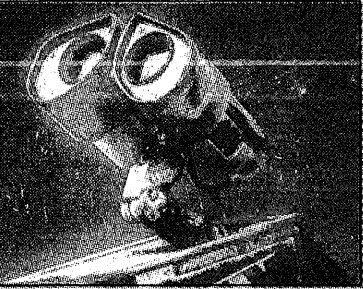


Reader Appreciation Day!

Win four tickets to see WALL•E the new Disney/Pixar film at the Emagine Theater in Canton or Novi on June 28. Go to www.hometownlife.com for details or turn to Page D2.



Spree 58

Special section is your guide to the Spree



PLYMOUTH Observer

SUNDAY
June 22, 2008

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Faye Farhat offers a sample reuben sandwich to Cory Rogers outside the Plymouth Super Center, where Fay's New York Deli & Grille is located.

New York, Plymouth-style

Deli aims to change idea of gas station cuisine

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Several hours a day Fay Farhat greets customers pumping their gas at the Plymouth SuperCenter on Ann Arbor Road, carrying a tray and inviting customers to try her New York deli-style sandwiches.

Farhat is hoping to change the stereotype of "gas station food" by handing out samples of sandwiches made at Fay's New York Deli & Grille, located inside the center.

"That's a New York sandwich, you don't get that anywhere like that around

here," said Farhat in her unmistakable New York accent as she passed out healthy-sized samples of her Reuben sandwich. "We do turkey Reubens, Philly steak sandwiches, mushroom steaks, hot and cold sandwiches and soups."

"I grew up in the deli all my life," she said. "In New York my family owned three on Long Island, and as a kid I'd always help out behind the counter, make sandwiches, do anything for my father."

Farhat's husband, Charlie, said they have to work hard at erasing the stereotype the main menu at gas stations mainly consists of hot dogs and pre-

packaged sandwiches.

"Here's the key, my wife pounds the pavement handing out the samples and gets people to try it," said Charlie Farhat. "If they like it, they look past it. Who would expect a Reuben to come out of a gas station unless you do what she's doing?"

So, what makes Fay's sandwiches so good?

"I've got a secret to every sandwich," she said. "And, I don't give it out."

Fay's New York Deli & Grille is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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

Slow going

Beating victim trying to recover from attack

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While the preliminary hearing for the individuals arrested in Mount Clemens for the attack that left him hospitalized was being adjourned Wednesday, Andy Kauffman was visiting his neurologist, hoping for news he'd made enough progress in his recovery to say he's on the right track.

The 30-year-old Kauffman is out of the hospital, but still facing a long row to hoe, according to his family, beginning with physical therapy.

"The family is very happy Andy can start his physical therapy," said Paula Weber, the mother of Kauffman's wife, Angela. "That's something they're looking forward to."

Meanwhile, the preliminary hearing for the suspects in his beating was held over until Monday. Johnny Allor, 17, Jemal Davidson, 16, and Deonte Williams were all being held in jail facing, among other things, attempted murder charges related to the beating, which took place on North River Road about midnight June 1. A brick was thrown through the window of the car being driven by Angela Kauffman. When Andy Kauffman got out to investigate, he was beaten by members of a mob gathered in the area.

"These are very serious allegations and if there's any truth to the allegations, they are a risk to the community," said Judge Sebastian Lucido of 41B District Court in Mount Clemens.

Kauffman, a self-employed carpenter whom his mother-in-law said is uninsured, is being cared for in one-on-one home care, Weber said. His three children are now out of school, and Angela Kauffman is taking care of her husband.

A fund was set up at TCF Bank to help the Kauffman family, but Weber said the fund has not been doing well. Anyone who wishes to contribute need only earmark their contribution to the Kauffman account at any TCF branch.

Also, some local businesses, including Brass & Iron Beds in downtown Plymouth, have begun taking up collections, and there's a fund-raiser scheduled for Plaza Lanes in Plymouth Friday, June 27.

Weber said she hopes the donations pick up.

"I know times are tough for everyone," she said. "Everyone has asked what they can do, but times are hard. (The sagging donations) are a clear statement of where everyone is financially."

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

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

City gives pay hikes for staff

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth City Commission has approved 3-percent pay increases for non-union city employees.

"We previously ratified union contract agreements with our various unions and they all call for a 3 percent increase in wages this year," said City Manager Paul Sincock to city commissioners Monday night. "The commission was adamant in changes in health care if there was to be any pay increases in our union groups. We made those changes and our insurance costs in this fiscal year dropped from nearly \$200,000 a month to \$74,000 a month on June

first. "We recommend we do the same (pay raises) for our non-union employees because they didn't get the opportunity to negotiate changes in health care, they just had it implemented," added Sincock.

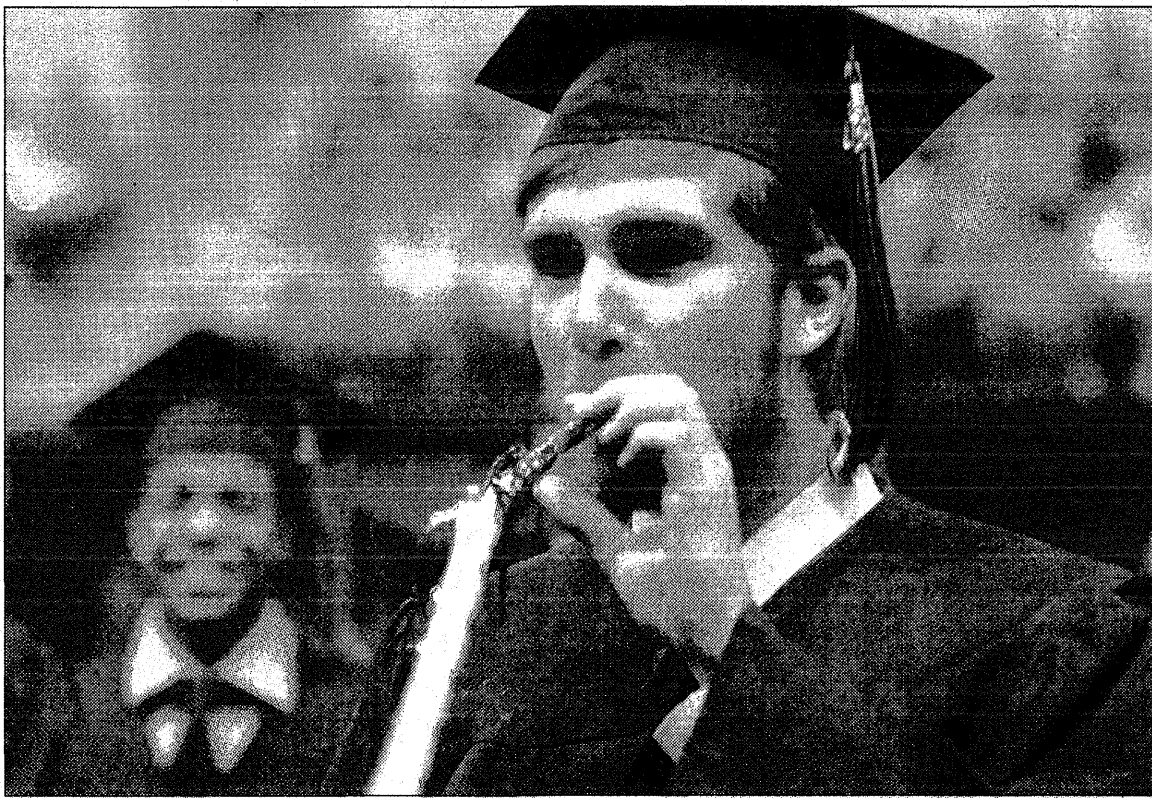
Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the pay increases, which Finance Director Mark Christiansen said would cost the city \$44,000 next year for 19 full-time and 11 part-time employees.

Of the city's 41 full-time employees, 22 belong to unions. They include 14 police officers and eight employees in the Municipal Services Department.

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

End of an era

It was party time for graduate Lucas Seibel and his fellow members of the Plymouth High School Class of 2008, who concluded their high school careers in a graduation ceremony at Eastern Michigan University. For a list of graduates, turn to Page A8; for more photos from the ceremony, go to our Web site at www.hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Volume 122
Number 88



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Coming Thursday in filter

SO MUCH FUN
Local filmmakers attract big attention, DTE goes green and organizers ready for the Huntington Woods Art Fair. Read about it all in the next issue of Filter on Thursday.



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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

Summer movie series

The Penn Theatre hosts the "Summer Cinema Matinee Series," through the end of August, with free passes available at Michigan Made & More and Westchester Barber Shop.

Sponsored by the Packaging Corporation of America and the Plymouth District Library, the schedule includes: June 26, Flipper; July 10, Hans Christian Andersen; July 17, Charlotte's Web; July 24, The Wizard of Oz; July 31, National Velvet; Aug. 7, Life Begins for Andy Hardy; Aug. 14, The Yearling; Aug. 21, Swiss Family Robinson; Aug. 28, The Muppet Movie.

Showtimes are at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; the box office opens 30 minutes before each showing; all seats \$3. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. For more information visit the theater's Web site at www.penntheatre.com or call (734) 453-0870.

Cox hours

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox will hold office hours on Wednesday, June 25, at the Northville District Library,

212 West Cady in Northville. Commissioner Cox will meet with constituents from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

"I will update citizens on the county's 2008-09 fiscal year budget, which the commission is currently reviewing and deliberating," said Cox, who represents the communities of Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville and Northville Township.

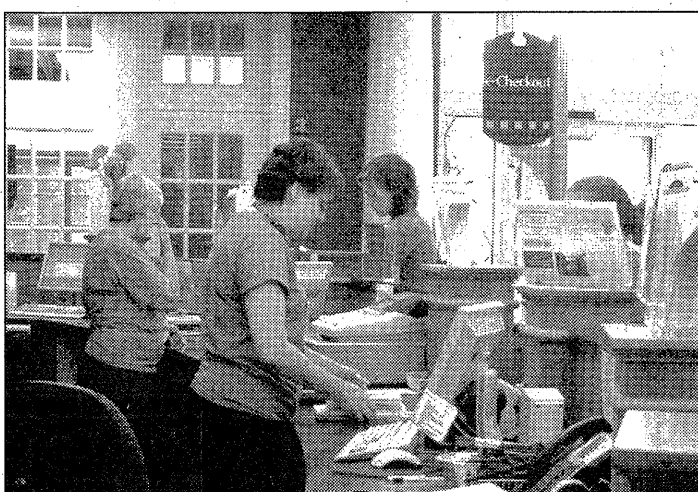
For more information, contact Jordyn Salmon in Cox's office at (313) 224-0946.

King Gemba exhibit

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

Call (734) 416-4278 for more information or click on www.plymoutharts.com



Reading is fundamental

Library staff members Judy Schnoes (left) and Pat Carter help patrons check out materials at the Plymouth District Library, where it was a busy first week of summer as various Summer Reading Programs kicked off. The library staff has created special programs to encourage reading among children, teens and adults.

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.

Radio operators ham it up in township demo

Thousands of Ham Radio operators will show off for local residents with a public demonstration of their emergency communications skills June 28-29 in Plymouth Township Park.

The Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society is inviting the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

Rockafellow Society spokesman John Ebejer pointed out over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies including the California wildfires, Oregon and Michigan storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide.

During Hurricane Katrina, he said, amateur radio - often called "Ham radio" - was "often the only way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer 'hams' traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications."

On the weekend of June 28-29, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capa-

bilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

The annual event, called "Field Day," is the climax of the week-long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country.

Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't!" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 34,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

There are 650,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's ARES program, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. For more information e-mail k8dls@wowway.com or call John Ebejer, (734) 420-1606.

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held at the Cultural Center to consider the following:

Due to remodeling of City Hall, the meeting will be held at the Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer. A notice is posted at City Hall that includes a map to the Cultural Center.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR:

Text amendments to the Sign Ordinance for political signs. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Published: Sunday, June 22, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008 6:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2008 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

* Application 1459, 15169 Northville Rd: The applicant is requesting a variance in minimum front yard setback (50) feet to (12) feet to build a 2-story office addition. Requested variance is (38) feet.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734-354-3210.

Published: June 22, 2008

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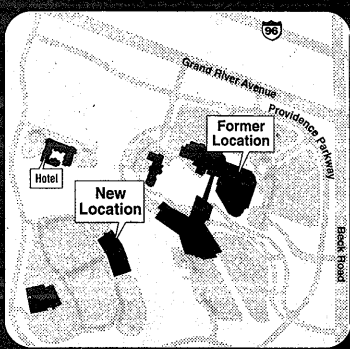
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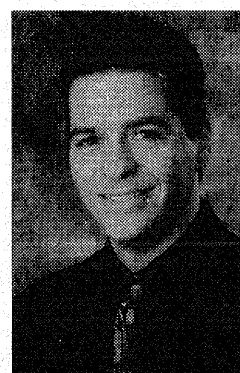
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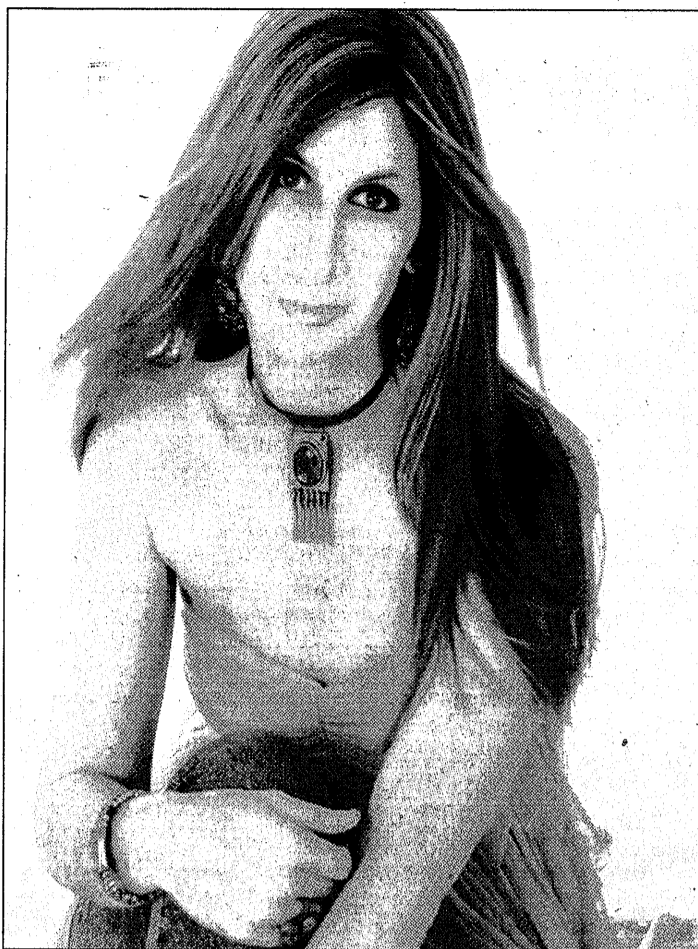
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Get relief from those nagging headaches now!



Gia Warner takes to the stage Friday at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Park.

Music in the Park

The Music in the Park "kid-die" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sponsored by Main Street Bank, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and Huron Valley Ambulance, takes to the Kellogg Park stage Wednesdays at noon.

- The schedule:
- June 25 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
 - July 2 - Beverly Meyer

Log on today.



ON STAGE

- July 9 - Gemini Drumworks
- July 16 - Like Water
- July 23 - Jan Krist
- July 30 - Zak Morgan
- Aug. 6 - elmoThumm
- Aug. 13 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
- Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends

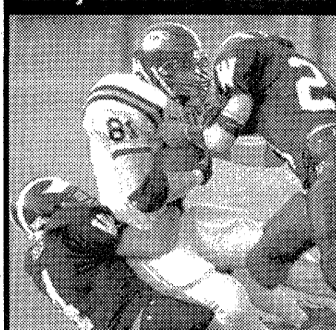
Downtown Development Authority and Blue Cross/Blue Shield:

- June 27: Gia Warner
- July 4: Steve King & the Dittilies
- July 18: Mass Transit Band
- July 25: Bluescasters
- Aug. 1: Paul King's Rhythm Society
- Aug. 8: Trilogy Band
- Aug. 15: Sean Riley Band
- Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse
- Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band

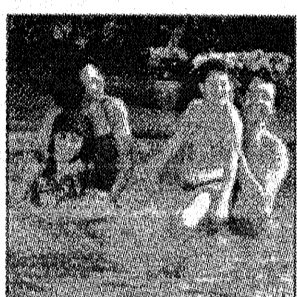
Music in the Air

Here's the schedule for the Music in the Air concert series, sponsored by the Plymouth

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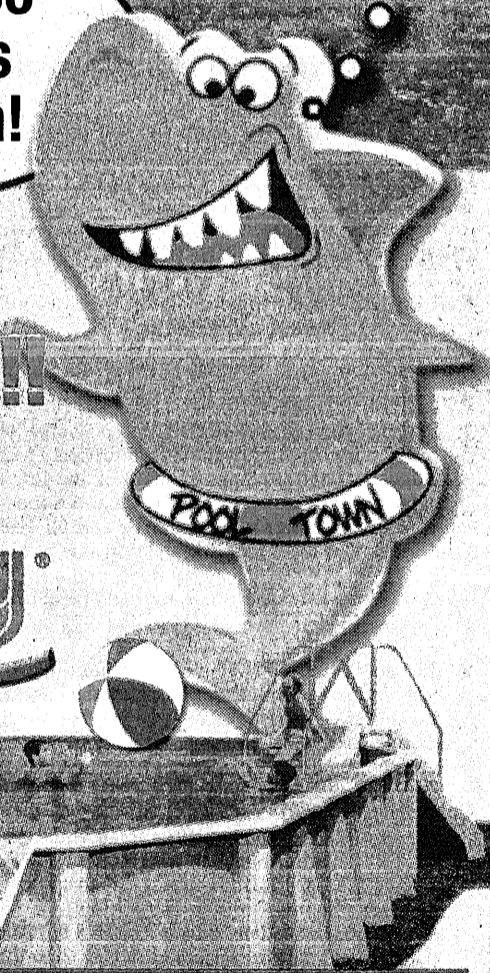
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Museum grant funds digital Lincoln story

The Plymouth Historical Museum used a \$5,000 grant it got from the Michigan Department of Education to put Central Middle School students to work.

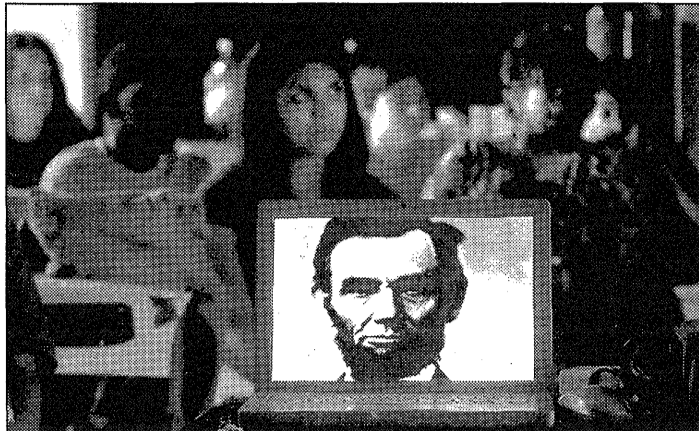
The grant was used to oversee a digital storybook about Abraham Lincoln involving Central Middle School students. According to Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the museum, the Plymouth Historical Society's prized Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Collection helped the project land in Plymouth.

A digital storybook uses recorded voices, photos, and

video to create stories that can be viewed on VHS, CD-ROM, DVD, or the Internet.

The "Digital Story-Telling Project" was the brainchild of Karen R. Todorov, social studies consultant with MDOE and a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee of Michigan (www.milincoln.org).

"The museum was hand-picked for this assignment because of its strong on-site Lincoln collection and documents, as well as its close proximity to Central Middle School," said Todorov, a Livonia resident. "Students of



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parents and campers watch the finished product, "John Beechard and Mr. Lincoln."

today come from the 'digital age' and educational programs that follow this digital format have better success at gaining student interest and better retention of content."

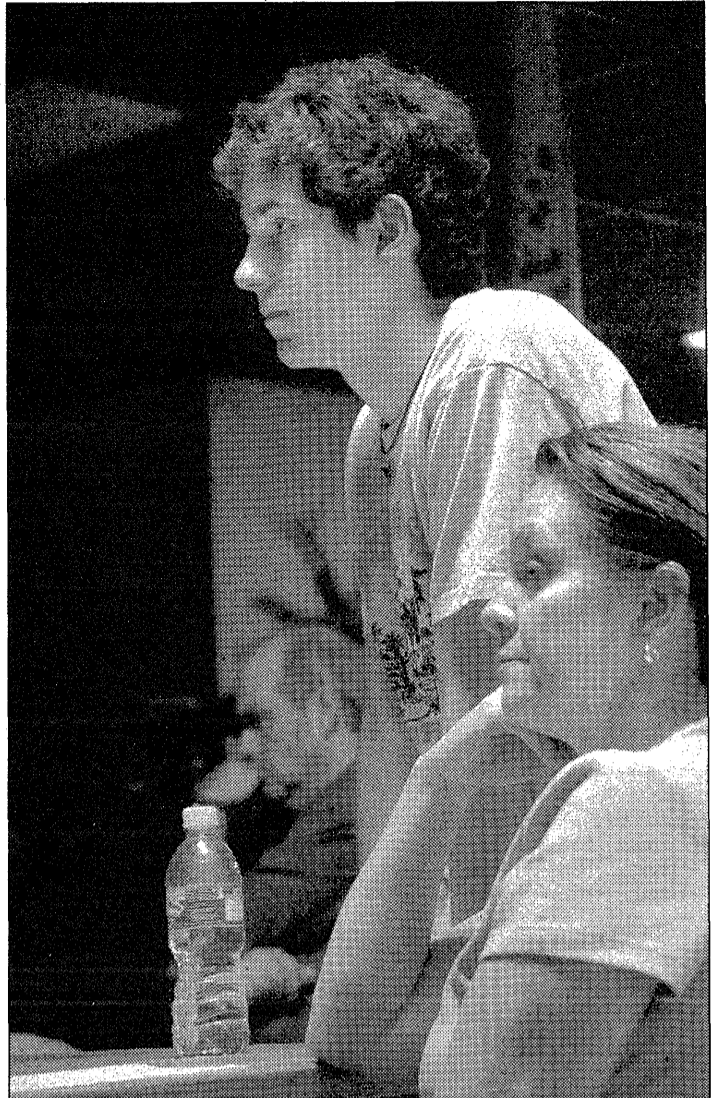
The grant funds the creation of a digital storybook about a play, *John Beechard and Mr. Lincoln: A Michigan Story*, written by Michigan social studies teacher Sam Sicilia earlier this year. Thirteen volunteer seventh- and eighth-graders and two teachers from Central Middle School worked at the Plymouth Historical Museum to create the digital storybook.

The story is a fictional account about factual characters and events, Kerstens said. President Lincoln's only visit to Michigan occurred in Kalamazoo when he was campaigning for presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, in 1856. The story explains

how Lincoln's Bronson Park (Village Park) speech motivated and inspired young 13-year-old John Beechard to later enlist in the Union army in the 6th Michigan Cavalry. Beechard's father, while disapproving of slavery, disapproved of a war pitting American against American. The story follows the Beechard family through the war and ends with the reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Dan Packer, PHS board member and member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee of Michigan, is overseeing the program. The finished product will be available for any school or community group in Michigan to use free of charge to help educate students about the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln, and to celebrate Lincoln's 200th birthday Feb. 12, 2009.

The project is being filmed



Camper Nick Stemberger and his mom, Kathy Stemberger, watch the final version of the Civil War video presentation.

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district as a guide for Michigan teachers to use if they decide to do a similar project.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, Plymouth. For further information, contact Dan Packer at (734) 455-8940.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, July 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Cultural Center, to consider the following:

Due to remodeling of City Hall, the meeting will be held at the Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer. A notice is posted at City Hall that includes a map to the Cultural Center.

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| Z 08-09 | 551 Auburn | Non-Use Variance Requested Side Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Ryan & Brenda Karell |
| Z 08-10 | 584 W. Ann Arbor Tr | Non-Use Variance Requested Extension of Off-site Sign Zoned: B-2, Central Business Applicant: Konnektiv |
| Z 08-11 | 1497 Penniman | Non-Use Variance Requested Fence Height Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Sam Aldridge |
| Z 08-12 | 799 Irvin | Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Robert & Michelle Marsh |

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: June 22, 2008

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: June 19, 2008

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD.
CANTON, MI. 48188

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION JUNE 24, 2008 AT 10:00 AM.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING 6375 HIX RD, WESTLAND MI, 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

| YEAR | MAKE | BODY | VIN# |
|------|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1994 | OLDSMOBILE | CUTLASS 4DR. | 1G3WH55M4RD399268 |
| 1998 | PLYMOUTH | BREEZE 4DR. | 1P3EJ46C2WN173946 |
| 1997 | PONTIAC | GR. PRIZ 4DR. | 1G2NE52T4VM535705 |
| 1995 | MERCURY | SABLE 4DR. | 1MELM50U5SG630980 |
| 1984 | LINCOLN | MARK 7 2DR. | 1MRBP98F4EY676961 |
| 1986 | DODGE | RAM 2DR. | 3B4GD12T6GM609761 |
| 2002 | FORD | EXPLORER SW | 1FMZU62EX2ZB67600 |
| 1997 | FORD | CUTAWAY VAN | 1FDLE47F4VHB62623 |
| 2000 | DODGE | CARAVAN SW | 1B4GP44LOY719106 |

Publish: June 19, 2008

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA JULY 10, 2008

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Craig Engel, Steven Johnson, Vicki Welty
Alternate: Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Bryan L. Amann, 355 North Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48187, for vacant light industrial property located at 7001 N. Haggerty Road (Rudolph Libbe Building-Life Church), west side of Haggerty Road between Warren and Koppernick Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.04, setback variances for parking lot in side yard for west property line, front yard for Haggerty Road, and buffer along Warren Road. Zone L-I (special use approval for church pending) Parcel 046 99 0003 715 (Planning)
2. Joseph White, 660 N. Sheldon, Plymouth, MI 48170 for vacant light industrial property located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Michigan Avenue and Palmer Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 4.00, Section 4.01.C, variance from the minimum parking requirements for medical office uses. Zone LI-R Parcel 099 99 0001 704 (Planning)
3. Anurag Bajaj, 41133 Van Born Road, Suite 200, Belleville, MI 48111, for vacant light industrial property located on the north side of Van Born Road between Haggerty Road and I-275, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 21.00, Section 21.03.A.4; Article 26.00, Section 26.04.c; Article 4.00, Section 4.01.C.6, parking and parking spaces variance. Zone LI-1 Parcel 143 99 0020 000 (Planning)
4. Darryl G. Myers, 2400 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48092, for residential property located at 45072 Lothrop Court, east side of Canton Center Road between Glengarry and Old School Lane, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02, rear yard setback variance. Zone R-3 Parcel 087 01 0214 000 (Building)
5. AT & T, 42633 and 42641 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187, for commercial property located at same address, south side of Ford Road between Morrison and Lilley Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.17, wall sign area variance. Zone C-2 Parcel 054 99 0001 701 (Building)
6. John Groat, 43611 Hanover Court, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, west side of Morton Taylor Road between Warren and Joy Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02, rear yard setback variance. Zone R-5 Parcel 012 03 0401 000 (Building)
7. John Cassar, 46836 Wareham Court, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, south side of Ford Road between Beck and Hendrie Roads, appealing Buildings and Building Regulations Article V, Section 78-131(4).b, corner lot fence variance. Zone R-3 Parcel 062 02 0131 000 (Building)

Approval of the June 12, 2008 Minutes

All written comments need to be submitted to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Publish: June 22, 2008

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 12 of 2008, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 7, 2008 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

SAHOTA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 133 99 0010 000 FROM O-1, OFFICE TO C-3, REGIONAL COMMERCIAL. Property is located north of Michigan Avenue between Sheldon and Morton Taylor Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, July 3, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Sahota Rezone 133-99-110

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: June 22, 2008

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 12 of 2008, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 7, 2008 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 11.02B.3 FOR PARCEL NO. 011 99 0018 704 (44800 WARREN). Property is located north of Warren and west of Sheldon Road.

St. John Neumann Church Building Addition 011-SLU-014D

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, July 3, 2008, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: June 22, 2008

Insurance companies can raise premiums on long-term care policies

Dear Rick: I have a long-term care nursing home policy with John Hancock that I bought over 15 years ago. I was told when I bought the policy the premiums cannot increase. A friend of mine, who also has a John Hancock policy, was told by his agent that his premiums are going up. Is it legal for the company to raise the premiums? If they do, what should I do?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

throughout their lifetime, resulting in more claims being paid by the companies.

I believe insurance companies thought that more people would cancel their policies

later in life than actually did. In deciding whether you should keep your policy, the first issue to consider is whether you need the coverage. If your answer is yes, then retain your current policy. If you purchased a new long-term care policy today, it would be substantially more expensive. Therefore, if you need the coverage, it pays to retain your current policy.

If you do not need the policy, why continue to pay for it?

Genworth, which was previously doing business under the name of GE, announced premiums were being raised by approximately 10 percent on nearly one-half million existing policies.

I believe the reason why companies such as Genworth and John Hancock are raising premiums is people are living longer, keeping policies

handle the situation? If the risk no longer exists or if it does occur and the financial consequences are minimal, then my general advice is you don't need the insurance.

Dear Rick: I just graduated from college and will start my first job in a few weeks. My dad is a big fan of your radio show and says I should fully fund my 401(k) plan, which I plan to do. The one issue is whether I should use the Roth option or not. My dad said I should use the Roth option, but a friend of mine told me that because of the tax breaks the traditional 401(k) is better. What do you recommend?

I guess the old saying is right, always listen to your father. Your dad is correct. In your situation, it does make sense to select the Roth option.

The traditional 401(k) does give you some short-term tax breaks. All the money that you contribute into a 401(k) traditional plan is pre-tax money. On the other hand, the money you contribute into the Roth 401(k) is post-tax money.

There is no question, for

your current tax bill, that putting in pre-tax money is certainly better than post-tax, however, that's not the end of the story.

The other half of the equation is that money in a traditional 401(k) grows tax-deferred while money in the Roth 401(k) grows completely tax-free. I believe the tax break in the Roth IRA is much more significant because the money grows tax-free. You will never pay income taxes on your Roth 401(k) when you start taking distributions, while you eventually will pay taxes on withdrawals from your traditional 401(k). Also, a Roth 401(k) is not subject to required minimum distributions at age 70½ unlike the traditional 401(k). When you do the number crunching for someone who is young, it is a slam dunk — the 401(k) Roth is the way to go.

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

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We regret to inform our customers that a printing error has occurred in our Lowest Prices of the Season circular, valid Wednesday, June 18—Thursday, June 26, 2008. On page 34, the Twin Absolute Comfort Systems® 4-in. memory foam mattress topper should have a sale price of \$114.99, not \$14.99 as printed.

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Sheriff Evans says labor negotiations led to budget overrun

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Evans

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans used a Rotary Club of Plymouth appearance Friday afternoon to try to set the record straight in a dispute with Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, whose administration is claiming the Sheriff's Department was the only one that received an

increase in its budget last year but still managed to exceed it by \$17 million.

The claim comes as county officials are recommending 726 jobs, including 264 in the Sheriff's Office, be eliminated to erase

a \$34 million deficit. "That goes to my ability to manage, and I can't let that go without telling you how ridiculous that assertion was," said Evans.

During the fiscal year, the county executive negotiated a contract with deputies, the lieutenants and sergeants, a three-year contract that involved retroactivity, additional retirement benefits

and a number of things that a collective bargaining contract does," said Evans. "All I can tell you is I had nothing to do with negotiations, and after they were over I was hit with \$14 million attached to this year's budget ... and now the sheriff is over \$17 million.

"What I've always seen in collective bargaining agreements is you have a little pot of money somewhere and you

give raises commensurate with what's in the pot," he said. "If you don't have anything in the pot, you don't give out raises. I think what they just said is 'We're going to take it out of your existing budget and make you look like a moron.' I don't like the moron part."

Evans admitted the recommendations are only early dialogue on the budget. "All I know is what was

recommended in terms of funding is just going to kill us," Evans said. "The reality is you'll have to close significant jail facilities ... there's not that much savings outside the jails to ever be able to do that.

"In a county where you're talking about building a regional jail to add 700 beds, it seems kind of silly not to allocate funds and reduce the number of beds," he said. "There's no question in my mind the county has less money and revenues are down. What I am saying is when you get to the core the most important service government provides is safety of the public."

Questionnaires sent out for Voter Guide

Questionnaires for Voter Guide 2008 were sent out to candidates in contested races this past week.

Voter Guide 2008 allows candidates to present themselves and their positions on various issues to a statewide online audience. The guide is a project of Gannett Newspapers in Michigan.

If you are a candidate in a contested race this year and did not receive the questionnaire, please call Hugh Gallagher at (734) 953-2149.

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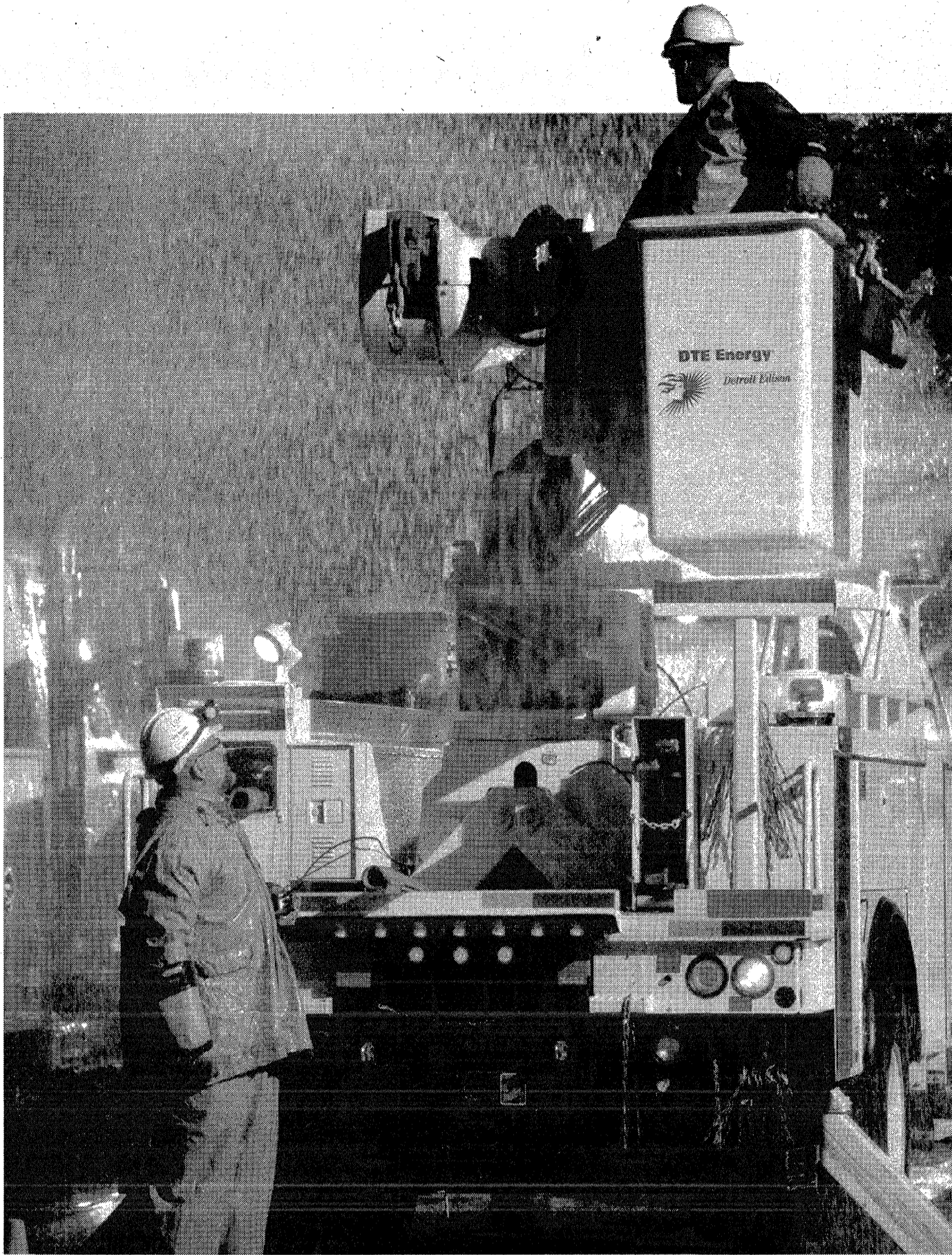
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OUR VIEWS

State should step back from full-day kindergarten debate

On the surface, it would seem making full-day kindergarten mandatory, as is being proposed by some members of the state Legislature, makes sense. A cornerstone of the state's long-term economic recovery program is improving the educational climate, or so say the governor and lawmakers.

But, in fact, the proposal doesn't make sense, at least not now.

There are bills pending in the state House and Senate that would require all school districts teach full-day kindergarten. Many districts already do offer full-day kindergarten; some charge for it, while others are considering it.

But for a variety of reasons, many districts are resisting it. And they have some legitimate reasons for doing so.

First — and most importantly — it is debatable what long-term benefit there is in sending children to kindergarten for a full day. Studies have shown short-term boosts for children who get a head start by being in kindergarten all day, but the long-term benefits are inconclusive.

Second, there is the expense. Longer kindergarten days may require more staff and resources, something that is precisely scarce in almost all Michigan school districts these days.

True, schools receive per-pupil funding regardless of whether the child is in half-day or full-day kindergarten. And some districts offer full-day kindergarten at a cost — effectively double-dipping.

But, frankly, they need the money. Drying up another source of revenue is not healthy for the schools.

Finally, mandating full-day kindergarten would be another incursion by the state into what should be the affairs of the school districts. Proposal A, which was enacted in 1994, gave the state an extraordinary degree of control by effectively taking over the funding of the schools. The federal No Child Left Behind program with its mandates has put additional pressure on the schools.

The bottom line is that school districts know what is best for their communities. Until ironclad data is available documenting the educational advantages of full-day kindergarten, the issue should be left to local school officials, not lawmakers in Lansing.

There are bills pending in the state House and Senate that would require all school districts teach full-day kindergarten. Many districts already do offer full-day kindergarten; some charge for it, while others are considering it.

Prenatal, preschool years vital to success in school

As a retired elementary teacher and reading consultant, I agree with Hugh Gallagher's premise that "the educational journey needs to begin early and last a lifetime." I agree that we must put more emphasis on preschool education, especially for low-income groups. Waiting until later years, or high school, is simply too late, no matter how much money and goodwill we put into it.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of educators who talk about educational reform, focus in other areas and seem to equate it with additional funding. They believe that, if we just spend more money, things will get better. For example, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the *New York Times* (whom you quote in your article) both talk about the need for smaller high schools, more teachers training and making college preparatory education available to all. This will cost millions of additional dollars. The United States already spends more money on education than any other nation in the world; unfortunately, our children are falling further and further behind in literacy rates. Equating money with educational progress simply hasn't worked for us.

I think it is about time we stopped looking at pricey programs that have been found wanting in the past and go back to the beginning and take a new look at the research regarding the value of prenatal and preschool learning. We can start with the recognition that the most important years in the life of a child are the nine months before birth, and the five years before kindergarten, and build our programs around these periods. Using these two periods as a basis, we need to educate prospective parents so that they can be more involved in the education of their chil-



Edmund Starrett

dren before they come to school.

A growing body of research today clearly demonstrates that learning — real learning — takes place before birth. This new research demonstrates that speech and reading capacities are laid as early as the first two or three months of pregnancy, and that the womb is indeed the developing child's first classroom. As the National Children's Reading Foundation put it, "The physical capacity to read is hard-wired in the brain before birth."

We might use nature as a prime example. We learned long ago that, if we want healthy plants, a greener lawn, or better fruit, we must make every effort that the growing environment is enriched to build a solid root system. To wait until the plant is nearly grown is too late for good results. The same is true for children. To get off to a healthy start in life, they need care and educational nutrients prior to birth and prior to school.

A good healthy prenatal environment doesn't cost a cent. It takes time and effort on the part of the mother, who needs little or no training. It includes simple and natural tasks such as reading and talking to the baby, stroking the baby in the womb, singing songs, thinking positive thoughts and staying healthy. None of these activities cost the mother or society a single cent, but will reap benefits for a lifetime.

After the baby's birth, the child needs positive preschool experiences such as exposure to language and song, reading aloud to the child on a regular basis, recognition of letters of the alphabet

and positive reinforcement. With these experiences, the child has an excellent chance of being successful in school. Ignore these two important periods in the child's life and the child will have little chance of success in his/her lifetime.

It is a well-known fact, for example, that the child who is exposed to books and language experiences before coming to school has a tremendous advantage over the child with little exposure. The child exposed to early learning activities generally retains that advantage for the rest of his/her years in school. Getting off to a good start in school is one of the most important things a parent can do for a child.

To make this successful, we want parents to be the first educators, not the state. The more the state becomes involved, the less responsibility for the parents and the less results for the children. Politicians, teachers, doctors, churches, newspapers, instead of pleading for more and more money to improve education at a later date, where it will be less effective, need to get back to where it all begins and educate parents and perspective parents about their need to be personally involved in the education of their children. We have known for some time now that the more the parents are involved in education, the better it works out for the child.

I conclude by encouraging all teachers, parents and parents-to-be to become informed about the recent findings about the value of prenatal and preschool education and how it affects learning. It's fascinating reading and it works.

Edmund V. Starrett is a Livonia resident with an education doctorate.

ON THE AGENDA

Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, in the meeting room at township hall, 9955 N. Haggerty.

Among the topics to be discussed are approval of an amendment to the general development plan of the Plymouth Village development and a resolution supporting Wayne County's State Revolving Fund application for sewer repairs and maintenance.

For information on the meeting, call the clerk's office, (734) 354-3228.

Need some mom time away from the kids?



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2008
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Piano Series

Beethoven Sonata Project Concert 5
András Schiff piano
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM
Sonata No. 16 in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1 (1801-02)
Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2 ("Tempest") (1802)
Sonata No. 18 in E-flat Major, Op. 31, No. 3 (1801-02)
Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53 ("Waldstein") (1803-04)
Sponsored by **Natalie Matovinovic**.

Beethoven Sonata Project Concert 6
András Schiff piano
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM
Sonata No. 22 in F Major, Op. 54 (1804)
Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 ("Appassionata") (1804-05)
Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp Major, Op. 78 (1809)
Sonata No. 25 in G Major, Op. 79 (1809)
Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, Op. 81a ("Les Adieux") (1809-10)
Sponsored by **Natalie Matovinovic**.
Additional promotional support provided by **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman pianos
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM
Brahms Variations for Two Pianos on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b (1873)
Bolcom Recuerdos (1991)
Mozart Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major, K. 448 (1781)
Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances, Op. 45 (1940)

Co-Sponsored by **Robert and Marina Whitman and Clayton and Ann Wilhite**.
Additional promotional support provided by **WGTE 91.3 FM**, **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**, and **Detroit Jewish News**.

Richard Goode piano
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 | 4 PM
Hill Auditorium

Sponsored by **Donald L. Morelock**.
Additional promotional support provided by **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

Beethoven Sonata Project Concert 7
András Schiff piano
THURSDAY, APRIL 9 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM
Sonata No. 27 in E minor, Op. 90 (1814)
Sonata No. 28 in A Major, Op. 101 (1816)
Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, Op. 106 ("Hammerklavier") (1817-18)
Additional promotional support provided by **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

Beethoven Sonata Project Concert 8
András Schiff piano
SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM
Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109 (1820)
Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110 (1821-22)
Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111 (1821-22)
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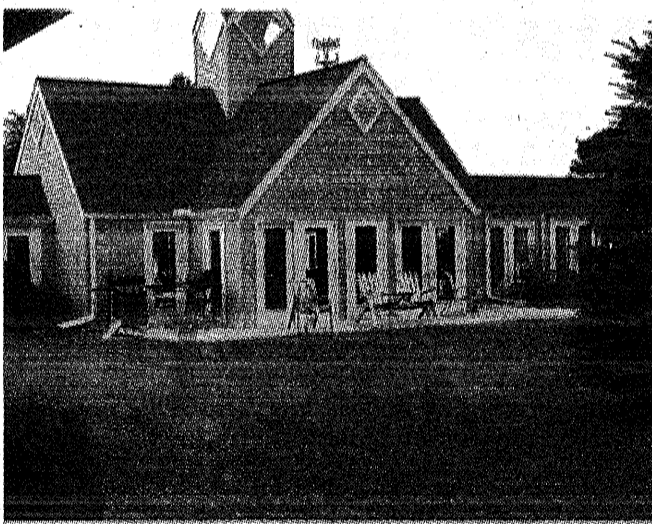
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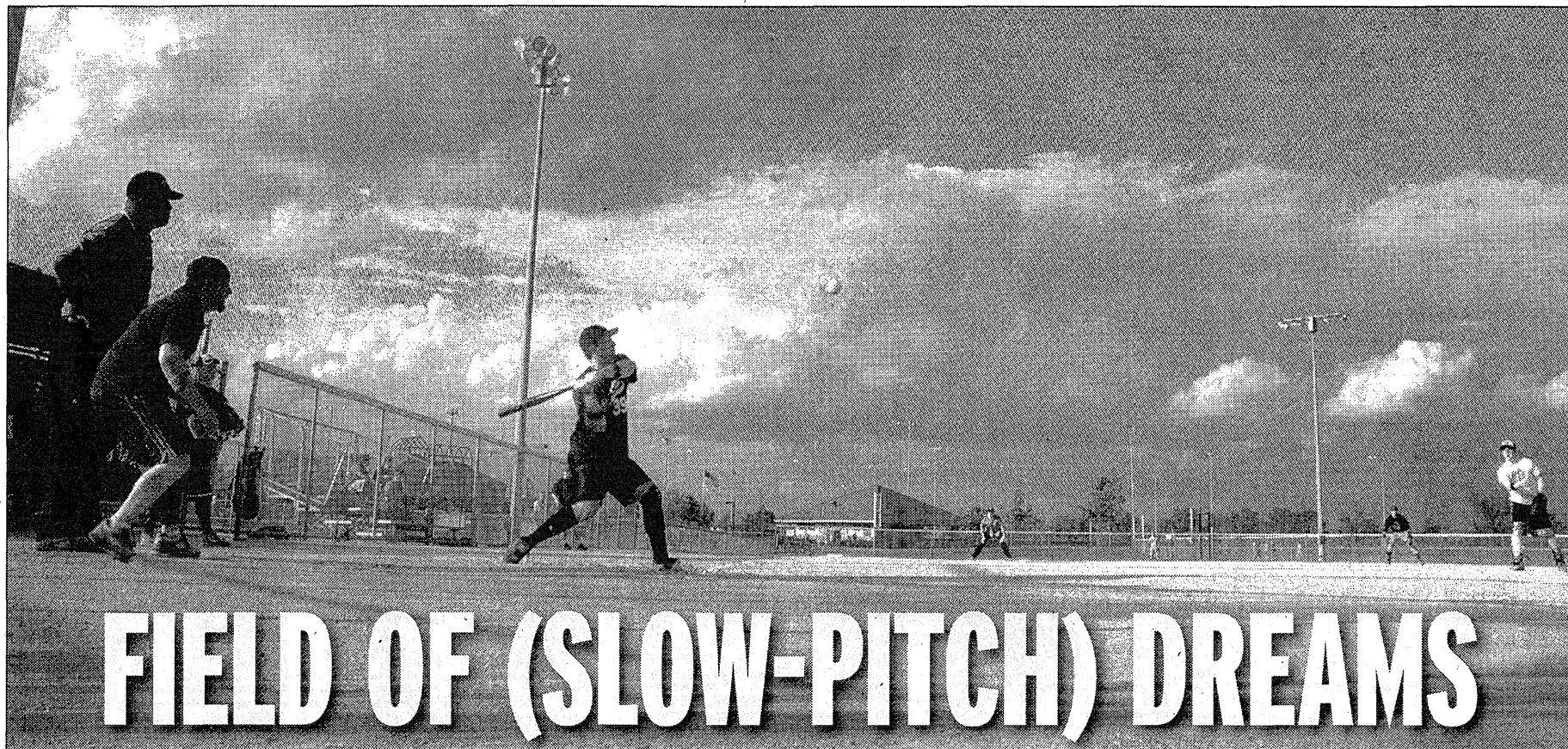
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Sunday, June 22, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

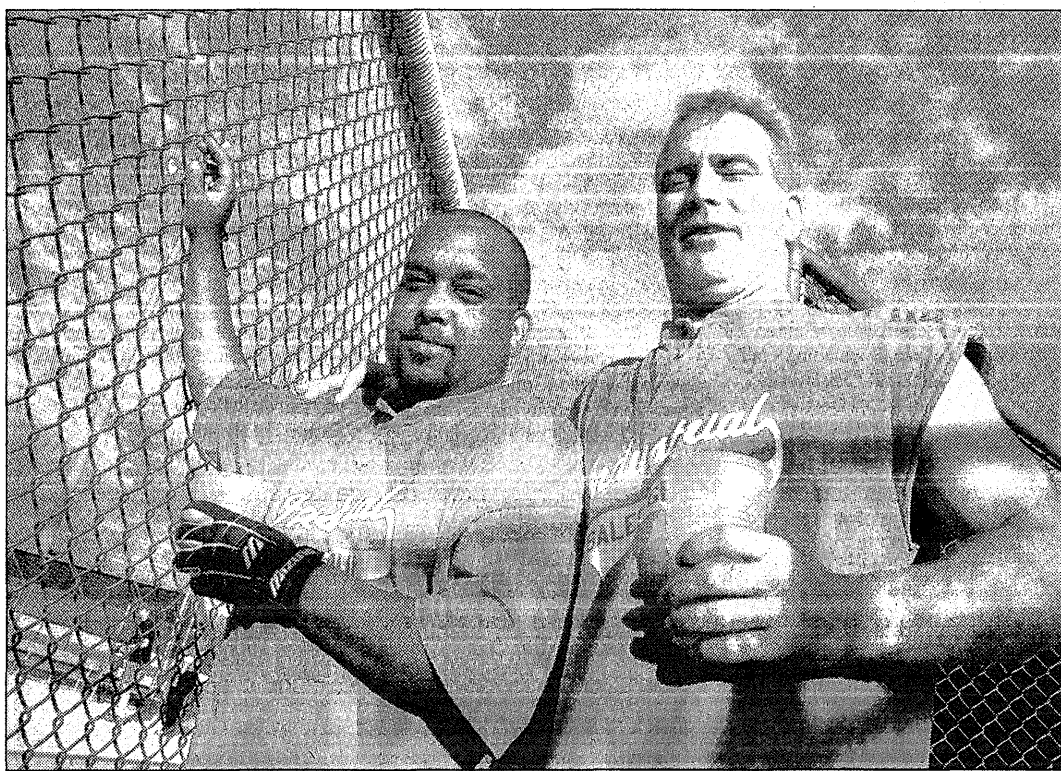
www.hometownlife.com



FIELD OF (SLOW-PITCH) DREAMS

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A member of the Shark Club's Class E slow-pitch softball team prepares to take a rip at a looping pitch during a Thursday night game at the Canton Sports Center. Close to 5,000 players from 18 to 80 participate in leagues at the 12-field facility on Michigan Avenue.



Canton residents Don Godfrey (left) and Todd Browne, who play for the Industrial Sales Group, are models of the camaraderie slow-pitch softball generates.

Winning is nice, but fun is the bottom line for rec slow-pitch softball players

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident Don Godfrey let out an "oom-mmff" sound as he took a mighty cut at an appetizing pitch during a Class E slow-pitch softball game Thursday night at the Canton Sports Center.

"You had to grunt for that," a teammate jeered good-naturedly at Godfrey as the ball rolled harmlessly foul. A few moments earlier, on an adjoining field, a semi-line drive crossed paths with the glaring sun just before it reached Young Guns left-center fielder Billy Gauthier's mitt and crashed squarely onto the bridge of the 19-year-old's nose.

As soon as he saw the stream of blood that resulted from the violent collision, the batter peeled off his shirt, sprinted toward Gauthier and pressed the makeshift band-aid onto the injured area in an attempt to curtail the bleeding.

Less than 10 minutes later, Gauthier rose to his feet, emerged from the crowd of concerned players who had gathered around him and — with his right hand holding his opponent's shirt against his nose — walked toward the infield with his left arm raised

high, flashing a thumbs-up sign.

"He's a hockey player," one of the bloodied player's teammates said. "I doubt if he'll even let them take him in the ambulance."

On the next field over, sweat glistened on the forehead of 50-year-old Tim McKnight as he delivered an arching pitch for his USA Jet Airlines team.

"I play for the exercise and because I get to play on the same team as two of my sons," said McKnight, explaining his passion for slow-pitch softball. "I love this game. I'll play it until I can't."

Blood, sweat and jeers — that's what it was all about on a picture-perfect night on three picture-perfect fields at one of the busiest sports complexes in Michigan.

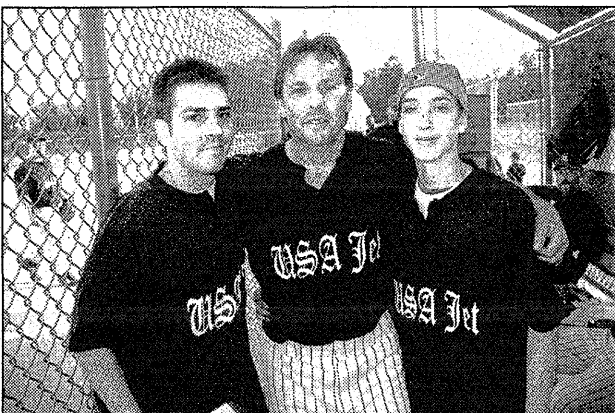
Recession-proof activity

More than 440 teams and close to 5,000 players will take their cuts this summer at the 12-field facility located just south of Michigan Ave. in Canton.

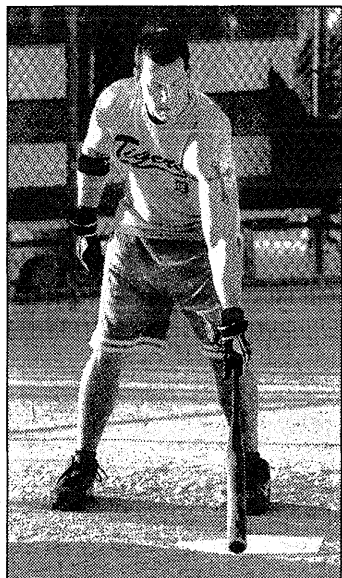
Due to a sagging economy, people may be driving fewer miles and buying fewer groceries, but they're still flocking to the diamonds in waves.

"I think the main appeal of

Please see **SOFTBALL, B6**



Canton resident Tim McKnight (middle) plays on the same team as his sons Sean (left) and Casey. At right, Plymouth resident Peter Sosa prepares to do some damage to the opposing pitcher's earned-run average during a game Thursday night at the Canton Sports Center.



Sidelines

Free hoop camp

The 13th Annual Jeff Suspeck Memorial Basketball Camp will be held Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Schoolcraft College, which is located at 18600 Haggerty Rd. in Livonia.

All children between the ages of 9 and 14 are welcome to attend this free camp, which is sponsored by the Jeff Suspeck Foundation.

The foundation was founded in memory of Jeff Suspeck, who passed away in 1994 following a brilliant high school basketball career.

The camp is run by Glen Donahue and Joe Charnley and other volunteer players and coaches who knew Suspeck.

For registration materials, send an e-mail to jsuspeck-camp@hotmail.com; or call (248) 363-7151.

Track & field series

Dearborn Divine Child will stage a weekly track series from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, July 9, 16, 23 and 30, at the high school track located at 1001 N. Silvery Lane (one mile west of Telegraph between Cherry Hill and Ford roads).

The cost for athletes and spectators is \$3 per person. Registration begins at 5 p.m.

Youth age groups include: 8-and-under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18.

The open division includes 30-40 and 40-and-over.

The July 9 and 23 meet competition includes: 50-meter dash (8-and-under), 100, 400, 1,600, 3,000, shot put, discus and 4 x 400 relay.

The July 16 and 30 meets includes: 200, 800, 5,000 (13-and-over), 100 and 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, long jump, high jump; and 4 x 100 relay.

Ideal summer job

Salem grad's internship is one every sports fan would covet

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The most amazing summer of Jane DeWitt's young life can be summed up with one four-letter acronym: ESPN.

This past spring, the 2005 Salem graduate defied odds that would crush even the

most resilient optimist when she secured a two-month summer internship with the Connecticut-based media giant.

DeWitt, a senior-to-be at Murray State (Ky.) University, was one of just 105 college students who earned an ESPN internship that roughly 10,000

hopefuls applied for.

"It's been an unbelievable experience so far," said DeWitt, who is working in ESPN's Chicago-based Consumer Marketing & Sales Department. "Everyone is so passionate about their jobs

Please see **ESPN, B6**



Salem graduate Jane DeWitt (right) is pictured behind the ESPN SportsCenter anchor desk during her visit to the popular network's campus in May. DeWitt, a senior-to-be at Murray State (Ky.) University, secured a rare summer internship at ESPN.

ESPN PHOTO

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All-Observer girls tennis team shines

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

LINDSAY HOSTETTER, SR., STEVENSON: Hostetter served as the Spartans' No. 1 singles player and their co-captain during the 2008 campaign. She registered an incredible 20-2 record this past season and a 71-7 career mark.

She will attend Brevard College (N.C.), an NCAA Division II school.

"I can't say enough about Lindsay's leadership and dedication to this team and her desire to be the best player she can be," said Stevenson coach Kathy Ladd. "Lindsay has a powerful all-around game, with huge ground strokes and crisp volleys."

TRACY LYTLE, SR., SALEM: Lytle closed out her stellar career in fine fashion as she crafted a solid 8-3 WLAA record against the conference's talented list of No. 1 singles players. Her only setbacks were to Hostetter, Northville's top player and at Walled Lake Northern.

"Tracy didn't even play tennis until she was in the eighth grade, so to go from a non-player to a very good No. 1 singles player in high school is pretty impressive," said Salem coach Lin Ware. "She has earned a lot of tennis awards the past few years and all of them have been well-deserved."

LAURA SIMS, SR., STEVENSON: The senior co-captain enjoyed a productive season at No. 2 singles, going 15-6. She advanced to the finals at the WLAA conference meet and stroked her way to the semifinal round of the D1 Regional meet. She also earned silver medals at the Ann Arbor and Novi invitational.

"Laura has great fundamentals and is really a model of stroke production," said Ladd. "Laura has a real weapon in her serve and a pretty consistent overhead, all of which add up to a very good, all-court tennis player."

PAIGE MCNAMARA, JR., STEVENSON: The Spartans' No. 3 singles player racked up an 18-6 record this past spring. Her lone setback in conference play came against always-tough Northville.

"Paige is a model of mental toughness, focus, intensity and persistence," said Ladd. "Once she steps on the tennis court, she goes from being a delightful and animated teenager to a bulldog of concentration and determination."

ALI CARPENTER, JR., SALEM: The Rocks' No. 2 singles player went 9-2 with her only two blemishes coming against Northville and Stevenson.

"Ali is going to be the player to beat next year," said Ware. "She's a strong

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TENNIS

2008 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TENNIS FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

- Lindsay Hostetter, Sr., Stevenson
 - Tracy Lytle, Sr., Salem
 - Laura Sims, Sr., Stevenson
 - Paige McNamara, Jr., Stevenson
 - Ali Carpenter, Jr., Salem
 - Carli Marschner, Soph., Stevenson
 - Linda Ling, Jr., Salem
 - Angelica Woods, Fr., Franklin
- ### FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES
- Ariel Rojo, Jr., Salem
 - Rachel Norman, Soph., Salem
 - Katherine Morse, Sr., Stevenson
 - Katey Roberts, Sr., Stevenson
- ### COACH OF THE YEAR
- Kathy Ladd, Stevenson

player who has improved each year. She's become much more consistent with her game and she's developed a variety of strokes."

CARLI MARSCNER, SOPH., STEVENSON: The versatile Marschner played primarily at No. 4 singles for the Spartans, but also moved up to No. 2 and No. 3 at times. She finished with a 13-9 record.

"Carli is all business on the tennis court," Ladd said. "Carli is all about consistency. As one opposing coach observe, 'Does she ever miss a backhand?'"

LINDA LING, JR., SALEM: The junior made a very effective move from No. 1 doubles to No. 4 singles this season, racking up a 9-2 WLAA record with her only losses coming to Northville and Walled Lake Northern.

"Linda is a very consistent, all-around player," said Ware. "She's very athletic and gets to the ball really well. She'll be one of our co-captains next year."

ANGELICA WOODS, FR., FRANKLIN: The ninth-grader played well beyond her years, registering an impressive 18-5 record that included first-round victories in both the Regional and conference tournaments.

"Angelica's work ethic is exceptional and she is a model for court etiquette," Franklin coach Lori George said. "All three of her losses this season were against experienced, upper-class opponents. Angelica has an arsenal of strokes and strategy to get her opponents off-balance. She's a rising athlete and one to watch in years to come."

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES

ARIEL ROJO, JR., SALEM: Rojo teamed with Rachel Norman to give the Rocks a spectacular No. 1 doubles team. The duo lost just two matches in the conference.

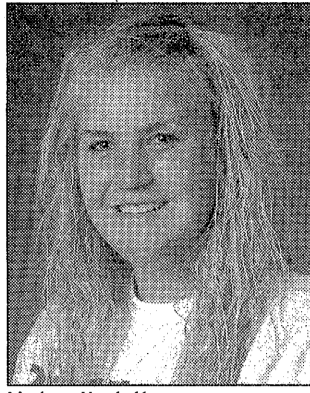
"Ariel is a great communicator on the court," said Ware. "She's a big hitter who knows the game well."

RACHEL NORMAN, SOPH., SALEM: The first-year player exhibited veteran's skills as she combined with Ariel Rojo to compile a 9-2 record at No. 1 doubles.

"Rachel did outstanding for a first-year player," said Ware. "She uses her height well at the net and she can go and get the ball."

KATHERINE MORSE, SR., STEVENSON: Morse teamed with Katey Roberts to give the Spartans a formidable No. 1 doubles team.

"Katherine has long, beautiful



Lindsay Hostetter Stevenson



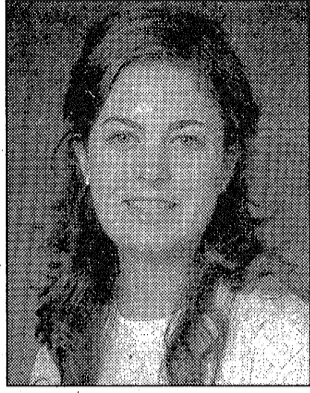
Tracy Lytle Salem



Laura Sims Stevenson



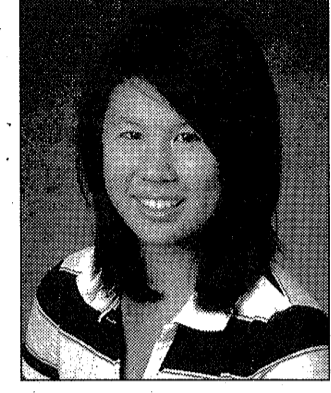
Paige McNamara Stevenson



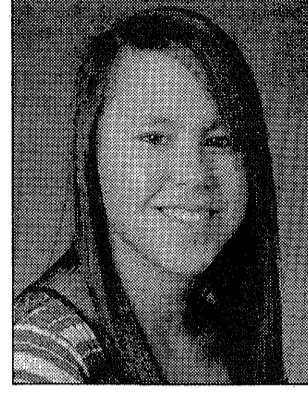
Ali Carpenter Salem



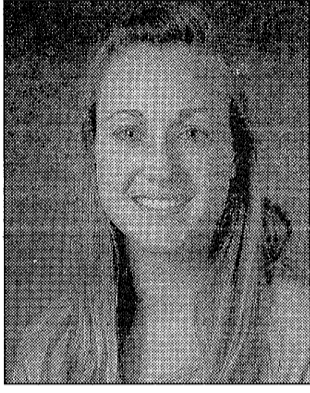
Carli Marschner Stevenson



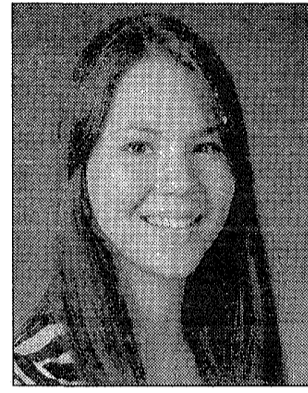
Linda Ling Salem



Angelica Woods Franklin



Rachel Norman Salem



Katherine Morse Stevenson



Kathy Roberts Stevenson



Kathy Ladd Stevenson Coach of the Year

COACH OF YEAR

KATHY LADD, STEVENSON: The fifth-year girls coach guided the Spartans to a 10-1-2 dual-meet record, a runner-up finish at the WLAA Tournament and a third-place finish at the Division 1 regional.

For the first time in Ladd's five years the Spartans did not qualify for the state tourney, but it was one of her most rewarding seasons.

"It was a new team, a young team that went above and beyond," said Ladd, who began her varsity tennis coaching career at Livonia Franklin in fall of

1996. "It was a very satisfying season because the girls were so cooperative and were eager to learn. We had a victory good-meet season."

Ladd, an English instructor at Stevenson, has been teaching in the Livonia Public Schools for 38 years.

She is a fixture at area indoor clubs during the winter and plays on a regular basis during the summers at Rotary and Bicentennial parks.

"I just love it," Ladd said. "I tell my girls this is just the beginning because you can do it all your life. I love what I do and I'm not going away."

Area golfers leave lasting impressions

FIRST TEAM

Drew Mossioan, Soph., Liv. Stevenson: The sophomore finished 28th overall in the Division 1 state tournament at The Meadows in Allendale with 86-76 for a 164 total.

He averaged 39.18 in dual matches, where he was medalist three times, along with a 77.95 in tournament play.

Mossioan was All-Division in the Western Lakes Activities Association tourney with a 76 and carded a 79 at the Division 1 district tourney. He qualified for the state tourney with a third-place finish at the Washtenaw Country Club regional shooting a 75.

Mossioan also shot a 74 to place runner-up at the Pinckney Invitational and captured the Western Wayne Invitational with a 75. He also won the stroke play at the Livonia City Tournament with a 37.

"Drew is young with loads of talent and is always willing to go the extra mile to improve," Stevenson coach Jim Omietanski said.

Zach Conrad, Soph., Canton: The sophomore enjoyed a break-out season, registering a 38.1 nine-hole average and 78.3 18-hole average. He was a dual-match medalist five times and broke 40 in eight matches.

"Zach has a complete game," said Canton coach Tom Alles. "He is very accurate and is an outstanding putter. His increased length off the tee has helped him lower his scores."

Hagan Risner, Sr., Garden City: His coach, Ron Pummill, described Risner as perhaps the best golfer the high school has ever seen. The fact Risner owns virtually every Garden City golf record reinforces that lofty praise.

Risner, a fourth-year varsity starter, again made the All-Mega White with a nine-hole average of 36.5 strokes to go with 11 medals and team MVP honors. He was one stroke shy of qualifying for the state meet.

"(Hagan's) absolutely a joy to coach and one of the hardest-working golfers, too," said Pummill about Risner, being heavily recruited by Wayne State University. "It's his commitment to want to be the best player on the course every time he's on the course."

Tyler Jeleniewski, Sr., Salem: The senior is a four-year letter winner whose game improved each year. He earned All-WLAA first-team honors and provided the Rocks with vital leadership throughout the season.

"Tyler's game is fundamentally sound from tee to green," said Salem coach Rick Wilson. "He's long off the tee, is very consistent with his irons and has a great short game."

Josh Proben, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The four-year letter winner and team MVP averaged 38 per nine and 78.8 for 18 holes his senior year.

ALL-OBSERVER BOYS GOLF

2008 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS GOLF FIRST TEAM

- Drew Mossioan, Soph., Liv. Stevenson
 - Zach Conrad, Soph., Canton
 - Hagan Risner, Sr., Garden City
 - Tyler Jeleniewski, Sr., Salem
 - Andrew Rickerman, Jr., Canton
 - Josh Proben, Sr., Liv. Churchill
- ### SECOND TEAM
- Christian Debay, Soph., Liv. Stevenson
 - Justin Adams, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 - Chris Cislo, Sr., Garden City
 - Kevin Robinson, Jr., Liv. Churchill
 - Brendan Muir, Soph., Canton
 - Adam Powers, Jr., Liv. Canton
- ### COACH OF THE YEAR
- Tom Alles, Canton
- ### HONORABLE MENTION
- Plymouth Christian Academy: Ross Gerulis; Churchill: Brian Bint; Franklin: Tony Semonick, Jordan Chisholm; Stevenson: Adam Giordano, Dan Duffour; Westland: John Glenn; Andy Myers, Dan Tamorjio; Wayne Memorial: Jacob Smith; Canton: Jeremy Lindbauer, Aaron Blase, Clark Albers; Salem: Aaron Thompson, Joel Cheesman, Patrick Doty; Plymouth: James Bryans; Garden City: Ron Pummill, Nick Walker; Redford Union: Josh Marlow; Redford Thurston: Derek Pohlmeier, Andrew Sexton.

improve his game."

SECOND TEAM

CHRISTIAN DEBAY, SOPH., LIV. STEVENSON: The sophomore averaged 40 in dual matches, where he was medalist four times, and 78 in tournament play.

Debay shot a 74 to make All-Division in the WLAA and tied for 20th at the district with an 81. He went on to place 10th at the regional with a 78.

He also shot 74 at the Western Wayne Invitational, a 79 at the Pinckney Invitational and an 80 at the Huron Valley Invitational.

"Christian was a pleasure to coach, always has an upbeat attitude and walks the course always smiling," Omietanski said.

JUSTIN ADAMS, SR., LIV. FRANKLIN: The senior took All-Western Lakes honors with 73 and took 11th at the Division 1 district tourney with a 77.

Adams averaged 41.91 per nine and 81.33 per 18 holes. He also added an 80 at the Wayne County Championship and shot 81 at Pinckney.

CHRIS CISLO, SR., GARDEN CITY: Cislo made the All-Mega White team for the first time after averaging 40 strokes for nine and 80 for 18. He was a three-time medalist.

KEVIN ROBINSON, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The two-year letter winner was runner-up at the Division 1 district at Whispering Willows.

BRENDAN MUIR, SOPH., CANTON: Only a sophomore, Muir proved to be a key player in the Chiefs' ultra-successful season, firing a 79 at the WLAA Conference meet and a 75 at the District tournament - a score that earned him medalist honors.

"Brendan has immense talent," said Alles. "He became a much more consistent golfer from his freshman to sopho-

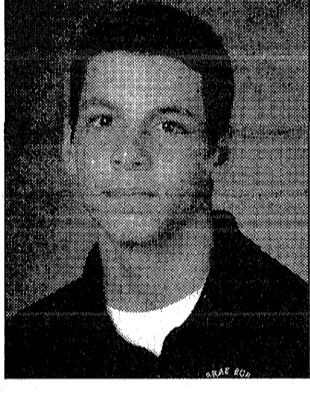
more years."

ADAM POWERS, JR., SALEM: Powers saved his best for last, firing 78's at both the WLAA Conference meet and at the Division 1 District tournament. He is an accomplished hockey player along with being a polished golfer.

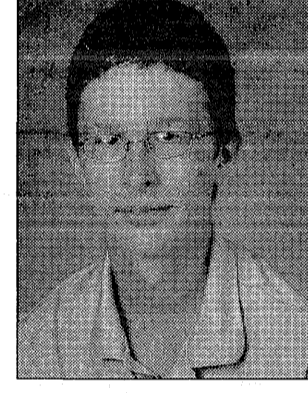
"Adam came on very strong at the end of the year and played really well in our biggest tournaments," said Wilson. "Being a good hockey goalie, he has great hand-eye coordination and great instincts. He was rock solid when it counted this season."

COACH OF THE YEAR

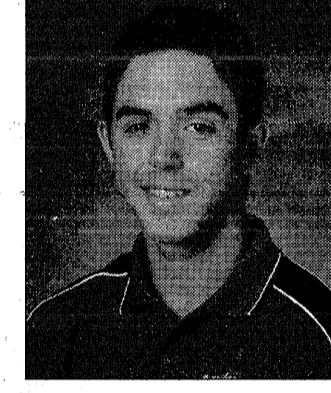
TOM ALLES, CANTON: The veteran mentor guided the Chiefs to one of their most successful seasons in years as they registered a 3-2 WLAA Western Division record, which was good for a tie for second with Livonia Franklin, and a third-place showing in the highly competitive WLAA conference meet. Alles' steady influence was crucial for the young Chiefs, who will return four of their top six players next season.



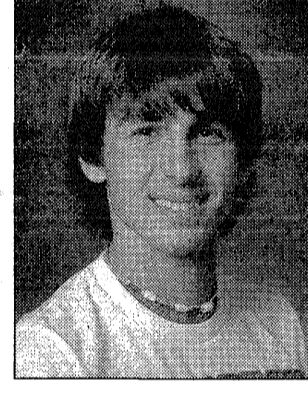
Drew Mossioan Canton



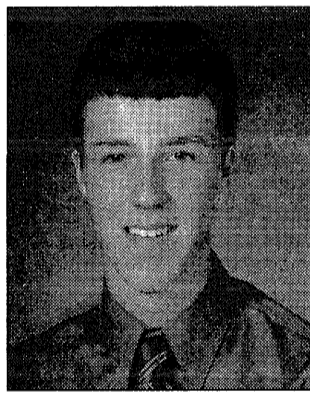
Zach Conrad Canton



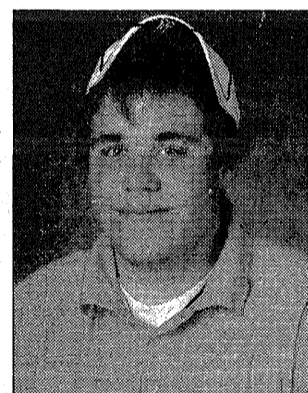
Hagan Risner Garden City



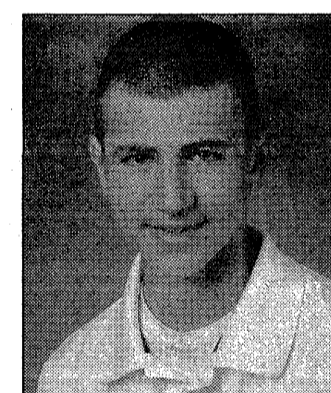
Tyler Jeleniewski Salem



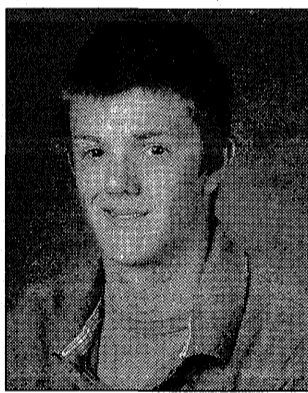
Andrew Rickerman Canton



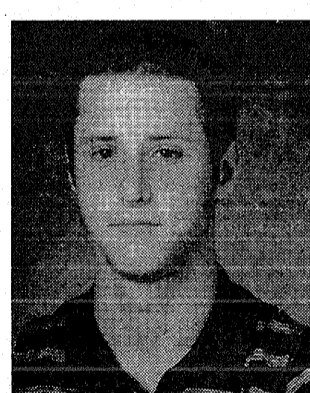
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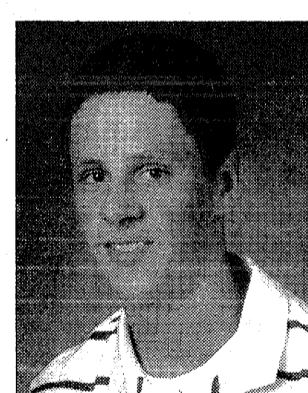
Christian Debay Stevenson



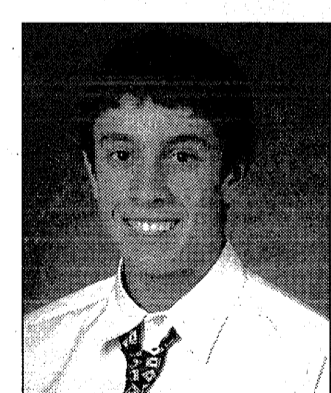
Justin Adams Franklin



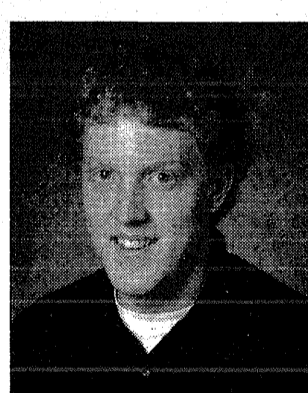
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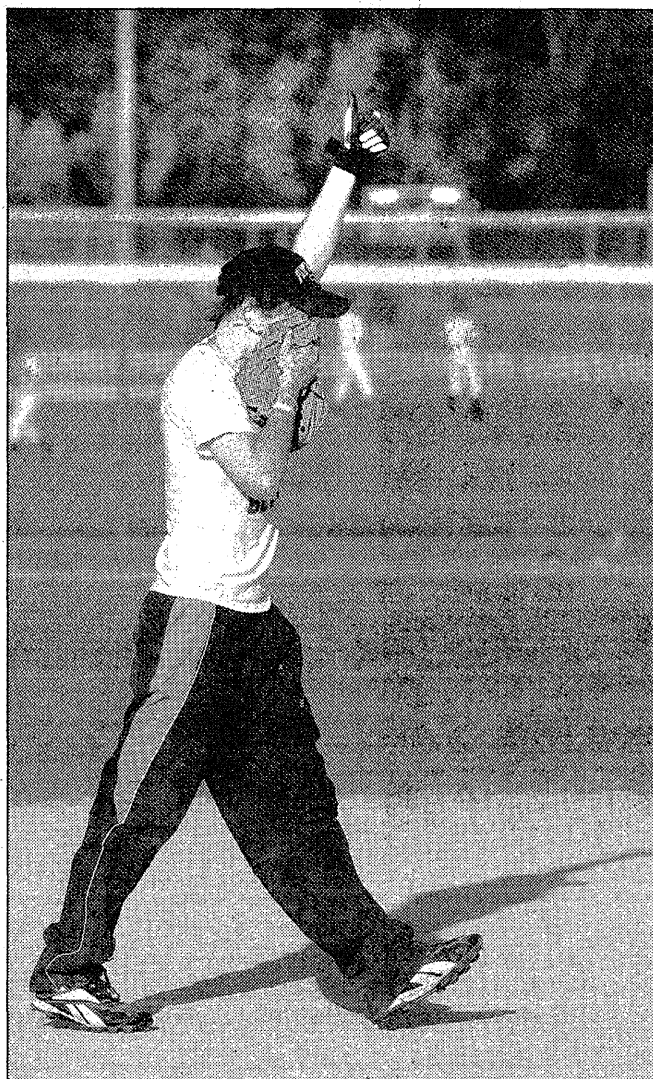
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Young Guns left-center fielder Billy Gauthier flashes the thumbs-up sign just a few minutes after a ball he lost in the sun crashed into the bridge of his nose.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

slow-pitch softball is that it's a sport everybody can participate in," said CSC Program Director Ann-Marie Carravallah. "You don't have to be a pro to have fun. You can play right-field or play catcher and still be a factor in your team's success."

Having fun is No. 1

Like a lot of teams that play at the CSC, winning isn't everything to the Young Guns — it's the *lonely* thing. The second-year squad that is made up of a group of high school friends from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park had just two victories in 16 games heading into Thursday night's regular season-ending double-header. But they weren't going to let a few losses get in the way of a good time. "Winning is a plus — we're here to have fun," said 20-year-old Young Guns third baseman Mike Sikora. "I went to high school with all these guys on my team, so we've been buddies for so long. It's nice to get everybody together again during the summer while everybody's home from school. "A lot of times when we're out here playing, we act like we're in high school again — almost."

In sharp contrast to the more talent-laden players that toil in Class C and

D leagues, Sikora said members of the Young Guns don't fork over hundreds of dollars on high-end equipment.

"I picked this mitt up on sale at Dick's for \$40," he said smiling. "Before I bought this, I used my sister's old softball mitt."

Work reprieve

For 25-year-old Canton resident Adam Hernandez, slow-pitch softball is a great post-work stress-reliever.

"A lot of us have busy work weeks, so this gives us some time to get out of the house and hang out with our friends," he said. "We've been playing together for a long time, so, yeah, we want to win. But if we don't, we don't get mad."

"It's a sport we all played when we were kids," said 32-year-old Canton resident Joseph Willey, when asked why he signs up to play in the weekly double-headers throughout the summer. "Some of these guys only played four years in elementary school; others played all the way through high school. No matter how long you played, it's still fun."

As Willey spoke, Gauthier was helped into the side door of an emergency vehicle for observation.

The bleeding had stopped, but the sweat and good-natured jeers continued on the surrounding fields.

Right along with the fun.

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ESPN

FROM PAGE B1

here and they go out of their way to make sure the interns are comfortable.

"ESPN treats its interns so well because a large number of them are hired for full-time positions after they graduate from college, so they know that a lot of the interns are the future of the company."

Never a dull day

Unlike more typical summer jobs that involve burger flipping, house painting and errand running, DeWitt's days are far from redundant.

"One of the cool things about this internship is that there is no such thing as a typical day," she said. "For instance, on Friday, the company rented one of the roof-tops by Wrigley Field so we can host some clients during the Cubs-White Sox (baseball) game."

"Some days, I've shadowed one of the company's marketing reps and other days I've actually sat in on teleconference meetings where I've helped brainstorm marketing ideas for potential clients."

"I learn something new every day."

Not long after DeWitt's May 27 starting date, she was flown to the company's Bristol, Conn., headquarters for a tour of its massive home base.

Among her SportsCenter highlights were sitting in the same anchor chair that Stewart Scott occupies, and eating in the same cafeteria that Chris Berman dines in.

"It's like a huge college campus," DeWitt said, describing the ESPN headquarters. "Of the company's 5,500 employees, 4,000 of them work in Bristol."

A long road

DeWitt's incredible journey started in December when she began researching internships at ESPN.

She sent out a resume in January and secured her first phone interview in February.

Following a second phone interview, DeWitt was one of eight candidates who were flown to Chicago to compete for one opening.

"There was a job fair at Murray State the week before I went to Chicago, so I tried to get as many interviews as I could to get some practice," she said.

A few days after the in-person interview with ESPN's Jevon Thoresen, she saw a missed call on her cell phone that had a Chicago area code.

Whoever called didn't leave a message.

"When I saw it was a Chicago number, I thought, 'Oh, shoot!'" she recalled. "It was 6:30 when I saw it, so I thought whoever called would probably be long gone from the office," she remembered. "But I called the number back any way. Jevon answered and said, 'Congratulations and welcome aboard.' It was very exciting."

Impressive credentials

DeWitt, a member of the Murray State women's soccer team, theorized that two factors played a major role in her getting the job.

"I think they liked the fact that I played a sport in college," she said. "And I was very involved with my school's marketing team — the I-Racers — so I had some experience in sports promotions."

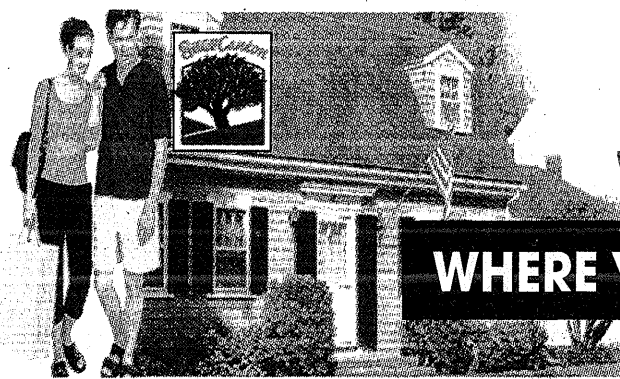
In addition to working for ESPN, DeWitt is staying in top-notch soccer shape by playing for the Chicago United Breeze in the Women's Premier Soccer League.

"The team has a pool of 28 or 30 players and they only dress about 18 for each game, so I let them know when I can play," she said. "They know that ESPN is my No. 1 priority, so they've been very flexible with me."

DeWitt is set to return to Murray State the first week of August for pre-season soccer training.

And once school commences later that month, if she's required to write a paper on what she did over her summer break, she'll be able to fill up more than a page or two.

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons

use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are."

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

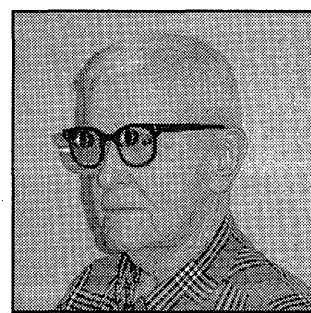
Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May.

Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's

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Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

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SPOTLIGHT ON: YOUR DENTAL HEALTH



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

YOGURT HELPS GUMS

The next time you eat a scoop of yogurt, remember that you may be helping your gums as much as your digestive system. According to recent research, regularly consuming yogurt and other foods with lactic acid (mild acid) is associated with a lower occurrence of gum disease.

Previous research had found that people who eat high amounts of dairy products had less gum disease, but the identity of the exact dairy products responsible for this beneficial effect was not found. With yogurt now acknowledged as promoting better periodontal health, it is thought that the probiotic effect of *Lactobacillus* bacteria found in lactic-acid foods may be responsible. Probiotics are living microorganisms, such as *Lactobacillus* bacteria in yogurt, that are beneficial to health.

Whether it involves adopting a healthy diet or keeping up with regular checkups, prevention remains a key factor in maintaining good health. If you are new to the Plymouth area and are looking for a family dentist, we would like to extend a welcome and an invitation to visit our office. We know how difficult it can be to find qualified professionals without reliable references. However, we feel that with our approach and our commitment to excellence, we have something unique to offer at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. Please call 734-453-9413 for an appointment.

P.S. Simple gum inflammation (gingivitis) is characterized by red and swollen gums that are prone to bleeding.

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It's healthy to know neighbors, ourselves

When Fred Rogers died several years ago, I wrote a column called "About My Neighbor."

In it, I reflected on how Mr. Rogers, through the quiet and low-key atmosphere and message of his TV show, gave so many children and families a chance to feel good about themselves, know that they were valued and of value just for who they are, and that the whole world could, and hopefully would, be our neighborhood.

That has come back to me now as the Multicultural Multiracial Commission of the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills has invited people to start having "porch parties" to discover who is actually in your neighborhood.



Chat Room

Paul Melrose

Do you know your neighbors? How different are they from you? How similar are they to you? Why would I even want to know?

You might want to know for practical reasons. Your neighborhood can be an attractive place to live and work if all of its residents work together. If you know your neighbors it can improve neighborhood safety to have your neighbors watch your property when you are away.

You might find your neighbor has a skill which can help you with a project. Your neighbor might find that since you have lived in the community longer, you might have some suggestions as to where to find a service of some kind like hairdresser, or medical needs or a house of worship or the nearest YMCA.

The notion of coming to know your stranger even has a parallel in your inner life. As a survival tactic or coping skill, the ego has a way of distancing the conscious self from parts of the personality which seem painful, able to inflict pain, or generally have qualities which do not help in relationships and general public acceptance.

These parts of us are either hidden or only come into play in extreme circumstances or they take the form of being such a part of us that while we are familiar and just know us as the way we are others might find us difficult to relate to.

One example is depression. Many who are depressed either deny it consciously or have developed ways to cope which push the depression away. But in either of those cases the depression, an integral part of ourselves because it is in our hardwiring, our experience, is a stranger and not a neighbor. The basic technique in therapy for treating depression, or any other parts of our lives that might be problematic, is to make them known, to "meet them," to understand more about that part of ourselves, to become "neighbors" with the part of ourselves we don't like.

Rather than be ruled by fear, or ignorance or uncertainty or denial we can reach out to meet this part of ourselves. In the meeting and learning about that part of ourselves the personality heals a "split," becomes more unified, and more energy focuses on the unity and common goal of the health and strength of the person.

This psychological process is a bit like what can happen in our neighborhoods where we live, or across neighborhoods, or across cities, states, countries, cultures within and among religious communities.

Simplistic? Perhaps, except that when walls are broken down, and people move away from fear and learn to trust, both them and their neighbors, the peace of the community broadens and strengthens.

Just some thoughts as we think about whether or not to host either neighborhood parties in our own neighborhood or take a look within ourselves to meet the stranger there.

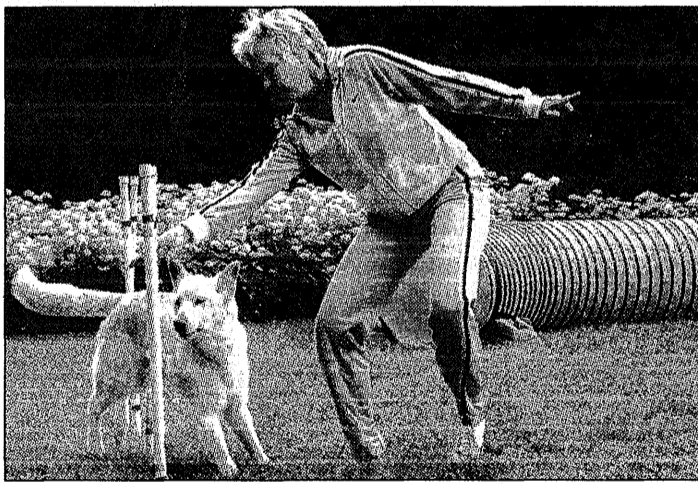
Dr. Paul J. Melrose is executive director of the Farmington Hills-based Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached at www.paulmelrose.com or through (248) 274-4701. The staff of the Samaritan Counseling Center can be reached at www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com or at (248) 474-4701.



Debbie McDermott and Roxie sit with some of the ribbons Roxie won in the national Canine Performance Events held recently in Mason, south of Lansing.



Roxie runs through the agility practice course in her Livonia backyard.



Debbie McDermott runs Roxie through the practice course in the backyard. Roxie has struggled with an illness making it difficult for her to eat but both she and McDermott have never given up and Roxie continues to work as a therapy dog and win ribbons in competitions.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Persevering pooch

Dog inspires owner to never give up

pooch

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Roxie flies through the air as if she was never diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disease that prevents her from eating normally. Her owner Debbie McDermott believes the dog's love for running obstacle courses strengthens her will to fight the autoimmune disorder.

Ever since the diagnosis on Dec. 23, McDermott has literally lived her life around Roxie feeding her every four hours and making sure the Israeli herding dog takes her seven medications.

All of Roxie's food must be liquefied and fed to her in a specially

Please see **POOCH, C3**

HELP is around the corner to learn English

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sister Mary Martinez couldn't say no when she received a call to tutor Hispanic immigrants in English even though it means the 76-year-old Felician nun must travel three times a week from Livonia to Pontiac. After 59 years of teaching foreign languages she was eager to reverse her role as an instructor and help the students build a future in this country.

Martinez insists on not taking sole credit for the endeavor. Ana Mandelbaum of Franklin came up with the idea for HELP, the Hispanic Education for Life Skills Project.



Martinez

Al Swerdlow of Farmington Hills not only volunteers as a tutor but promotes the program. Sister Paulita Bikowski, as administrator of the Montessori School run by the Felicians, lent her 32 years of experience to care for the children of students during classes. Sister Alfonsa Van Overbergh, treasurer, helped with funding through the Felician Sisters who made donations and purchased materials. Sister Renetta Rumpz, Felician provincial minister, provides support wherever she can. Many more men and women in business and education volunteer as well.

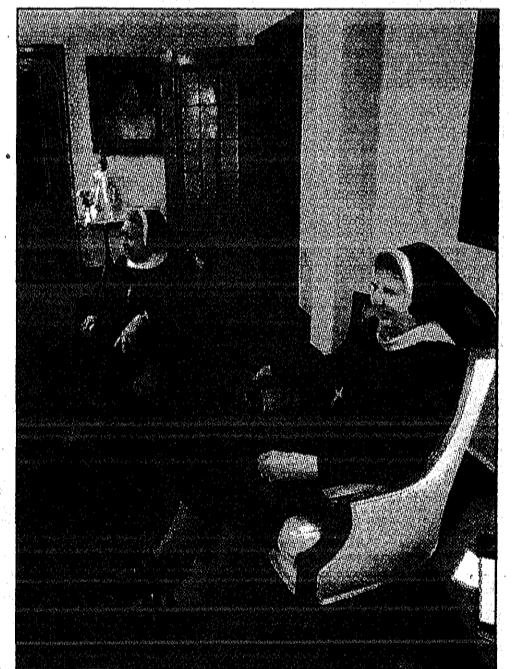
Although classes ended June 11 HELP is hoping to attract students and volunteers to the summer program that starts July 8, and runs for a month. The academic year begins again on Sept. 16.

"It's a program that's very much needed. They come from Mexico. The men go to work, children to school and they're learning English," said Martinez. "They want to learn and that's a big plus."

"The hardest part is to be creative and find new ways to present things. I've been criticized for doing English and Spanish, but learned if you only teach it in one language and they fall behind, they're lost."

Mandelbaum can relate to the struggle of learning English. She came to this country from Cuba in 1966 without knowing the language. That's one of the reasons she wanted to start HELP at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Pontiac. Mandelbaum eventually learned to read and write and graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1968 then went on to Wayne State University where she not only earned a bachelor's degree but a PhD in languages. Her master's is from the University of Michigan.

Please see **ENGLISH, C4**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sister Mary Martinez (right) and Sister Paulita Bikowski talk about the HELP program which tutors Hispanic students in the English language.

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734-324-7800

Warren Urgent Care
31700 Van Dyke Ave., Warren
586-276-8200

Western Wayne Urgent Care
2050 Haggerty, Suite 140, Canton
734-259-0500

Woodland Urgent Care
22341 W. Eight Mile, Detroit
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Chorales reunite for final concert

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Don Pratt probably will never forget 1966. He was a high school student on his way to South America as a member of the Youth for Understanding Chorale. Little did he know the experience would open his eyes to diverse cultures and lead to life-long friendships with chorale members not only from his year but 1958 to 1973 when the program existed.

On Sunday, June 29, more than 172 singers return to Hill Auditorium for a reunion concert and a weekend of rehearsals and activities. The chorales traditionally ended their tours in Ann Arbor where Rachel Andresen founded the groups that brought together junior and high school seniors from southeast Michigan. Over the years chorales averaged about 70 singers.

"We got the whole exchange experience without living there for a year," said Pratt of Canton. "I lived with nine different families on my tour in Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, and was on the 1972 staff with the chorale in Germany, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, and '73 in Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.

"As a chorale member you have a musical experience memorizing music from classical to spirituals. You might be singing in Portuguese or Spanish and learn a variety of music and music styles. You really grow a lot musically."

Pratt is especially excited about being joined on stage by his sister Carolyn, a chorale member who went on to become a professional soloist in Bloomington, Minn.; his wife Kathy, an alto and chaperone for the '72 and '73 chorales with Pratt, and his father Robert, conductor



Youth for Understanding Chorale members from 32 states and four foreign countries reunite for a concert next Sunday.

YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING CHORALE REUNION CONCERT

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, June 29.
Where: Hill Auditorium, 825 North University on the University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor
Admission: Free but donations will be accepted. For information, call (734) 455-8353 or visit www.choralealumni.com

of the chorale from 1964 to 1973. Robert, now 81, takes to the stage to conduct the chorale's 50th anniversary and the last of a series of reunion concerts held every two years.

"It's special to have my father conduct. He's conducted in Michigan for 57 years," said Pratt. "It's going to be spectacular. Alumni who can't do the entire weekend will join us on stage at the end for four pieces every chorale sang. There will probably be 200 voices or more."

DuAnne Sonnevill has

spent last week taking registration. The Orchard Lake woman is proud to have been a member of the 1966 chorale with Pratt.

"It's a huge project but it's so wonderful in the end. We have members coming from 32 states and four foreign countries," said Sonnevill, who sings with Pratt in the Plymouth Oratorio Society. "It was a life changing experience. We were going to be an ambassador for the country. It broadened everybody's horizon. We were the first ones traveling. We opened those doors. We were sent into areas people had not even seen Americans or met them to show we were very much like them. They only knew what they saw on television. Different doesn't mean better or worse just different."

Germans welcomed the chorale with open arms in 1958. David B. Graves knows he'll never forget the destruction still visible from World War II.

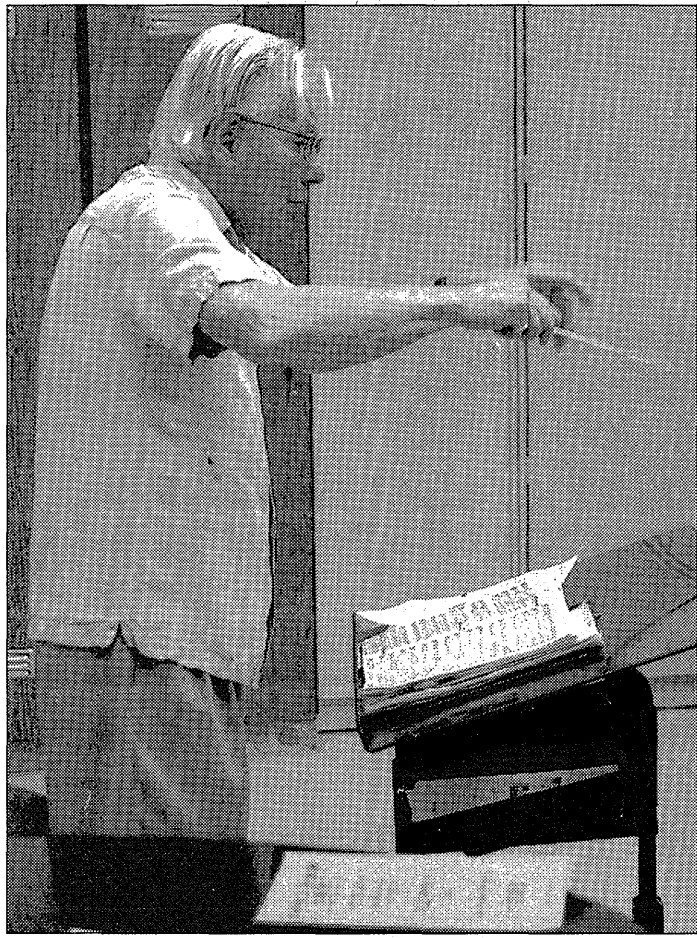
Although unsettling, the

experience triggered a love for travel in the Troy man. As a result he worked in the industry until 2001.

"How we traveled and communicated back to home from Europe compared to today is just worlds apart," said Graves. "When we flew over it took 20 hours with two refueling stops. I remember standing out on the runway and the International building at Detroit Metropolitan Airport was little more than a prefabricated building.

"In Germany we were still seeing a great deal of destruction. I was a naive teenager at the time. I remember the great deal of people wounded from the war. It was quite something to experience yet we received such warm welcomes wherever we were. It was unusual for teens to be traveling to Europe, to be one of the first to participate in an adventure as what we did was really quite groundbreaking."

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Robert Pratt of Canton will conduct the Youth for Understanding Chorale Reunion Concert Sunday, June 29, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor.

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DIFFERENT WAYS OF WALKING

For a physician, the way a person walks tells a great deal about the possible medical problems that individuals may have.

A normal gait has rhythm. The stride involves not only the feet and legs but the whole body including the back, arms and neck. While each person has a characteristic walk, the common feature in a normal gait is the coordinated movement of the whole body.

The gait most common in arthritis is the antalgic gait, what is commonly called a limp. The cause is pain which may come from inflammation of a hip, knee, ankle or foot, or from injury to one or more bones of the leg. Seeing an antalgic gait allows the doctor to concentrate on these areas.

Gait is different in conditions where nerve damage has occurred. In Parkinson's Disease walking has a shuffling character and turning is difficult. In instances of diabetic neuropathy the gait is slow with short steps as the person cannot feel solid footing. In the case of sciatica the individual may drag a foot because muscles in the leg are not receiving the usual signals to contract and raise the foot.

Patients with spinal stenosis walk with their torso bent forward, at times so extreme it appears the individual will topple over. Patients with problems in balance will move walk in a staggering fashion. Walking briskly and stopping quickly after several hundred feet, provides a clue to insufficiency in the blood supply to the legs. Therefore, do not be surprised if your doctor starts diagnosing you by watching how you walk from the waiting room to the examining room.

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POOCH
FROM PAGE C1

built doggie high chair. Roxie still receives about a quarter of her daily nutrition through a feeding tube which had been her lifeline from January through early May.

McDermott keeps repeating how Roxie has taught her to persevere especially through the critical night when she slept beside the dog on the floor at the animal hospital. Twice McDermott and her husband Frank had talked about ending Roxie's suffering but then her health began to improve.

By late May the 11-year-old Canaan was not only competing in agility but winning First Place ribbons in national Canine Performance Events in Mason, south of Lansing. Although extremely thin, Roxie jumps over and runs through the obstacles

seemingly without effort.

Over the years she's competed from California to Nova Scotia and earned her Agility Championship a year ago.

"She's a fighter," said McDermott, who works Roxie's care into her schedule as a member of the Livonia Planning Commission. "The first time she ran since September was the second week in May when I tried her out at a smaller competition and she took off. I found by doing something she loved she had renewed energy and you could see the light come back in her eyes. It's not the ribbons. It made her so happy. They say a runner gets a high when they run. That's what she experienced."

Roxie has always given her all, whether it's on the obstacle course or visiting Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit and Camelot nursing home in

Livonia as a member of Therapy Dogs International. During the school year she's known as Roxie the Reading Dog at Buchanan Elementary in Livonia where students practice their reading skills as she quietly listens. Even when extremely ill, Roxie visited patients at Camelot.

"I've seen her in the hospital or nursing home. She somehow knows how to nudge up and comfort them," said McDermott. "There was a teenage girl at Children's Hospital who wanted to walk her. I asked the girl's father if it was okay. While we were walking through the halls the girl said she'd coded twice that week and that she was dying of brain cancer. She's given so much to so many people."

This isn't Roxie's first bout with illness. At age 2 she had to quit competing in obedience trials because of another autoimmune disorder. Roxie's

current struggle keeps her sitting vertically in a chair for at least 20 minutes after every meal to enable the liquefied diet to travel down the esophagus with gravity.

McDermott has experimented with a variety of feeding methods she learned about on the megasophagus Yahoo group on the Internet. She says Roxie is worth it.

"She's taught me that no matter how bad it looks you never give up on life or in life," said McDermott. "I set up her equipment last night and she watched me through the door anxious to run her course. We're hoping."

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roxie gets a mid-morning snack from Debbie McDermott. Because of her illness, Roxie stays in a special chair to keep her upright 20-25 minutes after eating.



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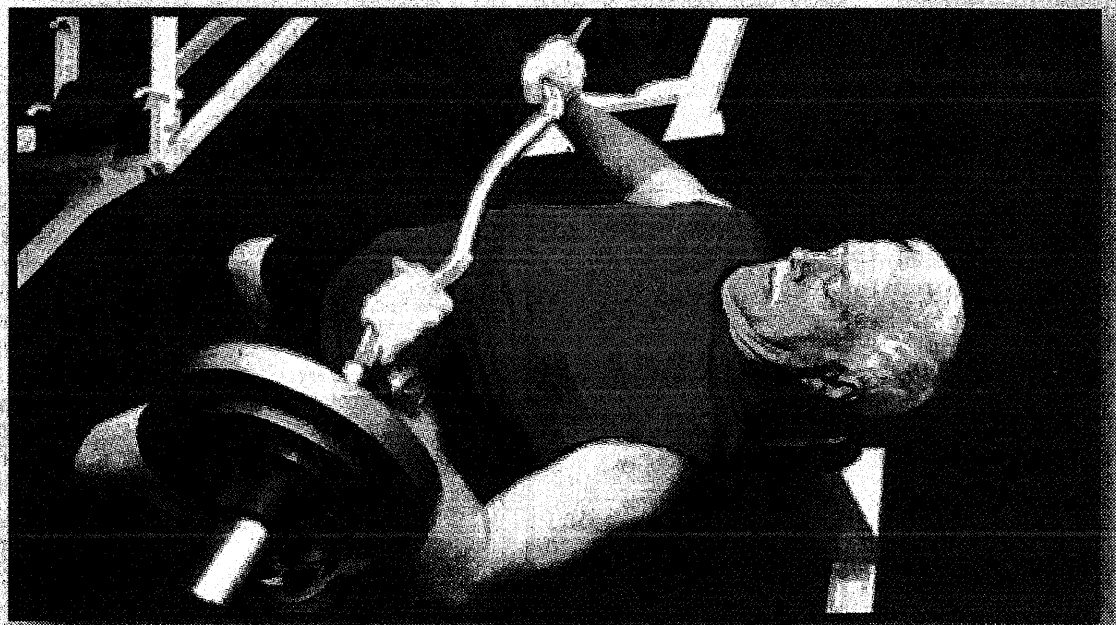
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Erasing misconceptions

Working and walking to raise awareness about psoriasis

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Doug Medonis wears a long sleeved shirt whenever his psoriasis flares up. A paralegal for a Bingham Farms attorney, the 51-year-old covers the red, scaly patches out of habit. Some people still think the immune disorder is contagious so Medonis is working not only to erase the stigma, but raise money for programs and studies to improve the lives of patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Earlier this year he met with lawmakers in Washington, D.C. as a representative of the National Psoriasis Foundation to increase federal funding for research. Back home he serves on a committee organizing the first local Walk for Awareness, set for June 28 in Ann Arbor. Proceeds go to education, advocacy and support.

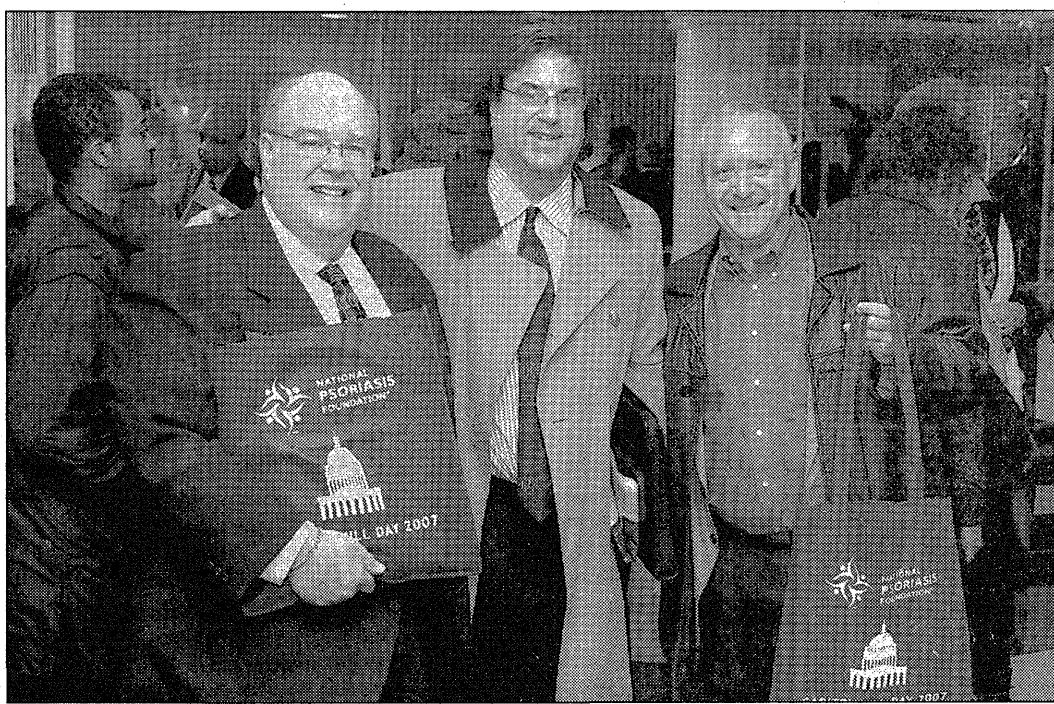
Diagnosed at age 8 with psoriasis, Medonis is among 10 to 30 percent of patients who develop psoriatic arthritis which can damage the joints. He wakes up most mornings tired and stiff.

"It's a noncontagious disease," said Medonis. "It is very isolating as there are a lot of misunderstandings about it. When I was in my 20s we were much more ashamed about it. It has quite an effect on people's lives. Relationships are difficult because you have this nasty stuff on your skin. It's also very painful and will crack and bleed. There's still a lot of shame attached to it especially if they're a public figure. It's an immune system disease with a lot of physical and emotional burden."

Medonis has found relief with Remicade, one of the biologic treatments that include Enbrel and Humira. While infusions of Remicade don't cure the condition, the biologic does manage it.

Treatment for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis has come a long way according to Dr. Joseph Skender. The Beaumont Hospital rheumatologist prescribed Remicade for Medonis.

"In 1990, psoriatic arthritis was treated traditionally with anti-inflammatories, methotrexate. We had biologic medications approved in 1998 for rheumatoid arthritis and later for psoriatic arthritis," said Skender of Birmingham. "Biologics have really come to the forefront and do a great job on moderate to severe psoriasis. Traditionally a lot of our treatments haven't



Doug Medonis (left) visited lawmakers in Washington, D.C. to encourage increases in federal funding of psoriasis research.

NATIONAL PSORIASIS WALK FOR AWARENESS

What: 1k and 5k walks to raise money for the National Psoriasis Foundation
When: Saturday, June 28 (8 a.m. registration before 9 a.m. walks)
Where: Wheeler Park, Depot Street and N. 5th Avenue, Ann Arbor
Cost: \$25 to register.
For information: Visit www.pso.org/annarborwalk or call Randy Little (586) 296-6444, or Liz Fischer at (800) 723-9166, ext. 397

helped in inflammation in the back and back pain, but biologics have.

"There are other biologics they're working on right now, more things coming down the pike that are exciting. In the last 10 years we've seen more advances for arthritis than in the past. Psoriatic arthritis like rheumatoid can start chewing up the joints and can be a destructive debilitating arthritis."

Medonis says it's difficult for patients to find the drug that works for them. As one of the co-leaders of a psoriasis support group which meets at the Novi Public Library, he invited Dr. Henry Wong to speak about the disorder. Wong is director of the biologics clinic and lymphoma clinic in the dermatology department at Henry Ford Hospital.

Wong has seen a lot of progress in treating psoriasis since he started seeing patients as a dermatologist in 1993. While psoriasis patients benefit from topical medications, steroids and UVB light treatments, those with psoriatic arthritis frequently receive help from one of the biologics. Wong evaluates and treats patients with psoriasis as well as psoriatic arthritis.

"We've seen a lot of new therapies developed from our understanding of the disease," said Wong. "We believe it's an immune mediated disease with genetic and environmental components that lead to the development of this disease. It's an abnormality of the immune system where certain parts of the system are overactive. We have begun to use agent therapies that target the immune system."

Early on researchers developed drugs to depress the immune system but the treatments had serious side effects. Over the last 6 to 7 years the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved injectable medications or biologics that have changed the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis as well as psoriatic arthritis. Enbrel and Humira are given by injection from once or twice a week to once every two weeks. Patients receive Remicade by infusion in a physician's office once every two months.

"Biologics are revolutionary in terms of treating psoriasis," said Wong, who lives in Bloomfield Township. "They target parts of the immune system that are overactive. One of the risks is depressing the immune system. With any medication there can be side effects. Patients can be at increased risk for tuberculosis and other infections although this is not seen very frequently, and it can reveal people who may be predisposed to multiple sclerosis."

Wong says new therapies are on the horizon that are very effective. At Henry Ford Hospital he's organizing a clinical trial comparing one of the new treatments to Enbrel. He expects the study to begin in the next month or two. For more information, call (313) 874-9171.

Henry Ford Hospital also does basic research studying immune defects in psoriasis patients at the molecular level.

PSA test best way to monitor prostate cancer

Carl from Rochester Hills suffered from prostate cancer that is now in a state of remission. He emails for tips on keeping the condition in check.

Carl, you probably know PSA testing is the best way to monitor treatment for prostate cancer. When the PSA rises after treatment it is a good bet the disease is still active. Patients have a tough choice



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

to make, use treatments that block testosterone production or wait for symptoms to reappear. Hormone therapy can stop the progress of the disease for years, but it is not a cure. Treat a patient with a high PSA but no symptoms and it is likely that within a year he will have side effects. They can include decreased mental sharpness, energy loss and sexual dysfunction. Be sure

to stay in close contact with your specialist to determine progress. At least once every six months is a good rule of thumb.

Jim from Livonia writes that he has tried all the gimmick diets but they just don't seem to work! What can he do?

Jim, the answer to your weight problem could be between your ears! Studies show that despite all the miracle diets, Americans continue to rank near the top of the chart world wide when it comes to weight problems.

Why?? The answer is many of those diets claim you can eat all you want and still lose weight.

For the vast majority of us, that is just not true! It is almost impossible to achieve long term weight loss with short term diets! To get to the bottom of weight gain, we need to explore the reasons why we overeat to begin with!

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

Cook hamburgers thoroughly to prevent E. coli

The Michigan Department of Community Health and several local health departments are investigating an increase in the number of illnesses related to the bacteria E. coli O157 after receiving reports of 29 cases of infection so far in the month of June. In the past four years, Michigan has averaged 10 cases for the month of June.

Although the investigation is ongoing, early laboratory results, including DNA analysis of the bacteria, indicate that several of the illnesses may be linked, suggesting a common food source. Preliminary information collected from patients indicates ground beef is most likely the source.

Historically E. coli infections have resulted from the consumption of contaminated ground beef. Public health officials would like to remind consumers that using a digital instant read food thermometer is the only way to be sure a ground beef patty is thoroughly cooked at a high enough temperature to destroy any bacteria that may be present. The minimal internal temperature for a hamburger patty is 160 degrees

Fahrenheit and just using color as an indicator of safety may not be adequate. USDA data show that eating pink ground beef patties without using a thermometer is a significant risk factor for food-borne illness.

Symptoms vary, but often include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. If there is fever, it usually is not very high (less than 101 degrees). Most people get better within five to seven days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe or even life-threatening.

Here are a few tips from the Partnership for Food Safety Education to make sure you don't become ill from E. coli.

■ Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food.

■ Always marinate foods in the refrigerator, not on the counter or outdoors. Don't use sauce that was used to marinate raw meat or poultry on cooked food. Boil used marinade before applying to cooked food.

■ When grilling foods, preheat the coals on your grill

for 20 or 30 minutes, or until the coals are lightly coated with ash.

■ If you partially cook food in the microwave, oven or stove to reduce grilling time, do so immediately before the food goes on the hot grill.

■ When it's time to cook the food, cook it to a safe internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to be sure.

■ Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, seafood or eggs. Be sure to have on hand plenty of clean utensils and platters.

■ Grilled food can be kept hot until served by moving it to the side of the grill rack, away from the coals where it can overcook.

■ Never let raw meat, poultry, eggs, cooked food or cut fresh fruits or vegetables sit at room temperature more than two hours before putting them in the refrigerator or freezer (one hour when the temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit).

For more information, visit www.usda.gov or www.cdc.gov and search for food safety or E. coli.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE

Golf benefit

The 2008 Gray's Reef Golf Classic that raises money each year for Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan 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, 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 \$24. Through this program participants learn to develop a moderate approach to eat-

ing and exercise and acquire skills to be trim and healthy for life. To register, call (248) 644-5832. For more information, call (248) 828-7333 or visit www.thinktrim.com.

Reiki classes with animal training

Reiki I 9 a.m.-noon and Reiki II 1-5 p.m. Saturday, June 28, Lumina Healing Arts offers training in the ancient healing method. Practitioners can help heal themselves, others and animals as well. Animal Reiki instruction and textbook included. There is a fee. To register, call (248) 890-7838 or e-mail marian@enjoyreiki.com.

Reiki I & II

2-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Reiki treats the whole person: body, emotions, mind and spirit. There is a fee. To register, call (734) 655-1162.

Volunteers needed

For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29-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 e-mail sdarroch@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 fourth grade students about the human body and how to keep it healthy 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 4-8. Cost \$169. For information, call (734) 398-7518.

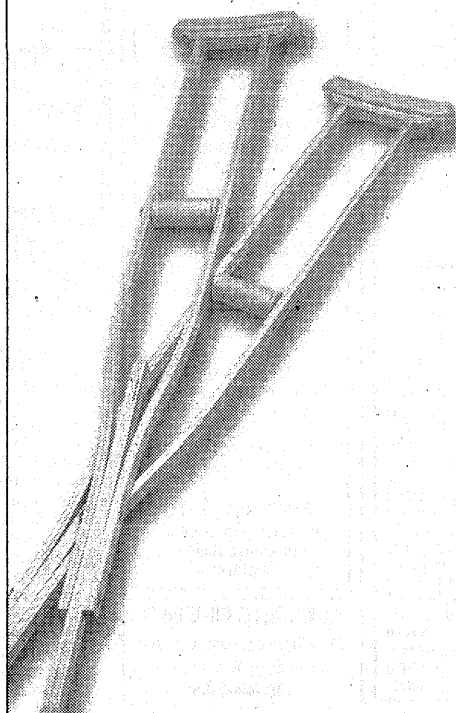


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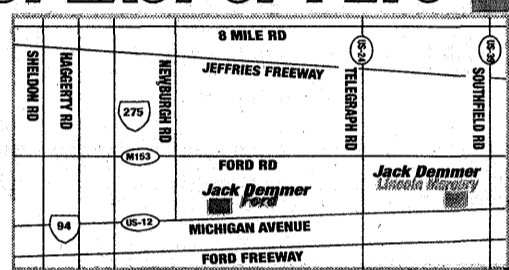
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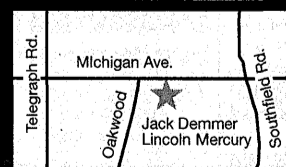
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| \$239 PER MO. <small>DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</small> | \$293 PER MO. <small>\$0 DOWN PAYMENT</small> | \$254 PER MO. <small>\$1995 DOWN PAYMENT</small> | \$397 PER MO. <small>DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</small> |
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| 39 MONTH LEASE | 39 MONTH LEASE | 39 MONTH LEASE | |
| \$239 PER MO. <small>DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</small> | \$293 PER MO. <small>\$0 DOWN PAYMENT</small> | \$397 PER MO. <small>DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</small> | |
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New Homes

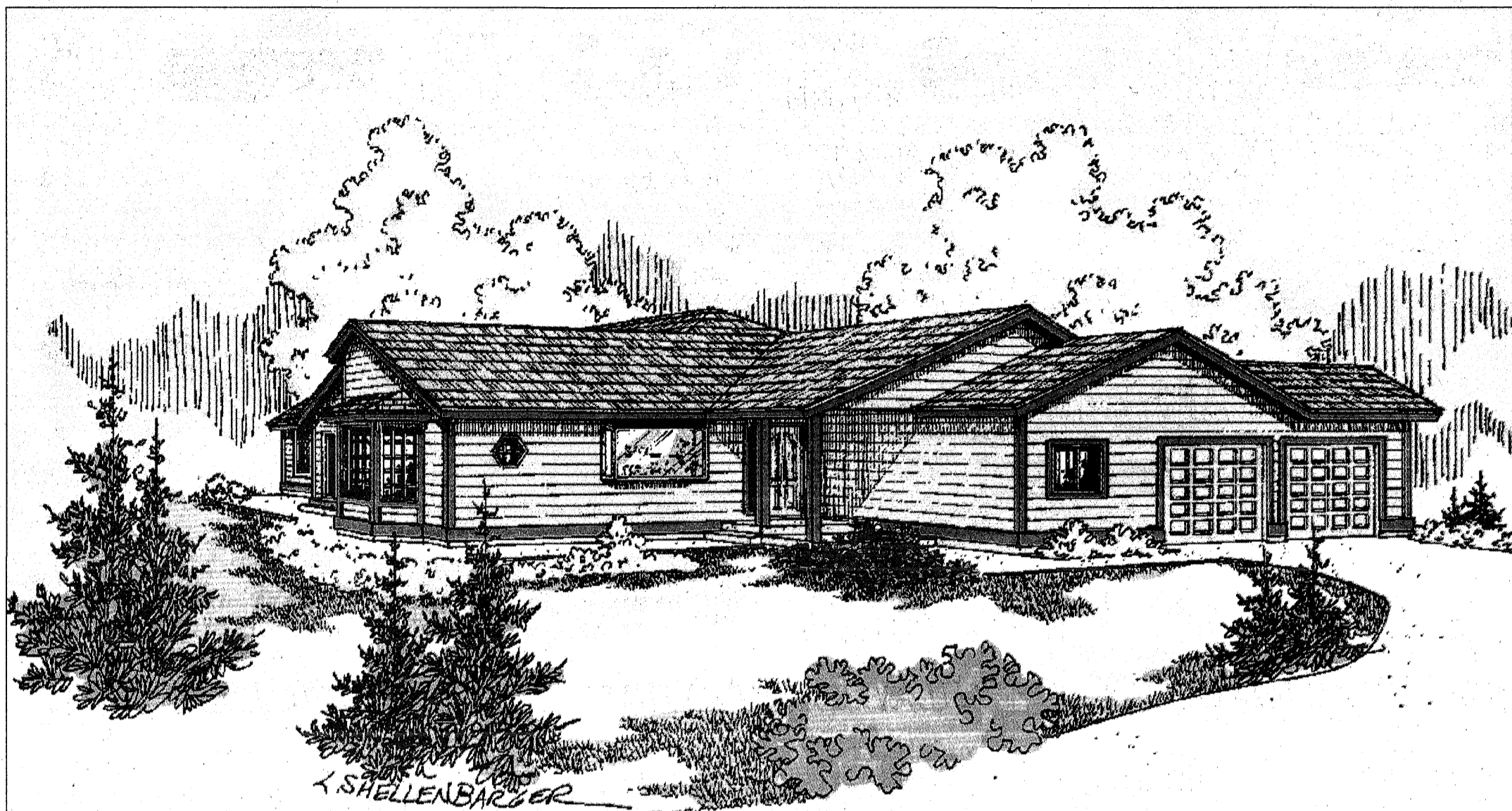


Sunday, June 22, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



Country comfort, gracious living abound in Borges

The Borges (405-39) has been designed to fit on the narrower, deeper lots that are becoming more common. Because space has become precious, the Borges is compact in size yet spacious in living area. The home has 2,032 square feet, with a bay window to give the exterior a more country look.

The two-car garage has a shop on the left side, with double doors for storing the lawnmower, wheelbarrow, or any other tools. The door from the garage opens into the utility room. There is a sink available for cleanup.

To the left of the entry is the kitchen, with a huge walk-in pantry. Over the sink is a garden window, supplying the kitchen with light and warmth. The cooking island contains an eating bar and there is a compact built-in desk. The nook has a large bay window with a view of the outdoors.

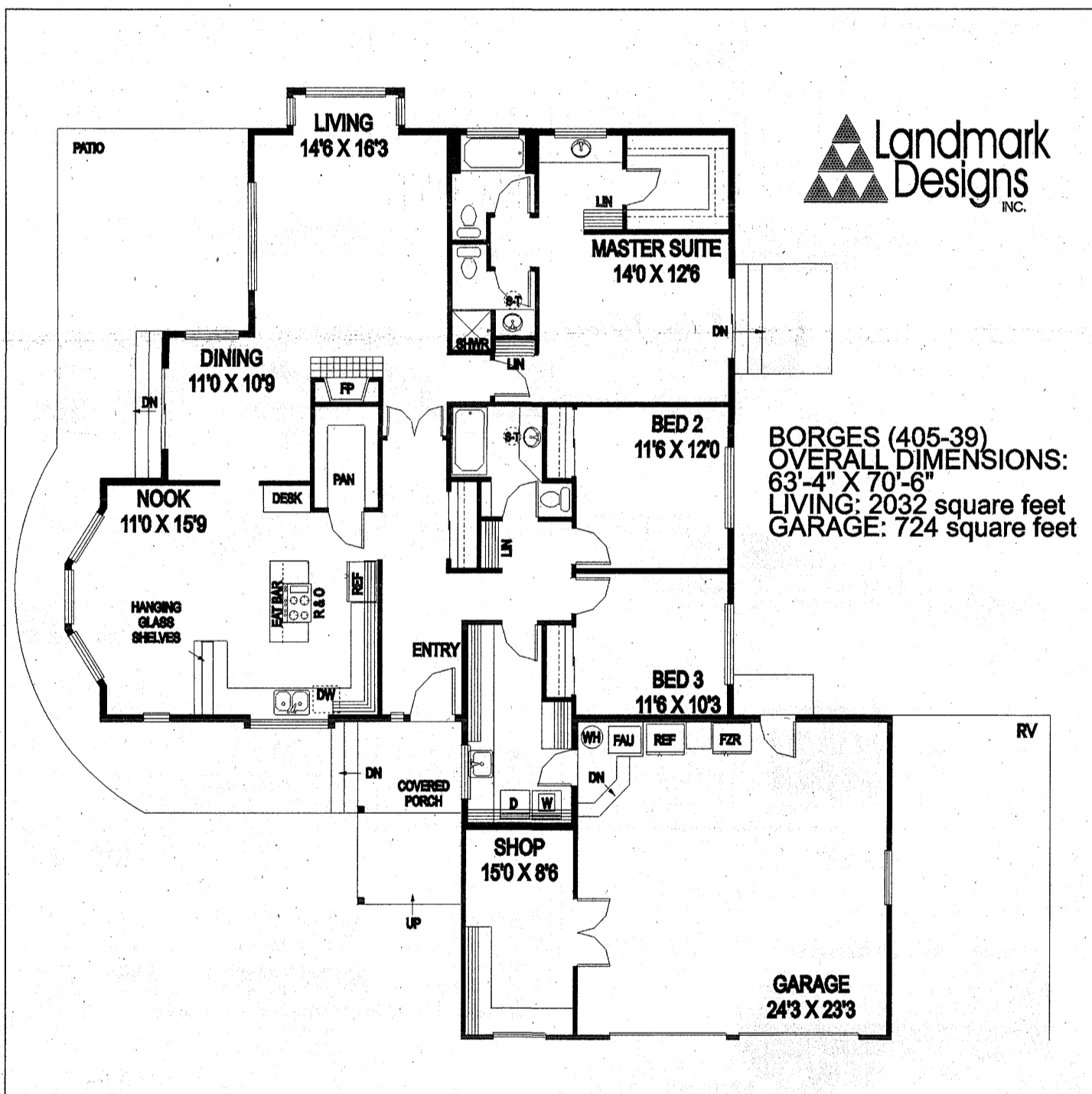
A formal dining room opens onto the patio through glass doors. Adjacent to the dining area is a fireplace facing into the living room. A bay window that could contain a window seat provides light, along with the large window facing the patio. The master suite opens off the living room, with a cor-

ner walk-in closet, two linen closets, a separate sink area, and dual bathrooms. There is a tub in one part, while the other has a sink and shower. Sola-tubes have been used to provide natural lighting.

Bedroom 2 and 3 have access to a full bath. Sola-tube lighting has been provided in this bath also. A large closet along with a linen closet is located off the bath area, available to the two bedrooms.

The Borges would be great for the young family, looking for more room, or the empty nesters that wish to lower their square footage, but still have a gracious home with open living space.

For a study plan of the BORGES (405-39), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldpians.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (CODE) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



Boosting minority homeownership goal of Realtors' June push

The National Association of Realtors is renewing its commitment to help the nation increase minority homeownership in America, and is dedicated to advancing that aim through National Homeownership Month in June. NAR said its commitment is stronger than ever during today's challenging real estate market.

"Realtors build communities and understand better than anyone else how important homeownership is to our nation," said NAR President Dick Gaylord, a broker with RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists in Long Beach, Calif. "Realtors are working every day in cities across the country to bring more Americans home; we help build strong families and

vibrant communities."

In the 40 years since the 1968 Fair Housing Act became law, the influence and impact of minority populations on the housing market has grown significantly. Minority buying power in the United States is estimated today to be over \$2 trillion. Government and industry data indicate that two out of every three new households are being formed by people who are foreign born or members of a minority population. Foreign-born homeowners already account for \$1.2 trillion in housing wealth.

As the nation's leading advocate for homeownership, NAR provides Realtors and aspiring buyers with important tools and resource aides to make homeowner-

ship a reality. NAR's Housing Opportunity Program, Home from Work™ Program, Ambassadors for Cities and HOPE Awards program all aim to expand homeownership opportunities and promote affordable housing year-round.

NAR's Housing Opportunity helps Realtors identify, develop, advocate and promote business opportunities, programs, products, and resources that expand housing availability to ensure opportunities for all in the rental and homeownership sectors of the market. More than 600 Housing Opportunity Programs have already been established throughout the country; many state Realtor associations have multiple programs in

place.

Since 2007, more than 1,400 Realtors have participated in the Home from Work™ Program, which teaches Realtors how to promote workforce housing initiatives effectively at the grassroots level and work with public- and private-sector employers to establish employer-assisted housing benefits.

The Ambassadors for Cities Program unites local Realtors and mayors to increase home affordability and rental opportunities within a town or city. The goal is to highlight models of success that can be adopted in other areas. Since its inception, the program has honored 29 cities and awarded \$145,000 in grants to support local afford-

able housing initiatives. This year's Ambassador Cities are Alexandria, Va.; Allentown, Pa.; Asheville, N.C.; Bowling Green, Ky.; Irvine, Calif.; and Richmond, Va.

The HOPE Awards (Home Ownership Participation for Everyone) is a biennial awards program that recognizes organizations and individuals who are making outstanding contributions to the cause of increasing minority homeownership. Recent recipients have been honored for achievements that include establishing a mortgage company to address language barriers, creating partnerships that provide townhomes for low-income minority foster parents, and offering loan programs and supportive financial counseling that help

families turn homeownership dreams into reality.

"I have been in this business for more than 30 years, and there is no better feeling than helping first-time buyers find the homes of their dreams," Gaylord said. "Homeownership is more than a financial investment — it is an investment in families and communities."

For more resources and information in support of National Homeownership Month, visit www.realtor.org/homeownership.

The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

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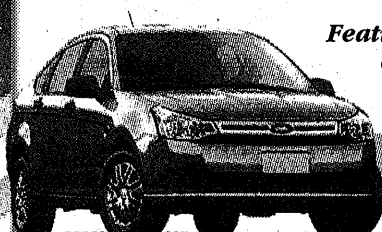


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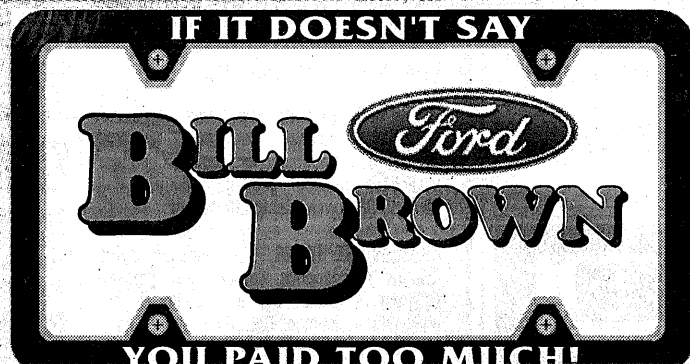
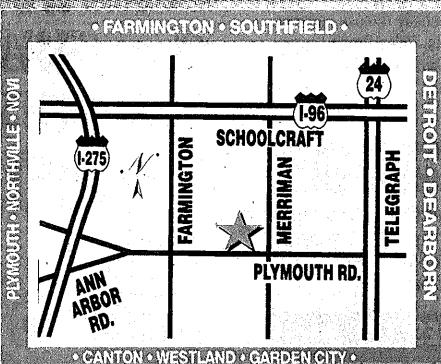
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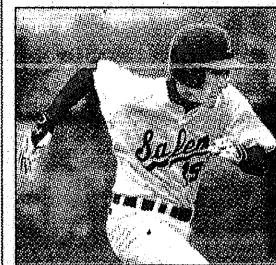
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THURSDAY
June 26, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Study shows YMCA has local support

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The decision to construct a full-facility YMCA in Plymouth could come in as little as two weeks after initial surveys indicated residents would support a new facility along Mill Street south of Ann Arbor Trail, on the former Bathey property being developed by Connektiv Communities of Royal Oak.

"We conducted a survey with 600 phone calls in Plymouth and it came back pretty strong," said Scott Landry, executive vice president of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. "Seven per-

cent of the population listed a very high degree of interest, which ... got us real excited. The survey also went into financial modeling and the prices people would be willing to pay. ... Those prices came in pretty strong; people didn't shy away."

Landry said the survey tested what he called the YMCA's "traditional prices" of \$49 a month for individuals and \$62 a month for families.

"Where we are right now is working with Dennis (Griffin of Connektiv) to see if he can build it at the right price and lease to us at a price we can afford," Landry said.

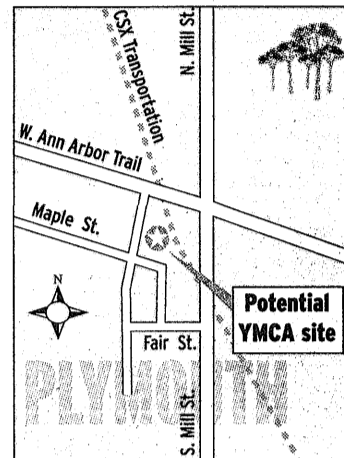
Griffin said meetings this week with city of Plymouth officials concerning cleanup of the contaminated 16-acre site, which he purchased from the city for \$2.27 million, as well drawings and budgeting, will help determine if the heavy industrial zoning will need to be changed in order to move forward with the Trail Head project. Griffin is also hopeful preserving an L-shaped portion of the demolished Bathey factory will also save on costs.

"It's not only to save money, but the shape is conducive for the 'Y' program," said Griffin, who did not have a cost estimate for a new YMCA. "At this

point, we've made a decision to move expeditiously. I'd like to put a shovel in the ground this year ... and have something finished in 2009."

Griffin said a new YMCA could "serve as a tremendous anchor" for other components within Trail Head, including a medical office, commercial space, plus multi-family and senior housing.

Landry said the survey indicated Plymouth-area residents want a new YMCA facility to include a swimming pool, youth sports and an adult workout center.



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

Here she comes ...

Plymouth native tops Illinois pageant, eyes Miss America

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before judging was announced in Saturday's Miss Illinois contest, Katie Lorenz didn't think she'd won anything, but thought she may have made it into the top five.

As they rattled off names after name of the runners-up — with no mention of Lorenz's — the 23-year-old Plymouth native wasn't sure what to think.

Days later, Lorenz, the daughter of Scott and Yvonne Lorenz of Plymouth, still doesn't know exactly what to think, even though her name was finally called — as the winner.

Lorenz won the crown at the Miss Illinois pageant Saturday in St. Charles, Ill., and will be among the participants in the 2009 Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January.

"I think I'm still in shock," said Lorenz, a 2002 graduate of Canton High School. "When they called my name, I was in total disbelief. They kept calling all the girls' names ... when

PAGEANT PROWESS

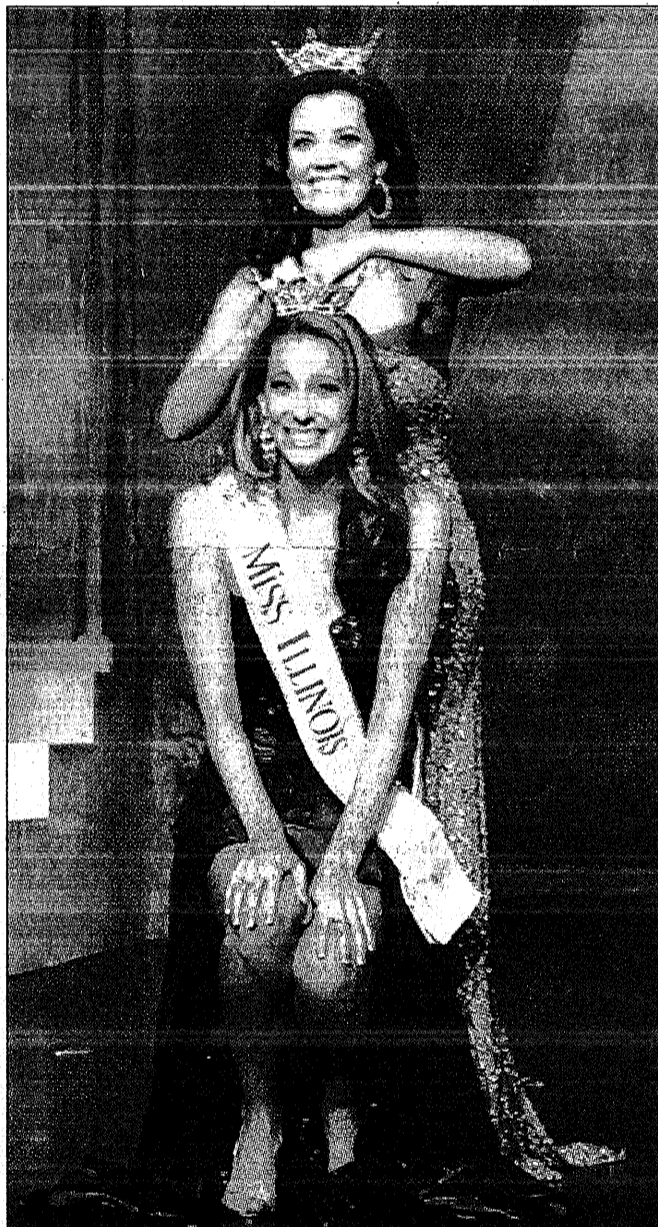
- Who: Katie Lorenz of Plymouth
- What: Won Miss Illinois pageant
- Family: Daughter of Scott and Yvonne Lorenz of Plymouth
- Local: 2002 Canton High School graduate, 2006 University of Michigan graduate
- What's next: Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January

I was the last one standing, it was the shock of my life."

Lorenz, who hit the ground running with her new title by taking part in a parade in Geneva, Ill., will also be in a 10-part reality series with all the other state contestants on TLC in the month leading up to Miss America Live.

"It's all very exciting for her and for Yvonne and I right now," said her dad, Scott, owner of Westwind Communications. "We're

Please see **LORENZ, A3**



Plymouth native Katie Lorenz is crowned Miss Illinois by outgoing Miss Illinois 2007 Ashley Hatfield.

Bush stumps for candidates locally

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

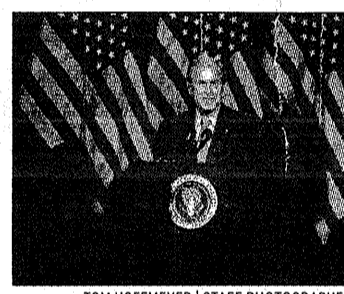
President George W. Bush came to Livonia Wednesday to give a stump speech for Republican candidates and to strongly defend his legacy.

Bush spoke for about 20 minutes before a group of about 400 party supporters, who paid \$1,000 or \$5,000 to attend the Max M. Fisher National Republican Award Dinner at Laurel Manor.

At a time when Bush's national approval rating in recent polls has been in the mid-20 percent range, the president defended his tax cuts, his energy policies, the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo and the war in Iraq.

"The decision to remove Saddam Hussein was the right decision at the time and is the right decision today," he said.

Bush acknowledged that times are hard.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"These are challenging times in America, recession, high energy prices, a housing down trend, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, devastating natural disasters," he said. "You can't know what the future will bring, there will be unexpected challenges to the country."

After Bush's speech, Republican Party chair Saul Anuzis said the speech could help raise \$500,000 toward a \$1 million victory program for state GOP candidates.

"I think the president gave a great speech," he said. "The crowd was excited. It's helpful to motivate the troops, the base, and we raised a few dollars as well."

Bush opened his remarks by spotlighting several Republican office holders and candidates including U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia, who flew down on Air Force One with the president; state Rep. Jack Hoogendyk, GOP candidate for the U.S. Senate; Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard; and state Attorney General Mike Cox, who made introductions.

"Our message will be to get to work to elect Republicans to the state legislature, to Congress and to elect John McCain to be president," Bush said.

While urging support for Republicans, he supported the decisions of his administration and said there is a "wide chasm" separating Democrats and Republicans.

He said he delivered the largest tax cut since Ronald Reagan and Democrats are threatening to end those tax cuts. "The last thing we need is a tax increase, that is why we need to elect a Republican Congress and John McCain to the presidency."

He reserved his most stinging criticism for the Supreme Court and its decision allowing Guantanamo detainees the right to trial in criminal courts.

"By a bare majority, five Supreme Court justices overturned a bipartisan law that Congress passed and I signed to deliver justice to detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Because of this decision terrorists enjoy the same rights reserved for Americans," he said.

Carl Berry, a candidate for Plymouth Township trustee, who provided help with security at the event, said Bush is a man who has the ability to make a decision.

Parade looking for young 'bikers'

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the Fourth of July parade kicks off next week, organizers are once again hoping some 100 youngsters will be leading the way on their bicycles.

Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards is organizing the young bikers, and he said he's looking for some 100 kids (5 years old and older) and parents to make the 15-minute trip at the head of the parade, which starts at 7:30 a.m.

"We really love getting the kids involved," Edwards said. "Parades are about kids, they're about families. It's a great thing for young people to be a part of."

The kids have to have their own bikes, and the bikes must be decorated with a Fourth of July theme. Riders must wear bicycle helmets.

Anyone interested in riding should contact Edwards via e-mail at redwards@plymouthtpwp.org or by calling (734) 354-3214.

This year's parade, themed "Reach for the Stars," will feature some oldie-but-goodie attractions and a few surprises, according to parade organizer Fred Hill.

One "cool new thing," according to Hill, has to do with photographs. According to Hill, more than 200 photos will be taken of the parade entries, then posted online. The photos can then be ordered online in several different sizes

and even ordered imprinted on various items such as T-shirts and coffee mugs, Hill said.

Tickets for the "Bleacher Creature" seats at Main and Penniman are available at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office.

Among the new entries are the Plymouth Whalers and a float that will be built by some 100 campers at Camp Mirage at the Oasis Golf Center. Back by popular demand are such entries as the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, Steve King and the Dittilies, Mark Randisi and the Sounds of Sinatra and the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team.

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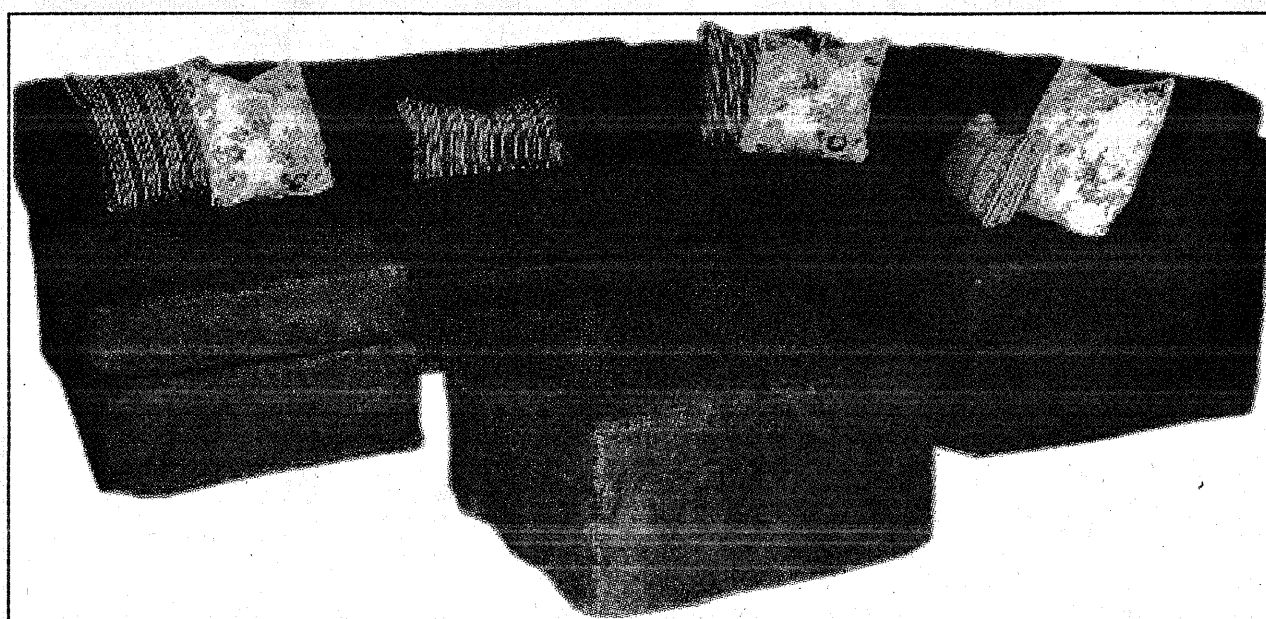
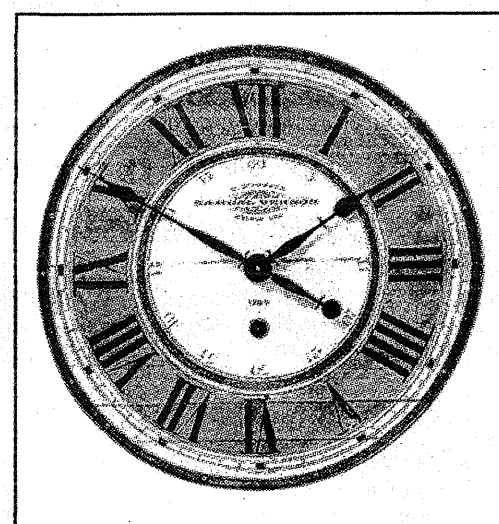
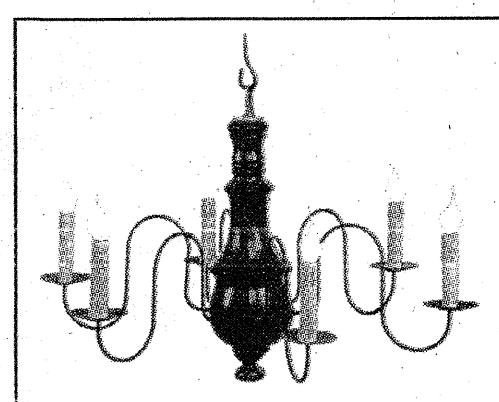
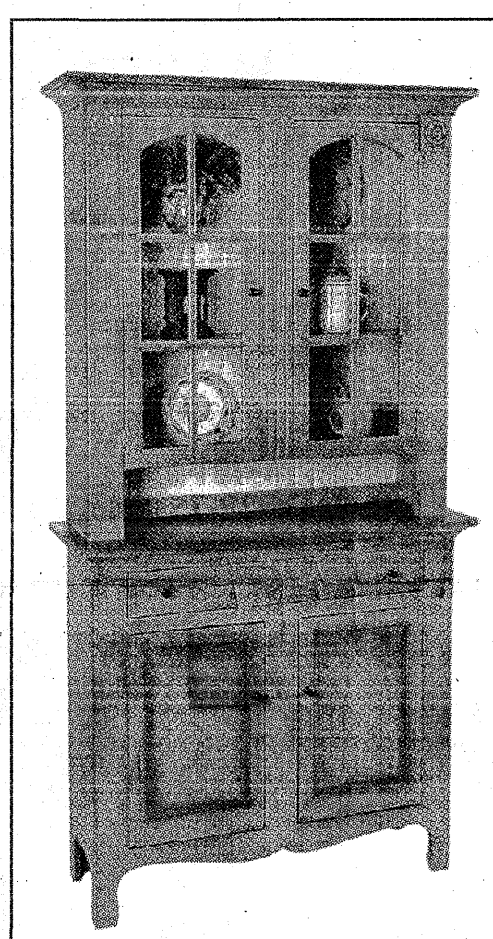
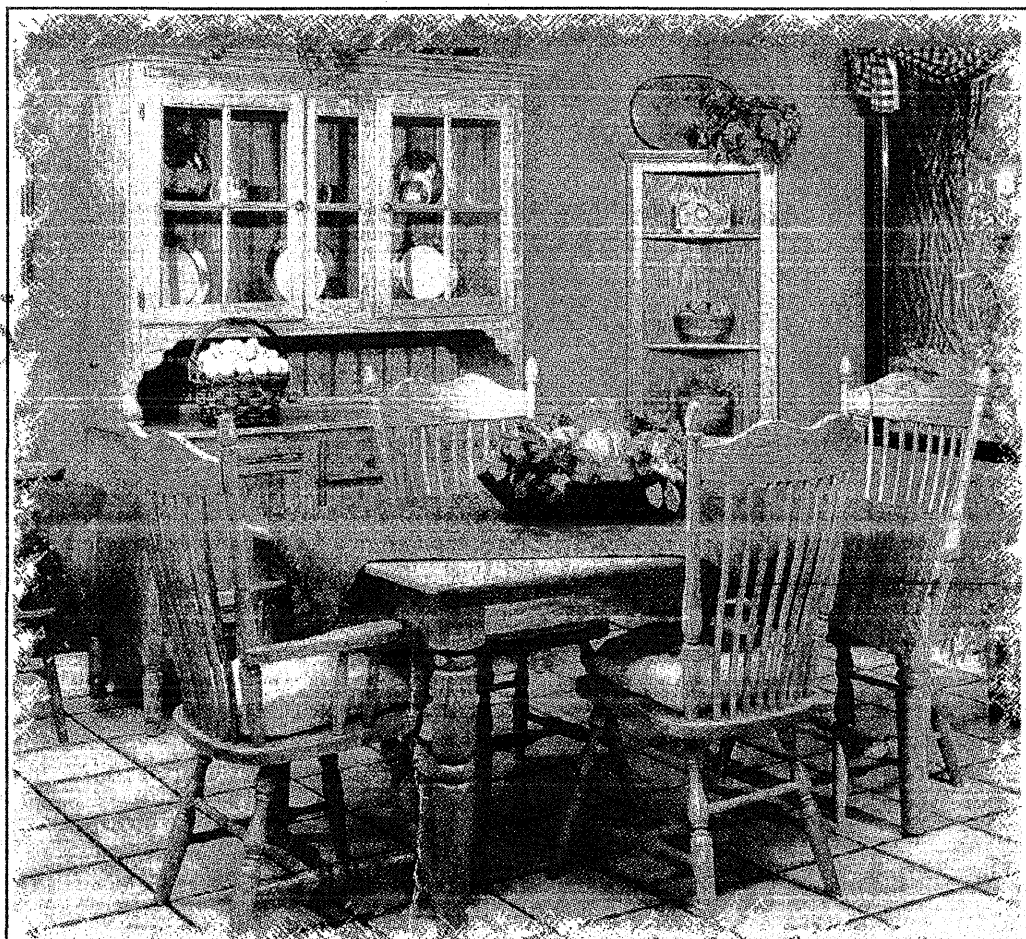
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LORENZ

FROM PAGE A1

still trying to arrange a lot of details. She will be very, very busy."

Lorenz, who turns 24 this week, will spend the next year touring the state of Illinois speaking at schools, public events and charitable functions, as well as working on her personal community service platform of promoting volunteerism.

"I grew up in a community-minded family," said Lorenz, a 2006 graduate of the University of Michigan who is attending graduate school at Loyola (Ill.) University.

"My parents taught me the importance of giving back to the community. It's something I want to do. Instead of spending an evening hanging out around the pool, I can be doing something for the community that's done so much for me."

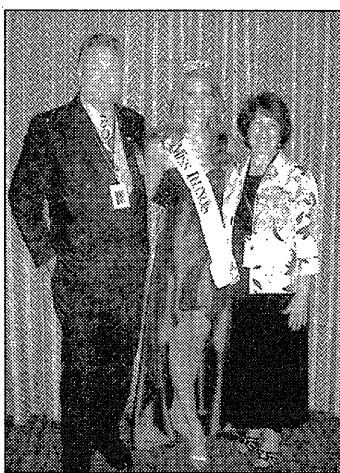
For her talent, Lorenz performed a lyrical dance to the Leona Lewis song, *Footprints in the Sand*. She previously performed with the Plymouth Ballet Co. in The Plymouth Symphony's production of *Nutcracker*.

"I've been dancing since I was 3 years old," said Lorenz, who works for Publicis, a Chicago ad agency. "It's really a passion for me. After graduating from college, I didn't have too many opportunities to dance, so this was a way to do something I love."

Lorenz said she started competing in pageants as a way to get scholarship dollars for college. On Saturday, she earned \$10,000. While doing that, she discovered competing was helping her in other ways — giving her experience, for instance, in being interviewed. Most pageants, she said, include, among other things, a 10-minute interview with five judges.

That experience, she said, has given her an advantage when looking for jobs.

"An 18- or 19-year-old isn't going to do mock interviews; they're going into these things totally blind, unsure of what's going to happen," Lorenz said. "As part of the Miss America organization, I have a whole team of people, including me, helping."



Miss Illinois Katie Lorenz, a Plymouth native, shares a smile with parents Scott and Yvonne Lorenz of Plymouth.

Lorenz will be among contestants vying to replace another southeast Michigan native, Kirsten Haglund of Farmington Hills, who is not only the reigning Miss America, but a friend. "She's amazing," Lorenz said of Haglund. "I'll be doing this for the next year. I can't even think about Miss America right now. It's a year away."

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

"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

Summer movie series

The Penn Theatre hosts the "Summer Cinema Matinee Series," through the end of August, with free passes available at Michigan Made & More and Westchester Barber Shop.

Sponsored by the Packaging Corporation of America and the Plymouth District Library, the schedule includes: June 26, *Flipper*; July 10, *Hans Christian Andersen*; July 17, *Charlotte's Web*; July 24, *The Wizard of Oz*; July 31, *National Velvet*; Aug. 7, *Life Begins for Andy Hardy*; Aug. 14, *The Yearling*; Aug. 21, *Swiss Family Robinson*; Aug. 28, *The Muppet Movie*.

Showtimes are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; the box office opens 30 minutes before each showing; all seats \$3. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. For more information visit the theater's

Web site at www.penntheatre.com or call (734) 453-0870.

King Gemba exhibit

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

Call (734) 416-4278 for more information or click on www.plymoutharts.com

HVA 9-1-1 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

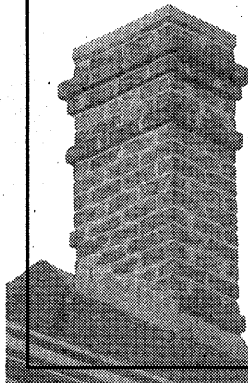
campers about safety at home and at play, how to perform lifesaving skills on injured victims, and all about Emergency Services careers. Registration is first-come, first-served and enrollment is limited to 30 participants. There are limited spaces available.

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

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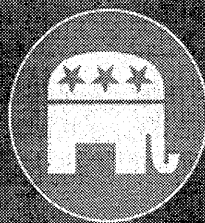
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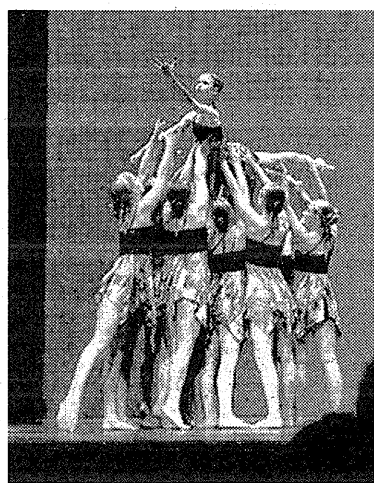


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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JUNE

Pastoral visit
Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz,

Archbishop of Krakow., blesses a bronze statue of Pope John Paul II, rededicate the Lourdes Grotto and celebrate Mass in the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, at Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail. Call (248) 682-1885 or visit www.orchardlakeschools.com.
Sprout time
Preschoolers and Toddlers ages 1 to Pre-K and their parent are invited to

join Bell Creek Community Church for bible stories, music, crafts 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 26, and July 10 and 17, at McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia. Bring a lunch and have fun. For information, call (734) 425-1174 or e-mail jen@bellcreek.org.
Rain forest adventure
Vacation Bible School continues for all children 5:30-8:30 p.m. through Thursday, June 26, a light supper

leads to an evening of games, crafts, songs, skits, stories, no charge, Garden City Presbyterian Church, on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. To register, call (734) 421-7620.
Vacation Bible school
Kidz Storm 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, June 26-29, at Bethel Baptist, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 525-3664.
Ward Church car show
Featuring classic, custom and just

plain hot cars and motorcycles 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, in the parking lot at Six Mile and Cross Roads, just west of Haggerty.
Water works park
9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Friday, June 27, at Ward Church, Northville. "Uncle Jerry" Jacoby, nationally known for his Good Stuff school assemblies, will share humor, stories and songs.
Other activities include inflatables,

crafts, games, music. Free and open to children entering grades K-7. For families needing all-day activity, Ward offers SHINE day camp with drop-off hours available as of 7 a.m. and lasting until 6 p.m. SHINE day camp is \$115, and requires pre-registration. Information at wardchurch.org.

See page RELIGION, A5

Your Invitation to Worship

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| <p>BAPTIST</p> | <p>UNITED METHODIST</p> | <p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> |
| <p>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180 Virgil Humes, Pastor Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p> | <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creighton</p> |
| <p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23810 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p> | <p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p> <p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p> | <p>"More than Sunday Services" Summer Worship Service 10:00 a.m. thru August 31st • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org</p> |
| <p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-8220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-822-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a</p> | <p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p> | <p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p> |
| <p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p> <p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p> | <p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p> |
| <p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided</p> | <p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25390 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p> | <p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p> <p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Summer Worship 9:30 am Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend www.risenchrist.info</p> <p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p> <p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p> <p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. (Nursery Available)</p> |

For information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8365 or e-mail: dhart@hometownlife.com

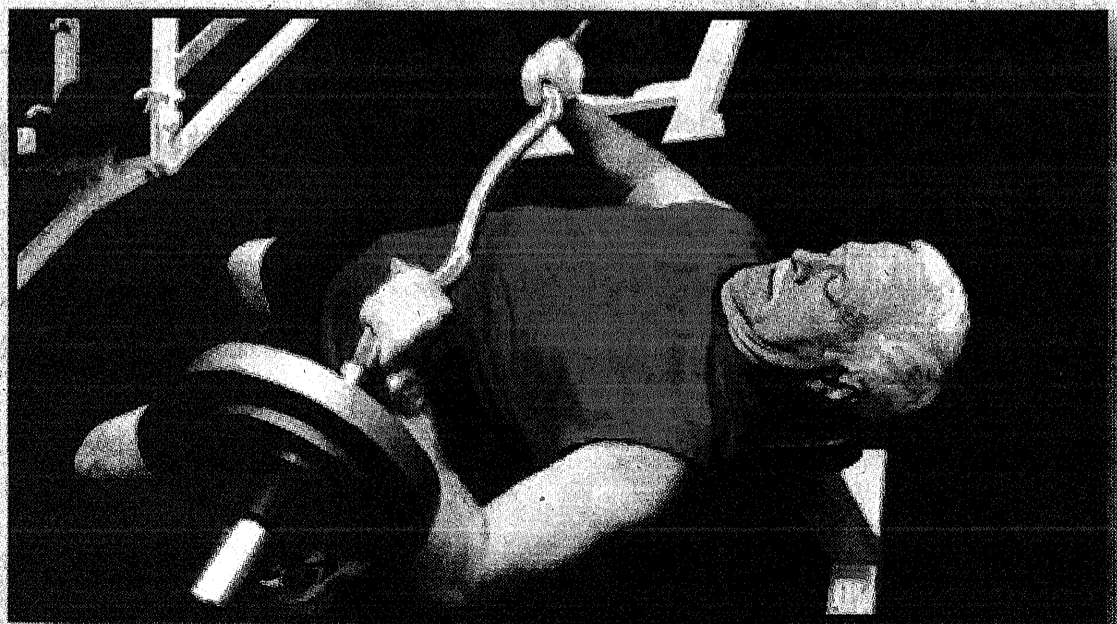
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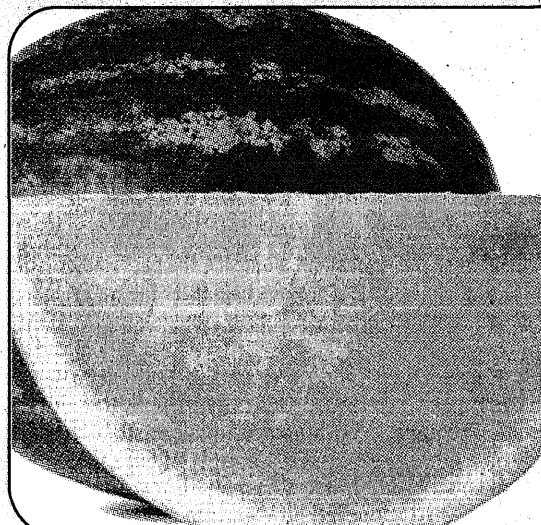
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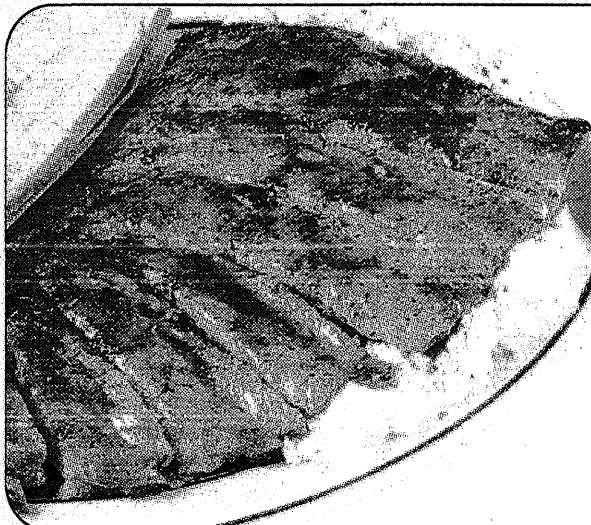
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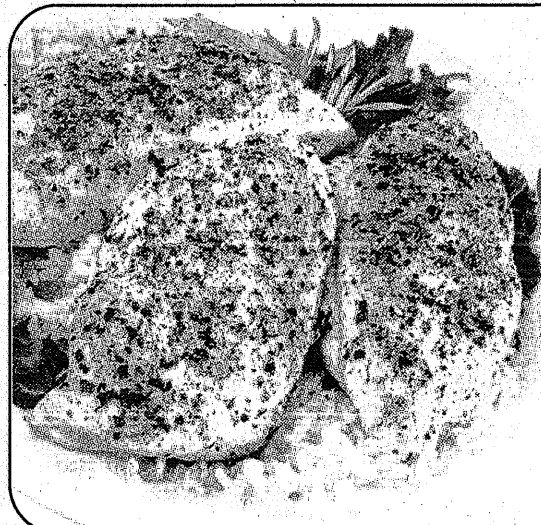
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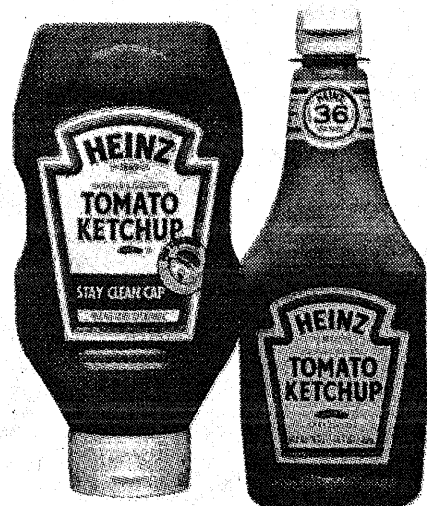
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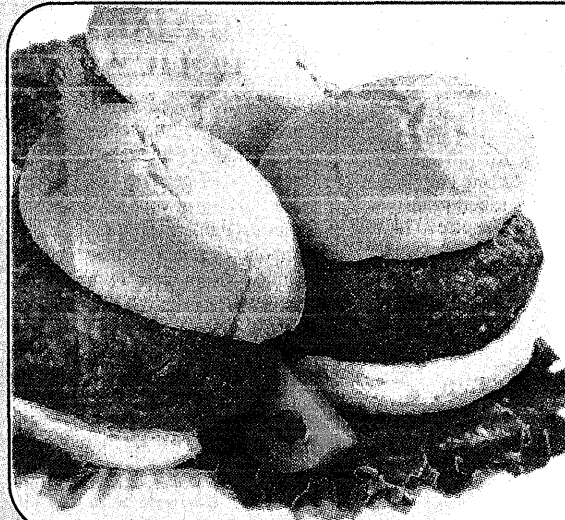
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ON STAGE

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- July 9 - Gemini

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- July 30 - Zak Morgan
- Aug. 6 - elmoThumm
- Aug. 13 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
- Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends

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- June 27: Gia Warner
- July 4: Steve King & the Dittilies
- July 18: Mass Transit Band
- July 25: Bluescasters
- Aug. 1: Paul King's Rhythm Society
- Aug. 8: Trilogy Band
- Aug. 15: Sean Riley Band
- Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse
- Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band

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

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

Publish: June 26 and July 3, 2008

0E2600218-2x2.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION

FOR THE AUGUST 5, 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that **JULY 7, 2008**, is the last day registrations can be accepted in order to be eligible to vote in the above stated election to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Registrations will be accepted at the Canton Township Clerk's Office, 1150 South Canton Center Road, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration can also be made at any Secretary of State Office or State Designated Agency. Persons with special needs who are unable to register in the above mentioned manner are urged to contact the Clerk's Office at 734-394-5120. Mail-in registrations postmarked by **July 7, 2008** will also be accepted.

Terry G. Bennett
Clerk

Publish: June 26, 2008

0E2600124-2x3

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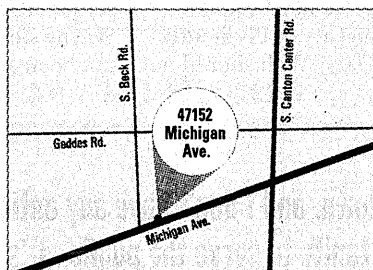


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OUR VIEWS

School consolidation must start in Lansing

There is much to like about summer in Michigan. It is a time to kick back, relax and enjoy the natural splendor that makes our mitten state so unique.

While many enjoy the "down time" associated with summer, local school officials no doubt are casting a leery eye toward Lansing and the state Legislature. That's because state lawmakers are about to start their summer holiday without reaching any substantive agreement on next year's budget, which includes funding for K-12 education.

Simply put, the budget process as it relates to public education is a mess. Local school officials have to have their budgets set before classes start after Labor Day, but the Legislature does not finalize the budget for several months after that. So an annual guessing game takes place where local school leaders use estimates provided by the state and then cross their fingers they hold true.

That is no way to do business, especially in a state that is in the financial mess Michigan is facing. State revenues continue to shrink, while legacy costs soar. And the governor and Legislature seem unable — or unwilling — to do anything about it.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, in her State of the State address, encouraged consolidation among the state's local school districts, and provided a carrot in the way of financial incentives to districts willing to take the plunge. But that is not enough. It is unrealistic to expect local school boards and administrators to vote themselves out of a job.

The concept of local school control is now more fantasy than reality in Michigan. The state seized control of public education with the approval of Proposal A more than a decade ago. Since the state now dictates school funding, and is playing a larger role in school curriculum with the recent approval of new high school graduation standards, it is up to lawmakers in Lansing to devise a new model for delivering public education, instead of waiting for local school officials to vote themselves out of a job.

State bottle deposit law should be expanded

Back in 1976, members of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) had enough. They were sick and tired of seeing so many bottles and cans strewn about the Michigan landscape — in roadside ditches, parks, rivers and lakes.

Behind a strong grassroots effort, the MUCC was able to get voters to approve a "bottle bill" that added a 10-cent deposit on all containers for beer and soft drinks, as well as a few others. It was and still is one of the state's most popular and effective recycling programs. Since 1990, the state estimates that more than 97 percent of eligible bottles and cans have been returned for deposit, so there is no question that the law has worked as intended.

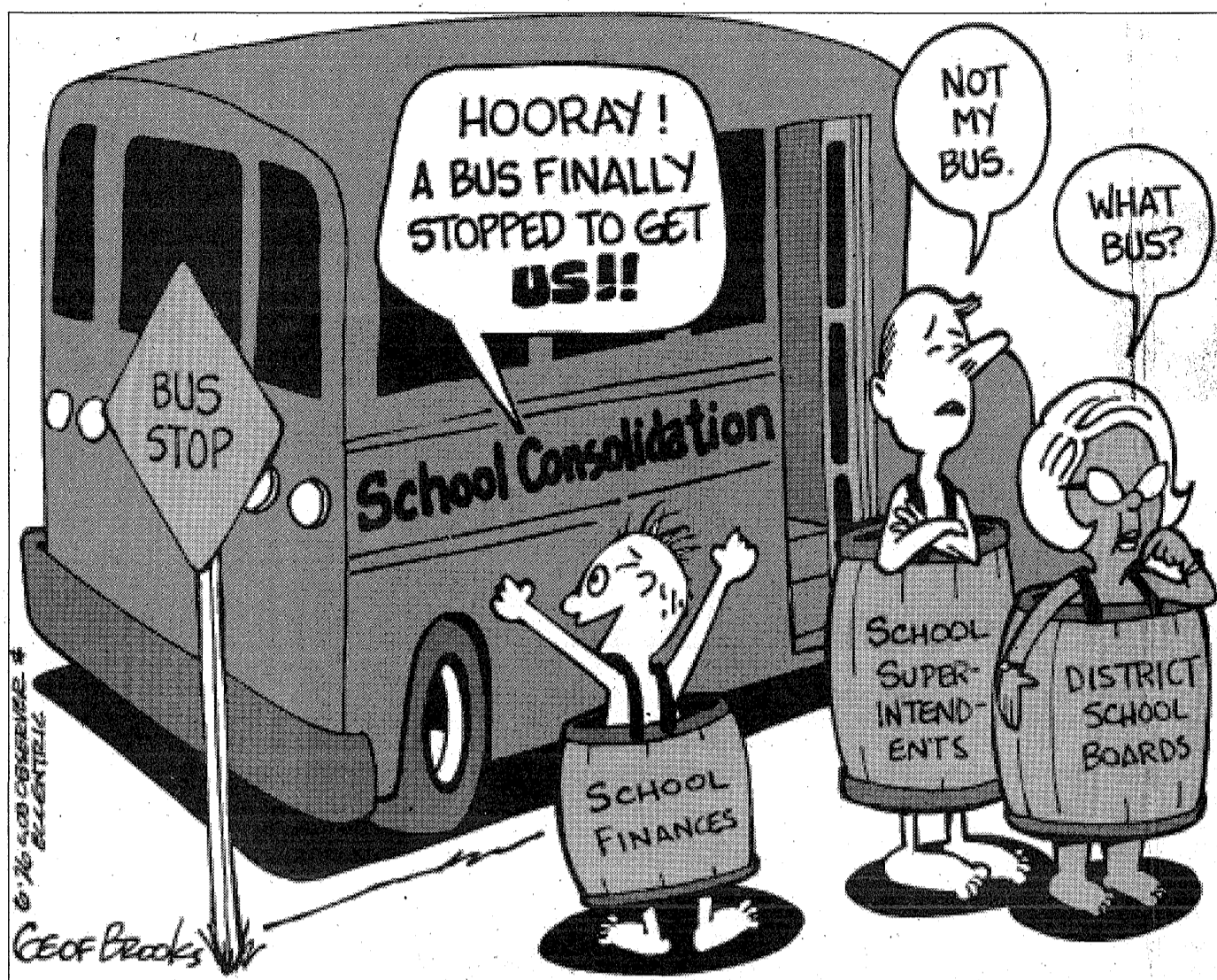
That was then. Today, you'd be hard-pressed to find a pop or beer can laying around. But you won't have any problem finding water or juice bottles. They're everywhere — and that's because they are not covered by the "bottle bill."

The MUCC is at it again, trying to pressure the state Legislature to expand the law to include all water and non-carbonated drink containers. The MUCC estimates that Michigan residents only recycle about 20 percent of these containers, which are soon expected to exceed the number of pop and beer containers on the market (sales grew from 2.2 billion gallons in 1990 to 8.8 billion gallons in 2007 according to the International Bottled Water Association). The vast majority end up in landfills, or worse — in our rivers, lakes and parks.

In principle, we support an expansion of the law to cover these other beverage containers. Back when voters approved the original law, they didn't exist. If they had, they would have been included in the law.

However, the state needs to make sure that it provides assistance to retailers, who must bear the brunt of this law by taking in all the containers. It is messy and labor intensive. Currently the state uses a portion of unredeemed deposits to retailers. It should use more of the money to come up with a way to help ease the burden on retailers. Also, bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to reduce the amount of fraudulent returns to merchants coming from other states, which should also help.

Expanding the existing law requires a 75 percent supermajority in the state legislature, because it is a voter-approved initiative. Some in Lansing say that kind of support just isn't there. That's unfortunate because this is an opportunity for state lawmakers, who will go on summer recess at the end of the month, to earn their title by crafting a bill that expands one of the state's most popular and effective recycling programs.



LETTERS

Keep the promise

Daisy Air Rifle and Charlie Bennett still live in my house ... and throughout the City of Plymouth.

There are still some of us fortunate enough to have known, or to still know, the people that were the pioneers of Daisy Air Rifle. Together we all need to speak up and save the wall, insisting that Joseph Freed and Associates live up to their commitment and follow through on their agreement to Plymouth and the residents in the development of Daisy Square — no matter what the cost.

I did not have the opportunity to know Charlie Bennett; he died a year before I was born. Fortunately through my family I do know of his life, I know his remaining family, I remember every garden in the yard, and every nook and cranny of the Bennett house.

Although my grandparents met in the 1930s as employees of the Bennett family they became life-long friends, even caretakers of Mr. Bennett at the end of his life along with the beautiful home he had created for his family in Plymouth. Even though Daisy moved to Arkansas the house remained a home for family visits. I spent many days inside and outside in the gardens, always making sure the home was ready for the next visit. These visits were full of fun, family and wonderful picnics.

When Mr. Bennett's niece, Pauline Peck, passed away the home was sold, leaving many of the treasures that had made the house. These treasures now live with myself, and my family.

There is not many a day that goes by that:

■ I will walk through my house and think of Mr. Bennett when I look at the cedar chest that sat in his den.

■ I will look at the old mirror that hung in the carriage house that many visitors looked into when they would visit the Bennett home.

■ I will drive by 134 N. Main, look at the old chestnut tree in front and hope that it is still alive next year so we can pick-up some of the chestnuts.

■ Or, the overnight visit at Grandma's house when you get to sleep in the beautiful bed that belonged to Mr. Bennett.

There are also becoming too many broken promises. I have seen houses built on property that had been donated with stipulations that they never be changed. Property with a guarantee that it, remain a park.

I have watched a pre-Civil War beech tree moved across a piece of property only to sit in a large hole, roots exposed until the elements and unsuitable conditions killed it. A tree that was guaranteed to live if moved, only to die for a development that never was completed.

I know a number of people still in this town that know of the same history as myself who have also witnessed the disappointments of development. Our families have enjoyed the prosperity of Plymouth for decades. As a group, and the next generations of the people who built this community we need to take action to preserve the City of Plymouth.

Demolishing the Daisy Wall should not

even be considered and should not even be an option!

Julie Nyhus
Plymouth

RFK memories

I was moved by Phil Power's poignant essay, "Hope sparked by Obama's campaign echoes long ago theme from RFK" (*Observer*, June 12). It brought back memories of my own participation in Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign here in Michigan. The weekend before the Tuesday winner-take-all California primary between Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, Michigan Democrats were holding their state party convention at Cobo Hall to select delegates for the national convention. Hubert Humphrey, the favorite of labor, was expected to get the lion's share. Our goal was to peel off as many undecideds as well as Humphrey and McCarthy leaners to our side. Humphrey did win over 60 percent of the delegates with Kennedy coming in a respectable second, but we were confident that he would prevail in the delegate-rich primaries in California and New York and secure the nomination in Chicago.

The Michigan Democratic Convention ended on Sunday, June 2, 1968. Two days later on June 4 it all ended. Kennedy had been shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Barack Obama has inspired millions who want change. He has responded with impassioned oratory. Robert Kennedy was not noted for grand speeches. His appeal was forged from his deep depression following the death of his brother. It transformed him from a brash and ambitious attorney general during the Kennedy administration to a man marked by a profound sadness and resolve to bring Americans together in a common purpose of peace and prosperity even for the least of us.

On that terrible day in April when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Robert Kennedy rose, against the wishes of his advisers, to speak before a largely African American crowd in Indianapolis that had not heard the news. He gave one of the most remarkable extemporaneous speeches ever given under such trying circumstances. No politician in my lifetime has ever measured up to that moment with his quote from memory of the Greek tragic playwright, Aeschylus, "And even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget, falls drop by drop upon the heart, until in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God."

Yes there are similarities between Barack Obama and Robert Kennedy, but as for me, I will not see the like of him again.

Larry Bohner
Farmington Hills

Raising awareness

I am contacting you because I have been working on a project that benefits senior citizens in southern and western Wayne County and I have unfortunately not been as successful as I would like in

raising awareness in the community.

The Senior Alliance is a non profit agency that provides services to individuals with disabilities and senior citizens; services such as meals on wheels, holiday meals, care management, prescription drug assistance, personal and home care and many others. Our mission is to enable those to stay in their home of choice as independently as possible for as long as they choose through providing a network of services.

The problem is many people do not know about The Senior Alliance and the service options available. As a non to profit we stray away from traditional forms of commercial advertising and do our best to raise awareness in the community through senior centers and other senior-related communities. But unfortunately that isn't always enough.

At this time we have many scheduled informational sessions over the summer in numerous communities that are open to the public. I am hoping that you can print the dates of the sessions and their purpose in hope that seniors will be inclined to join us for any of the open sessions to gain information on how to stay healthy and independent.

The sessions are 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Southgate Senior Center; noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, at the Taylor Senior Center; 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Thomas Taylor Tower in Westland; and noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Senior Safety Coalition in Canton.

The sessions are open to the public and are information sessions for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens to find out about what options and services are available to them through their local area agency on aging, The Senior Alliance.

This opportunity provides an informal atmosphere to obtain face-to-face counseling and support on services such as Medicare Medicaid assistance, chore services, meals on wheels, care management, information and assistance and many more.

Please join us and take charge of your health and your life. Own your independence!

Lori Vail
program manager
The Senior Alliance

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"This is my hometown, and I don't have any anticipation of leaving anytime soon ... As corny as it sounds, I've enjoyed the opportunity to serve the public. It's emotionally rewarding to be able to help people in their darkest hours with medical assistance or saving their properties and memories."

— Randy Maycock, Plymouth Community Fire Department chief, on what it's been like being part of the department for more than 26 years

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

Some news is gloomy, but most residents still have hope for state

The Midwest Democracy Institute has taken a new poll of 400 Michiganders, and it predictably strikes a dismal note, but one that contains some surprising grounds for optimism.

First, the grim news:
 ■ Only about one out of six of us (16 percent) think the state is "on the right track."



Phil Power

■ Distrust in state government has risen over the last two years; nearly three out of four of us (73 percent) say they only trust state government some of the time ... or almost never.

■ Barely one in five (21 percent) think Gov. Jennifer Granholm is doing a good job, while a mere tenth of us (11 percent) think the Legislature is doing well.

None of this will surprise anyone who has been following state affairs for the last few years and is familiar with the usual drumbeat of doubt and depression from all sides.

But embedded in the survey is this remarkable finding: "At the same time, many continue to have an abiding faith in the ability to change state government to be less influenced by moneyed interests and more responsive and accountable to constituents.

"A large majority (77 percent) expresses personal interest in an organization that works toward making state government work better by being more honest and accountable, and over half of Michigan residents (54 percent) say they are extremely interested."

That fits well with what the Michigan's Defining Moment (MDM) campaign has discovered over the last six months. In that time, it has held nearly 200 community conversations, small group "deliberative democracy" gatherings all over the state. (Full disclosure here: I founded the nonprofit, nonpartisan sponsoring organization, The Center for Michigan, and I'm a co-chair of the campaign.)

Attitudes expressed in these meetings are decidedly not a scientific poll. Nor are they top-down ideological statements of revealed truth (if any such things exist). Instead, they're the thoughtful reflections of nearly 2,000 Michiganders, who attempted to define their hopeful vision for the state, as well as share their thoughts about how best to achieve that vision.

The results have just been released in a report, "Michigan's Defining Moment: A Common Ground Vision for Michigan's Transformation." In the main, the findings are pretty straightforward.

People want a talented and globally competitive workforce; a thriving economy and a great quality of life attracting talented people to Michigan; and a state government that is effective, efficient and accountable. (You can

People want a talented and globally competitive workforce; a thriving economy and a great quality of life attracting talented people to Michigan; and a state government that is effective, efficient and accountable.

find the full report on The Center's Web site, www.thecenterformichigan.com.)

The Midwest Democracy Network advocates campaign finance reform and transparency in government. Among the proposals that got top marks in its poll:

■ Requiring judges to publicly disclose campaign contributions, as well as requiring them to step aside when cases before them involve parties who contributed to their campaigns. (This will likely be a big issue this fall, when Chief Justice Clifford Taylor of the Michigan Supreme Court — recently rated as among the worst in the country — is up for election. Democrats have vowed to try to defeat him.)

■ Establish nonpartisan commissions to draw new district boundaries when needed, normally following the U.S. Census every decade. (Along with lengthening or abolishing term limits, fixing our redistricting system comes out high in MDM community conversations. The vast majority of Michigan legislative districts are gerrymandered to favor one party or the other.)

Six out of 10 Michiganders felt a package of reforms will make a "big difference" in how their government works. Interestingly, many legislators feel the same way. Over the past few months, I've had six small, confidential, off-the-record dinners with lawmakers from both parties. To a person, they are hard-working, interested in doing the right things, frustrated with a political system that tends to push them into scoring partisan political points rather than governing wisely.

True enough, this poll, like many others, looks grim on the surface. But if you look a bit below the surface, lots of folks are interested in reforming the system and willing to work hard to do it.

Correcting the record: My column last week chastised Gov. Granholm for not adopting Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's idea for a four-day, 10-hour work week to save gas. Turns out she released a letter urging state departments to do exactly that, one day before my column was published.

I'm pleased she did the sensible thing to help preserve a little fuel, while helping state employees save a lot of gas money.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent the official views of The Center. Reader comments are welcome at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

Return of old names gives election a 'Back to the Future' quality

Leave it to Plymouth Township politics to provide the kind of vaudevillian entertainment one generally sees attached to the names "Barnum" and "Bailey."

Eight years ago, newcomer and Plymouth Township cop Steven Mann upended incumbent supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy, who either didn't want to or simply didn't bother with (she never said which it was) an attempt at getting re-elected.

Four years ago, Mann and township Treasurer Ron Edwards helped orchestrate the election of Richard Reaume to Mann's supervisor position with Mann's

last-minute announcement he wouldn't seek re-election and Reaume stepping in about 45 seconds before the deadline to register for that race.

This year promises more of the same, what with several former township officials trying to get back in the game, a clerk whom everyone thought had seen her last election seeking the township's top job, the one guy who doesn't have an opponent (Treasurer Edwards) delighting in the political process of every other race and a first-term school board trustee (Dianne Gonzalez) who decided, about halfway through her first term, to seek higher office.

If that's not enough for you, here's one more attraction: A Democrat.

Not that Democrats can't get elected around here, mind you. Marc Corriveau, a Democrat from Northville, is the current 20th House rep. And his predecessor, self-described Milliken-Republican John Stewart, fought off the image he was a Democrat in Republican's clothing for six years in the House. Of course, as soon as he was out of office, he ... umm ... joined the Democrats.

Mike Watts is the lone Democrat in the race (in case you weren't sure, he's running for supervisor), and you wouldn't be able to blame him for feeling a little left out for the moment. But he'll get his 15 minutes this fall, after the four Republican candidates spend the next couple of months beating hell out of each other on the campaign trail.

There are a lot of intriguing pieces to this race, not the least of which is the decision by current Clerk Marilyn Massengill, who has

worked for the township since the late 1960s, to run against incumbent Supervisor Richard Reaume. There were people who were surprised Massengill sought re-election four years ago, so imagine the raised eyebrows when she announced her 2008 plans.

Reaume has the "incumbent" advantage, but it's tough to argue Massengill can't match him in name recognition. The two of them sit next to each other on the dais at township board meetings, so watching them interact the next two months will be interesting. Of course, her name alone won't get it done, and Massengill will still need to hit both the absentee-voter rolls and the streets if she really wants to unseat Reaume.

They should both be concerned, however, if word on the street is true about the other two candidates — Realtor K.C. Mueller (herself a former township trustee) and Gonzalez — being among the hardest-working candidates.

The clerk's race is between Massengill's hand-picked deputy, Joe Bridgman, and Mary Ann Prehlik, an accountant for Herriman & Associates, the property management business she owns with husband, Dan Herriman, a former appointee to the township board.

Prehlik's background is in accounting, and she admits she has "things to learn" about the elections side of the clerk's job. Bridgman has been doing the elections thing for five years now, but probably needs to upgrade his accounting skills.

So far, there's been no movement to sew them together to make one perfect candidate.

The trustee race is really going to come down to two people: former police chief Carl Berry and political newcomer Michael Kelly. One can figure on the three incumbent trustees — Mann, Bob Doroshewitz and Kay Arnold — getting re-elected. The fourth spot goes to either Berry, trying to get re-involved with township government, or Kelly, who served on the township's compensation commission but is otherwise largely unknown politically.

All these former township officials give the race a surreal "Back to the Future" feeling, which begs the question:

How would Marty McFly feel about all this?

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at his new phone number, (734) 953-2153, or via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

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Buy low, sell high and don't panic when the market slumps

I gave a speech last week and in attendance was a number of very nervous investors. One man said that with high oil prices, high food prices, the falling dollar and rising unemployment, he couldn't understand why I would recommend anyone continue to invest. He said it will take a long time to turn the economy around and it would be more prudent to stay on the sidelines.

I recognize many investors are nervous about the economy. However, it is not prudent to liquidate and to sit on the sidelines. It may feel good in the short run, but over the long run it will cost you.

It is important for all investors to realize we have gone through difficult times before, including the stock market crash of 1987, the meltdown in the technology market, the



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

savings and loan crisis and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. In fact, over the last 20-25 years, despite the difficulties, we have seen the stock market rise. One thing that has always happened is our economy has come out of the doldrums and not only regained strength, but plowed ahead to reach all-time highs.

The reality of the situation is that downturns are normal and it is something that investors not only have to accept, but should be looking to for the opportunities that generally abound.

It would be great to be in the

market when things are good and out when times are bad. However, as Warren Buffet has stated in the past, the hall of fame of market timers is empty. It is impossible to predict the market over short periods. After all, you have to be right twice — once when you buy and once when you sell — and no one can do that consistently.

Most will tell you the key to success as an investor is to buy low and sell high. I agree. However, most investors operate the exact opposite way. Most sell low and buy high.

The reason they sell low is because when we go through times like this, they bail out of their investments (selling low). They wait until the market has a significant run to get back in, thus buying high.

I don't know when the market will regain its strength and start growing. I don't believe anyone knows. One thing his-

tory has taught me is those who stay invested, focus on long-term goals and objectives and who keep a balanced and diversified portfolio will be successful.

There is an old saying: "Your portfolio is like a bar of soap: the more you touch it, the smaller it gets."

If your goal, like mine, is

to increase net worth during these difficult times, the best course of action is to not panic and make prudent moves.

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.

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ITC is working to keep Michigan's lights on

Trees and high voltage power lines are a hazardous combination. The recent storms that swept through our area provide timely testimony to the importance of maintaining our electric grid and tower corridors. More than 700,000 people in Michigan — largely in the tri-county region of metro Detroit — lost power when trees and branches interfered with electric distribution lines during the heavy rain and wind.

Trees that come into contact with transmission lines can cause serious system outages and pose a significant safety threat to residents and the public. Even when there is no direct contact, electricity can arc from transmission lines to nearby tree branches, posing personal safety and fire issues.

ITC Holdings Corp., through its subsidiaries ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC. (METC), owns, operates and maintains more than 8,100 miles of high voltage transmission lines in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. ITC is federally required to maintain its utility corridors to prevent all vegetation-related electrical outages.

ITC has begun vegetation management in its corridors. Where permissible, the following will occur:

- In areas directly under the transmission line or 10 feet outside of the line, trees will be removed.
- Outside of this area, trees that threaten safety or reliability will be targeted for removal.
- If ITC lacks tree removal rights or permission for removal is not obtained, trees will be pruned to the extent easements permit.

If you have questions about ITC's vegetation management practices, please call 1-877-ITC-ITC9 (1-877-482-4829).

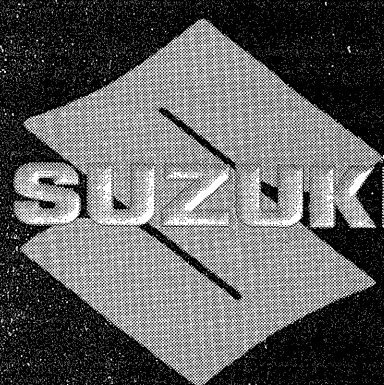
To learn more about ITC, please visit www.itc-holdings.com

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▶ The Blackout of 2003

Nothing brings a halt to daily life faster than the loss of power. Outages and blackouts are inconvenient, costly and potentially dangerous. The Blackout of 2003 left 50 million people in the Northeast, Midwest and Canada without power for days. Hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire departments and schools were just a few of the critical services heavily impacted by the Blackout. The underlying cause of the Blackout, tree contact with power lines in northern Ohio, is well documented. ITC is responsible for protecting communities and residents from outages and safety threats like the Blackout of 2003.





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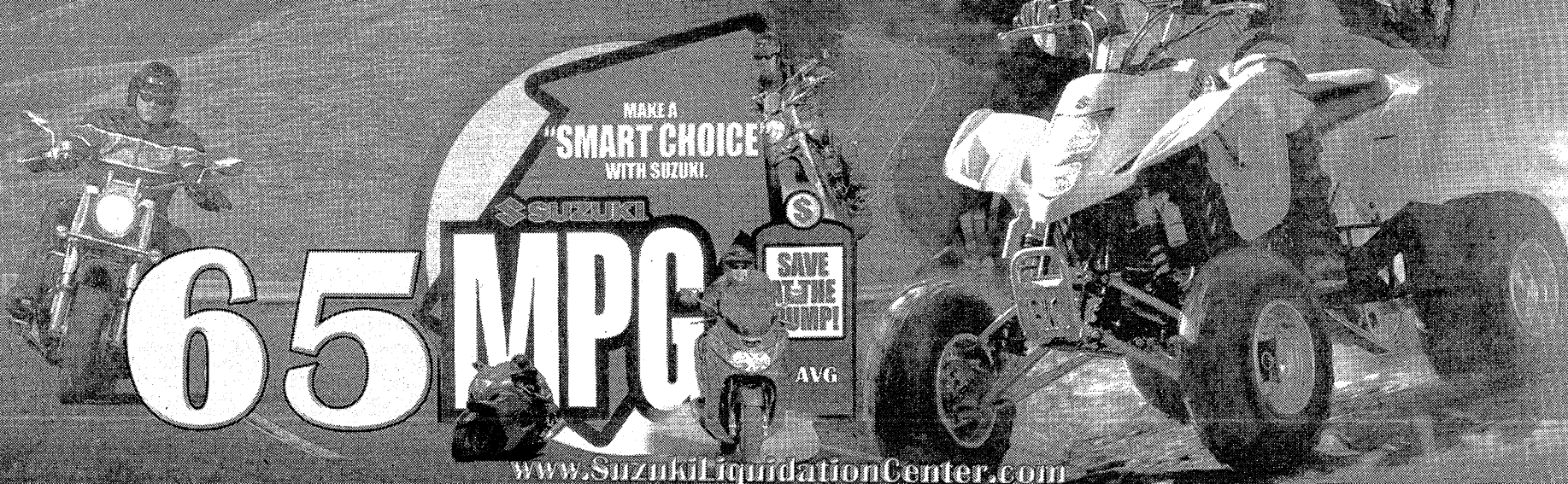
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These Cards are stacked with talent

The Canton Cardinals 10U travel baseball team captured back-to-back tournament titles earlier this season, placing first in the Mount Clemens Memorial on June 1 and the Memorial Day NIT Classic in Canton on May 25. Pictured (front row from left) are Andrew Hejka, Trevor McManus, Cameron Shaughnessy, Cameron Stella, Brett Lee, (middle row from left) Aaron Madsen, Kevin Anthony, Seth Hubbard, Andrew Jossey, Grant Hartwig, Michael Groff, (back row from left) Dan Hejka, Dave Madsen, Kurt Anthony, Bob Lee and Mike Groff.

CHRISTIAN

FROM PAGE B1

attend Christian schools or are home-schooled. "It is not our intent to exclude anyone, but there are some parameters," he said. "There is a standard of play expected that would glorify Christ. We have standards for our coaches so they will be qualified to lead and model proper behavior for the players. "In order to keep a Christian environment on each team, we will have a 'cap' for the number of kids coming from outside the Christian environment. We do not want a situation where ungodliness is the standard that Christian kids

have to fight off. It should be the other way around." Each of the seven teams will play at least seven games this season with one team receiving a bye each week. All of the games will be played at the same site each week for the inaugural campaign, which will open with a triple-header at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium in September. The second week's slate of games will be played in Flint. The fee for each player is \$150. The CFLM will also offer a 7th and 8th grade league so that it has a feeder system for future years.

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CHAMBO

FROM PAGE B1

comment on where I stand or the plans of the school board." Thurston football coach Bob Snell and boys basketball coach Brian Bates also could not be reached for comment.

BIG LOSS FOR KIDS

But veteran boys swim coach Tom Giummo lamented losing such a dedicated advocate for student-athletes, let alone someone who often would be the first person at school and the last one to leave after that day's athletic events. "If it wasn't for Al, we probably wouldn't have gotten that fabulous football field and fieldhouse, or the new gym," Giummo said Tuesday afternoon. "You need somebody on your side to oversee athletics. He's going to be missed." Meanwhile, Chambo's outstanding performance to help get the 2005 bond issue approved — and then put a blueprint into action — partly earned him the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Region 12 Athletic Director of the Year in 2005-06. Giummo, involved in athletics at Thurston since the early 1980s, said he does understand it is a tough economic time for all of the region, school districts included. He just hoped the budget trimmings could have avoided athletics. "Things like this happen and you wish (money) could be cut from someplace else," Giummo

said. "It's just a shame they have to take it out on the kids." Giummo said Chambo worked tirelessly behind the scenes doing everything from making sure student-athletes maintained necessary minimum grade-point averages to participate on a team as well as keeping tabs on where kids stood on annual physicals and pay-to-play eligibility. With two months before fall sports get under way, the South Redford board must act quickly to get the new administrative lineup in place. The board could decide to move Chambo's many duties over to an assistant principal, but Giummo worried about the logistics of one person adding administrative duties such as "grades, discipline and everything else." According to Giummo, it is unfortunate that the budget cuts dealt a major blow to the athletic program. "Athletics is an integral part of the high school program," Giummo said. "I think athletics and academics go hand in hand, ... they make a well-rounded student." The timing of the layoff also means Thurston might not have an active voice in the upcoming weeks when the cloudy future of the Mega Conference beyond 2008-09 is determined. "Now they're talking about disbanding the Mega," Giummo said. "Al was right there on that, looking out for our best interests."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE AUGUST 5, 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION PLEASE NOTE: That July 7, 2008 is the last day to register for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Registration for Plymouth Township electors will be taken at the Office of the Clerk, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, or at any Secretary of State Office. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a resident is unable to register during regular office hours a call to the Clerk can set up a convenient time for the resident. Township Clerk's phone number is (734) 354-3224. Marilyn Massengill, CMC Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

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Chablis - the ideal unoaked chardonnay

Finding a number of California chardonnays to have heavy-handed oak, many wine lovers have opted for unoaked or no-oak chardonnays. Yet, reaction to these unoaked versions has been, "where have they been? Why did it take so long to make them?"



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Actually for centuries, unoaked chardonnays have come from the Chablis region of France. From Chablis, though, they have different characteristics — more floral, a lot more minerally with crisper acidity. Elegance and finesse are also a hallmark.

FRANCE'S CHABLIS REGION

The Chablis region is the most northerly in Burgundy. Near the city of Auxerre, the Chablis vineyards are midway between Beaune and Paris. In the 19th century, there were more than 100,000 acres of vineyards in Chablis, but only 2,500 acres were planted to "beauvois," as the chardonnay was called then.

Along came phylloxera about 1885 and decimated the vines to such an extent that in 1960, there were barely 1,250 acres planted. After that, a flurry of plantings saw vineyard development in the best areas and those least vulnerable to frost damage. The best vineyards have a pebbly, clay-limestone composition derived from the Jurassic era, containing fossil oyster shells, which contribute the mineral (sometimes called flinty) character.

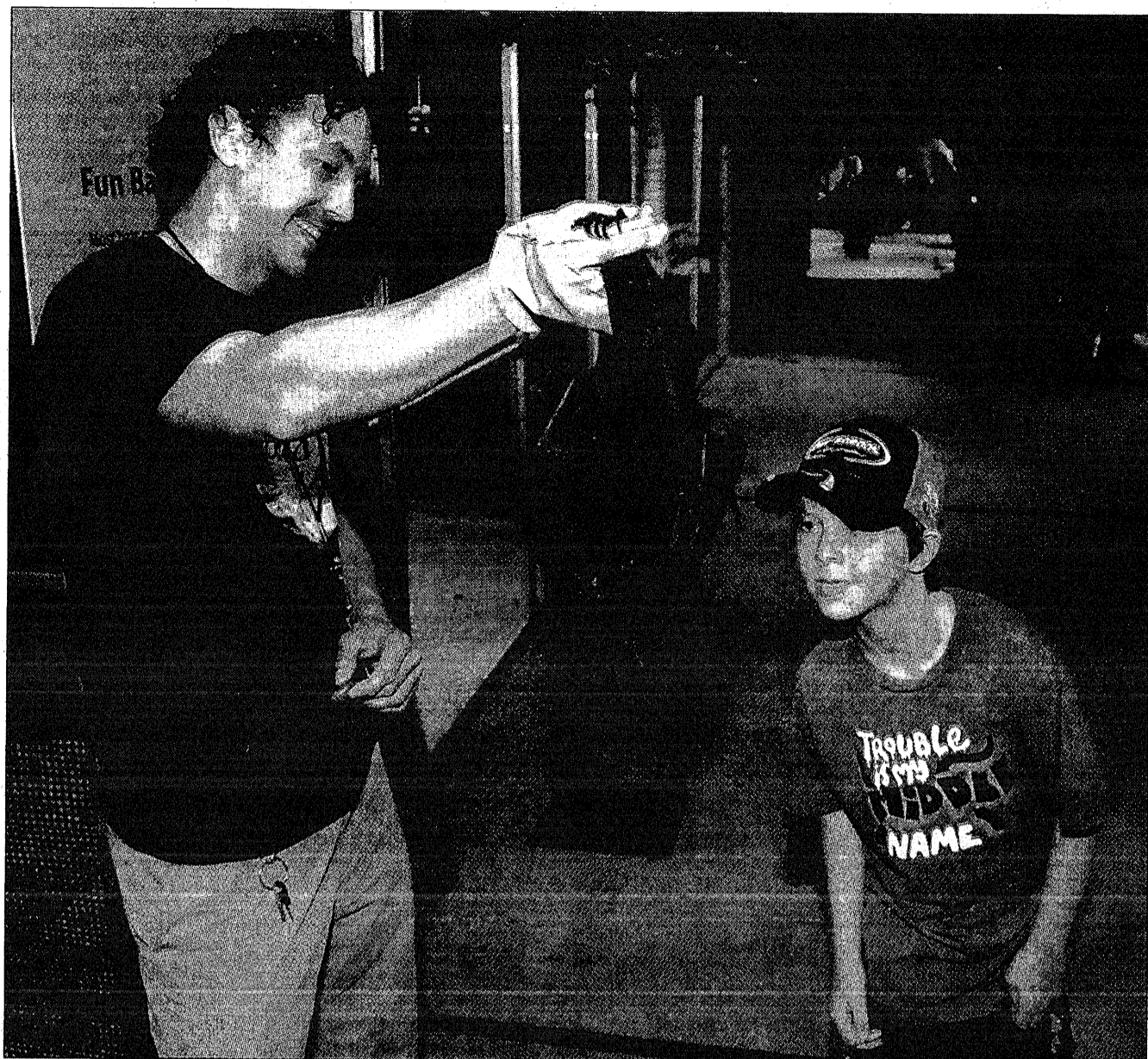
Chardonnay is the only variety permitted for wines with the Chablis Appellation Controlee. In descending order of quality, chablis is classified as Grand Cru, Premier Cru, Chablis and Petit Chablis. Essentially, forget the bottom category!

MAISON JOSEPH DROUHIN

To experience some of the best chardonnay from the Chablis region, choose a producer that has a passion for the appellation. Maison Joseph Drouhin is a good place to start your palate education. In ascending order, the following four wines are a good beginning.

■ Joseph Drouhin 2006 Chablis (\$20) is a wine to be enjoyed through 2009. It's fruity with some lemongrass, mint, peach and characteristic flintiness. Shellfish and fish, goat cheese and classic Caesar

Please see WINE, D2



Rob Mies, Director of the Organization for Bat Conservation, holds up an Indian Flying Fox Bat for Lukas Sznewajs, 9, of Birmingham at the a newly-opened exhibit at Cranbrook Science Institute.

PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cranbrook 'bats' 1,000 with new exhibit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELNY CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Rob Mies wants to separate fact from fiction, dispel fears and myths, and prove just how important bats are to our world.

Six years ago the director of the Organization for Bat Conservation established a homebase at Cranbrook Institute of Science, making the local museum a sort of national headquarters for bat rescue and bat education. In addition to running Cranbrook's Bat Zone, Mies travels the country speaking to sell-out crowds about one of the world's most mysterious, and misunderstood, mammals.

Staff members from the organization and Cranbrook Institute have incorporated those live nocturnal animals along with the best elements of a traveling hands-on exhibit to create *Bats: Myths and Mysteries* now open at the science museum. By providing the most up-to-date information, the exhibit allow visitors to learn about bats — from their own backyards and beyond. "It's a one-of-a-kind experience," said Mies, a Bloomfield Hills resident.

The experience is divided into three segments. Visitors



Anthony Varnadore, 8, of Roseville tries on some bat ears to find out how well bats can hear at Cranbrook last week.

can experience echolocation, see a mechanical bat come to life and compare the enlarged skeleton of the world's only flying mammals to that of a human skeleton. Then, they can walk into a castle setting for a hanging bat's eye view of a medieval room and see humorous caricatures of bat myths crafted by Jack Davis of Mad Magazine fame. Bat's aren't prone to flying into one's hair and they aren't flying mice.

From there, five separate glassed-in exhibits will give

visitors a chance to see the real thing — from the oldest bat in captivity, a 21-year-old "retired" Rodrigues Fruit Bat to the largest species with a wing span of 5-feet. Watch the bats interact in their environment — eating, sleeping, even grooming one another.

More than 1,000 people had already seen the exhibit in its first week, but more than 100,000 are expected to pass through during its

Please see BATS, D2

ACCENTS



The Montreux dining table (\$1,199) and side chairs (\$229) are among Bernhardt Furniture Company collections now available at Art Van Furniture.

ART VAN OFFERS NEW LINE

Beginning in July, Art Van will offer guests two collections of coordinated bedroom and dining sets from Bernhardt Furniture Company, Inc. in North Carolina, one of the largest family owned and operated marketers of fine wood and upholstered furniture in the United States.

The Belmont Collection features hardwood with dark chestnut finish, a double pedestal table and leather headboard with antique brass hardware.

The Montreux Collection is made of hardwood with brown suede finish and offers a double pedestal table with upholstered and wood chairs, framed headboard sleigh bed and bronze hardware.

See them at select Art Van locations and at artvan.com.

DREXEL HERITAGE RETURNS TO GORMAN'S

Drexel Heritage Furniture has returned to all four metro Detroit Gorman's Home Furnishings and Interior Design showrooms.

Gorman's is the exclusive retailer in southeastern Michigan. "The Drexel Heritage line

originated at Gorman's and we have enjoyed a wonderful 30-year relationship with them," said Tom Lias, President and COO of Gorman's.

"We are looking forward to the line joining our 100 Brands and to again provide our clients with the beauty and quality that is synonymous with Drexel Heritage."

One of the largest residential furniture manufacturers in the country, North Carolina-based Drexel Heritage produces six distinctive collections: the comfortable, versatile and chic dh; the sophisticated and elegant Drexel and the refined Heritage.

The company also makes Postobello Home, the Lillian August Collection and Walt Disney Signature.

Gorman's will offer a variety of Drexel Heritage bedroom, living room and dining room pieces and sets at its locations in Southfield, Novi, Lakeside and Troy.

For more information, visit www.gormans.com.



A chair from Postobello Home, one of six collections by Drexel Heritage, available at Gorman's.

Watch movies on the run, but leave the DVDs at home

These days it's the rare traveler who doesn't pack a notebook PC — not just for work, but also for watching movies.

Usually, when I'm on a flight and get up to stretch my legs, I peek at book jackets as I stroll the aisle. But on my most recent trip, I couldn't help checking out my fellow passengers' movie selections. Seemed like everyone was watching something!

In case you're wondering, watching movies on the go doesn't necessarily mean packing a stack of DVDs. Instead, try one of the growing number of movie-download services, which let you rent or buy online.

They're not perfect, but they're undeniably convenient: You can download a movie to your notebook's hard drive anywhere there's

an Internet connection (home, the airport, a hotel room, etc.). But you don't need a connection to actually watch the movies once they've been downloaded.

Many people are already familiar with iTunes, which offers movies you can view on your PC, Mac, iPod, iPhone, Apple TV, etc. It's a great service, but the selection is a bit limited: only 1,000 titles or so. Let's look at a couple worthwhile alternatives.

The first is Amazon Unbox (amazon.com/unbox), home to nearly 6,000 movies you can rent and over 7,000 you can buy. (Tons of TV shows, too.)

Most rentals cost \$3.99, but Unbox has a generous helping of titles (decent ones, like *Batman Begins* and *Super Size Me*) priced at \$2.99 or less.

As with iTunes, you must begin watching your rented movie within 30 days of down-

Please see TECH, D3



Pay a small monthly fee and Vongo lets you watch over 1,000 movies — though it's questionable how many you'd actually want to see.



Tech Savvy

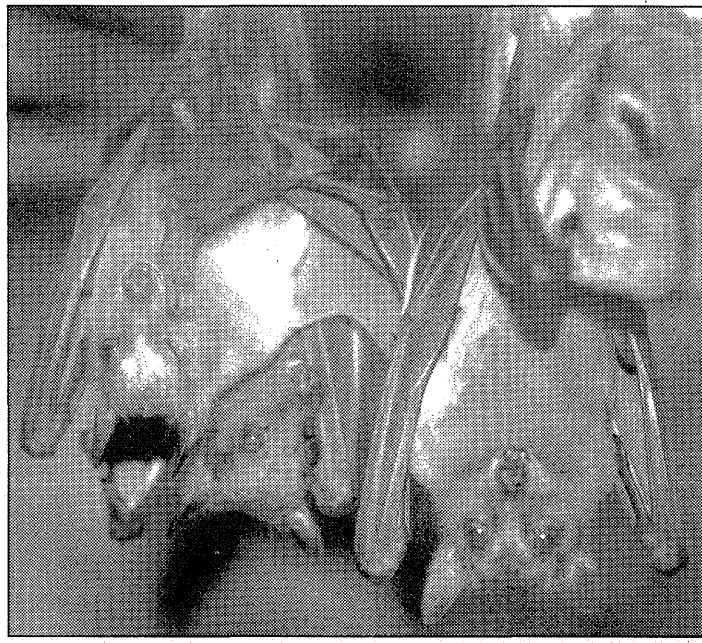
Rick Broida

BATS

FROM PAGE D1

7-month run. Steve Pagnani, director of marketing for Cranbrook Institute of Science, noted that the exhibit attracts both adults and children. For those who are still a bit squeamish, the exhibit gives way to an alternate route showing only pictures and video of bats in various regions. But 9-year-old Lukas Szniewajs of Birmingham had no trouble standing just inches away from a flying fox bat, as Mies held it in his hand. "I don't really know about bats but I like them a lot," Lukas said. That's just the point of *Bats: Myths and Mysteries*. Mies hopes the public will walk away wowed, having learned much more about the benefits bats offer. While most people realize that bats in Michigan tend to

be insect-eaters, he said they consume much more than mosquitoes. Bats eat moths and beetles and serve as an important component for agriculture, feeding on crop pests that can harm or diminish the food supply. Bats pollinate, helping to grow fruits like banana and mango and papaya. Some bats prefer solitude while others live in a colony. The exhibit shows bats' preferred habitat — caves and crevasses under bridges. It shows ways to protect the bat population locally. Mies suggests building a bat house on your property. "Give bats an alternative," he said. "They won't enter a house if they have somewhere else to go." For those who leave as avid bat fans, sponsor-a-bat options are available and range from \$20 to \$500.



Female Fruit Bats huddle together in an exhibit titled 'Bat: Myths and Mysteries' at Cranbrook Science Institute.

For more information visit www.batconservation.org.

scasola@hometownlife.com (248) 901-2567

BATS: MYTHS AND MYSTERIES

What: Separate fact from fiction, try hands-on activities and see live bats at a new exhibit
When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, extended hours from 6-9 p.m. Fridays, now through Jan. 4, 2009
Where: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills
Museum admission: \$9 adult, \$7 children 2-12 and seniors 65+, children under 2 and members admitted free.
Bat Festival 2008: 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1 hear Guest Lecturer Janell Cannon, author of *Stellaluna* and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2 enjoy live music and witness bat netting and demonstrations at Cranbrook.

- Red Bat
Hoary Bat
Indiana Bat
Eastern Pipistrelle
Evening Bat
Northern Long-eared bat
Silver-haired Bat

See for yourself
The best time for bat-spotting: About 15 minutes after sunset
The best places for bat-spotting: Near water or lights.

- Protect bats in three easy steps**
■ Build or buy a bat house
■ Create a wildlife garden that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies by day and bats at night
■ Talk about bats to help dispel myths and support bat conservation

- Species of Bats in Michigan**
Big Brown Bat
Little Brown Bat



WINE

FROM PAGE D1

Salad make perfect pairings. ■ Joseph Drouhin 2006 Domaine de Vaudon Chablis (\$23) is drinking very well now and will age for another five years. Vibrant and citrusy, it's a treat with crabmeat and will make a classic Caesar Salad sing. ■ Joseph Drouhin 2006 Chablis Premier Cru (\$29) is fermented in neutral cooperage but remains steely and minerally with tangy orange and lemon flavors that last long into the finish. Try it with smoked salmon. ■ Joseph Drouhin 2005 Chablis-Sechers (\$33) is a single-vineyard Premier Cru. Buy and cellar it until oyster season rolls around in September. We're in the "r" month camp for these bivalves. In summer, oysters, except from the coldest waters, are milky and a little too fat in the mouth. We like them briny as does Chablis-Sechers.

WINE PICKS

Over the centuries, the French have gifted us with some great things, the Statue of Liberty and Champagne among them. And now, a star-spangled sparkler to celebrate July 4, 2008, Pommery POP America Champagne \$18/187mL, dressed in red, white and blue, stars and stripes, to honor our country's flag. If you're having a Fourth of July Celebration, chill the bottles and serve this bubbly with a straw — no glass needed. The style is a touch sweeter than a more traditional Brut Champagne but makes a lively aperitif to get the party started.

Most CHARDONNAY is barrel fermented and aged, so if you prefer this style, the following are winners!
PICK OF THE PACK: 2006 Beringer Sbragia Limited-Release, Napa Valley \$40. Once we say delicious in a generously-oaked style, there's no need for more words.

- ALSO VERY GOOD:**
2006 Chateau St. Jean Belle Terre Vineyard, \$25
2006 Sbragia Home Ranch Dry Creek, \$26
2006 DeLoach OFS Russian River Valley, \$30
2006 Pine Ridge Dijon Clones, \$33
2005 Merryvale Carneros, \$35
2006 Beringer Private Reserve Napa Valley, \$35
2006 DeLoach Porter-Bass Vineyard, \$43
2006 Paul Hobbs Russian River Valley, \$45
2006 Williams Selyem Hawk Hill Vineyard, \$50
2006 Williams Selyem Heintz Vineyard, \$50
2006 Paul Hobbs Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain, \$65

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor, or if it's a domestic wine, order it direct from the winery.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly

Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer &

Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

Use caution when creating outdoor 'rooms'

While reading the latest home magazines, I'm noticing that designers are creating outdoor areas that look a lot like interior rooms. I think these they are very beautiful, but are they practical?

There has been a trend in the interior design industry towards extending the interior style and décor of our homes right out the door and onto our patio. Yes, this is very beautiful, but not always practical. Many of these outdoor entertaining spaces you see in magazines are created for clients living in warm weather climates. For example, it rarely rains in Phoenix and with the dry days and cool evenings; outdoor living spaces become a natural extension of the home. While here in Michigan, we

only have a few short months to enjoy our outdoor spaces. When it comes time to purchase items for our patios and decks, we need to make choices that still consider the effects rain, wind, mosquitoes, etc. The upholstered furniture and beaded pillows you see in the photographs do not work in every environment. If you are fortunate enough to have an enclosed or covered patio area, you have more choices than those of us with completely exposed patios. However, for either type of situation, you can still create beautiful and luxurious outdoor spaces. Modern technology has allowed fabric companies to create sun & weather resistant fabrics. A well-known brand of outdoor fabrics is Sunbrella, but there are other companies that make this type of product, too. You will want to make sure your patio furniture cushions are able to withstand our Michigan spring and summer seasons. Otherwise, you will be replacing everything in a year or two. Fabric is not the only consid-

eration for outdoor spaces. The type of furniture you select is also relevant. Wood is beautiful, but it must be treated or it will fade and warp in short order. Wrought iron is very weather resistant, but may require paint touch-ups over time. With that said, don't be afraid to bring out some interior accessories for the weekend or whatever occasion you will be entertaining. Place candles in votive containers to avoid being blown out by the wind and scatter them around your patio or use tiki torches that are lit with oil. In Michigan, we may not be able to move our living room furniture to the patio, but with a little creative thinking, we can definitely create stunning outdoor vignettes. Terri Guastella, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com.



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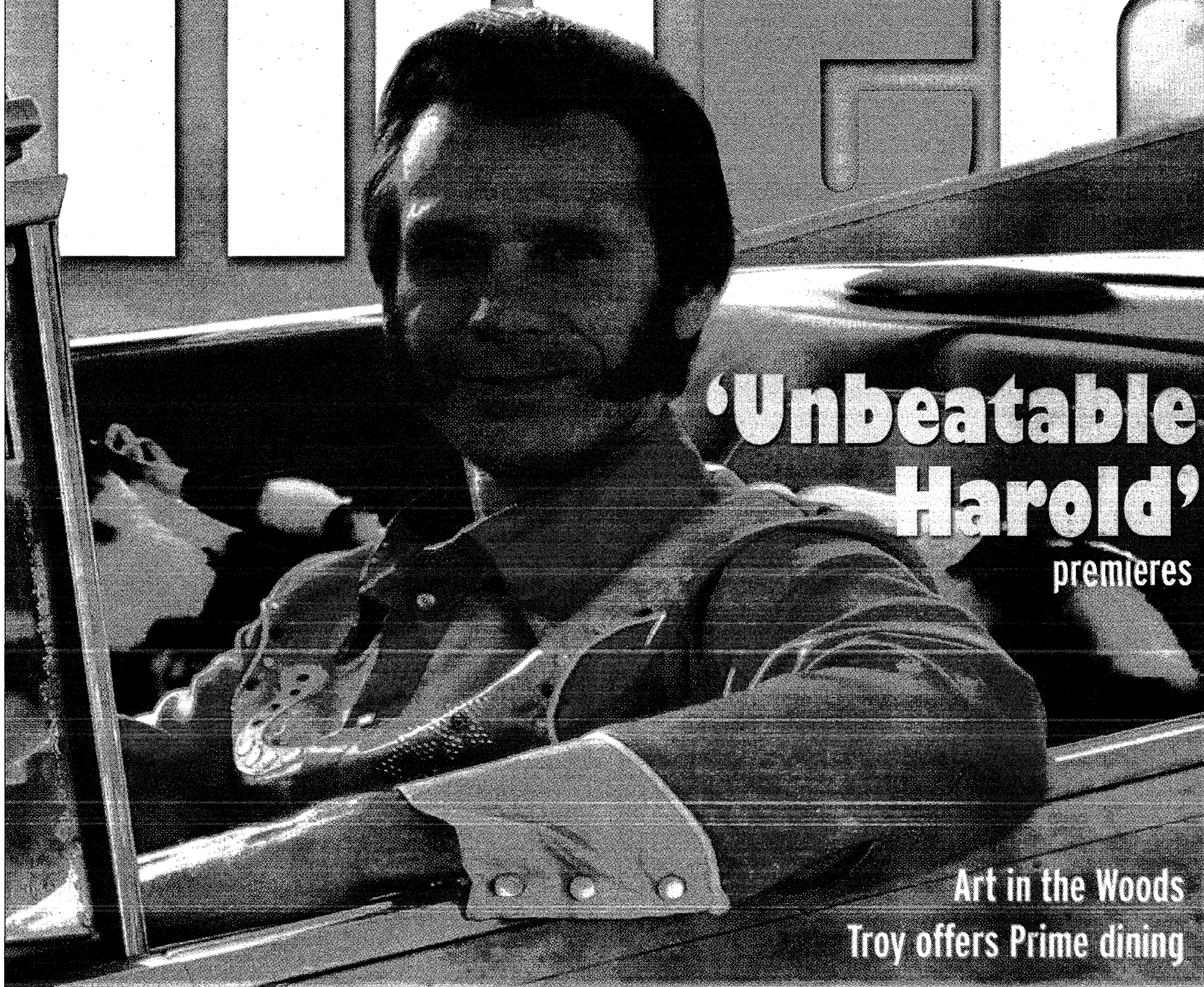
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PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Thursday, June 26, 2008

TITAN



**'Unbeatable
Harold'**
premieres

Art in the Woods
Troy offers Prime dining

Entertainment venues go green

I was at a major store recently and saw a T-shirt that said *Go Green*. Read the label and realized there was nothing green about it. No recycled fibers, no safe dyes, the fabric wasn't even made of soft hemp.

Going green — which means reducing your carbon footprint to lessen global warming — is fashionable, but I want people to put their actions where there, um, fashion is.



Lana Mini

DTE Energy Theatre and The Palace are doing a good job of going green. So is Amici's Pizzeria in Berkley and Om Cafe in Ferndale.

Let's start with DTE.

It began its green initiatives this summer. The plan is highlighted by the venue's participation in DTE Energy's GreenCurrents program to "green up" 100 percent of its power with renewable energy created from wind, biomass and other environmentally

friendly sources.

(The GreenCurrents program voluntary program is available to DTE Energy's residence and business electric customers and has already signed up more than 10,000 customers, making it one of the fastest growing voluntary renewable energy programs in the country.)

"We are trying to do our part to 'green-up' our venues, including DTE Energy Music Theatre," said Tom Wilson, president and CEO of PS&E. "The process has begun, there is more to do but we feel it is important, and increasingly tours — including those of Dave Matthews Band and Jack Johnson — are requiring the venues they play to be involved."

In addition to renewable energy, DTE has converted its light bulbs, wherever possible, to more energy-efficient, compact fluorescent lighting. To conserve water, more than half of the front-of-house men's lavatories feature waterless urinals and backstage dressing rooms include low-flow toilets and showerheads. The cleaning supplies are more environmentally friendly, too.

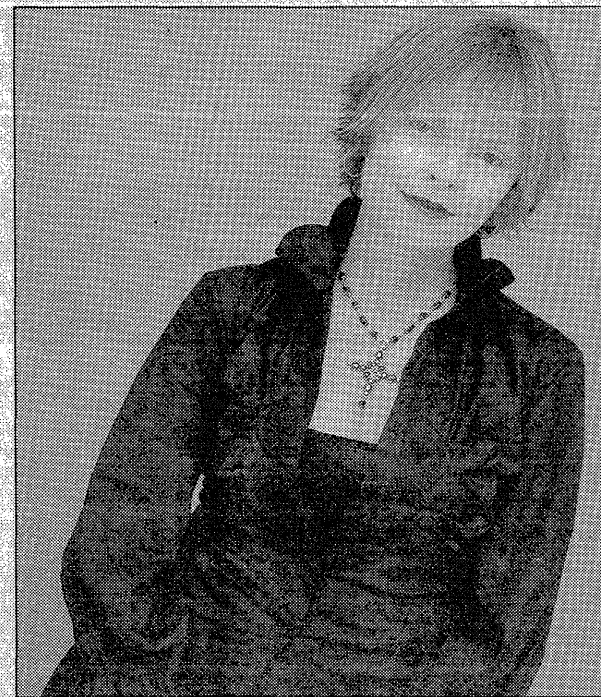
The amphitheater is following the lead of its sister venue, The Palace, to recycle more. Expect to see recycling stations on certain areas of the grounds of DTE. The Palace began a building-wide program in 1996 and has recycled more than 2.3 million pounds of material.

To conserve food, and help the community, the venues work with the local charity Forgotten Harvest, an organization that takes prepared and perishable food and donates it to emergency food providers. As Health Department approved sources, unused food from the venues' catering, restaurants and clubs is picked up by the charity organization. An average of more than a ton of food a month is donated by Palace Sports & Entertainment.

Since the UN announced recently that meat production is a leading contributor to greenhouses gases, let's hope they will offer more vegan food.

Restaurants like Amici's pizza offers vegan soy cheese pizza and its plates and cups are 100-percent biodegradable, which makes them more eco-friendly than washing permanent plates when you count the energy and chemicals used to clean them.

Om Cafe, like Amici's, uses biodegradable carry-out containers.



Benatar Rocks Riverfront

Rockin' on the Riverfront, Detroit's free Friday night classic rock concert series, will kick off with Pat Benatar on June 27. Sponsored by General Motors and WCSX-FM, the shows will continue at the RenCen with Mark Farner and Mitch Ryder on July 11, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas on July 18, Rick Derringer and the Classic Rock All Stars on July 25, The Guess Who on Aug. 1, Kansas on Aug. 8, Blue Oyster Cult on Aug. 15 and Foreigner on Aug. 22.

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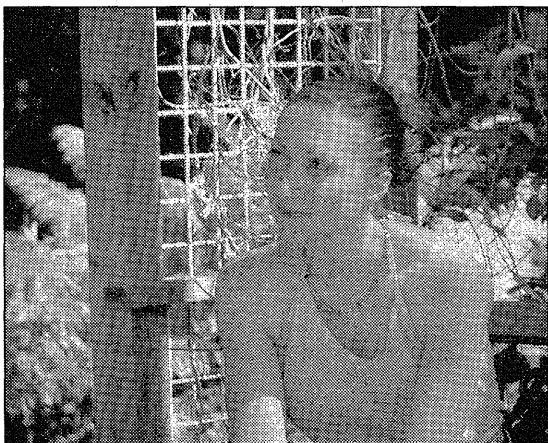
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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT
filter

HOMETOWNlife.com

GANNETT



See 'Sometimes in Life,' a feature film showing at 7 p.m. Friday June 27, The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth in Detroit. It's all part of the first Detroit Windsor International Film Festival this weekend.

FILM FEST - E4

'Unbeatable Harold' will kick off the Detroit Windsor International Film Festival tonight

ONLINE FUN - E5

Visit us online to check out our blogs

TABLE HOPPING - E6

Sink your teeth into Ocean Prime

GET OUT - E8

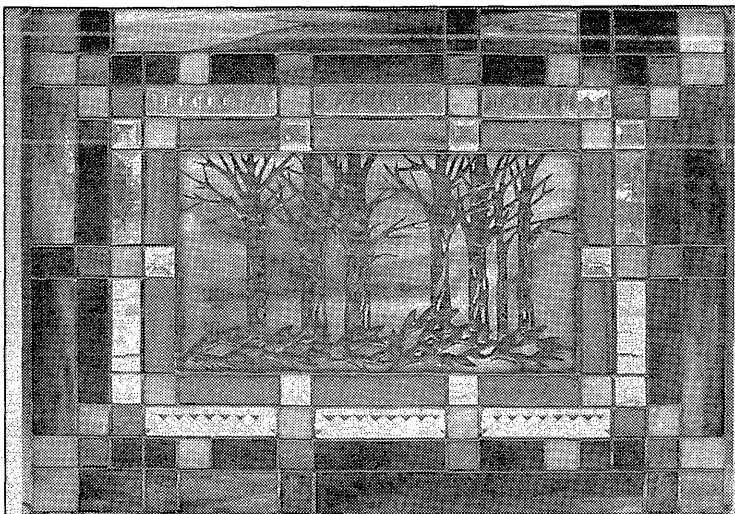
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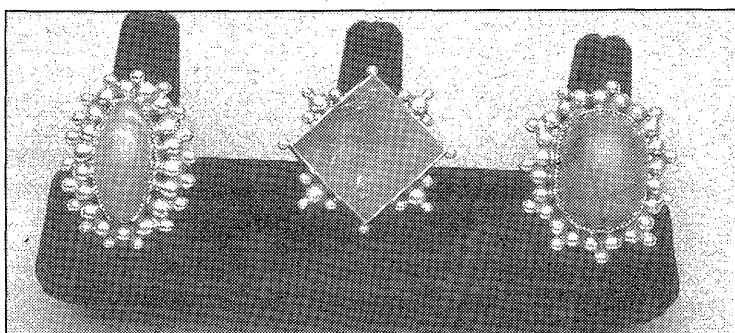
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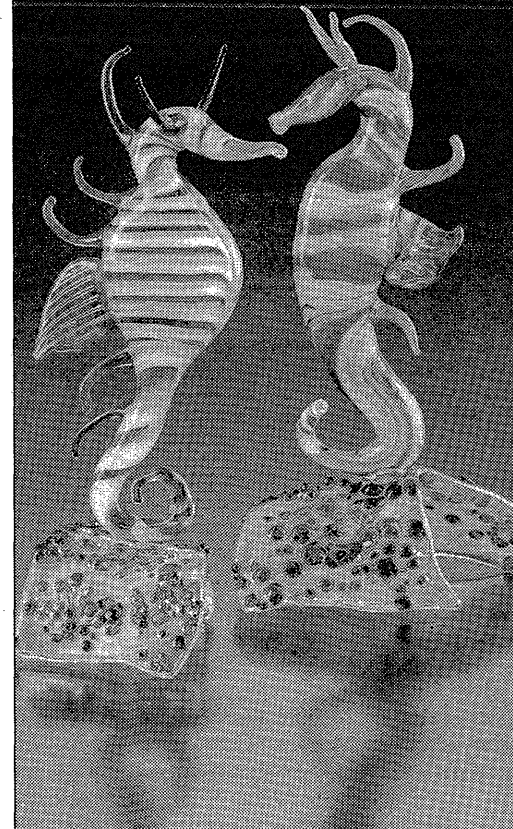


Charlie and Paula Shoulders created original pieces of fired, stained, etched and flamed glass. This stained piece is titled 'Naked Trees.'



Milton Bennett of Detroit will feature his jewelry.

Glass work by Paula and Charlie Shoulders.



Art in the Woods Fine Art & Craft Fair 2008

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

The setting: The quiet weekend grounds of Berkley High School.

The event: The 17th Annual Art in the Woods Fine Art & Craft Fair.

The enjoyment: Jazz music, lunch provided by some of the area's most interesting restaurants who are hosting vending booths and, of course, the art.

This family-friendly event boasts the greatest collection of fine arts and fine crafts available in the Metro Detroit area. Artists hope to tempt your body, mind and spirit with their works.

Jazz musician Paul Miles — a local guitarist known for creating ambiance at outdoor events — will perform, as will other musicians from varying genres. The bands will offer their CDs for purchase — to help you reminisce about the relaxing summer event when it's cold and snowy next winter.

And, there will be gold buyers on site to purchase unwanted, mismatched or broken gold or platinum items.

ART IN THE WOODS

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 28 & 29

When: The grounds of Berkley High School, 2325 Catalpa Road, Berkley.

Directions: I-696 to Woodward exit. North on Woodward, left onto 12 Mile. Catalpa is just a few blocks south of 12 Mile, on the east side of Coolidge. There is ample free parking in the Berkley High School parking lot.

Details: http://www.woodsgallery.org/art_fair.html

Don't forget the kids booth and bake sale. It's a mix of creative sophistication and old-fashion community fun.

Arts Academy in the Woods of Fraser will partner with Huntington Woods' Woods Gallery — the gallery that hosts the fair — to provide volunteers. The whole event is organized by volunteers.

"This is a great opportunity for

our students and parents to give back to the community while raising the profile of Arts Academy in the Woods," says Maxwell Spayde, principal of Arts Academy in the Woods. "It is also the first in a series of events that we are attending this summer. Our goal this summer is to provide volunteer and performance opportunities to our students while being very visible and improving our student recruiting."

Family fun

Arts Academy in the Woods is a Fine and Performing Arts Public High School serving all of Southeast Michigan. It's a free public school that features instruction in multi-media art, dance, instrumental music, theater, vocals and more.

Make sure to check out Ruth Heggibottom's interesting Bella Boxes; and the jewelry by Marilyn Joy, just to name a few. The variety of artists is large at this fair.

Feature film to premiere in Detroit, kick off festival

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Gordon Michaels, sporting a signature black *Unbeatable Harold* cap, can't hold back a smile when he talks about the character he's crafted into his first feature-length film. He's infused much of himself into Harold since he first took on the character in 1988.

"It was based on a one-act play I did in New York," said Michaels, a Westland native and actor who's performed on Broadway, on television, and in films like *The Cooler* and *Air Force One*.

He's lived with this character — the sort of guy who just oozes positivity — for two decades now. On Thursday, June 26, *Unbeatable Harold* will premiere in Detroit, and serve as the opening of the first-ever Detroit Windsor International Film Festival.

Over the years Michaels translated the story into a screenplay. "Harold is an eternal optimist," said Michaels, who grew and re-grew some serious sideburns for the Elvis-like role. "He's a lovable loser."

Even though Harold works as an assistant manager for a steakhouse, he takes his job rather seriously. He drives around in a vintage, battered pink Cadillac that he's sliced the top off of to create a makeshift "convertible." And through the course of the film he falls in love with a blonde named Wanda.

Through several fits and starts the film finally came to its completion this spring. Much like his glass-half-full portrayal of Harold, Michaels noted that the delay in the project was worthwhile. "The cast I got in the end is much better," he said.

That cast features everyone from Dylan McDermott and Henry Winkler to Phyllis Diller, Charles Durning and Gladys Knight.

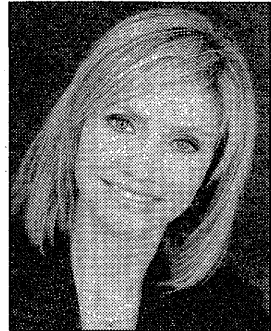
Michaels worked with McDermott on the hit television show *The Practice*. Once McDermott signed on to play Jake Salamander, Michaels altered the role from a Wayne Newton-like lounge singer to a washed up rock star. In character McDermott is nearly unrecognizable. It marks a real departure from the buttoned-up attorney audiences tuned in for on television.

Once Gladys Knight came on board, Michaels added in a song and a scene that required her to perform. Titled *Harold Has Arrived*, it's featured in a dream sequence.

And Henry Winkler, known best to TV audiences as The Fonz from *Happy Days*, takes on the role as Harold's difficult boss. Michaels said he'd look over from the makeup chair and see Winkler there, in disbelief. The veteran actor went so far as to bring two loaves of banana bread to the set — despite the fact that the craft services table was full of food. "What a humble guy," Michaels said. "It was incredible."

Two years ago Michaels began working with John Lauri, of Birmingham-based J. Lauri Filmworks, on the film. Drawing on their Michigan roots, the two are planning a few new film projects, including an action thriller, which will be entirely filmed in Michigan with local talent.

"We're trying to keep a pulse on how we can affect and help the film community," said Lauri, second unit director on *Unbeatable Harold*. The DIA world premiere is one step in the direction of calling attention to the Michigan film community and supporting the growth of a new industry here.



Jennifer Kincer



Gordon Michaels

"We're focused on talent, and there's a lot of talent here," said Michaels, a graduate of John Glenn High School and the prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater in New York City.

Some of that local talent includes Mike Kelly, an Ann Arbor resident formerly of Royal Oak. He was cast in a role as a newscaster named Donnie James. His counterpart at the newsdesk is actress Jennifer Kincer of Rochester Hills. Together they are featured in a transitional scene introducing Harold, who's reporting in the midst of a terrible storm.

Both actors said they were honored to join the cast. "I like comedy," said Kelly, "so it's a perfect fit." He studied theater and communications at Eastern Michigan University and is now featured in television commercials, corporate films, radio voice-overs and more. He's works with Lauri as a writer and his next film project, *The Man Who Collects Food*, will be helmed in Troy.

Kincer, a Plymouth Canton High School grad and professional singer has always been leaning toward acting.

"I used to pretend to do TV commercials," she recalled. That led to acting courses at Oakland University and later film and television.

Kincer recently appeared in the locally-filmed productions *Born of Earth* and has just wrapped on *Red & Blue Marbles*. Earlier this month she was named The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2008 Woman of the Year after raising \$18,000 toward the cause.

Michaels called the completion of *Unbeatable Harold* "unbelievable." "To see it on the screen, you dream about it," Michaels said.

The film itself is based around a character who doesn't use vulgar language, and there won't be any questionable material in it. That's one of the reasons executive producer Lance Jones got on board with the project about eight years ago.

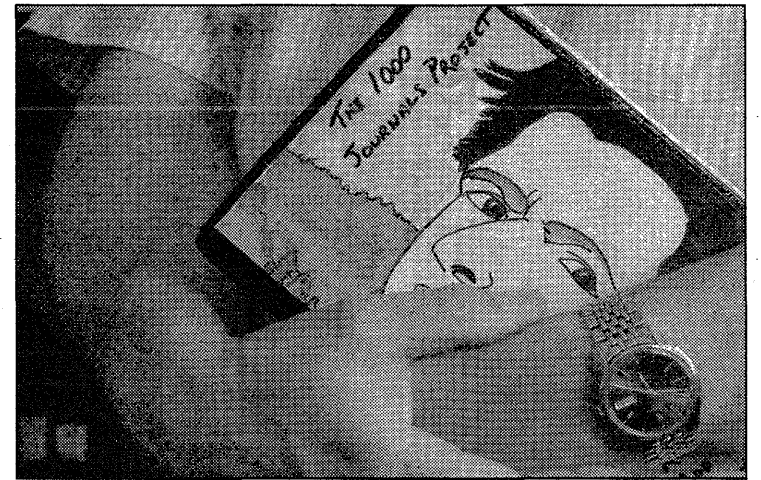
Jones said thanks to the "redeeming qualities of Harold and the true-to-life script that Gordon was blessed with to write, it's pretty encouraging. We hope the movie-going public finds value in Harold and his sincere interest to do right."

The film is expected to be released in theaters this fall.

UNBEATABLE HAROLD

When: 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 26
Where: Detroit Film Theatre, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Tickets: \$12.50 (\$100 VIP tickets include after-party admission), visit www.dwiff.org.

Cover story



See '1000 Journals,' showing as part of DWIFF, at 7 p.m. Friday June 27, at the Wayne State University Law School Building, Theatre 3, at 471 West Palmer Street in Detroit.

Detroit and Windsor kick-start a film fest

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ask Shane Sevo and he'll tell you — the Detroit film community has been clamoring for a festival to call its own. And this weekend, its finally come to fruition in the form of the Detroit Windsor International Film Festival.

Sevo, a festival organizer and founding member of Livonia-based film collective Superhouse, has been working toward this goal for the past year. Running June 26-29 around Detroit and Windsor, it's been a complete volunteer effort. "It's pretty impressive where it stands now," said Sevo, noting the more than 300 volunteers making DWIFF a reality.

Former state Sen. John F. Kelly helped get the ball rolling and serves as director of the festival. And submissions have come in from the metro area, across the United States and Canada. Of the 200 entries received, Sevo said festival organizers boiled down the number to 60 films that will be shown over the course of the weekend.

John Lauri of Birmingham-based J. Lauri Filmworks was also involved with festival-planning from the start, around May 2007. He served as second unit director for the film *Unbeatable Harold*, written by and starring Westland native Gordon Michaels.

"I thought *Unbeatable Harold* was the performance to launch it," said Lauri of the festival. The big-hearted comedy will world premiere, and kick off a weekend of screenings at 7:30 p.m. June 26 at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts. A VIP reception will follow.

While there is no overall festival pass this year, tickets to each film series cost \$8. The festival will span about 10 venues total, Sevo said. They'll range from the campus of the College for Creative Studies to the University of Windsor, the Scarab Club to a free Children's Film Festival at Detroit Public Library. For a complete list of the films to be screened, synopsis and locations, see www.dwiff.org.

While movies lie the core of the event, movie-related workshops will be organized at CCS, a CineFlow Tech fair is scheduled to showcase the latest tools in the movie trade, and even the local works produced during last weekend's 48-Hour National Film Challenge may be shown.

"Eighteen teams signed up (for the competition) and we'd like to show all the films that qualified to be accepted in the competition," said Sevo.

Then, he said, the audience's top three choices will be eli-

Please see **FEST, E5**



See 'The Flyboys,' directed by Rocco DeVilliers, at 7 p.m. Saturday June 27, at the Welcome Center at Wayne State University, 42 W. Warren in Detroit and again 7 p.m. Saturday, June 28, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. It's featured in the Detroit Windsor International Film Festival.

FEST

FROM PAGE E4

gible for judging by DWIFF judges. That will give the aspiring filmmakers

involved in this make-a-movie-in-a-weekend challenge "an opportunity to have their work critiqued," he said.

Tickets will be available at each venue and a DWIFF headquarters will be set up on Wayne State University's campus.

"I've been part of the independent film community here in Detroit for the past five years," said Sevo. "Everyone has always wanted this kind of opportunity."

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Online Fun



Lana Mini

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Stephanie Casola



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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 26, 2008 • (OF*) E5

Ocean Prime creates high living supper club

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

We have to applaud a restaurant company willing to take a chance on Michigan while the economy is teetering.

Ocean Prime opened its doors this month during a time when we need a place like this — a place where we can forget our woes and choose a meal in an atmosphere that's luxurious.

The restaurant, in Troy, is owned by Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Mitchell opens concept restaurants with a high-end, supper club feel reminiscent of times past.

The restaurant is for meat-lovers — no vegan entree menu options whatsoever.

Steak options are a seven-ounce Filet Mignon, 12-ounce Kansas City Strip and 22-ounce Porterhouse, for example. The meat topping offerings include Béarnaise Sauce, Green Peppercorn & Cognac Sauce, Black Truffle Butter, Maytag Bleu Cheese Crust and "Oscar" Style with Jumbo Lump Crabmeat & Béarnaise Sauce.

OCEAN PRIME

What: High living supper club

Where: 2915 Coolidge at Big Beaver Road, Troy, (248) 458-0500

Cuisine: Seafood, Steak

Neighborhood: Troy

Web site: www.cameronmitchell.com

Executive chef: Jeff Lindemeyer



Diners at Ocean Prime can get a view of the Big Beaver corridor whether they are dining on the patio or indoors.

Table hopping

Please see **OCEAN, E7**

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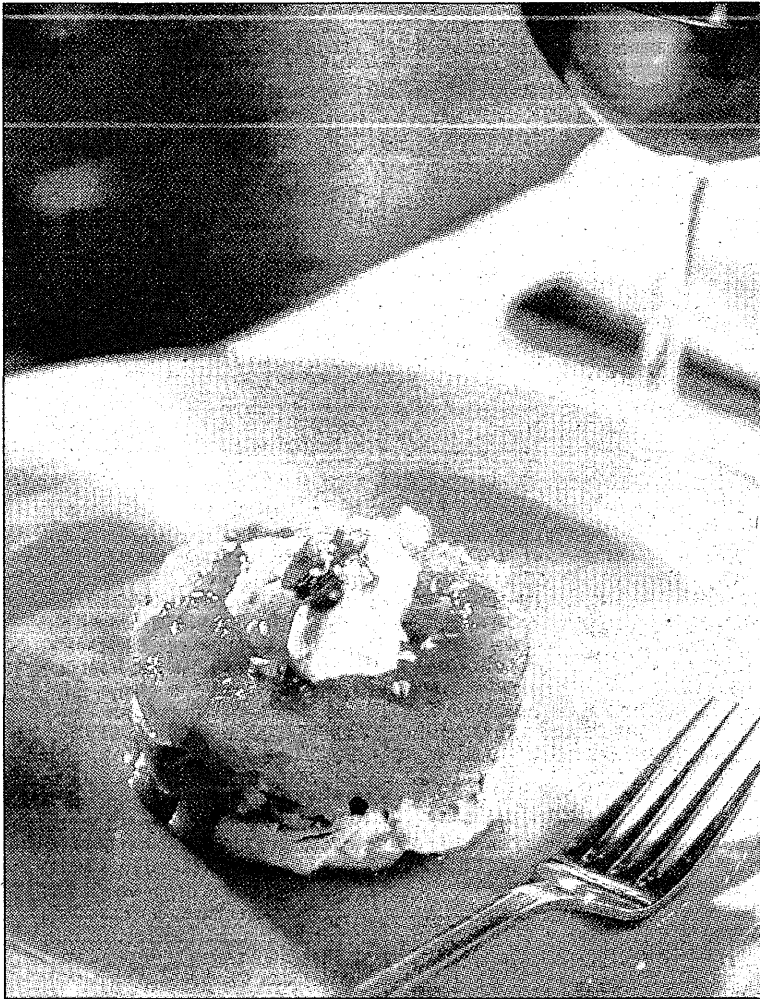
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OCEAN

FROM PAGE E6

Mitchell began his restaurant career almost 30 years ago — starting from the bottom as a dishwasher and working his way up to open his own restaurants in an industry that he loves.

Ocean Prime capitalizes on CMR's Mitchell's Ocean Club concept to redefine luxury dining. The tan finishes and rich woods are combined with contemporary styled sheer drapery and granite bar tops. In addition to Troy, Mitchell is expanding into Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Scottsdale.

"There will be an energy in every Ocean Prime restaurant that our guests will appreciate. Ocean Prime will be the place to see and be seen," said Mitchell. "Our commitment is to deliver unsurpassed service, food and cocktails in surroundings that will make Ocean Prime a dining destination for couples and groups, young and old."

Menu items at the Troy location include appetizers such as French Onion soup; a raw bar of oysters, shellfish and crab; aged cheddar fondue; calamari; and classic oysters Rockefeller.

Salads include a crisp wedge of iceberg with red onion, smoked



Ocean Prime markets itself as a supper club looking to deliver the high life.

bacon, grape tomatoes, Bleu Cheese and a Cabernet buttermilk dressing.

Or try the hearts of Romaine Knife & Fork Caesar with Parmesan garlic dressing and sourdough crostini. The signature salad is the House with Romaine, spinach, Granny Smith apples, goat cheese, walnuts and a sherry mustard vinaigrette.

Popular entrees are the chef's compositions of pecan crusted mountain trout with skillet beans and brown butter; and the Chilean Sea Bass with glazed carrots and champagne truffle sauce.

Items are 'A la Carte.' For

example, the large potato selection (since it is a meat and potatoes restaurant) include potato latkes; mashed potatoes; sea salt and vinegar fries; Maytag Blue Cheese whipped; jalapeno au gratin; butter & sour cream; scallion twice baked with cheddar cheese & bacon, and candied yams with marshmallow brulee.

There are also vegetables like creamed spinach, jumbo asparagus with Hollandaise sauce, French bean; forest mushrooms, crispy onion straws with creamy horseradish, glazed carrots with brown sugar butter and sesame stir-fried snap peas.

art in the woods

Fine Art & Craft Fair 2008

Saturday June 28, 10-5

Sunday June 29, 11-5

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FINE CRAFT

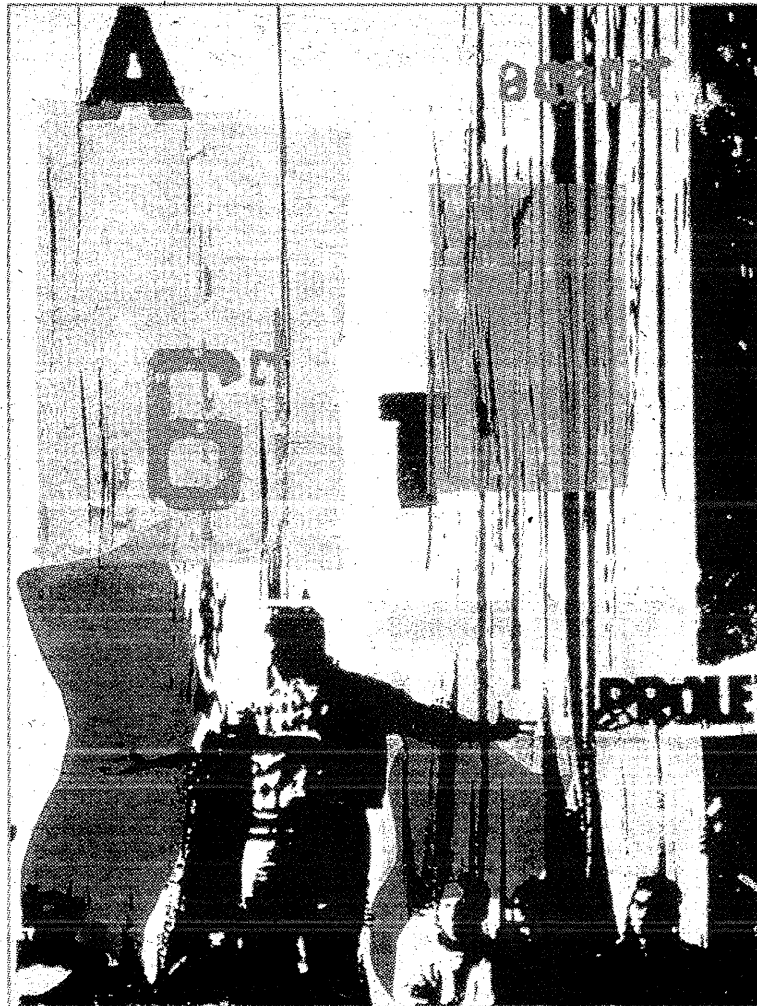
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artist, Tim Gralowski

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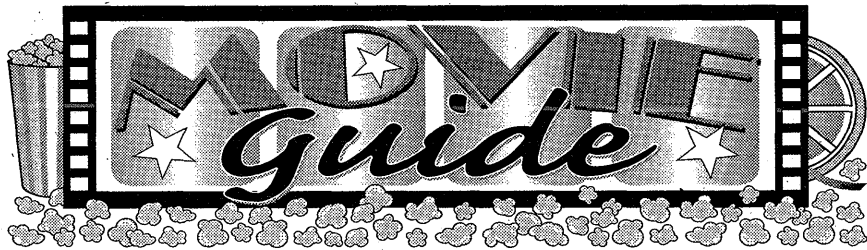
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GET OUT

FROM PAGE E9

Auction, Aug. 1; Open to the Public, Aug. 2-3; (248) 269-7672, www.mbconcour.com.

Preservation Wayne: Guided Walking Tours of Detroit, 10 a.m. Saturdays through September, visit www.preservationwayne.org.

Rock Financial Showplace: International Gem & Jewelry Show, June 27-29; India Day 2008, July 24-Aug. 2; Novi Rubber Stamp & Paper Arts Festival, Aug. 16-17; My Favorite Bead Show, Aug. 29-31; Antique Arms Show, Sept. 6-7; Metro Music Expo, Sept. 12-14; Brides Day Bridal Show, Sept. 21; American Sewing Expo, Sept. 26-28; International Gem & Jewelry Show, Sept. 26-28; 18th Annual Detroit Camper & RV Show, Oct. 1-5; Sugarloaf Art Fair, Oct. 17-19; Great Motorcycle Swap Meet, Oct. 26; Snowmobile Show, Oct. 31-Nov. 2; North American Horse Fest, Nov. 7-9; Weight Loss Expo, Nov. 8-9; Antique Arms Show, Nov. 29-30, 46100 Grand River, Novi, www.rockfinancialshowplace.com.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival: "Hamlet," "The Music Man," "Taming of the Shrew" and more. For tickets and information visit www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com or call toll-free 800-567-1600.

Warren Road Church's Classic Car Show: Street rods and restored classics, 8 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. church services, noon free lunch and kid's games, 2 p.m. awards, June 29, 33445 Warren Road, (734) 458-7301.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

Jewish Ensemble Theatre: Neil Simon's "Chapter Two," Sept. 2-28; "Collected Stories" Oct. 28-Nov. 23; "Two by Two," Dec. 9, 2008-Jan. 4, 2009; "Halpen and Johnson," Feb. 17-March 15, 2009; "Deathtrap," April 21-May 17, 2009, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 788-2900, www.jettheatre.org.

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild: (248) 737-3587 or www.StDunstansTheatre.com, 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills (248) 737-3587, www.stdunstanstheatre.com.

Spotlight Players: "Hello Dolly" runs Sept. 19-20, 26-28 and Oct. 3-5, Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton (734) 394-5460, www.spotlightplayers.net.

Stagecrafters Contemporary Theatre: Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak, (248) 541-6430, www.stagecrafters.org.

Tipping Pointe Theatre: "Don't Dress for Dinner," through June 29; "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Sept. 3-5; "The Dinner Party," Nov. 19-21; "The Rabbit Hole," Feb. 4-6, 2009; "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," April 22-24, 2009, 361 E. Cady Street, Northville, (248) 347-0003.

The Village Players of Birmingham: Auditions for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," 7 p.m. June 29-30, show dates, Sept. 12-18, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham, \$15, (248) 644-2075.

Warren Civic Theatre: Neanderthal Acting Company, "Waiting on Sean Flynn," 8 p.m., June 27 and 28, 5460 Arden in Warren, www.neanderthalactingco.com.

Water Works Theatre: Fundraising garden party Love on the Balcony features opportunity to earn a part in "Romeo and Juliet," running July 24 to Aug. 10, Starr Jaycee Park, Royal Oak, call (248) 399-3727 or visit www.waterworkstheatre.com.

Who Wants Cake: "The Facts of Life - The Lost Episode," July 12 through Aug. 4, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 556-8581.

THEATER-PROFESSIONAL

Fisher Theatre: The theatre is undergoing major renovations and will open this fall to feature the Broadway plays "Avenue Q" (Nov., 2008); "A Bronx Tale" with Chazz Palminteri, (Nov.-Dec., 2008); "Wicked," (Dec., 2008-Jan., 2009) "A Chorus Line," (Jan., 2009); "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," (March, 2009); "Grease," (June, 2009); and "Jersey Boys," (Nov., 2009).

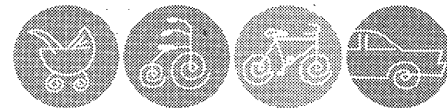
Fox Theatre: "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," Nov. 19 to Dec. 28, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com, (248) 433-1515.

Gem Theatre: "Say Goodnight Gracie," Sept. 9 to Nov. 16; "The Rat Pack is Back," Nov. 19 to Jan. 4, at 333 Madison, Detroit, (313) 963-9800, www.ticketmaster.com, www.gemtheatre.com.

Joe Louis Arena: Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Nov. 21-23, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (313) 471-3099.

Planet Ant Theatre: "In the Blood," Aug. 1-23, all at 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck, (313) 365-4948.

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