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PIPELINE

Scout staff

Janet Barker, CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, has announced ten appointments to the Ann Arbor Regional Center staff, including Plymouth-Canton's Arika Lycan.

"We are delighted to welcome these new members to the staff of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan," said Barker. "Their contributions are helping us create a high-capacity Girl Scout council that



Lycan

will support girls as they become leaders for today and tomorrow."

Lycan is a membership specialist for the Plymouth-Canton area. She holds a master's degree in social work administration from Ohio State University. Lycan worked as a support coordinator for Community Living Service in Berkeley before coming to Girl Scouts. She also interned at the United Way of Central Ohio and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Washtenaw County.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan was formed October 1, 2008, as a merger of Girl Scout councils in Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Saginaw. To join, volunteer or donate, call (800) 497-2688.

Head start

Starfish Family Services Plymouth-Canton Head Start (free preschool) and Children's Hour (Child Care Center) are hosting open enrollment at the Super Bowl, located at 45100 Ford Road in Canton.

The event takes place noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 15. Free bowling and lunch will be available.

For further information, call (724) 354-5196.

Zonta scholars

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County has established a new \$500 scholarship to assist women in reaching their educational goals. Zonta is an International Women's Service Organization whose mission is to improve the status of women.

Women residing in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Wayne, Garden City, Westland, Northville Twp. and the Wayne County portion of Northville are eligible. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, attending a Michigan college or university with a concentration in math or science and have successfully completed one year of undergraduate studies with a 3.0 GPA.

Request an application form by e-mailing rsrand521@sbcglobal.net. Applications must be returned by mail and post marked by Aug. 7. Scholarship money will be awarded for the Fall 2009 semester.



Majs. Jim and Pat Irvine, corps officers for the Plymouth Salvation Army for three years, got a new assignment in Green Bay, Wis.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

We hardly knew ye SA officers 'were just getting to know' Plymouth

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Maj. Jim Irvine stepped away from the lectern in the church at the Plymouth Salvation Army last Sunday, he did it for the last time.

He and his wife, Pat, the corps officers in Plymouth the last three years, had orders in hand moving them to Green Bay, Wis., a destination for which they left Wednesday. And, while being the good soldiers they are they were glad to do the Salvation Army's bidding, the move came as something of a shock and left them feeling as though there was still work undone here.

"It's still something of a surprise," Jim Irvine admitted. "Because of our position (as corps officers), it's almost expected we grieve privately ... we salute and go on. You put your game face on.

"(But) there are times in private when we question this," he added. "We're just getting to know the people and what's going on in their lives."

The Irvines arrived in Plymouth almost exactly three years ago, coming from the inner-city environment of the Pontiac corps. They slipped into the Plymouth-Canton culture and began building the bridges necessary to help the less fortunate in a community that, compared to their previous posting, seemed to have it all.

"(Plymouth and Pontiac) are



Salvation Army Maj. Jim Irvine sorted donations during the Back to School Blitz, one of the ways Irvine established a relationship with the school district.

at complete, opposite ends of the spectrum," Jim Irvine said at the time. "Pontiac is a tough, inner-city environment, the city is in financial woe and has become a dumping ground for the homeless. With the Salvation Army on the front lines, we saw the worst of the worst. Somehow, I don't think we'll have that problem here."

He was right, of course, but that doesn't mean he found no need here. The Plymouth

Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, serves hundreds of families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, helps scores of clients with items ranging from rent assistance to utility bills and stocks a huge food pantry that feeds hundreds of people.

There are specific things they're proud of:

- The Postal Carrier Food

Please see **ARMY, A5**

Chief list OK'd; board in no rush

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A year after the retirement of the Plymouth Community Fire Department's last chief, Plymouth Township officials have a list of firefighters eligible to replace him.

Assistant Chief Mark Wendel, a 30-year fire department veteran, came out on top of the four-man list that was certified Tuesday by the fire department civil service commission. Wendel has been in charge of the department, minus the title of chief, since the retirement of Randy Maycock last July.

The list was drawn up after testing that included an oral examination before a panel of three chiefs from other departments, plus several hours of practical testing, during which a variety of administrative problems were given to each candidate. Seniority also was a factor in the rankings.

Wendel called the process "very fast" and said taking on, officially, the job of something he'd like to do.

"It's up to the town board," he said. Continuing to lead the department as assistant chief is his focus now, Wendel said. Township officials, however, don't appear to be in a rush to name a chief.

"There's not a sense of urgency right now because of the cost-cutting," said Supervisor Richard Reaume. "Every position (in the township) is being evaluated." Reaume added the decision will ultimately be up to the Board of Trustees.

Reaume said the department has a good chain of command in place, with Wendel at the top. "We don't lack for leadership right now," he said.

Fire Lt. Rick Tefend, president of the International Association of Firefighters local that represents PCFD members, disagreed: Wendel, as the top-ranked candidate, should be named chief, he said.

"Put him in the position and move forward," Tefend said.

He suggested department administrative work is too much for one person to handle, and that the current fire lieutenants and captains are more in charge of day-to-day operations rather than top administration. Promoting Wendel, he said, would not cost the township more, as he got a pay increase when he took over for Maycock a year ago.

Replacing Wendel as assistant chief, and moving other firefighters up through the ranks, would cost something, however, Tefend conceded.

"Truly, we need a fire chief and an assistant fire chief," said Tefend.

The fire department provides firefighting and emergency medical services in both Plymouth and Plymouth Township, though it is run largely by township officials. The city of Plymouth contributes about \$1 million a year toward the operation.

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Bond rating wins township good deal on loan

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Armed with a AA bond rating, the equivalent of a high credit score, Plymouth Township was able to snare a favorable interest rate when officials agreed Wednesday evening to borrow \$2.5 million through a bond sale.

Most of the money, more than \$2 million, will go toward the rehabilitation — the repair or replacement, as needed — of township sanitary sewer lines. The rest, some \$350,000, is slated for the replacement of an aging public works building at Plymouth Township Park.

The township Board of Trustees, during a special meeting Wednesday, unanimously approved the sale of bonds to Fifth Third Securities, an

investment division of the bank of the same name, at an interest rate of 4.78 percent. Fifth Third's offered rate was the lowest of four bidders, Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Repaying the bonds with interest, at that rate, will mean spending roughly \$4 million over the 20-year life of the bonds, Reaume said.

He compared it to taking out a long-term mortgage.

"You're borrowing money for 20 years in order to make improvements that are going to last 30 to 50 (years)," he said.

Reaume said the sanitary sewers slated for rehabilitation were identified through the township's video sewer inspection program.

Officials were thrilled with the AA bond rating, issued by the rating agency Standard

& Poor's. It's not an improvement from the last rating issued but, given the poor health of Michigan's economy, it should be considered one, Reaume said.

"It's just because we're fiscally responsible," Treasurer Ron Edwards said of the rating. "It's not because we're wealthy."

The highest rating issued by Standard & Poor's is AAA. Reaume said that had the township's rating been just one level lower, it would've cost \$150,000 more in interest, over 20 years, to borrow the \$2.5 million.

The bond money will be repaid through the township's water and sewer fund — the money it collects from residents and businesses for supplying water and sewer service.

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Barefoot features stimulus pricing, new season and look

Barefoot Productions officials have announced their 2009/2010 season, unveiled a new logo and reduced ticket prices in an effort to encourage patrons to support local theatre.

Jump-starting what officials call "a stellar season" is Barefoot's first "Comedy Double Feature," a two-for-one production of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and Tim Harris' *The Adventures of Captain Neato Man*.

Both shows are included in one ticket price and for the 2009/2010 season, Barefoot Productions offers its own "stimulus" pricing, lowering its general admission ticket price to \$12. Student/senior ticket prices remain unchanged at an affordable \$10.

"Everyone is feeling the affect of the economy, today, more than ever," explained Barefoot's artistic director, Craig A. Hane. "As our new logo shows, Barefoot Productions is a 'theatre for the community.' As such, we're offering patrons an



Depicting a 'painted' scene from Barefoot Productions' 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile' are (from left) Samantha Lowry of Novi, Brian Cahalan of Flat Rock and Betty Berryman of Canton.

evening's entertainment that is of high quality, but still affordable. We're a part of Plymouth

and that means a lot to us socially, professionally and communally."

The new logo encompasses a memorable "barefoot," encircled with the theatre



company's name and mantra, "a theatre for the community."

"It was time to update our look to better reflect the creative productions we perform, while still maintaining the feeling of intimacy our theatre creates," said Hane. "Barefoot Productions is so named for that intimacy and relaxed atmosphere that our patrons enjoy. We want people to feel comfortable while they're here, enjoying a high quality, unique theatre experience."

The summer's "Comedy Double Feature" provides patrons with two shows for the price of one admission, each promising laughter and an old-fashioned good time.

Picasso tells the intellectually witty tale of an imaginary meeting between Picasso and Albert Einstein as they meet over a drink in turn-of-the-century Paris to discuss their thoughts, accomplishments, lives and hypothesis for the future. "Picasso" was the first play written by Martin and it hit the stage in 1993. Martin explained that the play was meant to communicate the creative similarities found in science and the arts.

"This is a story I've wanted to bring to life on local stage since I was 18," explained "Picasso" Director Scott E. Randall. "What has always moved me is its warmth and wit, but more importantly, its unique perspective about art, science and the world - as explained by two of the world's greatest geniuses. I think our audiences will truly enjoy its acerbic humor and will walk away seeing things a bit differently."

The cast of "Picasso" includes Betty Berryman of Canton as Germaine; Brian Cahalan (of Flat Rock) as Freddie; Matt DeLisle (of Livonia) as Pablo Picasso; Jo Galvano (of Hamtramck) as Countess/Female Admirer; Kenny Konaszewski (of Hamtramck) as the Visitor; Samantha Lowry (of Novi) as Suzanne; Tim Majzlik (of Canton) as Albert Einstein; Eric McCormick (of Livonia)

as Schmendiman; Ethan McIntyre (of Livonia) as Sagot; and Jack Parr (of West Bloomfield) as Gaston (West Bloomfield).

The second offering in Barefoot's "Comedy Double Feature" is the farcical "The Adventures of Captain Neato Man." This uproarious comedy shadows the bizarre encounter and goofy mishaps when an average guy answers what he assumes is a typical want ad. When he knocks on the door, little does he expect that a superhero and his zany mother are awaiting his arrival, believing him to be Captain Neato Man's long-lost sidekick.

"While 'Picasso' may be described as intellectual, 'Captain Neato-Man' could be called outright hilarity," said "Neato-Man" director Anne Cahalan. "It's outrageous, silly, laugh-out-loud fun but also surprisingly heartwarming. Our audiences will be rooting for our heroes [and mom]."

"Captain Neato Man's" cast includes Laura Bailey (of Ypsilanti) as Mother; Kenny Konaszewski (of Hamtramck) as Captain Neato Man; Samantha Lowry (of Novi) as Trixy; and Ethan McIntyre (of Livonia) as Larry/Horatio.

Also new this season is Barefoot Productions' season ticket pricing option. For \$40 for four individual general admissions or \$32 for four senior or student individual admissions, patrons can enjoy the entire Barefoot Productions 2009/2010 lineup including *Picasso* and *Neato-Man* (opens July 23, 2009); *Mister Roberts* (fall 2009); *Rope* (February 2010); and *Steel Magnolias* (spring 2010, in time for Mother's Day)

Barefoot Productions' "Comedy Double Feature" offers performances July 23 and 30 at 7p.m., July 24, 25, 31 and August 1 at 8 p.m. and July 26 and August 2 at 2 p.m. Senior and student tickets are \$10 and general admission tickets are \$12. Group rates are available for 10 or more, offering a \$2 per ticket discount. Season tickets are also offered. All performances are held in the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 North Main Street in Plymouth. Individual and season tickets can be purchased online at www.justgobarefoot.com and clicking on the Ticketleap link. Individual and group tickets can also be purchased by calling Barefoot Productions' box office at (734) 560-1493.

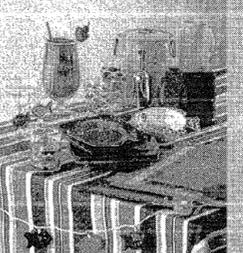
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House, Senate put health reform plans on the table

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Marc Corriveau understands the new administration in Washington, D.C., has a health care plan.

He just doesn't think it's going to come fast enough or do enough to help Michigan residents who can't afford the skyrocketing costs of health care or are, worse, completely uninsured.

That's why Corriveau, the second-term Democrat from Northville who represents the state House's 20th District, is a sponsor of a health care reform package Democrats say would guarantee health care access to all Michigan citizens, prohibit insurance companies from rejecting or jacking up rates on the sick, and expand coverage for Michigan children. The plan would also rein in the skyrocketing cost of health care by creating a catastrophic health care fund to protect the sickest individuals. "We're mindful of what



Corriveau



Dillon

D.C. is trying to do ... I was of the opinion we needed to move and move quickly," said Corriveau, whose district includes Plymouth, Canton and Northville. "I started to break it down and look at it as a statewide problem."

The House Democrats' plan to guarantee access to health care takes aim at a key element of Michigan's health care crisis. As more and more workers lose their jobs and employer-based health care coverage, many find themselves being rejected by insurance companies because they have an existing medical condition, adding to the state's more than 1.1 million uninsured residents. Michigan

leads the nation in unemployment - 12.6 percent in March according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Some businesses decide to drop it (to save money) and people are suddenly without health care," Corriveau said. "According to Corriveau, the House Democrats' plan will, among other things:

- Guarantee access to health care by requiring insurance companies to cover people who have pre-existing conditions, such as diabetes or cancer.
 - Prohibit insurers from raising rates on individuals who become sick.
 - Ban unfair market practices like cherry picking the healthiest individuals to cover, which drive up insurance rates and prevent some of the most vulnerable residents from obtaining care.
 - Expand the state's MICHild program to help cover every child in Michigan.
- "Our plan requires all insurance companies to guarantee health care coverage to

Michigan citizens, and ends the outrageous practice of insurance companies refusing to cover the sick or elderly," said House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township). "Health care reform is too important to wait for Washington to act - we need to take action here in Michigan to guarantee access to protect each and every Michigan citizen."

Senate Republicans have a plan of their own in committee. Central to the plan, according to Republicans, are its two programs to expand coverage for the uninsured. MI Access covers uninsured patients earning under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, while MI Coverage protects those earning between 200 and 300 percent of that level.

State Sen. John Pappageorge, (R-Troy), one of the sponsors, said the MI Health package is an innovative approach that provides consumer protections and has the potential to cover half

of the more than 1.2 million uninsured people in the state.

"This legislative package will help expand health care coverage to more of Michigan's uninsured people," said Pappageorge, R-Troy. "The Senate plan also will allow consumers to retain choice while keeping costs down, which is of paramount importance to me."

MI Health is the result of a series of bipartisan workgroup meetings chaired by Sen. Tom George that led to a four-bill package of reforms.

Among the chief differences, according to Corriveau, are what to do about "cherry picking" (insurance companies offering health insurance only to the young and/or healthy), and the funding source to address uninsured and low-income residents.

"Our package guarantees all carriers must not use health (as an insuring criteria), and thus no one will be rejected because they have diabetes, heart diseases, etc.," Corriveau

said. "The Senate's package has a 1.8-percent tax on all claims paid. This would include all self-insured businesses such as Ford, Chrysler and GM. The hospitals are taxed and Blue Cross Blue Shield is asked to contribute their tax-exempt value."

Corriveau said he plans to meet with state Sen. Tom George, (R-Kalamazoo), one of the Republican sponsors, to "see if a compromise can be forged." If not, Corriveau said he'll move the House package to the floor for a vote.

"Too many of our friends and neighbors have become victims of a broken health care system that allows insurance companies to deny coverage for people who are sick at the very time they need coverage the most," Corriveau said. "Our plan guarantees health care access for anyone who needs it and bans the shameful practice of rejecting the sick and cherry picking the healthy."

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Citizens panel looks at Wayne-Westland's future

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A photograph of Mao Tse Tung with the words "Change or Die" emblazoned across it sent a strong message to more than 100 people in the auditorium of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center last week: Things must change if the Wayne-Westland Community Schools are to thrive and prosper.

The gathering was the introductory meeting of the district's 21st Century Schools Citizens Committee which will look at how the district can educate students while living within its means. The goal is to have a plan in place by fiscal 2010-11.

"Our children must compete against the children of the world, what we once had is gone," said Tom Watkins, former state superintendent who used the "Change and Die" slide to drive home his message that "no one is coming to your rescue, you are the cavalry."

The committee is made up of school administrators and staff as well as parents who are "viewed as stakeholders," said Superintendent Greg Baracy.

"You face several challenges. You have to work collaboratively to break patterns and change the perspective to change the status quo," he said. "You have to look at this as an opportunity - the glass is half full, not half

empty." "This clearly driven by need," added Jeff Rahmberg of Rahmberg Stover and Associates. "I think this is an opportunity to preserve the legacy of this district. We are facing the greatest economic challenge since the Great Depression."

Rahmberg, who worked with the district in the 1990s when it closed schools and moved to a middle school program, pointed out that Wayne-Westland has lost 1,800 students in 10 years. Those families "are just not here." But it is a loss shared with other districts and it is how Wayne-Westland responds that "will affect the fate of its students."

A combination of declining enroll-

ment and declining state support for the schools leaves the district facing a more than \$8 million deficit next fiscal year, if nothing is done. And Deputy Superintendent Gary Martin told the group that the district needs to find a better way of doing things and trim \$10-\$15 million.

"The financial uncertainty is not going to get any better," he said. "I don't anticipate a groundswell, we're going to have to live within our means."

The committee will look at such things as facility use and demographics, learning configurations, attendance boundaries and additional educational options in coming up with what Rahmberg described as a

"plan that is sustainable over time." Their work will be broken down into five phases - foundation work, fact finding, alternatives and options, formulating recommendations and how to implement the recommendations.

"Change or Die" must be adopted by all schools," Watkins said. "We don't have the resources to cut our way out of this mess. We have to follow the three R's - reform, restructure and reinvent. Change is not an option, change is mandatory. Knowledge, talent and skills are the commodities that matter in the 21st century."

The committee will meet later this month to begin its work.

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"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

Craft bazaar

Crafters, bakers, and Honest Abe come together for the Annual Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale at the Plymouth Historical Museum Saturday, July 11. Held in conjunction with Art in the Park this year, the Shop Michigan event features hand-made arts and crafts created by Michigan Artisans and offers some of the most delicious baked goods imaginable. The event also fulfills your historical thirst with the Museum's current exhibit free of charge, featuring furniture from Abraham Lincoln's home.

The number of crafters is limited to only five per craft so expect a variety of items to choose from as you contemplate what to purchase. Attendees can also buy raffle tickets during the bazaar to win items donated by craft vendors.

Admission to the Plymouth

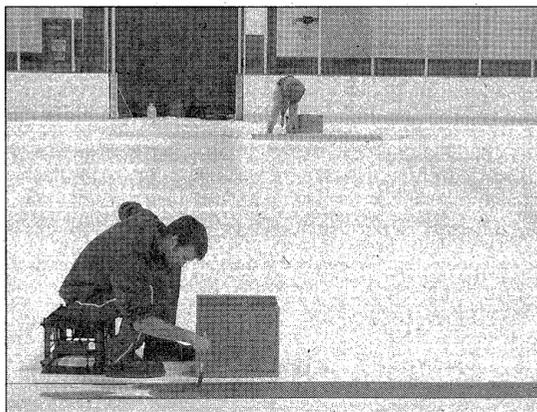
Historical Museum is free to the public on July 11, during the bazaar's hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum is currently showcasing original furniture from Lincoln's Springfield, Ill., home in its major exhibit, "In the Presence of Lincoln." The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street just north of downtown Plymouth and is owned by the Plymouth Historical Society. For information visit the museum's Web site at www.plymouth-history.org or call (734) 455-8940.

Spotlight auditions

The Spotlight Players are getting ready to present *Oliver*, written by Lionel Bart and directed by Barbara Bloom.

Auditions take place Sunday, July 12 (for youth up to age 16). Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Auditions for all adult roles (age 16 and over) are Monday, July 13, and Tuesday, July 14, registration each night begins at 6:30 p.m. Performance dates are September 18-20, 25-27 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 504300 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Follow *Oliver*, an orphan, from the workhouse of his birth to an upper class neighborhood in London and meet all the strange, wicked,



Ice-age art

Former Salem High School hockey player Even Meibers, now an employee in the Plymouth recreation department, puts some artistic touches to the ice at the Plymouth Cultural Center. City officials were replacing the ice, which had been removed in a cost-saving move during a down-time in the Cultural Center's schedule.

miserly and nice people that enter his life including Fagin, Nancy and the Artful Dodger through wonderful songs and a light hearted approach to a very dark Dickens tale.

For more information contact (734) 480-4945 and leave a message for Barbara Bloom and visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

'Whimsical' Wednesdays

After enjoying Music in the Park in Kellogg Park on a hot

summer Wednesday, visitors can cool off the kids with a children's story read aloud by the local author.

"Whimsical Wednesdays" at the Plymouth Historical Museum began Wednesday. Each "Whimsical Wednesday" starts at 1:30 p.m. and features an exciting children's story with one Wednesday dedicated to a book on fun history about the city of Plymouth.

The schedule:
 • On July 8, Peggy Price Heiney reads her book about a teddy bear experiencing his own adventures after his companion Elizabeth forgets to take him back home with her to Seattle following a vacation at her Grandpa's house in northern Michigan. Heiney's book, *Lonely Teddy*, is available on Amazon.com.

• On July 15, first-time children's book author Beth Conway shares Rachel's story in her book *Rachel and the Magic Beads*. While on vacation with a dear friend and her family, the idea to write a book about Rachel, her friend's child with Down syndrome, was born. While Rachel's brother Johnny watched as his sister danced around with her beads, the author and he decided they wanted to capture her fun in this little book. Twenty percent of the proceeds of the sale of the book go to an organization called the "Belle Center" in Chicago, which mainstreams children with

disabilities.

Other Whimsical Wednesday adventures are being planned. The cost of admission to Whimsical Wednesdays is \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids 5-17, and \$10 for families. After each book reading, attendees can tour the Museum and see the "In the Presence of Lincoln" exhibit.

For more information, call the museum, (734) 455-8940.

Scrapbooking workshop

Anyone looking for time to work on scrapbook albums or crafting projects can join Chrissy Detary for her workshop with fresh ideas, new techniques and tools available to use.

The 12-hour scrapbooking workshop takes place 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 18, at Extended Stay America-Canton. Cost is \$30 per person with lunch and dinner included. Six-hour options are also available that include one meal for \$15.

For details, contact Detary via e-mail at cldetary@hotmail.com or call (734) 546-5246. Must be registered to attend.

Wrestling camp

The Salem high School wrestling team is holding a camp 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 17.

The camp has two levels - one for Beginner/Intermediate and one for Advanced/Elite. Please go to www.wrestling.salemrocks.com for camp brochure and sign up information.

Soccer camp

Midwest Soccer Academy is bringing its popular soccer training camps to the growing soccer community of Plymouth.

The week-long camp offers two and a half hour sessions twice daily. The camp will run Monday through Friday and each child will be coached by a member of the MSA Staff flown to the USA exclusively to perform a series of summer soccer coaching clinics.

The camps will be held at Hines Park and prices and times for the camps are as follows:

Players attend both sessions \$159 (full day) 9-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

For more information on

this camp and to register contact Midwest Soccer Academy at (810) 714-5575 or toll free at (877) 714-5575 or e-mail info@midwestsoccer.net or sign up on-line at www.midwestsoccer.net

Grief seminar

Ward Presbyterian Church sponsors a one-day grief seminar, "From Grief to New Hope," 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 18.

This workshop will be presented by Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. All adults who are learning to cope after the death of a loved one are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the seminar. Ward Church is located in Northville at 6 Mile and Haggerty Roads. Registration is not necessary, but if further information is needed call Barb Brace at Ward Church at (248) 374-5943. For information about New Hope Center for Grief Support's other age and loss specific groups call (248) 348-0115 or visit our website at www.newhopecenter.net.

Call for crafters

The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried, handmade-only Craft Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at West Middle School in Plymouth.

The event will feature some 1,500 customers, food and drawings.

Call Sandy Downs at (734) 340-4229 or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE716@COMCAST.NET

Tour of hope

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering a one-hour Tour of Hope in their new home at 315 Griswold in Northville.

This tour will give insight into how New Hope was started, the types of grief support services they offer, testimonials from people who have been helped, and the vision of the future from the founder and CEO, Cathy Clough of Plymouth.

Tour dates include 5 p.m. July 15; 9 a.m. Aug. 21; 6:30 p.m. Sept. 16; and 9 a.m. Oct. 16.

To attend one of the tours, RSVP to New Hope at (248) 348-0115 or e-mail griefhelp@newhopecenter.net.

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PUBLIC ENEMIES (R)
 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:45

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-3)
 11:00, 12:00, 12:30, 2:10, 3:10, 3:40, 5:20, 6:20, 6:50, 8:30, 9:30, 10:00
 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

THE HANGOVER (R)
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 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

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ARMY
FROM PAGE A1

Drive saw huge increases in donations this year. The Irvines attribute the success of the drive to the postal workers. "At one point it didn't look good, there didn't seem to be many donations out," Jim Irvine said. The drive ended up with double-digit increases over last year.

• Expansion into Belleville. An office has been established and service has expanded in Belleville, which participated for the first time in the postal food drive this year. The Irvines were in the process of searching for a permanent building when they got their orders.

"We're looking to put brick-and-mortar out there to expand our services," Irvine said.

• The Back to School supply drive that allowed the district's less fortunate students to have the things they needed to start school.

"We never really had an established relationship with the Salvation Army," said Frank Ruggirello, director of community relations for the Plymouth-Canton school



Plymouth Salvation Army Major Pat Irvine received many homemade blankets from the brownie troop during a visit to Hulsing Elementary.

district, who serves in the Kiwanis Club with Jim Irvine. "(Irvine) sought us out and helped us ... raise quite a bit more than we'd done in the past. I think Jim and Pat had a lot to do with helping us understand the need."

Mostly, though, the Irvines are proud of the people they've

served. They recently received a letter from a woman who, when she first contacted the Salvation Army, was being evicted from her home and couldn't make ends meet. Now, the woman has a job and is doing much better. In her letter, she called her connection with the Salvation Army "the

pivotal change in my life." Those are the moments, according to the Irvines.

"We're proud of the people we've served who are still hanging in there and making progress," Pat Irvine said. "When you do that ... those are the things we're going to remember."

AROUND PLYMOUTH

Ice cream social

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts the annual Ice Cream Social on Monday, July 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Plymouth Township Park on Ann Arbor Trail between Sheldon and Beck Roads. Ticket prices are \$1 for PCCA Members and \$3 for guests.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for information and ticket purchase.

Senior Olympics

The 2009 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics are set for Aug. 17-21, to be co-hosted by the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Redford Township. Registration packets are

now available at the Plymouth Council on Aging office in City Hall, The Plymouth Cultural Center and the Friendship Station. You can also pick up them up at all other community senior centers.

Opening Day festivities will include Opening Ceremony, Breakfast with Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano and Opening Day Expo in Hines Park (Nankin Mills) on Aug. 17. The week long games close with a Banquet Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at Schoolcraft College - Vista-Tech Center.

Registration deadline is Monday, July 27. For more details call Plymouth Council on Aging at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236, or the Redford Township Senior Center at (313) 387-2788.

Hours:
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Scrapbooking workshop

Anyone looking for time to work on scrapbook albums or crafting projects can join Chrissy Detary for her workshop with fresh ideas, new techniques and tools available to use.

The 12-hour scrapbooking workshop takes place 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 18, at Extended Stay America-Canton. Cost is \$30 per person with lunch and dinner included. Six-hour options are also available that include one meal for \$15.

For details, contact Detary via e-mail at cdetary@hotmail.com or call (734) 546-5246. Must be registered to attend.

Food drive

All during July, a Canton hair salon, Great Clips, will give \$1 off haircuts for anyone who brings in non-perishable food donations to help local food centers and shelters.

The salon is located at Canton Premier Center, 46018

Michigan Avenue.

For more information call (734) 495-9446.

Wrestling camp

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Players attend both sessions \$159 (full day) 9-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

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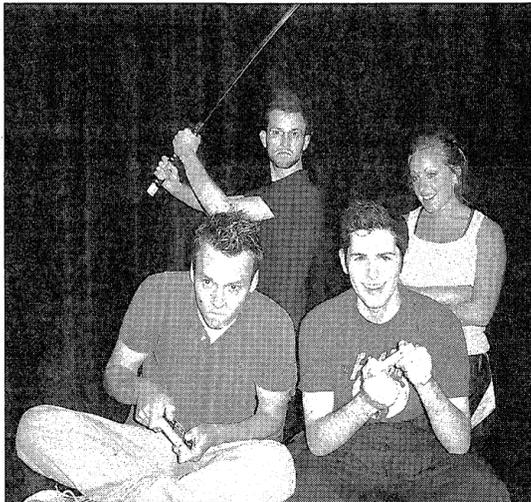
Mobile playgrounds

Canton's Mobile Playground Program is underway offering a wide variety of recreational activities for children ages 5-15 all summer long. Kids throughout Canton are invited to visit any of nine supervised playground sites Mondays through Fridays right through the annual Parks-A-Palooza Bash Friday, Aug. 7.

Special activities will be planned, including weekly themed days, sports and games for all ages, field trips to Super Bowl and Skatin' Station, creative arts and crafts, and weekly visits from Canton's Climbing Wall and Recreation Station.

Mobile Playground locations and times are as follows:

- Heritage Park and Flodin Park, Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Hulsing Elementary and Central Park, Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 2-5 p.m.
- Royal Pointe and Miller Elementary, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Rock opera

Matt Anderson and Brad Frenette (front) along with Maxim Hunt and Kristen Hardy (back) rehearse 'Video Games: A Rock Opera,' which opens July 10 at the Village Theater in Canton. The show, presented by 8th Wonder Theatre, runs July 10-12 and July 16-18. Local musician, R. Mackenzie Lewis wrote the music and directs Video Games. The book is by Stu Rase and it is choreographed by Brian Carbine. The play, according to Lewis, is "about two brothers, Tony and Anthony, who venture into a video game world via a portal in their living room to follow a nearsighted ninja who captured Anthony's love interest." Performances are 8 p.m. July 10; 2 and 8 p.m. July 11; 2 p.m. July 12; 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. July 16; 8 p.m. July 17; and 2 and 8 p.m. July 18. Tickets can be purchased at The Summit at The Park or by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5460 or on-line at www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater or at the door.

• Field Elementary, Cherry Hill Village and Freedom Park, Tuesday and Thursday, 2-5 p.m.

Mobile Playground Program, formerly known as the Supervised Playground Program, offers tons of fun for just a one time materials fee of \$10 per child. For more information on this summer's Mobile Playground Program, contact Canton Leisure Services Playgrounds at (734) 394-5460, Ext. 1221.

Textile art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is very proud to present an exhibit of textile art created by the Cherry Hill Quilters as well as other talented quilters on display in July at the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road. This exhibition, which juxtaposes traditional quilts and contemporary textile art, runs July 1-26.

Showcased artworks created by the Cherry Hill Quilters include: the Carolina Lily; Wedding Ring; Log Cabin; Whole Cloth; Amish styles; and more.

Also included in the exhibit

are 14 quilts by featured artist Desiree Vaughn, who hails from Suttons Bay, Mich.

This latest art exhibit is free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and during public performances, except for holidays. For more information about this latest art exhibition, call (734) 394-5300 or visit canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

'Whimsical' Wednesdays

After enjoying Music in the Park in Kellogg Park on a hot summer Wednesday, visitors can cool off the kids with a children's story read aloud by the local author.

"Whimsical Wednesdays" at the Plymouth Historical Museum began Wednesday. Each "Whimsical Wednesday" starts at 1:30 p.m. and features an exciting children's story with one Wednesday dedicated to a book on fun history about the city of Plymouth.

The schedule:
• On July 8, Peggy Price Heiney reads her book about a teddy bear experiencing his own adventures after his

companion Elizabeth forgets to take him back home with her to Seattle following a vacation at her Grandpa's house in northern Michigan. Heiney's book, *Lonely Teddy*, is available on Amazon.com.

• On July 15, first-time children's book author Beth Conway shares Rachel's story in her book *Rachel and the Magic Beads*. While on vacation with a dear friend and her family, the idea to write a book about Rachel, her friend's child with Down syndrome, was born. While Rachel's brother Johnny watched as his sister danced around with her beads, the author and he decided they wanted to capture her fun in this little book. Twenty percent of the proceeds of the sale of the book go to an organization called the "Belle Center" in Chicago, which mainstreams children with disabilities.

Other Whimsical Wednesday adventures are being planned. The cost of admission to Whimsical Wednesdays is \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids 5-17, and \$10 for families. After each book reading, attendees can tour the Museum and see the "In the Presence of Lincoln" exhibit.

For more information, call the museum, (734) 455-8940.

Spotlight auditions

The Spotlight Players are getting ready to present *Oliver*, written by Lionel Bart and directed by Barbara Bloom.

Auditions take place Sunday, July 12 (for youth up to age 16). Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Auditions for all adult roles (age 16 and over) are Monday, July 13, and Tuesday, July 14, registration each night begins at 6:30 p.m. Performance dates are September 18-20, 25-27 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 504300 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Follow Oliver, an orphan, from the workhouse of his birth to an upper class neighborhood in London and meet all the strange, wicked, miserly and nice people that enter his life including Fagin, Nancy and the Artful Dodger through wonderful songs and a light hearted approach to a very dark Dickens tale.

For more information contact (734) 480-4945 and leave a message for Barbara Bloom and visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
2009 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due July 1, 2009 and payable through August 10, 2009 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: July 2 & July 5, 2009

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the **production and delivery of fresh made pizzas**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Jim Larson-Shidler in the PCCS Business Office at (734) 416-2740. Technical questions should be directed to Kristen Hennessey of the PCCS Food Service Department at (734) 416-2742. Sealed bids are due to the PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 11:00 a.m., Monday, July 20, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: July 5 & 9, 2009

Salon LEGATO presents

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Plenty to do: For summer recreation, you don't have to go far

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

If your kids are singing the "I Don't Have Anything to Do" blues, there's plenty in the area to keep them busy this summer.

Whether it's a chance to shine on stage, learn about animals or pretend they're chemists, kids on summer break have more options than sitting in front of the television, playing video games or texting friends all day.

Some programs are free while others come with a fee.

"It gives them something to do during the day and it helps build team work," said Danielle Pasiuk, Livonia Family YMCA membership and marketing specialist.

"They do a lot of activities focused on character development," she added.

The Y has hundreds of kids' programs ranging from sports lessons to day camps and enrichment activities.

Participation levels this year have fallen because of the economy, said Barb Gamber, Livonia Community Recreation Center assistant facility manager.

On the other hand, the city's outdoor pools, and the Community Center's splash pad, she said, are always busy.

One way to fight the economic decline is to offer new and more interesting programs, according to Theresa Burgess, youth services adviser for Redford Leisure Services.

"We're trying to get the word out that our programs are expanding," Burgess said. "We know the economy is bad, but we try to keep our programs affordable and it's a great way to keep adults and youth active in the summer months."

Kids aren't bored at Real Life Day Camp and Farm in Canton, which provides wholesome farm adventures with lessons in horseback riding, archery, BB guns, arts and crafts, woodworking and ani-



Dominic D'Angelo, 7, and Ben Greene, 7, both of Plymouth, enjoyed getting down and dirty at last year's Wayne County Mud Day. This year's event is set for July 7 at Nankin Mills.

mal care. The camp is geared for children ages 6-14 and a nursery school is available for children 36 months to 5 years old.

"It gives them a chance to enjoy the outdoors," said Mary Ann Fraser, who owns Real Life Day Camp with her husband, Don. Don's father, James Fraser, founded the camp in 1948.

"It gets them away from the TV set," says Fraser. "We don't allow video games at camp."

Cows, ducks, chickens, turkeys, a goat, sheep, kittens and other animals roam the farm,

and kids are invited to take an animal home overnight.

"It's really a good summertime place to be," Fraser said.

Tell a kid they can get as dirty as they want, in a class called "Sticky Fingers" and you've got an instant hit, according to Elaine Kennedy, executive director of New Morning School in Plymouth Township, which offers a variety of summer camps and classes for children from preschool to age 11.

"They're making all kinds of messy things you'd rather have your children do somewhere

else," Kennedy said.

Other class themes that stand out year after year are about dinosaurs, princesses and transportation.

One of the most popular is Lego Robotics, which lets kids build structures with the connective pieces equipped with specialized sensors that make the parts movable.

A lot of classes and camps are still open, but many require pre-registration and some fill up quickly. It is recommended to call ahead before you start filling in your calendars.

Check out these programs for kids

CANTON

Camp Canton

Designed for 6-10-year-olds; June 22 to Aug. 28; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Summit on the Park; \$175 per week, daily drop-off rates available, contact Jennifer Judycki, (734) 394-5369.

AbraKadoodle

Art camps available for 4-12-year-olds; July 6-10 morning and afternoon; Summit on the Park; fees vary depending on age group, \$95-\$135, contact Theresa Krueger, (734) 394-5460.

Tiny Tot Olympics

July 8; 10-11:30 a.m., Heritage Park; \$3 the day of the event, register on site the day of; ages 2-6-year-olds, contact Theresa Krueger, (734) 394-5460.

Karate class

July 16 to Aug. 27; youth 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$60; contact Jennifer Judycki, (734) 394-5460.

Equestrian Camps

July 11 and Aug. 1; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 8-12-year-olds; Canton class is held at Cavallo Equestrian Center, 2185 N. Harris, Ypsilanti, contact Theresa Krueger, (734) 394-5460.

Chinese Culture Camp

Aug. 3-7; 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 6-14-year-olds; Summit on the Park, Canton; \$90; contact Jennifer Judycki, (734) 394-5460.

Teen Trek Summer Camp

Summer camp for 11-15-year-olds; June 22 to Aug. 28; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; located at the BLOCK Teen Center in Canton; \$175 per week, daily drop-in rates available, contact Stephanie Pavlo, (734) 398-5570.

Real Life Day Camp

For ages 6-14 all summer in Canton. Ends Aug. 26. Call (734) 495-0822. For more information about Canton Recreation Department programs, go

to www.cantonfun.org.

PLYMOUTH

YoYo/Juggling Mini-Camp

(Ages 8-14) Monday-Friday, July 6-10, 9-11 a.m. Plymouth Cultural Center. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. (734) 455-6620.

Yoga for Teens Program

For ages 10-18; Tuesdays, July 7 to Aug. 11, noon to 1 p.m. Plymouth Cultural Center. \$70 for residents, \$85 for nonresidents. (734) 455-6620.

Kung Fu Program

Geared for ages 6 and older. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Session 1: July 7 to Aug. 11, noon to 1 p.m. Session 2: Aug. 25 to Sept. 29. Classes held at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The cost is \$50 for residents and \$65 for nonresidents. (734) 455-6620.

Little Ninjas Karate Program

Geared for ages 4-5. Wednesdays, July 15 to Aug. 19, 5:30-6 p.m.; held at the Plymouth Cultural Center; \$30 for residents and \$45 for nonresidents. (734) 455-6620.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department also offers off-site programs in collaboration with Creatopia Pottery and Riverside Roller Skating Arena. Call (734) 455-6620 for more information; or go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

New Morning School Day Camps

Discovery Days, Junior Explorers and Science Camps, Plymouth Township. Call (734) 420-3331 for more information.

WESTLAND

Mud Day

July 7, 11 a.m. at Nankin Mills, Westland. This is free and provided by the Wayne County Parks and Recreation. (734) 261-1990. For more information about Westland Parks and Recreation programs, go to www.cityofwestland.com.

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

Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr.

Desmond Roberts still able to drive using telescopic glasses



"You saved my life."

Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

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

weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use.

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2500.

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

rehabilitative training improves the patient's ability to carry out necessary independent activities.

Of course, safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

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

You can reach Dr. Sheldon Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan by calling:

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Lyman Foundation members Becky Viola (from left), Melanie Burkett and Donna Lober show off a customized Fender Stratocaster guitar which is being auctioned off to raise money to continue the nonprofit's work at the Burger Center for Students with Autism.

Guitar to golf, Lyman Foundation works for autistic school program

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Take your pick: You can grab your clubs and head to the Hickory Creek Golf Course on Saturday, Aug. 8, or pay \$10 for a raffle ticket for a Steve Yzerman autographed Detroit

Red Wings guitar. Whatever your choice, you'll be helping the Lyman Foundation in its support of the Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

"There's no funding available that we're aware of to enhance the programs at Burger," said

Becky Viola, president of the Lyman Foundation. "We able to give \$10,000-\$15,000 to Burger to fund school activities."

Burger School is a county-wide program drawing students with autism from throughout Wayne County.

The Lyman Foundation evolved from an annual golf outing held in honor of the late Gary Lyman. While its focus is on the autistic program offered through the Garden City Public Schools, its members come from as close as Garden City to as far away as Ann Arbor and Milford. Viola is among six foundation members that hail from Livonia.

"All of our members are just members," she said. "We all learn a lot by doing. We're not a closed organization, we're always looking for members."

On average 260 golfers turnout for the annual golf outing which with several other fund-raisers help finance a Cub Scout Pack, a Princess Club, track and field day, the school choir and talent show. The foundation works collaboratively with the Burger Association for Students with Autism on long-term projects like renovating three teaching kitchens and refurbishing the gymnasium at the Burger program housed at the Cambridge Center. It also provides four \$500 grants to Burger staff members "to do projects that enhance the curriculum," said Viola.

This year's golf outing will be held at the Hickory Creek Golf Course in Ypsilanti. It will have two shotgun starts - 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Some spots are open for the morning tee time and registrations are being accepted for the afternoon round. The outing costs \$100 per person. People interested in playing can call Sharon Lundie at (734) 728-4919.

The outing also is providing the backdrop for the guitar raffle. Custom made by Tom Miller of Farmington Hills, the guitar features the Detroit Red Wings logo and has been signed by soon-to-be Hall of Famer Steve Yzerman. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Fanatic U, 30409 Ford Road, Garden City. The drawing will be at 6 p.m. at the golf outing, and the winner doesn't need to be present.

Miller makes customized guitars as a hobby. He's connected to Burger School through his wife Donna who teaches there. Working with Tom Voyles of DPI Graphics, Miller transformed a Fender Stratocaster guitar into the Red Wings collectible. Voyles, also a Farmington Hills resident, is licensed to use the Red Wings logo and does most of the Red Wing graphics seen around Joe Louis Arena.

He's done Red Wing guitars in red and in white for his daughters, who have been able to get Chris Chelios, Kris Draper and Gordie Howe to autograph them. He credits Darlene Jablonowski of Garden City in getting Yzerman to sign the guitar. Jablonowski's son Connor attends Burger and had Donna Miller as his teacher.

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LYMAN FOUNDATION

What: Lyman Foundation annual golf outing

When, Where: Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier, Superior Township.

Cost: \$100 per golfer

Information: Call Sharon Lundie at (734) 728-4919.

What: The raffle of a customized Detroit Red Wings Fender Stratocaster guitar, made by Tom Miller and autographed by Steve Yzerman

Cost: Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Fanatic U, 30409 Ford Road, Garden City.

When: The drawing will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Hickory Creek Golf Course. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

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HOMETOWN LIFE



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On board

Skate park raises level of excitement among skateboarders

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No more church parking lots, grocery store entrances or neighbors' driveways. From now on if skateboarding is your theater, then Riley Skate Park can serve as center stage.

The state-of-the-art skate park, located in Founder's Sports Park in Farmington Hills, officially opened its doors Monday to thrill-seeking skateboarders of all ages during a ceremony billing the new facility as the "Best in the Midwest."

Made possible through donations from Farmington Hills philanthropist George Riley that totaled more than half of the \$900,000 price tag attached to the park, skateboard enthusiasts can experience many of those peaks of excitement professionals do as they engage in daredevil maneuvers of their own.

"It's fantastic! No complaints," beamed Bren Sungahid, 21, of Westland, after taking several trips around the 29,000-square foot cement track. "It's big - one of the biggest skate parks around, and it's great to be seen out here."

Being noticed by fellow skateboarders seems to be just as crucial as successfully

completing a Nollie, or a Laser Flip, or even a Fakie as creativity is the engine that continues to drive the sport to new heights.

"This sport is definitely on the uprise," said Farmington Hills Recreation Supervisor Bryan Farmer, one of several city officials on hand for the grand opening. "In our research when you build a park like this, it explodes. You get a lot more kids on skateboards."

And accommodating youngsters and their needs is precisely how a park of this magnitude came to fruition.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

It was earlier this decade that Farmer and various other city officials listened to the desires of skateboarders who envisioned some day having a world-class facility closer to home.

"We would get a group of kids together and take them on bus trips to different parks and we also did some skate camps," Farmer explained. "That is where we started seeing the need because we were selling out those trips, and then people started asking us when are we going to build a park?"

"We got some other projects out of the way and looked into



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the edge is just the way Caleb Downs, 19, of Farmington Hills, likes it and Riley Skate Park can provide thrills for skateboarders of all levels.



Evan Hutchings, 20, from Redford, has been skateboarding for seven years and says Riley Skate Park has plenty to offer for participants of all ages.

this further and then people were helping getting grants and the excitement was building," Farmer continued. "The design element of this park really came from the kids as

they watched videos, took ideas from other parks they were at, and just incorporated a lot of different elements to help get what we have out there today."

Rails, ridges and a deep bowl are just some of the obstacles skateboarders like Caleb Downs or Evan Hutchings will come across at Riley Skate Park.

"I'm really excited the park is finally open," said Downs, 19, of Farmington Hills. "We've been up here before (skateboarding), but now the park is open and exciting. It's got the deep bowl on one end and rails you can always try something new on."

"This place is great because there are no other cement parks anywhere near here," echoed Hutchings, 20, of Redford, and an avid skateboarder for the better part of a decade. "This is probably the second best one, only to California (the sport's hotbed), because they have a ton. All the parks around here have the same old stuff, but this is unique with that pool area and cement ledges."

Please see **SKATE, B2**

Under-13 Hawks, Wolves garner Region II crowns

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia-based Michigan Wolves (boys) and Hawks (girls) Under-13 club teams each returned home last week with a US Youth Soccer Region II crown.

A total of 212 teams from 13 states from the Midwest competed for 14 different age-group titles at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls, S.D.

In the Under-13 girls final, Justine Jahnke kicked things off in only the third minute of play to give the '96 Hawks side the early 1-0 advantage over Carmel (Ind.) United Academy.

Gabrielle LaMere hit the Carmel equalizer in the 23rd minute, but the 1-1 tie wouldn't last long as the Hawks' Jamie Cheslik broke through in the 38th minute and the score would hold for the Hawks' 2-1 win over Carmel.

The Hawks, coached by Michele Brach-Krzisnik, reached the final with a 1-0 semifinal win over Eclipse Select (Ill.) as Cheslik scored the game-winner in the 13th minute.

The Hawks' Under-18 team, qualifying for the Region II tourney for the first time in four years, fell in the finals to Ohio-South Elite, 1-0, as Ally Berry's goal in the 18th

minute was the difference.

The Hawks, coached by Doug Landefeld, reached the final with a 1-0 win over the Eclipse Select on Chelsea Hunter's goal in the 108th minute of overtime.

In the Under-13 Boys championship, Daegan DeBono was the hero as he notched the game-winner in the 48th minute as the Wolves Black '96 edged the Kansas City (Mo.) Junior Wizards, 1-0.

Goals by Alec Green (13th minute) and DeBono (52nd) enabled the Wolves, coached by Sam Cheaib, to reach the championship match following a 2-1 semifinal victory over the Ohio-South Cup Crew Juniors.

The Wolves also reached the Under-14 championship game only to be denied by St. Louis (Mo.) Scott-Gallagher, 1-0.

Keith Grieshaber's early goal in the 12th minute spoiled the Wolves' hopes of a second Region crown.

The Wolves, coached by Dave Hicklin, reached the final with a 4-0 triumph over FC Magic (Wis.) on goals by Richie Carter, Troy Dolmetsch, Jake Genrich and Ali Jawad.

Regional winners of the Under-14, through Under-19 age groups earn a berth to the 2009 US Youth Soccer National Championships to be played July 21-26, at Citizens Bank Fields at Progin Park in Lancaster, Mass.

Terek fifth in decathlon nationals

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Olympic decathlete Paul Terek's bid to earn his third trip to the IAAF World Track and Field Championships next month in Berlin fell short.

The former Livonia Franklin High and Michigan State University standout, who qualified for the 2004 Athens Summer Games, wound up fifth overall at the 2009 USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships held at historic Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Earning automatic spots to represent the U.S. in Germany were Trey Hardee (Nike) and Ashton Eaton (University of Oregon), who finished one-two with 8,261 and 8,075 points, respectively.

Rounding out the top five were Jake Arnold (Asics), 7,984; Chris Randolph (VS Athletics), 7,766; and Terek (unattached), 7,689.

Terek, who pulled out last June just prior to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials following knee surgery, took firsts in both the shot put (48 feet, 4.75 inches) and pole vault (16-4.75) to score 774 and 910 points, respectively.



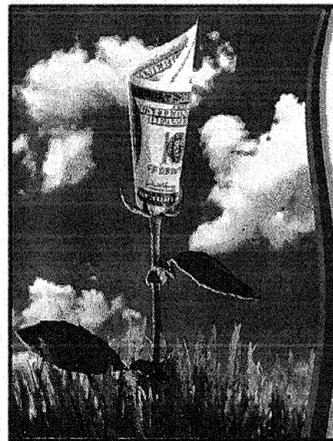
GOPHERTRACKSHOTS.COM | BECKY MILLER

Livonia native Paul Terek, a 2004 Olympian, finished fifth in the decathlon at last weekend's USA Outdoor Track and Field championships held in Eugene, Ore.

His other first-day marks included: 100-meter dash, eighth (11.13 seconds); long jump, 14th (21-6.75); high jump, tied for sixth (6-5); and 400, 10th (50.6).

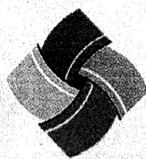
He concluded the gruelling two-day, 10-event competition on Friday: 110 hurdles, 12th

Please see **TEREK, B2**



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SKATE

FROM PAGE B1

THRILL SEEKERS

Talk to skateboarders and you find out that most have an athletic background and are driven by competitiveness and the desire to achieve something new. Skateboarding incorporates all of those elements, in addition to providing thrills that so many other activities just can't match.

"Trying a trick for awhile and learning something new is really nice," said Hutchings, who participated in several sports while attending Plymouth Canton High School. "The first time you land it, it's the best feeling."

"I think there's a stigma attached to skateboarding that people are just trying to jump down stuff and hurt themselves," said 20-year-old Zac Robertson, of Plymouth, who has traveled abroad with his skateboard much to the amazement of natives in France and Switzerland. "It's kind of an extreme sport stigma attached to it and I don't really think it's accurate. I'm a fulltime student (U-D Mercy), I work and I live at home. But it's something to get out of the house on a nice day and something to keep me active in the winter."

Teenagers weren't the only ones checking out the park on day one as eight-year-old Brady Walker, of Livonia, donned his customary skateboarding attire, which includes a red helmet, and offered up



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brady Walker, 8, of Livonia, gets a first-hand look at the new track at Riley Skate Park in Farmington Hills. The park officially opened for skateboarders Monday evening.

some rave reviews.

"I like it over there on the end," said Walker, pointing over to the pool part of the park. "I'm not afraid of any of this."

Freedom to perform individual feats seems to be an underlying theme behind skateboarding as Sungahid explained, "it's not like football - nobody's telling you what to do. I kind of can do everything at my own pace and do whatever I want."

"This park is free, outdoors and cement," Robertson said. "It's going to be the most expensive one to create, but at the same time the most fulfilling one for kids."

Parker entered the USA Nationals with an entry time of 10:05.0.

Colorado's Jennifer Barringer captured the heat in 9:47.94 and went on to win Sunday's final with a time of 9:29.38.

"There were some unexpected surprises in the race," Barringer said of the Friday prelim on the USATF web site. "The water barrier was six inches higher than it should have been, and my waters were terrible, but I'm happy with my effort. This was just a prelim, and I just wanted to get through the race and not hurt myself."

Former Livonia Stevenson High and University of Michigan standout Andrea Parker finished 20th in a first-round heat of the 3,000 steeplechase event held last Friday at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Road Runners prepare for '09 race

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mark your calendar. It may be the best kept secret of all the summer race events - the 2009 Road Runner Classic, which is set for Saturday, July 25, at historic Maybury State Park in Northville.

The one-mile run-walk, which starts at 5 p.m., and the eight-kilometer run-walk, which follows at 5:30 p.m., will be presented by the Northville Road Runners and benefit the Friends of Maybury.

"The Classic is over 25 years-old - it's gone from the

streets of Northville to the beautiful setting at Maybury State Park," said race director Gary Haf. "There are a lot of area runners that make it an annual event. The 8K run is challenging and fun. It winds through - it's a half-paved and half-trail run."

The race is also a bargain for area runners.

If registered by July 1, it's only \$3 for the one-mile fun run-walk and \$12 for the 8K. Between July 1 and July 23, the fees are \$4 and \$15, respectively. Race day registration is \$5 and \$20.

Instead of the traditional T-shirt, each participant also

has the option of purchasing a Classic technical hat for an additional \$8.

The Classic also bills itself as a family-oriented event and features a story hour, face painting and hands-on activities for the kids.

Post-race activities include live music, libations, pizza, ice cream and baked goods. Awards will go to the overall male and female winners, masters male and female, along with the top three finishers in each age group. The event will be scored and timed by Everal Race Management.

"Some other area runs have

gone by the wayside, but the park is a perfect setting and a great get-together," Haf said. "Last year we had close to 250 and we hope to get more this year. It's a great way to spend a Saturday evening."

The entrance to Maybury is off Eight Mile Road and one-mile west of Beck Road. (Motor vehicle permit required at gate; if needed for \$6.)

Packet pick-up and race day registration begins at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.northvilleroadrunners.org (where you can registration online); or call Haf at (248) 231-6114. Registration is also available online at active.com.

CAMPS/CLINICS

Basketball

• Madonna University will be staging its 35th annual All-Star camp for boys (ages 8-15) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 27-31.

The cost is \$175 per player. For more information, visit madonnacrusaders.com.

Cross country

• Madonna University will stage its summer 2009 base cross country camp from 8-9:45 a.m., Monday through Friday, July 27-31, at cost of \$70.

MU will also stage long runs from 7:30-9 a.m. each Saturday, July 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1 and 8; at Cass Benton Park (\$2 for each session).

For more information, call MU cross country coach Pat Daugherty evenings at (734) 658-0226 (cell); or (734) 432-5634 (office). You can also e-mail pdaugherty@madonna.edu.

• Workout Wednesdays, presented by Mizuno Running, will be from 7:30-11:30 a.m. July 8 and 29 at Bicentennial Park in Livonia; and July 15 and 22, at Ford Field in Northville.

The format includes training, nutrition and topic of the day for middle through high school senior distance runners preparing for the fall cross country season.

The cost is \$45 (registration closes July 1).

For more information, call (734) 642-6664.

TEREK

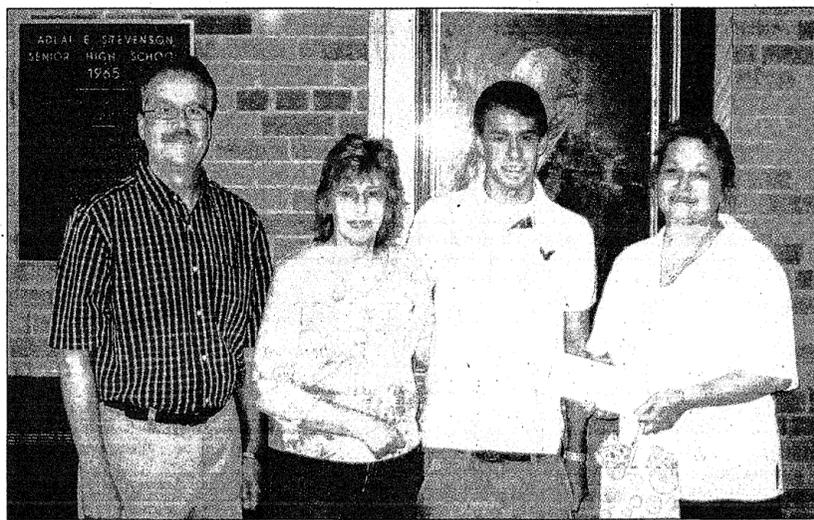
FROM PAGE B1

(15.42); discus, fourth (146-4); javelin, fifth (184-1); and 1,500 run, eighth (4:41.64).

Terek's personal best in the decathlon was 8,312 points en route to a third-place finish at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Parker 20th in steeple

Former Livonia Stevenson High and University of Michigan standout Andrea Parker finished 20th in a first-round heat of the 3,000 steeplechase event held last Friday at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.



'Gabe' award winner

Swimmer Michael Cruce, who returned to the pool this season after open heart surgery, is the 2009 scholarship recipient of the 'Gabe' Award, given annually in honor of Stephen Gabriel, a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School who passed away in October of 2003. Gabriel was a student-athlete and was involved in many student activities. The \$250 scholarship was awarded by a committee of Gabriel's classmates and goes to the Stevenson senior athlete who carries a 3.0 grade-point average or higher, along with being an exceptional leader who has displayed courage or perseverance in dealing with challenges. The scholarship was presented by Robin Lux (right), a Stevenson classmate of Gabriel. Also pictured (from left) are Cruce's parents, Mick and Gail. Michael Cruce will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall.



Reds win Mustang title

The Reds won the South Farmington Baseball League's 10-and-under Mustang Division championship June 23 with a 13-12 victory over the Angels at Founders Sports Park. Coach Steve Dickson guided the team to three one-run victories in a row in the playoffs to earn the title. The Reds are (front row, left to right) Matt Newel, Luke Higley, Zack Dickson, John O'Connor, Jacob Isaacson, (middle row) Chris Barron, Jason Seegert, Jimmy O'Connor, Michael Bachleda, Hunter Firestone, Andrew Davenport, (back row) Joe O'Connor, Paul Bachleda, Steve Dickson, Kevin Isaacson and Lief Higley. Not pictured is Eric Braeuner.

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- 9 RED SPEEDWAGON / STYX x 7:00PM w/38 SPECIAL DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 9 1964 THE TRIBUTE w/CLIFF ERICKSON 8:00PM MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

THIS FRIDAY

- 10 BRAD PAISLEY w/DIERKS BENTLEY x 7:30PM and JIMMY WAYNE DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

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- 11 LASERSPECTACULAR 8:00PM THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

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- 12 THE STYLISTICS, THE MANHATTANS and THE MAIN INGREDIENT featuring CUBA GOODING, SR. 70'S SOUL JAM DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 14 GREEN DAY w/THE BRAVERY THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
- 15 JUDAS PRIEST w/WHITESNAKE and POP EVIL x DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 16 ABBA THE MUSIC MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 17 ALAN PARSONS LIVE PROJECT w/THE ORCHESTRA featuring former members of ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA and ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA PART II DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 17 LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND x MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 18 BEYONCE w/RICH GIRL THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
- 18 100 YEARS OF BROADWAY MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

29 TOBY KEITH w/TRACE ADKINS x DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

19 CHRIS ISAAK w/MICHELLE BRANCH x MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

20 YES w/ASIA x DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

21 THE TURTLES featuring FLO & EDDIE, CHUCK NEGRON formerly of THREE DOG NIGHT and MORE - HIPPIEFEST 2009 DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

22 THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND w/THE ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION and THE GEORGIA SATELLITES DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

22 IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE (2PM & 7PM) Children's Program MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

23 SMOKEY ROBINSON x DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

23 GORDON LIGHTFOOT x MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

24 DEF LEPPARD w/POISON and CHEAP TRICK x DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

24 LAUGH-A-PALOOZA 2009 MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Stefanie Turner Churchill



Michele Ring Ladywood



Melanie Pickert Canton



Kelsey Shapiro North Farmington



Taleen Mergian Stevenson



Brooke Williams Plymouth Christian



Karlee Derrick Garden City



Bailey Brandon Churchill



Kirsten Evans Farmington



Kristina Klusek Salem



Kayla Kimble Stevenson



Alyssa Mira Churchill



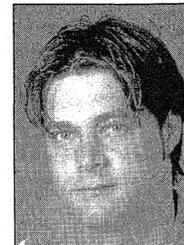
Jordan Mueller Mercy



Tracy Rymph Canton



Kelly Dobbs Plymouth



George Tomasso Canton coach

Seniors lead season-long success on soccer pitch

FIRST-TEAM

Stefanie Turner, Sr. GK, Liv. Churchill: The first-team Division 1 All-Stater and All-Observer selection, bound for Central Michigan University, posted a total of 13 shut-outs and a career-low 0.46 goals-against average for the regional finalists.

Turner also made All-Kensington Lakes Activities and All-Region. "Stefanie is a leader this year in both word and action," Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit said of the senior co-captain. "She's a complete keeper, as she is a shot stopper who can command the box and provide an outlet for defenders with her feet. Stefanie is one of the best high school players I've ever worked with. She's committed to succeeding."

Michele Ring, Sr. GK, Liv. Ladywood: The senior goalkeeper and team captain posted five shut-outs this year for the Blazers en route to All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region and third-team Division 2 All-State honors.

The repeat first-team All-Observer pick is committed to the College of Wooster (Ohio) in the fall.

"Michele has been a pleasure to coach for the past two seasons," Ladywood's Ken Shingledecker said. "She's been an excellent team leader and representative of our team and Ladywood High School for the past four years."

"She played one of the finest games I've seen a goalkeeper play in my 12 years coaching high school soccer against Livonia Churchill this season."

Melanie Pickert, Soph. Def., Canton: Probably the biggest factor in Canton's outstanding season was team defense, spearheaded by Pickert — named to the All-State First Team for her efforts.

"We had 14 wins on 14 shut-outs," said Canton head coach George Tomasso. "And she was a huge part of those shutouts."

Pickert's play sparked the Chiefs to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association South Division championship as well as a Division 1 district title.

She collected plenty of other honors besides All-State, earning selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region squads.

Kelsey Shapiro, Jr. Def., N. Farmington: Shapiro was the leading defender on an outstanding defense that combined with goalie Missy Quasunella to post 14 shut-outs. Shapiro still managed to score five goals, including two in the final

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOCCER FIRST TEAM

Stefanie Turner, Sr. GK, Liv. Churchill
Michele Ring, Sr. GK, Liv. Ladywood
Melanie Pickert, Soph. Def., Canton
Kelsey Shapiro, Jr. Def., N. Farmington
Taleen Mergian, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson
Karlee Derrick, Sr. Def., Garden City
Bailey Brandon, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill
Brooke Williams, Sr. MF, Ply. Christian
Kirsten Evans, Soph. MF, Farmington
Kayla Kimble, Jr. MF, Liv. Stevenson
Kristina Klusek, Soph. MF, Salem
Alyssa Mira, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill
Jordan Mueller, Sr. F, Farm. Hills Mercy
Tracy Rymph, Sr. F, Canton
Kelly Dobbs, Sr. F, Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Missy Quasunella, Sr. GK, N. Farmington
Marissa Williams, Soph. GK, Plymouth
Kelsey Rothemel, Soph. Def., Churchill
Ariel Hovey, Sr. Def., Redford Union
Meeghan Hughes, Jr. Def., Plymouth
Deirdre Ratliff, Sr. Def., Farm. Hills Mercy
Lauren Booth, Jr. Def., Salem
Laura Bremer, Jr. Def., Farmington
Lisa Pierce, Sr. MF, Canton
Leslie Weisz, Sr. MF, Canton
Ella Blowers, Sr. MF, N. Farmington
Kendal Wong, Sr. MF, F.H. Harrison
Alessia Vagnini, Sr. MF, Liv. Ladywood
Alena Alessandrini, Sr. MF, Red. Thurston
Megan Nikula, Sr. MF, Westland Glenn
Andrea Grove, Jr. F, Farmington
Hannah Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill
Tori Bunker, Sr. A-L, Clareceville

COACH OF THE YEAR

George Tomasso, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Darcy DeRoo, Callie Mack; Franklin: Lexi Smith, Courtney Smith; Brooke Killen; Stevenson: Alexandria Harbowy, Renee Boudreau, Ashley Welch, Shannon Merritt; John Glenn: Melissa Mezaros, Jenna Williams, Jennie Humbach, Ashley Bailey Alexis Gagleard; Wayne: Alyssa Escobar, Samantha Dye, Avalon Felan, Jessica Kuder; Ladywood: Caitlin Szczyka; Lindsay Maier, Allison Krueger, Allison Bielski; Clareceville: Kristen Jolly, Teresa Parent, Jordan Vyff; Lutheran Westland: Allyson Yankee, Miranda Kasprzewicz, Abi Gieschen, Lauren Gieschen; Plymouth Christian: Annette Smerick, Brianna Harris, Kim Cleary; Garden City: Cara Braun, Stephanie Nichols; Salem: Lindsey Roy, Katelynn Krause, Torrie Kaye; Plymouth: McKenzie Hengesh, Elizabeth Roy, Jessica Heck, Jen Babcock, Katie Moss, Kasey Webb, Katie Krajewski; Canton: Megan Staub, Lauren Peeler, Jessica McClendon; Farmington: Shannon Costello, Katie Williams, Jessica Williams, Natasha Ivanac; Harrison: Riley Steen, Allison Liberty, Lisa McFarland; Mercy: April Mesick, Kara Weber, Elana Weber, McKenzie Williams; N. Farmington: Morgan Moffatt, Stephanie Wald, Sami Rounayah, Vicki Yu, Halle Kamsan; Redford Union: Jessica Busuito, Lindsey Gehlhausen, Courtney Gustafson, Chelsea Marlow; Redford Turfston: Jessica Ingold, Shannon Melvin, Elaine Nelson, Ashley Wheeler, Renee Wright.

eight minutes of a regional game to rally the Raiders past Grosse

Pointe North. A junior who will be a two-term team captain, Shapiro has verbally committed to play at Ball State. She is an All-OAA player and Division 1 all-state honorable mention.

"She has been my central defender for three years, and we have had a goals-against average well below one per game in all of those seasons," coach Tim Russell said. "This season, she was a key reason why we had so many shutouts. She currently plays at the highest level with the Michigan Hawks in her age bracket. Kelsey is the consummate team player, helping with everything from training to playing to fundraising to team-building."

Taleen Mergian, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The honorable mention All-Stater is a four-year varsity starter and two-time captain, All-Conference and All-District selection.

Mergian, bound for Ohio University in the fall, also plays for three-time Michigan Youth Soccer Association Cup champion '91 Michigan Hawks. She is a three-time Scholar-Athlete.

"Taleen is a very versatile player, she played just about everywhere on the field since coming in as a freshman four years ago," outgoing Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said of the Spartans' MVP. "She led our back line the last two years and she's one of the best leaders I've had since I've been coach at Stevenson."

"One of the things that separates Taleen from other is her work away from her, the extra running she does on her own, the intangibles. She's a true leader, organizes, sorts, picks up, and never puts herself above anyone while doing it."

Karlee Derrick, Sr. Def., Garden City: A four-year stalwart for the Cougars, Derrick enjoyed another outstanding season of play as sweeper. Possessing great anticipation and playing with a tough and aggressive attitude, Derrick kept the back-line play by making life miserable for offensive opponents. Durability and reliability were two great assets as Derrick, who is headed to Siena Heights to play soccer, was a stater in every game for the Cougars the past two seasons.

"She really improved as a leader on the field and organized everything we did in the back row," said Garden City coach Bill Torni. "She did a nice job of delegating duties back there and made everybody around her a stronger player."

Bailey Brandon, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill: The senior midfielder, a captain, capped her senior year with

25 goals and 19 assists. She is a two-time first-team All-State, All-Region and All-Observer selection.

"Her physical presence, coupled with her superior technical ability, allowed Bailey to run the midfield for us this year," Hebestreit said of the All-KLAA selection. "She was a threat both in the run of the play and on all dead ball situations."

Brandon is also headed to play at CMU.

Brooke Williams, Sr. MF, Ply. Christian: The high-scoring Williams again was an offensive force for the Eagles, scoring 14 goals and adding 13 assists to spark the team to a 13-1-3 record in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Head coach Nathan Yates said Williams was expected to be a big scorer, but she welcomed additional responsibilities as team captain and made it a priority to set up teammates around the enemy goal.

"She really took on the leadership role," Yates said. "It was great having her on the field because not only was she looking for goals for herself, she was trying to get other players involved."

Williams was named MIAC Most Valuable Player and was MVP in the Division 4 districts. In addition, she was an All-Region selection and was named to the All-State First Team.

Kirsten Evans, Soph. MF, Farmington: The offensive midfielder was her team's leading scorer with 19 goals, and she also had six assists to help the Falcons post a 12-6-3 record and finish second in the OAA White Division. A two-year starter for Farmington, Evans is an ODP player and member of the Michigan Hawks club team. She's the second in her family to earn all-area honors. Her sister, Lindsey, will be a senior forward at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"(Kirsten) was our one-two punch offensively with Andrea Grove," coach Glenn Breuhan said. "The comment from other coaches at the all-league meeting was 'You guys sure have two of the best strikers in the league.' Obviously, she's one of the premier players in the state."

"Comparing (Evans and Grove) to the teams we've played, I would take them as my No. 1 and 2 attacking players. I didn't see anybody who was a better player in the OAA offensively."

Kayla Kimble, Jr. MF, Liv. Stevenson: The junior midfielder is a three-year starter who has already

accepted a scholarship offer to play at Grand Valley State.

Kimble, who had five goals and two assists, also earned All-KLAA and All-District honors this season. She plays for the '92 Michigan Hawks club team.

"Kayla was my most versatile player, she played everywhere for us this year and was equally effective," Pinta said. "Kayla was the most marked player each game, drawing the most attention from our opponent. We were not the same team without her on the field."

Kristina Klusek, Soph. MF, Salem: The sophomore midfielder showed plenty of scoring punch for the Rocks, tallying 14 goals and chipping in with six assists.

Klusek was rewarded for her strong year with selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams along with being an All-State honorable mention pick.

"Kristina made our offense go," said Salem head coach Joe Nora. "She was our leading scorer this year and really took her game to the next level."

"Her greatest strength is her speed. She has a knack for getting into dangerous places on the field to set up her shot."

Alyssa Mira, Sr. MF, Liv. Churchill: The senior midfielder was also a four-year starter who ended her senior season with 15 goals and 13 assists.

Mira also made second-team All-State, All-Region and All-KLAA.

"She was our most dangerous attacking presence this year," Hebestreit said. "Her speed and technical ability on the ball made her a concern for every team we played this season."

"She is off to Grand Valley State to play and will likely make an immediate impact."

Jordan Mueller, Sr. F, Mercy: The senior forward was a first-team, all-state selection in Division 1, and she's one of only two players to receive a full scholarship to play at Michigan State. Mueller scored 16 goals and had 10 assists to lead the Marlins this year, capping a four-year prep career with 60 and 36, respectively. Mercy needed her offensive skills at the striker position, but Mueller can play anywhere on the field, including defense.

"She came in with a lot of acclaim that she was a great player," coach Butch Babler said. "She turned out to be not only a very good player but a very good team player. When she had the right group around her, she could help that group elevate

its game. She's one of those athletes you're lucky to work with once or twice (in a career). She's a great kid, a great athlete and a very good leader. If I had a daughter, she's exactly what I'd want her to be."

Tracy Rymph, Sr. F, Canton: A valuable, clutch performer and team leader for the Chiefs, Rymph scored 22 goals — many in key situations — and added 11 assists. She tallied a goal and an assist in Canton's district championship victory over Livonia Stevenson.

Rymph earned All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region honors while also being an All-State honorable mention pick.

"She scored in big games,"

Tomasso said. "She was our leading scorer and she really did a good job for us."

Kelly Dobbs, Sr. F, Plymouth: The Wildcats offense could count on Dobbs to make things happen, and she didn't disappoint head coach Jeff Neschich with a school record-setting 19 goals while contributing nine helpers.

It was the third consecutive season Dobbs led Plymouth in scoring.

Dobbs collected plenty of post-season kudos with selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams. She capped it off by being named an All-State honorable mention performer.

"She had a great career at Plymouth," Neschich said. "She was just a good finisher, she had a good shot with either foot and she had deceptive speed."

COACH OF THE YEAR

George Tomasso, Canton: The Chiefs took on the persona of their head coach, a all-state goalkeeper at Canton in the mid-1990s, with 14 shutout victories en route to a 14-3-1 record and KLAA South Division and Division 1 district titles.

The Chiefs knocked off Livonia Stevenson 3-0 in the district championship match at Northville and took an early 1-0 lead against defending state champion Ann Arbor Huron before losing a 2-1 heartbreaker on a disputed penalty kick.

But it was another outstanding year for Canton, which has reached the district finals four times during Tomasso's five-year tenure there.

"This is the type of award that I can only achieve with my players and their performances," said Tomasso about the Observer Coach of the Year honor. "I want to thank every one of the players for a successful and memorable season."

Outing seeks golfers

The Society of Notre Dame de Bon Secours 3rd annual family golf outing will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start Saturday, July 18, at Livonia's Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

The Society of Notre Dame

extends help to families physically, spiritually or monetarily as needs arise in our community.

A package deal includes 18 holes with a cart, continental breakfast, lunch and steak dinner. The cost is \$125 per golfer; for those 18 and under, \$100 per golfer. Registration is

at 7:30 a.m.

Foursomes and individual golfer registrations will be accepted, as will gift certificates, golf apparel and hole sponsorships.

Registration forms can be found at notredamedebonsecours.typepad.com or by calling either Jim Romine at 248-787-1592 or Paul Beaubien at 586-419-8955.

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on July 15, 2009 or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

B139 Bobby Copley Refrigerator, 4 Computer Monitors, 10 Boxes
E132 Gerald Gibson 2 Couches, Exercise equipment, Refrigerator
Rv32 Charles Briggs Glass stream 1550 Bass Boat, Trailer

Publish: June 28 & July 5, 2009

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on July 23, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were noted by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit C203, Alcorn, HHG; Unit C219, Davis, HHG; Unit E33, Yankovich, Furn. / Boxes; Unit H03, Beck, Furn./ boxes; Unit I11, Farris, Furn./ Boxes; Unit J42, Wentz, HHG; Unit E24, Glazer, HHG.

Publish: July 5 & 12, 2009

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SUSAN V. (Worthington) FOOTE
Age 94, of Coldwater, MI died Monday June 29, 2009 at Maple Lawn Medical Facility in Coldwater, MI. Susan was born June 18, 1915 in Kalamazoo, MI to William and Adelia (Adams) Worthington. She married Howard E. Foote, Sr. June 27, 1936 he preceded in death in 1990. Susan was a member of the Metropolitan Club Auxiliary, Order of Eastern Star, and Pythian Sisters. She retired from Birmingham MI School system. Survivors include sons: Howard E. Foote, Jr., David P. Foote, Robert (Svetlana) Foote, daughter: Carol S. (Robert) Lowmaster, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be held 1:00 p.m. Thursday July 2, 2009 at the White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery in Troy Michigan. Memorial may be made to American Cancer Society. Arrangements by the Gillespie Funeral Home Inc., Coldwater, MI. Visit www.gillespiefh.com to leave a message or condolences to the family.

CONSTANCE JOAN JACKSON
Age 75. June 29, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Robert Kyle, Theodore Kilanowski and Chester Stolarczyk. Loving mother of Sandra (Janey) Kyle and Randy (Mary Allen) Kyle. Grandmother of Jennifer. Sister of Joyce Blackwell, Thomas Earl Jackson, Doyle Jackson and the late Albert Claude Jackson. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A private gathering of family and friends was held Memorial contributions may be made to ASPCA, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, D.C. 20090-6929 or to the Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

REV. PHILIP RODGERS MAGEE
On June 21, 2009, Rev. Philip Rodgers Magee, of Parkville; beloved husband of Dorothy Magee (Fuchs); dear uncle of Kathryn Seider and her husband Michael, Barbara Brown, Elizabeth Beck and her husband Michael, Dorothy Fuchs and her husband Gareth Vaughan. Also survived by ten great-nieces and nephews and two great-grand-nephews. Rev. Magee was ordained, June 14, 1952 where he was an assistant minister at First Presbyterian Church of York, PA. He then was an assistant minister at 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City. He later was a senior minister of First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, MD. Lastly, Rev. Magee was a senior minister at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Michigan. A memorial service will be held 10 AM Saturday, July 18, 2009 at Oak Crest Village Chapel. Interment West Nottingham Presbyterian Church. Memorial contributions in Rev. Magee's name may be made to Princeton Theological Seminary School "Philip Rodgers Magee Scholarship Endowment Fund", P.O. Box 821, Princeton, NJ 08542-0803. Memory tributes may be sent to the family at: www.evansfuneralchapel.com

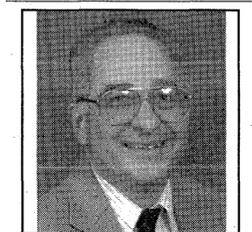
GLENN A. MacKELLAR
Age 86 of Bradenton, Florida and Midland, Michigan passed away at his home on June 27, 2009. He will be dearly missed by his wife Jean, of 64 years, his children Susan J. MacKellar (Ed Morris), David L. MacKellar (Elizabeth Joy) and Stephen W. MacKellar (Barbara). His nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren will treasure the wonderful love and memories he has left behind. His passing was preceded by his beloved granddaughter Casey Ann MacKellar. A memorial service will take place at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2009 from the Ware-Smith-Woolver Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street, Midland, MI. Rev. Wallace H. Mayton III officiating. Glenn's family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, please consider The Casey Ann MacKellar Memorial Fund Benefiting Children's Leukemia Foundation 5455 Corporate Dr. Suite 306 Troy, MI 48098. If you are unable to visit with the family in person you may send your condolences through: www.waresmithwoolver.com

NEIL JOHN MCINTOSH
Age 79, of 900 Doubloon Street, West Union, SC, passed away Monday, July 29, 2009 at Oakmont East Nursing Center in Greenville, SC. Mr. McIntosh was born May 12, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan, son of the late Edna F. Sarns and the late John A. McIntosh. He was retired from the Detroit Edison Company after 40 years of service, where he worked as a lineman. Mr. McIntosh was a graduate of the Aero Mechanics High School in Detroit, Michigan and also served in the US Navy Reserves. He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Jakust McIntosh; daughters, Terri (Bill) Graham and Laura (Scott) Belue; daughter-in-law, Trish (McIntosh) Paruch; grandchildren, Lyndsay (Matt) Paruch, Kristin McIntosh, Alec Shick, Logan Shick, Kelci Belue, Amanda Belue and Cheyenne Belue. He was also blessed with two great-grandsons, Jeffrey McIntosh Paruch and William Dale Childers. Mr. McIntosh was preceded in death by his son, Dale John and daughter, Linda and will return home to Michigan for eternal rest. Memorial donations may be made in his honor to the National Parkinson Foundation, Inc. Office of Development, 1501 NW 9th Avenue, Bob Hope Rd, Miami, FL 33136-1494 or to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, Bingham Office Center, 30400 Telegraph Rd, Suite 150 Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

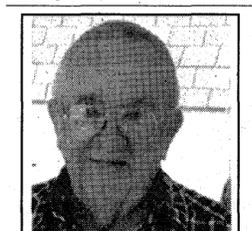
DORIS REED
Died June 28, 2009, age 89. Beloved wife of the late Roy. Dear mother of Richard (Lorain), William (Sally), Donald (Mary), Diane (Mike) Harris, Janis (Robert) Fillion, Kathleen Reed, Sandra (Bill) Rowe, Carol Martin, Dennis (Deborah), (Carl Reinking) and the late Sharon Reinking. Grandmother of 20, great-grandmother of 26. Sister of Delmer, Isabelle, Irene, Wilber, Jean, Joan and the late Dale. Visitation Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home, 17000 Middlebelt Road (S. of 6 Mile), Thursday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Service Friday at 2pm. Family suggests memorials to American Cancer Society. Online Guestbook: www.mannsfuneralhome.com



VIRGINIA "Neno" SAMMUT
Age 77, June 29, 2009 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Charles. Survived by six children, 13 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and three sisters. Funeral Service Thursday 11 AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Wednesday 12-9 PM. Please share a memory at: www.rggharris.com



STEVE A. TROHER
June 26, 2009. Beloved husband of Roberta R. Dear father of Michael (Lori), Thomas (Athena), Julie Troher and the late Mark. Papa of Stephen, Michelle, Nick and Vince. Resting at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 8809 Wayne Rd. (at Joy Rd.) Thursday 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. Prayer service at 7 p.m. Instate Friday 10:00 a.m. St. Theodore Church, 8200 Wayne Rd. (N. or Warren Ave.) until 10:30 a.m. Mass. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions accepted. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at: griffinfuneralhome.com



LEONARD "Bud" WEST Jr.
Passed away on June 30, 2009 at Angela Hospice in Livonia at the age of 94. Proud World War II veteran, he was the beloved husband of the late Helen (Downing) West. Loving father of daughters Diane (Stanley) Skavery, Kathleen Zalewski and Leonard (Karen) West. Proud grandpa of Robert (Christine), Michael (Kathryn), Nicole (Brian), Jessica, Alison and David (Angie). Great Poppa to Jacob and Samantha. Brother of the late Shirley West. Visitation and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorial donations may be made in care of Angela Hospice, ALS of Michigan or to the Leonard West family. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com



CHARLES B. WOLF, MD
Died at home, June 29, 2009. He was 77 years old. Dr. Wolf was born July 26, 1931, in Ray, Arizona to Joe and Ricka (nee Backstein) Wolf. Dr. Wolf was a 1953 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and attended St. Louis University Medical School. After graduation, he joined the United States Public Health Service, providing medical care on a Navajo reservation in Tuba City, Arizona. He began his pediatric practice at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, before moving to Michigan, where he made his career as a pediatrician with Henry Ford Hospital from 1965 until his retirement in 1998. Dr. Wolf also served as the first medical director of Henry Ford's West Bloomfield Clinic. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and compassionate physician, he touched many lives and will be missed greatly. Dr. Wolf is survived by his children, Amanda (David Turner) Wolf of Wellington, New Zealand, Ricka "Patty" Williams of San Diego, Charlotte (William) Pratt of Seattle, and Philip (Mary) Wolf of San Francisco, as well as four grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of over 50 years, Joan Hemingway, and his son, Timothy Wolf. A Memorial Mass was held at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills. Memorials appreciated to the Wolf Memorial Fund, Cabrini Clinic, 1234 Porter St., Detroit, Michigan 48226. Condolences at www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



DORIS ZERBY
Age 74 of Brighton, June 27, 2009. Beloved wife of Roger. Loving mother of William (Ann), Kenneth (Diane), and Linda Zerby. Proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of one. Doris was an elementary school teacher at Isbister Elementary in Plymouth from 1974 until 1990. She was a member of the Plymouth Symphony Society, United Methodist Women's Group and the Delta Kappa Gamma. She has lived in Brighton since 1996. Doris enjoyed sewing, knitting and candle making. She was an avid reader and loved the movies. A Memorial Service will be 11 AM on Monday, July 6 at First United Methodist Church 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth MI 48170. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society 20450 Civic Center Drive, Southfield, Michigan 48076 or to the Church. To share a memory with the family, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to: oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz



Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Garden tour is all wet - with flowing water, colorful fish

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Imagine being able to lie in bed and listen to running water 24 hours a day. That's just one of the benefits of John and Sandy Rae's koi pond outside their Northville home.

The Raes' koi pond is among the water features at eight Northville area homes that will be open to the public during the 11th Pond and Water Garden Tour presented by the Michigan Koi and Pond Club. The event runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 11, rain or shine. Koi is a type of Japanese gold fish found in many garden ponds.

Cost is \$10 per ticket per adult or \$5 per ticket for children ages 5-15.

Each home on the tour has a water feature. Many of them are stocked with fish, frogs and various kinds of water garden plants. This is a self-guided tour, with participants receiving a wristband and a tour booklet upon purchasing a ticket.

The Pond Place, 3505 W. Highland Road, in Milford is sponsoring the event.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John and Sandy Rae stand at the edge of their Koi pond at their Main Street home in Northville. The Raes will be part of eight homes in town that will open up their ponds for the Koi Pond Tour on Saturday, July 11.

A LABOR OF LOVE
It's obvious after talking with Rae, and fellow club member Mike Conrad of Northville, Rae's mentor in the club, that their koi ponds are a labor of love.

"We try to create a restful, meditative kind of place," Rae said. "The fish are very relaxing to watch."

However, maintenance issues do exist.

"I used to have gravel in the bottom, which looked nice, but I learned that it held all of the residue from the overhanging trees, so I just took it out," he said. He's had his koi pond in his front yard for three years.

"This is one of the reasons I'm an advocate for being a member of the club," Rae said. "You can get advice."

FISH HABITAT
A waterfall tumbles over tiered slate and stirs the water below in Rae's pond.

"The water has to circulate," he said. "The koi need oxygen."

He said many koi ponds contain about 6,000 gallons of water, but smaller ones can be built.

Rae suggests that beginners start out with relatively inexpensive fish; his fish were about \$10 each. The fish remain in the ponds year-round. Fish need to be quarantined for about a month before they go into a pond to make sure they are disease-free.

A Japanese garden surrounds Conrad's koi pond, which is in his front yard like the Raes'. His koi are large — at least 20 inches long — and very colorful.

"I enjoy looking at them from inside the house," Conrad said. He feeds them several times a day.

Koi owners need to protect their invest-

ment from predators such as blue herons and raccoons. It's recommended to fence the area around the pond, if possible. The pond should be deep enough to prevent birds from standing in it and have sheer sides to stop animals from getting into it.

HISTORY OF THE CLUB
The Michigan Koi and Pond Club was founded in 1996, after Gil Orris took some advice from a local pond supply store which resulted in the death of all of his fish but one.

Orris realized that there had to be a better way to learn and promote the hobby, so he formed the club. This is one of the oldest and largest such clubs in Michigan with about 100 family memberships. The club is also part of the Associated Koi Clubs of America.

"We have had more than 5,000 people learn about our hobby through our tours," said Modetz. "We have also produced three educational programs using slides, videos and computer technology on our hobby that have been presented to various groups and are available to other groups at a modest fee."

Annual dues are \$25. Owning a pond isn't required for membership.

Modetz and Ron Kardynski, vice president of the Michigan Koi and Pond Club, are co-sponsoring the July 11 event.

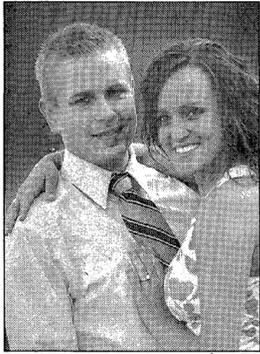
"I think having a pond is an extension of gardening," Rae said.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

- JULY 6-12**
Blood drive
The Farmington Freeway Industrial Park blood drive, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, July 6, Holiday Inns and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave., (on the service drive). For an appointment call (877) 505-9437. Blood needed because of low inventory after Fourth of July holiday.
- Suicidal behavior lecture**
The U-M Depression Center holds its Third Annual Prechter Lecture Series, noon, Friday, July 10, at the U-M Depression Center, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. Maria A. Oquendo, M.D., a national expert on bipolar disorder, will discuss risks and prevention measures for suicidal behavior. (734) 936-4400
- Cancer prevention forum**
The Bharatiya Temple and the Michigan Association of Physicians from India offer the Annual Southeast Asia Cancer Prevention Forum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at the Bharatiya Temple, 6850 N. Adams, at South Boulevard, Troy. Beaumont cardiologist Dinesh Shah, M.D., will moderate the discussion. Topics include cancer of the breast, prostate, colon, cervix and ovaries. There will be free clinical breast exams and free prostate cancer testing available, with registration for free mammograms for those who qualify. Lunch will be served. Call the Beaumont Cancer Institute at (248) 551-0243, the temple office at (248) 879-2552 or the temple secretary, Minal Engineer, at (248) 788-4886 to register. There is no charge to attend, but early registration is encouraged.
- Fibromyalgia support**
See a demonstration of light touch therapy at the group's next meeting, 1-3 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, a block south of Ford. The group meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. No dues, but donations are accepted. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.
- JULY 13-19**
Childbirth education
St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a one-day workshop, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby" 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday, July 20, at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the experience more rewarding. The class is open to all expectant parents, not just those delivering at St. Mary. Call (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org. The hospital also offers the class from 7-9 p.m., Mondays, July 20-Aug. 17.
- Golf benefit**
Second Annual All Ladies Swing Golf Invitational, on Monday, July 20, at Twin Beach Country Club, 7625 Glascoot, West Bloomfield. This nine-hole, four-person scramble will benefit ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Cost is \$95 per person, and includes 9 holes of golf, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, prizes, and a silent auction. Individual players will be matched to a foursome. Sponsorships are also available, and include many benefits including golf. For more information or reservations call (800) 882-5764, Ext. 225, or visit www.alsomichigan.org.
- ONGOING**
Fitness classes
Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail: jeanieweaver@charter.net
- Overeaters Anonymous**
Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard
- Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.ooa.org
- Breast cancer support group**
Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.
- Caregivers support group**
St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.
- Wayne metro caregiver support**
Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.
- Parkinson Support**
Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

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Craven-Gajda

Craven-Gajda

Charles and Gail Craven of Plymouth Township announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel Elizabeth Craven to Brandon Scott Gajda, son of Larry and Linda Gajda of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and currently works in the marketing department at Xoran Technologies Inc.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Michigan State University, and currently works for LaForce Inc.

A July 2009 wedding is planned in Livonia.

GRIFFIN A. POWERS

P.J. and Abby Powers of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, Griffin Allen Powers, born June 13, 2009, at St. Joe's Hospital.

He has one brother, Ethan. Grandparents are Pat and Paula Powers of Novi and Dave and Lorraine Brown of Milford. Great-grandparents are Theresa Biland and Jeannette Powers.



John and Joyce Weigel

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Joyce and John Weigel, of Farmington, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 23, 2009. Married May 23, 1959 in Milwaukee, Wis., they have three adult children, Dawn (Kyle) who reside in Fitchburg, Wis., with their children, Evan and Micah; sons David, who resides in Farmington, and Jonathan, who resides in Inkster. The family gathered for a celebration on May 23, 2009 with dinner at Antonio's in Dearborn.



Griffin A. Powers



Bill and Corrine Clark of Canton on their wedding day.



Bill and Corrine Clark of Canton

65TH ANNIVERSARY

Bill and Corrine Clark, who have lived in Canton, for 63 of their 65 married years, celebrated their anniversary on June 27 at Hickory Creek Golf Course, Superior Township with close friends and family members.

Corrine met Bill at a dance. Her father, Walter Schiffler, enjoyed taking her to all the local dances.

They were married on June 28, 1944, two weeks after Corrine graduated from Plymouth High School. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Nichols of the First United Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.

Bill was born and raised in the same house they live in today. His parents, Glenn and Ivy Clark, moved from Syracuse N.Y. in 1918 to the 40-plus acres on Napier. Bill attended the Hanford School and graduated from Ypsilanti High School. He served in the US Air Force from 1942

- 1946 and was stationed in Harlingen, Texas. After his discharge, his father broke his back, so Bill moved his young family back home to work the farm. He was also employed at Evans Products Co. for 20 years, and retired from the Plymouth-Canton Schools in 1986. He has been a member of the Plymouth Elks Club (Charter member #11), the American Legion Post #391, Masonic Lodge #47, 32nd Degree Mason, and the Moslem Shrine.

Corrine was born and raised in Plymouth. Her parents were Agnes and Walter Schiffler. After her mother's death, Corrine helped raise her younger brother, Gene. She attended Starkweather School and graduated from Plymouth High School. She worked in retail sales in downtown Plymouth for many years, also at Fox Hills Golf Course, Brae Burn Golf Course, Fox Photo, and Edwards Bros in

Ann Arbor before retiring. She's been a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, the VFW Auxiliary, the Elk's Vivians Club, the Eastern Stars, and Trailwood Garden Club. She also volunteered for years with the American Red Cross.

Together, they have loved bowling, golfing and traveling. Their adventures have taken them from Hawaii to Barbados, Alaska to Colombia in South America, Canada and Mexico.

They have two children, Terry (Susan) of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Carol (Bill) Barringer of Canton.

There are five grandchildren: Kelly (Chris) Steffen, Greg (Erin) Clark, and Brent Clark all of Indiana.

Grant (Jaime) Gardner and Mike Gardner live in Plymouth. There are also four great-grandchildren living in Indiana.



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Employment

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GROUNDS PERSON
Seasonal needed for Westland apt. community. Some benefits available. Exp. preferred. Please apply in person: 6737 N. Wayne Rd. Westland. No Faxes Please!

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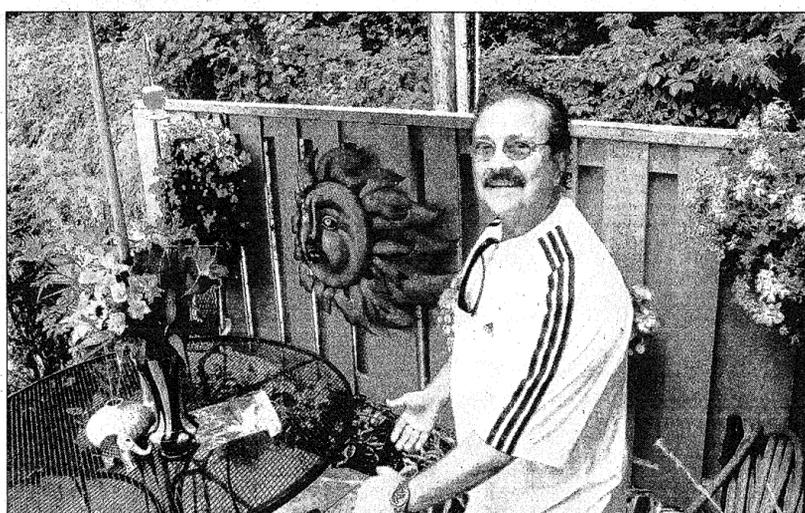
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NEIGHBORS



George Rowe's garden in Westland is small but full of interesting flowers and art.



Hanging plants and art decorate the patio at George Rowe's Westland home.



Tom Lew stands amid hanging pots on his patio in Westland.

Growing small

Potted flowers, hanging plants create winning garden

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

Thomas Lew always has planted flowers — first at his home in Garden City, then at an apartment in Canton and for the past 12 years at his town house in Westland.

"I always do my flowers in the spring because winter is too long. Michigan is so gray and dark in winter. When you get a chance, you've got to see flowers."

The retiree has a lot less area in which to work his green thumb these days. Holliday Park Towne Houses Cooperative restricts residents to planting in a 24-inch border around their patios. But that

didn't stop Lew from creating a dazzling display that won the first of three summer gardening contests under way at the residential complex on Wayne Road.

BEAUTY ABOUNDS

"I'm always amazed at the amount of beauty they are able to create," said Pat Moore, chair of buildings and grounds and a member of the cooperative's board of directors. She suggested choosing one winner for each month from June-August in the "All Thumbs" gardening competition. It's designed to encourage "everybody ... not just green thumbs" to beautify their surroundings at Holliday Park. Lew is the

June winner.

"I was kind of surprised," he said. "I don't think I'm very good at matching flowers. If I see something I like, I just try it."

Impatiens, petunias, hydrangea, salvia, "million bell flowers," geraniums and more make up the mix of flowers that grow in a border surrounding his patio, in pots that hang from shepherd's hooks, and in a half barrel display.

Lew likes to take his morning coffee outdoors in the summer while dead-heading, watering his plants and occasionally fertilizing with Miracle-Gro.

"You can find a place for flowers," he said, referring to

the restricted garden size at Holliday Park. "Since I moved here and started putting in flowers, I've inspired people to do it. Our court is more flowerful. The more you do the more blooms you get."

BE CREATIVE

George Rowe, a Holliday Park resident, considered three elements — color, variety and originality — when he and other volunteers judged each space.

"This is limited space gardening and you have to be creative. We had a full page of finalists that really met all three criteria. We just narrowed it down. It was very rough to pick just one," he said.

"You don't get much direct land around. You might just have a little area around the patio. There's a lot of container gardening. If you want to give it some artistic value, you've got to have garden art."

"It can be done. It's how you want to apply yourself," he added. "People have pride in this community."

Rowe, who can't enter the competition because he is a judge, added a little of everything — flowers, art, a foun-

tain — to his tiny back yard.

"This is my little peace of mind," he said. "I come out here in the morning and have coffee and read the paper. It puts me at ease."

He suggests that nonresidents stroll through the complex during one of its public events — it recently held a community yard sale — and check out the residents' small-scale gardens. Or visit www.hollidaypark.com for photos and more information.

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Canton woman changing the world one diaper at a time

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Marybeth Levine knows everything there is to know about diapers. She collects diapers, fund raises for diapers, gives them away and then asks for more. The Canton mother of three — yes, her youngest still wears diapers — keeps track of diaper prices, availability, sizes and more with spreadsheet accuracy. She can tell you the difference between an inexpensive, but quality diaper and a cheap, inferior product, identify brands, sources and cost.

And she's learned it all in a few short months. Levine founded the Detroit Area Diaper Bank in April to fill an ongoing need among the elderly, babies and individuals with disabilities.

Since then, she also has given more than 12,590 diapers to Wayne and Oakland County nonprofit agencies and shelters.

"I'm delivering another 500 or 600 on the 1st (of July) and have another 1,000 or so to move in the next week or so," Levine said. "About 10 agencies officially signed up to be partners and I've taken diapers to them. I'm trying to grow it organically to meet their needs. I try to give everyone at least something. Some need phenomenally more than others."

The Detroit Area Diaper Bank is similar to a food bank in that it delivers donated goods to shelters and other nonprofits, which in turn distribute the items to their needy clients.

Starfish Family Services received the first Detroit Area Diaper Bank delivery — 3,000 diapers — in May. The bank also serves Care



Marybeth Levine's sons help deliver diapers.

Net Pregnancy Info center in Berkley, the Senior Alliance in Wayne, Matrix Human Services in Detroit, the Salvation Army in Plymouth, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary Outreach Center in Wayne, Fishes and Loaves in Taylor and the Haven in Pontiac, among others.

FAMILY-ORIENTED

"It's been fun and rewarding," said Levine, who works out of her basement office, sometimes recruiting her boys, ages 7, 5 and 3, to help with simple tasks. "I could easily work 80 hours a week at this, but I need to balance it."

Her oldest son helped her distribute refrigerator magnets at Canton Liberty Fest last month.

"He was walking table to table with the magnets, saying diapers are expensive and that we help people who can't pay for them," she said.

Levine is quick to point out that needy families can't buy diapers with food stamps. Medicare doesn't pay for adult diapers. And needy families have no access to less expen-

sive diaper sources, such as warehouse clubs like Costco, because they can't afford the memberships.

"It's a crippling expense ... a bigger stressor on families."

HEALTH RISKS

Faced with the choice of buying food or diapers, parents and caregivers sometimes reuse soiled disposable diapers or change them less frequently, risking rashes and other skin diseases.

Cloth diapers, although longer lasting, require access to laundry facilities.

"Not all laundromats let you wash diapers. The big kicker is you can't leave cloth diapers at day care. If you can't afford (disposable) diapers you can't take your children to day care, and if you can't drop them off at day care, you can't go to school or work."

Levine had her "light bulb" moment about the never-ending need for diapers while living in Tucson, Ariz. She heard a public service announcement for a local diaper bank, the first in the nation. When her husband's employer, Ford Motor Co., transferred him



to Michigan in 2003, Levine thought about starting a similar bank in her new home.

"I had a 5-month-old at the time and we quickly had two more children. Just this spring I had more control of my time and decided it's time to start on a small scale."

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

She used Facebook and Twitter to make connections,

find resources and launch the organization. She also relied on skills learned in past job experiences.

Levine earned a degree in political science from Penn State and worked for a congressman in D.C. before taking a job with a nonprofit. She eventually opened her own recruiting and staffing firm.

"I'm using little pieces of everything I've done. It links

it all together. At 40 I'm finally where I want to be.

"The feedback we've had is phenomenal. I think it's the kind of thing that everyone sees value in. There's no downside."

The Detroit Area Diaper Bank will hold a fund-raiser 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at Cici's Pizza in Garden City. Visit www.detroitareadiaperbank.org.

Mom's mind: Reading my growing kids between the lines

The Tooth Fairy fluttered out of my 9-year-old's life last night, taking with her not just Sophia's incisor, but a little bit of her childhood innocence as well.

Hubby Don had assumed Soph was fast asleep when he reached under her pillow for the 10th tooth to be

wriggled free from her smile. He tiptoed the ceramic fairy box back to our room to trade the tiny pearl inside for a crisp dollar bill. As he changed the top back on, I cringed at the noise and silently vowed to find a soft-sided model for little-brother Jackson before he lost his first tooth.

Don tucked Soph's box back in place as I brushed my teeth. We were collapsed in bed when our little, big, girl shuffled down the hall. She stood sniffing in our doorway for a moment and then whimpered, "I heard Daddy in my room. I know the Tooth Fairy isn't real."

I stalled for time by pulling her into bed with me and drying her tears with the palms of my hands. What was I supposed to say in this situation? The response, "You're right — we've been lying to you for years," just didn't feel comforting enough.

Back when our kids were babies, I was always with my

nose in a book, reading up on what to expect at each stage of development and how to handle every new challenge. Why did infant Sophia wail whenever we tried to give her tummy time on the floor? My Baby Bible, published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, had a reassuring explanation and tips to ease the way. Were those red bumps on tiny Jack's bum more than diaper rash? Dr. Benjamin Spock kept me calm while I waited for an opening at the pediatrician's office.

These days, though, I tend to fly by the seat of my pants, guided not by expert advice, but by experience and memories of my own childhood. If something happens to Jackson — say, his first bee sting — my initial thought is how we handled it with Sophia. With my oldest, I think about what my parents did when I was 9 — and either do the same thing or improve upon the original, depending on how successful the 1970s-era effort turned out to be.

I no longer subscribe to those advice-filled parenting publications that delivered guilt monthly, with their colorful craft suggestions I'd never in a million years dream of engineering in my own home. And I'm pretty sure that the last how-to book I bought addressed the issue of potty training.

Come to think of it, perhaps it was "Toilet Training in Less Than a Day" that turned me off self-help parenting books

forever. The cover promised, "A tested method for teaching your child quickly and happily." Well, we tested the method on 3-year-old Sophia. Happily? Not even close.

Happily? I'm pretty sure the trauma of the day guaranteed us an extra two months of diapers. I thought about that book last week when I heard Jackson getting ready to play the Wii with his friends. None of the 7-year-olds gathered knew how to play that particular game, and Jack kept insisting, "We need to read the destructions." His combination of the words directions and instructions made me laugh. Indeed, some of the child-rearing advice I've read and faithfully followed ended up being truly destructive! Anyone who's ever attempted the "Babywise" bedtime method can attest to that — everyone in the house ends up crying it out, not just the crib-bound members of the family.

The realization that I no longer turned to the publishing world for advice hit me while doing research for a story I'm writing for a parenting magazine. Ironically enough, my job is to pen advice-filled

articles for parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. That day, the expert I had on the phone was making her point by giving me a big-kid example. This Oakland Schools educator told me that my kids' working memory isn't the same as mine because it's highly correlated to motivation. In order to complete a task, kids (even up through high school) need to want to complete the task. So when I give Sophia orders to clean the basement play area and then I walk away, I shouldn't return 10 minutes later expecting every last Barbie shoe to be in its place. The virtue of responsibility isn't something we're born with, it's something that's developed through years of getting yelled at about the messy basement!

Shortly after that interview, the reality of puberty crashed upon our house. I found myself stumbling from the purchase of strawberry-scented Teen Spirit deodorant to issues hairier than I care to divulge in print, all the time making notes for Soph's yearly doctor exam. I was feeling very much like the mother of a newborn, not quite sure what to do with this strange creature. And then I had a forehead-slapping

moment. I didn't have to wait until I was in front of a pediatrician to ask my questions. Not when I had the World Wide Web at my fingertips.

I logged on to assure myself that everything happening to Soph's body was age-appropriate. Unfortunately, I neglected to Google "What to say when your child figures out you've been faking the Tooth Fairy for the past three years."

So last night I punted. I relied upon all I've gleaned about Sophia in the past nearly 10 years. No, I hadn't read a book on this situation, but I could read my daughter's mood. And I could respond accordingly.

I'm not saying this will work

every time, but I had her giggling and sighing with relief in minutes. Amazingly, and knock on wood, the correlated question of Santa Claus never came up. If Sophia is anything like I was at her age, then she has chosen to be selectively logical about the realization that her parents have been sneaking small bills under her pillow. Maybe the Tooth Fairy didn't whisk away all of her childhood innocence. But just in case, I'm going to read up on how to respond to Santa Doubt well before December.

Mom's Word appears monthly. Rebecca Kavanagh lives with her family in Farmington Hills. Write to her at rakwordplay@att.net.



Rebecca Kavanagh

Arthritis Today

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ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

Ankylosing Spondylitis may sound like an exotic medical condition, but it is not. Ankylosing Spondylitis is a cause of back pain, that likely accounts for 5% or more of low back pain. The importance of this condition is that it has specific treatment, that in most cases, resolves the pain.

Doctors can separate Ankylosing Spondylitis from other reasons for back pain. First, the back pain persists over months to years, not resolving in time as most back discomfort does. The pain is worse in the morning and with activity improves, but then returns in the evening.

Another indication that back pain is tied to Ankylosing Spondylitis comes from the association of the condition with recurrent eye inflammation. If over 5-6 years the individual with back pain also has eye inflammation requiring steroid eye drops the implication is that the person possibly has Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Another feature is recurring knee or ankle swelling. In many instances the person believes the knee swelled because of a sports injury or a near fall, but the problem was a manifestation of Spondylitis.

X-rays of the low back are valuable in revealing Ankylosing Spondylitis. If the condition is present, the sacro-iliac joints - the junction of the low back and pelvis - will show bone evidence of inflammation.

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Angela Hospice grows to meet community needs

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Angela Hospice in Livonia was the first in Michigan to open an inpatient hospice facility in 1994. The center, on the Felician Sisters' grounds off Newburgh, north of Schoolcraft, is undergoing expansion.

"Within just a handful of years, we were full," said Bob Alexander, business development manager for Angela Hospice. He's managing the capital campaign for the expansion, with a \$10 million goal through 2011.

"We have a portion of it raised, I'd say nearly 30 percent," he said. Ground-breaking took place in the spring of 2008, and construction work is going well.

The current hospice, which provides care for loved ones nearing the end of life, has 16 inpatient beds. There's been great community demand over the last decade or so, with a waiting list of 17 to 30 or more patients, Alexander said.

The new hospice will double beds to 32, with all beds and the new larger patient rooms in the newer area of the center. That'll free up office and meeting space in the older portion.

Angela Hospice does a lot of work with families after patients have died. "We've had groups meet here that have had nothing to do with hospice care," Alexander said, noting such efforts require meeting space.

The current two-story building has 34,858 square feet,

with the new facility adding an additional 46,000 square feet.

"We're going full speed ahead by whatever means we can," said Alexander, adding construction should wrap up in about a year.

INCREASING NEED

Demographics show that aging baby boomers will need more care as they age, increasing the need for hospice services. Most Angela Hospice patients remain in their homes, homes of loved ones, or nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Some need inpatient care, including some long-term patients in the building, Alexander said.

There's also a trend toward smaller families, also impacting hospice care. "We'll have fewer people to help us while we go through that," he said of aging baby boomers. People also are moving from Michigan for jobs elsewhere, leaving fewer behind to care for aging loved ones.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

These are challenging times, but Alexander's confident the fund-raising goal will be met. "I know there are key people in the community who rally to what we do. We're supported by so many people in the community," he said, adding that donations are accepted online at www.askforangela.com. Click on the link to the "Building for Life" campaign to donate.

In addition to the larger patient rooms, there will be several new family gathering areas. Angela Hospice opened in 1985 and was founded by Sister Mary Giovanni, who remains president and chief executive officer.

"We opened the Angela Hospice Care Center (for inpatients) in 1994 and by 1999, we were at 100 percent capacity," Sister Giovanni said in a statement. "For nearly 10 years we dreamed and prayed for an addition to our facility, and now it is finally under way. Given the nation's current financial crisis as well as the particularly difficult employment situation in this region,

some may feel that a \$10-million building project and capital campaign is ill-timed. Timing however, won't keep us from seeing this mammoth undertaking to a successful conclusion.

"For an ever-growing aging population, for an expanding group of terminally ill individuals without caregiver support, and for the many people with nowhere else to turn, the time to increase our capacity is now," Sister Giovanni said. "We are counting on the compassionate and charitably minded people in our community to come alongside in the absolute best of their ability and help us see this through. I can say that now, in the midst of building and fund-raising for this expansion, we have found our own organization filled with vigor, hope, and an abiding sense of the importance and magnitude of the work we are doing."

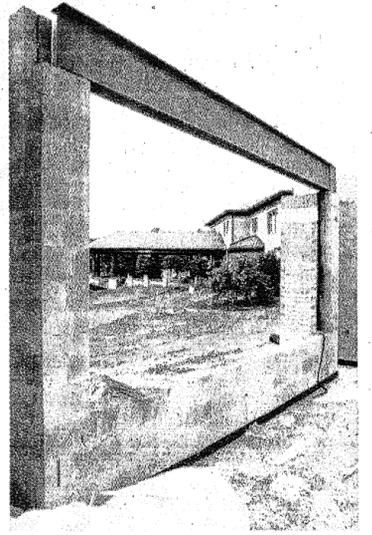
"This construction is a brick-and-mortar testimonial to our community that we will

do whatever it takes to support and help families during the most challenging and fragile time of life."

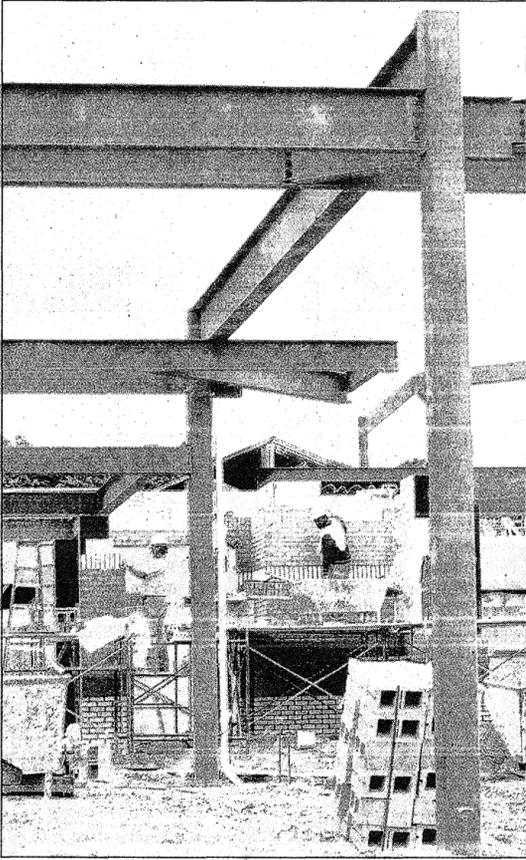
Also contributing is Mary Beth Moning, executive director of Angela Hospice. Her husband, Rory, is the hospice building manager and is overseeing construction work.

The couple has a construction background, and Mary Beth is well-versed in hospice operations, Alexander said.

Jobs are on the mind of many these days, and Alexander agreed there will be additional hiring when the new facility's done. To check, visit the Angela Hospice Web site, where job openings will be listed.



The existing facility is a large building, but will be dwarfed by the expansion.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Angela Hospice project will double the number of patient rooms.

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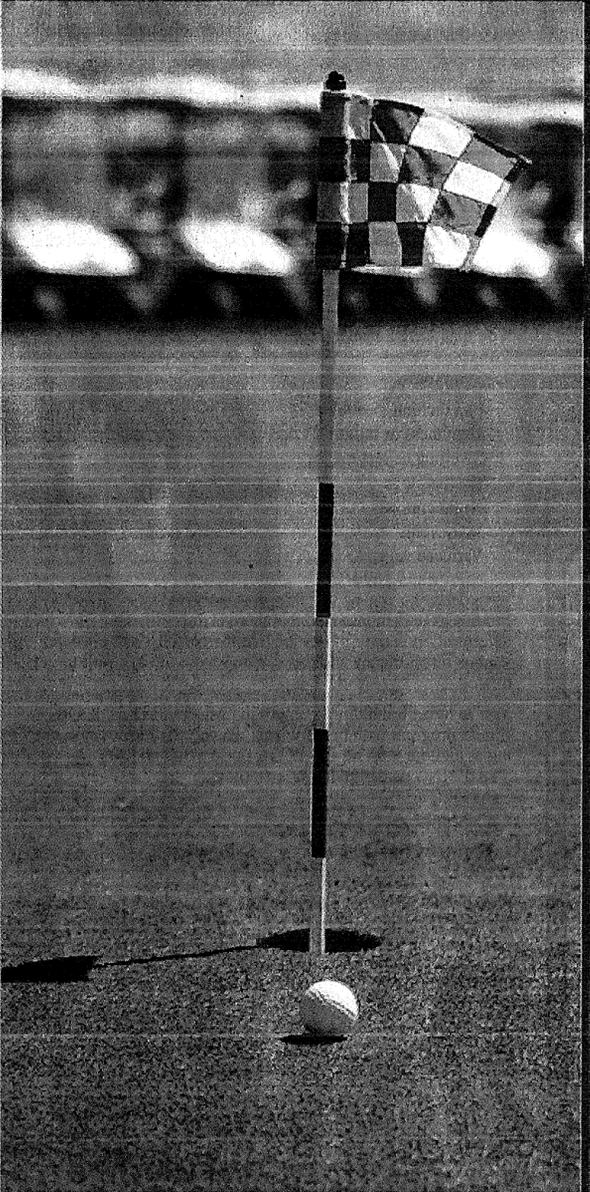
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DIRECT CARE, PART-TIME
Weekends a must. Must have a drivers license. Call Sheanell or Jennifer, Mon-Fri. btwn. 8-4PM: (248) 669-1702
DIRECT CARE STAFF
\$8.20 wages & benefits. Must be trained/valid license. 313-255-6295
DIRECT CARE STAFF
To work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland area. Call: 734-895-7148

ICE CREAM TRUCK DRIVER
Fastest Way to Make Money & Be Your Own Boss!! No training required! Lease a Good Hummer Truck to Increase your income!!
313-273-7090 Ext. 23

JANITORIAL COMPANY
seeking individuals for Cleaning & Westland areas. Part-Time Evenings, flexible hrs. Must be able to pass background check.
Call: 734-222-5902 x1
JOE'S PRODUCE/GOURMET MARKET is currently taking applications for experienced **LINE COOK, and SPECIALTY CHEESE PERSONNEL**
Please apply in person at: 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia

Help Wanted-General 5000
FRONT DESK CLERK
Afternoon & midnight
LAUNDRY PERSON
Both are FT & req. exp.
Apply in person: Holiday Inn Express Hotel 3950 S. Lotz Road, Canton. No phone calls.
GROUNDS PERSON
Seasonal needed for Westland apt. community. Some benefits available. Exp. preferred.
Please apply in person: 6737 N. Wayne Rd. Westland. No Faxes Please!

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
Accounting Clerk Entry Level
Manufacturing company with administrative office in Southfield is looking for an Entry Level Clerk to assist the Accounting Department. This full-time position requires helping the current staff in all areas of support related to the six US locations, as well as many ad hoc projects. Knowledge of Word and Excel programs required. Candidates can expect a compensation package that includes benefits such as medical and 401K.
Please email resume to: khrista@metroforming.net or fax to: 248-352-1172

BOOKKEEPER
PART-TIME for downtown Birmingham law firm. Must have exp. with Peachtree & Timeslips software. Minimum 3 yrs experience.
Email resume to: ma@m-apc.com

OFFICE HELP, PT
Flexible hrs. friendly phone voice. Computer skills.
vanurenaletr@hotmail.com
Fax: 734-453-3356

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Sat. accelerated classes beg. July-Aug 10-4pm. Garden City, Wyandotte and Southgate locations; \$925, including book. (313) 382-3857
Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
PHYSICIANS SIGN-ON BONUS
Needed with family practice, internal medicine or geriatric exp. Practice located in Southfield. Top pay, 9-10 patients per day, no weekends, no hospital rounds.
Call 877-531-9955
VPA
Visiting Physicians Association
Helping the General Public Live Better

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
RN:
Busy oncology clinic in Novi needs PT chemo infusion oncology RN able to work independently. Exp. with med-a-port access, protocols & mixing chemo. Fax resume to 248-324-2444
Or email mira@dshematologyoncology.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080
MANAGEMENT
• Unit Managers
• Shift Managers
19311 Farmington Road (North of 7 Mile Road)
Fax: (248) 478-3037
Or Email Resume to: livontamcd@aol.com
Teresa or Melissa (248) 478-4691

SERVERS-EXP'D. Day & Afternoon Shift. Apply at: Ram's Horn, 27235 Ford., Dearborn. Ask for Adale. 313-359-4800

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Sat. accelerated classes beg. July-Aug 10-4pm. Garden City, Wyandotte and Southgate locations; \$925, including book. (313) 382-3857
Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Help Wanted-Sales 5120
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales and can think big to take their place as part of our Advertising team!
• College degree or equivalent work experience in field sales.
• Proven sales track record.
• Have impeccable communication skills.
• Outstanding computer skills.
We offer base + commission and benefits in a work environment that is stimulating and fast-paced along with opportunities for career growth with Gannett Co. Inc.
Email resumes to employment@dnp.com
Fax to 313-496-4793
Attn: Sales EEOC
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
Position Wanted 5340

Education/Instruction 5600
Out of Work or Laid-off?
Find out how you may qualify for 100% PAID TUITION Get certified 6-12 months in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology & Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs starting now at New Horizons
Livonia: 1-866-307-1436
Troy: 1-888-223-7972
Job Placement assistance available-Grants accepted. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.

Divorce Services 5610
DIVORCE \$75.00
www.CSRdisability.com
CS&R 734-425-1074

It's all here!
Look in your CLASSIFIEDS
...It's all about results!
To Place An Ad Call:
800-579-SELL
www.hometownlife.com

Position Wanted 5340
"Caregiver Maid in Heaven"
Certified Geriatric Nurse; avail for days &/or part-time live-in. Exc. references. 734-844-8828
A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Education/Instruction 5600
Out of Work or Laid-off?
Find out how you may qualify for 100% PAID TUITION Get certified 6-12 months in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology & Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs starting now at New Horizons
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A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Observer & Eccentric Classified Advertising
hometownlife.com 1-800-579-SELL

Clean up in a down market.
With as little as \$2000 down, you can own a franchise in one of the leading commercial cleaning service companies in the world!
• Financing available • Comprehensive training
• Initial customer base • Billing & collection services
Call 248-504-4454 for more information, or visit www.coverall.com
COVERALL
Health-Based Cleaning System™
*This offering is made by prospectus only. Franchise opportunities range from \$2,000-\$27,000 down. See disclosure document for details. Limited guarantee.

NEWSPAPER POLICY
All advertising placed in this newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FIR Doc. 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES
0608649612

MARKETPLACE

HOMETOWNlife.com

GARAGE SALE
Turn your "junk" into someone else's treasure!
Now is the time to clean out those closets, basements & garages and turn those items into cash!
Place your ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers to reach thousands of bargain hunters & receive some FREE items too!

GARAGE SALE KIT INCLUDES:
• Signs • Price Stickers
• Inventory Sheets
• 2 pages of great advice for a successful sale
• 1 pass for 2 to Emagine Theatres
• Free 4 Square Buddy's Pizza
• Buddy's Food Discount Card
• Ad placed on hometownlife.com

Kits are available only with purchase of Garage Sale Package
To ensure delivery of kit in time of sale - place your ad early
O&E is not responsible for kits not received

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS
call **1-800-579-7355**
or visit **HOMETOWNlife.com**

Place your ad online at hometownlife.com & receive 2 PASSES for 4 to Emagine Theatre

Grab Your Scissors, Clip and Enjoy!

\$2.00 OFF the purchase of any LARGE COMBO at our Concession Stand
One coupon per purchase - not valid with other coupons. No cash value. Offer expires 11-01-09

\$3.00 OFF ANY 8 SQUARE CHEESE PIZZA
*Offer not valid with any other coupon or discount.
**One coupon per person, per pizza, per table.

EMAGINE
THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE
EMAGINE CANTON
39535 Ford Road, just East of I-275
EMAGINE NOVI
44425 W. 12 Mile Road, 1/2 mile West of Novi Road
TO PURCHASE TICKETS and for SHOWTIMES LOG ON TO
www.emagine-entertainment.com
OR CALL 888-319-FILM (3456)

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Detroit 313-892-9001 • Warren 586-574-9200
Farmington Hills 248-855-4600 • Livonia 734-261-3550
Dearborn 313-562-5900 • Auburn Hills 248-276-9040
Carry-out/Cafe
Pointe Plaza 313-884-7400
Carry-out Only
Royal Oak 248-549-9000 • Bloomfield Hills 248-645-0300
Join Our Email club at www.buddyspizza.com

6000-6980
Announcements
LOOK HERE
Personals 6000

LOOK
Multiple Sclerosis Patients
Age 18-70, M/F, needed for research. Paid for opinion.
Call: (248) 661-5903

Happy Ads 6020

Congratulations Dorothy Hinkle Mom & Grandma on your 90th Birthday on the 4th of July. We love you & are proud of you. Donna, John, Ron, Johnnie & Jill

Showers of Great Deals in your Classifieds!

Garage Sales 7110
FARMINGTON-HUGE SALE!
July 11th 10-4pm. Many household goods. 31743 Folkstone, N. of Grand River, W. of Orchard Lk.

7000-7780
Merchandise
Absolutely Free 7000

FREE PAST ISSUES OF SMITHSONIAN & DISCOVER
248-486-2915
LANDSCAPE BRICK
Commercial size for retaining wall, with caps. Approx 60 pieces. Call: (734) 451-1123

Auction Sales 7060

Notice is hereby given that on July 22, 2009 at 2:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center, 39205 Ford Rd, Westland, MI 48185. Unit (s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreational Items and/or Misc. Goods.
#091 Keith Smith; #140 Michael Glenn; #402 Tangela Simpson; #154 Jerome D. Cleaves; #227 Gregory Parks; #236 Keith Eugene Nelson.
7100 Estate Sales 7100

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Huge Estate Sale. Furniture, household items. Reasonable Prices. Fri. & Sat. July 10 & 11, 10-4pm. 85 N. Berkshire St. Square Lake/Woodward.

Garage Sales 7110
FARMINGTON-HUGE SALE!
July 11th 10-4pm. Many household goods. 31743 Folkstone, N. of Grand River, W. of Orchard Lk.

Garage Sales 7110
FARMINGTON - July 9-11th; Thurs & Fri 10-4pm. Sat. 10-2pm. 33820 State St. 2 bks W of Farmington Rd/Grand River
GARDEN CITY - Gigantic sale! July 10-12th, 10-5pm. 12 string guitar, Star Wars watches, Obama coins, glassware, pots & pans, kitchen tables, upholstering material, bikes, cameras, records, doll hair, clothing (1x-3x), Nascar's excellent condition, half off, tools, wheel barrel & lots more! 30835 Rosslyn, btwn Ford Rd & Cherry Hill, E. off Merriman
LIVONIA - 35471 Veri, 7 Mile & Wayne. July 9-11, 9-5pm. Pool table, furniture, home decor and much more!

LIVONIA - 9060 Denne, E of Merriman, N of Joy, July 9-10, Thurs-Fri, 9-7 Furniture, misc items, stereo, men's tall clothing & more.
LIVONIA - July 9-10th, 9-5pm 14306 Houghton, Livonia S of 5 Mile, W of Newburgh. LARGE Furniture, toys, clothes, & misc.
LIVONIA: July 9-11th 8-6pm. 17671 Bell Creek Lane, E of Farmington Rd., just N off 6 Mile Rd. Books, furniture, old toys & lots of old stuff.

LIVONIA MULTI FAMILY
14509 & 14521 Richfield. Wed-Sat, July 8-11, 8:30-5. 5 Mile & Newburgh, off Lyndon. Furniture, clothes, household, toys, games & misc.

LIVONIA Multi-Family - July 9-11, 9-3pm. 11426 Ingram, Plymouth & Merriman. Women's clothes (14-18), baby clothes & toys, books, knickknacks, furniture & more!

ROCHESTER
Huge Subdivision Garage Sale (Villages of Country Creek), NW corner of Silverbell & Adams. July 9-11, 9am-4pm.

Moving Sales 7130
Farmington ESTATE SALE
Thurs-Sat July 9-10-11 9-4pm 36261 Smithfield S of Grand River. Between Drake and Halsted in Chatham Hills. Follow signs. Shows like a designer's warehouse. Spread over 3 levels. Every room filled with desirable furniture, accessories, art, rugs, grandfather clock, piano, kitchen items, jewelry, collectibles, model cars (pewter) tools, yard equipment, garden accessories, refrigerator, holiday items, and much more.
DON'T MISS THIS ONE everything must go.
248-755-0498

Household Goods 7160
DINING TABLE - Beautiful Solid Teak, plus 6 teak rattan chairs; 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft, plus 2 extensions, 3ft by 2 ft each. \$650/best offer; pick up; pictures avail. Call: 248-592-1726
LAMPS - 2 Beautiful stained glass hanging lamps. 16" diameter cream & gold; \$100. 20" diameter light green; \$200. Plymouth Twp. 734-416-3848

MISCELLANEOUS 7160
Professional Detecto Weight Scale \$35; 2 Twin Size Box Spring and Mattress \$55 each; King Size Box Spring \$55; Dehumidifier \$85; Stove \$85; Dryer \$85; Fridge \$100. 248-465-0262

Appliances 7180
CHEST FREEZER-GE 7 CU FT
3 months old, was \$210, now \$150 or best offer.
Call: (248) 486-0888

Hospital/Medical Equipment 7460
ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR
Excel condition, \$700.
Call: (313) 937-0754

Jewelry 7470
WATCH-LADIES TISSOT
Stainless steel, sapphire crystal, 10 diamonds, mother of pearl face, original collector's box. Extended warranty until 12/09, \$250. (734) 812-7336

Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment 7480
LAWNMOWER
Grasshopper Riding Mower Model 725 with a 51 in. deck. \$4000. 248-978-3246 Call between 9am and 9pm.

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500
AWNING - MARYGROVE, 10ft by 14ft, 2 years old, color-linen, remote control, \$850. Call Jim: (313) 938-8037

Musical Instruments 7510
CASH FOR GUITARS
All musical instruments wanted. Any Cond. Will Pick Up! 248-842-5064

Dogs 7840
DACHSHUND PUPPIES
Home raised, miniature, smooth, male & females. No reasonable offer refused! Call: (734) 53-1215

Dogs 7840
English Bulldog
Fully AKC reg. shot, up to date vet checked, 11 weeks old. Email: jason.jones101@yahoo.com. \$650. 734-462-1043
LAB MIX
80% lab, black, 6 mos old male w/shots. Housebroken. \$50. Call 734-261-1732

MINIATURE F1 LABRADOODLE PUPPY
13 weeks old, CKC papers, Avail now, \$600. labradooodlepups.webs.com 734-838-9992
Miniature Pinschers-AKC
Black/Tan & Chocolate/Tan, adorable, \$400-\$500. 313-295-3921, 313-802-2240

SCWT PUPPIES-AKC
Blood and urine checked, first shots and worming completed. \$1,200. Colleen 313-530-7536

Lost - Pets 7930
BEAGLE MIX - Sun 6/28, last seen in Hines Park btwn Newburgh & Lavan. Female, micro chipped, has tags. 248-421-2952
LOST: Young Cat, on 5-31, black, female, had a green collar & tag, but may be missing. Near Cherry Hill & Lotz, but could be further. 734-397-8187

Earn extra money!
Advertise in Observer & Eccentric

To place an ad call:
1-800-579-SELL
or fax:
734-953-2232

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By selling your vehicle or the items in your garage and attic which are collecting dust!

Advertise 1 item of merchandise for As little as \$19.99*! Your item will be advertised in the paper & online for 2 weeks

Advertise one vehicle for As little as \$29.99*! Your vehicle will be advertised in the paper & online for 2 weeks!

Put cash in your wallet by calling us today!

OBSERVER ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES
www.hometownlife.com
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
1-800-579-7355
*4 line minimum, additional lines may be added for extra cost. Limited time special.

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Warrior princess
- 5 Eggplant color
- 9 Portly
- 12 Bakery purchase
- 13 Eat away at
- 14 - Baba
- 15 Take a whiff
- 17 Gave, as floorboards
- 19 Workable
- 21 Good-natured
- 22 Show off the biceps
- 24 Behold!
- 25 Postal Creed word
- 26 E-mail server
- 27 Sleeve type
- 29 Half of XII
- 31 Prim
- 32 Lb. fraction
- 33 Cairo loc.
- 34 She-lobster
- 35 Dorothy's aunt
- 36 Slices

DOWN

- 1 Big sweaters
- 2 Immeasurable time
- 3 Ingenuously
- 4 Glue on
- 5 Movie rating
- 6 Clear, as a drain
- 7 Mind

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PLAY SUMS HAI
BONA WRAP EN
STEM ELIA ATM
SWAMPS CEDE
HIT TEA
LAMAS AA RIDE
OLD TAIN TEN
BASE UL OHARE
COG MUY
RIOT GARDEN
BIC HUNT RTES
ACE ETAT ONCE
TAD RATE SAKI

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42	43			44					45	
46			47						48	49
51			52		53				54	
55			56						57	

SUDOKU

	6		5	1	3	9		
8	3	2					5	
			8				6	7
		9	2			3	8	1
2	4			3				5
6	1							2
4			6				2	
			3		1			
	2	7	4	9	8	1		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| BLUE | DEPRESSED | MISERABLE |
| BUMMED | GLOOMY | SAD |
| CRUSHED | HAPLESS | SOMBER |
| DEJECTED | LOW | UNHAPPY |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

W D E P R E S E D G
D E P R E S S E D H
E J C R U L B L U E
H E Y W S O M B E R
S C P E C W S A D X
U T P U N H A R P P
R E A B U M M E D L
C D H A P L E S S E
R F N G L O M I D S
Z O U G L O O M Y S

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

9	7	4	8	6	7	3	2	5
6	5	3	1	2	8	9	4	7
4	8	1	9	5	7	2	6	3
2	6	4	5	8	7	3	1	9
9	5	7	6	3	8	1	2	4
1	7	8	2	6	4	3	9	5
5	7	9	4	2	8	1	6	3
8	3	2	9	7	6	5	1	4
7	6	4	5	1	3	9	2	8

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND

S	X	L	M	O	T	G	U	Z
R	F	N	G	I	O	M	D	S
C	D	H	A	P	L	E	S	S
R	E	A	B	U	M	M	E	D
L	P	U	N	H	A	R	P	P
X	C	W	S	A	D	X		
S	C	P	E	C	W	S	A	D
H	E	Y	W	S	O	M	B	E
B	J	C	R	U	L	B	L	U
D	E	P	R	E	S	S	E	D
W	D	E	P	R	E	S	E	D

REAL ESTATE

HOMETOWNlife.com

3000-3890
Real Estate For Sale

Condos 3720
FARMINGTON HILLS- Senior condo. Immaculate 1 bdrm, walk-in shower, eat-in kitchen, sunroom. Low maintenance fee. \$54,900. 734-422-2071

Mobile Homes 3750
Drastic Price Reduction Farmington Hills 1 & 2 bdrm, carpeting, appliances, in accessible convenient location. We will finance qualified buyers. Call 248-474-2131.

MOVE IN NOW
OWN YOUR HOME
\$300 PER MONTH
FREE LOT RENT
734.595.7535

Open Houses 3030

CANTON- 623 Pinehurst Dr. Sub on Cherry Hill & Canton Ctr. 3,000 sq. ft. plus a fin. bsmt, great location! \$295,000. Open Sun. 1-4pm

Manufactured Homes 3740
HUGE DISCOUNTS ON REPOSSESSED HOMES!
EASY FINANCING AVAILABLE!
Call Steve @ (734) 414-9760 in Plymouth Hills

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or you can visit us online at www.hometownlife.com

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1-800-579-SELL
...that little extra you sometimes need!

HOME & SERVICE

HOMETOWNlife.com

0001-2450
Home & Service Guide

Carpet Cleaning/Dyeing 0430
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Chimney Cleaning/ Building & Repair 0480

Floor Service 0860
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Housecleaning 1080
DEB'S HOME AND COMMERCIAL CLEANING Bonded and Insured. Reliable. Regular or one time cleanings. Call Deb at: 248-890-3800

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• **PAINTING BY MICHAEL** • HIGHEST QUALITY Interior/ Exterior • Staining • Textured Ceilings • Faux Finish • Plaster/ Drywall Repair • Wallpaper Removal • Deck Staining • Aluminum Siding Refinishing • Free Est. • 248-349-7499 734-464-8147

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Concrete 0550

Handyman M/F 1020
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COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACOURE SERVICES Spring clean-ups, landscaping, grading, sodding, hydro-seeding, all types retaining walls, brick walks & patios. Drainage & lawn irrigation systems, low foundations built up. Weekly lawn maintenance. Haul away unwanted items. Comm. Res. 35 years exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est. www.lacoureservices.com 248-489-5955, 248-521-8818

Pressure Power Washing 1530
Maitly Brothers Complete Power Washing Inc "Your Deck & Power Washing Specialists". Call 734-751-4862

LAYMOR ASPHALT PAVING Commercial & Residential Free estimates! 800-695-1505
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Decks/Patios/Sunrooms 0600
AFFORDABLE Custom Decks Free Est. On All Improvement Lic./Ins. 20 years exp. 734-261-1614, 248-442-2744

Drywall 0690
COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV. Plaster repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free est. 26 yrs. exp. Mark 313-363-6738

Shrub Trimming, Clean-Up, Decorative Mulch, Design, Lawn Cutting \$10 & Up. Lic. & Ins. (734) 679-0637
Moving/Storage 1380

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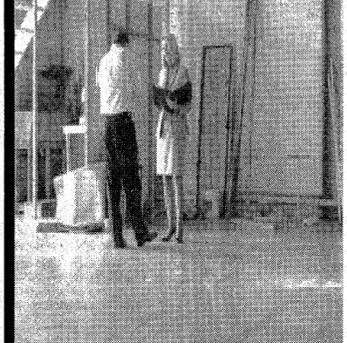
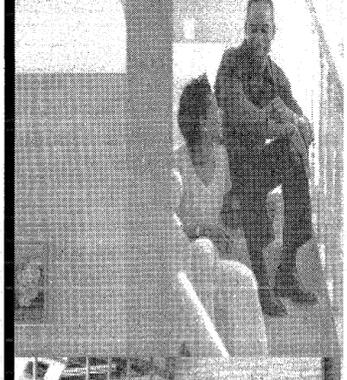
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Escape Hybrid Limited: A "Green" SUV With All The Trimmings

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and Allopinionsallthetime.com

The biggest knock on SUVs has always been that they're not good for the environment; they use up too much gas and they pollute the air more than standard cars. Even so, some drivers want the extra room and towing capacity they can only get with an SUV, even if it means shelling out a little (or a lot) more on gas than the average car owner.

Gasoline/electric hybrid vehicles have been around for a few years now, the most famous being the Toyota Prius. The hybrid trend has started to seep over to the SUV market, and Ford started taking advantage a few years ago with the Escape Hybrid. This year, Ford has added a new version to the Escape Hybrid line-up, the Limited.

The Escape Hybrid Limited comes as either a front-wheel or all-wheel drive model and Ford claims it's the cleanest and most fuel-efficient SUV in the world. It's a full hybrid, meaning it automatically switches between pure electric, pure gasoline, or whatever combination of the two it needs to operate at its most efficient. The Escape Hybrid runs 99.4 percent cleaner, on average, than an unregulated vehicle, according to Ford, and it meets Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle and Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle standards. This will have more impact when we have a third party, someone independent, verifying claims such as this one.

It's powered by a new 2.5-liter I-4 gasoline engine designed to run on the Atkinson combustion cycle, and a 70-k Watt electric traction motor, plus a generator motor to start the engine, recharge the batteries and regulate how the two engines blend together in the transaxle.

A new engine processor helps regulate the switch between the gasoline and the electric modes. On its own, the gasoline engine produces 153 horsepower; combined, the two engines produce 177 horsepower.

There's a 330-volt nickel-metal-hydrate battery pack located and sealed at the rear load floor to store electrical energy. The engines are mated to a special electronically controlled continuously variable automatic transmission.

Acceleration is fair, but you make up for that by some stunning fuel economy numbers: 34 city/31 highway miles per gallon (29/27 for the AWD version). That's not a misprint.

Unlike with conventional engines, hybrids actually get better mileage numbers in city-type, stop-and-go driving, where the electric engine can do the lion's share of the work. On the highway, the gasoline engine takes over; even so, 30 miles per gallon is pretty impressive for an SUV.

The ride itself is hushed, particularly when stopped in traffic. The gas engine cuts out while driving under 25 mph, and while sitting at a light, you'd swear the engine was turned off. While moving, the Escape Hybrid still provides a good ride. The front suspension is a MacPherson strut system with coil springs and stabilizer bar. The rear system is fully independent with lateral links and stabilizer bar.

Handling is a mixed bag. I found the power-assisted steering system a bit on the "light" side, but it takes very little effort to effectively steer. The turning circle is a big, though, so maneuvering in tight spaces can be a problem. The hybrid's braking system also has been upgraded from last year, with a new



Ford claims the Escape Hybrid Limited is the cleanest and most fuel-efficient SUV in the world.

brake pedal sensor. The anti-lock braking system is very good.

Inside, the Limited version of the Escape Hybrid comes with leather-trimmed seats. The seats can be heated. They are comfortable and provide good support. The driver's seat is power-adjustable. The Hybrid Limited comes with dual-zone automatic climate control, cruise control, power windows, rear window defroster, and tilt steering wheel.

There's a nice top-of-dash display center that gives you the date, the time, radio settings and climate control information. You can follow the performance of the hybrid system with a gauge system that shows when the vehicle is running on battery power, the levels of battery charging taking place.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/satellite/CD system that includes an auxiliary input jack for your mp3 player. You can get the optional navigation system (\$2,395). Ford does a nice job with its navigation systems - this one is easy to read and use. Ford's "Sync" system is also included; it's a voice-activation system for the audio system and your Bluetooth-enabled cell phone, for hands-free yakking. A power moon roof with shade is also standard on the Limited.

One of the reasons one buys an SUV is for room, and there is plenty in the Escape Hybrid. The rear seats fold down in a 60/40 configuration and if you fold the seats down, you'll get more than 65 cubic feet of cargo space.

Ford includes its Safety Canopy side curtain airbag system on the Escape Hybrid.

Also included are seat-mounted side airbags, dual-stage driver and passenger airbags and a tire-pressure monitoring system.

On the outside, the Escape Hybrid is a tough-looking SUV. It looks like it's ready to chew up the road. It comes with 16-inch wheels, a roof rack, power outside mirrors and fog lamps. It's also badged with special insignia to tell the world you're driving a hybrid.

So how much does all this environmental consciousness cost? The base price for the front-wheel drive 2009 Ford Escape Hybrid Limited is a about \$32,000. Add the navigation system and destination charge, and you're at about \$35,000. That's in the right price range for a midsize SUV, particularly when you realize you're going to be saving some money at the gas pump.

If you just have to have an SUV but you'd like to "green up" a bit, make sure you take a look at the Ford Escape Hybrid Limited.

Dave Menard reviews cars for allopinionsallthetime.com and Avanti NewsFeatures. He can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

2009 Ford Escape Hybrid Limited
Vehicle class: Special purpose SUV.
Power: 2.5-liter, 4-cylinder gasoline engine / 70 kilowatt electric engine hybrid.
Mileage: 34 city / 31 highway.
Where built: Claycomo, MO.
Base price: \$31,975.
Price as tested: \$35,095.

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