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SUNDAY March 2, 2008

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Former PCA teacher seeking reduced sentence from judge

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Stephanie Ann Stein will be back in court later this month asking a Third Circuit Court judge if he would reduce her jail sentence if she pleads guilty to four charges stemming from her alleged relationship with a 15-year-old boy.

Stein, 32, a former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher who once taught the student, is accused of having a sexual relationship with the boy from February 2007 to September.

Her attorney, Todd Flood of Royal Oak, has requested that Judge David Groner make a Cobbs ruling in the case, which would offer a glimpse at a possible lower sentence if the Canton woman pleads guilty to two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, each a 15-year felony; one count of using the Internet to communicate with a minor to commit a crime, a four-year felony; and one count of distributing obscene material of a sexual nature to a minor, a two-year felony.

In order to lower state sentencing guidelines, Flood must show that Stein, a mother of two, has substantial and compelling circumstances that would justify a lighter sentence.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden said there are no such circumstances with Stein, who allegedly had sex with the teen at his house, her mother's house and at a hotel.

"I cannot object to the defense requesting a Cobbs ruling so we have to go along with it," said Weingarden, adding that she feels the case is moving along slowly. "There was a deal on the table that dragged on and on for months and when we gave them a deadline, they



Stephanie Stein

rejected it. They are counting on the judge doing less than the 30 months (the state offered).'

Flood could not be reached for comment.

In the deal the state offered, Stein would have received 30 months to 15 years in prison if she pleaded guilty to one count of thirddegree criminal sexual conduct. According to state sentencing guidelines, Stein could be sentenced to nearly five years to almost eight years if she pleads guilty to all the charges, Weingarden

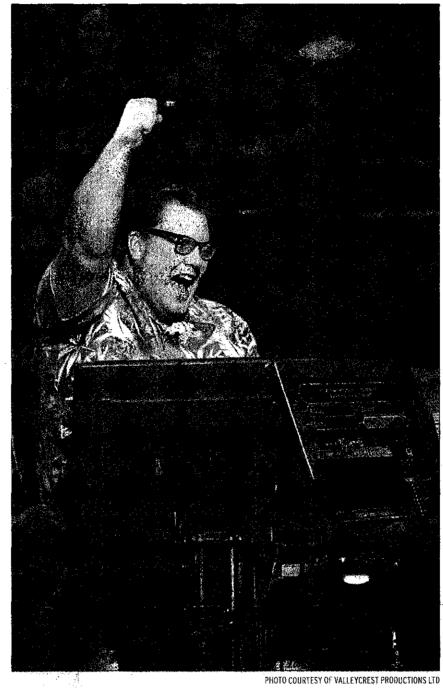
Stein's relationship with the teen unraveled when the boy's mother caught them at her home during the sum-

At the preliminary hearing in September, the boy testified that he had to convince his former teacher to be inti-

mate with him. "She said she probably shouldn't do it," he said.

The boy, who said that he loved Stein, admitted to being untruthful about aspects of his relationship with his former teacher and that he put a virus on her computer, so he could monitor its use. He also asked his former teacher to send him an explicit picture of herself to his cell phone and she complied.

Stein resigned from her part-time teaching position at the academy on Joy Road in June.



A shot at becoming a millionaire

Former Canton resident Charlie Esser, who is currently a stay-at-home dad living in Newark, NJ will be a contestant on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" on Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7. Esser grew up in Canton and attended Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth from 1980-1988. He graduated from Catholic Central High School in Redford, where he was a member of the Quiz Bowl team, focusing in Arts and Popular Culture. After attending Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University, he moved to New Jersey. He recently welcomed his first child, a son named Benjamin Esser, into the world. "Millionaire" can be seen on Detroit's WWJ (CBS), weekdays at 9:30 a.m.

Defense lawyer: Polygraph casts doubt on ID

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Accused killer Alexander Letkemann took and passed a polygraph test the results of which his attorney believes proves he was never in a Canton hardware store two days before the murder of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen.

Letkemann, 18, of Westland and 17-year-old Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township are accused of luring Sorensen, an acquaintance of theirs from River Rouge, to a Canton Township garage and killing him Nov. 7. Prosecutors say the pair then beheaded Sorensen and burned his body in an attempt to impede identification.

Orlewicz, a Canton High School student, and Letkemann, a former Livonia Churchill student, face an April 7 trial date on charges of first-degree murder, mutilation of a corpse and felony murder. The latter charge, originally dismissed by 35th District Court Judge Michael Gerou at the preliminary hearing, was reinstated by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry, who called it a "matter for the jury to decide.'

At their preliminary hearing in 35th District Court in November, Lucy Heenan, the store manager at a Canton ACO Hardware store, identified Letkemann as someone she saw in the aisle containing hatchets and torches.

According to police reports, Heenan told Canton police she "couldn't be 100 percent sure" it was Letkemann she saw in the store, and later admitted she may have recognized him from media accounts of the crime.

At the preliminary exam, Heenan denied making those statements.

In a motion asking Berry to suppress Heenan's testimony, Raymond Cassar, Letkemann's attorney, called Heenan's identification "suspect" and asked Berry to suppress it, based on Heenan's statements and the results of the private polygraph test administered by Leonard West of West Polygraph and

Please see ID, A3

School board closes in on new leader

OBSERVER-STAFF WRITER

A contract in principle has been reached with Craig Fiegel, the finalist from suburban Chicago the school board is considering hiring as Plymouth-Canton's next

schools superintendent. And, unless something dramatic occurs on Wednesday, when five of the seven Plymouth-Canton trustees

make a one-day visit to Fiegel's current district in Evergreen Park, Ill., it appears Fiegel will be hired to succeed Jim Ryan,

who retired Thursday.

"We talked to him (Fiegel) and we talked to the board about parameters (of a contract)," said PCCS board President Judy Mardigian.

"Our goal is to approve his contract at our March 11 meeting. It's all progressing."

Trustees have scheduled an executive session concerning contract negotiations after Tuesday night's budget work-

Fiegel earns \$180,000 as superintendent of the

Please see BOARD, A3

Yack focuses on fun for his final state of township

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While there's no scandal rocking the township administration, Canton officials are gearing up to face bright lights and be peppered with questions from an anticipating audience.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Township Luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Village Theater.



Yack

a lot of fun with this one.' With this being his last address as supervisor, Yack said he decided to stray away from the event's tradi-

to be a blast," said

Tom Yack, adding

will be set up like

a press conference.

ed questions (and)

"There will be plant-

we are going to have

that the presentation

tional format of just him on Township Supervisor

pressure on the (department) directors," he said. "They are normally in the audi-

ence but guess what? Now, they will be in the spotlight."

Yack, who said he usually begins preparation for the address in November or December, said the township has made an effort to have fun with the event and continuously improve it.

"When you do anything over and over, you get better at it," he "This is my last one so I get to put said. "In the early years, my knees were knocking and I even read (my address) for a couple of years.'

The event is expected to touch on public safety, leisure services and municipal services projects and finance.

"We are going out with a smile," Yack said.

To make a reservation for the luncheon, contact the chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

ANNUAL STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP LUNCHEON

When: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 5 Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill What: In addition to Supervisor Tom Yack's address, a buffet lunch will be served.

Cost: \$20 per person

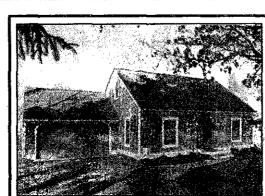
RSVP: Call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040 by March 3.

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Coming Thursday in **filter**

Rochester resident and Olympics champ Todd Eldredae returns home in the Smucker's Stars on Ice competition at the Palace of



Correction

The Plymouth-Canton AAUW production of Snow White will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 6-7, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium, 6500 Middlebelt. Presale tickets cost \$5 and are available at Fanatic U, 30409 Ford, Garden City, call (734) 266-0893; The Book Cellar, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Plymouth, call (734) 455-2665; and Perkos Shoes, 33426 Five Mile, Livonia, call (734) 427-3477. They also will be available at the door on performance dates at \$6 each.

Bentley variety show

Bentley Bobcat's Annual Variety Show and International Taste Fest will be held on March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Bentley Elementary School cafeteria in Canton. Bentley has students from many different backgrounds. To celebrate this diversity, Bentley's Festival of Cultures Committee has organized an evening of ethnic and other performances, which showcase the kids' talents. Following the variety show is the International Taste Fest sponsored by local restaurants and by the parents of Bentley. It is being sponsored by TC Gators, Mexican Fiesta, Benito's Pizza, Marco's Pizza, McDonalds and HP Products

If you would like to know more about the show, or if any businesses would like to sponsor in this great evening, please contact the chairperson, Anu George at (734) 981-7854.

LaJoy to read to students

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will read to Plymouth Christian Academy elementary students and their parents from 9:30-11 a.m., Monday, March 3, at the school library. Plymouth Christian Academy is located at 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The public is welcome to attend.

For more information, con-



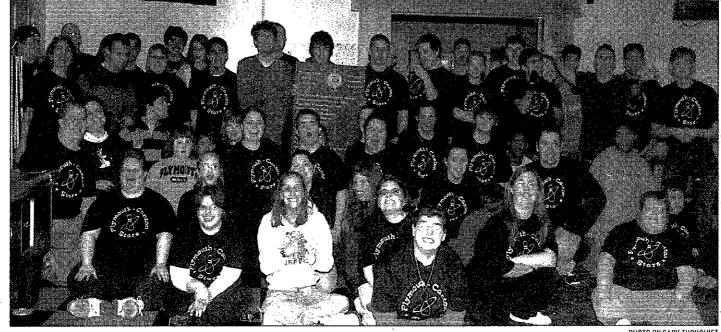


PHOTO BY GARY TURNQUIST

Special bowling

For over 30 years, the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club has sponsored Special Olympics Bowling. Some 45-60 enthusiastic bowlers can be found every Tuesday from 4-5:30 at Plaza Lanes on Plymouth Road through March 25. Special Olympics coach and program organizer, Maria Welgosh, announced that Plaza Lanes will also be the site for the Area Games to be held on April 26, with some 400-500 bowlers expected to participate. For more information, call (734) 459-1896.

tact Julie Dart at (734) 459-3505, Ext. 169, or Librarian Tami Fontaine at (734) 459-3505, Ext. 147.

Arts and crafts show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters will host their 4th Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, March 15 at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road (Beck Road south of Joy Road), Canton. Admission is \$2.

This juried arts and crafts event is held annually to support the music/band programs at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park. More than 90 quality exhibitors of handmade items will be featured. A bake sale, raffle, concessions, and entertainment will also be available. The event is hosted by the not-for-profit Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters, a 501c3 organization. All funds raised go to the band programs at all three Plymouth-Canton high schools, including the nationally-acclaimed Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, which ranked 7th in the nation in

For more information, visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft.

Hazardous waste collection

The Wayne County Department of Environment's Land Resource Management Division will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, March 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Downriver Community Conference Center, located at 15100 Northline Road in Southgate. This free event,

open to Wayne County residents only, is an opportunity to make your home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable or corrosive.

Examples of acceptable waste being collected on March 15 include; household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvents, nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, mercury fever thermometers, smoke detectors, computer monitors, printers, scanners, mice, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, copiers, and televisions.

Only household generated products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include; commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete.

For information on how to dispose of these items, a complete list of what will and will not be accepted, or about the March 15 collection, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936 or visit www.waynecounty.com.

PCA open house

Plymouth Christian Academy, located at 43065 Joy Road in Canton, is hosting "Walk In Wednesdays" on Wednesday's through March

19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an open house for prospective students and parents. Fall classes are still available for preschool, elementary, middle and high school.

To RSVP, call the school at (734) 459-3505. For more information, visit the school's Web site at www.plymouthchristian.org.

Mocha Moms meeting

Mocha Moms, Inc., a national support group for mothers of color and a 501(c)(3) taxexempt organization. is looking to start chapters in the Downriver and Canton areas. Please come out and learn more about this organization on at 4 p.m., March 2 at Starbucks in Canton (on Ford Road near Lotz). For more information, visit michiganmochas@yahoo.com or www. mochamoms.org.

Organic garden volunteers needed

Canton residents interested in helping to build and maintain an intergenerational community organic garden should plan to attend the "ground breaking" information sessions scheduled for Wednesday, March 5 and Monday, March 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Summit on the Park Ash Room.

Volunteers are needed to help plan and construct specially designed raised garden beds with accessible pathways for young children and older adults. In addition, garden plots will also be available for rent at various locations throughout the township.

This project is intended to provide a unique and calm-

ing place for children, senior citizens, wheelchair bound gardeners and volunteers of all ages to come together and garden organically. For more information on this project, please call Marina Harvey at (734) 394-5460.

Women wanted

The Canton Business & Professional Women (BPW), which promotes full participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women, will meet 6-8 p.m., March 10 at Palermo's Restaurant, 44938 Ford Road in Canton (located in the strip mall behind Murray's Auto Supply on north side of Ford Road- east of Canton Center Road).

Special guests will be The Petticoat Ladies as "Charmers" & Cranks". Dinner will also be served.

Please RSVP for this meeting by contacting June Nicholas by phone at (313) 610-2561 or e-mail at junenicholas@comcast.net. There is a cost for dinner.

Calling all artists

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is now accepting proposals for the 2009 exhibition season.

The deadline for submission is March 31.

The theater is interested in exhibiting both local and regional artists in all medias of artwork.On average, more than 5,000 individuals visit the theater each month. The Village Theater is a venue that comfortably showcases established, as well as emerging artists that have been recognized for their exceptional

Artists must submit slides or high quality digital images, contact information, current resume/biography, an artist statement, and availability.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located in Cherry Hill Village on the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. Deliver your submissions to the theater or e-mail your submissions to villagetheater@cantonmi.org.

For more information on the 2009 exhibition season, visit canton-mi.org/villagetheater or call (734) 394-5460.

Sagear scholarship

Students wanting to apply for the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship have until April 1 to get in their applications.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School Senior who has overcome adversity. We are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community.

The recipient of this award will receive a \$500 scholarship. This award is named after Sandra Sagear a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio.

Information and applications on the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship are posted at www.storytellerdesign.com/ SagearRotaryScholarship. pdf. Applications should be returned to Debra Madonna, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., 40200 Pinetree, Plymouth, MI 48170. The award will be announced April 25.

Tonda scholarships

The Tonda Elementary School Scholarship Committee is accepting applications and essays from now until April 9. Qualified applicants must

have attended Tonda for at least three years, have a GPA of 3.25 or better and have been accepted into an accredited college, university or trade school. Two letters of reference from a non-family member as well as transcripts must also be submitted.

Applicants will submit an essay entitled "Qualities of a Peaceful School."

Applications and further rules may be obtained at Plymouth, Salem, and Canton High School, or at Tonda Elementary School.



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Sunday, March 2

Livonia

(734) 427-8255

1-3 p.m.

Montessori Center 32765 Lyndon, Livonia

Thursday, March 6

5:30-7 p.m.

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School 45245 Joy Road, Canton (734) 459-1550



Karyl Niemi (center) receives the first ever Sharing Community Award from Canton Rotary Club members Lisa Kennedy (left) and Martha Snow.

Rotary Club honors local leader with new award

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

In addition to celebrating the 103rd anniversary of its international service organization Monday, the Canton Rotary Club presented its first Sharing Community Award to Karyl Niemi.

Niemi, a longtime Canton resident, is the owner of Canton Creative Marketing and has offered her time to several local organizations and initiatives, including the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Canton Community Marketing Committee, Rally4Canton and Leadership Canton.

In honoring Niemi, the Rotarians said she exemplifies and lives out the organization's four-way test, which asks the following questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

And will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Niemi, who is not a Rotary member and didn't realize she was being honored when her friend, Rotarian Lisa Kennedy, casually asked her to attend Monday's club meeting, teared up when she was presented with a plaque and said she was humbled by the recognition.

"She asked me to be here and I told her 'yes' but only if it's not a big deal," she said. "I'm overwhelmed and really honored. I only

Canton." Sue Kowalski, Rotary president, said Niemi was the ideal choice as the first recipient of the award.

do what I love and I love

"We are a service organization and we have talked about doing this for some time and we went through people that have worked tirelessly in the community and (selecting Niemi) was definitely unanimous," she said.

When Former Rotary president Martha Snow ran down a list of organizations that Niemi belongs to, she highlighted her work with the Chamber and her role as one of the founding members of Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle.

Snow said Niemi has worked "tirelessly" to benefit the community.

The Rotary, which has a mission of promoting ethical standards and advancing world understanding, meets at noon on Mondays at Carrabba's Restaurant, 1900 N. Haggerty Road.

For more information, contact Kowalski at (734) 968-1436.

Teens win symphony's Youth Artist honors

Five students shared some \$1,200 in cash prizes when the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society announced the winners of its annual Youth Artist Competition.

The competition is an annual concerto competition for piano and orchestra students in Grades 7-12. Students compete for up to \$1,500 in cash prizes and an opportunity to perform with either the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra or Orchestra Canton.

The winners will be presented their awards at the Plymouth Symphony. Orchestra's season finale, "American Romance," April 5 at 8 p.m. at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville.

This year, Ashley Harris of Livonia (flute) and Erica Qiao of Novi (bassoon) shared



first prize for the "Senior

ning \$350 apiece.

each.

Instrumental" division, win-

Violinist Nika Zhang of

Northville won first place and

\$250 in the "Junior Combined"

Kelly Kaiser and Amy Sun,

both violinists from Canton,

were awarded honorable men-

Artist Competition is possible

"because of the generous sup-

tions, with cash awards of \$150

PCCS officials said the Youth



Kaiser





port" of Evola Music, Plymouth

Rotary Foundation, Optimist

Club of Plymouth, Plymouth

Kiwanis Foundation, and the

Michigan Council for the Arts

and Cultural Affairs, a part-

"PCSS and its Board of

Directors have always been

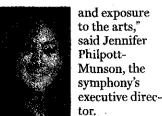
interested in increasing the

to young people, and present-

ing special children's concerts

ner agency of the National

Endowment for the Arts.



Qiao

"With five

outstanding Youth Outreach programs currently serving young people in Western Wayne, Eastern Washtenaw and Southern Oakland Counties, the PCSS is proud to be known regionally as the "music education symphony."

For more information on the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society programs, concerts musical opportunities available and events visit the symphony's Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org or call (734) to contribute to their education 451-2112.



Consulting in Farmington.

During that test, West asked Letkemann if he had driven * Orlewicz to the ACO and whether he had himself gone into the store. Letkemann, according to Cassar, answered "no" to all questions.

In a letter to Cassar, West wrote, "It is the opinion of this examiner, based upon the examination given, that the subject told the TRUTH to the above relevant questions."

Cassar wouldn't comment on the test because of the gag order continued by Berry on attorneys and law enforcement officials.

However, in his brief to support the motion, Cassar wrote, "Ms. Heenan's identification of (Letkemann) was suspect at best due to the statements she made during her identification."

Prosecutors reportedly declined to administer a polygraph of their own to Letkemann, and Berry denied the motion to suppress Heenan's identification. While the polygraph

does nothing to determine Letkemann's guilt in the case, it could be used, sources say, to refute premeditation on Letkemann's part.

Brian Stacey, a lawyer from Plymouth, said Friday he'd never seen a polygraph used in such a manner.

"I've never seen a polygraph used in that fashion, unless it was an ultimate determination of guilt or innocence," Stacey said.

"I've had many cases that were not pursued because my client took a polygraph with the prosecutor's office and passed it. Of course, every case is different, and I don't know enough of the details of this

Berry also denied motions to suppress evidence found in the Canton garage belonging to Orlewicz's grandfather, where the slaying took place, and to prohibit the use of the term thrill kill," originally used by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy to describe the crime, although she will require prosecutors using the term to back it up with evidence.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

1,900-student Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124. While Mardigian acknowledged that none of the candidates interviewed by the board would come to Plymouth-Canton without a pay increase, she declined to

discuss details of Fiegel's "concept" contract.

"The market has gotten a lot tighter, and it's definitely a shrinking market," she said. "Candidates definitely can command a higher wage than they could six years ago." Ryan earned an annual salary of \$161,000.

Mardigian said board members will meet with employee

groups, parents and people in the Evergreen Park community to find out more about Fiegel.

Fiegel cautioned board members not to expect too much from his elementaryonly school district.

"They need to be realistic, they won't see anything like to Plymouth-Canton," Fiegel

"I'll show them our schools, and I'll take them into the classroom to see some real quality education."

Fiegel said if he's hired by Plymouth-Canton, he'll start July 1 as his contract in Evergreen Park runs through June 30.

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The magic's in the bag

Canton artist puts her own style into handbag gig

BY KIMBERLY MORTSON OBSERVER CORRESPONDENT

Aladdin may have been best known for his magic carpet, but for Michele Kramp it's her magic bags.

A textile artist from Canton, Kramp has been designing oneof-a-kind handbags since 2003 under the name The Magic Bag Lady. Unconventional designs, recycled fabrics and unique embellishments are all trademarks of her custom handbags.

Born in Redford, Kramp moved to Canton with her parents, James and Georgette Craig, when she was 10 years old. Kramp says both of her parents encouraged her creativity at a very young age.

"My mom taught us to knit, crochet and sew. She's a strong, self-motivated woman and took great pride in how her three daughters looked growing up. From our hair to all the clothes she made us - we always looked so neat and put together," said Kramp

When she was in elementary school, Kramp first tried her hand at sewing by making her own doll clothes. After graduating from Plymouth Canton High School, she earned a degree in apparel design and merchandising from Wayne State University.

"It was my dad who encouraged my love of drawing, which I refined in college," Kram said. "He allowed me to use his drafting tools and made sure my school projects were done well. He had high standards for all his daughters. He would say, if you have the proper tools use them, no excuses.

In addition to drawing, Kramp took fine tailoring classes at WSU, where she learned all the old-school techniques such as welt pockets, handsewn buttonholes and draping.

"I became even more proficient when I used those skills everyday working for a couple of local tailors," she said. "Tailoring is much more mechanical and structural in nature but my sewing skills were so much better by the time added the Canton textile artist.

A STITCH IN TIME

In 1997, Kramp and her husband Matthew gave birth to their daughter Madeline.

"The first year of her life I made all of her clothes. I wanted to take the same pride in my daughter's appearance that my mom did for me and that I have done for myself," said Kramp. "At the same time I tried to make a go of designing and selling children's clothing at craft shows but it seemed like I never had the right size someone was looking for in something I sewed. So I made this little green bag out of fabric with fairies on it. It was perfect. So I made another and another and another."

Then in 2001, Michele and her family moved to Italy while her husband, a computer-aided designer, worked with an international company fabricating automotive door latches. Kramp says she became a "professional tourist" and immersed herself in the Italians' love of fashion.

"We went crazy buying clothes, sunglasses and shoes, Kramp said. "It was fantastic."

While touring the countryside with a Canadian family they befriended, Kramp became known for carrying everything they might need while sightseeing in her hand-

"My friend Lorraine started referring to me as 'the keeper of the magic bag," she recalled.

And the rest is history. Upon their return from Europe, Kramp revived her handbag designing and got to work improving the style, quality and structural integrity of her bags. Again, she tried craft shows as an outlet for her handbags but that didn't work

"People at craft shows wanted to see 10 of the same bags so if their friend bought one they could walk in and buy the same one. My bags do have some little similarities but no two are the same," said Kramp.

It's that level of individuality that fuels Kramp's creativity. Her handbags are based on current trends but with "a little rebellion mixed in.

"I combine what's going on this season and funk it up a bit,"

Kim McCord, a local pediatrician and internist, has purchased several handbags for herself and given them as gifts over the past 10 years.

"I don't know how to describe



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michele Kramp specializes in handbags that look like art.

it but I like what she does on a lot of levels," said McCord, a Plymouth resident. "She's got a good business idea, if you see her work you recognize it's very unique and I love that she recycles material. Her bags are fun, creative and artistic.'

McCord's 4-year-old daughter has several pieces from The Magic Bag Lady's "Fairy' series, which includes a ditty bag, backpack and purse. The fairy material was brought back from Italy. Kramp cuts out the fairies and often embellishes the miniature winged creatures with beads.

"My daughter loves them and they're some of my favorite," added McCord.

A signature of Magic Bag Lady handbags is the integra-tion of reused and recycled

"I get a lot of material from friends. Either sentimental pieces such as wedding dresses or neckties worn by someone's grandfather to the clothing my daughter is outgrowing. I'm cheap and I work with whatever I have. From an environmental standpoint - everyone has something they're not using. Instead of throwing it out they give it to me," said Kramp.

And if you look at the floor of Kramp's Canton studio it's easy to see she throws nothing away - even the smallest swatch of fabric has the potential to work its way into a Magic Bag Lady handbag.

Plymouth resident Diane Ulin initially met Kramp at The Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, first as a customer buying coffee, then Ulin says they became friends and now she's one of the biggest Magic Bag Lady admirers.

Ulin, owner of a film and video production company, recently purchased a pair of handbags for her clients as

"Michele's bags are truly unique. Everyone is so label conscious and has the same thing," Ulin said. "To have Michele create something that's one-of-a-kind - in an affordable way - is rare in and of itself."

Last fall, Kramp's friend and fellow artist Laura MacIntyre introduced her to Karen Thomas, the owner of Biddle Gallery (www.biddlegallery. com) in Wyandotte. Thomas opened the gallery in 1995 with her husband Ross. Original artworks by over 100 Michigan artists are available for purchase including jewelry, fiber,

furniture, glass and more. "Michele stopped by the gallery with another artist who was dropping offer her portfolio. The friend mentioned Michele made really cool handbags and was wearing one of her bags to prove it, said Thomas. "I love that the bags are made from recycled and sentimental textiles. Each bag is one-of-a-kind. Michele's handbags are functional works of art. The craftsmanship and attention to detail is outstanding."

In addition to running her own business, Kramp is a substitute teacher in the Wayne-Westland School District and a member of HATCH -

Hamtrack Art Collective (www. hatchart.org), a community of artists that come together to host group, solo and juried exhibitions at Café 1923.

WHAT'S IN THE BAG

All of Kramp's handbags have leather handles and grommets, are hand stamped with the Magic Bag Lady logo she designed herself and are lined featuring multiple interior pockets for everything from lipstick pouches to cell phone and MP3 player compartments. Embellishments have included silk flowers and men's neckties to buttons and CDS.

"I recently made a handbag for someone that featured a bunch of these old keys their dad used to carry around with him and it was lined with a pair of his plaid pants," she said. "They loved it."

Some of the most exclusive designs in The Magic Bag Lady collection are Kramp's coffee bean bags. She recycles the burlap sacks local retailers throw away that once contained beans from coffee growers around the world. Although burlap is one of the most challenging materials to work with - Kramp says no two bags are alike due to the unique brand names and designs stamped on the outside of the burlap sacks.

My customers love the fact that no one else will be carrying a bag like theirs. Michele's' bags are very distinctive - you know it's a Magic Bag Lady when you see it," added Thomas.

Kramp's 10-year-old daughter Madeline has undoubtedly inherited her creative spirit. She and her husband have done everything they can to encourage it and are very proud of her efforts. This spring Madeline will debut her own line of jewelry labeled "Whatever Styles." Her designs include memory bracelets, earrings and rings. The mother-daughter duo will sell Madeline's jewelry and Michele's other textile related merchandise (handmade wallets, change purses, notepads and note books) at Craft

THEN AND NOW

Here's a timeline of the handbag: 480 B.C.: Peasants in early rural societies used bags to carry seeds 14th century: The very first mention in written literature comes from the 14th century, even though Egyptian hieroglyphs show pouches carried around the waist. Embroidery and jewels adorned these articles and were used to show status - the richer the person, the more elaborate the bag.

15th century: The drawstring bag was a status possession. Wedding purses were a traditional gift from groom to bride.

16th century: Cloth bags were used that were made larger and used by travelers and carried diagonally across the body. Men continued to carry a little netted purse for money inside the pocket.

17th century: Small purses with more complex shapes were popular. Embroidered artwork becomes more popular in handbags. 1800s: Women now have handbags for every occasion. Reticules (handbags) are used for carrying rouge, face powder, a fan, a scent bottle, visiting cards, a card case, and smelling salts.

1900s: Handbags become more complicated with the inclusion of fasteners, internal compartments and locks. Now compartments are added for opera glasses, cosmetics

1920s: Bags no longer needed to match the outfit perfectly. Men discover the convenience of toting their belongings in a handsome hand or shoulder bag. 1940s: Handbags are made with the economy and the warm in mind. Metal frames, zips, leather, and mirrors were in short supply so manufactures used plastic and wood. 1950s: The foundations of handbag styles are set by designer houses including Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Hermes.

1960s: We see the breakdown of old notions of the classical and the rise of youth culture. Wild colors, fabrics and patterns.

Today: We now see handbags made from space age synthetics to handwoven straws - a handbag for every mood, outfit and occasion.

Uprising at Biddle Gallery. Craft Uprising (CU) is every third Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and third Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each month. The idea behind CU is to showcase indie crafters whose work would not normally show in the gallery and to keep the pieces afford-

To see more of The Magic g Lady handbags, visit www. biddlegallery.com or stop by the gallery at 2840 Biddle Avenue, downtown Wyandotte.

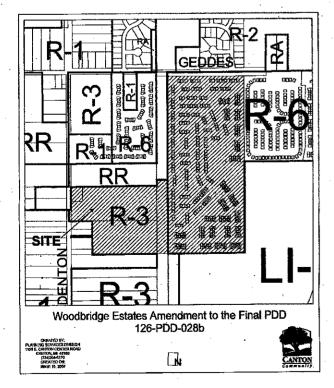
"I attribute much of my success to my parents. They instilled the confidence in me that I could do whatever I wanted. I think that rings true throughout my life and in my designs. They taught me I didn't have to follow a pattern in life...just like my handbags. They don't have to 'fit' anybody because they fit everybody," said Kramp.

If you are interested in speaking with textile designer Michele Kramp about The Magic Bag Lady handbags, please call 734.664.8636 or email themagicbaglady@yahoo.

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 17, 2008, in the *First Floor* Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.



WOODBRIDGE ESTATES PDD AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FINAL PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S). 126 99 0011 000 (4555 DENTON), 126 99 0013 003 (4711 DENTON), PART OF 126 99 0006 000 (48903 GEDDES) AND 126 02 0001 000 THROUGH 126 02 0476 000. Property is located south of Geddes and east of Denton Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 13, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: March 2, 2008

Observer

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NOTICE

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township, Department of Public Works, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Department of Public Works, 734-354-3270, Extension 3, for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

> MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: March 2 & 6, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: March 2 & 6, 2008

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, March 17th, 2008 @ 12:00 PM (Noon), Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, 6729 N. CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:00 PM.

Alan Ray Brown D153 10X20

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tools, 3 backpack blowers, tamp.

Publish: March 2 and 9, 2008

Reporting agencies must make credit histories available

Dear Rick: Is it true that you can get a free credit report? I see all these ads on the internet for free credit reports and I am somewhat

Yes, you can receive a free copy of your credit report. There are three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. Each is now required to provide customers, upon request, a copy of their credit report every 12 months. The key is you must request a report. To receive a free credit report go to www. ${\bf annual credit report.com\ or\ call}$ (877) 322-8228. These are the only places you can go to get a free report without strings attached.

There are many others that advertise free credit reports. Unfortunately, most of these so-called free offers have strings attached and in many cases hidden fees.

In the old days, credit

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

by potential employers. The bottom line is credit reports are used in situations that have nothing to do with credit and that is why it is important to make sure your report is

obtain credit.

Today, credit

reports are

insurance companies

used by auto

to determine

premiums. In

fact, credit

reports are

also used

accurate. If you find your credit is inaccurate, take steps to correct it. The Fair Credit Reporting Act outlines an individual's rights under the

Unfortunately, the process of removing inaccurate information can be a frustrating time-consuming process. However, the time

can save you a substantial amount of money.

One other frustration. A report can be accurate at one company and inaccurate at the other two companies. So it is important to review reports from all three companies. Do not request your credit reports all at the same time but rather stagger them throughout the

Dear Rick: I'm giving advice to my daughter who is 23 and has been employed full time since last year. Last year, on my recommendation, she opened a Roth IRA. This year her employer plans to offer a 401(k) and there will be no employer match. There are about 10 fund options for the new employees. My recommendation for her is to max out her Roth IRA first. What do you think?

I love the advice you gave your daughter. At her age it is a slam dunk that she funds additional money, then use the 401(k) plan.

My advice would only be slightly different if she had a matching program through work. In that case, I recommend funding the 401(k) Plan up to the match and then use the Roth IRA.

The advantage of funding the Roth before the 401(k) is having her money grow taxfree vs. tax-deferred. When your daughter eventually retires and begins to withdraw money from her Roth, the money can be withdrawn taxfree. Money in a traditional 401(k) is taxed at the ordinary income tax bracket. Typically, your ordinary income tax bracket is the highest bracket.

The one downside of the Roth you are investing post-tax money. In a 401(k) plan, you are investing pre-taxed money. By funding the Roth IRA first you pay a little higher tax today. The slight increase in tax now is more than offset by the

Roth IRAs, however, are not subject to required minimum distributions. Typically, when someone turns 70½ they must begin taking required minimum distributions from their retirement accounts. Roth IRAs grow tax-free for as long as you choose.

Take advantage of a Roth IRA. It's not too late to make a 2007 Roth IRA contribution.

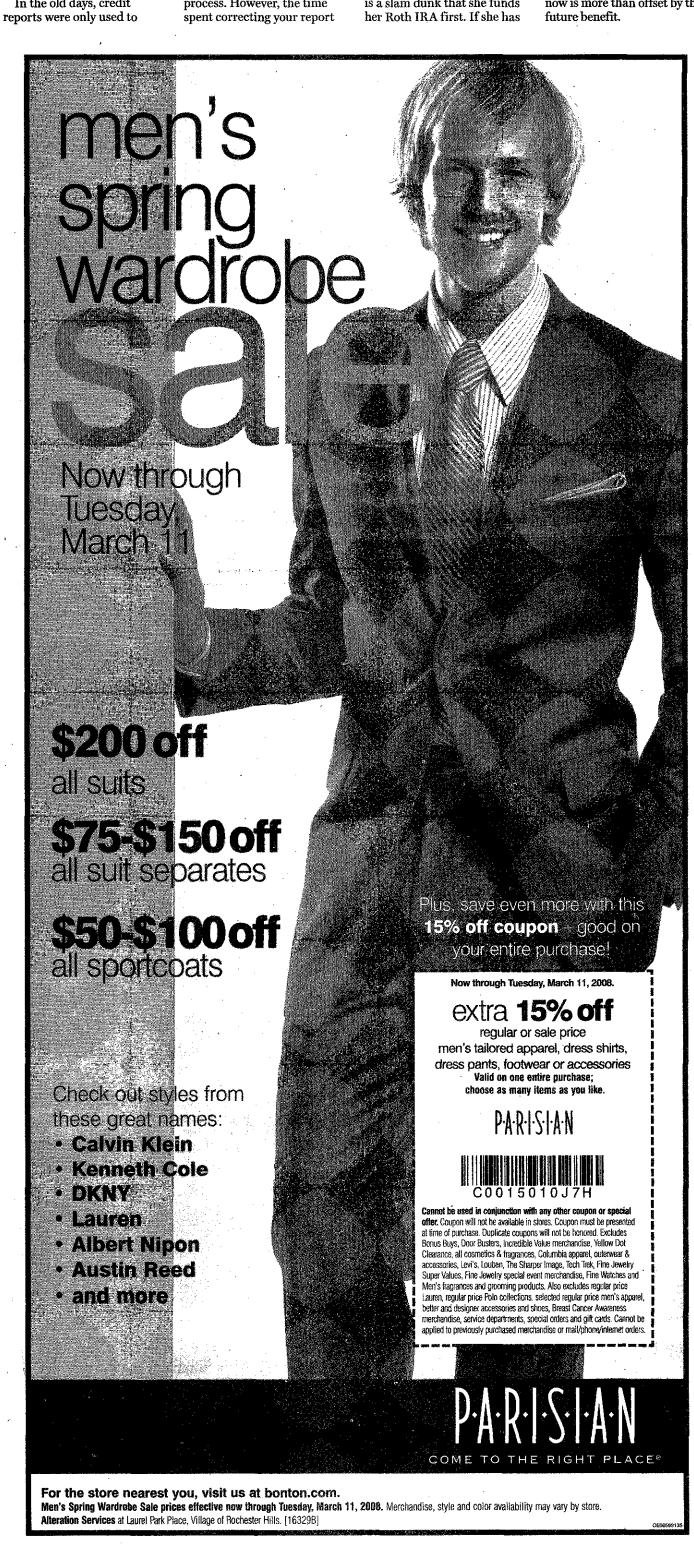
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.



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Ficano pushes Cobo plan in State of County speech

BY HUGH GALLAGHER OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano used his annual State of the County address Wednesday to continue his embattled fight for an expanded Cobo Convention Center.

The expansion of Cobo is not about headlines. It's about real people and real jobs," he told a standing-room-only audience at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Ficano has proposed a 120,000-square-foot expansion of Cobo at a cost of \$323 million. Legislation has been introduced to extend a threecounty (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb) hotel and statewide liquor tax for seven years to pay for the expansion. Legislation has also been introduced to create a convention center authority and to make Cobo a tax-free zone.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has been a steady vocal critic of Ficano's plan, challenging Ficano's financing arrangements. Recently, Detroit political leaders have criticized the plan for creating an authority that would take ownership of the hall away from the city.

On Feb. 22, Gov. Jennifer Granholm met with representatives from the three counties and the city of Detroit to begin preliminary discussions about their differences.

On Wednesday, Ficano recognized several supporters from Oakland and Macomb, whom he said would benefit from the expansion.

An opening film and several slides shown while Ficano spoke showed Ficano and Patterson enjoying each other's company.

"We're fighting to preserve our crown jewel and will not sit by waiting to see what happens," he said. "We're going to make something happen for the good of our region and



Robert Ficano

Ficano and others argue that if Cobo is not expanded, the city would lose the annual North American International Auto Show.

"This show is worth nearly \$600 million to this region each year - the equivalent of five Super Bowls or 40 World Series games," he said.

Wednesday's speech did not contain the usual laundry list of new initiatives that spotlighted Ficano's five previous State of the County addresses.

He used the language of change and can-do optimism to describe the area's future in spite of recent hard times.

He congratulated county AFSCME union employees on reaching a tentative fouryear agreement, though some members were picketing outside the museum.

Accomplishments cited included the deal to buy the Guardian Building as the new County Building and ongoing discussions about purchasing the historic County Building, which the county leases from a private owner.

He also touted the county's TURBO program which provides incentives for redeveloping residential and business property throughout the county.

"Thanks to TURBO, we have: new retail projects in Highland Park and Detroit; manufacturing facilities in Van Buren Township and

Livonia; hotels in Romulus; and food service facilities in Canton Township and Taylor," he said.

Among those recognized by Ficano, were Deborah Rush and her three children, Shawn, Chris and Angela. The Rush family were the subjects of a story by Observer reporter Darrell Člem on the Wayne County Family Center in Westland during the holidays. Following the story, many area people came to the support of the family.

They were also recognized by Ficano.

New initiatives by county government and private developments in the county included:

■ Creation of the Second Chance Through Expungment Program (STEP). Residents who have only one, nonviolent conviction and have lived a clean life for at least five years will be eligible to set aside the past conviction.

■ IAV Automotive Engineering, a German-based company, will locate its North American headquarters in Northville Township this year. IAV will build a \$16.5 million R&D facility that would create 65 engineering jobs and 180 total jobs over five years.

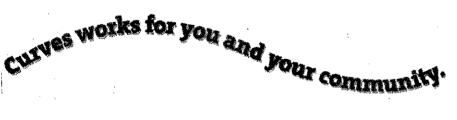
■ A proposal before the county commission to create a Job Creation Fund to offer financial incentives to bring jobs to the county.

■ Next month, the county will begin construction of a mile and a half long sewer extension for the Pinnacle Aeropark near Metro Airport.

"This will be the first major infrastructure improvement at Pinnacle and it paves the way for businesses to locate there as part of the aerotropolis," Ficano said.

■ Alternegy, a Delaware company, is building a 25,000-square-foot biodiesel fuels production plant in Romulus.

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The Kilpatrick scandal is far more than just bad publicity

wame Kilpatrick has really mucked it up this time.

There's no need to rehash the details of the mess he is in. By now even the Martians are talking about it. But this is far



Greg Kowalski

from over, and who knows what the repercussions ultimately will For all of

Michigan this is an embarrassment, but for the folks who live south

of Eight Mile Road, there could be consequences far beyond bad publicity.

Let's set aside the real crime here, that the mayor of Detroit apparently tried to destroy the careers of two good cops who were just doing their jobs, and look at what impact this sordid mess can have on the rest of the city.

For the past few years Detroit has been on a remarkable rebound. I've been watching it on the streets, where it really matters. Housing developments are going up all over the place. Condos, apartments, lofts — for heaven's sake - even a bed and breakfast — have been built. New businesses are beginning to creep into areas of Detroit, like the lower Cass Corridor, which I assumed were thoroughly dead. Ghastly ruins of deserted houses were being cleared.

This kind of redevelopment is as important, if not more so, than the much more highly visible showcase pieces like Riverfront Walk and the new casinos

A few blocks from where I live there is an abandoned hospital that was being systematically stripped of every scrap of metal inside. Hookers and crack dealers were using it. We held a community

meeting, which was attended by Detroit City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr., and pleaded with the city of Detroit to remove the barriers that were preventing a potential new owner from buying the building. He wanted to renovate it and turn it into a charter school but was blocked by Detroit and Wayne County bureaucracy.

After that meeting Cockrel met with the key parties involved to get the roadblocks removed.

He did.

Now the building is in the process of being completely restored. It's not an overstatement to say the neighborhood is being saved. I suspect there are more such stories in other areas of Detroit.

But now everything is being overshadowed by the scandal in Detroit city hall.

It is yet to be seen if major investors interested in Detroit are going to be put off by the continuing story. But what company wants to be associated with the Kilpatrick administration now?

Who wants to invest in the laughing stock of the nation, which is what Detroit is becoming? If the revitalization of Detroit does stall because of this horrendous story Mayor Kilpatrick should be held fully accountable.

It's a shame. I like Kwame Kilpatrick. He's extremely bright, personable and energetic. In another reality he might have ended up being one of Detroit's greatest mayors — the man who engineered the city's rebirth.

But now he should resign and be left as no more than a footnote in Detroit's history. Too bad. Too, too bad.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.

Board should OK academy expansion

You recently reported on the proposed expansion of Canton Charter Academy ("Canton Charter Academy looking to double in size," Jan. 20). You may be interested to know that more than 200 parents showed up at the Canton Township Board meeting on Tuesday evening, Feb. 26, to voice support for the project. This was a diverse cross section of our community and included parents of existing students at Canton Charter Academy and parents of children who have applied for the 2008-09 school year.

Twenty-four parents took the opportunity to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting and all gave very compelling reasons for why the township board should approve the expansion. Many of them, Canton Township residents who live in the Wayne-Westland/ Van Buren school districts, expressed a sincere and urgent desire to attend Canton Charter Academy. Others voiced their demand to have a choice in determining where their child goes to school. The parents believe strongly that because the township successfully addressed the traffic concerns associated with IKEA and other major building projects, they can certainly work through any potential traffic issues that may result from the school being expanded.

The parents spoke highly of the. reputation for academic excellence and moral focus that Canton Charter has established. They stated their belief that the expansion will act as an economic engine, as exceptional schools do, driving retail and real estate to the area. Furthermore, the school building will be funded by National Heritage Academies, not by local taxpayers.

The bottom line from the comments shared at the meeting is that Canton Charter Academy is a school that our community should be proud. If the township approves this expansion, the school will be able to serve more students this fall in a safe, secure learning environment where strong character is being developed and academic excellence is paramount.

This important topic will be going before the township board for a vote on March 11. We currently have 1,200 applications for next year, with only 80 open-

LETTERS

ings. On behalf of the many parents who township board to vote in favor of this

Claudia Williamson

principal, Canton Charter Academy

Thanks, Dr. Ryan

The trustees of the Educational Excellence Foundation offer our sincere gratitude to Dr. James Ryan for his service to our community. Dr. Ryan has been superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Schools for the past six years. PCCS was fortunate indeed to have such a wonderful man at the helm to help steer our schools in the direction they needed to go.

Dr. Ryan also served on the Educational Excellence Foundation Board as an ex-officio trustee, where he provided background and guidance regarding the district's status and needs. He kept us apprised in a genuine, but formidable manner, never passing the buck. We always felt well-informed because we knew that Dr. Ryan was an honest and forthright man.

Dr. Ryan has been instrumental in the growth of The Educational Excellence Foundation during his tenure. His support of our fund-raising ventures contributed to the foundation being able to provide over \$500,000 in the form of teacher grants and funding for the Summer Skills Academy. He participated in every one of our events during his term, and we will truly miss his jolly demeanor and wonderful personality.

Dr. Ryan has been an active player in the wider community as well. He has the ability to make those around him comfortable, and was always approachable. He continuously and successfully endeavored to make this district better. He will be missed by many, but especially by the trustees of the Educational Excellence Foundation.

Sharon Belobraidich

chair, Educational Excellence Foundation

Canton needs hospital

Canton needs its own hospital. I drive to St. Joe's for many treatments. Each time I look at all the land here in Canton and wonder why a township with almost 90,000 people would not want a hospital?

I hope these people who do not want wish to attend Canton Charter, I urge the Oakwood never have to lose a love one for a hospital too far.

> **Larry Luceus** Canton

Oakwood proposal is positive

It is great to know that a new Canton hospital is proposed for Canton. I and all who I have spoken with are very positive about the Oakwood proposal. So our recommendation is go for it.

Warren Tosh

Canton

Who's kidding whom?

One must wonder how disappointed the old-time Republicans must feel about how low their party has descended.

As if the present administration in Washington with its disastrous war, coming recession, unbelievable deficits and attacks on the environment and the Constitution were not enough, we have just as bad a group in the Michigan Republican Party.

In order to regain house seats lost to Democrats recently, they have targeted three Democrat representatives, including our Marc Corriveau, for a recall on the ground that they voted an increase of the Michigan income tax of less than one-half of one percent.

For most taxpayers, after deductions on their adjusted gross income, it will mean a little more than the cost of a Red Wing ticket and a pizza dinner. Those with low income or unemployed will be paying even less or nothing. For the State of Michigan, it is much-needed money to cover the deficit.

Who do these right-wingers think they are kidding when they claim they are doing it for our benefit? Well, thank you so much, but I am not happy with your using my tax money for a special election a few months before November to help you win back those House seats.

I am not easily bought by your vulgar appeal to my pocketbook and although I am in my 80s, I strongly recommend that when you send your signature-gatherer to my door, he better be wearing his running shoes.

Irene Piccone Northville







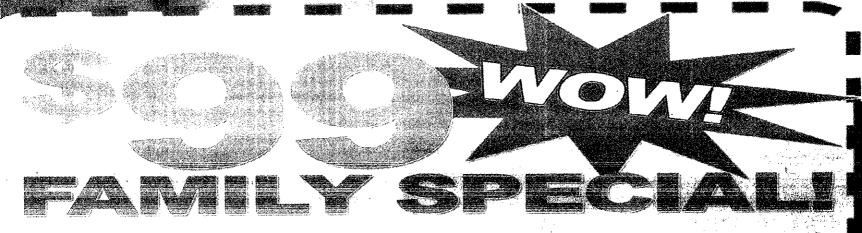




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Canton grapplers battle Davison to the end

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Canton's wrestling team didn't beat Davison Friday night in a Division 1 state quarterfinal match, but the Chiefs sure did make the state's No. 1-ranked team

Canton trailed the highly-touted Cardinals just 32-21 with two matches left before dropping a 41-21 decision in front of a packed house at Kellogg Arena, which is located in the heart of downtown Battle Creek.

Canton, which looked anything but intimidated by Davison's 31-1 record and **DIVISION 1 TEAM WRESTLING FINALS**

trophy case-ful of state titles, finished

It was the Chiefs' second appearance at the Team Wrestling Finals in the past three years. They lost to eventual champion Rockford in 2006.

"I think we turned a lot of heads and proved that we're a legit team," said Canton senior captain Rodger Kropp, who registered a pin over Kyle Thick at 171 pounds. "We prepared to beat them and we're all disappointed that we

Judging by the postings on state-wide internet chat boards, the Chiefs would have been lucky to reach a double-digit point total against their powerhouse

Canton interim coach Mike Pantaleo said that sentiment proved to be a motivating factor for his team.

"One of the key things for us tonight was gaining respect," said Pantaleo, who was filling in for suspended coach Casey Randolph. "No one gave us credit for even being here — we weren't even a blip on a lot of people's radar screens — and the kids were inspired by that. We knew we deserved to be here and we knew we

were going to wrestle these guys tough.

"If we had a few matches swing back our way, it might have been a different story. The name Canton is going to be synonymous with Battle Creek - that's what we're working for."

The Cardinals jumped to a 6-0 lead when Bryan Rickard pinned Canton's Carl Lucke in 1:16, but the Chiefs rebounded to deadlock the score at 6all on identical 4-2 victories by Donnie Watkins at 125 and Jeremy Filippelli at

Davison built a 23-9 lead by winning

Please see WRESTLING, B3

Class D District Basketball Finals



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Plymouth Christian senior co-captain Trevor Zinn lets his feelings be known after the final buzzer sounded following the Eagles' dramatic 58-55 victory over Lutheran Westland in Friday night's Class D District final at PCA.

Eagles complete an improbable journey to District championship

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

"Rocky", "Rudy" and "The Little Engine That Could" have nothing on the Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball team.

Not after the Eagles pulled off an amazing week-long underdog performance that was capped with Friday night's Class D District title-clinching 58-55 victory over Lutheran Westland.

On the heels of a 4-16 regular season, the Eagles captured their first District championship since 2000 in spectacular fashion when they overcame a nine-point halftime deficit against the Warriors to win with clutch, last-minute freethrow shooting and air-tight defense.

When the final buzzer sounded, the black-clad PCA student cheering section stormed the floor and embraced their conquering heroes.

"At no time this week did we ever talk about turning in our uniforms — we staved optimistic and the boys did an amazing thing by pulling together like they did," said first-year PCA coach Mike Doyle. "We lost a lot of close games this year. It seems like we'd play really well for three quarters

and not very well for one. We'd run out of gas.

"Playing at home in front of a large crowd was huge for us. Our fans came out in force tonight. They kept us energized with their support."

With the game knotted at 55-all and less than a minute to play, the Eagles' Spencer Wiard stole the ball at mid-court and was fouled while going in for a layup at the other end.

He made one of two free throws to give PCA a 56-55 lead.

Following a missed Lutheran Westland shot, senior guard Trevor Zinn snared the rebound, was fouled and made one of two free throws, giving the Eagles a 57-55 advantage.

Reid Barber added another late rebound and free throw with 2.5 seconds remaining before the Warriors' Sam Ahlsmeyer missed a last-second heave at the buzzer.

History was not on the Eagles' side heading into the tournament, Doyle noted.

"Redford Covenant, who we beat last night, beat us 64-30 last year," he said. "But the guys stayed upbeat and it showed."

Brent Zinn led a super-balanced PCA scoring ledger with 15 points. Trevor Zinn, Brent's older brother, added 13, Ross

Please see PCA, B6

Miller, Mullett lead Agape to 1st District crown

Extreme pressure turns coal into dia-

STAFF WRITER

On Friday night at Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, it helped the Canton Agape boys basketball team earn a gem of an accomplishment.

Playing against Allen Park Inter-City Baptist's full-court, in-your-face pressure defense, the Wolverines stayed calm, cool and collected while collecting a monumental 55-40 Class D District final victory. It is the school's first boys basketball District crown since it joined the MHSAA in 1993.

The Wolverines will take their 17-6

record — and a gym-ful of momentum into Monday night's Regional semifinal contest against Sterling Heights Parkway Christian at Birmingham Roeper High School. The time of the game was not determined as of Friday night's deadline.

The Chargers' season ended with a 15-8

"Tonight fulfilled a lifelong dream for me," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner, who started the school's sports program in 1987. "We've been affiliated with the MHSAA for the past 14 years and this is our first boys District basketball title. It's a landmark for the school and all the guys on the team are to be congratulated.

They pressured us the whole game. Mark Mullett, our point guard dribbled right through them so many times and he never turned the ball over."

Anleitner also had high praise for senior center Jared Miller, who netted 19 points and 15 rebounds despite feeling under the weather.

"Jared played an incredible game," Anleitner said. "He even blocked a couple of shots against Nick Packwood, their 6-5 All-State center. He was playing sick tonight — he had a sore throat and he was coughing like crazy - but he showed a lot of courage."

Agape led 12-10 after one quarter but trailed 23-21 at the half.

"I told the guys at halftime that we were right where we wanted to be," said Anleitner. "We were the big underdogs

tonight, so the fact that we were still in the game at that point was huge.

"They play in the MIAC Blue, which is the higher division, and they'd beaten us in the past by 20, 25 points.

The Wolverines sealed their historic accomplishment by outscoring the Chargers 14-2 in the third quarter and 20-15 over the final eight minutes, which featured several trips to the free-throw line by the winners.

Mullett finished with 16 points and Ty Majeski added nine.

Garrett Daniel led Inter-City with 19 points and Packwood closed his stellar high school career with 12.

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Plymouth's Pitts wears 'C' with pride

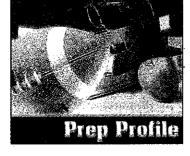
'Cats nipped by Falcons in Regional final. See story, Page B2.

> BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

How did the senior-year conversion from elite-level travel hockey to the high school version of the sport pan out for Plymouth's Jerry

About as well as it worked out for the Wildcats — splendidly.

Both Pitts and Plymouth's hockey team thrived this year as the former was instrumental in helping the latter rack up a school



record 15 victories before bowing out in Friday night's Division 2 Regional final to once-beaten Farmington Unified, 6-3.

The addition of Pitts and two

other long-time hockey standouts but first-year high school skaters - Colin Rolfe and Jake Jossey - proved to be invaluable to first-year Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender.

"Jerry's been a team leader from the start," said Fassbender. "He helped bring the team together at the beginning of the season and he's helped everyone keep their focus throughout the season."

Important 'C'hoice

Few decisions are more pivotal

Please see PITTS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

capacity - in Plymouth's record-breaking season.

Senior Jerry Pitts played a huge role — both on the ice and in a leadership

Softball Showcase

The Paramount Scouting Bureau and **National Scouting** Report will host the **Motor City Showcase** Friday, July 4, as part of the Paramount **Softball Showcase** Series.

The showcase, which begins at 10 a.m., will be held at Victory Park in Canton.

Professional scouts will rate all players with the top players receiving invitations to play in a national showcase.

A college recruiting session will follow the showcase.

For more information, contact Steve LaMay at (248) 249-0129 or slamay@nsrinc.com.

Diesels tryouts

The Detroit Diesels, a minor league football team, will be holding tryouts March 8 and March 15 — both Saturdays – from 2-5 p.m. at High Velocity Sports, which is located at 46245 Michigan Ave.

Tryouts are for men 18 years old and older. The fee is \$35, which includes a T-shirt.

For more information, call (313) 299-1277 or visit www. dieselsfootball.homestead.com.

Ignition honors

The Detroit Ignition's Major Indoor Soccer League team swept MISL Player of the Week honors last week.

Danny Waltman was named Goalkeeper of the Week after stopping 22-of-26 shots against Baltimore on Sunday. Included in the saves was Waltman's 1,000th career stop.

Droo Callahan earned Defensive Player of the Week honors after posting five blocks in the Ignition's 19-8 win over the Blast.

He also registered a pair of assists.

Ricardinho was named Offensive Player of the Week after scoring seven points on three goals against Baltimore.

His second goal of the night marked the mid-fielder's 50th MISL career goal.

Coaches needed

The Christian Football League of Michigan is looking for high school and middle school coaches for a new team in the Plymouth/ Canton/Livonia area. Interested coaches should download the coaching application and background check available at www.cfl-mi.com.

The Christian Football League of Michigan is set to begin play this fall.

Plymouth skaters give Farmington all it can handle before falling

BY DAN O'MEARA **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Farmington coach Mark Vellucci has often talked about his hockey team's conditioning level and third-period effectiveness throughout the season.

The Falcons certainly needed it Friday night to overcome an upsetminded Plymouth squad in a Division 2 regional final at Novi Ice Arena, 6-3.

With the score tied after two periods, 3-3, senior forward Andy Hall scored the first two goals of the third to give Farmington the winning advantage.

"We're all real proud of the third period," Hall said. "It was a good thing for the team to play a tough game. We won't underestimate anyone else, because we can see what could hap-

Hall scored the game-winner at 9:51 in the third from D.J. Vandercook,

who had three assists. Hall, who has knack for being in the right place at the right time, was there to knock in the rebound.

· His insurance goal came at 6:19 on a power play with assists going to Mike O'Neill and Vandercook.

"Our power play consists of me sitting in front of the net and screening the goalie," Hall said. "We have other players moving the puck. I set up for the rebound if it doesn't go in on the first shot.

"It's always a thrill to score, but scoring in the playoffs makes it that much better."

Plymouth killed another Farmington power play at 3:05 before Topher Gendron added an empty-netter for his second goal of the game with 1:21

After being outplayed in the first period and fighting to keep pace with the Wildcats in the second, the Falcons owned the third period.

In its second season as a singleschool team, Farmington (25-1-1) won its first regional championship and the first for any city team.

The Falcons move on to the Division 2 quarterfinals to play either Walled Lake Northern or Hartland 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Novi Ice Arena.

Plymouth (15-10-2) carried the play to Farmington at the start of the game and had two early power plays, which the Falcons managed to survive.

In the final minute of the first period, Farmington goalie Chris Newton stopped a breakaway by Jake Jossey, and Colin Costello got behind the Plymouth defense but didn't have the right angle for a shot.

"A 0-0 tie against a team with one loss in the first period? I'll take it," Wildcats coach Paul Fassbender said. "Then the gas tank started running

"I think we got tired (in the third period). The heart was there; the emo-

tion was there. We just ran out of gas." Fassbender compared Farmington being cast as a heavy favorite and Plymouth trying to pull an upset to an egg sitting on a counter.

'That team didn't expect to lose," he said. "They weren't scared of us. If we get a couple early goals, maybe we can get the egg to crack. Maybe they start panicking.

"Honestly, I think they overlooked us. Nobody expected us to get this far. We're a young team. We rely on a lot of sophomores to carry the bulk of the

at 14:48 in the second period with Jossey's goal from goalie Christian Blick. Farmington's Ian Ellis tied the score at 11:23.

The Wildcats were first to score

The Falcons took a 2-1 lead with Ethan Range's unassisted goal follow-

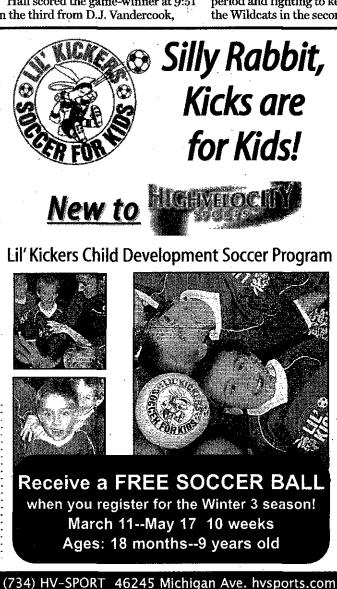
ing a takeaway in front of the Plymouth net at 9:12. It was the Wildcats' turn to tie when Jerry Pitts scored off a scramble in front of the net at 7:42.

Richard Cigile gave Plymouth a 3-2 lead with a power-play goal at 4:35, and Farmington's Gendron created another stalemate with his shot from 20 feet at 3:07.

Connor Dresser had two assists for the Wildcats; Plymouth's Luke Merandi and Pitts and Farmington's Matt Scott, Zach Jugan, Range and Joe Ramirez had one assist apiece.

Plymouth was minus one of its top players, Colin Rolfe, who had to sit out the final after he was ejected from the previous game.

"Anytime you have a guy like Colin and you give him a breakaway, it's in the net," Fassbender said. "We had two or three in the first period. Maybe we capitalize (and the game goes differ-



Plymouth icers dominate Pats, 4-0

STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's hockey team skated into the school's record books Wednesday night with style, flair and — most importantly — a grip on its first-ever pre-Regional title.

The Wildcats thoroughly dominated Livonia Franklin, 4-0, in a Division 2 pre-Regional final played at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

The victory propelled the winners into Friday night's 6:30 p.m. Regional final against 24-1-1 Farmington Unified.

Friday night's game will be played at the Novi Ice Arena, which is located on Novi Rd. between 9 and 10 mile.

Wednesday night's win upped Plymouth's record to 15-9-2 - a record number of victories for the surging Wildcats.

Franklin closed its season with a 9-14-2 mark.

"I feel great for these guys they've worked really hard all year," said first-year Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "They started the season in the shadows of the players on last year's team who a lot of people said

were bigger and better, but this year's team went out and got the most victories ever by a Plymouth team.

The kids played smart tonight and got the puck out of our zone when they needed to. They didn't take too many chances, stayed out of the penalty box and kept their composure."

The Wildcats outshot the Patriots 33-8 over the final two periods. Only a stellar performance by Franklin senior net-minder Austin Messler prevented a more lop-sided final

Leading the Plymouth charge were seniors Jake Jossey, a 5foot-10, 180-pound forward, and Christian Blick, a 5-10, 180-pound goalie.

Jossey scored the winners' first three goals while Blick – a late-season sensation between the pipes — stopped all 17 shots he faced.

"Jake always plays hard and has a nose for the net," said Fassbender. "He's really picked it up the past two or three games for us.

"Christian is an outstanding leader. He's very vocal and communicates very well with his

coaches and teammates. He's a great guy to have back there."

Jossey staked the Wildcats to a 1-0 lead 2:34 into the game with a goal assisted by Evan Swieczkowski.

He doubled Plymouth's lead to 2-0 with 2:6 to play in the second period when he rifled his team's 17th shot of the period past Messler. Swieczkowski and Noel Aspenwall assisted.

Jossey completed his natural hat trick when he controlled a pass from senior captain Jerry Pitts and deposited the puck into the back of the net top shelf. Colin Rolfe also earned an assist on the goal.

Aspenwall added an insurance lamp-lighter with 8:04 left when he scored on a rebound shot with the Wildcats two players down.

Franklin coach Scott Wirgau said the game was a disappointing ending to a season that saw the Patriots triple their win total from a year ago.

"I think Plymouth came out and expected us to play better than we did and we expected to play better than we did," said Wirgau, a first-year coach. "We were a lot flatter than they were and they seemed to want it

more than we did.

"We wanted Plymouth. We felt we matched up well against Plymouth and we came in on an emotional high. We had a really good game last Saturday and we had a great practice yesterday, so we were confident. Maybe overconfident."

Wirgau praised Messler, who stopped 43-of-47 shots.

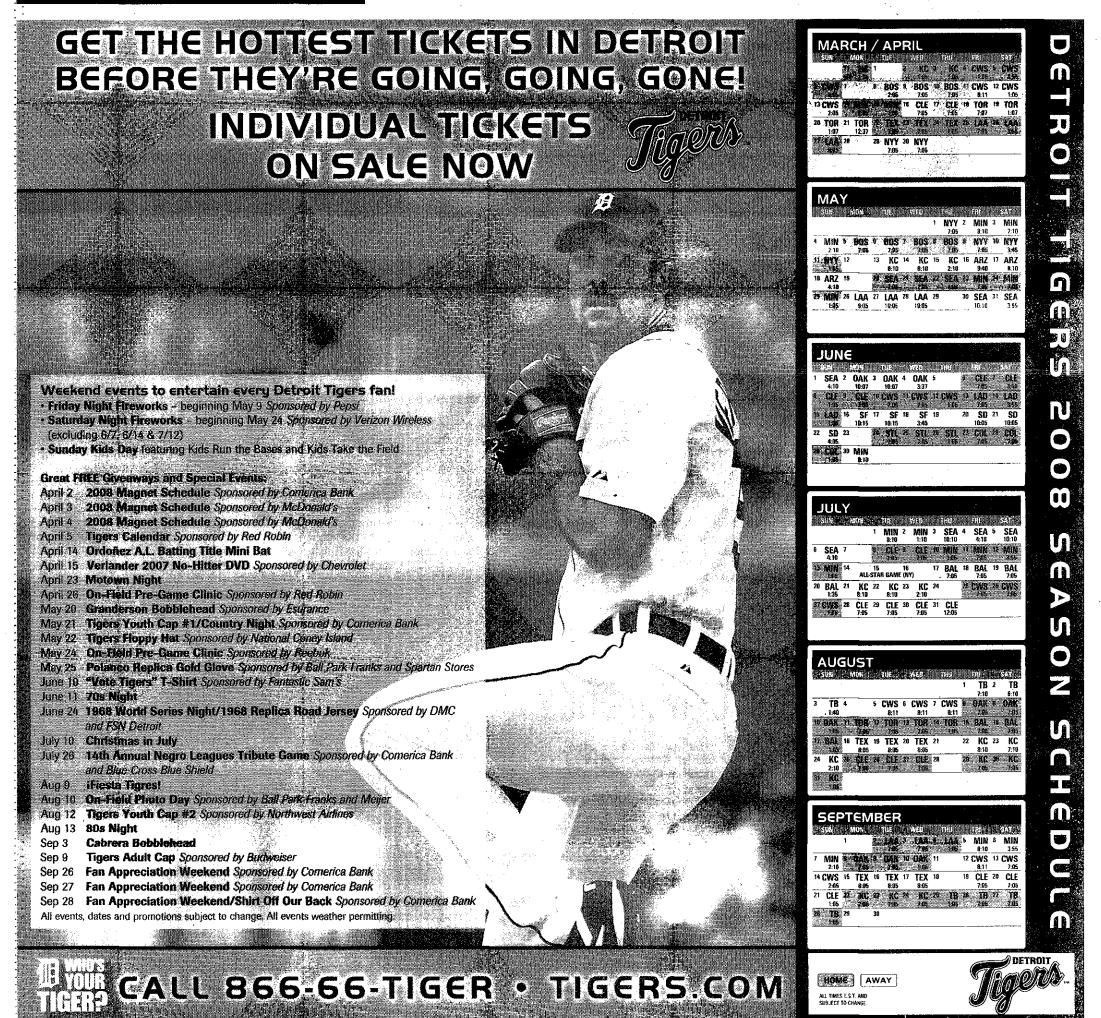
"He keeps us in every game we play," Wirgau said. "We're really going to miss him next year."

A scary incident marred the final minute of the game. Franklin's Carson Gurski was checked head-first into the boards behind the Wildcats' net. He laid on the ice for approximately five minutes before getting assisted off by a pair of teammates. Wirgau said Gurski had

suffered possible thumb, collarbone and back injuries. An ambulance arrived at Edgar Arena a short time after the game's conclusion. Rolfe was disqualified for

the hit and cannot play in the Wildcats' Regional final contest Friday night.

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(CP)

four of the next five matches. The lone Canton victory in the stretch was Brent Winekoff's

at 145. "Brent's wrestling really well," said Pantaleo of Winekoff, who improved to 46-4. "I expect him to go deep in the individual state meet

9-4 decision over James Hyatt

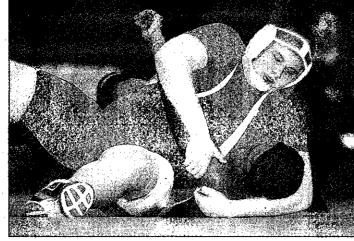
next week." Kropp's fall over Thick brought the Chiefs to within 23-15, however, Davison's Josh Connell won a hard-fought 9-6 battle over Adam Powers at 189 to extend the cushion to 26-15.

When Davison's Richard Kirksey notched a 1:04 pin over Dan Wanshon in the 215 contest, the Chiefs needed to record pins in the final three matches to stay alive.

Heavyweight Luke Konsitzke did his part when — while facing a 4-2 deficit in the third period — he put 30-6 Jared Cowan on his back and finished the pin at the 4:21 mark to make it 32-21.

"Luke battled all the way through to the end there," said Pantaleo. "He stayed in the match against a really good kid and once that big heavyweight gets on top of you, it's tough to roll back off.

"I told him, 'Put everything you have into it, Luke, and just



Canton heavyweight Luke Konsitzke, pictured above in a match earlier this season, notched a pin in the Chiefs' quarterfinal match against Davison Friday night. The junior finished the season with a 29-16 record.

hold him there' and he picked **CANTON 21** up a big win. That's something

FRIDAY AT KELLOGG ÄRENA 119 pounds: Bryan Rickard (D) pinned Carl Lucke in 1:16;

125: Donnie Watkins (C) decisioned Zach

130: Jeremy Filippelli (C) dec. Ryan

135: Zach ŁaBelle (D) dec. Steve Cox, 11-8; 140: Justin McDermitt (D) won by technical fall over Anthony Abro, 25-10; 145: Brent Winekoff (C) dec. James Hyatt,

152: Reyes Saldana (D) dec. Braden Price, 160: Nick Boan (D) pinned Keith Zech

171: Rodger Kropp (C) pinned Kyle Thick

189: Josh Connell (D) dec. Adam Powers 9-6; **215:** Richard Kirksey (D) pinned Dan

Wanshon in 1:04; 285: Luke Konsitzke (C) pinned Jared

103: Dakota Thronson (D) dec. Waleed

RECORDS: Canton, 27-8; Davison, 32-1.

bonus. "It was fun playing in

"Coach Randolph's always with us," he said. "His training is always going to help us on Faraj, 7-6; 112: Cody Robbins (D) pinned Connor the mat, whether he's here or not. I think we all wrestled for him tonight."

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for a first-year coach than whom he selects to serve as his team's captain. After careful consideration, Fassbender chose Pitts a move that turned out to be golden.

"Since I was new to the program and didn't know everybody, I watched all the kids' demeanor the first couple weeks of practice," he said. "I wanted to see how everyone carried themselves and how they interacted with the rest of the team. That's when I picked Jerry to serve as captain.

"On the ice, he's not the fastest skater on our team, but he's always in the right position and he can play physically if we need him to. He has a very good shot and he makes up for what he

lacks in speed with positioning and aggressiveness.

he can build on for next year."

one match later when Dakota

Faraj, 7-6, in an entertaining

appeared to tie the match with

10-3 pound encounter. Faraj

a late escape, but the referee

final horn.

ruled the move came after the

Randolph was not allowed

to be in Kellogg Arena Friday

night due to a 2007 infraction,

however, his spirit was present,

according to Kropp.

Thronson edged Waleed

Davison clinched the victory

Born to lead

The leadership role was a natural one for Pitts, who had served as a captain on numerous occasions throughout his youthleague years.

"Playing high school hockey this year has exceeded all of my expectations," said Pitts, who finished the year with 13 goals and 12 assists. "Even though we had a lot of new players join the team, our chemistry was good because I used to play travel hockey with Colin and I had played against Jake, so I knew what he could do.

"I think our success this year was due to good coaching and the fact that we played as a team. It's been fun." Pitts said the large, enthu-

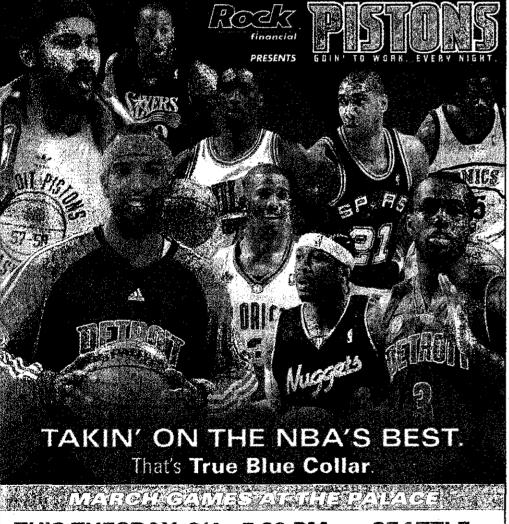
siastic crowds were a welcome

front of a lot of my friends," he said. "The people at school really got into the hockey team. Kids would congratulate me in the hallway after we won a big

Never a dull moment

When Pitts is not immersed in hockey — he's played virtually year-round for as long as he can remember — he enjoys riding his dirt bike on his family's 40-acre spread near Jackson and working at Mickey Shorr's, where he installs stereos and sound equipment into cars.

"I'm going to go to Schoolcraft for two years and then to Grand Valley," Pitts said, referring to his post-high school plans. "I'd like to major in business and maybe become a sales rep or some-



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

Preventive medicine

Drug could prevent kidney damage from dyes

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

Dr. Aine Kelly suspects the average patient is unaware of the risks for kidney damage from the dye used to provide contrast in computed tomography (CT) scans. Patients usually receive the dye or contrast agent intravenously before an angiogram, angioplasty, or CT scan which uses X-rays to produce cross-sectional images of the body.

The good news is that a recent study found that an inexpensive drug, N-acetylcysteine, taken beforehand can protect patients at risk of kidney damage from the iodine-containing contrast

Kelly, an medical doctor and assistant professor in the radiology department at the University of Michigan Medical School, led researchers in analyzing data from 41 randomized controlled studies of drugs to reduce the chance of contrast-induced kidney damage during angiograms which use the same dye as CT scans. She suggests patients ask their health care provider prior to undergoing a CT scan about the possibility they could be at risk for nephropathy, the medical term for dye-induced kidney damage. About 25 percent of high-risk patients suffer kidney damage from the dyes. In the study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine in February on the effectiveness of drugs for preventing

contrast-induced kidney damage, N-acetylcysteine offered protection and cost about 25

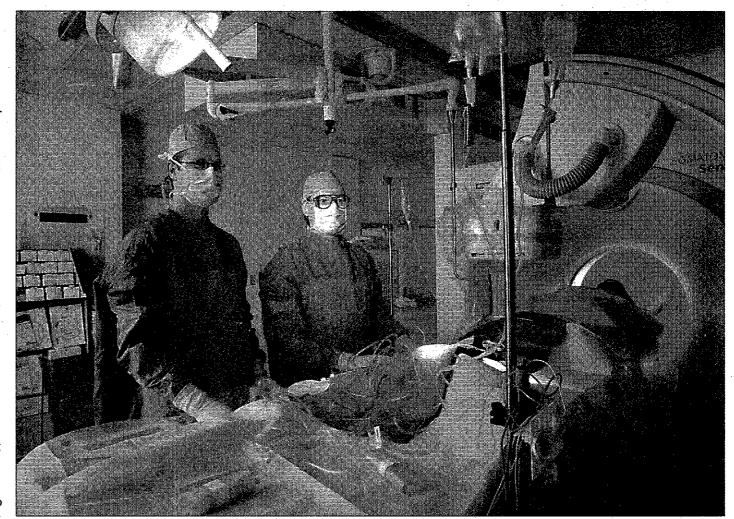
"The contrast agent impairs the excretory function," said Kelly. "The work unit of the kidneys is the nephron. Some blood vessels are constricted and toxic substances don't get excreted as well, stay in the blood stream and cause problems. In some patients there's a possibility that a transplant or dialysis might be needed. Sometimes it can be a life or death thing. If it shuts down completely, the kidneys could be permanently damaged."

Even patients without kidney problems should probably request a blood test to determine creatinine levels. A rise in creatinine indicates the kidneys aren't functioning efficiently.

"There is a small risk (even for normal kidneys) for about one in 10. They'll get it for two or three days until it is excreted in the urine," said Kelly. "My advice is if middle-aged or older, there's no harm to be aware of your kidney function. They should probably have kidney function checked.

"Second is to drink lots of fluid. It helps flush the contrast out. Drink lots of clear liquids not alcohol, but make sure your doctor doesn't have you on a special diet. A lot of times, fluid is restricted for kidney problems.

Although the initial analysis looked at angiogram data only, Kelly's future plan is to study CT scan patients



University of Michigan physicians use a CT scanner in one of the special rooms that contain both the scanner and angiogram imaging equipment.

to see if N-acetylcysteine or another drug like theophylline could lower the risk of kidney damage caused by contrast agents. Kelly specifically came to this country to do research at the University of Michigan after working as a physician in Ireland and then training as a radiologist in the United Kingdom. She decided to do the study after talking to colleagues who were giving patients Nacetylcysteine pre-scan. She was curious as to whether

there was evidence the drug offered protection against contrast-induced kidney damage so she could better advise colleagues and patients. Kelly says the problem of kidney damage is not a

"It's probably been happening all along," said Kelly. "The studies went back 15 years. CT took off in the '80s and early '90s. Angiograms have been around for 30 vears. I suspect patients are unaware of it from talking

with patients and my own friends and relatives."

The benefits of CT scans and angiograms still outweigh the risk of kidney damage from the contrast agent.

"In most situations when a CT scan is ordered it's to answer a serious situation," said Kelly, "a patient is suspected of having cancer or a clot in the lung, or a kidney stone which needs to be diagnosed and specific treatment begun quite soon."

Kelly is hopeful that

researchers will soon find a safer way to diagnose diseases. She has seen progress over her 12 years in radiology.

"Contrast agents are getting better," said Kelly. "We have different contrast agents. Contrast agents are becoming less toxic than they used to be. It's certainly become much less of a problem. Maybe we could make it such a tiny risk it would be less of a worry."

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Vibration platform tightens abs

Brad from Wixom e-mails asking if there is anything he can do to tone up his abs. He has been trying crunches and ab work, but he still feels flabby.

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Peter Nielsen

Researchers put

mice on a vibrating platform for 15 minutes a day for 15 weeks. At the end of the study they found the mice had 27 percent fewer abdominal fat cells. They also saw a decrease in triglycerides in the liver. Now those are some well-toned

mice!! One more note, the mice did not lose weight, but experts believe the vibration changes fat distribution in a beneficial way. Experts believe humans can achieve the same results. I have actually been on one of these platforms and it is a great workout! Pam from Keego Harbor e-mails about her teenage son. He smokes and she is worried he may be doing more. What can

Pam, it is crucial to get your son to quit smoking because it may lead to more unhealthy behavior. A new study found teenagers who smoke are five times more likely to drink and 13 times more likely to use marijuana. Experts believe the nicotine in tobacco products can produce structural and chemical changes in the brain that can cause teens to be more vulnerable to alcohol and other drugs. Researchers also found teenagers who smoke have a higher risk of depression and anxiety disorders. It is time to get them to

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Food for thought

Workshop with Dr. William Karl, D.C., on how nutrition affects health and longevity 7 p.m. Monday, March 3, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Rd.

MARCH

No charge, Call (734) 425-8588 for more information and to reserve your seat.

Exercise boot camps

Begins Monday, March 3, 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday (\$300) or Monday, Wednesday and Friday (\$180) for four weeks, and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (\$180), at Total Life Fitness Building, 9562 Telegraph, Redford. One day women only boot camp Saturday, March 1 (\$60). Space limited to first 15 people. Call (313) 561-LIFE or (313) 622-2837.

Breastfeeding classes

10:30 a.m. to noon Monday, March 3, 10 and 17, at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield, Classes for mother and baby are taught by public health nurses and cover everything from pumping to starting solids and weaning, Information targeted to first year of breastfeeding. For information or to register, call (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900, Ext. 84003.

Sharing & Caring

Dinner and support for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients and their partners with Annette Spencer, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Beaumont Hospital Cancer Center, Royal Oak, Sharing & Caring offers education and support programs for breast cancer survivors. For reservations, call (248) 551-

Fibromyalgia lecture

7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, with Dr. Peter lanni, a behavioral pain psychologist, present a demonstration of surface EMG and Biofeed back, at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. RSVP a few days before the lecture if you will be attending, by sending e-mail to smo23915@aol.com. Cost is \$5 to help pay for the cost of the room. For more information, call (248) 344-0896. Loren DeVinney, P.T. will discuss the role of physical therapy in the treatment of fibromyalgia and how Biofeedback and physical therapy complement each other in a multidisciplinary treatment program. There will also be a round table question discussion. New Fibromyalgia patients, spouses or friends are welcome to attend the meeting.

Workshop series

Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do, an ongoing series, is presented by Ronald Harrison, SW in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott, Ypsilanti. Part One: What To Know, runs 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, and provides information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. For details, call (734) 973-7892, send e-mail to jessa@med.umich.edu or visit www.

teensusinadruas. Think trim class

Give up dieting and find out why willpower or deprivation never work. Instead change your thinking about food and learn how to develop a healthy approach to eating and exercise. You won't have to give up the foods you love and you'll acquire skills to be trim and healthy for a lifetime. Class

takes place 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham (\$24). Presented by Lorraine Stefano, A.C.S.W. For details, call (248) 828-7333 or visit thinktrim.com.

Smoking cessation clinic

With Dr. Arthur Weaver 10:30 a.m. to noon March 7, 10-14, and 17, at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church fellowship room, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. For more information, call (248) 349-

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For more information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-

0750, Ext. 232. Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-

Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS Support Group features speaker Esther Morton on Pain Relief at Your Fingertips, Serenity ear acupressure program 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford. Donations accepted. Group meets monthly on second Thursday. For information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

Vegetarian seminar

Nutrition and cooking seminar 2:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church fellowship room, 4295 Napier, between Ann Arbor and Warren roads, Lectures by a physician and nutritionist will be followed by cooking demonstrations with recipes and menu plans. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. To register, call (248) 349-5683 or (313)

Art of aging

Ninth annual Art of Aging Successfully 8:30-a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Greater Grace Temple, 23500 W. 7 Mile. Detroit icon Sonny Eliot talks about his decades of working in radio and TV and his personal triumphs, and tragedies. Cost \$18 for age 55 and older, includes sit-down lunch. To register, call Donna at (313) 577-2297. Hosted by the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University.

PLAY Project Level I Workshop

With Rick Solomon, M.D., 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29, for Family members of children with autism and education and health care professionals. at The Futures HealthCore Therapy Center, 3231 South Gulley, Dearborn. Visit www.futurestherapycenter.com or call Dawn Ham-Kucharski at (734) 407-2500, Ext. 459.

Volunteers needed

For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29 to July 3), at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, northwest of Kalamazoo). Volunteer training from experts on epilepsy and camp procedures Saturday, June 28. Free room and board. For information or an application, visit www. epilepsymichigan.org, call (800) 377-6226, option 1, Ext. 231, or send e-mail to sdarroch@epilepsymichigan.org.

'Do You See What l See' campaign raises awareness about vision loss

Do You See What I See? For seniors who suffer with an eve disease known as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) the answer is always no because the central area of the retina known as the macula is losing function. The retina is made up of layers of nerve cells that sense light and allow you to see.

Picture a large black hole in the center of your sight that robs you from seeing complete images and eats away at your vision from the inside out. That is what happens for 10 million Americans who suffer from AMD, a devastating eye disease and the leading cause of vision loss in people 65 years or older in the

In honor of March's AMD Awareness Month, EyeCare America is launching a campaign to educate people about risk factors (age, race, family history) and treatment options. For seniors who have not been diagnosed with AMD, the national organization would like to connect those people with a free eye exam through its AMD EyeCare Program. The eye exams will be provided by more than 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists across the U.S. For more information, call (866) 324-EYES (3937). Eyeglasses, medicines, hospital services and fees of other medical professionals are not included.

"There is no cure for AMD, but early detection and treatment may lessen severe vision loss and slow the progression of the disease," said Dr. William Tasman, chairman of the EyeCare America program.

To supplement its award-winning referral program, EyeCare America has recently created a new Web site specifically designed to assist online users in learning more about eye problems such as AMD. The site, eyecareamerica.org, contains upto-date clinical information about AMD and other eye diseases reviewed by certified ophthalmologists with links to current treatments and an interactive tour of the eye's anatomy. Visitors can share important health topics with family and friends through a convenient e-mail forward function and order free brochures that give in-depth information on treatment, tests/ diagnosis, and causes and risks factors for a wide variety of common eye diseases.

Other easy to use functions include online tools such as a vision simulator which allows users to see how vision would be affected from common eye diseases, and informative videos created by the American Academy of Ophthalmology that will provide visitors with a complete interactive experience.

Established in 1985, EyeCare America, the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, is committed to the preservation of sight by providing eye care services to the medically underserved and for those at increased risk for eye disease. More than 90 percent of the care made available is provided at no out-of-pocket cost to the patients. EyeCare America includes programs for seniors, glaucoma, diabetes, AMD, and children.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 2, 2008

Jamie Arniel's goal with 1:16 remaining in regulation snapped a 5-5 tie and the Sarnia Sting defeated the Plymouth Whalers, 6-5, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 3,582 at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Plymouth is now 32-23-2-3, good for 69 points and fifth place in the tight Western Conference playoff race. Sarnia improved to 33-26-2-0, good for 68 points and eighth place in the Western Conference playoff race.

On a night when offense ruled, the last shot won and that was Arniel's, when he pounced on a loose puck just outside the Plymouth goal crease with Whalers goaltender Jeremy Smith down on the ice.

Sarnia star Steven Stamkos - whom many project to be the first overall selection in this summer's National Hockey League Entry Draft in Ottawa - continued to torment Plymouth this season with a hat trick and his 47th, 48th and 49th goals of the season. Stamkos has eight goals and an assist in five games against Plymouth this year.

Mark Katic (5) and Jared Gomes (18) scored the

other Sarnia goals. Plymouth received two goals and an assist from former Sarnia player Christian Steingraber (2-3) and one each from Chris Terry (team-leading 40th), Kaine Geldart (11) and Ryan Hayes (10).

The Whalers came back four times from deficits (1-0, 2-1, 3-2 in the first period and 5-3 in the third)

Trailing 5-3 after 40 minutes, Plymouth tied the game in the third period on Steingraber's second goal of the evening at 2:10 (snap shot from the high slot that handcuffed Sarnia goaltender Andrew Perugini) and Hayes' power play goal at 10:09 (rebound in front after Perugini made the save on a Steingraber point shot). That set the stage for Arniel's game-winner.

Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 48-27.

Plymouth is home this afternoon (2 p.m.) against Saginaw. Tickets can be purchased for all Plymouth games by calling the Compuware Arena at (734). 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.tick-

Ignition vaults to first with 24-11 triumph

the California Cougars 24-11 Friday night at Compuware Arena in the club's third consecutive victory.

ally broadcast on Fox Soccer Channel, gives Detroit a share of first place in the Major Indoor Soccer League with a 15-7 mark. California slipped to 8-14.

The first points of the match came from Ignition midfielder Ricardinho, a two-point score less than two minutes into the first quarter. California mid-

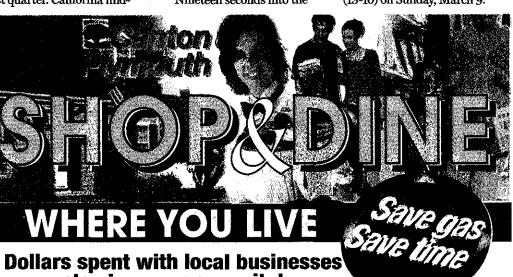
The Detroit Ignition defeated fielder Majell Aterado responded third, Brighton native Doug for the visitors at 5:42, notching two points off an assist from Semir Mesanovic.

With just 12 seconds remain-The victory, which was nationed ing in the first, Detroit got two more points on the scoreboard off the head of rookie Vahid Assadpour. Midfielder Ze Roberto assisted on the goal.

The second quarter belonged to Detroit as Worteh Sampson, Ricardinho and Jamar Beasley each scored two-point goals to put the club up 10-2 at halftime. Nineteen seconds into the

Rice put a two-point tally past California keeper Sanaldo, who played for Detroit last season. Less than two minutes later, Roberto increased the club's cushion to 13 with a three-point score that spurred the Cougars to bring netminder Matt

McDougall in for Sanaldo. The Ignition will travel to Florida on Friday, March 7 to face the expansion Orlando Sharks (3-20), and will return home to host the Chicago Storm (13-10) on Sunday, March 9.



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BABY'S FIRST TEETH

There is an old wives' tale that links how early a baby begins to teethe with mental development. The truth of the matter, of course, is that no such relationship has been proven to exist.

Parents will typically notice that their child's first tooth pushes through the gumline between the ages of four and seven months. The first teeth to appear are usually the two bottom front teeth (central incisors). About one month later, the two teeth flanking the bottom front teeth (lower lateral incisors) make their appearance.

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P.S. In rare cases, children are born with one or two teeth, or will have a tooth emerge within the first few weeks of life.

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Sarnia stings Whalers with last shot Eagles soar over Covenant in District semifinals, 71-61

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Brian Alexander carefully measured his words after his Redford Covenant boys basketball team lost 71-61 to Plymouth Christian Academy in Thursday night's Class D district semifi-

"Every coach doesn't want it to end," he said. "But take your hat off to Plymouth Christian, they took us out of our game.' The Spartans head coach then emphasized that his squad did not rebound, shoot well or play very good defense against the district host Eagles - who were powered by a raucous home crowd and 31 points by senior guard Trevor Zinn.

"Those things have been our Achilles heel all season," Alexander said. "It caught up with us."

Alexander did not give the home-court advantage much weight when discussing what sparked the Eagles, a team that came in with a 5-16 record.

"The home-court advantage didn't have anything to do with it, it's just that we weren't focused," he said. "And, Plymouth Christian did a great

He noted how the Eagles turned the tables on Covenant.

"They got the ball out quick, so we could not set up our defense," Alexander said. "And they ran a little bit. We had problems getting back, something that we normally do (to other teams)."

Plymouth Christian head coach Mike Doyle did give credit to the home fans, however.

"It was a big home-court advantage. They filled the whole student section and the fans were awesome and they rushed the floor after the game," said Doyle, with a laugh.

And that supportive noise ratcheted up his squad in the energy department.

"It gives us a lot because all year we've been playing two or three quarters very well, and in the fourth quarter we just run out of gas," Doyle said. "I think with that extra adrenalin, the crowd cheering, that gave us a big, extra boost."



PCA's Spencer Wiard grabs a rebound during Thursday night's Class D District semifinal victory over Redford Covenant.

Dovle, of course couldn't ignore other big reasons for the win. The Eagles more than doubled Covenant in the rebounding department (with 10 by junior center Reid Barber), hit many more free throws and rode Trevor Zinn's coattails.

"It would been his last game, he's a senior and he was on a mission for sure," Doyle said. 'He played the whole game, he didn't come out one time."

The Eagles started strong, racing out to a 12-2 lead that featured back-to-back treys by Trevor Zinn and his junior brother, Brent Zinn (13 points, seven rebounds).

It was 17-12 after the first, following a brief Covenant rally. Chester (17 points) nailed a triple, sophomore wing guard Lawrence Ridgell (16 points) converted a put-back and freshman point guard Ben Kil (11 points) connected on a beautiful, spin-a-rama jump shot from the paint after taking a nifty

inside feed from senior guard DeAndre Bracken.

The Spartans forced a 36-36 halftime tie after a better showing in the second, with six points each by Chester, sophomore guard Julian Ridgell (who finished with nine) and five by

But Covenant never really seemed to get in sync, even after moving ahead 44-40 midway through the third following a great play by Bracken. He picked off an in-bounds pass in the Plymouth Christian end and dished through traffic to Julian Ridgell for a layup.

An example of how the Spartans couldn't sustain anything positive took place late in the first half.

After an Eagle missed a free throw, Chester pulled down the rebound. But then he came down on the foot of a Plymouth Christian player and slipped - enough to be whistled for traveling.

FROM PAGE B1

Gerulis twined 11 and Wiard chipped in with nine. Barber led all rebounders

with eight. Ahlsmeyer paced the

The Eagles sank just 13-of-26 free throws. LW was 15-of-22 from the stripe.

Kruger contributed 12.

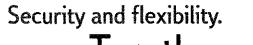
Warriors with 14 points. Jake

PCA will take a 7-16 record into Monday night's Regional semifinal game

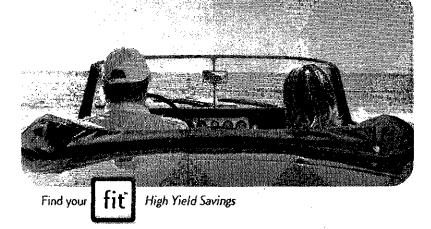
at Birmingham Roeper. Its opponent and the time of the contest was not known as of Friday night's deadline.

Lutheran Westland closed with a 6-15 mark.

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Sunday, March 2, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Christian Cash as Jean-Paul Marat and Stephanie Lee as Simonne Evrard rehearse a scene from 'Marat/Sade,' a drama which takes place in an insane asylum. Marat is stabbed to death by Charlotte Corday (played by Melissa Humphrey, not pictured) while taking a bath.

TIME TO MAGIOSS

'Marat/Sade' deals with dark side of human nature

BY LINDA ANN CHOMINOBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michael Ludlum likes to think of Hannibal Lecter, the serial killer in the The Silence of the Lambs, when re-creating the Marquis de Sade. The Canton man plays the French aristocrat in the Schoolcraft College production of Marat/Sade opening March 21.

Marat/Sade is a play within a play and based in part on history. De Sade, for whom sadism was named, wrote plays while an inmate in an insane asylum in Paris. Set in 1808 in an asylum where patients are putting on a play, the drama culminates with the assassination of revolutionary journalist Jean-Paul Marat in a flashback to 1793. Marat and de Sade spend much of the play debating relevant issues of the time.

Besides learning his lines Ludlum had to research the period after the French Revolution. He is a part-time Web development instructor at the college who's fairly new to acting. He appeared in his first Schoolcraft play, Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, last season.

"I analyzed the character and the historical figure," said Ludlum. "The Marquis de Sade wrote things in a very manipulative way to enforce his beliefs."

'MARAT/SADE'

What: Peter Weiss' drama about the Marquis de Sade, Jean-Paul Marat and patients in an insane asylum in early 1800s France

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 21-22 and March 28-29 (dinner theater), and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 4-5 (performance only)

Where: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

Tickets: \$24 (dinner theater), \$12 (performance only). Vegetarian dinner available. Call (734) 462-4596.

James Hartman did his research before he took on the job of directing Peter Weiss' play at the University of Cincinnati many years ago. This is the third time the Schoolcraft College professor has staged the play. He warns, the production is not for children. Hartman remembers walking to the car with his stomach in knots after seeing the play at a theater in Cincinnati.

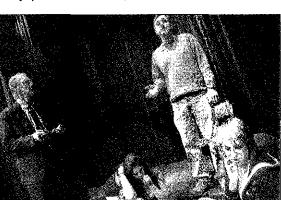
"I got permission to go through an asylum. I needed background information," said Hartman. "I saw some pitiful, awful and horrifying things some of which I put on stage, some things I could not. It was a scary experience."

Ever since directing the play 14 years ago at Schoolcraft College, Hartman says at least one audience member at

Please see MADNESS, C3



Trevor Wnuk as Herald rehearses a scene for the Schoolcraft College production of 'Marat/Sade.'



Schoolcraft College theater professor James Hartman, left, directs Michael Ludlum as Marquis de Sade, right, with actors from left, Diana Oswald, Lia Liade Biasi, and Paige Pavlos as they rehearse a scene from the college's production of 'Marat/Sade.'

Mama Jazz receives Salute to Women



Midge Ellis (right) received the Salute to Women Award from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women at the annual luncheon. Janet Bennett (left) is chairperson for the award.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Midge Ellis started promoting jazz back in high school in Kentucky. The 84-year-old Livonia woman hasn't stopped since. In recognition of her support for the music Ellis was recently presented with the 2007 Salute to Women award from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

University Women (AAUW).

Once a year, women are nominated for their contributions to the community. Laura Callow received the award in 1978 for her work on behalf of furthering the Equal rights Amendment.

"We look for women who have made a contribution to the community and Midge certainly has made a number of contributions through her career. She actually improved not only life in Livonia but the region," said Callow, co-

president of the AAUW, Livonia branch. "She brought many musicians to the Clarenceville school district helping to further and preserve the true American art form which jazz is."

SCHOOL DAYS

Ellis chuckles when she remembers her student days in Corbin, Ky.

"The first band I hired was in high school. I was on the prom and year book committees and talked them into bringing a big band to the prom instead of a year book," said Ellis. "I've been promoting jazz since 1945. I started right after my husband got out of the service and we joined a country club and started bringing in bands for dances in Greenwood, Mississippi, then Baton Rouge."

Ellis has been bringing musicians to the Livonia area for nearly 40 years. Local jazz fans

were fortunate to be able to see and hear the big bands thanks to her efforts on behalf of the Clarenceville series. The big band concerts ran from 1969 to 1982 in the high school's Louis Schmidt Auditorium in Livonia.

"They had built the new auditorium. It was big and beautiful and the taxpayers were saying why do we have it," said Ellis. "We brought in children's programs that didn't pay for themselves. I suggested bringing in bands. At the time big bands were traveling all over the country. We got Buddy Rich. He was the first."

Over the years Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Woody Herman, Harry James, and Count Basie were among the bands spotlighted on the series. While in town the musicians shared their knowledge with

Please see SALUTE, C2

Friendships need a break sometimes

I have a friend that gets into a lot of trouble ... I mean, A LOT of trouble. She's even been to juvie. She has spent a lot of time at my house but she keeps getting arrested for things. I want to help her and be a good friend to her, but now she's mad at me for hanging out with other friends. What should I do?

Caring Friend



Westland

Teen Talk

Monica Fulton

It sounds like you really need to ask yourself if this is the kind of friend you want to have in your life. Have you been friends for a long time? How good of a friend is she to you? It sure sounds like you go out of your way for her ... does she go out of her way for you? Besides, it's OK to have lots of different friends. Why is the ith

angry that you've been hanging out with other people? Being possessive of you isn't being a good friend.

Sometimes, friendships need a break. Maybe this is a good time to take a breather from the friendship and explore other activities and other friends. You might want to ask your parents for help and support during this "break" so that you can think clearly about what you want in a friend. But, make sure you're not saying negative things about this friend to other people. Just because you two aren't getting along right now is no reason to be mean. And this includes teaming up with other friends to harass or bully this friend. Just focus on what you want and surround yourself with people that will help you, not hurt you.

I'm trying to stay sober but everyone around me drinks or uses drugs. My friends, my family ... everybody! What should I do? Almost Sober Garden City

It's important to surround yourself with people that are not using drugs or alcohol. If you're not comfortable attending Alcoholics Anonymous, you might want to try Ala-Teen. There are lots of teens dealing with families that are alcohol or drug involved, as well as dealing with sobriety themselves. Many local churches, community centers, hospitals, and Salvation Army centers have AA, Al-Anon, and Ala-Teen groups. One of the biggest thing you can do to help yourself is to avoid places where there will be alcohol and/or drug use. If you're family is having a big celebration where you know most of them will be drinking heavily, choose not to go. But be prepared, your family isn't going to like it. Simply tell them that you aren't interested in being around a bunch of people that are drinking. Creating a new support circle of friends who don't use is important too. Seek out activities that don't involve alcohol and drugs, and you'll find people who don't drink or use drugs. Sounds simple enough - right? It's a little more challenging than that because you're using friends aren't going to like you breaking away from their circle. Just remember to keep your own best interests at the top of your list. You are in charge of realizing your goals ... make sure you're on the right road to get to them!

One of my really good friends recently died and I'm having a really hard time dealing with it. It's hard to see his parents, it's hard to go to school, it's hard to go to the movies ... everything reminds me of him. Help!
Grieving in Garden City

It is so hard to lose someone you care so much about. It's especially hard when that person is so young, with his whole life ahead of him. It is going to be hard to do things or go places without reminding you of the loss of your friend. It's important to recognize that this is normal. It's also important to understand that there are different stages of the grief process. Denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance are all normal feelings. When we're in the denial stage, we almost don't remember that the person died. We look for the person in public places, we go to the phone to call the person, or we think about the person in the present tense. During the anger phase, we tend to feel angry at the person who left, angry at God, and angry that we don't have control over the situation. When we are in the bargaining stage, we tend to avoid doing things that we used to do with the person who died as a way of trying to keep the person alive in our minds. Finally, during acceptance, we can move forward in our lives and have memories of our loved one that brings a smile to our faces and lifts us up, rather than bringing us down. Give it time. Recognize that grief is a process. And by all means, talk to a school counselor, a parent, or another adult that you're comfortable with about what you're feeling. Reach out to other kids that knew your friend ... you might find out that you're not alone in how you feel.

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She has a master of arts degree in clinical psychology. She can reached at monicafulton@sbcglobal.net.

students. It was during this time the late Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert gave Ellis the nickname, Mama Jazz. Talbert, who announced many of the concerts, began noticing how the musicians would go to Ellis to sew on buttons and take care of them like a mother.

We had clinics and brought in jazz students. The 940 seats would be full. They would come in from high schools from all over Michigan," said

NOT SLOWING DOWN

After 1982, Ellis was so busy as coordinator of special events at Schoolcraft College she didn't have time to book bands. Then in the early 1990s she and vibraphonist Jack Brokensha met with the owner of the Botsford Inn to bring jazz to the Farmington area on a weekly basis. The Jack Brokensha Quartet with Matt Michaels, Dan Jordan and Jerry McKenzie played the historic venue for several years as the Wednesday jazz nights were so popular.

Then Ellis was asked to use her organizational skills to coordinate the Michigan Jazz Festival, the dream of big band leaders Johnny Trudell and the late Emil Moro. The event had been held at Freedom Hill for the first time in 1995. For the next four years it was held at the Botsford Inn before outgrowing the space and moving in 1999 to Schoolcraft College where it continues to take place. The next event is scheduled for July 20, and as always showcases Michigan jazz musicians on multiple stages. Ellis serves as vice president, treasurer and director of the annual event which means

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 2, 2008

she organizes the fund-raisers to make the festival a reality. Right now she's working on the April 13 program featuring jazz pianist Cliff Monear and his group, the annual Father's Day brunch, and a fall fundraiser Oct. 12. For more information, call (248) 474-2720.

'We look for somebody who's done an outstanding job in the community (over a lifespan)," said Janet Bennett, chair of the Salute to Women award. "Midge provided that kind of support for jazz. She brought public attention to Louis Schmidt Auditorium which is marvelous for its acoustics and the Livonia Symphony now uses it. She made a real contribution.

Bennett was the one who informed Ellis that she was receiving the AAUW's Salute to Women. The award is hanging in place of honor in Ellis's living room.

"When she called and told me I'd won I couldn't believe it especially when it was for the education of jazz," said Ellis. "That's been my mission in life to teach about jazz so they can love it as much as I do. I love it because it's an American art form. It started here in the United States. The freedom in the music is what our forefathers fought for. There's such a freedom because of the improvisation. The musicians are not reading the music. They can play a solo one night and the next night not be the same. Each instrument plays such a vital part in the music."

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Livonia Symphony Orchestra celebrates spring

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The weatherman is calling for another 3 to 5-inches of snow but Tom Bjorklund doesn't seem to care. He's looking forward to the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's Marching into Spring concert Saturday, March 8, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium in Livonia.

On the program is Robert Schumann's Spring Symphony which was inspired by the February of 1841, First Cuckoo of Spring by Frederick Delius, and several marches. For sure the cuckoo calls that identify with nature should be fun and there's nothing like a rousing march to boost the spirits.

"The music committee has put together some neat pieces,' said Bjorklund, president of the LSO board of directors. "I'm looking forward to it. The Schumann symphony is going to be a lot of fun to listen to. I encourage people to come and

"It's such a bargain to listen to our great musicians in an auditorium with great acoustics for a grand total of \$17 and only \$5 for students and children. We lowered the price (for chilMARCHING INTO SPRING

What: Livonia Symphony Orchestra concert featuring Schumann's 'Spring Symphony' and marches

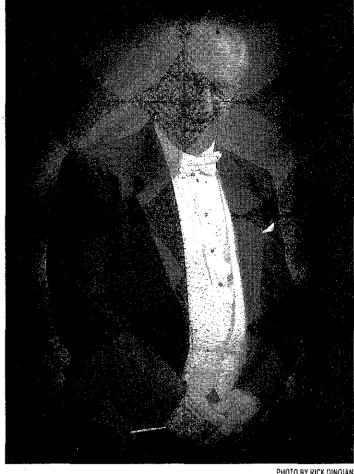
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 Where: Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia Tickets: \$17 adults, \$5 children and students. Call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livoniasymphony.org

dren and students) a couple of years ago and it's nice to see an increasing number of young people because they enjoy the music."

Like all nonprofits, the LSO continues to struggle to raise the funds to keep the LSO alive.

"It's not just our problem," said Bjorklund. "There's not a symphony orchestra in the country that can get by just with ticket sales. Fund raising is an important part. With the economy in Michigan as it is, I encourage people to send in their donations and attend the golf outing in June and the concerts."

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Volodymyr Shesiuk conducts the Livonia Symphony Orchestra in its Marching into Spring concert on March 8.

Bowlathon to raise money for Goodwill work programs

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is registering teams for the first annual Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon. The month long event, which culminates on March 31, encourages Metro Detroiters to Bowl for Jobs at II area bowling centers in an effort to raise thousands of dollars to put people to work in Southeast Michigan. Bowling centers include Beech Lanes in Redford; Drakeshire Lanes, Farmington Hills; Mayflower Lanes, Redford; Thunderbird Lanes, Troy; Westland Bowl, Westland; and Woodland Lanes, Livonia.

Registration information and other details are available online at www. MotorCityBowlAThon.com. Blue Ribbon Quality Bowling Centers will host the event at 11 locations throughout Metro Detroit.

"The Bowlathon is an opportunity for families, co-workers, neighbors and friends to get together, have a fantastic time and contribute to a cause that impacts everyone in Michigan," said Ed Deeb, president and CEO of the Michigan Food & Beverage Association and the Michigan Business & Professional Association, and co-chairman of Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon. "Every pin that falls and every dollar raised will help put people to work in this region."

The total cost to participate in Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon is \$150 per team of three, four or five individuals. Each participating team member will receive two games of bowling, shoe rental, two pieces of pizza or two hot dogs, and a soft drink. Proceeds from all registration fees benefit Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

"Everyone in Southeast Michigan recognizes the importance of jobs to the future of our communities," said Jerry Harris, proprietor and general manager of Blue Ribbon Quality Bowling Centers member locations in Novi and Farmington Hills and co-chairman of the Bowlathon. "We're looking forward to providing the places where bowlers from across the region can come together to support this initia-

Eligible participants will have the opportunity to win a number of prizes including a lease on a new vehicle for the individual bowler with the highest score among all participants and two trips to tropical destinations. Any bowler recording a perfect 300 score during the Bowlathon will have the chance to win an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) from Motor City Harley-Davidson.

The first bowler rolling a turkey (three strikes in a row) on each team will win a \$15 Meijer Gift Card courtesy of Meijer. Participants will also be entered into a raffle for a number of other prizes. Those wishing to contribute to the Bowlathon, but are unable to bowl may submit suggested donation of \$30 via the Web site. By doing so, donors will be eligible for the raffle. In addition to prizes awarded for bowling accomplishments, Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon also will award a prize to the team producing the best one- to twominute video promoting the fund-raiser.

Entries will be shown on Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit's YouTube Web site, www.youtube.com/goodwilldetroitpr. The winning team will receive up to five digital video camcorders.

"At its core, the mission of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is to put people to work, not just in the city of Detroit, but throughout Southeast Michigan," said Lorna Utley, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

The organization's clients include individuals facing a wide range of barriers to employment. Many were recently laid off and left lacking the skills to find new work in the changing economy. Others require assistance developing life skills necessary to communicate with customers and handle stressful situations. Still others suffer from physical or mental disabilities or have transportation or housing issues.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit provides people with opportunities to become independent, self-supporting citizens through training, work experience and employment in the community. In 2007, the organization successfully put nearly 1500 residents to work in the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and provided nearly 14,000 individuals with employment and training services.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit provides people who have disabilities and other barriers to employment with opportunities to become independent, self-supporting citizens through training, work experience and employment in the community. For information, visit www.goodwilldetroit.org.

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Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860 WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T CALL IT GOUT Gout appears most commonly in the foot. Any foot pain could be gout, but keep in mind that all foot pain cannot be attributed to it. The usual presentation of gout is as a sudden pain that awakens you in the night. The pain quickly becomes unbearable, worsened by the touch of a sheet or a breeze from door closing. The great toe at its base is the most common site for an attack; the toe becomes swollen and intensely purple to red. To an onlooker, you look like you suffered a fracture or experienced a spider bite. If you are unfortunate, and cannot obtain medical help, the attack will gradually resolve on its own, though it could take four to five days to do so.

The somewhat unusual attack of gout can occur in other parts of your foot, like in the mid-foot, the ankle or where the Achilles tendon anchors. Otherwise, the usual features abide: Sudden onset while at rest, intense pain initially and gradual lessening of pain over

Then there is the very unusual attack of gout. This pain comes on gradually over hours to days, lasts for days to weeks, is distracting but not compelling, and presents in odd places on your foot, like the fifth foe or the side of the great toe.

Gout is unlikely to be the cause of such pain. If the pain persists, don't live with it. Bring the problem to the attention of your doctor. His training allows him to consider other possibilities and initiate treatment that will end this attack and prevent the next one.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com





Deanna was so afraid of the dentist, that she lived with dental pain for years. My face would swell and my whole mouth would throb," she explains. "Then a visit to Parkside Dental Team changed

"As soon as I met the doctors, I knew everything was going to be alright," Deanna continues. "For the first time ever, I actually looked forward to going to the dentist.

Deanna received crowns and bridges and used Dream Dentistry to alleviate her fears. "Parkside was the miracle I had been waiting for," she says. "I felt no pain and I was never afraid!"

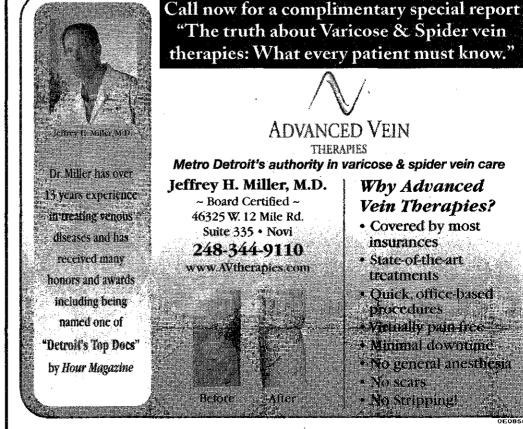
Since her treatment, Deanna says her self-esteem has skyrocketed. "I no longer cover my mouth when I smile and I love being photographed! I haven't felt this good in 40 years!"

Deanna recommended Parkside Dental Team to all her family and friends and advises, "If you're suffering from dental pain, don't wait another minute. Give Parkside Dental Team a chance!"



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Spaghetti dinner to raise funds for Women's Resource Center

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College holds its annual Spaghetti Dinner & Wine Glow Tuesday, March 18, in the VisTaTech center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Guests can mingle during the Wine Glow which begins at 6 p.m. The 7 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. program follows.

Tickets are \$30. For more information, call (734) 462-

4443. Proceeds go to support the Women's Resource Center which provides scholarships and programs for Schoolcraft College students.

During the 2006-2007 academic year 519 men and women received more than \$200,000 in grants and scholarships which came from multiple sources like the Spaghetti Dinner. Last year's Basket Raffle was especially popular with the crowd raising an additional \$1,500. This year themes include State of Michigan, Gardener's and Mystery baskets. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and available at the event.

The WRC has earned national recognition for From Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips to Blue Chips, the educational training program that's helped more than 600 women transition from working inside to outside of the home.

League to hold used book sale

Members of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County are busy working on their 26th annual used book sale March 14-16, at Livonia Mall on the northwest corner of Middlebelt and Seven Mile.

The Preview takes place 9 a.m. to noon Friday, March 14. Admission is \$3.

Regular hours for the sale run noon to

8 p.m. Friday, March 14; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

Bag sale is \$6, two for \$11. Most books and magazines cost \$1 or less.

Videos, CDs and DVDs are individually

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every production has asked when he's going to do the play set in an asylum again. Hartman places actors as patients in the aisles of the theater to make the audience feel as if they are in an asylum.

"They're moaning or shouting things out," said Hartman. "I want the audience to be very involved in it. It helps draw the audience in. The two leads get very loud and emotional. It was done by the Royal Shakespeare Company in London in the 1960s and made such an impact it is included in many theater history books."

Hartman finds the play intriguing partly because it's based on history. He says it does create some controversy.

"A lot of speeches are very relevant to what's going on in our lives today," said Hartman. "We do have poverty today and people talk about freedom and how far the government can be in your

Critics describe the drama as total theater as it combines singing and movement with drama. The relatively large cast of 18 is composed of relatively new talent.

Melissa Humphrev is still struggling to define the line between her character and the one her character plays in Marat/ Sade. Charlotte Corday is the French aristocrat who assassinates Marat.

This is Humphrey's first time acting in a production at Schoolcraft College. Originally she became interested in theater as a student at Macomb

Community College after landing the lead role in a Shakespeare play in 2000.

Like de Sade, Humphrey enjoys writing dramas and plays. She's published poetry and a short story and writes for the school newspaper, The Connection, and is on the staff of the national literary magazine, The MacGuffin from Schoolcraft College. Humphrey is working towards a master's degree in English while minoring in theater.

The patient who plays Charlotte Corday is a narcoleptic and suffers from melancholia. She's so depressed as a patient," said Humphrey of Redford.

Christian Cash plays Jean-Paul Marat, the French revolutionary journalist. The 40-year-old Fenton actor says it's been an educational experience and forced him to rethink positions involving politics and equality of the classes.

Cash regularly performs with the Spotlight Players, a community theater group based at The Village Theater of Cherry Hill in Canton.

"I don't want to scare them away. It is a theatrical extravagansaid Cash of Fenton. "Marat is one of the leaders of the French Revolution of the people against the aristocrats. De Sade wrote plays to rehabilitate the inmates and for the aristocratic crowd to come and see the plays. It all really did happen. My character gets everybody worked up (in the asylum). He's a paranoid schizophrenic. It all ends in complete chaos and bedlam."

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Celebrate Finnish heritage with Saarinen lecture, band concert

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 2, 2008

You've heard of singing in the shower? Get ready for songs about co-sponsored by The Finlandia saunas...and hunting, fishing, forests and cold winters in the U.P. from the Marquette band, Conga Se Menne.

The group that combines traditional Finnish schottisches and polkas with blues, funk, Latin, reggae, rock, and Caribbean beats, will perform a concert called "Finnish Reggae and Other Sauna Beats," from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, March 15 at Cranbrook's Art Museum, in

Bloomfield Hills. The concert, Foundation National and The Finnish Club of Detroit, will include a cash bar and traditional Finnish refreshments. Doors will open at 7 p.m., allowing time to check out the museum's current exhibit, "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future," a look at the life and work of one of America's most innovative architects. Admission to the concert, which includes entrance to the exhibit, is \$15 per person for the general public

and \$10 per person for members of the Finlandia Foundation National, Finnish Cultural Center and the Finnish American Club of Detroit. The event is free for ArtMembers@Cranbrook. To reserve tickets, call (248) 645-

The foundation also is sponsoring a lecture, featuring Susan Saarinen, Eero Saarinen's daughter, and Mark Coir, director of Cranbrook Archives, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 14, at the deSalle Auditorium at Cranbrook.

Art workshop focuses on O'Keeffe

Three Cities Art Club presents a free O'Keeffe workshop 7-9 p.m. Monday, March 3, in the lower level of the Canton Township Hall, 1150 Canton Center Road, south of Cherry

Club member Elizabeth Gullikson will give the opening presentation on one of America's most acclaimed artists of the 20th century, Georgia O'Keeffe. Guests as

well as club members will then be able to choose a work by O'Keeffe and try their hand at reproducing it. This is an open studio event and there will be no instructor on hand.

Bring a starter kit of watercolors or acrylic paints, a couple of brushes, a container of water, and paper or canvas. An easel would be helpful if you plan to use acrylics. Supplies are available for a 15 percent

ENGAGEMENTS

discount by mentioning Three Cities Art Club at D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley at Joy,

There is no charge to attend a Three Cities Art Club meeting but membership is only \$20 a year and there are many benefits. For more information, call Marilyn Meredith at (248) 557-3800, ext. 123 weekdays or send e-mail to threecitiesartclub@hotmail.com.

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ANNE M. ANZICK

Of Bloomfield Hills, peacefully February 24, 2008 surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Anthony J. "Bud". Devoted mother of Mary Lee Jelinek (Gary), Joanne "Joey" Stotsky (Alan), Amy A. Peash (David) and the late Tommy Anzick. Dear grandmother of Brooke, A.J. and Caroline. Loving companion of Joseph Westergom. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942 View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com





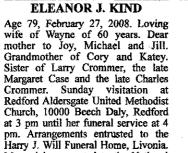
JOSEPHINE CASERIO

February 26, 2008 peacefully at home in Bloomfield Hills, surrounded by her loving family. Age 86. Josephine's most important legacy from her allotted time on earth was her unwavering devotion to her family. Beloved wife of Martin J. Caserio for 63 years. Dear mother of Richard Martin Caserio (Patricia), Kathleen Jo Stroh (John), Joseph Michael Caserio (Karen) and Patricia Marie Clark (Kevin). Grandmother of Vincent and Martin III Caserio, Kristin Stroh, Jacqueline and Michael Caserio, Catherine and Timothy Clark and the late Carolyn Caserio, Sister of Ann Spicko, Sister in-law of Jennie Spolarich. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to The Village Women's Club Foundation, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 or Christ Child Society, 15751 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI 48228 or the charity of donor's choice, A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at:

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com.

HOPE (BRIGDEN) GILFERT Age 88, of Longwood Dr., Westwood, MA, died Feb. 27 at the Clark House in Westwood. Born in Freehold, NJ. Nov. 13, 1919 daughter of the late George and Evelyn (Forman) Brigden she has lived in MA since 1992 previously living in Birmingham, MI for 25 years. Mrs. Gilfert graduated from Smith College and the Kathryn Gibbs Secretarial School. She volunteered in the recovery room at Wilmette Hospital in Wilmette, IL and Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. She was a lover of the Arts and Symphony, her favorite painter was Winslow Homer, Pre-deceased by her husband Robert John Gilfert in May of 2006 and a brother George I Brigden who died in WWII she is survived by a son Roger and his wife Vicki Gilfert of Bedford, NH, a daughter Kiela and her husband Ralph June of Chilhowie, VA, a sister Mary Margaret Summers of Antioch, CA, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.A graveside service will be held at Lakeview Cemetery in Wolfeboro, NH in the spring. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, One Bedford Farms Dr., Suite 105, Bedford, NH 03110 or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. The Baker-Gagne Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Wolfeboro is in charge of the arrange-

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances



SHIRLEY L. LAVIGNE

Memorials suggested to the National Kidney Foundation in Eleanor's honor.

Shirley died peacefully in Orinda Convalescent Hospital, Orinda, CA on February 18, 2008 at the age of 88. A native of Michigan, she moved with her husband, Louis, to Antioch, CA, in August 1995. Shirley was born February 12, 1920 in Cheboygan, Michigan and graduated from Cheboygan High School and Alma College, Alma, Michigan. She later acquired a Masters Degree in Education from Mercy College of Detroit. Shirley began her career as a social worker. Her teaching career began doing substitute teaching career began doing substitute teaching in parochial grade schools in Michigan. She later switched to Farmington East Junior High, Farmington, MI and taught as a reading specialist. She retired with her husband after moving to Howell, MI and remodeling an old calthoy bear into a house. She is presaltbox barn into a house. She is predeceased by her beloved husband, Louis. She is survived by son, Louis Jr. and daughter-in-law, Shelley; daughter, Cara and son-in-law Andy. She was Grandmom to Stephanie and Gordon, Great Grandmom to Zachary Benjamin, Max, Emily, Jack and Maddie. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or Half the Sky Foundation, 740 Gilman St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

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JUANITA PITUCH

Age 77. Beloved wife of the late

Stephen. Loving mother of Kathryn (Steve) Thompson, Larry and Dr.

tephen Pituck. Dear grandmother of

Nick, Jaimie and the late Adam.

Sister of Erma Greenshields and the

late William Beachum, Will be

missed by her many nieces, nephews

and loving friends. Funeral Services



CHARLOTTE E. SCAGGS

Age 70, February 29, 2008. Beloved wife of Phillip. Loving mother of Autumn (Jim) Keller, Summer and Travis. Dear mamaw of Savannah and Jackson. Dear daughter-in-law of Virginia Alley of Catlettsburg, KY. visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday 1-9 pm. and at Church of Christ-West, 291 E. Spring St., Plymouth, Monday from 10 am. until time of Funeral Service at 11 am. Memorial contributions may be directed to Schults-Lewis Childrens Home, P.O. Box 471, Valparaiso, IN. 46384. Please sign the online guestbook at: www.rggrharris.com

FRANCES H. TOUTANT

Age 85. February 27, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence Jr. Loving mother of Dana and Darrell (Judit). grandmother of Victoria. A memorial gathering will take place on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, Please contact the funeral home for details at 248-541-7000. Memorials to In-House Hospice Solutions of Southfield appreciated. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak. Share your memories at:

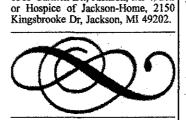
www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com. FRANCES K. WARNER

Age 88, passed away at Plymouth Inn on February 28, 2008. A Memorial service is being planned for a later date and will be announced. Services entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 734-453-6928, Share memories at: schrader-howell.com



ELIZABETH ANN "LIZ' NEEF (nee HOUCK) Died February 28, 2008 at age 81

under the loving care of her newest friends at Hospice of Jackson-Home. Born January 21, 1927 on the kitchen table at the home on Griggs Ave. in Detroit of her parents, Harry David, Sr. and Hazel Blanche Houck (nee Carmichael). She was a life-long resident of Michigan. She is survived by husband, A. William (Bill) Neef, their four sons, David, Stephen, Eric and Jonathan; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Liz and Bill would have celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on March 1st. Liz funeral. A memorial celebration will be arranged after this winter. Liz graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in January, 1945 and attended University of Michigan for one year. She played the lead part in her senior play, and was an accomplished singer. For years she sang in her beautiful soprano voice at the Birmingham Congregational Church, in the choir and as soloist. She was frequently guest soloist at the Church of Later Day Saints in Birmingham other Oakland County, and at many weddings. In her youth, Liz spent sum mers at her folks cottage on Little Wolf Lake in Jackson County. Bill and Liz replaced the cottage with their home on Little Wolf Lake in 1976 and moved in on January 1st 1977. They had lived 9 years on Forrer Ave. in northwest Detroit, and 20 years on Gilbert Lake Rd. in Bloomfield Twp. and finally 31 years on Wolf Lake Rd in Napoleon Twp, Jackson County. Liz became interested in genealogy and joined the Jackson County Genealogical Society. For years, she devoted much of her time and gained many dear friends while doing volunteer tasks for the society. She joined husband, Bill, in operating their Wolf Lake Sailboards business from their She showed prospective women customers that the sport was not just for men. Liz's preferred charities for any desired memorial dona-Jackson Co. Genealogical Society, c/o Jackson District Library 244 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201; Cascades Humane Society, 1515 Carmen Dr., Jackson, MI 49202



OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. 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: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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

varies received after these deadline ill be placed in the next ava

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232

Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

Dew-Kusmierz

Rick and Carolyn Dew of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Ashley Dew, to Matthew Scott Kusmierz of Howell, son of Michael and Linda Kusmierz of Bay City.

The bride-to-be received a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from Michigan State University in 2005. She is a third year medical student at Wayne State University School of medicine.

The future groom received a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in packag-



ing engineering in 2005 from Michigan State University. He is currently working as a packaging engineer at Nissan.

A June 2008, wedding is planned at MSU Alumni Chapel in East Lansing, Mich.

Foley-Kasten

Kristen Colleen Foley and Timothy Robert Kasten are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Debbie Foley of Plymouth and Pete Foley of Plymouth. She is a graduate of Canton High School. She will be graduating in May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in architecture from Lawrence Technological University. She is employed at Studio Design.

Fred and Cathy Kasten of Plymouth, is a graduate of Salem High School. He is attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn, majoring



in mechanical engineering. He is employed at Power Sports. A May wedding is planned for Weller's in Saline.

The future groom, son of



Kingery-Ambs

David and Christine Kingery of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Louise Kingery, to Mark Ambs of Kalamazoo. The bride-to-be is a 2006

graduate of Central Michigan University. The groom is a graduate of Mattawan High School.

A June wedding is planned.



Spencer-Jacovetti

John and Lorie Spencer of Lakeland, Fla., formerly of Redford, announce the engagement of their daughter, Crystal Marie, to Christopher Jacovetti, son of William and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia.

Crystal is a 2001 graduate of Thurston High School and is currently attending college in Lakeland, Fla.

Christopher is a 1999 graduate of Catholic Central High School and resides in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he is employed as an operations manager with Sunbelt Rentals in Ormond Beach.

An August 2008 wedding is



planned. The couple will make their home in Daytona Beach,

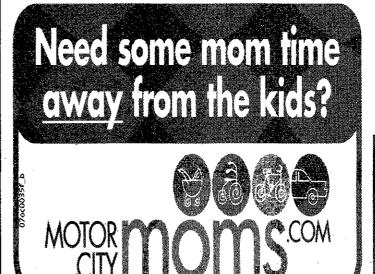
BIRTH

Jacob Daniel Cardwell

Daniel Cardwell and Tracey Halaberda of Belleville announce the birth of their son, Jacob Daniel Cardwell on Jan. 24 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Grandparents are Jessica and Mike Cardwell of Pinckney and

Daniel and Barb Halaberda of Wayne. Great-grandparents are Gerry Cardwell of Westland and Joe

and Merlene Kittka of Westland.



REUNIONS

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.

Detroit Christ the King Elementary Class of 1963

A 45-year reunion is being planned for 2008. Searching for classmates. The reunion date has not been set. Contact Dennis Place at (734)354-0223 or e-mail denplace@bigfoot.com.

Detroit High School of Commerce Class of 1958 January, June and

Planning reunion for Sept. 13. Call J. Wilkinson, 313-861-0834 or B. King 248-547-1693

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 1-275. Anyone interested in more information can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS. MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

Need classmates to register online with names, addresses and e-mail addresses to Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com and check out web site at www.myspace.com/ gchs20threunion.

The reunion date has not been set yet. Dearborn High School

Class of 1963 A 45 year reunion planned Aug. 1, 2008. Father Patrick O'Kelley Hall, Dearborn. Contact Betsy Cushman at 313-565-5972 or ecushman@comcast.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Classes of 1958

com

The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion on Saturday Aug. 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club. Judy Richards Goerke 313-562-9031, Judyoperke@vahoo.com or Shirley

Chiado Peters 248-348-9443, Shirley.

peters@villageford.net may be con-

tacted for further information. **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

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or email: Kavninilu@aol.com.

Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. All interested class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. Their contact email address is: milford78@gmail.com.

Plymouth High School Class of 1968

Searching for classmates for a 40th reunion on July 19, 2008. Only about 63 percent of the class have been located. Contact Sue (Keith) Johnson at (734)451-1048 or contact phs40threunion@charter.net.

Plymouth-Canton high schools Classes of 1988

Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem classes of 1988 20-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Contact cepclassof1988@yahoo.com for more information

Romulus High School Class of 1958

A 50-year class reunion Saturday, May 3, 2008, at Lakes of Taylor, 25505 Northline, Taylor. For details, contact Al Preis at (734)697-0092, Janet Miller at (734)697-7483 or Terry Bird at (734)697-4232.



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When your doctor is unavailable or the ER seems like overkill-our staff of doctors can see you for care for any of the following needs and more:

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- Flu
- Broken Bones
- Stitches
- Allergies
- Physicals

Complete lab and diagnostic services on site pharmacy



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PHONE...... 1-800-579-SELL (7355) FAX..... ... 734-953-2232 ONLINE...... hometownlife.com EMAIL... oeads@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Sunday edition 5 p.m. Friday

Thursday edition......11:00 a.m. Wednesday Offices and Hours:

Eccentric office......805 E. Maple, Birmingham Observer office36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same sales representatives have no authority to bind hits newspaper and only publication of an eovernisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise? any preference limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our reads are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 729803 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing Deportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.



Help Wanted-General

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE/

CASH APPLICATIONS
Vistar of Michigan currently
has an opening for a parttime, Monday-Friday, time, Monday-Friday, 11:00am-4:30pm person in our credit department. Responsibilities include: order release based on credit policies, collections on accounts electronics deposits, and other general administrative duties. Please apply online at www.vistarvsa.com and click on employment opportunities for Michigan or fax to 734-397-3303. No phone calls please. EOE/Supporting a Drug Free Workplace. M/F/D/V

ADMINISTRATOR/DIRECTOR For a Senior Assisted Living Facility in the Northville/ Livonia area. A minimum 5 years experience, good com munication, organizational and marketing skills are required for this position. Fax your resume to 248-356-3509

All Students/Others Local firm has 27

immediate openings \$15.00 base/appt Flexible Schedule

Customer Sales/Service Conditions Apply Visit: workforstudents.com Call: (248) 426-4405

AMAZING

\$14.95/hr Wkd. Local company has several openings because of our expansion. No exp. nec. Free training. Management avail.

Mon. or Tues. 10-4pm.

Help Wanted-General 5000

Help Wanted-General

Auto Fleet Service Tech

For Livonia fleet service co

Field service, gas & diese exp. Own tools and good driv-

ing record. Great pay! Flexible hours. Fax to 734-953-8605

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Apply within: 12651 Newburgh

Livonia

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WORK

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time, must be registered voter in Redford Twp., or

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Every Thursday

in Every Office

Noon-1p & 6-7p

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Western Wayne County & Farmington Area revious experience pre ferred. Must be available on Thursday morning, Saturday evening/Sunday morning. Reliable transmorning. Reliable trans-portation. Possible earn

ings of \$40-\$80 per delivery. Some Porch delivery **Call Toll Free** 1-866-887-2737 Observer & Eccentric

ANIMAL HOSPITAL All aspects of pet care. Non-smoking. Full & Part-Time. Will train. PO Box 858007, Westland, MI 48185

APPOINTMENT SETTER Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from nome PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572

> ATTENTION: DRIVERS **Owner Operators**

Plymouth, MI to Kearney NÉ - 4500 weekly miles Pfymouth MI to Marinette, WI - 2910 weekly miles (Begins łome Weekly. Paid Weekl 100% Fuel Surcharge

O/O & Co. Drivers Detroit for regional OTR 2400 to 3000 weekly

Dedicated Lanes are Waiting for YOU! E.L. Hollingsworth & Company TOLL FREE: 888-300-9935 www.elhc.net/careers

Help Wanted-General 5000 **CASHIER/TELLER**

PART TIME Ability to balance invoices/ cash, Tues. - Fri. 3-9pm (no public contact). Previous cash handling, computer & balanc-ing experience needed. Must be able to work independently and have initiative to solve problems. Salary negotiable based on experience. Near 175

& Davison freeways. Please send resume along with salary requirements to: Fax 313-852-1339 Mail Human Resources 373 Victor Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT Full & Part-Time. Christian Center in Plymouth: 734-455-3196

CLEANERS NEEDED For Plymouth area homes \$10 hr. to start. No nights or weekends. Full-Time

Car required. 734-455-4579 CNC PROGRAMMER/ SETUP & OPERATOR

Must be able to program. Apply within 12651 Newburgh, Livonia

COLLECTOR For Credit Union. 3 years experience with secured and unsecured loans. LOH, 44575 W. Twelve Mile Road, Novi, M

48377 or FAX 248-596-4545.

COLLECTORS

Now hiring Bill Collectors.

Exp. preferred, but not req'd in collections, medial billing or call center. PT/FT. Hrly, pay + commission. Fax or email resume. Fax: 248-281-0175 cwatts@accretivehealth.com

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY Work on remodeling crew. Variety of work. Mr. Jay, 9:30-11am only, 248-737-4980.

Construction Sr. Project Manager & Estimator for Heavy & **Highway Construction**

See our website at www.plate.com for job opportunities or fax resume to 847-695-6113. EOE

> CORPORATE **ATTORNEY**

Because of growth and expan-sion, a SE Michigan, non-automotive company is seeking to hire a Corporate Attorney. Reporting directly to the Chief Legal Officer, responsibilities but not limited too: Commercial agreements for domestic & foreign subsidlaries, mergers/acquisitions international matters, and

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confidential discussion please contact: hrsr@coconfidential.com

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CUSTODIANS Afternoons, Mon.-Fri., part time. Apply Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills

DELI/ICE CREAM CLERK Great job for homemaker. 4-5 days/wk, 11-4pm flexible. davs/wk. Scoopy's Ice Cream & Deli 734-775-5368

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Help Wanted-General

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Join the team with assisting special population adults. We will train. \$7.50 total plus good benefits. Livonia 248-474-0283, 734-953-8911 734-425-8334

DIRECT CARE STAFF \$8.20 wages & benefits. Must be trained/valid license 313-255-6295

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DIRECT CARE WORKER Wayne/Westland area. Call Mon-Fri. 734-397-6955, 734-595-3253

Direct Care -- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, 0#.

> DISPATCHER/ **PRISONER**

of Redford For more information cal 313-387-2761

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Charter Township

or visit our website at: redfordiwp.com/dept/hr

DISTRACTED? **DISORGANIZED?** We are looking for volunteers

to participate in a research study of an investigationa medication for ADHD Qualified participants receive all research related care, study medication, and office visits at no cost. Please call the Institute for Health Studies at .1-877-908-CARE Ask about compensation available for participation

Driver ROAD SWEEPER
Variable hours. Road exp.
CDL preferred. References. drug test required. Call 248-321-7755

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Werner Enterprises Earn \$700+ per week 461k & Benefits No Experience Needed! CDL & Job Ready in 3 weeks at Nu-Way! 2 Training Centers 1-888-822-8743

Driver's Needed Sales Required, Must have Please call btwn. 248-471-5200

For Plymouth Co. Mon-Fri. Competitive wages. Full bene-fits. 2 yrs. exp. 517-223-7339

Help Wanted-General 5000 Help Wanted-General

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With experience in the

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or fax: (819) 632-9270

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A VERY SUCCESSFUL ENERGY CO.

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No prior experience necessar Ms. Diamond, 248-594-234

Metro area, 734-425-0161

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manufacturing industry needed, E.O.E. offers bene-Local roof-top delivery of bldg materials. Position requires repetitive, heavy lifting and roof loading. BC/BS + more! fits and 401K. Please send Spirai Industries Inc.

Wirnsatt Bldg Materials 36340 Van Born, Wayne

> DRIVERS **TOW TRUCK**

Experience preferred Contact Walter: 734-455-1130 DRIVERS

Vistar is currently looking for CDL-A qualified drivers. \$16.16 /Hr. part time casual position. Fill in part time durance Carinet Fall and med drivers. 3B required. (734) 667-2476 FINANCE DIRECTOR For nonprofit teen health center. F/T w/ benefits. ing Spring/ Fall and work up to 40 or more hours during summer months. Routes are Must have at least 3-5 years previous experience primarily in Michigan with limited 2 day and interstate deliveries. Deliveries are mostly in accounting, billing and reimbursements, and data made with lift nates and elecmanagement. Good comtric pallet jacks. Qualified canmunication skills and team didates with great driving record, please call Ken at 734-397-3600 ext 5730 work also required. Send resume and cover letter to J. Chesier, The Carper Health Center, 47 N. Huron, Ypsilanti MI 48197 or .

Warehouse located in Belleville MI

ELECTRONIC TECH MATERIAL HANDLER GENERAL LABOR WAREHOUSING

Growing electronics co. ir Canton has immediate open ings. Clean room exp. a plus Competitive pay. Reliable and sincere individuals apply. Fax resume: 734-245-0170

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Applications

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leted in its entirety and on

file in the Personnel Department by 4:00 p.m. on March 14, 2008. No faxed

or e-mailed applications will be accepted. No resumes will be accepted without

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race, color, national origin.

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Capable of over-

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Engineer

The City of Wayne is accepting applications for the purpose of establishing GENERAL WAREHOUSE position for Farmington Hills furniture retailer an Emergency Services Dispatcher eligibility list. available. Position involves picking & stor-Current salary \$33,386 -\$42,645. High School ing merchandise, prepar-ing furniture for delivery, diploma or equivalent is required. Applicants must moving & maneuvering large furniture, and some be able to type accurately furniture assembly. You 30 words per minute and will be required to undersuccessfully pass written go a drug and background screening and pass a physical exam. Fax resume to (248) 473-8796 and oral examinations Must have the ability handle emergency phone calls and dispatch emergency vehi-cles for the Police and Fire

GLAZER WITH EXPERIENCE Own Tools Commercial Installation must picked up at the City of Wayne, 3355 S. Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI 48184. An appli-Call: 313-538-2746 cation form is also available on our website:

GROCERY RECEIVING Experienced, with good math skills. 40 hours + benefits. Pay commensu rate w/ exp.

Better Health Market/ Novi thebetterhealthstore.com or fax: 248-344-7555

HAIR STYLISTS & SUPERVISOR (2positions) Busy Fantastic Sams Oasis Salon seeing Exp'd. Stylist & Assistant Mor. Plymouth: 248-798-6598

HAIRDRESSERS Charisma Salon in Novi is looking for professional and clientele to join our team Call Ken 810-516-9607

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Change your life in less than 30 days. Become a dual, federally certified Heating, Air & Refrigeration Tech. meals, hotel, laundry services wait for the right lob. mak the right job come to you! Call Now: Mon.-Sun

> 888-526-0431 HOUSEHOLD

ASSISTANT Needed in Northville, Responsibilites include: Household/small busines: of homework for 8 & 9 v olds Organization, depend ability, and PC skills MUST. 248-755-0461 References & background check required.

HOUSEKEEPING/ HALLWAY CLEANER

F/T. Wavne apt. complex working & team player vacation & benefits avail Fax resume 248-683-2552

HOUSEKEEPING/ HALLWAY CLEANER F/T, Wayne apt. complex. Must be dependable, hard

working & team player Competitive salary, paid vacation & benefits avail. Fax resume 248-683-2552 HVACR Entry-Level position for

downriversupply.com or fax: 734-728-0799 Job Fair March 15

wholesaler in Wayne County

9:00 am ~ 1:00 pm United Lawnscape Now hiring for all FIELD POSITIONS Apply in person 62170 Van Dyke or Fax: 586-752-5040

Landscape Company •Foreman Designer/Sales •Laborers CDL Drivers

Must be fully qualified. Excellent wages. Please send resumes to: 50145 Ford Rd. Canton, MI 48187 (734) 495-1700

Fax: (734) 495-1131

Help Wanted-General

LOCAL COMPANY rapidly expanding now hiring for positions including ales. \$500 - \$1200/week full time only, paid training provided. 248-928-4838 or 877-545-4454

LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job) Real Estate Agent Seminar March 6, 2008 At 12pm & 6pm. Free pre-licensing

'Saturday' Pre-licensing classes will be held in Livonia during the month of April (limited seating)

Classes)

homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House Change your life personally & financially register today.

CALL FO BOWLIN AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107



MAINTENANCE **TECHNICIAN**

Experience needed for com-mercial real estate company full time/benefits/pay based on exp; valid drivers license & clean driving record a must certifications beneficial. Fax resume to: 248-258-6213 or email to: laurencelle@ laurencelleproperties.com

MEDICAL COORDINATOR & For Oakland County Group Homes. Drivers License req'd. Call 248-814-6714

NAIL TECH Clientele waiting. Must know acrylic & gel. Also need stylist exp. in ethic hair. Livonia. (734) 716-9565 OFFICE CLEANING PART TIME POSITIONS

Eves. Exp. preferred. Fax resume to 248-624-7186 or call 248-343-3371

> Operations Manager

Needed for a successful 50M company headquar-tered in the Tri-City area with multiple locations. Candidate must possess 3 years of experience in operations or plant man agement, a Bachelors degree or equivalent, the ability to organize and manage multiple departments, locations and prior ities, knowledge of safety regulations in industry specific environment, the ability to manage diversified workforce knowledge of machinery and equipment maintenance, mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic troubleshooting, strong communication, interper-sonal skills, mentoring and

Email resume to:

training abilities.

OPERATORS

We are seeking applicants for the following positions: Full time operators for our Jet/Inserting equipment 1st and 2nd shift (min. of 2 yrs. exp. reg'd) 1st shift data processor for mailing operation must have working knowledge of Mail Manager 2010, Fox Pro, Print

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HELPING A STRESSED CO-WOR



Mildred L. Culp

the stress of a coyou. Productivity diminishes and a cloud seems to descend on the out to be a

can you help? Not everyone agrees on the same method. In fact, while there may be established methods to reduce personal stress, there doesn't seem to be even one for helping a co-worker. Instead, there's a smattering of

tactics to consider when situations arise: -- Ann Latham, president of Uncommon Clarity Inc., in Easthampton, Mass., recommends, in cases of diminishing productivity, that you "set some boundaries and figure out how to work around them. Focus on specific facts, such as 'This is what you're doing and this is the impact on me,' to avoid putting him on the

behavior, impact and solution-seeking questions."

For example, she explains, "When you slam the phone down and begin to sob, first I am startled and then I find it difficult to recover my train of thought. This has

happened three times this week. Is there something I could do, or you could do, that would help us both get more accomplished?"

-- If this method seems unsuitable, consider interceding more frequently, "whenever you perceive that a co-worker is having a hard time dealing with demands of the job, taking a toll on productivity or having problems overall."This idea comes from researcher Jeanne Hurlbert of Optinent Resources L.L.C., in Baton Rouge. But she refers to an "overture" explaining that this is what you perceive and that the person could use help at work

- "Don't only allow the person to vent, but help make plans about how she can actually decrease the points out Bob Livingstone, licensed clinical social worker in private practice in San Francisco. "Talking can lead to the sharing of empathy . . . (about the) anger, frustration, fatigue and sadness. This demonstrates that you understand what is happening. For example, you might say, 'I am so tired from all of this work that I haven't had time to have any fun. Do you feel the same way I do?' This might open the door for further discussion."

- A completely different approach -- being ready to act -- comes from Jay Liebowitz, associate professor in the Palumbo Donahue School of Business at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University. "Determine what the co-worker is likely to do," he advises, "by asking a question (Hurlbert); and that begins with the phrase, 'Does this mean that you're.

going to . . . ?"He also recommends making certain that the person wants advice before offering it, or doing something that will help him navigate his way through the situation.

MORE TACTICS

Hurlbert further recommends drawing attention to the larger world by discussing subjects other than work that you have in common, such as hobbies or current events. Is your co-worker isolated from other people? She suggests sharing your contacts, internally and externally, to increase the person's social interaction and support (and decrease your need to help). Encourage him to enjoy a hobby, even if it's reading a good book.

Guard against assuming the person's burden (Latham). Don't react and watch the stress attack stop (Joanie Winberg of Happy Wednesday Inc., in Lakeville, Mass.). If there's no progress, consider consulting with your boss about the impact on your work (Latham), or your boss and HR, but only if the problem is serious (Hurlbert). Don't respond with "Suck it up," which doesn't console and, in fact, makes the stress worse or "a comment in jest about job performance, which could be misinterpreted as a slam" (Livingstone).

Don't make these mistakes, either "reasoning with the person" on the spot

-- ignoring, belittling or criticizing the person

- giving advice, guessing at motivations and

Photo: Jeanne Hurlbert (facing camera) speaks with student Danielle Smith about measures to take with a stressed co-worker. Hurlbert's research at Optinent Resources L.L.C., in Baton Rouge, focuses upon social networking.

assuming you understand the situation completely, when your only new information is that the behavior is out of character or problem-inducing (Latham).

The bottom line, Latham indicates, is to be professional, protect your productivity and assure safety for yourself, the person and your other co-workers. Keep trying, in other words, until you find the approach that

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)

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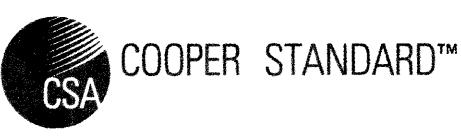
Attn: Dulce Laredo 41225 Plymouth Road Plymouth, Michigan 48170

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AGN FORGS

Sunday, March 2, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

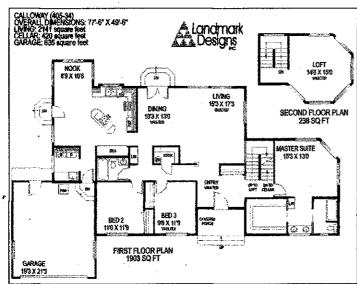
Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com Park your cab in roomy garage of bright Calloway

The weather directly affects our lives and how homes are designed. The Calloway (405-34) has been designed to provide shelter in the form of a 420-square-foot cellar, a good hiding place from the storms of the middle area of the United States. The living area of the Calloway is open and large, containing 2,141 square feet.

The covered porch invites the visitor into an airy entry, facing a large living and dining room. To the right of the entry is the master suite. A full bath with an enormous walk-in closet adds amenities to the suite as does three large windows pouring light into the area. At the door to the master suite are stairs down to the cellar and up to a hex shaped loft.

There are two bedrooms in the front of the Calloway, just to the left of the entry. Adjacent is a full bath with a walk-in storage closet and a linen closet. The kitchen is Lshaped with a cook top island.



The pantry faces the kitchen and provides a great storage area for stocking up on necessities. Three large windows surround the breakfast nook, which floods the area with

The utility room is near the garage entry and contains its own sink. It provides a mudroom area to wash hands and

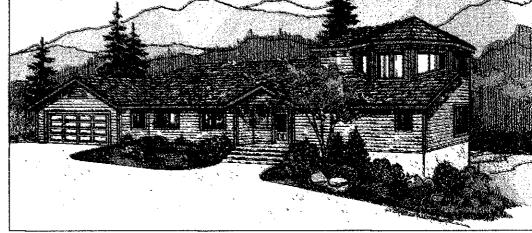
change clothing before entering the house. With the door from the garage facing the kitchen, it is very convenient to unloading groceries and carrying them inside. The garage is a two-car unit with one garage door. There is plenty of room to put a workbench on the rear wall for the weekend mechanic or the gardener.

The Calloway provides a stable, sturdy look that inspires confidence in its design. It would be ideal for a sloping lot, but would also work equally well on a flat lot. With the loft located high, encased in windows, it would also be wonderful overlooking the ocean, somewhere along the coast, espe-

cially during a storm (not of hurricane proportions).

For a study plan of the CALLOWAY (405-34), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are

free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans. com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (input your code here) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

Investors

"Flip This House," a presentation by Than Merrill will be sponsored by the Real Estate Investors of Oakland 6-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River. Novi. Seminar free to members. \$20 guests. Call (800) 747 6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

Scholarships

The first six buyers who participate in a Kheder Homes incentive will receive Michigan **Education Trust scholarships** Kheder Homes, a Farmington

Hills-based residential builder, will provide the program for its Charleston Park homes in South Lyon. Scholarship amounts will vary depending on the home bought.

"We believe that providing a MET makes so much sense, relative to purchasing a home,' said Joseph Kheder, president. "With the state of the housing market, builders are giving away everything imaginable to promote themselves, so in order to truly stand apart, we feel that providing a fair price on a home, along with a MET would be the most powerful

incentive a homeowner could

Kheder Homes will provide scholarships to a purchaser's designee, awarding up to six limited benefit semesters, three years or approximately \$25,000 at any participating college or university. The scholarship can be awarded to any child, newborn through 12th grade, and is transferable. For information on the homes or scholarship program, call Jennifer Bordes at (248) 446-2100 or visit khederhomes.com for information on Charleston

Oakland Builders

Get the help you need to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Birmingham Community Education in cooperation with Oakland **Builders Education Seminars.** The seminar is scheduled for Monday/Wednesday, March 10, 12, 17, 19, from 6-10 p.m. at Berkshire Middle School, 21707 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills.

The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and

developers and building trades people. The seminar costs \$190 plus \$25 for the course textbook and sample questions to the instructor. Pre-registration with payment is preferred as classes may cancel. Please call Birmingham Community Education at (248) 203-3800 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ Get the help you need to start and maintain a successful business with an eighthour comprehensive seminar offered by Wayne-Westland Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders

Education Seminars. The seminar is scheduled for Tuesday/ Thursday, March 11 & 13, from 6-10 p.m. at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland. This seminar is designed to help make sense of purchasing, starting and maintaining a successful business. The cost of the seminar is \$105 for residents plus \$20 for the course textbook. Preregistration with payment is preferred as classes may cancel. Please call Wayne-Westland Community Education at (734) 419-2425 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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GREEN OAK TWP An unbelievable deal! Home: 7000 sq. ft. in Brighton Schools with 3 car attached garage, 3 car detached garage, 50x80 heated pole barn, 6 baths, 2 kitchens, 2 fireplaces, indoor, 30 variety. fireplaces, indoor 30 yard shooting range, 4 acre lake, 2 acre pond and much more all on 20+ acres, \$450,000. Owner/Broker, 734-663-4886

LANDRUM SOUTH CAROLINA glepages.com/home

Open Houses

FARMINGTON HILLS OPEN SUN 3/2, 1-5PM 34905 Bridgeman, N/ 8 Mile, Completely renovated 3 bdrm ranch has everything new. New furnace, C/A, roof, windows granite counter tops, hard-wood firs, awesome location award winning schools within walking distance, \$139,000. Jim Mariani: 734-769-7777

Global Realty Marketing LIVONIA OPEN SUN. 1-4 PM

14253 SUSANNA 3 Bdrm, brick ranch, Castle Garden Sub. Finished bsmt, 3 season room, \$219,900. Call: Ruth Martin Remerica -734-420-3400

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 P.M Ferndale-2944 Paxton N Woodward Hts/ E Woodward

3 bdrm bungalow w/ old world charm. Hardwood floors, coved ceiling, is master bdrm, 3 season porch, library w/ storage room, Great location, Move right in! \$175,000

Royal Oak-1535 N Manie S 12 Mile/W Crooks Great 3 bdrm, 2 bath bun furnace, hot water heate plumbing & more. Updated kitchen, coved cellings hardwood floors, part fit bsmt. \$174,900 THE FITZPATRICK TEAM

248-478-3584 KELLER WILLIAMS **FARMINGTON HILLS**



PLYMOUTH TOWNSHII OPEN SUN. 3/2 1-4 44471 Brookside Rd 4 bdrm colonial, 2.1 bath part finished bsmt, 2 ca ttached \$324,900 Marge: 734-718-4003 Keller Williams 734-459-4700



BERKLEY BEAUTY 3 borm., 2.5 bath, updated kitchen & baths, , 2 walk-in closets, "deep" professional finished hamt furnace & C пеw in 2005, paver wal & patio, www.owners.com Search #WTD8973

Beverly Hills

SPECTACULAR HOME bdrm newly painted rand w/2 car garage, and hardwood floors. Great friendly neigh borhood (Beverly & Pierce) C/A, full bsmt. \$194,500/bes offer. Call 248-647-9570

3049

Bloomfield

3030

BLOOMFIELD TWP awling 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch on approx 1 acre lot. Granite kitchen w/stain-less steel appliances. Living room w/hardwood floors. fireplaces. Finished bsmt Home warranty! \$325,000

(28002502) (248) 647-8888 CENTURY 21 TODAY

Commerce

COMMERCE TWP Seautiful maintained custor built home. Hardwood floors in 2 story fover & drean w/maple cabinets & premiun appliances. Master bdrm w/private bath w/jetted tub. \$439,000 MLS 27197737 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

COMMERCE TWP Beautiful maintained custom built home. Hardwood floors in 2 story foyer, dream granit istand kitchen, nook w/maple cabinets & premium appli ances. Master bdrm w/private

w/jetted tub. \$439,000 MLS 27197737 (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

3130 Chelsea

WANTED: NEW FAMILY! CUSTOM 5 Bdrm, 3.5 Bath. walkout bsmt, almost 4 ACRES w/ 3 Car Fin Garage Horses Ok. Just move REDUCED \$350,000/ lease Lu Parsons: (734) 821-0769 Keller Williams Realty (734) 995-9400

Farmington

UNIQUE RANCH 4 bdrm, 3 bath, deck over looks beautiful yard, remod eled gourmet kitchen w/island Finished walk out bsmt \$299,900 MLS 28024801 (734) 462-9800 CENTURY 21 TODAY



Farmington Hills

EQUITY OPPORTUNITY on this huge custom built sprawling 3 bdrm brick ranch w/2 car garage, 3 full baths, 1st floor laundry. Spacious master suite! Huge family room & library, home sits on hillside lot. \$215,000 MLS 28004701 (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

3145

Livonia

EQUITY OPPORTUNITY on this huge custom built sprawling 3 bdrm brick ranch w/2 car side entry garage, 3 full baths, 1st floor laundry. Spacious master bdrm suite! Huge family room & library, home sits on hillside lot. \$215,000 MLS 28004701 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

SHARP, 4 BDRM brick ranch on a beautiful 2/3 acre lot. Open floor plan, great for entertaining. Oak kitchen wisland & eating area w/doorwall to patio. Updated

roof, newer hot water heater, furnace & CA (3 yrs). \$274,900 MLS 28013674 (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY SHARP, WELL TAKEN care of 4 bdrm brick ranch on a beautiful 2/3 acre lot.

Open floor plan that's great for entertaining. Oak kitchen w/island and eating area with while to patio. Updated roof, newer hot water heater, furnace & CA (3 yrs). \$274,900 MLS 28013674 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

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> BEAUTIFUL RANCH! ipdated top to bottom! 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage & finished bsmt. Walk to school &

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Livonia

for my equity. Must See! Private owner. Call: 734-765-5757

NICE 3 BDRM brick ranch, 2 full baths, kitchen w/oak cabinets, ceramic tile, hardwood floors inished bsmt. \$139,000 MLS 28022388

SPACIOUS 3 BORM, bath ranch. Add on family wood burning stove, updated landscaping rear deck w/wheelchair ramp \$179,900 MLS 28020919 (734) 462-9800 CENTURY 21 TODAY

3250

UPDATED COLONIAL newer kitchen, windows, roof furnace, CA, hardwood floors in hall, foyer, kitchen & nook screened sun room. \$249,900 MLS 28021047 (734) 462-9800 CENTURY 21 TODAY

AWESOME COLONIAL 1st floor master w/updated bath, newer kitchen w/cherry cabinets, family room w/ston fireplace, doorwall leads to lovely yard & deck. \$238,900 MLS 27181791 (734) 462-9800

MOVE IN READY colonial w/2-story foyer, vaulted ceilings in living room, updated island kitchen w/granite counters. Library. large master bdrm w/walk i closet & private bath, walkou lower level. 1st floor launder \$329,900 MLS 28026103 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

MOVE IN READY (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

Redford

3170

DENISE McGUIGAN garage w/heat & \$124,900 MLS 27166352 734-357-2032

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Southfield/Lathrup

patio. Great ba \$175,000 (27198210)

3290

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 647-8888 CENTURY 21 TODAY

colonial w/2-story foyer, vaulted ceilings in living room, updated island kitchen w/granite counters. Library large master bdrm w/walk ir closet & private bath, walkou lower level. 1st floor laundry \$329,900 MLS 28026103

3350

ALMOST 1,480 sq. ft. on a large lot. Large kitchen w/built in appliances. ral fireolace. Hardwood floors throughout. Copper plumbing circuits, newer hot wate heater, Andersen williams newer roof. Attached 2 car without & CA.

(313) 538-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY **GREAT 3 BDRM** brick ranch. Many updates including windows, furnace, air conditioning, roof, carpet Part finished bsmt w/rec room

\$105,000 MLS 28027205 (248) 673-2211 CENTURY 21 TODAY REDFORD TWP. Sharp 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick bungalow. New gorgeous kitchen, hardwood floors, new

windows, newer furnace, CA finished bsmt. \$109,900 MLS 27225909 (734) 462-9800 CENTURY 21 TODAY

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds 1-800-579-7355

THREE BORM

1.5 bath ranch in great area w/newer furnace, CA and vinyl windows. Finished bsm w/carpet, 4th bdrm & loads of storage. Kitchen has lots of cabinets & counter space Natural fireplace in living room. Attached garage is dry walled. \$119,500 MLS 28017289 (313) 538-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

UPDATED TRI-LEVEL, new lower level bath, fresh paint & flooring throughout. Lots of storage & living space. \$197,900 MLS 28026279 (734) 462-9800 CENTURY 21 TODAY

SOUTHFIELD Beautiful, updated 3 bdrm 2.5 bath colonial. Family room w/gas fireplace & doorwall to screened in porch. Brick paver backyard

(248) 647-8888 CENTURY 21 TODAY SOUTHFIELD

Oramatic 4 bdrm, 2,760 sq. ft contemporary built in 06 Gourmet kitchen, living room family room, dining room library, huge master, partially finished bsmt.=. deck. 3 ca garage. \$429,900 (28019527) (248) 647-8888 **CENTURY 21 TODAY**

SOUTHFIELD Large 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch in great location! Hardwood floors, lovely kitchen, family room w/cathedral ceiling & fireplace, huge bsmt, all ar ances. Home warranty. \$175,000 (28022045)

Sterling Heights STERLING HEIGHTS

OPEN SUN. 12-3 39142 Augusta. 3 bdrm ranch, many updates \$155,000, 248-752-6580

READY TO MOVE IN

beautiful 4 bdrm 2.5 bath colonial. Spacious kitchen w/appliances, upgraded cabi-nets & double oven. Master bdrm w/decorative celling & luxurious upgraded master w/walk-in \$425,000 MLS 28008113 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

READY TO MOVE IN beautiful 4 bdrm 2.5 bath colonial. Spacious kitchen w/appliances, upgraded cabinets & double oven. Master bdrm w/decorative ceiling & luxurious upgraded master bath w/walk-in clo \$425,000 MLS 28008113 (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

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By Owner

TROY Remodeled 4 bdrm., 3 bath new Euro Kitchen, granite island, Brazilian Cherry floors, stainless steel appliances, office, .9 wooder cre, secluded, Bloomfield lilis schools, bsmt., area of \$1M homes, \$399K or lease ForPublicAuction.com 248-939-4006

Waterford FOUR BORM

3 bath home. 3 lots overlook ing Lake Oakland. 50 ft. of Lake Oakland frontage Finished walkout bsmt. Lake privileges on Oakland & Wood Hull lakes, \$182,900 MLS 28024660 (248) 673-2211 CENTURY 21 TODAY

3423

THREE BORM RANCH located in Waterford school district. Hardwood floors Large throughout. room, finished bsmt w/bonus room, oversized garage \$158,900 MLS 28025025 (248) 673-2211 CENTURY 21 TODAY

Waterford Dakland County

3440

WATERFORD TWP This move in condition, updated home shows like a model & carpet, security system, private yard, 2 car attached garage. \$149,900 (28012965) (248) 647-8888 CENTURY 21 TODAY

West Bloomfield

CUSTOM HOME w/3 car garage. Glass stair-way rails to bridge overlooking great room. Kitchen w/large island & many cabinets. Master w/2 walk-in-closets & luxurious master bath \$520,000 MLS 27104174 (248) 855-2000

CUSTOM HOME WITH 3 car garage. Glass stairways rails to bridge overlooking great room. Kitchen w/large island & many cabinets. Master bdrm w/2 walk-in-closets & luxurious master bath. \$520,000 MLS 27104174 (248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY

CENTURY 21 TODAY

THIS 2600+ SQ. FT. ranch home has hardwood floors & neutral paint throughout entire home. NEW windows & treatments, NEW & stunning concrete patio & finished bsmt w/ 1/2 bath, rec. room & 4th bdrm. Private

master suite w/3 walk-in-clos-ets. \$319,000 MLS 28019689

(248) 360-9100 CENTURY 21 TODAY THIS 2609+ SQ. FT. ranch home has hardwood floors & neutral paint throughout NEW windows & treatments, NEW & stunning concrete patio & finished bsmt w/ 1/2 bath, rec. room & 4th bdrm. Private master suite w/3 walk-in-closets. \$319,000

MLS 28019689 (248) 855-2000 CENTURY 21 TODAY

RANCH BEAUTY 3 bdrms, full bsmt, updated & ready for you. Walk to Hamilton Elementary from

Westland

home on dead-end street. All newer appliances stay, new carpet & paint too! DENISE McGUIGAN

REMERICA HOMETOWN III

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Lapeer County

COLUMBIAVILLE VILLAGE 4 bdrm, 2 bath raised ranch on 1 acre of land. Located in Lakeville school district. Finished walkout bsmt. 2 car attached garage. \$179,000 MLS 27137606 (248) 673-221 CENTURY 21 TODAY

Oakland County

Beautiful 4 borm, 2.5 bath home located in Clarkston school district. Deer Lake privileges. Fireplace in great room. Formal dining room, finished daylight bs \$384,900 MLS 28028953 (248) 673-2211 CENTURY 21 TODAY

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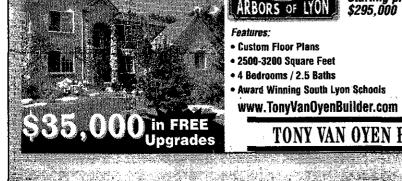
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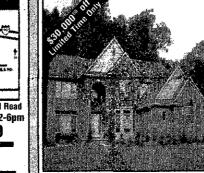
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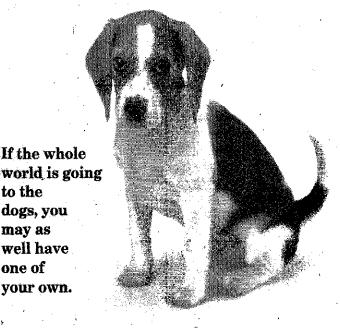
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- 12 Slip up 13 Large tawny cat
- 14 Debate side 15 Society column word
- 16 About to happen
- 18 Popular mixer 20 Swit costar 21 Volcanic emis-
- 23 Birthday count 24 Reach across
- 27 Skipper's okay
- 29 The facts — Tiki"
- 34 Stockholm
- 35 Mall display 36 Hairy humanoid Low card
- 39 Quick snack
- 40 Regret deeply 42 Luau fare

- 46 Pillages 50 Directed
- 54 Skip stones 55 Roll call reply 56 Have an effect
- 57 Frost 58 Watched carefully

60 Doze off DOWN

- 1 Parking-lot mishap
- 2 Popular cookie 3 Brown songbird 4 These have
- many extras 5 Pirate's swig 6 Elec, unit
- 8 Served the
- Bagnold 10 Sicilian landmark
- EELS 8-31 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 11 Equipment 17 Complain persistently 19 Holm or Woosnam 22 Urgency

K O O L

EOCENE

26 Diligent insect 28 Hit heavy seas

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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to say?"
31 Make lace like granny 32 Goodall

30 "Who,

subject 37 Did a laundry chore

23 Fable author

24 Moon's place

"Ulalume" poet

- 39 Sci. class Footed vase
- 43 Of longer standing 44 The other
- guys 45 Jack rabbit 47 Valhalla host 48 Baia fast food
- 49 Rushed 50 Ernesto Guevera 51 Summer in
- Quebec 52 Ordinance
- 53 Use sparingly

Warter Place



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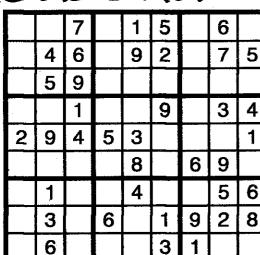
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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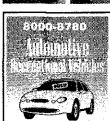
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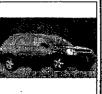
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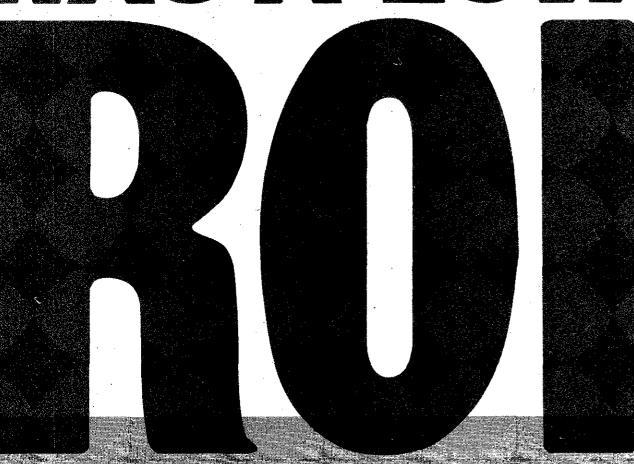
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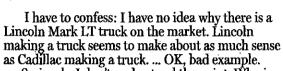
2008 Lincoln Mark LT 4x4 a truck with Lincoln heritage But who is this truck aimed at?

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard **Avanti News Features**



Seriously, I don't understand the point. Who is this truck aimed at? It's not a true luxury vehicle - I mean, it's still a truck - and if you're looking for a true working truck and wanted to stay with the Ford family of vehicles, I'd imagine you'd be looking for a F-Series. The folks at Lincoln-Mercury must believe there's some kind of demand for a truck with the Lincoln name, or I wouldn't have the Mark LT 4x4 in my driveway this week.

Not that there's anything really wrong with the truck, particularly in the way it's styled. The LT comes as either a 4x2 or 4x4, with either a short or long wheelbase (138.5 and 150.5 inches, respectively). The Lincoln waterfall grille is there, along with chrome lower bodyside cladding, chrome exterior accents on the front and rear bumpers, side mirrors, the tail pipe tip and on the optional running boards.

The running boards, by the way, are a good option, at either \$495 as a stand-alone option or as part of a more expensive package that includes power adjustable pedals, power moonroof, power sliding rear window, trailer tow package, navigation system, reverse camera, and reverse sensing system; that package goes for about \$4,800. This truck isn't easy to get in and out of and the running boards are a big help.

The reverse camera and sensing system are good ideas, as well. The truck is tricky to park and back up and the camera helps out a lot.

The Mark LT 4x4 comes with 18-inch aluminum wheels (20-inch wheels are available at \$1,495, as well), tailgate with tailgate assist, fog lamps and power heated side mirrors.

Inside, the truck resembles Lincoln SUVs, with many of the same styling touches. There's plenty of chrome and wood accents throughout the interior, with leather applied to the steering wheel, center



The LT comes as either a 4x2 or 4x4, with either a short or long wheelbase.

console and floor shifter.

The standard power leather seats are comfortable and easy to adjust. There's plenty of room in the cabin, and this includes the rear seats area on this four-door truck. The rear seats are fold-down 60/40 spilt seats.

There's a roomy center console storage area with two cupholders built in. I was surprised not to find an extra 12V power outlet up front; there is the cigarette lighter, but an upscale truck should have an extrapower outlet.

The Mark LT comes with automatic climate control, power windows, driver information center, remote keyless entry and a universal garage door opener. The standard audio system is an AM/FM/sixdisc CD changer with a subwoofer and an input for your mp3 player. Satellite radio, with a six-month subscription, is also included at no charge.

The Mark LT is powered by a 5.4-liter three-valve SOHC V8 engine. It's rated at 300 horsepower and 365 lb.-ft. of torque, which is plenty for everyday driving. This engine is mated to a four-speed automatic transmission that shifts fairly smoothly. On the 4x4 model, you get electronic shift on-the-fly. Gas mileage is a concern, though, with EPA estimates of 13 mpg in the city and 17 on the highway. The good news, however, is that it takes regular fuel. You can order a larger (35.7 gallon) fuel tank for \$95. If you were thinking that the Lincoln name on

the front would mean a truck that handles like a luxury car, you'd be mistaken. This is still, after all, a truck, and it rides and handles like one (and that's not a criticism, by the way). The front suspension system is a coil-over-shock, long-spindle doublewishbone independent system, while in the rear, it's a Hotchkiss-type non-independent live type, with leaf springs and outboard shock absorbers. It's a fairly good quiet ride, for a truck.

Handling is a mixed bag. Due to its size and large turning circle, parking and U-turns are pains in the neck. The power-rack-and-pinion steering responds quickly, though and the truck maneuvers fairly well on the open road. The four-wheel ABS brakes are excellent.

The Mark LT comes with dual-stage front airbags and an anti-theft system.

The 2008 Lincoln Mark LT 4x4 starts at about \$42,000. Add the optional skid plates (\$160), remote starter (\$455), 20-inch wheels, larger fuel tank, chrome box rail bars (\$250), and the "Elite" Package (running boards, navigation, etc, described above), and you're at over \$50,000.

For a truck. Yes, it has the Lincoln name, and it's a nice truck, but it is still a truck. See one for yourself, and compare it to what you'd get with a similarly equipped Ford F-Series, for instance.

The Mark LT is a nice-looking, comfortable

truck. I'm just not sure who it's aimed at.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol..com < mailto:Avanti1054@aol..com>

2008 Lincoln Mark LT 4x4. Vehicle class: Pickup truck. Power: 5.4-liter V8 engine. Mileage: 13 city /17 highway. Where built: Dearborn, MI. Base price: \$41,740. Price as tested: \$50,410.

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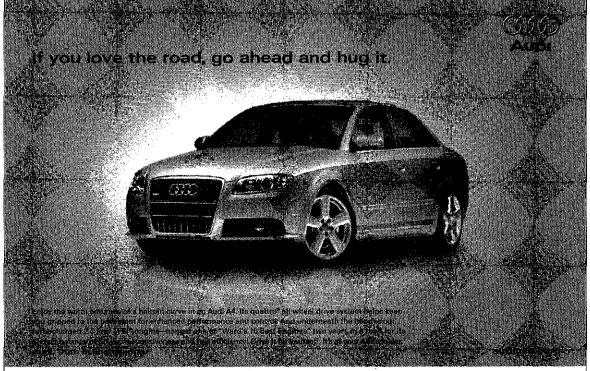
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