Quality time with dad



SUNDAY June 17, 2007

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Locals ponder benefits of business tax plan

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

During a period of four years, Mike Aznavorian said his company, Clips & Clamps Industries in Plymouth Township's Metro West industrial park, didn't make any money.

Aznavorian, president of the family-owned automotive supplier that's been in business since 1954, said some of those years of unprofitability can be linked directly to Michigan's Single Business Tax, which he said turned what could have been profitable years into losses.

So when the state Legislature and Gov. Jennifer Granholm agreed Wednesday to a new state business tax to replace the SBT, Aznavorian was elated.

"That's fantastic," Aznavorian said of the new bill, which is expected to cut personal property taxes by 65 percent for manufacturers. "We shouldn't discourage businesses from buying new equipment to compete with the world market and taxing companies when they aren't making money.

"You have to give incentives to companies to hire people and buy machinery and equipment," he added. "When a company is making money, you don't mind paying taxes. Hopefully, this new tax is more equitable."

Along with cutting personal property taxes, the new Michigan Business Tax - which, if passed by the Legislature and signed by Granholm, is scheduled to go into effect in January when the SBT runs out — will give credits for investment, job creation and research and development in Michigan, with taxation based on profits and gross receipts.

"The SBT was not business friendly and left Michigan struggling in economic doldrums," state Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton Township) said. "I will not vote for a replacement that in any way resembles the former SBT, or the problems associated with it. I encourage all businesses to e-mail or call me and share their opinion on this agreement before I vote

on it." Some of the details of the new plan include:

■ Provide over \$600 million in new tax credits that reward Michigan businesses for investment, compensation, and research and development.

Reward capital investment by cutting the Personal Property Tax by an average of 67 percent for manufactur-

ers and 23 percent for commercial businesses, while also protecting funding for local units of government. Boost job creation by pro-

viding credits for investment in Michigan and for Michigan payroll. Help small businesses by exempting companies

by exempting companies with less than \$350,000 in gross receipts from taxation. Businesses with up to \$20 million in gross receipts will pay reduced rates. The plan also enhances existing small-business tax credits.

Protect education, health care, police and fire protection, and other essential services by ensuring revenueneutrality.

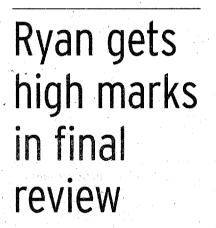
Wes Smith, owner and president of E&E Manufacturing in Plymouth — a Tier 1 and Tier 2 automotive supplier with 300 employees — said while the proposed legislation will help manufacturing companies like his financially, the real benefit may be in improving the perception of Michigan as a place to conduct business.

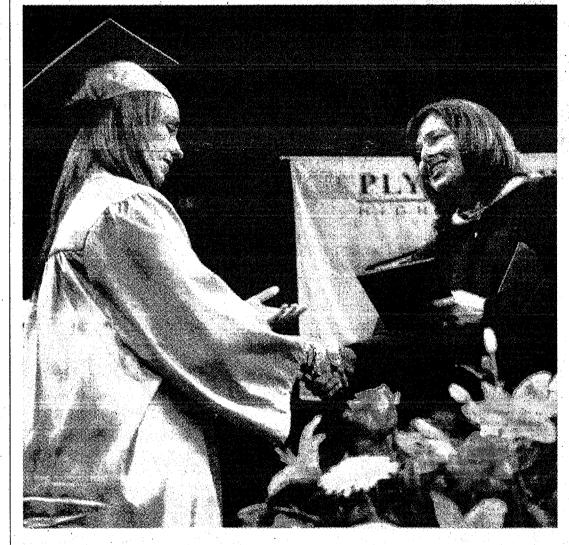
"Personally, I think it will help us in terms of allowing us to have more cash to reinvest in our business," said Smith, chairman of the 1,200member national Precision Metalforming Association. "The new tax puts a burden on businesses that do business in the state, but aren't located in the state. If the tax is a big deal for them, then they should put a facility in Michigan.

"This isn't the one thing that will turn things around in Michigan, but will go a long way to show Michigan is becoming a business-friendly state," he added. "We need to keep our businesses here and healthy, and not running for the shores to low-cost countries that illegally subsidize their industries."

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Parade turns 17 to youth 07 for '07 kick





BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education on Tuesday night gave Jim Ryan his last evaluation as superintendent of the state's fifthlargest school district.

Ryan, who will remain superintendent until March 2008 as trustees soon begin their search for a new CEO, was graded in seven goal areas. At the end, it all came down to final remarks by evaluation sub-committee chair Judy Mardigian.

"He's an excellent leader, we know this because we've experienced it and people tell us all the time how much they appreciate his leadership," Mardigian said. "He is well-loved in this district. Don't take that lightly, five years at the top of your game. It's been a pretty good run for all of us. We will miss you ... it's going to be our loss."

Not surprisingly, on a scale of 1-5, Ryan's top average score 4.66 was in the area of leadership. He received a 4.63 in curriculum and instruction.

"Outstanding measures exceeded our expectations in this area," Mardigian said. "We're really happy with our AYP (adequate yearly progress) results, we're really making progress. We think there's outstanding success in professional development."

Ryan received a 3.66 rating for goals related to the district's master plan, 4.16 for administrative services, 3.41 for business services, 3.65 for community relations and marketing goals and 3.96 for development goals.

"Dr. Ryan has been very good when it comes to relations with parents and students," said board Treasurer Tom Wysocki. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud moment

Board member Dianne Gonzales presents a diploma to Jayme Helen DeGripp, a new Plymouth High School graduate, during commencement at Eastern Michigan University. For more photos and a Plymouth High graduation list, please see page A4.

Outing nets \$40K for Make A Wish

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

When Eric Cornell of Milford was trying to decide what wish he'd like the Make A Wish Foundation of Michigan come true, the answer came fairly easily: A 60-inch color television.

The foundation made the

wish come true, as it does for some 400 people every year, providing Cornell, a 17-year-old diagnosed with Duchene muscular dystrophy, with a shopping spree that netted him his television, complete with surround-sound, a DVD player and assorted extras.

"(Make A Wish) is awesome," said Cornell, a junior at Milford High School who's been wheelchair-bound since fifth grade. "They organized this whole shopping spree, and it was a lot of fun."

On Monday, Cornell got an up-close look at what allows the Make A Wish Foundation to make so many dreams come

Please see CHARITY, A2

Plymouth-Canton Schools is looking for a hundred good men, er, children, to march in this year's Kiwanis Good Morning USA Parade in downtown Plymouth on the Fourth of July.

"We thought this would be a perfect time for the kids to thank the communities and send a message that we appreciate the support of the schools," said Frank Ruggirello, the director of community relations for Plymouth-Canton Schools. "Each kid will carry a sign that says what they're thankful for, whether it be the teachers, books or recess.

"The high school Student Congress students will lead the group as they march to cadence thanking the crowd for our schools," he added.

Ruggirello said students who would like to march in the parade can contact his office at (734) 416-2757 or email Linda Paris at parisl@pccs.k12.mi.us. There will be a practice one week before the parade.

Parade organizer Fred Hill said he believes the P-CCS unit could become an annual entry in the 11-year-old parade.

"I think it can bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the community and schools, at the same time teaching kids a lesson that the people they see at the grocery store, their neighbors, are the ones who are supplying the tax dollars for their education," Hill said. "I think the kids will get a big kick out of it, a wonderful learning experience, and the spectators will like it, too." The parade kicks off at 7:30 a.m. July 4, traveling on

Main Street from Theodore to Hartsough.



Matt Tenbusch tees off, watched by Chris Donley and Bill Keown.

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Coming Thursday in **Filter** Angelic Angelina:

The actress' new film honors the life of a newspaperman who risked his life in search for truth and justice.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

LOCAL NEWS

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true. He and his parents, Tim and Patty, were on hand for the closing dinner from the third annual charity golf outing hosted by Cooper-Standard Automotive at St. John's Golf & Country Club in Plymouth Township.

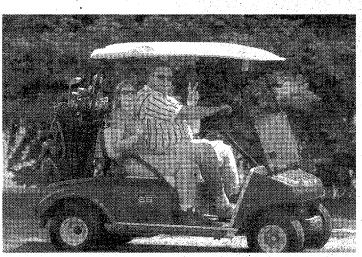
The annual event drew some 220 golfers, including suppliers, customers and employees - all. as Cooper-Stanard CEO Jim McElya called them, "shareholders in the auto industry" — and enabled Cooper-Standard to write a check to MAWF for some \$40,000.

The amount was impressive, especially considering the state of the troubled auto

industry. "People understand that today, more than ever, there's a lot of need," McElya said. "People realized we're blessed to have the jobs we have today, so let's give back."

It's the first time the outing has sold out, McElya said. Two years ago, Cooper-Standard donated some \$13,000 to the Alliance for Accessible Golf, a group that makes golf accessible to handicapped golfers. Last year, the company donated \$25,000 to Marines Helping Marines, which helped families travel to visit injured loved ones at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington D.C.

Between programs such as the golf outing and other charitable drives like the United Way campaign, McElya esti-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachel Arabucki and Bill Keown head for their golf balls after hitting shots in the charity golf outing at St. John's.

mated the company donates some \$500,000 a year to charity.

'We started a long time ago doing things like car washes ... and we noticed our employees were getting a kick out of it," McElya said. "We all felt better when we gave back. The employees do it all, and they do a great job."

Susan Fenters Lerch, president of MAWF Michigan, said the foundation gets wish requests from 600 medically eligible candidates a year, about half of them for trips to Disney World. The average

value of a granted wish, she said, is some \$8,000. That's why the foundation depends so much on events like this golf outing, especially in today's economy.

"It has been tougher, but I think we've persevered," she said. "We can't grant every wish, but we like to do as many as we possibly can. We depend on the generosity of others. We're lucky so many in Michigan want to help these wishes happen."

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SUMMER CINEMA

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth plays host to a variety of summer cinema matinees. Sponsored by Plymouth District Library, Wolverine & Spartan Shop, Michigan Made & More, Signature Audio Services, Book Cellar & Café, Bennigan's Grill & Tavern and Cold Stone Creamery, movies play Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

The schedule: July 19 & 21 - October Sky; July 26 & 28 Curious George; July 3 & 5 - The Secret Garden; July 10 & 12 - Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants; July 17 & 19 - The Goonies; July 24 & 26 - Mary Poppins; July 31 & Aug. 2 - Chronicles of Narnia; Aug. 7 & 9 - Spy Kids; Aug. 14 & 16 - The original Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; Aug. 21 & 23 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone.

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PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Suicide loss group

Dr. William A. Ritter, author of Take the Dimness of My Soul Away, speaks at an open meeting of the Suicide Loss

Group sponsored by New Hope Center for Grief Support and **First United** Methodist Church of Northville Ritter (Eight Mile

and Taft) 7 p.m. Monday, June 25.

In 1994 William A. Ritter's adult son committed suicide, sending Ritter and his family on a journey no family wants to face. Take the Dimness of My Soul Away collects the sermons he preached on the subject-the first one just three weeks after his son's death, and the final one nine years later-and chronicles his difficult and life-changing healing process.

For more information, call

(248) 348-0115.

Money management

The Plymouth District Library kicks off its Money Management Series 7 p.m. Monday, June 25.

"Estate Planning and Power of Attorney" will be presented by attorney and tax expert Ken Bloom. A member of the



will explain the details of wills, trusts, probate, protection of assets and unique family situations requiring special estate planning.

This free program is presented as a community service by Bloom, Bloom & Associates.

Registration is required and may be made online at plymouthlibrary.org or by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

NorthRidge concert

You can't help but smile when David Crowder enters the room. Maybe it's his vibrant zest for life, or his energetic passion for God. That same sensation will be conveyed 7 p.m. June 21 at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth when his Texas twang collides with a sixstring guitar, and an ample amount of amplification.

The Waco, Texas, native's musical ministry was birthed, in part, out of frustration while attending a Christian college. "There was a survey released that said more than half of the students didn't attend church," Crowder said, so Crowder brought the church to them in the form of music.

Crowder believes part of the group's job is to give people a picture of how their music is used to connect with God.

"What we hope people see is that we're not presenting ourselves, we're actually lost in something where there's an immediate connectivity there," he said. "Then the audience doesn't connect to us because we're connecting to something greater than us,and so will they."

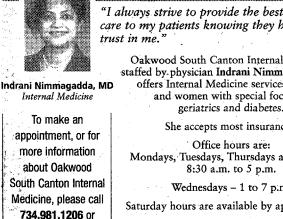
To purchase tickets go to NorthRidgeChurch.com/ Events or for more information call (734) 233-3694.



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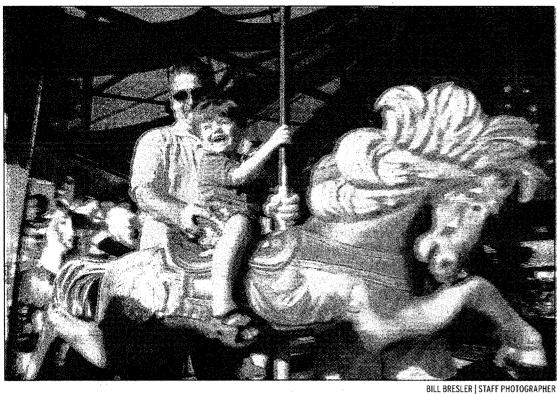
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

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Three-year-old Dylan Lowery and his dad Mitch Lowery had a great ride on the carousel.

Four-year-old Connor Kehoe digs into Canton Firefighters spaghetti dinner.



LOCAL NEWS

Kids test their rock climbing wall skills.



Crowds come out to Liberty Fest for summertime fun

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

At the start of Liberty Fest Friday afternoon, crowds had already packed Heritage Park looking for a bit of summertime fun.

The grounds were filled with strollers, huge inflatable attractions, carnival rides and food vendors. While a group of festival volunteers gathered in teal and white T-shirts, a long line of pre-teens waited patiently to spin the "Wheel O' Prizes" at the Radio Disney booth.

In between her little ones playing inside the inflatables, Canton resident Erica Brown found a spot in the shade to feed her 1-year-old son and 2-year-old niece some applesauce.

"I'm here every year," she said. "It's a tradition. The wind is breezing so it's a great day to be out here."

Hollie Arnett of Canton, who brought her two young daughters out to the festivities, had never been to Liberty Fest before Friday.

'This is my first time here," she said. "We're (usually) on vacation during the Fest. We had the time today, so we came over."

The festival's afternoon start time lured Westland residents Diana Ross and Rebecca Ross.

The mother and daughter were looking for a carnival for Rebecca's 10-year-old son and read about Liberty Fest online.

The other festival didn't start until later (on Friday) so we decided to come here," Diana Ross said. "I'm so glad we did."

While standing underneath a tent waving at her son on the Ferris wheel, Rebecca Ross applauded the township for its organization of the two-day event.

"This is our first time here and we think it's excellent," she said. "It's well-organized and safe and there's plenty of parking. This is great – makes me want to move to Canton."





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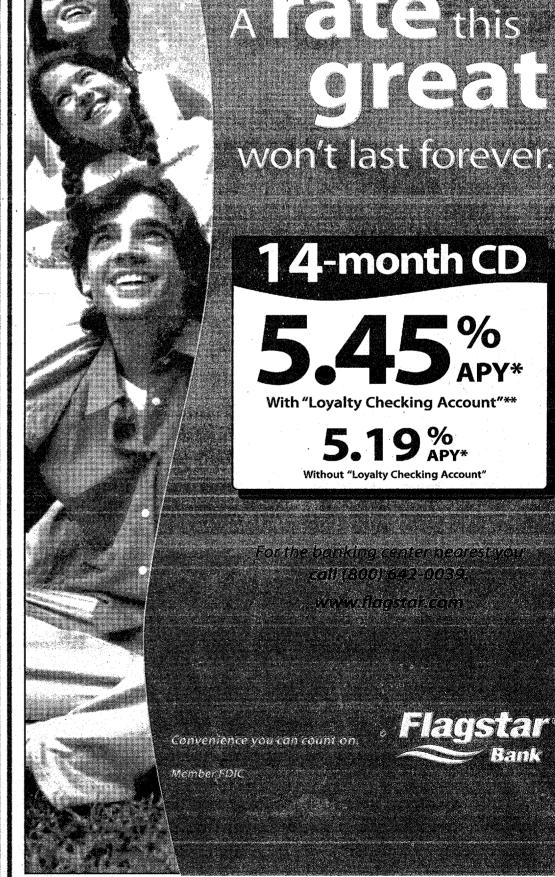


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A4

(CP)

Plymouth grads take next step on life's journey

Andrew Brady Adkins Jamie Leigh Aimar Zainab Osama Alaradi Venkateshraddi B. Alavandi Alexander Miles Alber Natalie Patrice Alexander Nicholas George Alexander Zaneh Abdul Allie Farah Algattan Hussain R. Algattan Ashley Lynn Altman Nicole Louise Ambrose Elizabeth Kristin Anderson Grant Alan Anderson Kristine Marie Anderson Stephanie Marie Anderson Matthew Robert Ankrapp Anthony Mario Antonucci Angela Nicole Arbitter Kelly Lynn Armbruster Elisabeth Denise Austin Angela Marie Ayoub Joshua David Baack Justin Michael Bailey Meridith Lynn Bailey Adam Matthew Baines Joshua Phillip Baker Kenyatta Yvette Baker Laura Avery Balgooyen **Clare Marie Baptist** Matthew David Barnes **Austin Edward Barnett** Matthew Henry Barrera Michael Sean Barretta Tyrone I. Bartlett Amber Leigh Battle Leslie Renee Baty Jenna Marie Beauchamp Jennifer Lynn Beaudoin Nicholas James Beaudoin Alina Belova Shianne Nicole Bierkamp Brian Allen Blankenship Anthony Sean Bono Sean Michael Borg Nicholas Clayton Boyd Derek Walter Bradford Briana Rose Bradley Stephanie Lynn Brasseur Samantha Marie Breecher **Bradley Michael Brennan** Corey Jacob Brewer Jill Alexis Bridges Cote Thomas Brown Shelby Lynne Brown Heather Rachael Bruner **Mitchell Arthur Brunett** Sukhmanjot Kaur Bual Alexandra L. Burdette Brandi Anne Burke Michael Brian Butler **Courtney Elizabeth** Buttermore

Melissa Brandy Butzow Luke Edward Cadeau Kristen Rose Cadieux Kristin Ann Callahan Caitlyn Marie Cameron Joshua Ryan Carlson David James Carr Nicole Kristen Carter Cristian Y. Chagas Zhewei Chen Samantha Charmaine Chia David B. Chov Andrew Ross Churilla **Emily F. Clanton** Shelley Elizabeth Clark Porsche Chardé Clubreath

GRADUATION SEASON

Today - Plymouth High School Thursday - Canton High School June 14 - Salem High School For more graduation photos, see our photo galleries at www. hometownlife.com.

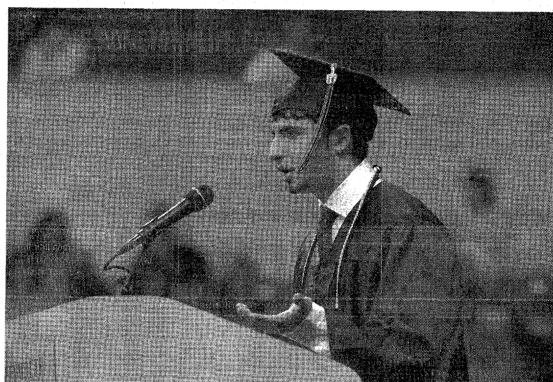
Elizabethann Barbara Cochran

Christina Lynn Cooley Nicholas Benoit Cote Matthew Joseph Crane Danielle D. Crowder **Bret James Crowther** Jeanette Margaret Cruz Amanda Rose Cryderman Sean Patrick Cunningham Harsh Dilipkumar Dalal Marina Dalkovska Gary Jerome Daroczy Amber Renee Davis Chantelle Reneé Dawson Michael Dante Defranceschi Jayme Helen DeGripp Vincenzo Philip DeLuca Justin David Desilets Abby Paige Dewaele Alexandra Rae Deykes Amrit Kaur Dhaliwal Alhassan Imad Dhia Andrew Malcolm Dooley Madison Leigh Dresser Jerrid Quinn Drouare Rashmi B. Dungarani Christopher P. Dwan Megan Marie Early Eric Lee Eddy Maricatharine Elizabeth Eggenberger Chelsie Anne Eisiminger

Kristen Marie Eisiminger Andrea Elizabeth Essex William Linus Etienne Justin M. Evans Winfred Bernard Fails John Peter Farmer Kaitlin Carey Fidler Gerald Timothy Firchau Ryan John Flaherty Jeremey Daniel Foote **Courtney Sarah Forrester** Kaitlin Mary Forster Kalee Elaine Fox Kyle Mitchell Frederick Audrey Marie Freeman Chelsea Baker Frid Anthony Larry Fuciarelli Andrei Razvan Gagiulescu Aerial Yvon Gallagher Ronald Deanmar Gamble Nicole Christine Gambrell Serene Azure Garlow-Wyatt Scott Matthew Gasorski Jolande M. Gaynor Heather Lyn Gee Kaine K. Geldart Nathan Henry Vesey Gholston Nathaniel David Gibson **Daniel James Giguere** Lizabeth Shannon Giles Haramol Singh Gill Danielle Marie Giudici Marianna Sergyivna Golovan



Plymouth seniors listen to Principal Dr. Michael Bee.



Senior class co-president Robert Nabil Matar speaks to his classmates, family, friends, teachers and administrators.

Stephanie Nicole Goulet Brittany Nakita Herlisha Green

Lauren Nicole Gudzinski Shiv Dev Gujral Vikas Gumber Kyle Eugene Jendra Leo James Jenner Nicholas David Johns David Ryan Johnson Erica Ann Johnson Precious Latrese Johnson





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There's no doubt where Brett Kavulich is going to college.

Brittany Danielle Petty Kylee Rae Phillips Patricia Anne Phillips Nicholas Angelo Plescia Darrius Lamar Plummer Diana Camelia Pop Carla Portillo-Medrano John Arlie Potter Ryan Joseph Potter Jakub Poznanski Anjoli Punjabi Yang Qin Chelsey Nicole Quinlan Thomas M. Quinn Michael Ghassan Rafka Lei-Lana Jocelyn Rainey Mohit Rajput Melissa Ann Richards Nicholas Paul Rieckhoff Antonio Robinson i hadi Karissa Kay Rocha andere Brandon Joel Rose Brandon Paul Rosinski Nicholas Michael Rosochacki Julie Amanda Rowe Jared Hillary Ruark Sabatino Ruggiero Erika Lynne Runyan Vanessa Monique Russell Michelle Weslley Sadler Sheleen Kaur Sahi Paolo Emmanuel Salanga Christopher Boniface Sanchez Kulraj Singh Sandhu

Amy Imad Saras Anthony Edward Sasinowski

Anthony Charles Scaparo Anthony James Scarantino Steven Michael Schaeffler Samantha Taylor Schiller Ryan David Schultz Jeffery James Schwartz Michael Lawrence Schwartz Sara Lynn Schwartz Ruth Ann Scott Stephen Decatur Scott Jeffrey Steven Selasky Jui Kiran Shah Shruti Yogeshkumar Arber Shehu Kimberly Aynne Shelton Samuel Louis Shelton Wallace Elliott Shelton Robert L. Shephard Jr. Kathryn Elizabeth Shepherd Sharan Kaur Shokar Laura Kaitlyn Sigler Gurbinder Singh **Emily Anne Sinnott** James Frank Sistek Patrick Thomas Slavens James Edward Smith Michael James Snyder Antonio Solis Nikki Lynn Songer Kyle Henry Standifer Tonni Ann Steffes Andrew David Stoscup Brooke Maria Sturdivant Nungruthai Sutaitorn Joshua Robert Synowiec Matthew James Talbot Andrew Joseph Tate Stephen John-Benjamin Thomas Quennton Marc Thornbury Paige Elizabeth Tofil **Russell Patrick Torp** Laura Marie Tremonti Victoria Lynn Trimble Kevin Joseph Tykoski Janee Amyre Tyus Kathleen Jo Urbaniak Ryan Andrew Valle Lucas Van Vlerah Stacey Jo VanHoucke **Elsa Varughese** James Donald Vlcek Daniel John Wagner Amanda Marie Wagoner Amanda Lauren Waite Dominic Andre Walker Christi Marie Ward Brittany Lauren Warner Trisha Marie Watkins Ashley M. Watson Matthew Ryan Watson Charles Jeffrey Webb Wendell John West Cassandra Hazel White **Robin Latrice White** Lisa Marie Wieczorek Andre Darnell Williams Christopher T. Wilson Ryan Richard Winn Steven James Wojcik Lin Lin Wu Henry Zhiheng Xu Ying Xue Dustin John Zarend Emily Lauren Zelenak Chi Žhang John Fan Zhang **Rongjie** Zhou Jason Robert Zoltowski

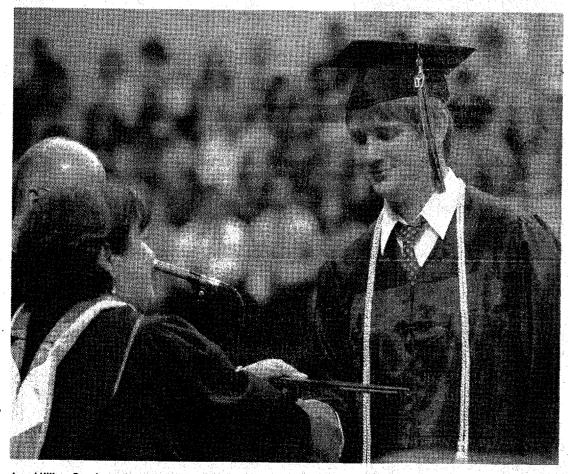


Senior class speaker Sharan Kaur Shokar gives her speech while Dr. James Ryan, Mark Slavens and Judy Mardigian listen.

Chrystien Sequienta Lee Guyton

Sandra Joanne Haddad Christine Sue Hadjinian Andrew Michael Hagen Mohamed Ibrahim Hakkani Joshua Miles Hammond Amanda Lynn Hastings Kristin Joy Haudek Jaspreet Kaur Hehar Navpreet Kaur Hehar Brittany Gale-Marie

- Hengesh Jeriah Blake Henley Alexander Paul Herbon Thea Anita Hermann Sarah Christie Hillegonds Christina Maria Himmelspach
- Kristen Mae Hitz Jerry Lynn Holden Kendra Ansley Hollingsworth
- Jeffrey Gerard Houdek Ashley Anne Hubbard Dean Joseph Hubbard Wasia Iqbal Jesse Robert Jacobs Pawan Parkash Janveja Andrew Stephen Jardine Shane Edward Jardine Kevin Lawrence Jaskolski



Jared Hillary Ruark receives his diploma from school board member Judy Mardigian.

Samuel Lamone Jones Nedhi Kumari Joshi Mohammad Hassam Tariq Kang

Amanda Margaret Katona Megan Marie Kaump Brett Joseph Kavulich **Charles Evan Kee** Patrick Joseph Kelly Hayley Nichole Kennedy Sarah Marie Kenny Shan-Ur-Rahman Khan Mehzabin Joabbhai Kharodawala Joshua Joseph Kidd **Emily Frances Kiewicz** Devin Christopher King Jason David King Kristin Elizabeth King Leigh Nicole Kinne Shannon Elizabeth Kinsler Valerie Paige Klemmer Kimberly Lynn Klonowski Joseph Michael Knapp Rachel M. Koelzer **Clint James Korpalski** Benjamin Martin Kosmalski Laine Talene Kostegian **Derek Gregory Krause** Vikash Krishana James Christopher Krogol Jeremy Michael Krueger Vishal Kumar **Timothy Daniel Kwiecien** Andrew Ryan LaBelle Samantha Anne Laing Matthew Allen Lamarand Joseph James LaPorte **Brittany Rae Lawlor** Tara Noelle Lax Thomas Adam Lazorka Katherine Ruriko Lebioda Monica Ann Lee Jessica Lois Leskun Kirk Joseph Lewis **Emily Cecile Libby** Sarah Lee Lisenbee David Tyler Locklear Gerald Lou Stephen David Lozier Jeffrey Thomas Lucco Megan Renee Luther Parul Luthra Justin Richard Magill Sedra Mahmud Arrielle Monet Maiden Arlind Malaj Michael Joseph Manner Christopher Robert Mapes Christopher James Marsh Jessica Lynn Martin Sara Elizabeth Martin Christopher John Martin-Terry

Robert Nabil Matar Mark Roger Matchett Molly Michelle Mather Kelsey Joy Mattei



Board member Nancy Eggenberger presents a diploma and a hug to her daughter, Maricatharine Elizabeth Eggenberger.

Kathryn Veronica Maunu Natalie Michele Maurer Melanie Marie Mavros David John Maycock Edwin James McClendon Samantha Pearl McDonald **Ryan Paul McKinney** Kavlie Michelle McLeay Marcella Marie Mester Michael Joseph Michno Jason Allen Miller Melissa Ann Miller Scott Christopher Miller Shian Lisa Miura Amelia Moazzen Aditi B. Modi Abigail Elizabeth Modos Julie Ann Modson Casey R. Molloy Marisa Alexandra Mooradian Jill Ellen Mosher Danielle Nicole Mosier Krishna Chaitanya Motheramgari Marc William Mueller Sara Elizabeth Mueller Stephanie Pauline Murad Nathan Eyad Musleh Jacob Warren Napier Douglas Spencer Gossett Newberry Rachel Lynn Noonchester Travis John Norris John R. Noss II Andrew Kenneth Noves Paul Raymond Nuoffer Kelsey Leigh O'Connor Jason Ryan O'Guinn Ryan Cooper O'Neill Karen Chinonye Okolo Mark Alan Olivier Elizabeth Louise Osborne Brianna Ashley Osorio Amir Justin Pakray Sarah Jane Palczynski Amanda Karen Palmer Angela Marie Palmer Samantha Nadine Panek Jacob Charles Papazian Melvin Winfred Parker Kristina Caroline Parks Bhavin J. Patel Priya Narendra Patel Vanessa Bhadresh Patel Brandon Allen Patterson Amanda Marie Pawczuk Joseph Daniel Perkovich

COUNTY NEWS

Asset allocation is key to investment during volatile times

Dear Rick: The market has taken a downturn as of late. Is it time to bail out?

www.hometownlife.com

I have never believed in market timing and I do not believe it is a strategy that works. I don't know anyone who has been able to do that consistently. In the market, good news is bad news and bad news is good news, therefore, it is very difficult to predict how different events will affect the market.

My strategy is based upon asset allocation. Asset allocation means maintaining a position in the market during good times and bad times and investing in different sectors of the economy. It also means investing both domestically and internationally, the theory being that just because one retain a fixed-income por-



market is not gambling. Investors should not focus on what happens dayto-day or even **Rick Bloom** week-to-week.

against down-

The stock

turns in the

market.

Instead, take a long-term

approach and don't be concerned with temporary fluctuations.

Investors need to recognize that just because the Dow fluctuates one to 200 points, the entire stock market doesn't react the same way. The Dow Jones is only 30 stocks and with the way it is weighted, move the entire index up or down. The same thing can be is based upon the company's

value. So, once again, a few companies could also move the index.

I have always believed that what makes an investor successful is having a game plan. With the end of the quarter in a few weeks, we will all receive our quarterly statements. It is a great time to review your goals and objectives and to remember why you are investing. Make sure you have the proper allocation between stocks, bonds and cash. If you are out of balance, don't hesitate to readjust. Your portfolio won't be as volatile if investments are properly allocated.

The market will always go through volatile periods and it appears that we are in one

locate them. What should I do? Also, what do you think of savings bonds for a high school graduation gift?

It is not unusual for people to lose U.S. Savings Bond. In fact, I always believe the government counts on a number of people losing their bonds and never requesting them to be replaced. In order to get replacement bonds, you need to complete a form, PDF 1048E - Claim for Lost, Stolen or Destroyed United States Savings Bonds. You can get the form at the U.S. Treasury's Web site, www. treasurydirect.gov. The U.S. Treasury will then do a search

for the bonds and eventually replace them.

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In regard to buying new U.S. Savings Bonds, I am not a big fan if it's for a child's college education. The current rate on bonds that are issued between now and October 2007 is 3.4 percent. In addition, even though you can begin redeeming bonds after one year, if you redeem before five years you forfeit three months of inter-

My recommendation is put the money into a 529 Plan like the Michigan Education Savings Plan. The MESP has a \$25 minimum investment, just like U.S. Savings Bonds.

In fact, you can even deduct your contribution off your Michigan Income Tax Return. The MESP can be invested in a variety of different manners, including equity investments which will pay more than a U.S. Savings Bond.

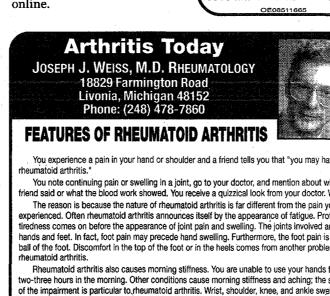
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(*)

To invest in the MESP, go to www.misaves.com.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).





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LOCAL NEWS

Festival Ride for Thunder Governor taps Plymouth pair on June 30 to help veterans

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

With a loud roar signaling a passion for helping veterans, a motorcycle ride organized by a national charity group will coincide with this year's Westland Summer Festival.

It's billed as Ride with the Thunder, and it's a charity ride that will benefit the John Dingell VA Medical Center's hospice unit in Detroit, which helps war veterans from all over.

The event will be the first charity ride by the nonprofit Foundation for American Veterans, an organization that started in 1996 in southeast Michigan and has grown to 33 states, said FAV national program Director Bob McDonald of West Bloomfield.

FAV's projects have included redecorating hospital rooms to make them seem more

Putting • Full Swing

Fridays & Saturdays

or Monthly Specials, Visit;

Registration for Ride with the Thunder will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 30. Riders will start at the Westland City Hall parking lot, go to Heck Park in Monroe and return to the Westland Summer Festival for prizes awarded at 9 p.m.

like home for terminally ill veterans, sending veterans to Special Olympics and artist competitions and paying the cable TV tab at the Detroitbased VA hospital, said FAV President Larry Siedell of Canton.

In all, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised and spent to help improve the lives of veterans.

Registration for Ride with the Thunder will start at 10

a.m. Saturday, June 30. Riders will start at the Westland City Hall parking lot, go to Heck Park in Monroe and return to the Westland Summer Festival for prizes awarded at 9 p.m.

The last bike out will be at 2 p.m. Entry costs are \$25 for each rider and \$20 for each passenger. Special T-shirts will be given to the first 400 🖗 people who enter.

First-place prize will be a night for two people at the Windsor Casino Hotel with \$100 in restaurant credit and \$100 in cash. The secondplace winner will receive \$100 and third-place \$50. Fourth and fifth prizes will include FAV jackets.

To sign up for the ride, call (248) 661-9365. For more information about FAV, visit its Web site at www.fav.org.

dclem@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2110

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm announced the recent appointments and reappointments, including two Plymouth residents, to the Michigan Historical Commission and the State Board of Accountancy:

The governor appointed John M. Dempsey of Plymouth, member and partner at Dickinson Wright, PLLC., to the Michigan Historical Commission.

Dempsey is appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring May 21, 2010. He succeeds Douglas B. Roberts, whose term has expired.

The Michigan Historical Commission is charged with advising the director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, approving Michigan historical markers, and working to preserve and protect Michigan's history.

The governor also reappointed Sally Fedus of Plymouth to the State Board of

NEWS BRIEFS

Accountancy.

Fedus is reappointed to represent the general public for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and expiring June 30, 2011. The State Board of

Accountancy is responsible for the certification, registration, and licensing of certified public accountants and the regulation of the practice of public accounting by individuals, firms, and corporations.

Yearbook award

Lifetouch has featured Eriksson Elementary School's yearbook in its "2005-06 Best of the Best" publication.

Eriksson Elementary earned "Best Look" for its cover, which featured student artwork, its fun approach to page layout and its playful headline design.

There were 20 school yearbooks from around the nation featured in the publication.

Radio rankings

Two WSDP alums were honored in the Edison Media Research list of the Top 30 Under 30 in radio broadcasting.

www.hometownlife.com

Scott Herrold, a 1998 graduate of Salem High School, is the Program and Music Director at KCXR in Tulsa, Okla. Jake Bugeja, a 2002 graduate of Starkweather Education Center, is the Program Director and Morning Host of X107.1 in the Cayman Islands.

WSDP radio station is owned and operated by the **Plymouth-Canton Community** Schools and is located in Salem High School. The station has been serving the **Plymouth-Canton community** for 35 years.

Edison Media Research conducts survey research and provides strategic information to radio stations, television stations, newspapers, cable networks, record labels, Internet companies and other media organizations.

It's showtime: Family fare **GOLF LESSONS** SINGE returns to Compuware screens Our Quality is your **Best Value** AWARD-WINNING FLOOR PLANS! From the high \$200s[†] MORE INCLUDED FEATURES! GREAT TIME You'll save money on upgrades TO BUY A NEW HOME! QUALITY-BUILT HOMES! Unparalleled customer service BEST LOCATIONS! New home communities in Novi, Canton,

The experience has been so much fun, the Compuware Sports Arena will operate the **Compuware Sports Arena** Drive-In Theatre for another season.

Arena officials on Friday re-launched the drive-in seven days a week, a schedule set to be followed through Sept. 2.

Like last season, the drivein will feature three theatres showing first-run family oriented films. The gates will open at 7:30 p.m., with the movies starting at dusk.

The Compuware Sports Arena Drive-In Theatres will be showing the following movies through June 21:

ROLLING MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB

8 Miles West of Plymouth

Screen 1 - Surf's Up (PG) and Spider-Man 3 (PG-13). Screen 2 - Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (PG-13) and Wild Hogs (PG-

13). Screen 3 - Nancy Drew (PG) and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG).

Movies will change every Friday. The Compuware Sports Arena Drive-In Hot Line can be reached by calling (734) 927-3284.

Prices range from \$8 for ages 13 and older, \$6 for children 4-12 and \$6 for students (Sun-Thurs). Children 3-andunder are admitted free. The drive-in will be available for group outings and

weekdays to groups of 25 people. For corporate events, screens can be rented out for an evening with additional concession packages also available.

The restaurant at the arena – Ginopolis on the Ice - is offering a "Dinner and a Movie" package. For \$29, two people can choose meals from a select menu and enjoy a double-feature afterwards at the Compuware Sports Arena Drive-In Theatre.

For more information, contact Karyl, Kevin, Kim, Natalie or Char at (734) 453-6400 or visit online at www. compuwarehockey.com and click on the Movies at the







A6 (CP)

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SUNDAY PERSPECTIVES

U.S. adopts Israeli methods in Iraq war

n his grave in Livonia, my dad's tombstone is inscribed with five words, Jabra Ahwal - Simple and Kind. These words describe a father of eight who lived for 76 years in a sometimes harsh and cruel world. But he always faced the world and its problems in stride, displaying kindness, and simplicity. My father was a carpenter who lived under several colonial and occupational regimes in Palestine but never dabbled in politics or protested the indignations



imposed on him and others from their occupiers. His goal in life was to make a sustainable living for his family. Yet, the qualities of this won-

derful man did not matter to the Israeli soldiers who broke down our door and entered our house, dragging and beating our father with the butts of their guns

while we watched. To the Israeli soldiers, my dad was the face of the enemy: an insurgent, terrorist or whatever label was ingrained in the minds of young soldiers who work on the front line of occupation.

Like the Israeli occupation, our country has implemented the same manual and applied its tactics in Iraq. Collective punishment such as curfews, town closures, home searches and detention of blind-folded men kneeling on concrete to checkpoints and building of walls to contain a whole population are eerily exact policies.

The resemblance is not by accident. Our Iraqi war architects including Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Cheney, and Feith are not only admirers of the State of Israel, but are ideologues who believe that the Middle East will only be changed from their current regime by force ... They claim that the democratization of the Middle East is essential to the stabilization of the region and therefore the best way to implement it is by force. After all, they adhered to Israel's propaganda that "Arabs only understand force," a racist and dangerous notion that inflames hatred rather than securing or stabilizing the region.

And since we adopted this policy, we find ourselves (especially our soldiers at the forefront) losing a battle that not only robs many of them of their lives, but also robs them of their soul and idealistic American beliefs of fairness and liberty for all. In a May 4 survey conducted by the Pentagon, it has been reported that the mental health of soldiers and Marines deteriorated significantly because of the extended or multiple deployments ... The report says: "Approximately 10 percent of soldiers and Marines report mistreating non-combatants (damaged/destroyed Iraqi property when not necessary)."

a formational and find all second second

The report also found that fewer than half of all soldiers and Marines would report a team member for unethical behavior and more that one-third believe that torture should be allowed. The conduct of the soldiers is not surprising; we train soldiers to view everyone as dangerous enemies who need to be crushed and then we expect them to uphold our laws and make snap judgments in extreme circumstances.

The conducts of our soldiers are no different than other occupying powers. During my recent visit to the West Bank in April 2007, I witnessed a Hebrew-speaking young soldier screaming at a herd of Palestinian people (who don't speak Hebrew) trying to cross a checkpoint. The checkpoint, which is connected to a wall dividing the community, is in itself oppressive, but ill-mannered soldiers who arbitrarily issue judgment, which makes life more difficult for people who are at their mercy, always man it. I have no doubt that the soldiers are just following the policies dictated to them from their government. They are put in a situation, which provokes hatred and hostilities, making violence the only outcome.

Violence is not the only outcome of occupation. Like Israel, conquering an Arab country was easy. Our forces are far superior to the entire Arab regime in the region. Therefore, we should not judge our victories with the bombs we drop. We should judge them with the climate, cost, and consequences we created by occupying a whole population. Aside from the carnage, destruction, and human tragedies created by this repugnant policy of attacking to exert our might, the cost is astronomical and never-ending.

Most of Israel's budget is set aside for its defense and security and now we are doing the same. According to *The New York Times*, the cost of war will exceed \$1.2 trillion by next year and judging from the debate we see, there is no cohesive policy of how we get rid of this occupation.

So far, the president's military surge has furthered the disaster with no military solution in sight. As for an immediate withdraw? We can succeed if we apply the same policies proposed by Baker/Hamilton's report, which was rejected earlier. As for our demand that the Iraqi government take leadership in stopping the violence, let us be realistic. The Iraqi government is useless, impotent, factionalized government that has no power or will to change society. We are the puppeteer who controls their every move. It is up to us to change the status quo and bring our soldiers back to safety. In the words of Colin Powell "We break it, we own it." The road map to peace in Iraq and Palestine is clear, we just need to have the will follow the path.

Terry Ahwal is a Canton resident.

Energy plan can make Michigan a trailblazer

s we strive to diversify and strengthen Michigan's economy, we can look to the past for inspiration. Michigan has always been a trailblazer. The same state that gave birth to the auto industry can pave the way for the renewable energy economy and the thousands of good-paying jobs that come with it.

The 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan will establish Michigan as a powerhouse of renewable energy production. By positioning our state at the forefront of this emerging

industry, we can attract cutting-edge industries, create good-paying jobs and boost our economy. Michigan has the resources and the highly skilled



Michigan has the resources and the highly skilled workforce needed to be a leader in the renewable energy industry. The Great Lakes y State ranks second in the

* region for wind-generation potential, but we have yet to that. With our production and

capitalize on that. With our production and manufacturing know-how and our worldclass universities, we can attract emerging, cutting-edge industries to our state. All we are lacking right now is direction, and that is where the 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan comes into play.

This plan lays out the framework for Michigan to make use of its considerable renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and biomass-based power. It will require that renewable energy sources account for 10 percent of the state's energy production by 2015, and 25 percent by 2025.

The plan will include solar and wind generation and fuel-cell technologies among those that qualify for renaissance zone tax abatements, fostering "alternative-energy renaissance zones" and helping to spur local investment in renewable energy.

In addition, it will promote energy conservation by establishing a statewide target of reducing electricity consumption by 1 percent per year, updating our construction codes and creating consumer tax credits for energy-efficient appliances. It also will provide tax credits for the purchase of solar equipment.

Focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency would create tens of thousands of new jobs and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Michigan's economy, according to a recent study prepared for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality by This plan lays out the framework for Michigan to make use of its considerable renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and biomass-based power. It will require that renewable energy sources account for 10 percent of the state's energy production by 2015, and 25 percent by 2025.

(*)

NextEnergy, a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic security through energy diversity.

In addition to creating jobs and diversifying our economy, there are other enormous benefits to increasing Michigan's production of renewable energy.

We can decrease our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. Michigan depends almost entirely on imported fuels. In fact, our state has the nation's eighth-highest cost burden when it comes to the amount spent on energy, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. By producing our own energy from renewable resources, we can break that dependence and invest those dollars into our own economy.

We can also help in the fight against global warming, while protecting our Great Lakes and other natural resources. Scientists and leading environmental groups, including researchers at the University of Michigan, warn that without a substantial reduction in harmful emissions, the effects of global warming will take a greater toll on Michigan – reducing the volume of the Great Lakes, sparking droughts, and causing a spike in the number of over-90-degree days in Detroit. Michigan has the power to make a difference and help combat global warming.

Michigan can be a trailblazer again as a leading force in the production of renewable energy. The 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan will help make our state a serious player in this emerging field and position us to be a powerhouse in the 21st century global economy.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, represents the 20th State House District. He can be reached at his office at (877) 208-4737.

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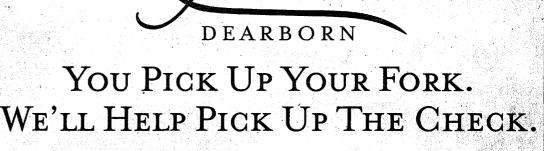
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Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday night, 13-yearold Canton resident Justin Thompson was one of the 33,555 adrenaline-filled fans on hand at Comerica Park to witness Justin Verlander's historical no-hitter, the first by a Detroit Tiger at home since 1952.

Less than 24 hours later, the younger Justin was throwing a masterpiece of his own.

Thompson, a seventh-grader at Pioneer Middle School, matched his namesake's remarkable feat on Wednesday when he registered a no-hitter in a Canton Little League game played at Griffin Park in Canton. Relying on a threepitch repertoire that included a 55-miles-per-hour fastball, a change-up and a knuckleball, Thompson struck out 14 batters in the Canton Cubs' 4-0 victory. When we were driving home from the Tigers' game Tuesday night, Justin asked me, 'What if I throw a no-hitter tomorrow night?" Joel Thompson, Justin's dad remembered. "Then he went out and did it. There were a lot of similarities between the two no-hitters. Both pitchers' first names were the same, both teams won 4-0 and I read somewhere that Justin Verlander threw his first

'There were a lot of similarities between the two no-hitters. Both pitchers' first names were the same, both teams won 4-0 and I read somewhere that Justin Verlander threw his first no-hitter in a Little League game when he was 12." JOEL THOMPSON, Justin's dad

100 mph heat, Thompson managed to strike out the side in the third, fourth and sixth innings. The biggest threat to the

no-no came in the fifth inning when the opposing team's clean-up hitter reached base

four hits in 4.2 innings. He struck out one and walked one. Andrew Stafford* went 1-for-3 and knocked in two runs while Frank Persichino went 2-for-2 with an RBI. Mike Kittle and Nick Urban each scored two runs, while Drew Churchward also

McCatty struck out five

Justin Mazur, who gave

walk and one hit while

Losing pitcher John

Fileccia allowed four

runs (one earned) on

before giving way to

up one runs on one

striking out two.

had an RBI. Rudy Jovanovski and Dennis Jones each

collected two hits for

the Bulls, who fall to

Kevin Zerbo added a

RBI, while Josh Ivan

Each team drew four

Lauren Hill's first

half goal proved to

be the difference

Thursday night as

the Michigan Hawks

Women scored a 1-0

W-League soccer vic-

Michigan Firewomen

at Livonia Stevenson

Jessica Boyle assisted

tory over the West

doubled.

Hill's goal

lifts Hawks

walks.

4-3-1 in the LCBL.



Canton 13-year-old pitcher Justin Thompson tossed a no-hitter Wednesday, less than 24 hours after he watched Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander throw a no-no at Comerica Park.

COMPARING THE NO-HITTERS

- Canton resident Justin Thompson threw a no-hitter Wednesday night, one night after Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander accomplished the same feat. Following are a couple comparable facts about the two gems: Friempson struck out 14 batters; Verlander K'd 12;
- Thompson is 13 years old; Verlander was 12 when he threw his first Little League no-hitter;
- Both no-hitting pitchers' teams won 4-0:
- 33,585 were on hand to witness Verlander's no-hitter, approximately 33,500 less than that saw Thompson's;
- Verlander's fastball tops out at 100 mph; Thompson has hit 55 on the radar gun;
- Verlander's "out" pitch is his fastball; Thompson's is his knuckleball.

DALE chronicles Earnhardt's life on, off the track

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

The only authorized documentary celebrating the life and career of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt will make its way to the area beginning at Tuesday, June 19 at the Livonia 20 Theatre.

"DALE," produced by NASCAR Images and CMT Films, will also be shown June 20-21, June 26-28, at Livonia 20, located on 19500 Haggerty Road. (All shows start at 7:30 p.m. but check your local movie listings.) Narrated by Paul Newman,

"DALE" is the first documentary on the late driver that has been given full support of Teresa Earnhardt, Dale' widow and executor of his estate.

"Dale's legendary persona inspired people who had never even met him," Teresa Earnhardt said, "and this film will keep those who see it and

Please see EARNHARDT, B2



Dale Earnhardt is gone but not forgotten as the documentary DALE premieres Tuesday night at the Livonia 20 Theatre.

no-hitter in a Little League game when he was 12.' Even though he isn't

equipped yet with Verlander's

Words about fair play ring hollow

very time boys and girls ⁸ compete in Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments, the announcements flood the airwaves about the life lessons learned through prep sports. Public address

announcers read MHSAAscripted copy about dealing with adversity,

list.

With apologies to Jerry Seinfeld, yada,

after he hit a ball hard to the left side of the infield.

"The ball landed in our third baseman's mitt, then it popped out, and the batter got to first base," Justin Thompson said. "I thought (the no-hitter) was over, but then somebody told me it was an error, so I still had a no-hitter going."

Thompson's gem was aided by a couple of sterling defensive plays by his teammates. Catcher Ryan Siegler threw out a runner trying to steal second in the first inning and first baseman Derek Gielarowski made a fine play on a grounder in the second.

"I started to get a little nervous in the last inning." Thompson admitted. "Their

Please see JUSTIN, B6

brickbats from parents whenev-

er a call goes against that mom

And officials don't get a free

flames of controversy with their

slight against them. Last week-

end at the Division 1 state base-

City's hopes for a regional cham-

unusual balk call against senior

ball regional at Saline, Garden

pionship were squashed by an

pitcher Aki Itoh (the balk was

called after he pitched the ball

One inning later, the Cougars

and retired the batter on a fly

were on the verge of a rally to

possibly tie or win the game

Hornets. But a bases-loaded

smash down the third-base line

was ruled foul, even though the

ball appeared to most to bounce

That incensed Garden City

Please see FAIR, B2

against the regional host

ball).

over the bag.

pass either, often fanning the

short fuses to any perceived

or dad's student-athlete.

on the game-winner as the Hawks improved to 4-0-1 in the Central Conference's Midwest Division. Goalkeeper Lauren Jarman made three

High School.

saves en route to the shutout. Ashley Swartz

made six saves for the Firewomen, who fall to 0-2-1 in the division.

MU Baseball Showcase

The Madonna University baseball program will stage its 2007 Showcase from noon to 3 p.m. Monday, June 18 at Ilitch Ballpark in Livonia.

MU coaches Greg Haeger and Stu rose will be working out any interested 2007 and 2008 graduates, as well as any ball players with college eligibility. Pre-registration is not required for the free, workout.

For more information, call coach Haeger at (734) 432-5609; or e-mail him at ghaeger@Madonna.edu.

working as a team, playing games with concepts such as sportsmanship Tim at the top of the

Smith yada, yada.

Listening to the animated, finger-pointing people who sit in the stands or bleachers at state districts, regionals, or finals in whatever sport, one wonders who is fooling who. Umpires and officials must dodge verbal

LOCAL SPORTS

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RNHARDI FROM PAGE BI

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help carry on his legacy." Earnhardt earned more than \$41 million in his career, winning seven NASCAR championships and virtually every major NASCAR event. His death in 2001 on the last lap of the Daytona 500 moved America more than any other athlete's death. His appeal bridged a huge core of race fans and the general public, not so much for his wins, but for the way he won them spectacularly and with gusto.

The film includes archival race footage, rare outtakes, never-before-seen family home videos with his closest friends and family, toughest competitors and most avid fans, illustrating the depth of Earnhardt's influence on the racing world and beyond.

The film has been shown in select cities in conjunction with the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series.

DALE was also released on DVD in January. Called the "John Wayne of

Racing," the documentary chronicles his 20-year frustration before winning the 1998 Daytona 500.

Earnhardt is interviewed extensively at one of his favorite fishing holes near his home in Kannapolis, N.C.

Earnhardt patterned his career after his father Ralph, who died at age 45 of a heart attack. Among those interviewed are his mother Martha, two brothers, two sisters, four children and widow Teresa, who helped create Dale Earnhardt, Inc. (DEI) in 1998. Earnhardt quit high school to drive in the red clay dust on small town tracks before earning NASCAR Rookie of the Year honors in 1979. A year later he took the overall points title, one of his record-tying seven on the NASCAR circuit (tying Richard Petty).

The story also highlights his days sponsored by Wrangler Jeans where he was called, "robust, down-to-earth and one-tough customer."

The film details his fierce rivalry with fellow driver Darrell Waltrip, along with his infamous wreck at Pocono in 1982 where he suffered a broken leg and raced the following week.

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As one NASCAR official said: "Dale wasn't racing to make friends, friends just got in the way.

Earnhardt also developed a close and long-standing relationship with race managerowner Richard Childress.

"Dale Earnhardt will always be one of the most dominant figures in the history of NASCAR," Childress said. "He meant so much to the millions of his fans throughout the world and I think DALE will give everyone a unique perspective on him both as a racer and as a human being.'

In 1988, the Intimidator drove the No. 3 black Goodwrench car and became a household name after winning four points crowns in five years before going winless in 59 consecutive starts.

Many outtakes feature him working on his farm as he jokes to himself, "Jack of All Trades, Master of None."

Also interviewed was drive Steve Park, who won a race after his death, along with numerous interviews with son Dale, Jr., who won dramatically at the Pespi 400 just six months following the tragedy at the same Daytona Speedway.

NBC News anchor Brian Williams and his son also are featured in the film, while the documentary examines the evolving relationship between Dale and his son Dale, Jr., including a funny mock interview between the two.

The showing comes on the heels of the Citizens Bank 400 this weekend at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn

"This film provides an incredible opportunity to reach the very audience that Dale's life and legacy mean so much to," said Jeff Yapp, executive vice-president of MTVN. "We'll create large event screenings in Nextel Cup Series markets preceding race weekend, with a goal of creating an event atmosphere more like a live concert than a traditional movie screening.'

bemons@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2123

City Golf Challenge gives area FAIR FROM, PAGE B1 competitors new opportunity

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

Golfers in western Wayne County have been put on

notice. The Wayne Parks and **Recreation Department** will stage its 2007 City Golf Challenge, Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 4-5, at recently refurbished and redesigned Fellows Creek Municipal Golf Course in Canton

The Challenge includes the cities of Wayne, Westland, Romulus, Plymouth, Canton and Livonia.

Former Wayne High athletic director Bill Hawley has come up with a unique format to determine champions from each city including men's and women's divisions, seniors (50 and up) and super seniors (65 and up).

You must have at least five golfers for the city to be entered in the Challenge.

There will also be an open division.

Hawley harkens back to the old days when Wayne and Livonia were two of the biggest participants in the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association state tournaments.

Hawley also will ask the Wayne Rotary Club to sponsor a traveling trophy for yearly the City Challenge winner.

"We want to see which city has the best golfers and the Wayne golfers say, 'bring it on," he said. "This is also a great opportunity for novice golfers to get into competitive golf. We'll flight everybody after the first day (Friday) based on their first-day scores. It's a fun thing and we want people to have a great time. A lot of people who normally shy away have an opportunity to kind of whet their appetite for competition."

Last year's overall medalist

was Westland's Ernie Kent, who competed as super senior.

"This is not a tournament for only the best golfers," Hawley said. "Everyone can compete against someone of their own ability."

The entry fee is \$60 per player (carts extra). Awards are included with trophies going to the first three finishers in each flight. Tee times will begin at noon each day.

'Fellows Creek is a good test of golf for everybody," Hawley said. "It's not as easy as people think, but it's not too tough. It's a good track.'

Call either Jeff Rutter or Steve Winkleman at the Wayne Community Center at (734) 721-7400. You can also visit the City Challenge Web Site at www.whitworthfamily. org/2007citychampionships. htm.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net (734) 953-2123

fans along the first-base sidelines, and they didn't sugarcoat their feelings toward the ump. The official, perhaps still fuming over how he was criticized for the earlier balk call, pulled up his pants and dug in.

Had the ump been miked for sound, he might have spouted out something like "This is my baby and there's nothing you can do, I am in complete control. I maybe blew the call, but there's no way I'm going to admit it."

Meanwhile, some of the college-age Saline faithful were getting aggressively giddy up in the stands behind home plate, taunting the Cougars and perhaps collecting money to put up a shrine for the umpire.

• How does any of this match up to the MHSAA sportsmanship handbook? Professional and college sports are cutthroat, with a "win-or-you'rea-loser" mentality. Sadly, that attitude now is trickling down to high school, middle school, even youth leagues.

There's a lot of money spent trying to get Alex or Alexis to a level where their could be enough success to result in a college scholarship. Maybe Alex can open the eyes of a major league baseball scout, the way Redford Union's Toby Matchulat did (sometimes it works; Matchulat was recently drafted by the Detroit Tigers).

But most youngsters just want the experience of playing games they love, perhaps just to be with their friends and classmates wearing their high school colors. Maybe future state tournaments should include another PA announcement to "Chill, folks." Otherwise, why bother with the charade?

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Garden City and Redford Observers.

Clarenceville athletes faced with pay-to-play

The Clarenceville Board of Education took action May 24 to begin a Pay to Participate program for athletic participation for the 2007-08 school vear

The fee for athletics is \$75 for the first sport at the high level \$25 fi

first day of team participation (official Michigan High School Athletic Association start date).

In an e-mail, Clarenceville athletic administrator Kevin Murphy said participation in athletics or activities is base on ndividual interest and ability.

will play in contests.

There will be no refund for injury, while students are encourages to stay with the team to earn their award. There is no refund is a student quits or dismissed from a team

for disciplinary reasons. Payment method should be in check or money order and

placed in a payment envelope

(no cash). Checks should be

Get on the ball.

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Envelopes much be turned into the coach or athletic director. Receipts may be requested.

The athletic participation fee does not cover participation in other student activi

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Murphy at (248) 919-0217.

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D)

0&E champ Omietanski to guide Stevenson golf **BY BRAD EMONS** STAFF WRITER Although the change of

seasons by the Michigan High School Athletic Association will move boys golf from the fall to the spring, new Livonia Stevenson varsity coach Jim Omietanski wants to get a head start.

The two-time defending **Observer & Eccentric Golf** Tournament champion will stage summer conditioning workouts at 11 a.m. each Friday (through August) beginning June 22 at Fox Creek Golf Course, located at

Seven Mile and Wayne roads. The cost is \$12 per 18 holes. To schedule a tee time, call the Fox Creek pro shop at (248) 471-3400. Omietanski took the job in March when Jason

Delo decided to concentrate on the girls varsity position. "Jason is getting married in

August and he thought coaching two sports would be too much," Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman said. "Jim is quite a player himself, very knowledgeable. He'll connect and have rapport with the student-athlete. He should be a great asset to our program."

This is Omietanski's first stint as a high school coach. He played one season of golf at Henry Ford Community College and has coached hockey at the AAA and AA level. "I met some of the kids

last month, they're eager and ready," Omietanski said. "I also want to touch base with some of the incoming freshmen.

Course management to me is huge. I'm excited and looking forward to the challenge."

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LOCAL SPORTS

Canton's Super Bowl hosts 2008 USBC Women's Open

he debate goes on every year about which city has the best bragging rights on its sports teams

www.hometownlife.com

Naturally, we think we are the best of all since the resurgence of the Tigers as one of the elite baseball teams and current American League cham-

pions.

Even though

Detroit Pistons

their respective

finals, they both

finished on top

of the divisional

standings and

only a few fluke

or Red Wings

neither the

made it to



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

plays prevented them from advancing further in the playoffs.

If the Lions can finally get their act together, the Detroit area would be on top in all of the four major sports, ahead of New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis or Los Angeles.

ing to the mix as well, since this area is universally recognized as this nation's most active bowling metropolis.

W-LEAGUE SOCCER Thursday, June 21 at Michigan State University Mich. Hawks vs. W. Mich. Firewomen, 7 p.m.

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE **BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE** Monday, June 18 at Livonia's Ford Field Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Rams, 5:45 p.m.

of bowling participants by far, the most bowling centers and arguably the best bowlers. Our local area will host the 2008 U.S. Bowling Congress Women's Open.

This tournament is the single largest women's athletic competition in the world with about 80,000 participants expected to come here and compete in the

The 2007 events is being staged in Charlotte, N.C. with players from all 50 states, Latin. American nations, Canada and as far away as Australia. It will run from April 10 to July

6, at Mark and Diane Voight's Super Bowl on Ford Road in Canton. In addition, the USBC Youth Open Championships will be July 7-15, 2008, at Skore Lanes in Taylor, while the Pepsi **USBC** Youth Open Tournament will run from July 14 - 16, 2008, at Sunnybrook Bowl in Sterling Heights.

These major events will focus the sports world on Detroit and add even more luster to our bragging rights.

Happy Fathers Day to all you dads.

I hope your loved ones went out to the local pro shops and bought

that new bowling ball for you - the one that advertises more power, it will absolutely demolish the pins with every shot.

Don't forget to take advantage of summer time open lanes to work on your game.

If any of your kids are headed for college, they do not have to be a 265 pound linebacker to get a scholarship.

Danielle Fesco, 17, of Redford was awarded a full scholarship on bowling. She will join the bowling team at Fayetteville State University (N.C.) based on her success as captain of the Clarenceville High School girls team as she averaged 191 this past season with a high game of 289.

"It's an awesome opportunity," said Danielle when she first heard the good news.

Her coach, Pam Jones, added: "She came in as a sophomore averaging 111 and ended the season at 190. She's the hardest working girl I've ever coached and she is totally dedicated to becoming a top-notch bowler".

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839 or e-mail: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net

Coaching opportunities

Plymouth High School is looking for a varsity boys hockey coach. If interested, fill out the application that can be found at www.pccs.k12.mi.us and submit it to the Plymouth Athletic Department.

Canton High School is looking for a head coach and an assistant coach for its boys lacrosse team. Candidates for both positions need to be high school graduates, have experience in high school-level coaching or playing experience in the sport, have a time schedule compatible to that of the high school, have CPR training, and have the demonstrated ability to work with parents and their children.

Interested individuals who work within the school district should address a letter of intent for the position to the Athletic Office, 8415 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187.

Interested individuals who are not employed by the school

SPORTS BRIEFS

district must file a coaching application and include a letter of intent for the positions with the Athletic Office. All applicants will be notified as to their status regarding the positions.

For more information, contact Canton Athletic Director Sue Heinzman at (734) 416-2925.

Summer girls

hoop camps

The annual Canton/Salem girls basketball camps will be held in June in the Canton and Salem high school gymnasiums.

A camp for girls who will be starting seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the fall of 2007 will be held June 18-22 from 1-3 p.m. The seventh graders will be at Salem while the eighth and ninth graders will utilize the Canton gym. The cost of the camp is \$70.

A camp for girls who will be starting fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall of 2007 will

be held June 25-29 from 1-3 p.m. The fourth graders will be at Salem while the fifth- and sixth-graders will utilize the Canton gym.

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(*)

Campers will receive instruction from members of the coaching staffs of Canton and Salem high schools as well as from high school players.

Players can register through **Plymouth-Canton Community** Education, which is located at 40260 Five Mile Rd. in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-2940.

Football camp

The Plymouth Wildcat Youth Skills Camp will be held June 25-27 from 5-7 p.m. on the PCEP varsity football field. It is a fundamental camp for kids who are in 5th through 9th grades.

Interested participants should visit www.plymouthwildcats.com for a copy of the camp brochure. For additional information, contact head coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 582-5696.

2 TIGERS TICKET **Enter Each Week** WEEK #10 IGER TICKETS **For A Chance To Win** WINNER: **2 Tigers Tickets** DONNA or A Pass For Two OLMSTEAD Westland **To Emagine Theaters!!** WEEK #10 EMAGINE THEATER WINNER: Matthew Naiman • Chesterfield Go to HometownLife.com Click on the contest logo. **Guess how many total hits &**

> runs the Tigers will have the following week (Monday-Sunday).

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Michigan Bulls vs. Detroit Eagles, 8:15 p.m Wednesday, June 20 at Livonia's Ford Field Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Bulls, 5:45 p.m. Detroit Eagles vs. Michigan Rams, 8:15 p.m. Friday, June 22 at Livonia's Ford Field Michigan Rams vs. Detroit Eagles, 5:45 p.m. Michigan Bulls vs. Oakland Cubs, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, June 24

at Livonia's Bicentennial Park Michigan Rams vs. Detroit Eagles (2), noon. Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Bulls (2), 5 p.m

PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE SOCCER Wednesday, June 20 Mich. Bucks at W. Michigan Edge, 7 p.m Saturday, June 23 at Saginaw Twp. Soccer Complex Michigan Bucks vs. Indiana Invaders, 8 p.m

event.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Buick Open tickets

www.hometownlife.com

A special Father's Day ticket package is available for the 2007 Buick Open, June 25-July 1, at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc.

The package includes two any-day tickets and a free parking pass to Michigan's only PGA tour event for \$50. This is an \$80 value as tickets regular go for \$35 each (starting June 25) and parking is \$10. This special package is available through Father's Day (June 17).

Daily tickets (Thursday through Sunday) are \$30 (if purchased by June 24), or \$35 at the gate. A book of daily tickets is \$250 (if purchased by June 24). Other ticket packages include grounds badges (week long access) for \$95; and clubhouse badges (week long access) for Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club clubhouse and grounds) for \$185. For tickets, call (800) 878-OPEN; or visit www.buickopen.pgatour. com, Pro-Am and hospitality packages are available by calling (248) 203-8754.

Livonia Y leagues

The following leagues are now underway for registration at the Livonia Family YMCA including:

Co-ed T-Ball, coach-pitch and kid pitch league (ages 4-10) and pee wee soccer (ages 3-6), July 7-Aug. 11; fall soccer (starts early Sept.) instructional (ages 3-8) and recreational (boys and girls under-9 through under-14).

New sports camps and off-season sports training are also offered. Prices vary. For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

Youth Fitness Meet

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Fitness meet for boys and girls ages 7-14 will start at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 28 at Rotary Park.

Free registration is from 9-9:45 a.m. on June 28. Youths must live in the Livonia or Clarenceville school districts to participate. Among the events include standing long jump, running long jump, chinning, dashes, agility course and softball throw.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Archery introduction

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage an introduction to target archery class from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturdays on Aug. 18 and Sept. 22, at the Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

The fee is \$12 (residents) and \$14 (non-residents). Children 9-and-under must be accompanied by an adults.

Registration is at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 12100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. A limited number of instructional bow, arrows and other supplies are available to use at no additional cost. Class participants may also bring a lunch if desired. A half-hour break is schedule during the workshop. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA football signup

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association football will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford road).

The WYAA has two units.

The Westland Meteors practices at Voss Park (Henry Ruff and Palmer) and play their home games at Wayne Memorial High School. The Westland Comets practice at Marshall Middle School and play their home games at John Glenn High School.

Age groups for both units include freshman (8-10), JV (11-12) and varsity (11-14). Players are subject to weight restrictions. All players who register must product a copy of their birth certificate (not hospital certificate) and a recent school photo. Call the WYAA during normal business hours at (734) 421-0640.

Instructional football

Registration is under way for the WYAA's new instructional football program for ages 7-8 at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

No scores will be tabulated and coaches will be allowed on the field for instructional purposes. Games will be played prior to Meteors and Comets on their respective game dates.

Participants must have a maximum weight restriction of 115 pounds and must supply a copy of their birth certificate to the league.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

Drop in H.S. hockey

High school drop in hockey will be available from 3:30-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The fee is \$8 per player. It is limited to 24 players and four goalies.

All players must show their high school I.D., read and sign a rules form, along with a liability

WYAA cheerleading

waiver form.

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association cheerleading will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Registration for the Westland Comets and Meteors cheerleading squads is open to all girls ages 6-14 (as of Sept. 1).

Both units will cheer for the Meteors and Comets freshman, JV and varsity football squads during the season and also participate in the Western Suburban Junior Football

League cheerleading rally. For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

All-Star Showcase

High school baseball players (in the 2007-2010 classes) are invited to sign up for the "Michigan All-Star Showcase," slated for Monday, July 2 and Tuesday, July 3 near Grand Rapids at Fifth Third Ballpark, home of the Class A West Michigan Whitecaps.

For more information, call (616) 635-0010 or go to gvsulakers.com and go to baseball camps. There will be 12 Michigan colleges in attendance.

MU baseball tryouts

Five members of the 2007 Madonna University baseball team were discovered at the annual MU Baseball Showcase, including two-time All-WHAC selection Manny Alvarado, a Southfield High alum.

Crusader coaches will again look for the next great MU baseball player when they hold the 2007 MU Baseball Showcase Monday June 18th at Ilitch Ballpark..

Festivities begin at 12 noon and all players who wish to come to the open tryout are asked to be at Ilitch Ballpark, stretched and ready to go by noon. All junior college players, as

well as 2007 and 2008 high school graduates are invited to attend the free showcase.

For more information, contact MU head baseball coach Greg Haeger at (734) 432-5609.

C'ville hoop camp

The Trojan Fundamental Basketball Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon (boys and girls grades 4-8) and 1-4 p.m. (grades 9-12), Monday through Thursday, June 18-21, at Livonia Clarenceville High School.

The cost is \$60.

The camp will be run by Clarenceville varsity boys coach Corey McKendry, along with Grandville Elementary School coach Stefan Terpack. Gues speakers include former Clarenceville All-State guard Donnie Carson, now at Idaho State, along with registered MHSAA officials and current Oakland University players.

For more information, call

SPORTS CAMPS & CLINICS

(248) 919-022, Ext. 217. Blazer spiker camp

Livonia Ladywood will stage a volleyball camp from 9 a.m. to noon (grades 3-6) and from 6-9 p.m. (grades 6-9), Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, at the high school.

For more information, email Cameron Kompoltowicz at ckompo@yahoo.com.

Franklin pom camp

The Livoina Franklin varsity pom pom team will stage a clinice for girls ages 6-14 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, July 28 at the high school gym.

Included in the \$35 cost is a T-shirt and pizza lunch. A parents and friends performance will follow at 2:15 p.m. You must pre-register by July 10 because space is limited.

For more information or to pre-register, call Nancy Kuzura at (734) 502-0877. Glenn football camp

The Westland John Glenn football summer skills camp for incoming grades 5-10 will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, June 19-22, at high school.

The cost of the camp, directed by Glenn varsity coach Todd DeLuca, is \$50 (includes awards and pizza party).

For more information, call Dan Massey at (734) 419-2329.

Future Stars baseball

Livonia Franklin varsity coach Matt Fournier and his staff will stage a summer baseball camp for boys and girls exiting grades 3-6 from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, June 28, at the high school.

The cost is \$60 (includes camp T-shirt). You must be registered by Friday, June 15.

For more information, call Fournier at (734) 968-0499; or e-mail mfournie2livonia.k12. mi.us.

Glenn hoop camp

Westland John Glenn boys varsity coach Dan Young will stage a basketball camp for boys and girls (entering grades 3-9 in the fall) from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, at the high school gymnasium.

All participants will receive instruction on all phases of the game including offense, defense, shooting, rebounding techniques, ball-handling skills, mental attitude and teamwork. The cost is \$50 (includes T-

shirt). For more information, e-

mail youngda22@yahoo.com.

Summer spikers

It's never too early to plan for those summer sports camps. Redford Union district residents between ages 9-14 who are interested in volleyball are welcome to attend the All-Skills Youth Volleyball Clinic, slated for Saturday, July 21 at Redford Union High School.

The clinic stresses fundamentals and personalized instruction for youngsters of all levels through drills, scrimmages and other fun activities.

There is a maximum of 40 players for the clinic, so early signups are encouraged. Fax player information forms to camp director Marchelle Johnson at (313) 242-4395 or send her an e-mail at Johnsonmar@valessis.com, with "RU Clinic" specified in the subject line. Each player's name, address, phone, grade and age should be included.

The \$30 per-player clinic fee is due at check in; registration forms are due by Wednesday, July 18.

For more information, call Johnson at (734) 591-7397 during daytime hours and (313) 300-2131 during evening hours.

Field hockey camp

The 2007 Blazer Field Hockey Day Camp for grade six through incoming freshman will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23 at Livonia Ladywood High School. The cost is \$50 (includes camp T-shirt with on-site athletic trainer). Registration is due June 15.

The camp, directed by Ladywood coach Kris Sánders, will put an emphasis on fundamentals and techniques. All camp participants must bring shin guards, a mouthpiece and water bottle. Rubber cleats are recommended along with a field hockey stick (some available for signout at the camp). You should also bring a sack lunch.

For more information, email coachkris@ameritech. net.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

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Pictured is the opponents' side of the scorebook that was used for Justin Thompson's no-hitter. The K's represent strikeouts.

LOCAL SPORTS

JUSTIN

last batter was kind of short, so I was worried I might walk him. But I struck him out with a knuckleball."

"I think I was more nervous than he was in the last inning because I know the significance of a no-hitter and how rare they are," said Joel Thompson. "When he got the last out, I was the loudest one out there. And the proudest."

Coincidentally, both no-hitting Justins - Verlander and Thompson - met face-to-face at an autograph session at the Gibraltar Trade Center this past winter.

"He's a great guy," Joel Thompson said of Verlander. "He was very friendly and personable with the kids.

"I took a photo of Justin with Verlander when he was signing a baseball. After we walked away, I noticed the photo was kind of blurry. When I went back to see if we could re-take the photo, Justin Verlander actually had Justin come behind the table with him so we could get a better shot. A lot of other players would have said, 'Take a hike."

Justin Thompson is writing a letter to Verlander in hopes of setting up a meeting with the Major Leaguer.

"That would be cool to meet him again and talk about our no-hitters," he said.

ewright@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2108



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton teenager Justin Thompson tossed a no-hitter in a Canton Little League game Wednesday night at Griffin Park.

Redford Rebels get the win with 7th-inning run

www.hometownlife.com

The Redford Rebels 16-Under travel baseball team edged Northville's Broncos, 4-3 on Thursday at Capitol Park to improve to 2-1 in the early stages of the team's debut season.

Solid defense, good pitching and timely hitting helped the Rebels to the victory in the second game of a home-and-home. series with the Broncos.

Contributing two hits each were Jesse Hess, Joe McCulloch and Ryan Smith while Brian Corner drilled an inside-the-park home run to pace the offense.

The game was 3-3 entering the seventh, and Rebels starting pitcher Jeremy Wafer mowed down the Broncos in order. That led to the winning rally, with Ryan Smith doubling and scoring on a single by McCulloch.

Wafer earned the victory with his complete-game effort, scattering seven hits and striking out five.

Head coach Bruce Corner's squad took part Saturday in its first-ever tourney, the South Farmington Blues Tournament.

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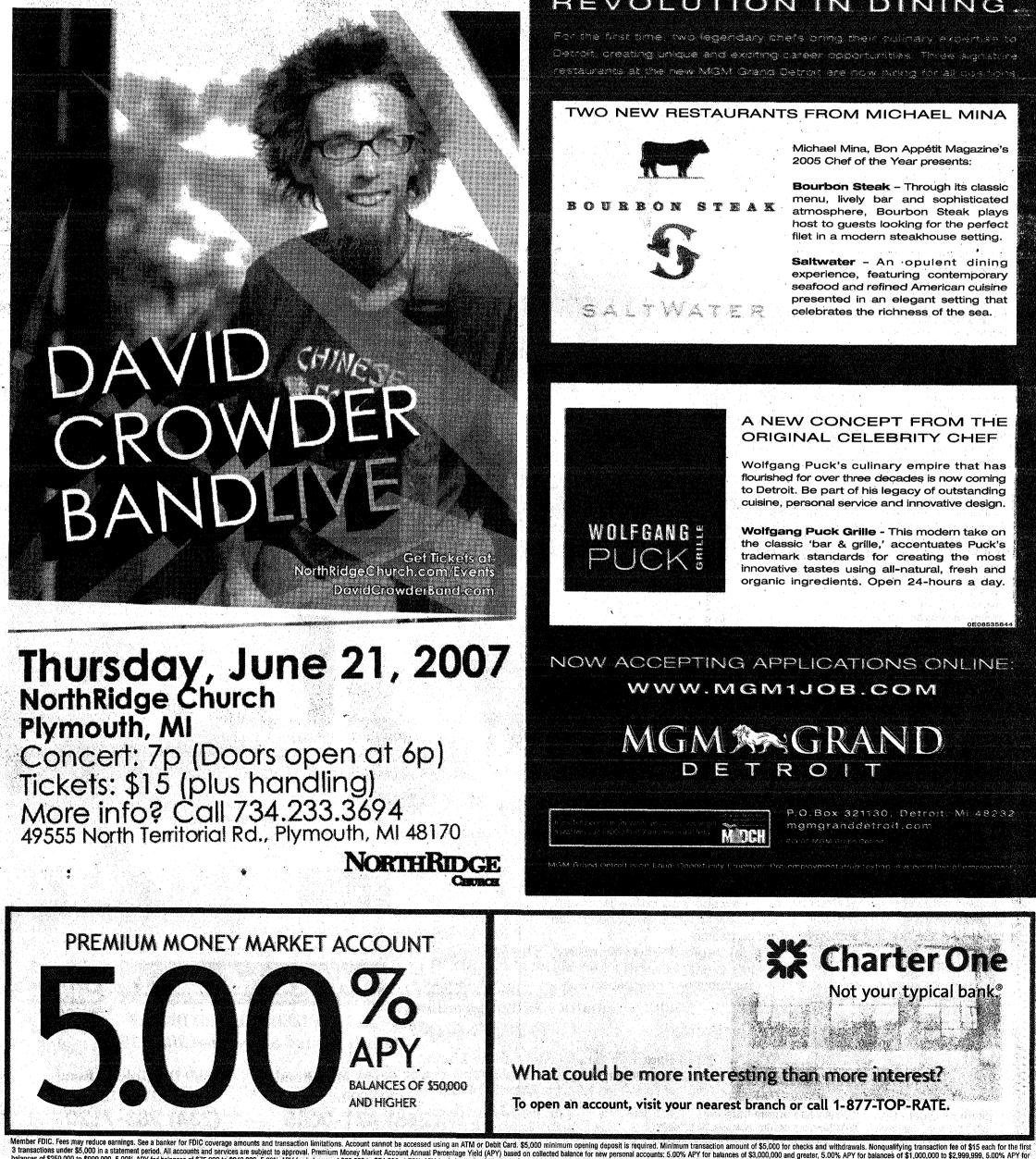
restaurants at the new MGM Grand Detroit are now hiring for all cost to



2005 Chef of the Year presents:

filet in a modern steakhouse setting.

Saltwater - An opulent dining experience, featuring contemporary



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VHL disorder requires constant monitoring - Health, C7

HOMETOWN

Brad Kadrich, editor . (734) 459-2700 . bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Graduates are facing up to the future

his has been a banner year for our family. Two of our five grandchildren are graduating. Where has the time gone?

Ryan McGriff was embracing this time in his life. He has been in the high school ROTC program for the last three years. He made up his mind at Christmas to join the United States



Army Rangers after graduation, and has successfully passed both the physical tests and the mental tests. He will belong to the U.S. Army as of July 11, 2007. May God watch over him, and all of the other young men in our Armed Forces.

Donna Kenske

Our little princess, Olivia Rose McGriff, however, is the total opposite. She has had small bouts of sadness and tears over graduating for the last few weeks. She

has been practicing her graduation song over and over.

Normally, she is not a shy girl in front of an audience, I think the last few years of dancing solved that. My daughter, her mother, told me however, that she almost had a panic attack over singing this song. All I could think of is what in the hell kind of song was it?

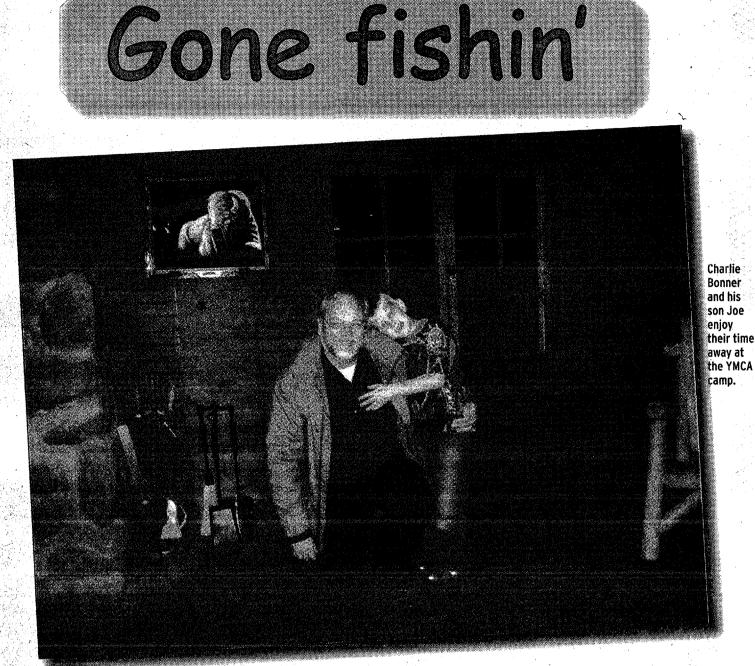
Olivia couldn't wait to show me the picture in her cap and gown taken a few weeks ago. She looked beautiful. Her deep brown curly hair framed her oval face. The rich blue of the gown brought out her green eyes and those long dark brown eyelashes. She doesn't need the help of make up, God took care of that.

"Grandma," she said in a whisper. "I don't know if I'm ready to graduate."

She hadn't confided any of this to me before and I was stunned to say the least. "Olivia, what do you mean you don't think you're ready?"

Taking my hand into hers she said, "I'm never going to see any of my friends again after we graduate. My best friend, Giselle, is going to a different school and Gaby said she's not going to school at all in the fall."

If it hadn't been for the tears in her eyes I would have thought she was kidding me. But the expression on her face showed me she meant what she said. Why in the world didn't my daughter warn me that there was more to this than just a song, so that I could have more time to



Adventure Guides give kids quality time with dad



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

enni Kirby loves spending time with her dad, Mark, especially when he's the one baiting her hook during their camping trips with Adventure Guides. The YMCA program offers parents of both sexes the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with their children. The Kirbys belong to the Livonia branch, but Adventure Guides is offered through Y's in Farmington Hills and Plymouth as well. "It's really fun having quality time with my dad," said Jenni Kirby, 12. "What's special about my dad is probably



Sunday, June 17, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

prepare a response? Did she even know?

"Have you talked to Ryan about any of this, you know, to get a guy's viewpoint?" I asked. "He's graduating too." As the words came out of my mouth. I knew they sounded pretty lame. "Oh, he's happy about it." Her voice started to crack. "He doesn't even care what school his girlfriend is going to go to. It's all Army, Army, Army. Ugh! He tells everybody he works with that we're graduating together; like we're the only brother and sister ever to do that."

I really thought she was going to cry. "Um, you haven't shown me what dress you're wearing to graduation, honey." I said, hopefully changing the mood.

She perked right up, "Oh Grandma, it is sooo beautiful. Let me show it to you." Jumping to her feet she sprang down the hall to her bedroom. She was right. The dress was perfect for her. When I left I felt confident that her sadness had ended.

A STATE

Here at last, graduation day has finally arrived. My job today is to save my husband a seat, not just any seat, but one in the front row. From the minute she was born he dubbed her as his very own little princess, and she loved it.

The nursic started as the graduating class began its procession to the stage. Olivia gave us a little wave and then flashed her biggest smile at her Grandaa. The music started and they all

at ber Grandpa. The music started and they all began to sing. She made it though the song without incident. We didn't. Tears of happiness and **portal** down both of our checks as my husband whispeted into my ear. 'She's so beautiful. She's growing up so fast." We didn't dare look at our daughter. I didn't want to see if she, too, was cry-

As they tossed their hats into the air, I knew that Olivia had finally made peace with her fears. She is now ready to move on to Kindergarten. What a month!

Donna Kenske lives in Canton.

Neal Haldane and his daughter Laura blow bubbles at the spring campout at Camp Nissokone near Oscoda.

Please see GUIDES, C2

Jenni Kirby shows off the feathers she's earned as an Adventure Guides Princess.

Rescue groups gather for doggie adoption day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Trixie is one tolerant dog. When Rachel McLellan's 3-year-old daughter, Keela, rubbed Elmer's Glue into the beagle's fur, the young dog barely moved a muscle. Lovable Trixie is just one of the dogs looking for a permanent home during the first Adoption Day 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at the K-9 Academy Training Facility south of Michigan Avenue, east of Venoy, in Wayne. For more information, call (734) 641-9507 or visit www. k9atf.com for directions. McLellan runs Daisy's

Doghouse Rescue which saves dogs from kill shelters and provides foster homes until animals are adopted. McLellan's

Please see DOGGIE, C3



Trixie the Beagle is very tolerant of children. She is about 1 to 2 years old.



Hoppie, a 5-year-old Samoyed/Golden Retriever/possibly Chow mix, will be available for adoption through Daisy's Doghouse Rescue on June 23, at the K-9 Academy. He has an old back injury and has difficulty walking. That's why he's called Hoppie.



Henry is a 14-month old Rottweiler in need of a home. He is available through Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan.



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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 17, 2007

been in the Livonia Guides

ing part of my life. I define

what I do for a living," said

kids when they have kids to

have the same relationships

that I've tried to nurture with

programs available where you

You get to do things you don't

usually like Zipline across riv-

ers, lakes, fields. Everything's

safe because you're strapped

into this harness. Jenni and

I just returned from Oscoda

15-man canoe on the lake, got

to go fishing and sometimes

take her fish off. I'm trying to

get them to be more indepen-

Neal Haldane cherishes

the fun times with his kids in

Adventure Guides. He would

like to encourage more par-

ents to consider joining the

to with daughter Laura, 15,

"It's a blast," said Neal

University journalism profes-

sor. "At a campout last week-

end in Oscoda with Laura, we

went kayaking, did bows and

arrow, and just generally hung

out and walked along the lake.

You're not dropping your kid

off. You're interacting with

and son Chris, 12.

Haldane, a Madonna

Livonia Y program he belongs

dent."

'A BLAST

where we got to take out a

them. This is one of the only

spend one on one time with

your kids. There's no mom.

myself as being a dad before

Mark Kirby, 47. "I want for my

which Linda now directs. "It's become an all-consum-



C2 (*)

everything. This Saturday we went camping. A few weeks ago, we went to see a movie. The program has really brought us closer.'

Adventure Guides, formerly known as Indian Guides, meets monthly in Circles based on age. The groups are responsible for organizing activities from crafts and a pine box derby to an overnight stay at a submarine in northern Michigan. Three times a year, members of a Circle go away to camp with their parents. Jenni belongs to a Princesses Circle for daughters and dads, but programs are available for father-sons, mother-sons and motherdaughters. Tommy Kirby, 11, enjoys doing new activities with his dad as a Guide.

"It's fun," said Tommy Kirby. "You get new experiences like learning how to do archery. We went to camp in May and did canoeing and caught some King frogs. My dad's special because he takes time out of his work to spend time with me."

The main reason Mark Kirby joined Adventure Guides 15 years ago with his daughter, Amy, now 19, was to share quality time with his children individually. His wife, Linda, became involved with the program 23 years ago with son James, now 28. All five Kirby children have

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your child."

Kids and parents from **Commerce to West Bloomfield** enjoy the Farmington Y Adventure Guides for ages 5 and up. As a former volunteer Guides' Navigator, Charlie Bonner helped plan the events that begin Sept. 16 with a canoe and barbecue at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Bonner has three children in program – Joe, 7, Chris, 11, and Alex, 14, who is now in the Trailblazer program for older kids. On Father's Day, he will be driving Chris to a two-week camp run by the Y in Oscoda.

"He got a taste of what camp is all about and wants to go to regular camp," said Charlie Bonner, 46, of Wixom. "It makes memories with the kids, and I think it sticks with the kids too. My first memory of Indian Guides is when I was a child. It's one of the favorite memories of my dad."

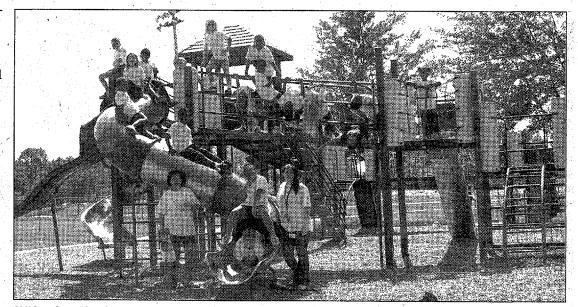
Like Bonner, Rob Ferree was in Indian Guides with his dad. The Plymouth Township man enjoys the program with his daughters so much he serves on the Plymouth YMCA board. About 50 families participate in Plymouth Guides including Rachel, 14, Hannah, 12, and Emma Ferree, 10.

FAMILY TIES

We were in Girl Scouts and church programs, but this was a father-daughter program," said Rob Ferree, a 46-yearold geologist who works as an environmental consultant. For me it's enjoying my three girls and has helped benefit our relationship so I'm not seen as this foreign thing when they become teenagers." For more information about the Livonia Adventure Guides, call Linda Kirby at (734) 464-1360. Bryan Baker, who oversees the Farmington YMCA Guides, can be reached at (248) 553-4020, Ext. 121. **Plymouth YMCA executive**

director Josh Landefeld is Guides liaison. Call (734) 453-2904.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145



Children from Livonia, Westland, Canton, and Redford had fun last summer at the camps run by the YWCA of Western Wayne County in Taylor's Heritage Park.

YWCA camps offer fun for the summer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

It's Erin Evans job to make sure this summer's YWCA camps draw children from around the area to Heritage Park in Taylor for the week long sessions of fun. This summer she's scheduled a variety of activities for kids (ages 6-15) who live in Livonia, Redford, Canton, Westland, and other communities in Western Wayne County.

The camps begin June 18, and continue to Aug. 31. Campers can sign up for the entire summer or only one week.

The cost is \$100 per week per child. Discounts are available for siblings. YWCA membership is not required and financial aid is available.

For more information, call Evans at (313) 561-4110, ext. 14.

Camp activities include basketball, scavenger hunts, science experiments, arts and crafts, and a talent show.

"We have theme weeks with activities, games, guest speakers including people from the humane society, on disability, nature, a career week with 5 different professionals, the fire department," said Evans, program director. "We're trying to make it fun. Every week they'll be going swimming, to the library, on various field trips. They're going to be learning a lot. We want to provide high quality child care in the summer."

ww.hometownlife.com

Youths, ages 12-15, can the set sign up to participate in the Counselors-in-Training Program designed to teach the basics of camp counseling. The program helps develop job skills including communication, leadership, and understanding the importance of responsibility and decision making.

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Free water aerobics program boosts fitness

Mothers and seniors around Metro Detroit can get a free fitness boost this summer thanks to a water aerobics program sponsored by Health Alliance Plan (HAP). Moms in Motion and Senior Splash Bash water aerobics classes will be offered for free this summer in 10 Southeast Michigan communities including Livonia and Westland.

Moms in Motion and Senior Splash Bash classes give seniors a low-impact, calorie burning workout and help mothers get in shape to keep up with their kids and have energy to spare to take care of themselves. The program begins in June and ends in August. While the program targets mothers and

seniors, any adult may participate.

Physical activity can help reduce the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke, depression, colon cancer, and premature death. Water aerobics can be ideal for just about anyone because the buoyancy of the water reduces stress on joints, bones and muscles, and participants can burn calories more efficiently than in traditional workouts.

Livonia classes run noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from June 23 to Aug. 18, at the Sheldon Pool, 3123 Van Court.

Westland classes continue 3-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Aug. 11, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road.

For more information, call (313) 664-8420.

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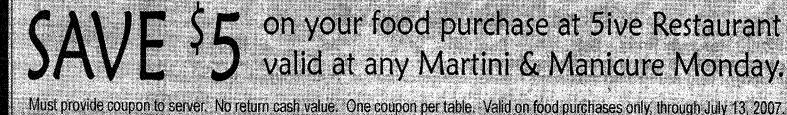
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C3 (*)



organization, Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan, Mutts & Mutts, Michigan Weimaraner Rescue, Gibraltar Vets, Shipperkee Rescue, Michigan Miniature Schnauzer, and Pet Angels for Life will fill the 4,600square-foot K-9 facility with dogs of every shape and size. McLellan and her daughters, Keela and Charity, will be at the event with Patsy, a Westie/ Pomeranian mix, and Hoppie, a Samoyed/Golden Retriever/ possibly Chow mix.

Adoption fees and policies vary with organization.

"Keela will be heart-broken when Trixie leaves," said McLellan of Canton. "Trixie is very tolerant of children and also very smart so she's trainable, about 1 to 2 years old, healthy, and mastered sit and shake hands in one day.

"The Adoption Day is important because it gets dogs attention. My little beagle girl has been with me four months and it's a chance to promote her rescue. We'll also be fund raising. We rescue dogs that cost

over \$1,000 in medical bills. I sell my homemade dog cookies made with rice flour instead of wheat and dipped in carob (chocolate substitute), and homemade kitty cat toys filled with organic cat nip to raise funds."

Judy Sabo would do just about anything to find dogs a forever home. Sabo, cochair Tina Foley, and the K-9 Academy staff are holding a raffle for T-shirts, dog treats, leashes, and toys to lure prospective dog parents to the event. Each new owner will receive a \$50 coupon for an obedience class at K-9 ATF.

"We hope to have a lot of fun," said Judy Sabo, event chair and an obedience trainer at the K-9 Academy owned by Terry Foley, a Wayne Police canine handler. Foley trains 60 law enforcement K-9 teams in the area.

"Dogs give unconditional love. I grew up with a beagle from age 4. My brother and I used to bring home every stray we found."

Julia Hornshaw began working with Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan coordinator Toni Hetherington in Auburn Hills about 6¹/₂ years

ago. Hornshaw is bringing two Rottweilers - Eleanor, 4, and Henry, 14 months old - to the Adoption Day.

Hornshaw can't say enough good things about the breed. "We call them Velcro dogs

(because they stick to you)," said Hornshaw of Livonia. "I've had dogs all my life, Rotties 11 years, and I understand Rottweilers are not the dog for everyone, but like the Lab and Golden Retriever they just want to be loved.

"Henry was being left out in back yard in a kennel and his dog father was beating him up all the time so he has scars on his nose. He wants to be with you all the time."

Cindy Orlandi of Michigan Weimaraner Rescue is bringing Casey Jones, a 6-year-old neutered male currently looking for a new home. She says the way to Casey's heart is through his tummy as he is a very foodmotivated learner and loves to practice his obedience so he would make a great 4-H dog. Casey interacts well with all the dogs in rescue, and is learning to live with a cat in his foster home.

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The Smoothest Concert of the Summer! **Southfield Civic Center** On the Green [Evergreen Road & Civic Center Dr. South of 1-696]

Artist Schedule All Acts & Times Subject to Change! +



Friday June 22^{ND Gates Open 4Pm} 5:15^{pm} • Kimmie Horne

- 6:20^{pm} Urban Jazz Coalition
- 7:35^{pm} Paul Taylor & Regina Belle

9:20pm + Jazz Attack [feat. Rick Braun, Richard Elliot, Jonathan Butler & Peter White]



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My mother had Alzheimer's. There wasn't much question ... we sort of knew when it was time for hospice.

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And this volunteer came with a loveable little dog. When she saw the pup, my mother smiled.

I hadn't seen that smile for so long. She even began to talk of her childhood, of the dog she had as a little girl, as if it were yesterday.

VITAS gave me a little more time with the mother I once knew. I'll never forget



VITAS cheerfully welcomes enthusiastic new volunteers... just call us!

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Saturday June 23rd Gates Open 2:30Pm

3:30pm + Nelson Rangell [wsg Philippe Saisse] 4:45^{pm} • Spyro Gyra 6:15pm - The Sax Pack [feat. Jeff Kashiwa,

Kim Waters & Steve Cole 7:45^{pm} + Brenda Russell

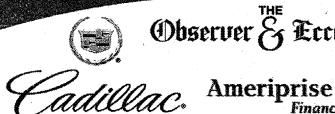
9:15^{pm} * Dave Koz "At The Movies" [feat. David Benoit & Phil Perry]





Sunday June 24th Gotes Open 2:30em 3:30^{pm} • Lin Rountree 4:45pm . Kelly Sweet 6:00^{pm} • Alexander Zonjic [wsg James Lloyd] 7:30pm . The Rippingtons [featuring Russ Freeman] 9:15^{pm} • India.Arie

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As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

St. Mary of Redford All classes

C4

(*)

St. Mary of Redford School Alumni "All Class Sock Hop" (Reunion) will be held Saturday, October 6; 4 p.m. Mass, 6 p.m. Reunion. For further information, please contact: Dave DiPonio at ddiponio@wadetrim.com or (313) 363-6153 or Jamie Sloan at jes521970@ aol.com or (248) 391-0607. The Sock Hop will be held in the "Old" SMR Gym on Mansfield in Detroit. Reservations required by Sept. 14.

Fordson High School Class of 1969

Planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@ nu-core.com.

Garden City High School Class of 1972

A 35-year reunion is planned for Saturday Oct. 13, 2007. For more information, contact Lori Howe Richardson at (734)421-7808 or Ihowerich@hotmail.com or Sharon Burke Parkila at (734)421-3108 or sparkila72@aol.com.

Class of 1987

Searching for all class of '87 Alumni for a 20-year reunion. Need to find current information on alumni (name, address, phone, email, etc.). Contact GCHSClassof87reunion@comcast.net or call Sheryll (Pietryka) Catton at (734) 367-0898.

Class of 1989

Need classmates to register online with names; addresses and email addresses to Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com and check out web site at www.myspace. com/gchs20threunion. The reunion date has not been set yet. In addition to our class we are also looking for members in the classes of 87,88,89 for a combination reunion at some point. So if you are in any of those classes contact us also. **Hamtramck High School**

Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion 1:30-8 p.m. Saturday, July 28, 2007, John Barleycorn's Bar & Grill, 112 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens, Tickets are \$30 a person or \$60 a couple. Web site www.1987hamtramckhigh.com. For more information, contact Jayne Panicker at (630)338-9622 or email itsabouttime1987@comcast.net or iavampanicker@vahoo.com.

Kennedy High School

REUNIONS

3558. **Livonia Churchill**

Classes of 1971-2007 Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or Chris@ChurchillAlumni. com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ ChurchillAlumni.com

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com. **Novi High School**

Classes of 1974 , 1975, 1976 and 1977

A combined class reunion, July 28, 2007 at Rock Financial in Novi. For information please contact: Laurie (Maier) Butler (1974) Ibutler@ motorcityharley.com; Claire (Salow) Klingelhofer (1975) clairekl@comcast.net; Leigh (Tarczy) Guzowski (1976) laguzow@alumni.nmu. edu; Patty (Pohlman) Mayer (1977) maver123@comcast.net **Our Lady of Sorrows**

Class of 1966

Aug. 17, 18 and 19. For more information, call Pat Ormsby LaPlante at (248)476-0634.

Redford Thurston High School Classes of 1957, 1958

A 50-year reunion is planned with several events Sept. 14-16 at Embassy Suites, Livonia. For information, contact Ron Beller at (989)652-9724 or e-mail at Admiral741@yahoo. com or Marian Keegan Hierholzer at (248)349-2697 or e-mail at Mamia@ comcast.net

Classes of the '80s

Thurston High School's '80s Reunion Committee will host a 2007 THS Multi-Year Reunion from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Hyatt Regency, in Dearborn. A limited number of first-come/first served tickets at \$59 per person will be available and no tickets will be sold at the door. E-mail Andrea Gambotto (Class of '86) at andshaffer@ netscape.net or Dan Phillips (Class of '82) at DanielP422@yahoo.com. Representatives from graduating classes of '80, '82, '88 and '89 are sought.

Inkster Roosevelt High School Class of 1957 and 1958

A combined reunion on Sept. 21-22, 2007, at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. All classes welcome. For information, contact Yvonne (Guertin) Mack at (734)464-7748 or email ymack@twmi.rr.com or Stan Pientack at (734)475-2797.

call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at alijune1939@scbglobal.net or thehermans2002@comcast.net. **Roseville High School**

Class of 1957

7483

Seeking classmates for 50th reunion, Oct. 13, 2007. Contact Rich Crowe at (248)583-9784 OR email: crowe_123@ hotmail.com. **Royal Oak Dondero High School**

Class of June-Jan. of 1959 Seeking classmates for Aug. 4 reunion. Include name, address and e-mail address to: Jean (Elliotte) Palmer 248-435-7875, TJPalmer73@ aol.com, or Mike Soule at 248-853-

Royal Oak Kimball High School Class of 1977

A 30th reunion, 6-12 p.m. Oct. 6 at Berkley American Legion Hall, 2079 W. 12 Mile, Berkley. Cost \$25 per person includes buffet dinner, beer, soft drinks, DJ and photographer. Casual dress. Organized by Sue (Bush) Carlin and Evelyn (Alverson) D'Arca. For information, contact Sue at (248)788-2109 or Susieluwho@aol.com or Evelyn at (810)678-3090. Southeastern (Detroit)

Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion is being planned for summer 2007. Looking for graduates of June 1987. If interested in attending or know of whereabouts of graduates, contact Terri Banks-Faison at (313)220-4769 or tntfaison@ aol.com **Southfield High School**

Class of 1977

A 30th Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007. For further information, contact MDurz@aol.com or lleneSilverma nAbrinSHS1977@comcast.net St. Anthony Elementary

All classes

Reunion on Oct. 6, 2007 for the Detroit school at 25th and Vernor. Email mrkf4yahoo.com or call (734)995-9243 for further details and to give us your contact

information. St. Casmir School and Church Graduates and parishioners of St. Casimir's School and Church are invited to a two-day celebration at Madonna University on July 14-15. It includes a reception, dinner-dance, Mass, brunch, bus tour and picnic. For more details, contact Tom Wozniak at 734-525-7240 or twozniak@twmi. rr.com. The parish and school Web site is www.saintcasimir.com.

St. John the Baptist grade school In conjunction with its 100th anniver sary, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Detroit hosts a reunion of all former students of the parish grade school (1940s to 1980s). The event takes place 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, at the St. Josaphat

Hall-Kondratowicz

Rick and Shila Hall of Plymouth announce the engagement of their son, Jeffrey Charles, to Sheri Ann Kondratowicz, the daughter of Dennis and Patricia Kondratowicz of Superior Township.

The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2002 and a master's in social work in 2006 from the University of Michigan. She is currently employed by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. The prospective groom is a

1997 graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School. He earned a bachelor's degere from Michigan State University in 2003. He is currently

Setlock-Bischoff

Brian and Joan Bischoff of Midland announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Bischoff to Scott Setlock, son of Richard and Faye Setlock of Canton. Christina received a bache-

lor's degree from Grand Valley State University and is currently in the master's program at Grand Valley to become a physician's assistant. Scott received a bachelor

of business administration degree from Grand Valley. He is currently a credit manager at Mercantile Bank working toward a master of business

Davis-Creech

Susan C. and Roger L. Davis of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie Davis, to Scott Rav Creech, son of Marj A. and Jack J. Stewart of Clawson.

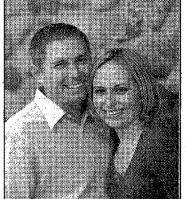
Angela attends Washtenaw Community Collge studying nursing. She works at the University of Michigan health system as a patient services assistant.

Scott has a bachelor's degree in pyschology from Michigan State University and is working at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design as a human resources coordinator.

Mooradian-Fahlstrom

Mrs. Kathleen Mooradian or Redford Township announces the engagement of her daughter, Kathryn A. Mooradian, to Eric T. Fahlstrom, son of Daryl and Judy Fahlstrom of Jackson, Mich. Kathryn is also the daughter of the late Martin C. Mooradian. The bride-to-be graduated from Redford Union High School and Grand Valley State University. She is employed by American Laser Centers, Inc. The prospective groom

ENGAGEMENTS



employed by Barton Malow and is working on the North Terminal Redevelopment Project at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A June 23 wedding is planned at Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens.



administration from Grand Valley. A wedding is planned for

Dec. 15, 2007, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Grand Rapids.



An Oct. 20, 2007, wedding is planned for Immanuel Bible Church. A reception will follow at Chelsea Comfort Inn Village **Conference** Center.



A late August 2007 wedding

is planned at St. John Catholic

couple will make their home in

Church in Jackson. The

University in 2005. He is

Silvis, Ill.

Lake.

employed by John Deere in

A March 2008 wedding

is planned at St. Matthew

Lutheran Church, Walled

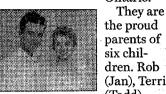
Stockbridge, MI.

ANNIVERSARIES



Smarts 50th anniversary **Robert and Marilyn Smart** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bob & Marilyn were married June 15, 1957 in Sarnia, Ontario.



(Jan), Terri (Todd), Tracey, Ruth (Mike), Chandra

(Adam) and Leanne. They have 11 grandchildren Brittani Pulver, Melissa Smart, Brandy Smart, Robbie Smart, Tyler Sall, Aaron Sall, Kayliegh Dowling, Devin Dowling, Zenah Mitchel, Yakirah Mitchel and Aveevah Mitchhel and 1 great-grandchild, Santiago Montelongo.

Bob and his son Rob own Garden City Upholstery of Farmington. Marilyn is a homemaker and volunteers for several community organizations. They will celebrate their special day at their home.



Darnells' 60th anniversary

James Darnell and Donna Darnell (Campbell) were married June 20, 1947 at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Detroit, Michigan.

The celebration of their 60th anniversary is shared with them by their children, Mary Ann, Lorne, Judy, Dennis, Robert, Jean, Kathleen, Patricia, Thomas and Stephen (Mark and Carl deceased), and 28 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, as well as their many relatives and close friends. Mr. & Mrs. Darnell wish to express their sincerest gratitude for all the unfailing love and support accorded to them by so many people over so many, many years.

Classes 1966-69

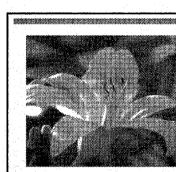
Aug. 4, 2007, at Crystal Gardens, Southgate. For more information, contact Nancy Mascaro Miller at nancy.mm@comcast.net or (313)291-

Roseville High School Class of 1956

A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information,

Banquet Center, 26440 Ryan (one block south of I-696) in Warren. Cost is \$45. For more information e-mail Eugenia Tkacz at genia46@juno.com or call (734) 284-2159.

REDIREER



In Memory Of



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Roger N. Grzymala

Oct. 7, 1943 - June 17, 2006 We miss you Dad and Papa! You left us so suddenly; there were many things we had to say, we think of you each and every day. We love you. Love, Jen, Shane, Ashten and Dakota.



ELEANOR CAROLINE SIMULA

Age 91. Wife of the late Robert. Beloved Mother of Gail (Fred) Engdahl. Loving Grandmother of Robby and Timmy Engdahl. Dear sis-ter of Wilbur (Phyllis) Sheibels and Robert (Esther) Sheibels and the late William Sheibels. Also leaves numer ous nieces, nephews and extended family. Eleanor was active with Bostford Hospital Volunteer Guild, Grace Lutheran Church and worked at Detroit Edison. Visiting Monday 4-9 pm Services Tuesday 10 am at Charles Step Funeral Home 18425 Beech Daly (Btw 6-7 Mile). Interment Roseland Park Cemetery. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

1-800-579-7355 🗢 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com RICHARD LYLE LARKIN Born October 20, 1921. Passed away June 4, 2007. Beloved husband of Virginia M. Larkin to whom he was married for 65 years, and loving father of Susan Corwin, Janis Cosgrove, and Beth Curtis; adored grandfather of Michael, Ryan and Matthew Cosgrove; Jenna Corwin Moscoso and David Corwin. Former

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

longtime resident of Plymouth. A long-time Prescott resident, Richard passed away quietly in his sleep. He was born in Pontiac, MI, and raised in Northville, MI. Richard's older brother, Harry, a hero of Omaha Beach, pre-deceased him; his sister, Verna Thompson, lives in Garden City, MI. Richard served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during WWII. Virginia was the love of his life, and he always credited everything they shared to her love and understanding. He is now happily reunited with his father, who died when Richard was only seven, his two sisters who died in early childhood, and a very loving dedicated mother. A celebration of Dick's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the Prescott United Methodist Church in Prescott, AZ. Family suggests memorials to Prescott United Methodist Church-for either the Chancel Choir Fund or MYF, 505 W. Gurley, Prescott, Arizona, 86301. You are invited to log in to sign Dick's guestbook and view a tribute to him at: www.ruffnerwakelin.com

CARVELL F. PERRY

Age 91, who lived with daughter, Jean Garcia in Westland, MI, went home to be with the Lord on May 23. 2007. Born in Hickman KY. Burial took place on May 30, 2007, in Mayfield, KY.



NORENE E. PILURAS Age 74 of New Port Richey, Florida, formally of Westland, MI. Died June 9, 2007. Beloved mother of Tom (Sally) Piluras, Lynn A. Taylor, Dru Ann Lovelly, Michael D. Piluras. Loving grandmother of Angie, Doug, Demitra, Andrea, Julie, Tyler, Virginia, and Emily. Dearest great-grandmother of Dezarae and Keiandre. Norene was a strong, giving, and caring woman who will be missed by all. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice 12107 Majestic Blvd, Hudson, Florida, 34667



The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser

734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

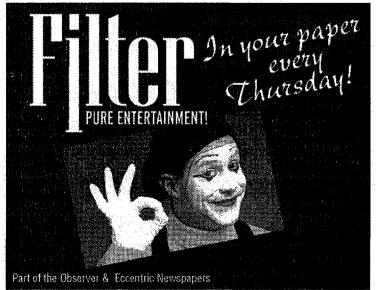
graduated from Lumen Christi High School and also attended Grand Valley State University. He is employed by Jasman Construction. Inc.

Zink-Lassers

Kathy and Marty Zink of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine Diane Zink, of Davenport, Iowa, to Alexander Bryan Lassers, also of Davenport, Iowa.

Christine is a 2000 graduate of Lutheran High Westland. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2004 and is teaching at Skip-A-Long Child Development Services in Moline, Ill.

Alexander is the son of Jo Isgro of Dearborn and Martin Lassers of Rochester. He is a 2001 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological





Coles celebrate 50th

William and Joanne (Oestreich) Cole of Plymouth celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with a luncheon at Fox Hills June 16. The couple wed June 22, 1957 in Luckey, Ohio.

After earning her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Joanne started her business teaching career in 1954 at Bentley High School in Livonia, where she continued until the birth of her son, David. After that, she taught part-time at Schoolcraft College and earned a master's degree from U-M.

In 1969 Joanne became the first court recorder in the newly established 16th District Court in Livonia. She resumed teaching in Livonia Public Schools in the early 1970s until her retirement in 1995.

William graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in secondary education and obtained his master's degree from U-M in 1959. He had various experiences in the tool-and-die industry before and after entering his major career of teaching industrial education.

In 1955 William started his teaching career at Bentley High School. He retired in 1991.

The couple has two children, David (Dina Mansour) Cole of Grabill, Ind., and Susan (Peter) Makarov of Independence, Minn., and four grandchildren: Leyla Cole, 18, Jasmine Cole, 14, Peter Makarov, 11 and Kirsten Makarov, 16.

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

Community Open House

A celebration to remember!

- Held Sunday, June 3 -

anks to:

www.hometownlife.con

Our major sponsors... St. Mary Mercy Hospital **Medical Staff**

Our community supporters...

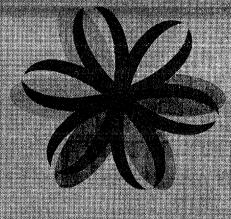
- Concord Ambulance
- Gags and Games
- Godiva Chocolates
- Guardian Plumbing
- Gordon Food Service
- Huron Valley Ambulance
- Livonia Fire and Rescue
- Livonia Police Department
- Livonia and Plymouth Family YMCAs Livonia Community Recreation Center

Cancer Survivors' Celebration

Special thanks to Lisa Mininni. founder of the

C Club for Cancer Conquerors and keynote speaker at the 2007 Cancer Survivors' (

- Marywood Nursing Care Center
- MedFlight
- Mercy Home Healthcare and Cranbrook Hospice
- Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
- Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps
- Plymouth Whalers
- Sunset Boulevard Band
- Sysco Food Service
- Temperature Services, Inc. (TSI)



Our great doctors, nurses and associates... and our supportive community!





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The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: June 17, 2007

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(CP)

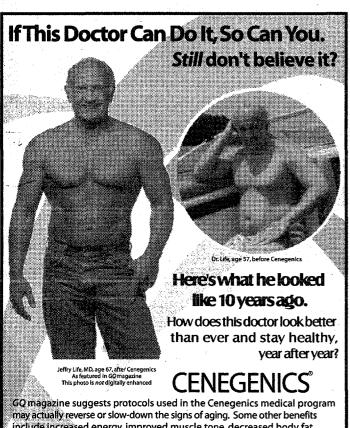
PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR June meeting Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tape of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

> Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0750 X217

Publish: June 17, 2007



include increased energy, improved muscle tone, decreased body fat, increased sex drive/libido and an improved outlook on life.

At Cenegenics, patients are successful business people (entrepreneurs corporate executives) and professionals. In fact, more than 1,300 of their 12,000 patients worldwide are physicians and their families. Patients realize success depends on making health a priority. Cenegenics continues to capture the attention of the national media, including GQ magazine, CNN, NBC's Today, NPR and

AROUND TOWN

St. John the Baptist 100th Anniversarv

OE08534665 - 2x2.5

OE08535901 - 2x3

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian **Catholic Church in Detroit celebrates** its 100th anniversary with a jubilee banquet 1 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan in Warren. Cost is \$50. For more information, e-mail Joseph Szafranski at joseph_szafranski@ msn.com or call (248) 661-0099. Travel clinics

When traveling to a foreign country, a vaccination and travel consultation could be just as important as a passport. From diseases you may have already heard of such as hepatitis, to the more exotic illnesses like Japanese encephalitis, Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's TravelWise Travel Clinic can provide the vaccinations and information you need to consider. This new service from VNA provides inoculations for many common diseases including influenza, pneumonia, meningitis, tetanus and diphtheria, in addition to vaccinations specific to your travel destinations such as hepatitis A and B and typhoid. Additionally, VNA is a certified provider of the yellow fever vaccine. In order to prepare for VNA's travel consultation, individuals should bring their anticipated travel dates, itinerary and lodging plans. Past immunization records and a list of allergies and current medications will also help. For appointments, cost, on-site clinics and general information, contact the VNA TravelWise Travel Clinic at (248) 967-8755 or visit www.vna.org.

Health class

Dr. Carol Fischer, D.C., M.D., presents "Eat Your Way Thin" 6 p.m., Monday, June 25, at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Take a natural approach to a healthier, new you. You can have the body you want and eat too! Learn why diets do not work, ways to avoid weight gain and how to lose weight with diet/nutrition and exercise. When to eat, what to eat and how to eat will be discussed. Learn why eating the correct fat will not make you fat. No charge for this class; call (734) 756-6904 to make a reservation. **Grade School Reunion**

In conjunction with its 100th anniversary, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Detroit hosts a reunion of all former students of the parish grade school (1940s to 1980s). The event takes place 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, at the St. Josaphat Banquet Center, 26440 Rvan (one block south of I-696) in Warren. Cost is \$45. For more information e-mail

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Card party/luncheon

6063.

Hospice training

Masonic Temple hosts a card party/

Tuesday of each month. Admission is

door prizes. The temple is located at

\$6; event features table prizes and

27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For

more information, call (734) 459-

Heartland Hospice is looking

for caring and dedicated people

with an interest in serving termi-

nally ill patients and their families in

Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe

and Livingston counties. Volunteers

provide a variety of services includ-

ing companionship, light housekeep-

and clerical services. For more infor-

mation, contact volunteer coordina-

tor Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

The Community Literacy Council

in Western Wayne County to help

(CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors

adults improve their reading, writing

and communication skills. The CLC

will provide training to interested

volunteers. Previous experience or

a bachelor's degree is not required.

and materials, and then match you

with an adult student in your area.

Do you have a fear of public speak-

tions at work and don't know where

ing? Do you need to do presenta-

to start? Or are you terrified of

the thought of standing in front

of a group of people to present

to any of these questions, then

Toastmasters is for you! Canton

Communicators Club meets every

Coney Island on Lilley, just south

of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza.

Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Grief support

For additional information, contact

New Hope Center for Grief Support is

a Christian-based bereavement out-

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton

that report? If you answered "yes"

Call (734) 416-4906.

Toastmasters meet

The council will provide free training

Literacy Council tutors

ing, errand running, grief support

luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second

Eugenia Tkacz at genia46@juno.com or call (734) 284-2159. Gallery exhibit

The Lawrence Street Gallery will be exhibiting the works of Donna J. Engstrom and Mary Macey, through June 30. "Intimate Views" is a joint mother-daughter exhibit featuring mixed media pieces by Donna J Engstrom and photography by her daughter, Mary Macey, Lawrence Street Gallery is located at 22620 Woodward in Ferndale, in the second block south of 9 Mile on Woodward's east side. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more information, visit the gallery's Web site at www.lawrencestreetgallery. com

Heartland Hospice

Heartland Hospice, located in Southfield and serving the tri-county area, is looking for caring and compassionate individuals to register for volunteer training. Evening and daytime classes are available for anyone interested in being a support person for clients and their families during their end-of-life journey. Office support is also needed. To register, call Mary, (800) 770-9859.

St. Mary classes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts a presentation, "Urinary Bladder Problems and Erectile Dysfunction," 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, in the hospital's auditorium. Speaker is St. Mary Mercy Hospital physician Dr. John Harb. It's a presentation of the hospital Diabetes Support Group, but all are welcome. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. St. Mary Mercy offers Reiki I & II classes 2-6 p.m. Saturday, June 23, and Sunday, June 24 at the hospital. In these classes, students will learn to administer this ancient art of healing that creates a powerful experience. Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress relief. To register, call (734) 655-1162. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia.

Register for St. Genevieve School St. Genevieve Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year. The school, preschool through eighth grade, is accredited by the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools. It's at 28933 Jamison in Livonia, east of Middlebelt, south of Five Mile, and offers full academic curriculum, full- and half-day preschool and kindergarten, extended-day program before and after school. CYO program and more. (734) 425-4420. Waste to Watts

The Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum has extended the Waste to Watts exhibi-

tion through summer of 2007 due reach and resource center located in to popular demand. Waste to Watts` Northville. Age appropriate groups shows how new environmentally for widows and widowers are profriendly technology can turn our vided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups trash into electricity. Developed by Landfill Energy Systems of Wixom, for young widows and widowers and Michigan, this one-of-a-kind exhibit their children between the ages of 4 demonstrates how methane gas through the teen years. Groups for recovery from landfills can be used parents who have lost a child, adults as an alternative energy source, who have lost a parent, pet loss, and ultimately reducing our dependency other specialized groups are offered on other fuels. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 at various times of the year. All p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. services for adults and children are Sunday. For information, visit www. offered at no cost to the participants. aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia

348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

Post Polio Clinic

Easily fatigued? New, inexplicable physical complaints? History of paralytic or non-paralytic polio? Contact the Post Polio Clinic, 13850 E. 12 Mile, Warren, or call (586) 778-4505. The clinic sponsors support group meetings the fourth Saturday of every month (March through October) at 4328 Livernois in Troy. For more information you can also call (734) 765-8384.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers meet the first Wednesday of each month (September-May) for an adult evening of socializing, a speaker or an activity. Additionally, the group hosts more than 20 events during the month including Book Club, Bunko, Playgroups, Creative Kids, Ladies Day and Night Out, Scrapbooking, Walking and many more. Request a complimentary newsletter at cantonnewcomers.org or call Jennifer at (734) 981-1715. You don't have to be "new" to be a Newcomer! Kiwanis Club

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer. The Club invites you to their morning meetings to discuss community projects and activities. Be part of the solution and not just a spectator. Call (734) 981-0460 or see the Web site (www.pckiwanis.org).

Plymouth Newcomers Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasiona special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplusianet@aol.com Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. Call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768 MOPS meet **MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)** meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

CBS's 60 Minutes.

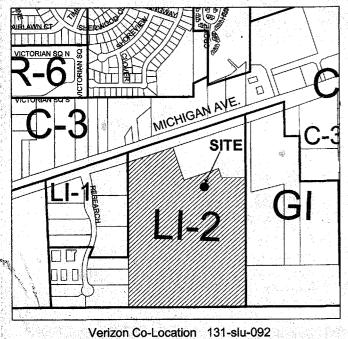
Register online to receive a complimentary copy of the GQ article (featuring Cenegenics) and learn more about their medical programs,



PLANNING COMMISSION **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 2, 2007 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

VERIZON WIRELESS TOWER SPECIAL LAND USE CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A COMMUNICATION FACILITY AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 22.02B.14 FOR PARCEL NO. 131 99 0016 701. Property is located south of Michigan Avenue between Belleville and Beck Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, June 28, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

OE08534666 -- 2x7.5

Publish: June 17, 2007

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Page C7

Sunday, June 17, 2007 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

All in the genes VHL disorder requires constant monitoring

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Wheatley Coleman is busy planning her wedding for July 2008, but between now and then she'll make time to fly to Maryland for brain and spine scans as part of a National Institutes of Health study on von Hippel-Lindau syndrome (VHL).

Coleman might never have known she has VHL if not for the genetic testing she went through during her senior year at Plymouth Canton High School. Since then, the 26-year-old Detroit school teacher has been monitored annually for the presence of tumors and cysts, which could lead to vision and hearing loss, paralysis and kidney cancer, among other problems.

Coleman's mother had VHL and left it up to her children to decide whether they wanted to know if they carry the gene. All three eventually underwent genetic testing. Neither Coleman's sister nor brother has VHL. Their mother died five years ago at age 45 after a tumor hemorrhaged during her 10th brain surgery. VHL tumors in the brain, spine, retina and other parts of the body are benign, but can cause deadly complications. VHL tumors in the kidneys can be cancerous and metastasize.

"My mother's strength and ability to cope with an illness like this has inspired me," said Coleman, who lives every day to the fullest. Coleman played basketball in high school and college and still occasionally coaches seventh-grade boys basketball. "It definitely affected my life, made me very aware of my mortality and made me prioritize better." complications, according to Dr. Ghaus Malik, who's treated patients with VHL for the last 30 years. Malik is chief of neurosurgery at Beaumont Hospital and vice chair of neurosurgery at Henry Ford Hospital. He says symptoms such as headaches and vision loss could indicate VHL.

"You have to have periodic examinations," said Malik, of Bloomfield Township. "Eyes seem to get affected earlier. If you have family history, start evaluating the children. It is relatively uncommon, but we have a higher concentration of VHL here in Michigan. Being a genetic disorder, once it gets started, it runs in families."

Fran Mott is an exception. She is among the 20 percent of patients with a new mutation or change in the sequence of DNA coding. Mott was a 10-year-old growing up in Livonia when she began losing vision, but was not diagnosed with VHL until her early 30s. Today, physicians are monitoring the eight tumors in her brain.

"You can live with brain tumors as long as they don't cause problems," said Mott, who's had three brain surgeries. "Tumors in the eye can blind you, in the middle ear cause hearing loss and balance problems, in the spine can cause paralysis."

Over the years, Mott has read everything she could about the genetic disorder. As chairperson of the Michigan chapter of VHL Family Alliance based in Boston, Mott helps VHL patients understand the defect named after Dr. Arvid Lindau, a Swedish pathologist, and Eugen von Hippel, a German ophthalmologist, who first recognized the disorder. Founded in 1993, VHL Family Alliance is in touch with about 14,000 VHL patients in 72 countries, and Mott with about 200 VHL patients in Michigan.

"People who died of renal cancer, now their kids can be watched," Mott said. "They may never have tumors. It's best to see a geneticist who coordinates patient care because you need a team of doctors. With early detection, careful monitoring and appropriately timed intervention, a lot of the problems can be avoided.' Not every tumor is removed. Three of Mott's brain tumors were watched for eight years before one required surgery. "We monitor them and if they start growing or caus-

disorder. Elizabeth does not.

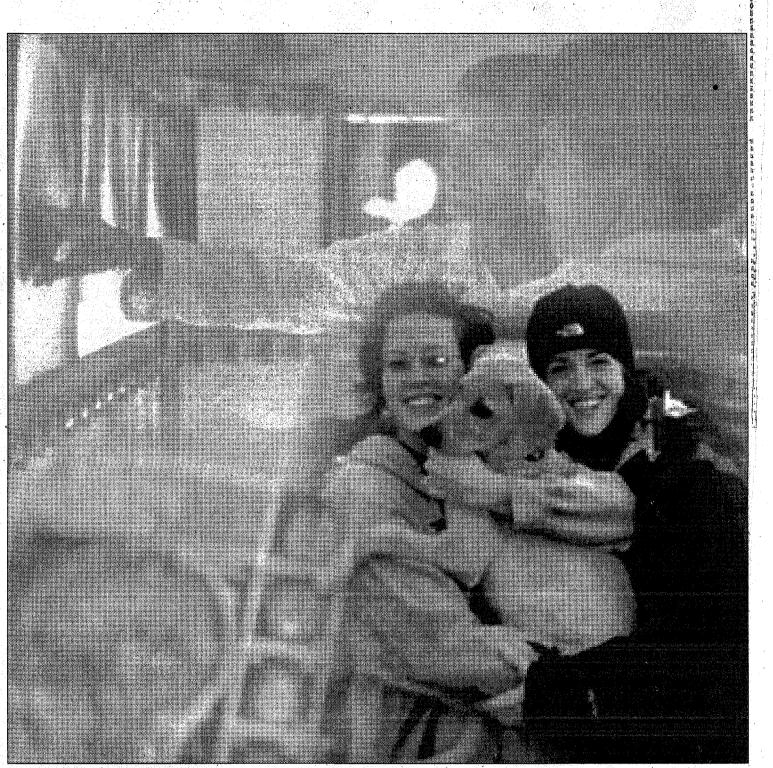
ing pressure, then you remove them," Malik said. "At times, they might not grow very fast. In the past when you got a tumor in the kidney, they removed the entire kidney. Now they're able to remove only part of the kidney." Dr. James Montie believes treatments will continue to improve. The University of Michigan urologic surgeon has been treating VHL patients for

frequency, change how quickly the lesions may grow," said Montie, the U-M Valassis professor of urologic oncology. "There's been a great deal of progress in understanding when to intervene with surgery, ways to treat cancerous lesions when small. Kesearch into genetics of VHL translated into understanding the molecular problems that led to a treatment for the same cancer in people without VHL. The way some of the drugs are being developed may slow down the growth of some kidney cancers."

In the meantime, Malik applauds the work of VHL Family Alliance.

"They have been doing a wonderful job in educating people, providing support," he said. "The battery of tests — MRIs, CT scans — can become taxing on patients." For more information about VHL and the VHL Family Alliance, call Mott at (248) 887-8617 or visit www.vhl.org.

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Wheatley Coleman (right), sister Elizabeth and dog Cessna pose on top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Upper Michigan. Wheatley has von Hippel-Lindau, a genetic

Regularly-scheduled monitoring is essential to prevent about 25 years. "It's an inherited susceptibility, but there may be ways to prevent or decrease the

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

This Father's Day, urge dad to take care of his health

An estimated 766,860 men will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year in the U.S. Sadly, 289,550 of those will lose their life to the disease that's more than four times the seating capacity of Ford Field.

This Father's Day, make sure your Dad gets the facts on cancer and the risk factors associated with it. Educating men to become active participants in their own health care is one of the most effective ways to reduce their personal risk for cancer. More men die of lung cancer than any other cancer yet are most frequently diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Across the U.S., 116,560 men will die from some form of lung or prostate cancer accounting for nearly half of all the cancer deaths faced by men this year. Luckily, the death rate for lung cancer in males continued to decline significantly from 1991 to 2003 by about 1.9percent per year. However the most prevalent risk factor for lung cancer is still cigarette smoking. If you or your Dad smoke, please urge them to quit.

While prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men, it is not a death sentence. With early diagnosis and treatment, survival rates approach almost 100-percent. Age, ethnicity and family history are all risk factors for prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that any male over age 50 ask their doctor for annual screenings and men with higher risk should begin early detection testing at age 45.

African American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer incidence in the world, with a one in five probability that they will develop the disease in their lifetime. African American men also face mortality rates more than twice as high as those of white men.

While these facts about prostate cancer are a wake-up call, there is good news. In the last decade, there has been much progress in the battle against prostate cancer. Testing and treatment options have improved and have been accompanied by a growing movement to educate men. The ACS urges all men to get as much information about cancer as they can, and to talk with a doctor to determine their personal risk.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. For more information, call (800) ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

Locks of love

A fund-raiser to raise money for Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that makes wigs for children who have suffered hair loss due to medical conditions such as cancer. The event takes place 1-5 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Shula's Steak House in Troy. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, live entertainment, an entry into a raffle for many great prizes. Children under age 12 are free. For tickets, call (248) 680-9616 or send e-mail to, michelle.holka@marriott.com.

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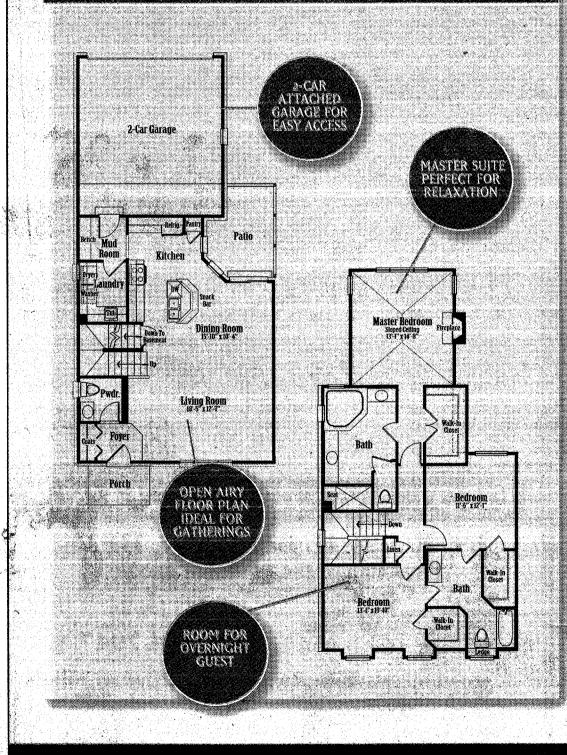
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Minimum wage hike has workers pleased; most metro Detroit businesses already pay more

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

In Michigan, the basic minimum wage is \$6.95 per hour, which will go up to \$7.15 July 1, 2007, and to \$7.40 July 1, 2008. The law applies to those who employ two or more workers, according to the U.S.

Department of Tabor. **Businessman Larry Bird of** Plymouth owns Gabriala's home accessories store in downtown Plymouth and Fit Zone for Women hotels, "a mixture of hospitalin Canton.

"We don't have anyone who's affected by that," Bird said of the minimum wage going up soon in 🙀 Michigan. He doesn't favor government dictating wage standards. "That should be their prerogative," Bird said of businesses. "Right now around here the labor market is wonderful." He doesn't have a lot of college students working at Gabriala's.

"It's the same way at the gym." Fit Zone for Women staffers tend to be in their late 30s and 40s, Bird said.

Tim Patino, general manager of Bennigan's of Plymouth on Ann Arbor Road, doesn't have anyone under age 18 on staff. "It's not a huge impact," he said of the minimum wage hike coming soon. He trains servers and hosts at minimum wage, so will see some impact there.

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"It's been a topic of conversation in my company," Patino said. The company, LaBelle Management, owns restaurants, ity-type things." Some areas like Saginaw-Midland are more affected by the minimum wage hike than metro Detroit, he said.

"For us, it's not a real big impact, just mostly on training." He's been retaining employees these last few years. It could be good management, he noted, but also a reflection of the workplace.

"People are just kind of staying put if they've got a good fit right now. I think we do have a pretty good labor market." In college towns, a lot of staffers graduate each year, said Plymouth

Township resident Patino, who has some second-income earners at his restaurant. He finds people are willing to work in his region.

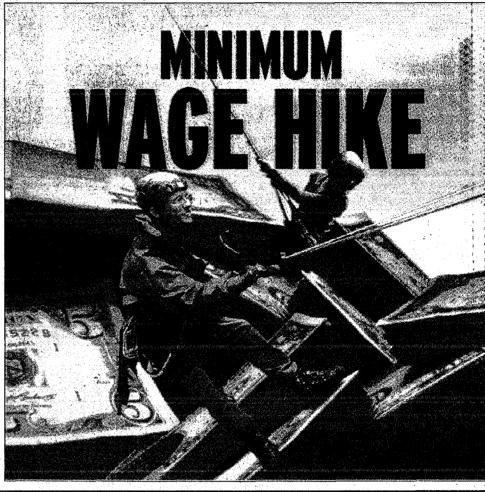
Labor laws/kitchen restrictions make hiring those under age 18 tough for a restaurant, he added.

Metro area teens looking for summer jobs, as well as older workers who rely on the minimum wage, are pleased with the hike. Brianna Corcoran, 15, of Plymouth Township recently applied for a job at a nearby cake shop but the post was already filled.

"It seems OK," the Plymouth Canton High School junior (in the fall) said of the new minimum wage. "It's nice that it's going up.'

She may look for another summer job, but being in the **Plymouth-Canton Marching** Band fills Corcoran's summer.

"I have Marching Band, so that's taking up my summer," she said. The flute player might look for a job in the winter after band season ends.



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Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Wendy Clem Avanti NewsFeatures

Blatantly copied by other car manufacturers since its debut in 2001, the PT Cruiser is one sharp looker for 2007 -- especially as a convertible. It's so classic, in fact, that it promises to become as ageless and cultic as the VW Beetle among dedicated fans.

Marketed by Chrysler Corp. as one-of-a-kind in exterior styling and possessing Swiss Army knife-like interior flexibility, the retro-like Cruiser was an instant hit with consumers when it was introduced in 2000.

It has maintained the pricing of a compact car, as the company claims it also redefines the small-car segment.

By 2006, in excess of 1 million Cruisers had been manufactured and sold globally, setting some record sales numbers, and leading in its segment.

· Consumer sources have consistently lauded the PT for quality and detail, resulting in the 2006 Consumer Reports' recommendation as a Best Buy for compact cars, where it comes in under \$26,000.

Credit has been given to the Cruiser's liquid, quiet ride and interior luxury as well as three engines, two of which are available turbos. The 2.4-liter with 180 horsepower has 210 foot pounds of torque, and a 230 horsepower engine is also available, with 245 foot pounds of torque.

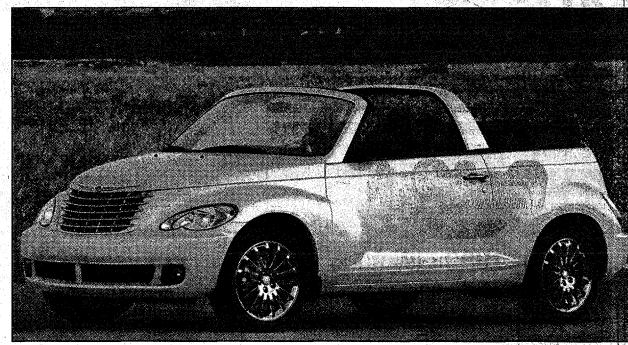
Freshness and imagination have driven the Cruiser into the hearts of consumers, with 11 variations over the years. The PT Turbo, Woodie, the Flames, Street Cruiser Route 66 and four Dream Cruiser Series are some of the editions offered by Chrysler.

The four-passenger, two-door 2007 Cruiser Convertible comes in three trims: the Base, Touring and GT. Notable mileage is good news in each trim; city miles to the gallon range from 21 in the city to 27 on the highway.

Perfectly fitting into any background geography, the 2007 PT -- in its convertible version since 2006 -- is probably best appreciated in warmer weather and breezy surroundings.

But, it also offers features that work even in colder climates and less wieldy environs; it equally receives high marks for handling well in ice and snow.

The Chrysler-winged badge greets from the Cruiser's front. with chrome grill accents and scallop-bottomed headlamps leading onlookers to three new colors for 2007: Tangerine Pearl Coat, Pastel Yellow Clear Coat and Opal Pearl Coat. They joined Marine Blue Pearl Coat, Inferno Red Crystal Pearl Coat,



The 2007 PT Cruiser Convertible offers 160 customizations for consumers, as well as impressive mileage, speed and power on the road.

Bright Silver Metallic Clear Coat, Black, and Cool Vanilla Clear Coat.

Chrysler's PT Cruiser offers customizations galore

The available Chrome Accents Group allows consumers customizations straight from the factory, including chrome door lock knobs, 16-inch chrome-clad wheels with nine-spoke design, chrome fuel door, chrome body side moldings and scuff plates with bright accents.

Also new on exteriors is the soft-touch electric lift-gate switch, which comes standard on the base model. It's credited for providing easy access to the interior -- although some users find it needs to open further. The accompanying lift-gate bodycolor spoiler improves the vehicle's aerodynamics, too.

One of the Cruiser's winning features is the ability to be configured in 160 different ways. Flip/fold/tumble seats, the optional fold-flat front passenger seat and movable rear shelf create a flexible interior.

The YES Essentials seat fabric adds to new interior features, coming optional on the Touring model and standard on Limited.

The premium Boston Acoustics Audio Group has a signature badge attached to the center stack bezel, and fronts a radio that's mounted high in the same stack. At 368-watts, the amplifier and rear subwoofer provide sufficient sound when the top is up, but sometimes seems too low when it's down.

An accompanying console conceals deep covered space that stores six CDs, an available battery-fed outlet to charge cell phones, and provides two fold-out cup holders for rear passengers. Cup holders in the front seat on a few models have bright accent colors as well.

A sliding armrest rounds out the console extras, and a

standard grab handle poses a handy assist for passenger entry and exit.

Large in-dash gauges, the signature Chrysler analog clock and rotating air vents that sit flush and can be turned off flesh out the instrument panel.

Safety and security aren't compromised with the 2007 PT Cruiser. The advanced multi-stage driver and front passenger air bags, coupled with the driver-side inflatable knee blocker, afford significant protection.

The Cruiser offers supplemental side air bags on the basic and Touring models, but they come standard on both Limited and GT trims

Available four-wheel, anti-lock brakes have traction at even low speeds. Rear-door child protection locks and the LATCH child seat anchor system securely shelter small ones.

With its laundry list of options and possible customizations, the 2007 PT Cruiser Convertible holds its own as a viable vehicle that delivers power, safety and style -- and promises to: be a contender for years to come.

Wendy Clem covers the new Chrysler Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com mailto:wendyclem@gmail.com . Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2007. Fracassa Communications.

2007 PT Cruiser Convertible Vehicle class: Compact car. Power: 2.4-liter 12-cylinder engine. Mileage: 21 city / 27 highway. Where built: Toluca, Mexico. Base price: \$25,835.





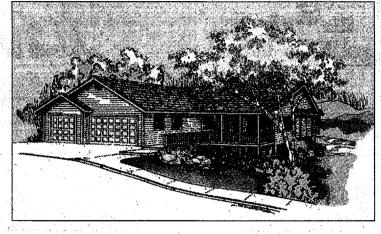
The Curt offers open layout ideal for a sloping lot

At 3,572 square feet, the Curt (405-10) fits ideally on a side sloping lot. There is a covered porch and a three-car garage, both facing the front of the property, which gives the home a ranch-style look.

Entering the home across the porch area brings you into an open and airy entry with a parlor on the right, the dining room to the left and stairs to the basement in the center. Facing the family room is the wood stove. For convenience, the stairs for the breakfast nook imply an openness of a great room.

The kitchen is nicely arranged with appliances around a corner sink. The range and eating bar are together on an island. The walk-in pantry is large with a recessed area at the rear for cookbooks, fills a corner of the kitchen. The utility room is next to the kitchen with the washer, dryer, freezer, sink, cabinets and a large folding area for clothes. Storage of linen, towels, or supplies is easy in the spare closet. The extra bathroom, handy to the garage and main floor, has been placed here also.

The master suite is located at the rear of the home on the main floor. It has a large walkin closet, a personalized bath-

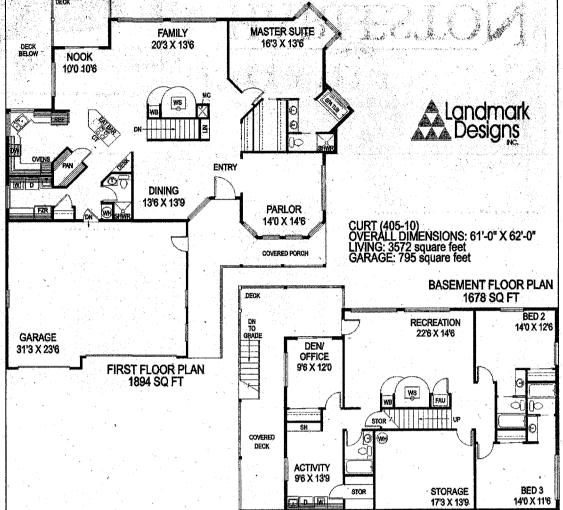


room containing two sinks, a separate shower and a tub. For those cozy talks, a sunny sitting area was thoughtfully provided.

The downstairs was designed with teenagers in mind. There are two bedrooms located sideby-side, each with full bathrooms. There is a large storage room next door. Convenient to the stairs and the bedrooms is a large recreation room with its own washer and dryer along with a walk-in storage closet.

One last room that is a great addition to the downstairs is the office-den area. It has been ideally located next to the outside steps to the deck and could be used as an office for those who work out of their homes. There are patio doors to the deck along with an interior door to the rest of the downstairs. This room could be converted to another bedroom should the need arise.

For a study plan of the CURT (405-10), send \$15, to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact discs, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for you dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



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2771. Seminars are offered at the following dates and locations:

A seminar is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, June 23 and 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western ConCorde Inn of Rochester Hills, 1919 Star-Batt Drive, Rochester Hills. The cost of the seminar is \$205 and is allinclusive. The manual, sample questions and the test application are all included.

A \$25 deposit is required no later than Thursday, June 21, to Oakland Builders Institute, 1277 Dutton, Rochester Hills, MI 48306. Please call toll-free (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or register online at www.buildersinstitute.com.

Building Industry Association programs

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Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will present another in its series of Certified Graduate Remodelor (CGR) courses - "Sales & Marketing for Remodelors" - on Tuesday, June 19, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelors Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

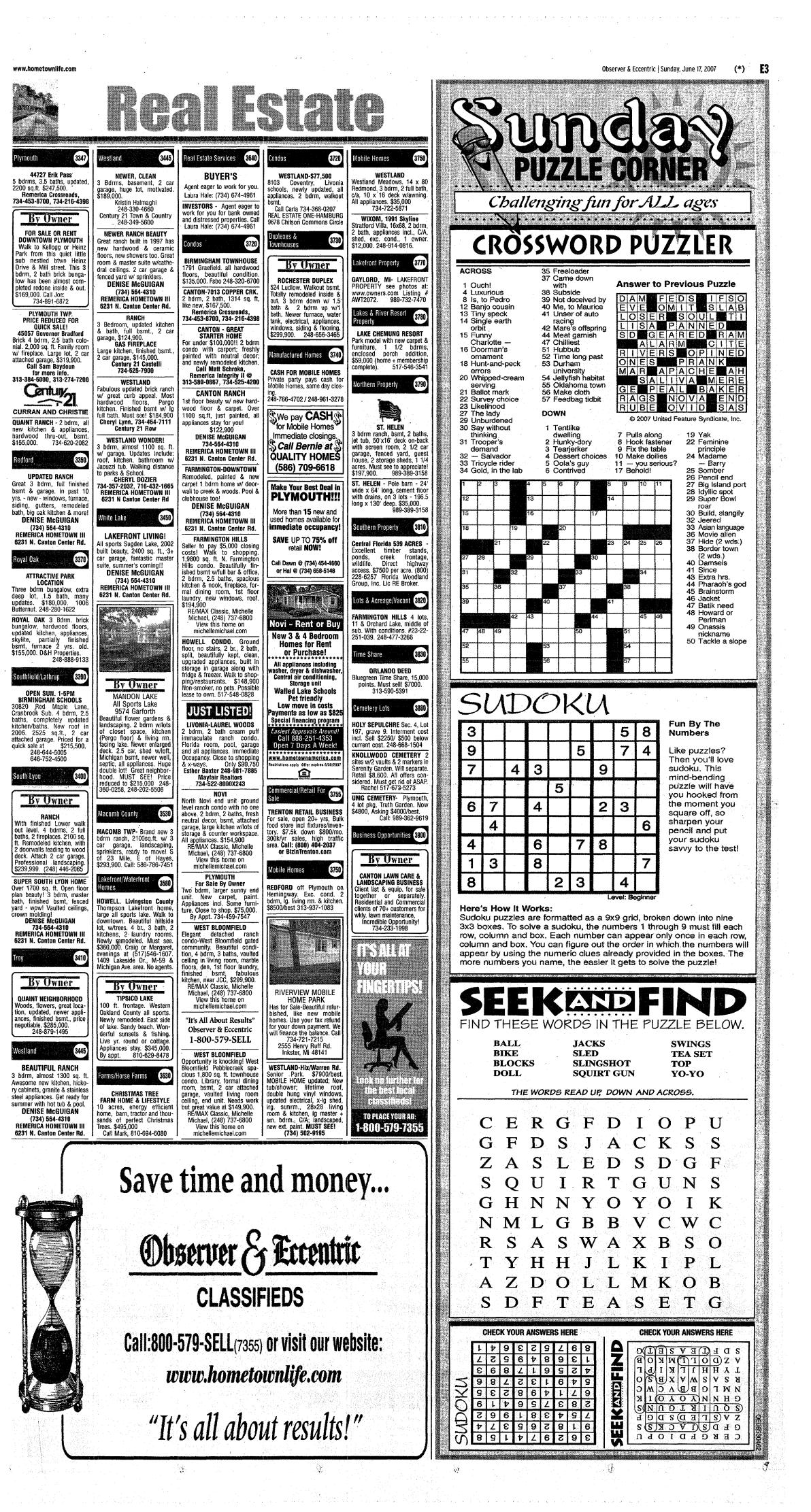














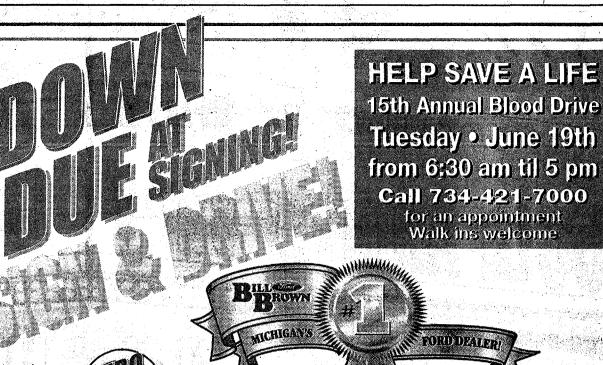
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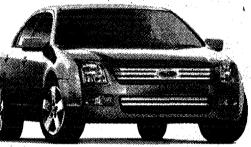
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