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CANTON Observer

SUNDAY
July 20, 2008

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Kindergarten shift in works

Cost the issue
as district eyes
change for
2009-2010 year

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even as Plymouth-Canton school officials prepare for the upcoming school year, plans are already underway to implement some form of all-day kindergarten in the 2009-10 school year.

"If it will be in all 16 elementary schools, I couldn't begin to tell you that right now," said George Belvitch, director of elementary education. "If a school doesn't have the space to do all-day kindergarten, it's going to be costly to create that space, so it would be very difficult to have all-day kindergarten at that location."

"Many parents like to have choices, and some feel very strongly about half-day versus all-day," he said. "I think our school district is sensitive to that and wants to meet the needs of all our parents."

Belvitch said if school started tomorrow, there would be enough room at Bentley, Dodson, Farrand, Fiegel, Gallimore, Hoben and Tonda elementaries for all-day kindergarten.

State officials are considering making all-day

kindergarten mandatory. As always, however, the biggest issue will be cost.

"We'd need about 27 more teachers if we went all the way, which would total about \$1.6 million," said Belvitch. "Then there's the additional costs for professional development, curriculum changes from half-day to full-day and the additional cost for supervision of kindergartners at lunch."

Cathie Kerr, a kindergarten instructor for 25 of her 30 years teaching, said she and many of her colleagues would welcome the change.

"We really have to put a lot into those few hours that we have with the kids," said Kerr. "(With all-day kindergarten) teachers would have a little more individualized time with students. I would be pretty excited to try it."

"We have a lot of parents who need child care for one half of the day," she said. "At least half of the kids go to some kind of child care before or after kindergarten, so many are already in some kind of school full-time."

Superintendent Craig Fiegel said funding will dictate if and where the district will be able to implement all-day kindergarten.

"From an education standpoint, you have to be supportive," Fiegel said. "But, under these budget constraints, I don't see it (initially) in every building."

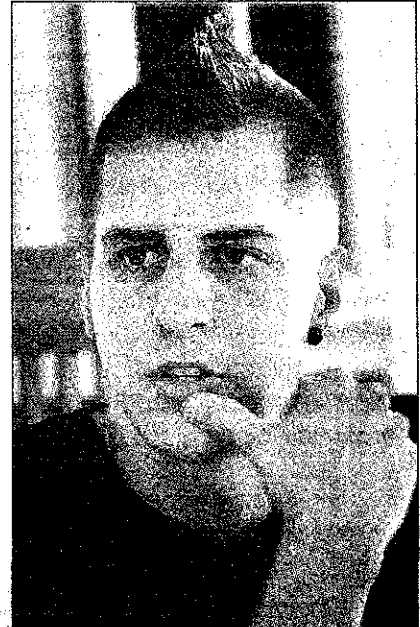
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A 'cool' treat

Five-year-old Jacob Gray enjoys a dish of vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce, cookies, and "some other stuff" during an ice cream social held in Cherry Hill Village on Wednesday evening. The event was hosted by Canton Leisure Services and included entertainment by the Canton Concert Band. The event was held to celebrate National Recreation and Parks Month, which is July.



Christopher Thomas

'Rockstar' helping diabetics find fulfillment

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It all started as simple cyberspace therapy.

Christopher Thomas, 28, creator of the "Diabetic Rockstar" movement, has morphed his one-man show into a social network with more than 900 members.

"I have a board of directors and regional representatives," the former Canton resident said of his Web site, www.DiabeticRockstar.com. "Honestly, the site is self-sufficient without me."

Thomas, who was diagnosed with type-one diabetes in May 2007,

Please see **DIABETES, A4**

Treasurer hopefuls spar at candidate's forum

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Things got pretty testy between Canton treasurer candidates Melissa McLaughlin and Joan Noricks during a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County Wednesday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The two traded jabs on a range of issues. McLaughlin questioned Noricks' leadership as president of the Canton Community Foundation, where she said Noricks had hired her daughter to work for the foundation. Noricks explained that the foundation, with the approval of the board of directors, had hired her daughter for short term assignment to help with the organization's Web site at \$10 per hour.

Noricks, on the other hand,

CANDIDATES FORUM TO BE TELEVIEWED

Wednesday's candidate's forum will be televised every day at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. by Canton Cable TV, which can be seen on Comcast Channel 12 and WOW Channel 10.

For more election coverage, be sure to visit our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

questioned at what point McLaughlin, a current township trustee, would recuse herself from decisions made by the board on issues involving developers and others that have given her campaign contributions.

"Members of the board should have to sign a conflict

of interest statement," Noricks said.

"My integrity is not for sale," responded McLaughlin, who said most board members have accepted campaign contributions from developers and builders who do business in the township. "I have a clean record."

After Noricks and McLaughlin squared off, the eight candidates (Republicans Mike Andro, John Anthony, Fred Bolden, Todd Caccamo, Jaldhar Prasad, Pat Williams and Karl Zarbo, as well as Democrat Syed Taj) also answered questions that were provided by audience members. Answers were cordial, and there wasn't even a touch of the animosity exhibited in the treasurer debate.

Although the League is a non-partisan organization that does not endorse candidates,

it came under some criticism Thursday when it was learned one of the members participating in the forum has campaigned for Noricks.

Chapter President Paula Bowman confirmed that Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who acted as the question screener during the forum, is supporting Noricks. Bowman said Graham-Hudak, a Canton resident, usually moderates the group's forums, but they decided, because of her affiliation with Noricks, that she would not moderate Wednesday's forum. "A lot of our members are involved with politics, which is why most get involved with our organization. A lot of them have political affiliations, but it is kept separate from what we do," she said.

Bowman scoffed at the notion that Graham-Hudak planted questions that were



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Treasurer candidates Joan Noricks (left) and Melissa McLaughlin make opening statements during the League of Women Voters candidate's forum Wednesday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

favorable to Noricks.

"I thought the questions were fair. Most, if not all, came from the audience. We want someone from the community to ask questions. Even if it's a stupid question. That's what they want to know. It's up to

the candidates to say it's a stupid question," Bowman said.

Bowman said the screener's job is to correct grammatical errors, and to make sure there are not duplicate questions or personal attacks.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS D3
AUTOMOTIVE D3
CLASSIFIED C7-D6
HEALTH C5
HOMETOWNLIFE C1
JOBS C7
NEW HOMES D1
OBITUARIES C4
OPINION A9
REAL ESTATE D2
SERVICE GUIDE C9
SPORTS B1

Coming Thursday in filter



Farfalle makes its movie debut as the feature film "Youth in Revolt" starring Michael Cera, Ray Liotta and Steve Buscemi takes to the neighborhood streets and houses for filming.

Correction

The article, "Anthony ready to 'pay back' the community," in the July 17 edition of the Canton Observer should have said John Anthony is the former president and treasurer of the Willow Homes Association.

Swing concert

Canton jazz vocalist Jim Paravantes, who has toured with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, will perform at 7:30 p.m., July 24 at Heritage Park as part of the Canton Concert in the Park series. Paravantes will be accompanied by the Ann Arbor based II-V-I Orchestra conducted by David Swain. They will perform songs from great songwriters such as Cole Porter "Under My Skin," Rodgers and Hart "Lady is a Tramp," Irving Berlin "Cheek to Cheek," and many more. "It is really great to be able to perform in your home town,"

said Paravantes, who has resided in Canton with his family for 20 years.

Jim's uncle David Street was also a Big Band vocalist. David Street was in the movie "State Fair" and performed with Ann Margaret.

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will hold its August network luncheon will be held at 11:45 a.m., Aug. 6 at Summit on the Park. Guest speaker will be Jane Applegate, a leading business expert. A former syndicated columnist for the Los Angeles Times, she is the author of four books for entrepreneurs, including "201 Great Ideas for Your Small Business" and "The Entrepreneur's Desk Reference." Applegate will discuss how a turbulent world economy is stressing out entrepreneurs and what you can do now to save time, money and reduce stress.

Cost for the luncheon is \$20. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Chamber at (734) 453-4040 or e-mailing memberservices@cantonchamber.com.

Outback Steakhouse fund-raiser

The Canton Outback Steakhouse (42871 Ford Road) will be one of 27 locations hosting a fund-raiser on Aug. 15 to help fund important research of Friedrich's Ataxia, one of the over 40 forms of muscular dystrophy that Muscular Dystrophy Association covers. The fund-raiser will take place from noon-2 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse locations in Michigan and Indiana.

Patrons can enjoy lunch and help the MDA. The lunch will include a bloomin' onion, choice of steak, chicken, or ribs, as well as a salad, soft drink, and desert with \$20 donation per person to MDA. All proceeds will go directly to funding research to find a cure for the rare inherited disease, which causes progressive damage to the nervous system. Tickets for the research fund-raiser may be purchased at the door or prior to the event by contacting your neighbor-

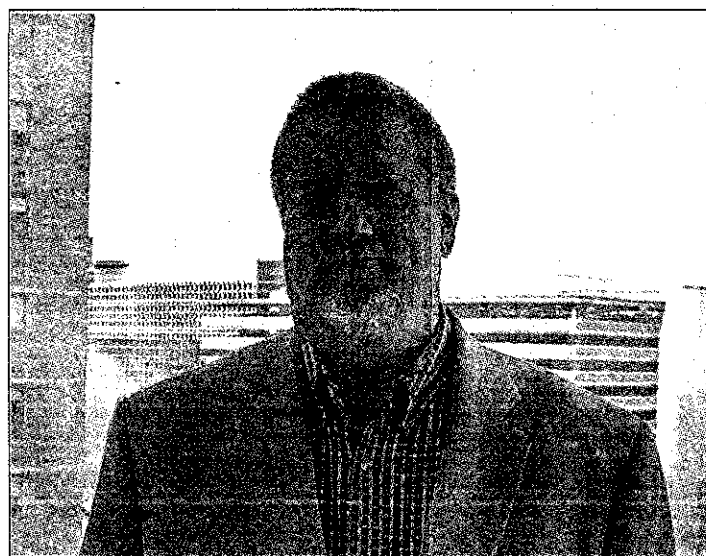
hood Outback Steakhouse location or MDA district office. For more information about MDA and this event, contact Steve Nacarato, MDA District Director, at (734) 416-7076.

Make a difference

In honor of National Make a Difference to a Child Month and Social Wellness Month, Play It Again Sports will host two programs to recognize both events. To support National Make a Difference to a Child Month, the 10 Metro Detroit Play It Again Sports locations, including one in Canton, are inviting the public to their stores to donate their gently used sports equipment through the end of July. At the end of the month, Play It Again Sports will make a combined monetary and sports equipment donation various children's organizations around the area, allowing kids to play it again.

National Make A Difference to a Child Month is meant to remind people of the many positive ways that adults can make a difference to a child.

For more information on Play It Again Sports or for individual store locations and hours please visit www.playitagainsports.com.



Finding a cure for cancer

Canton resident Patrick M. Woster, PhD, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS), Wayne State University (WSU), has received an unrestricted \$205,000 grant from Progen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. of Redwood City, Ca. to support his cutting-edge research to synthesize and evaluate inhibitors of the enzyme lysine-specific demethylase-1 (LSD-1) as potential anti-tumor agents. LSD-1 is a newly discovered enzyme that alters specific marks on DNA, thereby controlling whether or not a gene is expressed. In some forms of cancer, LSD-1 is over expressed, and critical tumor suppressor proteins that prevent cancer formation are not present. "Through our collaboration with Robert A. Casero of Johns Hopkins University, we are fortunate to be the first to identify protein inhibitors of LSD-1, and to characterize effects in cancer cells," said Woster, who is nationally and internationally respected for his research in the polyamine field. "Compounds such as these have enormous potential as therapeutic agents." The grant will assist Woster and his research team to develop drug candidates.

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

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

By Elena Lombardi

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

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

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

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are. Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

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

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May. Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

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

Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

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

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

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

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

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at **1-877-677-2020**. Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

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

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

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Officials may file suit to get roads fixed in posh sub

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton Township Board members will decide Tuesday whether to file a lawsuit against Sheahan Title Company, which holds the security for completing improvements to the Hampton Ridge North subdivision.

Phase one of Hampton Ridge, located in the northeast corner of the township off of Ann Arbor Road, began in 2001 and Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said its roads are still incomplete.

"The base has gotten very bad and it's continuing to worsen," he said, noting that the developer of the posh

subdivision, Jeff Brown, has pulled out of Michigan. "If the roads go too long (unfinished) they may have to redo the whole thing."

Faas said Canton officials requested that the work be done last year to no avail.

"The title company is around but they've been unresponsive," he said.

Carol Rosati, special counsel to the township, recently sent two letters to the Troy-based Sheahan Title but did not get a response.

"At this point, we need to file a lawsuit," she said.

Hampton Ridge, which is at about 50 percent of its intended occupancy, features the township's most expen-

sive homes.

"It's a beautiful development and this is the first time we have had a major problem with unresponsiveness," Faas said. "I hope it's not a trend."

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ON THE AGENDA

Canton Board of Trustees

The board will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m., July 22 at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Agenda items include:

- Consider special land use and site plan for expansion of St. John Neumann Catholic Church.
- Consider Sahota rezoning.
- Consider accepting agreement in lieu of letters of credit for completion of punch list items for Cherry Hill Village development.
- Consider approval of an agreement to lease township-owned property to Allied Waste c/o Sauk Trail Hills Development, Inc. for the stockpile of clay for landfill daily cover.
- Consider authorizing payment in the amount of \$260,276 for a public sanitary sewer easement along the International Transmission Corporation Corridor and authorize the township clerk to

sign the easement.

- Consider award of contract for the intersection improvements of Lilley and Hanford to Peter A. Basile Sons, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$373,272.
- Pilot - tax abatement ordinance and contracts with Lincolnshire Apartments.
- Consider authorizing Johnson Rosati to file a lawsuit against parties for non-performance of development requirements for Hampton Ridge North (Phase 1).

Van Buren Schools Board of Education

The school board will hold a special meeting/study session at 7 p.m., July 21 at the Support Services Building board room. Agenda items include:

- Review of policies and procedures regarding complaints.
- Establishing norms.
- Student dress code and student discipline policy dis-

Williams promises to cut waste in township government

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pat Williams says he will consider it a pleasure to find wasteful spending in township government if voters elect him to the Board of Trustees. Williams, 48, an account manager with Automotive Components Holdings, LLC, says he's gotten the chance to see various public sectors in action and believes watching the bottom line hasn't always been a priority. "With both the Wayne County Workforce Development Board and the (PCEP) Field of Dreams Soccer Project, I saw opportunities to improve," he said. "The public sector often has less incentive to save while in the private sector, personal income is often tied to success." In addition to his career with ACH, Williams, a married father of three, is a partner in EZ-Groom, which manufac-

TRUSTEE CANDIDATE
PAT WILLIAMS



Age: 48
Years in Canton: 23
Family: Wife, Pat, two sons and a daughter
Professional: Account manager with Automotive Components Holdings, and part owner of EZ-Groom, a manufacturer of pet cleaning products

tures pet cleaning products. "My skill set is with budgets," he said. "When I look at numbers, I see stories. With the township, I don't have anything glaring at me but if I get on the inside, I'll find something. I always do." Williams, who moved from

Plymouth to Canton 23 years ago, is a past president and current member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and is a board member of the Canton Lions Club. He is also a graduate of Leadership Canton, has been on the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee and won the Canton Township Community Supporter Award in 2006. "I'm certainly not going in to tear anything apart or down," he said. "I just want to see Canton continue to be the best it can be." With foreclosures on the rise and taxable values on the decline, Williams said the focus will be on the township's budget and he views the board as the "oversight committee" for residents. "We are going to have less money to work with," he said. "That can be scary but it's going to require creativity."

Williams, who has been campaigning door to door, said the tumble of the housing market means the township must focus on bringing in new businesses. "To offset what happened in the real estate market, we have to differentiate Canton so that people will want to work and do business here," he said. "We have to do things that (separate) the township from neighboring communities." Williams, who has never run for public office and was the first person to file to get his name on the ballot, said being on the board would be the "logical progression" of his work in the community. "My family has grown up with Canton," he said. "We have gone from zero to 23, from rural to jam-packed subdivisions and it is all good at the end of the day."

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ON CAMPUS

Seminary degrees

Canton's Kevin Lawson recently completed Ashland Theological Seminary degree requirements and received his degree during the commencement ceremony on June 7. Lawson, who lives on Times Square, graduated with honors with a Master of Divinity in Counseling degree.

recently received a regional scholarship to the University of North Alabama. A graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, he participated in varsity wrestling, was a member of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, logged more than 800 community service hours and was a Knights of Columbus and Kids with Cancer volunteer. The son of Kathy and Mark Moore plans to major in history with a minor in secondary education.

UNA scholarship

Canton's Chase Moore

Madonna grads

Graduates of the Winter 2008 term at Madonna University in Livonia were the following Canton residents: Scott Benner; Kristina Birch; Diana Bischer; Cheryl Delaney; Tina Gelardi; Ashley Gray; Karen Henke; Amy Henry; Adam Kerfoot; Sharon Melton; Anne Marie Plagens; Carrieann Pollaccia; Diana Pool; Janice Rodrigue; Allison Roy; Candice Smith-Parker; Michele Stojanoskia; and Danielle Thompson.

Comcast scholarship winner

Joshua Etim of Canton High School was recently named by

the Comcast Foundation as a recipient of its 2008 Comcast Leaders and Achievers scholarship. Throughout the state, 139 students each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for their continued education. Joshua Etim is planning to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall.

National Merit Scholarships

Ryan C. Hoffman and Emily S. Movsesian, both of Canton, are recipients of National Merit Scholarships. Hoffman, who plans to go into a chemical engineering career, is a graduate of Salem High and will be attending Michigan Technological

University (Houghton), which is widely acclaimed for its education of engineers and scientists.

Movsesian, a graduate of Plymouth High, plans to go into career in medicine. She will be attending Michigan State University.

Albion College grads

Local students Megan Crumm, Sara Galante, Andrew Leinart, Katherine Lindow, Andrew Lulek, Ashleigh Munch, Carrie Oleszkowicz, and Jacquelyn Williams were among the 44 who graduated from Albion College on May 10. Crumm graduated cum laude, receiving a degree in English and sociology. The honor of cum laude signifies

that Crumm graduated with a cumulative grade point average above 3.5. She is the daughter of David and Amy Crumm of Canton and a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School.

Galante, who received a degree in English and art, is the daughter of Ignatius and Cheryl Galante of Canton and a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School. Leinart, who received a degree in philosophy and English, is the son of Susan Freeman of South Lyon and a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School.

Lindow received a degree in art and art history and is the daughter of Edward and Diane Lindow of Canton and a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **Salem High School Auditorium Orchestra Pit Filler**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746 or for Technical questions please contact Paul Bird of the Salem High School Auditorium at (734) 416-7744. There will be a pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Salem High School Auditorium located at 46181 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48170. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, RE: "Salem Pit Filler Bid", 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 14, 2008. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Pre-Bid Meeting: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bid Opening: Thursday, August 14, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.
Resolution Due to Board: Wednesday, August 20, 2008
Board Review: Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Published: July 13 and 20, 2008

OE0811829-2-0.5



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

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Cultural Center, to consider the following:

Due to remodeling of City Hall, the meeting will be held at the Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer. A notice is posted at City Hall that includes a map to the Cultural Center.

Z 08-13 260 W. Ann Arbor Rd.
Non-Use Variance Requested
Sign Height
Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor
Applicant: Dan Gaulin

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

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

Published: July 20, 2008

OE0812677 - 2-4

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD
CANTON, MI 48188

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction July 22, 2008 at 10:00 am. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1996	Plymouth	Voyager	S/W	2P4FP2534TR548514
1990	Ford	Crown Vic	4 Dr	2FACP74FOLX154543
2001	Pontiac	Crown Am	4 Dr	1G2NF52E41M545387
1992	Buick	Century	4 Dr	1G4AG54NXXN6475187
		Trailer	Black	
1998	Ford	Escort	4 Dr	1FAPP13P6W254859
2004	Saturn	Ion	4 Dr	1G8AJ52F64Z192245
1994	Ford	Aerostar	S/W	1FMDA31X4RZB19511
1995	Nissan	Pathfinder	S/W	JN8HD17Y0SN099352
1995	Saturn		4 Dr	1G8ZG5289S275622

Published: July 17 and July 20, 2008

OE0811734 - 2-3

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **Salem High School Auditorium Stage Drapery**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746 or for Technical questions or to schedule a walk-through, please contact Paul Bird of the Salem High School Auditorium at (734) 416-7744. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, RE: "Salem Auditorium Drapery Bid", 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, 2008. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Bid Opening: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.
Resolution Due to Board: Wednesday, August 6, 2008
Board Review: Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Published: July 13 and 20, 2008

OE0811820-2-0

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Kriewall says he has experience to make change

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Edward Kriewall says he's qualified and ready to replace Thaddeus McCotter as Michigan's 11th District U.S. House representative.

"We need a lot of change in Washington," Kriewall said in a meeting with editors from the *Observer* and *Hometown* newspapers. "The current congressman is not dynamic enough, he's not a change agent. I think I'm more qualified to his job. I want to get up there and make things happen."

Kriewall is running against Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin for the Democratic nomination. McCotter of Livonia is running for his fourth term. He



Kriewall

is unopposed in the Republican primary.

Kriewall admits that he is more "an independent" than a traditional Democratic candidate. He said he voted for George W. Bush in both of his presidential elections, but he also voted for Clinton twice.

A major issue for Kriewall is the war in Iraq.

"We need to get out of there as soon as possible. We're not wanted there," he said. "We're looked on by the rest of the world as invaders. We don't have any business being there. It's a civil war and there is no

KRIEWALL FILE

Age: 66
Residence: Novi
Marital status: Single, two adult daughters, two grandchildren
Education: Bachelor's degree from Detroit Institute of Technology; master of public administration from Nova Southeastern (Fla.) University.
Professional background: Novi city manager, 1974-2000; licensed builder.

weapons for mass destruction," he said.

Kriewall said the economy is another area where McCotter hasn't acted.

"There has to be more protectionism for our industry, for our labor, to balance what's going on," he said.

He said there hasn't been a lot of respect for the American auto industry in recent years over high union and executive wages and the quality of cars.

"But I think that's all changed and the quality of our cars are as good as Toyota's, Honda's or anything else," he said.

Kriewall said American workers are also hurt by immigration.

"Immigration is a major

problem, even legally we are letting too many people into this country," he said.

"The jobs are leaving and we're letting in 2 million people a year. I think it's out of whack."

He said illegal immigration has been a drain on medical, social and educational services.

"I believe in being tough on illegal immigration and scaling back on legal immigration," he said. "A lot of politicians don't want to get tough on immigration, but we're giving the country away and somebody has to

do something."

"On energy, Kriewall said he favors additional drilling for oil, as well as exploring "all forms of energy."

As a longtime administrator, Kriewall said he has been successful at working with legislators to get things done. He mentioned the M-5 interchange, Twelve Oaks Mall and the Novi Expo Center as examples of projects he helped develop.

"I like to move the football, get the job done and make change," he said.

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Donna Beaubien, Director, 248-689-8734 or FineArtAtTheVillage@comcast.net

Canton Leisure Services up for national award of excellence

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The department that has lured many residents to Canton is in the running to win the 2008 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Canton Leisure Services was chosen as one of the four finalists for the award and the winner will be announced in October. "This is not just about Leisure Services," said Director Ann Conklin. "We know how lucky we are to have great support from the

community and our government leaders." The Gold Medal is presented by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. Canton was selected as a Class III finalist, which celebrates the top four departments in the country with populations

between 50,001-100,000. As a finalist, Leisure Services has submitted a video to AAPRA highlighting the department.

"You don't realize how much you have grown until you put it all together," Conklin said, adding that the video will also be used as a promotional tool.

Leisure Services was formed in 1972 and ballooned in the '90s, with its emphasis on people, places and parks.

In addition to the Gold Medal decision, the department will also learn whether it has been reaccredited in October. Leisure Services received accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies in 2004.

Of the 66 accredited agencies in the country, Leisure Services is currently the only Michigan department. "I really believe it does set



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Leisure Services is up for a national award for its programming, such as the recent Family Camp Out, which was attended by residents Othman Wahad, 11, Faiza Lateef, 17, and Aisha Wahad, 14.

as a part," Conklin said of the CAPRA recognition. "Accreditation forces you to take a look at yourself."

In a release, Township Supervisor Tom Yack

applauded Conklin and her staff.

"Canton's residents enjoy an outstanding quality of life, and much of that is due to our Leisure Services Department," he said.

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THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) 9:45, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 12:40
MAMMA MIA! (PG-13) 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
SPACE CHIMPS (G) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:00
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
 FRI/SAT LS 12:20
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
 FRI/SAT LS 12:00
MEET DAVE (PG)
 FRI-WED 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05
 TH 12:35, 2:45, 4:55
WALL-E (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
WANTED (R) FRI-WED 9:10
 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2008
6:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2008 commencing at 6:00 P.M., to consider:

- Application 1460, 45475 Ann Arbor Rd., 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, 734-354-3210.

Publish: July 20, 2008

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 45229 Michigan Ave Canton MI 48188 (734)997-0082 on 7/31/08 at 12:00 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 2032 - Sharell Lewis - Lawnmower, Microwave, 2 TV's
- 2037 - Shawn Booth - 4 Kitchen Chairs, Couch, Dresser
- 2038 - James Jenkins - Headboard, Rollerblades, Misc Items
- 3020 - Ieiah Wardlow - 10 Boxes, Toolbox, Misc Items
- 3021 - Regina Griffin - 50 Boxes, Dining Table, Misc Items
- 3042 - Christina Cabrera - Dryer, Microwave, Refrigerator
- 4027 - Jason Brodie - Couch, Dresser, Kids ATV
- 4080 - Tammara Dudley - Dresser, Couch, 2 Boxes
- 4041 - Shane Ratliff - China Cabinet, VCR, Mattress
- 4114 - Carolyn Jordan - Keyboard, 3 Totes, Leafblower
- 4121 - Rosalyn Jackson - Vacuum, Dresser, End Table
- 5008 - Amicie Crayton - Leather Couch, Love-seat, Vanity
- 5030 - Sonja Rice - Entertainment Center, 50 Boxes, Mattress
- 5143 - Ashley Lockett - Kids Bike, 4 Boxes, 1 Tote
- 5227 - Bobbie Carr - 20 Boxes, 2 Totes, Misc Items
- 5312 - Jackie Page - Cedar Chest, Pool Table, 2 TVs
- 5341 - Charon Renea Roberts - 20 Boxes, Mattress, Misc Items

Publish: July 13 & 20, 2008

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008
7:00 PM
(734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held at the Cultural Center to consider the following:
Due to remodeling of City Hall, the meeting will be held at the Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer. A notice is posted at City Hall that includes a map to the Cultural Center.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUD EXTENSION
PUD 08-02 377 Amelia
Planned Unit Development Approval Extension
Zoned: PUD, Planned Unit Development
Applicant: Connektiv

MINOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL
SP 08-07 875 S. Main
Parking Lot Alteration
Zoned: B-1, Local Business
Applicant: Accounting & Tax Solutions

SITE PLAN APPROVAL
SP 08-08 1316 W. Ann Arbor Road
Maintenance Building & Outside Storage
Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor
Applicant: AT&T Corporation

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL CONDITION IN A MIXED USE DISTRICT
SP 08-09 156 W. Liberty
Change of Use and Special Condition in a Mixed Use District
Zoned: MU, Mixed Use
Applicant: Steven Cupchak & Shale Lapping
All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:
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Publish: July 20, 2008

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NCUA

Larkin lists war as top campaign issue

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



Larkin

Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin has a list of reasons why he is running for the 11th Congressional District, but the war in Iraq is at the top.

In a meeting with editors from the *Observer* and *Hometown* newspapers, he said incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter, "goes the party route and not the best interests of the people."

Larkin is running against former Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary. McCotter is running for his fourth term. He is unopposed in the Republican primary.

Larkin said he thinks the war in Iraq was wrong.

"We still have to figure out how to get out of there. One of the things is that we just can't turn around and leave in one

shot," Larkin said. "We have to set security and military goals. Those decisions have to be set by our military people and not by politicians."

Another issue on Larkin's list is energy.

"We have to make changes in our energy positions to not be dependent on foreign oil and fossil fuels," he said.

He said he supports all kinds of alternative energy, including nuclear.

"I am for every possible, intelligent, logical way of creating energy for America," he said.

On the economy, Larkin said McCotter and the Bush administration "seem to have disdain for American jobs and American companies."

LARKIN FILE

Age: 43
Residence: Livonia
Marital status: Divorced, no children
Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, University of Michigan; law degree, University of Michigan
Profession: Attorney, 19 years, Larkin Legal Services, Livonia

Larkin said steps needed to be taken to help people facing foreclosure be able to keep their homes.

Larkin also favors universal health care.

"With the drag on the economy, more people are losing their jobs and not having health care," he said. "Corporate America is demanding that we look at

universal health care. In the auto industry, the cost of health care is added to the cost of every automobile and makes it hard for us to compete."

Larkin said Bush's tax policies favor the higher income bracket.

"I'm more inclined to follow Mr. Obama's idea. I'm talking about transferring more of those tax breaks down to the middle class and poor people. That's where the emphasis has to be," he said.

On two issues, Larkin agrees

with McCotter. He describes himself as a pro-life Democrat.

He also favors stronger enforcement of immigration laws.

"I believe there are laws on the books that are not being enforced," he said.

"There should only be legal immigration. I come from Irish immigrants who came here in the 1930s. I'm not against immigration, but illegal immigration. People coming here illegally means jobs lost for Americans. The focus of my campaign is jobs for

Americans. I'm for the prosecution of people hiring illegal immigrants."

Larkin said he knows more than McCotter ever will about what it means to be out of work.

"Mr. McCotter to my knowledge graduated from law college and went right into politics," he said.

"He's never held a job in his life other than being on the taxpayers' nickel. Myself, I've had to fight and struggle in my job and I know what it's like."

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Dr. Yasser Awaad is a pediatric neurologist who was employed by Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. until 2007. Since Dr. Awaad left Oakwood, the law offices of Benner & Foran have been retained by a large number of parents who believe their children were misdiagnosed with epilepsy and/or seizures by Dr. Awaad. If you think your child or children may have been misdiagnosed with epilepsy/seizures by Dr. Yasser Awaad, please contact the law offices of Benner & Foran for a free, no obligation consultation.

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U.S. banking system has a safety net



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: What happens when a bank goes out of business? With the recent economic problems we're having in this state,

I'm wondering whether it makes sense to keep money in the bank.

A: Yes, it is safe to keep money in the bank. In fact, if you look at the recent failure of IndyMac, you should have confidence in the banking system.

IndyMac, for a variety of issues, shut its doors on a Friday. On Monday morning,

the bank reopened and depositors had full access to their accounts. In fact, even during the weekend, depositors could continue to write checks and use the ATM. Despite the failure of the bank, depositors were protected. I believe how federal regulators handled the IndyMac Bank failure should give us confidence in the bank-

ing system.

There is no doubt we are going through a difficult time in our economy. The IndyMac Bank failure received a substantial amount of publicity because it was the first major bank failure in the current crisis. I will not be surprised if over the next few months we don't see more banks going

under. Although, no one wants to see banks go out of business, it is important to recognize we have seen bank failures in the past. In fact, it wasn't too long ago when hundreds of banks failed and federal regulators stepped in. And I'm not talking about the Great Depression. I'm talking about the savings and loan crisis which happened

less than 20 years ago. During the savings and loan crisis, we saw hundreds of financial institutions close. The underlying theme throughout the crises was depositors were protected. When we work our way through the current financial crises, we will be able to look back and once again say that depositors were protected.

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I just had our first child. A friend of ours wants to sell us life insurance — a \$50,000 policy for our newborn. He says rates are very cheap and this will protect our child in the future. What do you think?

A: Congratulations on the birth of your child. As to purchasing life insurance for your child, it is a mistake. All insurance is a matter of risk management and the issue is if someone does pass away is there a financial loss. In the case of a newborn, there is no issue of financial loss and no reason to have insurance.

The amount of insurance you would have to buy to make any significant difference for the child in the future would have to be substantial. A \$50,000 life insurance policy isn't going to provide much protection in the future. Would you buy a car today for a newborn knowing he/she will need one down the road? Cars are cheaper today then they will be in the future. The answer is no and for the same reasons the answer should be no to life insurance for newborns.

I would take the money you would use for a life insurance policy and open a college savings program. You can use a program such as the Michigan Education Savings Plan.

One last note and that is if you and your husband don't have a will, you need one. If nothing more than to name a guardian for your child if something happens to you and your husband. You can obtain a free fill-in-the-blank Michigan Statutory Will that should fit your needs. This will is available in most public libraries or at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

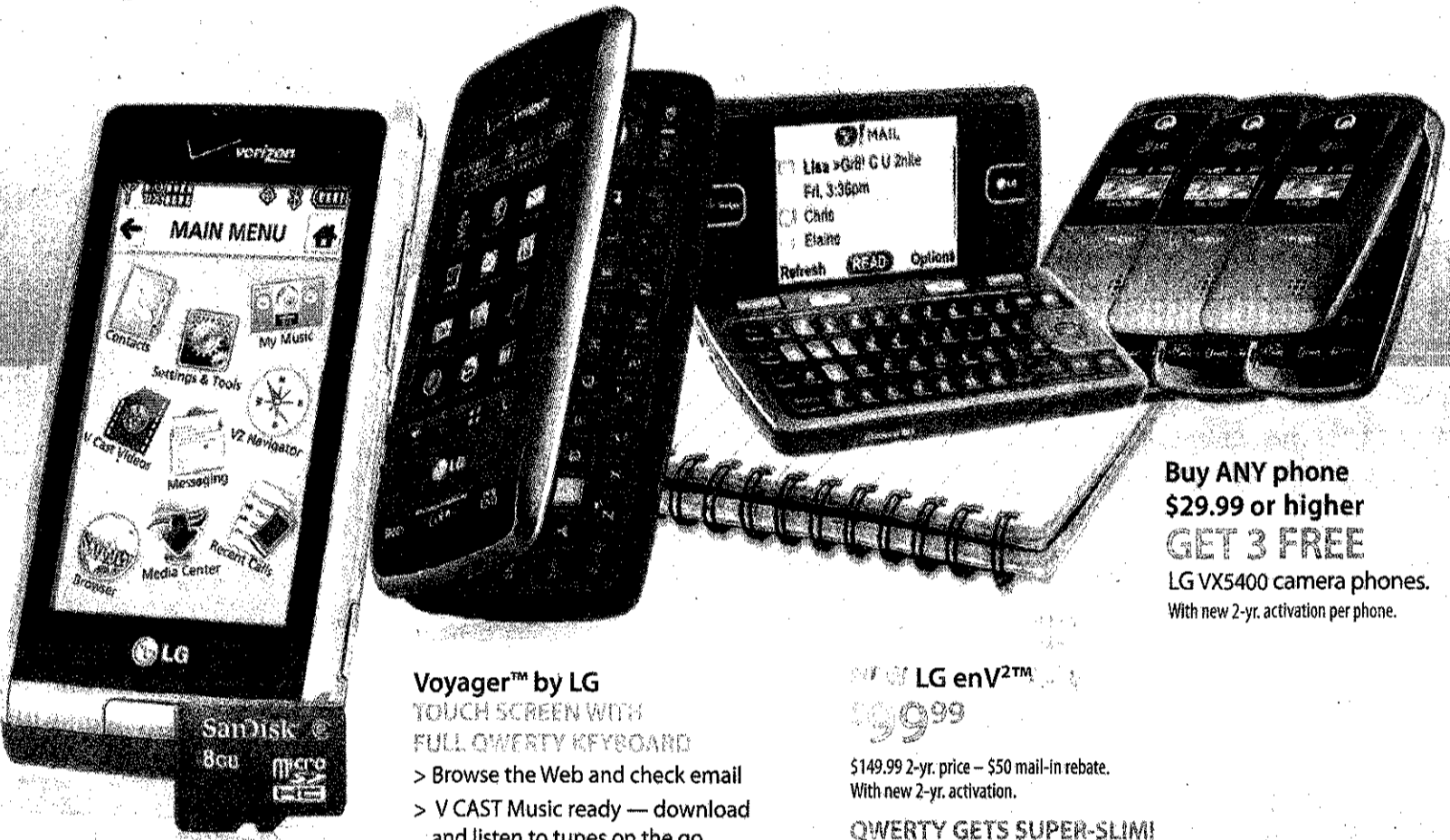
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneyatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.



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Livonia MBA info sessions set to start

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LIKE NUMBERS? there are a pile of them in today's SPORTS section



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OUR VIEWS

Lowering highway speed should be voluntary decision

Who isn't hurting or at least feeling the pinch from \$4 per gallon gasoline? The rise in the cost of fuel has impacted nearly every segment of the economy. Here in Michigan, it has been even worse with the Big Three suffering major losses as consumers turn away from buying SUVs, trucks and other gas guzzling vehicles.

For those who must drive long distances to get to work or who drive for a living, the skyrocketing costs at the pump have been particularly crippling.

In an effort to bring the cost of gas back down to earth, some political leaders have floated around the idea of reducing the speed limit down to 55 mph.

Virginia Sen. John Warner recently asked the U.S. Energy Department to investigate imposing a national speed limit of 55 mph, similar to the way it was from 1974 to 1995. Warner says the national speed limit of that era, which was imposed because of another fuel crisis, saved 167,000 barrels of oil a day, or 2 percent of the country's highway fuel consumption.

Closer to home, state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, recently introduced a resolution urging Congress to do exactly what Warner is advocating. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who has started riding her bike to work on some days, has also said that lowering the speed limit to deal with high fuel costs "is something we should consider."

While we commend Vagnozzi and the governor for addressing the current fuel crisis, we don't think a mandatory lowering of the speed limit on state or federal highways is the answer. It should be up to individual motorists whether or not to slow down.

However, there is no denying that slowing down will save people money. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that it can cost drivers an additional 30 cents per gallon for each 5 mph traveled over 60 mph. A car's gas mileage decreases once it gets past its optimal speed, which for most cars is between 55-60 mph. Some cars are nearly 30 percent less efficient when driven at 80 mph.

So slowing down is something people should consider, particularly if they log many miles on the road for work or otherwise. We just don't think there is enough of a crisis at this point for government to step in and alter the law. The governor and state government would be better off providing incentives to the auto companies to develop more fuel efficient vehicles that will help our nation — in the words of President Bush — break our addiction to oil.

State needs smoke-free policy

I strongly support an anti-smoking law in Michigan. We were in Toronto, Canada, recently where there is no smoking in bars, restaurants, theaters, hotels, casinos, etc. It was so enjoyable to be eating our meal and not have to swallow smoke or be in a bar or a casino and not have someone sitting next to you that is blowing smoke at you. It was nice to go back to our hotel room and not reek of smoke. The people there didn't seem to mind it either. They didn't seem to mind having to go outside and have a smoke.

There are a lot of states in this country that have smoke-free laws. Florida and California, which are big tourist states, are two. The business owners need to realize that if it is a statewide law, people will get used to it just like they did in Toronto (which by the way used to have smoking even in movie theaters), Florida and in California. I definitely did not see a lack of business in any of these places. Who knows, maybe businesses may even see more business.

I know that from my standpoint I try to go to restaurants that have a smoke-free policy. From another side, there is an issue of health that needs to also be considered. Nonsmokers that are dying at an alarming rate of lung cancer. I would vote for a smoke free environment in a heart beat.

Thank you, *Observer*, for bringing the issue up in your newspaper. I hope that there was more positive responses on the issue.

Connie Reeder
Canton

Diversity already exists

In reading your article on Fred Bolden,

the would-be Canton trustee, I was taken aback by his assertion that "Canton still has a way to go on welcoming everyone." I suggest that Bolden spend more time at the library and other Canton gathering places so he could see, firsthand, the enviable variety of races and ethnicities that constitute the Canton citizenry. Apparently, people of myriad heritages feel welcome enough in Canton to claim it as their home. And, from what I've seen, interaction between all these people is wonderfully harmonious.

I may be naïve, but I'm in the dark as to the deficiency that Bolden sees. If Bolden succeeds in becoming a Canton trustee, I hope he doesn't do more harm than good in proposing measures aimed at trying to fix something that isn't broken.

Larry Binstock
Canton

Integrity not for sale

Recently, Ms. Emily Pondell has twice had letters published in the *Observer* alleging that I and by reference, other members of the Board of Trustees, have acted in unethical ways, based on her assumption that accepting certain campaign donations poses a "conflict of interest." (Conflict of Interest refers to a situation when someone, such as a lawyer or public official, has competing professional or personal obligations or personal or financial interests that would make it difficult to fulfill his duties fairly.)

I invite Ms. Pondell to offer concrete evidence of any vote that I or any board member have made that is illegal, unethical, or where I (we) stood to benefit personally by the approval of any project.

Ms. Pondell may have her integrity for sale, but I (we) don't. In fact, in every

situation where a board member had a personal financial interest in a parcel of property that was under consideration, they excused themselves from the discussion/vote and left the room until the vote was over. I own no development property in Canton. I never have. I own no business in Canton, never have. I do own my integrity and character, and I won't stand for it to be maligned.

I have complete faith that Ms. Pondell cannot produce one shred of concrete evidence of any such unethical or illegal action. One can then conclude that Ms. Pondell is engaging in malicious character assassination and personal slander and is the obvious pawn of my opponent.

Melissa McLaughlin
Canton

(Editor's note: Melissa McLaughlin is running for Canton Township treasurer in the Aug. 5 primary election.)

Disappointed with story

I was very disappointed to see a "hometown" newspaper run the photo and article on the front page regarding the accident a young 17-year-old driver had. This was obviously an accident, and not front page news. The article stated "drugs, alcohol, and speeding were not factors." The driver was a minor, yet you ran her name and picture.

Why print this article with a photo and not drivers of DUI accidents? Something seems amiss.

Shame on reporter Tiffany Parks, and shame on the editor who approved running the article. They should both be called on the carpet to explain this one.

Linda Besh
Plymouth

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara

Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020. TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822. TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@stabenow.senate.gov.

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Passenger traffic on the rise at Metro

Despite a sluggish economy and the rising cost of jet fuel, total passenger traffic at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) continues to climb in 2008.

"Aviation is one sector in our local economy which is holding its own in very challenging economic conditions," said Lester Robinson, CEO, Wayne County Airport Authority.

Total passenger traffic at DTW increased 3 percent for the first five months of 2008 and 2.7 percent for the month of May, according to data released this week by the airport's division of financial planning and analysis.

Airlines are projecting schedule reductions this fall, which are expected to affect passenger counts, but in the meantime, passengers are increasing their numbers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. May 2008 represents the fifth consecutive month, year-over-

year, of total passenger traffic increases at DTW.

Five of the top 15 airports have reported declining passenger traffic in May according to research conducted by DTW's Strategy Management Division.

A total of 15,256,287 passengers used DTW through May compared to 14,805,485 for the same period last year. International passengers were up 2 percent for the first five months and 5.5 percent for the month of May on the strength of increases reported by hub carrier Northwest Airlines, Royal Jordanian, Air France and new service by Aero Mexico.

Operations (aircraft landings and take-offs) were down 1.2 percent for May and remain essentially flat, -0.2 percent year to date.

"We will continue to strive to keep our costs to the airlines low, as the year goes on, to

AIRPORT STATISTICS DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

May Calendar Year Monthly Summary
Preliminary as of July 3, 2008

	Calendar Year 2008		Calendar Year 2007		CY 2008/2007 % change	
	May	YTD	May	YTD	May	YTD
Total Passengers*	3,274,707	15,256,287	3,189,781	14,805,485	2.7%	3.0%
Domestic *	2,990,845	13,915,114	2,920,727	13,490,019	2.4%	3.2%
International**	283,862	1,341,173	269,054	1,315,466	5.5%	2.0%
Total Passengers	3,274,707	15,256,287	3,189,781	14,805,485	2.7%	3.0%
Operations	40,234	195,340	40,722	195,782	-1.2%	-0.2%

* Total passengers is defined as the number of passengers traveling outbound (enplaned) and inbound (deplaned) as reported to the Wayne County Airport Authority by the airlines operating at Detroit Metro Airport.

** Canadian passengers pre-cleared, before entering the U.S., are reported as domestic arrivals and recorded as such by the Authority.

Please note: Airport statistics are subject to change as airlines report updates to Wayne county airport Authority

encourage them to maintain their Detroit air service schedules as much as possible," said Robinson.

"Rising jet fuel costs and refinery margins have had a devastating effect on airline finances."

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SPORTS

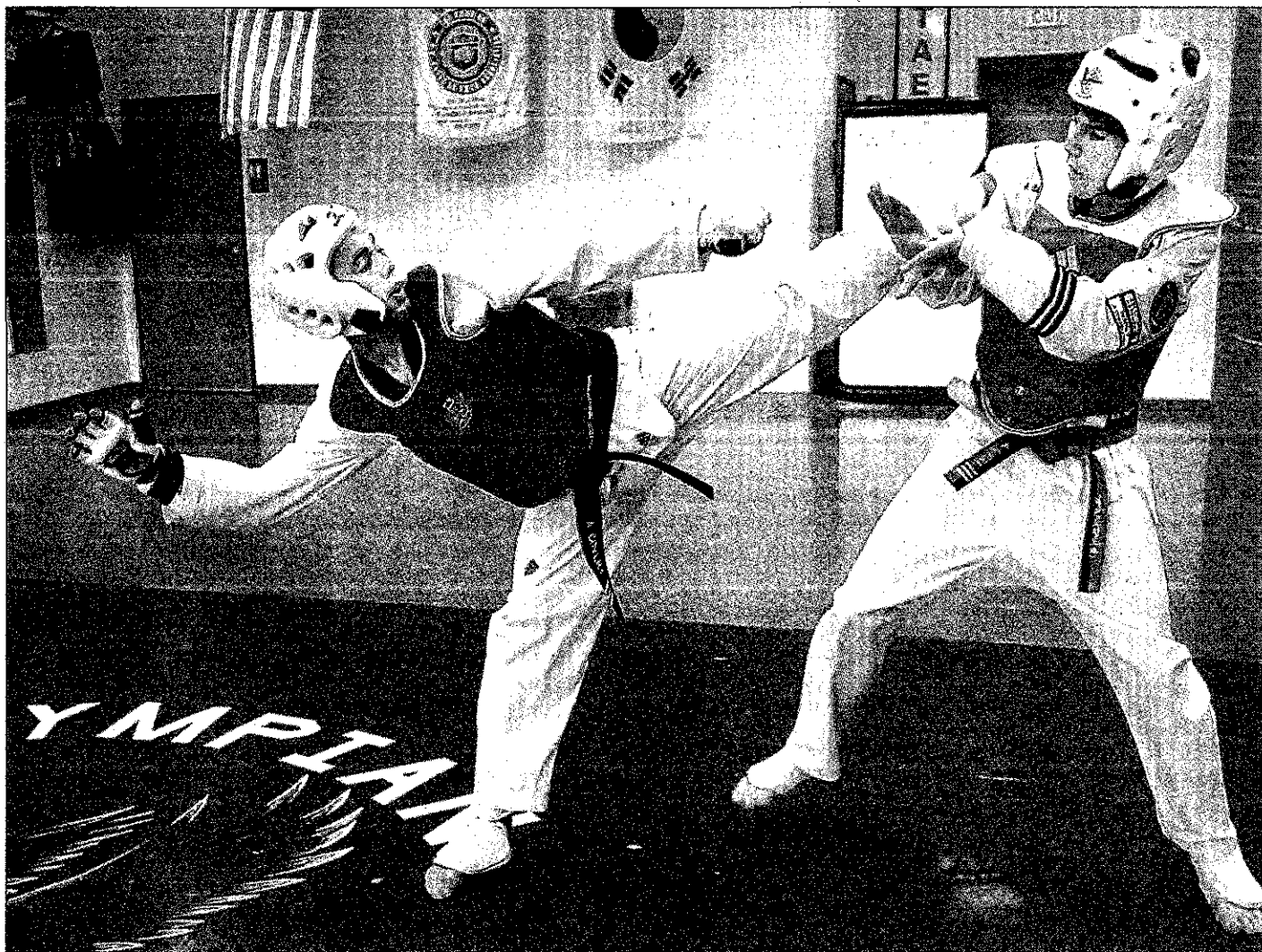
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Sunday, July 20, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brothers Alex (left) and Austin Covert spar during a workout at Olympian Tae Kwon Do, which their family owns in Canton. Both of the Coverts will be students at Salem High School in the fall.

Rebels making strides

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The second season for the Redford Rebels is winding down. It's hardly been a routine year. For example, two Midwest Alliance Travel Baseball League games slated for this week against the Michigan Bulls were canceled when the Bulls opted out. But Rebels' coach Bruce Corner preaches to his players to show up and give it

TRAVEL BASEBALL

their all on every pitch. And other than an occasional stumble, the team is making strides as demonstrated by a 2-1 mark at last weekend's Spartan Classic at North Farmington High School.

In a July 11 tourney opener against the Michigan Moose, Redford trailed 4-1 entering the bottom of the sixth on July 11 only to plate four runs and grab a 5-4 victory.

"I think they've come together the last two weeks than at the beginning of the season," Corner said. "They've started to concentrate more and at this level of baseball you really have to play smart."

"You're playing good teams with quality players up and down the lineup."

Against the Moose, the Rebels tied the game on a bases-loaded double by A.J. Ewart (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) and pushed across the winning run on a bases-loaded walk to Brian Corner (Redford Thurston). That enabled reliever Kevin Neaton (University of Detroit-Jesuit) to collect the win.

Please see **REBELS, B5**

Sidelines

Motor City Golf

The Motor City Junior Golf Championship will be held Wednesday, July 30, at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

Included with the \$49 entry fee are 18 holes of golf, a practice round (which must be played prior to the event), driving range balls the day of the event, a lunch ticket and a gift pack.

The event is open to junior golfers between the ages of 12 and 17 years old.

Registration forms can be picked up at Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh in Livonia.

For more information, call (248) 476-4493.

Entry forms are due July 23.

PCS hockey golf outing

A golf outing to benefit the Canton, Salem and Plymouth hockey teams will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, at Hickory Creek Golf Club in Canton.

The fee is \$110 per player or \$400 per foursome. Included in the fee are greens fees and a cart; a steak dinner; snack at the turn; pop and water on the course; and prizes for best team, longest drive, closest to the pin.

The event will tee off with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information, contact Kathy Lash at (734) 453-6518 or Chris Wolfe at (248) 766-6754.

Raffle for WSU

The Wayne State University athletics department will be hosting its annual reverse raffle on Thursday, Aug. 14, at the McGregor Conference Center on the WSU campus. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Wayne State athletic department.

A \$5,000 grand prize will be given away. In addition, three \$500 prizes, spa gift certificates, hotel stays, dinner gift certificates, sports items as well as other prizes will be won by ticket holders. Only 140 tickets will be sold for the event. The ticket price is \$150.

The evening begins with an outdoor barbecue at 5 p.m., followed by the reverse raffle at 6:30 p.m. (the winner need not be present to win).

For more information, call Angela Ruth at (313) 577-0587.

'COVERT' OPERATION

Teaching Tae Kwon Do is a family affair for Canton's Coverts

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's debatable what's more impressive — the firm, respectful grip 17-year-old Alex Covert greets you with when he shakes your hand or the firm, forceful blows he greets opponents with during competitive Tae Kwon Do matches.

What's clear is this: The senior-to-be at Salem High School has become a master of both maneuvers thanks to the discipline-based martial-arts training he has received at Olympian Tae Kwon Do, which is owned by his parents, professor Christopher and

Laura Covert.

Alex and his younger brother — 14-year-old Austin — have both made their mark on Tae Kwon Do mats across the country and, for that matter, the world.

Alex, who received his first taste of the sport at the age of 3 when he joined his father's mini-ranger class, recently made the sport's national Junior AAU Olympic team and has advanced to compete in international tournaments as far away as Germany.

His next goal: earning a spot on the 2012 U.S. Olympic team.

And although he's three years younger, Austin isn't far behind his brother on the talent scale.

"This is our livelihood, but it's also our way of life now," said Christopher Covert, motioning toward the state-of-the-art surroundings of his Canton-based training facility, which is located on Cherry Hill Rd., just west of Canton Center. "Everything we do and teach revolves around the morals and ethics that Tae Kwon Do is based on."

"Both Alex and Austin started when they were 3 years old and they couldn't wait until they could move up to the next level. Tae Kwon Do has not only taught them how to defend themselves, but the discipline that evolves from the sport teaches them the

right way to carry themselves outside the ring."

Alex Covert, who earned varsity letters in soccer and track and field at Salem last year, said reaching the enviable point he's reached hasn't always been easy, but it's been worthwhile.

"It's always tough, but I love it," he said. "A lot of mornings, I'll wake up, my dad will throw a towel at me and say, 'Get ready to run.' Sometimes I don't really want to, but to get to the top like I want to do, you have to get up in the morning and run and work out."

Please see **COVERT, B6**

Ex-players, coaches invited back for Devon-Aire's 50th

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You know it's a pretty big deal when the mayor might throw out a ceremonial first pitch.

We're talking Kirksey and we're talking Livonia's Devon-Aire Softball League — which on Saturday, July 26, will celebrate its 50th year with the annual all-star games and picnic, said league president Tony Perez.

"Maybe we will contact Mayor (Jack) Kirksey to come out" and throw out the first

pitch before the Junior Boys (ages 7-12) slow-pitch game slated for 10:30 a.m., noted Perez.

But it will be Devon-Aire sponsor Mike McGowan, whose Livonia sporting goods store continues to supply the league, who will kick off the big day by throwing out the first pitch before the 8 a.m. opener (Junior Girls, ages 7-12).

The third and final game, expected to begin around 12:15 p.m., is the Senior Co-ed all-star contest with teams including boys and girls ages 13-18. The owner of Redford

Township's Little Bill's Trophies will toss out the first pitch before that contest, said Perez.

Of course, special guests won't be the only ones welcome to come out to Devon-Aire Park, located east of Merriman near West Chicago. Perez is reaching out to those former players, coaches and managers who live in the vicinity to invite them to the park for softball, free hot dogs and pop and a day of reminiscing.

To help take care of the latter, Perez said about 200 programs devoted to the league's rich his-

tory will be handed out.

According to Perez, the league continues to thrive because of ongoing dedication and loyalty.

"What's made it special is we have a lot of people who play for so many years, they go and then they come back (as coaches)," Perez emphasized. "They don't forget their roots."

Perez' 19-year-old daughter Kara fits that bill.

She "graduated" from the league in 2007, but returned this year to coach the Senior Co-ed League T-Birds.

Donating 800 hot dogs for the occasion is Dearborn Sausage while Kroger and Mid-Joy Party Store are chipping in with pop, water and ice.

There also will be a baseball pitching machine and raffles for fun.

"Each team has a theme basket they've put together," Perez said.

For more information, contact Perez at (734) 525-2884 or via e-mail, mrgraphics1@yahoo.com.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Local father-son duo see history unfold

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Those weren't just any ordinary baseball tickets Canton resident Bob Staples had securely tucked away in his wallet Tuesday morning as he and his 17-year-old son, Dane, boarded a plane to New York City.

They were — at least for huge baseball fans like the Staples — two tickets to paradise.

Thanks to a Hall of Fame-worthy gesture from Bob's cousin Scott Staples, the Staples didn't watch Tuesday night's Major League Baseball All-Star game on Channel 2 like most Detroiters — they watched it at Yankee Stadium along with 50,000-plus other ex-

uberant fans, all of whom can say they witnessed one of the most stirring contests in All-Star game history.

The American League won, 4-3, in a tension-packed marathon that lasted a record 15 innings in the final All-Star game that will be played in "The House that Ruth Built." With the Yankees set to move into a new ballpark next season, Yankee Stadium has an appointment with a demolition crew — much like Tiger Stadium — following the 2008 campaign, which made Tuesday night's game that much more significant.

"Walking into that stadium before the game was like something I've never experienced before," said Bob Staples. "I had goose

bumps. It was so loud when they announced the players before the game that you couldn't hear yourself think. It was an unbelievable night, especially because I got to experience it with my son."

The Staples, who attended the game with Scott and three of his friends, were originally seated in right field. However, when the crowd thinned out as the game stretched into extra innings, they moved to some empty seats just beyond the left-field fence.

The move nearly earned them the ultimate souvenir when Detroit's Carlos Guillen ripped a potential game-winning blast in the bottom of the 12th inning

Please see **ALL-STAR, B5**



The Canton father-and-son duo of Bob (right) and Dane Staples not only attended Tuesday's historic 15-inning Major League Baseball All-Star game — they stayed until the very end as the digital scoreboard clock shows in the background.

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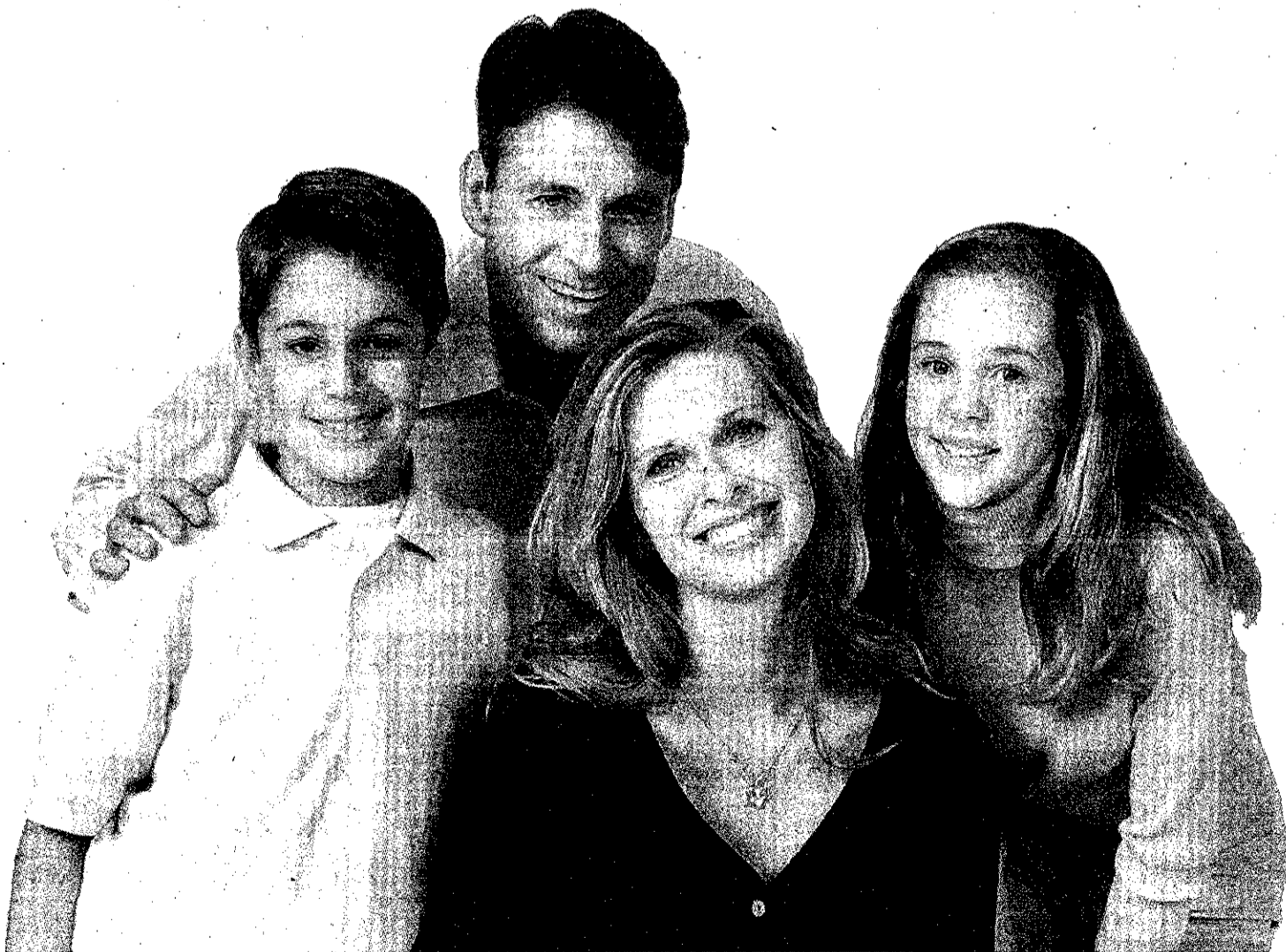
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ALL-STAR

FROM PAGE B1

that — for a moment at least — appeared destined to land in Bob Staples' grasp.

"Right when (Guillen) hit the ball, it looked like it was going to land right in front of where we were sitting," recalled Staples, who was possibly the only one in the stadium besides Guillen and Tigers manager Jim Leyland who was wearing an Olde English D cap.

"So I got out of my seat, fought my way through a few people and got ready to catch it with my hat. When the ball hit about a foot from the top of the fence (Guillen ended up with a double), all the New York fans around me saw my Tigers hat and said, 'Hey, that was your boy!'"

Staples said he'll remember some in-the-stands happenings as much as the exciting on-the-field plays.

"I couldn't believe how much hatred the New York fans have for Boston," said Staples. "Whenever a Red Sox player's name was announced, he received long, loud boos. And one

'And one guy in our section, who was brave enough to wear a Red Sox hat, was getting all kinds of grief from the Yankees fans. I was relieved they didn't have it in for Detroit like they did for Boston.'

BOB STAPLES, Canton resident

guy in our section, who was brave enough to wear a Red Sox hat, was getting all kinds of grief from the Yankees fans. I was relieved they didn't have it in for Detroit like they did for Boston."

Despite the length of the game — it didn't end until close to 1:30 a.m. — the Staples were bound and determined to stay until the final pitch was thrown.

"There was absolutely no way we were leaving until the end," Staples emphasized.

Their feeling is understandable. After all, it's not often you get to visit baseball paradise.

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Remarkable runners-up

The PC Pride 12U Stars fast-pitch softball team finished second in the USSA State Tournament on Sunday at Victory Park in Canton. The Stars defeated the Ann Arbor Gold, the Downriver Diamonds, Compuware and Team USA before losing 6-1 in the championship game to Torco Black. Both the PC Pride Stars and Torco Black will represent Michigan in the USSA World Series in two weeks. Pictured are (front row from left) Elaine Gerou, Aubrie Cragg, Jessica Webster, Kaitlyn McIntosh, Lauren Hayes, (back row from left) head coach Mike Gerou, bat girl Victoria Porter, Shannon Watson, Megan Webster, Catherine Porter, Katy Meade, assistant coach Kevin Bias, Casey Bias and Elliott Mitchem.

REBELS

FROM PAGE B1

SOLID EFFORT

On July 12, the Rebels continued playing well at North Farmington with a 7-5 victory over the Macomb Inferno in a game described by the coach as "one of our best performances of the year."

Corner praised the pitching and hitting of Charles Daly

(Catholic Central) despite suffering from a pulled hamstring. Daly picked up the win, giving up just three hits in five innings while also going 2-for-2 at the plate with two RBI.

"He knew we were short of arms and he gutted out a real strong performance on the mound as well as at the plate," Corner said.

Also chipping in with two

hits was Brian Lobkovich (Dearborn Divine Child) while Eric Ely (Catholic Central) helped preserve the triumph with "strong defense at third."

The Rebels, however, couldn't maintain the positive momentum into Sunday's final day of the tourney. Redford (7-11-1) took a 17-4 pounding at the hands of the Lake Orion Chargers despite

a three-hit, three-RBI day by Charles Melvin (Thurston) and a two-run double by Jeremy Wafer (Thurston).

CHARITY SHOWCASE

Another example of how different a season it's been is the last-minute rescheduling of the MATBL Charity Showcase Tournament to raise proceeds for United States war veterans with

closed head injuries.

Corner learned this week that the tournament will not take place this weekend as originally scheduled; instead, it is slated to take place Friday through Sunday, July 25-27, at Macomb Community College.

"The kids are excited about it," said Corner, about the Rebels helping the cause. "Sometimes, we overlook

how lucky we are out here to play the game of baseball. There's men and women who give their lives and who are permanently injured for us to have that ability to play ball here in America."

About \$8,000 has already been collected to be distributed to those veterans in need, he added.

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Laura Covert helps son Alex (middle) into his gear. Alex does the same for his younger brother Austin.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COVERT

FROM PAGE B1

"This is my lifestyle. It's all I've known since I was 3 years old and I wouldn't change it for anything."

Alex Covert said his friends think his black-belt skills are "awesome" and that some have rushed to him for occasional assistance.

"One of my friends was getting picked on last year, so he went up to the kid and told him I was a third-degree black belt and that I could take him," said Alex, who said he hasn't been in an off-the-mat scuffle since fifth grade. "So, yeah, they call on me some-

times when they need me."

Christopher Covert said Tae Kwon Do — which is referred to as the "leg art" — demands a combination of control and strength.

"We can throw our foot as fast as a train, but at the same time we can wipe a bead of sweat off your forehead with our foot because of the control we have," he said. "Now, once the boys step into the ring in a competitive environment, it's a different story. It's about who can make the biggest impact with their skills."

Unlike judo (which is similar to wrestling) and karate (which requires more hand work), Tae Kwon Do matches are often won or lost based on how well the athletes throw their legs.

"Typically, your legs are 10 times stronger than your hands," said Christopher Covert. "So most Tae Kwon Do matches are ended with two hits — one hit when your leg hits the other guy's head and the other one when he hits the mat."

Olympian Tae Kwon Do offers classes for everyone from 3 years old on up. Some of Covert's students are in their mid-60s.

For more information on available classes, call (734) 844-8299.

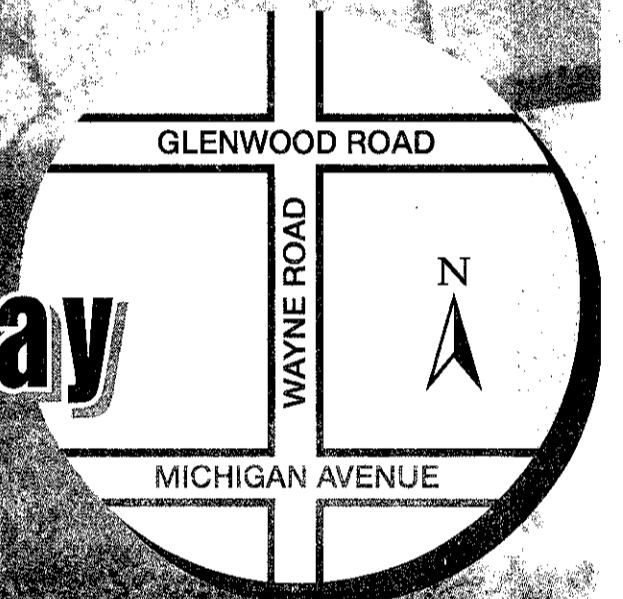
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Clancy isn't digging up the garden this year but has regressed since earning his Canine Good Citizen Certificate.

Playful pup goes to dogs

It's been about a year since Clancy, our Irish Wolfhound, earned his Canine Good Citizen Certificate from the American Kennel Club, but unlike Sassy, a yellow Labrador Retriever from Redford, he's regressed. Clancy isn't digging up the vegetable garden this year but any time he sees a dog, rabbit or neighbor he takes off to play, pulling the leash from our hand which is easy since he is the tallest breed the AKC recognizes.



Linda Ann Chomin

Sassy on the other hand is doing therapy work with her owner Cynthia Sweet at Heartland Hospice and Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Don't get me wrong. Clancy is a good dog, but he needs to mature and listen to my sister Gwen and I. He turns 3 years old on Sept. 19, and we're hoping this is the magic number. Until then we're considering going back to school or hiring a private trainer who specializes in behavior problems.

Clancy prepared for the CGC test by attending weekly classes at the K-9 Academy in Wayne with my sister and I for about one year.

In the ring he was perfect listening to commands of heel, sit, stay, down, and even did well off leash. He would wait for a stranger to approach, never jumping on them or growling. These are all requirements to become a Canine Good Citizen. Some dog parks and therapy dog organizations ask for proof that a dog has passed the CGC test in the last two years.

Obedience training is important for every dog though. It can mean the difference between an obnoxious animal that is destructive and mean, and a dog who is a joy to be around.

Like me, Sweet thinks in addition to having a well-behaved dog, the benefits far outweigh the cost of training. She and Sassy are members of the Wolverine Dog Training Club in Farmington where they train once or twice a week. Sassy has been going to work with her as a nanny since the lab was three months old. Both Sassy, now 3, and Hardy, Sweet's other golden lab, compete in obedience trials. Hardy, who will be 2 in October, is a therapy dog as well.

"There's more of a bond between your dog and yourself," said Sweet. "You have to work to get to a level like that. I know that I can trust them and they can trust me."

I know I can trust Clancy until he sees a rabbit or one of our neighbors then he's off and running. He stops in his tracks though when we say, "Bye, we're going for a car ride." Oh well I guess it is time for a refresher. The AKC encourages owners to have their dogs retested every few years because behaviors can change over time. I guess Clancy's no exception.

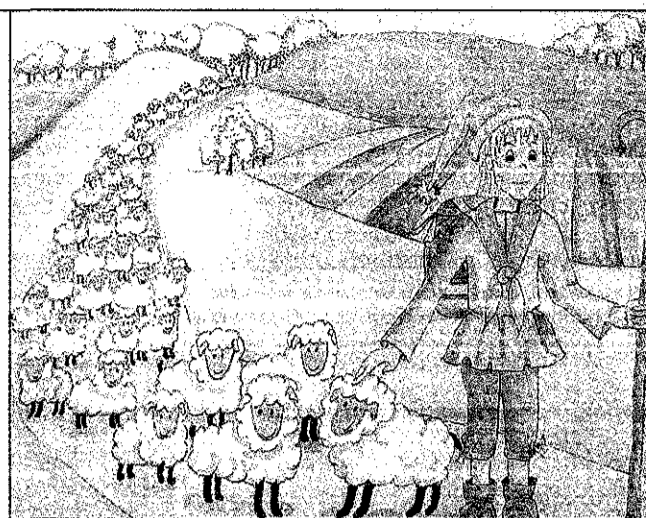
For more information about the Canine Good Citizen Program, visit www.akc.org.

Linda Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (734) 953-2145.

Sassy, a golden Labrador Retriever owned by Cynthia Sweet of Redford, earned her Canine Good Citizen Certificate last year and went on to become a therapy dog.



Once upon a time



Gemba, a young shepherd, eventually becomes King in the new children's book by Jeanne Swanson and Pam Grossmann.

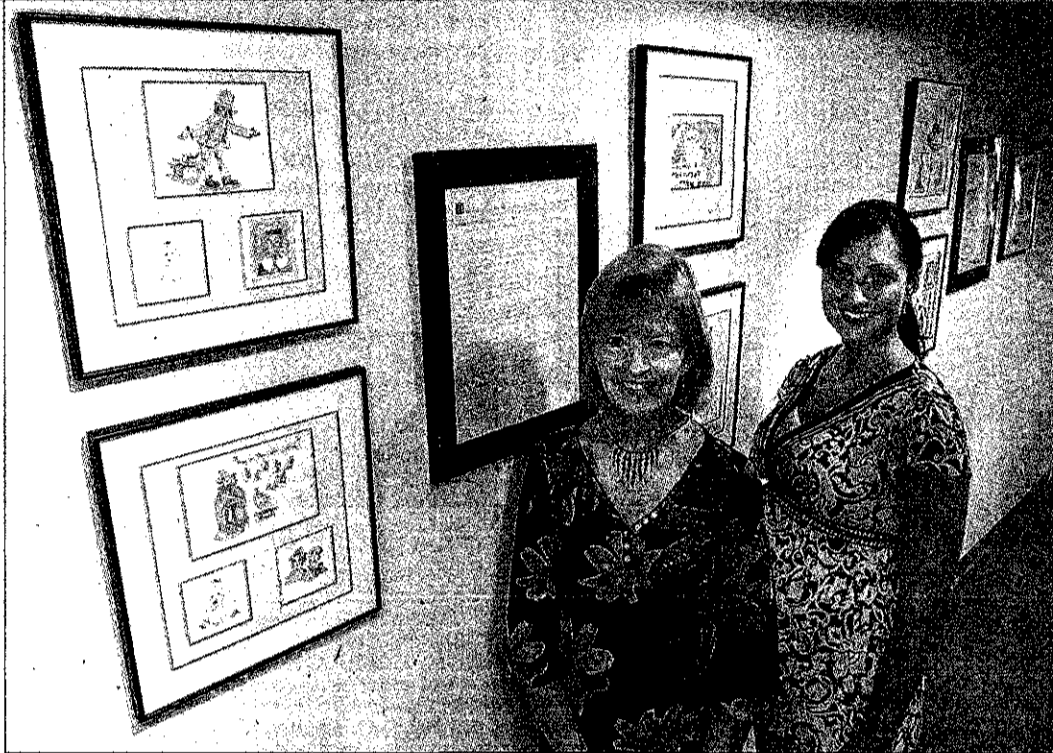
Children's book teaches lessons on leadership

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Jeanne Swanson had no idea when she wrote a story instead of a presentation for her leadership class that it would turn into a children's book, but it parallels her belief that these skills should be taught early. "King Gemba: Book One - Legends of Leadership" appeals to all ages with its words of wisdom from a Fairy Godmother. Swanson learned about the manufacturing industry at a young age through her father Wes Smith.

She is the fourth generation to work in the family business, E & E Manufacturing in Plymouth. She formally studied the principals of leadership while going for her master's of business administration degree at Walsh College in Troy. Today when she isn't working as public relations manager for E & E Manufacturing, Swanson is busy advocating for the industry in Washington, D.C., through the Precision Metalforming Association and National Association of Manufacturers.

"I never thought I'd be able to mix business with the artistic side," said Swanson,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Pam Grossman (left) and author Jeanne Swanson collaborated on the fairy tale, "King Gemba: Book One - Legends of Leadership."

28. "It was partly inspired by a trip to Disney World. Gemba is a Japanese term for leading from the ground up, getting involved in your daily business. It's straight from our leadership book.

"At E & E we already bring in school groups to teach them about manufacturing, to teach them it's not a dingy environment but employs highly trained engineers. We're hoping to see a reverse in the trend of the decline in manufacturing. There are still jobs out there."

Swanson is a bubbly, upbeat woman and this carries over into the book. The story begins as a kingdom searches for a new king and goes from prosperous times

for their woolen industry to starving and freezing.

It isn't until a shepherd comes along with his flock of sheep that the future brightens.

Pam Grossmann liked the book the minute she read it but was concerned her concept for the illustrations might not match Swanson's expectations. As it turned out, the cartoon-like characters capture the essence of the story. Grossmann is an accomplished Livonia artist who has not only worked in a variety of mediums for years but passed her knowledge on.

She has taught children and adults at the Plymouth

Please see **BOOK, C3**

KING GEMBA: BOOK ONE - LEGENDS OF LEADERSHIP

What: An exhibit featuring text and illustrations from the children's book

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, continues to Aug. 29

Where: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth

Details: Call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymoutharts.com

Any Given Saturday: Derby girls balance motherhood and mayhem

BECOME A DETROIT DERBY GIRL

What: The Detroit Derby Girls are holding open tryouts for the 2008/09 season

When: Monday, July 21

Where: Riverside Arena, 6635 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Requirements: You don't have to be a skilled skater at first, but you must be willing to work hard in and out of the rink. Most Derby Girls devote 12-15 hours a week to the league. Practices are Monday and Wednesday nights in Livonia. You also must be responsible for your own equipment, \$35 annual membership to USA Rollersports, and \$30 monthly dues.

For information: Visit www.detroitrollerderby.com or e-mail hr@detroitderbygirls.com.

BY JOHN RASMUSSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just four weeks after giving birth to her first child, Christy Schoonover had one thought in mind - getting back on skates.

Roller skates, that is. The part-time hairdresser from Redford is so passionate about Roller Derby she laced up her skates and participated in her first bout when her daughter was just five weeks old.

Now six months old, Alice (known by Derby Girls as "Kitten Meow"), has yet to miss a bout.

"My husband has taken her to every one so far. It's awesome," she said.

Please see **DERBY, C2**



Christy Schoonover is 'Cat's Meow,' #9 on Detroit Derby Girls' D Funk All Stars team. She is shown here during a bout just five weeks after giving birth to her daughter.

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Chorus fund-raiser sells entertainment books

The BeckRidge Chorale, formerly the Plymouth Community Chorus, is selling 2009 Entertainment Books in order to raise funds to support local charities and provide vocal music scholarships for talented local high school students.

The book includes 2 for 1 and 50 percent discounts for shows, restaurants, sporting

events, hotel stays, airfare, care rentals, and more.

The cost is \$20. People pre-ordering the 2009 books now will receive a 2008 book free. Supplies are limited.

To purchase a book or for more information, call Stan at (734) 459-6829.

2009 books will be available for pick-up or delivery on Aug. 5.

DERBY

FROM PAGE C1

Ah, the life of a Detroit Derby Girl mom.

After disappearing for a couple of decades, modern roller derby can trace its rebirth to the founding of TXRD-Lonestar Roller Girls in Austin, Texas.

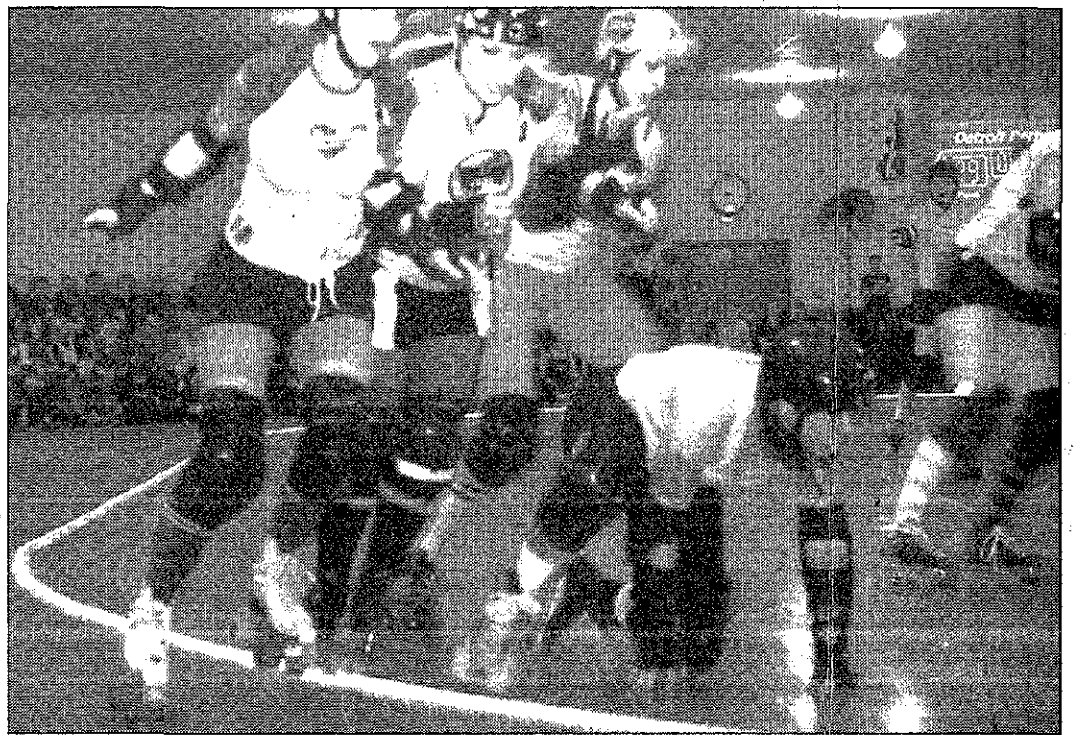
Rumors and stories of the league spread across the country, and slowly but surely other leagues began to sprout up.

The popularity of the sport really took off after cable network A&E ran the reality show "Roller Girls."

This DIY sport has come a long way since the schlockie, over-the-top wrestlin' style spectacle that most of us grew up with in '70s. Today, Roller Derby is a grassroots sport with individual leagues founded by and run by women of all ages and walks of life.

Derby leagues can be found in every major city — and some not so major ones — with large metropolitan areas boasting multiple leagues. Within the last couple years, the sport has exploded overseas with leagues throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Interest in the sport will surely expand again with Drew Barrymore directing and starring in a derby picture called "Whip It" currently being filmed in Metro Detroit.

During the season (October through May), Detroit Derby Girls bouts are held once a month at the historic Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit. Crowds at the bouts



Detroit Roller Derby isn't for the faint of heart. Just ask Cat's Meow, a.k.a. Christy Schoonover of Redford, getting sandwiched during a bout last season.

can reach nearly 1,000 people and are usually sold out well in advance.

Schoonover said she was a fan of the "Roller Girls" series and discovered that Detroit had its own league when she saw a poster on the wall of a local bar.

Danielle Simone, a cheerleading coach and mother of two, learned about the league when a friend came into her shop and mentioned she was going to a bout.

"I jumped at the chance to go!" the Royal Oak resident said. "I went to the bout and was 100 per-

cent set on joining."

Deanna Brucker, a full-time financial counselor in Hartland, learned about the Detroit Derby Girls through a couple of friends who skate with the league.

"I thought it would be interesting and fun. I mean, what better way to get some exercise and meet some cool people?" she said.

Tracy Toepler works for an interactive agency in Ann Arbor. She had been a competitive figure skater.

She first heard about the Gethem City Derby Girls, did a little digging and found out that Detroit was starting a league.

"When I saw my first practice, I was immediately hooked," she said, admitting her parents were a little tentative at first.

"They were worried about my safety," she said. "They thought it was just a passing phase. They have since become totally hooked. My dad had tears in his eyes after my team had its first win. They almost never miss a game."

Simone agrees that she has gotten nothing but support from her family and friends. When she was just joining the league, "I got a package at work, opened it and found out that my husband ordered my first pair of speed skates!"

With every mother, though, there are time issues and derby mom's aren't any different. Schoonover finds it hard to balance family and derby.

"I get to practice and bouts with

no problems, but I miss a lot of team get-togethers. I just don't want to be away from my baby that much," she said.

To a person, though, they all say that it's worth the time and bruises that come with the derby girl territory.

"I am more confident than I have ever been" Simone said. "I am so empowered by the strong women in our league ... I have 70 new girl friends that I can count on for anything."

Schoonover agreed it isn't about the competition, but rather the people she has met. "They're all my friends" she added, "and they're so real. I've never met — let alone liked — this many women in my entire life."

Like any sport, there comes a time to say goodbye.

Brucker has already hung up her skates.

"I miss it terribly already. I still plan on attending some bouts next season and cheering my girls on," she said.

Schoonover said she'll be a derby girl until she is too old and physically unable to do it. Toepler also thinks that she will skate on as long as her body lets her. "Being an older player, I know my days are numbered," she said.

Simone will try to stay on as well. "I can always become a ref on the stat army. My love for this sport runs too deep to really ever leave it completely. Once a derby girl, always a derby girl. It gets into your blood!"

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The distinguishing feature of osteoarthritis is its way of developing. What occurs is that the cartilage that covers bone cracks and thus, over time the cartilage thins.

This loss of cartilage differs from the changes associated with rheumatoid arthritis. In rheumatoid arthritis, lining cells are prompted by antigens to secrete chemicals that irritate and disrupt bone and cartilage.

The activity of rheumatoid arthritis readily leads to flares as an increase in inflammatory cells that can result in a sudden increase in joint pain and swelling. Patients with osteoarthritis also experience flares. If inflammation doesn't play a role, what does?

In osteoarthritis the culprit is a change in the bone near the joint. Osteoarthritis causes bony deposits to build up at the edge of the joint. At times, the calcium in the new bone acts as an irritant to surrounding tissues resulting in pain.

In most cases this pain is self-limiting, i.e. the irritation will clear on its own. In instances when the pain continues, an injection of steroid at the site of pain resolves the discomfort.

Another cause for a flare of osteoarthritis is injury. In a joint like the knee, an unexpected twist or fall may stretch a ligament or tear a meniscus adding further strain on the joint. In the hand a blow to the knuckles can create a calcium fragment sufficient to bring on a flare. Again, the treatment of choice is a steroid injection at the site of pain.

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Livonia Arts Commission continues concert series

The Livonia Arts Commission opened its 2008 Music from the Heart series with the blues and soul music of Union Avenue last Thursday at Civic Center Park, Farmington and Five Mile roads, Livonia.

On July 24, Trilogy brings the sounds of Motown and classic rock to Livonia's Civic Center Park.

Billy Brandt and Grievous Angel perform a mix of rockabilly, country and blues July 31.

The group has won many Detroit music awards.

BOOK

FROM PAGE C1

Community Arts Council for the last nine years, but before that was at Steppingstone School for preschool to 8th grade students in Farmington Hills and the Art Store & More in Livonia. She retired from Steppingstone two years ago after 22 years as an art teacher.

It was through the Plymouth Community Arts Council that Grossmann learned Swanson was looking for an illustrator. Both of their work is on display through Aug. 29, at the arts council.

Grossmann has exhibited her work locally and recently won an Award of Merit at a show continuing to July 24, in the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"It has been a fun, fun project," said Grossmann, who originally showed the book to Dawn Northey, an arts council staff member. Northey liked the concept so much she proceeded to organize the exhibit. It wasn't long before

Tammy Trudelle, the interim executive director, learned of the book and asked Swanson to transform the words into a children's play which was performed by the arts council's Plymouth Uptown Players June 20. More than 40 books were sold and signed during the successful production.

"I started with pen and ink and added the watercolor and did it in three to four weeks from my imagination," said Grossmann.

Swanson is just thrilled with Grossmann's interpretation of her words and is using half of the illustrations to decorate the nursery for the little girl she is expecting with husband Briap. The Novi couple is due with their first child Aug. 7.

Swanson has already read the book to the new baby and is thinking about creating a series.

King Gemba is \$22.50 and available at the online publisher booklocker.com as well as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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

Piece together past at upcoming workshop

The Library of Michigan will host "Piecing Together Our Past," its annual Abrams Genealogy Seminar, July 25-26 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in downtown Lansing.

"This year's seminar demonstrates that Michigan is a great place to do genealogy research, from the state's library to the local history rooms at public libraries throughout the state," said Randy Riley, special collections manager

at the Library of Michigan. "This program is a great complement to our collection, which is one of the largest in the country."

Keynote speaker will be Dr. George K. Schweitzer, the author of nearly 20 genealogical research books who is known for his use of period costumes. His address on Saturday, "Tracing Ancestors Back Across the Atlantic," is co-sponsored by the Ingham County Genealogical

Society.

Registration is \$40, and includes a boxed lunch on Saturday and a seminar syllabus. The Sheraton Lansing Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing, is offering a special discounted rate of \$89 for participants. Call (517) 323-7100 for reservations.

For a complete schedule of events and registration form, visit www.michigan.gov/familyhistory.

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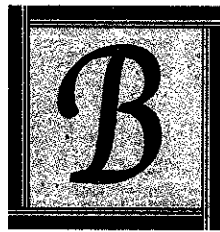
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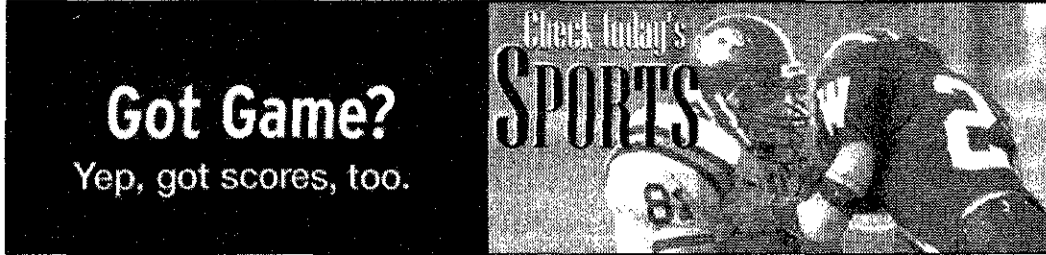
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Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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LOIS BLEAU Age 65, July 15, 2008. Beloved wife of Marvin... Loving mother of Penny (Don) Weathers, Ronald, Roland (Maria), Tony (Janette), and Jeff (Donna).

EVELYN L. KRESTA Of Livonia. Passed away July 17, 2008 at the age of 69. Loving mother of Larry (Lynda). Loving grandmother of Sara, Renee & Derek. Aunt to Mark and Mary-Louise.

ROBERT F. REICHARD Age 86, a former Westland resident. Currently living in Golden Valley, AZ. Was born on Sept. 29, 1921 and passed away at home on July 2, 2008.

JOSEPH E. "Joe" FULTON Age 80 of Brohman, Michigan, St. James City, Florida and formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at his home in Brohman.

GLADYS MARIE MOLE Age 94, passed away July 18, 2008, of Columbus, IN, formerly of Farmington Hills, MI. Born June 6, 1914 in Elizabethtown, IN.

LEO G. SELASKY Age 86, July 14, 2008, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Rita. Dear father of Dennis (Pat). Dear grandfather of Bethanie, Bridget and Nicholas.



HOWARD RONALD QUINKERT Koren War Veteran, died peacefully in his sleep on July 16, 2008. Age 77. Loving husband of Barbara for 54 years.

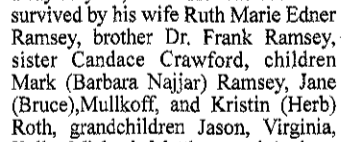


DOROTHY W. SUTTON (nee: Perry) Age 85, passed away in Romeo, July 17, 2008, after a long illness. Born in Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada.



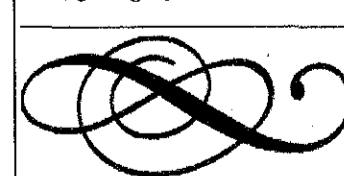
CONSUELO R. GARDNER July 16, 2008, age 82, of Farmington Hills. Beloved Wife of Jack for 59 years.

REV. GEORGE W. RAMSEY The Reverend George W. Ramsey, Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills, passed away July 14, 2008.



MARY LOUISE GRANT Born in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on October 8, 1914, died peacefully at Hospice, Savannah, Georgia on July 1, 2008.

MARY LOUISE GRANT Born in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on October 8, 1914, died peacefully at Hospice, Savannah, Georgia on July 1, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Wolter (Douglas) of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and two sons, Ned Grant (Amy) and Peter Grand (Melanie), both from Michigan.



Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

OBITUARY POLICY The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line.

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

PAH-Fest a hit at Madonna

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK O&E STAFF WRITER

Christopher Coppola continues to play a role in ushering metro Detroit into the digital moviemaking realm.

For the second year in a row, Coppola has traveled to Livonia to host PAH-Fest, a week's worth of workshops and symposiums about storytelling, film and the digital world hosted by Madonna University.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bo Young designed an avatar that dances to the beat of a live concert webcast from Italy. The Madonna Television major is from Kwang Ju, South Korea.



Sister Nancy's avatar rocks at a virtual Hart Plaza to the electronic dance music streamed from a live concert in Italy.

PAH-Fest, which started Monday, wraps this evening with Closing Night Ceremonies, 6-8 p.m., with WXYZ's Dennis Neubacher. The public is invited to attend the free event on campus at Kresge Hall.

According to Sue Boyd, an instructor at Madonna and organizer of PAH-Fest, the whole community can benefit from Coppola's energy. As the nephew of director Francis Ford Coppola and brother to actor Nicolas Cage, he brings real-world Hollywood experience to town.

Boyd said a contingent of Madonna students attended Coppola's very first PAH-Fest in New Mexico. Their support inspired Coppola to bring PAH-Fest to Motown last year, and in turn he has invited Madonna students to help at his PAH-Fest Hollywood the past two years.

Coppola also sits on the advisory board for Madonna's broadcast cinema arts major.

PAH-Fest Motown 2008 included a panel discussion "The New Film Initiative in Michigan."

Another highlight was a concert featuring Ridha Ibrahim that took place in reality as well as cyberspace, with performer and audience meeting as avatars in Second Life.

In hands-on competitions, students were challenged to create one-minute films on their cell phones in one day, while Mobiflick Teams signed on to create digital shorts over four days.

Boyd said the week was another great success. "It really does expose our students to a whole different side of filmmaking. They

rub shoulders with people who actually have made Hollywood movies," she said. "It's also a way for us to give back. We can say to the community anyone can be filmmakers, your stories are important too. You don't have to be a million-dollar moviemaker, anybody can do it."

For more information, visit Christopher Coppola's website at www.pahnation.org. Madonna University is located at 1-96 and Levan Road in Livonia. Call (734) 432-5339 or visit www.madonna.edu.

WEDDING

Stern-Wilson At 5 p.m. Monday, June 28, Dallas residents Debi Lee Stern and Keith David Wilson were joined in marriage in the conservatory at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. Stern is a Burbank, Calif. native, and the eldest of Paul and Nancy Prater's three daughters.

ENGAGEMENTS



The Rev. Clint Hufft of California officiated. The bride, a Ms. Fitness USA champion and world class athlete, complements her groom Keith, who is a professional trainer in the Highland Park/Dallas area, as well as an experienced marathon runner, and recently earned the title of top athlete in the Pump and Run event held in conjunction with the Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival.



Lacey-Fawaz Lee and Lynn Lacey of Canton, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Lee of San Diego, Calif., to Daniel Amir Fawaz also of San Diego. He is the son of Carol Posler of Newaygo, Mich. and Said Fawaz of Dearborn, Mich.

Keith and Debi share a passion for all types of sports and the fitness lifestyle. The two met while cycling, one of their favorite hobbies. The Wilson family is of Scottish descent. To honor that heritage, the wedding was Scottish themed. Nettie Smith, the matriarch of the Wilson clan, was in attendance. Keith wore a traditional black watch tartan. Bagpiper Dave Martin led the groom in the procession. Keith's two sons, Adam Dane Wilson and Kyle Case Wilson, escorted maidens of honor Shelli Margheritis and Taryn Huizenga. Lauren Wilson served as a junior bridesmaid, followed by flower girls Sophia and Ava Williams. The couple extends special thanks to greeters Joseph Bement and Madeline

Williams. The bride was escorted down the aisle by dear friend Steven C. Wagner. Friends and family from all over the country witnessed the exchange of vows. A reception immediately followed featuring a nationally competitive team of Highland Fling dancers performing traditional Scottish dances. The wedding bands, of 13th century Celtic design with a warrior shield, were specifically chosen to represent oneness, as the couple's motto is "All for one and one for all." The rings were hallmarked and registered at Dublin Castle in Dublin, Ireland. For the honeymoon, the couple plans to tour the many castles of Scotland and explore the Wilson heritage.

Jessica is a 2001 graduate of Canton High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in interior design and marketing from Eastern Michigan University in 2006 and currently works as a project coordinator for CORT Furniture in San Diego. Daniel is a 2000 graduate of Dearborn High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Wayne State University in 2006 and currently works for Hilton Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif. The couple is planning a Nov. 1 wedding at The Westin in Detroit.

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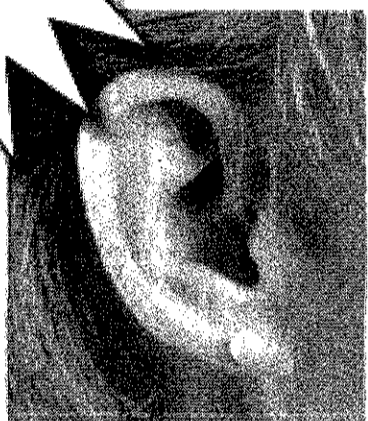
- 1. Mail to The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009. 2. Oakland County residents should

send announcements to Sharon Dargay, or e-mail questions to sdargay@hometownlife.com. Wayne County residents should send announcements to Stephanie Angely Casola, or send e-mail to scasola@hometownlife.com.

3. Announcements run in the Sunday Hometownlife sections of the paper and are placed in the order they are received and depending on space restrictions. 4. For more information, visit http://www.hometownlife.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=CUSTOMERSERVICE.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

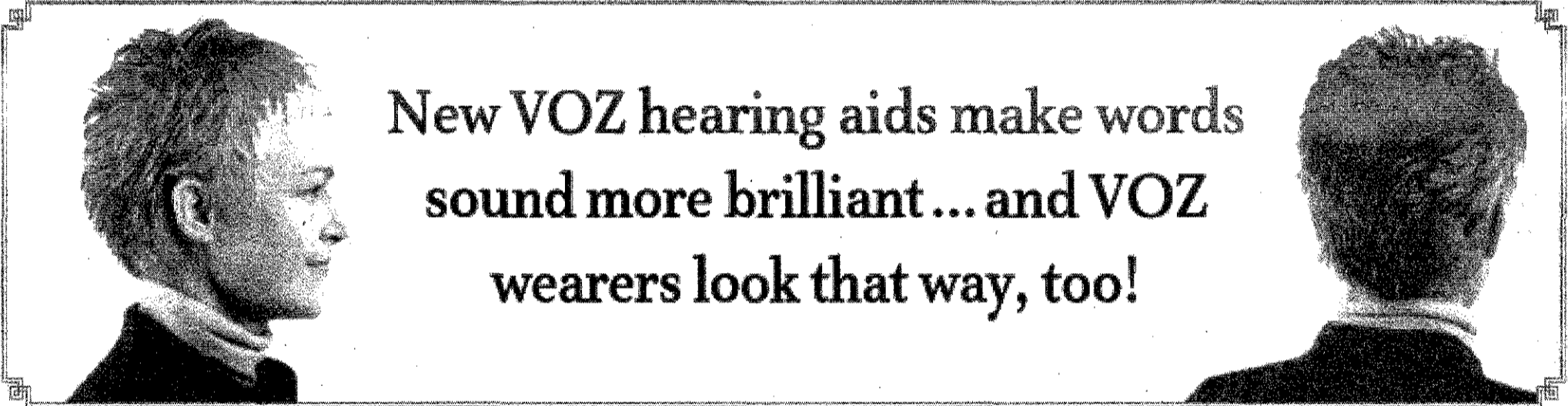
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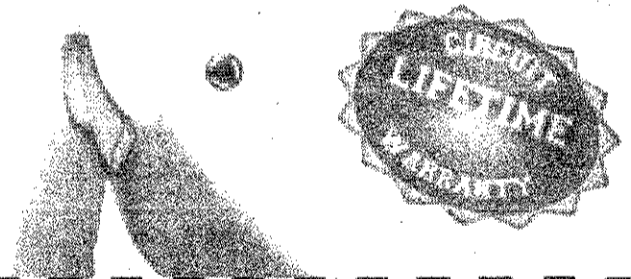
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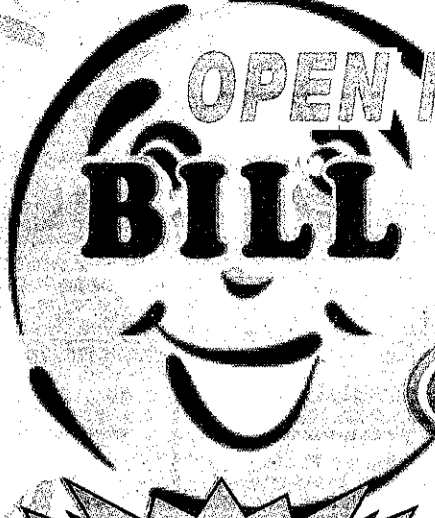
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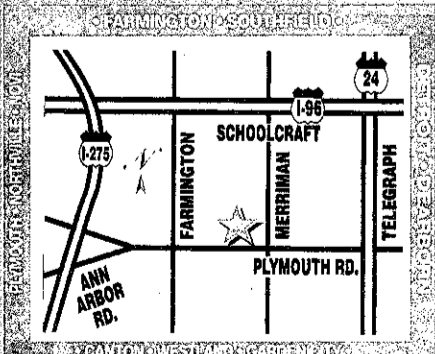
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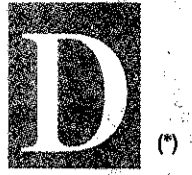
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New Homes

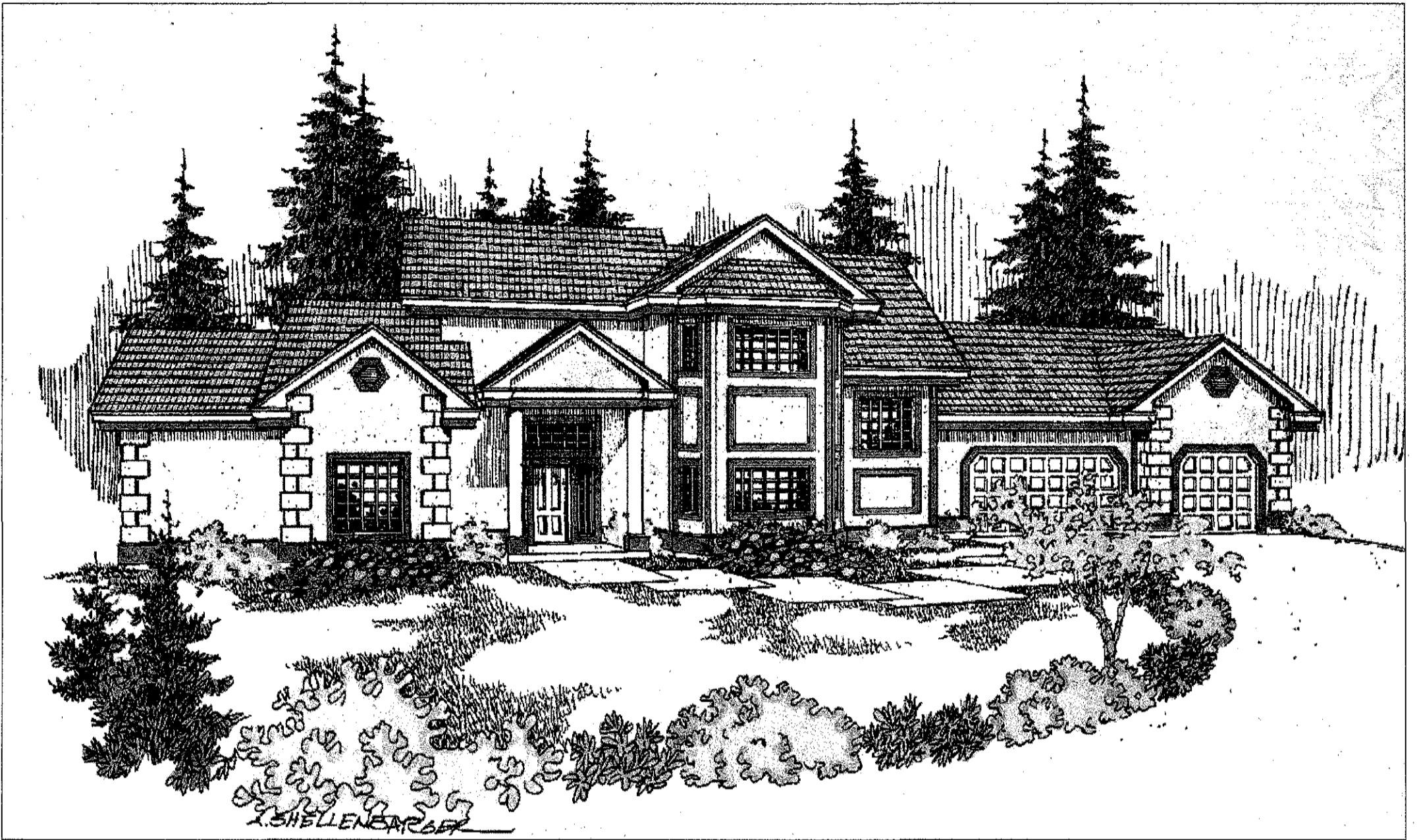


Sunday, July 20, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



Spacious Lucinda design great pick for bigger family

The Lucinda (407-11), with its statuesque look, would be the ideal home at 2,671 square feet for the large family that requires numerous bedrooms and tons of extra bonus space. There are three floors to the Lucinda, basement, first floor, and a second floor.

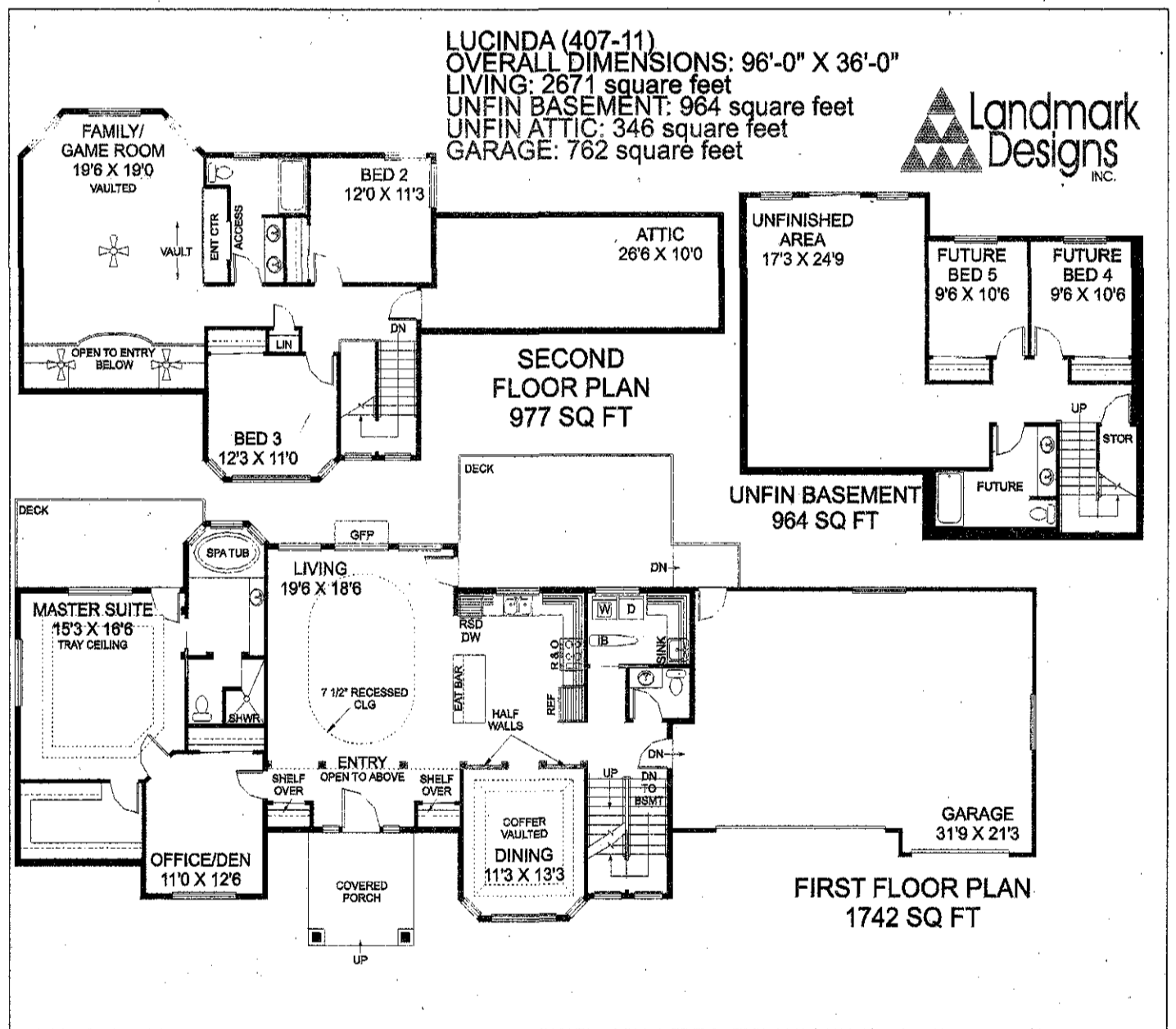
Entry to the Lucinda is through a colonial styled porch. The door surrounded by windows, opens into a large living room with an oval recess in the ceiling. A gas fireplace is in the center of the rear wall with a door leading to deck in the back yard. The kitchen is open with an eating bar divider. The dining room is very formal with coffered ceilings and large windows. To complete this area, the utility room and a half-bath are convenient to the garage.

To the left of the entry is an office/den, which leads into the master suite. The suite has a distinctive tray ceiling, giving a formal look to the room. The walk-in closet is extremely large, as is the bath area. There is an oval tub with surrounding windows to brighten the room.

The stairs to the basement and also to the upper floor are located across from the utility room. The basement contains two bedrooms with a full bath across the hall. The balance of the basement is unfinished and can be used as a recreation room, poolroom, or kids' play area. This could also be an area that could be developed to make a guest room or mother-in-law apartment, should the need be there.

The second floor has two bedrooms with a common full bath. With the large family/game room located on this floor, this is an excellent area for the family to gather for casual time. There is an entertainment center on one side, with rear access for ease of wire hookup available through the bathroom area. The ceiling is vaulted and the front part of the room is open to the entry below, giving an open, airy quality to this area. Next to bedroom 2 and adjacent to the stairs is the attic. It is an ideal area for storage of Christmas ornaments, old toys, or about anything that the family wishes to keep. Overall, the beauty and style of the Lucinda would be good in most parts of the country, and would provide the large families with more than ample space to spread out and live comfortably.

For a study plan of the LUCINDA (407-11), 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 (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

Buy In July

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is launching a new program to assist southeastern Michigan's homebuyers in finding ready-to-move-in new homes this July. The Buy In July program features more than 100 homes built by the Professional Master Builders of BIA. All homes are either ready for occupancy or will be ready within 60 days. Along with BIA, the program is sponsored by Bank of America Mortgage.

Buy In July homes and condominiums will be open to potential homebuyers from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, July 20. All participating builders will work directly with homebuyers or with a homebuyer's

Realtor, if requested. Homes were featured in a tab section in *The Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* on Friday, July 18. Additionally, all homes are featured at www.BuyInJulyMichigan.com.

"We are encouraging homebuyers to buy now and be in their new homes before school starts in September," said Richard Komer, BIA first vice president, of Wineman & Komer Building.

"This program allows them to take advantage of discounted pricing on many homes and the low interest rates currently available." Buying a new home offers the advantages of quality new construction, the latest technological advances, low maintenance, money-saving and energy efficient appliances and design to fit today's

lifestyles. Many of the Buy In July homes are built to Green Building standards, as well.

For additional information on Buy In July, call (248) 737-4477 or visit www.BuyInJulyMichigan.com.

BIA and Bank of America will also sponsor a Fall Parade of Homes event running from Aug. 15 to Sept. 14. Parade of Homes features ready-to-move-in homes as well as under construction and pre-construction homes throughout southeastern Michigan.

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or

non-experienced people in the real estate field. There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 10-11 a.m. at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For details, call Steve Leibhart, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's NAHBR Professional Remodelers present "Cash In On CAPS" Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. CAPS refers to the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist designation offered by the National Association of Home Builders and earned by attending specific classes held locally at BIA head-

quarters. Bob Johnson, Johnson Building Co., will present topics that relate to CAPS. Registration is \$35 for BIA members.

Advance registration required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate (CG) course, "Building Codes & Standards," on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builders Professional Services will identify the organizations that develop, revise and regulate building codes and standards. Emphasis will be on state and local build-

ing departments, plan review, building permits, inspections, code enforcement and the appeal process.

The course counts toward requirements for National Association of Home Builders designation programs including Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP). It also counts toward Preciscure and Continuing Education Competency for the State of Michigan.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodelers, \$175 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

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<p>NEW UP TO 24 MILES PER GALLON</p> <p>2008 FORD EDGE SE FWD</p> <p>\$219* per mo.</p> <p><small>*2,126 Due At Signing</small></p>	<p>NEW UP TO 26 MILES PER GALLON</p> <p>2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT FWD</p> <p>\$219* per mo.</p> <p><small>*2,285 Due At Signing</small></p>	<p>CERTIFIED ROUSH DEALER</p> <p>Great Selection of Roush High-Performance Vehicles in Stock!</p>
<p>NEW UP TO 20 MILES PER GALLON</p> <p>2008 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X2</p> <p>\$219* per mo.</p> <p><small>*2,034 Due At Signing</small></p>	<p>\$750</p> <p>EXTRA FOR YOUR TRADE</p> <p><small>1998 or newer with less than 100,000 miles. One coupon per customer. Good thru 7-31-08. All prior sales excluded.</small></p>	

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2006 RANGER SCAB 4X4 <small>P20533 FX4, CAP, Like New</small> \$17,340	2007 FOCUS SE <small>P20534 Certified Great MPG</small> \$12,840	2006 DODGE STRATUS <small>P20538 Great Value, Low Payments</small> \$12,250	2007 PT CRUISER TOUR <small>P20546 Factory Warr.</small> \$11,850	2006 CHEVY EQUINOX LT <small>P20547 Loaded, Low Miles</small> \$15,750	2005 FORD 500 LMT <small>P20549 Leather, Moonroof, Certified</small> \$14,750
2003 WINDSTAR SE <small>8T3010B Budget Priced</small> \$3,550	2006 MUSTANG V6 <small>P20508A GT Wheels, Auto</small> \$15,250	2003 EXPLORER 4DR <small>P20553 4X4, Low Payments</small> \$9,250	2006 F150 SCAB 4X4 <small>P20555 Certified 6YR 100k Warranty</small> \$15,980	2006 EXPLORER E. BAUER <small>P20556 APR as low as 2.9%</small> \$14,850	2004 TAURUS SE <small>P20560 Certified, Loaded</small> \$8,950
2007 TAURUS SE <small>P20563 Certified 6YR 100k Warranty</small> \$11,250	2004 SEBRING CONV. <small>8T9362A Drop Your Top</small> \$9,950	2004 DODGE NEON <small>8C1323A Great First Car</small> \$6,950	2004 BONNEVILLE <small>P20567 Sport And Luxury</small> \$10,350	2004 OLDS ALERO <small>P20568 Priced Right</small> \$9,450	2003 F150 SCAB 2WD <small>8C8435B Won't Break The Bank</small> \$7,150

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