

**SUNDAY**  
**August 23,**  
**2009**

The Observer & Eccentric  
 Newspapers

Volume 124  
 Number 2

75 CENTS

**Plymouth District**  
**School supply blitz fills backpacks for needy kids, A6**  
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**OBSERVER**

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**PIPELINE**

**Correction**

Items in previous Observers should have said that Adrienne Davis of Plymouth Township is running for one of the four-year terms on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

Davis joins incumbents Barry Simescu and Judy Mardigian and fellow Plymouth Township residents Eric Bacynski and Larry Martin on the November ballot. Incumbent John Jackson is the sole candidate for the one two-year term up for grabs.

Also, the vote to raise water/sewer rates at last week's Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting was 5-2, with Clerk Joe Bridgman joining trustee Steve Mann in casting a "no" vote.



ANN DEGHETTO

Ron Edwards (middle) hands out pie-eating contest prizes at the 2008 Fourth of July picnic.

**Picnic props**

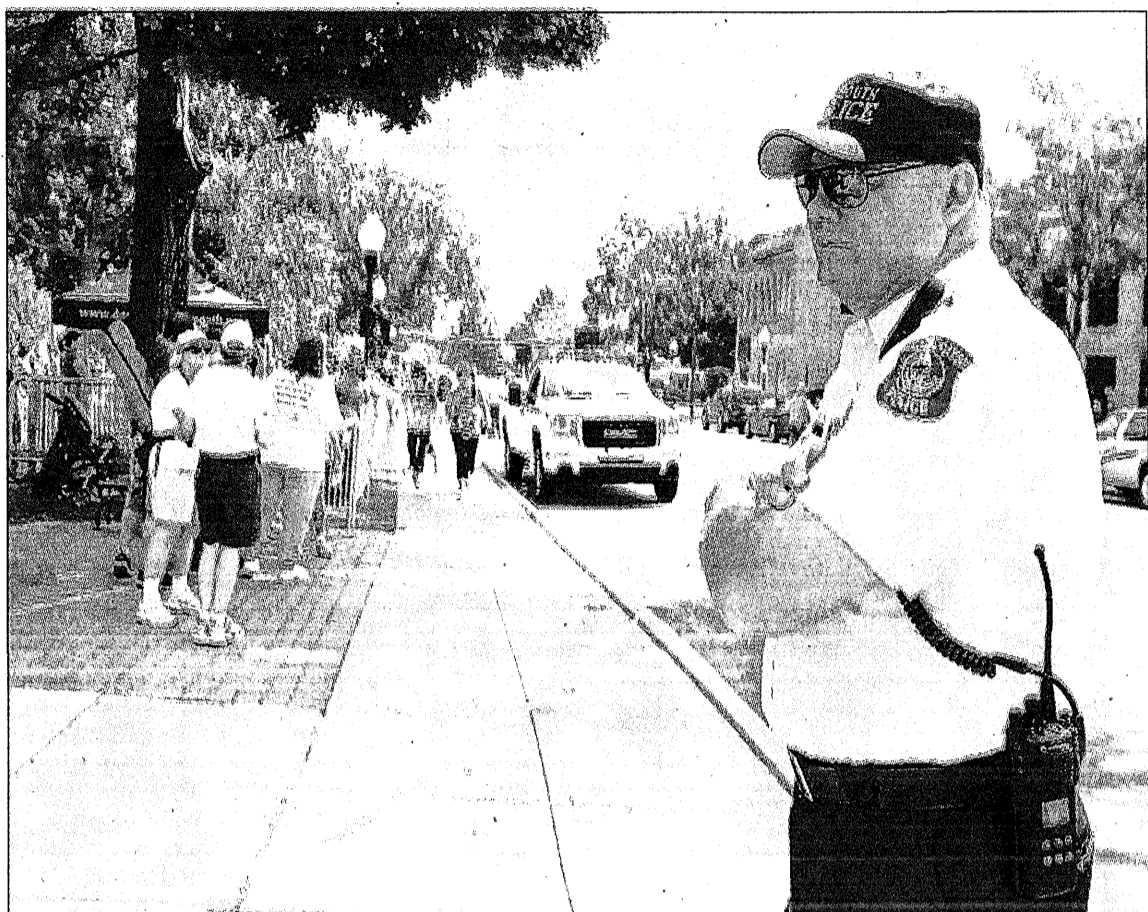
It wasn't exactly a roast, but Plymouth Township trustees did give Ron Edwards a set of honorary grill tongs Tuesday evening.

Edwards, Plymouth Township's treasurer, was honored at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting for organizing the community's annual Fourth of July picnic every year for the last 13 years. In addition to the tongs, Edwards got a "Top Citizen" plaque and a proclamation, which was read by Trustee Steve Mann.

"Township residents thoroughly enjoy and have come to anticipate this, really, extravaganza," Mann said of the picnic. Edwards' wife, Mary Pat, and his children were mentioned as regular picnic volunteers.

Edwards was smiling but uncharacteristically quiet during the presentation, other than to offer thanks. He drew laughs when he found a nickel — the price of individual picnic items, such as pop, hot dogs and chips — among his honors.

The tongs he turned over to Trustee Robert Doroshewitz, who is taking over as the picnic's chief organizer.



Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll, here on hand as walkers in the Breast Cancer 3-Day made their way through Plymouth, has watched over Plymouth's streets for 30 years, and plans to retire in October.

**Over and out**

**Police chief eyes retirement after 30 years on job**

BY MATT JACHMAN  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Wayne Carroll, Plymouth's neighborly charms go beyond borrowing a cup of sugar or running into friends during a concert at Kellogg Park.

That everybody-knows-your-name quality, said Carroll, the city's police chief for nine years, gives officers an edge in fighting crime and helped make Plymouth a model for community policing before there was such a term.

"We always know who our people are. We know who the troublemakers are and who the bad characters are" and who the not-so-bad characters are, said Carroll, who is retiring after more than 30 years on the force. "That's what's so nice about a small town like Plymouth. Everybody knows you."

Carroll, who started with the department July 1, 1978, as a non-sworn community services officer, has set Friday, Oct. 30, as his last day. "I'm ready to leave," he said in his office on Tuesday.

**CHALLENGING TIMES**

Mayor Phil Pursell said Carroll stepped up to the job of chief during a difficult, unsettled period in the city's history.

"He became chief at a time when probably not too many people wanted the job, and he

was up to the task," Pursell said.

The chief, Pursell said, "steadied the troops," inspired a healthy camaraderie, demanded accountability in the department and had a style that lent itself to community policing, in which good relations with the public and the business community are important. Pursell praised Carroll for his work with City Manager Paul Sincok on Plymouth's liquor license policy, which, he said, is a model for other communities.

"From top to bottom, he has transformed the department," the mayor said.

Carroll's career spanned a distinct era in police work, a law-enforcement evolution: When he started, departments were just beginning to emphasize brains over brawn and requiring officers to have college degrees, and later, new technology — Tasers, laptops, in-car video cameras, information retrieval systems and more — was brought in at a rapid pace.

"Technology is doing the things we used to do by hand or brute force," said Carroll.

**AIR FORCE ROOTS**

Carroll grew up in Florida; as a youth, he didn't have his heart set on becoming a police officer, though he had an uncle on the force in New York City. But Carroll was part of the Security Police while in the U.S. Air

Force, and the work caught his interest, he said.

In Plymouth, he was on road patrol for 12 years, as an officer and a sergeant, before becoming a detective in 1990. The force numbered 21 when he started, compared to only 15, including the chief, today.

In the 1980s, he was on loan for nine months, three days a week, to the Detroit Police Department's tactical services unit, responding to felonies in progress. It was a sort of training and mentoring exercise and kept Carroll and his Detroit colleagues busy, he said.

"It was very eye-opening. I was very happy to get back to Plymouth," he said.

As a detective, Carroll said, his most complex case was the 1999 murder of Tracy Islam, parts of whose dismembered body were found in Dearborn and Ottawa County, Ohio. Her estranged husband, Azizul Islam, was convicted in 2000 and remains in prison.

"It was challenging. It took a lot to put the whole thing together," Carroll said.

There were more than 250 prosecution exhibits, he said, and the case took many twists and turns, including a bloody saw blade that turned out to have been planted in the Islam's basement by a civilian dog-handler, who later pleaded

Please see **CHIEF, A3**

**Trustee asks officials to cut their pay**

BY MATT JACHMAN  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Plymouth Township officials look for savings in anticipation of declining tax revenue and state aid in a recessionary Michigan economy, one Board of Trustees member is pushing the three full-time elected officials to slash their pay.

"We ask our employees to tighten their belts, and I think we as leaders need to tighten our belts," said Trustee Kay Arnold during Tuesday's board meeting. Arnold and two other trustees, Bob Doroshewitz and Steve Mann, voluntarily cut their own \$11,400 yearly pay by 10 percent late last year.

It was the second meeting this summer at which Arnold had raised the issue, and she was met with some pushback Tuesday from the three — Supervisor Richard Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Clerk Joe Bridgman.

Reaume and Edwards said they had already refused 5-percent raises for this year. Edwards said that, proportionally, their loss was greater, close to \$5,000, than that of the trustees.

"We're not just elected officials in here, we're in here doing a job," Edwards said later. "The supervisor, the clerk and the treasurer, we've got to take the reins and run with them."

Reaume, referring to expired labor contracts, said he would agree to adjust his pay proportionally to what happens to pay in the police and fire departments. Reaume is paid nearly \$94,000 a year, Edwards and \$87,000 a year.

Doroshewitz sided with his full-time colleagues, noting the raises they gave up had been previously approved by the township's compensation commission. "That was a real and ... a vested raise," he said. Part-time trustees were not getting raises at the time Reaume and Edwards refused their raises.

For his part, Bridgman, who was elected clerk last November after serving as deputy, said he wants to be certain he can legally refuse pay decided upon by the compensation commission.

"They set the compensation for the elected officials. We do not," said Bridgman, who is paid just over \$91,000 a year.

"Money is not the object here," added Bridgman, noting his pay jumped when he moved from deputy clerk to clerk. "We need to do it (cut pay) legally and we need to do it ethically and I do not believe this board has done that."

Township Attorney Tim Cronin said the officials have a right to voluntarily refuse pay; Bridgman said he is seeking an opinion from Attorney General Mike Cox's office.

Meanwhile, Trustee Michael Kelly, who did not cut his pay when his three fellow part-timers did, said he would follow suit next month, and that he intends to make the reduction retroactive.

On Thursday, Arnold, a trustee for nearly 17 years, said she isn't asking Reaume, Edwards and Bridgman to cut their pay by 10 percent, or by any specific percentage, only that they give up something.

"Anything would be better than nothing," she said. "Stand up and be counted and be a leader."

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**'Suspicious' blaze torches Beech home**

BY BRAD KADRICH  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

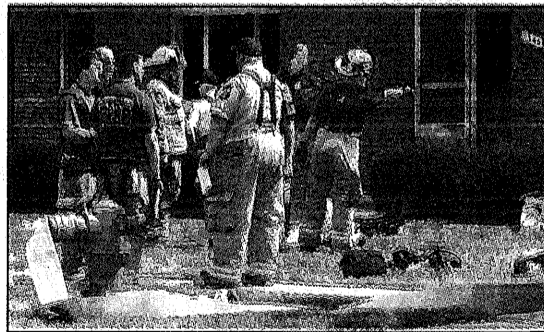
Plymouth Community Fire Department officials are treating a fire at a home on Beech in the City of Plymouth as a suspicious fire after dousing the flames Friday afternoon.

Fire Chief Mark Wendel stopped short of calling the blaze anything more than "suspicious" until the department has a chance to investigate further. He said firefighters found "four potential points of origin for the blaze," which occurred around 1 p.m. Friday.

"We can call it suspicious at this point," said Wendel. "We will of course investigate it to try and determine exactly what happened."

Firefighters got the call shortly before 1 p.m. and responded to the blaze, on Beech near Evergreen. With PCFD firefighters already handling "multiple runs," according to Wendel, Canton Township and Northville Township rendered mutual aid. Plymouth police officers secured the scene.

The house is reportedly owned by two sisters,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Firefighters from Plymouth and Northville Township are ready to pack up after extinguishing a fire on Beech in the City of Plymouth Friday afternoon.

neither of whom was home at the time of the fire. No one was injured in the fire.

The house suffered "a lot of heat and smoke damage, and one bedroom had substantial damage," said Wendel, who called the house "inhabitable."

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

### Citizens Committee

The Citizens Committee meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, in the Dunning Room at the Plymouth District Library.

The agenda hasn't been established but, according to organizers, will likely revolve around discussions involving what Plymouth Township officials discussed at their recent meeting, including sewer and water rates and amending the General Fund budget.

### Junior Miss

Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss is looking for contestants to participate in this year's program, which takes place Friday, Nov. 20 at the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton. Senior girls who will graduate from high school in 2010, reside in Plymouth or Canton and are interested in participating should go to the www.ajm.org Web site and register as a contestant.

The program is for senior girls who reside in Plymouth or Canton, no matter which high school they attend.

Questions should be directed to Marissa at pcjrmiss@yahoo.com. Officials are also still looking for volunteers who

would be interested in helping with the program.

### Chieftettes clinic

Youngsters who would like to be a Junior Canton Chieftette have their chance. The Chieftettes are hosting a Kids' PomPon Clinic for children ages 5-14 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Canton High School gym in the Phase III building.

Cost is \$40 per child and includes a T-shirt and snack. Discounts are available for additional siblings. Parents are invited to come see their daughters perform at noon and all girls attending the clinic will be invited to perform at the Chieftettes annual variety show on Sept. 19.

Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. the morning of the clinic. Pre-register at www.cantonchieftettes.com before Aug. 27 and receive a \$5 discount. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants.

For more information e-mail PomClinic@cantonchieftettes.com

### Learning Spanish

Fun, interactive, educational bilingual Spanish classes for toddlers through elementary children are available through Bilingual Fun, which teaches Spanish through music, movement, games and hands on activities.

Registrations are now being

taken for fall classes. Arrange for a free trial class at www.bilingualfun.com or by calling (877) 686-7399.

### Perennial exchange

The Trailwood Garden Club, a branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, will sponsor a perennial exchange at the Plymouth Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9-11 a.m.

It will be located at the east end of Kellogg Park at Union and Ann Arbor Trail. This is a free-bring something, take something event. Members will answer any inquiries about our club as well as general gardening questions.

For additional information call (734) 459-7146.

### Tour of hope

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

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

Tour dates include 6:30 p.m. Sept. 16; and 9 a.m. Oct. 16.

To attend one of the tours, RSVP to New Hope at (248)



### Hospice walk

Angela Hospice invites friends, families, and community members to the second annual 'Walk of Remembrance,' where walkers will experience fellowship in the beautiful outdoors with a common goal in mind: to honor, remember and celebrate loved ones lost. The event takes place Saturday, Sept. 12, beginning at Madonna University in Livonia, with registration at 8 a.m. The 3K and 5K routes will weave through the serene and beautiful grounds of the Felician Sisters. Refreshments and activities for all ages will follow. Advance registration is now open for this year's event, \$20 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12. Participation is free for those 5 and under. For a registration form or for more information, visit www.AskForAngela.com or call events coordinator Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045.

348-0115 or e-mail griefhelp@newhopecenter.net.

### Grief workshop

Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an eight-week grief workshop, From Grief to New Hope beginning Sept. 14. This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support.

Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses. The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Monday nights from 7-8:45 p.m. at Ward Church, located on 6 Mile and Haggerty in Northville.

For registration information

call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5943. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call 248-348-0115 or visit our Web site, www.newhopecenter.net

### Sweetest Day dance

PLAV Post #166 and VFW Post #6695 will co-host a Sweetest Day Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 17, at the VFW Post located at 1436 Mill in Plymouth.

Tickets, which are tax deductible, are \$10 each and are available at the VFW lounge/club room. Entertainment will be provided by Benny Spear, of Benny and the Jets (specializing in 50s and 60s music) along with Greg Jaqua (an Elvis impersonator). There will be door prizes offered throughout the

evening along with a cash bar. For more information, call (734) 459-6700.

### Tiny Tots Preschool

The Salvation Army Tiny Tots Preschool still has openings for classes beginning in September.

There are three classes available: Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:45-11:15 a.m. for 4-year-olds; Tuesday-Thursday mornings from 8:45-11 a.m. for 3 year olds; and Tuesday-Thursday afternoons from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. for 3 or 4 year olds.

Tuition is \$130 a month for the Monday-Wednesday-Friday class, and \$95 a month for either Tuesday-Thursday class. There is a one time registration fee of \$35.

For more information, call (734) 453-5464 or view the Salvation Army's Web site at www.misalplymouth.org.

### Scrapbooking fund-raiser

The Salvation Army of Plymouth and Creative Memories consultant Cassie Hull are teaming up to host an all-day Scrapbooking event to help raise funds for the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids program.

Those interested in scrapbooking can join us for the Sept. 26 event, called Croptoberfest, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at a cost of \$35, which includes 12 hours of scrapbooking, meals, and a goodie bag. There is also a half-day option of six hours for \$20.

For more information, or to register, contact Cassie at the Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464, or by e-mail at cassiekh@gmail.com. Those unable to attend can still help the Coats for Kids program by donating \$15 to help purchase a coat for a child in need. The Salvation Army is located at 9451 S. Main Street in Plymouth.

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### CORRECTION

The Food & Wine Festival at Meadow Brook Music Festival is set for 1-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, and 1-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30. Incorrect dates were published in Thursday's *Observer*.

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# Police lieutenant to become acting chief

## CHIEF FROM PAGE A1

Lt. Allen Cox will take over the Plymouth Police Department upon the Friday, Oct. 30, retirement of Chief Wayne Carroll.

Cox, who joined the department in 1998 and is currently the chief detective, will serve as acting chief as city officials ponder how to permanently replace Carroll, who has spent more than 30 years with the department.

"We're not in any rush," said City Manager Paul Sincock.

Mayor Phil Pursell said Cox has his confidence as well as that of the police force, and that Cox would be a good candidate to replace Carroll permanently.

"Lt. Cox is a good chip off the block," Pursell said. "I always like to see the city promote from within whenever possible."

Pursell added that Cox understands Plymouth's community policing concept and the organizational structure Carroll put in place.

"I think we want to see how he fits and he wants to see how he fits," Pursell said. "I would like to see it work out."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Al Cox will take over as acting chief of the Plymouth Police Department upon the October retirement of Wayne Carroll.

guilty to federal charges. The dog, however, did discover Tracy Islam's blood in the basement, in addition to the planted blood, so ultimately the prosecution was not harmed by the deception, Carroll said.

### 'HE WILL BE MISSED'

Carroll became acting chief, and then permanent chief, in 2000. He's proud of his tenure, noting he oversaw physical improvements to the police station, brought video systems and laptops into patrol cars, introduced Tasers and improved the records-keeping system.

"It's been a rewarding time in my life," he said of his career. "I've gotten to do

some exciting things and I think I've been successful." Plymouth, because of its small-town nature, was doing community policing before it was in vogue, he said.

"We've always tried to work well with our merchants and with our schools and with our people," he said.

Carroll and wife Joann, who is also retiring, plan to move to Florida. They'll spend some time with his father in Fort Lauderdale, then settle on the state's west coast, he said. Carroll has two daughters and four grandchildren — and a fifth on the way.

Pursell said Carroll is a valued personal friend as well as an excellent police chief.

"He will be missed, that's for sure," he said.

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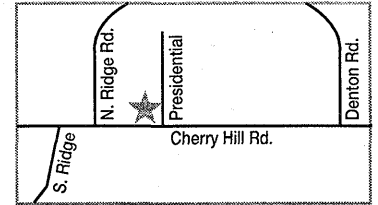
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# EDUCATION

## Bond work on target as buildings get remodeled

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parking lot work continues at Canton High School.

**'We're on the downhill slide at Canton High School. Things are moving along very well there.'**

DOUG UNDERWOOD, project manager

"This was always part of the plan from the start," Jacobs said. "This was a want, not a need."

Like most of the construction projects around the district, the administration building work is expected to be complete before school starts Sept. 8. Other projects include:

- Gallimore Elementary is getting a new bus lane and an underground stormwater system. Crews had to battle Mother Nature at Gallimore.

"The project was moving along very well until we got all that rain," said Doug Underwood of McCarthy Smith, the project manager. "We had a kind of 'Lake Gallimore' out there. (But) We're still on target to get it done."

- Canton High School science rooms have had underground plumbing and electrical work done, painting is nearly completed, and a ceiling grid is being installed. Work

is set to be complete Aug. 28. Crews are also completing architectural finish work on the administrative offices.

The school also got sidewalks and steps on the east and west sides and an asphalt entrance at the stadium.

"We're on the downhill slide at Canton High School," Underwood said. "Things are moving along very well there."

- The swimming pools at Canton and Salem high schools and Central Middle School all had work done. The improvements at Canton and Central are done; improvements at Salem are expected to be done by Sept. 14.

- The automotive spray booth has been installed. Fire protection work was expected to be done last week and the system is set for start-up next week.

- Bentley and Tonda Elementary schools got playgrounds, walking paths and parking areas and had landscaping restored.

- East Middle School got new parking lots on the western areas.

- Tanger Center got playground and new sidewalks, along with paving of its parking lot.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

### ON CAMPUS

#### University of Michigan

Eighteen high-school students, including Plymouth's Estrellita Perez, were chosen to attend ArcStart, a pre-architecture program designed to introduce those usually underrepresented in the field to experience the studio intensity of a bachelor of science degree in architecture.

The students were selected for the program based on a written essay; knowledge of art, design and drafting; extracurricular activities; and a portfolio submitted. They attended design studios to work on freehand drawing, model making, presentation skills, and group work.

During computer workshops, students focus on their design portfolios using the Adobe Design Suite and develop 3D modeling skills with Google Sketch Up. Students also attended lectures or information sessions given by a member of the Taubman College faculty.

#### American University

Maiya Dacey of Plymouth, a junior in American University's School of Communication majoring in public communication, was named to the Spring 2009 Dean's List.

To earn Dean's List at American, a student must obtain a 3.5 grade-point average or better on their semester courses.

#### University of Nebraska

Sabrina Tockook of Canton was among some 780 students who received degrees at University of Nebraska-Lincoln commencement exercises.

Tockook, a student at the school's College of Architecture, earned a bachelor's degree in design.

#### Spring Arbor

A trio of students from Canton were among the group who made the Spring 2009 Dean's List at Spring Arbor University:

- Elaine LaFayette is a senior psychology major and the daughter of Steven and Gail LaFayette.

- Stacy Luke is a junior special education major and the daughter of Donald and Annette Luke.

- Mallory Majeski is a senior health & exercise major and the daughter of Michael and Ginny Majeski.

To make the list, students must maintain a 3.7 GPA for the semester.

#### Kenyon College

Allison Goldsmith, daughter of Jeff Goldsmith and Kathy Payne of Plymouth, received a bachelor of arts degree at the commencement exercise at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

Goldsmith graduated magna cum laude with a major in biochemistry. She was awarded membership into both Phi Beta Kappa, a national college honor society and Kenyon's chapter of Sigma Xi, a national scientific research society.

#### Howe Military School

Cadet Ryan Delcol, an 11th-grader at Howe Military School in northeastern Indiana, made the Headmaster's List for the sixth six-week grading period.

Delcol, the son of Frank and Kim Delcol of Plymouth, received the award by attaining at least a 3.0 B average in his studies in a college prep curriculum.

Delcol has been attending Howe Military School since February.

#### Bowling Green

Canton's Rachael Sample was among some 80 Bowling Green State University students inducted this spring into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most respected scholastic honor society in the nation.

A senior creative writing major, Sample is an AmeriCorps member who has worked in the Office of Service-Learning. The daughter of Charles and Mary Sample of Canton, she has studied this summer in France and Burkina Faso (Africa), where she has been an intern at a women's center. She is a 2006 Plymouth High School graduate.

Phi Beta Kappa inducts junior and senior liberal arts students who have distinguished themselves as scholars. To be eligible for membership, students need academic records matching 16 criteria for excellent classroom performance.

#### Albany College

Anjoli Punjabi from Plymouth earned a place on Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' Dean's List for the Spring 2009 semester.

Dean's List status is awarded to students who have successfully completed their course work with a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or higher out of a possible 4.0 score.

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# Couple pays back PTO as part of deal

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton couple has paid back money they were charged with embezzling from the Fiegel Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, prosecutors and school officials confirmed.

Kimberly and Robert Smith, charged in May with taking money, have repaid about \$13,000 and agreed to a wide range of other court-imposed orders, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

As long as the Smiths follow Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton's orders, they could qualify for a defendant diversion program that would keep the criminal charges off their record, Miller said.

Braxton is expected to review the case next July after the couple, according to Miller, agreed to the following:

- They repaid the money prior to Braxton allowing them to qualify for the diversion program.
- They have to report regularly to a case officer.
- Both defendants have to perform 100 hours of community service.
- The couple has to maintain a stable residence and employment.
- The Smiths cannot get into

trouble and have contact with law enforcement.

The couple could lose their bid to keep a clean record if they violate any of Braxton's orders.

Kimberly Smith, former PTO treasurer, and her husband were charged in May with embezzling between \$1,000 and \$20,000, punish-

able by up to five years in prison. Robert Smith also had an additional charge of receiving and concealing stolen property of less than \$20,000.

The couple had been facing trial before attorneys and court officials reached an agreement allowing them to enter the diversion program. They had remained free on a

\$5,000 personal bond.

After the incident happened, a PTO vice president, John Nichols, said the organization had tightened its security measures by requiring two signatures on checks and demanding that the checkbook stay at school. He also said three people would count money and put it in a school

safe before depositing it at a bank.

Criminal charges arose after a March meeting of the PTO. "At the March PTO meeting, Kim was asked to give the treasurer's report, but she said there wasn't one because she had a hard time getting acclimated to the (computer) software," Nichols had said.

"Shortly after that, a \$4,000 check bounced and the red flags went up."

PTO officials sought more information from the bank and learned that more money had been taken from the account. Nichols had called the situation "sad all around."

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THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (PG-13)  
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35  
FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
GI JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA (PG-13)  
11:00, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
A PERFECT GETAWAY (R)  
FRI-MON/WED/TH 7:30, 9:40  
FRI/SAT LS 11:45  
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) 12:10, 2:15, 4:20  
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# School supply blitz fills backpacks for needy kids

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a growing need, particularly in Canton, Plymouth Salvation Army officials figured their second "Back to School Blitz" drive for school supply donations would need to nearly triple last year's 142 backpacks.

With a goal of 300 or more backpacks, Salvation Army staffers and volunteers accepted donations Friday for the second annual drive, designed to provide school supplies for needy students in the Plymouth-Canton school district. While no totals were available yet, staffers were confident the goal was going to be reached.

"Donations are pouring in, as we expected they would, because this is an extremely generous community," said Laurie Aren, director of Family and Community Ministries for the Plymouth Salvation Army, which covers Belleville, Plymouth, Canton and Northville. "We've had a lot of support, and the kids are doing a tremendous job."

The "kids" to which she referred were students from the school-run radio station, WSDP, who broadcast live for the day, and National Honor Society members, who carried signs along city streets.

School district officials are grateful for the help, as the need continues to increase within their borders. As an example, school officials noted this week that requests for the district's free/reduced lunch program increased by some 100 students over last year.

"That tells you something about the need out there," said Frank Ruggirello, the district's communications director. "If kids are having trouble getting food, they're going to have trouble getting something like school supplies."

Dr. Craig Fiegel, the dis-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Salvation Army Corps Officer Capt. Dan Hull (left) and Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent get a look at a bus-load of donations for the Salvation Army's second annual 'Back to School Blitz' program to provide school supplies to needy children.



Dr. Craig Fiegel and Capt. Dan Hull sort through donations for the Back to School Blitz.

trict's superintendent, said the Back to School Blitz provides a necessary shot in the arm to the district's ability to help needy students.

"It certainly helps ... with today's economy we have more and more needs in our student population," Fiegel said. "This definitely is a big help, and we certainly appreciate their efforts."

The Plymouth Salvation Army is still taking school supply donations and, as always, accepts cash donations. Anyone requiring about the availability of backpacks, or interested in donating, can call the Salvation Army, (734) 453-5464.

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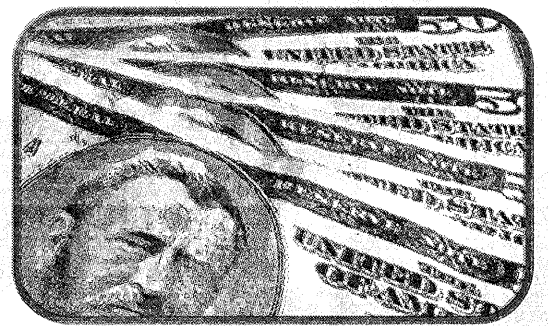
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**African children's choir has two Plymouth shows**

The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir is returning to the Greater Detroit area and will be performing a number of free community concerts in September, including a pair of performances in Plymouth.

For 25 years the African Children's Choir has entertained millions at community concerts and special events around the world. Their purpose: to raise awareness of the plight of Africa's most vulnerable, but also to show the beauty, dignity and unlimited potential of each African child.

Performances on American Idol, Good Morning America and Ellen have taken the Choir's stories of hope to billions. Other notable performances include Nashville4Africa, Live 8 in London, Nelson Mandela's 46664 concert, and special concerts for President George W. Bush, Kofi Annan, and members of the UN.

Plymouth performances include a 7 p.m. concert Friday, Sept. 11 at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N.

Territorial (734-453-0326); and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23 at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church (734-453-6464).

As ambassadors, the children in the Choir represent millions of children living on a continent in turmoil. "The children in the Choir represent millions of children in Africa" said Choir Founder Ray Barnett. "They are bright, articulate and motivated. We believe they can make a difference."

Concerts are a high-energy mixture of traditional African songs and dances, well-known gospel favorites and much-loved children's songs. Colorful African costumes, beautiful voices and infectious smiles charm audiences and bridge cultural gaps across nations.

Admission is free, and a free-will offering is collected at each concert to support education, care and emergency relief for over 7,000 children in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana and Southern Sudan.

For more information on the African Children's Choir, visit [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com), or call toll-free (877) 532-8651.

**Transparency initiative**

As part of her initiative to make government more open and transparent, Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia), whose district includes Plymouth, is proposing that the county make all public data accessible in a timely and easy to access manner.

Cox, who is chair of the commission's Committee on Ways and Means, has inserted specific language in the 2009-2010 budget instructions that will be acted on by the Wayne County Commission Aug. 27. The instructions are part of the official budget ordinance that will be adopted by the commission.

Her proposal includes putting the county's checkbook register online for all payments over \$5 and posting information contracts received by county vendors, details on county lobbyists, and salary information for all employees by position title or name.

"To ensure transparency, we need to make this information available to every citizen in a manner that is easy to search for and navigate," Cox said. "We must provide citizens with greater access on government expenditures and make them



Cox

more aware of how their tax dollars are spent."

Cox has led the way for increased transparency by posting her office's expenditures online at [www.waynecounty.com/district10](http://www.waynecounty.com/district10). In addition, the commission has posted meeting notices and agendas online, along with minutes of full board meetings and reports from the legislative auditor general.

**Carnival time**

Come one, come all to the Garden Carnival 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at the Wayne County 4-H Children's Garden 5454 Venoy, Wayne.

Visit the garden for an evening of fun-filled garden education. Try your luck with bobbing for apples, add some facial color with face painting, look for riches in the compost treasure hunt or go wild with pollination pandemonium.

The event is free and open to the public. It's geared for families with youngsters ages 7-14. To reserve a spot, call (734) 722-6576 or send and e-mail to [segarama@msu.edu](mailto:segarama@msu.edu).



**Taking the stage**

The Paul Keller Orchestra, a 15-piece big band, plays a concert at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. This concert is part of the noteworthy 'concerts with a cause' series of First United Methodist Church. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The church is located at 45201 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth, a mile east of Beck. For more information, call (734) 453-5280.

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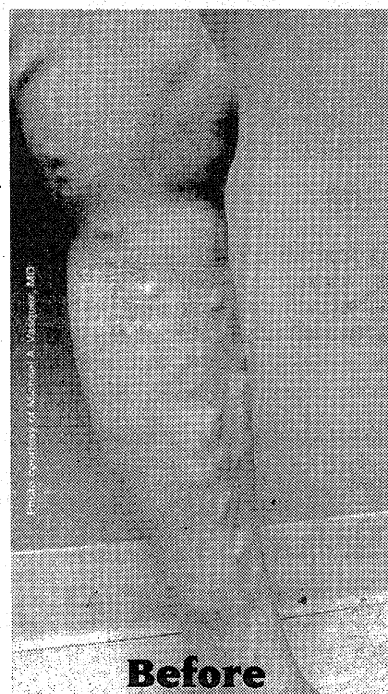
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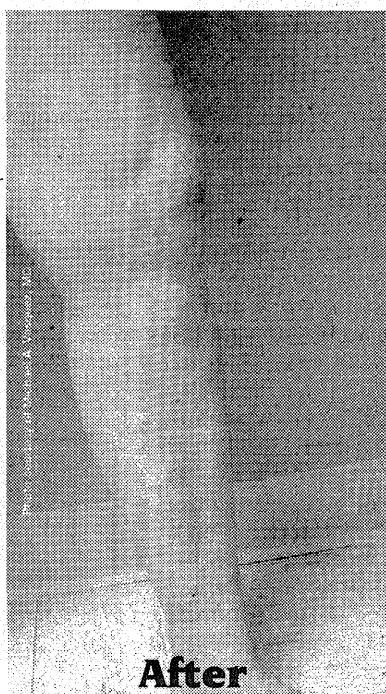
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## Kline remembered as 'phenomenal woman'

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While the William P. Faust Public Library has lost a dedicated employee with the death of Carolyn Kline, but for Diane Guzik, it's much more.

"Carolyn was my best friend," said Guzik. "We knew each other since ninth grade. We went to Rosary High School in Detroit and were fast friends."

Mrs. Kline died Aug. 11 after a long battle with ovarian cancer. She was 57.

Mrs. Kline studied elementary education at Wayne State University and taught at St. Robert Bellarmine School until she married her husband, Frederick. A Plymouth resident, she started at the Westland library 13 years ago as a page and worked up to a position in the children's department.

According to Guzik, Mrs. Kline would decorate showcases, using her Beanie Babies and the Madame Alexander dolls she had been collecting since childhood.

"She loved American Girl and did American Girl programs at the library," said Guzik, who lives in Livonia. "She got her brother Richard to come and do a science pro-



Mrs. Kline

gram for the children. Her husband grew up on an apple farm near Grand Rapids and she got his to dress as Johnny Appleseed and come in to talk about the different apples."

Along with the dolls, she also enjoyed collected children's literature and teddy bears which she also shared with the children at the library. She also enjoyed the family camping vacations and the weekend camping trips.

Mrs. Kline had been cancer-free for seven years when the disease returned. She went through two rounds of chemotherapy and radiation and but was "bound and determined to go to work," so she did six-hour shifts, her friend said.

Toward the end, when she didn't drive, her daughter, her friends and her husband would take her to work. Frederick Kline would stay at the library until she finished her shift, at times helping her with her displays, Guzik said.

The week before she died, the Klines and a brother and sister-in-law drove to South Bend, Ind., to see Notre Dame

University. She could only travel three hours at a time, so they made several stops along the way.

"She kept saying she wasn't going to let the cancer take over, 'It's going to live in me, but I'm going to fight it,'" Guzik recalled. "She was phenomenal woman who would not give up."

Guzik is glad she "hooked up" with Mrs. Kline so many years ago and sees her late friend as an inspiration for other cancer patients.

"She never gave up," Guzik said. "She had a lot of adversity, but she was always very positive. I'm going to miss talking to her."

Mrs. Kline is survived by her husband, Frederick, daughters Ellen and Emily, her mother, Lillian Brudzynski, brothers Richard Brudzynski and Daniel (Carole) Brudzynski and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her father, Richard Brudzynski, sister Christine and husband Larry Szostak.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 20450 Civic Center Drive, Southfield, MI 48076, Attention: Memorial Department or to the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, MI 48185.

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### Truth in transparency

Megan Birdwell of Plymouth looks on as Lake Superior State University chemistry professor Judy Westrick demonstrates a technique in forensics lab. Birdwell was running an analysis that uses light to deduce the properties of something translucent, in this case glass collected at a staged crime scene that contained clove oil. Students from all over the country attended LSSU's weeklong forensics science camp in Sault Ste. Marie. Campers gathered evidence at a crime scene, processed it in LSSU's chemistry labs, and then presented their findings at a mock trial. Run a Web search for 'LSSU summer camps' for more information on sessions during August.

## W-W meets Disney at back-to-school event

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What do the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the popular Disney Radio have in common? You'll find out Saturday, Aug. 29, when the radio network for kids, tweens and families stops by Westland Shopping Center for a two-hour show highlighting the school district.

The 2-4 p.m. program is powered by the Wayne-Westland school district and Co-Op Credit Union. It offers parents an opportunity to learn more about the school district and its programs and get their children registered for school, according to Maria Mitter, director of the district's Family Resource Center.

"Radio Disney approached the school district about partnering with a back-to-school event," Mitter said. "It's open to the community and it's all free."

There event is geared for students of all ages — from preschool to high school. The district will have booths set up showing off its food services, transportation, career, technical and preschool programs. Chef Tony Paquette, culinary arts instructor for the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, will be tempting participants with a selection of pastries, while Radio Disney will host Wii baseball and allow kids to participate in games on the Disney stage.

Kids also can register for a drawing to win the chance to throw out the first pitch at a Detroit Tigers baseball game, while Dave Rozma of the 1984 world championship Detroit Tigers will be signing autographs 2-3:30 p.m.

The district's high schools also will be featured with cheerleaders, instrumental music and JROTC members on hand.

"This is geared for preschool to high school," Mitter said. We'll have information on our career technical center and out preschool programs. We'll also be showing our *Best in Michigan* video."

According to Mitter, this the first time Wayne-Westland has done an event like this. It was Radio Disney that approached the district about doing the back-to-school event, she said.

"It works well because we have the power to draw in people with our marketing," she said. "Radio Disney is working with the district to get parents involved, so this is a good match. This has gone very smoothly, so I can see us doing this again."

The back-to-school event will be in held the East Court of the shopping center, located at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

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# Regional Marketplace

ADVERTISING FEATURE



## Samuel Fawaz, M.D. brings prestige of Beaumont Hospitals to Wayne County residents

BY MIKE HOGAN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Across the United States, Beaumont doctors are known to be the best of the best. Beaumont doctors are experienced and highly-trained in diagnosis and healing. Samuel Fawaz, M.D. is the epitome of a Beaumont doctor.

Dr. Fawaz holds an impressive resume of teaching positions and memberships with medical organizations. He is a member of the medical staff at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and currently serves as faculty for the hospital's Internal Medicine residency teaching program. In addition, Dr. Fawaz is assistant clinical professor of medicine at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine and Wayne State University School of Medicine and is a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Physicians and the Michigan State Medical Society.

With all these credentials, Dr. Fawaz has a vast knowledge of treating illnesses. Dr. Fawaz is specially trained in adult medicine and serves as a healer and medical care manager throughout a patient's adult life. As a doctor of internal medicine, he is an expert in preventing, finding and treating any illness. From heart to head, from 14 years to old age, a doctor of internal medicine is equipped to manage a patient's treatment in office or

throughout Beaumont's network of state of the art medical facilities. If necessary, Dr. Fawaz is able to call on specialists from any field because of his association with the Beaumont network.

Dr. Fawaz is located in beautiful Cherry Hill Village in Canton. His office is clean, sophisticated and welcoming to all patients. Dr. Fawaz's staff is educated, experienced and caring. Both the

office and staff exude a sense of warmth and professionalism. Patients entering Dr. Fawaz's office know they are in good hands.

"I'm proud to bring all the benefits of Beaumont Hospitals to the communities of Western Wayne County," said Dr. Fawaz of his relationship with the Beaumont network. "Along with my unparalleled commitment to healing, I can leverage Beaumont's

leading-edge technology and breakthrough research to better diagnose and treat all of my patients."

Beaumont Hospital is ranked in the top 50 of America's Best Hospitals in the Nation, according to U.S. News and World Report. Of 4,861 hospitals, Beaumont was one of 174 hospitals that scored high enough to be ranked in every one of the 16 specialties that were scored. Beaumont Hospital was given high marks for excellence in many specialties, including treating diabetes and endocrine disorders, heart surgery, respiratory disorders, urology, geriatric care, digestive disorders, orthopedics, neurology and neurosurgery.

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Dr. Fawaz will be conducting a free health screening in his Canton office. The health screenings require no appointment and come at no cost to the patient. The health screening will consist of checking the patient's blood sugar, hearing, oxygenation, pulse and blood pressure.

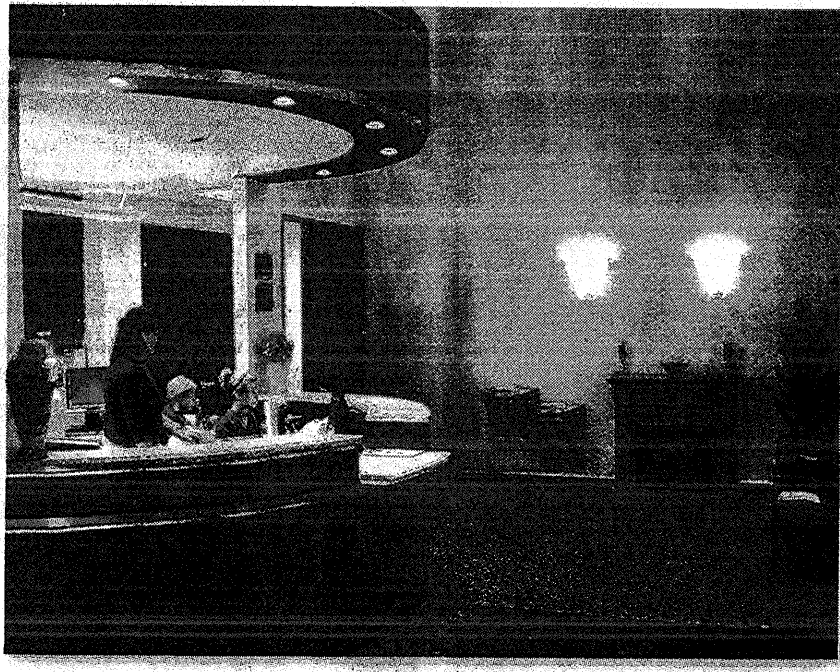
Dr. Samuel Fawaz is located on the second floor of the Coldstone Creamery Building in Cherry Hill Village in Canton at 50439 Independence St. To schedule school physicals, flu shots or any problem requiring an internist, please call 734-398-5554. Dr. Fawaz's office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE HOGAN

Located in Cherry Hill Village in Canton, Dr. Samuel Fawaz's office is beautiful and welcoming. Dr. Fawaz is specially trained in adult medicine and serves as a healer and medical care manager throughout a patient's life.

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SUNDAY  
August 23,  
2009

SECTION B  
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637  
tsmith@hometownlife.com

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

GARAGE  
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SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

# HOMETOWN LIFE

2009 FOOTBALL PREVIEW - PART 1

## Hang-10, again?

### Baechler, Canton gridders won't bask in last season's success

The Salem football preview will appear in the Thursday, Aug. 27 edition.

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ten-victory seasons are great, but don't expect Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler to allow his 2009 Chiefs to rest on last year's success.

"I know we're going to probably be favored to win the league," said Baechler, entering his 12th season at the Canton helm. "But we have to bring it every single Friday."

The first Friday is this week against Brighton, one of several solid teams in the division.

"We play in a very tough division," Baechler noted. "You just can't go through and mark off your schedule that 'We're going to win these games automatically.' There's a lot of parity."

And because of that, Baechler knows his team needs to tighten up defensively to approach or match the 10 wins notched in 2008. Last year's offensive fireworks sparked divisional (South) and conference (Lakes) championships in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association as well as a district triumph.

"We gave up way too many points, we averaged 25 or 26 points (against) per game," he said. "If we hold a team to under 15 points we should win."

Baechler mentioned the regional final defeat to Livonia Stevenson, when Canton scored 31 points — but gave up 38 and lost to end the season on a downer. "It caught up to us."

The 2009 defense can be "fast



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton quarterback Kevin Delapaz (right) calls the plays during a preseason workout. Delapaz and his Chiefs' teammates have the ingredients to again be a force in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

and very physical," but first some nagging aches and pains need to heal up, the coach emphasized.

"I think they'll have the ability to create turnovers," Baechler said. "The bottom line is how many points you give up. I'm thinking we'll be drastically improved over last year's group in that department, at least I'm

Please see **CANTON, B3**

#### FAST FACTS

**School:** Canton.

**Head coach:** Tim Baechler, 12th season.

**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's record:** 10-2 (including playoffs).

**Notable losses to graduation:** Kiere Daniels (first-team All-Area); Justin Sneddon (first-team All-Area); Pat Madish (first-team All-Area); Jason Hu (second-team All-Area);

Nick Sweda (second-team All-Area).

**Starters returning:** Kevin Delapaz, Adam Payter, Dakota Dark-Bird, Carter Stafffield, Ron Gaudi, Alex Dixon.

**2009 schedule:** Aug. 28 (at Brighton); Sept. 3 (at Lakeland); Sept. 11 (vs. Plymouth at PCEP); Sept. 18 (John Glenn); Sept. 25 (at Wayne Memorial); Oct. 2 (Franklin); Oct. 9 (at Churchill); Oct. 16 (KLAA crossover); Oct. 23 (vs. Salem at PCEP).

## Wildcats are eager to crank it up in '09

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cranking up the intensity level before the first game is just what Plymouth varsity football coach Mike Sawchuk is witnessing from his team.

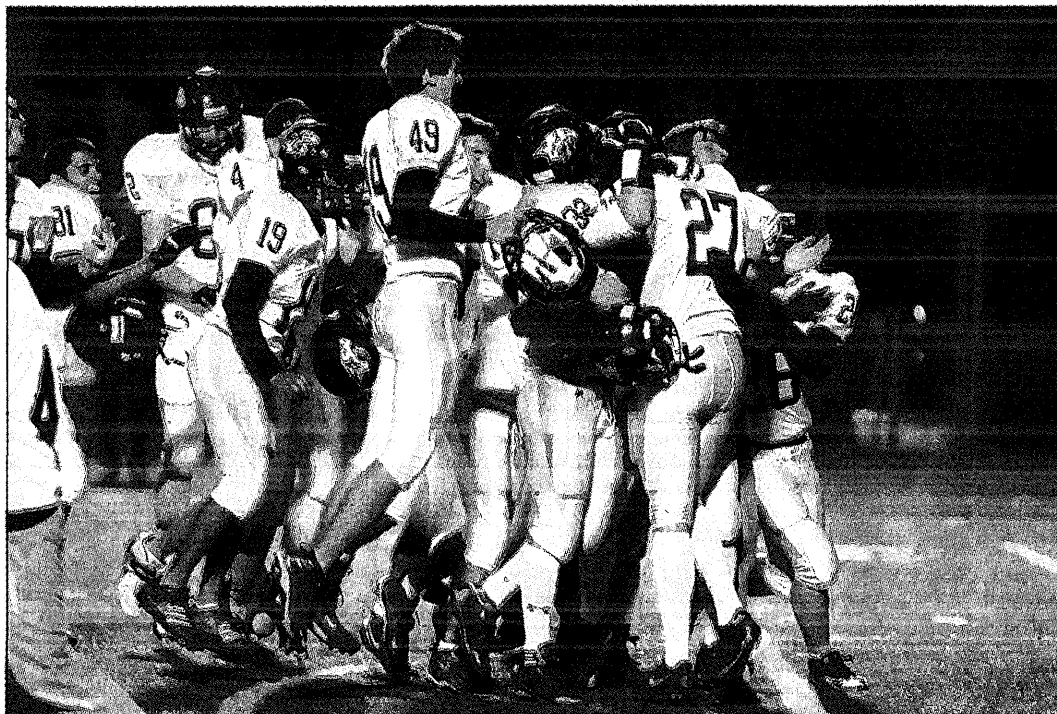
The Wildcats start the 2009 season at 7 p.m. Friday at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park against next-door neighbor Salem — coached by ex-Plymouth offensive coordinator Kurt Britnell.

That, plus the fact players from both teams often sit next to each other in math or science class during the year, adds a little spice to the Plymouth-Salem matchup.

"Obviously, if your opponent's in the classroom, it makes it that much more intense," said Sawchuk, whose team will be looking to improve on a 6-3 mark in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-South Division.

Sawchuk expects the Wildcats to be a competitive bunch, with a blend of speed, strength and the "X-factor" kicking of junior Kyle Brindza.

"He's ranked the best kicker in Michigan," Sawchuk said. "Every



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

One of last season's sparkplugs for Plymouth was kicker Kyle Brindza (27), shown after kicking a game-winning field goal against Livonia Franklin. Brindza again will be a catalyst for the Wildcats.

kickoff is going into the end zone, so nobody's going to get returns. "I also feel comfortable kicking a 50-yard field goal with him."

#### FLYING AROUND

Brindza's prowess should force opponents to navigate lengthy drives on offense, and Plymouth's formidable defense

will be ready.

"We're going to fly around and hit people," Sawchuk said. "We

Please see **WILDCATS, B3**

#### FAST FACTS

**School:** Plymouth.

**Head coach:** Mike Sawchuk, 3rd season.

**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's record:** 6-4 (including playoffs).

**Notable losses to graduation:** Terrance Guthridge (first-team All-Area); Ronnie Goble (first-team All-Area); Connor Martin (first-team All-Area); Zack Hamed (second-team All-Area); Jake Gilbert (second-team All-Area).

**Starters returning:** Kyle Brindza, Matt Priebe, Jordan Berman, Darrell Cohn, Tyler Grosh.

**2009 schedule:** Aug. 28 (vs. Salem at PCEP); Sept. 3 (at Brighton); Sept. 11 (vs. Canton at PCEP); Sept. 18 (at Wayne Memorial); Sept. 25 (Churchill-Homecoming); Oct. 2 (at John Glenn); Oct. 9 (Franklin); Oct. 16 (at KLAA crossover); Oct. 23 (at Adrian).

## SIDELINES

### Sunday Night Mixers

Superbowl in Plymouth is hosting a mixed bowling league on Sundays, with action beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13.

League president Chico Rodriguez said he needs couples who are interested in joining the fun to hurry and sign up. Contact secretary Sandy Carpenter (734-637-3363) or Rodriguez (734-453-2980; roscater@comcast.net) for more information.

### Coaches please call

The fall sports season is upon us, so high school varsity coaches are asked to contact new Plymouth-Canton Observer sports editor Tim Smith at (313) 222-2637 or tsmith@hometownlife.com with game recaps and story ideas.

Deadlines are Tuesday evenings for the Thursday edition and Fridays for the Sunday edition.

### MU spikers 12th

Reigning Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champion Madonna University is ranked No. 12 in the inaugural National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2009 Volleyball Coaches' preseason poll.

The Crusaders, who have advanced to the NAIA Nationals in each of the last eight seasons, ended last season ranked 11th while finishing 35-7 overall.

Defending national champion Fresno Pacific (Calif.) opens the year at No. 1.

The Crusaders open the season Friday and Saturday at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Early Bird Classic.

### Whaler alum game

The Plymouth Whalers start their 20th season in the Ontario Hockey League with their annual training camp, Aug. 26-29 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Several special events will augment the camp itself, including the first-ever Whalers' Alumni Game set for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, also at Compuware.

Whalers alumni currently committed to playing in the game include Pat Peake (1990-93), Chris Terry (2005-09), John Vigilante (2002-06), Steve Ward (2004-07), Andrew Fournier (2003-08), Tom Sestito (2004-07), Damian Surma (1998-2002), Dan Pawlaczyk (1993-97), Shaun Fisher (1997-2000), Bill McCauley (1992-95), David Liffiton (2001-04), Zack Shepley (2003-08), Kris Purdy (1997-2000), Scott Holsinger (1997-99), Jamie Lalonde (1997-2000), Duane Harmer (1993-95), Jeff Mitchell (1992-95) and James Ramsay (1998-2001).

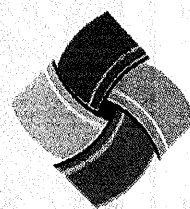
More alumni are expected to be added to the roster.

The game is the caper to a busy week. The 2009-10 training camp begins with off-ice testing Wednesday, Aug. 26, followed by scrimmages 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.

Please see **SIDELINES, B2**

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THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP FOOTBALL**  
 FRIDAY, AUG. 28  
 Plymouth vs. Salem at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, 7 p.m.  
 Canton at Brighton, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**  
 SATURDAY, AUG. 29  
 Walled Lake Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

**BOYS SOCCER**  
 MONDAY, AUG. 24  
 Salem vs. Plymouth at PCEP, 7 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Aug. 25  
 Ply. Christian at Oak. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
 Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26**  
 Plymouth at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.  
 Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 27**  
 W.L. Western at Canton, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 29**  
 Salem at Lake Orion, 10 a.m.  
 Inter-City Baptist at Ply. Christian, 11 a.m.

at Stafford Field

**GIRLS GOLF**  
 THURSDAY, AUG. 20  
 Chelsea Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 21**  
 Monroe-Jeff. Inv. at Raisin River, 8:30 a.m.

**BOYS TENNIS**  
 MONDAY, AUG. 24  
 Ply. Christian at South Lyon East, 4 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 27**  
 Ply. Christian at Plymouth (Scrimmage), 4:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 28**  
 Ply. Christian at Fowlerville Tournament, 8 a.m.

**GIRLS SWIMMING**  
 THURSDAY, AUG. 27  
 WSU Warrior Relays, 5 p.m.  
 Plymouth at Tecumseh, 6:30 p.m.

**BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**  
 SATURDAY, AUG. 29  
 South Lyon Invitational, 10:10 a.m.

# Spartans' coach Tripp resigns

BY BRAD EMONS  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson is searching for a varsity girls basketball coach after the sudden resignation by Paul Tripp, who guided the Spartans to a 7-14 record in his only season.

Tripp, who underwent hip replacement surgery earlier this month, cited medical reasons.

"After consulting with my orthopedic surgeon and the staff of therapists, my recovery will be much more extensive than anticipated," Tripp said in an e-mail to *The Observer*. "Physical restrictions, precautions, and risks will not allow me to devote the time and energy needed to continue growing the program."

Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman said the job posting ended last week and interviews will begin Tuesday to hire a permanent replacement.

Tripp, who teaches in the Northville Public Schools, took over in 2008-09 for Pat Cannon, who went 4-17 in his only season

as coach with the Spartans after Cannon left to become the varsity coach at Livonia Ladywood (where he had been a longtime assistant).

"We hope to have somebody in place by next week," Hyman said on Friday. "Paul was really struggling after his hip surgery and I think with the time factor. He's a good family man, a good community man and a good teacher."

Prior to his surgery and during the offseason, Tripp hosted a pre-season scrimmage, implemented the Horizon Hoop program and had taken his squad to a team camp at Notre Dame University.

"When I signed on as the coach at Stevenson, it was with the intention of building the program over several years with the input of the players, families, and staff who have been a long-standing part of the Spartan tradition," Tripp said in the e-mail. "If the administration selects a permanent replacement, I wish both you and them the best in advancing the efforts we put in motion during the '08-09 season."

## SIDELINES

FROM PAGE B1

both Thursday and Friday, Aug. 27-28.

The scrimmages are open to the public and media. Rosters will be provided the days of the scrimmage.

The Whalers then will open the preseason at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, in Brighton against Saginaw at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Proceeds of the game will support the Kensington Valley Hockey Association. Tickets for the game are currently being sold at Brighton Ford, 8240 Grand River Ave., just north of I-96, in Brighton. For more information, call Brighton Ford at (800) 836-8206.

Training camp concludes with the alumni game; tickets for the

event are free. Following the contest, fans are invited to reconnect with Whalers alumni in a reception at CJ's Brewery at 5 p.m.

### Elks winners

Among the age-group winners for the 11th annual Elks Soccer Shoot held Monday at the Livonia Community Recreation Center and hosted by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation include:

**Boys 12-13:** Alex Biskelonis (34-of-75); **Girls 12-13:** Andrea Kwasneqicz (17-of-75); **Boys 10-11:** Joseph Choma (14-of-75); **Girls 10-11:** Kendra Pennington (19-of-75); **Boys 8-9:** Michael Hudock (28-of-45); **Girls 8-9:** Kayla Martinez (29-of-45); **Boys 7-and-under:** Daniel Terrian (27-of-45); **Girls 7-and-under:** Kirsten Martinez (19-of-45).

Winners advance to the district competition.

# Start of golf season time for optimism

BY TIM SMITH  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

## GOLF PREVIEW - PART 1

Area girls golf teams are getting set for another season on the links.

For Plymouth High School coach Chris Moore, the 2009 team picks up where last year's left off. Meanwhile, the Canton squad (coached by Dan Riggs) is looking to overcome the graduation of several key players.

Following is a look at the Plymouth and Canton teams. (The Salem preview will be forthcoming):

### PLYMOUTH

The entire 2008 Wildcats team is back this year, said Moore, whose squad opens with an invitational Monday

at Prestwick Country Club in Highland.

"Last year we were in the process of building for the future," he said. "At the end of the 2008 season, we had made significant progress and I was looking forward to this year. More than half of my team are underclassmen, we are trying to build and be successful for many years to come."

The Wildcats have set some lofty goals for 2009, beginning with improving with every practice and match. From there, the team is looking to win their KLAA division, be among the top three teams in the conference and qualify for the state tournament at Forest Akers.

Plymouth's top six golfers entering Monday's tourney are freshmen Kelsey Murphy and Sarah Thompson, returning juniors Chloe Marentic and Christy Pattison, returning senior Liz Cizek and freshman Mandy Kirsch.

Moore said other freshmen who could help the cause include Haley Swanson and Danielle Allen.

Meanwhile, returnees Stefania Sgambati (junior), Maggie Furlong (sophomore) and Lindsey Dean (sophomore) also are making strides.

### CANTON

Riggs, who is beginning his 28th season as the Chiefs' head coach, said the team is looking forward to a great year despite

losing some key seniors.

"We have several new players that should help us with some depth," he said. "I feel that we will be competitive in our conference" with teams such as Plymouth.

Returnees to lead the way include Megan Baumgart, Erin Lixie, Mary Elizabeth Winther, Lina Petryczkiewicz, Ariel Alber and Paige Osler. Those girls were part of the '08 team that placed fourth at the KLAA league meet.

Canton opens on Tuesday at Fox Creek in Livonia at the Franklin-hosted tournament. The first dual meet is Aug. 31 at home (Hilltop Golf Course) against Wayne Memorial.

"I hope that we start out the year on a good note."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## Sunday Night Mixers

Superbowl in Plymouth is hosting a mixed bowling league on Sundays, with action beginning 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 13.

League president Chico Rodriguez said he needs couples who are interested in joining the fun to hurry and sign up. Contact secretary Sandy Carpenter (734-637-3363) or Rodriguez (734-453-2980; rosecaater@comcast.net) for more information.

### Coaches please call

The fall sports season is upon us, so high school varsity coaches are asked to contact new Plymouth-Canton Observer sports editor Tim Smith at (313) 222-2637 or tsmith@hometownlife.com with game recaps and story ideas.

Deadlines are Tuesday evenings for the Thursday edition and Fridays for the Sunday edition.

### Whaler alum game

The Plymouth Whalers start their 20th season in the Ontario Hockey League with their annual training camp, Aug. 26-29 at Computware Arena in Plymouth.

Several special events will augment the camp itself, including the first-ever Whalers' Alumni Game set for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, also at Computware.

Whalers alumni currently committed to playing in the game include Pat Peake (1990-93), Chris Terry (2005-09), John Vigilante (2002-06), Steve Ward (2004-07), Andrew Fournier (2003-08), Tom Sestito (2004-07), Damian Surma (1998-2002), Dan Pawlaczyk (1993-97), Shaun Fisher (1997-2000), Bill McCauley (1992-95), David Liffiton (2001-04), Zack Shepley (2003-08), Kris Purdy (1997-2000), Scott Holsinger (1997-99), Jamie Lalonde (1997-2000), Duane Harmer (1993-

95), Jeff Mitchell (1992-95) and James Ramsay (1998-2001).

More alumni are expected to be added to the roster.

The game is the caper to a busy week. The 2009-10 training camp begins with off-ice testing Wednesday, Aug. 26, followed by scrimmages 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. both Thursday and Friday, Aug. 27-28.

The scrimmages are open to the public and media. Rosters will be provided the days of the scrimmage.

The Whalers then will open the preseason at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, in Brighton against Saginaw at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Proceeds of the game will support the Kensington Valley Hockey Association. Tickets for the game are currently being sold at Brighton Ford, 8240 Grand River Ave., just north of I-96, in Brighton. For more information, call Brighton Ford at (800) 836-8206.

Training camp concludes with the alumni game; tickets for the event are free. Following the contest, fans are invited to reconnect with Whalers alumni in a reception at CJ's Brewery at 5 p.m.

### Cool happenings

Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena continues to be a busy place even during the summer.

Drop-in Hockey sessions take place 4:30-to-5:50 p.m. weekdays and 10-to-11:50 a.m. on Sundays through Aug. 30.

There also are open skating sessions (noon to 2:15 p.m. weekdays; 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Saturdays) and "Sticks and Pucks" (2:30-4:20 p.m. weekdays; 12:30-2:20 p.m. Saturdays), also until the end of this month.

For more information, contact the Open Skate Line (734) 455-6620 or go to [www.ci.plymouth.mi.us](http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us) for up-to-date changes if any.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Youth baseball tryouts

The Livonia Baseball Club will stage 2010 travel tryouts for its under-10 team from noon to 2 p.m. and its under-12 team from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30 and Sunday, Sept. 20 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park (Diamond No. 7). For more information, call Mike Turbin (under-12) at (313) 303-9728 or Joe Jakacki (under-10) at (734) 469-4217.

### Churchill Meet Team

Livonia Churchill will stage its Meet the Team Night beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at Carli Auditorium.

Athletes from all three athletic seasons and their parents are requested to attend.

For more information, call Churchill Athletics at 734-744-2650, Ext. 46117.

### Stevenson Meet Team

Livonia Stevenson will hold its Meet the Team Night from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19 at the high school auditorium.

Attendance for all ninth- and 10th-graders, along with newcomer athletes and parents, are requested for an introduction meeting at 7 p.m. Juniors and seniors should report for specific sports breakout meetings with their parents at 7:45 p.m.

For more information, call Stevenson athletics at (734) 744-2500.

### Elks Soccer Shoot

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's annual Elks Soccer Shoot will be at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17 at the Livonia Community Center soccer fields, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Registration, which is free, starts at 4:30 p.m.

Boys and girls separate age groups, determined as of Aug. 1, 2009, include 7-and-under, 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Age-group winners advance to the state contest in October.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

### 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 West 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 [rmontre@juno.com](mailto:rmontre@juno.com).

### Coaches wanted

Livonia Ladywood High School is seeking a girls JV golf coach for the 2009 fall season and a girls varsity pom pon coach for the 2009-10 winter season.

Those interested should fax a resume to Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

### Fall hoops league

Madonna University will sponsor a Sunday fall basketball league at 1 p.m. (ages 11-13) and 3 p.m. (ages 14-16) beginning Sept. 13 (through Oct. 25).

Each player will be guaranteed a minimum of seven games and will receive instruction prior to each game. (Game times will vary each week.)

The cost is \$125 per player (includes reversible jersey).

For more information, visit [www.madonnacrusers.com](http://www.madonnacrusers.com) (click on summer camps link at the top of the page).

### Punt, Pass & Kick

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's 2009 NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition for ages 8-15 will be Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center's soccer fields, located at 15100 Hubbard (between Farmington and Merriman roads).

Registration, which is free, starts at 5:30 p.m. Competition begins at 6 p.m.

Age classification is as of Dec. 31 of the current year. No football shoes, cleats or turf shoes are allowed. Only gym shoes will be permitted.

The top finishers from each of eight age groups at the local competition will advance to a sectional competition. Sectional scores will be compared with other sectional champions with the top five scorers from the pool of sectional champions advancing to the team championship.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

**CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction August 25th, 2009 at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing at 6375 Hix, Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
1992	Ford	Aerostar	1FMDA31UXNZB53761
2003	Dodge	Neon	1B3ES56C93D213431
1994	Chevrolet	Camaro	2G1FP22S7R2149011
1991	GMC	Jimmy	1GKDT13Z4M2557646
1997	Honda	Civic	1HGEJ6123VL000846
1998	Ford	Crown Vic	2FAPF74W5WX106649
1991	Chrysler	LeBaron	3C3XA5630MT029375
1996	Ford	Taurus	1FALP52U7TG269619
1993	Pontiac	Grand Am	1G2NW1WN6PC805708
1997	Dodge	Ram	3B7HC13YOVG778013
1998	Oldsmobile	Cutlass	1G3NG52M8W6318629
1982	Seaking	Boat	64W15093

Publish: August 23, 2009

**The Charter Township of Plymouth**

**Public Notice**

Beginning 9-1-09, the Charter Township of Plymouth Department of Public Works will start its fire hydrant winterization program. You may notice a temporary discoloration of your water. This should only be for a short period of time. Any prolonged problems should be reported to the DPW by calling 734-354-3270 x3.

Joe Bridgman, CMC Clerk

Publish: August 23 and 27, 2009

**MEDICARE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

Notice is hereby given that on September 11, 2009 the agreement between Omni Home Care, Wayne, Michigan and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as a home health agency in the Medicare program will be terminated.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has determined that Omni Home Care is not in compliance with the following Medicare Conditions of Participation for home health agencies.

- 42 CFR 484.18 - Acceptance of Patients, Plan of Care, and Medical Supervision
- 42 CFR 484.30 - Skilled Nursing Services
- 42 CFR 484.34 - Medical Social Services
- 42 CFR 484.55 - Comprehensive Assessment of Patients

The Medicare program will not make payment for home health services furnished to patients whose plan of treatment was established on or after September 11, 2009. For patients whose plan of treatment was established prior to September 11, 2009, payment will be made for up to 30 days of covered services furnished after September 11, 2009.

Illia Villanueva  
 Branch Manager  
 Non-Long Term Care Certification  
 & Enforcement Branch  
 Division of Survey and Certification

Publish: August 23, 2009

**BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES**

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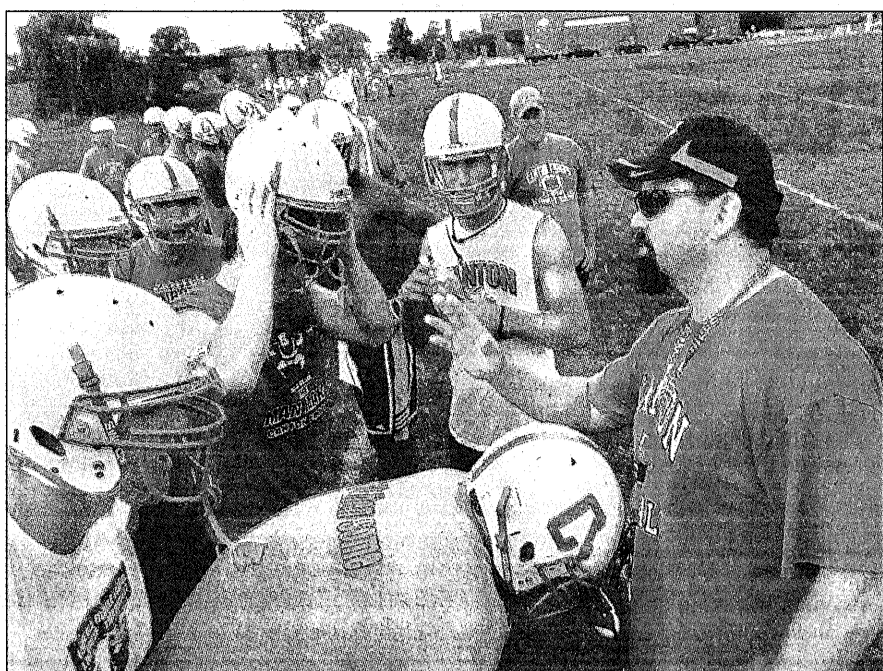
**AUGUST 27**

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 BOX OFFICES AND ALL **ticketmaster** OUTLETS. CHARGE AT 1-800-745-3000.

Despite some injuries and concerns about depth at some positions entering the 2009 season, Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler (right) is very optimistic about this year's squad.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



**CANTON**

FROM PAGE B1

**IN YOUR FACE**

An excellent core of linebackers led by senior all-leaguer Alex Dixon will be called upon to get in the face of opposing running backs. Dixon is looking strong so far during the pre-season.

Other linebackers who bring plenty to the table include senior Jake Underwood, junior Jack Slater (both outside backers) and promising junior inside backer Garrett Bryden.

Up front on defense will be a "small but very quick" line, spearheaded by gritty senior Ryan Dunleavy, 6-3 senior Dakota Dark-Bird (who is recovering from an injury), juniors Mike Sams, Ben Poirer and senior Tyler Hult. Also getting some reps on the D-Line is senior Alec Gilo (a starter on the offensive line).

More nagging injuries are bothering players who Baechler is counting on for the secondary. Junior safety Davion Stackhouse, for example, injured his shoulder over the summer and is still trying to get back to 100 percent.

But Stackhouse should be good to go against Brighton, as will junior safety Ryan Powell, senior cornerback Arron

Boudreaux and junior cornerback Josh Nolan.

Kevin Buford, a sophomore, also is getting some practice time in at cornerback.

**KUDOS FOR QB**

On the offensive side of the ball, the Chiefs again will feature some playmakers directed by multi-faceted senior quarterback Kevin Delapaz (700 yards passing, 450 yards rushing, 11 TD passes and 0 interceptions).

Delapaz, according to Baechler, "brings leadership, the ability to make plays under pressure. He just manages the huddle well. He just builds a big level of trust with everybody when he's on the field."

It helps to also have a cast of receivers who can motor and reel in the pigskin.

Returning wide-out Boudreaux is "a 4.5-40 kid" who can get open in a hurry, Baechler said. Delapaz also will look to find targets coming out of the backfield, such as senior Ron Gaudi who "is looking good so far."

Stackhouse and Powell can run and receive, too, giving Delapaz options. Another plus is having returning starting full-back Adam Payter back to help anchor the running game.

For all of that to happen, of course, the linemen need to do their jobs. As the season opener nears, Baechler said he was still

hoping we are."

looking for improved blocking up front. "They all will be able to, but we're impatient," he said. "We want it now. But it's not there yet."

**LOFTY EXPECTATIONS**

Looking solid so far are Dunleavy (at center) and senior guards Chris Hilton and Gilo while returning starting tackle Carter Staffield also provides experience. Meanwhile, Baechler wants another center to emerge to enable Dunleavy to be fresh for his defensive duties.

Dark-Bird and Dixon should be able to do the job at tight end, but both are still nursing injuries.

"Right now we're going through some growing pains, with blocking, and I need to find those playmakers who will make plays when we throw the ball," Baechler said. "(But) there's no reason why we couldn't be just as good offensively this year if not better than last year."

That, and a tighter defense, could definitely propel the Chiefs to another playoff berth at the very least.

"Our expectations are high," summed up Baechler. "We made our team goals yesterday and we're trying to get them to live up to them."

That probably spells trouble for the rest of the KLAA.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

**WILDCATS**

FROM PAGE B1

pride ourselves on running to the football, having 11 hats on the football.

"Our defensive practice starts with pursuit drills and all 11 players are running to the football."

Up front will be two-way all-KLAA linemen in Darrell Cohn, Jordan Berman and Matt Priebe, along with junior Brennen Beyer at defensive end.

The secondary features senior cornerbacks Tyler Grosh and speedster Jarnarian Caldwell, the latter who was ineligible to play in 2008.

"He (Caldwell) will be our main guy," Sawchuk said. "He's pretty special."

Although Plymouth lost its 2008 contingent of all-league linebackers, Sawchuk feels pretty good about this year's group. It includes senior Jamie Emminger, junior Tony Rhoades and sophomore Tyler Goble.

"Those three are primed for the job, they have some screws loose," he said. "They're perfect linebacker types, they're not

afraid to get in there ... they're relentless."

**GO TIME ON OFFENSE**

The Wildcats' offense should be efficient and not be frazzled when drives sputter simply because they know Brindza can still tack three points onto the scoreboard.

But veteran linemen such as Berman, Priebe, senior center Keith Choma, senior guard Chris Belanger and senior tackle Matt Sheridan should provide plenty of room for Caldwell to show his blazing speed or for quarterbacks Ryan Barrera and Vic Hicks (senior and junior, respectively) to look downfield.

In reserve will be junior Matt Wallath and Goble.

"Your offensive line makes it go," Sawchuk said. "We have those guys coming back. But it helps to have a 4.4 40 running back (Caldwell) running behind them."

Other solid options out of the backfield to run or catch include senior Tommy Whitlow and juniors Jerel Jenkins and Tony Rhoades.

The quarterbacks are vying for the top spot, but Sawchuk said whoever isn't lining up

behind center likely will be on the gridiron either at receiver or tailback.

"Ryan played backup last year and played all our special teams," he said. "Vic was the starting JV quarterback last year."

"They're so athletic, we switched our offense. We're going to a shotgun, one-back spread so they can be athletes and they're not just handing the ball off or throwing it. Now they can run." When they do throw the football, the running backs won't be the only options.

The 6-4, 205-pound Beyer will be a top target. Not only is he big and strong enough to play on the line of scrimmage, "he has awesome hands."

Junior receiver Jake Morris also will be looking to grab some passes.

Sawchuk said the Wildcats must play fundamentally strong football to improve their chances in the very tough KLAA-South.

"I would like to be able to run the football and control the clock a little more than we've done in the past and keep the defense off the field," he added.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

**It's deja vu on the links for family**

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In April 1990, John Bugeja and three buddies walked the uneven terrain at Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth on a blistering day. Bugeja was a novice to the sport then, and yet he aced the 140-yard 17th hole.

A little over 19 years later, Canton's Bugeja is still calling himself a "weekend hacker" and his second hole-in-one never materialized. But his 22-year-old son, Canton High School alum and former varsity golfer Corey Bugeja duplicated the feat — at the very same 17th hole.

"I called him (John Bugeja) at the next tee box," said Corey Bugeja about his July achievement. "And he told me he was proud of me. But my adrenaline was pumping so much that I teed up my hole-in-one ball on the 18th and hit it into the woods.

"I had to look 15 minutes to find it. But I did."

Corey chuckled while recalling that part of the story.

The younger Bugeja was golfing with buddies Steve Zelmanski, Steve Mischung and Bryan Wioncek and everybody knew it was pretty strange for the feat to take place right where John Bugeja's ace occurred.

So did John when his son called him on the cell phone to relay news of the happy coincidence.

"He (John) thought it was pretty weird," Corey said. "And I thought it was really crazy."

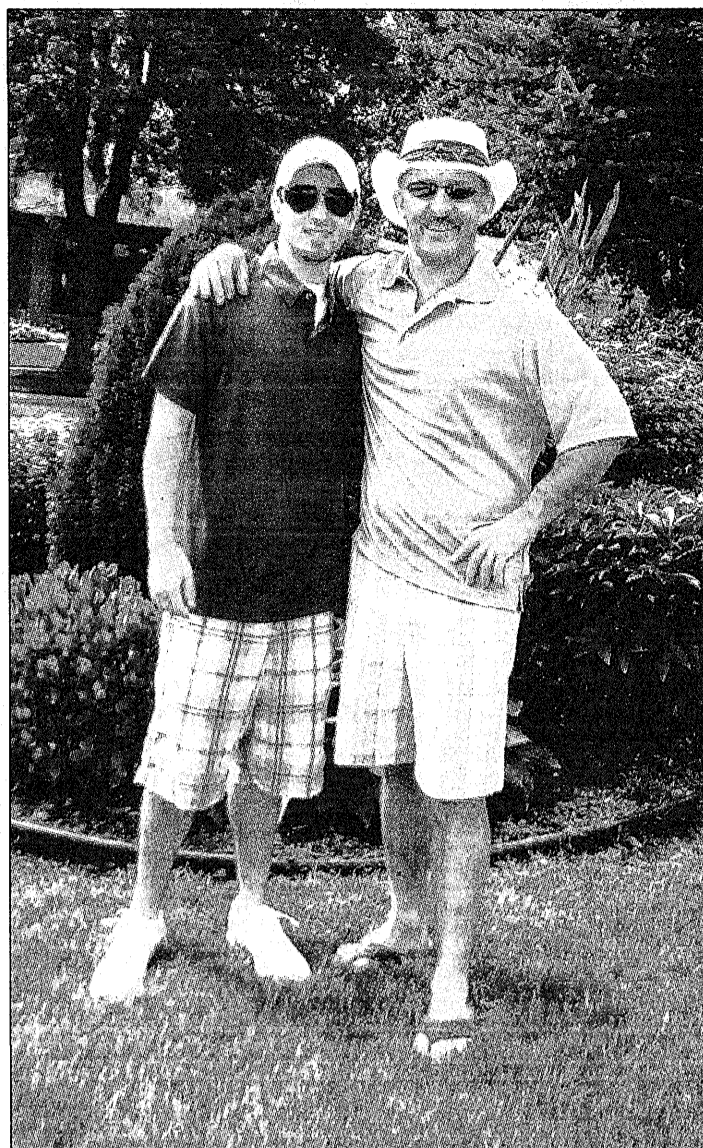
**UNREAL FEELING**

Corey said he used a 9-iron to drop his tee-shot into the cup. The ball scooted downhill, took "two hops and a little roll and it disappeared."

When the ball dropped out of sight, "I kind of started screaming. It was kind of unreal to get one."

John Bugeja couldn't remember what kind of club he used for his hole-in-one in '90. But he did remember that it was such a hot day that part of his group called it quits early for the afternoon.

"It was a miserably hot day and by the ninth hole one of the guys couldn't go on," he



Corey Bugeja (left) and his dad, John Bugeja, both of Canton, each registered hole-in-ones at the 140-yard 17th hole at Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth — 19 years apart.

explained. "By the 17th hole the other guys were lying on top of their golf bags and I just teed off and it hit the green and bounced into the hole."

As wonderful a feeling as that was, Bugeja admitted not really letting it all sink in.

"I wish I'd have one (hole-in-one) now because I'd appreciate it so much more," he noted. "In 1990 it was cool, but it wasn't that big of a deal to me like it would be now. I'm golfing so much more and trying so much harder."

What happened then was a case of beginner's luck, he added.

He praised Corey for being a much better golfer than he ever was. "I'm a weekend hacker, not as good as my son."

According to Corey, both his dad and mom (Beverly) always encouraged him to improve in golf, bowling or anything he tried. The fact both golfers can say they aced Hilltop's 17th hole will only strengthen their father-son bond.

"He never pushed me to golf but I eventually got into it with my friends," Corey said. "We (John and Corey Bugeja) started golfing together more as I got older."

Although their accomplishment was identical, Corey did get off one last friendly zinger at his dad.

"I thought I hit mine better," he joked. "I think he used a 7- or 8-iron."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

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23 **KENNY G** ✕ 7:30PM  
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25 **CREED** ✕ 7:30PM  
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**THIS WEDNESDAY**

26 **AMERICAN IDOLS LIVE!** 7:00PM  
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

26 **JOHNNY X** 2:00PM & 7:00PM  
& THE SPRITES  
Children's Program  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**THIS THURSDAY**

27 **SOUL ASYLUM** 7:00PM  
w/SEVEN MARY THREE,  
SPONGE and DAYS OF THE NEW  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

**THIS FRIDAY**

28 **DENNIS DeYOUNG** 7:30PM  
**THE MUSIC OF STYX**  
WITH ROCK SYMPHONY  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

**THIS SATURDAY**

29 **EDDIE MONEY** 7:30PM  
w/PAT TRAVERS  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

29 **GET BACK!** 8:00PM  
THE CAST OF BEATLEMANIA  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

29-30 **WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL** 1:00PM  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**AUGUST**

30 **LIL WAYNE** w/YOUNG JEEZY, ✕  
SOULJA BOY, JEREMIH and PLEASURE P  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

**SEPTEMBER**

4 **MICHAEL W. SMITH** 8  
w/NATALIE GRANT and PHIL STACEY  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

4 **O.A.R.** w/BRETT DENNEN  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

5 **TESLA**  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

11-12 **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

17 **DARIUS RUCKER** w/LUKE BRYAN 8  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

19 **MMA CAGE FIGHT FESTIVAL**  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

22 **KINGS OF LEON** w/GLASVEGAS  
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

September 8  
**The Circus**  
Starring  
**Britney Spears**

w/Jordin Sparks  
and Kristina DeBarge  
The Palace  
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✕ = Lawn 4-Pack Special

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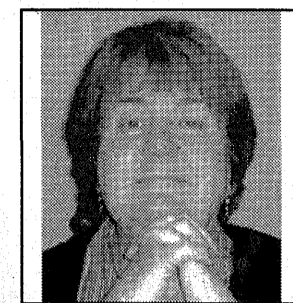
# Passages

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**SARA JANE ANZLOVAR**

Age 67, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, August 19, 2009. Born in Bay City Michigan, Sara graduated Salutatorian from St James High School class of 1960. After serving in the Air Force, she lived in New York City with her new husband and family, settling after a few years in the Detroit area. She received an Associates Degree and worked for a year as assistant librarian at Green Elementary School in West Bloomfield, Michigan. After going back to school for another degree, Sara had a long and successful career as a computer programmer, analyst and later technical recruiter for Mercy Information Systems. She has been active as a leader in several guilds including the American Sewing Guild, the Embroidery Guild of America and the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan. She was also a member of the Kindred Spirits Sampler Guild. She was instrumental in founding the West Oakland chapter of the ASG. Sara was also very active in her Church, Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington, MI. Sara is survived by her Husband Robert R, children Robert C Anzlovor, Jean L. Eggertsen, Peter A. Anzlovor, and siblings John Strope, Marianne (Strope) Jones, Meg J. Rueggeger and Richard Strope. A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, August 26th, 10:00 AM (gathering 9:30 AM) at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial tributes be given to the American Cancer Society or Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington, MI 48336. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington, 248-474-5200.



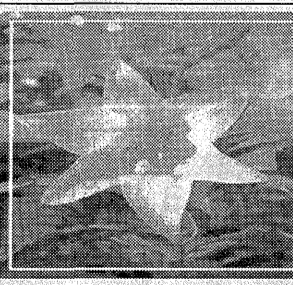
**SYLVIA WICKS GARVEY**

August 17, 2009, age 85 of West Bloomfield. Beloved wife of the late Louis P. Garvey. Beloved mother of Patrick (Laura) Garvey, Cindy (Joe) Bradley, Ingrid (Bob) Steff, and Mike (Julia) Garvey. Loving Grandmother of Nickole (Tom) Carlson, Elizabeth (Ron) Keiser, Sean and Kellie Garvey, Katherine and Joey Steff. Great grandmother of Thomas and Chance Carlson. Sylvia was a proud WWII U.S. Navy veteran. Visitation was at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. [www.mccabefuneralhome.com](http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com)

**SAMUEL HIGGINS**  
Age 93, August 16, 2009 of Garden City. Survived by his wife Betty. Arrangements by R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, (734) 425-9200. Please sign the on-line guestbook at: [www.rggharris.com](http://www.rggharris.com)

**DANIEL LEE KIMEL**  
Age 79, passed away August 15, 2009. He was born on July 22, 1930, in Detroit, to the late John and Emma (Goebel) Kimel. Daniel is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Patricia Kimel; children: William (Christine) Kimel, Kathy (Alan) Steman; grandchildren: Daniel, Billy, Spencer, Sydney; great-grandchild: Makayla Kimel; siblings: David L. Kimel, and Shirley Kimel. He was preceded in death by his son Ronald, siblings: John Kimel Jr., and Dorothy Heimberger. Visitation Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1-9 p.m. Funeral Thursday, Aug. 20, 3 p.m. with final visitation from 12-3 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street (Ten Mile), South Lyon. Online guestbook [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

**JAMES V. POSPESHIL**  
Age 61, of Harrison Twp., an avid sailor and longtime member of Crescent Sail Yacht Club, St. Clair Shores. Beloved brother of Thomas (Nylene), Ronald, Dorothy Edmundson, Gloria Sellers and the late Suzanne Wolinski; and uncle to many. Memorial Service were held Saturday, August 22nd, 2:00 PM at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial tributes are suggested to American Cancer Society. [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)



In Memory Of



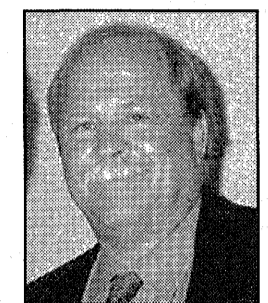
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF JEFFREY C. QUINN**

July 17, 1962-August 23, 2008

It has been 1 year, but you are still and will forever remain in our hearts, thoughts, memories and prayers. We miss you very much. Love, Mom, Dad and Family

**FRANKLIN BROCKWAY READ**

Of Bloomfield Hills, August 13, 2009 Age 95. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Dorothea "Dorie" Read. Dear father of Stephen H. (Renee) Read of Bloomfield Hills and the late Franklin Brockway Read II and Russell Snavely Read. Loving grandfather of Christopher Polk Read, Jason Read and Ryan Read. Great-grandfather of Logan Hunter Read. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Mr. Read graduated from Cornell University and while at the University he was a member of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity and was the Circulation Manager of the University Humor Magazine (The Widow). He was employed by Pontiac Motor Division and in 1941 was transferred to GM Corporation Headquarters in Detroit as a member of the Financial Staff. In 1953 he joined the Distribution Staff in organizing the General Motors Training Centers Program. He retired from GM in 1978 after 42 years of service. Mr. Read was an ardent golfer. The Reads were members of the Pine Lake Country Club for over 40 years and maintained a winter home in Pinehurst, NC. The Reads traveled extensively in Europe, China and maintained a condo in Guadalajara, Mexico for many years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Read were active members of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pontiac. A memorial service will be held 11 am Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at All Saints Episcopal Church (171 West Pike Street Pontiac, MI 48341). In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials made to All Saints Episcopal Church. Interment Pine Lake Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to the Pontiac Chapel of the Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home (248 338 9288). A memorial reflection can be made to: [www.sparkgriffin.com](http://www.sparkgriffin.com)

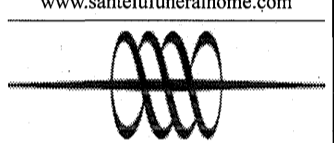


**KEITH ALAN THISTLE**

August 19, 2009, age 58, of Bloomfield Hills. Longtime executive for the Radisson-Kingsley Hotel. Founding member of the ROCKS. Keith will be deeply missed by his family and friends. Beloved husband of Hilary Ann (nee Gorman) for 31 years. Dear father of Lauren and Matthew (fiancée Amanda). Brother of Richard (Pat) and Suzanne Pope (Joe). Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Memorial service Saturday, August 29th, 11:00am at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: [www.DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://www.DesmondFuneralHome.com)

**DONALD G. VINCENT**

Age 81, August 15, 2009. Beloved husband of Bernice. Dear father of Deborah (James) Wasiloff and Karen (Jeffrey) Scott. Grandfather of Matthew, Eric, Kelly and Colin. Brother of Howard. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. 56 year resident of Garden City and retiree of Garden City Schools. Memorial Service was Monday, August 17 at the Santeiu Funeral Home [www.santeiufuneralhome.com](http://www.santeiufuneralhome.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.)

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

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

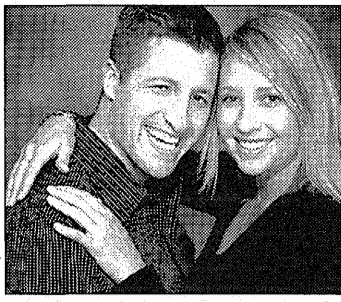
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Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



Sumner-Nafe

**SUMNER-NAFE**

Jenny J Sumner and Barton Nafe announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Carrie McConnell and Mike Sumner of Pottsville, is a 2001 graduate of Olivet High School and a 2005 graduate of Western Michigan University where she received a bachelor's degree in finance. She is employed as a contract analyst for OSF Healthcare in Peoria, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Cathy Clough of Plymouth and the late Don Nafe, is a 1996 graduate of Canton High School. He joined the Marine Corps and served on active duty for four years before attending Western Michigan University where he graduated in 2005 with degrees in computer information systems and economics. He is employed as a medical device sales representative for Stryker Instruments in the Peoria, Ill., area.

A May 2010 wedding is planned in Carillon Beach, Fla.



Dewicki-Scott

**DEWICKI-SCOTT**

Natasha Dewicki and Ryan Scott announce their engagement.

Ryan is the son of Jesse Scott of Taylor and Sharon and Mark Lamirand of Livonia. He graduated from Michigan State University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in science and a teaching certificate in secondary education. Ryan is employed by the Jefferson County Schools in Louisville, Ky.

Natasha is the daughter of Donald and Sandra Dewicki of Dearborn Heights. Natasha will be continuing her studies in elementary education at the University of Louisville in Ky. No wedding date has been set.

**Boats debut at Metropark**

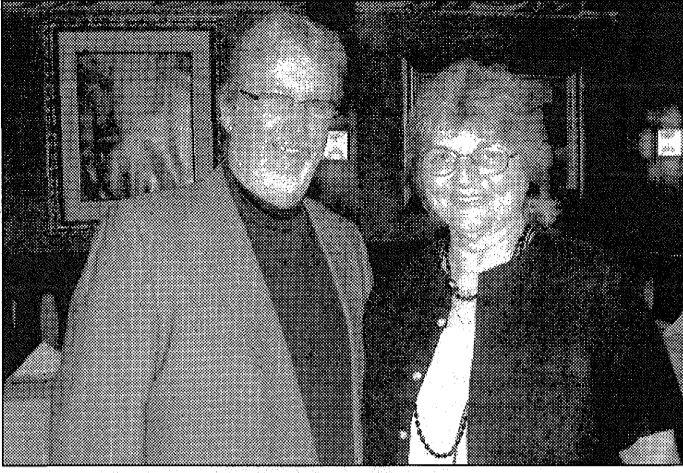
Boats for the new 2010 model year will make their national debut at the "Fall Boat Show," which runs Wednesday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 27, at Metro Beach Metropark, near Mount Clemens.

Now in its 39th year, the event showcases hundreds of new boats of all sizes and kinds, plus used boats on display. Show goers can climb aboard large boats displayed in the water, view trailerable boats and personal watercraft on shore, and look over the boating goods and services offered by vendors.

With several million boaters in the state, Michigan leads the nation with more than 927,000 registered boats.

Metro Beach Metropark is located at the foot of 16 Mile Road (Metropolitan Parkway) just off I-94 in Mount Clemens. Docks will be available for boaters to use. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, through Friday, Sept. 25; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$1 for children 12 and under. For information, contact The Boat Show Office at (313) 884-1776 or send an e-mail to [boatshowusa@hotmail.com](mailto:boatshowusa@hotmail.com).

**MILESTONES**



Larry and Dolores (Vecchio) Gorman of Livonia

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

Larry and Dolores (Vecchio) Gorman of Livonia marked their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8. The couple were wed in 1959, at St. Anne Church in Detroit.

Their anniversary celebration dinner was held at Lelli's #2 Restaurant, in Pontiac, their favorite restaurant for more than 50 years.

In attendance at the dinner were the couple's three children: Scott, and his wife Courtney, of Zionsville, Ind.; Marian, and her husband David with their three children, Kate, Tess and Claire, all of Livonia; and Jeffrey of Indianapolis, Ind. Also joining them was Larry's brother Don Gorman of Farmington Hills, who was the best man at their wedding.

Larry retired in 1997 after 35 years in engineering, at Ford Motor Co., Dearborn. Dolores retired in 2000, after



Larry and Dolores Gorman of Livonia on their wedding day in 1959.

15 years in her Livonia gift store. Now the grandchildren keep them busy. They, along with Scott and Courtney, are expecting another Gorman addition in January 2010.

**JONES-PAIGE**

Kevin Jones, son of Ron and Fay Jones of Novi, and Annie Paige, daughter of Mike and Joy Wendt of Farmington Hills, were married May 9, 2009, at The Whitney in Detroit.

Kevin is a 1992 graduate of Novi High School and a 1996 graduate of Olivet Nazarene University. He works for Portable Church Industries as director of sales.

Annie is a 1994 graduate of Milford High School and a 1998 graduate of Madonna University. She's a registered



Jones-Paige

nurse and works for Beaumont Hospital. They spent their honeymoon in the Riviera Maya, Mexico. The newlyweds reside in Troy.

**DUMONT-O'BANNON**

Maureen DuMont and Daniel O'Bannon III announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of David and Roberta DuMont of Livonia, attended Michigan State University for undergraduate studies and received an MBA from Cal State University. She works in finance for Northrop Grumman Corp. in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Her fiancé, son of Tim and Mary O'Bannon of Albuquerque, N.M., attended Texas Tech University where he played lacrosse and received two degrees in structural engineering and architecture. He works for a structural



DuMont-O'Bannon

engineering and design firm, KPFF, Inc. in Los Angeles, Calif.

A September 2009 wedding at St. Aidan's Church is planned. A reception will follow at Lyon Oaks.

**MINOFF-GARDNER**

Erika Minoff and Tim Gardner announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Robert and Emily Minoff of Livonia, is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Michigan State University. She works as a counselor at North Mountain Middle School in San Jacinto, Calif.

Her fiancé, son of John and Terry Gardner of Janesville, Minn., is a graduate of Janesville Waldorf Pemberton and Temecula Valley Golf college. He works as a golf pro at SCGA golf course in Temecula,



Minoff-Gardner

Calif. A September 2009 wedding is planned in Temecula, Calif.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

# Hot water is a hot subject

A year ago I wrote about the problems with our daughter's hot water heater and how many others like her own one of these monsters. She lives in a three-year-old condo complex where more than 300 residents own the same hot water heater.

A few weeks ago I interviewed Todd Burton, a well-established plumber in the area and he described the problem in detail and how consumers are getting ripped off by the manufacturer. Today, I got an e-mail from a gentleman who puts his feelings to paper and does it so well; I think you should read it.

Dave writes: "I'm not sure if you ever received my last e-mail concerning the Whirlpool Hot Water tank I purchased from Lowe's around three years ago. I would encourage you to inform your (readers) who are in need of a new hot water tank to think twice about purchasing one from Lowe's with the Whirlpool brand name."

"Whirlpool or American Water Heater Company (AWHC) seems confident the issue has been resolved but I'm skeptical. The customer service representative from Whirlpool, who spoke English with a very strong accent, seems to have interpreted my complaint into his own words. This you will see later when I have a conversation with the service technician from AWHC. Whirlpool sent out a repair kit which contained all the parts necessary to correct my complaint (no hot water/pilot won't stay lit). I had to pay for shipping and I had to supply the labor to install the new parts. The kit contained a new gas burner assembly, including the thermo coupler, and the thermostat control.

## BLAMING THE CUSTOMER

"After I finished installing the kit I decided to file a complaint with the State Attorney General. This then generated a phone call some months later from a senior service

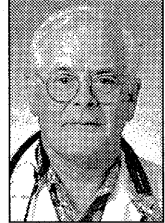
technician from AWHC. The technician from AWHC went through great lengths to let me know that I was talking to a well-seasoned repairman. He concluded from the complaint I made with Whirlpool that the sediments from our water was at fault and not the poor quality/design of their product. I was informed that I was not maintaining my hot water tank properly. He even suggested filling the tank with a solution of apple cider and water once a year to flush the sediment out of my tank. Remember, my complaint started almost within months after the installation, and the thermocoupler had already been replaced once by Consumers Energy just after the first year of operation. Still he was convinced it was due to a lack of maintenance on my part.

## NO FLUSH NEEDED

"Joe, I have owned two houses in this area for a period of over 30 years and I have never flushed a hot water tank out. Neither of them ever needed any repairs. I don't remember my father ever flushing out our hot water where I grew up in Detroit. Sure it's a good idea but I never found it necessary with the amount of hot water we go through in a day. I'm not sure what they are doing differently with their hot water tanks, but they are not worth the paper their instructions are printed on."

You see folks, the problem just described is one that many thousands of unsuspecting home owners will go through as well. It is a well-versed subject with all plumbers across America and a crying shame that a manufacturer of Whirlpool's stature doesn't step up to the plate and take responsibility. We as consumers are sick and tired of the inferior quality of products sent to us by foreign countries but even worse is the fact that we have to accept this sort of junk from our own American branded products. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [apldr@twm1r.com](mailto:apldr@twm1r.com).



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

## GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

### At English Gardens

- Learn how to treat pests and problems in the garden, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at all stores.
  - Experts will talk about plants that provide color and interest in the garden all year long in this free presentation at 7 p.m., Sept. 2.
  - Learn tips for creating a beautiful fall garden and discover the best plants for seasonal interest at 7 p.m., Sept. 9.
  - Hear an overview of different spring-flowering bulbs and get tips on proper planting techniques. And find out how to design a bulb garden at 7 p.m., Sept. 16.
  - Bring color into the garden with favorite plants. Experts also will offer information on proper planting and care for the best results at 7 p.m., Sept. 23.
  - Get tips on keeping your lawn healthy through the winter and into next spring at 7 p.m., Sept. 30.
- Local stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313)278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto [www.EnglishGardens.com](http://www.EnglishGardens.com).

### Children's garden

Gaffney Children's Garden at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, officially opens Sept. 13. The garden, constructed from a kid's point of view, allows children to explore in a natural setting. Young visitors can climb into an over-sized bird nest and pretend they're a hatchling, wend their way through a maze, discover magical creatures in a fairy and troll knoll, or just get their hands dirty in a digging pit. The garden also features a butterfly and hummingbird garden, a builders' garden, a water-play zone, habitats hiking trail, and much more. An open house will be held on its official opening day, but the garden is open now for visitors. Matthaei Botanical Gardens are located at 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. [www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/)

# Detroit Zoo welcomes educators Sept. 2

The Detroit Zoological Society will host an open house for school teachers and administrators 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. "Zoolastic Achievement - Explosion 2009" will offer educators the opportunity to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and live entertainment as they learn about the educational offerings at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo.

The free event will provide insight into the zoo's dynamic, age level-appropriate programs that teach important concepts about animals, habitats and ecosystems in alignment with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and Grade Level Content Expectations. The event will also offer tips on planning and optimizing school group visits with guided tours, self-led tours, scavenger hunts, interactive education presentations

and backpack programs. Teachers and administrators will learn about other educational options at the zoo as well, including the Ford Education Center's Interpretive Studios, Wild Adventure Ride, Madeleine Berman Academy for Humane Education and Humane Science Lab. A tram or walking tour of the zoo will highlight animal habitats and exhibits that feature interactive learning options. Guests will also meet David Gakure, Kenyan conservationist and Detroit Zoo education specialist, who engages students at the zoo and in the classroom with stories of people and wildlife in the African Grasslands.

Online registration for "Zoolastic Achievement - Explosion 2009" is available until Aug. 28 at <http://www.detroitzoo.org/zoolastic/>.

# Zoo to host seniors

Senior citizens living in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties are invited to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo on Senior Day, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seniors 62 and older and a caregiver will receive free admission, parking and rides on the Tauber Family Railroad.

Sponsored by radio station AM580, Senior Day will feature live music, narrated tractor train tours and bingo. The day's activities will also include animal enrichment activities and zookeeper talks highlighting some of the zoo's senior residents.

A Senior Resource Area will be available where visitors can

speaking with representatives from the following organizations: AARP, Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council, Blue Care Network/Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Alliance Plan, Health Choice Home Health Care, Home Instead Senior Care, IRS, Medilodge, Pine Ridge Retirement Communities, Precise Home Health Care, Social Security Administration and Westbrook Medical Center.

The fall Senior Day is one of two free days for tri-county seniors held annually at the Detroit Zoo in appreciation for voter approval in August 2008 of the ballot proposal to fund the zoo.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



# Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at [careers@hometownlife.com](mailto:careers@hometownlife.com) or call 1-800-579-7355



<p><b>5000-5980</b></p> <p><b>Employment Instruction Services</b></p> <p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <hr/> <p>Accounting</p> <p>Novi Insurance Agency seeks full-time Supervisor for Accounting/ Administration Dept. Minimum of 5 yrs. accounting experience and prior management exp. required. Wage + Benefits. Resume MUST INCLUDE wage requirement to be considered. Email to: <a href="mailto:hr@computer-rehab.net">hr@computer-rehab.net</a></p> <hr/> <p>All Students/Others Expanding local firm has 37 Openings PT/FT. Flexible schedules \$14.25 base-appt. Great for Resume. We train Call Today! 248-426-4405</p> <hr/> <p><b>APPOINTMENT SETTER</b></p> <p>Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F 734-728-4572</p> <hr/> <p><b>CHILD CARE ASSISTANT</b></p> <p>Full &amp; Part-Time. Christian Center in Plymouth. 734-455-3196</p> <hr/> <p><b>It's all here!</b></p>  <p><b>1-800-579-SELL</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.hometownlife.com">www.hometownlife.com</a></p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>Computer</p> <p><b>WEB PROGRAMMER</b></p> <p>Madonna University seeks a web programmer with prior exp. involving Strong Cold-Fusion and C# skills. Codes, debugs, and documents logic. Able to implement custom, database-driven web applications. Knowledge of HTML, JavaScript, J2EE, PHP/Perl/CGI, .NET, ASP, MSSQL, Oracle DB, CSS, C++, C#, Dreamweaver, etc. UNIX Server, JICS Portals, Windows Server 2008. BS in computer science preferred with 2 yrs. technical exp. Excellent benefit package. Send resume with salary requirement: Attn: HR, Madonna University 36800 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150 fax to: (734) 432-5587 EOE email: <a href="mailto:hr@madonna.edu">hr@madonna.edu</a></p> <hr/> <p><b>IT'S ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!</b></p>  <p>Look no further for the best local classifieds!</p> <p><b>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</b></p> <hr/> <p>Crescent Academy seeks Kitchen Aides for their lunch program. 2 hrs. per day to follow the school schedule. \$9-\$9.50/hr. based on exp. Apply online at: <a href="http://www.mepservices.com">www.mepservices.com</a></p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p><b>Customer Service/ Inside Sales</b></p> <p>Largest industrial distributor of sealing devices in the Mid-west is seeking an exp'd. customer service professional for our Farmington Hills, MI location. This is a full time position that requires strong technical ability and above average soft skills.</p> <p>Essential job functions include customer product application assistance, pricing, quoting and quote follow up, program management, price negotiation, order processing and customer contact organization. Inside sales/customer service associates are teamed with outside sales people and cover specific geographical territories.</p> <p>Our candidate must be a problem solver and be dependable with strong organizational and computer skills. Successful Zatkoff C/S personnel have strong interpersonal skills, possess a pleasant service demeanor and have above average mechanical aptitude and math skills a plus.</p> <p>Our facility is a professional, smoke free office environment. The customer service position is salaried with a full benefit package. Full background check, substance abuse testing, physical, and position testing is part of our pre-employment process. 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# NEIGHBORS

## Gestures big, small: Couples agree love can last a lifetime

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Antoinette Martin of Westland, a financial adviser with Ameriprise in Dearborn, has been married to Dan 16 years as of Sept. 3.

"Liking each other is a nice one to start with," she said. She recommends couples take time to relax together, "and that you find joint interests. You have quiet time in your life, just enjoy each other's company."

"We're friends. We work at being friends. We're both each other's best friends," said Martin, who has two dogs and no human children. Dan is a sales manager for a printing and graphics company.

She has thoughts on ways to spend time together and not spend a fortune. Although they travel quite a bit together, they also enjoy less costly activities, such as matinee movies. "We eat dinner earlier because sometimes it's less expensive." They take walks together with the dogs. She mentions a day at the lake, picnic at Hines Park or a potluck barbecue.

"It's more about being with the people than it is about the event," Martin said.

### SO HAPPY TOGETHER

That's also the thought behind National Resurrect Romance Week, observed the second full week of August, (Aug. 9-15 this year) six months after Valentine's Day. It was founded in 1995 by Michael Webb, who calls himself America's premier romance expert. He is creator of TheRomantic.com and author of *The Romantic's Guide* and 12 other books on love, dating, romance and relationships.

According to the Web site, Webb wanted to create a romance holiday that didn't focus on money and



"things." He wants people to equate romance with time and attention.

Beth and John Stewart of Plymouth Township are busy, but find time to be together.

The couple marked their 30th wedding anniversary in May. She's executive director for the Plymouth Symphony, he an attorney and former state representative.

"I would say probably communication is always important, from the very beginning," she said. "Be honest with each other."

Beth Stewart agreed couples should find things to do together. "I think it's also important to develop your own interests and your own

activities. You have to find that right balance."

That's a message the couple shared with eldest daughter, Laura, and her new husband.

"We talked with them a lot," she said. The Stewarts, who have two grown daughters, told the young couple to find out who you are "by yourself," and know who you are.

"You can much more readily come together with somebody else," Stewart said, quoting her husband: "In order to meet the right person, you have to be the right person."

The Stewarts find lots of free concerts in Plymouth, which they attend regularly. "The Penn (theater) is a

great deal. Plymouth offers a lot to do." They like to walk around town, get ice cream and meet others.

The family wedding brought people from all over, and the newlyweds didn't spend too much.

"It was a very romantic evening for them," mom said, advising: "Don't get yourself in debt, because that can kill romance pretty fast."

### SO MUCH IN LOVE

Darrel and Susan Schwandt of Canton make romance a priority in their 21-year marriage.

"We plan little mystery trips for each other," said Susan, public relations director for Health Alliance Plan. She once hinted at a mystery destination by telling him to "Pack your bags, we're going to rock with a dead president." They visited Cleveland, home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in Ohio, birthplace of President James Garfield. Another time, her instructions were to pack a suit and Amaretto; they went to the Garland Resort in Lewiston.

When a camping trip got rained out "Darrel planned a camping trip in our living room."

"Darrel is so thoughtful and considerate. He keeps the romance alive every day," she said, noting that everyday activities and thoughtful gestures create much of the romance in their lives. She had to blog early one day, and he got the computer ready. Another time, he packed her swimsuit and gym bag when she was running short on time.

"Also just leaving little notes for one another, complimenting each other" can fan romantic flames.

She does "wifely duty night" with a nice dinner and candlelight, as she doesn't do much of the cooking and likes to help. They like to sit outside, get away from TV "and really connect

with one another."

"I really lucked out" in romance, Susan Schwandt said. Darrel, who works for NCI in Warren, as a contractor in video production, graphic arts and photography, will go to five different card shops to find a card for his wife.

"He's a wonderful composer and songwriter." For their seventh anniversary, he woke her up with *My Kind of Seven-Year Itch* which he wrote. "It was a great song."

"I really do think it's all about kindness and consideration," she said. "I think romance is really about all the simple little day-to-day gestures." Darrel also tolerates their dog Buster (an only child), which is a challenge, too.

Author Webb suggests that couples find creative ways to be romantic that cost little or no money. Here are some of Webb's ideas from his book, *The Romantic's Guide: Hundreds of Creative Tips for a Lifetime of Love*:

- Use chalk to write loving welcome home messages on the sidewalk.
- Put flower petals on the ceiling fan and ask your darling to turn it on so he or she will be showered.
- Tie a message and balloons to the bottom of the garage door with a foot of string — they will magically rise in the air when the door is opened.
- Brush her hair for 10 minutes before going to sleep. Gently scratch his back for the same.
- Fax a photocopy of your hand to his or her office so he or she can "hold" it while you are apart.
- Use Rain-X Anti-Fog and a cotton swab to write love notes on bathroom mirrors — the message appears when the mirror steams up.

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Because joint sounds mean little, and joint pain and swelling always are significant, your doctor will focus on the pain and discount the noise. He is not ignoring you, but rather, is concentrating on what he knows is the more important problem.  
If vibrations coming from a shoulder or a knee continue to annoy you, do warm up exercises in the morning. This approach, if not a cure, at least contains the sound. The effect of exercising is to bring an increased blood supply to tendons and ligaments rendering them more pliable and less likely to become taut in a manner that sustains vibrations.

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# Plymouth High Class of '59 shares memories at reunion

BY JULIE BROWN  
OGE STAFF WRITER

Judy (Theobald) Smith of Plymouth had some good friends over Thursday night, her classmates from Plymouth High's Class of 1959. She and the 122 class members and spouses who attended the reunion had some thoughts on Plymouth.

"I like it, but it's totally different than it used to be," said Smith, a stay-at-home mom with three kids and six grandkids. She liked their high school days, which she compares to "the high pressure kids have today."

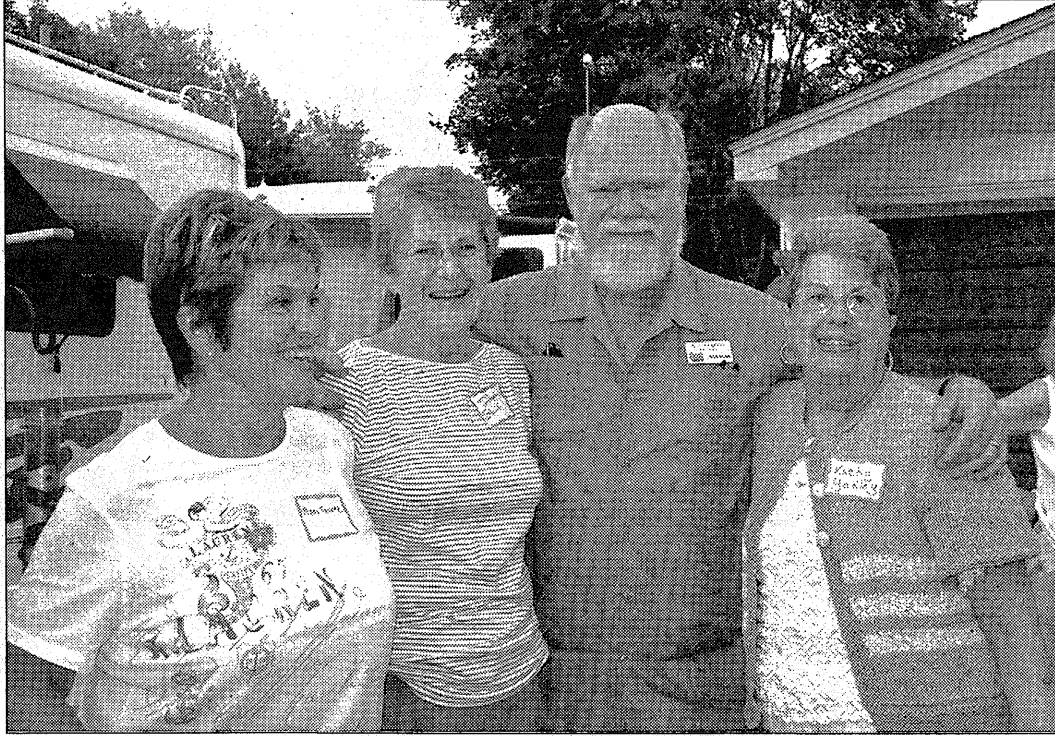
She's lived in Plymouth pretty much her entire life, as has classmate Sydnee (Van Aken) Paul, a township resident. "I used to live right across from Pioneer School," said Paul, who with her husband has three daughters and nine grandkids. She worked at Rexall's on Ann Arbor Road and later at the local Kmart.

"It was great," Paul said of high school. "It was fun. We had a good time."

Seven teachers attended the 50th reunion, which included the Thursday home gathering, Friday night at the Box Bar, a Saturday dinner at Laurel Manor and a picnic today, Sunday.

Paul said she misses the Mayflower Hotel, from which she has a brick, and also has bricks from the former Adistra.

Plymouth's Jim Cutler mentioned the copper beech tree cut down a few years back, which he opposed. "I seem to come back to where I started because I was born in



Plymouth High classmates (from left) Mary Taylor, Janet (Willoughby) Stuart, Hale Huber and Kathy Yakley enjoy time together Thursday evening. This weekend's the 50th reunion for the PHS Class of 1959.

Plymouth Hospital."

Cutler and wife Barbara have two kids. He's been an electrical engineer for the University of Michigan, EDS, "a little bit of Intel in between." He worked on space flight and computers.

"For one thing, a lot more people," he said of differences. "Things have stayed good, too." He likes Paul Sincock as city manager, with Sydnee Paul citing the Penn Theatre renovation and concerts in Kellogg Park.

Reunion chair Janet (West) Myers of Livonia has a Plymouth daughter married with three kids. Janet and her husband have two kids, a son in Canton, and a total of four

grandkids.

"I was a social worker," she said. Class size wasn't exactly known.

"We have debates about that. I remember 210," Myers said. The Box Bar ("Everybody's dad would go there") was in town in 1959. West's dad was among the West brothers car dealers.

She has a classmate and cousin who came to the reunion from Costa Rica, the greatest distance. A Californian came, too. Myers didn't see any concerns about looks, wealth or the like.

"I think that happens at the fifth and the 10th," she said with a smile. "We really celebrate life at this one." Jeanne (Whitebread)

Clemens of Livonia said, "In some ways it seems like it hasn't been that long. It's a strange feeling." Committee members agreed this year's reunion (they're every five years) should be special.

Clemens recalled sock hops. "Usually those were after football games. We went to the gym and played records." She was in synchronized swimming, and noted the many activities: "No matter what you wanted to be involved in, there was something for you."

She married and had five boys after graduation, and is grandma to eight and great-grandma to two. Clemens likes to see the different class members who arrive each reunion.



JoAnn (Nagy) Dionne and Garry Packard share some good memories Thursday at Judy (Theobald) Smith's home on Russell in Plymouth.

Some classmates golfed Friday at Fox Hills, and class member Garry Packard of Plymouth, an archivist at the Plymouth Historical Museum, gave tours. "We have a tour of the school," Myers said of what's now Central Middle School. Some of the students went to the school on Main from sixth grade on, due to overcrowding at Smith, and 14 elementaries then fed the high school and junior high.

Las Cruces, N.M., resident Hale Huber was glad to be there. He trained in environmental engineering, got a doctorate in counseling and educational psychology, and opened his business in solar energy and water treatment. His wife, Barbara Bishop, graduated from Henry Ford Hospital nursing school, and they met in New Mexico.

Huber enjoyed the reunion and seeing longtime friend Elise Emrick for whose family he worked as a teen. He

recalled hating to pick peaches and how great the Macintosh apples were. Emrick's like an adopted mom to him.

"It's kept up with the times," he said of Plymouth. "I was amazed with the Box Bar." He liked the look of the Box and town in general.

"Plymouth was really a small town with an incredible educational system," Huber said. "When I went to the University of Michigan I was really prepared."

Packard looked forward to giving the museum tours. He has 12 nieces, four nephews and two foster children he helped raise.

"I enjoy it very much," the Unisys software quality assurance engineer said. He's only missed one, while he was in southeast Asia.

"We had a very close-knit class," Packard said, listing many in theater and other activities like Girls Athletic Association.

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The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids.

\*if necessary. \*\*Information available on the web page after August 20.

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Wayne County Treasurer

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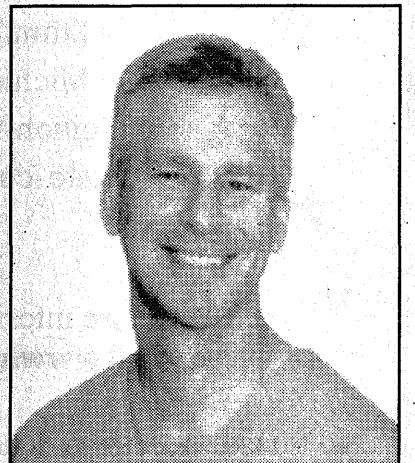
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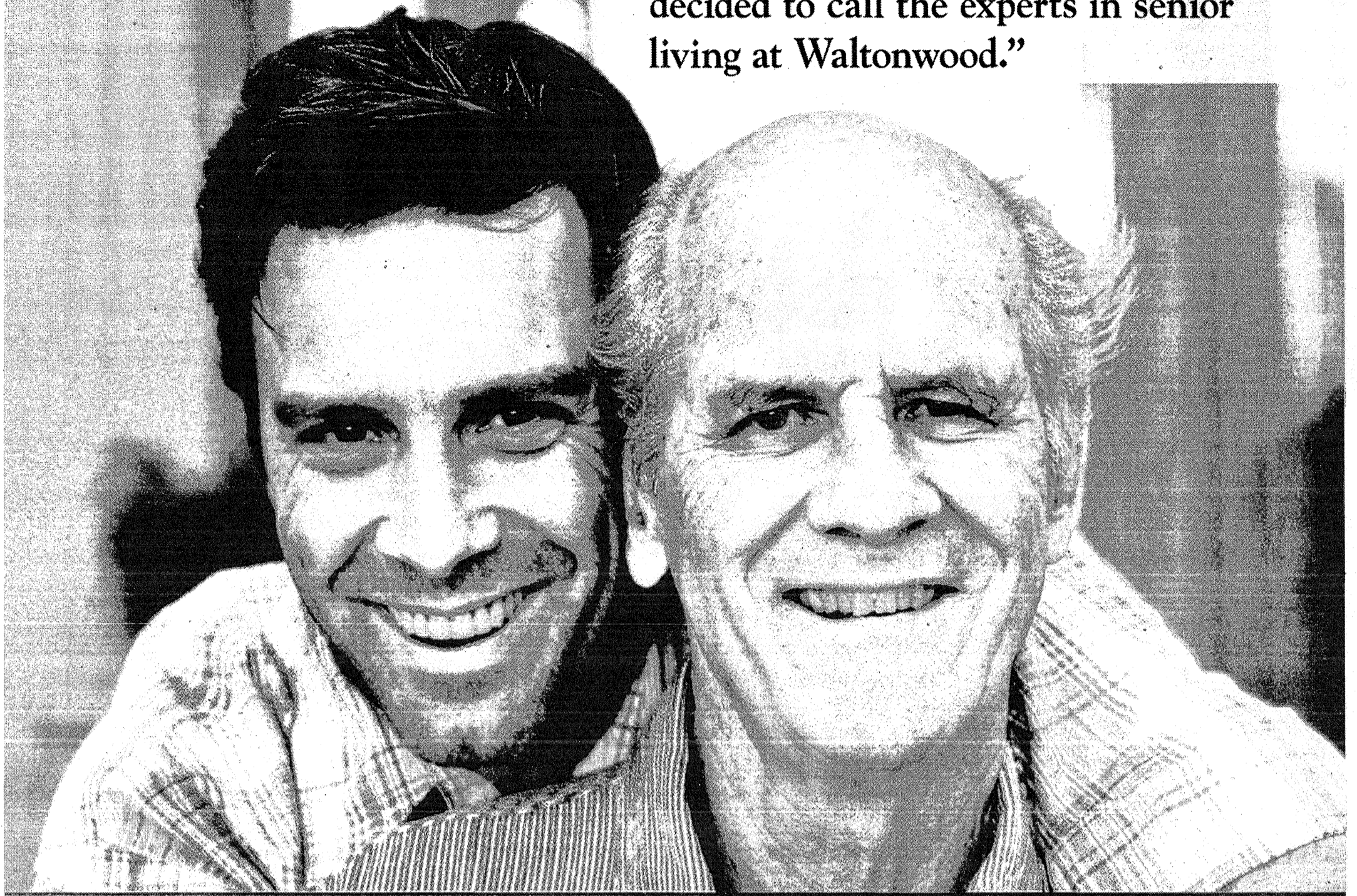
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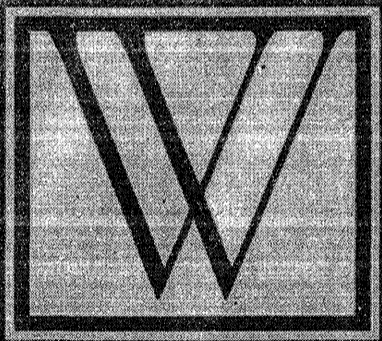


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## Help students put best foot forward, Botsford podiatrist says

With the new school year just around the corner, parents and kids are back-to-school shopping with a "must buy" list that likely includes new shoes.

Buying shoes with good cushioning, arch support and stability is important. Marshall Solomon, D.P.M., a Botsford Hospital podiatrist, says, "Shoes need to be flexible and be able to sustain extreme activity. They should also provide support and cushioning and be breathable to allow heat and moisture to escape."

Solomon offers the following shoe-shopping advice:

- If the tread is worn off the bottom of shoes, it's time for a new pair. Kids tend to wear out shoes before growing out of them.

- Shoes should be a little roomy, but do not buy shoes more than one size larger than your child's current size.

- Avoid slip-on shoes. Shoes should have laces, straps or Velcro.

- Feet tend to swell through-

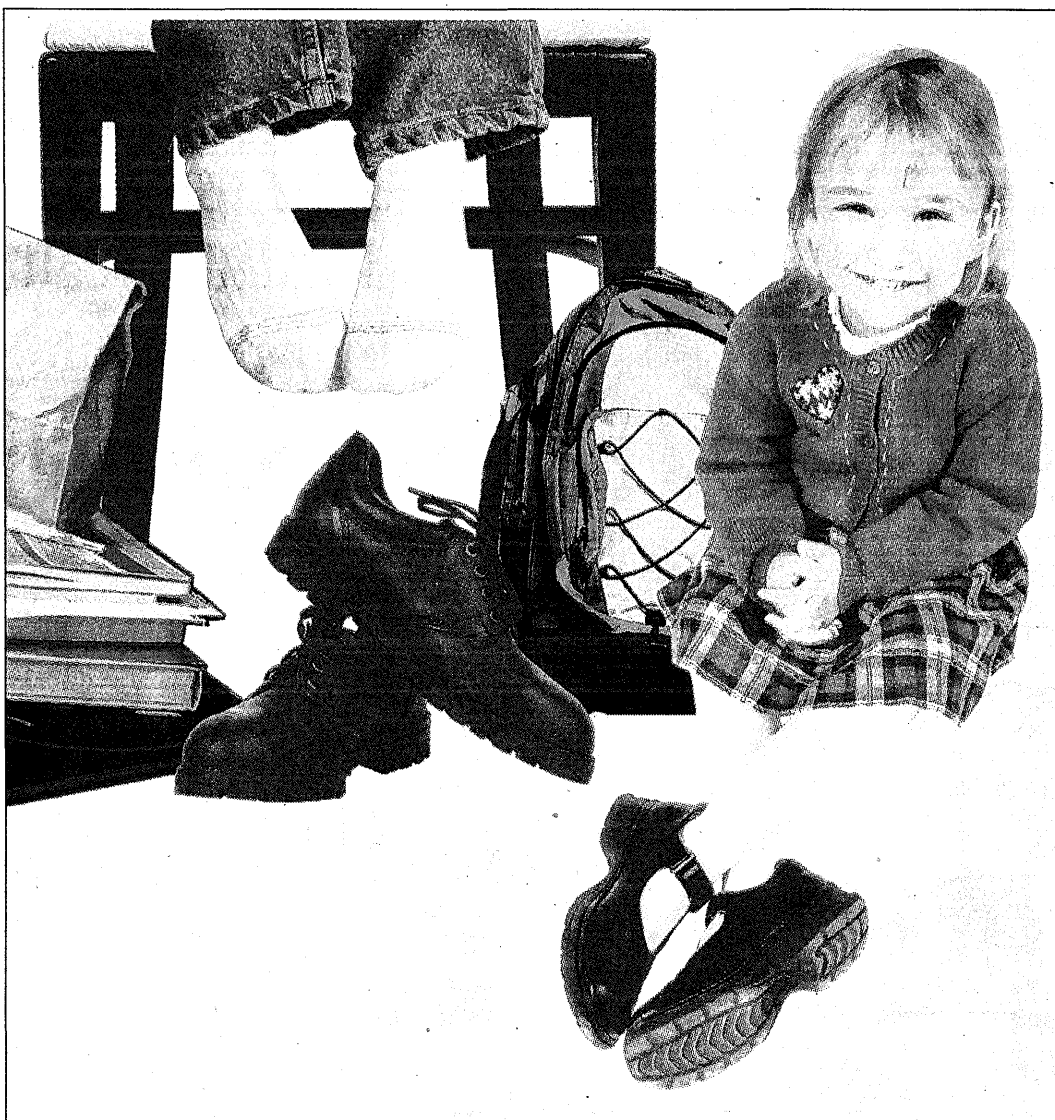
out the day, so buy shoes in the afternoon.

- Wear socks when trying on shoes.

- If the shoes are uncomfortable in the store, it won't improve later. Most shoes do not have to be broken in.

Solomon recommends getting your child a second pair of shoes and rotating them every day. This will allow the shoes to last as long as three pairs.

Botsford Hospital, an independent 330-bed community teaching hospital in Farmington Hills, was founded in 1965. Nationally recognized for quality, safety and medical education programs, Botsford has received the 2007 Governor's Award for Improving Patient Safety and Quality of Care in the Hospital Setting, and, in 2007, a three-year recertification as a Chest Pain Center from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Botsford's Web address is [www.botsford.org](http://www.botsford.org).



## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

AUG. 31 TO SEPT. 6

### Look good, feel better

2-4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Free service teaches female cancer patients beauty techniques to help them get well and restore their appearance and self-image during chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Volunteer beauty professionals lead small groups, usually consisting of six to 10 women, through practical, hands-on beauty techniques. Women learn about makeup, skin care, nail care and options related to hair loss such as wigs, turbans and scarves. Each participant receives a free kit of name-brand cosmetics for use during and after the workshop. Reservations are required. Call (800) ACS-2345 to reserve a spot.

### Screening

Clarenceville United Methodist Church will host Life Line Screening, with appointments beginning at 9 a.m., Sept. 1, at 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. To schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.

SEPT. 7-13

### Foot screening

The American Diabetes Association will offer free foot exams 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at Botsford Wellness Complex, 39830 Grand River Ave., Novi. The organization recommends that people with diabetes inspect their feet daily for problems like a blister, cut, or splinter can lead to serious infection, gangrene or even amputation. (248) 433-3830, Ext. 6697.

### Canoe To Care

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital will hold its seventh Canoe To Care day of outdoor family fun from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Heavener's Canoe Rental in the Proud Lake Recreation Area, 3500 Wixom Road in Commerce. This annual event includes canoeing, a picnic supper, and a drawing for a free canoe or kayak. Proceeds will be used for cancer support at the hospital's Charach Cancer Treatment Center. Cost is \$30 per canoe and includes a picnic and canoe rental for two adults or teens. Children 12 and under free. (248) 937-5077.

## AIDS, cancer, hemophilia and ALS walks scheduled



The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan holds its "Walkin' on the Wild Side" fund-raiser, Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Detroit Zoo, on 10 Mile (1-696 service drive) at Woodward, in Royal Oak. Registration (with breakfast) begins at 7:45 a.m.; the 2.1 mile walk kicks off at 9 a.m. There will be entertainment, prizes, and fun for all ages. Walkers may stay and enjoy the zoo after the event. A minimum donation of \$10 is required for entry. There is no admission charge for children under 2. To form a team online or donate to a team, go to <http://www.active.com/donate/wildwalk> or contact Dawn at (800) 482-3041.

### WALK 'N ROLL

ALS of Michigan is register-

ing teams and individuals for fund-raiser walks that will benefit people living with Lou Gehrig's disease.

The first two walks — at Kensington Metropark in Milford and Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township — are slated for 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 13, with registration starting at 10 a.m.

Walks also are set for 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, in Hawk Island Park, Lansing, and Sunday, Oct. 4, at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown Township. Call (800) 882-5764 or visit [www.alsofmichigan.org](http://www.alsofmichigan.org).

### 5K CANCER RUN/WALK

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is gearing up for its third annual 5K run/walk to raise awareness

of cancer on Sunday, Sept. 13. The race will begin at 9 a.m., on the hospital grounds at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

The event is designed to celebrate life for cancer survivors, for those who have cancer, and it's an opportunity for family members and friends to participate to honor or remember a loved one. It's also a fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting St. Mary Mercy's Cancer Services.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners in each age division. All participants are automatically entered in a post-race drawing for great prizes. Participants who register before Sept. 4 are guaranteed a T-shirt. Visit [www.st.marymercy.org](http://www.st.marymercy.org).

### AIDS WALK DETROIT

The Steppin' Out organization's annual 5K fund-raising walkathon will start at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 20, at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, located on the corner of 11 Mile and Troy Street, just east of Main in downtown Royal Oak.

More than 5,000 individuals are expected to walk in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., with the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. The event will include refreshments from corporate sponsors, music — with tunes spun by Channel 955 — and a viewing of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. For more information and registration, go to [aidswalkdetroit.org](http://aidswalkdetroit.org).

## Find help for brain injury online

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) offers a National Directory of Brain Injury Services at [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org). Consumers looking for help can find services 24 hours a day, every day, from their home, office or the hospital while visiting a loved one with a brain injury.

This comprehensive resource offers fast searches to locate the right programs and professionals across the country — from injury and acute care, to rehabilitation and community services. Users can search for information by organization name, contact name, professional service provided, age group served, program types, accreditations and service specialties, such as state affiliates, support groups, professional services,

program providers and state resources.

For more information about the directory e-mail to Jenny Toth, marketing and sales coordinator, at [jtoth@biausa.org](mailto:jtoth@biausa.org) or call (703) 761-0750, Ext. 621.

Founded in 1980, the Brain Injury Association of America is dedicated to increasing access to quality health care and raising awareness and understanding of brain injury through advocacy, education and research. Together with its nationwide network of more than 40 chartered state affiliates, as well as hundreds of local chapters and support groups across the country, BIAA provides help, hope and healing for individuals who live with brain injury, their families and the professionals who serve them.

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WHY SOME PEOPLE GO ABOVE AND BEYOND



WORKWISE by Mildred L. Culp

Negative coverage of the workplace often obscures the fact that some people go out of their way to help others. This column will discuss one group and two individuals who, for personal and/or professional reasons, exerted themselves for others. They're in workplaces large and small and in industries of all kinds -- wherever you'll find people.

TAKING CHARGE

Michael Barnes found competing demands on his time and life while practicing business and estate planning at DCBA Law & Policy L.L.C., in Washington, D.C. An engagement in Chicago often required weeks out of town, imperiling his ongoing work and personal matters. Non-attorney staffers volunteered to help, turning the stereotype of law firms on its head.

"One went to my house to keep the mail from piling up and even started my car every once in a while so that it would run when I returned home on weekends," he says. "The firm's bookkeeper

helped me with my personal bills as well as travel expenses. Our law clerk -- who is a law student -- provided support on a number of complex client matters, surprising me (and likely himself) with his substantive skills. They really kicked in extra effort to (assure) continuity, enable us to please our client in Chicago and help me avoid burnout."

Karissa Bentley encountered a nearly disastrous last-minute hitch when she was relocating from a San Francisco area Six Flags America to become Admissions and Guest Relations manager at the Six Flags America, in Upper Marlboro, Md. "It was a whirlwind move," she recalls, with about two weeks to organize, manage and throw herself into high gear, all of the way down to obtaining vet records and an airline reservation for Maddie, her 60-pound Golden Retriever mix. Bentley was planning to be taken to the airport by a co-worker at 4:30 a.m., but sleepless two hours before, went online. She discovered that Maddie needed a physical and a written statement from her veterinarian that she was fit to fly.

Roommates could have taken the dog, but Bentley, "an emotional mess," asked her co-worker, a close friend, to help. He took Maddie in for two weeks, drove her to the veterinarian for the paperwork and took her to the airport for her transcontinental flight. The co-worker



L to R) Liza Conrad, Isha Holy, Michael Barnes (center) and Paul Scott O'Neill (far right).



More playful, for the lazy days of summer (with dog): (L to R) Liza Conrad, Isha Holy, Michael Barnes (center), Hattie Barnes (dog), and Paul Scott O'Neill (far right).

subsequently transferred to the Upper Marlboro facility.

Behavioral psychologist Meredith Gardner of The Strategic Edge in New York City describes one time she helped. She recalls her job in a small executive search firm, working with a man who needed a list of contacts requiring lots of cold calling -- not his strong suit. She spent about 10 to 15 hours developing a list of 10 prime people for him to call.

MOTIVATIONS

Why do some people go out of their way for others at work? "I helped him because I wanted to," Gardner says. She wanted recognition, a friend, and made one. Their friendship continues 30 years later.

Barnes says that staff members volunteered for professional reasons -- to help the young firm and help maintain their job security. "I also think they realized that what I was doing was very difficult," he comments. "So I think they had both professional and personal motivations."

Bentley, Maddie's owner, maintains that the family atmosphere of Six Flags encourages employees to ask for help and to give it. "In large businesses," she says, "if you don't ask, others may not know."

However, she adds about her co-worker, "He really felt for me and he really loved that dog."

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

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# Sierra Built For The Working Man, Family Man

AdvertisingFeature

## CAReport



By Kevin Koloian  
For Avanti NewsFeatures  
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

After being redesigned from the ground in 2007, the GMC Sierra features fresh exterior styling and interiors that can be ordered for pure pickup work or for more luxurious family-oriented duties.

The Sierra borrows many of its interior features from its popular SUV brother the GMC Yukon, providing a much more upscale environment through the use of leather and wood grain.

But for owners who use their trucks strictly for work, the Sierra is available with the choice of a pure pickup interior.

The pure pickup has a more utilitarian dashboard with larger switchgear and door handles that are designed to be easily manipulated by those wearing work gloves. Its dashboard has two glove boxes on top of each other, with the upper box just large enough to hold a pair of work gloves and a few smaller items. The pure pickup interior includes a 40/20/40 split front bench seat with the center section folding down to provide a large storage compartment and wide armrest.

The luxury-oriented interior puts audio and ventilation system controls more easily within reach of the front-seat passenger and has two front bucket seats with a fixed center console with assorted storage compartments.

To set the Sierra apart from its near-identical other brother, the Silverado, it comes in a dizzying array of body styles: regular, extended and Crew Cab body styles; short, standard and long cargo box lengths; multiple powertrain combinations; five suspension packages; and four trim levels.

The Sierra is available in Work, SLE, SLT and Denali trims. The Work trim comes with the basics, including air-conditioning, a trip computer, OnStar,

vinyl seating, a 40/20/40-split front bench seat and tilt steering wheel.

The SLE trim consists of the SLE1 and SLE2 subsets. The SLE1 adds deep-tinted windows, chrome grille trim, alloy wheels, a CD player, cruise control, full power accessories, cloth seating, keyless entry, an auto-dimming rearview mirror and a leather-wrapped steering wheel. The SLE2 comes with dual-zone automatic climate control in the extended and crew cab versions, front bucket seating and steering-wheel-mounted audio controls.

Opting for the SLT buys you rain-sensing wipers, a Bose audio system with six-disc CD changer, keyless entry/start, leather seating, 12-way power and heated front seats, rear audio controls and Homelink universal remote.

The top of the line Denali adds unique exterior chrome trim, a choice of 18- or 20-inch wheels, a navigation system, remote start, a rear-seat DVD entertainment system, satellite radio and a sunroof.

Here's a breakdown of the Sierra's body styles. Standard cabs come as either standard or long bed. Extended cabs can have a short, standard or long bed. Crew cabs come only with the short bed, making them easier to handle in city traffic and to park. Regular cabs can be had in base Work or midlevel SLE trims, while the extended and crew cabs can also be had in those trims as well as the plush SLT. The more luxurious Denali is offered only in crew cab form.

Standalone options include the Z71 Off-Road Package, which includes skid plates, off-road suspension and locking rear differential, power-adjustable pedals, upgraded audio systems with satellite radio, a navigation system, a rear-seat



The Sierra lineup is built on a platform that was introduced in 2007. It is designed with a strong and refined appearance befitting the brand's professional-grade philosophy.

DVD entertainment system, a sunroof, a power sliding rear window, a cargo management system that features tracks with sliding hooks, rear park assist and an "EZ Lift" tailgate that requires very little effort to open and close.

As far as engines go, work trucks feature a 195-horsepower 4.3-liter V6. A 4.8-liter V8 295-horsepower engine powers the SLE1 trucks except the long-box versions. A 5.3-liter V8 315-horsepower drives the Sierra SLE2 and SLT pickups, with a flex-fuel E85 version optional. The strongest engine of them all is the Denali's 6.2-liter V8 that is good for 403 horsepower.

Optional on all but the Work truck and Denali is the "Vortex Max" 6.0-liter V8 that makes 367 horsepower. All V8s except the 4.8-liter and 6.2-liter feature Active Fuel Management, which shuts down four cylinders under light-load conditions to promote greater fuel economy. With the optional Max trailering package, tow capacity is 10,500 pounds.

Fuel economy ratings on the Sierra with a V6 are 15 miles per gallon in the city and 20 mpg on the highway and 14 mpg city/19 mpg highway for the 5.3-liter V8.

The Sierra's steering is a victim to its slightly larger turning circle that's found on most other trucks. It doesn't allow you to handle the truck with the kind of precision needed for quick maneuvers.

Besides that it is still a fun truck to drive, with a responsive suspension and quiet cabin. And whichever engine you choose, acceleration is good.

With a comfortable 34.3 inches of rear legroom in the extended cab and 38.7 in the crew cab, three

people in the back can stretch their legs comfortably.

Access to the rear seating area of the extended cab is a breeze due to rear-hinged doors that open nearly 170 degrees. Seating in the back seat of the Sierra is very comfortable as the windows in the rear doors power fully down.

Safety features of the Sierra includes front antilock brakes standard with an all-disc version optional. A stability control system with rollover mitigation is standard on crew cabs and optional on extended cabs. Side curtain airbags are optional on all Sierras, as is rear park assist.

The Denali has every item mentioned before standard, along with full OnStar service and an upgrade to four-wheel disc brakes.

The Sierra offers a great package whether you need it for work or family life. But having a nearly identical price and sharing many of the same features, a lot of people will choose the more popular Chevy Silverado because of its name alone.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group, @2009, Fracassa Communications.

**GMC SIERRA**  
**Vehicle Class:** Pickup truck.  
**Power:** V6 and V8 engines.  
**Mileage:** 15 city / 20 highway.  
**Where Built:** Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.  
**As Tested:** \$38,655.

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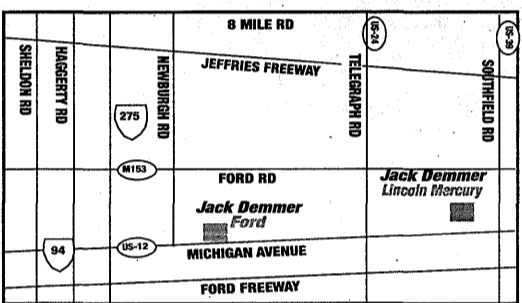
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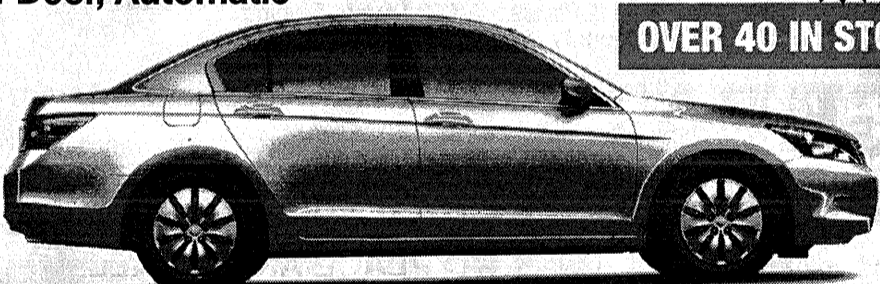


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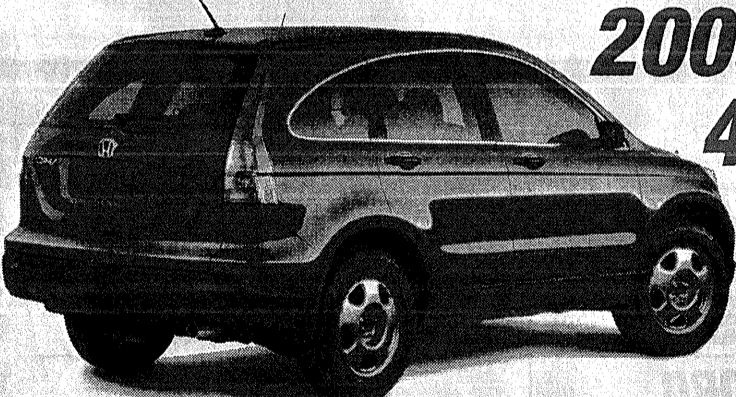
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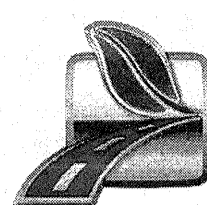
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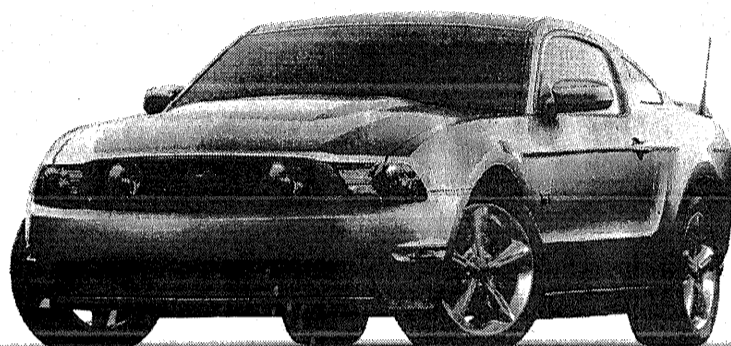
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