

Green is keen! Friday is the 1st day of Spring



The Community Crier

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

Vol. 25 No. 7

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March 18, 1998

Mardigian appointed to P-C School Board

BY BRYON MARTIN

In a unanimous vote, the Plymouth-Canton School Board appointed Judy Mardigian to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Trustee Jack Farrow.

"I'm excited. I'm ready. It's a short term but I'm prepared," she said.

Mardigian was selected from a field of eight applicants, which included John Stewart, Carl Battishill, Carrol Bollman, James Dietz, Carl Fanning, Paul Schrauben and Darwin Watts. The appointment runs through June 9.

Regular school board meeting attendees probably were not surprised by the appointment. Mardigian's name has been common among reports from various school committees, her involvement repre-

senting a variety of interests.

Mardigian has worked with the schools' finance, long range plan and bond planning committees. The mother of two Plymouth-Canton students, she is also a familiar face around Isbister Elementary School.

Board President Mark Horvath suggested that this involvement, coupled with her public school ideologies, made her a good fit for the temporary appointment.

"Judy is in the best position to help us where we are today," he said during group discussion of the candidates.

Mardigian's term will expire following the regular school election June 8.

Will she run?

"Oh, don't ask me yet," she said. "It's too early. I just got here."

Education Summit Monday

The "Michigan Summit on School Equity," an event to discuss Proposal A and inequities in school funding throughout the state, will be held at the Canton's Summit on the Park Monday from 7-9 p.m.

The event, hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Legislative Action Committee, is expected to draw more than 350 legislators, educators, and citizens from around the state.

Both the pros and cons of Proposal A will be discussed. The program will begin with speeches by State Sen. Dan DeGrow, chair of the Senate Education Committee and State Rep. Jim Agee.

These will be followed by a discussion panel of more than 20 state legislators moderated by Tim Skubick, WWJ Lansing correspondent. The legislators, including senators Loren Bennett and Robert Geake,

will also answer questions from the public.

After that three gubernatorial candidates, Gary Artinian, Edward Hamilton, and Doug Ross, will each give a small speech detailing their stances on the education subject. These will also be followed by a question-and-answer session.

"The purpose of this is to educate the public," said Mark Slavens, chairman of the event. "I don't think many people know how this is effecting their communities. We hope the education community, parents and interested citizens will attend the event and become immersed in this important issue."

According to Chuck Little, Plymouth-Canton superintendent, "This is an opportunity for individuals to hear the whole school funding story and to determine what they want for all public schools in Michigan."

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Friday fire... Canton Firefighters say high winds whipped an otherwise small fire into a blaze Friday that engulfed Dan Schacht's barn, located next to his home on Joy Road, in Canton. Was luck involved in the Friday the 13th fire? See the story on page 9 (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).

The Force

Canton man turns his favorite movie into a promising career

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

Early spring

Mild winter gets real estate season off to an early start

See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

Crunch time

Whalers outshoot Sarnia, win first playoff game 3-1

See Sports pgs. 18-21

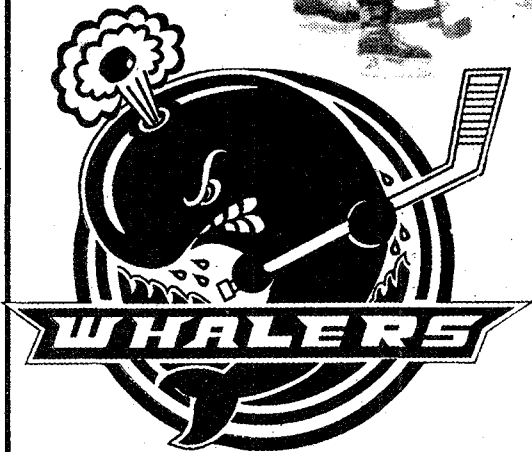
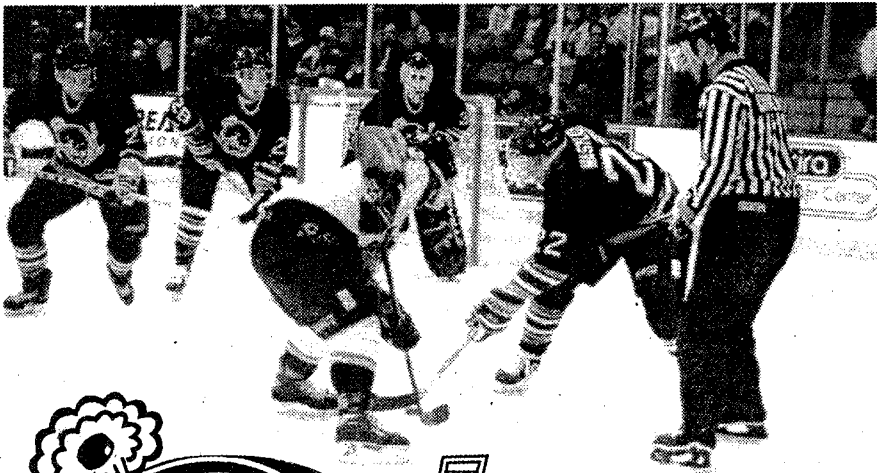
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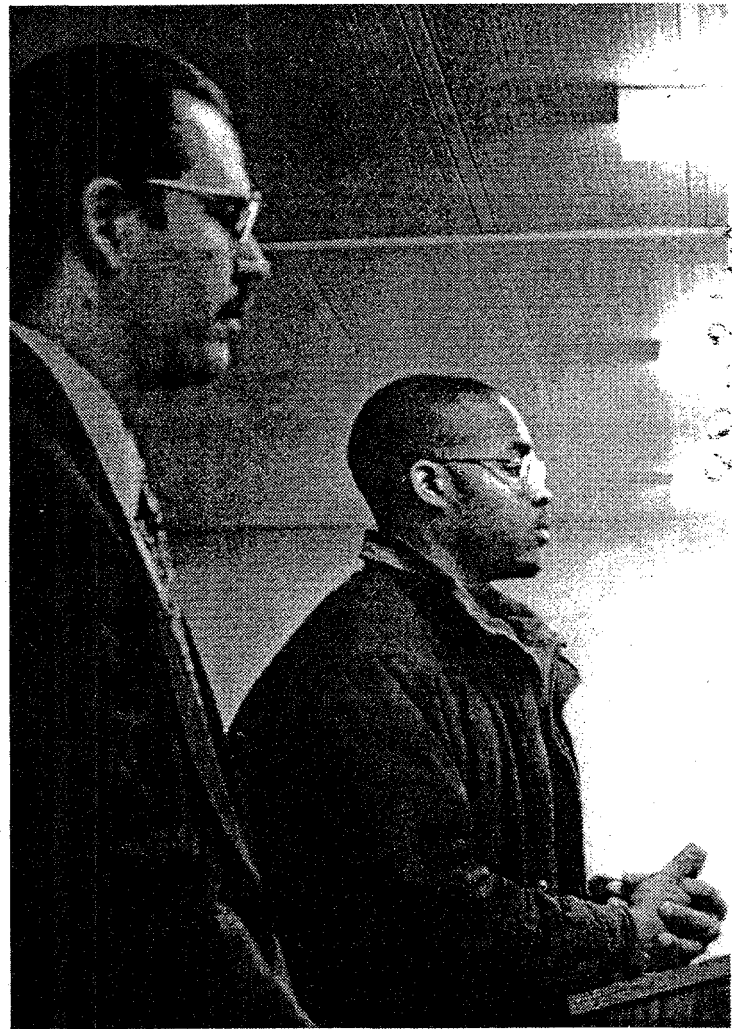
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Charged with 3rd-degree criminal sexual conduct, 17-year-old Christian Armstead appeared before Judge Ron Lowe in 35th District Court Friday. Armstead will return to the court Friday for a preliminary exam of his involvement in the alleged sexual attack of a fellow Canton High School, a 15-year-old girl from Canton. The alleged victim and Det. Lenard Wolons of Canton P.D. (at left) are expected to testify (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.).



Canton youth faces charges for sex at school with minor

Alleged victim to testify Friday at preliminary exam

BY BRYON MARTIN

Christian Armstead, a 17-year-old Canton High School junior from Canton, will appear Friday in 35th District Court for a preliminary hearing on a charge of 3rd-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The charge carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

A 15-year-old Canton student has alleged that while skipping class with him, Armstead pinned her down and raped her under a stairway in a secluded part of Canton High School, according to Canton

police reports.

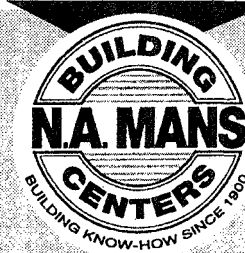
Descriptions of the case as a rape are inaccurate to some degree, though, according to Det. Leonard Wolons of the Canton Police Department. "Rape is a general term that has probably been overworked by the media. There's no real definition."

The 3rd-degree CSC charge against Armstead, Wolons said, is defined as a sex crime based on age.

Because the alleged victim is younger than the age of consent, 16, and Armstead

Please see pg. 9

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Municipal rec. fans descend on Commission

BY BRYON MARTIN

As The City and Township of Plymouth continue to inch closer toward shared recreation services, a group of about 20 citizens showed up to Plymouth's City Commission meeting Monday night to voice their collective opinion:

Go with the governments, not the YMCA.

Led by Chuck Skene, former Parks and Recreation director for the city, the group used the first 45 minutes of the meeting to lobby for a municipally run joint recreation program, not one administered by the YMCA.

City and township employees continue to work in committees to explore their options in shared recreation, according to reports given at Monday's meeting.

Since last December, a YMCA-administered plan has been one of them.

"We will continue to fill this place with people saying that they don't want a YMCA-directed program," Skene said to the commission, apparently speaking on behalf of a portion of the audience. He and his cohort said they plan to attend coming township meetings as well and will continue to be involved as plans take shape. "Take advantage of this group. We'll work with you."

Skene brought Mike Maisner, executive director of Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) to testify on behalf of municipal programs. The MRPA is a Lansing-based lobbyist that pursues state and federal funding for recreation and runs a variety of state-level

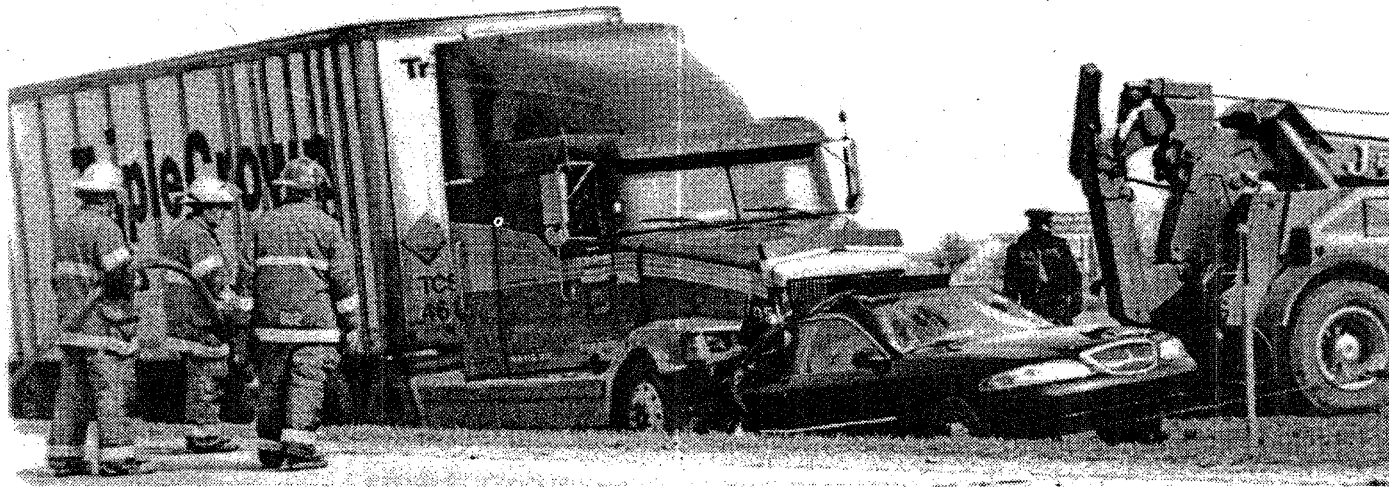
"It's not in your best interest to turn over all recreation to the private sector," Maisner said. "It should be a public sector priority."

Richard Teeple, assistant coach and treasurer for the Plymouth for the Plymouth youth soccer club, testified to the Plymouths' need for upgrades to its soccer fields. Some 1,200 youths now use existing fields which are sometimes mere dirt patches, Teeple said.

Cameron Miller, former city attorney, tied the interest in publically run recreation to deeper social ills.

"It needs to be a municipal program because (the city) is the one who will deal with repercussions of kids with too much time on their hands," he said.

Please see pg. 4



Efforts to clear debris from southbound I-275 after an accident between three cars and one semi left part of the interstate closed for hours Tuesday afternoon. One woman was injured in the wreck (Crier photo by Ryan Nuñez).

4-vehicle wreck closes I-275

An accident on southbound I-275 involving a semi and an automobile left one woman severely injured and the expressway closed to traffic for part of Tuesday afternoon.

According to State Police Trooper John C. Sosa the truck, driven by Lawrence Edward Roose, 50, rear-ended a late-model Nissan at 10 a.m. on I-275 near Six Mile Road.

The Nissan's gas tank ruptured and exploded, according to Sosa.

The truck then rear-ended a second vehicle, a Lincoln Continental, and veered off the road

with the car pinned underneath it, Sosa said.

A third car struck the burning Nissan. Roose helped free the woman trapped in the car, Sosa said.

"We think Roose cut the woman in the burning car out of her seat belt and pulled her out with the help of other motorists," Sosa said. "They may have saved her life."

The woman, whose identity police have withheld, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Ypsilanti and was later med-flighted to the University of Michigan Burn Center, he said.

"We don't know her condition at this point."

Sosa said the other drivers were apparently uninjured in the crash.

"The driver of the semi-tractor trailer appeared to have no injuries," said Tom Gyorke, Livonia Fire Department captain. "He was in the State Police car for questioning."

The accident is still under investigation by the Michigan State Police Department.

"There's still so many things that have to be done, but we expect to have some answers

Student expelled for circulating newspaper

BY BRYON MARTIN

The Plymouth-Canton School Board has expelled CEP Junior Jim Tantalo for repeatedly breaking school policies through his distribution of an underground magazine.

The charges against Tantalo, according to the board: harassment, vulgarity, disobedience and distribution of non-school sponsored written material on school property.

The charges, according to Tantalo: simply expressing himself and giving copies of his underground newspaper to students who requested them.

Tantalo and a partner from Northville High School published five issues of

Colludium, a four-page flyer copied onto both sides of a folded 11" by 17" sheet of paper. Described by Tantalo as "a way to express myself," it contains material similar to that typical of other underground magazines (zines, for short): a blend of attempts at short story, translations of song lyrics, self-indulgent essay and teenage rumination.

Unlike the edgy voice in his paper, Tantalo is quick to acquiesce, and defends the board's decision to expel.

"I can see how it's necessary to control the school environment," he said. "I don't think it's outrageous for them to censor."

Attorney Steve L. Schwartz of the

Southfield-based Sommers, Schwartz, Silver and Schwartz, disagrees. Their expulsion of Tantalo is "way off-base," he said. "It's quite clear from the outset that the intent of the suspension is punishment and not education."

Superintendent Charles Little said the expulsion wasn't harsh, but that it "came simply after multiple warnings," and that Tantalo has a history of policy violations.

According to Schwartz, no legal appeal will be pursued. Instead, Tantalo may seek readmittance after 90 days, contingent on requirements set by his expulsion letter.

"I'm not sure I want to go back," Tantalo said, "the administration would follow me."

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- The City of Plymouth currently is in search of volunteers. Openings are available on the Planning, Housing, Beautification and Historic District Commissions, and other city boards. To apply, call Clerk Linda Langmesser at 453-1234, ext. 234.
- Tomorrow, The Plymouth Whalers play game 3 of their playoff series against the Sarnia Sting. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-8400 for more info.

NEXT WEEK

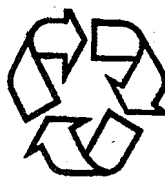
- Monday, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools hosts a Michigan Summit on Education at Summit on the Park, in Canton, from 7-9 p.m. Members of Plymouth-Canton and other communities are invited to come and hear state legislators and gubernatorial candidates discuss equity in school funding, Proposal A and possible changes in school issues. For more info, call (734) 416-2755.
- Tuesday, The Plymouth Community Council on Aging plans a gambling trip to Windsor Casinos. Tour cost, \$20. Pre-paid tokens available. Call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

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Joint recreation questioned

Continued from pg. 3

Skene paced before the commission diaz like a lawyer addressing the bench, occasionally turning back toward the audience in appeal. Some citizens nodded in agreement as he made a case against the YMCA recreation. Others did not.

Greg Pappas coaches a recreational baseball team in Plymouth. Shared recreation, he said, must be administered "in an efficient manner. I'm not sure government is the most efficient."

"I think you've got to point out that there's an obvious bias here," Doug Miller, former city commissioner, mayor and city appointee to the joint recreation committee said in relation to Skene. "We've got a professional, municipal recreation person here leading the charge."

Miller urged the audience not to focus on whether recreation would be municipally or privately run, but to "try to look at the quality and value you're getting in a recreation program for the money you're spending."

The recreation committee has discussed funding shared recreation with a half-mill each from city and township taxes, according to Commissioner Ron Loiselle, also a member of the committee.

Each of the Plymouths might also appoint an equal number of members to a joint oversight board,

according to Loiselle. That board would then control the tax-funded recreation budget and could contract with a third party to administer the program itself.

Currently, the YMCA is the only group identified as a potential third-party administrator.

It is possible, Loiselle said, that the township could take over, or the city could continue to run recreation as it has for both the Plymouths.

City Manager Steve Walters also sits on the recreation committee and said that "the controlling structure is still being evaluated," but that the YMCA was going to be involved.

Miller said the committee has identified duplicate programs that both the city and YMCA now offer, and that consolidation is a priority.

"We are going to have a relationship between the city, township and YMCA," he said.

After discussion ended, Skene and company filed out of the commission chamber.

At a point in the meeting reserved for commissioner comments, Dave McDonald praised the group for its involvement.

"We saw representative government at its best. We saw that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

"I'm glad to hear their opinions," he said. "But we're responsible to listen to all voices."

You should try to look at the quality and value you're getting in a recreation program for the money you're spending.

— Doug Miller
Former city commissioner

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Public notices

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present.

Mrs. Massengill amended the agenda by removing under New Business Item No. J.5, Budget Amendment-General Fund and Item No. J.6, Budget Amendment Improvement Revolving Fund. Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the agenda for the March 10, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees as amended. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted for the March 10, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Mrs. Mueller moved that April 14, 1998, be established for Public Hearing on a request from Ilmor Engineering, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mr. Griffith moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance C-98-01, amending the Charter Township of Plymouth Code by amending Chapter 25, to provide for the adoption of the 1998 International Mechanical Code. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote, except Mr. Curmi, who was tardy.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance C-98-02, adopting the 1997 BOCA International Plumbing Code, amending Chapter 27 of the Plymouth Township code. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

Mrs. Arnold moved to adopt Resolution No. 98-03-10-09 authorizing the Charter Township of Plymouth to be a member of the Lower 1 Subwatershed Management Group and to designate James D. Anulewicz as the Township's representative. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

Mr. Curmi moved to authorize releasing the request for proposals for Voice Communications for public bid. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all.

The Supervisor informed the Board that the Township's newsletter is being proofed in preparation for the printer.

The Supervisor also informed the Board that Gov. Engler, speaking in Livonia last week, discussed the possibility of placing a bond issue on the November ballot, and if approved by voters, the funds would be used for cleaning up brownfields, parks, waterfront projects, river cleanup, etc.

Trustees Mueller and Arnold expressed their pleasure in reading Chief Carey's commendation letters to the Township's Police Department employees.

Trustee Curmi asked about pursuing grant availability for habitat and recreation projects being offered by Wayne County.

It was moved by Mrs. Massengill and seconded by Mrs. Arnold to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Ayes all.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Plymouth.

The foregoing is a synopsis of the minutes of the Board of Trustees held on March 10, 1998. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for perusal. They will be submitted for Board approval at the next regular meeting on March 24, 1998.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following. Supervisor's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: (313) 453-3840 x 200. TDD users: 1-800-649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services)

Publish: March 18, 1998

Preserving the preserve

Group fights development of Canton woods

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday to hear objections about proposed road, sewer and water main improvements for a special assessment district (SAD), and at least one man will be raising issues.

Set on about 130 acres near Koppernick Road and I-275, the site is too close to the William Holliday Forest and Wildlife Preserve for the comfort of Bill Craig, a Livonia resident and president of the Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA).

A Wayne County Park that stretches for four miles along Tonquish Creek, the wildlife preserve has already been impacted negatively by development, according to Craig. A trend that would be exacerbated by the industrial park proposed for the SAD.

"The creek is really the essence of the nature preserve and once you ruin that you've caused significant damage," he said. "The watercourse has an established stream bed and it hasn't evolved to handle the additional flow. We need to try to give it a balance."

A balance is just what Craig hopes to achieve with the industrial park.

As it is proposed, the industrial park would stretch from I-275 west to the railroad tracks that border the nature preserve. Rather than try and stop the entire project, Craig's counter pro-

posal would set the eastern half of the site aside as a satellite of the nature preserve. The township would still install a road and make sewer and water improvements.

"It's more than an opportunity to expand the nature preserve," he said.

"Developing only half the site works well with saving the entire preserve. The township still gets the road and the pipes, but the initial investment is less and it still adds to the biodiversity of the nature preserve."

The HNPA was formed in 1988 to protect the preserve against such developments, Craig said. They have had some successes in the past, such as working with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy to add an 40 acres to the preserve and working with the city of Westland to have Hix Park



A proposed Special Assessment District in Canton would border the William P. Holliday Nature Preserve near Haggerty Road. Already seen through the trees, the first building of an industrial park has been constructed.

designated as a nature study area, Craig said.

But although Craig has applied for grants with organizations such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) and appealed for help from Wayne County Parks, he may be facing an uphill battle, according to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

The NRTF is a fund supported by companies that access natural resources. These firms put money into a fund, which is

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The following students from Canton have been named to the Academic Achievement List at Siena Heights College in Adrian, MI: **Julie Ferraiuolo, Karen Rigoni, Maxine Saffron and Sharon Wooley**; and from Plymouth: **Kimberly Atchinson, Marsha Koet, Diane Morse, Basim Rizkallah, Maureen Skelly.**

Christine Ervin, of Plymouth, was named to the Dean's List at Siena Heights College.

The following students from Plymouth were named to the Dean's List at Eastern Michigan University: **Julie Antoun, Ellen August, Carol Bahn, Kristen Baranowski, Judith Bogdon, Stacy Britt, Karl Buglione, Jeanne Cady, Stephanie Cionca, Kathleen Currier, Brian Darling, Melanie Davis, Jill Dennison, Jeffrey Dillon, Marlene Erxleben, Jason Fowler, Jennifer Galda, Heather gentry, Karen Giles, Emily Giuliani, Lesli Gotts, Tara Griffith, Linda Hatcher, Benjamin Hendricks, Brian Holbrook, Jamie Huebler, Blythe Jahr, Jennifer Jaworowski, Sharon Leo, William Lincoln, Jr, Jennifer Lock, Lance Loiselle, Rachel Luedtke, Christalyn Mitcham, Amy Morris, Jessica Nehring, Jenjamin Nelson, Robert Opatrny, Kari Plesco, Loraine Potockick, Lisa Pratt, Sandra Raymond, Janice Reissenweber, Stephen Schafer, Jacqueline Setlak, Tami Sharland, Daniel Sharp, Sarah Sheehan, Sherri Siebert, Christina Stansell, Jennifer Stockwell, Robert Sullivan II, Michelle Szmansky, Darron Tucker, Scott Walter, Jessica Wheelock, Christina White, Heather Wood, Jessica Young, and Laura Zubatch.** From Northville: **Debra Baker, Ross Baker, Marcia Bannink, Christine Bezak, Megan Black, Dawn Bostwick, May Christian, Holly Chrysan, Adam Davis, Heather Gillard, Lisa Gonzalez, Bonnie Goodenow, Donna Goulding, Susan Greenlee, Erika Hoornaert, Laura Innes Krystin Johnston, Aliisa Krueger, Jennifer Martin, Lisa McDaniel, Regina Messer, Mindaugas Mingela, Tomoko Niinaka, Michael O'Brian, Jonathan Pollock, Christine Potter, James Radalski, Lisa Rennell, Donna Robison, Lisa Rohraff, Gretchen Sander, Marlene Schultz, Gregory Somborn, Kimberly Taylor, Catherine Voltz, Brian Wasielewski, Cathleen Webb, Linda Wilke, Marjorie Wuggazer, Kristen Yaszek, and June Youngoldis.**

The Force goes with him

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Chris Trevas began his career drawing Star Wars characters when he went to meet Mark Hamill.

"He was at a Star Wars convention in Chicago and I went there with some friends because he rarely makes convention appearances," Trevas said. "I didn't know how many people were at the convention, so I brought my portfolio along, just in case."

As it turns out, it was the right decision for the 23-year old graduate of Detroit's Center for Creative Studies. Trevas' portfolio was full of alien drawings, the result of an earlier call from George Lucas' studio, LucasFilms, who had notified the Center For Creative Studies that they were looking for people to work on the next three Star Wars movies, Trevas said.

"I knew I wasn't ready for that, but I figured I'd try anyway," he said. "I tried to advance my drawing skills as fast as possible in a short time."

It must have worked, for Trevas' work drew the attention of West End Games, a Pennsylvania firm that published the Star Wars Role-Playing Game system.

Before he knew it, Trevas' black and white interior illustrations had led to full-color book and supplement covers.

"I geared my career towards role-playing games because it was an easy way to get started," he said.

His early career consisted of providing illustrations for stories and descriptive purposes, he said. Authors would send him the story already written, or a two or three sentence description of the drawing, he said.



Chris Trevas has created alien landscapes and beings from the comfort of his bedroom studio in Canton. His first fully illustrated book, 'Meltdown on Hoth,' will be in the stores this summer. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

Trevas said he was familiar enough with the characters to draw them, but preferred larger paintings of landscapes, which he could fill with his own details.

One of his larger paintings, depicting a rough and seedy looking spaceport, graces the cover of Wretched Hives of Scum and Villainy.

"The larger pieces give me a chance to do a lot more detailed work," he said.

Trevas' work has expanded to include illustrating for the Battletech and Middle Earth card games as well as illustrating for magazines Star Wars Insider and Star Wars Kids.

Star Wars Kids, currently only available through school book clubs, will be on the stands in the summer, Trevas said. The magazine features youth oriented stories about the popular series, and includes a feature on two alien species in each issue.

Star Wars Insider is for an older audience and the artwork is therefore, different.

"It's a lot more realistic. In the kids magazines everyone is smiling, and there are not as much guns," he said.

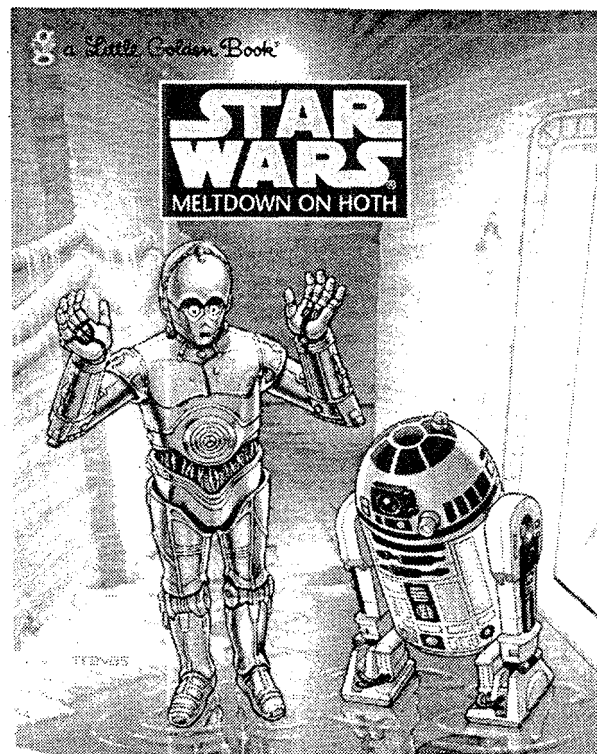
This summer, another of Trevas' works will be in stores. 'Meltdown on Hoth,' a 24-page Golden Book will launch a new series of child-oriented Star Wars books. The book will be fully painted by Trevas.

"I'm pretty happy about that, especially since LucasFilm suggested me for the job," he said.

The book takes place during the time of the Rebellion's occupation of the ice world Hoth, Trevas said. The plot centers around C3PO and R2D2 accidentally turning up the heat in Princess Leia's chambers and melting the room, he said.

Trevas is busy completing work for the magazines, and may be painting another book in the future, he said. His future plans may include a trip to California, to try and join LucasFilms, he said.

"I'll see how everything goes," he said. "Right now, I'm just trying to get caught up with everything."



Winds fan Friday fire

BY BRYON MARTIN

It's easy to focus on bad luck when your barn burns down in an accident.

When it happens on Friday the 13th, it's even easier. But good fortune may have played some part, too.

Robert Schuelke, Canton Township electrical inspector just happened to be driving by when he saw smoke rising from Dan Schacht's old, wooden barn on Joy Road.

"I did a u-turn," he said. "I saw smoke coming out of the barn and the gentleman who owns it running around. He looked upset."

Schuelke parked his car on the road's shoulder and radioed in the fire to the Canton Fire Department before going to help Schacht pull possessions out of the barn.

Together, Schuelke and Schacht were able to move cumbersome fiberglass ladders, an air compressor and a power washer. At that point the fire was small, burning in the southwest corner of the barn, Schuelke said. "It was just a little fire when I got there. If you had a couple of garden hoses you probably could have put it out."

Within two or three minutes, though, strong winds out of the southwest whipped the modest fire into a blaze, according to Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher.

"The wind was absolutely a factor in the fire's spread," he said. "It was a small fire, and the next thing it's really going. There was lots of smoke. It was very spectacular."

Both Canton stations responded to the call, he said. Winds apparently carried hot embers to a patch of trees and brush that burned close

to Joy Road, according to Schuelke. Firefighters quickly had things under control.

Schacht's home, a historic structure dated to 1827, sits about 50 feet west of the barn.

While obviously old, Schacht said investigations into the barn's history had not yet determined whether it qualified as historic. Its all-wood frame, dried with age, was quick to burn in Friday's strong winds, according to Rorabacher.

This left Schacht and Schuelke with little time to clear out the bikes, tools and boxes of personal files stored inside. "We got out as much stuff as we could before the smoke got too bad," Schacht said. "Once it took, it took."

Rorabacher said the fire caused about \$20,000 in damages.

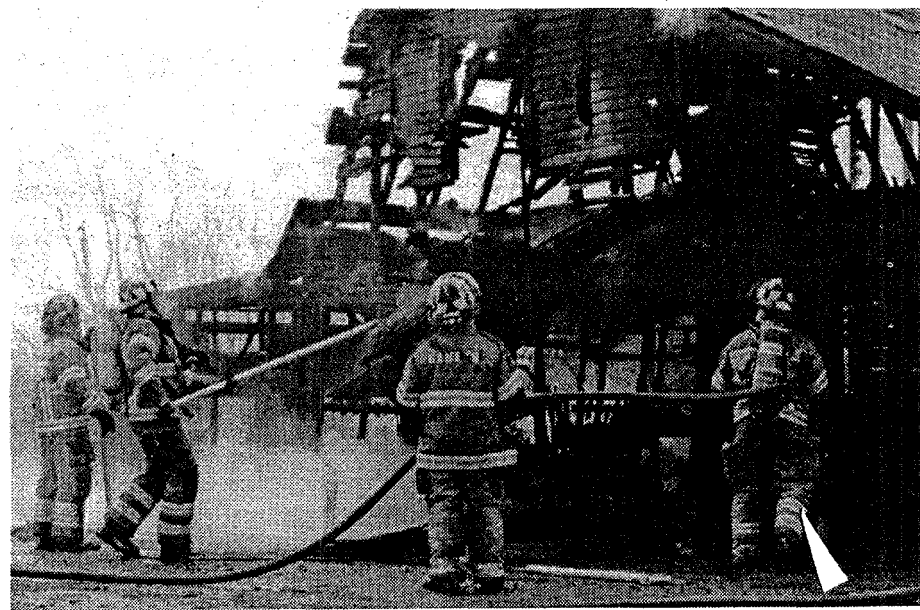
Owner and operator of the Old Village Landscaper, Schacht has a lot of equipment to store. Friday offered another token of luck in that the tools of his trade are stored at a different building, located in The City of Plymouth. "Thank god that was at our other site."

According to Fire Marshall Dave Champagne, investigation suggests "a carelessly or accidentally discarded cigarette," from one of Schacht's employe's caused the fire.

Contents lost in the fire were valued at about \$5,000, according to Canton F.D. estimates. The barn, of which only the western part still stands, was valued at about \$20,000.

This is an amount insurance won't cover, Schacht said, because of the barn's age.

What can be recovered will have to be pulled from the ashes of the barn, a part of



As Dan Schacht explains events that led to the blaze (below) Firefighters begin to pull down sections of his burned barn's charred frame. Injuries were avoided in the Friday the 13th fire, as was damage to Schacht's nearby house (Crier photos by Bryon Martin).

the documentation process required by insurers. A sizeable job in its own right, it also slows Schacht as he works to refinish the inside of his house.

"We're only just starting and we've got a long way to go," he said. "I've never dealt with a fire and I never want to go through this again."

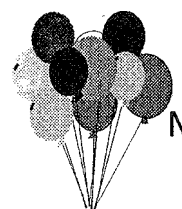
While Friday the 13th certainly seems to have brought some misfortune for the Schachts, Schuelke offered an optimistic thought.

"It's bad luck the winds were blowing so strong, but good luck that they were blowing away from the house," he said.

"It was lucky it was just a barn."



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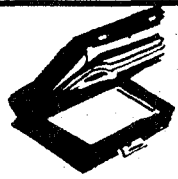
Hovhaness	Poulenc	Prokofiev
Mysterious Mountain	Concerto For Two Pianos In D Major	Symphony No. 5

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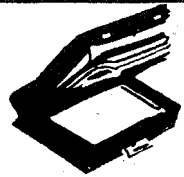
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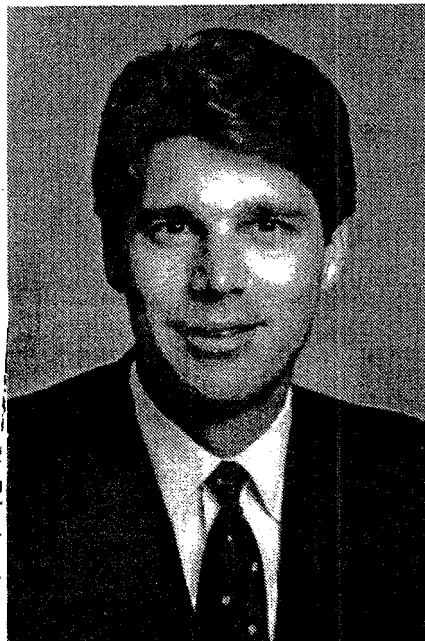
Getting down to business



Getting down to business

Carleigh Flaharty, Executive Director of the **Canton Chamber of Commerce**, will guest D.J. on WSDP's 15 Minutes in the Sun Tomorrow from 3-4 p.m.

Flaharty says her musical tastes are "across the board." She will also include some music from a local band featuring friends of hers. The program airs on the third Thursday of each month on 88.1 FM. Past guest DJs have included **Charles Little**, Superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Schools and **Mike Gerou**, Plymouth attorney.



David A. Brandon, Chairman and CEO of **Valassis Communications, Inc.** has been reelected as chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

Brandon is also the founder and president of the **David A. Brandon Foundation**, a charitable organization, and serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees for Central Michigan University and as board member of the Purple Rose Theatre. He is board member of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Institute of Preventative Sports Medicine and the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

This will be Brandon's second year as chairman.

David Darovitz, 29, of Warren, has joined Future Three Software, Inc of Northville as Business Development Coordinator.

Darovitz was formerly the Director of Public Relations for the Plymouth Whalers. He was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Plymouth Community United Way.

Mild winter boosts realtors

Sunshine, warm weather give realtor's busy season an early start

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

El Nino may be wreaking havoc around the U.S., but P-C-N's mild winter has inspired smiles for at least one group of businesspeople: realtors.

High temperatures, sunshine and lack of snow have led to a significant jump — or at least an early start — in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville communities' already aggressive real estate market, according to several local realtors.

Chris Courtney, broker and president of Remerica Hometown in Plymouth, said that his firm has experienced one of its most profitable Februaries ever.

"Mother nature was the biggest factor," he said. "People were led to believe that spring was already here. They like to spend money when the sun is shining."

Courtney said that traditionally spring is a busy time for realtors, but the season doesn't normally heat up until the weather does. February's sales mirrorer those of a healthy March or April, he said.

Carolyn Bailey, manager of Real

Estate One in Northville, agrees.

"There really isn't a slow time in Michigan right now. This marketplace is extremely aggressive, with all the new construction," Bailey said. "We've still had a phenomenal start of the new year."

But the aggressive market means that potential homeowners also have to start early and work fast, according to Pat Stokes, manager of the Plymouth branch of Weir, Manuel, Snyder & Ranke, Inc.

Stokes said that with a lot more buyers than sellers, people looking to buy a house in P-C-N have to walk through the house within two days of it being listed on the market.

And that can mean a lot of sleepless nights for agents, too.

"We have to be on call basically 24 hours a day," Stokes said. "We don't want to miss anything of value for our clients. Especially if the

There really isn't a slow time in Michigan right now. We've had a phenomenal start of the new year.

*— Carolyn Bailey
manager, Real Estate One*

house is under \$200,000. The clients need to be educated about the house and able to see it immediately."

Stokes said the market is affected as

much by the school year as it is the weather. Families tend to sell houses in the spring to allow them to move as soon as the school year is over, she said.

Factors such as these, combined with a healthy economy that have made early 1998 so profitable for realtors, according to Marie Riley of Century 21 in Plymouth.

According to Riley, low interest rates, the reduced taxes resulting from Proposal A, and Detroit's healthy economy have combined to jump start the year.

And the weather certainly didn't hurt, she said.

"If the sun is out we get a bit of a jump start. If there's no snow, people start cleaning out their garage and other kinds of spring cleaning, which are all required to sell houses," she said.

"It's certainly more pleasant to sell houses if the weather is nice," she added. "Winter can be brutal on realtors: a lot of driving in bad weather, and trying to protect clients inside and outside."

Thinking ahead is natural in the real estate business, which is three months ahead of reality, according to Riley. She said she is cautious about thinking spring too early.

"We're not out of the woods yet. I think the months just got flipped around," she said. "We are in Michigan and anything can happen."

Website attracts curious, morbid surfers

McCabe funeral home Internet site offers information, answers questions

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

If you build it, they will come.

Kevin McCabe, of McCabe Funeral Homes discovered that was true when the funeral home set up a web page last year.

"I was surfing the web and looking at all the information available and I thought it was an easy way to get information to people who don't necessarily want to talk about it," McCabe said.

McCabe's website, at www.McCables.org/, is one of a few supported by funeral homes across the nation, he said. In fact, only four funeral homes in Michigan maintain a presence on the Internet, he said.

The Web page offers basic information about how to deal with the death of a family member, McCabe said. Information such as what to do at the time of death, history about McCabe Funeral Homes, tips on wills and preplanning funerals are all available at the site, McCabe said.

"It's basically a breakdown of our printed materials," he said. "But people can access it from the security and privacy of their own home."

It's not the first attempt McCabe has made to make information available to the public, he said. He has also

provided a collection of bereavement books, which he recently donated to the public libraries in Canton and Farmington Hills, where the funeral homes are located.

"No one wanted to come to the funeral home to read the books," he said. "At the library people can check them out and read them at home. This is just one step closer. They don't even have to leave their homes."

The web page also allows web surfers to email McCabe, he said. "Anyone with any questions that aren't answered on the page can email me. I've had all kinds of different questions. Some of them I read and just giggle and scratch my head."

McCabe said he has answered questions such as what to when someone is buried in the wrong place and about state laws concerning burials.

What surprises him the most is not the number of people who have visited his site, but where they were from.

"We've have people from as far away as California and New York. I don't know how they found us," he said.

"I think people have a morbid curiosity about it. We also get email from people who are grateful the page is up there. Any information at all is helpful to them."

Filing deadline approaches for June 8 Board election

Members of The Plymouth-Canton Community interested in nominating a candidate for the P-C School Board have until 4 p.m. April 6 to complete and turn in their nomination forms to the E.J. McClendon Center, 454 Harvey Street, in Plymouth.

Nominations must include at least 20 valid signatures from those registered to vote in the Plymouth-Canton School District. Once nominated, candidates have until 4 p.m. April 9 to withdraw from the ballot.

Voters will elect three members to the board. Two four-year seats, now held by Board President Mark Horvath and Vice

President Sue Davis, will be filled.

Horvath has announced it is unlikely he will seek re-election. Davis said she does plan to run for another term.

Voters will also elect a candidate to the two-year seat now filled by Judy Mardigian. Yesterday the board appointed Mardigian to complete that remainder of that term after Jack Farrow vacated the position earlier this month.

The election will take place at the regular school election scheduled for Monday, June 8. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For further information, call the school election office at 416-3095.

Prosecution based on age

Continued from pg. 2

is older than this age, any sex between them is illegal.

"Whether (the intercourse) was forced or not, in relation to our prosecution, isn't a factor," Wolons said. "Our prosecution is going forward strictly on the basis of chronological age."

Armstead and the alleged victim had left the Canton High School cafeteria during lunch time to take a walk, talk and skip their fourth hour class, according to reports.

They ducked under a stairwell in the vocational wing hallway, an area where the pair were likely to avoid discovery by security guards, reports said.

The alleged victim told police that Armstead then began to make sexual advances that eventually lead to intercourse. Attempts to resist, she said, failed.

When two girls walked into the stairway and discovered the pair, reports said, the alleged victim made no indication that she was in trouble; Armstead told them to leave. The alleged victim told police she was afraid to yell.

Within about 10 or 15 minutes the incident was over, according to police. No report was made to officials until the alleged victim's mother was notified word-of-mouth through her daughter's ex-boyfriend.

Arraigned Friday by Judge Ron Lowe, a plea of not guilty was entered and Armstead was appointed a court attorney. A personal bond was set at \$10,000. Lowe also advised Armstead, who was accompanied by his father, to have "no contact" with the complainant.

Friday's exam should be a quick, simple hearing, according to Wolons, who said that only he and the complainant are likely to testify.

A number of witnesses have come forward, Wolons said, including two students who supposedly discovered Armstead and the alleged victim while they were under the stairs.

"Our case doesn't hinge on any of the witnesses' testimony," Wolons said.

Slowing development 'a long shot'

Continued from pg. 5

dispersed throughout the state to acquire lands for recreational use or preservation, according to Craig.

But they also require a local match of about 50 per cent, and Craig's counterproposal could be too ambitious, Yack said.

"You're talking about trying to come up with a local match of about \$3 million," Yack said. "I've never seen a grant for that kind of money. The more they spend in one place, the less they can spend somewhere else."

More to the point, the counterproposal seems against the purpose of the SAD, Yack said. The SAD allows landowners to petition the township for improvements such as roadways and improved sewer and water mains. The township fronts the cost for the improvements by selling bonds, which the landowners repay.

"It was the landowners who wanted this site developed," Yack said. "To get them to stop the process when they initiated it is a long shot. I don't think it's doable."

Craig said he knows he's in for a tough fight, but is trying to raise awareness all the same.

"We're just trying to get caught up and get the word out," he said. "We're running out of time. It's easier and faster to develop a piece of property than it is to save it from development."

Whether (the intercourse) was forced or not, in relation to our prosecution, isn't a factor. Our prosecution is going forward...on the basis of age.

— Det. Leonard Wolons

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Pressures build, but no court plan yet

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Representatives of the 35th District Court Board Advisory met Wednesday to hire a bond attorney, a financial advisor and to pay the first installment to the new courthouse's architectural firm.

They did not choose a building plan, even as they feel pressure to leave their borrowed space at Unisys.

Dennis Dundun, vice-president of Coquillard, Dundon, Peterson and Argenta, Inc. (CDPA), showed five proposals for the courthouse ranging from a \$3.35 million rebuild of the last building to an \$8.92 million, 53,000 square foot structure that would satisfy the court's needs well into the next century.

Among the plans was a slightly scaled-back version of the most expensive proposal, which featured about 47,000 square feet and a final cost of about \$7.65 million.

But while that plan seemed to be the favorite of the board's finance subcommittee, a decision on it will have to wait until after a formal presentation of the five options to the board later this month.

"At the end of the meeting last week, I was under the impression that this was the plan we were going to go with," Judge Ron Lowe said. "I really thought that today that there would be a decision to go forward."

With members present from the cities of Northville and Plymouth, and Canton, the board had a quorum but decided to wait until the remainder of the board was present before choosing a plan.

Plymouth Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy had to leave the meeting early due to a medical emergency, but said that she wasn't prepared to make a recommendation until hearing from the finance subcommittee.

"This is a very important project and it will have a profound impact on all of our communities," said Gary Word, Northville city manager. "I think the importance of this meeting

was lost on some people, and it would be prudent to wait until they were all accounted for." Word was sitting in for Councilman Tom Swigart, Northville's representative to the board. Karen Woodside, Northville Township's supervisor and representative was absent.

The board will meet within the next two weeks to review the courthouse plans, according to Erdman.

Lowe hopes it's soon enough.

"The urgency is the same as it's always been. We just want to get it done," he said. "Unisys has already told us they have no intention of allowing us to continue once our lease is up. In fact, they'd prefer it if we left sooner. If we're not ready to move in by then, we'll have those issues to deal with as well."

With the plans on the shelf for now, the board took some actions to determine the

financing of the courthouse. Joell Piell of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone was hired as bond counsel. Piell's advised the board to form a Court Building Authority to enable selling issue revenue bonds.

"It's the most expeditious way," Piell said. "The ability to sell the bonds depends solely on the cash flow of the courts and the amount of money financed."

Bonds sold under the Court Building Authority will not be added to the debt of the five communities, which is another benefit of the plan, Piell said.

Issue revenue bonds would be paid off directly with funds the court produces, according to Piell, which would mean the court would have to withhold those revenues it normally gives back to the communities.

Lowe said that as much as half of the funds normally returned to the communities could be retained for bond repayment, which was met with mixed response from the board.

"(Canton) could probably manage it because we're the big guy on the block," said Canton Supervisor Tom Yack. "But I want to hear from the little guys, first."

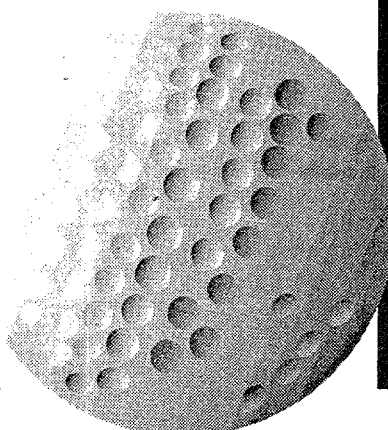
'The urgency is the same as it's always been. We just want to get it done.'

- Judge Ron Lowe

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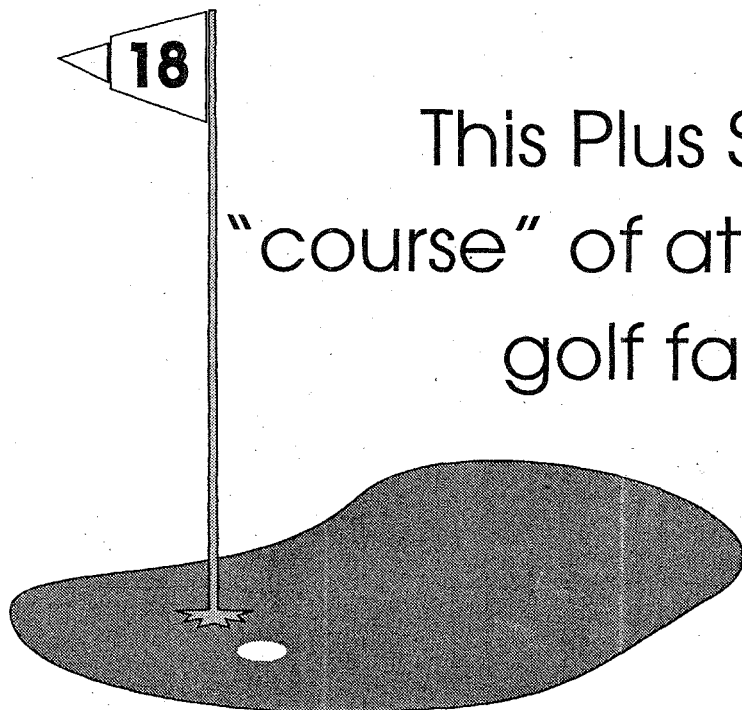
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 Last night, which was my birthday, we were at dinner when a lovely young couple came to visit all of us. They gave each one of us a lovely red rose. They said it was their 12th anniversary & they wanted to share their happiness with me.
 Our hearts are full of love for someone who didn't know us but showed us their love.
 We don't know their names, but if they read The Crier they will know how much this meant to us.
 You may edit this as I'm sure you need to do but be sure to let Plymouth & the dear ones know we love them so much.

Sincerely,
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Dear Kindness Editor,
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P.S. Joey does this act of kindness every time it snows.

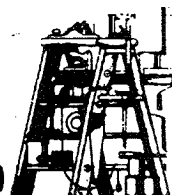
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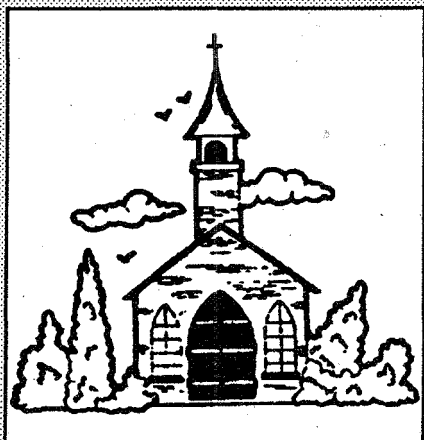
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What's Happening

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).



Volunteer

THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING

Volunteers age 14 and over are needed to help disabled people in a therapeutic horseback riding program in South Lyon. No experience is necessary volunteer training is provided. Volunteers are needed weekday evenings from 6:00-8:15 p.m. Call 248-486-7433.

MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

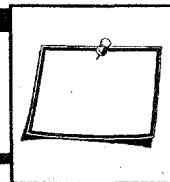
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is looking for volunteers to provide transportation for cancer patients in P-C-N area. Call 313-561-8880, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

MENTORS NEEDED

Growth Works is recruiting and training mentors for the Plymouth-Canton Youth Assistance program. The program is aimed at mentors age 21 or older. If you have two hours a week to help with reducing delinquent behavior in adolescents, call Lynne Ponder at 734-397-3181 or 734-455-4095.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program needs volunteers in Canton to help children with basic math and reading tutoring. Free training. Call 313-883-2100 ext. 368.



Events

THIRD THURSDAY UPDATE

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will be meeting at Old Country Buffet for their Third Thursday Government Update tomorrow from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

BOWLING/SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER

Friends of Gary Johnson are putting on a Bowling/Silent Auction Fund Raiser Saturday to help in his fight with cancer. The fund raiser starts at 8:30 p.m. at Vision Bowling Lanes on Ford Road. Cost to bowl is \$15 per person which includes three games and shoes. Call Jerry Gibson at 734-453-0555 for more information or to make a donation.

1998 TASTE OF NORTHVILLE BUSINESS SHOWCASE

The "Northville's Got Taste" showcase will feature 70 exhibitors from retail, service, and professional businesses in the Northville Community. This is a chance for business networking, excellent food, and promotional goodies. The event is at the Northville Community Center Tuesday from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE

March 25, the Plymouth Symphony League will host a Game and Card Party at the Golden Fox Country Club from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A luncheon and fashion show are included. Tickets are \$25. For more information call 734-451-5598.

LIBERTY FEST LOGO CONTEST

Canton Township Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the Liberty Fest '98 Logo Contest for P-C's school children, grades 3-12. The logo contest gets artistic youth actively involved in the community. Return entries to D & M Studio's at 8691 Lilley, Canton. Entry deadline is March 27. Call Sharon Dillenbeck at 734-453-3710.

BARBIE DOLL/ GRANTS-A-WISH WEEKEND

The Great Lakes Barbie Doll Collectors Club is sponsoring the Ninth Annual Grant-A-Wish Weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., March 29, at the Livonia Marriott. Bring your old dolls, clothing and accessories for appraisals. Admission is \$4 to benefit children's charities. Call Kathleen Dinga 734-432-5146.

CRAFTERS WANTED

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation is looking for crafters for its Annual Spring Arts and Crafts show April 4. An 8 ft. table space is \$50 and admission and parking are free. Interested crafters call 734-455-6620.

"THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL"

Speaker David Martin, Asst. Baseball Coach, EMU - Annual fun-filled evening of hot dogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks, along with David's marvelous re-enactments of baseball's most famous players. April 9, at Plymouth Historical Museum

ANNUAL FISH FRY

Summit on the Park in Canton is hosting it's Annual Fish Fry every Friday through April 10. Each week proceeds will go to a different charity. Carry-outs are available and dinner is served from 4-7:00 p.m. Call 734-397-6800.

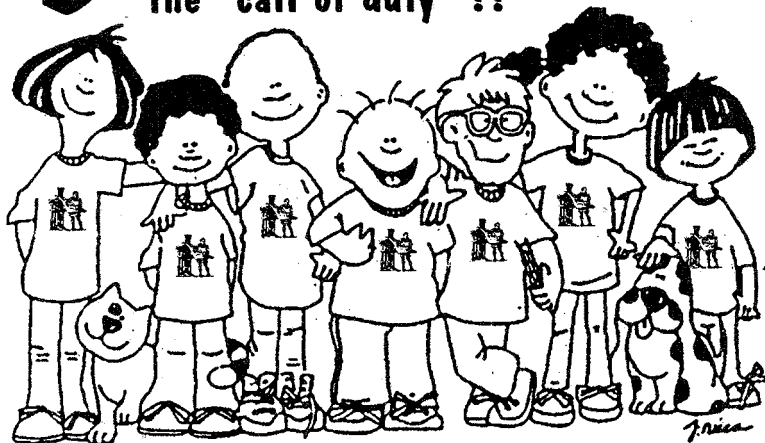
FREE TAX ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

Free income tax assistance for seniors will be available in Canton, Plymouth, and Northville until April 15. In Canton call 734-397-5444, in Plymouth call 734-455-6620, and in Northville call 248-349-4140 to schedule an appointment. Home visits are also available.

1998 AFTER SCHOOL DROP IN PROGRAM

Northville park and Recreation will offer an after school program at the Northville Recreation Center for all Cooke and Meads Mill students. Activities include sports, games, and crafts for a weekly charge of only \$1. Runs Mondays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. now through April 27th.

Does your Crier Carrier go beyond the "call of duty" ??



**What makes your Crier carrier so special??
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- In 25 words or less, explain what makes your Crier carrier so exceptional.
- Send or drop off your entry with your name, address, and daytime phone number to:

**The Community Crier Carrier Contest
821 Penniman Avenue • Plymouth, MI 48170-1694**



What's Happening

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).



FISHY FRYDAY... Summit on the Park in Canton will host a Fish Fry every Friday through April 10. Each week's proceeds will go to a different charity. Carry-outs are available and dinner is served from 4 -7:00 p.m. Call 734-397-6800.



Groups

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

The Northville District Library presents a series of free computer classes. The first class "How to buy a computer" is presented by Richard Truxall, coordinator of Continuing Education for the library network **Thursday, 7:00 p.m.** The Northville Library is located at 212 W. Cady St. Call 248-349-3020 for registration.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN GATHERINGS

The Plymouth Ministerial Association is once again sponsoring its annual Ecumenical Lenten Gatherings **Wednesdays** during Lent through **April 1**. A luncheon of bread and soup will be provided and all proceeds will benefit the Plymouth Salvation Army. Call 734-453-0326 for details.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP FOR SENIORS

Canton's Summit on the Park Senior Center is offering a book discussion group which meets the first Wednesday of each month, in the Summit's Parkview Room. For more information call 734-397-5444.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS APRIL BOOK SALE

New and used books are needed for the League of Women Voters book sale fundraiser. Hardcover and paperback books in different categories of nonfiction and fiction for all ages are received. Call Esther Friedrichs at 734-427-0222 or Marge Gade 734-261-3191.



Health

ASSAULT/ SELF DEFENSE LECTURE

MedHealth Wellness Center is hosting an interactive lecture on assault prevention and self defense **Thursday, March 26**, from 7-8:00 p.m. Participants will learn useful, common sense tips providing self defense techniques and realistic ways to avoid assault. The program is free to Medhealth members, \$5 for non-members. Call 734-459-1800 to reserve a space.

STOP SMOKING CLASS

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia is offering a two-week, four-session smoke-free living Class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., **Mondays and Thursdays, from April 13 through the 23**, in the first floor conference room. Registration is required. Call 734-655-8940 or 1-800-494-1650 to register or for more information.

THE PLYMOUTH BREATHERS CLUB

For those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema and other respiratory disease. Meets the second Wednesday of each month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Arbor Health Building - Plymouth. For information, call 734-712-5367.

GUIDE to Entertainment

Go PC-N

Your GUIDE to commercial entertainment in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. Also note community and non-profit groups' events, listed in this Crier under What's Happening.

CANTON CINEMA 6

734-981-1900; "Titanic" "Good Will Hunting" "As Good As It Gets" "The Man in the Iron Mask" "U.S. Marshals" "Hush" "Twilight".

CENTER STAGE

734-981-5122; Thurs. - Sat.: Dance to mainstream music rock, alternative & more.

COFFEE STUDIO

734-416-9288; Wed.: Open Mic. Night.

ERNESTO'S

734-453-2002; Mon.-Thurs.: Strolling Musicians; Tues.-Sat.: Live Music in Piano Bar.

KARL'S COUNTRY CABIN

734-455-8450; Thurs.: Black Beauty

THE LOWER TOWN GRILL

734-451-1213; Fri.: Robert Penn, Sat.: The Alligators

LUCILLE'S TAVERN

734-397-1988; Thurs. - Sat.: Dixie Cross Road Band.

NORTHVILLE DOWNS

810-349-1000; Harness racing. Every night except Sun. & Wed.

PENN THEATRE

734-453-0870; Now playing: "The Blues Brothers 2000"

PLYMOUTH WHALERS

734-453-8400; Thurs. Home vs. Sarnia

STARTING GATE

248-349-5660; Fri. & Sat.: Live music w/ Rick & Becky.

STATION 885 RESTAURANT

734-459-0885; Wed. - Sat.: Keyboardist Wally Gibson; Fri. & Sat.: with special guests.

WEST SIDE SINGLES

734-981-0909; Every Fri.: Friday dances at Burton Manor.

These listings are free of charge and are accurate as of noon Friday, prepared for Wednesday's Crier. Bookings, reservations, cover charges and capacities may change, so please call to verify information. A venue wishing to be listed or to update information should call The Crier at (734) 453-6900 by noon Friday.

WEST SIDE SINGLES

Friday Dances Every Friday

at Burton Manor

Dances Every Friday in Livonia on Schoolcraft Rd., 1 block west of Inkster Rd. Exit 176 off I-96

ADMISSION

\$2.00

with this coupon through 3/27/98

21 & over • Dressy attire • Cash Bar • No jeans • 8:00pm to 1:00am • Admission \$5.00

HOTLINE: (734)981-0909



PLYMOUTH'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTER



FRI. 3/20/98

ROBERT PENN

SAT. 3/21/98

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Community deaths

Obituaries

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

CHARLES E. DIEBOLT

Charles E. Diebolt, a Northville resident, died March 12, 1998 at the age of 71. Mr. Diebolt was born Aug. 1, 1926 in Detroit. He was the founder, president and CEO of Darnell and Diebolt Co. (DADCO). He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a Motor Machinist-3rd Class. He was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, Alpha Theta Chapter, an usher and Lector at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Dearborn Heights and an umpire in the intramural baseball league at OLG. He was also the first school board president of Bishop Borgess High School and a volunteer for numerous charitable activities. He was an avid golfer, and a member of Western Golf and Country Club. He was a member of the Church of the Holy Family in Novi.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Diebolt of Northville; daughters, Ann (Jeffery) Moss of Grand Blanc, Celine (Barry) McQuinn of Novi; sons, Michael (Linda) Diebolt of Plymouth, Paul Diebolt of Plymouth, Mark (Jennifer) Diebolt of Old Lyme, CT; brother, David (Dorine) Diebolt of Columbus, TN; granddaughters, Lisa Moss, Erin McQuinn; and grandsons, Kevin McQuinn, Jim Moss, and Charlie Diebolt.

Services were held at the Church of the Holy Family with the Rev. John Budde officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center 1500 East Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

LORRAINE L. DALY

Lorraine L. Daly, a Plymouth resident, died March 10, 1998 at the age of 79. Mrs. Daly was born July 8, 1918 in Detroit. She was a teacher with the East Detroit Board of Education. She lived in Plymouth since 1976, and was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

She is survived by her son, Francis (Marge) D. LeBlond of Plymouth; and grandsons, David (Maritel) LeBlond of Plymouth, Christian LeBlond of Plymouth.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel with the Rev. John Sullivan officiating. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Capuchins, 1740 Mt. Elliott Ave. Detroit, MI 48207 or the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 16170 Templar Circle, Southfield, MI 48075.

BRUCE J. WOTASZAK

Bruce J. Wotaszak, a Lansing, IL resident, died March 7, 1998 at the age of 41. Mr. Wotaszak was born June 22, 1956 in Ludington, MI. He was a labor relations officer with Amtrack.

He is survived by his wife, Joanie J. Wotaszak of Lansing, IL; father, Lawrence (Mary Jane) Wotaszak of Canton; daughters, Rachel Wotaszak, Sarah Wotaszak and Hannah Wotaszak, all of Lansing, IL; and sisters, Gal (Vahe) Rostamloo of Dearborn Heights, Julie (Ken) Jones of Plymouth, and Linda (Warren) Jones of Plymouth.

Services were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church with the Rev. George Charnley officiating. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Bruce Wotaszak Daughter's Education Fund.

DOROTHY MAE HENNING

Dorothy Mae Henning, a Westland resident, died March 9, 1998 at the age of 73.

Mrs. Henning was born May 7, 1924 in Port Huron. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Everett S. Henning of Westland; daughters, Susan Grant of White Lake, Sandra Zelonis of Philadelphia, PA; son, James (Roberta) of Adrian; brothers, Ross (Vivia) Murdock of Canton, Ernest Murdock of Ohio, Ronald Murdock of Kansas; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland with Captain Mark Welsh of the Salvation Army officiating. Burial was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia. Memorial contributions can be given to the Salvation Army, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

ANGELINE DOLORES (MURPHY) HINDMAN

Angeline Dolores (Murphy) Hindman, a Plymouth resident, died March 13, 1998 at the age of 75.

Mrs. Hindman was born Oct. 25, 1922 in Detroit. She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for the Adistra Corporation. She was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church since 1955, a past member of the Ladies Group at the church, and a volunteer at Our Lady of Providence. She loved children.

She is survived by her children, Karen Patrice Hindman of Royal Oak, Robert Mark (Kathy) Hindman of Plymouth, Thomas Gerard (Jerilyn) Hindman of Plymouth, Richard James (Donna) Hindman of Kissimmee, FL, Lawrence Keith Hindman of Plymouth, Mary GERALYN Greenleaf (Allan Gieselman) of Farmington Hills; grandchildren, Erin, Jared, Krista, Justin, Brady, Jenna and Leeland Hindman, Lauren Hindman (Tracey), Ian Hindman (Tracey), Danielle Greenleaf; and sister, Rita (Hoseph) Cummings. She is preceded in death by her sisters, Gerardine, Irene, Agnes, and Margaret.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church with the Rev. Fr. Stan Tokarski officiating. Local Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions given to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI or Our Lady of Providence 16115 N. Beck Road, Northville, MI 48167.

JOHN "JACK" DRURY

John "Jack" Drury, a Plymouth resident, died March 14, 1914 at the age of 83. Mr. Drury was born Oct. 11, 1914 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. He was manager of organization and administration for the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corporation. He was also district manager for the Chevrolet Motor Division in Cleveland. He was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church and a retired president of the General Motors Men's Club.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean of Plymouth; children, Barbara Wolford of Littleton, CO, John H. (Erin) Drury of Oakland, MI, Gretchen Lamphere of Delaware, OH, Alice K. (Gerald) Tibaldi of Boyne Falls, MI; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Joseph Mallia officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Local Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Arbor Hospice or St. Kenneth Catholic Church.

LINDA KAY ABNER

Linda Kay Abner, a Plymouth resident, died Feb. 26, 1998 at the age of 52. Mrs. Abner was born Oct. 8, 1945 in Martin, TN. She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Plymouth for 42 years. She was a 1963 graduate of Plymouth High School. Her hobbies included reading and baking. She loved her grandchildren and enjoyed her friends at church.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Charles of Plymouth; daughter, Kimberly (Mark) Kays of Canton; sons, Chuck (Lorrie) of Wayne, Paul (Lisa) of Plymouth; six grandchildren; and brothers, William Newbill of Tennessee, Bobby Newbill of Westland, Kenneth Newbill of Waterford.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with David Thomas officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland. Memorial contributions can be given to Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

HELEN M. SUESS

Helen M. Suess, a Canton resident, died March 14, 1998 at the age of 68. Mrs. Suess was born Feb. 28, 1930 in Detroit. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her daughter, Sandra (Arthur) Rader of Canton; son, Robert (Sharon) Suess of Berkley, MI; grandchildren, Rebecca and Karen; great-grandson, Dakota; and brother, Andrew Marowski of Detroit.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Leonard Partensky officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Cancer Society, 29350 Southfield Road, Suite 119, Southfield, MI 48076.

HUGH F. CARPENTER

Hugh F. Carpenter, a Plymouth resident, died March 14, 1998 at the age of 59. Mr. Carpenter was born Jan. 20, 1939 in Detroit. He retired after 25 years of service with the Westland Police Department. He also worked as an ordinance officer with the Northville Township Police Department. He was the president of the Westland Police and Fire Retirees Association, a member of the Wayne County Lieutenant and Sergeants Association, and a member of the Police Officer Association of Michigan. He loved his grandchildren and was interested in antique cars, boating and outdoor sports.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Joan of Plymouth; son, Tim (Michele) of Westland; daughter, Betty (Robert) Kurc of Westland; grandchildren, Sharon, Rose, Jaclyn and Grace; sister, Mary Pimlott of Florida; and sister-in-law,

Please see pg. 15



Community deaths

Continued from pg. 14

Elizabeth Carpenter of Detour Village, MI. He is preceded in death by his brother, George R.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Stanley Tokarski officiating. Burial will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Cardiac Care Department.

ROY JOSEPH CUTCHER

Roy Joseph Cutcher, a Farmington Hills resident, died March 14, 1998 at the age of 96.

Mr. Cutcher was born Nov. 15, 1901 in Detroit. He was a senior buyer for Ford Motor Company, retiring in 1944. He then owned the Dearborn Beer Store from 1944-1946. He then worked as a purchasing agent for both Kaiser-Frazier and the Printing Department of Wayne State University. He also sold real estate for Notebaert Realty on Main Street in Plymouth from 1968 until 1986. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ann B. Cutcher of Plymouth; sons, James L. Cutcher of San Rafael, CA, Gerald (Rita) V. Cutcher of Farmington Hills, Daniel J. Cutcher of Thousand Oaks, CA; daughter, Marjorie Ann Wielgosh of Glendive, MT; and sisters, Sr. Margaret IHM of Monroe, MI, and Dorothy Lashbrook of Detroit.

Services will be held today at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Stan Tokarski officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions can be given to the charity of choice.

William G. Britcher, 55, former police officer, machinist, worker at Dunn Steel
William G. Britcher, a Canton resident, died March 10, 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene of Canton; sons, James William (Holly) of Plymouth, Matthew Thomas of Canton; mother, Dorothy Britcher of Plymouth; one brother; one grandson; and his dogs, McGyver and Molly.

Homecoming celebration was held at Risen Christ Lutheran Church with Hugh McMartin officiating. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

James Tyra, 57, painter

James Tyra, a Canton resident, died March 13, 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Onalee Tyra; one son; daughter, Tiffany Zendejas of Canton and two other sisters; his parents; eight brothers; four sisters; and two grandchildren.

Services were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. George Charnley officiating. Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

Headache Research Study

Men and women between the ages of 16 and 75 who experience intermittent migraine headaches may be eligible to participate in a national program evaluating research medication for the possible prevention of migraines. All study medication, study-related clinic visits and testing will be provided at no charge for those participants who qualify. For more information please call: (734) 677-6000

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Michigan Head•Pain and
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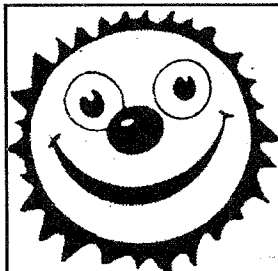
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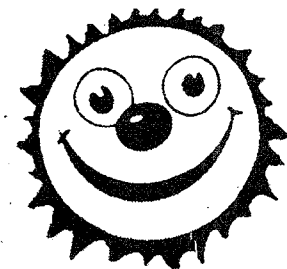


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<p>92 VOLVO 940 GL Roof; Leather; Loaded; 12/12 Warranty; Low Miles; Like New \$10,495</p>	<p>ACURA INTEGRA 4 To Choose From Start at \$6,995</p>	<p>90 TOYOTA CAMRY 2 To Choose From Start at \$5,995</p>	<p>93 JEEP WRANGLER Sport; V-6; A/C; Both Tops; Loaded; 12/12 Warranty \$11,895</p>



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JUST AVAILABLE: Walk to downtown;
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 \$650.00/m. (734)453-4152

Ply. 2 Bedroom Home for Rent, Basement.
 Close to Downtown. Air conditioning, No
 Pets. \$700 per month, Available May 1st.
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 Two Bedroom Ranch, Utility Room,
 Appliances, 2 Car Garage, Opener,
 Sunflower Sub privileges, pools, tennis,
 \$675/mo. Available April. P.O. Box
 871322, Canton, MI 48187

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Wooden Wall Unit, Good Condition.
 Dimensions 58 X 72. \$100.00 or best
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GIBSON GUITAR \$150. (734)451-0462
 100 GALLON CLARITY PLUS ACRYLIC
 AQUARIUM. Includes canopy, stand, mini
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America's Budget Storage

40671 Joy Rd., Canton, MI
 will sell contents of the following units for
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 21, 1998 at 12:00pm:

J30 Lewis: Furniture, boxes, tools
 I12 Cuellar: TV, washer, dryer, bike,
 furniture, boxes

F9 Speiser: Auto parts, motor, trans, etc.
 I5/36 Kalisch: Tools, file cabinets, shelves,
 4 wheel carts

K40 Kalisch: Stage lights, shelves, deer
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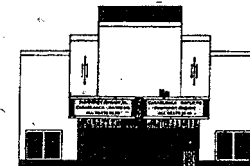
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Does Beauregard ever eat Sally's cooking
 -M.M.

FRAN HENNINGS is alive, playing golf
 with former presidents, enjoying her retire-
 ment and sending messages via Bob
 Jeannotte back to Plymouth.

BEAUREGARD eats Girl Scout cookies.
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Happy Birthday Geneva!
 From Mike, one parrot, and seven lizards

GENEVA: happy birthday TODAY! --
 Beauregard, Jess, Sally and Ed

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Roses are Red
 Violets are Blue
 The Spice Girls are BAD!!
 And So Are YOU!
 Happy B-Day - J.

Happy Birthday Baby,
 with many more to come -Lynn

Geneva, Geneva, Geneva
 Happy Birthday to You! You are an inspi-
 ration to all of us! Love, Lisa

Geneva- Happy Birthday to one of the
 nicest people I know. Chuck

Geneva - Have a great day, we all love
 you (Today I'll buy the coffee)

Gerry, Nancy and the girls

"KILL TWO BIRDS with one bullet: --the
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Curiosities

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENEVA GUENTHER!
 Sally drinks Moet from the bottle - AGAIN
 "SOMETIMES I cross realities: --Terri K.
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REGISTER TO VOTE!
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 SHARON PUGH'S mustard is great for hot dogs --Beauregard (a cool dog)

Curiosities

MARY AND WALTER: great thanks for your N.Y., N.Y. hospitality for our M.I.A. daughter. (Jess - "call home," said Walter)
 STEVE JOHNSON is 50-50-50-ha-ha-ha. -- His Friends in Their 40s.
GIVE ME COOL ALIENS -Sally
 BEAUREGARD does back up vocals to Steve Johnson (almost 50), Mike Carne, and friends.
 Station 885 Smoked Salmon was great!
 "THAT WAS NO CZECH, that was a Swede." --Olympic Hockey joke of 1998
 Ginetti's Italian sausage is the best!
 DID YOU HEAR they're moving the Hudson's Building to Superior Twp.? --Maura Cady
 Mike has an interesting story about being stuck in a bar for a week. (Just ask him.)
 Water Club's Pate was a hit!

Curiosities

Guide party left quite an impression on the staff - mostly on their cheeks!
 JEANINE: hope we can continue the gate-keeping tradition.
 SANIBEL ISLAND HAD ITS FIRST real fire in two years - the public outhouse burned down on the beach.
 Where did Little Scott fall asleep?
 On the throne?
 Who's the redhead with the new doo?
 Lisa - it sure was fun to have you here - Mark we miss you!
 Printing mailing labels is not as easy as one might think. After 1, 2, 3, 4 attempts to print, Crier subscribers are now guaranteed to get their papers - Whew!
 Beauregard eats sideways' TORTILLA CHIPS while waiting for Mom and Dad.
 Geneva's as sharp as a tack. Ooh, ouch!!

Curiosities

The Crier office sure is lonely on a Sunday eve.
 A big thanks to The Crier/COMMA, folk who helped mail last week's Guide! -Maura
 Isn't that old, new circulation director a real pin? She comes & goes as she pleases!
 I've seen faces with imprints before-but never so many in one day with the same imprint.
 Nicole Marie is sporting a new 'doo - she looks great! When is your dad gonna stop being so CRABBY??
 Bob goes to parties SOLO
 "I'd been there since 9 but by 10:15 I felt like I'd been there all day"
 Hey Phat - I have this friend I'd like you to meet...Chuck W.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENEVA!!!!

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Sports

Sports shorts

T-Ball Registration will be held by the City of Plymouth parks and recreation department at the Plymouth Cultural Center April 20-May 1. It is open to all 5-6 year old boys and girls. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning June 20th and running through August 8th. Also, the department is looking for volunteer coaches. All head coach's children play for free. For more information call 455-6620.

The City of Plymouth parks and recreation department will again be offering the following **adult softball leagues** in 1998: Men's Slow Pitch, Men's Modified, Women's Slow Pitch, and Co-ed Slow Pitch. League play begins in April. For more information call Recreation Director Tom Willette at 455-6620.

Two area players have made the Western Lakes Activities Association's **All-Conference Basketball Team**. They are seniors Andy Power and Jeff McKian, both of Salem. Two other area players, Joe Cortellini of Salem and Bhavin Patel of Canton also made their respective all-district teams.

The Plymouth Township Police All Stars will match up against members of the Detroit Red Wings Alumni hockey team in a **benefit hockey game** on Saturday April 4 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Proceeds from the game will be donated to the United Way, DARE, the University of Michigan Trauma and burn center and Growth Works. For more information call (734) 453-7476.

The St. Peter Lutheran 5th and 6th grade boys basketball team went undefeated this year enroute to a SMLAA championship.

Northville shocks Salem

"Disappointing loss" ends season and hopes

BY KRISTEN VAN DUSEN

Northville 71, Salem 65 — The favorite to win the districts, Salem was upset Saturday night in the tournament final when the Northville Mustangs, behind a spectacular 39 point effort from Dane Caraketas, defeated the Rocks before a packed Novi gymnasium.

Salem's leading offensive players were Jeff McKian with 16 points, Bhavin Patel with 14 points. Tony Jancevski added 12 points.

At the end of the first half Salem was ahead, 29-22. The lead was maintained into the fourth quarter, but Northville made eight quick points off a few careless Salem turnovers and closed the gap to one.

From there on out it was all Mustangs.

BASKETBALL

Northville dominated the fourth quarter, outscoring the favored Rocks 30-15.

Caraketas made 17 free throws and 6 three-pointers. Caraketas scored 17 of his points during the fourth quarter.

Salem was hurt by mistakes. They had 25 turnovers throughout the game.

They made 16 of their 23 free-throws. Northville made 20 of their 26 free-throws.

"It was a disappointing loss," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "But we're proud of our four championships this season. It was unfortunate that we lost had to lose this game."

Salem 42, Canton 40 — Salem and Canton Varsity Basketball teams competed last Wednesday night for the district play-offs semi-finals. Salem came out victorious with a two point lead. The final score was 42-40.

Salem was ahead of Canton throughout the entire game, except for the last quarter. Their lead narrowed when Canton had several free throws. Within the last few minutes of the game, the score was tied 40-40.

Canton's Dan McLane had the opportunity to win the game with two free-throws, but was unable to score.

It was Bhavin Patel who clutched the win for Salem, with his two free-throws. His points pulled Salem over the top to win the game.

Big fish changes thinking

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

The fish Tino Del Signore landed didn't just set a new world record... it blew the old record away.

At 19 pounds, eight ounces, the pinook (hybrid) salmon surpassed the previous record by five pounds, six ounces. "Biggest one I've ever seen," said Dr. Gerald Smith, curator of fishes at the U of M Museum of Zoology.

Del Signore's spin is that "I'll probably lose this record in a minute." Since it was commonly believed that hybrids can't reproduce, catching this fish not only set a record, but changes some thinking as well.

Officially, said Smith, the fish was the offspring of a hybrid pink salmon and shinnook salmon that then mated with a shinnook salmon — making it a three-quarter shinnook and one quarter pink salmon as a "back cross."

"It was quite a detective story," Smith said. "It was a lot of fun to try to identify it."

But Del Signore had fun of a different kind.

While the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce was holding its annual dinner auction at his Laurel Place Manor, the fishing folks in the crowd were ogling his photo. And since then he's been getting "congratulations" mail from chef friends and other fishermen.



Tino Del Signore and "the" fish — a world record pinook hybrid salmon caught on the Garden River just east of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada on Sept. 23, 1997. It weighed in at 19 pounds, eight ounces — more than five pounds over the previous record.

No spring at states; Canton places 12th

BY KRISTEN VAN DUSEN

The Canton Gymnastics team attended the state competition on Friday. They ended up placing 12th out of the twelve teams attending. They finished with 133 points. Northville-Novl placed first with 146 points. Portage was second.

This was a disappointing placement after being second in the regional competition last week.

For the individual competition on Saturday, Canton sent Marcie Emerick, Liz Fitzgerald, and Holly Graham.

Emerick, however, was unable to perform because of an injury to her elbow. The injury occurred during the team competition on Friday while Emerick was performing on the beam.

Kristen Schilk replaced Emerick on floor,

but did not place. Holly Graham competed on beam in Division II and received a 7.9, but was also unable to receive a placement.

"It was kind of disappointing to see how we placed in the end," said senior Lori Burleson. "We worked hard all season and gave good performances. I guess the spirit just wasn't there."

Canton's coach John Cunningham received the Contributor of the Year Award at the meet for his achievements throughout the season.

As of Saturday, the season has ended for both gymnastics teams. It was announced that the state meet for next year will be held at Plymouth-Canton High School.

Look for season wrap-ups of both teams in the next few weeks to see the highlights of the year.

A knight out with the Whale Watchers

A trip to London and back, through sleet and snow, with hard-core hockey fans

We're barreling west down the 401, it's past midnight, and the heart of an Alberta clipper is raging across Southern Ontario. Outside, cold, hard winds carry drifting snow in waves across the freeway, while a heavier, wet snow pelts, then clings to the oversized windshield of our chartered bus.

Inside, as Roger, the busdriver, confidently navigates the ice-covered roads, Crier photographer/intern Jaclyn Cruz looks on nervously as we pass within inches of a slow-moving semitrailer in the right lane. Nick Gismondi, part-time Whaler announcer and future host of The Tonight Show, grabs control of the bus' PA system, and the attention of its 42 passengers.

"I'm going to get out on the front of the bus and shovel a path through the snow," the high school sophomore says. "Roger, push us up to 50 and then swing open this door. I'm going out."

There are some laughs as Gismondi ceremoniously shoots up from his seat and pretends to walk down the stairs at the front of the bus.

I sit back and enjoy the ongoing show. Despite the weather, the fact that we are about three hours behind schedule and the Whaler's loss earlier in the evening, the group is in high-spirits. They haven't lost sight of their two sole objectives for this trip: root for the Whalers, and have fun.

How 'bout Whale-heads?

Our bus is one of two carrying Whale Watcher Fan Club members, about 90 of them in all, back from a London road trip. Both are populated by demographically-eclectic crowds, half men, half women, ranging in age from five to 65.

The Whale Watchers are not a selective group. The only requirement for joining is a passion for the team, an unfettered passion that goes beyond the limits of usual fan participation. One might compare them to the cheese-heads of Green Bay,

Write of way

By Scott Goodwin



religiously following their beloved team in droves, searching for a sort of holy salvation in the championship drive.

But, in many ways the Whale Watchers go beyond that. The Plymouth Whalers are not a big-name professional sports organization. They are a junior hockey team. And while they play their sport at a high level, in terms of wide-spread appeal, they don't match-up to even the smallest NHL organization.

That is why the Whale Watchers are such a particular group. Their devotion is more personal. Most aren't related in any way to the players. They aren't Whaler alumni. They are just fans, people who come out, week after week, to scream for the team, the sport and themselves.

And it doesn't stop there. Group members also volunteer for activities like program selling, passing out line-ups, and making goodie-bags for the players.

So when we were invited to come along on a Whale Watcher road trip, I expected a collection of rumpus individuals chanting fight songs, waving banners and engaging in other such fan-related mayhem. And in many ways; that's exactly what I got.

First Class with Vic and Van

The buses were scheduled to leave Compuware Sports Arena Friday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. We arrived a half hour early and found club president Laurie Johnson busily organizing all of the members. We introduced ourselves and were promptly given a small, white plastic bag full of treats.

It included a bag of pretzels, a rice-



Nick Gismondi entertains the bus over the PA system, as Kevin "Squiggy" Neimiec, at left, and club president Laurie Johnson look on. Gismondi and Neimiec, who seconds as the Bud Ice Penguin, kept passengers rolling. (Crier photo by Jaclyn Cruz)

crispie treat, and several small tootsie-rolls. At first I thought the treats were a special gift for us visiting reporters (and my swelled ego), but I quickly realized that everyone was in on the game.

As I dove into my bag of salted-bread-knots, we were herded onto the bus. For the first half of the trip, Jaclyn and I were to ride on bus number one. The seating chart had us sitting in the front row, right behind the driver. Typically I think of the front row as the best seats, first-class on an airplane, closest to the action during a baseball game. But when I saw that the room in front of our assigned seats was roughly equivalent to two-thirds the width of my leg, that image began to fizzle.

Nonetheless, we squeezed in and the bus got rolling. Johnson, who was sitting in the seat beside us, rose to address the passengers.

"Welcome to Whale Watcher One," she said. This was followed by an update on the Whaler's situation. Tonight's game was the final one of the regular season. They were no longer in the division hunt because London had taken the title with a victory the night before, reducing tonight's game, which many had expected would be for the division championship, to a formality. Most of the Whaler's star players would be sitting out this game to rest up for the playoffs which would begin the following night.

Several times during her announcement, two distinctly loud voices interrupted her from the seats behind me. At first I thought

we had picked up a couple of stow-away London fans intent on sabotaging our trip. But, as I soon discovered, it was all part of the act.

Rollie Buchanan and Joe Reno, the club's treasurer and vice-president respectively, were in character for the bus ride out. Their characters? Vic and Van, some strange fictional formation that had evolved over the course of the season.

"Does anybody know how to cook broccoli," they asked for no sensible reason.

Apparently, they are supposed to be a pair of inbred brothers from a certain Ontario town. And although their accents sounded more Russian than Canadian, their stupid-guy antics kept most of the passengers laughing for the duration of the trip.

An hour out of Windsor, Johnson popped a video in the bus' entertainment center and "Don Cherry's Rock'm Sock'm Hockey" appeared on all of the bus' small television screens.

Hockey fans have always been a curious bunch. That unique thirst for both precision and blood, seemingly more apt for a surgeon or a psychopath, separates them from the traditional follower of sports. They also have long memories.

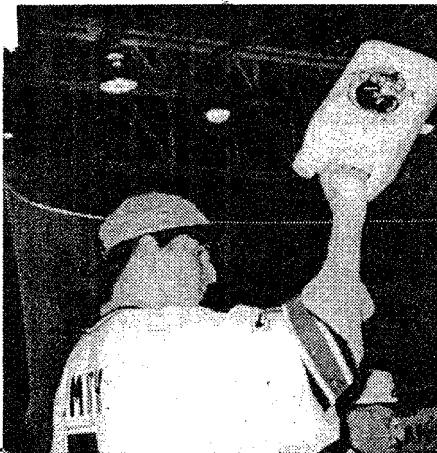
So when a shot of Red Wing Sergei Federov's face being planted into the ice ran across the scene, the group gave a not-so-unexpected cheer.

Quiet conversation developed around me

Please see pg. 21



Fan club members board the bus amid howling winds and heavy snowfall. The storm, which dumped five inches of snow on Southern Ontario, doubled the time for the bus ride home. (Crier photo by Jaclyn Cruz)



Putting recycled plastic to good use, a fan puts a cheer on. (Crier photo by Jaclyn Cruz)

Strong third period pushes Whalers past Sting

Second place division finish may be what Plymouth needed

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Some say that the playoffs are the second season, the *real* season. The regular season is just that, regular. While the playoffs are intense, the time when boys become men, and men become legends.



The Plymouth Whalers took their first step forward in this year's playoffs, and possibly towards an OHL championship, Saturday night by defeating the Sarnia Sting, 3-1, in the first game of their best-of-seven first round series.

Regular season star David Legwand continued his strong play by figuring in on all of the Whaler's three goals. He and defenseman Paul Mara assisted Sergei Fedotov on a power play goal at 3:41 of the first period.

Sarnia tied the game near the end of the first period when Sting forward Chad Cavanagh, assisted by Nan Novoseltsev and Michael Hanson, beat Robert Esche just after a Sarnia two-man advantage had ended.

The Whalers held Sarnia to only three shots-on-goal in the second period, but could manage no goals themselves. So, still tied at one, play moved to the third. A situation where, in recent games, the Whalers have not played some of their best hockey.

But remember this is the playoffs. Everything that happened in the regular season is behind them now. So,

despite being outshot 10-8, Plymouth took control in the final period. The Taylor-Druken-Legwand combination struck at 5:07 for the first time in playoffs, and certainly not the last. Harold Druken scored the goal, beating Sting goalie Patrick DesRoches.

With a minute to go in regulation, Sarnia pulled their goalie. Dave Legwand took advantage, grabbing a loose puck and sticking it in the empty net with 10 seconds remaining.

It may be too early to tell, but the tough third period play by the Whalers Saturday night might be the signal of something new. For weeks, Whaler coach Peter DeBoer has said that the late-season third period struggles may turn to good during playoff time by giving his players the experience they need. DeBoer may not deserve the prophet label just yet, but so far his predictions are looking good.

The real test will come in the next week, when the Whalers must travel to Sarnia. The Sting were an impres-

sive 21-8-4 at home this season.

Robert Esche, who finished the regular season with the best goals-against-average in Whaler club history (2.88), stopped 27 of the 28 shots that came his way.

(At) London 6, Plymouth 5 — So what if the Whalers didn't win the division title? By finishing second, they avoided Erie, the hottest team in the OHL, and kept their driving time for away games down to a minimum (Sarnia is a mere hour and a half away).

Nonetheless, the Whalers would have liked to beat London Friday night, the final game of the regular season, if only for pride. Despite playing without most of their stars, who were resting for the playoffs, the Whalers came out firing before a packed London Ice House.

In the end however, in almost symbolic fashion, the Whalers dropped the game in the final period of play.

Tom Kostopoulos scored a hat-trick in the final 25 minutes to help the Knights overcome a 5-2 Whaler lead. Plymouth gave up an unusual 38 shot-on-goal in the final two periods.

The scoring was spread out for the Whalers. Brian

Please see pg. 21

Whaler's first round schedule

Saturday March 14	— (at) Plymouth 3, Sarnia 1
Tuesday March 17	— Plymouth at Sarnia (inc.)
Thurs. March 19	— Sarnia at Plymouth (7:30 p.m.)
Saturday March 21	— Plymouth at Sarnia (7:30 p.m.)
*Sunday March 22	— Sarnia at Plymouth (6:30 p.m.)
*Tuesday March 24	— Plymouth at Sarnia (7:30 p.m.)
*Thurs. March 26	— Sarnia at Plymouth (7:30 p.m.)
* if necessary	

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WEST						
LONDON	38	21	5	6-3-1	81	
PLYMOUTH	36	21	7	5-3-2	79	
SARNIA	31	20	13	4-2-4	75	
ERIE	33	28	4	8-2-0	70	
S.S. MARIE	18	38	7	3-7-0	43	
WINDSOR	19	40	5	1-7-2	43	
EAST						
OTTAWA	39	17	9	7-1-2	83	
BELLEVILLE	40	22	3	6-3-1	79	
KINGSTON	35	26	4	4-5-1	70	
OSHAWA	24	31	8	4-3-3	55	
PETERBOROUGH	19	35	10	0-6-4	44	
TORONTO	14	40	9	2-8-0	37	
CENTRAL						
GUELPH	41	18	6	6-4-0	83	
BARRIE	38	21	5	5-4-1	77	
KITCHENER	27	28	9	4-6-0	60	
OWEN SOUND	26	34	5	6-3-1	54	
SUDBURY	24	34	7	1-8-1	51	
NORTH BAY	15	43	6	2-8-0	36	

WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:
Goals: Legwand (53)
Assists: Legwand (48)
Points: Legwand (101)
PIM: Boulerice (170)
+/-: Legwand (+46)
GAA: Esche (2.88)

CATCH OF THE DAY
Dave Legwand holds the longest point streak in the OHL this season at 14 games.

UPCOMING GAMES:
• Wed. vs. Windsor at CSA (7:30 p.m.)
• Fri. at London (7:30 p.m.)
• Sat. — playoffs begin (time and opponent TBD)

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Scores

BASKETBALL

Wednesday

District playoffs semifinals:

Salem 42, Canton 40

Saturday

District playoffs finals

Northville 71, Salem 65

VOLLEYBALL

Saturday

At the Regional Playoffs:

Salem over Farmington Hills

Mercy 15-3, 13-15, 15-4

Ladywood over Salem 15-9,

15-1

GYMNASTICS

Saturday

At the state meet:

Northville-Novis (1st place)

146 pts

Canton (12th place) 133 pts

Fans stake claim with noise

Continued from pg. 19

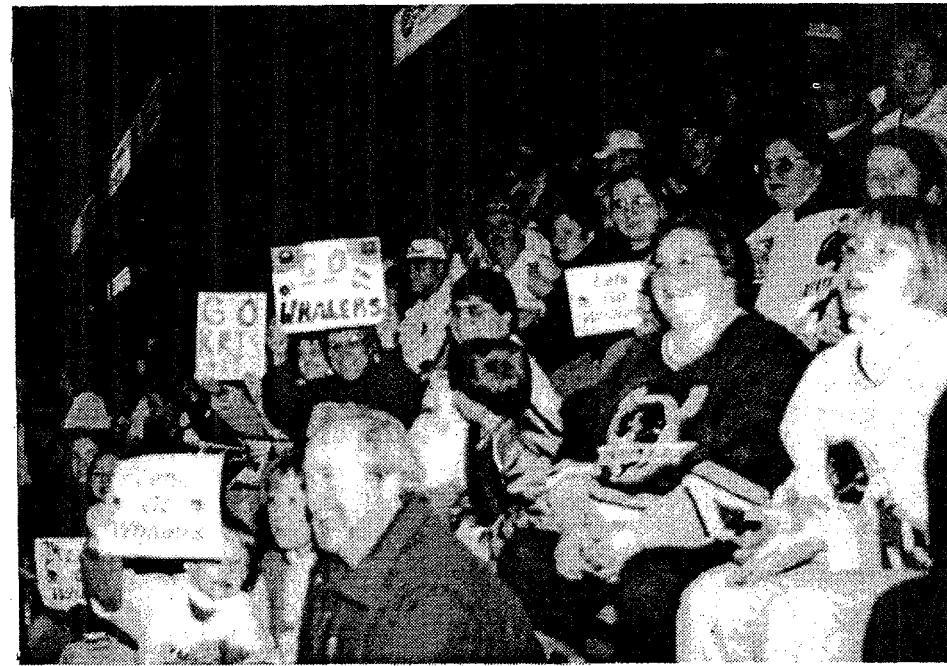
as the tape ended. It was centered mostly on the Whalers, their recent play, their playoff chances, and the season's best fights.

A March drive through Southern Ontario isn't exactly a scenic wonder. Brown, flat, and void of even the simplest billboards, the landscape rolls by in persistent monotony. Despite the onboard entertainment, when London's "Ice House" appeared ahead off the freeway, it was a welcome sight for me.

As we pulled into the parking lot, the passengers, led by Johnson, warmed their vocal chords for the game. "Let's go Whalers," they cheered. A few others, led by Vic and Van, broke in dance, something called the "Whaler Wiggle" I later learned.

From the outside, the Ice House looks more like a converted Crowley's than a hockey arena. And the inside is much of the same. Narrow, yellow-brick lined hallways surround the rink and the stands. The rafters hang like over-grown branches just above the top row of seats. And the seats themselves are huddled so close you could mistake your neighbor's lap for a cup holder.

Nevertheless, it has a certain Canadian charm about it. Hockey is religion in Canada, and this arena stands like a with-



Whaler Watchers cheer as their team skates onto the ice Friday night. Stuffed into section 12, they did their best to overcome the home crowd. Armed with signs, noise-makers, and their own voices, the fan club made their presence felt. They may take another trip sometime during the playoffs (Crier photo by Jaclyn Cruz).

ered, old temple still ripe for worship. The walls are soaked with memories and sweat. And I'm sure, when the place empties out at night, if you listen close enough you could still hear the distant whispers of past games echoing out of the corners.

As the game began, the Whale Watchers crammed into section 12 and got down to business. Equipped with noise-makers, home-made signs, and an unbridled enthusiasm, they quickly marked off their territory, separating themselves from the rest of the crowd.

Cries of "Bab-en-ko" and "Waterboy" shot out, breaking the rhythm of the London cheers. The reason for the "Bab-en-ko" cry was obvious. Whaler's center Yuri Babenko has a name with a certain pop-pop-pop cadence to it. "Waterboy," on the other hand, was something of a mystery. Only the few who shouted it seemed to understand its source. As I later found out, Waterboy was the London trainer, who, according to legend, has occasionally squirted water on opposing players.

With each Whalers goal, section 12 erupted. Empty anti-freeze bottles refilled with pennies shook, feet stomped and, for the moment, we were the only people in the stadium. Outnumbered 20-1, the Whale Watchers had a lot to overcome. So when the Whalers grabbed a 3-1 lead early in the game, they made the most of it.

By the end of the third period though, the tables had turned. London surged, the Whaler's faltered, and the crowd of 4,700 torpedoed their aggression towards us. I saw a few flipped fingers, and heard a few curse words, but nothing beyond that.

"Canadians take their hockey very seriously," Johnson said later. "I expected that there might be some problems."



Whaler defenseman Nikos Tselios and center Steve Wasylko chase down a Windsor Spitfire player last Wednesday night. Despite winning the game, the Whalers still lost the division title when Windsor lost to London Thursday. (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

Whalers drop Windsor

Continued from pg. 20

Passmore, Kris Purdy, Randy Fitzgerald, Joe Byrne, and Julian Smith each notched a goal. For Byrne it was his first of the season.

Robert Holsinger tended goal, stopping 39 of 45 shots.

Plymouth 4, Windsor 2 — Harold

Druken scored a pair of goals and David Legwand added a goal and an assist as the Whalers rolled over Windsor last Wednesday night.

Captain Andrew Taylor also dished out a pair of assists as Plymouth closed their regular season home schedule in fashion. The Whalers more than doubled Windsor's shots on goal total, 44-20.



Community opinions

Student wanted free expression, not harm

Expelled student says he would do things differently, calls actions 'a mistake'

During the evening of March 2, 1998 a special meeting was held by the School Board to determine my future status as a student in the Plymouth Canton School District. I was being threatened with

expulsion for distributing a small, underground publication called the Colludium. This publication was written and produced almost entirely by an associate and I, and was not sponsored or authorized by the school. During the course of February 13, I made the

unfortunate mistake of passing out several copies to some classmates. In so doing I effectively violated a standing school regulation which prohibited the distribution of materials that are not

sponsored by the school. Presented to the Board on March 2 was a petition containing the signatures of more than 450 citizens of this community who did not believe that expulsion was an

appropriate course of action for the District to take. Also given to the Board was a prepared statement written by myself, which appears excerpted below.

In all sincerity, I did not see the distribution of our publication as being anywhere near capable of disrupting the high school environment or traumatizing its students. It was never intended to harm anyone, nor be taken as threatening. Simply, I wanted to create a medium where my peers could express

their feelings, thoughts and viewpoints about a world that often seems to treat people and their feelings superficially. The means chosen for doing this was to create a publication in which anyone could contribute. We challenged conformity of suburban culture, raised issues that were meaningful to people my age, and tried to entertain and stimulate our peers on an intellectual level. To some, this expression may have been unpopular. Many of us felt that the school environment failed to provide the opportunity to discuss these things.

I am prepared to accept the consequences for my actions. I want to apologize to the school administration for acting against school policy. I have exercised good and poor judgment in the past. In distributing my publication on campus, I was operating under poor judgment, and as simple as it may sound, I made a mistake. As I look at the situation now, I question myself, why didn't I approach the school the same way I did with local business where we wanted to distribute the paper? We visited many local business, showed them the paper and

asked their permission to leave copies. Nearly every business solicited gave their enthusiastic permission, and even went so far as to support our cause, and what our publication stood for.

Although I have called my actions a mistake, I consider them to be far more than a mere mistake, for never in my life have I been as remorseful of my behavior, or of the disorder that it created before me. If given the opportunity to relive the immediate past, I would not have done what I did. If given another chance, I would never do anything similar to what I have done. At this point I would value little more than to be permitted to return to my education. I valued my educational opportunity, and watched with trepidation as it slipped through my fingers. I didn't want to be expelled; any alternative consequence would have been superior. I am penitential; never in the past have my actions yielded such abysmal consequences. But at this point I can offer little more than my apologies, and my promise that, regardless of what happens, it will never occur again.

JIM TANTALO

I did not see the distribution of our publication as being anywhere near capable of disrupting the high school environment or traumatizing its students.

Developers should be straightforward

Closed sessions and darkened windows only raise suspicions

What's with all the secrets?

Two major developments in Canton are being just a little more secretive than really necessary.

The first is Burton-Katzman, the development company proposing a 125-acre mega-development at Ford and Lotz roads.

Burton-Katzman, after investing about \$1.5 million in initial groundwork, decided the project was too expensive to get off the ground. They asked for between \$3 and \$4 million in initial infrastructure improvements from the DDA to offset the \$18 million cost of land acquisition.

The DDA, while intrigued by the project and impressed by the quality of the presentation, nonetheless wanted more information, specifically: why they should commit funds to a project if the developers were ultimately going to walk away from it with bulging pockets.

Burton-Katzman agreed to show a breakdown of the figures, but only in front of a closed session, so the figures would not become public information until the deeds were signed, and the property, theirs.

This, to a point, is understandable. With all the different landowners involved in the development, it is a shaky and uncertain thing. It won't take much to have the already impatient landowners pull out — learning their neighbor received twice as much for their land as they did, for instance.

But secrecy breeds suspicion. If Burton-Katzman is set on that site for the development and expects the support of the board and the community, they should find another way to answer the question without asking for a closed-door meeting.

Perhaps a way of discussing the costs of the land without specifically mentioning any of the land owners or their

They may be content to stay on the corner and earn money from the residents but not develop any real connection to the community.

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



parcels is a better alternative. Having the community in the know will make for better relations when it's time to shop, eat or go to the movies in the development.

It's a lesson that could be learned by Kohl's. By now everyone knows that the department store chain is relocating in the old Kmart building on Ford and Sheldon roads. Workers are beginning the renovations, permits have been filed, the DDA is discussing streetscape improvements.

In fact the only one not talking about the store is the corporation themselves. Not only were calls to the corporate office not returned, but representatives from Ramco-Gersheson, who owns the entire shopping center, weren't allowed to use the name in a press release.

The only thing 'the client' would okay for release was that it was a major national department store chain.

What's the reason behind such secrecy? The Ramco rep (who didn't want

their name used) said it was because the store didn't want to be pinned down to an exact grand opening date.

Big deal.

The company should realize that Ford-Sheldon is an important corner in Canton and that residents would want to know what's going on there.

Why not say they're moving in, looking forward to being in the community, and opening later in the year?

By not telling the community that, they're not giving the impression they're very excited about Canton. That could mean they're not planning to stay, or may be they'll be content to remain on the corner and earn money from the residents, but not develop any real connection with the community.

Late fall will probably answer that question, when the store will open its doors to eager Canton residents, who may know by then that the store is open.

If they put up a sign, that is.



Community opinions

Anybody mind?

Kings had it right: divine right

Absolute power could circumvent democracy's tedium, effort

EDITOR:

I would like to propose that the Plymouth-Canton Community consider a return to an age-old decision-making system that worked for many centuries, the Divine Right of Kings. Historically, the Divine Right of Kings was the basis of absolute power.

Though criticized by such writers as Dante, Machiavelli, and John Locke, my response is: Ha! what did they know? Government by social contract is over-rated, expensive, tedious, and, worst of all, time-consuming. If the originators knew how much trouble the democratic process was going to be, they would have dismissed it the same day they thought of it. Actually, "DRK" is not a bad method of making decisions and inducing progress. True, there are some disadvantages, but in the long run it's really quite efficient.

It seems that DRK is well on the way to being established locally: With DRK, the school board could avoid the trouble and expense of having a bond election. Jerry Vorva could save himself valuable time and effort, for he would not have to challenge elections that would never be held.

The press could afford to miss important

lengthy school board meetings (3/10/98) and avoid reporting about such lackluster issues as the design and location of the imaginary new high school, since the public wouldn't need to know about the New High School Committee and its desires or objections to the Divine Plan.

The tax-paying public could escape from learning about how their money would be spent and how their children's education would be "delivered."

High school staff would not need to receive their own presentations about the Committee's findings, nor would they take direct interest in the impact of the decisions that effect them.

Teachers would not need to ask questions, nor would they be feared, viewed as "argumentative" or need to be "controlled" by their superiors.

The truth is that with DRK, the need for a school board, a public school system or even the press would be simply unnecessary.

As you can see, we'd get more done in less time, and we'd all be better off.

The concept of "DRK" insists that subjects obey not resist their rulers, nor

need they consent to the rules that govern them. I fear it might be a little difficult to bring this method back into current use, but it has indeed been practiced in this century by Wilhelm II of Prussia and Nicholas II of Russia. There is only one downside I see to DRK; it was known to lead to the executions of its practitioners, Louis

XVI and Charles I. But because enlightened DRK can be imposed in moderation with good intentions, we all know, thankfully, that won't happen here!

KATHRYN L. THOMPSON

The tax-paying public could escape from learning about how their money would be spent and how their children's education would be 'delivered.'

— Kathryn Thompson

Commission TV on *Melrose Place* pace

Over the last year or so, the Plymouth City Commission has been working toward televising their bi-weekly meetings, a point they brought up Monday night.

If personality and politics continue to react as they did at that evening, television dramas like *Melrose Place* may get a run for their ratings.

Since November's election and the change it brought to the cast of characters, the commission meetings have been, at times, quite a show. Bruised egos, finger pointing and charges of sexism have inspired long faces and passionate verbal volleys from one end of the dais to the other.

"Commissioner so-and-so said..."

"Yes but if I can butt-in..."

"Be quiet until you know what you're talking about..."

Harsh words.

Back and forth. Tit for tat. I told you so.

Monday, charges of increasingly sexist tendencies in commission decision making even brought out the word "penis." Whoa.

Will they still get away with that when cable picks up the act? *Melrose* probably can't, but coverage of President Clinton's affairs (no pun) seems to clear the censors.

Not that the public couldn't handle such language. Actually, if we learn anything (and we may not) from the investigation into Clinton's alleged sexual exploits, it's that the public tunes

Some might say

By Bryon Martin



in, turns on and freaks out when their elected officials get down and dirty. Though we may be slow to admit it, we love it. Nowadays, most media outlets give us the stories they think we want, rather than those they think we need to know about.

If we didn't want it, such behavior wouldn't have lead network news broadcasts on most nights, or appeared on the covers of magazines and page one of newspapers in recent months. We like it when there's color to the news. Even if it's a bit off-color.

But, hey—I'm no exception. I've got to admit that covering the commission has become more interesting since November. Televising the meetings, fireworks and all, may finally get The City of Plymouth interested in their government.

With the move to cable, though, I'd offer a suggestion to the city's new attorney, Sarah Osburn: toss your copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* and grab a *TV GUIDE* to find out when Jerry Springer and Ricki Lake are on.

They seem to follow the same rules as commission has lately.

Whaddya think?

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The Community Crier



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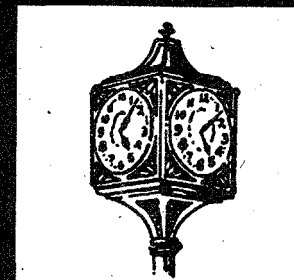
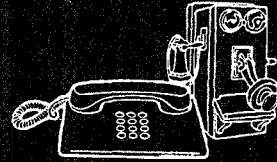
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