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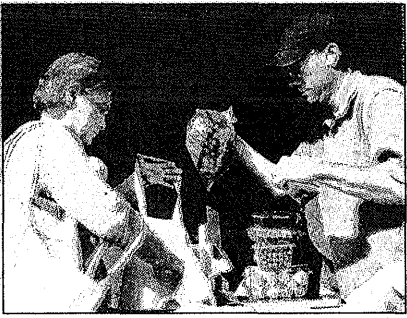
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Retirement a
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Local news, A6

PIPELINE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Medonis, of Dave and Marlene's Produce, bags produce for customer Shaina Johnson, at the Plymouth Farmer's Market.

Sidewalk sales

"Shop Local! Shop Downtown Plymouth!" will be the theme when the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and downtown merchants present the annual Plymouth Sidewalk Sales 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, July 24, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 25.

Sidewalk Sales where merchants will put their best deals of the year out on the sidewalks. Downtown Plymouth features a wide variety of unique shops and galleries that will be offering special discounts and bargains.

In addition to the Sidewalk Sales, downtown Plymouth will also host the weekly Farmer's Market 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 25. The Farmer's Market is held in The Gathering, on the north side of Kellogg Park.

For more information, call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.

Pathway pickup

Join the Friends of the I-275 Pathway for trail cleanup day Saturday, July 18.

The second cleanup of the summer will be in Canton Township on the section of the trail south of Ford Road. The group will meet at 9 a.m. at the rest stop on the northbound side of I-275 north of Michigan Avenue.

Volunteers should bring clippers, pruners, tree-loppers, sickles, or any kind of hand tool to trim trees and cut back brush, wear work gloves, long pants and long-sleeved shirts, and bring a bike to get from your car to the work site.

Water and a light snack will be available. In case of heavy rain, the cleanup day will be pushed back to Sunday. For more information call Dave Duffield at (248) 994-3074 or visit the Friends of the I-275 Pathway on Yahoo! groups or Facebook.

The I-275 Pathway is a 40-mile multi-use recreational trail that parallels the freeway in Oakland, Wayne and Monroe counties. The trail runs through or near some of the most populated communities in southeast Michigan, including Novi, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville Township, Canton Township and Monroe. It links to many nonmotorized paths in these communities, and could ultimately serve as a backbone to the entire southeast Michigan recreational trail system.

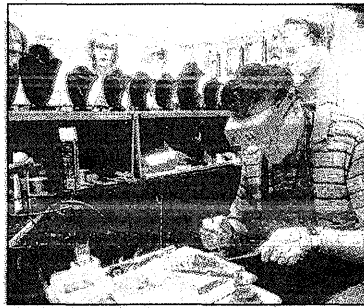
A taste for art



Patti Young of Sylvan Lake and Helen Scarpelli of Waterford carry their shade with them on the opening day of Art In The Park in downtown Plymouth.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crowds flock to Art in the Park opening



Silversmith Robert Ramaglia works on his craft during Plymouth's Art in the Park Friday. His spouse, Eileen Ramaglia, takes care of the art fair customers. The couple's business is Ye Olde Silversmith, based in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a large crowd of visitors and a no-show by a predicted thunderstorm, Friday's Art in the Park opening was a good day.

Make than a "G'day." That was the line Jim Godfrey, of Godfrey's Australian Hats, used to greet visitors to his booth on Main Street, where he sold wide-brimmed, Outback-style hats that he, wife Mary Lou and son Jeff make by hand in Cape Coral, Fla. It was Godfrey's eighth trip to Art in the Park.

"The folks up here are very nice people," he said.

Godfrey has been making hats for 20 years and used to work for a wholesaler. He's been making the rounds of art shows for about



Six-year-old Ava Mitchell creates a candle at Candle Creations.

Please see **ART, A3**

Project promotes shopping locally

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nearly three dozen downtown Plymouth business owners are putting a new twist on a slogan from the environmental movement: Think globally, spend locally.

The 3/50 Project, a nationwide marketing and educational effort that emphasizes the positive effects of supporting local independent businesses, is taking off in Plymouth thanks to the owner of a downtown stationery store, who has been joined by more than 30 other businesses.

"It makes a lot of sense," said Tanja Kulajta Winn, the owner of R.S.V.P. on Penniman, which sells stationery, fine paper and gifts.

The 3/50 Project, which began in Minneapolis, Minn., is named for the ideas that people should pick three independently owned businesses they'd miss the most and patronize them, and should spend \$50 a month in local, independent businesses. If half the employed population did that, organizers say, it would generate \$42.6 billion in revenue.

Kulajta Winn said downtown Plymouth is fortunate to already have a lot of dedicated supporters who visit and spend there regularly, and that she sees the 3/50 Project locally as a sort of thank-you to them.

"I don't think they realize what a difference they make," she said.

Participating Plymouth businesses have chipped in to buy yard signs, Kulajta Winn said, that are intended to spark interest in the 3/50 Project. Between the people who already shop regularly in Plymouth and newcomers who ask about the project and stop in at local stores, Kulajta Winn, she hopes the 3/50 Project's ideas will spread.

It's also a way, she said, for independent business to band together to create a larger identity for themselves that major chain businesses already have.

"The minute a chain hangs their sign out front, there's instant recognition," she said.

Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority is assisting locally with the 3/50 Project. DDA assistant operations director John Buzuvis said some rollout events are planned for later this summer.

"It's not a hard sell," Buzuvis said. "We're not hard-selling anybody to buy this brand or that brand."

For more on the 3/50 Project, visit the Web site www.the350project.net.

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Drowning victim was skilled, pitched in for friends

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth Township man who drowned in Lake Erie on Monday while trying to swim back to his drifting boat was remembered as a warm and inspiring friend who was always willing to use his technical and mechanical skills to help others.

Allan Socall, 65, "lived and breathed computers," had restored a boat he called Sojourn, operated a ham radio and radio-controlled airplanes and pitched in on friends' household projects, said James Schnurstein, who was swimming with Socall in a Lake Erie inlet on Monday afternoon when Socall disappeared.

The men were swimming in an inlet called Banana Bay when Socall's 28-foot boat drifted away, said Capt. MaryAnne Ortman of the Monroe County Sheriff's

Department. Schnurstein swam to a rocky wall, Ortman said, while Socall apparently tried to swim to the boat and disappeared.

A massive search by several law-enforcement agencies, including by divers, failed to find Socall on Monday and Tuesday, but his body was spotted by fisherman Wednesday night in the vicinity of the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area.

A Michigan State Police trooper recovered the body, said Ortman, and Socall was identified on Thursday by his ex-wife.

Schnurstein, 68, also of Plymouth Township, said he had known Socall for about a decade.

Socall was retired from the former Michigan Bell telephone company, he said, and had worked with computers since the 1960s. He had helped many of his friends with their own comput-

ers, he said.

Socall had also restored an old Criss Craft boat, Schnurstein said, though it was not the one the two had taken from Grosse Ile, where Socall docked his boats, down to Monroe County on Monday.

Socall was a spiritual man, Schnurstein said, but didn't wear religion on his sleeve.

"None of us every heard him preach his values on us," he said. Schnurstein was helping plan a prayer service in Socall's memory, which was to be held Saturday at the Plymouth Canton Alano Club on North Sheldon. He said he expected about 200 people to attend.

A more formal service was planned for the middle of the week, but details were still pending on Friday.

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The driver of the Ford Fusion apparently disregarded the signals and drove around the gate.

'I'll never forget'

Car-train collision claims 5 young lives

BY DARRELL CLEM AND BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy stepped away from the wreckage of Thursday's car-train accident that took five young lives and, with a sad turn of his head, summed up what many of the rescue workers, EMTs and police/fire officials were likely feeling.

"I'll never forget what I just saw," LaJoy said.

What he saw was the carnage that occurred when the driver of a Ford Fusion tried to beat an oncoming, 530-ton Amtrak train traveling nearly 70 mph at the Canton Township railroad crossing at Hannan. Video footage obtained by a local company showed the driver trying to get around another car and then the crossing gate and being struck shortly after noon, police said.

The impact was such that the train ended up pushing the car nearly a mile.

The victims — four males and one female — ranged in age from 14 to 21. The five, all pronounced dead at the scene, included Jessica Sadler, 14, of Wayne; Eddie Gross, 18 of Taylor; Sean Harris, 19, of

the Detroit area; his brother, Terrence Harris of Stafford, Va.; and Daniel Broughton, 19, of Woodhaven.

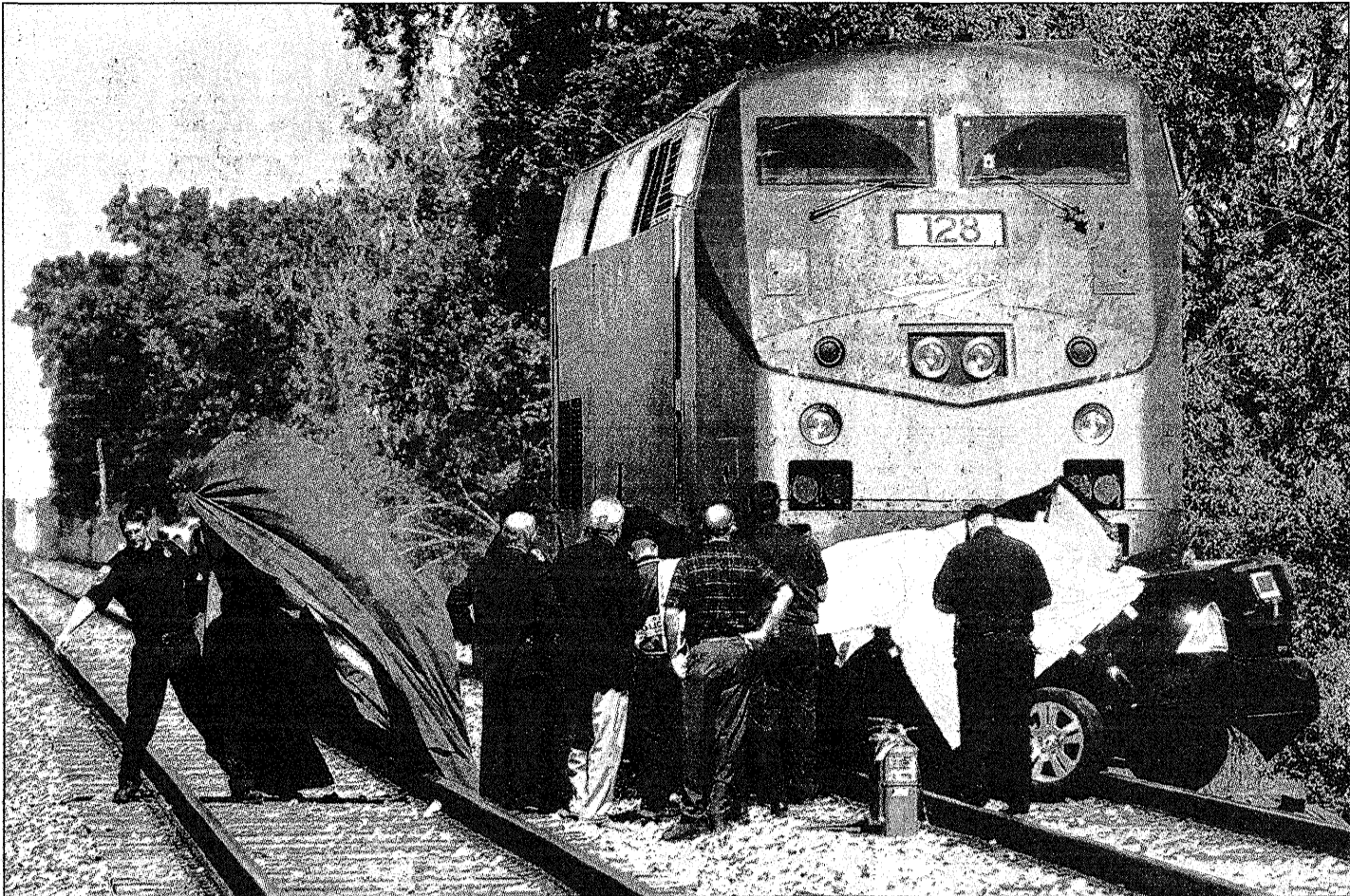
Broughton, the driver, had had his driver's license suspended for various traffic issues.

The train was traveling with nearly 170 passengers headed for Chicago. It had left the Dearborn station and likely had reached nearly 70 mph when the collision occurred, Amtrak officials said.

According to Canton Police spokesman Sgt. Mark Gajeski, witnesses had indicated — and the video footage from the local company later confirmed — the driver of the Fusion had tried to get around the crossing gates, which were down, with the crossing lights also working.

Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said it didn't appear the train crew could have done anything to avoid hitting the car as it was crossing the tracks.

"It's very tragic, certainly for the family and friends of the people in the vehicle, but also for our crew," Chicago-based Magliari said. "It appears that there were no reports of any malfunctions on the part of the train.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The train with more than 160 passengers leaves for Dearborn. The engine involved in the crash stays during the initial investigation. At center left, Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy views the wrecked Ford Fusion. Standing to his right is Public Safety Director John Santomauro.



This view east from the I-275 bike path shows the train and wrecked vehicle stopped at Lotz Road after the collision that happened farther east at Hannan Road.

There's nothing they can do to stop vehicles from disregarding warnings about an approaching train."

Bodies of the victims remained in the car for some five hours while accident investigators went about their

investigation. After some four hours, the passenger cars of the train were detached from the engine and taken back to

Dearborn, where they boarded another train. "Obviously, this is a tremendous tragedy," LaJoy said.

Collision energizes talks about railroad safeguards

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The train-car collision that killed five people in Canton on Thursday afternoon has rekindled talks over making railroad crossing barriers more difficult for drivers to ignore.

Michigan became the first state in the nation to install a new barricade system that, when a train is approaching, triggers vertical devices that rise out of the road, both in front of drivers and in the median, said Michigan Department of Transportation spokeswoman Janet Foran.

"It comes up in the center line and in front of you in an 'L' shape," she said Friday.

MDOT has installed the barricade system on one Denton Road crossing in Van Buren Township, but it isn't currently working properly and has delayed efforts to expand the scope of the project, she said.

"We're having some mechanical and electrical issues at this point," Foran said, "so the study is being delayed at this point. We don't have plans at any other crossings at this time."

The barricades, when working, further discourage motorists from driving around lowered crossing gates — a maneuver blamed for a horrific crash that claimed the lives of five young people on Hannan Road near Michigan Avenue.

Ideally, the vertical devices, or delineators, would rise across all lanes of traffic and for a few car lengths along the median. They are housed in self-contained, modular cartridges recessed in the ground, and MDOT officials say they are easy to install.

The project stems from a safety test by MDOT, the Federal Railroad Administration and Norfolk Southern Railway.

Foran's remarks came on



PHOTO COURTESY MDOT

Michigan became the first state in the nation to install a new barricade system that, when a train is approaching, triggers vertical devices that rise out of the road, both in front of drivers and in the median, said Michigan Department of Transportation spokeswoman Janet Foran.

the same day that Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro said he couldn't recall in recent times a single

accident in Canton that involved as many deaths as Thursday's crash — and certainly not one that involved a

train.

Santomauro stressed the importance of obeying railroad crossing regulations and other traffic safety laws.

"From a simple traffic safety standpoint, we emphasize over and over and over again the importance of traffic safety," he said. "This is an unfortunate and horrific reminder to people that you have to obey traffic laws, and there are immediate consequences if you don't do that."

Santomauro called Thursday's accident "another tragedy" involving people who disregard railroad crossing gates.

"You're not going to beat the train," he said, and in more cases than not, "it will be fatal."

Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said Friday afternoon that authorities were awaiting conclusive toxicology results, and authorities didn't know whether alcohol — or simply

poor judgment — may have been a factor in the crash.

Moreover, a video camera from a business near the scene revealed that the railroad crossing gates were working properly, Gajeski said, and the Amtrak train was traveling within the legal speed.

Marc Magliari, a Chicago-based Amtrak spokesman, said Illinois also has initiated efforts to improve railroad crossing safety, partly by using four crossing gate arms rather than two in some places. He also said that state has installed some median barriers in certain places, although Foran said the specific system in Van Buren Township was the first in the nation.

Officials concede that no barricade system is perfect, but they said efforts will continue to try to improve railroad crossing safety.

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ART

FROM PAGE A1

10 years, visiting about 20 a year. Godfrey's Australian Hats are available in cowhide, buffalo hide, tightly woven burlap, oiled cotton and cotton duck.

Despite the throngs, Godfrey said business was slow. "I understand the economy's bad," he said.

There was another factor, too, Godfrey said: Friday afternoon. "The men are working," he said. "The men are the ones who wear the hats."

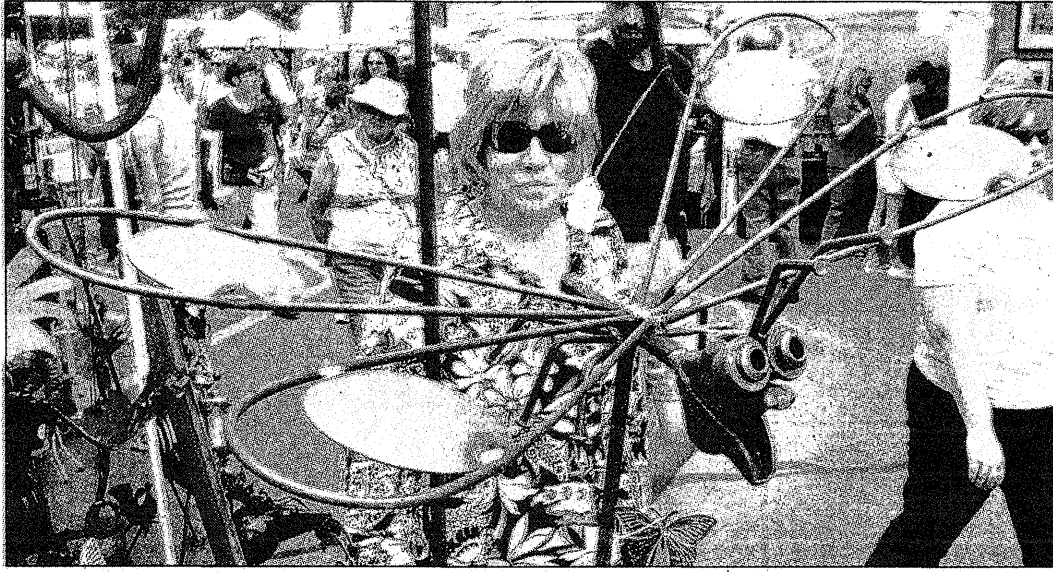
Godfrey joined hundreds of other artisans at the 30th annual Art in the Park, which has grown from just 30 exhibitors when it began in 1980 to about 400 today. There were jewelry-makers, potters, metalworkers, water colorists, musicians, woodworkers, a caricaturist and at least one other hatmaker.

Elaine Cavin of Northville, who said she's been making the annual Art in the Park trek for at least 10 years, said she thought she'd beat the crowds by visiting on a Friday. "But I was wrong," she said.

Cavin has a close friend in San Francisco whose birthday is later in July, and she will typically pick out a present for her friend at Art in the Park.

Last year, it was a decorative lead-glass piece. "She loved it," Cavin said.

Woodworker Dennis Hinklin of Kalamazoo, who



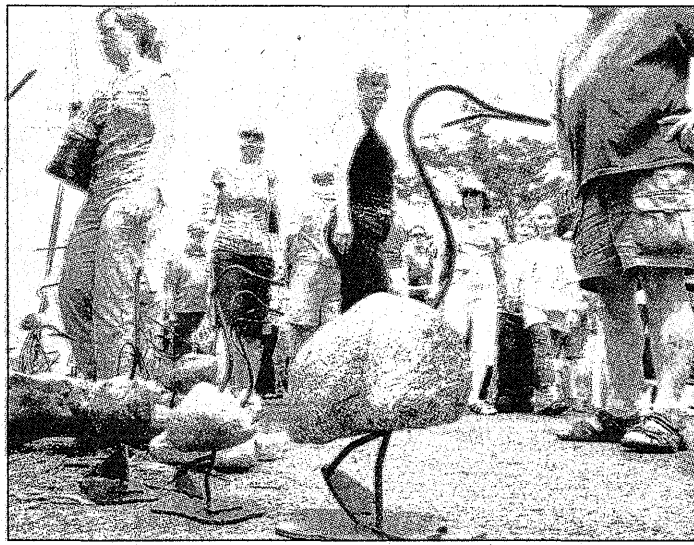
Sandi Popeney of Canton looks at the creations made by Yardbirds, of Louisville, Ky.

uses lasers to cut three-dimensional maps of lakes and lake towns, said his first exhibition at Art in the Park in 2006 was extremely successful. Hinklin has also visited art shows in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana, he said, selling maps of lakes that would be familiar to the locals.

"People who live on the lakes love their lakes," said his wife, Wanda. "It's just an ideal present for them."

Art in the Park continues in downtown Plymouth 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today (Sunday) in the downtown area, which will be closed to vehicles for the event. For more information, visit the Web site www.artinthepark.com

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Francis Metal works produces waterbird sculptures from rocks and iron.



Art In The Park had good crowds early Friday afternoon.

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EDUCATION

Students, staffers honored by board

Several staff members at Discovery Middle School were involved in saving the life of a track runner earlier this year, and at a recent meeting of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, they were honored for their efforts.

The staff members - Roche LaVictor, Terry Sawchuck, Steve Roth, Rob Lindman, Ariel Domke and Joe Zugaj - were honored with a Proclamation of Recognition signed by all seven school board members and Superintendent Craig Fiegel for their efforts.

The praise revolved around a runner who collapsed on the track. District officials, who weren't aware the student had a heart condition, kept the youngster alive until EMS workers could respond.

"It was due to training and good decisions being made that we were able to save a life," LaVictor told the board. "It was something I hadn't been involved with and I'm not sure I would want to again. It was nice to be able to be a part of saving a student's life."

At the same meeting, East Middle Schooler Stephanie Porcari was honored for her academic success, including her penchant for mentoring and helping other students.

Board member Tom Wysocki presented Porcari with her award, and her praises were also sung by Kit Belvitch, resource room teacher at Field Elementary; Jan Coratti, science teacher at East Middle School; and East Middle School Principal Amy Potts.

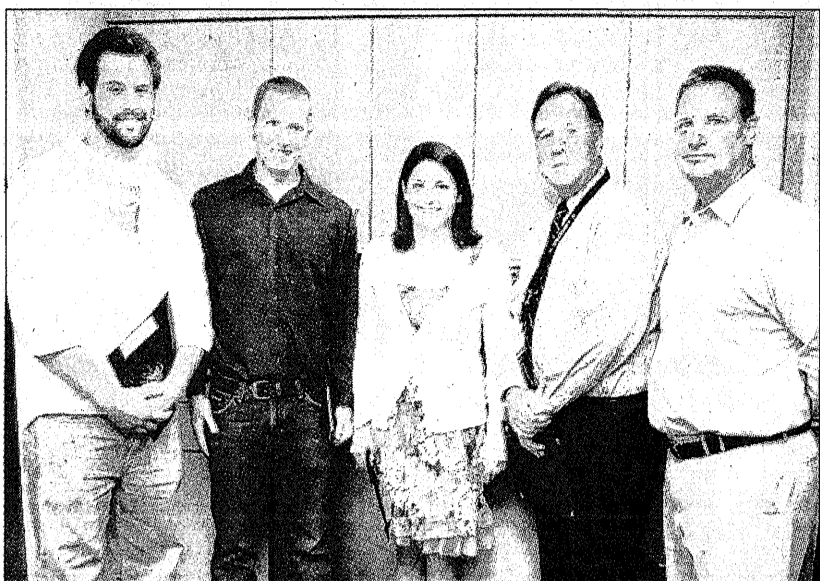


PHOTO BY B.J. ENRIGHT

Discovery Middle School staffers Joe Zugaj (from left), Track Coach, track coaches Rob Lindman and Ariel Domke, principal Roche LaVictor and assistant principal Terry Sawchuk, along with teacher Steve Roth (not pictured) were honored for their role in saving the life of a track runner who had collapsed.



PHOTO BY B.J. ENRIGHT

Kit Belvitch (from left), Resource Room Teacher at Field Elementary, Stephanie Porcari, an eighth-grader at East Middle School, East Middle School science teacher Jan Coratti and East Middle School Principal Amy Potts celebrated Porcari's STARS award at a recent school board meeting.

Citizens panel looks at W-W'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 enrollment 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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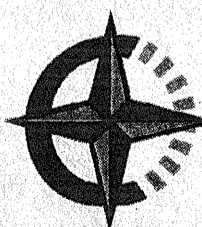
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"They cut off my credit line!"



"They increased my rate!"

Agape Family Worship Center, which housed Agape Christian Academy until the school closed at the end of the 2008-09 school year, will host a public sale of school and office furniture, fixtures and supplies and are opening it up to local families to come and join the fun.

Folks can rent a table for \$10 or simply come to do some shopping.

The "Summer Sale Extravaganza" takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 16-17, and 9 a.m. to noon July 17.

Items on offer include School Fixtures (desks, books, curriculum, etc.), multi-family garage sale, Tupperware, Longaberger, Hand Made Crafts, Pampered Chef, Ice Cream and more.

Tables can be rented for a \$10 flat rate, regardless how many days they're used. Renters can have their own personal garage sale or consider a table to sell your craft or promote personal business products (Avon, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, etc.). Renters would be responsible for their items, to man your own table, as well as taking your own cash and having change at your station.

Renters would have access to the building through the side marked entrance at 8 a.m., and the sale doors open at 9 a.m. If you have any questions or want to sign up for a table please e-mail agapesale@gmail.com.

Agape Family Worship Center is located at 45081 Geddes Road, Canton (between Sheldon and Canton Center). For more information, call (734) 927-4464.

Tower Guard

Michigan State University student Sharon Frank was inducted into the 2009-2010 class of Tower Guard, a sophomore honor and service-based organization at MSU.

Students who are inducted into Tower Guard are selected from the top 5 percent of the freshman class.

After this academic criterion is established, they are evaluated on their embodiment of the four pillars of Tower Guard: leadership, service, scholarship, and character.

As a member of Tower Guard Frank will volunteer 120 hours of service next year to aid students with visual impairments through MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities. School officials said, "It is truly an honor that Sharon has been inducted into Tower Guard and both the RCPD and lower Guard extend their sincerest congratulations to this student during such an important milestone in her life."

Frank is the daughter of Joan Frank and Dale Frank from Plymouth Michigan.

EEF scholarships

The Educational Excellence Foundation, serving Plymouth-Canton Community Schools,

announced 33 scholarship awards totaling \$21,600 to the Class of 2009. All students are graduates of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

EEF is the fiduciary for more than 50 scholarship and grant funds. Each year EEF funds projects and scholarships that total more than \$150,000. EEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to EEF are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information contact Carole Kody, Executive Director at (734) 416-2718 or kodyc@pccs.k12.mi.us

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The winners:

- Allen Elementary School, Alex Holcomb, \$250
- Allen Elementary School, Gregory Reed, \$250
- Joseph Karl Arnold Memorial, Kristen Clemens, \$500
- Bentley Elementary School, Armani Patel, \$300
- Bentley Elementary School, Jeannette Conklin, \$300
- Bentley Elementary School, Justin Liedel, \$300
- Chuck & Betty Childs Memorial, Jamie Novak, \$1,000

- Damaris Fine Arts, Jillian Hakala, \$700
- Damaris Starkweather Award, Bryan Gerst, \$500
- Brian Geick Memorial, Alanna Mason, \$1,000
- Brian Geick Memorial, Jeremy Poli, \$1,000
- Good Things Come in Small Packages, Ashely McKae, \$500
- Good Things Come in Small Packages, Heather Popoff, \$500
- Hoben Elementary School, Andrew League, \$500
- Hoben Elementary School, Katherine Rokakis, \$500
- Andrew Holmlund

- Memorial, Andrew League, \$1,000
- Michael Kilgore Memorial, Whitney Aumiller, \$500
- Michael Kilgore Memorial, Emily Bair, \$500
- Michael Kilgore Memorial, Gregory Reed, \$400
- Rachael Maurer Memorial, Linda Ling, \$2,000
- Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, Allison Laurin, \$1,000
- Smith Elementary School, Julia Bank, \$500
- Wayne Sparkman Memorial, Katelyn Sabada, \$1,000
- Joan Strautz Memorial,

- Maggie Gerans, \$1,000
- Joan Strautz Memorial, Kathryn Janda, \$1,000
- Sullivan "Make it Happen," Taylor Webster, \$450
- Carole Sweet/Gallimore Elementary, Brian Hattie, \$500
- Carole Sweet/Gallimore Elementary, Jessica McLean, \$500
- Carole Sweet/Gallimore Elementary, Ryan Olech, \$500
- Carole Sweet/Gallimore Elementary, Samantha Schaeffler, \$500
- Dr. Prehlah Vachher Memorial, Scott LaTulip, \$950

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Retirement a new chapter for veteran librarian

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gerry Barlage intended to be a teacher and got her teaching certificate through Wayne State University. The Plymouth Township resident ended up working at the Plymouth District Library, and has no regrets.

"I feel very enriched by having been able to work in a community where I was raising my family. I enjoy the variety of ages here," said Barlage, who will retire as adult services coordinator at the end of July. She's been at the library permanently since 1982, following an earlier brief stint for a colleague's maternity leave.

"Every day I learn something," she said of her time at the downtown Plymouth library. She's handled the volunteer program since 1982. "Boy, has that enriched my life." She'll leave with fond memories of volunteers, colleagues and patrons.

"Oh, absolutely. The best,"

she said. "I'm sure I will be in contact with many of them."

Barlage earned bachelor of science in history and master of library science degrees from Wayne State. She's married and mom to three kids and grandmother to three.

"There will be travel," she said of retirement. "Two of my grandchildren are in Connecticut, so I hope to see them more." That's their son, his wife and their family.

"I intend to take classes in the fall, probably at Schoolcraft," she said. "Certainly photography would be one." She'd like to enhance her computer skills, "maybe even some writing courses."

She won't write a book, but does plan to read more. Barlage has a notebook full of book titles she couldn't get to during her career. "You don't really get to do a lot of reading when you work at the library," she said.

She plans to volunteer on the library's homebound book program, as well as indexing

the *Plymouth Mail* newspaper, another volunteer project.

"I'm switching from employee to library volunteer," she said.

When she started in 1982, volunteers were putting bar codes in books, "getting ready for the computer." The computer began to be used for circulation, and later for reference resources.

"It's just constantly been growing," she said, adding she's grateful to have been able to keep up with technology. Barlage also cites the large print and video collections as new and welcome additions for patrons.

She's not exactly sure what that first Monday after retirement will hold, possibly a swim at the Livonia YMCA, which she's already started to do and hopes to do more often. "That's what I do to get those endorphins going."

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun," she said of retirement.

jbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755



The Canton Vipers 14U travel baseball team celebrates after winning the South Farmington Blues Invitational. In the front row (from left) are Alex Champagne, Jesse Lindbauer, Johnny Etienne, Greg McCurry, Brandon Waack and Brandon Congdon. In the middle row (from left) are Justin Thompson, David Blythe, Brett Ramirez, Brian Proppe and Nick Sandberg. Coaches (back row) are John Congdon, Joel Thompson and Dave Sandberg. Not pictured is Cam Nadell.

Vipers give Thompson the perfect gift

Canton Vipers 14U baseball coach Joel Thompson couldn't have received anything better for Father's Day when his travel team — including Justin Thompson — won the South Farmington Blues Invitational.

The Vipers went 4-0-1 at the tourney behind spectacular defense and steady pitching (allowing just 15 runs over the five games).

In the championship game, an 8-2 win, pitcher David Blythe took a perfect game into the seventh inning and struck out 12 batters. Earlier at the tournament, pitcher Justin Thompson hurled a shutout and the Vipers received strong mound outings from Nick Sandberg and Brandon Waack.

A bases-loaded triple by Johnny Etienne broke the championship tilt open, said Joel Thompson.

"I truly believe all the players have all matured so much over the past year," said

Thompson about his second-year team. "They have learned that the game is a team sport from start to finish. Our pitchers know they could not get these types of results without an outstanding defense behind them and great catchers in front of them."

"It is a great honor to work with a group of young men that win as a team. This had turned out to be the perfect Father's Day gift."

The sterling defense included diving catches and accurate throws by outfielders Brian Proppe, Jesse Lindbauer and Alex Champagne, "Derek Jeter-type plays" by shortstop Greg McCurry, solid work at first base by Nick Sandberg and strong efforts by catchers Brett Ramirez and Brandon Congdon.

The tournament championship was the second of the season for the Vipers, who opened the year triumphant at the Pinckney Baseball Classic.



Gerry Barlage, adult services coordinator at the Plymouth District Library, will have more time for reading and other activities when she retires at the end of July.

Get rid of debt in these uncertain times

Q: My wife and I were both General Motors employees. She lost her job earlier this year and I have no idea what's going to happen to my job. Our plan was to work for another 10 years and then retire to Florida. A few years ago we bought a home in Florida. We could no longer afford the property so we sold it. We netted \$90,000 from the sale. What should we do with the money? We have approximately \$15,000 in charge card debt at 18.5 percent interest, we owe \$50,000 on our mortgage at 8 percent, and have some other bills (approximately \$5,000 to \$8,000). We are considering these options — pay off all our debt and invest the rest (in Vanguard Funds), invest the entire amount for retirement purposes, buy a variable annuity. I trust your advice.

A: Congratulations on selling your Florida property. Even though you may have taken a loss on the property, it was the right decision.

Considering the economic times and uncertainty about the future of GM, I recommend paying off your debt then investing the rest for retirement.

In today's difficult economic times, relieving oneself of debt makes sense.

Consider Roth IRAs for both you and your wife. A Roth allows money to grow tax-free and is a great investment vehicle.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

As to investing the remaining money, I have no problem using Vanguard. It has many excellent funds and what's in the rest of your portfolio would determine what funds you select.

One reason I like Vanguard funds is they are commission-free and have very low management fees. No commissions and low management fees mean higher returns for investors.

As to the variable annuity, I don't recommend this strategy.

Variable annuities are not investor friendly. The majority have very high fees and investments within the annuity product generally also have higher management fees. High fees mean low returns to investors.

Variable annuities are sold with the false belief they are tax-sheltered. Yes, they do defer taxes until you withdraw the money. However, that is only half the story. When you eventually do withdraw your money, it is not taxed at the favorable capital gain rate but at the much higher ordinary income bracket rate.

For most people, the capital gain rate is about half of their ordinary income bracket.

When you use a variable annuity and defer taxes, you're only deferring your taxes into a higher bracket.

Another disadvantage with regard to taxes on variable annu-

ities is you are not able to deduct those losses. If you sold a mutual fund and had losses associated with the fund, you can deduct those losses on your tax return.

Another problem with variable annuities is the limited investment options and the backend penalties. In most variable annuity products you must commit for years. Why pay a penalty to remove your money? If the variable annuity is underperforming and you want to close out, you pay a penalty.

I see no advantage in using a variable annuity. In fact, if you read financial literature the only people in favor of variable annuities are those who sell them.

One final note about why I don't recommend investing the entire \$90,000. At this point there is no doubt that GM will be a different company as it emerges from bankruptcy. There will inevitably be more layoffs. If you do lose your job, your mortgage and charge card debt could weigh you down.

I recommend investing on a regular basis with the money you would have paid on your mortgage and charge card debt. If you have the discipline to do this, it would allow you to save a substantial amount of money for your retirement, and who knows, you may still achieve your goal of retiring to Florida.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting July 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750
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Publish: July 12, 2009

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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 purchasing services for food and supplies. 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 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 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 12 & 16, 2009

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3D ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG)
10:30, 12:40, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
FR/SAT LS 11:30
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R)
12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:45
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13)
12:00, 12:30, 3:10, 3:40, 6:20, 6:55, 9:30, 10:00
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
FR/SAT LS 12:00
THE HANGOVER (R)
12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50
FR/SAT LS 11:55

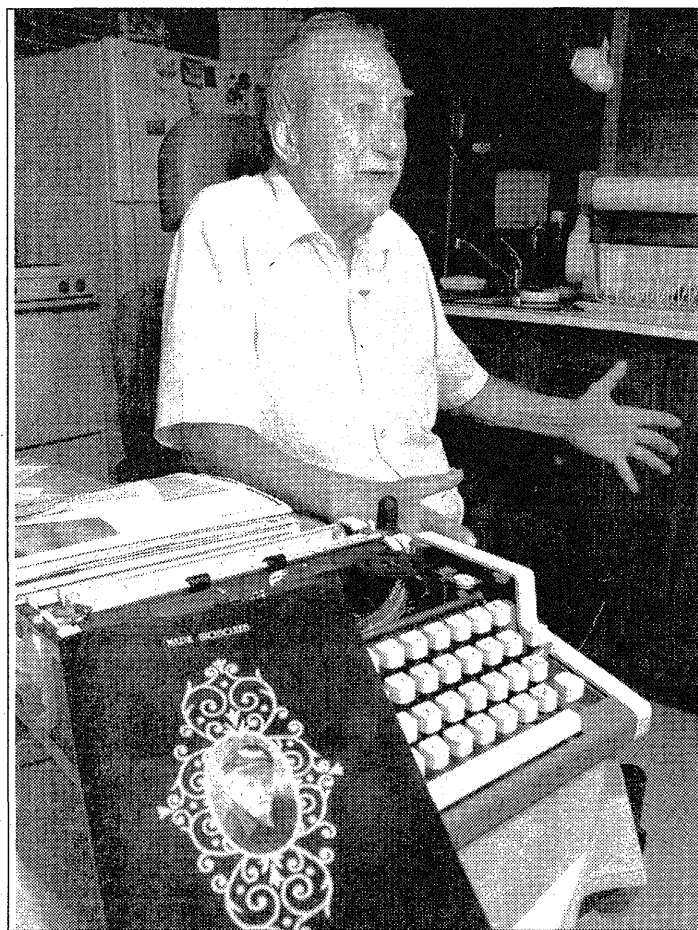
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alexander Mark of Livonia, whose pen name means "I who suffered, I who longed," writes poetry to help deal with the tragedy in his life, including his forced fleeing from his beloved homeland. He uses a manual typewriter with Cyrillic letters. His first-ever book, just published, is in Macedonian.

Poet, 80, has first book published

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alexander Mark of Livonia has been writing poetry for most of his 80 years.

The political refugee who immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1958 writes poems on his kitchen table using a manual typewriter with Cyrillic letters under the pen name Shobolev, which means "I who suffered, I who longed."

He estimates he's written hundreds of poems, some of which are patriotic and many of which have been published in Serbian, Bulgarian and English publications starting with his first at age 17. Some have won awards.

But this summer, his first-ever book of poetry was published. He has a second book coming out in the fall. Both are in Macedonian.

Mark said he sent three

poems to a literary magazine and asked the editors to print the best one. "If you choose one, I will be very proud," he wrote in a letter. Instead, they printed all three along with his letter.

That led to their wanting to publish books of his poetry.

Mark's pen name is fitting. His life has included much suffering, including his escape across the Yugoslavian border into Italy in 1954 after the Communist government called him to serve in the military.

"We escaped crawling at night, daytime hiding in the bushes," he said, his English still broken. At one point the two others fleeing with him wanted to go back, afraid they were lost. It was raining hard. As Mark stretched out his arm, pointing in the direction they should go, a bird landed in his hand. "That's (a sign from) God," he told his companions. "She's going to lead

us."

Mark put the bird in his purse. After he crossed the border, he pulled the bird out. She was dead. The bird had sacrificed its life so he could live, he said, tearing up at the memory.

Mark met his future wife in Italy, where he received political asylum. He worked as a translator for The United Nations Children's Fund. In 1958, after 16 days crossing the ocean on a boat, they came to America.

They headed to Detroit, where he had two uncles and

an aunt. Mark found work as a draftsman. He and his wife had two sons, but one died. His marriage unraveled. And in 2003, he had a leg amputated because of poor circulation.

Mark lives with his surviving son, Raymond, 43.

Mark said writing poetry has helped him deal with the tragedy in his life.

He said it feels good to have his first-ever book published.

"I'm satisfied," he said. "When I die, they put it in my pocket."

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

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Check our website for additional specials! Mikes-marketplace.com

"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

Senior writing group

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging Senior Writing Group, which meets at the Plymouth District Library, is offering a presentation by Dr. Peter Kearly, who received his doctoral degree from Wayne State University in English Literature and is an author and English professor at Henry Ford Community College.

Dr. Kearly is featured in *After the Morning Calm: Reflections of Korean Adoptees*. He will be informing the group on how to prepare their journals for publication. The meeting will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, in the Dunning Room at the Plymouth District Library and is free and open to the public.

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.

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.

'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 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.

Dance open house

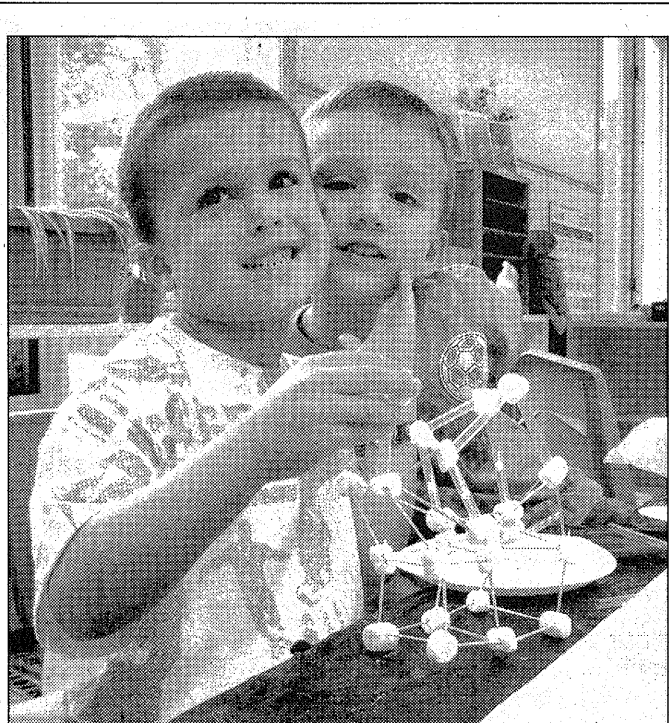
Metro Dance Company in Plymouth hosts a Fall Registration Open House 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 21. New and returning students are invited to tour the studio, meet the teachers and staff and register for fall dance and fitness lessons. The entire fall schedule, including adult classes, is available online at www.MetroDanceCompany.com

Metro Dance Company is located at 541 S. Mill (Lilley) in Plymouth. The studio can be contacted at (734) 207-8970 and info@MetroDanceCompany.com

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



Camp chances

Five-year-old campers Tyler McAmmond, at left, and Sam Metzger build a toothpick and marshmallow structure during art week at Plymouth-Canton Montessori Center. The school continues to accept applications for weekly summer camp sessions that run through Friday, Aug. 21, on its campus located at 45245 Joy Road in Canton. PCMS offers a variety of full and half-day summer programs for children, ages three through six years old. Each week centers on a special theme and is filled with a broad range of activities that provide a balanced blend of learning and play, active and quiet, group and individual experiences. Morning and afternoon half-day sessions, 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. or 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., are available for \$120 per week. Hourly day care is also available before or after each half-day session. For children requiring full time care from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., the cost is \$210 per week. For additional information and enrollment forms for the 2009 PCMS Summer Camp, call 734-459-1550 or visit www.dhmontessori.org

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.

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.

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.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, Nov. 21. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fundraising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, Mich. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by June 26th for the first wave of jurying. For more details, contact exhibit coordinator Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permit-

ted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, over 7000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," stated Dennis Carnevale, president of the 2009 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised helps the Concert and Marching Bands, Color Guard and Percussion programs that provide students with a one of a kind arts experience. Our craft shows have built a reputation for being some of the best run arts and craft events in the area."

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

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

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.

Good Grief golf

The New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts its 11th-annual "Good Grief" golf outing Saturday, Sept. 12, at Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. The proceeds from this outing will benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a bereavement outreach center located in Northville.

The cost for this four-person scramble, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, contests, and prizes, is \$125 per golfer. Dinner only is \$35 per person. Channel 4 meteorologist Eric Braate will be special guest and emcee.

For information about sponsorship opportunities or for registration information, contact Pattie Bingham at (248)

348-0115 and visit our website at www.newhopecenter.net.

Corriveau hours

State Representative Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) invites residents to talk with him about any issues or concerns during his new office hours.

Corriveau's new office hour schedule is set to begin on July 6. He will hold office hours on the first Monday of each month at the following times and locations:

- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., in Northville
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road
- 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., in Plymouth
- 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 129 W. Liberty St. in Plymouth

Corriveau also holds coffee hours and other events throughout the 20th District to talk with as many residents as possible about any issues or concerns. If your business or organization would like to schedule an event with Corriveau, please contact his office toll-free at (877) 20TH-REP, or send an e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Barbecue contestants

The Plymouth Knights of Columbus are looking for contestants for their BBQ Cook-off (Chicken and Ribs) scheduled for Saturday, July 18.

Interested contestants can call Steve for further information at (734) 546-8756.

Summer camps

Plymouth-Canton Community Education is offering a number of summer camps and programs for all ages - preschool to adult.

One of the most popular courses is the Safety Town program for kindergarten and first graders, which teaches kids about house emergencies, emergency vehicles, fire safety, bicycle safety and stranger danger.

Registration is now open for all courses. For details visit the Community Education Web site www.pccs.k12.mi.us or call (734) 416-2937.

Fall Fest crafts

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for the Craft Show, which takes place during the Fall Festival Sept. 11-13. The show will be on Union Street north of Ann Arbor Trail. 10' X 10' foot spaces will cost \$75 per day or \$200 for the weekend. Jewelry Vendors are juried and must have their applications in by June 30. All other vendors are awarded spots on a first come-basis.

Applications can be downloaded at www.plymouthfall-festival.com or for more information e-mail Colleen Brown at cbrown57@comcast.net or call her at (734) 455-1614.

Business booths

The Fall Festival is accepting a limited number of applications from businesses interested in having a booth at the Fall Festival.

A 10-foot by 10-foot space is \$800 for the weekend. The Fall Festival runs Sept. 11-13. Applications can be downloaded at www.plymouthfall-festival.com or for more information call or e-mail Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614 - cbrown57@comcast.net.

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For more information, please call 1-866-887-2737

Grub crawl

Canton Chamber of Commerce, Charter Township of Canton and the Downtown Development Authority will be co-hosting Canton's eighth annual Grub Crawl 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 21. This event is open to the public and participants must be 21 years of age or older.

The Grub Crawl is an opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their establishment as well as promote Canton's diversity while having fun. Participating restaurants in this year's event include: 4 Friends Restaurant, Applebee's, Antonio's Cucina Italiana, Bailey's Pub & Grille, bd's Mongolian Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Chili's, Crow's Nest, Max & Erma's, Rose's Grill & Bar, Shark Club, Shish Kabob Café, T.C. Gator's Sports Page, and T.G.I. Friday's.

"The Grub Crawl is an event for the community and businesses. It's really important that we continue to have functions that include our entire community, and the Grub Crawl gives us this opportunity," said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

According to Cojei, last year almost 600 people attended this event. Tickets (T-shirt) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants. T-shirts are on sale now and can be purchased at the Chamber office. T-shirt sizes are on a first come first serve basis so reserve yours early. If you are interested in participating in the Grub Crawl, please contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

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

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.

Big River

8th Wonder Theatre at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents "Big River," the Tony Award winning musical version of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn."

Performances are 8 p.m. Aug. 7; 2 and 8 p.m. Aug. 8; 2 p.m. Aug. 9; 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 13-14; 8 p.m. Aug. 15 and 2 p.m. Aug. 16.

Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road at the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge in Canton.

Tickets can be purchased at the Summit on the Park or by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or at the door.

For more information go to www.8thwondertheatre.com or call (734) 972-4054.

Design awards

The deadline to submit nominations to Canton's Committee for Community Excellence

annual Design Excellence Awards is July 15. The awards program is meant to promote excellence in landscaping, architectural, and environmental design. Judging will take place July through August and awards will be presented at an appreciation ceremony in October.

Nomination forms are available on Canton's Web site at www.canton-mi.org/committees/cce.aspx, the Summit on the Park, and Canton's Administration Building.

Completed forms must be sent to: Canton Design Excellence Awards, Attn: Amy Colligan, 1150 Canton Center Road South, Canton, MI 48188. Nominations can also be e-mailed to acolligan@canton-mi.org. All e-mail submissions must include an address and picture of the nominated property.

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.

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 Web site at www.newhopecenter.net.

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



Dye job

Ten-year-old Gagana Borra (from left) Emily Downs, 12, and Namaratha Mallya, 12, all of Canton, show off the results of their efforts at the tie-dye event sponsored Wednesday by the Canton Public Library. The all-ages event drew some 350 total participants, who had to bring their own item to be dyed (though the library did have some things available for those who forgot). The library supplied the dye, rubber bands, etc.

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.

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.

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/village-theater.

'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 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.

Hospice volunteers

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based organization committed to providing excellent hospice care for patients and their families. The group is currently seeking caring and dedicated individuals to provide support by being a friendly visitor to patients in the Western Wayne County area. Training is provided.

For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator, toll-free (888) 983-9050 or e-mail at achristensen@cchnet.net.

Golf outing

Each year the Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual Golf Outing. This year the classic will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at Pheasant Run Golf Club of Canton. This

event is open to the public, and there are various packages available for purchase.

Golf for Four Package, \$550- Includes golf with cart for four, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, and more!

Golf for Four Sponsorship Package, \$650- Includes golf for four with cart and a Tee or Green Sponsorship, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, signage at the course, recognition at the dinner, and a plaque.

Individual Golf, \$150- Includes golf with cart, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, and more!

Dinner Only, \$35. Tee and Green sponsorships are available and affordable. If you are interested in purchasing a sponsorship, contact the Chamber at (734) 453-4040.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, Nov. 21. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fund-raising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by June 26 for the first wave of judging. For more details, contact exhibit coordinator Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, over 7,000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

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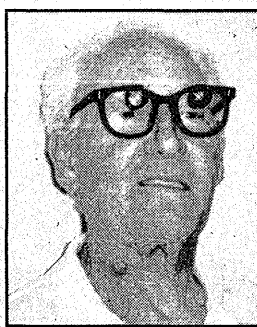
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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith, member of the IALVS, fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

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



Desmond Roberts still able to drive using telescopic glasses.

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

In addition to 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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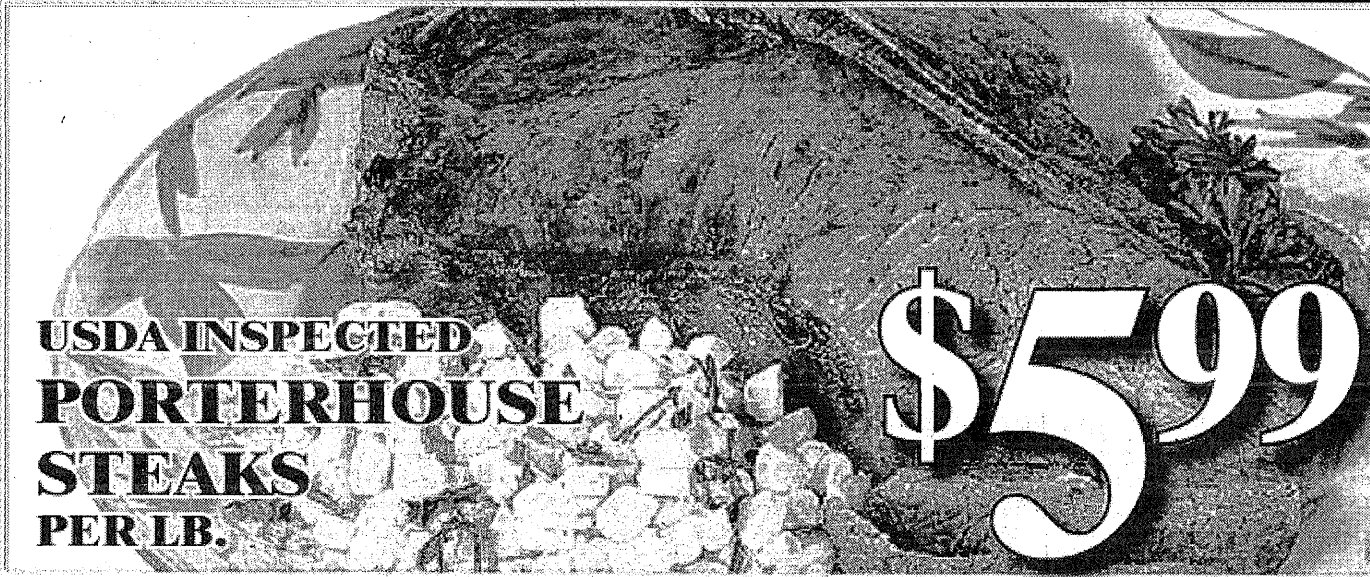
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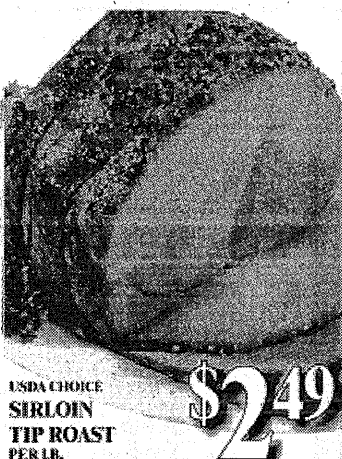
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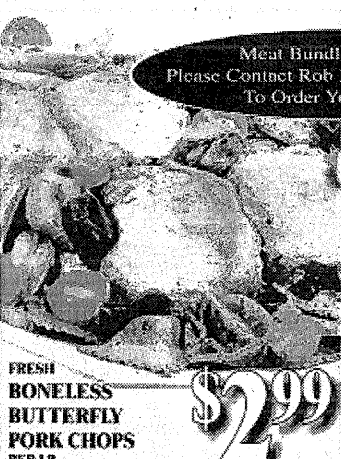
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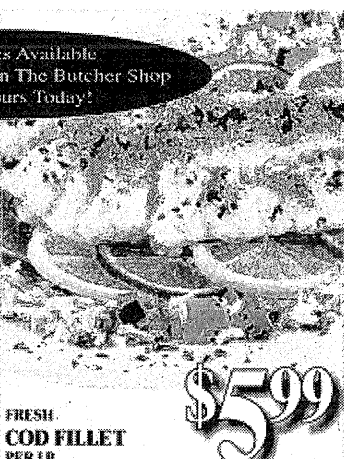
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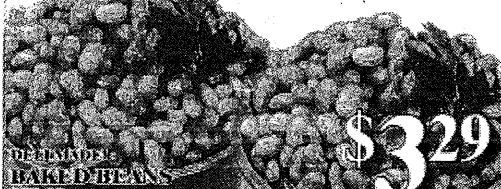
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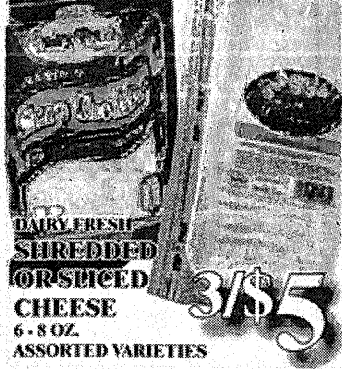


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Olympian to Rome

Canton's Schmitt rules 400 free, qualifies for Worlds

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton High grad Allison Schmitt wasted little time in earning a spot on USA Swimming's 2009 World Championship Team.

The incoming sophomore at the University of Georgia and bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games captured the women's 400-meter freestyle in Tuesday night's opening session of the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships held in Indianapolis, Ind.

The race featured four U.S. Olympians with Schmitt, representing Club Wolverine in Ann Arbor, earning the title with a first-place time of 4:06.77.

Open water Olympian Chloe Sutton (Mission Viejo, Calif.), who specializes in races that are more than six miles long, sprinted to the front of the pack during the first 300 meters. But over the final 100 meters, Schmitt rallied and took the lead for good to cement a berth, July 22-Aug. 2, in Rome, Italy, at the World Championships.

"It feels amazing, I'm really happy," Schmitt told swimnet.com webcast interviewer Summer Sanders on the pool deck following the event.

Sutton joined Schmitt on the podium as the silver medalist with a time of 4:07.20, while Olympian Caroline Burckle (Louisville, Ky.) placed third in 4:09.61.

American and U.S. Championships record holder Katie Hoff, who was a silver medalist at the Beijing Games,

slipped to fifth in 4:12.34, well off her personal best of 4:02.20 set back in Feb. of 2008 in Columbia, Mo.

On Wednesday, Schmitt finished runner-up in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:57.25 to qualify for the 2009 World Championship team along with the winner, Dana Vollmer of Grandbury, Tex., who hit the wall first in 1:56.20.

Both Vollmer and Schmitt will also be members of the 800 freestyle relay team in Rome.

The 19-year-old Schmitt, who earned a bronze in Beijing in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay and qualified but did not medal in the 200 freestyle, is coming off an All-America season with the Georgia Bulldogs after cap-

Please see **SCHMITT, B2**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Allison Schmitt will compete in the 200- and 400-meter freestyles at the 2009 World Championships.

GAME WRAPS

All-Star softball

The Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association All-Star softball game will have a distinct Livonia Franklin flavor to it Wednesday, July 22 at Lansing's Ranney Park.

The Division 1 White Team will feature the Patriots' Taylor twins, Briauna, a shortstop, and Brittany, a catcher, along with coach Linda Jimenez, who guided Franklin to a 32-6 record and a KLAASouth Division title.

Outfielder Hannah Atkinson of Farmington Hills Mercy will also play for the White team.

The Division 1 Red-White game starts at 11:30 a.m.

The Division 2 All-Star game, beginning at 9:30 a.m., will feature Madonna University recruit Erica Landess, a third baseman who batted .381 this spring for Carleton Airport.

Academic All-America

Kim Baughman of Farmington, an All-America swimmer at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, has received another prestigious honor. Baughman has been named an Academic All-America by the College Sports Information Directors of America, too.

She maintained a 3.55 grade point and adds the academic award to the All-America status she achieved at the NCAA swim finals at the University of Houston in March.

Baughman will begin her junior year at Grand Valley where she attained both All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and All-America recognition in multiple events her freshman and sophomore years.

A 2007 graduate of Farmington High School where she was an all-area swimmer, Baughman is majoring in public relations and event planning.

Ace in the hole

Matthew Cusumano, of Plymouth, wasted no time in experiencing one of golf's exciting moments. Swinging a 7-iron, the 10-year-old recently aced the 66-yard 10th hole at Fox Hills' Strategic Fox Course.

Motor City Junior Golf

The Motor City Junior Golf Championship, sponsored by Caddyshack and Top Flite Golf, will be Wednesday, July 29 at Whispering Willows Golf Course, located at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, in Livonia. The event is open to boys and girls ages 12-17.

Included in the \$49 entry fee is 18 holes, practice rounds (prior to the event), driving range balls (day of the event), lunch ticket and gift pack.

All entries are due by Friday, July 24. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

For more information and tee times, call (248) 476-4493.

Harrison girls have new hoops coach

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tim Micklash is eager and ready to run his own basketball program, and the need for a girls varsity coach at Farmington Harrison is that opportunity.

The 29-year-old Micklash, who has taught physical education and health at Dunkel Middle School for six years, replaces Chris Grzegorzczak.

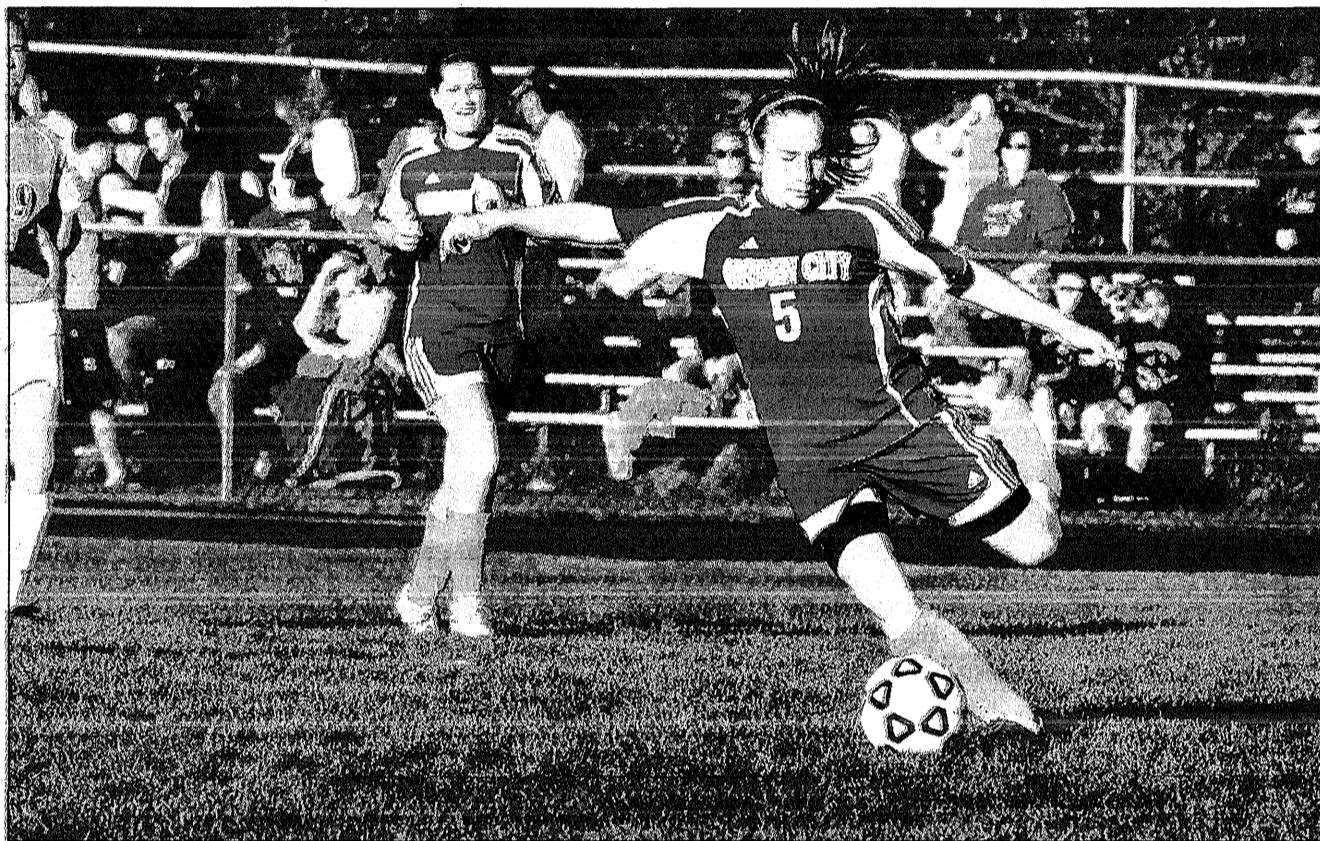
"We've already started this summer, trying to put a system in place," Micklash said. "It's

been going great. The girls have been picking things up well. I can't wait to get started for the season."

Micklash has coached eighth-grade girls since he began teaching in the district. He also spent one season as a boys varsity assistant at Farmington High.

For the past three years, he has been the North Farmington fresh-

Please see **COACH, B2**



Karlee Derrick, a four-year letter winner for the Cougars of Garden City, recently signed on with Marygrove College where she will be a part of the initial class for women's soccer.

Ex-Cougar Derrick to help kick start Mustangs

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Many athletes cherish the opportunity to lay the groundwork toward building a winning program. And what better way to accomplish that feat than by being a part of an inaugural class of prized athletes.

Garden City High graduate Karlee Derrick certainly finds herself in that

category these days as the prep soccer star recently signed a letter of intent to attend Marygrove College and participate in the school's initial season of women's soccer.

"It's the first team ever there and it's something I want to be a part of," Derrick said. "Coach (Tony Williams) called me a couple of times and just said that this is going to be a new program and I just want you girls to have

fun and grow together as a team. He had his heart in it when he said that, and I really enjoyed hearing that."

Up until a couple of weeks ago, Karlee had Siena Heights on her priority list. But a disagreement in funding allowed her to explore other options and that is when Williams came a calling.

Please see **DERRICK, B2**

New-look Rams thrill 85-year-old sponsor

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Rams broke out their new blue and gold jerseys Friday night at Bicentennial Park.

And 85-year-old team sponsor Amy Black, who donated \$1,900 for the new threads, couldn't help but like the way the Rams looked in posting a 7-0 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League win over Concealed Security.

Black, from Westland, is the mother of Rams scorekeeper June Berryman and the mother-in-law of Rams manager Rick Berryman. She is considered the Rams' number one fan. In her honor, the initials

'AB' are stitched on one sleeve.

"She comes to the games with her friend Bill, they're the ones who have the clappers and pom poms, they just love her," Rick Berryman said. "She puts in about four grand (\$4,000) a year, including the (wooden) bats, and we kick in the rest so the kids don't have to really pay anything. She's been with us to Johnston (Pa.) for the Nationals three times. She's been to Zanesville (for the AAABA regionals). She just loves baseball."

The 20-and-under Rams, who improved to 13-8 in the LCBL, jumped on Concealed starter Chris Gazley, formerly of Redford Union High, for three runs in the first inning and two more in the fifth to build a 5-0 advantage.

Catcher Brett Mazmanian also returned to the lineup for the first time since early in the season after suffering a shoulder injury on a slide. The Kaskaskia (Ill.) Community College product, who served as the designated hitter, went 2-for-3 with a double and RBI.

"We're glad to see him back," Berryman said. "Having him back is a thrill because he can catch and play the infield. He's the classic number two hitter. He hates to lose and he gives us a big lift."

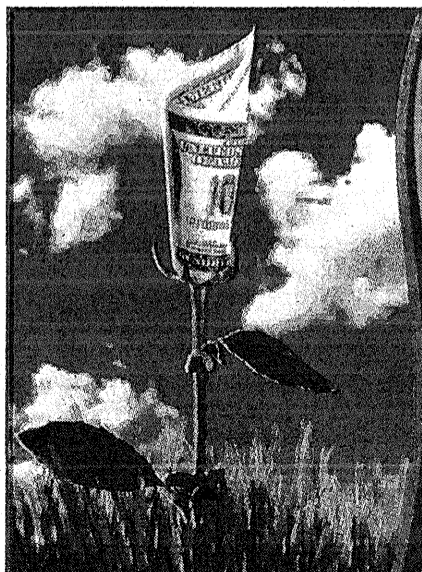
Jason Forster also collected two hits, including a double, and two RBI to pace the Rams' nine-hit attack. Catcher Jake Rhodes also contributed two hits and an RBI, while Madonna University's Nick Plinka (Livonia

Stevenson) also knocked in a first-inning run.

That gave Rams left-handed starter Matt Broder, a red-shirt from the University of Michigan, all the cushion he needed to pick up the win.

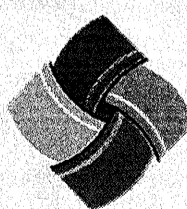
In five innings, the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook grad allowed just three hits, walked only two and struck out five. James Bertakis (Edgewood College, Wis.) pitched the final two scoreless innings to preserve the shutout.

"Every outing James just gets better and better," Berryman said. "He threw real well. His mechanics are better from where he started, to where he is today. And he puts in the work to get better."



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DERRICK

FROM PAGE B1

"To have a coach call me two to three times a day was special," Derrick said. "I went and visited the campus and really liked what I saw and what I was hearing from the coach."

A defender much of the time during her four years of play with the Cougars, Derrick — who recently garnered All-Observer First Team honors — said she expects to hold down similar duties with the Mustangs.

"I think I love the rush of stopping the other team," Derrick said when asked if she had a preference focusing on offense or defense. "I've played a lot of defense on a lot of different teams and I enjoy playing back there and stopping the other team."

"Karlee is a highly skilled player that will give us a huge presence on the field," said

Williams, who knows a thing or two about initiating collegiate programs after setting in place the men's soccer team at St. Mary's College in 1997. "She was rewarded for her outstanding play during her career in high school from many outlets."

"A player like Karlee instantly makes us a better team from the moment she signed," Williams went on. "Her enthusiasm and passion for the game is shared by many of her teammates. I look forward to coaching Karlee over the next four years."

Derrick said her experience of playing four years of varsity soccer at Garden City, including three as a starter, against some of the premier prep programs in the state really "toughened" her up mentally and physically for the grind that goes along with being a student-athlete in college. She has also honed her skills away from the high school scene

by competing throughout the indoor and outdoor seasons for premier and select soccer programs.

"The game has always been a lot of fun for me," said Derrick, who in 2008 was voted Most Improved Player by the Cougars and in 2009 selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. "I played softball when I was younger, but that was too slow for me. I started off playing soccer with my dad who was the coach and just had a lot of fun."

"This is going to be a new challenge and I think I'm ready for it," Derrick went on. "As a freshman at Garden City, it was scary but it toughened me up and made me a lot stronger player."

Derrick's initial trip onto the soccer field with her new Marygrove teammates will occur Sept. 1 at Olivet College. The Mustangs will play their first home game Sept. 23 against Kalamazoo College.

COACH

FROM PAGE B1

man boys coach and a varsity assistant under longtime coach Tom Negoshian, whom he credits with preparing him for his new job.

"If it wasn't for the past three years, I don't think I'd be as confident as I am with what I'm doing, taking over the program at Harrison," Micklash said. "I just think it's very important for a young coach to have someone who has mentored him."

"I've been around the game and a lot of different coaches. In my senior year of high school, my varsity coach got me into coaching and helping out with the middle school kids."

Micklash will employ the same aggressive, defensive style of play with the Harrison girls that he learned from Negoshian.

"That's what I feel comfortable doing and coaching," he said. "I believe it's a successful way. You have to play hard, because it's not easy."

"It's been working well this summer. We've had some success with it. That's the style we're going to play. Defensively, we're going to be all over the court for 32 minutes."

"The girls have been learning the press, and they've been picking it up well. They've been very receptive to it and seem very excited about it, too."

Micklash, who attended Central Michigan University, was an all-league point guard at Cass City High School and led the Thumb Area in free throw shooting (90 percent) as a senior.

"We've already been working a lot on free throws," Micklash said. "It's going to be very important. In tight games, especially in the fourth quarter, a lot of times

free throws can put you over the top."

Micklash will have a veteran team and a good talent pool with which to work at Harrison, which had only two seniors last season.

The Hawks will have one of the best senior combinations in the area in Chelsea Gaddis and Bianca Vasovski around which to build a team.

"There are some good girls coming back," Micklash said. "The senior class is pretty good. I'm fortunate to come into a situation with the leadership of (Vasovski and Gaddis) and solid seniors like them."

"There are some good, young kids coming up, too. I've talked to the girls at Warner (Middle School) who will be coming to Harrison, because we want to build a program. The summer is a good time to see who wants to be a part of things and who's showing up."



Class A champions

The Plymouth Canton Pride Elite Blue recently captured the 16-and-under state Class A fastpitch girls softball championship held at Powers Park in Novi. The Pride, who defeated the Kalamazoo Woodens Extra Innings in a nine-inning game in for the title, finished 7-0 in tourney play to qualify for the ASA Nationals later this month in Sioux Falls, S.D. They also defeated AA Gold, Elite Black, the Michigan A's, Compuware and Team Michigan to win their sixth tournament in six starts and raise their overall summer record to 35-2. The players hail from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Livonia Ladywood, Novi, Belleville and Detroit Cass Tech high schools. Team members include (front row, from left): Amanda Burnard, Alyssa Giett; (second row, from left): Briana Lee, Bridget Cole, Meghan Robinson, Jenny Thompson, Symone Millet; (back row, from left) coach Jim Giett, Heide Schmidt, Carol Ann Saxauer, coach Mike Burnard, Carneishia Cooper, Amy Dunleavy and coach Kevin Dunleavy.



Little League Champs

The White Sox are the South Farmington Pinto League's under-8 champions after winning 17 of 18 games this season. The team members are (front row, left to right) Nick Rogers, Alex Roussey, Luke Morrisette, Danny Scott, Ben Jugan, Jacob Husband, Jeff Gyure, Timothy Austin, (middle row, left to right) Brandon Tidwell, Tyler Baird, Anthony Simmons, Hunter Ferguson-Kallgren, Daniel Sawicky, (back row, left to right) coach Bob Baird, manager Jeff Morrisette and coach John Husband.

SCHMITT

FROM PAGE B1

turing the 500 freestyle at the NCAA Championships in March. She also earned All-America honors in the 200 freestyle (third), 800 freestyle relay

(second) and 400 freestyle relay (fourth).

The Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year also holds Georgia program marks in the 200 and 500 freestyles, along with the 400 and 800 relays.

Fox 49th in 400 IM

Livonia native Megan Fox,

17, swam the preliminary heat of the 400 individual medley Thursday and placed 49th overall with a time of 4:56.88.

The Stevenson High student and member of the Oakland Live Yers came in with a qualifying entry time of 4:54.56.

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CAMPS/CLINICS

Football

• Westland John Glenn High School will stage its annual varsity football Camp for grades 11-12 beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, July 13 and Wednesday-Thursday, July 15-16, at the high school. The cost is \$5.

For signup information, call coach Tim Hardin at (734) 620-0063.

• North Farmington High School will have a football skills camp 8 a.m. to noon July 27-30 for any football player entering the ninth through 12th grade in the 2009-10 school year.

The cost is \$75. The camp will be conducted by the North coaching staff. Each player will need football cleats, gym shoes, workout clothes and helmet with mouth guard. Helmets should be provided by the player's high school.

To register contact coach Todd Schultz at either Todd.schultz@farmington.k12.mi.us or 248-888-6263.

• The Popp's QB Tutor summer camps will be making stops in the area including: Plymouth/Canton Area QB-WR - 1-2:30 p.m., July 27-30, at Heritage Park (grades 3-12).

For more information, visit poppsqbttutor.com; or e-mail Richard Popp at: theqbttutor@yahoo.com.

All sports

• Schoolcraft College will offer a series of summer sports camps for ages 10-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, including:

Boys and girls soccer - July 13-16, 20-23, 27-30 (cost \$150); boys and girls basketball - July 20-23 (cost \$150); girls volleyball - July 27-30 (cost \$150).

For more information, call the Schoolcraft College Athletic Department at (734) 462-4804, Ext. 3; or e-mail athletic director Sid Fox at sfox@schoolcraft.edu.

• The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering a variety of summer sports programs and several clinics. The summer programs (from July 13 through Aug. 17) will focus on fun, exercise and social interaction through instruction and include "Kickers and Shooters"

soccer, preschool and youth basketball, preschool soccer class, preschool and youth baseball.

Morning and evening classes are available; ages vary by program but there is something for children between ages 3-9. Programs are open to YMCA members and community members.

Three sports clinics also are on tap through Plymouth Family YMCA.

Those include baseball (July 21-25, for ages 9-11), soccer (July 28 through Aug. 1, ages 6-9) and basketball (Aug. 4-8, ages 6-9).

Call (734) 453-2904; or visit www.ymcadetroit.org for information.

Soccer

• Midwest Soccer Academy, one of the most respected and experienced soccer training organizations in the United States, will be conducting soccer training camps for boys and girls July 20-24. Hosted by Our Lady of the Good Counsel in Plymouth, the week-long camp will feature members of the MSA staff working with youngsters in improving their overall skills.

Cost is \$125 per camper. Sessions for girls will be held 9 a.m.-noon daily, while the boys will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

More information can be obtained by contacting Midwest Soccer Academy at 1-800-714-5575 or toll free at 1-877-714-5575, or by email at info@midwestsoccer.net, or by signing up online at www.midwestsoccer.net.

• The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer three different sessions of soccer camps the weeks of July 13-17 and 20-24, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The base camp will be from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (\$160 for residents; \$175 for non-residents). The full-day camp runs from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (\$210 for residents; \$220 for non-residents).

All three sessions also include Camp Swoosh A.M. Extender care from 7:30-9 a.m. (\$15 LCRC pass holders; \$17 residents; \$20 non-residents).

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

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.

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

Lacrosse

• The University of Detroit-Mercy will host a summer lacrosse skills camp for all high school students from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22.

The fee is \$150 with a free gift provided.

To register, visit the Titan website at www.detroittitans.com.

For more information, call U-D assistant coach Chris Kolon at (313) 585-8430.

Volleyball

• Westland John Glenn will stage an Asics Performance camp for high school girls (grades 9-12), Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22.

The camp features collegiate trainers from the Premier Volleyball Academy based in Maumee, Ohio.

Sessions will cover skills and drills on all aspects of competitive volleyball. The cost of the camp is \$100 (includes T-shirt).

For registration information, call Glenn coach Julian Wargo at (248) 295-7245.

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w/COOLIO and TONÉ LOC
- 15 **MÖTLEY CRÜE** w/GODSMACK, THEORY OF A DEADMAN, DROWNING POOL and CHARM CITY DEVILS - *CRÜE FEST 2*
- 16 **RANDY TRAVIS**
w/KEITH ANDERSON
- 18 **DEMI LOVATO**
w/DAVID ARCHULETA and JORDAN PRUITT
- 19 **B.B. KING**
w/THE ROBERT CRAY BAND

- 20 **THE B-52'S**
- 21 **JEFF FOXWORTHY**
Comedian
- 23 **KENNY G**
- 25 **CREED**
- 27 **SOUL ASYLUM**
w/SEVEN MARY THREE, SPONGE and DAYS OF THE NEW
- 28 **DENNIS DeYOUNG: THE MUSIC OF STYX WITH ROCK SYMPHONY**
- 29 **EDDIE MONEY**
w/THE KNACK

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **MICHAEL W. SMITH**
- 5 **TESLA**

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JULY

- 16 **ABBA THE MUSIC**
- 17 **LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND**
- 18 **100 YEARS OF BROADWAY**
- 19 **CHRIS ISAAK** w/MICHELLE BRANCH
- 22 **IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE**
(2PM & 7PM) *Children's Program*
- 23 **GORDON LIGHTFOOT**
- 24 **LAUGH-A-PALOOZA 2009** *Comedians*
featuring MIKE GREEN, DAVID LANDAU, GEECHY GUY and MICHAEL McDANIEL
- 25 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Leonard Slatkin, Conductor

- 26 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Gershwin Galore
Leonard Slatkin, Conductor
- 27 **JACKSON BROWNE**
- 31 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Big Band Bash
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor

AUGUST

- 1 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
All Beethoven
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor
- 2 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Musical Magic
Children's Matinee (4PM)
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor
- 7 **JIM GAFFIGAN** *Comedian*
- 16 **GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS / JONNY LANG**

- 21 **HEAVEN & HELL**
w/COHEED AND CAMBRIA
- 22 **PETER DINKlage**
- 26 **JOHNNY & THE SPRITES**
(2PM & 7PM)
Children's Program

SEPTEMBER

- 29-30 **WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**
- 29 **GET BACK! THE CAST OF BEATLEMANIA**
- 4 **O.A.R.**
w/BRETT DENNEN
- 5 **HIGHLAND HEARTBEAT**
Scottish Musical
- 11-12 **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**
- 19 **MMA CAGE FIGHT FESTIVAL**



JULY

- 14 **GREEN DAY** w/THE BRAVERY

AUGUST

- 14 **THE WIGGLES GO BANANAS!**
(2:30 & 6:30PM)
- 16 **AC/DC**

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **THE CIRCUS**
STARRING BRITNEY SPEARS
w/CIARA and KRISTINIA DeBARGE
- 16 **AEROSMITH** w/ZZ TOP

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Bulls rally to clip Michigan Rams

The Michigan Rams couldn't seal the deal Wednesday night as the Michigan Bulls rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh inning for a 4-3 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League triumph at Ford Field.

The loss dropped the 20-and-under Rams to 12-8 in the LCBL, while the 22-and-under Bulls improved to 16-3.

Rams starter Tom Whiting allowed just two runs on four hits and two walks while fanning five in six innings. Reliever Ryan Abraham, who came on in the seventh, took the loss. He gave up two runs on two hits and a walk. Both runs were unearned as the Bulls took advantage of a costly Rams infield error on an Andy Lentz bunt attempt.

Excitement set to build on area lanes

The World Series is coming to Detroit — that is the new concept by the Professional Bowlers Tour (PBA). It will all start with the 2009 PBA Motor City Open, running Aug. 2-6 at Taylor Lanes and then shifting over to Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. The theme is the 'World Series of Bowling,' a new concept which will draw interest to the Metropolitan Detroit area.

The entire bowling world will be focused on the Detroit area for more than a month as the best bowlers in the world take part in this nationally televised event. There will be the return of the PBA Women's series at the same time as well as a revamped PBA Senior World Championship.

options, and fax, email or mail the form to PBA headquarters. PBA members can enter online or by phone. This revolutionary festival of competitive bowling boasts a \$2 million prize fund over seven ESPN telecasts. Members and non-members enter the Tournament Qualifying Round (TQR) in order to advance to the television show. The PBA World Series of Bowling is an excellent destination tournament with TQRs bundled on the weekends to allow non-exempt players and non-members alike the chance to participate in several tournaments, side events and sweepers in a single weekend.

The Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour features an expanded field of 72 players for the World Series of Bowling with at least 10 spots to be awarded through TQRs. All bowlers who qualify through the TQRs will cash. The PBA Women's Series, presented by BOWL.COM, has expanded its field for 20 top spots, allowing a minimum of two spots to come from each TQR.

Waterford, who earlier in the year won the PBA Masters, thus giving him a two year exemption for the entire PBA Tour and ranking him in the top 10. Taylor Lanes has been a consistent PBA Tour stop and it is only fitting that the World Series of Bowling begins right there. The Motor City Open will also feature the Pro-Am event which has been a big hit with local bowling fanatics. Each squad will offer prize money, scholarship awards and the opportunity to bowl with the pros. The full Exempt Package also includes a new Siege bowling ball, (valued at \$219). Taylor Lanes is also incorporating a PBA Motor City Open "Sweeper" to be held on Friday, July 17, in which two bowlers will win an entry to compete in the Motor City Open. For more details, phone (734) 946-9092. Additional information and a complete schedule for the World Series of Bowling may be found by visiting www.pbaworldseriesofbowling.com



Ten Pin Alley Al Harrison

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America and the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame. He can be reached by email: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com



Outlaws win NSA state title

The Michigan Outlaws Black travel team won the NSA 16-and-under 'A' state championship June 27-28 in Jackson. After losing their first game, the Outlaws battled back and won eight straight, including five on Sunday. The team members are (front row, left to right) Kim Toth, Farmington; Brie Prescott, Casey Baker, Emma Fernandez, Berkley; (middle row) Kara Wiechert, Carlee Meek, Miranda Cleary, Carly Hazzard, Krista Hakola, head coach Chuck Meek, (top row) coach Ed Timm, Kaytlin Stroinski, coach Mike Wiechert and Hillary Timm.



AA baseball champs

The 14-and-under Livonia Travel Tarheels finished 5-0 while outscoring their opponents 48-15 to capture the USSSA Michigan AA baseball title, June 26-28, in Canton. The Tarheels now advance to the USSSA AA World Series, July 19-26, at Liberty Park in Sterling Heights. Members of the Tarheels include (front row, from left): coach Gerry Hool, Mike Barill, Kevin Nisun, Josh DeYonker, Zac Rosen, Josh Carlson, all of Livonia; (back row, from left) Kevin D'Arcy, Livonia; Dylan Karker, Redford; Tom Hool, Livonia; Nick Rutherford, Farmington; Josh DeYonker, Livonia; Mike Korte, Livonia; Mike Kanitra, Livonia; and coach Bruce Rosen. (Not pictured is coach Gary DeYonker.)

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NEIGHBORS

Detroit-born author's family story focuses on Eloise site

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Eloise, the county mental hospital in what's now Westland, had a reputation in its heyday "perpetuating the myth of mental illness as something spooky," said author Steve Luxenberg.

Luxenberg, an associate editor at the *Washington Post*, wrote of Eloise in his new book, *Annie's Ghosts* (Hyperion, 2009), which tells of his late aunt, Annie, a patient there from 1940 to 1971.

Luxenberg, who spoke July 6 at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, grew up between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Lahser and Telegraph, graduating from Henry Ford High School and Harvard University.

He emphasized that his book is a personal story and not a history of Eloise, which operated from 1839 to the early 1980s on Michigan Avenue, not only as a mental hospital but also a general hospital and poorhouse at

varying times.

"It hired the best and the brightest from Michigan colleges," he said, pointing out that each generation believes it has improved treatment for mental illness. That was true of Eloise when Annie was involuntarily committed.

Annie was born with a severe physical deformity and slight mental retardation. Luxenberg and his sister learned of her from a psychiatrist treating his mother late in her life. His mother for years had said she was an only child.

"I believed what my mother said, I had no reason not to believe it."

The family was stunned to learn the mother wasn't really named Beth and had a sister close in age, Annie.

Luxenberg's mother died in 1999, and he never spoke to her about Annie, in part because it seemed to be a betrayal. After her death, the family received a letter asking about cemetery flowers.

"Instead of listing two graves, it listed three. The



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Steve Luxenberg speaks at the Westland library.

secret finally had a name, Annie."

Luxenberg did call a Lansing official to see what he could learn, but informa-

tion was limited. "I wasn't daunted by those kinds of obstacles," the journalist said.

He contacted Jo Johnson

of Westland, chair of the Westland Historical Commission, in 2002 and went to work. Johnson helped him through the Friends of Eloise group.

"I want to stress to you this is not a book of judgment," Luxenberg said. "I am not angry with my mother."

He said the large asylum was the norm in 1940, expanding to the point that state and county governments couldn't afford such care. In 1955, there were 558,000 U.S. psychiatric patients. The number began to drop as medication developed and more could be cared for at home.

"My family did not know quite what to do with her," he said of Annie, who lacked job skills. There were no group homes then, and job opportunities for women were more limited. She remained as a "custodial patient," and died at the Northville state hospital.

"The book is about identity," he said. "My mom basically changed her identity."

Annie's identity was lost with her institutionalization. Fewer patients

The pendulum today has swung to the rights of patients to refuse psychiatric care, he said, and there are only 50,000 U.S. psychiatric patients now. He believes we'll look back at today's mental health care in 50 years and question it.

He added that Eloise was named for the postmaster general's daughter, a portrait of whom hangs in the Kay Beard Building.

Luxenberg never found his aunt's photo, despite persistent searching, so the publisher created a cover image for the book. Luxenberg's grateful to all who helped him research his book, and to his hometown of Detroit.

"Detroit is much more conscious of its history, I think, than a lot of cities. History is something that is truly celebrated here."

You can learn more about Luxenberg's book at www.steveluxenberg.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Listeners learn about the book, 'Annie's Ghosts' by Steve Luxenberg during the authors presentation Monday evening.

Local historians contribute to book's research

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Author Steve Luxenberg has ample praise for local historian Jo Johnson of Westland.

"She's really the memory keeper of Eloise," said Luxenberg, a *Washington Post* staffer and author of *Annie's Ghosts*.

He spoke July 6 at the Westland library about his new book, telling of his aunt's years of institutionalization at the county mental hospital.

Jo and her late husband, Ernie, who recently died,

compiled records on Eloise. Ernie had just finished reading Luxenberg's book before his death.

"I feel very honored that was one of his last activities," the author and Detroit native said.

Eloise wasn't only a mental hospital. In the 1930s, it housed many homeless people. They became known as "pogies" — poor old guys in Eloise.

Jo Johnson, chair of the Westland Historical Commission, said friend Betty Zimmerman's dad was on staff at Eloise. Zimmerman was

among staffers' children who lived there.

"The kids would go up on the wards and have cake and ice cream," Johnson said. "It was a normal life to them."

Eloise had an annual Christmas tree lighting. In its use as a hospital, it provided the first X-ray.

Zimmerman went to Michigan State University for music therapy, a field that had its roots at Eloise.

"They used to have music in a huge auditorium. We had huge picnics. It was like family," said Zimmerman, who

spoke briefly July 6 at the library.

She and Johnson spoke together about Eloise, about a year and a half ago and their talk is available on DVD at the Westland library, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren.

Author Luxenberg praised libraries during his visit, noting wife Mary Jo is a school librarian. The couple has two children.

The author was peppered with questions from an audi-

Please see **BOOK, B7**

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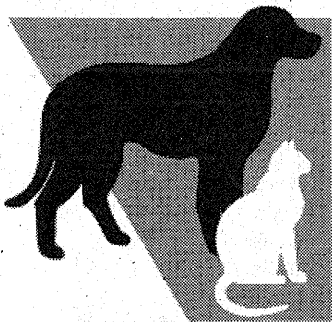
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Learn about rabbit lifestyles, donate to Golden

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Don't have time to walk or train a dog? Consider adopting a rabbit. But first, learn what bunnies like and dislike, get tips for their care and find out if a rabbit would be a good "fit" for you and your family, by attending the Michigan Humane Society's (MHS) rabbit adoption and information event 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 18 at its Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, in Westland.

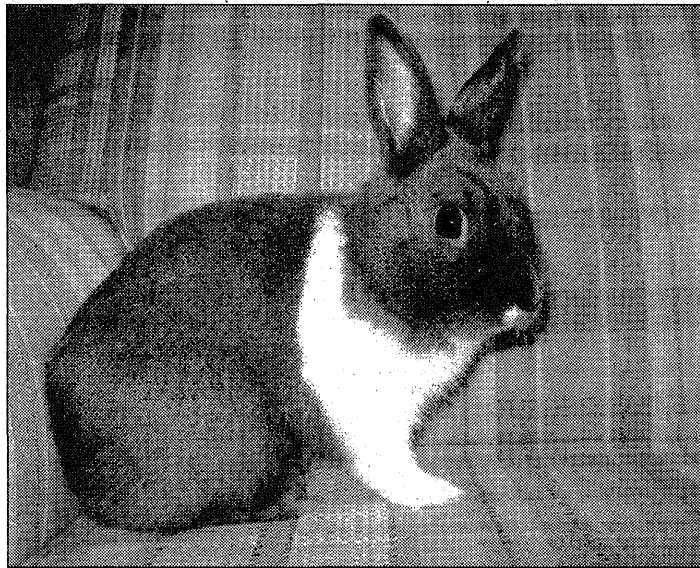


PET PROJECTS

a fun experience where families can socialize with several available bunnies and select one whose unique personality will best fit their lifestyle."

Jennifer Robertson, MHS public relations coordinator, noted that rabbits have an average lifespan of 7-10 years, making them less of a long-term, lifetime commitment than some other companion animals.

"Some people may be under the impression that rabbits should stay in a cage all their lives, but to the contrary, they actually thrive with plenty of time outside of their cage, socializing with their families," Robertson noted. "They



Learn about rabbits July 18 at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

are entertaining and enlightening to watch, and are curious, intelligent and loving companions.

"They also make wonderful companions for children. Bunnies don't like to be carried, so it can be a great opportunity for kids to sit on the floor with them, socialize, and learn to treat them gently. Like other companion animals, bunnies have unique

personalities—some may be quieter and gentle, while others are active and fun-loving."

Families interested in adopting a rabbit can view adoptable bunnies and access information about rabbit care online at www.michiganhumane.org/rabbit. MHS rabbit adoption fees are \$30, and include the sterilization of rabbits ages six months and older, a medical exam, and

behavior assessment.

If you can't adopt at this time but still want to help rabbits in need, can donate dark, leafy vegetables, such as romaine lettuce, cabbage, carrot tops and parsley to the Berman Center.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

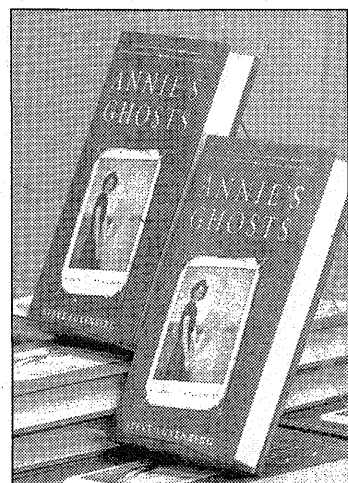
HELPING GOLDENS

Doggie Days of Summer mixes fashion and fund-raising noon to 3 p.m., July 16-18 at Pendleton in downtown Northville.

The store will donate 10 percent of your purchase price to Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan (GRRoM) and a rescue representative will be on hand with foster dogs to answer questions.

Bring your own dog for a photo with Sir Wooliam, Pendleton's sheep mascot when you make a donation to GRRoM, and register to win a \$25 gift card.

Refreshments will be served. Pendleton is located at 117 N. Center. Call (248) 596-9820 for additional information.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Annie's Ghosts' tells the story of a woman institutionalized at Eloise in what is now Westland.

BOOK

FROM PAGE B6

ence of about 75, including Thomas Jankowski of Canton, associate director for research and training at Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology.

"It's a terrific book," Jankowski said of *Annie's Ghosts*. "I haven't quite finished it. It's written in a very compelling way."

Jankowski is researching older Detroiters of the Great Depression, and often read in case files of fears of going to Eloise. "There's not a whole lot available," he said. He was able to glean information from Luxenberg's research.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Concert

Schoolcraft College's Jazz & Wind Ensembles will present "Summer Concert in the Courtyard," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, in the courtyard between the Forum Building and Bradner Library, on the campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, in Livonia. www.schoolcraft.edu.

Poker run and dinner

Ride your motorcycle or drive your car in this on-the-road competition for the best poker hand on July 19. Then head to AMVETS Post, 171 in Westland for spaghetti dinner.

It's all for a good cause — helping Kristin Bartlett's family pay for medical costs after the 24-year-old suffered a closed-head injury last October.

"She is in the National Guard and was hurt while off-duty," said Matt McMichael of Westland, her step-father. McMichael said that although the federal government pays for some treatment as well as Kristin's stay in a nursing home, more intensive

therapies aren't covered. A recent series of hyperbaric oxygen treatments cost \$5,000, for example.

"We try to take her home all we can, but most of the time she sits in a nursing home looking out the window," McMichael noted.

Proceeds from the poker run and dinner will ease the cost of continuing treatment. Tickets are \$10 for a single rider, \$15 for a double, and \$5 for the dinner only. Registration for the ride is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AMVETS post, 1217 Merriman. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. The post will be open during the ride and dinner. Donations will be accepted and refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded for best poker hands and a raffle will be held.

"We had a dinner in April that was really successful. We raised \$6,000 in three hours," McMichael noted.

The Jokers Motorcycle Club of Belleville is helping to coordinate the poker run.

For more information, call McMichael at (734) 522-5026 or John Wilson at AMVETS at (734) 729-

8930.

Garage sale

Presbyterian Village of Westland plans a garage sale Saturday, July 25, to raise money for employee and resident picnics.

The facility is a part of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, a nonprofit organization that serves senior citizens of all faiths. The Village of Westland offers one- and two-bedroom apartments with services, Assisted Living & Alzheimer/Memory Care cottages, along with Respite Care for short term stays. It also provides home-cooked meals, activities, transportation to shopping and banking, personal emergency response buttons, a Wellness Center with exercise equipment, and gardening. It's located at 32001 Cherry Hill, in Westland. Call (734) 762-8954 for more information.

—By Sharon Dargay

KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section



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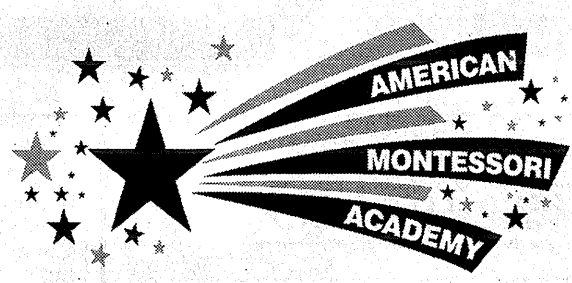
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REUNIONS

FROM PAGE B8

Drive. Tickets \$55 (cash bar); checks payable to FHS Class of 1989, mail to: FHS 89 Class Reunion, P.O. Box 6139, Plymouth, MI 48170. Include contact information. For information, e-mail: Angie at amiller@fctitle.com or Dennis at dennis_dilorenzo@yahoo.com or call Dennis DiLorenzo at (734) 968-0064. Hotel reservations can be made at the Livonia Marriott, (800) 228-9290, or www.marriott.com. Group reservation rates under Livonia Franklin 20-Year Reunion.

Classes 1965-2000
All school reunion, including teachers, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at TC Gator's of Canton, 42775 Ford Road, (734) 981-0906. Cost is \$15 and includes valet parking, food, two DJs, cash bar and memories with old friends. RSVP to Alicia O'Brien (Douglas) Class of '87 at (734) 673-3842 or e-mail to aliciadoug@aol.com.

Milford High School
Class of 1978
Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Milford/Lakeland
Class of 1989
The two high schools team for a 20-year reunion, Saturday, July 25, at 59 West Banquet Facility. For more information, visit www.lakeland89.com or www.milford89.com

Mother Of Our Savior
All class reunion
Aug. 15, 2009 at Monahan's K of C in Livonia. For more information, Call Joe McCauley at (734) 420-2898.

Northville High School
Class of 1979
30-year reunion 7 p.m. Aug. 15, at Genitti's in Northville. Tickets and more information at www.classcreator.com/Northville-MI-1979/index.cfm.

Plymouth Canton & Salem
Class of 1979
30-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at Hyatt Regency Dearborn. 6:30 p.m. to midnight, with food stations open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$60 per person before July 1, \$75 per person after. For information, visit http://home.rr.com/phs30yearreunion or send e-mail to phs_1979@yahoo.com.

Plymouth High School
Class of 1969
40th class reunion 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday Sept. 19, at the Plymouth Elks Club. Dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Cash bar. For more detail or to RSVP contact phs1969@aol.com. Looking for missing classmates. Contact phs1969@aol.com with your name address telephone number and e-mail address.

Redford Thurston High School
Class of 1969
A 40-year "casual" get together, Saturday, Sept. 5, Labor Day weekend, at G. SUBU's Leather Bottle Restaurant,

20300 Farmington Road, Livonia. \$10 at door. Discounted bar and a band will play. Reserve tickets by calling Ted Enright at (734) 564-1699, or e-mail TedEnright@AOL.com.

Rochester Adams
Class of 1989
Announces its 20-year reunion Saturday, July 18, 2009. For details and more information, visit rochesteradams89.com or e-mail rahs89@gmail.com.

Romulus High School
Class of 1979
Reunion (77-'81 invited) Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 20-23. Activities include a reception at the Best Western Gateway Hotel, The Princess Riverboat w/dinner (\$60), socializing with music and appetizers at the hotel, and a family picnic. Discount rooms available at the hotel. For information, call Duane Moffat at (248) 426-6501 or e-mail SpectroD@aol.com.

St. Frederick High School
All school
The Annual Pontiac St. Frederick Mass and all class reunion will start with Mass at 11 a.m., on Sept. 13, at St. Vincent De Paul Church in Pontiac, followed by a luncheon at Santa Hall on Cass Lake Road in Keego Harbor. Tickets cost \$22 and are available at the Madonna Shop in Pontiac (248) 681-3964 or contact Jim Russell at (248) 363-4209. E-mail address is: st_freds_alumni@yahoo.com. Ticket deadline is Sept. 11. Anyone who attended St. Fred's is welcome.

St. Mary of Redford
Class of 1969
40-year reunion, Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 at the Monahan Knights of Columbus in Livonia. If interested in helping to plan the event or contacting classmates call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or e-mail to mcolter@gr-lakes.com.

Troy High Palooza
Classes of 1982-86
Troy High School Alumni from 1982-1986 meet Aug. 1, 2009 at the Centerpoint Marriott in Auburn Hills. Live band and food. No tickets will be sold at the door. Log onto http://www.classcreator.com/Troy-MI-1982-1986 to reserve a spot for the party.

Visitation High School
Class of 1959
50-year reunion party Sept 12. Call Charleen at (248) 652-6817.

Westland John Glenn
Class of 1969
40th Reunion Weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Friday activities: 6:45 p.m. football game JGHS vs. WMHS; 7:30-11:00 p.m. social mixer at Hilton Garden Inn, near airport. Saturday activities: 10:30 a.m. tour of John Glenn High School, 6 p.m. midnight reunion dinner at Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information, contact Jghs69@aol.com; Facebook JGHS Class of 1969 or Sandra Shepherd Legg at (313) 273-7950. Registration deadline, Sept. 5 at JGHS69@aol.com.

BBB warns about complaints on SAT, ACT pitch directed at college-bound

Parents of high school students who are planning to take the SAT and ACT college admissions tests are being misled by a Texas-based test preparation service according to complaints filed with the Better Business Bureau. The BBB has received 99 complaints from consumers from across the country, including Michigan, alleging misleading telephone sales and difficulties with obtaining refunds for test preparation materials by The SAT and ACT Prep Center.



Tim Burns

Complaints allege that telephone sales for The SAT and ACT Prep Center misrepresented to parents that their son or daughter had asked to get test preparation software for the college admission tests through their local high school. After buying the software for \$119.99, parents discovered that their children had not requested the study materials and their local high school was not involved with the offer. Additional complaints also allege dissatisfaction with the software; non-delivery of the materials; unauthorized charges of \$49.95 for monthly service; and difficulties in obtaining cancellations or refunds.

Tim Burns, public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, said "Parents should check with their student's school counselor and comparison shop before purchasing any offer for test preparation services. You can also review a business's

Reliability Report with the Better Business Bureau for free at www.bbb.org to see if they have a pattern of consumer complaints."

In Michigan, a mother reported to the BBB: "My husband was contacted by phone from The College Prep Center and told that our daughter had requested information from them. He believed them and gave our credit card number over the phone. Afterward our daughter was asked if she had requested anything and she said 'No.'"

An Ohio parent complained: "We received a call that our daughter expressed interest in the high school that she would like getting her ACT, SAT, and PSAT scores up. After we got the program I found out that I can get the same program at Best Buy for under \$10. We returned the CD to The SAT and ACT Prep Center for a refund. When I was paying my bills online, I found that he charge was still on my account. I called them and they said the software was opened and there will be no refund. I'm out \$119.99."

Another parent in Nebraska

stated: "I went to their Web site trying to contact them with the information they provided me and none of it works. They have not given my money back and have now started debiting my account an additional \$49.95 per month. I have tried calling them and I get a recording saying that due to high volume they can't accept my call and I am to leave them a message. I then get a recording saying the mailbox is full and they disconnect."

The SAT and ACT Prep Center has a BBB rating of "F". The reasons for the F rating include:

- Number of complaints filed against the business;
 - Failure to respond to complaints filed against the business;
 - BBB does not have sufficient background information on the business.
- Due to a failure to respond to complaints and inquires from the Better Business Bureau, all complaints and information received by the BBB is being forwarded to the Texas Attorney General's Office.

AT KENSINGTON METROPARK

For additional information or to register for programs at the Kensington Metropark Nature Center or Farm Center located near Milford/Brighton, please call (800) 477-3178. At the Nature Center: "Fossil Hunt," Saturday, Aug. 1, at 1 p.m., Nature Center. Using slides and specimens, examine life on Earth through time, and search for prehistoric fossils at gravel pit. Fee: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required. "Habitat Hike: Bogs, Marshes and Swamps," Sunday, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m., Nature Center. Check out some of the various habitats on this guided hike.

Fee: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required. "Paddlin' Amongst the Lotus," Saturday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m., Nature Center. Bring a canoe or kayak to paddle among Kensington's largest wildflowers. Observe aquatic animal life. Fee: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required. "Where the Bugs Are," Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m., Nature Center. Find out what makes an insect an insect, and look for some on this family hike. Fee: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required.

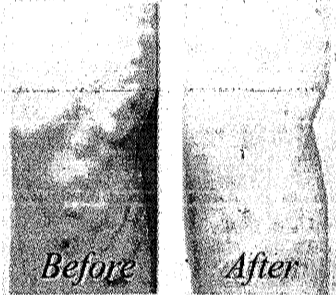
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Two lemurs born at zoo

What's black and white and cute all over? Two black-and-white ruffed lemurs born June 2 at the Detroit Zoo. The twins join mother, Fleur, and father, Goodall, doubling the zoo's ruffed lemur population. The male and female newborns are yet to be named.

"Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are a critically endangered species from one of the most at-risk habitats on earth. These babies are a welcome addition to a small population of captive lemurs that could help keep this species from extinction," said Director of Conservation and Animal Welfare Scott Carter.

There are approximately 215 black-and-white ruffed lemurs in North American zoos.

The black-and-white ruffed lemur (Varecia variegata), a tree-dwelling primate native

to eastern Madagascar, is the largest of all lemur species. A mature ruffed lemur can weigh 8-10 pounds and reach 4 feet in length, including a 2-foot tail which it uses for balance.

Visitors can see the black-and-white ruffed lemurs in their outdoor habitat between the snow monkeys and white rhinos.

The Detroit Zoological Society operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October (open at 9 a.m. May 1 through Labor Day) - with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August - and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March.

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NEW PATIENTS

Fitzsimons is advocate for families with dying children

Farmington Hills resident Ann Fitzsimons is the voice of families with dying children. "Our goal is to make sure that every seriously-ill or dying child, whether 18 days or 18 years of age, is competently and compassionately cared for in the health care system," said Fitzsimons, co-founder of Compassionate Passages Inc. (www.compassionatepassages.org). "We help educate medical professionals and community members on how to better meet the physical, emotional and spiritual end-of-life needs of children, and to support their families."

Fitzsimons, who holds a master's in business administration, launched Compassionate Passages Inc. in 2001 with good friend Beth Seyda, of Chapel Hill, N.C., after a couple of life-altering experiences in child-loss. Seyda's two-week-old son died and Fitzsimons helped her through that difficult time.

A few years later, Fitzsimons' niece died shortly after a premature birth. Fitzsimons and Seyda provided guidance, support and advice to Fitzsimons' sister about making memories during her daughter's short life that would have to last a lifetime, based on what they had learned from the death of Seyda's son.

"That's when we had our 'Ah ha!' moment," Fitzsimons recalled. "Once we saw how our knowledge and experience with child-loss helped my

sister, we knew we could help other families as well."

The pair began reaching out to health care professionals who treated seriously-ill and dying children. They shared information about how to provide better supportive care for the child and family, using their own experiences, and those of other families who had shared with them their child-loss stories.

"We became the 'family voice' to create change in a system that trains its professionals to 'save lives,' not help 'savor and celebrate them' when the only option is death," said Fitzsimons.

LOCAL STUDIES

In 2004, Fitzsimons returned to school to earn a post master's certificate in bereavement, through Madonna University's hospice and palliative studies program.

"Ann has dedicated her life's work to improving end-of-life care for children and assisting grieving families," said Kelly Rhodes, chair of Madonna's hospice and palliative studies program. "She is committed to giving back to her community in ways that personify Madonna University's mission and values."

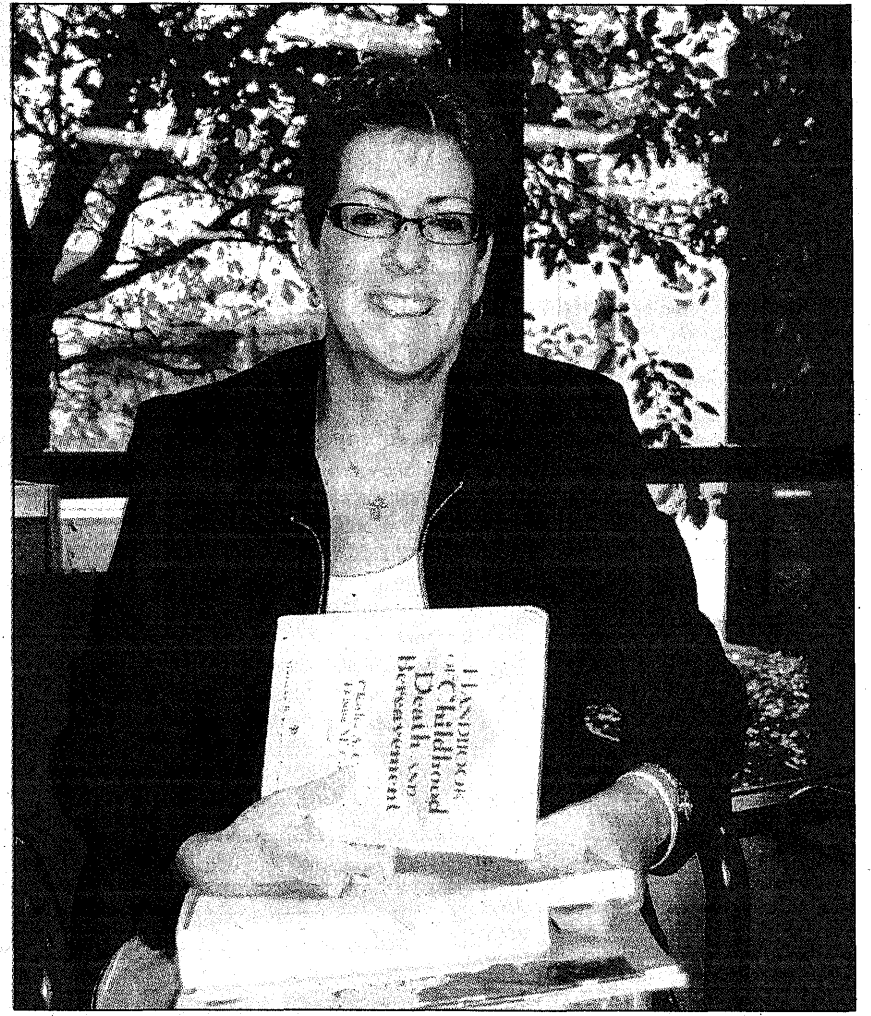
SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Through workshops, videos, national and local speaking engagements, and publications, Fitzsimons

and Seyda educate and inspire. By sharing the stories and lessons of families whose children have died, the two are able to put a face to the issues these families struggle with and make family-centered suggestions for supportive care a reality.

Fitzsimons co-wrote a link about parents advocating and caring for their children with life-limiting illnesses for the Web site www.mihospice.org, and is a contributing author in a widely-used hospice and palliative studies textbook. She will make three different presentations about caring for dying children and their families at the Children's Hospice International's 20th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa this September.

Madonna University's Department of Hospice and Palliative Studies offers the only university-based hospice program of its kind in the nation. Concentrated degree programs are available in the areas of bereavement, pastoral ministry, business, education, and nursing. The department follows the Hospice Philosophy as defined by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Its purpose is to prepare individuals to serve diverse populations during the terminal phase of life, and to enhance the quality of life by focusing on the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of the hospice patient and family.



Ann Fitzsimons of Farmington Hills cares about families coping with children dying.

Register now for cancer, ALS walks taking place on Sunday, Sept. 13



Support two causes — St. Mary Mercy Hospital's cancer services and ALS of Michigan — by registering now for their walk/run events on Sunday, Sept. 13.

St. Mary Mercy's 3rd 5K run/walk for Cancer starts at 9 a.m., on the hospital grounds, 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia.

On-site registration for the ALS of Michigan's ninth annual "Walk 'n Roll" starts at 10 a.m., with the 3-mile walk starting at 11 a.m., at Kensington Metropark in Milford and Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township.

The St. Mary's event, which drew more than 400 participants last year, is designed as a celebration of life for cancer survivors and patients. It's also an opportunity for family members and friends to honor or remember a loved one. Proceeds from the event go toward St. Mary Mercy's cancer services to assist patients in need.

The ALS walk will raise funds and awareness of disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. More than 1,000 people in Michigan have been diagnosed with the progressive motor neuron disease. Another 200 are diagnosed each year.

Participants can register online at www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1758010.

Volunteers also are needed for the 5K event. Call Kevin Moore at (73) 655-2419 to volunteer. A meeting will be held for 5K volunteers before the event for details and specifics.


Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners in each age division. All participants will be entered into a post-race drawing for prizes.

Following the 5K, the hospital's Community Open House 50th Anniversary Celebration will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the hospital grounds. The event offers fun, music, games, food, health information and screenings, and a variety of activities for everyone.

For more information, visit www.stmarymercy.org and click on "classes & events" or call (734) 655-8670.

The ALS walk will raise funds and awareness of disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. More than 1,000 people in Michigan have been diagnosed with the progressive motor neuron disease. Another 200 are diagnosed each year.

To register for the walk, visit www.alsofmichigan.org. For more information, call the organization at (800) 882-5764, Ext. 225.




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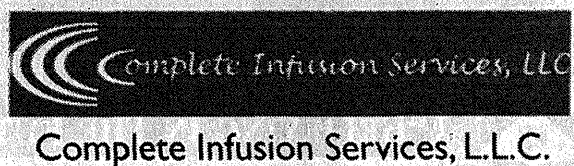
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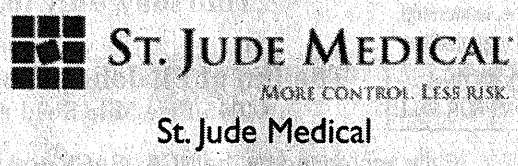
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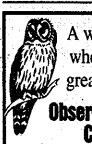
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REJECT AN OFFER BY TURNING THE PAGE



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L. Culp

In spite of the constricted marketplace, it's almost as essential to know how to turn an employer or recruiter down as it is to job hunt. Why? You need them in your network of contacts. You want to maintain a relationship with every (decent) hiring manager in your search, because another opportunity might come up or you might create another one there. This principle is true at any time, intensely true at this one.

EMPLOYERS

Michelle Reitman, psychologist and founder of Cadenza Center for Psychotherapy and the Arts Inc., in Hollywood, Fla., works with a number of adults facing job loss. She observes increasing feelings of desperation as unemployment continues. Reitman outlines five steps for a sensitive, effective turnaround:

- Convey your appreciation for the offer.
- Let the person know you've made your decision after careful thought by identifying positive attributes, such as industry, potential colleagues, salary, etc., she says.

- Explain the specifics of your decision. These could be related to required tasks, the need to relocate or other professional or personal factors.
- State that you take commitments seriously and take pride in your work and reputation, she adds, and for the reasons you've just enumerated, you think this isn't the right... (opportunity).
- Conclude with openness rather than finality, she suggests: Reiterate clearly that you'd like to be considered for other positions in the future and repeat how grateful you are for having been considered (for this one).

In similar situations, Debra Benton, president of Benton Management Resources Inc., in Livermore, Colo., coaches executives and middle managers. She considers it important to turn an offer down if it isn't suitable, because, if nothing else, it will make the employer want you more and, possibly, bend to get you. She recalls a CEO in Southern California who told employees to keep their resumes current and interview whenever they had a chance. He wanted employees who, as she puts it, were confident in their value and worth to an organization. Weak leaders want desperate subordinates. Good leaders don't.

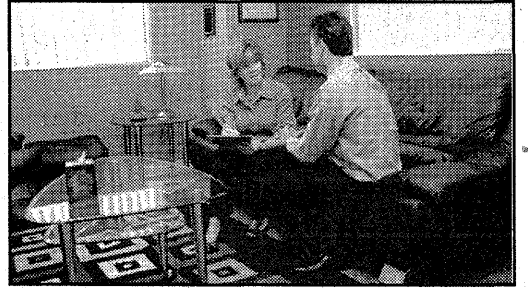
A potential employer will see your confidence and power in your ability to

contribute and create value for an organization, which makes you appear to be a person with options. It does make you more desirable, she believes. Proceed with sincerity, though, or the employer might feel manipulated. While he might not necessarily renegotiate on the spot, he might well get back to you.

RECRUITERS

Although Reitman's method could easily be applied to recruiters, there are some special instructions, according to Tom Carter, president of New York City's Leader/Finder Consulting Inc. He's watched candidates reject offers under these circumstances: disagreement over compensation, multiple offers under consideration by the candidate and a counter offer from the current employer after accepting an offer from a client company.

Carter says that lack of specificity in a turnaround is a major mistake, particularly after what could be 12 to 20 interviews for one position. Unlike Reitman, he says that disappearing burns a bridge as much as failing to communicate reasons. However, a missed cue doesn't signify that the bridge permanently went up in smoke, because you can always go back to provide personal and professional information in two weeks or so. Carter maintains that a true professional will pick up the telephone and explain why he didn't



Credit: Donna Natale Planas
Photo: Psychologist Michelle Reitman of Cadenza Center for Psychotherapy and the Arts Inc., in Hollywood, Fla., counsels a client who is expected to be let go. She uses a step-by-step approach for rejecting an offer that wouldn't be suitable.

provide the full picture. Offering to discuss what transpired will help restore openness in the relationship.

Then, when you meet, convey the missing specifics behind your inability and unwillingness to move forward with the opportunity, Carter recommends. You'll likely find that turning the page on the relationship is much more effective than closing the book.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)

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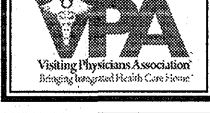


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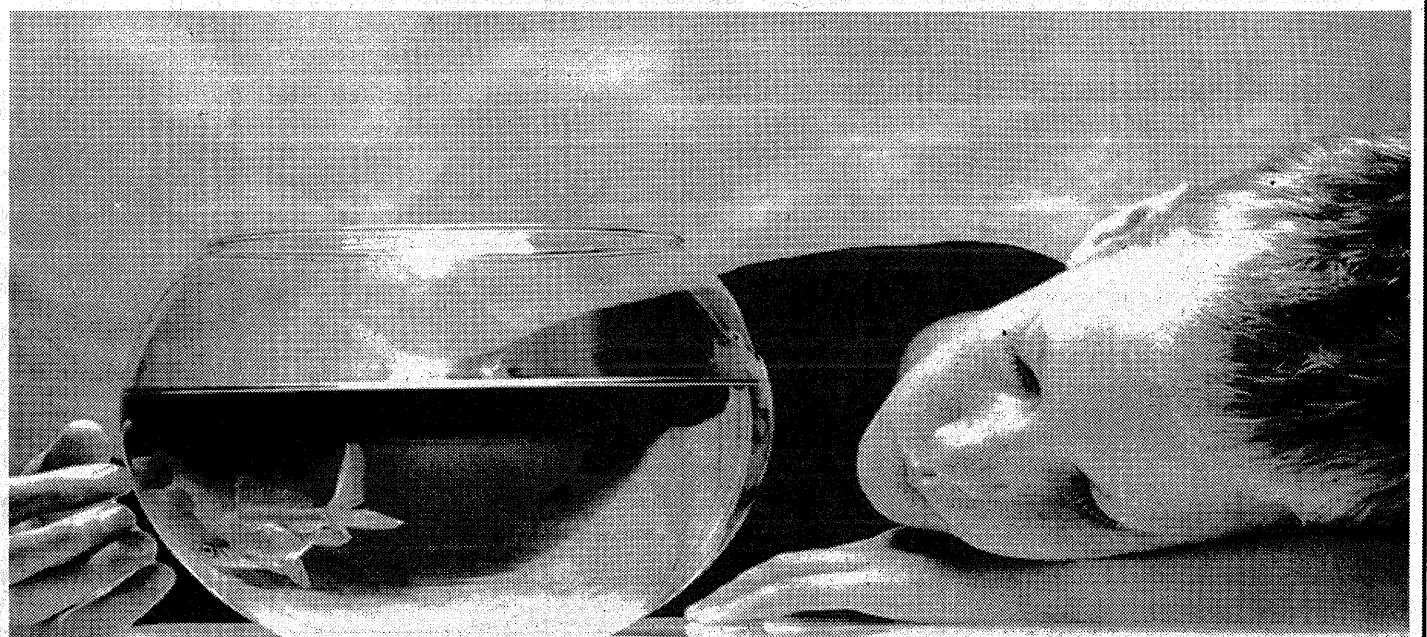
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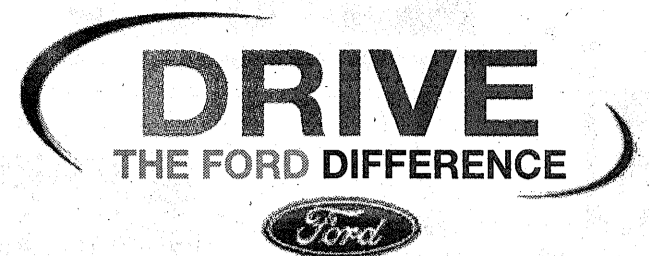
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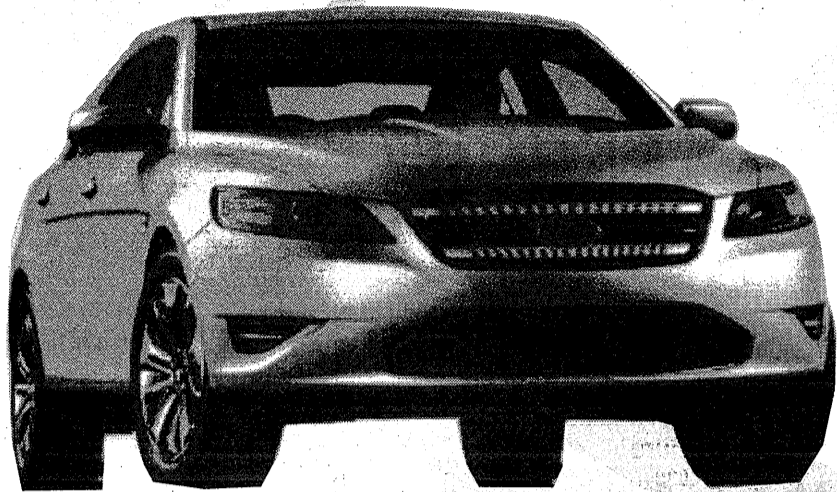
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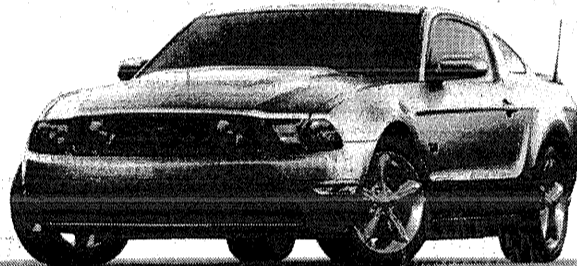
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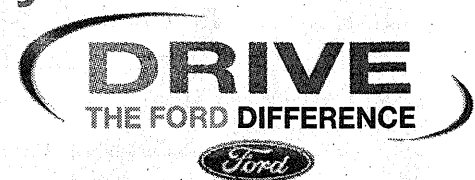
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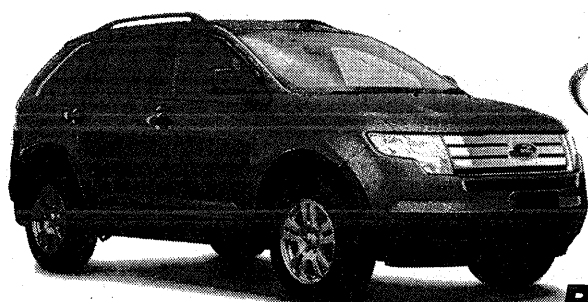
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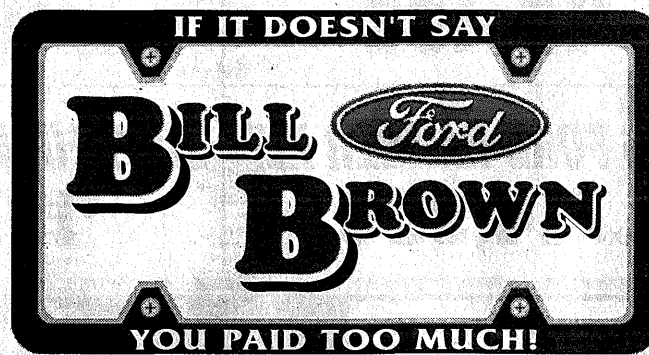
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