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SUNDAY
November 23, 2008

CANTON Observer

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Ann Theut, Peggy McGee, and Iris Endres wrap shoe boxes that will be filled with gifts.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Good 'Samaritans'

Donations designed to help the world's needy



Organizer Annie Grimes displays a finished gift box.

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Candy? Check.
Crayons? Check.
A teddy bear? Check.
How about toothpaste? Check.
After glancing over the shoe box stuffed with goodies, Annie Grimes sealed it and smiled.

"Look at how happy they are," she said, whipping out a promotional flyer for Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit Christian relief and evangelism

organization. "Some children don't even know what a Christmas gift is and that's why we do this."

For six years, Grimes, a resident of Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, has solicited the help of friends to assemble care packages to donate to the North Carolina-based organization.

The gifts, which are tailored to boys and girls in three age groups, are tucked inside of shoe boxes decorated with wrapping paper. Grimes,

Please see **DONATIONS, A3**

Falling gas prices easing pump pain

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The pain at the pump has been replaced by happiness.

"I'm going to get my change," LouAnn Lansu of Canton said with a chuckle as her car filled up without costing the \$20 she pre-paid. "I'm really happy about these prices. A couple months ago, I was paying \$60 to fill up but now you can spend \$20 and go somewhere."

Many motorists, like Lansu, are getting a kick out of falling gas prices, said Kyle Filer, of the Speedway Gas Station at Ford and Canton Center roads.

"Even if it's 40 cents, they are like 'Give it back!' because they haven't been able to get change in so long," he said, while his co-worker Danny Sanders agreed. "Everyone had gotten used to spending more so they are definitely happier."

After filling her Ford Focus for \$20.47, college student Julia Schmitz said she's thankful for the chance to free up money previously

spent on fuel.

"I have to drive to Dearborn four days a week for school so this is helping a lot," she said.

Jamil Makki of the Canton Mini Mart service station at Cherry Hill and Lilley roads said the decrease in gas prices hasn't just tickled his customers.

"I'm happy about it," he said with a laugh. "I fill up three times a week so I'm saving about \$75."

And like Filer at Speedway, Makki said many customers are delighted when they realize they've overpaid.

"So many people come in and say 'Give me \$40 on pump two' and then they have to come back in and get \$15 in change," he said.

And while some are rejoicing as per-gallon costs fall under \$1.80, others have tempered their joy with caution.

"I'm waiting for it to go back up," said Tom Fraas of Okemos as he filled up his Chevy Trailblazer. "But I would have loved to see these prices in the summer. I was paying close to \$4.18 a gallon."



Lou Ann Lansu gets change back from Kyle Filer after taking less money than usual to fill her gas tank.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New board members ready to go to work

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

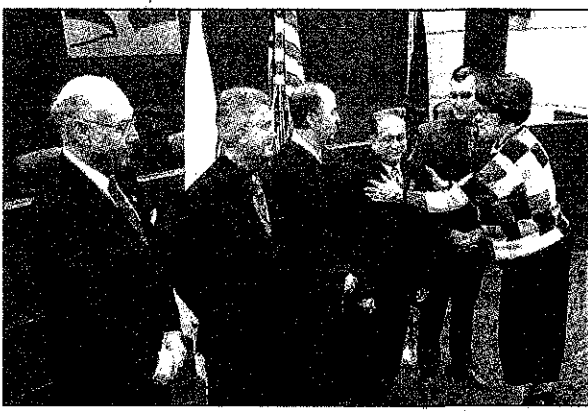
John Anthony, Terry Bennett, Todd Caccamo, Syed Taj and Pat Williams were sworn into office Thursday in a ceremony attended by family, friends and township officials.

Before administering the oath of office, Judge Mike Gerou told the newly elected Canton Township Board members that although they will face many challenges in the coming months they have a "terrific community to work" with.

Williams, Caccamo, Taj and Anthony all say they are ready to get going as township trustees and Bennett was sworn in as both the township clerk and as an alternate chair for the Western Townships Utilities Authority.

Melissa McLaughlin was unable to be sworn in as treasurer Thursday because of a family medical issue. "As soon as she gets a chance, I will swear her in," said Bennett, adding that she believes McLaughlin will take the oath before Tuesday's board meeting.

Township Supervisor-elect Phil



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Township Clerk Terry Bennett, who organized a successful election a few weeks ago, attempts to organize the new trustees for a group photo. They are John Anthony, Pat Williams, Judge Michael Gerou, Syed Taj and Todd Caccamo.

LaJoy is expected to take the oath of office in mid-December in order to continue representing the 21st District in the state House.

Caccamo said in spite of the nation's economic turbulence, he is excited to begin a second term.

"We will work to preserve what we have in Canton," he said. "The next four years will be some of the most difficult in our lifetime and, without question, we will face challenges but we are well positioned."

Anthony, who often campaigned with Williams and has met with Taj, said he is optimistic that the new board will continue to move the township forward.

"I think it's a good mix of new faces and new thoughts and new ideas," he said. "We are not governed by old traditions and we will be able to think outside the box. I just look forward to serving all of the people."

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Judge denies appeal of recall language

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Organizers of a recall petition drive targeting two Wayne-Westland school board members have been cleared to continue circulating petitions after a Wayne County Circuit Court judge ruled Friday that the use of an acronym for the district's teachers union was acceptable.

"The judge denied the appeal, he made it very clear that we understood why we were being challenged and that people would know what WWEA means," said Shawn Maxwell who is spearheading the campaign to force the recall of school board President Martha Pitsenbarger and Vice President Skip Monit. "We only have to have clarity of the action taken and we had it in the language."

Attorney Alan Canady argued that if the petition drive ends in a recall election, voters going to the polls would want to know what the acronym stands for.

According to Monit, Judge William J. Giovan acknowledged that while the vote by the school board to adopt hearing procedures to dis-

cipline teachers who had walked off the job on Oct. 6 "was done in an environment where it's known what that (WWEA) stands for," the coverage that surround the four-day strike has made the acronym recognizable to residents.

The ruling clears the way for recall supporters to continue collecting signatures of register voters in the district. Maxwell said the plan is to submit the petitions to the Wayne County clerk by Jan. 30, in advance of the 95-day limit for getting issues on the May election ballot.

Plans to submit language to recall board Secretary Cindy Schofield and Trustee William Gabriel to the Wayne County Elections Commission also have been delayed. Maxwell had said that language was going to be submitted on Friday, but she now plans to meet with recall committee members this weekend about delaying it until the August election.

With the petition drive moving forward, Monit said he and Pitsenbarger will now start their own campaign to battle a possible recall election. They will form a campaign committee and start holding fund-raisers.

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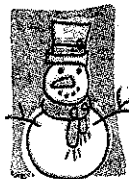


*Restrictions apply. See branch for details. NCUA

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Coming Thursday
in filter



Your guide to holiday happenings

AROUND CANTON

Turkey Trot

Canton will host its 6th Annual Turkey Trot for a Cause on Thanksgiving morning, at 8:30 a.m., Nov. 27. Area residents are once again encouraged to take part in this special 5K Fun Run & Walk through Heritage Park. Race day registration for this 5K event starts at 8:30 a.m. at Pheasant Run Golf Club, located at 46500 Summit Parkway. The kids' race will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. with the adult race following shortly after.

All proceeds from this organized run will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Adult entry fees are \$20 through Nov. 21 or \$25 the day of the event. Children 12 years of age and younger can register for \$10.

Sponsors of the event include the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, Conor O'Neill's, J.M. Sons, Running Fit, Phillips Service Industries Inc., Rickard & Associates, Murray Home Improvement and Canton Leisure Services.

Awards will be presented to the top overall and masters male and female runner post race at the finish line. For more information on the 6th Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K Fun Run

& Walk, please call the Canton Sports Center at (734) 483-5600 or visit leisure.cantonmi.org.

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers will host their next monthly meeting at 7:15 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Sunflower Clubhouse (45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center). The evening will include socializing, neighbor introductions, sign ups for more than 20 interest group activities (playgroups, Bunco, Scrapbooking, Book Club, Men's Poker Night, Couples Social, and more), and a raffle that will benefit the Canton Goodfellows.

There will also be a dinner hosted by Palermo's Restaurant as well as dessert by Back Home Bakery. For more information or to receive a complimentary copy of the group's newsletter, please visit www.cantonnewcomers.org or call Melanie at (734) 207-3341.

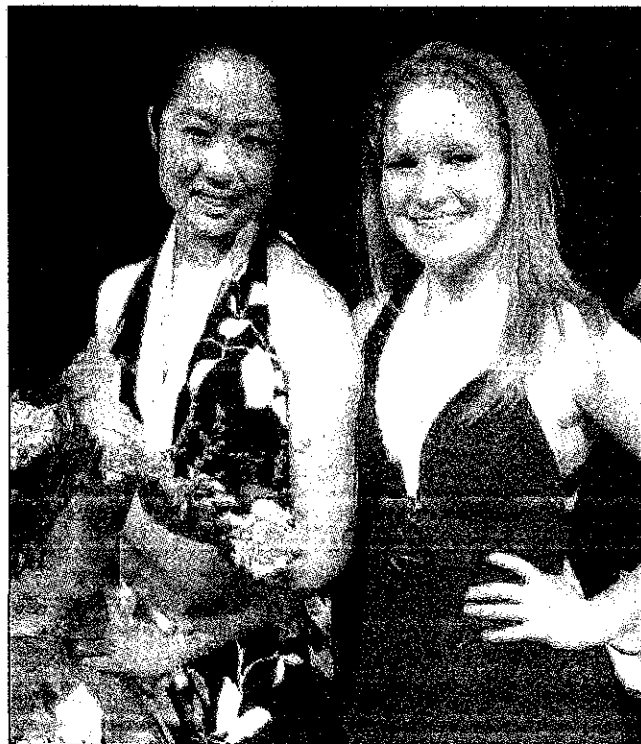
Canton business women

The Canton Business & Professional Women will meet from 6-8:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8 at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N Canton Center Road (west side of Canton Center Road just north of Cherry Hill). The guest speaker will be Judy Ellis of First Step. The group will be presenting First Step with donations for its 'wish list'. Attendees are asked to bring a gift. You must RSVP for this meeting by Friday, Dec. 5 to Irene Psilis by e-mailing Irene.Psilis@ncmc.com or calling (734) 981-7810.

Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every



Junior Miss winner

Canton High School student Willa Chen was the winner of the second annual Plymouth Canton Junior Miss scholarship program earlier this month at the Village Theater in Canton. Ten girls competed for scholarships totalling \$4,950. Willa, the daughter of Kevin and Ling Chen (and sister of Bryant) of Canton, won scholarships totalling \$2,250. She advances to the Michigan Junior Miss program in Ann Arbor March 14. Last year's winner, Erin Wheeler, presented Willa her Medal of Honor. Other scholarship winners included Sophia Daly, the "People's Choice Award," \$100; Stacy Mero, the "Spirit Award," \$200; Stephanie Brown, "Physical Fitness" and "Talent" awards, \$800; Raqueliah Hayes, "Self Expression Award," \$300; Annie Zhang, "Interview Award," "Scholastic Award" and was first runner-up, receiving \$1,100; Samantha Dieck was a finalist and received a \$200 scholarship. Anyone interested in participating in next year's program can go to the America's Junior Miss Web site at www.ajm.org and fill out an application. Anyone interested in volunteering with the program can contact Marissa Sarnecky at (313) 215-3512 or pcjrmiss@yahoo.com.

month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season. Each \$5 kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles and can be purchased at Gabriel's, Sideways, Saxton's

and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place Suite 18, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 24.

For more information visit the symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org

Goodfellows help

Several local merchants are hosting fund-raisers for the Canton Goodfellows. Showroom of Elegance Fine Jewelry, 6018 Canton Center Road, is continuing its annual "Goodfellows No child without a Christmas" drive through Dec. 5. The store will be col-

lecting canned goods and non perishable items and offering a chance to win a \$600 Visa card for bringing in your canned goods.

"This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth-Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break. Our need is great this year with over 600 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission," said Linda Robin, owner of the jewelry store. For more information, contact the store at (734) 207-1906 or e-mail lindarobin1@ameritech.net.

Also, Indigo Salon and Day Spa, located in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, will be holding a Canton Goodfellow's Gifts For Kids Charity Day on Sunday Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Indigo will be open for business with a full service menu (reservations requested) and 100 percent of the money from services rendered will go towards the Goodfellows goal of providing Christmas gifts to 600 less fortunate children in the Canton area. In addition, Indigo will be matching 50 percent of the total retail sales for the day.

To make a reservation, visit www.indigosalonanddayspa.com to view the full service menu and price lists. Contact Indigo at (734) 961-3245.

Nutcracker ballet

More than 70 dancers from Canton-based Bunny Sanford's School of Dance will perform the Nutcracker ballet live on stage on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Livonia Stevenson High School. There will be two performances, at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are available for \$5.

The production features original choreography and costumes from the Nutcracker Ballet that formerly appeared at the Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House. The production features Clara and the Nutcracker Doll, the whirling Waltz of the Snowflakes, high-jumping Russians and much more, yet the performance

length has been shortened just enough to accommodate younger ballet buffs.

Tickets to The Nutcracker Ballet are available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.

Holiday craft fair

Connection Church (previously Tri-City Christian Center) will hold its annual Holiday Craft Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6. More than 60 crafters and vendors will be on hand. There will also be a holiday cookie sale and concessions area. Admission is \$1.

The church is located at 3855 S. Sheldon Road in Canton (1/4 mile north of Michigan Avenue).

For fair or table rental information contact Sharon Chefan at (734) 397-1777 or e-mail her at sharon@connectionchurch.info.

Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date.

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Buffalo Wild Wings; Monday, Jan. 12 at Palermo's; Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/ or its Web page at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm

To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@comcast.net.

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● BOLT (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45
 FRI/SAT LS 11:00

● BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG)
 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25
 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

● MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

● ROLE MODELS (R)
 FRI/SUN-TH 11:15, 1:35, 4:10, 6:35, 9:05
 FRI/SAT LS 11:20 SAT 4:10, 6:35, 9:05

● HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 (G)
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Reluctant hero

Red Cross volunteer gets recognition for his disaster relief efforts

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When David West joined the American Red Cross as a volunteer six years ago, he never thought it would result in him landing on a billboard on I-94.

"A neighbor called and told me and I said 'What are you talking about?' I don't do this for the recognition. I try to keep low key," said West, 60, of Canton.

The retired General Motors logistics coordinator traveled to Galveston, Texas, in September to serve in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and has previously volunteered in various parts of Florida, Indiana and California.

In addition to being stunned a while back by the oversized picture of him and a fellow volunteer plastered on the highway, West, a married father of two adult children, smiles nervously at the suggestion of a friend that he's a hero.

"No," he says. "I have had a good life and things have gone my way, but there are people in need of a lot of help and since I can pick up and go, it's great. I love doing this."

As a volunteer with the southeastern Michigan chapter of the Red Cross, West also served in New Orleans and Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina.

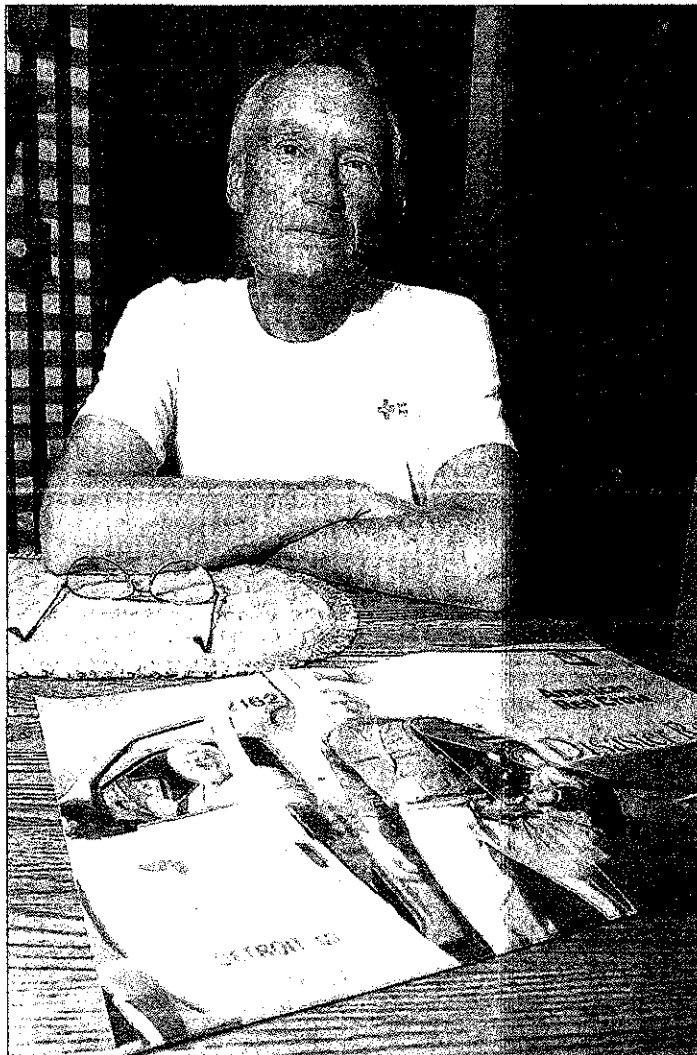
"It's not enough to just distribute goods," he said of traveling to disaster spots. "You have to show compassion and understanding and lend an ear. People are upset and some of them just want to talk about it. They are emotionally stressed."

Ronald Grant, a spokesman for the southeastern Michigan Red Cross chapter, said West has been an asset to their mission.

"He is one of our most dedicated volunteers and he has been a leader," he said. "He has gone down to several disaster sites and he is always willing to help out as much as possible (here)."

With his duties varying from assisting with food to finances, West said he's tried to become a "jack of all trades" to better serve the organization but says interacting with those in need offers the most reward.

"Our job is to tell people that it's going to be OK and when they find out I'm from Michigan



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David West just returned from the hurricane-ravaged Galveston, Texas.

or that the other volunteers are from Mexico or Alaska, it means so much because they know we care," he said.

For more information on the southeastern chapter, log on to www.semredcross.org or call (313) 833-4440.

DONATIONS

FROM PAGE A1

along with a handful of her neighbors, worked on their annual packages Thursday.

"It's not easy to get everyone to save their boxes but it's worth it," Grimes said, adding that while the group was able to donate eight boxes during their first year of participation, that number jumped to 40 boxes last holiday season. "Just the fun of seeing a child smile means everything."

Since 1970, according to its Web site, www.samaritanpurse.org, the organization has tried to meet the needs of those who are "victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ."

Through Operation Christmas Child, the organiza-

tion has sent gifts to China, Liberia, Russia, Malawi and the Philippines.

"I get a feeling of personal satisfaction doing this," said Mildred Domke, who has helped Grimes with the project each year. "I feel like we are fulfilling a need and helping out."

As some of the volunteers sorted through toys and sweets, others focused on wrapping the shoe boxes.

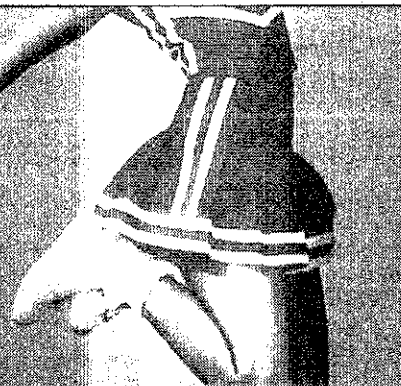
"The fact that we're all 80-90 years old makes this interesting," Grimes jokingly whistled. "But we have fun."

Chris Markowski, Grimes' daughter, said her mother loves giving to the less fortunate and believes it has blessed her life.

"Sometimes, she is so tired and achy but somehow God has given her the strength to do this," she said. "There are so many people around the world in need."

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Cheer for the hometown, read today's SPORTS section



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CANTON CRIME REPORT

Bad bill

Canton police were called to Gordon Food Service Tuesday after a clerk reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill. After a 59-year-old town-

ship man attempted to make a purchase for \$12.57 with the fake bill, he was asked to stay at the store until police arrived. After completing his transaction with other cash, the man waited 15 minutes and then offered his contact information to GFS employees before leaving the Lotz Road store.

Upon arrival, officers obtained the man's address and went to interview him at his Carriage Cove Circle residence. The man reported that he was certain that he had received the counterfeit bill from Quizno's on Ford Road after he paid for his order with a \$50 bill. He then described the cashier that waited on him.

Officers later visited the restaurant and spoke with an employee who said the eatery only checks for the authentic-

ity of bills \$50 and higher.

The counterfeit \$20 was tagged into evidence.

Boosted bike

A township man, 20, has reported that his mountain bike was stolen from outside of Kroger on Canton Center Road.

The man, who works at the grocery store, said that when he went on break Tuesday evening, his bike, a black Schwinn valued at \$900, was still in place but that upon getting ready to leave the store just after 9 p.m., it was gone.

The bike was not locked. The man said that he and his father checked the surrounding area without luck. There are no suspects.

Night-time theft

A burglary was reported

Monday at a residence on the 46000 block of Graystone.

The homeowner, a 47-year-old woman, told police that when the friend of her daughter, 17, left her home at about 11:30 p.m. Sunday she exited out of the front door.

The door was closed but unlocked.

At about 1:30 a.m., the woman's daughter said she was inside the home's garage when she was startled by a man attempting to look through the garage door's windows. Soon after, the teen said she heard what sounded like a door being opened.

The girl then awoke her mother and the two walked through the residence and didn't notice anything missing. The woman said she questioned whether her daughter was imagining things and decided not to call the police department.

Several hours later, the woman said she realized that \$30, two credit cards and a debit card had been taken from her purse, which was near the front door.

Neither the woman nor her daughter believed that the teen's friend, who visits the residence frequently, had taken the items.

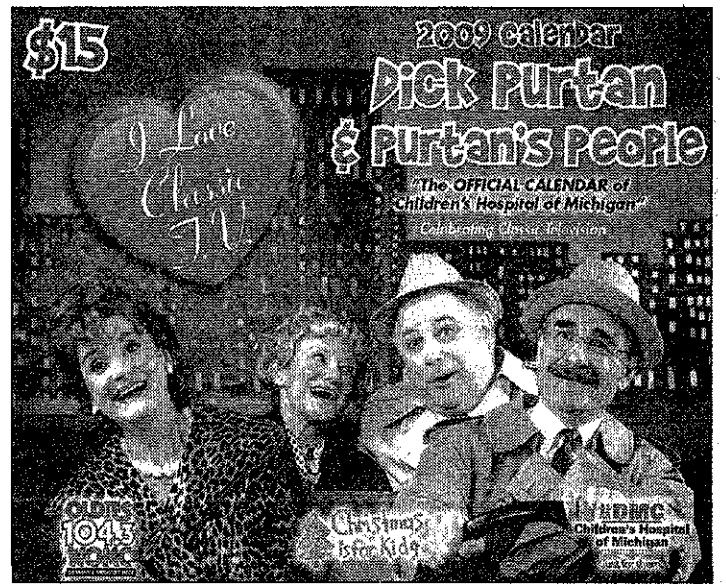
Escape damaged

A vandal damaged a 2006 Ford Escape outside of Walmart on Ford Road Monday.

The owner of the vehicle, a Livonia man, 40, reported to Canton police that he was inside the store for about an hour when he exited to discover that a reptile cage had been thrown on the front of his car.

The cage, which contained large rocks and small pebbles similar to those found in fish tanks, was broken into pieces and the man's vehicle was scratched and there was a crack in his windshield. There are no suspects.

-By Tiffany L. Parks



The winner of the Dining With the Stars contest will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan (right) and Purtan's People of WOMC-FM (104.3).

You could lunch with Purtan's People

The lucky winner of this month's Dining With the Stars will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan and Purtan's People (Big Al Muskavito, Jackie Purtan, Dana Mills, Rebekah Rhodes, John "Ankles" Stewart, Larry Lawson and news anchor Dana Mills) of WOMC-FM.

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have lunch with Dick Purtan, the dean of Detroit radio, and his zany morning show crew at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.

In addition to lunch, the winner will be treated to a limo ride courtesy of Class Plus Limo, mini-makeover by Sebastian and Heba of I Design Salon and Spa in Dearborn, \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Dining With the Stars is co-sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Dick Purtan is one of Michigan's most recognized on-air personalities. As host of 104.3 WOMC's Morning Show with Purtan's People, he entertains his loyal listeners with comedic commentary and topical wit.

Purtan's work also has been recognized on a national level. He has twice been named Billboard Magazine's "Major Market Air Personality of the Year" and is the winner of radio's top prize, The National Association of Broadcasters MARCONI Award as "Major Market Air Personality of the Year." In 2006, Purtan was inducted into the National Association of Broadcasting Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. Only one person in the radio industry is inducted each year.

For 21 years, his annual Salvation Army Radiothon has raised almost \$17 million for the Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program.

Dick Purtan and Purtan's People can be heard Monday through Friday on 104.3 WOMC from 5-10 a.m., and Saturdays from 6-10 a.m.

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The best opportunity to keep your teeth healthy for a lifetime, and the best insurance for a healthy oral profile right now is sticking to a routine of brushing and flossing and receiving fluoride and regular professional care. If it's time for your child's first visit to the dentist (around age 2), or if you can't remember the last time you visited the dentist, it's time to call your dental office. If you are looking for a family dentist, we are currently accepting new patients, from pediatrics to geriatrics, at our comfortable, state-of-the-art practice at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth, PH: 734-453-9413.**

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401(k) plan not at risk

Dear Rick: I work for a small company in the automotive business. I think the company will go out of business. My concern is with my 401(k) plan. If my employer files for bankruptcy or closes down, is my 401(k) at risk? If it is, is there anything that I can do to protect it?

Your 401(k) plan is not considered an asset of the company. Whether the company went into bankruptcy or just shut down, your 401(k) plan is not subject to creditor attack. The 401(k) plan is held in a separate trust that shields

it from creditors. In fact, the separate trust also prevents your employer from dipping into your 401(k) plan.

Although 401(k) plans are shielded they are subject to market fluctuation. If a portion of the 401(k) is invested in company stock and the company does go out of business, there will be a significant loss.

Employees should limit their exposure to company stock. I recognize there is a loyalty issue, however, the bigger issue is diversification. Investors cannot afford to keep all their eggs in one basket. That is why it's important to limit the amount of exposure to company stock.

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



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

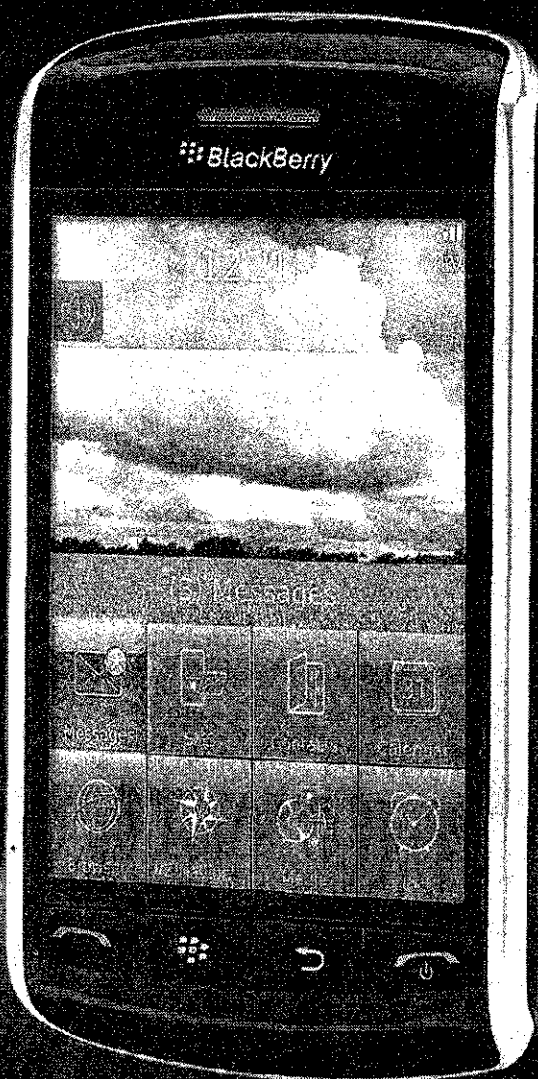
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check out the numbers in today's **Sports** section

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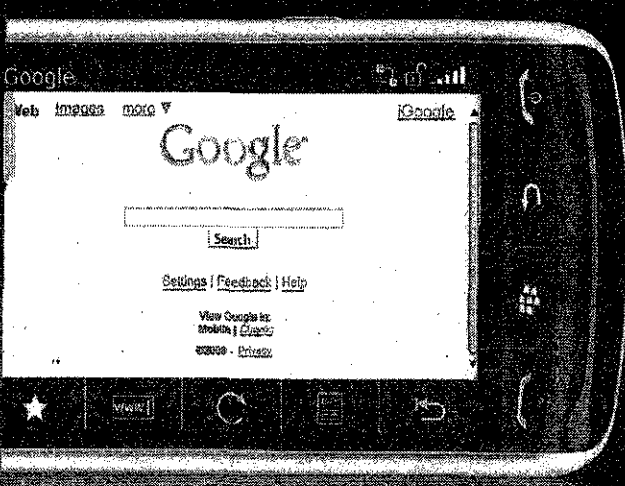


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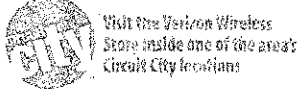
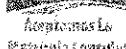
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Drilling the Big Apple

Briefcase team lands spot in Macy's parade

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

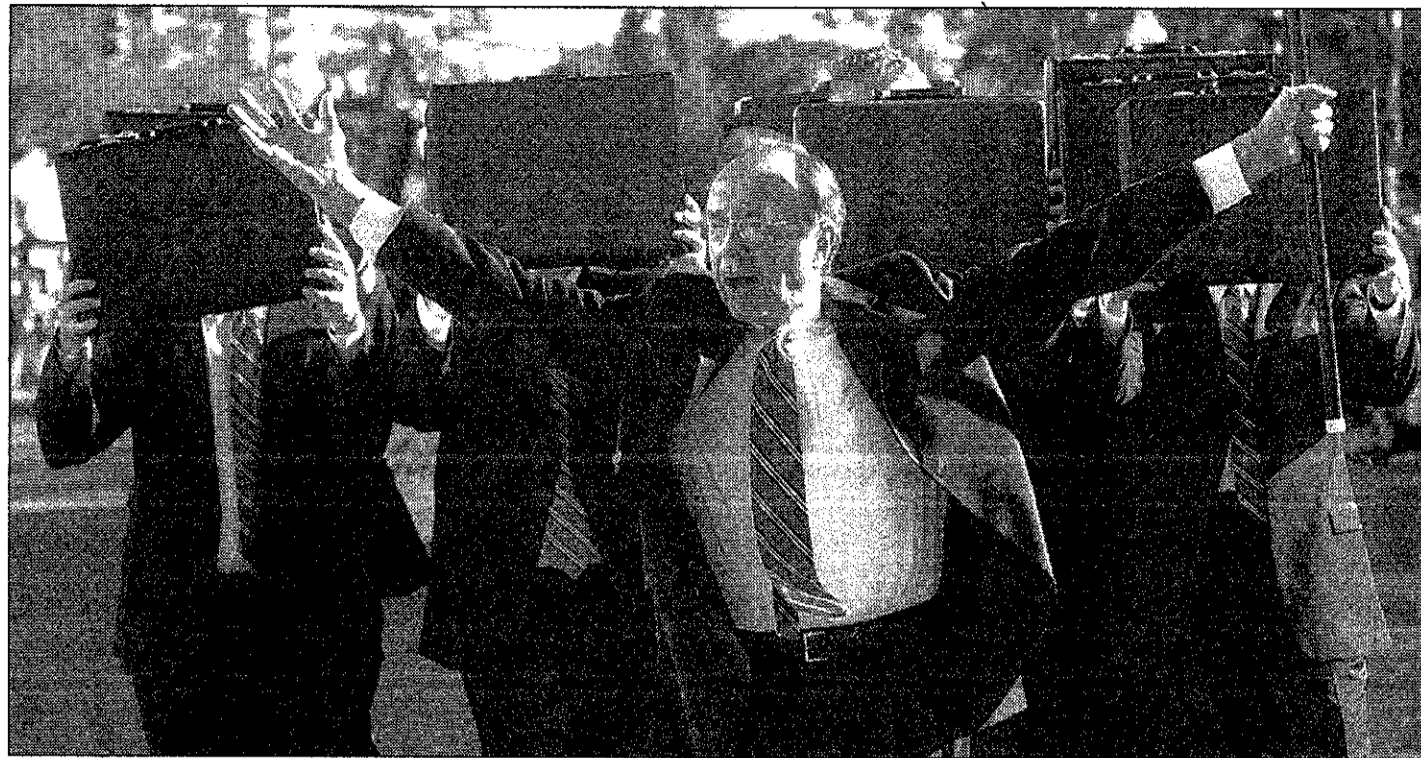
The Fred Hill Brief Case Drill Team started out as a lark 24 years ago, a human billboard in local parades to parody those who wear business suits.

On Thanksgiving Day the group will hit the ultimate parade "big-time" when it marches in the 82nd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Hill, a Plymouth Realtor, sent a letter to parade organizers last December. He led off the inquiry with "This is, I think, the proverbial shot in the dark. But, here goes nonetheless."

Not only did Hill receive a favorable response to his 17-member drill team, but after sending a DVD of their maneuvers the Drill Team was awarded entry into the parade that wows 3.5 million spectators and over 50 million television viewers nationwide.

"Giddy is a good word," said Hill about how he and his colleagues felt about being one of the select few in the Macy's Parade. "It's kind of like that feeling you get when you got



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fred Hill and the Briefcase Drill Team, local parade favorites for years, are on their way to New York for the Macy's Thanksgiving parade.

that first bicycle.

"There's the anticipation of what the crowd reaction will be because they've never seen us before," he said. "A little bit of nervousness ... will they get it?"

The first appearance for the Briefcase Drill Team was in the July 4, 1986 parade in Plymouth. The group was originally designed to be a walking advertisement for Hill's men's clothing store,

Fred Hill Haberdashers. The store closed in 1982, but the drill team continues to march on. Their resume includes 20 consecutive appearances in Detroit's America's Thanksgiving Parade; appearances at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio and the Indianapolis 500 parade; a commercial for Beacon Investment and a grand opening for Neiman

Marcus.

Hill, who is known by his squad as "The General," calls the cadence and nearly a dozen maneuvers for the 16-member squad, each wearing the standard blue business suit, white shirt, silk red-striped tie, a red pocket handkerchief and — of course — carrying a briefcase.

Warren Musson, 52, of Plymouth Township, has been a member of the Briefcase

Drill Team for about seven years and is excited about being a part of the big stage called New York City on Thanksgiving Day.

"I think it's fantastic," said Musson, a senior vice president and head of lending for Fidelity Bank, the same kind of "suit" the Briefcase Drill Team parodies. "I think the group represents what's good in metropolitan Detroit and southeast Michigan.

"The crowd really gets into it and we really feed off the crowd," he said. "Of all the entries that go into the parade, the crowd consistently responds in a positive and energetic way to this group when it goes by."

The Briefcase Drill Team holds only one "secret" practice a year, in the downtown Plymouth parking deck the Sunday before the Thanksgiving Day parade. This year's practice (5 p.m. Sunday, all are welcome) will be followed by a second on Tuesday in New York.

"We leave here at noon, check into the Hilton New York and then we have to go to a rehearsal that night," said Hill. "We'll do exactly what we'll be doing when we get our 30-second performance on television so they know where they want to position the cameras. This parade is so finely tuned, the detail is incredible."

The Macy's parade route is about 2.5 miles, about a half-mile longer than the Detroit Thanksgiving parade.

When asked why people enjoy the Briefcase Drill Team, Hill paused for a few seconds.

"Maybe it's as simple as we have fun and people watching us have fun, for that instant," said Hill. "They clap, they whistle, they hoot and cheer. Laughing at us and at themselves at the same time."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2172

Salvation Army rings in with kettle campaign

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps kicked off its biggest fund-raiser, the annual Red Kettle bell-ringing campaign, Monday morning with a goal of reaching \$235,000.

That's nearly \$30,000 higher than the \$206,000 the campaign took in a year ago, but Salvation Army officials are hopeful, despite the lagging economy, they can reach that amount.

"When times are tough people give from their hearts, they're very generous," said Teresa Moriarty,

the Salvation Army's volunteer coordinator. "With the economy the way it is, and the need growing desperately, there's an awareness out there in the community that people are struggling. I feel very confident we're going to reach that goal, with the grace of God."

Moriarty said the Salvation Army will have some 20 locations scattered through their service area (Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville), including a brand new kettle spot at the J.C. Penney on Ford Road in Canton.

While there are plenty of locations, what the Salvation

Army really needs are bell ringers. Moriarty said she's got plenty for most weekends, but is in great need of volunteer bell ringers for weekdays.

"We desperately need people who wish to volunteer during the week, especially next week, since it's our first week and we're kind of light on volunteers," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering can do it one of two ways: online at www.ringbells.org, where volunteers can pick their dates, times and locations; or they can call the Salvation Army directly at (734) 453-5464. "Some people are just

comfortable working with computers, and (registration) is very computer friendly," Moriarty said. "If you're not, just call me."

In addition to the standard red kettles, Moriarty said she's going to spread about 20 "counter kettles" at willing business locations around the area.

One major push for the campaign will come Nov. 27, when the Plymouth community welcomes Santa on his annual visit. Bell ringers will be present in Kellogg Park, dressed in traditional cape and cap/bonnet, with the Salvation Army's brass ensemble also playing. It's all

designed to make a success out of the Salvation Army's biggest fund-raiser of the year. Moriarty said those who can't donate cash can still help.

"Ringing the bell is how we generate the funds that stay right here in this community," she said. "If you can't donate money, donate your time. Money isn't everything."

The theme of this year's Red Kettle campaign is "Doing the Most Good," which officials hope will raise awareness of the many different services and programs the Salvation Army uses to do their part to help

their community.

"We continually see increased demand for our services and the annual Red Kettle Campaign is a major reason why we are able to provide assistance to those in need," said Maj. Norman Marshall, divisional commander of The Salvation Army of Metro-Detroit. "It is our mission to do the most good with the community's contributions by offering hope with rehabilitation, providing food for the hungry, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153

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: November 23, 2008

026853228-2x.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA DECEMBER 11, 2008

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

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

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Taleb & Abdallah Holdings, 15111 W. Warren Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126, for commercial property located at 45495 Michigan Avenue (Amoco/BP), south side of Michigan Avenue between Belleville and Dewitt Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.06; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, sign variance.
Zone C-3 Parcel 132 99 0010 712 (Building)
Tabled from the 12-13-2007, 1-10-2008, & 10-9-2008 meetings
2. Bryan L. Amann, 355 North Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located on the west side of Denton between Geddes and Proctor Roads, appealing Article 26.00, Section 26.02.b, variance of 882 ft from the maximum 388 ft depth allowed based on a lot width of 129 ft in the R-2 district.
Zone R-2 Parcel 120 99 0010 707 (part of) (Planning)
3. Jeffrey L. Scott, 41775 Michigan Avenue, Suite 200, Canton, MI 48188, for vacant property located on the south side of Michigan Avenue between Haggerty and Lilley Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, block style lettering shall be at least 14" in size on any wall sign.
Zone C-3 Parcel 137 99 0016 000 (Planning)

Approval of the November 13, 2008 Minutes

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

Publish November 23, 2008

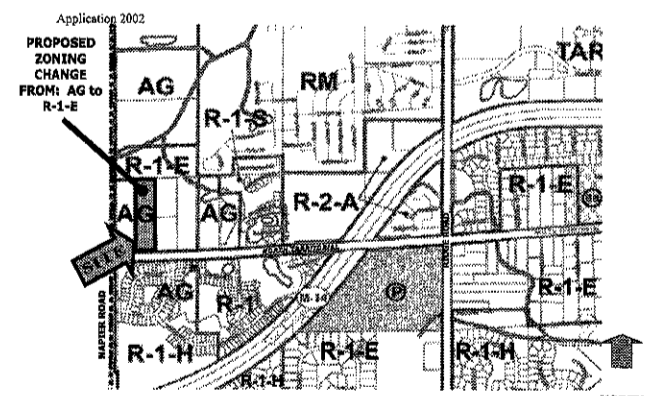
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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP
REZONE FROM: AG, Agricultural District
REZONE TO: R-1-E, Single Family Residential District
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall
9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received a petition to rezone parcel R-78-042-99-0003-004 from AG, Agricultural District to R-1-E, Single Family Residential District. The property is located directly west of 51200 and 51100 North Territorial Road, a short distance east of Napier Road.



AMENDED ZONING MAP NO. 011 Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne, Michigan

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-042-99-0003-004. (The property is located directly west of 51200 and 51100 North Territorial Road, a short distance east of Napier Road.)

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-549-8777 (Michigan Relay Service).

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Food drive

Trinity Church of Plymouth and Gleaners Community Food Bank are working together to provide food for families in the area who have been hit by the economic slump. Gleaners has refurbished a beverage truck that Trinity will fill with some 30,000 pounds of produce and staples for distribution to families in the Plymouth-Canton area. To receive food, call Trinity at (734) 459-9550 and sign up for a pickup time.

School district recognized for financial reporting

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The magic numbers stands for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools are seven and nine. They represent the number of consecutive years the district has been honored for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

"Out of some 700 school districts in the state, only three submit and disclose their full financial report," Superintendent Greg Baracy said. "We're one of a few districts across the state which fully disclose our financials as well we should. These awards are something the school board, the citizens and the district can be proud of."

For the ninth consecu-

tive year, the district has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Board Officials International.

And for the seventh consecutive year, it's received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

"Why do we do it? The answer is simple," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent of administrative and business services. "We feel the parents, the students and the staff deserve a full accounting of how we spend \$161 million."

The ASBO award is the highest recognition awarded

for school district financial operations offered by the organization and is only given to districts that have met or exceeded the standards of the program.

Likewise, the GFOA certificate is the association's highest recognition given in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents "a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

Martin said participating in the ASBO and GFOA certificate of excellence programs is a rewarding experience.

"Attaining these awards brings a feeling of confidence and has remarkably increased our financial reporting credibility not only to the district but to the community as a

whole," Martin said.

He added that the awards were the end of a long process and that the district's auditing firm of Plante Moran "keep us on our toes."

He also acknowledged the efforts of his "excellent staff," including Linda Compton, senior executive director of business and operations; Sue Rawson, her executive secretary, and Angela Black, supervisor of business/purchasing.

"They do a super job," he said. "It's gotten so we expect these excellence awards every year," said board President Martha Pitsenbarger in congratulating Martin and his staff.

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Let there be light! Lightfest opens for month of holiday fun

Wayne County Parks' Lightfest officially opened Thursday with fireworks, music and Santa Claus.

Lightfest features more than 35 giant animated displays and over one million lights; it is the Midwest's largest and longest light show. The complete Lightfest route is over four miles of Hines Drive. The light display is open 7-10 p.m. through Jan. 1 (closed on Christmas Day).

Dec. 2, 9 and 16 will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children in Wayne County. On these nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee. Visitors are also welcome to contribute the recommended donation.

At the walk through display area, visitors can stop by Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale Area for refreshments and gift shopping. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. Don't forget to bring your letters to Santa! Outside of Santa's workshop there will be a giant mailbox where kids of all ages can drop off their letters to Santa. Santa's elves will pick up the letters each night.

Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman, 2½ miles south of I-96 in Westland.

Lightfest is presented in partnership with Fox 2 News, Magic 105.1 FM, DBT Marketing and Promotional Group, Garden City Hospital, McDonald Modular, the Friends of Wayne County Parks, Entertainment Express Luxury Limousine and ITC Holdings.

For more information on Wayne County Lightfest, call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecountyparks.org.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Executive Bob Ficano, Santa Claus, and a crowd of kids throw the switch to light the lights for the Wayne County Lightfest.



The fireworks begin for the opening of the Wayne County Light Festival.



Nine-year-old Claire Frankowski enjoys a doughnut while waiting for Santa Claus.

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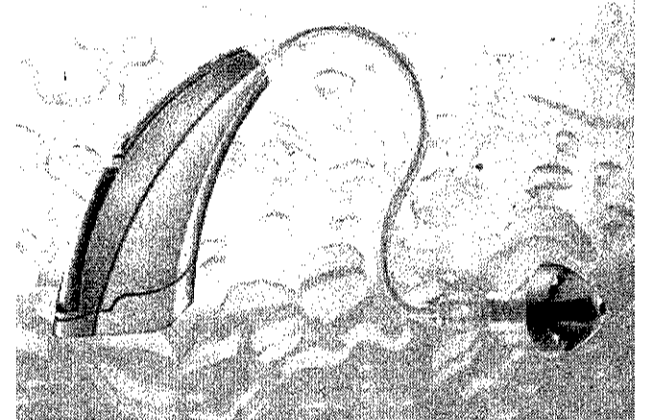
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OUR VIEWS

Be grateful – and have a happy Thanksgiving

"Happy Thanksgiving." We'll hear this greeting a lot in the next week, but how can we have a "happy" Thanksgiving when the economy is in such sad shape? So many people have lost their jobs, their homes, their retirement savings. The national unemployment is 6.5 percent, the highest since March 1994. In Michigan, it's 8.7 percent. A record 1.2 million homes were in foreclosure during the second quarter

of 2008, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. According to some estimates, another 2 million families could lose their homes to foreclosure in the next two years. In October, the Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered its worst week of losses ever. The Big 3 is seeking a government bailout, and leading economists say the likelihood of a prolonged U.S. recession has increased significantly

as economic conditions continue to deteriorate. Yet, happiness doesn't come from material possessions. They make it easier to live, but they don't bring lasting and genuine joy. True happiness comes from being content with what we have – no matter how meager our possessions or how trying our circumstances. Put the happy in your Thanksgiving this year by being grateful for your

MLK's dream not just for African-Americans

On the morning of Nov 4, I got up early and had breakfast. I kept looking at the time to make sure I would not be late for voting. I felt as if there was going to be an exam. This is the first time I voted in my life.



Xiaoling Chen

After a short time standing in the queue, I came to a desk and handed my voting card and got the paper. I sat down and read the directions very carefully and looked at the questions and multiple choices very carefully. Good thing I already knew the answer. But I still took the great effort to fill the circles very completely. I finally finished and went to line up for the machine. The lady patiently instructed me how to push the envelope into the slot. I did very well. And I got a sticker that said "I voted." I pasted it on my shirt right away. When I went to work, some friends noticed and said "Ah, you voted!" I had a new feeling never felt before. I had been a green card holder for 18 years before I applied for citizenship. When asked why I wanted to become a citizen, I answered that I wanted to be more involved in the future of the U.S. and I wanted to vote. Early this year, my citizenship application got approved and a good friend accompanied me in the ceremony. I registered to vote right after the ceremony. She took pictures for me holding the certificate and we went to celebrate it after

wards. I was excited on that day, but not as excited as I was when I learned of the election result. I became a real American when my voice was heard together with other Americans. All this happiness brings back memories. I came to study in the university 19 years ago in Detroit. After I registered for the classes, I paid the tuition and found a temporary place to live. I went to museums. The African-American History Museum gave me a lot of information about the American history that I did not know before. I also saw the movie *Roots* when I was in China. I did not notice the terrible things like that happening around me. But I did notice the homeless in the street. I also noticed one professor is an African-American who holds two doctorate degrees. He talked with great wisdom, but at the same time was down to earth. I asked friends in and out of the class about how racial discrimination affects life. Each agreed that it is still around. Discrimination can happen to anyone. But equal opportunity still prevails because most Americans accept differences and give trust to people despite their skin color or accent. I was living in an apartment in Plymouth at that time. One day as I was taking a walk after dinner passing someone's window, a teenage girl yelled at me from inside of the window a racial remark together with "Go Home!" My body shook and I could feel a fear and sadness inside my heart. I ran back to my apartment and could not concentrate for the rest of

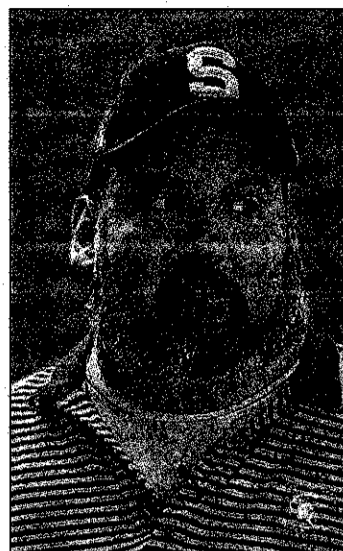
the night. Next day, I got lost on my way to my evening class in downtown Detroit. I finally made it to the class and there was no one left except for my professor because the class was over. He looked at me and said "Xiaoling, I knew you would come." Tears rolled down my face. He told me with his action that there are still Americans who believe in you for who you are. Five years later, I started working in companies. There was a management opportunity I thought I could do well in. I mentioned this opening to my boss. He said that I should not even try and hinted that he felt this way because I was Chinese. I carried this uncomfortable thought for several years before I realized I was as good and capable as all white managers. I got calls from recruiters that believe my skill will fit in some supervisor positions. Even though I did not end up working in that position, I again realized that there are trust and opportunities for me due to my character and talents. Martin Luther King's dream is not just for African-Americans, it is for all of us, white and non-white. Barack Obama took that dream to a new level. America, the land of opportunity, is of significant meaning at this moment and the whole world is looking at us as the greatest nation on earth. Xiaoling "Charlene" Chen is a graduate of the Wayne State University, School of Education, and currently works as a computer engineer. She has lived in Canton for 11 years.

COMMUNITY CORNER

What advice would you offer President-elect Barack Obama?



"Stick to your word." James Conley Canton



"Try and get our economy going again." Andy Connelly Canton



"Stick with your instincts and stay strong." Sue Groom Canton



"Stop free trade. That was our biggest downfall." Elaine Edwards Canton

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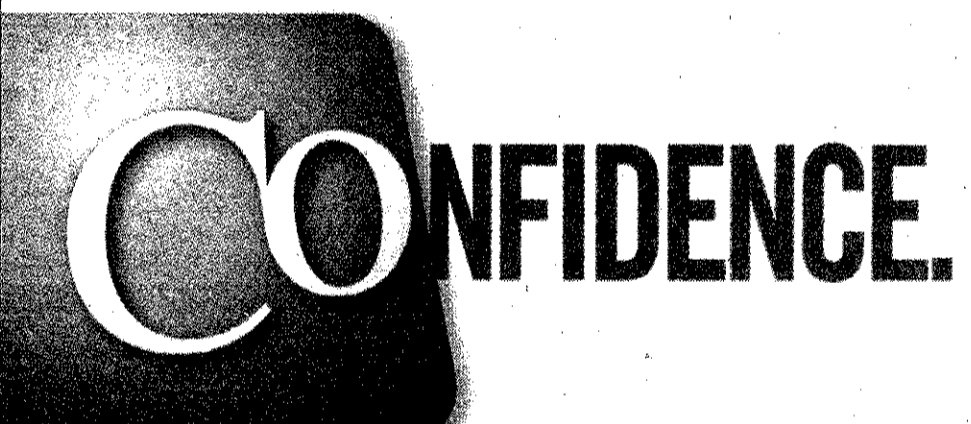
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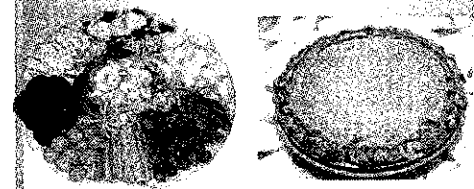
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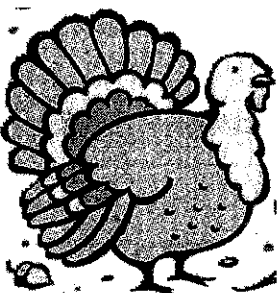
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Sunday, November 23, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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THRILLER

Canton icers pull off dramatic rally

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton senior forward Nick Tomilenko made sure his team's never-say-die comeback Friday night turned into a never-say-tie victory.

The Chiefs wiped out a 4-2 deficit with just over four minutes left to defeat Chelsea, 5-4, at the Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea.

Tomilenko buried the game-winner with 0.6 seconds left off assists from Mark Barath and Anthony Bonnett.

"Things were looking grim for a while there, but the guys hung in there and never gave up," said

Canton coach Dan Abraham, whose icers improved to 2-0. "It was a good back-and-forth game. When it was five-on-five, I think we got the better of them, but their goalie played extremely well.

"Our defensive unit played well. They showed people what they're capable of. We scored a couple of power-play goals, too, which was good to see."

The Chiefs led 2-1 after one period thanks to goals from Tomilenko (from Dan Bielik and Bonnett) and Barath (from Bonnett and Jimmy LaFontaine).

Chelsea then reeled off three consecutive net-finders to seize a 4-2 advantage before Canton's dramatic, down-the-stretch rally.

A.J. Rosales sparked the comeback with a goal assisted by Ryan Lash and Alex Berlin with four minutes left. Tomilenko then knotted things up at 4-4 with an unassisted lamp-lighter.

Moments later, the scrappy senior forward won it with shot from the door step.

Freshman goalie Max Sexton notched his first high school victory.

"The key was we hung in there and never gave in to defeat," Abraham said.

The Chiefs return to action Friday when they take on Salem in the first round of the Salem Thanksgiving Tournament.

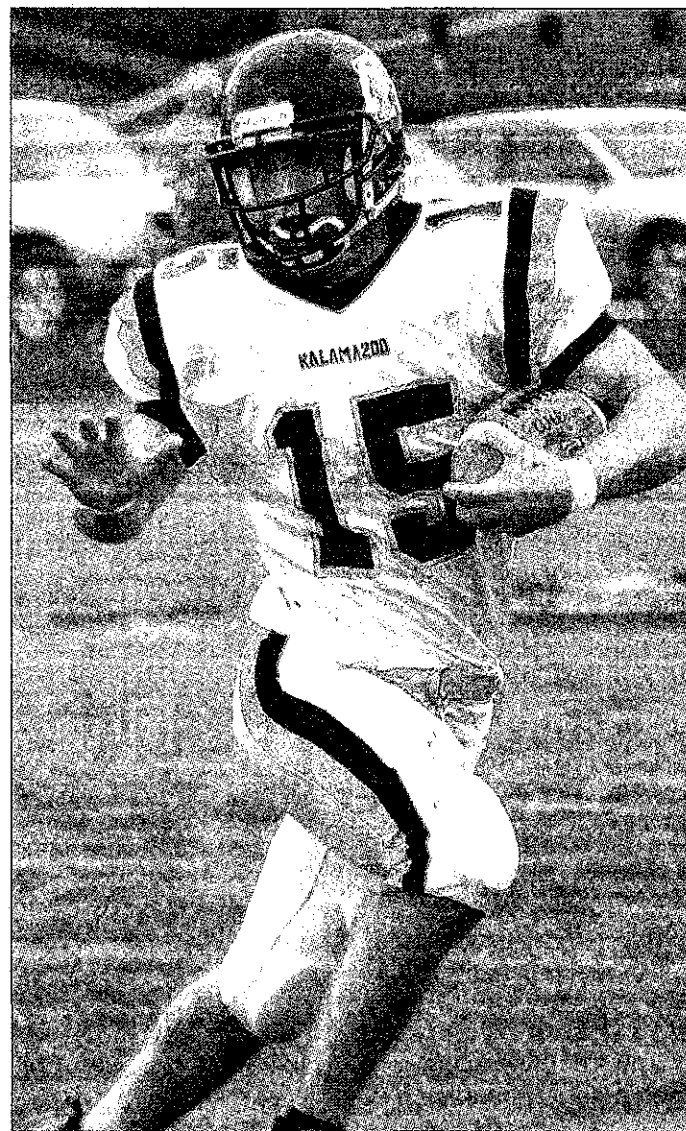
The opening faceoff is set for 6 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

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BROWN UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Jake Powers closed out a stellar college football career at Brown University Saturday when the Bears took on Columbia with a shot at an Ivy League title.



KALAMAZOO COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Adam Powers made a sudden impact on the Kalamazoo College football program this fall. The freshman scored five touchdowns and registered 20 pass receptions.

Sidelines

Rolfe honored

Former Plymouth High School soccer standout Colin Rolfe was recently named the Big East Conference's Rookie of the Year following his stellar freshman campaign at the University of Louisville.

Rolfe became the first player in the Louisville program's history to earn a major Big East award.

The ex-Wildcat notched a team-leading five goals and 12 points. Among his goals were a pair of game-winners.

The highlight of Rolfe's season came Oct. 4, when he recorded a goal and an assist in the Cardinals' 2-1 upset of then-No. 4-ranked St. John's. It proved to be St. John's lone regular-season loss.

Super Bowl to host NCAAs

The NCAA Women's Bowling Committee has selected Canton's Super Bowl to host the 2009 NCAA Women's Bowling Championships.

The double-elimination event will be held April 9-11. The top eight teams from 49 NCAA institutions will compete.

The University of Detroit Mercy will serve as co-host in partnership with the Detroit Metro Sports Commission.

Whalers postponed

Friday night's Ontario Hockey League match-up between the Plymouth Whalers and the Owen Sound Attack was postponed due to poor weather.

The Whalers' team bus traveled as far as Sarnia in clear weather before turning back due to poor road conditions.

The Whalers will host the Windsor Spitfires at 7:50 p.m. Wednesday. Tickets for all Whalers home games are available by calling (734) 453-8400.

Gridiron brotherhood

Plymouth Township siblings fulfill life-long dreams of playing college football

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Every Saturday afternoon this fall, Jake and Adam Powers dialed up one another's cell phone for long-distance conversations that few, if any, brothers in the United States could relate to.

The Powers brothers, who grew up in Plymouth Township and graduated from Canton High School, both play college football, a family feat that is remarkable considering only one in 20 prep gridders is talented enough to make a collegiate roster.

"We'd usually chat after our games on Saturdays to see how each other's games went," said Jake Powers, who Saturday played his final game at Brown University. "I'm real happy for Adam because I know how much he loves football. We worked out together this summer, which was good for me because I've never trained with anybody that works as hard as he does."

Fittingly, Adam Powers attended his big brother's final game Saturday. He had a legit reason for missing the first 10: The 5-foot-11, 190-pound freshman played a pivotal role for the Kalamazoo College football team, scoring five touchdowns in his first-ever stint as a running back.

"I'm glad I got to go to Jake's last game because it was the culmination of 12 years of playing football for him," Adam Powers said. "I learned a lot from Jake growing up, mostly about how to serve in a leadership role and how to motivate my teammates."

IT'S IN THE GENES

The apples didn't fall far from the tree in the Powers household. Jake and Adam's dad, Jeff Powers, played col-

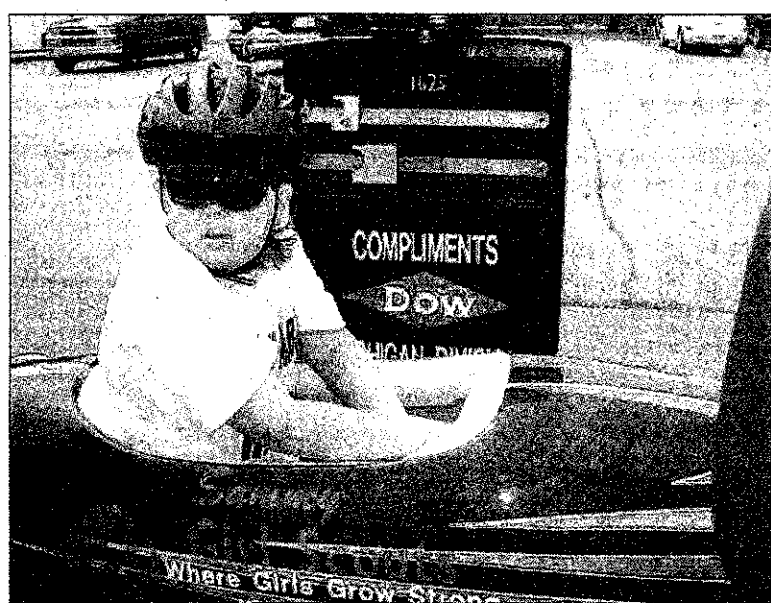
lege football at Bowling Green State University, an experience that allowed him to pass down some valuable advice.

"First of all, I couldn't be more proud of both of them, not just as football players, but as men," Jeff Powers said. "They both aspired to play college football since they played little league for the (Plymouth-Canton) Steelers, and it's great to see that they both had what it took to realize that dream."

"Having played college football myself, I was able to warn them about how tough it was going to be the first year. You go from being a big dog in high school to a nobody in college. The two-a-days are brutal. The coach is grinding you down because he wants to fish out the quitters."

Jake Powers not only survived the early rounds of two-a-days, he has thrived at

Please see **BROTHERS, B3**



JIM HOWELL

Eleven-year-old Canton resident Samantha Howell has made a mark on the national Soap Box Derby racing scene. The East Middle School sixth-grader is currently ranked No. 2 in one racing series.

SPEED RACER

Canton sixth-grader is Soap Box Derby star

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like her idols Danica Patrick and Ashley Force, 11-year-old Canton resident Samantha Howell has a need for speed.

And like the two most famous female race car drivers in the world, the East Middle School sixth-grader appears to be on the fast track to success.

Since picking up the hobby of racing Soap Box Derby cars two years ago, it's been all down hill for Howell, who is ranked No. 2 nationally in the All-American Soap Box Derby's Super Stock class, which consists of racers between the ages of 10 and 21.


Howell will be heading to Winston Salem, N.C., next weekend to compete in a regional National Derby Rally qualifying race that could earn her a berth in the 2009 championships in Des Moines, Iowa.

The personable Howell sped to a top-20 finish at last year's nationals.

"It's fun and I like to win trophies," Howell said when asked about her speed-driven hobby. "I'm going to keep racing until I'm too old to do it anymore."

Howell was introduced to the sport by accident after her father, Jim, returned from a car show with a piece of literature that caught her eye.

Please see **DERBY, B3**




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Wildcat skaters hope to build on school's best-ever season

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What does Plymouth's hockey team have in store for an encore on the heels of its most successful season ever?

Based on its talented core of returning defensemen, plenty of victories.

The Wildcats chalked up a 16-10 record in 2007-08, a season that included a second-place showing in the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division and the school's first pre-Regional title.

"Our team defense should be our strength," said second-year coach Paul Fassbender. "As long as we do what we should be doing, we should be strong. We have good team speed and we have a group of guys who are aggressive."

The Wildcats will draw strength from numbers. Forty-two skaters tried out for the 20 roster spots.

Plymouth will be paced by senior forward Luke Mirandi, a third-year varsity players who will occupy a spot

on one of the 'Cats' top lines.

"Luke leads by example," said Fassbender. "He always works hard and he always knows exactly what we want to do."

Senior forward Kyle Callahan will also serve as a captain following a stellar junior season.

"Kyle has a complete knowledge of the game," said Fassbender. "He gives us great defense from the forward position and he knows his role."

Serving as assistant captains will be senior defenseman Mitch Martin and junior forward Ryan Renault.

"Mitch is a tremendous worker who hits hard," Fassbender said. "Ryan displayed a lot of leadership qualities during the summer and fall. He's probably the most vocal of the four captains and he has tremendous goal-scoring ability."

The starting goal-tending duties have been earned by first-year sophomore Michael Justus.

"He's an aggressive goalie who likes to play the puck," said Fassbender. "He's real solid and should help us a lot."

PREP HOCKEY PREVIEW

Other key contributors Fassbender mentioned were first-year players Pat Smietacz, a junior forward, and junior center Taylor Currier.

The team's defensive unit will be spearheaded by Martin, senior newcomer Chris Merrill, junior Evan Swieczkowski, junior Ryan Cigile and sophomore Tayler Lazorka.

CANTON

It's only November, but it appears the Chiefs are already well on their way to improving upon last year's up-and-down 12-11-2 record.

Canton has started the 2008-09 campaign 2-0 following non-conference victories over DeWitt/St. John's and Chelsea.

"We have the potential to be a strong team," said veteran coach Dan Abraham. "We have a lot of talented returning players and some new guys who have shown some potential."

"If we play as individuals, we'll be a mediocre team. If we play as a team,

we should do well."

Among the Chiefs' 14 seniors are their three captains: forward Ryan Lash, center Alex Berlin and defenseman Donny Barlow.

"Ryan brings us leadership on and off the ice," said Abraham. "He has a natural leadership style that resonates throughout the team."

"Alex leads by example. He's the kind of captain who can get his point across without saying a lot."

"Donny has the ability to do it all on the ice. He's a greater leader. He has a hard shot and he's the kind of skater who can take the puck coast to coast. He's exciting to watch."

Speaking of exciting, senior forward Nick Tomilenko has notched seven points for the Chiefs in their first two games.

"Nick can put points on the board," said Abraham. "He seems to score the big goals when we need them the most."

Senior forward Mark Barath may not be as flashy as some of his teammates, but he more than gets the job done, said Abraham.

"Mark has a lot of heart," said Abraham. "He'll set a screen, take a hit, score a big goal."

Joining Barlow on the defensive end of the ice will be senior Bryan Davison, senior Dan Bielak, sophomore Jimmy LaFontaine and senior Ryan May.

"That group has a great combination of speed, smarts and intelligence," said Abraham.

A trio of goalies will share time between the pipes: senior Zane Birchler; and freshmen Ryan Bazner and Max Sexton.

"We have a lot of depth at goalie this year so the guys will have to play well to earn their starts," said Abraham.

Abraham praised his gold line, which consists of Andrew Juback, Zach Haar, Jordan Emery and Trent Taylor.

"They'll do whatever it takes," he said. "They're gritty. They'll fore-check, kill penalties — whatever it takes."

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Penguins hope to soar back into title contention

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two years after capturing a state championship, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team is looking to reclaim some of its past glory.

The Penguins nearly did so last year. After struggling through the regular season, coach Lori Callahan's young and inexperienced contingent surged in the post-season playoffs, advancing to the semifinal round of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League tournament before being ousted.

"We have quite a few new players and only four seniors

and no juniors, so we're a young team," said Callahan, who has served as either a head coach or assistant coach since the program's inception. "It's a very enthusiastic team and all the girls pull for each other."

For the first time in recent memory, the Penguins' roster will have two goalies — returning senior starter Michelle Shaffer and freshman Emily Bullock.

"Michelle did a great job for us last year, especially considering it was her first year as a goalie," said Callahan. "Emily has been playing the position for a while, so her experience will help. When she doesn't

play goalie, she'll be one of our defensemen."

The Penguins will be led by senior captains Kelsey Nikkila, Chelsea Osburn and Katie Rokakis.

"Kelsey is a good leader," said Callahan. "She fires the girls up and keeps everything together."

"Chelsea has improved each year. We moved her from forward to defenseman this year, so our defense should be improved."

"Katie is a three-year player and one of our hardest workers."

When the Penguins are looking for a big goal this season, they'll turn to sophomore forward Amanda Heisler.

"She knows how to put the puck in the net," Callahan said of Heisler, who scored four goals last week against Regina.

The Penguins' defensive unit will be anchored by Jessie Hazlett, Rhianna Fleisher, Osburn and Sarah Coleman — the third Coleman sister to play in the PCS program.

"I'd like to make the playoffs again and get out of the first round like we did last year," said Callahan, when asked about her goals this season. "We're in the upper division (of the MMGSHL), so we'll have to play hard every night."

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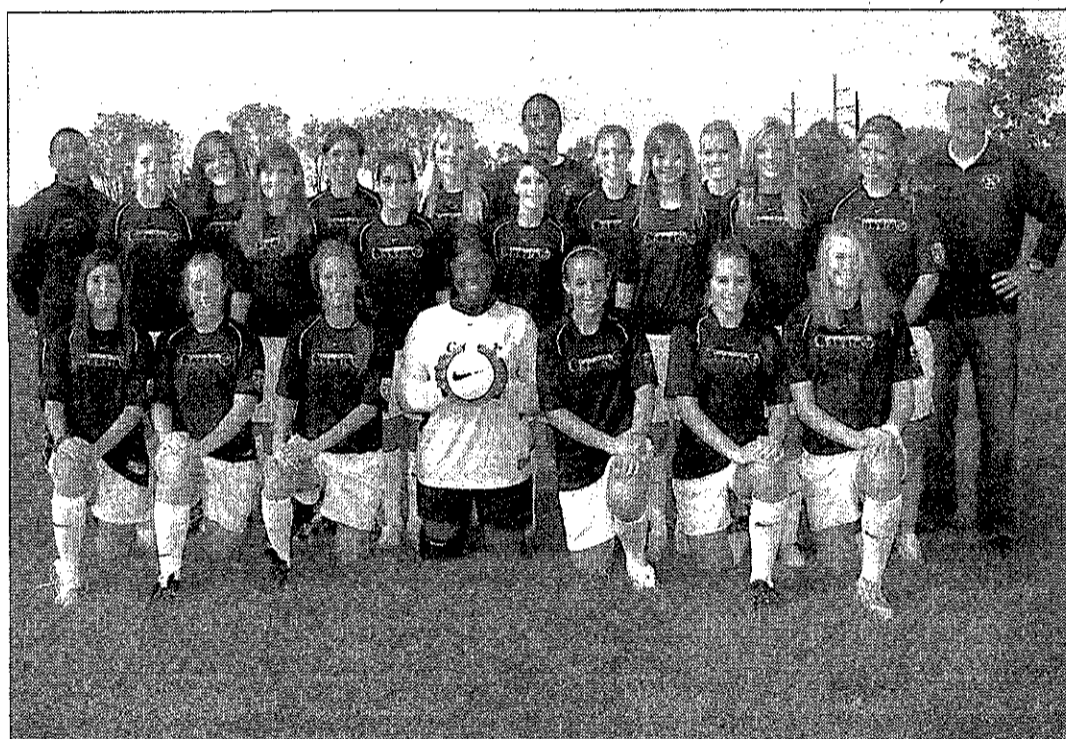
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Premier champions

The Canton Soccer Club's Celtic U17 premier girls soccer team went undefeated and captured first place in the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program this fall. Pictured are (front row from left) Lindsey Newton, Meeghan Hughes, Kasey Webb, Kayle Lewis, Carley McQuisten, Katie Krajewski, Tracy Rymph, (back row from left) Jenna Virant, Allyssa Cottrell, Abigail Gialer, Kelly Larimore, Liliana Serratos, Lauren Booth, Taylor Burgoon, Megan Staub, Jennifer Babcock, Kelly Dobbs, Sara Oleary and Leslie Weisz. The team is coached by Hewerton Camaz Moreira, Rogerio Oliveira and John Staub. Not pictured is Marissa Williams.



Plymouth JV pom pon team excels

The Plymouth High School junior varsity pom pon team placed first in the Mid-American Pom Pon High Kick Competition held earlier this month at Eastern Michigan University. The team's high-kick performance theme was music from the movie 'The Mask.' Pictured are (front row from left) Lauren Turner, Alanna Farrugia, Kirsten Engstrom (captain), Dominica Convertino (captain), Christina Dreyer (captain), Hollin Pardikes, Emma Buechele, (middle row from left) Lindsey Martin, Katie Justice, Lyndsay Zelenak, Brittany Guajardo, Samantha Trunk, Sierra Tyl, (back row from left) coach Erica Caudillo, Jennifer Sochocki, Isis Haywood, Stephanie Hall, Kelly Karst, Kellie Connelly, Callie Lehr and coach Amanda Baldwin.



HOWELL FAMILY PHOTO

Samantha Howell relaxes by her Soap Box Derby car between races this summer.

DERBY

FROM PAGE B1

"My son (Joshua) and I went to the Autorama at Cobo Hall a couple years ago and I picked up a brochure that explained all about Soap Box Derby racing," Jim Howell said. "Joshua looked at the brochure and said, 'This is something I might want to do.'

"Well, when Samantha saw the brochure, she said, 'This is something I am going to do.' She's been in love with it ever since."

Before he knew it, the elder Howell was ordering a \$600 car kit and — with Samantha's dedicated assistance — constructing his daughter's first race car in their Canton garage.

"It's been a wonderful bonding experience for Samantha and I," he said. "Before, I'd take her to dance lessons and sit on the sidelines and watch, or I'd take her to soccer games and sit in the stands and watch. This is something we can do together."

"Samantha not only drives the car, but she helps assemble it, she knows how to tune it up on race days; she does it all."

Even though the Soap Box Derby cars are engine-less, they can still motor down the 1,000-foot racing hills.

"The cars get up to about 32 miles per hour at the track in Des Moines," Howell said. "In Saginaw, which is our home track, the top speeds are 28 to 29 miles per hour."

The weights of the cars with the driver on board are made even by adding metal plates to the car prior to each race, so no one has an advantage.

That puts an emphasis on skill and preparation — two things the Howells have excelled in.

"The biggest thing between winning and losing is know-

ing how to keep the car going straight, which Samantha does very well," Jim Howell said. "There may be a cross-wind you have to compensate for. It's kind of like a bowling ball — you want to hit the pocket every time down the hill."

"The night before a race, we'll go to the top of the hill and roll tennis balls down it to see if there are any grooves. Then we'll go down the hill with a flashlight to look for spots to watch out for."

Once the car is built — something that takes roughly three hours — there is minimal maintenance, Howell said.

"During the week before a race, we'll usually work on it an hour to an hour-and-a-half," he said. "The biggest thing is changing the brake pads. At Saginaw, we can get through five events on the same set of brake pads because they have a hill at the end of the track. But in Cleveland, for instance, we'll have to change them halfway through an event. Because you practically have to stand up on the brake to get the car to stop."

For more information on Soap Box Derby racing, visit www.aasbd.com or www.ndr.org.

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BROTHERS

FROM PAGE B1

Brown, which was a victory over Columbia on Saturday from clinching just its fourth Ivy League title ever.

ADVANTAGEOUS MOVE

After playing sparingly as a tight end his freshman year, Powers was switched to the defensive line before his sophomore campaign. He's excelled at clogging up the opponents' running lanes ever since.

One of Powers' many personal highlights unfolded Sept. 27, when he joined forces with another Brown defensive lineman to haul down a Harvard running back short of the goal line during a last-minute, two-point conversion attempt to preserve a 24-22 Bear victory.

"Most people in the Midwest aren't familiar with football at the I-AA level," Powers said. "They don't realize how com-

petitive this level of football is. I'd go up against offensive linemen that weighed anywhere from 280 to 350 pounds, and they weren't just big, they were athletic."

Powers, who is pursuing a degree in entrepreneurial studies, said he's certain his college football experience will pay off many years down the road.

"In a lot of ways, playing college football prepares you mentally for life after college," he said. "With practices, mandatory workouts, film sessions and meetings before and after practice, you learn how to deal with some serious time commitments."

"One of the best things about it, too, is the people you meet. I've met at least 100 teammates here that will be my friends for the rest of my life."

READY TO SERVE

Powers has applied to serve with Teach For America after

he graduates in the spring. The program puts highly accomplished college graduates into inner-city teaching positions for two years.

"I've completed one of the two rounds of interviews necessary to get in the program," he said. "It's pretty competitive, but I'd love to be able to do it."

After starting at both quarterback and strong safety his senior year at Canton, Adam Powers has found a niche as a running back in Kalamazoo College's pass-happy spread attack. Playing every other series, he racked up four rushing TDs and one scoring reception for the 2-8 Hornets, who lost three games by less than five points.

The hard-running freshman did something few players at any level accomplish: He scored on his very first collegiate carry — a 3-yard TD run against Denison.

"The most difficult part for me was learning the offense,"

said Powers, whose 20 receptions ranked him among the Hornets' leaders in that category. "We have over 50 different plays and formations. Once I got all those down, I was fine."

Powers said he's optimistic the Hornets' football program is ready to turn the corner. He pointed to an early-season victory over Rockwood as proof of the imminent turnaround.

"We were down 14-0 at halftime, which was a bad sign because our seniors hadn't experienced much success in their four years with the program," he said. "But there was a different vibe in the locker room at halftime. We came out in the third quarter, put together a few good drives and ended up winning, 17-14, on a last-second field goal."

"A couple weeks later, we lost to Trine, 36-35, and they're 10-0 and going to the playoffs, so we're getting close."

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Top-ranked Jenison ends Churchill's run

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It had been exactly 54 days — Sept. 27 at the Temperance Bedford Tournament — since Livonia Churchill's volleyball team had tasted defeat.

Defending state Class A champion and number-one ranked Jenison spoiled the Chargers' quest for their third state Class A volleyball title in school history with a 25-17, 21-25, 25-12, 25-22 victory Friday night at Battle Creek's Kellogg Center.

The Wildcats, 64-6 overall, moved into Saturday's championship with a rematch against Bloomfield Hills Marian (65-8-1).

Churchill, trying to duplicate its 2006 (winter season) state championship run, bowed out at 49-4 overall.

Senior outside Megan Hendrickson, bound for Duke, collected the game-winning kill, one of her 20 on the night,

after Churchill had rallied and closed the deficit to two, 24-22.

Jessica Maier and Elizabeth Vaughan added 12 and 10 kills, while setter Leah Poel finished with a game-high 43 assist-to-kills for the Wildcats.

Senior outside hitter Kristen Nalecz recorded a team-high 16 kills for the Chargers.

Junior middle hitter Cierra Yetts added nine, including five in the second set to go along with two blocks in sparking Churchill's only win set win in the second.

Churchill's downfall in the match was 39 attacking and 11 service errors.

"I couldn't ask for anything

more," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We had our chances, but we made too many unforced errors. The kids played hard, but we got caught with too many (errors) and you can't do that against a good Jenison team."

Taylor Root, bound for Valparaiso University, finished with 21 digs, while Poel added 17.

The 6-foot Hendrickson also contributed 11 digs and kept Churchill's defense off-balance with a variety of attacks from all angles of the court.

"She (Hendrickson) changed things up a couple of times and went in the opposite direction," Grenier said. "There's a

reason why she was runner-up for Miss Volleyball. And their libero (Taylor Root) — we couldn't get the ball around her. They played great defense and they did a good job."

Churchill senior Lindsey Graciak played an outstanding match with a game-high 22 digs. Teammate Taylor Kerr added 10. Setter Kristy DeClercq finished with 19 assists.

"They (Jenison) moved really well and they picked up all our attacks," Graciak said. "They're a good team with a lot of experience. Some key plays took us down, but we were able to leave here staying we put our all into it. That's what makes it so hard."

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FIRST TEAM

ELMAR ENGHOLM, JR., PLYMOUTH: The foreign-exchange student from Sweden left a lasting mark on the Wildcats' program as he became the No. 1 runner in the school's history, setting a mark of 15:48. He won the Holly Invitational, the KLAAs conference meet, the KLAAs South Division meet and the Ypsilanti Early Bird meet. To add icing to the cake, he placed second at the Division 1 Regional and earned All-State status by placing 23rd at the state meet.

"Elmar, who's just 16 years old, would have had a good chance of being in the top five in the state next year if he didn't have to go back to Sweden at the end of the school year," Plymouth coach Jon Mikosz said.

DUNCAN SPITZ, SR., CANTON: Spitz had a spectacular senior season, placing second at the KLAAs South Division meet, third at the KLAAs conference meet and eighth at the Division 1 Regional meet before turning in a 16:14 clocking at the state meet.

"Duncan is probably the greatest runner in school history," said Canton coach Bill Boyd. "Duncan was a four-year letterman who was named first team all area three times. He has broken the school record three times and has run three of the school's four fastest times ever at the state meet."

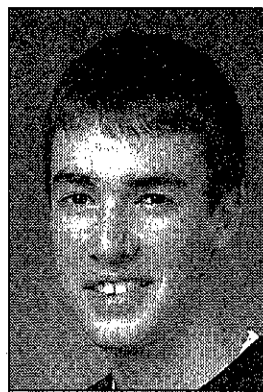
MATT DEVEY, SR., SALEM: The four-year varsity performer was the Rocks' No. 1 runner throughout most of the fall, placing 11th at the KLAAs Central Division race, sixth at the KLAAs conference meet, 10th at the D1 Regional and 59th in the state meet.

"Matt is a four-year runner who showed tremendous improvement over his junior and senior seasons," said Salem coach Geoff Baker. "His personal best of 16:20 came at the state meet where he executed the race plan to perfection. Matt is the perfect example of what can happen with hard work and dedication — he was not a varsity runner until half-way through his junior season,

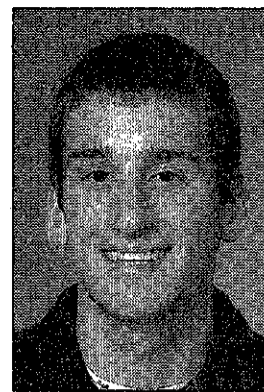
2008 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM
 Elmar Engholm, Jr., Plymouth
 Duncan Spitz, Sr., Canton
 Matt Devey, Sr., Salem
 Spencer Lyle, Sr., Luth. Westland
 Warren Buzzard, Jr., Plymouth
 Kyle Clinton, Sr., Canton
 Matt Neumann, Jr., Plymouth
 Derek Lax, Sr., Plymouth
 Miles Felton, Fr., Canton
 Mark Waterbury, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 Mike Charara, Jr., Salem
SECOND TEAM
 Joe Porcari, Soph., Plymouth
 Greg Reed, Sr., Canton
 Paul Rakovitis, Jr., Canton
 Mitch Clinton, Fr., Canton
 Jason Smith, Sr., Salem
 Zach Spreitzer, Jr., Canton
 Matt Macek, Sr., Redford Union
 Tim Boes, Sr., Westland
 John Glenn
 Peter Walblay, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 Austin Jones, Soph., Liv. Franklin
COACH OF THE YEAR
 Jon Mikosz, Plymouth
HONORABLE MENTION
 Plymouth: Derek Gielarowski, Jimmy Eiben, Stephen Balazez
 Canton: Steve Watts, Jon Peck, Josh Ostinski, Mike Elmers
 Salem: Alex Lang, Church Hill
 Matt Szado, Tom Winkle, Franklin Nick Gherardini, Dylan Taylor, Paul Hanni, Jason Biffel, Bobby Wilson, Alex Curry
 Stevenson: Shawn Howse, Joe Urso
 John Glenn: Jeff Adkins, Erick Mlynar
 Redford Union: Justin Faur, Zac Vandenoorn, Mike D'Arcangelo
 Lutheran Westland: Theodis Washington, Alex Kemp
 Wayne Memorial: Tyler Gendron
 Garden City: Andrew Chambo.



Elmar Engholm
Plymouth



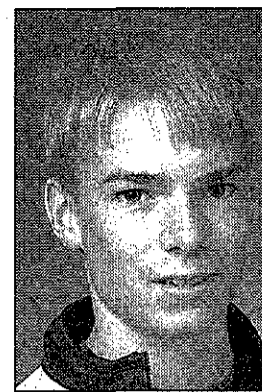
Duncan Spitz
Canton



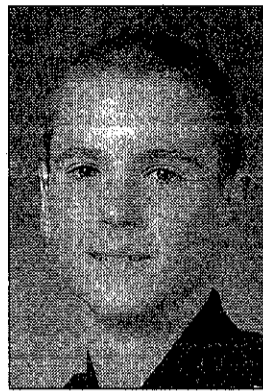
Spencer Lyle
Lutheran Westland



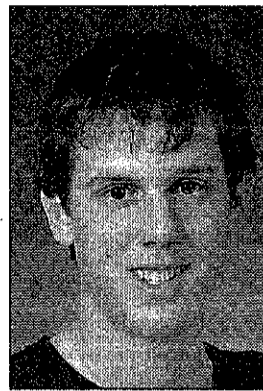
Warren Buzzard
Plymouth



Kyle Clinton
Canton



Matt Neumann
Plymouth



Derek Lax
Plymouth



Miles Felton
Canton



Mark Waterbury
Livonia Churchill



Jon Mikosz
Plymouth coach

but ended up his career as the thirteenth-fastest Rock in school history."

SPENCER LYLE, SR., LUTH. WESTLAND: The senior earned All-State honors in Division 4 with a 24th-place showing in 16:29. He is a four-time state qualifier.

Lyle was runner-up in regional at Lake Erie Metropark and took third in the Metro Conference meet.

He captured titles this season at the Shamrock and Falcon invitations, as well as tri-meets at Newport Lutheran South and Dearborn Heights Annapolis. He was also runner-up at the New Boston Huron and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard invitations, as well as the Metro Conference jamborees.

"Spencer has been a great individual to coach the last four years," Lutheran Westland coach Jeremy Fabris said of the 12-time meet winner. "A big part of his success this year comes from his unwavering focus and commitment to hard work. He was a great example for our younger runners this year."

WARREN BUZZARD, JR., PLYMOUTH: The junior carried over the momentum he garnered from

last year's state-meet berth by turning in a spectacular season. He placed 11th at the KLAAs conference meet, 19th at the Regional and 98th at the state meet. Buzzard ran a personal-best time of 16:36 at the state meet. He has a 4.0 grade-point average.

KYLE CLINTON, SR., CANTON: Clinton capped a sensational high school cross country career by placing third in the KLAAs South Division meet, fifth at the KLAAs conference meet and 13th at the D1 Regional before posting a time of 16:34 at the state meet. The captain was voted the Chiefs' MVP.

"Kyle is unquestionably one of the greatest runners in Canton history," said Boyd. "He received his letter all four years and his time of 16:33 at the 2007 state meet places him fifth on the team's top 10 board. As the team's captain, Kyle was instrumental in the team's 2008 division championship."

MATT NEUMANN, JR., PLYMOUTH: Neumann had a break-out season, dropping over 80 seconds from his previous personal-best time. He placed 13th at the Wayne County Championships, 16th at the conference meet, 25th at

the Regional race and 106th at the state meet, where he posted his PR of 16:37. Neumann has a 3.9 grade-point average.

"Matt was definitely one of the leaders of our team," said Mikosz.

DEREK LAX, SR., PLYMOUTH: The four-year varsity runner was a member of both Plymouth teams that placed 12th in the state meet in 2006 and 2008. Lax ran his personal best time of 16:31 this year at the D1 Regional meet. He is the fourth-fastest runner all-time at Plymouth and carries a 4.1 grade-point average.

MILES FELTON, FR. CANTON: The ninth-grader earned "Rookie of the Year" status for the Chiefs this fall after placing 17th in the KLAAs meet and 14th at the Regional race. He posted a 16:54 at the state meet.

"Miles shattered the freshman school record by 27 seconds," said Boyd. "A hard worker and team leader, Miles set high goals for himself then worked hard to achieve them. He was the fastest freshman in the league and the fifth-fastest freshman at the D1 state meet."

MARK WATERBURY, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The senior is a three-time All-Observer selection who owns a personal best of 16:40.

Waterbury posted a season bes of 16:44 en route to a 17th-place at the Division 1 regional. He also took 21st in the Kensington Conference and sixth in the KLAAs South Division race.

Waterbury was also Livonia City champion and earned medast the the Michigan State, Monroe Jefferson and Wayne County invitationals.

"Mark is a fine student athlete and gentleman," Churchill coach John McGreevy said of the 2007 Academic All-Stater and 2008-09 MHSAA Scholar Athlete nominee. "He has very high expectations and goals. He is a very hard worker and a tremendous competitor. Mark always puts the team first and is like and respected by his teammates."

"Mark battled through some nagging injuries and saved his best performance for the regional. He has been a great role mode for the young runnes and will be sorely missed next year."

MIKE CHARARA, JR., SALEM:

Charara enjoyed a success-filled season, placing ninth at the Wayne County Championships, seventh at the KLAAs Central Division meet and seventh at the KLAAs conference meet. He is the 13th-fastest junior in Salem history.

"Mike is the type of person every coach wants and every good team has," said Baker. "He is a tremendous leader, a hard worker and he's extremely dedicated. We look for big things from him this coming track season and in the future."

COACH OF THE YEAR

JON MIKOSZ, PLYMOUTH: The first-year coach guided the Wildcats to their most successful season in school history. Under Mikosz's leadership, the Wildcats captured several invitational titles throughout the course of the fall before capping the campaign with a 12th-place showing at the Division 1 state meet. Mikosz was an assistant coach at Plymouth under Lee Shaw for several years before getting promoted to the head job when Shaw was hired as head coach at Marygrove College.

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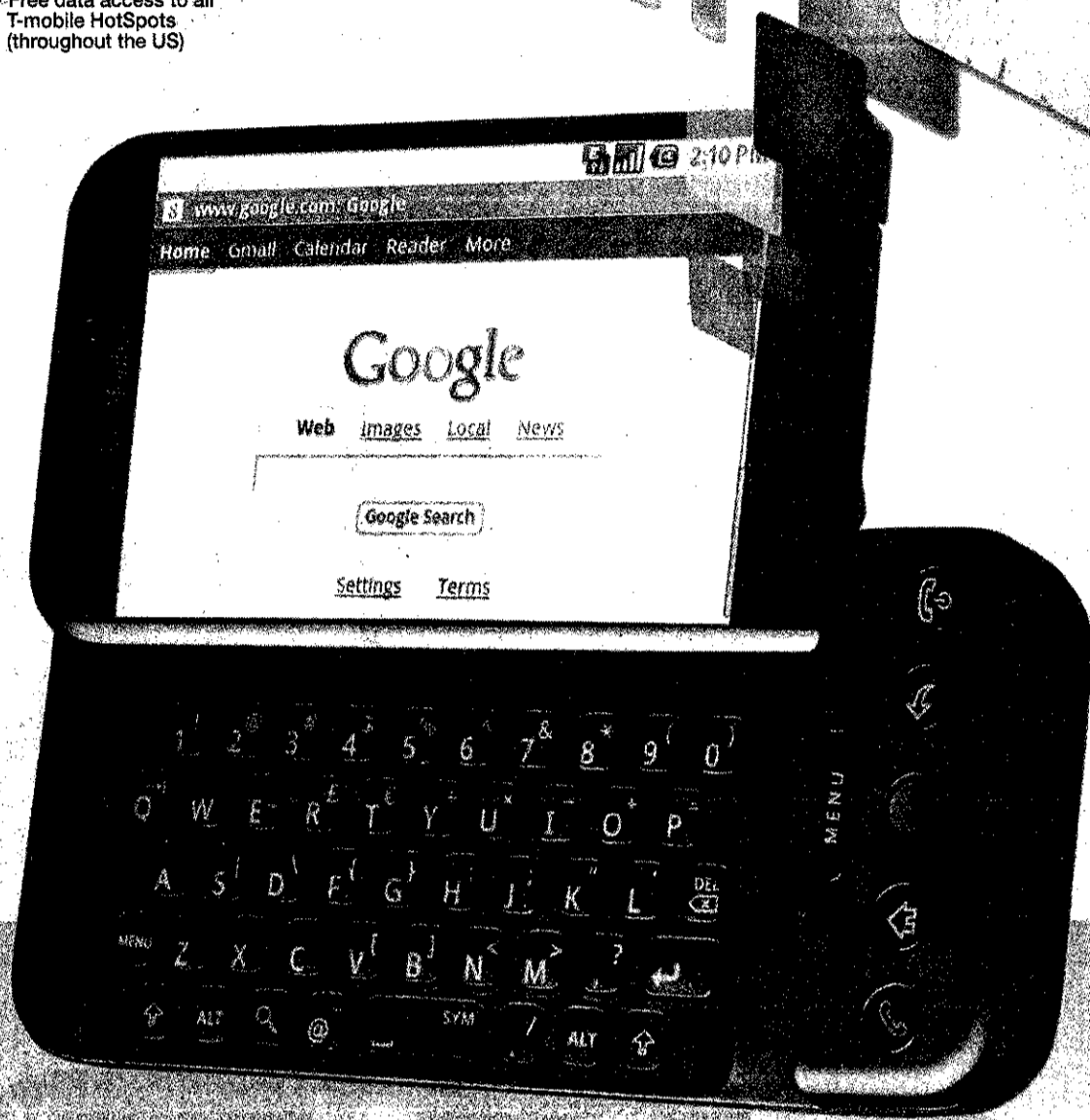
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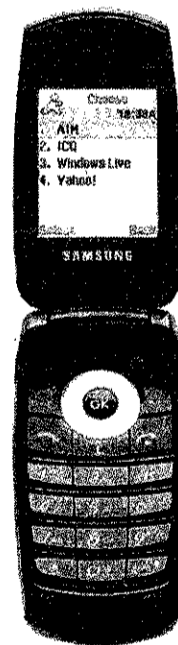
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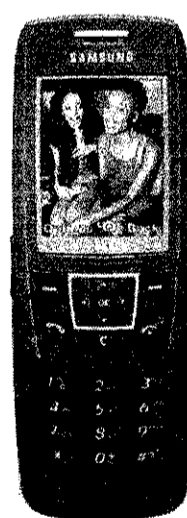
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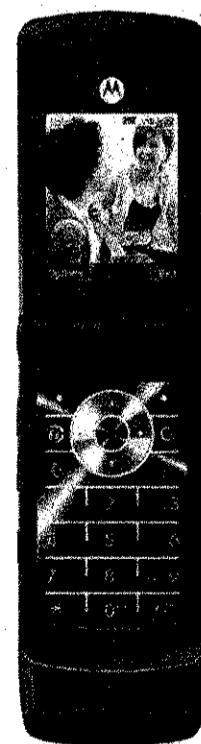
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Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Vegetarian tasting a time for sharing

Thanksgiving is probably a lot of people's favorite holiday, but especially vegetarians who take pride in the fact that they're not only eating healthy but a turkey hasn't died for them. That's probably why there were a lot of happy diners at the Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza Sunday, Nov. 9, at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist School in Plymouth.

While many Seventh-day Adventists opt not to eat meat it

was apparent that hundreds of others are trying to eliminate flesh from their diet. Many had come with their families to sample the 57 holiday dishes plus desserts made by about 35 cooks. After picking up our trays and filling them with every-

thing from entrees to side dishes, my sister Gwen and I began rating the dishes listed in the program. One star meant it was good, two stars we'd probably make it, three we really liked it. All but a few were yummy or at the very least met with our approval. Although near the end we were so full it became harder and harder to tell how much we liked the appetizers, soups, salads and desserts. Still, sharing the information was fun. We even exchanged our findings with Amy and Diane, the sisters-in-law who sat next to us. They weren't total vegetarians but trying to cut down on the amount of meat they ate as part of their diet. The extravaganza allowed them to taste different vegan and vegetarian dishes before trying the recipes in the cookbook sold at the event.

Many had come with their families to sample the 57 holiday dishes plus desserts made by about 35 cooks. After picking up our trays and filling them with everything from entrees to side dishes, my sister Gwen and I began rating the dishes listed in the program.

Vegan dishes have no animal products as opposed to vegetarian which can contain milk, eggs and cheese.

The main courses ranged from a polenta and veggie sausage stuffing by Jeanie Weaver to holiday pecan loaf by her mother-in-law Natalie.

Jeanie Weaver was especially excited as she floated from table to table. The personal trainer founded the tasting extravaganza 21 years ago. She said switching to a plant-based diet is not as simple as not eating meat. Anyone considering the change should first educate themselves about a nutritious meatless diet. It wasn't easy to do when we stopped eating meat in the mid 1970s because PBB in feed left our neighbor's dairy cattle crippled. After watching him bury his entire herd, we gave up red meat then pork, poultry and fish. Today more and more studies show the less meat you eat the better. You don't have to become a vegetarian, but trying some of these dishes could be a pleasant surprise.

Back then there were only a few meatless cookbooks which made the switch difficult. Mostly we tried to substitute grains and beans for meat.

There was only one kind of tofu — the white brick. It was pretty tasteless because we didn't know how to season it or what to use it in. It wasn't until we discovered ethnic foods that we realized there are many cultures around the world who eat very little or no meat. Years later I'm still looking for vegetarian recipes and looking forward to the March 29, 2009 Better Health cooking seminar at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist School. To sign up, call (248) 349-5683.

For more about next year's Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza, call (248) 446-9176 or visit www.veggieholiday.com.

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

Clowning



John Landis of Livonia proudly poses with his son Kris, a Farmington Hills police officer. John joined the Distinguished Clown Corps 20 years ago. Kris is celebrating his fifth year.

Community leaders put on grease paint for a family affair



Victor, 28, (left) and Josh, 30, now join their father Syd Ross (center) of Bloomfield Hills in the Distinguished Clown Corps. They began coming to the parade 18 years ago when Ross first became a clown.

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE

What: The Parade Company presents the 82nd annual parade
When: 9:20 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27
Where: Parade steps off from Woodward and Mack and ends at Woodward and Congress in Detroit
Cost: No charge, but Grandstand tickets available for \$24 and \$48 by calling (313) 923-7400, Ext. 231, or visiting www.theparade.org
Related events: Hob Nobble Gobble fund-raiser 6:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Michigan State Fairgrounds. Tickets, (313) 432-7831. See the larger than life floats up close during Holidays on Parade 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 29-30, at The Parade Company, 9500 Mt. Elliott, Detroit. Tickets \$5, age 2 and under free.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

John Landis counts on remaining anonymous behind the grease paint when America's Thanksgiving Parade steps off at 9:20 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, in Detroit.

During the week he is managing director of The PrivateBank in Bloomfield Hills so it's important clients take him seriously. Thanksgiving Day is another story as the Livonia resident joins more than 100 community and business leaders in the Distinguished Clown Corps.

Without the clowns, The Parade Company might not be able to produce the event. Each pays \$1,000 for the privilege of marching down Woodward on the day meant for families.

"It's just really quite amazing that these business and community leaders come out year after year," said Joan LeMahieu, president of The Parade Company and a Bloomfield Hills resident. "Their involvement demonstrates their commitment to one of the community's treasures."

COSTUME MILESTONES

Landis will proudly don his 20-year costume for the 82nd annual parade. Every five years the clowns receive a new suit to designate their years of surviving all kinds of Michigan weather. Landis will wear a silver and black outfit, his cape and a special silver ruffe celebrating the corps 25th anniversary this year. His son Kris, a Farmington Hills police officer, received his five-year suit for 2008. Clowns look forward to this milestone as their first costume is a one piece which makes going to the bathroom a real challenge, said Landis.

"I got started because a friend, Linda Kuhn, asked me to be part of the parade," said Landis. "You have to be invited and sponsored. When I started to do this my family became involved. My son Kris was 5. My first year I didn't know anybody. While it was fun it wasn't that family atmosphere. Now you go down for the breakfast, get made up any way you want and get your picture taken with your family

Please see **CLOWNS, C7**



Linda Nimmerguth created this "pear tree" with its own partridge just in time for the Plymouth Symphony Holiday Home Tour.

Home tour puts visitors in the holiday spirit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

K.C. Mueller gazes in wonder at the elegant decorations greeting visitors to the Linda and Gary Nimmerguth home in Plymouth Township. Golden deer and Christmas trees sparkle everywhere including the bathroom sink filled with snowy white cotton and glittering glass bulbs. Mueller says there's something special about each of the seven homes on the Plymouth Symphony League Holiday Tour, which runs noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30. She is co-chairing the annual fund-raising event to benefit the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

One homeowner's display of 600 Santas is so spectacular it led the league to invite children this year. Ticket prices were reduced as well to encourage all ages to get in the spirit of the season. Many of the homes have been extensively renovated and offer plenty of ideas not only for holiday decorating, but making over a house.

"For the three-story Winter Wonderland, she makes her own ornaments," said Mueller, who's been involved with the tour since 1985. "Her whole kitchen was created in Germany and shipped here. It has a European flair. Each was chosen because it either has historical significance, architectural design or decor."

The Nimmerguths moved into their 5,200-square-foot Cape Cod in 2004 and began ripping up floors and replacing them with cherry wood. Linda worked with Maggie Walsh of Interior Painting, Antiquing & Faux Finishes to give an old world look to the kitchen cabinets by painting and adding architectural details. In the next room, a door wall was converted into a fireplace. Visitors especially won't want to miss the memory room with vintage family photographs, a doll dressed in a sailor suit their son wore as a toddler, and Gary's mother's wedding dress. Gary had the task of carrying up the boxes full of decorations. Even the rabbit statue in the front yard bears a wreath around its neck.

Available in Plymouth at the Plymouth Symphony Society office, 18 Forest Place, (734) 451-2112; Gabriela's, 322 S. Main, (734) 455-8884; Michigan Made, 830 W. Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 207-8794, and in Northville at Gardenviews, 202 W. Main, (248) 380-8881

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 Please see **TOUR, C7**



A Santa Claus stands next to the Christmas tree in Sandy Osmer's home.

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Consumers need improved recall notification



Dog of the week

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I was talking on my office telephone the other day to a homeowner who was having a problem with her Maytag dishwasher that is 10 years old. I told her that Maytag dishwashers produced between 1997 and 2001 were under a national recall because of a fire hazard. Even though 2.1 million dishwashers were sold with this existing problem, only 32 percent of the U.S. population knows about this recall.



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

While I was explaining what was wrong with this customer's dishwasher, Marylou who sits next to my office, was on her telephone calling the Maytag Co. When she hung up she came running over to my desk with a big smile on her face. "I just made \$75 by listening to you and calling Maytag."

I asked her to explain what was going on. You see, Marylou has a Maytag dishwasher, which is eight years old, it's not working and she was going to donate it to some scrap metal company. The Maytag Co. told her to punch some holes in the bottom of the inner drum so no one else would be able to use it and they

would send her a voucher for \$75. Is Marylou smart or what!

In this world we live in it is quite simple to find out about a recall concerning one of your major home appliances. Use the Google thing and ask for information. Type in the make of the product and what it is and all this information pops up.

If I had my way, the manufacturer would be totally responsible for informing the homeowner if they had a defective product in their home and there would be some serious consequences, severe penalties assessed to that manufacturer should someone suffer through a fire or loss of life. I know all products come with a registration card but many people just stuff that somewhere never to be seen again. There has got to be a better way to make sure that consumers are informed.

I talked with Linda from Bill & Rods Appliance in Livonia and she told me that they registered all the products they sell to their customers. I told her that I would like to see a system like the credit cards we receive. You have to call in to activate the card and maybe the manufacturers could use the same system. She thought this is a great idea, as there are homeowners who purchase a product

and leave it in the box until months later when they put it into use. These consumers don't realize that the warranty starts when you purchase the appliance, not six months later when you plug it in. They end up paying for repairs and losing out on the warranty coverage.

The warranty coverage has changed in the past two years on major home appliances. The majority of appliances now carry a one-year full warranty without any limited warranty on such components as transmissions, compressors, pumps etc. This is just another example of how companies are cutting their expenses and the proven fact is the burden of repair costs is extended to the homeowner. The example of the Maytag dishwasher recall is very expensive and must hurt the bottom line of the Whirlpool Corporation, which owns Maytag today. Is it even possible that a company would forget its corporate responsibility to their customers by not doing what is necessary to make sure that all homeowners are aware of a defective product? I hope not. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

Reunion location changed at last minute

The location for the Franklin High School Class of 1988 reunion had to be changed at the last minute. The event still takes place at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, but at The Italian American Club in Livonia.

For more information, call Sharon at (734) 261-3264.



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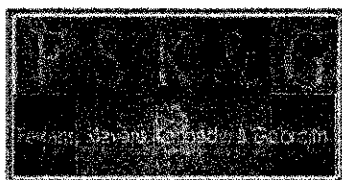
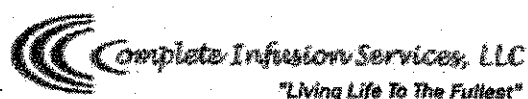
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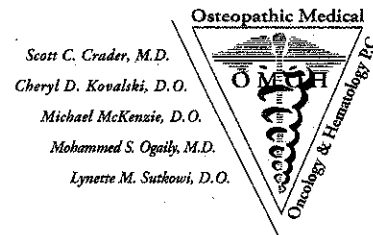
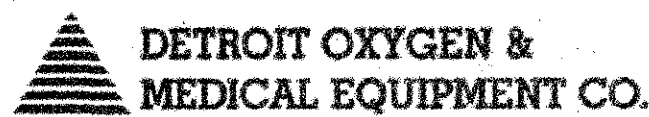
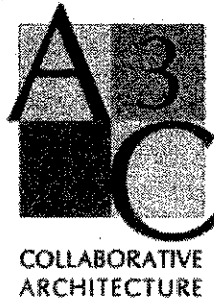
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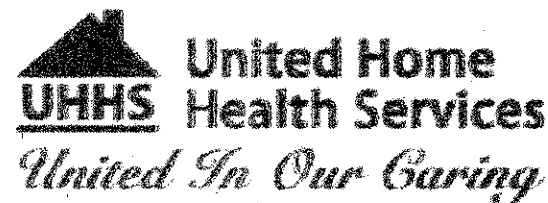
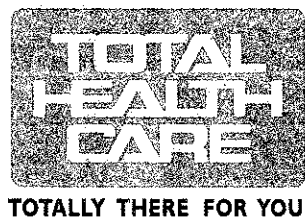
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KICKin' kidney disease

Educational program raises awareness in students

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mariam Swaad was one of the first to raise her hand when health teacher Tom Alles asked the class if they knew anyone with kidney disease. The question led off the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan program he presents twice a year to students at Salem High School in Canton. Pre- and post-tests determine students' knowledge as well as the effectiveness of the K.I.C.K. (Kids Interested in the Care of their Kidneys) program available to schools.

Swaad thought she knew about kidney disease until watching the educational video about a 12-year-old girl who was on dialysis three times a week for two years until receiving a kidney from her brother. Swaad watched her uncle die while waiting for a donor. Kidney disease runs in her family. Her 5-year-old cousin is on dialysis treatments which remove waste from the blood when kidneys fail.

"I'm already eating healthy and exercising but didn't know so many different factors could affect it," said Swaad.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, 26 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease; that's why it's important to not only know the warning signs such as swelling of feet and ankles, puffiness around eyes, and lower back pain, but how to avoid the loss of function. Alles wasn't aware of the causes of kidney diseases or failure when first presenting the program 10 years ago. He uses the video as part of a comprehensive curriculum that includes nutrition and eating disorders, physical fitness, human sexuality, mental health, chemical dependency, and chronic and communicable diseases.

SUCCESS SEEN

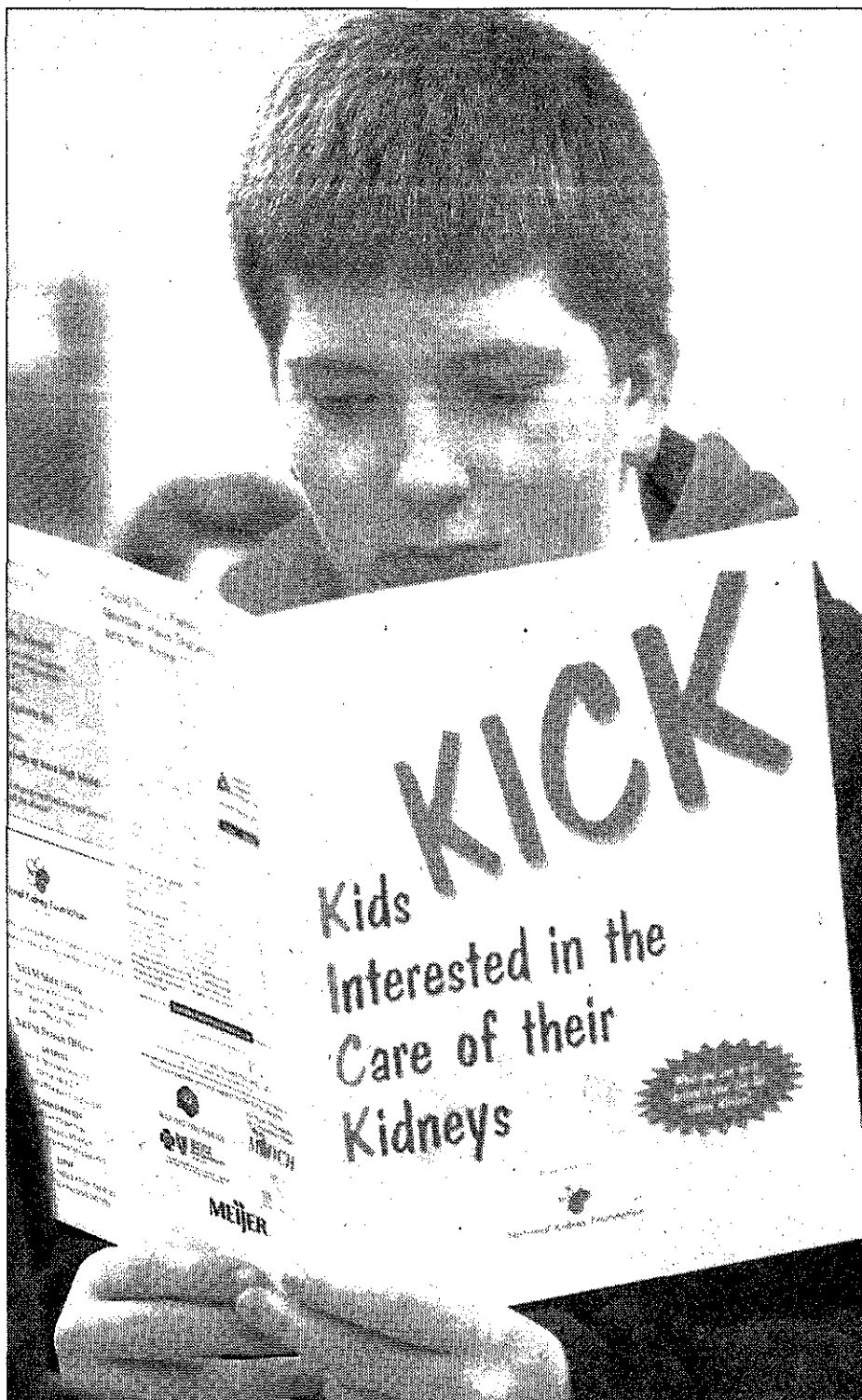
The approach seems to be working. Fewer students are smoking and at least have an awareness of the need for proper nutrition and exercise than when he began teaching health 30 years ago. Alles reaches about 350 students a year as the health course is a graduation requirement.

"Factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure predispose people to kidney disease," said Alles. "Not smoking is a factor in the development of kidney disease which can lead to cancer of the urinary tract, bladder and kidneys which have to filter out toxins. We see fewer students using illicit substances, smoking, but still need to work on the nutrition element and exercise. There are a fair amount of students who could improve on their weight and what they're eating. When both parents work, they eat pizza, burgers because that's all that's available to them. There are consequences like high blood pressure, diabetes."

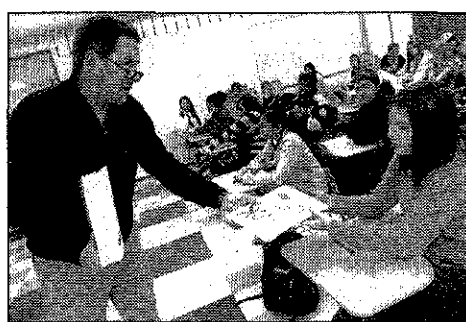
Ashley Hinojosa, 14, didn't realize the seriousness of kidney disease until listening to Kayla Jowski talk about her grandfather needing dialysis. Jowski said she learned how to prevent kidney failure. She already dances seven days a week at Dancin' Feet at Summit on the Park community center in Canton to stay in shape. Lindsey Spooner of Plymouth plays softball and Monday night put on an exercise video to work out. She admitted knowing nothing about kidney disease when taking the pre-test.

'IN PERSPECTIVE'

"It puts everything in perspective,"



Plymouth Salem sophomore Alex Watson looks over literature from the National Kidney Foundation during a presentation in his health class.



Plymouth Salem High School health teacher Tom Alles hands out literature on kidney disease to his class.

said Spooner. "Before we learned about diseases I never knew how it could affect me."

Once kidneys fail the only treatments are dialysis and transplantation. As of Nov. 1, more than 2,500 Michigan residents were waiting for a donor kidney, according to Gift of Life Michigan. Alles stressed to students that the chances of survival with a live donor kidney are 95 percent, 90 percent with a cadaver kidney. Omar Hashwi, 15, said he might consider donating a kidney when he's older.

Larry Merx knows the need for donor organs will increase as the number of kids being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and hypertension does. Merx coordinates the NKFM school programs which

began in the fall of 1997.

"They're the two leading causes of kidney disease," said Merx. "They need to go to a doctor and get checked for blood pressure and diabetes and need to control if diagnosed so they don't get worse. And tell them to ask their parents when was the last time they were checked. They get school and sports physicals, but the parents are less likely to be checked."

NKFM reaches out to adults with programs that train African American hair stylists and barbers to share prevention strategies such as eating right and exercising with clients.

"One out of three people will develop diabetes or hypertension," said Merx from the NKFM office in Ann Arbor. "If a minority, the chance of getting are one in two. One in nine Michigan people will develop kidney disease. Kidneys clean toxins from the blood, but also help balance body fluids, remove excess water from blood, release hormones that regulate blood pressure, synthesize vitamins which control growth, and also control production of red blood cells."

For more information, call NKFM at (734) 222-9800 or (800) 482-1455 or visit www.nkfm.org and click Kidney Disease. To learn about organ donation, visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org.

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Volunteers needed for arthritis call line

The Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, is looking for volunteers to answer calls for its information and referral service, Arthritis Answers, in its Troy office.

The Arthritis Foundation anticipates call volumes to increase significantly beginning Jan. 1.

Volunteers provide an empathetic and understanding voice to Michigan residents who are living with arthritis. Volunteers should have arthritis or experience with arthritis, perhaps in

taking care of a loved one. Volunteers provide callers with the most up-to-date information regarding arthritis diagnosis, treatment, specialists, management strategies, exercise and self-help programs, support groups and more. Training is provided.

As a nonprofit organization the Arthritis Foundation heavily depends on volunteers who are asked to make a half day or full day commitment once a week.

For more information, call 1-800-968-3030.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

NOVEMBER

Chocolate Jubilee

To benefit the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter noon Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008 at the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn. Held annually, Funds will support programs and services to more than 70,000 metro Detroit families affected by the disease as well as fund research. The luncheon is followed by a chocolate tasting with over 20 exhibitors offering up their sweetest creations. Luncheon and Jubilee tickets still available. To purchase or participate in the 50/50 Raffle or Sweet Chances, call (248) 351-0280 or visit www.alzgm.org for details.

Oigong workshop

Pre-registration required by Nov. 26, for Oigong workshop with Daisy Lee Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winter Health for all, and 1-4 p.m. (women only), sponsored by Michigan Tai Chi Association, 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. at Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 591-3530 for information and form.

Turkey Busters program

The Livonia Family YMCA is offering a Thanksgiving morning series of back-to-back group exercise classes to help burn off those extra calories that will sneak up with any holiday feast 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27. The classes are open to women and men age 13 and older. All fitness levels are encouraged to sign up. Sessions include 8 a.m. Yoga, 8:30 a.m. KickBox, 9 a.m. Step Aerobics, 9:30 a.m. Hi/Low Aerobics, and 10 a.m. Zumba. Space limited so everyone must register. Members may register online. Community members will need to register in person at Livonia Family YMCA at 14255 Stark Rd. For more information, visit www.ymcadeloitroit.org or call (734) 261-2161.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

UPCOMING

Gala evening at the movies

A benefit for the Crohn's & Colitis

Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, at The Uptown Palladium Theater, 250 North Old Woodward, Birmingham. Evening includes the premiere of a new feature film and an hors d'oeuvres and dessert pre-glow reception. The honoree for the 31st annual Gala Evening at the Movies is The Michael Yendick Foundation for Children. To attend the event, purchase a listing in the Movie Gala Souvenir Journal from \$75-\$5,000 and receive complimentary tickets. Call (248) 737-0900, or e-mail michigan@ccfa.org for more information.

Bone marrow drive

An opportunity to join the National Marrow Donor Program registry by completing a brief health questionnaire and having the inside of their cheek swabbed 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Madonna University, Take 5 Lounge, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan off I-96, Livonia. Doctors search this registry to find a donor whose tissue type matches that of a patient. Potential donors must be between the ages of 18-60 and in good general health. For more information contact Edna Rankine at (734) 432-5425 or erankine@madonna.edu.

Oigong workshop

With Daisy Lee Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winter Health for all, and 1-4 p.m. (women only), sponsored by Michigan Tai Chi Association, 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. at Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Pre-registration required by Nov. 26. Call (734) 591-3530 for information and form.

Jingle Bell run/walk


For The Arthritis Foundation Sunday, Dec. 7, at Northville Downs Race Track, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at Covington School in Bloomfield Village. Both festive events offer competitively timed 5K routes, 4-mile children's Snowman Shuffles and post-race chili parties. Call 1-800-968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Gluten-free food fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14, at Hillier's, 39950 W. 14 Mile (at Haggerty Road). Call (248) 960-1990.

Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Mondays to Dec. 15, and Wednesdays, Dec. 3 to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.



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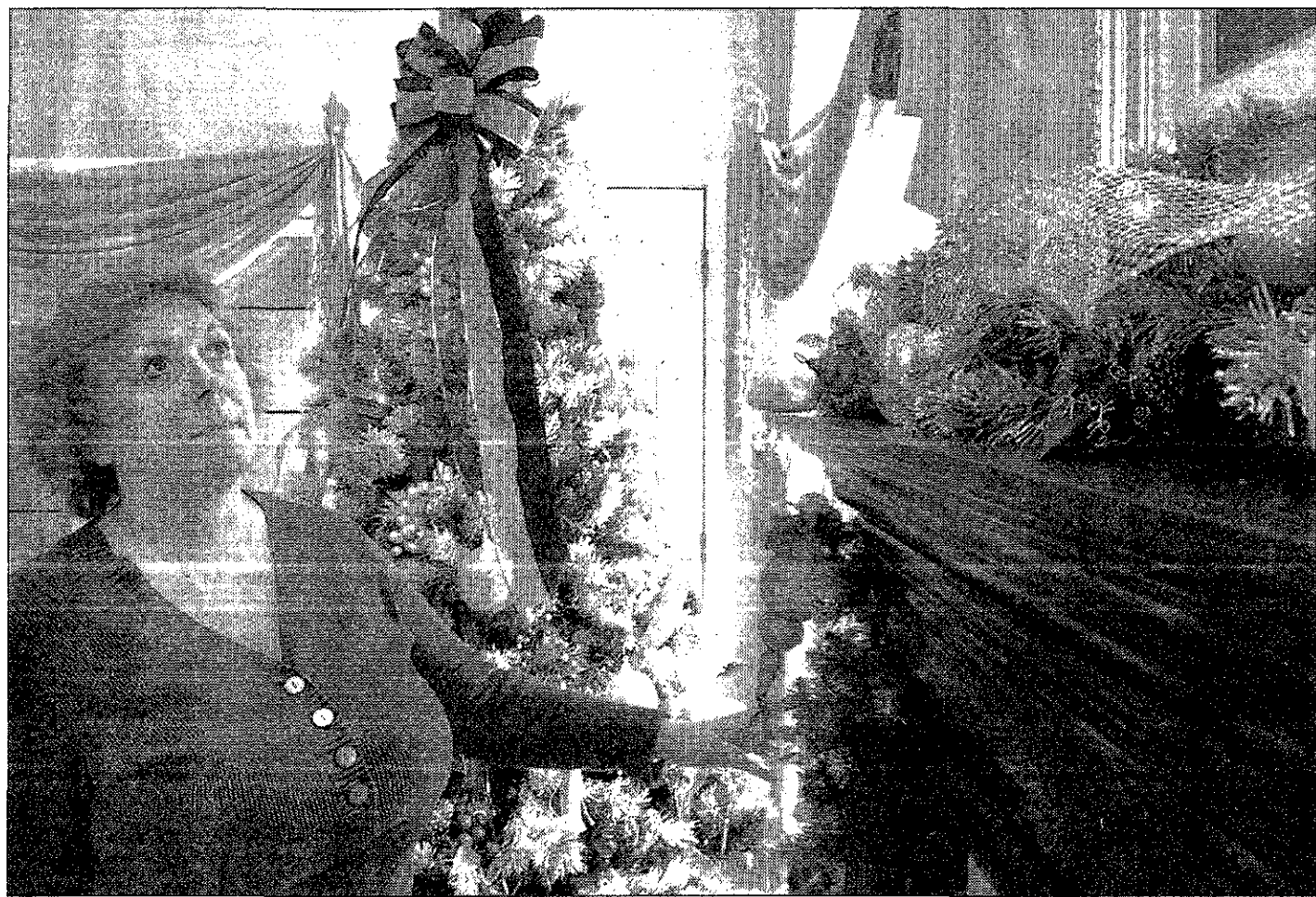
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Sandy Osmer looks over the holiday decorations she is putting up inside her home for the upcoming Plymouth Symphony Holiday Home Tour.

TOUR
FROM PAGE C1

by layering and then filling three cake plates with artificial pears and topping with a partridge. For the walk, Ribar Florals in Plymouth is creating a red rose centerpiece to serve as the focal point of the dining room table that forgoes traditional holiday colors for a red, white and black theme.

"I grew up in a family of eight kids and Christmas was all about memories," said Linda. "The music box church belonged to my mother. It brings me closer to my family."

Sandy and Mike Osmer moved into their 4,456-square-foot condo in 2005. Functional is the word for the renovations. One example is the coat closet transformed into a pantry. An interior designer by trade, Sandy is using decorations left over from Blooms Floral and Designs in Birmingham, her former shop.

"It works out better to work with what you have. That's part of the fun of it," said Sandy Osmer. "I kind of do things as I go as opposed to having a set plan. Designing gives you immediate gratification this way."

Osmer's granddaughter Ella, 8, loves decorating too. She'll trim the large-scale doll house in the lower level.

SPECIAL ADDITIONS

Marilyn Andrews, a well-known piano



Linda and Gary Nimmerguth's home is filled with Christmas decorations. It is one of seven homes on the upcoming Plymouth Symphony Holiday Tour.

teacher in the area, will provide the music on a baby grand in the living room. The symphony's new children's CD, *Magical Tunes & Mystical Tales*, will be sold there as well as luminaries to raise funds. The league has added extras to the walk this year just for that purpose. A wreath, displayed at the Nimmerguths, will be raffled off, while 20 percent of Cookie Lee jewelry sales at the

Barbara and Gene Levengood home go to support the symphony's operating budget. The Levengoods have an extensive wildlife art collection in their 4,200-square-foot home that backs up to pine trees and wetlands and gives the feeling of living Up North.

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CLOWNS

FROM PAGE C1

then the clowns step off to basically perform in front of a million people. It's a fun thing to do."

FATHER AND SONS

Syd Ross is clowning around when he says he's found his proper station in life. The Bloomfield Hills resident will have an especially good time leading the clowns as Distinguished Grand Jester just as Landis did last year. Ross never went to a parade until he joined the corps 18 years ago.

"My kids were little back then," said Ross, CEO of Great Lakes Wine and Spirits. "Now my sons Josh and Victor march with me. They have no children yet but someday they will and we'll get third-generation clowns. It's a good time. You shake hands with the kids and hand beads out. They love the floats. It's funny because the guys and women like doing it, too. We get there about 7 and have professional clowns putting makeup on you. After 15 years you get a cape. When you see someone with a cape they've been a clown for 15 years. It's a little secret, not something we talk about."

Jack Robinson claims three generations of clowns. This year, daughter Dr. Beth Robinson Swartz, a pediatrician at Henry Ford West Bloomfield, her husband, Steve, and their son, Nathan, a 19-year old student at Kalamazoo College, will join the Bloomfield Hills man in the parade. Robinson was chairman and founder of Perry Drug Stores when he became a clown 25 years ago.

"Being a clown is just great," said Robinson. "You develop a different persona when you remove your tie and suit and polished shoes. You put on



Jack Robinson celebrates 25 years in the Distinguished Clown Corps. Robinson, a Bloomfield Hills resident, was chairman of Perry Drugs (now Rite Aid) when he started marching as a clown in the Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit.

the face grease and the wide smiles and all of a sudden you're liberated and having fun. I find it exciting to go out and smile at people. When you smile at people, they smile back."

For Linda Orlans, the experience starts her thinking about the meaning of the season. This year the Birmingham woman will continue to share the tradition of marching in the parade with daughter Alison, 29, and best friend Rox Roselle of Troy. The three work together at E Title Company in Troy which Linda founded. Linda was inspired to become a clown six years after a friend came to her home dressed in her clown suit after the parade.

"For me it starts the season of giving," said Orlans. "It just changes my mind and I start reflecting upon the year, what's important. It's all about helping people. And it's exciting to see all those little faces bundled up in those snowsuits and all of the smiles."

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BRACES, SPLINTS, AND WRAPS

If you experience pain in a knee or ankle, it makes sense to see if support about the joint will ease the pain. In cases of injury to a knee or a fracture of the knee cap, a leg splint is a good alternative to a cast.

However, in instances when the problem is arthritis, braces and splints have limited usefulness because devices that support a joint limit that joint's movement. In arthritis, that limitation does not rest the joint as much as place strain on the rest of the body. For instance, a brace for the right knee eventually puts an added burden on the left knee and leg. If the left knee also has a degree of arthritis, the added stress creates a greater problem for the left knee than the help gained by bracing the right knee.

However, bracing helps an ankle when a loss of muscle strength causes a foot drop. A lower leg-ankle brace holds the foot in a neutral position and allows walking without stumbling.

Splints create problems because the splinted joint remain in a fixed position, again placing strain on surrounding muscles and joints. The exception is the use of wrist splints at night to treat carpal tunnel syndrome. Then, holding the wrist in an upward flexed manner is desirable as that diminishes strain on the nerve causing the problem.

Wraps also are not helpful, because they provide insufficient support for an injured elbow or wrist. In general, joint pain needs medication or injection for relief.

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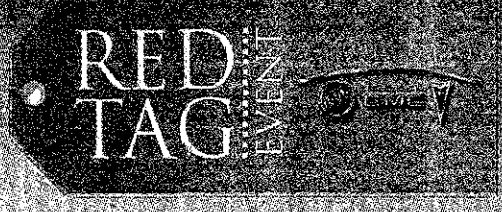
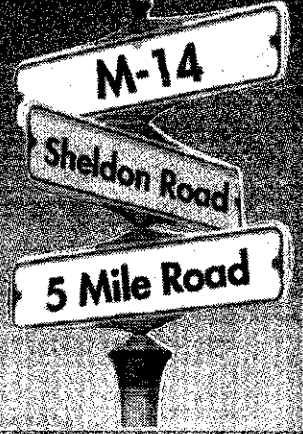
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Map showing location at 40875 Plymouth Rd, near Haggerty and Unisys.

* Price net incentives plus tax, license, title, doc. and cover fees. Includes destination. All vehicles offers included Lease to Buy offer. See dealer for details. ** Lease w/option to purchase at predetermined amount/48 months-48,000 miles. \$395 disposition fee due at lease turned in. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear & miles. Net incentives. Leases are plus tax, license, doc, cover and title fees. Due at delivery is plus tax. With approved credit.

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2009 PONTIAC VIBE
Stock #0145



31 MPG
Was \$19,480 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$15,357* | **\$191**** PER MO.
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2009 PONTIAC G5
Stock #90146




37 MPG
Was \$17,725 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$12,937* | **\$187**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC G8
Stock #078



Was \$28,875 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$22,795* | **\$298**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

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Stock #93035



Was \$26,390 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
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\$18,889* | **\$279**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

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Stk. #93048



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\$26,557* | **\$349**** PER MO.
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Stk. #93026



Was \$34,125 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
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\$22,899* | **\$333**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

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Stk. #95013



Was \$30,965 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$20,995* | **\$309**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

2009 GMC ACADIA
Stock #95005



Was \$32,675 **-OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$24,953* | **\$335**** PER MO.
\$0 Down Payment

2008 GMC YUKON
Stock #4276



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\$0 Down Payment

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24 MPG! Hwy Rated


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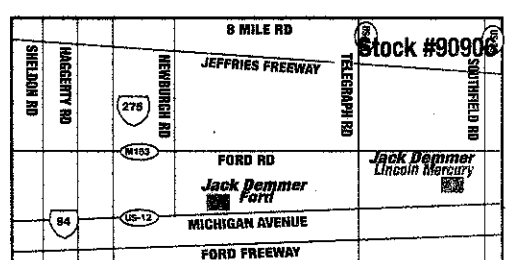
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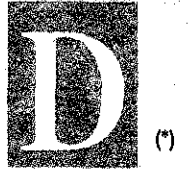


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All lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying A/Z Planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or prices the same. All payments include acquisition fee, exclude tax, plates, and doc fees. 10,500 miles per year. Security deposit waived. Buy for price add tax, title, doc, and destination fees. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 11/30/08. 0% APR financing on F Series w/approved credit. Free bedliner offer for non A/X/Z/A plan buyers and also expires 11/30/08. *See dealer for details. *0% APR on new 2008 Ford F150. Up to 72 months with approved credit. **12,000 miles/yr. A/Z plan w/approved credit.

New Homes

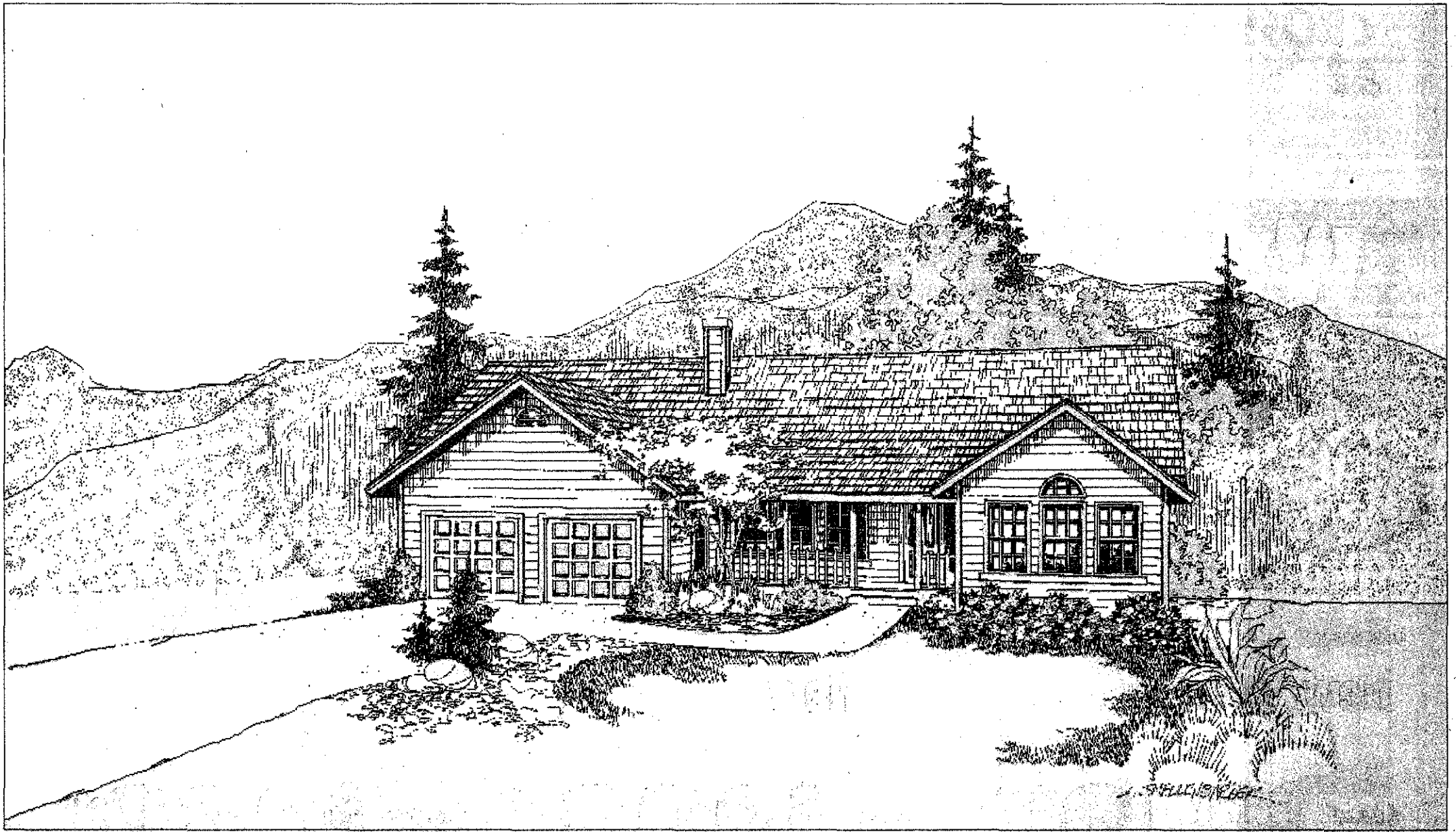


Sunday, November 23, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



Glamour design has room for a family on the grow

The 2,045-square-foot Glamour (336-110) could be an excellent choice for a young family wishing to purchase a home with a little more space for growing children. This can also be a great buy for empty nesters that still need room for returning college students and other overnight guests.

The Glamour has an attractive exterior of easy to care for lap siding, topped by a long lasting shake roof. The two-car garage with storage shelves, side entrance and built-in workbench for the hobby enthusiast has a front entrance.

A covered porch, with waist-high railing is a welcome sight to visitors, and a great place to relax on warm summer evenings. Step into the entry of the Glamour and the openness of the floor design becomes evident. Immediately to the left of the entry is the vaulted living room. This is the perfect place for after dinner coffee and conversation while basking in the warmth of the corner fireplace.

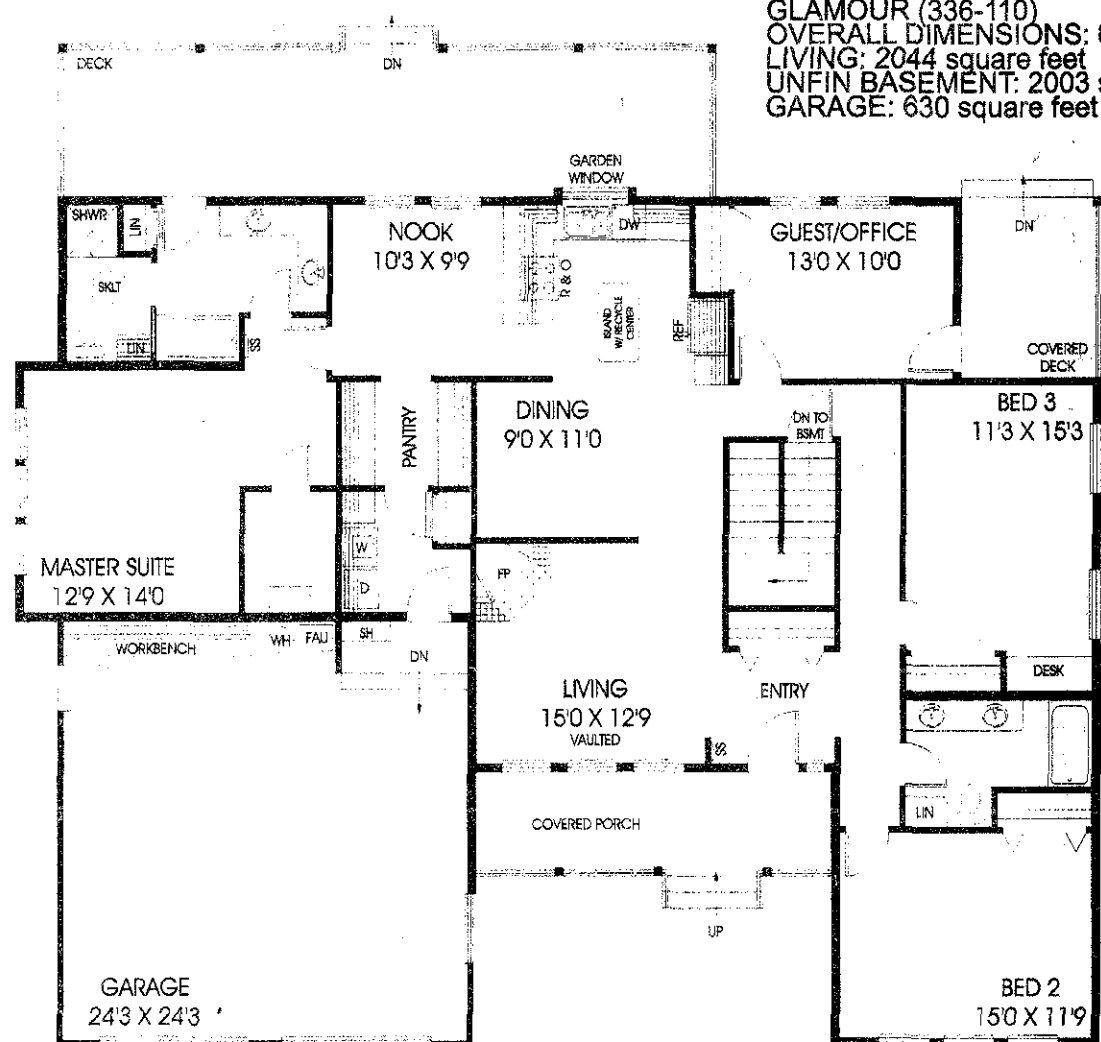
The U-shaped kitchen has been placed in a position that the cook in the household will surely appreciate. Equipped with an island recycling center, garden window, eating bar and walk-in pantry, meals can be easily prepared and served in either the adjoining breakfast nook or the nearby dining room. The rear of the walk-in pantry opens to a convenient utility room with access to the garage.

The isolated master suite features many amenities not usually found in a house this size. Among them are a big walk-in closet, security system and private bathroom with skylight, separate tub and shower, twin basin and personal access to the back deck.

The other sleeping quarters, on the opposite side of the Glamour, consist of a large front bedroom and a smaller back one. A full bathroom divides them. One of these bedrooms could easily be converted for use as a den, sewing or exercise room.

Completing the floor plan is a guest room/home office with plenty of closet space and a private deck that is covered for protection from the weather.

For a study plan of the GLAMOUR (336-110), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldpians.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

Turkeys delivered

Richter & Associates will deliver more than 200 turkeys to tenants living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston counties on Nov. 24-25. Richter & Associates, a certified residential management company owned by Denise Walsh and located in Northville, will come together with Expert Home Maintenance to deliver the turkeys. Richter & Associates specializes in managing and renting out single family homes and has been in business for almost 40 years. Walsh, president, feels, "what better way to express our thanks to the people living in and taking care of our rental properties than to provide them with the start of a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner."

Expert Home Maintenance is also located in Northville and handles home repairs or renovations.

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Tips for buyers

Realtor Paul Schwartz of Prudential Cranbrook Realtors in Birmingham will review the things a buyer needs to know and accepting new buyer clients on a space available basis at a presentation Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at his office, 34122 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. Reservations are needed. Topics: What to look for? What to avoid? Financing red flags. What is the property worth? What to do with it after you own it? How to add value to it? What will it be worth in the future? Condo/house? What is the best area? For reservations, e-mail: paul4realtor@yahoo.com (www.paul4realtor.com).

His phone numbers are — direct: (248) 539-7283, office: (248) 647-6400, fax: (248) 258-1024.

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a two-day "Green Building for Building Professionals" course on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 4-5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

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

up cost. Registration fees are \$200 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler Council members, \$225 for BIA members and \$300 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Business Management for Building Professionals" course on Monday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), Certified

Aging-In-Place (CAPS), Master Certified Sales Professional (MCSP) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach management skills that give industry leaders a solid foundation in the best business practices for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling smaller businesses. Case studies and sample forms will be used to provide practical and applicable tools for management success.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

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3.7L V-6 24V Duratec engine, 6 speed select shift auto trans., technology package - rain, sns interval wipers, adap hdlmp w/auto high beam, forward sensing system, camel premium leather seating, Sirius satellite radio, dual zone auto temp control.



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VIN #1L9G616042

36 Month Lease

\$429*

Per Month
\$2,161 Down

Open Saturday
November 22nd
10 am - 3 pm

NEW 2009 LINCOLN MKZ



STK #90135
VIN #3L9R610350

Side air curtain, leather seats, 3.5L V-6 Duratec engine, 6 speed auto transmission, fog lamps, SYNC media, Gateway module message center, wood trim accent, leather seating, wood/leather steering wheel w/speed.

\$349*
Per Mo.
\$1,119 Down

NEW 2008 LINCOLN MKX



STK #82155
VIN #2L8BJ37612

Heated/cooled front seats, dual auto temp. control A/C, SYNC voice activated sys., reverse sensing sys., entry keypad, 3.5L V-6 engine, automatic OD engine, chrome clad alum. wheels, adaptive headlamps, power liftgate, cargo management system, Audodim RWV mirror w/microphone.

\$369*
Per Mo.
\$2,017 Down

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Red & tan with tan cloth top, automatic, CD & more.
Only 5,000 miles.

\$19,998*

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VIN #4M9KJ09048

Cruise control, leather steering wheel, power mirrors, fog lamps, privacy glass, Duratec V-6 engine, 6 speed auto transmission, sat. radio w/6 mos. svc., power moonroof with shade, SYNC voice activated sys, roof rack w/ crossbars.

\$249*
Per Mo.
\$1,566 Down

NEW 2009 MERCURY MILAN



STK #90579
VIN #3M9R622863

Automatic, power moonroof, Audiophile sound system, heated front seat, wood appearance package.

\$199*
Per Mo.
\$815 Down



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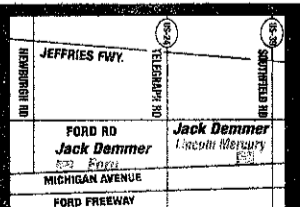
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