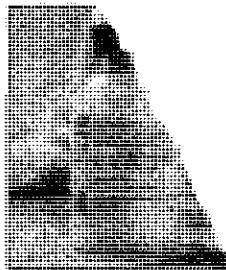


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Officials warn that gold parties bypass laws

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cash-strapped people struggling to survive a merciless economic slump are making fast money at so-called gold parties, where they buy and sell every-

thing from grandma's heirlooms to high school class rings.

But Westland authorities and jewelers are warning that many parties are illegal and could lead to police raids and criminal charges, particularly against those who organize or

host them.

Gold parties are siphoning money from reputable, licensed jewelers who buy gold and sell it for a profit to combat hard times when rings, necklaces and other luxury items simply aren't selling.

"They're taking food out of every jeweler's mouth in town," said Gary Dillon, owner of Dillons Jewelers in Westland. "This is the only way for us to really survive the economic storm."

Jewelers and authorities

also fear that gold parties, often advertised to draw larger crowds, could lure uninvited guests — potential gunslinging thieves who could scoop up the goods and be on their way. With gold going for nearly \$1,000 an ounce, it's lucrative.

"Imagine a bunch of housewives getting together for a party and having somebody bust in the door and rob them," Dillon said.

Oftentimes, an organizer will

Please see **GOLD, A2**



As members of Kirk of Our Savior, Michele Rockafellow and Judy Curtis are working on increasing participation and money raised through the annual CROP Walk for Westland, Garden City and Wayne.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CROP organizers put out call for walkers

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Organizers of the Wayne-Westland Area CROP Walk 2008 have two hopes for the Sunday, May 4, event: to meet or exceed the number of churches and walkers who participated last year and to raise at least \$15,000 for Church World

Services.

And with good reason, a portion of the money raised will be distributed between four organizations in Wayne, Westland and Garden City that provide food and assistance to those in need.

"Eighty-seven percent of all money goes to feed the hungry and 25 percent stays locally,"

said Judy Curtis, who is coordinating the event, which is being hosted by the Kirk of Our Savior Church in Westland. "We'll determine how much will go to our groups — the Salvation Army, St. Mary's Bolde Food Pantry, the food pantry at Good Hope Lutheran Church and Wayne-Westland FISH."

CROP stands for

Communities Responding To Overcome Poverty and helps fund the work of Lansing-based CWS, an international relief, development and refugee resettlement agency. Michigan has been the leading walk fundraising region in the United States for CWS for 22 years and

Please see **CROP WALK, A2**

Teen charged with killing cat faces trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Former pastor Neil Carrick was merely trying to help when he welcomed homeless teenager Todd Allan Treviso into his Westland home. Then, things went terribly wrong when a neighbor's cat was sodomized and killed, triggering criminal charges against Treviso.

"It's beyond belief," Carrick, 42, told the *Observer*.

It all started a few weeks ago when Carrick's 23-year-old daughter was driving near Palmer and Wayne roads and saw Treviso walking in the cold. She stopped. She brought him home.

"She knew I would help him out," Carrick said.

Around the same time, Carrick's daughter had taken in a cat she saw wandering outside. Carrick said the cat had identification tags, but the owner, a few doors down, wasn't at home.

Then, in the early morning hours of April 4, the male cat, Magic, came up missing. It was later found dead in the neighborhood. An assailant had bound Magic's paws together with duct tape. A sock had been stuck in his mouth, which also was taped up.

Carrick called the police. He instinctively feared the worst,



Treviso

saying his new tenant had been acting in a strange manner.

When the police came to Carrick's house in the 2000 block of Stieber, they questioned him but ended up arresting Treviso, 18, after talking with him about Magic.

Police Lt. Dan Carrick has said Magic not only had been taped up, but he said Treviso is accused of sodomizing the cat with his fingers.

On Thursday, Treviso was ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of sodomy and torturing and killing an animal. The latest development came after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

Carrick went to court to testify, but Treviso's decision to waive his hearing averted testimony. The teenager remains jailed with a \$50,000 cash bond as he awaits trial. A not-guilty plea has been entered for him.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Schwartz declined to comment Friday afternoon, saying it was too early because he was reviewing the case.

If convicted, Treviso could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.

Carrick, meanwhile, said it appeared that duct tape had been used on a pit bull in his house. He said residue could be seen on its paws. No charges have been filed related to the dog.

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Gabriel: Prepared to give 100 percent to school board

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

According to William Gabriel, public education is one of most important things there is. It is the top priority in his life.

A candidate in the May 6 Wayne-Westland school board election, the Westland resident is prepared to follow up those words with action and give the time needed.

"Public education is one of most important things there is," he said. "The education of our kids in my mind has to be a top priority in the community and as a nation."

A graduate of Eastern



Gabriel

Michigan University, Gabriel wants to give back to the community. His work in airlines management has given him a wide-ranging base of experience to draw from.

A former member of the Westland Library Board, he currently is a member of the Planning Commission. He has always wanted to serve on the school board and now that he does contract work, he has the time.

He describes himself as well-

WILLIAM GABRIEL

Who: William Gabriel of Westland. He grew up in Dearborn and moved to Westland in 1981.

Family: He has a daughter and two grandchildren.

Employment: He has worked in airlines management with two carriers before taking on contract work and representing smaller airlines, mostly charter carriers, helping to set up and manage their seasonal programs, mainly at Detroit Metro Airport. He also works on a part-time basis for a training company, providing OSHA-type safety training, and doing contract work, mostly for Ryan Airlines.

Community involvement: He is a former member of the Westland Library Board and currently serves on the Westland Planning Commission.

grounded, dedicated, logical and a good problem solver. He believes that a good board mem-

ber is one who "talks to people, visits schools, talks to parents, teachers and administrators,

and maybe people in Lansing."

"I don't know what it would be like to be on school board, I've never been on it, but in my mind, it's a huge deal and you better be prepared," he added.

According to Gabriel, the biggest issue facing the district is funding and how to get the best education for students with the money that's available.

"Whatever funding you have has to go to the classroom first and then work its way back from there," he said.

Related to that is Proposal A and whether it has done what it was intended to do — close the gap in funding between districts like Bloomfield Hills

and Wayne-Westland. Gabriel doesn't think it is doing the job and that it may be a job for the school board to get the legislature to make changes "to get Prop A back to where should be."

Other issues facing the district include school safety, engaging students in the classroom to improve achievement and the new state mandated high school curriculum.

"To use a cliché, one shoe doesn't fit all," he said about the curriculum change. "They (the state) have right goals in mind, if they want kids to learn,

Please see **GABRIEL, A2**

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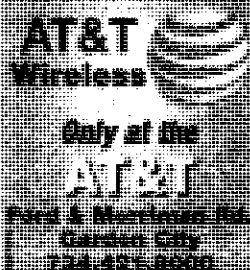
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INDEX

APARTMENTS	D2
AUTOMOTIVE	C7
HEALTH	B5
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
JOBS	C6
NEW HOMES	D1
OBITUARIES	C4
OPINION	A9
REAL ESTATE	D2
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men to stand trial for home invasions

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three defendants, including one accused of having a 9mm handgun, will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for a pair of home invasions in Westland's south side. Westland residents Justin Lee Adkins, 20, and Bryant Cory Roach, 20, and Canton resident Rodney James

Severance, 22, will face trial after averting testimony by waiving their right to a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

The three men are accused in a pair of home invasions that police Sgt. David Dinsmore said happened April 3 at the Old Orchard mobile home park near Glenwood and Wayne roads. Adkins also is charged with

having a 9mm pistol under the seat of an alleged getaway car that officers pulled over.

On the same day the trio was ordered to stand trial, prosecutors dropped charges against former defendant Casey Elizabeth Severance, a 22-year-old cousin of Rodney Severance. Prosecutors indicated that charges against her couldn't be proved, according to a court officer.

Adkins, Roach and Rodney Severance remain jailed in lieu of \$25,000 cash/surety bonds as they await trial, but not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for them. Casey Severance has been released from custody.

The three men could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison, if they're convicted of second-degree home invasion. Adkins, alone,

could face a five-year term, if he's found guilty of carrying a concealed weapon.

Westland police arrested the defendants after receiving a tip from an alert witness who told authorities he saw suspicious activity in the mobile home park. The witness trailed an alleged getaway car and provided information that helped officers make a traffic stop near

Venoy and Dorsey, Dinsmore said.

Officers have recovered clothing, a jewelry box, bottles of coins and other items, the sergeant said.

Police Lt. Dan Karrick has commended the witness for getting involved, saying "it was a great effort on his part."

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On the Web

Looking for Around Westland? You'll find it on the Westland page of our online edition at www.hometownlife.com.

GOLD

FROM PAGE A1

pay a commission to a gold party host, buy the jewelry and sell it for a profit. But Westland

Police Chief James Ridener cited a state law, the Precious Metals and Gem Dealer Act of 1981, that requires a license for anyone dealing in gold, silver, platinum, gems and jewelry. The problem is, some party hosts might not even know they're doing anything illegal, although ignorance of the law is no defense.

"If a housewife decides to have some of her friends over for a gold party, we might not

even know it," Ridener said.

If authorities get a tip and bust an illegal party, there could be a hefty price — even jail time — to pay. Penalties can range up to two years in prison. Fines can be as high as \$5,000.

One organization, MichiganMoms.com, even issued a warning that gold parties typically don't bring the best value for jewelry.

"Take any gold or gemstones you want to sell to a reputable

jeweler," one member wrote in a Web site posting.

Places like Dillons Jewelers follow the law and become licensed through the local police department. A customer who sells gold and other jewelry has to provide a driver's license or state identification, address, phone number and thumb print. Dillon said licensed dealers have to hold the gold for nine days, provide a fingerprint to their local

police department and fax a copy to the department where the seller lives.

"People who have these gold parties bypass all the legal issues," he said. "It hurts jewelers who are paying taxes, paying salaries and donating to the youth sports teams in town. If I don't make money, I can't support these teams. It hurts the entire community."

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CROP WALK

FROM PAGE A1

last year raised \$2.7 million. Three communities

— Westland, Garden City and Wayne — participate in the annual walk. Many of the participants come from area churches like the First Congregational and First United Methodist in Wayne, St. John Episcopal and St. Richard Catholic in Westland and Garden City Presbyterian.

Last year, 13 churches and 150 walkers raised \$11,688. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Kirk of Our Savior

located on Cherry Hill between Wayne Road and Newburgh. The walk will begin at 2 p.m. and depending on the route — there are two-, four- and six-mile walks — it will take two-four hours to complete.

The routes wind through the subdivision southeast of the church and stretches to Ford and Wayne Road on the longest leg. They all end at Kirk of Our Savior where the church will provide food and beverages. Members of Wayne Memorial High School's Upward Bound and John Glenn High School's National Honor Society will man drinking stations along the three routes and serve as crossing guards for walkers.

Curtis said the routes were designed to increase visibility for the CROP Walk.

"(Kirk of Our Savior) pastor Neil Cowling wanted to make sure we went through the community," she said.

While many of the walkers are from churches that participate in the event, religious affiliation isn't a requirement to participate. Michelle Rockafellow's daughter, a cheerleader at John Glenn High School, has formed a group among her friends.

"It's not just church groups, it's anyone who wants to form a group and walk," Rockafellow said.

Walkers collect pledges, either a flat amount or per mile.

People who would prefer to let their fingers do the walking can support the CROP Walk on the Web at www.cropwalkonline.org. Participants can set up sites where people can make donations.

"We had as many people online as we had walking last year," said Curtis.

People interested in participating in the CROP Walk can call Curtis at (734) 595-6011 or Kirk of Our Savior at (734) 728-1088.

"You don't have to walk, you can come, make a donation and cheer the walkers on," Curtis added.

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GABRIEL

FROM PAGE A1

but everybody is different. They can do different things. Somebody may want to be a mathematician and four years of school isn't enough, but

another person might want to do something different and that (curriculum) might drive them away from school.

"I don't know if it could be change or modified, but I think it's too general and makes everybody fit into the same shoe and that's not what education is about," he added.

As for why residents should elect him to the school board, Gabriel believes he has the life experiences to make a difference.

"I'm honest, I'm dedicated and I sincerely think education is our top priority," he said. "If elected, I'd do a good job and throw myself into it 100 per-

cent. I'd make good decisions and do my homework."

"People may say being on board isn't that hard, you just have to use common sense," he added. "I think it's the other way around. It's a 24-hour, seven-day a week dedication."

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After murder trial: Families try to move on

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

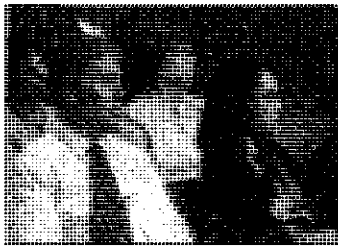
They faithfully wore their Detroit Red Wings jackets as the Wings began the hockey playoffs. They followed the progress of *American Idol*, including one of their picks, crowd favorite David Archuleta.

But for Jim and Kim Sorensen of Westland, nothing took the trial of Jean Pierre Orlewicz very far from their consciousness. Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township was convicted Wednesday of killing the Sorensens' 26-year-old son, Daniel. By Michigan law, he'll spend the rest of his life in prison following his May 12 sentencing.

But there is no Michigan law for how the Sorensens move on, though they know they have to. But it isn't easy.

"From the moment I wake up until I kiss Dan's picture when I go to bed, this has been the focus," Kimberly Sorensen said. "The trial has been the total focus."

In addition to providing justice for the victim, Orlewicz's



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

While James and Kimberley Sorensen of Westland are glad their murdered son, Daniel, received justice, they feel for the families of the two teens going to prison for his murder.

trial was also a way for friends of Sorensen to start to close the wound.

Jennifer Palmer of Livonia was away taking care of personal business when she got the word Sorensen had been killed. She said the trial was cathartic.

"When Dan died ... I wasn't around," Palmer said. "It means a lot to everyone in his whole family that he gets some kind of justice. This is my personal closure."

Kim and Jim Sorensen were quick to point out in the immediate aftermath of the trial

they weren't the only family in pain following the conclusion of the trial. Pete and Diane Letkemann of Westland will watch their son, Alexander, be sentenced to 20-30 years in prison for his role in Sorensen's killing, and William and Charlotte Orlewicz will see Jean Pierre be remanded to the state's custody for the rest of his life May 12.

"We lost a son, but for the rest of his life, the Orlewiczes have lost the companionship of their son, too," said Kim Sorensen. "We hope the community remembers them in their prayers, too."

The Orlewicz family has declined to comment throughout the case. Orlewicz's attorney, James Thomas, said following the trial his client would appeal.

There will be no such appeal for Alexander Letkemann, the 18-year-old former Livonia Churchill High School student, following his April 1 guilty plea to second-degree murder. It was Letkemann's chilling description of the murder that ultimately convinced jurors to convict Orlewicz.

Letkemann's role in the trial drew praise from a surprising source: the victim's father.

"Please understand that I have anger toward Alex," James Sorensen said. "That being said, I'm very proud of Alex. He stood up like a man and took responsibility for his actions."

For Letkemann, the trial was but a subplot on the rest of his life. His parents said they paid some attention to the trial, but

remain focused on their own son. Pete Letkemann, who called the Sorensens "amazing people," said his son always wanted to "tell the truth."

"We love Alex and we believe, as does Alex, that his testifying was the right thing to do," Pete Letkemann said. "I don't mean the right thing to do for Alex, but the right thing to do, period."

The elder Letkemann

said his son is anxious to get Wednesday's sentencing heard behind him so he can move on and rebuild his life from prison. Alex Letkemann, who amused observers during his testimony by describing himself as a "beatnik," has an interest in music.

"This is his chance for redemption," Pete Letkemann said. "He wants a second chance."

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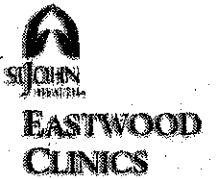
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APPEALING THE VERDICT

James Thomas, the lawyer for convicted killer Jean Pierre Orlewicz, said he'll appeal Wednesday's guilty verdict. Orlewicz, 18, was convicted of first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse. He faces a life sentence without possibility of parole when he's sentenced May 12.

Thomas said he'll appeal based on Wayne County Circuit

Court Judge Annette Berry's decision to keep out evidence of victim Daniel Sorensen's criminal past, including personal protection orders taken out against him by four individuals.

Thomas spent much of the trial trying to paint Sorensen as a violent bully, and said those PPOs would have substantiated that claim.

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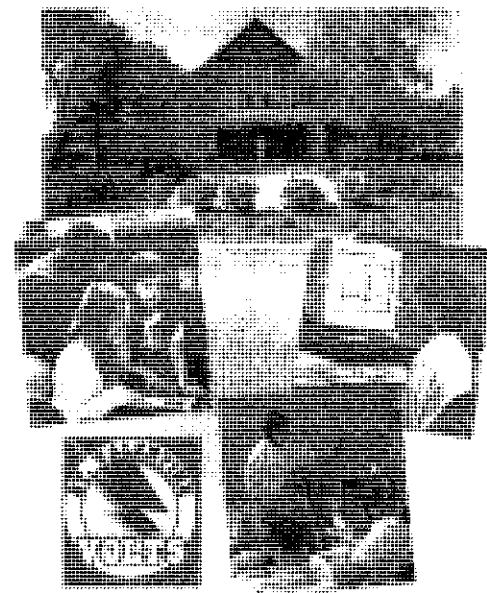
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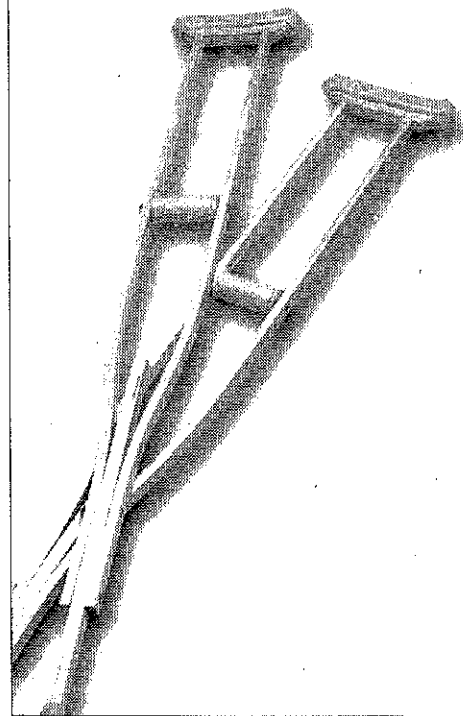


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ACHIEVERS

Westland college students were awarded for their education and commitment to community service during the 12th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards April 5 in Lansing. Awarded as recipients were the Michigan Campus Compact's Heart and Soul award recipients **Megan Bahr**, a senior at Grand Valley State University; **Kristen Lewis**, junior at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and **Joel Rivera**, a senior at Madonna University. The award recognizes students for their time, effort and personal commitment through service.

Each year, MCC awards students from member

colleges and universities across the state for their outstanding commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Michigan Humanitarian Award. Awardees were selected from a nomination pool of nearly 600 students. This year, 159 students from 23 member campuses will receive awards.

Michigan Campus Compact promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college and university students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.



Taking a second-place was Merriman Road's the 15-16-year-old division basketball team of Zach Vera-Burgos (front row, from left), Caleb Jones, Demetrius Burton, Moises Cruz, Josh Merryman, Nate Kallinowski (back row, from left), Terry Mays and Kirk Barikmo.



Winning a first-place in the high school volleyball division were Chris Babb, Zach Vera-Burgos, Kellyn O'Brady, Mercedes Robinson, Ben Vera-Burgos, Kristen Miller and Jenn Michalek.

Church teams win at Sports Marathon

Forty-three youth members of Merriman Road Baptist Church came away with trophies after competing in the 2008 Sports Marathon in North Branch.

More than 20 communities participated in the event, with the Merriman Road youths winning first- and second-

place trophies volleyball and basketball.

The first-place trophy went to Jenn Michalek's high school division volleyball team and the second-place trophy went to Zach Vera-Burgos's 15-16-year-old division basketball team.

"The competition was harder

this year than previous years," said Michalek, the volleyball team captain. "It was fun playing against the other teams, and I enjoyed the service and meeting new people."

"The tournament was fun and I had a good time with my friends," said Vera-Burgos, basketball team captain. "I'm planning on winning next year."

Merriman Road had six teams compete in the Sports Marathon, according to Associate Pastor Jeff Buchholz.

The students invited friends from the community to join

their teams, they used our Tuesday open gyms to practice.

"God is the giver of all good things, he's given our students great abilities," he said. "I enjoyed watching their superb sportsmanship and seeing them work together as teams."

Merriman Road Baptist Church's Student Ministries has many opportunities for fellowship, training, and ministry for students in the 7-12th grades. The church is at 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 421-0472 or go online to www.mrbcc.us online.

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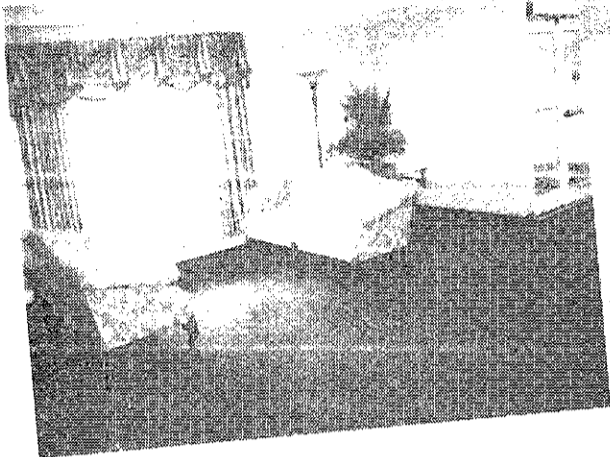
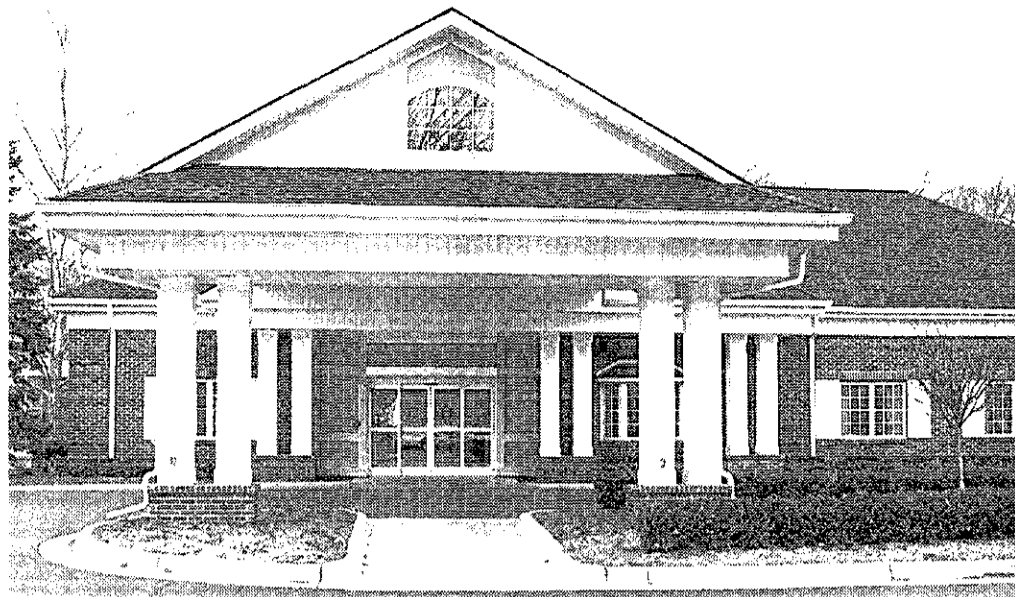
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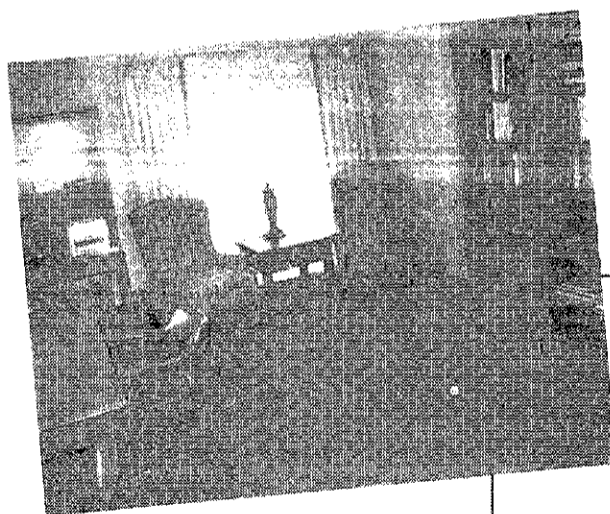
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Women voters enthused about 2008 presidential race

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sally Fedus of Plymouth Township is excited about the possibility of a woman in the Oval Office.

"I am strongly in favor of supporting a woman as president," said Fedus, who retired from the Internal Revenue Service about six years ago. "I think it's long overdue."

She sees U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, the New York Democrat and former first lady, as the first viable woman candidate.

"I'm excited about the possibility of breaking that (gender) barrier. I'm equally excited about breaking the race barrier."

She favors Clinton over U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, the Democrat from Illinois, because she believes Clinton has more experience. "I'm supporting whichever of the Democratic candidates get the nomination," said Fedus. "I would prefer Sen. Clinton. In order to be an effective administrator, I think you need to have some connections."

Fedus has worked on political campaigns in the past, and will become more involved after the Obama-Clinton race is decided. She didn't see the April 16 debate between the two.

"I read the *(Detroit) Free Press* every morning," said Fedus, who also relies on CNN and MSNBC. She enjoys a lot of political discussions with

friends, which also help to shape her views.

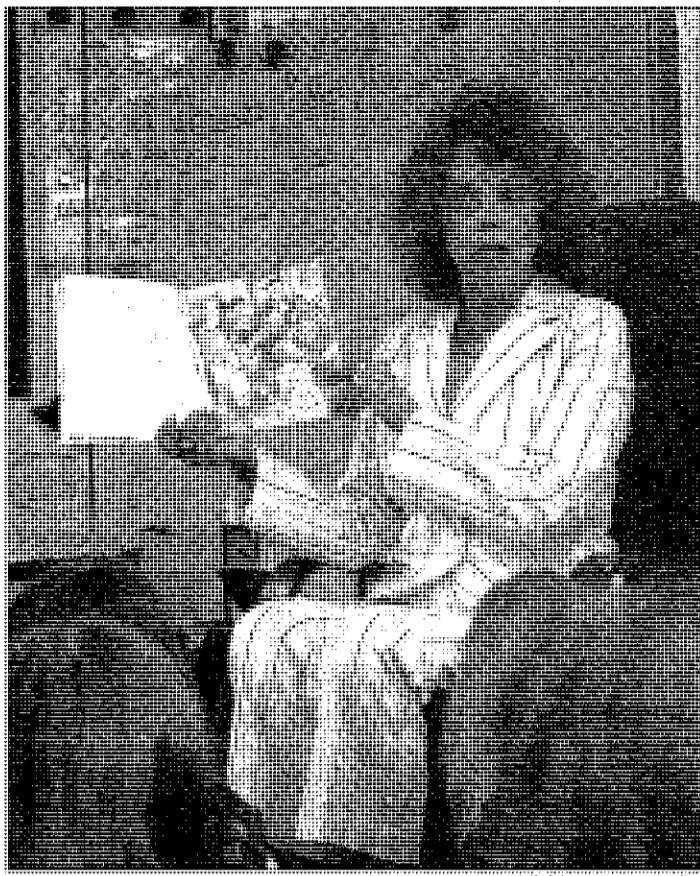
The Iraq war is a major concern for her, "we will hopefully get out of the mess we're in." A national health care policy also ranks high for Fedus: "Of course, the economy is a big issue, too." She's concerned about economic policy going back to the presidency of Ronald Reagan, Reaganomics, and the impact of subsequent Republican administrations on the economy.

Fedus had earlier advocated Obama as a vice president candidate. "Unfortunately, the politics have become a little nasty and they've picked on one another." She'd be pleased to see Clinton and Obama together on a ticket, but acknowledges Clinton likely wouldn't take the No. 2 job.

Fedus would like to see more women and minorities at the polls this year. "I hope that this will stimulate more interest" in voting.

Fedus, vice president for finance for the Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women, supports political candidates with her own money, including Clinton last year. She's supported Gary Peters in his bid against U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, an Oakland County Republican; Fedus has supported financially and voted for GOP candidates with whom she agrees.

Members of Plymouth-Canton AAUW were looking forward to their spring lun-



Mickey Edell, a speech and language pathologist for the Plymouth-Canton school district, is state president for the American Association of University Women. She's among women voters taking active roles in this year's election.

cheon April 19, and the chance to both catch up on what's new and discuss politics. State President Mickey Edell of Canton shared her thoughts on the presidential race.

"I am supporting either one of the Democrats who are running," said Edell, a speech and language pathologist in the

Plymouth-Canton schools. "I feel almost equally comfortable with either candidate."

Edell, who works at Hoben Elementary in Canton, likes that Clinton is strong and a seasoned politician. She also likes Obama's "message of change. Frankly, I think a ticket with both of them would

be ideal." She'd like for Clinton to consider the vice president spot.

"There just hasn't been much activity going on," said Edell, who's been active in past political campaigns and has supported candidates financially. She's done work through the Michigan Education Association, her teachers union, and with the Democratic Party.

The war in Iraq concerns Edell. "I think we need to look very closely at the billions of dollars that are being spent." She also lists women's rights, education and affordable health care "so that all people can have access."

Edell relies on TV for news, along with the MEA and National Education Association. She uses the AAUW Web site, which offers voting record information, and also likes discussions "with people who are well-versed."

"I think it's exciting," she said of a woman and black person seeking the top office. "There are so many other countries in the world that have had women leaders."

Edell initially thought women she knows would support Clinton. "I've had the gamut of response," with not all support for Clinton. "Just because she's a woman isn't the deciding factor for women." Edell agreed it's important to get women and young people to vote.

Sharon Belobraidich of Plymouth Township, a retired

Plymouth-Canton elementary teacher, is one of those being courted, the undecided voter. "I don't know," said Belobraidich, vice president for programs for the state AAUW, of her vote. "I really haven't made up my mind. I won't vote Republican because I don't believe in the war. I'm really in a quandary."

Belobraidich will donate money to a candidate if she feels strongly, and has done millage calls, but doesn't consider herself a "political person. I try to listen to what they say. I listen to all kind of different programs" across the political spectrum.

She reads *Time* and *Newsweek*, and other magazines with different slants. Belobraidich listens to debates, and will vote in November, although she's unhappy about Michigan's delegates not being seated at the Democratic convention.

Social Security's future is an issue for her, along with the Middle East. "I think the economy is a mess," said Belobraidich, who liked Mitt Romney's business background when he was in the GOP race.

Terrorism isn't as much of an issue for her ("You educate the children"), but she worries seeing friends lose their homes in Michigan's economy.

"It's just a sadness what's happening in this country because of greed," Belobraidich said.

Forum focuses on '60s civil rights movement

Oakland Community College will present a unique program featuring the memories of children and other relatives of Michigan's civil rights leaders in the 1960s.

Titled "A Civic Forum" the event will be held in the Smith Theatre of OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Presenters include Detroit City Council President Kenneth Cockrel, Jr., son of the late attorney, broadcaster and journalist Kenneth Cockrel; Dr. Kim Logan-Nowlin, niece of *Michigan Chronicle* publisher Sam Logan; Conrad Mallett, Jr., son of labor leader and educator Dr. Conrad Mallett; and Judge Wade Harper McCree, son of the late Judge Wade Hampton McCree, solicitor general of the United States in the Carter administration.

The presenters will respond to audience questions posed by the program's four facilitators - professors Les Biederman and Peter Stine of the Orchard Ridge Campus faculty, and Drs. Jackie Shadko and Gordon May, presidents of OCC's Orchard Ridge and Highland Lakes campuses, respectively.

For further information call the Orchard Ridge Campus president's office at (248) 522-3900.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Ample free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

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Wish You Were Here

Warm and sunny Cancun, Mexico, provided the backdrop for a photograph of John and Judy Lardin with their Westland Observer. The couple were vacationing in the popular resort town on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a Wish You Were Here picture with your Westland Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

Retirement planning

In 2006, the Government Accountability Office reported that, "The first wave of baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) will become eligible for Social Security early retirement benefits in 2008." January 2008 signaled the first of those baby boomers opting for early retirement at the age of 62. It's never too early to plan for retirement. Decisions regarding

finances, housing and even end of life issues need time and attention.

Whether retirement includes lounging by a pool, enjoying your family, earning that degree, or volunteering with your favorite organization, you need a plan. Check out Marika Stone's, "Too young to Retire: 100 Ways to Start the Rest of

Your Life," Richard Nelson Bolles's "What Color Is Your Parachute? For Retirement: Planning Now for the Life You Want," David Corbett's "Portfolio Life: The New Path to Work, Purpose and Passion after 50" or Elizabeth Vierck's "Keys to Volunteering."

Deciding where to retire can be much easier when you have some help. To get the ball rolling, check out Bernice Kohn Hunt's "Where Should I Live when I Retire?," David Savageau's "Retirement Places Rated: What You Need to Know to Plan the Retirement You Deserve" or Arthur Griffith's "50 Fabulous Places to Retire in America." No matter if you decide to stay where you are or venture into new surroundings, planning is important.

Investing in your financial future is smart. Learn how to best plan for your needs with Ellen Hoffman's "The retirement Catch-Up Guide: 54 Real Life Lessons to Boost Your Retirement Resources Now!," Mark Mills' "Boomers: Funding Your Future in an Age of Uncertainty," Paul Lim's "Financial Planning Demystified, Retire Worry-Free: Money-Smart Ways to Build the Nest Egg You'll Need from the Editors of Kiplingers Personal Finance" and Warren Buffett's "The Essays of Warren Buffett." Solid financial knowledge can provide a great foundation for your future.

The library is hosting two programs this month to help those interested in planning for their future. On Wednesday, April 23, Francis Heimes-Savickis from the Social Security Administration will provide an overview of Social Security programs and talk about how they can work for you - no matter your age.

On Wednesday, April 30, Andrew Gagne, associate financial advisor, will help you define retirement in your life and how you best can reach your retirement goals. Both programs will start at 7 p.m. and will allow for questions and answers.

For more information on this topic, visit library, call it at (734) 326-6123 or go on the Web to www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

Teen Poetry Slam: 7 p.m. April 21. Come see what all the fuss in poetry land is about! Teens recite and perform their own (or selected) poems for first-, second- and third-place prizes. The event will be emceed by Versiz, a Detroit-area slam poet, who also will give an electric performance of his own work. Teen performers, all audience members welcome. Stop by or call the library to reserve your seat.

Social Security and You: 7 p.m. April 23.

Join Francis Heimes-Savickis, Social Security Administration public affairs specialist, for an overview of Social Security programs and how they can work for you, no matter your age is. Learn how to access the many of the online services available at your fingertips. Stop by or call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

Retirement Planning for the Rest of Your Life: 7 p.m. April 30.

Join Andrew Gagne, an associate financial advisor, to learn how you can plan for a brighter retirement and make your retirement dreams become reality. Stop by the library to reserve your seat. Call (734) 326-6123.

Information Central is compiled by reference librarian Marilyn Kwik. The William P. Faust Public Library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons

use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are.

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May.

Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's

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Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

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Sports

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STUDY SHOWS INCREASE IN DRIVING COST

AAA's 2008 edition of Your Driving Costs shows the cost of driving a passenger vehicle in the U.S. has increased by 1.9 cents per mile in the last year and now averages 54.1 cents per mile.

"While the cost of some driving expenses declined since the start of 2007, higher gasoline prices have more than offset these savings and pushed the overall cost of vehicle ownership and operation higher this year," said Gerry Gutowski, senior vice president AAA Michigan Automotive Services.

In 2008, AAA estimates it will cost \$8, 121 to own and operate a new passenger car driven 15,000 miles per year. This compares to \$7,823 per year in 2007, or 52.2 cents per mile.

Costs of maintenance, full-coverage insurance and depreciation are all slightly lower this year, while costs for fuel, tires, financing, license, registration and taxes showed increases.

AAA's study calculates the average costs of owning and operating five top-selling models in three popular size classes: small, medium and large sedans. AAA's research shows the annual average cost of driving a small sedan is \$6,320 per year, while a large sedan costs \$9,769 per year.

Small sedan - Chevrolet Cobalt, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Corolla. Medium sedan - Chevrolet Impala, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Nissan Altima and Toyota Camry.

Large sedan - Buick Lucerne, Chrysler 300, Ford Five Hundred (renamed Taurus for 2008), Nissan Maxima and Toyota Avalon.

Though not part of the AAA composite average, SUV and minivan information has been included to help buyers estimate operating costs for these types of vehicles.

SUV models include the Chevrolet Trailblazer, Ford Explorer, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Nissan Pathfinder and Toyota 4Runner. Minivans are the Chevrolet Uplander, Dodge Grand Caravan, Kia Sedona, Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna.

The brochure can be downloaded from the Internet at AAA.com.

Annuity investor should have paid tax only on gain

Dear Rick: About a year ago I took your advice and moved money out of a high cost variable annuity. I paid approximately \$100,000 for the annuity and when I canceled it over 10 years later, it was worth about \$110,000.

It was not a mistake to cash out your annuity. After all, you held the annuity for over 10 years and during that time received a very low rate of return. Your investment earned less than 1 percent a year.

As for the tax consequence, I believe you made a mistake when you filed your tax return. You should not have reported the entire \$110,000 as taxable income.

Many people think annuities



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

operate the same way as IRAs but they do not. If you buy an annuity, in this case a nonqualified annuity (not part of an IRA or other qualified plan) your basis is what you initially invested into the annuity.

File an amended return by completing Form 1040X which is available from the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov.

There are two other issues that are important here. The first deals with who should prepare your tax returns. If you go to a professional, it is important to make sure that you are dealing with someone who maintains his or her skills with regards to taxes.

A perfect example of staying current on taxes is what happened

this year. In late December, legislation was enacted that created a patch for the alternative minimum tax. Without this, more people would have been subject to the alternative minimum tax.

The other issue is that many people are paying more in taxes. Particularly, mutual fund investors whose funds made significant capital gain distributions last year.

Although it is always painful to pay more in taxes, there are a couple of things to keep in mind.

The first is the goal should never be to lower our taxes. The goal should be to have more money in your pocket.

Recently in this area a man won a substantial lottery. Ultimately, he had to pay tens of millions of

dollars in taxes. However, I'm sure his focus is on the substantially greater amount of money that ended up in his pocket.

Another issue deals with the fact that most investors, when they received their capital gain distributions in December, had them reinvested increasing the number of shares they own.

Remember it's not what we pay in taxes, but what ends up in our pockets.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com.

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Family helps teen get through rejection

I'm a freshman. In the beginning of the year, my older sister told me not to get in a relationship with an older classman because I was just going to get hurt. As soon as school started, I disobeyed her and my family's wishes. Now, for eight months, through our ups and downs, I've been trying to fix my issues with this boy because I'm too attached. He said it's over, but come on, he's said that before ... right? Monica, what do I do? Attached Freshman
Garden City

It sounds like you really care about this boy. Unfortunately, it also sounds like he doesn't feel the same way about you. It's very hard to cope with rejection, especially if you and this boy have been going through an on-again, off-again pattern. It can be very confusing and we tend to hold on to hope that things will work out in the end when we have proof that it did in the past. He needs to make up his mind! And, you need to decide if you're willing to settle for someone that doesn't care as much about you as you do about him! Turn to your family for support; your sister obviously cares very much about you and doesn't like to see you get hurt. Your parents can help too; parents love us and nurture us and have a special way of healing our boo-boos ... even emotional ones!

Your sister and your family may say "I told you so" but they will be there to help you. Rely on their strength and go out and find someone that deserves you!

There's this girl that I think is really hot, but I don't know what I should say or do to get her attention. What should I do? Attention Getter
Garden City

First, the best relationships begin with a friendship. Find out if you have anything in common with this girl. Do you both enjoy sports, art, drama, or music? If so, work up the courage to introduce yourself and then talk about an upcoming event that you both would enjoy. If she seems interested, ask her if she'd like to go with you and your friends. You'll get the chance to see if she's as interesting as she is "hot" in a "no pressure" situation. One small warning: Don't change who you are in order to have something in common with this girl. If you do, eventually the real you will want to be known and the relationship will end. You might miss the chance to find your soul mate by pretending to be somebody you're not!

My friends, and a lot of people I know, seem fake and two-faced. It's getting me mad. What do I do? Keepin' It Real
Garden City

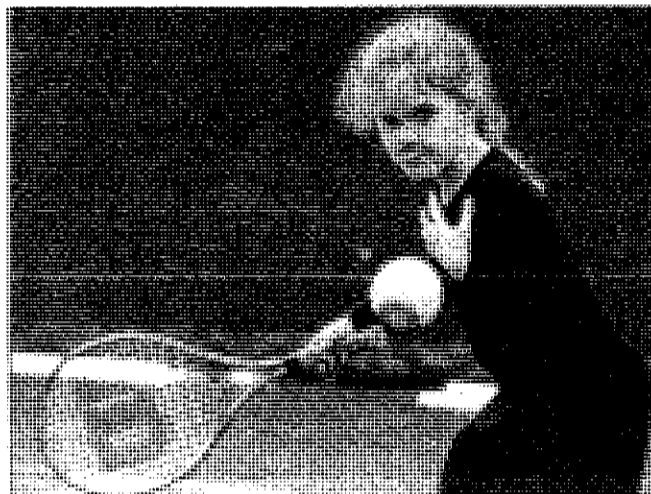
Finding out that friends haven't been acting like real friends can be very disappointing. If your friends don't really know who they are, or what they want to be like when they "grow up," it might seem as though they're acting like different people in different situations. In a way, they are! It's tough to know who you are when you're more than a kid, but not quite an adult yet. This time in your life is a time when you're discovering what kind of person you want to be.

And that means trying on different roles, attitudes, values, and even personality traits. However, if the people you're hanging with are behaving badly, acting rudely, or being just plain mean to other people, you might want to think about what qualities you want your friends to have. When you've decided what you want in a friend, talk to the people closest to you that are acting fake and let them know that you like their good qualities, not the ones they're "trying on." But, if your friends keep acting in a way that you feel is wrong, it's time to look for people that have the same values as you and make new friends!

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



Tennis students, from left, 4-year-old Jake Kelly, Delaney O'Dowd and Nate Luyben stand at the net waiting to return a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.



Five-year-old Paige Bailey keeps her eye on the ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.



Four-year-old Robert Page works with beach balls during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

LITTLE TENNIS CLASSES
What: Six-week sessions for ages 4-5, and 6-10. Cost \$40-\$77 per session
Livonia Recreation Center: Starts April 21. Call (734) 466-2900. Summer outdoor program starts June 17, (734) 466-2410 or www.ci.livonia.mi.us
Summit on the Park (Canton): Begins May 6. Call (734) 483-5600
Plymouth Canton After-School: Starts May 6 and 8. Call (734) 416-2937

Little Tennis

Lessons are fun for pint-size athletes

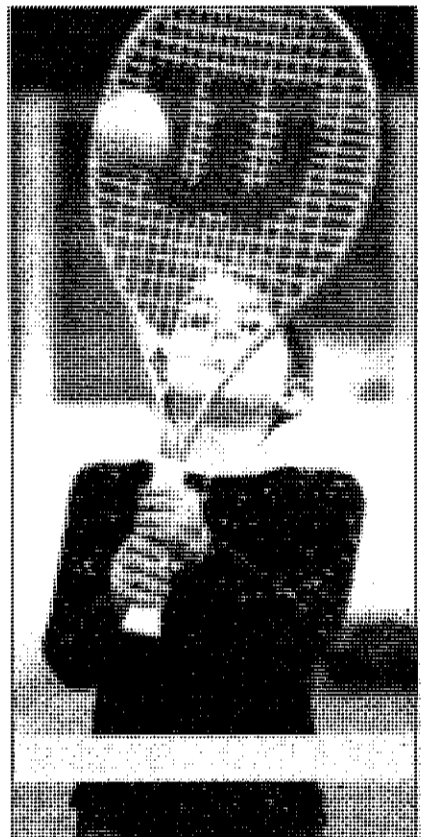
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Robert Page hides behind the racquet to ponder why he likes taking tennis classes at the Livonia Recreation Center. The 5-year-old boy can think of only one answer.

"It's lots of fun." That was the consensus of the more than one dozen 4- and 5-year-olds learning the basics from Karen Buddenborg and Chris Haddad. Josie Piergentili was so excited about getting onto the court the 5-year-old Livonia girl forgot her racquet.

Buddenborg and Haddad have downsized the game and use equipment like beach balls and bean bags to make learning enjoyable. The two Livonia women originally earned certification from the Little Tennis program of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association then came up with their own inventions like balls on a cable to teach their students how to swing. Little Tennis uses a games-based approach to hold a child's interest long enough to receive certificates for completing the six-week course.

"All equipment is tailored to a small child," said Buddenborg of Livonia. "They use smaller racquets, bigger balls which are easier to track for younger or less



Five-year-old Kennedy Marciw returns a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

Please see **TENNIS, C3**

Canton woman creates snail mail for lonely seniors

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cathy Donaldson loves doing things for others, so when she had to give up volunteering to baby-sit her grandson, the Canton woman came up with an idea to make a difference from home. Every quiet moment turned into making cards for older folks who had little contact with the outside world. Before long, Snail Mail for Seniors was born and Donaldson was busy organizing workshops at the Scrapbook Studio in Canton. The next session takes place Sunday, May 4.

SNAIL MAIL FOR SENIORS

What: A workshop to make greeting cards for seniors
When: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, May 4
Where: Scrapbook Studio, 43411 Joy at Morton Taylor, Canton.
For details, visit www.snailmail-forseniors.com or send e-mail to snailsmiles@hotmail.com

"My own grandmother was in a nursing home for many years and had visitors, but that's not always the case," Donaldson

Please see **SNAIL MAIL, C2**



Cathy Donaldson (right) talks about the Snail Mail project she runs where volunteers create cards to send to seniors in nursing homes. Seated from left are Richelle Fales, Deb Otting, Sue Kalis, and Katie Stam (Donaldson's daughter).

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Shakespeare fest seeks actors

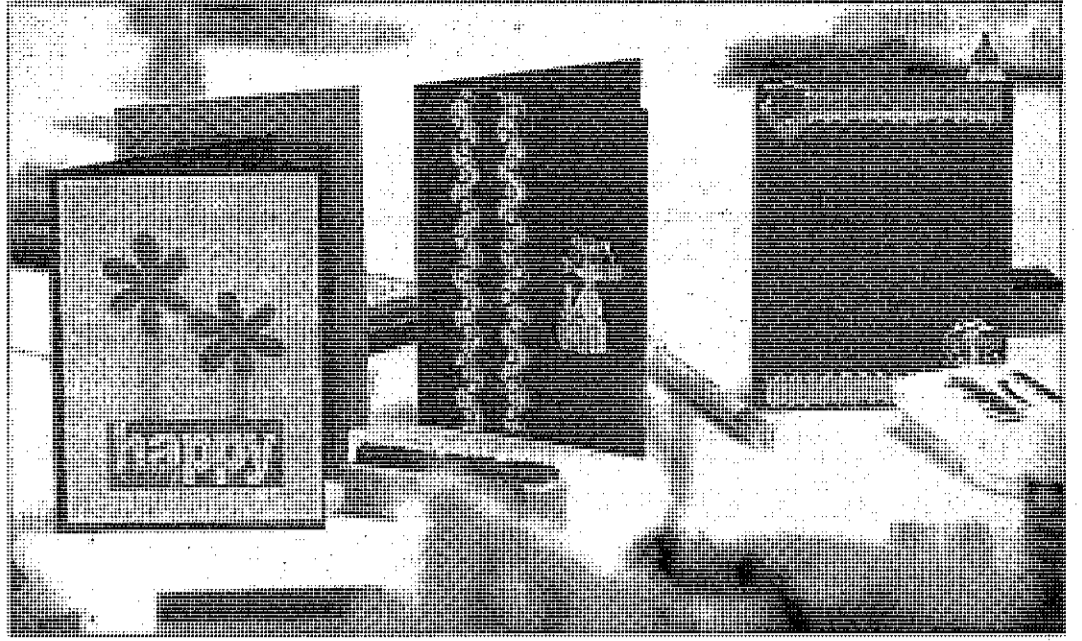
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Geoffrey Kopp is excited about bringing Shakespeare to the community this July. As artistic director of the festival, Kopp is hoping that audiences gain a new understanding of the classic plays, *Twelfth Night* and *Henry IV, Part I*. Kopp's directed Shakespeare a number of times, including Hamlet at Western Michigan University, and played the lead role in *Titus Andronicus* at Schoolcraft College. He taught theater and directed productions at Plymouth Salem High School for two years before becoming a stay-at-home dad. "It's a way for the audience to be exposed to Shakespeare and it provides an opportunity for local actors interested in doing works of Shakespeare,"

said Kopp. "It's not done often in community theater because Shakespeare doesn't sell as well. I want them to be relevant and exciting. It's the same script by Shakespeare but presented in modern times and dress." Kopp is already beginning the process of selecting his acting ensemble by holding auditions for The Village Shakespeare Festival 2008 Acting Ensemble Monday-Tuesday, April 28-29, at The Village Theater of Cherry Hill in Canton. The rotating repertory runs July 23-26, and July 30 to Aug. 2. Actors need to prepare a Shakespeare monologue to audition for the festival supported by the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities. "Part of the challenge is presenting the plays with four

sides of the stage," said Kopp, a graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia. "One company of actors will be in both productions so that will be a challenge for the actor. We're looking for anyone who is interested in Shakespeare from high school age on up because they have to memorize two plays at once. I've already had interest from college students and members of community theater. As long as you have a willingness to work hard and learn. For me as a director and for audience members it's interesting to see them perform diverse roles. The plays share a lot of similar scenes, one's comedy, one history. Thematically there's some similar things. If you see both productions one will inform the other one."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer scrappers put their tools to work creating cards to be sent to seniors in nursing homes as part of the Snail Mail project.

SNAIL MAIL

FROM PAGE C1

said. "Something as small as a card or something to hang up on their wall gives them so much joy, lets them know someone is thinking about them."

Donaldson currently mails cards to nearly 300 seniors in nine nursing and assisted-living centers, including the Lutheran Home in Livonia, Medilodge of Plymouth and Four Chaplains Nursing Care in Westland, as well as private residences, every six weeks. Since August, neighbors, friends, family and strangers have created hundreds of Thinking of You notes with Donaldson's large collection of rubber stamps, but she could always use more help.

While the Scrapbook Studio is serving as a dropoff site for donations of store-bought greeting cards, volunteers are needed to assemble the bulk of the cheerful messages. The Canton Meals on Wheels program alone requires 60 cards per month. Donations of paper would also be greatly appreciated. Donaldson is paying for postage from a small stipend her grandmother left her.

"It makes me feel good doing this," Donaldson said. "I love getting my kids and family involved."

Donaldson's daughter Lauren, 16, walks around the store picking up items for a scrapbook she's working on at home.

"I like doing crafts and it's nice to help people too," said Lauren Donaldson, a student at Plymouth Salem High School. When Lauren was younger, she used to draw pictures for her great-grandmother, Cathy's grandmother.

Several of the volunteers at a recent workshop were into scrapbooking. Richelle Fales, Donaldson's neighbor, likes to come with her daughter, Amber. She thinks it's wonderful Donaldson wants to reach out to lonely seniors. Deb Otting of Canton wants to support Donaldson's efforts to



Volunteers, from left, Kathy Edwards, Trish Geick, and Lauren Donaldson work on creating cards to be sent to seniors in nursing homes for the Snail Mail project.

brighten seniors lives.

Katie Stam of Canton admits she likes scrapbooking and gluing ribbons to everything, so when her mother asked her to help with the project, she said yes.

"It's important to do something for other people," said Stam, Donaldson's older daughter.

Scrapbooker Kathy Edwards of Canton decided to come for exactly the same reason. "I thought it was wonderful they were bringing cheer," Edwards said.

Trish Geick volunteers to make the cards because Donaldson always helps her with a bowling fund-raiser for scholarships in memory of her son Brian. She was there "because it's a nice thing to do."

Sue Kalis taught grades K-6, so she's done a lot of cutting and pasting over the years. The Canton woman belongs to a stamp club, the Midnight Stampers, who meet in Farmington Hills.

"It's lots of fun," said Kalis, who taught in the Wayne-Westland and Plymouth-Canton school districts before retiring.

Donaldson appreciates all of the help, regardless of the reason. She regularly finds cards in her mailbox from Hollyann Stewart, a student at All Saints School in Canton, and Cameron and Courtney Hunter, students at Canton Charter Academy. Mrs.

Schwartz's class at Isbister Elementary helped make Valentine's Day cards and created bunnies for Easter. The Girl Scouts have made cards as well.

"It's growing," said Donaldson, who'd like to start a newsletter with jokes and brain teasers for seniors. "If kids 3 years old want to make something, they love anything kids make, love things that are hand-made. Any donations are welcome — or if they know someone who could use the service — donations of paper, envelopes. There might even be card stores that want to donate. We need postage stamps. If they can't come to the Sunday sessions, they can still help out."

Donaldson finds cards on eBay and at garage sales. She says she can't use get well or birthday cards, but Thinking of You or blank cards are perfect.

"I think it's great what she's doing," said Mary Kunka, who owns the Scrapbook Studio with her sister Michelle Gates. In the past, the two Canton women have held badge workshops for Girl Scouts and had them make cards and then gave the notes of cheer to assisted-living facilities. They donate store space for the Snail Mail workshops.

"One day, we're going to be at that age," Kunka said.

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Livonia Symphony welcomes spring with concert

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra closes its season with Czech This Liszt, a concert featuring Czechoslovakian composers, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Churchhill High School auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

Conductor Volodymyr Shesniuk leads the orchestra for the program featuring Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 (Carnival at

Pesth) and Antonin Dvorak's New World Symphony. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$5 children and students, and available at all Livonia libraries or at the door before the concert. For group sales of 10 or more, call (313) 538-2536. Members of the symphony are busy this April and May presenting outreach programs at elementary schools in the Livonia and Clarenceville school districts. On Saturday, May 31,

they hold a fund-raiser at Laurel Manor. The Spring Garden Luncheon includes entertainment by the Livonia Symphony Chamber Ensemble. There will be a garden theme auction and raffle. The Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe will feature sweet treats. The cost for the May 31 fund-raiser is \$25. For more information, call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livoniasymphony.com.

Webkinz Day Extravaganza offers fun for all ages

Thrifty Florist will be party central Friday-Sunday, April 25-27, in advance of Webkinz Day in Webkinz World April 29. The weekend before, all Thrifty Florist locations, will host events with games, prizes and treats for Webkinz fans of all ages. Webkinz pets will be given out to the first 500 cus-

tomers at each store who make a minimum \$10 purchase of any items from the store. For more information, log onto www.thriftyflorist.com. Visitors can download an entry form and coloring pages for a contest where the winner in each age group at every store wins a gift basket full of

Webkinz prizes. Webkinz combine the fun of plush pets with the Internet to give kids a virtual world where they can play and safely chat using constructed messaging. Webkinz World was recently received the Best of the Web Award from the Internet safety group wiresafety.org.

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TENNIS

FROM PAGE C1

experienced players."

Haddad and Buddenborg began teaching tennis to 6-10-year-olds at the rec center in 2004 and later added the 4-5-year-old class.

"Parents were asking if there was anything for their siblings," said Haddad of Livonia. "They're successful right away with cable balls then move on to balloons then beach balls then transition balls."

"Activity such as hitting over a net can be difficult. We teach them to swing along the floor first," said Buddenborg who met Haddad on a tennis court where they were taking their first lesson 17 years ago.

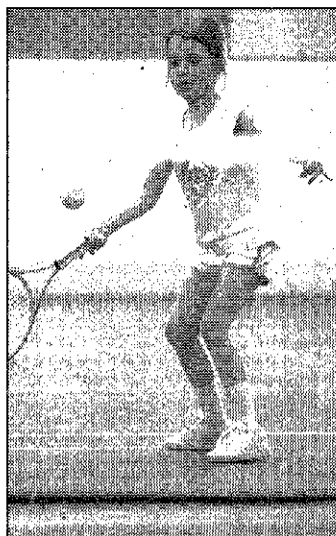
On this afternoon the two friends were having as much fun as the kids and have no plans to take a vacation anytime soon. Pre-school and ages 6-10 tennis starts April 21 and 23, at the Livonia rec center.

Haddad and Buddenborg have a busy summer ahead with classes at Summit on the Park in Canton, Lifetime Fitness in Novi, and the after school program in the Plymouth-Canton district. An outdoor summer program is being offered through Livonia Parks and Recreation.

"It's an introduction to a wonderful game" said Pru Pfeifer of Livonia. Pfeifer was assisting Haddad and Buddenborg. "Tennis is a game you can play all your life."

Jim Page enjoys playing tennis as much as his son Robert. He and Robert's grandmother Joan Flohr were watching outside the gymnasium. Flohr played twice a week for years.

"It teaches the basics, more than just hitting the ball back and forth," said Jim Page, "and it makes him adapt to a group quicker. He goes to swimming and pre-school. It helped with all these things to join a group quicker."



Six-year-old Julia Rintala returns a ball during tennis lessons at the Livonia Recreation Center.

John Caloia brings his daughter Noelle to the classes for a therapeutic reason. The 5 1/2-year old Livonia girl was completing her second session.

"She has CP (cerebral palsy) with limited use of right extremities," said Caloia. "It helps with balance, eye-hand coordination. She has swimming in 20 minutes, ballet on Saturday, soccer. She enjoys it."

Four-year-old John Paul Jabbour dropped out after only two classes but his sister Isabella is having fun and their brother Michael, 2, is already walking around with a racquet in his hand.

"It's something different," said Moj Jabbour, their mother. "It's a good form of exercise in the winter months, something to keep them moving."

Before long class was over and it was time for the 6-10 year olds to line up at the net. The kids rarely missed the balls Buddenborg lobbed their way.

"She started taking (lessons) when she was 5 and has been taking them on and off since then," said Jodi Krawczak of her daughter Emily, 7, a first grade student at Randolph Elementary in Livonia.

"She does it because it's fun."

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Concert to raise money, awareness for Kids Against Hunger

The Birchler family of Livonia is hosting 'Jammin' to end Famine, a concert to benefit Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the U.S. and throughout the world. The concert begins 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. The show features five bands, The Strangers, The B-Bros, The Paisley Fogg, 2 Dayz Gone, and Scratch, with music from the '60s to '90s. The groups are all manned by members of the extended Birchler family.

"I am thrilled to have my four brothers and two sons perform on the same stage," said Tom Birchler. "This will also be the 25th year reunion of Scratch, my band from the '80s and these guys are like brothers to me."

Kids Against Hunger uses volunteers to set up food

packaging satellites through partnerships with humanitarian organizations. This enables KAH to deliver its specially formulated rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in more than 40-countries.

"As the immediate past-president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, I was very touched when my brother Tom suggested this event to raise money for Kids Against Hunger, our major project over the past three years," said John Birchler. "As a club we have donated over \$50,000 and thousands of hours in support of this great cause. We have now assisted Kids Against Hunger in packaging over 1 million meals."

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door or in advance by sending e-mail to tbirchler@twmi.rr.com.

For information about Kids Against Hunger, visit www.feedingchildren.org.



Members of The Paisley Fogg band include (from front to rear) Tommy Anderson; Dave, Keith and Tom Birchler, and Ron Graham. The group performs for the Jammin' to End Famine benefit concert Friday, April 25, at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.

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A physician hearing such a complaint faces two dilemmas. First, diagnosing the cause of all-body pain is difficult. Patients with fibromyalgia often experience the problem, and patients taking intense cancer chemotherapy may have a similar response to their therapy. But if the patient does not have fibromyalgia or is not under treatment for cancer, then the doctor has little to work from to pursue a diagnosis.

The second problem is treatment. The patient comes to obtain relief, but without a diagnosis, the physician has no guidelines for treatment of the pain. The experience of the medical community is that giving trials of steroids or narcotics only causes a rebound of pain when the cortisone or Voodoo stops.

The way to evaluate and treat hurting-all-over remains an answered question in medicine today. Answers are not likely to come forward soon, as research dollars are focused on cancer, heart disease, and hypertension. When health policy makers recognize the magnitude of work time lost and personal life compromised by this pervasive pain, perhaps funds for research will become available and improved treatment will appear.

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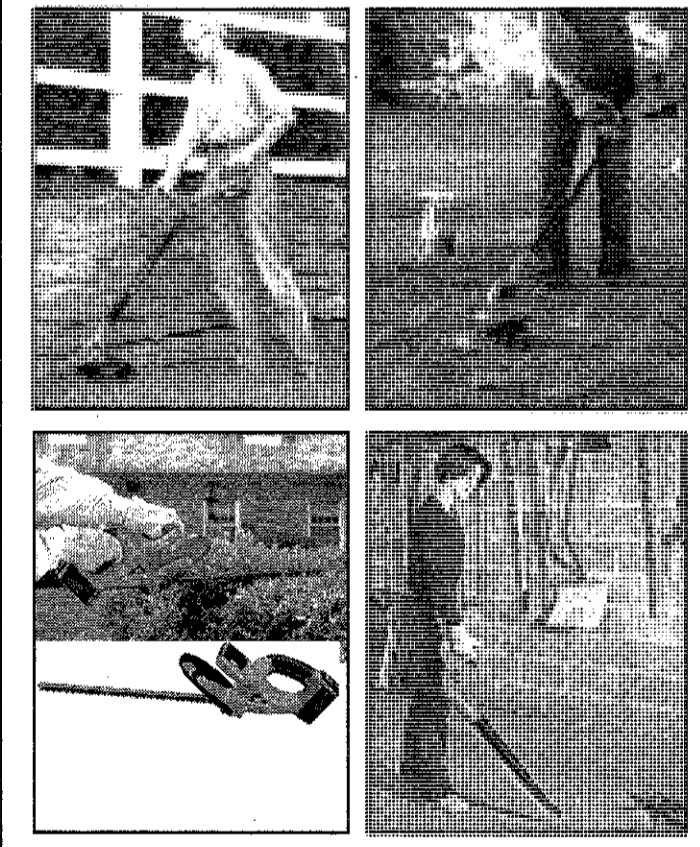
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3 AT THIS PRICE - 164 AVAILABLE



NEW 2008 FORD EDGE SE!

Featuring...air conditioning, power windows, AM/FM/CD/MP3 Sound system, speed control

\$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE

BUY FOR \$20,484+

\$249²⁴ MO

\$317²⁴ MO

BUY FOR \$21,045+

\$284²⁴ MO

\$332²⁴ MO

\$1,483 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
9 AT THIS PRICE - 266 AVAILABLE

\$1,225 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
3 AT THIS PRICE - 40 AVAILABLE



NEW 2008 FORD FUSION SE!

Featuring...automatic transmission, AM/FM/CD, power windows, and locks, speed control

\$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE

BUY FOR \$16,401+

\$195³⁶ MO

\$225³⁶ MO

BUY FOR \$24,079+

\$343²⁴ MO

\$408²⁴ MO

\$1,147 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
25 AT THIS PRICE - 214 AVAILABLE

\$1,594 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
5 AT THIS PRICE - 62 AVAILABLE



NEW 2008 FORD EXPLORER XLT!

Featuring...moonroof, Sirius satellite radio, power windows, locks & drivers seat, 3rd row seat, conv. group, speed control

\$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE

BUY FOR \$19,937+

\$290³⁶ MO

\$336³⁶ MO

BUY FOR \$19,539+

\$264²⁴ MO

\$329²⁴ MO

\$1,623 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
3 AT THIS PRICE - 145 AVAILABLE

\$1,533 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
3 AT THIS PRICE - 245 AVAILABLE



NEW 2008 FORD F150 4X4 SLT SUPERCAB!

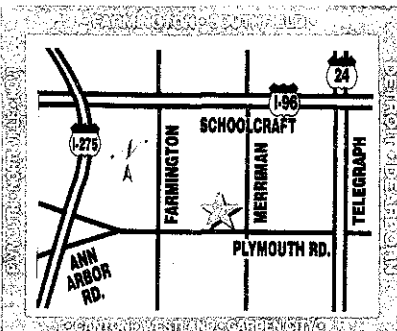
Featuring...sliding rear window, power windows & locks, speed control, tilt, remote start, Tow & Go

\$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE

\$264²⁴ MO

\$329²⁴ MO

\$1,533 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*
3 AT THIS PRICE - 245 AVAILABLE



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