



Local attorney charged in traffic accident death – Local news, A3

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THURSDAY

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PLYMOUTH Observer

Face it
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Pipeline

Top teachers

Faith Clay, a fourth-grade teacher at Bemis Elementary School in the Troy school district, and Vicki Shaw, a third-grade teacher at Gill Elementary School in Farmington Public Schools, are the February Teachers of the Month for the *Observer* & *Eccentric Newspapers*. Both the Troy and Farmington districts are on mid-winter break this week, so look for the Teacher Feature with picture and story honoring Clay and Shaw in next Thursday's editions of the *Observer* & *Eccentric Newspapers*.

Hot chili

Not bad for a first time. The Plymouth Salvation Army, sponsoring its first chili cookoff and basket auction Sunday, raised more than \$565 to contribute to its World Services goal for the year. Despite less-than-ideal weather conditions, more than 50 people showed up at the Army's hall on Main Street to participate. Baskets donated by Horton Plumbing (\$50) and Backyard



Birds (\$35) were the night's biggest draws and brought in the highest bids. "Considering it's the first time we've attempted anything like this, we were very pleased with the outcome," said Maj. Stephen Hull, Plymouth commander.

Military honored

When terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush committed the country to tracking down those people who make up the axis of evil, including Saddam Hussein. Sixteen months later, the U.S. military is gearing up for war. Enlisted men and women, both on active duty and in the reserves, are being sent to the Middle East in a military buildup not seen since the Persian Gulf War more than a decade ago. The mood of the country is mixed as Americans debate whether to give Hussein more time to come clean on his weapons of mass destruction or finish what was started Jan. 16, 1991. The *Observer* wants to honor our local men and women who are serving in the military, both in active duty and in the reserves.

Family members can send photographs of their loved ones along with their name, rank and biographical information, to Brad Kadrich, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170. Be sure to include your name and telephone number.

We will publish the photos on an ongoing basis to recognize their commitment to this country. If you have questions, call Brad Kadrich (Plymouth) or Doug Johnson (Canton) at (734) 459-2700, or e-mail Kadrich at bkadrich@oe.hometownlife.com.



PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Altagracia Jimenez-Brown administers the pre-surgery medication to Imanol Duran as nurse Vicky Hladysch and William Brown look on.

Chance for a new life

Dominican boy sails through corrective foot surgery

Second of two parts
BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Altagracia Jimenez-Brown grips the cup of hospital coffee the way a drowning woman might hold a lifesaver.

Her 18-month-old charge, Imanol Duran, has finally been wheeled into surgery at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, some 11 days after the diminutive Dominican child had originally been scheduled to have his clubfeet corrected. Jimenez-Brown, Imanol's foster mother for his four-month stay in the United States, can finally relax as the turning point in Alta and Imanol's Excellent Adventure arrived.

"You look calmer," a nurse tells Jimenez-Brown moments after she placed Imanol in the skilled hands and warm hearts of the medical staff at Annapolis, the Oakwood Healthcare Systems facility being donated for Imanol's surgery.

"I've had that first cup," Jimenez-



Alta comforts Imanol following the surgery. He was fussing quite a bit until she held him and then he fell right to sleep.

PLEASE SEE SURGERY, A6

Slavens seeks 2nd term

School board petitions available, due April 7

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton school board Vice President Mark Slavens believes leaving the school board in the middle of a budget crisis would be the wrong decision.

In fact, Slavens figures now is the time the school board needs experienced people to step up and guide it through financially stressed times.

With that said, the Canton Township resident announced he'll seek a second 4-year term on the school board in the election scheduled for June 9.

"I don't want to leave when the times are getting tough," said Slavens. "We're going

to have very difficult times coming up for this school district, and I don't believe now is the time for me to leave.

"I think the board needs some experienced board members, and I feel I can help solve the financial problems we'll be facing," Slavens said.

Superintendent Jim Ryan predicts Plymouth-Canton Schools will face a \$9 million budget deficit in the 2003-04 school year.

Slavens said the board has achieved a lot the past four years.

"We've brought in three schools under budget and on time, and I'm proud of that," he said. "There was also a point in time when there were some proposed policy changes that would have taken the community's say out of some board decisions. I helped make sure those policies didn't go into effect, and the community's voice was

PLEASE SEE SLAVENS, A4

Homeowners will start over in drive to change boundary

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

The school district boundary dividing the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren districts might as well be the Great Wall of China to a group of residents trying to get it redrawn.

Residents in Huntington Place and Huntington Place II subdivisions, near Geddes and Beck, want the boundary redrawn so that their children can attend Plymouth-Canton schools, mainly because Plymouth-Canton schools are closer to their homes and because test scores are higher in that district.

Residents Mark Dixon and Houshun Zhang led a petition

effort to get the boundary changed. They spent six months collecting signatures from 90 percent of homeowners, but recently learned they had to start over.

In cases of dual home ownership, both owners must sign the petition, Dixon said.

"It's bureaucratic red tape," Dixon said.

It is frustrating to live close to a school your children are not allowed to attend, said Dixon, whose daughter attends Belleville High, eight miles away. The closest Van Buren elementary, Tyler, is six miles away.

In comparison, Dodson

PLEASE SEE BOUNDARY, A4

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C5 Badia a Coltibuono, one of Tuscany's
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F2 Wine by Ray and Eleanor Heald.
D1



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City readies for Citizens Academy

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

How does your tax money really get put to use?

Plymouth residents will get a bird's-eye view about the inner workings of the city during the first Citizens Academy, scheduled for March 19-May 5.

"Many people don't know what goes on behind City Hall doors, ordinance enforcement, or why we have a lot of guys standing around at a water main break," said Scott Cabauatan, the city's Neighborhood Services coordinator. "It's outreach that needs to be done so our citizens can learn how we serve them."

The Citizens Academy will run for eight weeks, and includes meeting with city commissioners and the Downtown Development Authority; separate nights talking with law enforcement officers, parks and recreation officials and members of the fire department; as well as hearing from the city clerk, treasurer, finance director and building department.

"It's not all going to be at City Hall," said Cabauatan. "We'll take them to the Municipal Services Department to show them the equipment and what it takes to fix a water break. They'll see, upfront, the improvements at the Cultural Center. And, we'll take them to Fire Station No. 3, at Beck and North Territorial, to demonstrate the new fire rescue units and try on some of the gear."

"There will also be a night of senior services, which consists of the Council on Aging, the Housing Department and information on senior transportation," he said.

Cabauatan noted the first seven sessions will be on Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30 p.m. The last session is scheduled on a Monday, which will be a graduation ceremony during a city commission meeting.

Enrollment will be limited to the first 19 city residents who sign up. Cabauatan said if openings remain, Plymouth Township residents would be welcome to attend.

"We hope the Citizens Academy will help eliminate some of the questions residents have about how the city operates," said Cabauatan. "And, by increasing their knowledge of the city, maybe some residents will want to get involved and volunteer on one of the city's boards and commissions."

Anyone interested in enrollment for the Citizens Academy can contact Scott Cabauatan at (734) 453-7737, ext. 108, or e-mail him at citizensacademy@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

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KIWANIS GOLF OUTING

The Kiwanis of Colonial Plymouth is planning its 21st-annual Kiwanis Golf Outing and Feast.

The event will be played on the Golden Fox course at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club in Plymouth Thursday, Aug. 7.

Reservations can be made by calling Rob Noel, (734) 453-6000.

SYMPHONY CONCERT

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra brings the sounds of Russia's White Nights to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8 for an evening of Russian classical music, featuring the violin virtuosity of PSO Concert Master Juliana Athayde and the Our Lady of Good Counsel Handbell Choir under the direction of Dr. Michele Johns.

The concert will mark Athayde's final performance with the symphony, before pursuing a professional career in the larger world of classical music. To celebrate this final performance, Athayde, accompanied by the PSO, will perform Prokofiev's Troika! from Lieutenant Kije, Shostokovich's Symphony No. 5 in D minor and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto Op. 35.

Athayde's accomplishments belie her youth. She has played violin for 19 of her 21 years, studying with such well-known masters as Zoya Leybin of the San Francisco Symphony, University of Michigan School of Music Professor Paul Kantor and the renowned virtuoso Pinchas Zuckerman. She has performed with the Young People's Symphony Orchestra, the Diablo Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony, where she was a featured soloist during 11 performances of its "Concerts for Kids" series.

A Bay Area native, she was concertmaster with the San Francisco Youth Orchestra for three years before moving east to study music at the U-M. She earned her bachelor's degree last year.

An art exhibit, featuring Felix Braslavsky, an internationally prominent Russian artist, will begin at 6:45 pm in the OLCG Gathering Space. ONSTAGE, a pre-concert discussion begins at 7:15 pm.

Individual concert tickets are

\$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and \$10 for college students. School-age children (K-12) are admitted free. For more information, please contact the Symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or, by e-mail at plymouthsymphony@aol.com.

PERSONAL GROWTH CLASS

The Living Well Counseling Center in Plymouth offers a free personal growth class, "The Five Love Languages," from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 8.

The class will focus on activities designed to help participants understand what makes them feel loved so they can ask for it, and learn what makes the other person feel loved so they can give it. These concepts can be applied to family members, friends or co-workers.

The class is led by licensed professional counselor Suzanne Hamilton. The center is located at 340 N. Main, Suite #317 in Plymouth. Space is limited. Reservations can be made by e-mailing Hamilton at SuzanneLivingWell@hotmail.com or by calling (248) 910-8332.

CHILDREN'S CENTER APPLICANTS

In an effort to place 40 children in foster care or adoptive homes, the Foster Care and Adoption Department at The Children's Center will host a recruitment event Wednesday, Feb. 26. This is the first in a series of events the department will host this year.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster care or adoptive parent is welcome and encouraged to attend the informational event. Its purpose is to give potential applicants an overview of the services the agency provides, explain qualifications and discuss what is expected of those who accept responsibility. Light refreshments will be served.

The Children's Center is located at 100 W. Alexandrine in downtown Detroit. Attendees are being asked to park in the adjoining lot.

Those interested in applying to become a foster care or adoptive parent must be at least 25 years old, in good health, have a stable income, and own, rent or lease a clean house, condominium, apartment or flat. Individuals can be married or single. The assessment process takes about six to eight weeks to complete, during which

time applicants must complete 12 hours of pre-service/special needs training, and provide information such as verification of employment, five personal references and a recent medical report.

Those interested in attending the recruitment event should reserve a place by contacting Kimberly Garrett-Goree at 313.831.5520, ext. 1354.

NEWCOMER MIXER

Plymouth Newcomers hosts a membership mixer from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28.

Anyone interested in joining this non-profit social group is invited to attend. Current members will also be in attendance and can answer questions regarding the group.

For more information contact Diane Peyton at jpeyton224716@comcast.net or at (734) 354-9519.

PARENTING SEMINAR

"Understanding Your Teenager," a lively, informative seminar given by nationally known speaker and author Dave Veerman, will be presented from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 22, at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

Dave Veerman has worked for 26 years with Youth for Christ, including serving as National Campus Life Director for Youth for Christ/USA.

He has authored 27 books, including *Getting Your Kid to Talk* and *Parent Passages*.

Tickets for the seminar are \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. The church is located at 45201 North Territorial in Plymouth, south of M14 and west of Sheldon Road. To register, contact the church at (734) 453-5280. For more information, contact Youth Director George Hunger at the church.

FINAL CONCERT

St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth hosts the second and final of its concert/lecture series with a "Piano Four Hands Concert" at 4 p.m. March 16, followed by the lecture, "How is Your IQ - Intimacy Quotient, That Is!" at 6 p.m.

The recital takes place in the sanctuary at St. John's, with a

reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Piano Four Hands is music written or arranged for piano duets, played on one keyboard. Sue Ann Vaderbeck Lenz, professor of music at Mary Grove College, joins Elaine Grover, Mary Grove's associate professor of music and a former St. John's music director, for the recital.

Paulette Grotrain, communication professor at Washtenaw Community College, presents the lecture.

The program is free, although free-will gifts will be accepted. For more information, call Michael Brittenback, assistant to the Rector for Music Ministry, St. John's Episcopal Church, (734) 453-0190.

AUCTION CLASS

Learn the basics of buying and selling through on-line auction sites in a Plymouth District Library class. The hands-on class will be offered 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 28. Topics covered include buying and selling effectively, how to list items for sale, shipping and payment options.

Call (734) 453-0750, extension 4, or visit the Reader's Advisory desk. Early registration is recommended.

CAREER WOMEN LUNCHEON

Donna Marie, president of Donna Marie Consulting and Training, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of the National Association of Career Women - West Suburban chapter. The meeting is planned for 11:45 to 1:30 p.m. at Ernesto's Restaurant, 4161 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Cost is \$18 per member, \$22 for non-members. Please RSVP with Brenda Durling, (734) 462-4670.

GOODFELLOWS MEET

The Plymouth Goodfellows will have a spring wrap-up meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 at the Plymouth District Library. Main business will include election of officers and fund-raising possibilities. Contact Betty Nolan, 459-6928 or Penny Irwin, 453-4007 with questions.

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SLAVENS

FROM PAGE A1

allowed to continue to be spoken."

Board member Marcy Staley has already announced she will not seek re-election. She said she will use the time to care for her mother, who has been diagnosed with macular degeneration.

Staley was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Steve Guile in December 2001. She then ran in June 2002 for the one-year unexpired term, defeating Debra Madonna.

"I will miss being on the board," Staley said. "I've enjoyed my tenure, as short as it might seem to some people. If you add it on to the time I've spent on the housing committee and community council, it's been a long career."

Nominating petitions are now available for any resident of the school district who is registered to vote. Petition forms are available at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center at 454 S. Harvey Street in Plymouth.

Nominating petitions must be turned in by Monday, April 7, at 4 p.m.

Candidates can either collect a minimum of 40 signatures of registered voters in the Plymouth-Canton school district, or, as an alternative, pay a \$100 filing fee.

The last day a candidate can withdraw from the ballot is Thursday, April 10.

Any questions concerning the June 9 election can be directed to elections clerk Liz Adams at (734) 416-3095.

tblrcscato@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 459-2700

BROE

FROM PAGE A1

difficult to win."

The city ticketed the Broe supported-living homes at 338, 347 and 378 Farmer in October, claiming they are businesses being run in a residential neighborhood.

Neighbors have complained about the Broe residents, claiming they were accosted by residents who regularly use vulgarity, fight and cause other public nuisances at the homes.

Nearly a month later, attorneys for Broe Rehabilitation filed a federal lawsuit, alleging discrimination against the closed-head-injury patients who live at the three addresses.

Bator said the issue became a Fair Housing Act question when residents in Old Village suggested Broe reduce the number of homes in their neighborhood.

Mayor Bill Graham said he's satisfied the matter is over, but displeased with the amount of the settlement.

"I still think \$14,000 is an outrageous number," he said. "Their goal was to penalize us for challenging them."

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BOUNDARY

FROM PAGE A1

Elementary, a Plymouth-Canton school, is less than a mile from Huntington Place, and the high school complex is four miles away.

In Canton, like many other communities in Michigan, the school district boundaries tend to be jagged. That's because when they were first drawn, they followed people's individual property lines and farms, said Terry Bennett, Canton Township clerk.

"You don't cut somebody's property in half," Bennett said.

This means the boundary dividing the Huntington Place and Pheasant View subdivision to the north may have, at one time, divided one family's farm from another.

But these old boundaries mean little to people now.

"Are these boundaries etched in stone?" Dixon said. It would make more sense to use major roads as boundaries for school districts today, he added.

Zhang said he and many of his neighbors previously sent their kids to Van Buren schools. Now, 73 percent of the school-age children in the subdivisions either attend private or charter schools. Concerns about lower test scores in Van Buren prompted Zhang and others to explore other options.

Zhang's two sons, ages 8 and 11, attend Canton Charter Academy on Ford at Ridge. His youngest son previously attended Tyler Elementary in Van Buren.

"The driving force is education. You can see there are substantial differences between the two districts," Zhang said.

The most recent figures from 2001 show 42.5 percent of Van Buren students passed the MEAP test compared to 62.9 percent of Plymouth-Canton students.

Money is a key issue for both school districts. Van Buren gets \$6,718 per pupil in state foundation grants

Different demographics

Demographically, the Van Buren and Plymouth-Canton school districts are quite different. Van Buren's total enrollment is 6,219 students and Plymouth-Canton's is 16,334.

In Van Buren, an average of 24.4 percent of the student population is "economically disadvantaged," according to the Standard & Poor's school evaluation Web site. In Plymouth-Canton, that percentage is 5.7 percent.

Median household income in Van Buren is \$44,198 compared to \$54,388 in Plymouth-Canton. Adults with bachelor's degrees in Van Buren log in at 18.2 percent compared to 31.8 percent in Plymouth-Canton.

Average property values per student are also quite different. In Van Buren, it is \$151,942 and in Plymouth-Canton, it is \$234,903.

The gap is narrower in some areas. In Van Buren, 82.1 percent of adults possess a high school diploma compared to 89.9 in Plymouth-Canton. Lone-parent households with children make up 13.4 percent in Van Buren, 11.1 percent in Plymouth-Canton.

Source: www.ses.standarandpoors.com.

and stands to lose if the boundary is changed. Plymouth-Canton gets \$6,525 per pupil and stands to gain.

Zhang and Dixon pleaded their case to Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency, the county's intermediate school district. But after learning they would have to petition homeowners again, they withdrew their initial boundary-change request.

Mike Kozicki, executive director of employee and legal services for Wayne RESA, said it is unlikely that the boundary will be changed.

"I don't see it happen a lot," Kozicki said.

The RESA board can approve, deny or not act on boundary-change requests. Once RESA makes its decision, the petitioners will have 10 days in which they can appeal through the state schools superintendent.

Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Jim Ryan agreed that boundary lines are tough to change.

"It's a very difficult ruling to get in your favor," Ryan said. "I realize from past experience that these people have a tough row to hoe."

Occasionally school districts will voluntarily swap lots, or voluntarily turn over lots to other districts. Plymouth-Canton ceded two lots to Northville a few years ago.

"I did call (Van Buren Superintendent Larry Tabor) when I received information about the request from RESA," Ryan said. "I told him that there was nothing I was doing behind the scenes (to change the boundaries)."

Tabor said that while Van Buren would not want to lose any students, he has no say in whether or not the boundary is redrawn. He also said that he is aware of people's concerns about Van Buren schools.

When it comes to the MEAP, however, people need to look beyond the numbers, he said.

"I'm not an advocate of the MEAP as a strong indicator of success or failure," Tabor said, adding that his own children attended Van Buren schools and did very well.

"We have the same opportunities for success as Plymouth-Canton," he said.

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COLD SCHOOL (R)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30
FRISOT LS11:50

DAREDEVIL (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50
FRISOT LS12:00

JINGLE BOOK 2 (G)
11:40, 3:10, 5:10, 7:00, 9:00
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11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:15
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Barney L. Finnerty

Services for Barney Finnerty, 91, of Canton were held Feb. 19 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton with burial at St. Joseph Cemetery in Lansing.

Mr. Finnerty was born Feb. 13, 1912, in Grand Rapids and died Feb. 16 in Westland. He worked in construction as a supervisor.

Mr. Finnerty was preceded in death by his wife, Betty L. Finnerty.

Survivors include son, Kevin (Denise) Finnerty; stepdaughter, Maxine; three brothers; two sisters; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

Michael Sergio Kavalhuna

Michael Kavalhuna, 33, passed away Feb. 13. He was born Dec. 28, 1969. He lived in Plymouth since childhood until 1988. He had been living in New York City. He was a professional opera singer.

Mr. Kavalhuna was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth from 1975-1998, member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York from 1998 until his death. He was a 1988 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, graduate of Temple University with a bachelor's degree in music, majoring in voice performance from 1988-1992; graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a master's degree in voice performance and Artist Diploma in Opera Performance from 1992-1996; and attended Manhattan School of Music for one year, working toward another Artist Diploma.

Mr. Kavalhuna debuted with the Michigan Opera Theater in a production of Carmen in 1997, and with the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center in 1999. He had just become a district winner in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions on Friday, Feb. 14. Mr. Kavalhuna was preceded in death by brother, David, in 1993; and by all grandparents.

Survivors include parents, Sergio (Carol) Kavalhuna; brother, John; four aunts and uncles; and several cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City-Homeless Program, and Michael S. Kavalhuna Music Scholarship Fund to be established through Ester Boyer College of Music at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Contact Vermeulen Funeral Home for further information.

Arrangements made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Angelina Varilone

Services for Angelina Varilone, 86, of Livonia were held Feb. 20 at St. Edith Catholic Church with the Rev. Tim Murray officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mrs. Varilone was born April 10, 1916, in Italy and died Feb. 16 in Plymouth. She was a homemaker. Mrs. Varilone was preceded in death by her husband, Antonio Varilone.

Survivors include sons, Jeffrey Orazio (Kathy) Varilone of Livonia and Robert A. Varilone of Sterling Heights; sister, Rosina Venditti; and grandsons, Andrew and Joseph.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 17220 W. 12 Mile, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076.

Arrangements made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Caroline L. Caldwell

A memorial service is scheduled in late spring for Caroline Caldwell, 89, of Lakewood, Colo. She was born Oct. 25, 1913, in Laurium, Mich. and died Feb. 19 in Lakewood.

Mrs. Caldwell graduated from Calumet High School and went on to receive her certification in cosmetology. She owned and operated a beauty parlor in Calumet and continued to work in her field of cosmetology for many years. She was a long-time resident of Plymouth, having moved here in 1938 and remaining until moving to Colorado in 1996. While in Plymouth, she

was actively involved in church and school activities at Our Lady of Good Counsel, a Boy Scout Leader, and a volunteer for several organizations including the Michigan Cancer Society and the Business and Professional Women's organization.

Mrs. Caldwell was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford R. Caldwell, daughter, Carol Lee Caldwell, and sister, Florence Panattoni.

Survivors include son, Clifford (Ellen) Caldwell of Kerrville, Texas; granddaughters, Ann Ballard of Lubbock, Texas and Nora Allen of Kerrville, Texas; sisters, Marie Criger of New Smyrna, Fla. and Dorothy Sincok of Plymouth; nieces, Mary Ann Sincok of Trenton

and Nadine Criger-Hershey of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; and nephews, Craig Sincok of Ann Arbor, Paul Sincok of Plymouth, and Dane Criger of Charlotte, N.C.

Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

James Raymond Doyle

Services for James Doyle, 73, of Northville were held Feb. 26 at St. Kenneth Catholic Church with the Rev. Joseph Mallia officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.

Mr. Doyle was born July 27, 1929, in Detroit and died Feb. 21 in Mesa, Ariz. He spent 37 years in education. He first came to the Plymouth school system, where he taught physical education and miscellaneous other

classes. He then became a counselor in Plymouth and then assistant principal of the old Plymouth High School, now Central Middle School.

He then transferred to the Wayne-Westland district where he began his career in school administration. He was assistant superintendent of schools in West Bloomfield and was deputy superintendent of schools in Troy. He was a 30-year member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth Township. When able, he attended church daily.

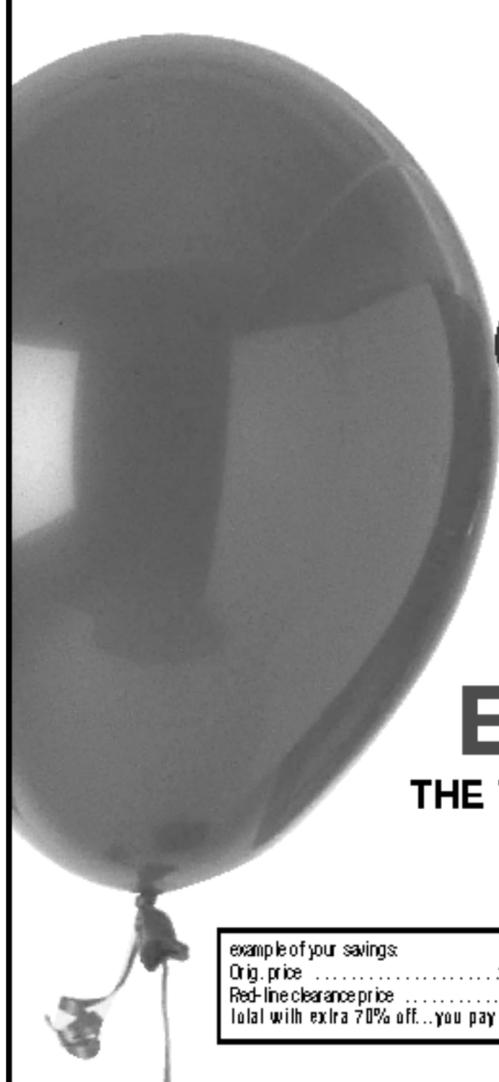
He was a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he was a basketball star. He received his master's and doctorate in education from Wayne State University. He was a mem-

ber of the Michigan Education Association, at times he bargained for both sides.

He loved golf, swimming and traveling. His special joy was spending time with his family, especially his 13 grandchildren.

Survivors include wife of 43 years, Barbara Ann Doyle of Northville; sons, Tim (Claudia) Doyle of Northville, Tom (Cindi) Doyle of Hudson, Wis., and Doug (Shawn) Doyle of Grand Rapids; daughter, Ann (Rob) Martin of Chandler, Ariz.; 13 grandchildren; brothers, Tom Doyle of Trenton, Jack (Barbara) Doyle of Trenton and Larry (JoAnne) Doyle of North Carolina. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice, Livonia, MI.

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His feet bound in plaster casts, little Imanol sleeps in Altigracia's arms in the recovery room shortly after surgery.



PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Recovery room nurse Cheryl Rowan (left) and Alta attempt to comfort Imanol in a crib with his two new plaster casts in place shortly after the procedure. He was having nothing of it, though, and continued to fuss until Alta picked him back up and held him.

SURGERY

FROM PAGE A1

Brown says, smiling.

It's one of the first calm moments the family has had since volunteering for the responsibility of caring for Imanol, the toddler brought up from the Dominican Republic by a nonprofit group called Health Help Project Inc. Founded by Plymouth doctor Frank Patino in the mid-1990s, Health Help has made it possible for a number of children to have their feet corrected by surgery in Michigan.

It's a problem Patino discovered while on a trip to the Dominican Republic to accept a humanitarian award given for his help in getting medicine and medical supplies into the region. While touring a town called Cnastica, Patino noticed the deplorable conditions — open sewage and flies all over the place, carrying filth from sewage to food. Nearly every child in the town was ill.

It was also in Cnastica Patino found what would be Health Help's first clubfoot patient, a young boy named Hector. Health Help has screened some 60 children in Santo Domingo, and arranges for a couple of surgeries each year.

To make the program work, Patino needed help. He got it from Oakwood, which donates its facilities. He got it from Dr. Lawrence Fallat, an Oakwood surgeon who specializes in foot and ankle surgery and who donates his time. He got it in Dr. Taufiek Alhadi, the anesthesiologist and chief of anesthesiology at Oakwood Annapolis, who also donates his services.

HELPING HANDS

And he got it from families like Jiminez-Brown's.

Her husband, William Brown, works for the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, as does Patino. The firm sent a company memo around seeking host families for Patino's project.



Drs. Frank Patino (left) and Larry Fallat discuss the procedure before entering the operating room.

Jiminez-Brown remembered meeting another Dominican child whose host mother didn't speak Spanish, Jiminez-Brown's native tongue.

"That left a lasting impression on me," Jiminez-Brown says. "I do speak Spanish, and I could be helping."

She began helping about a month ago, when Imanol arrived, ironically from the same Dominican Republic town from which Jiminez-Brown hails. The decision to help didn't come until after lengthy and frank discussions in the family, which includes 11-year-old daughter Jessica and 3-year-old Elena.

"We talked about it for awhile," Jiminez-Brown recalls. "(Jessica and Elena) were initially excited." It's been an adjustment. Jiminez-Brown, a Chelsea resident, is used to dealing with daughters, and the introduction of a boy into the mix has had its effects.

Scheduling has presented the largest challenge, since Imanol wasn't on much of a routine when he arrived. Jiminez-Brown worked hard in the early days getting him into one. Mixing in with his new "sisters" has also been tough, particularly on Elena. But it's also been a help in Imanol's development.

"He's definitely all boy," Jiminez-Brown says, smiling. "Since we got him, he's been

trying to do the things a 3-year-old does, like Elena."

While Imanol has treated Elena much like a brother — there's been some hair-pulling incidents that have scared her — it's been different for 11-year-old Jessica, who has accepted the responsibility of being an elder.

"It's just like having a little brother," Jessica says. "It's a big responsibility to be the big sister."

THE DAY ARRIVES

The day of the surgery finally arrives. It had originally been scheduled for Valentine's Day, but Imanol got a cold and "a really bad cough," and his pediatrician, Dr. Nutan Saxena, made the decision to delay the surgery until Tuesday.

"He had some breathing problems, so we gave him some medicine," says Saxena, a pediatrician who works at Oakwood's medical center in Canton and, like virtually everyone involved in the project, donates her services. "He's in good health. I think he'll come through the surgery OK."

Imanol lies on the gurney, balloon caricatures of Scooby Doo and Elmo tethered to the side. Jiminez-Brown and her husband are right next to him as the parade of medical people files by. There's Dr. Alhadi, who orders an oral sedative to



Anesthesiologist Taufiek Alhadi, right, smiles at Altigracia as the pre-surgery medication given to Imanol starts to take effect.

calm the active young boy, who, as always, is all smiles, even at 6:30 a.m.

For Alhadi, in his fourth year of helping these children, these operations are a chance to sharpen perspective.

"Often in this business, we're busy doing things in a selfish mode at times," Alhadi says. "At times, we lose perspective about why we're in this business in the first place. It's nice to be able to help children in need."

Nurse Vicky Hladysz tries to help Jiminez-Brown coax Imanol into taking the medication, even pretending to give it to Scooby first. But Imanol balks at the first taste, and they resort to the old-fashioned way — holding him down and getting him to drink it.

Fallat, who has done several of these corrections as part of his work with a pair of nonprofit agencies, stops in to check on the boy.

Soon, Imanol's eyes begin to droop, and he's ready for the operating room. As doctors wheel him away, Jiminez-Brown and her husband find their place in the lobby and begin the vigil. It's the first time in about 36 hours, while the family prepared for the

surgery, that the couple has a chance to relax.

"Any surgery is risky," Jiminez-Brown said. "I was a nervous wreck all day, even though he's not my child."

That's not to say she doesn't have anything invested in this child; she obviously does. The connection is actually fairly strong, although Jiminez-Brown admits she constantly has to remind herself Imanol isn't her son; it's an effort to stave off any strong emotional attachment.

They are connected in other ways, since they come from the same small Dominican town. She talks to Imanol's parents frequently, reassuring them their son is in good hands. And the boy's family has done some checking of its own.

"Imanol's mother looked up my family," says Jiminez-Brown, whose father's family still lives in the Dominican Republic. "For her, it was a lot better. When she met my family, she felt much better."

THE SURGERY

Imanol is wheeled into surgery shortly before 8 a.m. Fallat will attempt what is technically called correction of

congenital talipes equinovarus bilaterally — clubfeet in both feet. The achilles tendon is so tight "we can't bring the foot up 90 degrees to the leg," Fallat explained.

With clubfeet, the foot is turned so the child, according to Fallat, is literally walking on the tops of his feet.

"It's like the foot and ankle were put on upside down and backward," Fallat says. "A tendon in a child is like kite string; the nerves are like threads. It's very meticulous surgery."

And while it's going on — Fallat told the Browns it could take as long as three hours — the family waits in the lobby, leafing through magazines and talking with reporters and family members. The family has swarmed around Imanol, treating him like one of its own. Sisters, aunts, cousins and uncles — all helping the Browns take care of him.

"They're really fond of Imanol," Jiminez-Brown says. "On Saturday, they took turns baby-sitting him."

With magazine pages being flipped and coffee being drunk, the family waits for word.

PLEASE SEE SURGERY, A7



Dr. Frank Patino (right) explains the procedure to William Brown.



Altigracia Jiminez-Brown and her husband, William, wait out the procedure in the waiting room.

SURGERY

FROM PAGE A6

Roughly an hour into the surgery, Alhadi, the anesthesiologist, comes out to let them know the first foot is taking a little longer than expected, but that everything is going well.

He returns a couple of times with updates, letting Jiminez-Brown and her husband know that Imanol is holding up well.

"You feel anxious to be done and know the outcome," Jiminez-Brown says. "(But) I know he's in good hands, so that's reassuring."

It's a reassurance Imanol's parents were looking for Monday night, when Jiminez-Brown kept the youngster up past his bedtime so he could talk to them. It's been rough on them, she says, having their son up here, powerless to help him themselves.

"We called them (Monday) night, and kept Imanol up until 8:30," Jiminez-Brown says. "But he was so tired, he kept pushing the phone away. You could hear the parents saying 'I love you.' I tried to reassure them, but they've been so worried."

IT'S OVER

Finally, some three hours after wheeling Imanol into surgery, Fallat and Patino emerge from the operating room with good news — the operation was a complete success. The right foot took the longest, Fallat says, because it appeared to have the worst of the deformity. But it provided a road map for the left foot, surgery on which went much faster.

Imanol will be in casts from above the knee down, casts that will be shortened periodically over the next few months. There shouldn't be much, if any, physical therapy required, outside of perhaps a special pair of shoes.

Fallat expects a full recovery; in fact, he thinks Imanol may start walking while he's still in the casts.

"Many times the children do that," he says. "You can't keep them down. He should be able to walk up to Mom and Dad when he goes home. That's what we'd love to see."

It's what Jiminez-Brown and her family would love to see, as well, although they're worried about how he'll react to the casts because of how active he is. Jiminez-Brown talks about finding some Spanish-language children's videos to help Imanol bide his time until he figures out how to move around.

In the meantime, she'll continue battling the emotional attachment as she prepares to send this young child with the infectious smile and happy demeanor back to the Dominican Republic.

She has an uncle who wants to take him home, but Jiminez-Brown won't make the trip.

"I've fought the urge this whole time, and kept telling myself, 'He's not your child,'" Jiminez-Brown says. "I've been able to do it so far. Ask me again when he goes home."

To donate to Health Help Project Inc., run by Dr. Frank Patino of Plymouth, send contributions to Health Help Project Inc., P.O. Box 557912, Miami, FL 33255.

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PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Registered nurse Vicky Hladysch (left) interacts with Imanol while waiting for the pre-surgery medication to take effect.



Alta picks up Imanol for the first time following the surgery in the recovery room. Recovery nurse Bobbie Beauchamp is at right.



Dr. Lawrence Fallat (left) and Dr. Frank Patino explain the results of the surgery.

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