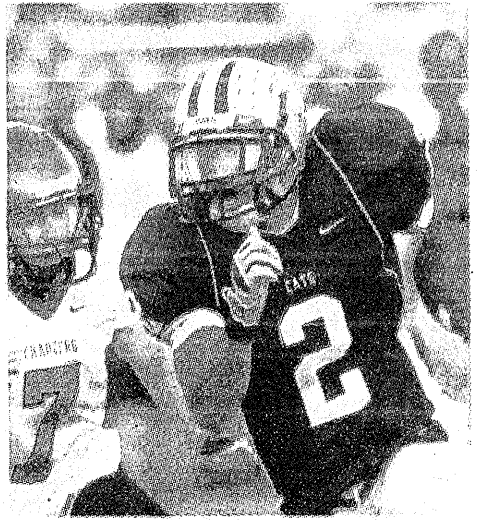


PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Plymouth beats up on Livonia Churchill, 31-7.

Sports, B1

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

City race

Voters will head to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3, for the Plymouth City Commission race. Absentee ballots are expected to be sent out beginning late this week.

On the ballot are six candidates, including three incumbents and one former commissioner, for four commission spots. However, Tracy Hewitt is not campaigning and has indicated she would not serve, citing family and work commitments (see related story, Page A3).

Actively in the race are incumbent Commissioners Ron Loiselle, the mayor pro tem, and Gerald Sabatini and Stella Greene. Former Commissioner Dan Dwyer, a former mayor, and retired high school principal John Barrett are the challengers.

Mayor Phil Pursell, whose commission term is expiring, is not seeking re-election.

The top three voter-getters will each win a four-year term, while the fourth-place finisher wins a two-year term.

Washing works

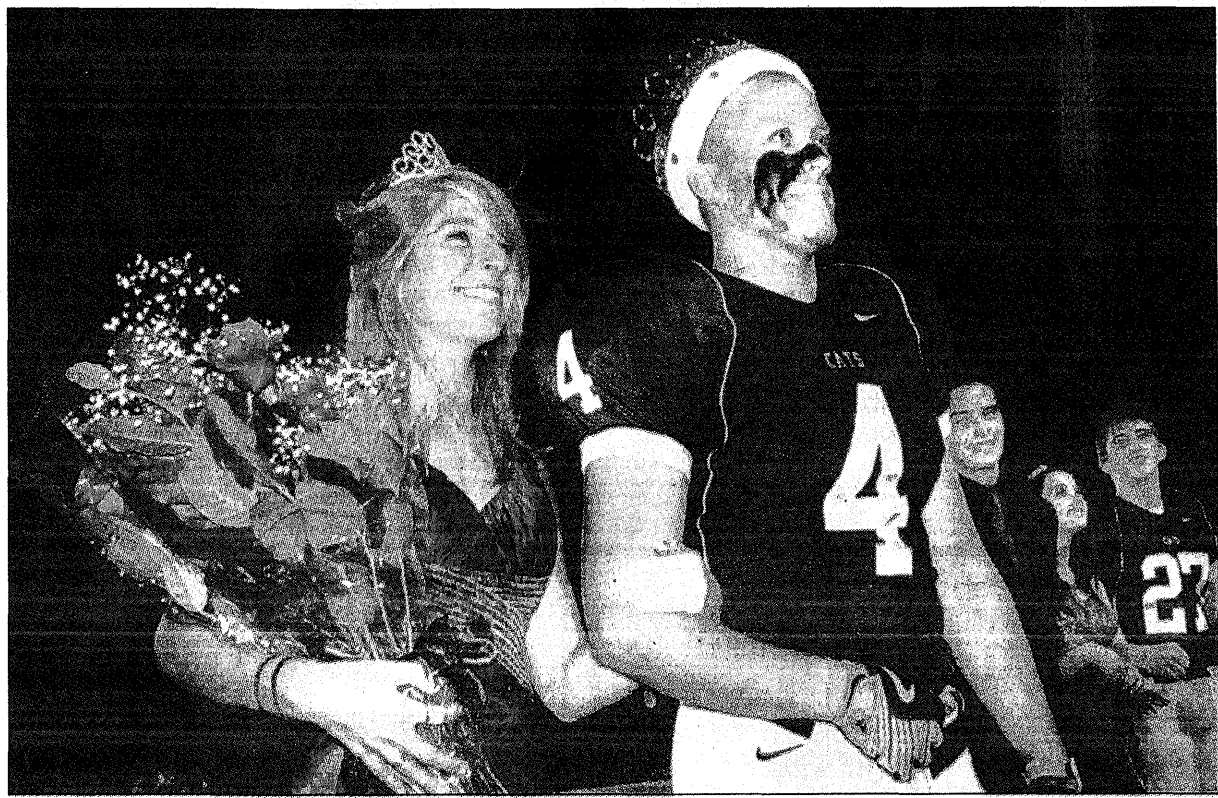
Wayne County health officials are reiterating the point they made at a press conference at Discovery Middle School in Canton last week: Washing your hands properly does help fight the spread of the H1N1 flu (and other communicable) diseases.

Officials kicked off their "Wash Your Hands" campaign at Discovery, with the emphasis on proper techniques for washing hands. The resulting publicity prompted several inquiries into whether washing hands actually helps fight H1N1, an airborne virus.

"It's true flu viruses can be transmitted through the air ... but one of the biggest risks is if we don't have a comprehensive protection plan that includes cough etiquette, sneeze etiquette and washing your hands," said Candice Jemison, manager for disease control, Wayne County Department of Public Health. "Coughing in what I would call the out-of-date way, into your hand, turns doorknobs, restrooms, vehicles, telephones - all become a way to transmit the virus."

Handwashing is one of several keys to fighting the disease, listed on the county's Web site. Others are getting seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccines; covering the mouth and nose with tissue; cleaning surfaces handled regularly with disinfectant and stocking rest rooms with soap, paper towels or hand-dryers.

For more information, call the county health department, (734) 727-7000.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crowning moment

Plymouth High School crowned Nikki Finch and Jake Zawaski their 2009 Homecoming Queen and King at Friday night's football game against Livonia Churchill. The halftime event capped off Homecoming Week for the Wildcats.

UAW leader stumps in Plymouth for national health-care reform

BY MATT JACHMAN

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The leader of one of the country's most powerful labor unions brought his push for national health-care reform to Plymouth on Thursday.

Citing statistics on the uninsured, whose ranks, he said, grow by 1.1 million with every percentage increase in unemployment, Ron Gettelfinger, president of the United Auto Workers International, said "we must find a way to fix the health-care crisis" to control costs and help revive the economy.

"We remain the only industrialized country without national health care, and we're paying the price," Gettelfinger said during a Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth luncheon meeting at Ernesto's.

The U.S., Gettelfinger said, spends more per capita on health care than many other countries, but lags behind on key health indicators such as life expectancy and infant mortality.

"Health care shouldn't be determined by the size of your bank account," he said.

Gettelfinger said providing health care to employees puts a drag on the economy by taking an ever-larger share of companies' expenditures. And four of every five uninsured Americans, he said, come from working families that can't afford health insurance and whose employers don't offer it.

While not providing specifics for the kind of plan he'd like to see, Gettelfinger gave Medicare, the federal program that provides insurance for people over 65, a plug.

"That to me sounds like a plan that might work for all of us," he said.

Later, Gettelfinger said he doesn't want to see the U.S. model a health plan solely after another country's plan.

"We don't want to be like other countries. We want our own health-care system that will work here," he said.

Gettelfinger also touched on the troubles of the Big Three automakers, saying that without government

Please see **REFORM, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UAW chief Ron Gettelfinger brought his push for national health-care reform to Plymouth on Thursday.

District makes grade on federal, state levels

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators can often be heard touting the academic achievements of their students.

With the results of their progress under the federal adequate yearly progress requirements and the Michigan Education Yes! initiative, they've been doing quite a lot of touting lately.

Plymouth-Canton schools achieved AYP last year, with 22 of the district's 25 schools hitting the mark. The same 22 schools — all 16 elementaries, all five middle schools and Plymouth High School — all got an "A" on the state report card under the Education Yes! requirements.

"Last year, not all of our elementaries got at 'A,'" said Mike Bender, the district's director of secondary education. "It's a tremendous effort on the part of our students and our teachers."

The three schools that didn't make AYP were Canton and Salem high schools, along with Starkweather, the district's alternative education center. According to Bender, Canton High School missed because its special-needs subgroup didn't meet proficiency requirements on the math portion of the Michigan Merit Exam. Salem High School missed because its African-American subgroup scores fell short on the reading portion of the same test.

Bender pointed out both Salem and Canton scored well enough on the School Report Card to gain an "A," but the failure to make AYP dropped those marks back to a "B."

Fewer than 10 alternative education students completed the Michigan Merit Exam, Bender said, so "there wasn't enough data to attain a grade" under Education Yes!

All the other academic data — overall MME scores, MEAP scores, ACT results, etc. — were well above state — and, in the case of the ACT, national — averages.

"We have a lot to be proud of in terms of our scores," Bender told school board members at their Tuesday meeting. "The ACT is a great indicator of college preparedness, and we're proud our scores continue to stay strong."

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

Index

APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C4
CAREER BUILDER	C1
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2
EDUCATION	A4
HEALTH & FITNESS	B10
MILESTONES	B6
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OBITUARIES	B5
REAL ESTATE	C2
SPORTS	B1

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City hopeful won't campaign for seat

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Though her name will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot, Tracy Hewitt is not actively seeking a spot on the Plymouth City Commission.

Hewitt on Thursday cited work and family responsibilities as she explained her decision. She and husband Patrick have two children; Hewitt works for a self-supporting Central Michigan University organization that provides research to a variety of businesses.

"It's just not a good year for me," said Hewitt, a former member of the Planning Commission. "I was hoping that it would be."

Hewitt's move leaves five active candidates in the race for four spots on the commission — three four-year terms and a single two-year term.

Hewitt said work and family commitments aren't leaving her the time she expected to have when she got into the commission race last spring. "I really thought there was room for it, otherwise I wouldn't have entered the race," she said.

'It's just not a good year for me. I was hoping that it would be. ... I really thought there was room for it, otherwise I wouldn't have entered the race.'

TRACY HEWITT, former City Commission candidate

Should she place among the winners in the race and not want to serve, said Clerk Linda Langmesser, Hewitt would have to submit a letter of resignation before the winners are sworn in on Monday, Nov. 9. The new commission would then pick a replacement for her, Langmesser said.

Hewitt said voters have a "strong field" from which to pick commissioners. "I feel very confident that we're going to get a good group," she said.

Hewitt said she hopes to be involved in the future in city politics. "I'm certain that I'll be back," she said.

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REFORM

FROM PAGE A1

aid, General Motors Corp. "would've gone into a free-fall bankruptcy," followed by Chrysler Corp. and then Ford Motor Co., which did not get government money.

"It would've devastated the economy," he said.

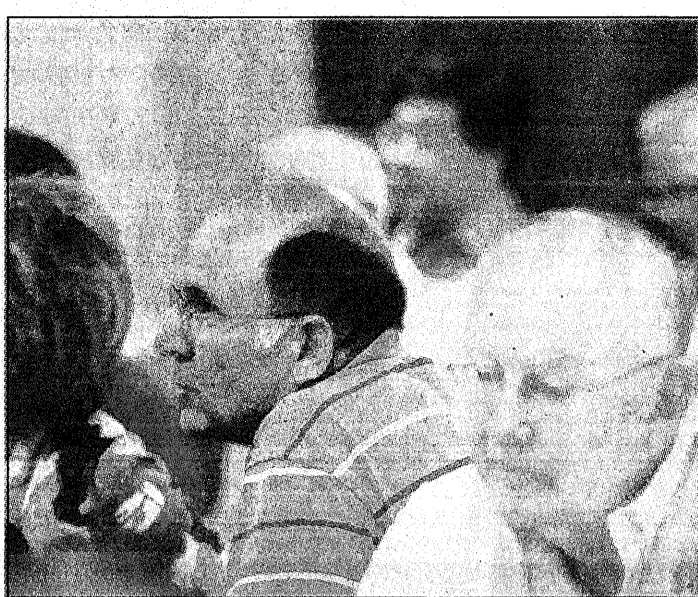
Gettelfinger also:
 • Said it was "painful" to hear public criticism of the UAW as the crisis in the auto industry reached its peak. The union, he said, had seen trouble ahead and had begun making concessions years earlier, but that was lost on critics.

"It was almost like we were being attacked because our workers realized the American dream," he said.

• Said U.S. manufacturing workers need a "level playing field" in the global marketplace with trade agreements that set standards for workers rights, environmental protections and enforcement.

"American workers cannot win against one-sided trade agreements," he said.

• Said the quality of GM, Chrysler and Ford vehicles



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kiwanis members listen to Ron Gettelfinger's message.

now matches that of their foreign competitors. "We simply have to overcome the perception issue," he said.

The UAW is "optimistic that as a country we are moving in the right direction," Gettelfinger said.

"It will take all of us working for the common good," he said.

Gettelfinger had been invited by John Stewart, a 25-year Kiwanis member and

a former Republican member of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Stewart said he was grateful for the union leader's perspective, and noted the previous Kiwanis speaker, David Cole of the Center for Automotive Research, had called manufacturing one of the pillars of a strong economy.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2404

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Shocktober

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth continues its Thursday-themed movie nights with October's "Shocktober Thursday Classics."

The schedule: Oct. 8, "The Mummy," (1932); Oct. 15, "War of the Worlds," (1953); Oct. 22, "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," (1948); and Oct. 29, "Bride of Frankenstein," (1935).

Admission is \$3, and the box office opens at 6:30 with show time at 7 p.m.

The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com

McCotter hours

The staff of Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (Michigan District 11) will hold office hours in several locations. This

time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member for assistance regarding any federal issue that they might have. This is not a POLITICAL venue and no discussions of a political nature will be expected.

McCotter's staff will be available 9-10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Canton Summit Senior Center, and 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library.

McCotter has two offices in the district to serve his constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 or the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Ride with Rotary

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., in partnership with the Huron Township Rotary Club, is holding a Harley-Davidson Bike Raffle and charitable event during the 14th annual Great Lakes Chili Cook-Off in Plymouth Oct. 4.

First prize is a 2009 Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic Motorcycle and custom trailer;

second prize is \$2,000; third prize is \$1,000.

Raffle tickets will be sold by the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. during the Chili Cook-off and can be purchased at the Club's Booth (on the west side of Kellogg Park) between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets sell for \$5, or five tickets for \$20.

The drawing will be held at the Huron Township Applefest in New Boston at 6 p.m. Oct. 4. Winner need not be present at drawing.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will help support Rotary's charitable efforts in local and international communities.

Clothing bank

The Plymouth-Canton Community School Clothing Bank, which provides clothing to needy families in the community, is now open for the school year.

The Clothing Bank is now taking donations of clean, gently used clothing and new undergarments. Hours of operation are 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday.

To make an appointment, call (734) 416-6179.

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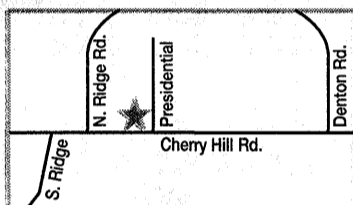
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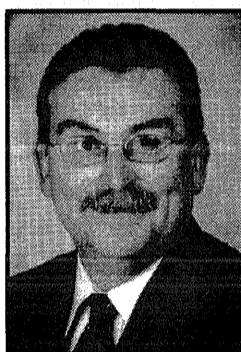
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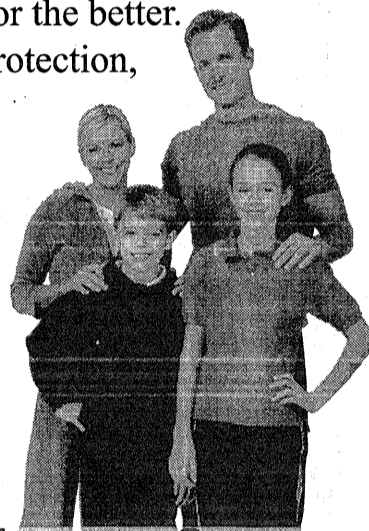
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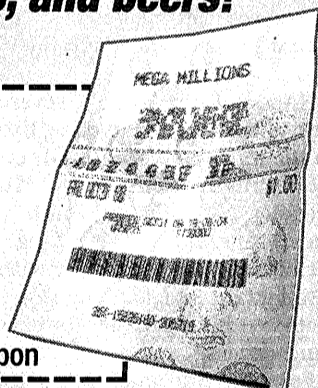
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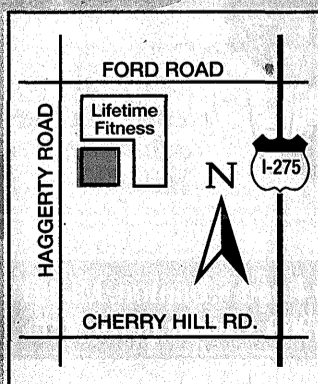
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City hopeful touts education skills

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After wrapping up 43 years in education, John Barrett is jumping into another career — politics. Barrett, who spent his entire career at Farmington High School as a teacher and administrator and retired this year after 12 years as principal, is running for a spot on the Plymouth City Commission. He is one of six candidates for four commission spots who will appear on the ballot Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Barrett, 67, said his experience in education, some of which involved working with the larger community and doing more with available resources, would serve him well if he is elected.

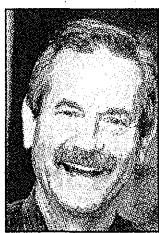
"I bring the kind of skills I think are necessary," said Barrett, including experience in researching what works best in a given situation. "I think that's what we need to do with dwindling resources."

In education, Barrett said, "politics are always hovering over your head in one form or another."

Barrett said he's "always been in love with the city" and thinks developments in downtown Plymouth have been positive in recent years. Active with the Friends of the Penn, he likes the city's walkability and small-town character, he said.

But downtown growth, he said, is in danger of moving too rapidly, which could ruin a delicate balance. "I would want to preserve the positive changes," he said.

Barrett said the city's spending — the general-fund budget for this fiscal year is about \$7.6 million — needs to be looked at carefully in light of an expected cut in state revenue sharing and



Barrett

reduced property tax collections. "We just need to totally analyze how we spend our dollars" and figure out what the public's priorities are before making any cuts, he said.

Barrett said he likes the public safety model for police and fire protection, and that he's seen that model work well in Farmington. He'd be willing to study adopting that model in Plymouth as a cost-saving measure, and would also be willing to look at further regionalization of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which serves the city and Plymouth Township, as an alternative.

But he'd want to be sure there would be no loss of public safety protection before adopting any new plan, he said.

"I think the thing you always need to take care of is the safety and security of the citizens of Plymouth," he said.

He likes Plymouth's many festivals, saying they draw visitors and add to the city's charm. "Most of the people who live here like being able to walk to a festival," he said. But care needs to be taken, he said, to make sure festivals aren't hindering some businesses when, for example, streets are closed.

Barrett has a campaign Web site, johnbarrettcitycommission.com. He coaches cross-country track at Stevenson High School in Livonia, and he and wife Carla are members at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

They have two grown daughters.

Commission veteran wants to continue service

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ron Loiselle has helped oversee many of the biggest projects in Plymouth over the last three decades.

During his 24 years on the Plymouth City Commission, which include two years as mayor, The Gathering and the downtown parking deck were built, the Tonquish Creek Manor senior citizens apartments were expanded, the downtown streetscape project began and downtown development took off.

Now, Loiselle is seeking reelection during a time of tight city budgets and a contracting work force. He is one of six candidates, including three incumbents, on the ballot in the Tuesday, Nov. 3, commission election.

"A lot of things, working together, have made this a pretty good place to live," said Loiselle, who turns 66 on Monday, during a recent interview. The longtime owner of a business in the city, Loiselle said he wants to maintain Plymouth's small-town feel.



Loiselle

"I don't think you get that experience in too many other communities" in a major metropolitan area, he said.

An accountant — he is selling the business to a son, Jason, and moving toward retirement — Loiselle said his professional and government experience give him the skills needed to get the most out of city budgets during a time of falling revenue.

"I've got probably the best background of any commissioner," he said.

The city's general-fund budget for the current fiscal year is about \$7.6 million; revenue sharing from the state and property-tax revenue are expected to drop for the next fiscal year. Revenue sharing alone is anticipated to be cut by between \$160,000 and \$250,000, Loiselle said.

Loiselle strongly favors look-

ing at achieving budget savings through providing police, firefighting and emergency medical services through a public safety department, rather than with separate departments.

The approach, he said, would be three-pronged: police officers who are cross-trained as firefighters and basic life support responders; the revival of a volunteer firefighting force; and paying Huron Valley Ambulance to dedicate an ambulance to the city and provide advanced life support and patient transport.

Loiselle said he'd also be willing to study a further regionalization of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which now serves the city and Plymouth Township, as a way to save money.

He's less enthusiastic about a regional police department. "It would be a last option," he said. "It would have to be pretty compelling for me to give up the level of service we

have from our police."

Loiselle likes Plymouth's many community events, which, he said, bring people into town and generate revenue for the city, as event sponsors pay for city services. "The economy will determine if you have too many of them," he said of events.

Loiselle is a member (and past chairman) of the Plymouth Planning Commission, chairman of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular's governing committee, on the board of the Community Foundation of Plymouth, and a member (and past president) of the Plymouth A.M. Rotary.

He said his community involvement helps him understand issues citizens and businesses face. "It keeps you in touch with what's going on in the community," he said.

He and his wife, Fran, have three sons and three grandsons.

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

NEWS BRIEF

Craft show

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

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

Hand-made and juried art and crafts will be sold from 9 am until 4 pm on Saturday, October 17 at West Middle School. The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Society sponsors this show and uses all of the proceeds to provide college scholarships for Plymouth Canton students.

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EDUCATION

WOW trip connects UM-D freshmen

They came. They paddled. They conquered not only the exhilarating rapids of the Pine River in Irons, Mich. but a four-day outdoor adventure with future classmates and university administrators, too.

Amanda Dillon of Plymouth and Rachael Lawrukovich of Westland were two of 19 incoming University of Michigan-Dearborn students who said adios to summer last month by joining UM-Dearborn staff for an inaugural canoeing excursion in the heart of western Michigan's Manistee National Forest as part of a new orientation program called Wolves. Orientation. Wilderness.

"The intent of the program was to give these students a head start - a connection - with the university before the semester started," said Kristine Day, director of student activities at UM-Dearborn, who served as a group leader during the four-day, three-night activity. "The experience did that and even more, as evident by the relationships that were established at camp, and now strengthened on campus."

Simon Michalik, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering, found that the trip lived up to his expectations of being a great way to meet new people, easing the transition to campus life.

"I was absolutely amazed at how quickly all of us got to know each other," Michalik said. "After only a few days it seemed that we had known each other for months. It's great to be able to walk around between classes and already know 18 other freshmen. It certainly makes it easier to stay on campus all day if you have people you know to hang out with or eat lunch with between classes."

The program, which has been



JENNIFER THELEN

Rachael Lawrukovich (middle row, fourth from left) of Westland and Amanda Dillon (back row, second from right) of Plymouth were two of the students who participated in the recent University of Michigan-Dearborn WOW program.

in the works for three years, is a collaboration of UM-Dearborn's Department of Athletics, the Office of Admissions and Orientation and the Student Activities Office.

Each student pays his or her way for the trip, which includes transportation to and from the site, all meals, canoe and camping equipment and a reflection journal, and provides his or her own personal hygiene items and sleeping bag. University staff members serve as group leaders, guiding the students through canoeing and team-building activities along with active discussion around the campfire about hopes and fears of starting col-

lege and campus life.

The outing allows students to make a solid connection with campus staff members and provides an experience that confirms the approachable nature of the faculty and staff at UM-Dearborn, according to Steven Rotta, director of athletics at UM-Dearborn, who also served as a group leader for the trip.

"This was an excellent opportunity for us as staff to get to know this generation of young adults in a way our regular professional experience may not readily lend itself," Rotta said. "I hope that we can create a way for more staff and faculty to experience this

adventure in the future."

Christopher Tremblay, director of admissions and orientation at UM-Dearborn who joined Rotta and Day in leading the group during the excursion, agreed.

"Until a few weeks ago, they were just an application and transcript that passed through the Admissions Office," said Tremblay. "Now, I know their personality. It was a wonderful glimpse into their hearts and minds and their hopes, fears and dreams about entering college at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. I was impressed by their attitudes, their interconnectedness and their focus."

Board sets goals for superintendent

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Fiegel

A bumpy budget process last year appeared to be part of the reason for Fiegel's 2.8 score in "leadership."

A couple of months after giving Superintendent Craig Fiegel their review of his first year, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education trustees have outlined goals for his second.

As always, student achievement and the budget top the list.

Improving student achievement, and reaching goals such as achieving Adequate Yearly Progress under the federal No Child Left Behind act, fall under the umbrella of "Curriculum and Instruction" on the list of goals. The board gave Fiegel a 4.4 (on a scale of 5; it was his highest rating) on his annual review.

The district achieved AYP last year, though three schools - Canton and Salem High School and the Starkweather alternative education center - fell short of an "A" in the state Education Yes! school report card.

"We want to make sure we're moving toward AYP," said board vice president Barry Simescu, who chairs the superintendent's review committee. "In schools where we're not making it we want to make sure we're doing what we need to improve."

The other key area on which the board would like Fiegel to focus is on the budget. And his focus, they believe, shouldn't just be on the bottom line; it should be on the process administrators use to hammer out a budget.

Administrators - chiefly the district's finance chief, Jim Larson-Shidler - have been developing a process that gets the board involved earlier and more specifically defines all the numbers.

"I didn't think the budget process went all that smoothly, either," Fiegel admitted following his review. "(Larson-Shidler) was new, I was new. It was a difficult year with the state. We were doing things differently, and (board members) wanted something very similar to what they were used to."

With an expected cut estimates have said could be anywhere between \$100 and \$600 in the state foundation grant, the budget process will get even stickier in the district.

"We're anxious to get the budget process going," Simescu said.

The goals came as no surprise to Fiegel. Most of them are common-sense things, he said.

"The goals are things we've talked about," Fiegel said. "(Board members) have shared some thoughts, and (administrators) have shared some back. It was a good give-and-take process."

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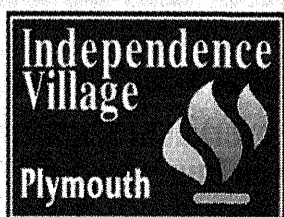
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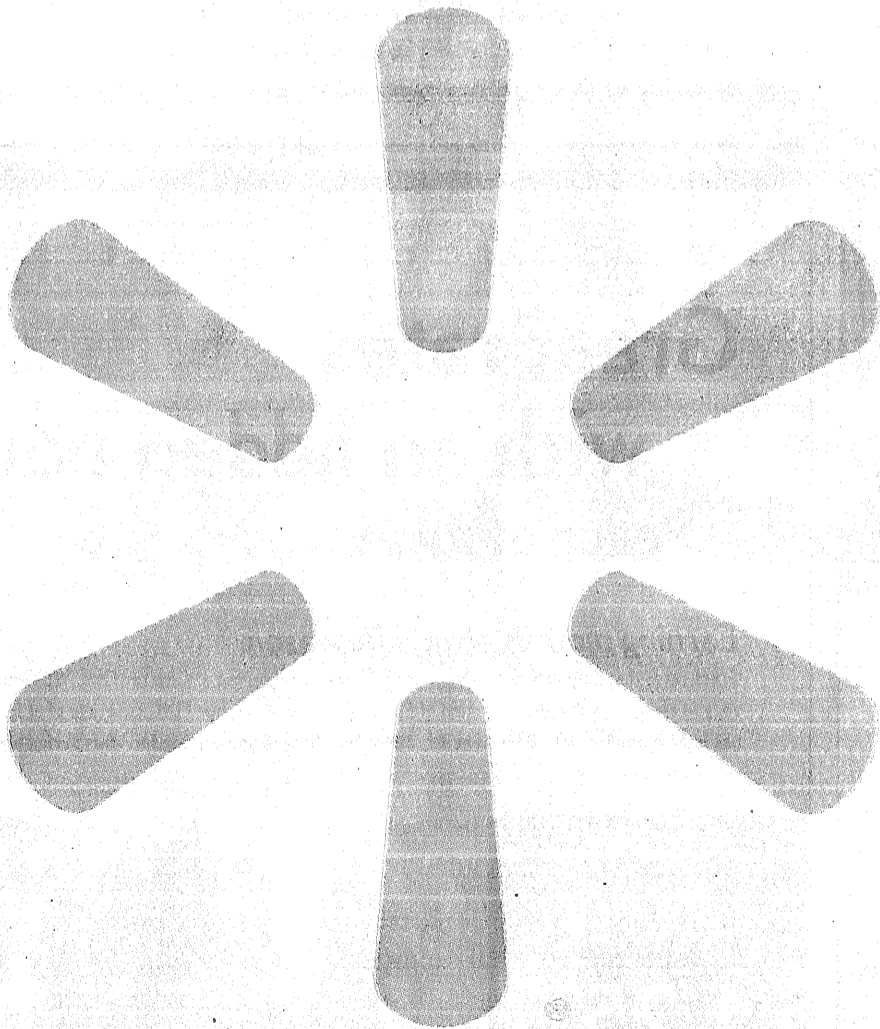


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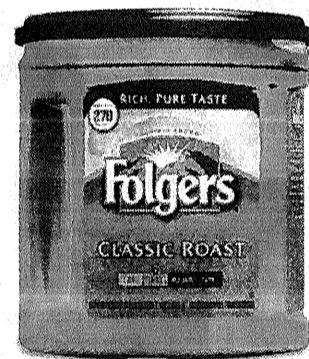
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Canton woman lobbies Congress on cancer

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004 — and subsequently fighting it off — Elizabeth Paruch couldn't have imagined herself sitting in the Washington, D.C., office of a U.S. congressman pressing him for things like health care reform.

As a five-year cancer survivor, Paruch has stopped being surprised at the kind of courage one can find. That's why Paruch, a Canton resident who is a team leader for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, had no problem sitting in the Capitol office of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, Tuesday letting him know just what CAN thinks he should do about health care.

officials about health care reform," said Paruch, who with husband Dale has lived in Canton 12 years. "We wanted to let them know what the American Cancer Society's position is."

Paruch was one of some 400 team leaders from around the country — one from each congressional district — who descended upon Washington Tuesday for a Leadership Summit and Lobby Day.

The all-volunteer group conducted 100 meetings with Senate representatives, and another 345 with House representatives. Paruch said most of the meetings were productive.

"They were very receptive," said Paruch. "We were very happy with the meetings."

Paruch said the American Cancer Society's health-care reform concerns center around making health care adequate



Members of the Michigan Ambassador Constituent Team Leads (that's Canton's Elizabeth Paruch on the far right) meet with Kathryn Kietzman, Legislative Fellow to U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

and affordable with no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

The nonpartisan group isn't supporting any specific plan, she said. The ACS simply wants to make sure the concerns of cancer patients are met when any reform comes about.

"Our concern is whatever plan gets adopted, it addresses our issues," Paruch said. "We're not taking a partisan position, we're taking a pro-cancer patient position. We feel if it helps cancer patients, it's probably going to help everybody."

Paruch met Sara Fitzwater, an aide to Sen. Carl Levin; Sen. Debbie Stabenow's Legislative Fellow Kathryn Kietzman; and with McCotter Chief of Staff Patrick Rothwell (McCotter, a member of the House Cancer Caucus, was traveling from Livonia to Washington that day and couldn't meet with them). She said the talk centered around health care reform in general. "We knew (Levin and Stabenow) were on board with all of our concerns," Paruch said of the Democratic senators. "(Rothwell) was very receptive, and told us (McCotter) goes along with our concerns."

Rothwell said such constituent visits are welcomed in Washington.

"Any time a constituent comes in and we get to hear what's on their minds, it's beneficial," Rothwell said. "Generally speaking, we agree with the majority of their concerns. Because they're kind of conceptual, it's tough to get into any sort of specifics. We don't know where we stand right now (with specific bills), but overall, I think we were in agreement with where we would like to be."

Paruch said the annual forays into Washington are often effective. Two years ago, ACS lobbied for better health care for children, which resulted, Paruch said, in the passage of the SCHIP legislation. Last year's focus was on FDA regulation of tobacco.

But the one she said touched

her the most — because she has college-age children — was "Michelle's Law," which takes effect next month and allows college students who have to take time off school for medical issues to continue to be carried on insurance plans.

"Her mom got it changed with the help of the American Cancer Society," Paruch said. "That one brought tears to my eyes. I think of my own sons and what I would have done if that happened to any one of them."

Paruch became an advocate for CAN in 2006, some two years after her diagnosis and treatment for cancer. She had participated in her first Relay for Life in May 2004 in honor of her brother, and was diagnosed herself three months later.

She said because her cancer was detected early, her treatment was much less severe than that of most women. She had a lumpectomy, four chemo treatments and seven weeks of radiation.

"I went through nothing compared to a lot of women, and they have no support," said Paruch, who credits the support of her husband and sons — Brian, Christopher and Mark — for her recovery. "I can't go back and thank those women. All I can do is go forward and make sure the women who come after me have it a little better. I hope one day none of us has to go through it."

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Brighton-Roscommon bike trip fulfills rider's 50-year promise

What began as a dream for two cousins from the Detroit area was finally realized, 50 years later, when one of them, a Plymouth Township resident with a vacation home near Roscommon, "did it for both of us" and bicycled from downstate to Roscommon last week.

After three days over the handlebars, and traveling as much as 110 miles a day, travel, automotive and outdoor writer Bill Semion of Plymouth Township arrived at around noon on Friday, Sept. 18, and headed for the Lickety Splitz to celebrate with a burger and a malt.

"The journey was in part to celebrate my 62nd birthday, and to fulfill that long-held dream that started when I was 13 and my cousin, Bill Hulle, was 12," Semion said.

At the time, Semion lived in Westland and the two had planned to bicycle to Semion's parents' vacation home on Bass Lake near East Tawas. Their route would have taken them along country roads to old U.S. 23 and what now is M-13. They figured it would take them about four days. They had planned to camp out on the way.

"It was a different time, and

my father, who had cycled extensively as a teenager while growing up in eastern Russia, said, 'sure, go ahead,' when he heard of our plans. But my cousin's father wasn't so sure," Semion said.

Semion's uncle kiboshed the trip, and the two cousins never followed up. However, Semion had kept the idea as one of his "bucket list" things to do when he left full-time work as an editor at AAA Michigan's *AAA Living Magazine*, and then as a media relations specialist at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, both as a result of downsizings.

Semion now writes for several publications, has an online travel blog (billsemionstravelgetaways.blogspot.com), and auto blog (billsemionsautofocus.blogspot.com), and the seventh edition of his popular book, *Fun With the Family In Michigan*, hits the shelves this month.

"I began training for the trip this spring, and finally squeezed it into my schedule last week. The universe must have been behind me, as it was clear skies and great temperatures all the way," he said.

The only rough spot came during the first day, when he became "trapped" in Flint because of its road system and a lack of any good bike routes there.

"I thought I had my route through Flint planned out, but the roads kept dead-ending, and that left me no alternative but to try what I knew were heavy traffic routes," he said. "Sorry, Flint, but you are not bicycle friendly — at all."

After 1½ miles of pushing his bike through weeds alongside a road to keep out of the heavy traffic, he called his wife, Denise, who called a friend at the *Flint Journal*. She transported Semion to the west side of Birch Run, and he

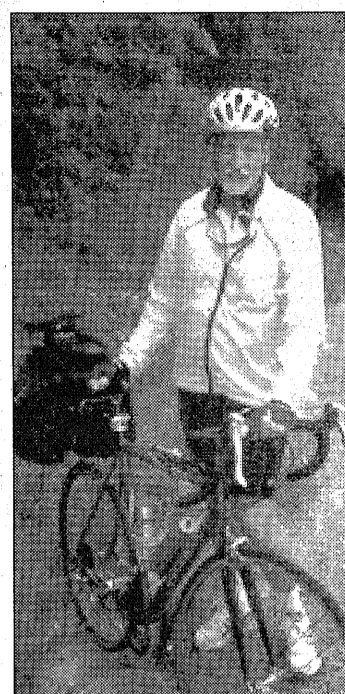
continued his journey.

And yes, he did call his cousin, Bill, while on a roadside break, telling him that he was doing the trip for the both of them.

After spending the first night with friends in Saginaw, Semion continued up through Sterling, arriving for his second night on the road in West Branch. Then after a four-hour pedal on old M-76 through St. Helen, he arrived in Roscommon. His neighbor, Bill Angus, snapped the final photos as Semion arrived at his Au Sable River home.

"It was a great experience. Drivers were polite and most of them gave me a wide berth. My training paid off, especially that long first day."

Would he do it again? "Yeah, I think I would and I could. I might even convince my cousin Bill, or my wife, to come along next time!"



Bill Semion of Plymouth Township heads out near Brighton for his bicycle trek to Roscommon. DENISE SEMION

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Plaza loses Hunan, gains Verizon outlet

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A popular, longtime Chinese restaurant, Hunan Empire, has closed in Canton amid changes occurring in the Willow Creek Plaza on Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty.

Township resident Jeff Noe said he and his wife, Debra, had been customers of Hunan Empire since they moved to Canton in 1992.

"We loved it. It was the best Chinese food around," Noe said. "We went there a couple times a month."

The couple noticed Hunan Empire had closed when they recently went there for food.

Jeff Goulet, Canton community planner, said much of Hunan Empire's business was carry-out, although the restaurant had occupied a 4,080-square-foot space in the shopping center.

It wasn't known Friday

whether Hunan Empire might move to a new location. A telephone number for the restaurant had been disconnected.

Heather Speier, marketing director for Southfield-based Ludwig & Seeley, Inc., Real Estate, said Verizon Wireless plans to lease the space formerly occupied by Hunan Empire.

Verizon is expected to open in February.

Speier also confirmed that Kabuki, a Japanese restaurant

specializing in sushi, plans to open in January in a 1,500-square-foot space elsewhere in Willow Creek Plaza.

"This will be Kabuki's third location in the metro Detroit area," Speier said.

She said Willow Creek, a sprawling plaza, now has only 1,500 square feet of space available, despite a troubled economy that has taken a toll on many shopping centers.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Article prompts letter from Plymouth Township man

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tom Doran of Plymouth Township was in Florida visiting his daughter when he got a surprise Friday, Sept. 18. A letter, "Religion helps," he'd written to *USA Today* was published on the newspaper's opinion page.

"I really enjoy engaging in the arena of ideas," the engi-

neer said. He normally gets the *Wall Street Journal* delivered in the morning, but got a *USA Today* by mistake and read the earlier article asking if secularism can save marriages.

"It prompted me to write the letter," said the Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church member. He'd had another letter published in *USA Today* a few months ago on moral relativism.

"I was traveling and just happened to see an article and fired something off." He finds response to his letters varies, with some agreeing and others not.

Views are posted on various Web sites and draw reaction. Doran tries to use a reason-based approach in his writing "and not just be a pure emotional type of response."

He's also written letters published in the *Detroit Free Press*,

as well as op-ed pieces for the *Detroit Daily* on water quality, his area of professional expertise.

His "Religion helps" letter noted couples who share faith find marriages stronger. "I've been married 32 years. I've found that's been the case." He noted the statistical advantages in such marriages as well.

"I like to take that approach in the public arena," Doran said of his writing.

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Charity soccer game aids domestic violence shelters

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton and Detroit police officers will play a charity soccer match to raise money for shelters that help victims of domestic and sexual violence — shelters feeling the pinch of an economic downturn.

The game, scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at the High Velocity Sports Center on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road, will benefit First Step, which serves western Wayne County, and the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit's Interim House.

Admission is \$5 at the door, or Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said he may be contacted for ticket information at (734) 394-5424 or by e-mail at mgajeski@canton-mi.org. "We're really excited about this," said Theresa Bizoe, First Step's associate director. "The economy has really affected our ability to raise money. We've really had to reach out in a variety of ways and ask people to consider First Step a critical safety net for the community."

A sour economy has prompted many corporations to scale back their charitable donations, Bizoe said, and a tumultuous stock market has left community foundations with less revenue to help organizations relying on financial assistance.

Canton and Detroit police will square off during a soccer game featuring Detroit Ignition players participating as coaches and referees, and the team's cheerleaders, The Sparks, also will be on hand, according to police.

The afternoon will include photos with Ignition soccer

players, face-painting, children's play areas and prizes.

"It's an opportunity for the city and suburbs to work together for a good cause — domestic violence shelters," Gajeski said.

Bizoe and Gajeski said economic problems also have made it more difficult for victims of domestic and sexual violence to find jobs and other resources they need to make a new start.

Bizoe said First Step may be reached 24 hours by calling (734) 722-6800 or through a toll-free number at (888) 453-5900. More information also is available online at www.first-step-mi.org.

The YWCA's Interim House's crisis line may be reached at (313) 861-5300, or information is available online at www.ywca.org.

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Amnesty offers better deal for unreported income

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I have a disagreement and I hope you can help us. For over 10 years we have invested money overseas. We have never paid taxes on the money. My husband figures that since the income is not reported to the IRS we have nothing to worry about. I'm concerned about what could happen if the IRS discovers our overseas account. I have heard the government has some sort of amnesty program for people like us. My husband says that under the amnesty program we have to pay the taxes, interest and a penalty which he says would be the same situation if we are discovered. I think we should bite the bullet and pay the taxes. What do you think?

A: You should take advantage of the amnesty program.

The law is clear regarding that as American citizens it really doesn't matter where money is earned or whether those earnings are reported to the IRS. You are liable to



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

pay taxes on those earnings. I believe no matter what one's personal views regarding tax laws, those views are not the issue. The issue is what the law states. The second issue is whether you will get a better deal from the IRS if you voluntarily come forward as opposed to them discovering you. As far as I am concerned, it is a slam dunk. You will get a better deal from the IRS by coming forward and admitting your mistakes. In your case, you potentially will have to pay less in penalties on the unreported income. According to the IRS, the amnesty program will result in reduced penalties for taxpayers who voluntarily report their income. In addition, let's not forget that failure to properly report income can be a criminal

offense. When you voluntarily come forward to report previously unreported income, the IRS does not pursue criminal proceedings.

On the other hand, if the IRS discovers that you have undisclosed income, they can pursue criminal sanctions against you and your husband. After all, you both signed the tax return.

The IRS recently extended the amnesty program deadline. Originally set to expire mid-September, taxpayers now have until Oct. 15. You still have a few weeks to apply. In that regard, I recommend that you hire a tax attorney. He or she will have attorney-client privilege which potentially may be useful in negotiating with the IRS.

Many individuals have either not filed tax returns or have unreported income and are living on the edge hoping that the IRS does not contact them. As far as I am concerned, that is no way to live. A much better course of action is to either file an

amended return or for those who have not yet filed their original return, file it now.

I've dealt with many taxpayers over the years who did not file their tax returns on time. When they finally came forward and did file their returns, all said they felt relief. In fact, many were surprised that the amount of money they actually owed the IRS was less than they had originally thought.

Like many of you, I believe our tax laws are archaic, cumbersome and unfair. However, that does not diminish our responsibility as citizens to pay taxes.

To be a good citizen and have peace of mind, I always recommend complying with the law. And when we make mistakes, correct them. Good luck!

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

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1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
◉ JENNIFER'S BODY (R)
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FRI/SAT LS 12:05
◉ I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF (PG-13)
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FRI/SAT LS 11:50
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Local balloon company offers bird's-eye view of fall colors

Everyone knows how glorious Michigan's fall colors are, but a local hot air balloon company offers the chance to see them in a way most people never dreamed.

The Westwind Balloon Company, based in Plymouth, takes people on balloon rides over the woods and streams of Kensington Park and Island Lake State Park.

Scott Lorenz, company president and chief pilot, said most balloon rides last about one hour. He and several other pilot friends meet at the Park 'n Ride area off Milford Road and I-96 (exit 155) about 2 1/2 hours before sunset. From there he'll launch helium balloons, determine the wind direction, then take a short drive to one of nine launch sites in the area that give the best views and best landing sites downwind. The flights go over Brighton, South Lyon and Milford.

Mike Ball, a crewman and sometimes passenger, said there is no better way to take in the splendor of autumn.

"The palate of colors just takes your breath away," he said. "I love taking photos from the balloon especially when we fly over Kensington Park. It's fabulous, it's 10 times better than driving. People just have no idea how pretty it is."

What to wear? Lorenz suggests passengers wear tennis shoes and jeans. He says the air temp "upstairs" is within a couple degrees of ground temp so it's not a factor. Cameras and video cameras are highly recommended to preserve the once in a lifetime moments while flying over the countryside.

Flights cost \$695 for a private ride, which is two passengers and the pilot. All flights are pre-paid. Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover and PayPal are accepted. Gift certificates are available.

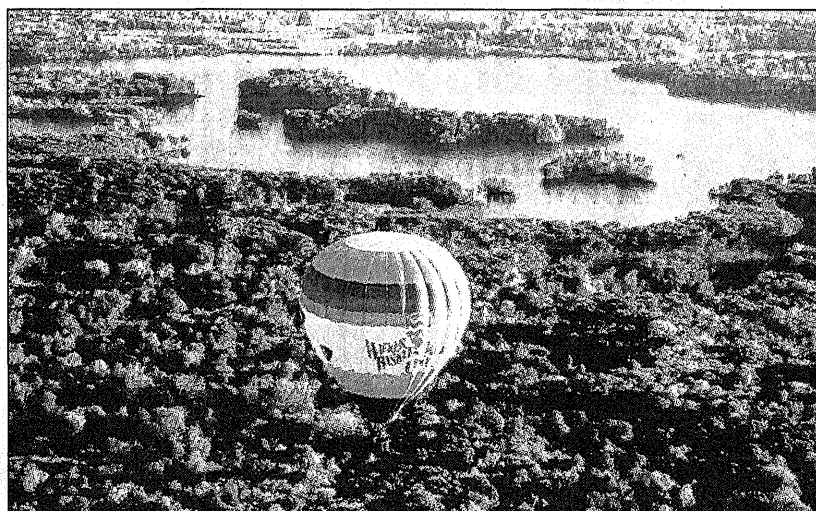
For large parties and families, Lorenz recommends the Wicker Basket Balloon Center of Wixom. Their balloon basket is able to accommodate up

to six passengers with special group rates. Balloonist and owner Gordon Boring is one of the most experienced commercial pilots in Michigan and has trained dozens of pilots, including Lorenz.

For more information, visit www.westwindcos.com/balloon or call (734) 667-2098.

For more information about Wicker Basket Balloon Center in Wixom, call (248) 624-5137. Gordon Boring is pilot and owner.

For a Michigan fall color video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3Pi8EgTbjY.



The balloon rides will let passengers get a spectacular view of the fall colors. Here one of the balloons rises above Kent Lake.

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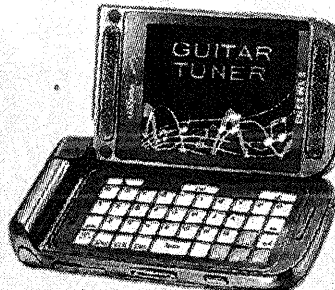
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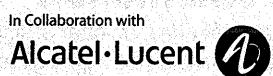
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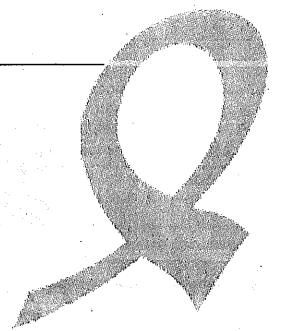
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Rocks bust loose for first win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Smash-mouth football lifted Salem to its first victory in two seasons as the Rocks pounded South Lyon East 40-0 Friday at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's junior varsity field.

It also marked the first win in the head coaching tenure of Kurt Britnell, who praised his team for good, hard two-way football that helped build leads of 10-0 after one quarter and 19-0 at halftime.

"It's good for the kids; these kids needed it," said Britnell, who was an assistant coach in 2008 at Plymouth when the Rocks went 0-8. "They've been working hard and they haven't given up at all. It was very rewarding for them and their hard work."

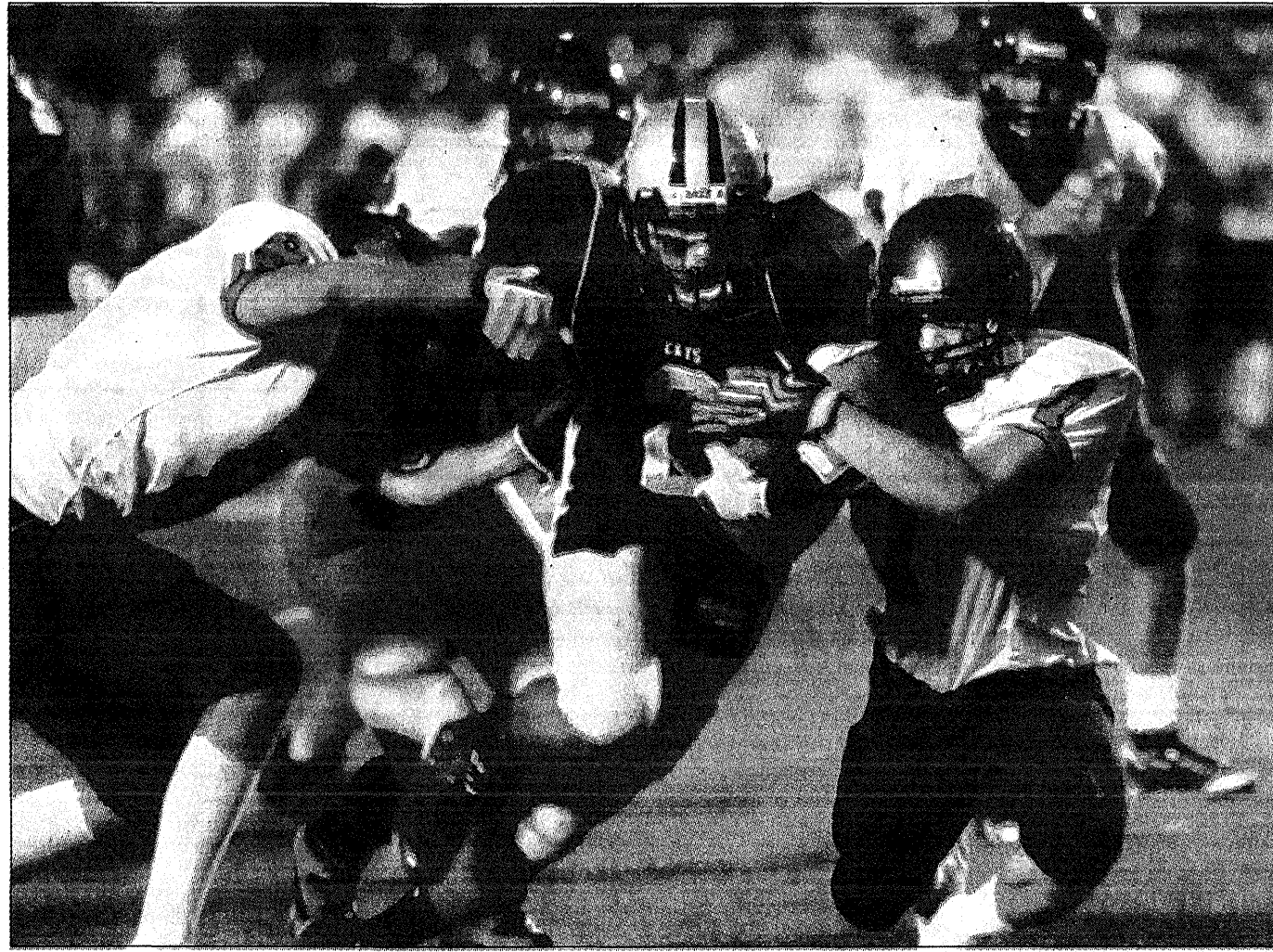
Britnell pointed to the outstanding, swarming defense led by senior Austin Root (nine tackles) and junior Ethan Walsh (11 tackles, two interceptions, one fumble recovery).

"Walsh and Root were unbelievable on 'D,'" Britnell said. "They give us a spark on offense too, because they're physical players."

The big guns on offense for Salem (1-4, 1-2 in the KLAAs Central) were senior quarterback Brian Maksimovic and sophomore running back Marcus Houston.

Maksimovic completed

Please see **ROCKS, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth senior running back Jernarian Caldwell (No. 2) shakes off Livonia Churchill defenders Steven Klisz (No. 8) and Kevin Pietrasinski for another long gainer.

Plymouth's 1-2 punch pummels Churchill

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What Jernarian Caldwell can do, Victor Hicks can do better — or at least just as good.

Plymouth's dynamic duo sparked Friday night, collecting more than 300 rushing yards between them, as the host Wildcats pounded Livonia Churchill 31-7 in a KLAAs South Division contest.

Of course, Wildcats head coach Mike Sawchuk correctly said it wasn't a two-

man show.

"We got off the football tonight, offensive line-wise," Sawchuk said. "We went back to the basics, tried to keep them from thinking so much and just get after it."

"They (Caldwell, Hicks) don't do anything if those guys don't block. It's nice to have those weapons."

But with a smile, Sawchuk did note that "competition breeds some good plays, doesn't it?"

That was evident all night at the

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity field.

TO THE HOUSE

Caldwell, for example did a spinarama at the line of scrimmage in the first quarter, turning a no-gainer into a 16-yard touchdown that put Plymouth (4-1, 2-1) on the board.

It was 17-0 at halftime and, in the third quarter, both players really got busy.

Please see **PLYMOUTH, B4**

GAME WRAPS

Wildcats spike Pats

Plymouth defeated Livonia Franklin 3-0 Thursday in a KLAAs South varsity volleyball match. The Wildcats (8-2, 3-0) won by scores of 25-19, 25-22 and 25-9.

Dominant at the net for Plymouth were Alex Roberts (10 kills) and Kelly Smoltz (7 kills). Defensive stalwarts included Mariah Tesarz (14 digs), Lindsay Stemberger (9 digs) and Andrea Haidar (8 digs).

Meanwhile, Dani Risi collected seven service aces while Katie Salo tallied 21 assists.

Canton kickers roll

Daniel Ovesea, Brandon Tolinski and Bobby Budlong scored two goals each Thursday as visiting Canton merced Wayne Memorial 10-0 in a KLAAs South Division varsity boys soccer tilt that ended early due to the first-half mercy rule.

The Chiefs improved to 8-3-2 overall and 5-1 in the South while Wayne dropped to 0-9, 0-6.

Rocks split

In a KLAAs Central varsity boys soccer contest, a goal in the final minute resulted in Salem losing its first divisional match of the season Thursday, 3-2, at South Lyon.

For the Rocks (9-3-2, 5-1-0), Evan Antich scored in the first half on an assist from Lachlan Savage. Later, Alex Tramel found the target after getting a feed from Antich.

On Tuesday, Salem edged Salem 2-1. Scoring for the Rocks were Brandon Quinn (from Tramel) and Antich (from Sal Savage).

OT loss for Eagles

Plymouth Christian Academy lost a heartbreaker Friday at Stafford Field, 3-2 in overtime to Oakland Christian.

PCA drew first blood when senior Jordan Machonga gave a beautiful assist to freshman Dan Ross who banged it past the goalkeeper off the inside left post.

But the visitors tied it up before the half and it remained 1-1 until Caleb Stanko scored to give Oakland a 2-1 edge. The Eagles forced overtime when sophomore Chris Scagnetti cleaned up a loose ball and drilled it into the top left corner.

But Stanko made the assist on the winning goal about five minutes into OT. He chipped his shot over a wall of PCA defenders and a forward headed it home.

The loss dropped the Eagles' record to 3-5-1 overall and 1-5-1 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division.

Reddy's ready

Chiefs' alum cager set for head coaching job

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Reddy's time as a basketball understudy at Canton High School is over and he couldn't be more thrilled.

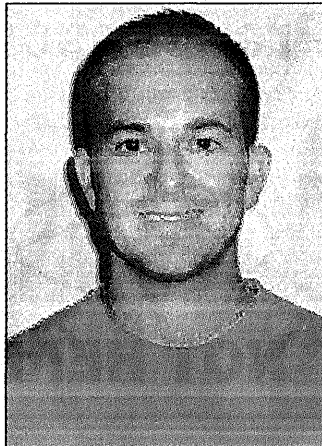
The 27-year-old Reddy, a three-year varsity point guard for the Chiefs who graduated in 2000, is set to soon begin his first season as varsity boys basketball coach for his alma mater.

"I am really excited about taking over," said Reddy, hired in May by co-athletic director Sue Heinzman after the resignation of Dan Colligan.

Reddy is having quite a breakout year in all aspects of his life.

Not long after getting the nod from Heinzman to become head coach, he got married and moved into a Canton condominium. His wife, Jeannine Reddy, also coaches junior varsity boys and girls soccer at Canton.

Reddy is more than ready for the hoops challenge,



'I learned something from every coach I have worked with.'

JIMMY REDDY,
Canton varsity boys hoops coach

having soaked up plenty of basketball knowledge from a string of freshman, junior varsity and varsity coaches (right up to Colligan) during the decade or so since his graduation day.

On top of that, Reddy helmed the ninth grade boys for five years, the JV boys for

another and spent one year each coaching the freshman and JV girls teams.

Then in 2008-09, Reddy was the varsity boys assistant to Colligan.

"I learned something from every coach I have worked with," Reddy said, listing renowned Bob Blohm, Dan Young (his own former coach), Jeremy Rheault, Charlie Paye and Colligan.

Of course, he cites Canton varsity girls basketball coach Brian Samulski as being instrumental in his career path.

"Brian Samulski has probably been the biggest influence on my coaching career," Reddy said. "... Brian has been a positive influence on me because I have learned so much about basketball and about how to run a program."

"He has answered a lot of questions for me over the years." According to Reddy, the 2009-10 Chiefs will feature plenty of man-to-man

Please see **REDDY, B5**

Canton goes down swinging in loss

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

VOLLEYBALL

Kellogg Arena at state finals time might not have the same snap, crackle and pop as the Livonia Churchill gymnasium did Thursday night.

Fans were treated to a rip-roaring varsity volleyball KLAAs South matchup between the host Chargers and Canton, featuring playoff tension and every-play-counts intensity. Churchill — led by the deadly offensive combo of senior outside hitters Sarah Suppelsa and Cierra Yetts — finally earned a 3-1 match victory to improve to 22-3 overall and 3-0 in the division.

"We've got a lot of work (to do), we've got to go to their place," said Churchill head coach Mark Grenier. "This is only the first half. The only thing we have is an advantage. I'm glad we have that but this thing is far from over."

Canton (8-1, 2-1) came out swinging, taking the opening game 25-23 and having a 16-12 edge in the middle of Game 2. But then the bottom fell out

and the Chargers roared back for a 25-20 win to even the match.

Game 3 was a nail-biter that ultimately went to Churchill, 25-23. The deciding game was an anticlimactic 25-14.

"I'm not disappointed with how we played but I know that we are not going to hang our heads low after this," said Canton head coach Mary Kryska. "We're going to move on. They're at our tournament on Saturday and then we play them again at home."

NIGHT FOR RALLIES

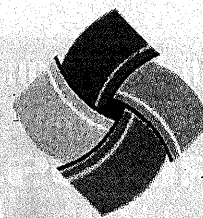
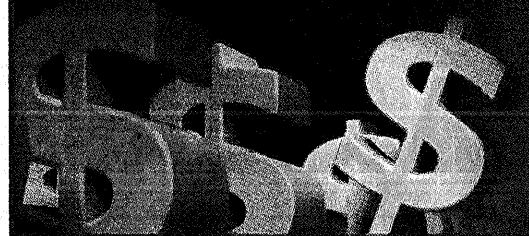
The opener saw the Chiefs rebound from a 19-14 deficit, with senior outside hitter Jordan Kieley going on a five-point service run (including an ace) to lift Canton back into the fray.

Canton finally broke even at 23-23 on a defensive point scored by sophomore outside hitter Kristen Muir and senior

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B5**

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Smashing Pumpkins

Catholic Central returning to elite status, crush Rice 24-7

BY RYAN SHINKEL
CORRESPONDENT

The chanting begins loudly and clearly, "Rocks eat rice, rocks eat rice," as the students watch the varsity football captains walk up to the podium during a recent Friday afternoon's pep rally at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

All the students wait in anticipation for the annual Rice Week's 'smashing of the pumpkins.' One by one they promise the Saturday, Sept. 19 game versus Birmingham Brother Rice, that there would be smashing of the pumpkins.

On that night, the Shamrocks proved their prophecy to be true as they beat the Warriors (aka 'Pumpkins Heads' for their orange uniforms) 24-7, breaking a five-year drought against the CC's main rivals.

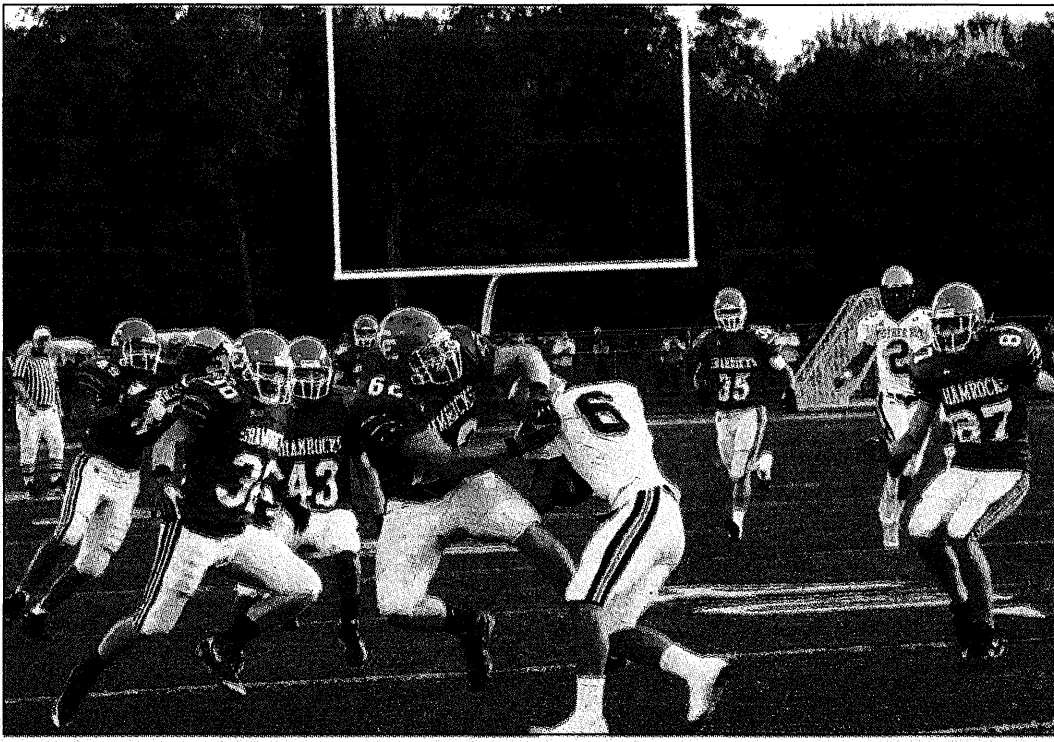
The memory of last year's loss to the Warriors haunted the Shamrocks. Many Catholic Central starters recall how the Shamrocks gave up an 11-point lead in the final six minutes of the game and lost by a field goal in the last seconds of the game.

The crowd of 5,000 plus witnessed a defensive game in the first quarter. The first score came in the second quarter when CC fullback Butch Herzog ran 16 yards with 11:09 on the clock.

The Shamrocks shut Brother Rice out in the first half, as they closed it with a 7-0 lead.

Then with almost seven minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Shamrocks struck again with a field goal by Justin D'Agostino.

But in the early part of the fourth quarter, Brother Rice broke Catholic Central's three game shutout streak when Warriors' quarterback Frankie Popp threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to make it a 14-7 contest.



Football players from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and Birmingham Brother Rice battled it out, as usual, on the gridiron last week.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL

LANDRY LEADS

Catholic Central returned the favor, as quarterback Sam Landry led an 80-yard drive lasting 14 plays and almost six minutes in the fourth. Landry connected on a third-and-goal pass to George Derany and it was 17-10.

Shamrocks' head coach Tom Mach discussed team captain Landry's improvement this season.

"He gives us great stability on offense," Mach said. "His improvement is in all areas of poise, being a general on the field and taking charge."

"His throwing is very accurate. He's making good decisions and taking care of the football. ... I see a bright future for him."

The Shamrocks finally put the nail through the coffin with 2:35 left in the game, when Niko Palazeti scored another touchdown on a four-yard run. Palazeti is consid-

ered to be one of the main reasons for the Shamrocks success this season.

As Mach put it, "Niko's one of the finest football players in general we've had at Catholic Central and he's also one of the great fullbacks. He runs with reckless abandon and he can smash people with his play."

With a good passing game, Catholic Central still put the pedal to the metal as Anthony Capatina ran for 102 yards.

"It's good to have balance when you're running an offense," continued Mach. "We've always been run-oriented because we have the type of players that work hard in the weight room getting strong."

"And, in high school, it's a little easier to run the football than it is to throw it."

DANDY DEFENSE

Defense also is a big reason why the Shamrocks are returning to prominence. Having only allowed one

touchdown in four games, Mach has lofty praise for the job being done by defensive coordinator Ken Anderson.

"(Anderson is) doing a wonderful job with our defense," Mach said, "preparing them for the games, giving them every opportunity to see the plays ahead of time, study film..."

"The backbone of our program has always been defense. And it will always be the backbone of CC's football program."

Though the administration for CC would not allow the smashing of the pumpkins in front of the Brother Rice Warriors — to some of the students' disappointment — the Catholic Central program asserted back its title of smash mouth football as the school enjoyed a return to the pumpkin pie feast.

Ryan Shinkel is a student journalist at Catholic Central, where a number of students from Canton and Plymouth attend.

Canton off to 5-0 start

State-ranked Canton racked up 408 total yards and invoked a running clock during the third quarter Friday in a 49-14 football win over host Wayne Memorial.

The Chiefs (5-0, 3-0 in the KLA South) scored four TDs in the opener quarter — Adam Payter on runs of 66 and 85 yards; Davion Stackhouse on a 15-yard run; and Kevin Buford on a 75-yard kickoff return.

Zakk Hardyniec, who led Wayne (2-3, 0-3) with 100 yards rushing on 11 carries, countered with 59-yard first-quarter TD run to cut

the deficit to 13-7.

Canton senior quarterback Kevin Delapaz hit Ryan Powell with a 14-yard TD toss and Wayne scored just 27 seconds to go in the half on Nick Mills' 1-yard keeper.

In the third period, Canton put it away on a 6-yard TD run by Stackhouse followed by Buford's 28-yard scoring run.

Wayne had 319 total yards with Mills completing 7-of-14 passes for 135 yards and an interception.

Canton built a commanding 35-14 halftime lead.

GAME WRAPS

Plymouth wins dual meet

The Plymouth varsity boys cross country team Tuesday defeated Livonia Franklin, 19-50. Leading the Wildcats were Derek Gielarowski (17:19), Matt Neumann (17:29) and Warren Buzzard (17:35) who claimed the top three places.

Other Wildcat finishers were Jimmy Eiben (sixth, 18:06), Justin Heck (seventh, 18:32), Stephen Balaze (ninth, 18:41) and Jimmy Maciag (10th, 18:50).

Franklin's top finisher was fourth-place Bobby Wilson (17:39) with Nik Gheradini (17:48) taking fifth place.

Chiefs prevail

In a Tuesday KLA South

Division varsity boys cross country dual meet, Canton defeated Livonia Churchill 19-40.

Zack Spreitzer of Canton led all runners with a time of 17:11, outpacing Churchill's Tom Windle (17:27).

The Chiefs also grabbed places 3-6 at the meet. In third was Keith Zech (17:36), followed by Paul Rakovitis (17:42), Mitch Clinton (17:46) and Jon Peck (18:10).

1st loss for Whalers

Despite a goal by forward A.J. Jenks, the Plymouth Whalers lost for the first time this season 6-1 Thursday at Saginaw. The Whalers fell to 2-1 entering Saturday's game against visiting London.

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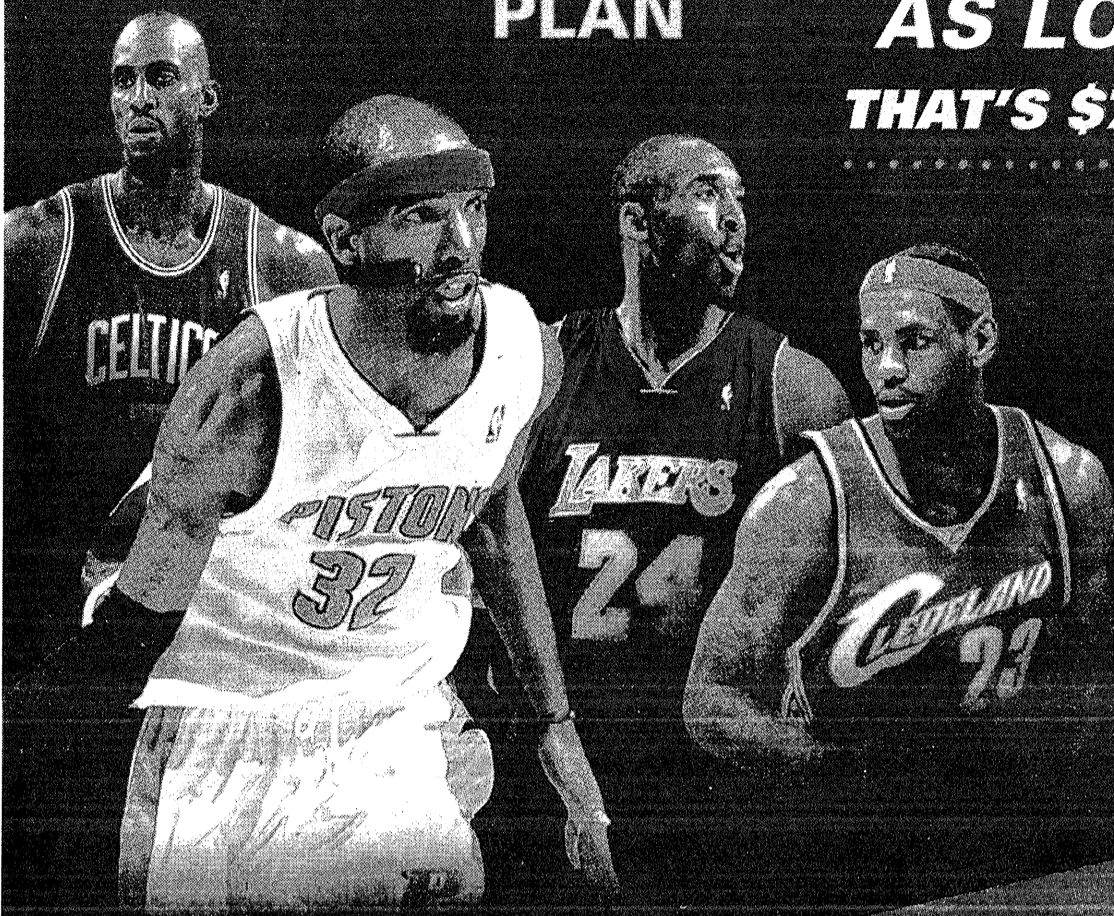
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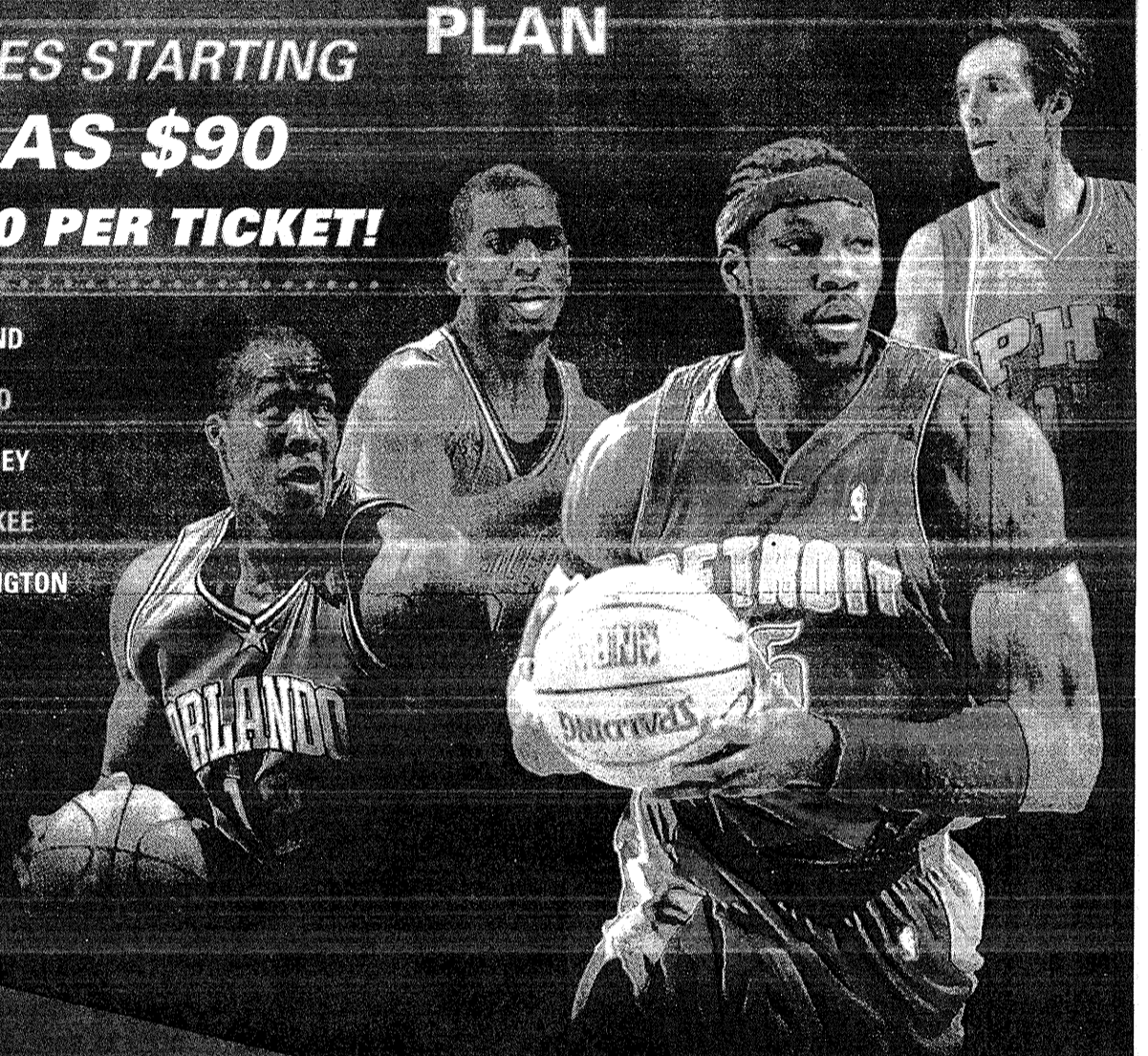
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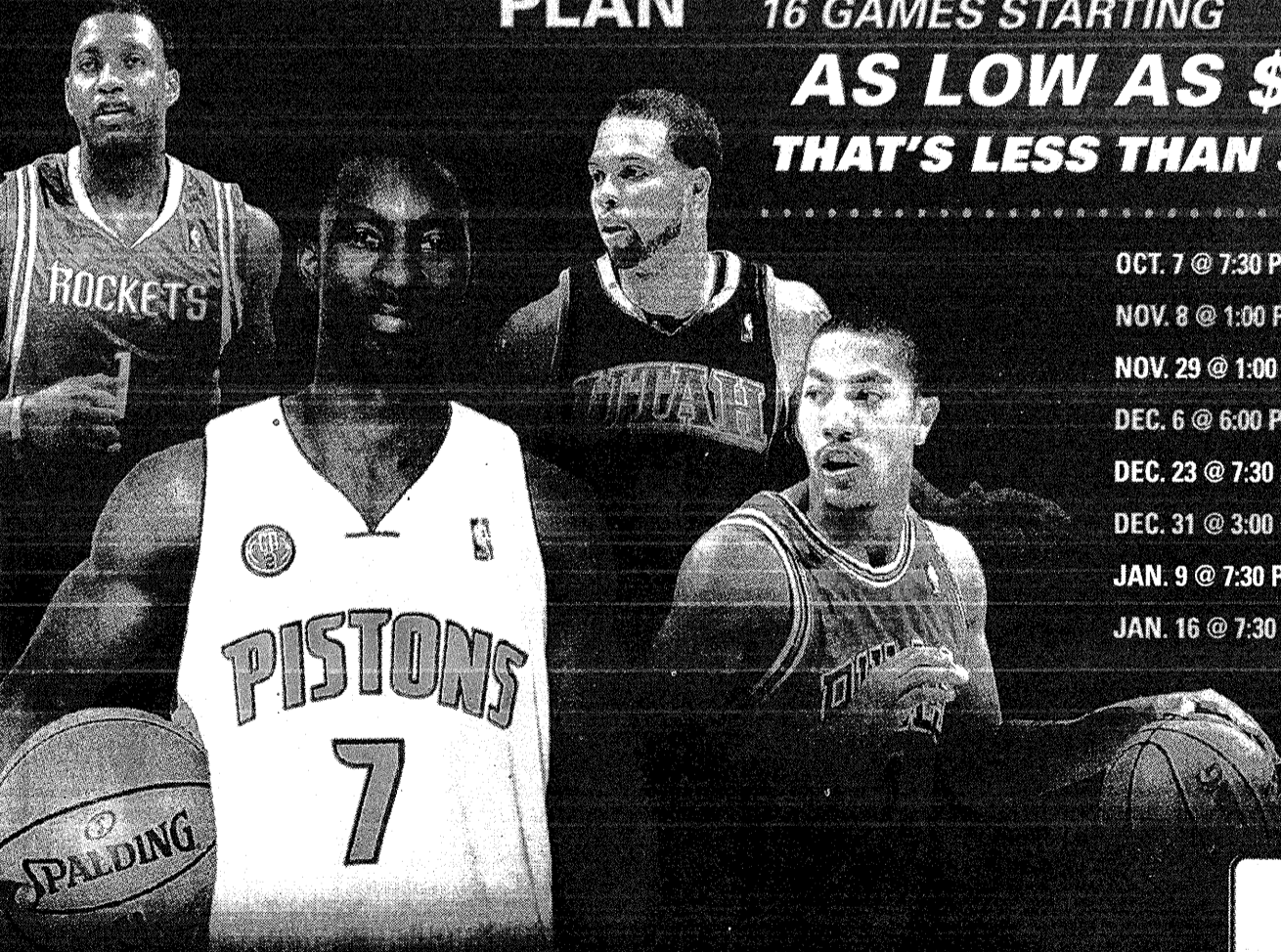
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| DEC. 12 @ 7:30 PM vs. GOLDEN STATE | MAR. 12 @ 8:00 PM vs. WASHINGTON |
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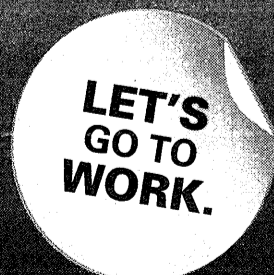


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| NOV. 29 @ 1:00 PM vs. ATLANTA | FEB. 16 @ 7:30 PM vs. MINNESOTA |
| DEC. 6 @ 6:00 PM vs. WASHINGTON | MAR. 7 @ 6:00 PM vs. HOUSTON |
| DEC. 23 @ 7:30 PM vs. TORONTO | MAR. 10 @ 7:30 PM vs. UTAH |
| DEC. 31 @ 3:00 PM vs. CHICAGO | MAR. 23 @ 7:30 PM vs. INDIANA |
| JAN. 9 @ 7:30 PM vs. PHILADELPHIA | MAR. 31 @ 7:30 PM vs. MIAMI |
| JAN. 16 @ 7:30 PM vs. NEW YORK | APR. 7 @ 7:30 PM vs. ATLANTA |

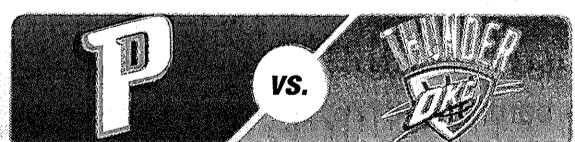
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ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

6-of-10 passes for 58 yards, but sparked the Rocks with touchdown runs of 1 and 52 yards — the latter in the third quarter to really bust open the game against still-winless South Lyon East (0-5, 0-3).

Houston amassed 179 yards on the ground in 31 carries and scored three touchdowns, the longest a 16-yarder.

Junior receiver Brad Trublowski grabbed two passes for 21 yards.

Chipping in with field goals of 32 and 23 yards was Pat Walsh.

"It was just a simple game plan," Britnell said. "We thought we could overpower

them and we did, up front. They blocked well and ran hard and Brian made good decisions for the most part.

"When you do that when you're supposed to do it, good things happen. And that happened tonight."

However, Britnell said his team needs to guard against getting overly satisfied with breaking into the win column.

A tougher test awaits the Rocks Friday at Northville, for example.

"I told them to enjoy it tonight, but we can't be satisfied," Britnell said. "We've got to get better, we've got to work hard every day and they've been doing the last few weeks."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PLYMOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

First, senior running back Caldwell (24 carries, 177 yards) scored his third TD of the night on a 51-yard scamper, again bouncing off a Churchill defender and going the distance. That made it 24-0 with 10:23 to go in the quarter.

But Hicks (15 rushes, 145 yards) might have scored the most electrifying touchdown of the night, just under six minutes later.

On a third-and-10 at the Churchill 44, the scrambling junior quarterback swept around the right side of the line, but found too many Chargers defenders to suit him. So he broke diagonally the other way, zig-zagging past defenders and scoring a 44-yard TD for Plymouth's final TD of the evening.

"That's my favorite play in the game, the cutback," said Hicks, who gave all the credit to the work of his offensive line for the way the Wildcats chewed up yards and minutes on the clock. "Once we get a running game established like that and our line is blocking, it's really good for us," he said. "That's the best blocking we've had all season."

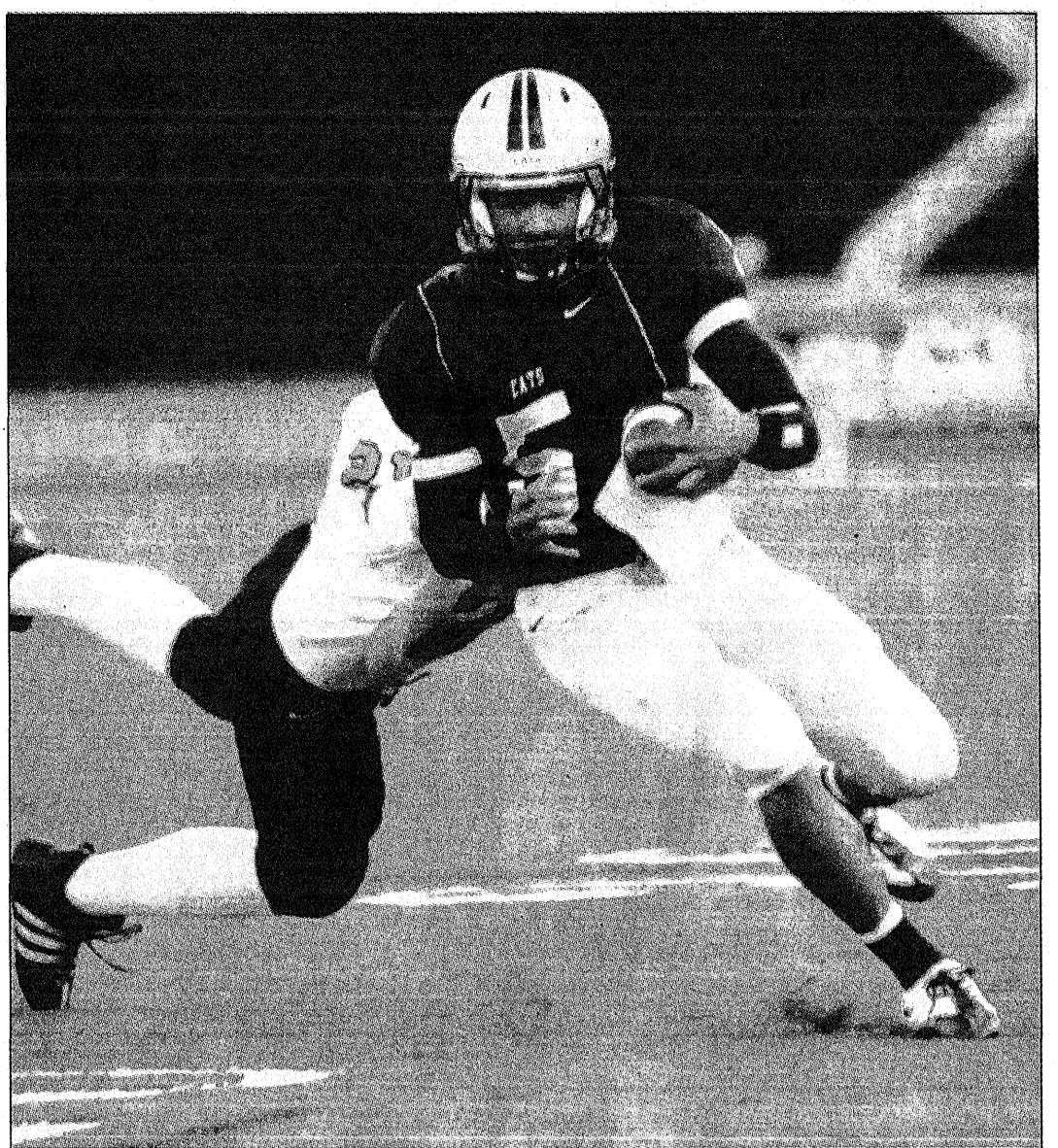
Plymouth's defense and special teams also were strong against the Chargers, who fell to 1-4 overall and 0-3 in the KLAA South.

MARATHON MARCH

The Wildcats really owned the first half, setting the tone by converting a fourth-and-one during the opening drive.

That play, a 2-yard run by Caldwell, kept alive what would be an 80-yard drive in 14 plays.

Caldwell's 16-yard TD finished that march and junior kicker Kyle Brindza tacked on the first of his four extra points (he also nailed a 29-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There goes rambling, scrambling Plymouth junior quarterback Victor Hicks (No. 5) again, despite the best efforts of Livonia Churchill senior linebacker Matthew Andrzejewski during Friday night's game.

yard field goal and booted a kickoff against a breeze right through the uprights).

"That first drive was tough," Churchill head coach John Filiatraut said. "When they made the first fourth down in their own end, that was tough for us. We just couldn't get off the field."

Churchill didn't maintain much on offense, either.

During the first half, Chargers junior quarterback

Jordan Grohoski completed just 4-of-12 passes for 65 yards (two to Anthony Frezell).

On the ground, Churchill managed just 29 yards before intermission.

The second half was a little better for the visitors, with backup quarterback Steven Klisz coming in and orchestrating an 80-yard TD drive in the fourth.

A sliding, 18-yard grab by senior Kevin Pietrasinski

moved the chains to near midfield and junior fullback Michael Kutek (14 carries, 38 yards) scored from the 5-yard line with 3:21 remaining to avert the shutout.

But the late score aside, Churchill just couldn't get in sync.

"We've struggled all year getting into any kind of rhythm and we need to fix that," Filiatraut said.

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Wildcats blanked in KLAAs soccer match

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill wasted little time in establishing itself in Thursday's KLAAs South Division boys soccer showdown with host Plymouth at Centennial Educational Park.

The Chargers swarmed. They were all over Wildcats goaltender Kyle Brindza - like bees to honey - during the opening 10 minutes of play and it resulted in two early goals.

That was more than enough as Churchill, ranked No. 3 in the latest Division 1 statewide coaches poll, made the early two-goal lead stand up in a 2-0 win.

Churchill, now 11-0-1 overall has a leg up in the KLAAs South race with a 5-0-1 record and 16 points.

Plymouth, meanwhile, is 7-5-1 overall and 4-1-1 in the division with 13 points.

Just two minutes into match, Churchill's Tim Devine ripped a shot of the crossbar. Devine rifled another shot on goal just seconds later and Tyler Varney jumped on the rebound after Brindza deflected the first shot off the post to make it 1-0 at 38:04.

The Chargers continued their relentless pressure after going up 1-0, including a sequence where they were awarded four straight corner kicks.

Reeling from the first goal, Plymouth was back on its heels and the Chargers' Stephen Foster got in near the goal and crossed a ball that caromed off a Wildcat defender for another score - this one coming with 30:44 left in the half.

"I'm just so impressed how organized we were and with how much energy we played with coming out," Churchill

coach Reid Friedrichs said. "We came out and played like we wanted to make a statement."

Things settled down after that, but the damage had been done.

Plymouth's best scoring threat against Churchill keeper Bryan Bartig was a shot that was cleared off the goal line by defender Erik Bird with 18:47 left in the first half.

"They (Churchill) are a good team," Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich said. "We were just flat. You could not spot them those first two goals. It killed us."

Led by senior captains Daniel Jasewicz and Vinh Nguyen, the Wildcats tried to make a match of it.

"We played some good soccer for awhile, but we need to play smart soccer," said Neschich, whose team tied Churchill in an earlier meeting this year 1-1.

"We got outworked the first 10 minutes. After that I thought it was a pretty even game, and both teams had chances."

Churchill, meanwhile, maintained control for much of the second half and had a third goal disallowed.

The Chargers received solid play from defenders Jacob Kobylarz and Nick Wood, along with midfielder Jeff Thomas and forward Allen Woodruff.

"We got about 15 corners kicks and a lot of throw-ins - the last game against them we got zero," Friedrichs said. "You could tell we were really attacking. We won a lot of balls in the second half and that was the difference. We created a lot of chances, and I'm proud and happy with the way we played."

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

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

setter Traci Breitmeyer served up the winning points.

The Chiefs then surged ahead in Game 2, temporarily quieting the loud home faithful. Kieilty went on another five-point serving run to go up 8-2.

But Churchill quickly closed the gap when senior defensive specialist Taylor Kerr scored five points from the stripe. Unfortunately for the Chiefs, a couple close calls went Churchill's way (an official took a point away from Canton because a player apparently touched the net) and the tables turned.

"It completely shifts momentum," lamented Kryska. "It gets them (Chiefs) upset, it gets me upset. I'm not going to say we lost because of calls, but I am going to say that it definitely did hurt us at some point."

The third game had Churchill leading or tied throughout except for a brief moment when the Chiefs rallied to take a 22-21 lead. Kieilty's blistering return landed just inside the back line for the lead-changing sideout.

Canton then had the chance to seize control of the game and match, but a service error made it 22-22 and Kerr aced her first serve to restore Churchill's edge.

"We missed one and then they get an ace and now they're up two," Kryska said. "Critical, critical points we missed."

Canton still had opportunities to rebound, even after those missed chances. But the Chargers always managed to go to Suppelsa and Yetts for dependable scoring.

"I think overall we need to work on really shutting down those two outsiders," Kryska said. "They (Suppelsa and Yetts) were pretty much the only two they set and they got kills every single time."

Suppelsa led the Chargers with 17 kills while Yetts col-

lected 14 kills (including the game-winning points in Games 3-4) along with three blocks.

"Cierra had a great match," Grenier said. "When Cierra swings well and scores points for us, we have the ability to do well."

STAY TUNED

Conversely, the Chiefs weren't able to give Kieilty more cracks at scoring down the stretch.

"We also need to work on running stuff out of our middle," she said. "We need to be smarter about our plays and we need to feed Jordan more."

In Canton's lone win, Kieilty had 11 kill attempts and converted four of them. But in the second game, she went 2-for-7 "and those two points made a difference."

Kieilty did finish with 13 kills along with 17 assists and 22 digs while Muir had 16 kills and 18 digs.

Other Canton players with strong efforts were Breitmeyer (18 assists) and senior defensive specialist Lauren Macuga (19 digs).

Junior setter Cory Urbats was everywhere for the Chargers, tallying 23 digs and 32 assists.

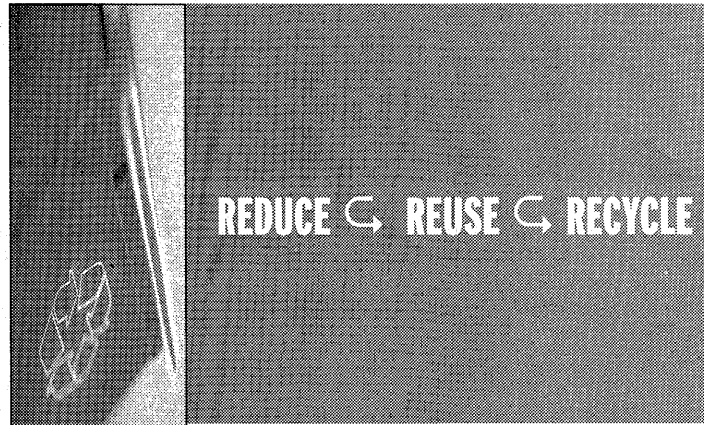
Churchill's front row, in addition to Yetts and Suppelsa, gave the Chiefs fits. Senior middle hitter Darcy Deroo (18 digs) and sophomore outside hitter Erin Menard (3 blocks), both 5-10, were impressive.

Another Churchill standout was Kerr, with 21 digs and three aces.

Regardless of the disappointing outcome, Kryska and the Chiefs already are circling Thursday, Oct. 15, on their schedules for the rematch at Canton.

"We haven't lost the division yet and we haven't lost districts yet," Kryska said. "We can still tie with them for the division. We're putting this one in the past and moving on."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO: C-2009-12

AMENDMENT TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. C-2003-06, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CODIFIED AS CHAPTER 8, THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, COORDINATOR AND COORDINATOR'S DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR; PROVIDING FOR GOVERNOR'S DECLARATORY REQUEST; PROVIDING FOR THE LIAISON AND DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND, APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS; PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS, POWERS AND IMMUNITIES OF THE DISASTER RELIEF FORCE; PROVIDING FOR THE TEMPORARY SEAT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMMUNITY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION I. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE NO. C-2003-06

Ordinance No. C-2003-06, codified as Chapter 8, the Emergency Management Ordinance be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.010. Title of the ordinance. This section provides that this ordinance shall be known as the Emergency Management Ordinance of the Charter Township of Plymouth.

Sec. 8.020. Purpose of Ordinance. This section provides for the purpose of this ordinance.

Sec. 8.030. Definitions. This section provides for the definition of terms used in this ordinance.

Sec. 8.040. Emergency Management Office; Emergency Management Coordinator.

This section provides for the creation of an Emergency Management Office and the appointment of an Emergency Management Coordinator.

Sec. 8.050. Emergency Management Coordinators; Duties. This section provides for the duties of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Sec. 8.060. Township Supervisor; Powers; Duties. This section provides that the Township Supervisor shall supervise the activities of the Emergency Management Office with the advice and consent of the Township Board.

Sec. 8.070. Governor's Declaratory Request. This section provides that if the Governor has not declared a state of disaster or emergency the Supervisor may request that the Governor declare one.

Sec. 8.080. Township Departments; Liaison; Duties. This section provides for the duties of Township Departments in a state of disaster or emergency.

Sec. 8.090. Disaster Contingency Fund. This section provides for the creation of a disaster contingency fund.

Sec. 8.100. Appointment of Volunteers. This section provides for the appointment of volunteers in time of an emergency.

Sec. 8.110. Rights, Powers and Immunities of Disaster Relief Force.

This section provides for the rights, powers and immunities of a disaster relief force.

Sec. 8.120. Temporary Seat of Local Government.

This section provides that the Township Board shall provide for the temporary movement and reestablishment of essential government offices in the event that existing facilities cannot be used.

Sec. 8.130. Immunity. This section provides for immunity of any member of the disaster relief force engaged in disaster relief activity.

SECTION II. VIOLATION AND PENALTY.

This section provides that any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Code shall be punished as provided in Chapter 1 of the Township Code. Each day that the violation continues after due notice has been served in accordance with the terms and provisions hereof shall be deemed a separate offense.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY.

This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the rest of the Ordinance.

SECTION IV. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION V. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

This section provides that adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecutions for violation of law, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION VI. PUBLICATION.

This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

SECTION VII. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section provides that this Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect upon publication as required by law.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available at the Clerk's office of the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours.

Joe Bridgman, CMC
Clerk

Introduced: September 8, 2009
Adopted: September 22, 2009

Publish: September 27, 2009

0209074678 2X18.5

SPORTS BRIEFS

Canton Cardinals 9U baseball tryouts

The 9U Canton Cardinals Travel Baseball Team will be holding a third and final tryout 5-to-7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 at Heritage Fields Nos. 1-2. Players should arrive 15 minutes early to get organized and start warming up and are asked to bring baseball equipment and plenty of water.

To be eligible, players must be a resident of Canton, Plymouth, or attend a Plymouth-Canton District school. Players must be 9 years old or younger as of April 30, 2010.

To pre-register, e-mail or call travel baseball co-commissioner Alan Zidnik: lzidnik@sbcglobal.net; (734) 397-5739.

Arctic Edge shavings

Arctic Edge on Michigan Avenue in Canton is hosting

a "Learn To Skate" program Saturdays from Sept. 26 through Nov. 14 with sessions from 10-10:45 a.m. and from 11-11:45 a.m. Each class is 30 minutes with 15 minutes of full ice practice time.

Cost is \$100 per skater per eight-week session. For more information, contact Learn to Skate director Theresa McKendry at learnstoskate@att.net or (734) 453-2980.

Sunday Night Mixers

Superbowl in Plymouth is hosting a mixed bowling league 6 p.m. Sundays. 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; rosecater@comcast.net for more information.

REDDY

FROM PAGE B1

defense and offensive motion with a big emphasis on cleaning the glass.

"Our team had a good summer, we played a ton of games," Reddy noted. "We were inconsistent at times but overall pretty good."

"I think this team has a chance to be pretty good. We have some good players coming back that are really great kids."

Those include forwards Kevin Weisz, Paul Baumgart and point guard Dietrich Lever.

Reddy obviously has his own Canton playing career to

look back on fondly. But now, it's about helping the current players carve out their own legacies.

"There is no extra incentive to have a great season because I was a Canton grad," he noted. "Of course, we want to have a good year but it's not about me."

"I want this group of student-athletes to come together as a team and be successful."

Meanwhile, like any good point guard, Reddy didn't want to forget about serving up an assist to Heinzman - wholeheartedly thanking her for choosing him to follow Colligan.

Reddy's ready to start, there's no doubt.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 ELECTION

PLEASE NOTE: that October 5, 2009, is the last day to register for the November Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Registration for Plymouth Township electors will be taken at the Office of the Clerk, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, or at any Secretary of State Office. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a resident is unable to register during regular office hours a call to the Clerk can set up a convenient time for the resident. Township Clerk's phone number is (734) 354-3224.

Joe Bridgman, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: September 27, 2009

0209074546 2X3

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **Cabinets for the Canton High School Orchestra Room**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Jim Larson-Shidler in the PCCS Finance Department at (734) 416-2740. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center (attn: Canton Orchestra Locker Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 1st, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
NANCY EGGENBERGER, Secretary

Publish: September 24 & 27, 2009

0209074126 2X3

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR GENERAL CITY ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2009

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH - WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

Notice is hereby given that Monday, October 5, 2009, is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following entities:

IN PERSON:

Plymouth City Clerk's office 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Any of the Michigan Secretary of State Branch offices Located throughout the State during their normal business hours.

Any specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some office of the Commission for the Blind.

At the Military Recruitment Offices for persons enlisting in the Armed Forces.

BY MAIL:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the Election Official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting the local clerk or the State of Michigan website.

Any questions can be directed to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: September 27, 2009

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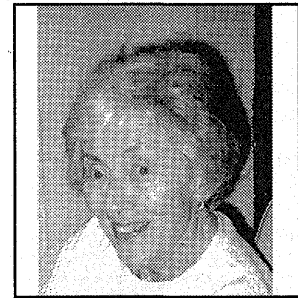
Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968

email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

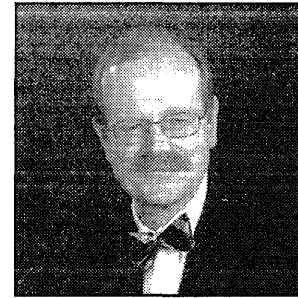
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com



MARGARET FOLEY BLACK

Died September 13, 2009 with her family at her side. She was born in Rock Island, IL on December 22, 1924. Margaret was a teacher in Birmingham, MI, at Westchester and Harlan Elementary Schools, for more than 30 years; a job she dearly loved. She earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Augustana College and a master's degree in education from Oakland University. Margaret found joy in every day, in the blueness of the sky, a favorite piece of pottery, a beautiful flower or newly ripe tomato from her garden, a particularly diabolical crossword puzzle, or a good meal shared with friends. She loved the great outdoors, was an avid theater-goer and patron of the arts, and a fantastic cook. Margaret was smart and strong and independent. She fought for the causes she believed in and lived the life she wanted to live. Margaret is survived by: her daughters, Eve Black of St. Louis, MO and Laura Noguichi of Burke, VA; her son, Tom Black of Bloomfield, MI; and her grandchildren, Anna and William Noguichi and Sasha and Nikita Black, who were the light of her life. She will be deeply missed. A memorial service is being planned for the future. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Margaret's honor to one of the following organizations:

- The Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org
- The Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada: www.stratfordfestival.ca
- ACLU: www.aclu.org
- Alzheimer's Association: www.alz.org
- www.mccabefuneralhome.com



DAVID KENNING BRICHFORD

Who was born in Detroit on September 2, 1958, lost his courageous battle with the cancer-melanoma, on September 20, 2009. Those who survive him include his wife, Karen (Peterson); daughter, Meredy; parents, Thomas and Carol (Fliedner); brothers, Mark (Debra) and William; and sister, Nancy Myers (David). Also surviving are his nephews and nieces: Karl, Kelsey and Kenning Brichford and Natalie, Elizabeth, Jack, Lauren and Andrew Myers. David graduated from Redford Union High School in 1976 and received his degree in Architecture from Lawrence Institute of Technology in 1980. He was employed by Chase Bank for the past 22 years. His love of unicycling resulted in the formation of the Redford Township Unicycle Club, in which he and his family remained active all of his life. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Farmington where he often sang solos with choirs and played bells in the Carillon Choir. His art talent led him in many directions; most recently, basketry and water colors. While his family was always first in his life, he had numerous interests that included jokes and puns, computers, sports, juggling, gardening and a love for animals. He was an avid collector and was known for his baseball caps and bow ties. Donations in his memory may be made to First United Methodist Church of Farmington, Farmington Community Library or Karmanos Hospice. Funeral service was Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (In-state 10 a.m.) at First United Methodist Church of Farmington 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

ARDITH FISCHER

September 18, 2009 age 86 of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Harold. Dear mother of Harold E. Jr. (Billie), Mark R. (Joan) and Grant G. (Helen). Also survived by six grandchildren. Memorial visitation Monday 5-8PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (btwn Beck & Sheldon Rd.) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the P.E.O. foundation 3700 Grand Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50312. To express condolences, or share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

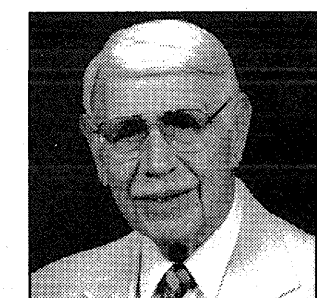


SHARON KATHLEEN GRANT

63, of Franklin, September 22, 2009. Sharon is survived by Charles, her beloved husband of 46 years; her loving children, Richard (Annie), Ronald (Marcy) and Robert (Dana); her cherished grandchildren, Katie, Megan, Olivia, Miles and Logan; her dear brothers, William (Suzanne) Ring, James "Rick" (Lynne) Ring; and James (Victoria) Grant. Dear aunt of Julie, Suzie, Steven, Michelle, Michael, Amy, Andrew and their families. Sharon is also survived by countless other loving family members and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, James and Ruth Ring. Funeral service Monday, September 28th, 10:00 AM, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (btw 9-10 Mile Rds., N of Grand River) Downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Sunday 1-8 PM and Monday 9 AM until the time of the service. Memorial tributes suggested to the American Cancer Society, National Multiple Sclerosis Society or the Michigan Humane Society. heeney-sundquist.com

GLEN MICHAEL KELLEY

Age 68, September 24th, 2009. Beloved husband of Sharon. Dear father of Kristine (Mark Randall) Kelley, Sean (Allison Palmer) Kelley and Deborah (Rich) Levriere. Grandfather of Julia, Mimi, Julian and Evan. Brother of Sherry Reilly and Kelley (Sue) O'Malley. Son-in-law of Mildred Wesley. Visitation Sunday 3pm - 8pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth with a funeral service to follow on Monday 11 am. Contributions suggested to the American Cancer Society or the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com



HAROLD W. LONGYEAR, M.D.

Died Sept. 15, 2009
GLEN ARBOR - Dr. Harold Wilbur Longyear, 95, died Sept. 15, 2009 at his Glen Arbor home. He was a loving husband, wise father, loyal friend, and an inspiration to many throughout his life. He exemplified honor, integrity, educational excellence, and family devotion. Harold was born in Detroit on Oct. 1, 1913. He grew up in Detroit where he enjoyed sports and Boy Scouts. Through camp stories and songs, he shared his Eagle Scout experiences with family at bonfires on the beach. Harold served in the Army Medical Corps in WWII. Members of his unit, the 40th Station Hospital, remained lifelong friends. His engaging war stories of Africa, Corsica and Italy filled many family gatherings. He attended college and medical school at Wayne State University and University of Michigan. He was a lifelong Wolverine fan and a charter member of the Victors Club. He began his medical practice in OB/GYN in Detroit and moved to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak when it opened. He was a prominent physician and surgeon; taught at Wayne State University Medical School, served as Department Chief of OB/GYN and Chief of Staff at Beaumont. He lived in Bloomfield for 35 years and was a charter member of the Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church. After retiring from medicine at 70, he moved to Leelanau County while spending part of the winters in Naples and Sarasota, Florida. With a lively sense of humor Harold thoroughly enjoyed life. Family and friends, sports, travel and a lifetime of learning provided him with many interests. He was the loving husband of Marian (Ryckman) Longyear for 70 years; cherished father of Sylvia Heggen, Charlotte Tharp and Howard W. Longyear (wife, Leah); grandfather to nine grandchildren, Kristyn McKendrick (husband, Andrew), Eric Heggen (deceased), Jonathan Heggen, Timothy Tharp, Stephen Tharp, Kimberly Tharp, Beckee Tharp, Alexander Longyear, Hamilton Longyear and four great grandchildren, Lindsay McKendrick, Gavin McKendrick, Cameron McKendrick, James McKendrick. A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be at Glen Lake Community Reformed Church in Glen Arbor on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. Memorial donations may be directed to the Salvation Army, PO Box 5228, Traverse City, MI, 49696-5228. Please share thoughts and memories with Dr. Longyear's family on their online guestbook at www.legacy.com/record-eagle/ Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay.

HON. JAMES E. MIES

Sept 21, 2009 age 81. Beloved husband of Mary Patricia "Pat" for 59 years. Loving father of Edward, James Jr. (Janice), Gerald (Ann), Jean Ann, Catherine (Timothy) Diamond, Michael (Jane) and the late Thomas. Father-in-law of Paula. Grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of 2. Visitation was: Wed, Sept 23, 3-8pm and Thurs, Sept 24, 2-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. The funeral was held Friday, Sept 25, 2009 at the funeral home with prayers at 9:00am followed by a 10:00am Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church 11441 Hubbard, Livonia, MI 48150. Please leave the family a message www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

DR. CLIFFTON MICHAEL MONAHAN

55, died suddenly on September 15, 2009. He is survived by his mother Ellen Crowley Monahan, his sisters Leigh (John) Monahan-Fullbrook and Leslie (Mark) Peterson, brothers Russell (Kathy Semak) Monahan, Tim (Bill Griffin) Monahan and John (Barb Mailloux) Monahan, niece Colleen Monahan and nephews Jeff and Greg Monahan, and his especially close friend Barb Bloetscher. Cliff was born February 12, 1954, in Detroit Michigan. He graduated from Colorado State University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and served in the Peace Corps in Zaire. He also earned a PhD from LSU and later taught at OSU. A memorial service was held in Columbus, Ohio on Saturday September 19. Contributions in his memory may be made to Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202. Online condolences may be made at www.deyodavis.com



WILLIAM J. POPLACK

Retired chief executive of Unisource Foods Corporation, prominent collector of American Art, and World War II aviator, died Thursday, September 17 at Beaumont Hospital. The cause of death was respiratory failure. He was 88. A resident of Birmingham for 56 years, he was board member emeritus of the Detroit Institute of Arts, to which he donated the Poplack Gallery of Pre-Columbian Art in 1986; a trustee of the Founders Society of the DIA; and a benefactor of the Cranbrook Museum of Art. He also was active in the Greater Detroit Interfaith Roundtable, a member of the Economic Club, the Standard Club and B'nai Brith-ADL. He is survived by his wife, the former June R. Kiesel, his children Lauren Poplack Hallinan of Kentfield, CA, Janice Poplack of Houston, Robert Poplack of Sebastopol CA, David Honigman, of Birmingham, Kay Honigman Singer, of Snow Mass, Colorado, and eight grandchildren, Eric Wasserstrom, Greg Wasserstrom, Emily Hallinan, Cullen Hallinan, Chelsea Singer, Julie Singer, Jason Singer, Sarah Poplack and Elson Honigman. He was predeceased by Eleanor Poplack and his sister Paralee Shapiro. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the favorite charity or to the Eleanor E. Poplack Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Detroit Institute of Arts, which supports outreach to and arts education for low income children of Detroit.



BETTY J. ROBINSON

Age 86, of Lakeland, Florida, and most recently Okemos, MI, passed away peacefully at her home on September 24, 2009. She was born in Redford Township, MI, the daughter of Edward and Emma Maas. She graduated from Plymouth High School. Betty married Gordon F. Robinson in May, 1943, who preceded her in death September, 2006. Betty was also preceded in death by her sister Dorothy (Elton) Bakewell and her brother Russell (Darlene; Louise) Maas. She attended First Presbyterian Church and volunteered in the church thrift shop. She enjoyed her family, golf, knitting, college sports, and the Detroit Tigers. She is survived by her three children; Susan Herceg (Tom) of Portland, OR; Gary Robinson (Nancy) of Jackson, MI; and Mark (Joyce) Robinson of Haslett, MI; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren and her brother Norman (Alice) Maas. There will be no services (per her request) and she will be interred with her husband in the Florida National Cemetery, 6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, Florida. The family is being served by Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing, Michigan. Online condolences for the family may be made at: www.gorslineruncimanfuneralhomes.com



JANET H. RICHWINE

Age 79, of Sun City Center, Florida, passed away peacefully at her home on September 19, 2009. She was born in Detroit, MI, and forged two careers, one as a legal secretary for 26 years and one as the owner of Lumber Mart of Plymouth for 18 years. She was also a secretary at the Standard Tube Company. Janet served three terms as president of the Business and Professional Women's Club in Michigan, and has been listed in Who's Who of American Women. Janet became a Rotarian in 1991, when she joined the Rotary Club of Sun City Center, Florida. She has since attended club meetings in more than 85 countries. She served as president of her club in 1997-98 and assistant governor of District 6890 in 1998 - 99. A strong supporter of PolioPlus, chairman of her Rotary Club's Foundation committee and charter member of the Arch Klump Society of Rotary International. She was a world traveler, having made seven trips around the world and dozens of cruises. She was a sponsor of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts and a supporter of many major charities. Her most favorite times were with family and friends, enjoying fine dining and conversation. She was an avid sports fan, particularly of the University of Michigan, Tampa Bay Rays and the Detroit Red Wings and attended many games. In honor of her late husband, Perry W. Richwine, she donated a law facility to Michigan State University, College of Law. The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center was given a beautiful chapel complete with organ. Her joy in life was to participate and contribute to her community and be a positive inspiration to all. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Perry W. Richwine and Walter J. Roberts, and her daughter, Ilona Roberts. Janet is survived by a loving family and a host of friends, four children, Walter J. Roberts, Jr. and his wife, Peggy, Allison J. Sassak and her husband, Mark, Bradfield Roberts and Samuel J. Roberts and his wife, Elia, four grandchildren, Kelly, Kyle and Katlin Roberts and Rachel Mastroianni, a brother, James Mazei and his wife, Judi, two nieces, Tami Wagner and Melissa Sawyers, three great grandsons, Angelo, Enzo and Rocco Mastroianni, three step daughters, Mary Louise, Dorothy and Betty, and her best friend, Robert B. Temple aka "Biffle." Funeral service was held at 4pm on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Drive, Sun City Center, Florida. The family received friends one hour prior to the funeral service at the funeral home. A service was held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 11am, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan. Visitation was Friday 4-9pm, also at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Rotary International Foundation or the Plymouth Historical Society. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com

LINDA S. SALATINO

42, of Farmington Hills, September 21, 2009. Linda is survived by her devoted and beloved husband of 17 years, Gerald; her dearest children, Vincent and Carly; her parents Gary and Ruth Ann Fett; siblings Lisa Ann (Kirk) Linton and Graham (Kristen) Fett; grandmother Edna McCarthy and mother-in-law Elaine Salatino. Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, September 24th, 10:00 AM (in state at 9:30 AM) Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. Private burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, will follow. Visitation was held Wednesday evening at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). heeney-sundquist.com

In Memory Of

IN MEMORY OF DESIREE DIMASSA-SITARSKI

April 18, 1955-Sept. 29, 2008
 We continue to look to you for all our help. With all our love! Your husband, son, brothers, sister & Mom.

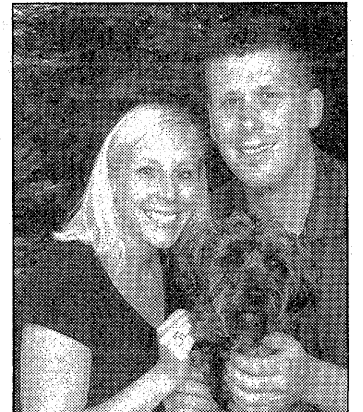
WANDA MARY SOUBLY

94, formerly of Livonia and Detroit, MI passed away September 2, 2009 in Peoria, AZ. Mrs. Soubly was born on May 19, 1915 in Minneapolis, MN. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gus, and survived by son Gerald (Sharon), daughters Jacqueline Bennett, Rosemary (Gary) Dryden, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Wanda was a welder on B-29 airplanes during WWII and later worked at Ford Motor Co. and in real estate. She was a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association, Polish American Club, active in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and many other organizations. A prayer service was held Saturday, Sept 26th, 11am at St. Hedwig Cemetery-Mausoleum, 23755 Military Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI. Memorials can be sent to Alzheimer's Assoc, 1028 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85006.

MILESTONES

Mathis-Anselm

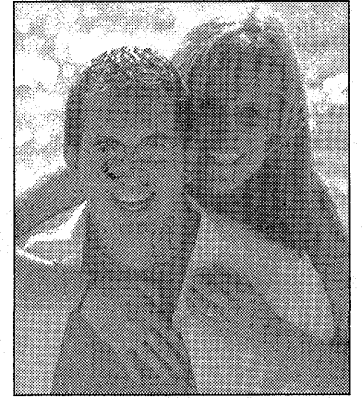
Laura L. Mathis and Ken Anselm, both of Livonia, announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Ed and Debbie Mathis of Garden City, is a graduate of Divine Child High School and the University of Michigan. She is employed by the University of Michigan, Dearborn. Her fiancé, son of Steve and Sandy Anselm of Canton, is a Plymouth Canton High School graduate. He is self-employed. An October 2010 wedding is planned at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.



Laura Mathis and Ken Anselm with their dog, Otis.

O'Beirne-Naszradi

Dennis and JoAnn O'Beirne and Brian and Anne Naszradi of Canton are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Kristen Colleen O'Beirne and Nicholas John Naszradi. Kristen and Nick are high school sweethearts and graduated from Salem High School in 2004. Both are graduates of the University of Michigan. Kristen attends the Michigan College of Optometry and Nick studies Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Their wedding date has not yet been determined.



O'Beirne-Naszradi

Shade-Maxwell

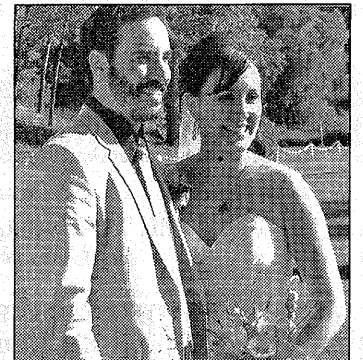
Stacey Ann Maxwell and Steven Christopher Shade were married Aug. 15, 2009 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church. Dr. William A. Ritter and the Rev. Gary C. Dawes officiated. The bride, daughter of Richard and Deborah Maxwell of Farmington Hills, is a 1999 graduate of Farmington High School; a 2003 graduate, with a bachelor of science degree, of the University of Michigan; and a 2005 graduate, with a master of science degree, of the University of Pittsburgh. She plans to finish a degree in December for physical therapist assistant. The groom, son of Donald and Joan Shade of South Williamsport, Pa., is a 1999 graduate of South Williamsport High School; a 2003 graduate, with a bachelor of science degree, of the University of Delaware; and a 2005 graduate, with a master of science degree, of the University of Pittsburgh. He is employed as an orthotic specialist with The Training Room, Inc. in Towson, Md. Maid of Honor was Melissa Maxwell, of Amherst, Mass., sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Stephanie Valentino of Livonia, cousin of bride; Dawn Wheeler of Paw Paw, cousin



Shade-Maxwell

Gregory-Koch

Amanda Koch and Ralph Gregory were married June 26, 2009 at Waldenwoods Resort in Hartland. Rocco and Nina Messina officiated. The bride is the daughter of Gary and Susan Koch of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Ralph Gregory of Westland and Josephine Kujawa of Gaylord.



Gregory-Koch

Amanda is a 2001 Plymouth Salem High School graduate and a 2006 Eastern Michigan University graduate. She is a language arts teacher at Crescent Academy. Ralph graduated from Plymouth Canton High School in 1991 and from Appalachian State in 2009. He is a music therapist for Variety Far Conservatory. Lisa Drumm, sister of the bride, served as Matron of Honor and Ryan Koch, brother of the groom, was Man of Honor. Best Man was Mike Stankiewicz, brother-in-law of the groom. Bridesmaids were Cara Ciaglo, Michelle St. John, Kate Maples and Karen Holmes, all friends of the bride. The flower children were

Anna Drumm, niece of the bride, and Rowan Drumm and Lucas Drum, nephews of the bride. Groomswoman was Carole Dean, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were friends of the groom Glen Wiserman, David Fedorko and Jeffrey St. John, and brother-in-law of the groom, Kevin Graham. Ring bearers were Adam Stankiewicz, nephew of the groom and Kara Stankiewicz, niece of the groom. Nephews of the groom, Owen Graham and Logan Graham, served as bell ringers. After a reception at Waldenwoods Resort, the couple took a honeymoon trip to Cape Cod, Mass. They reside in Dearborn Heights.

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NEIGHBORS

Fashion show proceeds help autistic kids communicate

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Theresa Cook is still unsure which students will strut down the runway of the Redford Suburban League celebrity fashion show Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Burton Manor in Livonia. All she knows is that the kids are the real stars as they struggle to overcome the developmental disorder known as autism.

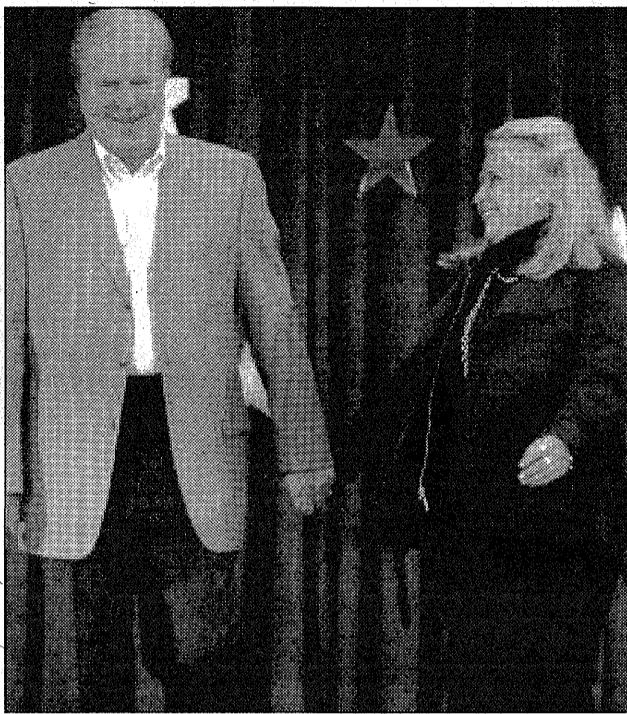
Cook and five of the teachers in the speech and pathology department of the Burger School for Students with Autism will be in the audience cheering them on. Proceeds from the Fall Festival of Fashion will help purchase software to help students from preschool to age 26 with speech impairments and learning disabilities.

"It's important that we be there on behalf of Burger," Cook said. "The Redford ladies are so generous. The funding, what we do with it, is unbelievable."

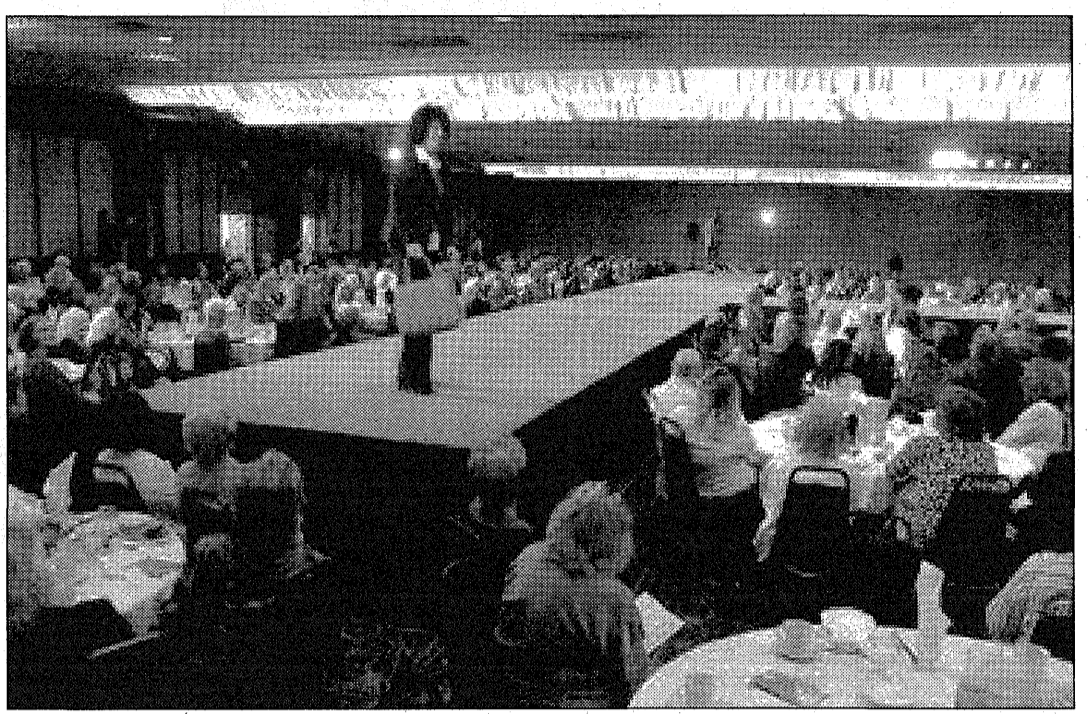
The end result makes the months of work worth it for Cynthia Jamieson, who coordinates the celebrities. This year, the 36th for the show, she's organizing a stellar lineup once again. Hosts Rich Fisher and Doris Biscoe return to announce the celebrities and describe the latest fall fashions from Dress Barn in Farmington and Men's Wearhouse in Novi. Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia dresses the Burger students. Hair stylists from Lasting Impressions in Garden City add the finishing touches.

LOCAL CELEBRITIES

Reporter Glenda Lewis of WXYZ-TV is among the models who include traffic reporter Heather Zara, WDIV-TV, weather meteorologist Jim Madaus, WWJ-TV; traffic reporter Jo-Jo Shutty McGregor, WWJ Radio 950 and her colleagues Beth Fisher and Terry T. Brown, and sister Sharon Shutty-Wright of Chicago's WMAQ-TV; actor Robert Paul; Audrey Sommers from the Catholic Television Network; Jim Hughes and Pam Rossi, WCSX



Jim Madaus of WWJ-TV and Jo-Jo Shutty-McGregor make their way down the runway during the 35th Annual Redford Suburban Celebrity Fashion Show last year.



Robin Sullivan of WMUZ pauses at the end of the runway during last year's 35th Annual Redford Suburban League Celebrity Fashion Show in Livonia.

Radio hosts; comedian George Young; chef Larry Janes; Joe Gannon, the Appliance Doctor columnist for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Gannon's heard regularly on WAAM Talk 1600 Radio.

"I'm excited about the whole show, putting it all together and seeing the end result. This year we're doing something different. We have live music and something lined up special for the finale that no one on the committee knows about," said Jamieson of Redford. She's been lining up celebrities for the show for 18 years.

"I don't know where the energy comes from. By the end of the day I'll go home and collapse. I make sure I wear comfortable shoes and have some good assistants, all volunteers from the Redford Suburban League. David Tyler is my assistant and helps with the male models. We appreciate all the models who donate their time and energy, go for their fittings, rush from the stations."

Cook is elated the way everyone pitches in to help the students. Autism is a neurological disorder that impairs development and causes social, behavioral and communication challenges. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate autism and related disorders affect one in 150 children.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

"Our population, all of them have a language deficit," said Cook. "Funding goes to communication. We're trying to make a universal design for learning throughout the building. What that means is creating picture systems, communication systems all over the building. Students with autism, research has shown, they think in pictures so the way they learn is different, so we want more pictures around the building and pair it with text."

The project requires expensive software programs to create visuals not only for walls but story books to

help students overcome individual behaviors. Communication devices give students who are nonverbal or with limited verbal skills a voice to tell teachers when they need a drink of water or to go to the bathroom.

"We're trying to make them as independent as possible," said Cook. "We want them to be active members of society. We want to give them the skills."

The speech and language pathologists are doing their part to raise funds for the Burger students. Each purchased \$90 worth of raffle tickets in addition to paying for their lunches. They're also making baskets with donated items and gift certificates.

More than 100 baskets, the majority assembled by League members, will be raffled off. Miriam Skinner coordinates the prizes as well as luncheon tickets and reservations. A boutique or craft show kicks off the event at 9 a.m. with lunch at noon followed by the fashion show and raffle.

Skinner became a member of the Redford Suburban League when she was living in Redford in 1996. She has since moved to Canton.

"We're a philanthropic organization and we help children with autism," said Skinner. "Last year, we had over 170 raffle prizes and are hoping for 120. We're so grateful for anything anyone wants to give. We're still looking for items and gift certificates."

For fashion show ticket reservations or to donate raffle items, call Skinner at (734) 981-6003.

This year prizes include a Jasper cherry wood hunter's chest valued at \$2,475 from Chris Furniture in Livonia, amethyst necklace and earrings (\$770) from Orin Jewelers in Garden City, and \$500 cash donated by members of the Redford Suburban League. Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland and Cookies by Design in Livonia also donated gift certificates.

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Home tour brings out the readers with many questions

On a recent Saturday afternoon during the Northville Victorian Festival I had the privilege of sitting in the back yard of a very old beautifully restored home and talked with many readers of this newspaper.

The topics were all related to major home appliances and some parts of the conversation kept several people in attendance for a while. The fine ladies of AAUW made sure that I was comfortable and provided me with fresh water and cookies.

The subject of the recently recalled Frigidaire smoothtop stove came up and I informed the audience that a service call was scheduled at our home for later this month. I also told them that my friend Barb Bennett was still waiting for her range to be repaired. So far, Frigidaire has scheduled three service dates for the repairs and has cancelled all three because the parts are still not available. Needless to say, Barb is not too happy with the lack of service on her kitchen range.

Speaking of ranges, there were several negative comments made on the smoothtop ranges and how hard they are to maintain and keep the top looking perfect. The consensus is that you have to be immaculate in order to maintain a perfect appearance of the range top. If not you will have stains that are difficult to remove. I explained that for that reason, some manufacturers are including in the instruction package a razor blade mounted in a holder for cleaning the top. Always follow the instructions to a letter T.

The real hot button of the afternoon was the discussion on the drinking water dispenser on refrigerators. When I told the group that I would never drink a glass of water from an older refrigerator that didn't have a filter installed on the cold water plumbing line leading to the refrigerator, you could hear a pin drop.

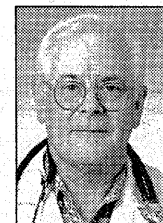
Previous to the current refrigerators which have a changeable filter built into the product, the refrigerator with a water dispenser

The subject of the recently recalled Frigidaire smoothtop stove came up and I informed the audience that a service call was scheduled at our home for later this month.

had no filter what so ever. You as a consumer had to purchase one and install it on the water line leading to the refrigerator. Many millions of Americans didn't do this and as a consequence people were drinking just plain simple tap water. Water treatment facilities will tell you that there is nothing wrong with their water and that may very well be true but as the water sits in a reservoir tank inside the refrigerator, the small amount of impurities settle onto the inside on the plastic tank. As there are many hours accumulated where the water never moves through this tank and dispersed into a container for consumption, the by-products of the water will build up to something that appears very gross and I'll be darned if I would drink it. Having removed several of these tanks and rubbed my fingers in the residue, I am firmly convinced that it can't be good for one's health. The analogy I like to use is: Place a glass of tap water on your sink area, cover it and let it sit there for a week or so. Would you drink it?

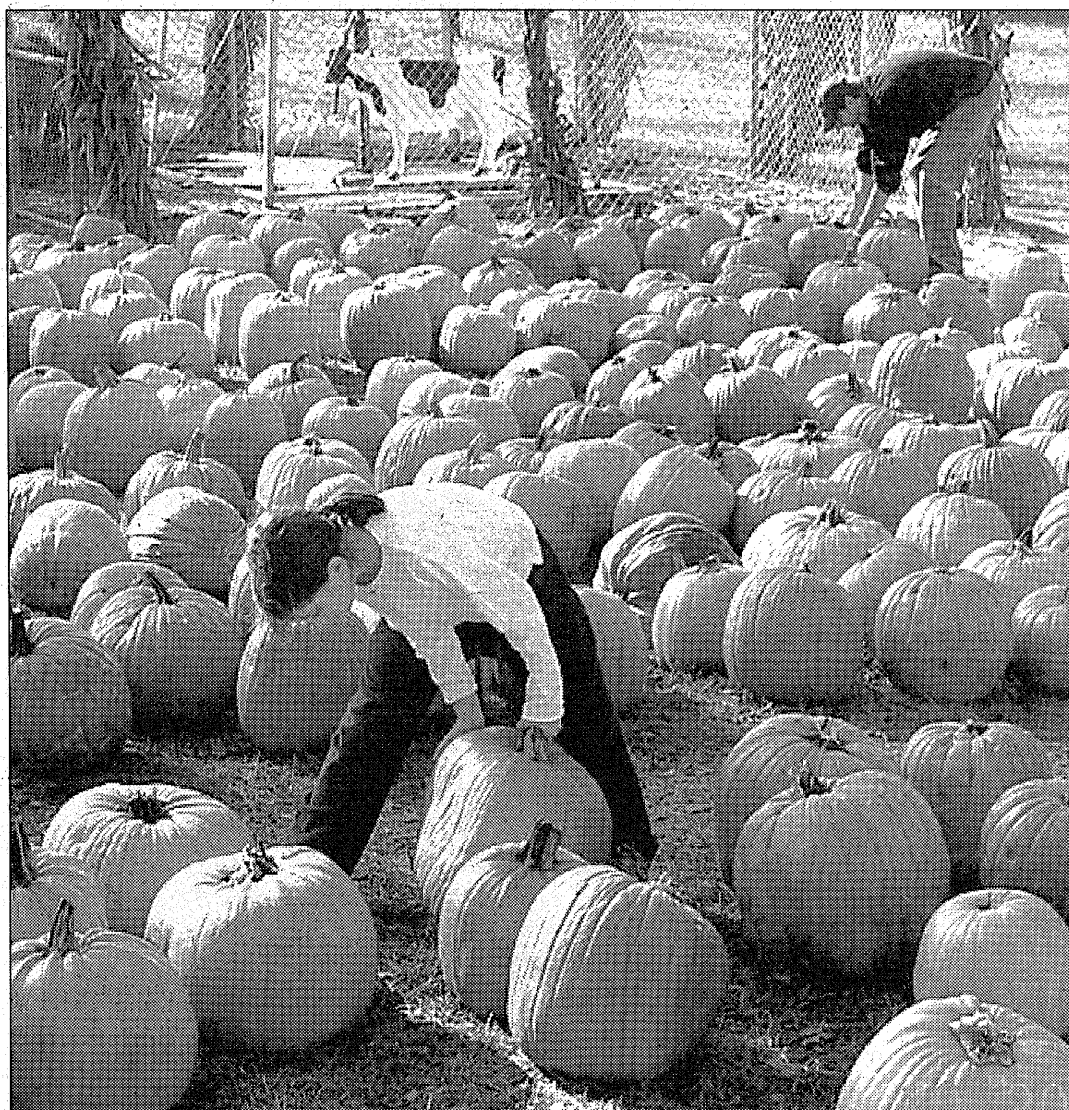
Now let me give you a theory that is shared by many in the appliance industry. In recent years manufacturers have installed a filter that you must change at certain intervals. These are installed at the factory and they charge you a pretty penny to purchase a new one. This change in policy happened overnight by all manufacturers at the same time. Is it possible that someone got terribly sick from drinking water through a non-filtered dispensing system and caused a suit to be settled out of court?

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 appldr@twmi.rr.com



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon



A youngster compares pumpkins at Wilson Barn in Livonia last year.

Get into fall spirit at Wilson Barn

It's almost pumpkin fest time at Wilson Barn in Livonia. Every weekend through October visitors will find lots of autumn activities at the Barn, located at West Chicago Road and Middlebelt. Pumpkins, corn stalks, and pony rides will be at the barn daily, through Oct. 30. Pick out the perfect pumpkin from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and ride ponies beginning at noon. On the weekends look for

crafters inside and outside the Barn and cider, doughnuts, and hot dogs inside the Barn from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Take a hayride throughout the day. DJ Arnie of 90.3 FM will be on hand to rock in classic style. Joyous Noise will perform at 2 p.m., Oct. 11. The dulcimer-guitar-violin folk group plays music for all ages. The historic Wilson's caretaker's house will be open for viewing, 3-5 p.m., Oct. 10 and 18.

The children's friendly Halloween story book readings will take place at 2 p.m., Oct. 25, on the porch in the Family Picnic Area. The Haunted Barn, open 5:30-8 p.m., Oct. 16-18, 23-25 and 29-30, offers spooky but friendly fun. For more information call Jane at (734) 558-5506, Ricky at (734) 358-1733 or visit the Barn's Web site www.wilsonbarn.com

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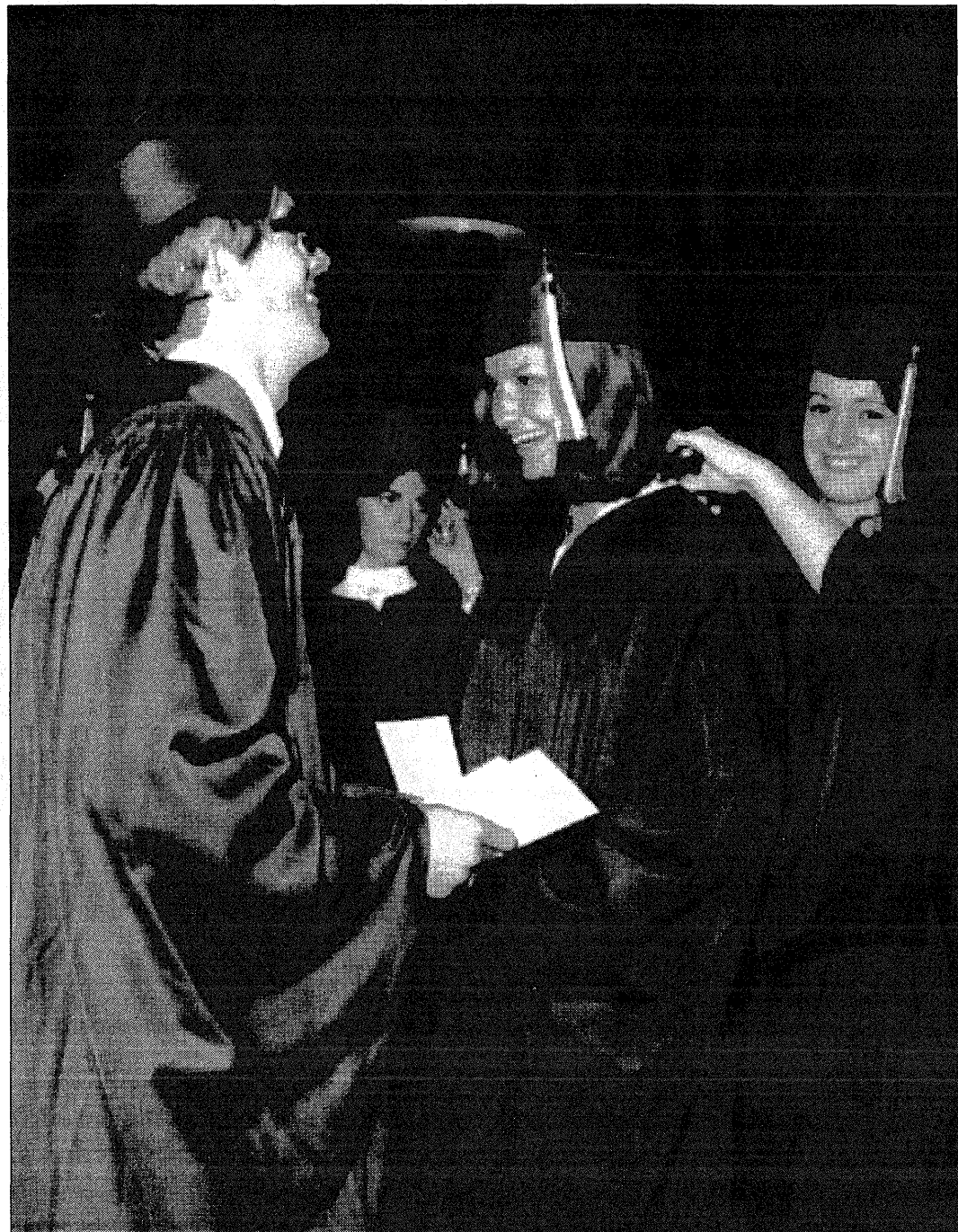
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Steve Micklea (left) and Linda Krause celebrate graduation from Westland's John Glenn High School in 1969. 'Happily married all this time,' reports Sandra Shepherd Legg, an organizer of the class's upcoming 40th reunion weekend Oct. 9-10 at Hilton Garden Inn.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a photo of your graduating class? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Andover and Lahser High Schools

Class of 1969
Joint 40th reunion Oct. 3, at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Andover graduates e-mail to Liz Buckner at Bucknerliz@gmail.com. Lahser graduates contact Linda Hague Sykes at lsykes@woh.rh.com.

Birmingham High School

Class of 1953 and 1954
55th reunion weekend, Oct. 9-10, at Centerpointe Marriott, in Pontiac. Call Denise Baldwin at (248) 540-4078 for details.

Detroit Pershing

Class of 1960
50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit Redford

Classes of 1954-1955
5 p.m., Oct. 13, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth; \$45 per person. See www.redfordhighschoolreunion.com for details. Class of '54 contact Doug King at dking000@ameritechn.net. Class of '55 contact, Mary Morris Hunter at m.morris.rhs55@wowway.com.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit St. Thomas

Reunion for anyone who attended Detroit St. Thomas Apostle, 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at The American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy. There will be a complete sit-down dinner including all drinks and music. The cost per person is \$45. For information, call Rose Ann Filar-Novik at (248) 770-1271.

Farmington High School

Class of 1970
Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblenn@aol.com.

Ferndale High School

Classes 1962-66
Reunion class of 1964 invites classes 1962-66 to the homecoming game and a tour of Ferndale High on Oct. 2 and a party at Via Nove, Oct. 3, in downtown Ferndale. Contact Barbara Tierney at (248) 910-9908 or bjs202@aol.com; Susan Payne at suspayne@msn.com; Donna Wilson at donnagillespie83@yahoo.com; or Peggy Connolly at pegbar@centel.net.

Fordson High School

Class of 1954
55-year reunion Oct. 1 at the Stitt American Legion Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Nancy Barlow Gaspar at (313) 581-6623.

Class of 1984

25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October. E-mail Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbcglobe.al.net or Melanie (Monaghan) Scharboneau at mscharboneau@yahoo.com to provide current mailing address.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West

Class of 1979
Holds a 30-year class reunion on Oct. 24, 2009 at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland. Classmates should register on the private Web site, <http://www.classcreator.com/Garden-City-MI-Garden-City-West-1979>, to get all information. Tickets will go on sale in the upcoming months on the Web site. E-mail questions to gcw79reunion@yahoo.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High

Class of 1965
45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com **Ladywood**

Class of 1984

25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

Livonia Bentley

Classes of 1968-1970
Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

Classes of '78, '79, '80

Combo-Class Reunion Friday, Nov. 27, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100, Livonia. Tickets are \$50 before Nov. 1 and \$60 after. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event includes food, live music and an open bar. Visit www.bentleyclassof1979.com. Contact bentleyclassof78@yahoo.com or call John at (734) 358-3272.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969
40th high school reunion, 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Nov. 14, at Lyon Oaks Banquet Center, 52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom. No tickets will be sold at the door. For information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail Kaynihilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge at Klivingstone@nu-core.com.

Livonia Stevenson

Class of 1979
30th reunion, 6 p.m., Nov. 28, Station 885, 995 Starkweather, Plymouth. Tickets cost \$35 per person before Nov. 14 and \$50 per person after the date and at the door. Contact Lisa Falk at lisannefalk@comcast.net

Oak Park High School

Class of 1980
30th reunion, July 2-4, 2010; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

Redford Union

Class of 1989
20 year reunion Saturday, Oct. 24 at Warren Valley Golf Club. For information or to register call Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail to celebrationstoremember@yahoo.com

St. Mary of Redford

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

Westland John Glenn

Class of 1984
25th reunion, 6-11 p.m., Oct. 3, at Wayne Tree Manor. \$45. Send checks to 25th Class Reunion, PO Box 222, Wayne, MI 48184. For more information e-mail to kellybellym3@yahoo.com or MPRESS66@hotmail.com

Class of 1969

40th Reunion Weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Friday activities: 6:45 p.m. football game JGHS vs. WMHS; 7:30-11:00 p.m. social mixer at Hilton Garden Inn, near airport. Saturday activities: 10:30 a.m. tour of John Glenn High School, 6 p.m.-midnight reunion dinner at Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information, contact jghs69@aol.com; Facebook JGHS Class of 1969 or Sandra Shepherd Legg at (313) 273-7950. Some events walk-in, some require advance registration at JGHS69@aol.com.

More greyhounds need homes as racing tracks close down

Cider and Abby are the retired racing dogs featured by Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week.

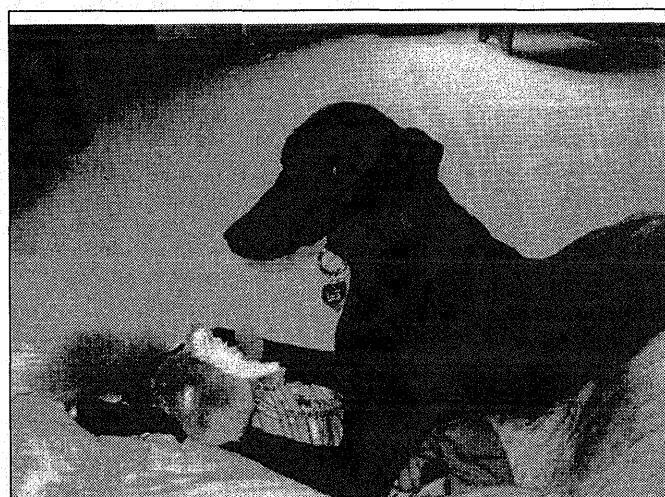
Cider, a 2 1/2 year old female, recently retired from racing and lives with a foster family. She has a reddish brindle colored coat, a sweet disposition and is learning that toys are fun.

Abby is 3 1/2 years old and also recently retired from the track. She has settled into retirement easily. Abby is a petite girl with a cute white chest and soulful eyes.

If you're interested in Cider or Abby, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the organization's Web site at www.greyheart.org for more of their photos.

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption plans several adoption events next month, including a "meet and greet" from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Pet Supplies "Plus," 29493 W. Seven Mile, Livonia and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at PetCo, 43435 For Road, Canton.

Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group, says more greyhounds will be "desperate" for homes as tracks close. "We just got word that another



Abby

track is closing very soon which means all of those beautiful dogs will be out of work and extremely disposable," she wrote in a press release. Parks in Massachusetts and Texas were scheduled to close last week.

"While that is marvelous news it may prove to be a death sentence for some of

the hounds that haven't been picked up by rescue groups such as ours. Therefore, it is so important that we are diligent and try to continue to educate people on the fact that greyhounds make wonderful family pets."

For a complete list of "meet and greet" adoption events, visit the group's Web site.



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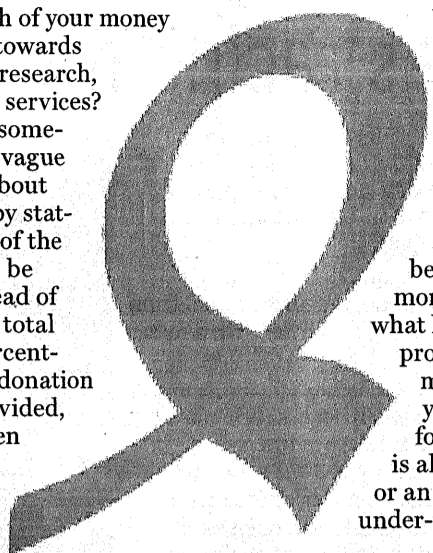
Think before you buy pink, make sure cause gets benefits

You may have heard of people going "green," but October is all about going "pink" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink jewelry, key chains, candles and even clothing are used to raise money for breast cancer programs and services.

Some companies use the pink-ribbon campaign solely to benefit their image, profile and sales, according to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division.

The Web site thinkbeforeyoupink.org, suggests that consumers think about the following questions before opening their wallets to buy a pink item:

- How much of your money actually goes towards breast cancer research, programs and services?
- Companies sometimes provide vague information about the donation by stating that "part of the proceeds" will be donated, instead of disclosing the total amount or percentage. If a total donation amount is provided, consumers then need to decide if it's adequate.



Usually you are better off donating directly to your organization or program of choice.

- What breast cancer organization or programs does your money support? It may not always be clear where your money is going. Consider what kind of research, program or service your money will fund. Is your money being used for something that is already well-funded, or an issue that is often under-funded? Is the dona-

tion reaching those that are most in need?

- How are the funds being raised? Make sure you know exactly how a company is raising money. Buying a pink product doesn't always ensure that a company will donate to the cause; sometimes consumers need to take an extra step by going online or mailing something in before a donation is made. Make sure you read the fine print!
- Is there a limit on the company's total donation? Companies often put a cap on the total amount they donate. This means that only a certain amount will be given, despite how many products are sold. Ultimately, your

purchase may not be contributing to the cause if the cap has already been met.

- Is the company contributing to the problem? Some companies sell pink products and donate to breast cancer organizations, but their products are actually contributing to the problem. Make sure the company you are buying from is helping fight breast cancer, not cause it.

The American Cancer Society plans its 12th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5-mile walk 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 in Belle Isle Park. To register or for more information, call (248) 663-3400 or visit www.cancer.org/stridesonline.

Pink Fund event mixes fashion, health information

The Pink Fund is sponsoring a new event that mixes learning about breast cancer with fashion, big fun and fund raising.

"Turning Burdens into Blessings" which features two noted physicians, Dr. Daniel Sherbert and Dr. Jen Green, will raise awareness and funds to ease the financial worries of women and families currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as well as discuss innovations in the treatment of the disease.

Sherbert, a plastic surgeon, is a specialist in breast reconstruction; and Green, a Beaumont Integrative

Medicines Naturopath, specializes in cancer care. The two speakers, both of whom are residents of West Bloomfield, will discuss how they work hand in hand with breast cancer patients in an attempt to achieve a healthy, positive outcome.

During lunch, there will be a 2009 Fall/Winter Fashion Show, featuring exclusive women's apparel by Doncaster. The program also will showcase high fashion eyewear currently offered at Clavenna Vision Institute, Optik and Optimeyes. There also will be drawings for prizes.

Turning Burdens into

Blessings program runs noon to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 West Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$45 for guests and \$40 for cancer survivors and are available at www.thepinkfund.eventbrite.com. Tickets for the full program including a lunch reservation must be purchased by Oct. 14. Tickets are available at the door but do not include lunch.

The Pink Fund provides financial support for women and families undergoing treatment for breast cancer. All proceeds raised from "Turning Burdens into

Blessings" will directly benefit Michigan breast cancer patients who are in active treatment and are unable to meet their basic monthly living expenses.

The Pink Fund is an organization that provides short-term financial aid to women, men and families who are in active treatment for and recovery from breast cancer. An innovative and unparalleled program, The Pink Fund makes direct payments for rent, COBRA, car and utilities on behalf of families in need.

The Pink Fund was founded by Molly MacDonald, a working mother of five who

underwent cancer treatment.

"Women with breast cancer have enough on their minds, yet all too-often they also are worried about money and the financial burdens of battling the disease," MacDonald stated. "What I have learned from my own situation, and confirmed by other women in treatment, is that the financial fallout from breast cancer causes stress that often is as devastating as the disease. I founded The Pink Fund to help women in treatment so they could focus their mental and emotional energy on healing and recovery."

For more information visit www.thepinkfund.org.



Molly MacDonald of The Pink Fund (right) with her daughter, Erin Noel MacDonald, Thursday, Sept. 24 at Fashion for the Cure in West Hollywood, Calif. MacDonald modeled in the show. Her daughter works for Diane von Furstenberg, the showcase designer for the event.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

SEPT. 28-OCT. 4

Fund-raiser for mental illness

Devin Scillian and Vickie Thomas will host the first annual Funky Fresh Fashion Show, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at The Athenaeum Hotel's international Ballroom, 1000 Brush, Detroit. The show's proceeds will benefit more than 20,000 Michigan middle and high school students who participate in the MINDS mental health education series. MINDS is committed to erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness. More than 100 metro Detroit leaders will model their own clothing in one of four categories that include casual, business, black tie or ethnic wear. The models will strut their stuff to the rock and roll, Motown, jazz or big band tune of their choice. Tickets are \$100 each and 95 percent is tax deductible. Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6-7 p.m., and a cash bar is available. Adults and children are welcome. Buy tickets at (248) 644-8003.

Pain awareness

7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30, in classroom #1, in the administration building at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. Martin Tamler and Sharon Ostalecki, will sign their recent book, "100 Questions & Answers About Fibromyalgia." Virginia Drouin-Berry will talk about managing the pain of Fibromyalgia. Carol Young present an interactive talk, with chair exercises, about Fibromyalgia and exercise. The conference and book-signing are free and refreshments will be served. RSVP to hope@hffct.org.

Pampering for cancer patients

Just for You, a free day of education, emotional support and pampering for

women with cancer, their family members and friends, runs 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2, at Eddgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce. Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital presents the program which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, hand and chair massages, Reike therapy, reflexology and information about stress management, sleep, cancer and sex, pain management, and maintaining a positive outlook. Health and fitness expert Peter Nielsen will be the keynote speaker. Register by calling (888) DMC-2500 or by visiting www.dmc.org/peoplesmedicalcollege/

Prostate screening

Free screenings, consisting of a blood test and a digital rectal exam, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Vattikuti Urology Institute at Henry Ford Hospital 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Appointments are required. To schedule one, call (313) 916.2062.

OCT. 5-11

Ladies night out

"Women's Health 101" Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage, 5:30 - 7

p.m.; lecture 7 - 8:30 p.m. The speaker is St. Mary Mercy Hospital Physician, Karin Dimon. (734) 655-4800

OCT. 12-18

Depression

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free educational seminar called "Depressed - or Know Someone Who is?" 10-11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 12 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The speaker is John Tait of St. Mary Mercy Hospital. The presentation is free but registration is required. To register, call (734) 655-8950.

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

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CARE OF ARTHRITIC PAIN

One could say that control of the inflammation of arthritis is the best way to counter arthritis associated pain. While stopping inflammation is necessary, it is not always sufficient to end joint pain.

Individuals with burned out rheumatoid arthritis may have considerable pain in their hands, shoulders, knees and feet because of the distortion and strain placed on limbs by previous active arthritis.

Also, pain in joints can come from damaged nerves or reflect a person's depression over the loss of previous ability to lead an active, orderly and independent life. Arthritis changes may force a person to spend hours in the seated position with resulting stiffness and pain from inactivity and loss of conditioning.

In caring for arthritic pain, a physician attempts to create a balance between medication and changes in the patient's way of life. The role of medication needs to consider the patient's age and other medication. Non-steroidal prescriptions need to be limited in the elderly because of the bad effect these medications exert on kidney function. Experience has found that patients with fibromyalgia should not take opiates or cortisone. The public already knows, that as safe a drug as acetaminophen (Tylenol) is, high doses can cause liver damage.

Changes in lifestyle have limits. Impaired knees and hips cannot readily take on daily walking, and use of massage and pools can prove expensive.

For the physician, caring for arthritic pain requires more than a prescription and a single visit.

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- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers

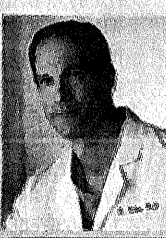


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Acadia Crossover Gives Pep To GMC Lineup

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

The Acadia crossover SUV is GMC's gift to younger parents who want the space and capability of a minivan, but don't want the soccer-mom stigma that is associated with it. It also attracts car buyers who seek power similar to a full-size SUV without the jerky handling of one.

That being said, GMC is late to the crossover party. The Acadia is in direct competition with the well-established Chrysler Pacifica, Honda Pilot and Mazda CX-9 as well as its own cousin, the Saturn Outlook.

However, it's an area GMC feels it has to be successful in to follow the trend of the ever-changing auto market.

The Acadia is a combination of smooth, responsive ride and handling and SUV versatility that embodies GMC's professional grade philosophy. By all accounts, the Acadia is a great-looking vehicle.

The Acadia features athletic styling with the signature raked GMC grille and dual halogen projector headlamps. The design is made sportier by a rear spoiler, polished aluminum roof rails, large 18-inch wheels and dual exhaust with chrome tips.

The Acadia shares its unibody platform with the Saturn Outlook and Buick Enclave, and is placed right in the middle of those two as far as size. The eight-passenger Acadia has a 267-horsepower V-6 engine mated to a six-speed automatic.

This combo gives the Acadia an impressive 18 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway.

Its base model, which starts at around \$30,000, is a front-wheel drive. Pay around \$2,000 more and there's an all-wheel-drive system that varies power between the front and rear wheels, depending on vehicle speed and road conditions.

The chassis provides the driving experience of a smaller vehicle. An aerodynamic design, efficient V-6 and the six-speed automatic work together to provide efficiency.

If you need to tow a jet ski or snowmobile there's a trailer package that can tow up to 4,500 pounds.

The Acadia comes with the standard set of airbags that are now the norm on crossover SUVs. There's dual front airbags for the driver and passenger, seat side-mounted front-row airbags, and full-length curtain airbags for all three rows of passengers. Additionally, first-row seat belts are designed to take up any slack and hold passengers in place as soon as a crash occurs.

Before you get yourself into a situation where the airbags need to be deployed, the Acadia's dynamic safety features are designed to protect passengers before a crash as well as during and after one.

The Acadia's strong structure and four-wheel independent suspension system enhance safety by providing car-like stable ride and handling. Four-wheel anti-lock brakes, StabiliTrak electronic stability control system, which helps prevent rollovers and GM's tire pressure monitoring system are standard.

Other standard safety features include OnStar Generation 7, which incorporates the Advanced Automatic Crash Notification system. If the crash activates an air bag, the OnStar system automatically notifies an OnStar advisor, who immediately calls the vehicle or emergency help, if necessary. Acadia also is equipped with OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation, a GPS navigation system that tells the driver directions via voice instructions.

There are three rows of seats in two configurations: standard second-row captain's chairs for two passengers, or an available split/folding second-row bench that seats three. The rear, third-row bench is said to be able to seat three passengers. But it's a little cramped back there for adults. It should be enough room for three children, though.

And to make it easier to stow-and-go the kids



The Acadia is a great value, even without goodies.

there's the Acadia Smart Slide feature standard. With a pull of a latch the second-row seats slide flat and forward to provide a wide enough space for passengers entering and exiting the third row.

The Acadia surprisingly boasts more usable space than GMC's traditional full-size truck, the Yukon. Whether you order the bench or the captain's chairs, the center row seats can easily be stowed for maximum cargo space.

You can utilize 20 cubic feet of space with the third row in place and 117 cubic feet with the second- and third rows both down. Many other SUVs and crossovers cannot come close to matching this load capacity.

The Acadia's interior features a "low and away" instrument panel that doesn't hog the front row room or block the outward view. And while the design is attractive, some of the materials aren't fitting for the Acadia's high sticker price. The chrome plastic trim on the air vents may be just plastic chrome masquerading as the real thing, and there is even more plastic littered throughout the cabin.

Additional professional grade features include GMC's signature red gauge lighting, thick door glass, flat-blade windshield wipers and strategically placed sound deadening material, which minimize road and wind noise.

As far as packages go, with the base model Acadia SLE you get pretty much the same features its competitors offer. Standard equipment includes a six-speaker sound system that plays CDs and MP3s, along with remote keyless entry and the sliding middle-row seats. Power locks, windows, and mirrors are also included.

Step up to the SLT-1 trim package if you want tri-zone climate control, rear audio controls, a leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, and heated, leather-covered power front seats. The front-wheel-drive SLT-1 starts out at around \$35,000. The SLT-2, for a few thousand dollars more, adds satellite radio, rear park assist, a power

rear liftgate and remote start.

Stand-alone options available on all Acadias are a Panasonic DVD entertainment system, a touch-screen navigation system, dual skylight sunroof, which is a conventional sliding glass sunroof over the front-seat occupants and a glass panel over the middle row.

The Acadia also offers an optional head-up display that projects driving and audio readouts information onto the windshield so drivers can keep their eyes where they need to be - on the road.

Delivering a safe, responsive driving experience similar to a car, athletic design, a spacious interior and a comprehensive safety package the Acadia is a note-worthy alternative to the competition.

It offers more space than a Honda Pilot or Chrysler Pacifica and is designed to handle as well as the Mazda CX-9 and Saturn Outlook.

But by having customers pay \$45,000 for fully a loaded Acadia, GMC is competing on shaky ground with some smaller luxury trucks, such as the Mercedes ML350 and Volvo XC90. If buyers can resist the added-on goodies they can still in the mid- to high \$30,000 bracket and get the best bang for their buck.

The Acadia is worth a look if you need a sporty family hauler with some serious power. It deserves a fair shot.

Kevin Koloian covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Write him at avanti1054@aol.com. @2009, Fracassa Communications. Distributed by Fracassa News Group.

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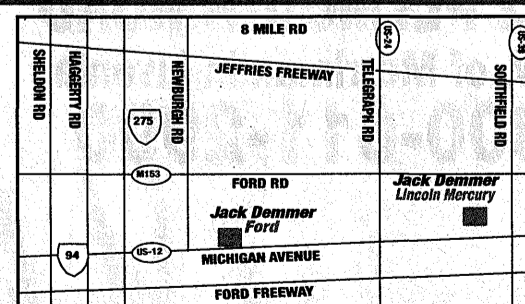
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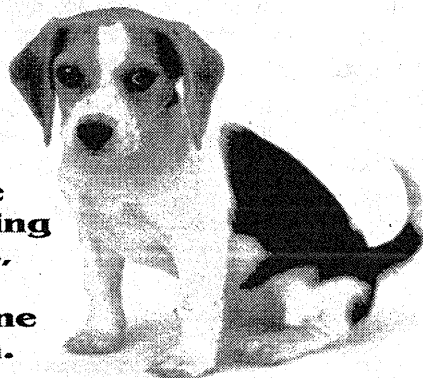
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