

THURSDAY

July 30, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

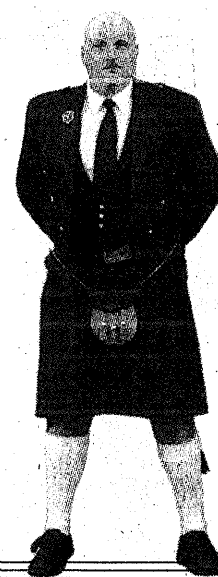
Volume 123 Number 99

75 CENTS

Youngsters kicking up their heels at soccer camp - Sports, B1

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Looking good in a kilt

Malls & Mainstreets, A9

PIPELINE

Coffee time

State Rep. Marc Corriveau will be holding a coffee at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman on Monday, Aug. 24 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come and meet Corriveau and have their concerns or issues addressed.

Comedy night set

Three local comedians - Gary George, Dave Bell and Mike Malec - will perform at the second annual Plymouth High School Football Boosters Club Comedy Fund-raiser, at the beautiful Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton.

This evening of laughs takes place Aug. 8. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening at 7. This event is general admission and tickets are \$15. Proceeds from this show will help provide needed funds to the Plymouth Football Program.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased at the Theater Box Office or online.

Tiger fever

The Plymouth Historical Museum is selling tickets to the Detroit Tigers vs. Cleveland Indians baseball game at Comerica Park Tuesday, Sept. 1.

A luxury coach will pick up fans at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth, at 5 p.m., with a 5:15 p.m. departure for the ballpark. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. The coach will leave for Plymouth shortly after the game ends.

The \$40 ticket price includes one upper deck seat and a round-trip luxury coach ride to the ballpark and back from the Museum.

Museum officials said tickets are selling quickly, so interested fans shouldn't hesitate to come in to the Museum and purchase soon. The Museum's hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There may be someone in the administrative office on Mondays, but call (734) 455-8940 before coming to the Museum on that day.

Tickets can also be purchased through PayPal from the Museum's website at <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html>

Firms rally 'round company's Think Michigan Made effort



Michigan Tape recognizes Buy Michigan Week with a 400-square-foot graphic in windows on the east side of its building, which faces I-275. It also promotes the Buy Michigan Now Festival, which continues through Sunday in downtown Northville, and in which Michigan Tape has a booth.

Buying into Michigan

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth Township company is working to diversify its product line and rally other Michigan-based firms that are also trying to weather the state's tough economy.

Michigan Tape Inc., a new spinoff of a 32-year-old company that designs and manufactures self-adhering fasteners and noise-reduction devices for the automobile industry, has launched its Think Michigan Made campaign to urge consumers to buy made-in-Michigan goods. Michigan Tape is also marketing "Made in Michigan" and "Grown in Michigan" stickers that other companies can use on products of Michigan origin.

The idea, said Chris Auttersson, a Michigan Tape vice president, is to provide a common, easily identifiable logo that can promote a range of Michigan products, from kitchen countertops to bags of chips to bottles of wine, wherever they're sold.

"It's kind of our way to help other Michigan companies to promote their brands," Auttersson said. "The whole focus is on one common image."

So far, Faygo Beverages Inc., Germack Pistachio Co., Better Made Snack Food Co. and U.S. Marble are among the companies using or planning to use the stickers, and some of the labeled products are showing up on store shelves.

"So far it's been really good," Auttersson said of the response.

Citing a state source, Auttersson said that if every household in Michigan spent \$10 a week on a Michigan product — that's not necessarily an extra \$10 a week — \$36

million a week would flow into the state's economy.

"If you can get everyone in the state doing that, that is a lot of money pouring into the state economy," he said.

In recognition of Buy Michigan Week, which is this week, Michigan Tape has put up a 400-square-foot graphic in windows on the east side of the building, which faces I-275.

The graphic, by Steel Skinz Graphics, promotes the Think Michigan Made campaign and includes oversized logos like those on the "Made in Michigan" and "Grown in Michigan" stickers. It also promotes the Buy Michigan Now Festival, which continues through Sunday in downtown Northville, and in which Michigan Tape has a booth.

Michigan Tape is a spinoff of Argent International Inc., which makes fasteners and stick-on noise-reduction pads for many automakers and their suppliers. Michigan Tape has recently started marketing similar products with consumer applications, such as Garment Grips, a non-slip tape designed to help hold slippery clothing on hangers; and Affix-it Strips, double-sided tape strips.

Argent, which currently employs about 60 people, was founded in Redford Township in 1977 and has been located on Concept Drive in Plymouth Township since 2004.

For more on Think Michigan Made, visit the Web site www.thinkmichiganmade.com. For more on the Buy Michigan Now Festival, visit www.buymichigannow.com. For more on Michigan Tape products, visit www.peel-n-stick.com.

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Treasurer steps away from picnic

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After an assessment of the time and work involved — and a health scare — Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards is stepping back from the community's annual Fourth of July picnic.

Edwards, who for 13 years has been the chief organizer, fund-raiser and driving force behind the picnic, said Tuesday that he no longer wants to be in charge of it. While he's willing to do fund-raising, he said, he can no longer handle the "heavy lifting," most of which takes place on picnic day and the day before.



'I'd like to see the tradition go on. Hopefully someone will step up in the township and volunteer their time to do it.'

RON EDWARDS,
Plymouth Township
Treasurer

"People have to understand the time that this takes," Edwards said. "It's not something that just happens." The event also takes a toll on family members whom he enlists to help, he said.

Edwards, however, is optimistic that someone, or several someones, will step up to take his place. He said he was encouraged by the large number of volunteers for this year's picnic, mentioning in particular the Lions Club, which promised three or four volunteers and sent at least a dozen.

"I'd like to see the tradition go on. Hopefully someone will step up in the township and volunteer their time to do it," he said.

The picnic is held every Fourth of July at Plymouth Township Park. For a donation — a minimum of five cents an item — visitors can have hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and ice cream. Edwards said this year's picnic saw the largest crowd ever, an estimated 4,200 people, and that he came away with enough donations to give next year's organizers a good financial start. Though it is an official township event, township funds are not used, Edwards said; the picnic is paid for through donations from individuals, participants, and local companies, including in-kind donations from Absopure Water Co. and Aunt Millie's Bakeries.

Edwards said he would continue raising money for the picnic, as that doesn't take a lot of time and he finds sponsors are generally eager to help. He also said he will continue involvement in the annual fireworks show. "It's much easier to do," he said.

Edwards said a health scare the week before the picnic this year sealed his decision. He was checking out a refrigerated truck to use for the picnic, he said, and smelled a strong chemical smell inside. He soon began feeling sick, he said, and ended up in a hospital emergency room.

"It's one of those things that said, 'It's time,'" he said. Another refrigerated truck was used for the picnic.

Edwards said his decision wasn't easy, as the picnic has been his "pride and joy."

"I think it's a great tradition in town. I think a lot of people enjoy it," he said. "The burden on me, it's just grown too much."

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Events will make downtown a wonderland for children

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a dunk tank, an inflatable bouncer, face-painting, popcorn, games, a chance to check out a fire truck and more, downtown Plymouth will be a kids paradise on Saturday.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., that is, during the second annual Kidpalooza, an event designed to show children and their parents what downtown has to offer.

The free Kidpalooza is based at Kellogg Park but has more than two dozen participating businesses and organizations downtown. Accompanied by their parents, kids can use a board-game-themed flier and map to travel to different sites for games, activities and crafts.

"There were a lot of kids last year, and I

Please see **KIDPALOOZA, A3**



PHOTO COURTESY PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Youngsters taking part in last year's Kidpalooza event got a rabbits-eye view of some animals. This year's event takes place Saturday.

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Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry (center) told a crowd at Canton's Singh Sabha of Michigan the state "gains great strength from the ethnic diversity that we have."

Cherry hails diversity in temple address

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry on Sunday told a large gathering of Sikhs in Canton they can play a pivotal role in helping Michigan rebound from its deep and lingering economic recession.

"Michigan gains great strength from the ethnic diversity that we have," Cherry said, in a keynote address inside the Singh Sabha of Michigan, a Sikh gurdwara, or temple, which opened last April on Canton Center Road near Geddes.

Cherry, a likely Democratic candidate in next year's gubernatorial race, vowed that "for Michigan to grow strong economically," it will need to chart a common path by drawing on all the talents and strengths of its diverse population.

Cherry compared the state's economy to a symbolic bus that has run into a ditch — a bus he said can only return to a road of prosperity if people of all cultures are on board. He lauded the determination of Sikhs and described himself as "so impressed" that the two-story, 19,000-square-foot gurdwara in which he spoke was built with volunteers and donations.

Cherry joined other township, county, regional and state

officials for a Sunday afternoon religious ceremony including Sikh music, prayers, customs and culture. Sikh means disciple or learner, and Sikhism is founded on the 15th-Century teachings of Guru Nanak and 10 successive gurus. It teaches of one God, equality, hard work, meditation, tolerance, religious inclusion and other beliefs.

"Anyone is welcome," said Singh Sabha member Rani Mahal, who organized Sunday's event.

Some Sikhs said Sunday they have struggled to be understood since they were mistakenly associated with the 9/11 terrorists. They also said many people simply aren't aware of customs, such as men wearing long hair, beards and turbans as a form of religious attire.

Singh Sabha in Canton is part of the world's fifth-largest religion, and it draws people from all of western Wayne County and much farther away, Mahal said.

Before introducing Cherry, S. TejKiran Singh, a Ford Motor Co. senior engineer and one of the gurdwara's conflict resolution committee members, said Sikhs number 26 million worldwide and 500,000 in the United States. He said they represent many professions and

are committed to hard work.

Singh asked government officials attending Sunday's ceremony to do what they can to halt the practice of denying Sikhs from wearing their religious attire and serving in the U.S. Army. Singh told the crowd Sikhs have "a passion to defend" a country many of them chose, and where many were born.

Singh also called on government leaders to help fight the oppression of Sikh youngsters in schools, where they are often bullied because they are perceived as different.

Moreover, he said the Sikh community, as Cherry suggested, can help Michigan fight its economic woes. He said many Sikhs chose to live in Michigan because of its natural beauty and its diversity.

"We love Michigan," Singh said. "We chose it as our home."

Jagdeep Singh, an executive committee member of Singh Sabha, called Sunday's event one of the gurdwara's biggest attempts yet to reach out to political leaders.

"This is (one of) the first times we have invited our political representation" from the state, county, courts and the township, he said.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

'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 Aug. 5, *The Harp Mouse Chooses Her Home: The Adventure Begins* will be read by author Diane Dunn.

• On Aug. 12, the last Whimsical Wednesday for the summer, kids are welcome to enjoy an interactive story time with Museum Education Director Anna Lopez.

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.

Life screening

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts a Life Line Screening health event to scan for risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm. Life Line Screening uses hospital quality ultrasound technology. The screening will be held Aug. 28 at the Township Friendship Station, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register for the stroke, vascular disease and heart rhythm package for \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Call to pre-register (888) 653-6441.

Senior Fest picnic

The annual Senior Fest Picnic will once again be held at Waterford Bend Park on Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PCCA Office, 201 Main Street, ticket prices are \$7 for PCCA Members and \$9 for guests. Lots of prizes, raffles, chicken lunch and entertainment.

"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

Barefoot auditions

Plymouth-based Barefoot Productions conducts auditions for its production of "Mister Roberts," 7-9 p.m. Aug. 3-4.

Auditions take place at the former Walker-Buzenberg furniture store the production company now calls home at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Roles are available for 19 men and one woman.

For more information, call Craig Hane, (734) 582-9688.

Antique appraisals

The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts an antique appraisal clinic with Ernie DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries in Detroit on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Items to be appraised include antique furniture, art, and small objects. No jewelry please. Appraisals are by appointment only and time slots are filling up quickly. Oral evaluations will be provided for \$10 per item; written evaluations will be provided for \$15 per item. There is a maximum of four items to be appraised per 15 minute time slot.

Call now for an appointment, (734) 455-8940. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth.

Drink battle

Diners at Old Village's Station 885 will attempt to settle the question, beer or wine, in its Aug. 5 "Caps vs. Corks" event.

The five-course menu event starts at 6:30 p.m. Each course will be paired with a beer and a wine, and all participants will vote on which is better.

Cost is \$50 (inclusive). The menu will be posted on-line at www.station885.com

Station 885 is located at 885 Starkweather. Call (734) 459-0885.

Tables are \$50. Interested vendors should call Bobbie at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

Greece festival

The fifth annual "Taste of Greece Festival" on its way to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church.

The festival takes place Sept. 11-13 on the grounds of the church, located at 39851 W. Five Mile Road in Plymouth. The festival will once again awaken the senses of sight, sound and taste of Greece, with exhibits of traditional Greek music, dancing, food and culture for all of Southeast Michigan to experience and enjoy.

This year's event features the Greek comedian Basile, in his first visit to Michigan in 2009.

For more information, e-mail secretarynv@sbcglobal.net or call (734) 420-0131.

New Morning

New Morning School announced seven scholarships are still available for the popular summer science camp program.

Due to the generous support of the Plymouth Noon Rotary club, the scholarships include one week of full-day science camp, along with before- and after-camp care. The scholarships are open to students that attend Plymouth Canton schools.

Choose from hands-on, enriching themes such as:

- The Engineering of Physics, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 3-7

Anyone interested in scholarships can call the school at (734) 420-3331 to set up an interview in person or via telephone.

Pageant volunteers

The Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Program is in need of volunteers to help out with this year's program.

Organizers' goal is to make the event bigger and better, and say the only way to do that is with volunteers.

Anyone interested should send an e-mail to pcjrmiss@yahoo.com. All volunteers are welcome and appreciated.



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National success

Planetdance from canton, MI recently attended the Starpower National Talent Competition in Ocean City, Md., which featured thousands of dancers doing 1,300 routines during the week. The team traveled with 80 dancers to Maryland. The last day of the competition was the "Battle of the Stars" where they picked the top 80 routines to come back to the stage and re-compete. Planetdance was honored to have six routines make it to the Battle of the Stars. The competition also picked four dancers for a full scholarship to the dance convention "Wild," among them Alyson Fryz of Canton and planetdance. Planetdance is currently moving locations to Cherry Hill and Sheldon. Check out the studio's Web site at planetdancestudio.com for the summer schedule.

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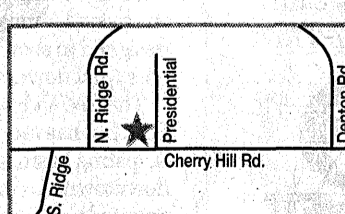
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PHOTO COURTESY PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Games, fitness activities, face painting, a dunk tank and a chance to meet with Plymouth police and firefighters are among the festivities planned for the second annual Kidpalooza Saturday throughout downtown Plymouth.

KIDPALOOZA

FROM PAGE A1

believe they expect more," said Tia Williamson, one of the owners of Magnolia, a participating store. "People really enjoyed it."

Magnolia, a flower, giftware and home decor shop on Forest, will feature a dunk tank in its parking lot, with Williamson's husband, Brian Williamson, as the dunking victim. "He begrudgingly agreed to do this," his wife laughed.

Last year, Magnolia offered a free craft. Young visitors were largely well-behaved and "the parents seemed grateful for an activity for the kids," Williamson said.

"It's a good event for the stores, but it's also (to show) a more kid-friendly town," she said.

"This event really speaks to the heart of downtown Plymouth and the families of the Plymouth community," said John Buzuvis, director of business operations and special projects for the Downtown Development Authority, which is organizing Kidpalooza.

In addition to activities at various downtown shops, Kidpalooza will feature, at Kellogg Park, a

police squad car, an ambulance and a fire truck for kids to see, rabbits from Midwest Rabbit Rescue, and a donation station for new and gently used books for children. The books are going to First Step, Wayne County Head Start and the *Detroit Free Press'* Gift of Reading program.

Book donors will get a coupon for a popcorn from one of the popcorn machines that will be located downtown; non-book-donors can also get popcorn for a small cash donation. "We're hoping people will be generous," said Tony Bruscati, the DDA director.

Most of the activities will be designed for children ages 6 to 12, but children of all ages, with their parents, are welcome.

Visitors to Kidpalooza should register for the event in Kellogg Park before beginning their journeys downtown; registration will be open from 10 a.m. until noon. Visitors can visit as few or as many of the participating businesses and organizations as they like.

For more on Kidpalooza, visit the DDA Web site, www.downtownplymouth.org.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Still got it

Older actors find a home with over-50 troupe

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Tom Strock got back into acting five years ago, the only on-stage action he'd seen* was in high school productions of *Our Town* and *Time Out for Ginger*.

But considering Strock is 69 years old, the high school work came some time ago. Still, when he went looking for something to do a few years ago, he opted for the grease paint and stage lights.

Now Strock is a leading man, heading a contingent of senior actors in the new Still Got It Players' production of *Any Body for Tea*, which opens at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill later this month.

Strock is among a dozen actors, all at least age 50, who comprise the Still Got It Players.

"I've always admired actors," said Strock, who first joined the Canton Senior Players in 2004. "It seemed like quite a challenge. I figured if I didn't get a part and it didn't work out, well, at least I tried."

It worked out fine for Strock and the other actors in the group, the brainchild of 54-year-old director Debbie Lannen, who said she tired of watching play after play without any substantive roles for senior citizens.

Lannen, a former dance studio owner who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Wayne State University, said the Still Got It Players gives "something to do" to elder citizens who "aren't all ready to sit at home."

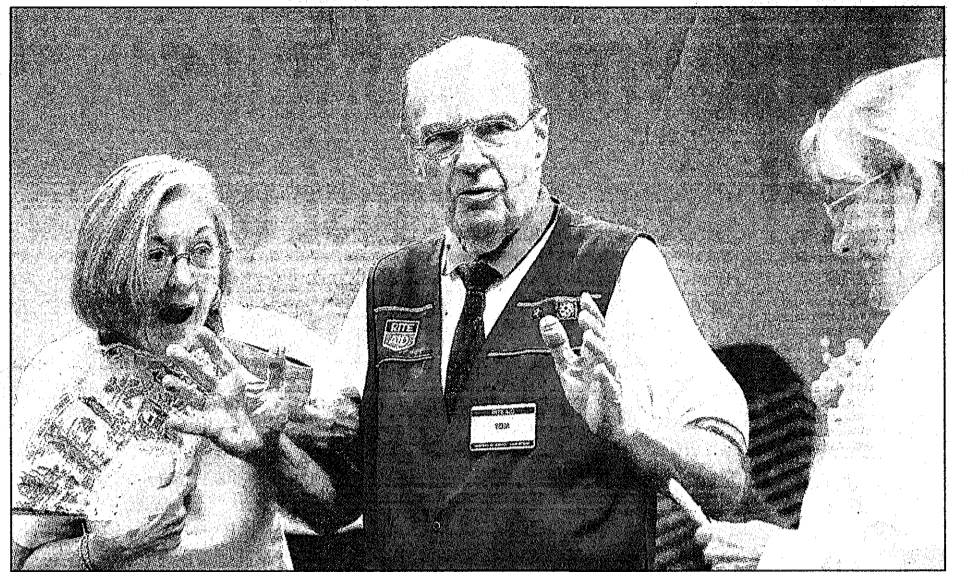
"A lot of times there aren't a lot of parts for the older actor," said Lannen, who directed the premiere of the musical *Father Bingo* at the Detroit Music Hall Center for Performing Arts. "This group is focused on finding roles for that age group."

There are a dozen actors filling 14 roles in the two initial plays. The group focuses first on its fledgling productions, both one-act plays (the other is *Funeral Tea*) designed, Lannen said, to make it easier for the older actors to memorize lines and stage directions.

Linda Trygg of Westland said older actors can get a bit discouraged trying out for plays and seeing nothing but youngsters getting the roles. "Half the time you go to rehearsals and you see a bunch of 20-year-olds," Trygg said.



Director Debbie Lannen and set designer Michael Burden of Redford watch a rehearsal of "Any Body for Tea?"



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Still Got It Players actors Marion Busa of Canton, Tom Strock of Canton, and Lanna Collins of Garden City rehearse "Any Body for Tea?"

"You know you can't compete with that." That's because actors over 50 are in the fourth stage of what he says are five stages of an acting career, according to Michael Burden of Redford, the set designer for Still Got It's production.

"First is, 'Who's Michael?' followed by 'Get me Michael!'" Burden said, smiling. "The third stage is 'Get me a Michael type,' followed by 'Get me a YOUNG Michael' and then, 'Who's Michael?' again."

So far, the group is having fun with the production. The two plays - *Any Body for Tea?* by C.B. Gilford and *Funeral Tea* by Pat Wilson - put the focus on a couple of different groups of ladies.

"In *Anybody for Tea?* is a wonderful group of elderly ladies dying to meet the handsome detective across the street, and the lengths they go to meet him are hilarious and quite unexpected," Lannen said. "*Funeral Tea* introduces us to a different group of eccentric ladies faced with the dilemma and privilege of finding the perfect resting place for a favorite uncle."

Robin Hoover, 50, of Willis, Mich., (between Belleville and Ann Arbor) joined the Spotlight

TAKING THE STAGE

- **What:** Still Got It Players productions of "Any Body for Tea" and "Funeral Tea"
- **When:** Aug. 26-27, 1 p.m.; Aug. 28-29, 7 p.m.; Aug. 30, 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton
- **Who:** Still Got It Players features actors from Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Garden City, Westland and Northville
- **Tickets:** \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors/students under 19
- **Info:** www.spotlightplayersmi.org or call (734) 734-480-4945

Players for their production of *Pajama Game*, the first acting experience of her life: Being a part of the Still Got It Players fulfills a lifelong wish.

"I always wanted to act, but I was the youngest of 11 children, so there was never time," Hoover said. "When I turned 50 I said, 'I'm doing it.' My kids thought I was crazy, but I didn't care!"



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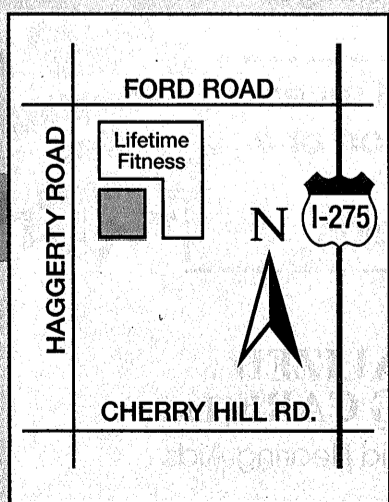
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Lock your vehicles: Burglaries 'the most we've ever seen,' chief says

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Efforts by police in Plymouth Township to combat a rash of vehicle burglaries have found success, including an arrest on Saturday, but investigators are asking for the public's help.

Police Chief Tom Tiderington said 40 to 50 burglaries of parked cars and trucks have been reported in the township in about the last six weeks, including 25 in the Green Meadows subdivision that occurred late on July 23 or early Friday.

"Without question, this has been the most we've ever seen," Tiderington said. In addition, the chief said, some people have told police their vehicle had been rifled through but, because nothing appeared to be stolen, didn't want to file an official report.

Cellular phones, i-Pods, laptop computers, cash and satellite-guided navigation systems are among the things typically reported stolen, Tiderington said.

In some cases, the vehicle was broken into, but, "the majority of these cases, the doors were left unlocked," the chief said.

Tiderington urged people who park in their driveways or on the street to lock their vehicles and take valuables with them. "A lot of these crimes would be prevented if people simply did that," he said.

Police also want residents to report suspicious activity, such as car alarms

and strangers hanging out where vehicles are parked.

"It's important that we be notified so that we can go out and investigate," said detective Sgt. Steve Rapson.

Police made one arrest Saturday, Rapson said, after a patrolling officer spotted a male teenager heading into a wooded area near the Riverbank Square Plaza, which is on Ann Arbor Road.

The teen emerged with a laptop computer and a satellite radio, Rapson said, and the officer stopped him and found both items had been reported stolen, from two different vehicles. The 17-year-old was formally charged Tuesday with one count of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$1,000.

Police searching the area from which the suspect had emerged found a bag containing other items that had been reported stolen from vehicles, Rapson said.

While police investigate the suspect's links to vehicle burglaries, Tiderington said the arrest hasn't stopped the problem, as more incidents have been reported since then.

Tiderington said the practice of checking parked vehicles for unlocked doors, in hopes of landing a cell phone, i-Pod, laptop or other valuable, is called "car-hopping." Rapson said township officers often hear about car-hopping from young people with whom they have contact.

"They can create a crime spree in a matter of hours," Tiderington said.

"It's just a crime of opportunity," Rapson said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Gunman robs ATM user at Plymouth bank

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An Oakland County man lost \$100 cash, plus his wallet and cellular phone, to a man with a pistol one night last week.

The robbery took place about 9:30 p.m. July 22 outside the Chase Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road at Harvey, police said. No one was hurt.

Plymouth Police Department Lt. Allen Cox said the victim, who works in Plymouth Township, had just pulled his car alongside an automatic teller machine at Chase

when a man used a pistol to rap on a window on the passenger side. He demanded the driver open the door, the victim told police.

The victim unlocked the door and the gunman climbed in, putting the pistol to the victim's head and demanding money, Cox said. The gunman told the victim two or three times not to look at him, Cox said. The victim made an ATM withdrawal and handed over \$100, and the gunman also took his wallet and phone, Cox said.

The gunman then exited the car and ran north toward Byron Street, Cox said.

The victim did not see where he went, but witnesses reported seeing a man get into the passenger side of a dark vehicle, possibly a pickup with a cap or a sport-utility vehicle, which then headed east on Byron. Cox said police are certain the man the witnesses saw was the gunman.

The gunman was only generally described. The pistol he carried was described as a small revolver.

Police have no firm leads in the case and are continuing to investigate, Cox said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Federal stimulus grant money to upgrade township's 911 call center

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Who said federal stimulus money isn't flowing?

Officials in Plymouth Township learned last week that they landed a \$157,000 grant from the \$787 billion federal stimulus package — officially called the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 — for a 911 system upgrade at its public safety dispatch center.

"This is going to allow us to move into a state-of-the-art system," said Plymouth Township Police Department Chief Tom Tiderington.

The money will be used for a "Viper" voice-over-Internet-protocol 911 system controller, sold by Positron Public Safety, based in Montreal.

Information on the company's Web site indicates the controller is redundant (meaning it has backup), flexible, able to work with a com-

puter-aided dispatch system (which the township already has), and able to accommodate future equipment upgrades.

"It's like upgrading your entire computer system," said township Supervisor Richard Reaume.

Tiderington said details about when the grant would actually come in and when the new equipment would be in place are not yet known.

FIREFIGHTERS WIN GRIEVANCE

Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters last month won a dispute with the township over vacation scheduling.

Township officials had prohibited more than two firefighters at a time, per platoon, from being on vacation during the first two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said that's because, should another firefighter call in sick with two already out, a platoon could run into staffing issues that would require overtime. The township focused on those four weeks, he said, because 20 percent of the year's sick time was used in those weeks in 2007 and 2008.

Firefighters claimed a violation of their contract, which, they said, allows up to two firefighters per platoon to be off at once. An arbitrator in June sided with the firefighters.

"You cannot violate something in the contract just because you don't staff your fire department correctly," said Lt. Rick Tefend, president of International Association of Firefighters Local 1496, which represents PCFC firefighters.

The township, citing budgetary pressures, has limited overtime for firefighters since the beginning of the year.

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Understand the document you're signing

I have read many articles about the federal stimulus plan passed a number of months ago. I'll leave it to others to determine if it is working. However, there is one item regarding the



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

stimulus package I would like to address. It appears that many of our elected representatives never read the legislation and are confused as to what is in the plan. I raise the issue not to criticize law-

makers but to remind everyone that when you sign a document you must take responsibility. In our society, it seems we are always signing a host of documents. Whether it's picking up prescription medication, visiting the doctor or meeting with a financial adviser, there's always documents to sign.

Unfortunately, most people have no idea what is in these documents. They assume the document is standard and that others have reviewed it. People sign up for charge card deals or deferred payment plan gimmicks from retailers without reading the fine print. They assume that there is some type of government regulation protecting them. Many

people who obtained mortgages failed to understand what they were signing and we can see how much government regulations protected them.

I recognize that many of these documents are difficult to understand. It seems that they are written by lawyers for lawyers.

What is the answer? Just sign something and hope for the best or try to understand what is involved? Obviously, certain documents have more serious ramifications than others. For example, the largest purchase or debt most of us will ever make is a home/mortgage. I highly recommend before signing these documents — which have a major financial impact on your life — that you understand it completely. If that means, and in most cases it does, that you seek professional help, so be it.

However, it is not practical to have every document that you sign reviewed by a professional. But you should read the document and if you don't understand it, ask questions.

Whenever you sign what looks like a standard document — often blank spaces or boxes to check based upon your individual situation — review all items for accuracy.

There may be times when you disagree with the document that you are signing but believe you

have no other alternative. Don't be afraid to ask if you can make a change in the document to suit your needs or see if there is another option.

If you find yourself between a rock and a proverbial hard place, you obviously have to make a tough decision. However, in today's world you may be surprised that you have more options than you thought.

It would be nice if in running the country's business our legislators took the time to read and understand everything that they are signing. Maybe it's impractical. I don't know. What I do know is that when it comes to running our family business, we have to take the responsibility to understand the consequences of each and every document we sign.

This is a complex and ever-changing world we live in and the government does not have the resources to protect us. Yes, the government does provide some protection, but it's not enough. We must be involved in the process and take time to read a document before signing it. Good luck!

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

ON STAGE

Music in the Park

Here's the remaining schedule for the weekly Music in the Park concert schedule, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council:

- Aug. 5, Barbara Bailey Hutchinson
- Aug. 12, Guy Louis and his Chautauqua Express
- Aug. 19, The Cats & the Fiddler

All concerts start at noon in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Sponsors include the Carl and Isabelle Schultz Family, The Wilcox Foundation, Huron Valley Ambulance, Monroe Bank &

Trust, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., Dr. Brian Brackney, Bacinski's Best Friends of Learning Institute and Lodging by the Month.

Music in the Air

Here's the remaining schedule for the Friday night "Music in the Air" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield:

- July 31, Gia Warner
- Aug. 7, The Bluescasters
- Aug. 14, The Kris K Band
- Aug. 21, The Randy Brock Group
- Aug. 28, Mass Transit



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

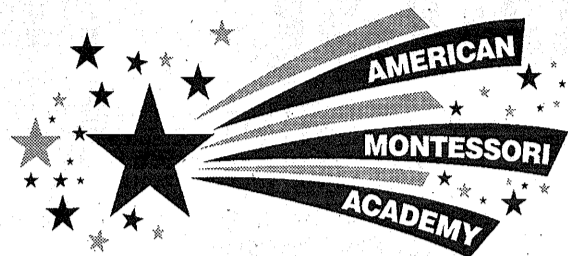
• Sept. 4, Lady Sunshine and the X Band

The concerts take place in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park and start at 7 p.m.

Community Band

The Plymouth Community Band, headed by longtime leader Carl Battishill, plays Kellogg Park every Thursday at 8 p.m.

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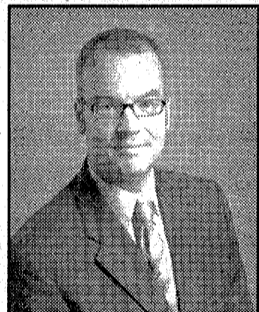
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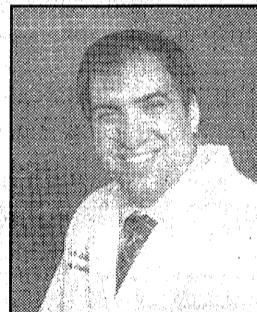


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PROVIDENCE

Power boost

Plan pushes stronger alternative energy goals



Northville Democrat Marc Corriveau, state Representative for the 20th District, outlines an alternative energy plan during a press conference in Canton Monday.

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The last time Marc Corriveau stood in the lobby at Canton's Mechanical Energy Systems, he was there to push legislation that would have Michigan moving to cleaner alternative energy standards.

This time, the second-term state representative (20th District) was there to push harder.

Corriveau, a Democrat from Northville whose district also encompasses the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and a slice of Canton, joined fellow Democrats Dian Slavens (Canton) and Deb Kennedy (Brownstown) at the Canton business to push a plan to "catapult Michigan forward in alternative energy and make the state a magnet for clean, renewable energy jobs.

"There's an argument to be made this is good for our future, good for our kids," said Corriveau. "This is a way for Michigan to create a lot of jobs. We have a lot of displaced



Donna Napolitano, owner of Mechanical Energy Systems in Canton, listens as state Rep. Dian Slavens, (D-Canton), outlines the goals of the Democrats' alternative energy plan.

(manufacturing) workers looking for work in new fields. This feels good personally, and it feels good professionally."

Democrats say the plan builds on legislation passed last year and "further positions Michigan to meet growing demand for clean energy workers by offering powerful incentives for renewable energy development and manufacturing, energy efficiency and alternative energy production.

Slavens, a first-term, sponsored recent legislation that helped attract major advanced battery manufacturers to Michigan. She said Michigan needs to do something to outpace other states trying to get into the alternative energy game.

"We need to do what we can right now to seize this growing industry," Slavens said. "Other states are becoming established. We need to do things that put us out front ... so Michigan is the place (manu-

facturers) come to put their businesses."

Among other things, the plan will:

- Create incentives for alternative energy companies to come to Michigan by requiring 30 percent of the state's electricity come from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy by 2025. The plan builds on legislation passed last year requiring 10 percent by 2015.

- Require utilities to work with customers to decrease electricity usage so utilities sell 2 percent less energy per year. Slavens said utility companies have been cooperative in this plan.

"We're implementing standards they've agreed to," she said. "They know the economy is changing and they want to change with us."

- Revise building codes to increase energy efficiency.
- Encourage residents and businesses to become alterna-

tive energy entrepreneurs by allowing them to sell excess energy they create via renewable sources such as solar panels or wind turbines.

Donna Napolitano, who with her husband Joe owns Mechanical Energy Systems, is a proponent of the legislation.

"We've had a lifelong passion to bring alternative energy to Michigan, and we need to create a market for that to flourish," she said. "This plan provides incentives for small businesses like ours to grow and create more jobs right here in Michigan."

Democrats say research continues to show a "huge potential for growth" in the renewable energy industry. The U.S. Department of Energy has identified Michigan as one of four states that can create more than 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the wind sector alone. According to a 2009 Michigan Green Jobs Report from the Department of

Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, a sample of more than 350 green-related firms showed job growth of 7.7 percent; other businesses in the state lost jobs at a rate of 5.4 percent.

While the standards wouldn't be required for another 16 years, Corriveau believes workers could start seeing the effects of this plan soon.

"You can almost see jobs coming immediately," he said. "We know the country is going to renewable standards. We know if we can get a foothold, the jobs will come quickly. Renewable energy is growing by leaps and bounds, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and bringing in billions of dollars. It's time for Michigan to take its place in the global economy before these jobs and investments pass us by."

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EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, August 17, 2009 at Noon, TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187

Kurtycz, Wayne E162 10x20 Kitchen Set, Nordic Trak, "retro" covered stroller, toddler bike, Halloween décor, 25+ Boxes, misc. household goods.

Publish: July 30 and August 6, 2009

OE0866747-292

Attention Plymouth Township residents living in close proximity to waters (e.g., rivers, creeks, lakes)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) identifying flood risk in Wayne County, including Plymouth Township. These documents include proposed changes to base flood elevations that may impact flood insurance requirements and rates for Plymouth Township residents living in close proximity to waters (e.g., rivers, creeks and lakes).

Township residents living in close proximity to rivers, creeks, or lakes are encouraged to review the proposed base flood elevations. A detailed listing of the proposed base flood elevations and further information on the statutory period provided for appeals are provided on FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/Scripts/bfe_main.asp, or call the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Township residents may submit comments and/or file an appeal to the proposed base flood elevations. FEMA requests all comments and/or appeals be submitted to the Township. The Township will consolidate and forward all comments and/or appeals to FEMA by the statutory deadline. Final determinations on all appeals and/or comments will be made by FEMA.

All comments and/or appeals shall be submitted to the Township at the following address by September 4, 2009 to meet the statutory deadline:

Attn: Mr. Mark Lewis, Chief Building Official
Plymouth Township Hall - Building Department
9955 N Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170

Please note comments and/or appeals submitted to the Township after September 4, 2009 may not be received by FEMA before the statutory deadline.

A copy of the Preliminary FIS and FIRM are available for review at Township Hall, Building Department, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Publish: July 2 & 30, 2009

OE0866437-296

Whalers score with library reading program

When he plays hockey for the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers, Westland native Tyler J. Brown is known as a blue-collar, gritty player who gets in the opposition's face and stays there. He's not fun to play against.

Whalers rookie Austin Mattson (Livonia) likes to compare himself to Red Wing Darren Helm. Mattson admires Helm's speed and tenacity.

Brown and Mattson, though, showed a kinder, gentler side when they read and interacted with children during the Canton Public Library's summer reading program.

The Whalers and Canton Public Library are teaming up this year to bring spice to the Library's Summer Reading Program. Earlier this summer, Plymouth veterans Beau Schmitz, AJ Jenks and RJ Mahalak and mascot Shooter read to children on three separate occasions. Much like Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci changes players on the fly, Brown and Mattson took the next shift on Thursday. Myles McCauley and Brown will return for another shift at the library on Thurs. Aug. 6 from 11am-Noon.

"This year, I think our partnership with the Whalers has gelled together well," said Kristen Kostielney, Canton Public Library Program Specialist. "Everyone who



Plymouth Whalers Austin Mattson (left) and Tyler J. Brown (right) meet with young readers during a recent appearance at the Canton Public Library.

NATALIE SHAVER

has come out here has been awesome. The rapport the Whalers have with the kids is incredible. Sports people are every young child's idol, so to have the children listen to the stories and find out some of the Whalers' favorite book is Dr. Seuss is something they can relate to. This is really fun."

Sure enough, it didn't take long for Brown and Mattson to command the attention of the 16 children who started the session and the 20 who finished. Although the Whalers read quietly, they held the attention of the group for at least ten minutes before members started to squirm - a normal trait that goes hand-and-hand with any group of young children.

"The kids really paid attention and that goes to show the rapport the Whalers have with the children," said Kostielney. "The Whalers can relate with all of them. They aren't teachers, so the kids relate to them easily. The players that have appeared here this year talk to the kids at their level. That's very important for children."

Although he attended the reading session as a parent with his eight-year-old son, Brandon, Dean Garber of Canton saw the event in a different light. Garber coached Brown and Mattson when they played together at the Squirt and Pee Wee AAA levels. Garber currently coaches his son for the Canton Crush Mite AA.

"I've followed their careers since they both moved on," said Garber with a smile. "It's nice to see them again out in the community. It shows that all the hard work that their parents and coaches have put in with them is paying off. It's really rewarding for them and is rewarding for me as a former coach."

"Brandon is excited about coming to see the Whalers play on opening night in Windsor (on Thurs. Sept. 17)."

The Whalers' partnership with the Canton Public Library goes beyond player appearances. The library will be distributing tickets for Plymouth games over the course of the 2009-10 season. Future events are in the planning stages as well.

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 Canton Center Road. Check out future events online at www.cantonpl.org.

Although the Whalers are technically in the middle of their off-season, they have a full schedule of public appearances scheduled this summer. Check out future Plymouth players appearances online at www.plymouthwhalers.com/appearances.html.

To schedule a Whalers appearance, please contact Natalie Shaver at (734) 453-8400 or email her at natalies@plymouthwhalers.com.

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Local triathlete club chases down the important things in life

BY KATE SALVADORE
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever thought of running 100 miles? How about swimming, biking, and running 140 miles? How about a 5k race? How about learning to swim? Have you ever volunteered at an athletic event? Do you live in Michigan? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, or perhaps even no, Triathletes in Action could be for you.

The real question is are you interested in giving back and supporting your community? Locals Mark Savedes from South Lyon and Doug Herriman Jr. from Plymouth asked all of these questions and have launched a new club called Triathletes in Action — TIA for short.

The two became training partners for triathlons and realized that the support they provided each other was contagious.

"Mark and I started training together at Island Lake and it just started to grow," Herriman said. "We were just an example, and people began helping people."

Although the initial group met through athletic interest, they soon began to realize that they had many other ideals in common like interest in their communities.

"Some athletic groups can be elitist. We're not like that," Herriman said.

The group began realizing that they could really have an impact. Everyone was already competing in events and support was growing. They decided to make it official in October.

"Our goal was to create a group that everyone can be a part of. You don't have to be an athlete. It doesn't matter whether you're a sponsor, a volunteer or a participant," Herriman said.

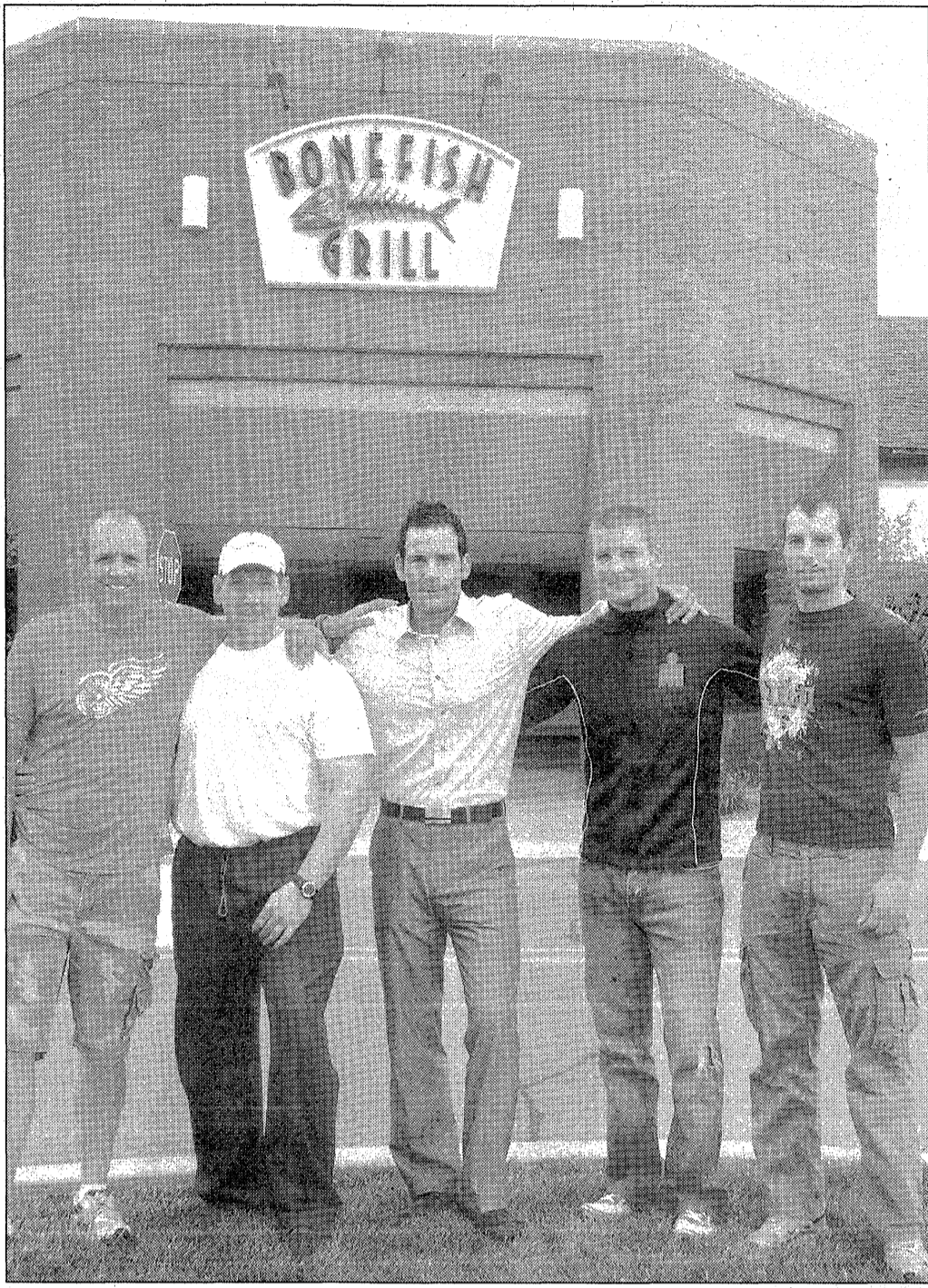
Savedes and Herriman started spreading the word and local sponsors jumped on board. The list now includes Billy Downs, founder of BD's Mongolian BBQ, Brian O'Hara, owner of the Novi Bonefish Grill, Randy Step, founder of Running Fit, Mike Rueter of American Cycle & Fitness in Novi/Walled Lake, UPS, Five Hour Energy, MissionTri, Michigan Rehabilitation Specialists, and NorthRidge Church got involved.

With the sponsors in place, it was time to make an official membership. Through word of mouth more than 65 people from several locations signed up at the kickoff event at Bonefish Grill in Novi. Racing uniforms were made and people started networking and becoming active.

"Everybody that is on board wants to be part of something or have an impact," Herriman said.

Shortly after the event, Savedes and Herriman took their ideas and racing uniforms to South Africa in April. Savedes even temporarily closed his business, Aleko's Restaurant and Catering in South Lyon, to participate in Ironman South Africa in Port Elizabeth and Herriman volunteered at the race. They both also participated in the Cape Town half marathon and did mission work while they were there.

"It was an eye opening experience. Here we chase, chase and we miss certain things in life. All the distractions were eliminated while we were there," Herriman said. "It really left a mark on my life."



Triathletes in Action members (from left) Billy Downs, Brian O'Hara, Doug Herriman Jr., Rick Smith, and Dion Bourque stand in front of the Bonefish Grill, one of the group's sponsors.

TIA SPONSORS

- Brian O'Hara (Novi-Bonefish Grill)
 - Billy Downs (grew up in Northville—Founder of BD's Mongolian BBQ)
 - Randy Step- Novi, Northville, Ann Arbor-founder of Running Fit
 - Mike Rueter- American Cycle & Fitness (Novi/Walled Lake at 14 mile and Haggerty)
 - UPS
 - Five Hour Energy
 - MissionTri
 - Michigan Rehabilitation Specialists (www.MRSPT.com)
 - NorthRidge Church
- For more information, visit www.triathletesinaction.com or www.missiontri.com

With confirmation of their beliefs and success on the trip, the two came home and began working with their club. The group now holds regular practices at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Island Lake State Recreation Area (starting at the Kent Lake parking lot).

Their members have also begun representing them at local, state, national and even international events.

Rick Smith, a TIA member from Brighton, just raced Ironman Switzerland on July 12 and raced the New Orleans half Ironman in April. An Ironman is a long distance triathlon that involves a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike and a 26.2-mile marathon run. A half-ironman is just half all those distances.

Other members raced in Ironman Coeur d'Alene in June and some are training for Ironman Kentucky in August.

Another member, Dion Bourque has a big 100-mile running event this September. His goal is to race and raise funds for the University of Michigan Children's Orthopedic and Prosthetics Department.

"I want to raise funds and awareness for child amputees. I have been so blessed in my life and I want to give back. It is a good tie in for me-being able to use TIA as a spotlight and to begin raising money and awareness," he said.

The best part, according to Bourque, is the support of TIA members. Many who aren't racing in the event are going to cheer or take a volunteer shift in the 24-hour-plus event at Pinckney State Park.

"If I try to run 100 miles by myself it won't happen. But with all this support I know it will," Bourque assured.

Right now, members are just choosing charities and events and are using the support from the group to make it happen. In the future, some events might

be more structured for TIA to support. However, one thing will stay the same.

"Everyone is welcome," Herriman said. "It's about people helping people — giving back in sports which can be self-centered."

TIA is also partnered with MissionTri, founded by Billy Downs, a native of Northville.

"It's an organization involved in engaging athletes in mission work in and around athletic events," Downs said.

MissionTri is planning six major projects next year that involve charity and nondenominational Christian work.

"Everybody brings something different to the table. Food, supplies, support, accountability, just anything," Downs said. "Our focus isn't on ourselves, which can be rare for triathlon."

While MissionTri is a Christian network, TIA is not.

"Us founders happen to be two strong Christians. But we are open to everyone. We don't want to shove anything down anyone's throats. TIA is simply about having a support network and for people to get involved in any way they can or want to," Herriman said.

"Our group takes the ego out of triathlon."

For more information, visit www.triathletesinaction.com or www.missiontri.com. Membership sign-up is still available — or just show up at the TIA workouts. TIA racing jerseys will be available again this winter.

Program offers help to avoid foreclosure

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you think you might start having a problem making a mortgage payment, Jamele Hage wants to hear from you immediately.

"We're trying to get people in the process sooner. If someone hasn't missed a mortgage payment but is laid off, they should come in," said Hage, acting director of Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program. "The closer they are to foreclosure, the harder it is for us."

The non-profit program funded by Wayne County in response to the epidemic of foreclosures isn't going to help pay the mortgage but does offer assistance ranging from a Web site budget program to negotiating with lenders on behalf of homeowners.

At www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com, there is an online debt ratio program homeowners can use as a tool to pare down their discretionary spending, like monthly bills for cable or entertainment. About 18,000 people have visited the Web site.

"Most people have a hard time doing it on their own. We'll call them in and educate them," said Hage. "We help with an emergency budget to save their home. We will contact the lender and help draft a hardship letter."

MFPP will negotiate with a lender for loan modifications to help people keep their homes but Hage said some homeowners just want to get out from under their mortgage.

"If they have no prospect of keeping the home, we will work out a deed in lieu of foreclosure," said Hage. "With the purchase of the redemption and eviction, they (the homeowners) will get

\$5,000-\$10,000 to get themselves established again."

Along with taking no action, the worst thing a homeowner can do is simply washing their hands of their financial problem.

"You should never, ever just walk away," Hage said. "There will always be a deferring judgment following them for six years and it can be renewed. You can never walk away from the debt."

Nationally, about 29 percent of foreclosed homes can be rescued, Hage said, but that number is 39 percent in Wayne County.

"That's how good this program is - Michigan has the highest unemployment rate and in 2007, Wayne County was the top county in the nation for foreclosures," said Hage, adding another 60,000-80,000 foreclosures are projected this year.

Since starting in October, MFPP has assisted about 1,500 families and currently has about 700 active cases. People looking for some type of financial bailout will be disappointed.

"We're negotiating with the lender. There is no incentive to give them (homeowners) money. The lender gave them money for the house," said Hage. "There is no program to give people money to bail them out."

Part of the challenge for MFPP is getting the word out about their services.

"From April to May alone, we attended 38 outreach events at union halls, Employee Assistance Programs, churches, at the Westland Library - wherever we can get to the public," said Hage. "We will go anywhere we are invited. We want to get as much exposure as we can."

For more information, visit the Web site at www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com.

New law offers time to rework loan

A new law gives Michigan homeowners facing foreclosure a 90-day window to stay in their house and potentially work out a resolution with their lender.

Effective July 5, state law lets homeowners delay foreclosure proceedings for 90 days after getting a notice of foreclosure, if they meet with a housing counselor and the bank. Lenders refusing to rework loans for those qualified homeowners would have to go to court to finish the foreclosure. Only homeowners meeting certain financial standards could qualify for modified mortgage payments.

"If you're one day late paying your mortgage, you are in

delinquency. If you miss three payments, on day 91 you are in foreclosure and the bank can foreclose," said Jamele Hage, acting director of Wayne County's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program. "Under Michigan law, you can be in foreclosure by advertisement, if the homeowner doesn't contact a housing counselor or the mortgage holder."

Counselors are available at no cost through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. More information about the Wayne County program is available online at www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com.

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

OUR VIEWS

Board made right move with chief

When the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted last week to offer Mark Wendel the fire chief's job, one thought crossed our minds:

It's about time.

Wendel, the veteran firefighter who had been the long-time assistant chief, has been filling the chief's job since Randy Maycock retired in July 2008.

But the board, largely at the behest of Supervisor Richard Reaume and Treasurer Ron Edwards, had steadfastly refused to fill the position permanently, citing budget constraints caused by falling tax revenue,

Wendel topped a four-man list of firefighters who tested for the chief's position, prompting the firefighters union to insist - as they've done all along - the township fill the post.

However, as recently as the first week of July, Reaume was quoted as saying with regard to the department's top spot, "There's not a sense of urgency right now because of cost-cutting."

The board had been content to let Wendel do both jobs, an enormous administrative task firefighters have said left lieutenants and captains more in charge of day-to-day operations of the department.

For most of the year since Maycock retired, union officials have been critical of the township administration, who they said were violating the provisions of Act 78, the law that governs how the fire department is managed.

Township leaders had seemed willing to bear the brunt of that criticism, however, until reversing their position last week. Their seemingly abrupt change of heart probably has something to do with the fact the change does little to affect the township's bottom line; they'd been paying Wendel accordingly since he took on the extra work anyway.

And it seems unlikely - despite the union's contention (and it's hard to disagree with them) that there's too much administrative work for one person - the board will fill the assistant chief's spot Wendel is vacating.

In fact, Reaume has already issued that warning. "Everyone's tightening their belts, so now both responsibilities might have to be done by one person," he said.

He's right about the belt-tightening, as Plymouth residents - many of whom depend on the auto industry for employment - have found out for themselves. Companies and even governmental bodies all over the place are reducing staff. Times are tough.

Even if they leave Wendel doing both jobs by not filling the assistant chief's job, as is likely, this move needed to be made, if for none other than symbolic reasons. Wendel's been in the position for a year, and he tested the highest (by a slim margin) among the four candidates. But there's an even better reason to give the 30-year veteran the job.

He's earned it.

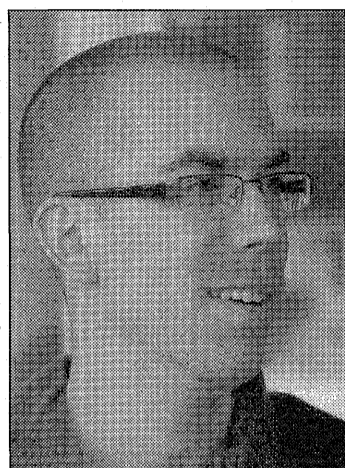


Wendel

COMMUNITY VOICE

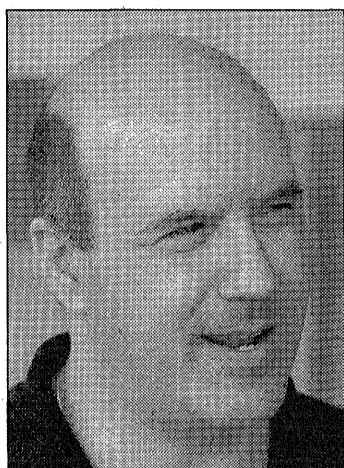
What happened to the summer?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



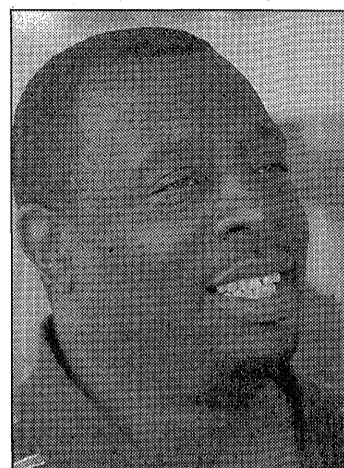
"Nothing. It's here. ... I hate the warm weather."

Joe Koss
Plymouth



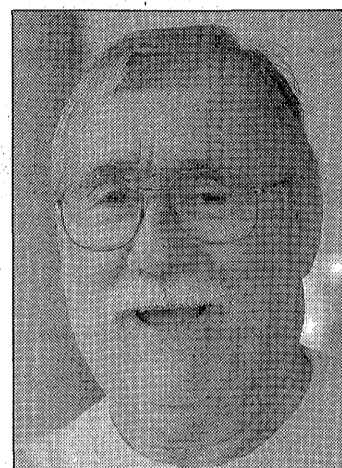
"It flew by. The weather? It's too hot, and I'm ready for winter."

Tim Fronimos
Livonia



"Good question. It's on a delay. ... Summer went straight out the window due to the bad economy."

John Webb
Canton Township



"Summer who? It starts Friday, '500 Days of Summer.' Limited release."

Ken Christopher
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Bruised hearts

My grandparents, parents, siblings were born and raised in Plymouth, and most of our hearts have all stayed in Plymouth.

On Tuesday, July 21, my family's hearts were severely bruised when our daughter, who now lives and works in Las Vegas, arrived at 10:30 p.m. for a visit and to attend her brother's wedding.

Wanting to get something to eat they of course headed into Plymouth and stopped at Boulders Restaurant to eat and celebrate arriving home. After talking to some new friends and eating they went out to the parking lot to find their car GONE!

Someone had decided it was their right to take her car with everything you can imagine two people needing to spend 10 days in a car and driving across this great country: The camera with all the wonderful pictures they had taken, the laptop which held all their pictures from an employee trip to Hawaii, library books, clothes for the wedding and their trust.

They are fine physically, but mentally it has been challenging as they just want to know where their things are. Airplane tickets have been bought, wedding clothes were borrowed and we enjoyed our visit BUT it will take a LONG time to get past this invasion of their privacy.

A HUGE thanks to everyone's compassion during this time. To whomever took her car with the Nevada license plates and UNLV alumni sticker: Someday you'll have to answer for this.

Debbie Bence
Canton

Thanking Edwards

We would like to thank Ron Edwards and his family for all the hard work they have done for all the Fourth of July picnics.

We are distressed that Ron has found it necessary to bow out from running this fabulous community celebration due to the negative accusations it has created for his family. Few people in ANY community give up their time and money to create an event such as this picnic like the Edwardses have. We can only hope that someone will pick up the torch and continue the tradition, although none can equal Ron's enthusiasm and hard work.

As long-time township residents and picnic volunteers we want the Edwards to know that we along with many many others appreciate all they have done. It is sad that negativity had to ruin the Plymouth Township's celebration of our country's independence.

Unfortunately, it appears the likely outcome of all this negativity is the possibility of this fun family-oriented event becoming obsolete in the future.

The Litwin Family
Plymouth Township

Against national health care

I'm totally against National Health Care. It's immoral because it's based on altruism, a morality of sacrifice and force, and financed by the redistribution of wealth by government force.

Government interference in the economy and its lack of enforcement of our unalienable rights is the cause of our eco-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com
E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

conomic and social problems.

Paul Gruchala
Westland

Likes Dillon's health plan

Michigan Speaker of the House Andy Dillon suggested a plan to reduce health care costs by \$900 million a year and I like the way it looks. All Michigan State employees, retirees and administration workers would have the same choices so that the school bus driver would have the access to the same plan as the governor.

I think he's on to something here as a few other states have already adopted this idea. I'd like to add my 2 cents to the mix and suggest the following:

Any insurance company that wants to participate in this plan cannot refuse coverage to anyone because of prior health conditions. This will make competition work for us and put all the companies on an even playing field. They will have to keep their operating costs down in order to compete and this will lead to lower costs for all, including doctors that have to have so many on staff to deal with all the different insurance companies.

The committees to oversee, collect funds, negotiate plans and costs should be an independent public company whose officers should be elected by popular vote every two years. The first term can be "appointed" by a state legislative vote.

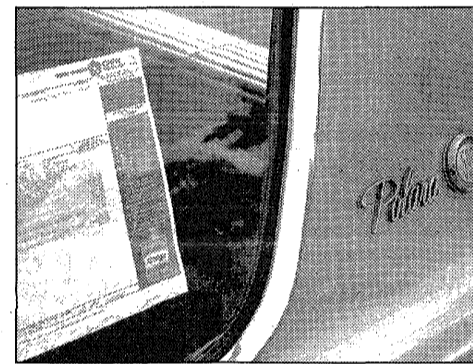
Funds collected for the medical plans should not be part of any government general or other fund where politicians can use the money for other projects. I'd suggest having a reputable firm oversee the funds and have them checked periodically by a number of independent accounting firms selected at random to audit the fund.

And if the federal government decides to follow suit, I'd also suggest that they:

- Lift all restrictions off of medical savings accounts.
- All premiums should remain tax free.
- All expenses paid towards medical care (co-pays, prescriptions, lab tests and hospital charges) should be tax deductible with no set limitation.

This is a plan that makes sense; don't screw it up with further restrictions, recommendations and guidelines. Do not give in to the unions on this one; this will be a good move for Michigan and politically for all.

Phil Solarz
Westland



This 1967 Dodge Polara 500, owned by Dave Ford of Northville, was displayed during the Bumpers, Bikers and Blues event in Old Village, complete with an original sticker listing Detroit as the final assembly point and showing a purchase price of \$3,820.95.

Old Village kudos

Just wanted to give a huge "WOO HOO!" to the Old Village Bumpers, Bikes, and Blues festival!

We had a great time looking at the beautiful old cars and listening to the live music. The kids enjoyed the bounce house and the root beer floats from Liberty Street Brew Pub were excellent!

Good work to all who took the time to plan such a fun event.

Kristen Farmer
Plymouth

Washington's loose cannons

Our representatives in Congress are supposed to be representing U.S. citizens and working toward the best interests of the vast majority of us. If bills like Cap and Trade and Health Care were clearly in the best interest of the country as a whole, Congress would not have to pass them in a rush.

They would devote the time necessary to garner the solid information to make informed decisions; not decisions based on the arrogance of assuming they know what's best for the country without ever listening to what the informed citizenry actually think about a particular matter.

Their staffs and special interest groups add addendums that cannot be read and understood by the legislators themselves or the public prior to voting. The ramifications of their actions have not been thought out in the light of day. Our representatives seem to take pride in the fact that they can ram something so important through before the opposition can mount a counter offensive or shine a light on the long lasting affects of their actions. If a bill is indeed important enough to warrant their consideration, it should also be worthy of a viewing in the light of day with due diligence. I am ashamed that they feel the need to work in shadows using gorilla warfare and playing "gotcha politics" at our expense. We are experiencing firsthand the negative effects of an "unbalanced" Congress!

Lewis Cantor
Farmington Hills

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here's a look at what readers are saying about stories on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com:

• In response to "Driver hospitalized after second serious crash at intersection:"

jlynngrim wrote:

"I live right near this intersection. The accidents are happening because the Semi Trucks drive way too fast down 5 mile! They NEED to patrol that area more!!!"

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



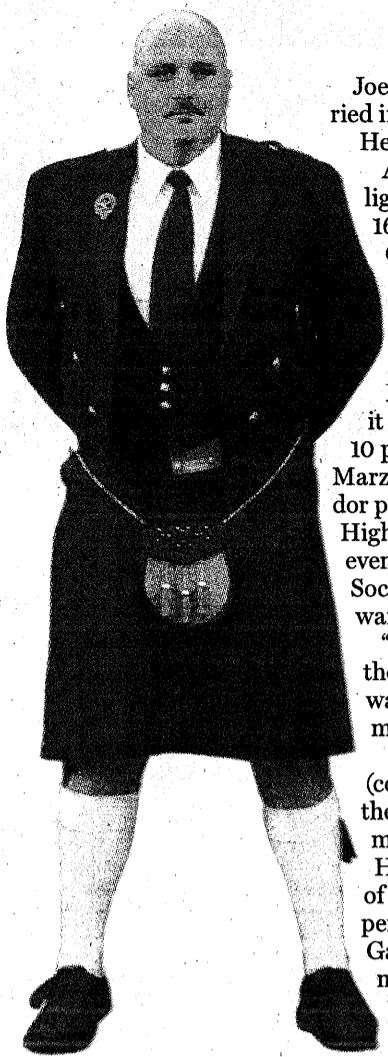
Brad Kadrich
Community Editor

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Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

Look fashionable at Highland Games with a kilt

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER



Joe Marzka, a Redford resident and a member of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, wears a hand-stitched, wool kilt. He'll wear a lighter-weight variety this weekend to the Highland Games in Livonia.

Joe Marzka of Redford married in a kilt.

He golfs in one occasionally. And he plans to don a lightweight version for the 160th Annual Highland Games, Thursday-Saturday, July 30-Aug in Livonia.

"There are formal and not-so-formal kilts. Mine is formal because it cost \$1,000. It's about 10 pounds of wool," said Marzka, who chairs the vendor portion of this weekend's Highland Games, an annual event of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. "You don't want to wear it when it's hot. It's hand-stitched and is the highest quality wool. It was made in Scotland. It's my tuxedo."

Marzka wears the tartan (colors and plaid design) of the Murray clan, from his mother's side of the family. He'll be among hundreds of spectators, athletes and performers at the Highland Games dressed in the signature Scottish garment. "When I first started wearing it I wondered

how do women sit in skirts? Now it's second nature. It's very comfortable," said Marzka, who also wears a kilt pin and family crest with his outfit.

Marzka was fitted for his formal kilt at Highland Fling, in Olde World Canterbury Village, in Lake Orion, where owner Gordon Hyslop is the unofficial kilt supplier to the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit.

He sells and rents authentic kilts, kilts skirts for women, jackets, belts and other attire.

"A proper kilt is almost always wool. A genuine kilt is at least eight yards of fabric, which is why it weighs as much as it does and costs as much as it does," Hyslop said.

Hand-stitched and constructed according to each customer's measurements, they cost approximately \$600.

"You can get them in cotton and polyester. But it's not authentic," Hyslop noted. "We sometimes do the polyester for the younger guys on a budget. It comes in at about two-thirds of the price of wool."

He cautions against buying a ready-made kilt in cotton, because the fabric doesn't hang properly.

Price also depends on the

individual's size because it determines how much fabric, beyond the traditional eight yards, is needed.

ADDED COSTS

Then there are other accessories to complete the look. A sporran is a pouch that takes the place of pockets and hangs over the front of the kilt. It can cost anywhere from \$60-\$200.

"A kilt pin is for show. The other thing is the kilt belt. And the kilt hose or socks," Hyslop said. "An occasion like the Highland Games doesn't require a dress jacket."

The head-to-toe look, complete with jacket, kilt, hose and accessories runs about \$1,500.

"People call not realizing the cost. They about fall over when I tell them," he said.

Hyslop said some less expensive "sport kilts," which wrap with Velcro, are available to consumers as a ready-made garment.

"They try to look like a kilt but they're not. There are people out there who sell lookalike kilts or cheap kilts. But you get what you pay for."

Although some women, especially those in pipe and drum bands, wear authentic

kilts, many don kilts skirts for occasions such as the Highland Games.

Hyslop, who sells them, said they're made of a lighter wool and often worn with a sash that drapes over the shoulders.

Julie Zvoch, chair of the Highland Games, owns a traditional kilt — "It takes two hangars to hang because it's so heavy" — but will wear a mini kilt to the event.

"It's considered mini because it's above the knee," she explained. "It's lighter weight."

STATE TARTAN

Marzka suggests that those without clan affiliation choose a Scottish national tartan — rather than one associated with a family name — for their kilts. He said the Society hopes to convince state lawmakers to approve a state tartan in the colors brown, blue and green. The hues represent dunes, lake and forest.

Hyslop isn't big on rules when it comes to dressing informally in a kilt.

"Anyone can wear anything they want. You can wear your own (family) tartan or one that isn't specific to a clan," he said, adding that individuals also wear tartans from other clans.

"Sometimes you've got to look beyond that. If there's a kilt available in your size no one will bother if you don't belong to their clan. They'd probably be glad if you wanted to wear a kilt."

Some men pair the traditional garment with funky T-shirts or boots. Or they might skip the traditional socks and wear boat shoes or sandals on a hot day.

What to wear under the kilt?

"It's up to what the individual wants to do," Hyslop said. "Some go 'commando' and some wear boxer shorts."

The Highland Fling is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday. Canterbury Village is located on Joslyn Road, north of I-75. (248) 391-5819

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HOMETOWN LIFE

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MSU-bound Krug's meteoric rise icing on the cake

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last summer Torey Krug wondered aloud if he could measure up on skates. The 5-foot-9, 180-pound defenseman from Livonia was in the transition phase of his hockey career, moving out of Compuware's Midget Major program and into the juniors ranks just hoping for a tryout in the U.S. Hockey League. After some interest from Cedar Rapids (Ia.) of the USHL, the 18-year-old Krug eventually landed in Indianapolis (Ind.) with the Ice of the same league and has parlayed it in less than 12 months into signing an NCAA letter-of-intent last April with Michigan State.

hard on me. It all worked out at the end and he knew what he was doing." Simply put, Krug had to rearrange his priorities. "I had to rethink things over, get more serious about what I was doing," said Krug. "I was enjoying the youth phase of my life. I was watching a lot of guys play in the NHL and leave home. It was scary, and I was not ready to go into that. I had to look at my options and I buckled down. All my life I've faced adversity because I was not tall and not big enough to go to that next level." Indianapolis Ice coach Jeff Blashill, a former assistant at Miami of Ohio, became a convert after watching Krug perform a set of drills during last summer's USA Hockey's Select Festival held at St. Cloud State (Minn.). "He (Blashill) said Torey did it better than any player he had at Miami," Kyle Krug said. "It got him a spot in a tryout

camp." Ironically, Blashill wasn't always in Torey's corner. "When he was scouting at Miami he told me he never liked me as a player," Krug said. "But from there everything skyrocketed and he took a chance on me." Krug thrived in Indianapolis, helping the Ice to a 39-19-2 regular season record and a third-place finish in the East Division. He was named to USHL's All-Rookie team after scoring 10 goals and adding 37 assists (second among defensemen). He attended Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and maintained a near perfect grade-point average despite missing 50 days of classes while traveling with the Ice, who average 4,000 fans per game at the Pepsi Coliseum. College offers, meanwhile, poured in



ROBERT J. MEYER | USHL PHOTO

Livonia native Torey Krug made a meteoric rise in one year as a defenseman and will play next season for Michigan State.

Please see **KRUG, B2**

SIDELINES

MU adds Stoney

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger announced last week that Canton High catcher Daniel Stoney has signed an NAIA letter of intent. Stoney becomes the ninth student-athlete to sign with the Crusaders joining Tom Atkinson, Alex Charles, Brett Gossett, Donny Holland, Brad Lineberry (Plymouth), Steve Pelletier (Farmington Hills Harrison), Aaron Saarela and Tyler Schofield. Stoney helped lead the Chiefs to a pair of Division 1 district titles during his two years on the varsity squad while earning three letters each in basketball and football.

As a senior, Stoney hit .414 with six homers and 36 RBI en route to All-KLAA Kensington Conference honors. "The staff is very excited to be able to sign Daniel this late in the recruiting process," said Haeger, who guided the Crusaders to their third Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title in four years and first-ever berth in the NAIA National Tournament. "We think that the upside with him is huge as far as being a good power hitter and we think he adds another big piece to what is already an outstanding class we have coming in this fall."

MU softball signee

Madonna University softball coach Al White added a late signee Monday with the addition of Monroe catcher and infielder Amber Rafko, who batted .431 as a senior and helped the Trojans reach the Division 1 state semifinals.

Rafko becomes the sixth player to sign an NAIA letter-of-intent for the 2010 season joining infielders Arielle Cox (Newport), Katelyn Hamann (Westland), Erica Landess (Carleton Airport), outfielder Ali Robinson (Farmington) and right-handed pitcher Natalie Sanborn (Livonia Franklin).

"Amber can come in and play a number of positions for us," White said. "We are very pleased to be able to sign her this late into the summer and happy that she has chosen to be part of the Crusader family."

Rafko earned four letters for Monroe coach Vince Rossi and was named Academic All-State as a senior. She is also a two-time first-team All-Mega Conference Red Division and All-Region honoree.

MU captured both the 2009 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and tournament titles advancing to the NAIA National Championship for the second time in program history while posting a school-record 53 wins.

Foreign aid

Soccer taught the English way has youngsters kicking up their heels

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They may not be on their way to playing for Manchester United just yet, but nearly three dozen area youngsters certainly got the jump on future soccer competition with their involvement this week in the Challenger British Soccer Camps.

Staking out territory at United Christian School in Garden City since Monday, a trio of young and energetic soccer coaches from across the pond and representing British Soccer Camps, offered youngsters the rare opportunity to receive top-notch soccer instruction from experts deeply involved with the game.

"I'm having tons of fun," exclaimed Ethan Englehart, 9, of Westland, just hours into his week-long involvement in the fifth annual event hosted by United Christian School. "What's fun is we're all having good teamwork, there's a bunch of great coaches, everyone's being nice and playing fair."

Please see **CAMP, B2**



Jack Walsh (center), a coach with the Challenger British Soccer Camp, offers up instructions to youngsters participating in the week-long camp held at United Christian School in Garden City. Nearly three dozen participants enjoyed the rare opportunity to receive high-level coaching from international players.

Richters puts Wolves on U.S. Soccer's map

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As one of the most successful high school boys soccer coaches in this state, Livonia Stevenson High's Lars Richters is no stranger to winning.

Richters also proved he can thrive on the national stage after guiding the Under-15 and -16 Derby County Wolves to the 2009 U.S. Soccer Development Academy Championship with a 1-0 victory over California Odyssey in the finals held recently at The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

East Kentwood's Dzenan Catic tallied the game-winning goal in the sixth minute off an assist from Stefan Gigorakis (Belle River, Ontario), and goalkeeper Adam Grinwis (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central) posted the shutout.

The Livonia-based Wolves, sponsored by an English Premier League soccer club, feature several area players including defenders Eric Weberman (North Farmington), Vinh Nguyen (Plymouth) and Zachary Cooney (Stevenson).

Derby County came in as the top seed among eight

group stage winners from across the country after capturing a qualifier last month in Greensboro, N.C. with a 2-0-1 record. The Wolves posted identical 3-0 wins over Texas Rush AHFC AS Monaco and New York City BW Gottsche (N.Y.), along with a 0-0 tie with the Columbus (Ohio) Crew.

The Wolves then defeated FC Dallas (3-1) and the Chicago Magic AC Monaco (1-0) to automatically qualify for the Academy Playoff finals. Their only loss of the tournament, which started July 11, came against New York Red Bulls (0-2).

"We're thrilled to win the championship, but it's been a long journey that has been beneficial for the players and that's the most important aspect," said Richters, who was named U-15/16 Development Academy Coach of the Year. "The competition has been far superior to what we had been accustomed to, so that has been a great tool to help our development."

"One of the things that U.S. Soccer was so good about that week was educating the kids about what

Please see **RICHTERS, B2**



JOHN DORTON | JSI PHOTOS

Livonia Stevenson High boys varsity soccer coach Lars Richters gets doused by his Derby County Wolves players after capturing the U-16 US Soccer Development Academy championship recently in Carson, Calif.



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Plymouth boy in world's largest motocross race

Plymouth youngster Colin Deems will spend the next week fulfilling a dream. The 6 year-old dirt bike racer has qualified for the largest amateur motocross race in the world — the 28th annual Air Nautiques/AMA Amateur National Motocross Championships at Loretta Lynn's Ranch. The event runs from Saturday through Aug. 8. Colin has earned one of just 1,386 qualifying positions. "The Amateur Nationals at Loretta Lynn's is the event every motocross racer in the country wants to compete in," says Event Director Tim Cotter. "A win at the Amateur Nationals can serve as a springboard to a lucrative professional motocross career." Most of America's top professional motocrossers, including James Stewart, Ricky Carmichael, Travis Pastrana and Jeremy McGrath have won AMA Amateur National Championships at Loretta Lynn's. The race is so prestigious that last year teenaged stars such as New York's Justin Barcia, South Carolina's PJ Larsen, Pennsylvania's Darryn Durhman and Texas' Blake



Plymouth's Colin Deems is just 6 years old. But he's already making a name for himself, qualifying for the world's largest motocross race.

Wharton were awarded pro contracts after the race. Colin, who attends Allen Elementary School in Plymouth, has been riding since he was 2 years old. Sponsors such as O'Neal MX and Scott USA help pay his way to the races. He has won over 30 races in the last 2 years, and competes nearly every weekend at tracks in Michigan and Ohio.

Colin will make the long journey to Tennessee along with his mom, dad and brothers, Ben and Drew. He is just one of the over 20,000 who spent the last four months qualifying for the event. The top finishers in area and regional qualifiers earn a birth into the national championship race at Loretta Lynn's. Racers may enter a wide variety of classes, from mini-cycle classes for children as young as four, all the way up to a Senior division for riders over 50. There are also classes for women, and classes for both stock and modified bikes. The track is built on a section of Loretta Lynn's Ranch and Campground in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. The course contains a variety of jumps, corners and other obstacles designed to test the skills and stamina of the racers. Most riders attend the event with the help of their families. In fact, many groups consider the event their family's summer vacation. Besides races, the ranch provides family-friendly facilities including a game room, swimming pools, arts and crafts activities, and a fashion and talent show.

RICHTERS

FROM PAGE B1 they need to succeed, and providing those things, too. From the food that they've eaten, to having constant access to Gatorade, the Academy has really done a lot." Reed Losee (Lake Orion) was the team's leading scorer and was named to the U.S. Soccer Academy's Conference Starting XI. The Wolves, who finished the year at 26-5-4 overall, were among 72 U-15 and U-16 select boys club teams from across the country who played a 30-game schedule, which began last November. The Wolves do,

not participate in either the US Youth Soccer State Cup, Region, National or Olympic Development events. The Derby County Wolves are members of the Academy's Great Lakes Division, which includes four teams from Ohio, one each from New York and Indiana, and another from Michigan (Vardar Soccer Club). "The entire schedule is through the Academy," Richters said. "We play home and away, and two showcase events, one in December in California and another in May in Florida. They (the Academy) felt like there was too many games and they could do a better job getting ready for the World Cup. It's a

revolutionary change, one which is changing the landscape of soccer. What has made this venture successful is that it is coming from the top (U.S. Soccer)." Other team members of the Wolves include Sean Cunningham and Nate Hicklin, both of Troy High; Aaron Hebden and Jordan Tyler, Rochester Stoney Creek; Tommy Duquette, Novi; Kyle Rutz, Walled Lake Northern; Nick Prys and Kotaro Mitsubashi, Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day; T.J. VanSlooten, Grand Rapids Northview; Erik Anderson, Holland West Ottawa; Sean Magee, Portage Central; and captain Josh Barens, Holt.

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CAMP

FROM PAGE B1

What makes this soccer camp unique from the rest is the opportunity for participants to receive training of an international flavor as coaches provide cutting edge instruction of the No. 1 game in England. The Challenger camp is often regarded as the most popular soccer camp in North America as some 2,000 communities have been privy to innovative ways of receiving high-level coaching through an equal and educational format. "We're here to improve their skills and make it fun," said Jack Walsh, 19, of Birmingham, England. "Participation is very important as Challenger's principals include respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and leadership. Mainly, we want everyone to have fun and promote their skills so they can take it to their high school teams, or whatever level of education they are at."

Walsh, along with fellow coaches 21-year-old Liam Blackwood (21) and 19-year-old Beth Rankine, are in the midst of a two-month trip across the United States working toward the development of skills and seeking to bolster excitement to what is widely considered the world's most popular sport. "Soccer is not a USA game - that is well-known - because America has its own sports," said Blackwood, who first started playing soccer at age five and currently is involved on the semi-pro level back home in Birmingham. "But, in saying that, you can see leaps and bounds (of improvement) from the USA national team. A few weeks ago they are in the Federation Cup and they beat Spain - No. 1 in the world. Four years ago, they would have been wiped out. You can see progress."

And according to the three coaches, continuous instruction at an early age is the key ingredient in brewing such success. "This is a lot better than the stuff I had when I was their age," Rankine said. "I never had opportunities like this. I would have loved a coach come over from America and coach us, but that wasn't around then. "Each day here we have a specific task that we aim for the kids to learn - dribbling, turning, passing, shooting, different fundamentals," Rankine went on. "But we also have the technical side which is teamwork and integrity. It is all very important to their development." The aim of the camp is to provide fresh and exciting activities as foot skills, technical drills, tactical practices and coached scrimmages highlight



Connor Fritz, 15, of Garden City shows off some of his skills during an afternoon session of the British soccer camp.



Ethan Englehart, 9, of Westland, displays his scoring touch as Beth Rankine, one of three coaches from England involved with Challenger British Soccer, looks on.

on-field involvement. Off-field lessons include discipline, sportsmanship and respect toward others and the game itself. Many of the week's participants are involved in at least one of the areas' soccer organizations - the Christian Youth Soccer League, Garden City Soccer League or Metro Soccer League. Connor Fritz, 15, of Garden City, who has been so impressed with the manner in which the camp is held, is back for a fourth year trying to hone his soccer skills. "The English definitely have a different outlook on soccer," said Fritz, 15, a student at United Christian, who participates on the school's soccer and basketball teams. "I'm an

English (soccer) fan — a fan of Manchester United. I like the way they play. They control the ball a lot better than Americans. But Americans are tougher. "I like coming here because they bring different coaches and they are all very good and very friendly," Fritz continued. "They help all the kids, no matter what age. I'm a midfielder, so there's a lot of things I need to know how to do and I'm always looking to get better." Englehart seemed to be catching on as quick as anyone what the camp is all about. "I'm making a lot of friends," he said. "So far we learned how to stop the ball really fast, play a few games and finished three scrimmages — and our team won all three."

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KRUG

FROM PAGE B1

throughout the USHL season, a total of 26 to be exact. Krug took all five of his official NCAA visits before narrowing it down to Colorado College, Boston College, Boston University, Cornell and MSU. "I never had a preference growing up, but deep down inside I guess I had something against Michigan so I guess I was for Michigan State," Krug said. "I'd always go to (college) games at Joe Louis. I fell in love with the campus (East Lansing). It's a dream come true." Krug is among nine recruits, which also includes Canton's Anthony Hayes, a forward who played for the Green Bay Gamblers (Wis.) of the USHL. MSU, the NCAA champion in 2007, is coming off a disastrous 10-23-5 season in 2008-09. "They're in the transition phase," Krug said of the Spartans. "It's not natural for a true freshman to play and I'm

only 18. Usually you're 20 or 21. It's pretty rare. If you're not going to get the playing time, you play down (in juniors)." Krug, who attended Churchill High School through his junior year, comes from a hockey-playing family. His two brothers, Adam and Matt, just finished their collegiate careers and are looking for minor league tryouts and contracts. Adam, a forward, played two seasons at Wayne State and his final two at Adrian College, an NCAA Division III program that finished 27-1-1 last season where he earned RBK All-America honors and was also named the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association's Player of the Year (2007-08). Adam played 11 games last spring for the Cincinnati Cyclones of the East Coast Hockey League. Matt, a 6-foot, 215-pound defenseman, played three seasons at Wayne State before the program folded and finished his senior year at Robert Morris (Pa.) where the Colonials fell 3-2 in overtime

to NCAA Frozen Four finalist Bemidji State (Minn.) in the College Hockey America (CHA) playoff final. "My brothers gave me insight and helped me set goals," Torey said. "I guess we all give each other advice whether we want it or not. "Matt's given me a lot of pointers because he's a defenseman. He helps out and he knows all the ins-and-outs. Instead of going to parties or bonfires, I always went to see my brothers play. That got me started thinking about college." Torey will be working a hockey school alongside his brothers in the coming weeks at Adrian College and continues to gear up for his first collegiate season at MSU. He maintains a strict summer workout regimen at Total Performance in Wixom. "I do the hockey treadmill, it's tough," Krug said. "I wake up sore every day. This is the biggest summer of my career, and I thought last year was."

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Rams gear up for postseason

Jason Hanson bested Tom Hansen as the first-place 22-and-under Michigan Bulls wrapped up their Livonia Collegiate Baseball League season Sunday at Ford Field with a 4-3 win over the 20-and-under Michigan Rams. The Bulls finish 22-6 in the LCBL and are headed to the postseason at the National Amateur Baseball Federation regional tourney in two weeks in Toledo, Ohio.

The Rams, who wound up 22-10 in the LCBL, will return to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa. The Bulls used four pitchers over the final seven innings in the nine-inning affair. Jason Hanson worked the first two innings, allowing two runs on two hits and a pair of walks to get credit for the victory. The Rams' Tom Hanson

(Madonna University) went five innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on seven hits and three walks. Matt Broder pitched four scoreless innings in relief, allowing just two hits and a walk while fanning four. Jon Berti (2-for-4, two RBI) and Matt McNeil (2-for-4, one RBI) paced the Bulls' hitting attack. Jeff Bultinck also collected two hits, while C.J. Maszal also knocked in a run.

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Taylor twins shine in All-Star softball

Representing Livonia Franklin for the final time in their prep careers, twins Brittany and Brianna Taylor turned in sparkling efforts during last week's Division 1 Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association All-Star game held at Lansing's Ranney Park.

Catcher Brittany Taylor went 2-for-3 and scored the game-winning run in the sixth inning following a double to propel the White All-Stars to a 2-0 triumph over their Red All-Star counterparts.

Meanwhile, Brianna Taylor turned in a stellar defensive performance at shortstop

as she recorded five assists, including a putout of the speedy Amanda Riley (Detroit Cass Tech), who had not been called out in two softball seasons.

The Franklin twins, both All-Staters, are headed this fall to Grand Valley State University to play basketball. They led the Patriots to a runner-up finish last March in the state Class A girls basketball tournament.

Pitchers Samantha Cole (Belleville) and Emily Pilon (Monroe) combined on the shutout for the White All-Stars, who were coached by Hudsonville's Tom Vrugink



Members of the victorious White All-Stars in last week's Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Division 1 game included (back row, from right) coach Linda Jimenez, Brittany and Brianna Taylor, all from Livonia Franklin. Another member was Hannah Atkinson of Farmington Hills Mercy.

and Franklin's Linda Jimenez.

Other members of the White All-Stars included Hannah Atkinson, Farmington Hills Mercy; Sydney Smith, Monroe; Liz Hamming, Hudsonville; Caitlyn Reynolds, Port Huron Northern; Kayla

Smart, Jenson; Catherine Chamberlin, Troy; Alexa Maciejewski, Troy Athens; and Andie Dawson, White Lake Lakeland.

The Red All-Stars were coached by Don Peters (Clarkston) and Lisa Allian (Auburn Hills Avondale).

Schmitt in 200 free final

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

So far, so good for Canton High grad Allison Schmitt at the 2009 World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Schmitt, 19, a 2008 Canton graduate, was slated to compete in Wednesday's final of the 200 freestyle for USA Swimming. She earned the spot by way of her fourth-place time of 1:56.11 in Tuesday's semifinal; earlier, she had the second fastest time at the opening preliminary (1:55.92).

Meanwhile, Schmitt also will swim Thursday in the 4-x-200-meter freestyle relay.

Before the crucial week began, Schmitt sounded very confident during a webcast interview with Andrew Silver, senior editor of swimnet.com.

"I'm just getting ready and I



Schmitt

feel fast," said Schmitt, adding that she was pumped up about swimming in the marble, outdoor pool.

"Right now, I'm just looking at swimming fast, swimming my best times and getting it up there for the USA," said Schmitt, answering Silver's question about what goals she had for the Worlds.

Schmitt, who is entering her sophomore year at the University of Georgia, qualified on July 7 when she won the 400-meter freestyle event at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships in Indianapolis, Ind. She took fourth Monday in the final of the 400 free, with a time of 4:02.51.

Advertorial

TEE TIME

Your local golf guide



Are you dreaming of a perfect golf course?

Online Poll: Which public course on the U.S. Open rotation would you most like to play?

Here's how our readers responded to our online four-week poll:
Pebble Beach in Monterey, CA 0% Pinehurst #2 in Pinehurst, NC 0%
Beth Page in Long Island, NY 100% Other 0%

My favorite courses in Michigan

By David Graham

In my position as Executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan, it is probably a politically incorrect position to express what golf courses make my personal list of favorites for obvious reasons. But like you, I do have favorites around the state of Michigan and I am willing to provide my two cents on the topic. This list is courses that if invited, I would make time in my schedule to play in a heartbeat. I must also state up front that I have not come close to playing all of the fantastic courses in this state. We are so fortunate to have so many great options. Also, I believe there is a bit of a halo effect on ones likability assessment based on how well one plays and scores at a particular course. I suspect that influence has impacted my selections. So this assessment is very subjective, and

while it will include some obvious courses on everybody's list, it probably is not your list. It does include both private and public facilities.

Dave's Faves in alphabetical order:

- **Arcadia Bluffs** – spectacular links style course along Lake Michigan. As the wind blows, so will one's score. No. 17 is an awesome par 3 when played with a breeze in your face it can be particularly difficult to score.
- **Belvedere** – Tom Watson spent his summers on this gem in Charlevoix. No. 16 is a shorter par 4 with the green wedged into the side of a hill. Great fun particularly if the hole location is on the right side of the green. Beware of an overly aggressive putt.
- **Crystal Downs** – Alistair

Mackenzie design with support from Perry Maxwell recognized as one of the finest courses in America. No. 10 is a great par 4 that demands an approach shot kept below the hole. If not, 50/50 chances you may putt off the green.

- **Eagle Eye** – Newer course with a lot of great holes including an exact replica of the 17th at the TPC at Sawgrass (Island Green). One of my favorites is no. 15 which is a par 4 that has a raised green with severe slopes around with collection areas for any wayward shots.

- **Franklin Hills** – A great Donald Ross design. No. 2 is a superb par 4 with a severely slanted green... do not be above the hole on your approach shot if at all possible.

- **The Gailes** – One of three courses at Lakewood Shores Resort, it is a very challenging links layout with hidden fairway pot bunkers throughout. Bring your "A" game

and you'll have a great time.

- **The Heathers at Boyne Highlands** – Robert Trent Jones design, no. 18 is a great risk reward hole that requires an approach shot over the lake for any realistic chance at a birdie finish.

- **Indianwood Old** – My home course, it plays different each day depending on the wind. No. 18 is a great finishing hole with a huge green. Putting over and around some of the buried elephants can be a challenge!

- **Kingsley Club** – Newer course receiving excellent national exposure. No. 9 is a modest par 3 until you get to the green. Unless you are below the cup you may have some interesting challenges. If chipping or pitching on from behind the green, good luck!

- **Meadowbrook** – Great set of green complexes throughout the course. No. 9 is a great shorter par 4

with a severely sloped green. Hands of a surgeon instead of a blacksmith will serve one well.

- **Oakland Hills South** – Spectacular host course to countless major championships as well as the Ryder Cup. No. 17 is a really cool par 3 uphill to a green surrounded by deep bunkers and equally challenging rough. A par on this hole is a great achievement.

The above is a sampling of the great courses in Michigan. If a friend should extend an invite to play any of the above, don't hesitate to accept and keep me in mind if you need someone to fill out your group.

David Graham is the Executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan. Check for his Tee Time column every Thursday through September.

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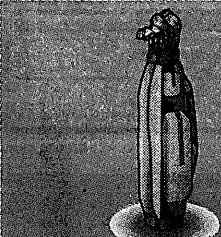
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A common home

Interfaith gathering looks at synagogues, churches

BY WENDY ROSE BICE
CORRESPONDENT

In 1922, Albert Kahn, one of the 20th century's most important architects, designed a house of worship for the Jewish congregation to which he belonged, Temple Beth El.

He chose an octastyle temple in the Ionic Order of architecture — think the front of the Lincoln Memorial and the inside of the Fisher Building. Above the entrance, etched in stone, Kahn had the following words inscribed, "My house shall be a house of prayer for all people."

"How could he know, in 1922, that one day this synagogue would be sold to the Lighthouse Cathedral and then to the Little Rock Baptist Church?" marveled Gerald Cook, of Farmington Hills and one of the organizers of a historic gathering of Jewish and Christian clergy and congregants at the Detroit Historical Museum in Detroit earlier this month.

The group of some 30 men and women of both Jewish and Christian denominations, African American and white, were called together to share stories about their common houses of worship. The event, sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan as part of its 50th anniversary celebration, brought white folks from suburban synagogues to meet representatives of urban churches that were once those very same synagogues.

Whether it is a new building or an old one, the stories shared by members of this group reflect the passion everyday people have for the place in which they pray. Cook, so overjoyed to finally have this group come together, told story after story of how the old synagogues continue to warm the hearts of the members who once worshipped there.

"We brought a tour group into the old B'nai Moshe (now the St. Paul AME Zion Church) on Dexter. The church service wasn't yet over, but we were invited in anyway and were treated to the most beautiful music from the choir," explained a nearly-teary eyed Cook who often leads tours of old Jewish Detroit for the Historical Society. "After the service and the tour, Dr. Ola Williams (a member of St. Paul) held up a little doggy piggy bank and asked us to help in their efforts to raise funds for their library. Our guests stuffed it with \$133 and then, after the tour was over, sent



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jerry Cook explains the history of this stained glass, from Mogen Abraham, built in 1913. Located at Farnsworth and Beaubien, the congregation left in 1939. It was a Baptist Church until 1977. Senator Carl Levin, spotted the window in the back of a pickup truck while driving on a local freeway. He followed the driver and bought the window. It now belongs to the Reconstructionist Synagogue of Detroit.

another \$250."

Nationally, and here in the Detroit area, it was common that a Jewish congregation moving from its early location would sell its building to a church. Churches, synagogues, temples and mosques need to be near their congregants and as the population of an area changes, so do the houses of worship. Interestingly, churches have chosen to leave in-tact much of the iconography from the synagogue. Jewish stars, Hebrew and English torah verses are commonly found in the churches that were once Jewish temples.

"I've been at this church my whole life," said Rev. Davis of the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, formerly B'nai David. "We decided to maintain what was already there. There is a connection between Jewish and Baptist churches." What the New Mt. Zion church has maintained includes some 99 Jewish stars throughout the church.

Jews and blacks share more than houses of worship, though. Both minorities share histories of slavery, intolerance and prejudice. After the gathering and sharing of stories, the group took a tour of the exhibit, *From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America*, which traces America's history through a Jewish lens and delves into how Jewish immigrants came to this country, overcame bigotry and exclusion and built a permanent home...themes all too familiar to the members of these black, urban churches.

As only a person of the cloth could, Rev. Glen Plummer of the Christian Television Network, found the words to sum up the remarkable afternoon: "The Jewish community and the African American community historically have changed the country together."

Linda Yellin, of Farmington Hills and owner of Feet on the Street Tours and Events in Southfield, and one

of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan's co-coordinators of this event, felt an important goal was met.

"This event not only celebrated the African American churches and organizations that honor and acknowledge the area's Jewish roots, but even more significantly, I felt we created another opportunity to celebrate our area's great diversity," she said. "I believe everyone who attended would agree that this event should serve as a reminder for all religious and community organizations to come together to honor, share dialogue, learn from each other and respect our similarities and differences."

From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America, presented by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, is on display through August at the Detroit Historical Museum. For private, docent-led tours, call (248) 432-5517. Visitors also can see

SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Lighthouse Cathedral, the former Temple Beth El: Rev. Melvin Green and his wife Theresa Ann Green, and Jan Durecki, Temple Beth El archivist
St. Paul Apostolic Temple, the former Temple Israel: Clergy from the Temple and Arnold Collens, a member of Temple Israel

St. Paul AME Zion Church, the former B'nai Moshe: Dr. Ola Williams and Claudia Brown

Clinton Street Greater Bethlehem Temple, the former Shaarey Zedek: Board member Ron Ellison.

New Mount Zion Baptist Church, the former B'nai David: Rev. Kenneth Davis

Greater Mitchell Temple, COGIC, the former Adat Shalom: Bobbie Patton from the Temple, and Adat Shalom's Rabbi Rachel Shere and Cantor Daniel Gross, his wife Lauren, and Barbara and Gerry Cook. Adat Shalom is located in Farmington Hills
Congregation Beth ShalomRabbi Nelson, Congregation Beth Shalom (Oak Park).


David Henig, Michigan Board of Rabbis. Sharon Alterman (Franklin), Jewish Community Archives; Ellen Cole (West Bloomfield), co-president, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan; Aimee Ergas, director, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan; Wendy Rose Bice, editor, Michigan Jewish History; Bobbie Patton, Greater Mitchell Temple, COGIC, Pastor Benjamin Baker. Susan Herman and Lowell Boileau, creators www.shtethood.com (the Lost Synagogues of Detroit (Farmington). New Detroit Inc: Angelita Espino, Maurice Shane and Marshall Montgomery. Linda Yellin (Southfield), Feet on the Street Tours, co-coordinator of the Interfaith Gathering.

the exhibit anytime by going to the Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave., at the northwest corner of Kirby, in Detroit's Cultural Center area. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

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DORIS BARBER
Age 85 formerly of Livonia, July 26, 2009. Beloved mother of Carl (Debbie), Mark, and Sheri Wellman. Dear sister of Melvin (Maria) Lloyd and Kenneth (Marina) Lloyd. Proud grandmother of seven. Funeral service will be Wednesday July 29 at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

GERALDINE ARMINDA GERVAIS
Age 86, of Westland, MI, passed away Friday, July 24, 2009 at Four Chaplains Nursing Care Center, Westland, MI. She was born August 11, 1922 in Fargo, MN, daughter of the late Claude & Ida (Forum) King. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, cooking and most of all entertaining and having her family all together. She is survived by her loving husband, Wallace D. Gervais, two daughters Marlo (Jim) Pappas of Belleville and Nancy (Rick) Morris of Canton, MI, 7 grandchildren Richard and Wayne Milner, Renee (Bo) Knowlton, Heidi (Brad) Gallagher, Shane (Kelli) Morris, Nicholas (Bea) Morris and Brent Morris, also 9 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way. Services were at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, July 27, 2009 with Rev. Carl Ames officiating. Interment in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI. www.davidbrownfh.com.

In Memory Of

DR. KURUVILLA ZACHARIAS
Passed away August 2006. In my heart I know it's true. I was surely blessed with you!
Miss you so, dear! Mariann

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

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e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:
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RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing of events online please go to hometownlife.com.

JULY 30-AUG. 5
Concert
Cabaret, Thursday July 30; dinner (\$8) at 6 p.m., followed by performance at 7 p.m. A free will offering will be taken. St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730.

Speaker
The Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, will talk about "Living Through Our Dark Nights of Faith," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 4, at St. Aidan Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. He'll explore the ways in which Christians can help those who consider themselves to be more secular than religious, come to a Christian discipleship of increased maturity. Free event with refreshments. RSVP at (734) 425-5950, so we have plenty of refreshments available.

Vacation Bible school
■ 9:30 a.m.-noon, Sundays in August, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Studio Go! game show is theme of this year's school. Games, snacks, crafts and learning. Register at (734) 464-6722 or visit www.5milechurch.org.

■ 9 a.m.-noon, Aug. 3-7, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, in Livonia. Activities include worship, crafts, games, science, music, Bible stories and more. Registration is \$25 for the first child in the family, \$20 for the second child, and \$15 for each additional child. Registration fees include a T-shirt for each child and a VBS music CD. Call Judy Cook at Emmanuel at (248) 442-0307, or

e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz for additional details and registration information.

■ 6:30-8:30 p.m., Aug. 3-7, at Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Aimed at children, ages 4-10. Crafts, music, refreshments and a look at how children in other parts of the world are being helped. Children will decorate and pack back-to-school boxes for children in a local shelter. Register by calling (734) 524-0880.

■ 9 a.m.-noon, Aug. 3-7 at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, between Grand River Ave., and Freedom, Farmington Hills. Aimed at ages 3 through 5th grade. "Wonders of the World" at Discovery Canyon Vacation Bible School will include faith-filled activities, lively worship, Bible stories, games, crafts, stories, dramatic activities and more. \$20 per child. Register by calling (248) 474-0584.

Family Film
See "Beauty and the Beast" at dusk, July 31, at Bethel Baptist, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 525-3664 www.betheloflivonia.com

AUG. 6-12
Hunger Walk
Churches and organizations interested in participating in this year's Plymouth/Canton CROP Hunger Walk on Oct. 11, 1009, may attend a recruiters' orientation meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11 at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon Road, Canton. Recruiters will receive Walk materials and share strategies for recruiting walkers. For more information, contact Barb Fichtenberg, coordinator, at (734) 981-4205 or bfichtenberg@hotmail.com.

Music Camp
Hearts, Hands & Voices, a worship and music camp for children, grades 2-5, in southeast Michigan, held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 10-13, with a concluding presentation 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

AUG. 13-19
Family film
See "Lion King" at dusk, Aug. 14, at Bethel Baptist, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 525-3664; www.betheloflivonia.com

Vacation Bible school
Boomerang Express, an Australian theme program, runs 6-8:15 p.m., Aug. 17-20, at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago, Livonia. The program is for children who are preschool age through 6th grade during the 2008-2009 school year. Call to register (734) 421-5406.

AWANA
Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Drop children off or stay for a Bible study offered to parents from 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study
■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615
■ Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.
■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Please see **CALENDAR, B5**

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

ART

Cherry Hill Arts Festival

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 1
Location: Cherry Hill Village Downtown District, Canton
Details: Art, music, activities for all ages
Contact: cantonfun.org, (734)394-5460

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Opening reception, 6-9 p.m., Aug. 7, with exhibit continuing through Aug. 22. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 1-9 p.m., first Fridays only
Location: 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville
Details: "Detroit - Perceived Image," the work of Darcel Deneau
Admission: Free
Contact: (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times
 Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Three original sketch comedies 8 p.m. Thursdays: Jeremy Conn and Garrett Fuller, both of Garden City, in their one-act comedic play, "Travel Earth Timeshares," through Sept. 24. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times
 Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Jazz Cafe at Music Hall

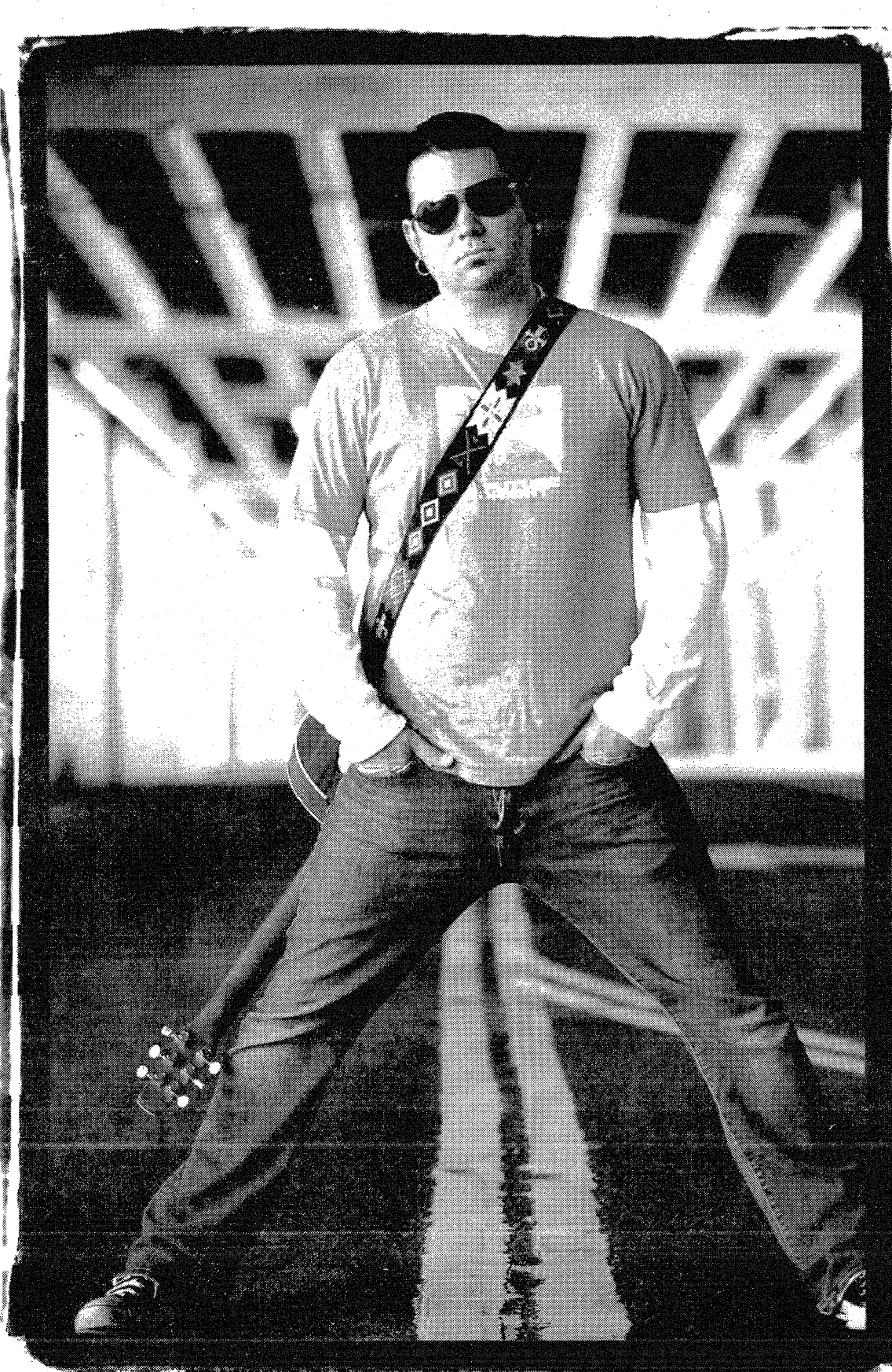
Time/Date: 9 p.m. third Thursdays
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Show Up, and Go Up, open call, free
Contact: (313) 887-8532, www.jazzcafedetroit.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickercomplex.com

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: J Chris Newberg, 7 p.m., 10 p.m. Aug. 7
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com



J. Chris Newberg's humor has propelled the guitarist/songwriter/comedian to the forefront of the national comedy scene. He'll be at the Magic Bag in Ferndale for two shows, at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. Tickets are \$10.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Open Mic 8 p.m. most Wednesdays
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

Callahan's Music Hall
Time/Date: Summertime blues concerts, 8 p.m. Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers, July 30; Junior Brown, Deadstring Brothers, July 31;

Steve Gornall & The Blue Collar Blues Band, Aug. 1; Moreland & Arbuckle, Aug. 7; Robert Noll Blues Mission, Aug. 8; Tab Benoit, Aug. 9.
Location: 2105 South Boulevard, south of the Palace, Auburn Hills
Contact: www.atcallahans.com, (248)858-

9508
Comerica Park
Time/Date: Vans Warped Tour, July 31
Contact: 1-800-745-3000, Ticketmaster.com, www.warpedtour.com
Dawn Farm
Time/Date: 8 p.m. July 31
Details: Grievous Angel live in concert. Benefit for the Dawn Farm Community of Programs, assisting recovery from alcoholism/addiction. Dawn Farm Community Barn, 6633 Stoney Creek Road, Ypsilanti. \$10
Contact: (734)485-9725, http://www.dawnfarm.org
Detroit Institute of Arts
Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 & 8:30 p.m.
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org
DTE Energy Music Theater
Time/Date: Kenny Rogers, July 29; Anita Baker, July 31; Travis Tritt, Randy Houser, Aug. 1; Rockstar Energy Mayhem Festival 2009, Aug. 2; The Temptations & The Four Tops, Aug. 6; Newsboys, Aug. 7; Moody Blues, Aug. 9.
Location: 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston
Contact: (248)377-0100, Palacenet.com
Heritage Park
Time/Date: "Stars in the Park" Thursday nights
Location: Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Rain-out site, Costick Center
Contact: (248) 473-1857, www.fhgov.com
Jazz on the River
Time/Date: noon through evening, Aug. 1-2
Location: Elizabeth Park, downtown Trenton
Details: Smooth Jazz, Pop, World and R&B. Presented by Wayne County and Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. Food and drink vendors; fun education tent for kids. Free
Contact: (313) 887-8532
Magic Bag
Time/Dates: Anne Be Davis & Harry Chronic Jr. (special reunion/benefit show) July 31; The Paybacks & The Octopus, Aug. 1; J Chris Newberg, Aug. 7; The Why Store, Aug. 14; The Electric Prunes, Aug. 15
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com
Meadow Brook Music Festival
Time/Dates: Detroit Symphony Orchestra, July 31 and Aug. 1-2; Comedian Jim Gaffigan, Aug. 7; George Thorogood & The Destroyers/Jonny Lang, Aug. 16; Peter Frampton, Aug. 22; O.A.R. with special guest Brett Dennen, Sept. 4
Location: 3554 Walton Blvd Rochester Hills
Contact: (248) 377-0100, Ticketmaster.com
Northville Friday Night Concerts
Time/Dates: Fifty Amp Fuse, July 31
Location: Town Square
Contact: (248) 349-7640, www.northville.org

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<p>0001-2450 Home & Service Guide</p>	<p>4030 Duplexes</p> <p>GARDEN CITY - 2 bdrm, full basement, 1 1/2 bath, fenced yard, no pets. \$585/mo. plus security. 734-261-1812</p>	<p>7000-7780 Merchandise</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>CANTON: Multi-family. Household, NEW scrapbook supplies, collectibles: DEPT 56, Charming Tails, Cherish Teddies, & SO MUCH MORE! July 30 - Aug 1, 10-4. 39553 Peters Dr. 1275/Joy. Holiday Park Sub.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>GARDEN CITY: 31523 Kathryn St. N of Cherry Hill, W of Merriman. Thurs July 30, 11-4; Fri-Sat 9-4pm. Precious Moments, tools, kid's clothes, toys & more!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA MULTI-FAMILY MOVING/ YARD SALE 31460 Myrna, Merriman N of 5 Mile. Furniture, women/girls' clothes, baby, household, bikes, books, more! 7/31-8/2, Fri-Sun, 9-4pm.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>PLYMOUTH-2 FAMILY SALE Fri-Sat, July 30-31, 9-? 9999 Fellows Hill Ct., Country Club Village, off Ann Arbor Rd. W of Ridge. Quality Items, no junk.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>WAYNE Multi-Family Garage Sale - 4111 Filbert St. July 30, July 31st and August 1st. 9am to 4pm. Tools, toys and household stuff.</p>	<p>7130 Moving Sales</p> <p>ROCHESTER Fri, July 31, 7am-4pm. 111 North Helen 48307 (Livorno & University). Furniture, adult & children's clothing, toys, antiques...</p>
<p>1230 Lawn, Gardening Maintenance Service</p>	<p>4050 Homes For Rent</p> <p>MILFORD 3 bdrm, 2 baths, 2+ garage. Private yard w/deck, appl included. Walk to town, \$1,000/month. No smoking/no pets. 248-685-7988</p>	<p>7020 Antiques/Collectibles</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Bridle Hills Subdivision Sale - S. of 10 Mile, W of Inkster. July 31st, Friday, 9am-5pm & August 1st, 9am-2pm. Lots of items, all must go!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA 29869 LINDA - Multi-Family Sale - Furniture, kid's clothes and toys, household items. July 30, 31 & Aug. 1, 9am-4pm.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA-GARAGE SALE July 31 August 1, 10am-5pm. 9123 Idaho, N. of Joy Rd., W. of Merriman. LOT OF ITEMS!!!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>REDFORD ENORMOUS YARD SALE. "One Day Only" Sat., Aug. 1, 8-5. Clothes, household items, Longaberger & lots more. 25000 W. Chicago</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>WESTLAND 35634 Thames, Avondale & Wayne Rd. Fri. & Sat., July 31st & Aug. 1st. 9am-1pm. Hunting & Fishings, book case, some tools, 2001 F250 Super Duty 4 wheel drive truck with plow (\$6000/best) or plow separately \$1400/best, clothing (X-large) and lots of household items.</p>	<p>7840 Dogs</p>
<p>4000-4980 Real Estate For Lease</p>	<p>4120 Living Quarters To Share</p>	<p>7100 Estate Sales</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS ESTATE/GARAGE SALE-HUGE! 3 family, over 20 yrs accumulation. Furniture, books, bldg, school, home, etc. Thurs-Sat, 7/30 - 8/1, 9am-4pm. 32175 Hull, Farmington Hills, W of Orchard Lake, S of 11.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA GARAGE SALE 7/29-8/2 15621 Auburndale North of 5 Mile at Merriman. 734-629-7041</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA MULTI FAMILY SALE 32828 Middleboro, 7/29-8/1, 9am-4pm. Girl's modern white twin 5 piece bedroom set, upright freezer, computer desk & MUCH MUCH MORE!!!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>REDFORD TWP 8931 Lenora, W. of Telegraph, N. of Joy. Thurs-Sun, July 30-Aug. 2nd, 9-6pm. Household, antiques, glassware, toys & more!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>WESTLAND 38436 Emerald Lane N. South of Joy, West of Hix. Living room set, home items and more. Sat., Aug. 1st. 9am til 4pm. 734-354-8743</p>	<p>8020 Boats/Motors</p>
<p>4000 Apartments/Unfurnished</p> <p>CANTON - 2 bdrm, \$850, all utilities incl; PLYMOUTH - 2 bdrm, \$850, 1 bdrm, \$595. Lease, (734) 455-0391</p>	<p>4000 Apartments/Unfurnished</p> <p>Redford/Roseville/Livonia Beautiful homes with private yard, fully furnished, many extras included in rent, walking distance to Metro West Alamo Club. Coming soon: Livonia Locations. Accountability & sobriety equals opportunity. Nathan: (248) 974-8534</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Kimberley Subdivision (11 Mile & Middlebelt) 29912 Pipers Lane, Thurs, 7/30, Fri, 7/31, Sat, 8/1 (9:00-5:00). Men's clothing, lawn mowing equipment, housewares, car stereos, home electronics, tools, and much more!!! 248-342-3196.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>LIVONIA Multi-family 7/30, 7/31, 8/1. 9-5pm. 31531 Gable N. of 7 Mile, West of Merriman. Baby kids' home, trains, collectibles; computers & MORE!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>PLYMOUTH MULTI - FAMILY Furniture, housewares, stove, bikes, collector items. Thurs-Sat, July 31-Aug 2, 9-5. 49278 Plum Tree, Beck & Ridge.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>PLYMOUTH- HUGE Moving Sale. Dishes, furniture, decorations and more! 7/31-8/2. 9am-1pm. 12557 Howland Park Dr. Ridge and Powell.</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>SOUTH LYON 9714 Silverside Dr. July 31 and August 1st. 9-4PM. Great stuff, good quality! Board games, bikes, boys' clothes, women's clothes sizes 8-18. Ice skates, soccer shoes, skis. New outdoor lighting, file cabinet & MORE!</p>	<p>7110 Garage Sales</p> <p>WESTLAND Multi-Family, 8238 Fremont, between Ann Arbor Trail and Joy Rd. 1 block west of Middlebelt. 7/31-8/1 9am-4pm. Computers, furniture, stackable washer/dryer, snow-blower, children/adult clothing, toys and lots more.</p>	<p>8020 Boats/Motors</p>
	<p>7130 Moving Sales</p> <p>NORTHVILLE 46280 W. Main St. July 31st & Aug. 1st. 9 AM-4 PM.</p>	<p>8020 Boats/Motors</p> <p>SKEETER 190 SL 2003 Fish and ski bass boat, Yamaha V MAX EFI, \$4,200. Contact bb321t@gmail.com or call 248-856-0596</p>						

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O&E STAFF WRITER

Get your haggis hurling-arm in shape.

Your moment to toss the frozen Scottish delicacy — a stuffed sheep's stomach — arrives this Saturday, Aug. 1, at the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit's 160th Highland Games at Historic Greenmead, in Livonia.

"It's a sheep stomach with all the ingredients you'd find in sausage, along with oatmeal. It's frozen, and it's thrown for distance," explained Julie Zvoch, games chair and a St. Andrew's trustee.

It's the one athletic event at the games that will be open to the public. Throughout the day amateurs and professionals trained in the Scottish sports of caber tossing, stone put, weight and hammer throws will wow the crowd with feats of strength and accuracy.

"They're from all over the country. We have the 2008 North American and World champions competing in 'heavy athletics,'" Zvoch noted. "We have the top athletes."

The event also offers day long entertainment, including music, more than 120 dancers, 16 bagpipe and drum corps, a tug o' war, food and merchandise vendors, children's activities and clan information booths, where guests can learn about Scottish heritage.

Zvoch, who attended her first Highland Games 11 years ago, grew up learning about Scotland from her family. She joined the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit after visiting the Games and spent every year after on its organizing committee. The Chesterfield Township woman has chaired the games for four years.

"We have 32 clans joining us this year. I am by birth a Monroe. I belong to clan Monroe," she said. "By visiting my clan (booth) I can ascertain more knowledge about my family history ... if they were high or low landers, about the tartan, the family crest."

"We're very open and friendly and are proud to say we're Scottish."

But Zvoch stresses that visi-

160TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND GAMES

Movie night: Dusk, Thursday, July 30; "The Waterhorse: Legend of the Deep," bring blankets or lawn chairs and coolers. No alcoholic beverages. Popcorn and beverages available. Free admission; parking \$5
Ceilidh: Kick-off party on Friday, July 31; tickets sold in advance only, \$15. Ceilidh entertainment: 5 p.m., String Cheese; 6:30 p.m., Alex Beaton; 7:30 p.m., The Kreellers; 8:30 p.m. Needfire; 9:15 p.m., Calling of the Clans; 9:30 p.m., Tartanic

Games day: 9 a.m.-8:30, Saturday, Aug. 1

Games day entertainment: Tartanic at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.; The Kreellers at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.; Needfire at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Alex Beaton throughout the day

Games day activities: Professional and amateur "heavy" athletics, including stone put, caber toss, 28-pound weight throw and hammer throw; haggis hurl (open to public participation); piping and drumming performances; dance performances; Border Collies herding ducks and sheep; tug o'war; food, merchandise vendors

Kids' corner: "Wee Bairns" events include painting a shield, tossing a wee caber, playing cricket, visiting animals, drilling with the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, marching in a wee clan parade, visiting MacFarlane's Company and more

Location: At Historic Greenmead park, 20501 Newburgh, at Eight Mile, in Livonia

Tickets: Advance ticket is \$10; at the gate, \$15. Children under 12 are free if accompanied by adult. Buy tickets in advance at Greenmead.

Contact: Call Greenmead at (248) 477-7375; call (248) 593-5064 for Highland Game information or e-mail to gameschair@highlandgames.com

tors don't have to share a common ethnic heritage to enjoy the Highland Games.

"People say, 'but I'm not Scottish.' Come, enjoy ... experience a different culture."

NEW EVENT

The Society broadened the Highland Games this year to include a Thursday movie night in the park.

"For our 160th anniversary we wanted to give families another event to do. We have the Friday night Ceilidh, but that's more of an adult atmosphere. We wanted to offer a family-friendly, no alcohol event."

The film, *Waterhorse, Legend of the Deep*, starts at sunset tonight, Thursday, July 30.

There's no admission, but parking costs \$5.

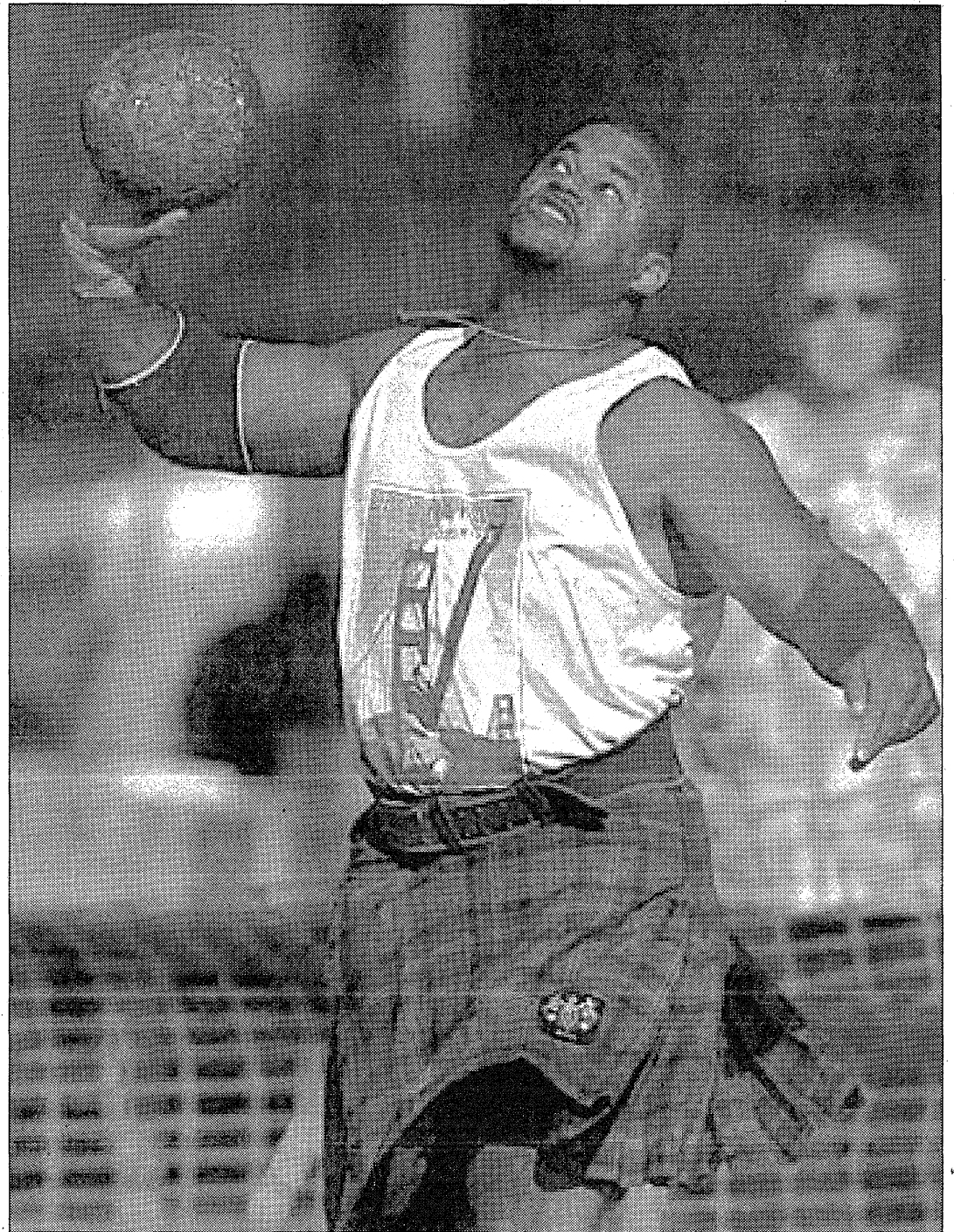
The Highland Games is the major fund-raiser of the year for St. Andrew's Society, a 400-plus member nonprofit based in Southfield. It gives approximately \$10,000 annually in scholarships to students

of Scottish dance, piping and drumming. It also supports charities such as Gleaners Food Bank and the Salvation Army.

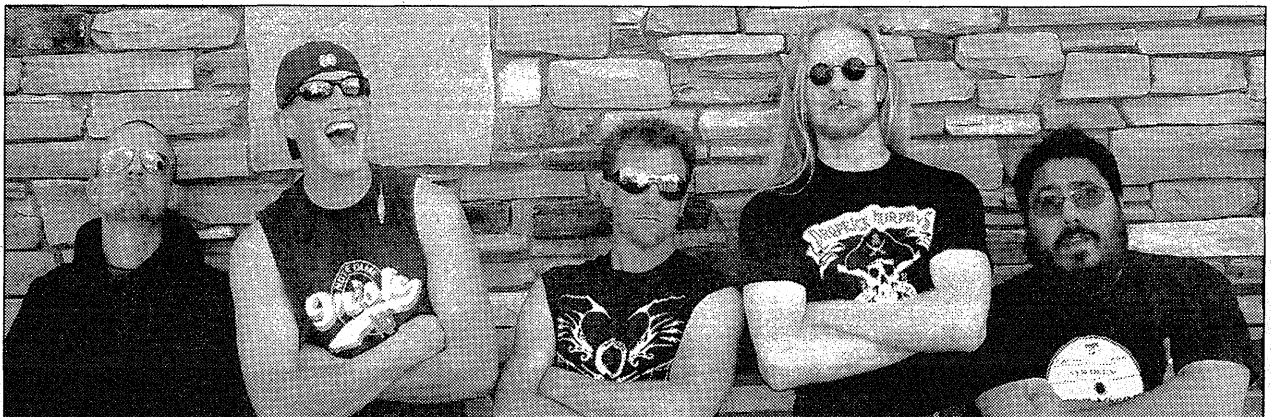
"Unlike some nonprofits that raise money and keep it, we give it all away. We have a mini shower of love in April for Children's Hospital and we pack 70 or 80 boxes a year to send to troops."

Proceeds from movie night will benefit Livonia Public Schools.

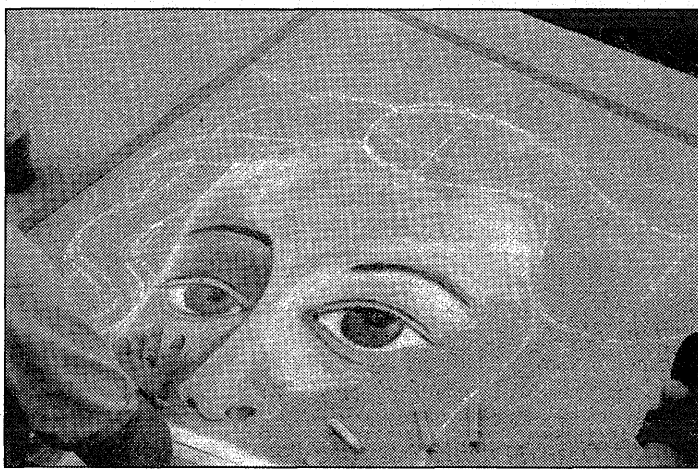
For more about the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, visit www.detroitscots.com.



Professional athlete Harrison Bailey hurls stone in competition.



Tartanic



The Chalk It Up contest is a favorite event at the Cherry Hill Arts Festival.

Arts fest offers popular chalk on walk contest

Put your sidewalk chalk-ing skills to the test at the 4th Annual Cherry Hill Arts Festival, Saturday, Aug. 1, in the Cherry Hill Village Downtown district in Canton.

The "Chalk It Up" sidewalk chalk art contest attracts talented artists both locally and regionally. This special sidewalk chalk art contest, presented by D & M Art Studios, allows entrants of all ages and skill-levels a chance to compete for prizes.

Artists are required to check in by 11 a.m. Registration fee for adults 13 and up is \$15 and children 12 and under can register for \$5. Chalk supplies are included in the registration fee. To participate in the "Chalk It Up" competition pick up a registration form at the Summit on the

Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, or on-site at the competition in Cherry Hill Village.

The art festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cherry

Hill Village Downtown District. Visitors can spend the afternoon strolling through local businesses, the Village Theater, and Canton's many historic sites, all while enjoying art and performances by local artists.

The Cherry Hill Arts Festival is a celebration of all things art, and welcomes more than 2,500 guests annually. The event offers musical entertainment, face painting, food, en plein air (in the open air) painting demonstrations, educational workshops, demonstrating artists, artist/crafter booths, and art-themed activities for all ages.

Tabasco Cats, Central City Dance and Celebration Youth Orchestra will perform on the Cherry Hill Arts Festival Stage. In addition, Spotlight in a Trunk (Spotlight Players) will present *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

For more information on the 4th Annual Cherry Hill Arts Festival visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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

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Peter Travers

Adam Sandler
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STARTS FRIDAY, JULY 31

Oakland Community College

Time/Dates: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Highland Lakes Campus. Aug 4, Pamela Wise and the Latin Jazz All Stars; Aug. 11, Cats and the Fiddle; Aug. 18: Blackthorn

Details: Free summer concerts
Location: 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford

Palace of Auburn Hills

Time/Dates: The Wiggles, Aug. 14; AC/DC, Aug. 16; Aerosmith w/ZZ Top, Sept. 16; Frank Caliendo/Bill Engvall, Oct. 24

Location: 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills
Contact: (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com

Riley Park

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Fridays
Details: Rhythmx in Riley Park

Location: Downtown Farmington
Contact: www.DowntownFarmington.org

Trinity House

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9

Details: Benefit for medical costs of cancer survivor, singer-songwriter Ralston Bowles. Performances by Dave Boutette, Billy Brandt (of Grievous Angel), Chris Buhalis, Annie and Rod Capps, Stewart Francke, Jill Jack, Jan Krist, Mustard's Retreat, D.K. Rossiter (of Hoodang), and others
Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Tickets \$15; \$12 for Trinity House members
Contact: For tickets call (734)464-6302 or write tickets@trinityhouse.org

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit

Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

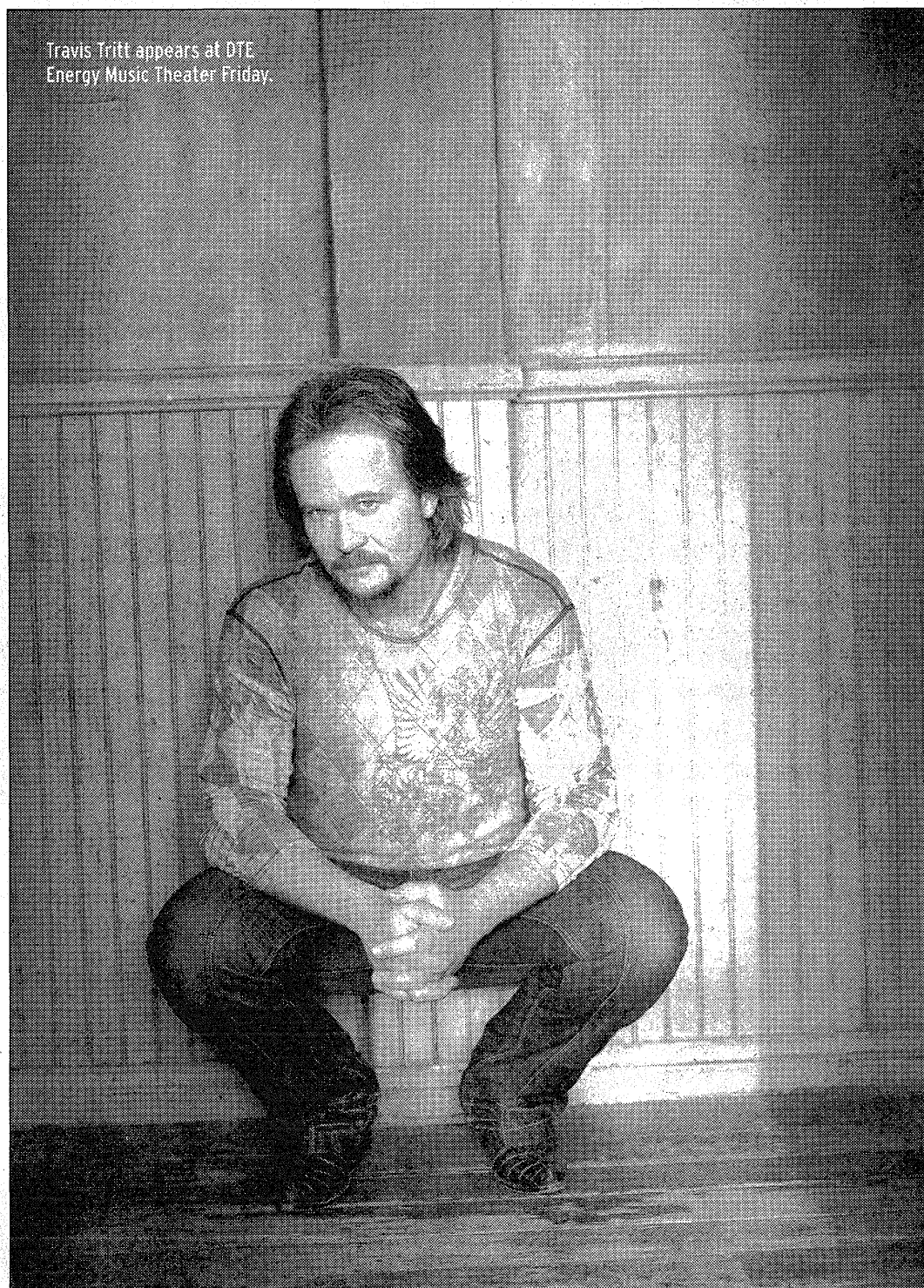
Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Marquis Theatre

Time/Dates: "Rumplestiltskin," Aug. 8-Sept. 20; "Pinky the Flying Ghost," Oct. 17-25; "Pinocchio," Nov. 14-Jan. 24, 2010, tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up



Travis Tritt appears at DTE Energy Music Theater Friday.

Location: 135 E. Main, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-8110, www.northvillamarquistheatre.com

Palace of Auburn Hills

Time/Date: The Wiggles "Go Bananas Live," Aug. 14

Contact: (800) 745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com

FILM

AMC Summer MovieCamp

Time/Dates: \$1 select movies, Wednesday's. AMC Forum 30 with IMAX; AMC Star Gratiot 21; AMC Star Great Lakes 25; AMC Livonia 20. Aug. 5. "Star Wars The Clone Wars" (PG)

Location: Ashwith Auditorium, Lorch Hall, 611 Tappan Street, Ann Arbor, on the University of Michigan campus

Details: Benefits Variety - The Children's Charity and The Will Rogers Institute

Contact: www.amcentertainment.com/smc

Center for Japanese Studies

Time/Dates: Free summer film series offers "Honey and Clover," Friday, July 31; "Funky forest: The First Contact," Friday, Aug. 7; "Ping-Pong," Friday, Aug. 14 and "Happily Ever After," Friday, Aug. 21; 7 p.m.

Location: Ashwith Auditorium, Lorch Hall, 611 Tappan Street, Ann Arbor, on the University of Michigan campus

Details: All films are in Japanese with English subtitles
Contact: (734) 764-6307

Compuare Sports Arena Drive-in

Time/Date: 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30

Details: "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" and "Transformers - Revenge of the Fallen," screen 1; "G-Force" and "Up," screen 2; "Ice Age - Dawn of the Dinosaurs," and "The Proposal," screen 3

Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 927-3284

Detroit Historical Society

Time/Dates: Soupy Sales film series, 1 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays through Aug.30

Details: Free with museum admission. Free museum admission, July

Location: 5401 Woodward Ave. northwest of Kirby, Detroit's Cultural Center area

Contact: (313) 833-1805, www.detroithistorical.org

Henry Ford IMAX

Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn

Contact: (313) 271-1570

Penn Theatre

Time/Dates: Summer family movie series. July 30, "Annie," Aug. 6, "In Search of the Castaways," Aug. 13, "Babe," Aug. 20: "Apple Dumpling Gang," Aug. 27: "The Muppets Take Manhattan." 1 p.m., 7 p.m., \$3/seat

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Contact: (734) 453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Redford Theatre

Time/Dates: "Lawrence of Arabia," Aug. 7-9; "Planet of the Apes," Aug. 21-22

Location: 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

MUSEUMS

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Time/Dates: "Hatching the Past," through Sept. 6; Planetarium shows Friday nights and week-ends; 11 permanent exhibits

Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

Contact: (248) 645-3200, http://science.cranbrook.edu

Detroit Historical Museum

Time/Dates: "Detroit's Classic TV Personalities" through Sept. 6. Standing exhibits include Streets of Old Detroit, Frontiers to Factories, The Motor City, The Glancy Trains

Location: 5401 Woodward, Detroit

Contact: (313) 833-1805, www.detroithistorical.org

Detroit Science Center

Time/Date: On-going exhibit, "Star Trek: The Exhibition"

Location: 5020 John R
Contact: (313) 577-8400, www.detroitssciencecenter.org

Greenfield Village

Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn

Contact: (313) 982-6001 or the-henryford.org

Plymouth Historical Museum

Time/Dates: "In the Presence of Lincoln," through Nov. 4, 155 S. Main St. 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, \$5; \$2 students 6-17; \$10 families

Contact: (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Detroit Historical Society

Time/Dates: Weekly

Details: "Behind the Scenes" tours. \$20 society members, \$30 for guests

Contact: (313) 833-1801, or www.detroithistorical.org

Penn Grill & Bar

Time/Dates: Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Details: Karaoke

Location: 820 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Contact: (734) 453-3570

THEATER

Barefoot Productions

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. July 30, 8 p.m. July 31 and Aug. 1, and 2 p.m. Aug. 2.

Details: A comedy double feature - "Picasso" and "Neato-Man;" tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 senior and student

Contact: (734) 560-1493

Location: Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 North Main Street, Plymouth

8th Wonder

Time/Dates: 8 p.m., Friday, July 31 and Saturday, Aug. 1, staged reading of the play "The Known Limits" by Joe Zettelaier

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, at the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge Roads, Canton

Tickets: \$10 general admission. **Coming up:** "Big River," the musical version of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," Aug. 7-9 and 13-16; tickets \$17 for adults and \$13 for seniors and youth

Contact: www.8thwondertheatre.com or (734) 972-4054

Fisher Theatre

Location: 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit

Contact: (800) 982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, www.broadwayindetroit.com

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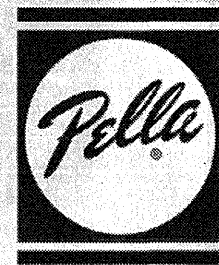
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Plymouth

Strictly Business

Dul Foundation hands out scholarships

Many students pursuing some type of higher education also maintain part-time or full-time employment positions outside of their academic lives, while volunteering in their communities.

The Dul Foundation, which was created by local business owners, offers financial assistance to such students. Five employees of Clips & Clamps Industries and Fox Hills Golf Course & Banquet Center of Plymouth received academic scholarships.

These employees are students who are enrolled in a trade school, community college, four-year college or university.

Scholarship winners include Joseph Blaszczyk of Milford, who is a Business Administration student at Western Michigan University; Christopher Leib of Canton, a student at Northwood University who is majoring in Marketing; Robert Luther of Canton, a TV Broadcast/Business Administration major at Schoolcraft College; Kylei Philo of Canton, a student at Eastern Michigan University who is working toward her Accounting degree; and Kristin Wellmer of Northville, an Advertising student at the College of Creative Studies.

The Dul Family has owned and operated Clips & Clamps Industries since 1954 and Fox Hills since 1974. The family has learned that their most valuable assets are the people who make everything happen and education is the key that enables people to reach their full potential. Because of this, the Dul Foundation was established in 1998 to provide scholarships each year to deserving applicants. Scholarships are awarded to employees of either company, or family members of employees.

For more information, contact Fox Hills at (734) 453-7272 or visit the Web site at www.fox-hills.com



Pictured here (from left) are Michael Aznavorian of Clips & Clamps Industries, Kathy Dul Aznavorian of Fox Hills, scholarship winners Robert Luther and Kristin Wellmer, Sandy Dul Mily of Fox Hills, scholarship winners Joseph Blaszczyk and Kylei Philo, Alexis Mily of Fox Hills.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Lotus art exhibit

In order to enhance the understanding of and appreciation for the fine art of printmaking, Lotus Arts Gallery announced the opening of a new exhibit, "Impression & Expressions: Exploring Modern Printmaking."

The exhibit will feature strong work from established as well as emerging artists, including current and former students of Madonna University, of which the gallery manager is an alumnus. Exhibit artists include Jeanne Poulet, Christina White, Barbara Gibson, Nina Cherian, Anna Lussier, and Julie Kopp-Landry. The show includes traditional printmaking processes such as etching, aquatint, drypoint, monoprint, lithography, woodcut, and other accepted form as printmaking, as well as more experimental techniques and combinations of various processes.

Printmaking is an ancient and versatile medium for creating art with a wide range of imagery and approaches possible. The exhibit represents many different and interesting voices as each artist's work reflects a unique style and vision. Viewers will leave the show enlightened and excited about the diverse world of printmaking.

The opening reception is set for 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8. Lotus Arts Gallery is located at 995 West Ann Arbor Trail (corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey Street) in downtown Plymouth.

The exhibition will be on display Aug. 1-29. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during gallery hours between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, contact the gallery toll free at (888) 889-4ART or at (734) 453-5400.

Central Parking

Contractors are wrapping up repairs on the upper level of the deck. Crews began weekly Monday to shore/brace beams and columns so that contractors can continue repairs on the lower level of the deck.

The lower level of the deck is expected to be closed for parking for 2-3 weeks while contractors complete repairs. The majority of the upper level will be available during this time.

Business update

(Courtesy Downtown Development Authority)

• Genuine Toy Co. - Elle and Charles expect to open for business this week. Shelves are stocked and the final details are being put in place.

• Ironwood Grill - Interior finish work continues. New windows are expected to be delivered soon.

• Avenue Market - A sign has been hung and interior buildout continues. Owners hope to open in the near future.

Therapy credential

Jennifer Farley of Plymouth earned the prestigious Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor credential conferred by the Association for Play Therapy (APT), according to its executive director Bill Burns. Farley is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

To become a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, applicants must have earned a traditional masters or doctoral mental health degree from an institution of higher education, 150 clock hours of play therapy training, five years and 5,000 hours of post-Master's clinical experience, 500 supervised and 500 additional hours of play therapy experience, and be licensed or certified by their state boards of practice. Additional information is available at www.a4pt.org.

New yoga stop

Come join your friends and neighbors at Miss Harriet's Dance Studio for a gentle flow yoga class. We meet every Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. and share an experience that builds awareness of breath, movement and relaxation. Participants of all fitness levels are welcome and encouraged to work at the level that is comfortable for them that day. Modifications are given to increase or decrease the intensity of postures. Terri Irtter, owner of Miss Harriet's, and Tricia Ptak believe that it is very important for us to have a way to give back to the community. This is a way to offer healing for those who truly need yoga but who might be afraid to try or who simply cannot afford classes at a yoga studio (average is \$17 per drop in). Donation is the act of giving from the heart, allowing you to pay what you can. Miss Harriet's is located in the Northville Square Mall at 133 W. Main Street, Suite 190 in downtown Northville. Contact Tricia Ptak at yogatrish@wowway.com or (734) 259-9588 for more information.

SEND IT

Get in on the new Strictly Business page of the *Plymouth Observer* by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones.

It's simple: Just e-mail all of the details to editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com

and he'll take care of the rest.

Our local business page runs each Thursday in your *Plymouth Observer*. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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CHAMBER CHAT

After hours

Bennigan's is rolling out the music and the summer fun to turn their restaurant into the most "Rocking" summer networking event for our

Plymouth Community Chamber members. The summer themed activities will give everyone the opportunity to meet each other.

The Chamber's best summer networking event is 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Bennigan's on Ann Arbor Road. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a fun summer networking game. Members will have an opportunity to win door prizes including dining gift certificates. This will also be a great opportunity to network with Chamber members you may not have seen all summer.

To RSVP for this event, please e-mail Teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. There is no cost to

attend. Bennigan's is located at 40441 Ann Arbor Road.

Business and Community News

• Children's Concerts on Wednesdays - On summer Wednesdays at noon Kellogg Park is full of strollers, young children and parents enjoying Music in the Park, a series of children's concerts hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council. The concerts run through Aug. 19. For more information and a list of performers go to www.plymoutharts.com

• What is The 3/50 Project? Have you seen The 3/50 Project signs around town? The 3/50 Project is an initiative by many local independent owned businesses to promote the value to the community of spending money at these businesses.

The initiative encourages people to spend \$50 per month in their three favorite independently owned businesses to support the local economy. Studies show that

68 percent of the money spent at these local businesses returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures. The initiative is part of a national campaign with more information available about the project on their web site at www.the350project.net.

• Support Buy Michigan initiative - Gov. Jennifer Granholm declared July 27 "Buy Michigan Week." To highlight the week, the City of Northville is hosting a Buy Michigan Now Festival through Aug. 2 featuring many Michigan-based businesses. The festival is also offering advertising opportunities through an event guide being published by the *Observer Newspapers*. For more information about advertising call (734) 582-8363 and to learn more about the festival go to www.buymichigan-now.com

Wes Graff is executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached by e-mail at wes@plymouthmich.org or by calling (734) 453-1540.



Wes Graff

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NEW PATIENTS

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

FOOD & WINE

Win cash, prizes and ribbons in fair recipe contests

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

With the Michigan State Fair less than a month away, it's time to start working on your blue ribbon-winning recipes.

The fair runs Aug. 28-Sept. 7 and includes lots of opportunities to show off skills in baking, canning and other home arts categories. Rules for each contest are available online at www.michigan.gov/mistatefair.

In addition to the local competitions, four corporate-sponsored food events offer cash prizes and in two cases, a national judging.

"These are special contests that are held, not only at the Michigan State Fair, but at up to 70 other state and county fairs throughout the country," explained Beth Betcher, a spokeswoman for the Blue Ribbon Group. "These contests have been hosted at the Michigan State Fair since as early as 1994. Three of the four contests — Hidden Valley, Pillsbury and Fleischmann's Yeast — have national judging. The first place winning recipes from all hosting fairs go on to national judging with a chance to win grand prizes from \$1,000 to \$2,000."

Hidden Valley's "Fresh Taste for the Family" Recipe Contest doubled its prize from \$1,000 to \$2,000 this year. Contestants may create an entrée, appetizer or side dish centered on fresh food, wholesome ingredients and traditions that bring families together. Entrants must feature Hidden Valley® The Original Ranch® Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix in their recipes and deliver their creations for live "judging" at the fair.

Entries will be judged on their fresh factor, taste, family appeal, and ease of preparation. First place is worth \$200. Second and third places are worth \$100 and \$50 respectively. A \$2,000 grand prize will be awarded to one of the first place winners among the 46 fairs. The contest is open to U.S. residents 18 years or older, one entry per person. The contest will



Pillsbury® Merry Cherry-Plum-Berry Tart

be judged at 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS

Create a decadent dessert with at least one Ghirardelli baking product and up to 10 other ingredients and you'll be ready to compete in the 2009 Chocolate Championship.

The chocolate challenge rewards winners with cash prizes, gift packages and winning ribbons. First and second place entries win \$150 and \$50 respectively. The top three winners take home a Ghirardelli gift basket, plus a prize ribbon, apron and award certificate. One random contestant also will win a Ghirardelli gift basket. Entries are judged on chocolate taste, originality/creativity, appearance, and ease of preparation.

Ages 18 or older may enter; limit one entry per person. Chocolate Championship judging is 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29.

PILLSBURY PIES

The Pillsbury® Refrigerated Pie Crusts Pie Baking Championship gives a \$200 cash prize and commemorative gift to the first place winner, \$100 to second place and \$50 to third place. The first place winner will also have a chance to win the \$1,000 national grand prize.

The Pie Baking Championship is aimed at all ages and pie-making skill levels. Entrants submit a two-crust fruit pie using Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts. All entries will be judged at the fair based on taste, appearance, creativity, ease of preparation and general appeal. The web site www.pillsbury.com/pie will feature a variety of winners this fall, including the national grand prize recipe at year-end. The contest will be judged at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4.

FOR THE CURE

Fleischmann's Yeast, will donate \$10 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure for each entry into its BAKE for the CURE® contest. The contest offers \$375 in cash prizes and \$3,000 in national prizes. The main category awards \$150 for first place, \$75 for second and \$50 for third. In the second category, \$100 is awarded for the "Best Batter Bread," where contestants simply mix, rise and bake an entry. Qualifying bread recipes in the second category use just one rise time and no effort spent kneading the dough. Open to all ages. Judging is set for noon Sunday, Sept. 6.

Pre-registration is required for all four contests. Visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mistatefair> and click on Department 6-Daily Contests to enter.

BLUE RIBBON WINNERS

Need a little inspiration for the recipe contests at the Michigan State Fair?

Try these national and regional winners from the 2008 Hidden Valley, Pillsbury, Ghirardelli and Fleischmann's Yeast contests:

HIDDEN VALLEY® FRESH VEGGIE CRISPS

- 1 cup peanut oil for frying
- 2 burrito size flour tortillas (10- to 11-inch)
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 packet (1 ounce) Hidden Valley® The Original Ranch® Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium zucchini squash, seeded and chopped
- 1 orange or yellow bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 2 roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

In large frying pan heat peanut oil on medium-high heat. Fry tortillas, turning once, until browned and crisp. Place on paper towels to drain and set aside. In medium bowl whisk together cream cheese, sour cream and the Hidden Valley® Ranch mix. Add the dill and mix well again. Spread the mixture evenly over fried tortillas; then sprinkle with the chopped fresh vegetables in order given. Top with parsley and enjoy. Cut in wedges to serve. Makes 16 appetizer wedges. (For baked tortillas: brush both sides with vegetable oil, place on baking sheet and bake at 450 degrees F for 4 to 6 minutes, turning once, until crisp)

PILLSBURY® MERRY CHERRY-PLUM-BERRY TART

- Crust and Topping:**
- 1 box (15 ounces) Pillsbury® refrigerated pie crusts
 - ½ cup chopped almonds
 - 3 tablespoons turbinado sugar
- Filling:**
- ½ cup dried cranberries
 - ½ cup dried cherries
 - ¼ cup amaretto
 - 1¼ cups fresh blueberries
 - 2 plums, cut into pieces
 - 1½ tablespoons cornstarch
- White Amaretto Truffle Sauce:**
- 2 ounces white vanilla baking chips (1/3 cup)
 - ½ cup whipping cream
 - 2 tablespoons amaretto

1. Heat oven to 425°F. Let one pie crust stand at room temperature 15 minutes to soften; unroll crust into 9-inch tart pan. Lightly press crust into fluted edge of pan. Run rolling pin across top of pan to cut off excess crust. Prick side and bottom of crust with fork. Bake 10 minutes. In 2-quart saucepan, heat dried cranberries, dried cherries and ¼ cup amaretto over medium heat 5 minutes. Add blueberries and plums. Cook 15 minutes longer. Stir in cornstarch. Pour into partially baked crust.

2. Remove remaining pie crust from refrigerator. Chop cold crust into small pieces, adding almonds and sugar while chopping, to make crumbly topping. Sprinkle over filling. Bake 30 to 35 minutes. Cool 15 minutes.

3. Place baking chips in medium bowl; set aside.

In 1-quart saucepan, heat cream over low heat. As soon as bubbles form around edge of pan, remove from heat; pour warm cream over baking chips in bowl. Stir until chips are melted and completely smooth. Stir in 2 tablespoons amaretto. Refrigerate 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Stir sauce well before serving. Drizzle each serving with about 2 tablespoons amaretto sauce. Cover and refrigerate any remaining pie and sauce. 8 servings

GHIRARDELLI WHITE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

- 8 ounces Ghirardelli White Chocolate
- 4 tablespoons orange liqueur, such as Grand Marnier
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- 2 egg whites

In double boiler over hot water, melt chocolate — either two Ghirardelli White Chocolate Baking Bars or ¾ bag of Ghirardelli Classic White Chips — with liqueur and water; stir gently to blend. Cool until chocolate mixture no longer feels warm to the touch. In large bowl with electric mixer, beat cream until soft peaks form; fold cream into chocolate mixture. In large bowl with clean mixer, whisk egg whites until soft peaks form. With rubber spatula, fold egg whites into chocolate mixture. Divide mousse among 6 dessert bowls or glasses. Chill at least 1 hour.

ORANGE NIRVANA

- 3 to 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 envelope Fleischmann's® RapidRise Yeast
 - 3 tablespoons sugar
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1/2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 1 teaspoon freshly grated orange peel
 - ½ cup orange marmalade
 - 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- Topping:**
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine, softened
 - 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
- Icing:**
- 1 ounce cream cheese
 - 1 cup powdered sugar
 - 1/2 tablespoons orange juice
 - ½ teaspoon freshly grated orange peel

Combine 2 cups flour, undissolved yeast, sugar and salt in large mixer bowl. Heat milk and butter to 120° to 130° F and add to flour mixture. Add butter, egg and orange peel. Beat for 2 minutes. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes. Cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Punch dough down. Roll into 14- by 9-inch rectangle. Spread orange marmalade down the middle of the dough, lengthwise. Make diagonal cuts 1 inch apart and 3 inches long down the two sides. Fold alternate strips of dough over the filling. Place on a greased or parchment lined baking sheet. Brush with the two tablespoons of melted butter. Cover and let rise until double, about 30 minutes. Combine topping ingredients to make crumbs. Sprinkle on top of the braid. Bake at 350° F for 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Combine all icing ingredients and drizzle over coffee cake. Yield: 1 coffee cake.

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