### THURSDAY February 12 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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**75 CENTS** 

# OBSERVER 1

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### CONNECTION

#### Humanitarian visit

Steve Sosobee, CEO of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, will be speaking at the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs mosque (located at Palmer and Lotz roads)



Palestine Children's Relief Fund President Steve Sosebee will speak in Canton Friday evening.

during its weekly Angel's Circle event at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 13. Sosobee is hoping to the get the community involved in helping respond to the humanitarian needs of children in Palestine and Iraq, particularly

kids from Gaza.

His organization brings the children to the U.S. for medical care. Host families are needed while the children are getting medical care. The group also sends medical teams over to the Middle East to treat children and to support other humanitarian projects that directly aid the children on the ground in the region.

To learn more about the organization go to www.pcrf.net. Free babysitting will be provided at the event for those who need it. For more information about the event, contact Mahira Elder at mdelder6@yahoo.com or Bia Hamed at (313) 485-7445.

#### 'Angels 4 Angie'

Beloved former Discovery Middle School special education teacher Angie Lipford, who spent five years battling breast cancer, passed away last month. On Sunday, friends and family will host the Angels 4 Angie fund-raiser to help her three boys. The event, which begins at 2 p.m., will be held at Super Bowl lanes (45100 Ford Road) in Canton. The cost is \$20 per person for two games of bowling, pizza and pop. There will also be raffles and an auction.

For ticket information contact Mary Mason at (734) 459-0707.

#### Consumer Expo

If you want to get to know a little more about what Canton's local businesses have to offer, you probably don't want to miss the Consumer Expo this evening at Summit on the Park. The event, sponsored by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Downtown Development Authority, will run from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Summit's Grand Ballroom.

It will feature more than 60 businesses from the community who will be displaying their products and services. Some of the businesses include Showroom of Elegance, Super Bowl of Canton, Viscount Pools, Huntington Bank, Brackney Chiropractic, Absolute Solar Control, Admiral Cruise & Tour Center, Alsager Animal Care Center, Premier Pet Care Services, Renaissance Roofing, Xuereb Snow PC. and Marco's Pizza. Just to name a few.

"The Consumer Expo is an initiative of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton DDA to encourage the public to get to know their business neighbors," said Dianne Cojei, president of Canton Chamber of Commerce. The expo is a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the businesses in our community. Attendees have the opportunity to meet local business owners and learn about the great products and services they have to offer."

## Phony repairmen invade home, handcuff woman

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Canton Township police say they will release composite sketches today of three suspects wanted for handcuffing a Canton woman to a stair railing while they ransacked her home Tuesday morning.

"About 9 a.m., an individual offered to do some home main-

tenance work for the woman, but she turned him away," Canton Deputy Chief Bob Kerr said of the incident in the 2800 block of Doncaster. "About an hour later, he and two other accomplices forced their way into the house."

Police say one of the suspects was armed with a silver handgun. They left taking only her wedding

"They gave her the key so she

could unlock the handcuffs," Kerr said. "There were two small children in the home. They didn't harm anyone."

Kerr said the woman went to a friend's home to call police.

She described the three suspects, all white males, as being in their 40s or 50s. One man, she said, was tall and thin, with an unknown accent, and wearing a dark sweater, dark jeans and

a "Best Buy" knit hat. Suspect two was wearing a navy "ECKO" sweater with white jeans, and wearing a dark cap. The third man was wearing grey sweat-

pants, grey shirt and a grey hat. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

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Hulsing Elementary Brownie Troop 40186 members (from left in front) Isabel Espinoza, Emily Clark, Megan Rivera, Rachel Vasilnek, Cate Kirkwood, Hannah Sheedy, (behind from left) Slyvia Wei, Kelly Quinlan, Isabella Seegert, Samantha Selewski, Michaela Julian, Urvi Bhargava and Devon Misenko hold up their quifts.

## Helping hands

### Brownies make special blankets for area senior citizens

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Sometimes it doesn't take a lot of work to put a smile on someone's face while at the

same time learning a valuable lesson. Case in point: Brownie Troop 40186 at Hulsing Elementary in Canton. Second- and third-grade girls used their troop's money to buy material and a little work went a long

way to make lap blankets for senior citizens. 'Our leaders cut out the fabric and we knotted them," said Hannah Sheedy, 8. "It was kind of easy, but it made me proud and happy ... in a way you can't explain."

Seven-year-old Michaela Julian added it was a fun project that, in the end, made her feel good.

"Because we got to do it with people and we got to help people," she said. "It feels good because I'm helping someone."

The blankets were presented to Maj. Patricia Irvine of the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps to be distributed to senior citizens.

"These girls gave up funds they could have used for field trips or parties, and instead thought of people who are lonely and don't often have people come visit them," Irvine said. "The seniors are generally surprised and grateful knowing somebody cares."

Troop 40186 co-leaders Ann Espinoza, Sandy Selewski and Vicki Rivera said there were several lessons to be learned in the completion of the blanket project.

"We wanted to show them that community service is all year round, not just at Christmas time when there's a lot going on," Rivera said. "We wanted it to be made from their own hands, and for them to sacrifice some of their money which could have been used for other things."

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Plymouth Salvation Army Major Pat Irvine receives many homemade blankets from the brownie troop at Hulsing Elementary.

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### Patterson getting serious about attorney general run

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, has formed an exploratory committee to seek the Republican Party's nomination for state attorney general in the 2010 November election.

Patterson, who is term-limited after eight years in the state Senate, said he still has a desire to continue public service after his term is up next year.

"I've given it more than a passing glance," said Patterson, 62. "There's clearly more work to be done for the people of Michigan.

"When you look at the position of attorney general as adviser to the executive branch and the legislative branch, I know how the system works and have a good perspective," he said. "I'm a fighter for the people, and



**OBSERVER FILE PHOTO** 

State Sen. Bruce Patterson of Canton has formed an exploratory committee for a possible run for Michigan attorney general.

when I pick up on a cause I see it to the conclusion... whether it be the tobacco issue, Blue Cross Blue Shield or energy policy. AG also has an element of consumer protection. That's the sort of advocacy I've been known to

Patterson would have to be nominated at the Republican

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think Canton's Bruce Patterson will make a good attorney general for the state of Michigan? Send your thoughts to Editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@ hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www. hometownlife.com.

Party's state convention to get the nomination. He's the first to announce an exploratory committee to seek the position.

"It's still early for a convention nomination," admitted Patterson. "The Republican nominee for governor will have a great influence as to who will be on the ticket. When you look at

Please see PATTERSON, A6

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#### Making the grade

The Canton Public Library will host "Library Resources That Make the Grade" at 10 a.m., Feb. 14. This free class is ideal for mature students heading back to the classroom. Explore many of the online resources necessary for success in today's classroom. Learn to find books, newspaper articles, magazine or journal articles and more online and help you complete your homework with ease. Non-Canton residents are welcome. Register by calling (734) 397-

#### Cancer fund-raiser

The 'Roll Over Cancer Fundraiser' sponsored by Inspired From Heaven American Cancer Society Canton Relay for Life team will take place from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21 at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland. Admission at the door is \$6. Skates will be available to rent or bring your own. Proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society Canton Relay

for Life. For more information, email Inspiredfromheaven@ vahoo.com.

#### 'Divine Stella Devine'

The Spotlight Players theater group will perform the comedy 'Divine Stella Devine' starting later this month at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The show runs Feb. 20, 21, 27, 28, March 1, 6, 7, and 8.

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The show revolves around character Stella Devine, the aging star of the popular Ritz Theatre, and her fellow company of actors, who are preparing for the epic play 'Civil War Darlin's.' The cast is comprised of local actors.

"This production will add some style and glamour to an already well-written and funny show. With actors frequently in the house engaging the audience, Broadway-style lighting effects, and even a little song and dance, this run of Divine Stella Divine promises to be an 'all out' assault on the senses," said Director Christian Cash.

To buy tickets and for more information (discounted tickets are \$13 each and available online only) visit www.spotlightplayers.net. At the box office tickets are \$15-\$18. Call the box office at (734) 394-

#### LWV scholars

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County announces a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded in June to a qualified United States citizen, male or female, college undergraduate.

Applicants must reside in the LWV's service area (Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Wayne County portion of Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne or Westland); attend a Michigan college or university; major in government, political science or public policy; and be entering the third or fourth year of undergraduate study.



**AROUND CANTON** 

#### On to Florida

The Canton-based Michigan Xtreme cheer team Bling recently competed at the Champion Spirit Group in Chicago and won first place in their level five division and received a bid to the upcoming Cheerleading World's in Orlando. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Bailee Georgeson and Kennedi Lewis; (second row) Lindsey Drewyor, Tatianna Clark, Jordan White, Riley Gaidica, Shannon Diaz, Tyler Simmons, Peyton Del Toro; (third row) Coach Kelly Ward, Shelby Snider, Mikenna Jones, Jenna Seychel, Victoria Kinsler, Sam Gregory. Dejah Darkins, Ashley Sawchuk; (fourth row) Coach Tony Runyon, Erica Bolz, Olivia Lewis, Kailey Bates, Ashley Cochran and Jane McCurry.

Additional information and the scholarship application can be found at the League's Web site at www.lwvnww.org (click on 2009 Scholarship Application). Applications must be postmarked by April 17.

#### 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: Max & Erma's, Tuesday, March 10, all day, a flyer is needed, which

can be downloaded from our web site. They will donate 20 percent of their profits to the senior party; 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 more information, contact pcep-senior-party@ comcast.net.

#### **Blood drives**

NorthRidge Church hosts a blood drive 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

It's one of several the church has scheduled in 2009. The others: April 5, July 25 and Oct. 24.

Donors can register to give online at www.givelife.org and enter NorthRidge in Step One (sponsor code) or call (800) GIVELIFE (1.800.448.3543).

#### Free financial seminar

If your income has changed due to job loss, divorce or retirement, Community

Financial invites you to attend a free seminar to help you through these tough transitions. The seminar will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the Summit on the Park located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Michelle Richards of Community Financial will present "Life Transitions-How to Survive a Change in Income." Richards will share how careful planning, useful tools and a positive approach can help individuals and families overcome challenging and stressful situations.

For more information or to make a reservation to attend this free seminar, call (734) 582-8702.

#### **Canton Toastmasters**

The Canton Communicators Toastmasters Club, a nonprofit group where members learn both communication and leadership skills, meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island at 8533 Lilley Road, just south of Joy Road, in the Golden Gate Plaza. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

#### St. Michael open house

St. Michael Christian School is hosting an open house on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6:30-8 p.m. The school offers 3 year old preschool through fifth grade classes including all day kindergarten and half day Young Fives. St. Michael Christian School provides a Christ centered education using the Holy Bible, the Concordia Publishing House study series, and a weekly chapel service led by the pastoral staff.

St. Michael Christian School is located at 7000 N. Sheldon Road in Canton. For more information, call (734) 459-9720 or visit www.stmichaelchurch.org.

#### Salem football alumni

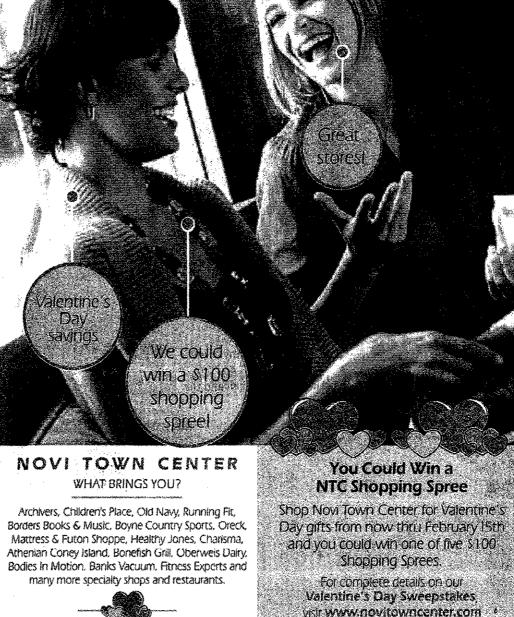
If you ever played football for Salem High School, a group of alumni would love to hear from you. The Salem Linebackers Booster Club will be hosting a dinner (date and time to be determined) with all Salem alumni invited. They would like to know your name, year graduated, phone number, address and e-mail.

E-mail or call Don Turner at (734) 812-0504 or dturner@ longwalkpartners.com.

The Salem Linebackers Booster Club is also assembling a team of former, current and future high school band members from any school to play at Salem Rocks home (and possibly away) games. This is open to anyone who can play an instrument and would be interested in joining the group in the stands at the Salem Rocks football games. No marching required. For more information, contact Don Turner at (734) 812-0504 or dturner@longwalkpartners.com.









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## Reeves rocks pro-education message

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Plymouth-Canton School District's fledgling Jabari and Nsedua's Pride (JNP) group are looking for advice on various careers and getting prepared for college.

Former Motown recording star Martha Reeves is a product of public schools who believes it's her responsibility to provide guidance to young students when possible.

Supply met demand Monday when Reeves, now a member of the Detroit City Council, met with JNP students for a wide-ranging roundtable discussion of career possibilities, college opportunities and the good ol' days in the entertainment business.

"I'm a product of public schools," Reeves said. "Everything I've accomplished, I give credit to teachers. And there is a high drop-out rate ... so anything I can do to convince kids you need a quality education, I'm happy to do."

Reeves spent about an hour talking to some two dozen students about topics ranging from what it was like in show business to what life as a city

councilwoman is like. The show business discussion was of particular interest to JNP member Olivia Mensah, a 17-yearold Plymouth High School senior and a member of the Madrigals, the top girls' choir in the district.

"I'm really interested in Detroit's history, and it's cool to know she was there in the beginning," said Mensah, who is also a choir leader at King of Kings Christian Center in Westland. "I really wanted to hear how she got started, and to find out which way to go to get into the entertainment business.'

Reeves is just the latest in a line of speakers to address JNP, started last fall by media specialist Charlie Jones, who wanted African-American students to not only be proud

of who they are, but ready for where they're going.

"I want our kids to be proud of their culture and background," said Jones, who pointed out JNP has nearly a dozen paying members. "I want them to be prepared for life after high school."

Parents and students meet separately - although students are invited to parents' meetings - and parents have taken a lead role. One parent, a professor at Eastern Michigan, even spoke to the group.

Darrell White, 16, and a junior at Salem High School, said JNP serves a useful purpose, particularly for students new to the district who aren't coming in from particularly positive environments.

"New kids who come to school here aren't used to a pro-school environment." said White, who is JNP's vice president. "Our goal is to have a program that helps kids from freshmen on up to get them ready for college.'



Detroit City Councilwoman Martha Reeves poses with JNP student leaders Olivia Mensah (president), Darrell White (vice president), Bianca Shelman (secretary) and Winston Roberts (treasurer).

### District serves up new plan for food service

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When principals at two Plymouth-Canton elementary schools came to Jim Larson-Shidler, the district's new assistant superintendent for business services, with a request to remove the a la carte option from their lunch rooms, his first thought was, "But they

make a pretty good profit." That's when Larson-Shidler decided to re-examine the priorities behind the district's food service contract and recommend that, at the end of the contract with Sodexho, the management company that has run the district's food service program for some 20 years, the district take the food service responsibilities in-house.

"Sodexho said (a la carte) was very profitable ... if we do away with it we're going to make less profit," said Larson-Shidler, who said the a la carte menu was made up of items such as potato

chips that are less nutritious than meals. "My priorities were in the wrong place. I want someone watching the (financial) numbers, but not focused on profit. I want the focus on serving students."

The Board of Education accepted Larson-Shidler's recommendation not to go out for bids when the contract expires this summer, effectively ending Sodexho's more than 20 years running the food service program.

Instead, the district will hire a new, in-house food service manager to run the program, which produces some 1.6 million meals a year, according to Larson-Shidler. That means the three managers who've been in the district the longest - all of them employees of Sodexho - will no longer work there, but Larson-Shidler said the 85 other food service employees who are on the district's pay-

roll will keep their jobs. Though the district realized a \$78,000 return on Sodexho's management contract last year, Larson-Shidler said he believes an in-house program could be better run and save some 5 to 6 cents per meal, a savings he said adds up to some \$90,000.

Not everyone was happy about the switch. Canton resident Cindy Bastion criticized the district in a letter to the editor for making the decision without consulting any of the managers or workers in the food service department.

"Does (Larson-Shidler) not know that this group is perhaps the most cohesive and forward-thinking group of any in this district ... That these employees and the management staff consider themselves as a working team?" she wrote, "Without any input or discussion with the food service employees or with the management company or any hint that this would be coming up, the vote was taken and the deed was done.





## Tip leads to arrest in flasher case

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 40-year-old Romulus man who police say exposed himself at both the Canton and Dearborn public libraries has been arraigned on indecent exposure charges and remains jailed in lieu of \$100,000

Paul Rolando Porter was arraigned Wednesday morning in 19th District Court in Dearborn following his arrest by Dearborn police, the result of a tip received by Canton police. A plea of not guilty to one count of indecent exposure by a sexually delinquent person was entered by Judge William Hultgren with a preliminary exam scheduled for Feb. 20. Porter can be free if



he posts 10 percent, or \$5.000, and must wear a tether and stay away from libraries. On

Wednesday afternoon,

Porter was arraigned in 35th District Court in Plymouth in front of Judge James Plakas. Another plea of not guilty was entered by the court for a charge of aggravated indecent exposure, a two-year misdemeanor, and sexually deviant behavior, which carries a penalty of up to life in prison. A preliminary exam is scheduled for Feb. 23 in front of Judge Michael Gerou. Another

\$50,000 bond was issued, allowing Porter to be set free if he posts \$5,000.

Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, said the charge in Canton is listed as "aggravated" indecent exposure because "he fondled himself" inside the library.

On Jan. 30, a security tape at the Canton Public Library showed a man fondling himself just inside the library. After closing, the man allegedly sat on an outside bench next to a 25-year-old woman and exposed himself.

On Feb. 3, a 14-year-old girl was at the Dearborn Public Library when a man exposed himself to her late in the after-

In both cases, the suspect

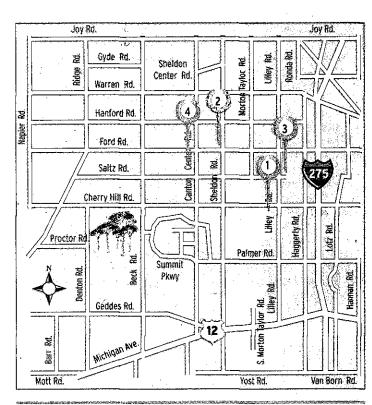
fled after the incident. "We'd been working with Dearborn since last week," said Canton Police Deputy Chief Bob Kerr, who declined to give specifics concerning

the tip that led to the arrest. Miller also declined to give details of the tip or where Porter was arrested. However, Miller hinted

there may be more indecent exposure cases linked to Porter.

"We have reason to believe there are other incidents and we encourage the public to come forward to file complaints with their local police departments if there is any conduct consistent with this man," Miller said.

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#### **CANTON COP CALLS**

### Police department undergoing changes

The Canton Police Department has undergone a number of personnel changes in recent months.

A couple months ago, the department announced the promotion of Lieutenant Robert Kerr to the rank of deputy chief. Deputy Chief Kerr was hired by the department in 1985 as a patrol officer. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1994, and lieutenant in 1998. Kerr earned his Bachelor's Degree from University of Michigan and his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Kerr has been assigned as commander of the Staff Operations Division, filling a vacancy created by retiring Deputy Chief Laura Golles. He is responsible for overseeing the operation of the division which includes the detective bureau, crime preven-



Baugh

tion, ordinance enforcement,

records bureau and property

retention, along with several

specialized units including

accident investigation and

Western-Wayne Criminal

At the time of Kerr's promo-

tion, the department also pro-

moted to the rank of sergeant

Chad Baugh and Craig Wilsher

due to vacancies created by

retirement. Both have been

in the Patrol Division.

assigned as shift supervisors

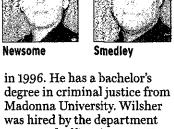
Baugh was hired by the

department as a patrol officer

Investigations.



Newsome



was hired by the department as a patrol officer in 1998. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and his master's degree in criminal justice leadership from Madonna University. In January, Sgt. Deb

Newsome was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Newsome was hired by the department as a patrol officer in 1991 and was promoted to sergeant in 2002. Newsome has been assigned

to many units within the department including detective bureau, department instructor, evidence technician, and most recently as community relations coordinator where she was instrumental in starting the department's new Web site and community watch program. She also took on the role of public information officer for the department last fall. Newsome earned her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Detroit in 1989, and was hired later that year by the Detroit Police Department.

At the same time, the department promoted officer Robert Smedley to the rank of sergeant, filling the vacancy created by Newsome. He was hired by the department in 1991 as a patrol officer. Smedley received his bachelor's degree from Adrian College in 1986.

#### Stealing crabs

A 57-year-old Canton man was arrested at Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley Road, Monday for attempting to steal two pieces of crab from an opened box found inside his cart. The suspect tried to run from the store when confronted by employees, striking one of them. He faces possible robbery and strong armed robbery charges.

#### Retail fraud

🥦 A 24-year-old Canton man faces a retail fraud charge for attempting to steal a \$249 GPS unit from Kohl's, 44444 Ford Road on Sunday. Police say the suspect walked into the store, placed several items into a black Kohl's shopping bag and then attempted to return the GPS. A surveillance tape showed the suspect walked in empty-handed but tried to walk out with the

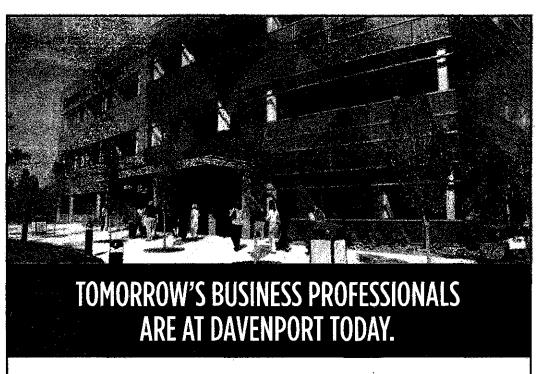
#### Teenager harassed

A teenage girl living on the 1400 block of Walnut

Ridge Circle reported to police Feb. 5 she has been threatened by two other teenage girls with postings on MySpace, claiming they will "kick her (butt)." The girl also reported to police that threatening messages were left on her telephone voicemail and that she was attacked by one of the girls at the Canton Cinema. The victim says she's afraid of what the girls will do to her. She and her parents want to press charges.

#### Flower bandit

Police arrested a man in his 40s who reportedly stole eight bunches of flowers from Kroger, 1905 N. Canton Center Road on Feb. 3. Police found the suspect behind the Total Plaza on Ford Road, who told them he was dropping off flowers for his girlfriend for Valentine's Day. He had no flowers, but his shirt was wet and he couldn't remember where he bought them. He was identified by two employees at Kroger. Police found the flowers nearby, along with women's underwear.



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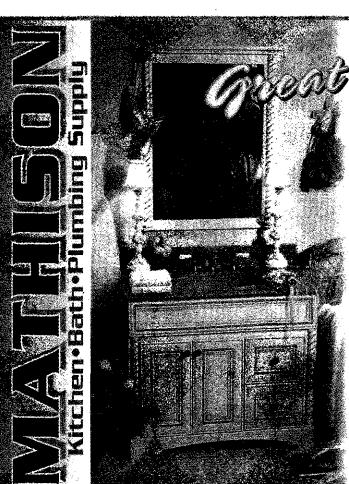
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## Term insurance might be the best option for many

have received a number of letters dealing with life insurance issues. Two major concerns are what to do with life insurance if you lose your job and can no longer afford your premium payment.

The first step is to determine whether you need life insurance. Many people who have a change in family situations find that they may have had life insurance through their employer, but really do

not need it. If you do situations **Money Matters** 

Rick Bloom

not need life insurance, then in most there is nothing you need to do. On the other hand, if you need life insurance, the first thing to

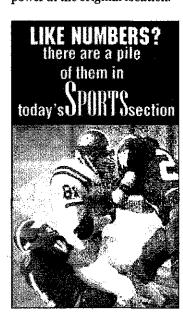
determine is what your rights are under your existing insurance policy. In many situations the policy is portable, which means that you can transfer the policy without a break in coverage.

If your employer-provided policy is not portable, you lose your insurance coverage. If you have the option of keeping your insurance coverage and need it, I say keep the policy. However, begin the process of shopping for a new policy. Many times, group coverage is not the most cost-effective type of policy. It makes sense to shop around. You may find - particularly with term insurance — a better policy at a lower cost. Don't cancel your existing policy until you have been approved for the new policy.

I am a fan of term insurance for the great majority of people. It easy to understand

### Frog, toad workshop changed

Friends of the Rouge's first Frog and Toad Survey Training Workshop scheduled for 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, has been moved to the Southfield Public Library at 26300 Evergreen Road, Southfield. There will be no power at the original location.



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and cost-effective. Typical term policies are available for 10-, 15-, 20- or even a 30-year period. The length of time does not depend upon your age but rather for how long you need insurance coverage.

You can deal with an agent when it comes to term or shop it around on the Internet.

For those who can no longer afford their premium pay-

ments, the key is, do you need life insurance? If the answer is no, cancel the policy. Those over age 65 can potentially sell their policy to investors. There are investors that will pay to buy someone's life insurance policy. This is not an easy transaction but it is something to explore.

For people who can't afford the current premium with a

permanent insurance policy like a whole-life or universallife, there is cash surrender value that can be used to pay the premium. In addition, some creative agents can restructure the policy to fit your needs.

There is no cash surrender value for term insurance. However, it is potentially possible for the coverage on that

policy to be adjusted to make , it more affordable.

In these difficult economic times, it is easy to sometimes ignore a problem and hope it goes away. When it comes to life insurance the reason you have it is to protect a loved one who is financially dependent upon you. When it comes time to make a decision regarding life insurance, don't rush. Take your time, ask questions and make the best choice for your situation.

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



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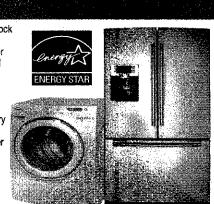






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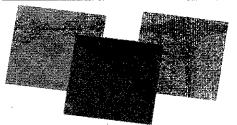
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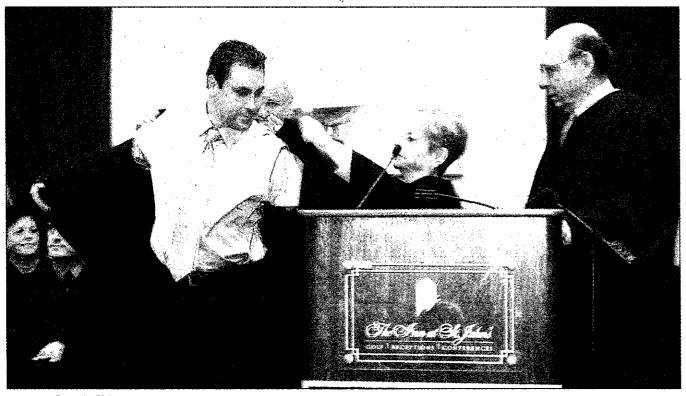
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 12, 2009



A perfect fit

New 35th District Court Judge Jim Plakas was the center of attention during his investiture on Feb. 4 at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township. Helping him put on the new robe are his parents, Angelo and Sandy Plakas, while former 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald looks on. Plakas was elected in November to fill the seat vacated by MacDonald, who administered the oath of office. Nearly 40 area judges, all wearing their robes, showed up for the ceremony, along with more than 400 guests. The pledge of allegiance was led by U.S. Marine and Canton Trustee Todd Caccamo. All five communities served by the court had representatives at the investiture, as did the Livonia Bar Association, Western Wayne Suburban Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, and Hellenic Bar Association.

the role of AG, you would want some relationship with whomever is the governor that was a positive relationship."

Despite 30 years in politics, Patterson said there's still work to be done to improve his name recognition throughout the state to improve his chances of getting the nomination at the Aug. 2010 party convention.

"I have to build up a sufficient number of convention delegates to become one of the options," Patterson said. "It's a matter of renewing old relationships and making sure other people know what I'm about to become a credible option."

Patterson believes he'll "have to raise a million bucks" if he's to become the Republican nominee.

Bill Ballenger of Inside Michigan Politics said it's way too early to determine who has a chance to become attorney general.

"It's still 18 months before the state party convention," said Ballenger. "I don't know if he's getting you excited for no reason, at this point. There's no other names being tossed

"(Patterson) is a lawyer, and that's all you need to be attorney general," he said. "He's from Wayne County, and there's not many Republicans from there. He's got a base... an intelligent, colorful guy."

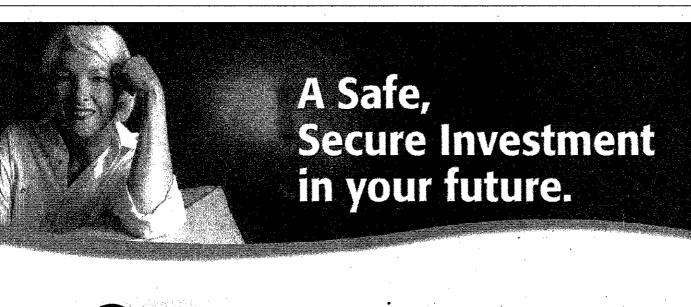
Ballenger said others being mentioned for attorney general are Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge William Schuette, whose term is up this

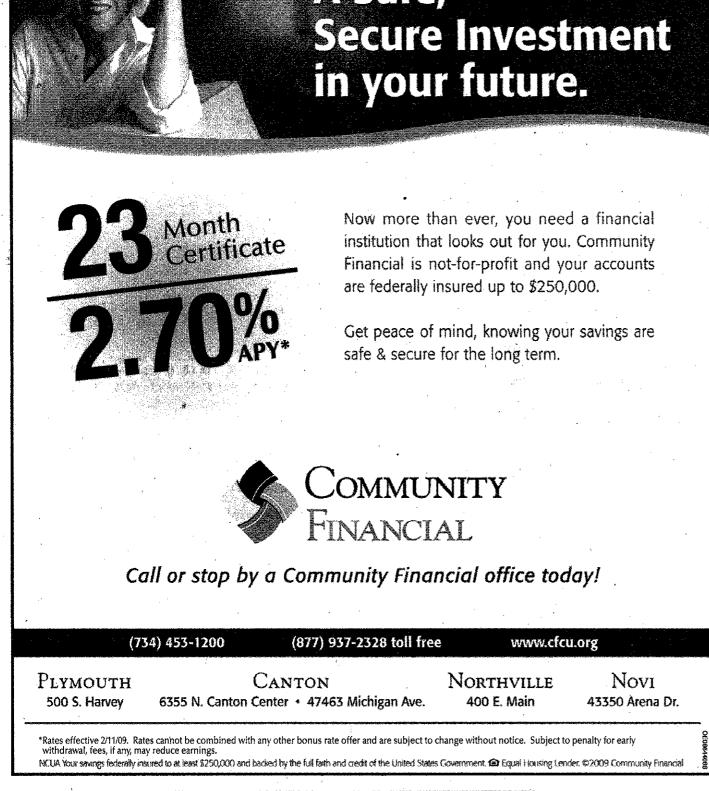
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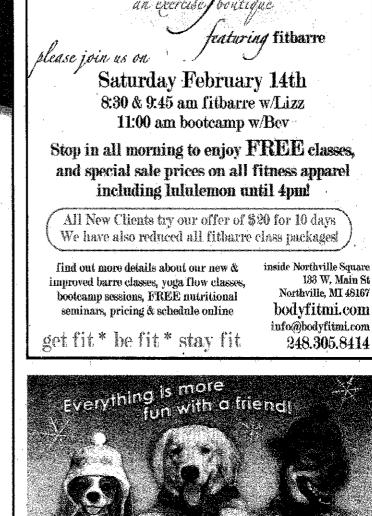
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## Hunter's success provides hands-on anatomy lab

BY SUE MASON **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Cathy German was looking at using a chart and model to show her anatomy students the many valves, chambers and openings in the human heart. That was until John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham made her an offer she couldn't refuse.

Before last fall's hunting seasons, Ingham asked his anatomy teacher if she could use a deer heart for her class. She didn't hesitate to say yes. A mammal, a deer's heart was very much like a human heart and having one would give her students some good hands-on observations.

Little did she know Ingham would have three very good hunts, bagging three deer during the state's bow, firearm and black powder sea-

"I've done this in the past, I did it with the science class at Adams Middle School, when I'd get lucky," said Ingham. "I mentioned it to Cathy and she said it would be great for this lab. It's the kinds of hands-on lab kids will remember."

"I wanted to bring in something that's real," said German. "I have a plastic model I can open up so they can see the chambers and valves and I have a pink and blue drawing. There are preserved hearts in catalogs, but they're expensive. We know a real heart looks totally different."

Ingham admits he took care so he would "get good specimens, not something that looked like road kill," and was rewarded with three intact hearts that he kept frozen



John Glenn High School seniors Bradley Sheahan (from left), Jake Kitzmiller and Angelina Floied take a close look at a deer's heart during Cathy German's anatomy class.

until German needed them.

German took the hearts home where she practiced to make sure she could use them. She left one intact, but cut the other two so students could see the chambers, valves and connective tissue inside.

Students put on surgical gloves to handle the specimens, drawing pictures and labeling what they saw. It was all in preparation for a quiz on Wednesday in which they had to trace the flow of blood through the heart and name

the 17 structures, among other things.

Seniors Bradley Sheahan, Jake Kitzmiller and Angelina Floied got their hands on the whole heart, using probes to identify such things as the aorta, pulmonary vein and ventricles.

Terms like the super vena cava and right and left auricles easily rolled off their tongues and the fact that they faced a 35-point quiz the next day didn't worry them, even though they just started



John Glenn High School teacher Cathy German discusses the valves of the

studying the cardiovascular system this week. They've worked on rats and will dissect a cat at the end of the year and already know all the bones and muscles in the human body.

'We had to learn 40 different bones and then had a quiz two days later," said Kitzmiller who plans to attend Wayne State University to become a nurse

anesthesist. "We have coloring books where we learn to label and color different things," added Sheahan, "And we use a lot of mnemonic devices to learn."

For the trio, the anatomy class dovetails well with their future careers. Sheahan plans to study pre-med at Michigan State University, Kitzmiller is going to study to be a nurse anesthesist at Wayne State University. Floied plans to study nursing at Schoolcraft College.

"They learn the anatomy and then the physiology," said German, watching as students gathered in groups of eight at the three lab stations.

Ingham visited one of the classes and was glad to see students handling the hearts.

"I think she did a wonderful job and the kids I saw handled them more than I thought," he said. "I didn't see any squeamish kids in that classroom.

By the third class, German had to admit her specimens were getting "old." The fat on the one heart was hardening and they were starting to darken in color.

"These poor hearts won't make it another day," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

### 8 candidates file in school board race

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a crowded field of candidates vying for one of three seats on the Wayne-Westland school board that will be filled in the May 5 school election.

Two four-year terms, currently held by incumbents Ed Turner and Steve Becher, as well as the remaining year of four-year term that had been held by Frederick Weaver, will be filled in the annual school election. Weaver resigned from the board last August after moving to the Midland area.

Turner, a Westland resident, joined the school board in 1997. He is seeking a fifth four-year term. Becher, a Wayne resident, was elected to the school board in 2004 and is completing his first four-year term. He has opted to seek the one-year

term. Incumbent appointee Shawna Walker who has been filling Weaver's seat since last September. A Westland resident, she is seeking a four-year

Also campaigning for the four-year terms are Gregory Maxwell of Wayne, the husband of Shawnn Maxwell who spearheaded a failed recall attempt of two school board members; retired Wayne-Westland teacher Carol Middel of Canton; Lori Mireles-Smith of Westland who has twice tried for an appointment to the school board; Brian Mulligan of Westland, who is making his third bid for a seat on the board; and Westland resident Mark Neal, a retired Westland fire chief.

In addition to Becher, businessman John Goci of Westland and Angela Hoops-Cossey of Wayne have filed for the one-year term.

The candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, to withdraw from the election.

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

### **OUR VIEWS**

## These are excellent times for trail lovers

When Canton Township sent out a recreation survey to residents back in 2004, the number one thing that people were clamoring for were trails and walking paths.

At the time, the township had an array of top-notch recreation facilities and parks, like the Summit and the Village Theater, but they admittedly were lacking trails. So Canton Leisure Services made trails a priority, and they were supported by the township's elected officials.

Fortunately, in this quest, the township had an ace up its sleeve — approximately 300 acres of the county owned Lower Rouge Parkway, a combination of wetlands, woodlands, meadows and floodplain straddling the Lower Rouge River. Because of all the development taking place in the southwest part of town, the township had plans to install a sanitary sewer through the floodplain. And since they were going to have to cut a swath through the parkway, they decided it would be a great opportunity to add a pathway along with the sewer.

The other ace the township had was Bob Belair, assistant township engineer, who has been intimately involved in the planning of the pathway since the beginning and has been instrumental in securing \$1.2 million in federal and state grants for the project.

Recently the township secured a \$150,000 grant from the Wayne County Department of Environment, which along with a \$350,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will allow the township to build a half dozen pedestrian bridges over the Rouge that will connect the different portions of the trail, which, when complete, will run from Heritage Park at Canton Center all the way to I-275 (connecting to the trail that runs along the expressway). There are also ongoing talks with ITC to build a trail along the power line corridor that will ultimately connect the Lower Rouge Trail to Cherry Hill'Village.

Much of the work will be completed before the end of the upcoming construction season. Belair, along with other staff like engineer and trail project manager Anne Naszradi, deserve a lot of credit for bringing the trail together much quicker than many thought possible. They have also gotten many volunteers involved in the project, which will be important to the trail's future.

The success of this trail is even more impressive when considering it has been possible

because of a partnership between the township, county, and state. This is how government is supposed to work — cooperatively.

When completed, the trail may very well be the jewel of the township's park system. It will provide a place for walkers, joggers, mountain bikers, cross country skiers and nature lovers a place to spend time close to home. Exactly what residents said they wanted.

#### Join the discussion

Careerbuilder.com was the favorite Super Bowl commercial of hometownlife.com visitors last week.

Michigan lawmakers will have to make cuts in order to balance the new state budget. What area of the budget would you cut?

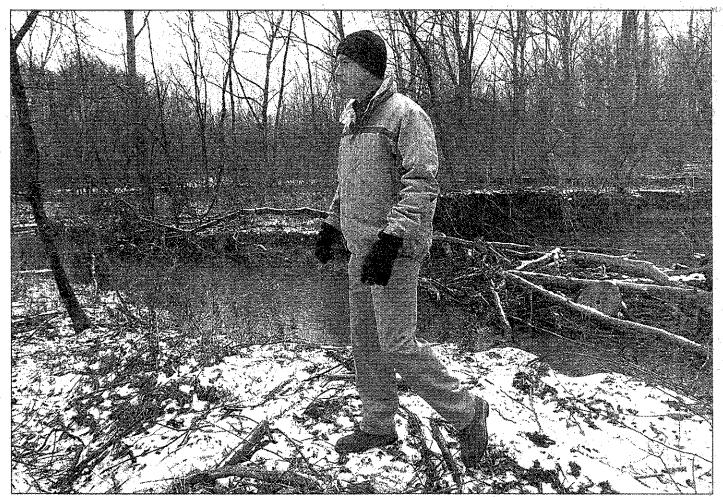
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## OBSERVER

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Canton environmental engineer Bob Belair walks along the Lower Rouge River near the recreation trail. He, along with other township staff, have been instrumental in project's success.

## Decision will save money

I am writing in response to a recent letter regarding Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Food Service Program ("Disillusioned with school board," Cindy Bastion, Feb. 5).

Some clarification is necessary:

Due to new federal regulations, the district was required to bid out its food service management for the 2009-10 school year. If it were to bid out these services, there is no guarantee that the current provider, Sodexho, would have won the bid to remain as the management company in the district.

It is important for your readers to know that the district has been happy with the food service management services provided by Sodexho over the years. The problem is that we are pricing our students out of the hot lunch market in the current economy. The district has served 34,000 fewer meals from September through December 2008 as compared to last year during that time. The contract with Sodexho is a cost plus term, which means if there is a loss at the end of the year, the district would need to incur that loss. Through December, we are running at a deficit of about \$60,000. Everyone is aware of our ongoing budget constraints, so PCCS needed to decide if it would raise lunch prices, or operate a different way. I believe we have found a way to hold the line on pricing and enhance the program.

I believe the district's operations should be reviewed and evaluated on an ongoing basis. I reviewed the food service operations through site visits, discussions with district staff, consultants, neighboring districts, the Michigan Department of Education and review of history and files. Based on this review and my

#### What do you think?

Mail comments to the Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to kkuban@hometownlife.com.

past experience, I felt it was in the best interest of the district to manage its own food service program. At the Jan. 27 board meeting, I presented a recommendation to the Board of Education that the district be allowed to let its contract expire with Sodexho as of June 30, 2009. The board accepted this recommendation.

This change will not affect the employment of the food service staff working in the district. It will likely affect the Sodexho management staff (three people) that are assigned to the district. Our contract with Sodexho makes it financially prohibitive to hire its management staff. The transition will not add costs to the district because we will replace these three positions with district staff without incurring costs above what we currently pay Sodexho in salaries and fees.

We will be posting the food service manager position within the next couple of weeks. Once that person is hired, they will complete the hiring of the management staff for the 2009-10 school year. This will be an open process, so anyone that meets or exceeds the qualifications may apply ... no matter where they live.

I hope this helps to clarify the issue for everyone. Our board is in a difficult position everyyear during budget season. I believe we did our job by giving them an option that will provide a nutritious, great tasting lunch for students without increasing costs to our budget or families in the district.

**James Larson-Shidler** assistant superintendent for business

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

#### **Event deserved coverage**

"The silence is deafening." A famous saying so appropriately describes the TV news programs.

Many thousands of people came to

Washington from all over the United States.
They came to commemorate the Rove vs. Wade
Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion
— right up to the moment of delivery — and
also after through the "partial birth" abortion.

This "March for Life" took place Jan. 22.

This "March for Life" took place Jan. 22. Total silence describes the non-coverage of this event by the TV news broadcasts that evening. How sad that many people are never aware of this memorial for the unborn which has been happening each year for the past 36 years. Over 49 million innocent victims of abortion have been slaughtered since then. These deaths are more than the total American combat-related deaths in the following wars: Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the war on terrorism.

Is it any wonder that our economy is in such a drastic condition? Think about it — our greatest natural resource, or children, have had their voices silenced. They are not here to enjoy the right to life guaranteed by our constitution, to attend school, to hold jobs and pay Social Security, to marry and have a family, to buy cars, etc.

Want to help stop this plague of our nation? Pray, and join Right To Life-Lifespan. Call (734) 422-6230.

> Barb Schmid Canton

#### COMMUNITY VOICE

The Canton Observer asked people at the Canton Public Library what they thought about President Obama's economic stimulus package?



"I'm worried about it, and what is happening with the banks. I think they're spending it wrong on bonuses and offices."

Stephenie Polidori, 39, Canton



"I'm in favor of it because it will help a lot of people. It would be in the best interest."

Glenn Darby, 45, Ypsilanti



"I'm in favor of anything that gets the economy moving again. Especially in Michigan, because we're getting hit the worst." Rick Klocke, 39, Westland



"It will be fantastic if they take the pork out. With all the political horse trading that takes place, there's going to be an awful lot of stuff in it that doesn't need to be there and won't do any good."

Derek Harding, 43, Canton





Wensdy Von Buskirk . Editor . (313) 222-8883 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

## Rec with handbag auction

am the daughter of a woman who loves handbags. Fortunately or not, the trait is inherited, so I got extremely excited when the Observer & Eccentric hatched a plan to host a Purse Power auction to raise money for women's cardiovascular health.

Playing on my strengths, my boss named me resident purse collector, and I took the job to heart.

Mining my Rolodex, I requested donations from every stylish contact I knew, including celebrities I've interviewed for PINK, public relations reps and boutique owners who've helped me with stories, and fellow mem-Wensdy bers of the Detroit chapter of Von Buskirk Fashion Group International.

The outpouring of purses would make mom proud. In all, I almost single-handedly collected 30 handbags, and among them are some true gems.

Governor Jennifer Granholm sent a tote made from recycled seat belts and stocked with Michigan goodies. Emmy award-winning "Sex and the City" stylist Patricia Field contributed a clutch from her old school "House of Field." Stacy London, star of "What not to Wear," sent a sassy satchel embellished with a gold panther.

Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia donated a Kate Spade purse and wallet, and Detroit native Ross Burton, now National Artistic Director for Lancome, sent a bag stocked with beauty must-haves.

I even called an old friend of my husband's, fellow Livonia Stevenson High School grad Nicole Forester, who now stars on "Guiding Light."



#### **GO RED LUNCHEON**

What: American Heart Association event includes lunch, health screenings, red dress fashion show, silent auction and keynote address by Dr. Annabelle Volgman

When: 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 Where: Detroit Marriott

at the Renaissance Center Tickets: \$250 per person, with proceeds benefitting education and research

for women and heart disease Information: Call (248) 936-5806 or visit www.americanheart.org

She sent a trendy number from her favorite Manhattan boutique.

The purses piled up — big, small, spring and fall - even a couple yoga mat bags. But, there was one hitch. Tickets to our 'Handbags with Heart' event weren't selling fast enough. Purse Power was cancelled.

As seasons came and went, the purses languished in a closet while we worked to arrange a new outlet for the cause. Finally, our purses have found a home.

They will all be up for bid during the American Heart Association's popular Go Red Luncheon, Feb. 25 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. I've been involved with the Metro

Detroit's AHA efforts for years — I've even been a Go Red Calendar Girl! I can tell you the luncheon is always fun and inspiring.

I'm so thankful the Metro Detroit AHA folks have agreed to add our purses to their silent auction, and that our fabulous donors will finally get the recognition they deserve.

I plan to bring my checkbook to the Go Red Luncheon, as I've had my eye on a particular purse all along.

Which one? Well, I don't want to drive up the bids, so I'm not telling anyone. Not even my own mother!

Lauren Beras of Lorla's shoe boutique in downtown Northville donated this velour floral bowling bag by SR Squared. It will be among 30 purses up for bid.

#### **PURSE POWER DONORS**

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers would like to thank the following generous donors for their contributions to the Go Red Luncheon silent auction:

- Astute Artistry, Livonia
- High Wire Girls, Royal Oak & Novi
- Gena Conti Custom Millenery,
- Biejo Bags/La Bella Bags, Chesterfield
- Blue Lotus, Franklin
- Bussbuss.com C&B Scene, Southfield
- Dancing Eye Gallery,
- Northville & Walled Lake
- Fuchsia Frog, Birmingham
- Lancome
- Lorla's, Northville
- MetroChick Radio
- Number Six Salon, Farmington Hills
- Ruby's Balm, West Bloomfield

Parisian, Laurel Park Place, Livonia

Roma Sposa, Birmingham

#### **PRIVATE DONORS**

- Governor Jennifer Granholm
- Patricia Field, stylist
- for "Sex & The City" Stacy London, host of TLC's
- "What Not to Wear"
- Nicole Forester, Livonia native and
- star of "Guiding Light"
- Candy Band
- Elaine Perlin Crosslev.
- West Bloomfield
- Jannell Eagan,
- Art of the Fifth Sense Keenie Fieger, Bloomfield Hills
- Janet Haas, Farmington Hills
- Gwen Joy, Redford
- Mydols
- Heather St. Amour,



Everything Old is New Again



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Governor Jennifer Granholm donated a tote made from recycled seat belts, stocked with Michigan goodies ranging from Leelanau Cellars wine to inaugural cuff links.

idation CANTON ONLY OFGE "We lost our lease after 15 years!" Everything Must Go! Nothing Held Back! **Over 25 complete futons.** 

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Reg \$699 Now \$349

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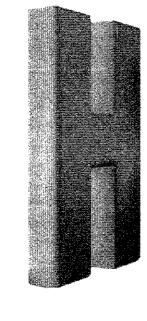
(Behind the New Potbelly Restaurant) **Sales telephone 734-844-0400** Sale Hours: Mon - Sat 10 am - 8 pm, Sun 12 noon - 8 pm Approved Check • Cash • Visa • MasterCard

Most items below wholesale! Sale Extended to February 15th - 5 pm





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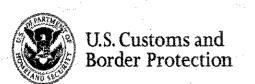


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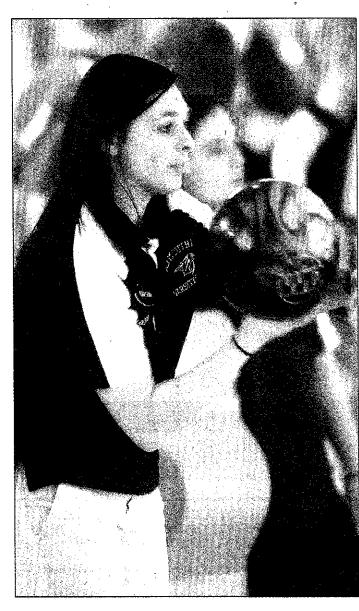




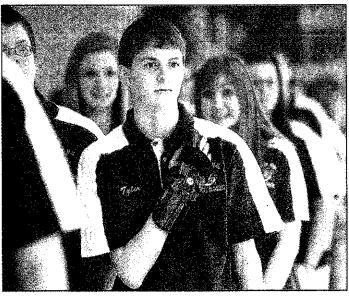
Let's Get You Home.



## LOMETO SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE



Plymouth's Justina Spinale focuses on the target during a recent high school match at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton.



Bowlers such as Salem's Tyler Foley stand for the national anthem before a late-January match.



Canton bowler David Blythe throws a warm-up ball before a recent match against Oakland Christian. Bowling returned as a club sport this winter at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. It will be a varsity sport beginning with the 2009-10 season.

## Right up their alley

#### Competitive bowling returns to PCEP with a bang

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to gang tackles, the one that engulfed Canton sophomore Andrew Klein one afternoon last month was thorough and forceful.

Better yet, it was joyful, which is to be expected considering Klein is not a football player, but a bowler, and he had just capped bowling perfection

"Everybody went crazy; I basically got attacked," Klein said, smiling, as he recounted the second the 300th pin hit the lane. "My dad gave me a big hug. When I called my mom and told her, she said, 'Get out of here' before she finally believed me."

Klein's meeting with perfection has proven, to be just one of the highlights of the "Return to Competitive Bowling" season for the six Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams — one boys team and one girls team for each of the three schools.

#### SportsCenter moments

Along with Klein's 300, Salem's Ryan Clarke has rolled a pair of 299 games and several other student-athletes have crafted averages in excess of

Absent from the sports agenda for the past few years, competitive prep bowling was renewed last fall thanks to the persistent efforts of a few local residents - none of whom have children on the

The Park schools are not alone in their return to the lanes. With the exception of the three Livonia schools, every Kensington Lakes Activities Association school currently boasts a team.

"The bottom line is I am a bowler and I felt there were enough kids at the Park interested in making bowling a varsity sport, so I decided to try to get this started," said Karl Brubaker, who serves as the head coach of Canton's boys and girls squads. "Once I checked into it, I found out there were a couple of other parents - Kathie Hahn and Tammy Thompson — who shared my idea."

#### Countdown begins

Although the 2008-09 campaign is more or less a trial run for the PCEP teams, next year bowling will be a full-fledged varsity sport.

Bowlers can earn varsity letters this season if they meet preset criteria.

The teams' first-year schedules consist of weekend tournaments and scrimmages against established teams like Oakland Christian. However, next year, the Chiefs, Rocks and Wildcats will be sanctioned members of the KLAA.

"Up until about 2002 or 2003, bowling was a club sport at the Park, but so many t the varsity level at that point and we didn't, so there

Please see BOWLING, B3

## Salem icers upend Canton to earn Lash Cup

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's version of the Stanley Cup — the Lash Cup — will spend the next 12 months in a trophy case inside the walls of Salem High School.

The Rocks earned the right to possess the coveted piece of hardware for the next year after rallying to upend Canton, 4-1, Friday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

The trophy goes to the PCEP hockey team that compiles the best record in the three teams' round-robin schedule against one another each winter.

"It's a big accomplishment because

I still consider this to be a very young team," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "It also means a lot because Canton and Plymouth are both high-level teams. We tied them both the first time we played them so to beat them the second time shows how far our team has come. It's a testament to the hard work this team has put in."

The victory improved the Rocks' record to 10-7-3 overall and 3-1-2 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Salem will claim a division title with victories in its final two division games.

Canton's division mark slipped to

The Chiefs struck first on Friday when Zac Haar ripped an unassisted goal into the back of the net with 5:41

left in the second quarter. Salem deadlocked the contest at 1all just over three minutes later when Wes Carr scored off assists from Dave Russell and Patrick Patton.

The Rocks carried a 2-1 advantage into the second intermission when Kurt Driscoll scored a short time after Carr on helpers from Mike Hochkins and Mario Macari.

Salem doubled its lead to 3-1 midway through the third period on Garrett Berg's goal from Shawn Lyons

and Sam Ott. Patton tacked on an empty-netter from Russell to cap the scoring. Adam Powers was stellar between the pipes for the winners, stopping 25

Chiefs shots. Zane Birchler suffered the loss for the Chiefs despite making 34 saves. Surging Salem has now won four of

its last five games. "One of the keys for us lately is that we're using our team speed better than we did early in the season," said Ossenmacher. "I feel we have as much team speed as any team around, but it only benefits us if we use it. That's been the focus of our practices the past

> Canton's Alex Hamric

dismounts from

the balance beam

during a routine

Invitational. The Chiefs placed

seventh in the 18-

at Saturday's

Canton

team field.

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few weeks."

tonight — it was as simple as that," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "Hopefully, we can get it going before the playoffs start.

**GAME** 

**WRAPS** 

Ignition triumphs

tory this season.

The triumph improved the Ignition's record to 6-2 while the second-place Wave washed in at 6-4. Forward Worteh Sampson staked Detroit to a 2-0 lead late in the

first quarter off an assist from Josh Rife, Nathan

Sabich answered for the Wave at 4:14 of the second

to tie the clubs up at 4-all, a score that would remain

the same going into half-

Following a slow first half by indoor-soccer standards, the Ignition's

fans caught a lot more action in the last two stanzas. Vahid Assadpour

netted a two-point goal

for Detroit just 25 seconds into the third, which

from Milwaukee's Troy

The Ignition was able to

stifle any possible momen-

tum from Dusosky's goal

with a 6-0 run thanks

to goals from Sampson,

Assadpour, and Livonia

scored the first goal of his

The Ignition and Wave

The Plymouth-Canton-

Salem girls hockey team

dropped a 7-1 decision to

Tuesday night on "Senior Night."

The Blazers skated to a 4-1 first-period lead before tacking on a pair of second-period insurance

The Penguins' lone goal was tallied by Jenny Fedon, who was assisted by Emily Bullock.

Ladywood outshot PCS,

"We just didn't play well

will stage a rematch on Sunday at U.S. Cellular

Penguins toppled

native Nic Djokic, who

professional career.

was quickly equaled

with a two-pointer

Dusosky.

Arena.

goals.

29-18.

time.

The Detroit Ignition strengthened its grasp on the Xtreme Soccer League's top spot Sunday with a 10-4 win over the visiting Milwaukee Wave. The victory was the Ignition's 15th straight win at Compuware Arena and fifth consecutive vic-

The Penguins' four seniors — Katie Rokakis, Kelsey Nikkila, Chelsea Osburn and Michelle Shaffer - were honored.

"They were a dedicated group of players," said Callahan. "They really supported our team and we're going to miss them."

The loss dropped the

#### Penguins to 3-14. Ocelots stay hot

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team inched closer to wrapping up the Eastern Conference title in the MCCAA with an 80-43 triumph Saturday at Kirtland Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, improved to 21-2 overall and 14-0 in the conference. They have won 23 straight conference games and 55 of their last 57.

Tayler Langham (Salem) led Schoolcraft with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Other contributions came from April Goins (15 points, eight rebounds); Amber Avery (13 points, eight rebounds), Antania Shepherd (nine points, seven rebounds) and Brittany Collins (eight assists).

## 'Grand' performance

### Grand Ledge vaults to Canton Invite title

See complete results of Canton Invitational, Page B2.

If Saturday's talent-rich Canton Invitational gymnastics meet was a preview of next month's state meet, Grand Ledge's coach can start rehearsing her team's championship acceptance speech.

The Comets soared to a meet-record 151.375 points to outdistance second-place Livonia Blue, which registered a more-thanrespectable score of 146.350. Farmington United was third with 146.125 following by fourth-place Northville, which tallied 144.025.

The top local finisher was seventh-place Canton, which compiled 138.0, just a halfpoint behind sixth-place Grand Rapids Forest Hills.

The Chiefs were competing with heavy hearts. Allen Piwowar, the father of sophomore standout Robyn Piwowar, died unexpectedly on Feb. 4 at the age of 60. Robyn Piwowar competed in two events on Saturday and tied for 11th on the vault.

Salem placed ninth with 135.85 points while Plymouth was 17th with 115.475.

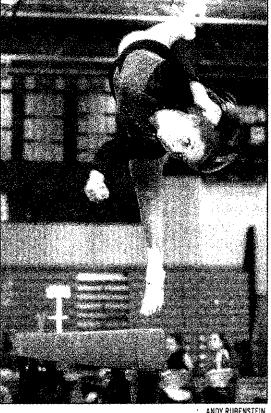
Grand Ledge's Meaghan McWhorter and Alexis Byington placed 1-2 in the all-around with respective scores of 38.650 and 38.350.

The top local all-around was Salem senior Katie Koetting, who placed sixth with a 36.650 score.

Koetting sparkled in the floor-exercise event, placing third with a 9.525. She also placed sixth on the vault and tied for 10th on the uneven bars.

The Chiefs' top performer was sophomore Cathy Huang, who tied for fifth on the vault with a score of 9.50.

Salem's Nicole Jacobs enjoyed a memorable day as she placed fifth in the Division 2 all-





#### A lacrosse pioneer

of intent to play college lacrosse. On Jan. 29, Rottell signed to play for Indiana Tech University, which is

Plymouth senior Nicole Rottell became the first Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse player to sign a letter coached by Ed Karasek (left). Also pictured is PCS coach Dave Medley.

#### **GYMNASTICS RESULTS**

CANTON INVITATIONAL GIRLS GYMNASTICS MEET Feb. 7 at Plymouth H.S.
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Grand Ledge, 151.375; 2. Livonia Blue, 146.350; 3. Farmington, 1:46.125; 4. Northville, 143.625; 5. Sturgis, 140.975; 6. Grand Rapids Forest Hills, 138.050; 7. Canton, 138.000; 8. Howell, 135.800; 9. Portage, 135.475; 10. Salem, 135.425; 11. Livonia Red, 133.325; 12. Brighton, 133.225; 13. Holt, 131.500; 14. Walled Lake Western, 130.550; 15. Freeland, 130.4235; 16. Fraser, 129.325; 17. Plymouth, 115.475; 18. Hartland, 29.950.

Hartland, 29.950.

LOCAL SPORTS

Hartland, 29,950.

DIVISION 1 RESULTS

Vault: 1. Meaghan McWhorter (GL), 9.9;
2. Alexis Byington (GL), 9.8; 3. Hannah Grow
(GRFH), 9.55; 4. Alyssa Bresso (Farm.) and
Cathy Huang (Canton), 9.5 each, 6. Katie
Koetting (Salem), 9.4; 7. Kallin Abbs (Sturgis)
and Brittany Janis (Blue), 9.35 each; 9. (tie)
Emily Quint (Blue), Makenna Pohl (N'ville) and
Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.3 each.
Uneven bars: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.7; 2.

Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.3 each.

Uneven bars: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.7; 2.
Byington (GL), 9.55; 3. Grow (GRFH), 9.45; 4.
Samantha Kohl (Farm.), 9.35; 5. Quint (Blue), 9.3; 6. Elana Cocke (Farm.), 9.35; 5. Quint (Blue), 9.175; 9. (tie) Chioe Presley (M'ville), Katie Koetting (Salem), Kelly Charniga (Blue), 9.0 each.

Balance beam: 1. Presley (N'ville), 9.675; 2. Byington (GL), 9.5; 3. Quint (Blue), 9.35; 4. McWhorter (GL), 9.3; 5. Pohl (M'ville), 9.2; 6. Cocke (Farm.), 9.175; 7. Abbs (Sturgis), 9.15; 8. (tie) Corrine Jones (GRFH) and Kalile Strazbas (Portage), 9.15 each; 10. Charniga (Blue), 8.825.

(Blue), 8.829.

Floor exercise: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.75; 2.

Quint (Blue), 9.6; 3. Koetting (Salem), 9.525;
4. (tie) Byington (GL) and Presley (N'ville), 9.5
each; 6. Bresso (Farm.), 9.4; 7. Abbs (Sturgis),
9.375; 9. (tie) Powers (Blue) and Pohi (N'ville),

All-around: 1. Whorter (GL), 38.65; 2. Byington (GL), 38.35; 3. Quint (Blue), 37.55; 4.

Prestey (N'ville), 37.45; 5. Grow (GRFH), 36.90; 6. Koetting (Salem), 36.65; 7. (tie) Bresso (Farm.) and Kohl (Farm.), 36.425 each; 9. Pohl (N'ville), and Cocke (Farm.), 36.40 each; 11. Powers (Blue), 36.35; 12. Abbs (Sturgis), 36.225; 13. Janis (Blue), 36.075; 14. Charniga (Blue), 35.975; 15. Monica Cauley (Howell),

**DIVISION 2 RESULTS** Vault: 1. Madeline Burman (GL), 9.6; 2. Laura Nomura (Blue), 9.45; 3. Kelsey Pierce (GL), 9.4; 4. Nicole Wood (Holt), 9.325; 5. (tie) Brianna Maroukis (Portage) and Allison Kemp (N'ville), 9.3; 7. Amanda Lumley (Farm.), 9.225; 8. (tie) Nicole Jacobs (Salem) and Courtney Schippers (Howell), 9.2; 10: Meridith Robinson (Brighton), 9.1; 1. Christine Wilson (GL)

(Brighton), 9.15.

Uneven bars: 1. Christine Wilson (GL),
8.95; 2. (tie) Nomura (Blue) and Pierce (GL),
8.85; 4. Wood (Holt), 8.8; 5. Elissa Martinez
(GRFH), 8.75; 6. Kate Scheske (Sturgis), 8.7;
7. (tie) Katina St. Pierre (Red) and Amanda
Rohkohl (Howell), 8.65; 9. Maroukis (Portage),
8.510 Maga Waesslas (Portage), 8.55

Rolling (News), 6.63, 9, Mai Julia (1914), 8.55.

Balance beam: 1. Wilson (GL.), 9.45; 2.

Pierce (GL.), 9.4; 3. Mary Boyd (Sturgis), 9.125;
4. (tie) Burman (GL.) and Julie Davidson

4. (tie) Burman (GL) and Julie Davidson (N'ville), 9.0; 6. Jacobs (Salem), 8.95; 7. Scheske (Sturgis), 8.925; 8. (tie) Natalie Zaleski (Holt) and Allie Seager (Free.), 8.7; 10. Whitney Gilbert (Free.), 8.675.

Floor exercise: 1. Burman (GL), 9.375; 2. McKyleigh Geddert (GL), 9.35; 3. Lumley (Farm.), 9.325; 4. Wilson (GL), 9.3; 5. Boyd (Sturgis), 9.15; 6. Maroukis (Portage), 9.075; 7. Marina Moretti (Brighton), 9.0; 8. Jacobs (Salem), 8.925; 9. Scheske (Sturgis), 8.6; 10. Martinez (GRFH), 8.775.

AH-Around: 1. Wilson (GL), 36.7; 2. Burman

Martinez (GKr H), 8.775.

AH-Around: 1. Wilson (GL), 36.7; 2. Burman (GL), 36.025; 3. Boyd (Sturgis), 35.275; 4. Wood (Holt), 35.125; 5. Jacobs (Salem), 35.075; 6. Maroukis (Portage), 34.8; 7. Martinez (GRFH), 34.65; 8. Nomura (Blue), 34.375; 9. St. Pierre (Red), 34.275; 10. Moretti



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Salem's Katie Koetting excelled at Saturday's Canton Invitational, turning in a top-10 all-around performance.

First Come-First Served

#### ACHIEVE ACADEMY

c/o 3850 Broadmoor SE Ste 201 Grand Rapids, MI 49512 866-642-3676 (voice) 616-575-6801 (fax)

#### OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2009-2010 academic year is Monday, 2/2/ 2009 at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, 2/27/2009 at 5 p.m. Applications may be mailed or faxed for grades K - 6. An answering machine is available for messages. Should the applications exceed available space, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be Tuesday, 3/24/2009 at 4:30 p.m. at Canton Charter Academy, 49100 Ford Road, Canton, MI. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining openings. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

#### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Achieve Academy admits students of any race; color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Publish: February 8, 2009

#### CANTON CHARTER ACADEMY

49100 Ford Road Canton, MI 48187 734-453-9517 (phone) 734-453-9551 (fax)

#### OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2009-2010 academic year is Tuesday, 9/2/ 2008 at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, 2/27/2009 at 5 p.m. Applications may be mailed or faxed for grades K - 8. An answering machine is available for messages. Should the applications exceed available space, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be Tuesday, 3/17/2009 at 4:30 p.m. at the school. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining openings. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

#### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Canton Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Publish: February 8, 2009

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#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE TO PUBLIC BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Terry G. Bennett, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the Charter Township of Canton: that all persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. All petitions must be received in the Assessor's office by March 13, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will be held in the Canton Township Hall on the first floor, at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Entry into the building can be accessed through the front doors of Township Hall. Please come prepared, as an eight (8) minute limit before the Board will be strictly adhered to.

The following is the schedule for March Board of Review.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 Organizational Meeting - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (No Appointments)

Monday, March 9, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

(Appointments Only) Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(Appointments Only) Thursday, March 12, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Appointments Only) Friday, March 13, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Appointments Only)

Please be advised that on Tuesday March 10 after 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 11 after 5:00 p.m. entry to the building can only be accessed through the front entrance of the Township Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the March Board of Review, you may call Courtney Dugger, Secretary to the Board of Review (734) 394-5111.

> TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK Charter Township of Canton Township

Publish: February, 12, 15, 19 and 22, 2009

(Appointments Only)



#### CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2009 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2009 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Chambers, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, for an Organization Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2009 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2009 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2009 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall, prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 16, 2009.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 16, 2009 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at 734-453-1234, ext. 253 or 252.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC

Publish: February 12, 19 and 26, 2009

## VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Organizational Meeting Tuesday, March 3 9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment Monday, March 9 2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment 6 pm - 9 pm 9 am - Noon **Hearings by Appointment** Wednesday, March 11 2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

9 am - 11 am

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Appeals by mail will be accepted if received by March 20,

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 12, 15 and 19, 2009

Saturday,

March 14

### COMMUNITY FINANCIAL THANKS OUR VOLUNTEER 2008 Board of Directors

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Front Row:

Wende Boerema, Principal, Boerema Chaben & Company Albert Berrie, Consultant, Blueberrie Associates Ronald Carlson, Mathematics Instructor, Eastern Michigan University Michele Kelly, Attorney, Kelly & Kelly PC

Teresa A. Folino, Project Consultant - Casualty Claims - AAA Insurance - Auto Club Group Floyd L. Burchard, Jr., Retired Business & Bank Consultant Dan Herriman, CEO, Herriman & Associates, Inc. Denise E. Varner, Owner, Capture Images Photography

Not Pictured:

Philip Curtiss, Retired Information Technology Manager



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High school bowling attracts a loyal fan base at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton.

was no one to compete against," said Hahn, reflecting on the sport's demise at the local high school level earlier this decade.

"It's been so rewarding seeing how much the kids have enjoyed this. To see the improvement a lot of the kids have made is amazing. It's also nice to see the kids bond as a team.

#### High rollers

Thompson said she has been impressed by the high level of skills her bowlers have displayed.

"I have a freshman on the boys team, Rob Porsajens, who carries a 190 average," Thompson said. "My top girl right now is probably Miranda Oliver, whose average is around 160."

Just because the local teams are relative rookies in the world of high school bowling doesn't mean they can't compete strikefor-strike with the elite teams in southeast Michigan.

"We were at a tournament at Cherry Hill Lanes last week and my boys team led after the first three games against teams like Divine Child, which was runner-up in the state last year," said Brubaker.

#### Unique format

Next year's league matches will consist of

four games — two regular games in which each of the team's five bowlers will throw conventional 10-frame games and their scores combined to determine a winner. There will also be two "Baker" games when each of the five bowlers per team will bowl two frames

each in a rotating manner. "That's one of the coolest things about this," Klein said, referring to the team camaraderie developed by the "Baker" game format. "In my regular rec leagues, it's more of an individual sport, but when each bowler has two frames,

it draws the team closer together. "I only knew one other kid on my team before the season started, but now we all hang out together, each lunch together. There's a lot of camaraderie."

Like all other "cut" sports at the Park, each school had tryouts.

"We had about 15 try out for each team and I kept 10," said Brubaker. "I'm expecting more to try out once it becomes an official varsity sport next year."

#### Thanks, Super Bowl

Brubaker heaped tons of praise on the proprietors of Super Bowl Lanes in Canton for donating their lanes for the teams' practices and matches.

"We couldn't have done this without Super Bowl's help," emphasized Brubaker. "This year, the bowlers only had to pay \$30 for their shirts and that was it. We can't thank Super Bowl enough."

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 578-2767

### MHSAA lauds a trio of PCEP scholar-athletes

Three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student-athletes are among 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 2008-09 Scholar-Athlete Award.

The finalists are Plymouth's Megan Quinlan and Derek Lax; and Canton's Satish Subramanian.

Plymouth was one of just 23 schools to have two or more athletes selected as finalists.

Quinlan's older sister, Chelsea, was one of the MHSAA's 32 scholarship

winners three years ago. The MHSAA scholar-athlete program, which has been recognizing

student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites

the Scholar-Athlete Award, and will present a \$1,000 scholarship to each recipient.

This year, 2,008 applications were received from 504 schools.

Scholarships will be presented proportionately by school classification, with 12 scholarships to be awarded to Class A student-athletes, six female and six male; eight scholarships will be awarded to Class B student-athletes, four female and four male; six scholarships will be awarded to Class C student-athletes, three female and three male; and four scholarships will be awarded to Class D student-athletes, two female and two male.

In addition, there will also be two at-large honorees which are also part of the general judging process. The at-large honorees may come from any classification, and are designated by their school at the time of entry.

Every MHSAA member high school could submit as many applications as there are scholarships available in their classification, and could have more than one finalist.

#### VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth-Canton Little League



#### Spring Registration Walk-in Registration

Jan. 24, 2009 12-5pm • High Velocity Sports 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton

Feb. 14, 2009 11am-4pm • Plaza Lanes \* 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Registration also available online at: www.piy-canli.com

Leagues Offered

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> Minor League (ages 7-10) Major League (ages 10-12) Junior League (ages 13-14)

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to file a Clean Corporate Citizen Application

Yazaki North America Inc., located at 6801, 6800, 6700, 6300 and 6250 Haggerty Rd, Canton, Michigan 48187, proposes to file an application with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a Clean Corporate Citizen Designation in accordance with R324.1508, Clean Corporate Citizen program, Michigan Administrative Code.

This program is intended to allow a regulated source that has demonstrated environmental stewardship and performance through their operation in Michigan to be recognized as a Clean Corporate Citizen. The program requires that the facility:

Have an environmental management system in place at the

Meet all environmental regulatory compliance requirements Implement a Pollution Prevention Policy and Program

Yazaki North America Inc. received ISO-14001 certification in September 17th, 2001 for our Environmental Management System located at the above mentioned addresses

All the documentation required for the C-3 application is available for public review, beginning February 13, 2009 at the Canton Public Library located at 1200 S Canton Center Rd. Written comments only will be accepted until March 13, 2009 and should be sent to the following address: Yazaki North America Inc. 6801 Haggerty Rd. Canton, MI 48187 attn: Mr. William Schafer

Written comments may also be submitted to: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Assistance Division, PO box 30457 Lansing Michigan 48909-7957, Attn: Clean Corporate Citizen Program.

Publish: February 12, 2009

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Chiefs' lop-

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Churchill

Tuesday

night.

and four

## Salem gaining momentum with every passing game

**OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 12, 2009

Salem's Rocks appear to be picking up momentum each time they step on a basketball court.

The hottest team in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association has now won seven of its past eight games following Tuesday's convincing 51-36 triumph over visiting Livonia Stevenson.

Salem improved its record to 8-7 overall and 6-1 in the KLAA's Central Division. The Spartans dropped to 5-10

and 2-5, respectively. The Rocks are tied for first with South Lyon and Novi heading into Friday's home clash against the Wildcats.

Salem won the game in the first and fourth quarters when its outscored the Spartans by a combined score of 28-10. "The two middle quarters were pretty

even, but we played really well offensively in the first quarter and really well defensively in the fourth," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. Seniors Victoria Brotz and Chelsea

Davis ignited the early scoring surge by combining for 13 points in the first eight minutes alone.

Junior guard Sara Stone led the win-

PREP GIRLS HOOP

Like a boulder rolling down a giant hill, ners with 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Brotz finished with 14 points while Davis chipped in with 13 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

Junior guard Brett deBear contributed seven points.

The Rocks led 27-20 at the break and 40-32 with eight minutes to play.

CANTON 41, CHURCHILL 26: On Tuesday, the Chiefs maintained a first-place tie with Livonia Franklin in the KLAA South Division thanks to a blue-collar defensive effort that held the Chargers to single-digit scoring in all but the second quarter.

Canton improved to 13-2 overall and 6-1 in the South. Churchill slipped to 7-7 and 3-4, respectively.

"We came out and got a nice lead in the first quarter, but we gave up 11 points in the second quarter because they were beating us in transition," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "I let the kids battle through it and they came out and played a strong second half."

Kayla Bridges played a strong game for the Chiefs, netting 10 points and eight rebounds.

Kari Schmitt added nine points for

Canton while Melanie Pickert chipped in with eight points and four steals.

CarolAnn Sexauer added eight points for the Chiefs and Sara Schmitt yanked down nine rebounds.

Kia Griffen led the Chargers with nine

Canton sizzled from the free-throw line, draining 11 of 14 attempts.

Churchill canned just 4 of 13 free

Canton led 10-3 after one quarter, 19-14 at the break and 29-19 with eight minutes to play.

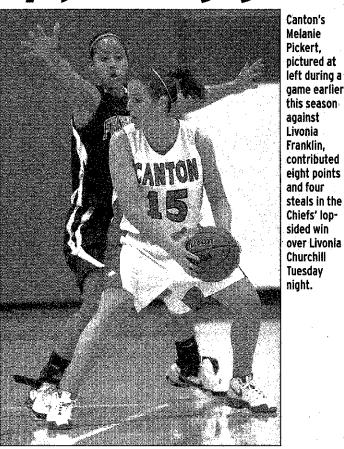
FRANKLIN 41, PLYMOUTH 24: On Tuesday at Plymouth, the Patriots improved to 6-1 in the KLAA South Division thanks in large part to senior forward Briauna Taylor's 15 points.

The story of the game was our inability to score," said Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant, whose team slipped to 4-9.

Senior forward Shaakira Haywood paced the Wildcats with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Stacey Klonowski also played well, netting six points and five boards.

Troi Davis added three steals and two assists for Plymouth. Amanda Borieo complemented Taylor's

strong effort with seven points. ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Wildcats hit a bump in road at Livonia Franklin

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Plymouth's path to the Kensington the ball too long. Plus, they shot 26 Lakes Activities Association South Division title took an unexpected detour Tuesday night.

The Wildcats no longer carry their division title fate in their own hands following Tuesday's 49-39 loss at Livonia Franklin.

The setback dropped coach Tom Van Wagoner's squad to 8-5 overall and 4-3 in the division — two full games behind front-running Wayne Memorial, which blistered Westland John Glenn by 20 Tuesday night.

The Patriots improved to 6-7 and 3-4, respectively.

We didn't move the ball fast enough against their 1-3-1 zone," said Van Wagoner, whose team could have earned the school's first-ever division title with seasonending wins against the Patriots, Canton and Wayne. "WE held on to PREP BOYS HOOP

free throws to our five, so we were settling for too many jump shots."

The Wildcats played without the services of leading rebounder and scorer Justin Moss, a 6-5 sophomore who has formed a dynamic one-two post punch with fellow sophomore Brennen Beyer.

Senior guard Brad Lineberry did his best to pick up the slack in Moss's absence as he tallied four points — six coming on a pair of threes. Sophomore Mike Nadratowski added nine points while junior reserve forward Adam Skubik netted a career-high seven.

Beyer was held to four points while senior guard Cliff Buttermore added four.

Connor Leidal and Mike Gadsby excelled for the winners, scoring 17 and 16 points, respectively. Gadsby was 8-for-11 from the free throw

Franklin led 8-5 after one quarter and 20-13 at the half. The hosts extended their advantage to 33-21 with eight minutes to play.

"We played excellent defense and executed against their zone," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team made 14-of-26 free

CHURCHILL 50, CANTON 44: Junior forward Adam Bedell scored 14 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Tuesday to propel host Livonia Churchill (5-7, 2-5) to a KLAA South Division triumph over the Chiefs (7-6, 4-3).

"We played good, hard defense the whole game and toughed it out at the end," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We were able to handle their pressure and were finally able to finish. It was a good effort all the way around."

Senior center Cameron Norscia chipped in with 12 points and seven rebounds for the Chargers, who

outscored Canton 13-9 in the final period. Junior guard Tony Frezzell chipped in with nine points and five rebounds.

Senior forward Kevin Weisz led the Chiefs with 13 points, while Sherif Hassanien and Kiere Daniels contributed eight each.

The Chargers put the clamps on sophomore point guard Dietrich Lever, who entered the contest as the Chiefs' leading scorer.

'Churchill did a nice job of guarding a penetration," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "Defensively, they kept us out of the lane."

Churchill won despite making only 7-of-18 free throws. Canton was 5-of-

STEVENSON 63, SALEM 54: On

Tuesday, Bobby Naubert and Brian Rowe tallied 18 and 15 points, respectively, leading Livonia Stevenson (8-4, 4-3) to a KLAA Central Division triumph over the Rocks (4-9, 2-5).

Ricky Chrzasz added 10 points for

the Spartans, who jumped out to a 15-8 first-quarter advantage.

The Spartans drained 10 of the 20 shots they launched from beyond the three-point arc.

"We shot the ball extremely well as a team," said Stevenson coach Mike Allie, whose team connected on 10 three-pointers. "Both Bobby (Naubert) and Brian (Rowe) did what was expected and I thought Austin (White) and Ricky (Chrzasz) both brought tremendous energy."

Heath Parling and Jim Dexter each scored 11 points for the Rocks.

"It was a well-played game by both teams," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "It was close until the third quarter, but they went on a 9-0 run when we were down three and we were never really able to get back into after that.

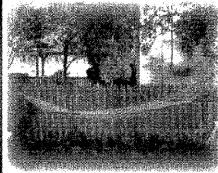
"The biggest difference was they made 10 of 20 threes and we made 1

Stevenson was 11-of-17 from the foul line, while Salem hit 11-of-15.

For Even More Listings

See Our

Classified Section in Todays Paper



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# Canton Strictly Business

#### **BUSINESS BUZZ**

Hobby Lobby Creative Centers, a privately held retail chain of more than 412 arts and crafts stores, will open a store in Canton this spring. The 50,000 square-foot facility will be located at Ford Road at Haggerty, west of IKEA. This is Hobby Lobby's 14th store in Michigan. Kacey Jansma will be the store manager.

According to company officials, Canton was chosen because it is a good

location with solid trade area populations.

"We are excited to become a part of the Canton area, and we look forward to bringing our excellent customer service to the community," says John Schumacher, assistant vice president of advertising.

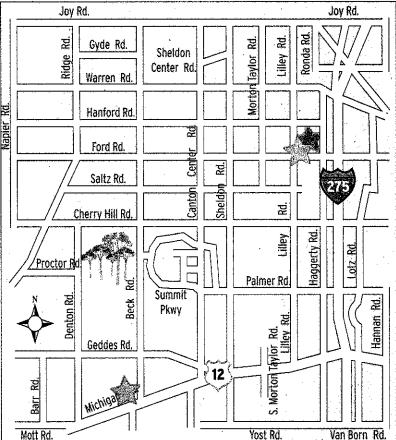
Hobby Lobby will offer crafts, hobbies, picture framing, jewelry making, fashion fabrics, floral, scrapbooking, cards and party, baskets, wearable art, home accents, holiday supplies and more. The store will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and will employ 30 to 50 full and part-time employees.

Hobby Lobby was founded in 1972 in Oklahoma City, OK with 300 feet of retail space. The chain has grown into 412 stores in 33 states and operates from a 3.4 million square-foot office, manufacturing and distribution center. For more information, visit www.hobbylobby.com.

New online service

The Canton-based RepairClinic.com®, an online retailer of major appliance parts, has just launched a new program, FreeShipping. com, which gives consumers the option of saving shipping costs through an online membership. Members then have the ability to shop. (and save shipping costs) at any merchant listed in the FreeShipping. com directory including: Target, Kohl's, Best Buy, amazon.com, and now RepairClinic.com®.

RepairClinic.com@recently began offering the FreeShipping.com rebate program to give customers a chance, for an annual fee, to save on shipping charges for items purchased from RepairClinic and at more than 1,000 retailers listed on the FreeShipping.com site. Because RepairClinic. com is also an Internet-based business, they saw the FreeShipping.com rebate offer as a perfect match for their customers. They also appreciate the added benefit of having customers' return shipping covered, when needed: if a member purchases an item through the Free Shipping program and that item needs to be returned, a rebate for the return shipping would also be covered under this plan.



Every Freeshipping.com membership begins with a 30-day trial that allows customers to "try before they buy." At the end of the trial period, an annual membership fee is charged. Members may cancel either during the free trial period, or at any time after the trial has ended, in which case they would receive a pro-rated refund. Because of the simple billing plan and benefits for those

who shop online, RepairClinic.com sees the program as beneficial to many of its customers.

Founded in Canton in 1999, RepairClinic.com® is located at 48600 Michigan Avenue and is a comprehensive online resource for do-it-yourself home appliance repair help, parts and information. Repair Clinic.com® is known for helping consumers find needed parts through the intuitive PartDetective ®service. Free technical advice is also available on the site; online visitors ask appliance repair questions, and the RepairGuru® staff provides answers, so do-it-yourselfers can purchase and install appliance parts themselves. The site features more than 80 appliance brands, including Kenmore, Whirlpool, Maytag, GE, Frigidaire, and LG. The parts are stocked in a 72,000 square foot facility and shipped the same business day. For more information, visit www.RepairClinic.com.

Achieving the 'Gold Standard'

Play It Again Sports® of Canton (42079 Ford Road) was recognized for achieving a 'Gold Standard' measurement by its corporate parent Winmark Corporation. The "Gold Standard" is reached when a store achieves a set of standards set forth by the franchisor during the evaluation process. The Canton store achieved the customer satisfaction, store operations and product quality standards to earn "Gold Standard" recognition in 2009.

"Being recognized as a 'Gold Standard' store is a very significant accomplishment, but even more, it means we're succeeding in providing our customers the best shopping experience possible," said Chuck Jones, owner of Play It Again Sports® of Canton. "Portraying a standardized look and maintaining product quality standards helps ensure a consistent brand appearance, which in turn contributes to a more positive shopping experience. By reaching the 'Gold Standard,' we're helping create an identity that customers recognize and value."

The Canton location sells a wide selection of new name brand sports and fitness sports equipment as well as buys, sells and trades quality used sports and fitness dear.

"Play It Again Sports® provides a place for parents to trade in their quality, used sports and fitness equipment and trade up to new gear for their ever-growing kids - saving them time and money," Jones said.

For more information about Play it Again Sports®, please visit www.playitagainsports.com.

#### IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

### Firm teaches children Spanish in family atmosphere

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

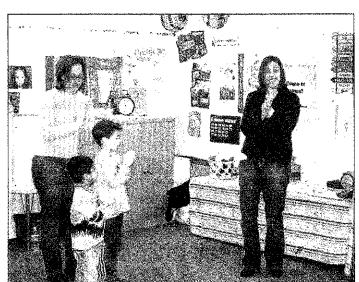
Bilingual Fun: Bilingual Fun is a language education company teaching Spanish to children and parents. We offer fun, interactive, and educational classes for toddlers through middle school age. Bilingual Fun sells educational materials dedicated to teaching the Spanish language to young children.

Observer: What makes your

Bilingual Fun: Our business is unique because our classes focus on incorporating the entire family in the language learning process. Research has shown the incredible benefits of early language exposure, and our unique program focuses on teaching Spanish to young children using music, movement, games, and fun activities.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Bilingual Fun: As a former classroom Spanish teacher with a master's degree in bilingual education, and married to my bilingual husband, I am dedicated to raising our children in a bilingual household. We originally just started by hosting Spanish playgroups, but soon the interest really began to grow. Using our personal and professional experience, we created



Jennifer Manriquez, on right, owner of The Bilingual Fun Company, works with a family on a fun, interactive Spanish lesson.

#### **BILINGUAL FUN COMPANY**

Business name: The Bilingual Fun Company

Business address: 42015 Ford Road, suite 272, Canton; and Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Your name and title: Jennifer Manriquez, owner

Your hometown: Canton Business opened when?: 2005

Number of employees: 4

Your business specialty: language education

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Business phone and/or Web site: www.bilingualfun.com or (877)

686-7399.

a unique and effective language curriculum, became incorporated, and began holding formal classes. Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so

#### far as a small business owner?

Bilingual Fun: One of the things I have learned as a small business owner is to try things that are out of my comfort zone. For instance, I have never been one to

#### CHAMBER CHAT

#### Canton's Home Expo

Canton's annual Home Improvement Expo will be held Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Canton's Summit on the Park.

This year's Expo many home improvement-related businesses, including interior decorating, landscaping, flooring, plumbing, kitchen repairs, and deck companies, as well as home financing businesses. How-to workshops will be

held all weekend on a variety of topics from landscaping to installing brick pavers, crown moldings and ceramic tile and 15 minute mini-workshops, targeted to home owners, homeowner associations and businesses, will also be held on a wide range of topics including detention pond maintenance, home security, safety tips, property standards, and tree and landscaping maintenance. The mini-workshops will be held in the Parkview Room and a full list of topics

and start times will be made available to all Expo attendees.

A hands-on children's project center will be available for kids of all ages to construct projects made from wood donated by Home Depot. A special guest appearance will be made by Murray Gula, host of Murray Gula's Home Improvement Team on WXYZ-TV Detroit and Joe Gagnon "The Appliance Doctor" will be broadcasting his 1600 WAAM talk radio program live from the Expo. Multiple raffles will also be held throughout the weekend and refreshments will be available during the entire event.

To view a complete list of the vendors, obtain the Expo layout, and download workshop and mini-workshop schedules visit www.canton-mi.org/homeexpo. aspx. The Expo is free of charge and hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Canton Chamber . of Commerce, and the Observer *Eccentric Newspapers*. For more information please call Canton's Building and

Inspection Services Division at (734) 394-5200.

#### Computer classes

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 6-9 p.m., the Canton Chamber of Commerce is offering an "Intro to MS Publisher-Part 1" course presented by Canton Computers. The course will be held at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office located at 45525 Hanford Road in Canton. This is one of many computer training courses that have been scheduled throughout 2009. These classes are open to Chamber members and to the public.

Cost for the seminar is \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Class size is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 20. All 2009 Seminars and Computer training courses are sponsored by Showroom of Elegance and Waltonwoods of Canton.

write in to magazines with comments or to write in for contests. When I was just starting out, I saw a contest advertised in Redbook magazine. They were going to pick one winner to highlight in the magazine and to receive business training and loan funding. I never would have felt comfortable writing in for this contest in the past. I thought I would give it a try

and see what kind of luck I might have. As it turned out, I won! They chose me as a mom who started a creative, unique business. I was so surprised and honored. It was great being highlighted in the magazine and to receive the other benefits. This experience really taught me to continue taking risks and trying things that were out of my comfort zone.

Get in on the new Strictly Business page of the Canton Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Editor Kurt

Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com and he will take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday

in your Canton Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.



TWO DAYS ONLY BUDNE Saturday, Feb. 14th 10:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15th 11:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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To submit an item for the religion calendar, send e-mail to Ichomin@ hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### Sharing Made Simple

**Apologetics for Beginners Continues** at St. Michael's. "Who does the Pope think he is?" will be the topic as nationally-acclaimed apologist and author, Gary Michuta, continues his series at St. Michael the Archangel Parish In Livonia 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the school next to the church at 11441 Hubbard and Plymouth Rd., between Farmington and Merriman, Michuta's presentation focuses on the history and significance of the Catholic Papacy and is open to all those interested. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org.

Begins 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, and continues every Friday through April 3, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square across the street from the Wayne Post office. For more information, call (734) 721-4802 or (734) 891-2523. Choose from fried or baked fish. Includes baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, roll and coffee, tea, or punch all for only \$8. Special kids meals like chicken nuggets, corn dogs and fries for \$4.

Special needs dance Emmanuel Lutheran Church and its Open Arms Ministry hosts a valentine's dance for adults with special needs, developmental disabilities, and their caregivers 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the church 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. Snacks will be served. Reservations required as space is limited. Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elced@arounddetroit.biz no later than Friday, Feb. 6. If Livonia schools are closed due to inclement weather, this event will be canceled.

#### Kids against hunger

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth hosts a benefit for Kids Against Hunger, 6:30-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall on the corner of North Territorial and Beck in Plymouth, Tickets are \$35 and available by contacting Jeanne Baldwin at (734) 414-8900, by e-mail at jagonyer@ameritech.net, or Dan Herriman at (734) 459-5440 or dherriman@ herriman.net. The event will feature a Las Vegas-style wedding chapel. silent auction, the new Liberty Street Microbrewery beer, strolling buffet dinner with cash bar and dancing. Attendees will have the opportunity to renew their vows at the chapel to help raise money for Kids Against Hunger an international food relief campaign that began in 1999. It has operations in metro-Detroit and

distributes a specially formulated dry rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in Detroit, elsewhere in Michigan, the U.S. and more than 40 other countries. Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth regularly organizes food packaging activities by partnering with other local organizations that provide both funding and volunteers for their packaging events. Proceeds from the event go to assist in defraying the cost for the food that is packaged.

Hunger workshop Bread For The World, a Christian nonpartisan hunger legislation organization, holds a Hunger Offering Of Letters workshop 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 North Campbell, Royal Oak. Registration and continental breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. For information, contact Bob Krzewinski at (734) 487-9058. e-mail wolverbob@gmail.com or visit www.breadmichigan.org. During an Offering of Letters, individuals and congregations are asked to write to Congress on specific hunger-fighting legislation. This hunger advocacy event is free and open to the public.

Valentine's Day dance 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, north of Ford Road, Music by Solitaire, Tickets \$8. For information, call Kay at (734) 522-8868 or Sally (734) 421-0699.

Notre Dame choir concert University of Notre Dame's Celebration Choir performs 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at St. Damian Church, 30055 Joy Rd., Westland.

Freewill offering. Choir will also sing at 4:30 p.m. mass on Feb. 14. For more information, call (734) 421-6130.

B'Jazz Vespers 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, featuring the Darryl Roenicke Trio with special guest Sandra Bomar performing with pianist Darryl Roenicke, bassist Jordan Shug and drummer Alex Traiano, at First Baptist Church. corner of Willits and Bates, one block north of Maple, one block west of Old Woodward, Birmingham. B'Jazz Vespers includes 100 minutes of secular jazz performance and 20minutes of non-sectarian worship interlude between two jazz sets. A free-will offering will be taken for the musicians. For information, call (248) 644-0550. Join the artists after the concert in the church parlor for conservation and refreshments.

Rush concert series Continues Tuesday, Feb. 17, for a rush hour concert featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Concerts held every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m. with concert from 5:30-6 p.m. No charge. For information, visit www.

metroumc.org. Couples prayer series

7-9 n m. Wednesday, through Feb. 18, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia, Cost is \$55 per couple, Those unable to pay because of financial difficulty may register and join the group. To register, visit www. coupleprayer.org or send e-mail to davidiconrad@staidanlivonia.org. The six-week Couples Prayer Series is for married or engaged couples, and designed to nurture a life-long pattern of sharing daily prayer together.

Open house

St. Michael Christian School hosts an open house 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday. Feb. 19, at 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton. St. Michael offers a 3-year old preschool through fifth grade including a Young Fives program and all day kindergarten. For information, call (734) 459-9720.

VBS preview

Presented by International Christian Education Association 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Ward Church, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville. A day of meeting Christian publishers to view their curriculum. Sit in on four of 20 workshops. This is a nondenominational event. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceaonline.org.

Bethany singles

■ Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peerto-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Sunday night lights Riverside Park Church of God presents the non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music within a casual atmosphere.

Lenten services

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the chapel at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Lenten Services 7 p.m. every Wednesday through April 1. Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service on April 9 at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

Lenten services Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

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8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial at Ridge Rd Plymouth Register at www.givelife.org and enter NorthRidge in Step One (sponsor code) or call (800) 448-3543 (GIVELIFE).

UPCOMING House of worship tour

Tickets are now on sale for the Detroit Historical Society's Historic Houses of Worship tour Monday, March 2, in Oakland County, features Temple Beth El, Christ Church Cranbrook, St. Hugo Stone Chapel, and National Shrine of the Little Flower, Tour leaves the Detroit -Historical Museum parking lot (Kirby at Woodward) at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. The price, which includes the guided tour, bus transportation, and lunch at one of the churches. is \$30 for Detroit Historical Society members, \$40 for quests. For reservations or more information on the 2009 tour series, call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org. No tickets will be sold on the date of the tour.

Dining in the kingdom of God

For five Wednesday's in Lent, St Aidan will be hosting the series. Luke's Gospel revealed 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist. This presentation will be given by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology 7-9 p.m. March 11, 18, 25, April 1, and April 8. No charge. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 425-5950 so we have enough food and materials for everyone.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffetstyle at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send email to info@cantoncf.org.

#### New worship schedule

Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. For more information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Church moves

Westwood Community Church has moved to 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Service time is 10-11:15 a.m. Come as you are. Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday. Children's church.

**ENDOW** 

■ St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths.

Course VI, called "Salvifici Doloris" addresses the Christian meaning of suffering. Based on the writing of Pope John Paul II, this is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, in the convent meeting room. The class

began Jan. 13: Based on Pope John Paul II's "Mulierus Dignitatem" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), the Course II group, meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays (began Jan. 22), in the convent meeting room behind the rectory, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Women of all ages and faiths are welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at

■ St. Aidan Catholic Church also offers ENDOW. The eight-session course focuses on the ideas about human beings and God that St. Thomas Aquinas explores in his work Summa Theologiae, 7-9 p.m.. Thursdays, through March 5, in the parish office conference room at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required.

www.endowonline.com.

Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950. Facilitator is Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

#### ONGOING

Special needs Bible class Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs. Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun: Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit biz

Church schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School followed by 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion each Sunday, Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. For information, call (734) 427-3660. Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the

Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth, Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Worship

Sundays 8 a.m. worship; 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, Call (734) 427-1414.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

**Parkinson Support** 

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlehelt, hetween 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

**Overeaters Anonymous** 

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt 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.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverne, Redford, Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p,m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivoinia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an · in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200. Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt; one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

**Eucharistic adoration** St. Michael the Archangel Church

in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczynski, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No preregistration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or 🕏 visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday wor-'ship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also avail-"able at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on-Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www. singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

**Prince of Peace Church** 

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or: \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins wel-

For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc. org for updates.

Thrift store

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

New schedule

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

visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-quided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is seventh grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost, Lunch included, For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org.

To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.



SHIRLEY L. BERRY

Age 88, of Plymouth. February 8, 2009. Loving wife of Fred. Beloved mother of Carl (Lucy) and Elaine

(Tom) Goebel. Proud grandmother of

five and great-grandmother of ten. Funeral Thursday 11 am at Vermeulen

Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday 5 - 9

pm and Thursday 9 am until service.

Shirley was a long-time member of

the Eastern Star and the Plymouth

Elks. In lieu of flowers, memorial

contributions may be made to St.

Joseph Mercy Hospice, 806 Airport

Blvd, Ann Arbor MI 48108-3351. To

leave a message of condolence, please

#### KEVIN J. BOSKEY

Age 21. Of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away February 6, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

#### ALBERT SIDNEY

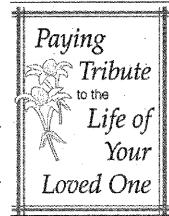
February 8, 2009. Age 84. Beloved husband of the late Genevieve. Loving father of Robert (Margaret) and Gary (Dana). Grandfather of Rylie, Crea, Christopher (Mary) and Jennifer and five great-grandchildren. Memorial Service Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel), 36100 Five Mile Rd. (one mile West of Farmington Road) Friday 10:00 a.m.



#### **ELIZABETH** (DEROCHER) TOUPIN

Passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 under the care of Henry Ford Hospice. She was predeceased in 2005 by her husband (Walter) after celebrating 56 years of marriage. Together the couple raised three children: Ann Oberts, Northville, MI., Dr. (Ann) Toupin, Farmington Hills,

John (Ruth) Toupin, Novi, ML, and Dr. MI. Eight grandchildren also mourn her passing: Julie and Ted Oberts, Emily, Nicholas, and Erica Toupin, and Michelle, David, and Gail Toupin. Liz was born in Iron Mountain, MI. but grew up in Marquette. She was an avid artist, a volunteer helping to teach English to many foreign citizens, and enjoyed traveling. She had a Zest for life and will be greatly missed. Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Saturday, 1/31/09.



#### WESTON PALMER VANHILLE

Age 81, February 7, 2009, of Dearborn Heights. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Blanche Vanhille, and his brother Blaine Vanhille. He is survived by two nephews, Daniel J. and Jerome B. Vanhille: and a niece. Michaelle Vanhille Holder. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends. Mr. Vanhille was a retired teacher from the Redford Schools. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 10am, at St. Anselm Catholic Church, 17650 W. Outer Dr., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127. The family suggests donations to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Please sign Weston's online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com

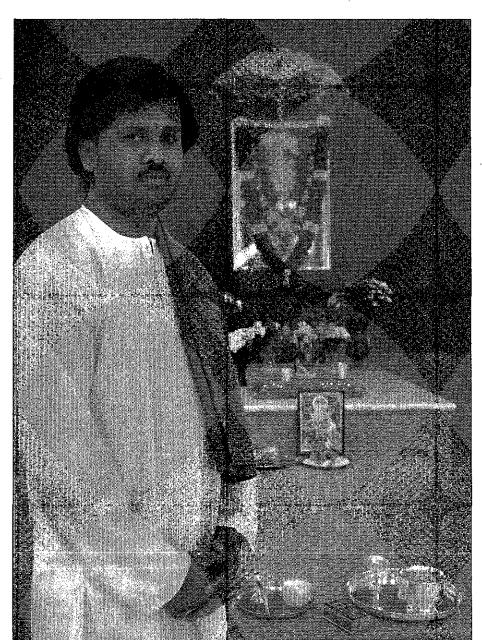
HAROLD R. WESTFALL Age 94. Life-long Farmington Resident, MI. February 6, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Priest Ranganathan in the Main Prayer Hall of the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Livonia. Ranganathan leads prayers at the temple four times a day, seven days a week.

## Temple opens doors in Livonia

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O & E STAFF WRITER

A warmth comes over visitors to the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Livonia even though the temperature is 3 below outside with the wind chill. The welcoming nature of members follows the teachings of the saint who lived from 1835 to 1918 in India.

Imagine 450 men, women and children from the Hindu and Muslim faiths all practicing peace and forgiveness together in a place of worship. It happens every Thursday evening in the Main Prayer Hall of the temple which recently found a permanent home on Seven Mile, east of Middlebelt. During the rest of the week the priest, Ranganathan, leads prayers four times a day for devotees who come and go according to their schedule. It took 11 years of studies in India for him to learn the rituals.

"Saibaba is considered to be a saint for Hindus and Muslims alike although mostly Hindus visit the temple," said Prasad Beesabatthuni of West Bloomfield. Beesabatthuni is president of the membership based organization that includes devotees from Plymouth, Troy, Farmington Hills, Canton, Livonia, West Bloomfield, and around the area. The temple is the only one that pays homage to Saibaba in

Michigan and one of 10 in the

""He used to preach good things and slowly became popular. Saibaba was a beggar seeking alms. We don't know much about his childhood. As a youth he lived in a vacant mosque. He attracted a lot of devotees, Muslims and Hindus alike. He preached peace not specific to any religion. The temple is open to everyone."

#### **REACHING OUT**

Charity was an equally important part of Saibaba's philosophy. It makes Satheesh Mandalappa especially feel good to practice Saibaba's preachings on helping the needy and feeding the hungry. In November and December, temple members donated food and a truck load of children's winter clothing to the Livonia Goodfellows. The project is ongoing. Bags full of adult and children's clothing await delivery to 15 poor families in Lansing.

"It makes my life sincere," said Mandalappa of Farmington Hills. "I'm living happy and want to help somebody."

Since it's founding in 2005, temple members have held 5 bone marrow drives and plan to continue registering prospective donors twice a year. Plans are also in the works to offer regular health clinics for those who don't have health insurance.

"We'd like to be part of the community," said Beesabatthuni. "We've been here since August meeting in the lower level. Until then we didn't have a building and met

at the Novi Civic Center." So far the Main Prayer Hall of the former baptist church has been totally renovated. The exterior work in Phase II begins in spring. In July an installation ceremony will be held after a statue of Saibaba arrives from

India.

"Hindus have multiple Gods or saints. Saint is same as God," said Beesabatthuni. "Our main religious day is Thursday when we have prasadam, an offering to the God of traditional vegetarian Indian food. Every day we offer fruit as devotees leave as they should not go empty handed."

"It's like a blessing," said Mandalappa. "They give an offering and in return receive fruit or almost a meal on Thursday when 20 volunteers are working and cooking (in the kitchen on the lower level).'

Four volunteers hold classes for children on Thursdays as well. "We want them to learn peace,"

said Beesathuni. Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple is at 28875 Seven Mile, east of Middlebelt. For more informa-

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tion, visit saibabami.org.

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#### **ACADEMY AWARDS** PARTY AT EMAGINE

**CANTON** - Emagine Entertainment, Inc. and The Canton Community Foundation are pleased to announce "A Magical Night With the Stars", a celebration to watch the 81st Academy Awards at Emagine Canton on Sunday, Feb. 22 to benefit the hungry and homeless.

The red carpet reception will begin at 6 p.m. fol-lowed by a strolling dinner and dessert bar, music and dancing with the stars.

The presentation of the 81st Academy Awards will begin at 8 p.m. on the big screen. This event is being given by The Canton Community Foundation and proceeds will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank and First Step. Tickets, \$100 per person. Cocktail attire suggested. Call (734)495-1200 or email info@cantonfoundation.org. UUCF Music Program.

Emagine Canton is located at 39535 Ford Road, just east of I-275 in Canton Township.

#### STARS & THE MOON A **VALENTINE CONCERT**

#### **FARMINGTON HILLS**

- The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington will host "Stars & The Moon, A Valentine Concert for Love," 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. The program will feature Christina Dragone, contemporary and jazz piano; Brandy Nicole Ellis, vocals; Brandon Faber, contemporary piano; Renzo Hutchinson, hammered dulcimer; Trish Shandor, vocals; and Colton Weatherston, guitar.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; \$10 in advance at (248) 478-7272. Doors at 7:30 p.m.; wine and chocolate meet the artists reception following the concert. All proceeds benefit the

O&ESTAFF WRITER

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Len Fisher doesn't have to step on stage to become animated. The Westland resident is as enthusiastic before Monday night's rehearsal for Inspire Theatre's latest production Feb. 13-14 and 20-21, at Warren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church in Westland.

Before long he's jumping up to sing one of the tunes from "It Ain't Broadway, But It's Close." The revue is sure to bring back memories with favorites like "Give My Regards to Broadway." "No Business Like Show Business," "76 Trombones," and "Singing in the Rain." A children's chorus revisits the "Sound of Music" with songs such as Do Re Mi. Fisher wrote the script so he's partial to the production.

"We love doing musicals and thought it was time to do a Broadway revue," said Fisher. "We usually do a musical revue once a year and discovered musical revues bring in a large audience."

Fisher plotted the production around a theater company which rents space from a touring theater company which returns home to share the space. The result is com-

"The first act is the antics of auditions of this group," said Fisher. "The second act is dress rehearsal and we've thrown in a handyman who wants to add all kinds of special

The cast of 29 ranges from age 8 on up and includes his wife Sue and daughter, Elizabeth, 23. Son Benjamin, 19 runs sound. Fisher is a one-man band of sorts. Along with singing, he prepares the meal for the Valentine's Day dinner theater. Each of the cast have multiple jobs. Bev Green is stage manager plus. The Westland woman handles

any task that comes along.
"I come to most of the rehearsals from auditions to finished production," said Green.

"I watch people grow. It's so much fun." Emma Boylan couldn't agree more. The Northville High School student sings a solo medley from "My Fair Lady" to accompaniment by her mother. Sharon Boylan, the pianist/organist at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, provides live music for the production.

"It's a great excuse to sing Broadway songs," said Emma Boylan, 15. "They're so well written and make you feel good."

Gerry Wiatr of Westland doesn't hide the



The cast of Inspire Theatre brings back the magic of Broadway in their latest production opening Friday, Feb. 13, in Westland.

#### IT AIN'T BROADWAY, BUT IT'S CLOSE

What: A musical comedy by Inspire Theatre When: Friday-Saturday, Feb. 13-14, and Feb. 20-21. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m: except for dinner theater 6 p.m. Feb. 14 Where: Warrren Road Light & Life Free Methodist Church, 33445 Warren Rd., between Venoy and Wayne roads, Westland Tickets: \$11 except for Valentine's Day dinner. theater \$20, Call (734) 751-7057

fact she enjoyed the Broadway hits the first time around. The senior sings in the adult chorus.

"It's a fun production. Anyone who wanted to be in it will be incorporated in one way or another," said Wiatr who's dressed for the part in a sparkling floor length gown.

Carolyn Via of Garden City bought her beaded dress for the "Hello, Dolly" number for \$8 at thrift store. The company regularly borrows costumes from Spotlight Players. Founded in January 2005, the company stretches a buck whenever possible as its only funding comes from ticket sales and donations. They hold open auditions so novices have the opportunity to land a role. This

cast comes from Farmington Hills, Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, and Dearborn Heights.

"The goal of the theater is to have fun and learn more about theater and stage and be like a family," said Fisher. "Our goal is to inspire. We only seat 85 people so the back row is only 5 or 6 rows back."

Back on stage Fisher is sharing retorts with Courtney Nixon as each sings they can do anything better than the other.

"We like to have as much fun as we hope people in the audience have," said Nixon of Farmington Hills. By day Nixon's a student teacher at Pierce Middle School in Redford.

Wendy Hardy of Livonia is a mom and the only one in her family not in the show. Son Mitchell, 10, is a fifth grade student at Botsford Elementary and sings in the children's chorus. Paul joins his son for the catchy beat of "Hakuna Matata" from "The Lion King."

"I can't imagine life without these people," said Hardy. "We saw an audition notice in the Observer calling for Munchkins and never left. We've done every kind of job from curtain pullers to light and sound."

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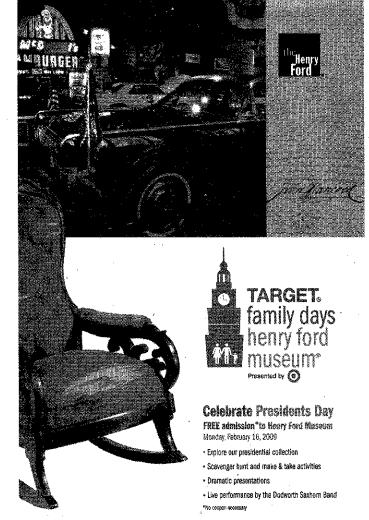
Chili, hot dogs, soups and more will be available for purchase from food vendors.

The event will feature musical performances by: Paul Miles - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Skye Island - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. and more

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### **Enjoy a romantic evening of music**

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

John Zaretti and his wife usually catch a plane to warmer destinations for Valentine's Day but in this year's dire economic climate they're heading to Livonia instead for a romantic evening of love songs from Broadway to La Boheme and Carmen Saturday, Feb. 14.

As founder of Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, Zaretti is joining with Mary Galasso, president of the Italian American Club to present Concerto d'Amore which includes music sung by artists from the opera company plus a dinner of Italian food and wine all for \$45 per person.

"It's a great evening of entertainment in the neighborhood," said Zaretti of Canton. "It's really a love fest of music from Cole Porter to Rodgers and Hammerstein to Puccini then add the culinary delights and everything."

Kimberly Swan, a lyric-coloratura soprano, is one of the performers along with tenor Curtis Peters of Livonia, bassbaritone Allen Schrott, soprano Eva Evola, and mezzo-soprano Lisa Agazzi who will be accompanied by pianist Angelina

#### **CONCERTO D'AMORE**

**What**: Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan performs love songs from Broadway to opera, evening includes Italian dinner

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
Where: Italian American Club of Livonia,
39200 Five Mile

**Tickets**: \$45 per person, and available by calling (734) 953-1137, press 2

Pashmakova of Troy. Pashmakova is on the Marygrove College faculty. Schrott served as an adjunct professor of voice at Madonna University in Livonia.

Swan has sung with the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan for 11 years. A native of Livonia, she holds two degrees in vocal performance and has appeared as a soloist throughout Europe. In 1992 she furthered her studies at the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Italian where she performed several operatic scene programs. Since returning home, Swan has taught not only at Madonna University, but established a

following of over 50 private students. "It's almost two hours of music, a



Mary Galasso (left), John Zaretti and Kimberly Swan pose with a poster for Concerto d'Amore, a romantic evening at the Italian American Club of Livonia on Valentine's Day.

full concert of Broadway selections like Tonight, Tonight; So in Love; If Ever I Would Leave You, and opera, mostly in English so people can enjoy it.

"It's a very romantic evening to have someone serenade with these great love duets. We're going to be dressed up in gowns and tuxedos. A lot of women will love this"

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#### **GET OUT**

Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Mini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapiers, 805 E. Haple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail Inini@hometownlife com.

#### ART

555: A Good Bye to the 555 "The 5 Senses," 8 p.m.-midnight Feb. 21, 4884 Grand River, Detroit, \$15 will call at www.555arts.org, \$20 at the door, proceeds benefit new location for 555, masquerade attire.

Arnold Mein Gallery: Celebrating 35 years at its current location with Water and Marine Life, through March; Landscapes, April-May; 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709, www. arnoldkleingailery.com.

art Leaders Gallery: Exhibition and sale commemorating the 105th birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 1-April 31, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.

Artloft: Get a free AHA Red Dress Pin, 25 percent off, and register for healthy recipes, tips and information in celebration of American Heart Association month, 203 E.. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 647-4007, www.Artloftonline.com.

(248) 647-4007, www.Artloftonline.com.

Bert's Warehouse Theater: 10th Anniversary Dirty
Show, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 13, Valentine's Closing
Celebration, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 14, 18 and over,
tickets, \$15 advance, Eastern Market, 2739
Russell St. Detroit, www.dirtyshow.org.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Near and Far: Contemporary Fine Prints Curated by Norm Stewart; Inside the BBAC: The Annual Juried Student Exhibit Feb. 13-March 6; Calls for Artists, 2009 Birmingham Art Fest and 2009 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248)

DSM Art Studio: Painting classes for all ages, free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.

Lawrence Street Gallery: Call for poets: "Ut Pictura Poesis" readings 7 p.m. Feb. 27 and April 24; 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com. Lemberg Gallery: Mark Newport Alter Egos,

Lemberg Gallery: Mark Newport Alter Egos, through March; 23241 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery. com.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.

Next Step Studies & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com.

Northville Art House. "Art in Stitches, A Fiber Arts Exhibition" with Ann Avery, Boisali Biswas, Juliana Cerra, Anne Hiemstra, Sidney Savage Inch, Lynn Krawczyk, Jackie Lams, Linda Larsen and Joan Potter Thomas, through Feb. 22; Antiques Roadshow-style Appraisal Clinic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 14, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org. Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Rob Kangas

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Rob Kangas and Chris Schneider, "Photographs of the Ambiguous Landscape," and Julie Seregny Mahoney, "Familiar Objects," both through Feb. 14; Taurus Burns: Detroit Cityscapes, Feb. 27-April 4, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Feb. 27; Object Permanence: Norwood Viviano and Saha Lindley, Feb. 27-April 4, reception, 7-9 p.m. Feb. 27, gallery talk, 2 p.m. Feb. 28, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.

Orly.

Plymouth Community Arts Council: Winter Break Art Camp for Kids, Feb. 23-27, \$50 a day per child, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.

#### BENEFITS

Majestic Theatre: SHIROCK'S "Everything Burns" tour featuring Lights Resolve, The Electric Playground and One Remains, 7 p.m. Feb. 13, all ages, \$10 door; \$5 presale at www.everythingburns.org, benefits Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, 4140 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-9700.

Newport Furnishing: Comfy Couch Concert series, Bill Bynum & Co., 8 p.m. Feb. 21, w/7 p.m. potluck, \$10-\$15 (\$3 off with donation of toothpaste, child-sized toothbrushes and warm socks), benefits Sweet Dreamzzz, 29240 Lyon Oaks Drive, Wixom, (248) 910-4941, www.comfycouchconcerts.com.

#### BOOKS/LITERATURE

Borders Birmingham: Kat Von D signs "High Voltage Tattoo," 7 p.m. Feb. 13; Chris Bohjalian reads and signs "Skeletons at the Feast" 2 p.m. Feb. 15; New York Times bestselling thriller author Steve Berry will read and autograph copies of his book, *The Churlemagne Pursuit* (2009) 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. 34300 Woodward Ave., (248) 203-0005.

Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus

Martius, next to the Compuware Building, Detroit, http://www2.wsupress.wayne.edu/ news.php/

#### CHAMBER MUSIC

Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www.vivaceseries.org.

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22; Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1; Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit; "String Sundae," 3 p.m. April 5, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

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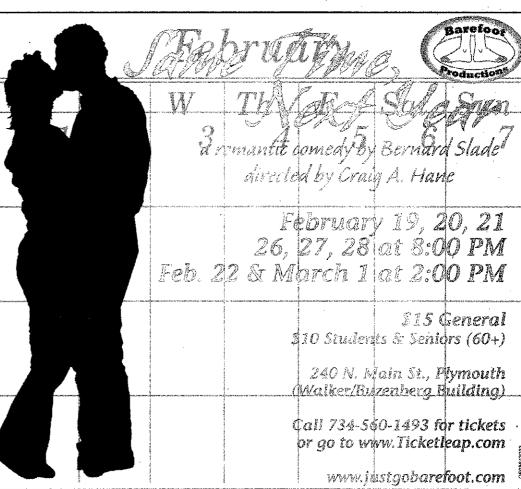
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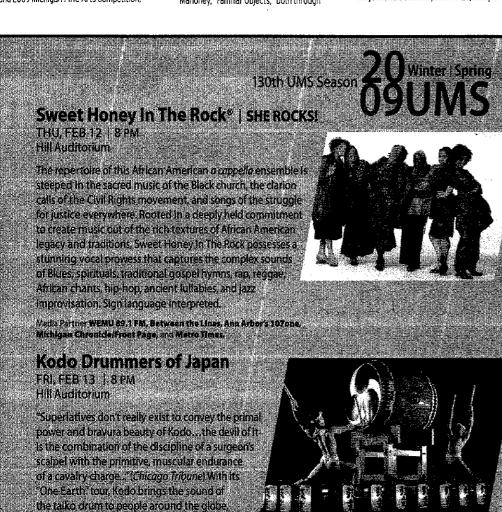
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The Saturday performance is co-sponsored by Gloria and Jerry Abrams and Prue and Ami Rosential.

The Sunday performance is sponsored by The Herbert and Juria Doan Foundation.

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Madia Sponsors Metro Times, Between the Lines, Michigan Redio 91.7 FM, and Detroit Jewish News.

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#### CITY BITES

#### **ADD MYSTERY** TO YOUR VALENTINE'S

 ${\bf CANTON-The\,Village}$ Theater at Cherry Hill will present Murder Mystery Dinner Theater 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

"To Russia With Love" combines a professionally-produced Russian whodunit with a delicious dinner.

Main Street Catering of Plymouth will provide Chicken Cordon Bleu, wild rice medley, rainbow vegetables, Caesar salad, rolls and butter, chocolate torte cake, soft drinks and coffee. Wine and beer cash bar.

The play centers on a lessthan-perfect Russian Ballet Troupe, Ballet Russe de Chernobyl, exiled to Siberia for total lack of talent and grace. The troupe recently made their way to Detroit thanks to a generous benefactress, Madame Olga Ouspenskya. Unbeknownst to her, the troupe is actually an ex-KGB front.

Doors at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Mature audiences. Tickets, \$45 per person, include dinner and show. Visit Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton; call (734) 394-5460 or click on

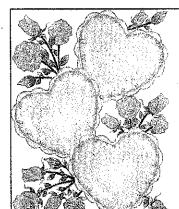
www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

#### **SCHAKOLAD OFFERS VALENTINE'S TREATS**

#### **METRO DETROIT**

 Schakolad Chocolate Factory is helping romantics choose the perfect gift for their sweets this Valentine's Day with products like white and red chocolate roses, truffles, chocolate ring boxes, chocolate champagne glasses, even chocolate handcuffs and body paint.

Schakolad (shock-o-LOD) is European-style chocolate hand-made on-premises based on award-winning recipes passed down through a family of three generations of chocolate makers. Mayan and Chai hot chocolate drinks and sea salt caramels also are favorites.



Schakolad of Birmingham, 167 N. Old Woodward Ave., is marking its one year anniversary. Schakolad Chocolate Factory also has locations at 20450 Haggerty Road, Northville; and 3140 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Visit www.schakolad.com.

#### **BIG ROCK SERVES** SPECIAL MENU

#### **BIRMINGHAM** — Big

Rock Chophouse will celebrate Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 with a special menu that includes a keepsake from South Africa's Juno Wine Company.

The Valentine's Dinner menu AT RUGBY GRILLE begins with a toast of Juno Rosé and continues with a choice of Rock Shrimp Ravioli, Classic Caesar Salad, Lobster Bisque, or Bibb Lettuce with honey-anise roasted berries and yogurt dressing. **Entrees include Seared** 

Salmon with a malted potato cake, haricot vert and citrus, Beef Tenderloin Medallions with pesto potato and poblano corn salsa, Roasted Asparagus, Mushroom, Cauliflower and Quinoa Ragout with bleu cheese gratin and Maple, Pecan Crusted Chicken with mini yukon potatoes and boursin cheese sauce, and Raspberry Bumpy Cake with frozen Faygo red pop. Valentine's menu, \$40 per guest; reservations required, (248) 647-7774, www. bigrockchophouse.com or.

Big Rock Chophouse is located at 245 South Eton Street in Birmingham.

#### HAVE A HEART FROM PAPA ROMANO'S

**COMMERCE TWP.** — Papa Romano's Pizza will once again serve up its famous heartshaped pizza through Feb. 15. The Love Pizza debuted in 1991, and nearly 30,000 were sold last year.

Despite the sour economy, the chain expects 2009 to be another sweet year for Love Pizza sales.

"It is really an ideal gift because it's affordable, tasty and something people enjoy receiving," said Casey Askar, chairman and chief executive officer of Papa Romano's Pizza. "Our Love Pizza makes a nice impression without breaking the bank."

The one-topping Love Pizza, \$5.99, comes packaged in a red box. The Romance Package coupon-offer features two one-topping Love Pizzas, a medium-size salad and two chocolate-chip cookies. Visit www.paparomanos.com.

#### **VALENTINE ROMANCE**

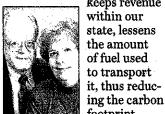
**BIRMINGHAM** — This Valentine's Day, The Rugby Grille, inside The Townsend Hotel, will offer a sophisticated romantic menu on Feb. 14.

Among the selections is a Lobster Tagliatelle pasta, Norwegian Salmon with a Franklin Mill cider emulsion and Colorado Rack of Lamb finished with natural lamb jus.

In addition, two Rugby Grille classics — Steak Tartare and Dover Sole "A La Meunière" are available for tableside preparation by Executive Chef Jim Bologna's worldclass team. Entrées are \$38-\$47. The Townsend Hotel is located at 100 Townsend St., Birmingham. Call (248) 642-5999 or e-mail reservationsRG@townsendhotel.com.

## Keep your heart in Michigan

iving close to the source of our wine (and food) strengthens our ties to the land, to our roots and the farmer who grew the grapes. Drinking Michigan wines keeps revenue



**Focus on Wine** 

Ray & Eleanor Heald

footprint. At the same time, the wine must be good and we are fortunate to have

a wide range of choices. In Michigan's northwest, two wineries are producing excellent wines, one from the Old Mission Peninsula and the other from the Leelanau Peninsula American Viticultural Area (AVA).

So, keep your heart in Michigan on Valentine's Dav.

On Old Mission Peninsula (OMP), Brys Estate grows grapes for its wines in vineyards overlooking east Grand Traverse Bay. The 2007 growing season was ideal with warm, sunny weather and just enough rain to keep the vines healthy. We recommend the following from Brys Estate:

Signature Red 2006, \$30, is a blend of cabernet franc and merlot with a touch of pinot noir.

#### WINE PICKS

CABERNET SAUVIGNON for your Valentine, sends you to California. Ultimate: 2005 Joseph Phelps Insignia, \$200. Classic: 2004 Kenwood Artist Series

Cabernet Sauvignon, \$70, has been made each year since 1975. Outstanding vineyard: 2005 Sbragia Monte Rosso, \$50. All five Bordeaux varieties: 2005 Dry Creek The Mariner, \$40. Empty pockets: 2006 Bogle, \$11, a steal at this price.

Red berry flavors are highlighted by notes of vanilla and mellow tannins.

Dry Riesling 2007, \$17, is expressive of OMP with aromas and flavors of peach and apricot with bright acidity.

Signature White 2007, \$20, is a luscious blend of riesling, pinot gris and gewurztraminer that is versatile with a variety of cuisines.

Gewurztraminer 2007, \$18, has characteristic floral and spice aromas and flavors that complement any Asian or Thai cuisine.

Reserve Pinot Noir 2007, \$28, boasts dark cherry flavors with a hint of barrel spice that complements roast chicken, grilled salmon and sauteed mushrooms.

"Dry Ice" 2007, \$70/375mL, was awarded "Best of Class

Dessert Wine" at the 2008 Michigan Wine & Spirits Competition. With seven percent residual sugar, it is not overly. sweet. An excellent end to a great meal.

Shady Lane Cellars winemaker Adam Satchwell has taken riesling fruit from the Leelanau Peninsula AVA and explored its full potential. He skillfully produced three wines in dry, semidry and sparkling styles. The Shady Lane wines recommended below show the three personalities of Michigan riesling.

Dry Riesling 2007, \$17, exhibits aromas of apples, wildflowers and citrus with balanced acidity that complements fresh fish and seafood as well as chicken and roast pork.

Semi-Dry Riesling, \$17, shows floral, honey, apple and pear flavors with balanced sweetness that magnifies the palate impression. Try it with Asian or Thai cuisine.

Sparkling Riesling, \$22, is dry with very good length boasting fine bubbles that heighten the peach, apple and pear aromas and flavors. A great bubbly to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@



Local pastry chef Michelle Bommarito created this cake for a Food Network Challenge episode that will air at 9 p.m. Feb. 15.

### Local chef competes on Food Network

FERNDALE — Pastry Chef Michelle Bommarito, along with her assistant pastry chef, Lindsey Tomasko, will be featured on an upcoming episode of Food Network Challenge: Mystery Client

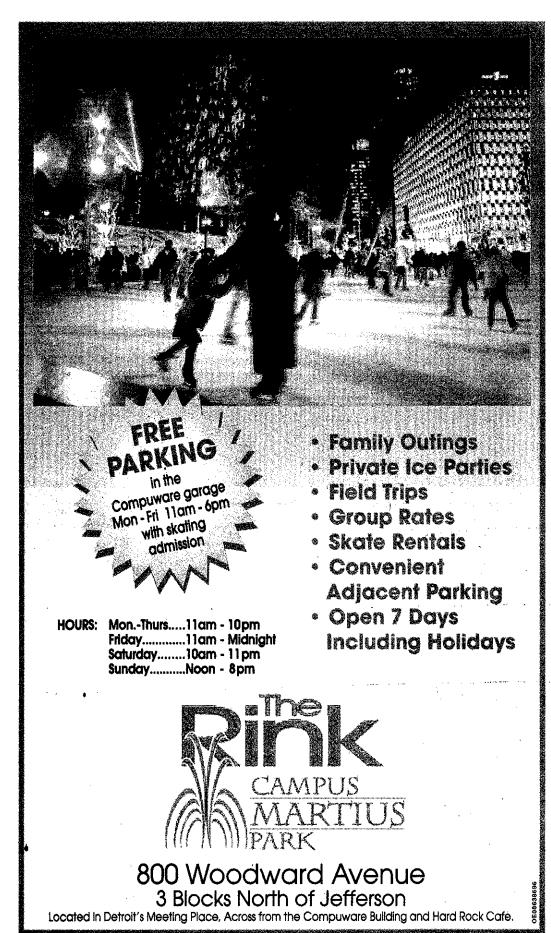
The pair competed at Disney World in California against three other teams of chefs to create a cake for singer Miley Cyrus' Sweet 16

birthday.

The pair had eight hours to complete the cake, which was covered in teen- and music-inspired artwork made from fondant.

See how their creation fared as the episode airs 9 p.m. Feb. 15.

Contact Michelle Bommarito, LLC for cakes and culinary courses at (248) 336-3977.



For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393



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