

THURSDAY
August 13,
2009

New candy store satisfies sweet tooth- Strictly Business, B11

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PIPELINE

Board hopes

Unless something changes before 4 p.m. Friday, all four incumbent Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustees will be on the ballot for November's school board election.

Trustees Judy Mardigian, Barry Simescu and Tom Wysocki all filed petitions with the Plymouth Township clerk's office to run for the three full-time board seats they currently occupy.

Mardigian and Wysocki seek their third terms, while Simescu seeks his second.

John Jackson filed for the remaining two years of a term to which he was appointed to replace former trustee Mark Slavens, who resigned immediately following his election two years ago when he was appointed to a Wayne County judgeship. Jackson will run unopposed.

Joining the incumbents on the ballot for the three four-year terms are Larry Martin, Eric Bacynski and Angela Davis of Plymouth Township. Martin has run before; Davis and Bacynski are seeking school board seats for the first time.

Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday to withdraw their names from consideration.

Path progress

The Michigan Department of Transportation hosts a meeting tonight (Thursday) for local residents and anyone else interested in the state's plans to reconstruct a bike lane along I-275.

MDOT representatives will talk about the project to revamp the bike path between Michigan Avenue and Hines Drive this fall. The meeting takes place 6-8 p.m. at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 S. Lotz.

The \$4 million project is set to start in October, halt for the winter, then resume in the spring. Completion is expected in the fall of 2010. The project is designed to reconstruct the bike path, repair pedestrian bridges, upgrade signs and install signals at some intersections.

Woodstock lives

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Musicians and friends present a 40th anniversary celebration of Woodstock Saturday, Aug. 15.

The event will be in an open area and include five sets of musicians, family activities, hot dogs and ice cream. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per car. The event will be at 46040 Ann Arbor Trail.

For more information call the Plymouth Symphony at 734-451-2112.

In the 'pink'



Team "1 of 8," signifying what studies show are the odds women have of facing breast cancer in their lives, will be among the thousands walking in the Breast Cancer 3-Day this weekend.

Plymouth shows its love for 3-Day walkers

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Joanne Slaughter of Plymouth has always been proud of her hometown.

But it was never more evident than when she strode through the community last year as part of the annual Breast Cancer 3-Day walk, when people lined the streets four and five rows deep and filled Kellogg Park while standing and applauding the efforts of those walking for cancer research.

"It was incredible," recalled Slaughter, who joins walkers this weekend for the second year in a row. "By the time we walked through last year, it was after

lunch, and everyone is just exhausted. You're tired, and you're hot and you're sore."

But here they came anyway, walking up Penniman to the cheers and applause spectators believed they deserved. Other walkers talked about that kind of support.

"Everyone is just applauding and cheering and wanting to touch you and be a part of it," Slaughter said. "I was on a cloud. That's what got me through the second day. People were saying, 'That was so cool going through Plymouth. It was awesome.' I just said, 'That's my hometown.' I was proud to say I'm from Plymouth."

Walkers can expect the same sort of support when they come

through town Saturday (they're scheduled to pass through from approximately 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), if organizers and city officials have anything to say about it.

According to City Manager Paul Sincock, the water in the Kellogg Park fountain will again be dyed pink, balloons (and people) will line the streets and recorded music will fill the air. Plymouth police will provide crowd control, while members of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club are set to help walkers crossing streets.

But it will again be the people who make the day.

"It's the town that comes out,"

Please see 3-DAY, A3



Members of Team 1 of 8 who walked last year (and most of whom are walking this year) included Joanne Slaughter (back, from left), Kristie Hodges, Robin Davis and Doug Dagley, and (front) Tandy Kwapis, Alejandra Slaughter, Steve Kwapis and Brinkley the dog.

Deadly crashes spark call for study

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After two recent fatal crashes at Five Mile and Ridge Road, Plymouth Township officials are asking Wayne County traffic engineers to study the intersection for possible safety improvements.

Neither investigation is complete, but in both crashes, police said, the victims were driving north on Ridge through the intersection when their vehicles were struck. The intersection has a stop sign for traffic on Ridge, but no stop sign for Five Mile traffic, which has the right of way.

In the first crash, on July 14, a 73-year-old Milan woman, Betty Stapleton, died after the car she was driving, a Buick Century, was broadsided by an east-

Please see STUDY, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Drink up

Former Canton Chief football player Justin Sneddon holds 2-year-old Louis Smedley up for a drink of water during Tuesday morning football practice. Louis is the son of assistant coach Bob Smedley. Justin is volunteering to help out during football practice, and hopes to begin school soon to become a firefighter. For more on the first week of football, please see our story in Sports.

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No deal yet, more talks set for teachers

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth-Canton Community Schools teachers get back into the classroom next month, they'll be doing it without a new contract.

Talks between the teachers union and the district, which started back in April and have spanned more than half-a-dozen negotiating sessions since, aren't scheduled to resume until late September.

However, the district's personnel chief — while declining to get into specifics — said he doesn't expect any long delays and expressed confidence a deal will be reached.

"We don't have a contract yet," acknowledged Ray Bihun, the district's executive director of human resources. "There are always issues. People want different things in contracts. It's the nature of bargaining."

Charles Portelli, president of the teachers union, could not be reached for comment.

The contact between the district and the Plymouth-Canton Education Association

expires Aug. 31. Since talks aren't scheduled to resume until late next month, teachers will return to classrooms for the first day of school — a half-day scheduled for Sept. 8 — working under the provisions of the current pact.

One consequence of the lack of a deal is the inability to establish the full school calendar, which schedules breaks and other aspects of the school year. The calendar, according to Bihun, is a negotiated item during contract negotiations and won't be set until a contract is reached.

"We have a tentative calendar, and the first month is set," Bihun said Tuesday. "The rest of it can't be set until there's a contract."

Bihun said he expects the deal to be done soon after negotiations resume late next month.

"We absolutely expect to get a contract," he said. "Things are going well, we're trying to understand each other, and we'll get a contract, hopefully by late September or early October."

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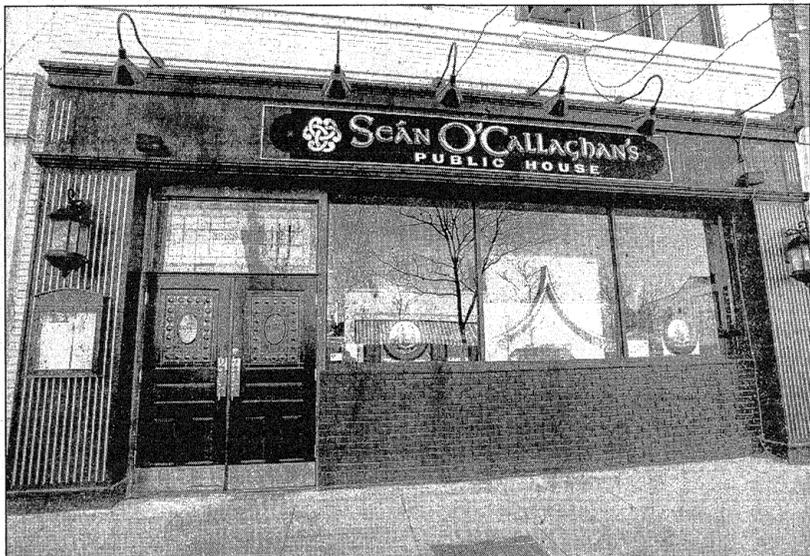
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Sean O'Callaghan's in downtown Plymouth is under new management.

New ownership at O'Callaghan's a sort of downtown homecoming

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sam Khashan is back in downtown Plymouth, and he likes what he sees.

Khashan has been a part owner of Sean O'Callaghan's, the Irish-themed restaurant and bar on Penniman, since it opened in May of 2001, but said he hadn't been involved in day-to-day operations for the last couple of years.

Now, having taken over complete ownership (with brother Kevin Khashan) this spring, Khashan is at O'Callaghan's every day, and said Plymouth's downtown is becoming a destination spot for metro Detroiters looking for a night out, rather than just a spot for locals.

"It's a lively downtown when you're walking the streets," said Khashan, who is an attorney. "I think it's a perfect mix between the restaurants and the bars and the events downtown."

Downtown Plymouth, Khashan agreed, is weather-

ing the recession fairly well — and he wants to help.

The Khashans have introduced a new menu at Sean O'Callaghan's and, he said, lowered prices across the board.

"I think it's important that we're aware of the economic times, not only in the city but definitely in Michigan," Khashan said.

The menu includes many traditional dishes — like corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, bangers (a type of sausage) and ale-battered fish — and Khashan said everything is made from scratch, in the kitchen.

"It's better serving fresh fruits and vegetables and creating your own sauces" instead of serving packaged meals, he said.

Menu highlights, Khashan said, include a seven-ounce Angus burger for \$2 (plus any add-ons) between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Tuesdays; a \$7.95 "Farmers Mark-It" salad, made to order from each customer's

checklist (with about 40 items from which to choose); and \$3 draft beers, \$4 glasses of wine and half-priced appetizers during happy hour, which is 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Happy hour prices are extended into the night every Thursday.

Sean O'Callaghan's (which is not affiliated with the other O'Callaghan's in the region) offers live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, typically from local rock and alternative rock acts, sometimes with a Celtic feel.

For the upcoming football season, Khashan said, Sean O'Callaghan's will install several new large-screen television sets.

Despite the broadening appeal of downtown Plymouth, there's still a sense of community that keeps people together, Khashan suggested. "Everyone's still around. Everyone's still friendly," he said.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

YMCA camps

The Plymouth Family YMCA is still accepting registrations for its summer day camp held at the First United Methodist church on North Territorial.

There are spots available for each of our remaining weeks, Aug. 17-21, Aug. 24-28 and Aug. 31-Sept. 4. Full week or part-time camp is available. It is a great chance to have some fun before the summer ends.

For more information, please contact the YMCA office 734-453-2904 or go to www.ymca-detroit.org.

Chiefettes car wash

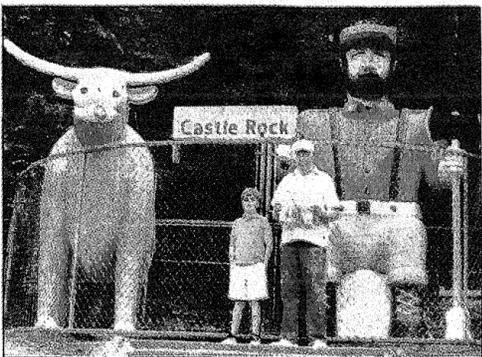
Auto owners who don't have time to wash the car themselves can count on the Canton Chiefettes for help.

The Chiefettes Pom Pon Teams do the work for you at their annual car wash fundraiser 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15.

For your convenience the Chiefettes will be washing cars at both the Fast Lane Oil Change located on Canton Center Road north of Ford Road and at the Mobil gas station, located at the corner of Warren and Sheldon roads. Donations will be accepted and are appreciated.

PCA golf outing

A golf outing to benefit Plymouth Christian Academy,



Wish You Were Here

Victor Bianchi of Garden City and grandson Kyle Proffitt of Plymouth pose with their Observer in front of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox at Castle Rock. Bianchi and his wife, Clare, took their grandson on a trip to the Polynesian Water Park in the Wisconsin Dells in July and stopped at the St. Ignace attraction on their way home. Grandma Clare took the snapshot who reports that Kyle climbed all the way to the top of Castle Rock. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or e-mail it to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

a preschool through 12th grade educational organization serving the Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities, is being held Monday, Aug. 24, at Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth.

The 18 hole scramble tournament on the Golden Fox course will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, prizes, course contests, silent auction and keynote speaker. Sponsorship and advertising

opportunities are also available.

Jim Nill, vice president/assistant general manager of the Detroit Red Wings, is the keynote speaker and featured guest for this event.

The goal of this golf outing is to establish an exciting day of golf that raises money for a locker room expansion project at PCA.

For more information, contact Julie Dart, PCA Director of Development, via e-mail at JDart@plymouthchristian.org

3-DAY

FROM PAGE A1

Sincock said. "The whole town comes out, not only at the official cheering station, but the folks who live up and down the streets where the walkers are, they have signs in front of their houses, they decorate their houses."

"It's that kind of sense of community that really makes the event, gives it a sense of community pride," he added. "It's a reception they don't get in a lot of places. We certainly encourage folks to get involved."

It's the kind of support that keeps walkers like Slaughter going. She got involved last year because her best friend's sister had died from breast cancer the year before. The sister had gotten better, then took a turn for the worse, Slaughter said.

Her friend's health was such that it rendered her unable to walk, so Slaughter took up the challenge herself. She met her teammates at a fund-raiser outside the Canton Wal-Mart, and team "1 of 8" (so named because studies show those are the odds of getting cancer facing women these days) was born.

The experience is so meaningful

to Slaughter she advanced to the co-captaincy of "1 of 8" this year. She said a big part of her desire to walk comes in the form of support from her daughter, Alejandra, and her boyfriend, Mack Koloedziej.

"I am healthy and I'm able to walk," Slaughter said. "There are so many people affected nowadays with cancer in general — brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, children (god forbid) — the fact I'm able to get out and do this."

"You have to stand for something or you don't stand at all," she added. "I've met some incredible people. It's an awesome experience. I absolutely get more out of it than I give."

Of course, the walkers aren't the only ones who give to the event. Crews of all sorts perform a variety of tasks, from feeding the walkers to taking care of their medical needs.

Aurelia Piotrowski of Plymouth, a nurse by trade, will be part of the medical crew for the three-day event. A five-year breast cancer survivor, Piotrowski is volunteering for the first time after Traci Sincock, a friend and the wife of the city manager, convinced her she could do it.

"I felt I was ready," said Piotrowski, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2004 and underwent a mastectomy.

"Traci convinced me it will be therapeutic and helpful to go through this and see the love and camaraderie that surrounds you when you do this."

At around the same time Piotrowski was diagnosed, her son — a Marine — was deployed to Iraq. The two events created a lot of pain that Piotrowski said her husband, Tom, and family helped her through.

"I cried for hours and days, I was so angry," she recalled. "But my son going off to war at the same time was just unimaginable to me. I couldn't sleep, I couldn't stop crying. But you get through it."

Now she's through it enough to spend three days camping in support of the Breast Cancer 3-Day. And despite two knee replacements and back surgery, she's looking forward to it.

"I'm celebrating my life," she said. "When you survive cancer, you think you can do anything. After knee surgery and back surgery, I don't know how I'm gonna survive camping, but I will."

She paused to laugh. "Traci may have to pull me up off the ground, but we'll give it a try," she said.

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STUDY

FROM PAGE A1

bound semi truck, police said. The semi driver was not injured.

In the second, just three days later, Thomas Baird of Northville, 65, was driving a Ford F-150 pickup truck north on Ridge when it was struck, also by an eastbound semi, a police report said. The semi driver was not injured.

Baird was hospitalized at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti and died on Aug. 1. There were no outward signs

that drugs or alcohol played a role in either crash, police said.

Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderington said he sent the county a request for a traffic study, citing the two fatalities. A spokeswoman for the county's roads division said the letter was received and the study would be conducted, but calls seeking details were not returned.

A resident of the area, Kimberly Baker, suggested drivers on Ridge are not always aware that Five Mile traffic has the right of way. She said she'd like to see a four-way stop at the

intersection.

"How many people have to die before a four-way stop is implemented at this intersection?" Baker wrote in an e-mail.

But Tiderington said a four-way stop doesn't necessarily make an intersection safer. At such intersections, he said, drivers sometimes ignore the stop signs, thinking they'll be safe because the cross traffic has to stop.

When both drivers have the same mind-set, the chief said, a crash can result.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Teen arrested in earring theft

An 18-year-old Canton Township man was arrested on a shoplifting charge Saturday evening after security workers at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road told police they saw him take an earring from a display rack and leave the store without paying for it.

The incident occurred shortly before 8 p.m., a Plymouth Township Police Department said.

The suspect was at the store with two other men about his age, who were not arrested.

Kmart loss prevention officers told police they saw the man take the earring, then leave the store after paying for a T-shirt and a container of lip balm. When they confronted him, they said, he brushed by them, only to be detained by two township officers, who had already been dispatched to the store, police said.

The theft was captured on a security video, police said. The suspect posted bond and was released to appear in court later.

Funny money

A man apparently used three suspected counterfeit \$20 bills to buy a snack at two eateries in the area of Five Mile and Sheldon on Aug. 5.

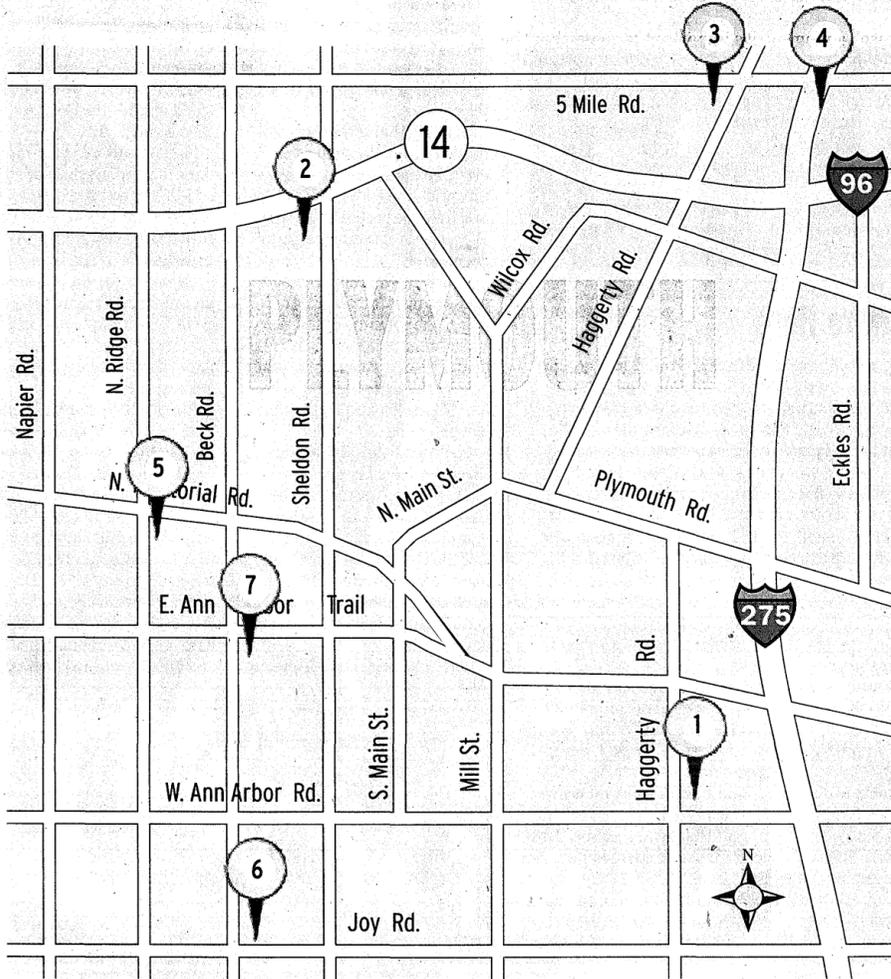
At the Subway sandwich shop on Sheldon, a manager told police, a man bought a foot-long submarine sandwich that morning with what is thought to be a bogus bill.

At the Caribou Coffee around the corner, on Five Mile, around the same time, a man bought a hot chocolate with another suspected counterfeit \$20 bill, a manager said. The man was reportedly carrying a Subway bag, a township police report said.

The man returned to Caribou minutes later and said he had spilled the hot chocolate outside, the manager said. He bought a second hot chocolate with what turned out to be another suspected phony \$20 bill, the manager said.

Police took the suspected counterfeit bills.

By Matt Jachman



FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Aug. 5-11:

- Tuesday, Aug. 11 - Residential rescue runs on Beechcrest, on Ann Arbor Trail, on Muirland, on Northville Road, on Main and on Eastside; rescue run to a public building on Haggerty; vehicle accident with wash-down on Five Mile.
- Monday, Aug. 10 - Downed wires on Ivywood, on Applecreek and at Karmada and Junction; residential rescue runs on Northville Road, on Newporte, on Pinetree, on Byron and on Sheridan; commercial rescue run on Main; single-family fire on Plymouth Road; mutual-aid run on Plymouth Crossing; vehicle accident

with wash-down at Five Mile and Haggerty; rescue run at Ann Arbor Road and General Drive.

Saturday, Aug. 8 - Vehicle accidents on southbound I-275 and M-14, on northbound I-275 and Five Mile, on northbound I-275 and M-14 and on Harvey; special run on Plymouth Oaks; rescue runs on Main and at Forrest and Ann Arbor Trail; downed wires on Woodland Place and on Huntington; mutual-aid-given run on Haggerty.

Friday, Aug. 7 - Special run at Wilcox and Hines; residential rescue runs on River Edge, on Haggerty, on Starkweather, on Arthur and on Five Mile; commercial rescue run on Beck; investigation at N. -14 and Gotfredson;

downed wires on North Territorial east of Beck; vehicle accident, also on North Territorial east of Beck.

Thursday, Aug. 6 - Residential rescue runs on Blunk and on Sheridan; vehicle accident on northbound I-275 and Five Mile and on Beck north of Joy; industrial rescue runs on Eckles and on Mast; downed wires on Sunset; commercial rescue run on Beck.

Wednesday, Aug. 5 - Rescue run to a public building on Plymouth Road; residential rescue runs on Eastside, on Washington, on Northville Road, on Cedar Lane and on Leighwood; vehicle accident at Ann Arbor Trail and Beck; commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Road.

No injuries in blaze, but 2 cars are destroyed

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A fire in an attached garage in north-east Plymouth Township destroyed two cars on Monday afternoon but was put out before it could spread to the house. No injuries were reported.

The fire, on Plymouth Crossing in the Lake Pointe subdivision, is thought to have originated in a 2002 Mazda parked inside the garage, said Chief Mark Wendel of the Plymouth Community Fire Department. The Mazda, which was not running at the time, had been returned to the garage about 45 minutes earlier, Wendel said.

"We don't have a definitive exact cause of what occurred, but the vehicle was the point of origin," Wendel said. Both cars are being examined by their owners' insurer, which should report its findings to the fire department, Wendel said.

Nine PCFD firefighters, including Wendel, responded to the scene, along with four Northville Township firefighters called in through mutual aid, the chief said. The fire was extinguished in 15 to 20 minutes, he said.

Flame damage was limited to the garage, Wendel said, while the house proper sustained minimal smoke damage.

Wendel said at least two people, a husband and wife, were at home when the fire broke out. The garage was closed. When they smelled smoke, he said, they opened the door between the house and the garage and smoke began pouring in.

The husband unsuccessfully tried to put out the blaze with a fire extinguisher before the fire department was called.

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Weekly newspaper's owners share commitment to hometown news

The northern Vermont countryside is beautiful, and it's easy to see why the state is called the Green Mountain State. Our travels took us through Hardwick, Vt.,



Julie Brown

last week and my husband and I had to stop in at the offices of *The Gazette*, the local weekly newspaper. We were greeted by Susan M. Jarzyna, who owns the paper with husband Ross Connelly, as we perused the many New England Press Association award plaques on the wall. We met the hard-working staffers, who work on computers but still manage to convey a sense of Norman Rockwell's New England.

Susan called down Ross, who came down to greet us before returning to editing duties. It was a Tuesday, a deadline day before Wednesday publication and we didn't want to impose. Still, the chance to talk newspapering during our visit to see my cousin, Jerry Ralya, in nearby Craftsbury Common was too tempting to pass up.

Susan and Ross are part of a dying breed, independent newspaper owners. Fewer Michigan papers are locally owned, although I sensed the fiercely independent Vermonters, and perhaps other New Englanders, like to know firsthand just who is providing their news. It's good to be able to argue a point over a cup of coffee at the local eatery.

Susan and Ross, from Massachusetts, bought the paper in 1986. She gave me with pride the 100th anniversary edition from 1989, which detailed its history and didn't even gloss over an earlier owner's anti-Semitism. I also paid my 75 cents for the previous week's paper, which had such front-page headlines as "Police to receive federal stimulus grant to hire new patrol officer," "Vermont Milk Company owes town money, among others," and "Excess rain, little sun stymie hay and corn crops."

The rain dried up the week we arrived, although we can't take credit. We certainly enjoyed seeing my cousin, who last visited for Christmas in 2001, meeting his girlfriend and her daughter, and riding to the top of Mt. Mansfield for some photo lessons from Jerry's girlfriend, an excellent photographer. (We passed on Ben and Jerry's — too many cars and too many calories.)

Another highlight was seeing the Craftsbury Chamber Players, with many Juilliard-trained musicians and others with impressive credentials proving classical music can be lively. When I got home, I got to thinking about newspapering and just how important papers like Hardwick's *Gazette* are.

We read the *Boston Globe* during our visit, a paper that's seen its share of financial woes lately, as has much of the newspaper industry. Susan told me the *Gazette* is holding its own both financially and journalistically, even as larger dailies in bigger Vermont cities struggle.

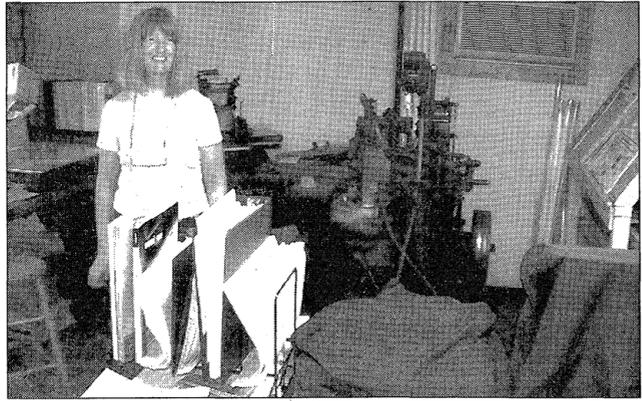
The *Gazette* had its share of advertising from local businesses, and I like to think their owners appreciated knowing about things like the new patrol officer and the milk company owing money. Part of the idea of vacations is to rest and rejuvenate.

We tend to think of that in terms of our personal lives, and that's certainly important. It matters in our work lives, too, and I came back to work with a renewed sense of determination to provide as much local news of good writing and reporting quality as I could.

Our newspaper isn't a mom-and-pop operation like the one in Hardwick, Vt., but I think Jarzyna and Connelly, its co-editors and owners, have lessons to teach us. The daily in Charlotetown, Prince Edward Island, says it covers that Canadian island "like the dew." In these days of troubled times for newspapers, I think

it's important to remember the value of hometown news and provide it consistently. That's what I learned on my summer vacation.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-6755 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



Susan Jarzyna takes a break from deadline duties at *The Gazette* in Hardwick, Vt. She and her husband own the weekly paper. It's now printed in neighboring New Hampshire (the linotype no longer used), but concentrates on covering its Vermont community.

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No double trouble: Twin Eagle Scouts set high standards

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Brothers Alexander and Steven Watts, 18, of Plymouth Township received their Eagle Scout honors Saturday.

The identical twins are going into their senior year at Plymouth Canton High School. They started as Cub Scouts.

"They've gone through it together," mom Cindy Watts said of their many years in scouting. "We didn't know how they would get their Eagle. True to their style, they finished up pretty much to the day."

Alexander did Salvation Army projects for the corps serving Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. He collected canned goods door to

door and in grocery stores. He gathered some 1,500 pounds of food, enough to feed more than 300 families.

Steven's project included bottle drives, with proceeds used to purchase lumber and build sturdy wooden benches outside Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth Township for quiet time. The boys' Troop 781 is chartered out of OLGCC.

Their parents are Darwin and Cindy Watts, who also have two older married daughters. Alexander and Steven are already planning for their careers and college.

"They both are looking at Norwich University. It's in Vermont," Cindy Watts said of her sons, who are interested in

military service and criminal justice degrees. "We were very proud of them. We knew it was going to happen."

Both were highly motivated to reach Eagle, the highest rank in Boy Scouting, she said.

"They seem to always go above and beyond what's required."

Both boys play Canton High lacrosse, and run cross country (Steven is captain, as well as swim team captain).

Both are also on Canton Congress student government. The family worships at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton.

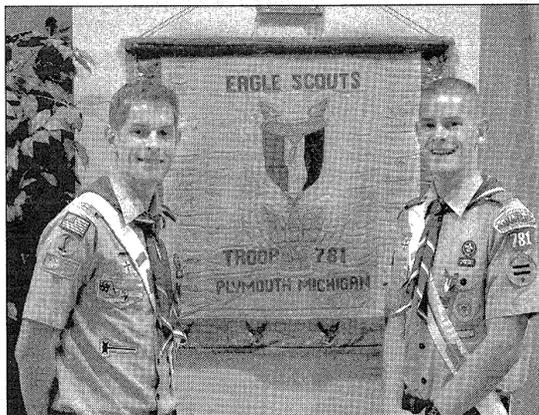
She's pleased with the leadership of Scoutmaster Francis Kearney and the dads who run Troop 781. Kearney now lives

in the Tucson, Ariz., area as a retiree. The new Scoutmaster is Bill Hoefling, and he was also helpful.

The troop leaders do a good job of teaching youth leadership skills, camping and first aid, Cindy Watts said. Steven was proud of doing a two-mile swim.

Alexander and Steven went on a high adventure trip off Florida, called Sea Base. The island is owned by Boy Scouts of America. Participants kayak to the private island, and spend two weeks "living off the land and putting their Boy Scout talents to use."

They have exceeded the number of required merit badges.



Twins Alexander (left) and Steven Watts of Plymouth Township recently achieved Eagle Scout rank. They are entering their senior year at Plymouth Canton High School.

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

Districts wait, wonders about school aid bill

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than a month into the new budget year, school officials around the state are wondering when and if lawmakers will be able to reconcile their differences between themselves and Gov. Jennifer Granholm in coming up with a new state School Aid Act.

According to Wayne-Westland Schools Supt. Greg Baracy, "There hasn't been a whole lot of movement" of late.

"As we are being told, it could be September or October before the bill is passed," Baracy said in response to a question from Trustee William Gabriel. "As you know, we are required to pass a balanced budget by July 1, but we don't know what the bill will look like or if revenue will be attached. Most likely, there will be no new revenue."

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Craig Fiegel told Board of Education members Tuesday night the state is still looking at a shortfall of

some \$50 million, and a potential cut of some \$100 per pupil this year in the district's foundation grant.

"If you use \$100 as the number, that's \$1.9 million from a budget we've already set," Fiegel told board members.

Wayne-Westland officials have been watching what's happening in Lansing closely because the more than \$6 million in enhanced funding it receives is in jeopardy. The money was axed in the governor's proposed bill. The district has been getting the money to make up for millage discounted when Proposal A took effect in 1994. If officials unable to convince lawmakers to put it back in the bill, it could plunge the district into deficit.

Baracy told the school board this week that the state's per-pupil funding will remain frozen and reiterated that the state will use a majority of the federal stimulus money to fill the holes in the School Aid Fund. However, it won't be able to fill all of the holes and "millions and millions will have to be cut in categoricals" to make

up the difference, he said.

While the federal money had been earmarked for construction, Baracy said it's being used to shore up the School Aid Fund and stave off chargebacks and a projected cut of \$110 per pupil for the 2008-09 budget year. He added that school districts will face even tougher times when the stimulus money runs out in two years. At that time, the state will have to roll back school aid payments to handle the deficit. Analysts have indicated that school districts could lose as much as \$600 per pupil at that time.

"Revenue is continuing to decline in Michigan," he said. "The only way out is going to have to be cutbacks and revenue enhancements. We can't cut our way out of this structural problem. It's a huge issue and bold steps need to be taken."

For its part, Wayne-Westland has formed a 21st Century Committee made up of residents, parents, staff and administrators to look at ways to reinvent the district while shaving some \$10 million

in expenses. The committee began meeting in June and is scheduled to bring its report to the school board next year.

"We might be better off than some, some might be better off than us," Baracy said. "We have to face reality. We have to work together to save ourselves."

Residents can keep tabs on what the committee is doing by visiting the district's Web site at www.wwcsd.net, where minutes of the committee meetings and PowerPoint presentations made to it are posted.

School board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger told her colleagues that she believes Wayne-Westland is one step ahead of other districts by forming the committee.

"We need more people to become aware of what's happening," she said. "I'm glad to see we've set things in motion to make that happen. It's sad to see the state of our economy, but we still have kids who need an education. Hopefully, things won't be so dismal in the future."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Author appearance is a coup for Plymouth library

Author Bich Minh Nguyen, who wrote *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, will speak 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, in a visit offered by the Plymouth District Library.

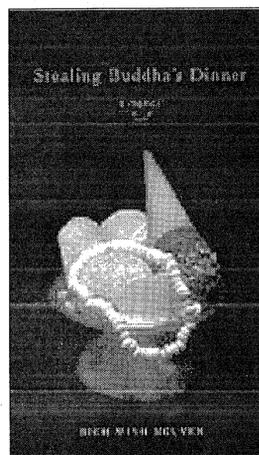
"This will be her only Detroit stop," said Sue Patterson, adult services librarian. "We are just so thrilled."

The author's appearance will be at the nearby Penn Theatre on Penniman, next to The Gathering in downtown Plymouth. The move was made from the library to accommodate more listeners for the free presentation.

"We really do want to fill the Penn," Patterson said.

Stealing Buddha's Dinner is a memoir in which the writer was eight months old when her father brought her and her sister out of Vietnam in 1975. The family relocated in Michigan, where young Bich (pronounced "bit") wrestled with childhood questions of assimilation into American culture.

Patterson noted additional information on the author's visit will appear in



Author Bich Minh Nguyen, who wrote *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, will speak 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, in Plymouth.

the Plymouth District Library mailed to all Plymouth addresses. Information will also be on the library Web site, www.plymouthlibrary.org.

- By Julie Brown

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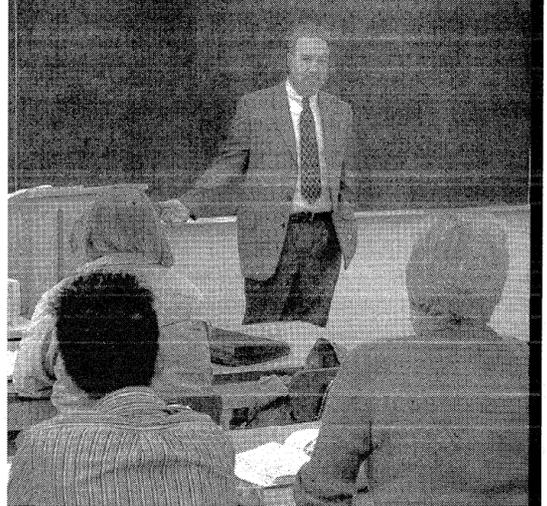
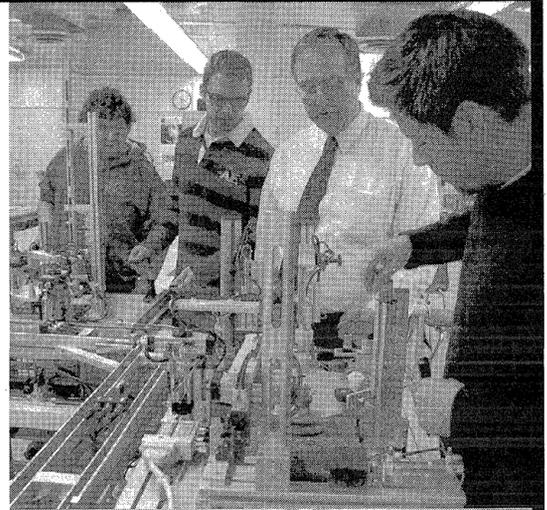
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Veteran sailboat racer teams with son, in his debut, for fast finish

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth Township man began passing the torch — make that the tiller — to his teenage son during last month's Port Huron-to-Mackinac Island race.

Darrell Cope and son Jon, 14, with eight other crew members, made a grueling nearly 52-hour trek up Lake Huron in the *Limerick*, a 34-foot sailboat of which Cope is a part owner. In what is billed as one of the world's most challenging freshwater sailboat races, the *Limerick* and its crew finished second in their division, on the Thunder Bay route, and second in their class.

"We had a lot of really fast boats in our division, so we felt fortunate to do as well as we did," said Darrell Cope, explaining that they missed taking first by four minutes. "Getting a second overall's awesome."

It was a noteworthy voyage for another reason — the extension of a family tradition. The race was Darrell Cope's 30th Port Huron-to-Mackinac, son Jon's first. The *Limerick*, purchased from Darrell's father, Art Cope, has been in the family for 25 years.

Jon, who is heading into his freshman year at Plymouth Salem High School, said the race was physically challenging.

"It was a great experience, being on the boat for three days," he said. "It got me to know how far I could push myself."

Jon said the *Limerick's* crew braved three storms during the race; Darrell said the weather reminded him of his first Port Huron-to-Mackinac at age 15 when, after many crew members went down with seasickness, he and a friend ended up sailing the boat.

"People don't realize how small you feel when you're out



Jon Cope, 14, got a kiss from this unidentified lady at the end-of-race party following his first Port Huron-to-Mackinac race last month.



Darrell Cope and son Jon, 14, with eight other crew members, finished second in their division, on the Thunder Bay route, and second in their class in the recent Port Huron-to-Mackinac race.

on the water and a big storm comes through," said Darrell Cope, an account director at General Physics Corp. in Troy.

But technology has changed the experience since Darrell Cope sailed his first Port Huron-to-Mackinac. Now, there's a satellite-guided navigation system on board, he said, whereas years ago, "you pretty much had to dead-

reckon where you were going."

New this year, thanks to tracking devices and the Internet, was the ability of race fans to follow the progress of individual boats through a Web site sponsored by Pure Michigan, the state's travel office. The site reportedly got more than 90,000 hits; Jon, his father said, got text messages from friends who marveled at their success. The race attracted more than 200 entries in all divisions.

The *Limerick's* crew this year included Kevin Pearce, who co-owns the boat with Darrell Cope, and family friends Brian Sullivan and son Jack, 15, who had sailed the race before.

Darrell Cope said the race competition is what kept him motivated.

"There're a lot of really good people and it's a lot of fun, but it's just very competitive," he said. "You want to go and you want to win."

For Jon, it was the team spirit.

"You just got to keep remembering that it's a race and they're counting on everyone to help out," he said. "No one can do it alone."

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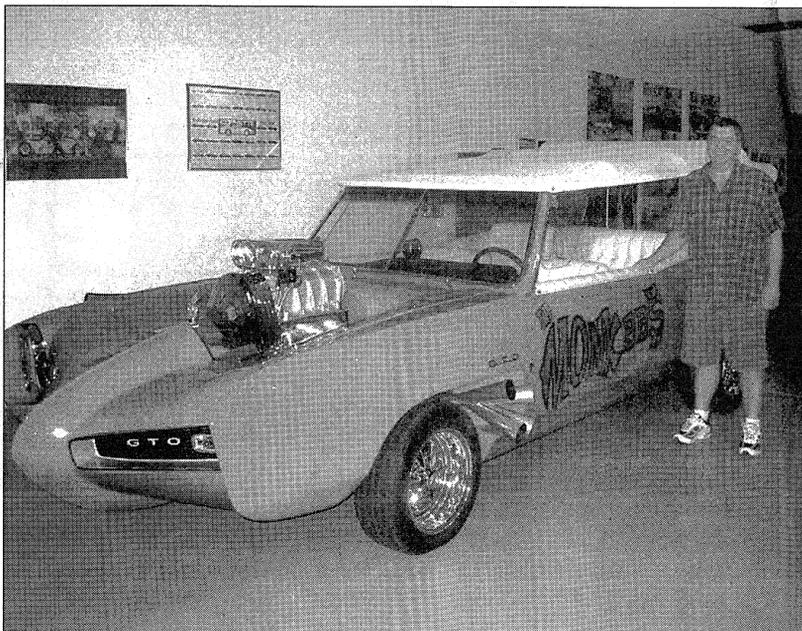


PHOTO BY LIA ANDREASSI

Mel Guthrie of Northville, a 1978 Plymouth-Salem High School grad, stores the Monkeemobile in a Livonia garage that also houses other Monkee memorabilia. The 1966 GTO gets a lot of attention every time he takes it out.

Monkee business

Salem grad rolls into Dream Cruise in TV legend

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Hey, hey it's the Monkeemobile.

Mel Guthrie, likely the biggest Monkees fan ever, made a childhood fantasy come true when he bought the tricked out car that the pop rock band used on its television show.

The Northville resident, a 1978 Plymouth-Salem High School graduate who helps run the family-owned Guthrie Lumber in Livonia, expects the same wide-eyed stares at the Woodward Dream Cruise this weekend that he gets every time he drives the red 1966 GTO.

In fact, the Monkeemobile has another claim to fame because it was also used on the *I Dream of Jeannie* series in 1966.

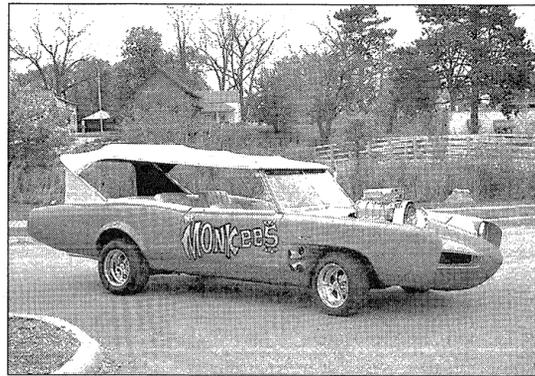
"I love it," explains Guthrie, 49. "Ever since I was a kid, this has been my dream car. I guess it's an obsession."

"I found out it was going to be on auction in Arizona, and it took me about three weeks to decide that you only get one chance at something like this."

The Monkeemobile is stored in a Livonia garage that also houses everything imaginable in Monkee memorabilia including signed T-shirts, miniature Monkeemobile replicas, albums and movies.

He jokes about how when his children — Sam, 14, and Megan and Matt, 11, — were younger, he and his wife, Bernadette, had "Monkee Fridays" and the family watched old shows.

Guthrie declined to say how much he paid for the Monkeemobile, referring to the cost as "a lot." The convertible is in mint condition featuring a tilted forward split two-piece windshield, shiny silver Cragar mag wheels and tons of extra details like the big block engine on the hood that was dropped in making it powerful enough to pop



This photo of the Monkeemobile was taken at Nankin-Mills during a recent excursion.

wheelies. It was considered too powerful and is now used for decoration.

"The carburetor is actually underneath," Guthrie says.

The car also has modified rear quarter panels and front fenders, as well as exaggerated tail lamps. The trunk was removed to add a third row bench that lifts and reveals an elaborate stereo system.

Extended in the front and rear, the vehicle is 20 feet long and attached to the rear is a parachute holder used by the Monkees in the band's comedy television series that ran from 1966 to 1968. Members included Americans Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Peter Tork and Englishman Davy Jones. They continued to release records until 1970.

"The show to me was all about happy, good, clean fun," says Guthrie, who once stayed up 24 hours straight to tape a Monkee television marathon. "It had rock 'n' roll, and for me it was perfect."

Guthrie says the Monkeemobile gets plenty of attention. "Driving down the street, it's not unusual for 20 percent of the people driving by to try to take pictures," he said.

In one year, Guthrie says, he put 1,600 miles on the famed hot rod.

Standing in the garage that houses the Monkeemobile, Guthrie talks about his other collectables. Each is in perfect condition.

In one corner is a 2001 Audi that Guthrie says he feels guilty driving in southeast Michigan because it's foreign.

Behind the Audi is a 1963 Volvo like the one in *The World According to Garp*. Next to that is a 1974 AMX, which was the first classic car Guthrie bought.

"I'm getting goose bumps talking about that," says Guthrie, who literally means what he says as he points to his arms.

Guthrie talks about his 1968 purple Charger with 550 horsepower as the "untamed beast" and the 1978 Pontiac Trans Am that looks like the one used in the *Smokey and Bandit* television series. Nearby is an eye-popping 1972 red Mustang convertible and a 1967 convertible GTO.

It's hard to say which car is nicest, but listening to the Monkees belt out their theme song over the radio of the Monkeemobile, the decision seems a little easier.

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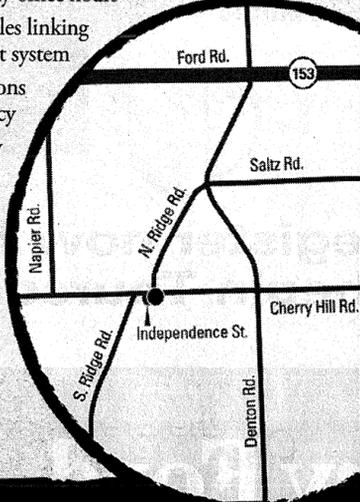
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BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ed Fischer isn't ready to give up driving a school bus anytime soon, at least not until he's the Wayne County school bus driving champion.

But Sandy Leopardi has news for Fischer, it's going to be a while before that happens. Leopardi, the two-time champion, isn't ready to give up driving "Old Yeller" just yet.

"I love driving a school bus," the Westland resident said. "I love my job and the best part is my Walker-Winter students. Whenever I get bumped off the route for a while and come back, they tell me, 'Don't leave us.'"

Wayne-Westland was among 11 school district to have teams at the regional competition, held in May at Northville High School. In addition to Leopardi and Fischer finishing in the top three, the team scored its fourth consecutive first-place finish in the regional competi-

tion.

"Sandy and Ed have been in the top four for several years. They've been the top scorers to lead off the team for five years," transportation director Scherice Roark said. "This is a great team building event that puts a more positive light on transportation."

The regional competition includes a 25-question written portion that tests the driver's knowledge of state law and an oral pretrip test in which drivers must point out and say 90 different things they must check before driving the bus in eight minutes.

The competition doesn't end there. Drivers put their bus driving skills to the test, doing such things as parallel parking and maneuvering through a diminishing clearance in which the bus is driven between two arms which narrow from eight inches from the wheels to two inches.

"You have to be perfect, you can't hit the cones because



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne-Westland Community Schools bus drivers Sandy Leopardi (left) and Ed Fischer show off the awards they received in the Wayne County School Bus Driving Championship. Leopardi placed first while Fischer was third in the competition.

that would be like hitting a car," Roark said about the parallel parking. "The object is to get zero demerits. If you get 50, you're done."

Leopardi and Fischer drive the flat-nosed transit buses. For

the regional competition, they used buses from Plymouth-Canton because Wayne-Westland's buses have a shorter wheelbase. At state competition, the twosome were the only transit drivers among the 42

contestants.

At regional, Leopardi scored 641 out of a possible 700. Last year, she was "phenomenal," amassing the highest score ever in regional with 649, according to Roark. She has won the regional competition two years running and placed eighth in this year's state competition.

Fischer, a Wayne resident, finished fifth last year and moved up to third in regional this year with a score of 577. He ended up finishing 14th in the state contest.

Leopardi started with the district in June 2002 and Fischer in March 2003, both as substitute bus drivers. According to Roark, the district's bus drivers start as subs and are hired as positions become available.

Leopardi had worked as a waitress and bartender for years before going back to school. She was trying to decide what she wanted to do when a friend suggested bus driving. "My friend told me I was

great with kids and thought it would be perfect for me," she said.

Fischer had been in the printing business for 25 years when he was laid off. He went to truck driving school and did that for a while before moving over to driving a school bus because the job offered "long-term benefits and security."

"I like it mostly because of the kids," said Fischer, who's married and the father of four children.

Leopardi also is married and has three children.

Both agree that the worst time of the year is winter, especially when they have to go out and clean off their buses, but the good times are when you have a child who challenges them but by the end of the school year is giving them a hug.

"Every day is different, you drive and get to enjoy the day," Fischer said. "When you're in the bus, you're the boss."

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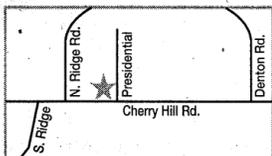
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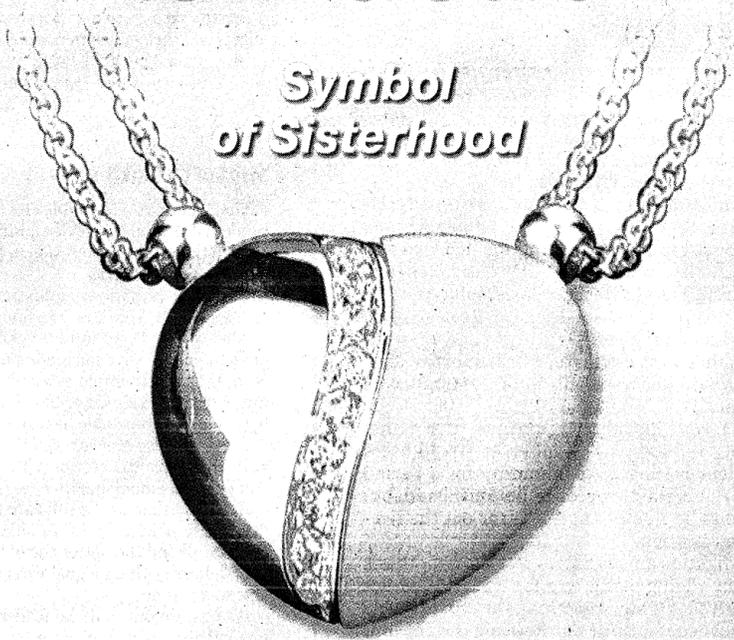
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LOCAL OPINION

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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

Transport experiment could be a good one

As Plymouth and Plymouth Township officials look at ways to contain the cost of fire-fighting and emergency medical services, Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters say they can bring in additional revenue by transporting more patients on medical runs.

And maybe it's time for township officials to listen.

Fire union leaders say taking on 100 percent of the transport burden — and eliminating the use of private Huron Valley Ambulance services — could bring in as much as \$750,000 in revenue, more than enough, they say, to cover the expense of the extra firefighters they'd need.

They say they have the numbers to back that up. Of some 2,677 medical runs last year, transport — either by PCFD or HVA — was involved in 1,738 of them. The department charges \$325 for a basic life support run and \$575 for an advanced life support run, so basic math is on the firefighters' side. The bills are typically paid for by insurers or by Medicare.

They rightly point to Canton Township, where revenue generated by transport is \$1.1 million. But township officials just as rightly point out Canton Township has a much larger population and a stretch of uber-busy I-275 running through it. Of course, I-275 runs through Plymouth Township, as well, as does M-14, which draw more than their share of accidents and, as a result, medical runs.

Of course, while making their case firefighters leave out the fact that a good portion of those fees go uncollected. Firefighters admit doing 100 percent of the transporting (they currently do about 15 percent) would cost more, but they believe the revenue generated would more than make up for it.

If it turns out to be true, it would be a boon to a cash-strapped township where board members have been eliminating some jobs and trimming several others to part time to save salary and benefit costs they say have sky-rocketed out of control.

That's a familiar refrain everywhere, in both the private and public sector. With Michigan's economy showing no real signs of improvement and state-shared revenue dropping quickly, township boards and city councils everywhere are starting to watch every dollar, and scrambling to find new sources of revenue.

So why not look at this? Firefighters have for years tried to get Plymouth Township to consider full-time transporting as a means of raising cash. So you've got on one hand someone (the township board) looking for new ways to make money, and on the other hand someone (the firefighters) with a proposed solution.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume eyes firefighters' numbers skeptically and says the township's best estimate is transporting full time would generate only some \$400,000 in revenue.

The township's other argument — that transporting reduces the number of firefighters actually covering the community for a period of time — certainly needs to be considered, but shouldn't be a deterrent if it turns out the firefighters are right.

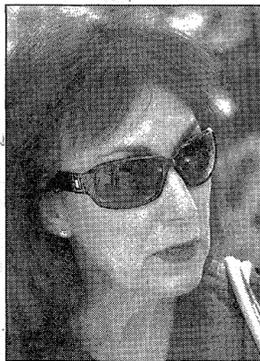
Firefighters are willing to test the hypothesis without adding manpower for a year. Why not try it? It's certainly something that could easily be scrubbed if it turns out Reaume is right. But if it turns out the union is right, the township could wake up a year from now with another three-quarters of a million dollars in their coffers.

Will it work? There's no real way to know until you try. And in a township that needs the money, where's the harm in trying?

COMMUNITY VOICE

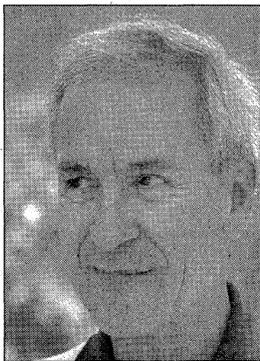
Do you think the country needs major health care reform, and why or why not?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station in downtown Plymouth.



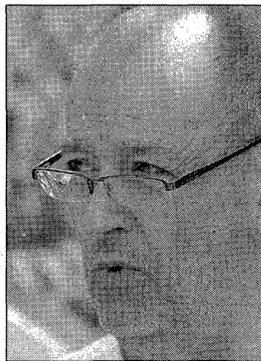
"I think we need some form of renovation with the health care. I don't think I'm on board with what the Congress has in mind."

Maria Kovalski
Plymouth Township



"Yes. Something needs to be done, but I'm not sure what the answer is."

John Klee
Ann Arbor



"Yes, because Medicare's going broke, and with the costs, pretty soon, the private sector will be cutting all their ... benefits. ... Doing nothing is not a solution."

Larry Glasser
Canton Township



"Yes, definitely. I'm tired of the insurers depicting what needs to be taken care of for my problems."

Arlene Solak
Plymouth

LETTERS

Legalize marijuana

The height of hypocrisy and inconsistent thinking is allowing alcohol usage to be legal and yet wasting police man-hours and missing the potential to gain tax revenue due to marijuana use continuing to be illegal.

I have smoked marijuana, as have most of the people reading this paragraph, and add to that group, judges, most police officers and our current president. I am sick of reading reports in this paper about kids being busted for getting caught with a joint, not to mention the awful long-term negative ramifications in terms of employment applications and student loans. If all our police have to do is arrest people for wanting to mellow out then let's get rid of them and cut some administrative costs.

Violent crime prevention should be the focus of police efforts, not socialist moral control. The time has come to legalize this substance and gain sorely needed tax revenue just as we do from alcohol, cigarettes and gambling.

I have asked state Rep. Marc Corriveau to support such legislation and would urge readers to call his public office number, (517) 373-3816, and do the same.

Kevin A.C. Lambert
Plymouth

Support health reform

The America's Affordable Health Choices Act would provide significant benefits to those of us who reside in the 11th Congressional District.

Under the provisions of this act, 9,800 seniors would avoid the doughnut hole in Medicare Part D, up to 12,000 small businesses could receive tax credits to provide coverage to their employees and 43,000 uninsured individuals would gain access to high quality, affordable health insurance.

There are also measures in the act which will reduce health care costs, increase competition among health care insurers and require that our health care dollars be used more efficiently. Affordable health care for all and the better use of health care dollars — that's a goal we should all be able to agree on.

It's time for our political leaders to stop playing politics and solve the health care crisis. It's time for Americans to stop paying more and getting less. Therefore, I encourage other concerned constituents of Congressman Thaddeus McCotter to call him at (734) 632-0314 and let him know we need him to support health care reform rather than obstruct it.

Catherine Neill
Plymouth

Obey leash laws

A reminder to pet owners: Please keep your dogs on leashes and/or fenced in the yard.

I am a dog owner and a walker. I have always had a fear of the unleashed pet. I sometimes turn around and walk out of my way to ensure I don't meet up with the unleashed dog.

I just found out my neighbor, a senior citizen, was attacked on his routine walk. A trip to the hospital, and he must return to his doctor does not help my fear of the unleashed pet. Thank goodness he doesn't

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

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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.

have heart problems.

Please, I don't want to be told he'll lick you to death, or this animal is harmless. My fear is real and a leashed dog is the law.

Cindi Heintzelman
Canton

Yes to oil

Concerning the potential for drilling oil wells in Canton, I have to relate a true story. My stepmother was approached by a drilling company requesting permission to drill on her property along the Boardman river near Traverse City. This was an extremely pristine nature area next to her summer home.

After several meetings with the drilling company, she reluctantly agreed. The lure of extra income was too strong to overcome for a widow on a fixed income.

After the well was put into operation, one could hardly notice it was there. The drilling company COMPLETELY restored the land to its previous condition (grass, trees and shrubs). Except for the small pump, shield by Arborvitae, and the low hum of the motor (not noticeable when the wind blew), it was easily overlooked.

The well provided my stepmother about \$200 per month for almost 20 years. Pretty hard to beat that kind of investment. The \$200 per month in the early '70s was BIG money. I wish the Canton land owners a similar prosperity.

All people that consume oil (each and everyone of us) should be cheering on this type of entrepreneurship.

Edmond Loselle
Canton

Health care via taxes

Like voodoo economics, the current health care proposals leave me puzzled with respect to how removing "cherry picking" and other profitable practices of insurance companies can be compatible with reducing the cost of health insurance and extending its benefits to currently uninsured folks. I am also puzzled by the idea that premiums paid to insurance companies would cost me less than if paid as taxes and, if required by law, would be less of an imposition on my freedom of choice than a tax.

Rather, I suggest that if paid via federal personal income taxes: 1) The entire cost could be saved of the billing, mailing, check writing, mailing, check banking, check cashing and the withholding system for both private employers and govern-

ment, federal, state county and municipal and the accounting at all of these entities. 2) Payment via IRS would be at essentially no added cost to the IRS and probably even savings from eliminating administration of the withholding system and health care deductions. 3) Payment through the graduated income tax would tend to put cost in rough proportion to ability to pay and avoid a discriminatory surcharge for the wealthy. 4) Eliminating the withholding system could eliminate the disadvantage of working for a small employer, and save big employers health insurance money and administration, thus increasing their profit and boosting their competitiveness internationally. 5) It could avoid bargaining and strikes about health insurance and spare employees insurance loss from job change or loss.

A basic plan for the entire health care system could be the following: 1) Collect funding via IRS personal income tax. 2) Fund insurance companies by competitively bid contracts. 3) Fund providers as at present. (They bill insurance companies.) 4) Improve efficiency by standardizing forms and procedures. 5) Introduce an option of negotiating for fixed periodic payments instead of billing every fee for service. 6) Let patients choose their providers.

A universal federal personal income tax funded system could save federal and state governments the expenses of separate subsidy programs for the poor (Medicaid), children (SCHIPS) as well as health insurance expenses for its employees. That could help budgets and taxes.

Bent G. Boving, M.D., retired
Northville

Misleading claims

In the debate on the massive government health care rationing plan, some obnoxious and ludicrous statements are getting parroted.

One of the most misleading claims a crisis exists because 50 million Americans lack insurance coverage. The truth behind this number reveals no crisis.

According to the Census Bureau, an average of 46 million Americans lack insurance coverage on any given day during the year. Of those 46 million, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates 20 to 30 million go without coverage for an entire year.

Of this number, the CBO says that 15 percent are eligible for coverage under existing government programs bringing the number down further. According to an economic study from Stanford University, one-quarter to three-quarters of those people can afford insurance but chose to spend their money on other products and services. This means four to 19 million Americans do not have insurance and cannot easily get it.

So 94 to 99 percent of us have or can get health insurance. Contrast this with President Obama's proposed plan which he says would cover about 97 percent of Americans.

Leave it to our elected representatives to falsely cry "crisis" and then propose to spend a trillion dollars (for starters) to get us to where we are right now.

Steve Sutton
Farmington Hills

PLYMOUTH
OBSERVER



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Susan Rosiek
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Arhaus offers tips on table seating

With homes shrinking and the open floor plan becoming more popular, the traditional dining room is not so "traditional" anymore. The kitchen is taking its place for everyday dinners and special occasions. As a result, dining tables are designed to adapt to the occasion and seating too.

Today's dinner tables come in all shapes and sizes, and are multi-purpose; an everyday piece can be made into a dinner party for eight with the flip and twist of the tabletop or addition of leaves. Seating can be casual and then dressed up for the occasion with seat covers or slipcovers (depending on the design).

"Seating," says Gary Babcock, vice president of merchandising and fashion, Arhaus Furniture "is the most important furnishing in the space. You want guests to be comfortable so they can thoroughly enjoy the experience, which often times goes well beyond dinner and into lengthy conversation while still seated at the table."

COMFORT IS KEY

Comfort should be top of mind when selecting seating, but don't ignore personal style.

Cozy and classic is the slipcovered dining chair, called Alaina at Arhaus. Sans arms, this style is sophisticated and sumptuous with a fully padded frame — seat cushion and seat back, which is also higher for added support. Consider buying an alternate set of seat covers in a different color.

MIX AND MATCH

When selecting fabrics for special occasion covers, pick unique patterns, but ones that complement the existing color palette in the space.

"You can mix a stripe with a check or a floral print as long as it ties in your existing color scheme," Babcock says. "And, don't be afraid to mix and match different styles. This is how you'll create a unique look."

At Arhaus stores, designers pair an overly-proportioned modern dining table with classic, but similar in scale bistro chairs and they have even set a rustic wood table with six contemporary high back leather seats.



Arhaus sells "Alaina" chairs for the dining table.

FUNCTION A PLUS

Look for seats that do double duty and can be pulled from the dinner table into the living room for conversation after the meal.

"With homes shrinking," says Babcock, "multi-purpose seating is becoming a must."

Designers for the retailer often suggest classic styles like a leather bucket chair — used tableside as a captain and later as a lounge (with optional ottoman) in the living room.

"A slipcovered chair works well too," says Babcock. "Just remember, when picking covers, make sure it is a match in both spaces."

KEEP SCALE IN MIND

Consider the size of your space and the furnishings in it, particularly the table as you shop for

perfect seats. Is the table square? Round or rectangle? Is it large? Is it a more dainty design? Does the top open up to more space or does it come with leaves?

Make sure seats are not only proportioned correctly to your table, buffet and wall unit (for dinner and tableware), but also fit in and around the table.

"Always allow for 24- to 36-inches between your chair and the wall or furniture behind it," says Babcock. For captain style chairs, double-check measurements as the design is typically larger in scale.

For more information, call (866) 4ARHAUS or visit arhaus.com. Arhaus has 32 store locations, including its Ann Arbor Store in the Arborland Shopping Center, 3755 Washtenaw Avenue.

BRIEFS

It's almost here!

Sign up for the 2010 Ikea Catalog at www.Ikea.com or call the Canton store at (734) 981-6300 and choose "catalog hotline" from the list of options. You'll receive the book in the mail. The Canton store is located on Ford Road west of I-275.

Kids Day

If the kids are groaning about back-to-school shopping, take them to Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia Saturday, Aug. 21.

Parisian Kids Day fun runs from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the children's department, with activities from Max & Erma's restaurant, Zap Zone Extreme, Borders Express, Livonia Family YMCA, Lightning Speedway, Pump It Up, Just Baked Shop, D&M Art Studios, Michigan Youth Flag Football, Tail Waggers USA, Sweet Dreamzzz Inc., and Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Michigan.

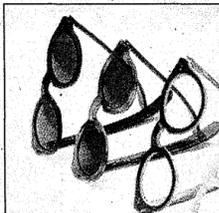
Companion Pet Rescue will have pet adoptions on hand.

Mom and Dad will find bargains Aug. 21-22 at the Parisian Kids Day promotion. If they spend \$25, they get 20 percent off; for \$50 get 25 percent off; \$75 nets a 30 percent savings.

Laurel Park Place is located at 37700 West Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 462-1100.

Dropping prices

Selective Eyewear Elements, (SEE) the country's largest family-owned boutique fashion eyewear retailer is selling a portion of its inventory, normally priced at up to \$399 for \$169-\$199, including prescription lenses. Its sunglasses collection, which runs \$129-\$329 a pair, now costs \$99 a pair.



Eyeglasses, model #1681 from Selective Eyewear Elements (SEE).

"I grew up and prospered in Michigan, and am incredibly sensitive to the problems in our local economy," stated SEE's founder, Richard Golden, pointing out that SEE's new price structure is a response to Michigan's economy.

The Michigan based company was founded in 1998 and has since grown to 26 stores from coast to coast.

"SEE has always been a great value. Our collection has always been priced at about half of what consumers would expect to pay for like quality and fashion. We've just adjusted the prices even more to do our part in making an essential item more affordable," Golden said.

SEE's collection includes an eclectic and unique assortment of eyeglasses. SEE's buying team looks for artisans who are turning out the most creative, innovative and unique designs. If it isn't "special," it doesn't make the cut.

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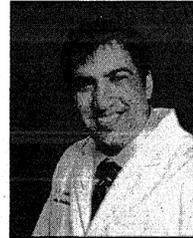
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Mallon has new role for Solheim Cup



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Meg Mallon (right) shares a laugh with Mercy student photographer Maddy Asta at the 19th annual Meg Mallon golf outing Monday at Western Golf & Country Club. Asta's job was to photograph each foursome with Mallon.

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's still golf, but it's a different perspective from that which Meg Mallon is accustomed.

Instead of being a player, the veteran of 23 years on the LPGA Tour will be an assistant captain for the U.S. team in the Solheim Cup next week.

"It will be kinda fun to see it from this side," she said. "I'll be far more nervous as an assistant captain than I ever was as a player.

"When I'm playing, I can focus on the next shot and what I need to do. This time I'm worried about pairings and players rather than my golf game."

Mallon was in town Monday at Western Golf & Country Club in Redford for the 18th annual golf outing that bears her name and benefits her alma mater, Mercy High School.

She leaves Friday for Chicago and the week-long Solheim Cup in which the Americans are favored to beat the Europeans.

Mallon's job, and that of fellow assistant cap-

tain Kelly Robbins, is to help team captain Beth Daniel, but most of her work is already done.

The duties of an assistant captain "are a lot more than you think," Mallon said, adding it was a two-year process of planning and preparing.

She had a lot to say in selecting the U.S. team, because she was the only one of the three still on the tour.

"It's a big effort for the captain," Mallon said. "We're trying to make her life and that of the players as easy and seamless as possible.

"During the week of the event, we're also two more sets of eyes if Beth needs to make any changes to the group."

Besides fulfilling her role with the Solheim Cup team, the past year was a difficult one for Mallon, who dealt with the death of her sister, Tricia, from cancer and injuries that limited her playing time.

After withdrawing from a tournament last July with a shoulder injury, Mallon didn't play the rest of the year.

Please see **MALLON, B2**

SIDELINES

TV show taped live

The public is invited to attend a live taping of the *From Glory Days* TV show at the Woodward Stage in Ferndale during the Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday.

The show is based on Farmington Hills author Kurt David's book *From Glory Days — Successful Transitions of Professional Detroit Athletes*.

The TV show features former Pistons, Tigers, Red Wings and Lions, focusing on their transitions from pro sports and what they're doing now.

David's guest Saturday will be former Lion and NFL Hall of Famer Lem Barney. The show will be taped at 2 p.m. David and Barney will sign copies of the book afterward.

The Woodward Stage is located on Woodward Avenue, two streets north of Nine Mile Road.

O&E golf postponed

Last Saturday's Observer & Eccentric Women's Golf Open at Livonia's Whispering Willows was suspended shortly after it began because of rain and lightning.

The tournament has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22, according to Whispering Willows golf pro Paul Worley.

Last call

The Motor City Pirates U-13 KVBSA independent travel baseball team will be having open tryouts from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday at their home field, UAW Local 735, located at 48055 Michigan Ave., Canton MI 48188. For more information, contact Head Coach Angelo Lanava: alanava@wowway.com or (734) 395-3355.

Hole-in-one club

Fox Hills in Plymouth was the site of six hole-in-ones during July.

On July 11, Ed Valliere of Grand Rapids used a wedge on the 88-yard No. 10 hole at the Strategic Fox.

The Golden Fox hosted aces by Brighton's Steve M. Zerws (on July 20) and Kentucky resident Todd Fischer. Zerws, 52, used an 8-iron on the 144-yard No. 3 and finished with a score of 83. Fischer's ace was on the 170-yard No. 12; he used a 5-iron for his shot.

Also scoring an ace at the Golden Fox was Canton's Renae S. Kelly on July 18. She used a driver on the 105-yard No. 14.

Canton's Patrick Lukasik, 56, scored a hole-in-one on July 19 at Fox Classic-Lakes No. 2. He used a 5-iron to ace the 162-yard hole and finished with a score of 93 for the day.

On July 18 at Fox Classic-Lakes, 72-year-old Brian Stouffer of Ann Arbor collected a hole-in-one. He used a 9-iron to ace the 115-yard No. 5 hole and finished with a round of 115.

Fishing club meeting

The monthly meeting of the Huron Valley Sportfishing Club will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at American Legion Post 200, located at 11800 Michael Street, Taylor (take Brest Road west off Telegraph Road to the hall).

The featured speaker will be C. J. Baker, charter captain and Silver Streak representative. He will discuss the science of and bring in the newest UV activated spoons and spinner blades for display and purchase.

Food and drinks available, along with 50/50 and fishing tackle raffles.

For more information, e-mail rmronte@juno.com.

Red-hot reps

First practices fuel competitive fires for Observer-area gridders

BY THE OBSERVER SPORTS STAFF

After weeks of informally lifting weights and perusing the playbook, area high school football players officially got going Monday on the first day the Michigan High School Athletic Association permits formal team practices.

Despite furnace-like temperatures, squads coolly made their way through the myriad conditioning and football drills as preparations continue for season openers in two weeks.

Coaches remain optimistic that 2009 could be the year. But first, their teams had to get through the week. So far, so good.

Following is a recap of how some of the sessions are progressing:

CANTON

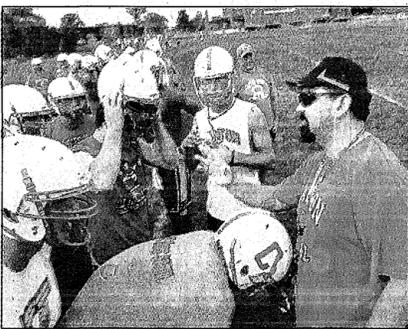
Storms and scorching heat on the eve of official high school football practice didn't dampen enthusiasm at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park as Canton's Chiefs opened practices.

"Everybody looks good with no pads on," said veteran Canton head coach Tim Baechler, following Tuesday's session. "So we'll start learning more about a few of our positions, a few of our players on Thursday."

Today is when the Chiefs will don shoulder pads and begin full-contact drills, with 15 days to go before the Aug. 28 season opener at Brighton.

Baechler said both the Monday and Tuesday practices focused first on defensive basics and then moved over to going over various offensive formations.

Please see **FOOTBALL, B3**



Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler talks to his players about upcoming drills during Tuesday's practice at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden City grider Greg Emery runs through offensive drills during the first couple of days of practice. The Cougars will open the 2009 regular season Friday, Aug. 28, at Dexter.

Michigan Rams split pair in AABA tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Rams' promising start to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament took a slight left turn Tuesday afternoon as Martella's Pharmacy of host Johnston (Pa.) held on for a 2-1 triumph at Point Stadium.

Pitcher Ryan Zamiskie tossed a three-hitter as Martella's improved to 2-0 in 16-team, double-elimination 20-and-under tournament.

The Rams, coming off an impressive 14-4 opening-round win over the Toledo (Ohio) Monarchs, fell to the loser's bracket at 1-1.

Zamiskie went all nine innings, striking out five and walking only two while hitting a batter.

"He (Zamiskie) did a nice job," Rams

manager Rick Berryman said. "He changed speeds, kept ball away and we had 13 ground ball outs. But we could have hit the ball better and kept the ball in play."

Pinch hitter Pat Kohl drove home Mike Pelekanos, who had doubled, with the game-winning run in the seventh inning to break a 1-all deadlock.

Chris Rasky's RBI single scoring Colin Harrington, who also doubled, gave Martella's a 1-0 lead in the top of the third, but the Rams answered in the bottom of the third when Madonna University's Nick Plinka (Livonia Stevenson) reached base on an error and scored on Brett Mazmanian's single.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, the Rams were poised to take the lead, but Aaron Cieslak was tagged out at home trying to score from third on a

wild pitch by Zamiskie.

"The ball bounced back off the backstop perfectly to the catcher," Berryman said. "I saw another game tonight at the Point and I saw five or six that didn't bounce that way."

Rams starter Brady Cooper, who went 7.1 innings, took the loss for the runners-up in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League, who fell to 24-14 overall. Cooper struck out eight, walked one and allowed eight hits before being relieved by Ryan Abraham, who struck out three in 1.2 innings.

The Rams played again at noon Wednesday at Roxbury Park in the loser's bracket against New Orleans. Visit www.hometownlife.com.

RAMS 14, MONARCHS 4: Catcher Brett Mazmanian, out of Kankakee (Ill.) Community College, went 4-for-4,

including a double, with six RBI and two runs scored Monday as the Michigan Rams rolled to a seven-inning mercy rule victory over the Toledo (Ohio) Monarchs in the opening round of the AAABA tournament at Johnston's St. Michael Field.

The Rams, who lost two of three exhibition games to the Monarchs this summer, jumped out to an 11-2 advantage through three innings and never looked back.

Mazmanian had plenty of support offensively as the Rams chased Monarchs starter Kacy Dwornik (Bowling Green). Toledo also committed four errors.

Lead-off batter Aaron Cieslak, who started the game with a double up the gap, went 2-for-4 with two RBI and

Please see **RAMS, B2**

MALLON
FROM PAGE B1

"My sister was ill and in December I went to Pennsylvania to stay with her and help her, which put my game in the background," she said. "I put my priorities in order, and my family has always been my first priority. My sister and I were close. She was No. 5 (in a family of nine kids) and I was No. 6. She was my idol growing up. I was glad I could spend the last three months with her." Mallon returned to playing golf at the end of April; however, she suffered a back injury during a tournament in New York and has been trying to get back on track. "It's been a very inauspicious beginning to the year,"

she said. "Some times you have to take what life gives you and deal with the rest." Mallon will restart her playing career in two weeks at the Canadian Open. She has played in five events this year and hopes to get in six more by the end of the year. "It's not the kind of year I wanted," she said. "I work on conditioning; unfortunately, my body yelled at me a bit. I had to get back in shape. Then I didn't get my rhythm back, and I didn't play as well." Mallon, who has won 13 tournaments and is among the all-time top money winners on the tour, isn't contemplating retirement yet. "I've always told myself I'd play as long as I was healthy and competitive," she said. "I haven't been the last four

years now, but there have been some extenuating circumstances whether it was my healthy, my sister's or my mom's." "I still have the desire to work at it. Every athlete says they'll know when it's time, but I haven't quite gotten there yet." Mallon, who moved from Arizona to Florida in 1999, is still fond of her home state and was looking for a summer home in northern Michigan this week. "This is my home," she said. "In 2004-05, we were hit by three straight hurricanes in Florida, and I thought, 'I need to be in Michigan these months.'" "Plus, I'll be closer to my family, and I have a lot of friends who go up there for vacation. And why not? It's a

great vacation place. "Wherever I've gone — all over the world — you can't get much better than Michigan in the summertime." Mallon has been loyal to Mercy, returning each summer for the event that had raised \$620,000 for the school prior to this year. "They make it so easy for me," Mallon said of the people at Mercy. "I just come in and do the event. My brothers, John and Paul, have done so much. Without them, it would be hard to do, not living here. They don't have kids who went to Mercy, but they've treated it as a labor of love." "I had such a wonderful experience at Mercy High School, and the friends I have for life are ones I made at Mercy. It's the easiest and most fun day I do."

RAMS
FROM PAGE B1

three runs scored to spark a 13-hit Rams attack. Left fielder Steve Anderson, a Northville High grad and tournament pickup from the LCBL member Blue Knights, also went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Jason Forster chipped in with two hits, two RBI and two runs. Ryan Abraham also scored three times, while Kyle Vesey crossed home plate twice. Joe Barnes also contributed an RBI. Winning pitcher Tom

Hansen, a left-hander from Madonna University, went all seven innings, allowing four runs on four hits to pick up the win. He struck out four and walked six. "He (Hansen) was not necessarily wild, but the umpire had a weird strike zone and they (the Monarchs) walked seven, too," Rams manager Rick Berryman said. "He threw 115 pitches. It was a gutsy performance and it keeps a lot of our other pitchers fresh that we can save down the line for the tourney." "It was a good start for us. We did not make any errors."

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Advertorial

TEE TIME Your local golf guide

Shaking It Off

How to forget about a bad shot and finish with a great score

By Susan Smiley

No matter what level of golfer you are, chances are you've made a bad shot at some point during a recent round — the errant drive, the chip that falls short of your target, or the planned layup shot that goes "kerplunk" right in the middle of the water hazard.

There is no reason that a bad shot — or even a bad hole — should spoil a good round of golf. The trick is learning to mentally shake off the negative and focus on the positive. Keep in mind the bad shot is over, done, finished. Now it is time to step up to your ball and make a great shot.

"I know that a lot of times, I've been able to beat people in the long run not because I was more talented than my opponent but because I had a positive attitude," said Randy Erskine, PGA Professional at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. "My attitude was better even though my talent was not better. There are a lot of people with less talent who produce because of their attitude toward golf. And that goes right to other things in life too."

Erskine's dad taught him from a young age to always think of the glass half full. Growing up, he read several books about positive thinking and over the years he has applied what he learned to his golf game.

Recently, Great Oaks CC hosted the 93rd Michigan Women's Amateur and the champion, Britney Hamilton (Lake Orion), came from behind to get the win. During the final round of match play, she was down three holes to her opponent at the turn. Hamilton, who is also a positive thinker, told herself to just relax and play her game on the back nine.

Her strategy worked well and by the time she got to the 17th tee, she only trailed by one. Despite hitting her ball in the water, she won the hole and then sunk a long putt on 18 to win the tournament.

"After I hit into the water, I thought I still had a chance," Hamilton said. "I thought if I could hit my next shot well, I had a good chance to win the hole."

That's the kind of thinking that wins championships — and makes golf a whole lot more enjoyable.

Most golfers, Erskine said, have expectations that are much too high. No one is ever going to win every single tournament that they enter. And no one is going to have a great score every time they tee off. So stop being so hard on yourself!

"People have to have realistic goals," said Erskine. "Goals are only accomplished 25 percent of the time. So you should shoot your handicap only 25 percent of the time. Once you realize that, it helps you to forget about the bad shot or the bad hole or even the bad round."

Another thing Erskine often reminds his students; you can only control your own game and what you are doing. No one can control how their opponent is going to play.

"If you play your best and you still lose — which has happened to me many, many times — you just have to shake your opponent's hand and feel good about your own game that you went out and played as well as you could on that day," Erskine said. "If you beat yourself up, that is very bad for your golf."

In fact, Erskine will not tolerate negative talk from his students. There is to be no self-bashing during the golf lesson.

"When my students start talking in a negative fashion, I hold my hand up because I just don't allow that," Erskine said. "It helps them to stay positive and it helps me. You get a whole lot more accomplished when you come into a lesson with a positive attitude."

"Now sure, you are going to have bad times. Everyone does. If you know they are coming, it is not as hard to accept when it does."

Susan Smiley is the Member Services Manager for the Golf Association of Michigan.

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FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

The coaching staff gave players as many water breaks as necessary to cope with the 90-degree temps. But stifling heat wasn't about to be any kind of excuse for not getting after it during drills and sprints.

"It's like that for every kid in the state, they're not acclimated to this heat yet," Baechler explained. "It's not their fault."

"... the poor kids, Mother Nature played a trick on them. They've been working hard and they're in shape, but not for 90 degree heat."

As for water consumption, the players were urged to drink 10 to 12 "big glasses" after leaving practice, Baechler said.

SALEM

Later on Tuesday afternoon, first-year Salem head coach Kurt Britnell presided over a crisp Day 2 of drills and instruction.

"On the hip, through the shoulder, that's what I want right there," said Britnell to senior quarterback Jake Peterson, working on his rollouts.

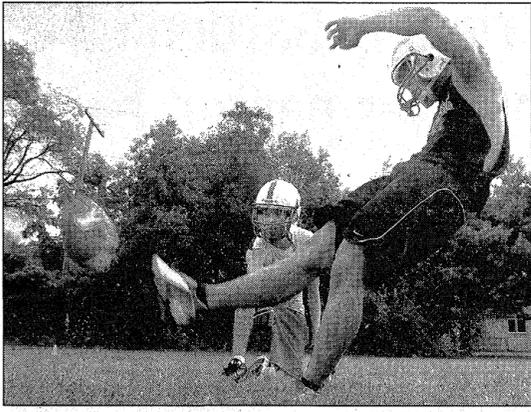
A few minutes later, Britnell — a former Salem quarterback himself — kept the pace going during drills where Rocks' tailbacks worked on hitting gaps with speed.

"Let's go, reps, reps, reps," he said.

During a rare break in the practice, Britnell reiterated the importance of a fast pace.

"We want to keep everything up-tempo, non-stop and stay to the time frame we have and within that time frame we're coaching them on the fly," Britnell said. "It's just to get an up-tempo pace so they get used to that."

Britnell, who was offensive coordinator at Plymouth before taking over the Canton helm, is eager to get the 2009 season going on Aug. 28 against the neighboring Wildcats.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton place-holder Chris Merbler steadies the football as Nick Dibenedetto practices kicking field goals on Tuesday.

Of course, the first "opponent" of the year was the heat. "Heat is not a concern," he continued. "Our managers are constantly walking around giving them water, they're always getting H2O during practices."

PLYMOUTH

Not too far from the Rocks, early afternoon practice got going for the Plymouth Wildcats.

"We're just trying to work hard and get better every day and every practice," said assistant coach Terry Sawchuk. "We're working on all phases of our team."

Sawchuk said the team's preparation for the season opener against Salem is not curtailed by the intense heat and humidity endured during the opening sessions.

"It seems like it's always hot this time of year," he emphasized. "You just have to keep educating your kids on how to hydrate the night before and stay hydrated all through the day, work with the trainers."

Plymouth players are told to gulp tons of water all day, and a gallon of the stuff at night — along with at least one Gatorade "to replenish those electrolytes."

The Wildcats, under the helm of head coach Mike

Sawchuk, also are looking forward to getting the season started in just over two weeks against Salem.

"They're over there working hard," Terry Sawchuk said. "So it will be a heck of a game."

COVENANT

The greatest concern on Day 1 for head coach Darren Blockett and his staff at Redford Covenant was numbers.

Eleven players, enough to field just one side of the football, took part in the opening day of practice as the Spartans look to improve on their 5-4 ledger of a year ago. That roster number is down considerably from the past two seasons when 19 players suited up in 2008 and 25 in 2007.

"Our school is down in students overall, so we're doing sort of a co-op with (Detroit) Consortium trying to get our numbers up," explained Blockett.

The youthful Spartans who did practice encountered some sweltering conditions as the thermometer Monday afternoon topped out at 87 degrees.

"They were hot, but we gave them plenty of water breaks," Blockett said. "Of all the days to get hot. But they fought through it."

One bright spot on the day

— Blockett said the Spartans may have found their quarterback to lead them in '09.

THURSTON

The first couple of days can be a little agonizing for coaches, as well as players, as repetitiveness often takes center stage in setting up formations, making adjustments and finding the right timing in running productive plays.

Redford Thurston head coach Bob Snell is a long way from declaring his Eagles are playoff bound, but just one day of practice brought some smiles usually reserved for much later in the practice sessions.

"We were pretty crisp, and that's not a usual thing," Snell said. "Most of the time we're pretty spent just trying to get everyone in position."

Heat proved to be a concern, but Snell and the coaching staff averted any health issues by serving up plenty of water breaks.

"It was nasty because we hadn't been conditioning in this type of heat all summer," Snell said. "That's the worst if you're not used to it."

GARDEN CITY

Ground zero with an equal opportunity to perform is where every member of Garden City's football team found itself Monday for the opening day of practice.

"We're getting a lot of reps in and looking at different kids," said Cougars head coach Mike Salter. "Everybody is starting with an equal chance to go out there and get playing time and contribute."

The Cougars will be eager for a turnaround this year as the 2008 season produced just two victories. Salter said how quickly the Cougars pick up schemes in running the base offense and base defense will go a long way in determining just how successful the team can be in '09.

"It takes time, but the quicker they pick it up, the better we can be," Salter said. "There's a

lot of teaching going on now. We started slow, but things picked up nicely and we had a much better practice."

REDFORD UNION

What a difference a day makes?

Just one day after struggling to gain any continuity, head coach Miles Tomasaitis saw a completely different performance from his youthful Panthers.

"Monday we sucked, and Tuesday we didn't suck as bad," Tomasaitis summed up. "Some things I felt we should have done, and done pretty well, we didn't. Then all of a sudden it just clicked and we moved forward very nicely."

"The heat wasn't really as bad as it was supposed to be and that probably helped," he went on. "But we gave them plenty of water and plenty of breaks."

Tomasaitis will look for continued progress as the Panthers look to bounce back from a difficult '08 season that produced four victories in nine starts.

NORTH FARMINGTON

Monday is offensive day for the Raiders, so they were installing the bread-and-butter plays of the offense on the first day, according to coach Todd Schultz.

"You get kids in helmets, get them to the right spots and see they're working hard and doing their assignments," Schultz said. "That's pretty much the key when you don't have pads on. We were happy with the guys. They knew their stuff and were hustling."

"It was a good day to get working in the heat, because we haven't had any all summer and we'll be strapping on the pads Thursday."

"It was a good start. We weren't happy with the way the season ended last year. It's another chance to start anew."

FARMINGTON HARRISON

John Herrington began

his 40th season coaching the Hawks when practice started Monday. He's the only head coach they've had since the school opened in 1970.

"I've got a lot of coaching help; I delegate more authority, and they're doing a good job," he said.

"As far as it getting harder, maybe a little bit on the legs when you're out there for 5-6 hours, but I get excited about (coaching)."

"You try to put kids in the right positions and try to get the most out of their talent. Every team is different, so it's always fun."

"In the morning, we worked on offense, and I was pleased with the way the offensive line seems to be coming around. The defense is a little behind, but it's the first day. The defense is not going to look good until we get in pads."

FARMINGTON

It was a long first day for the Falcons, but they accomplished a great deal, according to coach John Bechtel.

"There was a lot of organization involved," he said. "We passed out equipment first thing in the morning. The kids had their first meeting at 10:15. Then we had lunch and another meeting."

"In the afternoon, we practiced; then we had another meeting and another practice. The kids were here from 8 in the morning til 9 at night, but we got an awful lot done and a lot in."

"There was a lot of learning going on. We try to get as much content and form in as we can before real football starts Thursday. That's what we try to accomplish, and I think we met our goals."

"The kids are here four weeks before school starts and that's not easy. It shows great commitment on their part to be out there when it's summer and they have a lot of other options. It's a real credit to the players when their buddies might be sitting by the pool."

Annual Mary Angela Run set for Aug. 16 at OCC Orchard Ridge

The Mary Angela Run committee is preparing for its seventh annual event to honor and remember Mary Angela DiGiovanni.

This year's event will benefit Angels' Place, a non-profit which provides housing and services for people

with developmental disabilities.

The run will start at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. The event offers chip-timed 5K and 10K runs and a one-mile fitness walk and

children's run.

The event, which has raised approximately \$40,000 yearly, is a way to honor the memory of 23-year-old Mary Angela DiGiovanni, who was involved in a fatal car accident in January of 2003.

Mary Angela was a University of Michigan Public Health student with a desire to improve health care and help people in need. Her family has pledged that her life will continue to reach out and help others. The standard entry fee of \$25 or

\$50 for a Mary's Angel sponsorship, which includes a Mary's Angel T-shirt and recognition on event signage. Participants may register in advance or Sunday beginning at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to register, visit www.angelsplace.com.

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CANTON Central Park South Sub-Wide Garage Sale. Thurs 8/13 - Sat 8/15, 9am-4pm. West of Beck, North of Geddes. Lots of great things! Includes exercise equipment and 14' alum boat w/trailer.

CANTON Garage Sale- 7989 Kaiser St., CANTON, S of Jo. E of 275 & E of Haggerty via Koppernick. Thurs. Sat. 8/13-8/15, 9am-5pm. Furniture to Junk! MOVING!! Everything MUST go!!

ESTATE SALE Wed., Aug. 12, 4-8pm. Aug 13-16, 10am. Clinton Twp., N. of 16 Mile. 37877 Groesbeck. Enfield's Next Storage There's so much we had to move to a 3,000 sq.ft. bldg. Victorian Silver Plate, Bride's Bowls, Chocolate Pots, Geisha Girl China, quality pottery, Royal Daulton, Furniture, Conant Ball Dressers, Italian Glass, Hand Painted China Bowls/Vases, thousands of books, Cruet bottles, tons of sheet music & cabinets, Christmas, over 30 lamps. Photos See EstateSales.net by Parrott Bay

FARMINGTON HILLS HUGE GARAGE/YARD SALE - 21121 Collingham, 2 bks W of Botsford Hospital. Aug. 13-16, 9am-6pm. Lots of baby clothes, furniture, misc. Priced to sell!

FARMINGTON HILLS Multi-Family Sale - 8/13-14-15, 9am-5pm. Building Supplies, Antiques/Collectibles & more! 21990 Cass, Farmington Hills (South of 9 Mile Rd.)

FARMINGTON HILLS Multi-Family Sale. 33653 Harlowshire between 8 and 9 Mile, Farmington Rd. and Colfax. Thurs. (8/13)-Sat. (8/15), 9-?? Skis, TVs, bookcase & coffee table, household items, clothes, toddler bed, toys & more!

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GARDEN CITY Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm. 6912 Fairfield St. Household items, clothes, toys, furniture.

GARDEN CITY HUGE GARAGE SALE THIS SATURDAY! 9am-4pm. August 15th, 29299 Ford Rd., next to Orin Jewelers. Furniture, Kitchen Ware, Collectibles, Electronics & More! Don't Miss It! Great Stuff! 248-496-8068

LIVONIA - Aug 13-14, 9-3pm; Aug 15, 9-12pm. Books, toys, golf clubs, bar stools, household & more. 16448 Renwick, W of Levan, N of 6 Mile.

LIVONIA - Everything priced to go! Aug. 13-15th, 9-4pm. 36132 Ladywood, btwn 5 & 6 Mile, off Levan. Household items, jewelry, brand new kid's toys & games and much more!

LIVONIA Aug. 14-15, 9am-4pm. 19552 Gill Rd. 7 Mile/Farmington. Tools, sporting goods, clothing, kitchen items, TOYS, VCR tapes, books, TV. WE HAVE IT ALL!

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PLYMOUTH Garage Sale August 13th and 14th, 9am-4pm. 49255 Hunt Club Ct., in Fox Pointe Subdivision/East of Ridge between Powell and N. Territorial. Baby items, including crib, glider rocker, brand name baby clothes, toddler name baby clothes, clothing 3T. Also, seasonal items and teaching materials.

PLYMOUTH HUGE Sale Aug. 14-15, 8am-6pm. Decor, baby, antiques, DVDs, crafts, sports cards, electronics, household and much more! 10017 Spies Ct.

REDFORD BLOCK SALE 8/13-15. Weights, Furniture, Tools & MORE! 15832 Denby, btwn Midland and Puritan (N of 5 Mile) & Inkerst and Beech Day.

REDFORD Huge 3-Family Sale. 26850 Lyndon. 8/14-8/16, 9-5. Collectibles, crafts, comic books, furniture, toys, baby items & MUCH MORE!

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SOUTH LYON Multi-Family/Sub Garage Sale August 12th-14th, 9am-3pm. 10 Mile, btwn Fushion & Dixboro Pembroke Crossing, 12929 Stonebrook Ct. & Lakeside Estates North 10160 Otter. Items: Home, Kids, Furniture, Tools!

WESTLAND Aug 14-16, 9am-3pm. 7292 Haller, off of Warren Rd, btwn Middlebelt and Inkerst Rds. Dishwasher, furniture, weight bench, household goods and more!

WESTLAND Huge 6 Family Yard Sale. Sat & Sun, 9-5. 173 Harvey, N of Cherry Hill, W of Wayne. Baby/kids' items and more.

WESTLAND Sub-Wide Garage Sale. Thurs, Aug. 13, 9am-5pm. Fri & Sat, 10am-? in OAKWEST ESTATES off of Hix between Warren and Joy, near Canton and Livonia. Come see what we have!

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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.

AUG. 13-19

Bethany

West and Downriver chapters team up for a ride on the Detroit River with the Portofino Boat Cruise, 8-11 p.m., Aug. 14. Tickets are \$30. Call Kathy M. at (734) 513-9479. Bethany West's Monthly Breakfast Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Aug. 15 at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call Kathy M. at (734) 513-9479.

Family film

See "Lion King" at dusk, Aug. 14, at Bethel Baptist, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 525-3664; www.bethel-livonia.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.

AUG. 20-26

Book bag giveaway

2-5 p.m., Aug. 23, at Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Way of Life Christian Church is sponsoring the outreach. Backpacks with school supplies will be given to the first 100 children who register. Registered children also may bowl. Their parents and other adults may bowl for \$5. The price includes shoes. For more information call Ron Spencer at (734) 697-6107.

ONGOING

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 7-8:30 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.

■ Scripture studies, from 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

■ Learner's Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

■ Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions - at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

■ Bible study, 7 p.m., first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

■ Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

■ Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567

Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

■ Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5. Call (248) 348-7600.

■ A study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith, at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy. A group at 10:30 a.m., Thursday examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey. (313) 274-3820.

Concerts

■ Rush Hour concert series continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

Fellowship dinner

Dinners will resume Sept. 18 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Films

10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia. Guitar Praise game precedes the film on Saturday. Children in second grade or younger can play prior to the film; those in third grade and up can play after the movie. Pizza will also be served following the movie. All events are free. (248) 476-8222

Hall rental

■ Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

■ St. James Presbyterian, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information call the church at (313) 534-7730

Prayer

■ Music, singing, prayer at 7 p.m. Thursdays at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through entrance #2, at the back of the church. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

Friendly Garden City welcome pleases pastor, her family

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Pam Beedle-Gee, new pastor at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, preached her first sermon at the church July 5.

Beedle-Gee started her new post July 1, coming from Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, where she was an associate pastor. She's a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., with master's of divinity and master's of Christian education degrees.

For her undergraduate work, Beedle-Gee studied at Wayne State University, earning a bachelor's degree in social work.

She's married to John Beedle-Gee, and the couple has six children in a blended family ranging from 44 down to 21.

"I was definitely called to the ministry," said Beedle-Gee, who's living with her family in the Garden City parsonage.

She had her children, and her youngest daughter was 4 when she began the ministry process, "when God started working on me."

"I think God prepares you for the job." She finds God prepares you for where you're sent. "I certainly think that I have gifts God's been developing in me throughout my lifetime." Younger pastors have gifts for ministries they're sent to as well, she said.

She did some college work, and studied more at WSU when her children were young. She raised kids and went back to school again for ministry.

First United Methodist Church of Garden City has 304 members. "We really need young families. We would like to invite young families to come and be a part of our community." She's still learning about



The Rev. Pam Beedle-Gee is the new pastor of First United Methodist Church of Garden City.

the church. "The sky's the limit. There's so much we can do." She's listening to a lot of new ideas, thinking about the future and keeping the church vital.

"That's really what my focus is at this point. It's a great time for new people to come and join us in those efforts."

The church didn't do vacation Bible school this year, and its pastor and others would like to look at that for the future. Children and youth are far more savvy now, Beedle-Gee finds. "How we teach them can't be the same old rote memorization methods. We need to really think about that as we plan ministries with them and for them."

She's a quilter in her free time, and has nine grandchildren and one due close to Christmas. "So we're expecting almost literally a Christ child for Christmas. We put a lot of value on family."

She also gardens a bit. They're still "living in the land of cardboard" as they unpack and settle into their new home.

Grosse Pointe also has a lot of mom and pop stores, like Garden City. The convenience of malls and large stores is appreciated, especially by her

college-age daughter. "Everyone here has been really, really friendly." Needing a new doctor or knowing where to buy groceries, they've gotten answers.

"Everybody has just been so friendly and open and hospitable." They went to an ice cream social at the nearby Maplewood Center for local seniors. "We had a great time. We've explored the (Garden City) park a little bit, which is absolutely lovely."

"We've only been here a little while and we're still unpacking." They're not close to the lake anymore, and miss that. "Each community has its own special feel about it."

People wave on the street, which she likes. "Not every community is like that. That's just very, very special."

Her congregation is accepting of a woman pastor. "I don't have to fight some of those stereotypes that other women pastors have to fight. I do know it's still out there."

Some women clergy have to "earn our bars, or earn our credentials." Beedle-Gee recalls church history in which Jesus started church with women in homes.

"Women were the ones in charge of the homes." Men didn't lead until after the time of persecution, when the role became more public.

"People forget women were the ones who got the church going in the beginning."

She spent six years at her last church, and hopes for a nice long stay in Garden City, "that the people here and I will be able to do some good work together. Hopefully, we'll be here for awhile."

Services are at 10 a.m. Sundays with Beedle-Gee preaching weekly, and all are welcome. The church is on Merriman at Maplewood, between Warren and Ford roads in Garden City.

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WILLIAM J. BURTON

Age 85, August 10, 2009. Beloved husband of Mary. Dear father of Daniel (Joanne), Richard (Marianne), Renee (Karl) Myrand, Thomas (Tracie) and Curtis (Carol). Grandfather of Jeff, Lisa, Anthony, Marie, Sarah, Jennifer and Zack Burton and Lauren Myrand. Great-grandfather of Hannah and Joey Burton. Brother of Theresa Boucher, Shirley Bower and Annette Maxwell. Visitation Thursday 5-9pm and Friday 1-9pm with a 7pm Scripture Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 9:30am until 10am Mass at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood (at Merriman, 2 blocks north of Ford). www.santeiufuneralhome.com

DOROTHY L. COLLINS

Age 75, of Warren, August 2, 2009. www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com



NANCY E. HARRISON

Of Livonia, died August 8, 2009, age 83. Beloved wife of Leo. Dear mother of Pam (Scott) Socia, Kimberly and John. Grandmother of Nicole, Scotty, and Tommy. Dear aunt of Fay, Helen, Shirley and Dale. Cousin of Chuck Edwards, Sharon and Sue. Visitation Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 17000 Middlebelt (S. of 6 Mile) Wednesday 2 to 8 p.m. Services Thursday at 11 a.m. Memorials suggested to American Lung Association. Share a memory at www.mannsfuneralhome.com

MARY JOSEPHINE MARTIN

Age 93 formerly of Farmington Hills passed away August 6, 2009 in Harbor Springs, MI. She was born July 17, 1914 in Kansas. She was an artist and homemaker. Mrs. Martin is survived by her children, Gregory, Jonathan, and Susan (Larry) Thurston; four grandchildren; eight great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Charles. A family memorial service was held Tuesday at Oak Chapel at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens cemetery in Novi, MI.

ELSIE L. NYYSTI

Age 81 of Farmington Hills passed away July 28, 2009. Dear wife of the late Tenho; loving mother of Margaret Zakrisson, Robert, Caroline (Paul) Riddell, Marcia (Thomas) Bozek and the late Richard. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Private funeral services were held at the Glen Eden Memorial Park Chapel; Reverend Art Ritter presided. Memorial contributions may be made to Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375. Heenev-Sundquist.com

MARIE C. PERRAS

August 10th, 2009, age 86 of Westland. Dear mother to Dan (Karen), Jim (Lori Miles), Cathy (George) Paskauchas, and Robin (Pat) Mulroy. Sister to Robert Johnson. Loving grandmother to nine and nine Great Grandchildren. Memorial mass at St. Mary Catholic Church of Wayne, Saturday, August 15th at 11am. Cremains will be buried at St. Hedwig Cemetery after Mass. Family request memorials to Right to Life or American Life League. Please view memorial and send tributes to: www.uhtfh.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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or Liz Keiser
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or toll free
800-579-7355
ask for Char or Liz

OE0806242

May You
Find
Comfort in
Family &
Friends

Faithful flock to church grotto for prayer and reflection

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

A small statue nestled in a manmade grotto at Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church is drawing visitors day and night.

The image of Our Lady of Lourdes sits atop a mound of stones tucked into what looks like a cave opening, overlooking a waterfall and above rows of candles lit by believers asking for God's favor. Construction began in December and it was dedicated two months ago.

The grotto was built at the request of a parishioner who recently visited Lourdes, France where Jesus' mother is said to have appeared to a 14-year-old peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, 151 years ago.

Our Lady of Good Counsel pastor the Rev. John Riccardo said the woman "experienced a powerful encounter" and asked if a grotto could be built at the church on North Territorial and Beck in Plymouth Township.

"I said, 'I don't have the money' and she said, 'What if I gave you the money?' And other folks came forward and made it possible totally by donations," Riccardo said.

At the same time, a group of his parishioners were going on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

"Countless miracles happen of extraordinary testimony of spiritual and physical cures," Riccardo said, adding that people wait for hours to approach the grotto in France. "We built a grotto so people



Kathy Malloy of Plymouth Township touches the water falling in the grotto and blesses herself.

can come here and to remind them of what happened there."

Today, between six million and eight million pilgrims from around the world visit Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Bernadette was canonized as a saint following numerous miracles accepted by the Catholic Church.

"The real miracle is to have our eyes open to really understand what God has done in Jesus and that His love is so great and that we can be in a deep and profound relationship with Him and experience eternal life with Him," Riccardo said.

Recently a group of people gathered, as they do most mornings, after 8 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel to say a rosary, a group of prayers recited while meditating on various times during Jesus' life on earth.

"When I pray here it's a delicious prayer and I get fed

every time," said a woman who asked to remain anonymous.

"The Blessed Mother and Jesus open the scriptures in a way that you never know," she added.

Laura Sovel, who led those who gathered in prayer, said the grotto is a "powerful witness of our Blessed Mother's intercession that people brought from their treasure to honor her and give us a place to bring our prayers and petitions to find quiet time with the Lord. It's such a peaceful place to pray."

Holy water from Lourdes, France — as well as other places where the Blessed Mother is said to have appeared — has been added to the waterfall at the grotto. In fact, the statue was brought back from Lourdes by the parish's pilgrims.

"The power of prayer continues to go on," explained Kathy Malloy, a Plymouth Township resident who also attended the rosary recitation.

ST. BERNADETTE

Behind the group praying, stood a small white statue, depicting St. Bernadette, sitting among the multitude of flowers that surround the grotto. The setting is breathtaking with a stand of pines as the backdrop and a brick walk leading to the statue and waterfall.

The waterfall has a particular significance, because Bernadette was reportedly asked by the Blessed Mother to dig in the ground and drink from the water of the spring she found. At first the water



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The faithful gather at the grotto after Mass and pray the rosary.

was muddy, but the stream became increasingly clean. As word spread, this water was given to medical patients and numerous miracles were reported. During one of the reported apparitions, Mary reportedly asked for prayer and penitence for the conversion of sinners.

PLACE OF PRAYER

Riccardo said he had "two experiences" at the new grotto. He shared one: "I was there with 25 or 30 folks who had gone with me on this pilgrimage last October," he said. "We were praying the rosary and out of nowhere I heard this gentle motherly rebuke that just said, 'You are not expecting anything near enough from this.' So, I'm going to start expecting a lot from this. It's great to see the number of people who come

to pray there asking for the intercession of Mary and a deeper relationship with God.

"It's not a place of beauty, but a place of prayer. It's a fitting place for folks to do what I call wasting time with God. Good friends are people with whom you love to waste time. That's how prayer should be. I want to waste time with God and his friends the saints," he said.

The Blessed Mother has a special place for the parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel, because the church is named after her.

"But, we don't worship Mary, we honor Mary. That doesn't take away from God," Riccardo said. "Through no one did God do anything greater than Mary (who gave birth to Jesus). I'm always mindful of Mary's last recorded words in scripture

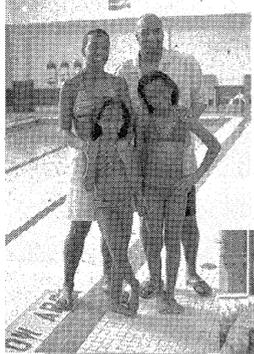
about Jesus at Cana," he said. "She says, 'Do whatever he tells you.' I pray that while people are here they will be able to hear the voice of God in a clear way in their lives. Someone used to say that Mary's greatest joy is to take our hand and place it in the hand of her son. She leads us to Jesus. There's a bumper sticker that annoys me. It says: 'Obedient women never make history,' when in fact it's because of the obedience of this woman that there is history. There would be no history if Mary had not said 'yes.' We would have no future or hope, because it was through her that Christ is born. There is no human person who had done anything that can remotely compare with the significance of Mary."

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>	
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. <small>CE08626544</small></p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 Summer Schedule Worship at 10:00 am www.redfordaldersgate.org <small>CE08626547</small></p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette <small>CE08626548</small></p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-9413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Boyer and Anthony M. Creedon <small>CE08626549</small></p>	
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a <small>CE08626546</small></p>	<p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 am Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org <small>CE08626545</small></p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 8:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs <small>CE08626543</small></p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor <small>CE08626542</small></p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 mile N. of Skokholm) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info <small>CE08626540</small></p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Childrens Education provided during both services Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter <small>CE08626541</small></p>	<p>LUTHERAN-ELCA</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 <small>CE08626538</small></p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584 SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE ERIC STENSEN, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES <small>CE08626539</small></p>	<p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ World Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org <small>CE08626544</small></p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org <small>CE08626540</small></p>
<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org <small>CE08626511</small></p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron <small>CE08626537</small></p>
<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>
<p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am. Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vapouris Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org <small>CE08626543</small></p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Family Fun Contest



Show us how your family spends fun family times together and you could win a \$60 gift certificate from Beans & Cornbread Soulful Bistro in Southfield, MI. Simply take a photo of your family fun along with a brief caption explaining the family activity.

As a bonus, if you include the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, Hometown Newspaper, or Beans & Cornbread Soulful Bistro in the photo, you're entered for a chance to win movie passes.



All entries will be judged based on fun and creativity. Email pictures to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line "Family Fun" or mail to Choya Jordan, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Contest runs July 26 - Aug 23, 2009. Winners will be notified. Pictures may be selected for publication. Pictures will not be returned. Pictures size must not exceed 10 MB.



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

See cats up close and in the ring at Tonkinese show

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

If cars aren't your thing, try cats this weekend.

The Cat Fanciers Association's cat show, sponsored by the Tonkinese Breed Association, runs 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 15-16 at the Allen Park Community Center, 15800 White Street in Allen Park.

All-breed and specialty judges will evaluate the cats each day. Rachel Anger, a judge from Canton, describes the Tonkinese as a cross between the Siamese and Burmese, "with the addition of aqua eye color."

A "designer breed" developed in the 1960s, "is moderate in structure, loves to be a lap cat and adores his owners."

"For most Tonk owners, the real defining trait of the breed is the Tonkinese personality," she said. "A Tonk is two types of cat in one body. They play fetch, climb cat trees and fly through the house at warp speed. The second mode is cuddly and loving. They are dog-like in that they require and demand attention."

"They love riding on shoulders and may head-butt to get your attention."

An intelligent breed, the Tonkinese come in 12 different colors.

As a judge, Anger follows a set of standards when judging. She said the Tonkinese is one of the most difficult breeds to judge.

"The difficulty with Tonkinese is there should be no extremes.

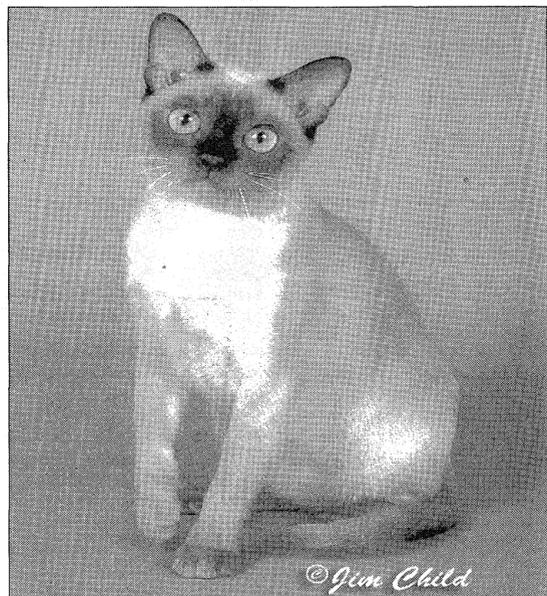


PHOTO BY JIM CHILD

GRC Wenlock Serenade, DM, is a female grand champion cat.

When you look at a Tonkinese you should see neither a Siamese nor a Burmese, but a unique moderate breed with its own look."

The show will include other breeds, such as Persians, Maine Coons, and Orientals, as well.

Exhibitors and breeders will be on hand with information, to answer questions and with a close-up view of their cats.

Visitors can watch judges in the ring or walk the exhibit all looking at felines in this benched show.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children. Infants and toddlers are free.

Parking is free and the hall is non-smoking.

Founded in 1906, The Cat Fanciers' Association has been devoted to the promotion and protection of all cats.

Musical raises funds for Lyric Theatre

The Madonna University Lyric Theatre presents three performances of *Forever Plaid*, 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Aug. 14-15 and 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 16, in Kresge Hall on the Madonna campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$8 for groups of 12 or more. Proceeds benefit the MU Lyric Theatre.

The show, directed by Steve Krupa, will feature high school students Chris Brody, Brendan Burke, Jim Murray and Dave Wilkins. Musical director is M. Scottie Moilanen.

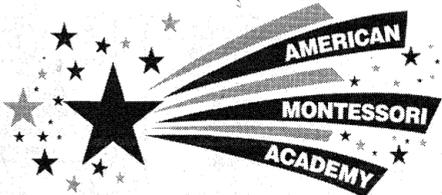
Forever Plaid is the early 1960's story of four young working class guys, each in their 20's and

at odds with the world and love, who are about to achieve their dream of becoming The Plaids, a close harmony singing group. On the way to their first gig at the airport "Fuselounge," their 1954 Mercury is struck by a bus load of Catholic School girls. Forty years later, heaven allows the quartet to return to Earth so it can put on the performance that it never gave in life.

The production includes such songs as *Three Coins In The Fountain*, *Love Is A Many Splendored Thing* and *Shangri-La*.

For more information or tickets call (734) 432-5715.

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Drive, walk or gawk your way through Dream Cruise

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

Love it or hate it, the 15th annual Woodward Dream Cruise — presented this year by Motor City Casino — is ready to roll.

Public and private parties are planned all weekend up and down the road, also known as M-1. Cruisers have already begun driving the route from Eight Mile to “the loop” in Pontiac and back again, offering a nightly show for the locals who station their lawn chairs and picnic blankets in parks, parking lots and adjacent green spaces.

There are a myriad ways to experience the Cruise — from behind the wheel, from the sidelines or from inside a restaurant or bar along the route.

If you’ve got a classic car, try driving. There’s no better way to both participate and observe other cruisers close-up. But be prepared for some stop and go traffic — patience is the key — and exhaust fumes. So, keep your inhaler handy if you have one.

If you’re a white knuckle driver in traffic, try begging a passenger seat from someone you know with a classic car and relax during the ride.

I’ve done it both ways, first as a passenger in my brother-in-law’s 1954 Mercury and then behind the wheel of my parents’ mint condition 1975 VW camper.

Being a passenger was pure fun. Driving was a bit more nerve-racking — I couldn’t really gawk at other cars — but seemed to take on a more prominent role in this annual historic event.

Even if you don’t own an antique vehicle, you can cruise on Woodward. Just make sure you stay to the left, giving up the curb side lanes for the classics.

If you forget it’s Dream Cruise weekend and you unwittingly find yourself on Woodward like I did a few years ago (“Hmmm...what’s with all this traffic?”) be patient, courteous and inch your way to a turn lane. Take a north-south road like Greenfield on the west side of Woodward or Crooks on the east side of Woodward. Even mile roads get a bit congested along the Woodward corridor during the Cruise, so the best place to cross Woodward is on I-696 in the Royal Oak-Pleasant Ridge area.

DON'T WANT TO DRIVE?

Try walking the route. You’ll see cars, people, parties and entertainers and you’ll have a better chance of stopping for a bite to eat, as you make your way through the throngs of other revelers. Remember where you parked the car on an adjacent street.

My favorite walking routes are downtown Ferndale and from 11 Mile to Webster (12 1/2 mile) or 12 Mile to Normandy (13 1/2 mile). There’s plenty of action along the way, lots of places to eat, including a food court in Memorial Park on 13 Mile. You won’t have to worry about indulging because you’ll walk off the calories.

If you’d rather stay put and watch everyone else drive or walk be prepared to stake out a place along the route early on Dream Cruise day. Look for green spaces just north of 12 Mile on the west (Berkley) side of the road. Or at 13 mile at Memorial Park on the northeast corner. Try south of Lincoln (10 1/2 mile) on both sides in Royal Oak and Huntington Woods, and south of I-696 in Pleasant Ridge.

You can spend most of the day in just one community, both watching the cars on Woodward and then participating in official cruise activities. Here’s an overview:

FERNDALE:

■ Join the Ferndale Woodward DreamCruise Fast Friday VIP Party 6-9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 at Rosie O’Grady’s, 259 W. Nine Mile. Your \$10 donation will go to FernCare, a clinic that offers free medical care to the uninsured or under-insured. Rosie’s will serve an appetizer buffet and Bricktown Station will play all evening. Get tickets at www.ferncare.org

■ The official ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14 on East Nine Mile in downtown Ferndale. Nelson House, who started the Dream Cruise as a fund-raiser for a children’s soccer field in 1995, is the guest speaker.

■ The 9th Annual Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show is a display and a cruise of nearly 100 police, fire, military and EMS vehicles on Saturday, Aug. 15. Demonstrations include K-9 and Jaws of Life.

■ Classic Vehicle Show is held in conjunction with Cruis’n Legends of Ford on Saturday, Aug. 15. Browse the show or enter your own car into the show. It must be 25 years or older. Advance registration is \$20, available at www.ferndaledreamcruise.com. Day of entry is \$30.

■ See classic Ford vehicles at the Cruis’n Legends of Ford show on Saturday, Aug. 15. Or enter your own Ford — it must be 25 years or older — for a \$25 advance entry fee. \$30 registration on Cruise day.

■ If a Ford Mustang is your preferred mode of transportation, check out Mustang Alley Friday-Saturday in downtown Ferndale. The registration period for Mustang owners who want to show their vehicles has ended. But visitors can browse among the cars on display.

■ Live entertainment on three stages. Bands play from 3-7 p.m. Friday, noon-7 p.m., Saturday, and noon-3 p.m., Sunday on the West Nine Mile stage; a mix of performers take the stage from noon-6 p.m. Friday and noon-7 p.m. Saturday near City Hall on East Nine Mile; entertainment runs 3-6 p.m., Saturday on the Woodward Avenue stage.

■ “RetroFest” on West Nine Mile will feature Super Speed Car Racing and a Bungee Jump, along with vendors. An expanded “Kids Play Zone” will include four Tim’s Toyz moonwalks, arts and crafts, face painting and temporary tattoos. See 40 hairstyles in a bee hive hairdo contest noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16.

For continuously updated information, visit www.FerndaleDreamCruise.com.

PLEASANT RIDGE

Brandon Calhoun opens the “Blues BBQ” at 6 p.m., followed by Big Daddy Fox and a screening of “Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein” at approximately 8:15 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 in Stevenson Park, located at Woodward and Oakland Park.

ROYAL OAK

■ Guitarist George Friend and legendary stand up bass player “Pistol” Pete Mitgard perform at a kick off party Friday, Aug. 14, for the over 21 crowd at Four Green Fields, located in the Northwood

Shopping Center at Woodward and 13 Mile. Doors open at 9 p.m. Drink specials and giveaways all night. For more information call Four Green Fields at (248) 288-2088.

■ Most of the action happens Saturday, Aug. 15 in the Kids Zone in Pioneer Park, north of Normandy on the west side of Woodward, and at the classic car show and food court in Memorial Park, at the northeast corner of 13 Mile and Woodward.

■ Know Advertising’s Dream Cruise block party is a bit off the beaten path, but a perfect spot to get away from the crowd on Woodward and still celebrate car culture. Three bands will play and food catered by Holiday Market and Turkeyman, will be available for purchase. No alcohol will be allowed. The party, runs from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 on West street, adjacent to Know Advertising. The company is located on 11 Mile, east of Woodward near the railroad viaduct.

BERKLEY

■ Catch the CruiseFest Parade at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, on 12 Mile between Woodward and Greenfield.

■ Children’s activities run from 6-9 p.m. Friday in downtown Berkley.

■ Dance with other young adults at the street dance, sponsored by the Tri-Community Coalition, from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday.

■ Bands perform 7:30-11 p.m., Friday on 12 Mile and Robina.

BIRMINGHAM

■ Classic cars will be stationed along South Old Woodward on Saturday, Aug. 15. Event day registration is open to individual cars, model year 1978 and older, after 10:15 a.m. at the registration tent at South Old Woodward and Brown. Day-of parking is \$25, based upon availability and on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about Cruise Event parking in Birmingham, visit www.birminghamcruiseevent.com.

■ Live entertainment runs all day Saturday in the area where Woodward and Old Woodward come together. WCSX has teamed up with Washtenaw Community College and Glendale Auto Supply to help build a 1967 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 from the ground up. Tickets are \$15, with proceeds to benefit the Salvation Army Staples Center and the National Kidney Foundation.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

■ See classic cars displayed at the Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills dealership on Woodward just south of Big Beaver.

PONTIAC

■ D.J. Phil Brown spins the music for a sock hop from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14. Live music starts at 1 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14,

with the last band taking the stage at 9 p.m.

■ Live music continues starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15. Thornetta Davis takes the stage at 7 p.m., followed by Rare Earth at 9:30 p.m.

■ Visit the swap meet from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., both days on Water Street at Mill.



1. Children’s activities will include face painting and a bounce house in Birmingham.
2. Royal Oak parks offer everything from kids’ activities to food courts.
3. Twelve Mile Road in Berkley will close for day-long activities, including a classic car parade at 6:30 p.m.
4. The busiest venue of them all: The Dream Cruise kicks off in Ferndale, which also offers kids’ activities, a contest and vehicle shows.

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ART

Lotus Arts Gallery
 Time/date: "Impression & Expressions: Exploring Modern Printmaking," through Aug. 29. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
 Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
 Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

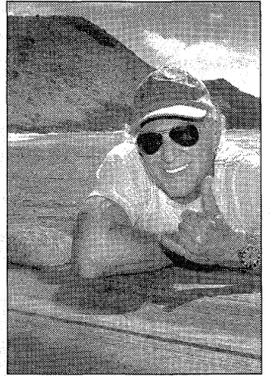
Northville Art House
 Time/date: "Detroit - Perceived Image," the work of Darel Deneau, through Aug. 22. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 1-9 p.m., first Fridays only
 Location: 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville
 Admission: Free
 Contact: (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org

CAR, CRUISE EVENTS

Botsford Commons "Cruise In" classic car show
 Time/date: 4 p.m. to dusk, Friday, Aug. 28
 Location: Botsford Commons, 21450 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills
 Details: Fifth annual event, cars, free outdoor concert with big band sounds
 Contact: (248) 477-7400

COMEDY
DTE Energy Theatre
 Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21. Jeff Foxworthy, tickets \$59.50 and \$35 pavilion and \$15 lawn
 Location: 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston
 Contact: (248)377-0100, Palacenet.com

19; The B-52s, Aug. 20; blink-182 with Fall Out Boy & Panic at the Disco, Aug. 22; Kenny G, Aug. 23; Creed, Aug. 25; Soul Asylum with Seven Mary Three and Sponge, Aug. 27; Dennis DeYoung - The Music of Styx with Rock Symphony, Aug. 28; Eddie Money with Pat Travers, Aug. 29; Lil Wayne with Young Jeezy, Soulja Boy, Drake, Aug. 30; Michael W. Smith, Sept. 4; Tesla, Sept. 5; Darius Rucker with Luke Bryan, Sept. 17



Jimmy Buffett performs tonight, Thursday, Aug. 13, at DTE Energy Music Theater.

Farmington concerts
Riley Park
 Time/Date: Rhythmicz in Riley Park concerts start at 7 p.m. Fridays
 Location: Riley Park in downtown Farmington
 Details: Billy Mack & The Juke Joint Johnnies play Rockabilly on Aug. 14; Renegade, a country music cover band, plays Aug. 21; and Volebeats, a legendary Detroit-area band known for its vocal harmonies, wraps up the series on Aug. 28
 Contact: www.DowntownFarmington.org

Farmington Hills concerts
 Time/Date: "Stars in the Park" Thursday nights through Aug. 27
 Location: Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Rain-out site, Costick Center
 Details: Bomb Squad play music of the 70s and 80s Aug. 13 and Serieux and Friends offers a Motown Review Aug. 20. The series ends with Uprizin's swinging Caribbean rhythms Aug. 27. No alcohol or pets are allowed in Heritage Park
 Contact: (248) 473-1857, www.fhgov.com

Focus Hope
 Time/Date: 2-8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22
 Details: Hot Summer Nights Music Festival, a free concert, features Paul Miles the Blues Man, Ortheia Barnes, Lola Morales, the Carolyn Striho Bande, Wojamm and Shiron Denise and General Population, with WAE and Peace. The mobile hip hop museum also will be on site. Family-friendly event with children's activities, moon bounce and face painting
 Location: 1355 Oakman Boulevard, Detroit
 Contact: (313) 598-0408

Livonia music series
 Time/Date: 7 p.m., Thursdays through Aug. 27
 Details: Stewart Franke with soul music on Aug. 13 and Dezie McCullers in a jazz concert Aug. 20. Both shows scheduled for Civic Center Park, Five Mile and Farmington Road. The series ends Aug. 27 with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra at the Livonia Community Center, Five Mile and Hubbard
 Contact: (734) 466-2540

Magic Bag
 Time/Dates: The Why Store, Aug. 14; 40oz. to Freedom, Aug. 16; AJA: A Tribute to the Music of Steely Dan, Aug. 21; The Mega 80's, Aug. 22; Buckwheat Zydeco with Josh Charles, Aug. 25; The Original Wailers, Aug. 26; Echoes of Pink Floyd, Aug. 28
 Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
 Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Meadow Brook Music Festival
 Time/Dates: George Thorogood & The Destroyers/Jonny Lang, Aug. 16; Heaven & Hell with Coheed and Cambria, Aug. 21; Peter Frampton, Aug. 22; GetBack! The Cast of Beatlemania, Aug. 29; O.A.R. with special guest Brett Dennen, Sept. 4
 Location: 3554 Walton Blvd Rochester Hills
 Contact: (248) 377-0100, Ticketmaster.com

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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.kickerscomplex.com

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

Palace of Auburn Hills
 Time/Date: Frank Caliendo/Bill Engvall, Oct. 24
 Location: 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills
 Contact: (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com

CONCERTS
Callahan's Music Hall
 Time/Date: Tommy Castro, 8 p.m. Aug. 13, \$25; 8 p.m. Aug. 14, Linda Ruth Band, \$5 at door; Spencer Bell Legacy Project Concert, 3 p.m. Aug. 15, \$15.
 Location: 2105 South Boulevard, south of the Palace, Auburn Hills
 Contact: www.atcallahans.com, (248)858-9508

Canton jazz series
 Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 28, at locations along Ford Road.
 Details: Doug Cassens, Aug. 14, at Super Bowl; Tumbao Bravo, Aug. 21, at Centre Village; Bugs Beedow Band, Aug. 28, at Sam's Club
 Contact: (734) 394-5460

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: Jimmy Buffett and The Choral Reefer Band, Aug. 13; MC Hammer with Coolio and Toné Loc, Aug. 14; Crue Fest 2 with Motley Crue, Aug. 15; Randy Travis with Keith Anderson, Aug. 16; Demi Lovato with David Archuleta and Jordan Pruitt, Aug. 18; B.B. King with Robert Cray Band, Aug.

WIN DETROIT TIGER TICKETS

WIN a "Be a Tiger for Kids" gift pack which includes:

- 2 tickets to the Detroit Tiger Game, August 18th vs. the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m.
- 2 Admission tickets to the "Rock-n-Roar" Tailgate Party - 4:30 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. Meet and autograph session with former Detroit Tiger greats including Dave Bergman, Dan Petry and Dave Rozema
- 2 "Be a Tiger for Kids" T-Shirts

Meet the Hometownlife.com community street team at the following locations for a chance to win a "Be A Tiger for Kids" gift pack and other great prizes during this onsite reader promotion.

Join us Monday, Aug. 17th at this location:

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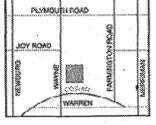
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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR?

WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, N/S, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. **2220581**

MUSICAL GIRL

Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 18-25, who enjoys the same things. **2222258**

GET TO KNOW ME

Living, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. **2296376**

HONEST AND CARING

Sensitive SWF, 41, 5'5", likes Ben Jovi and Van Halen, spaghetti dinners, gardening, hockey and baseball, old movies, arts and crafts, picnics, reading. Looking for a gentleman, 45-57, race open, for friendship. **2318717**

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

SWPF, 48, educated, HW proportionate, seeks educated, professional male, 40-55, N/S, with sense of humor. Let's meet for coffee or a drink. **2311355**

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME

SBF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SBM, 39-51. **2294968**

ARE YOU THE ONE?

SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **2289947**

CURVACEOUS

SWF, 47, 5'7", 155lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SBM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. **2298305**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH

SBF, 37, 5'5", 125lbs, slim build, enjoys nice walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball games. Seeking SBM, 30-43. **2299111**

ARE WE A MATCH?

SBF, 38, very shapely, N/S, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shooting pool, dining. Seeking SBM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **2299793**

LADY OF QUALITY

SBF, 30-something, 5'7", laid-back, down-to-earth, seeks open, honest, loyal, faithful professional man, 35-55, for LTR. No games, race open. **2310218**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...

40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish man please. **2323217**

SEARCHING FOR YOU

Mature woman would like to meet a gentleman who wants to enjoy life and have a good time. I know what I would like to do for the rest of my life. **2311851**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...

37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. **2271683**

PETITE AND CUTE

SWF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SWM, 36-45, who will love me for me. **2294943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE

SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for SBM, 39-45, for possible relationship. **2295026**

SEEKING STRONG BM

Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, laid BM, 40-52, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, gentle, soft. **2295558**

HONEST & DOWN-TO-EARTH

Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, honorable, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. **2295421**

SEEKING A MATURE MAN

Attractive SBPF, 35, N/S, N/Drugs, would like to meet respectful, happy SBM, 25-30, to enjoy life together. **2300880**

SEEKING MR. RIGHT

SBF, 37, 5'5", nurse, mother of three, Christian values, N/S, social drinker, seeks SM, 32-50, race open, with similar values. **2310294**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME

PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. **2298302**

SEEKING A REAL MAN

Flirted SBF, 48, likes the internet, watching tv, shopping, visiting friends, picnics, taking walks, parks, dining, hanging out with friends. Looking for a SBWM, 29-58. **2314707**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SBF, 36, 5'4", 165lbs, brown/brown, drama-free, disease-free, looking for SWBM, 35-60, to talk to. I like movies, music, hanging out, travel, having fun. **2317137**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?

Bright, spunky, pretty SBF, 47, outgoing, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **2290694**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT

SBF, 47, 5'7", full-figured, N/S, likes roller skating, canoeing, exercise, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2297305**

A POLISHED DIAMOND

Attractive, sexy BF, 34, seeks nice gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **2287057**

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY

Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, successful SBM, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman who is ready, willing, and able to commit. **2273603**

A NEW BEGINNING

SBF, 47, 5'4", likes action movies, swimming, dancing, plays, outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SBM, 45-55, for friendship or more. **2291915**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR

SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, being outdoors. Seeking similar SWM, 23-45, for companionship. **2282578**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SBF, 54, 5'8", N/S, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SBWM, 49-62, N/S, for friendship or more. **2282444**

OUTGOING

BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **2292940**

PRETTY EYES

SBF, 33, voluptuous in all the right places, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. **2288970**

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

WVWF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, N/S, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. **22976914**

WEST SIDE BEAUTY

Professionally employed in the beauty field. SWF, 56, slender, 54, seeks a gentleman, 44-52, HWF, many interests including music, movies, cultural events, camping, and most things outdoors. Light smoker, for friendship leading to relationship. Sincere responses only. **2230791**

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP

Attractive SWF, 55, 125lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love the companionship of a pleasant gentleman, 65-75. **22891247**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Easgoing DWPF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities: minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **2279171**

ACTIVE WOMAN

SWF, 58, dark hair and eyes, N/S, social drinker, likes bowling, bingo, garage sales, funny movies and more. If you would like to meet for coffee, let me know. **2262181**

MATURE MAN WANTED

SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SBM, 25-40, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining, water. **2287856**

I NEED LOVE

Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SBWM, 18-30, who shares my lust for life. **2300110**

SEEKING SBM COMPANION

I'm short and cute, brown eyes, black hair, honest, funny, good cook, very sincere. I hope to find a friend/companion to enjoy things with. Preferably 55-75. Life is too short - have fun with me. **2302311**

SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?

SBPF, 55, 5'4", interested in developing new friendships, maybe more. Seeks energetic SM, 40-65, N/S, who loves reading, midnight picnics, walking, and exciting conversations. Must have good SOH and self-worth. **2282618**

TAKE A CHANCE

SBPF looking for SBM, 45-57, with no children at home, who likes to have a good time. I enjoy going to movies, dining out, the park, outdoor and indoor activities. Let's develop a friendship first, possibly leading to more. **2305228**

MUST LOVE THE LORD

SBF, 18, 5'8", gospel singer, God-fearing, looking for similar SBHM, 18-27, for possible relationship. **2311174**

LOOK NO FURTHER

SBF, 18, 5'4", long black hair, light brown eyes, wants to meet that SBM, 18-22, who is tired of playing games. **2311011**

DBF SEEKS LTR

Attractive, thick BF seeks LTR with totally unattached male, 48-65, not into games. Must be ready to start a new found friendship and give what he gets. Ballroom dancing is a plus. **2310738**

SEEKING A GENTLEMAN

WF, 59, blond/blue, would like to meet a young-at-heart WM, 40-70, to hang out with, date and have a good time with. **2310164**

TIERED OF BEING ALONE

DBF, 50, 5'3", full-figured, N/S, loving, independent, intelligent, down-to-earth, great sense of humor, enjoys going out and romantic evenings at home. Seeking SDBM, 50+, with similar qualities and interests, who wants to enjoy the rest of life with no frills. **2311783**

SOPHISTICATED LADY

SBF, middle-aged, attractive, laid-back yet serious-minded and sensible, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-65, N/S, responsible, good sense of humor, with good values and morals, for serious relationship. **2207254**

PLUS-SIZED LADY...

34, 200lbs, seeks single morn, looking for SM, 37+, for friendship and dating leading to LTR. Is this you? Call me! **2127234**

VERY CUTE

SBF, 58, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 45-60, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **2113198**

ARE YOU SEEKING?

DWF, 60s, 5'2", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 22-72, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for dating. **2283088**

I NEED A LOVE...

to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. **2288059**

KEEP COOL

SBF, 19, 5'3", looking for cool, down-to-earth, attractive SBHM, 18-25, who keeps it real. **2287598**

WARM SMILE

SBF, 21, N/S, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship and dating. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other. **2287181**

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD

SWF, 62, 5'10", handsome, fun, 165lbs, mature body/mind, looking for a lonely handsome man, 20-30, race open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. **2292913**

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

HARD-WORKER

SWM, 45, 5'5", short brown hair, grown kids, enjoys music, playing guitar, travel. Looking for similar SF, 35-45. **2296097**

A GREAT GUY

Good-natured, good-looking SWM, 41, energetic, versatile, fun, passionate, into boating, canoeing, sea markets. Seeking conversation SWF for conversation and connection. **2176478**

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM, 56, 5'11", handsome and secure, seeks honest, candid/wholesome of humor, who enjoys travel, S/DWTF, dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. **2296946**

CALL ME!

SWM, 45, likes sports, working out, cooking, bodybuilding. Looking for a similar lady for LTR. **2319016**

SINGLE, HANDSOME WM

Marketing professional, part-time personal trainer, tall, athletic, muscular, 6'2", 200lbs, 40, brown/blue, dogged, looking for an attractive woman, with a great personality, who is friendly, positive, active and fun. **2298264**

CUTE, CUDDLY COWBOY

Wise and kind SWM, 46, enjoys simplicity, art fairs, flea markets, festivals. Seeking the company of a lady with similar interests. **2200459**

SEEKS A SWEETHEART

SBM, 57, 5'10", 182lbs, medium brown complexion, clean-shaven, short hair, glasses, two grown sons, many interests including jazz, R&B, soul, playing pool, bowling, walking by the water, fido concerts. Seeking attractive, loving, caring female, 38-62. **2317257**

CAPRICORN

SBM, 5'11", 170lbs, medium complexion, likes sports, concerts and much more. Would like to meet a woman, 25+, who is easygoing and has a nice personality. **2318568**

I PROMISE THAT YOU...

won't be disappointed. SBM, 50, 190lbs, likes working out and spending time with that special person. Would like to meet a secure, goal-oriented woman, 20-46, with a nice personality. **2318591**

HAVE FUN WITH ME

SWM, 45, 5'11", 200lbs, brown/brown, N/S, N/Drugs, looking for SF, 30-65, race open, who enjoys walks, bike riding, intelligent conversation, board games, classic movies, dining out or cooking at home and romantic evenings at home. **2318819**

I'LL KEEP IT REAL

BM, 6'1", 185lbs, brown eyes, likes movies, concerts, cooking and much more. Would like to meet a secure, attractive, goal-oriented H/BF, 21-45, for dating. **2318792**

EASYGOING

SBM, 38, 6'4", likes movies, jazz concerts, walks in the park, quiet moments at home, playing pool. Looking for SF, 35-45. **2318935**

WISHES DO COME TRUE

SWM, 67, 210lbs, short brown, short beard, seeking SWH/F, down-to-earth, easygoing, honest, nice, petite to plus-sized, 35-60. **2318836**

LOVELY AND READY

SWM, 55, average build, Italian, Virgo, N/S, looking for a SWF with similar qualities and who's ready for a serious relationship. Call me if interested. Redford. **2296305**

WORTH THE CALL

SBM, 35, no kids, looking for a SBF, 24-34, N/S, for good friendship possibly leading to more. Call me! **2318055**

IF INTERESTED, CALL

SWM, 43, 5'7", 160lbs, red/green, secure homeowner, would like to meet a WF, 35-45, to get to know and date, possibly leading to more. **2318518**

EASYGOING

Sharp, sociable SWM, 45, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. W/WM SWF, for dating and fun times. **2318714**

FEMINE LADY WANTED

Attractive SWFM, 48, 5'10", 150lbs, N/S, never married, loves outdoors, going to church, traveling, family time, candle lit dinners, movies, long walks, holding hands, good conversation, seeking sweet, feminine lady, 30-50, for possible LTR. **2291990**

KEEP IT REAL

SWM, 55, 5'10", 150lbs, father of two, homeowner, wants to meet slender, average female, 25-45, who likes music, art, just hanging out. **2287886**

MAXIMUM RETURN ON...

Your investment: SWM, 48, 5'10", 150lbs, N/S, level-headed, down-to-earth female, 30-45, for fun, dating and possible LTR. **2293165**

LET'S GET GOING!

SWM 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, friendship, spontaneous fun, and laughter, seeks personable SWF for dating and more. **2282502**

SEEKING EBONY WOMAN

Attractive SWFM, 41, seeking BF for dating. New to area and looking to explore the city. Sense of humor, easygoing, attractive, HW proportionate, affectionate, established, likes to travel. **2282579**

LET'S MEET SOON!

SWM, 44, 190lbs, very good-looking, very fit, I have a good job, seeks nice woman, 25-44, to spend time with, leading to serious LTR. **2247784**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

BM, 6'1", 220lbs, would like to meet a woman, 25-45, who knows what she's getting into. Fun, fun, dating, companionship and possible LTR. **2299087**

SEEKING A GIRLFRIEND

SBM, 35, 6'3", 180lbs, brown eyes, likes singing, travel, basketball. Seeking similar woman, 20-35. **2299411**

LET'S TALK

SWM, 39, 6'3", N/S, dark/blue, enjoys sports, movies, dining. Seeking attractive SBH/F, 18-50, for possible relationship. **2299948**

NO DRAMA

SBM, 36, 5'11", 165lbs, slim build, medium complexion, well-groomed, 30-something, N/D, spiritual, drama-free, no children, independent, romantic, college-educated, family

Plymouth

Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Owners of CandyLicious recently cut the ribbon on their new store in downtown Plymouth. The store features bins full of classic candies, shelves with name-brand favorites and other candy accessories. On hand to cut the ribbon were owner Robin Khoury, William Khoury and members of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Committee. Not pictured is owner Jim Khoury.

New candy store satisfies Plymouth's sweet tooth

Observer: Please tell us about your business.

CandyLicious: We have over 165 varieties of candy, old and new; fresh popcorn, soda, ice cream, wedding candy tables, mylar balloons.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

CandyLicious: We wanted something fun in Plymouth, and we love candy.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

CandyLicious: All the events, foot traffic, and the town's great atmosphere.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

CandyLicious: It's original, clean, bright and fun, and we have great variety.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

CANDYLICIOUS CANDY SHOP

- Business Name: CandyLicious Candy Shop
- Business Address: 424 S. Main, Plymouth
- Your Name and position: Jim and Robin Khoury, owners
- Your Hometown: Canton
- Business Opened: June 2009
- Number of Employees: 3
- Your Business Specialty: Old-fashioned candy, popcorn, ice cream, Mylar balloons
- Hours of Operation: Noon to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday
- Business Phone: (734) 451-2263

CandyLicious: Word of mouth has been very helpful. We've received a lot of positive

comments.

Observer: How has the economy affected your business?

CandyLicious: We're not sure yet, but the customers give us "two thumbs up." They love it.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

CandyLicious: Open seven days and stay open later. Plymouth is a great night environment.

Observer: What's in the future for your business?

CandyLicious: We'd like to expand and, hopefully, franchise.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share about your experience as a business owner?

CandyLicious: We didn't think we'd have to hire anyone the first year, but we did.

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.

Page search

The Plymouth Community



Wes Graff

Chamber's Web site is on the first page of listings on major search engines when looking for information on "Plymouth Michigan."

Placement on the front page when people are searching for general information about the community is important in directing traffic to the Chamber's site, said Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth chamber.

Plymouth is listed in the following positions on the front page of these major search engines: Google: #7; Bing (Microsoft): #3 and #6; Yahoo: #8; Altavista: #11; Ask.com: #12; and Lycos: #8

"Since the chamber launched our new site earlier this year we have worked closely with our web developer, Powerful Design, to improve our position with the major search engines," Graff said. "For example, just last fall we were on the second page

of Yahoo when searching "Plymouth, Michigan" and now we have moved to the first page.

On the Plymouth site, the two most viewed categories are the community events section followed by the business search of chamber members. To view the chamber's site go to www.plymouthmich.org.

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

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.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Top executive

One year ago, Jim Hiller launched his company's Buy Michigan Initiative to invigorate the local economy. Within months, countless other community businesses followed suit. In January, he ceased cigarette sales in all seven Hiller's grocery stores to stop enabling a dangerous habit. In April, the governor recognized Hiller's principled leadership with a Hometown Health Hero Award. Now, 'Corp!' magazine has named Jim Hiller one of its 2009 Top Executives. Through this award, 'Corp!' recognizes top area executives not only in a congratulatory manner, but really "to inspire and encourage those who make it their business to emulate the best in their field." Hiller has long been committed to being an integral part of the communities in which his seven stores are located. Hiller's markets to specialty populations including gluten-free, kosher, nut, dairy and wheat allergies and specialty ethnic cuisine. Hiller's is also the only regional grocery to strictly buy fish, meat and produce whose origins can be traced to humane, high-quality origins. Hiller's stores are located in Ann Arbor, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Northville, Plymouth, Commerce Township and Union Lake. Read Jim Hiller's blog at www.hillers.com/blog/

Masters dance

Metro Dance Company is hosting their 2nd annual Masters Dance Intensive Aug 17-20 at their Plymouth dance studio. The Intensive consists of eight 90-minute dance classes including Latin, Modern, Bollywood, Contemporary, Russian, Irish and Breaking/Hip Hop with guest artist Stringz of Hardcore Detroit. All classes are for advanced level dancers ages 13 - adult. Area teachers and pre-professional and professional dancers are welcome. Prices are \$24/class or \$179 for the entire 4-day Intensive. Metro Dance Company is located at 541 S Mill in Plymouth, on the corner of Mill (Lilley) and Ann Arbor Trail. Register for classes by calling 734.207.8970 or email at info@MetroDanceCompany.com

'Happy' anniversary

The Happy Hounds Dog Day Care facility in Plymouth celebrates its fifth anniversary 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, hosting what they are calling a "Dog Extravaganza," featuring all things for dogs that will interest dog owners throughout the county. In addition to great party food for humans, the event will be hosting various dog-related businesses displaying their wares in vendor booths on the property. An open house will provide tours of the dog day care facility as well as their boarding facility, both of which sport the unique label of "Totally Cage-Free."

There will be door prizes and a raffle with prizes donated by many local Plymouth merchants to benefit the various dog rescue groups. Your sociable and friendly pet dogs are also welcome to attend, but must remain on leash during the event. There will be splash pools for the dogs to have fun as well.

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care is owned and operated by Nancy Janoch, a resident of Plymouth. After leaving the corporate world after 20+ years in management, she previ-



Hiller's CEO Jim Hiller (right) with his son, Justin, was named a top executive by 'Corp!' magazine.

ously owned a successful professional in-home pet sitting business for 6 years. Happy Hounds is located at 673 S. Main in Plymouth. Visit their Web site (www.happyhounds-daycare.com) or call (734) 459-DOGS for more information.

X-Tracker chosen

SKF Automotive Division announced its X-Tracker wheel hub bearing unit has been selected by General Motors because of its extreme durability and stiffness, for the groundbreaking Supercar, the 2009 Corvette ZR1. The SKF X-Tracker design improves a vehicle's camber stiffness, which allows the driver to create smoother, faster cornering speeds. This cornering performance also improves the car's stability control due to enhanced brake response.

"Through continued collaboration with GM, we were able to provide a sophisticated technology that meets the demand of today's high-performance vehicle drivers," said Jim Seta, director of sales, Car Business North America, SKF. "The X-Tracker hub system is designed to improve cornering while enhancing the vehicle's overall handling." SKF's X-Tracker wheel hub bearing units are manufactured in several of SKF's global facilities. This technology has been standard content on the ZR1 and other high-performance luxury vehicles, including the current Cadillac STS-V and 2009 Cadillac CTS-V, since it was introduced last year.

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Check out the bargains at area garage sales inside today's Classified section

Capuchin farm project serves harvest dinner

If you love locally grown and in-season produce, get your ticket now for Earthworks Urban Farm's second annual Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Earthworks Urban Farm is a project of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

The event will start at 5 p.m., with a social hour in the garden, light appetizers and a garden tour.

The dinner made of southeast Michigan foods will follow at 6 p.m., at Gleaners Food Bank, a longtime Capuchin Soup Kitchen partner, at 2131 Beaufait, Detroit.

Tickets run \$15-100 on a sliding scale.

"Folks are welcome to pay what they feel it is worth, or they are able to pay," said Patrick Crouch, Earthworks program manager.

The organization encourages ticket-holders to buy an additional \$25 admission for someone who can't afford to attend the dinner.

Grace Lee Boggs, a longtime Detroit activist for sustainable communities and social justice, will be the guest speaker.

The menu will include



Earthworks supporters gather for the first annual Harvest Dinner in 2008.

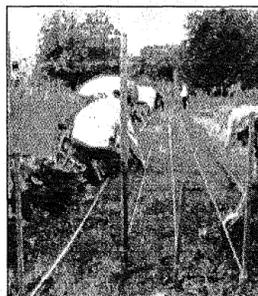
dishes made from recipes submitted by many of Earthwork's partners. Organizations such as SEED Wayne, the Greening of Detroit, and the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network plan to

submit a favorite in-season recipe for the occasion.

"We will be trying to source as much as possible from our gardens, but all will at the very least be in season, and locally grown," Crouch noted.

Local chefs assisted by Earthworks' teen farmers (Youth Farm Stand) and local volunteers, will make the dinner.

Ticket information is available online at www.eskdetroit.org/earthworks



Volunteers pitch in at Earthworks Urban Farm, a project of the Capuchins.

or calling (313) 579-2100, ext 204. Or send a check by mail along with a registration form — available online — to 1264 Meldrum, Detroit, MI 48207 Write checks to "Capuchin Soup Kitchen" with the number of tickets and "Harvest Dinner" noted in the memo line. Reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 4.

PITCHING IN

Earthworks welcomes volunteers to help plant, weed and harvest its gardens. Volunteers also teach local youth about the importance of healthy living and mentor young adults involved

in Earthwork's Youth Farm Stand program.

Other tasks include extracting and bottling honey, making jam, pouring handbalm and beekeeping.

Individuals may attend any volunteer work sessions; groups should schedule time a day in advance.

Volunteers help tend the gardens from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesdays and Saturdays (except holiday weekends) during the growing season. Adult mentors may visit the Growing Healthy Kids program from 4:45-7:30 p.m., Thursdays and the Youth Farm Stand program from 4:45-7:30 p.m., Tuesdays. The organization makes jam in October and November.

All volunteers meet at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen at 1264 Meldrum, Detroit. For more information about Earthworks Urban Farm, visit www.eskdetroit.org/EWG/index.cfm Or call (313)-579-2100, ext 204.

For more information about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, which was founded in 1929, visit www.eskdetroit.org.

- Sharon Dargay

CITY BITES

Cruisin' for charity

Dream Cruise — Westborn Market's 2009 Champagne Cruise promises an elegant yet casual evening of chilled champagne, live music, dancing, a taste fest of delicious food from the best area restaurants and plenty of classic car watching. The event, which raises funds for Forgotten Harvest, runs 6-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at the Westborn Market on Woodward, located between 11 Mile and Catalpa in Berkley.

The event includes music by the Sun Messengers and a taste fest from Brio Tuscan Grille, The Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company, The Henry Ford, Maggiano's Little Italy, Mitchell's Fish Market, Party Cakes, PF Chang's, The Ritz Carlton and Westborn Market.

Tickets are \$150 per person and available at www.forgottenharvest.org.

Forgotten Harvest rescues more than 12 mil-

lion pounds of food annually by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from a variety of sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors, and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free of charge to 150-plus emergency food providers in the metro Detroit area.

Sweet option

Northville — Sweet 220 Pastries and Specialty Cakes, located at 133 W. Main, Ste. 220 (Inside Northville Square) plans to open for business this month. It will offer a variety of french pastries, cookies, macarons, biscottis, cupcakes, whole cakes and brownies and bars. Made-to-order crepes and fresh pizza rolls and calzones will be available daily as well. The bakery caters as well. (248) 305-7900

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1988 Points Robert Parker 750 mL.....	\$8.89
2007 Karl Joseph Piesporter Michelsberg 750 mL.....	\$5.99

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