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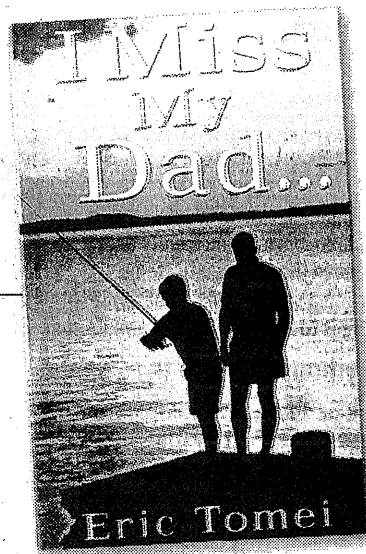


Finals coverage

Check our online coverage of the prep finals weekend for soccer, baseball and softball at hometownlife.com

Father's Day brings back memories of life lessons

- Hometownlife, C1



SUNDAY
June 15, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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City resumes tree program

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After a several-year absence, the City of Plymouth has resumed its tree-planting program.

"Over the past several years we've probably cut down 200 ash trees," said City Manager Paul Sincock. "Since our financial picture is more healthy this is a

PLANTING TREES

- What: Plymouth tree-planting program
- How many: Max of two per household
- How it works: Must be paid for to be reserved; first-come, first-served; 50 trees available
- About the trees: 11 different species; guaranteed healthy, but no warranty
- How to get in: Call the city's Municipal Services Department, (734) 453-7737.

perfect time to bring this program back on a limited scope to help improve the neighborhoods."

There are a total of 50 trees available, with the 11 species ranging in price from \$170 to \$260.

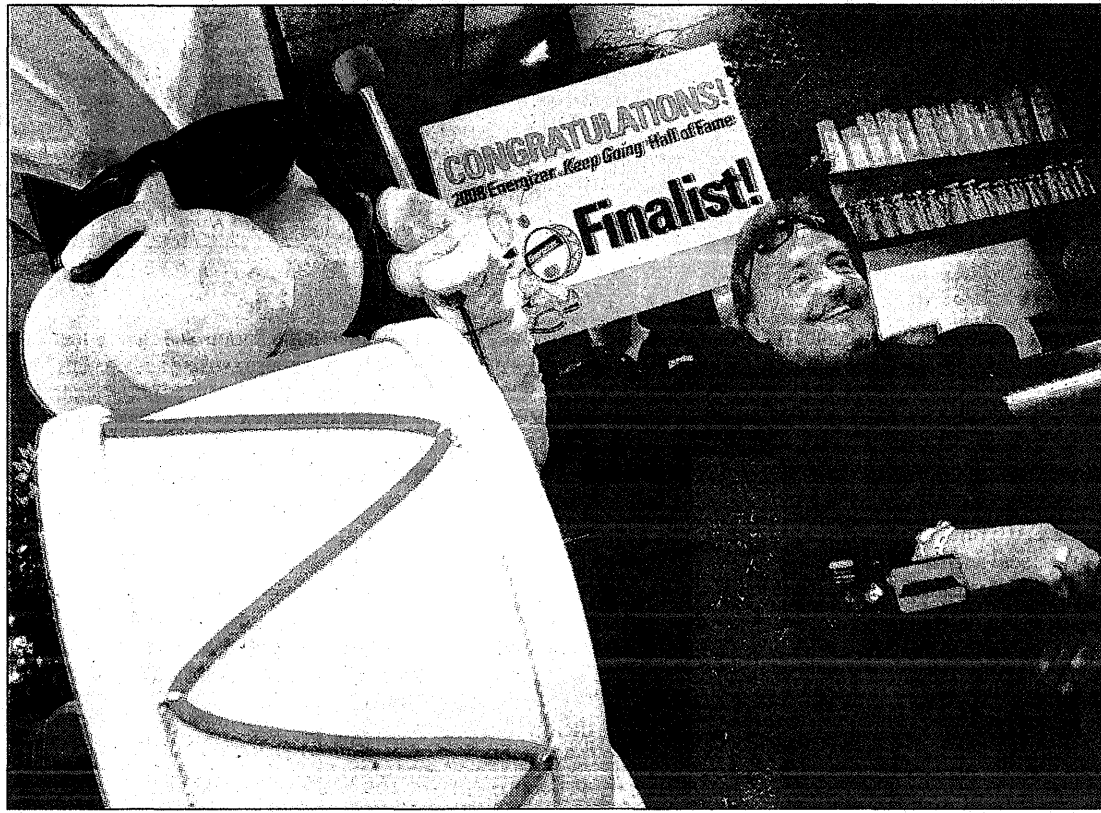
"The residents are paying our wholesale cost of the trees and we'll pick it up, plant and mulch it," said Sincock. "As we get requests we'll meet with residents to see where they want to

plant it and schedule a time. Of course, once we get into the heat of the summer they'll have to be delayed until the fall planting."

The trees are 2-3 inches in diameter and are planted in the right of way between the sidewalk and street. "Having a good healthy-looking street helps property values, neighborhood values and the environment," said Sincock.

Residents inquiring about the tree program can contact the Municipal Services Department at (734) 453-7737.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2172



Rob Bachman is surprised by the Energizer Bunny as he is notified he is a finalist for the Energizer Keep on Going Hall of Fame.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Going, and going, and going ...

Township man a finalist for Energizer Hall

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ron Bachman, who had his deformed legs amputated at the age of 4, hasn't let that stop him as he literally keeps on going, and going and going.

Because of his spirit that has led him to become a nationally known motivational speaker telling middle and high school kids to keep on going and pursue their dreams, Bachman is one of 12 finalists for the Energizer "Keep Going Hall of Fame" award.

Friends and relatives surprised Bachman, 50 of Plymouth Township with the news at E.G. Nick's restaurant Tuesday morning.

"Isn't this cool," said Bachman as he saw a life-size Energizer Bunny, pounding on his trademark drum, walk toward him shortly before noon as the announcement was made.

Bachman was nominated by Kathy Vander, Bachman's friend of 20 years and his former teacher at the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts in Southfield, who produced a



Ron Bachman, left, is congratulated by his father, Bob Bachman, on becoming an Energizer Keep on Going Hall of Fame finalist.

documentary film — *Walk this Way* — about Bachman.

"There's no other person on this planet who has kept going more than this guy, despite everything that's gone on in his life," said Vander, of Berkley. "He's impacted a million kids, there's always a smile on his face and he keeps on going."

After Bachman had his legs amputated, he learned to walk on his hands. He wore artificial

legs through high school, but has tossed them aside in favor of a scooter.

"Of course, in the beginning, it was devastating, but it's just who you are and you keep on going," Bachman said of having his legs amputated. "Through my family I was constantly told 'There's nothing you can't do.' 'The hardest part is school

Please see **ENERGIZER, A2**

District brings back laid-off teachers

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a strange situation for Bentley Elementary first-grade teacher Kimberly Lee at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting. Lee was being honored, along with 40 other Plymouth-Canton Schools teachers, for obtaining tenure. That honor came shortly after Lee was notified she was one of 19 teachers — of the 48 who had been laid off — who are being recalled.

"I was in this position (of being laid off) last year, and so I kind of understood there was a really good chance I would be back," said Lee. "I had encouragement not to be worried, and I encouraged those who wouldn't be recalled."

"The unknown is scary because teachers like to plan and get prepared, but you can't because you don't know what to prepare for," said Lee on Friday, the last day of school for students. "It's a bittersweet feeling for some people ... happy it's the end of the school year, but sad that you may not see students again and that relationship may be lost."

The district earlier announced it will eventually lay off 22 K-12 full-time positions to help balance the 2008-09 budget. However, there could be more recalls.

"We expect a few more to come back but it depends on the number retirements we have," said Ray Bihun, executive director of human resources.

Meanwhile, interim Superintendent Ken Jacobs received a review of his nearly six-month tenure as the district's CEO following the retirement of Jim Ryan. On a scale of 1-5, Jacobs received a 4.68 for leadership.

"The district is in good shape, we don't seem to be missing a beat," said board Vice President Barry Simescu. "He's provided quality leadership and implemented a very collaborative team effort in addressing the district's issues. He's brought new energy to the job ... and he's been a stimulus for his team to step up and be more accountable."

Jacobs credited his team for the high evaluation.

"The work that was done was by the team pulling together," said Jacobs. "Everybody pitched in ... and it's been a good experience for all of us."

Plymouth-Canton's new superintendent, Craig Fiegel, will start on July 1.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Graduation gladness

Douglas Shane Sitler is a happy guy as he graduates with the rest of his class at Canton High School's commencement ceremony at Eastern Michigan University. For a list of the graduates, please turn to page A4. For more photos, please visit our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

Renowned historian hits local Lincoln meeting



Greene

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The old saying "It's who you know" is paying off for the local Abraham Lincoln Civil War Roundtable.

On a field trip to Petersburg, Va., a couple of years ago, Liz Stringer, the group's president, talked her old friend A. Wilson Greene, one of the country's leading Lincoln and Civil War historians, into speaking to the group. While

they were there, she invited him to travel to Plymouth, and he accepted.

Greene, executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, agreed, and makes a presentation at the group's meeting Thursday (8 p.m. at Plymouth Township Hall).

"He knows everything about the Civil War, he has more than 20 published works," Stringer said. "If you watch the History Channel, you're bound to find Will Greene."

The presentation he'll make Thursday is titled "Civil War Petersburg: A Confederate City in the Crucible of War." He'll talk about social aspects of life in Petersburg, and also the military aspects.

The meeting is open to the public. Plymouth Township Hall is located at 9955 N. Haggerty at 8 p.m. The public is welcome, admission is free. For more information, call (734) 451-7998.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153

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Coming Thursday in filter

Randy Scott at Jazz on the Grass



AROUND PLYMOUTH

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Plymouth People for Obama

The Plymouth People for Obama are extending an invitation to anyone interested in joining the movement to help elect Senator Barack Obama to their monthly meeting today (Sunday) at 5 p.m. at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

The meeting will allow concerned citizens to connect with other Obama supporters in the area and work toward educating, engaging and mobilizing voters and citizens. Everyone is welcome to come and bring ideas about reaching out to the community with them.

The meeting is open to all surrounding communities and anyone who just wants to learn more about the candidate.

The Coffee Bean is located in downtown Plymouth on 884 Penniman Ave.

For more information call (734)658-7628.

Nichols house tour

The Plymouth Historical Museum and the Plymouth Preservation Network present a tour of the Ella Roe Nichols House 1-2 p.m. Saturday, June 21. The large bed and breakfast complex located at 932 Penniman Avenue, built in 1903, was once home to Ella Roe Nichols.

Cost is \$10 per person for members of the Plymouth Historical Society. \$15 per person for non-members. Limit of 15 people on tour. Tickets available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during museum hours: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. or purchase tickets through PayPal at www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html

King Gemba exhibit

The exhibit, play and book of "King Gemba - Legends of



Band seekers

The Plymouth District Library welcomes Detroit band, The High Strung, as they conclude their 2008 Rock-n-Roll Library Tour 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in Kellogg Park. The concert will wrap up the library's Teen Summer Reading Program.

Leadership" is coming to the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) this summer. Written by local author Jeanne Swanson and illustrated by PCAC drawing and painting instructor Pamela Grossmann, the children's book weaves a story about principles of leadership.

The original watercolor illustrations created for the book by Grossmann, and a synopsis of the book will be on exhibit 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the PCAC through Aug. 29. Works by PCAC pottery instructor Jeffrey Burda are also included in the exhibit.

The PCAC's children's theatre group, the Plymouth Uptown Players (PUPS), perform the play "King Gemba" 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 20. Get a copy of the book signed during an open house before the play from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The exhibit and play are open to the public and free of charge.

Books are available at PCAC for \$20. All events will be at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for more information or click on www.plymoutharts.com

Lincoln roundtable

The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table hosts A. Wilson Greene at its next meeting 8 p.m. Thursday, June 19, at Plymouth Township Hall.

Greene is executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Va. He is the former president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, faculty member at Mary Washington College and historian and manager at the National Park Service.

TV appearances on the Civil War Journal. His topic will be "Civilians at Petersburg."

Plymouth Township Hall is located at 9955 N. Haggerty at 8 p.m. The public is welcome, admission is free. For more information, call (734) 451-7998.

Garden Club Lawn Sale

The Plymouth Branch of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association hosts an Estate and Lawn Sale June 19-21, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m.-noon at 1369 Park Place, Plymouth (south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Sheldon Road).

All proceeds are used to support the various community projects of the Club including the Salvation Army Food Bank, education programs, college scholarships, local planting projects and local charities.

Ice cream social

Northville Cooperative Preschool welcomes the community to its new location at the Revival Outreach Center, 16115 Beck, with an Ice Cream Social 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, in The Bistro, Building D.

The school is now enrolling for the 2008-09 school year and has openings for 2s, 3s and 4s programs.

For more information, call

(734) 254-9129.

Band reunion barbecue

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band and Music Boosters are hosting the "PCMB All Decades Alumni Reunion Picnic & BBQ" for current student members and parents, alumni, staff, former boosters, etc., Saturday, June 21, at Canton's Summit on the Park Amphitheatre in Heritage Park.

Any student or parent who has participated in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park music programs or marched with the award-winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, is invited to attend the weekend event. Registration is required.

The picnic and barbecue is scheduled noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 21. A golf outing is also being planned for Sunday, June 22.

Registration for the picnic is required. For more information and to register, visit www.pcmb.net and click on the alumni picnic link.

For more information, call Chris Hensel, Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters Alumni Rep, (313) 268-2098 or e-mail alumni BBQ coordinator Lee Bonner at bonner_lee@yahoo.com or Bryan Thomas at bryan.thomas91@yahoo.com.

ENERGIZER

FROM PAGE A1

and how everybody else perceives you," he said. "I've had my fair share of bullying, but you survive it and with the help of good family and friends and love you get on the other side of it. You know society's view of you, but you can't think of that. People will respond to you the same way you respond to yourself."

Bachman's father, Bob, said Ron was treated the same as his older and younger brothers.

"They all had their chores to do, and Ron took his turn," said Bob Bachman. "We never made any exception for him."

"Ron was a popular guy," he said. "When I would come home from work there was always a porch full of kids. He played ball, had a mini bike and a Big Wheel scooter. The handicap never stopped him."

Ron Bachman married in 1979 and his daughter, Alicia, was born in 1980. After four years the couple was divorced and Ron took custody of Alicia. In 1988, Ron decided he wanted to become a disc jockey and attended Specs Howard. Ten years later, Vander's documentary changed his life.

"I grew up thinking I wanted to be behind the mic so nobody could see me and judge me," said Bachman. "The next thing I know, I'm from behind the mic to talking in front of an audience."

And the message is one that continues to resonate today.

"If you're being bullied, hang in there, it really is true there's a light at the end of the tunnel," said Bachman. "Nobody was teased or made more fun of than me. Here I am at 50 and I survived it, and you'll survive it, too."

"As to the bullies, how dare you think you are exempt," he said. "Be careful when you make fun of someone because life has a funny way of coming full circle, and the next thing you know it's you."

Kamron Canzoneri of Livonia met Bachman after a presentation at Livonia Churchill High School. Bachman has since become a family friend and mentor.

"He helped put me back on the right track, and since then has been like a father to me," said Canzoneri, 20. "The way he's gone through everything, he's shown me you can be strong and get through everything."

Bachman is attempting to secure more corporate sponsors for his Walk This Way Foundation so he can continue to spread his message to middle and high school students.

The winner of the Energizer contest, which celebrates people who have done extraordinary things in their lives, will be named Aug. 19 in St. Louis and will receive \$10,000 and a \$5,000 donation to a favorite charity. Voting is online at www.energizer.com/halloffame and will run through July 25.

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Couple opens a Plymouth purse place

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After watching an infomercial on television selling purses, Vicki and Martin Caruana of Plymouth Township thought they had a better idea.

"I couldn't believe the prices and they really didn't look nice," said Vicki Caruana. "We had been talking about looking for something we could do that was fun and popular, so we came up with purses."

The Caruanas - Vicki is a pharmaceutical rep and Martin a computer consultant - will open Vic's Mart, All Things Purses on 470 Forest Place Monday. It's an extension of an on-line business they've had for 1½ years.

"Eighty percent of our purses are \$40, and they range in price from \$30-\$65, which is the most expensive," said Martin Caruana, who admitted for a guy he knows way too

much about purses. "They're not originals, copies or replicas, but they are inspired by the famous names. We'll have 231 different styles and all sorts of accessories, everything you could possibly think of putting in a purse."

"They include key finders, purse hangars, organizers and a 40-inch umbrella that folds into a six-inch flat object that fits easily into a purse."

"I pick them out and hand-check every purse ... the zippers and snaps and straps," said Vicki Caruana. "I want to make sure customers get a quality product and won't have a problem. There's nothing more frustrating than getting home with something you want and something doesn't work right on it."

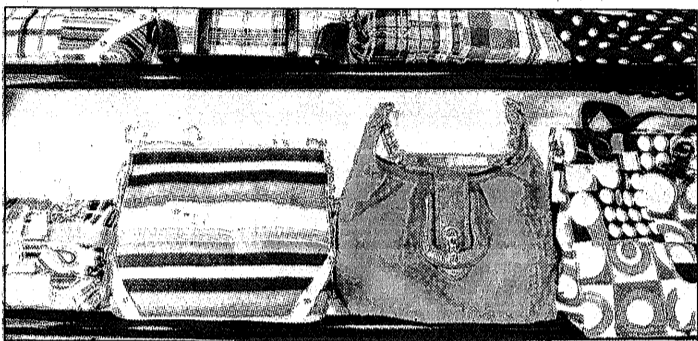
"I think our price point will be attractive to many customers in this economy," she said.

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



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Martin, left, and Vicki Caruana of Vic's Mart, All Things Purses, stand in their downtown Plymouth Store which is opening Monday.



The walls of Vic's Mart, All Things Purses, is full of a wide selections of purses for sale.

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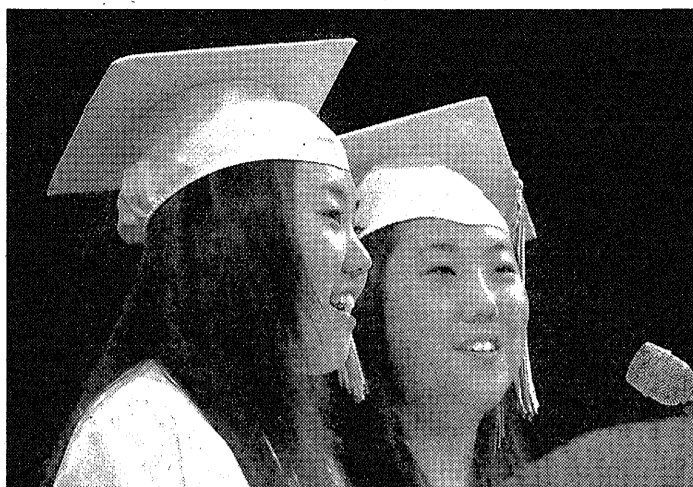
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Canton grads bid farewell to high school

Courtney Marie Adams
Amanda Marie Agosta
Jenan Ahmad
Kevin M. Ahrens
Shalaka K. Akolkar
Clark M. Albers
Steven William Albert
Johanna Marie Alexander
Ukkasha aku Ali
Ryan C. Amin
Casey M. Amsbaugh
Michael J. Anderson II
Jacob J. Andrews
Kaylin Eileen Angell
Corey Alexis Archambault
Michael J. Archambault
Bryan James Assenmacher
Christopher Lee Bailey
Era Bakshi
Amy Amanda Bammel
Brian Joseph Bartold
Matthew E. Baryliski
Breanna Kelsey Bates
Nicole A. Bates
Lauren Nicole Baugh
Brandon Kyle Baumer
Jefferey Stuart Baxter
Wasim Ammar Bazzi
Mitchel D. Bean III
Paul J. Begley
Thomas Robert Begley
Timothy L. Belcher
Dustin R. Belfiore
Bryanne Nicole Bellovary
Carly Renee Bendig
Jeremy C. Bennett
Kristen Shanna Beyer
Anita K. Bhavsar
Jessica Mary Bielak
Lauren K. Bielaska
Phillip J. Bitleris
Monica Mae Blaesser
Aaron William-Christian Blasé
Chris Michael Blythe
Michael J. Bobola
Michael W. Booker
Quinnton Marquise Boudreaux
Brittany Alexis Boudreaux-Brown
Matthew David Bower
Jessica Lynn Brashears
Kyle Robert Broderick
Tevin L. Brooks
Lauren Marie Brown
Brittany M. Bryan
Joel K. Burrell
Steven R. Butcher
Brooke Marie Byars
Megan C. Byers
Stephanie Hien Ca
Kayla Ashley Carmody
Brittany Lynn Carollo
David Albert Catalan
Daniel P. Cezat
Alice Y. Chae
Michael Joseph Chaperon
Kiren A. Chaudhry
Namarata Chawla
Hardeep Singh Cheema

Fan Chen
Casey Denae Cheves
Kelly Ann Chrisman
Jonathan E. Clark
Amy D. Coleman
Scottie D. Coleman
Timothy A. Collier
Julie Marie Collins
Broderick Scott Coplai
Stephanie Lee Cosby
Laura Marie Courtney
Steven C. Cox
Melissa Ann Crosby
Alison Marie Czopp
Kasra Dabiran
Renata Bachi DaCosta
Laura Ann Daniels
Tiwana Toria Davis
Raymond Dennis Day
Natalie Ann DeMeyere
Shriya Desikan
Alyssa Rae Dickey
Hannah Christine Dillon
Jordan Danielle Dix
Danyetta Erica Douglas
Michelle Tracy Drennan
Alyssia Marie Duffiney
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Karma A. Elchanti
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Joshua Effiong Ekpenyong Etim
Ryan C. Evans
Joseph Paul Fava
Michael P. Flis
Adam R. Fowler
Robert Anthony Gandolfo
Mackenzie Wallis Ganzak
Ashley Marie Garcia
Cassandra Lynn Garcia
Nigel A. Garcia
Steven G. Garneau
Gerson Nick Garzon
Emily Renée Geister-Danville
Adham Mahmoud Ghannam
Sara Mariam Ghannam
Adrienne Marie Gibson
Joseph M. Gill
Jonathan W. Giove
Faron A. Glover
Sarah Elizabeth Glunt
Ian Enrique Gonzalez
Brooke Alexandra Graham
Derek C. Graves
Sara Marie Grissel
Ryan A. Gubert
Jessica Ann Guoin
Kyle David Hahn
Shaun Michael Hahn
Sarah Rose Hallinen
Jennifer Lynn Harper
Sarah Hassan
Samantha Marie Hayden
Jonathan M. Hayes
Megan A. Heinowski
Rebecca Ann Henke
Kelly Jane Herbeck
Kevin Thomas Hickey



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior class co-presidents Nahbee and Nahlye Jong address their classmates.

Stephanie Kristin Hill
Benjamin V. Hirschberg
Derek M. Hoerman
Ryan Lee Holbrook
William Graham Holden
Megan Elaine Holland-Smith
Ryan Lance Hollingsworth
Baylee M. Hollowell
Lisa Marie Howard
Marvhe Garfield Howard
Torio Jamar Hubbard
Richard Adam Huddleston
Matthew J. Hughesian
Amanda Michelle Hult
Rebecca Antoinette Hunter
Kangmin Andrew Hur
Cory Robert Hurst
Heather Renee Husband
Fatima Rehan Idrees
Kenneth David Jadcak
Christopher Joseph Jahoda
Deanna Rose Janisse
Nicholas J. Jenner
Alexander Ray Jerden
Lindsey A. Johnson
Nahbee Jong
Nahlye Jong
Otis Darnell Joyner
Brooke Julien
Rachel Elizabeth Kain
Janelle C. Kariniemi
Abbey M. Karlinski
Kevin D. Karlinski
Miriam J. Kazbour
Colleen Elizabeth Keena
Christopher E. Kemski
Kendall Chelsea Kennedy
Eleanor Maude Kenny
David Marcus Ketelhut
Matthew J. King
Sarah B. King
Shayna Marie Klein
Timothy E. Klott
Timothy Michael Koelzer
Samuel P. Kokoszka
Marissa Gabrielle Kolde
Jessica Ann Kolton

Keely D. Kowalski
Kristie D. Kowalski
Kevin C. Krause
Rodger Ian Kropp
Katie Elizabeth Kubacki
Adrian Orlando Lamar
Stacy Catherine Lamb
Brett C. Lampson
Raymond Americo Lang
Kristine E. Lanphear
Rebecca Lynn LaPere
Scott Michael LaTulip
Jessica M. Lee
Erisaldi Lekura
Stephanie Nichole Leslie
Ocie Monroe Lewis
Dominique Tony Littleton
Denisa Llangos
Destinee' E. Loftis
Catherine Anne Lorenz
Katherine Lu
Yiqun Joanne Lu
William James Lucas
Nicholas I. MacDiarmid
James Walter Mach III
Christopher J. Macuga
Ashley Bianca Madau
Michael Rha Madias
Shehbaz Mahmood
Amanda Carolin Maitland
Joel W. Majszak
Matthew Steven Majzlik
Jessica Nicole Maley
Gunjan B. Malhotra
Christopher W.R. Mann
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Children can be disinherited, but rules must be followed

Dear Rick: I have three children. Upon my death, for a variety of reasons, I want to disinherit one of my children. I did a will about 10 years ago where I named two children as the sole beneficiaries. I was discussing my estate plan with a friend and he said I could have a problem because I left out one child. He said parents have to leave their kids something. Is it legal to disinherit a child and how does one do it?

Yes, you can disinherit a child. A parent is under no obligation to leave anything to a child. However, there are specific rules.

It appears that your present will names two of your children as the beneficiary while not including, perhaps not even mentioning, your



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

your children in the document. Otherwise, the law makes the presumption that you have forgotten that child and thus they are still allowed to inherit a portion of your estate.

The best way to disinherit a child is to mention him/her in the will and state you are purposely not leaving anything to them or their heirs. In this way, you comply with the law and that child will not be able

third child. If the will contains no mention of your third child, then you did not disinherit him/her under the law.

Under Michigan law, you must name your children in the document. Otherwise, the law makes the presumption that you have forgotten that child and thus they are still allowed to inherit a portion of your estate.

to inherit from you. Many people are under the false impression that somehow the law requires them to leave something to their children. You are under no obligation to leave anything to your child, nor do you have to treat your children equally. There are many times during the estate planning process where children are treated differently. This is done because children's needs may be different, not from a lack of love and affection.

The issue of unequal inheritances is something I frequently encounter with my clients. In some situations there is a vast difference between the children's economic stature. Sometimes you have one child that is in excellent financial shape while another may be in financial

distress. The issue for parents always is even though they love their children equally, do they leave more financial resources to one child than another because of need. Obviously, situations like this are difficult to resolve, however, life is not always easy.

As our world gets more and more complex, it becomes more important for all of us to do some sort of estate plan. If you do not have an estate plan then ultimately the state of

Michigan determines who gets your money.

The law, just like everything else in our society, has become more complex. I recommend hiring a professional who specializes in estate planning.

Remember that estate planning is just not for death. A good portion of estate planning has nothing to do with death, but rather how to handle a family emergency.

Take the opportunity to do an estate plan, whether it is a

simple will accompanied by medical and durable power of attorneys or something more complex as a trust. If you've already done an estate plan, make sure it is up to date.

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

League holds judicial forum

The League of Women Voter from Wayne County will be sponsoring a judicial candidates' forum for those running for the Third Circuit Court, non-incumbent positions, in the Aug. 5, 2008, primary election.

This primary will cut the field from 11 to six candidates for the three open seats.

The forum will be held 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2008 from at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The public is encouraged to attend and learn about the candidates.





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On Wednesday, June 18, our employees will devote their afternoon to service of a different kind: We'll be serving community organizations throughout southeast Michigan that support children, families, education, the arts and much more.

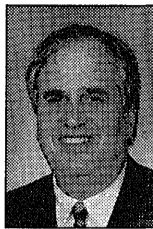
Our Community Appreciation Day efforts, coupled with financial contributions from National City, will strengthen these organizations and enable us all to touch lives and neighborhoods in profound new ways.

Many of our branches will close at 1 p.m. on June 18 so that all of our team members will have the opportunity to participate. We'll keep our drive-up windows open for your convenience throughout regular business hours.

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Township treasurer earns additional certification

Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards has become one of 375 individuals who've earned the designation of Certified Public Finance Officer. Edwards, treasurer since 1996, was one of 11 to graduate the most recent class,



Edwards

offered by the Government Finance Officers Association. To earn the designation, candidates have to demonstrate knowledge of public finance by passing exams in five areas: governmental accounting, auditing and financial reporting; cash management and investments; debt management; operating and capital budgeting; and pension and benefits, risk management and procurement.

"The additional knowledge I've gained is going to benefit the township," Edwards said. "It'll help us budget better, plan better ... it's a whole range of areas. There's more knowledge behind it, and more credibility."

Edwards said he started with the program in June 2005, but didn't take it as seriously as he should have at first.

"I wasn't as prepared at first," Edwards said. "I didn't

NEWS BRIEFS

think it'd be that hard, but I was wrong. After that, I made sure I was prepared. It's not an easy thing to pass."

Edwards said his preparation at some points bordered on ironic.

"There I'd be sitting at my table studying my heart out, and there were my (school-age) kids, watching TV and playing video games," Edwards said, laughing.

Online library board

Sandra Yee of Plymouth, dean of the Wayne State University Library System, was elected to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Board of Trustees, a nonprofit, membership computer library service and research organization comprised of more than 60,000 libraries worldwide.

OCLC was founded in 1967 to further access to the world's information and reduce the rate of increasing library costs. The current membership of libraries includes 112 countries and territories globally who use the organization's services to locate, acquire, catalog, lend and preserve library materials.

Yee will transition from her duties as current president of the OCLC's 66-delegate Members Council.



Yee

membership," Yee said. "These are exciting and challenging times for libraries as they face the world's ever-increasing need for information access and preservation."

Prior to joining Wayne State University in 2001 in her current position, Yee held positions of increasing responsibilities at Eastern Michigan University including Professor and Associate Dean, Learning Resources and Technologies. She holds volunteer positions with several professional associations and has been a contributing author to numerous journals and publications.

Yee holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University and an Ed.D. from the University of Michigan.

Outstanding federal service

For her "exceptional leadership" as the Bureau of Land Management's Assistant Director for Human Capital Management, Plymouth native Janine Bologna Velasco has been selected as one of 10

federal employees to receive the 59th annual Arthur S. Flemming Award.

Presented by George Washington University and recognized by the President of the United States, agency executives, and the private sector, the Flemming Awards honor individuals with three to 15 years of exemplary public service. Previous honorees include Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Neil Armstrong, Elizabeth Dole, Anthony Fauci, and Robert Gates. The Arthur S. Flemming Awards were established in 1948 in honor of Arthur Flemming's commitment to public service throughout his distinguished career, which spanned seven decades and 11 presidencies.

"I want to congratulate Janine on being selected for this prestigious award," said BLM Director Jim Caswell. "Janine's vision and her outstanding record of accomplishment are just what our agency needs as we carry out our multiple-use mission in today's fast-growing, fast-changing West."

Based in the BLM's Washington, D.C., Office, Velasco has led the Bureau's efforts in strategic planning and budgeting, program evaluations, and organizational management. In 2006, Velasco was selected to take on the challenges of workforce management.



Plymouth native Janine Velasco has been selected as one of 10 federal employees to receive the 59th annual Arthur S. Flemming Award, presented by George Washington University.

Camping club looking for Starcraft owners

Are you the proud owner of a Starcraft Camper? The Michigan Chapter of the Starcraft Camping Club has an invitation to join them camping. The club is starting its 40th year of camping, and one of the founding families is still an active member.

The membership covers a range of ages and years involved in the club. There are members who have been camping with the club for 30 years as well as ones that have been with it for two years. Ages run from grandma

and grandpa to mom and dad and children ages 7-16. It has several families where parents and children both belong.

The club meets on the third full weekend of the month from April to October, excluding July so that members can attend the International Rally. Dues are \$15 per year and covers the cost of mailing newsletters and other club information to members. There is no limit on how many campouts members must attend during the camping season. They can

pick and choose the ones they want to attend.

The club tries to keep our outings at a minimal cost, especially with the rise in gas prices, and reservations typically include water and electric.

There is a Board of Directors which plans the campouts and run the business of the club. They try and spread the campouts throughout the state so that every member can enjoy a short drive to the campground.

The camping schedule for 2008 includes Here is

our camping schedule is June 20-22, Krystal Lake in Vassar, \$56; July 14-18, the International Rally in Lebanon, Tenn.; August 15-17, Greenwood Acres in Jackson, \$62; Sept. 19-21, Leisure Lake Campground in Summer, \$55, and Oct. 17-19, PJ's Campground in Stockbridge - a Brand X outing so bring a friend that doesn't own a Starcraft - \$55.

If you would like to receive more information, e-mail the club at starcraftcamping@yahoo.com.

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LIVONIA FIRE FC

Livonia YMCA Fire Soccer Club
14255 Stark Road Livonia, MI
(734) 261-2161

TRYOUTS FOR 2008 / 2009 SELECT SOCCER SEASON

We would like to invite you to our first annual select soccer tryouts for the Livonia YMCA Fire Futbol Club!

Tryouts will be on June 18th & 19th at Jaycee Park and Sheldon Fields in Livonia.
(Jaycee Park is south of 8 Mile between Farmington and Merriman)

Tryout schedule - Boys and Girls

Age	Field	Time	1st Date	2nd Date	Min Roster	Max Roster
U-10	2	6pm-7:15pm	June 18th	June 19th	8	11
U-11	1	6pm-7:15pm	June 18th	June 19th	10	15
U-12	1	5:30pm-7pm	June 18th	June 19th	10	15
U-13	3	6pm-8pm	June 18th	June 19th	13	20
U-14	3	7pm-8:30pm	June 18th	June 19th	13	20
U-15	4	7pm-8:30pm	June 18th	June 19th	13	20
U-16	4	7pm-8:30pm	June 18th	June 19th	13	20

* Held at Sheldon Fields

Club Statement

The Livonia YMCA, holds the game of soccer to a "love of the game environment." We create an atmosphere that allows each player to experience the thrill of competition and participation and the challenge of development.

League affiliation

The Livonia YMCA Fire is a member of the Western Suburban Soccer League (WSSL). This League is listed as one of the top 5 leagues in the state.

Pricing per player

We are a non-profit club that will only charge the players what is needed. Our goal is to make you feel honored to be a part of our club, because we are honored to have you join it. All prices will be available at tryouts, but please feel free to contact the Livonia YMCA for any questions you may have regarding this before that time.

Note: All players should come dressed ready to tryout and must be at the field 15 minutes before their tryout time to register.

** If you are interested in joining our coaching staff at the select or recreational level, please CONTACT BRIAN REDDING FOR DETAILS.
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Library election

The Wayne County Clerk's Office of Elections Division is accepting nominating petitions for candidates for Trustees for the Plymouth District Library Board of Trustees. Current trustees whose terms are ending this year are Donna Broderick, Jacqueline George and Mary Mackie. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and residents of the City or Township of Plymouth. Three nonpartisan seats will be up for election Nov. 4. Candidates may file nominating petitions or a \$100 non-refundable fee and must do so in person by 4 p.m. Thursday, July 17, at the Wayne County Clerk's Office, Elections Division. All three seats will be for four-year terms beginning Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31, 2012. There are no term limits on trustee seats.

The seven-member Plymouth District Library Board provides public library service to all residents of the Plymouth community at the Dunning-Hough Library in downtown Plymouth. For further information on the library and activities of the board, contact Pat Thomas at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 218 or thomaspat@plymouthlibrary.org. Blank non-partisan petitions can be obtained from either the City of Plymouth Clerk or the Plymouth Township Clerk. Petitions must be filed in person at the office of the Wayne County Clerk - Elections Division, 2 Woodward Avenue, Room 502, Detroit, MI 48226. For additional filing information, contact Wayne County Clerk, Elections Division, at (313) 224-5525.

Fall festival
 ■ The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applica-

tions for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival, scheduled for Sept. 5-7. Ten-by-ten foot spots will be \$75 per day or \$200 for the three-day weekend. Applications are available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival.com or for more information call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

■ Businesses interested in participating in the Plymouth Fall Festival Sept. 5-7 may sponsor the entertainment venues, or have a booth downtown during the festival. Sponsors can include ads in the Fall Festival Guide, banners on the stage, and many other great ways to get exposure for your business. Visit www.plymouthfallfestival.com for application forms or call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

Symphony fund-raiser
 The Plymouth Symphony League launches its 2009 Greater Detroit Area

Entertainment Book Sale. For \$20, buyers get coupons that save money on a variety of entertainment activities like Plymouth Symphony Orchestra concerts, attractions like the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, specialty stores, and fine and casual restaurants all over the area.

For a limited time only, with each purchase of a 2009 Entertainment book, customers will receive a 2008 book free (while supplies last). The 2009 edition of the Entertainment Book also includes a Platinum section, featuring special discount certificates for the "best of the best" restaurants in Metro Detroit, including Plymouth's own Ernesto's and the Whitney restaurant in Detroit.

Help the arts thrive in the community and place an order at the Plymouth Symphony Office by calling (734) 451-2112, Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, visit the PSO Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org

Cruisers walking
 The PCCA Cruisers Walking Club brings community seniors together to enjoy a low impact form of exercise. The group meets at the Plymouth Township Park at 9 a.m. Thursdays from May through October, to walk together on the fitness walking trails. Call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, (734) 453-1234, for more information.

Speaking easy
 Are you afraid to speak in public? Ease the fear by attending a free introductory session of Motor City Speak Easy club, a chartered club of Toastmaster's International. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Johns Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, just north of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. The meeting involves impromptu speaking by members and volunteers as well as planned speeches by Toastmasters. We welcome guests and invite new mem-

bers. For more information, please call Karen at (734) 425-4181 or Creflo at (248) 374-0501.

Legion meets
 ■ The American Legion, Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 112 meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All war-time veterans are welcome. Ladies must be a mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter or great-granddaughter of a war-time veteran and are also welcome. Meetings are held at IOOF Hall, 344 Elizabeth (at Ann Arbor Trail) in downtown Plymouth. For information, call (734) 459-7324.
 ■ The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township. All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

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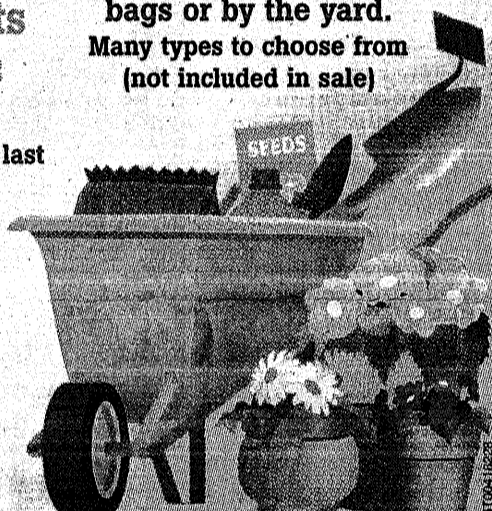
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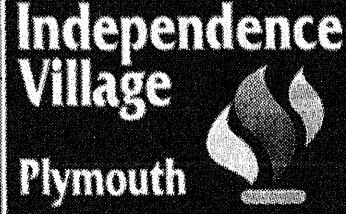
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OUR VIEWS

Today's dad plays a much different role than his dad

People across the area will gather today to honor dad, and the role he plays in the family unit. Father's Day never has received the attention that Mother's Day does, except perhaps in the retail advertising world, where the price of recliners is slashed and the latest big-screen televisions are pitched.

It's not that dads aren't deserving of a special day of their own. It's just that for centuries, the role of fathers in our society has been to be the financial provider, and the jobs of raising the kids and keeping the home were largely left to mom.

Boy, how times have changed. These days, dads are as likely to be actively involved in helping out with the home and raising the kids as moms are to be in the workforce contributing equally — if not more — to the family budget. More and more families have to rely on two incomes to make ends meet, so the business of raising the kids has become much more of an equal partnership.

There is an undisputed special bond that forms between a mother and her child. And Mother's Day always will be a "bigger" special day than Father's Day. But a dad's role in the home is vastly different from what it was just 40 years ago, and many would argue it has changed for the better.

Many two-parent families have become a true partnership where all responsibilities are equally divided as best they can between mom and dad. Which means children get to see their parents in multiple roles, and in equal roles which historically has not been the case.

It is common for people to yearn for the "good old days" when life was simpler. Dad was the provider and mom stayed home and raised the kids. There was no need for latchkey programs, day care centers and the angst of relying on "strangers" to raise our kids.

But many of today's dads relish the role they play, and wouldn't change a thing. And the same, no doubt, is true for moms as well. So take a moment today to share a thank you with the dad in your life, and for the ever-increasing role he likely plays in your family.

Happy Father's Day.

Need new renters

For several weeks, members of the Plymouth Skating Academy have been negotiating with the city of Plymouth in an effort to save Basic Skills skating and Recreation Ice programs that have been offered at the Plymouth Cultural Center for over 20 years. The programs have been in jeopardy as the city seeks to reduce their General Fund contribution to the Recreation Department.

In a series of meetings, the Skating Academy presented city commissioners and the mayor with options that we believe are financially responsible and would save the programs. Despite our efforts, the Skating Academy of Plymouth was asked to sign a rental contract that both restricted our ice time and represents an excessive rate increase. The Academy simply could not agree to these terms because they would have effectively shut down the programs.

In an effort to boost revenue, city officials have decided to offer additional ice time to various hockey programs. During our discussions, we learned that these unconfirmed new renters expressed an interest in ice time that would overlap with some of our traditional schedule, but not all of it. We also learned that there are no definitive renters or signed ice rental contracts. In two separate meetings, using the city's own budget, we showed that the hockey programs would add just \$7,000 to their revenue stream. Importantly, if new renters don't come forward, the result will be elimination of viable programs.

Jim Craven
Canton

Dems dropped the ball

As I watched the exit speech of Hillary Clinton, I couldn't help but feel that the Democratic Party has failed us again by eliminating one of the best presidential candidates this country has seen in years. Also, it is obvious to me that this

LETTERS

nomination was hijacked by the party elites and, of course, the news/opinion media. It will be difficult to forget all the petty, small-minded, vicious, vile comments Hillary Clinton was subjected to by these individuals, which many of her supporters found hurtful and disrespectful. And the disloyalty of the Democratic Party's leadership never ceases to amaze me.

But as Hillary so eloquently stated in her speech today, we can't dwell on what might have been; we need to go on and look to the future. As John McCain's mother has stated, in reference to her son's candidacy, we will all have to hold our noses, and vote for him, or we can vote for the Democratic candidate that our party, not the people, have chosen for us.

Mary Young
Canton

Fathers need more rights

It is with hope we celebrate Father's Day in Michigan this year. Hope that we will finally recognize and admit our failures of the past. Not necessarily the failures of fathers to their families, but rather the failure of government and society to permit fit, responsible fathers to be equitable parents to their children, despite marital status.

This is especially significant in Detroit, Flint and other urban areas of Michigan, where nearly 70 percent of families are headed by single parents ... mostly mothers, where the children have little or no involvement from their fathers. Society and government policies have traditionally made it easy to vilify these fathers as irresponsible. But in truth, most fathers are responsible, non-abusive and desire to be fit parents. However, government has historically implemented and continues to exercise policies and laws that mandate only financial child support, completely ignoring the emotional, psychological and spiritual support of fathers children also desperately need.

Overwhelming social pathology

research shows single-parented children are growing up in increasingly alarming numbers to use drugs, experiencing educational, health, emotional/behavioral problems and especially engaging in criminal behavior much more so than those who either live in two-parent households or who have meaningful access to both fit parents.

While current Michigan law may permit joint custody of minor children to be only a consideration in divorce cases, state family courts seldom rule in favor of this type of shared parenting responsibilities; thus, creating single-family custodial households at an alarming rate. The results are publicized in the press and media nearly every day with "most dangerous city" crime headlines and dismal "worst in the nation" high school graduation rates.

Yet legislators and public officials still refuse to implement the only changes that offer us real solutions to many of our societal problems. That is, to enable both fit and willing parents to discharge their parenting responsibilities in a significant manner without state government interference, even if not under one roof.

This U.S. constitutional right, known as the shared parenting bill, is currently under review in the Michigan House of Representatives. It is a simple, inexpensive solution that costs the taxpayers nothing and, in fact, will save billions of dollars over time that our state government now must spend in social services, law enforcement, the courts and corrections. The shared parenting responsibility legislation would allow children to have the love and care of both fit parents in their lives, regardless of marital status.

Father's Day 2008 could indeed be a celebration for all Michigan families once we truly recognize what has been missing in nearly a million of our children's lives — responsible fathers.

Murray Davis
Southfield

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or

by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell

Call him through City Hall at (734) 453-1234 or send an e-

mail via the city Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume

Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtp.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov.

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11th District Democratic candidates exchange views

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin and former Novi City Manager and developer Edward Kriewall say U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is out of step with the people in the 11th Congressional District because he doesn't listen. The two Democratic candidates for the 11th District House seat held by McCotter met Wednesday for a quiet exchange of views before an audience of about 45 people at the Livonia Senior Center.

The forum, sponsored by the Livonia Democratic Club, was moderated by club president Patrick O'Neil, who asked questions from the audience and his own questions.

Larkin was critical of McCotter's style as well as his positions on issues.

"Mr. McCotter doesn't listen to people. He yells at you and storms off," Larkin said. "His politics are not your politics, they're GOP politics and he's a party hack."

Both candidates oppose the war in Iraq, which they link to McCotter and President George W. Bush.

"America was sold on a lie," Larkin said. "There were no weapons of mass destruction, there was no link with al-Qaeda."

He said the United States was right to enter Afghanistan because the Taliban government had harbored the terrorists who attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. But, he said, that mission has not been completed and was weakened by entry into the Iraq war.

"Iraq was a mistake for the Bush administration and I will vote against future funding," Kriewall said. "America shouldn't be there."

He said the United States should get out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We can't afford to go into these countries and try to solve their problems," he said.

He said the country should be spending more on improved intelligence gathering than on waging war.

Larkin said energy was a major issue in this campaign. He said he favors more investment in alternative energy to reduce American dependence on foreign oil.

He said big oil has seen record profits under the Bush administration.

"Stop subsidizing big oil," he said.

Kriewall said it might be time to rethink traditional Democratic opposition to drilling in the Alaska wildlife preserve.

"Drilling is a lot safer than it used to be, a lot more sophisticated today," he said.

Larkin said he opposes expanding drilling until more money is spent on developing alternative energy.

Kriewall's defense of Alaskan drilling was one of several positions taken by both candidates that are more conservative than those taken by the national party.

Kriewall admitted that he had voted for George W. Bush in the last two presidential elections. Larkin admitted that he did not vote for Bill Clinton in his second election because of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Kriewall called the Congress "dysfunctional" and the two-party system "obsolete" but "the best we have."



Larkin



Kriewall

Both candidates are opposed to the immigration reform legislation supported

by both presidential candidates.

"Illegal immigration is ruining this country," Kriewall said, then he quoted Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly that the country couldn't accept everyone. O'Reilly is a conservative and often a target for Democrats.

Larkin said illegal immigrants compete with Americans for jobs and that

current immigration laws need to be strictly enforced.

Larkin said he is a pro-life Democrat, but argued that decisions on abortion laws are made in the federal courts and that the Senate, not the House, decides on judicial appointments. Kriewall said he is pro-choice.

Larkin and Kriewall said they believe the Second Amendment supports an indi-

vidual's right to bear arms. When asked about assault weapons, Kriewall said he didn't see any difference in a semiautomatic assault weapon and a high powered hunting rifle.

"Quite frankly, bad guys get the guns, innocent people need to have guns," he said.

Both Larkin and Kriewall said they support a balanced budget. Larkin added that

sometimes, as in the current economic downturn, it might be necessary to have deficit spending, but generally he supports a balanced budget and line-item veto for the president.

Both candidates said they favor a national single-payer health insurance system.

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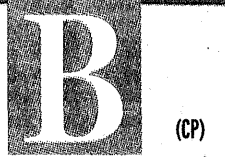
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SPORTS



Sunday, June 15, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Eleven-year-old Canton resident Ryan Korody is pictured during a recent ATV race. Korody won four Michigan MPX Series races in 2007.

FLYIN' RYAN

Canton youngster excels at four-wheel racing

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While most of his buddies are playing action-packed racing video games this summer, 11-year-old Canton resident Ryan Korody will be living one.

The recent graduate of Fiegel Elementary School is one of the best young four-wheel, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) racers in the country — and he has several trophies that are nearly as tall as he is to prove it.

Every other weekend from the end of March through August, the fearless, curly-haired youngster and his dad, Scott, travel to national competitions from Alabama to New York

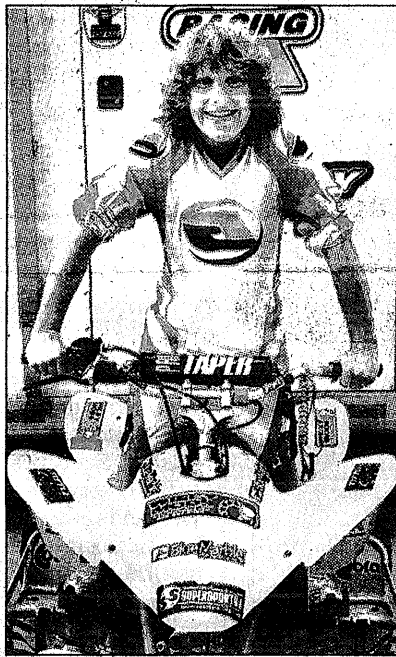
where he traverses hilly, 1.5-mile courses at speeds of close to 55 miles per hour.

And judging by the 25-foot-high hill-to-hill jumps he's required to complete on occasions, the younger Korody is not afraid to fly.

"You can take a child, put him on a soccer field and teach him to kick the ball into the net — even if they don't really like the game," said Scott Korody.

"But unless they really love racing, you can't take somebody Ryan's age, put him on a motorized vehicle, tell him to go 60 miles per hour and jump

Please see **SPEED, B4**



Canton resident Ryan Korody is pictured on his customized all-terrain vehicle. The 11-year-old has captured several state and national titles.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Poor policy should be gone — not Canton's Randolph

At a time when the Plymouth-Canton Community School District should be brain-storming for ideas to secure its most effective educators, it appears to be going out of its way to drive some of them away.

As a result, Casey Randolph will be taking his incredible gift of motivating students — both in the classroom and in the athletic arena — to Tecumseh beginning this fall.



Ed Wright

If you're not familiar with Randolph's work, you should be. Along with serving as a respected member of the Canton High School physical education staff the past three years, he guided the Chiefs' wrestling program from the depths of mediocrity to state prominence in just seven

years.

While Randolph values his wrestling program's incredible on-the-mat triumphs — four straight District titles, two Regional titles and a pair of trips to the state finals in Battle Creek to name a few — he's even more proud of the fact his teams have achieved Academic All-State status four times.

This guy has not only been an unbelievably positive difference-maker in the lives of hundreds of local kids the past seven years, he's been a force.

And now he's headed to Tecumseh — thanks in large part to a terrible policy that our school district's decision-makers are too stubborn to tweak even an inch.

Too much to ask?

Last fall, Randolph — a father of four — spent countless hours developing a proposal that focused on a single, modest request: Let students of school district employees attend the high school where their mother or father is employed, if they so desired.

The way the system works now, every sixth-grader in the district receives a letter in the mail in May letting them know which of the three PCEP high schools they'll be attending.

If your dad teaches or coaches at Salem, the odds of you becoming a Rock are 1-in-3 — just like everybody else.

Mercifully, the district allows younger siblings of high schoolers to attend the same high school as their older brothers or sisters.

It is an unfortunate system that sends next-

Please see **POLICY, B4**

Sidelines

Fall baseball

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association is currently accepting registrations for its fall baseball leagues. The association offers leagues from T-ball through 14U. Registration closes on July 31.

For more information on the leagues, visit www.gcybsa.com and click on the "Online Registration" link.

Schedules will run from mid-August through mid-October.

Precision baseball

Starting June 18, every Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, baseball and softball players can receive semi-private hitting lessons with Wayne State University head baseball coach Jay Alexander and softball instructor Devan Briskey, the head softball coach at the University of Detroit at Precision Baseball, which is located in Canton.

Sessions are limited to the first 50 players and they will go through a series of station work and receive free instruction.

The cost is only \$20. There is no age limit and players are encouraged to bring a bat and helmet.

Call to reserve your spot today, or simply walk in.

For more information, call (734) 459-5921.

Tennis camps

Plymouth-Canton Community Education will offer a tennis camp this summer that will be taught by Plymouth High School tennis coach Rob McLaren.

The classes will emphasize fundamentals, basic techniques, rules and scoring.

The classes will be held at the Plymouth High School tennis courts.

For registration information, visit www.pccs.k12.mi.us/communityed.asp.

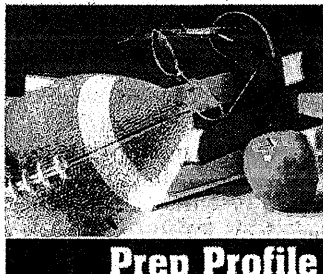
Giles strides to hurdles stardom

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

To fully grasp how far Mike Giles has come as a high school hurdler over the past four years, you'd have to retrace his smooth, gliding steps back to the first varsity race he competed in his freshman year at Salem.

"I was going along pretty good," the recently graduated Giles recalled, "but then I got tangled up in a hurdle, I fell and broke my hip. I was done for the year after just one meet."

Giles' body may have been bruised, but his competitive



Prep Profile

spirit and love for the sport was unfazed.

Armed with a diligent work ethic and some natural athleticism, Giles jumped back on the saddle the following spring and hasn't broken stride since.

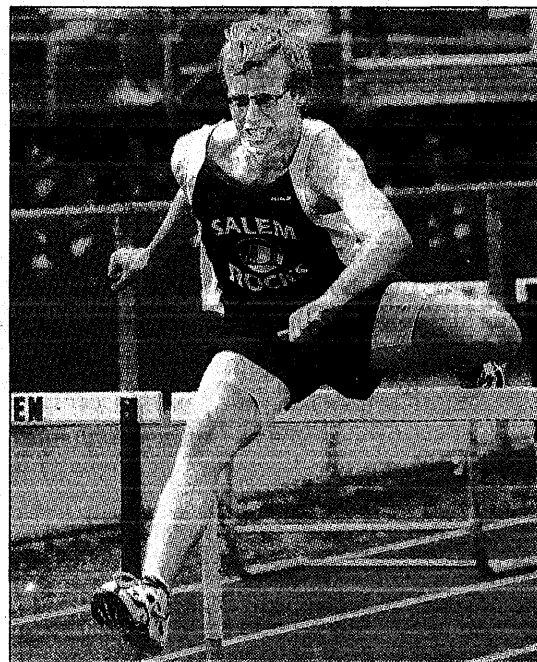
He finished this past season as one of the area's most-

Please see **All-Observer boys track team on Page B3.**

accomplished hurdlers, a fact that is reflected in his sixth-place showing in the 110-meter high hurdles at the highly competitive Division 1 Regional meet held May 16 at the PCEP varsity track.

"Mike is one of those athletes who worked for everything he got," said Salem coach Kyle Meteyer. "He wasn't the most gifted hurdler his first couple of years here, but he worked as hard as anybody to get better

Please see **GILES, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Mike Giles, pictured above during a meet earlier this season, recently completed a stellar hurdling career for the Rocks. The senior competed in both the 110-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate events.

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GILES
FROM PAGE B1

and become the best he could be." **Courage is essential**
One of the first hurdles Giles had to clear during his early hurdling days at East Middle School was a mental one. "You have to be a little brave to be a hurdler," he said. "But once you get over the mental barrier, it just takes hard work and practice to get the right form down."
The stopwatch told the ultimate story of Giles' dedication to the sport. He chopped his personal-best time of 20 seconds as a freshman to 15.5 as a senior in the 110s. In the 300 intermediates, he knocked 10 seconds off his PR from his freshman to senior seasons. "My first two years at Salem we had a hurdling coach, Dan Johnson, who holds the school record in the 300s," Giles said. "He taught me a lot along with Coach Meteyer."
"After Dan left before my junior season, I kind of self-taught myself and I tried to pass on to the younger guys what coach Johnson had taught me."
No hurdles in classroom
Giles didn't hesitate when asked what accomplishment has brought him the most pride during his four-year career at Salem.

"Receiving the WLAA academic athlete award in cross country and track meant a lot to me this year," he said, "because it was based on a mix of athletics and getting good grades."
Judging by his 3.9 grade-point average, guitar-playing skills and the fact that he works several hours a week at K-Mart, Giles' time-management skills are as smooth as his hurdling form.
He has been accepted into Eastern Michigan University's Honors College, where he will work toward a degree in Exercise Science.
"My goal is to become a physical therapist," Giles said.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Shooters Golf Tour

Local golf enthusiasts are invited to participate in the summer-long Shooters Golf Tour, a development tour that offers six different competitive divisions and is played on several of the best public courses Michigan has to offer.

The SGT is also the only tour of its kind in the state that offers up-to-the-minute live scoring on the internet.
For more information, visit www.shootersgolf.com.

Plymouth LAX camp

The Plymouth High School lacrosse program will be offering an instructional skills camp that will cover every aspect of the game for players of all skill levels on June 28-29, from 9 a.m. to noon for kids in grades 6th through 8th; and from 1-4 p.m. for 9th through 12th graders at Heritage Park in Canton.
The camp will be staffed by high school coaches as well as current and former college and high school players.
The cost is \$50, which includes a custom-reversible jersey, six hours of instruction, one-on-one and specialized instruction for every position and a post-camp evaluation.
Players can register online at www.plymouthlacrosse.com. For more information,

send an e-mail to info@plymouthlacrosse.com.

Plymouth Football Camp

The Plymouth Wildcat Skills Camp will run June 23-25 from 5-7 p.m. at the PCEP varsity stadium field. It is a fundamentals camp for kids from 5th to 9th grades.
For more information, visit www.plymouthwildcats.com or call coach Sawchuk at (734) 582-5696.

Hoop camps

The following three girls basketball camps will be offered this summer through Community Education:
■ A Canton girls basketball camp (#146) will be offered at Canton High School from June 16-20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Girls entering seventh through ninth grade this coming fall are eligible to participate.
■ A Canton and Salem girls basketball camp (#143) will be held at Canton High School June 16-20 from 1-3 p.m. for girls entering fourth through sixth grade in the fall of 2008.
■ A Canton and Salem girls basketball camp (#144) will be offered July 14-18 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Salem High School for girls entering sixth through eighth grade in the fall of 2008.

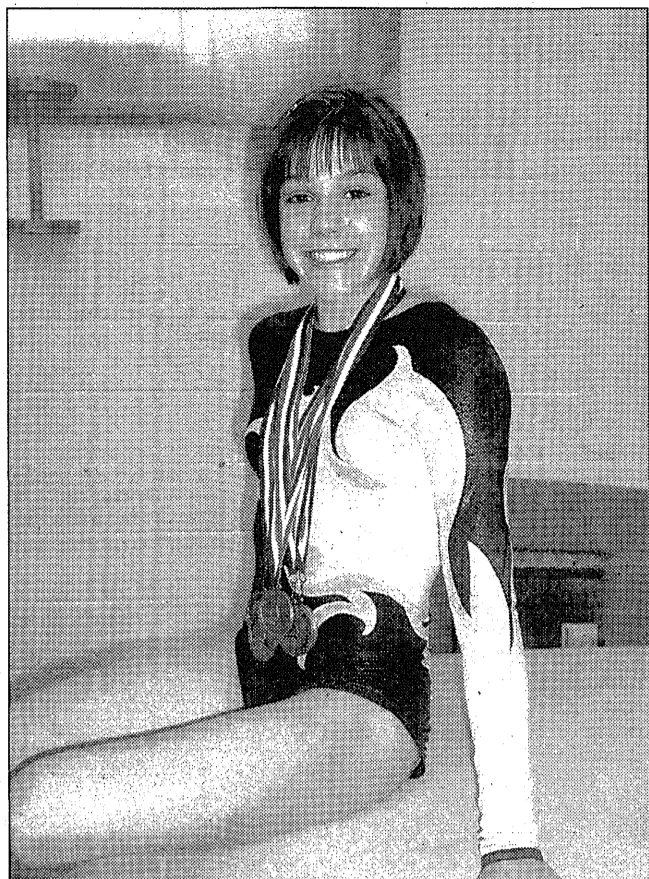
For more information on these camps, contact Community Education at (734) 416-2937.

Wildcat golf outing

The seventh annual Plymouth High School Wildcat Football Golf Outing will be held Saturday, July 19, at 1:30 p.m. at The Inn at St. John's Golf and Conference Center, which is located at 44045 Five Mile in Plymouth.
The format will be a best-ball scramble with a shotgun start.
The \$100-per-golfer fee includes dinner and a hot dog at the turn. Individuals can attend just the buffet dinner for \$40.
Hole sponsorships are available for \$100.
For more information, contact Lisa Goble at (734) 207-8889 or at Rgoble64@aol.com.
The registration deadline is July 7.

Chiefs golf outing

The annual Canton Chiefs Football Booster Club golf outing will be held June 21 at Fox Hills in Plymouth Township.
The scramble-format event will tee off with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.
For more information on the outing, visit www.cantonchiefsfootball.com.



Accomplished gymnast

Canton resident Adelaida Jepperson, a level 6 gymnast at the Oakland Gymnastic Training Center, earned five medals at the 2008 state meet held earlier this spring. Jepperson placed second in both the floor and all-around competitions.

Augustine's bat bolsters Rams

Dan Augustine went 3-for-4 with an RBI as the Michigan Rams unloaded for 14 hits Wednesday in a 6-4 Michigan Collegiate Baseball League triumph over the Blue Knights at Ford Field.
The 20-and-under Rams improved to 5-2 in the MCBL, while the 22-and-under Blue Knights fell to 4-4-1.
Joe Barnes also had three hits and scored a run for the Rams, while teammates Tim Cross and Frank Persichino each added two hits and an RBI.
Aaron Wick, Brett Mazmanian and Nick Plinka also drove in runs.
Tony Fazi went 2-for-4 with two RBI for the Blue Knights.

Brent Opland and Keith Kampe contributed two hits apiece.
Kalamazoo College's Ben Schroeder (Livonia Stevenson), the Rams' starter, went the first 4.1 innings, allowing four runs (two earned) on seven hits and a walk. Brett Spencer (Madonna University) went the final 2.2 innings and did not allow a run to pick up the save. He allowed just one hit and a pair of walks.
Losing pitcher Justin Barber went four innings, allowing four earned runs on 11 hits, a pair of walks and one hit batter. Casey Haggerty finished up, giving up one runs on three hits.



Hahn receives scholarship

Plymouth senior Laura Hahn (second from right) is the first recipient of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' women's lacrosse scholarship. Hahn is pictured with her parents and PCS head coach Dave Medley (right).

POLICY

FROM PAGE B1

door neighbors — kids that have been attending school together in some cases for nine years — to different high schools.
While it may not totally divide neighborhoods and subdivisions, it certainly doesn't unite them.
Randolph was merely trying to convince the school administrators to at least keep families together during the high school years.
If enacted, Randolph's proposal would have affected less than 1 percent of the entire PCEP student population, while serving as a well-deserved — not to mention cost-free — perk for the district's employees.
A rare loss

In October, Randolph presented his proposal to members of a school district policy committee with the same heart and soul he puts into his teaching and coaching jobs.
Four months later, he was handed a letter from the district that flat-out rejected his idea.
"All I was trying to do was keep my family together," said Randolph. "My kids had been wearing Canton red since they've been born. My wife and I love it here. We would have lived here 30 more years if not for this ridiculous policy."
A few months before his oldest child received the letter that revealed which high school the computer had randomly selected for her, Randolph decided to accept an elementary school physical education position in

Tecumseh along with the high school's head wrestling coaching position. He will also serve as an assistant football coach at the school.
"It was the toughest decision I've had to make in a long time because we love Canton, but it was something I felt I needed to do for my family," he said. "It was gut-wrenching when I had to tell my (Canton) team that I was leaving. I'm sure some of the younger guys feel that I'm betraying them, but the older guys understand."
Trust me when I say that Randolph's departure may just be the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the number of incredibly successful mentors at the Park leaving in the coming years if the policy is not altered soon.

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SPEED

FROM PAGE B1

from here to that Jeep," he explained, pointing toward his next-door neighbor's vehicle that was parked about 30 feet away. "Racing four-wheelers is kind of like hockey. Some kids can throw their skates on and tear up the hockey rink right away while others never pick it up. Ryan seemed to pick this up right away."
Risk factor
Not surprisingly, there is a danger element involved with the sport. Korody has endured his share of spills, but none serious enough to knock him out of a race, thanks in large part to the state-of-the-art equipment the riders are required to wear.
"I've crashed about five times really hard," he said. "One time I flipped over a couple of times and bent a piece of metal on my ATV that was built strong enough for NASCAR cars. But 15 minutes later, I went back out there and finished third."
Racing is more of a lifestyle than a hobby for the Korodys,

who dedicate much of their free time and money to the sport their son loves.
"The entire family has to be dedicated to it, or it's not going to work," Scott Korody emphasized. "I probably spend four nights a week — sometimes 20 to 30 hours a week — in the garage working on his machine.
"And it's very expensive, too. If you compete in the season-long Nationals like we're doing, it'll cost \$30,000 to \$40,000, especially with the cost of gas now."
"We joke with the other parents about how we're all broke because we're racers."
Jam-packed schedule
Once the ATVA National MX Series season starts in late March, the Korodys' every-other-week schedule gets crazy.
"We usually take off for the race on Thursday night, drive all night and get there Friday morning," said Scott Korody. "Friday is usually a practice day, then the racing takes place on Saturday and Sunday."
"On Sunday night we take off and get home by 7 a.m. so Ryan can get to school."

Ryan Korody's racing success is extra-impressive considering he rarely gets to practice. Since there are no courses in the metropolitan Detroit area, the only chance he gets to sharpen his skills are when he travels to his grandpa's five-acre parcel of land near West Branch.
"The only kids that finish ahead of Ryan are the ones that live down south who have their own tracks in their backyards, so they get to practice about an hour every day," said Scott Korody. "Ryan has been able to overcome his lack of practice because he has really good hand-eye coordination, but compared to the kids he's racing against, he really doesn't ride enough."
A straight-A student, Korody said his ultimate goal is to continue to compete against kids his age until he can turn pro once he turns 16.
"I love racing," he said. "The best part is going down a hill as fast as I can and pulling a whole shot on everybody."
Good luck getting that kind of adrenaline rush playing a video game.

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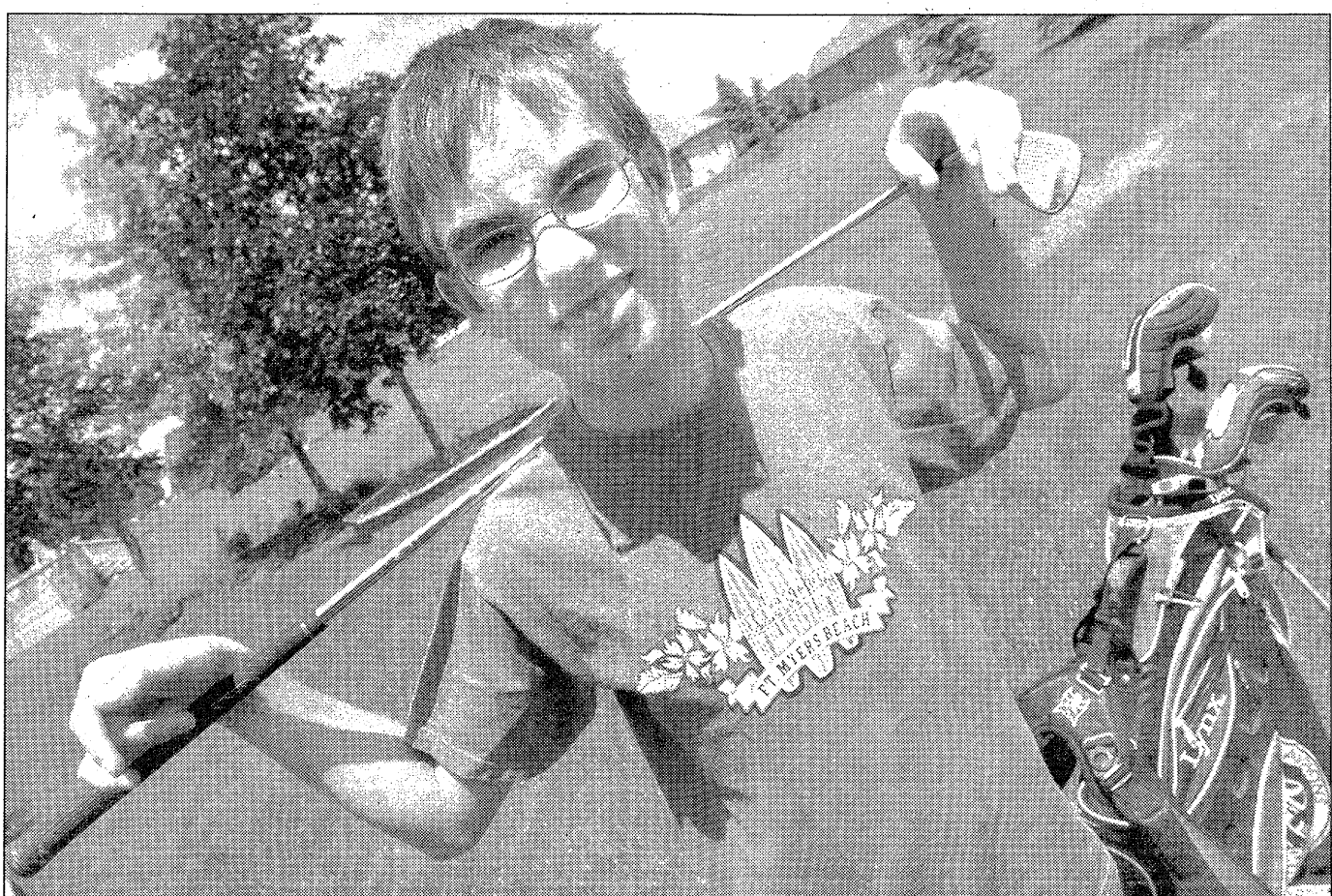
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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Thompson, who has epilepsy, stands with one of his golf clubs in the backyard of his Canton home.

Advocating for people with epilepsy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The minute the camera's flash went off Mark Thompson fell backwards. If someone didn't know the 15-year-old Canton boy had epilepsy they might just think he was fooling around. But epilepsy is a serious disorder and that's why his mother, Carol, thinks pharmacies should consult the patients and their physicians before switching from a brand medication to a generic or from one generic to another.

Two bills in the Michigan House (HB 5077) and Senate (SB 926) would require approval before a change is made in medication for the neurological disorder caused by a misfire in electrical functions of the brain. Epilepsy affects 100,000 people in Michigan including 30,000 children.

Anything that startles Mark can cause a seizure. A freshman, Mark has been confined to a wheelchair at Plymouth High School to prevent any further injuries from falling. The incidents started happening in November around the time one of his epilepsy medications was switched. Carol can't say for sure if the change caused the falls because Mark struggles with cerebral palsy as well as the effects of a stroke as a baby, but she's backing the bills.

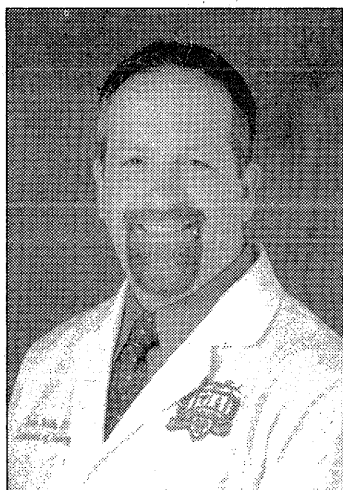
"People go to doctors for medical expertise," said Carol Thompson. "Why should second and third parties get involved?"

EXPERT VIEWS

Dr. Brien Smith has seen how an unauthorized switch in epilepsy medication can affect a patient. As chairman of government and legal affairs for the Epilepsy Foundation of America, he has met with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) three times in Maryland to voice his concerns. Smith writes about the bills in A Call to Action, an Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan publication. He has been treating epilepsy patients 18 years and is concerned because at least four anti-epileptic drugs become available in generics in the next 12 months and although the FDA advertises the drugs as safe that isn't always true. Patients stable for years or months can suddenly have seizures.

"For the most part probably 90 percent of the patients I treat can make the switch but we should be educating them that there is some risk that's a real concern," said Smith, a neurologist and medical director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at Henry Ford Hospital's neurology department.

"When the FDA approves a generic drug they test the blood in healthy volunteers. They only accept prospective randomized trials looking



Dr. Brien Smith

backwards at patients. A special task force at the American Epilepsy Society has been set up to look at these patients to challenge the equation the FDA's been using. When a drug goes to a generic 10 companies can make it so patients could actually have a blood level change 10-14 percent in a month. There can be serious consequences of having a major seizure in the wrong place at the wrong time."

ADVOCACY

Smith is putting together an epilepsy advocacy group to battle lobbyists opposing the identical bills. Currently HB 5077 sponsored by state Rep. John Espinoza, D-Crosswell, is in the Health Policy Committee. Jack Cardinal, a legislative aide in Espinoza's Lansing office, said they're "very optimistic we'll get a hearing." The bill was introduced in the last legislative session and reintroduced this session.

Arlene Gorelick is working Smith, Espinoza, and state Sen. John Gleason, D-Flushing, who sponsored SB 926. As president of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan in Southfield, Gorelick has seen the improvements in epilepsy treatment in the last 19 years. The foundation started 60 years ago as the Epilepsy Clinic. In 1994 when health systems like Henry Ford, the Detroit Medical Center and the University of Michigan began developing comprehensive epilepsy centers, the nonprofit decided to give their practice to the Henry Ford system and focus on advocacy and helping people with the neurological disorder.

"Doctors spend a lot of time getting the right drug to control their seizures without making them toxic. They're very powerful drugs," said Gorelick. "There are at least 40 different syndromes which respond better to different drugs. One formulation to another may not act the same. Epilepsy is life threatening. It can cause sudden death. I heard one story of a woman who had a seizure in the bathtub and drowned."

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Foundation works to eliminate stigma of disorder

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Epilepsy changes every aspect of a person's life when uncontrolled, including the ability to hold a job, drive a car, or just be seen as normal.

Mark Thompson wants to be treated like a regular kid who enjoys playing golf, pool, Wii, and fishing at his grandfather's cottage near Jackson. Arlene Gorelick and the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan are working to make that a reality.

"The stigma isn't as great as it used to be, but it is (there) and especially for kids it can be difficult," said Gorelick, the nonprofit's president. Everybody knows somebody with epilepsy. They just might not know it. At the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan we want people to live their dreams. We do a lot of education, have a camp for kids. Many of these kids have never seen another kid with epilepsy. We try to make it easier for people to live in the community.

"People still don't like to talk about it, but I have noticed a change especially in young people."

Thompson, 15, of Canton enjoys golfing, and was on the Wildcats team at Plymouth High School until falling and breaking a finger. He struggles with seizures while physicians try to find the right combination of drugs to treat the epilepsy. He's currently on three medications plus a special diet high in fat, low in carbs.

Six decades ago there were only one or two medications to treat the disorder and many people with epilepsy were sent to state hospitals, according

to Gorelick. Over the years new drugs were developed as well as epilepsy surgery. Dr. Brien Smith is about to start a study at Henry Ford Hospital on NeuroPace, the latest implantable device that monitors electrical activity in the brain and delivers stimulation when a seizure is detected.

"There's new improvements every day," said Smith. "There's hope for the future, three to four new agents coming out in the next year or two."

In the meantime the foundation is trying to raise awareness about the neurological disorder which can be caused by head trauma or stroke.

"People still believe the old wives tales that someone can swallow their tongue. They can't," said Gorelick. "People break teeth and jaws so don't put anything in their mouth. If you see someone having a convulsion do very little but what is required to keep them safe. We recommend putting them on their side so they can breathe better. They might be disoriented so don't grab them."

"Most seizures don't last long. Over five minutes they need to call someone (for help)."

For more information about the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, call (800) 377-6226 or visit www.epilepsymichigan.org.

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This Father's Day, help dad stay healthy

The best gift this Father's Day can't be found on store shelves or through an online retailer—it's the gift of life. With approximately 64.3 million fathers in America, Father's Day provides a great opportunity to educate the men in our lives about their greatest health risks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the top five causes of death in American men are heart disease, cancer, accidental injuries, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease—most of which are either preventable or treatable if caught early. This year, share the following tips with dad from the Prostate Cancer Education Council, a national nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness on prostate cancer and men's health (www.prostateconditions.org). It just might help keep him happy, healthy and celebrating many more Father's Days for years to come.

Heart Disease: The number one cause of death in American men, dad's risk can be reduced by making healthier lifestyle choices and taking care of conditions that can increase his risk of heart disease including high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. Encourage dad to eat right, maintain a healthy weight, give up smoking, and get regular check ups (blood pressure, cholesterol, etc.).

Cancer: Early detection is imperative to fight this cause of death among men. Screenings have been shown to be effective in finding cancer early particularly for prostate cancer. Often treat-

able if detected early, there are frequently no signs or symptoms of the disease at its earliest stages making screening essential to save lives. If dad is 45 years or older or 40 years of age with high risk factors, the Prostate Cancer Education Council advises that dad keep screening on his yearly to-do list.

Accidental Injuries: Motor vehicle, poisoning, falls and drowning accidents are among those most common causes of fatal unintentional injury to men. While accidents can happen any time, we need to encourage dad to take safety measures whether driving, at home or in the workplace.

Stroke: While nearly three-quarters of all strokes occur in people over age 65, they can and do occur at any age. While you can't control some stroke risk factors such as family history, age and race, you can encourage dad to control the leading cause, high blood pressure, as well as other contributing factors such as smoking and diabetes.

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease: Refers to ongoing diseases that affect the lower respiratory tract including the lungs. One of the most serious and prevalent forms is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. The main cause of COPD is smoking and men who smoke are 12 times as likely to die of COPD compared to men who've never smoked. This year, help Dad quit smoking, avoid second hand smoke and minimize exposure to workplace chemicals to reduce his risk for COPD.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE

Allergies lecture

Natural Solutions To Allergies 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 3rd floor, 32777 Five Mile, between Merriman & Farmington Rds. Guest speaker, Dr. William H. Karl, D.C. No charge but seating is limited. Call (734) 425-8588 to register.

People's medical college

Stay Hip and Active presentation on Birmingham Hip Resurfacing System June 21, at MSU Management Center, 811 W. Square Lake Rd., Troy. Pre-registration required. Call (888) DMC-2500 or visit www.dmc.org/peoplemedicalcollege.

Golf benefit

The 2008 Gray's Reef Golf Classic that raises money each year for Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF) is scheduled for Monday, June 23, at Oakland University, Rochester Hills with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, the day includes continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch at Meadowbrook Hall, open bar, silent auction, prizes and dinner. For more information or to register for the Grays Reef Golf Classic, call (248) 353-8222 or visit www.leukemiamichigan.org.

Win the weight game

An alternative to dieting will be presented 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at the Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. Fee is \$24. Through this program, participants learn how to develop a moderate approach to eating and exercise and acquire skills to be trim and healthy for a lifetime. To register, call (248) 644-5832. For more information, call (248) 828-7333 or visit www.thinktrim.com.

com.

Volunteers needed

For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29 to July 3), at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, northwest of Kalamazoo. Volunteer training from experts on epilepsy and camp procedures Saturday, June 28. Free room/board.

For information/application, visit www.epilepsymichigan.org, call (800) 377-6226, option 1, Ext. 231 or send e-mail to sdar-roch@epilepsymichigan.org

UPCOMING

Summer camp

The Health Exploration Station at St. Joseph Mercy Health Center in Canton brings back its Amazing Me camp to teach second to four grade students about the human body and how to keep it healthy 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4-8. Cost \$169. For information, call (734) 398-7518.

Active older adults workshop

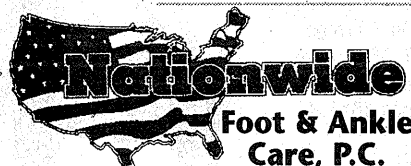
Learn about issues such as medical considerations, orthopedic concerns and the normal effects of aging on exercise and health 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. To register, call Julie Burt at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.netaffit.org.

Vinyasa yoga

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17, Vinyasa yoga blends strength and flexibility training emphasizing power, precision, timing, grace and coordination, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. To register, call Julie Burt at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.netaffit.org.

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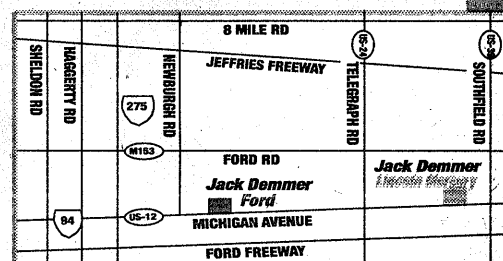
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One theory on how the mind works

Years ago, I found myself in my first brain cutting class at U-M's Neuropsychology Department. I found that slicing the brain was like cutting into a substance such as meatloaf. It seemed rather fragile. The instructor pointed out the frontal lobe, the temporal lobe, etc., but I wondered, and asked naively, "Where is the mind?"

The instructor taught me that the mind is what the brain does. He used the analogy that the mind is to the brain as breathing is to the lungs. The mind and breathing are the functions of the brain and the lungs, respectively. One cannot see either, except on a cold day when one exhales and proclaims, "I can see my breath." But no such luck on the visibility of the mind, cold day or otherwise.

Sigmund Freud has often been misquoted and thus misunderstood in the translations of his volumes of writings from German to English. However, he originated, by observing people reveal their thoughts to him without reservation (free association), a theory of what the mind is and how it works.

Freud postulated that the mind is made up of two general areas. These are the conscious and the unconscious. The first is what we are aware of at any given moment.

The latter is what we are unaware of and is similar to a hidden storage area where memories, thoughts, feelings and experiences are stored from birth onward.

Freud further wrote that there are three main components to the conscious and unconscious.

These were termed the id, the ego and the super ego (although he never used these words, mistranslations have left us with them). Actually you could call them anything, even X, Y and Z. Now, what follows below is a very oversimplified explanation of very complex phenomena, since the brain/mind is arguably the most complex thing we know of that exists in our universe, perhaps, with one exception — that being our soul.

The id is likened to an energy source of basic instincts, drives and motivations of which we are unaware. The ego can be thought of as the rational part of the mind which helps tame impulses and gives us resources such as memory, reason and the ability to learn and become socialized.

The super ego (or conscience) is a source of parental and/or societal regulation which the ego and id use to determine right from wrong or moral from immoral.

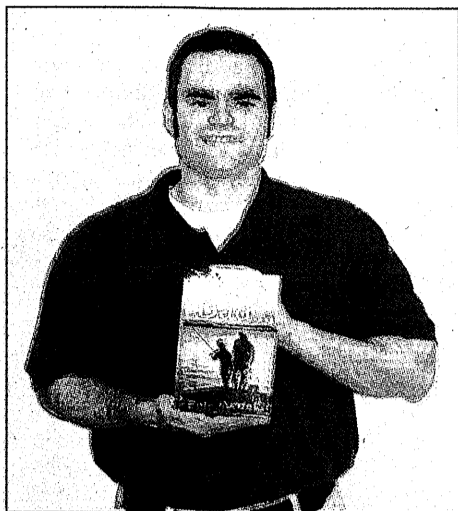
When Freud was asked to define mental health, he said it was a balance of these three parts of the mind so as to allow a person relative satisfaction/success in the worlds of work and love. Mental disorder then is the product of trauma and/or other experiences which leads to an imbalance. This usually shows itself as conflict and disturbance of thoughts, feelings and behavior.

Psychoanalytic treatment was created by Freud to be a method of education of one's self, with the aid of an analytic therapist to understand how one's mind works, what its "parts" are and how to use this self-knowledge to resolve disorders of thought, feeling and behavior which lead to emotional suffering.

So, back to my brain cutting class. Although I could not have my instructor show me, in physical form, the location of the human mind and its theoretical divisions of conscious and unconscious, id, ego and super ego, I was able to accept the abstract existence and conceptual nature of the human mind and, thus, of mental health and illness. It made more sense after lengthy, further study and also seemed to explain how other theoretical frameworks which are non-analytic work.

It has been said that you can't repair something without understanding how it works and how it was injured. So, you see, this analytic theory of the mind gives us an invaluable framework or guideline upon which we can fall back on in our understanding of this most complex part of us: how our mind works, how it gets hurt and how it is subject to the forces of disorganization and the restorative process of reorganization.

Len McCulloch is a diplomate of The American Psychotherapy Association, and credentialed in mental health, substance abuse, brain injury and social work. His monthly column "Our Mental Health," is in its seventh year with the Observer & Eccentric and other publications. He can be reached about his writing at (248) 476-9329.



Eric Tomei lists hundreds of reasons for missing his dad in a new book.

Father's Day brings back memories of life lessons

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eric Tomei is especially looking forward to continuing his tradition of paying tribute to his late father by competing in the Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run which raises money for scholarships for kids.

This year is extra special because he's sharing all the lessons learned from his dad in a new book. Tomei never mentions the name of his father in *I Miss My Dad*. He wants readers to relate to the words of wisdom as if they'd heard them from their loved one. Dads from Farmington Hills to Birmingham seem to spout the same type of rhetoric like "the only person who can make you happy is yourself."

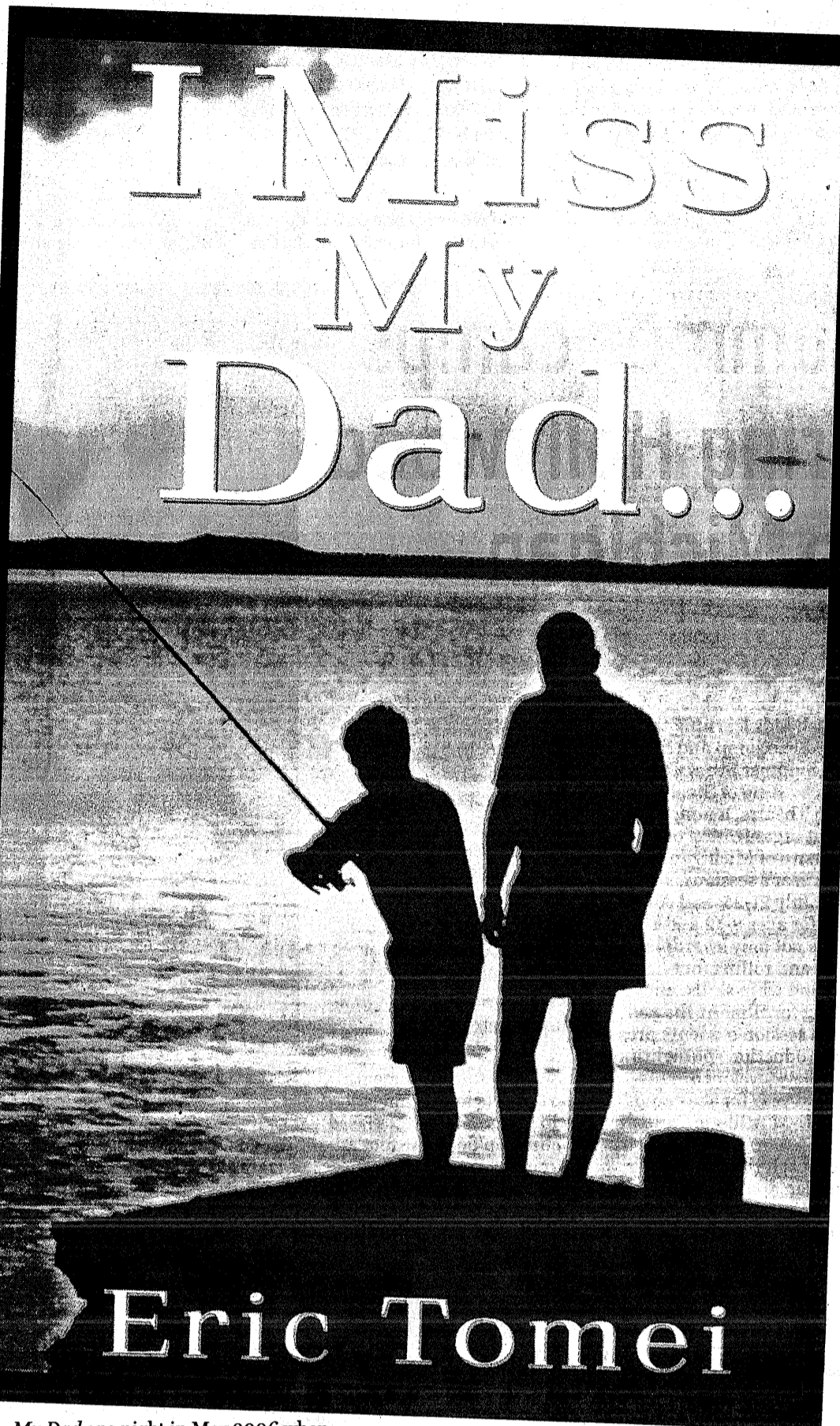
Tomei grew up in Canton and eventually went on to become a physical therapist. Today the 32-year-old Rochester man is giving back just as his father did. The two began volunteering together for Habitat for Humanity about 20 years ago. Fifteen percent from the \$15 price of the self-published book goes to the nonprofit to build houses for those in need. Tomei set a goal to raise \$1 million.

"Habitat for Humanity was my dad's favorite charity. He volunteered about every other year. When he retired from his engineering job in Westland he was going to help more. I can't think of a better way to honor his memory than to raise a lot of money for a charity he loved," said Tomei. "The greatest lesson I learned from my dad was always try to do the right thing, always try to genuinely help people. It doesn't take any more effort to have a big dream than a small dream. I've calculated the exact amount of books I need to sell to meet that goal, 444,445 books."

Even the cause of his father's death has inspired Tomei. His dad died from a heart attack due to advanced cardiovascular disease at age 57 leaving behind his wife of 36 years and Tomei and his two sisters. Tomei uses the foreword of the book to remind dads to go to the doctor for a checkup and to take care of themselves. Tomei's dad had annual physical exams but never exercised and had "irregular eating habits."

"It is an important part of the book for me. If it can impact one person's life then it's an accomplishment for me," said Tomei, who graduated in 1993 from Plymouth Canton High School.

This is Tomei's first book. In elementary school he always came in last in young author competitions and vowed one day he would write a book. Tomei started writing *I Miss*



My Dad one night in May 2006 when couldn't sleep and decided to take a pen and notebook and write all the constructive ways his father influenced his life. It was a way of coming to terms with the loss.

"I really miss my dad. He loved to build things, loved to work outside. He loved to build structures," said Tomei. "I want to carry out that legacy. It's important for me to make sure that legacy continues."

On Tuesday, Jim St. Louis and Paul Bersche were reminiscing about their fathers just before lunch at Big Apple Bagels in downtown Farmington. They have passed on lessons learned from their dads to their children.

"My dad taught us to love God, one another and our mom was the queen of the household," said Bersche of Farmington Hills. Bersche was one of four sons. His father died 34 years ago. "He taught us love and respect, obedience, the value of following authority. We worked hard together and played hard together. All of the sons were athletes. He had been an athlete. We played golf together. That's where all the conversations took place, lessons of life, plans for the future."

St. Louis still remembers the road trip he took with his father many years ago when the family moved from Florida to Michigan. His father had sent St. Louis's mom and sisters ahead.

"He taught me the value of family. He was a strong leader but shared the role equally with my mom," said St. Louis, who learned to fish from his father who died 24 years ago. St. Louis, a Farmington Hills resident, will spend Father's Day fishing in Copper Harbor.

Charlotte O'Hare is looking forward to doing all the things she likes to do with her dad Thomas on Father's Day. The 4-year-old little girl and her father were visiting his mother who lives in Farmington. The father and daughter duo live in Hemmingford, Quebec.

"I like to catch turtles and butterflies and ride bikes and jump on the trampoline," said Charlotte.

Thomas said it takes a lot of energy to be a single dad. That's one of the lessons he's learning the hard way.

"It takes sleep deprivation and endless patience when you're tired," said Thomas Hemmingford as he swooped the love of his life into his arms and headed for one of the stores in downtown Farmington.

I Miss My Dad is available at www.lostdad-sclub.com.

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Gardens provide plenty of inspiration

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Big White opens his big mouth the minute he sees Bernie Kaselmas coming with his strawberry fishy treats. The two-foot long koi is not alone. About 70 of the colorful creatures rise to the top of the pond, one of three in the Livonia backyard designed and tended by Kaselmas and Rose Carpenter. The couple has been working on this peaceful oasis since moving into their home in 1990. It is one of seven gardens on a walk to raise funds for the restoration and preservation of Greenmead Historical Park Saturday, June 21.

In 1997, Kaselmas and Carpenter won the *Detroit Free Press* competition for the Most Beautiful Backyard. Humans aren't the only ones who find the garden attractive. Until two weeks ago the koi pond

was covered with net to discourage the Great Blue Heron who likes to dine there. Yard art scattered throughout the 100-by-200-foot lot is whimsical but serves a purpose. A giant Nemo fish swimming above another pond keeps the ducks out.

"This is the cottage I don't have Up North," said Carpenter. "It's so relaxing just to come back here."

The couple doesn't spend much time sitting though. Every evening after returning from their Electronics Connection business in Westland, the two work in the garden pulling weeds and thinning plants. One pond is filled with water hyacinths which filter the water but can become invasive over the summer.

"We try to do everything as naturally as possible, earth friendly," said



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Dixon of Livonia talks about his backyard garden which will be part of the upcoming Garden Walk to benefit Greenmead Historical Park.

Please see GARDENS, C3

Benefit a chance to view fireworks high above the river

LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jim Vella couldn't be more excited about catching the fireworks with Cass Community Social Services Monday, June 23, at Coach Insignia on the 71st and 72nd floors of the Renaissance Center in Detroit. Not only does the event provide a great view of the international spectacular with more than 10,000 pyrotechnic effects, but raises money for the non-profit that provides food, housing and medical services for those in need.

"It's a great place to watch the fireworks protected from the weather

CATCH THE FIREWORKS WITH CASS

What: A fun evening with fireworks, gourmet food, and silent and live auctions to benefit Cass Community Social Services

When: 6 p.m. Monday, June 23

Where: Coach Insignia on floors 71 and 72 of the Renaissance Center, Detroit

Tickets: \$250. Call (313) 883-2277 or visit www.casscommunity.org

and whatever else comes along, a great venue for watching the fire-

works on the river," said Vella, a Canton resident who's co-chairing the benefit this year with Andrea Long.

Vella is also president of the Ford Motor Co. fund, one of the sponsors of the fun evening. Vella leads all philanthropic and community service-related activities including coordinating volunteer efforts by Ford employees and all activities of the Ford Motor Co. Fund, a separate philanthropic organization funded mainly by Ford Motor Co. profits.

"The Ford fund supports a lot of organizations in and around south-eastern Michigan. Especially in these

difficult times the need is growing," said Vella. "Cass Community Social Services not only help folks with basic needs but to get back on their feet. In the next 6 to 8 weeks they're turning an abandoned apartment building into homes for homeless moms and their children and trains them to get a job and get back on their feet."

In addition to the gourmet strolling dinner with open bar and fabulous desserts the event includes silent and live auction items to raise money. Vella grew up in southwest Detroit near Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and believes his charitable work is a way of giving

back which he does regularly by serving on the boards of the Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Institute, New Detroit and Detroit Renaissance, Detroit Public Television, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, The Henry Ford Academy, University of Michigan-Dearborn, and the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor.

"It's also a good way to be a role model for the younger generation," said Vella. "Some day one of the them will be in my chair."

lchomin@hometownlife.com

Summer camps bring Hollywood to Michigan

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christopher Barbeau loves to watch kids learning the right way to jump and fall at the Summer Stunt Camp put on by Ring of Steel Action Theatre, a nonprofit student organization of the University of Michigan.

This year's sessions, June 23-27, July 21-25, and Aug. 25-29 for ages 8-12 and 12-18 include not only swordplay, falling and rolling, but light saber and whip skills, and fighting for film. At the end of each session students present a production spotlighting skills they developed. This is the third year for the camps on the U-M Athletic Campus in Ann Arbor.

"We teach them how real stunt men do it for the movies, how gymnastically you maneuver your body and learn to land in a relaxed and safe fashion to protect your neck and back," said Barbeau. "We're using pro-

SUMMER STUNT CAMPS

What: Learn the secrets of Hollywood stunts and film making at camps by Ring of Steel Action Theatre

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 23-27, July 21-25, and Aug. 25-29

Where: Student Theatre Arts Complex, University of Michigan Athletic Campus, Ann Arbor

Cost: \$275 for first child, \$225 for each additional child. Call (734) 320-1147, send e-mail to rosteel@umich.edu or visit www.ringofsteel.org/camp/.

fessional stunt equipment, martial arts and gymnastics techniques. Kids even scared to climb up do it one foot at a time."

Barbeau, 45, is the lead instructor of Ring of Steel which he founded in 1989 as a U-M student. He is a 35 year veteran of theater work and stunt coordinator for the Michigan Opera Theatre,



Kids learn all about safe sword play at stunt camps put on by Ring of Steel.

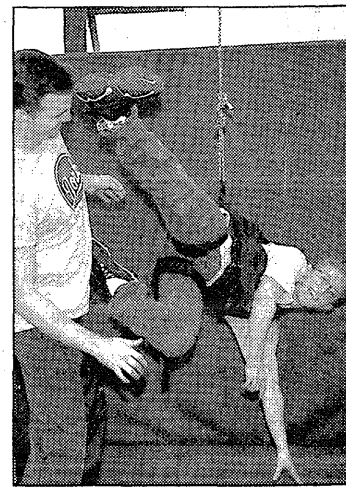
Toledo Opera, Michigan Classical Repertory Theater, and Village Shakespeare Festival. He has performed at the Michigan Renaissance Festival since it was founded in 1980 and was fight director for 4 years. In total Barbeau has choreographed more than 350 different shows and 13 feature films, holds a third degree black belt in aikido, and has multiple black belts in different martial arts. Barbeau first became interested in theater when he took fencing and martial arts as a student of The Roeper School in

Bloomfield Hills. "By studying theater and martial arts I can create a safe and effective story of fighting that appears to the audience they're fighting but no one ever hits the person for real especially if it's a \$25 million dollar actor," said Barbeau who's "very excited about all the tax incentives that just passed to bring movies to Michigan."

In anticipation of the industry's arrival, Barbeau is adding a Stunt Film Camp which coincides with the July and August camps. It is only for ages 12-18.

"We're teaching young movie maker wannabes how to film action and work with kids in other camps to learn how to use professional equipment like jibs and steadicams, a harness arrangement to hold camera steady even if you're running," said Barbeau. "They'll work with Hollywood film maker Brian Thompson who worked for Fox Studios for 11 years. A Michigan native as well, he's bringing his skills back to Michigan. They'll learn about sound and lights and camera work to tell the story."

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A harness was used to teach kids wire work at last year's Ring of Steel summer stunt camp. Actors use the devices to fly in productions ranging from 'Peter Pan' to 'Superman.' Stunt men create illusions of surviving explosions.

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Usually, after decreasing your medication, the doctor waits from one to 3 months before concluding whether or not the lower dose suffices. If you continue to do well, then further cuts in dosage are in order. Eventually, you learn from experience whether your arthritis has resolved so you need no medication, or your condition has improved bringing the reward of a lower dose of medication.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bernie Kaselmas and Rose Carpenter enjoy the gardens and ponds behind their Livonia home.

Cultural center to host tango and Finnish dance Friday

The Finnish Cultural Center presents an Argentine Tango and Finnish Dance on Friday, June 20, following a fish fry at the center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. The fish fry begins at 5 p.m. and runs to 7 p.m. with dancing afterwards. The cost is \$20. Music is live and recorded. Instruction and demonstration available. For reservations and information, call (248) 478-6939 or visit www.finnishcenter.org.

GARDENS

FROM PAGE A1

Carpenter. "We were green before green was in. Tadpoles eat the ants. We have no mosquitoes because fish eat them. We use coffee grounds around plants."

"You learn a lot of stuff over the years by trial and error," said Kaselmas.

James Dixon says he doesn't think his garden is ever going to be done. He began working on his back yard in 1993. The large park-like area contained only two spruce trees and a viburnum bush back then. Today two ponds and a waterfall offer a place to rest under the towering spruce.

"I saw a space but the trees were to the ground and space wasted and I reclaimed the area," said Dixon, who does most of the gardening. His wife spends her time painting watercolors.

"I like the way it's coming now. I just keep working on it."

Over the years, Dixon has added 53 trees. Plantings come and go. Last winter, he lost eight roses and needs to replace the bushes. Dixon credits Crimboli Nursery in Canton for not only providing all of the greenery but advice. He makes use of every inch of space. Tomato plants grow between the young evergreens. Another area boasts pots of petunias and herbs. Dixon loves to cook almost as much as he loves to garden. When he isn't working in his Michigan garden, Dixon tends his son's tropical plants in Florida.

Janet Bennett invited Dixon to be on the Livonia walk because she likes the paths, rocks and plantings scattered throughout the back yard. The Kaselmas and Carpenter garden was on the walk in 1997 and has literally grown into a northern retreat.

"We have some pretty yards,"

said Bennett, president of Friends for the Development of Greenmead which hosts the walk. "One in Rosedale is very charming. One started a garden in front because she didn't like mowing down into the ditch so she planted orange day lilies and then began expanding year after year. Another woman dug her own fish pond. There's some really interesting places to see."

"I'm especially excited because shortly after the walk we are going to have a luncheon and present our check for \$25,000 (from the Friends for the Development of Greenmead) for the restoration of the old Hill House. We also contributed \$1,000 to Greenmead recently for the purchase of trees and landscaping."

The Greenmead gardens will also be on the walk.

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Dr. Yasser Awaad is a pediatric neurologist who was employed by Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. until 2007. Since Dr. Awaad left Oakwood, the law offices of Benner & Foran have been retained by a large number of parents who believe their children were misdiagnosed with epilepsy and/or seizures by Dr. Awaad. If you think your child or children may have been misdiagnosed with epilepsy/seizures by Dr. Yasser Awaad, please contact the law offices of Benner & Foran for a free, no obligation consultation.

Toll Free: 1-866-737-5544



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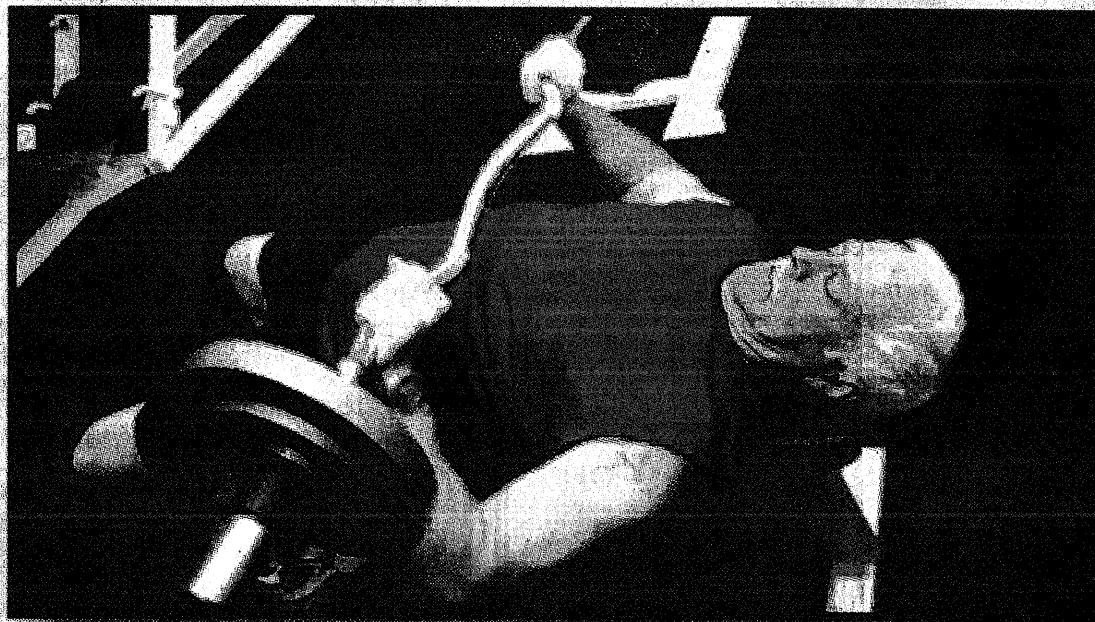
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AROUND TOWN

Band reunion barbecue

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band and Music Boosters are hosting the "PCMB All Decades Alumni Reunion Picnic & BBQ" for current student members and parents, alumni, staff, former boosters, etc., Saturday, June 21, at Canton's Summit on the Park Amphitheatre in Heritage Park. Any student or parent who has participated in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park music programs or marched with the award-winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, is invited to attend the weekend event. Registration is required. The picnic and barbecue is scheduled noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 21. A golf outing is also being planned for Sunday, June 22. Registration for the picnic is required. For more information and to register, visit www.pcmb.net and click on the alumni picnic link. For more information, call Chris Hensel, Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters Alumni Rep, (313) 268-2098 or e-mail alumni BBO coordinators Lee Bonner at bonner_lee@yahoo.com or Bryan Thomas at bryan.thomas91@yahoo.com

Growth Works golf

Golfers representing youth agencies and local businesses will join the Board, staff and friends of Growth Works on the links of the Northville Hills Golf Club June 23 for the 10th annual golf outing. Serving Western Wayne County and surrounding communities since 1971, GWI will use proceeds to provide substance use treatment and a range of prevention, diversion and support services for at-risk youth and their families. Last year, the event raised more than \$9,000 to continue to provide services at no or low cost. The 18-hole scramble will kick off with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for Men's and Women's Longest Drives, Closest to the Pin and a Las Vegas hole. Finlan Insurance Agency is returning to offer major prizes for the Hole in One. Golfers will receive a Cutter & Buck premium golf shirt, have lunch at the turn and attend an early banquet dinner where everyone will end their day with a gift and a sense of community. Interested players, duos and foursomes are invited to join us for a fantastic day of fun, festivities and fund raising for a good cause. Contributions by non-golfers are welcome and appreciated. Tee Sign/Hole sponsorship is \$100. Please call for corporate or family sponsorship options. For registration information, contact Cristy Cardinal or Judi Matouka at (734) 455-4095, or send an e-mail to mail@growth-works.org

HVA 911 camps

Huron Valley Ambulance conducts its free two-day annual Camp 9-1-1 day camps for 8- to 12-year-olds at two locations in western Wayne County, where space has been donated. All camps are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days.

The camp is scheduled July 17-18 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth, and July 10-11 at the Michigan Boathouse at Belleville Lake, 50745 Van Buren Park in Belleville.

The day camp's activities include touring an ambulance, learning CPR, and visiting a local emergency room. HVA Paramedics and EMTs serve as "camp counselors," teaching campers about safety at home and at play, how to perform lifesaving skills on injured victims, and all about Emergency Services careers. Registration is first-come, first-served and enrollment is limited to 30 participants. There are limited spaces available.

For a registration form or more information, call Jason Trojan, Camp 9-1-1 Coordinator, at (734) 477-6781 or e-mail him at jtrojan@hva.org

Girl Scout camp

Space is still available in day camp or overnight camp for girls ages 5-17 at Camp Linden, the premier camp property of Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council.

Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council has a variety of exciting programs at Camp Linden, 400 minimally developed acres of woodland in northern Livingston County. Kayaking, swimming, exploring nature, sports, horseback riding and arts and crafts - all these experiences and more await girls at Camp Linden this summer.

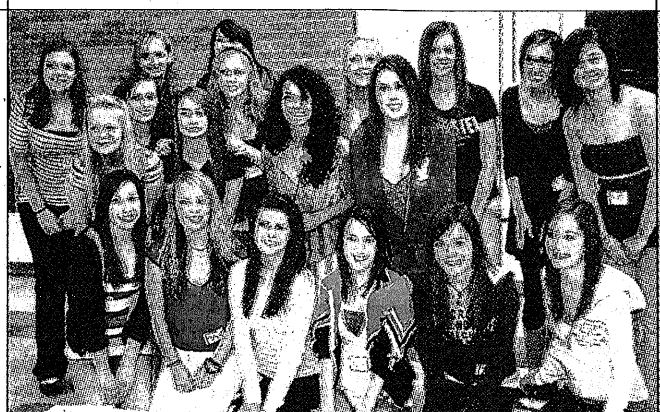
All girls can attend, whether they have been Girl Scouts or not. To enroll your daughter today, call (800) 49-SCOUT.

Veterans benefit

A "Tribute to Dean Martin and Steve London" with music by Sweet Tracks will be presented 6-10 p.m. Friday, June 13, at AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Cocktails will be served 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the show 8-10 p.m. There also will be an open bar 6-11 p.m. Only 140 tickets to be sold. They cost \$25 each and are available in the post lounge. The money raised will benefit homeless and hospitalized veterans. For more information, call (734) 721-9440.

Learn to go Beyond War

The Livonia-based Citizens for Peace, which covers the entire 11th District, invites residents the chance to join in study-discussion groups on the topic,



Junior varsity spirit

The Canton High School Chieftettes recently held auditions, and these are the girls who made the squad: (back, from left) Sarah Dean, Rylie Miller, Allie Stephens, Kirsten Holland, Jessica Goodbred, Kristen Hollingsworth, Maggie Kokoszka; (middle) Ashley Garvin, Mikayla Schnettler, Abby Rice, Samantha Juback, Julia Beydoun, Kayla Channell; and (front) Renee Janisse, Kara Bureau, Rachael Martin, Lindsey Mason, Melissa Webster, Nicole Webster.

Beyond War, during its June and July meetings. Using a study guide, the topic will be discussed in four group sessions each meeting. The June meeting will include social change; how to talk to people who think war is a good idea or inevitable; war is obsolete; and the concept that we all live on one planet. In July, the topics focus on alternatives to war, such as nonviolent conflict resolution processes and appropriate humanitarian foreign aid; international law and cooperation between nations; practical experience about what people and nations can do instead of war; and applying effective advocacy. Citizens for Peace meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Unity of Livonia, located on Five mile road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. A small donation is requested for the use of the church facilities. For details, contact Colleen Mills at 734-425-0079.

Academic Pathways enrollment

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, located at 30330 Schoolcraft in Livonia is currently enrolling for the 2008-2009 school year. Morning class sessions for 3- and 4-year-olds are available. Potty training is not required. Four-year-old class runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; three-year-old class runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. More information can be found at the school's Web site www.academicpathwayspreschool.com or call (734) 261-9540.

Gardeners meet

The Gardeners of Northville and 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

Heartland Hospice

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

Card party/luncheon

Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon to 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.

Literacy Council tutors

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

Toastmasters meet

Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.




Grief support

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

Post Polio Clinic


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

It's time for a little mom talk.






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- Mom-to-mom discussions
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SPOTLIGHT ON:

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH



Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

Imagine if all it took to prevent tooth decay in your children was to "convince" them to eat lollipops? This may not be as farfetched as it sounds. In fact, a professor with joint appointments in UCLA's dental and medical schools recently documented the benefits of diligent laboratory work when he and his team identified the natural ingredient found in licorice that kills the primary bacterium (*Streptococcus mutans*) that causes tooth decay. He then incorporated this agent into sugar-free, orange-flavored herbal lollipops that taste good enough for kids to lick them willingly. By eating the recommended two lollipops a day for ten days four times per year, the doctor hopes to greatly reduce tooth decay in children.

Even with the numerous, innovative dental products, techniques, and equipment on the market today, you can't escape it—daily brushing and flossing remain at the cornerstone of good oral hygiene. These two elements of dental care will help ensure that your professional dental visits will be shorter, more comfortable, and less costly than if routine maintenance is ignored.

New patients are always welcome here at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.** Please call **734-453-9413** for an appointment. We are located one block East of Kellogg Park.

P.S. Nearly four out of five children get a cavity by age 17.

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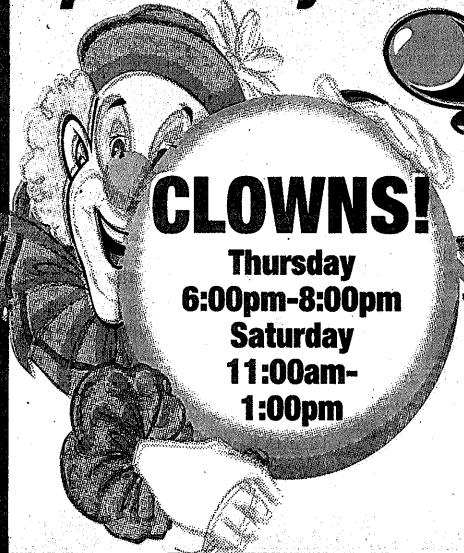
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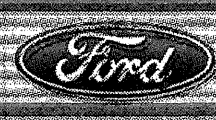
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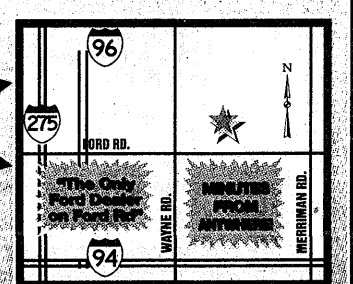
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New Homes

D (M)
Sunday, June 15, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Advertising Feature

Wow, New Homes With Unbelievable Features Starting In The \$140's

Danny Veri couldn't believe it when he crunched the numbers and saw a family with a household income of about \$40,000 could move into a home in Brookfield Estates.

"This is just and incredible value," said Veri, a partner in Livonia Builders who teamed up with Tim Breault of Breault Homes to build the "neighborhood within a neighborhood" bounded by John Hix and Cherry Hill in Westland.

Brookfield Estates consists of 63 homes with 3 available floor plans starting in the \$140,000's.

"We set out to build affordable housing with exceptional standard features and people are responding. In just over 16 months we have sold over 100 homes in our communities with these features."

The Baymont, a colonial, measures 1250 square feet

and boasts 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a great room, and a second floor laundry for only \$149,900. You can add a master bath for only \$5000 more.

The Regency is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with a formal dining room, a great room, a first floor laundry, and starts at just \$159,900.

The Brookstone is a 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath open floor plan that is just under 1700 sq. ft. at \$169,900. Each home has an attached 2 car garage and a full basement. The average lot size in Brookfield Estates is 60x120. Larger and wooded lots are available.

Veri said buyers can choose from many different elevations for the colonials.

Buyers will be even more amazed at the homes' affordability when they see the upgrades Livonia Builders and Breault Homes include as standard features.

Guests are welcomed into the foyer by oak floors which are also used in the kitchen and nook. Granite countertops, Merillat cabinets, a designer faucet, and undermount double bowl stainless steel sink comprise just some of the kitchen's amenities.

The cabinetry and faucets are carried into the ceramic-tiled bathrooms with the powder rooms featuring a pedestal sink and oak floors.

12 x 12 Ceramic tile is also used in the laundry rooms and carpeting covers the great room, dining room, and bedrooms where ceiling lights illuminate the nighttime chambers.

Each room is surrounded by upgraded 4 inch thick baseboard moldings and 3-inch door casing moldings finish out the two-panel interior smooth finish doors.

The homes include a high efficiency Comfortmaker furnace, 13 SEER Comfortmaker air conditioning unit, a high-efficiency 40-gallon hot water tank, R44 ceiling insulation and a fireplace with gas logs.

Veri said the exterior is "100 percent maintenance free".

The ranch is completely brick as is the first floor of the two colonials. The second floor of the colonials is finished in vinyl siding. Overhangs on all three models are either aluminum or vinyl trim.

Pella vinyl windows with Low E glass, as well as glass block on the basement

windows finish each home.

Other accoutrements include a limestone address block, sodded yards, sidewalks, and city water and sewer.

Coach lights outside the garage and Owens-Corning 30-year dimensional shingles lend to the aesthetics as well.

"As you can see Livonia Builders & Breault Homes use namebrand, high quality features. Our floors are real oak, finished on site (not pre-finished flooring). Our windows are Pella, not a no-name brand that may be out of business before the warranty ends," said Veri.

An advantage to using Livonia Builders & Breault Homes are the financial stability of the companies. They are cash-strong and combined have been in business over 50 years. The buyers also get to deal directly with the owners of the companies through the whole building process, not superintendents or salespeople. "Our sales and construction process makes our buyers very comfortable. They know they are dealing directly with the owners of the building company."

Brookfield Estates is on the Canton border and very close to Ford Road shopping. It is in the Wayne/Westland school district and is nestled in Brookfield Village, an existing subdivision where home values range in the mid to upper \$200,000's, Veri said.

Ford Road is a mere mile

away and in close proximity is I-275 and local home improvement stores.

"It's a very welcoming neighborhood," he said. It is tucked away and embraced by deep woods and wetland area."

Veri said he can't get over the affordability of the homes.

"We worked on slim margins to keep working", he said "The main theme to this whole project was creating affordable housing with luxury features. With an hourly wage of \$19 per hour for household income, you can buy a house with all these features."

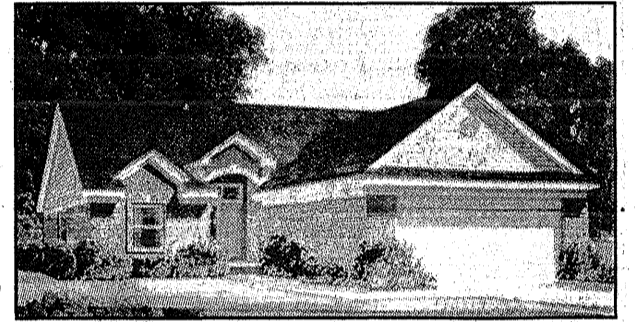
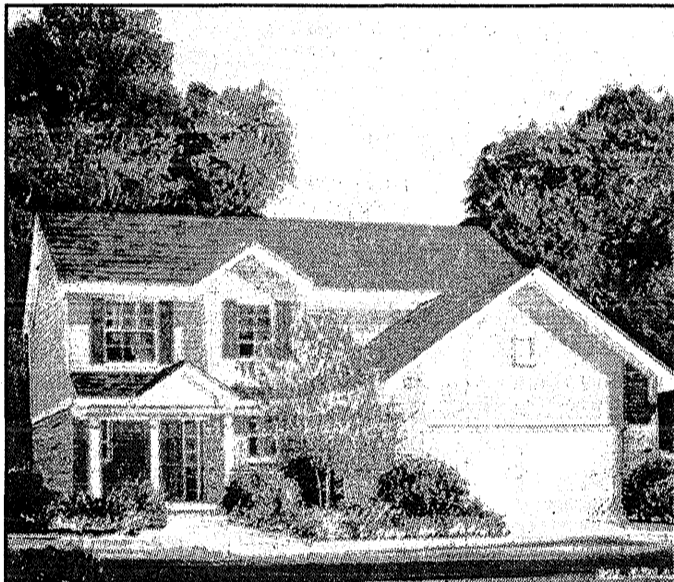
Veri worked with his in-house mortgage lender, Mortgage Concepts, and came up with a 5% down,

30-year fixed rate mortgage plan which includes taxes and insurance for about \$1200 a month.

"We even have a program that has no out-of-pocket closing costs," he said. "It's just a phenomenal deal for a first time home buyer or someone looking for more square footage."

Livonia Builders & Breault's model homes are open Saturdays & Sundays from 1-5pm, and Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 1-5pm.

Call Livonia Builders - Danny Veri for brochure info at (313) 586-2559 or (734) 397-9140, or email him at dannyveri@sbcglobal.net.



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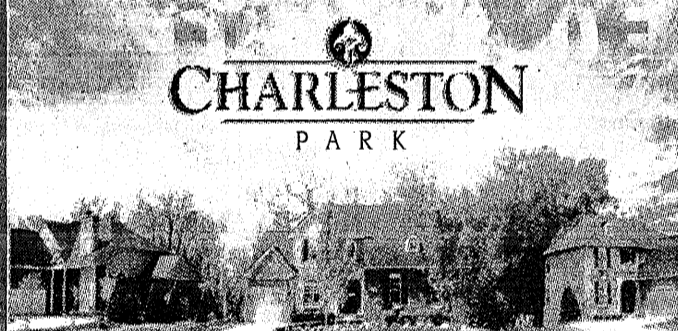
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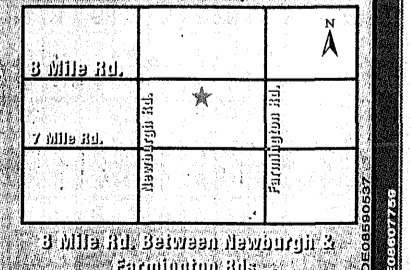
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\$20,671⁺ \$264³⁶ MO \$306³⁶ MO
\$1,505 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*

NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS LIMITED!



SYNC, leather, tilt, power windows & locks, heated power seat, AM/FM/CDX6/MP3, audiophile with subwoofer, remote start.

3 AT THIS PRICE - 81 AVAILABLE

BUY FOR \$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$21,045⁺ \$282³⁶ MO \$324³⁶ MO
\$1,524 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*

NEW 2008 FORD FUSION SE!



Featuring...automatic transmission, AM/FM/CD, power windows, and locks, speed control.

15 AT THIS PRICE - 172 AVAILABLE

BUY FOR \$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$16,402⁺ \$202³⁶ MO \$239³⁶ MO
\$1,345 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*

NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS X LIMITED!



AM/FM/CDX6/MP3, audiophile with subwoofer, leather, tilt wheel, power windows & locks, heated power seat, remote start, SYNC.

7 AT THIS PRICE - 42 AVAILABLE

BUY FOR \$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$24,079⁺ \$362³⁶ MO \$392³⁶ MO
\$1,594 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*

NEW 2008 FORD EXPLORER XLT!



Featuring...moonroof, Sirius satellite radio, power windows, locks & drivers seat, 3rd row seat, conv. group, speed control, remote start.

5 AT THIS PRICE - 106 AVAILABLE

BUY FOR \$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$17,899⁺ \$251³⁶ MO \$297³⁶ MO
\$1,671 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*

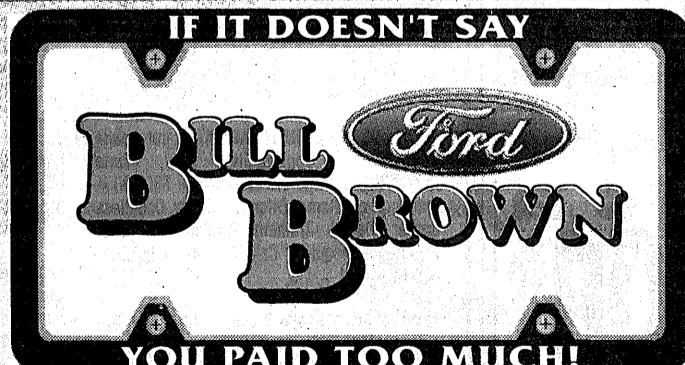
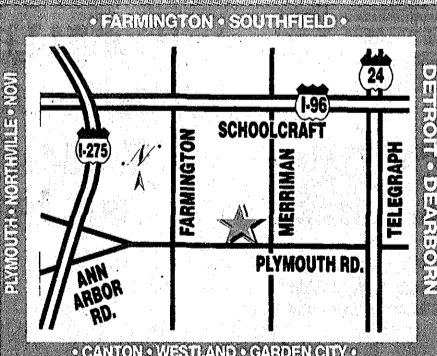
NEW 2008 FORD F150 4X4 XLT SUPERCAB!



Featuring...sliding rear window, power windows & locks, speed control, tilt, remote start, Tow & Go.

7 AT THIS PRICE - 181 AVAILABLE

BUY FOR \$1,000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$19,318⁺ \$270²⁴ MO \$336²⁴ MO
\$1,594 DUE AT DELIVERY* ALL FEES INCLUDED*



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We Will Waive Your Last Two Payments!

Leases due through October 1, 2008 are eligible for up to 2 payments! Regardless of where you leased your vehicle, bring it to Bill Brown Ford. Trade your vehicle now. Avoid or reduce OUT-OF-POCKET mileage and wear and tear charges.

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* All lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$900 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. All payments include acquisition fee, exclude tax and license fees. 10,500 miles per year. Security Deposit Waived. Buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 6-30-08. † Per 2007 dealer ranking for Ford Division.

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