

Guide to Higher Education

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New Sunday Editorial Page - A9

Flu clinics to test emergency preparedness

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SUNDAY
September 9, 2007

PLYMOUTH Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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Food flies off shelves as need increases

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Old Mother Hubbard had nothing on the Plymouth Salvation Army.

After a weeks-long siege on the corps' pantry, and with economic times not showing any sign of turning around, Salvation Army officials are looking for help in restocking its empty shelves.

Food requests have been "out of control," officials said, to the point where many of the pantry's staples are gone. The pantry, which feeds needy families in the corps' coverage area of Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is practically bare just weeks after the postal food drive had restocked it.

Families who use the pantry typically get three bags of groceries per visit. Pantry director Tammy Moyer said she's averaging about 25 sets a week lately.

"We've never had it go down this quickly," Moyer said. "A lot of it is jobs, gas ... people are spending more money on gas. We've had people telling us gas prices are killing them, so they pay everything else and then come here for food."

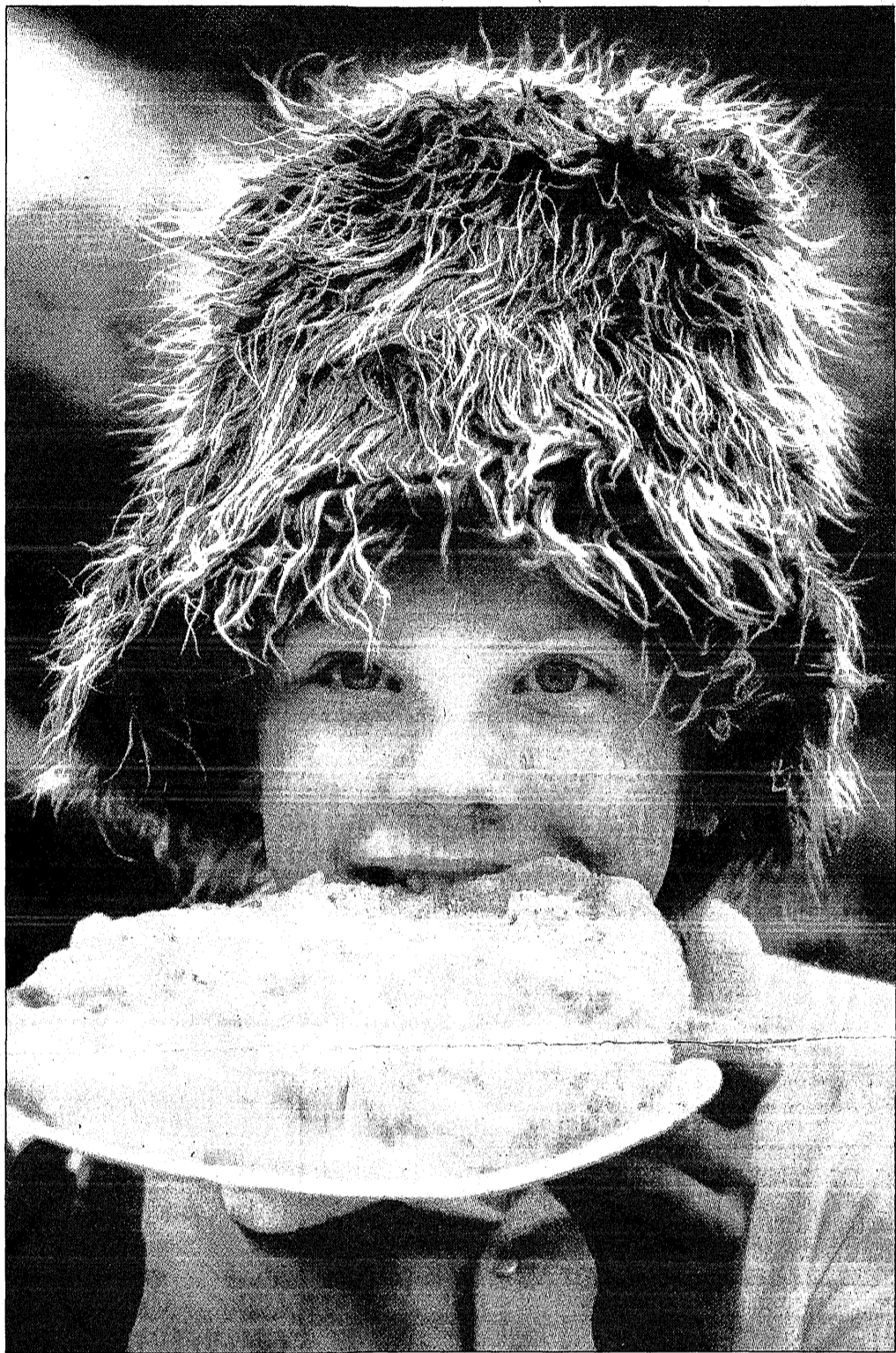
The pantry welcomes donations of all sorts of nonperishable foods, paper goods, toiletries, etc. Among the "staples" that have run completely out, Moyer said, are Hamburger Helper meals, instant rice, instant potatoes, Rice-A-Roni and Pasta Roni, any kind of crackers, instant gelatin and pudding mixes, pancake and cake mixes, jellies/jams, toilet paper, baby wipes and diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6).

Moyer said the economy has hit the area so hard they're getting requests for food from people of all walks of life.

"We've had teachers, real estate people ... all types of people are coming," Moyer said. "It isn't the perception that people might think, that it's only people on welfare. It's all kinds."

Anyone wishing to donate items can drop them off at the Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main (on the west side of the street just south of Ann Arbor Road). For more information, call Moyer at (734) 453-5464.

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(734) 459-2700



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom Kowalkski enjoys an elephant ear early Friday evening. Tom won the hat playing a game of skill. Fall Festival opened with gray and threatening skies, but by 5:30 the sun was shining.

Friends and neighbors gather for Fall Festival fun

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Whether you're young or old, the Plymouth Fall Festival is the one time of year where you can gather with friends, and meet up with those you haven't seen for ages.

The Fall Festival originated with the idea of bringing the Plymouth community together, and those at this year's event continue the tradition.

"We come here every year, and I always see people from high school," said Amy Wilczewski, 30, of Northville, who grew up in Plymouth and graduated from Salem High School. "We like to bring the (four) kids, and we'll probably be back."

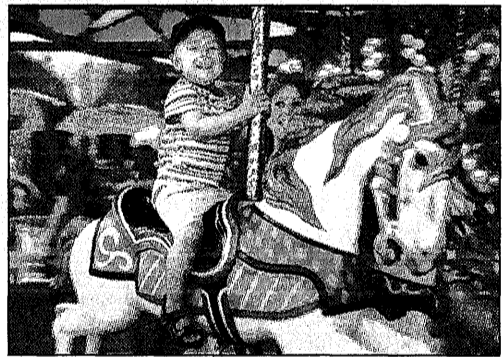
Wilczewski's husband, Matt, 41, lamented the fact he couldn't shoot a basketball through a hoop for a prize.

"It was in, and it bounced out," Matt Wilczewski said. "It was a real small rim."

Fourteen-year-old Derek Austin of Plymouth Township said he looks forward each year to the Fall Festival.

"I come every year ... the rides are fun, the games are pretty cheap and the food is good," Austin said. "I like to hang out with my friends."

One of the aims of the Fall Festival is to



Hunter Lentz isn't quite 2 years old, but he knows how to have a good time. His mom, Lynn Hunter, helps him hang on.

help local nonprofit groups raise money for their programs.

"The money we make helps support all the projects we do, like the Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor, the Leader Dog program and Lions Park in the city," said Plymouth Lions President Gary Kerstens. "It's also very important to show our presence in the community."

For 80-year-old Norine Miller of Plymouth Township, there's only one event she's inter-

Please see **FESTIVAL, A2**

Falling AYP scores still nail targets

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Four of 15 elementary schools in the Plymouth-Canton school district saw annual adequate yearly progress grades fall from an A to a B, according to the latest figures released by the Michigan Department of Education.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS		
AYP Status and School Report Card Grades 2006-2007 School Year		
Middle Schools		
School	AYP Status	Composite Grade
Central	Yes	A
Discovery	Yes	A
East	Yes	A
Pioneer	Yes	A
West	Yes	A
Elementary Schools		
School	AYP Status	Composite Grade
Allen	Yes	B
Bentley	Yes	A
Bird	Yes	A
Dodson	Yes	A
Eriksson	Yes	A
Farrand	Yes	B
Fiegel	Yes	B
Field	Yes	B
Gallimore	Yes	A
Hoben	Yes	A
Huising	Yes	A
Isbister	Yes	A
Miller	Yes	A
Smith	Yes	A
Tonda	Yes	A
Workman	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

The AYP reports are part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which is designed to ensure that by the 2013-14 school year all public school students will be proficient in assessment tests such as the Michigan Education Assessment Program. Other factors in meeting AYP include school improvement plans, professional development for teachers and parental involvement in the schools.

The four schools which saw their grades drop were Allen, Farrand, Field and Fiegel elementary. However, despite the change, the schools passed federal student achievement targets.

Please see **SCORES, A4**



O&E seeks 'SuperMoms' for new Web site

MichiganMoms.com - a place for moms to meet, exchange ideas

Are you faster than a sprinting 2-year-old? More powerful than a schoolyard bully? Able to leap in reaction to a single 'ow'? Look, there in the mini-van. How does she stay sane? ... It's SuperMom!

The *Observer & Eccentric* is joining www.MichiganMoms.com, and we're looking for SuperMoms to join our online community.

MichiganMoms.com is a brand new Web site that allows parents to connect in cyberspace over issues that hit close to home. It follows the lead of

other social networking sites such as MySpace or Facebook that connect people with similar interests.

The site includes articles relevant to local families, a calendar of events full of family-friendly activities and photo galleries posted by proud parents themselves.

Above all, it features Mom-to-Mom message boards that touch on topics relevant to parents from all walks of life, with children of all ages.

Please see **SUPERMOMS, A4**

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Number 6



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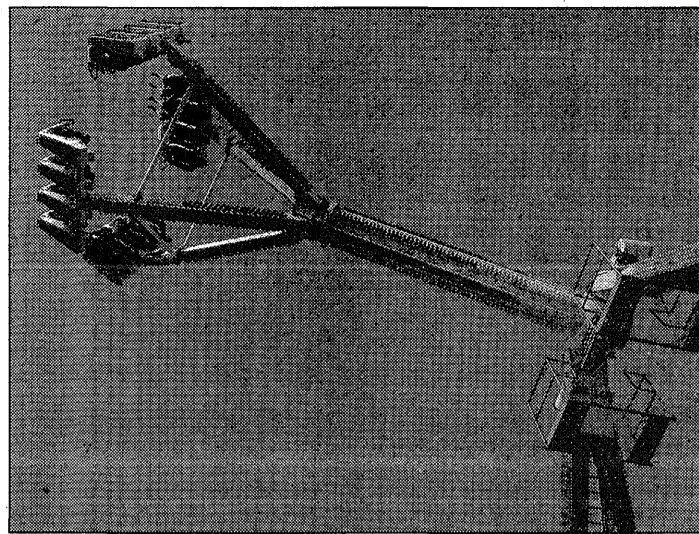
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Coming Thursday
in **Filter**



Comedian Artie Lange, a regular on 'The Howard Stern Show,' visits the Fox Theatre Sept. 15.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A carnival ride looms over downtown Plymouth like some prehistoric creature.

Cozy Cafe runs its course

After three decades, landmark restaurant closes its doors

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Mary Mesko of Canton Township sat in a wrought iron chair outside the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth Thursday afternoon, trying to come to terms with the fact she was out of a job at a place where she loved to work.

Mesko, as did a few other employees, just received her final check from manager Stacey Murdock, who a week earlier padlocked the restaurant after more than 30 years.

"I'm going to miss it," said Mesko, who worked as a waitress at the Cozy Cafe the past 16 years, in a barely audible voice. "The restaurant was unique and different, a very friendly place, very nice customers."

"You knew who they were, you knew what they wanted. Some just came here because everybody was so nice to them," reminisced Mesko. "I'm just so sick about it."

Tom and Joyce Murdock of Plymouth Township bought the landmark restaurant about a year ago. Their daughter and manager, Stacey Murdock, said there were a few issues, not the least of which was the state's economy, that resulted in closing the restaurant.

"It was an elderly market that was coming in here, and

they are either moving away or not coming anymore," Murdock said. "Dad had the intention of putting in a grill and making it a better restaurant, but there are a lot of things that need to be done to this building, which hasn't been updated since it opened 30 years ago."

"We might open it as another restaurant, or maybe a wine shop," she said. "But, Cozy Cafe has run its course."

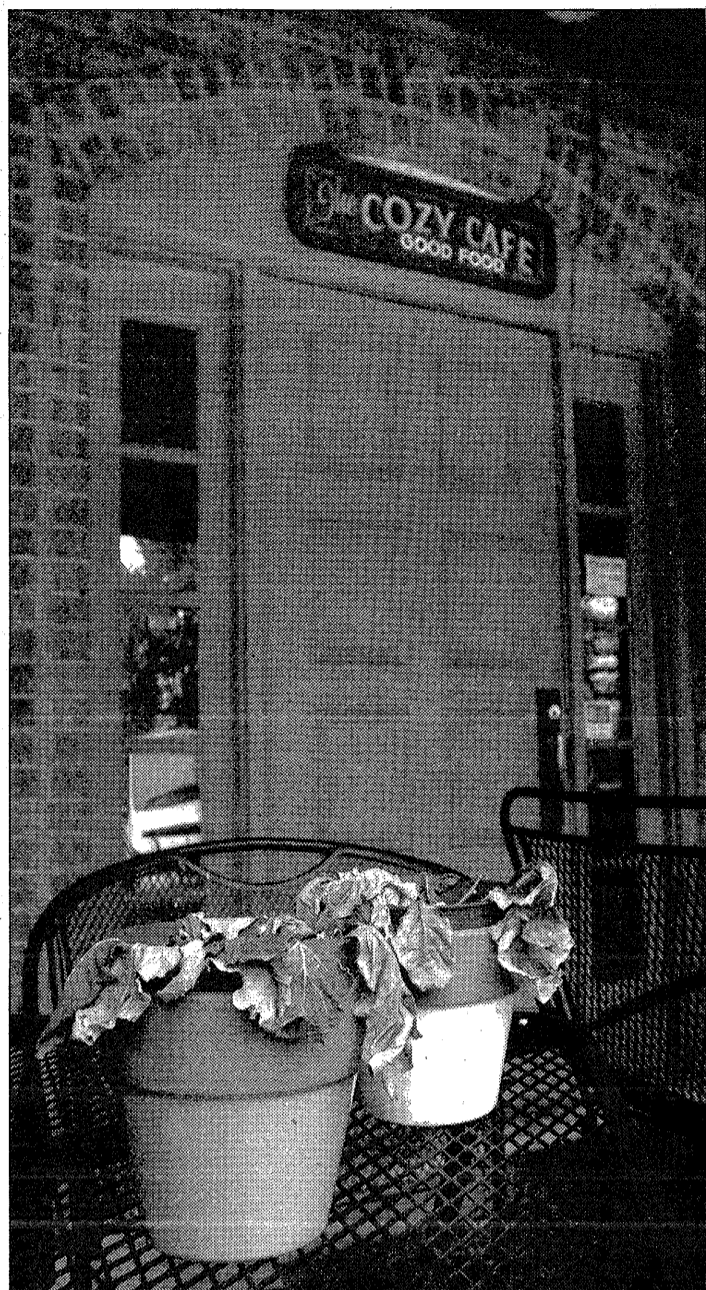
Would-be customers periodically walked up to the locked door, only to find out from a dishwasher waiting for his final check the eatery was closed. Among those were 88-year-old Mary Slucter and 87-year-old Bernie Rish, both of Farmington Hills, who wanted to celebrate the recent birthday of their friend, Bonnie Recht, 96, of Novi.

"We loved their salads and desserts; it's been here a long time, and we have, too," said Slucter, who has patronized the Cozy Cafe the past 15 years. "I'm sorry to see an old landmark go by the wayside."

For many, the old restaurant — with its linen table cloths and home-cooked meals — symbolized what the name was all about.

"Cozy Cafe was the perfect name for it," added Rish. "It was kind of cozy."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dried-up plants on outdoor tables are an obvious sign that the Cozy Cafe has closed.

FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE A1

ested in — Friday night Bingo in The Gathering, sponsored by the Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club.

"I try to play bingo every year, it helps out the professional women," Miller said. "But, I generally don't venture out to the rest of the festival."

The Fall Festival ends today at 6 p.m., with the Rotary Club of Plymouth's Barbecue Chicken Dinner, music in Kellogg Park and carnival rides and games.



Plymouth Saberette Brittany Rose displays goodies for sale at the pom-pom squad's Fall Festival booth.

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PUPs auditions

The Plymouth Uptown Players will hold auditions for children ages 5-13. Fall-season auditions take place 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12-13, with rehearsals 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, Sept. 16 to Dec. 2. Production week is Dec. 3-6 with performances the week-end of Dec. 7-9. Auditions for winter season take place 6:30 p.m. Jan. 16-17, with rehearsals Jan. 20-April 20. Production week is April 21-25 with performances the weekend of April 26-27. An annual membership to the Plymouth Community Arts Council (\$30) is required. The 16 fall sessions cost \$140; the 18 winter sessions cost \$160. For more information, call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

Safety seat clinic

The Plymouth Township Police Department hosts a free child safety seat clinic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Plymouth Township Police Department, located at 9955 N. Haggerty. The inspections will be by appointment only, and limited space is available. If you would like to have your child's seat inspected by a national certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, make an appointment by calling Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3243.

AAUW meets

The American Association of University Women September program takes place 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the clubhouse of Country Club Village.

The featured speaker, Dr. Leonard Kaplan, will talk about "Education Today and Tomorrow." The meeting is open to the public. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served.

Contact Harriet Sawyer at (734) 420-3270 for more information.

Book signing

Author Cheril Hallwood of Forever Young Publishers will sign copies of her newest children's picture book *The Curious Polka-Dot Present* at Michigan Made & More in downtown Plymouth 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15.

The author will also have copies of her book *Winter's First Snowflake*, which won

a Mom's Choice Award, available. Michigan Made & More is located at 830 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. For more information, go to Hallwood's Web site at www.foreveryoungpublishers.com

Corriveau hours

State Representative Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, invites residents to talk with him about any issues or concerns during his upcoming office and coffee hours in Plymouth. Corriveau will hold an office hour on Monday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Friends Room at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St.

Corriveau also is planning a coffee hour this month. He will meet with residents on Monday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Three Brothers Restaurant, 8825 General Road in Plymouth.

Businesses or organizations who would like to schedule an event with Corriveau should contact his office at (877) 20TH-REP (208-4737) or send e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov

Patterson hours

Sue Trussell, the district representative for State Sen. Bruce Patterson, will conduct office hours 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road.

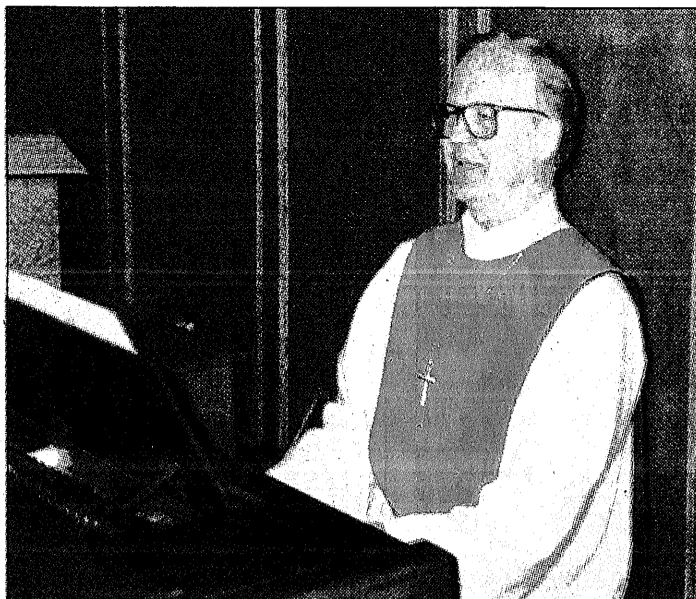
All are welcome. For more information, call Trussell at (734) 558-0367.

Newcomers mixer

The Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors Club hosts its annual Membership Kick-Off Mixer 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Box Bar in Plymouth.

This mixer is free, open to everyone and is a great opportunity for prospective members to meet existing members. The winners of the club's Children's Coloring Contest from the Plymouth Fall Festival will be announced and presented with a prize. Appetizers will be served with a cash bar.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Eileen Ganster at (734) 737-0385, programming@plymouthnewcomers.com or visit the group's Web site at www.plymouthnewcomers.com



Heavenly selections

Canton's Curtis Mathison will present a concert of organ and piano music at First United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16. Mathison recently completed 31 years as organist of the church, which is located in downtown Wayne at 3 Town Square. Since 1999, his concerts have become a biennial event. The organ selections will include music by Bach, Franck, Widor and others. Piano pieces will include spirituals and hymns, as well as Debussy's 'The Sunken Cathedral'; Chopin's 'Ballade in A-Flat'; and Mendelssohn's 'Serious Variations.' Mathison, who holds a doctorate in music education, has given concerts in five states and has more than 30 students in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. The concert will have a freewill offering, and will be followed by light refreshments.

Making customers happy

The City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, along with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Northville Chamber of Commerce, hosts Ruby Newell-Legner, at the Plymouth Cultural Center for a special presentation of her workshop "The Secrets to Keeping Our Customers Happy!"

The program will be presented 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Newell-Legner's program is designed for small businesses and their employees. It is an interactive experience which includes brainstorming, checklists, small group discussion and activities that will improve internal and external customer relationships.

Newell-Legner is a customer satisfaction expert that has been invited to teach guest relations for major events such as Super Bowl ZXLI and the upcoming 2010 Olympics. She is a certified Speaking Professional, a designation bestowed by the National Speaker Association to less

information, contact Kathy or Kate at Carlson Wagonlit Travel, (734) 455-5810.

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.

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.

Bilingual Fun Family Fiesta

Enjoy an afternoon of culture by celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month with Bilingual Fun (45000 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth) from 4-6 p.m., Sept. 22.

This local language company will be featuring songs, games, Spanish lessons from their bilingual educators, a sampling of Mexican cuisine from Canton's newest Mexican eatery, Mariachi Mexico, and professional Latin ballroom

dance presentations and lessons from master dance professionals. Bring your family and sing, dance, eat, and learn Spanish.

Visit www.bilingualfun.com for more information, or call (734) 748-3898. Tickets are \$10 adults (if purchased in advance), and \$12 at the door. Children 10 and under get in free.

Spotlight Players

The Spotlight Players present *Carousel*, Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29 at 8 p.m., and Sundays, Sept. 23, and Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. at The Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton (corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge; use stage door at rear).

Registration is at 6:30 p.m. Bring a non-returnable photo and resume. Specifics at www.spotlightplayers.net or call (734) 480-4945.

Beautification awards

Nominations are being sought for the Chamber's Annual Business Beautification Awards.

For the past 10 years, the chamber has presented Beautification Awards to acknowledge those businesses who strive to make the Plymouth Community a more beautiful place to do business. Winners have included every type of business, from small retail to larger corporate companies.

Nominations are eligible in three exterior categories: renovation, landscaping and new construction. Nominated businesses must be located in the City or Township of Plymouth.

Nominations must be done in writing by Sept. 20 and mailed to the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170, faxed to (734) 453-1724 or e-mailed to chamber@plymouthmi.org

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

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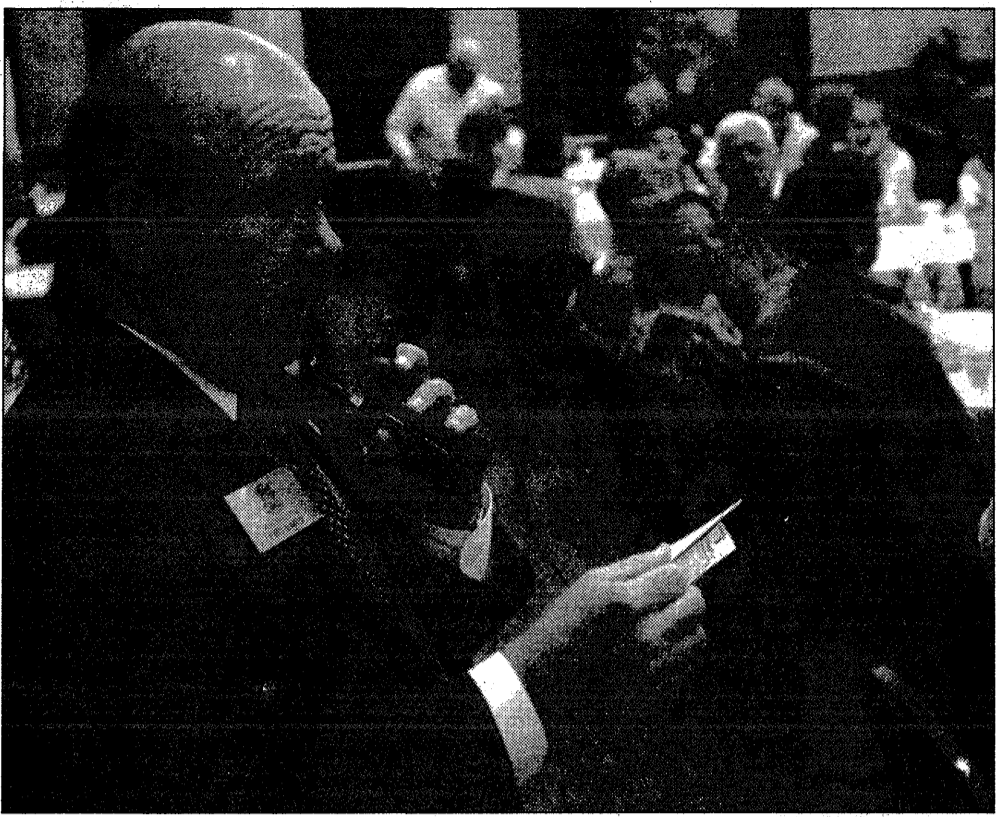
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Summit

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will once again be sponsoring the annual Senior Summit, which takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 10 at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton. The event, which is in its 5th year and is open to Western Wayne County senior citizens, will feature numerous health care professionals and vendors, who will be on hand offering advice and products related to seniors. In addition, the Summit will feature free health and hearing screenings as well as workshops and assistance programs. The event includes bingo, food, door prizes and informal discussion on senior issues. The first 400 attendees will receive a box lunch and a free goodie bag.

SCORES

FROM PAGE A1

The remaining 11 elementary schools that were graded, as well as the five middle schools in the Plymouth-Canton district, received a composite grade of A. Workman Elementary didn't receive an AYP rating because the school had been open only a year. Mike

Bender, Plymouth-Canton Schools director of secondary education, said this will be Workman's "baseline year." As for the drop in AYP at the four elementary schools, Bender said administrators are still analyzing the data. "All four of the schools were on the edge, two points away from earning an A," Bender said. "The kids performed very well. A large part of the rating is

the MEAP results, and we'll look at the areas where we do well and look to strengthen the areas where we are falling short," he added. "It takes a tremendous effort from students, staff and parental support to perform at this high level." The data didn't include results from high schools because the state's new Michigan Merit Exam, which was given in the spring, delayed the calculations.

SUPERMOMS

FROM PAGE A1

Whether you're looking for a great pediatrician, or seeking advice on anything from potty training to body piercings, you can jump into a discussion or start one of your own. MichiganMoms.com is based on successful "mom" sites launched by Gannett newspapers

across the country, and is already well-established in Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Livingston County, Lansing and Port Huron. The *Observer & Eccentric* is bringing MichiganMoms to metro Detroit. We are seeking a few everyday heroes to step up as SuperMoms, offering their expertise to MichiganMoms with regular postings. If you are interested in applying, contact Wensdy Von Buskirk at (734) 953-2019

or wvonb@hometownlife.com. Those who apply as SuperMoms must agree to post at least four new topics and respond to at least five current topics each week. Posts should be spread out over the week, not put up all in one day. SuperMoms selected will be paid a monthly stipend. If you would simply like to dabble in the discussions, log on and register now at www.michiganmoms.com.

@ THE LIBRARY

The Plymouth District Library, located at 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth, offers the following programs in September:

■ **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**, Monday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m. - Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. This meeting normally is held the first Monday of the month, but was rescheduled for September because of the Labor Day holiday.

■ **STARS, MOONS AND PLANETS**, Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. - Plan now to join local star-gazer Mike Best as he conducts this lively discussion, intended for interested astronomers, ages 6 and older. For more information contact (734) 459-2378 or starmikebest@comcast.net

■ **WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP**, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 4 p.m. - Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience is necessary.

■ **CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. - This month's contemporary discussion group invites members to read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. Copies of this book are available for group members at the check-out desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ **SAVING FOR COLLEGE**, Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m. - Rick Bloom returns to the Library for part three of our Money Management Series. He will present valuable information about rising college costs, 529 College Savings Plans, Education IRAs and Student and Parent loan programs. Register for this free program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

■ **NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING**, Monday, Sept. 24,

7-9 p.m. - Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project!

■ **BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Sept. 26, noon - This month's discussion invites members to read *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Sue Patterson at the Library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 2241 or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ **BEDDING DOWN FOR WINTER**, Thursday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. - This meeting will replace the monthly Library Garden Group meeting. Earthenjoy Flowerscaping owner Sandra Healy will share valuable tips on how to winterize the garden. Other topics will include pruning, pest control, soil testing, mulching, planning bulbs and tool care. Register for this free program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

■ **BANNED BOOKS WEEK**, Sept. 29-Oct. 6 - Book lovers can visit the Plymouth District Library and check out any number of books that have been banned over the years. For a list of banned books, stop at the Reader's Advisory desk or go to <http://ala.org/bbooks>

Youth Programs

■ **PRESCHOOL/FAMILY EVENING STORYTIMES**, Session one, Tuesdays, Sept. 4-25, 7 p.m.; Session two, Wednesdays, Sept. 5-26, 7 p.m. - This evening story time can be enjoyed by family members and children ages 2-5. Registration can be made by phone, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5.

■ **PRESCHOOL STORYTIMES**, Wednesdays, Sept. 5-26, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Parents must remain in the library during these story time sessions for children ages 3½-5 years. Registration is required and may be accomplished by

calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5. ■ **TODDLER/PARENT STORYTIMES**, Tuesdays, Sept. 4-25, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The 10 a.m. session is for children ages 2-3½ years. This one-on-one session welcomes toddlers and adults participating together. Please make other arrangements for siblings. The 11 a.m. session is for families with siblings and other family members welcome. Register for either program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5.

■ **LAPSIT STORYTIME**, Monday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., repeated Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. - This 15-minute song-and-rhyme time is for babies ages 6 to 24 months and their care-givers. No siblings please. Register at the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5.

■ **HOMESCHOOLERS @ THE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY**, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1 p.m. - Enjoy an afternoon of information and entertainment, including a library scavenger hunt. Registration is required for this free program and will start on Sept. 18; call or stop at the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5. Homeschool families only, please.

■ **BABY PLAY**, Monday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., repeated Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. - This fun program is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to our Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other children. The Baby Play program takes place on the fourth Monday of each month, and then repeated on the following Saturday. Registration is not required.

Teen Program

■ **TEEN KNITTING/CROCHETING CLUB**, Wednesday, Sept. 12 and 26, 7 p.m. - All levels of needlework experience are welcome! Adult volunteers will help you learn to knit or crochet. Supplies provided. Join us every other Wednesday in the Teen Zone.

Canton Obstetrics & Gynecology Welcomes Dr. Pamela Davies



Canton Obstetrics and Gynecology is pleased to announce the newest addition to their physician team, Dr. Pamela Davies. Dr. Davies joins Canton Obstetrics and Gynecology from IHA's Menon, Miller & Davies. She is a board certified obstetrician/gynecologist with a special interest in benign breast disease and geriatric gynecology. She completed her medical education through the University of Michigan and has spent time living and working in Ethiopia, England and France. Canton Obstetrics and Gynecology has been in practice since 1989 and offers patients comprehensive obstetric and gynecologic care. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Davies or to learn more about our practice contact us at:

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Public hearings to help decide fate of controversial mine

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

For many people living in southeast Michigan, the wilderness near the Upper Peninsula town of Big Bay probably seems a million miles away. Yet, to others like Bill Serchak, an engineer with Canton Township, it is a home away from home - a wilderness paradise where his family has vacationed, fished and hunted for years.

Serchak is just one of many people opposing the proposed Eagle Mine, which would be the first sulfide mine in the state's history. Kennecott Minerals Corp. wants to mine nickel, copper and other minerals from an area called the Yellow Dog Plains, not far from Big Bay, which is northwest of Marquette. Despite the opposition, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has given preliminary approval to Kennecott's permit application to build the mine.

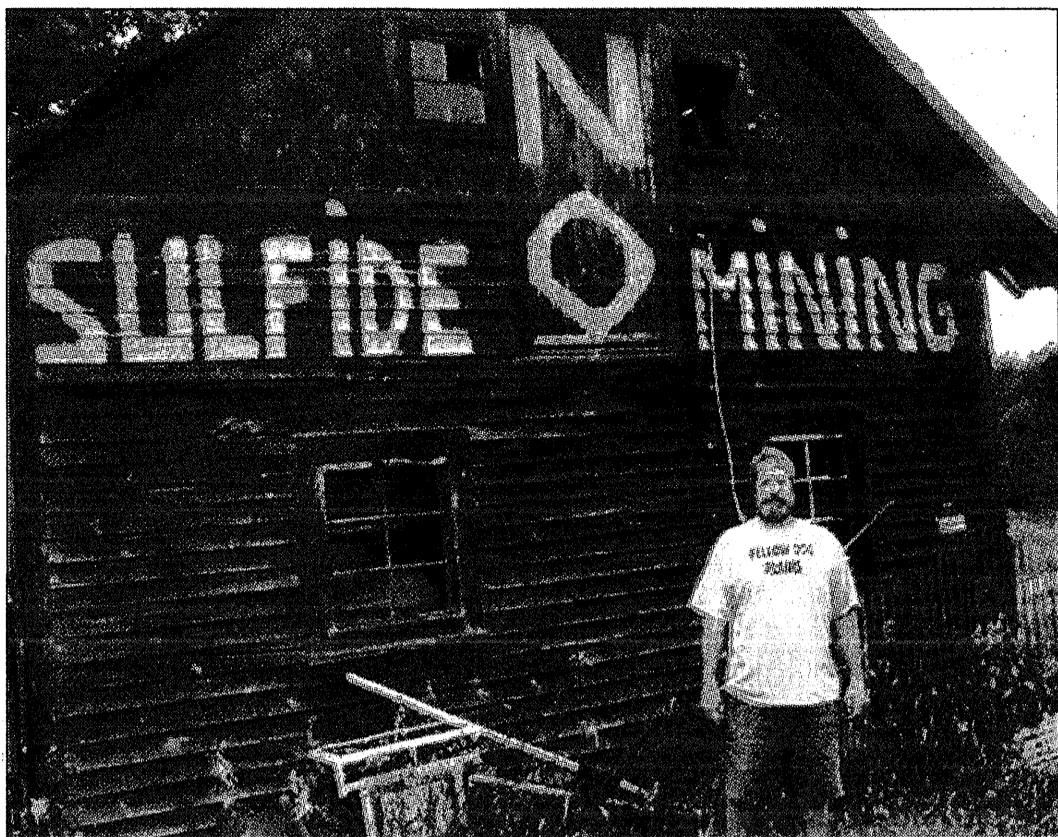
Critics of the project, like Serchak, are concerned because sulfide mines elsewhere have a history of polluting the areas where they have been built. The main problem with these sulfide mines, they contend, is a by-product called acid mine drainage, which occurs when a company drills into sulfide rock that is below the ground. When this sulfide rock is brought to the surface, it leaches sulfuric acid and toxic heavy metals, which can cause major damage to local waterways.

The Yellow Dog Plains, where the mine is being proposed, is home to the headwaters of the Yellow Dog and Salmon-Trout rivers.

Serchak, whose father-in-law owns a hunting cabin near the Yellow Dog River about two miles from the proposed mine site, questions why the MDEQ has approved the permit.

"I've reviewed the permit application," said Serchak, who lives in Milford. "My concerns are related to whether the DEQ is doing a good enough job evaluating the application. I don't think the DEQ is being objective."

Serchak, who is a civil engineer, said he understands the MDEQ's permitting process. He is also quite familiar with the particulars of the Eagle Mine. He says the mine will



Gene Champagne, who grew up in Livonia and now lives in the U.P. town of Big Bay, stands in front of his barn, which pretty much says what he feels about a proposed sulfide mine near town.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Sept. 10, 1-4:30 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m. at Northern Michigan University's Great Lakes Room in the University Center, Marquette.
- Sept. 11 and 12, 1-4:30 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m. at the West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A, Forsyth Township (located on the old K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, just behind the MDEQ U.P. District office).
- Sept. 13, 1-4:30 p.m. at the West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A, Forsyth Township (same as above).
- Sept. 19, 1-4:30 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m. at the Lansing Center, Rooms 203 and 204, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

The MDEQ will also accept written comments through Oct. 17. You can send them either through the mail to DEQ/DNR Kennecott Comments, Office of Geological Survey, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, MI 48909-7756, or via e-mail to DEQ-Kennecott-comments@michigan.gov.

only be open for 8-10 years, and he doesn't believe that is worth the risk.

"There is just too much to lose for the short term gain this mine will provide," he said. That is a sentiment shared

by many residents of the Big Bay area, including Gene Champagne, who grew up in Livonia but has lived in Big Bay for more than 30 years. He is concerned that if the area's pristine natural resources are spoiled, it will lead to a crash in the tourism that helps sustain the area.

"The remoteness of this area is the reason people from Chicago and Detroit come up here. It sustains our economy year after year after year," said Champagne, who is the spokesman for a group called Concerned Citizens of Big Bay. "I'm afraid this will put people out of business if our tourism dries up. This is not just an environmental issue - it's economic, it's also social."

For many people living in the rugged Upper Peninsula, where mining has a long history and is ingrained in the social fabric, the dangers of a sulfide mine are just too great to risk the magnificent natural resources that are also a big part of life north of the Mackinac Bridge.

Mary Takala, who grew up in Redford Township, now lives in the Keweenaw Peninsula, which is located west of the proposed mine. She said most people she knows are very opposed to the project.

"I'm against anything that is going to wreck the natural environment up here. It is what we are known for," said Takala, who is a 1970 graduate of Thurston High School. "This is God's country."

Beginning Monday, the MDEQ will hold a number of public hearings on Kennecott's mine proposal. Only one of the hearings, Sept. 19 in Lansing, is in the Lower Peninsula. The department is also accepting written comments about the mine proposal until Oct. 17.

Champagne, who is disappointed with the lack of help from elected officials, hopes the state is flooded with public opposition.

"This is one of the few wild places left in Michigan," he said. "We're selling our grandchildren's future for pennies on the dollar."



Holly Wytka accepts the keys to a new Pontiac G-6 from Uncle Ed's Oil Shoppe president, Dennis Coggins (right) and Quentin Kleber (left), Uncle Ed's district manager.

Uncle Ed's celebrates 25 years giving back to kids, customers

Uncle Ed's, the largest independently owned fast oil change company in Michigan, will celebrate 25 years of business as a sponsor for the Make-A-Wish Foundation's radiothon on Thursday, Sept. 13, at Gordon Chevrolet, 31850 Ford Road, Garden City.

Listeners can tune into 100.3 WNIC from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 13 for the 4th annual "Making Wishes Come True."

Make-a-Wish and radiothon sponsors hope to make at least five children with life-threatening medical conditions experience a "special wish experience" through the generosity of donors.

Last year's radiothon raised more than \$30,000 for metro Detroit children.

Dennis Coggins, president of Uncle Ed's, says "thank you" gifts to loyal customers also is part of the milestone celebration.

Each month this year,

Uncle Ed's customers at all 29 Michigan locations have chances to win \$25 gift certificates and free oil changes.

Last month, Holly Wytka received a free 25-month lease on a new Pontiac G-6. Wytka was the winner of a statewide drawing for the car.

"Our customers have been responsible for our growth and success, and we want to show them our gratitude," said Coggins.

"We believe the best customer is a knowledgeable customer," said Coggins. "And we look forward to 25 more years of living up to our promise - 'We Don't Just Do It Fast, We Do It Right!'"

Uncle Ed's which began in 1982 in Battle Creek, has 29 locations in Michigan including Livonia, Troy, Farmington Hills (two locations), Bloomfield Township, More than eight million vehicles have been serviced at Uncle Ed's.

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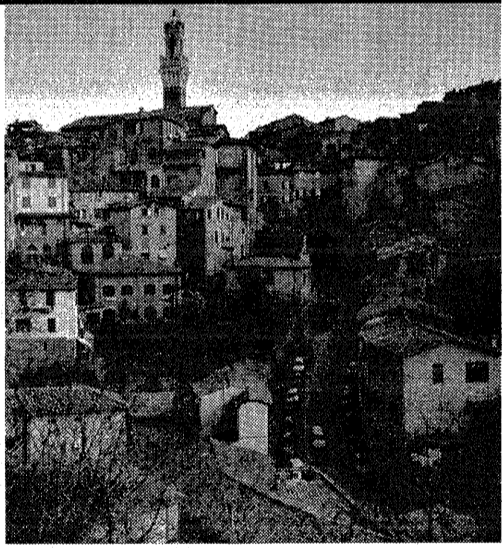
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Russian pastor, sister find Canton 'friendly, open'

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

When Oleg Batanogov and his sister, Irina Batanogova, arrived Labor Day from their church in Divnogorsk, in central Siberia, they got a warm welcome at Geneva Presbyterian Church.

"Very quiet, very nice," said Batanogova, 48, who's the church secretary in Divnogorsk, working with her pastor brother at the Russian congregation. The brother and sister are spending three weeks at Geneva in Canton, staying with pastor the Rev. Bryan Smith and his family.

"Very friendly, very open," she said of those she's met. "I could describe better in Russian." They've been keeping busy.

"Today, they're taking a Rouge factory tour," Smith said Thursday. "I have not had a chance to show them Meijer yet, or the library." IKEA's also on their agenda.

The brother and sister traveled from their Forgiveness Church, which was helped with founding in 1996 by their father and Oleg, 45. "I lead Bible study for elderly ladies," said Batanogova, who helps her brother with translation. (In Russian, women's last names have an "a" added.)

The ministry in Divnogorsk focuses on alcoholism and getting people off drugs. "We have rehabilitation ministry for drug addicts and alcoholics," she said. What they call the Center of Social Help addresses many needs, including helping homeless people and single mothers.

One woman had been abused by her husband; she traveled from another region and got help at Forgiveness Church. Also, their ministry reaches out to those with HIV, including such preventative measures as lectures against AIDS "to change their attitude on people with HIV," she said.

'It helps to look at our ministry from the different perspectives. We have some things that are common. He (Smith) understands very well my problems.'

IRINA BATANOGOVA, visiting church secretary

His training as a pastor wasn't at a special school. "We don't have special education to be a pastor, special colleges," she said in excellent English. Pastors are often appointed and attend college later. Batanogov was ordained in 1998 as assistant pastor.

"Oleg did pastoral work before appointment," she said. Bible colleges are starting now, with the nearest one about a 40-minute drive away.

Oleg's married to Marina with four daughters, Dascha, 18, Aleena, 16, Zoya, 14, and Sasha, 8. Irina's single, but has lots of family.

"She helps me," her brother said in English.

The church partnership came about almost 10 years ago when Geneva pledged 10 percent of church fund-raising efforts from a campaign, giving about \$50,000 for the church in Divnogorsk. In 2000, seven Genevans traveled to Russia to build the church; Smith and his family went over in 2004 for the church dedication and stayed with the Batanogov family.

"Wonderful hospitality," said Smith, who's glad to have a visiting pastor and his sibling here. "Their mom was always cooking."

Oleg Batanogov will give the sermon Sept. 16 at the Canton church, and speak and share slides at other times. "He really wants to see how we do ministry," Smith said.

They'll likely take in a Detroit Tigers game, perhaps offering prayers for divine intervention. The brother and sister toured downtown Detroit, including Cobo Center and Joe Louis Arena.

They'll visit church mem-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oleg Batanogov and Irina Batanogova hold a photograph of their church in Divnogorsk, located in central Siberia.

bers as well. This is his seventh time in the U.S. (much of it mission work), her first.

"My impression that people are very friendly," she said, "even at the airport." They didn't want to get into international politics at length, but agreed the younger George Bush is "strict" or hardline.

"It's good when we can gain somebody's experience," she said of the ministry sharing, which included a visit to the SEND International mission office in Farmington Hills. "It helps to look at our ministry from the different perspectives. We have some things that are common. He (Smith) understands very well my problems," she added for her brother.

"I like Bryan's family very much," she said. "They are really committed Christians." Batanogova also loves her friends and home and will be glad to return in a few weeks.

"I like here, but I'm glad to get home." Her brother added he likes American "coffee and doughnut, amazing."



Oleg Batanogov, Irina Batanogova and the Rev. Bryan Smith, the Geneva Presbyterian pastor who is hosting the Russian visitors.

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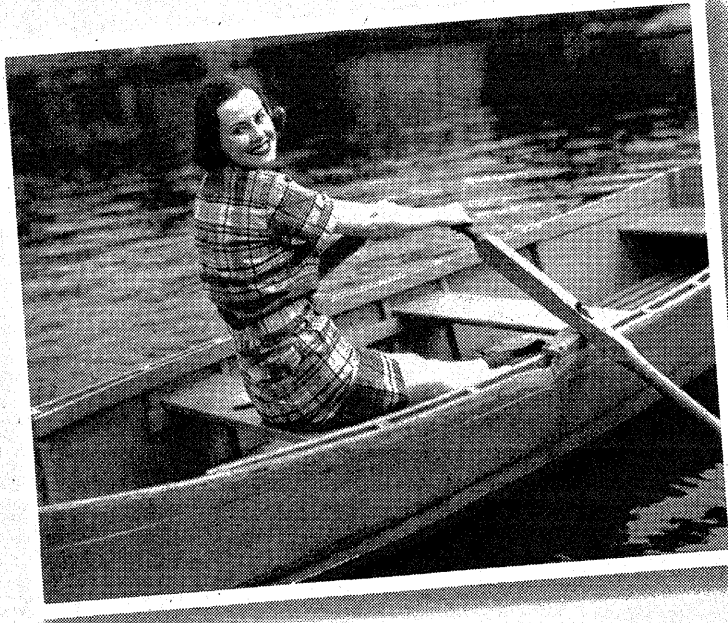
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Don't let market volatility allow you to overreact

I've been reading that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates soon. Should I change my portfolio?

Investors should not react to economic reports or to what the Federal Reserve may do over the short run. To be successful, focus on the long term. Reacting to every piece of economic data would be all-consuming and eventually one would be paralyzed by analysis. A more prudent approach is to focus on the long term and your individual situation.

That being said, if the Federal Reserve does cut interest rates, a couple of things may happen. First, bonds would increase in value. When interest rates go up, the value of bonds goes down. The opposite is also true. If interest rates do go down, bond investors should be one of the beneficiaries.

Also, when the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates, stocks generally perform better. However, this is not always the case. Once again, markets are affected by many factors — including what happens around the world, not just here in our country.

In February, when there was a crisis in the Chinese market, the U.S. market experienced a downturn. Even though many pundits said the downturn in China would cause a major crisis, it didn't happen. In fact,



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

since that time period, China's stock market has been one of the best performing in the world. I've talked with many portfolio managers. In managing the hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars, they do not let short-term economic reports dictate investment decisions. Don't let market volatility cause you to overreact.

I'm single and I have a significant other. We've been together over 10 years and for many reasons we will not be married. We want to make sure that if something happens to the other, the survivor is taken care of and remains in control of the other's affairs. We've told all we need to do is put each other's name on our assets and everything would be OK. What do you think?

Putting property in joint names does not resolve your issue.

Yes, if you own property with someone as a joint tenant with full rights of survivorship, upon death that person automatically becomes the owner. However, it does not

resolve the issue of control.

Control over someone's affairs is different while that person is living vs. dead.

While someone is living, if they are unable to handle their affairs, and if there has been no legal documentation, then a court will appoint a custodian over that person's assets.

Typically, the court looks to family members to serve this role. In addition, some courts will appoint third parties to fulfill this role.

The way around this is to have a Durable Power of Attorney. It allows you to handle someone's affairs without court supervision. Particularly, for non-traditional types of relationships, a Durable Power of Attorney is essential in allowing a significant other to handle one's affairs.

Another problem non-traditional relationships run into is in a medical crisis. The significant other has no legal rights, and that can cause problems. A Medical Durable Power of Attorney, along with a HIPAA Release, allows a significant other to make medical decisions and speak with the medical team without problem.

The powers of attorney, both durable and medical, take care of the control aspect of non-traditional relationships. The issue of passing money upon death can be accomplished by a number of different meth-

ods.

First, wherever there is a beneficiary designation such as on a life insurance policy or retirement account, those assets can pass directly to the significant other by naming them as a beneficiary.

In addition, when you have a brokerage account, you can also name a beneficiary on those accounts.

Another alternative is to put the investments in both names as joint tenants with rights of survivorship. This will allow money to pass to the other upon death. The downside of this arrangement is if one person has legal troubles, or if the relationship ends, the money can be at risk. To avoid this, use a Living Trust and your assets will go directly to whomever you choose. The other alternative is a will naming the individual as a beneficiary.

To keep the other individual in control of the estate, he/she should be named in the will as the personal representative or in the Living Trust as the successor trustee.

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).

Take precautions to prevent fire deaths

Following several particularly deadly months of fire in this country, I would like to address the many ways that we can reduce the risks we face in our homes. Sadly, most of those fire deaths were preventable.

This is the year 2007, and smoke alarm technology has virtually eliminated the downside of these life-saving devices.

There is simply no reason why every home in Livonia should not have a working smoke alarm. The fact that there are still homes without smoke alarms mystifies me, especially when they are so easy to obtain and maintain. Stop by any fire station and we will come out and install them for you for free. Having working smoke alarms in your home reduces your risk of dying in a fire by half! You cannot argue with statistics like that.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) tells us that 96 percent of all U.S. homes have smoke alarms, so it becomes obvious that the majority of this country's fire deaths (approximately 3,500 per year) happen in the small percentage of homes that do not have working smoke alarms. Don't fall into that category.

Carbon monoxide alarm technology is fairly recent, but should be a part of your home safety package. Unless your alarm specifically states that it is a dual function alarm, your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm ARE NOT interchangeable. Carbon

monoxide is a byproduct of unburned natural gas, and can be detected by alarms in cases where there is a leak of gas and not a fire. Carbon monoxide leaks in the home kills several hundred citizens in our country every year.

Test all your alarms once a

month. Usually this is done by simply pressing and holding the "test" button until the alarm sounds. Change the battery at least once a year, or sooner if the manufacturer recommends it or if your alarm's batteries get weak and emit a warning "beeping"

sound. Some alarms have ten year lithium batteries, and some are hooked in to your home's electrical system. Find out what type you have and how to test and maintain them before it is too late.

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.



Tom Kiurski

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And then there was Hope

Abused, and abandoned, puppy gets a new life, a new home

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

In June, she was the poster pooch for neglected animals with a large portion of her head and neck inflamed from a severe ear infection. Today, it's hard to believe black Labrador mixed-breed dog is the same puppy that had been left in a too-small crate behind a Blockbuster store on Middlebelt in Livonia.

The infection is gone, her wounds are healed. She has a new home and a new family.

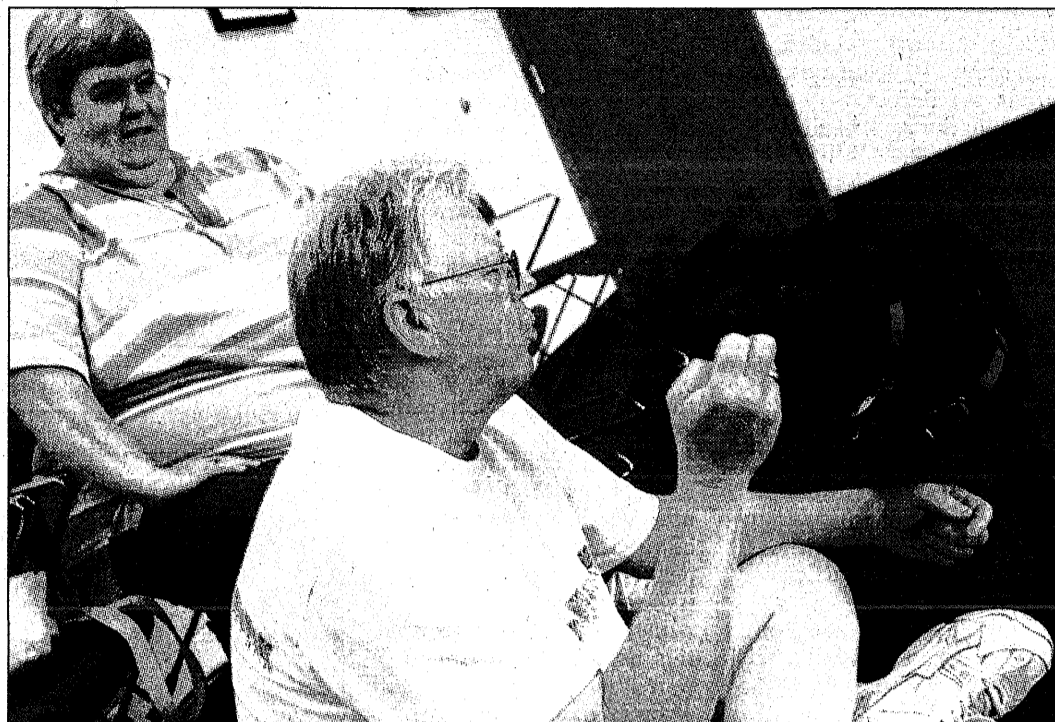
All is well for a dog called Hope.

"I think she chose the right family," said Stephanie Baron, public and media relations coordinator for the Michigan Humane Society. "I think she knows that."

At the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland for a checkup last week, Hope nibbled on treats, chased balls and barked a people who walked passed the windows of the center's training room.

"Her puppiness is finally coming out," said Cathy Flowers. "She's put a lot of fun in our lives, she's a really character."

Flowers and her husband, Dennis, were among 25 people who had expressed interest in adopting Hope. They decided



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cathy and Dennis Flowers spend a little time spoiling their dog Hope with treats of cut-up chicken during a checkup at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animals in Westland. The Flowers adopted Hope after they had seen a story in June about the puppy found abandoned in a crate behind a Livonia business.

to call after seeing a story about her.

According to Baron, Hope's foster mom determined that, based on what Hope had been through, she needed to be the sole dog in the house. Of those who called, many had other pets, but not the Walled

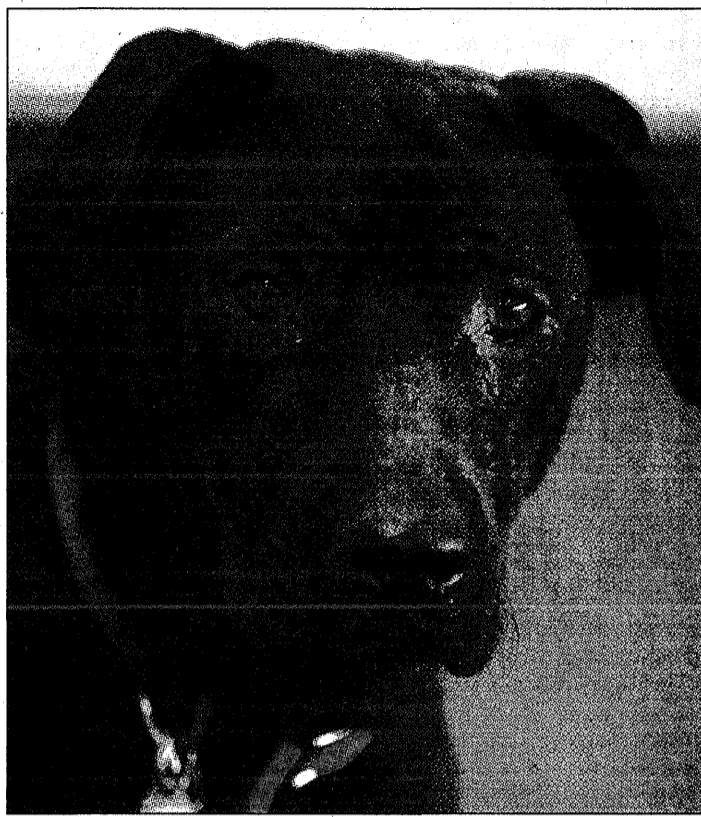
Lake couple. They had lost their dog, Kuma, who died in March from complications of kidney failure brought on by eating tainted dog food.

"They fit what we were looking for," said Baron.

The first time the couple met Hope, she didn't want to be separated from her foster mom. "She wouldn't come near us, and I thought, 'OK, what are

we getting ourselves into?" said Cathy Flowers. "But when my husband and daughter came to get her, she was like a different dog."

Hope is now firmly attached to their daughter, Amy, a second-grade teacher in the Walled Lake schools. According to Cathy Flowers, Hope cries when Amy leaves the house, but is excited when she comes home.



Antibiotics cleared up the ear infection that was so severe doctors thought they might have to amputate Hope's ear.

"She'll wake me up so I'll get Amy up to take her outside," she added. "She still has some anxiety when we leave, but now she realizes we'll be coming home."

It did take awhile for Hope to get close to Dennis Flowers. He lay on the floor in a nonthreatening position and let her come to him. Within a couple of weeks, she was coming to him for treats and lying in his lap.

Her fear of men may be reflective of what the dog had been through before being left in the crate. According to Baron, Hope had puncture wounds on her neck and hind

legs, wounds consistent with dog fighting.

"She may have been a bait dog, the bait dog has to be calm," Baron said. "She's been through a lot for the first six months of her life, but to see her now ..."

Hope has her own pillow and blanket as well as blanket in a crate that she sometimes goes in. If she doesn't get enough attention, she'll drag a shoe around the house.

"It's amazing that with all she's been through, she's very gentle," added Dennis Flowers. "She's definitely not an Alpha dog."

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR September meeting Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

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

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

Publish: September 9, 2007

CE0901187

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: September 6 & 9, 2007

CE0905329

EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, September 17, 2007, Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: **EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, 6729 N. CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:30 P.M.**

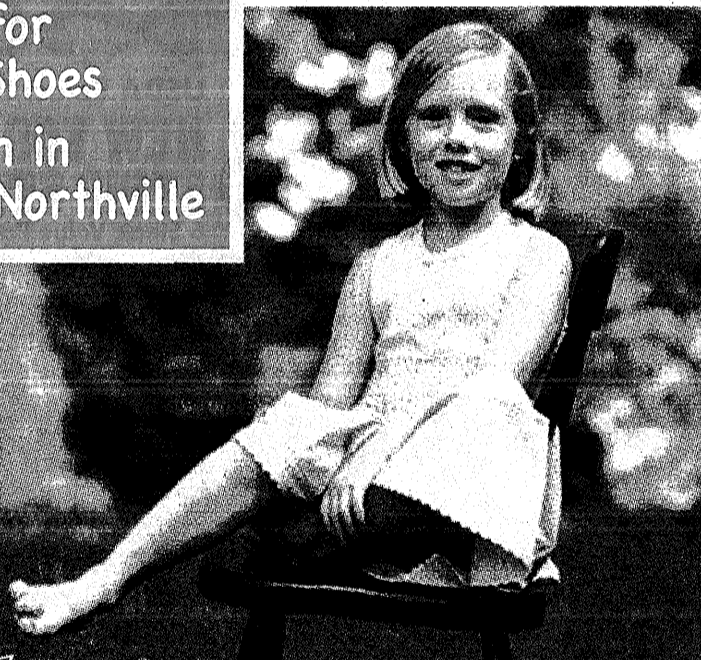
Morque E164, 10x20 - Roaster, Propane Grill, Twin Mattress/Box spring/frame, 2 OSB, 1 Amp, 2-3 Misc. Household Goods.

Wayne Kurtycz, 10x20 - Nordic Track, Down Hill Ski Set, 7+ items of Baby and small Child Stuff, 14 Plastic Totes, 1 Card Table, 1 Golf Bag, 30+ Boxes of Mis. Household Goods.

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OUR VIEWS

9/11: Excellent time to fly flag

The question used to be where were you when you heard President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. His brutal death, captured on a grainy 8mm film, was a shock to the American psyche.

But it can't compare to Sept. 11, 2001.

That day, Americans watched in real time as a passenger plane crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. As Americans grappled with the horror of that crash and an earlier one into the North Tower, another airplane crashed into the Pentagon and another into a field in Shanksville, Pa.

It was the worst attack on the United States since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. It was the first salvo into what has become the global War on Terror.

Tuesday marks the sixth anniversary of what has simple become known as 9/11. In New York and Pennsylvania, at the Pentagon and in communities around the country, people will come together to remember the more than 3,000 people who died and to honor those who are fighting today's War on Terror.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, is a good time to stop and reflect on the past, present and future and a time to fly the flag.

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, many of those flags have disappeared.

An e-mail campaign has been launched to get the word out to fly the flag on 9/11. It notes that we should make it our duty to display an American flag on Sept. 11, 2007, in "honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms."

We can't agree more. We urge residents to fly the American flag on 9/11. We also encourage them to keep the flag flying year-round.

As the e-mail so aptly states: "Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds."

Tuesday, Sept. 11, is a good time to stop and reflect on the past, present and future and a time to fly the flag. In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, many of those flags have disappeared.

Salary cut would work

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education and union leadership continue to prolong the inevitable while blaming Lansing for their woes.

The fact is the district has a budget deficit into the mid-millions of dollars, and this is without taking a raise for staff into the equation. How can this be missed? How can the union continue to expect raises when the district has been deficit spending for four straight years and no sign of correction is around?

The top three expenses to the district are salaries, pensions and health care costs. And the last two are directly proportional to the amount of the salaries! The board has the power to fix this issue with one corrective stroke that will not penalize the students or families of this community any further. By implementing a salary cut, the budget deficit can be eliminated! No more cuts to athletics, no more teacher layoffs, no more class size increases, no more transportation cuts and many more.

Why is the board wasting money on hiring a search firm to replace Dr. Ryan as superintendent? There are plenty of local candidates, as well as those all across the state and country, who can be reached via standard hiring paths.

Maybe instead of asking for more money that doesn't exist, why don't the unions and local school districts lobby Lansing to eliminate mandatory pension funding and go to what is widely accepted solution, such as 401(k), for employees? This would reduce costs for local schools and the state.

Are there funding problems with education in this state? Of course. But stop hiding behind it to do the necessary steps to keep our local schools strong and growing!

Rich Ham-Kucharski
Canton

Freedom the key

I would like to respond to the weekly letters published in the *Observer* asking for the impeachment of President Bush.

President Bush has stated that *one* of the long-term strategies for reducing the conflict in the Middle East that breeds

terrorism is to build democratic states with greater personal freedom. This would give individuals greater control over their own destiny and reduce many of the motives for self-destructive terrorism.

It's ironic that so many "liberals" calling for an immediate pullout of all American troops from Iraq are distrusting of this strategy. Almost all Americans believe in personal freedom.

The real question is do we believe that other people can be trusted with it? Do we believe a free Iraq will make for a safer Middle East and a safer world? Do we believe the Iraqi people want a free and democratic nation? Our nation asked itself that same question in 1861. Should all people be trusted with freedom? Is it possible to change the slavery culture of the South? Why shouldn't we let the South secede from the nation? What right do we in the North have to impose our will on the South?

Look at the Plymouth Veterans Park and you may find some answers. Plymouth had a total population of 1,500 people in 1861 and 91 of those were lost in the Civil War. How many of those 1,500 Plymouth citizens were between the ages of 17 and 25?

Those veterans and the people of Plymouth had the wisdom to understand the value to themselves for providing freedom to others and courage to act on that belief. Thank God for those who have courage to understand the world has shrunk and events in Baghdad effect us as much in 2007 as events in Atlanta did in 1861, for those are the ones who make this the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Greg Pappas
Plymouth

Pep band was great

I am writing to thank the PCEP Pep Band for their wonderful spirit and music for the home game between Plymouth Wildcats and Salem Rocks on Aug. 30. Fans were energized and the players were grateful. I just want the pep band to know how much they contributed to the event. I hope we see you again soon and thanks a million!

Jennifer Tobin
Wildcat booster parent
Canton

We must stop dog fighting

I want to commend Kurt Kuban for an excellent job on the Michael Vick column ("Vick case has exposed us as nation of excuse makers," Sept. 2). If only everyone that reads it will understand it and agree with it. I do and this whole Michael Vick thing makes me sick.


This Vick guy is lower than the poop that those dogs excreted and I think he needs to pay for it. If he doesn't than this abuse will go on forever and we will never see the end to it.

It seems to me that the intelligence of people has decreased and continues to decrease as the years go by. Especially when people make statements that dogfighting is no different than hunting. Do these people have any common sense? This is ridiculous. Hunting is not torture or abuse. It is a hopefully quick death — most of the time anyway. I just don't understand what these people are thinking about.

Another thing that I don't think most people know is that when these people fight dogs they have to be trained and they have to use something as bait and when little Fe-fe comes up missing after she has been put out for her before bed potty time, chances are she has been taken by these wonderful upstanding citizens to use as that bait. It is sick and horrible to think that these tender little loving family pets are thrown into these blood thirsty pits and they go through a horrible, horrible ripping and tearing before they finally die from the injuries and pain that are inflicted upon them during these training sessions. This is sickening.

So thank you for taking the time to write your thoughts on this Michael Vick case and I just pray that someone will read this and perhaps be touched by your words and thoughts enough to know that dogfighting has got to stop and it has got to be soon.

Barbara Ann Walker-Gondick
Canton



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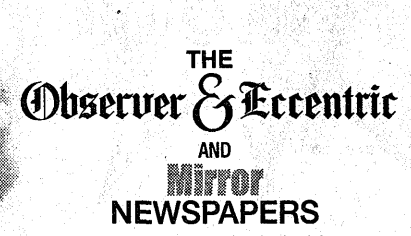
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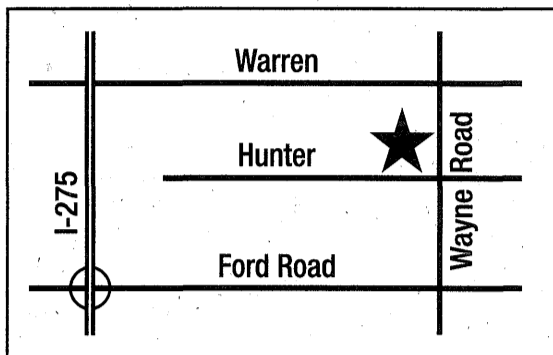
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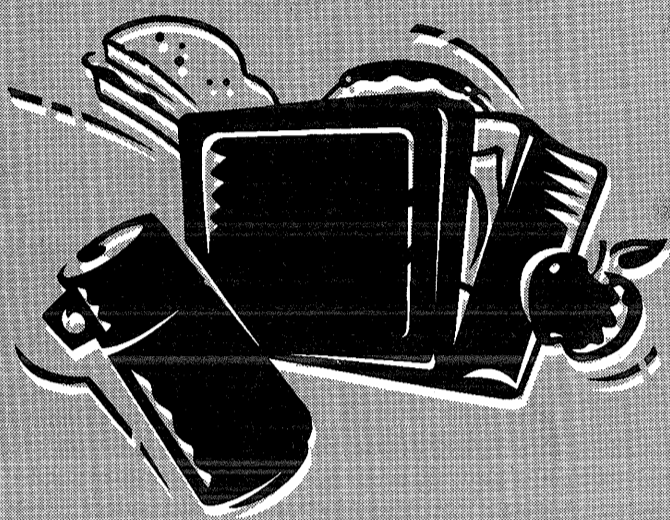
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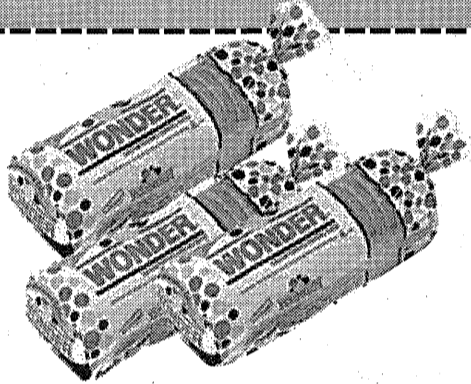
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SPORTS



Sunday, September 9, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Canton's ground attack steamrolls Northville, 41-22

The high school football season is only three weeks old, but Canton's renowned running attack appears to be in mid-season form.

The Chiefs churned out 423 yards rushing Friday night in their 41-22 triumph over host Northville in a game that was delayed twice by lightning.

The victory improved Canton's record to 2-1 (1-0 in the WLAA Western Division) heading into Friday's game against cross-campus foe Plymouth.

Senior fullback Jordan Raiford punished the mid-section of the Mustangs' defense for 202 yards on 17 carries and three touchdowns. Senior Tim Klott (11

PREP FOOTBALL

carries, 89 yards, one TD) and senior quarterback Adam Powers (five carries, 47 yards, TD) also carried their share of the load.

Canton outgained Northville, 423-273 in total yards.

Northville senior quarterback Aaron Chew completed 7-of-16 passes for 74 yards and a score while their running backs combined for 199 yards on 30 carries.

The Chiefs nearly doubled the Mustangs in first downs, 21-11, as they converted 9-

of-10 third-down plays.

The Mustangs jumped to an early 3-0 lead thanks to Max Bojovic's 32-yard field goal with 6:55 left in the first quarter.

Just over four minutes later, Powers gave Canton a lead it would never relinquish when he found paydirt from 24 yards out. Daniel Stoney followed with his first of four extra points to make it 7-3.

Raiford notched a pair of TD's — 25 and 30 yarders — to extend Canton's halftime advantage to 19-9. The Mustangs lone first-half TD came on an 18-yard scoring strike from Chew.

Raiford's 1-yard burst into the end zone five minutes into the third quarter extend-

ed Canton's lead to 26-9.

Klott (1-yard TD run) and Jerome Scales (5-yard TD) capped the scoring for the winners.

Senior linebacker Dan Wanshon led the Chiefs' defensive charge with seven tackles. Junior free safety David Wilcox pitched in with five stops and senior linebacker Cam Phelps added four.

Canton led 33-15 after three quarters. The Chiefs were penalized four times for 27 yards. The Mustangs committed five infractions for 65 yards.

Friday night's Canton-Plymouth game is set to kick off at 7 p.m. at the P-CEP varsity football stadium.

Sidelines

Baseball tryouts

The Motor City Tigers, a 12U travel baseball team, will be holding tryouts for the 2008 season on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 pm at the UAW field, which is located on Michigan Ave. between Beck and Denton roads. For more information, contact Chris Tidwell at (734) 891-6116.

Dodgeball tourney

High Velocity Sports, which is located at 46245 Michigan Ave. in Canton, will be hosting a 2007 Duck N' Dodge Detroit National Dodgeball Tour event on Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 10 a.m. There will be two divisions offered: college (participants 18 years old and older who are currently enrolled in college) and adult (all other participants 18 and older).

The early-registration fee (before Sept. 15) is \$125 per team. The cost is \$150 per team after Sept. 15. Each registered team member will receive an official "Duck N' Dodge" T-shirt. Teams are required to have between six and 10 players on their roster.

A post-event party will be held immediately following the tournament at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton. Bowling and a buffet will be free to all participants. To register, visit www.detroitssports.org; send an e-mail to info@detroitssports.org; or call (313) 202-1982.

Each team will be guaranteed a minimum of four games, including pool play and playoffs. The top teams in each division will be awarded prizes.

Hoop event

Former Salem basketball standout Dena Head, the first player drafted in the WNBA's inaugural draft in 1997, will be running an NCAA-certified basketball event Sept. 28-29 at Canton and Salem high schools. Up to 40 teams will be participating and several college coaches are expected to attend.

For more information, contact Head at denaball05@yahoo.com.

After leading Salem to prominence in the mid- to late-80s, Head raked in several national awards at the University of Tennessee. In 1992, she was selected to the prestigious Kodak All-America Team.



POWER SLIDE USA RACING

Canton resident Susie Jackson captured a pair of titles at the U.S. Inline Skating Championships held in Omaha, Neb., earlier this summer. The 43-year-old also won a national skating title in 1987.

'IN-LINE' FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

Canton's Jackson earns 'Masters' titles at U.S. skating final

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

There aren't many 43-year-old mothers of two who can zip around 100-meter inline skating ovals faster than Canton's Susie Jackson.

In fact, there probably aren't many 23-year-olds who could outperform the two-time national champion.

This past July, Jackson captured Grand Masters titles in the 500-meter and 700-meter races at the 2007 U.S. Inline Skating Championships in Omaha, Neb. Her head-turning performances in the 40-45 age bracket came two decades after she won her first U.S. crown on roller skates.

"I expected to do well at Nationals, but I didn't necessarily expect to win," said Jackson, who, along with her husband Charles, own Skatin' Station 2 in Canton. "It was kind of funny because all seven girls who

THE JACKSON FILE

NAME: Susie Jackson;
AGE: 43;
HOMETOWN: Canton;
HOBBY: Competes in Masters Division (40-45) in inline skating;
FEATS: Captured the 500- and 700-meter races at the U.S. Inline Skating competition;
FAMILY: Married to Chuck; sons Grant, 18, and Nathan, 13;
TRAINING SCHEDULE: Jackson's daily workouts include bike-riding, 200 situps and two hours of inline skating

were in the finals in Omaha were the same ones who were in it 20 years ago when I won."

Fit and trim

Jackson's titles didn't come without sacrifice. Her almost-daily two-hour fitness routine includes bike work, 200 sit-ups and countless laps around the 100-meter oval set up in the Skatin' Station 2 facility.

"I skated off and on between 1987 and four years ago because I was raising a family," said Jackson. "But four years ago, my son (13-

Please see **IN-LINE, B3**

Zebras' 'D' keys victory over 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Seconds after Plymouth recovered a game-opening "pooch" kick-off Friday, it appeared as if Wayne Memorial was on the way to enduring a dog-day afternoon.

However, the Zebras' defense stiffened and set the tone for what would evolve into a pivotal 18-13 victory in the opening WLAA Western Division game for both teams.

Wayne improved to 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the division while the Wildcats slipped to 2-1 and 0-1, respectively.

"That was huge when we stopped them after they got the ball on the opening kick," said Wayne head coach Craig Hnatuk. "I thought our defense played fantastic the entire game. Our kicking game kept setting our defense up with horrible field position, but those guys were making plays all over the place. Even Plymouth's touchdown pass was well-covered; their quarterback just made a perfect pass."

For the second consecutive week, Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk pointed to his team's lack of consistency.

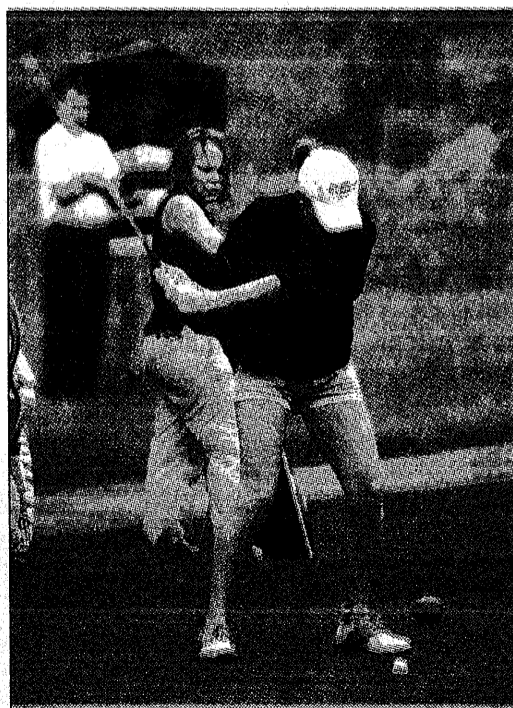
"We made way too many mistakes," the first-year coach lamented. "We're not improving from week to week like we should be. We had our chances — we had the ball inside the 15-yard line three times — but we came away with nothing because we missed three field goals. If we make those field goals, we win."

Plymouth's chances to jump on top early were literally blown in the wind — a strong, gusty one out of the southwest that pushed freshman kicker Kyle Brindza's 32-yard effort and — one series later — senior Mike Korona's 22-yard try wide left. The second miss was set up by a dazzling 55-yard punt return by senior speedster Myron Puryear.

Wayne's second drive of the day was stymied by Wildcat defensive back Michael's Rose's interception at the Plymouth 40.

After Plymouth's offense went three-and-out, the Zebras mounted the game's first scoring drive led by senior lefty quarterback D.J. Freeman, who hooked

Please see **ZEBRAS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Chelsea Osburn displays the backswing that earned the junior medalist honors at Friday's meet against Plymouth. Osburn fired a 49 in the weather-delayed contest that was won by the Chiefs.

Swingin' in the rain

Canton golfers edge Plymouth in weather-delayed meet

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Friday afternoon's girls golf match between Plymouth and Canton would have been appropriate for both the Golf Channel and the Weather Channel.

After several weather-related delays at Hickory Creek Golf Course — for everything from lightning, to heavy rain to a tornado warning — the Chiefs prevailed, 240-249, in the season-opener for both squads. "We experienced almost

every kind of weather you can imagine, but the girls hung tough and played through it," said Canton coach Dan Riggs, in reference to the five-hour match. "We were delayed 20 minutes at the start, then we got four or five holes in before the lightning was spotted. "A little while later, somebody who works at the course looked at the Doppler and saw that there was a tornado warning.

"The scores weren't great, but I think a lot of that had to do with the delays."

Canton junior Chelsea Osburn, the Chiefs' No. 1 player for the past three seasons, earned medalist honors with a 13-over 49, barely edging teammate Kara Gregory, who fired a 50.

Patricia Burns (55) and Missy Gosbee (60) paced the Wildcats.

"I believe the weather and the nerves of the girls had an impact on how they played," said Plymouth coach Chris Moore. "Patricia and Missy are my only two returning

Please see **GOLF, B6**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lauren Maslyk, pictured above during a meet last season, is expected to be one of the top point-earners on this year's Plymouth swimming team.

Plymouth swimmers mix old with new

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth girls swimming coach Doug Schade will rely on a nice blend of youth and experience to lift the Wildcat toward the top of the Western Lakes Activities Association standings this season. "Our team this year is going to feature a mix of veteran and new athletes," said Schade.

"We lost seven seniors last year and it will take a great effort by all our athletes to return to the level we were competing at last year."

Forming the team's solid nucleus are Alyssa Liakos, Sijia Hao, Elle Palczynski, Lauren Maslyk, Michelle Chang, Molly McKinstry, Chantel Cote and Beth McReynolds. The squad's corps of divers, which includes

Barbara Wolohon, Kay Borst and Kirsten Engstrom, is deep and talented.

"They're young and improving on a regular basis," Schade said.

"Our goal this year is to compete as well as we can and finish as high as possible in the conference meet."

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Canton swimmers nip Rockets

Westland John Glenn placed first in seven of the 12 events during Thursday night's meet with Canton, but it was the Chiefs who swam away with a 97-89 victory.

Senior Allison Schmitt paced the Chiefs with first-place efforts in the 200-yard freestyle (1:50.63) and 100 butterfly (58.16). Maggie Carlson was the only other Canton swimmer to earn an individual first when she captured the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.41.

The Chiefs' 400 freestyle relay quartet of Monica

Blaesser, Katie Kubacki, Carlson and Schmitt made the state cut with a time of 3:50.10.

CANTON 97

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 89

THURSDAY AT JOHN GLENN
200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY: 1. John Glenn (O'Sullivan, Peterson, Sells, Fielhauer), 2:02.30; 2. Canton (Monica Blaesser, Maggie Carlson, Katie Irwin, Katie Kubacki), 2:04.49; 3. Canton, 2:10.83.
200 FREESTYLE: 1. Allison Schmitt (C), 1:50.63; 2. Burgess (JG), 2:01.97; 3. Maddy McDuff (C), 2:18.58.
200 IM: 1. Ashley Sells (JG), 2:17.41; 2. Maggie Carlson (C), 2:19.60; 3. Katie Irwin (C), 2:27.50.
50 FREESTYLE: 1. Sparks (JG), 26.80; 2. Monica Blaesser (C), 27.06; 3. Fielhauer (JG), 27.88.
1-METER DIVING: 1. Clenny (JG), 156.85 points; 2. Mallory Hudak (C), 141.90; 3. Harris

(JG), 135.05.
100 BUTTERFLY: 1. Allison Schmitt (C), 58.16; 2. Peterson (JG), 1:09.31; 3. Britt (JG), 1:13.99.
100 FREESTYLE: 1. Sparks (JG), 58.53; 2. Katie Kubacki (C), 1:02.19; 3. Maddy McDuff (C), 1:02.74.
500 FREESTYLE: 1. Burgess (JG), 5:28.51; 2. Monica Blaesser (C), 5:32.72; 3. Sarah Krebs (C), 6:04.67.
200 FREESTYLE RELAY: 1. Canton (Kari Schmitt, Kayla Eyster, Maddy McDuff, Allison Schmitt), 1:48.01; 2. John Glenn, 1:50.22; 3. Canton, 1:56.13.
100 BACKSTROKE: 1. Ashley Sells (JG), 1:04.13; 2. Katie Kubacki (C), 1:11.56; 3. O'Sullivan (JG), 1:13.30.
100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Maggie Carlson (C), 1:13.41; 2. Peterson (JG), 1:16.39; 3. Sarah Krebs (C), 1:17.19.
400 FREESTYLE RELAY: 1. Canton (Monica Blaesser, Katie Kubacki, Maggie Carlson, Allison Schmitt), 3:50.10; 2. John Glenn, 3:53.25; 3. Canton, 4:13.36.
DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 1-0; John Glenn, 0-1.

Whalers sign Tyler J. Brown

Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci announced the signing of 16-year-old left wing Tyler J. Brown, who was selected by the Whalers in the 8th round (159th overall) of the 2007 OHL Draft.

Brown, a native of Westland, scored 27 goals with 44 assists in 72 games last season for the Detroit Belle Tire Under-16 Team last season — a team that won state and national championships.

Earlier this summer, the Whalers signed Brown's

Belle Tire Under-16 teammate R.J. Mahalak, who hails from Monroe. Both players are skating with Plymouth in training camp and are expected to make the Whalers' roster.

Brown will be attending Livonia Churchill High School. He's no relation to Tyler G. Brown, who was taken by the Whalers in the 11th round (219th overall) of the 2007 OHL Draft.

Plymouth (1-1-0-0 in the preseason) finish the pre-season on the road, playing in St. Catharines, Ontario against the Niagara IceDogs

on Thursday and in Erie on Friday against the Otters.

Plymouth's home opener is Saturday, Sept. 22 at 7:05 p.m. against the Erie Otters at the Compuware Sports Arena. The Whalers will raise their OHL championship banner before the start of the game. Single-game tickets are being held at \$14 for Center Ice Seating and \$10 for Executive Reserved. Season tickets for 2007-08 start at \$239 and can be purchased by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

Whalers' hard work makes up for mistakes

Plymouth Assistant Coach Joe Stefan was succinct when assessing the Whalers' split with Windsor last weekend in a pair of preseason contests.

"We made a lot of mistakes," Stefan said. "But I liked our work ethic in Windsor."

Preseason hockey in the Ontario Hockey League is a time to make (and correct) mistakes and to find out about new players. For veterans, it's a time to get into game shape.

Keeping that in mind, the development of Whaler rookies and key veterans is a storyline worth watching when Plymouth plays a home-and-home series with Sarnia this weekend.

GOALTENDING: With Michal Neuvirth away at the Washington Capitals' training camp, Kyle Jendra and Jeremy Smith will play this weekend. Neuvirth and Smith were among the Whalers best players last weekend against Windsor and both appear to be ready to start the season. Smith allowed very few rebounds while stopping 43-of-46 shots in the Whalers' 6-3 victory in Windsor on Monday.

Ironically, here's Central Scouting's assessment of Smith before he was selected by Nashville: "A butterfly goalie. Composed and strong in his crease. Is very well positioned on first and second shots. Handles the puck well and has

excellent low-net coverage. Needs to improve his ability to track the puck through traffic and screens. Could challenge the shooter more often."

Smith seemed to see every shot in Windsor and was active around his crease when needed. Two of Windsor's goals were shorthanded efforts; the other came on a deflection by Josh Bailey with a minute left in the game when the result wasn't in doubt.

Jendra had a good year last season with Traverse City of the NAHL as the Whalers' third goaltender.

DEFENSE: With Brett Bellemore, Leo Jenner and Zack Shepley out with injuries, the Plymouth blue line has been a combination of one overage player (Wes Cunningham), two second-year players (Jozef Sladok and Jordon O'Neill) and Whaler pups getting their first ice time in the league. Cunningham appears ready to go and O'Neill's skating, puck moving and three assists have helped so far. There's no doubt about Sladok's heart and his desire to continue to improve.

Among the rookies, free agent Mike Yovanic has already generated some attention from fans with his willingness to drop the gloves. Every bit of 6-foot-7, Yovanic may remind fans of Tom Sestito when he first started in Plymouth. Draft

choices Josh Bemis, Tom Kane, Emyle Morgan and Justin Longley can skate, play with intensity and will improve with experience. Longley may play up front as well.

UP FRONT: With three goals in two games, A.J. Jenks is ready to go and veteran Joe McCann continued the good work he started in training camp with a pair of goals in Windsor. Vern Cooper, Kaine Geldart and Joe Gaynor will get more ice time and will be expected to improve as they join veterans Andrew Fournier (team-leading 162 career games in Plymouth) and Chris Terry (132 games) as key members up front. Brett Valliquette plays with grit and has the ability to score. Steve Lock enjoyed an excellent training camp and plays with skill.

Among the pups, second-round pick Taylor Carnevale had the most immediate impact against Windsor with a goal and an assist on Monday. Carnevale plays with skill. Not related, Tyler G. Brown is from Wasaga Beach, ON, while Tyler J. Brown is from Westland. A year older than Tyler J. Brown, T.G. Brown saw some penalty-killing duty last weekend. Steven McDonald is an honest grinder.

Veteran Sean O'Connor and youngsters R.J. Mahalak and Chad Rutkowski are currently injured.

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Reign-ing champions
The Plymouth Reign '95 Green soccer team was crowned champion of the 2007 Pike Fest Tournament (U13 Boys Division), which was held Aug. 25-26 in Indianapolis. The Reign capped its unbeaten run in the tourney by ousting the WYSA Cobras (Indiana) 5-1 in the title match. The team consists of: L. Carpenter, R. Costanza, W. Hendrix, Z. Konchel, R. Ligouri, A. Loveland, D. McCarty, R. McChesney, T. O'Brien, D. Ovesea, J. Priebe, A. Ramirez, K. Schumacher, E. Schweizer, S. Sols and N. Tomei. The team is coached by G. Ligouri.

Northville netters oust Salem

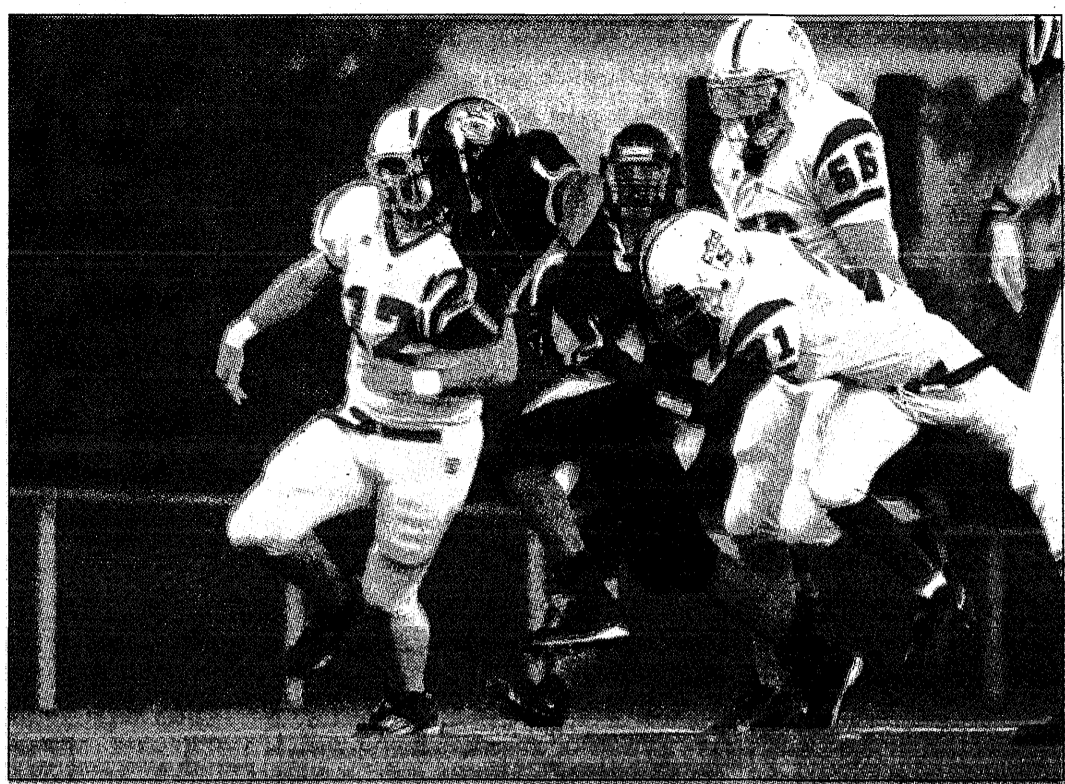
The Salem boys tennis team dropped its season opener Wednesday, 7-1, to perennially tough Northville.

The lone Rock to record a victory was No. 2 singles player Brett Foster, who downed Steve Irvine in a thrilling three-setter: 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-3.

In other singles matches, Melvin Joseph edged Lawrence Washington, 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1; Tim Wasielewski swept Jake Burnstein, 6-1, 6-0, at No. 2; and Mike Hagan nipped Dave Benson, 4-6, 7-6(10), 6-4, at No. 4.

The Mustangs swept the doubles action led by the No. 1 duo of Andy Mills and Graham McHenry, who conquered Salem's Brock Foster and Tyler Jeleniewski, 6-1, 6-3. Closing out the doubles sweep were Lee Schechter and Phil Irvine, who nudged John Bills and Eduardo Diaz, 6-3, 6-2, at No. 2; Dan Mills and Brian Lovett, who ousted Ryan Aubert and Yuvi Rajeev, 6-2, 6-3, at No. 3; and Nick Kalweit and Evan Gatz, who knocked off Andy Steinman and Josh Perrin, 6-4, 6-1, at No. 4.

Cheer for the
hometeam,
read today's
SPORTS
section



Plymouth's Terrance Guthridge, pictured above in a game earlier this season, registered 41 yards rushing and a touchdown in the Wildcats' 18-13 setback to Wayne Memorial Friday afternoon at the PCEP varsity stadium.

ZEBRAS

FROM PAGE B1

up with junior wide receiver Antwain Calloway on a 25-yard seam-finding spiral on a fourth-and-17 play. Two snaps later, Alan Freeman, D.J.'s younger brother by one year, plowed into the end zone from six yards out with 8:51 left in the half to stake the Zebras to a 6-0 lead. Josh Gonzalez's extra-point attempt was blocked by Plymouth's Kyle Wallath.

The Wildcats promptly countered by moving the ball to the Wayne 11 thanks in large part to a 28-yard C.J. Gregory-to-Ronnie Goble strike. However, the threat was thwarted when Wayne junior defensive back Anthony Baskin picked off a tipped pass in the end zone.

Plymouth took advantage of some golden field position on its next drive and capitalized when senior wide receiver Mike Hanchett one-handed a 31-yard Gregory pass in the back corner of the end zone with 1:44 remaining in the first half. Korona tacked on the extra point and Plymouth led, 7-6.

Wayne didn't trail for long. Sparked by a back-to-back 15-yard pick-ups by Baskin, the Zebras grabbed a 12-7 halftime advantage when D.J. Freeman threaded a perfect 24-yard scoring pass to Calloway. The two-point conversion attempt was picked off by Plymouth's Connor Martin.

The Zebras extended their lead to 18-7 with 2:47 left in the third quarter when Alan Freeman scored from two yards out.

D.J. Freeman appeared to put the game on ice for Wayne with a dazzling 30-yard TD run early in the fourth, but the play was nullified by a holding call.

The Wildcats forced a punt, which was returned 84 yards by Puryear to the Wayne 3. Plymouth running back Terrance Guthridge breezed into the end zone on the first play from scrimmage, cutting the 'Cats' deficit to 18-13 with 9:32 to play.

Powered by its big and mobile offensive line, the Zebras possessed the ball for 17 of the game's final 21 plays to seal the win.

"I know it's early, but this is the best offensive line I've ever coached," Hnatuk confirmed. "We have two three-year starters (Mike Davis and Zac

Kyle) who can play anywhere.

"Plymouth made drastic improvement from what we saw on the tape from last week's Salem game. We saw a lot of flaws on the film, but we didn't see any flaws today. They defended us very well."

"I thought our defense played well except for a few big plays that we gave up," said Sawchuk. "We're just not a very disciplined football team. We have to get better."

"We have kids making plays — there are bright spots all over the place — but we need to do it on a consistent basis."

D.J. Freeman completed 7-of-15 passes for 128 yards. Calloway nabbed six Freeman aeriels for 96 yards. Baskin was the Zebras' top ground-gainer, picking up 101 yards on 12 attempts.

Gregory completed 7-of-17 passes for 152 yards. Hanchett grabbed three for 91. The Zebras held Guthridge to 41 yards on 13 carries. The slick-running junior had eclipsed the 140-yard mark in his first two games.

Wayne's defensive charged was led by Alex Bledsoe, Ramsay Hart and Ryan Nesbitt.

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INLINE

FROM PAGE B1

year-old Nathan) started to race competitively, so I figured if I'm going to be taking him to practices, I might as well start skating again to get in shape."

All in the family

Susie isn't the only accomplished in-line skater in the Jackson family. Nathan, an eighth-grader at West Middle School, placed first in his age group at the Regional competition, which qualified him to compete in Omaha.

Competing for national titles is not cheap when it comes to purchasing top-of-the-line equipment. Beginning inline skaters can buy a good pair for \$299. Other, more established racers, may want to spend more.

"The pair I have run about \$1,500," she said. "It's very important to have a high-quality pair of inline skates because all the girls I'll be racing against will have them."

Not an easy switch

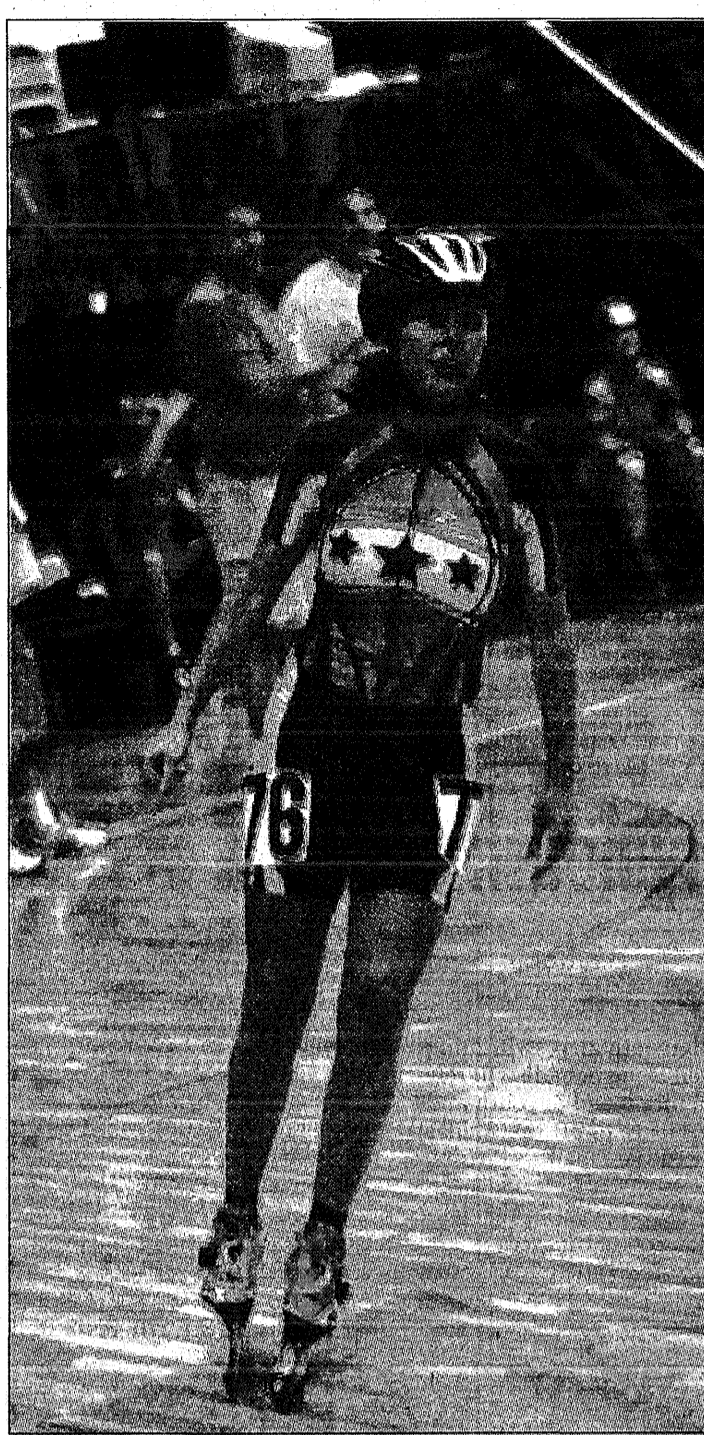
Jackson said the transition from roller skates to in-line skates in the early-90s was far from a piece of cake.

"It was difficult at first," she remembered. "The concept is the same, but your body is twisting in the opposite direction."

How much longer does Jackson plan on competing?

"I keep saying every year that I'm only going to do it one more year, but then when the time comes, I can't quit," she said. "I'll probably keep competing as long as my son is into it. It's something we can do together."

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Canton resident Susie Jackson coasts around the track after completing a heat at the U.S. Inline Skating Championships earlier this summer in Omaha, Neb.

Plymouth lady harriers shine at LW time trials

The Plymouth girls cross country team tuned up for the upcoming season with an outstanding performance at the Lutheran Westland Time Trials, which were held Aug. 30 in Westland.

Led by Beth Heldmeyer's first-place showing (20:45), the Wildcats placed four runners in the top six slots.

Also excelling were Lauren Ahearn (third in 21:31), Paula Green (fifth in 21:47) and Julie

Forester (sixth in 21:51). Plymouth's Brianna Hessler crossed the line in 23:02.

"It was a nice way to start the season," said Plymouth coach Mary Kerwin.

The Wildcats will be shooting for their first PCEP City Meet championship Thursday when they face off against Canton and Salem at 4 p.m. at Cass-Benton. The boys race is set for approximately 4:40 at the same site.

Unbeaten Chargers sink Vikings

Livonia Churchill is off to a 3-0 football start and yet to play a home game.

The Chargers earned their third straight road victory Friday night with a pair fourth-quarter scores to beat host Walled Lake Central, 28-21, in the Lakes Division opener in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Churchill broke a 14-all deadlock with 9:10 left in the game on a Matt Kowalis 1-yard touchdown run set up by Jeff Ricketts' 45-yard halfback pass to Ryan Whittum, capping an 11-play, 80-yard drive.

The Chargers' Devin Moynihan, who led defense with 15 tackles, then recovered a fumble at the Churchill 49 to set up Kowalis' 51-yard TD run on the very next play. Whittum converted his fourth straight extra point to make it 28-14.

Central quarterback Cody Rzeznik, who figured in all three of the Vikings' scores, scored on a 24-yard run with 4:21 to go to cut the deficit to seven. But Churchill's defense stiffened on the Vikings' final possession thanks to Darius Miller-Wells' second sack of the game on third down followed by Daran Carey pass break-up on fourth down.

Rzeznik opened the scoring with 2:50 to play in the first quarter on a 49-yard run, but Ricketts' answered right back on a 75-yard kick-off return.

Churchill led 14-7 at the half when Kowalis scored the first of his three TDs on a 3-yard run with 10:35 to play set up by Ryan Dolan's 35-yard punt return.

With two minutes left in the third quarter, Rzeznik scored his second TD on another 49-yard run to knot the game at 14-all. Rzeznik had 166 yards rushing on 18 attempts as the Vikings had 272 total yards. He was 1-of-6 for 32 yards with one interception (Whittum's fourth of the year).

Churchill finished with 227 total yards, 91 on the ground in 35 attempts. Quarterback Grant Morgan was 4-of-7 for 91 yards.

Whittum had four catches for 103 yards, including three grabs inside the Central 5, two leading to scores. Central, winless in three starts, had the edge in first downs, 9-8. The Vikings lost two fumbles with the other recovered by Kevin Tabone. Churchill will play its home opener Friday against Salem. Game time is 7 p.m.

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Canton boys runners fourth in South Lyon Invite

In one of the closest cross country meets Canton coach Bill Boyd can ever remember, the Chiefs placed fourth in the nine-team South Lyon Invitational Aug. 25 at Island Lake Park.

Northville won the event with 68 points, nine fewer than runner-up Livonia Churchill. The top five was filled out by Ann Arbor Huron (81), Canton (89) and the host Lions (90).

"I don't think I've ever seen five teams finish that close at the top," said Boyd. "We ran right with some very good teams and we actually beat

a very good South Lyon team, so I'm encouraged. Churchill's coach included us in the five six teams he thought could win the league this year."

Mustang Jack Dalton won the race in 16:51. Canton was paced by junior Duncan Spitz's fourth-place showing in 17:01.

Also scoring for the Chiefs were Derek Hoerman (15th in 17:37), Kyle Clinton (16th in 17:38) and Zach Spreitzer (17:58). Josh Osinski placed 32nd for Canton.

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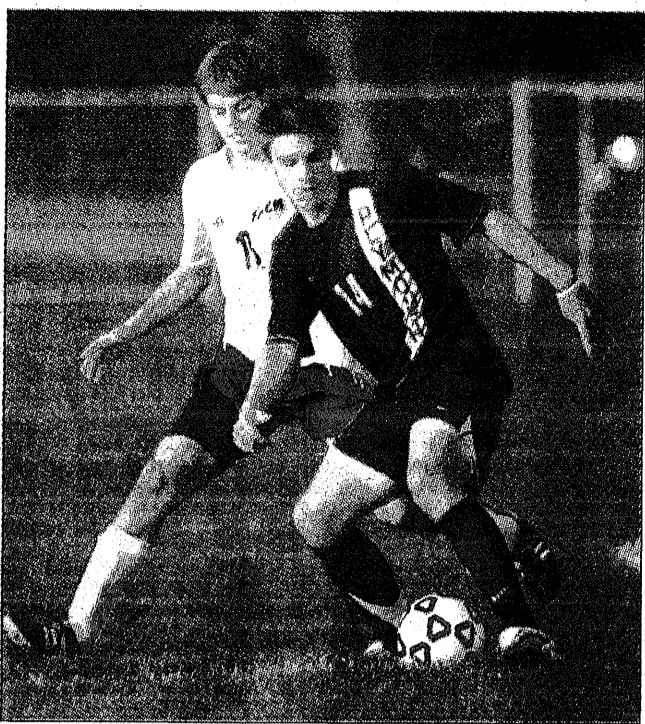
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

All tied up

Plymouth senior forward Colin Rolfe (foreground), pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored both the Wildcats' goal in their 2-2 tie with Walled Lake Western Wednesday night on the PCEP varsity soccer field. The draw left Plymouth with a 1-3-3 overall record and 0-1-1 mark in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Plymouth 'Y' news

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering a variety of instructional sports programs that will focus on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction.

The Y's preschool-aged programs for kids between the ages of 3 and 5 include sports sampler, Y-Hoops, Bumble Bee soccer, Y-Pucks and Pee Wee T-Ball. The instructional programs for kids aged 6 to 10 include Hoop Skills, Y Soccer Academy, Flag Football Clinic and the Fall Basketball Challenge. The six-week programs run the week of Sept. 10 through Oct. 15. For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904; or visit www.ywmcadetroit.org.

The Y is also looking for preschool instructors for these programs. If you are interested, call the phone number listed above.

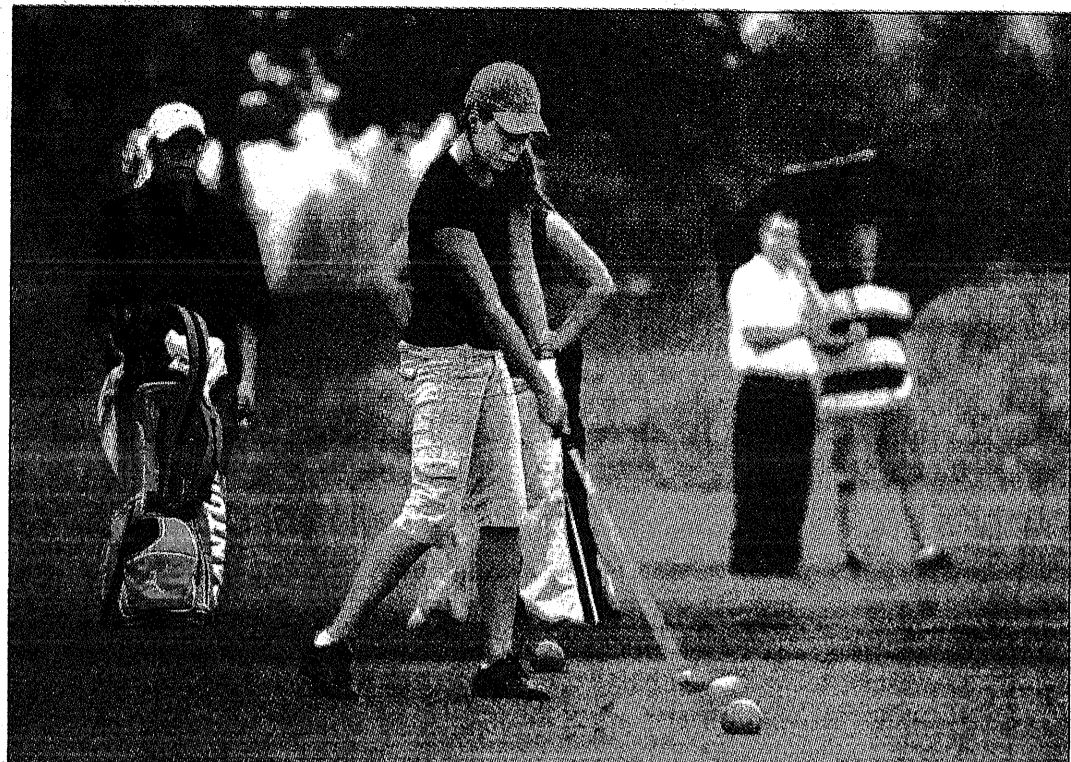
MDA golf outing

Champps Americana will be hosting a charity golf outing to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Monday, Sept. 24, at Fox Hills Golf Course, which is located at 8768 N. Territorial in Plymouth Township.

Registration for the four-player scramble event is set for 9 a.m. The shotgun start is slated for 11 a.m.

The \$150 per-player registration fee includes a bucket of balls at the driving range, greens fees, lunch at the turn, five drink tickets and a post-outing cocktail reception and dinner. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, hole-in-one contest as well as closest-to-the-pin and longest-drive competitions.

Proceeds from the outing will help fund summer-camp trips for local children with muscular dystrophy. For registration information, contact Matt Toal at (734) 591-3334 or Sue Collins at (248) 474-0235. If you are unable to attend the golf outing but would like to make a donation to MDA, mail the check to: MDA, 36520 Grand River Ave., #102, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Chloe Marentic tees off during Friday's match against Canton. Marentic fired a 69 in the damp and windy conditions.

GOLF

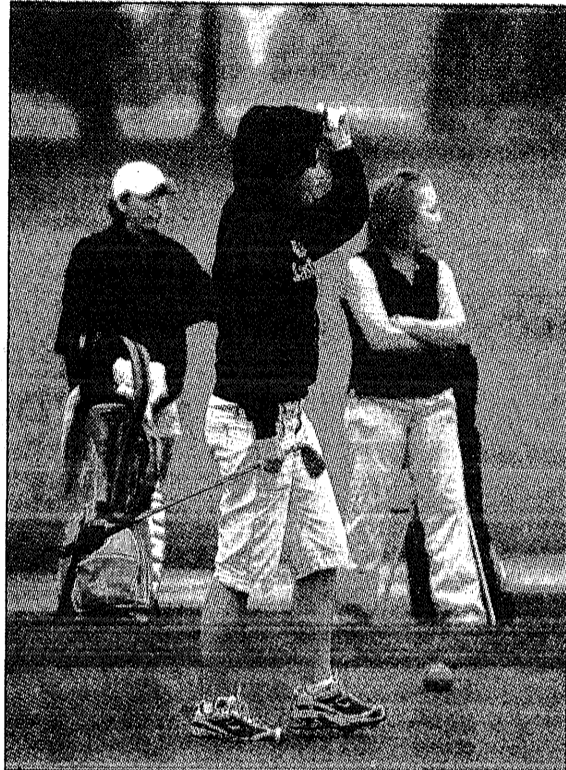
FROM PAGE B1

varsity players from a year ago. The girls also could not catch a break. The ball seemed to bounce the wrong way. Overall, I was please with what I saw from the girls.

"Our goal for the year is to improve each week. After evaluating the match, we will concentrate significantly on our short game at practice next week. I think putting was probably 50 percent of our total shots today."

Rounding out the Chiefs' four-person scoring contingent were Alexandria Wee (70) and freshman Mary Elizabeth Winther (71).

Liz Cizek (66) and Megan Hagerty (68) were Plymouth's No. 3 and 4 scorers.



Canton's Kara Gregory follows the flight of her tee shot during Friday's match against Plymouth. Gregory shot a 50, one off the medalist pace of teammate Chelsea Osburn.

Chief kickers thump Zebras

Canton's boys soccer team strengthened its grip on the top spot in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division Wednesday afternoon when it trounced visiting Wayne Memorial, 8-0. The victory improved the Chiefs' record to 5-0-2 overall and 3-0 in the division. The Zebras slipped to 0-5-1 and 0-2, respectively.

A pair of Joeyes — Massel and Krizanek — paced the Chiefs' assault. Both players netted two goals and one assist each. Other goal-scorers for the winners were Logan McGraw (two), Sherif Hassanien and Eric Caron.

Tim Belcher (two), Caron, Pat Nolan and Scott Zech added assists.

Nick Turnbull recorded the shutout in net for the Chiefs, who owned a commanding 6-0 halftime advantage.

The game featured brothers on opposite sides of the bench — Wayne first-year coach Evan

SOCCER

Baker and Canton junior midfielder Colin Baker.

"He (Colin) played a nice game," said Evan Baker. "He hit the post once and put another over the (cross) bar."

CANTON AGAPE 4, CALVARY CHRISTIAN 3

On Thursday at Calvary Christian, the Wolverines overcame a 3-2 halftime deficit to improve their record to 3-0. Mark Mullett's goal mid-way through the second half broke a 3-3 deadlock. Mullett's goal was assisted by his brother, Donald, who also scored a goal earlier in the half.

Brandon Pierson netted the winners' first two goals to stake Agape to a 2-0 lead. However, Calvary stormed back behind net-finders from Sam Apple and John Wiedmann.

Jared Miller earned the victory in net for Agape as he stopped 17 shots.

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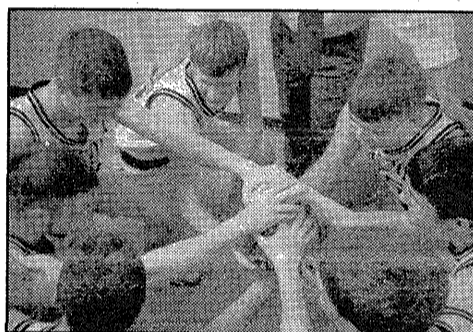
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Being OK marks midlife transition

In some ways, midlife is similar to adolescence. It is a time of transition. The adolescent is no longer a child but not yet an adult. He/she is in the process of taking off their childhood and trying on their young adulthood. They are pulled in each direction. They are contemplating a great deal of the time.

Some say midlife comes when we hit our 40's or 50's. It is a time of wondering what matters and what is important. An article in a recent addition of Men's Lifestyle Magazine put it well: "The midlife stew often starts with some garden-variety boredom. If you have been hoeing the same row for 20 years, only an idiot wouldn't wonder if there aren't some more interesting rows somewhere else. On top of tedium, we often get our first bolt of serious bad news: the death of a parent, trouble in a marriage, a career setback, the transformation of the 8-year-old who thought you were God into the adolescent who thinks you are the devil. Crushing chest pain and the word "biopsy" can set a fellow to thinking about what he has done with his life."

A very introspective person I know suggested that midlife is a state of mind rather than a chronological time. He said that it occurs when one realizes one's worst fears nor fondest dreams are not going to come true: and that that will be OK. It is the "being OK" with who we are by midlife time that sets the stage for our transition beyond - into the last half of the lifecycle. We all want to age gracefully. We can all increase the odds of doing so by how we navigate through our midlife (and prior stages) of development. This is the key to building resilience.

An expert on aging is Dr. George Valliant, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He will be the featured speaker at the Michigan Psychological Association Fall Convention in Livonia this October. In an interview, Dr. Valliant has recently pointed out that positive emotion, such as altruism, work well for people. He notes that positive emotion seems to help older people adapt well. He said it helps if you live in a kind environment. Dr. Valliant's initial interest in the development of adult goes back more than 35 years.

He said he had a few patients who recovered from schizophrenia that led him to look at how people recovered and how they made a positive adaptation in life. When he followed people over the years, he could see that some things remained stable. He reports that positive emotion such as joy, compassion, and trust are very important for adults and they improve every aspect of mental

Please see **MCCULLOCH, C2**



Church tours reveal the Greek Orthodox religion as it has existed since the time of Christ. Iconography and chanting will be demonstrated and explained.

Food, dance and music color weekend festival

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Teena Fafalios is living proof you don't have to be Greek to love the food or join Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth. As media director, Fafalios is inviting the community to the third annual A Taste of Greece Festival Sept. 14-16, to enjoy homemade Loukoumathes (Greek doughnuts) and tour the church.

"The festival is something a lot of Greek churches tend to do. It comes from a tradition in Greece, Panayiri, a celebration of feast days for the Virgin Mary," said Fafalios, who's Italian but married to a Greek man. "There will be a cafeteria tent to purchase homemade food - spanikopita, flaming cheese saganaki, a Taverna with Greek wine and beer and ouzo, and a Greek coffee house with Frappe, an iced coffee popular in Greece right now."

Along with the food, entertainers will serve up traditional Greek dance to the music of Ellas.

"We will have the Kyklos and Opa Dancers, and our own Nativity Church dancers. The children (ages 3-12) came every Tuesday all summer long to dance," said Fafalios. "There will be a Marketplace to sell Greek speciality items from jewelry to icons. One of the biggest features is Oasis Golf sponsoring the Kid's Corner inflatable fun area. It costs \$10 per child and you can play all day."

Festival chair Thekla Szlinis is hoping to attract more than the 6,000 people who attended last year even though it meant spending her recent vacation coming up with ideas and shortcuts for cutting and skewering kabobs.

Please see **FESTIVAL, C3**



Oasis Golf is sponsoring the Kid's Corner at the Taste of Greece Festival, a fund-raiser to reduce the mortgage for Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth.



Homemade food and pastries play a big part in the Taste of Greece Festival at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth.

Garden City girl battles rare Pearson's syndrome

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Seeing their daughter Paige's flag raised atop the crane erected to help build the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital in Ann Arbor brightened the late August day for Teara and George Doutre of Garden City.

The 2½-year old girl is battling the rare Pearson's syndrome. Her low red cell counts require Paige to not only receive blood transfusions and platelets monthly at the old children's hospital, but to drag

a cart of formula behind her 24-hours a day. For a child so young, Paige is consistent about not leaving the cart behind as she plays, but occasionally her parents have to remind her to take it along.

The three are inseparable. Paige and her parents designed the flag together during the young girl's recent hospitalization. Paige's blue and maize handprints decorate the flag flown over the area where the University of Michigan Health System is constructing the 1.1 million-square-foot facility, a new and

Please see **BATTLE, C2**



Teara and George Doutre with their 2½-year-old daughter Paige

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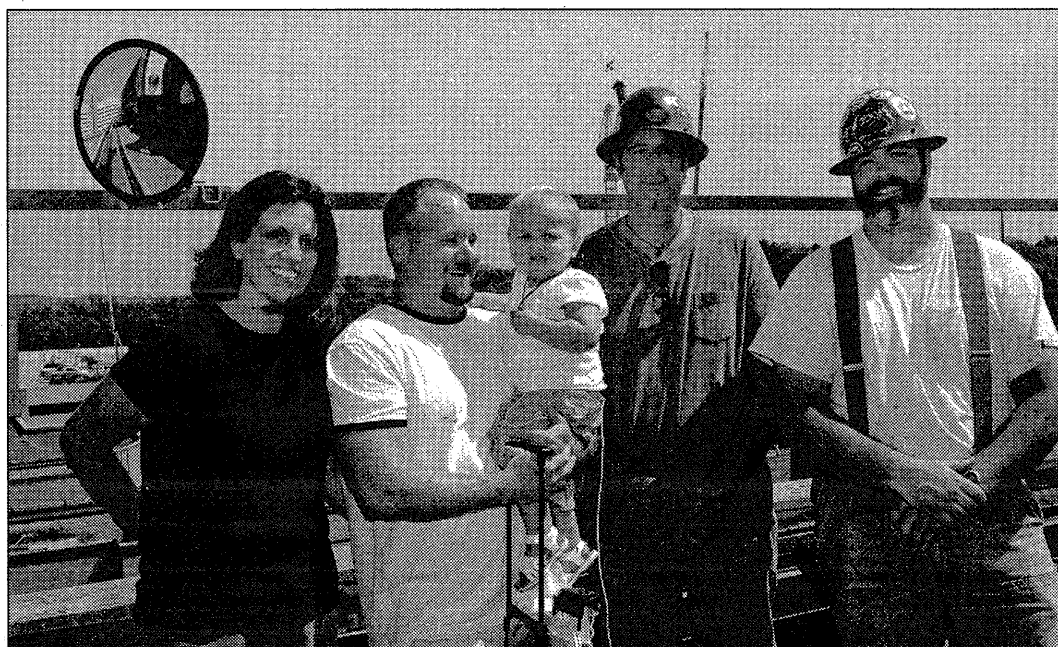
BATTLE

FROM PAGE C1

larger home for specialized services such as the pediatric liver transplant program.

"She's been in and out of the hospital since she was 9 months old and was finally diagnosed with Pearson's syndrome a month after her first birthday," said Teara (pronounced Tara) Doutré. "Pearson's is one of the mitochondrial disorders. There are just 60 cases in the world. Paige is case 61, the first in Michigan. The syndrome causes a loss of energy in your cells and affects different organs because they don't have enough energy."

"The symptoms started when she ended up with a rapid heart rate and doctors found she was anemic. She started getting transfusions and was in and out of the hospital a lot. Doctors called it a failure to thrive. Then in December 2005 she began vomiting and losing weight. "This one is fatal. Life



Teara, George and Paige Doutré joined Barton Malow crane operators for the flag raising event.

expectancy is 14 with one child living to 15."

An experimental drug, triacetylrudine taken every six hours, is helping Paige absorb nutrients in the formula. She's gained 12 pounds since starting the medication.

"We contacted Dr. Bruce

Cohen at the Cleveland Clinic. You can only get it in Italy," said George Doutré.

"Paige was absorbing none of the formula," added Teara. "Since going on an experimental medication doctors have been able to reduce the amount of electrolytes in the formula. Every six hours we must switch the bags of two different formulas."

Paige goes up to the wide-screen TV saying she wants to hear the song and video created just for her by Songs of Love, a New York foundation. Before long she's at the

computer looking for the Sesame Street Web site to play games.

"Hurry up," she says to the computer.

Paige looks like a normal 2½ year old, but her parents know their little girl is battling a devastating disease. Luckily George's employer, SER Communications in Center Line, has given him a medical leave with full pay.

His insurance plus Children's Special Services through Medicaid pays for most of the expenses. But the costs do add up,



Paige Doutré and her parents Teara and George created this flag together.

says George who stayed in a hotel for three weeks when Paige was in the Intensive Care Unit during a 153 day hospitalization from February to July.

To help the couple, family and friends are holding the second annual golf outing Just for Paige Saturday, Sept. 22, at Green Oaks Golf Course in Ypsilanti. Deadline for registration is Sept. 10.

Call (734) 485-2683 or (734) 260-3846.

Paige could care less about the golf outing, she's excited about seeing "The Mouse". Thanks to the Make-a-Wish Foundation the family is

visiting Disney World in Florida.

"The social worker put a rush on it 'cause nobody knows what's going to happen," said George. "Her organs are still going to deteriorate."

"We're trying to take it day by day," added Teara. "We don't know what's going to happen."

"It's tough," said George. "At one time they said we're going to be coming home with hospice. She's probably beaten the odds four times. She's a strong little girl."

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MCCULLOCH
FROM PAGE C1

functioning. He says that what makes the positive emotion so vital for aging well is that they focus on things outside of us.

He notes that people who live happier are more focused on the positive emotions (as reported in The Michigan Psychologist Newsletter, 3rd Quarter, 2007, pg.1)

I would agree with Dr. Valliant's remarks and am reminded of the old bromide of the glass being half full or half empty and its applicability for the 50-year-old. Perhaps it has

similar applicability for the 75-year-old by asking; is the glass 25 percent full or 75 percent empty?

Or, perhaps better yet, is the glass as full as I want it to be with positive emotions no matter what my age?

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of The American Psychotherapy Association and is credentialed in mental health, social work, brain injury and substance abuse. His monthly column "Our Mental Health" has appeared in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and other publications for six years. He can be reached at 248 474-2763 ext. 22.

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FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE C1

"We have a lot of support from the Greek community in southeast Detroit, but we're looking to attract other people," said Szlinis of Canton who is chairing the event with Jacob Espinosa. "We used to do this on church property about 20 years ago but then got involved with Spree and Plymouth Fall Festival. We brought the festival back to church grounds so we could showcase more our heritage and faith. It keeps getting more popular. People enjoy coming out. They really enjoy our Greek food."

"We're also going to give lessons for anyone who wants to learn how to dance. It's just fun and nobody cares if you don't do it just right. I just love it all, seeing the people gather, watch them taste the food and loving it. I live there on the weekend."

The food reminds Szlinis of the trips she's taken to the island of Cyprus where her parents were born.

"The food is similar. The ladies that are baking some of them were born over in Greece," said Szlinis. "My husband's co-workers are always asking when is the festival so they can come and eat."

Jerry Takis says the sights and sounds found inside the Greek Orthodox church are as much a part of the Greek culture as the food and dancing. He especially looks forward to leading tours of the facility which opened its new doors in April 1994. The Rev. George Vapouris will be greeting visitors as well in the church and throughout the festival grounds. The church was originally established in 1975 in a ranch house across the parking lot.

"There's a lot to see in the Orthodox church. It's ornate but it's not just what they'll see but hear and smell."

We'll explain how the sights and sounds are part of the Orthodox church and how the structure teaches about heaven and earth," said Jerry Takis of Plymouth Township. Takis has been a church member eight years. Three of his grandparents came from Greece. "We had an iconographer paint above the sanctuary and on the icon screen that separates the altar from the nave of the church. The church has been using icons from the very beginning. The service is the same practiced by the 12 apostles."

Iconography and chanting will be demonstrated and explained, said Takis.

"Orthodox is Byzantine chant, Roman Catholic is Gregorian chant and does sound a bit different. Byzantine style of chant was adapted from original chant which is basically as old as the church. The Orthodox church and Roman started in the time of Christ and split in 1054. Most people think the Orthodox and Roman Catholic are the same, but they're not — 98 percent of Greece is Orthodox, 1 percent is Muslim, the rest is other."

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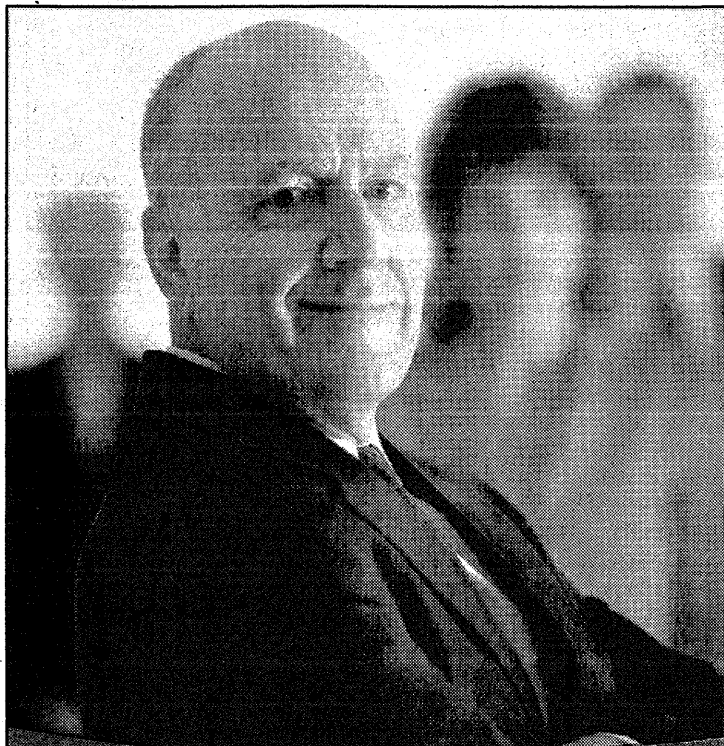
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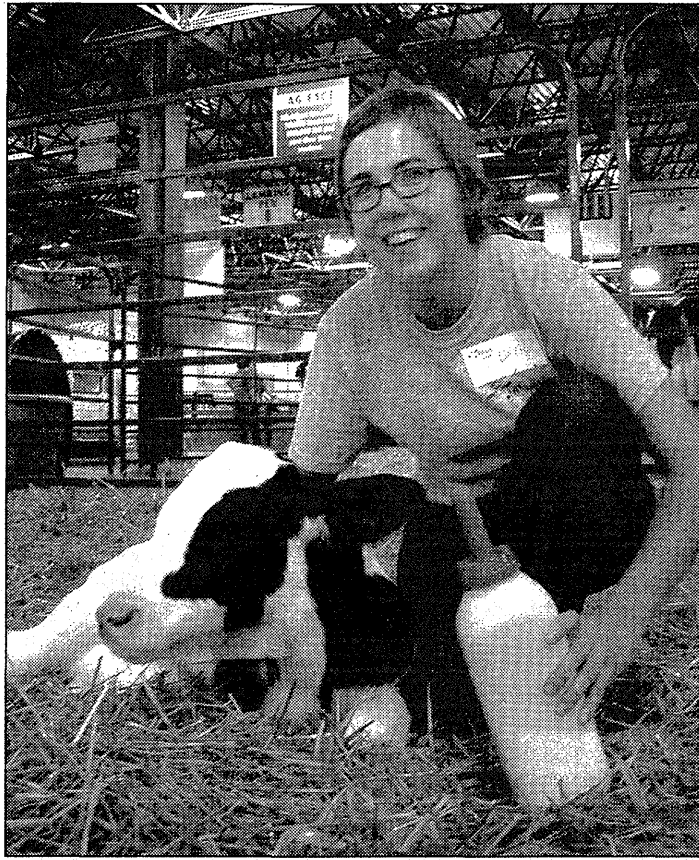
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090077LG_02

Vet student prepared by working with baboons in South Africa



Beth Lamborne feeds a calf at the Miracle of Life birthing exhibit at the Michigan State Fair.

BY BRAD LINDBERG
SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

Beth Lamborne didn't monkey around on her way to vet school. Instead, she cared for orphaned baboons in South Africa.

The 24-year-old Canton resident paid her way to the Center for Animal Rehabilitation and Education in Phalaborwa Province before enrolling in animal medicine at Michigan State University.

"Baboons are intelligent," Lamborne said. "Their social structure is friendly." They made her feel like one of the family.

"I loved interacting with them," Lamborne said. These days, Lamborne is studying closer to home. She's begun her second year of vet school and volunteered to work at the Miracle of Life birthing exhibit at the recent Michigan State Fair.

The exhibit featured pregnant cows, sheep, pigs and poultry from MSU whose due

'We wander around and make sure everyone's OK. If we hear piglets squeal, we make sure their mom hasn't sat on them.'

BETH LAMBORNE, vet student and volunteer at the Miracle of Life birthing exhibit at the recent Michigan State Fair.

dates are timed to coincide with the fair.

Lamborne spent three nights tending livestock. Basically, she made sure everyone got a good night's sleep.

"We wander around and make sure everyone's OK," she said shortly after bottle feeding a two-day old Holstein calf named Chester. "If we hear piglets squeal, we make sure

their mom hasn't sat on them." Lamborne took the recommended path to vet school. She earned good grades as an undergraduate biology student and worked at a couple of area animal hospitals.

"We are interested in students who are well rounded and have lots of life skills," said Dr. Daniel Grooms, MSU associate professor of large animal clinical sciences and co-coordinator of the Miracle of Life.

Grooms said he wants students who "communicate, have leadership skills and can function outside of the library."

Upon graduation, Lamborne will balance a marketable degree with hefty debt.

"(Last year), 95 percent of our students were placed in employment before gradua-

tion," said Hilda Meija Abreu, MSU vet school admissions director. "They graduated with an average debt of \$115,000."

New vets can spend a decade paying back student loans.

"We need to work on income levels," Abreu said. "The highest salary for the class of 2006 was \$80,000. The average salary was \$53,000."

Lamborne wants to work with small animals and wouldn't mind an occasional baboon. "It wasn't until I was in veterinary school that I realized the breadth of the veterinary profession," she said. "Treating wild animals is a lot different than treating domestic animals in terms of getting close to them. Anytime a baboon had to be treated, it had to be tranquilized."

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Subluxation Awareness Week

The week of September 18th has been declared "Subluxation Awareness Week". In a recent proclamation by the International Chiropractors Association, the week of September 18th was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the first chiropractic adjustment on September 18, 1895. The proclamation reads:

The officers and members of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) understand the devastating effects of vertebral subluxation on health and well-being. The officers and members of the ICA further understand the advantages and benefits of a life free of subluxation. These advantages include maximum potential in health, performance, human potential and social well-being. For these reasons, and to enlighten the world to these vital health principles, the International Chiropractors Association hereby declares the week of September 18th, the anniversary of the birth of chiropractic, to be further known as, "SUBLUXATION AWARENESS WEEK"

Voted unanimously August 1, 2001, ICA Board of Directors

The event was designed to alert the public of the dangers of subluxations on the proper function of the nervous system. The nervous system is the master controller of all other body functions. Malfunction of the nervous system can lead to a wide variety of health problems. More importantly, the proclamation was issued to raise the consciousness of people as to the benefits of a subluxation free life. When subluxations are removed the body functions at a higher potential in every aspect of life.

For further information on Subluxation Awareness Week, or for more information on subluxations. Please visit www.subluxaware.com or call Dr. Mashike for a free consultation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Dance ensemble
The PRCUA Syrena Dance Ensemble is looking for children (3 years and up) who would like to learn about their Polish heritage through song and dance. Registration began Sept. 5. For more information, visit the group's Web site at syrenadance.com

Juried print show
The Northville Art House presents a Juried Print Show this October. Submissions must be post-marked by Sept. 15. The show runs Oct. 5-Nov. 4. The juror is master printmaker Zdzislaw R. Sikora whose work is represented nationally, and currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Fine Arts Department at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Submissions are open to traditional and experimental processes, including mono prints and mixed media. At least 50 percent of a work must be made from a traditional print process. Computer generated prints or photography will not be accepted unless it is part of a mixed media work. Submit a maximum of 3 slides or 3 images on CD in jpeg format per entry. You may download a prospectus at www.northvillearts.org. For more information phone (248) 344-0497, or e-mail info@northvillearts.org and type Print Show in subject line.

Melanoma 5K or 1-mile walk
Join the second-annual KDB Melanoma Walk to be held Saturday, Oct. 13 at Kensington Metropark (East Boat Launch). Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for 10-17 yrs and seniors. Registration forms and more information can be found on-line at www.melanomawalk.org

Bridal fund-raising event
Northville Hills Golf Club (15565 Bay Hill Drive in Northville Township) will be hosting a bridal info event sponsored by "The Wedding Resource Network" group, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007 from 6-8 p.m. The event will include food and wine sampling along with a silent auction of items with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Top area bridal vendors of "Wedding Resource Network" will be on hand for one-on-one information. Admission is free if registered by Sept. 14, or \$7 at the door. For more information or to register call (734) 667-3651 or visit the website www.THEWRN.net.

Road rally
A Road Rally to benefit Steppin' Out/AIDS Walk Detroit is planned for Friday, Sept. 14. This task-oriented, timed "treasure hunt" will begin at 7:30 p.m. from the parking lot of the Royal Oak Farmer's Market. Participants may enter as individuals or as a group, a \$5 donation per person is suggested. Prior

registration required. For more information, call (586) 212-1348, or e-mail carrscompadres@yahoo.com

Suicide Loss Support Group
New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering an ongoing support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This monthly group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month at the First United Methodist Church in Northville located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road. No registration is necessary for this monthly drop-in support group. For further information about this group or about the many other free, age and loss specific groups offered for children, teens, and adults, please call New Hope Center for Grief Support at 248-348-0115 and visit us at www.newhopecenter.net

Charity golf
The Fourth Annual Hope Charity Golf Classic will be held at Travis Pointe Country Club Sept. 17. The event is open to the public and will include lunch, golf, a cocktail hour, dinner, and live auction. Proceeds will benefit Hope Clinic, an interdenominational Christian non-profit organization located in Ypsilanti, was founded in 1982 to provide free medical care to the uninsured. All donations are tax deductible. Non-golfers who wish to take part have the option to attend only the evening events. To sign up or for more information contact Melissa Burkhart at (734) 484-2989 or e-mail mburkhart@thehopeclinic.org

Ballet auditions
The Ann Arbor Civic Ballet holds open auditions 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 at Sylvia Studio of Dance, 3900 Jackson Road, Suite 6, in Ann Arbor. Experienced male and female dancers 12 years of age and older are invited to audition. Women should bring pointe shoes. Call (734) 668-8066 or visit www.annarborthehopeclinic.org for more information.

Gardeners meet
The Gardeners of Northville & Novi meet the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

Fall Harvest Festival
Plans for the Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce's Fall Harvest Festival, which takes place Sept. 15, in this quiet farming community are progressing. Artists, crafters, and businesses will line the village main street, while five farms will be open for tours from the Jackson County Family Farm Fest event. The Michigan's Center for the Photographic Arts Fall Focus Festival will feature the photographic art of 800 children from the area, as well as hayrides, fresh cider and donuts,

and horse and buggy rides through the village. Quality live musical entertainment, including the "The Shyguys," winners of the Grass Lake Third Annual Battle of the Bands, will play during the entire event in the gazebo/depot park area, and food vendors will be available at the site throughout the day. For more information on this event, visit www.dalefisherphoto.com and view or download a brochure with more information.

Health class
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician and clinical nutritionist, presents "Is It Really Your Thyroid?" 6-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17, at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Learn the thyroid's link to heart health, digestive issues, emotional stress and more. There is help the natural way. Help your body get back on track with safe, natural, effective alternatives. No charge for this class. Limited seating, reservation required. Phone (734) 756-6904 to make a reservation.

Mercy scholarships
Mercy High School is granting \$170,600 in scholarship money to students for the 2007-08 school year. Ten full-tuition scholarships from the Sisters of Mercy and 19 named scholarships are being awarded along with \$20,000 in scholarships provided by the Mercy Alumnae Association. Scholarships are awarded based on applications and student-written essays. For information on donating to the Mercy High School Tuition Assistance Fund, or establishing a new named Mercy scholarship, contact Director of Development Nadine Maynard at njmaynard@mhsmsi.org or call (248) 893-3538.

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

the VNA TravelWise Travel Clinic at (248) 967-8755 or visit www.vna.org.

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

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

Card party/luncheon
Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

Hospice training
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light house-keeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Toastmasters meet
Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Grief support
New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

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

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.
The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Beth Stewart, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 420-4094.

Gardeners meet
Gardeners of Northville & Novi meet September through May the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site at www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

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

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

Plymouth Newcomers
Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplusjanet@aol.com

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue
The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768

MOPS meet
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

Mosaic
MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Plymouth Baptist Church for more information, 734-453-5534

Moms Club
Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth, Canton and Westland offers a variety of activities for stay-at-home moms and their children. For more details, call Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231-6120.

DAR
The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775.

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Cut out red meat for health

Matt from Waterford emails asking about the dangers of eating red meat. He has heard it is not good for him, but just how bad is it?

Matt, it is time to cut back or cut out red meat from your diet. It is just not good for you! In fact studies show a high fat diet, especially with a lot of red meat, increases a person's risk of developing colon cancer. And it is worse for those who are already battling the disease. A new study followed more than 1,000



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

seems to miss a lot of school. Is this common?

Actually Rose yes it is. A new study found obese elementary school children miss a couple more school days than their normal weight classmates. School officials found the more days of school children miss, the greater their chances for negative outcomes such as drugs and crime. Researchers believe the children may be skipping class not because of medical issues, but to avoid teasing. Our children are facing an obesity nightmare! Obesity rates have nearly quintupled among 6- to 11-year-olds and tripled among teens and children ages 2 to 5. Lack of exercise and poor nutrition are to blame.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Emergency response

Flu shot clinics to test preparedness

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

If this year's mass influenza immunizations are as successful as 2006, George Miller can rest a little easier knowing Oakland County is prepared for a public health emergency. As Health Officer for the Oakland County Health Division, Miller is responsible for testing Oakland's Modular Emergency Medical System to provide medications or immunizations for its 1.2 million residents in case of a pandemic, natural disaster or biological attack.

Miller is expecting more than 9,500 people to attend the fourth annual Community Flu Vaccination Clinics Saturday, Oct. 27, for ages six months and older.

"We hope people want to assist us because this is an exercise to make sure if this was a real event we can do it," said George Miller. "Over the years we learned we can expand and stretch our staff and still be effective. If there was an emergency we can meet CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) criteria, to put 1,000 an hour through vaccination clinics. If there is an emergency, the medical community will be taxed. We're blessed to have 14 hospitals but even 14 will be overloaded if there's a pandemic or if people are concerned they're infected or affected. We want to be able to assist with that. These are called dispensing sites for medicines or vaccinations whichever is available at that time."

Last year more than 9,500 people received flu shots over a period of five hours at seven sites in Oakland County. About 1/3 pre-registered online. The National Association of Counties was so impressed they recognized Oakland's system with an achievement award for the online registration program which cut waiting time to no more than five to

MASS FLU SHOT CLINICS

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 27
Where: Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen; Summit Place Mall, 315 N. Telegraph, Waterford; Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake Rd.; Hazel Park High School, 23400 Hughes; Lake Orion High School, 495 Scripps; James Giesler Middle School, 46720 Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, and Older Person's Commission, 650 Leticia Dr., Rochester (no walk-ins, pre-register only)
Cost: \$7. Online payment options are Visa, Mastercard, Medicare and/or Medicaid. Only cash, Medicare and/or Medicaid will be accepted for walk-in clients who do not preregister online.
To register: Visit www.oakgov.com/health. For those in need of assistance or without computer access help is available at Health Division offices or by contacting the Nurse on Call at 1-800-848-5533.

eight minutes. The CDC and state of Michigan have both requested Oakland County's plan to use as a model program.

"Last year for the first time we did pre-registration that assigned people according to their ZIP codes and specific times of day. Because they followed instructions we had no bottlenecks or jam up. This year we will have two lines, preregistered and those who have to fill out the forms," said Miller. "We've been learning a lot through this process. We have a great partnership with people in the community."

Oakland County started working on the plan four years ago by offering a mass flu vaccination clinic at Summit Place Mall.

Please see **CLINICS, C9**

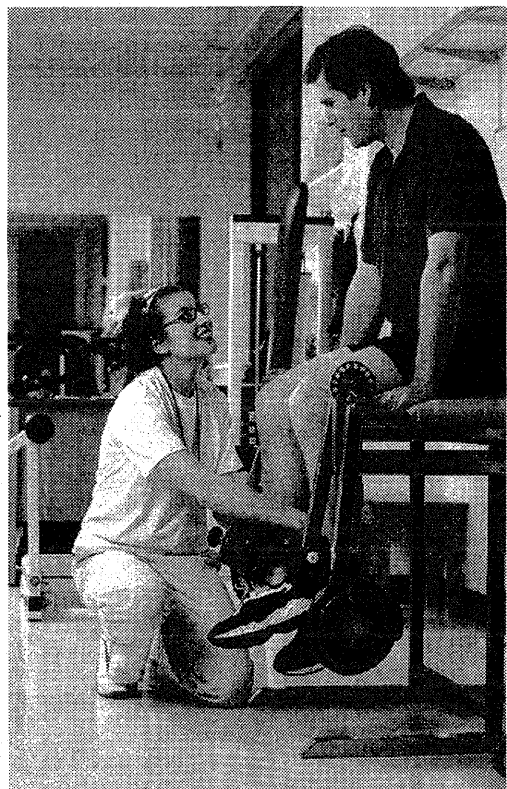


Once again this year, Oakland County residents can not only receive their flu shots quickly and inexpensively, but participate in an emergency preparedness exercise.



Last year more than 9,500 residents received flu shots at mass clinic sites around Oakland County to test the health division's response to an emergency.

- Back pain?
- Headaches?
- Numbness in hands or feet?



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Garden City

6543 Middlebelt Road, North of Ford Road 734-458-7878

Livonia

33887 Five Mile Road, West of Farmington Road 734-425-5414

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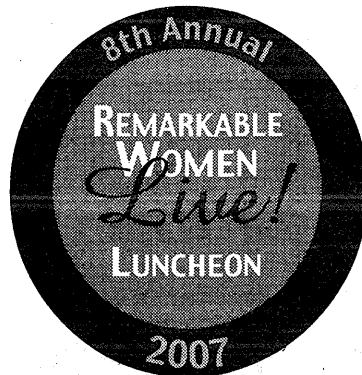
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Beautiful blossoms

Club celebrates 15 years tending gardens at Meadow Brook Hall

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

Summer unofficially ended Labor Day weekend — and autumn is just two weeks away — but the 14 gardens surrounding Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills look as good as they did in June.

"We're just proud of everything," said Nan LaRosa, president of the Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club. "And even though the gardens have a tendency to be in decline at the end of August-beginning of September, I think you can see that these are so well-cared for, that they look absolutely splendid."

About 40 of the club's 141 members gather every Tuesday morning at the former Matilda Dodge Wilson estate to keep bugs at bay, flowers in bloom and greenery free of weeds. They spent more than a total 4,000 hours last year planting, watering and pampering the flower beds. And if the still-blooming gardens are any indication, they'll likely log similar

hours again this year.

"We have garden captains and co-captains in every garden. We garden to a plan that we develop in January," LaRosa noted. "Of course, we have to be flexible because Mother Nature doesn't always give us what we expect. We've learned to deal with that."

"We had an attack of Japanese beetles that caused some major damage. We have rabbits and we had the drought, so some of our annuals in particular have struggled, but we move plants around to fill in the void created by that and sometimes we purchase new plants. Because of the drought we had to revitalize some of our plants, but they are looking wonderful now."

CELEBRATING

Members gave themselves a pat on the back and celebrated the club's 15th anniversary recently with a garden tour and reception. Captains and co-captains staffed reception tables in nearly all of the gardens, offering hors d'oeuvres, desserts,



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elle Steele, publicity chair for the Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club, stops to smell the Black-eyed Susans in the Rose Garden.

salads and beverages.

Lynn Beckerman of West Bloomfield, served a pasta salad and plate of fresh, homegrown tomatoes with cheese, from her station near Tilly's Garden, which she captains and Knot Garden.

"Many of our members don't work in the gardens any more — they do other things or donate money — so this was an opportunity for everyone

to walk around and see all the gardens," said Beckerman, who joined the club after attending some of its fall and winter programs. She spent Tuesday mornings weeding, dead-heading and trimming in Tilly's, and sometimes would lend a hand in other gardens.

Mary Ann Crawford of Rochester Hills is winding up her first summer as a club member. She tended the Rock Garden, but during the anniversary tour and reception, directed guests in the Orientation Garden, where annuals bloomed in shades of pink and purple.

"I just love to weed," Crawford said. When she mentioned her green thumb to a friend, the

woman suggested Crawford join Meadow Brook Garden Club.

"She said, 'I have the perfect project for you,'" Crawford said, with a laugh.

IMPROVED

Chris Harris, of Rochester Hills, a co-captain of the Rose Garden, said the estate's gardens have come a long way the past seven years. In the Rose Garden, for example, volunteers planted new roses, new perennials and changed the soil by using natural products.

"Little by little, we redid all the beds and got them up to where they are," Harris said. "Now it's just maintaining and fighting the elements."

And fund-raising. The club buys hundreds of plants each year and has purchased utility vehicles and mowers. Fund-raisers like the club's annual Colossal Indoor Garage sale held every fall, help pay for improvements.

The sale this year will be held Oct. 17-19 in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion on the Oakland University campus. For more information on the sale or the club, visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

The gardens are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk, except during a private event. Meadow Brook Hall is located on the Oakland University campus at Walton and Adams in Rochester Hills.



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People with Low Vision Receive Help from Michigan Eye Doctor

People with low vision enjoy daily activities once again with help from Dr. Sheldon Smith.

By Elena Lombardi

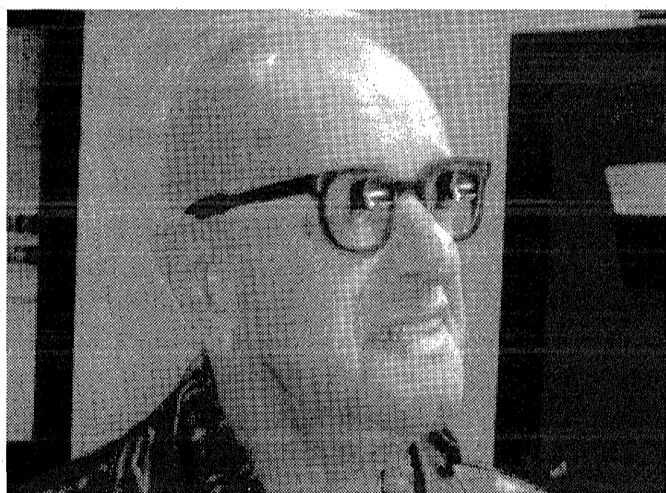
Low vision is defined as vision that cannot be corrected with regular prescription glasses or contact lenses. Affecting 3.3 million Americans today age 40 and over, blindness or low vision can be debilitating. For many, specialized low vision care is the answer they have been seeking.

Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other types of eye disease.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith.

"Many of my patients find that with telescopic glasses, things look bigger, closer and much easier to see. This is like looking through a pair of field glasses or binoculars," Dr. Smith says. "These devices permit patients with low vision to see things they previously couldn't and do some of the things they want to."

The most common cause of low vision in seniors is macular degeneration. Twenty five percent of people over 65 years of age have some degree of degeneration. When the macula, a small part of the retina, degenerates it leaves a



Octavius Germany, from Dearborn Michigan, with his new Bioptic Telescopic glasses.

blind spot right in the center of vision making it hard to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test. UV light from the sun, smoking, poor nutrition, and aging all contribute to this condition.

Although there is no cure for the disease, there is hope. "My job is to figure out what devices enable the patient to function best," says Dr. Smith. For some this can mean maintaining independence or the ability to drive.

Octavius Germany, age 91, from Dearborn was seen in January. A retired architect and engineer, Octavius had a goal of driving again. With his new glasses he states, "Everything in the distance looks clearer...I'm impressed with my new lenses. This is what's going to win the day for me."

"There are different solutions based on each individual's vision needs. Bioptic telescopic driving glasses have the option of built in automatic sun-

glasses," says Dr. Smith. Special prismatic reading glasses are another way to help low vision. They make reading a little easier. Sun filters and nutritional supplements help stabilize and protect the macula against progressing degeneration.

There are many low vision devices for the many various kinds of activities. Devices range in price from \$500 to \$2,500. "Every situation is unique. Each person's level of vision varies, and every patient has different desires," states Dr. Smith. "Our ultimate goal is getting patients doing the things they most wish to do."


Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, St. Clair Shores and the Lansing area. To see if low vision care can help you or your loved one, call Dr. Smith today at Suburban Low Vision.

1-877-677-2020

Also go to suburbaneyecare.com or ialvs.com

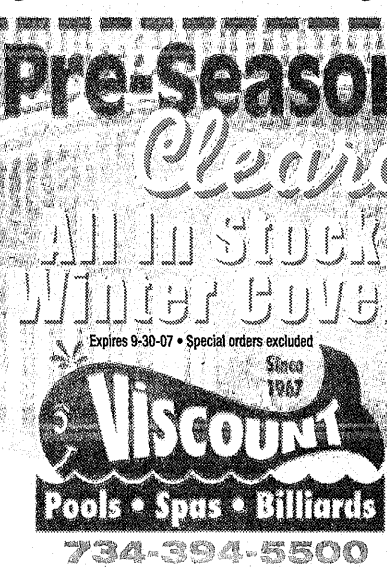
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