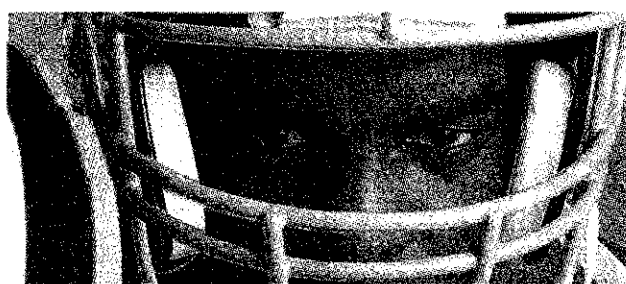




Reader comments
hometownlife.com

At it
again

Sports, B1



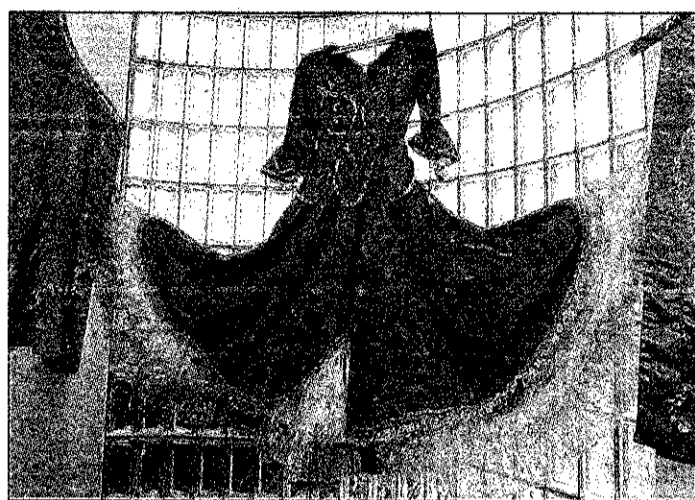
THURSDAY
August 28, 2008

CANTON Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

www.hometownlife.com



On Friday and Saturday evenings, there is flamenco dancing and Spanish guitar music.

New Spanish eatery features flamenco shows, tapas

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Flamenco dancing and great food are on the menu at Tasca de Plata Tapas Bar & Restaurant, a new eatery on Canton Center in Canton. Owner José Montes is proud of his establishment, which opened in mid-May and offers Spanish food.

"People confuse it with Mexican food," said Montes, who grew up in Garden City and now lives in Brighton. It's somewhat similar to French cooking, with sautéing, and fresh ingredients, including a lot of cheeses and chorizo sausages.

"It's growing little by little," he said of business, noting they haven't done a lot of promotion yet. "It's mostly by word of mouth."

He's been in the restaurant business since the late 1980s, and previously had the Spanish restaurant Alegrias in a hotel in Farmington Hills. That hotel was torn down and Montes looked for a new site. He found the former Central City Diner, on Canton Center

TASCA DE PLATA TAPAS BAR & RESTAURANT

Where: 6600 Canton Center Road, north of Ford, Canton
Phone: (734) 459-7685
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, flexible late closing, (closed on Monday)

between Warren and Ford, north of Hanford. The distinctive building needed a special name for its new purpose, so they settled on Tasca de Plata. "Tasca" is a pub or tavern in Spain, and "plata" is silver in Spanish, referring to the silvery exterior.

They offer flamenco shows Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. lasting 45 minutes with guitar music and at least two dancers. There's a stage to present the Spanish music and dance. The restaurant also features photos of Montes' late mother, Maria del Carmen, a well-known flamenco dancer who danced professionally in New York City and elsewhere. The king of Spain made her a Dame in 1990 for her contributions to



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

José Montes presents tapas at his new Canton restaurant, Tasca de Plata.

Spanish culture.

The Canton restaurant has 25 tapas, or "small plates," both hot and cold. They're somewhat like an hors d'oeuvre, he said, but larger, with two or three making a meal. They also serve entrees, including some Mexican food, and paellas.

"We have one that's all seafood," he said of the paellas. "We have another one that's vegetarian. You basically use the rice and you build from there."

Spanish food's a natural for his family, as his parents were from Spain, although his sister and brothers were born here.

"We kind of grew up in that environ-

ment," he said of his mother's dance career from childhood on.

The menu explains such ingredients as shrimp in olive oil, or lamb meatballs with mint. They have beer and wine, and hope to add liquor soon.

Customer Jennifer Smith was pleased with her recent meal at Tasca de Plata.

"The food was delicious, and it was different for the Plymouth-Canton area," said Smith, a speech and language pathologist who lives in Canton. "I liked that they had Spanish food but they also had Mexican food. The salsa was wonderful." She found the staff friendly.

Neighbors feeling 'closed in' by plans for new church

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Upset neighbors called amended plans for Canton Friendship Church's proposed facility on the northeast corner of Beck and Saltz a "complete, 180-degree" turn on Monday night.

"This is nothing like what we were promised," said Hendrie Street resident Gina Thibault during a lengthy public hearing before the Canton Planning Commission.

Thibault, and one of her neighbors, Laura Vespaziani, said they were at peace with the church's plans, which were approved by the Township Board in December, until the amendment surfaced. The amendment calls for the church to be moved 100 feet west of where it was initially planned.

Thibault said the church's sanctuary will be directly south of her home.

"I will feel very closed in," she said, adding that the distance between her home and the church would be less than 70 feet.

In addition to the amendment of its special land use request, the church also presented a revision to its site plan with the proposed purchase of a seven-acre Saltz Road parcel. The church intends to divide the land, which has a single-family home on the west portion, and use the east side to create an additional entrance to the church.

The main entrance is slated for Beck Road.

The idea of a second entrance, which was promoted as a way to lessen traffic congestion, doesn't sit well with Timothy and Nicole Zapinski, who live west of the proposed parcel on Saltz Road.

"Honestly, we don't want the driveway," said Timothy Zapinski.

Canton Friendship Church estimated that about 50 vehicles will be at the church each Sunday.

In the end, the commissioners voted 3-3 on the request, which meant a denial. The request will now go before the Board of Trustees, which can follow the commission or push the project forward.

Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin, who also sits on the board, said she was "disappointed" with the changes in the proposal but voted for it because it met all township ordinance requirements.

The original plans were "a point of satisfaction," McLaughlin said because "everyone felt a bit of pain and a bit of joy." But, the township can't force the church to move the building back to its previously proposed location, she said.

Commissioners Katharine Bovitz and Ronald Lieberman also supported the changes. Commissioners Damon Garrett, Greg Greene and Craig Engel voted against the project.

W-W braces for possible teachers' strike

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools could have summer vacation extended, if the district's teachers carry through on a plan to delay the Sept. 2 start of school.

Members of the Wayne-Westland Education Association voted overwhelmingly Monday evening to authorize the job action, "if the district continues to bargain in bad faith and prevents a fair and equitable contract settlement."

The two sides have been negotiating this week in hopes of reaching a contract settlement. The

teachers' contract expired Monday. "We'd very much like a contract," said John Retzer, WWEA vice president.

"We have been very disappointed by the status of negotiations and the offer by the district."

School Superintendent Greg Baracy said the union's announcement is an attempt to put pressure on the school board and himself.

"I don't anticipate our professional staff will participate in an illegal job action, and this is an illegal action," he said. "I expect them to be in class on Tuesday."

Teachers' strikes have been illegal since 1996, and teachers who participate in such job actions can

be fined or fired. The last time Wayne-Westland teachers walked off the job was in the 1970s.

Teachers were in school this week preparing for the new school year, but whether students are in the classrooms next Tuesday depends on the outcome of this week's bargaining.

Negotiations were scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and Baracy indicated the district is willing to "go around the clock." However, he admitted the two sides are "light years apart."

According to Retzer, the union has three "major" issues — class sizes, health care and wages. He said that only three districts have

salaries less than Wayne-Westland and that new teachers make \$6,000 less than surrounding districts.

"We want comparable salaries, quality health care and smaller class sizes," he added.

Baracy said the district will continue to negotiate in good faith. "We are determined to hold school on Tuesday," he said.

"Our intentions are to get a contract." The school district has been posting negotiation updates on its Web site at www.wwcsd.net since mid-August. About 1,000 Canton children attend Wayne-Westland schools.

© The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

For Home Delivery call: (866) 887-2737

Volume 34
Number 18



6 53174 10007 8



Debt Consolidation

Re-finance High Rate Debt & Save!

Consolidate your high rate credit card debt into one low monthly payment at Community Financial.



COMMUNITY FINANCIAL

(734) 453-1200 (877) 957-2328 toll free www.cfu.org

PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

All loans are subject to credit approval. Rates are based on loan amount, term, and your individual credit history. — NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 Community Financial

INDEX

APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C9
CLASSIFIED	C2-C9
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C3
FILTER	D1
JOB	C7
OBITUARIES	B6
OPINION	A8
PINK	D8
REAL ESTATE	C2
SERVICE GUIDE	C5
SPORTS	B1

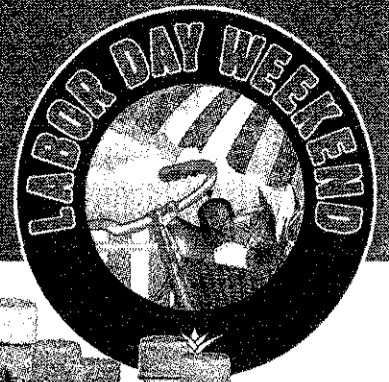


Coming Sunday:
Stars Stand Up
to Cancer

BUSCH'S Labor Day Savings!

Fresh. Food. Ideas.

Save on these Labor Day essentials now through Monday, Sept. 1, 2008.



Your final price with purchase of four:

4/\$10

COCA-COLA
12 PACK 12 OZ. CANS
OR 8 PACK 12 OZ. BOTTLES
OR 6 PACK 24 OZ. BOTTLES
ALL VARIETIES
(PLUS DEPOSIT)
LESSER QUANTITIES \$3.00 EA. (PLUS DEPOSIT)

Mix & Match!



Get \$2.00 OFF INSTANTLY when you purchase any four 12 pk. cans, or 8 pk. or 6 pk. bottles.

99¢ lb.

FAMILY PACK FARM FRESH SPLIT CHICKEN BREAST



K.C. MASTERPIECE BBQ SAUCE
ALL VARIETIES
16 OZ.
2/\$3

9.99

Your Choice:
• BUDWEISER
• BUD LIGHT
• MILLER LITE
18 PACK 12 OZ. CANS
(PLUS DEPOSIT)



BUY 1, GET 1 Free!

AUNT MILLIE'S HOMESTYLE BUNS
WHITE HOT DOG 8 CT. OR
WHITE OR WHEAT HAMBURGER 8 CT.



2.59 lb.

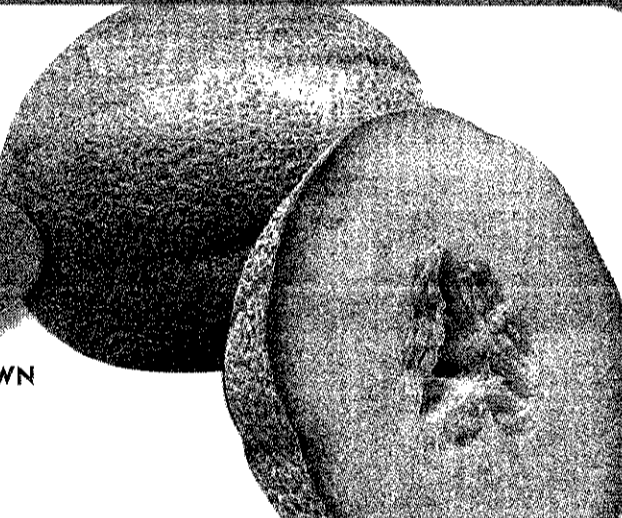
BUSCH'S CERTIFIED FRESH GROUND CHUCK PATTIES



1.99

JUMBO HONEGROWN HONEY ROCK MUSKMELON EACH

Fresh from the fields of Michigan, these melons are vine ripened and unbelievably sweet!



Cut Fresh Daily

39¢ lb.

SEEDLESS WATERMELON CUTS



5.99 lb.

BUSCH'S NATURALLY AGED BEEF WHOLE ROASTING TENDERLOIN



8.99 lb.

BUSCH'S MIDWEST BEEF ANGUS BEEF WHOLE TENDERLOIN



99¢

KRAFT MARSHMALLOWS
JET PUFFED 10 OZ.
OR MINI 10.5 OZ.



2/\$5

NABISCO HONEY GRAHAMS
ALL VARIETIES
14.1-14.4 OZ.



2/\$5

HERSHEY'S MILK CHOCOLATE
6 PACK



BUSCH'S

Fresh. Food. Ideas.

PRICES EFFECTIVE THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2008.

Due to the popularity of our low prices everyday, we reserve the right to limit quantities on advertised items. Selected specials may not be available at every Busch's store.

ANN ARBOR
S. Main Street at
Ann Arbor-Saline
734-998-2666

ANN ARBOR®
Green Road at
Plymouth Road
734-994-7200

CARLETON
Grafton Road
734-654-1600

CLINTON
West Michigan Ave.
517-456-1100

DEXTER®
Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd.
734-426-9600

FARMINGTON HILLS
Grand River Avenue
at Drake Road
248-427-7400

LIVONIA
Six Mile Road at
Newburgh
734-779-6100

PINCKNEY®
East M-36
734-878-7500

PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE®
Sheldon Road at
Five Mile Road
734-414-5200

NOVI
Ten Mile Road at
Meadowbrook
248-348-0708

ROCHESTER HILLS
Walton Boulevard
at Adams Road
248-375-0900

SALINE®
East Michigan Ave.
734-429-6100

SOUTH LYON®
Pontiac Trail at
Nine Mile Road
248-446-8812

TECUMSEH®
West Chicago Blvd.
517-424-1100

BUSCH'S FAMILY SUPERMARKET
WE'RE A Homegrown MICHIGAN STORE.

Twisted Scripture?

Man sues publisher for Bible translations he says discriminate against gays

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bradley Fowler says the biggest misconception about his lawsuit against the world's largest Bible publisher is that he has a problem with the Word of God.

The 39-year-old Canton man says his issue isn't with God's Word but those who have twisted the Scriptures.

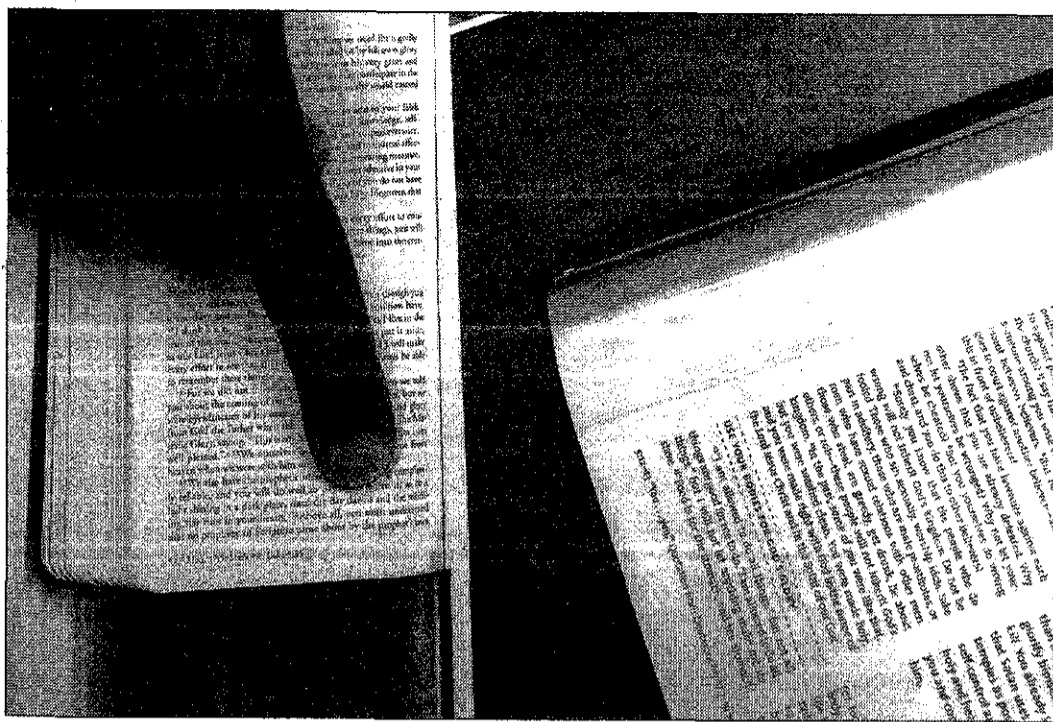
"This is the Holy Bible. What we have been taught doesn't coincide with what was written," said Fowler, who has a \$60 million lawsuit against Zondervan, a Grand Rapids-based publisher. The case was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In the suit, Fowler, who is gay, claims he began experiencing mental anguish and medical problems in 2007 when he came across several Zondervan-published Bibles that used the term "homosexual" in certain Scriptures, particularly 1 Corinthians 6:9.

"When I realized what they had done, I was so furious that I couldn't sleep for at least two days," he said, noting he feels the term was added to push an agenda. "This is a sacred book and the Scriptures say that no one is to add or take away (from the Word)."

Various translations have used various terms over the years to describe one particular group who will not inherit the kingdom of God, such as "sodomites," "practicing homosexuals," "abusers of themselves with mankind," and "men who practice homosexuality."

Zondervan officials, who recently filed a motion to dismiss Fowler's suit, say that Fowler is going after the wrong party.



Fowler points to some of the passages that led to his lawsuit.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Canton's Bradley Fowler has filed suit against Grand-Rapids-based publisher Zondervan for including terms like "homosexual" in its Bible. What do you think of his lawsuit? Either e-mail Editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

"It has come down to taking issue with the way a word was translated (but we did not translate these Bibles, we only published them," said Zondervan spokeswoman Tara Powers.

Powers said teams of evangelical scholars are responsible for the translations.

"It is a laborious and intensive process," she said. "They want it to be accurate."

In its motion to dismiss, Zondervan officials called

Fowler's claims "patently ridiculous" and wrote, "For the purpose of this motion to dismiss, Zondervan will accept all of plaintiff's factual allegations as true. Yet, even then, these facts do not support the legal claims (the plaintiff has made)."

Fowler, who is representing himself in the lawsuit, believes the Bible never addresses consensual homosexual relationships and discovered the use of the term while doing research for his Bible study guide.

"From the age of 10, I have been told that I was wrong because it was in the Bible," he said.

"But God never said it was wrong, it was people that put that in there. The Bible has been changed so many times it's ridiculous."

Nonetheless, Fowler's claims have been discussed on tens of thousands of Web sites and blogs and many have denounced the author's

lawsuit calling it a stunt to bolster his writing career and solid proof that the world is in its "last days."

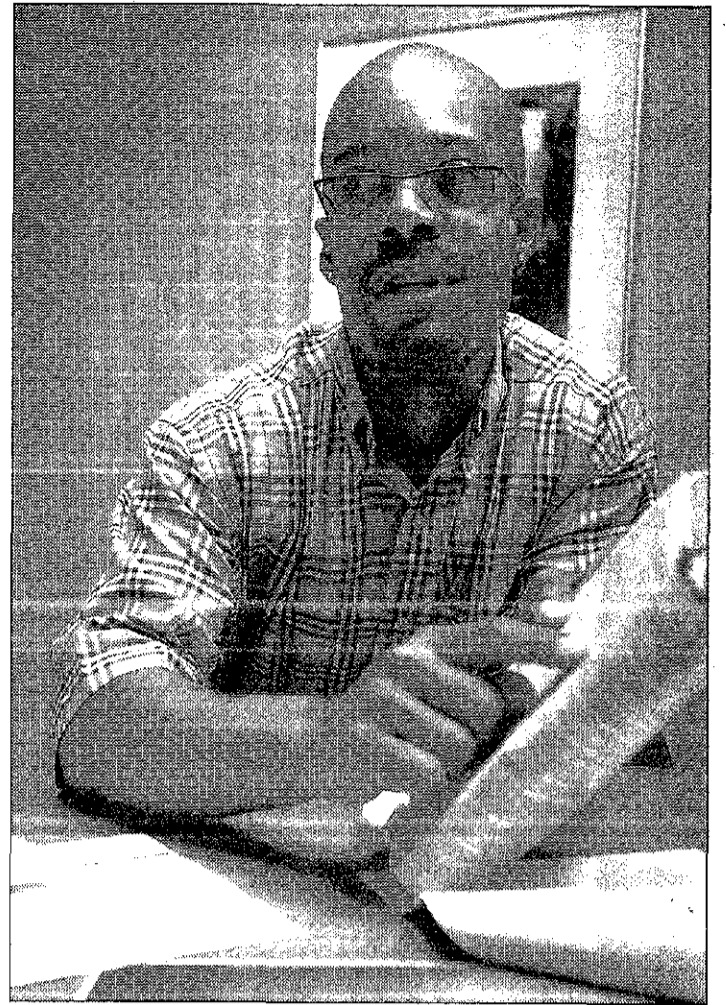
Fowler's criminal past, which includes a manslaughter conviction in 1986, has also been raised as a measure of his credibility.

While admitting his past faults, including a destructive childhood that he says was triggered by molestation from a male family member, Fowler says he is emotionally drained and would not have placed himself in a position to be the "laughingstock of the country" if he didn't believe in his cause.

"My faith says that I'm right," he said.

"Nothing in my body tells me that I'm wrong. To the public, it seems that I made it this far alone but my God has directed my path."

tiparks@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2170



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Bradley Fowler of Canton goes over his research detailing the information he has compiled in bringing a civil lawsuit a Grand Rapids publisher of the Bible.

New TV?
I Can Help
Wiring, Mounting & Advice

Call Dave anytime
Thomason Electronics
248-529-6311
stereodave@comcast.net

Spinal Stenosis
Severe Back, Sciatica or leg pain guide that You Should Know About...Available free.

Detroit, MI - Have you tried pills, injections, therapy, surgery or massage? Shane L. Stanley Doctor of Chiropractic offering *The Severe Back, Sciatica, And Disc Pain Guide* for local residents suffering from severe back, sciatica, and leg pain. Discover why your treatments have failed and a possible new solution that most doctors have not heard of.

Call 1-800-469-3618 (24 hour recorded message) or go to:
www.midischerniation.com

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

We deliver!
We GUARANTEE it!

Did we miss you? Was your paper wet? If, for any reason you don't get your hometown news, just call us at **(866)88-PAPER** and we'll deliver a replacement paper or credit your account for any missed paper—your choice.

EXCITING NEWS!— You can now schedule vacation stops, make vacation donations to local schools and more on our website. Check it out at hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
YOUR TOTALLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER

STORE CLOSING EVERYTHING MUST GO! HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION!

RIDER'S
HOBBY SHOPS

30991 5 Mile • Livonia

734-425-9720

Hours: M-F 10-7 pm, Sat. 10-6 pm, Sun. 12-5

The Best Teacher Store In Town!
Resources Devoted To Early Childhood Through Middle School:

Save **15-60%** Everything in PTR Center

Works & Activity Books, BB Sets, Trimmers, Decoratives, Ready Letters, Cut-Outs, Chartlets, Banners, Desk Plates, Incentives, Packet Charts, Sentence Strips, Fadeless BB Paper, Writing Tablets, Manipulatives, Games, Art Supplies and More!

Purchase Orders Accepted
New Merchandise Arrives Daily!

The Parent Teacher Resource Center at The Doll Hospital in Berkely
3947 W. 12 Mile, 248-543-3115 Mon-Wed 10-7 Thurs 10-6:30 Fri & Sat 10-5:30 Sun 12-4

KITCHEN REFACING

\$500 Countertop*
Includes Installation
50% SAVINGS OR MORE!

FREE ESTIMATES

cabinet clinic
The Leader in Cabinet Refacing
West 734-421-8151
North-East 586-751-1848

www.cabinetclinic.com
* Limited time offer-50 sq. ft. max. with refacing installation.

36-MONTH CD

5.00%* APY

\$1,000 MINIMUM BALANCE

Huntington

Get a great CD rate without jumping through hoops.

Some CD offers seem too good to be true. And with all the restrictions some banks have, they usually are. But Huntington is different. We help you get more for your money. All you need to get started is a \$1,000 deposit. After all, saving money can be easy.

1-877-480-2345 | huntington.com

For more information, stop by a Huntington banking office or call us.

*Minimum balance to open and obtain Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for Huntington Certificate of Deposit is \$1,000. APY is current and accurate as of date of publication and subject to change without notice. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal, which would reduce earnings on the account. For personal accounts of less than \$100,000. Not valid with any other offer. FDIC insured up to applicable limits. The Huntington National Bank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. ® and Huntington® are federally registered service marks of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated. ©2008 Huntington Bancshares Incorporated.

SERVING
CUSTOMERS

for

125 Years

1883

Kroger

2008

Ground Chuck

Fresh,
USDA Inspected,
3 lbs or Larger

\$1.99

lb With Card

Brie Burgers with Grilled Pears, Caramelized Onions and Garlic Aioli

Yield 4 half inch thick burgers

- 1 1/4 pound ground chuck
- 1/4 cup brie, diced
- 2 tablespoons of your favorite red wine or port
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 pear, quartered and cored
- 4 ciabatta rolls or focaccia squares sliced
- 2 cups arugula or mixed greens
- 2 slices brie per burger for melting

Cook the ground chuck, diced brie and wine or port. Add salt and pepper to taste. Make into 4 half inch thick patties. Mix mayonnaise and garlic together. Add oil to sauté pan and heat over medium high heat, sauté onions with brown sugar stirring frequently until very brown, set aside. Grill pear slices just until marked. Over medium high flame grill burger until desired doneness, about 4 minutes per side for medium rare or when internal temperature reaches 160° F. Top with brie slices and melt. Grill rolls cut side down until lightly toasted about 2 minutes. Spread mayonnaise mix on bottom of roll, place burger on roll, then place caramelized onions on burger, arugula or mixed greens and finally arrange pear slices on top of greens.

McCormick Grinder Spices

Select Varieties,
.85-2.12 oz

10\$ 10

for With Card

Kroger Marinades

Select Varieties,
12 oz

10\$ 10

for With Card

Prices Effective through Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2008

Charity Casino now open

The Canton Charity Casino comes to the Shark Club, 42070 Ford Road in Canton every Thursday through Sunday, beginning Sept. 4.

Offering nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games, the Canton Charity Casino provides a venue for players of all skill levels, as well as custom tables and equipment, trained dealers, and a professional staff. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the state of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend should call (734) 502-7033 or e-mail sepokertb@gmail.com.

Canton Charity Casino hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Thursday/Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.), and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday/Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.).

Hazardous waste drop-off

Canton's annual Hazardous Household Waste Day will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6 at Canton's Division of Public Works Building, located at 4847 Sheldon Road. This event is open to Canton residents only and is an opportunity to make your home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable, or corrosive.

Examples of acceptable waste being collected include, but are not limited to, fluorescent light bulbs, oil-based and latex paint, paint thinner, turpentine, bug sprays, floor-care products, expired medicine, computers and scanners, dry cleaning solvents, rat poison, household batteries, propane tanks, mercury waste, anti-freeze, brake fluid, diesel fuel, kerosene, motor oil, and acids.

Canton will be unable to accept commercial waste, construction debris, explosives or ammunition, fire extinguishers, firewood, radioactive material, smoke detectors, and tires. To obtain a detailed list of what is and is not acceptable please call Canton Public Works at (734) 394-5150 or visit www.canton-mi.org.

For year round disposal of hazardous waste, Canton Waste Recycling (CWR), located at 42020 Van Born Road, will accept limited items on scheduled Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on scheduled Saturdays from 8-11 a.m. Items accepted for drop off at CWR include, batteries, oil, antifreeze, and paint (limited to five one-gallon containers). CWR recycling dates can be found in your monthly Focus Newsletter under the community calendar or by calling CWR at (734) 397-5801.

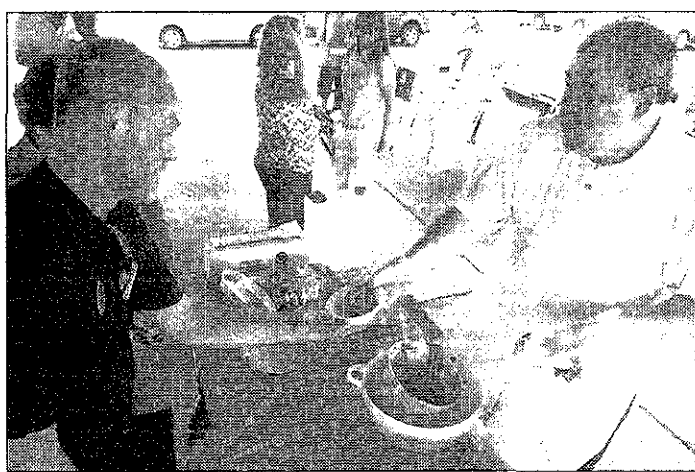
Partnership fund-raiser

Canton's Partnership for the Arts and Humanities has been collecting on pledges made during its initial capital campaign when its efforts were exclusively focused on supporting the construction of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Like other charitable organizations, the Partnership has seen its donor base shrink because of the economy. As a result it hasn't been able to provide funding to local arts programs, particularly at the theater. Beginning in September the Partnership will hold its annual fund raising drive.

"With gas prices on the rise, folks can experience culture and arts right here in their own neighborhood with all the theater has to offer," said Executive Director Elizabeth Knoll, who noted if every Canton household donated \$25 a year to the Partnership and its efforts to support cultural arts, it would provide the resources needed to keep the Village Theater resident groups expanding as well as dollars to invest in new cultural arts projects.

For more information on making a donation to the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, please log on to www.partnershipforarts.org to download a giving form or



call (734) 765-7061.

Fine art camp exhibition

D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley Road in Canton, will be holding its 18th Annual Open House and Fine Art Camp Exhibition through Aug. 30.

The art show is open to the public and will more than 400 units of children's art on display, including the "Wild Things" mural created by the children between the ages of 3 and 16. For studio hours and more information, call (734) 453-3710, e-mail dmartist1@aol.com or visit

the studio's Web site at www.dmartstudio.com.

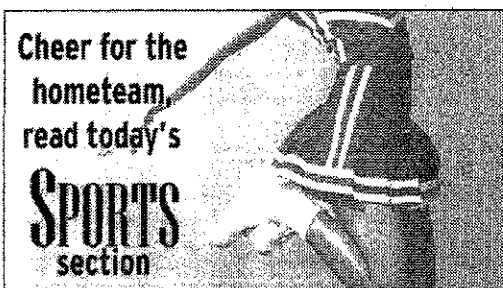
Children's carnival

Abundant Life Church, located at 2100 Hannan Road in Canton, will host a children's carnival 6-8:30 p.m., Aug. 28-30. The event will feature food, activities and inflatables for the children, as well as an interactive children's Bible program. On Aug. 30, there will be a picnic from 4-6 p.m., and will feature volleyball, horse shoes, a slip and slide and plenty of food. Register to win a free bike. For more information, send an e-mail to arkybuddyamb@aol.com.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One scoop or two?

Lt. Governor John Cherry (right) was in Canton last week during an ice cream social hosted by the Community Democratic Club at UAW Local 735 on Michigan Avenue. Here Cherry serves some ice cream to Larry Parks of Northville. The event was also attended by local Democratic elected officials.



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

Observer
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD
 GANNETT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HOW TO REACH US

Home Delivery/Customer Service.....1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
 Newsroom.....(734) 953-2104 Fax.....(734) 591-7279
 Sports Nightline.....(734) 953-2104
 Classified Advertising.....1-800-579-SELL (7355)
 Display Advertising.....(734) 582-8363

POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
 The Canton Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-670 Published every Thursday and Sunday.
 Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

JCPenney® Optical

FINAL DAYS!
\$99
 COMPLETE PAIR OF EYEGLASSES*
 • Any frame up to \$130
 • Scratch-resistant lenses
 • Single vision, lined bifocals or

FREE NO-LINE BIFOCALS!

GET 1 BOX FREE
 when you buy 3 boxes of ACUVUE® Brand ULTRA COMFORT SERIES™ Contact Lenses!
 Offer expires August 30, 2008

\$49
KIDS' EYEGLASS PACKAGE™
 • FREE Impact and Scratch-Resistant Polycarbonate Lenses
 • FREE UV Protection
 • FREE WARRANTY!
 covers breakage and scratches or until the eyeglasses are outgrown or the prescription changes.

We Accept Most Vision Care Plans
 Call today for your eye exam or bring in your Rx.

Canton: 43690 Ford Road (734) 207-4346
Chesterfield Township: Waterside Marketplace (586) 949-0639

*\$99 offer includes any frame up to \$130, single vision, ST28 lined bifocals or standard inactive no-line bifocals with scratch-resistant plastic lenses excluding RayBan and SunSpot Collection. Some special orders excluded. Additional charge may be applied for strong Rx. Other progressive, specialty lenses and lens options are additional. **Offer includes any frame up to \$100.00. FREE warranty and polycarbonate lenses for any child 18 and under. See optician for details. Cannot be combined with another offer, vision care plan, package pricing or prior orders. Eye exams arranged or we call fill your doctor's prescription. Participating stores only. Void where prohibited by law. Eye exams performed by independent state licensed Doctors of Optometry. Offer ends September 8, 2008. Valid prescription required. An eye exam is required to determine if contact lenses are right for you. See store for details. Other terms and conditions may apply. Important information for contact lens wearers: ACUVUE® Brand Contact Lenses are available by prescription only for vision correction. An eye care professional will determine whether contact lenses are right for you. Although rare, serious eye problems can develop. To help avoid these problems, follow the wear and replacement schedule and the lens care instructions provided by your doctor. Do not wear lenses if you have an eye infection, or experience eye discomfort, excessive tearing, vision changes, redness or other eye problems. If one of these conditions occurs, contact your eye doctor immediately. For more information on proper wear, care and safety, talk to your eye care professional. Call 1-800-843-2020 or visit acuvue.com. ACUVUE®, ACUVUE® ADVANCE®, ACUVUE® OASIS™, HYDRACLEAR® AND ULTRA COMFORT SERIES™ are registered trademarks of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. ©2008 J&J

CALL 1-877-JCPEYES SHOP - JCPEYES.com

the great indoors®

BUY ANY MATTRESS AT 50% OFF, GET THE MATCHING FOUNDATION FOR JUST \$1

- plus no interest, no payments for 12 months
on all mattress sets \$399 or more with qualifying card. See important Deferred Interest Promotional Offer Details below. Offer ends 9/6/08.
- plus free delivery and setup
on all mattress sets \$399 or more. Free standard local delivery with mail-in rebate. Outside local delivery area, customer pays an additional charge. Rebate values, local area and additional charges vary. Maximum rebate value \$65. See store for details.
- plus free removal of your old mattress
Excludes waterbeds.
- plus free bedframe
Up to a 59.99 value. Offer good for frame of comparable size to mattress. No substitutions.



<p>sale 1449.99 + \$1 = 1450.99 queen mattress + foundation Serta Spa Escape Reg. 3399.99 -9</p>	<p>sale 1249.99 + \$1 = 1250.99 queen mattress + foundation Vera Wang by Serta Vera Allure Reg. 2999.99 -9</p>
<p>sale 479.99 + \$1 = 480.99 queen mattress + foundation Sealy Southernwood Plush Reg. 1099.99 -9</p>	<p>sale 849.99 + \$1 = 850.99 queen mattress + foundation Spring Air Indulgence Plush Reg. 2199.99 -9</p>
<p>sale 1049.99 + \$1 = 1050.99 queen mattress + foundation Spring Air Berkshire Reg. 2699.99 -9</p>	<p>sale 979.99 + \$1 = 980.99 queen mattress + foundation Sealy Gallantry Cushion Firm Reg. 2399.99 -9</p>

ALL BASIC BEDDING ON SALE*
 • all sheets • all pillows
 • all mattress pads

BUY 1 TOWEL OR BATH RUG, GET **50% OFF** THE SECOND*
Second item must be of equal or lesser value.

ALL DRAPERIES ON SALE*

ALL FURNITURE ON SALE*
 • all accent furniture • all headboards
 • all dining • all home office
 • all entertaining • all patio furniture

*All offers exclude Never Priced Lower items, clearance, Charisma™ and Bravo towels, special order barstools, special purchases and Lands' End furniture.

take an additional **25% OFF** all clearance items
Excludes home appliances, home electronics, plumbing and lighting. Offer ends 9/1/08.

ARIZONA Chandler 480-792-6000 Scottsdale 480-281-9000
 CALIFORNIA Burbank 818-260-8000 Chino Hills 909-972-6000 Irvine 949-340-6000
 COLORADO Broomfield 720-566-1000 Lone Tree 303-708-2500
 ILLINOIS Lombard 630-873-8000 Schaumburg 847-874-8000
 MARYLAND Gaithersburg 240-599-1300 MICHIGAN Novi 248-679-1000
 NEVADA Las Vegas 702-949-6600 NEW JERSEY Woodbridge 732-956-2300
 OHIO Columbus 614-880-8800 TEXAS Farmers Branch 214-764-1000 Houston 832-476-8000

ALL mail-in rebates exclude sales tax. Offers end 9/6/08 unless otherwise stated.

the great indoors

IMPORTANT DEFERRED INTEREST PROMOTIONAL OFFER DETAILS (when offered): FINANCE CHARGES accrue on a promotional purchase from the date of purchase at the regular purchase rate in effect from time to time and all accrued FINANCE CHARGES for the entire promotional period will be added to your account if the purchase is not paid in full by the end of the promotional period or if you default under your card agreement. Making the minimum monthly payment will not pay off your promotional purchase in time to avoid FINANCE CHARGES. With credit approval, for qualifying purchases when you use your card agreement. Making the minimum monthly payment will not pay off your promotional purchase in time to avoid FINANCE CHARGES. With credit approval, for qualifying purchases when you use the Great Indoors MasterCard® or a Sears card (Commercial One® excluded). Sears Home Improvement Account™ valid on installed sales only. Offer is only valid for consumer accounts in good standing and is subject to change without notice. May not be combined with any other credit promotional offers. Promotional offers greater than 14 months require minimum monthly payments as disclosed in the offer. Sears card APRs up to 26.49%, but if your account has a variable APR, the APR is up to 28.99% as of 8/4/08 and may vary. Minimum monthly FINANCE CHARGE up to \$1. See card agreement for details including when the default rate applies. Sears cards are issued by Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. Sears Solutions cards are issued by HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jane Bensen, 10, of Canton (right) looks for the right boxes as she and her 7-year-old sister, Claire, make a donation to the Back to School Blitz Friday morning at the Salvation Army in Plymouth.

Drive fills bus with needed school items

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

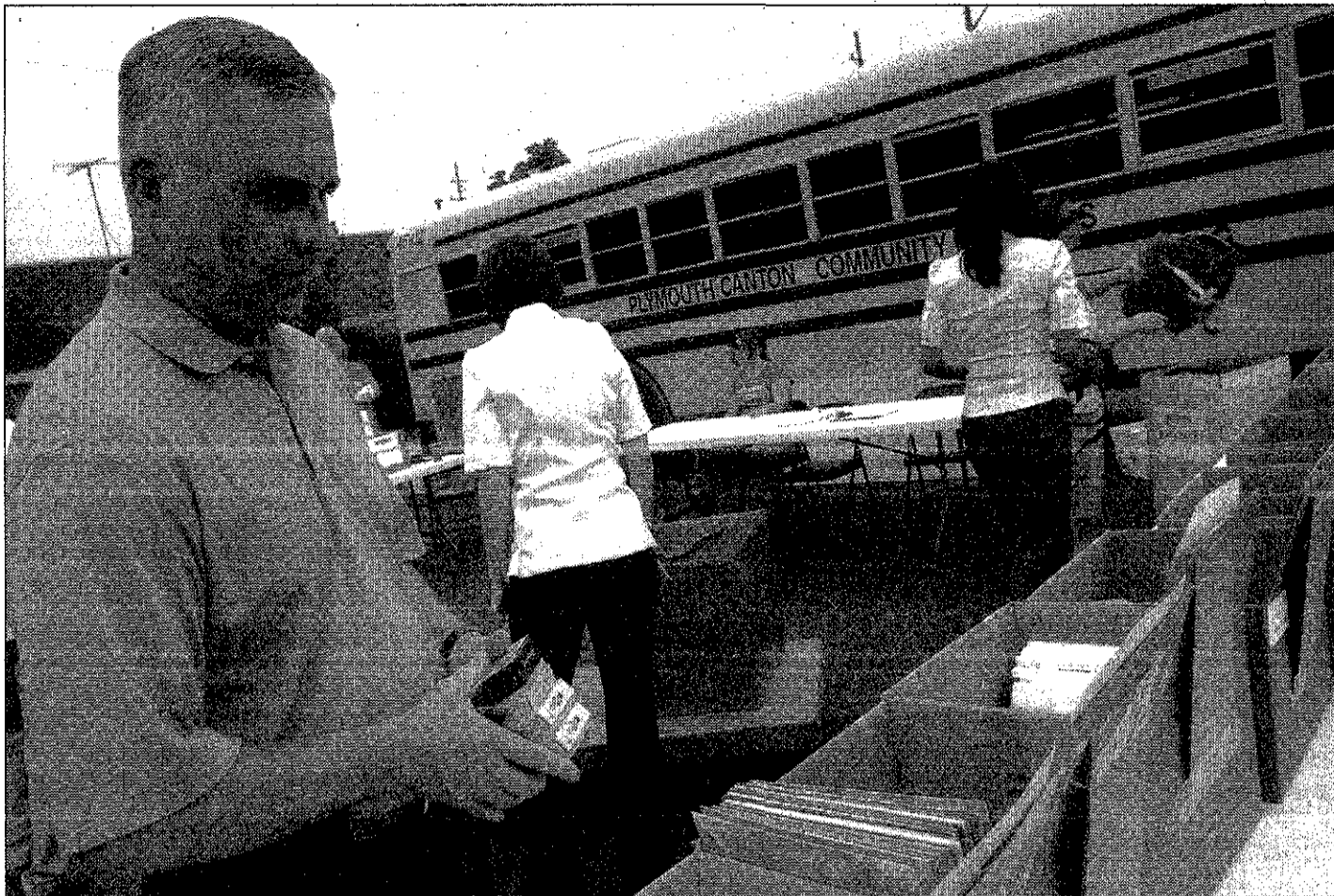
Gayle Berner of Canton Township arrived at the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps parking lot off Main Street with several bags of back-to-school items Friday morning.

Berner said she heard about the drive sponsored by the Salvation Army and Plymouth-Canton Schools to fill a school bus with school

supplies, and showed up with several shopping bags loaded with notebooks, pens, markers and crayons.

"I want to help out the kids who can't get the supplies themselves," said Berner. "It's a good thing to do, and makes you feel good."

Maj. Jim Irvine, pastor and corps officer of the Plymouth Salvation Army, witnessed a flow of people who delivered supplies — rulers, paper, pens, pencils and backpacks



Plymouth-Canton Community Schools superintendent Dr. Craig Fiegel sorts out donations during the Back to School Blitz at the Salvation Army in Plymouth.

— Friday during a one-day, 12-hour drive.

"Parents are being squeezed on every front and they're having a difficult time getting the kids the supplies they need to go back to school," Irvine said. "And yet, people from all walks of life, at all abilities, have come to help." Fourteen-year-old Angela

Moser of Plymouth volunteered to sort the donations.

"I just wanted to do it to help other kids," said Moser, who noted there were times when her family needed similar help. "It's hard to ask, but it feels good to help."

Sarah Lee of Flat Rock represented employees of the Comcast Call Center in

Plymouth Township who donated school supplies.

"Sometimes you don't realize how something like this can tax somebody's family," said Lee. "And, it's nice to know that in two weeks some kid will get a brand new ruler that he wasn't going to get, or new pencils or a box of crayons."

A \$2,647 grant from Comcast, along with \$2,000 from the Wilcox Foundation and Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, will allow the Salvation Army to give families \$40 gift certificates to

purchase new shoes.

The kids in the corps' day camp also got involved, donating change each day that raised \$567 for new shoes. It helped them win a bet — to throw a pie in the face of Irvine who said "It was worth it."

CVS donated 12-hundred packs of pencils, and Prito Lay employees at the distribution center in Plymouth Township also donated supplies.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2172

DOES YOUR DOG LIKE TO CUDDLE AT NIGHT?

Happy Hounds now offers....
Cage-Free Overnight Boarding!

Your dog will have all the comforts of home in our home-like environment, including sleeping on the bed with our trained and loving staff member!

Dog Day Care • Boarding • Training Classes
Visit our website for details

Our gang - we share - Sweet Dreams!

Brynn, Coco & Apache

If you are at work, on vacation, or traveling for business, we are at work caring for your loyal friend & companion

Look in on them on our LIVE Doggie Web Cams!

734-459-DOGS

673 South Main St. • Plymouth, MI 48170
www.happyhoundsdaycare.com

"A HAPPY DOG DAY...IS A DAY OF DOG PLAY!"

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: August 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2008

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Beginning 9-2-08, the Charter Township of Plymouth Department of Public Works will start its fire hydrant winterization program. You may notice a temporary discoloration of your water. This should only be for a short period of time. Any prolonged problems should be reported to the DPW by calling 734-354-3270 x3.

Publish: August 24 & 28, 2008

Do you have **OLD GOLD JEWELRY** that is outdated, or you no longer wear? As Easy as 1-2-3...

...Let **Showroom of Elegance** turn **old GOLD into new GREEN**

1. Turn it in for in-store credit on new jewelry. 2. Use your old gold to create a custom design. 3. Receive a cash payment for your items!

Make your choice, and turn that old gold into something you can use today!

Showroom of Elegance is a trusted, licensed and insured Fine Jewelry store located in the Canton Community.

We are the source to meet all your jewelry needs.

Come in and visit us today!

Showroom of Elegance FINE JEWELRY

BRING IN THIS AD and receive a **BONUS Showroom of Elegance Gift Card** if we buy your gold!

6018 Canton Center Rd.
Canton MI 48187
(North of Ford Rd.)
734.207.1906

Store Hours:
Tues.-Sat. 9:30-6:00
Closed Sun. & Mon.

www.showroomofelegance.com

Introducing CurvesSmart:
The world's most technologically-advanced workout for women.

INTRODUCING CurvesSmart

CurvesSmart is programmed with your body's own information then adjusts and monitors every workout. All you have to do is "go for green"—the green light that means you're working out at the pace that will get you to your fitness goals. Join the revolution. Call today and see just how personal your workout can be.

Curves
YOUR CURVES WILL AMAZE YOU.

curves.com

Try CurvesSmart at the following locations:

(734) 844-6741 44248 Cherry Hill Rd. CANTON
(248) 344-4466 42965 Seven Mile Rd. NORTHVILLE
(734) 414-0515 44717 Five Mile Rd. PLYMOUTH
(248) 446-9330 25820 Pontiac Trail SOUTH LYON

©2008 Curves International, Inc.

Bankruptcy can help give individuals a fresh start

I received a letter from a couple in severe financial condition. They maxed out their charge cards. They worked with a credit counselor, who got their payments lowered. They called the charge card company, which lowered the interest on their debt.

Despite all that, they were still in all sorts of financial difficulty. After careful review, I recommended they file Chapter 7 bankruptcy. It was the only way to relieve them of their financial crisis.

Money Matters

Rick Bloom I believed there was no realistic way they could continue to maintain their payments. Recently, I received a letter from a reader who disagreed with my conclusion.

The basic premise of the letter was that people get themselves into financial difficulty and they should get themselves out.

The letter writer believed bankruptcy was immoral and something that, if up to him, would not be available. He asked me to address the issue.

I appreciate different opinions and I learn by listening to others. That being said, I stand by my original recommendation. I do not think bankruptcy is immoral.

We live in a great country, which recognizes that people make mistakes and sometimes need a fresh start. That is what bankruptcy is meant to do. It is not meant to reward, but rather an opportunity to learn and to get a fresh start.

Many people believe there are no consequences to bankruptcy. Not true. There are substantial consequences for anyone who files for bankruptcy. Not only is your credit situation hurt, but filing for bankruptcy can also impact your ability to

obtain a job. In addition, there is the psychological aspect that people go through when they file for bankruptcy.

There is another issue that rarely gets discussed, but I believe should be raised. Many personal bankruptcies are because of charge cards. There is no doubt that many people are irresponsible with charge cards and that leads to problems. However, it is important to recognize that charge card companies — in many situations — are charging exorbitant amounts of interest. One reason they charge high interest rates is to cover losses caused by bankruptcies.

The charge card companies, in effect, are charging individuals an insurance premium to insure themselves from losses due to bankruptcy. You could argue this premium is no different than any other type people pay to cover themselves in the case of a loss.

I do not believe bankruptcy should be a first choice if you run into financial difficulties. One should explore a variety of options to determine which

suits the situation. However, after exploring options, if bankruptcy is the best option, so be it.

An individual who follows the law and selects bankruptcy should not be stigmatized. Northwest Airlines, Kmart and thousands of companies that have filed for bankruptcy don't believe they cheated their creditors or their shareholders. Companies use bankruptcy laws for their best interest.

I have no problem recommending that we as individuals also take advantage of the law where appropriate.

That does not mean bankruptcy is always the best solution, because it is not. However, it is one solution that individuals facing severe financial difficulty should explore and use where appropriate.

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

College students need to prevent fires

Every year, college and university students experience a growing number of fire-related emergencies. There are several causes for these fires, but most are due to a general lack



Tom Kiurski

of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. Fire safety must be a part of their lives. College-age students may feel invincible at this age, but they aren't. Most of our children will take responsibility for their own safety if we only show them how to do it.

There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths. In more than 50 percent of adult fire fatalities, victims were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fire. Alcohol abuse often impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts. Cooking is the leading cause of fire injuries on college campuses, closely followed by careless smoking and arson. Many factors contribute to the problem of dormitory housing fires.

■ Improper use of 911 notification systems delays emergency response.

■ Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in the environment.

■ Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.

■ Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and preplanning.

■ Vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarm systems inhibit early detection of fires.

■ Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase the risk of fires.

If your child is going away to college this year, give them information on how to take responsibility for their own safety. Sit down with them and explain to them the following key points:

■ Provide students with a program for fire safety and prevention.

■ Teach students how to properly notify the fire department using the 911 system.

■ Install smoke alarms in every dormitory room and every

level of housing facilities.

■ Maintain and regularly test smoke alarms and fire alarm systems. Replace smoke alarm batteries every semester.

■ Regularly inspect rooms and buildings for fire hazards.

■ Inspect exit doors and windows and make sure they are working properly.

■ Create and update detailed floor plans of buildings, and make them available to emergency personnel, resident advisors and students.

■ Conduct fire drills and practice escape routes and evacuation plans. Urge students to take each alarm seriously.

■ Do not overload electrical outlets and make sure extension cords are used properly.

■ Learn to properly use and maintain heating and cooking appliances.

The steps that everyone can take to protect themselves and their children are fairly simple ones. Since your student may never have had to take responsibility for their own safety before, prepare them before they head out the door for college.

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

36th Annual
Algonac
art fair



...on the
Waterfront in
Algonac City Park

FREE ADULT
ART CLASSES

3-4 pm daily
(registration required
at fair)

Saturday & Sunday • August 30th & 31st
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Daily

Fine Arts & Crafts • Entertainment • Refreshments

For More Information,
please visit www.algonacartfair.com

or Call 810-794-5937

No Pets Allowed

CE0801287

Farmer John's Greenhouse

Annuals • Perennials • Shrubs
Tropical Plants • Pottery

SHRUB SALE

50% OFF

Fresh Loads Daily

No Coupon Needed Good Thru October 31, 2008

26950 Haggerty • Farmington Hills • 248.553.7141
www.farmerjohnsgreenhouse.com

IT'S SMART MONEY

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

4.11%

APY*

16-MONTH

IT'S EASY MATH. Just put your money into a Citizens Bank high-yield CD to make more. That's smart.

TO FIND THE CITIZENS BANK LOCATION NEAREST YOU,
VISIT CITIZENSBANKING.COM OR

CALL 800-444-6989.

CITIZENS BANK

*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is valid as of 8/24/08. \$1,000 minimum deposit required to open the account. Offer valid only on new accounts. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Offer available to individuals only and is subject to change at any time. May not be combined with any other certificate of deposit offer.



CE08018047



MEDILODGE

A Place for Healing

Rehabilitation & Nursing Facilities

CALL TODAY!

586-752-5008

www.medilodge.com



OUR VIEWS

Schmitt is Canton's true hometown Olympian

A couple of years ago, during the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, figure skaters Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto helped put Canton on the map with their silver medal-winning performance in ice dancing.

Canton responded with a grand celebration for the two heroes. But Belbin was born in Ontario, Canada, and Agosto was born in Chicago, and neither of them were reared here. They just happened to train at Canton's Arctic Ice arena (something they no longer do).

Allison Schmitt, on the other hand, is a true hometown hero. The 2008 Canton High graduate was raised in the Canton community and began swimming here when she was just 6 years old. A little over a week ago, Schmitt stood near the top of the swimming world in Beijing, China. The 18-year-old was part of the U.S. women's 4 x 200 freestyle relay team that won a bronze medal.



Allison Schmitt

The fact that the team didn't earn a gold didn't faze Schmitt one bit. She was just thrilled to be able to compete on such a stage.

"When we were standing on the podium for the medal ceremony, I couldn't stop smiling. It was like a dream come true," Schmitt said. "I still don't really believe it all. It was so cool just to be able to participate in the Olympics. To get a medal, too, was very special."

Schmitt's Olympic experience included meeting the president of the United States and many of America's top athletes, including her teammate Michael Phelps, as well as basketball stars LeBron James and Kobe Bryant. It was truly a dream-like week for Schmitt.

However, she said everything paled in comparison to winning an Olympic medal. It was the culmination of countless hours of training and hard work, which only Schmitt, her parents (Gail and Ralph Schmitt) and her coaches can truly appreciate.

Tonight, Schmitt will be honored at halftime of the Canton-Brighton high school football game at the PCEP junior varsity field. It will be a fitting and well-deserved honor considering the legacy she has left at Canton High. She has set a new standard for all swimmers in the district to look up to.

Fortunately, this is not the end of the story for Schmitt. In addition to swimming for the University of Georgia Bulldogs beginning this fall, she has already said she would like to compete in the 2012 Olympics in London, England. We can't wait.

Congratulations, Allison, and thanks for being such an inspiration.

It's your job, parents, to teach life's most important lessons

With school starting Sept. 2, parents may think they're off the hook for a while.

Not so fast. Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. Parents may get a break from taking care of them from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. when school is in session, but their children don't stop learning when the last school bell of the day rings.

Children learn by example. And the lessons their parents teach are among the most important.

Parents who want their children to succeed in school — and in life — will set a good example. This includes accepting responsibility for their own actions, doing the right thing even when "everyone else" is doing the wrong thing, and following through on their commitments.

Parents can't simply tell their children, "Do as I say, not as I do." They have to live what they teach, or their children will see through their hypocrisy.

A good education is necessary. Today, youngsters need a high school diploma and a college degree or some kind of specialized job training to be financially independent.

But character development is even more essential. A degree from a prestigious university may land a grad a job, but being an honest employee who treats co-workers and managers with respect will help him to keep it.

Parents can't depend on teachers to teach morals — they have enough to do teaching them academics.

Besides it's parents' responsibility to teach their children about responsibility, honesty and the other important lessons of life.



Geoff Brooks © 2008 Observer & Eccentric

LETTERS

Thanks to Farrand

As the new school year begins and both our children are now in middle school, we can't help looking back on the experiences we had at Farrand Elementary.

Our family would like to extend our deepest heartfelt thanks to the teachers and staff at Farrand. Over and over again we were impressed with their professionalism, their skill, their kindness, and their sincere interest in our children's well-being.

We were lucky enough to participate in the multi-age program, and we would like to extend a special thank you to Ann Hagen and Isabelle Sand — two remarkable teachers. We will miss you, the community of volunteers, and all the staff at Farrand.

Good luck on the new school year, and thank you for all you do for our children. You have made a lasting difference in our lives.

Stephanie and Matthew Duda
Plymouth

Restrict dangerous chemicals

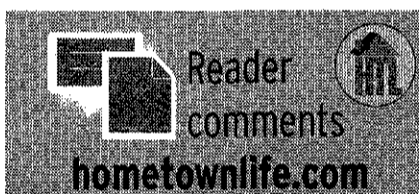
Right now the Michigan legislature is considering the restriction of two dangerous chemicals: lindane a treatment for lice on children; and deca-BDE a flame retardant in mattresses, furniture, computers and televisions. As a Christian, I am deeply concerned about the health effects of these chemicals on children's health and all God's creation.

Lindane has been banned by 50 countries and the state of California. It is no longer used by the U.S. military, or on our livestock. Children who have been improperly exposed to lindane have suffered neurological damage afterwards. There are safer alternatives already in use; and lindane is a last resort when used in a doctor's office.

Deca-BDE is a flame retardant found in furniture, electronics, mattresses and textiles. The flame retardant releases into the air and water and can move up the food chain from fish to humans to babies. Scientific studies have found that American women have the highest concentration of flame retardants in their breast milk. Relatively high levels of deca-BDE have been found in fish from the Great Lakes. Animal studies have linked deca-BDE to thyroid and liver diseases and developmental delays. Safer flame retardants exist on the market, and should be used in place of deca-BDE.

In the gospel of Matthew 18:2-4, Jesus says, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Children are dear to God, and we must ensure that they are able to grow without concern for toxic trespass of their bodily temples. We are also taught that God made the Earth and said it was good (Genesis 1:18). God put us on the Earth to care for Creation (Genesis 2:15).

Louise Ramsay
Livonia



Here's a look at what readers are saying about stories on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com:

■ In response to: McCotter: Bush reaction to Georgia invasion 'inexcusable': imjustasayin wrote:

Dear Uncle Thad,
I'm sure GWB was very upset when someone gave him a 5 second cliff note of the E-mail you took 2 days to right and re right. Congratulations on again wasting tax payers money writing it and then calling everyone you know to let them know you took a swing at a president with weeks left in power. What a brass pair you have. Go ahead and listen to your advisers and try to suck up some Democratic votes for November while you can.

I hope the next president knows when to get our troops involved and when to do things diplomatically as well as GWB does. China and Russia are strong world powers, it's not like the sand dunes of backwater Iraq and the caves of Afghanistan. China and Russia can bring the war here, to our Georgia, please do not forget that (even though you would probably be in Canada for it anyway).

It was a bold move to go to China and needed to be done. More than a rebellion Georgia. More then baby-sitting Congress. He Showed PRIDE in America. Try it sometime."

phikapbob wrote:
Constituents: McCotter reaction to everything "inexcusable"

Is this saber-rattling against China and Russia? Is McCotter intent on reinvigorating the Cold War, or going all the way to WW3? His position to "make sure they have weapons to defend themselves" should be translated to "we need to allow our Republican Military-Industrial-Complex warmongering donors to sell them more weapons."

I also ask McCotter, if he's such a stalwart for energy policy, where was he during the last six years when Dick Cheney was allowing oil companies to construct the previous energy bills. He was right there by Bush/Cheney's side, cheerleading as usual.

tigersnut wrote:
What I find ironic is how Congressman McCotter is distancing himself from Bush when he has been so "Rah-Rah Bush" in the past ... lame attempt to get reelected.

chickenfight wrote:
It is idiotic to think that being in Iraq makes us lack moral authority about going into Georgia. Iraq is a problem but in a different way. The president executed this war poorly. He did not listen to his generals on the ground as he so often claims. He tried to do two wars on the cheap to prevent any injury to American business and the economy. Yes people, the economy

would be a lot worse if the President had actually asked for sacrifice from the American people. We should have devoted our full resources to crushing the Taliban (which are now resurging) and finished off Afghanistan before we went anywhere else. Now we have zero military resources to defend our ally Georgia. Congressman McCotter has been complicit in the way this war was executed and due to his high standing in the congressional Republican delegation, should share more blame in America's failing to have the ability to protect our allies.

■ In response to Teacher strike could be looming:

teachergrandma wrote:
I'd like to make a correction: there were certainly more than 150 teachers at the meeting at the WWCS Board Office. There were closer to 300 or more district staff and parents/community members gathered to show support for our bargaining team, which by the way, has been attempting to secure a fair contract for district staff. Unfortunately, much of the information given to the community has been skewed regarding negotiations this summer against the union.

windcitizen wrote:

I agree teachers deserve to be among the ranks of importance along with police, firefighters, doctors, etc. Without them our community would be lost. From what I have heard some of which was directly from teachers, this is not about class sizes and such things that directly effect our students. This is about pay raises and health care. Although these issues are important, this isn't anything the rest of us haven't faced already with the current state of our economy. I also agree that there are not enough parents involved, but I don't see a smaller class size changing that. Those parents either work two or three jobs or they are the kind of parent who wouldn't participate anyway. Whether or not it was the right time for football fields or gyms to be upgraded is left to be determined. I can say they are needed because without them there would be less revenue to the schools and more students with extra time on their hands with nothing better to do. We can all guess what that would lead to.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Canton Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
kkuban@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"All of our efforts and energy should be focused on turning Michigan around by attracting new businesses and investment. Kwame Kilpatrick's frequent appearances in the news do nothing to draw businesses to Michigan. If our biggest city is such a mess, why would any business want to set up shop in our state?"

— State representative candidate Dian Slavens of Canton, who joined the ranks of people calling for Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to step down from office

CANTON
Observer

GANNETT

Kurt Kuban
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Peter Neill
Vice President
General Manager

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Marty Carry
Director of
Advertising

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

Presidential contest is close, and the question is why

The Democrats are doing their thing this week. The Republicans take the stage next week.

You'll hear a lot of the usual jibes, attacks, innuendoes and high-flying rhetorical flourishes. Unfortunately, political conventions are not the best venues for discovering what the candidates and parties are all about.



Hugh Gallagher

In a conversation last week with U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, he said congressional candidates who hold too closely to doctrinaire party positions would be the ones in danger of losing their seats this November.

But you can go on YouTube and watch a McCotter presentation on the House floor in which he drags out all the old and dreary labels for the Democrats. He attempts to "humorously" present a primer on speaking Democratic and then proceeds to equate Democrats with socialists, appeasers, big taxers, big spenders, anti-business. You know the drill. (But no, he isn't in danger of losing his seat.)

In our conversation, he said the American public is just as angry at Democratic-controlled Congress as they are at the sitting Republican president. He cites polls showing that this is the most unpopular Congress ever. But the fact is that the Democrats have only had control of Congress for two years, after 12 years of Republican control of the House. Many of the Democratic legislative initiatives have met with presidential vetoes or shortfalls in the Senate. The Senate is really an almost even split, with many conservative Democrats (and the lone wolf Joe Lieberman) giving the Republicans a majority on defense issues. It's hard to believe that the public could possibly equally blame the new Democratic majority in Congress with the president and his policies over the past eight years for the many messes the country is in.

But recent polls on the presidential race suggest a very close election.

Why? Real income is down. Foreclosures have reached historic highs. Thousands of American workers have found themselves out of work or underemployed. Many young college graduates have found it impossible to find a job in their field and difficult to find any job at all. The stock market has been in

a long skid, plunging the value of 401(k)s and making a comfortable retirement a dim prospect, even as many companies are trying to force workers toward retirement. (And we won't even mention disastrous environmental policies, no leadership on escalating health care costs and a war in Iraq that is costing us billions and short-circuited the hunt for bin Laden.)

Sen. John McCain has prided himself as a "maverick" and his personal history, his ability over time to work with Democrats and his folksy demeanor are all appealing qualities. It is interesting that voters in the Republican primaries chose the candidate who was least "doctrinaire" about Republican positions. But to seal the deal, McCain has moved back toward those doctrinaire positions. He could have, and may yet offer an alternative conservative vision, but time to make his case is running out. He has embraced a failed presidency.

Despite that, recent national polls show him and Sen. Barack Obama in a dead heat.

State polls from last week do show Obama pulling ahead in Michigan, the state that was the first to feel the full impact of a fast shifting global economy and an inadequate federal response. For far too long, many Michigan voters have been conned into voting against their own economic best interests.

Obama offers an opportunity to break that bad habit.

Obama is not a doctrinaire Democrat, much to the distress of some in that party. He does have serious economic ideas that borrow from across the political and academic spectrum, from Reagan to Clinton, from Friedman to Galbraith. His ideas are nuanced, pragmatic, based on free market principles.

But already the pundits are upset that the Obama campaign is pulling its punches, in its so-far tepid ads and at the convention. What are they waiting for, when Republicans have been girding themselves for the political lashing eight years of Bush "leadership" deserves.

Are we incapable of actually considering the real ideas of these candidates? Do we make all our decisions on which campaign can be more negative, more snarky, more misleading?

Too bad, here in southeast Michigan, we need ideas not sound bites.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

Wonders of wizardry come alive as passion for Potter prospers

In the last couple of weeks, Russia has invaded Georgia, Barack Obama has chosen Joe Biden (yay! by the way) as his running mate, George Bush suddenly thinks it's a good idea to get out of Iraq (how 28 percent of the country thinks this guy is doing a good job is beyond me) and Plymouth-Canton graduate Allison Schmitt won a medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics.



Brad Kadrich

What most of you probably missed was the item that most affected me personally: The release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* has been delayed from Nov. 21 to some time in July. That's NEXT July. July 2009.

ELEVEN months from now.

Now, that may not mean much to you, but to a Muggle-born wizard wannabe, it's disappointing news, indeed.

A few months ago, it would have meant nothing to me. A few months ago, I'd never read a word of J.K. Rowling's multi-gozillion-dollar series, never watched a single second of any of the first five Harry Potter movies. Now, I'm so addicted my 18-year-old, Marc, isn't sure he can live with me any more (a difficult position for him, since this is all his fault).

I've covered the last couple of releases of Harry Potter books, without really having much interest in the actual writings. I have my passions (my knowledge of M*A*S*H is unparalleled, for instance), but I still found the devotion of Potter fans willing to wait hours until the midnight release of both *Goblet of Fire* and *Order of the Phoenix* surprising.

I remember talking to one young girl at the release of *Goblet of Fire*, the fourth book in the series, who had read the first three (I hadn't read any of them). She had waited with her dad in line for several hours at the Little Book Shoppe on the Park in downtown Plymouth. At the same event were several young people in costume — Hermione Granger, Professor Dumbledore and the Boy Who Lived himself, Harry Potter. I was more

amused than impressed. I was such a tremendous git back then.

None of it really meant anything to me until about three months ago, when I ran out of reading material at home. Marcus and my 11-year-old Robert, both urged me to finally give the Potter franchise a try and convinced me to try again to read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. I had tried it once before and found it thoroughly uninteresting.

But that's the interesting thing about our fancies, about our passions: We don't always know they're our passions, at first.

I gave *Sorcerer's Stone* another chance, and I haven't read anything but Harry Potter since. Rather than childish fantasy I found well-written lessons about life, about overcoming differences and adversity, with a few spells thrown in. What the Potter books really are are a seven-part coming-of-age story, sometimes breathtakingly told in a style that allows Rowling to really bring Potter and his cronies to life.

I've now read all seven books and watched three of the first four movies (I opened the DVD of *Chamber of Secrets*, borrowed from my Little Ones, only to find a Fairly Oddparents cartoon disc in it). I know who the Weasleys are, and I know what Quidditch is. I know what Death Eaters did, and I know why you'd drink Polyjuice Potion (I'd explain it all to you, but they only give me about 19 column inches here; Potter-maniacs — Pothead, Marc calls me — know what I'm talking about).

I stopped in the middle of writing this column to take two Harry Potter quizzes online, dragging my son into one of them and prompting him to tell me, "You've got to be stopped."

He thinks it's bad now? Wait 'til he sees the Invisibility Cloak I'm asking for for Christmas.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer and desperately needs help kicking his Harry Potter habit. He can be reached at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or (734) 953-2153.

Filter *Let us entertain you!*
PURE ENTERTAINMENT! Every Thursday

Want a lower gas bill this winter?

SHARON'S

Heating & Air Conditioning

"Your comfort is our business!"

For over 25 years, Sharon's has been taking care of area households providing installation & service for furnaces, air conditioners, heat pumps, water heaters, boilers & package systems.

Avoid costly repairs this winter with a furnace tune-up... Only \$69⁹⁵	FREE media air cleaner with the installation of a new furnace <small>Mention this ad for free offer • Offer Expires 11/15/08</small>
Enjoy a healthier and more comfortable winter with indoor air quality products like humidifiers, air cleaners and U-V lights	Replace your inefficient furnace with a high-efficiency model by top rated Rheem or American Standard. 6 Months Same As Cash with approved credit!

Call 734-425-1415 for a FREE equipment estimate!
31776 Cowan • Westland, MI 48185
Serving your area for over 25 years!

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



4.40% APY*

24-MONTH TERM CD

3.75% APY**

HIGH YIELD SAVINGS BALANCES OF \$100,000 UP TO \$499,999.

Invest in your future with Fifth Third Bank. You'll get more of what you save, so you can rest easy. Plus, it's available at your nearest Fifth Third Bank, so it's convenient. Give us a call at 1-877-579-5353 or visit 53.com to see what we can do for you.



Deposit balances are insured up to the maximum amount permitted by law. Please visit www.ftbc.gov for insurance coverage limitations. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) accurate as of 08/13/08. Fifth Third reserves the right to refuse any deposit. *A Fifth Third checking account is required to receive the stated rate. CD rate does not apply to balances currently on deposit with Fifth Third Bank. \$5,000 minimum deposit required to open. Penalty for early withdrawal. Not available for commercial and nonprofit accounts. **Balances from \$0.01 to \$24,999 earn an APY of 0.50%. Balances of \$25,000 to \$49,999 earn an APY of 2.00%. Balances of \$50,000 to \$99,999 earn an APY of 3.00%. No interest is paid on portions of your balance of \$500,000 or more. APYs may vary by market. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. \$50 minimum deposit required to open an account. \$25 fee if account is closed within 180 days of opening. Fifth Third Bank pays the above stated APY only on that portion of the balance within the specified tier. The Annual Percentage Yield Earned (APYE) during a statement period is an annualized rate that reflects the relationship between the daily balances and the amount of interest actually earned on the account within the applicable tier(s). Please contact your nearest Fifth Third Banking Center for complete details. Fifth Third Bank, Member FDIC.

Sale prices good from August 29th



Sign-up for our new e-newsletter "Fresh from the Wire" for preferred customer sale info and coupons! @ www.westbornmarket.com

Michigan Grown Cucumbers
4 for \$1 REG. \$3 FOR \$1
 SLICE, DICE & ENJOY THIS SUMMER TIME FAVORITE!

Michigan Grown Vine Ripe Tomatoes
 REG. \$1.49/lb. **\$.69/lb.**
 MICHIGAN FRESH!



GREAT LABOR DAY SAVINGS

Our Steaks are Choice! USDA Choice N.Y. Strip Steaks
\$6.99/lb
A HUGE SAVINGS! SAVE \$7.00 PER LB.

Grade A Split Chicken Breast
BONE-IN \$.99/lb
 REG. \$2.69/lb

Michigan Grown Fresh Peaches
\$.89/lb
 FULL OF LOCAL FLAVOR!

Kettle Chips \$2.99 ALL FLAVORS! 15oz.
 REG. \$3.99

Bush's Baked Beans **2 for \$4** 28oz. REG. \$2.59
 Mission BBQ Sauce **2 for \$3** 18oz. REG. 2 FOR \$4

Boar's Head Oven Roasted Turkey **\$6.99/lb.** REG. \$9.99/lb
 Hoffman's Sharp Cheddar **\$4.99/lb.** REG. \$6.99/lb

Ahi Tuna Steaks
 WILD CAUGHT REG. \$10.99 **\$8.99/lb.** GENERAL TUNA STEAKS!

Westborn's Own Fresh Coleslaw **\$3.99/lb.** REG. \$4.99/lb
 Redskin Potato Salad **\$4.99/lb.** REG. \$6.99/lb

Mike's Hard Lemonade **\$7.99** 6 pk. + dep.
 Douglass Hill Wines **2 for \$11** merlot, cabernet, chardonnay, white pinot, sauvignon blanc

Westborn's Own Fresh Baked Pies **\$6.99 ea.** APPLE & CHERRY REG. \$8.99
 Cool Whip **2 for \$5** 7oz. CAN/REG. \$2.99

GROWN LOCAL SOLD LOCAL

Providing Michigan Pride

Michigan Fresh & Crisp Celery
\$.89 REG. \$1.49
 FOR A BUNCH TO MUNCH!

Michigan Super Sweet Corn on the Cob
12 for \$1.99
 GREAT ON THE GRILL!

FROM OUR FLOWER MARKET
 Fresh Cut Michigan Sunflowers **\$3.99** a 5-stem bunch
 Hardy Mums **3 for \$19.99** or \$6.99 each-9" pots

OPEN LABOR DAY: 8AM-6PM

For more than 45 years, Westborn Market has been proud to support local farmers. We have worked hard to provide you with the very best of Michigan. This year our search for that perfection has taken us all over this great state. We are increasing our efforts to seek our unique local products for each of our departments while maintaining a great value.

Salem nets '08 Balconi soccer title

For previews on local prep soccer teams, see Page B3.

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The heat was relentless during Saturday's Gary Balconi Soccer Tournament on the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus.

Just not quite as relentless as Salem's soccer team.

The Rocks opened their 2008 campaign in sizzling fashion by outlasting many of the top teams in southeastern Michigan on the way to a 3-0 record and the Balconi title.

"It was a fantastic day for us," noted Salem coach Ed McCarthy, whose squad knocked off U of D Jesuit, 5-1, in the

championship match. "Our team's fitness level was the key reason we were so successful on a very hot day. All the conditioning the kids did over the summer paid off."

Junior John Krutty's goal off an assist from Scott O'Connor was the difference in Salem's tournament-opening 1-0 triumph over Dexter. Junior goalkeeper Sasa Miskovic was flawless between the pipes for the winners.

Junior Lachlan Savage accounted for both goals in Salem's 2-0 Game 2 victory over Novi Catholic Central. Savage was assisted by Alex Tramel and Mohammad Pourmandi.

Josh Pasarella was the brightest star among many in the lopsided title-clinching win over Jesuit. The senior tallied a pair of goals while Sam Savage, Matt

Woster and Tramel each recorded one net-finder.

Plymouth went 1-2 Saturday, defeating Dexter, 1-0, before falling to CC, 1-0, and Ann Arbor Huron, 5-2.

Danny Jasewicz netted the only goal in the victory over the Dreadnaughts after securing a pass from Nick Russ.

Jasewicz and Russ both found the back of the net in the setback to the River Rats.

Last Thursday, the Wildcats opened the season with a 1-0 triumph at Walled Lake Northern. Jasewicz scored the lone goal while Kyle Brindza and Josh Hill each played a half in the shutout of the Knights.

CANTON 2, NOVI 2: On Monday at Novi, the Chiefs earned a draw against the Wildcats thanks to goals from Yusef Bazy and Joey Krizanek. Mitchell

Reinhart, Jon Allen and Brandon Burt contributed assists while Nick Turnbull played solid in goal.

PCA 1, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 0: On Tuesday, the Eagles improved to 4-0 as senior keeper Brent Zinn stopped 21 shots and Blair Robinson deposited the game-winner with approximately eight minutes left in regulation. Spencer Wiard assisted Robinson, who headed the ball over the Warriors' keeper's grasp.

"We knew it was going to be a tight game," said PCA coach Larry Machonga. "At halftime, my co-coach, Evan Baker, predicted one goal would win it and he was right on."

The shutout was Zinn's third of the season.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Sidelines

Schmitt ceremony

Canton swimmer Allison Schmitt, who earned a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics earlier this month, will be honored at halftime of tonight's Canton-Brighton high school football game, which will kick off at 7 p.m. at the PCEP junior varsity stadium located just south of Plymouth High School.

Schmitt will be presented with a resolution from the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education at halftime.

She will be available before the game to meet kids and sign autographs.

Holes in one

Several local golfers registered aces on area courses recently:

■ **Joey Verkerke**, 9, of Plymouth, aced the 78-yard eighth hole on the Strategic Fox layout at Fox Hills on Aug. 6. He used a driver. Verkerke recorded a nine-hole score of 43.

■ **Brendan McCann**, 11, of Plymouth, aced the eighth hole at Strategic Fox on Aug. 12 using a driver. He fired a nine-hole round of 34.

■ **Nate Brocci**, 14, of Plymouth, notched a hole in one on hole No. 12 of the Strategic Fox, using a five iron. He shot a nine-hole round of 26.

■ **Joyce Davis** of Plymouth aced the 127-yard third hole at Timber Trace Golf Course in Pinkney using a nine wood.

Local bikers

Several Canton residents are primed to ride in the 38th annual Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw (DALMAC) bicycle tour that runs Wednesday through Sunday.

Christopher Gavalier will ride his first DALMAC while Mark Bourcier, Jeff Deneen, Brandon Rogers and Carolyn Rothwell are all tour veterans. This year's event will be Deneen's sixth.

Founded in 1971 by former State Sen. Dick Allen, DALMAC offers riders a choice of five routes that will end in either Mackinaw City or DeTour Village.

This year's routes range in distance from 303 to 414 miles.

More than 2,000 riders are expected to participate in the 2008 tour.

For more information, visit the DALMAC Web site at www.biketcba.org.

2008 prep football preview

Canton eyes return trip to playoffs

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's football team won't push any scales to the brink of collapse this fall, but the Chiefs will certainly light up some stop watches.

As a result of a much-needed infusion of speed, scoreboards may be lighting up as well for coach Tim Baechler's squad, which will be banking on quick-twitch muscles to return to prominence following last year's 5-4 campaign.

"We're not real big, but our overall team quickness is much improved since last year," said Baechler, who led Canton to seven straight post-season berths prior to last year's near-miss effort. "This team proved during the off-season that they're very committed to the program and I like the chemistry."

The Chiefs return just six starters — four on defense and two on offense — but their roster was replenished with several players who led last year's junior varsity and freshmen units to a combined record of 17-1.

Engineering the team's bruising fullhouse, tight-T offense will be quarterback Kevin Delapaz, a 6-foot, 180-pound lefty who has earned the rare distinction of being named a captain in his junior season.

"He's a very calm and cool kid," said Baechler. "So far, he's shown us that he can make the plays and he doesn't get rattled."

The Chiefs will also employ a spread offense on occasion, Baechler revealed.

Canton's starting running back trio enters the 2008 campaign with hardly any varsity experience, but more than enough wheels to compensate.

Halfbacks Kiere Daniels, a 5-10, 175-pound senior, and Rohn Gaudi, a 5-9, 155-pound junior, will flank junior fullback Adam Payter, a 5-7, 160-pound speed-burner.

"They're not big, but they're quick and shifty," said Baechler. "They're all play-makers."

Please see **PREVIEW, B5**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Kevin Delapaz (carrying ball) will take over the all-important quarterbacking duties for Canton's football team this fall. Delapaz possesses poise, speed and a strong arm.

ALL ABOUT THE CHIEFS

HEAD COACH: Tim Baechler (11th year);

2007 RECORD: 5-4;

RETURNING STARTERS: 6;

KEY RETURNERS: Bryan Gerst, Sr. LB; Nick Sweda, Sr. DB/RB; Justin Sneddon, Sr. OL/LB; Dakota Dark-Bird, Jr. TE/LB; Todd Turfe, Sr. TE; Dave Wilcox, Sr. RB/DB; Dan Stoney, Sr. K.

COACH'S OUTLOOK: "We're not real big, but our overall team quickness is much improved since last year. This team proved during the off-season that they're very committed

to the program and I like the chemistry."

2008 SCHEDULE

(all games start at 7 p.m.)
Thursday, Aug. 28 - BRIGHTON
Friday, Sept. 5 - LAKELAND
Friday, Sept. 12 - PLYMOUTH
Friday, Sept. 19 - @ John Glenn
Friday, Sept. 26 - WAYNE
Friday, Oct. 3 - @ Franklin
Friday, Oct. 10 - CHURCHILL*
Friday, Oct. 17 - @ Crossover
Friday, Oct. 24 - @ Salem

*-homecoming



Canton senior receiver Marlan Glenn is expected to play a big role when the Chiefs' offense shifts to its spread formation.

Plymouth Township resident Bill Skubik is prepared to compete in his first full-fledged triathlon Saturday in Plymouth, Mass. The 46-year-old Realtor has completed 10 marathons.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ENDURING QUALITIES

Plymouth Township man primed for first triathlon

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like millions of Americans, Bill Skubik will be going for a swim this Labor Day weekend.

What makes Skubik's water-based activity so unique is that he'll be swimming 2.4 miles in 68-degree salt water that's expected to be a little choppy.

And when his extended dip in the Plymouth Sound is over Sunday morning, he'll barely have time to dry off before jumping on his ultra-light bicycle and pedaling 112 miles through the eastern Massachusetts countryside.

To top his day off, the 46-year-old Plymouth Township Realtor will lace on his running shoes and complete a 26.2-mile marathon.

No, Skubik's not crazy — he's a budding triathlete who is eagerly anticipating his first full-fledged triathlon — a grueling 140-mile-plus athletic test that truly separates the men from the *ironmen*.

"About a year ago I was talking to a guy who works out at the same place I do and he told me he had just finished a full triathlon," Skubik said, explaining why he has chosen labor over leisure this coming holiday weekend. "I thought to myself, 'He's 43 (years old) and he did it, so maybe I can do it, too.' I've

THE SKUBIK FILE

NAME: Bill Skubik

AGE: 46

HOME: Plymouth Township

FAMILY: Wife, Julie; sons, Matt, 17, and Adam, 16

JOB: Owns Religious Real Estate

ATHLETIC FEATS: Has completed 10 marathons, the latest the Marine Corps Marathon last fall in Washington, D.C.

UPCOMING CHALLENGE: Will participate in his first full-fledged triathlon on Sunday. The event includes 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike race and 26.2-mile run.

TRAINING REGIMEN: Runs, lifts weights, swims and bikes up to 28 hours a week.

completed 10 marathons, so I knew I could do the running part."

Fine-tuned focus

Once his mind was made up, the father of two sons — Plymouth High School students Matt, 17, and Adam, 16 — and husband of Julie started a regimen that included two to six hours of training per day.

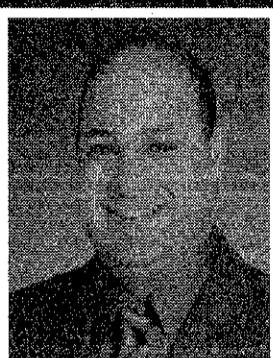
"I'll work out two to three hours in the morning before work, either swimming or

Please see **TRIATHLON, B4**



Friday night's game is over.

Win or lose, you wake up Saturday morning with swelling, pain and want to see a specialist. Now you can.

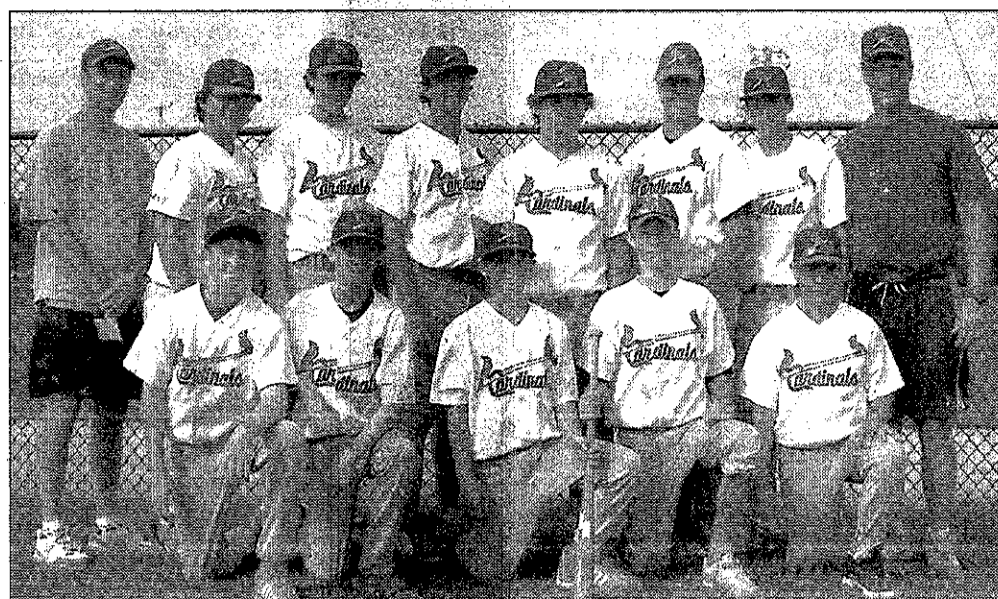


Saturday Morning Sports Clinic

Angelo J Sorce, MD, MS
Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon
5958 N Canton Center Road
Suite 700
Canton, MI 48187
734.254.9500

Starting Saturday,
September 6th 9:00 am.

Visit includes free injury consultation.
Supplies, tests are billed to insurance
or cash at time of the visit.



Kings of the Kensington

The 140 Canton Cardinals captured the Kensington Valley Baseball & Softball Association Open division title this summer after compiling a 13-5 record. The Cardinals also placed third in the AA State Championship tournament. Pictured (from row from left) are Chris Bohrer, Zach Sharrer, Kyle Rodes, Vaughn Birchler, Mitch Belisle, (back row from left) coach Glen Sharrer, Matt Grabowski, Matt Constance, Nick Posh, Braden Price, Tyler Goble, Bernabe Salinas and head coach Jim Belisle. Not pictured are Peter Nowak, coach Steve Nowak and coach Joe Rodes.

Steelers tame Cougars in season opener

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers got their season off to a rousing start Sunday when they swept the host Garden City Cougars.

The Steelers' varsity squad ousted the Cougars, 27-14, as Joshua Mayberry scored a touchdown behind strong blocking from Jalen Bryant, who also scored. Kyle Topper added three extra-point runs.

Defensively, the victors were paced by Lowell Wade, who forced a fumble, and Justin Broughman, who scored on a fumble recovery.

The Steelers' JV contingent trampled the Cougars, 32-12, thanks in part to Anthony Convertino, who threw a TD pass along with providing strong leadership.

Also shining for the winners were Trenton Shelby, who scored three of the team's five TD's, and Nick Poet, who pounced on a fumble. Kevin Justice, Phillip Avramoski and Hussein Shahine excelled defensively for P-C.

The freshmen routed the Cougars, 34-6, as Aaron Brazelton rushed for a pair of touchdowns. Chris Bryant got

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

things going when he ran back the opening kick-off for a TD. Nathan Gozdor excelled on the offensive line. Defensively, Joey Ahearn, Ben Phillips and Matthew Poet played well.

The junior freshmen shined on both sides of the ball. Offensively, Rashawn Allen, Nicholas Polydoros and Ryan Young each scored twice while Lou Baechler (four solo tackles), Aaron Gabarino and Evan Good led the defensive effort.

Lions split with Bulldogs

The Canton Lions' varsity squad opened the 2008 campaign with an impressive 45-22 victory over the Brighton Bulldogs Saturday afternoon.

The Lions' offensive output was led by Malcolm Hollingsworth's three touchdowns. Jordan Ciciotti, Scott Gring and Nathan Emminger added a touchdown each. The offensive line play of Danny Stropes and Luke Denzer was great all day.

The defensive line play of

Cody Siris, Alex Smith, Travis McCall and Evan Lee stuffed the Bulldogs' offense. Brandon Lee and Jamarl Eiland added interceptions while Kyle Durham played a solid all-around game.

The Lions open their home schedule on Sept. 7th at Central Middle School against the Redford Rangers.

The Lions' JV squad fell to the Bulldogs, 20-0. Several Lions sparkled on the defensive side of the ball, including Daniel Jipping, Kenny Arnold, Andrew Hunt, Mike San Millian and Daniel Kilgore.

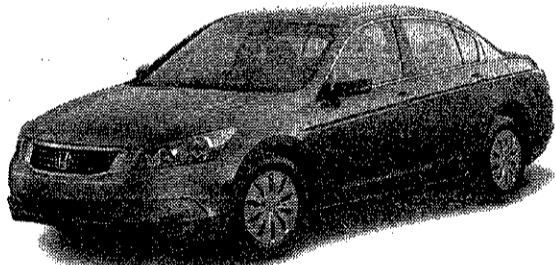
The Lions' freshmen squad dropped a 25-0 decision to a tough Bulldog contingent.

The Lions' defense kept them in the game until the end of the third quarter with strong play from Justin Burgos, Jason Arnold, Jacob Wickens, Jackson Austin and William Bode, who blocked an early punt.

The Lions' offense had a tough time moving the ball against a stingy defense, but were led by quarterback Evan Voyles and the line play of Shaw Lyall and Spence Vantien.

SUBURBAN
Suburban Honda

2008 Accord V6, 4 door, automatic
0.9% APR



up to 36 months with approved credit

2008 Odyssey LX

\$239/mo.*

Lease or

0.9% APR



36 month lease, \$1999 due at signing, 12,000 miles/year
Financing up to 36 months with approved credit

FARMINGTON HILLS

(Just off the I-96 & I-275 Freeways)
21500 Haggerty Rd. 866-386-6532
www.suburbanhonda.com

\$5 off
Any Service

\$15 Tire rotation
& brake inspection

*Plus tax, title, doc. and credit approval.

SUBURBAN
Suburban Acura

2008 Acura TL
Automatic

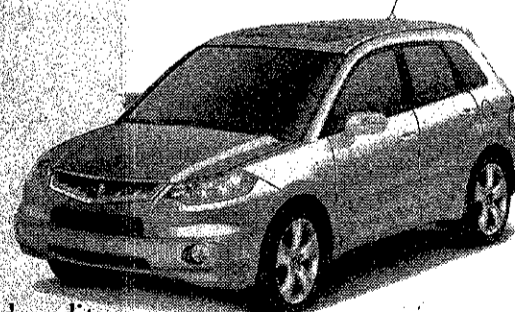
\$359/mo.*
Lease



36 month lease, \$1999 due at signing, 10,000 miles/year

2008 Acura RDX 4WD

1.9% APR



up to 36 months with approved credit

For a personalized Acura Quote, Text Acura to 32075

FARMINGTON HILLS

(Just off the I-96 & I-275 Freeways)
25000 Haggerty Rd. 866-204-0526
www.suburbanacura.com

\$5 off
Any Service

\$15 Tire rotation
& brake inspection

*Plus tax, title, doc. and credit approval.

Stingy 'D' should lead Salem to plenty of W's

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Opposing forwards may have a hard time "Cope"ing when they take the field against Salem this season.

That's because the Rocks' defense will be as hard to penetrate as a rock wall thanks to the presence of returning senior defenders Kevin Cope, Jace Bearden, Matt Calupina and Garrett Rogers and All-State net-minder Sasa Miskovic, who's only a junior.

"We're going to have a strong back line led by Kevin Cope," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "And Sasa (pronounced Sa-sha) is in my estimation one of the top three or four goalies in the state."

McCarthy had high praise for Cope, who has verbally committed to play collegiately at Michigan State University.

"Kevin possesses a great combination of size and speed," said McCarthy. "He's also a tough and aggressive player."

Junior Zach Basanese will provide defensive depth for the Rocks. Senior Josh Pascarella will pace the Rocks at the other end of the pitch. Pascarella led the team in scoring as a junior despite the fact he doesn't possess blazing speed.

"Josh is a very crafty finisher," said McCarthy. "He's very hard to stop one-v-one and he comes back to the ball very well, which helps us possess the ball longer."

Joining Pascarella up front will be Sal Savage and Alex Tramel.

The Rocks' corps of mid-fielders is deep and talented led by senior Jeremy Stoychoff. Other key mids include senior Alex Covert, junior John Krutty, junior Lachlan Savage, senior Matt Woster, senior captain Dan Radosevich, junior Scott O'Connor and junior Evan Antich.

Will Allen will back up Miskovic between the pipes.

The Rocks return 18 letter winners from their 2007 team that went 7-6-10.

"With all of our experience, I expect us to compete for a league championship this season," McCarthy asserted. "We're in a very tough division, though, with Stevenson, Novi and Northville, so it will be the ultimate test."

PLYMOUTH

Head coach Jeff Neschich will be looking to replace the school's best player ever — Colin Rolfe — who graduated in June and is now playing for the University of Louisville.

Also gone from last year's 9-7-5 squad are twins Trevor and Tyler Floyd, who contributed in many ways.

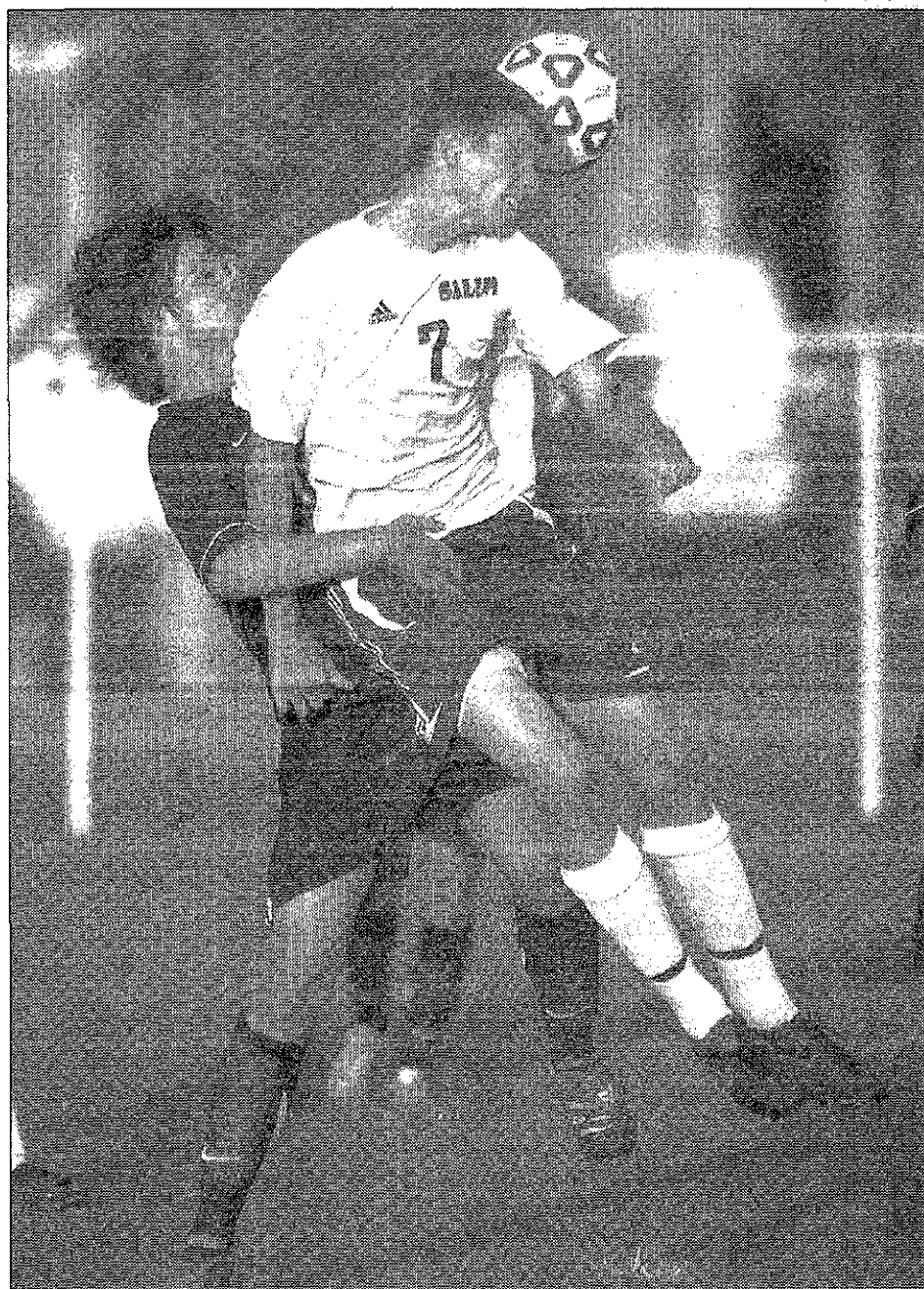
"I think we're going to be OK," said Neschich. "Obviously, we have some holes to fill, but the kids are working hard to make up for the losses we had to graduation."

"Our strength is probably going to be our defense, where we return three of four starters."

The player expected to pick up most of the scoring slack in Rolfe's wake is forward Danny Jasewicz, who was second on the team in goals scored last season. The talented junior has already netted three goals in the Wildcats' first four games.

"Danny's a very strong, physical player," said Neschich. "He has good, all-around skills."

Other key forwards include seniors Kyle Anderson and Bradley Finnegan.



Salem senior defender Jace Bearden (7), pictured in a game last season, combines with fellow senior Kevin Cope to give the Rocks a formidable one-two punch along the back line.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Canton's Jordan Kielty (7) and Shelby Anthony (4), pictured in action last year, helped lead the Chiefs to a runner-up finish in Saturday's South Lyon Invitational.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kielty's kills propel Chief spikers to runner-up finish

Canton's volleyball team struck gold at Saturday's season-opening South Lyon Invitational.

The Chiefs advanced all the way to the Gold Bracket championship game before falling to 2006 Division 1 state champion North Branch, 25-14, 25-21.

Canton, which went 4-0 in pool play before spiking the host Lions in the semis, was led by senior setter Kacy Moran (97 assists, 36 digs, seven aces) and junior Jordan Kielty, who racked up 61 kills, seven blocks and 38 digs.

"I have five returning players (Moran, Kielty and seniors Gina Waite, Janelle Burdiss and Shelby Anthony) who really held things together on the court for us," said Canton coach Jen Barnes. "We had a freshman — Kristen Muir — who really stepped up her play and was a huge asset for us going opposite Kielty."

"Janelle, who's usually on our right side, had to play middle for us this weekend and she had great net play and may be seeing more time in the middle this season. I think our defense is what is going to keep us competitive. We still have a lot of offensive work to do. Although Kacy and Jordan look great together, we need more offensive options when we play the bigger teams."

The Chiefs breezed through pool play by sweeping Howell (25-14, 25-23), Dexter (25-17, 25-19), Brighton (25-20, 25-12) and Wayne Memorial (25-13, 25-8). They then outlasted South Lyon in a three-set thriller 25-23, 14-25 and 15-8.

Anthony contributed 45 digs and six aces while Waite chipped in with 45 digs and six aces. Muir notched 25 kills, 30 digs and eight aces, and Burdiss registered six blocks.

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOAT WARS

A SALES EVENT AT THE
ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
Sept. 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th
Visit www.boatwar.com for details!

ONE-OF-KIND BOAT AUCTION

New & Used • Scratch & Dent Models • Close Out Models

Thurs. Sept 4th Starting at 4:30pm
Come early • Be ready to bid!

FREE Parking • FREE Admission
Located at Novi Road at I-96

On Grand River between Beck & Novi Rds., Novi

boatwar.com boatwar.com boatwar.com



VINYL SIDING

#1 Horizontal Double 4 White...\$59.45 per sq.

#1 Soffit 10" wide White...\$56.95 per sq.

1st Quality Heavy Gauge Gutter (in 18 colors)...95¢ nearest ft.

24"x50' Aluminum Coil Stock (wide selection)...\$61.77 per sq.

GAF Roofing Shingles

25-Year Fiberglass 1 Roof Top Available

- Gutters in 22 Colors
- Custom Bending
- Soffit Material
- Vinyl Replacement Windows
- Aluminum Siding
- Vinyl Siding
- Shake Siding
- Aluminum Coil Stock
- Roof Shingles
- Roof Vents
- Sable Vents
- Ridge Vents
- Storm Windows
- Steel Exterior Doors
- Storm Doors
- Garage Doors
- Custom Shutters

Viking
Building Materials, Inc.

30175 Ford Road • Garden City
(between Middlebelt & Merriman)
734-421-5743
Open Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-12, Closed Sun.

Simply Self Storage

Notice is hereby given that on September 12, 2008 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184. 734-728-8204.

Latoya Hayes C127 Entertainment Center.

Publish: August 28 and August 31, 2008

DE0816796-02

Public Notice Wayne County Residents Public Auction of Tax Foreclosed Property

September 15, 16, 17*, and 18*, 2008
International Center Building
400 Monroe, 8th Floor
Detroit, Michigan

* If necessary

BIDDER REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.
AUCTION BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. ON SEPT. 15
EACH DAY THEREAFTER THE AUCTION IS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.

A \$1,000 CASHIER'S CHECK in U.S. funds is required per property bid payable to the Wayne County Treasurer. A CASHIER'S CHECK must be shown at registration. The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids. List of properties being offered and rules and regulations are available online after August 20th at

www.waynecounty.com/treasurer

Auction books will be available at the Treasurer's Office. Check website for exact date.

Call (313) 224-5990
RAYMOND J. WOJTCWICZ
Wayne County Treasurer
Office Hours:
Monday.-Friday / 8 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.



Tell everyone about...

Your dog already thinks that it's the star of the family...now let the world see it in print. Celebrate National Dog Week September 21st-27th, 2008! Place your dogs' photo on a page designed just for them! This page will run in our papers on Sunday, September 21st in the Observer & Eccentric Mirror Newspapers.



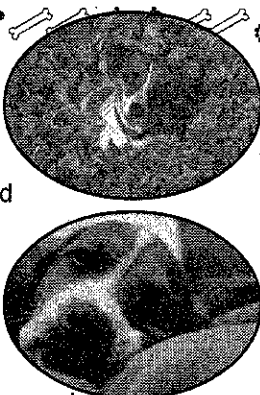
Roxie
Just look at her - you can't help but love her. We know she feels the same way toward us.
The D's • Livonia

Salute "Man's Best Friend" for National Dog Week!

Send photo, be e-mail or mail, with ad copy by
Wednesday, September 10, 2008*
or call us for more information.

1-800-579-7355

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS



...Your Best Friend!

National Dog Week

Just \$15!

*O&E Animal Friends
6200 Metro Parkway • Sterling Hts., MI 48312
oeads@hometownlife.com

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup

Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccraene@thecapuchins.org.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis, F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food.

Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth

Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbc-women.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. A Christian women's group.

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

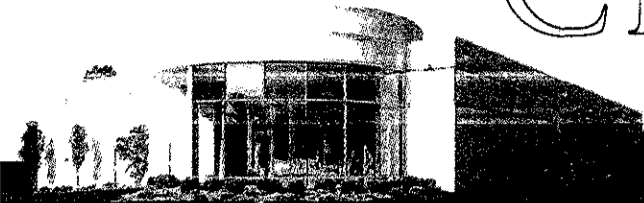
Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Baptist, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, Seventh-day Adventist, Presbyterian, Evangelical Presbyterian, Risen Christ Lutheran, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Christian Science, Christian Church (DOC), and Timothy Lutheran Church.

For information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 313-222-2333 or e-mail: dhart@hometownlife.com

ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND

1/2 OFF CELEBRATION



Kids Bedrooms

Thursday, August 28, 9-9

house of bedrooms

Friday, August 29, 9-9

Saturday, August 30, 9-6

Sunday, August 31, 11-5

Master Bedrooms

Labor Day, September 1, 11-5

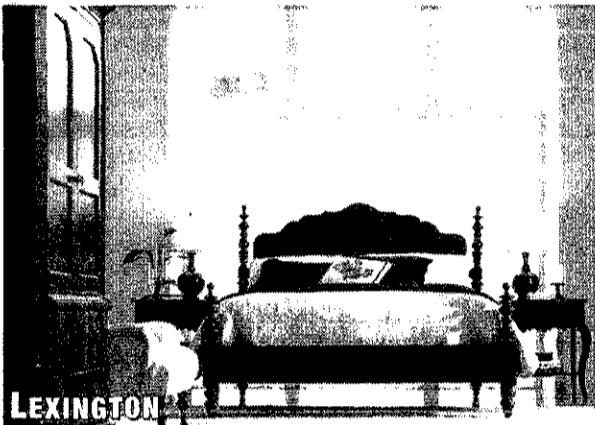
248-334-4593
1700 S. Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills

**Buy Your Dream Bedroom
Now Through Labor Day and
Get Every-Second Item of Equal or Lesser Value Half Off!**

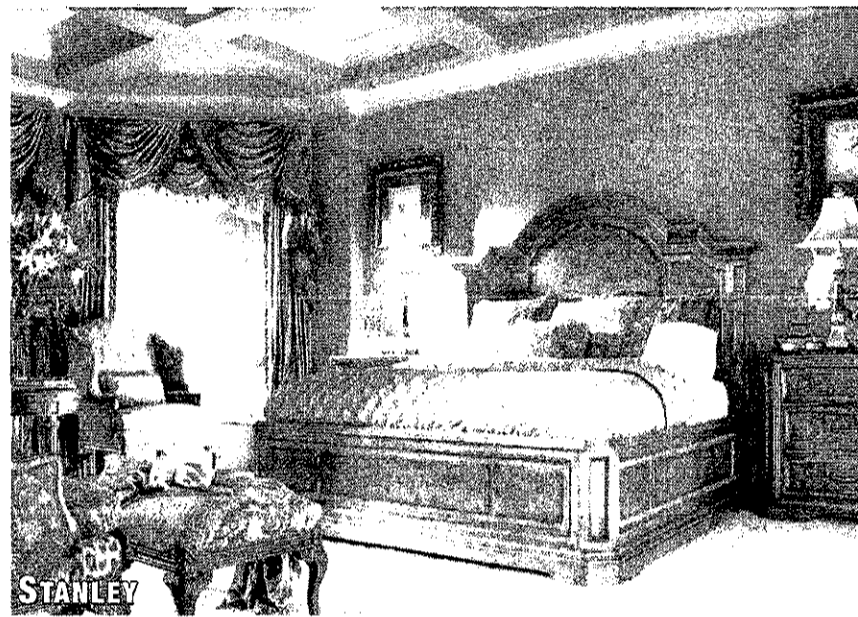
248-745-0012
1716 S. Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills



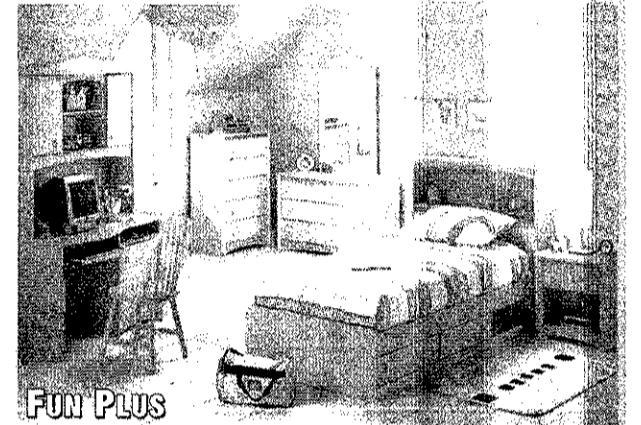
Awarded
Michigan's #1
Specialty Retailer



LEXINGTON



STANLEY



FUN PLUS



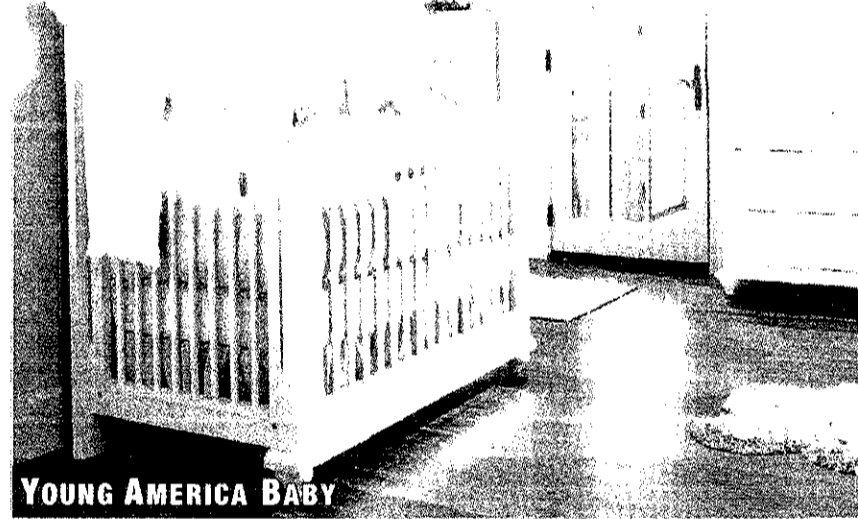
NEW CLASSIC



LEGACY CLASSIC KIDS



STANLEY



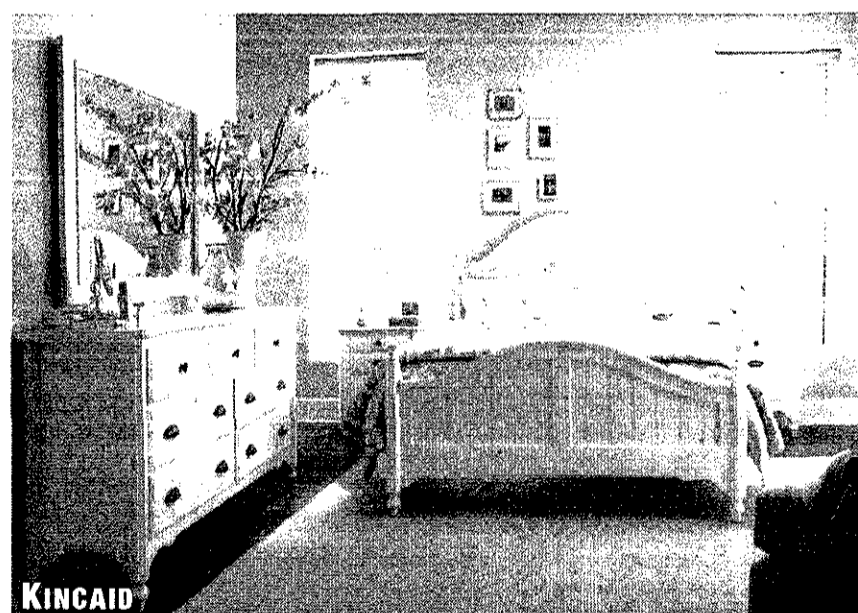
YOUNG AMERICA BABY



AMERICAN DREW



UNIVERSAL



KINCAID



STANLEY



VAUGHAN BASSETT



BOLTON



HOOKER



RAGAZZI FINE FURNITURE

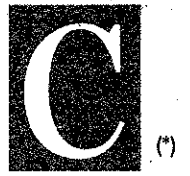


LAZBOY KIDZ

0E08618245

OPEN DAILY 9-9, SAT. 9-6, SUN. 11-5
www.houseofbedrooms.com

*Kids Store: 25% Down Payment Required. Half Off Discount Taken From "Compare At" Price of Every Second Item of Equal or Lesser Value, not the Sale Price. Prior Sales, Clearance Items, Accessories, Serta and Colgate Bedding Excluded from Half Off Discount. Free Delivery within 50 Miles and \$498 Min. Purchase. *Adult Store: 20% Down Required. Half Off Discount Taken From "Compare At" Price of Every Second Item of Equal or Lesser Value, not the Sale Price. Prior Sales, Lexington, Accessories, Clearance Items and Serta Bedding Excluded from Half Off Discount. Free Delivery within 50 Miles and \$498 Min. Purchase.



Foreign buyers drawn by some U.S. properties

BY JULIE BROWN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

International real estate purchases in the U.S. continue to be a significant share of business for many Realtors, according to the 2008 National Association of Realtors Profile of International Home Buying Activity.

Nanci J. Rands, associate broker with SKBK Sotheby's International Realty in Birmingham, noted the impact is less in metro Detroit.

"The effect that it has on the Detroit market is fairly minimal," said Rands, a past president of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, covering Oakland and Macomb counties. "There's a very small effect in metro Detroit."

The new research indicates that international buying activity in the U.S. is widespread. NAR estimates that between 150,000 and 190,000 homes were sold to foreign nationals from May 2007 to May 2008. Recent foreign buyers purchased properties in every state and the District of Columbia. The most popular states where international buyers purchased homes are Florida, California and Texas. Arizona, New York, Washington and Nevada were also popular.

Rands noted that Sun Belt states like Florida are more popular with foreign buyers, as are New York and Washington, D.C., which are financial/governmental capitals.

"We don't have either of those," she said. Metro Detroit does have people here for business. "Some of them are automotive-related," she said. Others predominate in financial services and health care in southeast Michigan.

Some foreign buyers plan to retire in the U.S., Rands said, so buying makes more sense than renting.

"Other currencies around the world are strong right now against the dollar which makes our real estate market a real value," including for Canadians, Rands said.

"We do have an abundant inventory," she added of home supply. Interest rates here are low, and many believe the local economy will rebound.

Foreign buyers often pay cash, she noted. In Michigan, there's a bit of the foreign buyer "resort effect" in areas like Traverse City and Petoskey, as well as further south in Michigan along the dunes in communities like St. Joseph.

"We've seen this for a long,



time," Rands said of foreign buyers. "The effect is growing now because these currencies are so much stronger."

Is foreign investment good? "It's a much-needed benefit to our housing market," said Michael Whitty, adjunct professor in the College of Business Administration at the University of Detroit Mercy. "It has kept the value of property up."

"Buying in the tri-county area is beneficial to the housing in the region and it is helpful to the state economy," added Whitty, noting our area was settled by foreigners from its origins. To say otherwise, he believes, is "outright racism and stupidity. Let's be charitable and chalk it up to confusion and stupidity," the professor said.

"As the most trusted resource for real estate information, Realtor have long understood what this latest research confirms — the U.S. housing industry truly has no boundaries," said NAR President Richard F. Gaylord, a broker with RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists in Long Beach, Calif.

The typical international buyer purchased a single-family vacation home costing \$297,400. Four in 10 paid for their U.S. property with cash, compared with 7 percent

It's a much-needed benefit to our housing market. It has kept the value of property up. Buying in the tri-county area is beneficial to the housing in the region and it is helpful to the state economy.'

MICHAEL WHITTY, University of Detroit Mercy business faculty

for all domestic buyers. The typical international owner stayed at his or her U.S. property for 2.6 months during the year, according to the NAR findings.

Foreign exchange rates have helped make U.S. homes more affordable for international buyers. The euro, for example, has strengthened 24 percent vs. the U.S. dollar over the past two years. Home prices are also now more affordable in places such as Florida and Arizona, contributing to those states' popularity among foreign buyers.

"Many international buyers recognize that real estate is an excellent investment and are drawn today by abundant inventory, low interest rates and a softer dollar. These conditions allow them to own their own a piece of the American dream," Gaylord said.

International buyers are distinct from domestic buyers. International buyers tend to purchase more expensive properties, which cost an average of 36 percent more than the typical domestic

clients in the past year and about half of those clients ended up purchasing a home. The primary reasons some clients did not eventually buy a house were home price concerns, immigration laws, and property taxes.

Realtors who have sold homes to international clients reported that their transactions with these clients accounted for about 16 percent of their entire business. For about 8 percent of Realtors who work with foreign buyers, more than half of their transactions were international sales.

The 2008 presidential race has included debate on the U.S. economy and its housing market; Rands noted that the president of our country has less impact on the economy than voters often think. "The president is not the controller of the economy," she said.

UDM's Whitty's just back from California, where he taught this summer at the University of San Francisco. "That's a very different housing market from Michigan," he said. Losses aren't extensive on the West Coast, said Whitty of the "extremes of the U.S. housing market."

Whitty noted the Bangladeshi community settling in Hamtramck where homes are affordable, as the Polish-Americans who used to live there move to Macomb County or other areas.

New immigrants keep the U.S. labor market healthy, Whitty added, and their kids will "probably be part of our employment pool of the future." Such workers often are disciplined and work hard, said Whitty, who earned a Ph.D. on the history of the United Auto Workers from Syracuse University in New York state.

The 2008 NAR Profile of International Home Buying Activity is based on responses from approximately 4,000 Realtors who serve foreign buyers. It describes international home buying activity in the U.S. over the 12-month period from May 2007 to May 2008 and updates information from the 2007 survey. The full report is available from NAR's Research Division or at www.realtor.org/research/research/report-sintl.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

Address political sign issue now

Q: Our condominium bylaws prohibit signs, but a number of the members want to put up political signs. Isn't there a constitutional right for free speech?

A: So far the federal Constitution has not been interpreted to apply to private organizations such as condominiums because no "state action" is involved, although the courts are moving in that direction. Accordingly,



Robert Meisner

if the bylaws prohibit the display of signs, that would include political signs and you are best advised to enforce that uniformly and vigorously, especially because of the upcoming election season.

Q: I am wondering what the status of the real estate is in San Francisco, and Marin County? Do you have any information?

A: Upon a recent visit, it appears that while the market in San Francisco has slowed down, it is still appreciating in value and there is much development, both commercial and residential, in the Bay area of San Francisco. As to Marin County, it continues to appreciate at a significant pace although not as great as was the case before. The "dot.com" bust has not, apparently, affected Marin County, as has been the case in several other areas of Southern California.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of May 5-9, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.


City	Address	Sale Price
Canton	43850 Ascot St	\$190,000
	7560 Birchlan Dr	\$280,000
	45787 Maidstone Rd	\$195,000
	8144 Orihan St	\$110,000
	752 Stonehenge Dr	\$171,000
Farmington	47713 Vistas Circle Dr N	\$185,000
	49182 Woodson Way	\$373,000

City	Address	Sale Price
Farmington	35565 Heritage Ln	\$125,000
	22931 Maple Ave	\$144,000
Farmington Hills	31250 Country Ridge Cir	\$347,000
	77690 E Echo Vly	\$50,000
	25557 Hunt Club Blvd	\$242,000
	21728 Manchester Ct	\$307,000
	28798 Raleigh Rd	\$177,000
	38492 Saratoga Cir	\$154,000
	29779 Sierra Point Cir	\$110,000
	33795 Vista Dr	\$163,000
	23795 W Newell Cir	\$154,000
	24470 Walden Woods	\$189,000
Garden City	32349 Bock St	\$112,000

City	Address	Sale Price
Livonia	28429 Rosslyn Ave	\$87,000
	30300 Rush St	\$115,000
Milford	14650 Bainbridge St	\$105,000
	15030 Fairfield St	\$45,000
	31515 Grove Dr	\$195,000
Northville	39957 Summers St	\$165,000
	192 Hill St	\$154,000
Northville	315 Ravinest Dr	\$342,000
	2833 Stone Meadow Dr	\$750,000
Northville	44810 Galway Dr	\$268,000
	16024 Morningside	\$140,000
Northville	16032 Morningside	\$147,000
	46664 Pinehurst Cir	\$587,000

City	Address	Sale Price
Novi	44477 Thornapple Ln	\$360,000
	39492 Windsome Dr	\$370,000
Novi	44717 Ellery Ln	\$103,000
	26426 Island Lake Dr	\$244,000
Novi	31204 Kingswood Blvd	\$310,000
	24423 Knollwood St	\$155,000
Novi	42535 Park Ridge Rd	\$214,000
	22361 Peachtree	\$127,000
Novi	24501 Queens Pointe	\$215,000
	44824 Stockton Dr	\$373,000
Novi	40469 Village Wood Rd	\$188,000
	47645 Wellesley Ct	\$485,000
Plymouth	47056 Brooks Ln	\$428,000
	202 Maple St	\$93,000

City	Address	Sale Price
Westland	834 Penniman Ave	\$139,000
	14473 Robinwood Dr	\$191,000
Westland	11758 Columbia	\$86,000
	19352 Norborne	\$107,000
Westland	9160 Sarasota	\$80,000
	1131 Equestrian Dr	\$280,000
Westland	31433 Alcona Ct	\$40,000
	6806 Mohican Ln	\$143,000
Westland	1970 N Berry St	\$56,000
	1908 N Walton St	\$124,000
Westland	37609 Palmer Rd	\$120,000



Thinking Real Estate? Think TODAY.

There's never been a better Opportunity to Buy or Upgrade

888.21.HOMES

6 Offices, 400 Agents.

Century21Today.com

**YOUR RESUME
ISN'T GOING TO
EMAIL
ITSELF**

START BUILDING careerbuilder.com

Michigan's Second Largest Century 21 Firm

Specializing in Residential Home Sales in Southeastern Michigan

Family Owned & Operated Since 1967

888-21-HOMES



Six Locations to Serve You:

- Bloomfield 248-647-8888
Farmington Hills 248-855-2000
Livonia 734-462-9800
Redford 313-538-2000
Waterford 248-673-2211
West Bloomfield 248-360-9100

www.century21today.com



WATERFORD TWP \$199,900
Clean, updated ranch, backs to nature preserve...



FARMINGTON HILLS \$219,900
Clean brick 4 bd, huge country size lot...



FARMINGTON HILLS \$229,900
3 BR 3 BA, kit w/s.s. appl. 07, cer tile & cab...



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$259,000
Lovely ntrl decor/nicely fin bsmt w/dry bar...



FARMINGTON HILLS \$329,900
Mint condition cul-de-sac beauty over commons...



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$340,000
Beautifully indispd 4 BR 3.1 BA col. Grand 2 stry foyer...



NOVI \$475,000
Bttf updt'd 4 BR, 3.5 BA col. Best fir plan (3600 sq ft)...



WEST BLOOMFIELD CONDO \$525,000
Spectacular det condo! Kit w/grnt cnts, wd fir & built in...



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$689,900
Beautiful brk home in prestigious Blmld Pines w/hwdv firs...



OAK PARK \$124,900
Absolutely wonderful & almost like new! Beautiful updated kit and bath...



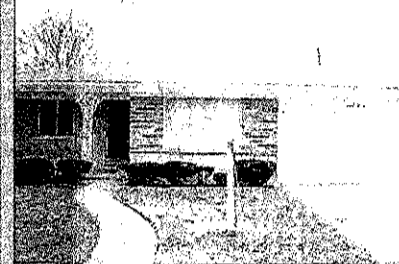
DEARBORN \$129,500
Super sharp brick 2 story, 2 full baths, hardwood floors...



LIVONIA \$189,900
Beautifully updated ranch with great daily sunlight exposure...



NORTHVILLE \$600,000
Fabulous 1st fl master, large bedrooms with loft, oversized gourmet kitchen...



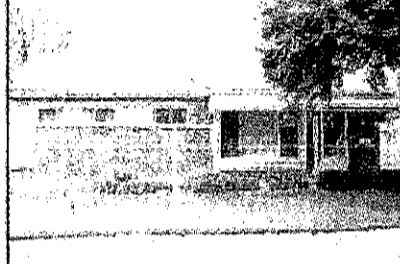
REDFORD \$134,900
Gorgeous updated kit w/lots of cupboards, family room with fireplace...



WALLED LAKE \$219,900
Impressive and better than new! Spacious great room w/ bay window...



CANTON \$179,900
Lovely detached condo, open floor plan, hardwood floors...



LIVONIA \$139,900
Clean 3 bedroom brick ranch, many updates, kit has beautiful oak cabinets...



LIVONIA \$299,900
Newer built colonial on quiet court setting, generous room sizes...



CLARKSTON \$399,900
Beautiful 4 BR, 3 bath home w/ open floor plan, gleaming hardwood floors...



WHITE LAKE TWP \$330,000
3 bedroom ranch updated from top to bottom. All sports Tull Lake...



WHITE LAKE TWP \$289,900
Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Home features cath ceilings, hwdv floors...



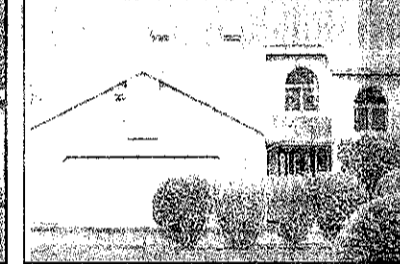
WATERFORD \$109,900
A well maintained 3 bedroom home w/Williams Lake privileges...



ORION TWP \$369,000
Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. Home features formal living room & dining room...



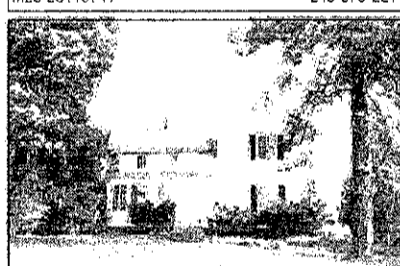
WATERFORD \$529,900
4 bedroom, 3 bath home located on Van Norman Lake. Home features fireplace in GR...



ELBA TWP \$439,900
Gorgeous 3 BR, 3.5 BA Lake Lapeer front home. Home features tpl in LR...



ROSE \$164,000
3 bedroom brick ranch. Newer vinyl kitchen floor, living room with fireplace...



PONTIAC \$199,900
5 bedroom, 2 bath home with Little Silver Lake privileges. Large rooms, country kitchen...



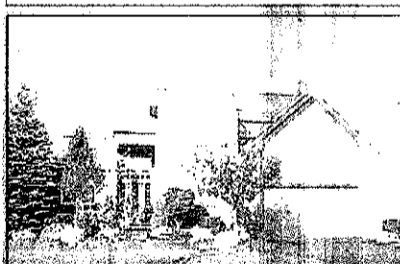
COMMERCE \$419,500
Commerce lakefront-Updated 3 bedroom ranch. Fin walk out. 2 fireplaces & attached garage...



COMMERCE \$189,900
Updated contemporary-Union Lake steps from front door. Open floor plan, new hardwood floors...



MILFORD \$185,000
3 BR, 2 BA ranch. Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings. Master ste w/walk in closet...



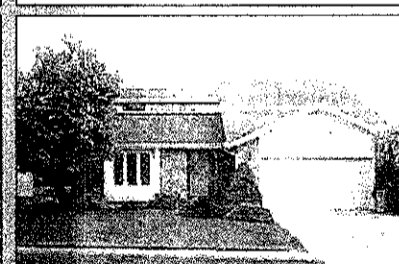
COMMERCE \$368,900
Gorgeous 4 BR, 3.5 BA colonial on Huron River/all sports Fox Lake...



WOLVERINE LAKE \$159,900
Updated 3 BR 2 BA ranch w/fin Basement. Desirable Wolverine Lake Village w/Lake privileges...



WOLVERINE LAKE \$264,900
Canal front brick ranch w/fin walkout. Upgraded Kit w/ Granite Counters & all appls...



TROY \$298,700
3 BR contemporary w/1st floor master. Great room w/ fireplace, doorwalk to patio...



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$400,000
Fantastic Brick Colonial. 1st Floor Master: 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths...



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$350,000
Georgian colonial with open floor plan. Gourmet kit w/ Jenn Aire cook top & granite island...



WEST BLOOMFIELD TWP \$179,900
Large 3 br, 2.5 ba condo w/storage galore. Many extras! Contemporary kit with stainless steel appls...



OAK PARK \$139,000
Many updates! 3 br, 2 ba bungalow w/2 car garage. All appls. Hrdwd firs. Newer windows, C/A, furnace, roof...



WEST BLOOMFIELD TWP \$269,900
Completely updated 4 br, 2.5 ba colonial! Incredible built-ins in FR & mstr bdrm...



SOUTHFIELD \$229,000
Birmingham schools! Delightful 4 br, 3.5 ba colonial in Cranbrook Village. Remodeled top to bottom in 05! 2 car side entry garage...



SOUTHFIELD \$180,000
3 br, 2.5 ba ranch offers 2000+ sq ft. Family rm w/stone raised hearth fireplace. Full bsmt with lav. Cedar cbsst. Alarm system. 2 car att garage...



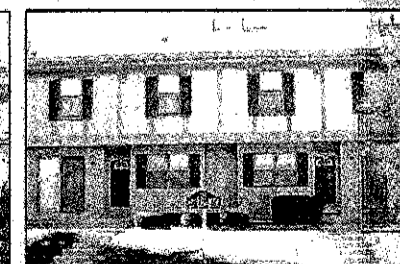
SOUTHFIELD \$175,000
Beautiful 3 br, 1.5 ba ranch on a premium lot. Updtd kit. Fireplaces in living room & in finished bsmt. Lovely family rm. Att garage...



ROYAL OAK \$140,000
Beautifully maintained ranch in prime North Royal Oak! Many updates: furn, A/C, roof, vinyl windows, kitchen, hrdwd firs. Close to everything!



FRANKLIN \$188,900
Great value! Birmingham schools! Desirable 2290 sq ft home offers updt'd kitchen w/stainless steel appls, FR w/frp/c, LR, frml DR, newer windows, more!



SOUTHFIELD \$79,900
2 br, 1.5 ba condo with the best location in the complex! Private entry, Walkout bsmt. Living rm w/nat fireplace. Newer kit. Appis stay...

www.century21today.com

