

Connection

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In these tough economic times, we are constantly reminded of what really matters — family. Your hometown Observer Newspaper is here to help celebrate your family's milestones. We publish births, engagements, weddings and anniversaries of people in the communities we cover every Sunday.

And now it's easier than ever to submit your announcement. Best of all, it's free.

Simply log on to www.hometownlife.com and click on "Customer Service." Under "Reader Services," you'll find complete instructions for our online submission process. Of course, we still accept submissions by mail. Send your announcements and photos to Wensdy Von Buskirk, features editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124.

Night with the stars

If you are looking for a special way to spend Sunday evening and watch the Oscars, plus help out the community at the same time, the Canton Community Foundation has a perfect event planned. The Foundation is hosting Magical Night with the Stars at the Emagine Theater in Canton.

The event, which takes the place of the Foundation's winter ball, begins a 6 p.m. and will feature plenty of glitz. Attendees will be able to walk down the red carpet and watch that nights's Academy Awards show on the big screen as well as Oscar-nominated movies.

The subtitle of the event is Helping Hunger and Homelessness Disappear. The Foundation, which has used the annual fund-raiser to earn \$30,000-\$40,000 for its pro-

Veteran police officer delivers baby during call

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sunday, Feb. 8, began just like most other mornings for Canton police officer Kevin Rize. However, it didn't take long for his first run to become the highlight of the day.

The 24-year veteran began his shift at 7 a.m. and about 40 minutes later was dispatched to a home in the 41000 block of Old Michigan Avenue to respond to the call of a woman having a baby. Rize was told the contractions were about five minutes apart, enough time for the fire department to arrive and deliver the baby. "I've had calls like that before and the fire department always beats me," said Rize. "They were a little slower this time." Rize's only experi-

Rize ence in delivering babies was seeing his two daughters born. That was about

to change with only seconds to spare. "I pulled into the parking lot and

the teenage son was outside waving me in," said Rize. "She was laying on the kitchen floor and her ex-husband was there talking to the dispatcher on the phone. I looked at the mother and I could see she was ready to push. I told her not to because the fire department hadn't arrived."

The only problem was the baby wasn't going to let Rize off the hook.

"The head was coming out and the ex-husband reached in and cupped the baby's head," said Rize. "I reached and held the baby and put him on the mother's stomach. The umbilical cord was loosely wrapped around the neck and I moved it. The baby wasn't crying, so I wiped his nose and around the mouth and he started to cry."

That was about the time Canton police dispatcher Mike Quinn was hanging up the telephone after being on the line with the ex-husband before Rize arrived until after the baby was born.

"Congratulations, you did a nice job," Quinn was heard to say to the ex-husband on the 9-1-1 tape with the baby crying in the background. "Oh, what a nice sound."

Quinn has been a dispatcher for 20 years and nine years before that an Emergency Medical Technician with some experience in delivering babies.

"We were high-fiving in here," said Quinn, 53, of Canton. "It was just a good start to the day. I love helping people and I love a good outcome."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637

Canton takes front and center during Ficano's speech

BY KURT KUBAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While it may have been Bob Ficano's night, Canton Township and the Village Theater provided a nice backdrop to the county executive's State of the County address Thursday evening.

With a who's who of area public officials on hand, Ficano lauded Canton for it's "magnificent" theater, as well as its award-winning Leisure Services department, which was recently honored as providing the best recreation programs in the nation.

At approximately 45 minutes long, Ficano's speech was broadcast live on WJR-760 AM, as well as on the county's Web site. It was the seventh county address for



Rize

grams, will donate this year's proceeds to First Step, a local shelter for abused women and their children, and Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit, which has several distribution points in Canton to help feed those in need. During these economic times both organizations have seen a jump in need.

Tickets for the charitable event are \$100. A table for 10 costs \$1,000. For more information, call (734) 495-1200, e-mail info@cantonfoundation.org, or visit www.cantonfoundation.org. Walk-ins will be welcome.

First address

New Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy will present his first State of the Township address during the Canton Chamber of Commerce's March luncheon at 11:30 a.m., March 5 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Tickets are already on sale, and cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

To make reservations, contact the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040, or e-mail receptionist@ cantonchamber.com. Ficano, who said he likes to alternate each year between a Detroit venue and one in the suburbs. He had nothing but praise for the Village Theater, which was filled to capacity.

"I was at the grand opening of the theater, and was so impressed with it. I knew it would be perfect," he said.

During his speech, Ficano also mentioned Cantonbased Sysco Food Services for taking advantage of a county program to expand and create more jobs.

Many local and state officials were on hand, including Lt. Governor John Cherry and Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy. Also on hand was Gary Brown, one of the Detroit police officers fired by Kwame Kilpatrick before his fall from grace, who is rumored to be running for Detroit City Council.

Several Canton officials were in the audience and had positive reactions to Ficano's speech and the fact that the event put a spotlight

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, of Canton, speaks with state Rep. Dian Slavens (D-Canton) before Bob Ficano's State of the County address Thursday evening at the Village Theater. They were among dozens of area and state political figures to attend the event.

More photos, story on speech, A9.

on Canton.

"It says a lot that he chose Canton for this," said Canton Trustee John Anthony.

It was a new experience for Canton Trustee Syed Taj and State Rep. Dian Slavens, who are both political newcomers.

"I've never been around so many politicians in my life," said Taj.

Slavens called the event "very exciting."

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin

McNamara of Canton called

the speech "positive and upbeat." However, he noted that the county is facing some serious budget shortfalls in the coming years, beginning this year, which could see a \$100 million deficit

"I don't want to rain on anybody's parade, but we are looking at making some serious cuts this year. We've already made so many cuts, all we have left is to make human cuts in the form of employees. And that will affect the services we provide," he said.



County Executive Bob Ficano gave a shout-out to new Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy at the beginning of his speech at the Village Theater.

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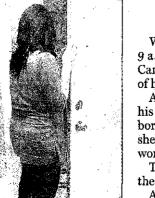
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'There's no money'

Family terrorized during home invasion at wrong address



BULL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The homeowner, who wishes to remain anonymous, wants other women to know the danger of opening the door to strangers.

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the door bell rang about 9 a.m. Tuesday, the 27-year-old Canton woman answered the door of her Doncaster Street home.

A young man in his early 20s said his painting crew was in the neighborhood and he wanted to know if she was interested in having some work done.

The woman politely said "no" and the man said "OK" and then left.

About an hour later, the doorbell rang again. The Canton woman was expecting an exterminator and opened the door.

"It was the guy who came earlier, with another man," said the woman, who has asked to remain anony-

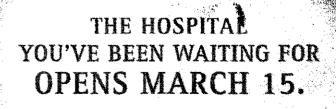
Police release sketches of suspects, A6.

mous. "I looked lower and saw him (the first man) pointing a gun at me. I tried to close the door and let out a scream. They rushed in and the first guy said, 'We're not going to hurt you, tell us where the money is."

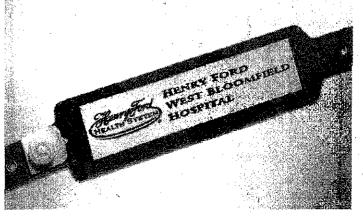
For the next 20 minutes, which the woman said "seemed like 20 hours," the men ransacked her home looking for money while she sat with her $2^{1}/_{2}$ -year-old daughter and 2-month-old son.

"I have never feared so much for my safety ... in my own house ... somewhere you should feel safe," she said.

Please see INVASION, A6



See the hospital everyone will be talking about. henryfordwestbloomfield.com



AROUND CANTON

online at hometownlife.com

'Brazil and Beyond'

A2

(C)

Brazil and Beyond will be performing at 8 p.m., Friday, March 6, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge Road in Canton. Tickets are \$12. For more information call (734) 394-5460.

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.

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.

Cancer fund-raiser

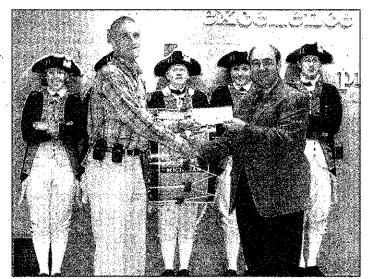
The 'Roll Over Cancer Fundraiser' sponsored by Inspired From Heaven American Cancer Society Canton Relay for Life team will take place from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21 at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland. Admission at the door is \$6. Skates will be available to rent or bring your own. Proceeds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

For more information, email Inspiredfromheaven@ yahoo.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.

The show revolves around



Musical support

The Community Foundation of Plymouth's Abe Munfakh (right) recently presented Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps President Al Johnson and other members of the PFDC with a check for \$1,395, a donation which will be used to purchase replacement bass drums, which are over 25 years old. The Foundation selected PFDC for their efforts in preserving the history of the country. PFDC strives to preserve our nation's musical heritage through the art of fifing and drumming, which was used during times of war to relay commands to soldiers, direct movements of units, as well as, to provide inspiration and marching rhythm. The donation to the Corps is part of the CFP's grant program to support the Plymouth area 'For Good, For Ever.'

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~ 5300.

Voters of Northwest Wayne County announces a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded in June to a qualified United college undergraduate.

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.

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.

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).

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.

Business Network Professionals

Professionals, a local chapter of Business Network International, meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7-Island (at the corner of Lilley and Joy roads). Any person

Winter 3: Mar. 2-Apr. 28

Registration Deadline:

Feb. 20th

Canton and surrounding area is invited to attend as a guest and meet with other businesspersons, for purposes of networking, referrals, and supporting one another.

Contact Bill MacFarland. chapter president, at (734) 812-3845 for more information.

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.

Preschool open house

Plymouth Children's Nursery, 5825 N. Sheldon Road, will host a co-op preschool open house on Mar. 21 from 10 a.m.noon. The preschool offers classes for ages 2 1/2 to 5. They now offer a 4 day per week class for young 5's. The school's teachers instruct each child through academic, social, and emotional learning by using a play-based philosophy. For more information, contact Sue





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Business Network

States citizen, male or female, Applicants must reside

LWV scholars

The League of Women

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

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

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.

Monday, March 9, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m 5:00	
(Appointments C	1
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m 9:00 (Appointments 0	
Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 (Appointments C	*
Thursday, March 12, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Appointments C	Dnly
Friday, March 13, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Appointments C	Only
Please be advised that on Tuesday March 10 after 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 after 5:00 p.m. entry to the building can be accessed through the front entrance of the Township Hall.	
If you have any questions regarding the March Board of Revyou may call Courtney Dugger, Secretary to the Board of Re (734) 394-5111.	
TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK Charter Township of Canton Towns	ship
Publish: February, 12, 15, 19 and 22, 2009	1376-2

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Site-work at Gallimore and Isbister Elementary Schools. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 12, at the office of the construction manager, February 12, at the office of the construction manages, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. <u>Bidders are</u> strongly encouraged to attend. This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

101: Earthwork / Site Utilities - 102: Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete - 143: Electrical - 148: Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Thomas Wysocki, Secretary

Benefitting Abbott Middle School Scholarship Fund FEB. 16-17 License M45403 Mon. 7 pm-\$500 Free Roll w/Re-Buys & Add-Ons

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Feb. 23 \$1500 Free Roll

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Publish: February 8 & 15, 2009

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LOCAL NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

Decrease in tax assessments creating huge hole in budget

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

An average 6.9 percent decrease in residential, commercial and industrial assessments in Canton this year is expected to result in more than \$2 million less in tax revenue for Canton Township in the 2010 budget year, which begins Jan. 1.

Township Finance Director Rick Eva said general fund tax revenues in 2009 are projected to be \$676,000 less than 2008. That's coupled with an expected decrease in the Police Department fund at \$951,000 and a drop in the Fire Department revenue of \$610,000,

"That's a total of \$2.2 million less in tax revenue that what we had for 2009," said Eva. "These numbers are very preliminary, it is the worst case scenario, our best projections at this time. We probably won't have good, solid numbers for two months."

Eva pointed out the total taxable value of residential. commercial and industrial property in Canton in 2009 is expected to drop by about \$258 million - to \$3.5 billion - from 2008.

"We have time to react as the summer's coming," said Eva about making adjustments in the 2010 budget. "We will be watching the numbers closely, and there might be an additional area that we have to address if they (the numbers) don't come in."

Canton Township residential assessments are expected to be down 8.9 percent, compared to double-digit increases about 10 years ago. In Wayne County, Grosse Pointe had the highest decrease at 20.6 percent, followed by Romulus at 20.2 and Melvindale at 19.9 percent.

Taxpayers will soon find in their mail boxes assessment notices that will show for many - despite the free fall in assessments - their tax bills will continue to rise. A 1994 state constitutional amendment, Proposal A, requires a tax levy - pegged to the inflation rate — on homes with assessed values calculated higher than its taxable value. This year, that rate is 4.4 percent.

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said the longer a taxpayer has lived in a home the less likely there will be a tax decrease.

"What we're seeing now is that people in their homes a long time, the difference between taxable value and state equalized value is a big step," said McLaughlin. "They've had the benefit of the savings, of not having to pay taxes that are parallel to their state equalized value over the years while the property values have gone up."

McLaughlin said taxpayers who have been in their homes for only a few years have a better chance of noticing a property tax reduction because the state equalized value could very well be below the taxable value, triggering a tax decrease.

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Man arrested in flasher case facing additional charges

19th District Court on inde-

Canton, Porter faces charges

cent exposure charges. In

from a Jan. 30 incident in

which he allegedly exposed

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The Romulus man being charged with exposing himself at the Canton and Dearborn public libraries will face additional charges from a similar incident at the Taylor Community Library last year.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is charging Paul Rolando Porter, 40, with exposing himself to a 12-year-old girl April 30. Porter faces similar charges to those in the other two

Porter was arrested earlier

this week by Dearborn authorities after a tip received by Canton police. He was arraigned in Dearborn's

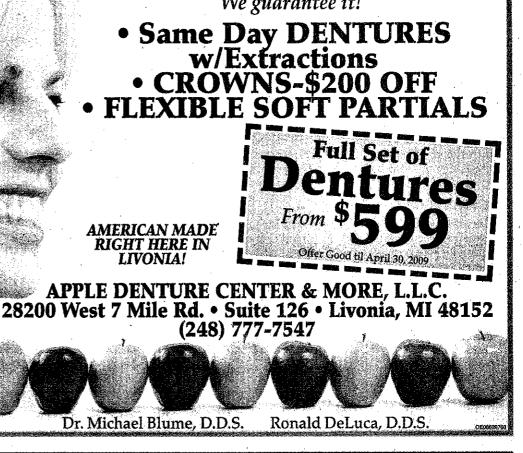
Plymouth in front of Judge James Plakas. A plea of not guilty was entered by the court for a charge of aggravated indecent exposure, a two year misdemeanor, and sexually deviant behavior, which carries a penalty of up to life in prison. A preliminary exam is scheduled for Feb. 23 in front of Judge Michael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

(C) A3

Porter is being held on \$50,000 bond in both Canton and Dearborn, and can be released if he posts \$5,000 in each community. Terms of his release include staying away from public • libraries.

himself to a 25-year-old woman outside the Canton library after closing time. Porter was arraigned communities. in 35th District Court in We get your dentures fitting right the first time! We guarantee it!

Porter



KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in ioday's sports section

Planning Commission

Canton's Planning Commission will meet 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16, on the first floor of Canton's Administration Building located at 1150 Canton Center Road. Items on the agenda include:

PUBLIC HEARINGS ■ Wal-Mart superstore site plan revision: Consider

ON THE AGENDA

approval for PDD amendment * and developer instigated revision to an approved site plan. Property is located south of Michigan Avenue, west of Belleville Road.

SITE PLANS

Karapatsakis office building: Consider site plan approval. Property is located south of Ford Road between Morton Taylor and Morrison roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Chuck E. Cheese expansion: Consider special land use approval for a coin operated amusement device establishment. Property is located north of Ford Road, west of Lilley Road.

Express Fleet: Consider special land use approval for an automobile repair garage. Property is located south of Joy Road, west of Ronda Drive.



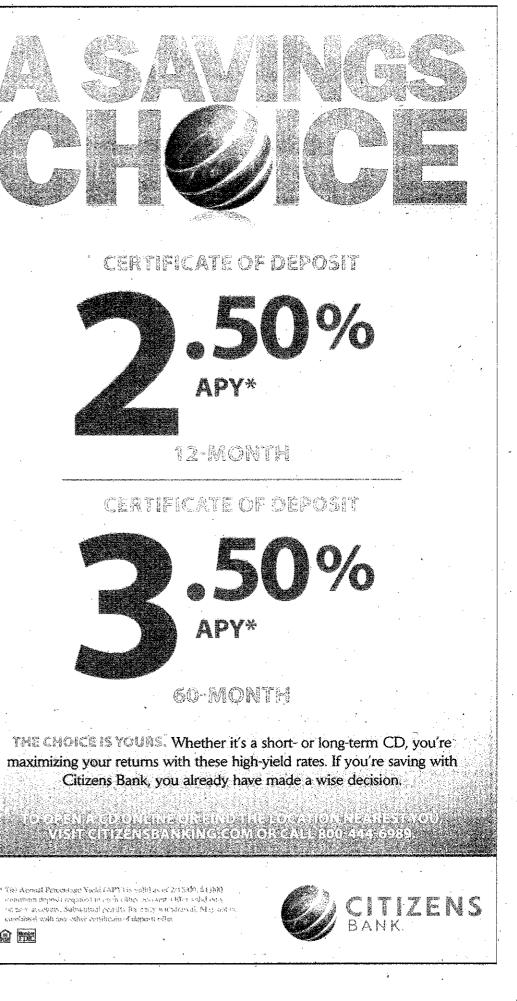
Friday, February 27, 2009 8pm

Tickets Range in price from \$17-\$59

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For tickets call 313-943-2354 or order anytime on-line at www.dearbornfordcenter.com

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

online at hometownlife.com

Education

Spiritus Sanctus freezes tuition

In response to Michigan's tough economic times, Spiritus Sanctus Academies are freezing tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year.

A4

(C)

Although costs have increased by almost 6 percent, the schools decided not to pass that increase on to students' families.

"Our ultimate goal is to make Catholic education affordable for every family who wants it" said Sister John Dominic, principal of the Ann Arbor Spiritus Sanctus Academy. Parents of students are delighted, and relieved. It is normal for tuition at private schools to increase every year.

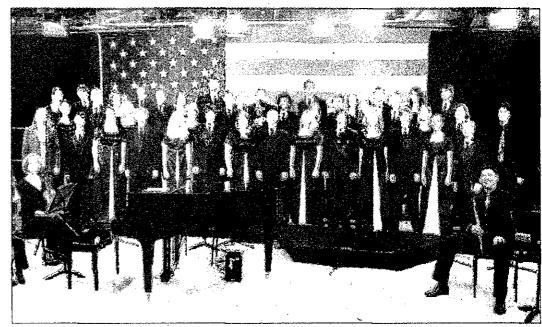
"In economic times like these, lots of people talk about helping others, but the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist have really demonstrated their compassion and generosity to help others "in need while putting their expenses second to ours. We feel so blessed to be at this Catholic school." said Carolyn Palka, mother of a kindergart-

ON CAMPUS

ner, and a ninth-grader who graduated from the school last year.

The two Spiritus Sanctus Academies are K-8 Catholic Schools located in northeast Ann Arbor and Plymouth Township. The schools are administered by the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist.

For more information or to tour the Plymouth school call (734) 414-8430 for the Plymouth school, or see www. spiritussanctus.org.



The Plymouth-Canton Select Choir joins composer Tim Janis for a PBS special 8 p.m. March 4.

P-CEP's Select Choir helps composer debut TV special

When nationally acclaimed composer Tim Janis premieres his new PBS special, "Tim Janis Celebrate America" on Detroit Public TV next month, the show will have a local flavor.

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Select Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Kopp, will join Janis for the premiere of the special, which airs 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

Under Kopp's direction, the Select Choir traveled to DPTV Public Television studios to perform in the special. The choir has consistently been rated as one of the top high school vocal ensembles in the state of Michigan and has performed in Chicago, Toronto, and at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

Janis is well known for the work he calls "Music with a Mission." In the past he has worked on many philanthropic projects with artists such as Sir Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Andre Previn, and The New York Philharmonic and has produced fund-raising programs for PBS along with George Clooney and James Earl Jones. This time he has teamed up with DPTV and "Do Something.org" to create his new special.

"Working with such a talented group of students is so exciting," Janis said. "I truly believe through music we can really inspire our own communities during these trying times."

That's why Janis said he is so pleased to have Do Something.org as a sponsor in the project.

"Do Something.org' is an amazing organization for kids,," Janis said. "It is the only organization that leverages communications technologies to enable teens to convert their ideas and energy into positive action. They inspire, empower, and celebrate a generation of doers: teenagers who recognize the need to do something, believe in the ability to get it done, and then take action. Do Something supports young world changers through volunteer opportunities, community service clubs, social action grants, national cause campaigns and much more."

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park High School Choir is one of 14 schools that were chosen to partake in the program "Celebrate America." They will be performing a song written by Samuel A. Ward entitled "America the Beautiful."

"I really wanted to create a program that honors our country, I am so grateful for all the students' work at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park High School that made this possible" said Janis.

Student Patrick Buzas said it shows the younger generation that "we can give back to the community." Another student, Andrew Buckshaw, said "it feels great to come here and be on TV and have the opportunity to express our talent for America to see." Student Alex Domin said being part of Celebrate America "is a way, even though we're young, to show we care and can influence the future."

The program is scheduled to run during prime time in March during DPTV's popular fund-raising program specials.

Northwood University

Four students from the Plymouth-Canton area have made the Dean's List at Northwood University for the Fall Term 2008.

The criteria for the Dean's list is 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

The local students are junior Kevin Frusti and senior Bradley Gallison of Canton, and freshman Shannon Corby and junior Matthew Czajkowski of Plymouth.

Madonna University

Named to Madonna University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the fall 2008 term were the following Plymouth residents: Jamie Marie Anderson Angela Nicole Arbitter Beth A. Baise Ginger Nicole Binder Daniel M. Bowe Andrea Rose Burdette Kali Dawn Burnette Rachel Choate

Megan C. Daniels Anna Kathryn Dempsey **Caroline Foster** Lindsay Renee Fricke Alyssa Ann Guerin Molly Michele Gullen Rachel A. Hardy Kyle T. Harold Lindsey M. Head Erika Lynn Henaughen Kendall Marie Henaughen Jenna Renea Hilderley Meghan A. Hill Pamela Lee Isanhart Gregory Charles Kaminski Joelen Elizabeth Kersten Douglas Clayton Kinney Christina Klein Scott Richard Kus Jennifer Ryan Lee Jennifer Jean Machnee Brittany Marie Majeske Joshua James Malinowski Bethany Marie Matthews-Johnson Marta Michalowska Carla Momongan Shervl Ann Phillips Matthew Charles Pickard Javier Alfonso Ramirez Garrett S. Rebain

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Marleigh Justine Whetstone Theresa Marie White Brandon Lee Wilcox Jem Wojcik Shook

Northern Michigan University

Five students from Canton made the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester at

Northern Michigan Unviersity. The students qualified for the list by posting grade-point averages of 3.25-3.99. The students were: Bryanne Bellovary, Joe Kowal, Andrew Lane, Amy

Cynthia Marie Richter Markey and Ashley Olson.



Margaret Helena Roosevelt

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Tonguish residents help children's hospital

Residents of Plymouth's Tonquish Creek Manor went to a baby shower last week, though it didn't include any actual babies.

The residents took part in the thirdannual baby shower to benefit C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, in an event sponsored by the Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club.

The "Baby Shower" was initiated by Michigan Kiwanians and, according to Mark Ott of the Plymouth Canton club, it "is unique in that it targets needs for the hospital program.

Gifts included crayons, coloring books,

Canton man killed by train after walking onto tracks

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

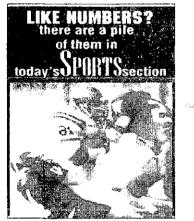
A 62-year-old Canton Township man was killed when he reportedly walked onto the railroad tracks and was struck by an Amtrak train on Haggerty Road, just north of Van Born, about 12:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon.

When police arrived they found the victim, whose name hasn't been released, with massive head injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Train personnel and nearby motorists reported to police they saw the man park his car near the activated crossing gates, get out and walk onto tracks in front of the approaching train.

Canton police and emergency personnel were called to the scene. The train was held during the preliminary investigation and police had to detour traffic for several hours.

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ename! gradually, after which

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crafts, T-shirts for art, dolls and other current popular toys, games, and gift cards from merchants. The gifts are intended for children of all ages, not just infants, Ott explained.

The ladies from Tonquish Creek gathered for a lunch of sandwiches, punch and cake, and also played "Baby Bingo."

Dan Fischer, Director of Child & Family Life for C.S. Mott, was on hand to not only receive and open the "gifts," but he also made a presentation of the history of C.S. Mott explaining all the programs. In addition, he presented a power point presentation on the construction of the new hospital.

C.S. Mott Children's Hospital serves all of Michigan with many patients from the Plymouth Canton communities, and they have developed programs to assist the children that are admitted for inpatient care as well as outpatient services. The Michigan District of Kiwanis has been sponsoring programs with direct financial support since the Ann Arbor Club started it in 1922, and that support continues today.

More information on this event or Kiwanis in general is available at the club's Web site at www.pckiwanis.org or by calling (734) 981-0460.



Dan Fischer, Director of Child & Family Life for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, brought a couple of 'friends' to help him with his presentation on the history of C.S. Mott.

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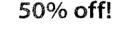
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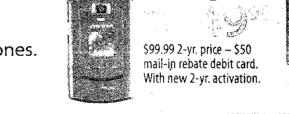




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INVASION

While the mother sat with her two children, a third man entered the house.

"I said, 'There's no money, only what's in the purse' and pointed to the kitchen counter," she said. "One of them went to the purse and another went up to the three bedrooms. I heard doors and closets opening.

"The guy with the gun said, 'I know there's money, I want the money," she remembered. "I heard him say something

about \$150,000 and I told 4 them I had no money, they must have the wrong house. He said something about one of them being robbed and they were returning the favor."

The victim said it was about that time it became apparent maybe the trio had forced their way into the wrong house.

"They couldn't find anything and then one guy got angry and said to the others, 'Let's get out of here, you're screwing things up. You got 60 seconds," she said.

One of the robbers asked

where the jewelry was and the Canton woman indicated the bedroom. She heard him check the attic, but they found nothing there, either.

'They found a camcorder in the closet and one of them came walking out with it," she said. "They saw the jewelry, but only took my wedding ring, not the earrings or watch. They got a couple hundred dollars out of my purse."

When the suspects were ready to leave, they had the terrified woman sit on the stairs and handcuffed her to the bannister.

"They were arguing where to put the key, near me or in my hand," she said. "The guy with the gun gave me the key and said he was sorry. It was as if they thought they made a mistake and messed up. I told them I would wait 20 minutes, please just go."

They took the victim's cell phone and broke it on the street and quickly drove off.

"I grabbed my kids and went to a neighbor, where I called 9-1-1," she said. "I was terrified."

The mother of two said she had thoughts of what the robbers might do to her in front of her children.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, I'm going to die in front of them," she said, though the robbers never threatened the kids. "They didn't approach them, look at them, nothing. When they were arguing about the key, one said, 'I don't want those kids to get hurt, give her the damn kev.' That's when I knew they wouldn't hurt me." The woman's 35-year-old

husband owns three fast-food restaurants in Detroit and has had a gun pointed at him several times during robberies.

"When I got the call, I couldn't understand my wife because she was crying," he said. "The only thing going through my mind was my kids and my wife. It overwhelmed me."

The victim has been staying at her parents' house since the robbery, but knows she'll eventually have to go home.

"I know I can't stay with my parents forever. I have to go back," she said. "I feel I don't ever want to answer the door again. But how realistic is that?"

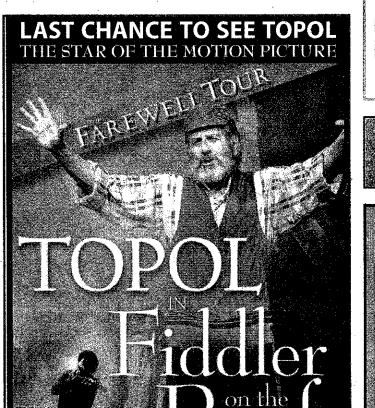
Canton police say the investigation is ongoing.

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Police release sketches of men involved in Canton home invasion

Canton Township police have released composite sketches of two of the men involved in a Tuesday morning home invasion in the 2800 block of Doncaster.

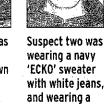
According to police, three men, one brandishing a silver handgun, showed up at the home and asked the female homeowner if she needed any home maintenance work done. When she refused, they pushed their way into home, handcuffed the woman to a stair railing and then ransacked the home. Police, using descriptions from the homeowner, were only able to create sketches of two of the men, because the third suspect was not seen enough for a sketch to be made.

Also, the approximate age of the suspects has been updated. Police now say the suspects are believed to be in their 20s to early 30s, not 40s or 50s as originally reported. One man, the homeown-

ers 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 sweatpants, grey shirt and a grey hat.

Anyone with information on this crime or the identity of these suspects is asked to contact Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.



tall and thin. with an unknown accent, and wearing a dark sweater, dark jeans and a 'Best

One suspect was dark cap.

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Why Does My **Back Hurt More** When It's Cold? Scientists ponder this very question!



Dr. Thomas J. Gerou Canton Doctor of Chiropractic

Have you ever noticed your back hurs more when it's cold out? And, it's probably not just your back. Joints all over your body stiffen up and things seem to hurt "all over." If that describes you, then you are not alone. Many people seem to suffer more from back and joint pain related conditions as soon as the termestive starts to din.

as the temperature starts to dip.

Many people with back pain, joint pain, headaches and fibromyalgia attest to the correlation of cold weather and worsening of

So what can you do? Since you can't change the weather (although living in a warm, sunny place might help!) Chiropratic care may dramatically minimize its effects on your

So if you haven't tried Chiropractic for your back pain, give Canton chiropractor Dr. Thomas Gerou a call. Like all doctors' Dr. inomas Gerou a can. Like al doctors offices, care may vary from office to office. But if you are looking for a Chiropractor who offers short term, affordable back pain care, or if you have questions, call Dr. Gerou's friendly and caring office at 556-1717. You can be seen immediately.. and here's the best part; no obligation to extensive treatment plansl organizes



8

LOCAL NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

Changes ahead for estate inheritance taxes

Dear Rick: If the steppedup basis for inherited assets is canceled in 2010, do you anticipate its reinstatement in 2011?

Yes. The stepped-up basis will be back in 2011, although the estate tax exemption will be much lower than it is today. The



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

estate taxes. That means upon your death, the first 2.5 million - above andbeyond money going to a charity and/or a spouse - in assets is estate tax free. Remember it is not the beneficiaries who are subject to the estate tax, rather, the estate

happening with

estate tax laws.

Presently, there

is a \$2.5 million

exemption for

itself. Basically, upon death your assets are valued at fair market value. After deductions for charitable contributions and/or what a spouse inherits, the first \$2.5 million is estate tax free. Then and only then does the estate pay federal estate taxes.

Over the last several years, the exemption amount has grown dramatically. It wasn't too long ago that the exemption was only \$600,000. The problem arises because of quirks in the estate tax law. In 2010, there will be no estate taxes. Basically, if someone passes away in 2010 their estate is not subject to any estate tax. However, in 2011 the law reverts back to an older version of the estate tax law and the exemption drops to \$1 million. The other quirk in this law deals with stepped-up basis.

When someone inherits money from an estate, that money is not subject to estate taxes. In addition, the beneficiary receives what is known as a stepped-up basis in the assets that they are inheriting.

For example, if you inherited ABC Stock and at the time of inheritance the stock was selling for \$10 a share but the decedent had only paid two dollars a share, your cost basis would be \$10 a share. That means if you sell stock for \$11 a share, only one dollar is subject to income tax.

If you inherit money in 2010, you receive a transfer-cost basis as opposed to a stepped-up basis. In the example above, if you sold the stock for \$11 a share your transfer cost basis is only two dollars a share, thus you would pay taxes on \$9 per share. The quirk in the law only deals with 2010. In 2011, the stepped-up basis rules are reinstituted.

What makes this issue a little more complex is there probably will be some estate tax reform this year that will have an impact on 2010 and beyond. We don't know what the changes will be and when they will take effect. When it comes to estate

planning, many believe it's necessary if you have a large estate. Although reducing and

eliminating estate tax is one goal of planning, it is only one factor. As far as I am concerned, every adult needs some sort of estate planning.

Estate planning also deals with how to handle family emergencies when you are alive. I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier life is. The Medical Durable Power of Attorney and Michigan Patient Advocate Form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney, is available at public libraries or download one at www.bloomassetmanagement. com.

The main reason for estate planning is not to save on taxes or to avoid probate but because you love your family.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit guestions 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.



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

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LIVONIA CAMPUS **OPENING SUMMER 2009 Parent Information Sessions** Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. For more information, call 734-464-2789

> Information sessions held at: Grand Traverse Pie Company 41640 Ann Arbor Ro Plymouth, MI 48170



Focus:HOPE celebrates 40th anniversary with ball

Focus: HOPE will conclude its 40th anniversary year with a Rubies of HOPE Ball on March 7 at which several key supporters will be recognized for their contributions to Focus: HOPE's civil rights mission.

"As we embark on our next decade, we want to truly celebrate all that Focus: HOPE has accomplished over the last 40 years," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO. "We are taking this opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and the impact our food and education programs have had on hundreds of thousands in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to address current and future challenges with renewed commitment, passion and energy."

The event is expected to raise \$250,000 for scholarships for students in Focus: HOPE's education and training programs. The theme for the evening recognizes Rubies, the gems appropriate for a 40th anniversary, and HOPE, for optimism for the future.

Co-founders Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997) and cated itself to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice."

Rubies of HOPE awards also will be presented to:

The Honorable Damon J. Keith, chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals and a nationally-recognized jurist, for his outstanding leadership on civil rights issues.

United States Senator Carl Levin, an ardent supporter of Focus: HOPE throughout his career, for his leadership in government and for facilitating government partnerships with Focus: HOPE.

Lloyd E. Reuss, who upon retiring as president of General Motors came to Focus: HOPE as a volunteer to lead its innovative engineering program in the Center for Advanced Technologies. He also chairs the Focus: HOPE Advisory Board.

Neal Shine (1930-2007), a journalist and eventual publisher of the Detroit Free Press, for his leadership and commitment to the City of Detroit and the Focus: HOPE mission.

Noel M. Tichy, Ph.D., profes-

HOPE in several books.

William S. White, president and CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, for his longstanding support of Focus: HOPE's education and training programs.

The anniversary event is hosted by Jill and Steve Miller, chairman and CEO of Delphi. It will be held at the Detroit Marriott in the Renaissance Center and will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., then dancing to Mel Ball and Colours. The black-tie preferred event is the first formal celebration held by Focus: HOPE in its 40 years.

"I hope everyone who appreciates the impact Focus: HOPE has had on our community, will join us March 7 to pay tribute to its co-founders and supporters," said Jill Miller. "In particular, I hope people will join Steve and me in showing our appreciation to Eleanor Josaitis for her leadership and commitment to civil rights."

Honorary co-chairs of the 40th anniversary gala/celebration include Retired General Colin. L. Powell, who attended the open-

Archer, Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally, Chrysler Chairman and CEO Robert Nardelli, and General Motors Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner.

Tickets are \$250 each, or \$2,500 for tables of 10. Tickets may be reserved by calling 313-494-4371 or via the web site at www.focushope.edu.

Dow Chemical is the presenting sponsor for the evening. Other sponsors Chrysler LLC and Chrysler Financial, Bank of America, Comerica, Delphi Corporation, Ford Motor **Company and General Motors** Corporation.

Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE developed numerous programs in its efforts to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. It offers a food program, which assists 42,000 seniors, mothers and children each month; career training programs in machining, engineering and information technology; a child care center, a community arts program targeted to high school students, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus: HOPE, thousands of individuals

Eleanor M. Josaitis will be honored for starting an organization that addressed the social and economic problems that led to the 1967 Detroit riots. In 40 years, the organization has worked to bridge the racial divide and dedisor and author, at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, for his leadership in education and for engaging business leaders and business students in the work of Focus: HOPE. He has profiled Focus:

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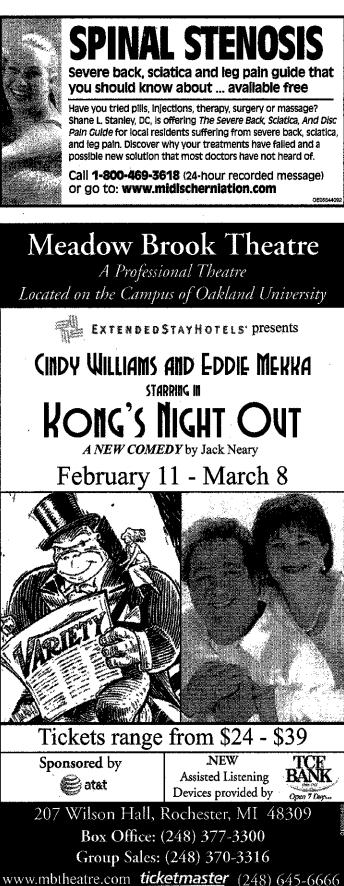
Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on February 26, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit H03, Beck, Furn./boxes; Unit B31, Lapp, Furn./ boxes; Unit C115, Saifuddin, Furn./boxes; Unit G05, Foster, Misc. HHG; Unit I11, Farris, Furn. /boxes; Unit B15, May, Furn./boxes; Unit I35, Hancock, HHG; Unit E32, Withers, HHG; Unit B06, Howard, HHG; Unit J30, Graves, HHG; Unit E24, Glazer. HHG.

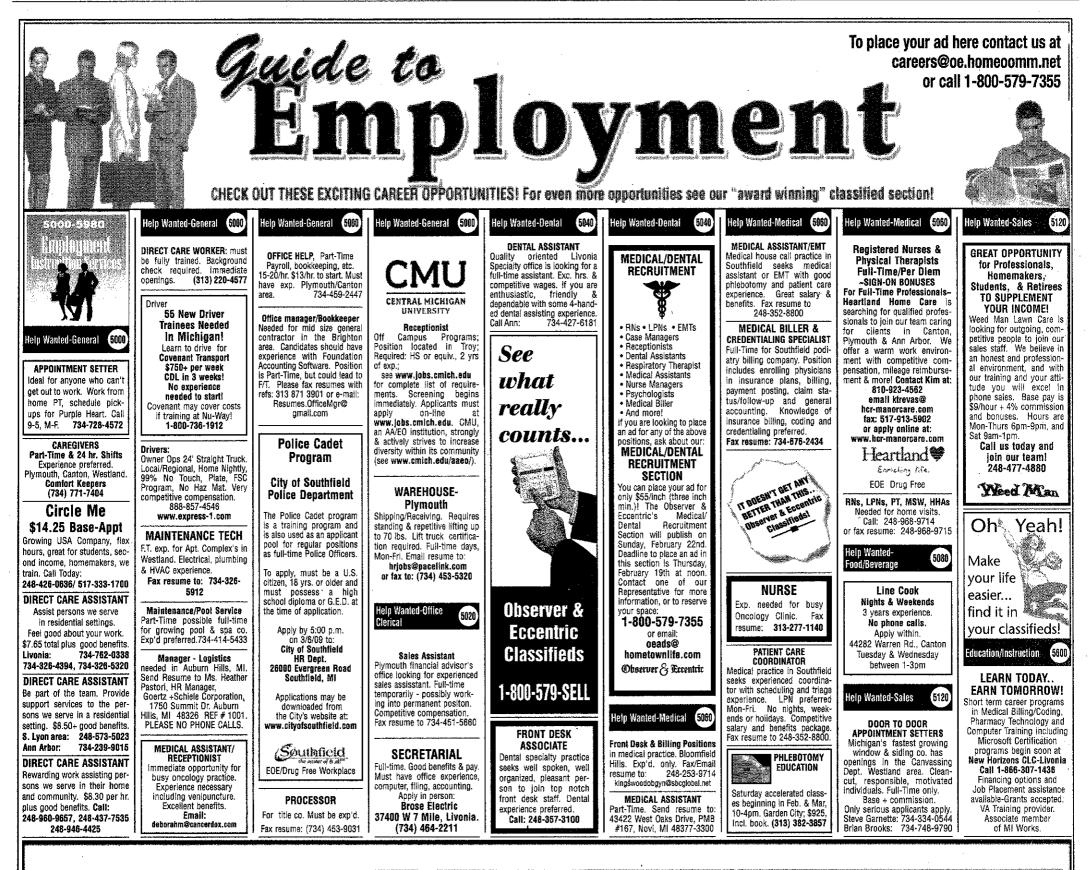


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ing of Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies in 1993, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, former Detroit Mayor Dennis

- especially women and minorities - have become financially independent. www.focushope. edu.





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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

Ficano accentuates the positive in State of the County

BY HUGH GALLAGHER **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Wayne County may be at the center of the United States' economic woes, but on Thursday County Executive Robert Ficano chose to accentuate the positive in his seventh annual State of the County address, including touting several development projects for western Wayne County.

"I am determined to lead the county through tough times," Ficano told an overflow invited audience at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township. "Our assets far outweigh our challenges. We have a diverse county that looks like the rest of the world. We have a skilled workforce, first-class universities, an international border, a worldclass airport and a resolve to succeed."

Ficano hit on some themes he has been promoting for years including the development of an "aerotropolis" around the two Wayne County airports, expanding business contacts with China and promoting a more diverse economic base. He also touted his administration's cost-cutting efforts that have included downsizing the size of the executive branch, which he said has 1,500 fewer employees than during the previous administration.

He was pointedly critical of Sheriff Warren Evans for suing the administration over budget cuts.

But the heart of the speech was the announcement of several economic initiatives:

■ A Life Science Innovation Center will be built in Plymouth Township on property formerly occupied by Pfizer. The Innovation Center is being developed by Dr. Roger Newton, a former Pfizer executive and co-founder of the drug Lipitor. Ficano said the county is partnering with Washtenaw County, the state,



Emcee Llovd Jackson welcomes County Executive Robert Ficano to the stage.

Ann Arbor SPARK and others to develop the center.

A Stem Cell Commercialization Center will be created at Wayne State University's Tech Town. The center will build on the recently based state legislation that allows embryonic stem cell research. Ficano said the center will be the first of its kind in Michigan.

"We are creating a new biotechnology industry that will attract new companies, new jobs and alliances with researchers around the world." he said.

The county is working with AT&T to build a fiber optic infrastructure to connect key business hubs throughout the region, including the airport development areas.

County government will move into the Guardian building this year, which Ficano

said would save the county millions of dollars in rent. The county purchased the historic skyscraper for \$14 million.

Ficano took note of the county's hard economic situation, including a county government deficit that could reach \$100 billion.

"Unprecedented cuts in the auto industry and a struggling economy have ravaged this region," he said. "Many of you have lost jobs. Some of you have lost your homes. All of you, in some way, have been affected by the pain."

As an example, Ficano introduced Jacqueline Madden of Redford Township. Madden, a single mother with a teenage son, had lost her job at Ford Motor Co. and was facing foreclosure on her house. Ficano said county foreclosure counselors were able to work out a short-term reduced pay-

ment program to help give Madden time to renegotiate her mortgage and stay in her home. Ficano touted the coun-

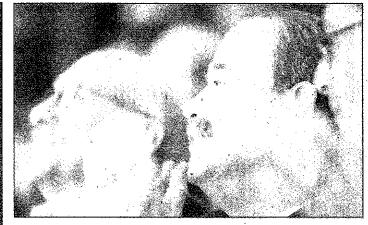
ty's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program as a "national model" that has helped more than 600 county residents resolve their mortgage problems.

But it was Ficano's upbeat assessment that seemed to draw the best response, including loud applause when he said that groundwork be broken this year on the controversial expansion of Cobo Hall.

"It's always good in these economic times to have something that's uplifting," said Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor. "It makes you proud when you think about what's going on in the county. We have to believe

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

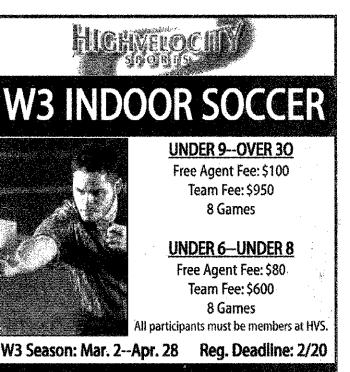
To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings scheduled for January 20, February 17, March 10 & 24, April 21, May 12 & 26 and June 9 & 23 are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org.



Lieutenan't Governor John Cherry was in the Village Theater audience.

in ourselves and the future." Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said she is looking forward to "building a good relationship" with the county. "We're looking for some parks money, that we think

was set aside last year," she said. "We're looking for about \$245,000 for that. Also, we're looking to partner on some stimulus projects, especially as it relates to the sewer project and that will be millions of dollars. ... It feels good."



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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Broadcast Video Distribution Server. Bid documents are available by contacting Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746 or via e-mail at phillid@pccs.k12.mi.us. Sealed bids must be clearly marked "PCCS BROADCAST SERVER BID" and are to be received at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 no later than 3:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at which time they will be read publicly. A notarized familial disclosure agreement must accompany every bid. For technical please phone Jim Casteel Director of Integrated formation Technology Systems at (734) 416-2708. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids and to waive any bid irregularities, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

pon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable

auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing

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the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing

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

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

> Joe Bridgman, CMC Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: January 22, February 15, March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7, 2009

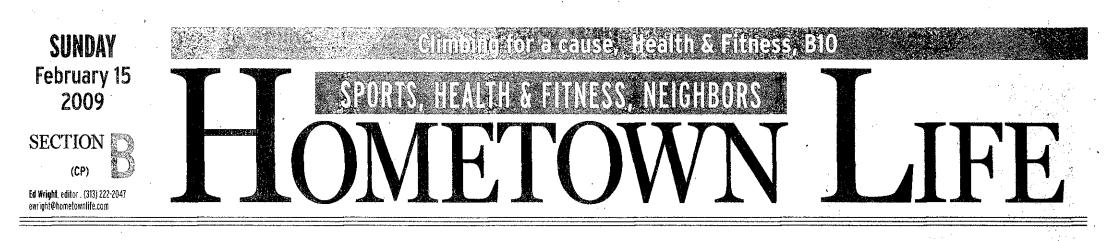
Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15 & 22, 2009

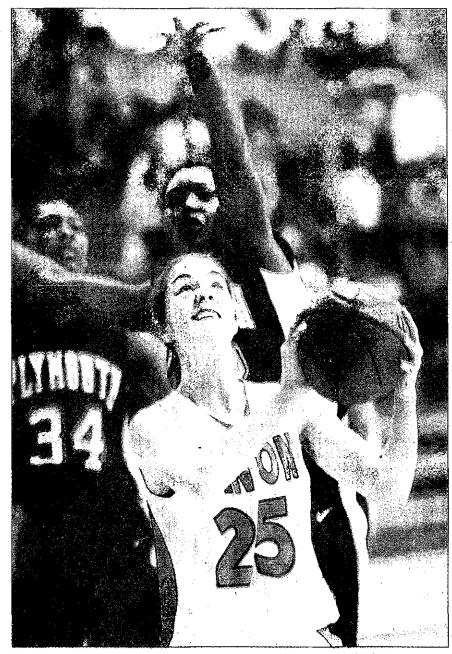
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CROSS-CAMPUS HOOP SHOWDOWHS: CHIEFS 2, 'CATS 0



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Kari Schmitt focuses on the basket as she is defended by Plymouth's Alex Roberts during Friday night's 36-22 Canton victory. Schmitt's eight points tied CarolAnn Sexauer for team scoring honors.



Canton forces 18 first-half turnovers to stymie 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Playing on Friday the 13th — on the night before Valentine's Day --Canton's girls basketball team turned in a defensive effort that was both scary good and full of heart against Plymouth.

Playing a velcro-like girl-to-girl defense, the Chiefs forced 18 turnovers in the first half alone and blue-collared their way to a 36-22 home victory over their cross-campus foes.

Nothing came easy for the Wildcats, who finished with 21 turnovers while hitting just 10 of 39 field goals (24 percent). With hands constantly in their face, the 'Cats hit just five of their first 25 shots.

"The reason why they force so many turnovers is because of their great athleticism and they have surprisingly good upward mobility on defense," said Plymouth coach Ted Strudivant. "They deflect a lot of passes that lead to turnovers and fast-breaks at the other end for them."

The surging Chiefs improved to 14-2 overall and 7-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Plymouth slipped to 5-8 and 3-5, respectively.

Canton earned a 19-8 halftime advantage thanks in large part because they outshot mistake-prone Plymouth 32-15.

"Defense is the key to this team and it always will be," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "There are going to be nights when your shots aren't falling, but you can always play hard on the defensive end. That's what we pride ourselves on."

Typically, the balanced Chiefs didn't have one individual who lit up the scoreboard. Sophomores CarolAnn Sexauer and Kari Schmitt led the way with eight points a piece. Melanie Pickert and Lindsey Winters both added five while Alyssa Cottrell and Sara Schmitt chipped in with four.

Kari Schmitt ripped down 11 rebounds while her twin sister Sara collected six steals.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood led Plymouth with eight points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots. Kelsi Robinson scored seven points while reserve guard Alysse Calcatera hustled to grab six boards.

Canton didn't light it up offensively, making just 14 of 49 shots (28.5 percent), but with the way it played

Please see CANTON, B2



Agape cruises

Canton Agape Christian freshman Ayanna Martin continued to play like a senior in the Wolverines' 55-28 thrashing of Ypsilanti Calvary Christian Friday night.

GAME

WRAPS

Martin produced 27 points and seven rebounds to lead the winners, who improved to 8-8 overall and 6-4 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Blue Division.

Although the Wolverines were technically the home team - it was their homecoming - the game was played at Calvary Christian.

We started really fast - I think we led 12-0 at one point," said Agape coach Dan DeWitt. "They played us pretty even the second two quarters, but we held them to one point in the fourth quarter."

Agape led 21-6 after one quarter, 33-18 at the half and 43-27 with eight minutes to play. Brooke Purcell excelled

for the winners, registering 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Jamie Thurmond led CC with 15 points. The Wolverines

knocked down half their 18 free throws while CC sank just 2 of 13 attempts from the charity stripe. Agape takes on Eaton

Academy on Tuesday.

Ocelot men win

Greg Leavell continued his sterling play with 16 points and eight rebounds to pace a balanced attack Wednesday as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team

surprised visiting Wayne

Schoolcraft is now 7-

County Community

College, 56-56.

Marlan the magician leads Chiefs over 'Cats BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER Chiefs host on Tuesday. especially senior guard Sherif

With season-long leading scorer Dietrich Lever content to distribute dimes Friday

The Wildcats, who just a week ago were riding a wave of momentum following a convincing win over the Zebras, slipped

Hassanien, who netted 11 second-half points.

"Sherif had three big threes in the third quarter," said

ended with the contest deadlocked at 39-all.

Canton eventually wore down the Wildcats and nailed some clutch free throws down the

night, Canton's Marlan Glenn stepped up to deposit the money shots against cross-campus foe Plymouth.

Glenn, a senior guard, torched the nets for 20 points to lead the Chiefs to a 54-45 victory.

The win allowed Canton to stay alive in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division with a 5-3 record - two games behind Wayne Memorial, who the

to 4-4 in the South. Both teams share 8-6 overall marks

"Marlan had probably his best game of the season tonight," raved Canton coach Dan Colligan. "He had 10 points in the first quarter and that's what really got us going. Dietrich kind of ran the show and engi-

neered the offense for us." Glenn received plenty of assistance from his fellow Chiefs,

Colligan. "Kiere Daniels also played well with six points and 12 rebounds."

Kevin Weisz tossed in seven points for the winners.

Sophomore forward Brennen Beyer paced the Wildcats with 10 points.

Sophomore guard Mike Nadratowski also played well, adding eight points.

The game was nip and tuck for the first 24 minutes, which stretch to pull away.

"Plymouth played extremely hard the entire night - they never quit," said Colligan. Canton made 11 of 18 free

throws while Plymouth nailed just 9 of 19 freebies. "We had great team play tonight," Colligan said. "I was pleased with our ball pressure

on defense, too."

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ILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Marlan Glenn, pictured driving to the basket against Plymouth's Brennen Beyer, was the man of the hour for the Chiefs, scoring 20 points in his team's 54-45 victory.

19 overall and 4-11 in the MCCAA's Eastern Conference. Leavell, a 6-foot-4 sophomore from Farmington Hills Harrison, had plenty of help as other contribu-

tions came from Bruce Watson (14 points), Wayne Memorial's Martez Abney (12 points) and Ryan Matthews (10 points, 10 rebounds).

The loss drops Wayne County to 15-8 overall and 8-7 in the conference.

Please report results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report their teams' results to **Observer Sports Editor** Ed Wright at (734) 578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 11 p.m. The deadline for

Sunday editions is Friday at 11 p.m.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior basketball players Brett de Bear (left) and Sara Stone have done an admirable job of filling the backcourt void created by the departure of last year's All-League player Alaya Mitchell, who now plays for Division 1 Marshall University.

Junior achievers Stone, de Bear step up for the Rocks

Salem knocks off Novi, see Page B2

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem basketball standout Alaya Mitchell left such big shoes to fill - figuratively speaking — when she gradu-ated last summer, it's taken four feet to fill them.

But after taking a while to get comfortable in their more demanding soles, er, roles, as Mitchell's successors, Sara Stone and Brett de Bear have been stepping it up big-time, so to speak.

Following a callous-forming 1-6 start, the Rocks have evolved into one of the



they've won eight of their past nine games Prep Profile to surge into a first-place tie

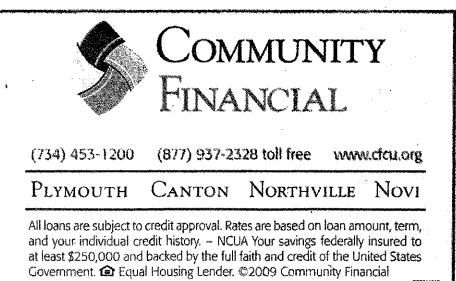
with South Lyon in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division.

The two first-place squads face off for sole possession of first place on Tuesday and, without question, the Rocks' fate will hinge largely on the performances of Stone and de Bear - a pair of juniors

Please see ACHIEVERS, B2

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LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com

Canton's Robyn Mack is strongly defended by Plymouth's Troi Davis during Friday's showdown.

(CP)

B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANTON FROM PAGE B1

defense, it didn't matter.

The Chiefs drained 7 of 12 free throws. Plymouth was just 2 for 8 from the charity stripe.

After falling behind 15-3 on Winters' triple three minutes into the second quarter, Plymouth nudged back to within 15-7 on back-to-bask hoops by Haywood and Robinson.

However, the Chiefs reeled off a 9-3 run to build an advantage that would never sink below double-digits.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Scouting combine

SportsWeave will be holding its 2009 All-American College Football Scouting Combine and free NCAA Football Recruiting Seminar at Velocity Sports Performance of Canton on Saturday March 28, 2009. Open to all High School Football Players graduation classes 2009 through 2012. Top Performers will be invited to the annual All-American Football Skills Academy in April 2009. Register before 2.27.09 at www.SportsWeave.com.

Precision Baseball

Canton's Precision Baseball will be holding open-gym sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The charge is \$10 per players, who can hit off the machines, off tees or off live pitching in the cages; or throw on the facility's spacious fields.

For more information call (734) 459-5921.

PCEP girls lacrosse

There will be an informational meeting for all Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls interested in playing high school lacrosse this spring on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Canton High School library. Anyone returning or interesting in learning to play the game should attend the upcoming meeting.



Resurgent Rocks forge first-place tie with Lions

BY ED WRIGHT Observer staff writer

Unfortunately for the rest of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division, Salem's girls basketball team has rediscovered its groove.

And the grooviest player in recent weeks has been senior Chelsea Davis, who continued who scorching play of late with a 12-point/10-rebound effort in the Rocks' must-win 44-34 victory over Novi Friday night in

ACHIEVERS FROM PAGE B1

who have shared the title of teammates since eighth grade.

"As juniors on a veteran team with three seniors in the front court, Sara and Brett's primary responsibilities this season have been to make sure they get the ball to the seniors inside," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "They're both two-year starters who rarely sat out last year, so their experience has been a tremendous asset.

"They both have good quickness, they play good defense and, most importantly, their understanding of the game is very good.

"Sara has emerged as a dynamic scorer and Brett has emerged as probably our top defender the past two years. The bottom line is they're both really good basketball players with good instincts." Thomann said it's not surprising it took the duo a while to get used to filling the void created by Mitchell's departure.

"I don't think anyone realizes how difficult it is to take the place of a threeyear starter who has gone on to player Division 1 basketthe Salem gymnasium. The triumph — Salem's seventh in its last eight games — boosted the Rocks' record to 8-7 overall and 7-1 in the KLAA Central. Novi slipped to 6-2 in the division.

The two division co-leaders — Salem and South Lyon — hook up Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Lions' gym for sole possession of first place.

Friday's key win was a balanced effort for Salem, which received nine points from Tracy Whalen, eight points from Sara Stone and 11 points from Victoria Brotz.

Brett de Bear added our points and contributions that don't show up in the box score. "Brett did an outstanding job of limiting their running game," said Salem coach Fred

Thomann. Salem never trailed after securing a 12-8 first-quarter lead. The Rocks extended their advantage to 21-14 at the half and 31-21 after three quarters.

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ball," said Thomann. "I was as guilty as anyone when it came to expecting more out of them sooner than I should have. It's not fair to expect them to do what Alaya did. Brett is Brett and Sara is Sara."

Long-time friends

Since meeting for the first time at a Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU basketball team tryout three years ago, Stone and de Bear have developed an uncanny ability to know what the other is going to do next.

"Having played together so long, we have pretty good chemistry," said de Bear. "We know how each other plays. I know what she's going to do and she knows what I'm going to do."

A three-year varsity performer, Stone said her hoop skills have improved "1,000 percent" since the first day she stepped on the Rocks' court as a freshman.

"I wasn't even sure I wanted to play varsity my freshman season," Stone said. "It was a little intimidating playing against girls that were so much older than I was. But my teammates really encouraged me and made it easier. When I messed up, Teresa Coppiellie or Chelsea Davis would tell me knot to worry about it and to just keep playing.

"Fred has taught me a lot, too, especially to forget about my mistakes and to just keep on playing."

Outstanding mentor

Both Stone and de Bear admitted they learned a lot playing alongside Mitchell.

They also admitted playing without her created a tough transition.

"Alaya was so aggressive offensively last year that we always counted on her to make the big shot or the big pass," said de Bear. "We missed that this year, especially early in the season when we were struggling. "We got frustrated when we were losing all those games, just like any team would, but we fought through it.

"Fred would encourage us, but we knew we had to do it on our own."

Which they have. And now, sparked by two players who had to fill some pretty big shoes, Salem is within a foot-step of winning a division title. Alaya would be proud.

_____**_**___ **t**

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LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009



Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m. Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Agape at Eastpointe Eaton, 4:30 p.m. Inter-City Baptist at PCA, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 Baptist Park at PCA, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m. South Lyon East at Salem, 7 p.m. Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Agape at Covenant, 4:30 p.m.

> PREP GYMNASTICS Tuesday, Feb. 17 Canton at Livonia Red at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 Salem at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m. **B**3

(CP)

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Tuesday, Feb. 17 Canton at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 6:10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20

KLAA cross-overs, TBA PREP WRESTLING

Wednesday, Feb. 18 Team Districts, TBA Saturday, Feb. 21

Individual Districts, TBA Tuesday, Feb. 17 Plymouth at Tecumseh, 6:30 p.m.

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Canton, 1:47.46.

(LS), 2:02 36

23.48

53.11.

200 freestyle relay: 1, Stevenson (Scott, Dabkowski, Cruce, Behler), 1:32.66; 2, Stevenson, 1:33.53; 3, Canton, 1:37.61.

Stevenson, E.S. 3.53; S. Lanton, E.S. 61.
100 backstroke: 1. Charles Turlo (LS),
1:01.17; 2. Mikel Schaub (LS), 1:04.42; 3.
Christopher Krebs (C), 1:05.93.
100 breaststroke: 1. Wingett (LS), 1:01.32;
2. K. Schoff (LS), 1:07.0; 3. David Bladecki
(LS), 1:01.14.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Turlo, Dabkowski, Jereme Pesta, Behler), 3:30.21; 2. Stevenson, 3:32.48; 3. Canton, 3:50.93. Stevenson's dual meet record: 8-2 overal



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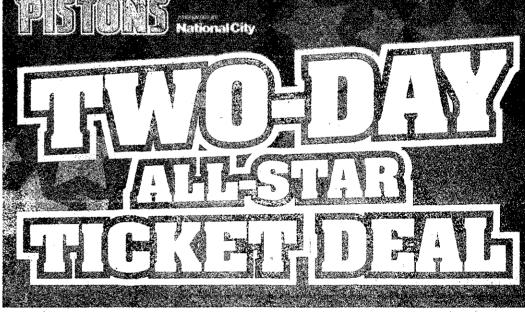


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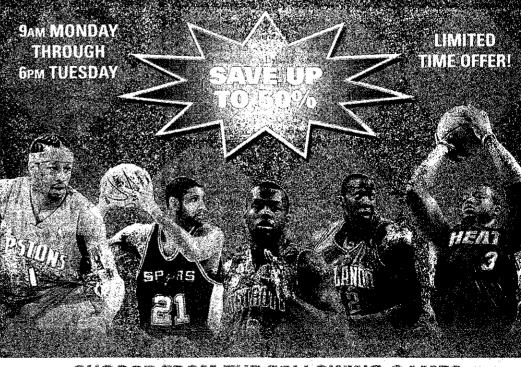
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March	× '		Sun 22	Miami	1:00pm
Tuo 03	Deriver	7:30pm	Sun 29	Philodelphia	8:00pm
Pri 06	Goldon State	8:00pm	April		
Mon 09	Oriando	7:20pm	Sun 05	Charlotte	6:00pm
Wed 11	Now York	7:30pm	Fri 10	New Jorsey	8:00pm
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

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Bellamy's threes sink Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT Observer staff writer

For the second time this season, Novi's "Bombs Away" offense registered a direct hit on Salem's won-loss record Friday night.

The Wildcats hit the target on nine of 31 three-point shots in their 78-63 home triumph over the Rocks.

Novi improved to 12-2 overall and 7-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division while Salem dropped to 4-10 and 2-6, respectively.

"Novi has a very good basketball team," emphasized Salem coach Bob

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PREP BOYS HOOP

Brodie. "They play tenacious defense, they fast-break well and they have quite a weapon with their three-point shooting."

While Novi was racking up 27 points from beyond the arc, the Rocks drained just one of nine triple attempts.

Senior guard Anthony Mullins led Salem with 15 points. Fellow senior Jim Dexter added 14.

Salem's Heath Parling drained all eight of his freethrow attempts.

On a night when 10 Rocks scored, junior Andrew Daniels led all rebounders with 10 in a reserve role. Senior guard Chris Bellamy paced the winners with 31 points — almost half the result of five made threes.

Brandon Bryant chipped in with 13 points for the Wildcats, who sit atop the KLAA Central.

Novi led 17-12 after one quarter, 40-26 at the half and 60-47 with eight minutes to play.

On a bright note, Salem connected on 24 of 32 free throws. Novi also sizzled from the stripe, swishing 11 of 15 attempts.

ewright@hometownlife.com (734) 578-2767



Shaakira signs

Plymouth senior basketball standout Shaakira Haywood (second from left) recently signed a national letter of intent to play college basketball for Northern Illinois University. A four-year varsity player, Haywood is one of the school's all-time leaders in rebounds and blocked shots. She is pictured with (from left) Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant, her mom Linda and PCS coathletic director Sue Heinzman.

Justus prevails: 'Cat goalie blanks Birmingham

"Justus" was served during Thursday's Plymouth-Birmingham United boys hockey game.

Wildcat goal-tender Michael Justus stopped all 19 shots he faced to lead Plymouth to a 2-0 victory.

Pat Smiatacz broke the scoring ice with his 10th goal of the season early in the second period off assists from Luke Merandi and Evan Swieczkowski.

Mid-way through the third stanza, the Wildcats added an insurance goal when freshman Zach Gambrell tallied his ninth of the campaign off assists from Kyle Callahan and Tyler Sanders.

"The 'Green Line' — Callahan, Gambrell and Sanders — has been our best line as of late," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "They continue to work hard and do a lot of the

.

little things right. "Our defensemen played pret-

ty well also. They were able to get the puck out when needed." Fassbender said he's looking for improvement in certain areas as the post-season nears.

PREP HOCKEY

"Overall today, I thought we played weak," Fassbender said. "Our forwards are playing soft. We had 13 turnovers on the boards by our wingers. We need to get better in this area of the game. We look timid."

SALEM 4, CHURCHILL 0: They made start calling him Super Mario, too, after the Rocks' Mario Macari notched a hat trick Wednesday night as Salem (11-7-3, 4-1-2) took a giant step in clinching the KLAA's South Division crown with win over Livonia Churchill (6-8-4, 5-2-1).

The Rocks can earn the KLAA South title outright with a victory Friday at Edgar Arena against winless Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7).

After a scoreless opening period, Macari scored at 1:27 of the second period from Kurt Driscoll and Josh Jarvela.

Shawn Lyons made it 2-0 just 67 seconds later off assists from Patrick Patin and Kyle Powell. Macari's second of the night from Jarvela increased the Salem lead to 3-0 at 11:20 of the same period. Macari closed out at the scor-

ing at the 46-second mark for the third with an assist from Driscoll. Salem netminder Adam Powers stopped all 24 shots to post the shutout.

Aaron Crouse had 12 saves for the Chargers.

"We had our chances, but our power play was ineffective," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Powers played well and Salem capitalized on its chances. They deserved the 'W."

CANTON 3, FRANKLIN 0: Nick Tomilenko scored twice Wednesday as the host Chiefs (15-5-1, 3-3-1) invoked the eight-goal mercy rule in the final period to beat Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7) in a KLAA South Division game at Arctic Edge.

Mark Barath, Trent Taylor, Andrew Juback, Anthony Bonnett, Donnie Barlow and Ryan Lash also scored for Canton, which led 4-0 after one period and 6-0 after 13 minutes.

Jimmy Lafontaine contributed three assists.

Franklin, coming off losses to Walled Lake Northern (8-0) and Livonia Churchill (9-1), used two goaltenders starting Brandon Hawkins, who played the opening period. He was relieved by Travis Ferrier.

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.

		• •
Tuesday, March 3	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Organizational Meeting Hearings by Appointment
Monday, March 9	2 pm - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 11	9 am - Noon . 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 14	9 am - 11 am	First Come-First Served

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Parts**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-3040. Sealed bids are due to the E.J McClendon Educational Center (attn: Bus Parts Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Tires.** Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-3040. Sealed bids are due to the E.J McClendon Educational Center (attn: Bus Tire Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

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, 2009.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a **Bid for Bid Packet #23: Miscellaneous Projects at Isbister Elementary School along with Central Middle School and Canton and Salem High Schools.** Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. are available for public inspection and pick-up (1 set per company) at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; (248)-427-8400. They can also be viewed at; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Division descriptions include: 109:Roofing (Salem) / 124:Gymnasium Wood Flooring (Isbister) / 133:Pool Equipment (Central, Canton, & Salem) / 141:Fire Protection (Canton) / 151:Cafeteria Folding Pocket Tables (Isbister) / 178:Automotive Spray Booth Assembly (Canton).

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the construction trailer site located at Canton High School – 8415 Canton Center Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Bidders are STRONGLY encouraged to attend. Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Project Documents should be addressed in writing and faxed to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy), a valid familial disclosure statement, and a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed bids will not be accepted. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Publish: February 15th and 22nd, 2009

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

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The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays

in the newspaper as space allows.

and online in its entirety at www. hometownlife.com. Submit your

reunion announcement at least two

weeks in advance to Linda Chomin,

e-mail Ichomin@hometownlife.com.

Barnstormer Entertainment Complex

in Green Oak Township. There will

bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140

per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan)

Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at

email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see

groups.yahoo.com/group/brighton-

50th reunion with activities June 5-7,

2009. Events will include a Saturday

evening dinner party at Plum Hollow

Country Club in Southfield. Visit

www.casstech59.com or contact

Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@

casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman,

(248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling,

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy

mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathv

Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.

Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-

be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash

Planning a July 25 reunion at

Brighton High School

Class of 1989

classof1989.

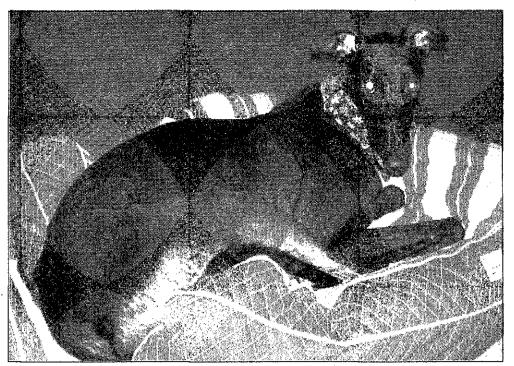
(248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1969

com.

Class of 1959



Needs a home

Bailey is a 2-year-old handsome black greyhound in need of a permanent home. He has very good manners, loves to be with people and play with his stuffed toys. He has been neutered and is up to date on vaccinations. If you would like to meet Bailey, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

Is your dog a star?

The Humane Society of Huron Valley wants to know if your dog has what it takes to star in the 30th annual Walk & Wag fund-raiser Saturday, May 16. The winner of the Celebrity Spokesdog contest will lead the way as



pets and their owners step off for the dog walk and fun family day at **County Farm** Park in Ann Arbor.

thousands of

Clancy, our Linda Chomin big blond Irish

Wolfhound, doesn't have the good looks of a celebrity dog but we love him anyway. Five minutes after you brush his wiry coat he's back to scruffy. My sister, Gwen, and I call him ruggedly handsome but beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder when it comes to this dog.

It's a good thing beauty isn't one of the criteria to be a celebrity spokesdog because Clancy is cute in other ways. Yesterday afternoon, he was trying to look as innocent as he could



Libby, a shelter dog, was the 2008 Celebrity Spokesdog for Walk & Wag, the Humane Society of Huron Valley fund-raiser.

"Last year, a terrier mix won after a 9-year-old girl wrote about how much their dog had changed their family and Libby was a shelter dog - but the dog does not have to be an alum of the Humane Society to enter. They just have to be spayed or neutered and able to be friendly with other dogs," said Deb Kern, HSHV market-

adoption fees, the clinic, and Walk & Wag fund-raiser. That's why the event is so important, plus it's fun.

"Everybody brings their dog and walks," said Kern. "Friends and family donate pledges for the walk. There's doggie entertainment and doggie games, a contest for the best dog trick, a bone and biscuit hunt, bobbing for weenies, a pet psychic, sponsors with tables and lots of giveaways."

REUNION CALENDAR

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates, Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit schools We are planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Post Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or Marlene Kutnick Yamron (e-mail) hahatdc@yahoo.com. The reunion is plagned for Feb. 27, 2009.

Henry Ford II Class of 1982

Looking for classmates. We are having a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek MetroPark and we're also planning a reunion in 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doemer) Bambach at 248-740-9759. ford21982@aol.com or visit our FREE class webpage on www.classreport. ora

Detroit St. Casimir High School Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009 Class Reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at PJcruisin@wowway. COIII.

Garden City High School East Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 High School Tour: 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11

a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum Tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park Large Pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick (734) 788-5165. Carl Gowan (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth (734) 522-1845.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@vahoo.com.

Class of 1989

20th reunion 6 p.m.-midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium openbar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www. gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com. **Grosse Pointe North**

Class of 1991

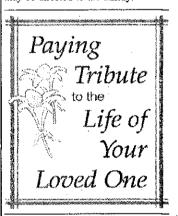
Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com. Lincoln Park High School

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

& Remembrances

email: oeobits@hometownlife.com **BARBARA E. BLACKFORD** Age 73, of Romulus. Joined her husband and son in heaven on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Dear mother of Denise Staley, Darlene Staley, Darryl Staley, Staley, and Frank

Blackford. Grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of five. Sister of Richard Pulley, Phyllis Donald) Kilgore, Rose (Roy) Cook, Mary (Chuck) Parish, and Janet (Ray) Fisher. As many other family and friends who will miss her dearly. She was preceded in passing by her parents Ezra F. and Edna Maxine (Feeney) Pulley, son Daniel Staley, husband James Staley, and brother Donald Pulley. Friends may call at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 Tuesday, Feb. 17 after 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service to be held at 12:00-Noon. Memorials may be directed to the family.





Obituaries, Memorials

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View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

LOWELL D. SCHLANBUSCH

There was no separating church life from everyday life as Lowell Dale Schlanbusch saw things....to him every person he came in contact with was a life to be celebrated. Through his generous spirit and sense of humor, he brought joy and comfort to hundreds of Detroiters with whom he worked at General Motors and thru spiritual leadership in the Episcopal Church. Born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, raised in Columbus, Ohio, Lowell settled in the northern metropolitan Detroit area in the early 1950's. He was hired at General Motors as a mail boy and worked his way up the corporate ladder in the financial staff with a career that spanned 30 years at the auto giant. Lowell is an alumni of Ohio State University, University of Detroit and Detroit College of Law. While working at GM, Lowell attend-ed night classes at the Whittaker School of Theology in Detroit and was ordained to the Priesthood in the early 1970's at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield. He was Vicar of St. Alfred's Episcopal Church in Lake Orion and later Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Madison Heights. However, his largest parish he joking-ly referred to as "St. General Motors" ly referred to as he dedicated his life to serving people when ever and where ever he could. Upon retirement from General Motors, he obtained his Master in Divinity from St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. Michigan. Wearing many hats, especially from January thru April, he completed hundreds of individual income taxes. being recognized by the Detroit Free Press in an article entitled, "Holy 1040." Lowell was enormously involved with the Detroit Cursillo Movement serving as Spiritual Director for 32 Cursillo weekends and was a founding member of "The Disciples", a group of Christian men and women dedicated to fellowship and service. He served as Diocesan Chaplain. for the Order of The Daughters of the King and was involved in the Prison and Liturgical Clown ministries. Lowell had a passion for working with youth. As a boy he was active in the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His love of scouting continued, establishing two Boy Scout Troops in the Birmingham area and serving as Scoutmaster for many years. He developed youth programs based upon the Cursillo method for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan which influenced and inspired hundreds of teens from Detroit to Alpena. Lowell passed away on February 8, 2009 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart of 58 years, Sue (Zahn) Schlanbusch, four children: Joan Walsh (Richard), Lewis (Dr. Mary Puls), Sara Mattocks (Norman) and Schlanbusch as well as six Amy grandchildren: Laura and Jeffrey Walsh, Luke and Emily Kujawa, Gus Schlanbusch and Noah Mattocks. There will be a Requiem Eucharist and Celebration of Lowell's life at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Arrangements handled by Gendernalik 586-725-0177. Funeral Home Memorial Contributions can be made in Lowell D. Schlanbusch's name to St. Mark's Episcopal Church 527 N

William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

or the Boy Scouts of America, Detroit

Area Council. BSA Dauch Scout

Center, Attn: Wanda Bohannon, 1776

W. Warren Ave, Detroit MI 48208, or



ROBERT R. MEYERAND 'BOB'

Of Canton, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Friday, January 30th, 2009. Age 61 after a 3 and 1/2 courageous battle with Prostate Cancer. Beloved husband of Bonnie (nee: Seemann). Loving father of Lori (Tom) Moesta, Kimberly (Joe) Colleran, Shawn (Dawn) Ipavec, Robert J. (Jen) Meyerand, Lisa Meyerand and Lisa Lemley. Devoted grandfather of Christopher, Rikki, Nicolas, Richard, Samantha, Myles, Alexis, Ainsley, Hillarie, Brendan and Kevin. Proud brother of James Meyerand and Karol (Rick) Aune. He was born on September 24, 1947 in Detroit, graduated in 1965 from Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores. He attended Wayne State University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Finance. He was elected to the Wayne State Beta Gamma Sigma and the National Honor Society for Business Management. Bob was the Controller for Center Steel Sales in Allen Park. Bob loved family gatherings, parties with friends, Corvettes, travel, the Red Wings and the Canton Soccer Club. Bob has been involved for over 20 years with the Canton Soccer Club, coaching his son and grandson and in 2001 recieved the Canton Soccer Club Coach of the Year Award. Bob has also been involved with the MSYSA teams and leagues for over 20 years. In addition to coach ing, Bob served the Canton Soccer Club administratively as President Treasurer, Representative to GLSL, In House Coordinator, Premier/Selec Coordinator, Tournament Treasurer and Tournament Age Group Coordinator. He continued to be actively involved in soccer administration until shortly before his passing. Bob is being inducted into the MSYSA 009 Hall of Fame on February 28th 2009, Memorial contributations may be made in Bob's name to the Prostate Cancer Foundation; 1250 Fourth Street; Santa Monica, CA. 90401. OBITUARY POLICY

85 (*)

while gently reaching for the broccoli on the kitchen counter. Those big brown eyes could melt a snowman. Clancy adds many touching moments to our lives. I can have the worst day in the world and when I come home that wagging tail cheers me up. The joy he brings my sister and me doesn't stop there. I suppose we're like any other dog-loving family and these stories are the ones the Humane Society of Huron Valley would like to hear. The winning dog not only leads the walk but appears in posters, brochures and the HSHV Web page publicizing the event.

Entries must be received by March 1, and include a picture of your dog along with a \$15 donation and essay (250 words or less) telling why your special pooch should be the 2009 Walk & Wag Celebrity Spokesdog. For more information, visit www.hshv.org or call (734) 662-5585.

ing director. "We want every dog to enter, if they think their dog could be a celebrity spokesdog. It's about the best story and the one that touches the judges' hearts. We had about 80 entries last year. It was very difficult. We just read and read."

I'll bet there are plenty of heart-warming stories out there. Last year, HSHV reunited 790 lost animals and their owners and helped 3,343 dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, bunnies, and birds find homes. The nonprofit shelter services Washtenaw County, Canton and Plymouth. I learned something this week that could mean the difference in finding Clancy if is he ever is lost. When dogs are picked up in Plymouth and Canton, they are taken to HSHV not the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. HSHV is not affiliated with MHS and its funding comes only from donations,

A raffle offers prizes including \$1,000 and four tickets to see the University of Michigan football team play rival Ohio State.

"Last year, we raised \$130,000. We're trying to raise \$140,000 this year," said Kern. "The money goes to our general operating fund. We did 2,029 low cost spay and neuters last year and are building a new facility. It will increase dog space by almost half, cats almost triple. We're an open admissions shelter. It doesn't matter what kind of animal it is. We have a 72 percent save rate. We aspire to do the best for every animal."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at Ichomin@hometownlife.com and (313) 222-2241.

ELDEAN "DEAN" GOLTZ

Age 62. February 10, 2009. Beloved usband of Lynn. Dear father of Michelle (Chris) Anderson and Eric Goltz. Grandfather of Rachel and Vicholas Anderson. Brother of Carol Michael) Jensen and Brian (Lisa) Joltz. Uncle of Mirinda Goltz and Christopher Jensen, Funeral Services were held Saturday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Contributions suggested to the American Heart Association or Michigan Humane Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

ELIZABETH M. WHITBECK

Age 85. Formerly of Redford, MI. Feb. 7, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

GERALD ZMIKLY

February 12, 2009. Age 62, of Canton. Beloved husband of Diane. Loving father of Brian (Penny), Nichole Cullin and Shelly (Tim) Harden. Grandfather of Marcus, Harden. Mitchell, Paige, Emma, and Ty. Also survived by his mother Josephine and siblings Bob, Ken, Carol, and Linda. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm, McCabe Funeral home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. In state Monday 10am until time of Mass 10:30am, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent DePaul. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

Let others know...

a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Excentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: Flags, American religious symbols, etc.) Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.



If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

At English Gardens

The store celebrates its 7th Annual Orchid Festival with free seminars, visits from growers and displays of more than 50 varieties of orchids shipped weekly from Florida, California and Hawaii.

How to start seeds indoors, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at all stores. Learn how to grow your own plants. English Gardens experts will share their knowledge of growing flowers and vegetables from seed. Learn which varieties work best, and what's required to get the best results.

Perennial gardening, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at all stores. Garden experts will discuss the basics of design, care and planting perennials in the garden, and will provide information on selection, as well as combining colors and varieties.

Visit English Gardens stores at 44850 Garfield at Hall in Clinton Township, (586) 286-6100; 6370 Orchard Lake Road at Maple, West Bloomfield, (248)

851-7506; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Driver in Dearborn, (313) 278-4433; and 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Michigan Orchid Society

Jim Heilig will talk about "Multiflora Phalaenopsis" at the organization's next meeting, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information go to www.miorchids. com or call (586) 416-1496.

GARDEN CALENDAR

At Meadow Brook

Don Lafond will talk about rock gardening in south eastern Michigan at Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club's next meeting, at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 27, in the ballroom at the hall, located on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Guests are welcome. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 non-member donation. For more information call (248) 887-1983, or (248) 276-0136, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Mark your calendars

The Michigan State African Violet Society will hold its annual spring display and plant sale, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

Saturday, April 4 and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, April 5 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, Ann Arbor. African Violets will be on display and available for purchase, Gesneriads will be available, along with supplies. For more information call (248) 698-3628 or e-mail to INGRIDBOWMAN07@ comcast.net.

Water solutions

Beth Rowley, owner of Landscape Beauty by Design, will offer practical, water-saving advice on mowing, fertilizing and watering your lawn at 7 p.m., April 21, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. She'll also talk about creative landscaping to save water. The program is free, athough registration is required. (734) 397-0999.

Yard Scraps to Garden Treasure Advanced Master Gardeners and composters Nancy Perry and Luann Davis of the Canton Garden Club, will talk about using inexpensive vermicomposting methods to enrich soil and reduce waste, at 7 p.m., April 22, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton, Register for the free program by calling (734) 397-0999.

When you've lost

online @ www.bsadetroit.org follow-ing the link to "Support Scouting & Scout Tribute". Memorial messages can be posted on sympathytree.com/lowellschlanbusch

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

NEIGHBORS

Marching for life Local youth join together to stop abortion

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Curtis Schuelke is only 15 but he's already fired up about abortion. As a young person he's not alone. High school and college students made up at least half of the hundreds of thousands of pro-life marchers in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

Schuelke was one of the teens from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church who took part in the event. Youth groups from St. Michael in Livonia and St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington joined together to travel to the 36th annual March for Life that marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which in 1973 gave women the right to choose. They recently spoke about the trip that left St. Gerald with every bus seat filled.

"Abortion isn't really talked about," said Schuelke, a 10thgrade student at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. "We need to start publicizing what abortion is. The march is one of the ways to do it.'

Patrick Cummings not only demonstrates annually in Washington, but is out on the streets every Saturday morning counseling women on their way in to abortion clinics. The Westland man is one of the Guadalupe Partners, a nonprofit , organization that will present a Life Fair on March 1 along with St. Michael's Gospel of Life Committee, which sponsored their youth group at the march. The March 1 event is an opportunity to learn about right-to-life activism in the community. In

LIFE FAIR

What: An afternoon to learn about opportunities for right-tolife activism in the community When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 1 Where: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard at Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org or www.guadalupepartners.org.

addition to sidewalk counseling, Guadalupe Partners supports mothers emotionally and materially by delivering food and furniture and helping them get assistance, a GED or job training.

"Guadalupe Partners tries to support them to have their children," said Cummings. "The first time a mom decides not to go in you know you've saved a life. It changes you forever. More people would be against abortion if they knew the truth about how far the baby was along."

TEEN ACTIVISTS

The sea of young people attending the march gave Cummings hope for the future. It was his 16-year-old daughter, Alex Cummings, who enlightened Mike Shesterkin, her best friend's father, about abortion and the belief that life begins at conception. The Livonia man even voted against Barack Obama after he learned about his pro-choice stand.

"It was important to be counted among the many who were there," said Shesterkin,

said Sister Madigan, assistant youth minister at St. Michael, where she teaches seventh-grade catechism. "Last year, we were out there about seven hours but we were there for a good cause,"

This was the second year Amanda Posh, 17, and her mother, Annemarie, made the trip. Not even the memory of freezing cold and rain last year could keep them away. Amanda could have gone with classmates at Divine Child High School but wanted to share the experience with her mother and students in the St. Michael youth group.

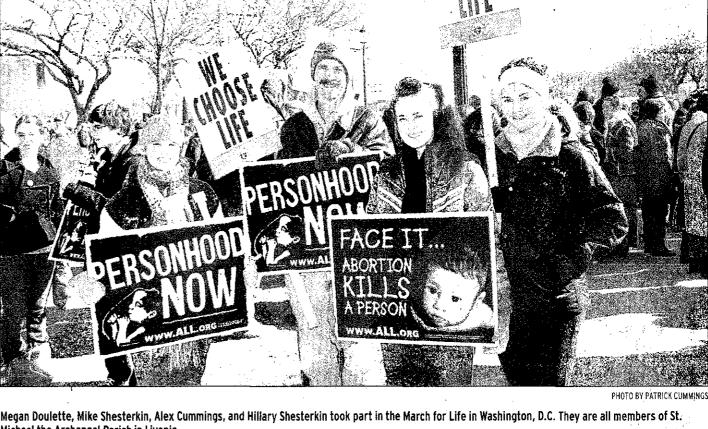
"Life is probably the most precious gift God has given us and I wanted to be there to protest," Amanda said. "I talked to my friend about it and she came with us, After I told other friends about the march and they want to go next year. There are a lot of people at school against abor-

PHOTO BY PATTY BREEN Members of St. Gerald Catholic Church's Youth Group on their way to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Pictured are Candace Majewski (left standing), Caitlin McInnis, (clockwise), Mary Taffe, and Carly Burke (left

Gabriel Project is holding a baby shower March 7-8 to collect donations of strollers, cribs, diapers, and formulas. For informawho value the gift of life from God," said Breen. "I remember my mom telling me what abortion was, I thought why would someone want to do that. Years later I think it's weird to think about who might be missing - your neighbor, your sibling, your cousin - if there had been an abortion."

Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia. whose daughter, Hillary, goes feel strongly about abortion. to Ladywood High School with "It's an ecumenical movement,"

front).







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Alex. "My daughter was touched

and inspired. It was an inspiring

inspired to see a number of legis-

lators there who continue to fight

Launa Wakenhut is just happy

to see the focus being put on the

"In years past, it was on the

woman's life and the thinking

was her life should come first,"

said Wakenhut. "Over the years,

a set of language has developed

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan

says it's not only Catholics who

that talks about the life being

BEYOND CATHOLICISM

for life. They're not giving up."

unborn babies.

taken."

experience for me as well. I was

Annemarie Posh sees abortion as a "cop out."

"I feel adoption is so courageous to give life to people who want a baby so bad," she said.

The big sign in front of St. Gerald lets women know help is available. The church's pro-life

tion, call (248) 477-7470.

Patty Breen can't imagine a woman having an abortion. The 23-year old Livonia resident is coordinator of youth ministry at St. Gerald.

"It was good for them to see hundreds of thousands of people

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241





W3

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A Note from Florine

OR

President's Day calebrates the leadership of America's two most respected presidents. This year, be your own Lincoln or Washington and take charge of your health. I can't say enough how important it is to work exercise into your life. Whether its 10 minutes a day of walking outdoors, or "window shopping" around the mall for 30 minutes, remaining active and raising your metabolism will make you feel



Horne Mark

888-3-FLORINE | 888-3-florine.com 6/2009 Weight

NEIGHBORS

B7 (*)

Sutton-Devlin

John and Wendy Sutton of Garden City wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sandra Jane, to Anthony Joseph of Livonia, on Oct. 4, 2008.

The bride graduated in 2005 from Garden City High School. She obtained her medical certification certificate from Schoolcraft College and is currently working in an urgent care clinic in Tucson, Ariz., and attending school to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

The groom, son of Linda and Joseph Devlin of Livonia, graduated from Livonia Churchill High School in 2004. He attended Schoolcraft College before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, where he is a C-130 crew chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

The Rev. Kevin Brown of Metro South Church of Trenton officiated the ceremony.

The bride was attended by maid of honor Rachel Telfer, and bridesmaids Amy Brehmer, Becky Pakos, Amber Devlin, Katie Ferrell and Kala Jackson. The groom was attended by best man Dan Rais, and groomsmen Jason Sutton, Tyler Tagami, Marc Couillais, Nick Davio and Brandon Genette.

Their two 'flower dudes,' who carried top hats with rose petals, were Benjerman Ferrell, 8, and Joseph Ferrell, 6. The ring bearer was Logan

MILESTONES



Ferrell. 3.

The reception was held at Joy Manor. The couple plans to reside in Arizona until Tony's tour of duty ends.

Walthers-Albrecht Mr. and Mrs. John Albrecht of Westland announce the engagement of their son Jeffrey Bryant Albrecht to Elizabeth Ann Walthers of Essixville.

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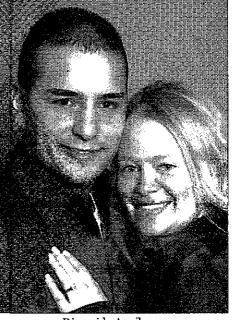
Elizabeth is the daughter of Dominique and Tammy Walthers. She is a graduate of Northwood University and currently employed at Delphi. Jeffrey is a grad-

uate of John Glenn High School in Westland and has a teaching degree from Olivet

College. Jeffrey is a math teacher at

Wysocki-Kenyon

Wysocki of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Melissa, to Robert Shawn Kenyon, son of Doris Kenyon of Wayne and Robert Lee Kenyon of Plymouth. The bride-to-be graduated from Garden City High School and now owns Hair FX Studio in Canton where she is a hair stylist. The groom graduated from John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. He is a police officer for the city of Westland. Their wedding is planned for March.



Riverside Academy. A July wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Essixville.



Reid baby

Francine Moore, who works

for the Farmington Hills

Police Department, and Don

Reid, of Redford Township,

announce the birth of their

6-pound, 8-ounce Spencer

son, Spencer Ronald Reid. The

measured 19-1/2 inches at his

birth, at 7:56 a.m. on Aug. 4,

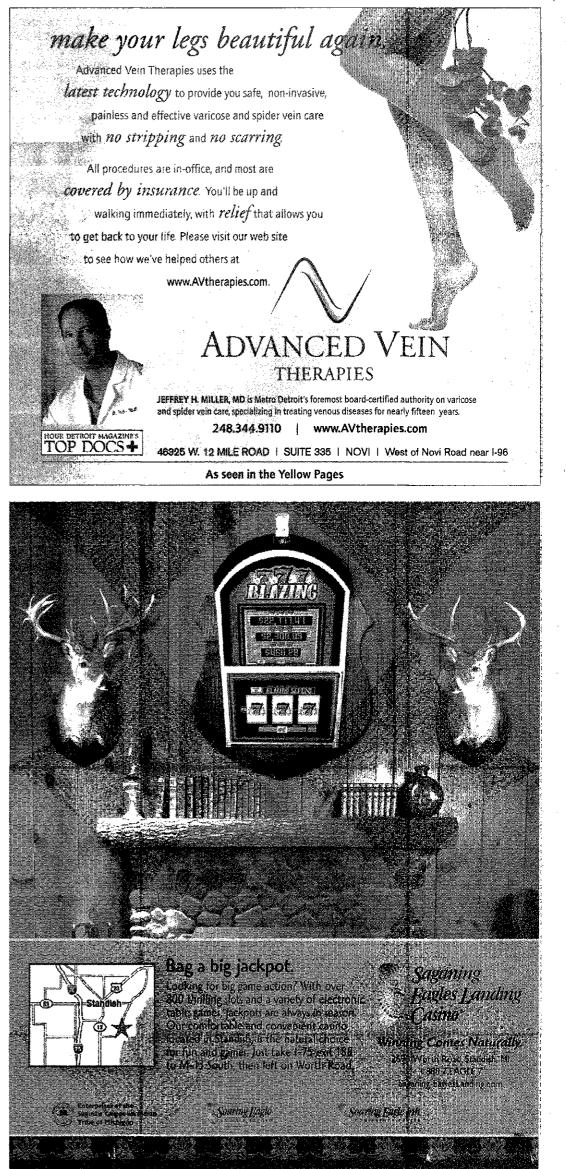
2008 at Botsford Hospital in

Farmington Hills. He is the

and Danielle McNamara.

grandson of Delores Moore and half-brother of Donnie Reid

Melissa Lanier and Nik Derouin of Plymouth announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey Leeza Derouin. She was born Dec. 16, 2008 at University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandparents are John and Anne Lanier of Canton and Bill and Mary Derouin of Fowlerville and Canton. Her great-grandparents are Larue Lanier of Waxahachie, Texas; and the late Clyde Lanier, Jean Dutton, David and Liza David, and Don and Ann Humphrey.



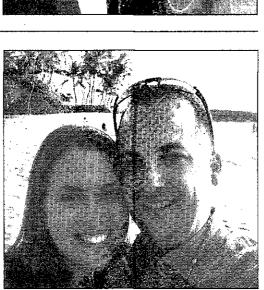
Kain-LaMontagne

Ellen and Robert Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory A. Kain to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland, son of Lynne and John LaMontagne of Livonia

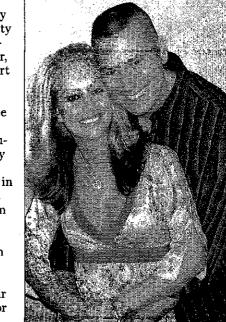
The couple were wed Nov. 8, 2008 at Christ Church in Redford by Pastor Mark Einem. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom's attendants were Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich. Following the ceremony, the couple received guests at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills and enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. They plan to reside in Westland.

Brown-Kramer

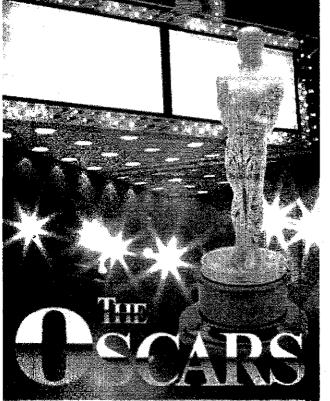
Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Rose Brown, to Joel Douglas Kramer, son of Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy. The brideto-be is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2003 graduate of Madonna University in Livonia. She works in corporate communications at Valassis. The groom graduated in 1994 from Bishop Foley High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in 2003 from Lawrence Technological University. He works as a structural engineer at SSOE, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. The couple plans to wed in October at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills.



Randolph and Cathy



Think you know who will win an OSCAR this year?



Go to www.hometownlife.com see the contest entry instructions and the complete list of nominees. If your picks are correct you would win a one year unlimited movie pass gift certificate for you and guest to Emagine Theater.

Correctly Identify the Top 6 Categories.

The person with the most correct answers wins the prize.

- Best Picture
- Actor in a Leading Role
- Actress in a Leading Role
- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role

In the event of a tie a tie breaker will be used.)

- Tie Breaker(s):
- Directing
- Music (Score)
- Cinematography
- Documentary Feature

(In the event that there is a tie, a name will be randomly selected) All entries must be received by Friday, February 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered.

Sponsored by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Mirror Newspaper, Hometown Newspapers and Emagine Theater (www.emagine-entertainment.com)

NEIGHBORS

online at hometownlife.com

MILESTONES

Baringhaus-Edwin

James and Charlene Baringhaus of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Baringhaus to David Edwin, son of Samuel and Kim Edwin of Troy. The brideto-be graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia in 2002, and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Wayne State University in 2008. She works as a pharmacy resident at the University of Michigan. The groom graduated from Troy Athens High School in 2002, and earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University. He works as a quality engineer at Terumo Medical Corporation. The couple plan to wed in May at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia.



Miller-Haglund

Steve and Sandi Miller of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Miller to Lars Valdor Haglund, son of Valdor and Iora Haglund of Farmington Hills. The couple plan to wed in September 2010 in Michigan.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860

INFORMATION AND THE INTERNET

The Internet is a valuable source of information on arthritis. The following sites allow you to quickly find the arthritis topic of your interest and the information they provide is clear

www.healthfinder.gov www.medlineplus.gov en.wikipedia.org/wiki/arthritis

mayoclinic.com For information on Southeaster Michigan programs in arthritis education, on activities for people with arthritis and a physician directory or area rheumatologists, go to the Michigan Arthritis Foundation home page:

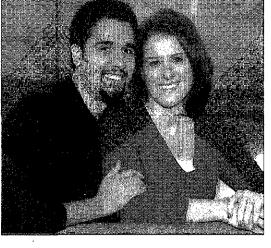
www.arthritis.org/chapters/michigan If you want more information, go to Google and use key phrases to find what you seek. For more technical and medical information, I would not go to PubMed, the traditional site, but to Google Scholar-advanced search.

I cannot provide a source that accurately rates physicians. Going to your health insurance site, will only give you the physicians in that health insurance company's network of providers. The methods the insurance companies use to rate their doctors is difficult to determine, but are not the ways that physicians assess their colleagues.

If you need a physician referral, the old ways are still the best ways: ask a doctor whom you know, or inquire from friends and relatives for a physician they would recommend.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com OE0864216

Call For Our New Earlier Times STARTING 6 a.M





Sieg-Oelkers

David and Molly Sieg of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Annette Sieg, of Philadelphia, to Peter Oelkers, son of Irmgard and the late Kenneth Oelkers of Montvale, Pa. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Redford Union High School and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She is currently a graduate student at Drexel University. The groom is a 1987 graduate of Pascack Hills High School and a 1991 graduate of the College of William and Mary. He is a biology professor at Arcadia University. The couple have a July wedding planned in Lancaster, Pa.

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafavette. Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124 or lchomin@ hometownlife.com.

FIRST STEP BENEFITS

Several long-time supporters are holding fund-raising events for First Step in the coming months.

The 19th annual Charity Dance presented by Brian Duggan takes place 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Visit www.firststepcharitydance. com for ticket and sponsorship information.

Zonta Club of Farmington/ Novi's Stepping Out in Style Event happens 6:30-9 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Parisian, Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Enjoy an evening of shopping, food, fashion, and fun while supporting First Step. Visit www.zontafarmingtonnovi. org for ticket and sponsorship information Tickets \$20.

For more information, visit www.firststep-mi.org.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

On Saturday Feb 21, at 1:30 p.m. the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present programs on "Using Legacy Family Tree and Family Tree Maker 2006 and 2009" at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. Brenda Halseth demonstrate Legacy Family Tree, an easy-to-use genealogy software program that will help track, organize, print, and share family history. Bill and Margaret O'Neill provide an in-depth look at Family Tree Maker - Version 2009 and discuss Version 2006, including a demonstration on how to use some of the tools within the programs. The program is open to the public and there is no charge. For information, call Liam Neary at (734) 464-4645. Western Wayne County

Genealogical Society meets Monday Feb. 23, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia." The main speaker following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting will be Carmen Collins on

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

p.m. Brenda Halseth will present "705 New Books on CD coming to the Livonia Library." She will show how to use this upcoming wealth of information. Meetings open to the public. Guests welcome. For information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/.

FROG SURVEYORS NEEDED

In as little as one month, the skies will fill with the calls of amorous amphibians. If you are interested in learning more about why and where frogs call, sign up for Friends of the Rouge's annual frog and toad survey.

"You need no prior experience, just some interest in the local environment. We provide all the information and materials needed to do the survey at our training workshops," said Sally Petrella, Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager for Friends of the Rouge and manager of the annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey.

Volunteers attend one of four Frog & Toad Survey Training Workshops in February or March to learn about seven frogs and one toad found in the Rouge River Watershed, the 466-square-mile area drained by the Rouge River. Attendees go home with an assignment to learn eight calls from a CD they are provided.

Once spring comes, they will be expected to venture out to a nearby wetland after dark and determine what type of frogs and toads are calling. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in teams, and children over 5 are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Register for one of the following workshops by calling (313) 792-9621 or e-mailing monitoring@therouge.org.

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.

RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Art Is In Market is having a

at Laurel Park Place mall, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia with a wine and cheese reception 3-9 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The gallery offers hand crafted art objects, jewelry, clothing, baskets, glass, floral items, photography, and paintings by Southeast Michigan artists. Paul Adams will reveal his latest print for sale, "Old Main," of Wayne State University and will offer some of his original works for sale.

Many of the other artists will be on hand for the meet and greet and will demonstrate aspects of their art. While there, check out the gallery's schedule of events and sign up for a class or demonstration to be offered later in the year. The store also has a Blog, http:// artisinmarkt.blogspot.com, with links to individual artist's websites.

DONATIONS HELP FEED HUNGRY

During the holiday season, which had many people worrying about the struggling economy and paying their bills, customers at Westborn Market helped the less fortunate by donating to Forgotten Harvest, www.forgottenharvest.org, a mobile food rescue organization in metro Detroit.

For the past several years the independent gourmet grocer has requested donations from customers to support Forgotten. Harvest's mission to feed the hungry.

In less than three weeks in December customers of Westborn's three stores, including Livonia, contributed nearly \$5,000. The money will enable Forgotten Harvest to rescue and deliver more than 28,000 meals.

THANK YOU

The community of Harding Elementary School in Detroit would like to say "THANK" YOU" to Livonia Franklin High School students and staff who work so hard to make life just a little brighter despite a time of economic difficulty.

The men, women, children, and young adults of the school work hard to provide clothes, toys, art projects and snacks which are often distributed throughout Harding Elementary, a school located in Northwest Detroit's



'Adoption Research" and her quest on her adoption. At 6:30

its move into a larger space

Grand Re-Opening to celebrate Brightmoor area every month.

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Core Rhythms is the revolutionary exercise concept that uses sexy Latin dance moves to raise your heart rate, while toning and tightening your entire core. You'll be swept away while getting a 360° total core workout.

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Certified Core Rhythm instructors are ready, exclusively at Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Call today and schedule your first session.



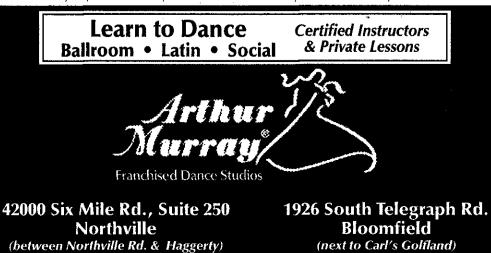
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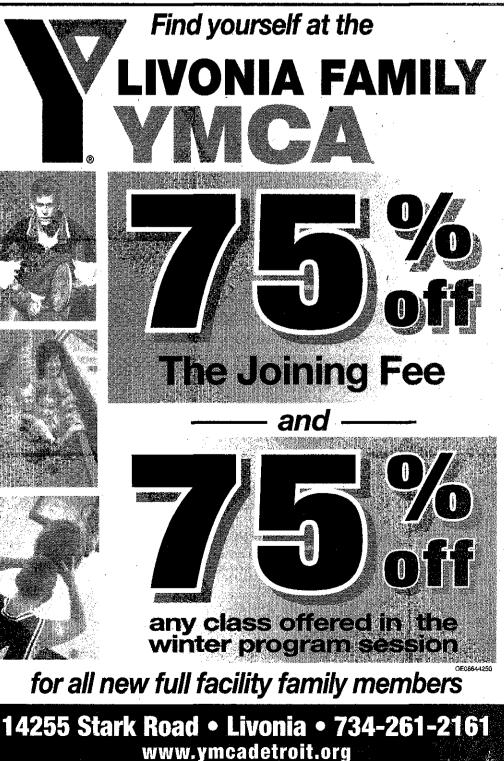
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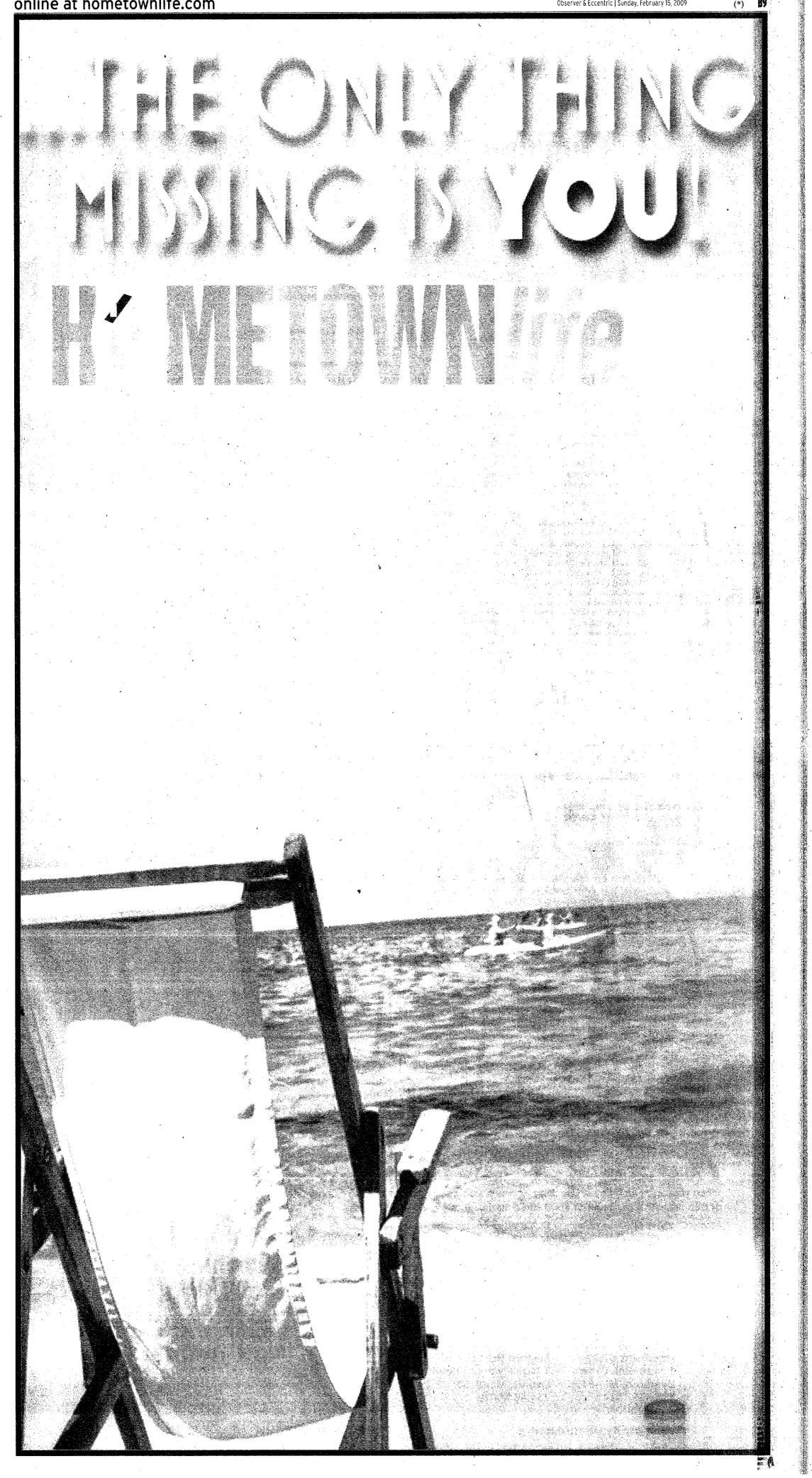
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(*) B9



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009

HEALTH & FITNESS

CLIMB DETROIT

at 10 a.m.

784-2018.

East Jefferson

What: A stair climb to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan When: Sunday, March 8. Registration at 9 a.m., first step

Where: Detroit Marriott tower

of the Renaissance Center, 629

ClimbDetroit.org. For informa-

tion, call Jessica Jimenez, (248)

Register: Online at www.



Heidi Scheer holds son Gannon who stopped speaking and faded into his own world at age 15 months. Scheer is one of the speakers at the first international conference presented by the American Medical Autism Board Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Conference covers alternative therapies

The American Medical Autism Board (AMAB) presents speakers on the controversial biomedical treatment options for disorders ranging from autism to AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and OCD Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

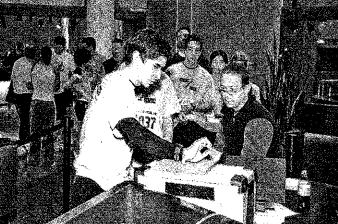
Register online at www. asdboards.com. Credits available for physicians toward AMAB certification.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FEBRUARY

Healthy relationships conference Wayne County Head Start hosts its Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationships Conference Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Dearborn inn, 23031 Oakwood Blvd. The conference is free for all current or former Wayne County Head Start parents. It begins at 12:30 p.m. and features workshops on marriage, raising a family, and relationships. For details, call 866-534-KIDS (5437).

Climbing for a cause



Rick Braun of Rochester at Climb Detroit last year.

Steps lead to research, education, advocacy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

When Laura Bertalan's 58year-old mother died from lung cancer in 2007, she felt she had to do something. She packed up and came home to Troy leaving her job as part of the producing team for The Ellen DeGeneris Show in Los Angeles.

Along with being closer to her family Bertalan wanted to work to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. At 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, she'll be one of hundreds climbing 70 floors of steps at the Detroit Marriot tower of the Renaissance Center to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan (ALAM) where she became marketing director in April. She's taking on the challenging 1,035 steps in honor of her mother Georgena Bertalan.

"I just felt I had to take action," said Bertalan, 32. "She was coughing and asthmatic and would have to go to the ER. They did a scan and found lesions. They tried radiation then chemotherapy, but it was stage 4. It was very aggressive. She died in three months." Georgena was not a smoker but inhaled second-hand smoke that's why it's important for Bertalan to support ALAM's work in research, education and advocacy. ALAM is part of a campaign for smoke-free air. The national ALA grades each state on the quality of air in its State of Tobacco Control Report. Michigan received an F in 2008.

"All of the money stays in Michigan for research on lung cancer, COPD, asthma education in schools and for adults, and the campaign in Lansing," said Bertalan. "Mom was a bowler, You can't go to a bowling alley without breathing in second hand smoke."

Many of the climbers have family members who died from lung disease. Rick Braun lost his grandmother to COPD weeks before the first climb three years ago. He trains by running up almost 200 stairs in Bloomer Park near his Rochester home.

"We'd be out and she had to sit down and catch her breath," said Braun. "One of the hardest parts is watching. You are so powerless. I'd hate for anybody to have to go through that and to watch people go through that if I can help. Even though I'm not a scientist I can do something just to get the word out, I'm a runner, It's perfect for others who like to run and compete. I'm trying to talk to as many people as possible, work my network of runners and those who are active."

Patty Brehler won't be running up the stairs this year. She'll have to walk because of her asthma. The manner in which she reaches the top doesn't matter though. For years Brehler was able to compete in long distance bicycle races, stair climbs and running marathons until being diagnosed with asthma. Maybe someday research will make it possible for medication to completely control the respiratory disease.

"People are put off by maybe how hard it can be but if you approach it as for a good cause and a fun day," said Brehler, 52. "If you train I think anybody can do it if you pace yourself and take a little break. I'm trying to get permission to walk up with the Leader Dog puppy I'm raising."

Brehler is still looking for climbers to join her team,



Laura Bertalan shared many happy times with her mother before Georgena died of lung cancer in 2007.

Patty's Pack. Like Braun, she trains on the stairs in Bloomer Park.

Participants without a plan can visit climbdetroit.org for a program designed by a personal trainer who's completed the climb. Jessica Jimenez thinks it's a great way to keep a new year's resolution to get in shape. Last year 521 people participated in the climb that attracts ages 12 to 80. About 400 have signed up so far. The cost to register is \$50 until March 4 plus \$100 to participate. Registration closes March 6,

"A lot of people do walks. This is a little bit more of a challenge," said Jimenez, ALAM development manager. "It's for people who do very little exercising to those who do marathons. It depends on how intense you make it. You can do all 70 floors or 40. Propelling your body up 70 sets of stairs is a much more intense workout than cycling or running. It's a timed event and takes 12 to 24 minutes to finish. There's a post climb celebration in the GM Wintergarden where visitors can come for \$5 for food and beverages to congratulate participants." For details, visit www.climb-

For details, visit www.climbdetroit.org.

For information about the American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org.

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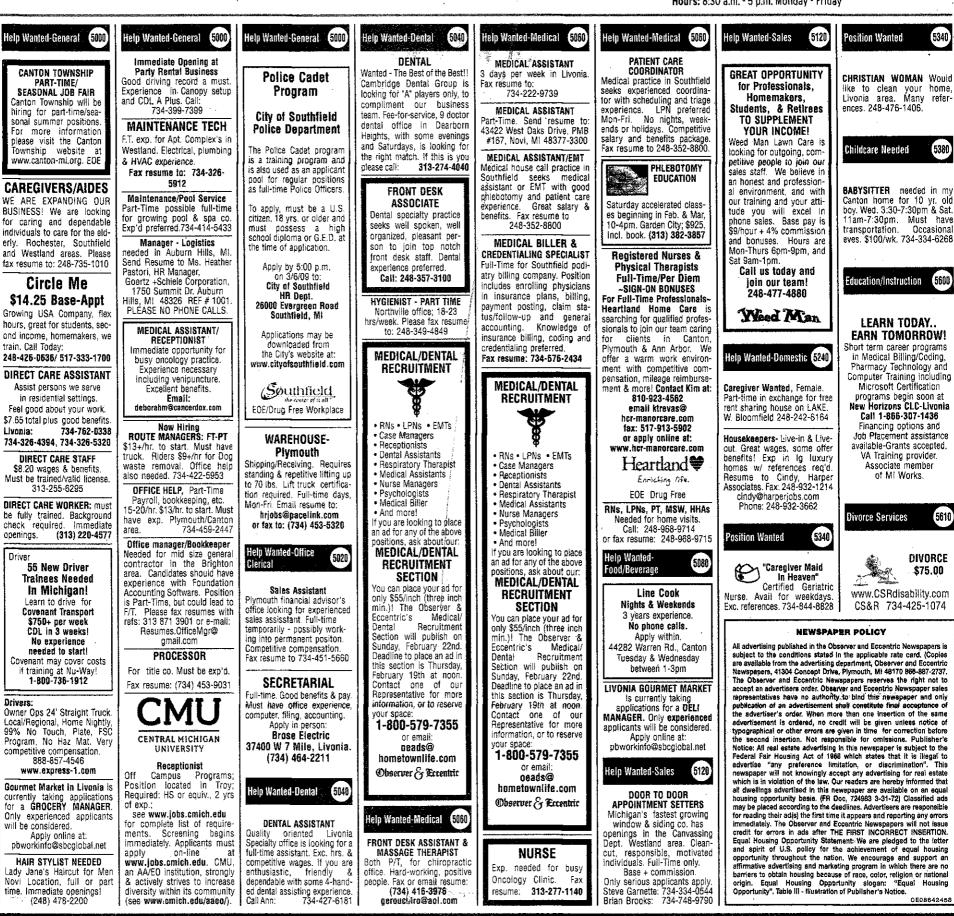
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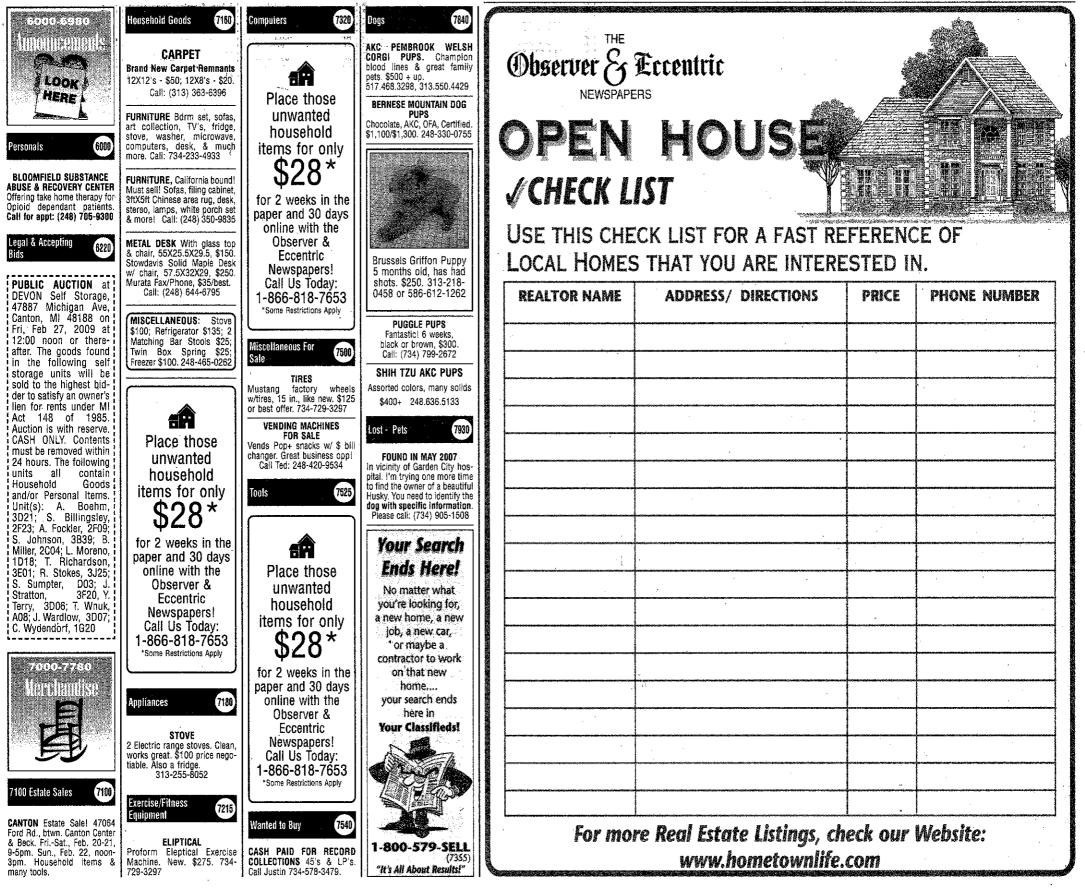






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Advertising Feature





By Kevin Koloian For Avanti NewsFeatures and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

For years Pontiac's tagline was that it is General Motors' Performance Division, though in recent years its vehicles haven't lived up to the claim.

That started to change last year when the 2008 Pontiac G8 sedan hit showrooms. It gained instant popularity for its rear-wheel-drive dynamics.

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

But for all of its praise, some wanted more power. And they found it elsewhere in its domestic rear-wheel drive competitors, the Dodge Charger and the Chrysler 300.

Now with the 402 horsepower 2009 G8 GXP, Pontiac can truly tout its performance lineage again.

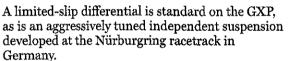
Pontiac has dropped the 2008 Corvette's 6.2liter LS3 V8 engine into the G8 GXP to give it the oomph it needs.

This upgrade gives the G8 GXP a 0-60 mph time of 4.7 seconds.

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

We expect fuel economy ratings of a little less than last year's GT's number of 15 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway.

At around \$35,000 this car is notably cheaper than its direct competition the Dodge Charger SRT-8 that starts at about \$40,000.





The fully adjustable suspension consists of MacPherson struts up front and a four-link independent system on the rear, while a variableratio rack-and-pinion steering assembly keeps the G8 GXP tracking straight on its 19-inch 245/40 summer performance tires.

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

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

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

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

Besides the upgraded hardware, the 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP provides buyers with anti-lock brakes, traction and stability control systems, six airbags, XM satellite radio and OnStar telematics.

For those looking for less power, but the same rearwheel drive performance of the G8, Pontiac didn't stop at the GXP. A sport truck of the G8 will be available for the 2010 model year.

It's no surprise that Pontiac will produce another offshoot of the G8. It is doing what any other carmaker would do with a successful model – make tons of variations of it in hopes of selling more units.

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

The Commodore and the G8 are virtually twins under the sheet metal, although the Pontiac benefits from meaner exterior styling that hints at the brand's performance-oriented nature.

With the G8 GXP, Pontiac has done what it has promised for years. It has taken the driving experience of its performance series to a new level.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors for Avanti NewsFeatures and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications.

> 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP Vehicle class: Sedan. Power: V8 engine. Where built: Adelaide, Australia. Price: Around \$35,000.



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

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 15, 2009 (*) C7



