

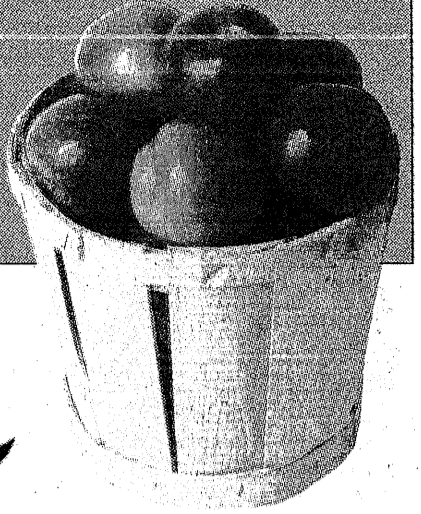


**Late goal snaps
Rocks' winless
streak**
Sports, C1

**Dining with
the stars** - Page A13



**Milling
around**
Hometownlife, D1



THURSDAY
September 13, 2007

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Teachers, district reach pact

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 1,100 Plymouth-Canton school teachers will get their first look at a tentative two-year contract agreement Friday.

While district officials and the Plymouth-Canton Education Association declined comment on details of the agreement, the deal reportedly includes a settlement on a wage re-opener for the 2007-08 school year — which is the final year of the current four-year agreement — as well as a one-year pact for the 2008-09 school year.

"We were pleased with the interest-based bargaining process and the results," P-CEA President Chuck Portelli said. "I think it was beneficial for both the district and the association."

Portelli said he expected the union's executive board to receive copies of the agreement — which was reached last week — today (Thursday), with the membership to get details Friday.

Portelli said there will be a P-CEA membership meeting Wednesday, with voting to take place on Friday, Sept. 21, and Monday, Sept. 24.

Supt. Jim Ryan said if the union ratifies the agreement, the Board of Education will vote on the pact at its Sept. 25 meeting.

"We found a very civil forum for us to talk about the challenges the district faces financially, with enrollment and other areas, and they have found a way to discuss their concerns with us," Ryan said. "No matter what the state comes up with (for funding), we have a structural deficit that we need to work on, and we have major concerns with health care and retirement costs."

Ryan said the two sides were able to come to terms on a contract, despite the fact the state isn't close to a budget that will ultimately determine if school districts will get a foundation grant increase or decrease.

"I think we had a lot to talk about, even though we're very frustrated the state can't seem to get it together," said Ryan, who believes there will be a state shutdown of services before a budget compromise is reached. "I'm very disappointed they can't get it together and sit down and do what we just did, which was talk out the problems and try to have both sides compromise and reach a solution that's good for people."



Carlo Massiri and 5-year-old son Bob take a ride on the giant slide at the Plymouth Fall Festival.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State OKs charter language

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The city of Plymouth has received the go-ahead from the governor and state attorney general to put 111 proposed city charter revisions before voters on the Nov. 6 election ballot.

The city's Charter Review Commission submitted the changes to the state, which had to approve them before the city could present the new charter to voters with one question:

"Should there be a new charter for the city of Plymouth?"

"The new charter will make the city administration's job a little easier," said Anthony Guillom, Charter Commission member. "There are many practices in the charter that are outdated."

"In practice, we already do many of these things we are proposing," he added. "It's possible someone could sue the city for not following the charter, even though it's outdated and would be unwise to follow."

The Charter Commission listed five policy changes to the 1951 city charter as among the most significant:

- Limiting the city's powers in acquiring private property without owner consent.
- Increasing the number of consecutive elected terms on

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think of the proposed changes to the city charter? E-mail your opinions to Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

9
13
07

Success-fest

Fall Festival kind to nonprofit groups

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Fall Festival President Colleen Brown said all indications are this year's three-day event was successful for the nonprofit groups attempting to raise money for their organizations.

More on the festival, page A2. "Friday night was very well-attended; on Saturday, the Kiwanis pancake breakfast did well and (Plymouth A.M. Rotary) spaghetti dinner had more people than last year; and on Sunday the



David Mitrano and Paul Schulz unload racks of Rotary barbecued chicken during Sunday's fall festival festivities.

Please see **FESTIVAL, A5**

Please see **CHARTER, A5**

Civic club challenge: Shop local

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club has laid down the gauntlet and issued a "shop local" challenge to the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to "keep our dollars in Plymouth."

The civic clubs are encouraging their members, families and friends to shop in the Plymouth community to help local business thrive in an economy that is forcing some to move or close.

"We are always out there asking restaurants and businesses to give us gift certificates and other donations when we have our projects," said Beth Stewart, president of A.M. Rotary. "We thought it would be a really nice thing for us to let them know we want to give back by keeping our business in town to support those that support us."

'We are always out there asking restaurants and businesses to give us gift certificates and other donations when we have our projects. We thought it would be a really nice thing for us to let them know we want to give back by keeping our business in town to support those that support us.'

BETH STEWART, Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club president

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth jumped on board right away.

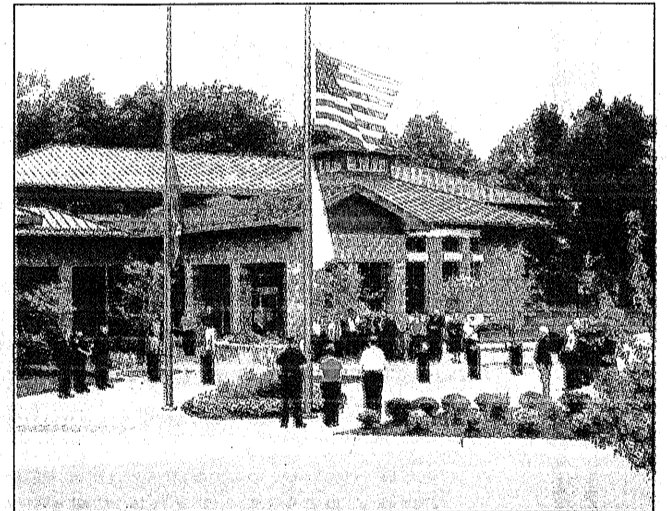
"It's a wonderful way to be responsible for our community, by supporting the local businesses that might go away if we forget to shop here," Kiwanian Jennifer Philpot-Munson said.

Kiwanians and Rotarians in Plymouth, who shop at the more than 100 Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce restaurants, retail and service businesses participating in the challenge, can tell merchants which side of the ledger they want their purchases credited from Sept. 15 to Dec. 31. The prize at the end is bragging rights for the top service club.

Chamber Executive Director Fran Toney said the challenge is a "win-win" for everyone.

"Some of the service club members will eventually try a restaurant, store or service they've never been to before, see how good it is and tell other people," Toney said. "The businesses will pick up new clients, and it will be their job to keep them coming back."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700



ANN DEGHETTO

Remembering 9/11

Plymouth Township employees gathered Tuesday at 8:46 a.m. to observe a moment of silence in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001.

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Coming Sunday in Health

Early warning signs help diagnose ovarian cancer



Sunday in the park: Fall Festival a winner

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Sunday afternoon at the Plymouth Fall Festival, Denise Bielski of Garden City and Jill Kolpacke of Livonia were busy selling food at the Polish Centennial Dancers booth. "Right here, ma'am," Kolpacke called out. "Pierogis, you want one, don't you?"

They had plenty of takers for the tasty Polish food, which also included kielbasa, sauerkraut and nalesniki (crepes). "We are selling food, Polish food," said Bielski, like Kolpacke a mom with the Polish Centennial Dancers, who range in age from 3 through high school. Bielski has two kids in the group, Kolpacke one.

"Pretty good," Kolpacke said of business at their heart of the festival location. "The weather's doing good, so we're doing good."

They and other volunteers were helping the dance group, including keeping the cost down for dancers to go to a summer camp includ-



Corn on the cob looks like serious business for Richard Cook.

ing Polish language classes and arts and crafts. It's usually held at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Bielski said, but was in Connecticut this year.

The 52nd-annual festival, held Friday through Sunday in downtown Plymouth, featured mostly sunny skies which brought out crowds for fun, food and entertainment. Sunday, Ron Edwards, Plymouth Township treasurer, was busy making root beer floats for festival attendees.

Edwards noted it was the township's first year for a



Jane Rostamloo, Aaron Freehling and Jordan Richter work final assembly on the Rotary chicken production line.



Mr. Twisty, also known as Larry Valentine, creates balloon hats.

festival booth since he's been in office, although the police department has participated in the past. He answered questions about taxes, water bills and hazardous waste disposal. "And his root beer floats are really yummy, too," added

township resident Jean Hamill. A sign at the booth cited the *Money* magazine ranking of the township as the 37th best place to live. Edwards also pointed with pride to the eco-friendly glasses for the floats, made out of corn.

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SHOWTIMES 9/14 - 9/20 No passes

MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13)
12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 6:55, 9:00
FRISAT LS 11:15

THE BRAVE ONE (R)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
3:10 TO YUMA (R)
11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

SHOOT 'EM UP (R)
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45
FRISAT LS 11:40

HALLOWEEN (R)
11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35
FRISAT LS 12:00

BALLS OF FURY (PG-13)
11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
FRISAT LS 11:30

RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13) 4:20, 9:15
FRISAT LS 11:20

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13)
11:15, 1:50, 6:45

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Taxes due

Plymouth Township officials are reminding township residents summer property taxes are due by Friday, Sept. 14.

Residents who can't make it into the office can drop their payments off in the white drop box located in the circular drive at the township hall, on Haggerty just north of Ann Arbor Road. According to treasurer Ron Edwards, tax payments dropped off in the drop box at any time over the weekend will be counted as "on-time" payments.

For more information, call Edwards' office at (734) 354-3214.

Baseball legacy

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging presents "Coffee with a Baseball Legacy" featuring former major league baseball player Tom Paciorek 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Emcee Raymond Rolak and Paciorek, now a motivational speaker, will deliver a lively afternoon of hijinks, motivation and tales of perseverance. Paciorek's career spanned 18

seasons as an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox and others. After his playing days, he got into broadcasting, and broadcast Detroit Tigers' games from 2001-2003. Most recently, Paciorek called games for the Washington Nationals.

Tickets are \$2 each or \$15 to reserve a table for eight, can be purchased at the PCCA 201 S. Main (in the city hall building). A "coffee and sweet table" will be served, and the event features two baseball raffles.

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

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.

Lincoln round-table

The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table will host Kerry Chartkoff, chair of Michigan's "Save The Flags" project which preserves, interprets and displays the state's collection of battle flags.

The presentation, set for 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 in the lower level at the Plymouth Historical Museum, will focus on the Civil War flags in the collection.

The public is invited, admission is free. The museum is located at 155 S. Main in Plymouth.

For more information please call (734) 451-7998.

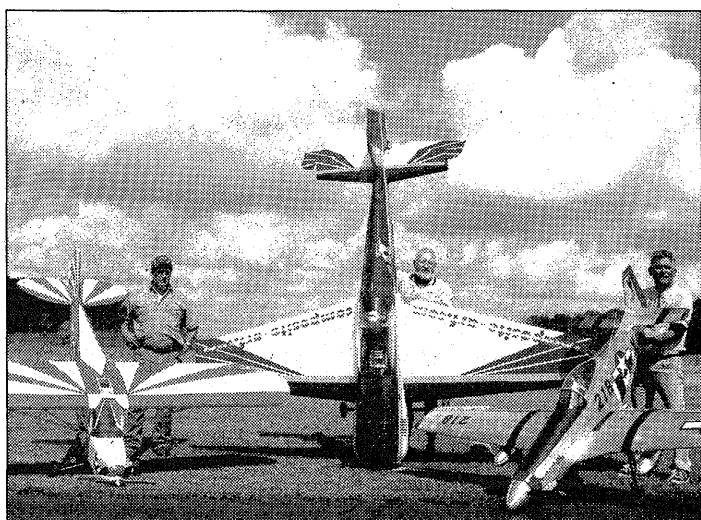
Music booster raffle

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters and the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band are hosting a fund-raising raffle to raise enough funds to purchase a new semi-trailer.

The raffle, titled "Music & Motion," is being co-sponsored by the Plymouth-based multi-product powersports dealer Plymouth Motorsports. The money raised by the raffle will be used to purchase a new trailer to replace the aging 50-foot trailer currently used by the nationally acclaimed-band to carry all the large, front-ensemble instruments and equipment to each competition or performance.

Raffle tickets, priced at \$10, will be sold for the next four weeks to win your choice of a wave runner, motorcycle, snowmobile, or four-wheeler. The tickets will be on sale at many P-CEP Friday night varsity football games at the Varsity Field at Canton High School and at Plymouth Motorsports located at 110 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Raffle tickets will be sold up until mid-October, with the final winner announced at the Great Lakes Invitational Marching Band Competition hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters at Canton High School on Saturday, Oct. 13. All proceeds will benefit the Plymouth-Canton band pro-



Taking to the skies

Canton's Jim Repp (from left) and his Piper Cub, Bruce Sobby and his YAK 54, and Jim Smith and his P 51 will all be part of the Flying Pilgrims Radio Control Club's demonstration show 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sept. 15 and 16 in a field at the northwest corner of Geddes and Ridge roads in Superior Township (just west of Canton). This is the 24th year the club has held the event to demonstrate the radio controlled airplane hobby to the general public. The intention of the family-oriented event is to generate new interest in the hobby, as well as providing entertainment for the casual visitor. The Flying Pilgrims are part of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, a nation organization with about 160,000 members. Admission for the event is a \$5 vehicle parking donation (requested).

grams. For more information, visit www.pcm.b.net

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

next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, or call Mary Thomas at (734) 453-3016. The 2008 Entertainment Book will be available for pick up in August.

The BeckRidge Chorale is also selling the books for \$20 to support their educational and charitable activities. Buyers who pre-order now get a 2007 book free.

The 2008 books will be available Aug. 12. Call (734) 459-6829 to order.

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

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 XLI and the

upcoming 2010 Olympics. She is a certified Speaking Professional, a designation bestowed by the National Speaker Association to less than 400 speakers in the world. For more information about Ruby, visit www.ruby-speaks.com

To register for this workshop, contact the City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority at (734) 455-1453.

Cruise for the arts

Patrons can help the arts thrive in the community and cruise the Caribbean at the same time.

The first Plymouth Community Cruise, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary A.M., is scheduled March 22-29, a seven-day cruise of the western Caribbean. Ports of Call (round trip from Ft. Lauderdale) include Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; Princess Cays, Bahamas; and two days at sea.

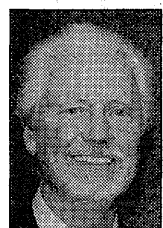
Prices start at \$969 per person, and a \$200 per-cabin contribution will be made in the cruiser's name to the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society upon return.

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

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.bilinguafun.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.



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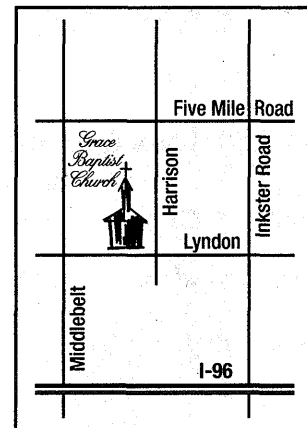
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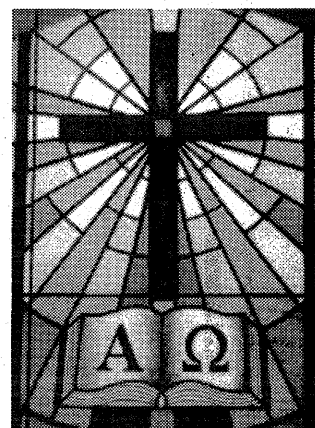
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A Passion for Healing

The Charter Review Commission's collective reasoning behind the significant policy changes are:

Restriction of Eminent Domain Powers (Sections 2.1.9 & 5.15)

We felt it important to explicitly limit the city's powers in acquiring private property without owner consent. With the restated language, Plymouth's statutes are more restrictive than current state legislation.

Change in Appointee Residency Requirements (Section 4.4)

Appointed volunteer board members (for example, planning commission) require two years of prior residency. The Charter Commission has proposed a 1 year limit, to be consistent with state guidelines and to broaden our pool of candidates.

City Commissioner Term Limits (Section 4.5)

The Charter Commission proposes to retain term limits, but allow up to three elected terms. The current limit of two terms means that, on average, more than half of the commissioners are in their first term. Allowing up to three terms, assuming that electors vote to retain, should make the city commission more effective and reduce city staff time spent training and assisting.

Recall Constriction (Section 4.11)

We are proposing that candidates who have been recalled not be subjected to additional election restrictions. We felt this was redundant since voters who have recalled a candidate are unlikely to turn around and re-elect them.

Selection of Mayor/Pro-Tem (Section 5.5)

We are clarifying the charter language to document the city commission's current policy of selecting mayor & mayor pro-tem based on a vote by city commissioners.

The entire proposed revised Plymouth city charter can be reviewed at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or at City Hall, 201 S. Main.

CHARTER

FROM PAGE A1

the city commission from two to three.

- Changes in the process of how the mayor and mayor pro tem are selected.

- A one-year residency requirement for appointed volunteer board members.

- Candidates who have been recalled should not be subjected to additional election restrictions.

According to the Charter Commission, of the remaining 106 changes, 21 (19 percent) are to simplify language, 21 (19 percent) are to be consistent with current state law, 37 (33

percent) are to update for current technology, geography or practice, and 27 (24 percent) are to update or clarify language.

Plymouth resident Michael Bryan, 52, said he's not interested in reading all 111 changes on the November ballot.

"I don't need to read every little detail," said Bryan, who noted he wants the changes to be made available if he, or anyone else, wants to view it. "If I don't like what the elected officials have done, I can decide not to vote for them next time. I don't want to micro-manage their job."

The entire revised city charter can be viewed on the city's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or at City Hall, 201 S. Main.

FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE C1

(Rotary Club of Plymouth) chicken barbecue sold out," Brown said. "I think it went very well for everybody."

"We certainly did better than last year because the weather hindered us," she added. "Attendance was low, and we just didn't have quite enough to pay the city bill."

Brown said expenses for last year's festival were about \$80,000, with the city's bill for municipal services about \$22,000. She said expenses this year are running about \$66,000 thus far, with the largest bill — from the city — yet to come.

"Our goal is to make ends meet and make sure everybody is having a good time and the nonprofits make money," Brown said. "For some of them, this is their only fund-raiser to make their money for the year. I think we'll do all right this year."

Brown said the good weather this year — despite "a few blips on the radar" — will bring in good money from the carnival, which gives 25 percent of the take to the Fall Festival. She said it's generally enough to offset the bill for



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sunday afternoon crowds packed the streets of downtown Plymouth, and the carnival rides.

municipal services.

As this year's Fall Festival wrapped up with final cleanup in downtown Plymouth this week, Brown said the festival

board is already looking ahead to next year's event.

"We're discussing some options to partner with a radio station next year," she said.

"We're always looking for ways to help raise more money for the clubs."

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Goodwill coupons cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or special offer.

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Local seminary helps clients to heal, change, grow

Where can one go for help when stress is high, finances are low, and change is difficult?

For one local seminary, the answer is simple and extremely affordable.

Enter Michigan Theological Seminary of Plymouth.

Through its newly opened Psychological Services Clinic, help is now available for as low as \$20 per session.

"Our purpose is to be part of the solution which helps people move forward in their lives," said Dr. John Restum, Psy.D. clinic director and mental health administrator with the Wayne County Jail. "We are offering the chance to obtain high quality professional help, psychological testing, and participation in healing-based groups without the worry of how much it costs."

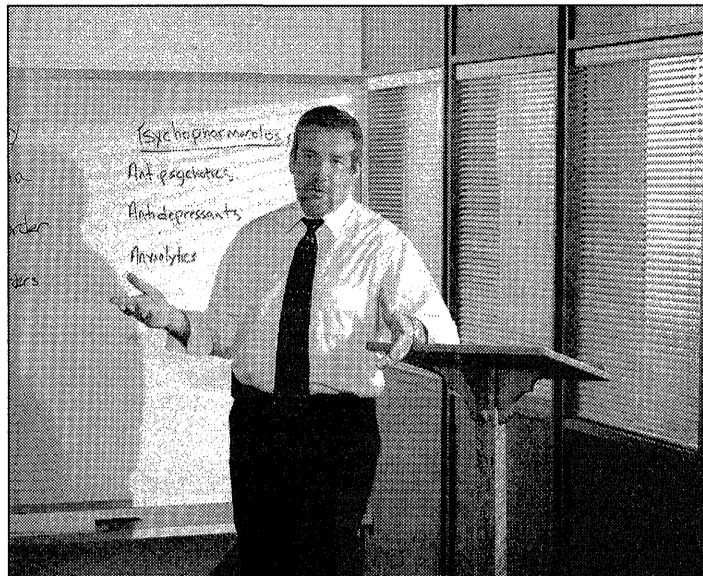
Located at 41550 E. Ann

Arbor Trail, between Lilley and Haggerty Roads in Plymouth, the clinic is staffed by graduates and graduate students of the Counseling and Psychology program at MTS. The clinic's clients may be seen by graduate student interns or professional licensed clinicians.

Restum said the prospective client's needs are a top consideration before the first therapy session is scheduled.

"As part of the pre-intake process, we want our callers to feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Whether the caller has a five year old who needs to be screened for ADD or ADHD ... or is someone who just lost their job after 29 years of service ... we are here to assist in the healing, change, and growth process."

"Opening this clinic represents a true labor of love," said



Dr. John Restum is the director of the new Psychological Services Clinic at the Michigan Theological Seminary.

Kathryn Bailey, partner at Bailey & Shamoun Interiors of Northville. "We believe in this cause and know it's a great one for people who need help

and didn't believe they could afford it."

Bailey and her partner, Besma Shamoun, have coordinated the donations of fur-

niture and accessories for the clinic site over the past several months.

"It's amazing to see how everything came together from so many different donors ... as if we just walked into a furniture showroom and selected everything on the same day," said Bailey.

"You know it's a special cause when one day you realize the clinic needs a refrigerator for the kitchen and that same week a refrigerator becomes available," added Shamoun.

The clinic is open by appointment six days a week and is housed in a separate building from the main MTS campus. Individuals from age 4 and up are eligible for treatment as well as couples and families. Psychological testing involves a battery of tests which assess intelligence, personality, cognitive abilities and/or deficits and other specific mental health issues

(depression, anxiety disorders, ADD/ADHD, etc.).

Handicap access is also available for individuals and/or group therapy on the ground level.

"Our groups generally involve between six to eight participants with one or two facilitators," explained Lavern Kimbrough, M.A. and MACP program graduate. Kimbrough will be facilitating "Growing Through Grief" beginning the week of Sept. 17 for six weeks 6:30-8:30 p.m. Additional groups include "From Panic to Peace," and "Past Hurts and Present Problems."

For more information about these groups, readers may call the clinic at (734) 207-9581, Ext. 328 or 329.

"Every journey begins with a single step," said Restum, "and we hope people will recognize us as representing that first step in our community."

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids for the following:

- Prosecuting Attorney Services and Planning Consultant Services

Bids will be accept until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2007 for Prosecuting Attorney Services and until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2007 for Planning Consultant Services. The bid opening will take place at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2007 for Prosecuting Attorney Services and until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2007 for Planning Consultant Services, respectively, at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>. The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk - City of Plymouth

Publish: September 13, 2007

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Board considers search proposals

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will interview representatives of three firms which are bidding to conduct a nationwide search for a successor to replace retiring Superintendent Jim Ryan.

The board solicited proposals from five companies, received proposals from four of them, and whittled the list to three at Tuesday's workshop meeting. The board will interview representatives from the Michigan Leadership Institute of Old Mission, Mich.; Hazard,

Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd., of Glenview, Ill.; and Proact Search of Milwaukee, Wis.

A majority of the board decided not to engage the help of the Michigan Association of School Boards in Lansing, believing the group didn't have enough expertise and contacts outside the state.

"I want to know the firms we are interviewing have done enough searches in districts of our size range, ability to recruit from a national pool, and that the person they assign to our search will be very key in working with community

members in helping to define what we are looking for in a superintendent," said Board of Education President Judy Mardigian.

Board Secretary Tom Wysocki agreed, noting the search company that's eventually selected will need to work closely with the board.

"They need to be dedicated to us, and there will be somebody on the ground here to help guide us," Wysocki said. "We need a superintendent who is educationally sound, someone who is cognizant of the differences we have among the communities we serve, and is strong in labor relations

to continue with the good relations we have with our employees."

Mardigian is the only current board member with experience in searching for a superintendent. She was on the search committee that hired Chuck Little in July 1994 and was a member of the school board that selected Kathleen Boher in July 2000.

"It's easier for me because I know what's coming in the process," Mardigian said. "For those experiencing it the first time, there's a lot of learning the process."

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 41889 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187 (734)254-0243 on 9/28/07 at 11:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1018 - Gary Butler - Portable Stereo, TV, End Table
1059 - Angela Miller - 50 Boxes, Dresser, Speakers
2035 - Julie Sethavarangura - Clothing, 10 Boxes, Trunk
2057 - John Neumann Jr - TV, Stereo, Ladder
2066 - Venessa Smith - Fax Machine, Love Seat, Misc Items
3052 - Kenneth Berrie - Aquarium, Telescope, Dresser
9269 - Derrick McDonald - TV, VCR, Dresser

Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007

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.**

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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.

Publish: September 9 and 13, 2007

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Salvation Army offers scholarship opportunities

The Salvation Army of Plymouth is seeking scholarship applicants to teach in its School of Music.

The program, now in its second year, is funded by concerned benefactors with a heart for music and children's educational programs. The program is designed to teach music performance skills and character training.

Interested individuals must be a senior in high school or a college student and be available for an interview between Sept. 18-27. Applicants should have proficiency in either keyboard, guitar, percussion, strings or brass.

More information is available by contacting Captain Pat Irvine at (734) 453-5464.

Founded by William Booth in London, England, in 1865, The Salvation Army is a faith-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving people in need without discrimination. At work in Michigan since 1887, The Salvation Army operates 180 facilities throughout the state. Annually, these facilities provide more than 7.5 million meals and 1.2 million nights of shelter for the homeless.

Foundation honors 'Heroes'

Nancy Gioia of Plymouth, director of Sustainable Mobility Technologies and Hybrid Vehicle Programs for Ford Motor Company, will be among the honorees when the RARE Foundation, dedicated to inspiring Michigan's youth through Everyday Heroes, hosts its annual recognition dinner Tuesday.

The event will acknowledge the achievements of RARE's nine 2007 Everyday Hero Award recipients. It will also serve as a platform for the announcement of a new high school writing scholarship competition.

Gioia leads an integrated global research team of more than three hundred engineers with the mission of focusing on the concept of the sustainable future, coming up with new ideas for products and processes that will allow society to meet its current and future transportation needs without using up excessive resources or damaging the environment.

According to RARE officials, Gioia is being honored "for being a role model to the engineering community at Ford, for bringing extraordinary creativity and passion to her position, and for being an inspiring mentor to young people, both inside and outside her company."

A 27-year employee for Ford, Gioia had a message for youth: "It's easy to look around our state and have doubts about the future. But usually when change of this scope occurs, it's a sign of bigger opportunities ahead. It just means you have to be willing to look at your world differently. Be open to a new approach ... Becoming part of the solution is more inspiring than complaining about the problem."

RARE's Everyday Hero character education and writing program documents each awardee's story in print, video and on the Internet. The program is designed for grades 3-8 and is distributed to schools throughout Michigan in partnership with the Detroit News Newspapers in Education.

The program includes a writing competition with awards for each grade, motivating students to discuss, discover and write about their Everyday Heroes. The program was developed with the help of Michigan teachers to support character education in schools

NEWS BRIEFS

and to provide real-world writing practice for the MEAP.

"With the challenges facing Michigan's youth today, it's more important than ever to send positive messages to our young people to help shift their focus to the creation of bright, successful futures," said RARE Foundation Founder Executive Director Alan Hibbert. "The

RARE Foundation celebrates and documents the lives of Everyday Heroes within our local communities to show youth how these everyday people have mastered the art of seeing possibilities and connecting the dots to fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. We think it's an encouraging reality check for our youth."

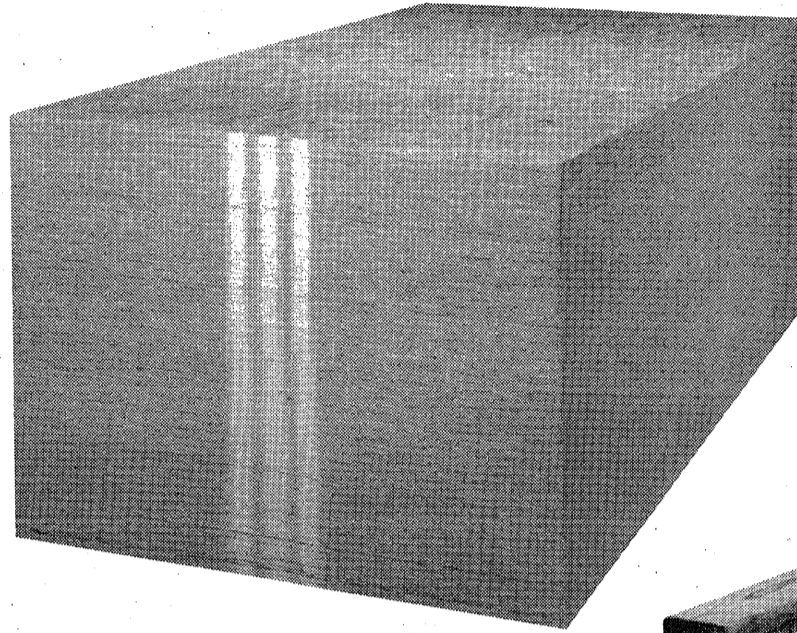
For more information, please visit www.rarefoundation.org



Nancy Gioia of Plymouth, here with Kermit the Frog, was recently honored by the RARE Foundation.

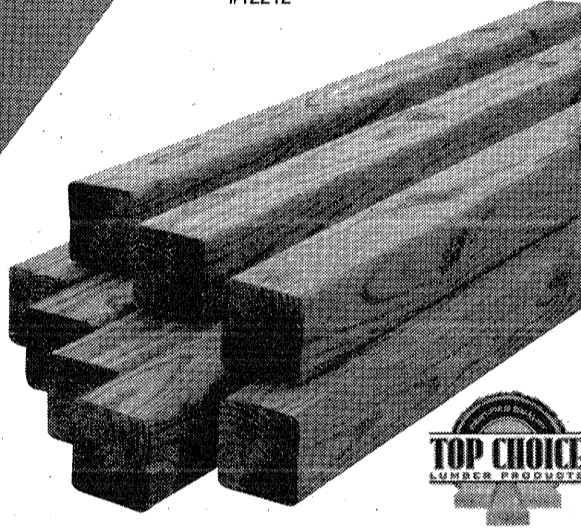
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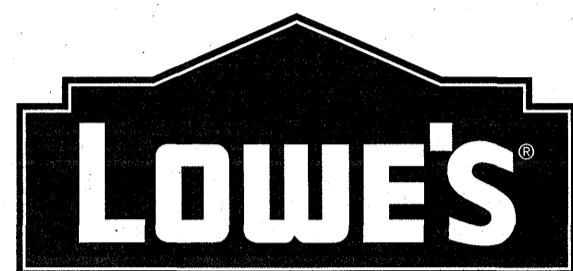
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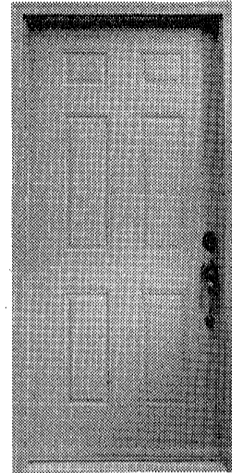
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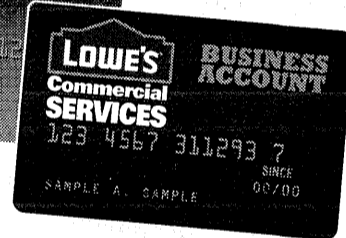
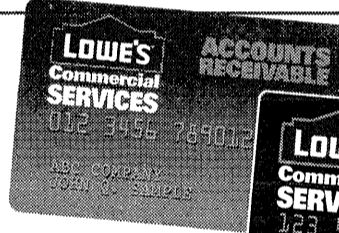


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Summit offers seniors plenty of fun, but also important services

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

In addition to a good time, June Reed walked away from the Fifth Annual Senior Summit with a decorative, goody-filled, gift basket from Back Home Bakery.

"I won a door prize," Reed beamed. "This was great." The Summit, which is hosted by State Rep. Phil LaJoy, brought in 100 people its first year and has now ballooned to a crowd of nearly 350.

During the event, participants dined on a continental breakfast and boxed lunch, had free health screenings, enjoyed live entertainment and stretched their limbs during an exercise presentation. They also dove into yellow gift bags that included lip balms, thermometer, vitamins, recipes, a book and a medical card.

"I came here just to get away and ended up having a great time," said Betty Letellier, 73.



Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" inspires the crowd.

"I'll be back next year."

Letellier lives in a senior housing community in Belleville and encouraged seven of her friends to accompany her to the senior expo.

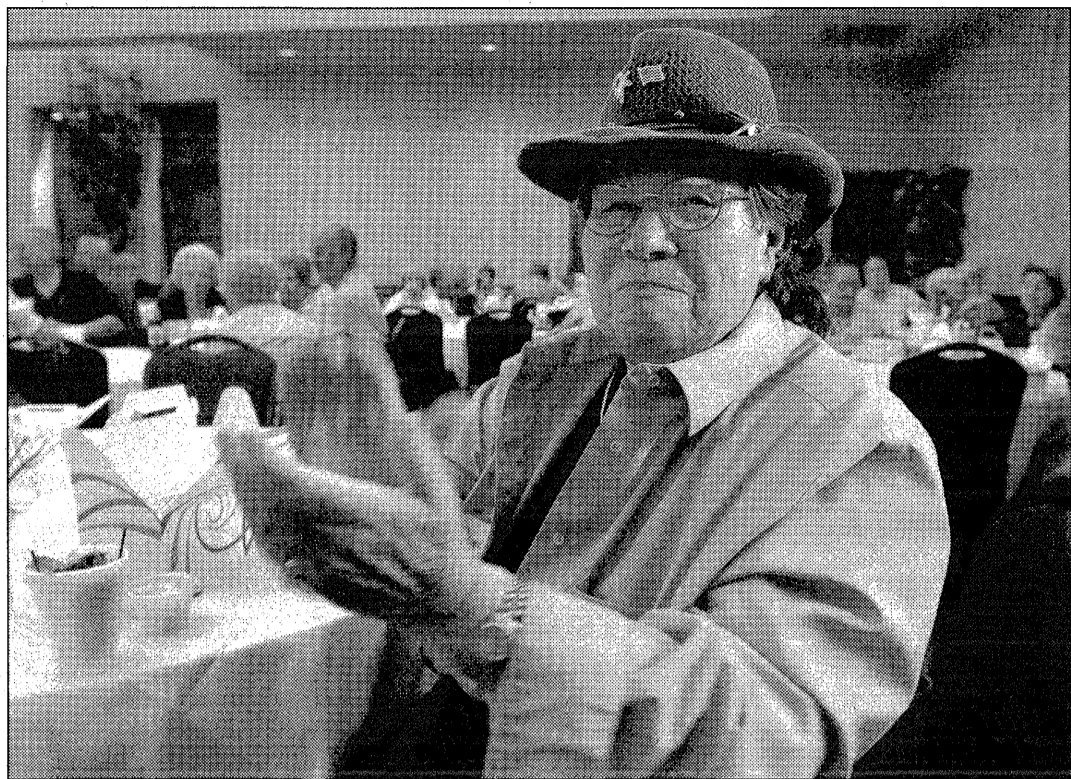
"I'm so glad we came," she said. Werner Plachetzki, 83, attended the event with Letellier and gave LaJoy two

thumbs up for hosting the event.

"At first I didn't think too much about this, but I'm so glad I came," he said. "We got to have a laugh."

As people approached LaJoy after the event, they shook his hand and offered their gratitude.

"I've been here for every one," one woman excitedly told him, while another simply grabbed his hand and said, "Thank you, Phil."



June Jones claps along to the entertainment during the Senior Summit.

"This was a pretty good, rip-roaring success," said LaJoy,

who closed the events with a spirited round of Bingo where participants yelled, cheered and urged him to call out their letter/number combination.

"Do you want me to do this again next year," he quipped and the crowd screamed "yes" in unison. Since the creation of the event,

LaJoy said many seniors have told him they've found the right avenues to handle legal problems or deal with housing concerns. "Those that have been able to resolve problems will come back and say thank you," he said. "We are providing a service to people."

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 2500 S Industrial Hwy Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6130 (734)973-5534 on 9/29/07 at 2:00 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
6006 - Bernice Holman - 5 Bags, 4 Boxes, Misc Items
6001 - Marcia Washington - China Cabinet, Dryer, Freezer
5057 - Angela Sumpter - Washer, Dryer, 7 Totes
4018 - Joan Wright - 20 Boxes, 1 tote, trunk
3034 - Peggy Farrell - 20 Totes, Snow Board, Misc Items
2036 - Frederick Wurtzsmith - 50 Boxes, Dresser, Trunk

Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007. OE0855508 - 242.5

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 13, 2007. OE08555021

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- September 5, 2007

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call** Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Faas, Tom Casari **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Bennett, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. Funding of Future Road Improvements in Canton** Road funding: Federal, State, County and local Categories of Funding: Federal Funds (TEA-LU), Wayne County (FAC) Intersection Improvement Program Intersections completed to date. Intersections scheduled for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. Private Funding, PASER, PASER Scores, Road Lifecycle. Historical spending on roads. Gravel Road Paving. Patching and Replacement. Mill and Resurface. Reconstruction. Rehab Candidates. Wayne County DPS offer. Gravel Road Paving Project Costs/ Benefits of the Program. Proposed solution, Recap of the Problem and Three Options. Other The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room, first floor, Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan 48188. Adjourn Motion by Zarbo, supported by LaJoy at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk - Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.cantonmi.org after Board Approval. Publish: September 13, 2007. OE0855544 - 244

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 45229 Michigan Ave Canton MI 48188 (734)397-0082 on 9/28/07 at 12:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
3042 - Christina Cabrera - Refrigerator, Washer, Dryer
4027 - Jason Brodie - Tool Box, Couch, Dresser
4054 - Magsood Huq - TV, Couch, 5 Chairs
4108 - Celeste Hubbard Bulger - 5 Totes, 3 Mirrors, Microwave
4120 - Grant Young - Mirror, Dresser, Headboard
4133 - Celeste Hubbard - 2 Bikes, Big Screen TV, Entertainment Center
4208 - Vandella Hubbard - Couch, 3 Totes, 5 Bags
5036 - Mark Williams - Big Screen TV, 3 Bikes, Dresser
5150 - Angelik Lancaster - Lawn Mower, 20 Boxes, 2 Printers
5245 - Erin Morley - Dresser, Headboard, 20 Boxes

Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007. OE0855592 - 243

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Personal property described below in the matter of:
4076 - James Peters - TV, 10 Boxes, Misc Items
4253 - Kevin Diaz - 10 Boxes, Stereo, Portable TV
4294 - Diane Jacobs - 5 Boxes, 10 Totes, Misc Items
5229 - Harold Greene - Sofa, Ladder, Child's Bike
5266 - Thomas Nakamoto - 2 Tool Boxes, 40 Boxes, Trunk
6221 - Clare Pratt - 20 Boxes, Misc Items
6244 - Brenda Owens - 5 Boxes, 2 Bags, Misc Items
6256 - Thomas Nakamoto - 8 Golf Clubs, 10 Boxes, Misc Items
6048 - Nadeem Ahmed - Ice machine, 20 chairs, grill
5007 - Colleen Schramme - Bike, 30 Boxes, Sofa
3016 - Constance Burnett - Sofa, Loveseat, Gas Grill

Publish: September 13 & 20, 2007. OE0855518 - 243

Recycle this newspaper

She got her goggles at a garage sale...

...along with a lava lamp, trampoline and a pair of hiking boots. Some people will buy anything, so if you have anything to sell, call us and we'll place your ad, give you some great free stuff, and hope this lady comes to your sale.

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Voters will be asked for photo IDs beginning Nov. 6

Beginning with the Nov. 6 election, voters will be asked to show a photo ID, or sign a form stating that they don't have one, before receiving a ballot. The requirements are the result of a 1996 law recently determined to be enforceable by the Michigan Supreme Court.

On Sept. 5, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land released instructional materials to Michigan's elected officials designed to aid them with implementation of the requirement.

"We are working closely with local election officials to ensure they have the tools and information they need to effectively communicate the requirements to their election day workers so they can properly serve the voters," said Land, Michigan's chief election officer.

"The law recognizes that people have different circumstances. Those who have no ID, or simply forgot to bring it to the polls, can still vote. By working together to understand the voter ID law, we can look forward to a smooth, orderly experience on election day."

Election workers will ask voters to show a photo ID as part of the usual ballot application process at the polls. Voters can satisfy the requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal identification card.

Voters who do not possess either document can show any of the following forms of picture ID as long as the documents are current.

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state

WSU law professors discuss Supreme Court

Wayne State University Law School will host a discussion titled *The Supreme Court's Term in Review 12:15-1:20 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17, in Room 1545 of the Law School Classroom Building.*

Wayne State University Law School faculty will discuss some of the most controversial cases from the U.S. Supreme Court's 2006-2007 term, including decisions on: school integration; campaign finance reform; student free speech; and search and seizure.

The discussion will be presented by Assistant Professor Jocelyn Benson, Professor Stephen Calkins, Professor Peter Henning, Visiting Professor Margaret Leibowitz, Associate Dean David Moran, Associate Professor C.J. Peters, Distinguished Professor Robert Sedler, Professor Jonathan Weinberg, and Professor and Chair in Constitutional Law Steven Winter. A question and answer session will follow discussion.

This event will be held as a brown bag lunch, the Law School will provide beverages. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Robin Dornenzio, Special Events coordinator, at robind@wayne.edu or at (313) 577-3934.

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section



Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID can still vote. They merely sign a brief form stating they are not in possession of identification. Their ballots are included with all others and are counted on Election Day.

- Federal or state government-issued photo identification

- U.S. passport
- Military ID with photo

- Student identification with photo from high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal identification card with photo

The ID must include the person's photo and name. It does not have to include a residential address.

Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID can still vote.

They merely sign a brief form stating they are not in possession of identification. Their ballots are included with all others and are counted on Election Day.

Land emphasized that voters can not be challenged by an election inspector or poll challenger just because they sign the form. Any challenge to a voter who signs the form, as is the case with all voters, must be because the inspector or challenger has "good reason to believe" that the person is not qualified to vote in the precinct.

The state Bureau of Elections is conducting comprehensive training on the voter ID law for local election officials statewide.

"We must not only exercise our sacred right to vote but protect it as well," said Land. "Michigan's voter ID law adds another layer of security that ensures the integrity of our elections."

Think before becoming a landlord

After a seminar on investing last week at the Baldwin Library in Birmingham, I was asked if it makes sense to buy homes as rental properties. The other question was whether I thought real estate prices have bottomed out and was it a good time to buy.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Unfortunately, I don't believe we've hit bottom in the Detroit metropolitan real estate market. I believe the market will continue to weaken until the Michigan economy has stabilized.

This doesn't mean people should not buy homes. After all, people buy homes for many different reasons, not all of them financial. In fact, the best reason to buy a home is for quality-of-life issues and not financial issues.

That being said, I do believe residential home prices in this area will continue to decline in the near future.

When you decide to purchase property and to become a landlord, you are not making an investment, but rather starting a business.

In most situations when you become a landlord, you can't

take a passive view like you do with a stock or mutual fund investment. There is much more involvement.

As a landlord, you have the responsibility to make sure you select the right home to purchase.

As a landlord, your work is not over when you find a tenant — it just begins. You have ongoing responsibilities to monitor the property as well as the tenants. Many people are under the mistaken belief that being a landlord is an easy job — it's not.

Ask anyone who is a landlord and I think they will agree that entering the real estate rental business, although it can be profitable, is hard work and mistakes can be costly.

Even though foreclosures in Michigan are increasing dramatically, people should not rush out and buy rental real estate. Just like the stock market, it is hard to make a quick buck when it comes to real estate.

Do your homework before purchasing rental real estate.

Prior to purchasing a piece of property, you should look at rents for similar pieces of property. If, after factoring in costs such as repairs, maintenance, insurance and taxes, you have a positive cash flow, then it may be a viable invest-

ment. My view is that there has to be a positive cash flow. Do not invest because you think you will get great tax benefits, because you won't.

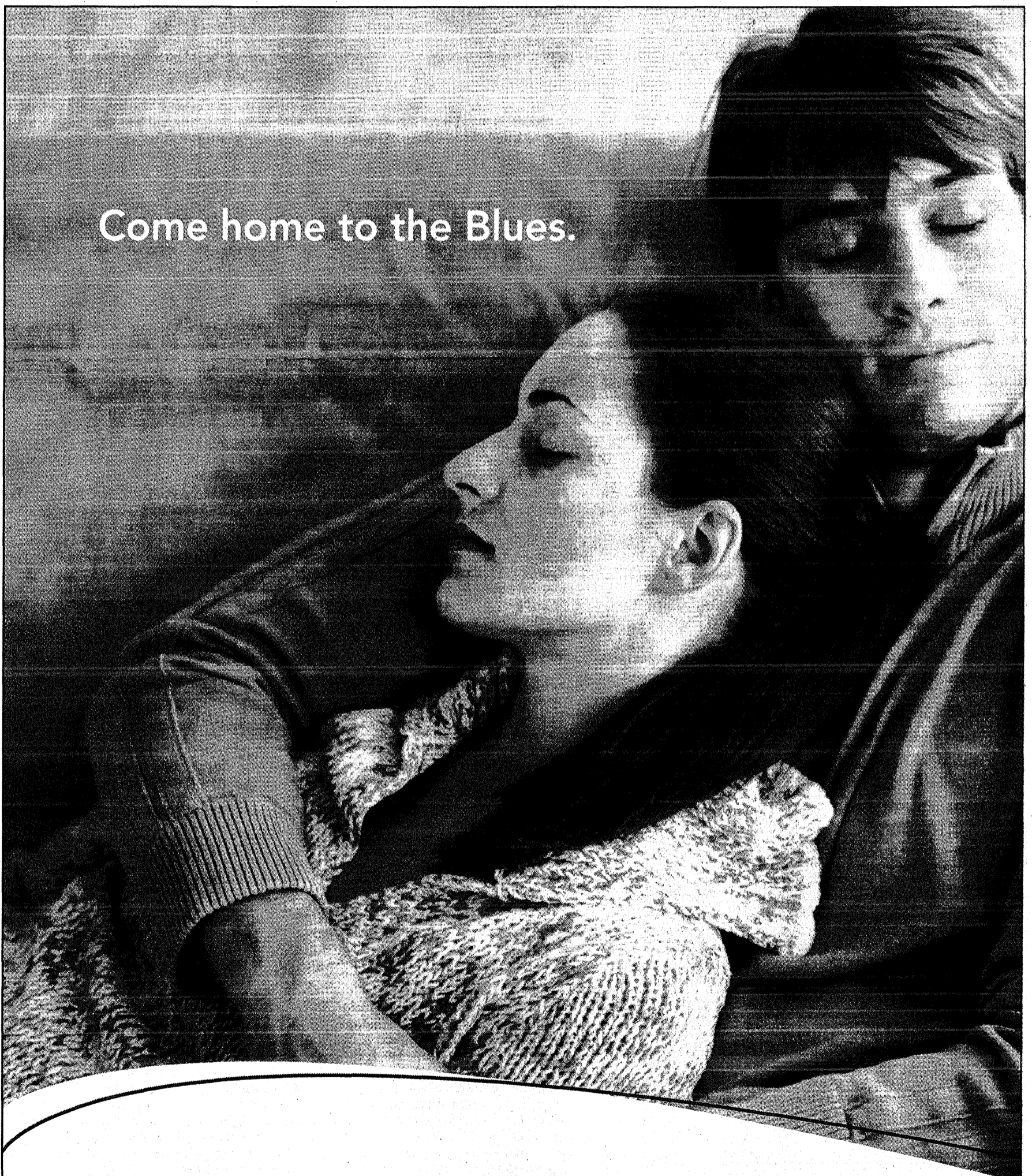
Despite the recent downturns in the real estate market, real estate has been and will continue to provide opportunities for many individuals. The key is to determine if you're the type of individual that can succeed.

One question I always ask an individual thinking about becoming a landlord is would you evict your tenant for non-payment of rent. If you can't say yes, it's probably a signal that becoming a landlord is not something you should pursue.

I asked this question to the individual I was talking with at the Baldwin Library in Birmingham. When he said he could never evict a tenant, I told him he should not consider purchasing rental real estate.

Being honest with yourself and understanding the type of investor you are makes you a better investor.

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



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OUR VIEWS

Sunday letters provide forum

Residents in the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township have always wielded an important voice in the affairs of their community, and they frequently take advantage of the *Observer's* "Letters to the Editor" section to use that voice.

With Sunday's debut of the *Observer's* weekend editorial page, readers now have twice as many opportunities to shape local opinions as before.

In a recent survey and in focus groups conducted in our communities, readers told us time and again they like the editorial positions we take in our Thursday editions, but they'd like to see even more.

That's why we've added a Sunday opinion page. Each Sunday, we'll deliver our opinion on the issues facing the community, and we invite you to either agree or take us to task.

If we're wrong (in your opinion), tell us. If we're right, tell us that, too. If we're not hitting issues you care about, hit them for us.

That's why the letters section is so important. It gives you an open forum to not only get your opinion out there, but to help shape the issues of the day in your community.

There are a few rules (naturally). Try to keep the letters as close to 400 words as possible. Keep them clean and on point, and stay away from personal attacks. Not sure what constitutes a personal attack? Here's an example: "Sen. Joe Blow's position on that issue makes absolutely no sense and shows how out of touch he is" is fine. "Sen. Joe Blow is the biggest windbag ever elected" is a personal attack.

Any issue is up for grabs. Don't like what your government is doing? Write us. Don't like something we wrote? Write us. Love the service at your favorite local restaurant? Write us.

Good or bad, happy or sad, glad or mad — we want to hear from you. A letter to the editor can be a powerful weapon.

Use it wisely.

Parties need to reform presidential primaries

Michigan has taken a prominent role in the presidential primary leap-frog game. Last week, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed a bill moving Michigan's primary to Jan. 15, in defiance of Republican and Democratic party threats to not seat delegates selected before Feb. 5 and a pledge by leading Democratic candidates to not campaign in the state.

For many years, the presidential chase for delegates has begun with caucuses in Iowa and a primary in New Hampshire. Leaders in big, industrial, urban states like Michigan have long complained that small, rural Iowa and New Hampshire do not reflect the majority of American voters. They have argued that by the time more representative states actually vote, a decision has already been made.

The Democrats tried a mild reform by adding Nevada and South Carolina into the mix. But New Hampshire was miffed that the Nevada caucus was scheduled to precede the New Hampshire primary and vowed to move its date back to retain its traditional role.

Michigan U.S. Sen. Carl Levin sent a letter last week to Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean criticizing the party for punishing Florida for scheduling a primary Jan. 29 while letting New Hampshire do what it pleased.

The two major parties need to take the reins and work toward creating a primary system that gives more voters input and truly reflects our diverse population.

Levin says New Hampshire has been holding a "gun" to the heads of candidates and "someone has to take on New Hampshire's transparent effort to violate DNC rules and to maintain its privileged position."

While it was often fun to watch the election roll out slowly through the late spring and early summer as some candidates gained momentum and others faded, those days seem to be gone in the days of yearlong campaigns and national strategies. The two major parties need to take the reins and work toward creating a primary system that gives more voters input and truly reflects our diverse population.

Two plans have been making the rounds. One, the American Plan, would begin with small but diverse states and roll out slowly. The other, the Rotating Primary Plan, would divide the nation into four sections and rotate which section votes first every four years. Both plans deserve a serious consideration. We definitely need to move past this Iowa-New Hampshire fixation.



LETTERS

PCFD best option

I have been reading the letters and articles about the combined fire and emergency medical service for the City of Plymouth and the Township of Plymouth. When these two governments combined fire departments it was the best move for both departments, and it still is. It's time the City of Plymouth stops trying to get something for nothing and the Township of Plymouth stops blaming the city for their indecision and failure to provide adequate personnel.

Chuck VanVleck
Plymouth

Choice is issue

As one of the groups named in the editorial ("Michigan should join those going smoke-free") that has successfully fought against this legislation, we must respond to shed more light on the issue.

The Michigan Restaurant Association continues to support the freedom that restaurant and tavern operators — and their guests — currently enjoy, which is to make decisions on dining choices for themselves. There is no doubt that more and more Michigan citizens have become nonsmokers, and that more and more diners indicate they prefer a dining environment free of smoke.

And Michigan's restaurant and tavern operators — who are in the business of providing their guests with what they want — have responded. Since 1998, the number of restaurants and taverns in Michigan that offer 100 percent smoke-free dining has more than doubled — 103 percent — all without a government-knows-best mandate. It should be noted that these are not our numbers. Rather, these statistics come from the Michigan Citizens for Smoke-free Air, a group supporting a prohibition on choice.

This figure does not include those establishments that choose to take significant steps to alter the physical structure of their establishments to successfully accommodate smoking and nonsmoking guests.

This issue has always been about choice for our industry. And according to the respected Lansing-based public polling firm EPIC-MRA, Michigan diners clearly feel there are enough choices available to them when asked about whether there are enough restaurant options in their communities that meet their smoking preference needs. In fact, 64 percent feel they have enough options available to them, according to their poll conducted in March of this year.

Despite those who insist that they know what is best for Michigan restaurant owners and for their guests, the people of Michigan continue to be able to make this decision for themselves.

Andy Deloney
director, Public Affairs
Michigan Restaurant Association

Unions are the problem

Read your article ("This is a day to reflect on tales of tough laboring," Sept. 2) and have to say that unions are (and

were) a major problem with American industry and have been for the last 30 years.

Were they necessary? Yes, they were back in the '20s, '30s and '40s, but they got out of control and they are coming close to destroying American industry along with the "good ol'" boy network of CEOs who sit on each other's boards of directors at public corporations and give one and other these asinine compensation packages.

We must keep value added manufacturing in this country, for this is how wealth is created. Whether it's from farming or industry we must keep the ability to produce products instead of depending on the "service economy," which will just turn us into a debtor nation.

So while Gittlefinger and the rest of the labor leaders tell everyone what a great guy Walter Reuther was (gag me, I have no respect for communists) while they continue to blame management for all problems in industry, I have one question for them:

When will the UAW, or any other union, buy Delphi or any of the companies on the brink and show us all how to run a manufacturing operation with the contracts they negotiated in place and make a profit? Their combined silence on this subject speaks volumes to those of us who know what is really going on in this country's industries.

Jeffrey Scott
president/owner
Allan Tool & Machine
Troy

Deciphering the news

I would like to comment on recent letters to the editor regarding a perceived bias in the "mainstream" media. There have been allegations from those holding opposite political opinions that there is a decided slant toward one or the other side of the partisan landscape.

I feel this way: the simple reporting of a subject one does not agree with does not constitute bias, as some would characterize it. It is the injection of opinion where none is identified that is the problem. Whether that opinion is representative of the individual reporter or their employer, I am of the belief that it absolutely does not belong as part of what is supposed to be a recitation of fact.

Unfortunately, there are some sources that identify themselves as "reporters" of information that evidently fail to see things similarly.

As for the purported evidence that the "media" (this is often used as blanket nomenclature when attempting to demonize) is overwhelmingly slanted toward a liberal bias, I would suggest one look at a larger and more diverse sampling of polls. It has been fairly well documented that there are a great number of outlets whose reportage has a decidedly conservative bent; talk radio, some of the Internet, and Fox News to name but a few. It seems that some of those inclined toward such sources of information might be guilty of ignoring

the old adage about throwing stones in a glass house.

We live in a world today where unfortunately no one source of information can be completely trusted to offer the unvarnished truth. I believe that some people need to be disabused of the notion that the only credible one is that which regurgitates what they wish to hear.

I am a self-admitted news "junkie" and an avid consumer of all things informational. I read (both print and electronic), watch, and listen to a great many sources of news and information, from both sides of the partisan landscape. Then and only then — and this may be where I differ from some — I make up my own mind, based on an evaluation of those sources. A bit more time and effort, yes, but in the end, all together more edifying.

Scott Stevenson
Farmington

Smokers' rights

I must disagree with your Aug. 30 editorial supporting a government-enforced ban on smoking in bars and restaurants. A bar or restaurant is a private place, not a public place. Forcing property owners to ban smoking in their establishment is a violation of their rights and those that choose to smoke. Just as you have the right to decide whether someone can smoke on your private property or not, the bar owner has that same right to make that decision for his property.

It is not the purpose of the government to protect your health; it is to protect your rights. Health decisions should be made by the individual. It is your decision whether to smoke or not or go into a bar that allows smoking. Just as it is you that should decide for yourself whether to eat properly and exercise, or not. The choices you make and their consequences are your responsibilities, not the government's.

The bar and restaurant owners are perfectly justified in fighting this proposed ban.

Craig Paul
Beverly Hills

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

QUOTABLE

"It was an elderly market that was coming in here, and they are either moving away or not coming anymore ... 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 ... But, Cozy Cafe has run its course."

- Stacey Murdock, Cozy Cafe manager, on why the restaurant has closed its doors after more than 30 years

Graphic novels often tell good story, and keep kids reading

finished a good book the other night — complete with pictures. The book was *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, her story of growing up in Iran during the time of the shah's being forced to flee and the Islamic revolution that followed. The book was notable for me in that it was the first graphic novel I'd read.



Julie Brown

Sue Patterson, the adult services librarian who leads our Contemporary Books discussion group at the Plymouth District Library, urged us to give it a try. We'd read Thomas Friedman's *The World Is Flat* for the August discussion, so this seemed like a good change of pace from that weighty tome focused on globalization.

I was skeptical about a graphic novel, which she assured us has nothing to do with spicy content despite the name. The illustrated books are particularly popular with teens and younger readers, filling library and bookstore shelves.

I gave it a go, and was glad I did. The distant news story from the 1970s and '80s came to life under Satrapi's excellent work, giving the perspective of a girl from ages 6 to 14 growing up in that country and time. It's certainly timely for today's news as well.

It got me to thinking about my own preteen days, when Nancy Drew's spunky girl detective, and later the mysteries of Agatha Christie, kept me reading into the night. The Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys books at that time were criticized by some educators as lacking literary merit, but they kept many a young person reading on during a time when other distractions, notably television, called.

Cathy Lichtman, teen services librarian for the Plymouth library, noted, "Graphic novels are extremely popular." Plymouth's collection had superhero-type books to start, and librarians bought more of the Japanese-type in recent years. Within the last five years, the collection has grown. Manga is the term for Japanese graphic novels or those of that style. "They're translated into English," Lichtman said. "That's a huge, huge market."

Those titles are often tied into television and movie series, known as anime.

Manga titles appeal mostly to those age 12 and up, although the Plymouth library has some for younger children. Writer Mark Crilly from Michigan has a series that's popular, Lichtman said: "It's a very broad field. You really can't say it's one kind of thing."

The books are often in series, she said, so young readers get hooked: "You can't wait for the next one to come out." There's the graphic element, too, with kids growing up on mixed media.

"I think because their friends are reading them," Lichtman said of the books' popularity, noting not all choose graphic novels. "There's some really good literature in graphic novel format, and some that's just more fun."

Blankets, a coming-of-age story by Michigan author Craig Thompson, is 600 pages and is suitable for older kids. "The graphics are beautiful," she said. "Actually, that one reads really fast."

Lichtman finds the books can be hard to read for her,

with older readers used to the printed word: "I think it's those of us who didn't grow up reading comic books that have a harder time." Kids have had graphics from *Sesame Street* on.

"I don't think it matters as much what they're reading, especially for leisure," Lichtman said. Adults don't read *War and Peace* all the time. "I think that helps them develop as readers when they're engaged by the story." Young people can read what they like.

Almost 2,000 per month of the graphic novels circulate in Plymouth. "And it goes up every month. I try to have a mix so everybody can have something," Lichtman said.

Westland's William P. Faust Public Library has an Anime and Manga book discussion group for teens eighth grade through high school, meeting 7:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month, alternating between the two. Andrea Perez, reference librarian, said, "I think it's because it's grown, as far as respect as a genre." The books have a more legitimate storyline in many cases, she's found.

Younger kids find Manga popular, Perez said, "even though they read backward, kids seem to pick up on that easily." Older kids and adults find deeper insights in books, with some libraries looking to have separate adult sections down the road, while others already do. "I think as it grows in popularity, more libraries will do that," Perez said, noting having a separate section for adults is appropriate as some content is questionable for teens.

Perez, who also subs as a librarian in Plymouth, agreed the books benefit readers: "Definitely, because I think it's going to reach out to the reluctant readers." Some series go up to 20 volumes, and keep readers hooked.

"It's been around for a while," Perez said of the genre. "In the '90s, it was pretty new. I think it's starting to turn because they are being taught in college courses. Some of the stories have just gotten so much better. They're not just simple comic books." There are the movies that also draw people in.

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang won the Printz Award for top teen book in 2007. "It was the first graphic novel to win it, so it was pretty notable," Perez said. "It was pretty big at the time."

It seems to me that these books, and leisure reading in general, have a lot to contribute to today's busy young people. A colleague of mine chimed in that *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* got things going in 1986, and that some titles are meant for adults — and clearly described as such. The stories are often well-told, and leisure reading helps kids become better students.

School has started, so there's less time for leisure reading among kids now. Still, it seems the popularity of graphic novels tells us young people enjoy reading, and good stories.

The hope is that they'll carry the reading habit with them into adulthood, as books are still thriving and have so much to offer. Predictions of the demise of the book were premature, and people still read with enthusiasm. Graphic novels are but another form of literature that can keep young people reading for now and their futures.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.

Take a break, it's good for our state

Vacations aren't just a means to play away summer days — in Michigan they're big business.

Tourism ranks among our state's top industries. So it was with some measure of alarm that I noted the vacancy signs in hotels and inns along Grand Traverse Bay, one of Michigan's top vacation destinations, in the run-up to this year's Labor Day holiday.

Privately, inn and resort keepers will tell you this summer wasn't one of their best.



Wayne Peal

There are reasons for this. For starters, Clinch Beach, one of Traverse City's most widely used beaches, was closed for a good portion of this summer due to an e coli outbreak. The locals papers were filled with letters from residents wondering just why the outbreak occurred — they wondered whether it was caused by lawn run-off from new developments, from too lax restrictions on boaters jettisoning their waste, by industrial users, or by the area's low rainfall, which hindered waterways from cleaning themselves.

Even without the pollution problem, this was a tourism season under siege. And you don't have to live in northern Michigan or even travel there to realize that's another blow to Michigan's already staggering economy.

Tourism is our third biggest industry, according to some estimates, and no one needs reminding of what is happening to number one — manufacturing. Several factors are keeping folks at home — chief among them is Michigan's high unemployment rate. This year's dizzying rise in the price of gasoline didn't help.

But the biggest culprit could be the lack of vacation time that even those with jobs, and in other states, now take. Some surveys indicate that American workers now use less than two weeks of vacation time annually, compared with the full month many European workers enjoy.

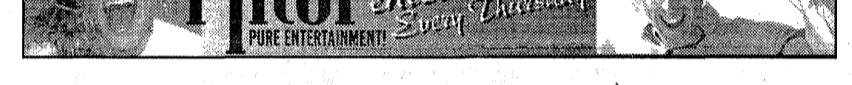
That may be good for business, but it's bad for Michigan. Slumping vacation rentals mean slumping tax revenue in a state already struggling to make ends meet.

It might not be a crisis, at least not yet. But any threat to our nation's tourism industry is certainly a major challenge.

The e coli outbreak shows us that the environment is important, not just for our health, but for our state's economic health. Decreases in vacation days and vacation travel show us that manufacturing isn't the only segment of the economy under pressure from changing economic and cultural conditions.

With that in mind, taking a week away from work could be one of the best things you could do to boost Michigan business.

Wayne Peal is editor of the Southfield Eccentric. You can write him at wpeal@hometownlife.com.




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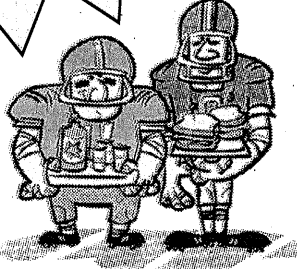
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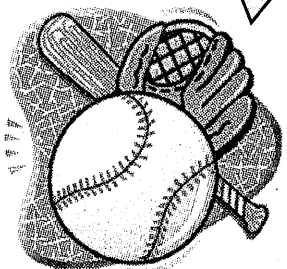
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Large or small, puffballs filled with flavor

There is nothing like a rib-eye steak sizzling on the barbecue on a breezy autumn day to the music of cicadas still buzzing away. But nature is preparing treats too — filling the woods, fields and meadows with early September edibles. And some of these go well with rib-eye. Well done, of course.



Nature's Way
Jonathan Schechter

taken aback a bit back when I went to the meadow to get the rest of our menu to go with the feta cheese tomato and garlic omelet. (Garlic was wild, tomatoes from garden. Could not use eggs from my chickens. Mr. Coyote ate my chickens last winter.) But what's a good omelet without mushrooms and why go to the store when Mother Nature's fungi pantry is having a special on fall fungi?

Gusts of winds send black walnuts plummeting to earth. I'll be drying those for later use. Acorns pelt the woodlands like summer hailstorms. You can be sure that deer and wild turkey will delight in the acorn crop. Trivia: Those falling nuts are known as "mast" and my biologist friends agree — it's a great mast crop this year.

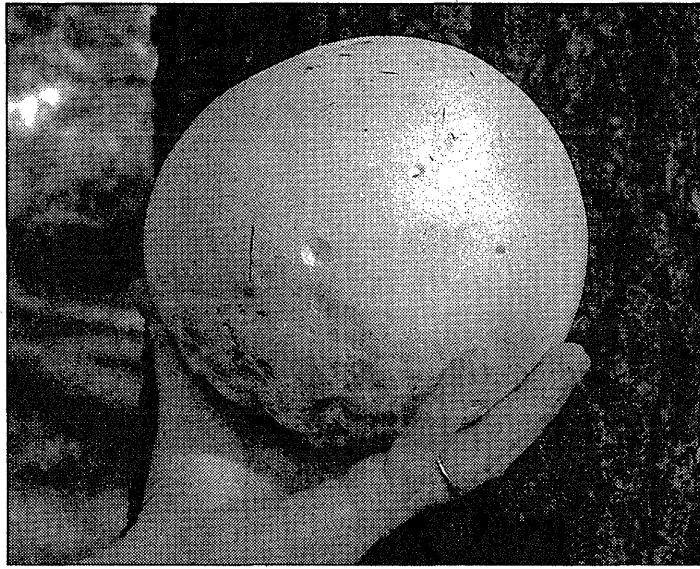
Apple trees gone wild are producing beautiful well-formed apples in the state recreation areas. Tasty and tart, slightly speckled autumn olive berries are everywhere. And although this is an invasive species, researchers, some from the USDA, have found a silver lining with the discovery this plant is rich in lycopene, a possibly potent cancer and cardiovascular disease fighter.

But the best treat, the one I enjoy most having underfoot as I continue my post Labor Day wild foods free shopping spree, is the giant puffball. And giant puffballs are best before they become giant. Like now. Good for breakfast, too.

My highly citified niece was in from Chicago. She was

Now a word of caution before I type another word. Never eat fungi based on some nature's guy's ramblings or a picture or a guidebook alone — never. Eat the wrong fungi and it can make you sick, or kill you. And you are just wrong if you think poisonous mushrooms are not found in this area. One of the most beautiful and deadly mushrooms I ever found was along the fire-spawned environment of the Wet Prairie section of Oakland Township's Paint Creek Trail.

This little diversion of common sense is necessary, for to the untrained, inexperienced eye, the Amanita — also known as Death Angel — when it first emerges from the earth bears



JONATHAN SCHECHTER

A giant puffball is headed for the frying pan.

a resemblance to young tasty puffballs, which according to mycologists in the know is rich in selenium, iron, riboflavin and, surprisingly, Vitamin C. I guess I expect Vitamin C from orange and green things — not white mushrooms.

The puffball we harvested was small — just about the size of a large grapefruit. Some are basketball big and bigger. I did the quick "gotta be safe and sure test" and sliced a knife through the middle. The marshmallow-like texture and lack of gills (Amanitas have gills) told me it was a puffball, but the test was mostly to reassure my niece. Then it was time

to slice and sprinkle with lemon-pepper, and sautéed in olive oil. Another way is to first dip into a batter of whipped egg and bread crumbs then sauté.

And the day after she left, I sliced up another puffball and soaked the slices for about 20 minutes in a secret barbecue sauce — partial sauce ingredients included cherry salsa — and threw them on the grill next to the rib-eye for a palate pleasing dinner. Juicy wild grapes and healthful autumn olive berries for dessert. Living is good in nature's way.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way.

Here's your chance to dine with Chuck Gaidica

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

Gaidica, director of meteorology at Channel 4, is a familiar face in the metro area. As part of the Local4Casters, he's on Channel 4 weekdays at 5, 6 and 11 p.m.

A two-time Emmy Award winner, Gaidica recently helped launch a professional theatre — Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you're a fan of Chuck Gaidica and would like to have lunch or dinner with him at Buddy's Pizza.

Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is **Saturday, Sept. 15**.

A photograph of you and Chuck will be published in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* and online at www.hometownlife.com.

"We want our winners to dine with their favorite stars



Gaidica

and feel like a star, too," says Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy

of All Class Transportation and Limousine Services; a makeover from Beauty Salon by J.Lyle Ltd. featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick; a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield; and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming "Dining With the Stars" will feature attorney Geoffrey Fieger (October), Florine Mark of Weight Watchers, health and fitness guru and *O&E* columnist Peter Nielsen, Ruth Spencer of WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" and Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters.

The stars featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

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- 4 Computer Safety**
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- 5 Choking/Poisoning**
Nurses provide training on dangerous chemicals and teach how to respond to a choking situation.
- 6 Food Safety**
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ANN DEGHETTO

Bang-up Bingo

Players were all smiles at Friday's annual Bingo fund-raiser, sponsored by the Plymouth Business and Professional Women, held during Plymouth Fall Festival. The fund-raiser benefits the Plymouth BPW scholarship fund. Business and Professional Women is a national organization, founded during World War I to organize the resources of professional women in order to assist the war effort. Locally, the Plymouth BPW provides scholarship opportunities to women, many head-of-household, for career advancement or women that are re-entering the work force, who also demonstrate financial need. For more information regarding scholarships, please send a letter to Plymouth BPW, P. O. Box 5038, Plymouth, MI 48170. The group is seeking new members.

AROUND TOWN

Dining for Braille Books

Join Seedlings Braille Books for Children of Livonia and Max & Erma's Laurel Park for the fifth-annual "Dining for Braille Books" Monday-Thursday, Sept. 17-20 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dine at Max & Erma's (Laurel Park Mall location only) anytime during these four days, present a special flier and 20% of your lunch or dinner check total will be donated to Seedlings to help make more children's books in braille. You may download a PDF flier at www.seedlings.org (click on Special Events) or contact Julie Conroyer at seedlink7@aol.com or 734-427-8552 x301 to request a flier. You must present a flier to participate.

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

Women's hockey

An adult women's beginner's hockey league begins its fall session

(October through January) at Vet's Arena in Ann Arbor. No experience necessary. Registration fee of \$190 includes jersey. Games scheduled at 7:50, 8:50, 9:50 and 10:50 p.m. on Friday evening. You can register on line now at macrhl.com

Holiday craft show

The Mother's Club at Catholic Central High School in Novi is sponsoring a Holiday Craft Show and Marketplace to take place Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school on Wixom Road in Novi. The show is open to artists, craftspeople and businesses that sell items suitable for holiday gift giving. For more information, call (810) 231-3235 or (248) 705-9519.

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, includ-

ing 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 murkhart@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.annarbortcivicballet.com 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.gardeners-northville-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@mhsml.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.

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 housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.



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McCotter defends his record in D.C. on Iraq, economy

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER



McCotter

The lunch crowd at Westland Rotary wasn't hostile to Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, but they had some tough questions about the war in Iraq.

"If they cannot win, then we bring them home," the Livonia Republican lawmaker said Thursday, Aug. 30, in response to a question from club President Lou Toarmina of Westland.

"They tried to create Washington in Baghdad," McCotter said of the Bush administration's Iraq plan. "Our democracy evolved from the grassroots up."

McCotter defended his record on the war, urging the listeners to be patient "and let it (democracy) take its own native form. Unless the people you represent want something, it's not going to happen."

McCotter, speaking at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army to Rotarians and guests, believes the Iraqis are feeling the effects of Saddam Hussein being deposed. Kim Shunkwiler of Wayne, a Westland chiropractor and Vietnam vet-

eran, asked about troops leaving Iraq.

McCotter replied by urging listeners to heed broadcasts on the CBC from Canada. In that country, you hear anti-war arguments about Afghanistan like those heard here on Iraq.

The congressman believes if the U.S. leaves Iraq now, Taliban-type extremists in Pakistan who have nuclear capabilities will dominate. He foresees two nuclear fault lines, Pakistan/India and Iran/Israel, and an ideological struggle like the Cold War. He envisions further problems in the Middle East.

"Now what you're going to see in Washington is this new 'blame the victim,'" McCotter said. Former servicemen from the U.S. who return to North Vietnam receive a warmer welcome than those in the South, he said, who believe they were lied to about American support. McCotter gave credit to former U.S.

President Bill Clinton for his criticism of Chinese who killed students in Tiananmen Square in that country. He praised the U.S. tradition of respect among those who disagree: "There's a certain commonality of agreement on the system of government we have."

Toarmina, who owns a pizza business, welcomed the congressman, noting "With us we have one of the most influential men in the country. We're happy and proud to have him."

McCotter also faced tough questioning on the home front, with Michigan's economy the major concern and small business needs specifically. The congressman cited our state's population loss, including young college graduates leaving.

"This is at a time when the rest of the country isn't going through this," McCotter said. Either Michigan will catch up to the U.S. — or the national economy will come down.

"If the national economy lands on us, it's going to be a very long time." He said he and his colleagues work to bring more tax dollars back to Michigan: "We've

been very good on a bipartisan basis on doing that."

He said both the GOP and Democratic parties have members who don't understand the needs of manufacturers, including auto companies. He'd like to see alternative energy sources which equate to less reliance on foreign oil. "We have great community colleges, we have great universities." Michigan's skilled workforce is another asset, McCotter said.

"The state has to be competitive with other states." Massachusetts adjusted to loss of the textile industry, a good analogy for our state, he said. "How did they make change?"

Michigan's representation in the U.S. House of Representatives is dropping, he said. "That means fewer people there to fight to bring our money back."

"My No. 1 job is to make sure the national economy doesn't crash down on us," McCotter said. "The greatest thing Michigan can do for itself is to start generating wealth."

SINGLES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

The American Singles' Golf Association will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Maples Club at 31260 Wakefield Road in Novi (off of 14 Mile Road between M-5 and Novi Road.)

Cocktails and mingling will be at 6 p.m. with announcements at 7 p.m. Dinner is optional and is off the menu. To preview our upcoming events, visit the Web site at www.southeastmichigan.singlesgolf.com. This is a great way to meet single golfers in our area and golf some of Michigan's nicest courses both locally and statewide.

Since the association is a national club, you also have the option of golfing with other ASGA (American Singles' Golf Association) groups around the country.

For more information about the club, contact Diane at (248) 347-0379.

Attorney General Cox launches cyber safety program for children

Attorney General Mike Cox last week unveiled an Internet predator education program for school children. The program, titled the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (Michigan CSI), proactively combats the problem of Internet predators by educating students, teachers, and parents about how to avoid dangers on the Internet.

"Our Criminal Division is a national leader in the arrest of Internet predators," Cox said. "Now, with Michigan CSI, we will be a national leader in proactively protecting children through education and prevention."

The program is being offered to all Michigan schools, public and private, as well as the home school community.

Demand for the program is so high that already more than 70 school districts from 44 counties, representing more than 210,000 kindergarten through eighth-grade students, have already registered. Additional seminars are also available to provide parents and community leaders with practical tools for keeping children safe online.

The President of the Internet Keep Safe Coalition, Marsali Hancock, said, "Attorney General Cox's outstanding S@fetyNet campaign makes it easy to report Internet crimes against children and will help families better understand how they can provide the safest possible Web experience for their children."

The Attorney General's office is also partnering with the Michigan Cable Telecommunications Association and the Michigan

Association of Broadcasters to promote Michigan CSI.

"Cable television companies are committed to keeping kids safe in a wired world, so we are proud to join Attorney General Cox in the Cyber-Safety Initiative," said Colleen McNamara, executive director of the Michigan Cable Telecommunications Association. "The programming we will televise throughout Michigan during this campaign will help educate parents and teachers about the risks our kids face online and how to protect them from the dangers that exist on the Internet."

"The Michigan Association of Broadcasters and its 389 member stations, both radio and television, are pleased to be working with Attorney General Cox on the important issue of Internet predators," said Karole White, President and CEO of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. "Our members have already been active with this issue and welcome the opportunity to localize the message to benefit the families and young people of Michigan."

The Michigan CSI program was developed drawing on resources from nationally recognized Internet safety programs and in consultation with Michigan teachers and parents. The program was piloted to more than 8,500 students in three school districts and is recommended by all three pilot district superintendents. Michigan CSI consists of four different age-appropriate seminars: K-third grades; fourth-fifth grades; sixth-eighth grades; and a community seminar. A portion of the program

also deals with the nation's fastest growing form of bullying — cyberbullying.

"Michigan CSI is more powerful than the strongest software filter, because this program will arm children and parents with the knowledge they need to protect themselves," Cox said. "For the past 18 months, our office has been designing this project to provide an intersection between law enforcement and education to protect our children."

Area school districts already participating in Michigan CSI include Detroit Public Schools, Royal Oak, Warren Consolidated, Wyandotte, Monroe, Clarkston, Chelsea, Dexter, Redford Union, Oakland ISD, Wayne RESA, St. Mary's of Redford, and St. Edith of Livonia.

Material from the Michigan CSI presentations can be accessed on the Attorney General's Web site, www.michigan.gov/ag, under the Key Initiatives heading. The Michigan CSI home page provides a wealth of material, including a summary explanation of the program, handouts from the presentations, and an online registration form. Portions of the presentation to sixth- through eighth-grade students may also be viewed on YouTube via a link at this site.

Parents and community members can also report suspicious or dangerous contact on the Internet by accessing the Attorney General's Web site, clicking on the Michigan CSI homepage, then clicking on the button marked, "Report Internet Abuses Against A Child."

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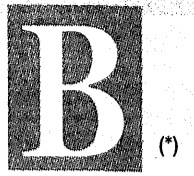
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Real Estate



Thursday, September 13, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Realtor of the Year's a 'whirlwind' of involvement

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Gary J. Reggish of Livonia has been named the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors (WVOCAR) Realtor of the Year. Reggish is the broker/owner of Remerica United Realty in Novi.

"I was completely blindsided. I didn't see it coming. I was very touched," Reggish said. "There's just no greater honor than to be honored by your peers."

This year, five candidates were nominated for the prestigious honor. Each was reviewed in the categories of Realtor spirit, activity in civic affairs, WVOCAR involvement, service at the Michigan and National Associations, business and educational experience and support of WVOCAR initiatives.

Dale E. Smith, executive vice president of WVOCAR, noted, "We have so many people that are active out in the community. This year, it was difficult to make a selection. Gary's a good representation of that (community involvement). He's very active in our association."

Smith added that Reggish, 41, "is very active in children's activities and trying to make the community better. He kind of represents all the volunteers." With a tendency to focus on the negative, it's good to hear about what real estate pros do well, he said.

"Gary himself is just kind of a whirlwind," Smith said, noting Reggish does "really significant things for people. He very much deserves the award. He's a good representative for those other people as well."

"We're seeing things pick up a little bit," Smith said of the local real estate market. "We're seeing some signs that things are beginning to turn around." Better responses from Realtors are what Smith's hearing, true at all price levels.

Reggish is still overwhelmed by his award — "In these times today to be honored with something like this, it's a real honor." He agreed with Smith the real estate market's picking up



Gary J. Reggish

locally.

"Absolutely. Sellers are definitely being very realistic about market value. It's worth what the public is willing to pay for the property," Reggish said. The challenge is to get sellers to recognize that, and he credits the media with those educational efforts.

"We need to get the true facts out there to the public, and the media's done a good job," Reggish said.

In making the selection, the ROTY Committee noted Reggish's involvement in community events and programming, lending his efforts to several local charities. He has also been involved in community service, having served in leadership roles at the Northville Central Business Association, Northville Rotary Club, and Northville Chamber of Commerce. He participated in the Gibbs Group Study

Commission that established the tenets for the future growth of the community.

His role in raising funds for charities doesn't stop at the local level.

Reggish and his sales associates have raised money for national and international relief efforts. He has also been involved in several areas in the school council at St. Edith School in Livonia, including serving as president of that group in 2005 and 2006. All four of his children attend St. Edith School.

At WVOCAR, he has served on several committees and task forces. Reggish currently is WVOCAR's 2007 president-elect. His key interests are centered on community, education and governmental initiatives, and establishing value to members within the various organizations he serves.

Recently, Reggish has stepped up his volunteer activities to include the Michigan and National Associations of Realtors. He is a WVOCAR Elite Member and an RPAC Sterling R contributor.

In his free time, Reggish facilitates a multiple mastermind group on goal setting and goal achievement. Plans are under way to have him set up a similar program at WVOCAR.

Reggish is married to Lynne. They have four children (ages 8, 9, 11 and 12), a dog, a cat and a bird.

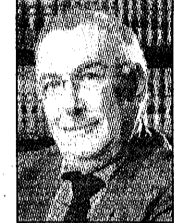
"Do we have a lot on our plate coming down the plate," he said of the coming year at WVOCAR. Value to members and the general public of WVOCAR, such as homeowner rights/issues, is the focus, he said, citing the service tax in Michigan as a recent example.

"Our real commitment is to step up our value and just make it better," said the president-elect, who earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan with a double major in biology and physiological psychology (mental illnesses with a physical basis).

He has about 60 agents at his Remerica United Realty office. "We just expanded recently. We're looking to grow about another 20 agents." The office has about 9,000 square feet on Grand River at Beck in a shopping center.

Hammer out employment plan for business

Q. We have a family real estate business which I want to give to my children to handle. However, only one of three is able to do so and I want to avoid any problems in the future, particularly with respect to compensation. Do you have any recommendations?



Robert Meisner

A. Obviously, there should be an employment agreement between the corporation and the child that will be performing services for the corporation so

that there is no question down the road as to the right of that person to receive compensation. Also, there should be a shareholder agreement between the shareholders, including any intended beneficiaries with respect to their rights to the family business. You may also wish to consult with your estate planning lawyer as it is important to have everything in writing to the extent possible to avoid future problems down the road.

Q. I have heard of something called the "Communications Decency Act" and am wondering if it protects Internet roommate matching services from claims under the Fair Housing Act.

A. The Communications Decency Act does not protect an Internet roommate matching service from claims under the Fair Housing Act to the extent that the service is functioning as a "content provider" based upon a Ninth Federal Circuit Court ruling. If the Web service passively publishes information provided by others, the Communications Decency Act protects it from liability, but if the Web site is responsible, in whole or in part, for creating or developing the information, it becomes a "content provider" and is not entitled to CDA protection. The court suggested that by categorizing, channeling and limiting the distribution of users' profiles, the Web site provides an additional layer of information that it is responsible, at least in part, for creating or developing, and so the Web site should be concerned about whether it is providing unprotected content under the Fair Housing Act.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

MCAR 'Realtor of Year' has seen changes in field

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Nanci J. Rands of SKBK Sotheby's International Realty in Birmingham is this year's "Realtor of the Year" for the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, of which she's a past president. The Bloomfield Hills resident has long been active in MCAR, which has over 5,000 Realtors in Oakland and Macomb.

"I thought that it was a very wonderful recognition by my peers," she said. "Even though it is an individual honor, it is really true many years of teamwork and collegiality with other professionals that this achievement was made possible."

Rands, in the field over 30 years, is an associate broker at SKBK Sotheby's International Realty on Maple in downtown Birmingham. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in political science.

"I see additional activity in the market," Rands said recently.

Rands' community involvement is extensive and includes: Project Interchange - National Board, vice chair, chairman-elect (2007) (organizes and supports educational seminars to Israel for current and emerging U.S. and international leaders, enhancing understanding and perspective with the objective of peace in the Middle East); Temple Beth El - member, Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, chair of major fund-raising events; Orchards Children's Services - (a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian child and family service agency), Board of Directors, Executive Committee; Franklin Hills Country Club - member - Board of Directors and officer - first woman in club's 75-year history, Committee chair - Strategic Planning, Best Practice, House, Food & Beverage, Women's Golf; Men's Golf Tournament Event Eye Research Institute of the Retina Foundation - chair of Funds Mobilization - Michigan Metropolitan Detroit Jewish Federation - Women's Division, Board of Directors; chair, Major Gifts Campaign Metropolitan Detroit Jewish Foundation - Real Estate Committee; Jewish Women's Foundation - trustee; National Council of Jewish Women -



Nanci J. Rands

board member, vice president for Political Affairs; American Jewish Committee - board member, liaison to National AJC National Board ex-officio 2007-11; Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America - board member, executive committee Development - co-chair 2007 major benefit.

She was 2006 president of MCAR, and will assume the chairmanship of the state next year for the Realtors Political Action Committee.

"The thing I like best about it is the people I get to meet," she said, including other real estate professionals and those in allied fields. "There's always something new and interesting." Rands likes helping people find "a house that they then make their home; working with them through the process is very, very rewarding."

She's a residential broker, which includes houses, and vacant land either buildable or developable. "I

do a lot of consulting with builders and developers."

"In the last 10 years, there's been a tremendous amount of technologic advancement." Real estate pros used to need many people to do their work, and now carry small computers/PDAs, and rely heavily on e-mails. "Things are done much more quickly, but there's also an expectation of much more detailed information. The paperwork, of course, has become mountainous whenever we close transactions," Rands said.

Early on in her career, a dozen papers was a lot at a closing. "Today, it is just unbelievable."

Rands praised "a significant rise in the level of professionalism among Realtors, a commitment to ongoing education, a commitment to improving the kinds of services we provide to the public and our clients in particular."

"Business models have changed significantly over the years. I believe they're going to continue to evolve." The typical company when she began was a comparatively small office, locally owned, sometimes family-run, with probably 20 agents or even less.

"Now we have many, many more large firms, some of which are national franchises or sometimes even international." Some operate statewide.

"Real estate for a long time has been a real pillar of our economy," Rands noted, citing \$42,000 of ripple effect in the economy in the U.S. for each real estate transaction. She works with daughter Meredith Rands Colburn as her business partner and likes that arrangement.

Walt Baczkowski Jr., chief executive officer of MCAR, said, "I was very pleased with Nanci's selection. Nanci is just a high class individual. She provides tremendous customer service. She's involved in so many things and so many projects."

Baczkowski described the honoree's frequent flying around the country as an advocate for homeowners. She's "honest, forthright," and well-connected with Washington and the industry, he added.

"She is a great example of a true professional, and somebody who gives back." He noted Rands gives her free time to help others, and offers great customer service professionally.



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<p>Showers of Great Deals in your Classifieds!</p>	<p>Find the best garage sales in O&E Classifieds! <i>"It's All About Results!"</i></p>	<p>Westland VENNY PINES APTS. From \$549 • 1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace. (734) 261-7394 www.yorkcommunities.com</p>	<p>CANTON - Cherryhill Village, 2 bdrm 2 bath, fireplace, bsmt, 2 car, all appliances. 1575 sq. ft. \$1400/mo. 734-354-8886</p>	<p>NOVI - 2 bdrm condo with pool, playground/park. Lease with option to buy \$900/mo. Dave: 248-910-1077</p>	<p>CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355</p>	<p>ROCHESTER HILLS 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath, appliances, fireplace, deck, patio, garage, a/c, bsmt, pool. \$1050. 248-477-2643</p>	<p>CANTON - 3 bdrm colonial, country kitchen, 1 1/2 baths, remodeled, Joy & Sheldon area, \$1450. 248-872-2298</p>	<p>DEARBORN HTS. \$1050/MO. Great house and location! 3 bdrm, bsmt, garage, fenced, a/c, appliances. 313-570-3700</p>
			<p>CLAWSON - Walking distance to town. Brick 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath Townhouse. \$695+ utilities. Agent: (248) 283-0668</p>	<p>ROYAL OAK TOWNHOUSE 2 bdrm, must see! Granite tops & more, c/a, washer/dryer, full bsmt. \$900. 248-895-0021</p>	<p>ROYAL OAK N. - Brick ranch Duplex. 2 bdrm w/vaulted ceilings \$695+ utilities. Agent: (248) 283-0668</p>	<p>AUBURN HILLS 2 bdrm, 2 car garage, bsmt., Avondale Schools, \$875/mo. 248-321-4917</p>	<p>BIRMINGHAM Fresh redo, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, oak floors, granite counters, big deck, 2 car garage, 2578 Pembroke, \$1550/mo. 248-515-2040</p>	<p>DEARBORN - Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, garage, dining room, C/A. Option, \$750. Call: 248-788-1823</p>
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BRIEFS FROM PAGE B4

gies. Registration fees are \$200 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will sponsor a lien law seminar on Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Marty Burnstein, of the Law Offices of Marty Burnstein, will discuss "What's New in Michigan Construction."

Registration fees are \$75 for BIA members and \$125 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

■ Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "How To Conduct Outreach" course on Friday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

The course will focus on answers to these questions: What are we selling? Where can we market it? What is outreach and where do I begin? What is partnership marketing? How can I fit this into my existing schedule? Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association (BIA) of Southeastern

Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1004.

■ Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor an "HVAC Heater Trouble

Shooting" course on Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon at Wilmar Offices, 23975 Research Drive in Farmington Hills. The course will be a hands-on HVAC training program for your professional maintenance staff and will

cover all of the gas and electric heater components and functions, trouble shooting and preventative maintenance. Registration fees are \$40 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1004.

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SPORTS



(C2)

Thursday, September 13, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Canton digs out Madonna spike title

Canton's volleyball team racked up its first tournament title in quite some time Saturday when it captured the Madonna University Invitational at Plymouth High School.

But judging by the way the Chiefs are playing early on, it won't be their last championship this season.

Canton went 6-0 and defeated cross-campus foe Salem in the finals to improve its season record to 9-1-1.

"The girls played as a team, everyone did their job and we really clicked," said Canton coach Jen Barnes, summarizing her squad's gold medal-winning performance. "They accomplished two team goals this weekend: winning a tournament and beating Salem. Many teams played us tough, but we eliminated the mistakes and played consistent."

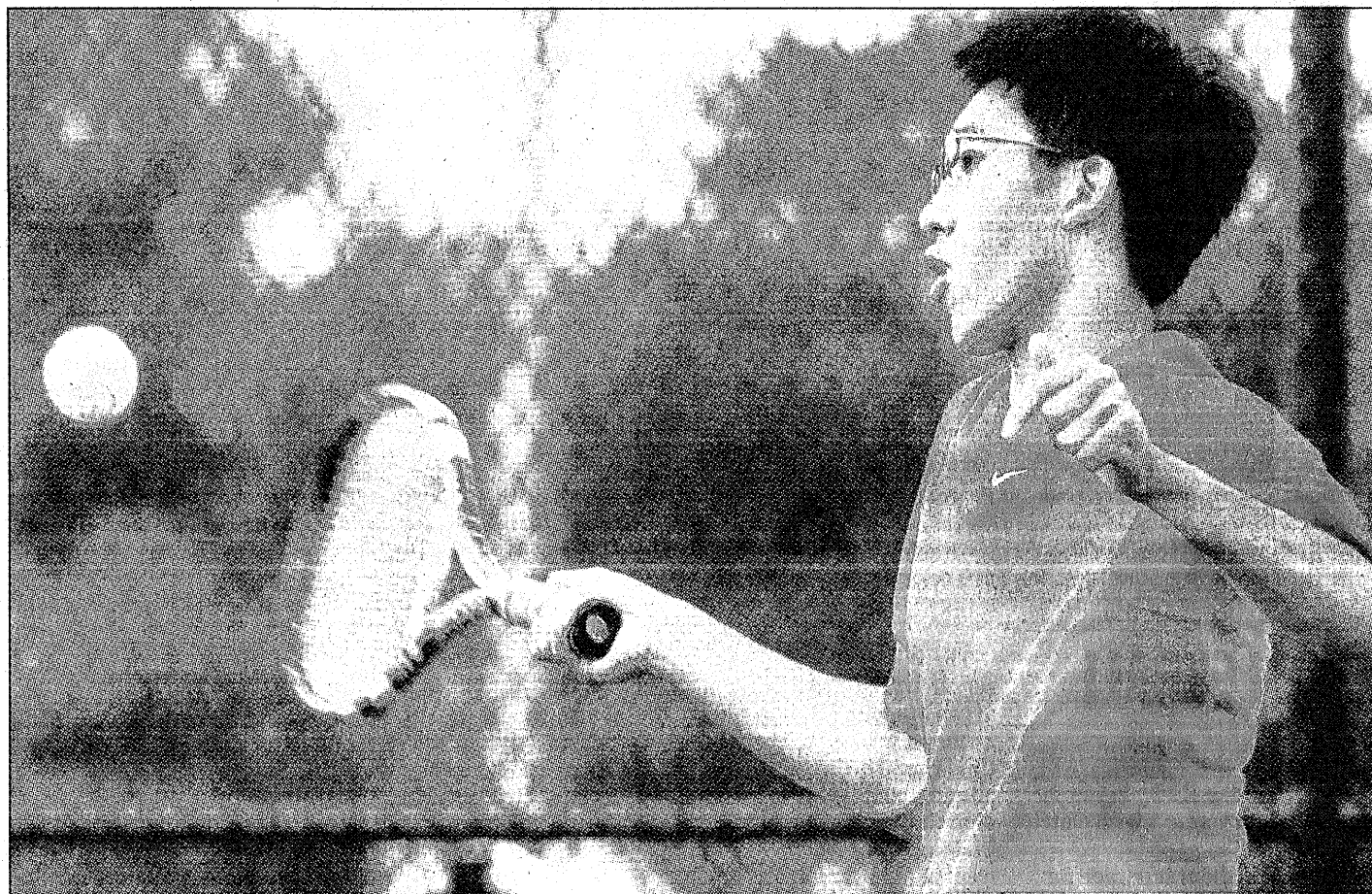
"Plymouth and Salem were both tough, so I think there be some very good matches throughout this season."

The Chiefs rolled through pool play with victories over Redford Union (25-17, 25-15), Romulus (25-15, 25-14), North Farmington (25-7, 25-10) and Warren Woods Tower (25-20, 25-15).

After earning a bye in the quarterfinal round, Barnes' spikers ousted Plymouth, 25-18, 25-15, in the semis before grounding the Rocks, 18-25, 25-17, 15-11 in a dramatic finals match.

"The only game we lost against Salem we started out strong but then began having some communication problems," said Barnes. "We started out slow in the second game, but we rallied seven points to get back into the game."

Senior Marie Martin and soph-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David Kang, Canton's No. 1 singles player, is pictured returning a serve during a scrimmage against Salem Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, Kang dropped a hard-fought decision to Walled Lake Central's Eric Hamann, but the Chiefs prevailed, 6-2.

Chief netters debut with convincing 6-2 triumph over Vikings

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The only "love" Canton's boys tennis team showed visiting Walled Lake Central Tuesday afternoon was in No. 3 singles player Justin Liedel's 6-love, 6-love sweep over James Botmeo.

The Chiefs opened the 2007 schedule with a convincing 6-2 triumph over the Vikings, who dropped to 0-2.

"The boys played great," said Canton coach Barb Lehman. "Central has always played well against us. I know they lost a couple players because of the switch of seasons, but it was still a good match. It was a good way to start the season for us."

Central's No. 1 player, Eric Hamann, prevented a Canton sweep in singles when he downed the Chiefs' top player, David Kang, 6-3, 6-3. Canton's Mike Darouie ousted Derek Mitchell, 6-2, 6-2, at No. 2 singles while teammate Ryan Hanz was making short work of Hiro Yamamishi, 6-3, 6-2, at No. 4.

In doubles action, Canton captured victories in all but the No. 3 match

where Kyle Smiley and Vinnie Voushard nipped David Ding and Ryan Evans, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in a three-set thriller.

Notching doubles triumphs for Canton were the No. 1 duo of Ryan Hollingsworth and Riley Hoernschemeyer, who downed Ryan Halteen and Kyle Yanagunas, 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1; the No. 2 team of Jeremy Lindlbauer and Santosh Shanmuga, who edged Jake Paulser and Matt Mueller, 7-6 (4), 6-3; and the No. 4 tandem of Cory Hurst and Adam Payne, who rebounded to top Jared Goltz and Karl Boedecker, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

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Outstanding opener

Late goal snaps Rocks' winless streak

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Heading into Monday night's home game against Walled Lake Northern, the 2007 season had been comparable to a forgettable Father's Day for Salem's soccer team — tie, after tie, after tie, after tie.

Seven ties in 10 games, to be exact. But a picture-perfect goal resembling something you'd see on a training video by junior defenseman Jace Bearden with eight minutes left gave the Rocks a 1-0 victory and ended their longest beginning-of-the-season winless streak in head coach Ed McCarthy's long and successful tenure.

"Since I've been here, we've never had our first win come in the 10th game of the season," said McCarthy, whose squad improved to 1-2-7 overall and 1-1 in the WLA's Lakes Division. "Before the game, we talked about putting the first nine games behind us and focusing on the next nine, which will take us through divisional play. That's our next target — to see if we can find a way to win our division."

"Our strength of schedule has been pretty strong. Our only two losses were to (Livonia) Stevenson, who's outstanding, and (Warren) DeLaSalle, who's also outstanding. Both are legitimate top 10 teams, so the losses were nothing to be ashamed of, but it was still frustrating not being able to get a win."

The game-winning net-finder was set up by junior Josh Pascarella, who threaded a high, laser-like free kick into the heart of the 18-yard box. Bearden used his extraordinary jumping

"Since I've been here, we've never had our first win come in the 10th game of the season. Before the game, we talked about putting the first nine games behind us and focusing on the next nine, which will take us through divisional play. That's our next target — to see if we can find a way to win our division!"

ED MCCARTHY, Salem head coach

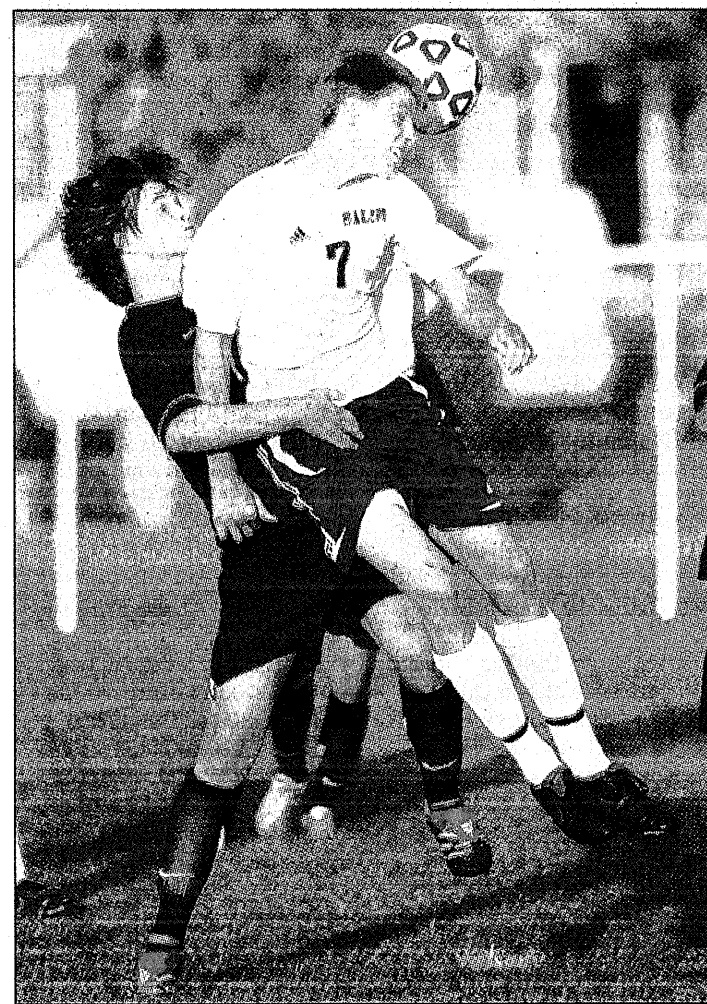
ability and 6-foot-1 height to out-sky the Knights' defenders and head the ball with force into the back of the net.

"Jace is an All-Area high jumper on the track team and he does a great job in the air," said McCarthy. "Josh did a good job of getting the ball to him and I was impressed with how much Jace was able to get on the shot. There was no way their keeper was going to be able to react quick enough to make the save. It was a textbook play."

The setback was the first blemish on the Lakes record of Northern, which dropped to 7-2 overall and 3-1 in the division.

"We knew coming in that getting a win tonight would be a problem because the motivation was there for Salem to get their first win of the season," said Northern coach Chris Stevanovic. "This was a big game for us, but Salem just out-worked us. They won pretty much every 50-50. They deserved to win tonight. They were the better team."

Please see **SOCCER, C2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jace Bearden (right), pictured above during a game earlier this season, headed in the game-winning goal Monday in the Rocks' 1-0 victory over Walled Lake Northern.

Sidelines

'Cat golfers win

Plymouth's girls golf team evened its record at 1-1 Monday at Hickory Creek Golf Course with a 227-247 victory over Salem.

Patricia Burns led the Wildcats with a nine-hole total of 53. Also scoring for the winners were Missy Gosbee (56), Liz Cizek (58) and Megan Haggerty (60). Maggie Kelly (61) and Chloe Marentic (67) played, but did not score for Plymouth.

Salem (0-1) was led by Natalie Barnett's 55.

Name change

Compuware Arena President and Plymouth Whalers General Manager Michael Vellucci announced that effective today Compuware Sports Arena will now be known as Compuware Arena.

"Compuware Arena has always hosted a wide range of events: drive-in movies, tradeshows, concerts, graduation ceremonies, and corporate meetings" said Vellucci. "Even though the Whalers, youth hockey, figure skating and Professional Indoor Soccer are very important to our business, we feel that the new name more accurately reflects what we bring to our community and the over 1.2 Million guests we serve each year."

Compuware Arena, located on Beck Road just north of M-14 in Plymouth Township, was originally built in 1996 as a venue for the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers and the Compuware Youth Hockey Program.

Pom Pon clinic

The Plymouth Saberette Pom Pon team will be hosting a kids clinic on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Plymouth High School gymnasium. All girls kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to attend and learn a pom routine.

The cost of the clinic is \$35, which includes the clinic, a pom T-shirt, pom pons and a snack. All participants will be invited to perform in the Saberettes Variety Show and at

Family

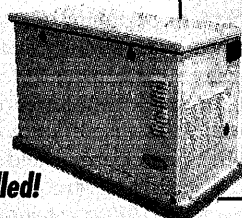
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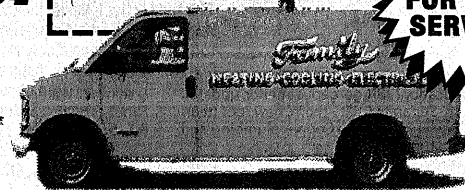
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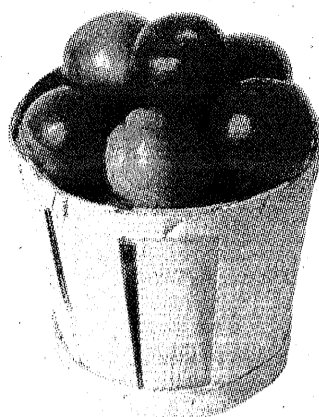
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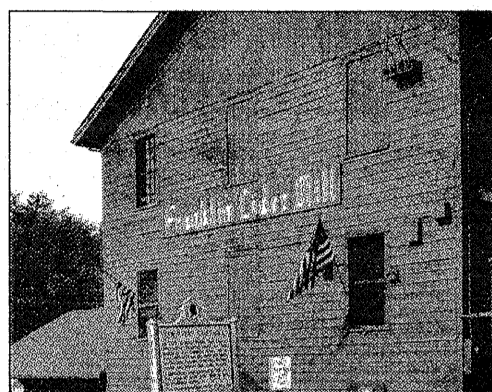
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Grilling around



Franklin Cider Mill is just one of several mills serving up cider this fall in southeastern Michigan.

Seek out fresh-pressed cider, a fall treasure

all never officially begins in Michigan until the area Cider Mills open to welcome annual crowds.

Growing up in Rochester Hills, that quickly became a fact of life. I can't pinpoint my age, or whether the area around Yates Cider Mill looked much different in the 1980s but I'll never forget the feeling of my parents pulling onto that never-paved property and parking our car at the old red barn. I'd listen for the sound of water rushing through the wheel, walk along the bridge over the river and literally through the woods, and of course relish the sweet smell of pressed apples all around. We'd hurry to our place in line and start the debate.

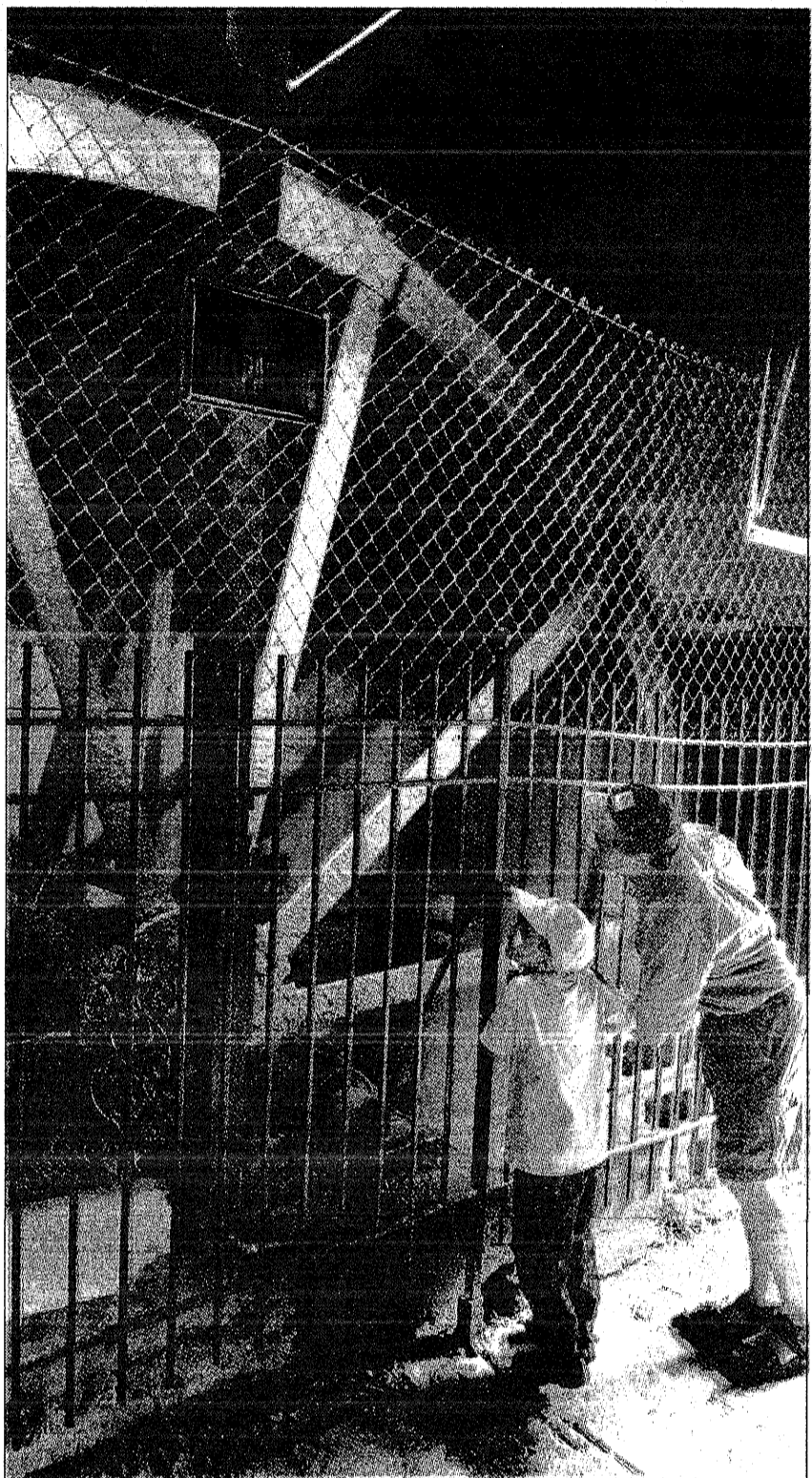
How much cider should we buy?

Which kind of donuts do you like best?

I could barely wait to crack open those cold plastic containers for that first gulp of cider. Something about it just



Stephanie Casola



A trip to the cider mill brings back fond childhood memories for many.

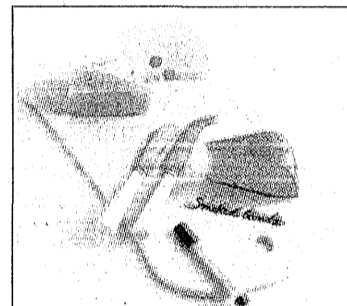
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LONGABERGER BASKET FEST

Make your own piece of history this summer as Longaberger, America's premier maker of handcrafted baskets, comes to Greenfield Village for its first Basket Fest, Sept. 14-23. The Longaberger Basket Fest Package (\$76.95) includes one-day admission to Greenfield Village, hourly basket giveaways, and the opportunity to work with an expert and make your own Longaberger Medium Chore Basket with red and blue trim. Also, get your Longaberger products signed by a member of the family. Call Longaberger Guest Relations at (740) 322-5588, or visit www.longaberger.com/greenfieldvillage.



This cheese board with erasable menu is part of the Martha Stewart Collection, new to Macy's.

MARTHA STEWART AT MACY'S

Macy's is inviting shoppers to celebrate the debut of its exclusive Martha Stewart Collection by staging two Martha-inspired contests. Customers can enter to win a trip for four to see Martha Stewart light the Great Tree, featuring Martha Stewart Collection holiday trim, at Macy's on State Street. In addition to attending the tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 10, winners will receive a night's stay in Chicago, a free gift, and more. Enter at any Macy's location. Macy's also is hosting the Martha & Macy's VIP Sweepstakes. Enter online to win a trip to New York City to see The Martha Stewart Show live, be a special guest at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and receive a \$1,000 Macy's Gift Card.

Visit www.macys.com/marthastewartcollection for details.

The Martha Stewart Collection is the largest brand rollout in Macy's history, and includes a broad assortment of bed, bath, entertaining and cooking products inspired by Martha's personal collections and favorite things.

Macy's stores will also carry Martha Stewart Collection home furnishing products, Special Occasions merchandise, bridal registry items, Martha Stewart books and holiday-specific food preparation pieces like cookie cutters, cake stencils and decorating kits.

Martha Stewart Collection "shops" will be prominently positioned within each department, with merchandise displayed in ways that replicate Martha's home and television studio set.



MICHIGAN APPLE COMMITTEE

Try this Five-Step Michigan Apple Pie for a taste of fall.

These recipes are all about apples

Apple cider can't be beat at this time of year, but you can enjoy the fall harvest with these recipes.

THE FIVE-STEP MICHIGAN APPLE PIE

- 1 package (9 ounces) Jiffy pie crust mix
- 7 cups thinly sliced peeled tart apples*
- 1 cup sugar

- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 (12 ounces) container T. Marzetti's Caramel Apple Dip

Prepare pie crust according to pack-

age directions for two-crust pie. Place bottom crust in 9-inch pie dish.

Combine apples, sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice, cinnamon and nutmeg in large bowl. Toss gently to evenly coat apple slices. Spread filling evenly over bottom crust. Dot with pieces of butter. Moisten edge of lower crust lightly

Please see **RECIPES, D3**

Sample fine foods at Schoolcraft Extravaganza

See list of participating restaurants, D3

Samples of culinary delicacies and the chance to win a trip to Paris await those who attend the Schoolcraft College Foundation's annual Culinary Extravaganza fund-raiser.

The event is set for 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23 inside the VisiTech Center, located on the main campus in Livonia on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

The Culinary Extravaganza is a celebration of food that brings together students, food professionals and the southeastern Michigan community. From Andiamo to Zingerman's, more than 50 restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors are participating.

It is also a premier fund-raiser for the Schoolcraft College Foundation. Since its inception in 1991, the event has raised more than \$1.4 million. Proceeds benefit the college's Culinary Arts Department and the college's scholarship fund.

In addition to enjoying fine cuisine, patrons can tour Schoolcraft's culinary arts instructional kitchens, sample wines and coffee, and bid on silent auction items.

Tickets for the Extravaganza are \$50 per person, \$20 of which is a charitable contribution.

Tickets can be ordered by phone at (734) 462-4518 or online at www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/events. Credit cards and checks are accepted.

The City of Light awaits the winner of

the event raffle.

Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. First prize is a trip for two to Paris, including roundtrip airfare and hotel accommodations for 6 days/5 nights; second prize is \$1,000 cash; and third prize is dinner for six at the American Harvest Restaurant, which is operated by Schoolcraft's award-winning chefs and culinary arts students. Tickets will be drawn between 4 and 5 p.m. although ticket holders do not need to be present to win.



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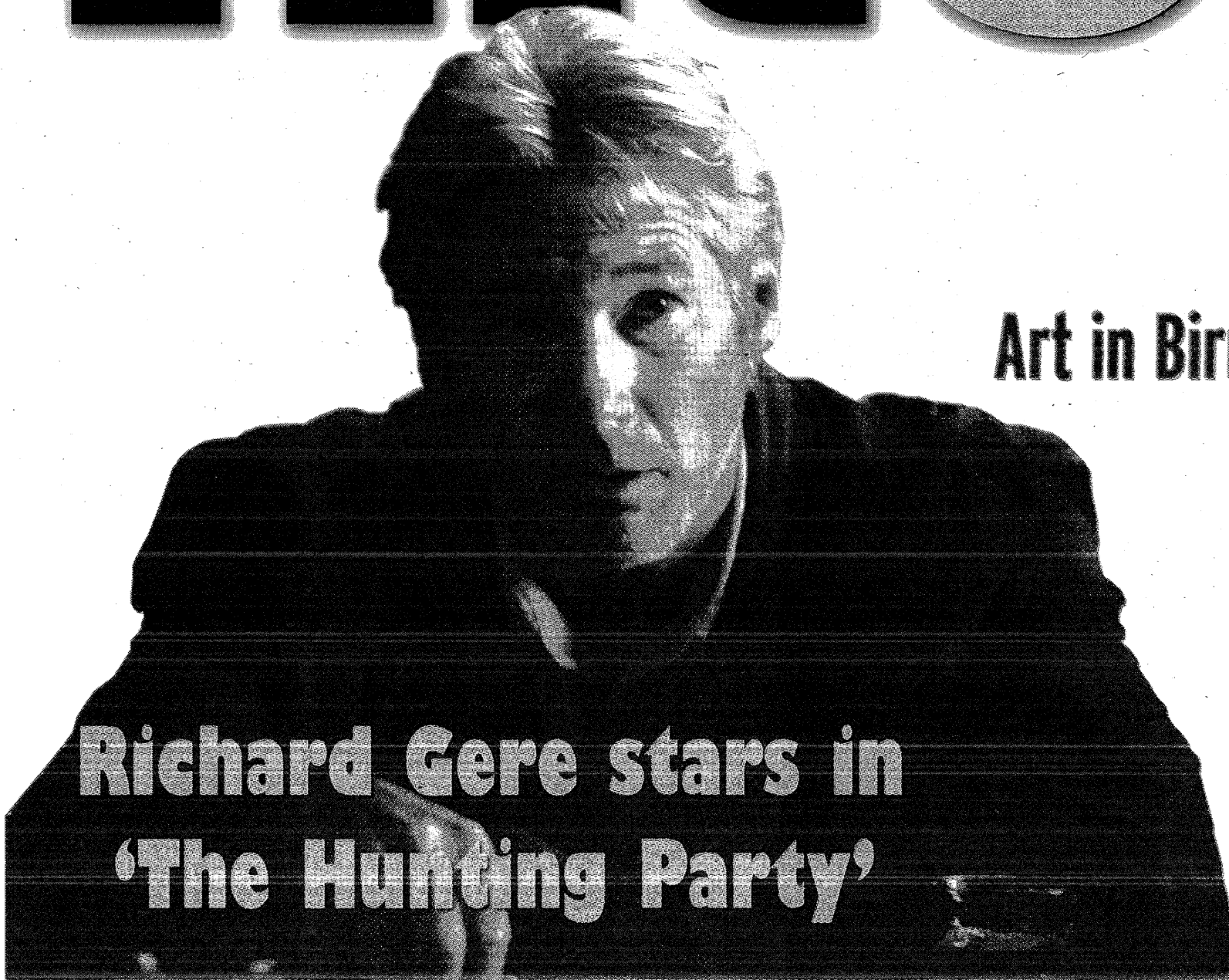
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Thursday, September 13, 2007

Entertainment



**Richard Gere stars in
'The Hunting Party'**

Art in Birmingham

DSO opens

Artie Lange

Mariachi

Ferndale gallery hosts a different kind of exhibit

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Balancing Act, an exhibit featured throughout Sept. 29 at Lawrence Street Gallery, has an appropriate title at a gallery where the mission is to recognize the vast pool of high Michigan talent.

The gallery features fine art from painting to sculpture to photography.

Balancing Act is all about quilts.

"The theme refers to the choices every artist makes to develop an interesting composition," said Susan Sanborn North, Studio Arts Quilts Association exhibit co-curator.

"The definition of an art quilt is that of a contemporary artwork that explores and expresses aesthetic concerns common to the whole range of visual arts: painting, printmaking, photography, graphic design, assemblage, and sculpture, which retains, through materials or techniques, its relationship to traditional quilting,"

What: "Balancing Act" - a juried exhibition of over 35 art quilts by Studio Art Quilt Associates

Where: Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale

When: Through Sept 29

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., Fridays noon - 9 p.m.

Details: www.lawrencestreetgallery.com or (248) 544-0394

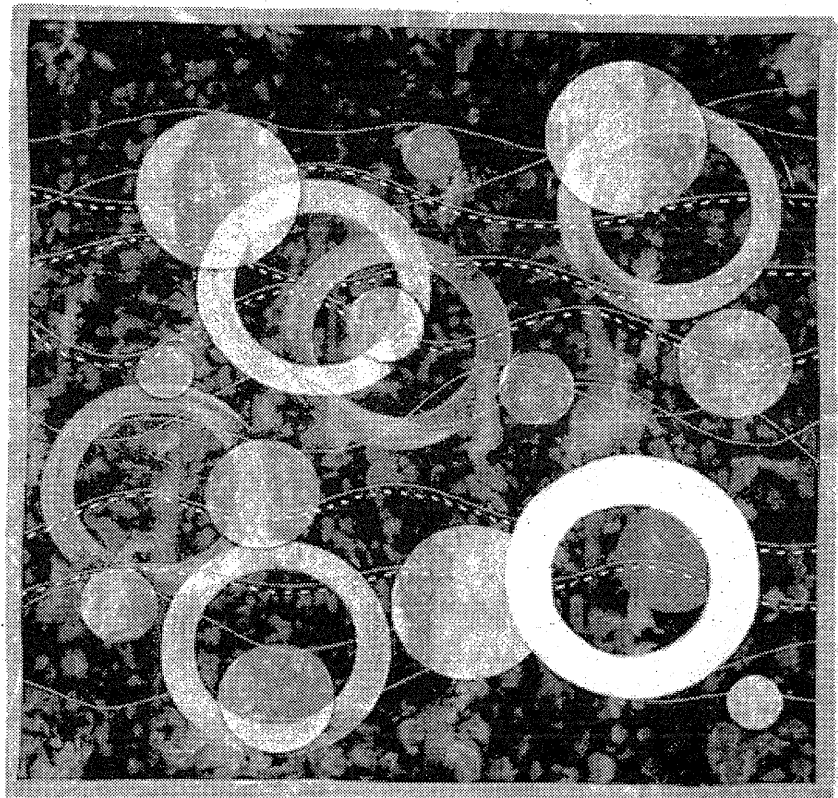
added curator Lynn Krawczyk.

More than 35 works by quilt artists from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin are part of the exhibit juried by Lawrence Street Gallery artists Laura Host and Deborah Hyde.

Host is an instructor at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Hyde is the current president of Lawrence Street Gallery.

"This exhibition is an exciting departure from our other shows", Hyde said. "As a fiber artist myself, I hope this attracts some of the many quilters and crafts people to the

gallery, as well as giving our patrons a chance to see what a vibrant media this is."



Joan Potter Thomas of Northville created "The Edge of Spring - Snow" on display at the Ferndale gallery.

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Inside this week's

filter

PURE ENTERTAINMENT

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GANNETT

HOT TICKET - 4

Peter Oundjian returns as guest conductor for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

COMEDY - 6

Funnyman Artie Lange, a regular on "The Howard Stern Show," laughs up the Fox Saturday.

COVER - 7

Filmmaker Richard Shepard talks about "The Hunting Party," which opens Friday.

TABLE HOPPING - 8

Mariachi features Mexican food in Canton.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mariachi presents a warm, comfortable atmosphere.

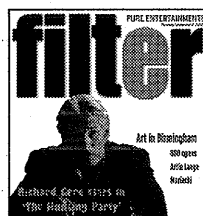
GET OUT! - 10

Looking for something to do this week? Turn to our picks and our entertainment calendar.

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

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Stephanie Angelyn
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Karen Ballard
Richard Gere stars in "The Hunting Party."

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The 33rd Annual Art in the Park, scheduled for Sept. 15 and 16 in Birmingham, benefits Common Ground Sanctuary, an Oakland County-based nonprofit crisis intervention agency.

Summer winds down with final big events

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Look closely at the trees and you'll notice some of the dark green leaves are turning yellow.

It's dark by 8:30 p.m. now and mornings are cool enough for sweaters.

Summer is coming to an end, but before the gray gloom hits, there's still some outdoor events to enjoy before we eventually need (ugh!) winter boots. There's art, comedy and music.

The last big art festival of the year is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16 in Birmingham's Shain Park with the 33rd Annual Art in the Park benefit

for Common Ground Sanctuary, an Oakland County-based nonprofit crisis intervention agency.

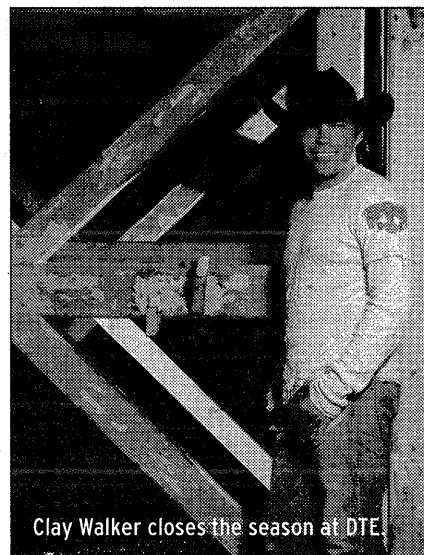
The festival attracts about 75,000 people each year and is a prestigious, juried art show where nearly 200 artists from across the country showcase original works.

Mediums include ceramics, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, photography, glass and more. Other attractions include, live music, food, artist demonstrations and children's drop-in workshops presented by the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). There's also a silent auction.

The featured artist this year is Andrew Wu who works with hot glass.

Wu is also a trained classical violinist who has performed with the Michigan Opera Theater, The American Ballet Theater, Joni Mitchell and Luciano Pavarotti.

"My training as a classical violinist has given me a unique perspective



Clay Walker closes the season at DTE.

when working with glass," writes Wu. "There are many similarities between the creation of a blown glass piece and performing a musical composition. With attention to tempo, rhythm and phrasing, greater insight into the medium is possible, as well as a unique glass composition."

LAST DAY AT DTE

It's been a busy summer at DTE that kicked-off with classic rocker Eddie Money and ends on Friday, Sept. 14 with country singer Clay Walker.

Walker's most recent album, *Fall* features the hit singles *Fore She Was Mama*, *Workin' Man* and *Mexico*. The album reached No. 15 on the Billboard's 200 Top Selling Albums chart and No. 5 on the Top Country Albums chart.

MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Summer extends a little further

EVENTS

Art in the Park: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16. Admission is free. Located at Birmingham's Shain Park between Martin and Merrill just south of Maple and west of Woodward. For details visit www.commongroundsanctuary.org

Clay Walker: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14, DTE Energy Music Theatre. Tickets: \$34.50 pavilion and \$10 lawn

Gordon Lightfoot: 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15 at Meadow Brook. Tickets at \$46.50 pavilion and \$20 lawn

Alonzo Bodden: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, also at Meadow Brook. Tickets: \$29.50 and \$19.50 pavilion and \$10 lawn.

Tickets for all DTE and Meadow Brook Music Festival shows can be purchased at the venue box office or any Ticketmaster location. Call (248) 645-6666.

Music Under the Stars with the band Big Shorty: Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 Cranbrook, Birmingham. Tickets are \$50 and the event benefits Oakland Land Conservancy. Call (248) 601-2816 or visit our web site at www.oaklandlandconservancy.org

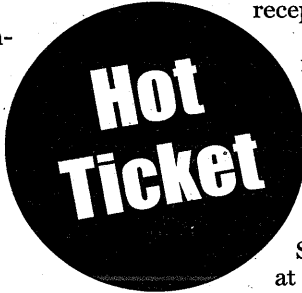
though at Meadow Brook Music Festival. Folk singer Gordon Lightfoot performs Saturday, Sept. 15.

The Canadian-born singer and poet earned fame in the 1970s with hits like *If You Could Read My Mind*, *Sundown* and *The Wreck of the Edmund*

Please see **EVENTS, E5**

Oundjian returns to lead DSO

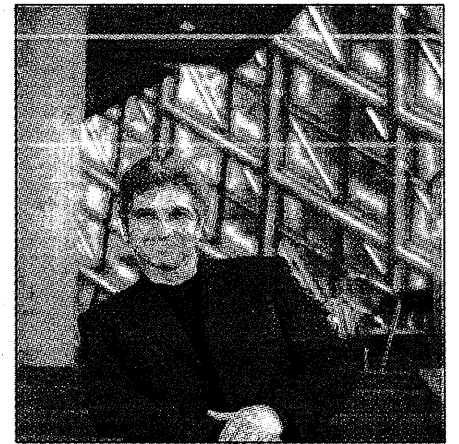
Peter Oundjian looks to top his first season as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's principal guest conductor and artistic advisor when he takes the podium for the DSO's opening concert of the 2007-08 season tonight at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. Oundjian (pronounced UND-jin) and pianist Emanuel Ax join the DSO for a weekend celebration featuring the red car-



pet treatment for guests and champagne receptions.

Oundjian will lead the Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* as Ax tackles Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor."* The program also includes Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman No. 4*. The concerts take place on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 15 at 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m. in Orchestra Hall at The Max.

For the opening of the new season, the DSO performs during a special weekend designed to thank the public for their patronage. Each of the four concert audiences will be welcomed back in style with doormen in top hats, spotlights, champagne toasts and complimentary light refreshments. Models from Somerset Collection will be strolling throughout The Max during the weekend, showcasing jewelry and holding musical instruments. Music from the DSO's Civic Youth



Peter Oundjian will lead Detroit Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* tonight at the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

Please see **DSO, E15**

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EVENTS

FROM PAGE E3

Fitzgerald.

A week later on Saturday, Sept. 22 blockbuster comedian Alonzo Bodden, winner of *Last Comic Standing Season Three*, performs at Meadow Brook Music Festival. His comedy covers many topics such as racial issues, sports, travel, shopping and dating. Bodden, a native of Queens, New York, has appeared on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Make Me Laugh*, *Friday Night Videos*, *Thirty-Something*, *Power Rangers*, *The Craig Kilbourne Show* and *The Keenan Ivory Wayans Show*. He has entertained the troops in Kuwait,

Greenland, Azores Island, Spain, Central America, Panama, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and Guam.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

From 7-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29 is Oakland Land Conservancy's Third Annual music event where blues, jazz and classic rock band Big Shorty performs at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center in Birmingham. There will also be beer, wine and cuisine presented by local restaurants.

Oakland Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to working with public and private landowners to conserve land for future generations in Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, and Genesee counties.

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Argentina

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Sunday | SEPTEMBER 30, 7:30 PM

He played with Eric Clapton, Sheryl Crow, Sting and Bono. A best-selling artist in Italy and all over Europe for the past 20 years, Zucchero (Sugar) is an Italian rock singer whose music is inspired by gospel, blues and rock.



Italy

SONNY ROLLINS

Saturday | OCTOBER 13, 8:00 PM

A living Legend! He will play only 5 concerts this year and only 2 of them are in the USA: one at Carnegie Hall, the other at Music Hall. This rare appearance by the greatest master of improvisation today is a "Must See" for any true jazz connoisseur!



USA

12 GIRLS BAND

Sunday | OCTOBER 28, 7:00 PM

The hottest band in the Asian music world, the 12 Girls Band from China. The women of the 12 Girls Band were selected in a Chinese national competition from a pool of over 4,000 entrants. In the past five years, they have released over 10 top-selling records.



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Artie Lange brings his brash, whiskey-soaked comedy to The Fox Theatre Sept. 15.

Artie Lange's 'Whiskey Talking' visits Fox

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Artie Lange was juggling calls in his suite at New York's Four Seasons Hotel when he gave us a ring here at Filter Aug. 29. His gruff no-holds-barred voice was a dead giveaway.

A regular on *The Howard Stern Show* and multi-faceted comedian, Lange needed no introduction. He's easily recognizable as an original cast member from *Mad TV* and he's appeared recently on A-list television shows like *Entourage* and *Rescue Me*. It's hard to imagine how he found the time to write, film and release a full-length feature - *Beer League* - and his new DVD, *It's the Whiskey Talking*. But he did. The New Jersey native also manages to perform a few shows a month - a tour that will bring him to Detroit on Sept. 15.

"I'm a very big sports fan," he said. And that won't go unnoticed during his Detroit performance. Lange recalled an unforgettable experience when - at age 17

- he attended Game 5 of the 1984 World Series inside Tiger's Stadium. "I was at the game when Gibson hit two homers," he said. "I was there for a full-blown Tigers win and a full-blown Detroit riot." He remembered the crowds rushing into the streets, turning over cars and setting fires. "I have history there," he said. Expect the first portion of his show to include plenty of Detroit-specific material, drawing from the Lions, Pistons and Tigers.

There was a time - in his youth - when comedy came second to sports.

"There were two things I ever wanted to do," said Lange. "I never wanted to be a cop, a doctor or a fireman. I wanted to play major league baseball. When I was 14 or 15 I realized that probably wasn't going to happen. Right after that I decided I wanted to be a comedian.

"I've had tunnel vision ever since."

He landed his first high-profile gig on *Mad TV* at the age of 27. "I remember thinking I was old," said the comedian, now 39. At the time, he said, he had no money. His father, a builder, fell off a roof and became

a quadriplegic. He died when Lange was in his early 20's, and his mother was forced to go on welfare. Still, she encouraged his aspirations. "She let me sort of chase this dream," he said.

The side effect to his success, though, was "an enormous drug problem." "Cocaine was the biggest issue," he said. The addiction cost him his spot on *Mad TV*. But the exposure later led MGM to cast him in the film *Dirty Work*, which starred fellow funny man Norm MacDonald. MacDonald had quite an impact on Lange's career from that point on. Lange was cast in the ABC sitcom *Norm* and appeared with MacDonald as a guest on *The Howard Stern Show*. That appearance led to his current radio gig. "It's the biggest thing ever to happen to my career," he said.

The radio gig didn't take Lange off of the television airwaves altogether. The show was syndicated on E! Entertainment Television nightly. And Lange maintains "Nothing sells tickets like *The Howard Stern Show*."

His day job - where he's typically taunted about his addictive tendencies - made it possible for Lange to release his movie and stand-up DVD. And he's now considering a book deal. Lange plans to release a collection of about a dozen of his favorite funny stories. "It will be light bathroom read," he said.

Please see **ARTIE, E15**

ARTIE LANGE

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15

Where: The Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Tickets: \$40-\$75 at Ticketmaster.com or by calling (248) 433-1515.

More information: Call (313) 471-6611.

Filmmaker unleashes 'The Hunting Party'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Filmmaker Richard Shepard made a few waves with his previous work. He wrote and directed *The Matador* and the directed the pilots for such successful TV shows as *Ugly Betty* and *Criminal Minds*. Now, he's perched to earn even more recognition with a daring new film titled *The Hunting Party*, which opens Sept. 26.

"I wanted to be a baseball player for the Mets," admitted the New Yorker. But he had more luck with a Super 8 camera than a bat, and that solidified his fate. Shepard said he enjoyed the television projects, but he's entirely devoted to writing and directing - a good thing since it took nearly three years to complete *The Hunting Party*.

The film is based on an *Esquire* article, *What I Did On My Summer Vacation*, written

by seasoned war correspondent Scott Anderson. Shepard transformed that true take on the state of the Balkans five years after the cessation of war into an edgy and very human story that's made for the screen. *The Hunting Party* is derived from the experiences of five journalists who returned to Sarajevo in 2000 and decided to track down and capture war criminal Radovan Karadicz.

Before the project came along, Shepard said he followed news of the war in Bosnia, but perhaps didn't know as much as he should. "I read the article and it grabbed me," he said, speaking from his room at Birmingham's Townsend Hotel Aug. 20. "There was something about that black comedy humor that I like to mix with action and drama."

But in Shepard's screenplay, he scaled the cast of this real-life road-adventure flick down to

three main roles. Richard Gere is Simon Hunt, a seasoned TV reporter who's fallen from grace. Terrence Howard (*Crash, Hustle & Flow*) portrays "Duck," his daring former cameraman who's moved up through the ranks to a cushy network position. And Jesse Eisenberg (*The Squid and the Whale*) is Harvard-educated Benjamin, a rookie reporter tagging along. He also happens to be the network vice president's son.

The film was shot in three different countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and a single day of shooting in Mexico. While Shepard admitted filming a movie in the war-torn country had its roughing-it-style challenges, he joked that the most difficult part of the experience was securing permission to show a few shots from the Chuck Norris film *Missing In Action*. "Chuck Norris was very concerned about the political implications," he told a crowd attending an early screening of the film.

While *The Hunting Party* is truly a modern road flick wrought with suspense and dark



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Jesse Eisenberg, Terrence Howard and Richard Gere star in Richard Shepard's suspenseful "The Hunting Party," in theaters Sept. 21.

humor, it's backdrop is the hunt for a war criminal called "The Fox." In just two days the trio of journalists manage to track down their enemy near the border of Montenegro. Keep in mind political agencies from the CIA to The Hague couldn't manage this feat for years. "There seemed to be a weird wall of indifference,"

said Shepard, who visited Bosnia while researching the story in 2005.

The film draws some parallels to the current hunt for Osama bin Laden - a connection that makes the movie both relevant and relatable. Shepard admit-

Please see **HUNTING, E13**



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Mariachi

Restaurant cooks up Mexican flavor

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Angel Silva started in the food business at a young age.

Both his parents worked as he grew up in his native Puerta Vallarta.

"I started to cook when I was about 7 years old," Silva said. When he was 12 or 13 he started working in restaurants, advancing in his career until he was employed as a supervisor at Las Palmas Resort in Puerta Vallarta, and later in Michigan, where he managed four Baja Fresh restaurants.

He enjoyed the restaurant and hospitality industry, but he had his own aspirations and wanted his own place. This year he and his wife, Jennifer Silva-Gomez, opened Mariachi in Canton on May 31.

Table Hopping

MARIACHI

1759 N. Canton Center Rd. (in the Centre Village shopping area, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads), Canton
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Hours: Sunday, 1-9 p.m.

Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Alcohol available: Yes.

Entertainment: Mariachi music, Friday and Saturday evenings

Menu: Lunch specials (11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5.95, dinner up to \$14. Carry-out available.

Reservations: Available

And it's been a big hit in Canton since it opened three months ago, with waits on weekends of 45 minutes for a table. Mariachi features about 40 menu items, ranging from the usual tacos, quesadillas, tostadas, enchiladas and burritos to Shrimp Brochette, Grilled Mahi-Mahi, Vallarta Style Tacos, and Birria Dinner.

"We've created items with ingredients that are authentic, from Puerto Vallarta,"



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mariachi's Mixed Meat Fajita features a mix of chicken, steak and shrimp, along with green and red peppers, tomatoes and onions.

Angel Silva said, such as the Maqui sauce he uses on meats and chicken. His specialty menu features Chile Rellenos, Chicken Alexander, Carnitas Dinner and other items. Carnitas features slow-roasted pork with spices shipped from his native Puerta Vallarta.

Don't expect big piles of cheese on your fajitas, because there isn't any. (But he'll add it if you want it.)

Still he finds that Americans still stick

with the traditional fare — steak and chicken fajitas, enchiladas and quesadillas are the most popular items.

What makes the Vallarta Style Tacos Vallarta-style, according to Silva? "It has two grilled tortillas with cilantro," along with onions and salsa, said. He tries to put cilantro in most of his dishes. Salsas are made fresh, and a cucumber sauce

Please see **MEXICAN, E9**

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MEXICAN

FROM PAGE E8

has a little jalapeno in it, too.

The mixed meat (chicken, beef and shrimp) fajitas have a fresh, crisp and slight seasoning, without overwhelming heat.

The shrimp are fresh and flavorful, while the vegetables and meats are grilled to a crisp clean finish. Chips are served with Mexican salsa, the rojo (red sauce), green salsa with a tomatillo base and cucumber sauce. The cuke sauce adds a cool bite to a hot summer days.

You'll see hints of Mexico with Shrimp Diablo and Shrimp Burro with chayote, a pear-shaped fruit, appetizers featuring avocados, and chorizo on the Chorizo Con Queso, along with Tortilla Soup and Caldo Azteca. Even octopus is on the menu, prepared any style. Top off the meal with one of the desserts including Fried Ice Cream, Sopapilla or Strawberries flambe.

Silva enjoys running his restaurant with the flavors of his homeland, but he knows Americans have certain preconceived notions of what Mexican food should be.

"We just try to change the style and presentation," Silva said.

"We take something they can recognize and add something to make it something different."

Eatery marks 30th anniversary

Alexander the Great in Westland celebrates its 30th anniversary this month.

Owned by Paulina and Tom Tomich, the restaurant is known for its St. Louis-style ribs, prepared with a dry rub and cooked over an open rotisserie with a sweet barbecue sauce. Other favorites include Broasted Chicken, BBQ Pork Sandwich, Pulled Pork Nachos and Grilled Shrimp Skewers.

In this day and age of restaurant chains, especially along the Haggerty corridor of western Wayne County, the Tomiches believe they have reached the 30-year milestone by sticking to the principles of consistency.

"We always felt that if we could consistently provide great food and service, we would have a chance to survive in what is a very competitive restaurant market," said Tom Tomich.

Paulina added that she has a few new ideas for September, but she doesn't want to get "too cute." "We know what we do best, and that is barbecue ribs. We want to focus on having the best ribs in town. We aren't flashy and we aren't famous, but we know we consistently make great ribs."

The restaurant, located at 34733

Warren Road, has promotions planned throughout the month to celebrate the anniversary. Call (734) 326-5410 for information.



VODKA TASTING

Station 885, located at 885 Starkweather in Plymouth, hosts Ketel One Vodka Tasting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19. The event is \$25 per person, by reservation, at (734) 459-0885. Wine Down Wednesday at the restaurant features half off on all bottled wines with a create-your-own pasta dish for \$15.95. For more information, call (734) 459-0885.

BEN & JERRY'S

Goodwill Industries will celebrate its second birthday of Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop, noon-2 p.m. Sept. 14 with a block party in the Compuware World Headquarters, 1014 Woodward Ave., near Campus Martius Park.

The public is invited to come to the block party, where there will be a 25 percent discount on purchases made between noon and 2 p.m. Attendees also will receive free birthday cupcakes and a chance to win fabulous prizes. Goodwill

trainees who have worked at the shop during the past two years have been invited to attend the party.

The PartnerShop, one of 14 nationwide and the first in Michigan, combines a training program for at-risk youth with a business enterprise. The Detroit youth (ages 15-21) spend four weeks in classroom and interactive training in Goodwill's Detroit Career Center, and then apply the skills they learn while gaining paid work experience in the Ben & Jerry's shop.

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Sports fan can help celebrate Detroit's Best Sports City status with special discounts at Hockeytown Cafe.

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Hockeytown Cafe is located at 2301 Woodward Ave. in Detroit, next to the Fox Theatre and across the street from Comerica Park. For information, call (313) 965-9500.

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HUNTING

FROM PAGE E7

ted he "was so frustrated with what was going on with the search for Osama bin Laden. That's what sort of attracted me to the this story."

The film suggests there may be reasons that war criminals like Bin Laden or Karadzic can hide away successfully for decades, even writing and releasing books and plays, without being captured. But the political overtones of the story were not Shepard's main focus. He was much more concerned with journey of these three very believable, very carefully crafted characters. Throughout the film we watch these men grow and change. Simon falls apart on camera, sending his career and state of mind spiraling downward. Duck falls for his scheme to find "the story of a lifetime" knowing they might not make it out alive. And Benjamin begins his journey dodging fake landmines and ends it successfully impersonating a CIA agent.

Shepard perfectly balances elements of suspense, humor, adventure and fear. He reveals that dark sense of comic timing journalists tend to share. "If you hang out with journalists, they are cracking jokes while going by a place where atrocities happen," he told the crowd. "In order to see that kind of horror, you have to have a sense of humor about it."

Moments of suspense are successful in this film, Shepard said "because you care about them, and you're putting yourself there, saying 'please don't let that happen.'"

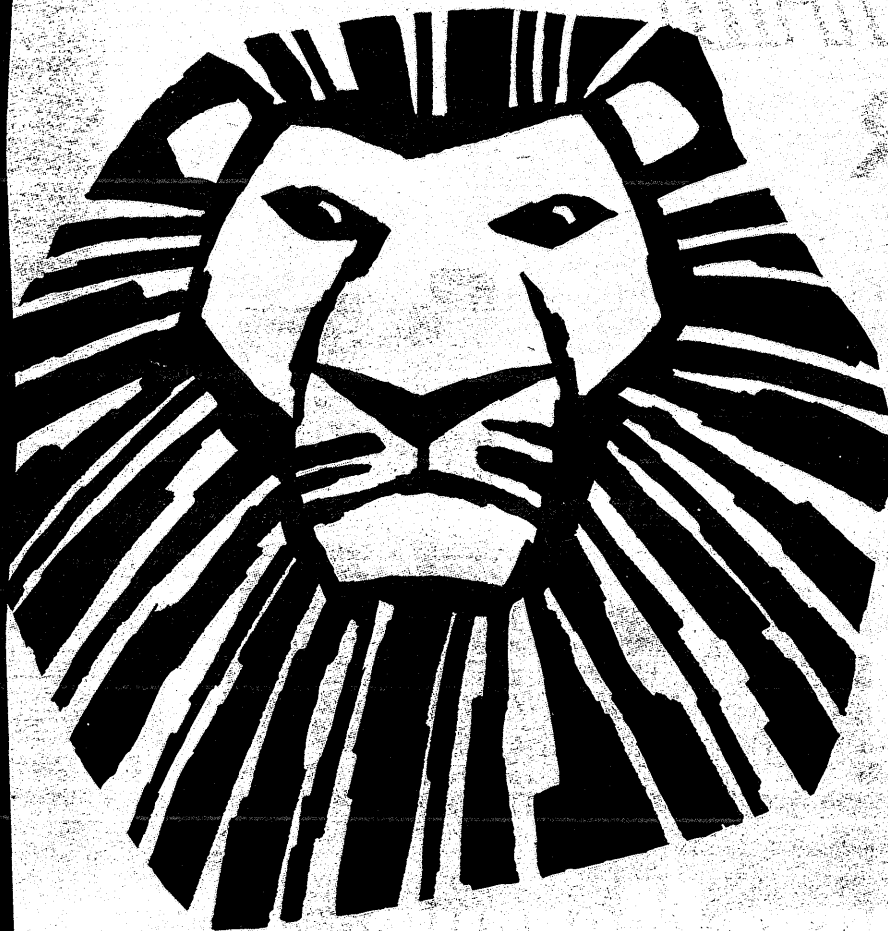
Shepard said he read close to 17 books on the subject of Bosnia and visited the places featured in the initial article while researching and writing this screenplay. His efforts paid off in the final product which brings to light images we never have a chance to see - like the bullet-riddled buildings and Sarajevo's 1984 Olympics-turned-concentration camp. Shepard said governmental sources were helpful during the writing process, as were the people of Bosnia.

The movie was filmed in 42 days. Images from war were actually shot in Croatia. When it came to choosing what to include and what not to include, Shepard relied on places that left the most lasting images after his first visit to Bosnia and relied on production designer Jan Roelfs to scout locations that would "tell a story."

The film manages to be interesting, based in fact and thoroughly entertaining. That was a delicate mix, Shepard said. And the final product was a direct result of editing. Too much humor would've taken away from the drama, while too much drama might've drowned out the humor.

"It's a really hard thing to do," Shepard said. He begins the film noting that only the most ridiculous parts are true, and finishes it with proof.

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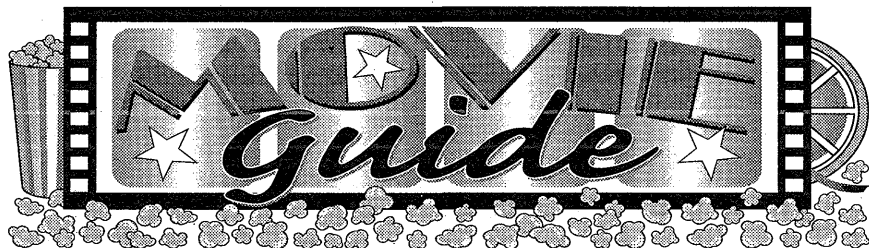
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DSO

FROM PAGE E4

Ensembles will serenade the crowd before each concert.

This is the first DSO season created in consultation with Peter Oundjian. He will lead a total of four weeks of concerts in Orchestra Hall, while continuing to make regular visits to Detroit to help direct the orchestra on artistic issues. He is also artistic director of the DSO's acclaimed 8 Days in June; a unique new festival launched this past summer that challenges traditional ideas about classical music and the role of symphony orchestras today. Music director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since the 2004-05 season, Oundjian has earned him accolades and continuing relationships with many international ensembles including the Tonhalle in Zurich, Radio Philharmonique in Paris and the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis and Houston Symphonies. For three years, through 2005-06, he served as principal guest conductor of the Colorado Symphony.

The son of two concentration camp survivors, pianist Emanuel Ax first made a name for himself when, at age 25, he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv, Israel. His career has thrived since that time. He has won multiple Grammy Awards for his recordings of the Haydn Piano Sonatas. His recent

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

What: Opening weekend concerts with principal guest conductor Peter Oundjian and pianist Emanuel Ax

When: Sept. 13-16

Where: Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit

For tickets and information: (313) 576-5111, www.detroitssymphony.com.

performances included separate recital tours with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Yefim Bronfman. As a duo, Ax and Ma have won several Grammy Awards for Beethoven and Brahms sonatas on cello and piano. In 2006-07, Ax contributed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to a series of chamber and orchestral programs centered around Mozart and Strauss works.

Tickets for the DSO's Classical Series concerts range in price from \$29 to \$60 (a limited number of box seats are available for \$65 to \$123), and may be purchased at the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office (3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit) or by calling the DSO at (313) 576-5111. Seniors (60 and over) and students can purchase 50 percent off RUSH tickets at the box office, 90 minutes prior to classical concerts, based on availability. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Call (313) 576-5111 for more information. All regular priced tickets can be purchased on line, 24-hours a day, via the DSO's Web site at www.detroitssymphony.com.

ARTIE

FROM PAGE E6

Inspired early on by the original *Saturday Night Live* cast, and comedians like Richard Pryor, Sam Kinison, David Letterman and - believe it or not - Howard Stern, Lange landed his dream gig on morning radio five years ago. For the past year, the show has moved from restrictive terrestrial radio to Sirius satellite radio- giving virtual freedom to Stern, his Girl Friday Robin Quivers, Lange and the entire cast of characters listeners have come to know.

"There is nothing better than *The*

Howard Stern Show," Lange said. "You reach millions and millions of people."

But stand-up comedy ranks second in the realm of entertainment. It's a tough call for a guy who's mastered every medium. He's been a regular on Comedy Central and Friar's Club roasts - teasing celebrities like Hugh Hefner, William Shatner, Donald Trump, Mario Batali and more. He's even been the subject of a roast on the radio show. But Lange admits the "Babe Ruth of gets" for a roast would be none other than Howard Stern himself. He predicts that will happen - on Stern's terms - eventually.

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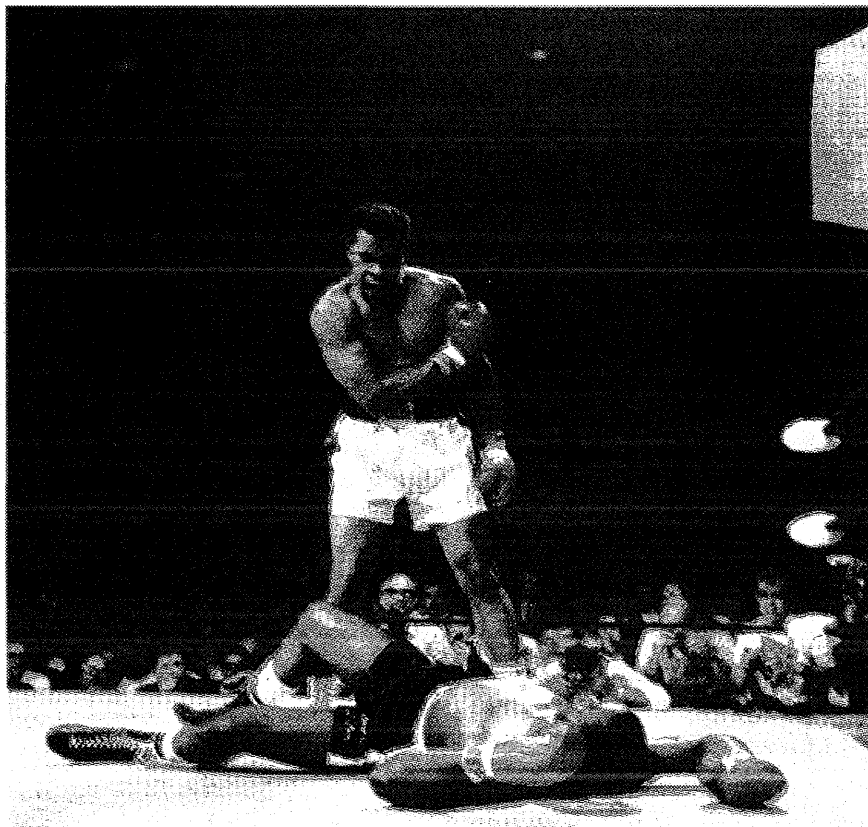
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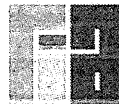
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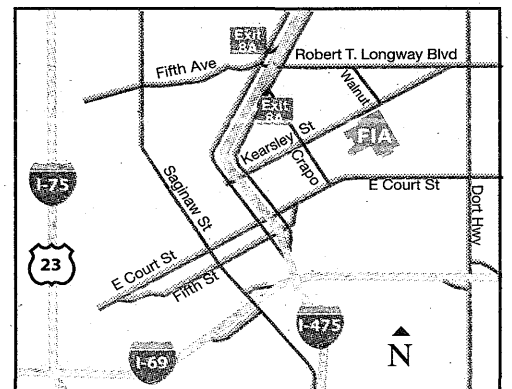
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