a classroom," he said.

As for cell phones, "camera phones have gotten more kids in trouble," Camp said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The people's choice

Of all the temporary public art along Ford Road, the sculpture "Matisse In Blue" is overwhelmingly the most popular among Canton residents. More than 60 percent of the people who voted said they liked the piece by artist Mike Sohikian, which sits in front of Target. It is one of 11 pieces of temporary art that will be displayed until August in Canton's downtown district.

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MUSEUM

FROM PAGE A1

school bus, will be in Canton from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday stationed on Veteran's Way near the clock tower just west of Canton Public Library.

The Canton Veteran's Memorial Association is sponsoring the event.

"I have a lot of souvenirs so I want to see what they have, too," Houdek said, who was an infantryman in the Army.

Focused on the experiences of Midwest prisoners of war, the museum features photographs, documents, audio and DVD documentaries and artifacts.

"A lot of times, people ask me about (being captured) but I've been able to put it behind me," Houdek said. "There were guys that suffered a lot worse than me and I wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again."

CVMA President John Spencer encouraged all township residents to attend the exhibit.

"This is an educational experience whether you served or had (a family member) in WWII," he said. "These POWs had hard lives, they had a lot of hardship."

In addition to the museum, the library is hosting an Ernie Pyle re-enactment presentation at 10 a.m. and will have a book sale featuring materials from the WWII era.

Admission to Behind Barbed Wire is free. The traveling museum was created by TRACES, a St. Paul-based nonprofit educational organization. The bus is scheduled for 32 stops in Michigan.

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IRON MAN (PG-13) 11:10, 1:00, 1:50, 3:40, 4:25, 6:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

BABY MAMA (PG-13)
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Legislative spine, smarts needed to address budget and tax mess

You might say the new Michigan Business Tax was born under a cloud and with an unnecessary "birth defect" that now has the state's business community up in arms. So how did we get here?



Phil Power

The tax won widespread praise — at first. But weeks later, the deficit-fighting Legislature tacked on an incomprehensible, inexplicable and unenforceable tax on a bizarre assortment of services, such as fortune-tellers and baby-shoe bronzers.

The business community rose in wrath. What it most worried about was that once there was a tax on any services, there soon might be a tax on all services. So at the last minute, thanks to Chamber of Commerce pressure, the service tax was repealed.

To make up the lost revenue, a 20-percent surcharge was then hastily tacked on top of the Michigan Business Tax, which took effect Jan. 1. Now tax bills are finally going out, and there's lots of howling going on — much of it legitimate. Some businesses are bitterly complaining their tax bills are double or triple what they used to be under the old Single Business Tax.

How did this train wreck happen?

A few days ago, I received a lengthy e-mail from a lawmaker (who wishes to remain anonymous) who offers some valuable insights. Bottom line: "The service tax was the direct result of the brinkmanship of the GOP leadership in negotiations and (the) lack of GOP members (in) responding to the requests of their traditional supporters in the business community."

That's pretty stunning — and

here's my attempt to put this all into context. Leading up to the critical votes, both the Michigan and Detroit chambers of commerce tried hard to persuade legislators to pass an income tax increase big enough to cover the entire deficit. Why? Simple — to avoid additional business taxes.

The House of Representative figured it out. There, Speaker Andy Dillon and other leaders tried repeatedly to pass a 4.7-percent income tax that would have resolved the budget crisis without resorting to the service tax.

But neither Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop nor House Minority Leader Craig DeRoche was willing to step forward. They urged their members to hold back and let the Democrats take the political hit for a vote for more taxes. At one point, it looked as though there were as many as 10 Republican representatives ready to vote for an adequate income tax hike, but DeRoche wouldn't budge.

That was too bad for all concerned. In the end, the attempt to construct only one difficult vote for legislators — an income tax increase sufficient to resolve the budget crisis — failed. Instead, it left lawmakers with three tough votes: One for a smaller increase in the income tax; one for a service tax (that was repealed before it took effect); and one for a 20-percent surcharge on the new business tax.

Since no lawmaker wants to cast difficult and risky votes, it's hard to see how forcing three tough votes was better than one. But that was the political "new math" calculus in Lansing at the time. And it produced a bitter brew.

My legislative source concludes, "The brinkmanship game of the leaders led to a much worse result for the state. ... Republicans need to know that the negotiation and political games led to higher taxes and more revenue to grow state government. Pretty high price."

High, indeed. At the end of the day,

everybody wound up worse off. Lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, had to make three tough tax votes when one would have sufficed.

Businesses are now struggling with a 20-percent surcharge on the new MBT. And the state still faces chronic structural budget deficits — deficits the present tax structure make virtually inevitable.

And the anti-tax fringe, namely the folks who are now trying to recall Speaker of the House Dillon, D-Redford, got a new lease on life. Remember, they started out by going after any lawmaker who supported any tax increase, whether Republican or Democrat. Once they discovered there was limited support for their efforts, they dropped all the other efforts and went after only Dillon.

The bottom line: Basing a policy for governing on political expediency turned out to be the worst possible outcome. Worst, not only for legislators who are now regarded as nincompoops by their constituents and the news media, but also for the state as a whole.

This sorry tale illustrates all too well one of the worst aspects of our dysfunctional political system, namely a wholesale preference by both parties for scoring political points instead of concentrating on rational, long-term government for the state.

If we're going to dig ourselves out of the jam we're in, this has got to stop. And we all need to find ways to express that — and to get the word to those we elect and pay to represent us.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent the official views of The Center. Reader comments are welcome at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

LETTERS

Intersection is frightening

I am writing to you regarding your consideration to put a traffic light at Ford and Ridge. I know firsthand how dangerous this intersection is. My parents and sister's family both live on Ridge just west of Ford. I grew up there. I have seen a lot of accidents happen there. Some of them fatal. One gruesome accident that I came upon a few years ago happened to involve my young cousin and his girlfriend. She was killed by an oncoming truck as my cousin was trying to cross Ford. I have had some near misses there myself.

The problems with this intersection are:

The northbound Ford Road traffic usually travels through there at about 60 mph (I do it myself). People don't usually start slowing down until after Ridge. Those trying to turn onto Ford or cross Ridge have a hard time judging how fast the oncoming traffic is going. This can be extremely dangerous.

The second thing is that east and west-bound Ridge traffic turning onto Ford can be very busy at times especially during rush hour. A lot of people have a hard time determining who has the right of way while they're trying to either cross Ford or turn onto Ford. I am an experienced 40-year-old that grew up there and still have trouble with this. Does the person opposite you, who is turning right or going straight, always have the right of way even if you arrived at the stop sign first? No one ever seems to know.

Often times everyone waves each other to go, then they all end up going at the same time. This intersection is very frustrating and frightening at times. There have been too many lives that have been lost there. How many more will there be before we take action? I strongly urge you to consider this traffic light. Please help keep my family members safe.

Michelle Toal
Canton

Touching story

I would like to comment on the lovely article that student journalist Jillian Hattie ("An angel among us") written about Lindsey Cerilli in the May 11, 2008, *Canton Observer*. Lindsey was a student here at Bentley Elementary, where I am an employee, as well as her two sisters. We have

been very close to her and her family during this whole ordeal and as such we have taken up a collection and are planting a tree in her honor here on our school property.

Diane Chudyk
paraprofessional, Bentley Elementary
Canton

Thanking our silent heroes

We were so happy to see the story on 5/11 concerning the "good luck" of Carol Loesch ("Lucky woman thanks HVA paramedics").

We would like to thank you, Carol, for taking time to tell your story. We were thrilled to see the paramedics given credit in a public way for the work that they all do every day with hardly anyone noticing.

We were also recipients of the gifts of the EMS system and the wonderful men and women who serve in this capacity every day all day. Our daughter, Jessica, was rescued by the paramedics when she was in an accident at Godfredson and Ann Arbor Road. The paramedics revived her and transported her to the hospital, where she later died.

Because of their work we were able to witness the excellent care that she later received at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and experience a "good death" with our family and closest friends. We were able to have some time with Jessica, time that was so very precious that now we view it as perhaps the most profound time in our lives as a family.

We later met with the team from Washtenaw County who cared for Jessica to thank them. These very busy men took the time to gently recount the events of that sacred night for us. We were able to see and speak to the men who were with her and who cared for her in the most loving way. Our family is grieving in a healthy way now because of that afternoon. We will be eternally grateful to them.

Let us be mindful of the silent heroes who are in our lives every day ... let us not take them for granted. We need to let them know that their work is of the highest value regardless of the outcome.

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, May 18, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Save the last dance (or relay?) for me

See boys and girls DI Regional Track and Field details on page B3.

To fully understand Canton senior Tim Belcher's dilemma Friday night, you had to walk a mile in his shoes.

Or, considering Belcher is one of the fastest people around, you may have to run a quarter-mile in his shoes.

Now, depending on what time it



Ed Wright

held Friday — the same day as the Division I Regional track meet, which superior athletes like Belcher

needed to perform well in to qualify for the state meet June 7 in East Kentwood.

If you don't compete in the Regional, you don't run in the state meet, no matter how fast you ran earlier in the season.

Time adjustment

Fortunately for Belcher and his prom-or-track-dilemma peers, PCEP co-athletic director Sue Heinzman made arrangements to start the track meet several hours

earlier than in the past so that the seniors could conceivably run all day and dance most of the night away.

It was an especially good move for senior athletes whose events were scheduled for earlier in the afternoon.

They didn't miss a heat — or a beat. But Belcher, along with senior teammate Eric Piwowar, were key members of the Chiefs' 1,600-meter relay team, which competed in the final event of the night.

Unfortunately, the starting gun for the 1,600 relay was fired about the time corsages were being pinned on lapels across Plymouth and Canton, and limos were dropping off the Chief speedsters' prom-going friends at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

"Originally, Eric and I were going to leave the meet at 6:30 so we wouldn't miss the prom," Belcher explained. "I mean, it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing and we wanted to be there."

Please see **WRIGHT, B2**

Sidelines

Delapaz lauded

Former Canton softball standout Lauren Delapaz, a freshman at Eastern Michigan University, was the recipient of the softball team's "EMU Scholar Athlete Award," which is voted on by the coaches.

The award goes to the player who "displays great leadership on and off the field, is a team player, has a positive attitude, never gives up and has a great work ethic in the classroom and on the softball diamond," according to the Eagles' Web site.

Delapaz played in 37 games this season at second base, third, left field, right field, designated player and shortstop, and hit .240 with four doubles and nine RBI.

She hit .268 in Mid-American Conference games and started in all but one league game.

EMU finished 15-30 (6-12 in the MAC) and barely missed out on the program's fourth-consecutive MAC tournament berth.

Lions Youth football camp

The Detroit Lions Youth Football Program will be held at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth July 7-10.

The four-day camp, which is offered to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14, focuses on teaching the fundamentals of the game as well as skills that are needed in everyday life.

Parents interested in registering their children for this program can print off a registration form online at www.detroitlions.com/youthfootball. The completed forms can be faxed to (313) 262-2848 or mailed to: Detroit Lions, 2000 Brush St., Suite 200, Detroit, MI 48226.

Shaw moving on

Former Plymouth boys cross country coach Lee Shaw has accepted the position of varsity cross country coach at Marygrove College.

Shaw coached the Wildcats for the past five years.

8,100 soccer players ready to visit Canton

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While approximately 8,100 youth soccer players are aiming at nets during the 26th Annual Canton Cup soccer tournament May 23-25, the event's coordinators will be aiming to please the over 500 teams' players, coaches and fans that will be attending the soccer extravaganza.

"We do the best we can to accommodate the teams that don't want to, let's say, play on Friday night because they're coming in from out of town, or the teams that want Sunday off to go to church," explained tournament director John Vaughn. "And we come up with a scheduling program that will allow one coach to coach up to three teams without any of his or her teams having any scheduling conflicts. It takes us two days just to work out the schedules."



Vaughn and the rest of the Canton Soccer Club staff's willingness to go the extra mile is the main reason the tournament has become one of the most successful in the Midwest — if not the country — every Memorial Day weekend since 1983.

The Cup is expected to draw at least 28,000 spectators to the Canton area, which — combined with the USBC Women's Bowling Championships being hosted by Super Bowl Lanes — will turn the away into a sports mecca for at least a 72-hour span. Over 800 games will be played at four sites throughout Canton, including Independence Park (where the headquarters will be stationed along with 24 fields), Griffin Park, Heritage Park and the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus.

"Eventually, I'd like to see us get 600 teams in her for the Cup," said Vaughn. "We have 508 teams this year, which is three less than last year, but we had to turn away a few teams because there are a couple fields that are being worked on at Heritage and we weren't sure if we had the high school fields."

The tournament, which attracts teams from as far away as Kentucky and Pennsylvania, is sanctioned by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association and the United States Youth Soccer Association. One of the highlights of the weekend will unfold Saturday, May 24, at 4 p.m. when the Professional Development League's Michigan Bucks will take on the Fort Wayne Fever at Independence Park.

"Their coach told me the players really look forward to this game because it's the only outdoor home game they'll play all year and they like the fact that they'll be playing on a field that is surrounded by all the other games going on at Independence," said Vaughn.

The ages of Cup players ranges from 8 to 18 and skill levels stretch from recreational-caliber to premier players.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salem girls tennis team enjoyed a banner season, finishing 8-2-1. Pictured kneeling (from left) are Tracy Lytle, Liz McKinley, Alexandra Lamb, (standing from left) Amelia Van Hoof, Katy Fletcher, Emily Hayter, Jaclyn Hoover, Allie Carpenter, Rachel Norman, Ariel Rojo and Kerry MacDonald.



Salem's No. 1 singles player Tracy Lytle enjoyed a successful season on the tennis courts and in the classroom.

Serving up victories

Salem tennis team sculpts impressive record

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Take a solid nucleus of returning performers and mix in two first-year players who are used to excelling around nets — just not tennis nets — and you have the formula for success for the Salem girls tennis team's ultra-successful 2008 season.

Due to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's change of seasons, the Rocks hadn't played since the fall of 2006, but they shook off the rust to compile a sterling 8-2-1 record that was solidified by impressive victories over always-tough Canton and an up-and-coming Walled Lake Central line-up.

"One of the keys to our success this season was that we picked up a couple of good athletes in Rachel Norman, who's also a basketball player, and

Kerry McDonald, who's a very good volleyball player," said Salem coach Lin Ware. "Considering we had Tracy Lytle coming back at No. 1 singles and some other very strong players returning, I thought we'd have a pretty good season."

"When I looked at our schedule at the beginning of the season, I thought we had a chance to go 10-1, with the one loss coming to Northville, which is always strong. But we tied a very good Stevenson team and we struggled against Walled Lake Northern. Overall, though, I was pleased."

Ware also credited first-year assistant coach Lindsay Pyles with bolstering the Rocks' skills. The former Rock star's presence was vital, considering the team's roster was 58 players deep.

"Lindsay was a big help," said Ware.

Please see **TENNIS, B2**

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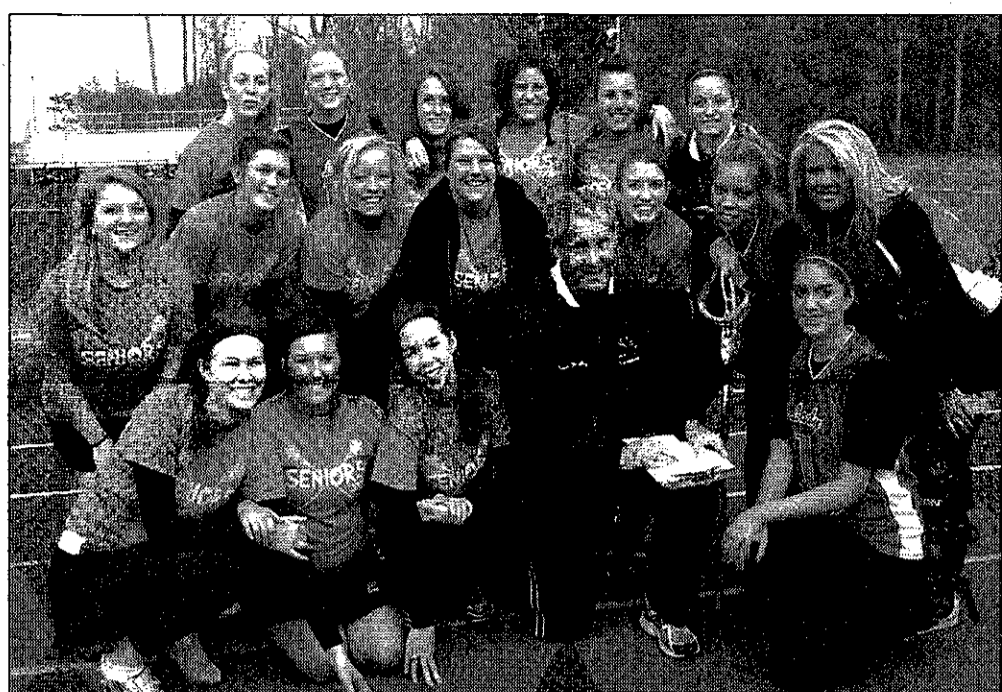
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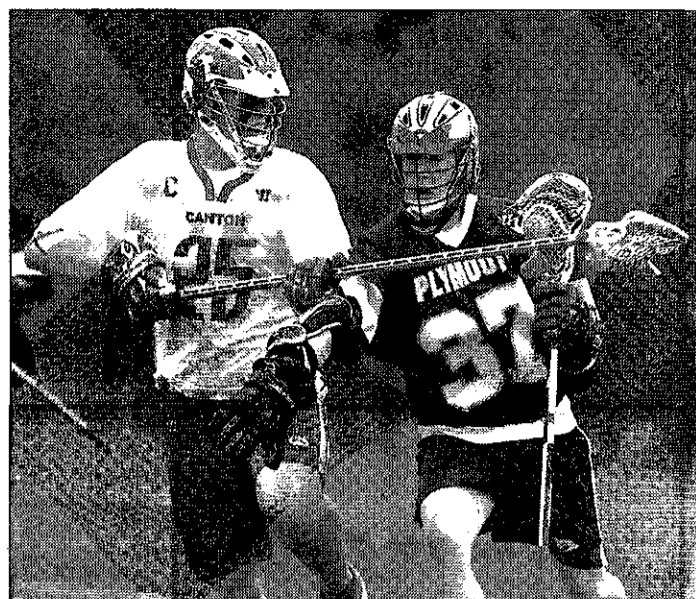
Lady Warriors' seniors honored

Seventeen seniors were recognized during the May 9 Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team's "Senior Night" game against North Farmington-Harrison. Pictured are seniors (front row from left) Morgan Franke, Sarah Pursell, Kate Spangler, coach Dave Medley, Caitlin Andrews, (middle row from left) Jessica Murray, Lauren Koehler, Courtney Hewitt, Stephanie Matusiak, Megan Burke, Kaytlin Moore, Lauren Miller, (back row from left) Laura Hahn, Amy Coleman, Anna Chamberlain, Brooke Caccavelli, Arielle Pietron and Nicole Sheldon.

Seniors shine in Canton lacrosse win

Freshman Matt Rodgers tallied four goals and two assists to lead Canton's lacrosse team to a 9-4 triumph over PCEP rival Plymouth Thursday at the junior varsity stadium.

The victory improved Canton's record to 11-5 while the Wildcats slipped to 8-10. "We played very well tonight," said Canton coach Kevin Riley. "Attack player Matt Rodgers played outstanding, leading us to another conference win. (Plymouth) Coach Costello and I have coached the players from both teams for the past two to three years and it was fun to watch them play tonight — together as friends and as rival teams." Senior Joey Underwood



Canton's Mac Ganzak (left) battles an unidentified Plymouth player for possession of the ball during Thursday night's cross-campus rivalry game. The Chiefs won, 9-4.

nearly matched Rodgers output as he tallied three goals. Scott Wisniewski and Jordan Emery both netted one goal for the winners, who received an assist from Jason Avedesian.

The game was knotted at 1-1 after one quarter before the Chiefs went on to stake a 4-1 halftime advantage. The Chiefs' final regular-season game is Monday at Grosse Ile.

Salem softball squad captures Lakes crown

Salem's softball team won its first Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division title in style Thursday with a 10-0 rout of Westland John Glenn.

In a five-inning mercy Thursday, the Rocks (19-6, 8-2) dominated as freshman pitcher Briana Lee tossed a one-hitter.

Lee struck out 10 and did not allow a walk.

Kelli Janiczek went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBI for Salem, while Cristina Parsons added two of Salem's seven hits.

Amanda Caudill had the lone hit for Glenn.

Losing pitcher Brittany Holbrook, the victim of five errors, walked three and struck out four.

"Winning the division has been a long time coming, since 2004," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "That was the last time we won the Madonna tourney and the conference, so we've got some things we still want to accomplish."

The Rocks earned a berth in Wednesday's WLAA championship game at Northville, which will take a 24-3 mark into the contest.

FRANKLIN 5, CANTON 1: Brittany Taylor and Jessica Emery each went 2-for-3 with a double and RBI Thursday as host Livonia Franklin (20-8, 5-5) downed the Chiefs (14-12, 4-6) in a WLAA-Western Division encounter.

Natalie Polakowski added an RBI single, while Briana Taylor chipped in with a single, stolen base and a run scored.

Winning pitcher Natalie Sanborn

(16-4) allowed just four hits and three walks over seven innings. She struck out four.

Losing pitcher Hilary Payne gave up seven hits, walked none and fanned six. She had a solo homer in the first inning.

PLYMOUTH 12, WAYNE 2: In a WLAA-Western Division game Thursday, Amy Bondy went 3-for-4 with two runs scored as the Wildcats (15-10, 6-4) took five innings to mercy host Wayne Memorial (6-20, 0-10).

Amanda Burnard also doubled twice and scored two runs.

Winning pitcher Megan Patterson struck out four and did not allow a walk. Jordan Berry and Ashley Ringel each had a hit and scored a run for Wayne.

Losing pitcher Taylor Krohn gave up 12 hits, walked five and struck out six.

HURON VALLEY 20, AGAPE 11: Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-11, 1-9) exploded for 13 runs in the first two innings Thursday to beat host Canton Agape Christian in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red Division game.

Nicole Smith led the offensive assault going 4-for-4 and reaching base six times with four runs scored. Emily Helwig went 3-for-4 with a triple, two walks and four RBI.

Sarah Schaffer, who worked the first two and final two innings, allowing just one run, got the win on the mound. She combined with Paige Sharrow to limit the Wolverines to five hits.

TENNIS

FROM PAGE B1

"With all of our players, we had to run two practices back-to-back so that everybody could get court time."

Record-wise, the Rocks most productive players were Norman and Ariel Rojo, who compiled a 13-9 mark at No. 1 doubles. Lytle also sparkled, going 12-10 at no. 1 singles, a spot where there are no cupcake opponents on the agenda.

"When you first look at Tracy's record, it doesn't look all that impressive, but considering the players she had to go up against this year, it was very, very good."

Lytle has excelled in the classroom throughout her four-year high school career at Salem, and the accolades have deservedly followed. Earlier this week, she was named the school's "Female Scholar Athlete of the Year" and in February, she was honored by Channel 7 as its "McDonald's Student-Athlete of the Week."

The Rocks hosted one of the toughest Regional tournaments in the state on Friday.

Among the teams in the field were the two Ann Arbor schools — Huron and Pioneer — and Temperance Bedford.

"We got a horrible draw," Ware revealed. "But I'm sure the girls will give it their best and we'll see what happens."

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Dondzila notches 6th shutout over Glenn

Kristen Dondzila registered her sixth shutout of the season Wednesday to lead Salem to a 6-0 victory over visiting Westland John Glenn.

The one-sided triumph improved the Rocks to 7-6-4 overall and 5-4-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division.

"The girls played well tonight," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "We wanted to establish the wings and play from inside out and we did just that."

Senior captain Katie Shull had a big night for the Rocks, scoring their first two goals. Amanda Krause, Ariel Dews, Lindsey Newton and Kaylyn Brzys also notched net-finders for the winners.

Jill Behrman and Taylor Burgoon both notched a pair of assists for Salem, which got a single helper from Amanda Krause. Shull's second goal came on a penalty kick.

PLYMOUTH 2, WAYNE MEMORIAL 0: On Wednesday at Plymouth, the Wildcats earned

a "Senior Night" victory thanks to second-half goals from Julie Forster and Emily Guglielmo. Kelly Dobbs assisted on Forster's goal while McKenzie Hengesh assisted Guglielmo.

The Wildcats only two seniors — Carlee Barackman and Lindsay Jewett, who missed the season due to an injury — were honored before the game.

Marissa Williams earned the shutout for the 'Cats.

"Wayne packed nine defenders into the box, so they didn't really get any shots on goal, but we had a hard time finding the net with our shots," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "It wasn't one of our better games. Last week, we beat Saline, which is a top 10 team, and tonight we struggled to beat Wayne, so you never know."

PCA 4, ROEPER 1: On Friday at Roeper, the Eagles received goals from Jales DeBiasi, Jenna Misch, Brooke Williams and Nette Somercik.

Rebain's smooth delivery stymies Zebras

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's Garrett Rebain may have a deliberate wind-up, but what it produces is anything but slow. Wayne Memorial found that out the hard way Thursday afternoon when Rebain limited the Zebras to five hits in five innings in the Wildcats' 12-2, six-inning mercy rule-shortened contest at Plymouth. The victory improved the Wildcats' record to 16-9 overall and 6-4 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division.

"Garrett pitched a very strong, workmanlike five innings today," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams. "With his slow and fluid motion, he has a knack to make

it look easy at times — especially when he's hitting his spots and getting the change over."

Ten different players contributed to the Wildcats' 15-hit attack — most notably lead-off hitter David Harvey, who went 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI; and Matt Priebe, who went 3-for-4 with three RBI and two runs scored.

"Matt ripped a couple of hits in key situations that helped provide us with a scoring cushion," said Chuck Adams. "He provides a great deal of firepower in the clean-up spot for us."

Plymouth took command of the contest with three runs in both the third and fourth innings. The Wildcats sealed the Zebras' fate with a six-run sixth.

Other key hitters for Plymouth

were Stephen Ostrowski (pinch-hit, two-run single) and Michael Rose, who went 2-for-2 with a run.

Rebain walked two and struck out four.

CANTON 2, FRANKLIN 1: On Thursday at Canton, the Chiefs won their sixth-straight game behind a gem of a performance from mound ace will Tidwell, who improved to 5-1 with a six-hitter. Tidwell struck out eight Patriots.

The victory improved Canton to 16-8 overall and 4-6 in the WLAA's Western Division.

Sophomore Kevin Delapaz delivered the game-winning hit in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Chiefs' first run came on Dan Stoney's fifth home run of the season. Stoney and Mike Madias both had two hits for the winners.

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WRIGHT
FROM PAGE B1

"But after we talked to some teammates, we felt we'd be letting the team and the other two guys on the relay team (both underclassmen) down if we left, so we decided to stay because we didn't want to regret missing out on a chance to qualify for the state meet."

"So as soon as the (1,600 relay) is over, I'm going over to Phase III to shower, then head straight to the prom. We'll miss the limo ride over and stuff, but we won't miss much of the actual prom."

Piwowar actually found a happy medium in the midst of the conflict.

During a break in his track schedule Friday afternoon, he rushed home, slipped on his tux, and was able to pose for the customary pre-prom photos with his date.

He then used his 11-flat-in-the-100-meter-dash speed to return to the track and prepare to pass the baton.

Running in style
When I suggested to Belcher

that he could save a few minutes by running his leg of the relay in his tux, he smiled.

"That would definitely be interesting," he said. "But it might slow me down a little."

Plymouth senior Mike Hanchett didn't run in his tux Friday night either, but it wasn't far away.

"It's waiting in our car," said his dad, Tim. "As soon as the 1,600 relay is over, we're gone."

"My date is not real happy about this," Hanchett said, a few moments after finishing third in the 400-meter dash, "but to tell you the truth, I wasn't going to miss this meet. Ever since I found out they were on the same day, my mind set has been that I'm running. We started earlier, so that helped a lot."

Matt Lewandowski, one of Hanchett's 1,600-meter relay teammates, looked at the bright side.

"It's not quite as bad for me because I'm taking a junior," he said, smiling. "In fact, she's texting me right now to see what time she should start getting ready."

Life lessons
Salem boys track coach Kyle

Meteyer left the decision of how to handle the conflict up to his athletes. He was pleased with how many chose to compete.

"The way we looked at it was there will be plenty of chances for the guys to dance the rest of their lives, but qualifying for the state meet is a once-in-a-lifetime thing," the third-year coach said. "The guys have worked hard all year and the number one thing they've been working so hard for is to qualify for the state meet."

"Realistically, they're both once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, so it's the kind of life lesson kids will have to make when they get older as well."

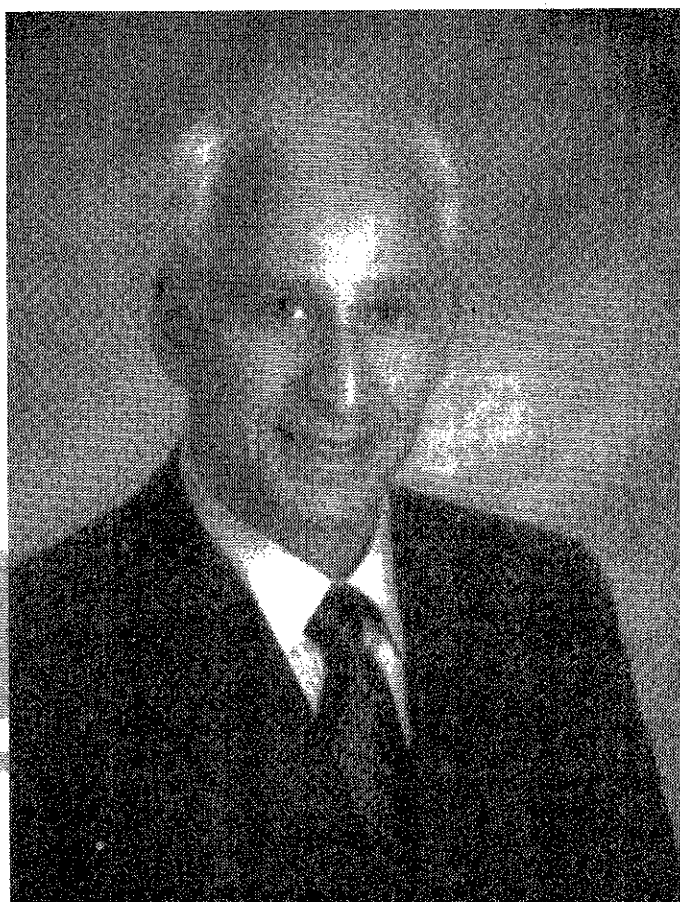
For Belcher and Piwowar, all's well that ends well. Along with teaming up with Sheriff Hassanien and Jordan Wisniewski to place first in the 1600-meter relay, they made it to the prom — albeit a little late — and I'm sure they had the time of their lives — no matter if they were dancing in their track shoes or their tux shoes.

Ed Wright is the sports editor for the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at (734) 953-2108 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

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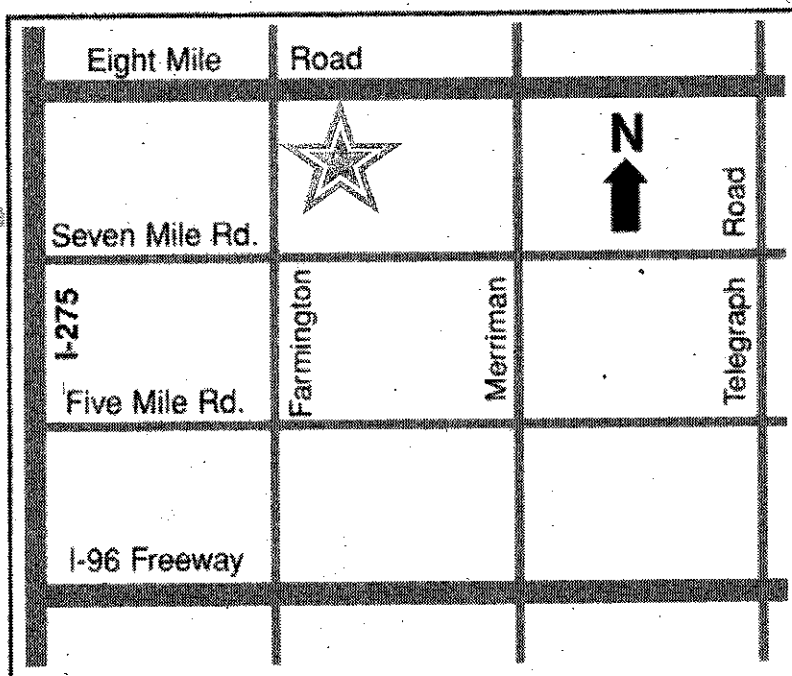
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When picking gym check its plan for emergency

Bill from Warren e-mails that he is trying to choose a new gym. He has a heart condition and wants to know what to look for.

Bill, the gym might be one of the last places you would want to have a stroke or heart attack! Studies show that most health clubs are not equipped to handle the most basic medical emergencies! Some 20 percent of clubs have

Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

had a member with a cardiac episode in the last five years, but 33 percent of instructors are not even certified in basic CPR! About 30 percent of clubs don't screen members for a history of heart disease. Only two clubs surveyed had a written emergency plan, even though 95 percent of clubs said such a plan is very important. What can you do to protect yourself? You can start with your homework! Check out the club's emergency procedures, especially if you are over the age of 35 or have an existing heart condition.

Elaine from Redford wants to know all the natural ways to reduce her risk of coming down with Alzheimer's.

Elaine, when it comes to cutting your chances for this debilitating disease, the answer may be in the tea leaves. New research shows that both black and green tea help combat the activity of two key enzymes linked to Alzheimer's disease.

One of those enzymes interferes with a chemical messenger in the brain. The other has been traced to protein deposits in the brains of Alzheimer's victims. Both black and green tea come from the same plant, but green seems to hold the edge over black when it comes to Alzheimer's fighting properties. Black tea is also fermented. The anti-Alzheimer's benefits of green tea seem to last for about a week, while black tea's benefits only last for a day. Another important thing to note here is that green tea's antioxidants may be able to help mend some of the cellular damage linked to Alzheimer's.

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

Sports nutrition

No substitute for a healthy diet

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Jon Pierret always tries to stay away from junk food, but didn't know much else about good sports nutrition until registered dietitian Beverly Price spoke to the Farmington Hills boy's Honeybaked Hockey Team out of Hazel Park Ice Area.

A lack of calcium in the diet can lead to fractures, especially in youth. Carbohydrates and protein are needed to maintain energy levels for all ages.

"I learned not to put a lot of protein shakes and energy drinks into your body and milk is very good for you after a game. It helps replenish," said Pierret, a student at St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills. The 13-year-old has been playing eight years in the Midwest Elite Hockey League against teams from Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit. "She said to stick to a lot of protein and carbs before a game to give you energy, and fruits are very good."

Last Sunday when the team was in Toronto for a training camp, Pierret started the day with a breakfast of scrambled eggs and pancakes. Lunch was lasagna and a salad. The team played in the afternoon and on the drive home stopped at Arby's for a sub.

"With playing hockey over the years, my parents told me too to stay away from junk food. I can tell when I eat junk food it really slows you down," said Pierret, who wants to play professional hockey some day. "You don't have the same energy."

Price regularly counsels serious as well as casual athletes. Her advice varies depending on the sport, age, gender, body type and size, and how often they compete or if they just run in the neighborhood.

"Some athletes may need to lose a little bit of weight, some may battle to keep it on but if somebody is exercising for at least an hour, they definitely need to have some sort of a snack. It might be fruit, could be sport bars or gels, or eating an extra half a sandwich or sandwich," said Price, who counsels individual clients on high school teams and casual athletes as part of her nutrition practice in Huntington Woods. She recently released the DVD *Reconnect with Food* and is co-author of the book, *Nutritional Secrets for Optimal Health*. "If somebody has a practice after school make sure they pack some extra food. If they're working out, make sure they eat within a half hour after and focus on carbohydrates like whole grains, fruits, pasta, rice or potato, bread to replace energy they might need for the next day. Muscles can utilize energy from the food more efficiently if they eat within a half hour."

Price says there's very little data to support the need for supplements. She recommends taking a vitamin and mineral made from natural ingredients or whole foods daily but not a one day because of chemicals such as dyes.

"People think a little is good, a lot is better," said Price. "Some things contain ephedrine. A woman in a friend's



office, her son died of an ephedrine overdose."

HYDRATION

Athletes should avoid high caffeine drinks as well. Sports drinks can put on weight.

"The high caffeine drinks are kind of like sugar in a way. It gets in your system quickly and leaves quickly and can really stimulate the heart rate for people with a low tolerance and impede performance," said Price. "Some people might need iron. You lose some iron in sweat. If you're feeling tired all the time and not overtraining and getting a lot of rest go to the doctor and have it checked. Sodium and potassium can be replaced by a well-balanced diet. There is some evidence to show that having a teaspoon of Celtic salt a day can be helpful for replacing some of the losses causing energy depletion."

Athletic performance can be impaired even when your body's slightly dehydrated. The average person needs two liters of water a day. Price recommends those competing should drink a lot of water the night before, two hours before and during the event. For those exercising, she suggests drinking two cups two hours before exercise, another two cups 15 to 20 minutes before exercise, four to six ounces every 10 to 15 minutes while exercising and as much as you need after. Price was a competitive swimmer for years and cautions athletes not to forget to drink water because you sweat while swimming.

"If urine is light in color you're well hydrated, if dark you're dehydrated," said Price.

PROTEIN AND CARBS

Athletes in general don't need extra protein unless they're weight lifting and body building because it can be dehydrating, Price says carbohydrates and

fats are more important than protein for long distance or cross country running.

"Carbs are for bursts of energy. Long term you're drawing on a lot of fat for energy," said Price. "Pregame they need high carbohydrate like pasta, rice, and a lot of rest. Postgame meals should still be high in carbohydrates and eaten 15 to 30 minutes after."

All in all there's no substitute for a healthy nutritious diet

"Everyday eating should be whole grains, fruits, vegetables, healthy protein sources, at least three meals a day. Some people like elite athletes may need to eat six times a day or more," said Price. "Over half of the calories should come from carbohydrates, no more than a third from fat and the rest protein. The role of protein, carbohydrate and fat is to absorb certain vitamins: A, D, E, K."

Price recommends fats such as olive and canola oils, raw nuts and butters, and flax seed and oil.

"They need antioxidants because athletes breathe in more oxygen and pollution to make sure cells stay healthy and nutrients such as calcium, sodium, iron and zinc."

Price is concerned about the number of girls she's seeing with fractures due to lack of good nutrition.

"They're drinking too much pop and not getting enough calcium and phosphorus robs your bones of calcium," said Price. "Calcium is more absorbable in leafy green vegetables, beans and legumes. Even almonds are a good source of calcium. Soy products have a lot of absorbable calcium, calcium-enriched orange juice. Boys have a higher bone density so they may not be as prone to bone fractures."

Meghan Steingold fractured the same foot twice in the last three years. The Huntington Woods girl is a com-

petitive figure skater with the Berkley Royal Blades club. She's been on the ice since second grade. An eighth-grade student at Norup Middle School in Oak Park, she is in the process of qualifying for the National Showcase, the theatrical skating competition of the U.S. Figure Skating Club Aug. 6-10, at the Rochester Figure Skating Club in Minnesota.

"I'm trying to take in more calcium. My mom gives me vitamins in the morning," said Steingold, who drinks only soy not cow's milk. "Before I go skating or if I'm competing later in day, I have a piece of fruit or yogurt, eggs in the morning for a big competition. I have to watch my weight as a figure skater. If you weigh more it's more difficult to do required jumps. I don't normally do sugar because it gets me hyper. I work off all the hyper and get tired."

Janice Steingold believes good sports nutrition is essential for Meghan whether practicing or competing statewide. Janice has taken many of Price's classes on nutrition. She also consulted Meghan's former coach Christa Berger.

"It's especially important not to eat too heavy before competition and to have protein for energy to get through the competition. Bev suggested a yogurt before she skates," said Janice Steingold. "The first fracture was a bunch of kids messing around a trampoline. I'm concerned about re-injury."

"Sports nutrition is very important especially for these girls in a competition. They're on edge. There's a lot of emotion going on. A lot of girls get stressed out and are not eating properly. It's important to eat some kind of protein to deal with the stress not just the competition. Competitions tend to be really stressful."

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MAY

Nutrition for Life
Led by St. Mary Mercy's Tamara Lark, RD, 7-8 p.m. each month in Classroom 11 at St. Mary Mercy's Marian Professional Building, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Early registration required (\$15 per class). Call (734) 655-8950. The next topic is Carbohydrates: 101 Wednesday, May 21.

Living to 100
7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at Gateway Wellness Center, 5600 W. Maple, Suite A 110, West Bloomfield. Registration is \$10. Call (248) 737-9494.

Hearing loss event
Day at the State Capitol in Lansing Wednesday, May 21, chartered bus leaves Tel/Twelve Mall (cost \$30), participants meet with their state representative and senator, and attend a session of the Senate and House, hearing access provided the entire event. For a registration form, call (586) 247-4053 or send e-mail to ngibben1@hills.org. A bus registration form may be obtained from the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan, P.O. Box 4808, Troy, MI 48099.

Tai Chi classes
Began May 5, at 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and

Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursdays). Presented by the nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Divorce support group
Financial fitness with Jeanne Gonyer Baldwin, CFP, includes basics of several financial issues and strategies to deal with them 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225), McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. (734) 462-4443.

Race for the cure
17th Annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® presented by Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute - 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Walk 7:15-8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 31, at Comerica Park, Detroit. Organizations can get involved through sponsorship opportunities or by hosting a team. For information on sponsoring the race, call (248) 351-1862. Online team registration runs to May 13, individual registration through May 29, at www.karmanos.org/racefortheuredetroit. Cost is \$12-\$40. On-site registration will be available at May 30 Expo or Race day beginning at 7 a.m. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® Expo will be held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May

30, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. The free event offers entertainment, merchandise, pink ribbons to honor loved ones and other surprises. Visit www.karmanos.org or call (800) KARMANOS.

Volunteers needed
For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29 to July 3), at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, northwest of Kalamazoo. Volunteer training from experts on epilepsy and camp procedures Saturday, June 28. Free room/board. For information/application, visit www.epilepsymichigan.org, call (800) 377-6226, option 1, Ext. 231, or send e-mail to sdar-roch@epilepsymichigan.org.

UPCOMING
Sharing & Caring
Present Jen Green, naturopathic doctor, and Gail Elliot Evo, corporate manager Integrative Medicine, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5, at the Royal Park Hotel, 600 E. University Drive, Rochester Hills. Silent auction, complimentary reiki treatments, chair massage. 7:30 p.m. discussion on environmental toxins, internal stress and the development of breast cancer. \$30 donation. For reservations, call (800) 633-7377.

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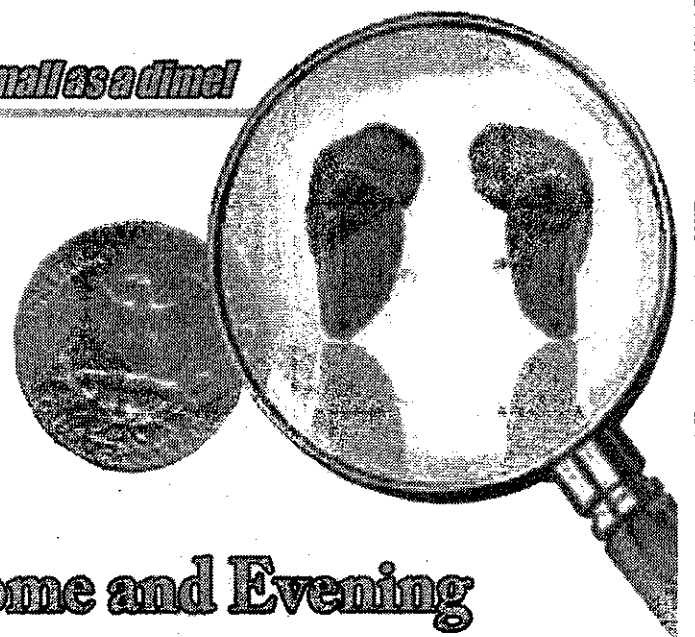
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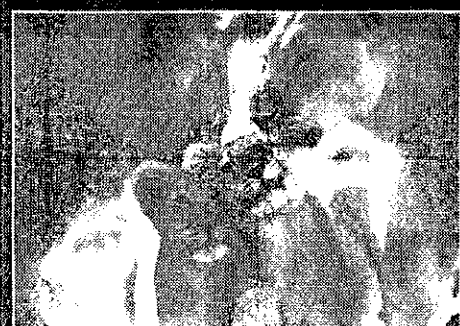
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GRRR RUGBY



The Redford rugby team members give a yell for the other team after being defeated in their game.

Girls tackle tough game

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rowing might not be ladylike, but the tactic gets Nadine Hawthorne's message across for the opposition to stay away from the Blue Ducks goal. The Redford Rugby Football Club is only two years old and already the girls' team has earned a reputation for being tough even for high school.

Hawthorne stays in shape by doing crunches and lifting weights in addition to tap dancing to stay quick on her feet as the Ducks' kicker. As fullback she uses the menacing vocals to protect her team's turf.

Rugby is no game for pansies. It's a full tackle sport played without pads. The only protection is a mouth guard.

"I like to growl. It gives me more power," said Hawthorne, a junior at Thurston High School in Redford. "I like football. This is tougher. I like the contact."

Deonna Hawthorne thinks she speaks for the majority of players' parents who worry about their girls. Deonna spends plenty of time watching the tackling drills whenever she chauffeurs Nadine to practices on Mondays and Wednesdays. Games as far away as Traverse City on Saturdays can get even rougher.

Drills help prepare the girls to pass the ball only backwards or lateral not forward. Dexterity is going to be especially important during the playoffs May 24-25.

"I'm a rugby mom. It's more of an all girls football game, but it's scary," said Deonna Hawthorne. "For the girls I think it relieves a lot of stress. It's a physical thing."

Assistant coach Lisa Risch puts the players through the paces, running them around the field behind Thurston High School. The Blue Ducks attract girls from Thurston and Stevenson High School in Livonia. Risch and Holly Hereau, the coach who started the Redford club, both play for the Detroit Rugby Football Club.

"It's continuous play. We only stop for injuries and penalties," said Risch who went to Thurston and graduated from Stevenson. "You have to be tough to play."

"If you don't think tough you can get laid out," said Megan McMann, a Thurston junior who's playing for a second year as inside center receiving and passing the ball. Hereau is her

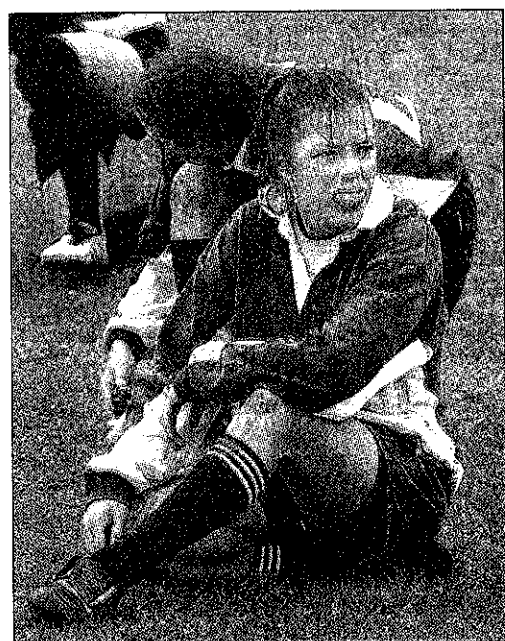


PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Rugby Football Club's Megan McMann off and running before being tackle by Berkley players.



Thurston's Nadine Hawthorne leads calisthenics before rugby practice.



Thurston's Ashley Ryan rests with her teammates on a time out.



Sarah Beaman of Livonia Stevenson has the ball tossed to her on a line out of the rugby game, lifting her is Jaigredrian McCoy of Thurston.

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ANNIVERSARY

Lintons celebrate 50th

A ceremony will be held May 31, 2008, at the home of Duane and Arlene Linton of Imlay City, Mich., to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Duane retired from Ford Motor Co. in 1996 after 25 years of service. Arlene continues in her business of 37 years as a tax preparer.

The couple lived most of their married life in Wayne. They have lived in Imlay City for two years.

Duane enjoyed building and flying model airplanes. Arlene enjoys collecting antiques.

An open house and barbecue will be held May 31, coordinated by their children: Chris Linton of Florida, Karen Linton of Howell, Brenda Czubaj of Wayne and Sandra Yetter of Romulus.

The Lintons have seven grandchildren. Duane's mother, Bonnie, also plans to attend.



Survivors race for a cure for breast cancer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It had been only two weeks since Toni Bailey-Lay had a partial mastectomy, but she was determined to take part in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure at Comerica Park. The annual event raises money for research and programs to stop breast cancer, a deadly killer of women and men.

Diagnosed in April 2007 after a mammogram, the 45-year-old Westland woman had gone through screenings since her late 30s.

"I also did the Relay for Life," said Bailey-Lay, an art teacher at Madison and Jefferson/Barns elementary schools in the Wayne-Westland District. "We had a colleague in the building and we did it for her as a school. She battled cancer 3 1/2 years and died in 2005. Janet King was at Madison for years."

Bailey-Lay will be wearing a photo of King on her T-shirt when she walks in the downtown event. She considers herself fortunate because the cancer was caught early. Bailey-Lay only required radiation afterwards because her lymph nodes were negative.

"Last year I was bowled over by how many people there were," said Bailey-Lay. "There were ladies with no hair and all of us holding hands and walking across the pink carpet. I was surprised by how many people were there, men with their wives, young children walking with parents, men with breast cancer, every age, every race."

This year Bailey-Lay is excited about having the young cheerleaders she coaches, the Westland Stars, by her side as she walks the route for the race. One of her girls, Jill Wehrheim, has been with her since she was 11. Wehrheim is now



Karen Rosinski (right) of Garden City ran with her niece Jana and her nephew's cousin Joshua Pike in the 2006 Komen Detroit Race for the Cure. This year's race will be Karen Rosinski's sixth. She is a four-year survivor of breast cancer.

DETROIT RACE FOR THE CURE

What: 17th annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure, a 5K run/walk and 1-mile walk to stop breast cancer

When: 7-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 31; opening ceremony 8 a.m. race/walks 9 a.m.

Where: Comerica Park, Detroit
Details: Online individual registration through May 29, at www.karmanos.org/raceforthe-cure/detroit. \$12-\$40. On-site registration at May 30 Expo or race day starting at 7 a.m. Expo is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May 30, at Max Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. (free)

Rosinski underwent a lumpectomy and removal of 11 lymph nodes which tested positive for cancer. She had a recurrence in a lymph node in December 2005 and underwent radiation and then six months of chemotherapy at Henry Ford Hospital. Rosinski, who works in the corporate offices of the Henry Ford Health System, has always been physically active. She doesn't drink or smoke that's why she was surprised when she found a lump under her arm.

"I always try to do everything right," said Rosinski who was All Area on her swim team at Garden City East High School in 1979.

Today she is a member of LALA (Livonia and Larger Area Aquatics) as well as a triathlon club so running is nothing new for Rosinski, a fledgling triathlete who swims 4-days and runs and bikes 3-days a week. She's signed up for three local triathlon races.

"This is just one race of many this summer, but it's the race of all the races I do. It's just huge in terms of the number of people who come out," said Rosinski who competed in Michigan Masters Swimming Championships last month. "There's definitely a lot of support."

in college and the Stars' assistant coach.

"Having my girls there will help give me the strength," said Bailey-Lay. "I try to set the best example I can for young women."

Karen Rosinski's 21-year old niece Jana will be joining her when the 45-year-old Garden City woman runs the race for a sixth year, her fourth as a survivor. Diagnosed in August 2004,

Scholarships honor mom, sons killed in '05 crash

The Weinstein Theatre Enrichment Fund will begin accepting scholarship applications for area youth interested in pursuing performing arts.

"Through these scholarships, it is our hope that more area youth are able to experience a variety of performing arts and develop an appreciation and love for them just as Judy, Sam and Alex Weinstein did," said Lisa Muscio, president of the WTEFund. "In these tough economic times, a scholarship from

the Fund could be the deciding factor as to whether a child goes to a performing arts camp, takes acting or singing lessons or not."

The WTEFund was established after the tragic deaths of Judy Weinstein and her sons Alex and Sam, of Farmington Hills, by a drunk driver in Farmington Hills in May 2005. Together with surviving husband and father Gary, they were a family that loved to support and perform in community theatre.

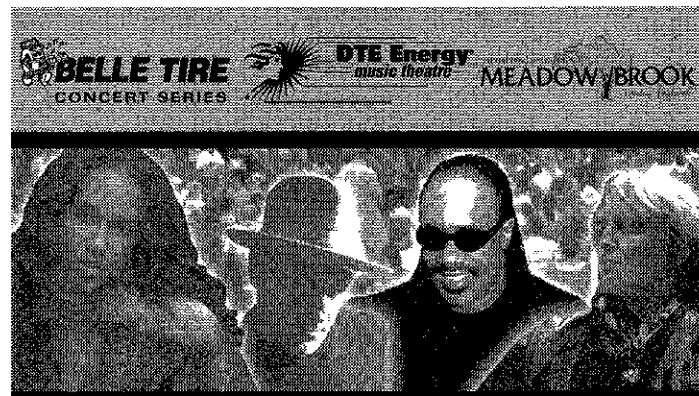
The goal of the Fund is to honor the memory of Judy, Alex and Sam Weinstein by sharing their love of the theatre with as many people as possible.

The scholarships will provide positive exposure to live theatre and the arts. The funds will enable children, ages 7-18, to learn, attend and perform in all aspects of performance theatre. The fund will continue to encourage and inspire children to take a step into the arts just as Alex and Sam were inspired to do.

Scholarships will be awarded in three different categories: enrichment, financial and college.

The WTEFund plans to award scholarships three times per year with the first application deadline for 2008 set for May 23. A reception announcing the recipients will be held on June 25. Funds for the scholarships have been raised through several benefit events held since the May 3, 2005 tragedy.

To learn more about the scholarships and to download and application, visit www.wtefund.com or call (248) 921-1865.



MAY

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22 THIS THURSDAY! 7:30PM
TIM MCGRAW
wsg JASON ALDEAN and HALFWAY TO HAZARD
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

23 THIS FRIDAY! 7:30PM
EDDIE MONEY
wsg IMPOSSIBLE TUESDAY
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

31 TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS
with very special guest STEVE WINWOOD
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

JUNE

4 JAMES TAYLOR AND HIS BAND OF LEGENDS
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

6 ALICIA KEYS wsg NE-YO and JORDIN SPARKS
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

9 DAVE MATTHEWS BAND wsg ALEJANDRO ESCOBEDO
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

10 JIMMY BUFFETT AND THE CORAL REEFER BAND
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

11 CYNDI LAUPER, X ROSSIE O'DONNELL, THE B-52'S, TEGAN & SARA, THE CLIKS, THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR and HOSTED BY CARSON KRESSLEY
TRUE COLORS TOUR
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

14 JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

15 STEVIE NICKS / BOSTON X DOUG FOST 2008
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

18 JACK JOHNSON wsg MASON JENNINGS and MONEY MARK
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

19 NEWSBOYS
wsg SUPERCHICK and DECEMBER 10
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

20 RANDY BACHMAN / BURTON CUMMINGS
Founding Members of The Guess Who
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

21 CHICAGO X THE DOBBIE BROTHERS
wsg NICOLA CONGIO
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

22 ABBA THE TOUR
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

24 STEVIE WONDER
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

27 STEVE MILLER BAND X wsg JOE COCKER
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

27 THE STEPCREW
Celtic Tap Dance Fest
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

28 TRACY MORGAN Comedian
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

29 THE TEMPTATIONS / THE FOUR TOPS
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

29 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
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THE COST OF DRUGS

Physicians working in the area of arthritis are well aware of the expense of drugs, such as Remicade, Entrel, and Humira. These medications carry an average cost of \$1300/month; because insurance companies place these medications into "tier 3," the out of pocket cost to the patient can reach \$230 or more a month.

Patients who cannot take on such a monthly cost turn to their doctors for help.

One way an office responds is to contact a patient assistance program. Drug companies offer assistance for patients who cannot pay, and there are other agencies that may provide financial support to a patient. However, these programs vary in patient eligibility, the requirements are subject to change, or the program may end. In addition, obtaining the necessary papers, explaining to patients the assistance program's directions and following up that paper work sent out was received, take up office time for which no compensation is available.

Another way the physician can respond is to challenge the health insurance company's decision to place the drug in tier 3. That challenge rarely works as the corporate rules and structure require adherence to the insurance company's policies.

Finally, physicians can initiate another drug regimen, usually not as satisfactory as the one too expensive to implement. Fortunately, in arthritis other less costly treatments can work even if more slowly and with greater uncertainty as to their success.

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RUGBY
FROM PAGE C1

biology teacher. "I love it. It's just fun, the adrenalin. I can be rugged." Sarah Beaman is already enjoying the rugged contact sport which provides a good workout two to three times a week for 1 1/2 to two hours. The 15-year old Stevenson High School sophomore just joined the team at the beginning of April when the season started.

"It's really exciting to watch. It's fast paced," said Beaman of Livonia. "It makes me feel tough and we do a lot of running and tackling drills."

Jairedrian McCoy is in her second year as a prop, an enforcer who is normally the largest player on the field.

"I play because I like hitting people," said McCoy, a Thurston student. "It's a fun way to get all your stress out. You get to hit people."

Hereau wishes she would have been able to play Rugby in high school. The Royal Oak woman first learned about the sport in her senior year at Grand Valley State University about 10 years ago. She continued to play as a graduate student at Michigan State University.

"A lot of the girls are getting confidence," said Hereau who also coaches the Rebels, the Redford club's boys team. "Half have never played anything. They say, this is cool. I'm kind of tough."

"The field is similar to a soccer field. There are teams in Berkley, Troy, Grosse Pointe, Livingston County, Traverse City, Toledo. I just love the sport. On the team are dancers, cheerleaders, a figure skater. Rugby takes the highest level of fitness. There's never a rest. It's a lot of running, hitting and getting back up again. The first year they complain. The second year it's nothing."

For more information, visit freewebs.com/redfordrugby-club.

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



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Rugby Football Club: front row from left; Stevenson Arielle Burton, Thurston Jacqui Powell, Thurston Ashley Maynard, Stevenson Sarah Beaman, Thurston Kelley Kiefer, Thurston Leigh Horne, Stevenson Bridget Ranta, and Stevenson Mary Schwartz. Back row from left; co-coach Lisa Risch of Livonia, Stevenson Jess Giesler, Thurston Tomia McKinney, Thurston Jessica Parsons, Stevenson Hailey McCulley, Thurston Nadine Hawthorne, Thurston Megan McMann and Thurston Kala Charles. Not pictured; co-coaches Holly Hereau, Erié Rospeirski and players Thurston's Jairedrian McCoy and Ashley Ryan.



...There's never a rest. It's a lot of running, hitting and getting back up again. The first year they complain. The second year it's nothing.

HOLLY HEREAU



Redford rugby team gets ready to scrum down with the Berkley team.

Garden party to raise money for Livonia Symphony Orchestra

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rose Kachnowski says the Spring Garden Party to raise money for the Livonia Symphony Orchestra "should be real colorful with lots of flowers both fresh and fake."

The May 31 luncheon takes place at Laurel Manor in Livonia and features entertainment by the Livonia Symphony Chamber Ensemble, a garden theme auction and raffle, and sweet treats galore from the Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

"They're fabulous. Their chocolate coffee is incredible, their chocolates," said Kachnowski, an LSO board member and chairwoman of the Garden Party.

"We'll have a smaller garden theme auction and a Chinese raffle with flowery jewelry, grape vine angels, cute little ceramic houses with floral themes, flats of flowers and things. The string ensemble performs during the luncheon of fresh fruit, pineapple, chicken salad. We're trying to do new and interesting things to keep things alive and there's always a desperate need to raise money for the symphony. This is an experiment this year, but next year we hope to expand it."

Seating is limited to only 160 tickets as the event was organized only recently and rooms were already booked for wedding receptions at Laurel Manor. Table sponsorships are available at a \$100 each for any business or organization interested in passing out literature on their group at the Garden Party.

"We're just holding our own. We keep our heads above water

SPRING GARDEN PARTY

What: A luncheon, auction and raffle to raise money for the Livonia Symphony Orchestra
When: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31
Where: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Tickets: \$25. Call (734) 591-0266 or (734) 421-1111. Visa and MasterCard accepted

but that's not enough. We have to draw bigger crowds, have to get the community involved or the symphony will have to cut concerts and the community outreach programs in the schools," said Kachnowski. "I hate to see us cut concerts that's why I came up with the idea for the garden party. We hope to do something alive and expand on it for the coming years."

"We've been getting a lot of support from Greenmead (Historical Park). They're going to be there promoting the June 21 garden walk. We're appealing to garden lovers or symphony lovers in general. Men are coming. It's not just a ladies luncheon."

Kachnowski is very busy these days trying to keep the music alive. She just returned from a meeting for the annual golf outing to raise money for the LSO June 11 at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile, Livonia. For details, call (248) 474-0905 or (734) 522-0721. Cost is \$125 individuals, \$400 for foursome.

"People who don't golf can come just for lunch for \$25 so they can still support the symphony," said Kachnowski.

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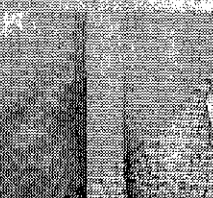


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Mind, body, spirit

Yoga workout combines movement, Christian meditation and nature

BY SHARON DARGAY
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Beth Duncan of Troy feels "close to God" as she stretches into a series of postures during her Monday night yoga class. Susan Raymond of Birmingham calls the experience "therapeutic."

And Karen Brown of Troy says the physically-limbering exercises also touch her heart.

"It's so wonderful. No matter how bad your day has been, you can just forget it," Brown said. "I love the spiritual part of this." With a focus on movement and breathing, meditation and scriptural references — all set in a heavenly landscape — their weekly yoga class goes beyond mere physical routine.

"It's a wonderful program," Duncan said. "You feel good physically and you feel good inside, too."

Grace Seroka, a Catholic who grew up on a Minnesota farm, gives her 90-minute yoga classes a Christian spin, leading students through warm-ups, postures and meditation on the banks of the Rouge River at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills. Seroka has practiced yoga for 25 years, and became a certified teacher eight years ago. After taking an internship in Ignatian spirituality at Manresa, followed by a year of spiritual exercises based on the writings of St.

Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, the Bloomfield Hills woman fused Christian teachings with yoga poses. She started teaching Christian yoga, taking her classes outdoors in good weather, about four years ago.

MUSIC OF NATURE

"The environment you're in can make such a difference," said Seroka, who is married and the mother of two grown children. "Usually we're upstairs in the (retreat house) lounge." But in spring and summer the classes head outdoors.

"There is a real beauty to being outside. It's a real connection with nature, which is one of God's beautiful creations. We're down by the river, it comes gurgling over the rocks. I don't play much music there because nature is our music. The birds are up there twirling away and the water is gurgling over rocks."

But at a recent session, after a 20-minute warm-up, Seroka led class members into a series of established yoga postures — cobra, warrior, sun salute, among others — to the song, *Take Lord, Receive*. Set to sacred music, the postures become a form of prayer.

"I don't relate to Hinduism or Hindu teachings, because that's not my faith. But I'm very grateful for the postures and for what the culture has given us. I think as we become more

global it's important for us to look at the gifts of the cultures and to receive those gifts and find out how they can weave into our culture. I'm doing that with Christian yoga. I'm taking the postures of the Hindu culture, but I'm adding sacred music. I'm adding prayer to it. I'm adding Scripture from our Bible, so that it becomes meaningful for my beliefs, my values and my way of living."

BECOMING SILENT

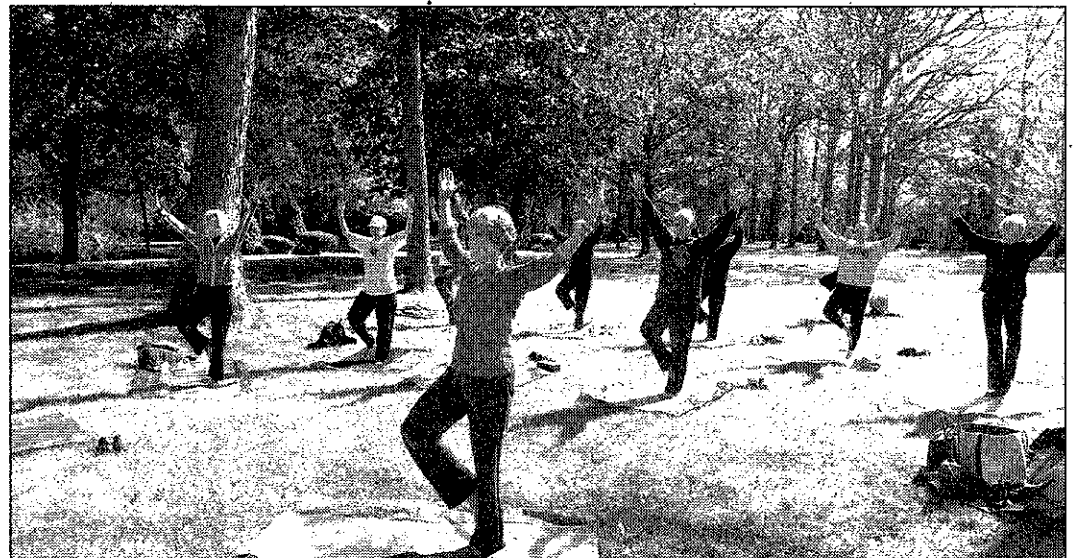
Seroka infuses each session with brief readings from Scripture, writings from saints and theologians, giving each class a theme based on the liturgical year. A recent session focused on "spirit" looking ahead to Pentecost Sunday, which Christians celebrated on May 11.

During the final 15 minutes of each session, class members meditate, quieting mind and stilling their bodies "to be with God," Seroka noted.

"We all need to learn how to become silent in order for God to be present with us. Otherwise, all of the distractions, all of the noise, everything is more present than God. But as we become more aware of our breath, it also increases our awareness of God."

"Yoga is such a complement to meditation. Yoga is body, mind and spirit. What connects it all is breath. We are always aware of breath as we go into postures. The more quiet we become, the more meditative, the more we're able to be centered with God."

Seroka, who is a member of the campus ministry at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac,



Grace Seroka leads her Christian yoga group through poses on the grounds at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, in Bloomfield Hills.

experienced a desire to deepen her faith after two major turning points in her life. One was being at her father's side in a hospice, holding his hand as he died. The other was her two-year Ignatian internship.

She and her husband, George, are members of St. Thomas More Parish in Troy and Sacred Heart in Auburn Hills.

Seroka, who holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree from Michigan State University in adult education, has taught in parochial schools and at the Bloomfield Hills school district's Bowers Farm.

She envisions teaching yoga, with its many applications for "prayer, healing, focus and stretching," to the grieving, cancer patients, and athletic teams.

"I love it, because I know I'm going to do this all of my life, God willing. It's amazing what yoga does for us. I hope I can always teach it as a form of prayer."

Outdoor yoga with a spiritual twist

NEAR OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

Brian Granader, owner of Red Lotus Yoga Studio in Rochester Hills, has given weekend summer yoga retreats for the past three years at the Capuchin Retreat Center, 62460 Mt. Vernon, in Washington. He and owners of four other studios, Updog Yoga in Rochester, Yoga Studio of Shelby, House of Yoga in Berkley and Practice Yoga in Grosse Pointe Woods, team up to present three days of yoga and meditation.

The session will run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, June 6, at the retreat center. Tickets for the seminar only are \$20 and available through Red Lotus Yoga Studio by calling (248) 884-9642.

The yoga retreat starts with the seminar and runs through noon on Sunday, June 8. Cost is \$275. Sign up through one of the sponsoring yoga studios or call Granader at (248) 376-1239.

IN ROYAL OAK

The First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak will take its yoga classes outdoors, to Meiminger Park on Wednesdays, this summer.

Jessica Beaubien, a church member who is trained in YogaFit Level 1, Level 2 and Pre/post-natal, will lead classes from 6-7 p.m. June 11, 18, 25, July 16, 23, 30 and Aug. 6 and 13, at the park, located just south of Catalpa (1 1/2 Mile) at Maxwell, about a half mile west of Main.

Participants can buy a full summer pass for \$64, a half-summer pass for \$40 or walk-in for \$12 per class. Bug spray and citronella will be provided.

Register at www.soulstretch.org. Soul Stretch also offers weekend Christian yoga retreats for small groups, at a bed and breakfast in Plymouth.

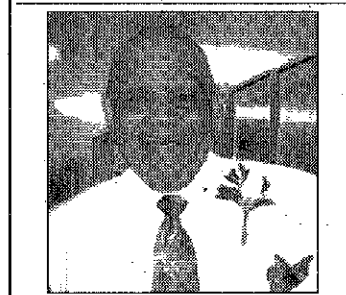
By Sharon Dargay

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Italian classes are starting in June

The Italian American Club of Livonia is offering a six week Italian Language Class this spring and summer. The adult session runs 6:30-8 p.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 4, to July 9. The cost is \$37.50 plus books. Children can learn Italian 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays, June 7 to July 12. The cost is \$25 plus books. For more information, call (734) 421-3460 No. 2.

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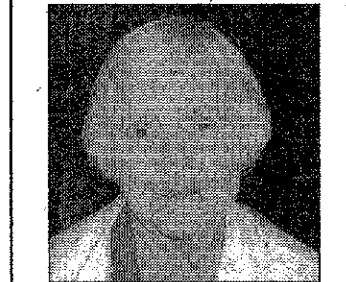


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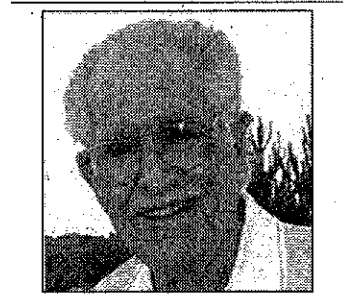
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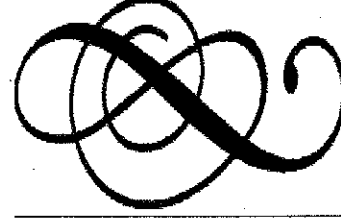


NORA MARIE DERBY
Age 91. May 14, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Wayne. Loving mother of Gary, David (Judy), Richard (Judy) and Barbara Derby. Cherished grandmother of five, great-grandmother of six. Funeral Monday 10 a.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation Sunday 1-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice.
www.thayer-rock.com

EILEEN L. LaCHAPELLE
Age 91, formerly of Detroit & Farmington Hills, died May 15, 2008. She is survived by her son, Robert (Sharon) Clark; grandchildren, René (Ed) Campbell and Craig (Alisa) Clark; great-grandchildren, Noah, Emily, Uriah, A.J., Zachary and Gabriella; step-children, Dorothy Graves, George (Barbara) & Doug (Marilyn) LaChapelle; brother, Frank "Clayton" Graves of TX; nephew, Michael and many loving extended family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, A.G. Leigh LaChapelle and a sister, Carol Guiseppi (d.2006). Funeral Services were held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Saturday, May 17th, at 12 Noon. Memorials may be made in her name to Apple Blossom Hill. For further information call 248-684-6645 or visit: www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



HERBERT D. TEWILLIGER
Age 79, a life long resident of Birmingham, died May 14, 2008, at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Mr. Tewilliger was born December 8, 1928, at the family home on Wallace Street in Birmingham and graduated from Birmingham High School in 1947. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Tewilliger retired from Detroit Edison where he had been a lineman for 41 years. He was a passionate sportsman. Mr. Tewilliger is survived by his children, Gerald (Teresa) Tewilliger, Jan Gross, Jeff (Tracy) Tewilliger, Joni (Pete) Marshall and Jim (Debbie) Tewilliger. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Lauren, Britta, Adam and Emma and siblings, Mary Lovell, Fred (Betty) Tewilliger, Jerry (Sally) Tewilliger, Anne (Fred) Funke and Dan (Beverly) Tewilliger. He is preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, JoAnn, brother, Al Tewilliger and sisters, Margaret Haack and Lorraine Wallace. Funeral at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (Between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Monday 11am. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm. Interment in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Memorials appreciated to charity of donors choice.



DICK MATTHEWS
Age 78, of Canton, died Friday, May 9, 2008 at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti. Richard Matthews was born on November 17, 1929 in Dryden, Michigan. He was the son of Frank & Alla (Spencer) Matthews. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Dick lived in Westland for 26 years and later moved to Canton. Dick married Patricia Louise Kaake on July 29, 1953 in Angola, Indiana. He was a Printer/Typesetter. He was employed at the Ypsilanti Press for 25 years and Observer Newspaper in Livonia for five years. Dick was a member of Wayne First Congregational Church. He is survived by his wife Patricia of Canton; daughters Lynn (Thomas) Welch of Muskegon, Carolyn (Stanley) Owens of Plymouth and Renee (Gary) Sopko of Northville; son Rick (Debbie) Matthews of Whitmore Lake; ten grandchildren: Thomas Welch, Stacey Dalen, Brady Owens, Bryan Owens, Nicole Hopman, Lyndsay Schmiedel, Gary Sopko, Sara Sopko, Megan Matthews, Allan Matthews; six great-grandchildren: Campbell, Sophia, Zahra, Aynslee, Caleb & William; sister Mary Louise (William) Leslie of Bradenton, FL. Dick is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, two sisters and two infant siblings. Funeral services were held Monday, May 12, 2008 at Muir Brothers Funeral Home in Imlay City. Burial followed at Imlay Township Cemetery.

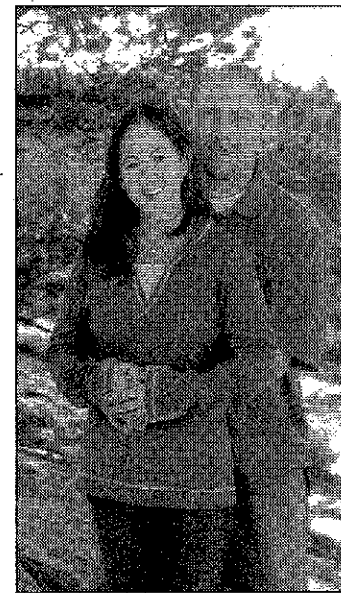
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ENGAGEMENTS

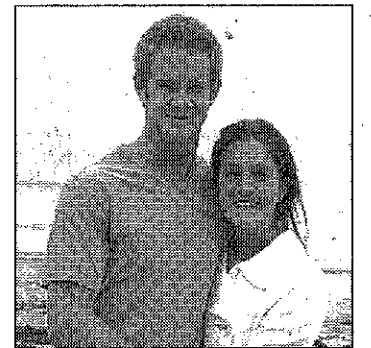
Settle-Killian
Bill and Angela Settle of Grand Junction, Colo., announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Ann, to Brian Killian, son of Clarice and Michael Killian of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Grand Junction High School and graduated from Mesa State College with a bachelor's degree in business. She is currently general manager of Holiday Inn in Grand Junction.

The future groom graduated from Plymouth High School in 1993 and graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science degree in geology. He is currently employed by the Colorado Department of Transportation as a geologist. A May wedding is planned



in Grand Junction in an outdoor setting. The couple plans a honeymoon cruise to the western Caribbean.



Brooks-Johnson
Mrs. Philip Brooks of Canton announces the engagement of her daughter, Kristin Kelly Walsh, to Jonathan Michael Johnson, son of Stephen Johnson and Margaret Johnson of Plymouth. Kristin is also the daughter of Gregory Walsh of Howell.

Kristin is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in business administration.

Stephen also holds a degree in business administration from Madonna University.

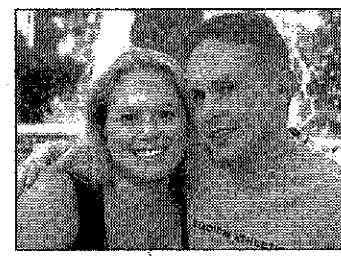
A winter wedding in February 2009 has been planned.

Kristin, originally from Canton and Jonathan, originally from Plymouth, currently reside in South Carolina.

Nizienski-Burkholder
Edward and Francine Nizienski of Livonia and George and Elaine Burkholder of Livonia announce the engagement of their children, Sarah A. Nizienski and Dennis J. Burkholder.

Sarah is an Eastern Michigan University graduate in elementary education. She is currently teaching in Cape Coral, Fla.

Dennis is a Henry Ford Community College graduate



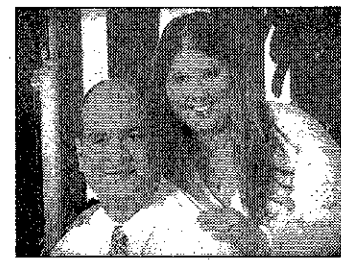
in skilled trades. He is currently working for Dearborn Public Schools in the skilled trades department.

They are to be married in June 2009 in the Livonia area.

Siebert-Holdeman
Kathryn Ann Siebert of Mantua, N.J., and Seth Forest Holdeman of Itasca, Fla., are planning to be wed in August.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Faith and Evans Neale and Elliott Siebert. She is a 1989 graduate of Clearview High School and is employed as the general manager of Hampton Inn in W. Bridgeport, N.J.

The future groom is the son of Don and Pam Holdeman of

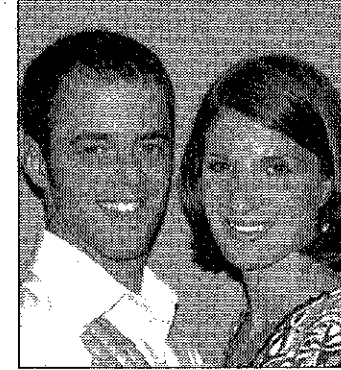


Westland. He is a 2000 graduate of Michigan Technological University and is employed as a mechanical engineer for Power Great Lakes in Illinois.

Fitzsimmons-Ahern
Joseph and Julie Fitzsimmons of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Elizabeth, to Ryan Matthew Ahern, son of Timothy and Nancy Ahern of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Canton High School and a 2006 graduate of Albion College with bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. She is currently pursuing a cognitive impairment endorsement and masters in autism from Eastern Michigan University.

The future groom is a 2002 graduate of Canton High School. He owns and operates



his own property maintenance company, Professional Ground Maintenance.

A June 2009 wedding is planned for First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.



Loftus-Schlaff
Daniel and Lisa Loftus of Hartland announce the engagement of their daughter, Anna Christine Loftus, to Thomas Allan Schlaff, son of Robert Schlaff of Dexter and Tammy Shelhart of Byron.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Hartland High School and a 2006 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Elementary Education. She is employed as a sixth grade teacher at Laurus Academy in Southfield. Her parents are originally from Livonia, where her father was a police sergeant and is still employed as a civilian.

The future groom is a 2002 graduate of Dexter High School and a 2006 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in business administration. He is employed as a financial analyst with Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn.

An October wedding is planned at St. James Catholic Church in Novi with a reception at Wabeek Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Happy Feet to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Karen Cioma-James still misses her daughter Leah every minute of every day but she's more determined than ever not to let her be forgotten. On May 31, the James family holds Happy Feet for Happy Hearts, a 5-k walk to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research at Maybury State Park in Northville.

Leah died from a diffused pontine brain stem glioma Aug. 3, 2005, a little more than a year after being diagnosed then undergoing radiation treatments at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan. She was 5½-years old. One of her favorite sayings was 'my heart is happy'.

"I feel like I have to do something. I feel very helpless," said James. "The walk's like a tribute to her. We want to promote awareness. Along the trails there will be heart signs with photos of Leah and a poster board Wall of Courage

HAPPY FEET

FOR HAPPY HEARTS

What: 5k walk in memory of Leah James to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research
Where: Maybury State Park, Northville. \$6 park entrance fee required
When: Saturday May 31, 8:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. walk
Cost: \$20 adults, \$10 for children under age 18, 5 and under free.
To register, visit www.leahshappyhearts.org

of children who have died of brain tumors. I belong to several online support groups so from all over the U.S. parents have been sending me photos of children who have died of brain tumors. To me it's unacceptable. Something has to be done."

James headed up a dinner auction last May to raise money for children dying from brain tumors and their families. She recently gave Mott a

\$10,000 check for pediatric palliative care from proceeds of the first event plus donations. Last Dec. 23, volunteers with Leah's Happy Hearts visited children on three floors of the hospital.

"The walk will help make our next Christmas event at Mott even more special," said James. "Last year was so fun. We purchased gifts and some gifts were donated by people in the area. With help of the Girls Scouts we made fleece blankets and brought all these gifts so the children could pick out gifts for their families. We took photos of the children and put them in a snow globe. We also gave the kids gifts. For me it keeps her memory alive by doing these types of things."

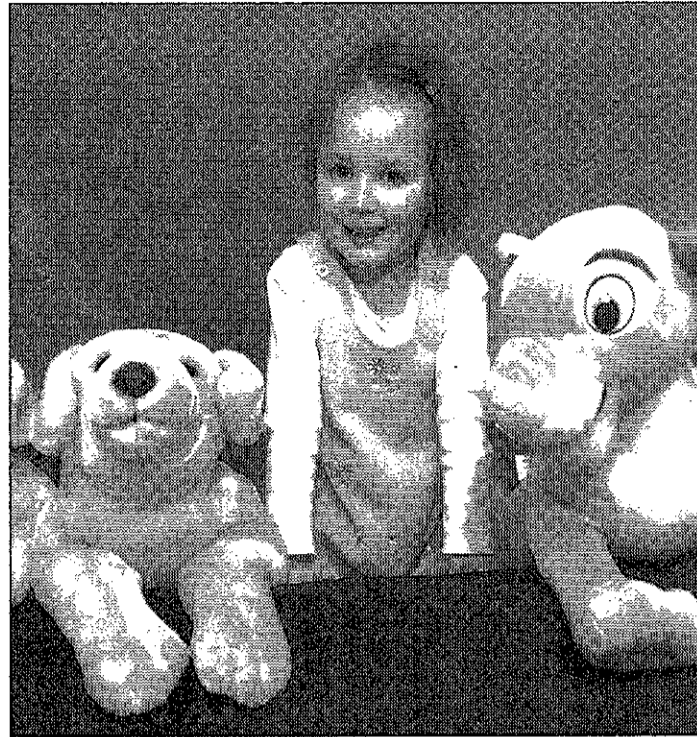
On May 31, James, her husband Phil and their 11-year-old daughter Kylie will be helping at the walk after which a light lunch will be provided. Sponsors include UAW Chrysler, Independent Bank in Livonia, and St. Mary Mercy Hospital where Leah went to

pre-school. Elementary schools are becoming involved as well. Riley in Livonia is promoting the event as is Northville Christian School which Kylie attends.

"There will be a fire-truck, clowns with balloons and tattoos of Leah's (heart shaped) logo that Leah actually drew," said James. "We are encouraging everyone to get pledges of \$100 or more and they will be entered into a drawing for a Nintendo Wii or Tiger tickets. If you pre-register you're guaranteed a T-shirt. Rain or shine we will walk."

"It's a great way to raise money and bring the community together. We have friends, families and the community walking for a purpose. For me that's powerful and supportive. I think the walk promotes awareness, that there is no cure, that this can happen to anyone. Rarely do these children live past a year and it always results in death."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leah James died of an inoperable brain tumor in August 2005. Her family is determined to keep her memory alive by creating awareness about the need for a cure. The Happy Feet for Happy Hearts 5-k walk takes place May 31, at Maybury State Park in Northville.

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: csingerbhs58reunion.org for access to the web site: www.bhs58reunion.org or call Jackie Yorgen Castine, (248) 332-5984.

Brighton High School Class of 1989

Planning our 20th reunion and searching for classmates. Please sign up at "yahoo groups- brighton high school class of 1989" to get more information.

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 e-mail CHS1968Sec@yahoo.com.

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@comcast.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'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn. For more information, contact Janet Wszolna Robbins at (313) 277-1418 or Susan Taylor Szalony at (248) 348-6692.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Please contact Kathy Nison at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge at Klvingston@ntu-core.com.

Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion on Aug. 2, 2008, at Park

Place. Reservations only. For information, please contact Marsha (Duzak) Movestian, (313) 277-5624, or Joyce (Anzara) Mechalco, (313) 278-4488.

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.

Chadsey High School Class of 1957

An Alumni Dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at American Legion Post No. 32, at 9315 Newburgh in Livonia. Contact Pat at 734-522-1284.

Detroit Chadsey High School Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Burton Manor, Livonia. \$55 per person. Contact Mike Potalera, (248) 548-4829 or mspotalera@comcast.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 email denplace@bigfoot.com.

Detroit Holy Redeemer High School Class of 1958

A 50th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, at O'Kelley K of C, Dearborn. Contact Mary Burns at (313) 937-3979 or burnsmmary@aol.com.

com for information.

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

A 50-year Reunion will be on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008. Contact Bester King, (248) 547-1693, or Jackie Wilkinson, (313) 861-0834.

Detroit Northeastern Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 23, at Farina's Banquet Center, Berkley. Contact Audrey (Bynum) Bibbs at (248)474-2716 or Dorothy (Rodgers) McCree at (248)224-7598.

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 e-mail 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 gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com and check out Web site at www.myspace.com/gchs20threunion.

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 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 gandjackl@yahoo.com, or call the Shields family at (313) 822-3211.

Lincoln Park High School Class of 1958

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

Lincoln Park High School Class of 1978

A 30-year reunion June 28, at Ramada Inn of Taylor. Contact: Tracy Zimmerman at (714) 837-2191

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nison at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nison at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

Livonia Stevenson Class of 1978

A 30 year reunion, Aug. 16, 2008, at Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Includes D.J., cash bar, and strolling buffet. There will be information coming soon. For information, contact the Reunion Committee, Tim Oehmke at (734)637-1002 or superchargertest@aol.com.

Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail address is: milford78@gmail.com.

Plymouth High School Class of 1968

Searching for classmates for a 40th reunion on July 19, 2008. Only about 63 percent of the class have been located. Contact Sue (Keith) Johnson at (734) 451-0488 or contact [pfs40threunion@charter.net](mailto:phs40threunion@charter.net).

Plymouth-Canton high schools Classes of 1988

Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem classes of 1988 20-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Contact cepclassof1988@yahoo.com for more information.

FREE ADMISSION

JOIN THE FUN AT OUR 5TH ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO
COME AND ENTER TO WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO JAMAICA

FREE PARKING

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Senior EXPO

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

JAMAICA
Once you go, you know.
www.visitjamaica.com

Atlas Vacation
www.atlasvacations.net

Come and enter a trip for two to Jamaica. Moderate climate, lush tropical surroundings and a unique culture makes Jamaica a truly unforgettable getaway with the perfect blend of adventure, elegance and practicality compliments of Atlas Vacations, Your Vacations People offering complete vacation packages for airline tickets, hotel and villas accommodations, sightseeing excursions, cruises, spas, golf, weddings and honeymoons.

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Protect and Grow Your Money in Retirement

Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills is a fee only financial advisor. His column *Money Matters* appears every Thursday and Sunday in The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be heard Sundays on WTDK1400 radio. Rick is a licensed attorney and Certified Public Accountant and has been named one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by Worth Magazine.

VISIT THESE BOOTHS FOR VALUABLE INFORMATION

Heartland Healthcare Centers
Aegis Life Case
Allstate Rolfe Agency LLC
AM 560 CKWW
American House
Angela Hospice
Area Agency on Aging & Senior Alliance
Ashford Court Senior Residence
Bath Filter of Livonia
Beyer Heating & Cooling
Bloom Asset Management
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Brightstar Healthcare
Cabinet Clinic Inc.

Cadillac Travel Group
Critical Signal Technologies
Estate Planning Legal Services
Expert Care
Fitness USA
Fluke Hearing
Four Seasons of Westland
Fox Run
Fred Astaire Dance Studio
Glacier Hills
Heartland - Dearborn Heights
Henry Ford Village
Heartland Healthcare Centers
IHA Plymouth Internal Medicine

Inde Quest Nurse Case Management
Innovative Hearing Services
JAMAICA Tourist Board
Kroger
Living Large
Looney Baker
Lypka Hearing Aids
M. H. Management
Medledge Group
Michael Krause & Associates
Michael Valerio CPA, PFS, LLC
Michigan Area Legislators
New Liberty Bank
Nexcare

Oakwood Commons
Passageways Travel
Petland
Presbyterian Village
Schoolcraft College
Senior Helpers
Detroit Media Partnership
Smooth Jazz V98.7
St. Mary Mercy Hospital
Suburban Eye Care
Teubert & Associates
Tri County Pain Consultants
Trupp Family Care Chiropractic
Vision Research Foundation

WIN
DETROIT TIGER
TICKETS

Waltonwood
Wellsbrook Premium Home Health Care
Wells Fargo Reverse Mortgage
West Haven Manor
Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center
Woodhaven Retirement Community

Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Schoolcraft College



**City of Plymouth 2008-2009 Budget
RESOLUTION
2008-2009 CITY BUDGET HEARING**

WHEREAS, the 2008-2009 City Budget was presented by the City Manager on April 7, 2008, and was reviewed by the City Commission with the Administration during four public study sessions; and

WHEREAS, various modifications have been made to the proposed budget, based on a review of projected revenues and expenditures, and the City's priorities for various programs and projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission hereby calls a public hearing to consider the proposed 2008-2009 City Budget, as revised, in accordance with the following notice:

**City of Plymouth
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2008-209 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, June 2, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. in the portable band shell in Kellogg Park, or in the Commission Chambers of City Hall at 201 South Main Street in the event of inclement weather, for the purpose of discussing and receiving public comments on the proposed 2008-2009 City Budget.

PROPOSED 2008 CITY MILLAGE RATES: The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The following statements are provided concerning the 2008 proposed millage levies for the City of Plymouth:

The 2008 tax rate for City operating millage is proposed to be 11.3834 mills, which is the same as the 2007 operating tax rate. The City Commission has the authority under the City Charter to set the operating millage rate within the maximum allowed rate of 11.3834 mills, as adjusted by the Headlee millage roll-back formula.

The 2008 tax rate for debt service millage to fund debt service requirements for the 2002 and 2004 General Obligation Street Bond issues is proposed to be 1.2500 mills, an increase of 0.0200 mills from the 2007 tax rate.

The 2008 tax rate for City solid waste and recycling millage is proposed to be 1.7200 mills, which is a decrease of .1800 mills from the 2007 tax rate.

The total City millage for all purposes is proposed to be 14.3534 mills for 2008, which is a decrease of 0.1600 mills from the 2007 total City tax rate of 14.5134 mills.

EQUALIZATION FACTORS: Wayne County established a tentative 2008 equalization factors of 0.9152 for the residential class of property, 1.1062 for the commercial class of property and 1.0265 for the industrial class of property. Since the City has decreased assessments for the residential class and increased assessments for the commercial, and industrial classes for 2008 by the proposed factors, all 2008 equalization factors will be set at 1.0000.

2008-2009 PROPOSED CITY BUDGETS: The budgets for the various funds of the City of Plymouth are proposed for 2008-2009 as follows:

GENERAL FUND:

<u>REVENUES:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Property taxes	\$5,084,720	Administration	\$1,399,100
Licenses & Permits	2,600	Buildings & Grounds	514,420
Federal Grants	0	Police Department	2,900,900
State-shared Rev	889,500	Fire Department	1,015,460
Sales of Service	501,640	Public Works Dept	645,310
Cemetery Revenue	152,500	Other Functions	206,560
Parking Revenue	72,000	Capital Outlay	331,950
Other Revenue	997,400	Debt Service	186,820
Transfers In	22,000	Transfers Out	521,840
REVENUE TOTAL	\$7,722,360	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$7,722,360

MAJOR STREET FUND:

Gas & Weight Tax	\$ 359,870		
Contrib & Other	25,000		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$ 384,870	EXPENDITURE TOTAL:	\$ 384,870

LOCAL STREET FUND:

Gas & Weight Tax	\$ 145,880		
Contrib & Other	218,270		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$ 364,150	EXPENDITURE TOTAL:	\$ 364,150

RECREATION FUND:

Contrib. From G/F	\$ 250,000		
Prog. Fees & Other	885,380		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$1,135,380	EXPENDITURE TOTAL:	\$1,135,380

WASTE & RECYCLING FUND:

Property Taxes	\$ 762,610	Operating Expenses	\$1,061,330
Sales of Service	298,720	Debt Expenses	-0-
REVENUE TOTAL	\$ 1,061,330	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$1,061,330

OTHER CITY FUNDS:

	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Plym Community Youth Advisory Comm Fund	\$ 580	\$ 580
Parking Fund	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
DDA Operating Fund	\$ 829,990	\$ 829,990
Building Fund	\$ 411,770	\$ 411,770
Neighborhood Services Fund	\$ 138,740	\$ 138,740
Brownfield Re-Development Authority Fund	\$ 497,660	\$ 497,660
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$ 5,500	\$ 8,000
OWI Forfeiture Fund	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
2002 GO Bond Debt Fund	\$ 188,280	\$ 195,600
2003 LTGO Debt Fund	\$ 67,100	\$ 67,980
2004 GO Debt Fund	\$ 398,940	\$ 422,260
2006 LTGO Debt Fund	\$ 121,830	\$ 120,820
2008 GO Debt Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
2002 Capital Improvement Bonds Debt Fund	\$ 118,420	\$ 123,420
Michigan Transportation Fund Debt Fund	\$ 600	\$ 600
Municipal Bldg Authority Debt Fund	\$ 154,880	\$ 156,820
Water/Sewer Bond & Interest Debt Fund	\$ 280,070	\$ 280,070
DDA Debt Fund	\$ 386,047	\$ 405,070
Public Improvement Fund	\$ 18,500	\$ 18,500
DDA Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 152,500	\$ 150,000
2004 GO Bond Construction Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
2006 LTGO Bond Construction Fund	\$ 0	\$ 56,000
2008 GO Bond Construction Fund	\$ 5,200,000	\$ 1,207,200
MTF Construction Fund	\$ 1,500	\$ 0
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000

Financial plans for the Budget Stabilization Fund, the several Water & Sewer Funds, and the Equipment Fund area also included in the Budget Document.

TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS:

As provided in State law, the general appropriations resolution is proposed to allow the City Manager to transfer up to ten percent (10%) of each appropriation to any other appropriation within each fund, but not from Reserve Accounts nor between funds.

COPIES OF PROPOSED BUDGET AVAILABLE:

A complete copy of the 2008-2009 City Budget is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office during regular business hours, and also at the Plymouth District Library during its regular hours of operation.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Gardeners meet

The Gardeners of Northville and Novi meet the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site www.gardeners-northville-novi.org

Heartland Hospice

Heartland Hospice, located in Southfield and serving the tri-county area, is looking for caring and compassionate individuals to register for volunteer training. Evening and daytime classes are available for anyone interested in being a support person for clients and their families during their end-of-life journey. Office support is also needed. To register, call Mary, (800) 770-9859.

Card party/luncheon

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

Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors

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

Toastmasters meet

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

Grief support

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other

specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

Post Polio Clinic

Easily fatigued? New, inexplicable physical complaints? History of paralytic or non-paralytic polio? Contact the Post Polio Clinic, 13850 E. 12 Mile, Warren, or call (586) 778-4505. The clinic sponsors support group meetings the fourth Saturday of every month (March through October) at 4328 Livernolis in Troy. For more information you can also call (734) 765-8384.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Beth Stewart, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 420-4094.

Mosaic Mothers

MOSAIC Mothers' Group meets on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month through May 6. Speakers, food, discussion time, social activities. Childcare provided. Contact Plymouth Baptist Church for more information, (734) 453-5534.

Gardeners meet

Gardeners of Northville and Novi meet September through May the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site at www.gardener-northville-novi.org

Canton Newcomers

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

Kiwanis Club

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer. The Club invites you to their morning meetings to discuss community projects and activities. Be part of the solution and not just a spectator. For more information, call (734) 981-0460 or see the Web site (www.pckiwans.org).

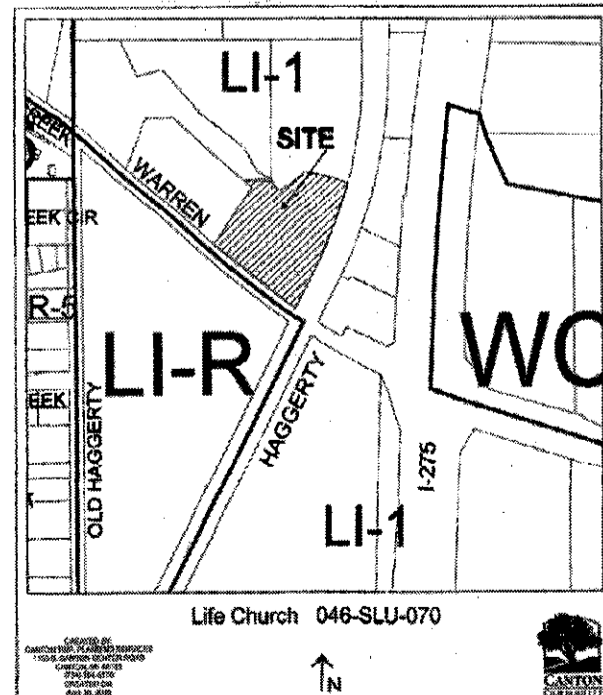
Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplus-janet@aol.com.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 12 of 2008, 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, June 2, 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 special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance.

LIFE CHURCH SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 21.02B.5b FOR PARCEL NO. 046 99 0003 715 (7001 HAGGERTY N.). Property is located at the northwest corner of Warren and Haggerty Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, May 29, 2008, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

COUNTERING THE BUSINESS DILEMMA AFTER A BIG SALE



WORKWISE
by Mildred L. Culp

A big sale often creates a show-stopping dilemma for the business that supports it. The new business may be so substantial that you consider emergency responses, such as:

- going into overdrive, scrambling for resources to keep the momentum going;
- dropping part of your existing customer base; or
- analyzing how to counter the complexity that has evolved by "un-marketing."

John Mariotti discusses the last tactic in "The Complexity Crisis: Why Too Many Products, Markets and Customers Are Crippling Your Company" (Platinum, \$19.95). Is there another approach to the solution?

BOTTLENECKS

It's tempting to cut and run. David Fields, managing director of Ascendant Consulting L.L.C., in Ridgfield, Conn., helps organizations of all sizes break through bottlenecks deterring growth. He suggests that you stop and think. "The real question," he says, "is why did you land the big fish? If your competitors landed four and you landed one, you might have left a lot on the table."

Harvey Hofferberg, president of Propulsion L.L.C., in New

Canaan, Conn., helps marketers with strategy and brand positioning through production. He advises you to:

- staff up to meet your existing customer base;
- identify the source of your core customers;
- prioritize; and
- be decisive so that you and your staff aren't questioning what you've decided to do.

Woe is you if you drop existing customers, he adds, because "they're much more difficult to recapture than digging yourself out of a service hole. . . (Meanwhile), set that hook by continuing to market and re-market to that fish you caught." Agreeing with Fields, he also suggests that you pause long enough to ask yourself if the big fish is sending you in a new direction you should continue to pursue.

Fields, while advocating dropping unproductive customers with respect, points out, "Your worst customers are still customers. They buy from you; so they value you. But something in the relationship is not working. De-bottleneck by buffering the bottleneck." For example, if lack of time is the problem, understand that "not every bit of time is as valuable as every other bit of time. Ask yourself which alternative (task) will give the best long-term result."

Mariotti writes that when you've achieved an objective, you can't begin to eliminate problems until you understand their complexity. He advocates taking time out "to consolidate, simplify and measure/manage the complexity . . . (so) the problems start to shrink away. Until then, they just keep growing," draining profits. In fact, he implies that you should

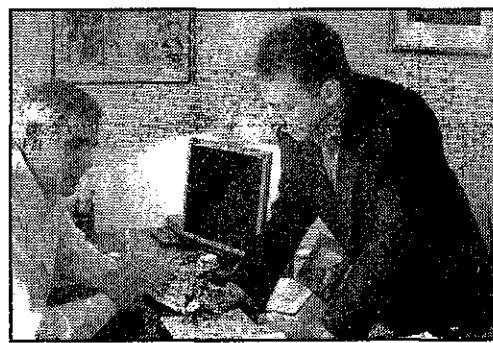
decide in advance whether the new product or service fits into your line-up strategically.

In an interview, Mariotti, who directs The Enterprise Group in Powell, Ohio, cautions against a marketing prize so enormous "that it swamps your boat." A big fish "sucks resources from every place else in the company, including old, loyal, profitable customers" while creating a financial dilemma as you accommodate the prize.

UN-MARKETING DEPARTMENTS

In the midst of the excitement you've created, you must continue to retain your brand's good name or you'll fall back, creating more problems. Hofferberg points out that you'll be investing either time or money and can't throw one or the other into a black hole. "Do your analysis," he directs. "Give yourself some goals or indicators," such as determining whether the long sales cycle in one group is stretching to infinity. Watch for clues about direction. "Marketing is very fickle," he comments. "Something that sticks connects with your target audience, even if it's something you never thought of. The numbers will give you a smaller place to fish, but that big fish will come because somehow you connected." He illustrates his point with the Ray Charles Diet Pepsi commercial, whose developers hadn't anticipated its runaway success.

Mariotti says that no one talks about "un-marketing departments," which should be there to accommodate product life cycles. "People have to realize that you eventually have to eliminate the old to get room for the new," he observes. "You're cannibalizing yourself in a negative way by introducing products



Credit: Courtesy of Ascendant Consulting L.L.C.
David Fields (right) is consulting with a general manager at a firm experiencing rapid growth. Fields specializes in breaking through bottlenecks to growth in companies of all sizes.

without considering which ones they will replace in the market. Positive cannibalization involves planning your products to replace other products that are older and less effective, such as Apple's iPod, which its company cannibalizes every couple of years.

"(Replace) your own older products with better ones," he adds, "because if you don't, a competitor will."
(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



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Help Wanted-General 5000

ART TEACHER (Part-Time)
Independent 6-12 school seeks instructor for 3-dimensional art (ceramics, fiber arts, sculpture) Fall 2008. Degree required, experience preferred. Submit cover letter and resume to adamsapps@yahoo.com or fax to 248-642-8619 by 5/26/08

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www.resa.net

Click on "Employment Network". View All Open Positions.... for detailed contract requirements/specifications and application information.

These are contracted service positions. Contractors shall not be RESA employees, are not eligible for benefits, and are not part of Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System. Contract terms range from 50 to 150 days per year.

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ROBOTICS COACH (Part Time)
Independent 6-12 school seeks instructor for High School Robotics team. Experience in Engineering, FIRST, OCCRA competitions, VBX building & C programming and/or AutoCAD beneficial. Submit cover letter and resume to adamsapps@yahoo.com or fax to 248-642-8619 by 5/26/08

FACILITIES MANAGER
Supervise custodians and perform building, equipment and grounds maintenance incl: Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. Min. exp. 5 yrs. full time custodial/maintenance. 2 yrs as supervisor. Benefits. Application due by 6-2-08. First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. 734-453-5280

GAS REGISTRATION AGENTS
A VERY SUCCESSFUL ENERGY CO. has limited openings for Gas Registration Agents (Average \$25.00/hr.) No prior experience necessary Ms. Diamond, 248-594-2341

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Applications being accepted Tues. from 9-11am & 1-3pm. All shifts available. \$8.35-\$9.90/hr. Positions in Brighton/Howell. Must provide 2 valid forms of ID and be able to pass criminal background check & drug screen. Please apply in person at: 8571 W. Grand River, Ste 100 Brighton, MI 48116 www.trilliumjobs.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Part-Time. Experienced. Call: (734) 679-7229

POOL ATTENDANTS
needed for Canton apts. Must have reliable transportation 734-981-3891

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A minimum of 5 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package. Apply in person between 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. at: Die-Namic Inc., 7565 Haggerty Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 Or fax resumes to 734-710-3223 or email to sthomson@die-namic.com EOE - M/F/D/V

INSTALLER
Carpet Etcetera seeking installer qualified in carpet, laminate, tile, hardwood & vinyl. For great pay, bonuses & health insurance. No Subcontractors. Fax resume to (248) 446-6190. Valid Michigan drivers license required.

JANITORIAL CO. seeking individuals for cleaning in the Canton, Westland & Farmington areas. Part-Time, days & evenings. Flexible hrs. Must be able to pass background check. 734-222-5902 x1

LEASING CONSULTANT
For retirement community in Westland. Enthusiastic, pleasant, energetic, a real go-getter. Training provided. Full-time with Saturdays. Compensation includes benefits and 401K. Fax resumes to 734-729-9840 Equal Opportunity Employer

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MANAGER
Large apt. community is seeking individual who is motivated, has outgoing personality & computer knowledge. Requirements: have first contact with prospective clients, do follow-up calls, process service calls & leases. Excellent pay. Minimum 3 yrs. exp. required. Fax resume to: 989-953-4864 - EOE

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Help Wanted-General 5000

MANICURIST
Experienced, 2 day per week, for Novi area assisted living center. 1-800-762-7391

Mechanic
 DIESEL MECHANIC
Needed for Livonia based carrier. Minimum exp. 2 yrs. on tractor/trailers. Reeler experience helpful. Able to work with minimum supervision. Full-time w/benefits/401K. Employee owned company. **Quickway Services.** Fax resume to: (734) 762-9673 Attn: Mike

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Present nail tech moving, clientele waiting. Livonia area. 70%. 248-767-7116

OFFICE CLEANING
Evenings, P/T. West Bloomfield. Call for appt.: 248-615-3554

Operations Manager
with strong administrative skills. Large food distributor. Minimum 5 yrs. exp. Email resume to: amanning@parsicream.com

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MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Experienced maintenance supervisor needed for a mid-size apartment community in the Westland area. Knowledge in all aspects of maintenance must be HVAC certified. Competitive salary & benefits. Live on-site optional. Fax resume: 734-729-8258

Maintenance Technician & Grounds Person
Experienced technician needed for full-time live-on site position for apartment community in the Lake Orion area. Knowledge of all aspects of maintenance preferred. HVAC certified. Competitive salary & benefits. Grounds person needed for landscaping, flexible hrs. Seasonal full or part-time. Fax resume: 248-358-3779

MAINTENANCE WORKER
For local credit union. Some travel. Resume & cover letter to: LOH, 44575 W 12 Mile Novi MI 48377 or FAX: 248-596-4545

Director West Bloomfield Public Library
4600 Walnut Lake Rd. W. Bloomfield, MI 48323 by 06-11-08

Director West Bloomfield Public Library
4600 Walnut Lake Rd. W. Bloomfield, MI 48323 by 06-11-08

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Help Wanted-General 5000

Public Safety Dispatcher/Clerk
Northville Township is accepting applications for full-time Dispatcher/Clerk. Essential functions include receiving complaints from the public concerning crimes, medical emergencies and fires. Dispatching police, fire, and EMS. Starting wage of \$16.63 hr. with excellent benefits. **Qualifications include:**
• U.S. Citizen or resident alien with the right to work in U.S.
• 18 years of age
• High School diploma or equivalent
• Computer skills
• Police dispatch experience preferred (lateral transfer negotiable)
• Law and EMD certification preferred
Candidates must successfully complete a testing process, background investigation, psychological, and physical. **Applications are available & returned completed to:**
Charter Township of Northville Human Resources Dept. 44405 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 on Monday, June 9, 2008 4:30 p.m. An application is also available at our website at www.twp.northville.mi.us Resumes will not be accepted without a completed application. Equal Opportunity Employer.

RETAIL AREA SUPERVISOR
Midwest snack foods distributor seeks qualified applicants to supervise DSD operations in 6-7 stores, 12-15 employees. Must have a minimum of 3 yrs. grocery retail experience. Must have a minimum of 3 yrs. management experience. Area location within 45 miles of Northville. \$40K yr. to start. Car allowance plus fuel reimbursement. BCBS medical, 401K, life ins. Send resume to repad265@yahoo.com

ROOFERS-FLAT
Commercial roofing firm seeks laborers, exp'd single-ply roofers & foreman (M/F). Email application or resume to: nessymc@yahoo.com

ROOFING LABORER FLAT WORK
Metro Detroit area. All seasons. Benefits. Must have transportation. Competitive pay. 734-422-1990, 8am-3pm

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We are seeking innovative talent in order to expand our business in the **Sterling Heights, Michigan area**. Many opportunities are available in the following areas:

- **Mechanical Engineers**
Work with leaders in military systems to develop and integrate wheeled and tracked vehicle systems. Responsibilities include development, design and integration of the mobility, weapon, survivability, structures, auxiliary, crew, mechanical, and mission system components. The candidate will be responsible for the assimilation of the design requirements, exploring concept solutions, conducting trade studies, developing selected designs, overseeing hardware prototype build, and verifying the design performance characteristics through test validation in preparation for field tests and production. A BSME plus a minimum of 2 years design experience or equivalent technical degree and experience is required. Pro-E knowledge is desired.
- **Designers**
Must work with engineers and drafters to design and develop subsystems and component parts, which can include, but are not limited to, powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical. The candidate is responsible for the documentation, analysis, layout, and design, up to and including final engineering drawings. Proficiency in Pro-E, 3-D and solid modeling is required, proficiency in CADD5; an AA degree plus a minimum of five years design experience or equivalent work experience is required.
- **Drafters**
Must work with engineers and designers to draft and detail subsystems and component parts, which can include, but are not limited to, powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical. Proficiency in Pro-E, 3-D and solid modeling is required, proficiency in CADD5; five years drafting experience or equivalent work experience is required at a minimum.
- **Project Engineers**
Responsible for the technical coordination, leadership, and execution of proposals, designs, and development projects (e.g. powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical). As a member of an engineering team, the project engineer is the primary technical point of contact to the customer and is responsible for the project's overall technical compliance. A Bachelor's Degree with 11 years of experience or a Master's Degree with 9 years as a Project Engineer is required as a minimum.
- **Electrical Engineers - (Mobile, Power Generation and Management, FPGA Logic, Motion Control, Hybrid Electric Automotive, High Voltage Testing)**
Requires a broad knowledge of systems and components for electrical/electronic embedded and test hardware for military systems and vehicles. Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and 2+ years experience.
- **Quality Engineers**
Uses a wide range of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering and Quality skills to research/review technical design development activities, test, and supporting documentation for mechanical, digital & analog integration of systems and subsystems. Routine interaction with all levels of management and the customer. Develops quality systems and procedures to monitor design assurance activities. Develops quality provisions, specification, and validation requirements.
- **Contract Administrators**
Responsible for all phases of Contract Administration starting with business development support, proposal development and submission, negotiations and contract management, which includes contract closeout. Familiarity with contract administration, pricing, estimating, accounting, engineering, production, and business law is required. Must have a working knowledge of contracting laws and regulations including US Government acquisition and export regulations such as FAR and ITAR. May be required to administer commercial and international contracts, including subcontracts.
- **Business/Strategic Analyst**
Provide business and market analysis in support of continued development of key marketing initiatives. Act as the division focal point to provide external market, customer, and competitive analysis for executive management action. Work with other team members and managers to articulate business strategies and translate them into tactical and operational plans for development, maturation, and performance.
- **Program Manager**
Responsible for managing one or more programs. Manage any or all forms of contracts. Oversee program budget and schedules. Has primary responsibilities for program growth; may be responsible for developing and marketing new

technology or follow-on business acquisition. Accountable for all schedules, quality, profit, performance, and customer satisfaction with respect to relevant program. Manage departmental personnel, budgets, and administration.

- **Specialty Engineers (Senior Reliability/Maintainability, Quality)**
Requires strong/broad background in reliability/probability with application to complex military or aerospace systems; Bachelor's in ME, EE, Math or Physics.
- **Simulation Engineers**
Requires in-depth knowledge of MATLAB, DADS, FEA, OneSAF/MoDSAF computer program. Experience with development of computer graphics is desirable. Ph.D. with 4 years experience or Master's with 7 years or Bachelor's Degree with 9 years.
- **Systems Engineers**
Requires knowledge in one or more of the following: requirements analysis and performance optimization, weapon systems, vehicle design and physical architectures, embedded system integration, architectures and interfaces, C4ISR, sensor integration, survivability suites, ballistic fire control, integrated diagnostics, control systems, operations research, requirements management, object-oriented modeling. Requires a BS or MS in Engineering or related technical field.

Other Opportunities:

- **Engineering III • Engineering Manager**
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- **Business Manager (Earned Value)**

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<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>SURVEILLANCE INVESTIGATOR</p> <p>Experience Required. Full-Time. Must be able to work weekends & holidays.</p> <p>Send resume to: RDA, P.O. Box 51405 Livonia, MI 48151-5405</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</p> <p>CPA firm in 9 Mile/Haggerty Rd. area seeking an Administrative Assistant to perform a wide variety of administrative tasks. Ideal candidate will possess Microsoft office skills with the ability to learn additional accounting firm software. Creative Solutions experience a plus. Individual should possess good communication skills, have the ability to multi-task, and enjoy talking with clients. This is a full time position in an established firm. Minimum 2 years administrative experience required. Submit resume to Personnel Director at gwalters@mikeythomascpa.com or fax to: 248-347-1122</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>LEGAL SECRETARY</p> <p>Bloomfield Hills law firm seeking secretary with real estate & litigation experience. Must be a self-starter & have 10+ yrs. minimum experience. Full-Time employment with excellent salary for the right candidate. Resume to: Box 1695 Observer & Eccentric 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 oeresome@hometownlife.com Code 1695</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST/ ASSISTANT</p> <p>For ophthalmology practice in Livonia. Candidate must be dependable and detail-oriented to fill this permanent position. Apply in person only. 9am-11am, 2pm-4pm. 29927 Six Mile Rd.</p> <p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT</p> <p>Are you an exc. dental assistant? Full/Part-Time. Exp'd. only. Livonia-Westland area. (734) 522-8470</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>Clinical Manager</p> <p>Full-time RN with dynamic leadership abilities needed to manage daily operations for our progressive pain management practice in Royal Oak. The successful candidate will have demonstrated supervisory skills and a positive team approach. No weekends or holidays. Apply on-line at http://www.tricounty.com, or send, fax or email a current resume and cover letter stating which location and position you are interested in to: Attn: Deanna TCPC, 844 South Washington, Suite 100, Holland, MI 49423; fax to: 616-546-2678; or email: EmploymentTCPC@procaresystems.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>DIRECT CARE All Shifts</p> <p>Immediate Interviews Openings available for Direct Care workers at our adult, young adult and pediatric facilities in the Farmington and Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor areas. 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EOE.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF</p> <p>Be part of a great caring team working with people w/disabilities. \$8-10/hr + benefits. We will provide training. Must be 18 & possess a valid drivers license. Shift times & days vary. MUST be flexible. View our position description & downloadable application at RLLS.org or call: 734-222-6076 x202</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>INTERNIST</p> <p>For Troy Medical Practice. Send resume to: Dr. Juliana Niculescu Hospital Consultants, P.C. 5304 Cheltenham Troy, MI 48098</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>Medical Assistant, Medical Receptionist & RN</p> <p>Exp'd. Troy office. Insurance knowledgeable. Full-Time. BCBS. Email resume: marcieg@sunrisepain.com</p> <p>MEDICAL OFFICE & RN OPPORTUNITIES Harper Associates</p> <p>See our Display Ad in the Healthcare Recruitment Page in today's newspaper. www.harperjobs.com</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST & MEDICAL ASSISTANT</p> <p>Full-Time. needed for busy West Bloomfield office. We offer medical, dental, eye and 401K benefits. Experience is required. Please fax resume to: 248-788-4470</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>Exp'd only. New location-Nov. Full time with benefits. Traveling req. Email resume with salary requirements: euellak@aol.com</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>Experienced for suburban imaging center. Health insurance and administrative skills. Fax resumes to 248-354-9536</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>Friendly, outgoing, experienced, self motivated medical receptionist needed for private family physician practice in Novi/Farmington Hills. Health benefits are not offered. Please fax resume to 248-489-0788.</p>
<p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)</p> <p>WAITSTAFF</p> <p>Experienced, full time. Call 734-777-1135. Pinedale Restaurant, Westland.</p>	<p>BILLER/COSTER</p> <p>High volume west side Ford dealer is seeking an experienced biller/coster. Excellent benefits & wage package for the right individual.</p> <p>Fax resume to: 734.421.1343 or email: jobs@northbros.com</p> <p>No phone calls please.</p>	<p>OFFICE HELP -</p> <p>For Party Rental Co. Looking for full time office help for fast paced office 734-354-9591</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>For Northville law firm, full time. Candidate must possess professional telephone/typing skills: ability to multi task and attention to detail. Please list salary req.. Send or fax resume to: Callie A Demski Morello Law Group P.C. 41000 W 7 Mile Rd., Ste 200 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 347-2999</p>	<p>DENTAL FRONT DESK</p> <p>Exp'd. FT for Livonia family practice. Assisting exp. helpful. Dentech a plus. Fax resume: 734-427-2381</p> <p>DENTAL RECEPTIONIST, FT</p> <p>Exp. necessary. Farmington Hills office. 248-478-1650 Fax: 248-478-2166</p>	<p>FRONT DESK</p> <p>Royal Oak dental office is seeking an experienced front desk person to join our staff. If you are dependable and a team player with computer skills (DENTRIX experience a plus), we would like to talk with you. Please call our office at 248-544-9000</p>	<p>Expert Care</p> <p>Non-clinical in home provider agency that provides care for adults and children with mental or physical disabilities. Requirements: Must be 18 or older, have a valid driver's license, drug screen & background check required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FT or PT positions • Free first aid, CPR, BSB and Recipient Rights training to our employees. • Highest in home provider pay rates. • Flexible hours. <p>Apply online at: expertcare.com</p>	<p>HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST</p> <p>Lincare, the national leader in home respiratory care is seeking a Healthcare Specialist</p> <p>Responsibilities include: Disease management programs, clinical evaluations, equipment set up & education. Be the Dr's eyes in the home setting. RN, LPN, RRT, CRT licensed as applicable. Great personality and team-player with strong work ethic needed. Competitive salary, benefits and career paths available. Local travel (reimbursed). Drug-free workplace. EOE. No phone calls please.</p> <p>Fax resume to: 734-459-2519 or send to: Lincare 42030 Koppernick #310 Canton MI 48187 Attn: Don Monroe Center Manager</p>	<p>Medical Assistant</p> <p>For busy Livonia practice. No exp. necessary. Willing to train the right person. Exc. opportunity for responsible self-starter. Send resume: PO Box 530309, Livonia, MI 48152</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT</p> <p>For clinical duties in Novi. Full-time. Experience preferred. Benefits. Fax resume: 248-324-0009</p>	<p>Medical Assistant</p> <p>Looking for experienced Medical Assistant for internal medicine office in Farmington Hills. Please call 248-539-1122</p> <p>Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT</p> <p>part-time. Experienced & Certified for Livonia Pediatric/Allergy office. Fax resume: (248) 856-5368</p>
<p>WAREHOUSE-Plymouth</p> <p>Shipping and receiving at Lawn Equipment Distributorship. Lift truck experience necessary. Lift truck certified preferred. Position requires standing and repetitive lifting up to 70 lbs. Must be reliable and possess strong attention to detail and computer skills full-time. 8:30am-5:00pm Mon-Fri. Benefits.</p> <p>Email resume to: hrjobs@pacelink.com or fax to: (734) 453-5320</p> <p>*LAWN MAINTENANCE *LANDSCAPE</p> <p>*NURSERY/ GARDEN CENTER</p> <p>Possible management positions for clean-out and ambitious workers. Exp. helpful. Must have good driving record. 248-910-8595</p>	<p>DATA ENTRY</p> <p>30 hrs/wk. Farmington Hills. Strong numeric data entry skills a must. 248-477-3312</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL... 1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric</p>	<p>RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>Outgoing & dynamic experienced receptionist needed. The ideal candidate will have a min. of 4 yrs. receptionist exp., be computer literate, possess exemplary phone etiquette, have very strong listening and comprehension skills, a pleasant personality and an eye for detail. This individual will seek increasing responsibility and will be flexible to the changing needs of a growing co. If interested, send your resume to: margaret.brown@healthmaster.com</p>	<p>ORTHODONTIC ASSISTANT</p> <p>Part-Time in Novi. Mature, energetic, caring individual to join our team. Exp. preferred. Call Jan office 248-348-9540 or fax resume 248-348-9543</p>	<p>When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355</p>	<p>hometownlife.com</p>	<p>"It's All About Results" Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL</p>	<p>TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL... 1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric</p>	<p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST</p> <p>FT for busy OB/GYN practice. Exp'd. only with multi-task capabilities. Benefits. Call: 248-948-1990 x11 & Fax resume: 248-948-9158</p>



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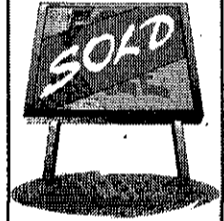
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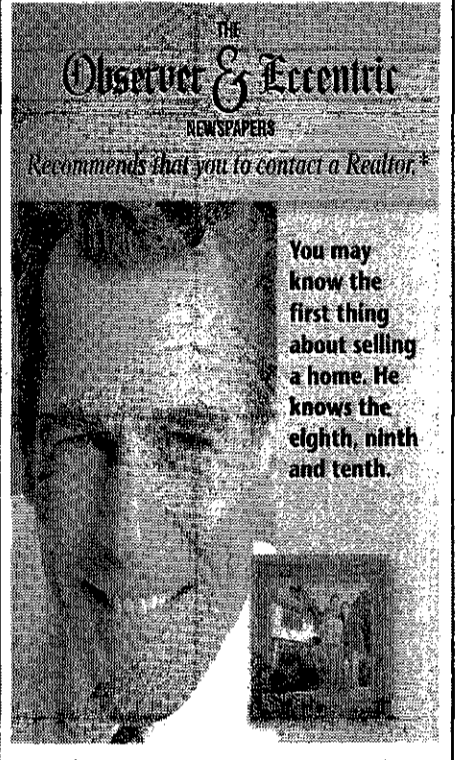
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This Charter position exists to assist the City Administrator and work with department heads to coordinate efforts toward the achievement of department objectives and the objectives of the City government as a whole. The Deputy City Administrator exercises considerable initiative and independent judgment in representing the City Administrator within an assigned area of responsibility and exercises delegated authority over Department Heads and other employees. The Deputy City Administrator works under the general direction of the City Administrator and work is subject to evaluation on the basis of results obtained. This position also assumes the position of Acting City Administrator in the Administrator's absence. Minimum requirements: Master's degree in public or business administration, or related field. Other combinations of experience and education which meet the minimum requirements may be considered. Seven to ten years of experience in municipal management positions with authority for program direction and budget administration, or for coordination and supervision of such functions. Applicants will be subject to criminal history background and driving record checks. This is an unclassified, at will position within the Management Group and is appointed by the City Administrator with approval by City Council. Submit a City of Southfield Employment Application, Authorization to Release Personal Information form, a resume, and salary requirements by Friday, June 13, 2008 to Valerie Crump, Director of Staff Services/Human Resources, Human Resources Department, 26000 Evergreen Road, P. O. Box 2055, Southfield, MI 48037-2055 or fax to 248-796-4715. Employment Applications may be downloaded from the City of Southfield website at www.cityofsouthfield.com. Only those candidates who most closely meet our selection requirements will be invited to continue in the application process.

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24 Month Lease
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Automatic transmission, ambient lighting, HD headlamps, safety pkg., int. upgrade pkg. Stock # 80456. Was \$25,440

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Speed control, tilt, power windows, locks, power seat, CD, chrome wheels and more. Stock #85067. Was \$28,870

24 Month Lease
NOW \$21,898* **\$246**** Per Mo.
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NOW \$20,795* **\$193**** Per Mo.
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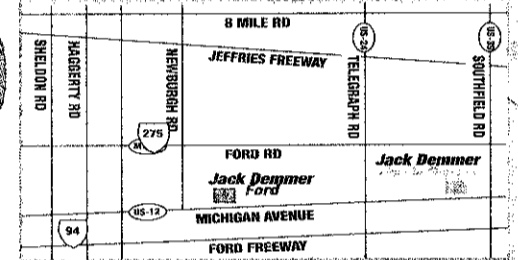
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2008 MERCURY MARINER
2.3L Duratec X-4 eng., 4 spd auto trans, 6 CD/MP3, moon & tune, sat. radio, P235/70R16 tires, power moonroof, roof rack w/crossbars & more. Stock #81810

24 Month Lease
\$231* Per Mo.
\$1,231 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 #81833

24 Month Lease
\$311* Per Mo.
\$1,311 due at signing

2008 MERCURY SABLE
6 speed automatic transmission, 3.5L V6 Duratec engine, P215/60R17 BSW tires, Sirius satellite radio with 6 mos. service. Stock #81654

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\$244* Per Mo.
\$1,244 due at signing

2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
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24 Month Lease
\$317* Per Mo.
\$1,317 due at signing

2008 LINCOLN MKX
3.5L V6 engine, auto O/D transmission, 20" chrome-clad alum wheels, P245/50x20 BSW A/S tires, adaptive headlamps, power liftgate, more. Stock #81723

24 Month Lease
\$379* Per Mo.
\$1,379 due at signing

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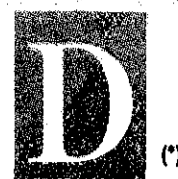
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New Homes



Sunday, May 18, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Three-bedroom Paterson has room to grow with family

Brick faced, with a dormer in the center, large windows, and a pillared covered porch complete the façade of the Paterson (D1380). The use of heavy cornice boards around the windows and the porch add a distinct accent to the

home and make the eye appeal from the street great.

Going into the Paterson brings a guest face-to-face with the great room in front, and the dining room on the right. A built-in hutch is on the right wall of the din-

ing room with large window seat in the front. On the wall between the great room and the dining room is the stairs to the second floor and the optional unfinished basement of 1,421 square feet.

Beyond the stairs are the kitchen, nook, and utility room. The utility room opens into the two-car garage. The C-shaped kitchen is in the rear corner with corner walk-in pantry and an eating bar facing the nook. The nook is lined with windows and a built-in desk opposite.

A beautiful yet warming touch to the nook and the great room is the see-through fireplace. The great room has a 12-foot ceiling and is lined with large windows, bathing this spacious room in light.

The whole left side of the Paterson is devoted to the master suite. It has a window seat in the main suite area and the ceilings are high. The master bath is at the rear with



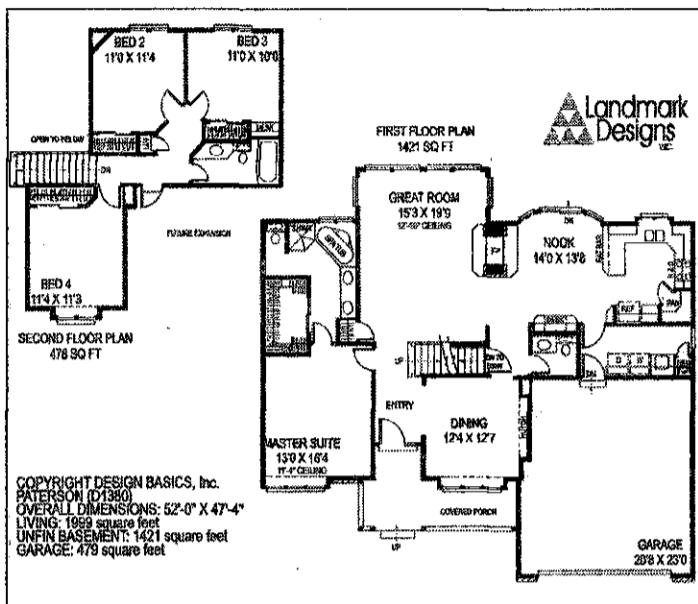
a large walk-in closet behind sliding doors. His and her sinks are adjacent to a spa tub and shower. The area is open and easily accessible.

Upstairs are three bedrooms. Each bedroom has a wall closet while bedroom 3

room or playroom for kids.

The Paterson has 1,999 square feet of open living space. It also has an optional unfinished basement of 1,421 square feet, and the area that can be expanded at a later date. With the extra square footage available, this home could be expanded easily and could accommodate the family growth.

For a study plan of the PATERSON (D1380), 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.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOB48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "Condominium Flexibility: Cleaning Up After The Flood" on Tuesday, May 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

The inherent flexibility of the Michigan Condominium Act makes it possible to reposition and reformat existing residential projects.

Topics include: using expansion, contraction and convertibility rights to your advantage; developer retained

rights; successor developer liabilities and rights; association administration in the stalled project; and escrow and lien issues peculiar to the Condominium Act.

Speakers for the seminar are Jim Babcock of Babcock Building, Bill Freeman of Freeman Cotton & Gleeson, PLC, Greg J. Gamalski of Giamarco, Mullins & Horton, PC, and Phil Seaver of Seaver Title.

Registration fees are \$10 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry

Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Training on Wednesday, May 28, from 1-4 p.m. at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses building with materials and methods that result in Green Built™ certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement.

Topics in this training include building more energy efficient, more durable and more environmentally sustainable homes.

The training is \$50 per person, or free if you join Green Built within 30 days. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a two-day "Green Building for Building Professionals" course on Thursday and Friday, May 29-30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder

(CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein of Builder Professional Services Group will instruct attendees on strategies for incorporating green building principles into homes without driving up the cost of construction.

Registration fees are \$200 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$225 for BIA members and \$300 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Business Management for Building

Professionals" course on Monday, June 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

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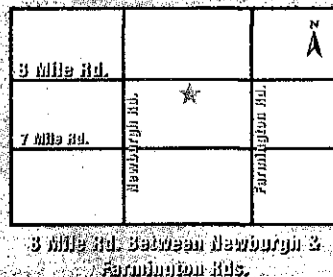


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The 2009 G8 GXP helps Pontiac become performance-driven again

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
Avanti News Features

For years Pontiac's tagline was that it was General Motors' Performance Division, though in recent years its vehicles have fallen short of that claim. But that began to change when the G8 sedan hit showrooms last year. It gained instant popularity for its rear-wheel drive dynamics.

The 361 horsepower GT version was particularly well-received for those with the belief, "The more power the better."

But for all of its praise, some wanted more power. And they found it elsewhere in its domestic rear-wheel drive competitors, the Dodge Charger and the Chrysler 300. Now with the 402 horsepower 2009 G8 GXP, Pontiac can truly tout its performance lineage again.

Set to hit showrooms in late 2008, Pontiac dropped the '08 Corvette's 6.2-liter LS3 V8 engine into the G8 GXP.

This upgrade will give the G8 GXP a 0-60 mph time of about 4.7 seconds.

To harness all of that power will be a choice of a six-speed automatic transmission or a Tremec six-speed manual transmission. The latter will likely be available on the GT model eventually.

No fuel economy ratings have been given for the GXP, but expect a little less than 15 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway.

Pricing hasn't been announced yet, either, though it is expected to cost around \$35,000. This is notably cheaper than its direct competition, the Dodge Charger SRT-8, which starts at about \$40,000.

A limited-slip differential will be standard on the GXP, as will an aggressively tuned independent suspension developed at Nürburgring racetrack in Germany.

The fully adjustable suspension consists of MacPherson struts up front and a four-link independent system on the rear, while a variable-ratio rack-and-pinion steering assembly keeps the G8 GXP tracking straight on



More than just raw power, the 2009 G8 GXP promises to deliver a driving experience that people expect from a Pontiac. It is this combination that makes the G8 GXP the new flagship of Pontiac's performance series.

its 19-inch 245/40 summer performance tires.

Not much differentiates the GXP from the regular G8 on the outside. Exterior changes include more aggressive front and rear fascias and the same 19-inch polished and machined aluminum wheels that last year's GT version got.

Pontiac interiors have received criticism in recent years for being bland. But the company changed that with the 2008 Pontiac G8's interior and went one step further with the GXP's.

Available in black or red and black, the GXP's leather-trimmed interior features GXP badges embroidered on the high bolstered seats. The center stack is imbued with Pontiac's traditional, racecar inspired red lighting.

The GXP's cabin is functional as well. There's ample leg- and shoulder room front and back. The rear seats don't fold down, though there is a ski pass-through. The trunk offers a capable 17.5 cubic feet of storage space.

Besides the upgraded hardware, the 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP provides buyers with anti-lock brakes, traction and stability control systems, six airbags, XM satellite radio and OnStar telematics. For those looking for less power, but the same rear-wheel drive performance of the G8, Pontiac didn't stop at the GXP. A sport truck of the G8 will be available for the 2010 model year.

It's no surprise that Pontiac will produce

another offshoot of the G8. It is doing what any other carmaker would do with a successful model — make tons of variations of it in hopes of selling more units.

However, Pontiac only gets half-credit for the G8. It is based on GM's global Zeta platform, which was developed by its Australian subsidiary, Holden, for that company's Commodore sedan. The same platform will also underpin the 2009 Chevrolet Camaro.

The Commodore and the G8 are virtually twins under the sheet metal, although the Pontiac benefits from meaner exterior styling that hints at the brand's performance-oriented nature. With the G8 GXP, Pontiac has done what it has promised for years — taken the driving experience of its performance series to a new level.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write to him at kevinkoloian@excite.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. ©2008, Fracassa Communications LLC.

2009 Pontiac G8 GXP
Vehicle class: Sedan
Power: V8 engine
Mileage: N/A
Where built: Adelaide, Australia
Base price: Around \$35,000.

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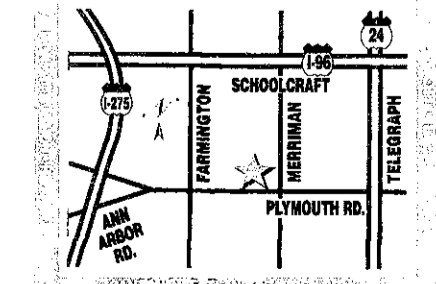
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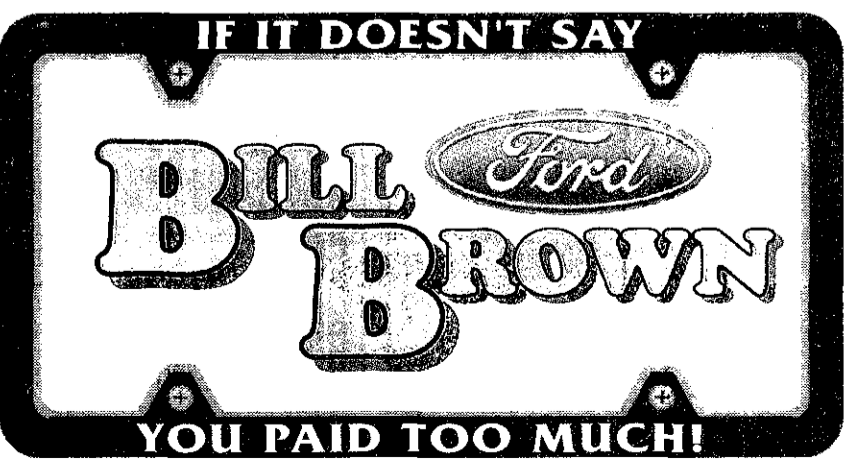
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