

How the school district lost money it never had, page 3

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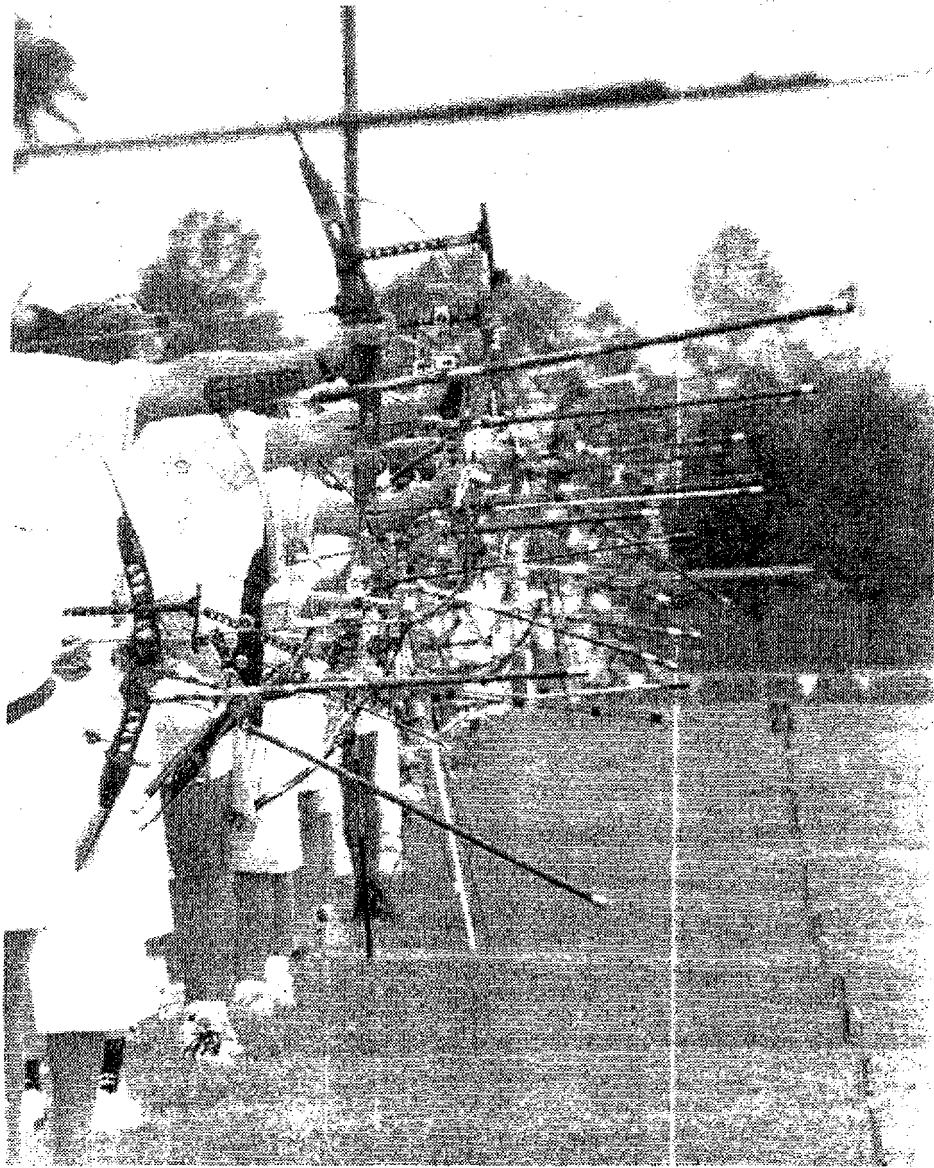
The Community Crier

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

Vol. 24 No. 27

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August 6, 1997



The NAA's tournament began this week in Canton (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).

Arrowtown

Canton perfect for national archery tourney

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

This year, and possibly in years to come, Canton is Arrowtown.

More than 500 archers descended on Canton's Heritage park this weekend to take part in the National Archery

Association's (NAA) 113th Annual National Archery Championships.

Targets were placed and arrows were nocked and the competitors, dressed solely in white, took aim for the beginning of the
Please see pg. 7

Schools may get money from high court decision

Portion of Durant case award would come to P-C schools, officials uncertain how much

BY BRYON MARTIN

A decision handed down last week by Michigan's highest court may bring long-sought dollars to the Plymouth-Canton school district.

The State Supreme Court ruled in favor of 84 school districts who have been fighting the state for back funds for mandated programs such as special education and drivers education.

The court awarded about \$200 million to be divided proportionally among the districts.

When compared to the \$3.5 billion for which the state was found responsible by lower courts, the award amount is a pittance, according to Bill McMasters, chairperson of Michigan Taxpayers United.

"Governor Engler admitted in court that the state has cheated local school districts out of 3.5 billion dollars," he said. "And he got off with only 200 million."

"It's absolute tyranny," McMasters continued. "And he's getting away with it."

In 1978 Michigan's voters approved a state constitutional amendment, the

Headlee amendment, that required the state to fund any programs it mandated. Special education programs are among them.

Since that time, however, the state has failed to fund such programs, which has shifted the burden onto taxpayers, according to McMasters.

"They've been paying twice: with state taxes and home property taxes because the state has not been providing money," he said.

The Headlee amendment also requires school districts to maintain mandated programs, but limits taxation.

According to Diane Barnes, P-C schools director of finance, this combination forced cuts

in other areas.

"We were getting less money from our local millages," she said. "Special ed. costs were still there, and we had to pay them."

Because special education spending could not be reduced, cutbacks were made in general classroom spending.

"We funded what we needed to fund," Barnes said.

Please see pg. 14

'Until we see how we get the money it's hard to predict. The Governor is making changes we didn't anticipate.'

Erroll Goldman

Splintered tales

Plymouth man finds lots more than knots in wood

See Friends & Neighbors, pg 6

Okie-dokie biz

Family and market strong after many years, changes

See Getting Down to Business pg.8

Face lift

Plymouth Whalers go through many off-season changes

See Sports pgs. 20-21

Losing interest

How P-C Schools' can claim to have lost \$600,000 they never had

BY BRYON MARTIN

How can you lose something you never had in the first place?

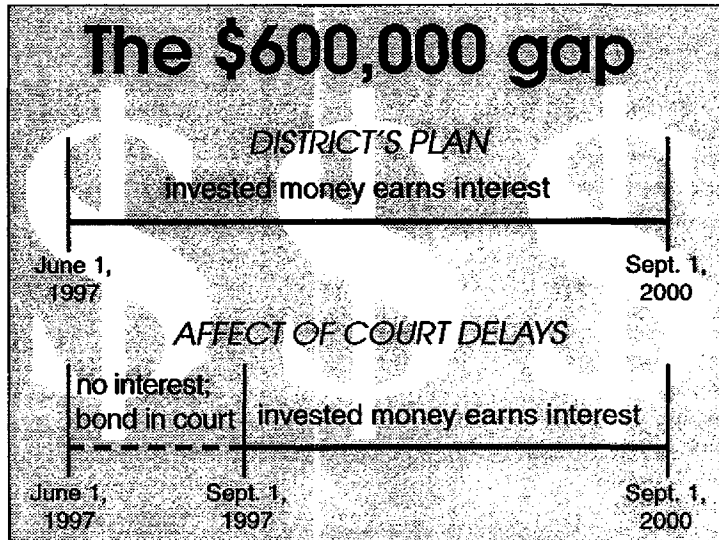
Remarks made by Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Charles Little have prompted such questions.

In a statement released by the district, Little estimates that more than \$600,000 in interest has been lost because of delays in the sale of its March 22 bond.

Bond sales are on hold pending a circuit court decision in the lawsuit Plymouth resident and former state representative Jerry Vorva filed against the district.

Little said the district loses about \$11,400 everyday the lawsuit continues. But what does the district mean when it says it has lost money it never had to begin with?

Essential to answering that question is an understanding of where bond money comes from, how it is used and the timeline for



the bond project itself.

Where the interest is found

If things had gone as the district planned, they would have sold \$80 million in bonds, in \$5,000 denominations, to individual and groups of investors beginning June 1, John Birchler, P-C Schools executive director of business and operations

Effectively, each bond works like a little loan: investors give the district money for the bonds and the district agrees to repay that money, plus interest (around 5 percent), over the bond's lifetime (between five and 25

years). The district then takes this money investors have given them and uses it to make its own investments, Birchler said. State law
Please see pg. 14

Decision on court site today

Prefab. building added to list board considers for temporary home

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The 35th District court advisory board expects to make a final decision this afternoon on its temporary location, according to former Judge Jim Garber.

The board had decided Friday to locate temporary facilities in the old Western Electric building on Sheldon road because of timeliness and cost concerns, Garber said.

"Friday the recommendation was made that the court accept the Western Electric offer. At that time it was the cheapest, quickest option available," Garber said. "But then some additional information

came to light."

A 16,000-square foot modular building at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH, could be leased for substantially cheaper than a new structure, Garber said.

"One of the modular building companies said there was a structure available. It was two years old, but in good shape," Garber said. "We hadn't signed anything on the building here yet, so I asked (Court Administrator) Kerry Erdman to put some numbers together."

The board will discuss the feasibility and practicality of moving the existing

modular building to the Unisys lot.

Among the considerations are expense, preparation time, and the lack of sewer and

'We hadn't signed anything on the building here yet, so I asked Kerry Erdman to put some numbers together'

Jim Garber

water services at the site, Garber said.

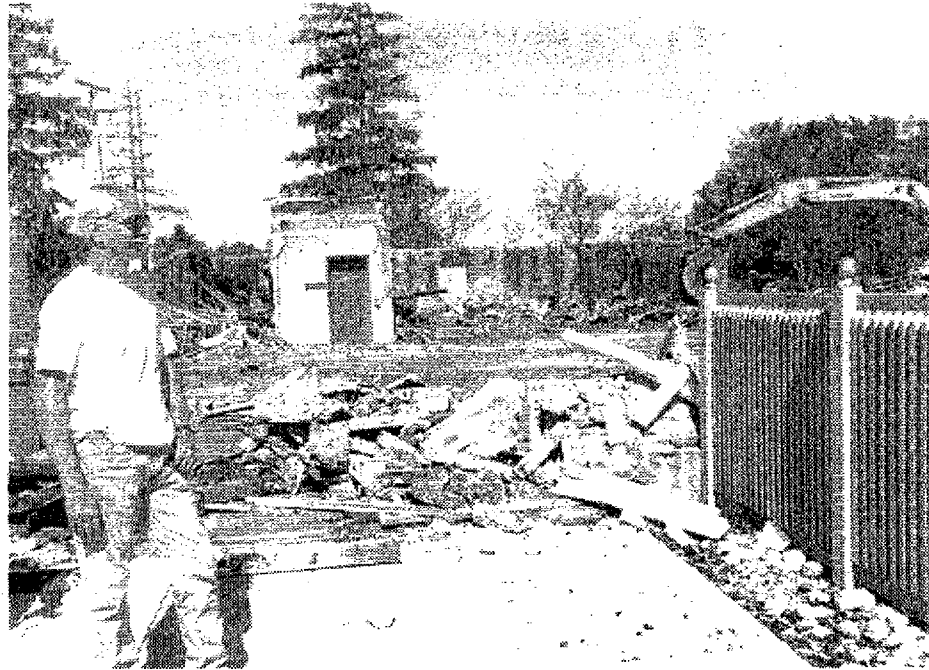
The board was considering modular buildings in the Unisys lot across from the old courthouse or the Western Electric Building on Sheldon road, when the prospect of the old Plymouth Bowl building was brought up last week, Garber said.

At that time the modular buildings looked like they would be the least expensive and quickest to move into.

"The original plan for the building was to gut the area completely and build it to our needs," Garber said. "That would have cost a lot of money that wouldn't then be available for building a new courthouse."

"When we walked through the building, however, we saw two 50 by 20 foot rooms that would make good courtrooms with little or no modification. We would have to tear down two partitions, but then they'd be ready to go."

Fewer modifications would knock more
Please see pg. 14



George Berg, 35th District Court Bailiff, watches as demolition is completed at the old court site. Only the elevator shaft, seen in the background, still stands. An advisory board is expected to pick a temporary site today. (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Today at noon in Kellogg Park, Marc Thomas will perform a concert of music for child and family audiences, with sing-alongs and other audience participation. Free.
- Tomorrow, from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, 844 Penniman Ave., Brian Tell and Janet Styles will be the featured readers in the Plymouth Poets' Summer Celebration of Poetry.
- Tomorrow the Northville Senior Citizens Center's makes its Lake Erie Island-Hopping trip. Cost \$53. Next week the center takes its nine-day national park trip. Cost, \$1,539. Call 810-349-4140 for info on these and other trips.

NEXT WEEK

- Monday, New Morning School's Eco-Dazzle day camp begins and runs through Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Students age 6-11 study insects, birds, plants and ecological subjects. Camp fee is \$175. Call New Morning School to register.
- Monday, Northville Parks & Rec's pom-pon camp begins; open to first through eighth graders. Register with Parks & Rec.

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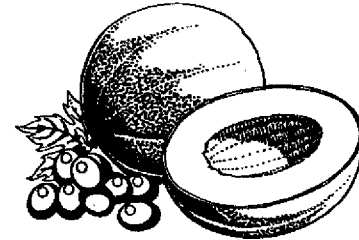
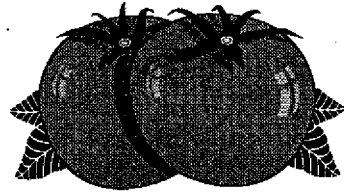


The Crier's Plus sections take an interesting and informative look at topics in P-C-N. Next week, check out the Fall Bridal section for tips and hints.

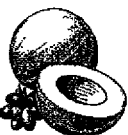
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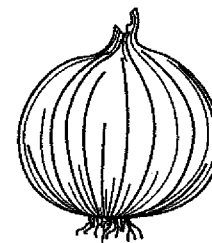
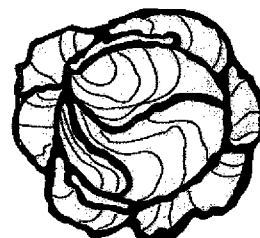
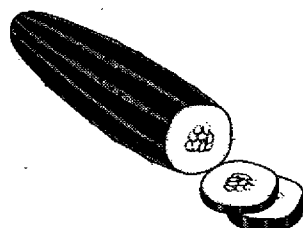
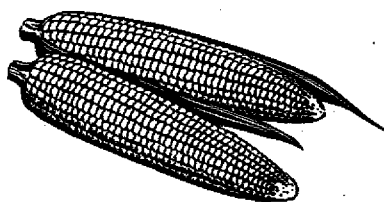
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Canton planners approve 7-11, gas station combo

Commission wary of chain's reputation

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Planning Commission unanimously, but very hesitantly, approved special land use for a combination gas station and 7-11 convenience store Monday.

The development, proposed for the north east corner of Michigan Avenue and Canton Center roads, will be a 24-hour 7-11 store with gasoline sales, according to architect Ron Jona.

The property is currently zoned C-3, or regional commercial. The special land use approval would be necessary to sell gasoline at the site, according to Community Planner Jeff Goulet.

Initially the commission didn't seem thrilled by the idea.

"When I hear about another gas station/convenience store, I automatically start to set my heart against it," Commissioner Karl Zarbo said.

But the building won't be a typical 7-11, according to Michael C. Raezler, representative for the Southland Corporation of which 7-11 is a division.

"Nowadays the convenience industry is in transition. We found that to remain competitive we would add gasoline sales for more of a return on our investment."

The commission raised concerns about the existing 7-11 on Canton Center and Warren roads.

"We have another 7-11 on Canton

Center and Warren, and it is rather run-down and unattractive," said Commissioner Thomas Sullivan. "I frequent it often and every time I do I feel like I have to shower when I get home."

Planning Commission Chairperson Vic Gustafson agreed. "It really is a blight," he said. "It's not a benefit to the community or the neighborhood."

"When I hear about another gas station/convenience store, I automatically start to set my heart against it."

Karl Zarbo

Center and Warren, and it is rather run-down and unattractive," said Commissioner Thomas Sullivan. "I frequent it often and every time I do I feel like I have to shower when I get home."

The existing 7-11 is franchise owned, according to Raezler, and under report for code violations.

"We're aware of the situation and are taking measures to solve it," he said.

The planning commission reluctantly approved the special land use based on Southland Corp's willingness to clean up the Canton Center/Warren 7-11, and to make design and landscaping concessions for the proposed building.

"I'd like to think we're in a position to cut a new swathe," Zarbo said. "You've got an opportunity to say 'Look what we've done here.'"

With an all-brick design, generous landscaping and a 'Welcome to Canton' sign, Raezler thinks the project will stand up to scrutiny.

"If you want to be a part of a community you have to work with it. We want to be a good neighbor," he said. "We're going to make Canton proud of this development."

Julien's site gets Rite Aid

Drug chain OK'd for former family business spot

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Planning Commissioners voted 7-0 Monday to approve the site plan for a Rite Aid Drug Store proposed for the corner of Ford and Canton Center Roads.

The site, which represents the western entrance to Canton's business district, has long been sought by developers. Owner Bob Julien sold the property to Rite Aid in March, closing the book on one of Canton's oldest businesses.

"This sounds like a nice building," Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin said. "But I for one, will always miss Julien's."

The proposal has been through a number of modifications, according to architect Joe Rokicsak of Construction Management Specialists in Livonia.

"We've made several severe changes in the building plans," he said. "We've changed the building to an all-brick structure, added antique lighting and some varying elevations to the roof."

The building will be an 11,000-square-foot structure with an awning and drive-through, Rokicsak said.

The commission said it was pleased with the additions and changes to the site plan, which included changes to the structure, landscaping and the elimination of two curb cuts.

"I'm pleasantly surprised at the difference between the two plans," McLaughlin said.

"We tried to keep it as residential-looking as we could and still achieve what we were trying to do," Rokicsak said.

The site plan will go to the Board of Trustees in 30 days for final approval, providing Rokicsak tries to work with the neighboring AAA insurance office to design landscaping and traffic flow.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing some special treatments for the site," Commissioner Vic Gustafson said. "It's an important corner to Canton."

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Shopping bag mixed after Sidewalk Sale

Response to downtown sale varies among businesses, follows pattern for Plymouth events

BY MATT HUCAL

Downtown Plymouth businesses hosted Plymouth's annual Sidewalk Sale this weekend, and the reactions of the businesses are as varied as the businesses themselves.

Many merchants around the City noticed a decline in customers Saturday, which is traditionally a big day for the event.

"The Sidewalk Sales are usually pretty good," said Herb Anderson of Wellington Ltd. "But it looks like people had something else to do on Saturday."

Jamie Meyers of Steve Petix said customer traffic was down for the weekend, but added that the Sidewalk Sale is the biggest event of the year for his business.

He said his regular customers don't want to do battle with the crowds of the Fall Festival and Ice Festival, and those coming to the festivals don't usually carry enough money to make a purchase at Steve Petix.

Some business owners pointed to road construction and lack of parking as reasons why

the sale may not have been as prosperous as it had been in the past.

Merrill Austin, owner of Plymouth Office Supply, agreed that attendance was down for the sidewalk sale.

Austin said it was tough for people to access the City easily because of road construction and work being done on the downtown parking structure.

He added that his store doesn't usually benefit from events such as the sidewalk sale



Shoppers descended on downtown Plymouth Friday and Saturday for the annual Sidewalk Sale. Although crowds were large, not all merchants did well and some echoed concerns heard after Art in the Park (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).

because of some of the items they sell.

"People can't walk around town carrying a chair," Austin said.

Dave Kaplan of Uncle Frank's Chicagos and Coneys in the Westchester Square Mall,

'The Sidewalk Sales are usually pretty good. But it looks like people had something else to do on Saturday.'

Herb Anderson, Wellington Ltd.

owns one of the many restaurants that does well during City events.

He said he prepared and overstaffed last weekend for the sidewalk sale, and noticed that the number of customers was slightly higher than last year.

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Downtown Merchants hold the sidewalk sale every year to provide bargains and discounts to shoppers in downtown Plymouth.

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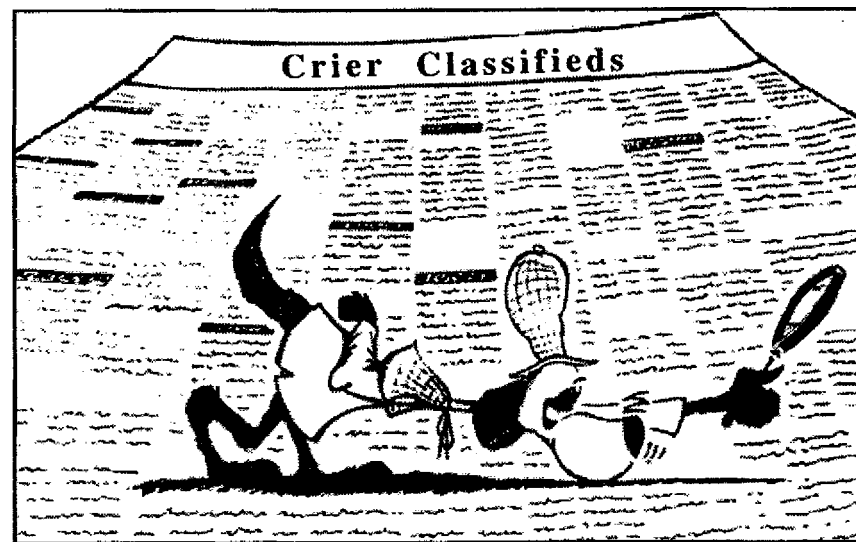
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To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).



Groups

VETERANS MEETING

Vietnam Veterans of America general meeting Monday, 7:30 p.m. on Newburgh Rd., between Joy Rd. and Ann Arbor Trail, for those on active duty Jan. 1, 1959-May 7, 1975.

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Canton Chamber of Commerce annual golf outing, 8:30 a.m. Aug. 15, Fellows Creek Golf Course. Cost, \$500 foursome, \$150 individual. Call 453-4040.

PLYMOUTH OPTIMIST CLUB MEETINGS

First and third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Mayflower Hotel. Includes dinner and a speaker. Call Felix Rotter, 453-2375.

60+ CLUB

Meet every first Monday of month, noon, First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Bring a dish to pass. Call Lola Schueder, 453-7999.

3 CITIES ART CLUB

Meetings will be on the first Monday of the month. November meetings will be announced. Call S. Argiroff at (313) 422-8106 for info.

STU ROCKAFELLOW AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Monthly meeting at 7 p.m.; third Tuesday of the month; second floor of Plymouth City Hall. Call 455-7652 for more info. Amateur radio classes Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., Ply. Township Hall. Call 453-3840, ext. 223.

YMCA CLASSES

Plymouth YMCA accepting registration for classes, such as adult line dancing, kids French classes, drivers education and sports leagues. Call YMCA, 453-2904.

SUNDAY TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB

Ply. Twp. meeting room, Sunday nights, 7-9 p.m. Experience public speaking training, be a better listener, better thinker. Call Marc Sullivan, 455-1635.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY WRITER'S CLUB

Second, fourth Thurs. each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. writers of all levels welcome. 416-0418

CHRISTIAN RECOVERY

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

SINGLE PARENTS

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

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CARRIAGE PARK SENIOR COMMUNITY

Contact Heather at Carriage Park. Share time, skills with seniors. Call 397-8300.

SUMMIT SHUTTLE

Summit on the Park, Canton, offers shuttle service from east parking lot (next to playscape) to north door of Summit. Enclosed eight-person cart provides service 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. If P-C Schools close because of bad weather, tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings, shuttle won't operate. Call the Senior Office, 397-5444.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Hospice seeks patient care, companion, team support volunteers in P-C-N area, 291-9700.

CHORE PROGRAM

Senior Alliance offers a chore referral program that puts workers in touch with seniors in need of chores and home repairs. Reasonable fee. Call (313) 722-2830.

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED AT P-C SCHOOLS

P-C Business Education Partnership in need of individuals to share occupation information to students in classroom settings. Call 416-4903.

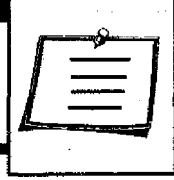
PLYMOUTH COURT NURSING CENTER

Ply. Court Nursing Center needs volunteers to assist resident activity programs, 455-0510.



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Events

OLD TIMERS PICNIC

Annual picnic to be held at Plymouth Township Park, **Aug. 28** at noon. Make reservations by Aug. 25. Call Howdy Schryer, 453-0114 or Russ Ash, 453-2649.

CLASSIC MUSICAL

Marquis Theatre children star in "Little Red Riding Hood" at Marquis Theatre in Northville. \$5.50. Performance dates: Tues.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. **Aug. 6-8, 12-15, 19-22** / Sat. 2:30 p.m. **Aug. 9, 16, 23**, Sept. 6, 13, 20 / Sun. 2:30 p.m. Sept. 7, 14, 21. Call (248) 349-8110.

POETRY CELEBRATION

Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, 844 Penniman, Plymouth, hosts poetry readings from 7:30-10:30 p.m. each Thursday night in the summer. Events ran by Plymouth's poet in residence Röd Reinhart. Featured readers for **tomorrow** are Brian Tell and Janet Styles. Open microphone before and after featured readers.



SUMMER CONCERT

At Heritage Park in Canton, Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band performs **tomorrow** at 7:30 p.m. Free. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Call 397-5110.

CEDAR POINT TRIP

Canton Parks and Rec. Dept. sponsors family trip for Canton residents **Aug 16**. Bus leaves Summit at 7:30 a.m. \$28 a person. Register by Aug. 15, call 397-5110.

SINGLES DANCE

At St. John Neumann Church in Canton **Aug. 16**, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$8, over 21 years old. Raffle prizes all night. Call (313) 480-7830 for info.



Health

CANCER SUPPORT

"Focus On Living," self-help group for cancer patients and their families, meet first Wed. each month at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. Next meeting: **Tonight**, 7-8:30 p.m., Pavilion Conference Room B. Free. Call hospital at (313) 655-2922.

PREMARITAL AIDS CLASS

St. Mary Hospital, Livonia **Saturday**, 11 a.m.-noon. Registration required. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. (313) 655-1100. Certified for marriage afterward.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

St. Mary Hospital offers "Stressed for Success," a three-week stress management program held, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, **Aug. 11, 18, 25** in Pavilion Conference Room A. \$25. Call Community Outreach Dept., (313) 655-2922.

CHILD I.D./TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

The clinic is **Aug. 16**, noon-4 p.m. at Wonderland. St. Mary Hospital staff will obtain height and weight on each child. Livonia police will fingerprint each child.

INFANT/CHILD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

St. Mary Hospital **Aug. 20**, 5:30-8 p.m., West Addition Conference Room B. \$5 a child. Professionals administer vaccine. Bring records, no registration required.

SIBLING CLASS

St. Mary Hospital **Aug. 21**, 7-9 p.m. Children invited to attend and learn how fun it can be to be a big brother or sister. \$10 per family. Registration required.

NEW BEGINNINGS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Free meeting each Mon., 7 p.m. at Ply. Church of Christ, Sheldon Rd., south of Ann Arbor Rd. Those grieving a loss by death or divorce attend. Call 453-7630.

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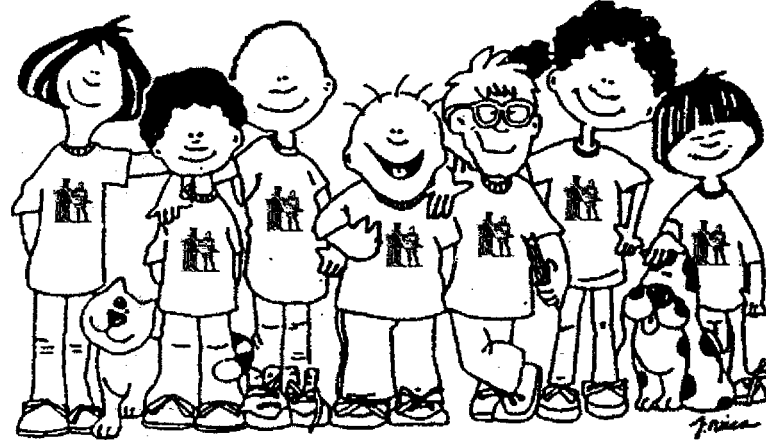
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District says bond-suit delays have cost money, time

Continued from pg. 3

limits where the district invests and how much money it can make; it cannot, for example, earn interest at a rate higher than the rate which the bonds pay to investors. The idea, however, is for the district to make money to finance its voter-approved bond projects.

Although the bond is for \$80 million, the total cost of the new high school, elementary school, renovations, buses and computers included in the bond project is \$87 million. This \$7 million difference would be made up by interest earned through the district's investments, Birchler said.

Normally, that interest would begin to accumulate as soon as the district invested its money; if it had sold \$80 million in bonds June 1 as planned, more than \$600,000 in interest would have accrued by the end of August.

Investors also begin earning interest immediately. Although the bonds mature over a number of years, investors are paid dividends every six months beginning from the date of the bond sale.

In order to pay back investors and retire the bonds it issued, the school district levies a millage. The bond's ultimate cost of \$150 million, according to Birchler, would be paid with a 1.75 mill levy, which would gradually dissipate over the lifetime of the bond: at the end of 25 years, no levy would remain.

Because the March 22 vote that approved the bond is being challenged in court, however, none of this has taken place: the district hasn't sold any bonds, it hasn't invested any money and thus, hasn't earned any interest.

Why the interest is 'lost'

Although the bond is on hold, the district currently plans to go ahead with the project according to schedule, Birchler said. The

maintain that overcrowding is a problem which needs relief as soon as possible at PCEP and elementary schools. "The need is real," Little said.

Similarly, Birchler said, "Getting the schools built and opened is still our priority." Continuing growth in Plymouth-Canton also suggests that construction costs will continue to rise in the community. The longer the district waits to build, Birchler said, the more expensive the project could

long," Birchler said.

In the end, the bond project would have lost \$600,000 it planned on having. This could mean changes in what is included in the bond.

The district might need to trim back portions of the project: the high school might get four science labs instead of five, for instance.

Such scenarios, of course, assume that Circuit Court Judge Rashid will rule in favor of the schools. A decision may come at the next court date, August 21.

It is also possible he may not reach a decision by then, or that he may find in favor of Vorva and rule the election invalid.

No matter what Rashid decides, the district has only a few weeks left before the opening of the high school will have to be postponed, according to Birchler.

"If (the project) doesn't start happening soon, we won't make the September first 2000 deadline," he said. Little agreed, saying, "We've lost a big advantage in construction time already." If the district could proceed with construction after the August 21 court date, the project would begin 140 days behind schedule, he said. If further delays occurred, the project would likely be postponed until 2001, according to both Little and Birchler.

In that case the \$600,000 interest might not be lost; but the chance to alleviate overcrowding would be.

'If (the project) doesn't start happening soon, we won't make the September first, 2000 deadline.'

John Birchler

'We've lost a big advantage in construction time already.'

Charles Little

district could push the project completion date back by two months to compensate for the two months spent in court. If it did so, it might recoup the \$600,000 interest it planned to earn from June through August.

School officials, however, still hope to open the school by September 1, 2000; they

become.

Instead of delaying the project, the district would likely shorten the duration of the investment and would earn less interest, according to Birchler.

"We would have less earning power because we wouldn't hold the money as

Temporary court coming

Continued from pg. 3

than \$100,000 of the cost of remodeling and renting the building, which would make it the cheapest alternative, and speed up the move-in date as well, Garber said.

"It could be ready for use within a week or ten days," Garber said. "The court could operate out of that space right away and the rest of the offices could move in very soon."

The building would still require some modifications, but not as many, Garber

said. Bathrooms would have to be installed, but existing pipes and services could be used.

'It could be ready for use within a week or ten days. The court could operate out of that space right away and the rest of the offices could move in very soon.'

Jim Garber

The board will consider these facts and weigh the parking considerations and determine whether it is cheaper to bring the used modular building up from Dayton, Garber said.

The Western Electric Building building only uses 400 of its 600 parking spots, Garber said. "Although if (court-goers) are not there early some spots will be fairly distant."

Once the decision is made on the location for the temporary courthouse, the board will turn its attention to building a permanent home for the court, Garber said.

"We're trying to take care of the immediate concerns and we're making progress," Garber said. "Now we're moving to the next stage."

District awaits award

Continued from pg. 1

How districts, including Plymouth-Canton, will be able to spend court-awarded money is yet to be seen, according to Erroll Goldman, assistant superintendent for employee relations and personnel.

"Until we see how we get the money it's hard to predict," he said.

Changes Engler is making in state aid to schools funding, including his Monday veto of a \$50 million dollar package, have left school officials uncertain of the court decision's impact.

"The Governor is making changes we didn't anticipate," Goldman said.

At the earliest, the legislature could authorize payment of the court award next month when it returns from recess.

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The Crier will print basic information about local births. (Street addresses will not be published, but we would like them for our records). Sorry, photos will not be returned. **Polaroid or Xerox photos will not be accepted.** If you need additional room, attach a piece of paper.

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Other Information (if listing namesake, include full name, city): _____

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Woman claims sex assault during nude hotel massage

Canton hotel was alleged meeting place for Westland service; crime difficult to investigate

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 21-year-old Wayne woman said she was sexually assaulted in a Canton hotel room this weekend, according to police reports.

The woman was sent to the Super 8 Motel at Ford Road and I-275 as part of massage service operating out of Westland, according to reports.

Police records said the service offers all-nude massages at a rate of \$120 an hour. The woman was giving a massage and the man, identified only as "Steve," sexually assaulted her and left.

Canton Police are investigating both the incident and the business, but it's a difficult

process, according to Det. Rick Pomorski.

"We're looking at everything, but so far we've only got one side of the story," he said. "Sometimes these businesses are

'Sometimes these businesses are legal, and sometimes they are not. It usually takes about two months of investigating to know for sure.'

Det. Rick Pomorski

legal, and sometimes they are not. It usually takes about two months of investigating to know for sure."

This type of case is difficult because it doesn't leave any pattern, Pomorski said.

"First of all, we only get calls if there's a problem. If we don't know about it, we can't

investigate," he said. "And that's just getting started.

"There's five hotels in Canton, and

dozens more in nearby cities: businesses can pick one motel, then rotate to another city. It's really hard to track and find a pattern," Pomorski said.

Pomorski is unsure as of yet if the woman is going to file charges, he said, so the department is concentrating on investigating the business.

"If it turns out to be an illegal or lewd and lascivious business then we'll get them. The trouble with that is, you want to work your way up. If you bust one person, you just get one person. But if you get the business, that's what counts. And that's going to take time."



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 A. GIBBINS

Robert A. Gibbins, a Fair Haven, MI and former Canton resident, died July 28, 1997 at the age of 39.

Mr. Gibbins was born December 28, 1957 in Detroit. He was a plastic laminator for Omega Models, Inc. for four years.

He is survived by his parents, William and Mary Ellen Gibbins of Gladwin, MI; sisters, Lynda (Michael) O'Shea of South Lyon; Maryanne (Gregory) Wick of Pinckney, MI; Kathryn (Gregory) Chauvette of Saginaw; brother, Paul (Lucy) Gibbins of Clinton Township; grandfather, Eugene Ulbrick of Florida; and several Aunts, Uncles, Nieces and Nephews.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Fr. Stanley Tokarski officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to Betty Ford Substance Abuse Clinic.

PHYLLIS M. CROCKER

Phyllis M. Crocker, a Farmington resident, died July 29, 1997 at the age of 72.

Mrs. Crocker was born July 14, 1925 in Arenzville, IL. She was a Secretary. She lived in Plymouth for 15 years.

She is survived by her husband, Benniett J. Crocker of Farmington; sons, Curtis (Nancy) Crocker of Centerville, OH; Dennis (Jeannie) Crocker of Olathe, KS; daughters, Lori (Michael) Volimer of Commerce Township; two brothers; four sisters; and six grandchildren.

Services were held at the First Church of the Nazarene in Farmington with Carl M. Leth officiating. Interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Karmanos Cancer Institute Plymouth Region, 744 Wing Street, Plymouth MI.

ROBERT E. WOOD

Robert E. Wood, a Canton resident, died August 1, 1997 at the age of 68.

Mr. Wood was born Feb. 10, 1929 in Dearborn. He was a financial manager with Ford Motor Company. He served in the army in the Korean War and was a member of Riverside Park Church of God, Livonia, and a member of Ford Motor Co. Chorus.

He is survived by his brothers, Charles W. (Charlotte) Wood of Canton, Albert J. Wood of Henderson, NV; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held at Riverside Park Church of God in Livonia with the Rev. Jack Dunn officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens

in Westland. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Westland. Memorial contributions can be given to Angels Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI, 48154 or Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

LOIS CALDWELL DICKS

Lois Caldwell Dicks, a Livonia resident, died Aug. 4, 1997 at the age of 84.

Mrs. Dicks was born Nov. 21, 1912 in Detroit. She was a realtor for Real Estate One. She was the former manager of the Dearborn Heights Office and the Plymouth office. She retired in 1982. She was awarded realtor of the year in 1974. In 1974 she was the first woman elected president of the board of the United Northwest Realtor Association. She worked part-time for the last eight years at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. She was raised in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth High School. She moved to the Livonia community in 1997. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

She is survived by her son, Robert (Janis) of Livonia; grandchildren, Brad Dicks of Livonia, Amberly Dicks of Livonia; and sister in law, Jeanette Caldwell of Livonia. She is preceded in death by her brothers, Jack F. and Robert L.

Service will be Friday, Aug. 8, 1997 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Dean Klump officiating. Burial is at Grandlaw Cemetery in Redford. Memorial contributions can be given to First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

MILDRED "MILLIE" ANDERSON

Mildred "Millie" Anderson, a Plymouth resident, died Aug. 1, 1997 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Anderson and her late husband Del owned and operated Schoolcraft Bar on Schoolcraft and Grteenfield in Detroit for many years. She also enjoyed her "retirement" job cleaning the Penn Theater during the week. Sadly missed by her firends and family. Enjoy your beer and cigarettes in Heaven, Millie.

She is survived by her son, Jack (Kathy) Hill; daughter, Jill (Tom) Beatty; five grandchildren; sister, Virginia Moran of Plymouth.

Nona Urban, 85, homemaker

Nona Urban, a Plymouth resident, died July 29, 1997.

She is survived by one daughter; one granddaughter; two brothers; and sister, Inez Belobradich of Plymouth and two other sisters. She is preceded in death by her husband, John; one daughter; three brothers; and two sisters.

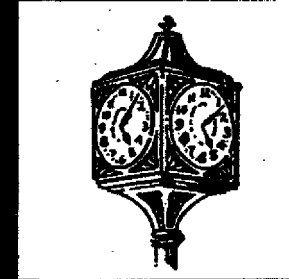
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Schmidt's Roadside Quality Flowers & Produce. Open 7 days a week with home grown produce. See our ad on pg. 5.

ATTENTION CRIER READERS

Are you without a carrier in your neighborhood? It is now possible to receive The Paper with its heart in The Plymouth Canton Community, by mail, at a SAVINGS. Call now! 313-453-6900
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821 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1624

COME SEE the people at Peoples State Bank, 245 N. Main St., Plymouth and let them fix you up with some free bread...and maybe a gourmet toaster!
Call 455-1511 for details

Carriers needed to deliver The Crier each Wednesday in Plymouth, Plymouth Twp. and Canton. Call Maura at (313)453-6900.

Liam visits Dianne on Ann Arbor Trail. We thoroughly enjoyed the garage sale and our new trike!

Curiosities

Looking for memories of the J.L. Hudson Co. on Woodward Avenue in Downtown Detroit. Write to: Hudsons Memories, P.O. Box 5315, Plymouth, MI 48170-5315.

Stephen, The S and L show strikes again! Madly yours, Linda

Matt G. Look Out! There's a Banking Monster trying to impersonate you.

Plymouth's Farmers Market sponsored by the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce every Saturday, thru Oct. 25.

See the Chamber's ad on page 5.

ATTENTION LOCAL ARTISTS

Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. is looking for local artists to display their work. Contact Michael for an appointment. 313-454-0178
Thanks bunches Cindy for my clothes. I love 'em! I even wore the striped one already.

LIAM KIRKBRIDE is 1. We love you, Mama & Papa



Why is this man smiling?

LAURIE CAPUZZI is SO OLD-HOW OLD?
OLD FASHIONED BANKING is at the newest bank in town: Peoples State Bank. 455-1511!

PAT REPECK is an MBA in Holland
LIAM is 1!

Curiosities

Busch's Marketplace-Your one stop shopping center for Michigan Produce. Freshness & quality guaranteed. Stop in & see the area's newest modern supermarket. See our ad on page 5.

DEAR MARTHA ET AL: Wish you were here. Good old Plymouth! Today and tomorrow is having a sidewalk sale, and you know how much fun they are. Some of my greatest "non-essentials" have been purchased at those sales.

How anyone can be bored in this town, I don't know. Although, yesterday I did hear two nice little girls say "We're bored." I have heard people from all age groups say the same thing. I wonder if they know that "I'm bored" is the beginning of an adage. The end of the quotation being, "I AM BORING." I hope I never fit into that category. In all honesty I've never been bored in my whole life, -and that's the truth.

Lovingly, Geneva

EDITH/FAVEO - One of your siblings brought me a fruit salad for my lunch and I didn't even have a coupon.

Wasn't that nice? GG

HELEN GARBER - So you're ninety-nine years old and still wearing "high heels." Good for you!!

COLLIN MAURO from Rockford is seven years old. Goes to Crestwood Elementary School, likes riding a train and Lillian Hartman was his great Grandmother. How about that?

JOHN WOOD AND YOUR GRANDSON thank you so much for all your hard work taking down our tree, cutting and sawing, then piling it up neatly to be given to someone else. How grateful we are!
The Guenthers

Curiosities

RICK OLSEN, eight years old, from Portage, is visiting his Grandmother and Grandfather on Evergreen, all by himself. It's his turn. His two older brothers have each had their turn and here he is without a brother to tell him what to do. Now that's a real vacation!

MIKE WEAVER SINGS "loan on me" at Peoples State Bank. Call 455-1511
Bob is a SAINT - ST. BOB THAT IS!

THE LORD FOX is a delightful place to spend an evening.

Shelley & Ray got a puppy - for a day! Sounds like Uncle Bob & Aunt's dog days.

Thanks sissy for the gift - you made my Sunday and Monday - Love You!

Happy Birthday to my very favorite boyfriend! Liam is one year old!

From your favorite girlfriend!

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY AUNT LIZ. Lorie, Susie, Sarah, Nancy and Mike

HAVE A WONDERFUL 90th Liz.

Much love, Mickie

Happy Birthday Liam!

Thanks for brightening up our days

LIAM IS ONE...

Aunt Sally is teaching him to spill.

Sally Repeck is like St. Pat - driving the snakes out.

LISA LEPPING would never pick up a snake... especially in a singles bar.

SHANNON QUIT! (She's gone now)

(OK-OK-She's back to school.)

RICHARD BACHMAN is now toasting at Peoples State Bank. 455-1511

Okie's & Mary's Farm Market Celebrating 40 years service to the community, has all the farm fresh

Michigan Fruits & Vegetables.

See our ad on page 5 of this weeks paper.

Help Wanted

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Plymouth father needs a loving, mature, reliable babysitter for 4 children (ages 3-8) in my home on alternating Fridays and Mondays from 7am to 7pm starting in September. \$8.35 per hour. Call David (313)459-3739 leave message.

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P.O. Box 252054

West Bloomfield, MI 48325

or FAX resume:

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Property management company seeking person to manage small mixed-use community (70 apts) and commercial rentals in Northville. QUALIFICATION: experience in property management LEASING, and supervision. Send resume to: Director, PO Box 255005, West Bloomfield, MI 48325. Or Call Marilyn @ (248)865-1600

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Send resume to: "P.O. Box 2251, Monroe, MI 48161

Volunteer needed to transcribe handwritten letters into typewritten/computer printed form in your home in the Plymouth-Canton area. Must have computer with printer or word processor. Will provide paper and computer disks. Flexible hours. To volunteer your time or for more information, Call (313)453-1558.

Sports



Sports shorts

Our Lady of Good Counsel CYO J.V. girls soccer try-outs for fourth, fifth and sixth grade girls are Monday and Tuesday from 5-6:30 p.m. at Hines Park Field.

Bring a soccer ball, shin guards, water bottle, and a light and dark shirt.

Salem High School boys golf tryouts Aug. 11-13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Hilltop Golf Course (313-453-9800), located at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck Road. For tee time and more information, call Salem coach Rick Wilson at 416-7762.

Salem High School girls softball camp will run Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (check-in at 8:45 a.m.) at the Salem girls softball field.

The cost is \$25, includes lunch, and those entering seventh grade through seniors are eligible.

Softball fundamentals will be taught at the camp in the following areas: base running, hitting, fielding, throwing, plus a scrimmage game.

Limited space available. For a registration form, call 455-6853. For more information, call 416-0843.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department and the Plymouth Soccer Club are looking for **youth soccer coaches**. Any adult interested in coaching, contact Steve Anderson at the Plymouth Recreation Department at (313) 455-6620.

The **Canton Softball Center** on Michigan Avenue will hold tournaments every weekend through Sept. 21.

The **Plymouth Whalers 1997-98 regular season schedule** will include 33 home games and 33 away games.

Their Dec. 29 home matchup with Erie will be the OHL Game of the Week.

The Whalers open their season at home on Sept. 20 against London
Please see pg. 21

Season of changes

CSA, Whalers have new look for '97-98 season; Futures camp a success

BY BRIAN CORBETT

The Whalers name change from Detroit to Plymouth won't be the only difference visitors to Compuware Sports Arena will notice when the 1997-98 season begins next month.

CSA, which was pale and gray for most of last season, is starting to inherit some character as a result of some summer construction.

There will also be several new players on the roster, some of whom were showcased at last week's Futures '97 camp, coordinated by Whaler associate coaches Steve Spott and Greg Stefan.

The most noticeable addition to CSA greets you at the arena's southern-most entrance: an electric sign flashing upcoming games and events at the Plymouth Township facility. Topped off with the Whalers logo, the sign is reportedly the only one of its kind outside an OHL arena.

Inside, the media room has been more than doubled in size. The Fish Market souvenir stand will have a permanent home this year after spending last season behind collapsible tables and storing items in milk crates.

The restaurant, which was originally scheduled to open at mid-season last year, is currently under construction. When finished, Ginopolis' Parthenon will offer window seating overlooking the small pond in



Even veteran Mike Morrone (12), the former Whalers captain, had a lot to learn from Whalers associate coach Steve Spott at the Futures Camp last week in Plymouth Township (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr.) front of CSA.

The changes don't stop there; the differences will also be on the ice where five or six new players will take the ice as

Whalers in September.

A number of Plymouth's 1997 draft picks joined current and former Whalers,
Please see pg. 20

Younce Memorial Race scheduled for Saturday

BY MATT HUCAL

The Perry Younce Memorial Race will take place Saturday, with proceeds benefiting an educational trust fund for his sons.

Younce, a midget-car driver from Canton, was killed August 3, 1996 in an accident at Michigan Ideal Speedway in Springport. He was 35.

The Aug. 2 race, planned to be held at the Owosso Race Track, was canceled.

A memorial race was held on Aug. 30, 1996 in Owosso in which \$6,000 was raised for the trust fund.

Younce is survived by his two sons, Alexander, 11, and Taylor, 9.

He was engaged to be married last October, and is also survived by his parents, Clyde and Shirley Younce, one brother and six sisters.

More than 400 people went to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth for the viewing, which helped the family heal through the tragedy.

"We would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to the funeral last year, and thank everyone for their continued love, support and prayers," said Mary McFarland, Younce's sister.

"Unless you go through an experience like this, it's hard to understand what that means."

Tickets for the Aug. 9 Ideal race are \$15 for adults, \$12 for 13 to 17-year-olds and \$6 for 6 to 12-year-olds — all in advance. Tickets are \$18 for adults at the door.

Competing in the Ideal race will be wing sprints, midgets and I-car modified race cars.

For more information on the Aug. 9 race, call (517) 857-3333 or (708) 352-6106.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the educational fund estab-

lished for the sons of Perry Younce can do so through: The Perry Younce Memorial Fund, Account # 5590079710, First of America Bank, 41652 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Silver Bullets take 2nd in tourney



The Plymouth-Canton Silver Bullets girls softball team was the runner-up in the 1997 Michigan USSSA State Fastpitch Tournament held in Commerce Township last month. The Silver Bullets (13-1-1) lost in the championship game, 4-3, to Downriver Travel. The Silver Bullets are: Jennifer Allen, Kaitlin Anderson, Kristy Barber, Katie Conlon, Theresa Horn, Jennifer Jablonski, Katie Kelly, Christina Kiessel, Lisa Niemiec, Sarah Pack, Jenna Perino, Jennifer Warnick and Danielle Weber

Head is a Starzz basketball player

Salem grad plays for Utah Starzz in WNBA

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Dena Head has been a star in The Plymouth-Canton Community for more than a decade. But now the 1988 Salem High School graduate and former State of Michigan Ms. Basketball winner is a Starzz to the entire nation.

Head plays for the Utah Starzz of the WNBA, a women's professional basketball league in its maiden season this summer.

The eight-team league, which has no franchise in Detroit, is drawing NBA-like media attention, sponsors and crowds. Attendance is averaging nearly 9,000 halfway into the two-month season, and the mighty roster of sponsors includes Coca-Cola, Nike and American Express.

"This is the first year, the inaugural season for the WNBA. There's fun and excitement here (Utah) and everywhere we go," Head said.

"The atmosphere in every city we play as well as our own is very exciting. The fans are very supportive. And they're into the games as much as we are, sometimes more. It's great to see a lot of men out there supporting us, too. It's very encouraging."

Head is the starting point guard for the Starzz, who are 4-13 and in last place in the Western Conference. That's not a position Head is used to after winning national championships at the University of Tennessee. But Head is not just a professional on the court, she is also a pro in her attitude. "A record is just a record. It's not indicative of the effort you put forth," she said.

Effort was important when Head was growing up, because she had plenty of

competition from her brother, James, who's enjoying a successful college career at Eastern Michigan University.

By the time she reached high school in 1984, Head was a super star prospect.

"Back then, coaches and scouts were allowed to recruit you as a freshman. So it was a little overwhelming," she said.

As were Head's on court achievements, including all state honors and Michigan's



Ms. Basketball award after her senior season in 1987. She chose the University of Tennessee, one of the best women's basketball schools in the nation, to continue her education.

"I pretty much had my choice of where I wanted to go to college," she said. "It was a golden opportunity to continue my career after high school. I was fortunate."

Her good fortune continued at Tennessee, where she was named an all-conference and all-American player. She also won national championships in 1989 and 1991.

"They were different experiences," Head said. "The first time it was a dream season come true — to be the best, to play for the first-place team, and see all your hard work pay off. The second time was sweeter because we were the underdogs."

Upon graduating in 1992, Head left to play in Europe, including two years in Italy.

In 1995, she was preparing herself to become a member of the women's Dream Team at the 1996 Olympics when she tore a knee ligament, just before trials began.

Head took the rest of the year off before returning to the court in France last season. While she enjoyed her time overseas, Head and her fellow athletes were anxious to get the same opportunity in America — the birthplace of basketball.

"All along, we eventually thought there would be some kind of league in the states," she said.

They were right. The WNBA was conceived and created by NBA Commissioner David Stern, and is dominating its established rival, the American Basketball League.

Head was drafted in the second round by Utah. "It's been a great feeling, something to call our own. We're playing in the states, and we're playing in the same arenas as the NBA," she said.

The WNBA wraps up its regular season at the end of this month. Utah has three remaining televised games: Friday on the Lifetime cable network, and Tuesday and Aug. 19 on ESPN.

A championship game is set for Aug. 30, but Utah doesn't expect to be playing in it. Head does expect to play in France later this year, and in the WNBA next summer, though.

"As long as I'm playing, and as long as I'm given the opportunity to play in the WNBA, I'm going to play," Head said.

Futures '97 Camp attracts scouts, NHL star

Continued from pg. 20

and other OHL, American Hockey League and Western Hockey League players at the Futures '97 camp.

The five-day on and off-ice conditioning sessions prepared some players for try-outs with their NHL teams, and gave others a first look at junior hockey.

Approximately one dozen local hockey fans took daily advantage of the opportunity to see former Whaler captain Mike Morrone prepare for his upcoming training camp with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes and hound New York Rangers all star center Adam Graves for an autograph.

Graves, a former Red Wing and friend with several of the members of the Whalers' staff, helped secure Bauer's sponsorship of Futures '97.

Dave Legwand, the Whalers' number one draft pick this spring from the Compuware Ambassadors, had an impressive camp.

"He got stronger as the week went on," Spott said.

Right wing Andy Burnham, the Whalers' third-round draft pick who recorded 62 points and 230 penalty minutes in 32 games last season with the New Liskaerd Midgets, attracted a lot of attention from onlookers because of his 6'4", 200-pound frame.

"He still has a little way to go from playing midgets last year," Spott said. "But he had a good week."

Brandon Sacco, a seventh-round draft pick from Port Colborne Jr. B, looks to challenge Steve Lyle for the Whalers number two goaltending position behind OHL all star Robert Esche. Sacco, like Esche, is very agile. "Brandon's a real competitor. He came in and got a good opportunity to get know Greg Stefan," Spott said.

Left wing Kris Purdy (sixth round) and center Brian Passmore (fifth round) were among the other Whaler picks at Futures '97, which didn't include defenseman Jeff Jillson, a second-round selection out of Mt. St. Charles High School.

Jillson, who is ill, reportedly is a can't-miss prospect with a NHL future.

Another player headed for the pros, David Brosseau, was singled out for his Futures '97 performance by Spott. Brosseau, a 6'2", 195-pound right wing who played for Binghamton of the AHL last year, may soon be skating alongside Graves at Madison Square Garden.

"David Brosseau from the New York Rangers was outstanding, both on and off the ice (training)," said Spott.

"This is a kid you're going to be watching on TV in a couple of years."

Plymouth Parks & Rec Softball Standings:

Men's Blue Division — Varsity Ford, 11-1; Nutro's Disposable Heroes, 7-5; Rusty Nail, 7-5; D & D Video Transfer, 5-7; Canton Sports, 3-9; Dealers Specialites of Metro Detroit, 2-10.

Men's White Division — UAW 845 Ford Sheldon Rd., 12-0; Roush Wheels, 11-1; Card It, 9-3; Crucam, 7-5; Soil & Materials Engineers, 4-8; Zena Comp/Infomix, 4-8; Capital Communications Services, 4-8; Johnson Controls, 4-8; Box Bar, 3-9.

Men's Modified — Portland Building, 9-3; Hoechst Celanese, 8-4; Insurance Exchange, 5-7; Canton Sports, 1-11.

Women's Slow Pitch — All for One/Gallagher Kaiser, 12-0; Shark Club, 9-4; Adistra, 7-4; Jamies, 7-6; N.W.C., 7-7; Rusty Nail, 5-7; Buddy's, 3-11; Lucas Landscaping, 2-11.

Co-ed Blue Division — Big "K", 10-0; St. Michael, 8-1; Roman Forum, 7-2; S.H.G., 6-6; The Great White Shark Club, 3-7; The Catalysts, 1-9.

Co-ed White Division — Team #8, 8-2; Crusaders, 9-3; GLA Surveyor, 8-4; Risen Christ, 7-5; The Friends, 5-5; Stan's Market, 2-10; Comcorp Cougars, 2-10.

Sports shorts

Continued from pg. 20

and finish their home season March 11 versus Windsor.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department and the Plymouth Soccer Club are looking for **Youth Soccer coaches**. Any adult interested in coaching, please contact Steve Anderson at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department at (313) 455-6620.

Women Drivers...Yes!, Visiting Nurse Association's (VNA), **fourth annual golf invitational** will return to the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville on Aug. 18.

Women Drivers...Yes! raises money for VNA's Driving Care Home Fund, a transportation assistance program for women employed as home health aides. Funds are raised through corporate sponsorships, players' fees and a silent auction.

The Plymouth Recreation Department continues registration for its **Summer Park Program**.

The five registration locations are Kiwanis Park (Auburn and Junction streets), Jaycee Park (Harding and Joy), Garden Club Park (Sutherland and Forest), Rotary Park (Wing and Herald) and Fire House Park (Holbrook and Spring).

Each location will provide a schedule of supervised activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Arts and crafts, active games, street showers, bowling, miniature golf and table games will accent the daily program.

Friday field trips are planned to the Detroit Zoo, the Skatin' Station, Rolling Hills Water Park, Kensington Metro-Park and Oakland County Wave Pool.

A fun-filled field day is planned for the final date on Aug. 15.

Call the Plymouth Recreation Department at 455-6620 for more information.

The program is free and participants must be City of Plymouth residents.

The Salvation Army **Senior Volleyball team** is looking for more players. If interested, stop by on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10 - 12 a.m. Players' annual fee is \$10. 453-5464 for info.



Community opinions

Writer: Rivers disinterested in insurance reform

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter is directed toward Lynn Rivers, State Representative regarding health insurance.

I had requested a meeting with you, but it seems that will not be. This is the first time I have requested a meeting with a member of Congress and was unable to have a meeting in person.

I would like to meet and work toward a plan (or see a plan) that would cover all citizens with medical insurance with the option to keep all insurance companies the same as they are now if they wanted. There are many ways to achieve this goal, but as I said, unless someone lays out a plan and works on it nothing will happen.

I was at your meeting in Plymouth and after listening to you I have come to the conclusion that you are not very interested in the forty million that need medical insurance. Others I have talked to agree, even though your letter sent to me says you are. I and many others are tired of paying taxes while members of Congress receive excellent wages, medical insurance and retirement plans. It seems the only

time they listen is a few months before election and after election it is soon forgotten. I fully understand why so many vote for whoever is new. At least there is a chance

I was at your meeting in Plymouth and I have come to the conclusion you are not very interested in the forty million that need medical

that a new member may try to do something for the citizens instead of just for the ones that can help them get re-elected. As I read in a paper some time back, the citizens in

this area are not organized and changes can be made where it effects them with little complaints. A criminal has free room and board, attorneys and more. What about the honest citizen?

There must be someone who will take interest and work toward a goal where all citizens have medical insurance the same as most industrialized nations have had for many years. We are a great country, but Congress still refuses to present a medical insurance plan for all citizens, the same as they have for themselves. The ones that pay taxes for all your benefits are the ones that receive little in their way of medical coverage.

Isn't it about time members of Congress take this problem seriously? If some members of Congress had medical problems and were unable to purchase medical insurance because of health or finances, we would have medical insurance in a matter of weeks.

HAROLD PHELPS

Ethics, law clash in bond issue

EDITOR:

I have just done something which those who know me will think is crazy. I have just sent a check to attorney Stephen Boak on behalf of Jerry Vorva's campaign to assure that 700 voters in the P-C school district are not disenfranchised. It's a crazy act because on a political level Mr. Vorva and I seldom agree on anything. But this isn't politics, this goes to the heart of a democratic society. One may vote based on politics, but your right to vote is an American's right.

What should cause everyone a real concern is the fact that the superintendent of the school district, and the school board, seem to think that because this loss of votes can be argued away through some technicality of the election commission that the loss of votes is "legal."

What seems to be missing in their thought process is their lack of understanding that what may be legal and what is "ethical" are not always the same. Ethically, those 700 people lost their votes because of the carelessness of the school district. Lawyers argue the law, honest people see truth whether written or not.

The latest school board election for a seat on the board provides clear evidence that the district knew it had poorly served the electorate in the bond election. The added training and care taken with the June election shows clearly that they knew they had been in error in March.

Our superintendent would like to have our students grow as adults, as caring and good citizens. Perhaps he

would like to have our students grow as adults, as caring and good citizens. Perhaps he would do well to set an example by admitting that his present stance exists in part

What seems to be missing in their thought process is their lack of understanding that what may be legal and what is "ethical" are not always the same. Lawyers argue the law, honest people see truth whether written or not.

because he won — however many votes were in doubt. Doing the right thing would be to permit the March voters to re-vote.

Of course it's not clear that doing the ethically right thing is what he is likely to choose. In a recent lawsuit against the district the plaintiff was bought off rather than permit the truth to come out — another case of twisting the law to cover-up unethical behavior. We read about cases of corporations who pay the fine but admit no wrong. Apparently, that's the standard by which this district operates. Play the legal angles regardless of, dare I say it, "moral behavior."

Perhaps those 700 voters supported the bond, perhaps not. Perhaps in a full hearing the former employee could not demonstrate that the superintendent's subordinate caused a constructive discharge, perhaps she could have. We'll never know because this superintendent, and I'm ashamed to say, this school board, would rather play the legal system than abide the ethical system.

So Mr. Vorva will receive a few dollars from someone who wouldn't vote for him, but I'll feel I've done something morally good for my community. It's too bad the school district leadership can't say that.

I've asked the newspaper editors to not print my name because my spouse is a district employee, and the district's leadership's code of ethics almost certainly would lead to punishment for my spouse. It's really sad. I've always felt free to exercise my "right to write," but now I worry because of the devious nature of the so-called leadership of this district.

NAME WITHHELD

Write to us!

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Community Crier*, 821 Penniman Avenue,

Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1624 or email: CrierNews@aol.com and include your name

and phone number (we'll withhold your name at your request, but you have to send it!).

The community Crier reserves the right to edit letters for style and brevity.

Inmate seeks relatives

EDITOR:

My name is Paul Vickery and I'm an inmate in a Georgia Prison. I'm writing in hopes that you will find the kindness in your heart to print my letter in your newspaper.

I'm trying to locate some of my relatives who live in or around Plymouth. If anyone who reads my letter knows of any of my relatives, please let them know I'm in

search of them, or write me and let me know how to contact them.

Loneliness picks no certain age or race. If anyone wishes to write me I will be more than glad to answer all letters and share a smile from time to time.

PAUL VICKERY EF-304161
V.S.P. B-1
BOX 310
VALDOSTA, GA 31603



Community opinions

Out with the old, in with the new

Kmart closes its doors to expand down the road, and a restaurant chain gives new life to an old building, proving how volatile the Ford Road corridor can be.

This weekend I had the opportunity to sample the changing flavor of business in Canton.

First I went to the Kmart on Ford and Sheldon roads. The store, a fixture in Canton since my youth, is being closed down next month to make way for the new Super KMart down the road. A banner across the front of the store proclaimed that everything was on sale.

I went, drawn by curiosity rather than the desire to find a good deal.

I sensed a type of frenetic energy that I hadn't felt since I started my Christmas shopping December 24th last year. I had a sense that not only did these shoppers want to shop there, they needed to. Sale banners acted as magnets drawing bored passers-by that would then be overcome by the prospect of a good deal. They'd succumb to an orgy of spending by snapping up everything in sight.

The store looked like it had been looted. There were more products on the floor than on the shelves. Clothes were flung everywhere, across racks, on the floor, over walls. Babies wailed. Children rifled through boxes of their favorite

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



action figures, heedless of where discarded packages fell while parents looked through selections of sheets and comforters.

Hectic and crazy it was, but in its own way prosperous. There wasn't a feeling that this business was failing, or that the business district had lost its edge. It's a sign that no matter which tiles may change in Canton's retail mosaic, the pulse is still strong. There's room for older businesses to expand, and new ones to build.

Like new restaurants.

Saturday I went to a practice lunch at the new Cookers, which held its grand opening Monday.

Located at Ford and Lilley roads, it hopes to succeed where Olive Garden failed. The Italian restaurant chain closed its doors earlier this year, citing poor revenues.

The hostess asked me if I had ever been in a Cooker before, and it like it was like a bucket of ice water had hit me, bucket and all. A five-year-old memory surfaced — a memory buried so deeply that not even a hint of it remained the instant before.

I had worked at one.

It was five years ago, and I was working a second job to build up my bank account for the move to Oregon. Most of my memories of that job involved trying to shove 50 pound bags of hamburger into an old steel machine that clacked and

rattled semi-rhythmically and spit perfectly proportioned hamburger patties out the other side.

As we weaved our way through an army of servers, busboys and managers, another memory surfaced. When I worked at Cooker I always wondered how they could make any money with as many staffers they had on the clock. A handful of dining room managers, a bar manager and at least one kitchen manager vied for the attention of the harried guests.

That hadn't changed.

Granted, this was a training day and would therefore have more supervisory staff than on a normal day. But trying to eat lunch under the constant scrutiny of the staff was nerve-racking at best.

A server said it was because of the way they "zoned" tables: every server in a particular section helped the others out if they had a spare second. That's a good theory, but by the end of the meal we didn't know who would get our tip.

Cooker offers a variety of traditional American fare such as ribs, sandwiches, a decent meatloaf, burgers and steaks, as well as some pasta dishes, seafood specialties and salads.

Good service is a fine line between too little and too much, and if Cooker hits that niche its combination of good food at reasonable prices should ensure it a lasting place in Ford Road's not-always restaurant friendly corridor.

Parking, traffic sacrifices undermine events

EDITOR:

When it comes to event planning, the City of Plymouth rates at the top of the class. But when it comes to traffic flow and parking we're a day late, and many dollars short.

Art in the Park has become Art in the City and the Sidewalk Sale — well that's the Sidewalk Sale.

I notice some of the merchants put six foot tables out, knocking out three parking spaces.

The Greeks in the restaurant business have a saying, Turn Over-Turn Over.

As owner of one of the restaurants in town, the harsh comments we hear regarding traffic flow and parking is

When it comes to traffic flow and parking we're a day late and many dollars short.

disturbing.

How do you, as merchants, expect the

public to shop when by the time they get to your store they're already very upset from driving around trying to find a parking spot?

Does having more booths on our streets make it better for the merchants? I don't think so.

I've been told to come to the meetings and voice my opinion, but in the past I found out that it didn't work.

I'm passing on to you the voice of many of our guests that lately have come to The Cozy Cafe.

Take the comments wisely folks, because these are the people that spend the dollars.

NICK RISTICH

The Community Crier



THE
NEWSPAPER
WITH ITS
HEART IN THE
PLYMOUTH-CANTON
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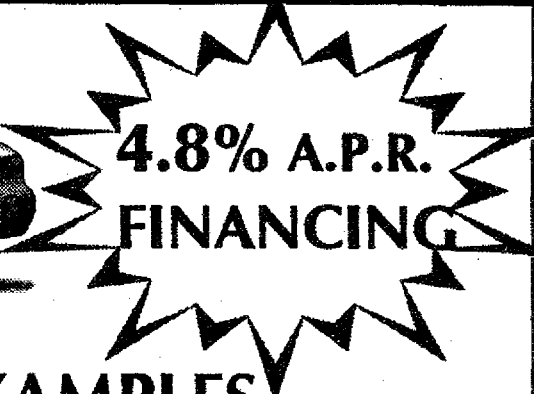
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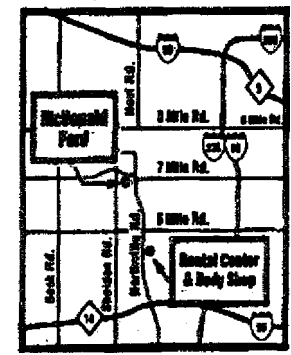
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