



Gridiron Preview

High School football programs are at it again, see our enclosed special preview section featuring area teams

Read how readers weigh-in on issues they care about. Letters - Page A10

Grand Prix Filter racing returns to Belle Isle



THURSDAY August 23, 2007

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Regimental records

200-piece collection offers Civil War perspective

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Historical Museum has received a donation of Civil War memorabilia that Director Elizabeth Kerstens called "priceless."

The nearly 200-piece collection, which included photographs, enlistment and commission papers, service pins and the muster book for the 2nd Michigan Infantry Regiment — information about every soldier in the 2nd Regiment — was donated this summer by former Our Lady of Good Counsel Pastor John Sullivan on behalf of the family of Capt. John C. Hardy.

Before he left to become pastor of St. Owen in Bloomfield Hills in July, Sullivan donated the collection that was given to him by Ortonville priest John J. Hardy — a son of the Civil War veteran — before he passed away.

"When I go to Civil War shows, you always see bits and pieces," said Dan Packer of Plymouth Township, a Civil War historian who is cataloguing the collection at the Plymouth Historical Museum. "You hardly ever see it all together."

"The provenance (background) is good," he added. "A lot of times when you get historical things, you don't know where it came from, or where it's been. In this case, we know."

The items are in exceptional condition, having been passed only from Hardy to his son, and eventually to Sullivan before being donated to the museum.

"Hardy volunteered in 1861 when President (Abraham) Lincoln gave the call for volunteers for the insurrection of Fort Sumter in South Carolina," Packer said. "Hardy lived in Detroit, but went with the 2nd Regiment in Adrian."

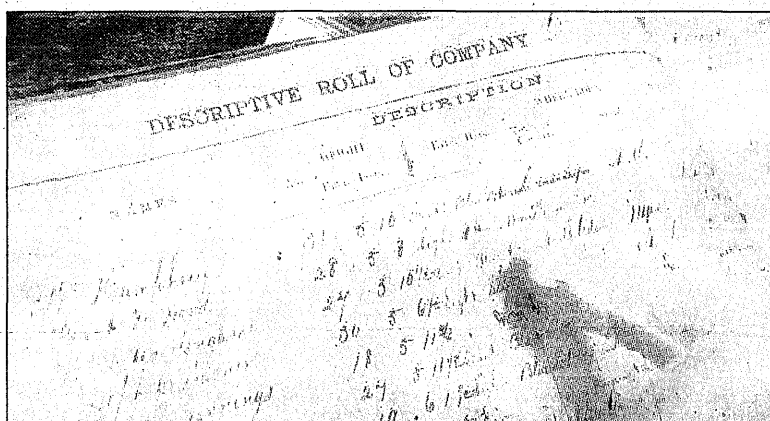
"Hardy said he was 17 years old on his papers, but he was really only 15 when he joined," Packer added. "He started as a private, enlisted several times, and ended up as a full captain by 1865, when the war ended. He fought over 20 major battles, and was severely wounded in one."

Please see **CIVIL WAR, A5**



Dan Packer looks over Civil War records at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The records are detailed and in very good condition.

Woman pulls youth out of Tonquish

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Richelle Renfer said she only did what any mother would do for a child who was in danger.

Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll said the Plymouth mother of seven is downplaying her efforts, which he said possibly saved the life of an 11-year-old Plymouth youngster.

Carroll said Monday afternoon, after the torrential rains, a work crew noticed three bicycles near Tonquish Creek — which was more like a white water rafting stream — but no one around to claim them.

"They started looking for the kids because they thought maybe they were in the creek," Carroll said. "They immediately alerted (police) dispatch."

About that same time, Renfer heard a knock at her Penniman Avenue door.

"One of the young men asked if I could help with his friend who was in the creek," Renfer said.

Looking out her back yard to Tonquish Creek, Renfer said she saw the boy hanging on to a tree branch for dear life.

"His feet were way out behind him and water was up to his neck," she said. "The first thing I could think of that

was long enough to reach out to him was a broom. The back gate was locked, and I didn't want to take time to get the key, so I just climbed over the (four-foot) fence and pulled him out.

"They were pretty shaken," she added. "As they were walking back to get their bikes and saw what danger they were in, you could see they were scared."

Carroll said the 11-year-old and his 12-year-old friend fell into the creek. A 13-year-old pulled the older boy out, but the 11-year-old was washed downstream.

"When the creek is moving that fast, it can be really dangerous with the trash, debris and branches in it," Carroll said. "If you get to the spillway you can get seriously hurt, if not killed."

Renfer said the adrenalin kicked in and she did what anyone else would do.

"As a mom, you just want kids to be fine, and I was worried they were going to get hurt," Renfer said. "Parents should tell their kids that on rainy days they should stay away from the creek because it gets dangerous fast."

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At one point, floodwaters covered the footbridge behind Tonquish Creek Manor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Training is 'pet' project for firefighters

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Firefighters know when they respond to a house fire, perhaps the first thing owners want to know — once they know all their loved ones are safe — is whether their pets survived the blaze.

When they finish the pet first aid and CPR training they started this week, Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters will have a better chance of giving homeowners good news.

The training started Monday at Station 3, at North Territorial and Beck. Two more classes are scheduled.

"People love their pets," said firefighter Christine Perez, who organized the training. "At (some of) the house fires we've had, pets have died. If we can help them, that's important to our residents."

In addition to the training, all four of the

department's ambulances that carry oxygen will be outfitted with respirators specifically made for cat- and dog-sized snouts, to give them air and oxygen if needed in a fire situation.

The equipment was funded through donations from pet-related businesses in the area such as Happy Hounds, First Aid 4 Paws and Needles & Pins, as well as contributions from Vivian Gorbea and Joyce Thomas of Plymouth Veterinary Hospital, Robert Holt of Colonial Veterinary Clinic, the veterinarians at Parkway Veterinary Clinic and Plymouth Township resident Paula Krause, who overheard Perez talking about it one day and wrote a check.

The first aid and CPR training is designed not only to allow firefighters to help pets on the scene, but also to keep themselves safe, according to Roberta Cubbin and John

Please see **TRAINING, A5**

Track work nears finish

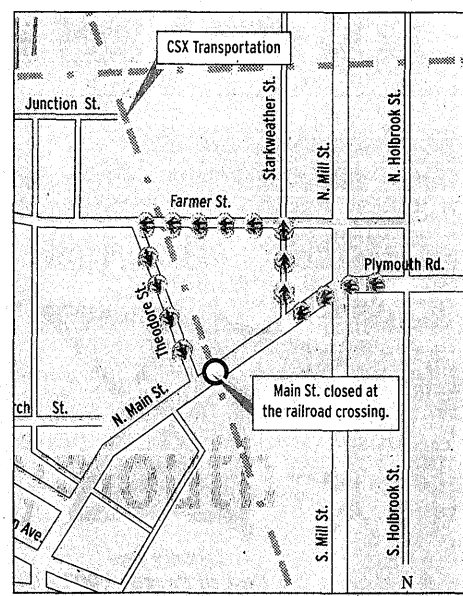
Drivers tired of having to detour around the work being done at the CSX railroad crossing on Main just past Theodore shouldn't have to deal with it much longer.

Work on the tracks, which began earlier this week and forced closure of Main Street, could be done as early as Friday, but should be done by Monday at the latest.

CSX began reconstruction on the crossing Monday. "We're putting in new track and replacing cross ties, and making sure the gates are in working order," said Garrick Francis, CSX spokesman. "Generally, we can make the repairs between Monday and Friday. However, it can extend into the weekend."

Drivers have largely been using Starkweather, Farmer and Theodore to get around the closure. Plymouth police have put up temporary stop signs on those streets to try to control the overflow traffic.

"Obviously, these crossings were in pretty poor condition," City Manager Paul Sincok said. "It's one of those things where we have some short-term pain to get through it and have a much better product in the end."



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Volume 122
Number 1



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Coming Sunday in Health

Walk to raise funds for blood cancer research and patient services.

Taste of Greece

The third-annual "A Taste of Greece Festival" takes place Sept. 14-16 at the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church grounds, 39851 Five Mile Road (near Haggerty) in Plymouth.

The event features Greek food, pastry, live Greek music and traditional Greek dancing, a Kids' Korner with crafts, treats and inflatable rides, a Greek market, Taverna and Coffee House.

Parking is available in the Bosch Corp., parking lot adjacent to the festival, please use the Haggerty Road entrance.

For more info, call (734) 420-0131 or visit the Web site at www.atastefogreecfestival.com

Identity theft

Beverly Stanton hopes to help people avoid becoming the 1-in-23 people victimized by identity theft every year with a workshop, "Identity Theft and Fraud," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall.

Stanton will cover prevention, how information is obtained and what to do if you become a victim.

OLGC is located at Beck and North Territorial. For more information, call Doris, (734) 453-9730.

Fast-pitch tryouts

The PC Pride Fast-pitch Softball 2008 Season tryouts, for 10U, 12U, 14U and 16U divisions are set for Saturday-Sunday and Tuesday.

Registration for tryouts

Saturday, Aug. 25, and Sunday, Aug. 26, are set for registration at 9 a.m., with tryouts starting at 10 a.m., at the Canton Softball Center, 46555 W. Michigan Ave., in Canton.

Tryouts are also scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 28, on Field 3 at Heritage Park on Canton Center Road in Canton.

The 10U, 12U and 14U PC (Plymouth-Canton) Pride Stars teams competed July 23rd-July 29th against many of the best teams in the country at the USSSA Fast-Pitch Softball World Series at the Disney Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando and had their best showing to date.

The 14U Stars team, won 7 of 9 games and finished 9th out of 58 teams, The 12U Stars team finished 17th in a field of 47 teams and defeated teams from Texas, Virginia and Ohio in the process and The 10U Stars team finished 13th out of 32 teams.

Senior Fest

Tickets are now available for the Plymouth Senior Fest Picnic, sponsored by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

The picnic takes place 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, at Waterford Bend Park, Six Mile and Northville roads.

Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 6 at the PCCA office. Tickets cost \$6 for members, \$7 for guests. A box lunch, entertainment, prizes and vendors are included.

For more information, call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.



On the dance floor

Steve King and the Ditties had spectators dancing in the aisles in Kellogg Park Friday night, a concert that reportedly drew as many as 2,000 people. The concert was part of the weekly Music in the Air series sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

Fine arts camp

Amy Sun, an eighth-grader at East Middle School, has been chosen out of 1,600 campers to play violin in the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra.

She has played the violin for seven years, and is the concertmaster of the DSO Civic Philharmonic Orchestra and the Plymouth Canton Community School's orchestra. Amy wishes to play the violin professionally in the future.

The Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra is composed of the top high school musicians from around the country, and the orchestra tours the Midwestern United States and Europe, where musicians stay with host families while performing in historic concert halls.

The cost of this program is over \$5,000 per student. Amy Sun has already raised funds from baby-sitting and tutoring little kids, but she needs additional help. To make a donation on her account, contact Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp at (800) 221-3796.

Perennial exchange

The Trailwood Garden Club sponsors a Perennial Exchange at the Plymouth Fall Festival 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8.

The exchange is open to members of the community on a "bring something, take something" basis at no charge.

The club, a member of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, will be set up at the east end of Kellogg Park, opposite the Wilcox House.

For more information, call (734) 459-7146.

Grief support

Ward Presbyterian Church sponsors an eight-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," beginning Sept. 10.

This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Cathy Clough of Plymouth, director of New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville. Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses.

The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Monday nights from 7-8:45 p.m. at Ward Church located on 6 Mile and Haggerty in Northville. For registration information call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5943. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call (248) 348-0115.

Corn Maze help

The folks at Maybury Farm in Northville need volunteers for the Maybury Farm Corn

Maze, which begins Friday, Sept. 21 and runs through Oct. 30. Volunteers are needed on Fridays from 4:30-9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays (first shift) 12:15-5 p.m. or (second shift) 4:30-9 p.m. Volunteers do not have to work every weekend.

Drivers are also needed who can drive the wagons with either a tractor or team of horses.

To volunteer or for more information, call Shari Peters, president of the Northville Community Foundation, (248) 374-0200.

Artists needed

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging is looking for volunteer artists for a creative display project for The Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Sports background or the simple love of baseball would be helpful. The project will be needed by Oct. 8.

Interested artists should call Bobbie at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for more information.

Kindergarten seats

New Morning School still has several seats available in its 2007-2008 kindergarten program. New Morning School has expanded its kindergarten program so that students and their families can choose from half day classes during the morning or afternoon, as well as a full-day option. High-quality before and after school care is also available.

New Morning School offers a unique learning environment for kindergarten students ages 4-1/2 to 7. The challenging and developmentally-appropriate academic curriculum is based on the latest brain research, and focuses on hands-on, project-oriented learning. The program fosters development of the whole child, resulting in love of learning and high self-esteem.

To find out more, call 734.420.3331 or visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.com

Historical walking tour

Join the Plymouth Historical Museum and the Plymouth Preservation Network for an historical walking tour around Kellogg Park 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25.

Wendy Harless, Chairperson of the Plymouth Preservation Network, takes guests on an historical walk around the park. Have you ever stopped to wonder: Why we have a park? What is the oldest building

around the park? Why is the Wilcox house located near the park? These questions and many more will be answered. Arrive early and enjoy free Starbucks coffee!

Cost is \$10 per person with a limit of 25 people on tour. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or through PayPal on the museum's Web site at www.plymouthhistory.org/walking-tours.html. Contact the museum for more information at (734) 455-8940. The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Crafter call

The Plymouth Historical Museum is seeking crafters for its second-annual Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. Tables are \$15 each. Crafters are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as the museum has limited room. Applications are available on the Museum Web site at http://plymouth-history.org/craft/craftshow.pdf or at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Hand-crafted items only, please.

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival Sept. 7-9, 2007.

Ten-by-ten foot spots will cost \$75 per day or \$200 for the three-day weekend. Jewelry vendors will be juried this year and have an earlier deadline of June 30.

Applications are available to download at www.plymouth-festival.com or for more information call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

Golf benefit

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates sponsors its 12th-annual Cal Branigan Memorial Golf Outing, a charity event benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne.

The event was established in 1995 to honor Cal Branigan, a former CRA employee who died of a heart attack. Branigan was a hardworking, dedicated individual who was well respected by his co-workers and clients.

This year's outing takes place at Northville Hills Golf Club, 15565 Bay Hill Drive, in Northville, Thursday, Sept. 20. Registration, cart assignment and warm-up starts at 10:30 a.m., with a noon shotgun start. A buffet dinner, with awards, prizes and gifts, starts at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (734) 667-4653.

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

If you missed a delivery please call by 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Table with columns for Carrier Delivery and Mail Delivery, listing rates for various subscription periods (One year, 6 Month, 3 Month) and senior citizen rates.

POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Plymouth Observer - Publication No. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

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Advertisement for LODGE LANES 46255 I-94 S. Service Dr. • Belleville, MI, listing various league options like Youth League, Adult/Youth, Ladies, and Mixed with registration details.

Water-logged - heavy rains force locals to bail out

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

When it rained Wednesday for the second time in three days, Gerry Sabatini shrugged his shoulders and said, "You've just got to face it."

Sabatini, and his wife, Barb, had been working non-stop the two previous days moving water-damaged furniture and other treasures from their family room and garage - as well as general clean-up - after torrential storms dumped more than three inches of rain by noon Monday, forcing Tonquish Creek to overflow and flood several Coolidge Street backyards.

Sabatini received a call from his neighbor about 11 a.m. Monday that he'd better come home from work.

"I've lived here 24 years and I've never seen anything like it," said Sabatini, who had six inches of water inside his ground-level family room.

"The water was seeping through the house and to the floor drain, but it couldn't take it as fast as it was coming. City workers were putting sandbags down, but the water was just too high.

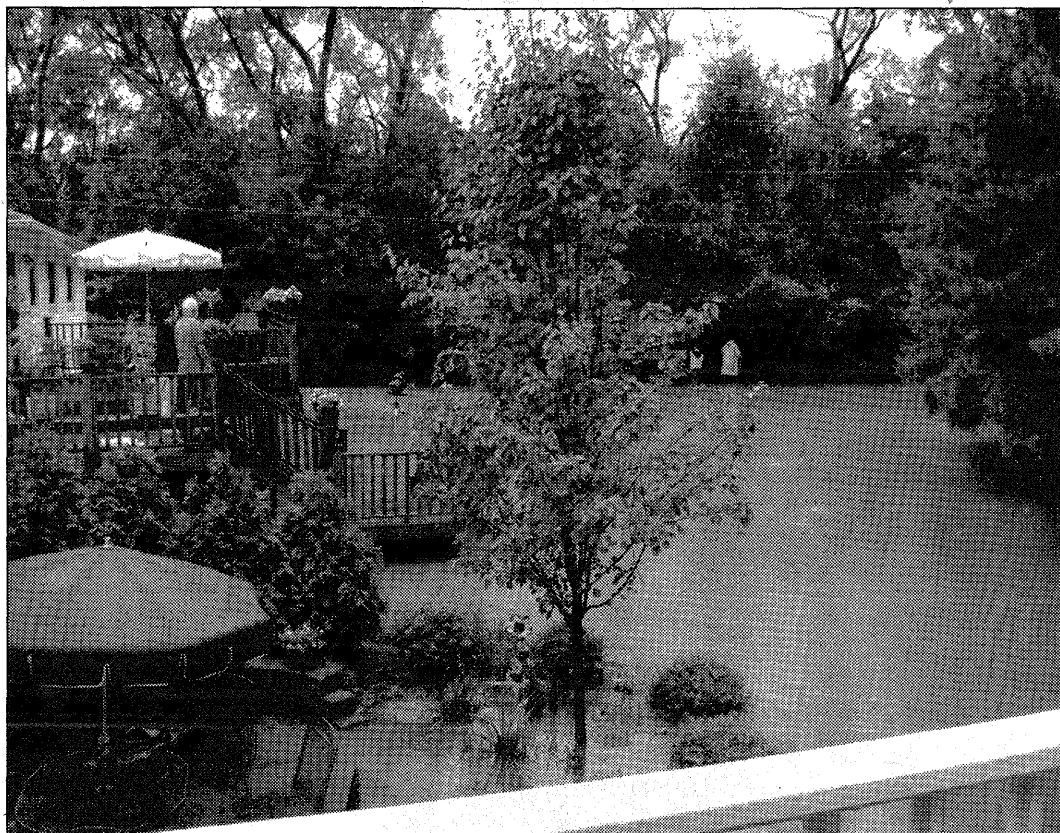
"We've spent the last few days cleaning and moving everything upstairs," he said. "You want to cry, but it doesn't do any good."

Sabatini said damage estimates are as high as \$20,000.

"I always wanted lake-front property, but not at this expense," said Sabatini, trying to make the best of the situation.

Meanwhile, Jada Korsman couldn't hold back the tears as her entire Junction Street home was surrounded by water following Monday's storms.

"It happened within 10 minutes," said Korsman, who has seen her back yard flood before. "I went into the garage to put sandbags around the house, and by the time I came back out, I couldn't get to it because of all the water. The back



City workers inspect the overflow from Tonquish Creek as neighbors eye their flooded back yards after Monday's rain storm dumped more than three inches.

room had about eight inches of water; that's where I had some antique furniture, a hope chest and photo albums.

"I'm an artist and have my work in the garage, some antique furniture, boxes of Christmas gifts I bought early and Christmas and Halloween decorations stored in there," she said. "It's all ruined."

Many parts of Plymouth and Plymouth Township experienced heavy flooding following more than three inches of rain that fell from Sunday to Monday.

"The biggest issue was the amount of rain we received in such a short amount of time," said Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock, who spent much of Monday examining damage and coordinating cleanup by the Municipal Services Department. "We had a number of areas where businesses and residents were flooded. The Tonquish and Byron creeks were at capacity, or more."

Tonquish Creek runs right behind Tonquish Creek



Flood waters on Goldsmith Street covered parking lots.

Manor, which houses some 100 senior citizens. When the rain poured and the nearby creek crested, several inches of water found its way to the manor's basement community room.

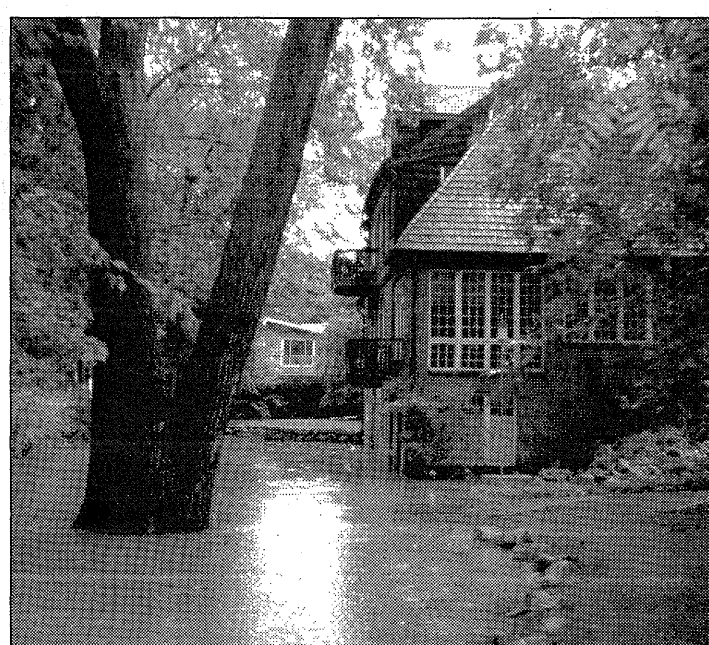
"I've been here for 12 years and have never seen anything like this," said Annette Stutrud, service coordinator. Executive director Sharon Thomas said the block-glass window wells - nearly filled

with water - looked like aquariums, including one with a lone frog that was washed from the creek.

"The city was so responsive, they were here instantly when we called," Thomas said. "The crews helped cover our files to protect them from water coming through the ceiling, and made a trench around the building to keep the water away from the building."



Ron Korsman pumps flood waters out of his Junction Street home.



Floodwaters reached this home on Evergreen near the Tonquish Creek.

A Plymouth Township police cruiser became disabled on Hines Drive while checking out a car that floated for a short distance before resting in a stretch of roadway that frequently floods and is closed after heavy rainstorms.

"The Wayne County Sheriff's Department asked us to assist, and when the officer tried to check the car and see if anyone was in it, our car got stuck and stalled," said Ray Yudit, a police service aid. "It had to

be towed." Public Works Manager Tony Hollis said most of the flooding in Plymouth Township was in the western end.

"We had a number of reports from residents who had basements that flooded," Hollis said. "It was mostly from detention basins filling up and draining into backyards. We also had some creeks that overflowed and spilled water onto the roadways."

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Death of a child

Long before Allison Newman died in foster care, her real parents struggled through a life of drugs and crime

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

When an 18-year-old Anne Hirsch licked the stamp to her first jailhouse letter to Kenny Newman and threw it in the mail, she set the downward spiral of her life in motion.

The young couple's roller coaster relationship, which was riddled with drug abuse and breakups, hit bottom in September with the death of their youngest daughter, Allison, 2.

Carol Poole, one half of the Canton couple that had been granted custody of the happy, brown-eyed child, has been charged in connection with her death and is set to return to court Friday for a hearing.

While palming a picture of his angelic granddaughter laid out in a coffin, Craig Hirsch, Anne's father, stares at a wall in his Canton apartment as if it holds the answers to his questions.

"I knew something was going to happen because they weren't done with the crack cocaine," he says blankly. "I just never knew it would be a death."

Hirsch said he isn't sure who gave Anne the contact information for Newman, then 20, in 1998. And he still can't pinpoint the exact reason she began writing him but says he believes it's because they are both deaf.

Although Hirsch was leery of Newman's interaction with

his daughter, he gave him the benefit of the doubt when he was released from jail later that year.

"I thought he was a nice guy," Hirsch said. "He was clean cut and he brought her a rose everyday."

'SHE WAS A GOOD KID'

At that time, Anne, one of Hirsch's seven children, was a "good kid" who had always conquered her physical limitations, including cerebral palsy, and had thrived in cross country running and performed in student plays.

Hirsch, who raised Anne, now 27, on his own, offers a slight smile as he hands over a stack of her old report cards.

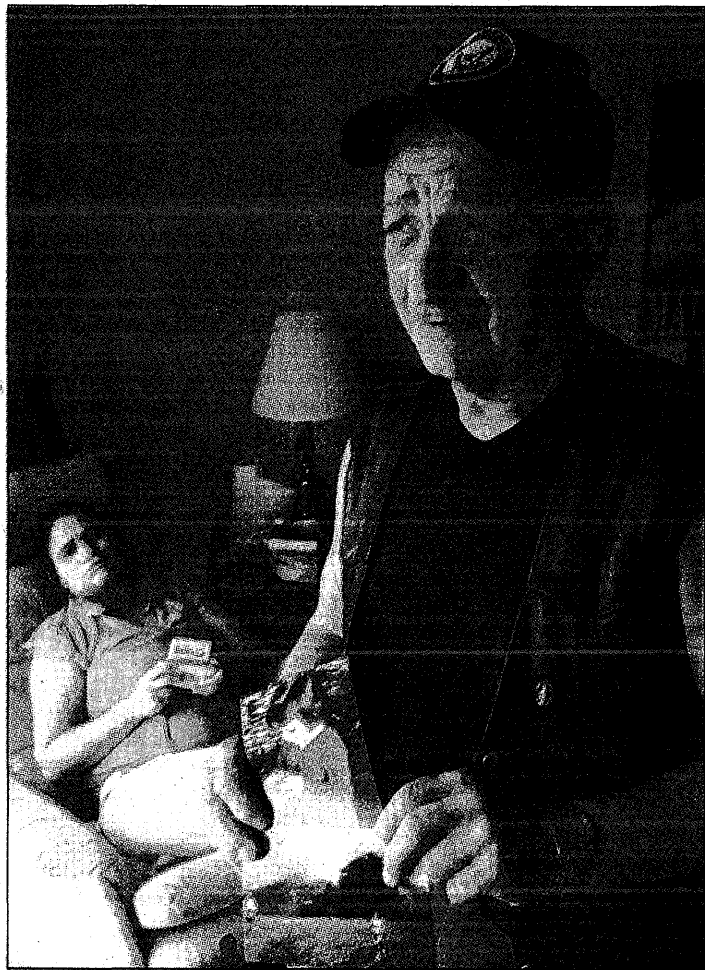
"She didn't smoke and didn't drink," he said. "All she and her sister did was play with each other's hair."

Within months of meeting Newman in person, Hirsch was pregnant with the couple's first daughter, Chrissy.

"I remember taking them all to Red Lobster when Chrissy was about three years old," Hirsch said. "They had some money in the bank and they were about to move into a trailer. That's the last time I remember them doing well."

Soon afterward, Hirsch says the couple spun out of control when they began doing drugs together.

"I had retired and went to Florida, but I had to come right back when I found out she was



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Craig Hirsch holds a photo of his granddaughter, Allison Newman, and his daughter Anne Marie, running cross country in high school. Anne Marie, who is Allison's mother and sitting in the chair at left, has struggled with drug use for several years.

doing drugs," he said. "I was only gone three months."

nine times, made an effort to kick cocaine when she got pregnant with Allison, Hirsch said.

When she was around six months old, Allison was placed

in foster care and eventually ended up with the Pooles. She had previously lived with her older sister and paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Debbie Newman, in Westland. Hirsch said health problems prevented him from taking the child.

"I remember (the paternal grandfather) stating that he was glad Allison hadn't been placed in the ghetto, but was in Canton where everything is supposed to be la-dee-dah," Hirsch said. "I don't think any of us knew this would happen."

The Newmans, who have been at all of Poole's court appearances, have said they will hold off on comments until Poole's trial is over.

After Allison moved into the Poole's home, Anne appeared to want to turn her life around but Newman, now 29, was back in jail. He has an extensive criminal record, dating back to 1994.

Having entered a plea on four charges, including fleeing a police officer, assault with a dangerous weapon and receiving and concealing stolen property, Newman is in custody in a state prison in Jackson with a maximum release date of 2015.

Hirsch said his daughter and Newman are no longer in a relationship.

When Allison died, Hirsch said any of Anne's plans to get clean were gone. He believes it has been about a year since she's seen her oldest daughter, now 7. The girl, who left a note in her little sister's casket to tell God she said hello, still lives with her paternal grandparents.

"I have to go and hunt her

down," Hirsch said. "I stand outside the drug houses with my camcorder and I wait. I know what time they get going."

Estimating that he's hit the streets more than 100 times to find Anne, Hirsch has gotten beat up and robbed in the process.

As he throws out a recent photograph that shows his left eye swollen shut and bruised, Hirsch said Anne mostly appears numb to Allison's death but will cry or get mad about the situation if she's high.

"If it were me, I'd be totally heartbroken if this happened to one of my kids," he said. "But with her, it doesn't last long."

TRIAL WON'T BRING HER BACK

Poole, 42, is accused of causing Allison's death when the child flew over a second-floor balcony during a game of "whirlybird."

Although the Canton woman has insisted the child's death was an accident, police say she gave them multiple explanations for Allison's injuries, which included a skull fracture. She has been charged with felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter.

Hirsch says he can only speculate about Poole's guilt but doesn't believe her acquittal or conviction will change anything.

"Nobody is going to win," he said. "Allison will still be gone and none of us know for sure what took place in that house."

After an unsuccessful attempt to visit Chrissy last month, Hirsch said Anne went off on yet another drug binge.

UNABLE TO CHANGE
Anne, who has entered rehab

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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: August 28, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 6, 2007 for the following:

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Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org, or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: August 23, 2007

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CIVIL WAR

FROM PAGE A1

Hardy was known as the "Hero of Petersburg" for capturing three dozen Confederate soldiers by himself. It was at Fort Steadman, during General Ulysses Grant's Petersburg campaign in Virginia, that Hardy was cited for conspicuous gallantry.

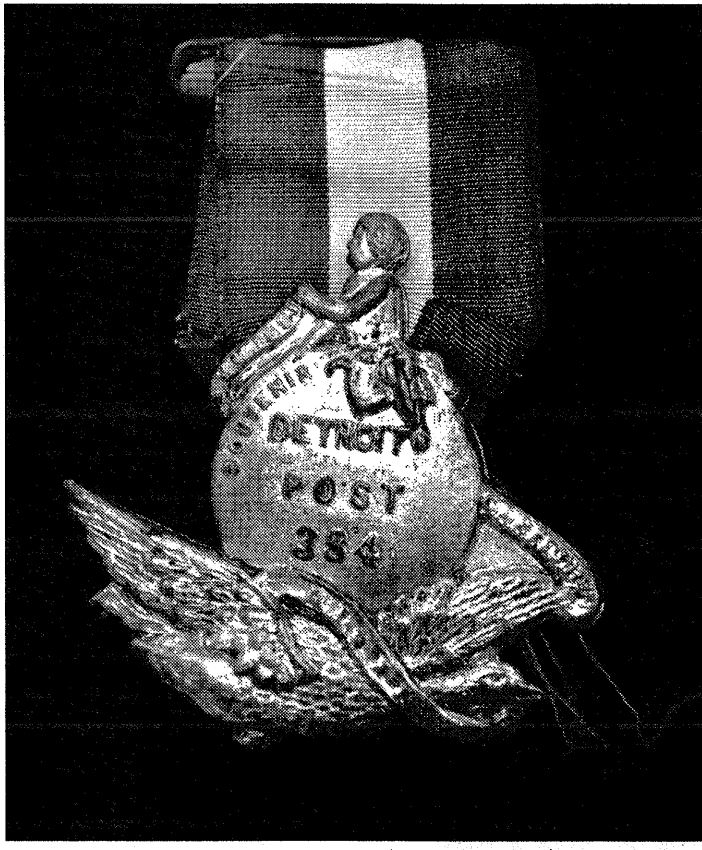
"The story goes that (General Robert E.) Lee's army tried to break out of Petersburg, and when Hardy saw a rebel poking his face out of the door of the Confederate headquarters he went charging through there with his musket, by himself," Packer said. "When he opened the door, there were 35 Confederate officers and soldiers. He told them 'give it up, you're surrounded,' and they surrendered. He became the hero of Fort Steadman."

Also included in the documents are Hardy's ordnance records for ordering ammunition during the Civil War. "One document showed he ordered 3,500 bullets during the siege of Petersburg on April 1," Packer said. "On April 2 they were expended, so he had to get more bullets, and wrote out a form every time he needed them."

Kerstens said the fact the documents have been in very few hands the past 140 years makes this collection unique.

"The Hardys took good care of this, it's in fabulous condition," Kerstens said. "From an archival standpoint, this is fantastic. If it hadn't been for priests taking care of it, the items would probably have been sold piece-meal, or thrown away."

Packer is in the process of cataloging each item with a description, number and photo to be put in the museum's computer database. He wears white gloves to pry documents that have been glued to albums.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Medals from the Grand Army of the Republic.

"Finger oil destroys documents, and putting it in light destroys it after a while," Kerstens said. "Even putting it in plastic could, over time, accelerate deterioration. However, we probably won't see that in our lifetime."

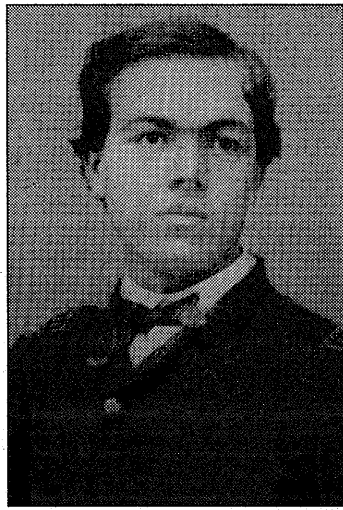
The Civil War collection enhances the Plymouth Historical Museum's Lincoln collection, which is the state's largest.

"It multiplies the value of the Lincoln collection because we have a whole collection from contemporary people," Kerstens said.

The Civil War memorabilia was given by Sullivan to one of his parishioners, Jack Grant of Plymouth Township, who is also the museum's treasurer.

"I saw Fr. Sullivan at church one day and he told me to stop by after Mass because he had something to donate to the museum," Grant said. "I picked up a stack of things and took

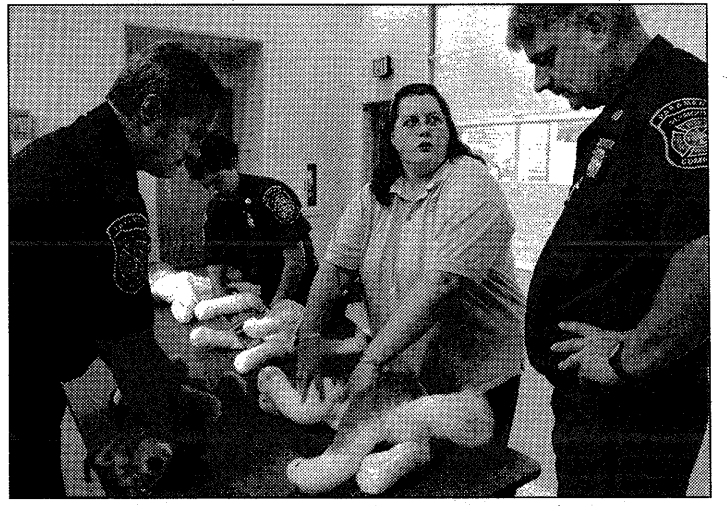
it to the museum and started cataloging it, and suddenly realized 'holy smokes, this is quite a collection.' We've really got a treasure here."



The Plymouth Historical Museum has received a nearly 200-piece Civil War collection donated on behalf of the family of Union Capt. John C. Hardy.

In 1993, Hardy's descendants donated the only remaining regimental flag for the 2nd Michigan Infantry, one of Hardy's muskets and several other items to the state of Michigan. The rest of the collection is at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

"We'll probably have 2nd Michigan Regiment ancestors anxious to see this collection," Packer said. "This is a jewel in the crown for us and this museum."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Instructor Roberta Cubbin teaches paramedics Jim Harrell, Christine Perez and Terry Harned the proper technique for performing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on dogs.

TRAINING

FROM PAGE A1

Chapman of First Aid 4 Paws, who conducted the training. "It's important for the firefighters to be able to treat the pets," Cubbin said. "It's also important for them to keep themselves safe from them at the same time."

This training, which Chapman and Cubbin also

offer to pet owners, is a benefit to the community, according to Chapman.

"People are devastated when they lose their pets," he said. "They don't care so much about the house; in the end, they worry about their pets."

First Aid 4 Paws offers pet first aid and CPR training to pet owners Sept. 8 and Nov. 10. For details, visit the Web site at www.FirstAid4Paws.com

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Business owner should consider SEP or self-employed 401(k)

I recently had a meeting with an individual who had accepted a buyout from an auto company. This individual was using part of the money to start a business. One of the client's main concerns was how to save for retirement. The individual did not plan to hire employees and wanted to know what type of investment vehicles other than an IRA was available to the self-employed.

Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Over the years, more options have become available for the small business person and, therefore, there is no reason for a small business or a self-employed individual not to save for their retirement.

For a self-employed individual, there are two types of tax-efficient retirement plans to consider. The first is a Simplified Employee Pension plan or SEP. A self-employed individual who works full or part time for themselves can establish an SEP.

Even if you are covered by a retirement plan at your full-time job, you are still eligible for an SEP for self-employed income.

In an SEP, you can contribute up to 25 percent of business income up to a maximum of \$45,000.

You have until your tax filing deadline, typically April 15, to open and contribute to an

For a self-employed individual, there are two types of tax-efficient retirement plans to consider. The first is a Simplified Employee Pension plan or SEP. A self-employed individual who works full or part time for themselves can establish an SEP.

SEP. Someone who starts their own business in 2007 will have until April 15, 2008, to establish an SEP plan and to make a contribution.

The advantage of an SEP is you can deduct your contribution off your income tax return and all investment earnings will grow on a tax-deferred basis. In addition, unlike some other types of retirement plans, you are not required to make an SEP contribution on a year-by-year basis. And there are no annual reports that have to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

SEP plans are offered through many mutual fund companies and brokerage houses and typically offer a variety of investment options. In opening any SEP plan, make sure you determine the costs involved in establishing and maintaining the plan. Many of the no-load companies will have no or very little costs involved.

Another alternative for the self-employed is a Self-Employed 401(k) plan.

Under this plan, you can contribute up to \$15,500 in a Self-

Employed 401(k). If you are over 50, you can take advantage of an additional \$5,000 contribution by exercising the catchup provision.

In addition, the business owner can make a profit-sharing contribution into the plan up to 25 percent of compensation to a maximum of \$45,000. The total contribution between salary deferral and profit sharing cannot exceed \$45,000 or \$50,000 if age 50 or older.

Unlike an SEP, a Self-Employed 401(k) plan must be established before the end of the business calendar (or fiscal) year, which is typically Dec. 31.

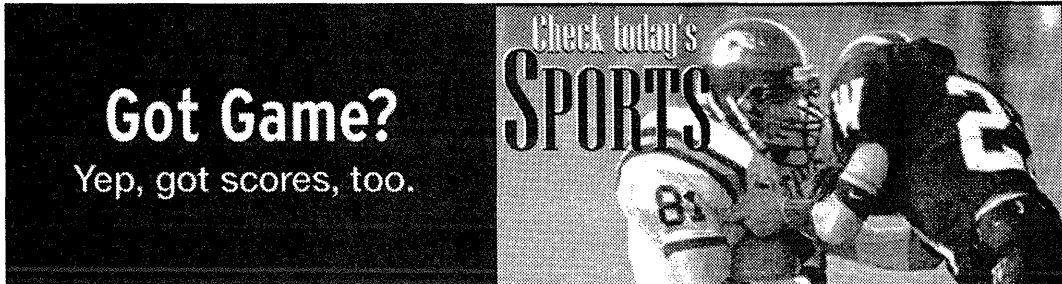
Just like in an SEP plan, many mutual fund companies and brokerage houses now offer a Self-Employed 401(k) plan.

Once a Self-Employed 401(k) plan has assets exceeding \$100,000, IRS Form 5500 must be completed and filed on a year-by-year basis.

An individual can contribute a greater amount to a solo 401(k) plan than to an SEP plan. One looking to maximize a retirement contribution may wish to consider a solo 401(k) plan vs. an SEP.

When someone decides to strike out on their own, it is important they begin saving for retirement as soon as possible.

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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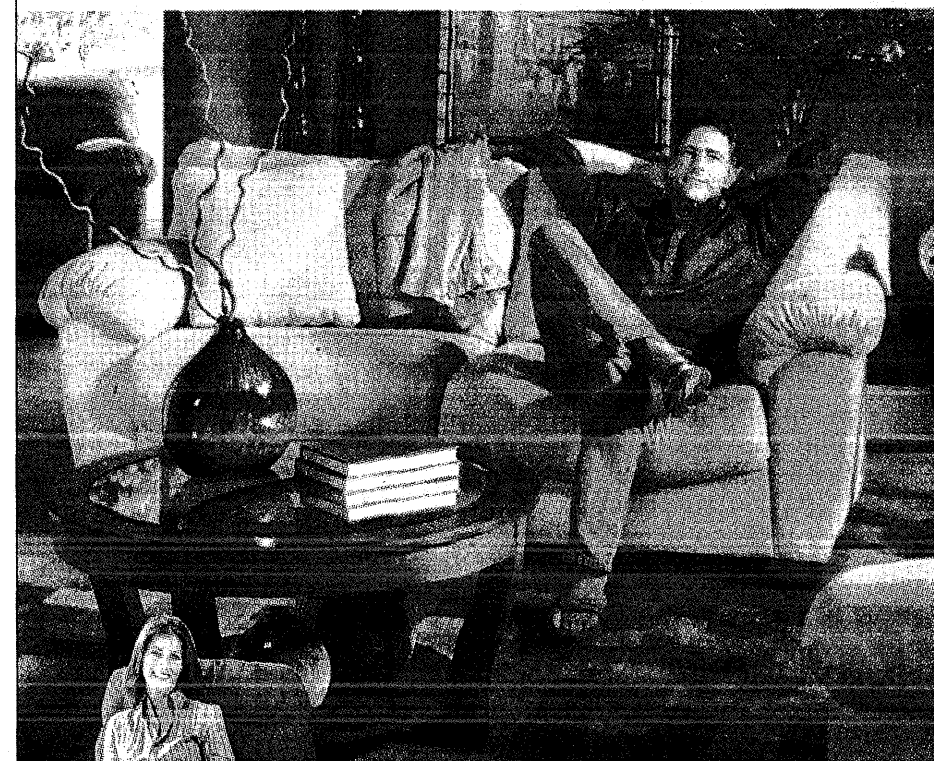
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OUR VIEWS

Get input on public safety

Oh, for crying out loud. We're sure that's the sentiment every time a resident of the City of Plymouth or Plymouth Township sees commissioners and trustees for the respective communities are arguing about fire services — again.

The latest dust-up came because city officials had the temerity to schedule Police Chief Wayne Carroll and Officer Chris Voorheis for Schoolcraft College's Fire Academy, an eight-week course that would seem to be the first step toward the city turning its police department into a public safety department and opting out of the agreement it has with the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

City officials claim they're simply doing "due diligence" as they seek to decide what level of fire service is necessary to serve their residents. But thus far they've skipped at least one step we believe is vital to the process:

Ask the residents.

It's all fine and dandy — prudent, even — to acquire as much information as possible while sorting out something as important as protecting the citizenry. And, since the city set aside \$100,000 in its budget this year to explore the public safety option, the \$5,000 it will shell out for the Schoolcraft training doesn't even strike us as exorbitant.

We don't believe the public safety department is the way to go; neither do most city officials. Most commissioners, in fact, are on record saying the community fire department would be their preferred method of providing fire safety. But officials claim in one sentence the costs are skyrocketing out of control, then admit in the next breath that costs have risen only minimally.

The problem, as it is so often with these two governmental entities, is personalities consistently get in the way. The city says, "We can't get future cost projections;" the township counters with "I already gave them to you." Fifth-graders settle playground disputes with more aplomb. It's far past time for both sides to put aside pettiness and animosity and sit together to hash it out, particularly since both sides seem to agree that's the best option to begin with.

City commissioners have generally been mindful of voters; that's why the popular trash program was never cut when the city was struggling with its budget. If city officials are simply determined to at least explore the public safety option, they should begin by taking the pulse of their residents.

Budget delay is hard on schools

When Tom Petty sings that the waiting is the hardest part, our local school districts know just what he means.

Last year they waited through promises, renege promises and restored promises as the state spent a year before it finally reached a balanced budget.

Technically the state has until Oct. 1 to produce a balanced budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year. But the fiscal year for the school districts began July 1, without a clue as to what the state school aid grant would be. Whatever it is will still not be enough for many districts to do more than meet past obligations.

While Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state legislators debate new taxes vs. deeper cuts in state programs, our local school districts are struggling to budget for the coming school year.

Many school districts have had to cut programs and staff due to the uncertainty of state school funding, which since the passage of Proposal A is the primary source of school funding and the largest part of state spending.

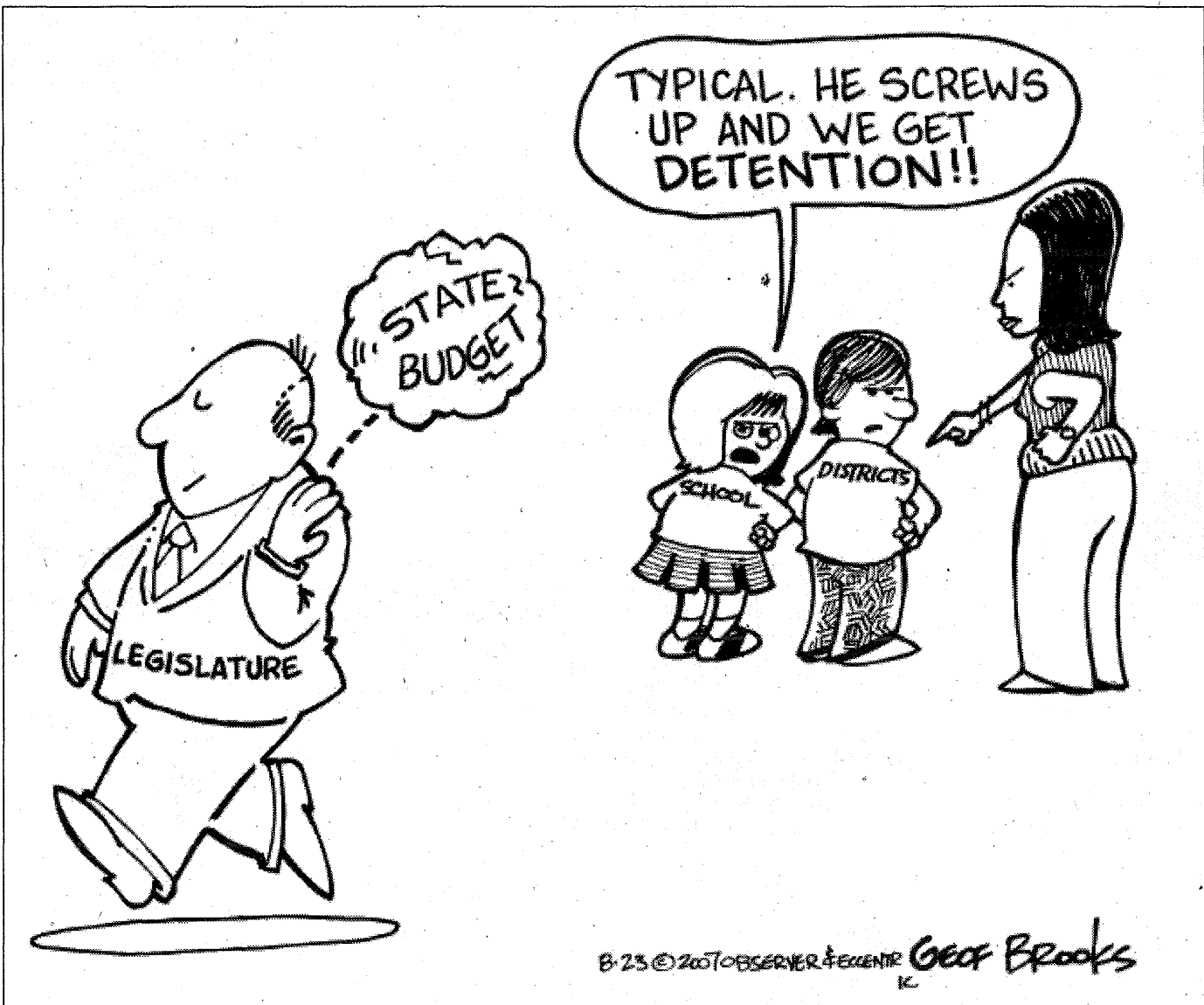
In addition to making good on school aid funding, the state needs to address the rapidly rising costs of employee pension and health care, which have swallowed up school district finances.

The disconnect between the two fiscal years and the uncertainty it causes is a major problem for our school districts.

In Troy, the district has been cutting programs and dipping into its fund balance for the past five years.

"Our projections are for a zero increase in terms of school funding, but it's difficult to operate in this uncertainty. It's important that the state fully fund education and develops a system where schools have the ability to plan," said Tim McAvoy, Troy district community relations director.

The state Legislature needs to act and act quickly on this year's school aid, but it also needs to take a long look at reforming the funding process so that every year isn't an excruciating waiting game.



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Need new leadership

The administration in Washington stopped filming of our fallen soldiers' coffins coming off the planes as they landed back on U.S. soil. It did this so that the number of soldiers killed would only be a "number" to us and we wouldn't realize our losses as time went by.

If the over 3,600 flag draped coffins from Iraq were to be lined up end to end, we would have a line stretching for more than five miles long. Imagine that, and remember, this should not have been.

This week the Cheney regime again tried to argue that the courts should have no jurisdiction to review their illegal warrantless spying because it claimed there were "other avenues" for that oversight. To which a federal appeals court judge responded, "What's that? Impeachment?"

That's as close as a sitting judge can get to calling Congress essentially a gutless bunch of cowards.

We do not hear anything about being outraged from our Michigan congressmen, including Thaddeus McCotter. Our constitutional rights are being taken away and will be very hard to get back. Their voices do not cry out to protect our rights against this Republican White House.

We need new leadership in D.C.! Send this message in November!

Hadley J. Hudak
Canton

Engage in the process

This Aug. 26 marks the 87th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting-age population, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

This anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in the past 87 years.

This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 presidential election is a woman. And of course, Gov. Granholm is the first woman governor of Michigan.

These achievements, however, do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders of all backgrounds, that this can change.

The League's current and recent projects include the launch of a national voter education Web site, www.VOTE411.org, lobbying against the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, a campaign to end "taxation without representation" for D.C. citizens by granting D.C. a voting representative, and continuing voter registration drives nationwide.

It is our goal at the local level to provide the best, non-partisan candidate and issue information to the electorate by conducting candidate forums and providing voter guides on our local Web site: www.lwnwv.org

LETTERS

It is crucial we continue to engage more citizens in the democratic process, on every level. Today is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all.

Paula Bowman, president
League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Stop spreading misinformation

In reading the letter "War on Terror is real," Aug. 9, I was disappointed to see that the confusion about the war on terror, Iraq and al-Qaeda still persists. The misinformation and outright lies spread by our president and vice president about those issues persist even though facts have exposed them for what they are — untruths.

After 9/11, our president had an opportunity and a duty to eliminate the Taliban and al-Qaeda from Afghanistan and in so doing crush an international terror organization that has been a threat to us as well as the world. Our president chose to ignore the opportunity and to move our resources to invading Iraq, which had no connection with al-Qaeda or the Taliban. For this monumental blunder, history, as well as generations of Americans, will never and should never forgive him.

The reality in Iraq is that a civil war is being waged between the Shia and the Sunni factions of Islam. Al-Qaeda, while present due to our president's blunder, represents a tiny part of the insurgency; it is opposed by Iraqis and does not pose a danger of ever forming a government in Iraq.

The only hope in Iraq is to divide the country along ethnic lines with an agreement to share oil revenues on a per-capita basis. Our troops should remain only in a capacity to prevent foreign powers from entering the region and not as cannon fodder in a civil war.

President Bush and the Republicans have shown us that they are incapable of providing security for our nation; in fact, they are the ones responsible for putting us in danger. Allowing them to continue to damage this country and the people in it is plainly irresponsible.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Start impeachment proceedings

I want Democrats to know this: If you all don't start impeachment proceedings, I am switching parties. You, the Dems, were brow-beaten with one of the best presidents ever in Bill Clinton. Now you are looking like lame ducks and giving that man in the White House full authority to continue on his merry way.

You need to start with Cheney, then go after Bush for war crimes against humanity, illegal war, wire tapping without having a judge's approval of it. These are just a few of his illegal actions while in office. Please don't tell me that these aren't enough.

President Bill Clinton never left office, so I don't characterize him as impeached as the publications do. His actions with Monica were between two consenting adults. He should have never had to go through that.

I am embarrassed by John Conyers, who used impeachment to get re-elected and then when he has done nothing but back or cower down to what Fox News would say about him.

Joseph McGlinchey
Canton

Impeach the president

Why does it take so long for the U.S. government, which is supposed to represent the United States of America, to not only put this man on trial, but also to impeach? So far I only see weakness and a lot of money and time spent on three men (Bush, Cheney and Gonzales) that do not represent us and if we did what they have done so far, we would have been in prison!

Judith Tarjeff
Westland

Stop this administration

It's finally happening, the economy is falling apart. The U.S. is falling apart. But this administration felt it better to kill people, line their pockets, allow business to abandon the U.S. and eliminate jobs. Now we're going to all pay the price for their stupidity. Let's remove this administration before they start WWII with Iran.

Paul Bunker
Redford

'Sicko' will surprise

I wish to write in support of Michael Moore. I saw *Sicko* and I came away very upset. People do not realize we are the only western industrialized nation without a national health care program. Most people who do not want a national health care program are those who have health care paid for by someone else.

It is very sad to realize how we are being manipulated in this country. Rich and influential people are telling us what we should think and do.

I am a moveon.org person and I am not a "nut" as the man from Troy suggested (Letters, Aug. 10). I am an intelligent person and I refuse to believe all the propaganda put out by people like Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh and others. Hopefully more people will at least see *Sicko* before judging it. They may be surprised.

Joanne Braund
Royal Oak

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"I still think we're a destination (district) ... If we can get a little money from enrollment, a better audit and if the state can get it together, I think there's hope to get the budget deficit manageable."
Dr. James Ryan, Plymouth-Canton schools superintendent, on the potential cash infusion that would come with an increase in student enrollment

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Michigan needs 'Silk Route Team' to take advantage of opportunity

Seldom do you get a second chance to go after a grand prize. The prize I am talking about is a direct, nonstop passenger flight to Beijing or Shanghai, China, the nation with the world's fastest growing economy.

Northwest Airlines failed in its bid for approval to fly directly to China when, late last year, the U.S. Transportation Department awarded to United Airlines the China route out of Washington D.C. to Beijing. The DOT will award additional nonstop flights to China during the next two years. It would be to our clear economic advantage to make sure Detroit secures this lucrative and beneficial flight.

A recent economic impact study by the Wayne County Airport Authority estimated that two new flights would generate more than \$265 million in benefits to southeast Michigan's economy.

If Michigan is to resurrect itself from the economic doldrums, it must find ways to have a larger footprint on the global stage. Take any statistic you like and you can see that China's economy is on a roll and picking up steam.

The China wave, with annual double-digit economic growth, is lapping at our shores. We can continue to play "Peking duck" or find ways to make the China rise work for us.

Michigan is reeling with a 7.2-percent unemployment rate and needs a new "route to help transform our economy." Building a two-way direct economic air bridge to China would help put Michigan in the fast lane for an economic resurgence for the metro area and the entire state.

HANGING TOGETHER

All Michigan leaders — Republicans and Democrats, labor and management, north, south, east and west Michigan — need to pull together to secure this important route. Air traffic will be to the 21st century what shipping and rail was in the 20th century. Nothing but an all-hands-on-deck, all-out commitment to secure this route is acceptable if we wish to thrive and not merely survive as an economic engine in the future.

Be clear — our competitors from other states and nations around the world will be aggressively pursuing every trade advantage they can muster with Asia and China. Michigan leaders need to show their intent to adapt to the changing global "flat world." We need every advantage to help tilt the world in Michigan's direction.

This is not simply a "one-way" flight with no return for Michigan.

China's rising economy has produced disposable income for millions of individuals looking

for vacation spots to spend their wealth. Our clean air, water, great universities and abundance of golf courses and gambling are a major draw for the Chinese.

Here are some suggestions to develop an Asia/China agenda, secure a direct air route to China and show the world that Michigan is united and open for global business.

1. Gov. Jennifer Granholm could assemble a "Silk Route Team" of business, labor, political, community and civic leaders to develop a comprehensive Asia/China strategy. None exists today.

This group's charge would be to find ways to make the economic rise of Asia and China work for Michigan's workers, families, businesses and communities. The first objective should be to secure the direct route from Detroit to China. Michigan's universities, with the Confucius Institutes at Michigan State and Wayne State and the China Center at the University of Michigan, and businesses that have navigated the China business shoals are bursting with China experts that can help guide the way.

2. Beyond a direct passenger flight to China, the "Silk Route Team" should find ways to make Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano's Aerotropolis concept a reality and make Willow Run Airport in western Wayne County and Bishop International Airport in Flint part of an international, inter-modal, global transportation hub for all of North America. This two-way cargo air bridge will make our region and Michigan the envy of the world.

3. Show your support for Northwest Airlines' attempt to secure this new China route by going to www.nwatochina.com. Northwest Airlines reported it received more than 100,000 letters of support in the first three days after the company announced its application for nonstop routes to China.

Today, Michigan is lagging behind other states and nations in tapping the rich Chinese economic vein in ways that benefit our citizens. Seldom does the economic merry-go-round provide the opportunity to snag the brass ring a second time. Do we have the ability to drop the political in-fighting long enough to capture this opportunity or will we continue to go around and around, again losing the prize?

The great Chinese philosopher, Lo-tzu once said: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Let the journey begin.

Tom Watkins, former state superintendent of public instruction (2001-05) and director of the Department of Mental Health (1986-90) is a business and education consultant. He has a longstanding interest in China and has traveled there many times since 1989.



Tom Watkins

Behind every spoiled brat there is an indulgent parent

So there I was waiting for a baker to box some heavenly-scented cinnamon sticks hot out of an oven in one of those ritzy resort towns up north. The man up next got a whiff and couldn't resist ordering a dozen, too. He gazed down on a girl of approximately 7 and asked if the order was OK.

She smiled the smallest of smiles, looked up at her father and spoke.

"I want frosting," little Princess said. There was something in her voice that commanded attention.

It wasn't the high-pitched squeal of a little girl who merely wanted gooey sugar. The voice was bathed in expectation. It was as if a lesser royal had issued an edict to a commoner — she knew the request would be fulfilled because, in her world, that's simply the way things are done.

Over the next few minutes, the father did his best to get frosted cinnamon sticks for Princess gooey fingers. The store owner wouldn't budge.

"We don't sell them that way," was all she kept saying to the increasingly befuddled man.

One demand, two subsequent requests and a final plea were swatted aside before he turned to his right in defeat.

"How about a frosted doughnut?" he asked, looking to escape the storm of disappointment bearing down upon him.

"I guess," said the little one, and both moved one pace to the left as the woman at the register scowled like she would enjoy nothing better than frosting the brat from head to toe and tossing her in a vat of burning oil.

Is this what raising a child has come to? Spa parties for 6-year-olds. Chicago shopping trips for girls too young to drive. A \$15,000 baby crib designed to look like the carriage in Cinderella for sale on a Web site called Poshtots.

Enough is enough.

Tots don't have to be posh.

They don't need facials, pedicures or cucumber eye treatments. They should be able to find suitable clothing at the nearest mall or, dare I suggest, a discount store like Target. And an infant certainly doesn't give a darn if she sleeps in a luxury carriage or \$300 crib so long as her parents love, cherish and take care of her.

On a typical weekend 35 years ago, I would have been camping with family. Cereal for breakfast, hot dogs for lunch and

On a typical weekend 35 years ago, I would have been camping with family. Cereal for breakfast, hot dogs for lunch and hobo pies for dinner. A hot dog that hit the dirt was brushed off and eaten. We occasionally went to bed with muddy feet. Our grandparents came over for cake and ice cream on birthdays. I wore hand-me-downs from cousins and more than one pair of my blue jeans was purchased at garage sales. Spankings were socially acceptable back then, too, and dad doled out more than a few.

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I remember it as a time when parents made rules and children obeyed. Of course there were exceptions, the most famous of which was our habit of removing every stick of furniture in the living room and using the fireplace as a soccer goal when mom and dad went bowling.

It was the Life of Riley compared to the childhood of my father's father. As one of 14 children growing up in Saskatchewan, Canada, he had to get his first job at 12 and wound up shoveling coal at the local railroad.

Has prosperity changed the rules of parenthood?

Must all parents now bargain with children instead of telling them what to do? Is renting a Moonwalk the bare minimum for a birthday party these days?

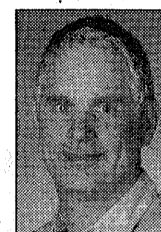
Does a 3-year-old's opinion really matter when making a family decision?

I need answers fast because my wife and I have a little one on the way.

Baby girl is our first and we don't want to get off to a rocky start.

Perhaps a trip to Pottery Barn Kids is in order.

Larry Ruehlen is community editor of the West Bloomfield Eccentric. He welcomes feedback at lruehlen@hometownlife.com or call him at (248) 901-2556.



Larry Ruehlen

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Ballet company holds audition

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet will be holding auditions for the 2007-2008 performance season. The auditions are open to all interested dancers. The nonprofit dance company was established to bring performers from different dance programs together in a ballet company atmosphere. Performances and rehearsals are an addition to the dancer's regular training schedule at their studio.

Dancers are asked to bring a resume a dance photo and \$10 audition fee. Girls are required to wear ballet shoes, pink tights and black leotard with their hair in a bun. Boys are required to wear ballet shoes, black tights or jazz pants and a white T-shirt. All dancers will be evaluated for membership to the companies on their dance technique and performance potential during a ballet class. Girls with pointe shoes should be prepared to demonstrate their abilities.

Three audition classes will be held Sunday, Aug. 26, at Joanne's Dance Extension, 42020 Koppnick, Canton. Dancers aged 7 to 9 years will dance from noon to 1 p.m., dancers aged 10 to 12 years will dance 1-2 p.m., and dancers aged 13 to adult will dance 2-3:30 PM. Contact the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company at (734) 676-7233 or by e-mail at pcbc@comcast.net. For more information visit the Company's Web site at plymouthcantonballet.org.

Dream Cruise was one fine ride

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

"There's that stupid car with the name we can't pronounce." The anonymous voice came from the crowd along Woodward at Maple.

Could he have been referring to one of the many Jaguars - is that Jag-U-ar or Jagwar? - or perhaps a Lancia, or maybe a Lamborghini Countach?

It certainly couldn't have been any of the herd of Mustangs or stately Rolls Royces that roared down Woodward Saturday for the official Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise revvs.

By 9 a.m. the cars and crowds already were thick in Birmingham.

Kevin and Leigh Burrow came from Indianapolis for the event. Perched in folding chairs and Woodward and Maple, they watched the cars roll by with their son Blake, 4. "It's excellent," said Kevin. "It's exceeded our expectations."

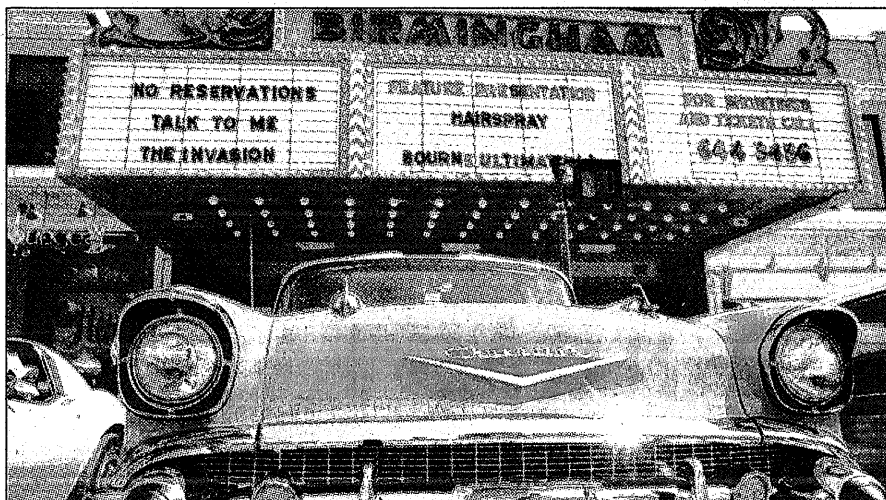
The event was a first for the Burrows.

"I just love it," said Leigh. Blake had nothing to say, except he thrust up the toy Corvette he clutched in his hands when asked what is his favorite car.

He had many to choose from. Thousands of classic cars filled Birmingham and the weather couldn't have been better.



Kayla and Conner Lance from Commerce Township rode in style in a 1957 Chevy wagon pulled by their mother Rhondi.



A classic car in front of the classic theatre on Old Woodward Ave.

Congrats O&E ticket winners

Six people are winners in the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers readership survey random drawing.

The winners are Penny Sage of Farmington Hills, two tickets to the Sept. 5 Tigers game; Charles Olschefski of Livonia, two tickets to the Sept. 7 Tigers game; Mary Ann Fassnacht of Rochester Hills, four tickets to Beatlemania Aug. 26 at Meadow Brook Music Festival; Deb Christiansen of Livonia, two tickets to the Sept. 5 Tigers game; Janet Seelow of Garden City, two tickets to the Sept. 7 Tigers game; and Nancy Fedon of Canton Township, four tickets to Dave Matthews Band at the DTE Energy Music Theatre.

The winners submitted a survey either in print or online published over a two-week period of time.

The winners submitted a survey either in print or online published over a two-week period of time.

The names were selected at random. Everyone who submitted a survey either in print or online and who provided a name and address was eligible for the ticket drawing.

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McCotter sees progress by reaching down to grass roots in Iraq

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

As members of Congress await an update on military and political progress in Iraq, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) sees a change in approach that he believes is making a difference.

McCotter met with *Observer* editors Wednesday, his 42nd birthday, to discuss a number of issues facing Congress, particularly the war in Iraq.

The Bush administration will release a progress report Sept. 11 or 12 based on consultation with Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Petraeus and Crocker will begin closed door meetings with congressional committees Sept. 15.

"You remember when I used to come in and say it has to be grass root from the bottom up, not the top down, and that's what they're doing," McCotter said. "The political progress is occurring in the tribes, the towns and the provinces. That's where they are making the decision to stop supporting the insurgency and support the United States, the coalition or their own efforts for freedom."

McCotter said a change in the reconstruction philosophy is helping to win over the "passive-aggressive" resistance of the Iraqi people.

"The reconstruction was reoriented. That was the key that was overlooked in the military surge aspect," he said. "It was reoriented from a Baghdad base, down into the provinces. What has also happened is that the Iraqis began distributing oil revenue money down to the provinces."

He said the emphasis on political progress in Baghdad was backward and it was more important to win support on the local level.

Michigan U.S. Sen. Carl Levin has suggested that the Iraqi parliament should consider removing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki because of his inability to build a political reconciliation among the various factions in the country. McCotter said that removing Maliki before the Sept. 15 progress report is given to Congress "would invite chaos. It's not helpful and diminishes his ability to bring people together."

McCotter has opposed any attempt by Congress to set a time limit on American troop presence in Iraq and supported the increase of ground troops in Baghdad and the al-Anbar Province, known as the surge. He said any decision on withdrawal of

American troops would have to be made by Petraeus and other generals in the field.

SUPPORTS THOMPSON

Earlier this month, McCotter voted to extend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act for six months. Among other changes, it allows the director of National Intelligence and the attorney general to permit surveillance without a judicial warrant of telephone

calls where one party is thought to be outside of the United States. The act was revised to answer a technical issue involving telecommunications equipment, but has been criticized as an invitation to "spy" on American citizens.

McCotter said he wasn't concerned that this would be a problem.

"No constitutional right is absolute," he said. "Courts will make a determination. Judges will look at

this and make that constitutional decision. They'll have to show actual harm."

Next year is a congressional and presidential election year. McCotter is supporting former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson for president. The former co-star of TV's *Law and Order* has yet to officially declare his candidacy.

"He's a common sense conservative," McCotter said. McCotter said he's concerned

about the economy and how a weak American economy would affect an election where Congress is controlled by the Democrats and the president is a Republican. He said he is also concerned how a weak national economy would impact Michigan's already down economy.

As a member of the Republican House leadership, McCotter notes that there is a philosophical tension within the party.

"Economically, they still tend to

pander to the libertarian wing of the party, which is not helpful to my state," he said. "It's one of the tensions of the Republican Party. It's not the social conservatives against the social moderates, that accommodation was worked out a long time ago."

In the final analysis, it's the economic libertarian who believes America is an economy and Reaganites who believe America is a country and all that that entails."

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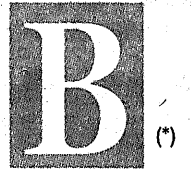
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Real Estate



Thursday, August 23, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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Make sure contractor's insurance is up to date

Q. Do you have any suggestions as to what we should do before signing a contract with a contractor regarding their insurance?

A. Before you sign the contract, make sure that your contractor has adequate insurance and that you are provided with a copy of it, as well as a certificate of insurance indicating that it is in effect. Also, make sure the association is listed as an additional insured, the policy is valid, the policy covers planned work, the policy is in effect when the work begins, the policy is for the required amount, and that the contractor's name on the policy matches the name of the contractor you hired.



Robert Meisner

Q. We are building a fitness center in our community clubhouse and want to make sure that it complies with fair housing laws. Do you have any suggestions?

A. You should consult with legal counsel who has knowledge of the fair housing laws before making any of the rules. Here are some general ideas:
(1) Make sure that the rules are reasonable and promote legitimate goals;
(2) Base rule specifics on objective criteria;
(3) Target rules at behavior, but not at people;
(4) Prominently post the rules and basis for them;
(5) Enforce the rules properly and consistently; and
(6) Make sure your rules comply with state and local law.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$99.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

WE'RE MOVING?

Help children adjust to move, educators say

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

In her 37 years in education as a teacher and administrator, Helene Lusa of Livonia doesn't remember a child having major problems with a move.

"There were kids who had bumps, don't get me wrong," said Lusa, an assistant professor in the educational leadership department of Saginaw Valley State University. She recalls her time in the Livonia Public Schools — and how good kids were to new arrivals, making them feel welcome.

"I complimented them because that's what they were doing." Few families were transient in Livonia, added Lusa, making their school lives easier.

Lusa, who earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership and policy from Wayne State University, had 11 years in the Livonia schools, over 20 in the Garden City district, and shorter stints in South Redford and Wayne-Westland.

'All those things will help the student feel more comfortable with the move Our experience has really been that it's much easier for the children than it is for the parents.'

GREG BARACY, *Wyandotte-Westland district superintendent*

She recalled how the Livonia elementaries where she worked had programs for new students.

"We would always identify who the new families were." Families could tour the schools. "We'd answer any questions they might have," Lusa said.

"It's hard for kids. The older they are, the harder it is. Older children struggle with it."

She's seen over the years many families moving when children complete third or sixth grade. "They're reluctant to uproot their older children, especially if they're doing well in school.

The current economy's a factor, Lusa noted, with some families forced to

move for job reasons.

She encourages parents to be as honest as they can with children about reasons for a move. Kids can look at homes with their parents, voicing their views on the new home.

"You can almost always tour a school." Often, parents like to see a school when students are in class, and it's possible to make a connection with the administrator there, Lusa said.

Longtime educator Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy, also an Ed.D. from Wayne State University, agreed parents can do a lot to help children adjust to a move.

"They need to help their children

acclimate themselves to the new school," Baracy said. He recommends a visit to the new school and grounds.

Baracy urges parents to get involved in the school PTA or PTO, and to go to school events. Contact with principals, "and let(ing) them know they're new to the community," will help as will visits online to the school Web site with kids.

"All those things will help the student feel more comfortable with the move," said Baracy, who like Lusa hasn't seen families have major problems with moves.

"Our experience has really been that it's much easier for the children than it is for the parents." Research backs that up, Baracy said.

He's seen some recent economic impact, but not too much

"Move ins and outs are not unusually high," Baracy said. "There's a fair number of them, and the economy has affected some of our families." The district has lost some students to other states, and other parts of Michigan.

What to do before you put your home up for sale

(NAPSI) — When selling your house, you may first think about how your house looks from the outside, but inner beauty is also important. Fortunately, there's a lot you can do for relatively little money that can make your home stand out to prospective buyers.

So, what can you do to improve the appeal of your home? Before rushing

to purchase expensive new flooring and countertops, the experts at Budget Blinds, the nation's leading custom window covering franchise, offer these cost-effective suggestions:

■ **Clean up** — A tidy home is more appealing than a messy one. Take a good look at your window treatments. Are the draperies dingy, the blinds banged up, the shutters shabby?

Perhaps replacing your treatments with new ones will do the trick.

■ **Depersonalize rooms** — There's a reason white and off-white are the leading colors for window treatments — they're safe. Replacing the pink and orange floral draperies in your little girl's room with a simple roller shade will allow the couple to decide for themselves whose room it will be.

■ **Update your look** — If your window treatments are still stuck in the '90s, refreshing them with a new cellular shade or faux wood horizontal blinds may be helpful in moving your property faster.

■ **Create a focal point** — If you have a great view, call attention to it by bundling your window treatments. Bundling is the practice of combining

two classic window treatments on one window. For example, layer a sheer drapery panel over a roller shade or window shading to add drama. Further, use draperies to visually lengthen a short window or camouflage a harsh angle.

■ **Use window treatments to tone down harsh sunlight** during photo shoots.



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SPORTS



(CP)

Thursday, August 23, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

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Volleyball coaches like change of season

For a preview of this year's P-CEP volleyball teams, please see page C2.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

For the first August in the history of high school sports, female athletes in gyms across Observerland have been exchanging high-fives when a ball goes over a net and not *through* it.

Due to the court-mandated MHSAA switch of seasons, volleyball has flip-flopped with girls basketball — and the local prep volleyball coaches couldn't be happier.

"It took a little getting used to at first, but I love it now," said coach Kelly McCausland, referring to her sport's change of seasons. "It's a great segue for the girls who attend camps during the summer because they can start practicing for the volleyball season now in mid-August."

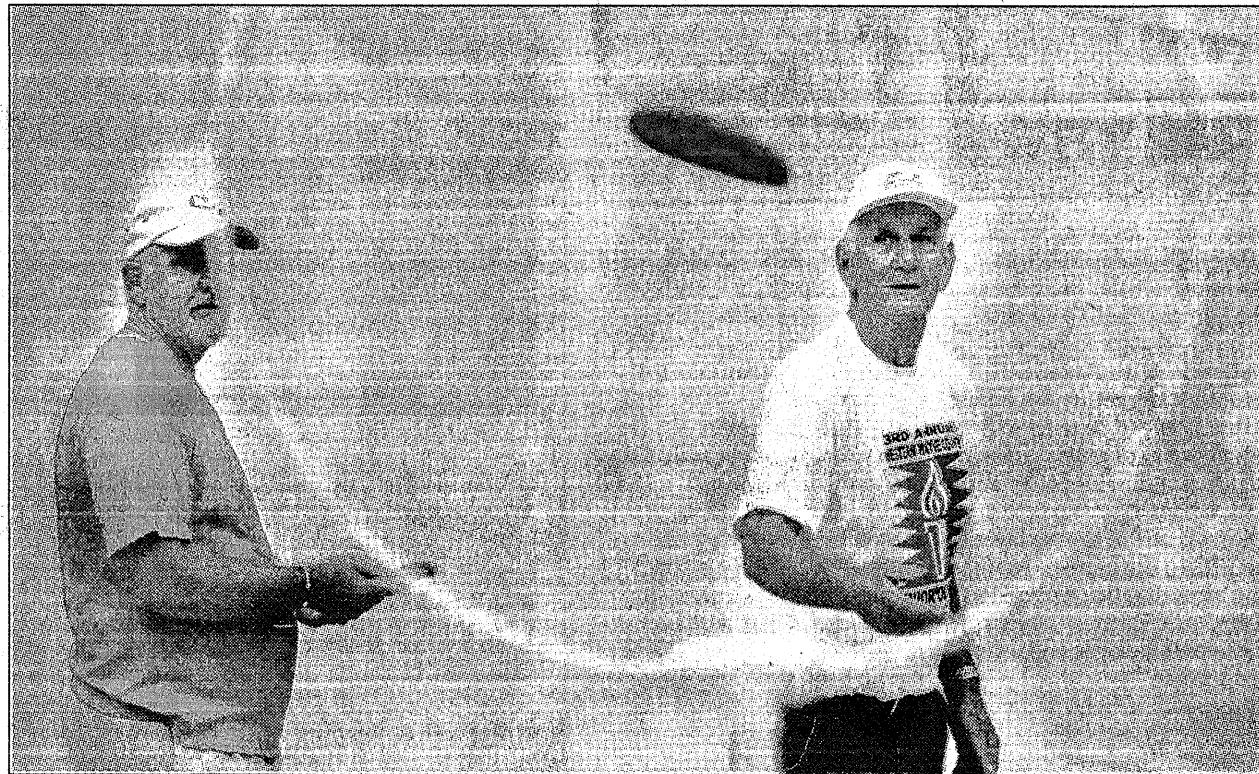
"The change has allowed us to do different types of conditioning, too, because we can go outside and run if we want to."

Salem coach Amanda Suder agreed with McCausland's assessment.

"Probably the best part about it so far is that we don't have any conflicts as far as getting gym time," said Suder. "The only downside has been that some of the girls had vacations planned in August, but we've been able to work around that."

Volleyball and girls basketball were just two of four sports affected by the court ruling. Girls golf has flip-flopped with boys golf, moving from the spring to the fall, and boys tennis will now be played in the fall with girls tennis moving to the spring.

ewright@hometownlife.com
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charles Hutchinson (right) tosses a frisbee through a ring during Monday's opening day of the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics. More than 400 people were registered to compete in the week-long event that was hosted by Canton Leisure Services.

THE GOLDEN (MEDAL) YEARS

Event brings out best in senior Olympians

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The "Umbrella Toss" wasn't among the 23 events offered this week at the 2007 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, but considering Monday's opening-day weather, it would have been appropriate.

A steady, day-long drenching from Mother Nature cancelled a few outdoor competitions, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the 400-plus senior Olympians, who are competing in everything from euchre to tennis.

This year's event — the third annual — is being coordinated by the Canton Leisure Services' Senior Adult Program staff.

"The goal of the Senior Olympics is to give people who are 50 years old and older an opportunity to do their best in a wide variety of activities," said Canton Senior Adult Program coordinator Dianne Neihengen.

The ages of the participants range from 50 to late-80s.

"Unlike the traditional Olympics, which are strictly a test of physical fitness, this program incorporates fitness along with creative arts like photography, writing and painting. We even added biking this year at the other



Anne Peterson competes in the ring toss during Monday's opening day of the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics at Canton's Summit on the Park.

end of the spectrum. This gives everyone from all over the Western Wayne County region an opportunity to come together and have a wonderful time."

While the ultimate goal of the event is for the participants to have a good time, don't think winning isn't important.

"A lot of the athletes are very competitive," said Neihengen. "And there are a lot of very good athletes who enjoy competing. There were some disappointed

'Unlike the traditional Olympics, which are strictly a test of physical fitness, this program incorporates fitness along with creative arts like photography, writing and painting. ...'

DIANNE NEIHENGEN, Canton Senior Adult Program coordinator

Please see **OLYMPICS, C2**

2007 prep football season kicks off

Two-a-day memories still fresh in my mind

If you're a high school football player and you're glad two-a-days are history, raise your right hand.

What's that? You're too sore to move? Well, trust me on this: The soreness will go away, but the memories of possibly the two toughest weeks of your life never will.

I still remember my last week of two-a-days like it was last week, even though Jimmy Carter was president and instant-messaging meant yelling across the street to your friends.

GRID PICKS

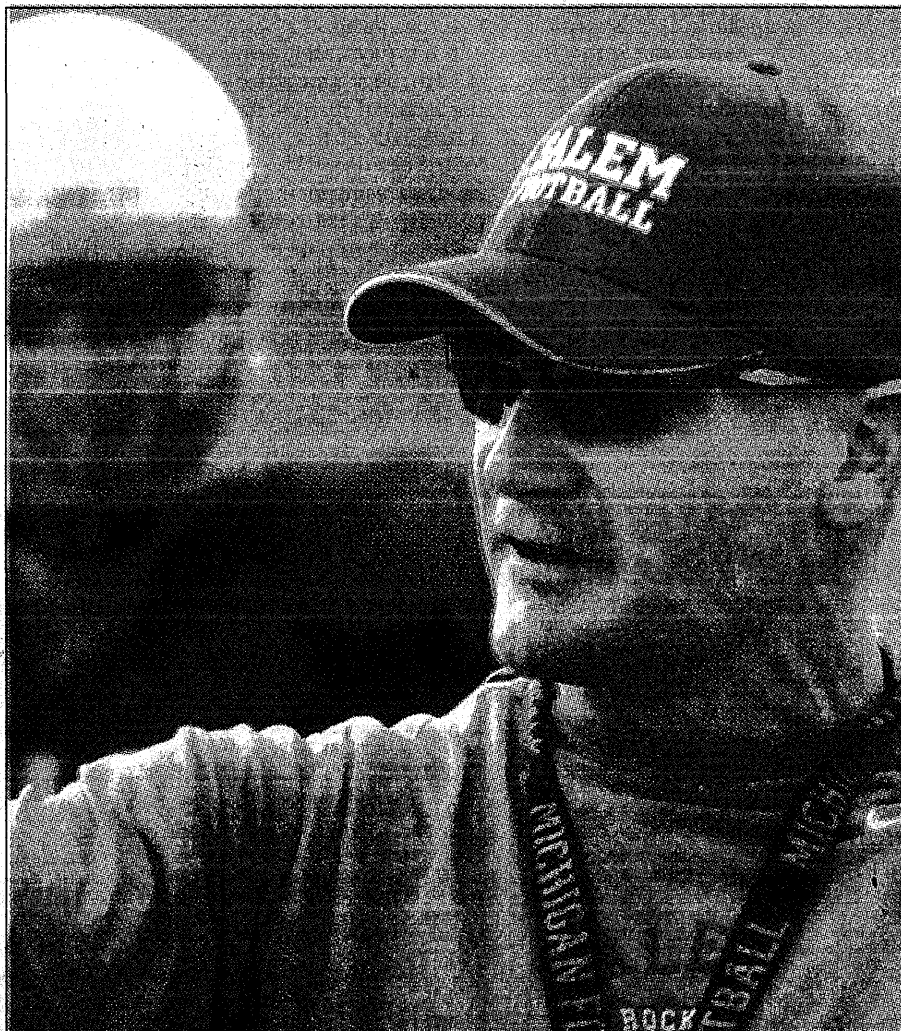
Our coach always saved the most brutal drill for the end of the morning session — the absolute hottest, windless point of the day when the sun was at its apex.

The far-from-politically-correct name of the exercise was "suicides." Already drenched in sweat and exhausted from two hours of bear crawls, down-ups and running, we lined up at the goal line and ran a series of sprints from the 5-yard line back to the goal line; to the 10-yard line and back to the goal line — non-stop until we reached the opposite end zone roughly 20 minutes later.

I'll never forget one particular extra-humid, 90-degree morning when, as we all took a knee around the coaches following a series of the

Ed Wright

Please see **GRID PICKS, C2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Second-year Salem head football coach Parker Salowich will lead his team into Friday night's season opener at Pinckney. The Rocks' offense promises to be wide open this season.

Chiefs, Wildcats to open on big stage

Eastern Michigan University's 30,000-seat Rynearson Stadium will serve as the early-season proving grounds for the Canton and Plymouth football teams Saturday afternoon. Both the Chiefs and Wildcats were invited to participate in the Big Prep Showdown III event, which annually attracts many of the top teams in Michigan and, this year at least, Ohio.

Plymouth will tangle with Belleville beginning at 2:30 p.m. The Wildcats finished 3-6 last season while the Tigers were 2-7.

Canton will take on Toledo Central Catholic in the 5 p.m. contest. The Chiefs advanced to the Division 1 semifinals in 2006 with a 12-1 mark. The Fighting Irish finished 9-2. Tickets are \$10 at the gate.

Sidelines

Pride tryouts

Tryouts for the 2008 PC Pride's 10U, 12U, 14U and 16U girls fast-pitch softball teams will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Canton Softball Center and Tuesday at Heritage Park in Canton.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday with tryouts beginning at 10 a.m. On Tuesday, registration will commence at 5:30 p.m. with tryouts starting at 6 p.m.

Interested players need to attend just one of the three sessions, which should each last approximately three hours.

Only Plymouth-Canton-area residents can play for the 10U and 12U teams. The 14U squad is limited to a small percentage of non-resident players, while the 16U team has no residency requirements.

Players are encouraged to bring a copy of their birth certificate to the tryout.

Ignition tryouts

The Detroit Ignition Major Indoor Soccer League team will hold open tryouts Sept. 15 at High Velocity Sports in Canton, team President Greg Bibb announced recently.

The tryouts give area players and international players the chance to compete for a spot on the 2007-08 Ignition roster. The annual event will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

Following the tryouts, a select group of participants will be asked to return to an invitation-only combine slated for Sept. 21 and 22 at High Velocity Sports.

Those interested in trying out need to complete a registration form and submit a \$50 processing fee. To register or for more information, contact Kyle Karns at (248) 304-2855, ext. 1264. Additional information can be found on the team's Web site at www.detroitignition.com.

Last year's tryouts featured over 100 participants representing 13 states and four countries. An impressive local turnout included a number of former area collegiate level players representing a total of 13 Michigan colleges.

Madonna Golf Classic

There are still openings in the 12th annual Madonna Golf Classic, which is set for Friday, Sept. 14, at The Inn at St. John's Golf Course in Plymouth. The 18-hole scramble event and auction is held each year to benefit student scholarships and academic programs.

The entry fee is \$200 per golfer. Dinner and silent-auction reservations are \$50.

Registration and sponsorship information can be found at www.madonna.edu or by calling Ann Cleary at (734) 432-5421.

Plymouth soccer foes must focus on containing Rolfe

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

High school soccer fans who reside in Plymouth and Canton won't have to drive far this fall to watch one of the premier players in the state display his skills.

A quick trip to the P-CEP soccer fields is all that will be required to check out Plymouth's Colin Rolfe, a senior forward who was named to the Division 1 All-State first team as a junior in 2006.

"Colin Rolfe is one of the top three players in the state this year," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy, whose Rocks will look to contain the All-Stater Monday when the two teams meet at 7 p.m. at the P-CEP varsity soccer field. "He's that good."

PREP SOCCER PREVIEWS Rolfe didn't rest on his lofty laurels during the off-season.

Wildcat head coach Jeff Neschich confirmed. "The thing that has impressed me the most about Colin is how hard he's worked since last year to improve his skills," said Neschich. "He's so much better than he was last year, and last year he was All-State. 'Colin has really matured as a leader, too.'"

Plymouth will be relying on Rolfe's explosive right leg often this season after losing its top two defenders from last year's 11-6-3 team — Anthony Sasinowski and Travis Norris — to graduation.

"We have some talented kids who have a lot of scoring ability," said Neschich. "Our biggest question marks heading into the season will be our defending and our transition game."

A pair of senior forwards — Tyler Floyd and Gordon Libby — should benefit from the extra attention teams will give Rolfe.

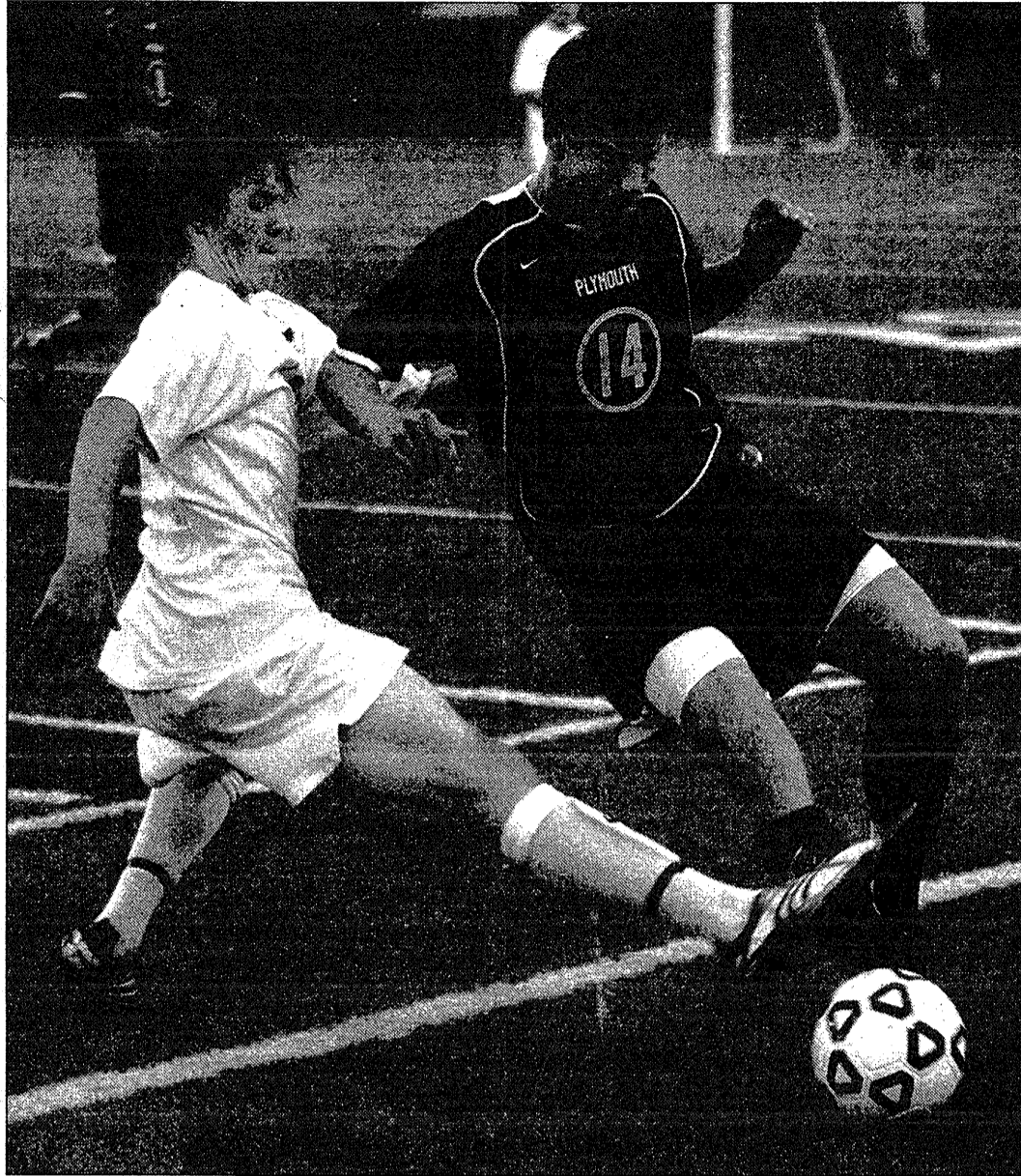
"Tyler is a very smart player who can score and provide us with good senior leadership," said Neschich.

Junior Evan Yoder and sophomore Vin Nguyen will also put pressure on opposing defenses. The Wildcats' mid-field will be patrolled by sophomore Danny Jaziwitz; juniors Dexter Gregg and T.J. Madigan; senior Jesse Forrester; and freshmen Ian Griffiths and Andrew Yoder. Junior Norm Frida will rotate between the mid-field and defense.

Among those who will be counted on to fill the huge defensive cleats of Sasinowski and Norris are seniors Mike Karona and Trevor Floyd; and junior Austin Kaczynowski.

Senior Brian Rissman returns as the 'Cats' starting goal-keeper. He'll be backed up by sophomore Josh Hill, who shined for the junior-varsity squad as a freshman.

"Our conference will be tough, as usual," assured Neschich. "Stevenson, Northville, Canton and Salem will all be tough. Churchill will have a good club and don't count out the



Plymouth's Colin Rolfe (14) earned Division 1 first team All-State honors as a junior last season.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Walled Lakes either."

SALEM

The Rocks are coming off an impressive 17-8-2 campaign, which ended when they pushed Division 1 state runner-up Livonia Stevenson to the limit before falling 2-1 in an unforgettable Regional final classic at Saline High School. Salem finished the season with a No. 4 state ranking in D1.

"We're very young and we'll be very defensive-minded this year," said Salem head coach Ed McCarthy. "We lost two All-State forwards in Brooks Belhart and Tom Bennett, both of whom will be hard to replace. We return three of our four defenders, so we should be strong at that end."

Belhart and Bennett scored nearly 75 percent (37 of 51) of the team's goals last season.

McCarthy will have just two seniors to call on in 2007: defender Scott Dreaver, who is a converted forward; and mid-fielder Nick Schreiber. "Scott provides us with a lot of leadership," McCarthy said.

The Rocks' solid 'D' will be paced by a trio of juniors: Jeremy Stoychoff, Jace Bearden and Kevin Cope.

"Kevin should be one of the top defenders in the state this year," said McCarthy. "It's his third year as a varsity starter. He's an outstanding player."

"Both Jeremy and Jace will be key anchors on our defense as well."

Salem set to defend Balconi Invite title

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Salem will be looking to defend its title in Saturday's eight-team Gary Balconi Invitational soccer tournament, which will kick off with four games at 10 a.m. on the P-CEP campus.

The Rocks captured their first Balconi title since 2003 last year when they ousted Royal Oak, 1-0, in the title match.

"It's a great tournament to play early in the season because you get to play three games in one day against some very good competition," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "Whoever wins this tournament will earn a top-10 ranking in the state."

Salem will take on defending Division 2 state champion Dexter in its opening contest. The winner of that game will take on the winner of the Plymouth-Novici CC first-round match-up.

Other first-round matches will pit Canton against Midland Dow and U of D Jesuit against Ann Arbor Huron.

Second-round games are scheduled to begin at 11:45 a.m. with third-round matches — including the championship tilt — set for 3:30 p.m.

All games will run 60 minutes. Games that are tied after regulation will be settled by a shootout.

Games will be played on the P-CEP varsity soccer field that runs parallel to Canton Center; the varsity turf stadium; the new junior varsity field that runs parallel to Joy Rd.; and a field that will be set up in front of Canton's Phase III building.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Taking over the starting goal-keeper role will be sophomore Sasa Miskovic, who sat out last season after transferring from Novi Catholic Central in September. He'll be backed-up by junior Will Allen. Salem will be counting on forwards Josh Pascarella, a junior, and sophomore Alex Tramel, along with junior mid-fielder Dan Radosevich to spark his offense.

McCarthy didn't hesitate when he was asked who the team to beat was this year in the WLA's Lakes Division.

"There's no doubt it's Stevenson again," he said. "I'm not exactly sure who they lost or who they have coming back, but they been excellent for the past 25 years, so I'm sure they'll be very good again this year."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball tryouts

Tryouts for the 2008 U14 Canton Alley Cats travel baseball team will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at Heritage Park. Prospective players are encouraged to arrive 20 minutes early to register.

The Alley Cats compete in the Kensington Valley travel league, as well as in several USSSA tournaments each season.

To be eligible, players must be 14 years old as of April 30, 2008. For more information, contact Glen Potter at (734) 673-4432.

The Plymouth Grizzlies 13U travel baseball team is holding tryouts for the 2008 season 3-6 p.m. Aug. 26 and Sept. 9 at Heritage Park in Canton Township. Players must be 13 years old or younger on April 30 and reside or attend school in Plymouth or Canton. To pre-register, contact Rob Sudz at sudzy190@aol.com.

Furrey charity bowling event

On Oct. 29, Detroit Lions wide receiver Mike Furrey, a resident of Canton, will host an inaugural Celebrity Halloween Bowling Party at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Mike Furrey Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization designed to improve the lives of those that are hungry, homeless, hurting and/or hopeful.

For more information on the foundation, visit www.mikefurrey.net.

The bowling event will include bowling,

food, Monday Night Football, music and a silent auction. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

Several levels of sponsorships are also available for local businesses and residents.

For more information on the event, contact Alicia Maynard at (614) 588-6428; or alicia@themikefurreyfoundation.com.

Canton Leisure Services events

Following are upcoming program offers by Canton Leisure Services:

■ A free "Drive, Pitch & Putt" contest for kids between the ages of 7 and 14 years old will be held Aug. 25 at Pheasant Run Golf club in Canton Township. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Participants should bring a driver, wedge, putter and meet at the driving range at 8:45 a.m. to hear the rules.

Awards will be presented to top three finishers in each age category. For more information, call (734) 483-5600.

■ A fall adult kickball league will be held Sept. 10-Oct. 22. The Monday night league includes double-headers that will be played at the Canton Sports Center. Game times will rotate between 6:30-7:30 p.m. and 8:45-9:45 p.m. Team registration is \$250. There is also a \$10 referee fee per team per game paid at the field. Awards will go to league and playoff champions.

You can register in person at the Summit on the Park; or by calling (734) 483-5600 beginning Aug. 8.



Storm front

The Canton Storm 10U tournament team won the Oxford Invitational recently by defeating the Lakeland Mustangs, 8-1, in the championship game. The Storm went 4-1 for the weekend. Pictured (front row from left) are Mike Scarpello, Glen Piot, Alex Zoltowski, Pete Carravallah, Colin Staub (middle row from left) Ty Robinson, Dante Toppi, Mike Noe, Ryan Watson, Kyle Bauer, Tyler Brooks, (back row from left) Coach Mike Noe and Coach Pat Watson. Not pictured is Dominic Murphy.

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PREP FOOTBALL
 Friday, Aug. 24
 Salem at Pinckney, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 25
 Big Prep Showdown III
 Plymouth vs. Belleville,
 2:30 p.m. at EMU
 Canton vs. Toledo CC,
 5 p.m. at EMU

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
 Saturday, Aug. 25
 Salem at South Lyon
 Varsity Invite, 8 p.m.
 Canton at Warren Mott Invite, TBA

BOYS SOCCER
 Wednesday, Aug. 22

W.L. Central at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, Aug. 23
 Salem at Warren DeLaSalle, 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 25
 Gary Balconi Invitational
 at P-CEP tennis fields, TBA

BOYS TENNIS
 Thursday, Aug. 23
 Salem at Novi JV Invite, 8 a.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING
 Saturday, Aug. 25
 Wildcat Invitational
 at Salem pool, noon

CROSS COUNTRY
 Saturday, Aug. 25
 Canton at South Lyon Invite, 10:10 a.m.

Wayne State to depend heavily on Chiefs

BY TIM SMITH
 STAFF WRITER

Wayne State's football team has a decidedly Observerland look this season, with no less than seven players on the roster from area high schools.

Add to that another four who hail from the Oakland County high schools covered by the Eccentric and a Canton resident who played high school ball at Dearborn Divine Child.

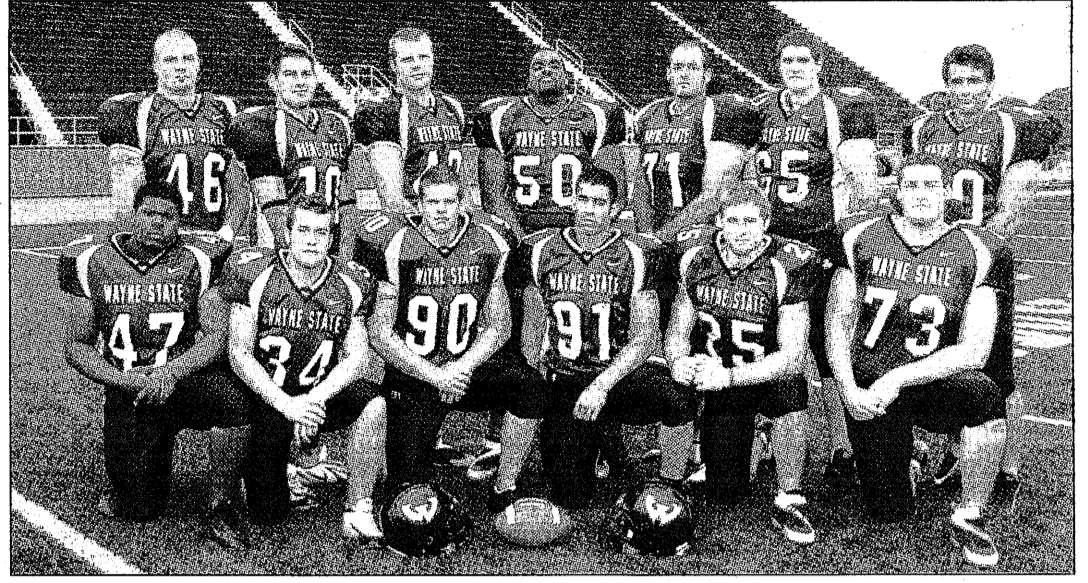
Among locals who look to help the Warriors this season in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference are recent Garden City graduate Andrew Pack (5-10, 189), expected to line up at strong safety and on special teams, said defensive backs coach Kurt Mattix.

"He (Pack) will look to get on several special teams this fall," Mattix said. "Andrew made the transition from offense in the spring."

Back for his second season is Livonia Clarenceville alum Bruno Shkreli, a 5-11, 209-pound running back.

"Bruno had a great spring practice and off-season," noted head coach Paul Winters. "He will compete for playing time and will also be a leader of our special teams."

Shkreli isn't the only former Trojan now wearing the green and gold of Wayne State. Freshman Marcus Watkins (5-10, 279) could make his mark at defensive tackle before all is



The 2007 Wayne State University football team features a number of players from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area. In the front row are (from left): Marcus Watkins (Clarenceville), Andrew Pack (Garden City), Jon Robinson (Churchill), Matt Shango (Brother Rice), Adam Nuckols (Waterford Mott) and Will Khoury (Canton). In the back row are (from left): John Rehberg (Stevenson), Alan Guy (Rochester Adams), Dale Knuth (Divine Child), Merrick Steele (Southfield), Frank Lietke (Walled Lake Central), Ryan Jonik (Canton) and Bruno Shkreli (Clarenceville).

said and done.

Among the new players to watch is 6-3, 293-pound freshman Will Khoury, one of the keys to the success of Canton's Chiefs last season.

"Will comes from a great high school program," said offensive line coach Terry Heffernan. "He is an excellent athlete who is working hard to adjust to the college game. He will begin playing guard but he has the size and the ability to play anywhere on the line."

Another Canton alum on the team is sophomore offensive tackle Ryan Jonik (6-3, 291). Senior tight end John

Rehberg (6-3, 245) is a Livonia Stevenson product while freshman defensive end Jon Robinson (6-0, 229) hails from Livonia Churchill. Although senior tight end Dale Knuth (6-4, 218) hails from Canton, he played for Divine Child's Falcons.

Both Rehberg and Knuth are important offensive players and determined team leaders.

"John is one of our hardest workers," Winters said. "He can be a dominant player" and is "very strong at the point of attack."

Knuth, meanwhile, is

described as "a warrior in the classroom and on the field."

Eccentric-area players on WSU's roster include sophomore linebacker Matt Shango (West Bloomfield/Birmingham Brother Rice), senior linebacker Alan Guy (Rochester Adams), senior center and Southfield product Merrick Steele and Frank Lietke, a senior center from Walled Lake Central.

Winters and his Warriors, who finished 6-5 in 2006, open the regular season with a home game noon Saturday, Sept. 1, against Michigan Tech.

New SC volleyball coach set for debut

BY TIM SMITH
 STAFF WRITER

Saturday's doubleheader volleyball match against visiting Alpena marks the start of Richard Lamb's coaching tenure at Schoolcraft College.

Nobody expects the Lady Ocelots to pick up right where they left off at the end of the Tom Teeters era - the team won confer-

ence and district titles with an overall mark of 35-7.

But with several important returnees and some solid freshmen in the fold, Schoolcraft should still be as competitive as they come in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference.

According to Lamb, tri-captains Carly DeClercq (Livonia Churchill), Stacy Urbats (Churchill) and Amanda Ballnik will be instrumental to how the team fares as newcomers get their feet wet.

"One of our weaknesses is that as a team, we are lacking the experience at this level that some of our rivals have," Lamb explained. "However, through strong leadership of our captains, I believe that we can overcome this."

"We have strong leadership at all three positions and we are looking for them to show our newcomers

what it takes to compete in our league."

Perhaps the main catalyst of those three will be outside hitter/middle blocker DeClercq, whose versatility and court savvy will enable Lamb to also put her at outside hitter.

"Carly will also help anchor our serve reception and defense," Lamb said. "We are going to rely on Carly's experience this season and we expect big things from her at all areas."

Urbats will become the primary setter, following a season of sharing the duties with Sarah Schmidt. How she runs the offense will be a 2007 subplot.

"Stacy has really worked hard to improve herself both this summer and during the pre-season," Lamb said. "She has become a vocal leader out on the floor."

LEARNING CURVE

Meanwhile, Milford alum Ballnik is cracking the starting lineup at libero, while continuing to work hard and develop her voice as a team leader, the coach noted.

Lamb will be very interested in how quickly his nine freshman players step into the college game, to help the top three.

Westland John Glenn alum Virginia Butler is slated to be in the lineup at outside or right-side hitter.

"Virginia will be one of the hardest hitters in the league this season and she continues to improve on other aspects of her game," Lamb said.

Churchill grad Sarah Button (outside/right-side hitter) joins the Lady Ocelots after experience a state championship ride with the Chargers.

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Slacker is a free Internet radio service that lets you create your own stations based on your favorite artists.

New sites deliver music, instant messaging, calls

As regular readers know, I'm always on the lookout for new and exciting Web destinations. This week I've got three you're sure to love.

Let's start with Slacker (slacker.com), the best thing to happen to Internet radio since Pandora.

Like most music-streaming services, Slacker offers a plethora of genre stations: classic rock, adult alternative, smooth jazz and so on.

But Slacker goes a big step further by letting you create your own stations based on artists you like.

For example, I'm a big fan of Lily Allen, Joss Stone, Amy Winehouse and other Brit-pop chanteuses. With a few clicks I can build a station that plays music only from those and similar artists.

I don't want to say much more about the service, lest I diminish the joy that comes from "discovering" it on your own. I will tell you this: It's free and it's fabulous. Give it a try.

MEEBO

I've always been a fan of instant messaging (IM for short), but I've never liked IM software. AIM, Windows Live Messenger, Yahoo Messenger and other chat programs always struck me as bloated, overly intrusive system hogs.

That's why I've bid goodbye to every one of them and switched to Meebo (meebo.com) instead. This chat "software" runs inside your Web browser, meaning there's nothing to install on your PC.

What's more, it lets you log into AIM, GTalk, ICQ, Jabber, MSN and Yahoo accounts simultaneously, so you can chat with friends and relatives regardless of what service they use.

You don't even have to register to start using Meebo - just visit the site from any PC and enter your username and password for any of the aforementioned services.

Registering, however, keeps your account info on file and lets you log into multiple services simultaneously, as described above.

However you use it, Meebo is free. I'll never use anything else.

MOBIVOX

If you routinely rack up big long-distance bills from your mobile carrier, you might want to check out Mobivox (mobivox.com). This intriguing service lets you make free calls to other Mobivox users (and Skype users) and cheap calls to anyone else.

Here's how it works: Mobivox provides you with a special local number that you dial when you want to call someone. The only charge is

Please see **BROIDA, D2**

Fill that basket with Michigan goods



Sanders hot fudge, Jiffy corn muffin mix and Better Made potato chips are some locally manufactured foods. Visit michigan.org for a list of companies.

If you are looking for short road trips in the late summer or early fall, remember to visit many of the food artisans throughout the state. Many offer tours of their factories and facilities and the foods are delicious. Try a few tastes and tours from some of the following:

Chelsea Milling Company, 201 W. North St., Chelsea (734) 475-1361: In 1930, Mabel White Holmes and her family's Chelsea Milling Co. created Jiffy Mix to help homemakers in the kitchen and still produce fluffy biscuits. Today the company produces 19 different mixes shipped to stores for kitchens across the country. Mill tours are available.

Morley Candy Makers (including Sanders), 23770 Hall Road (M-59), Clinton Township 1-800-682-2760. Fred Sanders opened his first Sanders retail store on Woodward Avenue in Detroit in 1875. Today it is part of Morley Candy Makers, the largest producer of chocolate and confection products in Michigan.

Zingerman's, 3711 Plaza Drive, Ann Arbor (734) 761-2095. Founded in 1982 by Ari Weinzweig and Paul Saginaw, it is currently managed by partner Frank Carollo. The founders wanted to bake a better bread for deli sandwiches; today it is a full-fledged bakehouse, offering tours at 10 a.m. Saturdays for \$5.

These locations don't have tours, but they produce familiar foods for Michigan residents:
American Spoon Foods: Features fruit butters, dried fruits,

vinaigrettes, grilling and roasting sauces, preserves, salsa and relishes. Each store has tasting tables where you can sample before you buy. Based in Petoskey with stores in Charlevoix, Harbor Springs and Traverse City.

Better Made Potato Chips: OK you don't have to drive up north for this one, but with all parochialism aside, is there a better potato chip? The company is still based on the east side of Detroit, founded in 1930 by the Cross and Peters company. The company uses Michigan potatoes eight months out of the year. Better Made has a factory outlet store at 10148 Gratiot (313) 925-4774.

Faygo Redpop: Who can forget the Faygo Boat Song from the 1960s? (Remember when you were a kid, well part of you still is). The soft drink company celebrates its 100th year with a 120-page Centennial Recipe Book. It is still bottled at 3579 Gratiot, a building that Faygo Beverages purchased in 1935. For information, visit www.faygo.com.

The Koeze Company, 2555 Burlingame SW, Grand Rapids 1 (800) 555-9688: A Grand Rapids-based company that started with butter and eggs nine decades and four generations ago. Today, that product line includes cashews, mixed nuts, chocolate confections and natural peanut butter. The company offers a factory store.

Source: Travel Michigan, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., visit michigan.org for information.



COURTESY GREAT LAKES BEADWORKERS GUILD

The Barb Davis Memorial Bead Quilt by the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild will be displayed at guild events for the rest of the year. Above is a close-up of part of the 40-by-22-inch quilt.

Bead quilt exhibited in area

Combining glass beads with fabric and thread to a specific pattern creates a new, unusual art form - the beaded quilt - and a stunning example of this work is in Michigan.

The Barb Davis Memorial Bead Quilt is a product of the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild (GLBG), a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing education and awareness of beadwork as an art form.

A year in production, the beaded quilt measures 40 inches by 22 inches, weighs 16 pounds and is comprised of 84 individual squares, 2 inches by 2 inches, beaded by 82 different guild members using innumerable beads.

The beads are a combination of Japanese and Czech seed beads, antique buttons, semi-precious stones and pearls.

The GLBG program committee introduced this art form concept to the 300-plus membership as a guild project to raise funds for breast cancer research, and dedicated the resulting beaded quilt to long-time member Barb Davis of Wyandotte, who died of the disease.

Some of the beads in the quilt were "stone head" beads, among Davis' last works in 2001. She shared the beads with guild

Please see **BEADS, D2**

BEAD BONANZA IN SOUTHFIELD TO FEATURE SPECIAL QUILT

The Barb Davis Memorial Bead Quilt will be displayed at the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild's Bead Bonanza in Southfield 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14. The Bead Bonanza, open to the public, will take place at the Southfield Municipal Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen, just south of I-696.

Admission is \$3. Parking is free. For more information, call (586) 997-7043 and leave a message.

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Drip irrigation saves water, plants Know what to ask about with 'sustainable' wood

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There's a new "P-word" for gardening. Besides planting and pruning, there's plumbing - and this new P-word can help keep both gardens and wallets looking nice and green.

Here's how: You can convert a sprinkler head into a nifty new drip-irrigation system that will save wear and tear on tender young plants and lower your monthly water bill.

A drip-irrigation system is a conservation measure that will improve the quality of the landscape, too.

Replace the regular sprinkler head with a low-cost, drip-watering emitter (water-distribution device). Then plug one end of a piece of drip tubing into the emitter head, and run the drip tube along the base of your plants, securing the other end with a rock or small stake.

Turn it on. Instead of a flow, you'll see only a tiny drip that will be gentle on both blooms and plants.

When most of us think of outdoor watering, we think of a hose with a sprinkler on the end or a sprinkler system. We think of covering lawn and garden with an ample spray of tap water.

Unfortunately, spray watering can be extremely wasteful. An average landscape can consume more water in a day than a family of four needs in a month.

And, this type of watering isn't effective for many kinds of plant growth. Lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers all have different needs.

What's worse, conventional sprinklers that irrigate planting strips bordering a home can be the origin of a host of water-related problems ranging from mold and mildew to peeling paint and even a shifting foundation.

The latter is particularly serious since it can result in out-of-

level floors, difficult-to-open windows and doors, and cracks in walls and ceilings and in the foundation itself.

So, save water and your foundation by converting the sprinkler system bordering the home with a drip-irrigation or drip-watering system.

READILY AVAILABLE

Drip-watering systems have been around for a long time, but not until recently have they become readily available and priced to sell.

Now you can find an entire area dedicated to drip-watering systems in your local hardware store or home center.

Better manufacturers offer accurate water-pressure regulators, high-quality filters, automatic inline fertilizing devices, a broad selection of water emitters and connectors, solid and perforated tubing and a variety of watering heads and flow reducers.

Prices may range from \$10 for a basic starter kit to \$75 for a more complex system that may include tubing, emitters, stakes, watering heads and flow reducers.

With the right parts you can control water usage to within amazingly accurate tolerances and fertilize at the same time without even being there. And a great advantage of drip systems is that they don't have to be placed deep underground, so installation is easy.

It isn't necessary, but if you can afford to include it in your budget, the place to start is with an electric timer.

Most yards can be controlled with a six-station unit and they can be bought on sale for under \$40.

Timers operate on 110 volts, but use a very small amount of electricity. Secondary wires from the timer are low voltage and run from the timer to electrically controlled sprinkler valves.

Inline timers are also available for single line systems.

In planning a drip system, a water-pressure regulator is a must and should be installed in the water line between the water supply and the control valves.

Good drip systems rely on constant, well-regulated water pressure. Proper pressure ensures that the emitters will supply the desired amount of water through each water-supply tube.

After the control valve, the next item in line is the emitter, to regulate water flow and act as a distribution center for the drip tubing.

Emitters are available in a wide variety of gallons-per-hour flow, anywhere from 1 to 20 gallons per hour. A 1-gallon-per-hour emitter will supply 1 quart of water in 15 minutes with very little waste.

Emitters are also available in several different distribution configurations. Some will supply a single tube only. Others have two, four and even 12 outlets.

That brings up two questions: What do you do if you need only three drip lines and you want to buy just one emitter? And, what do you do if you want each of the three tubes to supply a different amount of water?

If you need three lines, buy a four-port emitter and one-port plug. Port plugs are removable so that tubes can be added or subtracted as the landscape is altered.

If you want one emitter, but need varying volumes of water, select an emitter that supplies the maximum amount of water that will be needed at any one tube, and then add flow reducers to the tubes where less water will be needed.

More home improvement tips and information are available on the Web at <http://www.ontnehouse.com>, or by calling (800) 737-2474, Ext. 59.

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just what, exactly, is a "sofa designed for the home we call Earth"? And what is so "sustainable" about the wood in it?

The home goods industry has become just as enamored with green buzzwords as the food and fashion worlds have, and "sustainable wood" is one of the most common marketing cries.

(Crate and Barrel makes that particular sofa for earth out of not just wood that is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, but also from "revolutionary, bio-based materials that are environmentally renewable.")

Some wood, of course, is more sustainable than others. Here's what you need to know.

■ Generally, sustainable wood means wood harvested from carefully managed forests or reclaimed from old buildings or furniture.

"There are a number of programs that certify the way timber is cut down and used," said Deb Snoonian, executive editor of *Plenty* magazine, which covers green topics.

"They have guidelines on how forests should be managed and the idea is that you never want to clear-cut a forest."

■ Look for proper certification, often in the form of a label.

The most stringent of these programs, Snoonian said, is run by the Forest Stewardship Council.

"The FSC guidelines are the ones most environmental groups trust," she said.

The FSC offers a searchable database of certified vendors, said Katie J. Miller, the organization's U.S. communications director.

■ Ask where the wood comes from.

Even without certification, customers can assume that

most wood grown in North America is likely to be harvested in an environmentally safe way, said Ron Jarvis, vice president of environmental innovation at The Home Depot, which sells some FSC-certified wood.

"If you're buying Southern yellow pine or redwood or cedar, probably it's OK without certification," he said.

Be careful with woods that may have been harvested in countries lacking stringent environmental rules, Jarvis added.

"If you're going in to buy a wood product and you're not familiar with the name or it's a name that usually means rain forest, like teak, ask for an FSC-certified product," he said.

Bill Banzhaf, president of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, one of the country's largest certifying organizations, said the more customers ask about sustainable wood, the more it will create a market for good practices.

"There is a great deal of material out there. Sometimes it's not labeled because a manufacturer doesn't want to confuse the consumer, or wants to support their own brand."

Besides certification, Banzhaf said the SFI's program also trains loggers - 97,000 so far - to harvest wood in an environmentally safe way.

■ Check out products made from bamboo.

It's a fast-growing wood, so bamboo forests replenish themselves quickly. And it requires little pesticide or fertilizer.

It works well for lightweight items like decorative tables, but may not be a great choice for something heavier.

"When it's used in things that need a lot of strength, you need lots of resins and fillers to make it strong enough," Snoonian said.

Those resins and fillers, she

said, may not be environmentally friendly.

■ Consider buying a product made from reclaimed wood - wood that previously had been used to make something different.

"Whether it's a whole building or parts of a building, or wood is used from one piece of furniture to the next," Snoonian said, "there are a lot of ways you can repurpose wood that has that history."

Also, ask about the type of paint or stain used to finish the piece of furniture.

Look for low-VOC (volatile organic compound) or HAP (hazardous air pollutant)-free finishes. They give off less gas, which protects the air quality in your home and benefits the environment.

■ Don't let cost worry you.

Sustainably harvested wood products aren't necessarily expensive, Miller said.

"It's not just high-end manufacturers that do this. Among lower-end retailers, Ikea uses a lot of sustainable wood products," she said.

And consumers don't have to sacrifice style. Take, for example, the furniture made with sustainably harvested wood by Connecticut-based retailer duccuc, which merges eco-sensitivity with sleek, modern design.

In a further nod to environmental sensitivity, duccuc finishes its products with non-VOC and HAP-free paints.

Focusing on these issues will soon be crucial for retailers in today's eco-conscious world, said duccuc's CEO, Philip Erdoes, in an e-mail interview.

"Being smartgreen is very soon becoming 'the price of entry,' not just an idea," he said. You can find information at environmental sites, including: <http://www.plentymag.com/> <http://www.fscus.org/> <http://www.sfi-program.org/>.

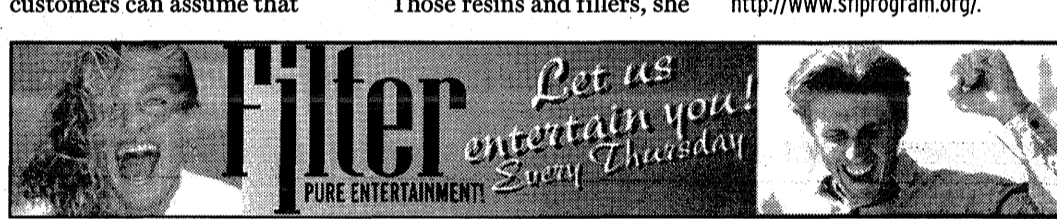
FOOD CALENDAR

2 Unique classes
Chef Kelli Lewton, owner of 2 Unique Catering & Event Planners, offers classes throughout the summer and fall, including Go Fish, 3-6 p.m. Sept. 16 (\$45); Fresh Dinner Express 6-9 p.m. Sept. 27 (\$45); Pure Food, 3-6 p.m. Oct. 14 (\$55); Fabulous Holiday Party Plan, 6-9 p.m. Nov. 1 (\$55); Cookie Exchange, 3-7 p.m. Nov. 18 and 5-9 p.m. Nov. 23 (\$75); 4303 Delemere Court (south of 14 Mile, two blocks east of Coolidge), Royal Oak, (248) 549-5242, www.twounique.com.

Chili cookoff
Do you have a favorite chili you like to make? The city of Wayne is hosting the Wayne Chili Cookoff Aug. 25 at Wheelfest, where the city of Wayne community groups come together: Wayne Rotary Club, Wayne Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wayne Festival Commission. The grand prize is \$500. Proceeds used to benefit the community and service projects locally. Cooks must pre-register by calling (734) 502-3202 or (734) 721-0100, or emailing gaylerediske@gmail.com or jill@wayne-chamber.net.

Plymouth chili cookoff
Organizers of the 12th Annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff are looking for chili cooks and salsa makers as the event returns to Kellogg Park in Plymouth Sept. 30. The cookoff features three competitions in red chili, green chili and salsa. Anyone interested in entering should contact Annette Horn at (734) 776-9669 or GLR_chi@sbccglobal.net.

Olive oil tastings
Instructor Dawn Bause hosts Italian olive oil and vinegar tastings for private groups by appointment out of her Commerce Township home. Attendees gather in groups of four to 20 to learn fundamentals of cooking with olive oils and balsamic vinegars. Cost varies from \$50-\$75 per person. Appointments available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays for lunch or dinner. Contact Dawn Bause at (248) 363-8080, or visit her Web site at www.cookingwithdawn.com.



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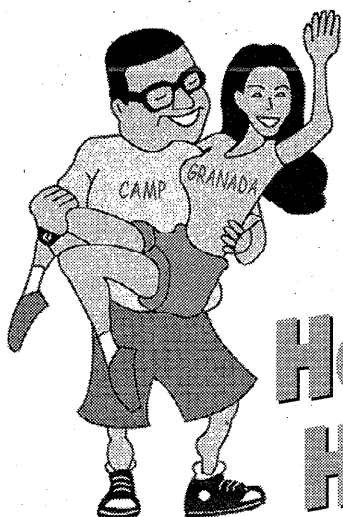


Low riders and flamenco

Motor City Jam

Jonas re-emerges

Café Rendezvous



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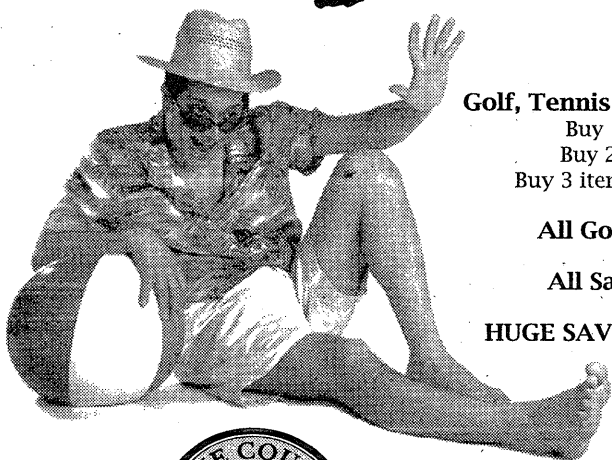
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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT
filter

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GANNETT

ART - 4

Franklin Jonas' art exhibit opens today at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

COVER - 6

Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix brings racing back to the Motor City on Labor Day weekend.

DANCE - 7

Dancers strut their stuff at the Motor City Jam at the Doubletree Hotel on Detroit's far west side Aug. 24-26.



TABLE HOPPING - 8

Cafe Rendezvous is a great place to, well, rendezvous.

GET OUT! - 10

Check out our entertainment calendar.

PURE PICKS - 11

We've got you covered

with our favorite picks for the next week.

MUSIC - 11

Ozzfest features the music festival's namesake, and a whole lot more metal.

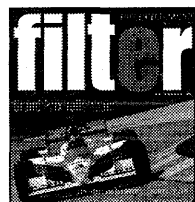
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"The Nanny Diaries" is another rehash of an old plot.

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

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Lana Mini
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Stephanie Angelyn Casola
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Maria Grady, LAT
Helio Castroneves pilots his car around the Belle Isle circuit, in preparation for the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

Editorial office: (248) 901-2591 / Advertising: (248) 953-2153

Flamenco band plays Campus Martius

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

The band is saucy, spicy and sexy; everything a flamenco band should be - even including a flamenco dancer.

And yet the band is even more: the band Children of the Revolution, playing a free show at Campus Martius Park on Friday, Aug. 24, also performs Greek, Turkish, ska, rock and hip-hop.

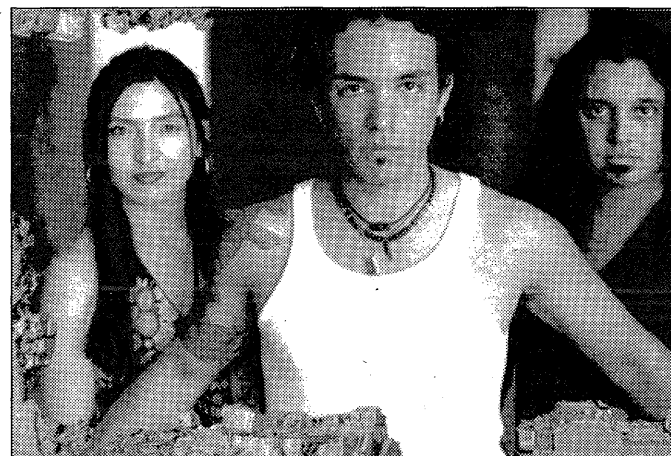
Still, the band's emphasis is passionate Latin and flamenco sounds.

Hot Ticket

Forget sitting in a chair at this show. If this concert is like past COTR shows, it's all about getting the audience to dance - whether you know how or not. And if you don't, just get there at 5:30 p.m. for free Latin dance lessons.

HEADLINING

Detroit's nine-piece hot Latin dance band is Orquesta La Inspiracion fronted by Detroit community activist and musician Ozzie Rivera. Under the musical directorship of Bill Meyer the band plays salsa, merengue, folkloric percussion, cumbia and Latin jazz.



Children of the Revolution are ready to bring its Latino/flamenco world sound to Campus Martius for a free show.

Orquesta La Inspiracion pays tribute the "golden age of salsa," the 1970s, and explores new directions in Latin dance music.

Afterward, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. is Cinema D, a presentation of short local indie films.

CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION

The Seattle-based band, formed in 1988 when vocalist Vassili, of Greece, and guitarist Eric Jaeger, of Seattle and Hollywood, joined musical forces to create a new sound in contemporary world music.

They experimented for months,

blending music from their Greek and flamenco roots with rock influences. After meeting Barcelona-born flamenco dancer/guitarist/vocalist Encarnación and belly dancer/vocalist Amelia Moore, COTR's popularity grew in the Settle club scene.

COTR co-founder Vassili, who is the band's lead vocalist and flamenco guitarist, also plays nay (a Native American flute) and palmas (a flamenco handclap). Vassili was raised on a small Greek island and tutored by his parents at home.

Please see **FLAMENCO, E5**

Low riders and elegance

Festival of Speed and Style shows art in autos

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

This isn't your grandfather's auto show.

In fact, it's like no other auto show in town.

This is the show with elegant cars with an urban-soul flair that focuses on the funky artwork - flames and all



A 1964 Impala is displayed, one of the low riders at the Festival of Speed and Style.

- on low-riders, motorcycles, muscle, vintage and classic cars from all eras.

The inaugural Detroit Festival of Speed and Style that specializes in auto artwork is Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 23-27, that takes place all around Campus Martius Park.

There, 100 classic cars and motorcycles parked outside at Campus Martius and surrounding streets will be displayed while several local art-

ists' work will be on shown inside the atrium of the Compuware building.

The Detroit Festival of Speed and Style celebrates the automobile and its historical contribution "where it should - in the heart of the Motor City," said Marvin Towns Jr., the festival's founder and creator.

It's a new Detroit event and new car

Please see **SPEED, E5**

Royal Oak native Franklin Jonas re-emerges with Geostrutures

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Franklin Jonas has spent years perfecting an entirely new language. His vocabulary deals strictly in art – as opposed to words. More specifically it's rooted in bright, often primary colors, set in and out of familiar shapes like circles, triangles and squares.

It's all arranged to evoke movement, an air of precision, and its scope appears positively mind-bending.

Words can barely do justice to the vast array of work Jonas will be presenting, beginning Aug. 23 at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. *Geostrutures and Other Systems* is his first public show in more than eight years.

The full-time artist has never stopped working. Still, this art show required the Royal Oak native to revisit a project he began

more than a decade ago, and to find some sense of completion.

Jonas studied at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute and made a name for himself with his *Geostruture Series*, 13 paintings depicting geometric shapes.

His work can be found inside the Chrysler North America Headquarters in Auburn Hills, and across the country.

Returning to the series he all but abandoned in 1999 has revived a sense of the past, Jonas said, and made it quite challenging to complete. He works in acrylics – which by nature tend to be difficult to control.

Yet his paintings evoke a sincere dedication to perfection. There is precise definition in his brush strokes, attention granted to negative space and to the sheen each painting shows given various degrees of light.

Jonas said he can't recall a time in his life that didn't center around

art. He took an interest in it before he truly understood it, he said.

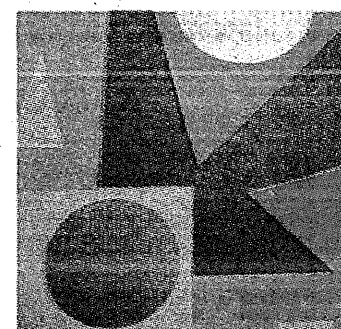
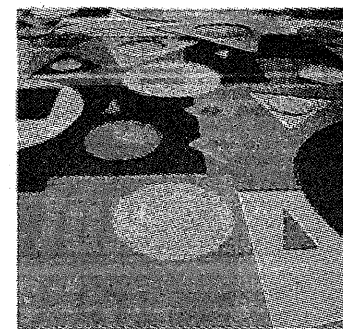
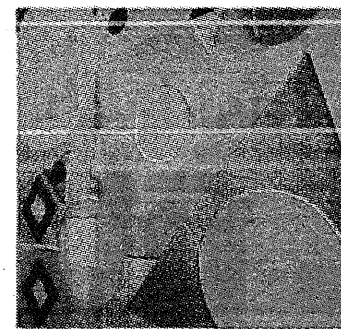
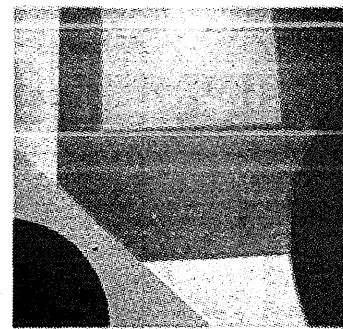
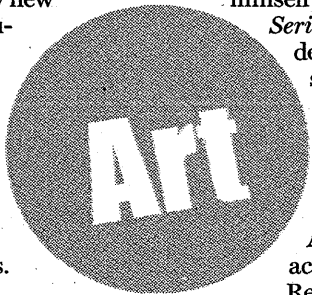
When, as a child, he was introduced to baseball cards, Jonas said he remembered sorting them by color and uniform, rather than paying attention to stats or scores. Grouping by such visual characteristics became a basis for art he would create years later.

While attending boarding school in Ontario in 1984, Jonas was inspired to enter The First Independent Schools Art Competition. At just 13 he was awarded first prize for a painting he created consisting of six canvases.

By the early '90s he delved deeper into his focus on shapes and colors. In 1999, he had created 13 *Geostrutures* paintings but halted himself in the middle of his 14th piece. Jonas said he didn't see the series having a sense of finality.

"They were never going to be 100 percent cohesive," he said. "So I just stopped and started working on other projects."

Through this show, he will achieve that completion. In a pro-



Franklin Jonas' "Geostrutures and Other Systems" showcases his own visual language, built by elements into giant, colorful acrylic works.

cess he described as "going back to move forward," the work posed challenges.

Not only did he have considerable trouble matching paint colors to those he had used years earlier, but the experience had psychological and emotional ties to the past.

Everything from the humidity of his studio to the way each color

was treated had to be taken into consideration.

Somehow, the end product achieved is just as Jonas had intended. It looks as if he screen-printed each enormous piece. There is an ebb and flow evident in all of his work.

Please see **ART, E5**

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ART

FROM PAGE E4

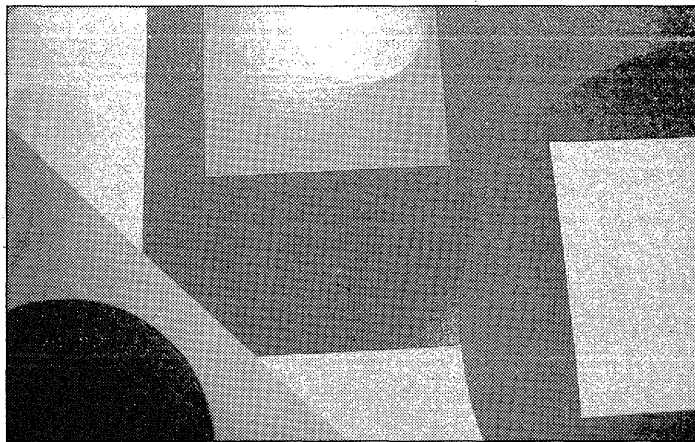
Connections can be drawn between the large *Geostructures* and his miniature-by-comparison *Element Groups*. It's possible to identify the impact of his first series of four *Embryo* paintings in his more recent *Fusion Embryo* series. Each color and color combination holds a specific meaning.

In all, Jonas will show six of his very large *Geostructures* paintings, two sets of his perfectly circular *Embryo Series*, which he began in 1997, and four sets of his *Element Groups*, which contain 12 pieces each.

With about 84 pieces the show will represent a vast array of his work in the spacious 4,000-square-foot gallery.

Due to the size of much of his work, 20 feet square, and the sheer scope of the whole show, it will be quite an endeavor for Jonas and the gallery. His pieces must be carefully packed and professionally moved from his Pontiac studio.

"It's what I am," he said of his artwork. "It's not a part-time thing. It's everything."



Franklin Jonas fills his giant acrylic works with primary colors, geometric shapes and jolting precision. His work, "Geostructures and Other Systems," will be presented beginning Aug. 23 at The Janice Charach Epstein Gallery, 6600 W. Maple in West Bloomfield.

FLAMENCO

FROM PAGE C3

"I've never been in a public school classroom," he said. "My parents were big on thinking outside the box, and my education focused on things I already showed a propensity for. I got my first guitar at the age of ten."

At 18 he moved to LA and performed and acted in films like *Falling Down* and the television series *The Wonder Years*. He was introduced to (and fell in love with) flamenco guitar while playing the role of

a pirate on the set of *Hook*, directed by Steven Spielberg.

Co-founder Eric Jaeger, who also plays guitar, bouzouki and sings, composes traditional flamenco (said to be the most difficult and rhythmically guitar style), and mastered electric guitar. He began playing at five years old when his father gave him a live recording of Jimi Hendrix.

Jaeger was a hard rocking guitarist in Seattle and Hollywood, recording and producing both freelance and with several bands. But it wasn't until he first heard flamenco guitar that he discovered his true love.

Over time, they were joined by other multi-ethnic singers, dancers and musicians generating an energy said to "rival Pete Townshend;" a well-respected Middle Eastern percussionist and a Venezuelan folk/punk singer.

The group's purpose is unity through music. COTR is featured on world record label Putumayo's newest release *Greece, a Musical Odyssey*. The band is the only American one featured on this compilation. The band's *The World On One Stage* DVD has been released by PBS and *Liberation*, the band's latest CD, is receiving critical acclaim.

SPEED

FROM PAGE E3

show concept aimed to broaden the spectrum of car lovers.

"In celebrating the automobile and Detroit's heritage of developing how the world moves on wheels, we wanted to have great artwork to go with this unique show in downtown Detroit," said Towns Jr, who also was involved with Concours d'Elegance at Cranbrook from 2003-2005. "Ranging from paintings to photography, car-lovers who attend will also be treated to some of the best artwork there is in the Motor City."

Key elements to make the festival unique, organizers say, were to take the best attributes of a Concours d'Elegance plus events like the Woodward Dream Cruise – and hold it downtown at Campus Martius. Then they decided to add a parade throughout the streets of Detroit on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Local auto artists at the festival include: Mike Tiderington, painter, gauche, Clarkston; Don Wieland, painter; acrylics, Birmingham; Bobby Alcott, fine art photographer, Detroit; Greg Raft, painter; multi-media, Birmingham, and David Chappel, painter; acrylics, Grand Blanc.

Also behind Compuware, at the Detroit Public Library Branch at 121 Gratiot, will be a photography display by 'AutoWeek' magazine's Roger Hart. The collection titled 'Postcards from Detroit, Remembering Formula 1' in the Motor City. It's photographs of Detroit Grand Prix races from 1982-88, that exhibit will then re-open on Sept. 4 and run through April 19.

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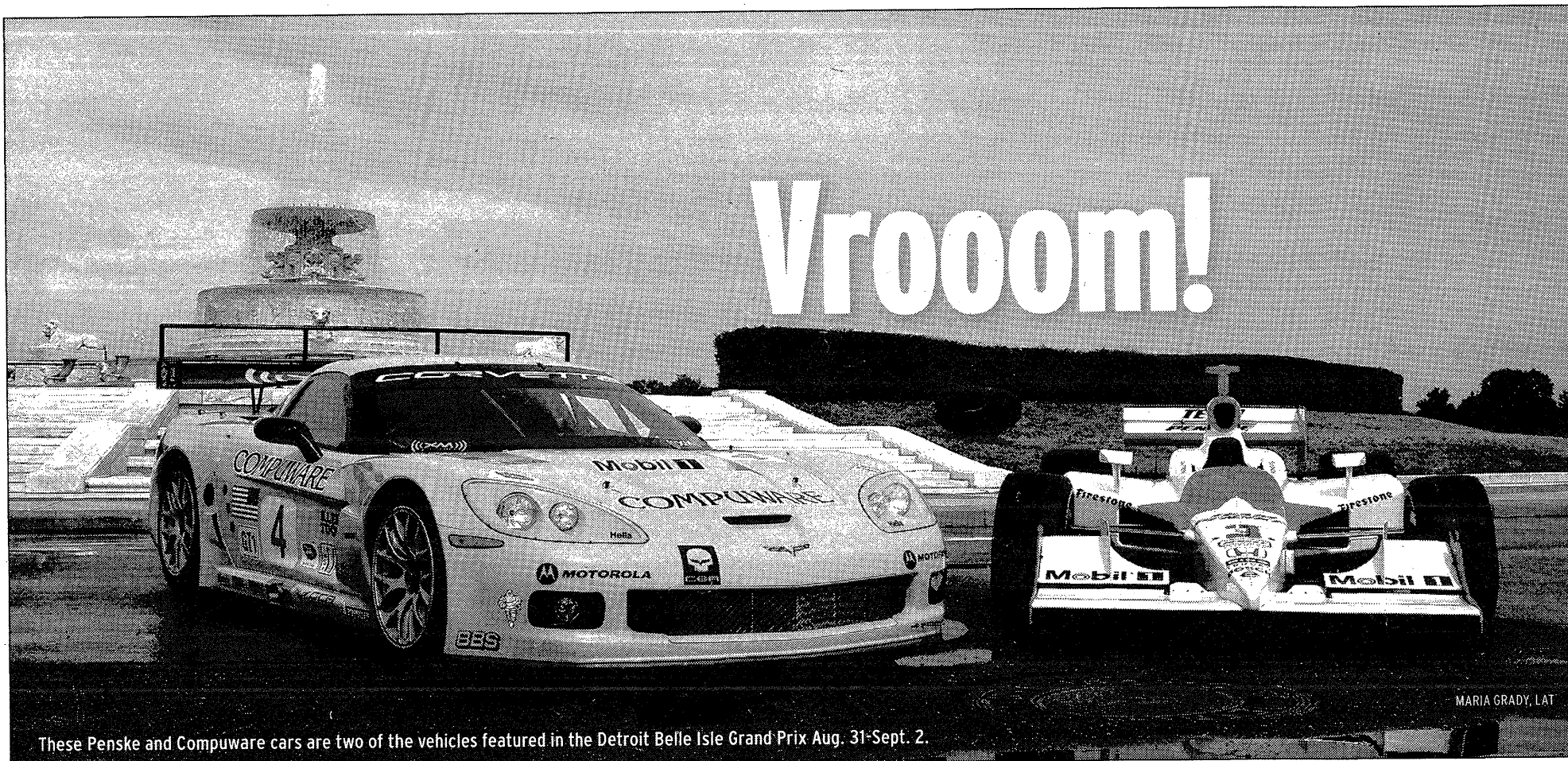
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These Penske and Compuware cars are two of the vehicles featured in the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix jump starts racing series

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Motown just got its mojo back. OK, maybe the Big Three aren't so big anymore, and the Motor City (and Michigan) needs an economic tuneup, but on Labor Day weekend, race car drivers in the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix will re-ignite their engines and the world-famous racing series returns after a six-year absence.

Race fans will notice improvements, too, since the Detroit Indy Grand Prix of 2001. Today the track is wider, more bus parking is available and fans will now walk on concrete walkways on Belle Isle.

This year's event features the American Le Mans Series and IndyCar Series. The American Le Mans Series has four classes of cars racing on the track at the same time, making for exciting passes (and perhaps confrontations) and better competition throughout the race. The Indy Car Series is the country's premier open-wheel racing series bringing such names to the forefront as Helio Castroneves (also the winner of the last Grand Prix in Detroit),

Marco Andretti and 2007 Indy champion Dario Franchitti, and of course, Danica Patrick.

Talk of bringing back the Grand Prix began after Detroit hosted Super Bowl XL in early 2006. Roger Penske, who chaired Super Bowl XL, saw what a success the Super Bowl was, and soon discussions began with Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and the Detroit City Council, said Bud Denker, event chairman of the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix. "We need big events every year, not just when we have the Super Bowl and World Series," Denker said.

The parties agreed that proceeds from the event would preserve and improve Belle Isle. Improvements were made to prepare Belle Isle, and spectators will see that work on the race course and surrounding areas.

For \$5, race fans can use a Park & Ride system, available at multiple satellite parking locations throughout metro Detroit. Concrete areas now allow space for 13 idled buses, instead of three, in waiting areas to transport spectators.

Grand Prix fans should see a big improvement in space for the race on the

isle. Nearly 470,000 square feet of concrete was installed for the paddock area and fan interaction.

"We've also widened the curves," Denker said. "There's an additional 150,000 square feet of new concrete for road improvements and other modifications on the raceway.

"We did what it takes to be competitive. Things have changed."

This year's event features musical acts, too, and children's entertainment. Cheap Trick performs after Saturday's race at the XM Radio tent and Uncle Cracker after Sunday's race. The Meijer Family Fun Zone is an interactive family-friendly experience featured throughout the weekend.

Only 5,000 grandstand tickets were left when Denker was interviewed for this story last week, but he expected plenty of general admission tickets to be available for the public.

Denker was pleased that grandstand tickets sold at such a brisk pace this summer despite the Detroit area's sluggish economy. "We've invested \$10 million and it's going to make a difference for our city and our region."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2591

Cover
Story

GRAND PRIX

What: Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix featuring the cars of the American Le Mans Series and IndyCar Series. The weekend collectively is referred to as the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix. Saturday's American Le Mans Series race is the Detroit Sports Car Challenge presented by Bosch. Sunday's IndyCar race is the Detroit Indy Grand Prix presented by Firestone.

When: Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31- Sept. 2

Where: The new Raceway at Belle Isle Park road course.

Track schedule: IndyCar practice, American Le Mans practice and qualifying, Klein Tools American Le Mans Series Pit Crew challenge, Friday, Aug. 31; IndyCar practice and qualifying, Detroit Sports Car Challenge presented by Bosch, 3:15-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1; Detroit Indy Grand Prix presented by Firestone, 3:45 p.m.

Entertainment: Cheap Trick, Sept. 1; Uncle Cracker, Sept. 2 | Meijer Family Fun Zone, all weekend.

Tickets: Limited reserved grandstand seating, but plenty of general admission tickets are available.

Information: visit www.detroitgp.com or call (313) 262-1800.

Kick up your heels at Detroit's Motor City Jam

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

In its 10th year, the Motor City Jam will bring dancers from across the country to Detroit, and draw hundreds of

dance enthusiasts with a chance to catch exciting competitions set to the sounds of Detroit soul and roots music.

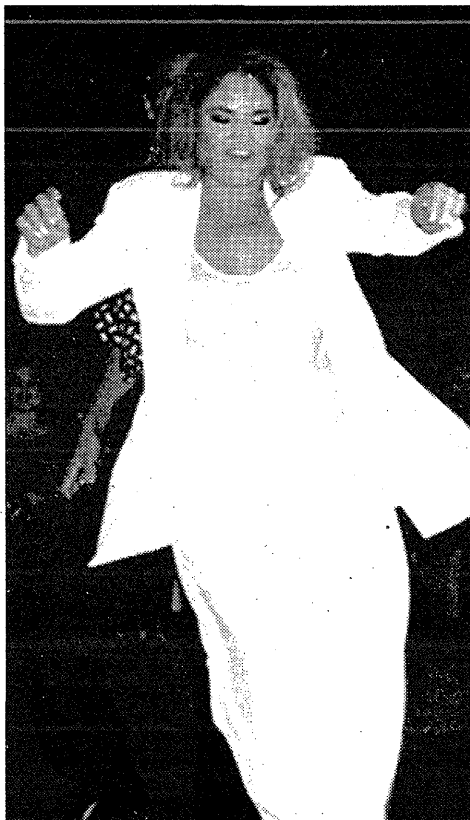
The three-day event is sponsored by Artspectrum, a non-profit dedicated to promoting dance in Detroit. It takes place Aug. 24-26 in the city.

Much has changed since Artspectrum's Paulette Brockington began the hosting of the event. Motor City Jam grew out of the burgeoning popularity of her own Lindy Hop and West Coast Swing dance workshops. In 1996, she said "the scene was really vibrant." By the following year, she hosted the first MCJ in Warren, and later moved it to Oakland University where

Andrea Deaton will teach her style of West Coast Swing during this year's Motor City Jam.

she cultivated a dance camp format. It's now grown into a weekend packed with everything from films to classes to competitions.

Please see **JAM, E13**



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Cafe Rendezvous woos an adoring crowd

BY ELAINE PERLIN CROSSLEY
SPECIAL TO FILTER



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A table of offerings from Rendezvous Cafe including, from left, crab benedict, shrimp salad, and special French toast.

Table Hopping

As each day dawns, rest assured the owners of the Cafe Rendezvous are gathering fresh ingredients, and busily concocting recipes to 'wow' their patrons. The regular menu offers plenty of choices, and eyes are always affixed upon the 'specials board,' chock full of daily innovations.

"Some customers not only eat breakfast here, but also return for lunch on the very same day," said Yakov Fleysher, co-owner.

That's a quite a testimony to the versatility of this tidy little breakfast and lunch spot tucked away in a small strip mall in Farmington Hills.

WORLDLY TOUCHES

Blend an American diner with a European cafe, and you get the airy, comfy 60-seat retreat co-owned by Fleysher and Leonid Stotland, the well-liked chefs who infuse their specialties with Russian and other European twists.

Stotland, who holds a cooking technology degree from the Ukraine, immigrated to metro Detroit in 1992, and Fleysher landed on U.S. soil from Riga, Latvia in 1995.

Food united them while working together at the Sunrise Cafe and Fiddler. In 2004, they decided to meld their culinary talents, and open a casual eatery of their own.

The two are known for their ingenuity and use of upscale ingredients.

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RESTAURANT www.hawthornevalley.com

Fleysher said. "Some customers have followed us for years, and we want to offer them satisfying, healthy choices. And we like to bring something from every culture."

Stotland added, "We're also glad to prepare special requests." When asked how he conjures up recipes, he smiled, winked and said, "I don't sleep!"

But he and Fleysher sure serve up some 'dreamy' dishes made with fresh fruits and vegetables, top quality meats and seafood, whole eggs, fresh breads, and fine cheeses such as boursin, havarti, gouda, bleu and mascarpone.

Even syrups are fruit-infused to complement the fruits served atop the Belgian waffles or fluffy pancakes, both made with deluxe Carbon's Golden Malted Pancake & Waffle Flour.

'EGG'STACIES

Mouth-watering egg dishes include scrambles, omelets, eggs benedict, steak and eggs and more. Savor lobster or crab benedict, or a veggie scramble with wild mushrooms, tomatoes, spinach and mozzarella cheese.

Omelets burst with flavor, such as the asparagus, sun-dried tomato and goat cheese version, or one with jumbo lump crab, spinach, tomatoes, wild mushrooms and havarti cheese. And say "Si!" to eggs rancheros or a frittata.

SAVORIES AND SWEETS

Among the soups are vegetable black bean chili, tomato basil, authentic beet and cabbage borscht, and more house-made selections.

Other ethnic delights appear during certain times of the year. Diners love the potato latkes served during the holiday season, and the chefs sometimes feature blintzes, beef stroganoff, or schnitzel sand-

CAFE RENDEZVOUS

Where: 29556 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 626-0804

Open: 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Price range: \$7-\$12 (a standard breakfast ranges from \$2.75 to \$5.50).

Special attractions: High quality breakfast and lunch cuisine, including scrambles, omelets, waffles, pancakes, soups, sandwiches, and salads. Many sides available. Diverse overtones. Easygoing, family-friendly atmosphere.

wiches.

High-end salads are topped with such temptations as shrimp with grilled veggies, or try a classic chicken Caesar. Or, enjoy spring greens topped with steak, red onion, bleu cheese, walnuts and balsamic vinaigrette.

Sandwiches tempt with such gourmet choices as steak with wild mushrooms, charbroiled salmon burger, spicy tuna fillet with wasabi mayo, roasted duck breast, or a stuffed turkey burger with cranberries, walnuts, oranges and shallots.

Swoon over the French toast. Order it stuffed with blueberries and mascarpone cheese, choose it topped with bananas and caramelized walnuts, or indulge in a variation stuffed with chocolate cream cheese.

Just grab a table and a hot cup of coffee, and allow the Cafe Rendezvous to romance you with its top-drawer tastes.

Elaine Perlin Crossley is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield.

Enjoy wine at Detroit Uncorked

Thousands of wine lovers can enjoy hundreds of wines, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and a silent auction for one of the region's largest wine events, the fourth annual Detroit Uncorked.

Ford Field will be the site of the event, 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, presented by Ford Motor Co. and Ford Field, and organized by the Detroit Wine Organization.

The event has sold out the past three years. Funds raised will be used to assist The Children's Center and its goal to reach out to children and families in need, offering independent living skills, mentors and assistance in helping youth to be successful in their transitions to adulthood.

More than 2,000 guests attended last year's event, which raised \$92,000 for The Children's Center.

The DWO has 5,200 members and is the Midwest's largest wine enthusiasts' club. Membership is free and entitles members to discounts on DWO event tickets, the bi-weekly 60-Second Wine Course and first priority for events like Detroit Uncorked, which consistently sells out.

Tickets are \$75 for DWO members and \$80 for non-members. Membership in the DWO is free. To purchase tickets and/or join, visit <http://www.detroituncorked.com> or call (313) 203-7197. Guests must be 21 years old to attend.

Ken Abramczyk



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Has 'The Nanny Diaries' plot been done to death?

★★★ out of five stars

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
FILM CRITIC

Following recent roles in films like Woody Allen's *Match Point* and *The Prestige*, it was beginning to seem as if Scarlett Johansson only revealed on screen as a striking siren.

Taking the lead in *The Nanny Diaries*, in theaters Aug. 24, she moves into a coming-of-age role as recent college grad Annie Braddock.

Based on the novel by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, the film follows this aspiring anthropologist as she's side-tracked into the demanding life of an Upper East Side au pair. All of a sudden she's running impossible errands, chasing a soy-fed child around the city and cooking dishes she can barely pronounce.

At the film's onset, we meet Annie in

quite a quandary. She fails her first real job interview in finance after one question: Who is Annie Braddock? The New Jersey native hasn't figured that out yet.

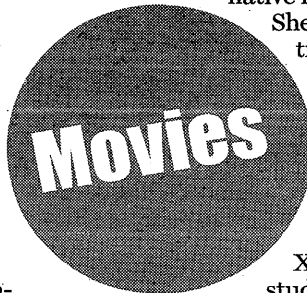
She's convinced she needs more time.

And while wallowing in her confusion, the pretty brunette manages to rescue a little boy out of harm's way in Central Park. She's immediately approached by his mother — named only Mrs. X in this Upper East Side field study — and thrust into the role of caretaker for 5-year-old Grayer. Keep in mind, she's had no prior experience.

Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini wrote the screenplay and directed the film, which does all it can to romanticize life and love in Manhattan.

There are some tactics the movie could do without — a few symbolic flying red umbrellas, for instance, or some blinking

Please see **NANNY, E15**



JIM BRIDGES

Reece Thompson stars in "Rocket Science."

28 Today's marks the final Terrific Tuesday in the Children's Garden at Rochester Hills Museum and Van Hoosen Farm. The event runs 1-2 p.m., call (248) 656-4663.

29 Get thee to the D. Tour Downtown Detroit with this week's *Courts, Cops and Lawyers* tour. Tickets cost \$10 per person, reservations aren't required. Tours begin in the lobby of the Compuware Building. Call (313) 283-4332, or visit www.detroit-tourconnections.com.

24 Don't miss multi-faceted performer Rufus Wainwright tonight with pop-tastic openers The Magic Numbers at Michigan Theater, 103 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Wainwright is currently touring in support of his latest effort, *Releasing the Stars*. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets cost \$32.50-\$45, call (248) 645-6666.

25 A teenager tackles the mysteries of life, love and public speaking in *Rocket Science*, a wry comedy opening today. Director is Jeffrey Blitz, who also directed *Spellbound*.

26 Hop inside your *Yellow Submarine* and take a trip back in time with *Get Back! Cast of Sealemania*, 7 p.m. today at Meadow Brook. Tickets \$10-\$25, visit www.palacenet.com.

27 Rock supergroup Velvet Revolver, featuring former members of Guns N' Roses and Stone Temple Pilots, takes over DTE Energy Music Theatre today at 7:30 p.m. — along with openers Alice in Chains and Kill Hannah. Tickets \$26.50-\$56.50, call (248) 645-6666.

What's new at Ozzfest - Taiwanese metal

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

ChthoniC is pronounced THON-ick.

It's a growling, smart, underworldly, death metal band from Taiwan that's playing Ozzfest — the first Asian band ever on the mega-tour.

ChthoniC, the name derived from a Greek word about spirits of the underworld, is also playing an all ages show at Harpo's, on Saturday, Aug. 25, one day before Ozzfest at DTE Energy Music Theatre.

Hear the band's fierce roars and melodic, yet dark, hard gothic sound at www.myspace.com/ChthoniCtw.

If you follow the metal scene, you know Scandinavian black metal is some of the hardest, darkest music in that genre. ChthoniC may seem similar on the surface, but the band's visual inspiration — the painted faces — come from

MORE AT OZZFEST

When: Gates open at noon, Sunday, Aug. 26

Who: Ozzy Osbourne, Lamb of God, Static X, Lordi, Hatebreed, Behemoth, DevilDriver, Nile, Ankla, Circus Diablo, The Showdown, 3 Inches of Blood, ChthoniC, Daath, In This Moment

Where: DTE Energy Music Theatre
Tickets: The show is free and more tickets were available at press time only at one location. Call or visit the FYE store, 432 Briarwood Circle, Ann Arbor (734) 668-7575.
Parking: \$20

Notes: Ozzy, Lamb of God, Circus Diablo and Static X are the most popular names this year on the tour. ChthoniC is growing in popularity. DevilDriver headlines the second stage

Taiwanese folklore where corpse paint gives certain deities the power to judge good and evil.

The band's symphonic black metal also features an Oriental twist. They play the "hena," a traditional Eastern two-stringed violin known for its weepy and melancholy sound.

ChthoniC have been building

and was just added to the tour to replace Mondo Generator — which left for "reasons beyond their control." DevilDriver, formed in 2002, and its new CD 'The Last Kind Words' is described as "simultaneously brutal, melodic, technically complex yet instantly accessible." Hear it at myspace.com/DevilDriver. "When I listen to something like Pantera's 'Vulgar Display of Power,' it still sounds great because it stands up over time," DevilDriver vocalist Dez Fafara said. "I want this record to do that as well. Fifteen years from now I want people to go, 'Listen to that s---. It's heavy, but it's still catchy and it totally captures the essence and groove of DevilDriver.' It's of the utmost importance that we clarify our sound for the masses on this one."

momentum internationally for a decade.

The Taipei Times calls the band "the Black Sabbath of Asia." The group's music is about freedom. The latest CD is *Seediq Bale* (DownPort Music), and incorporates Taiwanese history, myths and cultures. The tour is called "UNlimited" to protest how the



ChthoniC is the first Asian band to hit Ozzfest.

United Nations (UN) limits Taiwan's full participation as an independent country.

The moniker also aims to inspire. "We want to emphasize the 'unlimited' potential of Taiwan and the Taiwanese people," said vocalist Freddy Lim. "Hopefully, more and more international friends will understand and support Taiwan through the 'unlimited' power of music."

HISTORY THROUGH EPIC CDS

Its debut CD *Where The Ancestors' Souls Gathered*, describes the perilous sea journey between China and Taiwan. The band's second CD, *9th Empyrean*, tells of an epic battle between Chinese Han spirits and the spirit gods of Taiwan's aboriginal people. The following CD, *Relentless*

Recurrence, relays a Taiwanese folk legend about a demonic ghost.

THE LATEST CD

Seediq Bale, ChthoniC's latest tells the tragic true story of a long-standing Taiwanese tribe whose rebellion against colonial oppression was violently thwarted by the Japanese army in the early 20th century.

MUSIC IN TAIWAN

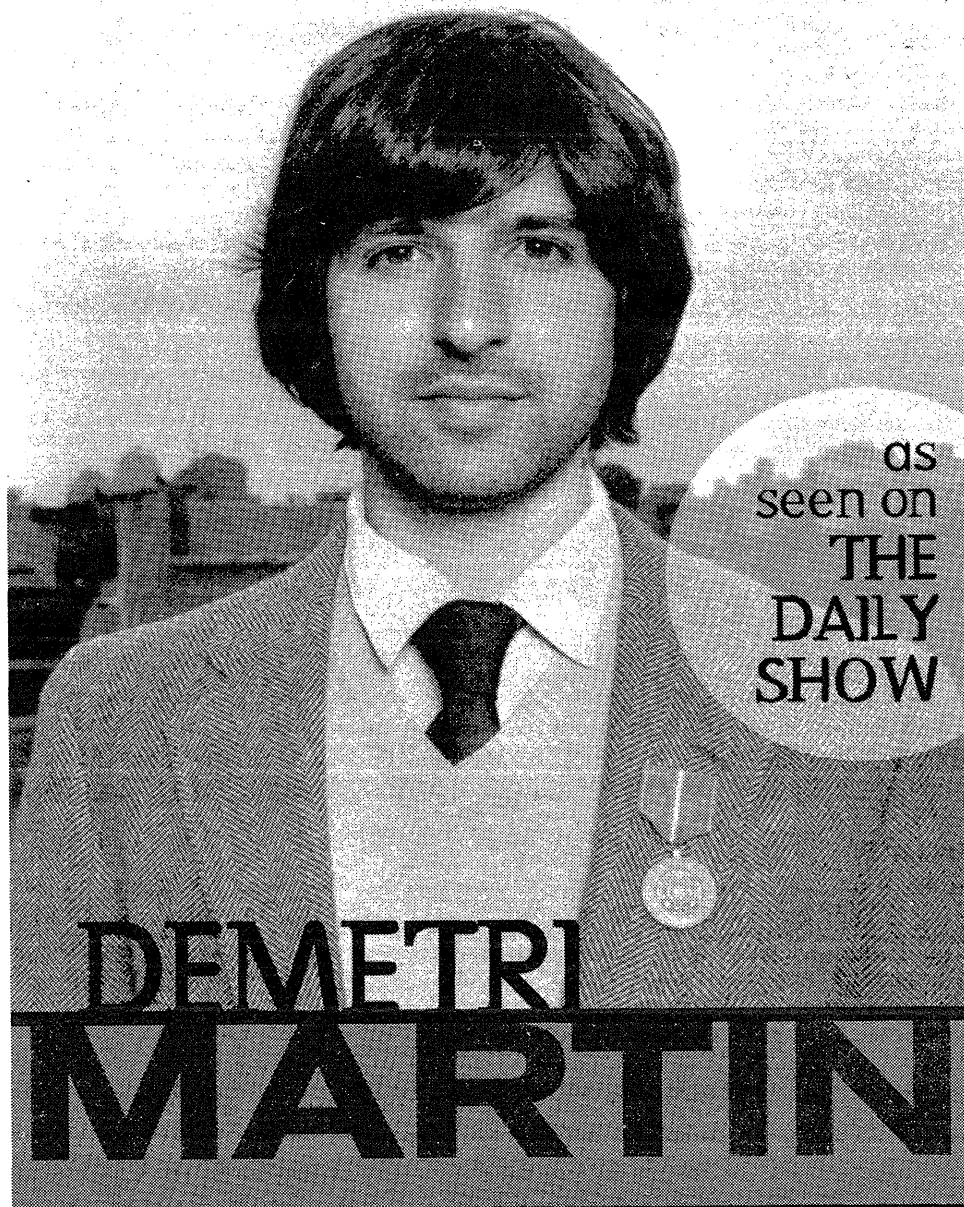
ChthoniC single-handedly launched an extreme metal scene in its home country. Now it's ready to make its mark worldwide, with the help of Ozzfest, a tour that can make a band famous — and they only have 20 minutes on stage to do it. Get tickets for Ozzfest or the Harpo's show at www.palacenet.com or any Ticketmaster outlet.



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Brockington expects 400 to 500 people will attend. And dance know-how is not required. "It's a great weekend whether you know how to dance or not," Brockington said. "By the end of the weekend if you take a couple of classes, you will know how to do something."

This year, the legendary "Queen of Swing" Norma Miller is expected to attend. Dreamtime Entertainment, based in Fort Myers, Fla., will premiere its feature documentary by the same name, sharing a glimpse into Miller's life and work in the dance arts. As an award-winning choreographer, producer, stand-up comedienne, television and film actress, Miller will also sign copies of her newly-released book, *Stompin' at the Savoy: The Story of Norma Miller*.

The film and book detail Miller's roots, dancing her way from Harlem to share a vision of love and equality. Miller's peers have included legends like Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Sammy Davis Jr., Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor. Through her career she toured with the USO as a comedienne, appeared with Redd Foxx on *Sanford & Son* and was a member of Whitey's Lindy Hoppers in the 1930s-1940s.

Master Tapper Chester Whitmore will also be on hand for the Motor City Jam. Having choreographed artists like The

Commodores, Prince and Janet Jackson, Whitmore's life's work has been devoted to the preservation of black dance styles. Three years ago, he was named a living legend in his field. For MCJ, he'll host a series of seven tap workshops.

The workshops fit right into Artspectrum's mission, to provide excellence in dance training to the metropolitan Detroit area. This year the longstanding tradition continues with MCJ classes offered in West coast swing, Lindy hop, blues dancing and Detroit's club ballroom. Dancers already well-versed in multiple styles, or those who come with a dance partner in toe, can sign up for any of the five competitions scheduled during MCJ. Four of the five competitions are lead/follow dances while the other is open to couples who dance tap, West coast swing, East coast swing, Lindy hop, salsa, ballroom, bop and Detroit, Latin, L.A. or New York hustle.

Having competed herself in ballroom and other dance styles, Brockington decided to include Jack and Jill contests, where dancers randomly draw a partner, and contests where you choose your dance partner and compete to unknown music. The dances are spread out over two days, with plenty of music in between. And fans of *So You Think You Can Dance* are welcome to strut their stuff during Showtime Not At The Apollo - a competition for dancers ready to choose their music and show off their own, original routines. The winners walk home with \$500. Register now to participate in Motor City Jam.

MOTOR CITY JAM

What: Summer's hottest dance festival, hosted by Artspectrum

When: Friday-Sunday, Aug. 24-26

Where: Doubletree Hotel, 5801 Southfield at Ford roads, Detroit

Tickets: Day, evening, weekend, individual tickets range from \$5 to \$99

Events: Don't miss these films, classes and dance competitions

■ See *The Queen of Swing*, a film produced by Dreamtime Entertainment, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25

■ Chester Whitmore's Tap Workshops on Aug. 25-26. Workshops culminate in a showcase performance at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26.

Tickets for the performance are \$5, or free if you are part of the workshop.

■ Learn to Lindy Hop, West coast swing, try blues dancing or Detroit's club ballroom. Classes may be bought individually at \$15 each, or by the day beginning at \$50 per class, or an all-inclusive weekend pass for \$99.

■ Showtime Not At The Apollo and other dance contests. First place winners receive \$500. Register online at <http://artspectrum.org/mcjregistration.htm>.

■ Live music with Larry Lee and the Back in the Day Band, Friday, Aug. 24, and RJ Spangler and the Rhythm Rockers, Aug. 25. Tickets to these two shows cost \$25.

More information: Call (313)790-2311 or visit <http://artspectrum.org/mcjregistration.htm>.

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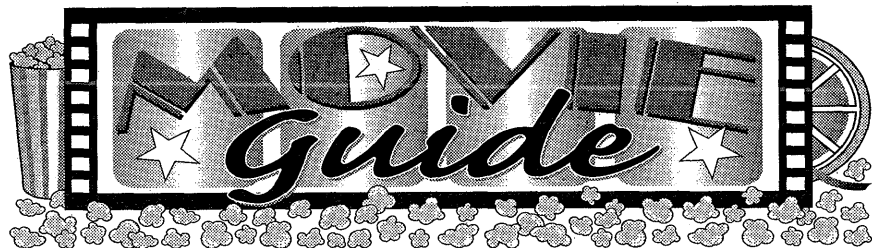
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NANNY

FROM PAGE E11

images of Grayer's face as Nanny's cab pulls away, following an ill-fated trip to Nantucket.

Much like the book that it's based upon, the film parallels last year's comedy hit *The Devil Wears Prada*. Just replace Anne Hathaway's intense fashion magazine internship with Johannson's domestic role, and Meryl Streep's award-winning impossibly chilly fashion maven with lovely Laura Linney as a self-obsessed controlling wealthy wife and mother.

Linney gives a good show as the dif-

ficult Mrs. X, and plays opposite pudgy Paul Giamatti as a philandering, barely-there father.

It's certainly a story suited for the screen, though fans of the novel will find the plot has been considerably altered. All the key elements are there, as are some wonderfully telling scenes. Fans of the book will get a laugh out of the play date that features a ditzy cake-baking mom who's fresh out of rehab.

Originally Annie Braddock comes chock full of experience in the world of Nanny-dom. This time, she's a newbie who's living with the X family. She's also lying to her mother – who thinks she's working at a bank and putting that degree to good use.

On several occasions in the film, Annie's family and friends express disappointment in her decision. She has clearly put her own life on hold and become far too involved in the world of The X's.

As in the novel, the family has changed her name from Annie to the vague and impersonal "Nanny." From Mr. X's affair with a co-worker to multiple counts of public humiliation, she's lost her entire identity on a quest to find herself.

With a little help from her friend Lynette (singer Alicia Keys), and thanks to a budding romance with her "Harvard Hottie" (Chris Evans), Annie just might make it out of the New York high rise intact.

Right up to the end, fans of *The Devil*

Wears Prada will feel they've seen this movie before, and they practically have. Except this story could use a sharpened-tongued villain like Emily Blunt.

Still, the wide-eyed new New Yorker barely has time for her cute boyfriend thanks to her thankless job that requires her full attention around the clock. Yep, it's awfully familiar.

Toss in an overture of anthropological references – something akin to Ashley Judd's character in *Someone Like You* – and add that always-adorable nanny-and-charge relationship – like Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning in *Uptown Girls* – and you get the idea. It's a recipe for simple, but pleasant late-summer film fare.

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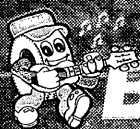
BALL-BUSTING PING-PONG ACTION FOR THE NINTENDO Wii AND DS IN STORES SOON. Wii AND NINTENDO DS ARE TRADEMARKS OF NINTENDO. © 2007 AMTENNCO.

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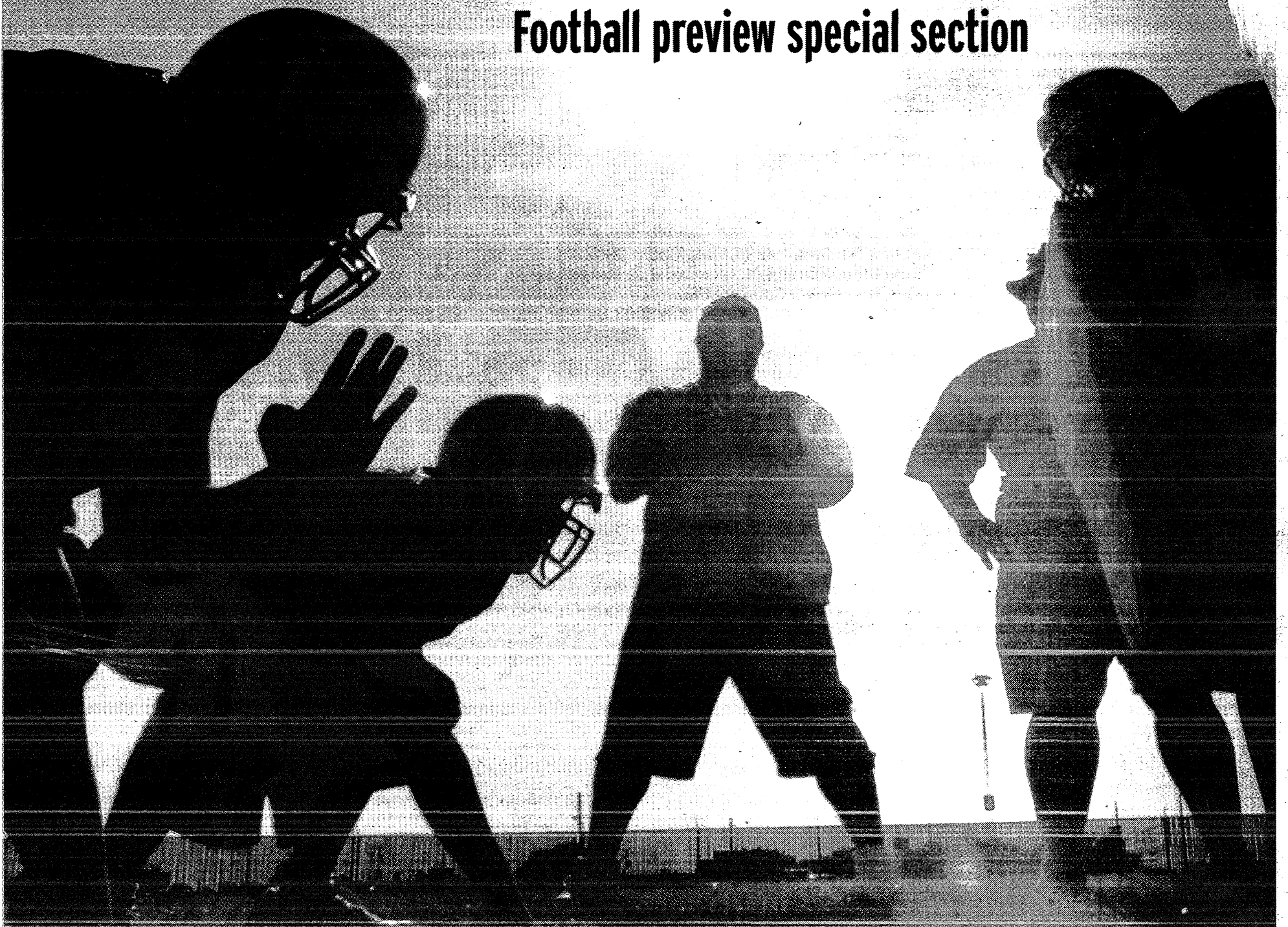
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Thursday, August 23, 2007

The Observer Newspapers

At it again

Football preview special section



www.hometownlife.com

'Hungry' Cougars gearing up for fresh start

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

To say Garden City's football team is starving for success after a winless 2006 might be a bit of an exaggeration. But head coach Mike Salter is detecting enough signs during practices to be optimistic this year won't be an encore.

"They're definitely hungry," Salter said. "They have the right attitude coming into this year. What happened last year is behind us. We're a different team."

According to Salter, whose roster will be markedly different due to a spate of graduations, the 2007 squad has a good mix of desire and athleticism that could help it be a factor in the Mega Blue.

One player who will definitely have a say in that is senior halfback and defensive back Paul Cole, an all-conference selection who led Garden City in rushing last season.

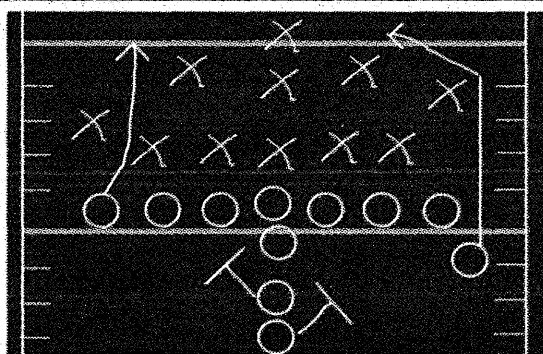
"He's going to be one of our key factors in our success this year," Salter said. "He's an athlete whose motor is always running."

But another key guy will be senior Semaj O'Banion, moving from defensive end to nose tackle. "Semaj is very athletic, he made a lot of tackles last year."

Adam Love, Kyle Karas, Freddie Scroggs, C. J. Rayburn and Andrew Ramey probably will see double duty on the D-line and O-line.

Salter must decide his starting quarterback, between senior Angelo Zoccoli and junior Tyler Twigg. The backfield, besides Cole, could be a revolving door. Figuring to see regular playing time there are Anthony Glass, Michael Pack, Sean O'Brien and Brad Bond. Senior Chris Conroy, also a starter in the defensive secondary, is the receiver with the most experience. Chris Crawford and Gegatic Williams also will vie for PT.

The Cougars have plenty of competition at linebacker. Candidates for three inside linebacker spots include Glass, O'Brien, Bond, senior Travis Sharp and sophomore Max Stratton. In the hunt for the two outside linebacker positions are Bryan Grace, Ryan Soper, Justin Gabbard and David Ciciora.



FAST FACTS

School: Garden City.

Head coach: Mike Salter, 11th season.

League: Mega Conference (Blue).

2006 record: 0-9.

Key losses: Justin Sweatt, Ryan Barnes, Ben Poole (second-team All-Area), Jon Turnbull, Jared McGuire, Ryan Chartrand, Brendon Gnida.

Returning starters: Justin Gabbard, Sr. OLB; Anthony Glass, Jr. ILB; Paul Cole, Sr. HB-CB (honorable mention All-Area); Brad Bond, Jr. FB-ILB; Semaj O'Banion, Sr. DL (honorable mention All-Area); Adam Love, Sr. OG-DE; Kyle Karas, Sr. OT-DT; Chris Conroy, Sr. SE-FS.

Promising newcomers: Chris Crawford, Jr. SE-DB; Gegatic Williams, Soph. HB-CB; Tyler Twigg, Jr. QB-FS; Michael Pack, Jr. HB-CB; Bryan Grace, Jr. SE-OLB.

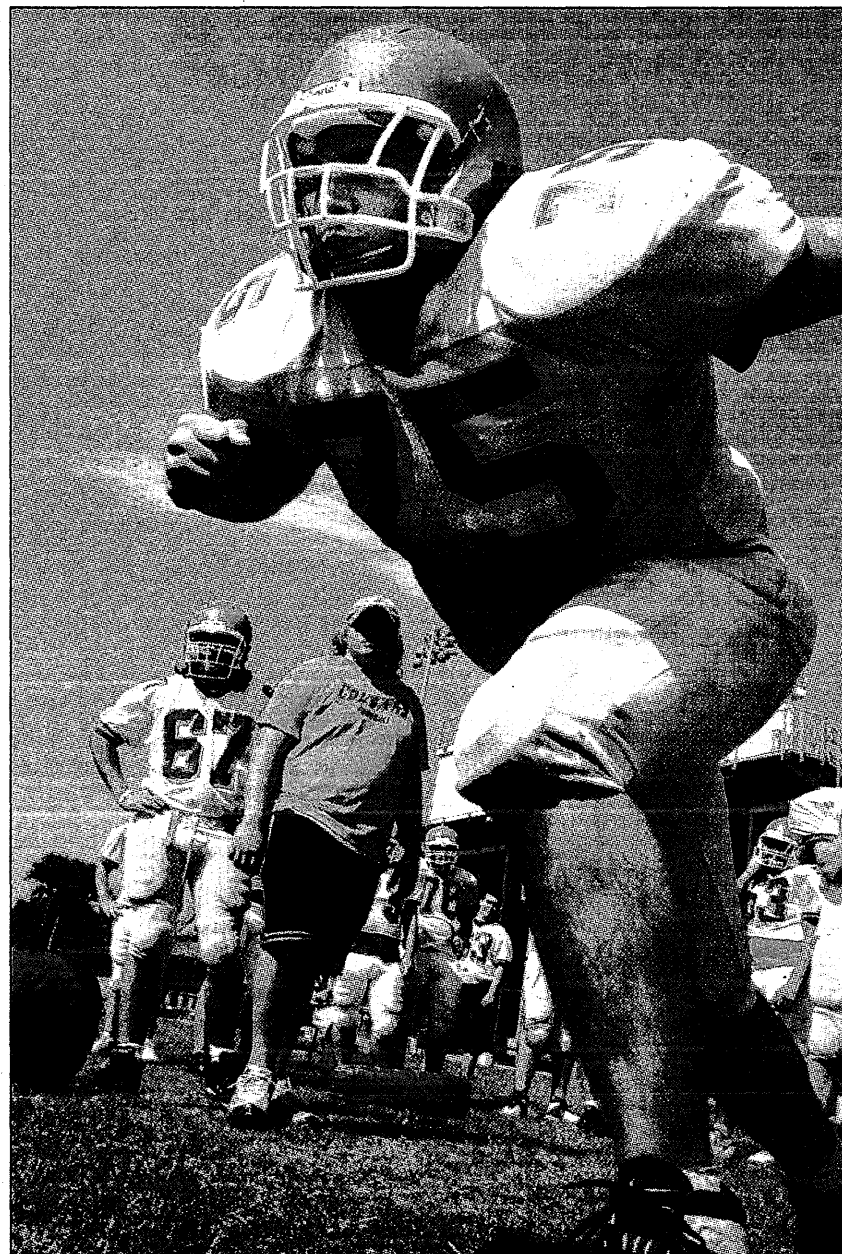
Coach's quote: "They're definitely hungry, they have the right attitude coming into this year. What happened last year is behind us. We're a different team."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	TAYLOR KENNEDY	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	ROMULUS	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Ypsilanti	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	HIGHLAND PARK	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Redford Thurston	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Dearborn Edsel Ford	4 p.m.
Oct. 5*	DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	MELVINDALE	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Woodhaven	7 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Seasoned Chargers have reason to feel optimistic

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Comparisons to the 2004 Livonia Churchill team which finished 8-4 and reached the Division I state quarterfinals may be a bit premature.

But with 14 of 22 starting positions returning, including five third-year players, it's a good bet the Chargers won't be any pushover in 2007.

Despite coming off a 3-6 campaign, 11th-year coach John Filiatraut has reason to be optimistic.

"I don't want anybody to misunderstand, but we were a good 3-6 team which lost some games early that we wish we had back," said the former Wisconsin letter winner. "In the middle and toward the end of the season, we were playing pretty well and we hope to continue that momentum."

Churchill's offensive coordinator, Ron Targosz, who also happens to be Filiatraut's brother-in-law, has some tools to work as he calls the plays.

T.J. Tilley, a 6-foot, 171-pound senior, returns as the starting quarterback.

"Offensively we think we can throw the ball more because we have more confidence in T.J.," Filiatraut said. "We feel we can count on him. The kids respect him and he's a good leader. We feel we've got some balance (run and pass) going."

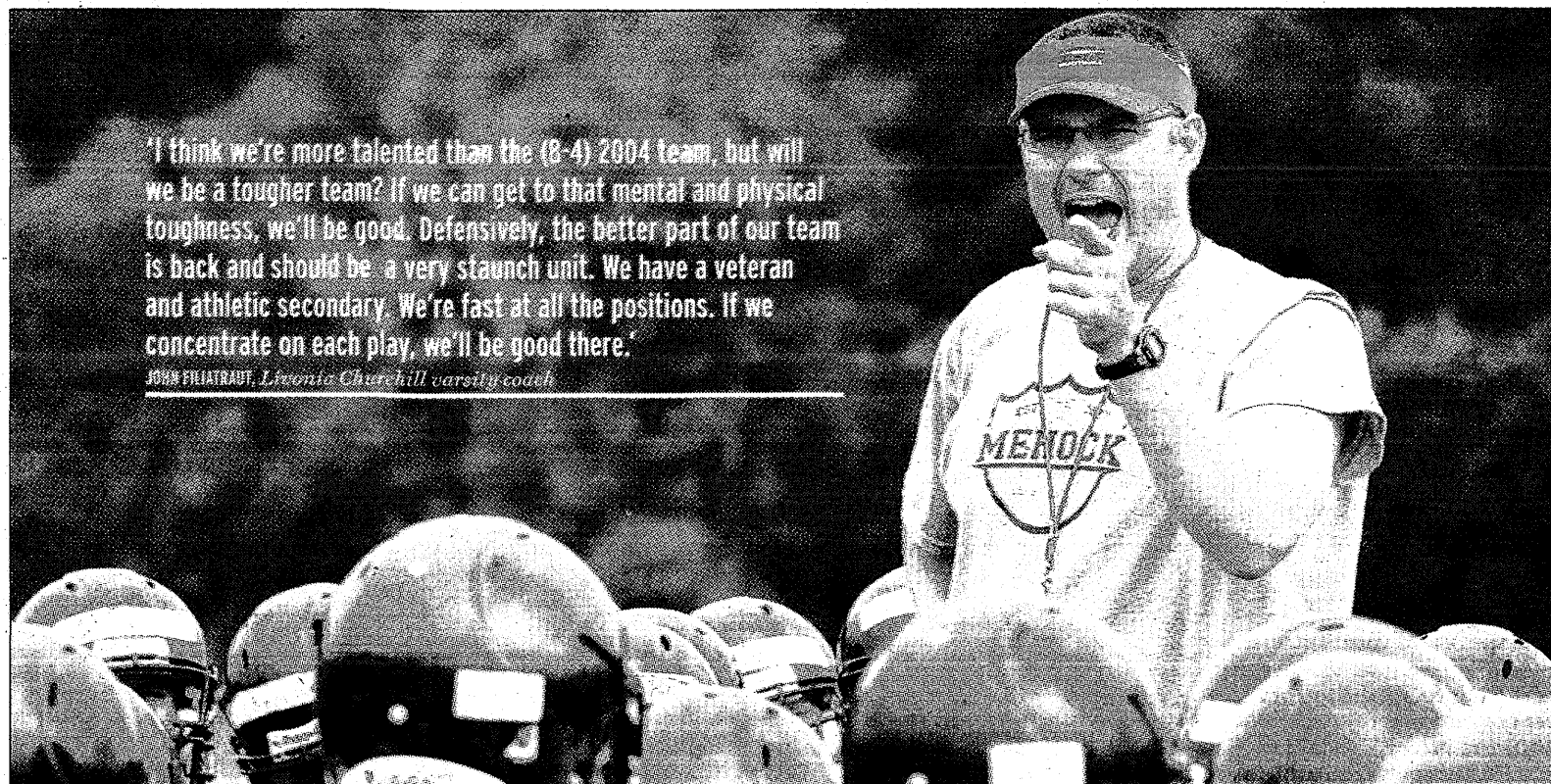
The supporting cast includes senior wide receivers Ryan Whittum (6-1, 187) and Nick Seger (6-5, 188), along with second-team All-Observer tight end Kevin Tabone (6-4, 231).

Senior running back Daran Carey also returns along with two massive senior tackles - Duane Najarian (6-0, 320) and Mark Parrish (6-1, 311).

The defense will be by cornerbacks Carey and Whittum, along with Tilley at free safety. Tabone and Josh Zak (5-6, 171) anchor the defensive line, while junior Devin Moynihan (5-10, 210) and senior Max DiCicco (5-9, 235) return at linebacker.

Churchill plays four of its first five games on the road, including three to start.

"Being on the road, riding that bus, maybe isn't such a bad thing," Filiatraut said.



"I think we're more talented than the (8-4) 2004 team, but will we be a tougher team? If we can get to that mental and physical toughness, we'll be good. Defensively, the better part of our team is back and should be a very staunch unit. We have a veteran and athletic secondary. We're fast at all the positions. If we concentrate on each play, we'll be good there."

JOHN FILIATRAUT, Livonia Churchill varsity coach

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill varsity football coach John Filiatraut talks to the team during practice Monday afternoon.

FAST FACTS

School: Livonia Churchill.

Head coach: John Filiatraut, 11th season.

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).

2006 record: 3-6.

Key losses: Jon Robinson (first-team All-Area); Joe Speiss (second-team All-Area); Mike Berger, Aaron Poirer.

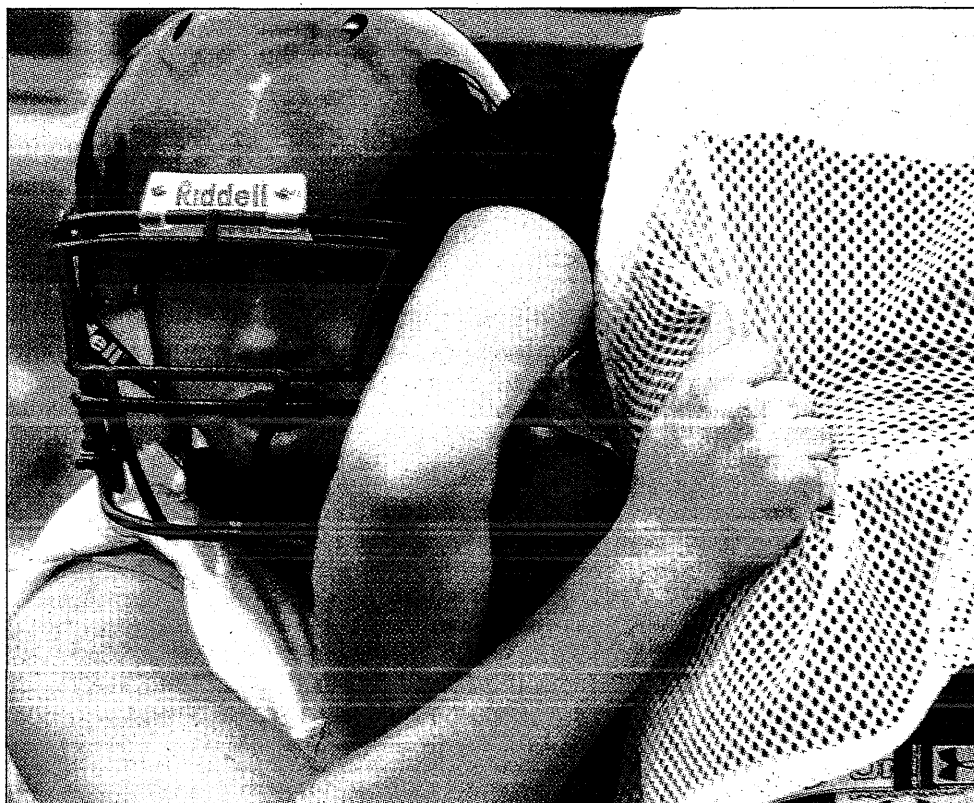
Returning starters: Kevin Tabone, Sr. TE-DL (second-team All-Area); Ryan Whittum, Sr. WR-CB-K; Nick Seger, Sr. WR; Mark Parrish, Sr. OT; Duane Najarian, Sr. OT; T.J. Tilley, Sr. QB-FS-P; Daran Carey, Sr. RB-CB; Josh Zak, Sr. DL; Devin Moynihan, Jr. OLB; Max DiCicco, Sr. OLB; Andrew Alverson, Sr. OL; Mike Thayer, Sr. OG; Mike Bargerstock, Sr. C.

Promising newcomers: Darius Wells, Sr. OLB (transfer from Ferndale); Jeff Ricketts, Jr. RB; Matt Kowalis, Jr. RB; Ryan Dolan, Sr. SS; Brandon Dare, Jr. DE.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	at Lansing Eastern	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Northville	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at W.L. Central	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	SALEM	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at John Glenn	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	STEVENSON	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at W.L. Northern	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	WLAA CROSSVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	FRANKLIN	7 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill senior Kevin Tabone, a second-team All-Observer tight end, runs through tackling drill during the first official day of practice.



All-around excellence top goal for blue-collar Trojans

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Tim Shaw-led glory days of Livonia Clarenceville football might not be what Trojans head coach Ryan Irish gets right off the bat during the 2007 season.

But Irish wants his mostly inexperienced team to begin doing things with a higher standard - namely to excel in every endeavor, on or off the gridiron.

"They've had some great teams here and we're trying to bring that back," said the former Lake Orion assistant coach. "But we're building it from within. We're starting it from in the classroom, in the community and the hallways."

He also is looking toward several players to provide athletic spark and vocal leadership as the Trojans look to move up in the Metro. At the top of the list are senior Terry Line (5-10, 200) and junior Taylor Hall (6-0, 225), two powerful athletes who will play offensive guard and linebacker.

Line, in particular, is in sync with Irish' blueprint for success, having started on the varsity in the coach's first year (2005). "Both of us saw what happened before, and now both of us really want to change things," Irish noted.

Another mainstay is junior running back Jeremy Gainer. "He's our fastest kid, our strongest kid and he does everything."

Also expected to spark the running game are elusive junior Brad Pozniak and sophomore Levonte Brooks, who can "turn it on and break it."

At quarterback will be sophomore Leonard Hogan. "Leonard's very mechanically sound, he always does right and gives 100 percent effort."

Hogan will throw to a cast of wide-outs that includes seniors Joe Nelson, Jim Reamer, junior Andrew Jasmer and sophomore Ben Watts.

Irish said Clarenceville's defense is a question mark. But Line, Hall, Gainer (safety), Pozniak (linebacker), Brooks (linebacker) and Hogan (secondary) - all pressed into double duty - could provide some answers.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Keeping a watchful eye over practice is Livonia Clarenceville head coach Ryan Irish, who is committed to returning the Trojans to their football halcyon days.

FAST FACTS

School: Livonia Clarenceville.
Head coach: Ryan Irish, third season.
League: Metro Conference.
2006 record: 4-5.
Key losses: Dan Kubera (second-team All-Area); Brandon Page (second-team All-Area); Kris Thomas (honorable mention All-Area); Marcus Watkins (honorable mention All-Area).

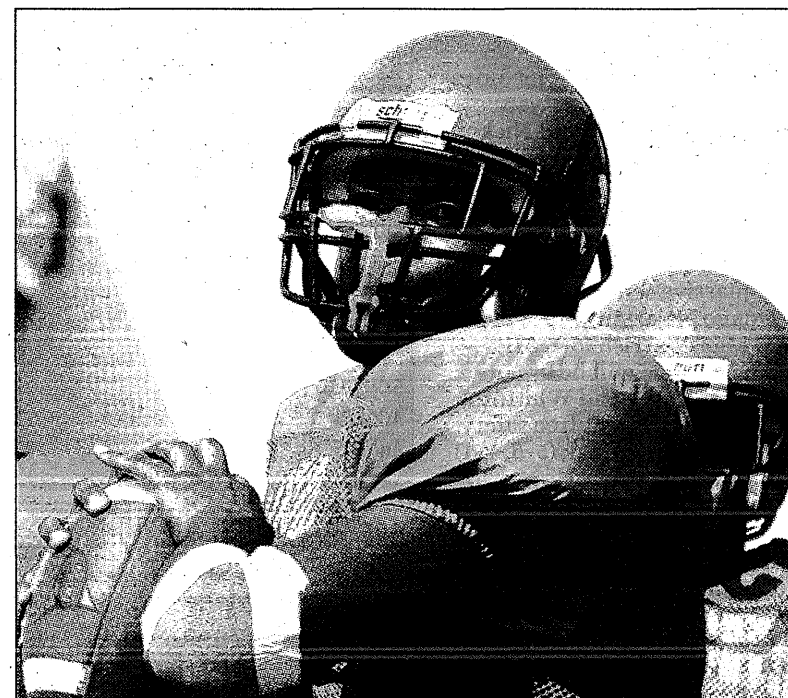
Returning starters: Jeremy Gainer, Jr. RB-FS; Terry Line, Sr. OG-LB; Taylor Hall, Jr. OG-LB; Brad Pozniak, Jr. RB-LB.

Promising newcomers: Leonard Hogan, Soph. QB-FS; Levonte Brooks, Soph. RB-LB.

Coach's quote: "I'm excited for the young guys we have. These young kids want to play, (they) want to get better and they want to compete. I call them my lunch pail kids, they do everything. They take the dummies out, they cut the grass and they'd probably sell hot dogs if they had to. We're a work in

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	at Lutheran High Northwest	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Cranbrook	1 p.m.
Sept. 14	HARPER WOODS	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Hamtramck	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	MONTROSE	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	CLAWSON	7 p.m.
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS		



Livonia Clarenceville's Jeremy Gainer looks downfield to throw a pass during practice.

Patriots in position to make waves again in 2007

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The pieces appear to be in place.

All Livonia Franklin seventh-year coach Chris Kelbert now has to do is complete the jigsaw puzzle.

It may be a bit premature to compare the 2007 Patriots to the 10-1 playoff squad of 2005, but the similarities are striking.

The entire starting backfield returns off a 5-4 team led by quarterback Jesse Carpenter, a 5-foot-11, 175 senior who threw for 870 yards. He is joined by third-year running back Cole Kelly (5-11, 173), who had 1,235 all-purposes yards in 2006; and junior fullback David Fortin (5-10, 195).

Kelly's production will be a key.

"He had five games last year over 100 yards (rushing), and when he was under 100, he was non-existent," Kelbert said.

A highly athletic wide receiver in Israel Woolfork (6-4, 175) and sturdy senior tight end Jeff McCullough (6-5, 235) will complement the experienced backfield.

Meanwhile, the offensive line is anchored by third-year starter Pat Cecile (6-3, 235), who moves from center to guard.

"We're very balanced, that's what had made us successful the past few years because we're able to run and throw the ball," Kelbert said. "Cecile is our best athlete, so we've moved him from center to guard because we feel that's our most important position."

Although Cecile is the only returning starter on the offensive line, Kelbert believes the unit is solid with the emergence of sophomore Nate Coleman (6-4, 270), senior Mike Birney (6-1, 300) and senior Dan Woodall (6-2, 195).

"We're stronger than we initially thought with the production of Coleman," Kelbert said.

Cecile and McCullough, meanwhile, will lead a staunch defense from their linebacker positions.

"It's going to be the strength of our team," Kelbert said. "Cecile and McCullough are two huge bodies out there. We have more starters back on offense and defense, and we had a pretty good defense last year."

FAST FACTS

School: Livonia Franklin.

Head coach: Chris Kelbert, seventh season.

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).

2006 record: 5-4.

Key losses: Kevin Wengert (first-team All-Area); Dan Chynoweth (first-team All-Area); Neil Copeland, Sean Sciba.

Returning starters: Pat Cecile, Sr. OG-LB (second-team All-Area); Cole Kelly, Sr. RB (second-team All-Area); Jeff McCullough, Sr. TE-LB; Jesse Carpenter, Sr. QB-K-P; David Fortin, Jr. FB; Israel Woolfork, Sr. WR-S; Mike Birney, Sr. DT-OT; Dan Robinson, Sr. DT; Austin Mesler, Sr. LB; Brian Humenay, Sr. DB.

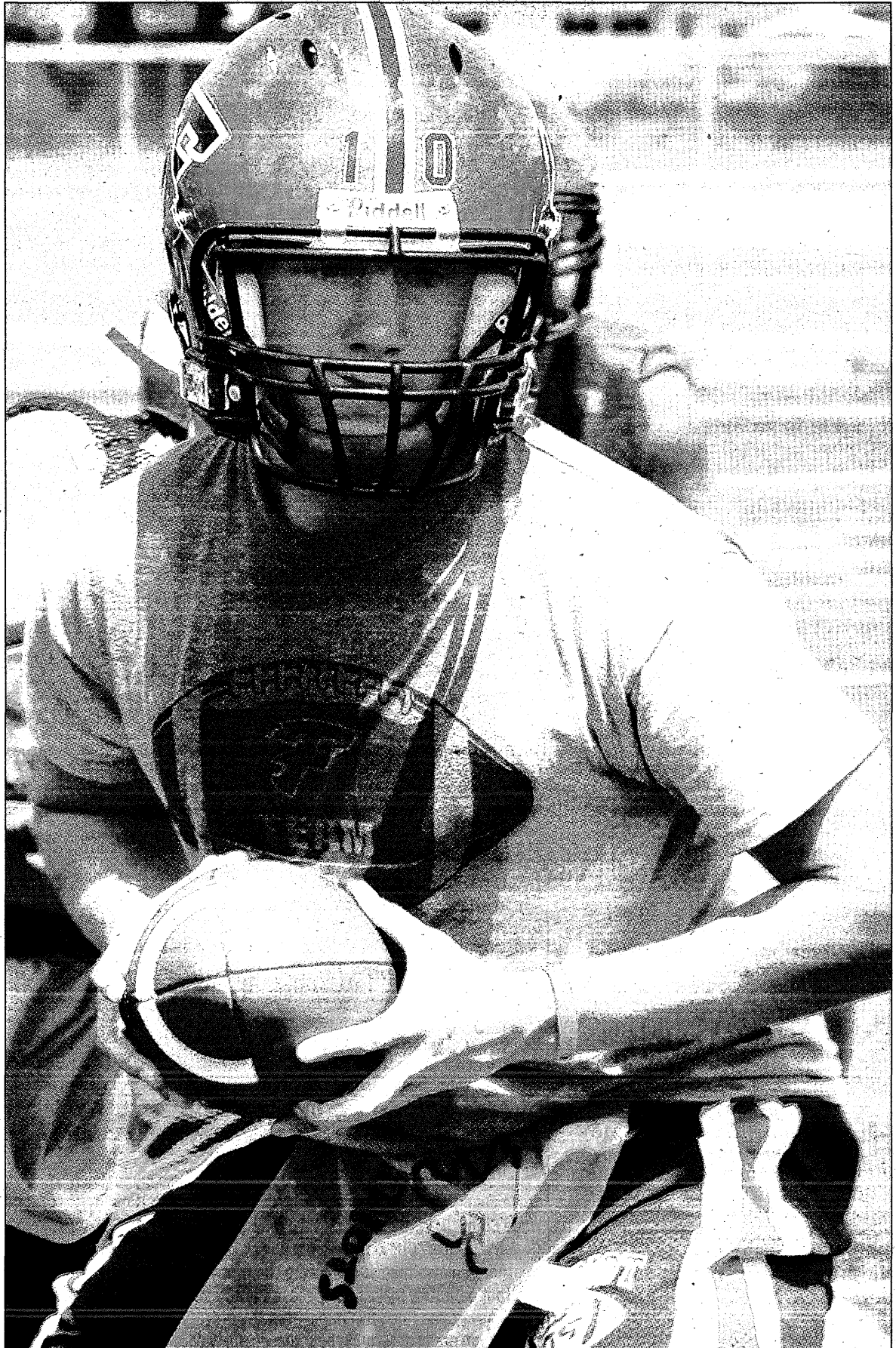
Promising newcomers: Nate Coleman, Soph. OT; Dareel Myree, Sr. RB; Corey Tower, Jr. RB; Dan Woodall, Sr. OG-DE; Jordan Short, Sr. LB; Mark McRobb, Jr. S; Brandon Lane, Jr. DE-DT.

Coach's quote: "My biggest concern with this group is can we play to our potential? The team we had two years ago (10-1) had more question marks going in, but can we play with the same emotion?"

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	vs. John Glenn (at EMU)	8 p.m.
Aug. 30	STEVENSON	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	W.L. WESTERN	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Wayne	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	PLYMOUTH	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	CANTON	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Northville	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at WLAA crossver	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Churchill	7 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin quarterback Jesse Carpenter, turning to make a handoff during practice, returns as the starter.



Spartans hope defense complements potent offense

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Pick your poison when it comes to stopping Livonia Stevenson's offensive attack this season.

The Spartans return one of the area's top quarterbacks in Mitchell White, a 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior who completed 86-of-174 passes last year for 1,133 yards and 11 touchdowns.

The team's top two returning rushers also return in senior fullback Emanuel Onwuemene (5-11, 205) and sophomore tailback Austin White (5-11, 180), who averaged 6.6 and 7.6 yards per carry, respectively.

"We certainly have the personnel to be balanced," said Stevenson coach Tim Gabel. "Stat-wise, Mitchell had a very fine year. He has a sharp football intellect and he's very adept at understanding the design of plays, as well as the schemes used by the defense. Combined with a very strong arm, his football savvy makes him a very effective passer."

Mitchell's twin brother Myles White (6-1, 165) and Derek Buskey (6-1, 174) give the Spartans speed at the wideout positions.

Senior Matt Broome (6-3, 235), a two-year varsity starter, leads the offensive line which also includes returning senior starters Ricky Bell (6-0, 245), Jason Bajas (6-0, 215), Trent Judis (5-11, 245) and Chris Golonka (6-2, 300).

Gabel's chief concern is how the defense develops.

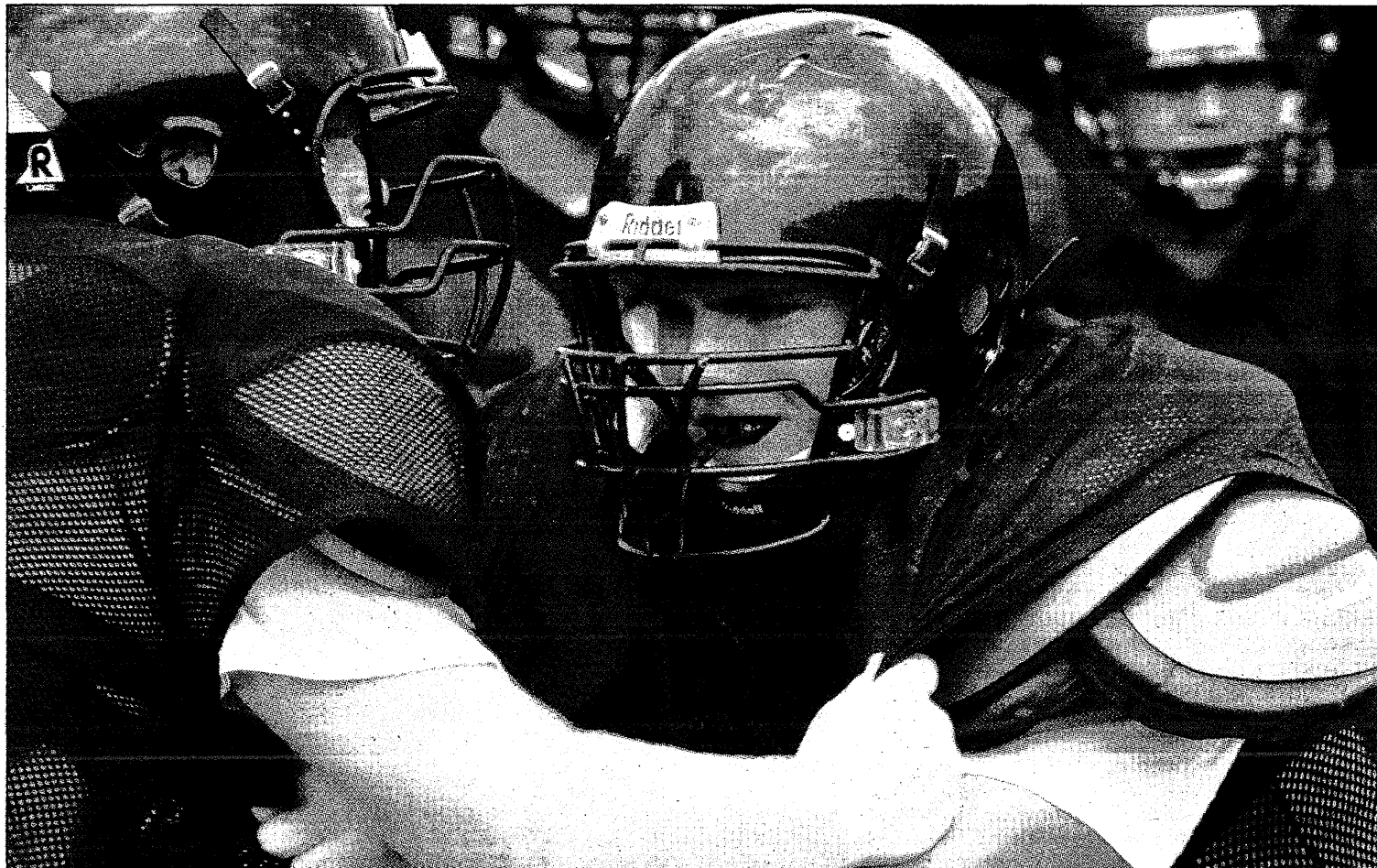
The Spartans are led by senior Pat York (5-11, 150), a first-team All-Area pick who had a team-best 57 hits.

"Defensively, we have to be better against the run than we have the past couple of years," Gabel said. "There's nowhere to go but up as far as stopping the ball."

Senior John Samaan (5-11, 210) returns at linebacker flanked by Onwuemene and Bajas.

Broome, slowed by a leg injury last year, returns at defensive end with Bell, Judis and Golonka at the tackles from a playoff team that finished 6-4 in 2006.

"We have a little more size up front, and hopefully that gives everyone else the freedom to make plays," Gabel said.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Matt Broome, a third-year varsity player, will be in the trenches again on both sides of the ball.

FAST FACTS

School: Livonia Stevenson.

Head coach: Tim Gabel, 13th season.

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).

2006 record: 6-4.

Key losses: Derek Severson (first-team All-Area); T.J. Price (second-team All-Area); Eric Huber, Cory Lynch, Kevin Ahn.

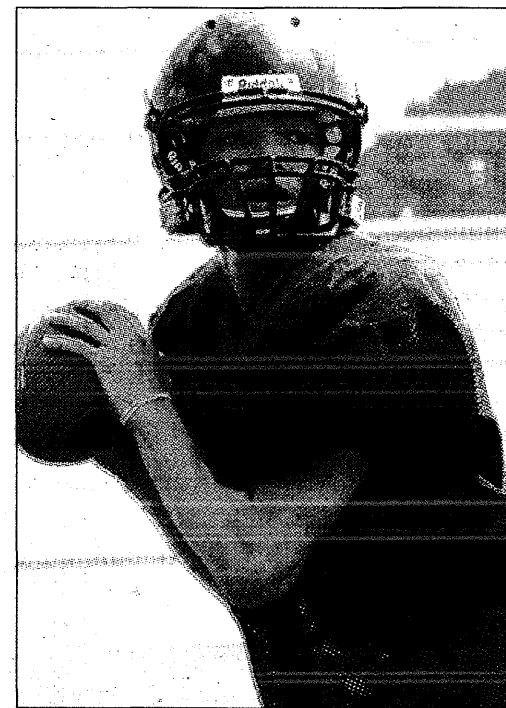
Returning starters: Pat York, Sr. SE-DB (first-team All-Area); Mitchell White, QB (second-team All-Area); Matt Broome, Sr. OT-DE; Jason Bajas, Sr. OT-LB; Trent Judis, Sr. OT-DT; Chris Golonka, Sr. OT-DT; Myles White, Sr. SE-DB; John Samaan, Sr. FB-LB; Emanuel Onwuemene, Sr. FB-LB; Derek Buskey, Sr. SE-DB; Austin White, Soph, RB-DB.

Promising newcomers: Joe Doulette, Sr. OG-LB; Mike Flynn, Sr. TE-LB; Travis Austin, Sr. OG-DT; Steve Eideh, Jr. RB-DB; Jacob Gudeman, Jr. QB-DB; Kyle Hobbins, Jr. OG-LB; Zach Whalen, Jr. OT-DT; Wade Stahl, Jr. RB-DB; Wyatt Stahl, Jr. RB-DB; Mark Grisa, Jr. SE-DB.

Coach's quote: "Our kids have been very committed this summer, and really didn't let the hot weather diminish their focus during the first week. We have a lot of players back with experience, and that definitely makes early season practices go more smoothly. But, we also have some spots which have to be filled by either returning players or juniors new to the varsity. How well those kids do will really determine how successful we are this season. A lot of teams seem to be in a similar position with a lot of veterans, so the league should be both strong and balanced."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	YPSILANTI LINCOLN	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Franklin	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Salem	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	JOHN GLENN	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	W.L. NORTHERN	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Churchill	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	W.L. CENTRAL	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	WLAA CROSSOVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Brighton	7 p.m.
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS		



Stevenson quarterback Mitchell White has a year under his belt as the starter.

Warriors hungry to reverse last year's record

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

If you're wearing a Lutheran Westland football jersey this fall, you'd better be prepared to go both ways.

The team's roster runs just 18 players deep, so coach Paul Guse will be relying on seven Warriors to pull double-duty.

"As usual, if we're healthy, we'll be competitive," said Guse. "We've had so many nagging injuries in practice that I haven't had a chance to see the entire team perform as one. Hopefully, everybody is ready to go by the opener."

The Warriors' most-accomplished returner is junior offensive guard/linebacker Sam Ahlersmeyer (6-foot-1, 200 pounds), who led the Metro Conference in tackles as a sophomore. He'll be joined on the offensive line by senior center Jim Rockrohr (5-10, 170), senior guard Frankie Cain (5-11, 230), and senior tackles Dan Abbott (6-1, 230) and Troy Golze (6-2, 220). Kevin Moody (5-10, 210) will provide offensive-line depth.

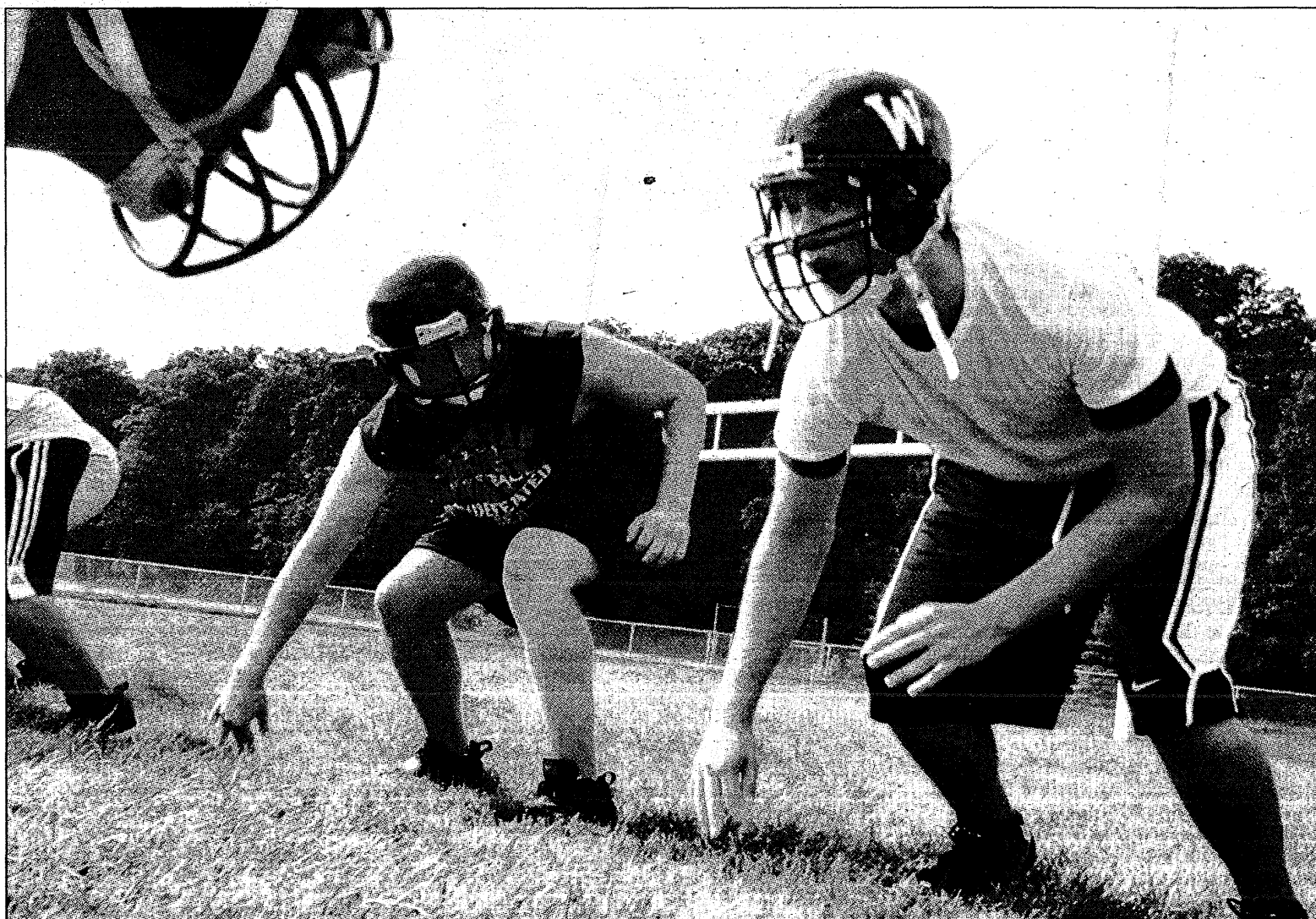
Leading LW's offensive skill-position contingent is first-year senior quarterback Billy Meier, a converted receiver. He'll be asked to fill the shoes of graduated signal-caller Josh Haller, who set 15 school records.

The Warriors' ground attack will be paced by senior Ryan Richter (5-10, 160), and juniors Stephen Kemp (5-10, 170) and Eric Shoats (5-6, 145). Providing backfield depth will be seniors Nick Yancy (5-10, 170) and Mike Greening (5-11, 180); and sophomore Ethan Haller (5-7, 160).

The Warriors' receiving unit will be led by seniors Kyle Kempf (6-0, 170), and Nate Moody (5-10, 210).

The team's defensive depth chart almost mirrors that of the offense. Senior Nate Mizzi (5-7, 170) will anchor the defensive line from his nose guard position. Rockrohr, Golzy, Richter and Abbott will also man the defensive line.

Ahlersmeyer and Kemp will start at linebacker while Kempf and Bachert will start at cornerback. Shoates and Haller are the leading candidates for the two safety slots.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sam Ahlersmeyer (left) and Troy Golze are two key linemen for Lutheran Westland.

FAST FACTS

School: Lutheran Westland
Head coach: Paul Guse, sixth season
League: Metro Conference
2006 record: 3-6 (seventh in Metro)
Key returnees: Billy Meier, Sr. QB; Sam Ahlersmeyer, Jr. LB/OG; Ryan Richter, Sr. RB;
Promising newcomers:

SCHEDULE			
Aug. 25	HARPER WOODS		1 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Clarenceville		7 p.m.
Sept. 7	AA GABRIEL RICHARD		1 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Riv. Gab. Richard		7 p.m.
Sept. 21	HAMTRAMCK		7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	CLAWSON		1 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Lutheran North		7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Cranbrook		1 p.m.
Oct. 20	LUTHERAN NW		1 p.m.
	HOME GAMES ALL CAPS		

Ethan Haller, Soph. RB; Eric Shoates, Jr. RB;
Coach's quote: "As usual, if we're healthy, we'll be competitive," said Guse. "We've had so many nagging injuries in practice that I haven't had a chance to see the entire team perform as one. Hopefully, everybody is ready to go by the opener."



Nate Bachert will play tight end and cornerback for the Warriors.



Wildcats hungry to return to postseason action

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Last year's absence from the Division 1 playoffs didn't sit well with Plymouth's football team, so the players decided to take their frustrations out in the school's weight room during this past off-season.

"The effort I've seen from these kids since last season ended has been unbelievable," said first-year coach Mike Sawchuk, who is succeeding Jay Blaylock. "They want to get back to the playoffs (the Wildcats qualified in 2005 after going 7-2) and it has shown by the way they've worked in the weight room."

As of last week, the two leading candidates for the starting quarterback spot are senior Chris Stewart (6-foot-1, 185 pounds) and Matt Skubik (5-11, 170). The starting signal-caller will be handing off to a trio of backs that includes senior Myron Puryear (6-0, 180), senior Rico Tyus (5-11, 190) and junior Terrance Guthridge, a 5-7, 165-pound junior.

The interior line will be anchored by starting center Spencer Tobin, a 5-9, 190-pound senior who will also start at strong safety on defense. Tobin will be flanked by senior guards Steve Betts (5-11, 215) and Anthony Pomerson (5-9, 230). Senior Corey Gomall (6-0, 230) has earned one of the starting tackle spots; the other was still up in the air as of last week. The Wildcats' top receiving threats are seniors Mike Hanchett (6-4, 185), Spencer Skotzke (5-10, 165) and Connor McKinney (5-11, 160) and junior tight end Ronnie Goble (6-1, 205).

Goble will also start on the D-line, which will include fellow defensive end Sam Richards (a 6-2, 240-pound senior), Pomerson and senior Jackson Vaughn (6-0, 260). Plymouth's line-backing unit will consist of seniors Zeke Chapman (6-0, 190), Vince Darolfi (5-11, 200) and Aaron Uller (5-10, 185); and junior Connor Martin (5-11, 175).

Seniors Andy Price (a 6-1, 175-pound cornerback), Andrew Saunders (a 5-8, 160-pound senior corner), Mike Rose (a 6-1, 175-pound strong safety) and Kyle Wallath (a 6-1, 185-pound free safety) will man the defensive backfield.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth senior Spencer Tobin will serve double-duty for the Wildcats as the center on offense and strong safety on defense.

FAST FACTS

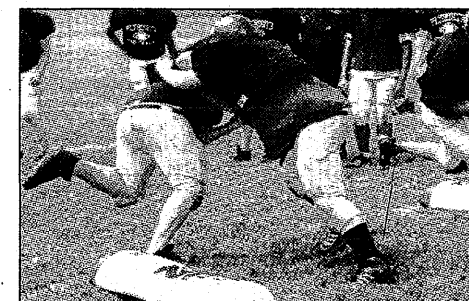
School: Plymouth
Head coach: Mike Sawchuk, first year
League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division)
2006 record: 3-6
Key returners: Kyle Wallath, Sr. FS; Myron Puryear, Sr. RB, Rico Tyus, Sr. RB; Spencer Tobin, Sr. C/SS

Promising newcomers: Terrance Guthridge, Jr. RB; Matt Skubik, Jr. QB; Poufil Saati, Jr. OL;
Coach's quote: "This will probably be the fastest and strongest team we've ever had at Plymouth. I keep a chart on the weight-room wall of the top 33 combined totals for bench, clean and squat, and the total of those 33 kids is the highest we've ever had."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	vs. Belleville (at EMU)	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 30	SALEM	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	WAYNE MEMORIAL	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Canton	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Franklin	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	NORTHVILLE	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at W.L. Western	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	WLAA CROSSOVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	ROMULUS	7 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



Plymouth's football team is pictured running through a blocking drill during a two-a-day practice last week.



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Inexperienced Chiefs to rely on strong work ethic

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Members of this year's Canton football team have some big (and fast) shoes to fill, but they're embracing the challenge, according to head coach Tim Baechler.

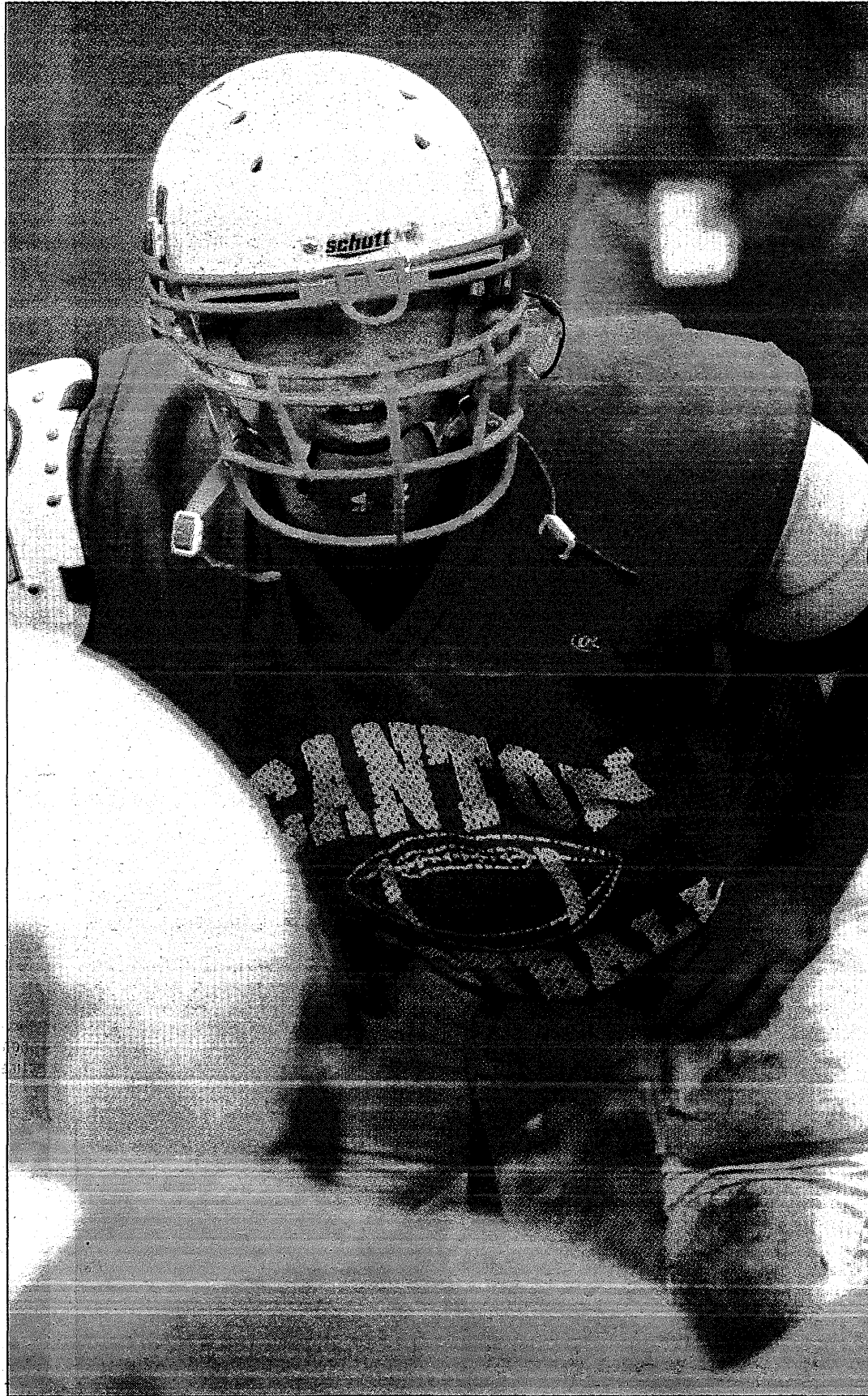
While only three starters return from last season's 12-1 squad, the roster is filled with players who have tasted deep playoff runs and, thus, strive to continue the trend.

Pacing the defense will be returning senior starters Dan Wanshon, a 5-foot-11, 205-pound inside linebacker, and strong safety Adam Powers (5-10, 185), who is also in the running for the team's starting quarterback berth.

Seniors Rob Walker (6-1, 220) and Tevin Brooks (6-0, 210) will start at defensive tackle while senior Matt Barylski (5-10, 210) and junior Pat Madish (5-10, 180) are battling for the first-string nose guard position. Joining Wanshon at linebacker will be junior Bryan Gerst (6-0, 205) and Cam Phelps (6-2, 185). Senior Erik Wright (6-1, 180) and junior David Wilcox (5-10, 180) are battling for the final starting linebacker slot. The secondary will consist of cornerbacks Ryan Neu (a 5-9, 160-pound senior) and Jerome Scales, a 5-10, 175-pound junior; Powers and free safety Nick Sweda (5-10, 170).

Either Scales or Powers will engineer the Chiefs' potent full-house T offense. The team's talented stable of running backs includes senior Dalton Walser (5-10, 185), senior Tim Klott (5-10, 170), Sweda, Wilcox and 5-9, 205-pound senior fullback Jordan Raiford, who started four games last season. Senior Will Tidwell (6-4, 215) has earned one tight end spot. Tidwell's partner on the left side of the line will go to either junior Todd Turfe (6-1, 195) or sophomore Dakota Dark Bird (6-2, 200).

The interior line will include tackles Mac Ganzak (a 6-1, 230-pound senior) and junior Justin Sneddon (5-10, 215); senior guards Rodger Kropp (5-10, 180) and Justin Scott (5-11, 210); and senior center Sam Kokoszka (5-10, 210).



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton inside linebacker Dan Wanshon is one of just three returning starters for the Chiefs. Wanshon was a key member of last year's contingent that advanced to the Division 1 semifinals.

FAST FACTS

School: Plymouth Canton

Head coach: Tim Baechler, 10th year

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division)

2006 record: 12-1 (advanced to D-1 semifinals)

Key returners: Dan Wanshon, Sr. LB; Adam Powers, Sr. SS/QB; Dalton Walser, Sr. RB

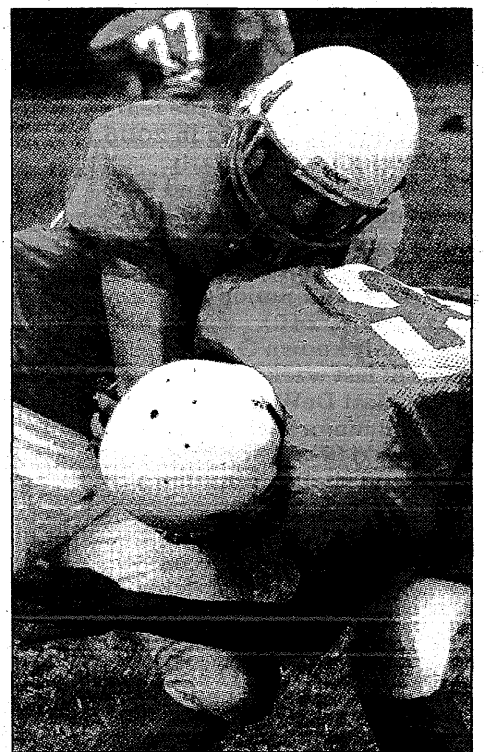
Promising newcomers: Jerome Scales, Jr. QB/CB; Justin Sheddon, Jr. OL; Dakota Dark Bird, Soph. TE; Jason Hu, Jr. DL

Coach's quote: "We're very raw - this is probably the most inexperienced group I've had here at Canton, at least as far as the number of returning starters, but I'm having a blast coaching them because they have a great attitude, they do everything we ask of them and they want to be good."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	vs. Toledo CC (at EMU)	5 p.m.
Aug. 30	JOHN GLENN	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Northville	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	PLYMOUTH	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	at W.L. Western	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Franklin	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	WAYNE MEMORIAL	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at WLAA crossover	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Salem	TBA

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



Canton's Nick Sweda (left) and Satish Subramanian work on a tackling drill during a two-a-day practice last week.



Teamwork key to potential Salem gridiron turnaround

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

There will be no "I" in TEAM when it comes to Salem's football squad this year -- and second-year coach Parker Salowich couldn't be happier with that development.

"Last year, it seemed like we had too many kids playing for themselves and not the team," said Salowich, referring to the Rocks' winless campaign. "We had some kids who didn't buy into the coaching staff's 'team-first' philosophy. From what I've seen during the off-season workouts and in two-a-days so far, that philosophy has completely changed for the better.

"We only have 12 seniors this year, but it's a committed, dedicated group of seniors and the younger players are following their lead."

The 2007 Rocks promise to be entertaining to watch as they will employ a four-receiver spread offense. The main cog in "Air Salowich" will be junior quarterback Heath Parling (6-foot-1, 180 pounds), who saw significant playing time as a sophomore in 2006. Junior Justin Bashi, last year's JV starter at QB, will back up Parling.

Junior Anthony Mullins (5-10, 180) will lead the Rocks' ground attack. He led the team in rushing and scoring in 2006.

Salowich is particularly fired up about his tall and fast receiving corps, which will be led by seniors Jesse Pointer (6-3, 220) and Jeremy Epley (6-4, 185); and junior Courtney Frazier (6-6, 240).

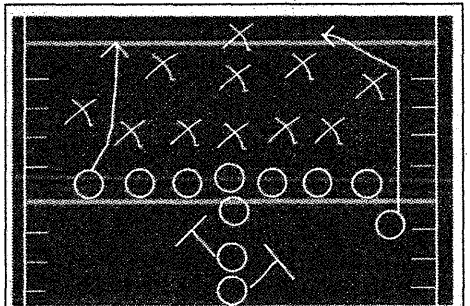
The only known O-line starters as of last week were senior tackle Matt DeWater (6-2, 210) and junior tackle Andrew Grabowski (6-3, 250).

Several spots on the defensive side of the ball were also up for grabs as of last week. However, six seniors have already earned starting berths: defensive linemen Tom Engle (6-2, 225) and Corey Needham; linebackers Brandt Thomas (5-9, 210), Justin Bader (6-1, 230) and Justin Burke (5-10, 190); and defensive back Robert Moelich (6-1, 190), who will also serve as the team's place-kicker.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior quarterback Heath Parling should get plenty of opportunities to put the ball in the air thanks to the Rocks' new "spread" offense. Parling gained valuable experience at QB for the Rocks as a sophomore in 2006.



FAST FACTS

School: Plymouth Salem

Head coach: Parker Salowich, second year

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division)

2006 record: 0-9

Key returners: Anthony Mullins, Jr. RB; Jeremy Epley, Sr. WR/LB; Jesse Pointer, Sr. WR; Brandt Thomas, Sr. LB; Heath Parling, Jr. QB

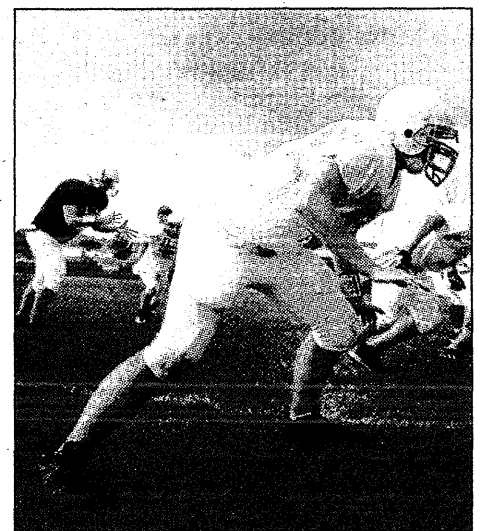
Promising newcomers: Robert Moelich, Sr. DB/K; Courtney Frazier, Jr. WR

Coach's quote: "We only have 12 seniors this year, but it's a committed, dedicated group of seniors and the younger players are following their lead."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	at Pinckney	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	PLYMOUTH	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	STEVENSON	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Churchill	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	W.L. CENTRAL	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	W.L. NORTHERN	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	at John Glenn	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	WLAA CROSSOVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	CANTON	TBA

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



Salem quarterback Heath Parling calls out the signals as the defensive and offensive linemen prepare to react during a Rocks' practice last week.

Short-handed Spartans will do double duty

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Looking out onto the football field during a recent practice, Redford Covenant head coach Darrin Blockett didn't see much activity.

With only 20 players on the squad, Blockett and his Spartan assistant coaches might find themselves feeling lonely on the sidelines during game days. But he expects good things out of the athletes who are in uniform.

"If we stay healthy, I think we'll do fine," Blockett said. "... We're going to have to play ironman football."

It doesn't hurt that three major pieces of the '06 offense are back, wide receivers Anthony Davis, Jamonne Chester and tailback Dominique Williams. Davis, the team's quarterback much of last year, and Chester bring speed and savvy and could routinely break off long runs after making receptions. They'll be the top targets of senior quarterback Tony Harrison, a strong-armed transfer from Detroit Mumford.

"He (Harrison) is fearless," Blockett said. "At his age, you don't see too many quarterbacks throw it to the middle of the field."

In the backfield will be Williams, who gained about 750 yards in '06 despite missing two games due to injury. The coach expects Williams to be most-effective in short-yardage situations.

Senior transfer Wayne Nichols is described by Blockett as "a speedster, a home-run hitter." He will also return punts and kickoffs.

Helping provide time and space for the offensive bulwarks will be junior all-conference guard Gary Coe, Jr. (5-9, 220), returning guard Justin Cain, tackle Johnathan Edwards and center Mal Porties, who started six games last year as a freshman. All four will see double-duty on defense.

Speaking of defense, the Spartans will bank on another fine year from linebacker Greg Lowe, whose five interceptions last year led the squad. Davis, Chester and Nichols will spearhead the secondary, while Williams and Coe will help out Lowe at linebacker.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Covenant head coach Darrin Blockett and players work hard on drills even as the sun starts to lower in the sky above them.

FAST FACTS

School: Redford Covenant.
Head coach: Darrin Blockett, second season.
League: Southern Michigan Conference.
2006 record: 3-5.
Key losses: Stephen Chester (lineman, second-team All-Area); Poncho Pittaway (lineman); Donovan Crowell (fullback/linebacker).

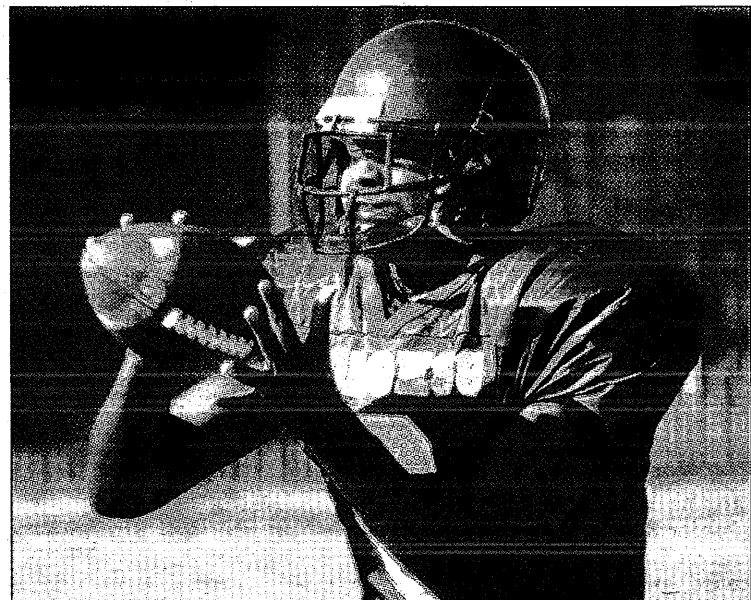
Returning starters: Anthony Davis, Sr. WR-DB (honorable mention All-Area); Jamonne Chester, Jr. WR-FS (honorable mention All-Area); Gary Coe, Jr. Jr. OG-LB; Dominique Williams, Soph., RB-LB; Justin Cain, Jr. OG-DT; Mal Porties, Soph. C-DL.

Promising newcomers: Tony Harrison, Sr. QB (transfer from Detroit Mumford); Wayne Nichols, Sr. RB-SS (transfer from Oak Park).

Coach's quote: "If we stay healthy, I think we'll do fine. That's because our numbers are lower than last year. ... We're going to have to play ironman football."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	UNIVERSITY PREP ACADEMY	4 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Galesburg	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	OLD REDFORD ACADEMY	1 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Romulus Summit	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Star International	4 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Southfield Christian	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Parkway Christian	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	MT. ZION	1 p.m.
Oct. 20	ECORSE	1 p.m.
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS		



Multi-talented Jamonne Chester is back to hopefully lift Redford Covenant toward the top of the conference.



Young Eagles look for swift improvement

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Defensive strength up the middle also applies in football, and Redford Thurston varsity head football coach Bob Snell is hopeful that means his Eagles will improve on last year's 2-7 record in the Mega Blue.

"We think we're in pretty good shape there," said Snell about his core of tackle Ron Rice, linebackers Jarmel Bloodsaw and Michael Hines and "very good" free safety Jose McNeal.

The defense also will feature returning seniors Devin Lindsey and Mark Tucker at defensive end, junior Reece Boyd at outside linebacker, and defensive backs Kyle Crockett, Deon Freeman and Kyron Nelson. They will be tested immediately, with early season road games at Highland Park and Inkster.

Meanwhile, Thurston's offense figures to be steady, although Snell is still trying to iron out his complete lineup. He won't have Arron Payne and Brian Walker racking up the yardage, but instead will look for contributions from Bloodsaw at halfback. "Jarmel's very athletic, he's a big kid for that position and he can catch the ball."

Also at halfback are De'Andre Alexander and Crockett, with Thurston to fill fullback duties "by committee" - McNeal, Hines, Bryton Richardson and Chris Turner.

Boyd and junior Ryan Smith are in the mix to play quarterback, with Boyd the No. 1 because of varsity experience. "Both are good ball-handlers and good decision-makers," Snell said.

They will throw toward a "nice target" in 6-4, 220-pound junior tight end Cameron Mitchell. There isn't a clear-cut favorite at split end yet, with contenders being junior Vanier Joseph, Freeman and Nelson.

The main guy up front will be 6-6, 270-pound Tucker, who Snell said is getting attention from Division 1 colleges. "He's 6-6 and he can move."

Junior Robert Tolentino (center), Lindsey and Redding (guard) and either senior Matt Ainsworth or junior Cary Ferrara will round out the rest of the O-line.



Senior halfback Jarmel Bloodsaw, shown demonstrating his speed and agility during workouts, probably is Redford Thurston's offensive go-to player this season.

FAST FACTS

School: Redford Thurston.
Head coach: Bob Snell, 20th season.
League: Mega Conference (Blue).
2006 record: 2-7.
Key losses: Arron Payne (first-team All-Area); Brian Walker (second-team All-Area); Jordan Stoll (honorable mention All-Area); Lantz Washington (honorable mention All-Area).
Returning starters: Jarmel Bloodsaw, Sr. LB-HB; Reece Boyd, Jr. QB-LB; Kyle Crockett, Sr. DB-HB; Michael Hines, Jr. LB-FB; Devin Lindsey, Sr. OL-DL; Jose McNeal, Jr. FB-S; Ron Rice, Sr., DT; Mark Tucker, Sr., OL-DL.

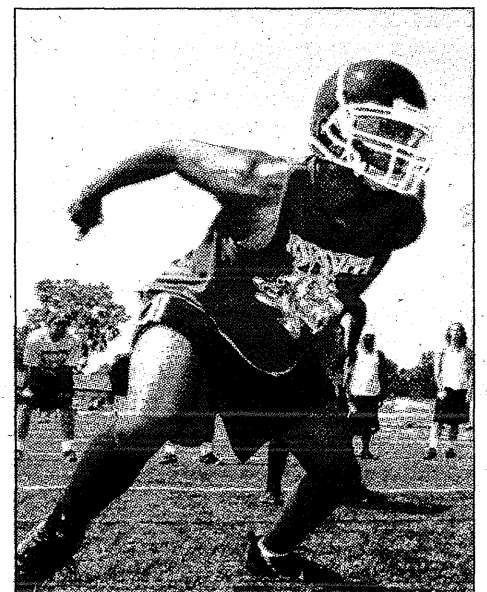
Promising newcomers: Cameron Mitchell, Jr. TE; De'Andre Alexander, Jr. HB-LB; Deon Freeman, Jr. DB; Kyron Nelson, Jr. CB; Anthony Miller, Sr. DT.

Coach's quote: "I think the 2-7 (record) is somewhat misleading. We were not a good team at the beginning of the year, but we were very, very inexperienced. And as the season went on, we became a pretty good team."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	WARREN LINCOLN	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Highland Park	4 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Inkster	1 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Dearborn Edsel Ford	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	GARDEN CITY	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Ypsilanti	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	MELVINDALE	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	ROMULUS	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	REDFORD UNION	7 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



Redford Thurston lineman Mark Tucker works on his physical skills.



Panthers eager to tackle another playoff spot

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Despite having inexperience to overcome at several key positions, Redford Union coach Miles Tomasaitis is convinced his Panthers will yet again be very competitive in 2007.

Whether or not that translates into a fourth consecutive playoff berth remains to be seen, but Tomasaitis can't wait for the football season to begin.

"It's a challenge," said Tomasaitis, asked about going after another postseason berth in the very tough Mega White. "Our first goal is to be league champions. We have the capability, we have the ability and it will be how quick we come together as a team and how quick our quarterbacks develop."

Three players vying for the top quarterback spot are senior Jim Cooke, a tight end in 2006, and juniors Eric Angsten and Julian Ravera (both on the JV last year).

"He (Cooke) worked pretty hard over the summer," the coach said. "He's very strong-armed and has decent accuracy."

Meanwhile, Angsten is showing himself to be a "capable leader" while Ravera is quick and has nice touch on throws.

Whoever wins the job will be protected by a line featuring seniors Derek Favaro, Ron Johnson II (a transfer from Southfield-Lathrup), Tim Curry, Dave Geiger, juniors Tony Iltis, Mike Bratcher and Matt Riley. Several will also see duty on the defensive line.

Expected to gain big chunks of yardage will be senior halfbacks Yourye Wilson and Ryan Cooper and promising junior fullback David Caloia - who hopefully will combine to help make up for the graduation of Dezmond Latham.

Among RU's receiving corps are sophomore Keith Mitchell and junior Quentin Peterson, with senior tight end Bruce Rembert also a go-to guy.

The Panthers' defense will be athletic and deep, led by Cooke, Curry and Bratcher at linebacker and Yourye Wilson, Marshall, Peterson and senior Nick Wilson in the secondary.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Union players square off during practice drills as the Panthers work on preparations for Friday's season opener.

FAST FACTS

School: Redford Union.
Head coach: Miles Tomasaitis, seventh season.
League: Mega Conference (White).
2006 record: 6-4.
Key losses: Dezmond Latham (first-team All-Area); Robert Pennywitt (first-team All-Area); Isaac Burris (first-team All-Area); Jason Matties (honorable

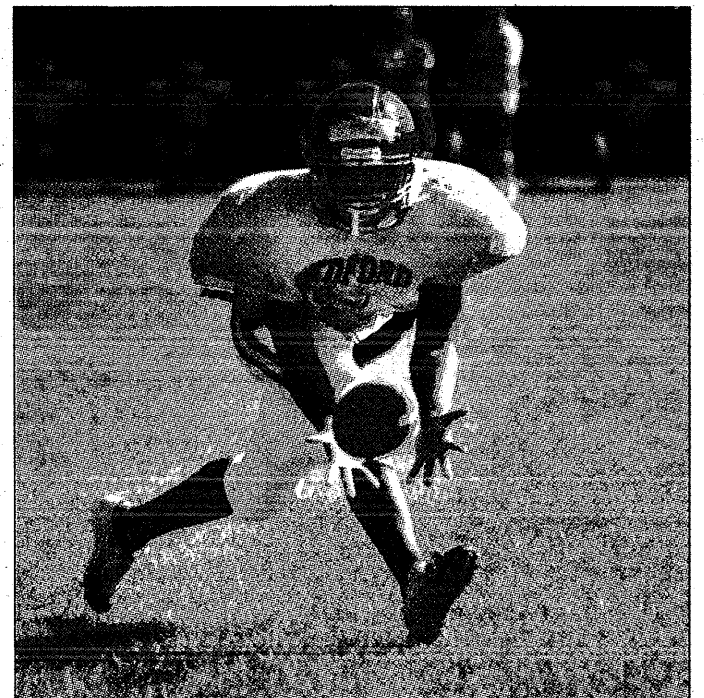
mention All-Area); Rob Carmichael; Kevin Thomas (honorable mention All-Area); Alex Schwagle.

Returning starters: Derek Favaro, Sr. OG-DE; Yourye Wilson, Sr. RB-LB (second-team All-Area); Mike Bratcher, Jr. OT-LB (honorable mention All-Area); Ryan Cooper, Sr. RB; Jim Cooke, Sr. LB; Bruce Rembert, Sr. TE; Tim Curry, Sr. OT-LB; Keith Marshall, Soph. DB;
Promising newcomers: David Caloia, Jr. FB; Ron Johnson, Sr. C-DL (transfer from Southfield-Lathrup); Julian Ravera, Jr. QB; Eric Angsten, Jr. QB.

Coach's quote: "It's a challenge (to make the playoffs four years in a row). Our first goal is to be league champions. We have the capability, we have the ability. It will be how quick we come together as a team and how quick our quarterbacks develop."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 DEARBORN HEIGHTS CRESTWOOD 7 p.m.
Aug. 30 at Wyandotte Roosevelt 7 p.m.
Sept. 7 WOODHAVEN 7 p.m.
Sept. 14 DEARBORN FORDSON 7 p.m.
Sept. 21 GIBRALTAR CARLSON 7 p.m.
Sept. 28 TRENTON 7 p.m.
Oct. 5 at Taylor Kennedy 7 p.m.
Oct. 12 at Lincoln Park 7 p.m.
Oct. 19 at Redford Thurston 7 p.m.
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS



One of Redford Union's offensive sparkplugs is senior RB Yourye Wilson.

Zebras need to cash in when opportunity arises

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Personnel-wise, the 2007 edition of the Wayne Memorial football team doesn't have a lot of question marks.

But fifth-year coach Craig Hnatuk doesn't hesitate to talk about his concerns when quizzed about his team's outlook following a 5-4 season in 2006.

"We moved the ball on everybody pretty much last year, but we need to score for red zone purposes," Hnatuk said. "We've got to score when the time comes. Last year we either fumbled or made mistakes.

"Defensively, our secondary has got to be able to make plays and shut down opposing passing games. We cannot give up the big play."

Optimism, however, is running high in Zebra-land with the return of D.J. Freeman, a 5-10, 185-pound senior quarterback.

"His arm strength is so much stronger than last year," Hnatuk said. "He's a threat to run or throw. He's reading coverages better. He's just so much more mature. He's a great leader with a great work ethic."

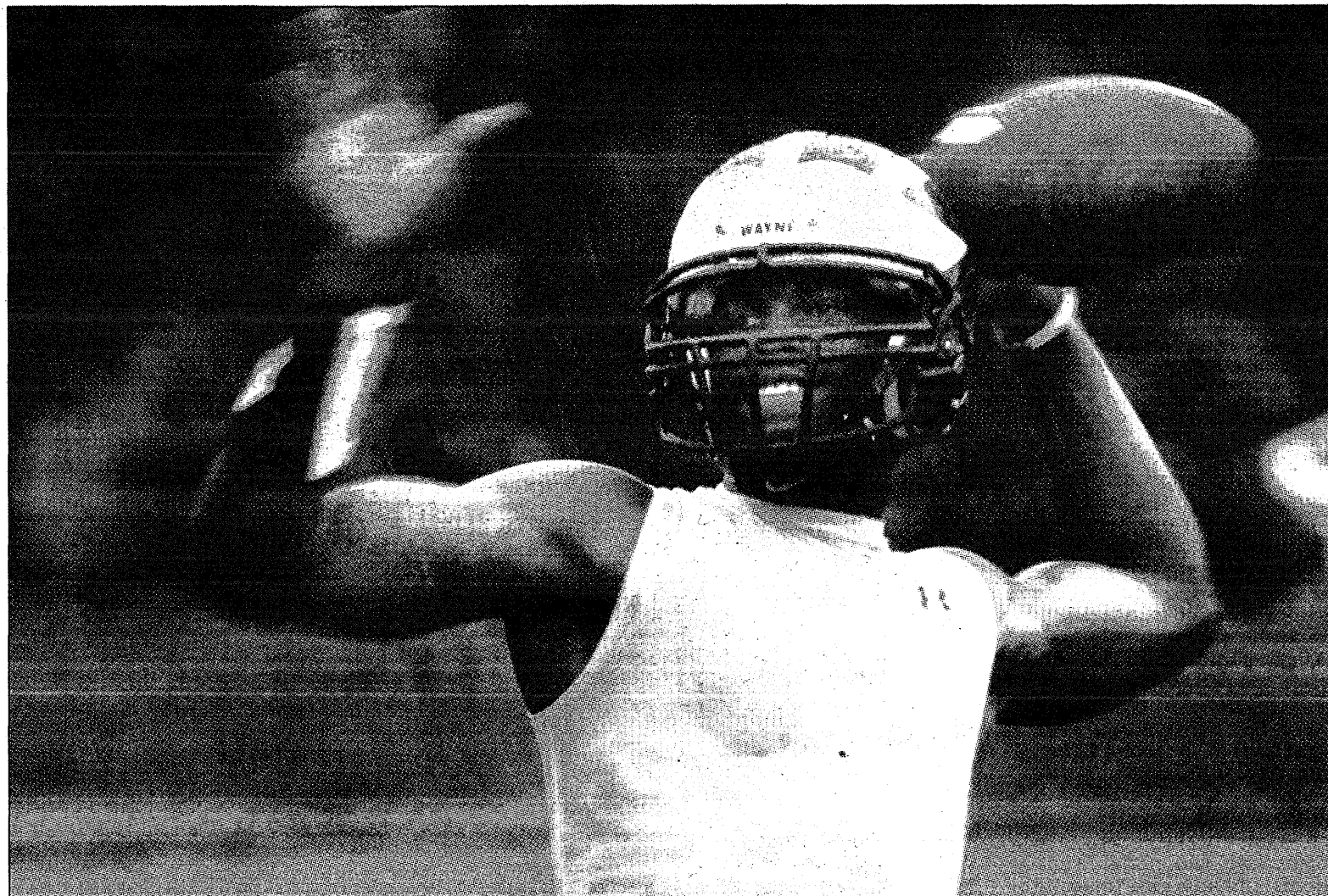
Meanwhile, younger brother Allan, a 5-9, 180-pound junior, rushed for 970 yards last season. Junior Antwain Calloway (5-11, 160) will be also threat at wide receiver.

"We have some outstanding skill players," Hnatuk said.

Wayne's offensive line led by right tackle Mike Davis (6-2, 270) and right guard Zak Kyle (6-2, 265), a pair of seniors who should create space and holes.

And speaking of defense, junior linebacker Alex Bledsoe (5-11, 190) leads the way. He is joined by seven returning starters - senior linebacker Josh Gonzales (6-0, 204), senior nose guard Dwayne Davenport (5-11, 215), senior lineman Nate Mosely (6-2, 265), Kyle, and junior safety Anthony Baskin (6-1, 190) and senior safety Eric Butler (6-0, 195).

"Alex (Bledsoe) is the leader of our defense," Hnatuk said. "He's old-school, he's tough. He's got a full year under his belt. Thank God we have him for two more years."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial's D.J. Freeman is both a threat to pass or run as the Zebras hope to better last year's 5-4 record.

FAST FACTS

School: Wayne Memorial.

Head coach: Craig Hnatuk, fifth season.

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).

2006 record: 5-4.

Key losses: Josh Perusse (first-team All-Area); Brad Leverenz (first-team All-Area); Josh Thayer.

Returning starters: D.J. Freeman, Sr. QB-K (second-team All-Area); Allan Freeman, Jr. RB-DB; Mike Davis, Sr. RT; Zak Kyle, Sr. RG-DL; Antwain Calloway, Jr. WR; Josh

Gonzales, Sr. OLB; Dwayne Davenport, Sr. NG; Alex Bledsoe, Jr. LB; Nate Mosely, Sr. DL; Anthony Baskin, Jr. S; Eric Butler, Sr. S.

Promising newcomers: Eric Williams, Jr. WR; C.J. Johnson, Jr. WR; Eric Story, Jr. LT; Jordan Dotter, Sr. C; Richard Haley, Jr. LB; Corey Campbell, Sr. CB; Ramsey Hart, Jr. P.

Coach's quote: "One of our strengths are our physical toughness. Our guys are sticking their nose in there. There's no fear. These guys love a physical brand of football. There are no 'gimmees' in our (Western) Division. It's as good as I've seen. We'll have to play our tails off."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	at Jackson	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	W.L. CENTRAL	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Plymouth	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	FRANKLIN	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Northville	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	W.L. WESTERN	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Canton	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at WLAA crossover	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	JOHN GLENN	7 p.m.
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS		



Wayne's line play should be formidable once again following a 5-4 season.



Rockets believe time is now to reverse fortunes

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Two consecutive losing seasons obviously doesn't sit well with Westland John Glenn coach Todd DeLuca.

That hasn't happened in the fabled Glenn program since 1979-80 when the Rockets went 4-5 and 4-5.

"To be honest, back-to-back 3-6 seasons is a nightmare," the fourth-year coach said. "We're trying to improve our mental toughness to get back to where we were. I've pushed the envelope. With our conditioning, we've pushed them harder physically than any other team."

Glenn's offensive fortunes rest with speedy 6-foot, 176-pound senior quarterback Keshawn Martin, who moves over from wide receiver after starting the final game of the season.

Martin is complemented in the backfield by senior running back C.J. Woodford (5-10, 173). Meanwhile, senior Ryan Lopez (6-0, 200) moves from tight end to fullback.

The Rockets will run a spread formation on passing situations.

"We'll always be an I-formation team," DeLuca said. "But we'll go to the spread to when we throw the ball to create one-on-one situations."

The offensive line is keyed by senior left guard Greg Bevel (6-1, 210). Senior center Jon Gillis (6-3, 215) will also start.

"We have to be tough up, move people around and get our four yards," DeLuca said. "That's always a key for us. How our offensive line develops and the way we're able to handle defensive front will determine our success."

Lopez, a returnee at linebacker, spearheads the defense along with Martin and Woodford, two solid DBs.

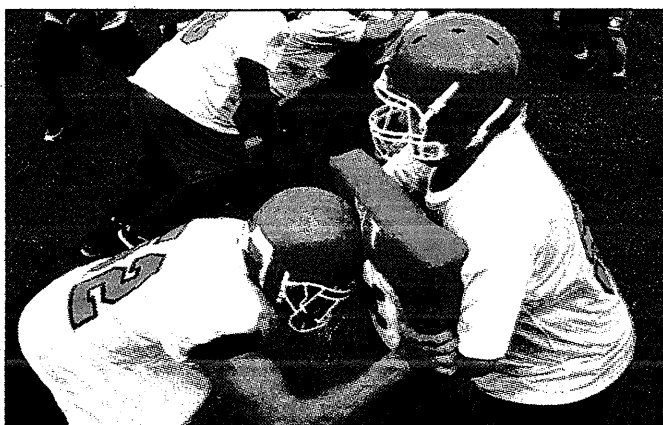
"Ryan is solid as a rock for us," DeLuca said.

Senior Scott Brown (5-11, 180) will make an impact at outside linebacker, while senior Joey Kowtko (5-10, 210) can play inside. Twins John (6-4, 220) and James Abraham (6-4, 235) will anchor the defensive line, along with Sonak at nose guard.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRÉSLEK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn could have a potent backfield combination with quarterback Keshawn Martin (right) and running back Charles Woodford (left).



Glenn linemen use the pads during opening week of practice.

FAST FACTS

School: Westland John Glenn.
Head coach: Todd DeLuca, fourth season.

League: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
2006 record: 3-6.

Key losses: Jerry Smith (first-team All-Area); Frank Toarmina (first-team All-Area); Shawn Murphy (second-team All-Area); Ian Thornton, Antonio Smith, Nick Ajlouny, Ryan Wakeford, Andrew Hein.

Returning starters: Keshawn Martin, Sr. QB-DB; Charles Woodford, Sr. RB-DB; Ryan Lopez, Sr. FB-LB; Greg Bevel, Sr. LG; Victor Sanders, Sr. K-P-DB-WR.

Promising newcomers: Dazz Bragg, Jr. RB; Jon Gillis, Sr. C; Adam Sonak, Sr. TE-WR-NG; Scott Brown, Sr. OLB; John Abraham, Sr. DL; James Abraham, Sr. DL; Joey Kowtko, Sr. ILB.

Coach's quote: "Last year we were one or two plays away from being a 6-3 or 7-2 team. Last year we were 11th or 12th in our league in points score. Defensively we were the third-best team in the league in points against. I like the way our team has worked so far. They've bought into what we're doing."

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24	vs. Franklin (at EMU)	8 p.m.
Aug. 30	at Canton	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	W.L. NORTHERN	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Stevenson	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Churchill	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at W.L. Central	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	SALEM	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	WLAA CROSSOVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Wayne	7 p.m.

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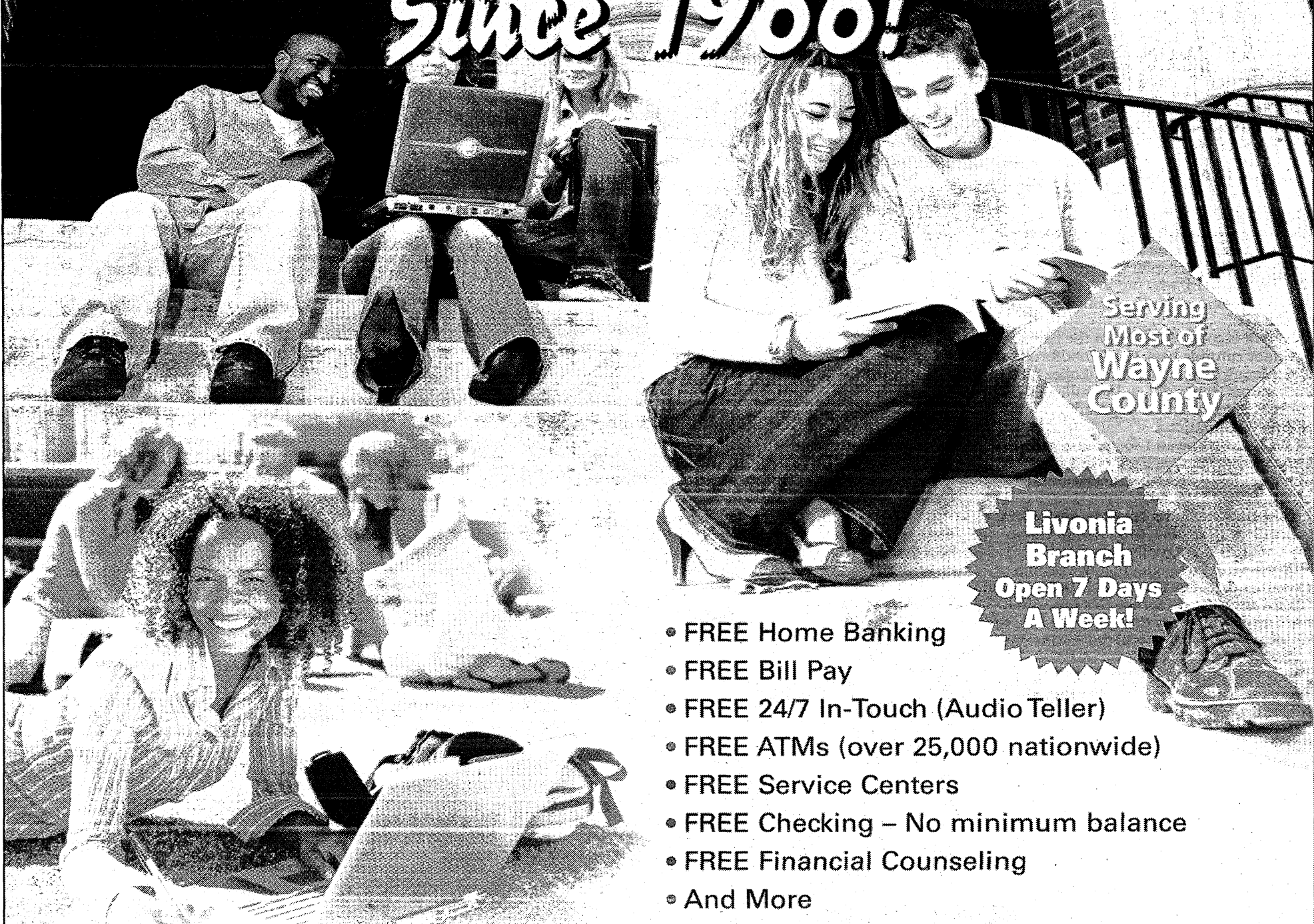
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