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The Community Crier

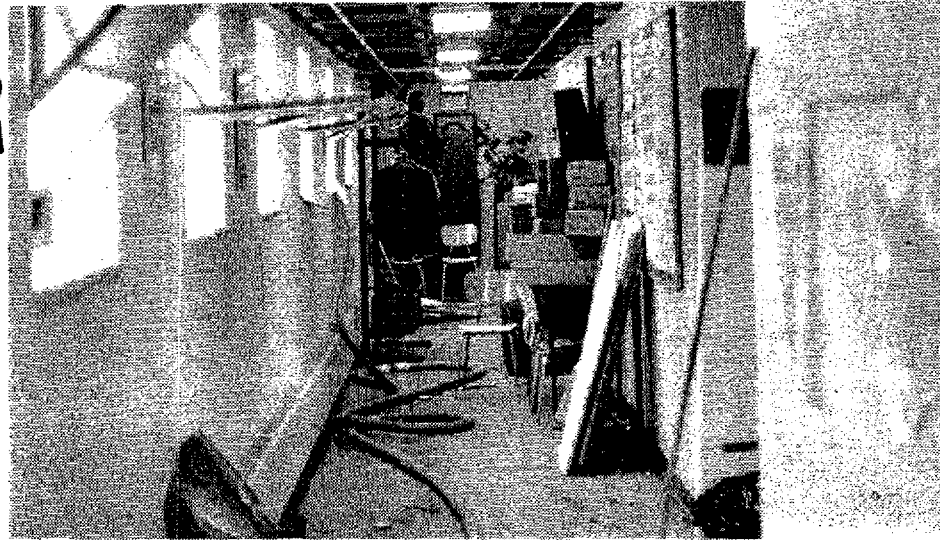
The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

Vol. 24 No. 15

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May 14, 1997

Our Lady of Good Counsel burns



What was a relatively small fire turned into a costly event for Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Plymouth. More than \$100,000 in damage was done to the school, due mostly to smoke and water. (Crier photo by Matt Hucal).

BY JILLIAN BOGATER and MATT HUCAL

A small fire in a storage room at Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) Friday morning caused more than \$100,000 worth of damage, fire officials said.

The Plymouth Community Fire Department received a call at 7:15 a.m.

reporting smoke in the building, said Chief Larry Groth. Eight trucks and 18 firefighters responded to the scene. No one was injured in the incident.

Upon investigation, firefighters discovered a fire in the school's laminating room.

"It was not a large fire," Groth said. "It was confined to a wall cabinet."

Please see pg. 5

Plymouth man helps fight flood

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

When Robert Hess heard about a local drive to help flood victims in North Dakota, there was no question in his mind what he had to do.

The Plymouth resident hopped in his car and drove over to Pioneer Middle School where the drive is headquartered.

Hess has personal reasons for wanting to get involved. In 1952 he graduated from the University of North Dakota. His wife, Phyllis, is from Cooperstown — about 100 miles away from flood-ravaged Grand Forks.

"I heard about it and thought I'd help out," he said as he organized dozens of cardboard boxes lined up in a rental truck.

Please see pg. 4

Human remains found near Haggerty Rd.

Skeletal man found in rolled-up carpet near railroad tracks, officials say 'it's been there for several years.'

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Police are seeking tips to help identify skeletal remains discovered over the weekend in Plymouth Township.

Plymouth Township Police were called at 7:30 p.m. Saturday by a person who discovered what looked like human remains wrapped in a piece of carpet, said Sgt. Steve Rapson.

The body was found in a field located 75 feet north of the C/O railroad and 400 feet west of Haggerty.

"The surveyor had seen animals hanging around a piece of carpet," Rapson said. "He went over, kicked it, and saw what looked like human bones."

Police called in the Wayne County Medical Examiner and secured the scene for about two hours, he said.

The bones are from a male of unknown age with brown hair, Rapson said. The

skeleton was wearing a white and black horizontal striped shirt and blue shorts. The biggest clue may be in the body's socks: knee-high tube socks with the words "USA '80."

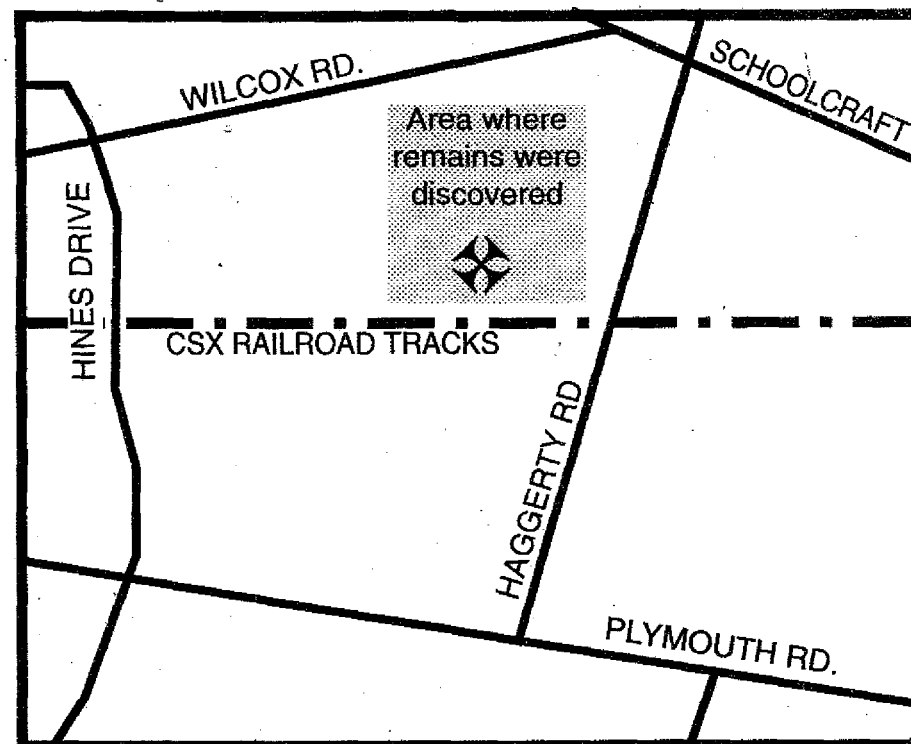
The body wore no shoes.

"From the evidence on the socks, it tells us the body's been there for several years," Rapson said.

The police department has sent out a multi-state message to alert other agencies of the discovery so they can check missing persons files, he said.

The medical examiner is currently looking over the remains to determine the cause of death and how long they have been there, Rapson said.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Det. David Hayes at 453-3869.



Marathon man

Canton chiropractor adjusts schedule to compete in race

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

The winners:

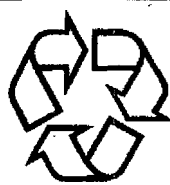
Canton Chamber announces annual award recipients

See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

Crier offices close

Memorial Day, May 26. The Crier will be closed. Classified ad deadline is 4 p.m., May 23; Display ad deadline is 5 p.m., May 23.

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City sidewalks to be fixed, residents to pay

Individuals have 30 days to find contractor, then the Plymouth takes over.

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

City of Plymouth residents have 30 days to find their own contractor to replace broken sidewalks on their property, or the city proceed with the work itself.

This week the city started sending out letters to residents outlining the 1997 Sidewalk Repair Program. This summer's project is the first part of a two-year program to inspect and repair all sidewalks in the city.

The residents targeted for repairs this summer are those who live south of Ann Arbor Trail.

The general fund will finance the \$95,000 project.

Of that cost, the city has set aside \$20,000 of its budget to cover handicapped ramps and areas damaged by water and sewer services; the balance will be billed to the residents.

Last week the Plymouth City Commission awarded the contract to Livonia-based Larocca Construction Inc., which had the low bid of \$94,150.

Work on the project will begin in June, and should take about 90 days, said James Penn, city building official.

According to the Plymouth charter, the city does not have to hold a public hearing to make the street improvements. However, the charter does require the city to notify residents of the project.

Upon receipt of the notice, residents have 30 days to obtain their own contractor. If they don't the city will repair the sidewalks and bill residents, Penn said.

Commissioner Stella Greene expressed concern about this billing.

"This may be a hardship for some residents," she said. "I don't want to place residents in that position without giving them a reasonable amount of time to respond."

Residents will have a minimum of 30 days to make the payment, said Mark Christiansen, city finance director. Those who do not pay the bill will find it on next summer's tax bill.

The average home will have 85 square-feet of 4-inch sidewalk replaced, Penn said. At \$2.85 per square foot, the bill comes to \$240 per house. As of last week, the city had identified 19,000

square feet of sidewalk in need of replacement.

So far, the city has marked off 3,800 square feet of 6-inch pavement needing replacement. The 6-inch pavement, which costs \$3.15 per square foot, is used to replace driveways and street curbs, Penn said.

"Trucks have a tendency to run over the corners and break the 4-inch curbs," Penn said.

Canton police look for leads in All Saints theft

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Police are still looking for leads in the theft of about \$10,000 worth of construction equipment from the All Saint's Elementary school site.

Workers at the site discovered the theft at 9 a.m. Thursday according to Canton Police Sgt. Eddie Tanner.

Three generators, one sump-pump, some hose and an assortment of tools including chop saws and drills were stolen, according to Sgt. Tanner.

The suspects also pried open the office door, emptied the file cabinets and stole a set of hi-lo keys, according to police reports.

Police are waiting for responses from a lein message sent out to identify the stolen equipment.

"The company provides us with the serial numbers, and we send out a lein message to anywhere the pawns could be pawned or used," Sgt. Tanner said. "I've set it out, but haven't heard anything back yet."

In addition to the generators and pumps, the thieves also pried open the site's "gang boxes"—big, steel boxes resembling small trash dumpsters—and removed tools from them.

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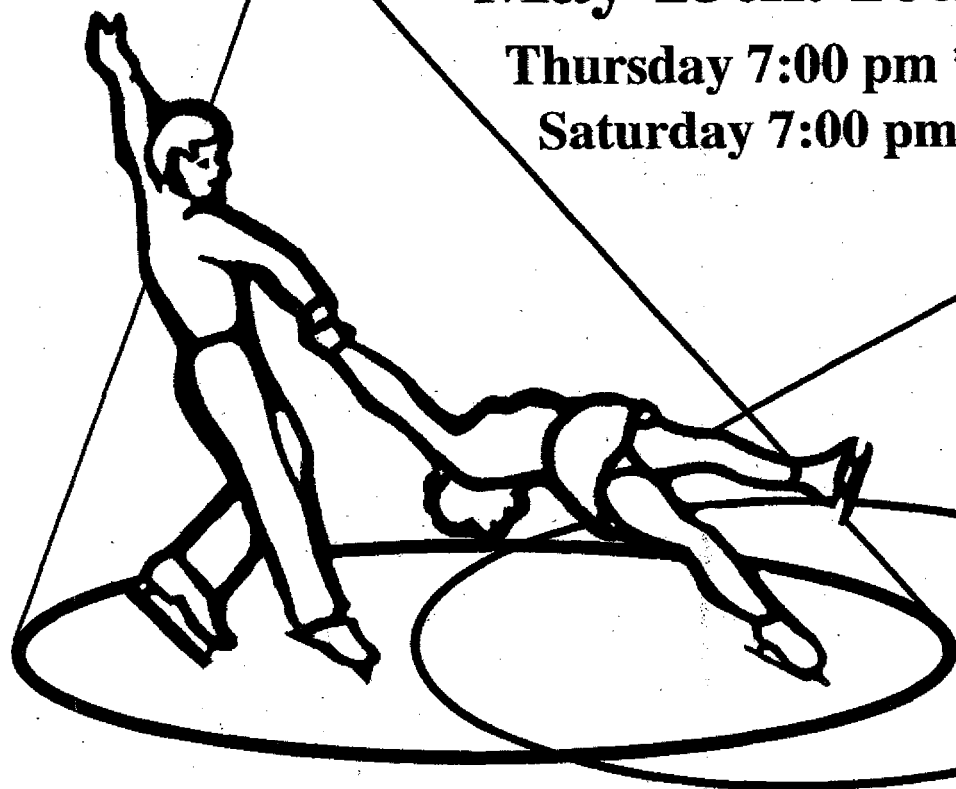
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Put it on my bill...

High summer water bills at a Plymouth mobile home park lead the lessor to install individual meters, and the leasees to protest

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Water consumption lies at the center of a controversy brewing at Plymouth Hills Mobile Home Court.

Currently operators of the park do not charge residents for water and sewage use. But a recent decision to install individual water meters at each lot to charge residents has many people up in arms.

"It just seems unfair," said resident Harold Stein.

Stein said the mobile home court's owner, Joe Ruggirello, sent letters March 14 to all the residents informing them of his intentions to lease water and sewage usage to Fenton-based Universal Utilities.

Under the plan, Plymouth Township's Department of Public Works would still provide water to the site, but Universal Utilities would break it down to individual use within the park.

Ruggirello did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

Currently the township DPW monitors water and sewage use through three master meters, which each contain two smaller meters to monitor low and high flows, said DPW Manager Thomas Hollis.

"From what I understand, (the park owners) are trying to see where the water goes once it leaves the master meters to justify billings," Hollis said.

Growing water bills may lie at the heart of this decision. During the last year, monthly bills averaged between \$14,000 and \$16,000, according to information provided by the DPW.

However, during summertime, use escalates and so do water

bills. Last August's bill topped at \$27,389.44, followed by a September bill of \$21,217.01. A bill in August 1994 came to \$33,455.10.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued Ruggirello a permit for water construction March 20. The permit allows "installation of individual water meters for each mobile home site at Plymouth Hills Mobile Home Court." There are 635 sites at the mobile home park, which is located on Ridge Road, north of North Territorial in Plymouth Township.

It was after receiving this permit that Ruggirello notified residents of his intentions.

Stein, who serves as president of the Plymouth Mobile and Manufactured Home Association, responded to Ruggirello's letter with one of his own. The letter outlined questions about the meter project and concerns the residents have.

Mostly, residents questioned rental fees and if they would decrease since they now had water bills to pay for.

Lot rent starts at

\$360 per month, Stein said.

Many people chose leases with Plymouth Hills, Stein said, because they are on a fixed income and cannot afford additional utility payments.

But for now, the residents just want answers to their questions. "We never got a response from (Ruggirello)," Stein said. "Who will be responsible for properly reading the meters? At whose expense? People want to know."

Water bills at Plymouth Hills

Billing date	Cost	Billing date	Cost
March 1995	\$11,611.77	March 1995	\$13,394.16
May 1994	\$19,788.87	April 1995	\$14,926.96
June 1994	\$17,228.07	May 1996	\$10,605.45
July 1994	\$33,455.10	June 1996	\$15,275.98
August 1994	\$14,303.52	July 1996	\$13,805.95
September 1994	\$15,647.94	August 1996	\$27,389.44
October 1994	\$10,278.99	September 1996	\$21,217.01
November 1994	\$1,336.56	October 1996	\$14,876.02
December 1994	\$19,157.36	November 1996	\$14,453.28
January 1995	\$15,854.96	December 1996	\$14,184.96
February 1995			

Source: Department of Public Works, Charter Township of Plymouth

Continental Cable changes name, service

BY MATT HUCAL

The Plymouth-Canton-Northville area is among the first communities in Michigan to be offered a single-source, multimedia cable.

MediaOne, formerly Continental Cablevision, began providing entertainment, information and communications services yesterday on one coaxial-fiber-optic line.

It is the first wave of new technology put to use by MediaOne since Continental Cablevision and U.S. West, Inc. merged into the company last fall.

"It's more than a name change," Bill Black, Regional Public Affairs Director of MediaOne, said.

MediaOne's new programming includes more channels, pay-per-view and video within 5-10 minutes of a request, and Internet access that's 50 times faster than a regular modem, Black said.

Phone services and high-definition, digital television won't be available for a couple of years, Black said.

Cable rates will remain the same. Internet access will be \$49.95 for current MediaOne customers and \$59.95 for non-customers.

Green team



Margi Bake, chairperson of the Tuesday Garden Club plating near Kellogg Park on Penniman Avenue, in Plymouth, is assisted by fellow members Dorothy Sincock, Esther Hulsing and Mickie Beyer. According to the club, they're not afraid to get their hands dirty to ensure Plymouth is in bloom for spring. Seasonal plantings are a priority and major undertaking every year. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Tonight, WSDP, 88.1 FM, will begin a series of interviews with candidates in the race for school board trustee. John Kreger, host of Community Focus, will interview Roland Thomas on the program, beginning at 5:40 p.m., or following baseball.

WEEKEND

- Community Education programs will be registering for summer programs — including Safety Town, Swim, Adult & Youth recreation and enrichment courses — Saturday, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. in the Canton High Cafeteria and Little Theater.
- Wayne County Parks and Vietnam Veterans of America's Second Annual Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, 8 a.m. at Waterford Bend picnic area, Hines Park at Seven Mile and Sheldon Roads in Northville. Call

NEXT WEEK

- Winners and Honorable mentions of the Isbister/Rotary Art Collection Competition on display starting Monday, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council,

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- Deathspg.10
- Sportspgs. 20-21
- Opinionpgs. 22-23



Garden and yard mavers will love green-thumbing through pages of tips and hints in The Crier's Spring Tonic section, appearing May 28.

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The Crier



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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUMMONS & NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION

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VS

DOCKET NO. 97-DR-32-0457X

Sheila Locklear Lara, Jimmy Stevens,
Keith Christopher Stevens DOB: 7-2-89
Travis Edward Lee Stevens DOB: 8-29-86

DEFENDANT(S)

TO: JIMMY STEVENS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Termination of Parental Rights Complaint concerning the minor children above and that you have failed to contact the agency in regards to your whereabouts, in this action, the original of which has been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Lexington County, a copy of which will be delivered to you upon request; and to serve a copy of your answer to said Complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff at their office at 314 W. Main St., Lexington, S.C. 29072-2636, within 30 days of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer said Complaint within the statutory time allotted, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to court for the relief demanded in said petition.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

Date: May 14, 1997
Lexington, South Carolina

VFW donates chairs



VFW Post 6695 Adjutant Carl Adler and Commander Bill Fletcher present chairs to residents of Plymouth's Tonquish Manor; Donna Michalski, Tonquish Manor coordinator, and residents accepted the chairs on behalf of the residency at large.

"The retirees at the Manor had a need for comfortable chairs to sit in the sun," Adler said. "So we went forth to the membership for the money, and went ahead and purchased the chairs."

It's just part of an ongoing relationship between the VFW and Tonquish Manor. The post has contributed to the purchase of bingo prizes for several years, according to Adler. "Oh, we donate money to help buy little prizes," he said. "We do it completely of our own volition. We see a need, and we try to help fill it."

(Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



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OLGC damaged most by smoke and water

Continued from pg. 1

But a combination of smoke and water caused most of the damage to the lower floor of the school, Groth said.

When the fire started, it set off the school's sprinkler system. Since the lower floor of the school has only one drain, the lower level quickly flooded, he said.

"There's been a tremendous amount of damage to the carpet in the basement," he said, adding smoke ruined most of the school's sports sweatshirts.

The school's insurance company was contacted immediately to bring in a device that would syphon the water out of the basement, Groth said.

Because no flammable liquids or electric wires were in the area of the fire, the fire has been labeled as suspicious, Groth said. It remains under investigation.

Ted Behn, OLGC principal, was delighted with the way the transportation department and various schools helped out. There were about 20 children who eventually reached the school, the rest were sent home beforehand.

"Pioneer (Middle School) and transportation were fantastic," Behn said. "They were a big help in contacting parents to pick their children up."

Along with those children, the principal and several teachers were at the school. School officials canceled classes Friday.

All the damage occurred on the lower floor, which contains the library classrooms, computer classrooms and teacher lounge. School personnel removed every

computer and book in those rooms for cleaning. No regular classes were directly affected by the fire and school resumed on

Monday as usual.

As of Monday the ceiling tile and carpet had been ripped out, the water and smell

was gone, and because of the speed of the repairs Behr expects his school to be back to normal in about two weeks.

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The Tonquish Creek Yacht Club has announced the winners of the 1997 K.C. Mueller Scholarship Grants. Each winner receives a \$200 grant to be applied for enrollment in a summer enrichment or co-curricular activity. From Plymouth: **Rebecca Ann Wroblecki, Samip Mallick, Michelle Wallon, Alex Oatley, Kelli Drinkhahn, and Jeremy Andrew Hamrick.** From Canton: **Rebecca Turze, Erin Nelson, Rebecca Knight, and Erica Oldford.**

Degree candidates from Bowling Green State University from Northville: **David Bruhowzki, Matthew Becker, and Jamie Kirk.** From Plymouth: **James J. Vassallo.**

Julie Stone, principal of West Middle School, has been selected as 1997 Woman of Distinction by Educational Fraternity Delta Kappa Gamma.

Stone is also president of the Plymouth-Canton Administrators, serves on EMU's General Education Advisory Committee, and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan.

Donald Keller III and Jason Grimm of Plymouth, and **Julie Zweisler** of Northville were awarded Senior Sigma Xi Awards from Hope College.

Sigma Xi is a scientific Research Society. The club at Hope is one of 500 North American chapters dedicated to encouragement, support and recognition of scientists.

Patrick Chun, son of **Woosang and Sarah Chun** of Plymouth, was recently inducted into MSU's Tower Guard, the university's elite honor society and oldest student organization on campus.

Students in the top 5 percent of the freshman class are invited to apply. Members are chosen based on their application and interview.

Adam Seiter and **Carla Howe**, of Canton, and **Kimberly Reynolds**, of Plymouth, are eligible for the University Excellence Award of \$8,000 over four years for WMU. **Daniel Kruszka, Sarah Ann McGlone, Abigail Myers, and Sara Schoeneman** of Canton, and **Scott Loewe, Michelle Mangan, Sarah Pratt** and **Susanne Thompson** of Plymouth are eligible for WMU's Academic Scholarship for \$4,800 over four years.

The Canton Beautification Committee will hold its Spring Plant exchange Saturday. Bring your perennials, herbs, seeds, bulbs and house plants to the Pavilion behind the Historical Museum on Proctor Road, west of Canton Center. For additional info call Chris: (313) 454-3468.

Marathon Man

BY MATT HUCAL

Through the California sun, wind, and mountainous terrain, Dr. Thomas Gerou of Canton ran his way to a 35th-place finish in the Big Sur International Marathon, April 27, with a time of 3:07.42.

Gerou, 39, and 3293 other participants spent their Sunday running along the Pacific coast, being careful to pace themselves in order to finish the 26-mile marathon. The winner of the race was from Yugoslavia and finished at 2:27.51.

With winds reaching up to 45 mph, Gerou said he and his fellow competitors reached a point at which they had to help each other out. In order to block the ocean-driven winds, runners would take turns blocking it from each other.

Along with the wind, Gerou withstood such uncommon obstacles as extreme uphill and downhill climbs, including one from 40 feet above sea level to 580 feet.

But Big Sur's challenges are why *Runner's World* magazine rates the race as one of the top in the world. Its singularity is found in the scenery along the course, a man playing a grand piano at the halfway point of the race, and orchestra members playing at various locations along the course.

"The course itself is very beautiful, and it helps me get into a rhythm," Gerou said.

He prefers to get into that rhythm by himself while racing, he said, so he uses his watch and mile markers to set a pace,

instead of using other runners.

"I find I can run real steadily if I keep looking at my watch and looking at the mile markers, so you expect to be so tired at certain miles," Gerou said. "But at Big Sur you get tired at different points."

When asked about the differences between Big Sur and other races such as the Boston Marathon, Gerou said, "It's (Big Sur) a lot harder than Boston, but a lot of people are there just for the scenery." He said some of the participants ran the marathon with cameras in their hands in order to capture the scenery.

Gerou began running in 1978 with a buddy, he said, and first competed in 1979 at the Detroit Marathon. Since then his training habits include running five to eight miles a day, with one day a week devoted to a long run of about 18 to 20 miles.

Gerou has been a part of 32 marathons, traveling to such cities as Detroit, Chicago, New York, Boston, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh. His best time in any of those was 2:41.54 in the Boston Marathon in 1995, in which he placed 194th out of 9400 runners.

Among Gerou's goals as he continues to run is breaking the 2:40 mark, and reaching personal-best times in the 10-kilometer and one-mile distances. He'll strive for that as the marathon's world record time of 2:06.50 patiently waits to be broken. By whom, only time will tell.



Dr. Thomas Gerou, 39, of Canton has run in more than 30 marathons. He has a chiropractic clinic in Canton.



Fund-drive that's fun to drive

Coleen Pellerito of Beverly Hills, MI, sits in her new Cadillac Catera as Don Massey and Sister M. Francilene, president of Madonna University, look on.

Pellerito was the winner of the car donated by Massey and raffled off at Madonna's ninth scholarship auction on April 11.

Massey's donation helped raise \$117,400 of the over \$285,000 raised for the Madonna scholarship fund. It was Massey's eighth year donating a Cadillac, helping raise \$757,600 overall.



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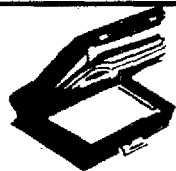
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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

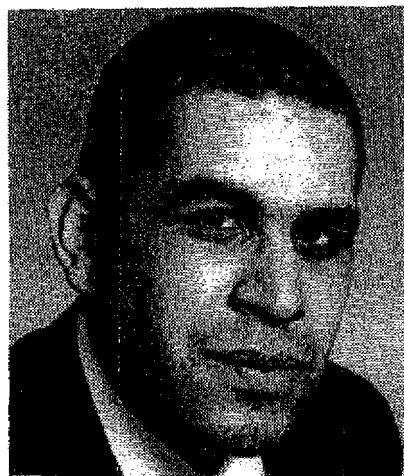


PETE ZABALA

Pete Zabala has joined real estate office RE/MAX Crossroads in Canton as a sales associate, said Chuck Hromek, RE/MAX 100 broker/owner.

A 20-year real estate sales veteran, Zabala will continue to serve the residential real estate needs of Wayne and southern Oakland counties.

Before joining RE/MAX Crossroads, Zabala was affiliated with Remerica.



CRAIG PRESTON

Craig Preston has joined Arch Associates LLC in Northville as advertising and marketing intern. Preston is a graduate of Oakland University, where he received a bachelor degree in both communications and theater.

He plans to attend the University of Arizona's Master in Business Association program in December.

Chamber recognizes business leaders

ATHENA, Small Business Person of the Year awards announced

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

The winners of Canton Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year and ATHENA award were announced at the Chamber luncheon last Wednesday at Summit on the Park.

"This is the age of giving back and to recognizing great accomplishments," said Bruce Patterson, Wayne County commissioner. "This is a terrific list of people. Heroes, not just nominees. Canton is a great place to live and work. I salute all of your achievements."

Robert Boyer of Boyer's Meat Processing, Inc. won the Small Business Person of the Year award. Boyer, also known as "50-50 Bob," was given a standing ovation for his 50-50 raffle ticket fundraising and his support in the Canton community. He is also a Director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

The Award is given to a person whose involved in the community and with a history of business innovation and successful response to adversity.

The three runner-ups were: Michael Gerou, Attorney at Law; Kevin McCabe, McCabe Funeral Home; and Ray Mierzejewski, Piccadilly Petalier.

The ATHENA Award went to Nicki Wilson of the Decorating Den. Wilson is also the vice president of community development on the Canton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

"This award recognizes and celebrates the highest level of excellence," said Bonnie Berg 1996 ATHENA recipient. "Nicki is known for her assistance of other women and her active involvement in the community."

Chambers of commerce across the country award The ATHENA to those



1996 ATHENA Award recipient Bonnie Berg presents this year's award to Nicki Wilson, of the Decorating Den. (Crier photos by Jillian Bogater)

who demonstrated support and assistance to professional women in their community.

Runner-up for the ATHENA Award was Phyllis Redfern of Specialty Communications.

Bradley Wardell of Stardock Systems, Inc., was the luncheon's featured speaker.

Wardell explained that the Internet and other new technologies open business opportunities.

Too young to work at IBM, Wardell said, he started his Canton-based computer hardware company from his college dorm room.

"Because of rapidly changing technologies the small business possibilities are endless," Wardell said.

"Only your talents are what matter, not age, gender, or where you live."



The Small Business Person of the Year award went to Robert Boyer of Boyer's Meat Processing, Inc.

Program to link PCEP students, teachers on-line

Schools in Northville and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are beneficiaries of an Internet project to connect home computers to local school web sites.

Continental Cablevision announced this week that it is sponsoring the "Home to School Connection Development Program." Continental also changed its name to Media One and changed several aspects of its services.

The program provides schools with high speed Internet access service at no charge as it becomes commercially available, said Bill Black, Continental's regional director of public affairs.

Technology providers who understand and address the challenges facing educators can use this to enhance the education system, said Dave Childs, Continental's director of business development.

"We have to listen to teachers and understand their needs," Childs said. "That's why we've funded and launched (the program). It's designed to use technology to solve a specific concern of teachers ... getting more parent involvement in their children's education."

Because parents are busier than ever and teachers are pressed to teach more students with fewer resources, the program is specifically targeted at improving direct communication between a parent and their child's teacher, he said.

"The key here is that we're getting classroom teachers directly involved in the development of this tool," Childs said.

At this point, teachers are learning the basics of the Internet, said Derek DuCharme, coordinator for the program.

"Teachers can now post homework assignments and exams on-line or showcase student work," DuCharme said. "Parents can express concerns directly to the school and stay up on what's happening in their child's class."

In addition, Continental's commitment includes free teacher training.

"Free training to use the Internet is a special concern," Childs said. "Many recent findings have discovered that teachers cannot integrate Internet use with current curriculum without a full understanding of how to navigate and arrive at useful destinations."

Flood of memories for helper

Continued from pg. 1

The flood drive, which began May 3, will end Thursday and the truck will head west Friday, said drive coordinator Sharon Shemen, of Plymouth. The local effort works in connection with the National Disaster Committee and the American Red Cross in Fargo, ND.

"I'm constantly on the phone with the Red Cross updating items they need," Shemen said.

The drive accepts cash donations to help cover truck and gas expenses.

Other items needed include non-perishable food items; cleaning supplies, such as bleach, shovels, brooms and garbage bags; paper goods, such as paper plates, napkins and toilet paper; personal hygiene items, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant diapers for infants and adults; and baby items like formula and disposable bottles.

No clothing donations are taken, except for new socks and new underwear.

Looking at pictures of the devastation in newspapers brings back bittersweet memories for Hess.

"I remember this building that has now burned down," he said pointing to a photo in the paper. "And here was the barbershop I used to go to."

In the time Hess spent in North Dakota, he never experienced a flood.

"In 1950, the water got pretty high but we didn't have to shut the town down," he said.

It's these memories that fuel his desire to help out.

"My time in North Dakota contributed



Robert Hess (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr) quite a bit to my life," he said.

Without Hess' help, Shemen said she doesn't know what she would have done. All last week, he worked 12-hour days, volunteering from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"We were trying to figure out how to staff the truck and he showed up out of nowhere," Shemen said. "He's made a big difference."

Shemen also has personal ties to North Dakota.

"I was born and raised there, and still have family there affected by the flood," she said. "It's frustrating to be so removed from the problem; I feel helpless."

Although the local drive has yielded thousands of items, Shemen said she knows residents are just beginning the task of retuning to the devastation left by the floods.

"Words can't describe what they're facing now."

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Mans Building Center builds charitable relations

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

WXYT will broadcast its top-rated show "Ask the Handyman" with Glenn Haege live from N.A. Mans Building Center on Ford road Saturday.

Mans has been doing the live broadcast for more than four years to raise money for local charities, according to Nelson Wood, regional manager for Mans Building Center.

"It's always been very successful in drawing a big crowd," Wood said.

"Ask the Handyman" is a nationally syndicated call-in show broadcast on 128 stations across the nation, according to producer Maura Cady. It will air in its usual time slot, 8 a.m. to noon, with a local segment from 8 a.m.

to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to noon the phone lines will open to national calls.

Haege will answer questions from the crowd and from as far away as the west coast, Wood said.

"It's amazing," Wood said. "It's all hooked up to a computer database. If they get a call about paint from Atlanta, Haege can answer the question while the CD-ROM can look up paint stores in the Atlanta phone book and he can refer the caller to a local business.

"It's impressive hearing him answer a long distance call from Atlanta and sending the caller to a store around the corner."

Five percent of all sales will be donated to a local

charity that will be determined later, Wood said.

In addition to the Haege show, Mans will offer refreshments all day long. Several seminars will be given on topics ranging from deck building and finishing to construction finance, for people who are looking to build their own homes, Wood said.

"There will be plenty of activities," Wood said. "It'll be a great day."

Cady, who has produced "Ask the Handyman" for 10 years, agrees.

"It's a lot of fun to do these remote broadcasts because we get to put faces with the voices of Glenn's loyal listeners."



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

ROBERT H. FITZNER

Robert H. Fitzner, a long-time Plymouth resident, died April 18, 1997.

Mr. Fitzner was born in La Salle, IL, and spent his early years in Oberlin, OH. He was an Industrial Engineer for the Burrough Corp., and a real estate broker in Plymouth.

He spent four years in the U.S. navy during World War II engaging in campaigns in the Pacific. He was a volunteer fireman for 21 years, a founder of the Plymouth German-American Club and a charter member of the Nomad Flying Club and travelled extensively. He was an avid reader with a great interest in music, theater, and storytelling "The Christmas Apple" was his favorite story to tell. He was a member of the American Legion Post 0088, Detroit Goodfellows and First United Church in Plymouth.



Mr. Fitzner belonged to the York Rite and Scottish Rite orders. He was a member of the Oberlin Lodge No. 380 and past High Priest of Oberlin Chapter No. 219 R.A.M. He was thrice Illustrious Master of Northville Council No. 30 R&J.M and past commander Northville of Commandery No. 39 Knights Templar, also member of Plymouth Eastern Star No. 115 and Plymouth Rock Lodge No.47.

Mr. Fitzner belonged to Prince Edwin York Rite College No. 8, Michigan Past Commander Association, High Twelve Club No 14. He was a Scottish Rite 32 degree mason, Tall Cedar of Lebanon-White Pine Forest No. 191, Allied Masonic Degrees-Crusader Council No. 142 and a member of the Grand Commandery Membership Committee.

Mr Fitzner received numerous awards and was the recipient of the New Rite Purple Cross for extraordinary service to Masonic bodies.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; daughter Delores (Jack) Vincent, step-son, Richard Aldrich; grandchildren, Wendy, Cheri, Scott and Brad; nieces Marilyn (Harold) Hall of Mariemont, OH, Sue Farrell of California; nephews, Robert (Dorothy) Domke and Bill Domke of Montana and numerous cousins.

Arrangements were made by and four consecutive services held at Schrader-Howell Funeral home in Plymouth: Eastern Star No. 115 service, Northville Commandery No. 39 service, Knights Templar memorial service, and Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 47 service with the Rev. Dean Klump and Pastor Tonya Arneren officiating. Memorial tributes can be given to the American Heart Association, Eastern Star, Northville Commandery, knights Templar or Plymouth Rock Lodge.

DOROTHY VARTANIAN

Dorothy Vartanian, a long-time Plymouth resident, died May 11, 1997.

Vartanian is best remembered by her employer, Bill Beitner, owner of Beitner Jewelers in Plymouth, for whom she worked for more than 20 years.

"She was my right hand," he said. "She did everything."

Vartanian had many loyal, regular costumers at the jewelry store, Beitner said. "She had a host of friends. A huge following."

Vartanian will be remembered as always pleasant, loyal and very dependable, Beitner said. He will remember her sense of humor most of all.

"Her attitude was: If you couldn't laugh at it, what was the use?"

Vartanian was born Jan. 5, 1931 in Detroit.

She is survived by her sons, Robert Vartanian of Garden City, Thomas Barrett of Detroit; sisters, Rose Teske and Ann; brothers, Charles and Bill Mitchell; grandchildren Nick, Kristie, Erin, and Joey. She was preceded in death by her daughters, Karen Siefert and Jeannie Vartanian.

And Beitner, of course, who lost more than an employee. "After 20 years, she was here so long—how do put someone else in like that?"

Funeral services will be held at a later date. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.



PETE MITCHELL

Pete Mitchell, a Livonia resident, died May 10, 1997 at the age of 57.

Mitchell was born May 24, 1939 in Canada. He was the general manager with Blackwell Ford since it opened in 1983.

"He was very knowledgeable. Anyone that worked with him learned something from him," said John Blackwell Jr.

Mitchell worked for Blackwell's father for more than 25 years at a previous dealership in Dearborn. He was an avid golfer. He was active with many charities, including the St. Mary's Foundation annual Hollywood Nights dance.

He is survived by his son, Doug; daughter, Michelle Ambrose of California; and two grandchildren, Nicole and Kevin.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at Harry J. Will memorial gardens on Six Mile Road, just east of Newburg. The family has asked that contributions be given to St. Jude Ranch for Children, P.O. Box 60100 Boulder City, NV 89006.



Irving E. "Duke" Wolfe, 69, salesman

Irving E. Wolfe, a Canton resident, died May 7, 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; son, David of Canton; one daughter, one brother, and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made and services held at McCabe Funeral Home in Canton.

Canton resident moves to City for Commission race

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

For his entire adult life, John Thomas has considered the City of Plymouth home.

Now, to comply with a residency requirement, the city commission candidate plans to make it official.

Thomas, who lives in Canton, will move to the city sometime in the next several months. He has until 30 days before the November election to make the move complete.

In a seven-page opinion, city attorney Donald Morgan explained Thomas had to move if he wanted to run for the commission.

Morgan said Thomas would have to be a resident of Michigan for at least six months, and a resident for the city for 30 days. He wrote that Thomas did not need to reside in the city while filing a nominating petition or during a primary election.

This came as good news for Thomas.

"I've lived here my adult life," he said.

City charter's residency clause has history of contentions

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Plymouth has a rich history of residents testing the city's 46-year-old charter.

The most recent challenge came from Canton resident John Thomas, who wants to run for the Plymouth City Commission.

Thomas, an attorney who works in the City of Plymouth, maintained that as long as he moved into the city 30 days before the election, he should be eligible to run in the City Commissioner race.

City of Plymouth attorney Donald Morgan agreed. In a seven-page opinion written for Thomas, Morgan outlines two prior court cases involving residency and Plymouth.

Challenging the charter

Per the 1951 charter, people interested in running for city commission must reside and own property in the city for at least two years.

In 1969, city minister Peter D. Schweitzer filed to run for city commission, although he didn't have the required two-year residency requirement.

Schweitzer challenged the city and took it to the Wayne County Circuit Court, where initially he won, said attorney Ed Draugelis, who represented the city in the court case.

The city appealed and the case went before the Michigan Supreme Court, where the first decision was overturned, Draugelis said.

Schweitzer took his case to the United States Supreme Court, but it refused to hear his case. In the end, he was denied a place on the ballot.

"Those issues seemed important at the time," Draugelis said of the residency requirement. "But since then, the whole scene has changed."

Another local case that helped foster that change involved a man named Mahlon Green.

Residency requirements

In the 1972 case of Mahlon D. Green vs.

"It's time for me to get involved."

Thomas decided to request the opinion after talking with City Manager Steve Walters about requirements to run for office. He was relatively sure he could run, but wanted an opinion to prevent hassles further down the road.

The possible hangups were old provisions in the city charter that required a two-year residency and ownership of property in the city.

Morgan looked to two court decisions in writing his opinion: one a case heard at the United States District court, the other heard in Michigan's Supreme Court.

The result: "(Morgan) found them unreasonable and unenforceable."

Thomas, who works as an attorney, has spent most of his time in Plymouth since 1962.

"It's where I spend 12 hours a day, six days a week," he said. "Sleeping here won't make that big of a difference."

James B. McKeon, the sitting judge found the city charter's residency and property ownership requirements "invalid."

The decision was appealed and was heard before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. In a split vote, the three judges decided the two-year residency requirement was too broad.

"Plymouth is not precluded from requiring its officials to be bona fide residents, as determined by appropriately defined and uniformly applied standards," the judges wrote. "However, the city may not require that candidates for city office must have been bona fide residents for two years prior to election day."

Fighting fire with fire

Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighter Bill Warren wanted to run for Plymouth City Commission in 1995. Residency wasn't a problem for Warren; the issue was with his job.

City attorney Donald Morgan said Warren's job as a firefighter constituted a conflict of interest because Warren could vote on issues that could affect his employment.

Warren engaged in a legal battle with the City of Plymouth. He argued that he should be able to run for office because he was an employee of Plymouth Township, which happens to provide services to the city.

A court decision determined that he would have to quit his job if he wanted to run for office.

Warren never ran in the November 1995 election.

For now, Thomas considers his challenge to the City Commission one of small significance.

"The city attorney's opinion turned out just the way I thought it was," he said.

But one thing is for sure, he said: "It's going to be an interesting race."

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Volunteer...

YMCA VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Volunteers are needed for the Plymouth YMCA annual run, set for June 15. Specifically, the YMCA needs a volunteer coordinator, people to help direct the runners, to help give water and to help at the finish line. For more information, call 453-2904.

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Families are needed to host international students from the "Academic Year in America," sponsored by the American Institute for Foreign Study Foundation. Students range in age from 15 to 18 years old and arrive from Brazil, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and several other countries. Those interested can call Amy Mullen at 1-800-322-4678, ext. 5423.

SUMMIT SHUTTLE

Summit on the Park, Canton, now offers a shuttle service from the east parking lot (next to the playscape) to the north door of the Summit. An enclosed eight-person golf cart will provide the service from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. If Plymouth-Canton Community Schools close because of weather conditions, or there are tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings, the shuttle will not operate. For more information, call the Senior Program Office at 397-5444.

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED AT P-C SCHOOLS

The Plymouth-Canton Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals to share information about their occupation to students in classroom settings. Call 416-4903.

Upcoming...



The City of Plymouth and the Downtown Development Authority will present free entertainment, "Entertainment On Us," every Friday throughout the summer, beginning at 6:45 p.m. May 16 with keyboardist/composer Paul Ventimiglia. Special guest Susan Calloway.

SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

The Novi Choralaires will present their annual spring concert, "Saturday in Novi with the Choralaires," at 7:30 p.m. May 10 at the Novi High School Fuerst Auditorium. Cost \$6, \$5 for seniors and children under 12. Tickets available at Novi Parks and Recreation Office or at the door.

FISHING DERBY

The Second Annual Fishing Derby will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 17 in the Hines Park Waterford Bend Picnic Area. The event is sponsored by Wayne County Parks and Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528. Call 261-1990.

HUMANE SOCIETY EXTENDS HOURS

The Westland Michigan Humane Society will now allow pet adoptions seven days a week. The new hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday to Tuesday, and from noon to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday. Call 721-7300.

LEUKEMIA FUND-RAISER

Coldwell Bank Preferred and Vermeulen Funeral Home are sponsoring a fund-raiser for the Leukemia Society of Michigan from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 21. The event will honor a bicycling team that raised \$3,600 per biker for a 100-mile ride. The public is welcome to attend; tickets are available for a \$20 donation. The event will take place at Station 885 in Plymouth.

ROAD RALLY

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will host its first Road Rally Fund-raiser at 6:30 p.m. May 31. Cost, \$25 per person. All proceeds will help fund a new lighted sign for outside the PCAC building. Mail checks to PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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If you witness an act of kindness, if an organization you are associated with plans a good deed, and if someone is especially kind to you, please write a letter to The Kindness Editor describing the act of kindness. We will gather the reports and publish some of them on a special page on May 21st.

The Community Crier staff will choose an outstanding act of kindness and present a \$50.00 reward to the kind person, and \$25 each to the runners-up. So if you know somebody who deserves a reward, let us know. Who knows, maybe together we can help start new habits. We need to receive your nominations by May 16th to be considered for the May page.

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Groups...

LIBRARY MEETING

The Friends of the Plymouth Dunning Hough Library will hold their annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. May 15 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Pianist Robert Milne will return to present a program of ragtime music.

DAR LUNCHEON

The Sarah Ann cochrane Chapter of DAR will meet for a sandwich luncheon at noon May 19. Call (810) 349-6056.

CHRISTIAN RECOVERY

Recovery in Christ offers assistance people needing help with an addiction or dealing with family members who are addicted. The group meets from 7:15 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in room 212 at Temple Baptist Church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth.

SINGLE PARENTS

Single Parents meet at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Calvin Room at Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia. Free child care. Call 422-1854.

HEART CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

A heart cancer support group will take place at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Monday of each month at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Livonia. For more information, call 422-1926.

SALVATION ARMY TAE KWON DO

Class meets Mondays and Thursdays 6-8 p.m.. Cost, \$20 per person monthly; family plan available. Call Master Hernandez at (810) 539-7665, or the Salvation Army at 453-5464.

Health...

OSTOMY CLINIC

McCauley Pharmacy is sponsoring an ostomy clinic featuring registered nurse Barbara Boylan Lewis from 10 a.m. to noon May 22 at McCauley Pharmacy in the St. Joseph Mercy Health Building, 990 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Call 451-7777.

PEW AND IOM REPORT

The Michigan Nurses Association District 51 presents the Pew and Ion Report: How Are They Affecting Your Practice from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 21 at St. Mercy Hospital, Mission Health Education Center, 5305 Building, McAuley Drive.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLASS

A new class at St. Mary Hospital will focus on the Ups and Downs of Blood Pressure. The class will be from 7 to 9 p.m. May 20 in pavilion conference room A. Cost, \$10. To register, call 655-2922.

CANCER EDUCATION CLASS

St. Mary Hospital will present "I Can Cope," a program for cancer patients, from May 27 to July 1. The free six-week educational series is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the first floor conference room. Register by calling 655-2922.

PREMARITAL AIDS CLASS

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a premarital AIDS class from 11 a.m. to noon May 17 in the west addition conference room A. Those who wish to marry in Michigan are required to receive information about sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS before applying for a marriage license. Upon completion of the class, each person will receive the certificate necessary to obtain a marriage license. Registration required. Cost, \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Call 655-3314.

Schools...

CRANBROOK COMES TO CENTRAL

Cranbrook Institute of Science will be at Central Middle School from 8 to 10:30 a.m. May 23 for a Central Science Festival.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

The PLUS Preschool Center (Head Start, Title 1 and MDE School Readiness Program) are taking registrations for the 1997-98 school year. These programs are free to parents and children who meet requirements. Registration is at the PLUS Preschool in Central Middle School, 650 Church, Plymouth. Call 416-6190.

CHILD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

"One, Two, Three Magic," a child management program for parents, will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. May 13 in Miller Elementary School's media center. Plymouth-Canton social worker Bill O'Conner will present the program, which will focus on children from 2 to 12 years old. Reservations are requested; contact Ellie Hunt-Goebel at 420-7004.

KIDDIE KAMPUS REUNION

25th anniversary of the P-C Schools' preschool program, June 4 at the Canton High School cafeteria from 7-9 p.m. All former staff and students are invited. Call 416-4927.

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The remaining Friday night concerts will take place in sites throughout the downtown area from 7 to 9pm.

For more information, call The Plymouth DDA at

(313)455-1453

Canton board denies permit for gas station

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The Canton Township board voted 6-0 last Tuesday to deny a proposed gas station, Supervisor Tom Yack was absent.

The gas station, proposed for a 1.76 acre site on the north side of Michigan Avenue west of Haggerty Road, was too close to the Rouge River flood plain, community plan-

ner Jeff Goulet said.

"We thought there was too great a risk of adverse environmental impact," Goulet said.

Shelly Odish, representing the developer of the property, said steps had been taken to elevate the property above the floodplain.

Odish also said a flood plain survey and updated in 1989 shows that the site has been removed from the flood plain. She was waiting for more information to support her position.

Goulet's largest concern was the location of underground storage tanks at the site, he said.

"They probably have done some elevation on the site," Goulet said, "but that's just on the surface. Putting the tanks underground would put them back into the flood plain."

Goulet said the current level of surface elevation wouldn't make a substantial difference on the impact of the flood plain.

"The Rouge River rises after a storm," he said. "We have pictures of the current site inundated with water, and that's just the surface. You have to put them (the storage tanks) pretty deep underground because of their size."

Adverse implications aside, Goulet isn't sure the planning commission would have recommended the proposed gas station anyway.

"In order to be eligible for a special land use the project must meet a number of criteria, including community benefit," he said. "There wasn't sufficient evidence to show that the gas station would provide an economic benefit to the community. With all the other gas stations in the area, they weren't providing a service that anyone else wasn't."

With all the other gas stations in the area, they weren't providing a service that anyone else wasn't.

Odish claims that the environmental concerns were raised to her too late to get the proper information, and asked for the site to be referred back to the planning commission to allow her enough time to get the information she needed.

The site plan was submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) late in March, she said, and she was still waiting for approval, but she was sure she would get it. The FEMA map is what the construction industry uses to determine if property can be built on.

"We've been building in Canton before other people have been building in Canton," she said. "We took a chance on Canton, and all we want now is another chance."

Another project, a proposed gas station/convenience store, car wash and fast food restaurant, on 2.7 acres on the southwest corner of Michigan Ave and Haggerty was sent back to the planning commission.

The planning commission recommended approving the special land use for the gas station after the developer, Issam Berry, removed the car wash and convenience store portions of the plan. The proposed gas station and fast food restaurant went to the Board of Trustees for approval last night.



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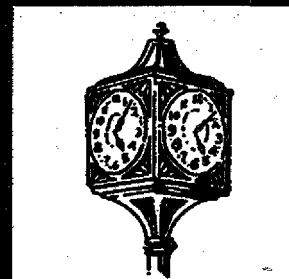
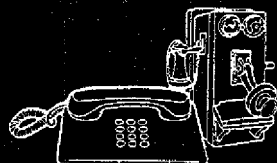




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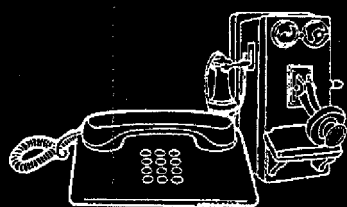
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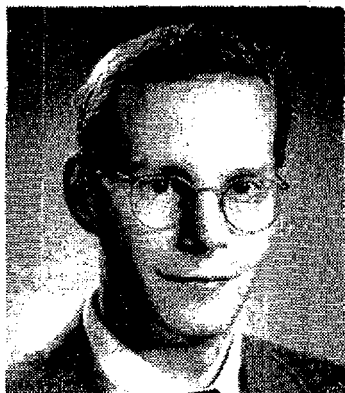


Eight candidates vie for four Commission seats

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

The Plymouth City Commission filing deadline came down to the wire Tuesday afternoon, with one candidate filing 10 minutes before the 4 p.m. cut-off.

Fred DiIacovo, whose friend was collecting signatures until just before the deadline, was one of eight people who filed petitions to run for Plymouth City Commission in the November election. Three others took out petitions, but failed to return them.



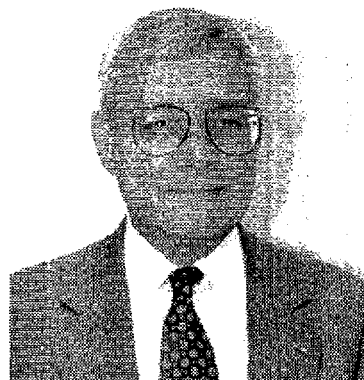
Don Dismuke



William Graham



Ron Loiselle



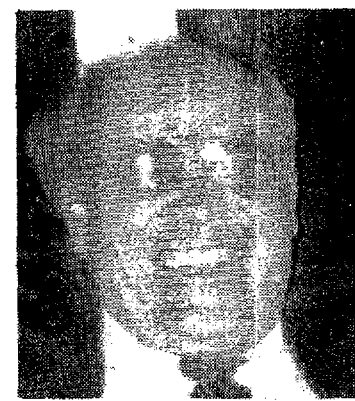
Dave McDonald



Colleen Pobur



Paul Schultz



John Thomas

Since less than nine people turned in petitions, the city will not hold a primary election in August.

"It's going to be an interesting election," said Clerk Linda Langmesser.

Those who will face off in the November election are incumbents Don Dismuke and Ron Loiselle, former city Finance Director William S. Graham and city residents Dave McDonald, DiIacovo, Colleen Pobur, Paul Schulz and Plymouth attorney John Thomas, Langmesser said.

Former State Rep. Jerry Vorva, William Corrigan and Sally Repeck did not return petitions, she said.

A total of four seats are available; three are four-year seats, one is a two-year seat. The open four-year seats belong to John Vos III, Douglas Miller and Loiselle; the one-year seat belongs to Dismuke.

Vos and Miller will not run in this election because their terms are up, Langmesser said.

Plymouth Twp. police investigate construction

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Police are investigating a series of robberies targeting construction sites.

Plymouth Township Police have taken 12 theft reports since April 14, said Sgt. Steve Rapson. Approximately \$75,000 in materials have been stolen so far.

The thieves are targeting northern Plymouth Township, he said. So far, the department has taken complaints from stores under construction at Busch's Value Land, Metro West Park and commercial buildings at Sheldon and M-14.

Police believe all the thefts are related.

Stolen items include tools, copper plumbing, light fixtures and a semi-trailer full of building materials, Rapson said.

Lady Luck



Sarah Richards, of Canton, recently found out how lucky the number 25 can be.

Richards, 25, recently won \$25,000 from a Michigan Lottery's "25th Anniversary Cash" instant ticket that she bought on April 25th.

Richards bought the ticket from the Amoco station at Cherry Hill and Canton Center Roads, where she works.

Although she has purchased a computer, she "has no clue: what she's going to do with the rest of her winnings



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LOREN: never have a photographer shoot up at you. -Ed

GRAND FORKS FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE until May 15, 7:30am-7:30pm @ Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth. Stop by The Crier for list of items needed (no adult clothing) or call Sharon at (313)455-9112

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Watch For
Art In The Park
July 12
July 13

Steph, Rob, & Liam - I miss seeing you on a daily basis.

Need your basement finished? Check out Emory Construction--new on our Dial-It Shopping Page.

"THEY CAN SAY --- on the radio after 10pm. The Supreme Court (Justices) are all in bed by then." --The Kids in N.Y.N.Y.

NENE'S BEER was great! Thanks to a Canton brewer.

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DOES CHRIS PORCARO read the Curiosities? The Crier circulates in "The Village", N.Y.N.Y.



HAPPY SPRING
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JULY 13 & 14, 1997

Curiosities

Elisa Marie Cady travels from Chicago to Plymouth for some sisterly giggle therapy. (Feeling any better?? Tee-Hee-Heel!)

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B. - Happy 24th Birthday! We are very proud of you! What a great year! Love Mom, Dad & Brooke



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Art in the Park
July 12th & 13th

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TO THE CANTON



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Sports

Sports shorts

Golf leagues are forming at the Oasis Golf Center. There are beginner and intermediate leagues available for juniors ages seven and up and for ladies on weekday evenings and Wednesday mornings. To reserve a tee time call 420-GOLF(4253).

As of May 6, Canton High School graduate and current U of M senior **Kelly Holmes** is 25-5 with a 1.06 earned run average as the U of M softball team closed out their Big Ten regular season and prepared for post-season play. Holmes has appeared in 37 games and pitched 198 innings while allowing 139 hits and striking out 115 batters. Holmes' team was 48-13-1 overall and 18-4 in the Big Ten before last weekend's Big Ten tournament.

Holmes is also one of three U of M nominees among 41 total nominees on the GTE Academic All-District IV ballot, a prestigious academic honor.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services Softball Standings:

Red League — Mark's Midtown/Enquitrust, 2-0; Mobility Transportation, 2-0; First Place Bar, 2-0; Pogo's State Farm, 1-1; Remax Classic Realty, 1-1; Shark Club II, 0-2; Don Coleman & Assoc., 0-2; Target, 0-2.

White League — Mexican Fiesta, 2-0; ASAP Machine, 2-0; Beaver Creek/ARAmark, 2-0; Shark Club #3, 1-1; Shark Club #1, 1-1; American Yazaki #1, 0-2; Rusty Nail, 0-2; Falcon Builders, 0-2.

Green League — Fairway Club, 2-0; Prudential, 2-0; St. Michael #2, 1-1; St. Michael #1, 1-1; Team #6, 1-1; Dental Diplomats, 0-2; Ancor, 0-1; Bad Influence, 0-1.

Little Caesars Baseball Federation is forming girl's fast pitch softball leagues. Two divisions: 12 and under, and 14 and under will start playing June 1. For league information, call Gregg Lenhoff, league director, at 455-0793 or 455-1295.

Registration begins May 20 for the second session of men's, women's and co-ed leagues at the Canton Softball Center. Games begin July 7. There is a \$100 deposit for each team (\$80 for Monday AM league). For more information, call 483-5600, ext. 2-3.

The Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem High School Ice Hockey Team Boosters are in the process of obtaining the necessary support to sponsor an inter-scholastic high school ice hockey team proposal to be presented before the Plymouth-Canton School Board.

Mail post cards or letters of support to Plymouth-Canton and Plymouth Salem High School Ice Hockey Program, P.O. Box 6091, Plymouth, MI 48170. Website address:

<http://www.rinknet.com/dwhalers/dwhalers.htm>

Salem girls track gives Canton 1st loss in 3 years

BY BRIAN CORBETT

It shouldn't have come as a surprise; the Salem girls track team won 14 of the last 19 Mangan Meets before the May 5 showdown at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

But when your opponent is Canton — a team that hasn't lost a dual meet in three years — Salem's 94-34 win must be considered an upset.

"Well, no one likes to lose," said Canton coach George Przygodski. "It was hard for our girls. The seniors had never lost; the juniors had never lost. No one on this team had lost before."

For Salem coach Mark Gregor, the victory over Canton was a nice reward for his seniors, who have lived in the shadow of expectations created by the Rocks' 1993 state runner-up team. "It was a nice way for the seniors to make their statement," he said.

Salem had strong performances throughout its roster versus Canton, but three Rocks did notable damage against the rival Chiefs. Lisa Maul ran a leg in the winning 4 x 400 relay, and finished first in the 100 meter hurdles (15.6) and the 300 hurdles (47.5). "She was really excited about competing. She was ready Monday," said Gregor.

Freshman Rachel Jones ran a leg in the 4 x 100 relay, which finished in a season-best time but placed second. She won the 100 meter dash in 12.9, the 200 in 26.9, and ran the second leg of the winning 4 x 200 relay. Angie Sillmon placed second in the long jump with 17-feet, one-half-inches, "which is a super jump," said Gregor.

She anchored the second place 4 x 100 relay team and took third in the 100 meter dash (13.04).

Trenton wins Canton Softball Classic

No hometown winners this time.

Salem went 1-2 and Canton was 2-1 at Saturday's Canton Softball Classic tournament, which was won by Trenton.

The Rocks defeated Ann Arbor Huron, 14-7, in the first game, then took state powerhouse Lincoln Park to the brink in a 4-2 loss in the second game. Salem also lost the finale, 9-8, to Belleville. Rocks coach Bonnie Southerland said the experience would be helpful as her team heads into the final weeks of the season. "I would think the team definitely has some confidence knowing they can hang with the number five team in the state," Southerland said of the Rocks near miss versus Lincoln Park.

Salem pitcher Shannon Coultas had a near miss she could've done without. In the opening game versus the River Rats, Coultas left the game in the third inning after a ball hit back to the pitching circle grazed her ear. Maureen Buchanan finished the game, allowing five hits and walking nine. Becky Esper had a single and a double. Carah Best had two doubles and a single. Becky Hattle and Karen Prosyk each had two singles. Buchanan had three RBIs and a triple.

Coultas returned for the game versus Lincoln Park, and was strong. She allowed three hits, walked five and struck out two. The Rocks had three errors in the two-run loss. "It would've been a huge upset," said Southerland.

Salem's day ended with a one-run loss to Belleville. Hattle pitched for Salem, allowing three runs in one and two-thirds innings of work. Rachel Krumwiede was steady in relief, allowing seven runs on seven hits, and walking two.

Salem's eight runs came in the fourth inning. Stefanie Volpe, Jill Schmalhurst

Canton's top performer, Nkechi Okumabua, set a school record in the long jump with a leap of 17'-31/2". Including the Troy Athens Relays on Saturday, Okumabua won two events, ran on three winning relay teams, one third-place relay team and on a fifth-place relay team. "She probably had the most outstanding week," said Przygodski.

Canton finished second at Troy Athens Relays, won by — you guessed it, Salem. The Rocks had eight firsts, two seconds, two thirds and one fifth place for 81 points. Canton had 48 points. Sterling Heights Stevenson, the defending Class A cross country state champion, took third with 35 points. Troy was fourth in the 16-team field with 28 points. Salem junior Katie Bonner had three firsts, running the opening leg of the 4 x 800 relay, and anchoring the 4 x 200 and 4 x 400 relays.

Teammate Ruth Viforneau also had three firsts — in the 4 x 200 relay, 4 x 400 and the spring medley.

It wrapped up quite a week for Salem, who also defeated John Glenn, 94-34 on Thursday, setting up a showdown yesterday with Livonia Stevenson for the Lakes Division championship.

"We still have some nice stuff ahead of us. The nice thing is we have experienced athletes who know they've done some nice things, but they know they've still got some things to do," said Gregor.

Salem 94, Westland John 34 — Jessica Ash threw a state qualifying 36'-2" in the shotput; Kristin Kosik had a season best performance (5'3") on the high jump; and Nicole Bolton set a school record in the 3,200 with a time of 11:37.7, shattering the seven-year old mark by 2.3 seconds.



Sarah Carson won both games for Canton Saturday at the Canton Classic Softball tournament. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

and Buchanan each had two singles. Esper had a homerun and three RBIs.

Salem 13, Northville 7 — Coultas was on the mound Wednesday for Salem's conference win. She allowed seven hits, walked 10 and struck out four. "She's definitely improving," Southerland said. "She's only a junior, so hopefully she'll continue to improve."

Salem had 18 hits in the victory. Kristan Los had two singles. Best was four for four

with a double. Volpe was four for five with a homerun and six RBIs. Schmalhurst, Prosyk and Coultas each had two hits. Salem took a commanding lead with four runs in the first, and two in the third. Salem is 10-12.

The host Chiefs went 2-1 at the Canton Classic Saturday. "We did really well," said Canton coach Jim Arnold. "I was

All for one, one for all

Canton, Salem girls soccer tie, 1-1 Wednesday

Playing against an undefeated team with a freshman starting in net, the Salem girls soccer team was undoubtedly the underdog in Wednesday night's match up versus Canton.

But in this heated rivalry, records are meaningless and inexperience is overcome by passion and intensity. With regular Salem goalkeeper Merritt Walker out with an injury, Jenny Fitchett made several key saves in just her fourth varsity game, a 1-1 tie with Canton.

"That was probably our best game of the year," said Salem coach Doug Landefeld.

It would've been even better if the Rocks could've held on to the lead. The game was scoreless late in the second half when Jodi Coyle came up field and passed to Mia Sarkesian who diked on the way to the box and blasted a shot past Kristin Lukasik with four minutes remaining. "We scored with only about four and a half minutes left," said Landefeld. "The only problem is we let them score with about two or three minutes remaining."

It was the Chiefs' Jenny Parviainen who beat Fitchett as time was winding down on Canton's undefeated season. She came up

with a loose ball from about 30 yards out and scored high, over Fitchett. "They were up for it," said Chiefs coach Don Smith, whose team will be playing in the conference championship game Friday at the Canton. "We got it. But both teams played very well."

There were fine individual performances as well, especially by Fitchett. "She was nervous. But like I said, she made a great save in the beginning of the second half, and on the goal, there really wasn't anything she could do," said Landefeld.

Lukasik made 10 saves for Canton.

Troy 3, Salem 1 — Sarkesian scored the only goal for the Rocks on a free kick with five minutes left in the game.

Fitchett made 12 saves on 15 shots for Salem.

Canton 1, Livonia Churchill 0 — On a cold, windy night, Beth Knight scored the only goal of the game in the second half with 10:42 left. A short goalie kick into the wind by Churchill was stolen by Knight, who moved up the right side and scored just inside the far goal post. "It just barely made it across the goal line," said Smith. "It had just enough mustard on it."

Lukasik stopped eight shots for Canton.

Salem baseball falls below .500

BY BRIAN CORBETT

It's not a storybook season in the sense that the Salem baseball team is on its way to another championship, but the 1997 campaign does have a distinct theme do it.

"We didn't get any key hits at key times," said Salem coach Dale Rumberger after his team was mercied by Northville

Wednesday and bumped from the Midland Invitational Saturday by Pinconning, 4-1, in the first game.

The Rocks are 9-10. "I still think we have a good team. We just haven't been winning," said Rumberger.

And it seems to be getting worse. Infielder Adam Seiter is out with a broken

finger, and Tom Demetsenare (5-1) lost his first game of the season in the 10-0 loss to Northville. Ryan Rumberger had two of Salem's five singles in a mercy-shortened, five inning game.

DeMetsenare lasted two innings, allowing three runs on three hits and five walks. "We primarily took him out because his pitch count was up, and he was walking people, which is not like Tom," said Rumberger. Jason Cox pitched one inning of relief and was touched for five runs. Scott Hay finished the game, allowing two hits over two innings. "He pitched the best of the day," said Rumberger.

Pinconning 4, Salem 1 — At the Midland Invitational, Kurt Berlin pitched a complete game for the Rocks, surrendering two earned runs. But in what has become characteristically bad luck for Berlin, who was five losses, he didn't get any run support to go with a strong pitching performance. Salem had five hits, led by Phil Cosens' single and triple.

Rock tennis bucked N'ville

Northville shutout Salem in boys tennis, 8-0, on Wednesday at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park.

In number one singles, Salem's Gabe Burnstein lost to Dave Anderson, 0-6, 3-6.

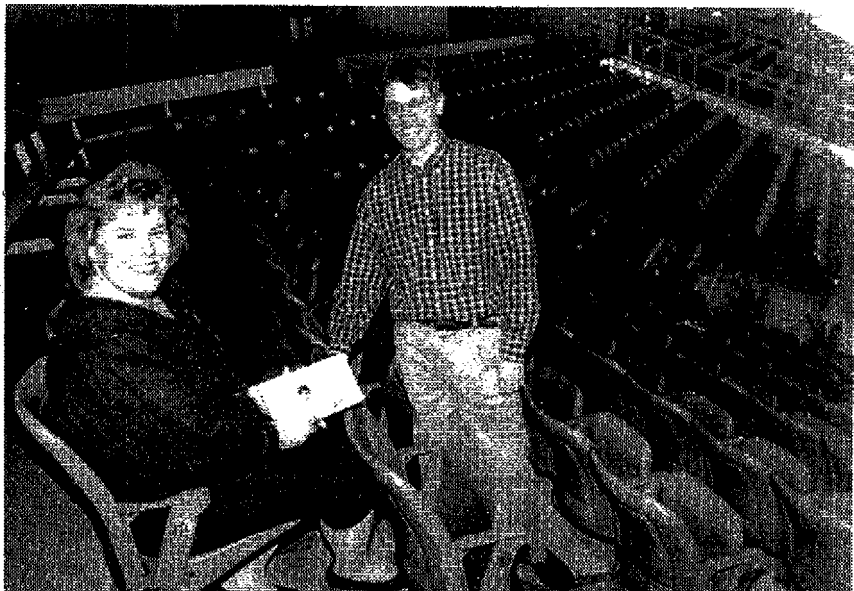
Salem junior Steve Thomas lost to Mike Bush, 4-6, 7-5, 3-6. Larry Chen was aced Northville's Arjun Srinivasan, 0-6, 0-6.

Salem senior Aaron Nierniec couldn't take a match from Ganeth Nayakwau, 0-6, 2-6.

In doubles competition, the number one Salem duo of juniors James Boomis and Corey Krabil lost, 6-7, 2-6, to Fred Berg and Nick Stiranman.

The Rocks second duo, seniors Jason Gourley and Rob Willoughby lost 1-6, 0-6, to Adam Williams and Yusike Ishigami. Senior Nick Wojnar and junior Adam Covington of Salem lost 6-1, 6-3. In the number four doubles match, Salem senior Scott Hall and freshman Todd Schmalhurst lost, 6-2, 6-4.

Whale of a time



Barbara Sommer of Plymouth (seated) recently won two season tickets from the Plymouth Whalers OHL hockey team for the 1997-98 season. Public Relations Director Dave Darovitz presented the tickets. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Rock, Chief softball bumped from CC tourney

Continued from pg. 20

pleased with the way we played."

Sarah Carson won both games for the Chiefs, a 4-3 victory over Livonia Stevenson in the opener and a 13-2 mercy victory against Tecumseh in the second game. Gretchen Hudson started the third game versus Trenton, and lost, 2-0. "We just didn't get any timely hits," said Arnold

Trenton won the Canton Classic with a 6-2 victory against Lincoln Park. Canton senior Tara Biro went eight for 10 in the three games with 1 RBI. Angela Litwin was four for 10 and Elizabeth Elsner had five RBI.

Canton 8, Walled Lake Western 4 — On Monday, Canton (24-4) scored three runs in the second inning and five in the fifth to overcome a four-run first inning for Western.

On deck

SALEM BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Harrison. Tomorrow at Walled Lake Central.

SALEM BOYS TRACK

Today at Stevenson at 3:30 p.m. Tomorrow JV Invitational at home. Friday at Redford Union for regionals. Tuesday at Churchill for the WLAA meet.

SALEM GIRLS GOLF

Regionals on Friday.

SALEM GIRLS SOCCER

WLAA playoffs today and tomorrow. Districts Monday and regionals Tuesday.

SALEM SOFTBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at home vs. Harrison. Tomorrow at Walled Lake Central.

SALEM GIRLS TRACK

Today at Stevenson at 3:30 p.m. Friday at Redford Union for regionals.

CANTON BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at home vs. North Farmington. Tomorrow at Northville.

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CANTON GIRLS SOCCER

WLAA playoffs today and tomorrow. Districts on Monday.

CANTON SOFTBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at North Farmington. Tomorrow at Northville. Saturday at Grosse Pointe North. Tuesday at home vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer.

CANTON GIRLS TRACK

Regionals on Friday.



Community opinions

Vico employee: 'I didn't need a union'

Worker of more than 15 years alleges unbalanced reporting

EDITOR:

I am writing in regards to the two articles I have read on the union vote at Vico Products. I am an employee there, but more important, I am a journalist. The first article from the April 16 issue written by Rob Kirkbride, was weak journalism. I have read Mr. Kirkbride's work many times in the past and respect him as a journalist, but I was amazed at the lack of content in that article. There are two sources quoted in that article, but it speaks of only one side of the issues. A journalist fresh out of college knows an article should have a minimum of three sources and should address both sides of an important issue.

The worst part is, the one-and-a-half-year employee quoted in the article has never worked for Robert R. Schultz, therefore his statement comparing Schultz's management philosophy to that of his son is ludicrous.

The follow up article from the April 30 issue actually had three sources, but there again

they are all representing the same side of the union vote. The writer of this article mentions an attempt at talking to someone in management, but what about a visit to Vico Products and talking to some of the people who have another view of the union?

I have worked at Vico Products for more than 15 years and I've seen a lot of good changes. There is a family atmosphere and a flexibility you won't find in a bigger company. I didn't need a union to come in and disrupt that atmosphere.

I am upset by two issues regarding these articles. The journalists writing these articles didn't visit Vico Products and get a well-rounded story. Also, as an employee of Vico Products, the articles give me the impression someone representing the union solicited the Crier to write their story.

By the way, Vico Products does not make calipers.

TAMMY FULTON

Debate over teacher hours, educational politics, continues

EDITOR:

In response to J. Kokoszka's opinion that my letter of April 1 was an attack on the teaching staff. I am sorry it was taken in a defensive attitude. Perhaps in her haste to react, some facts in the letter were overlooked...I was a teacher (22 years)...the school hours were correct (received from the Administrative office)...the bond issue (and it's mishandling!) WILL have an affect on teacher salaries, school day, class size, school year and a whole lot more in FUTURE millage votes!

The way this bond issue was handled has set the tone for many things regarding all these issues. We should not expect the passage of any millage votes in the near future that will increase teacher salaries or impact the school schedules. I was looking at the long term effect the lack of credibility and accountability the bond vote will have on the district.

I also would remind Ms. Kokoszka to consider all the facts when taking issue...don't just pick and choose and take parts out of context: i.e. you note the "daily hours" worked, but not the "whole year"; you note the "extra hours," but not the days given for in-service, conferences, snow days, etc. (those 1/2 days); even if teachers did stay, every day, every week more than the 6 3/4 - 8 hours the total work year of 36 weeks is still much less than that engineer working 51 weeks for the same generous wage.

Our residents can simply drive by any of our schools an hour after school and see that the parking lots are mostly empty — and remember those cars may belong to after-school programs and activities, not teachers.

Finally, the political opinion expressed is respected but disagreed with, even by a teacher, in that without the passage of Proposal A perhaps Ms. Kokoszka, or her elderly parents, would not be able someday to remain in their home because the property taxes were beyond their fixed incomes.

I have not yet been able to determine just exactly why the MEA/Teachers cannot see the real advantages of Proposal A, and look beyond the immediate impact. The Michigan economy would not be what it is today (low unemployment, high wages, low interest rates) without the passing of Proposal A, Gov. Engler and the Legislature.

Oh, by the way, I voted for the bond issue (our kids need it), for Engler, my wife is that engineer, has been for 19 years, earns \$53,000, earned her master's degree, and has worked a whole lot more hours and days! I was not centered on self...but on the community as a whole, to have the bond vote right, accountable, creditable, a unifying

voice, a positive force for today and tomorrow. Please do not attack my integrity with a defensive political position, and please do not ask me to vote for a millage raise which would grant teachers a raise...my taxes are too high already.

M. JOHNSON

Work of many made "Kids and Kites" fly high

EDITOR:

On Saturday morning, April 26, more than 400 children and their families came to Plymouth Township Park to celebrate the 5th Annual "Kids, Kites and Family Fun Day."

This event was sponsored by the Metro-Detroit Association for the Education of Young Children to celebrate the Month of the Young Child. Young children made kites, visited with story book characters, played games and created wonderful art projects. Families worked and played together.

A special "Thank you" to all of the volunteers who helped the families in our community have a "fun" morning. All of the kite makers, Young Moments Preschool, Kiddie Crew and Kiddie Kampus (Plymouth-Canton Schools), Red Bell Children's nursery, Plymouth YMCA Y-Kids, Starkweather Child Care, Rosey's Romper Room, Pathways to Learning, Northville Early Childhood Center and Children's World (Lilley Road Center) provided the many activities at the park.

Kite Kraft (Frankenmuth), Kites and Fun Things (Plymouth), Little Professor Book Center and Office Depot donated materials to help make this a very special morning.

Lastly, we could not have done this without the support of the Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation, the Plymouth-Canton Community School District and the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

A special "Thank you" to the parents who share their children with us and to the children who make our days so delightful.

We truly enjoyed making this day possible for you and your families!

CATHY VOLTZ and JEAN LAPOINTE

Bureau of Aeronautics: Doppler lease required discretion

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an excerpt of a letter to Mark Merlanti of the Mettetal Airport Advisory Board from Randy Coller of Michigan's Department of Transportation, addressing recent concerns over the Doppler radar tower completed at the airport.

Dear Mr. Merlanti,

Enclosed is a copy of the lease between the Michigan Department of Transportation and Channel 7 of Detroit, Inc., for the radar tower site at Mettetal Airport. Also enclosed is a copy of an article appearing in the April 23, 1997 issue of The Community Crier. From a review of the article, it appears that a controversy is being created where none exists.

As you may recall, this matter has been discussed at several advisory board meetings since last summer. Due to the highly competitive nature of the news industry in the Detroit area, the lessee requested that we not make any formal announcements until the details were finalized.

On July 27, 1996, a report detailing the proposal was sent to all advisory board members. At the Nov. 14, 1996 advisory board meeting, we discussed the basic terms of the agreement and the matter was approved unanimously. At that time, final details of the lease were still being negotiated between legal counsel for Channel 7 and our attorneys. We have made an earnest attempt to keep the board apprised of the situation as best we can.

We have agreed, to the greatest extent possible, to keep all matters pertaining to Mettetal Airport out in the open.

This has worked extremely well over the past three years; the controversy surrounding the airport has diminished to everyone's benefit. We are now able to direct our efforts toward operating the airport efficiently. We want the airport to be a good neighbor and an asset to the community.

We are open to suggestions on how we could have handled this or future matters in a way that better meets the needs of the board. Continued negative publicity does not serve the airport or the community well. If we can help in this regard, please let me know.

RANDY COLLER
Manager, Licensing & Services Section
Bureau of Aeronautics



Community opinions

Lawmakers losing sight of issues

Do-gooders.

Bleeding-hearts.

They're especially unwanted when their wacko-liberal causes entice a bigger-and-bigger government to unnecessarily stick its nose into your life.

Normally, Loren Bennett, Canton's fast-track state senator, stumps for conservative causes and smaller government spending.

But this time he's seen a P.C. bandwagon rolling and is getting on board, throwing all common sense to the wind.

Bennett's proposing a ban on cigarette advertising on Michigan's billboards.

Forget, for a moment, that cigarettes are legal, and that the state needs the tax dollars their sales produce.

Why doesn't he do what really needs to be done to clean up the environment and BAN ALL BILLBOARDS? (He chairs that important committee well).

It's almost like the recent comet visit affected a bunch of otherwise normal politicians — the Plymouth Township leaders are considering banning aluminum siding and barbecues for your protection. (?! (Haven't you noticed the rash of barbecue fires lately?))

Canton's State Rep. Deb Whyman suggested that Michiganians boycott pineapple

With malice
toward none

By W. EDWARD
WENDOVER



because Hawaii approved gay marriages. (?! (This was a pressing issue in your state-house district?))

Bennett's setting himself up as the First-Amendment Czar, deciding which legal products can advertise and which can't. (?! (Why not an advertising ban on Republicans-gone-bleeding-heart so as to not scare little kids on school buses?))

How about a resolution prohibiting politicians from justifying their existence by unnecessarily mucking with your life?

The governor would veto it? All right then, how about simply fixing the roads? Or maybe fixing the funding of public education? Or taking care of the things you sent them to Lansing for in the first place?

Awareness best way to combat Lyme Disease

EDITOR:

Lawn tools, camping gear and summer clothes are being removed from storage across Michigan. Since May has been dedicated Lyme Awareness Month, The Michigan Lyme Disease Association (MLDA) would like to remind the public that we are entering the prime months of exposure. Awareness is our best protection.

Prevention: Avoid exposure. If not, wear light colored clothing with pants tucked in socks or boots and long sleeved shirts buttoned at the wrists and neck. Protective head gear is also recommended. Use repelent containing DEET on exposed skin and clothing. Follow container directions carefully.

Avoid tall vegetation, both in the wild and where it encroaches your home, out-buildings and property. Mowing and trimming makes the area less attractive to wildlife and

the many insects capable of transmitting disease.

Incorporate tick-checks on yourself and loved ones as part of your daily hygiene routine, especially during peak months and following events of possible exposure. Remove insects promptly. If it's a tick, removal with a pair of tweezers is recommended by gripping the mouth parts carefully and slowly pulling the insect away from skin. If mouth parts become detached, disinfect and call your physician when possible.

The tick can be sent to Linda Purdy, 22603 Madison, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081, for identification and culturing for Lyme Disease. Just place the tick in a clean, closed vial with a blade of grass. A pin hole in the cap will prevent suffocation.

Early symptoms are any combination of the following: headache, nausea, fever, a spreading circular rash, aching

joints and muscles, and fatigue. Prompt treatment with oral antibiotics can prevent later complications and expensive medication. Untreated, the body-wide infection can involve the heart, brain, and literally every body function.

The Michigan Lyme Disease Association, a non-profit organization formed and comprised of volunteers who either have Lyme themselves or have a family member with Lyme, would like you to know that the future is looking brighter in the expanding Lyme picture.

At the national level, researchers are working daily to find more effective diagnostic tests and treatments. At state level, MLDA is available to the public through a HOT LINE number for information on the disease itself, local support groups, surveys of hot spots, literature and public speakers.

For further information phone or FAX 1-517-793-7890.

JAN MONSON

Servers are people too; treat us accordingly

It's Friday Night and the weekend is finally here. Time to relax and unwind. People are not in the mood to cook a gourmet meal or they have a craving for a dish at a favorite restaurant. No matter what the reason, people love to go out to eat and enjoy being waited on after a hard week.

Well, that is for most people in the 9-to-5 work arena, but not for servers. Servers dash to bring your meal hot, they work late restaurant hours and wear uniforms.

A server or waitperson are the politically correct terms for a waiter or waitress. Currently I am a student at Eastern Michigan University, intern at The Community Crier and part-time server. I work this noble profession to help pay my tuition bills. It is not because I am particularly fond of picking up half-eaten burgers, sticking my fingers in someone's pool of used ketchup or wiping off a table after children spill their beverages.

It takes a special person to be a server. Similar to a position in public relations, I'm expected to be smiling, cheerful and always in a good mood. All this to make patrons feel as if the world is at their fingertips when they hold a menu.

I soon learned that the job wasn't very glamorous. Touching lipstick-stained napkins, emptying ashtrays

and aching feet are the realities of being a server.

Some terms are commonly used among fellow servers. First is the "camper." When people come into the restaurant with photos and say that they have not seen on another in three years, you know they are going to camp in your section. There is nothing wrong with catching up with an old friend over dinner, but most people do not realize that servers work for tips. Hourly they make only \$2.52 per hour so every turn of a table makes them more money. When people say "We are going to be here awhile." I jokingly respond with "That's OK, I'll just charge you rent by the hour."

Another term is the "verbal tip." A small tip is usually inevitable when people say, over and over again, "You did an excellent job." Sure it makes me feel good to know that people enjoyed themselves, but that won't buy my books for the upcoming semester.

My biggest pet peeve is when I take the time to introduce myself to a table of people and they still shout "Miss! Miss!" My fiancée Stephen, a 13-year veteran of the restaurant industry, always replies to "Waiter, waiter!" with a comical "Patron, patron!"

Since I have become an apron-wearer, I've realized some oddities of people in restaurants. For example, a table of 12 people might all insist on separate checks and then proceed to order the exact same thing. It

15 minutes...

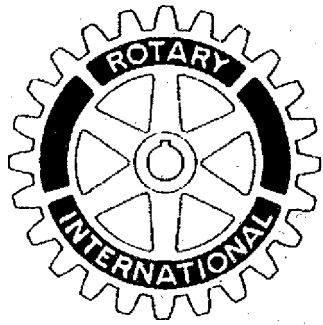
By Linda Kochanek



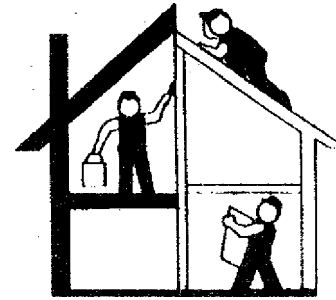
makes me wonder if those people can add and subtract correctly.

I expect excellent service when I go out for lunch or dinner. I have criteria that need to be met for me to leave a large 20 percent tip. I enjoy two coffee refills. I think water glasses should always be full and that dirty plates be cleared promptly. If I see my server is really busy, I don't mind if they missed a few things. But if I see them smoking at the waitress stand when I still do not have the fork I requested, their tip will reflect it.

I believe in the saying, "if you do not like your job, don't gripe about it, quit." I realize the innocent mistakes made by the unknowing diner. I just ask that next time you are dining out be kind to your server. Let them know that you appreciate them doing their best. The biggest compliment you can give would be to ask for them by name the next time you come in to dine. A big tip wouldn't hurt either.

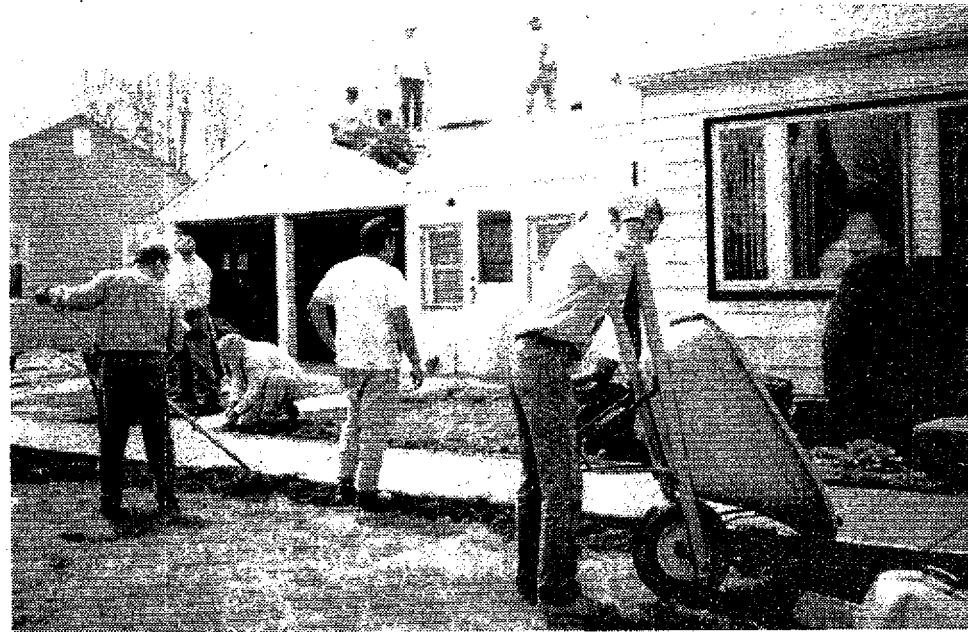


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If we've forgotten anyone, we're sorry—
thanks for your help!

ROTARY HELPING NEIGHBORS

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