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Sports, B1

THURSDAY
August 14, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Students lining up for Mandarin

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mandarin Chinese, one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, will be taught as a fourth language option at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park this fall.

And, with heightened awareness of the Chinese, in general, because of the Summer Olympics and China's growing status as a world economic power, nearly 130 Plymouth-Canton high school students are set to take the challenge.

"I took Spanish for two years and was bored with it," said Mirissa Alfera, 16, of Canton Township, who will be a junior at Plymouth High School this year. "It was either French or Chinese, and I wanted to take something that would look good on my college applications. And, if I want to go into business, Chinese and Spanish will look good and help me."

"I've heard from a lot of people it will be hard," she added. "But I like a challenge."

Alfera and the four classes of students who have signed up for Mandarin Chinese might not find it as difficult as previously thought. At least, that's the goal of the newly hired teacher, Stacey Aksman of Ypsilanti.

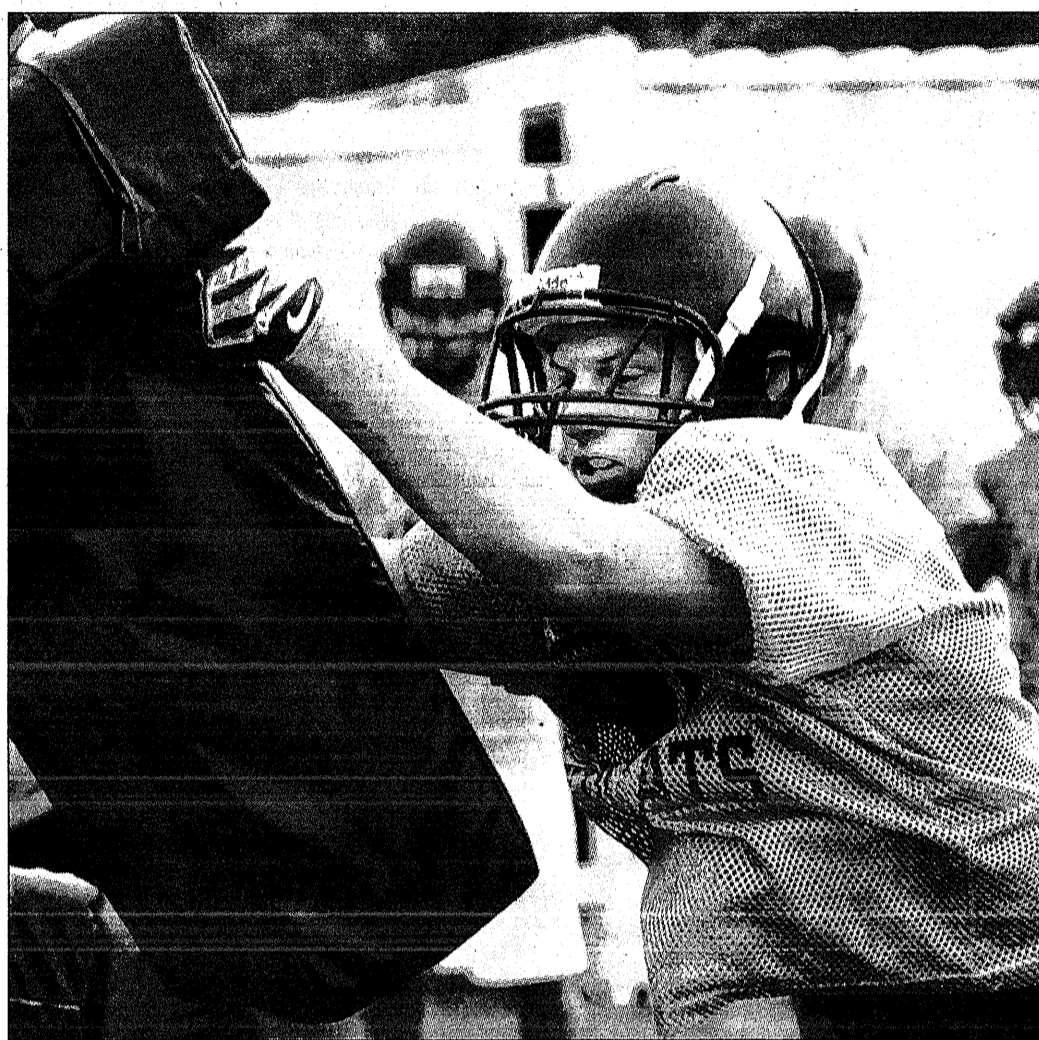
"There are definite challenges to learning Chinese," said Aksman, 38. "There's no phonetic alphabet and learning the characters is a challenge. But I think I can break the language down and make it accessible to the kids."

"Being a native English speaker, I can appreciate the struggles and hurdles in learning the Chinese language," she added. "You don't have to be a language genius to learn Chinese."

Aksman, who has taught elementary school and worked in the organic food industry, has an undergraduate degree in Chinese from the University of Michigan and spent a year studying in Taiwan.

"To live in the culture and get a sense of the language in an authentic situation was invaluable," Aksman said. "Taiwan and other parts of China are fairly westernized, but

Please see **MANDARIN, A4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Time to start hitting

Plymouth High Wildcat senior Connor Martin hits the sled on the third day of football practice for the 2008 season. High school football teams across the state kicked off practice on Monday, a sure sign that the start of school is around the corner. Teams will play their first game on Aug. 28. Plymouth plays Salem, and Canton visits Brighton.

Challenger seeks recount in clerk vote

County asked to check results in close race

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The losing candidate in the Aug. 5 primary for Plymouth Township Clerk doesn't think her loss came naturally, and she wants Wayne County elections officials to find out for sure.

In a letter dated three days after she lost by 150 votes to deputy clerk Joe Bridgman, Mary Ann Prchlik of Plymouth Township signed a letter to Plymouth Township's Board of Canvassers alleging three instances of "mistakes or fraud" she claims took place during the counting of the ballots:

- Arithmetical, computational and like errors affecting the final tabulation of votes, including, but not limited to, errors in recording votes for candidates in certain precincts and errors in transferring vote totals from machines to poll books.

- Errors in determining spoiled ballots, which errors may have had the effect of excluding votes for candidates which should have been counted and excluding votes which should not have been counted; and

- Other errors or tampering which did cause the official tally of votes to inaccurately state the actual tally of votes.

In her letter, Prchlik asked for a manual recount. She took great care to point out she's not accusing anyone of malfeasance, but she suspects there were equipment or human errors.

"When I had a chance to look over the results, I believe errors could have been made, either human handling errors or in the machine processing," said Prchlik. "There were some odd things in the results."

According to Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill, some 500 absentee ballots were spoiled, largely by voters who unknowingly split their ticket between Republican and Democrat races, a no-no in Michigan primary voting.

The only other problem, she said, came when the battery on a memory card in one precinct failed, forcing those votes to be recounted.

Massengill said the township's election set-up, including its machines, were tested prior to the primary by Grand Rapids-based MC&E. She said she's "not anticipating" inspectors finding anything wrong.

"I welcome (the recount)," Massengill said. "I'm confident our results are correct, but most of all I want to make sure everything is right."

Massengill said the matter was referred to the Wayne County Clerk's office, but no word has come yet when the recount might take place.

The clerk's race was the most hotly contested in Plymouth Township. Bridgman, the deputy clerk for the last five years, took 1,920 votes, while Prchlik, an accountant at Herriman & Associates, the property management company run by her husband, finished with 1,770.

Bridgman said he "hates to see a waste of taxpayer dollars on a recount," but he's confident in the numbers.

"The positive is that (the recount) will show our equipment is accurate and our election process is intact," Bridgman said. "The processes we have in place are solid, and I'm confident the recount will show the vote count was accurate."

Gas leak drives residents out temporarily

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Residents forced to leave their Plymouth neighborhood Wednesday morning because of a natural gas leak were back in their homes less than two hours after being evacuated.

City Manager Paul Sincock said the area evacuated was bounded by Arthur, Irvin, Blanche and William streets, affecting about two dozen homes.

"The gas main was secured by Consumers Energy, and then the roads were reopened," Sincock said. "Anyone who was evacuated

was allowed back in their homes. There were only a few customers who didn't have gas service when the main was secured, and Consumers Energy worked with them directly."

An e-mail blast alerted Plymouth residents about the gas leak at 11:16 a.m., as Plymouth Police and the Plymouth Community Fire Department went door-to-door to evacuate the affected area.

Sincock gave the all-clear at about 12:45 p.m. No injuries were reported.

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

Team finds plenty of reasons for walking

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The reasons are varied, but the goal shared by four neighbors in the 400 block of Ann Street in Plymouth is the same — to walk 60 miles in the Breast Cancer 3-Day, Sept. 26-28, to help to raise money and awareness in the fight against breast cancer.

"I walked two years ago and I'm rested up and ready to go again," Dan Dwyer said. "Breast cancer has impacted many people I love ... and this walk is my way of doing more than just praying for these incredible women."

"I have a daughter (Emma), and I want breast cancer to be gone by the time she's an adult," he added.

The team is calling itself The Breast of Plymouth, and includes Lisa Carney, Ed Hingelberg and Kate Hondorp.

"Watching them walk through Plymouth last year was amazing," said Hondorp, who lost an aunt to cancer. "I never really knew much about the organization until then, but to see the never-ending line of people coming through dressed in pink and carrying signs made me



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Hingelberg, Kate Handorp and Dan Dwyer are training for the Breast Cancer 3-Day in September. Not pictured is the fourth member of their team, Lisa Carney.

say, 'We've got to do that next year.'" Hingelberg, whose sister is a cancer survivor, felt the same calling as Hondorp after seeing the walkers pass through Plymouth.

"It was just fabulous to see the excitement and support that was given to the walkers," Hingelberg said, "and how appreciative the

walkers were of the people cheering them on. It was remarkable and moving."

Carney said she's fortunate not to have anyone close to her suffer from breast cancer. However, she has three good reasons to walk.

"My girls are 2, 4 and 6 years old and I hope in the future there's a cure for their sake," Carney said. "Last year, my (then-)5-year-old sat at Penniman and Main and high-fived all the women. It made me think, as the year went on, that I should do this."

While The Breast of Plymouth has been training, Dwyer has the war stories on the grueling walk.

"Near the end of the first day, the back of my knee swelled up, so I walked the second and third days with an ice pack taped to my knee," Dwyer said. "But when you see 75-year-old ladies going past you, you're inclined not to quit."

The Breast of Plymouth needs to raise at least \$8,800 before the event. Contributions can be made on its Web site at http://08.the-3day.org/site/TR/Walk/MichiganEvent?team_id=41580&pg=team&fr_id=1185&et=Vhlgw5JsDVrt5uxkjkhcA.&s_taffid=6325.

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Coming Sunday:
The latest, coolest stuff for home offices

Walker brings cancer pilgrimage to Plymouth

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By late this afternoon, Sean Shearon will get a well-deserved rest after walking the equivalent of 18 marathons (26.2 miles) in 18 days — beginning in Sault Ste. Marie and traveling through Plymouth before concluding his journey in downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza.

The Windsor native and Detroit school teacher was

diagnosed with a form of cancer at age 12. His mother, a Michigan native and Detroit Public Schools teacher, lost a 10-year battle with breast cancer. Shearon is hoping his 472-mile pilgrimage will raise \$10 million for the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit.

"My feet are sore, but people I've met along the way who either have had cancer or lost people to cancer helped me know they appreciate what I'm doing," said Shearon,

43, who walked Ann Arbor Trail through Plymouth Township to Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Tuesday night, before leaving early Wednesday morning. "The e-mails I've gotten and messages on my blog ... people are just touched by what I'm doing and motivated to do things. One girl told me she was going to do the (Breast Cancer) 3-Day walk as a result."

Shearon didn't receive much attention in many parts of

Michigan during his travels, including in Traverse City. "When I was there most people were more excited to see (singer) Madonna (Ciccone) at the Film Festival," said Shearon. "Here I was walking to raise money for cancer, which my mother — whose maiden name was Ciccone and a distant cousin of Madonna — died from, and ironically she got all the attention."

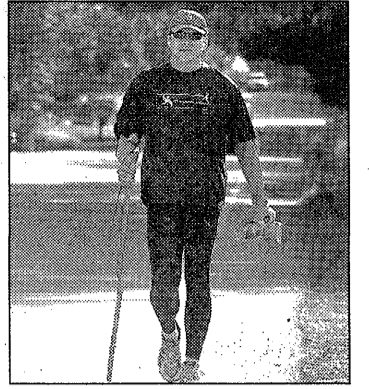
But, Shearon is in good spirits knowing he helped

bring more attention to the fight against cancer and raise money to fight the disease.

"When you have a goal and are focused and motivated, you just do it," said Shearon. "There have been days I wanted to pack it up, but the people I met along the way kept me going."

More information on Shearon's efforts can be found at thevictorywalk.org

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sean Shearon hikes east on Ann Arbor Trail. He finished the Victory Walk in Kellogg Park. Shearon is walking the equivalent of 18 marathons in 18 days to raise money for the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit.

Magazine looking for young writers to cover the big cruise

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jay Sprout wants to bring a bit of Michigan Avenue to Palmetto, Florida.

Sprout, a former Canton resident, now lives in the Sunshine State and is the production manager of Cruisin' Style Magazine.

The magazine, a national publication for hot rod, classic, cruising and muscle car fans, will be accepting entries for its first-ever.

Woodward Dream Cruise Design Contest after the end of Saturday's 14th annual Cruise.

"The Dream Cruise is one of the biggest chances to see thousands of auto enthusiasts in one place," said Sprout, who came up with the idea of the contest.

Targeted at high school and college students but open to anyone, participants can work individually or in a group to take photographs, write an accompanying story and

design a two-page spread on the Cruise.

The winning entry will be featured in an upcoming issue of Cruisin' Style.

"We are looking for something different," Sprout said, adding that the participants don't have to be car lovers. "People who have never read a car magazine have as good a chance at winning. We want something out of the box."

In addition to the grand prize winner, the magazine will honor those entries with the best story and the best photography.

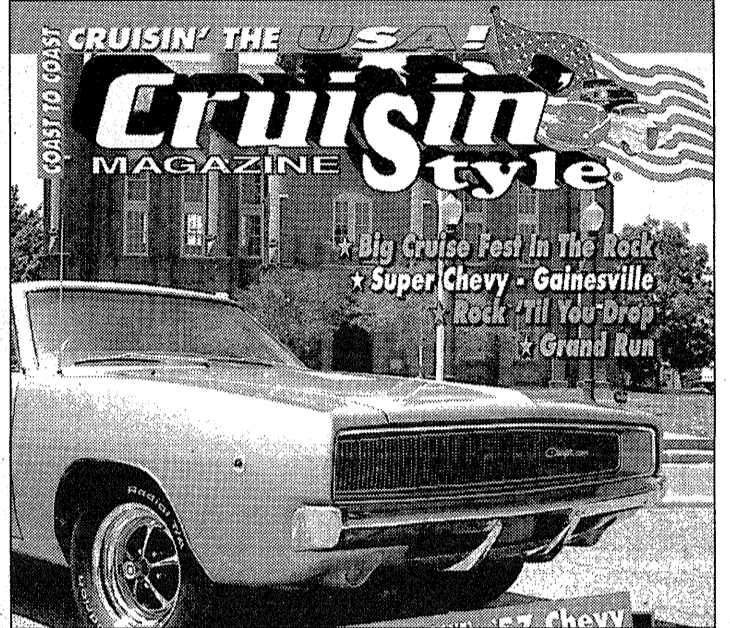
The Dream Cruise, touted

DREAM CRUISE DESIGN CONTEST

Who: Cruisin' Style Magazine
What: Participants must attend Saturday's Dream Cruise and design a two-page spread with photographs and a story
For contest rules, visit <http://www.cruisinstyle.com/content/contest/dreamdesign.htm>

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Cruisin' Style Magazine is hoping to get some unique perspectives of this weekend's Woodward Dream Cruise.

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Ages 13+ 1-1:45 pm

Auditions for Singers
Ages 10-Adult 2-2:45 pm

Auditions for Gymnasts
Ages 10-up 3-3:30 pm

A non-refundable audition fee of \$10 is due at registration.

- Wear appropriate dance wear and footwear: tap, jazz and/or ballet shoes.
- Be prepared to learn a dance combination.
- Dancers will audition as a group.
- Bring a non-returnable photo of yourself
- Arrive 1/2 hour before scheduled audition time to register and warm up.
- Singers should bring a prepared piece of any holiday music, in CD format.
- Performers arriving late will not be permitted to audition.

Showdates: December 18th-21st, 2008
at the Luxurious Cherry Hill Village Theater
visit www.centralcitydance.com for information about the audition process

"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

Citizen police academy

The Plymouth Township Police Department hosts its seventh Citizens Police Academy beginning Sept. 10. The 11-week program offers residents and businesses a first-hand look into the law enforcement operations of the Plymouth Township Police Department.

Participants meet 7-10 p.m. each Wednesday at Plymouth Township hall. There is no charge for the program; however, application and acceptance to the program are required. Students must be 18 years old to participate. Deadline for applications is Aug. 17, and class size is limited.

Applications can be obtained at the Plymouth Township Police Department, 9955 Haggerty, or by calling (734) 354-3232. Application forms may also be downloaded from the Plymouth Township Web site at www.plymouth-twp.org under the heading "Forms." For more information on the program, contact Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3243.

2008 car and bike show

Motor City Muscle Car Club, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters hosts the 2008 Car and Bike Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at the UAW Local 735, 48055 Michigan Avenue in Canton.

All proceeds are going to Voluntary Services Group of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Among others, a proj-

ect to place decent televisions in patient rooms is their goal.

The "Monkee Mobile," from the television show *The Monkees*, will be there through the day. Chapter 528 will be making "dog tags" with the proceeds being donated. Lynn Dery from REMAX of Canton will be collecting "Cell Phones for Soldiers"

where each cell phone or accessory turned in becomes an hour calling card for one of the troops.

Items are needed for the auction. Call Bill Balou at (734) 223-1118.

Breathing Waters open house

Dr. Julie TwoMoon and Breathing Waters Health Center are welcoming the community to their first monthly free Open House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16. The center is located at 44670 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 110 in Plymouth.

An exploration of new options in health will include QiGong demonstrations, organic food samples, and an opportunity to meet one on one with Dr. TwoMoon to discuss Chinese Herbal Medicine, Acupuncture, Naturopathic Medicine and Naturopathic Medicine.

TwoMoon has a Doctor of Naturopathy Degree from the acclaimed National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon. She also has a Master of Science in Oriental Medicine and has Diplomat Status in Acupuncture. Her education included six years of medical school, with specialties in Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture, Western and Chinese Herbal Medicine and Nutrition. Among the conditions successfully treated are depression, bipolar disorder, fibromyalgia, ADHD/ADD,



Happy 100th

Sue Trussel, a representative for state Sen. Bruce Patterson, reads a proclamation signed by Patterson and Gov. Jennifer Granholm congratulating Charlotte Kime on her 100th birthday. Kime, a resident at Plymouth Inn in Plymouth and a member of United Methodist Church of Plymouth, celebrated with a party at Plymouth Inn, which celebrated a 100th birthday for the second time this year. On hand to celebrate with her were brother-in-law Bill Neff, also a Plymouth Inn resident; great-nephew Ken; and other church members.

autism, low back pain, fatigue, weight gain, food allergies and many others!

The event will also feature magician Rudy TwoMoon to entertain children of all ages!

Breathing Waters Health Center also offers massage therapy, infrared sauna treatments, reiki, neuro-transmitter evaluation and toxic elements analysis and treatment. The center can be reached at (734) 414-7669. Learn more at www.breathingwaters.net

Children's book seminar

Children's book author and illustrator Charles Barker will present a two-hour class on how to write and publish a children's book 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman.

Participants will learn how to develop your story/concept, how to determine what publishers might be interested in your work, how to approach

publishers, how to write a book proposal and what to expect in the entire process from idea to finished book.

Cost is \$20 per person, with a limit of 15 people. To sign up for the class, contact Barker by e-mail at cfbarker@earthlink.net or call (313) 506-5643 and leave your name & call back number in case you need to be reached about any schedule change, etc.

Chieftettes car wash

The Canton Chieftettes conduct a Car Wash Fund-raiser for the Canton Chieftettes Pompon Teams 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

The car wash takes place at Fast Lane Quick Oil Change, 5881 N. Canton Center Rd., a half-block north of Ford Road in Canton. Donations will be appreciated.

Lotsa Helping Hands

Officials have announced Lotsa Helping Hands, a net-

work of volunteers through Plymouth First United Methodist Church. Plymouth First United Methodist Church, located at 45201 North Territorial in Plymouth, is providing a matching service, through LHH, of community needs and volunteers.

Having volunteers available to deliver meals, run errands to pharmacy & grocery stores, drive a person to chemo or doctor's office, or offering a simple act of kindness is worth more than words can say. Other non-medical services include, but are not limited to, helping children with their homework, providing daily check-in for homebound recipients, assisting new moms with childcare for older children, prayer requests and English as a second language (free) starting in October (first 20 applicants).

LLH is serving Plymouth City residents at this time and plan to expand to Plymouth Township and Canton within the next few months. Anyone needing the service or knowing someone who needs it - or businesses wishing to sponsor - can e-mail helping-hands@comcast.net

Riverside tour

The Plymouth Historical Museum and the Plymouth Preservation Network offer a walking tour of Riverside Cemetery 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 16.

Sanford Burr, Plymouth Historical Society President Emeritus, guides participants

through the public cemetery in Plymouth. Burr will recount stories of the lives of those buried in the cemetery.

Cost is \$10 per person for members of the Plymouth Historical Society, \$15 per person for non-members, with a limit of 25 people on tour.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during museum hours Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. or purchase tickets through PayPal or Google Checkout at: www.plymouth-history.org/Events.html

Wine/dinner events

Station 885 presents its 2008 Event & Wine Dinner Schedule beginning with the season-opening event, "Caribbean Wine Dinner," 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14.

The evening will feature food specialties from the Caribbean and will be pairing each course with hand-selected wines. The cost is \$30, and a limited number of tickets are available.

Other events on the schedule: Aug. 24, Pig Roast; Sept. 5, Fall Taste Fest; Sept. 16, Western Style BBQ Dinner; Oct. 3, October Fest with Sam Adams; Oct. 14, Michigan Harvest Dinner; and Nov. 11, Titanic Menu Dinner.

Tickets can be purchased over the phone or on a first-come, first-served basis. Station 885 is located on Starkweather in Old Village. For more information, call (734) 459-0885.

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Shifrin-Hayworth, Inc., a local market research company, is looking for people who have been diagnosed with the following condition:

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to participate in an interview about new creative campaign concepts. The study is related to possible new treatments. Participants will be helping the company marketing the new treatment to understand how to best serve their future patients. A short telephone conversation will confirm whether or not you qualify. You will be compensated for your time if you qualify and participate in the study.

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MANDARIN
FROM PAGE A1

eastern Asian countries are radically different cultures. There's no substitute for living and experiencing it firsthand." Aksman said while there are hundreds of different dialects spoken in China, Mandarin is

the universal dialect used by the government, schools, public institutions and the media. Canton High School Assistant Principal Erin MacGregor was instrumental in developing the fourth language to be taught at P-CEP. "I knew that with almost 6,000 kids at the Park, it was very important we expand our world language offerings," MacGregor said. "We

put together a committee and researched it for six months, and all indications came back it should be Mandarin. "With the impact they're having in the U.S., it's a very logical choice," he added. MacGregor said offering Arabic was also discussed, and could be added in the future. Aksman said she's hopeful the Mandarin Chinese program at P-CEP will evolve into one where students will eventually study abroad to complete the experience.

"The Internet is a huge factor in making us a smaller world, and kids are more sophisticated today in knowing other cultures," Aksman said. "Learning Chinese will go a long way toward a global relationship... a powerful message that we're willing to learn their language and culture. "Diplomatically and strategically, those are good moves on a larger scale," she added.

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Seniors going for gold at Olympics

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Beijing isn't the only place to earn an Olympic medal this summer.

In all, 566 senior citizens are preparing to compete in the 2008 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, with opening ceremonies set for the morning of Monday, Aug. 18, in the Nankin Mills Recreation Area of Hines Park in Westland.

The five-day event will feature a 10-mile bicycle race, a football toss, a soccer-ball kick, tennis matches, a swimming competition, volleyball, golf, horseshoes and less physical contests in baking, photography and Pinochle, among other events.

Westland will serve as this year's official host, but competitions will be scattered among other communities, too.

"We've really been trying to market this not only to get the involvement up, but also to show that any activity is better than no activity," Westland senior Director Barbara Schimmel-Marcum said.

Seniors from Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth,

Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Northville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township plan to compete in four age categories: 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80 and over.

Seniors will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals. In its fourth year, the Senior Olympics event has steadily grown, and 566 participants beat a July 31 deadline to enter this year's contests. Westland again has the most seniors involved, with 130 this year.

On Aug. 18, seniors will gather in Hines Park for a morning run, breakfast with Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and opening day ceremonies, including a veterans honor guard, the singing of the national anthem and a parade of cities in which representatives of participating communities will display their local flags. Westland Mayor William Wild will welcome the crowd, and an Olympics torch will be lighted.

The games will end with a celebration and awards banquet on Aug. 22 at Westland's senior Friendship Center.

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Music in the Park
The Music in the Park "kid-die" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sponsored by major sponsor McCully's Educational Resource Center, Main Street Bank, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and Huron Valley Ambulance, takes to the Kellogg Park stage Wednesdays at noon. The schedule:

- Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends
- Aug. 15: Sean Riley Band
- Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse
- Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band

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NOTICE OF SALE SURPLUS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 10:00 am, local time, on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 for the sale of the following:

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- 1991 Trailer, Model SM-10961-T
- Ford 2600 Tractor Model BA213C Unit 9L28B
 - Rake - ARPS 8' Utility Blade
 - Brush Hog - Woods 5' R105
- Lincoln Arc Welder Model SA-200-F163
- Dixie Chopper Lawnmower X2000 Quad Loop
- Land Pride 6' PTO Mowing Attachment Flat Deck, Model
- 1136 Gallon Plastic Water Tank
- Land Pride PTO Spreader Attachment FS700

All equipment are being sold "AS IS" with no warranty either expressed or implied.

Equipment may be inspected at the City of Plymouth Municipal Services Department, 1231 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on Monday through Friday. Please call (734) 453-1234 x273 to schedule an inspection. Proposal forms are available at the City Manager's Office, 201 S Main, Plymouth, MI during regular office hour or on the City website at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

Photos of the equipment are also available online at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Publish: August 14, 2008

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
ORDINANCE NO. 2008-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 78, THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH ZONING ORDINANCE IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING REGULATIONS FOR POLITICAL SIGNS

Section 1 The City of Plymouth Ordains:
Section 78, "Zoning" in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Plymouth is hereby amended by adding the following described text revisions.

Section 2 Modify Definition ARC District Section 78-169
(27) **Political sign:** A temporary sign, relating to the election of a person or persons to public office, or relating to a political party, or relating to a matter to be voted upon in a local, state or national election or referendum. Means a temporary sign, whose message relates to a candidate for political office, to a political party, to a political issue, or an ideological opinion.

Section 3 Modify Regulations for Political Signs ARC District Section 78-169(e)
(11) Political signs. Political signs subject to the following:
a. Political signs shall be removed within ten days following that election or event.
b. Said signs shall not be placed closer than 100 feet from any polling place entrance and shall obtain permission from the owner of the property upon which the sign is to be located.
c. No political sign is to exceed eight square feet in area, and in the case of a ground mounted political sign, the height may not exceed four and one-half feet.
a. Political signs are permitted in any use district provided they do not exceed four square feet in area per side or four feet in height.

Section 4 Modify Definition Section 78-221
Sec. 78-221 Definitions.
Political sign means a temporary sign, whose message relates to a candidate for political office, to a political party, to a political issue, or an ideological opinion.

Section 5 Modify Section 78-225 as follows:
Sec. 78-225 Required conditions in any use district.
(9) Temporary signs for special civic events may be permitted by the city manager. Such signs shall not exceed ~~32~~ **four (4)** square feet in area ~~per side or four (4) feet in height~~ and shall not be illuminated. Permission cannot be granted for a temporary sign for a commercial, industrial or private use.
(13) Political signs are permitted in any use district provided they do not exceed four square feet in area per side or four feet in height. ~~Such signs must be removed with 14 days after the election.~~

Section 6 Rights and Duties.
Rights and Duties which have matured, penalties which have incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this ordinance are not affected or abated by this ordinance.

Section 7 Validity
Should any section, clause or paragraph of this ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or part therefore, other than the part declared invalid.

Section 8 Ordinances Repealed.
All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed.

Section 9 Effective Date.
This ordinance shall become effective one day after publication.
Introduced: July 21, 2008
Enacted: August 4, 2008
Effective: November 5, 2008

PHIL PURSELL, Mayor
LINDA LANGMESSER, City Clerk

Publish: August 14, 2008

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd Canton MI 48187 (734)981-0303 on 8/29/08 at 11:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
2026 - Carin Malley - Dresser, Dryer, 20 Boxes
3047 - Carin Malley - Entertainment Center, Mattress, 5 Boxes
4015 - Chad Cummins - Golf Clubs, Freezer, Mountain Bike
4031 - Charisse Dansby - Coffee Table, 10 Boxes, 1 Tote
4263 - Shantae Matthews - TV, 2 Suitcases, 2 Totes
4270 - Lisa Young - 8 Totes, 5 Boxes, Misc Items
5201 - Michele Robbins - 5 Boxes, Endtable, Misc Items
5202 - Nyema Pinkston - Dresser, Mirror, Misc Items
5230 - Andre Johnson - Pool Table, Chair, Misc Items
6243 - Marchelle Moore - 10 Boxes, Sofa, Tote
9016 - Robert Garry - Chair, Skateboard, 2 Boxes

Publish: August 14 & 21, 2008

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Park path a win-win for city, Rotary

Linda Rupp, who lives near Toledo, Ohio, was visiting family in Westland Thursday, Aug. 7.

"I'm baby-sitting for my grandchildren this week," she said, keeping an eye on grandson Noah, 2. She was impressed with the new walking path at Rotary Park, at Florence and Christine in the Wayne Road-Cherry Hill area.

"It's great," Rupp said of the path, the formal dedication of which was held at lunchtime last Thursday with Westland city officials, Westland Chamber of Commerce representatives and Rotarians.

Rupp noticed the park was much cleaner than in previous visits.

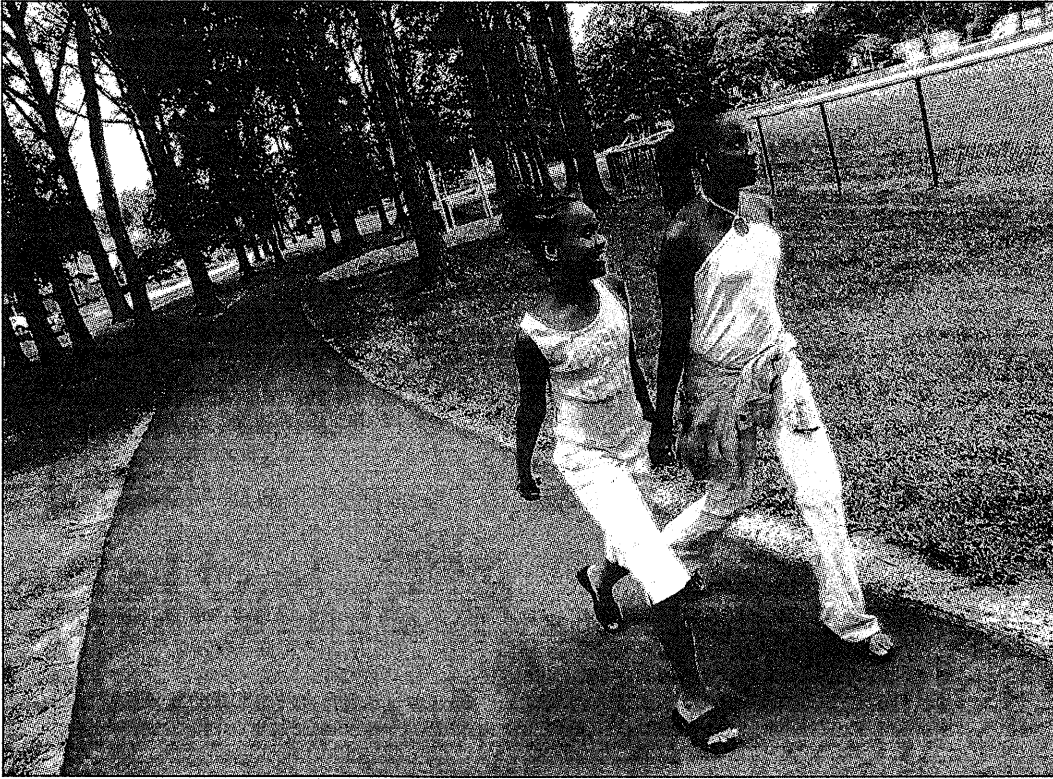
"Much better," she said, telling Noah, "You go climb on the slide."

Noah likes the park's playground equipment, and soon tried out the swings with grandma's help.

Mayor William Wild likes the city's 17 neighborhood parks (in addition to the closed Central City Park). He also appreciates the civic and service groups that contribute to the parks.

"I think they're very important, probably even more so now with the closure of Central City Park (for environmental reasons)," Wild said.

People look at parks when deciding where to live, he added.



Sisters Shanijy Reed-Ginyard, 9, and DaiJa Reed, 11, take a walk on the new City of Westland walking path at Rotary Park. Westland Rotary recently gave \$13,000 to the City of Westland for the walking path at Rotary Park which was dedicated last Thursday afternoon.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I think that's one of the draws to our community," the mayor said.

The city spends from its coffers to maintain the neighborhood parks, so donations from service clubs and other organizations are a big help.

"It doesn't leave much money

to do improvements," said Wild. "We just appreciate all that Rotary does for the city of Westland."

Holding fund-raisers over several years, the Westland Rotarians were able to donate \$13,000 for the walking path, which circles the perimeter

of the tree-filled park. The club held its meeting at the park Thursday, joining for lunch with city and chamber representatives following the official ribbon-cutting for the path.

-By Julie Brown

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ARAB-CHALDEAN FEST IS AUG. 23

The Detroit Zoo will celebrate Metro Detroit's Arab-Chaldean community and culture at the Arab-Chaldean Festival on Saturday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is part of Summer Festivals at the Detroit Zoo ... Like Nowhere Else, presented by

Comcast. Activities will take place in the plaza east of the Ford Education Center and are free with the cost of zoo admission.

Comcast subscribers who show their bill at the ticket booth receive \$2 off one adult admission.

The Arab-Chaldean Festival will feature live entertainment, including music by Ara Topouzian and dance performances by Troupe Ta'amullat. There will also be food available for purchase from local Middle Eastern restaurants, calligraphy demonstrations,

henna art, and enrichment activities with animals from Middle Eastern countries.

Also supported by Comerica Charitable Foundation, the Summer Festivals at the Detroit Zoo celebrate the cultural diversity of the metro Detroit community.

Following 'hot' tip might leave you in the cold

Whenever people find out what I do for a living, the first question they ask me is should they invest in what is hot. My standard answer is a question: "Should I take a heavy jacket on my next vacation?"



Money Matters Rick Bloom

Of course, after the initial confusion their answer is, "Well it all depends on where you're going." I then tell them it's the same about investing. It has nothing to do with what is hot today, but rather where you want to go with your money.

Too many people are stuck in a rut when it comes to investing. They remember the old days, when a stockbroker recommend buy or sell based on the investment du jour. From an investor's standpoint, that model has proven to be a failure. Few people today refer to themselves as stockbrokers — they call themselves financial advisers or financial counselors. However, no matter what the title, if it is a strategy that encourages constant buying and selling, the

strategy will fail today just as it failed in the past.

Investors need to learn from the past or be destined to make the same mistakes. Before investing even one dollar, you must have an overall long-term strategy. That said, there are some common mistakes investors continue to make which erodes return.

Americans are preoccupied with taxes. If you want to fool an American about an investment, simply say you have an investment that will lower their taxes.

I've said many times "taxes" are not the issue. Your goal is not to lower your taxes, but to increase net worth. Lowering taxes does not automatically increase net worth. In fact, in many situations, when you lower your taxes, you are lowering your net worth.

Another common mistake is relying on tips. The best tip I can give is to avoid "hot tips" at all costs. My experience with investors who buy stocks on a hot tip is they end up losing money. When you invest based on a tip, you are gambling — and the majority of gamblers lose.

One other mistake investors make is falling in love with their investments. Your investments do not love you

and you should not love them.

The reason we invest is to make money and we should not be afraid to sell an investment that has done well in the past, but is no longer performing. That doesn't mean if the investment has a bad year, you sell. However, if the investment is underperforming other investments in the same category for a number of years, sell. I cannot tell you how many people in our area refused to sell Kmart even though the stock had many years of miserable performance. Many people in our area continued to hold Kmart stock out of loyalty. Loyalty is fine, but not in the investment world.

Even great investors who follow all the rules occasionally lose money. That is the nature of investing. However, the better investors minimize their losses and maximize their gains by reducing mistakes.

One last note and that is never beat yourself up over a mistake. Learn from it and become a better investor.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at monymatters@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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OUR VIEWS

Test scores good way to start year

Dr. Craig Fiegel's first year as the superintendent for Plymouth-Canton Schools appears to be getting off to an auspicious beginning.

First came word last week Gov. Jennifer Granholm is increasing state funding, somewhere between \$56-\$112 depending on where the district falls in the formula the state uses. (OK, so the total increase to Plymouth-Canton's budget would be miniscule, but ANY funding increase is better than none.)

The better news, especially in a district that prides itself on the academic prowess of its students, is those students' performance on the Michigan Merit Exam, where Plymouth-Canton students — as they did a year ago, in the first year of the test — scored much higher than the stage average on tests on reading, writing, English-Language arts, math, science and social studies.

Plymouth-Canton juniors improved their scores in five of the six test areas, dropping only in their social studies scores. And even there, they dropped by a lower margin (a 1-percent fall) than the statewide average (which fell 3 percent).

Students at all four high schools — Plymouth, Canton, Salem and Starkweather — recorded improvements, a testament to the job teachers are doing getting them ready, but largely — as administrators noted — also an indication students are taking the test seriously. It does, after all, provide them an ACT score (the district's composite ACT score climbed to 21.7 from 21.4, while the state's score remained at 18.8).

District officials acknowledge they still need to get better to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, but have no doubt they'll be able to meet the act's 2014 deadline.

In the meantime, in a district starting over with a new superintendent and a stretched budget, the MME results were a good starting point.

Keep election clean

With the primary election in the rearview mirror, it's obviously time to focus on the November general election.

In the past, that has been more a formality than a reality in Plymouth Township, because the Republican primary usually settles it. Of course, there's always a general election for the 20th District state House seat, and this year is no exception.

But in the township, we have both a Democrat (Mike Watts) and an independent (Don Schmettler) challenging incumbent Republican Richard Reaume for the supervisor's seat. There's also an independent (Richard Sharland) challenging Republican incumbent Treasurer Ron Edwards.

The 20th House seat will be decided between Republican Jerry Vorva and Democrat incumbent Marc Corriveau, while the nonpartisan 35th District Court race is between Jim Plakas and Joe Barone.

Now that we've described the lineup, here's what we're hoping for: A clean playing field.

While there were some political shenanigans in the primary, it never got personal. There was no individual nastiness where one candidate besmirched the name (or the heritage) of another.

We hope that holds true in the general election, as well. Talk about the issues, draw distinctions between candidates, and provide a better-informed electorate the chance to make up their own minds.

And may the best candidate win.

New programs are promising ideas

Last week, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed the state school aid bill assuring school districts that they would be receiving \$56 to \$112 more per pupil for the 2008-09 school year, a meager 2-percent increase over last fiscal year.

But the bill does include support for two Granholm proposals that offer some promise of improving education on both ends of the K-12 continuum.

The \$13.4 billion school aid fund will include \$15 million for a pilot project to create smaller high schools. The small school concept is aimed at reducing Michigan's high dropout rate, particularly in the city of Detroit.

Granholm had asked for a plan to raise up to \$300 million over several years by borrowing against future school aid revenue, but legislators rejected that idea over concerns about adding to the state debt.

The funding bill also provides a combined \$10 million for early childhood education and school readiness programs. The aid package also will cut funding for half-day and alternate-day kindergarten and fully fund all-day kindergarten. This will be phased in over several years.



LETTERS

Political attack ignored

Plymouth Observer editor Brad Kadrich wrote an editorial last Thursday called "Primary season proves there's more than one way to do ugly." He makes a nice list of past and current examples of dirty tricks in local elections. However, the most egregious and yet-to-occur attack was ignored, even though its planning has been shared with the *Observer*.

It is now common knowledge that I am running for state representative. The voters deserve a full and open debate on issues, not a mudslinging contest. That is why I alerted the media three weeks ago of a Democrat dirt-digging operation in Plymouth. The *Observer* has been eerily silent on this matter.

In June, a Democrat operative named Dan Mahoney made a Freedom of Information request to the City of Plymouth for my personnel file from my 10 years as a Plymouth police officer. Mahoney has been in the employ of the House Democrats' campaign committee and Speaker Andy Dillon. This is public information and was provided to the *Observer*. Mr. Kadrich, while mentioning the FOIA issue in Plymouth Township, failed to talk about this dirt-digging being done on me.

Let's be clear what this is about. It is public knowledge that in 1988 I was illegally discharged from the Plymouth Police Department by the corrupt Hank Graper administration for exposing the department's ticket quotas. Graper and Police Chief Myers wrote slanderous letters of reprimand and termination and placed them in my personnel file. My political opponents are after these letters for use in political attacks. But there is more to the story, and those at the *Observer* know it.

With the help of the Police Officers Association of Michigan I fought back against Graper for nearly 18 months for my job, my damages, and most of all, the good Vorva family name of my adoptive father and career Marine who taught me about never giving up.

During this 18 months of hell, I was elected to the Plymouth City Commission after going door to door telling Plymouth residents about my fight. I was elected with the highest vote count in that election. I have never been ashamed of my service as a police officer. I am proud that with the help of friends and my union I was able to fight back and secure justice for myself and my family.

If Mr. Mahoney and Democrat hacks in Lansing wanted to see my personnel file, they could have asked. I released it 20 years ago to the press when I ran for City Commission and later for state representative (I was elected to that post despite this same dirty trick being used against me). I have also sent to the media a letter from retired Police Chief Bob Scoggins, who was my training officer and supervisor my whole career, stating that I had done nothing to be disciplined or terminated for.

The *Observer's* complete lack of coverage, discussion and exposure of this nasty attack-in-waiting is even more confusing to me since their own reporter was with me at City Hall when I reviewed my file with him and agreed to have it re-released not only to the press, but sent to Mr. Mahoney and his bosses. In fact, I e-mailed all of the information directly to Brad Kadrich himself.

If Mr. Kadrich and the *Observer* are

truly dismayed by nasty political attacks, they can cover this story and expose it for what it is. And then we will know for certain just how far their outrage extends.

Jerry Vorva
Republican nominee
20th District state representative

Check facts first

An open letter to *Plymouth Observer* Editor Brad Kadrich:

First, I should like to disclose that I am the husband of Mary Ann Prchlik, the defeated candidate for Plymouth Township clerk. Thank you from both Mary Ann and myself to all who voted. Mary Ann captured 52 percent of the votes cast on Election Day, losing the race in absentee votes.

In *Observer* Editor Brad Kadrich's column ("Primary season proves there's more than one way to do ugly") on Aug. 7, two days after the primary election in Plymouth Township, Mr. Kadrich takes considerable license in reporting stories as if they were based in fact.

Even though his column is a format for editorializing, certainly the editor himself has an obligation to investigate, at least to some depth, allegations made by political candidates. He also has an obligation to disclose what he knows about someone's actions, particularly when quoting someone as if she were in a position to pass judgment on others.

To the latter point, Mr. Kadrich concluded that "the manipulation prompted longtime township Trustee Kay Arnold to call it one of the 'ugliest' campaigns she's ever seen." Strange he quoted Ms. Arnold. An objective observer would have been a better source for such a quote. Mr. Kadrich had known for weeks that Ms. Arnold met with township supervisor candidate K.C. Mueller, to ask her to withdraw from the race and throw her support to Marilyn Massengill. K.C. Mueller personally verified this story to me. Don't get me wrong; I am not condemning such a maneuver by Arnold. More power to Ms. Massengill if she could have pulled it off. Given her non-campaign, Massengill apparently subsequently decided she didn't really want to get elected supervisor anyway.

As for Kadrich's representation of a conversation between Treasurer Ron Edwards, Trustee Steve Mann and Clerk-candidate Joe Bridgman, wherein Edwards and Mann purportedly told Bridgman that Prchlik promised to retain him as deputy clerk if Bridgman dropped out of the clerk's race, Prchlik never made such representation to Edwards or Mann, or anyone else for that matter.

Further, I don't believe Edwards or Mann made such representation to Bridgman. Of course, that element makes the story juicier than the Arnold-Mueller one because of its carrot-and-stick element. Had Kadrich done any checking, however, he would have learned that Prchlik's position on Bridgman's future, if she were to win the election in which he opposed her, was that she would retain Joe so long as he met performance expectations.

Of course Mann and Edwards have no authority on their own to make any commitment regarding the clerk's selection for deputy clerk. Only the clerk has such authority. They know that, as does Bridgman.

Lastly, Kadrich needs to do his homework on who was responsible to fulfill

supervisor candidate Dianne Gonzalez's Freedom of Information Act request. That responsibility rests solely with Clerk Marilyn Massengill. As an astute observer told me, she can't just throw it over the fence and walk away. It was Massengill's responsibility to monitor the status of responding to the request and to make sure the township was timely and reasonable in its response. Seems Massengill adopted a lame duck attitude long before the election results came in.

Dan Herriman
Plymouth Township

Band deserves credit

You have seen them march down Main Street in Plymouth and Ford Road in Canton, but now it is showtime.

Your Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is composed of approximately 180 students from the three Plymouth-Canton high schools and they have already begun preparing for their upcoming competitive marching band season.

These dedicated students are being coached and taught by a phenomenal staff utilizing their own musical knowledge and background and infusing it into the members.

Before the school year begins on Sept. 2, the band and its staff will have put in over 160 hours of practice during "summer vacation." When the school year begins, it is practice everyday after school for approximately three hours. Saturdays are reserved for either practice or competition. On these days students will dedicate some 10-plus hours towards their craft.

Pit, color guard, and band — three separate units united into one body. Each group practicing, training, and honing their own specific discipline; then combining to create the 2008 show.

Opportunities exist throughout the year to show your support for the band. Attend one of the band's performances. If you know or notice a band member inquire about the season and wish them luck. A word of encouragement goes a long way.

Visit the band Web site at www.pcmnb.net and see what the band is about. Listen to past shows and experience how these students bring music to life. The "season" begins Sept. 13 at Novi High School culminating with the Grand Nationals in Indianapolis the weekend of Nov. 13-15.

Their dedication, effort, and determination deserve our utmost support!

Carl Kafafiaz
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"I'm more concerned about the hurtful effect it will have on civic clubs because they do contribute so much to the life of the community ... I don't understand why we would want to impose a burden on them."

— Mike Wright, Plymouth City commissioner, on possible side effects of the city's restructuring of the sign ordinance

PLYMOUTH
Observer

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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.

Creative, bipartisan leadership needed for regional issues

I attended the Detroit Chamber of Commerce Policy Conference on Mackinac Island in the week following Memorial Day. This was the third year in a row I represented the City of Farmington Hills at the Mackinac Conference.

The Mackinac Conference is billed as a retreat where business and political leaders from southeastern Michigan come together to discuss common issues, finding solutions. However, after attending for three years, I have yet to hear or see any issues upon which there is cooperation or agreement.

The legislators appear to talk at each other, not to each other. Each one intent on advancing their own agenda, which, of course, includes getting re-elected. The so-called big four — the Oakland County executive, the Wayne County executive, the chairman of the Macomb County commissioners, and the Detroit mayor — while all

professing the need and desire to cooperate, spend most of their time bickering with each other.

The governor, again, gave a wonderful speech, asking for bipartisan support on three issues she believes are necessary to move Michigan forward. However, if past performance is any indication of future action, the governor's words fell on deaf ears and she will not exhibit the leadership skills necessary to get the bipartisan support she needs to get the job done.

If I seem skeptical that our state and regional leaders will put aside their political differences and find a common basis for solutions, it is because I am skeptical. Our state legislature is totally dysfunctional, and the leadership in the City of Detroit is too busy trying to stay out of jail to resolve city or regional problems.

For three years at the Mackinac Conference I have heard that Cobo Hall must be expanded, we need a regional transit system, and we have to retain our college graduates in the state if we are to grow our economy. None of these issues require rocket science for solutions; they do, however, require a little imagination and bipartisan cooperation from our state and regional leadership.

I have given some thought to these issues and would suggest the following as a basis to jump start the discussion to finding solutions.

■ First, I am advised that Cobo Hall must be expanded to retain the International Auto Show, which I am told creates 16,000 jobs and brings \$500 million of economic benefits to southeastern Michigan each year. The expansion may cost up to \$500 million. Cobo Hall is presently paid for by taxes on alcoholic beverages in restaurants and bars and by a hotel tax on rooms in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. This tax structure is so that visitors to the region pay a substantial portion of the taxes to support Cobo Hall.

I would suggest that the state legislature set

up a Cobo Hall Authority, with two representatives from each of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and three representatives from the City of Detroit. This nine member authority would be charged with the job of (a) seeing that the bar and hotel tax was extended as necessary to raise the funds required for the expansion of Cobo Hall; (b) holding the City of Detroit harmless on the existing debt on Cobo Hall; and (c) building and maintaining the expanded Cobo Hall, I would also suggest (although this will never happen) that all the members of the authority be apolitical.

■ Second, everyone seems to be in agreement that future economic growth in this region depends, in part, on installing a regional transit system in at least Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Currently, DDOT operates buses in Detroit, and SMART operates buses in all of Macomb and parts of Wayne and Oakland counties. There are a number of people currently advocating a light rail system, costing billions of dollars, as the panacea for a regional transit system.

Again, I would suggest that the state legislature take action to establish a Southeastern Michigan Regional Transportation Authority with two representatives from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and three representatives from the City of Detroit.

This nine member authority would have the responsibility of taking over and merging the DDOT and SMART operations; extending bus service throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties; and extending the current SMART millage throughout the service area.

Once having accomplished all of the foregoing, then look at expanding into light rail service.

■ Lastly, I would suggest that there is a way to encourage our young adults who are graduating from our Michigan colleges and universities to stay, work and live in Michigan. We can do this by giving them an incentive to stay.

If we reduce by \$2,500 per student, per year, the state provides to its colleges and universities, and allow the state colleges and universities to raise their tuition by \$2,500 per student, per year, and then loan each student, who so requests, the sum of \$2,500 per year.

At the end of four years, the students will each owe the state \$10,000. Then, if the college graduate stays and works in the state, their state income tax would be applied to reduce their student loan until it is paid in full. If the graduate stays and works in Michigan for four years, the loan will have cost them nothing. If they leave after graduation, they will be obligated to repay the loan, and will not have taken our tax dollars elsewhere.

I believe with a little bipartisan and regional cooperation, Michigan can accomplish all of the foregoing and more.

Jerry Ellis is mayor of Farmington Hills.

AARP card arrival proves again what goes around, comes around

They found me.

Six months before I'm chronologically ready for them, they found me. Heck, I didn't even know they were looking for me and they found me anyway.

And, as they say, what goes around, comes around. Many years ago, I sat at my brother's



Brad Kadrich

house, chuckling heartily because my stepfather had just received his application to join what was then called the American Association of Retired Persons. It came in the mail smack-dab on his 50th birthday, and I (along with my brothers and sister) thought it was funny at the time.

I'm sure wherever he is (he died a couple of years ago) he was laughing out loud last week when my own application to join AARP (it's now known simply by the acronym) arrived in the mail.

When I opened it, my only thought was, "\$%@\$!"

OK, it wasn't my *only* thought, but it was my first thought. After that, I wondered this: "When did this happen? When did I get old?"

(Note to those approaching 50 and those already past it: Before you write to complain, I know it's not old. I'm just sayin' ...)

I remember when I was 12 and baby-sitting for the older couple across the street. They were probably in their late 20s, maybe early 30s, but I still thought of them as "this older couple across the street."

When I was 25, I didn't want to turn 30 because it meant I was getting older. When I hit 35, I didn't want to see my 40th, for the same reason. Guess what I thought when I hit 45? If you guessed, "I don't want to turn 50 because I'll be old," you're pretty close.

I tossed the application aside, vowing not to give it another thought. Which is better than our all-world photographer, Bill Bresler, did when he got his a few years ago. Bill sent it back (and actually still remains deep in denial).

Age is only a number, although it seems to me I only hear people my age or older say that. It's becoming more so as life goes on, with life expectancies creeping past 80 for women, beyond 75 for men. It's one of the reasons, I think, when you hear someone "died at the age of 58," you hear so many people say, "Wow, that's young!" I heard that a lot when Tim Russert died.

But even after I tossed the application aside, I was thinking about it. When I came to work, there was a copy of *AARP — the Magazine*, which claims in its masthead to be the world's

largest-circulation magazine. On the cover was Jack Nicholson, who's always been one of my favorite actors. It was a good story about Jack cleaning up his act. I paged through the magazine and found out Holly Hunter, also one of my favorites (loved her opposite Richard Dreyfuss in *'Always'*), is the same age. So are Patricia Heaton (*'Everybody Loves Raymond'*) and Andie McDowell (*'Four Weddings and a Funeral.'*)

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I also found all kinds of advertising, stories that show what older folks are doing with their lives, and even a crossword puzzle (which I couldn't finish).

Go to its Web site (www.aarp.org) and you find a ton more stuff, on money, leisure and health, all designed to help you not only survive into your Golden Years, but to thrive in them.

Unfortunately, even though I know age is only a number, although I'm sure there are people older than me who are in better shape physically, mentally and every other which way, and even though I know aging is a natural part of life, there's still one thing the AARP hasn't helped teach me about turning 50.

How to avoid it.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer and actually looks forward to the Big Five-Oh. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2153, and his blog is available on the Observer's Web site, www.hometownlife.com.



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Redford couple embraces Woodward Dream Cruise

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dan Czar owns a 1972 Chevrolet El Camino. Darlene Czar owns a 1937 Ford pickup.

During the summer months, both vehicles can be seen at car shows and both will be in the Woodward Dream Cruise, Saturday in Oakland County.

But Dan Czar also plans to display his latest creation: a stained glass semi-truck.

For both of these Redford residents, the trucks are warm reminders of a bygone era.

Dan loved the 1970s vehicles, particularly the El Camino.

"It seats like a car, and it was the first luxury pickup," Czar said. "It was called a gentleman's pickup. You could go to work as a contractor, then go home, get cleaned up and go

pick up your date."

"I love it for its handling," Czar said. "I've never had a car that handled like it."

It sports a Corvette 350 engine with a 780 four-barrel carburetor.

Darlene loves her Ford truck, an old farm truck, which she has owned for six years. "It's just a rugged looking truck," she said. "It's got a mean look to it. It's my pride and joy."

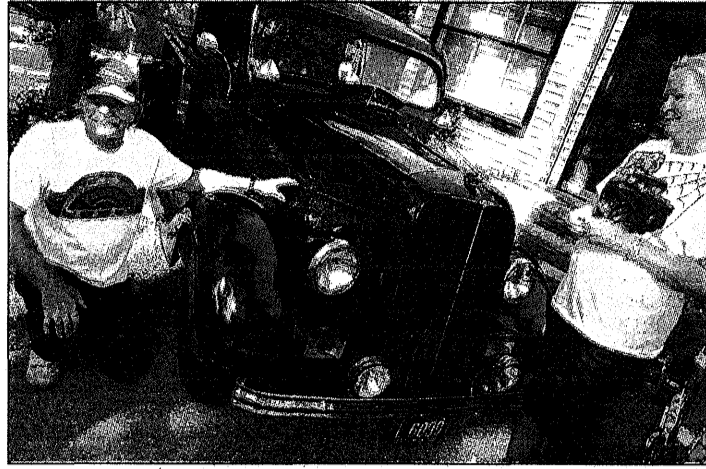
The sinister look to the truck, with its black color, is enhanced with the spider web encasing the engine, replacing the panels that were removed due to overheating. They wanted to cover the engine to prevent bystanders from reaching into it. "The kids grab it and ask, 'Is that real, is it real?'" Dan Czar said. Spider webs wrap the steering wheel and

decorate the inside door panel.

The black color makes it a challenge to keep cool inside the truck in the summer. "It's cooled with 'country air,'" Dan said jokingly, referring to the lack of air conditioning in older vehicles.

The couple enjoys the Dream Cruise each year. Dan likes the old vehicles from the 1940s and the Willys, but he also loves the racy looks of the 1970s, too. "My dad had a '53 Plymouth that he used to sit me up in," Dan recalled. "The Dream Cruise always brings back those memories."

Darlene likes the cruise to remember when cars were built differently. "It's great to be able to see some of the old nostalgic cars," she said. "You knock on it and it's steel. Today, it's plastic."



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dan Czar, left, and his wife Darlene talk about Darlene's 1937 Ford truck which she is planning to take to the Dream Cruise with Dan's 1972 El Camino.

The couple expects to be in the area of Woodward Avenue and 14 Mile Road, near Duggan's in Royal Oak.

Not only do they get into the Dream Cruise, the couple enjoys other car and truck shows, too.

And what might be more

fascinating is his latest creation: a small "semi-truck" made with stained glass.

Last year, Dan finished installing the stained glass cab over the truck, which will be on display at the Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show and Mackinac Bridge Parade

of Lights in St. Ignace in September.

The stained glass and aluminum diamond plate vehicle is named Lead Poison, because it contains more than 350 pounds of cut glass, including flame-etched windows and all-glass mud flaps, held together with more than six pounds of lead. It features white-lettered tires and real semi-truck stacks.

The truck measures 6 feet long, 2 feet, 3 inches wide and 4 feet, 4 inches high. It weighs 150 pounds.

But this weekend, they'll be cruising in the '37 Ford and '72 El Camino. Dan expects to attend every evening through Saturday night in the Woodward Avenue and 13 Mile area in Royal Oak, and will display the stained glass truck Friday night, he says.

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for 35th District Court Judge

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Thank you, Joe Barone

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Publish: August 14 & 21, 2008

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INVITATION TO BID CANTON TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 pm, Thursday, August 28, 2008 for the following:

FELLOWS CREEK GOLF CLUB - GROUND SERVICE BUILDING ADDITION

Project includes the renovation and expansion of the golf course maintenance building, removal and replacement of golf course parking lot and sediment removal from irrigation pond.

Bid documents are available to pick up at Siegal/Tuomaala Associates, 29200 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48034. A nonrefundable fee of \$60.00 will be charged for the bid packet. A 5% bid bond will be required.

Bid documents are on file and available for review at Canton Township Hall-Engineering 2nd Floor.

The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and accept only the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Township.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: August 14 and 17, 2008

SPORTS

B (*)

Thursday, August 14, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemons@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two-a-days launched

Livonia Churchill varsity football coach John Filiatraut looks to make a throw to his receivers during practice Tuesday afternoon. Teams from around the area and across the state began official practice under comfortable temperatures and dry climate.

Weather cooperates for gridder

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first days of high school football practice in recent years have been like doing laps inside a sauna. But on Monday and Tuesday, teams in Redford, Garden City and everywhere else in Observerland enjoyed relatively cool, comfortable temperatures and low humidity as they geared up with two-a-days. "The weather's been wonderful," noted Redford Union head football coach Miles Tomasaitis, watching some passing drills at Tuesday evening's practice. "We haven't had as many concerns about weight loss (due to dehydration)." Tomasaitis said the team continues doing conditioning and other weight room work in morning sessions before going out onto the field for calisthenics and various drills. On Thursday evening, players will don the full gear for the first time.

Although the weather provided a nice change of pace for the second week of August, the veteran Panthers' coach wouldn't mind it heating up a bit before the start of the season (Thursday, Aug. 28, at Dearborn Heights Crestwood). "They can work a lot harder (with bearable temps)," Tomasaitis said. "But my only concern and my only fear at this point in time is (that on) the 28th of August, it will be 85 at 7 p.m. and the humidity will be 65 percent." He said that with a knowing chuckle. "That's just the way it seems to work out." Over at Garden City, seniors Robert Snyder and Zack Griwicki were bouncing back onto the field after taking a short break. They had been working hard, but there wasn't much perspiration to be found. "It (weather) is not that bad," Snyder said. "But we are working hard."

Snyder added that, with the cooler weather, players will be able to keep pushing right to the end of the day. "With it being cooler, we can work harder and not be as worried about passing out or anything," Griwicki said. "As long as we're well hydrated we can go out there." While Snyder, Griwicki and other teammates began the next segment of practice with laps, Cougars' head coach Mike Salter concurred that the weather should prove beneficial in the area of players maintaining their energy level. Salter, like Tomasaitis, did see one potential pitfall. "It makes it a little easier on the kids," Salter explained. "But if it gets hot again next week or the first week of the season it might hurt us a little bit." Garden City opens the season Thursday, Aug. 28, at Taylor Kennedy.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Touched out

Olympian Schmitt denied in 200 free

Canton swimmer Allison Schmitt's quest to win an individual medal in the 2008 Summer Olympics fell short by the smallest of margins Monday morning at the Water Cube in Beijing, China, when she failed to reach the finals in the 200-meter freestyle by one-hundredth of a second. Schmitt's semifinal clocking of 1:58.01 was good enough for ninth place. France's Ophelie-Cyrielle Etienne placed eighth, nipping Schmitt after touching in 1:58.00.



Schmitt

Only the top eight semifinalists from the two heats qualified for Tuesday's finals as Italy's Federico Pellegrini, who set a world record a night earlier in 1:55.45 in the first prelim, captured the semifinal in 1:57.23. Slovenia's Sara Isakovic posted the top semifinal time: 1:56.50, while Schmitt's U.S. teammate Katie Hoff, advanced with a second in 1:57.01. The 18-year-old recent graduate of Canton High School was seeded seventh going into the semifinals following Sunday night's first preliminary heat where she was finished second and was clocked in 1:57.38. But Schmitt, who swims for Michael Phelps' coach Bob Bowman, was well off of her Olympic Trials performance last month in Omaha, Neb., where she posted a personal best of 1:55.92 (finishing runner-up to Hoff). Schmitt, headed this fall to the University of Georgia, can still capture an Olympic medal as she is expected to be a member of the U.S. 4 x 200 freestyle relay contingent that will compete for a medal on Wednesday. The U.S. has captured the gold medal in the women's 4 x 200 freestyle relay every year it's been an Olympic event.

Sidelines

MU adds cager

Madonna University men's basketball coach Chuck Henry added his third recruit for the 2008-09 season with the signing Wednesday of Kirtland Community College's 6-foot-8 forward Leroy Allen (Detroit/Dearborn Henry Ford Academy). During his sophomore year, Allen averaged 9.5 points and 9.4 rebounds for Kirtland under coach Ty McGregor. He joins Jon Jaciuc and Kevin Henry in Henry's latest recruiting class. "Leroy brings experience to our roster after two years at Kirtland," Henry said. "He has proven he can play on the college level and will help us in our quest to capture at WHAC championship and advance in the national tournament."

White signs SS

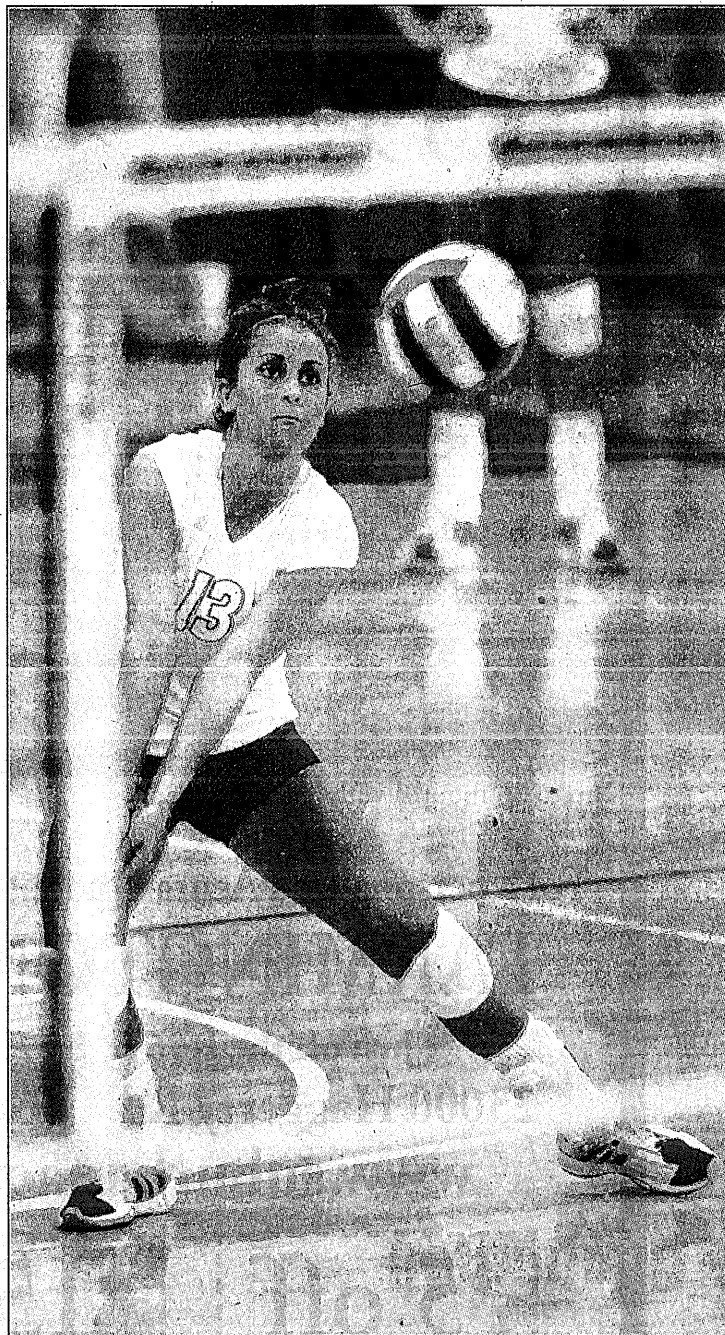
Madonna University women's softball coach Al White announced the signing Wednesday of Monroe High School shortstop Katie Cooley to an NAAIA letter-of-intent. As a junior Cooley made first-team All-Mega Conference Red Division for the Trojans, who captured Division I district and regional titles. She was also a prep teammate of fellow MU recruit Amanda Straub and Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year Jess Irwin, who just finished her freshman year at MU. Cooley, who plans to major in Sports Management, graduated Summa Cum Laude and was a member of the honor roll and National Honor Society while at Monroe. "Our staff was very pleased to signee Katie this late in the game," White said. "She's going to be a nice addition to our club for next season. The program Coach (Vince) Rossi has built at Monroe produces great kids and even better people. We're glad to have another one of his players to go along with Jess and Amanda."

Crusaders thrive on competition

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talented teams that work harder than others usually win. Madonna University's 2008 women's volleyball team qualifies on both accounts even though the first regular season match isn't until Aug. 20 against Spring Arbor (The annual game against the alums is 7 p.m. Friday). To illustrate, both senior outside hitter Lubovj Tihomirova and junior defensive specialist Brynn Kerr (Churchill/Schoolcraft) walked around the athletic complex following a double practice late last week with sheets of shrink-wrapped plastic holding ice packs in place on their shoulders and backs. "We have 15 players, all talented," noted 22nd-year head coach Jerry Abraham. "From Day 1 that's been our whole sort of theme is (that) the competition is fierce, extremely fierce." Both Tihomirova, the All-American outside hitter from Latvia, and Livonia's Kerr were part of the 2007 Crusaders team that finished 35-12 and won the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference — not to mention advancing to the NAAIA National Tournament. Yet both players are working so hard at practice they can barely move afterward because they want to finish the job this time around. They already sense this can also be a special year. All but recent Madonna graduates Jacqui Gatt (Churchill) and Amy Szymanski (Redford/Ladywood) are back, too. "There's always a place for improvement, no matter how hard you work" said Tihomirova, 22, who lived with a Redford family during her first season at Madonna. "With this team, we're pushing really hard and we go further every day in practice. I see improvement every day."

VOLLEYBALL



MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Strong work ethic and defensive ability make Livonia Churchill alum Brynn Kerr an important player for Madonna's volleyball team.

Dynamic boxer, 69, wins Ringside belt

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia's Paul Soucy continues to prove you're never too old to step into the ring. The 69-year-old trainer and boxer, who took a 10-member contingent from Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club to last week's Ringside World Championships, came away with the 165-pound title for men ages 65-70 with pair of victories at the KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Mo. Soucy garnered his third Ringside World Championship belt in four years by rallying in the final round after taking a standing eight-count in the second, avenging a loss last year to 70-year-old Ron Guidry of Baton Rouge, La. Soucy also won his first match with a unanimous decision of Michael Tarnaw of Madison, Wis. The tournament featured 1,500 participants from around the world, including competitors from as far away as China and just over the border from Canada. "They have six rings going at once, two sessions per day, it's just an awesome tournament," Soucy said. Also coming away with a title for Dynamic was 16-year-old super-heavyweight Dan Smith of Garden City, the USA Junior Olympic national champion, who finished 2-0 in the Boys 16-17 age division. Smith defeated a pair of local boxers from Kansas City, Brandon Carmack and Chris Walker, en route to the title. Also turning in an impressive performance for Dynamic was Wyandotte's Gabriel Garza, who fell to Indiana's Anthony Sims Jr. in the Boys 13-14 final. The 13-year-old Garza, who finished 4-1 during the five-day tournament which started on Wednesday, lost a close decision in the final to the nation's top-ranked boxer. "All of Gabriel's fights were tough," Soucy said. "A lot of people there thought he won that match."

The tournament featured 1,500 participants from around the world, including competitors from as far away as China and just over the border from Canada.

Charity hoops

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches and Wright & Filippis will stage charity basketball game to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 at Livonia Franklin High School, located at 31000 Joy Road (between Merriman and Middlebelt roads). The game will feature the Amputee Spartans against the Saints. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Suggested donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children (ages 11-8). For advance tickets, call Richard Shebib of the COCC at (734) 422-0278; or e-mail paschabooks@sbcglobal.net; or Brad Shebib at (248) 829-8327; or e-mail bshebib@wright-filippis.com.

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Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B3**

Expectations rise for Lady Ocelot spikers

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Shortly after Schoolcraft met Madonna University in Tuesday's volleyball scrimmage, Lady Ocelots' head coach Rich Lamb thought his team gained valuable experience that will help it during the soon-to-begin Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

"I think it is" a confidence-booster, said Lamb about the four-team scrimmage that also included the host Crusaders, Owens and Kalamazoo Valley community colleges. "Jerry (Abraham, Madonna head coach) has a great program here and for us to even be close and play well against them is really good for us."

Lamb, beginning his second season at the helm, and a roster featuring five solid sophomore returnees and several promising freshmen will begin finding out just how valuable the preseason test will be.

Schoolcraft (29-17 overall and 14-2 in the conference, good for second place) opens the season Friday, Aug. 22 at Delta College with matches against the host Pioneers and Alpena Community College.

Another test will be seeing how well several talented freshmen step in to help fill the void created by the graduation of standouts Carly DeClerq (first-team All-Eastern Conference) and second-teamers Stacy Urbats, Amanda Ballnik and Lauren Braun.

FASTER, QUICKER

Schoolcraft, the coach emphasized, will attempt to mix things up this season, too.

"We're trying to play faster than we did last year," Lamb said. "That was one issue. At times (in 2007) we seemed a little slow and a little predictable."

"So we're trying to design some things that will make us less predictable, such as making our middles more active."

Starting at middle blocker will be sophomore Whitney Clay, who the coach said is a strong performer as well as floor leader. "She's very knowledgeable, she seems to understand everything on the floor and that's a real asset."

Clay also is breaking in promising freshmen middle blockers Emily Bronkema and Jennifer Brunik, both from McBain High School near Cadillac, Mich.

Also expected to make their presence felt in the front row will be 6-0 sophomore outside hitter Virginia Butler (Canton/Westland John Glenn) and sophomore right-side hitter and Livonia Churchill alum Sarah Button.

Lamb said Butler (about 500 kills in 2007) was an All-Region 12 player and could very well be "a candidate for player of the year" this season if she continues her upward path.

Button, meanwhile is the squad's best blocker but is improving in the passing and serve-reception areas. She also can hit. "We may use her as an outside hitter as well and move her around."

BEGINNING TO GEL

Rounding out the handful of sophomores are defensive specialists Marissa Daron (Howell) and Hillary Colomina. Daron's versatility should make her a valuable player again this season while Lamb said Colomina so far in practice is opening some eyes.

"She (Colomina) has been a surprising back row player for us so far in practice," Lamb said.

Both Butler and Button said they think the team is meshing quickly, which they partly attribute to players and the coaches being familiar with each other from last season.

"Now that it's coach's second year it's easier going into the flow and I think we're going to have a

great team," Butler stressed. "... We started out a lot stronger the first week of practice than we did last year."

"We just seem to flow better, everybody plays good together."

Butler said Schoolcraft will be working toward the team goal of winning the regionals and Button agrees that the Lady Ocelots could make a lot of noise.

"We have a good foundation of sophomores and returning with the same coaching I think it will be a real good transition from last year to this year," Button said. "And helping getting the freshmen getting settled in. We have some real good recruits."

Among the promising newcomers is Churchill grad and libero candidate Jordan Kerr. "She's incredibly quick and can read a block really well," Lamb said. "She can read a hitter very well."

Because Kerr excelled as a softball player in high school, she also has the arm strength to be a power server.

UP TO SPEED

Other freshmen who will definitely see plenty of playing time are setters Brittany Denter and Katie Williams (South Lyon), both vying for the starting role.

Denter led Kingsley in assists and kills her senior year while Williams helped set up three players who Lamb said are bound for Division-I colleges.

"They're both on a pretty steep learning curve right now," Lamb said. "That's typical of a freshman setter. We're asking them to do things they're not really used to and it's just going to take some time. They're just struggling with the speed of the game right now."

Also looking to make an early impact is 6-0 outside hitter Kaitlyn Litteral (Wyandotte Roosevelt), who excelled as a middle blocker in the Mega Conference.

"She can play defense pretty well and she's learning a new position," said Lamb.



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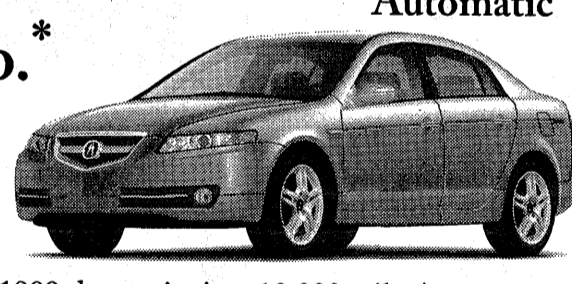
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VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

IT'S CONTAGIOUS

According to Kerr, 20, her strong work ethic is something she wants teammates to pick up on.

"I work hard and I push people with the way I play," she explained. "So hopefully, that will make everybody else around me better. Everybody is working real hard."

Abraham likes the work ethic, but doesn't mind having a deep, talented roster, either.

"We have great depth on both sides of the ball, defense and offense," Abraham said. "And other players are ready to take other players' positions on a daily basis so it should make everybody better."

"We have freshmen coming in that have the ability to make an impact immediately as a starting player. Really, the combo of veterans and freshmen make it really exciting right now."

Leading the charge are Madonna's three senior co-captains, including Tihomirova (967 kills), 5-10 middle/right-side hitter Whitney Fuelling (459 kills) and 6-3 middle hitter Stephanie Parslow (264 kills).

Abraham said the offense should continue to be strong led by front-row power hitting from Fuelling and Tihomirova.

"Whitney is probably the best overall athlete on the team, very fast," Abraham said. "She has a great vertical leap and attacks from the outside and middle and actually hits from antenna-to-antenna."

Tihomirova, the WHAC player of the year last season, should continue dominating "at the net, both as a hitter on the outside and in the middle. She'll be a go-to player for us, just like Whitney," the coach said.

Augmenting that duo is Parslow, described as a "dominant blocker" up front who can take the steam out of other teams' scoring attempts. Parslow "makes it very tough for opponents to hit because she's so strong and has a nice reach."

LEADERS AROUND

Abraham said the tri-captains this season provide a different element because they are such strong players.

"We've always had great captains on our team," he said. "But to have three seniors who are major contributors, who are all All-American potential kind of players who are great leaders and great students in the classroom, ... they're really going to be extensions of the coaches on the floor."

Add to that list of leaders junior setter Inta Grinvalds (2171 assists), another all-conference returnee who orchestrated the high-powered Madonna offense in 2007.

"Inta is more confident, stronger, she's a junior ready to start her third season as a starting setter," Abraham said. "You know, the setter is the one that runs the show and we just have a nice attack."

Abraham said Grinvalds brings floor savvy as well as pinpoint passing and setting abilities to the table.

Also expected to provide firepower is junior outside hitter Mary McGinnis (610 kills), who peaked down the stretch a season ago.

"It took last year (for McGinnis) to get used to us and get comfortable with our system," he said. "By the middle or the end of last year she turned it on and looks better than ever this year. We're so excited about her."

With McGinnis "hitting the ball with so much confidence" during preseason workouts, her offensive talents coupled with Tihomirova could lead to a "real strong one-two punch on the outside."

Scoring points shouldn't be a problem, and neither should containing other teams.

Helping in the latter department will be junior defensive specialist Abby Long, and liberos Kerr and Amanda Koszela (a red-shirted freshman in '07).

Long will provide "great speed, great range in the back row," and could have a breakout year in her third season with the Crusaders.

Both Kerr (who played her freshman year at Schoolcraft) and Koszela should be in the defensive lineup somewhere, although both are now vying for the all-important libero position.

"Both are excellent liberos

and both are excellent all-around defensive players," Abraham said. "I would say we're going to be a two-libero team and we'll see which one wins the position."

Add to the mix versatile sophomore and Livonia Franklin alum Liz Dempsey and sophomore Anna Gatt (Churchill), who will provide important contributions off the bench.

Dempsey will gain playing time both at outside hitter and defensive specialist while Gatt is another defensive specialist who "is fast, quick to the ball

— much like her sister (Jacqui Gatt). Just like Jacqui she has a defensive nose for the ball."

Other key returning reserves include sophomore outside hitters Martie Mazur and Amanda Lenart, who Abraham said will benefit from chipping in during last year's WHAC championship and march to the nationals.

FROSH PHENOMS

Almost providing icing on the cake for the 2008 squad will be three freshmen who the coach has great expectations for. Those are Canton alum

Marie Martin (middle hitter), Wyandotte Roosevelt grad Megan Fricke (outside hitter) and Allen Park Cabrini's Karie Altman, who can play anywhere up front.

Martin already brings a net presence with her 6-1 frame and ability to thwart offensive attempts from the other side.

"The upside for Marie is, ... her ability to get better and (that) is already showing," Abraham said. "She's going to be a great player for us. She'll just have to, like all the freshmen, adjust to the speed of the (college) game."

Fricke, although just 5-9, "has a great vertical jump and a real terminating attack. She gets up and hits over the block."

The coach also likes the potential of Altman, who was all-Catholic League first team player as a senior.

"She's extremely athletic and has great range at the net," Abraham said. "...She'll be competing for one of the starting middle hitter positions and she has the ability to come right in and contribute."

With such blue-chip first-year players, it is no wonder

even veterans like Tihomirova and Kerr are working themselves to the bone to stay at the top of the depth chart.

"We truly have a great group of kids (who) are more determined than ever to continue to have a great regular season and be tops in our conference," Abraham added.

If Madonna does, it will skip right into the national tournament because the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has phased out the regionals.

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Colt champions

The Seawolves of the Livonia Baseball-Softball Association captured the North Oakland-Wayne Inter City Colt championship with an 8-6 victory, Aug. 2, at Ford Field. Members of the Seawolves include: Nate Belyk, Troy Bogenschutz, Drew Carlson, Tad Evans, Stephen Foster, David Harris, Trey Jardine, Adam Lane, Christian Leathley, Drew Macorkindale, Cody McGaw, Sean Servailish, Chris Vincentini and Matt Windle, all from Livonia Churchill High School; and Jake Blach, Redford Union H.S.

Reliever Bertakis keeps Rams alive in Johnstown tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Reliever James Bertakis provided a Roloids moment to keep the Michigan Rams alive Tuesday in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association double-elimination tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

The right-hander from Edgewood (Wis.) College allowed just one run on five hits in six innings to pick up the win to give the 20-and-under Rams, now 29-11 overall, an 11-4 triumph over Cortland (N.Y.) in a game played in nearby Portage, Pa.

Bertakis struck out six and walked only three after replacing starter Aaron Wick in the third inning after West Chester County squad jumped out to a 3-0 lead.

The Rams came back with two runs in the third, three more in the fourth and four in the fifth to take a commanding 9-3 lead.

Madonna University's Shawn Little (Canton) and Brett Mazmanian were the hitting heroes, each going 4-for-5 to pace the Rams' 16-hit attack. Little had a double and two RBI, while Mazmanian scored twice and knocked in a run.

Dan Augustine contributed two hits and two RBI, while Concordia University's Tony Pounders (Livonia Stevenson) and Brad Herman each added two RBI for the Rams.

Frank Persichino also scored three runs and knocked in a run along with Tim Cross.

Losing pitcher Mike O'Hanlon went 3-for-4 with two runs scored to lead Cortland's 10-hit attack. P.J. Rigand added two hits and two RBI, while Tom Gillo went 2-for-4.

"Wick came in with some control trouble, he walked a bunch early and they (Cortland) got some timely hits and we were down 3-0," Rams manager Rick Berryman said. "Bertakis came in and did a great job. His slider and cutter were working. He rolled his ankle coming off the mound in the fifth inning and had trouble throwing his fastball, but was able to keep the other team off-balance."

On Wednesday, the Rams were scheduled to play Brooklyn. Both teams are 1-1 with the winner remain-

ing alive and the loser going home.

"We used only two pitchers today," Berryman said. "And that's good thing because and we needed some fresh pitchers going into the next game."

Rams drop opener, 7-1

It was a tough draw and even a tougher opener for the Michigan Rams in the AAABA Tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

On Monday, the Rams drew five-team defending champion Youse's Maryland Orioles of Baltimore and suffered a 7-1 setback at Revloc Field.

Winning pitcher Scott Swinson limited the Rams, the Michigan Collegiate Baseball League's third-place finisher and 20-and-under representative, to just one run on four hits and one walk in seven innings. Swinson struck out six before giving way to reliever Kevin Jacob, who pitched two scoreless innings to close out the victory.

Rams starter Derek Mosher, who had trouble locating his pitches for strikes, went the first 4.1 innings, allowing four runs on six hits and five walks in taking the loss. He fanned four before being lifted in favor of Colin O'Connell, who allowed two runs on four hits and a walk during his 1.2-inning stint.

Kalamazoo College's Ben Schroeder (Livonia Stevenson) worked the final three innings, allowing one run on one hit and a walk.

The Orioles scored three times in the third inning and added three more in the sixth before adding one more in the eighth to put the game away.

"Drew (Mosher) wasn't himself like he was his last four starts," Berryman said. "He too many early walks (three in the first inning) and they (Baltimore) got some timely hits. They're a good hitting team and they hit some good pitches."

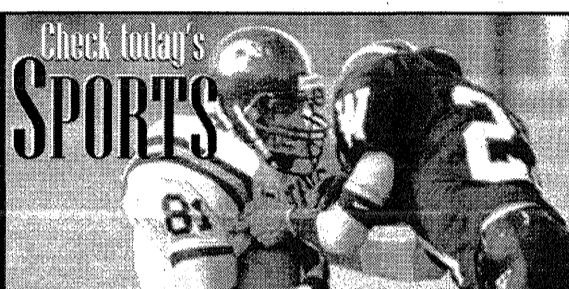
"And their pitcher (Swinson) did a good job staying in (strike) zone and he limited us to four hits."

John Hicks paced the Orioles' 11-hit attack, going 3-for-4 with two RBI. Leon Landry added two hits and two RBI, while Reed Gragnini went 2-for-5 with an RBI.

Ryan Abraham went 2-for-3 and scored the Rams' lone run in the sixth inning on a single by Josh Kirsten.

Got Game?

Yep, got scores, too.



Michigan Bucks to overhaul 2009 roster

BY DAN STICKRADT
O&E STAFF WRITER

Whether onlookers view the Michigan Bucks as a success or failure this 2008 season, given their talent level and expectations, the Premier Development League team should have a different look next season.

Of the 30 or so players that suited up for at least one game with the Bucks this summer, or were on the roster but injured, many likely won't be back when the team begins the next season in May 2009.

"It will be a new team, that's for sure," predicted Dan Fitzgerald, the Bucks' head coach the past three seasons.

With many of the team's top players set to enter their senior years of college eligibility, many of them will likely opt for new avenues: attempt to play semi-pro ball in the United Soccer League's First Division or Second Division, a step of above the PDL; possibly get drafted by a Major League Soccer team and play pro ball stateside; go overseas and attempt to play on a foreign club; or take their college degrees and enter the general workforce.

"I look at our roster and I see a lot of these guys moving on," added Fitzgerald. "Most of our top 15 guys or so likely won't be back."

Sweeper Michael Holody (University of Michigan), midfielder Nate Jafta (Lindsey Wilson College, Ky.) and goalkeeper Steve Clark (Oakland University), all three-year starters for the Bucks and All-PDL Central Conference First-Team picks this season, are seniors and will be the toughest to replace if they opt to depart.

All three have already trained with MLS teams during the past three years.

Additionally, midfielder Ty Shipalane (Lindsey Wilson), forward Doug DeMartin (Michigan State), midfielder Billy Weaver (Indiana), forward Jake Stacy (Michigan), midfielder Alex Morriset (Michigan), midfielder Piotr Nowak (Oakland), defenseman Ian Daniel (Troy Athens/Oakland), defenseman Kyle Russell (Coastal Carolina), midfielder Zac Scaffidi (Michigan State) and defenseman Dave Hertel (Michigan State) are also entering their senior seasons of college soccer and may not return.

Defenseman Adam Brent, who has used up his eligibility at Oakland and will graduate in December, may also be lost. Most of the players in the 67-team PDL are current college players.

"We'll be talking to the coaches at Michigan, Michigan State, Oakland, Lindsey Wilson, wherever we can find top-level (college) players, about bringing in

some new guys next year," said Fitzgerald. "We'll have a lot of new young guys. But there's a lot of good, young, talented players out there. We'll see what we need."

Fitzgerald said that some of Michigan's class of 2008 high school players, who are starting their freshman seasons of college ball, will be targeted to play with the Bucks in the future.

The Bucks finished the 2008 season with a 13-3-2 overall record, 13-2-2 against PDL teams, which was the league's top record. Michigan's only PDL losses were to the Toronto Lynx (1-0) in the regular season and to the Kalamazoo Outrage (3-1, overtime) in the Round of 16 of the PDL national tournament.

The team was also the 2006 national champion, finished as the national runner-up in 2007 and has advanced to the PDL national tournament in 12 of the past 13 seasons.

As for potential returning players, Mauro Fuzetti (U-M), Bret Mellon (Tulane), Nosa Iyoha (MSU), Fabien Lewis (Western Massachusetts), Stefan St. Louis (Oakland), Besmir Bega (Drake), Nik Djokic (Livonia Stevenson/Lindsey Wilson), Machel James (Oakland) and Fred Braun (Rochester/Louisville) could all return, but collectively they saw little playing time with the Bucks. Braun missed the year with an injury and Mellon played in just one game as Clark's backup.

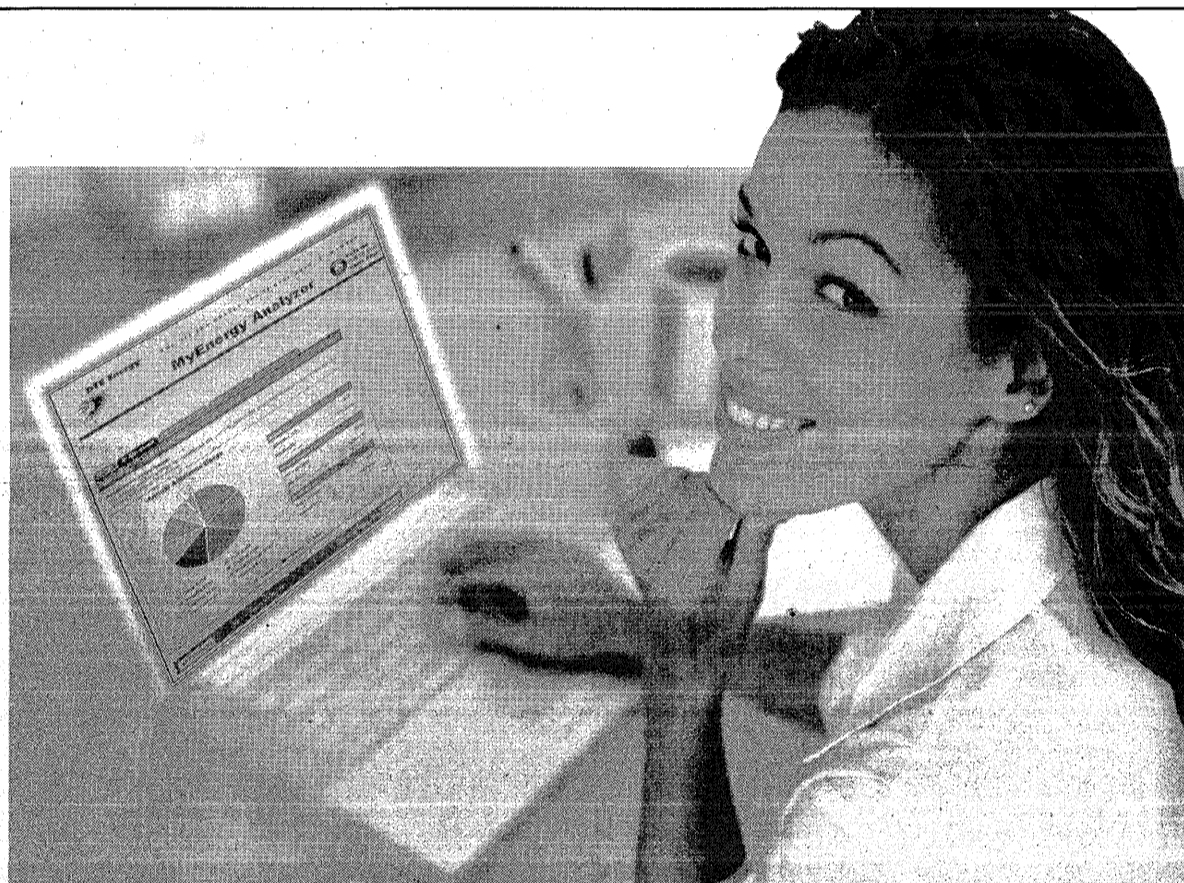
Spencer Thompson (MSU), Luke Norman (Rochester Stoney Creek/Wake Forest) and Colin Givens (Troy/Virginia) were all on the preseason roster this year, but left earlier in the season for various reasons.

The Bucks' eldest player, 28-year-old Kenny Uzoigwe, a three-time All-PDL Central pick, currently works for the Bucks organization and may also return. College players interested in trying out for the Bucks in 2009 can obtain information on the Bucks' web site at www.buckssoccer.com.

Bucks land 2 on PDL team

Although the Michigan Bucks did not reach their destination of their third straight national finals appearance of the United Soccer League-Premier Developmental League, two of the Bucks' stars garnered the highest honor of the 67-franchise PDL.

Attacking midfielder Nate Jafta (Lindsey Wilson College, Ky.) and sweeper Mike Holody (Clarkston/University of Michigan) were named to the PDL Dream Team. They were chosen out of more than 1,600 players from around the U.S. and Canada, mostly collegiate players who play in the league during the summer months.



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For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Investors

Learn about mobile home investing (buy,

sell, where) from Jeff Bennett Thursday, Aug. 14. Presented by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

Mortgage market

North Star Home Lending will present a seminar series, "Everything you always wanted to know about today's mortgage market, but were too afraid to ask." In a free 10-part seminar series, North Star Home Lending will present industry leaders to address topics such as: how to qualify for a mortgage; where are home values going; how to lower your property taxes; getting the most out of your home; specialized financing including renovation, investment, and second home purchases.

Each seminar will feature a 60-minute presentation by an industry expert on the highlighted subject with a 30-minute question and answer period following. Refreshments will be available. The seminar continues at the Taylor location on Thursday, Aug. 14, with "The Benefits of Government Lending" at

7 p.m. The seminar series will continue on the first and second Thursday of each month with a new topic. For additional information and or to RSVP, contact either (248) 594-9300 or (313) 827-0990. North Star Home Lending may also be contacted by e-mail at info@northstarhomelending.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers present "Cash In On CAPS" on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. CAPS refers to the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist designation offered by the National Association of Home Builders and earned by attending specific classes held locally at BIA head-

quarters. Bob Johnson, Johnson Building Co., will present topics that relate to CAPS: using CAPS to expand your customer base; evaluating your qualifications to serve aging customers; marketing for jobs; knowing the similarities and differences between ADA and CAPS; using universal and elegant design; and describing the CAPS certification program.

Registration is \$35 for BIA members. Advance registration required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

BIA and Bank of America will also sponsor a Fall Parade of Homes event running from Aug. 15 to Sept. 14. Parade of Homes features ready-to-move-in homes as well as under construction and pre-construction homes throughout southeastern Michigan.

Fall Parade of Homes, the 14th annual fall exhibition of new model homes located across southeastern Michigan, will open on Aug. 15 and run through Sept. 14. Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Bank of America Mortgage are the sponsors of this public event.

The Parade of Homes offers potential homebuyers a unique opportunity to visit the area's finest model homes, including condominiums and single-family homes, affordable housing and estate-sized homes.

Visitors to the homes will have an opportunity to see firsthand the latest trends in energy efficiency and green building, architecture, interior design, amenities and materials. The 37 model homes range in base price from \$95,900 to \$1,999,900.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR. Table with columns for 30 Yr. Pts., 15 Yr. Pts., Other, and rows for various mortgage lenders like 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, Ameriplus Mortgage Corp., BRINKS Financial, etc.

HOUSING FROM PAGE C1

to receive a \$1,000 tax refund from the government, your refund would grow to \$8,750 (\$1,000 plus \$7,500 from the homebuyer tax credit).

Buyers can take the tax credit in their 2008 or 2009 tax return. If you purchased the home in 2008, the tax credit is taken on your 2008 tax return. If you buy in 2009, you have the option of taking the credit on your 2008 or 2009 tax returns.

TYPES OF HOMES THAT QUALIFY

All homes, whether single-family, townhomes or condominium apartments will qualify, provided that the home will be used as a principal residence and the buyer has not owned a home in the prior three years. This also includes newly-constructed homes. "This is the final key that makes now the time to buy a new or existing home," said Stoskopf.

PAYBACK PROVISIONS

The tax credit essentially serves as an interest-free loan to be repaid over 15 years. For example, a homebuyer claiming a \$7,500 credit would repay the credit at \$500 per year. However, the buyer doesn't have to start repaying the credit until two years after the tax year in which the credit is claimed.

If the home owner sold the home, then the remaining credit would be due from the profit of the home sale. If there was insufficient profit, then the remaining credit payback would be forgiven.

NAHB has launched a new Web site, www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com, which includes a set of comprehensive questions and answers about how the credit works and how consumers can put it to their advantage.

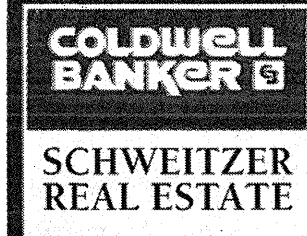
Other key elements of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, include: FHA modernization and expansion. A revitalized FHA will have greater flexibility to respond to the needs of borrowers, enable more working families to become homeowners and play an important role in the mortgage markets.

To address the foreclosure crisis, the FHA is given additional authority to insure up to \$300 billion of mortgages to refinance loans headed for foreclosure.

GSE (government-sponsored enterprise) reform. The law reforms the regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and permanently increases the conforming loan limit to help buyers in high-cost markets. To reassure financial and global markets, the government will temporarily expand its line of credit to Fannie and Freddie and permit the U.S. Treasury to purchase an equity stake in the companies through the end of 2009.

Mortgage Revenue Bond Program. The measure gives states the ability to issue an additional \$11 billion in mortgage revenue bonds, which will help strapped borrowers seeking to refinance their home loans.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Enhancing this program will expand the supply of much-needed affordable rental housing.



"Your Real Estate Expert" www.cbsschweitzer.com

Real estate listings grid with 40 items. Each item includes a photo, location, price, and description. Locations include Canton, Farmington Hills, Dearborn Heights, Milford Twp., Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Redford, South Lyon, and Waterford.



"Red, Red Wine ... you make me feel so fine ..."
The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers are giving away four front row seats to UB40 this Friday, Aug. 22 at DTE, along with four \$25 gift certificates for merchandise at the venue.
If you want to see the reggae/ska band perform simply visit www.hometownlife.com, click on "Enter to Win Tickets," and fill out the online form. We'll pick one lucky winner at random.

Wild on Woodward



The past, present and future of the automobile will be on display during the 2008 Woodward Dream Cruise.

Dream Cruisers gear up for new events

For a Dream Cruise event schedule, visit us online at www.hometownlife.com

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Each August Woodward Avenue undergoes a transformation — a ride back in time — to honor the Motor City's cruising days of old. And it's already begun. Vintage cars rev down Michigan's Highway One and perfectly restored classics park along the road, hoods popped anywhere from Pontiac to Ferndale, all to catch the eye of car buffs across the metro area.

It's not everyday spectators can spot a 1953 Buick Skylark parked near a cherry '84 Corvette. But such a sight comes as a clear sign that it's time for the Woodward Dream Cruise.

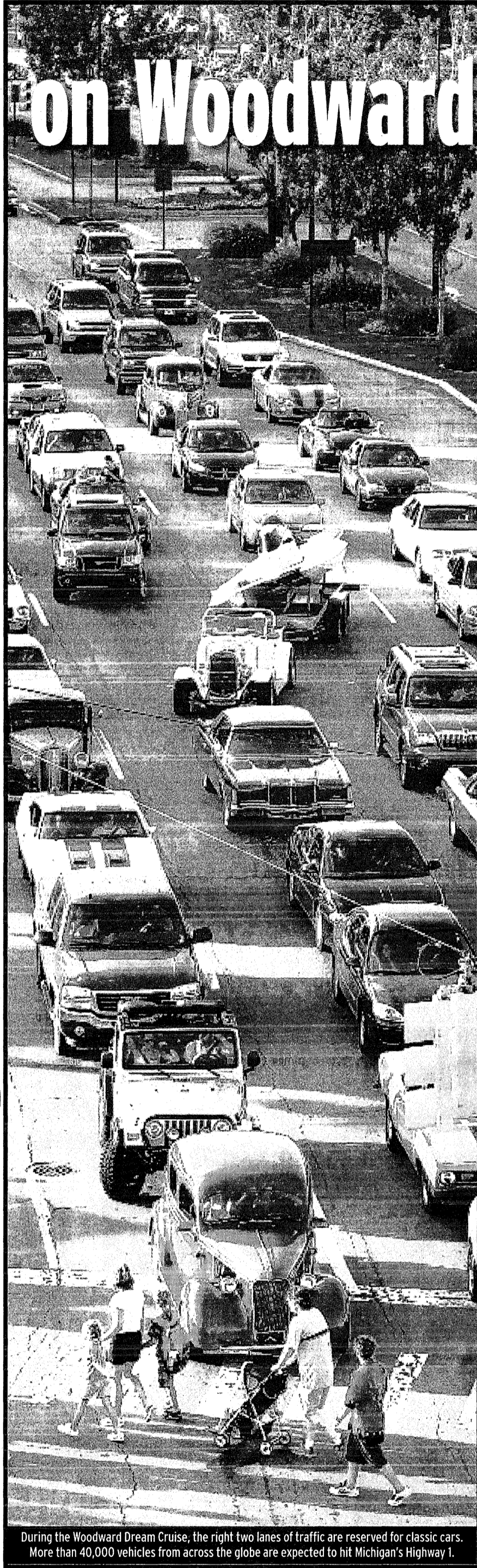
The world's largest one-day annual event dedicated to the automobile marks its 14th year this Saturday, Aug. 16 and more than a million visitors are expected to tra-

verse the road.

During a press preview event July 31, Dale Dawkins, president of Woodward Dream Cruise, Inc., noted that the event marks a collaborative effort — with organizers from all nine host communities and beyond working together. Those communities include Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Pontiac and Royal Oak.

A GRAND GUY
Troy Trepanier, a leading custom car designer and president of Illinois-based Rad Rides by Troy, will serve as grand marshal of this year's WDC. In addition to building cars for some of the top collectors in the country, he's developed the only EPA-certified ethanol kit, meant to keep motors running in an environmentally friendly way. Trepanier said he was hon-

Please see **CRUISE, D7**



During the Woodward Dream Cruise, the right two lanes of traffic are reserved for classic cars. More than 40,000 vehicles from across the globe are expected to hit Michigan's Highway 1.



Leigh Scott, Bloomfield Hills, and his '66 Caprice Classic appear on wrenchHEADS.tv.

BACKYARD WRENCHHEADS AT WDC
Two-Lane Blacktop Productions, a Waterford-based company that creates online videos dedicated to car hobbyists, will be filming during the 2008 Woodward Dream Cruise.

Two-Lane Blacktop Productions is dedicated to car enthusiasts who build, restore and customize classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars and low-riders, along with Gen X and Gen Y tuner cars.

Their online webisodes, which appear on backyardwrenchHEADS.tv, feature everything related to the do-it-yourself car culture, including "On the Street" driving videos, photo galleries of viewers' car restoration projects, backyard garage tours, and special events videos.

According to Donald Cenkner, founder of Two-Lane Blacktop Productions, most of the 40,000 classic cars expected at this year's Woodward Dream Cruise are built, restored or fixed by the car owners themselves.

Cenkner and his crew will spend all weekend at the WDC filming a special episode for backyardwrenchHEADS.tv. By W. Von Buskirk



Warren Christie (left) stars in the ABC pilot "The Prince of the Motor City" directed by Jack Bender, known for his work on the hit drama "Lost."

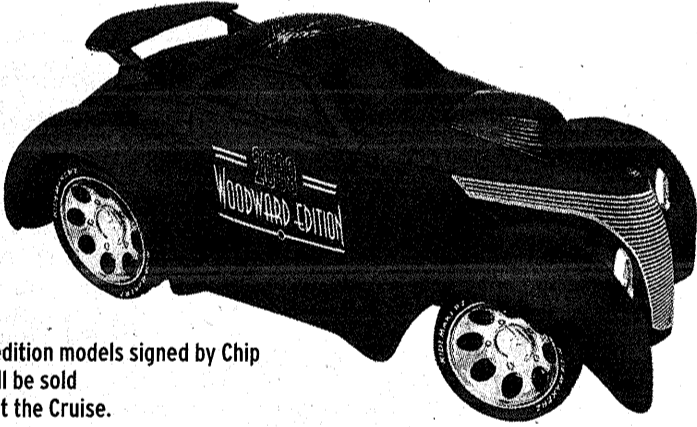
MANSSION OF THE MOTOR CITY
Meadow Brook Hall, on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills, serves as a setting for the ABC pilot *The Prince of the Motor City*, starring Warren Christie (*October Road*) and directed by *Lost's* Jack Bender (pictured). Location scouts chose the elegant Tudor-style mansion as a setting for show, the family home belonging to Christie's character Billy Hamilton.

Born the son of an auto baron, the young Harvard professor returns to Detroit to find he's inherited a fortune after his father's mysterious death. The hour-long pilot was created by Hamish Linklater (*The New Adventures of Old Christine*) and Jessica Goldberg, and its plot follows that of a haunting drama with *Hamlet* overtones.

For 14 days last month the cast, including Andie MacDowell, Morris Chestnut, Piper Perabo and Aidan Quinn, shot in various metro Detroit locations. "We came to Detroit because it's hard to fake Detroit," said Tara Flynn, a development associate working on the show. "Plus, this pilot is like a love letter to Detroit."

Film-goers can also look for Meadow Brook Hall as it appears in the Miguel Arteta-helmed comedy *Youth in Revolt*, which recently completed its shooting schedule in Michigan. Michael Cera (*Superbad*, *Juno*) stars in the film adaptation of CD Payne's cult classic novel and the mansion will represent a French prep school in which girl-obsessed Nick Twisp attempts to track down his love, Sheeni Saunders.

By S. Casola



Limited edition models signed by Chip Foose will be sold for \$50 at the Cruise.

'Overhauled' Chip Foose comes to Dream Cruise

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER



Chip Foose, the talented auto designer and star of television's hot rod show *Overhaulin'*, has attended the Woodward Dream Cruise at least five times over the years. Most of his visits have been for socializing and car cruising, not for "work."

Foose will be at the Cruise again, on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 15-16, to sign autographs, help raise money for charity and promote the cool collectible miniature cars he personally customized with The Ridemakerz Dream Collection.

Chip Foose, star of TV's 'Overhaulin'', will be at the Dream Cruise to sign autographs.

Please see **FOOSE, D6**

Want to avoid Dream Cruise? Have fun in Wayne County



Daniel Dugar will make you laugh at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia.

Looking to stay as far away from the Dream Cruise as possible this weekend? Then, have fun in Wayne County.

Redford, Plymouth, Garden City, Westland, Livonia and Canton should be quieter as thousands upon thousands of people will descend on Woodward Avenue, north of Eight Mile Road.

If you want fun that's not about cars, you can wade in the waters in Canton; try a "West Bloomfield" sandwich in Garden City; bang your head to speed metal in Westland; giggle with comedians in Livonia; or sip on a refreshing fruit smoothie while bowling in Plymouth (smoothies at bowling alleys? yes!).

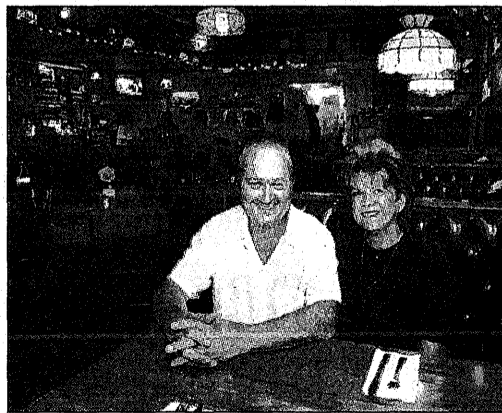
There's a lot of rocking & rolling going on in

suburban Wayne County this weekend Aug. 15-17, plus there's family fun. Here are some suggestions:

SUMMIT ON THE PARK AQUATIC CENTER POOL/SLIDE/ RIVER

Hours: Open swim Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16 and 17 from 1-7 p.m.
Where: 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, (734) 394-5460; www.leisure.canton-mi.org
What: The Aquatic Center is for all ages. Enjoy the five-lane, 25-yard lap pool, the zero-depth leisure pool; a river and slide; spa and sauna and more.
Rates: Adult residents ages 18-54, \$6; other

Please see **AVOID, D3**



Joe and Bonnie Rogala offer sandwiches like the Birminghamer — right in Wayne County.

Was your neighbor a hooper?

A lot of people came out last Friday to World Hoop Day at the Temple of the American Dream — which is located on 17363 Lahser Road just south of Redford, in the Old Redford area of Detroit.

World Hoop Day was an event held worldwide to raise money to give hoops (as in Hula), to kids who might not be so fortunate — to put a smile on their faces.

Want to see who participated from the *Observer* Newspapers? Want to see others from your community? Check out Lana Mini's blog online at: www.hometownlife.com. Then click on *Voices & Views*.



THE ART OF DOMESTIC BLISS

Paint Creek Center for the Arts will present *Domestic Bliss*, a group show of works in all media which celebrates artists' takes on home life, Aug. 22-Sept. 20.

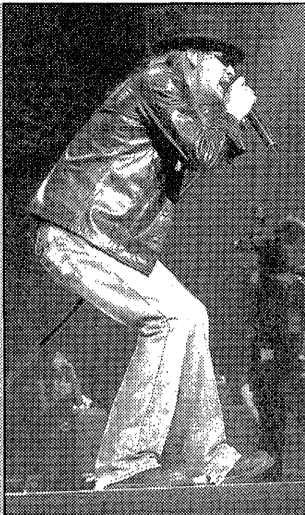
The show offers everything from pop paintings inspired by grocery store ads, to slightly disturbing photos set in a child-sized retro kitchen.

Locally-based artists include Madeleine Barkey of Ferndale, who draws from memories of her favorite childhood books; Siouxan Miller of Ferndale, who layers canvases with vintage textiles, sewing patterns, magazine clippings, wallpaper, paint and photographs; and Steven Miller of Royal Oak, who presents three paintings from a previous show called *Trophy Husband*.

The exhibit will close with a reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19 — part of the Downtown Rochester Gallery Stroll, and a gallery talk with the artists at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

PCCA is located at 407 Pine Street in downtown Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110 or visit www.pccart.org.

By W. Von Buskirk



Kid Rock helped give DTE its most successful months in years — with four sold-out performances.

for sellouts in its 15 year history by filling four July shows: Trace Adkins with Kellie Pickler; Crosby, Stills & Nash; and "Live" featuring Blues Traveler, O.A.R. and Collective Soul. Add James Taylor's June 4 capacity crowd, and Meadow Brook has already matched its previous best season total.

DTE Energy Music Theatre had eight sold out shows in July, with four full houses for Kid Rock and His Twisted Brown Trucker Band with Rev Run and Uncle Kracker — the longest run of shows by an artist in the 18 years of PS&E's ownership of the venue. Other July sellouts were Ted Nugent, Jonas Brothers and The Police with Elvis Costello and the Imposters.

The Palace had four sellouts: Bon Jovi, Neil Diamond and two Detroit Shock games. "We enjoyed a great July schedule of events, one of our best ever, and the concert-goers of this area showed they weren't letting the economy slow down their appetite to be entertained," said Tom Wilson, President and CEO of PS&E. And summer isn't even over.

By Lana Mini

WE LOVE TO ROCK

Michiganders love their music! The economy can be down, the weather can be rainy or humid — it doesn't matter. We go to concerts.

The month of July was magical for Palace Sports & Entertainment's three venues. The Palace of Auburn Hills, DTE Energy Music Theatre and Meadow Brook Music Festival, had 16 sellout shows. That marks the most full houses in a one-month period since July, 2001.

And, Meadow Brook notched its best month for sellouts in its 15 year history by filling four July shows: Trace Adkins with Kellie Pickler; Crosby, Stills & Nash; and "Live" featuring Blues Traveler, O.A.R. and Collective Soul. Add James Taylor's June 4 capacity crowd, and Meadow Brook has already matched its previous best season total.

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By Lana Mini

STAGECRAFTERS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Stagecrafters Youth Theatre has announced the recipients of the 2007-08 Jennifer DeRita Scholarship for the Performing Arts.

Nick Yocum, son of Jeannie Dolson and Mike Yocum of Royal Oak, and Elyse Moon, daughter of Rene and Eric Moon of Royal Oak, each received financial support toward their college education.

Yocum was a member of the youth theatre program for 10 years, involved in more than 25 shows, most recently playing Prince Robert in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Yocum will attend Western Michigan University in the fall.

Moon became a member of the youth theatre at age 9, and has been cast in more than 17 productions. She plans to pursue a musical theatre degree at Oakland University.

The scholarships, started in 2001, were named in memory of a former SYT member who was tragically killed in a car accident. They are awarded annually, using funds raised by youth throughout the year.

By W. Von Buskirk

TEST DRIVE SPYDER ROADSTER

Woodward Dream Cruisers can test drive the all-new 2008 Can-Am Spyder Roadster 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 15-16. Since hitting the open road in the fall of 2007, the three-wheel vehicle has made heads turn. Its unique Y-architecture, described as part motorcycle and part convertible sports car, is manufactured by Bombardier Recreational Products, makers of Sea-Doo watercraft, Ski-Doo snowmobiles, Can-Am ATV's and Evinrude outboard engines. Visit www.SpyderRyder.com to reserve a test drive.

By W. Von Buskirk

Livonia native brings his engaging sound to Ferndale

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

MATTHEW MARSH WITH LIZ LARIN AND ETHER AURA



Marsh

22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 544-1991
Hear It: <http://www.myspace.com/mattmarsh09>

His lyrics are poignant. His piano style is powerful, mature and catchy. The sound of music is moody, dreamy and wise.

Matthew Marsh, a Livonia native who now lives in New York to study music composition at NY University, is an upcoming singer/songwriter/pianist who is hosting a CD release party at the Magic Bag in Ferndale, on Friday, Aug. 15.

His CD, *Timeline*, includes saxophonist Nick Stone who is currently on tour with Alicia Keys.

We asked Marsh if he realizes he's hosting such an important event on Dream Cruise weekend.

"I realize that I will be performing during Dream Cruise but this was not intentional," Marsh said. "I'm very excited about this though. People who have nothing to do after the cruise can literally walk in from the street and see the show. Detroit loves both music and cars. It's the perfect mix."

And for Marsh, the Dream Cruise is special.

"My dad sells cars for a living, and has always been a car buff, so we were pretty much expected to at least drive by the cruise," he said. "The best thing about the Dream Cruise is that it doesn't just happen on Woodward. You see old cars and enthusiastic drivers all over metro Detroit. While I'm not into cars as much as my dad, I can still appreciate people with a passion."

Passion, family and music is what Marsh is all about; his love of music is intense, it's a part of him. He's been writing music since he was 11 years old.

"My first song was a piano ballad entitled *You're Never Too Far Away*. I wrote it for my dad who had suffered from a closed head injury while on a business trip in Las Vegas. "I've been singing since I could talk, playing piano since I was five."

Although Marsh, who attended University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Stevenson High School — and St. Michael's School in Livonia for grade school — has been a composer for years, he's still new to the live music scene here.

"But I have found that it is extremely supportive," he said. "There are plenty of ways in which an artist can promote themselves in Detroit and reach an audience."

We asked him a few questions about his music: Tell us about the song, "Happy Birthday Girl" (hear it on his Myspace). How did that come about? Fiction or reality?

The song is named after a one-act play I was cast in my freshman year of high school. It was actually titled "Happy Birthday Girl." The cast consisted of me and one other girl, Liz, who became, and still is, my close friend. She is the girl whose photo appears on my Myspace when you click on the song. The song consists of me wanting the best for her, but knowing she would have to find her path on her own.

How is writing music in New York different from your hometown of Livonia?

The things I write about tend to be different when I'm in New York. (In Livonia) my lyrics tend to revolve around the rift that exists between the person I was before I moved to New York, and the person I have become.

Are you a self-taught musician? Your musical skills are very well-honed, very mature. Who else plays on the album? Who is on sax?

I definitely am not self-taught. I owe a lot to my teacher, Amy Sauve (Michigander). I have been her student for more than 10 years and she has taught me a lot, not just about music, but about professionalism and hard work. She was the lead singer of the former Detroit band Blush. She not only knows music, she knows the music scene and has been extremely supportive in pushing and pointing me in the right direction.

I started writing music on my own, and have had no formal voice training, and a lot of my improvisational skills have been self-taught, but I've trained in classical piano for 15 years.

Bill Higgins is a well-known jazz drummer and he plays on the album. Charles Bartels plays bass. Nick Stone is responsible for the saxophone licks. Nick and I have worked together for years. (Currently is touring with Nayo and Alicia Keys.) All of these musicians exceeded my expectations and the sound was better than I could have imagined. I learned a lot from them.

Tell us what people can expect about your show. Describe it for someone who has never seen you perform live.

Expect a lot of youthful energy from the band and crowd. I'm kind of compulsive, so I have no idea what I'm going to do once I get up there, but its bound to be fun and new.





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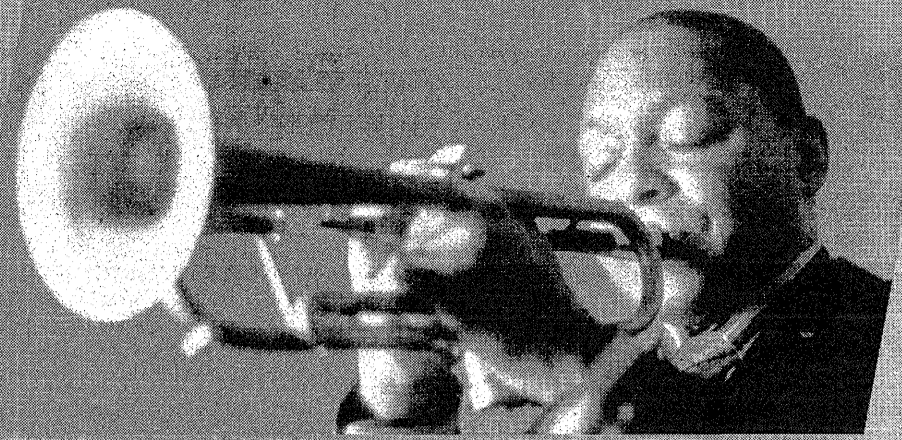


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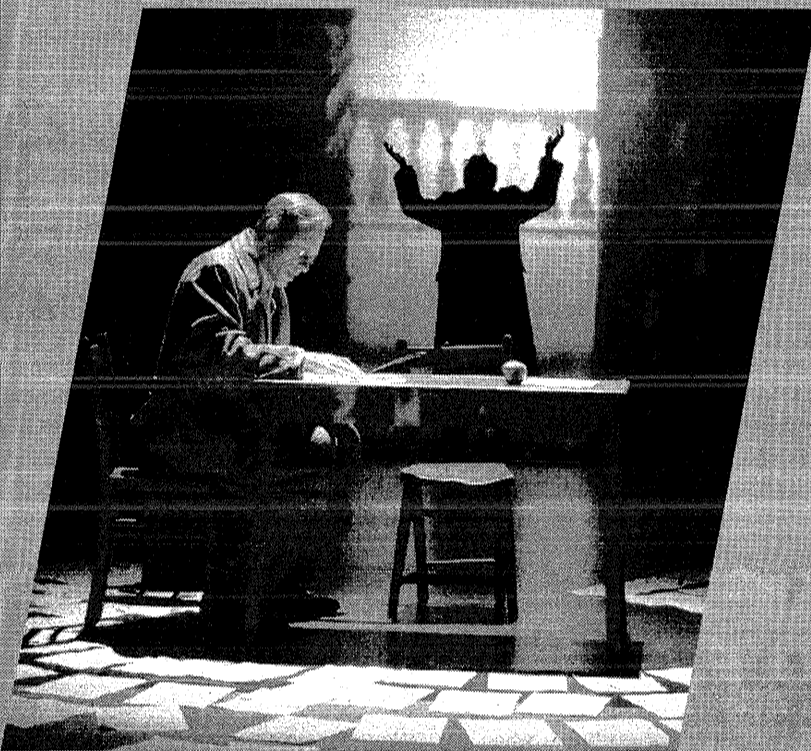
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Anne-Sophie Mutter violin
Camerata Salzburg

Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 5 & 6
András Schiff piano

Emanuel Ax and **Yefim Bronfman** pianos

Joe Lovano "Us Five" Quintet
and **Jason Moran**

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Simon Shaheen

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The Romeros

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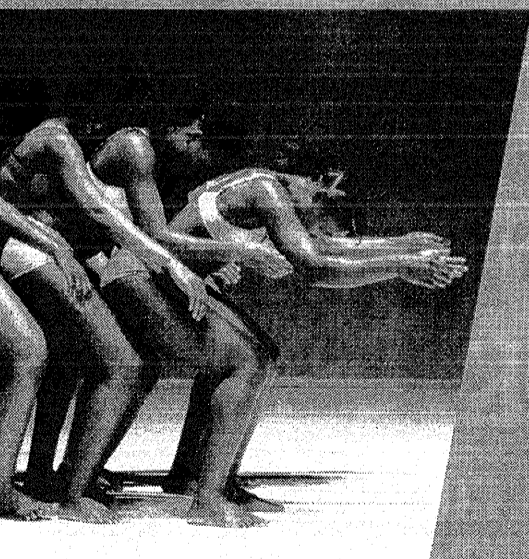
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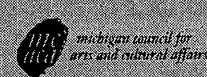
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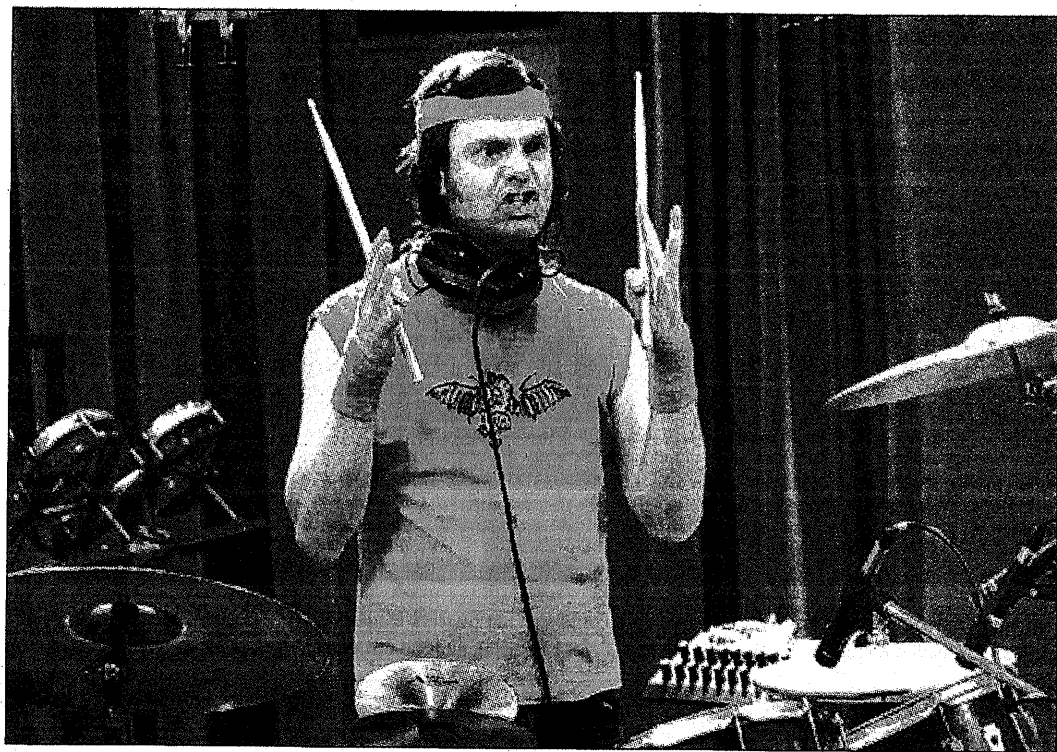


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Slide on your headband kids, Rainn Wilson is "The Rocker," in area theaters Aug. 20.

Here comes Rainn

'The Office' star drums up excitement for rock star comedy

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Rainn Wilson made a name for himself as the co-worker that would make about any employee cringe, Dwight Schrute, in NBC's *The Office*. This month Michael Scott's second-in-command takes the reins — and a good dose of eyeliner and hairspray — in the comedy *The Rocker*. With his first lead in a feature film, Wilson captures the very essence of '80s hair metal with the swagger, skin-tight pants and sneers required of any real rock drummer.

He's Robert "Fish" Fishman. And he's half the driving rhythm section of the fictitious smoke-and-makeup headbangers Vesuvius. It's a return to an era where bands like Poison, Warrant, Cinderella, Twisted Sister and Guns 'n' Roses ruled the stage. It's a time when rock was more fun and less political and musicians like Fish lived for groupies and a major record deal.

When Fish finds himself tossed out of the band he suffers a two-decade slump and gets stuck rooming with his sister Lisa (Jane Lynch), her envious husband (*Curb Your Enthusiasm's* Jeff Garlin) and their kids. But in this quirky comedy of second chances Fish finds himself behind the kit once again, playing for his nephew's band A.D.D., a ragtag group of brooding teens who manage to rise within the ranks of rock stardom straight from their Cleveland garage.

On a recent press tour to promote the film, Wilson stopped in Birmingham to answer audience questions (and sign a few autographs) following a screening of *The Rocker*.

Fish is only the most recent in an impressive line of oddball characters for Wilson. That includes his breakout role as Arthur on HBO's *Six Feet Under*. "I definitely identify with people on the outside," he said in a recent interview, "people who don't fit in."

While he doesn't rule out "the well-balanced characters," Wilson said he finds the outsiders more interesting. And in the case of Fish, the weight of the film lies squarely on his shoulders. "I'm always sort of reacting to a Michael Scott or a Luke Wilson," he said. "As a lead character I have to create that

dynamic of energy. It was a difficult shift." Music is central to the film — and to that end musician Teddy Geiger makes his acting debut in *The Rocker* as sensitive songwriting frontman Curtis. "He has a great voice," said Wilson, "a rock n' roll voice." The band, A.D.D., is rounded out by *Superbad's* Emma Stone and whisper-shy 21 star Josh Gad. Wilson told the crowd at Birmingham's Palladium Theatre last month that he's proud of the music written for and performed in *The Rocker*. He said unlike other films with a musical backdrop the songs crafted for the movie are "memorable." And he admitted to listening to the soundtrack often. Though he tuned in to plenty of hair bands in the 80s himself — telling the crowd that Guns 'n' Roses still stands strong — Wilson said he's more of an alt-rock fan now.

He named bands like The National, My Morning Jacket and Josh Ritter among his favorites. Thanks to the film, he's been rounding the music festival circuit and recently has had a chance to meet the likes of The Cold War Kids, The Flaming Lips, Dave Grohl, Pete Dinklage and Roger Daltry.

The Rocker, filmed mostly in Toronto with a few key shots in Cleveland, is set to open in area theaters on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Since it's directed by Peter Cattaneo (*The Full Monty*), be prepared to find out why Fish earns the nickname "The Naked Drummer." The movie was clearly filmed with a nod to actors with a history of rockstar-worthy personas. *WKRP in Cincinnati's* Johnny Fever, or Howard Hesseman, appears as the band's bus driver and *Married With Children's* ultimate groupie, Christina Applegate's flirtatious Kelly Bundy, now plays Curtis's mother and a former rocker herself.

Look out for appearances by funny men Demetri Martin (*The Daily Show*), Will Arnett (*Arrested Development*), Aziz Ansari (*Human Giant*), Fred Armisen (*Saturday Night Live*) and Jason Sudeikis (*30 Rock*).

Wilson is currently working on the fifth season of *The Office*, set to premiere in late September. When asked what he'd like to see transpire between his character Dwight Schrute and on-again-off-again love interest Angela, he said: "I'd like to see Andy and Dwight fight it out on the paintball court — for her love."

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Movies in the park, Penn are Dream Cruise alternatives

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

Maybe you are *not* one of the million people expected to attend the Woodward Dream Cruise this weekend.

Maybe you don't want to burn the gas money or get stuck in traffic. Don't skip out on having summer fun, check out movies in the park in Westland and Garden City. Or see *Iron Man* for just three bucks right in Plymouth.

Here's a schedule of local film fun:

Bee Movie, Rated PG
Dusk, Friday, Aug. 15
Where: Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, (734) 261-1990
Admission: Free

Park facts: It's a historic site in the heart of Hines Park. In the late 1700s, it was an important meeting area for the three Algonquin Indian Tribes, Ottawa, Ojibwa and Potowamami.

Bee Movie theme: The animated Dreamworks' film is about Barry B. Benson, a bee who just graduated from college, and leaves the hive. He makes a mistake by talking to a human; something bees are supposed to avoid. Barry learns that humans have been stealing honey from bees for centuries. And he decides to sue them.

Meet the Robinsons, Rated G
7 p.m. Friday Aug. 22
Where: Garden City Park, Garden City, Cherry Hill Road and Merriman Road, Garden City, (734) 261-1990
Admission: Free
Movie theme: Lewis is a smart

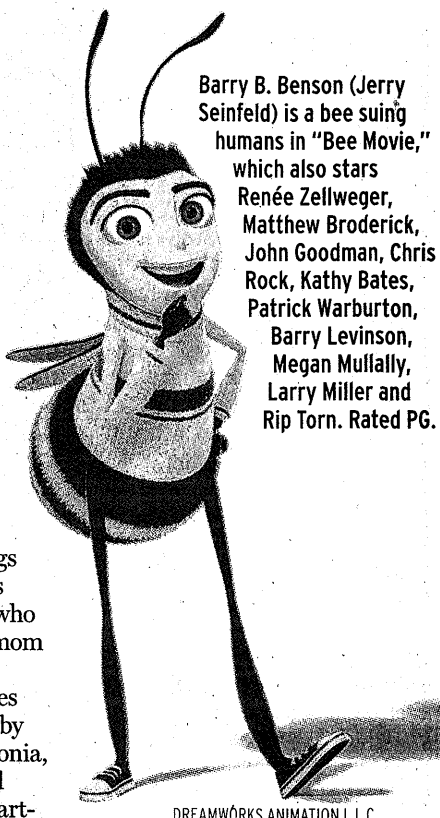
inventor who creates the "Memory Scanner," a machine to help him find his birth mother. But the scanner is stolen and things go wild when Lewis meets Wilbur Robinson, a man who tries to help him find his mom through a time machine.

Who organizes it: Movies in the Park are sponsored by Garden City, Redford, Livonia, Woodhaven and Westland Parks and Recreation departments.

Iron Man, Rated PG
7 and 9:15 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15 and Saturday, Aug. 16; and 5 and 7:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17
Admission: \$3
Where: Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, (734) 453-0870

The theater: In downtown Plymouth, the historic Penn Theatre seats 405 and is managed by the Friends of the Penn,

non-profit organization. The theme: You know it! Robert Downey Jr.'s character is a sexy, hip, rich, genius inventor who also heads a company founded by his father. One day he realizes the corporation his father started isn't saving the country. In fact, it's giving weapons to the bad guys. He invents an *Iron Man* suit to help save himself — and then becomes a hero.



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DJ SPOOKY'S
REBIRTH of a NATION

Director. Social critic. Performance artist Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky, mixes photographs, film and music to turn the controversial 1915 film *Birth of a Nation* on its head. A 21st century spin on race relations for a city that often sees issues in black and white.

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DJ Spooky's Rebirth of a Nation was commissioned by The Lincoln Center Festival, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Spoleto Festival USA and Wiener Festwochen (Vienna). Additional support was provided by the American Center Foundation and Max A.M.C.A.



Recalling d'Elegance

While the engines rev for the Woodward Dream Cruise, car enthusiasts catch their collective breath after a weekend of events centered on the Aug. 3 Concours d'Elegance at Meadow Brook Hall. The 30th annual event brought 230 exceptional vehicles onto the grounds of the mansion near Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Among them was this 1935 Duesenberg SJ special Mormon Meteor, owned by Harry Yeaggy. It earned the 2008 People's Choice Award.

CRUISE FROM PAGE D1

ored to be chosen as this year's grand marshal. "I've been coming up to the Dream Cruise for 10 years and it's such a big event," he said.

Look for Trepanier at the ribbon cutting ceremony and WDC kick-off in Ferndale on Aug. 15 as well as Berkley parade. He'll judge a new element to the WDC, the Dream Show exhibition on Aug. 16.

NEW FUEL

The Dream Show will feature a total of 50 vehicles said to embody the spirit of the WDC. Winners will be chosen in each of 10 classes representing American hot rod culture — including a Green Car category. The event will be organized on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 13 Mile and Woodward Avenue on the grounds of the Northwood Shopping Center. Listen for live entertainment by The Contours.

Dick Ruzzin, designer of this year's WDC logo, developed the Dream Show. During a recent press conference on the same spot where it will be held, Ruzzin called the event evi-

dence of the "American can-do spirit."

He said he believes the WDC to be a tribute to the past, present and future of the automobile. To that end, cruisers can expect to see more "green" vehicles, with engines made specifically to accommodate E85 fuel, all along the route.

SOUND OF SPEED

Cruising generates a sound all its own — those revving engines, squealing tires and the hum of a vintage vehicle picking up speed. To add to that, RG Dempster and his Detroit Rocks! label offers up a new collection of original music and classic cruising songs. Titled *Drive On!* the CD is available at Dempster Designs in Royal Oak and online at www.woodward-dreamcruise.com.

While drivers are set with a soundtrack behind the wheel, spectators can enjoy live music throughout the metro area beginning Friday, Aug. 15.

"This is my third year working with the Dream Cruise and every year it seems to get better and better," said Paul Lochirco, events manager for Motor City Casino. He is coordinating entertainment for the weekend, a task that

MCC has handled for the past eight Dream Cruise events. Lochirco excitedly announced upcoming performances by The Miracles in Pontiac, Blue Suede Shoes — an Elvis tribute band in Berkley and, in Royal Oak, The Contours. See sidebar for a comprehensive list of music, children's events and more.

OWN THE SHOW

Drive the WDC home by bidding on a classic car or hot rod this year, during the first-ever American Concours Foundation-sponsored online auction. Those interested in owning a slice of automotive history can bid on vehicles at Ebay Motors. Some of the cars available for auction will be on display during the Dream Show, but bidding will continue throughout the month of August. Proceeds, from 5 to 100 percent, support the Woodward Dream Cruise. After all, classic car owners have the incentive of cruising the two right lanes of Woodward each year during the Dream Cruise.

For more on the classic car cultural event of the year, visit www.woodwarddreamcruise.com.

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