

THURSDAY
October 1,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

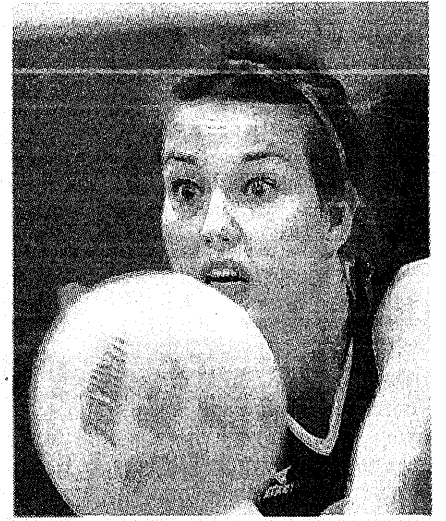
Volume 124
Number 13

75 CENTS

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

**Chiefs nip
Wildcats in
five-game
match - B1**



PIPELINE

Take our survey

The *Plymouth Observer* is participating in an interactive Online research project that's being coordinated by American Opinion Research (AOR) and sponsored by the Michigan Press Association.

Those responding to the survey will be entered into a drawing for cash prizes.

Go to hometownlife.com to take the survey.

Bells ringing

Anyone wondering what it takes to be a bell-ringer for the Plymouth Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle fund-raising campaign gets a chance to find out next week.

The Plymouth Salvation Army hosts a "Bell Ringers" open house 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, for anyone interested in finding out more about helping out with the annual Thanksgiving-to-Christmas fund-raiser.

Kettle coordinator Teresa Moriarty will answer questions about kettle locations, hours and volunteer opportunities.

The Plymouth Salvation Army headquarters is located on Main, just south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. It serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. For more information, call Moriarty at (734) 453-5464, Ext. 24.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

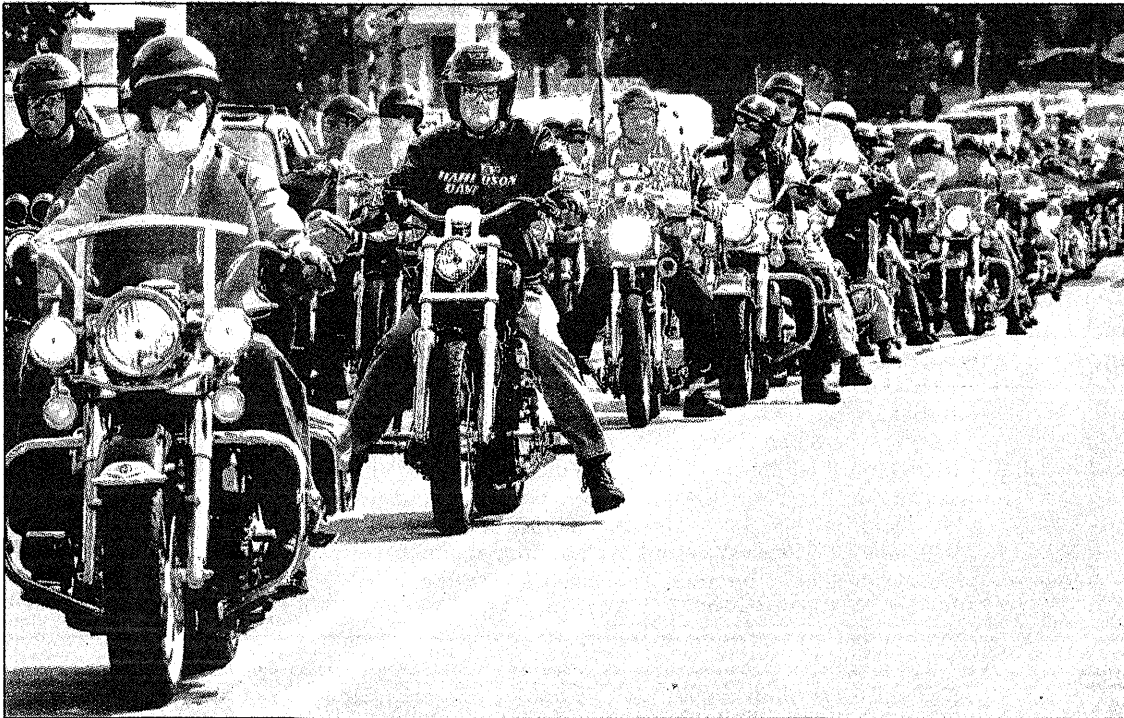
Detroit Red Wings Coach Mike Babcock helped the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign in 2008.

Sweet dance

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

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

For more information, call (734) 459-6700.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It'll be motorcycles as far as the eye can see at Sunday's Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff and motorcycle show in Plymouth.

Fired up

Annual chili cookoff heading to downtown Plymouth

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gentlemen (and ladies), start your stoves. The chili festival — otherwise known as the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff — is coming Sunday to downtown Plymouth.

The 14th annual cookoff includes International Chili Society-sanctioned competitive cooking in the red chili, green (verde) chili and salsa categories, more chili in the People's Choice category and the Restaurant Chili Challenge, a motorcycle show (noon to 4 p.m.) featuring 100-plus Harley-Davidson and other bikes and, of course, chili samples from more than 60 cooks and restaurants expected to attend. Samples are \$1 for a taste, \$4 for a bowl.

The event is a benefit for Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, which provides volunteers to support the cookoff.

"They're a great charity, they're a local charity," said Ken Horn, treasurer of the Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. "They do a tremendous community service and they are able to get the volunteers we need to be able to pull off an event of this size." Horn's wife, Annette, is president of the nonprofit GLRC Inc.

Cooking is done at The Gathering, on Penniman next to the Penn Theatre, and the event is centered there and at Kellogg Park. Show motorcycles will be displayed on Main Street.

The hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; samples in the Restaurant Chili Challenge, in Kellogg Park, will be available beginning at 11 a.m., and in the People's Choice category, at The Gathering, at noon.

ICS competitors will offer samples of green chili beginning at 1:30 p.m., and samples of red chili starting at 3 p.m.

The competition will feature 2008 ICS world champions Georgia Weller (red chili) and Lauren Ray (green).

"We really enjoy having the world champions come and compete," Horn said. "We do have world-class chili competition."

Great Lakes Regional winners this year qualify for the 2010 ICS world chili cookoff.

The cookoff and motorcycle show are popular among motorcycle enthusiasts; some 6,000 to



Bill Parker of Rockwood spiced up the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff last year. This year's chili festival is set for Sunday in Kellogg Park.

GREAT LAKES CHILI COOKOFF

- **What:** Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff
- **Where:** Kellogg Park and The Gathering in downtown Plymouth
- **When:** Sunday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; samples available at 11 a.m.; ICS competitors' samples of green chili beginning at 1:30 p.m., and samples of red chili starting at 3 p.m.
- **Also:** Features a motorcycle show with more than 100 Harley-Davidson and other bikes, noon to 4 p.m.
- **Benefits:** Habitat for Humanity, which is still looking for volunteers to work the festival; call (734) 459-7744.

Please see **COOKOFF, A2**

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Forums let voters hear from hopefuls

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Voters wanting to hear directly from candidates in both the Plymouth City Commission election and the Plymouth-Canton school board race get their chance next week.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County hosts separate candidate forums Thursday, Oct. 8, at Plymouth City Hall in the second-floor city commission chambers. The forum for city commission candidates starts at 7 p.m.; the forum for school board candidates starts at 8 p.m. Each forum is expected to last about an hour.

The city commission forum will feature five of the six candidates — incumbents Stella Greene, Ron Loiselle and Gerry Sabatini and challengers John Barrett and Dan Dwyer — on the city ballot. Tracy Hewitt's name also appears on the ballot, but she has decided not to campaign and will turn down the position if elected.

Four of the five candidates for the three four-year seats available on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education — incumbents Judy Mardigian and Barry Simescu and challengers Larry Martin and Adrienne Davis — have agreed to participate.

Candidate Eric Bacynski has a business commitment and won't attend.

John Jackson, running unopposed for a two-year term, will also participate.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, public service organization which never supports or opposes any candidate, will use the format they've traditionally used for the forums.

Candidates will be allowed a one-minute opening statement, a one-minute response to each question and a two-minute closing statement.

Questions will come from the audience (who will submit them in writing to be asked by the League moderator). Anyone who would like to pose a question but cannot attend can e-mail a question to lwvmail@yahoo.com.

"The forum is being filmed by the Plymouth City staff, for which we are very grateful," said LWV president Paula Bowman. "We will be working with them to circulate tapes to Comcast and WOW so it can be viewed multiple times by the public."

In addition to the candidate forum, the League is preparing a non-partisan Voter Guide. It will be available on the league's Web site by Oct. 8, and a limited number of print copies will be available at the libraries in early October.

Resident: Board should protect public safety

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A quiet study meeting Monday in Plymouth Township ended with a plea to protect public safety services as officials try to close a projected \$588,000 gap in the township's next budget.

"We cannot afford the loss of a single firefighter or a single police officer," resident Sallie Roby told members of the township Board of Trustees.

Roby, one of a few residents to attend the meeting, said the Lake Pointe subdivision, where she lives, would be "particularly vulnerable" to the loss of a firefighter.

The area is served by a Plymouth Community Fire Department station on Wilcox Road near Schoolcraft Road, and Roby said she fears her neighborhood would be cut off from emergency services without the station. Backup units could run into delays getting to Lake Pointe, Roby said, because of freight trains or the flooding of Hines Drive.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume, however, later said there are no plans to close any of the department's three stations, and that even job cuts in the department would not result in a station closure.

The meeting also included a pitch by Fire Lt. Rick Tefend, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1496, for more patient transports by the fire department in emergency medical situations. The nonprofit Huron Valley ambulance now does most of the runs to area hospitals.

"There are ways the fire department can get money," Tefend said. "It would absolutely help the budget."

Tefend estimated the township could bring in \$700,000 a year by taking over ambulance runs, and has proposed the department do more of those runs on a trial basis and put half the revenue toward personnel. Tefend said he is preparing a presentation for the board on the transport issue.

The township currently budgets about \$100,000 a year in transport revenue, but only about \$45,000 had been collected this year as of August.

Township officials, however, question Tefend's \$700,000 estimate, and fear the added costs of doing more patient transports — personnel costs and equipment costs — would outweigh the benefits.

But Reaume said he's willing to talk to firefighters about the issue. "We always look at it with open eyes," he said later.

Trustees began their budget work at a study meeting last week. Revenue for the next year, estimated at just over \$13.3 million, is nearly flat, while expenses, estimated at \$13.9 million, are up about 1 percent.

Revenue is being affected mainly by cuts in revenue sharing from the state, which could go deeper as the state Legislature tries to balance its budget, and an expected drop in property tax collections due to falling housing values.

Reaume said Tuesday that in the past 18 months, township officials have made slightly more than \$1 million in budget cuts.

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

Chili volunteers

The success of the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff, Plymouth's annual chili festival and motorcycle show, depends heavily on volunteers. With the growth of the festival, more and more volunteers are needed. Habitat for Humanity provides the bulk of the volunteers.

Anyone wishing to help out at the chili festival, set for Sunday, Oct. 4, should contact the Habitat for Humanity Plymouth office, (734) 459-7744.

AAUW meeting

The Plymouth/Canton branch of the American Association of University Women hosts its monthly meeting Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m., held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Rd. Plymouth (just north of North Territorial Rd.) The meeting will feature a light dinner (\$10 per person) followed by a presentation of

"Lily Ledbetter - A Fair Act Play." Increasing awareness of pay inequities is one of the goals of AAUW.

For more information contact Esther Nelson at enelson1c@att.net or 734 981-4938.

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

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.

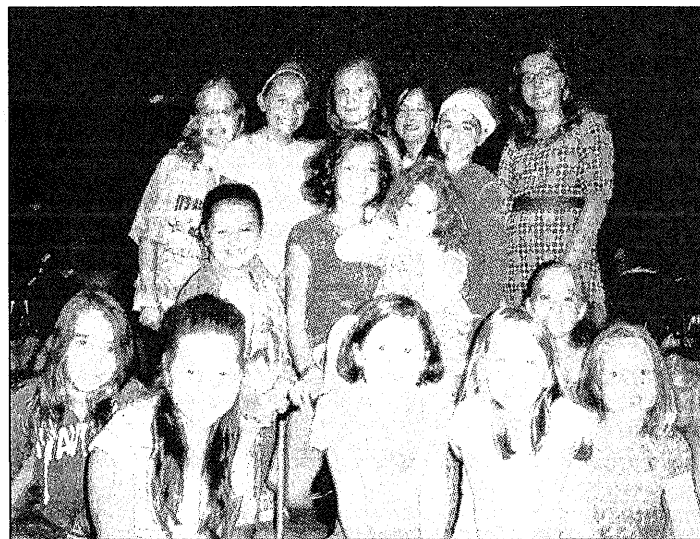
Proceeds from the ticket sales will help support Rotary's charitable efforts in local and international communities.

Band weekend

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, a regular Bands of America finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, invites all middle school band students in Plymouth or Canton to participate in "Band PerCEption Weekend."

Band PerCEption Weekend is a unique chance for middle school students within Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to experience participation with the award winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band program hosted at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (PCEP).

On Friday, Oct. 16, all area 8th graders from any school in the Plymouth-Canton area, are invited to participate in the Varsity football pep band during the Plymouth High School vs. Livonia Stevenson grid iron game. Students will spend the first half of the game cheering and performing a few pep tunes along with the band.



Taking the stage

The ALL-youth production of Annie Jr. takes the stage at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton, presented by Spotlight on Youth Theater Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Lexi Fata of Westland plays Annie; Andrew Neil of Canton plays Daddy Warbucks; Alora Adams of Novi plays Grace; Justin Shephard of Canton plays Rooster; Cordelia Dessert of Farmington Hills plays Miss Hannigan and Courtney Davis of Canton plays Lily. Other actors hail from Plymouth, Canton, South Lyon, Ypsilanti, Northville and Novi. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$15; call (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or buy them on-line at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, middle school musicians can be a part of the opening ceremonies of the Great Lakes Marching Band Invitational hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band. The invitational is a marching band competition with over 18 bands from throughout Michigan. Seventh and eighth grade musicians are invited to perform the National Anthem at the start of the Invitational, meet members of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, then stay for the day and witness some of the best marching bands in the Midwest!

Middle school musicians who wish to participate should visit www.pcmb.net or contact their middle school band director for more information. If you have questions, please

contact Sheldon Frazier, PCEP Associate Band Director at 734-582-5665.

Walk for Melanoma

The fourth annual KDB Melanoma 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11 at Kensington Metropark. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 11 a.m.

Register on line: www.melanomawalk.org - click on First Giving. All proceeds go to the Melanoma Research Foundation.

Smith fund-raiser

Smith Elementary School hosts its seventh annual Holiday Shopping Spree Fund-raiser 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 in the school gymnasium. Admission is free. More than 30 vendors will

be on display offering a diverse range of products - just in time for holiday shopping! This event will also feature a raffle of over 30 products from participating vendors. Proceeds from table rentals and raffle ticket sales directly benefit the Smith Elementary PFO.

Applications are currently being accepted for home-based business owners/crafters that are interested in participating in this event.

Smith Elementary is located at 1298 McKinley, a block west of Harvey. For more information, contact Julie at (734) 414-0218.

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.

Pet a Pet

PET-A-PET, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required.

Visits to Heartland-Canton on the second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; call Pat Glinkski, (313) 278-4428. Visits to Heartland-Plymouth on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; call Lyn Ehrman, (734) 455-4885.

Health screening

Meijer Pharmacy, located on Ford Road at Canton Center, holds its monthly health screening clinic 8 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Oct. 1.

Cholesterol, diabetes, and liver function screening are available at a very affordable cost.

Appointments are required; contact the pharmacy for details at (734) 844-2733.

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. The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Society sponsors this show and uses all of the proceeds to provide college scholarships for Plymouth Canton students.

Call Sandy Downs at (734) 340-4229 or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE716@COMCAST.NET

Council on Aging event

- Senior Flu Shot Clinic, Monday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. Appointment required, call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 (no Walk-Ins). Medicare Part B, HAP, Care Choices and Priority Health Cards accepted, all others \$25.

Council on Aging event

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COOKOFF

FROM PAGE A1

7,000 visitors are expected to attend by motorcycle, Horn said. Total attendance last year was estimated at 20,000, he said.

He said the goal is to raise \$25,000 or more for Habitat. GLRC Inc. pays about \$20,000 to the city for providing services, such as street closings, police protection and cleanup, during the event.

Other highlights of the cookoff include:

- Food vendor and sponsor booths, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Live music by the band Men In Black, dancing and activities for children, noon to 5 p.m.
- A "hottest dog" contest at 2 p.m.
- A 5 p.m. raffle for cash prizes. Only 2,700 raffle tickets, at \$5 each, will be available, either at the Habitat for Humanity booth near Penniman and Main, or from volunteers who will be strolling through the event.

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Greene: Historical knowledge vital

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Greene

Stella Greene is the first to acknowledge she's "been around a long time."

But that longevity, the veteran Plymouth City Commission member and former mayor says, has given her a base of knowledge about the city and its government that will be crucial in making the difficult budget choices that lie ahead.

"Having that kind of historical knowledge is going to make the difference," said Greene, who is seeking her fifth elected (and third consecutive) commission term. She is one of six candidates in the Tuesday, Nov. 3, election for four commission spots.

Greene, 62, the executive director of the Dearborn Community Arts Council, says she's motivated by a "deep commitment" to the city and that, with five or six phone calls and e-mails a week from constituents, communicating with residents is vital for her. Commissioners need to hear the good and the bad, she said.

"That personal connection, I think, is really important," Greene said. "People need to know the people they elect will listen to them."

Tight city budgets, due to a cut in state revenue sharing and an expected decrease in property tax collections, will force an examination of priorities, Greene said. The general-fund budget for the current fiscal year is about \$7.6 million.

"I think we really have to be realistic about it. We have to look at all the options available to us," she said.

That would include perhaps cutting back on street sweeping, bulk leaf pickup and snow removal, she said. "Those aren't necessarily popular options," Greene said.

But, like other candidates, Greene said city officials have already cut expenses over several years, and that because of that cutbacks in Plymouth

won't be as dramatic as those in many other Detroit-area communities.

"We can be proud of what we've done with very limited resources," she said.

Greene said she's open to looking for savings with either a greater regionalization of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which now serves the city and Plymouth Township, or through a public safety department for police, firefighting and emergency medical services, which would involve cross-training personnel. But it's important to fully understand the options before adopting one, she said, and make sure that emergency response times don't suffer.

Greene said city leaders need to have a sense of what city services are most important to residents and business owners. "We need to be the community they envision," she said.

Community involvement — in the arts, as president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, as a Community Foundation of Plymouth board

member, among other organizations — helps her get input on how the city's doing, she said.

"It gives me the opportunity to be responsive to the pulse of the community," Greene said.

She agrees businesses outside of downtown Plymouth need support from the city, but added: "It's got to be cost neutral."

Greene, who formerly directed the Plymouth Community Arts Council, said she favors the city's many community events, adding they're what make Plymouth unique.

"People are drawn to Plymouth because of those events," she said.

But, she added, "it's a real balancing act" to host as many events as Plymouth does without hindering businesses.

"We're listening all the time," she said. "We're working on it."

Greene and her husband, William, have two grown children.

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Dwyer looks to meet budget challenges – again

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Dwyer

Who says government is financially inefficient?

Not Dan Dwyer. The former Plymouth City Commission member and mayor, who's built his own career in government, says Plymouth was finding greater efficiencies and preparing for lean times years before the current budget crunch.

"I'm proud of this government," said Dwyer, a commissioner from 1999 to 2007, during a recent interview. "I still think we're looking pretty good because we took a very proactive approach."

That search for savings, Dwyer said, is something Plymouth officials need to keep doing to adjust to a cut in state revenue sharing and an expected decline in property tax collections due to falling home values.

Dwyer wants to be a part of that process again. He's one of six candidates on the ballot for four commission spots; the elec-

tion is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

"We're going to have to look at everything," including public safety, municipal services and recreation, said

Dwyer. "We're no different than everyone else."

Dwyer, 46, has plenty of government experience. He's been the administrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court, a combined circuit and probate court, for nearly 10 years, and before that spent 12 years working for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

"At my job every day I make government more efficient than it is, and we're very good at it," Dwyer said. His court, he added, is planning to cut its budget by 15 percent over the next 18 months.

As mayor, Dwyer studied the possibility of finding savings through greater regionalization of the Plymouth Community

Fire Department, something officials are again exploring. It's worth another look, Dwyer said.

He also favors studying the public safety model of police, firefighting and emergency medical services, which would involve cross-training officers. But he wouldn't favor any change, Dwyer said, unless it was clear that savings could be achieved with no decrease in public safety protection.

Dwyer said he has good relationships with the city's legislators in Lansing that would help him fight to protect revenue sharing, and that he's open to discussing ways to find more revenue, such as an "urban tax" on vacant lots (he cited a couple in downtown Plymouth), and a local ordinance that would enable the city to recoup the entire cost of drunken-driving prosecutions from those convicted of the crime.

He points to three major accomplishments during his commission tenure: pushing for a public restroom at The Gathering, which became a

reality; launching a quality-of-life survey of residents that he said helped set budget priorities; and working on the city's liquor license management ordinance, which has become a model for other communities.

Dwyer said he loves Plymouth's community events, but that the city needs to remain sensitive to the needs of business owners who could be hurt by an excess. "If we were to start having them every week-end, that won't work," he said.

He agrees that, with downtown Plymouth getting a lot of attention, the city should do what it can to support businesses outside downtown, without spending extra money.

Dwyer is vice chairman of the Downtown Development Authority board, a former member of the beautification committee (he knows the daisy is the city flower), a walker in the Breast Cancer Three-Day walkathon, and an former reserve police officer in Livonia.

He and his wife, Shon, have two children.

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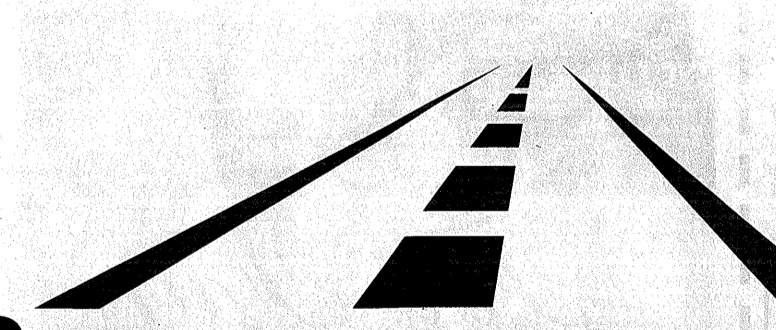
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire officials offer videos, tips to 'Stay Fire Smart'

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), along with local fire departments and other safety advocates nationwide are urging people to "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4-10.

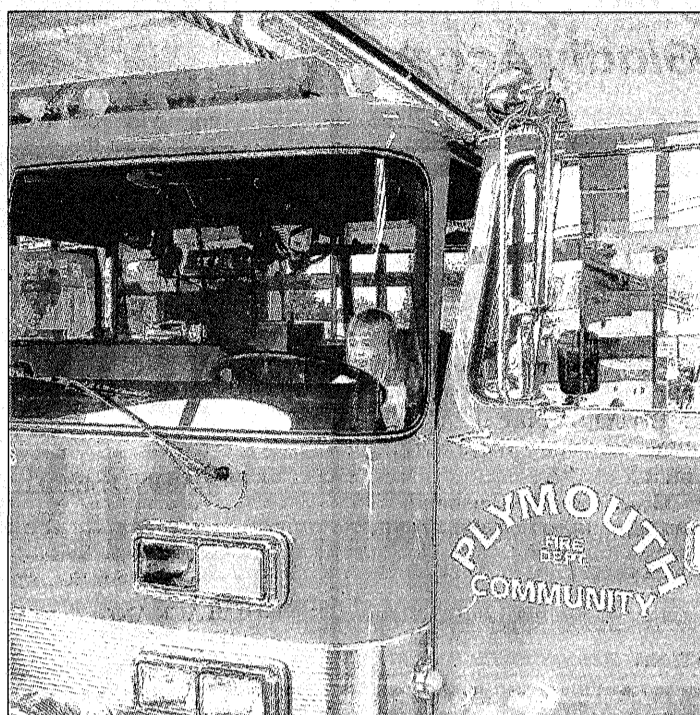
Locally, the Plymouth Community Fire Department will celebrate the week by opening the doors to its three fire stations for tours daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. In recent years a one-day Open House event was held at Fire Station #1 only.

This year, fire officials said, residents have an entire week in which to visit the Fire Station that is located closest to their neighborhood, or visit all three if they would like.

Fire Station 1, which is the newest, is located at 9911 Haggerty, just north of Ann Arbor Road. Fire Station 2 is at 41212 Wilcox (at Schoolcraft), and Fire Station 3 is at 13600 Beck, at the corner of North Territorial.

Fire departments responded to an estimated 1.5 million fires in 2008. These fires resulted in 3,320 civilian fire fatalities, 16,705 civilian fire injuries and an estimated \$15.5 billion in direct property loss.

"Every 22 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of communications. "Fires kill roughly 3,000 people each year and injure thousands. These statistics are especially tragic because most fires can be prevented and the deaths and injuries associated with them can be avoided. Fire



Plymouth Community Fire Department officials will open all three fire stations for residents at open houses throughout Fire Prevention Week.

Prevention Week is dedicated to focusing on important safety information that will help you stay safe from fire year round.

This year's campaign, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," focuses on ways to prevent fires, and the deaths, injuries, and property loss they cause. Eighty-four percent of all fire deaths were caused by home fires. By providing valuable information on fire and burn prevention and safety tips, the campaign aims to help the public keep their homes and the people who live there safe from fire and burns.

NFPA resources available for Fire Prevention Week:

- Video PSA featuring Jim Shannon, NFPA's president
- Video PSA and "how to" videos
- Audio PSAs
- Safety tips for adults
- Safety tips for kids

Visit <http://www.firepreventionweek.org/> for more tips and safety information.

NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Woman arrested on shoplifting charge; burglars hit 3 vehicles

A 20-year-old Westland woman was arrested on a shoplifting charge at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road late Sunday afternoon.

A store security guard reported that the woman had secreted a bottle of KY Jelly in her purse and walked out without paying for it, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The guard confronted the woman outside and detained her, and police were contacted.

The suspect reportedly admitted the theft, police said. She was scheduled to appear in 35th District Court on a larceny charge.

Home burglary

A digital video disc player and a stereo receiver were reported stolen from a house on Grant Drive after a burglary on Sept. 18 or early the next morning.

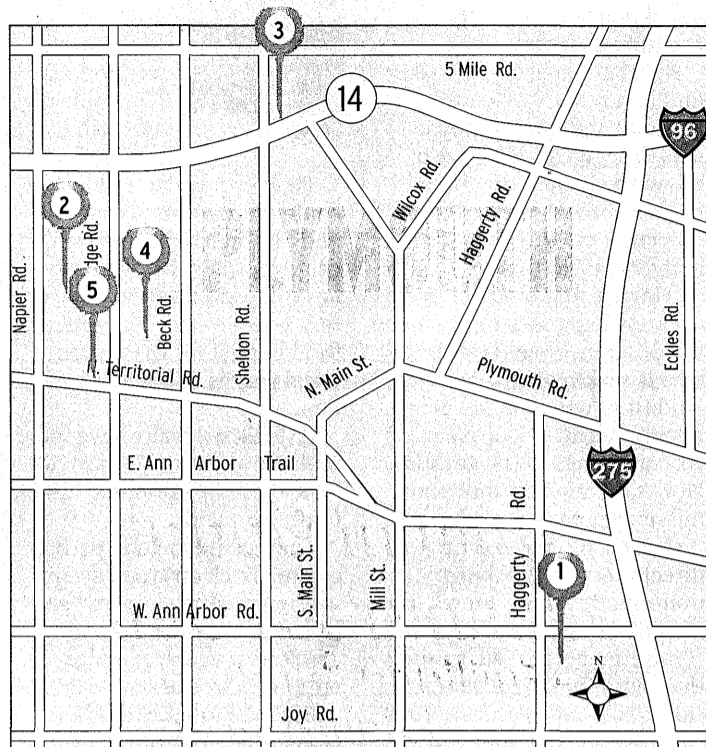
The burglar or burglars had apparently entered the house through an unlocked window, the victim told police. The items were taken from the living room.

Vehicle burglary

A Redford Township woman's purse, along with the cash and credit cards in it, were reported stolen from a Chrysler Town & Country minivan as it sat in the parking lot of a hotel in Plymouth Township late Saturday or early Sunday. A window on the minivan had been smashed, a police report said.

The burglary occurred between 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday outside the Hilton Garden Inn on Sheldon Road, police said. Police found no other vehicles at the hotel had been broken into.

CRIME WATCH



Smokes swiped

A laptop computer and cigars were reported stolen Sunday from a Mercury Sable as it sat in the driveway of a house on East Hilltop Drive.

The victim told police he discovered the theft about 5 p.m. Sunday when a friend asked about the cigars and he went to the Sable to retrieve them. The car had apparently been left unlocked, the victim said, and the theft had occurred since 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Radio rip-off

A radio and a satellite-based navigation system were reported stolen from a Chevrolet Malibu parked in the driveway of a house on Draper Circle on Saturday. The car had been left unlocked, a police report said. The theft occurred between about 2 a.m. and noon.

- By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community

Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Sept. 23-29:

- Tuesday, Sept. 29 - Industrial rescue run on Sheldon; rescue run on Sheldon; residential rescue run on Haggerty.

- Monday, Sept. 28 - Residential rescue runs on Northview, on Harvey, on Haggerty, on Main, on Auburn, on Shadywood and on Newport; vehicle accidents at southbound I-275 and M-14 and on northbound I-275 south of I-96; downed wires on Sheridan; rescue run to a public building on Beck; investigation on Roe.

- Sunday, Sept. 27 - Residential rescue runs on Penniman and on Plymouth Road; commercial rescue run on Main.

- Saturday, Sept. 26 - Rescue run on Ann Arbor Road; rescue run at a public building on Five Mile; residential rescue runs on Northville Road and on Woodgrove; vehicle accident at Hines and Wilcox; special run on Haggerty.

- Friday, Sept. 25 - Residential rescue runs on Five Mile, on Haggerty (with wash-down), on Harvey, on N. Territorial, on Grant and on Shadywood.

- Thursday, Sept. 24 - Downed wires on Sheridan.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23 - Rescue run at public buildings on Canton Center and on Ann Arbor Road; residential rescue runs on Five Mile, on Sheldon, on Plymouth Road, on Newport, on Plymouth Heights, on Portsmouth Crossing and on Cedar; vehicle accident with wash-down on Beck; investigation on Main; commercial rescue run on Main.



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Sept. 30-Oct. 4

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Limited to one coupon per person, and one discount per coupon. Coupons may not be combined with any other offers. Coupon valid through October 4, 2009.

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Fall Fair

October 9th-11th, 2009

Northville Community Senior Center

303 W. Main • Northville, MI 48167

Hours: Friday 9am-9pm
Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 11am-4pm

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October 9th-11th, 2009

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Hours: Friday 9am-9pm
Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 11am-4pm

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



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- Fiamma's A Gem!
 - Emiliana Sandoval
 The Detroit Free Press

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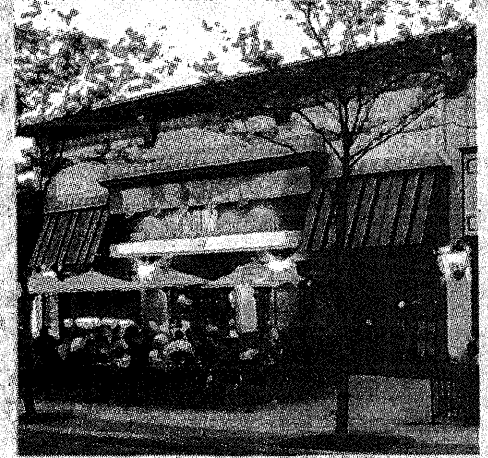
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Fall/Winter 2009-2010 Menu



SMALL PLATES & APPETIZERS

- GRILLED BEEF TENDERLOIN MEDALLIONS***
With portabella mushroom, onions and cubanelle peppers with a hint of garlic. \$12
- LOBSTER MAC**
Ziti pasta with lobster, fresh basil, brie and fontina cheese
 Topped with roasted garlic panko crumbs. \$12
- SHORT RIB QUESADILLAS**
With Monterey jack cheese,
 Accompanied with spiced black bean and tomato salsa, avocado and sour cream. \$9
- FIAMMA CHEESE TASTING**
Featuring award winning Leelanau cheese from the creamery at Black Star Farms
 in Northern Michigan, mini baked brie and chef's choice cheese of the day.
 Accompanied with fresh fruit garnish, nuts and gourmet crackers. \$14
- AHI TUNA (Sashimi Grade)***
Rubbed with Asian spice, served rare,
 Accompanied with spicy mango chutney, avocado mousse and wonton crisps. \$12
- SMOKED PLATE (Served Cold)**
Prepared in house, pepper encrusted hot smoked salmon, cold smoked salmon,
 White fish and salmon pate. Served with traditional accompaniments. \$14
- GRILLED CAJUN PRAWNS**
Accompanied with spicy avocado dip, mango chutney and whole grain crème fraiche. \$10
- RAW OYSTERS***
One-half dozen. Served with cocktail sauce and horseradish. \$12
- CALAMARI**
Flash-fried with Choice of one of two ways:
 San Marzano sauce with cherry peppers, grape tomatoes and Kalamata olives or
 Tomato and red onion with a lemongrass citrus butter sauce. \$10
- HOUSEMADE BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI**
Topped with brown butter, hazelnut and fresh sage. \$9
- PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MUSSELS**
Steamed mussels and Italian sausage in a light tomato wine sauce.
 Accompanied with Pommes frites. \$10
- SOUP & SALADS**
- SOUP OF THE DAY** Cup \$4 Bowl \$6
- SWEET POTATO BISQUE** Cup \$4 Bowl \$6
Accompanied with apple relish and spiced crème fraiche
- CLASSIC CAESAR***
Hand tossed, made to order, with Romaine lettuce, egg, fresh garlic,
 Parmigiano reggiano cheese, anchovies, olive oil and garlic croutons. \$9
- DINNER SALAD**
Romaine and leaf lettuce, olives, cucumbers, red onion and Campano dressing
 (Tomato and other dressings available upon request). \$6
- CRIMSON ROASTED BEET SALAD**
Mixed field greens, roasted beets, chevre cakes, toasted almonds
 Grapefruit segments and red onion, tossed in a lemon honey vinaigrette \$10
- SPINACH SALAD**
Baby spinach, bacon, cherry tomatoes, spiced pecans, Gorgonzola cheese
 Crispy red onion and egg. Tossed with a roasted shallot vinaigrette \$10
- FIAMMA CAPRESE SALAD**
Vine ripened tomato, fried eggplant, fresh buffalo mozzarella and balsamic. \$10
- WEDGE OF ICEBERG LETTUCE**
With garnish of olive tapenade, roasted red pepper, crumbled bacon,
 Olives, tomato and bleu cheese dressing. \$8
- SANDWICHES**
Accompanied with Fritai or Sweet potato fries
- GRILLED SALMON CLUB**
Apple cured bacon, vine ripened tomato, herb cheese spread,
 Roasted shallot glaze and baby spinach. Served on whole grain bread. \$12
- CLASSIC PHILLY STEAK SANDWICH**
Shaved New York strip, caramelized onions, exotic mushrooms and
 White cheddar cream sauce. Served on a fresh French roll. \$12

MEAT

- (Seasoning and marinade \$2) des. Substituted with duck or pork.
 Add a bowl of soup or dinner salad \$3 Sub risotto on any dish for an additional \$2
- PIEDMONTESE FILET MIGNON***
All natural. Cut from the heart of the tenderloin.
 Topped with Fiamma zip sauce.
 Accompanied with Potatoes Au Gratin and caramelized parsnips, carrots and cranberry chutney.
 6 oz. Filet... \$23 8 oz. Filet... \$29 10 oz. Filet... \$35
- RESERVED BLACK ANGUS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK***
Chosen from the top 5% of choice beef, center of the loin, topped with button mushroom ragu.
 Accompanied with brie-fontina Mac & Cheese and ratatouille. \$27
- BRAISED SHORT RIBS**
Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and caramelized parsnips, carrots and cranberry chutney.
 Topped with crispy red onions. \$23
- COLORADO PRIME LAMB CHOPS***
Marinated and char grilled. Topped with port wine demi.
 Accompanied with cream spinach and fennel scented fingerling potatoes. \$26
- FIAMMA CHICKEN FLORENTINE**
Chicken breast stuffed with a blend of cheeses and spinach. Topped with a cauliflower cream sauce.
 Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and broccoli florets. \$17
- WOODLAND TENDERLOIN**
Beef Tenderloin Tips, sautéed with shallots and wild forest mushrooms, roasted red peppers.
 Accompanied with Gorgonzola cheese, finished with a touch of truffle oil. Served with risotto cake. \$19
- FIAMMA MIXED GRILL**
Chef's daily creation. Please ask your server. Priced Accordingly

ACCOMPANIMENTS

- Sautéed Mushrooms \$4 Creamed Spinach \$5 Potato Gnocchi \$6
- Sautéed Hungarian Peppers \$3 Asparagus \$6 Mac & Cheese \$3

FISH & SEAFOOD

- Add a bowl of soup or dinner salad \$3 Sub risotto on any dish for an additional \$2
- LAKE SUPERIOR WALLEYE**
Sautéed in a light flour dusting drizzled with our roasted garlic aioli.
 Served with long grain, wild rice and toasted orzo, and chef's fresh vegetable. \$19
- NORWEGIAN SALMON**
Lightly encrusted with dried exotic mushrooms, pan roasted and drizzled with truffle oil.
 Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and chef's fresh vegetable. \$19
- AHI TUNA* (Sashimi Grade)**
Searched rare with an Asian spice rub. Served with ponzu reduction and cucumber wasabi sauce.
 Accompanied with fried risotto cake and stir fry vegetable. \$22
- AUTUMN SPICED SEA SCALLOPS**
Accompanied with creamy pumpkin risotto, Michigan cherries, pine nuts and granny smith apples. \$19
- SEAFOOD PAELLA WITH CHICKEN**
Lobster, shrimp, clams, bay scallops, chicken breast and chorizo.
 Classically prepared with saffron and Arborio rice. \$21
- COLD WATER LOBSTER TAILS**
Two - 6 oz tails, broiled.
 Accompanied with angel hair pasta with lemon butter sauce and chef's fresh vegetable. Market Price
 Available ala carte or added to any dinner Market Price
- FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY**
Priced Accordingly
- PASTA & VEGETARIAN**
Add a bowl of soup or dinner salad \$3
- CHICKEN "CAVATAPPI"**
Walnut encrusted chicken breast served over ziti pasta with apple-cured bacon,
 Slow-roasted tomatoes, grilled portabellas, shiitake mushrooms, and a smoked goods cream sauce. \$17
- PASTA FIAMMA**
Linguini pasta tossed with pan seared scallops, shrimp, shiitake mushrooms, roasted peppers,
 Hungarian peppers, in a white sherry wine sauce (spicy). \$21
- POTATO GNOCCHI AND PIEDMONTESE MEDALLIONS**
Tossed with exotic mushrooms, shallots and asparagus tips with a sherry wine sauce.
 Topped with brie cheese. \$23
- ROASTED BEET RICOTTA GNUDI**
Handmade "dumplings" topped with a horseradish cream sauce.
 Accompanied with ratatouille and crispy eggplant chips \$14
- TOFU, VEGETABLE AND CASHEW STIR FRY**
Served over a coconut risotto cake. Vegan friendly \$14

DESSERTS

- HOUSE MADE TIRAMISU
- HOUSE MADE CRÈME BRULÉ
- BANANA & WALNUT CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING

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'Good Doctor' makes Barefoot house call

Plymouth-based Barefoot Productions announced a change to its 2009-2010 season lineup for its fall show.

Neil Simon's classic comedy *The Good Doctor* will replace the previously slated *Mister Roberts* for Barefoot's fall presentation due to a scheduling conflict.

Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*, while less familiar than some of the playwright's other works, still showcases Simon's natural talent of comedic timing, irony, warmth and cleverness, according to Barefoot founder and director Craig Hane.

Set in Russia during the early 19th century, *The Good Doctor* weaves together nine stories, ranging from the absurd to the heartwarming which are connected by the Writer (Anton Chekhov), who serves as the narrator throughout the play. The stories, adapted for the stage, feature a diverse array



Depicting two scenes from Barefoot Productions' comedy 'The Good Doctor' by Neil Simon are Samantha Lowry (from left) of Novi and Carol Lipinski of Garden City in 'The Governess' and Matt Majzlik of Canton and Sam Williams of Taylor in 'The Drowned Man.'

of characters: a hard-nosed governess; a lady of the evening; a man who earns his wage by "drowning;" a neurotic woman who beleaguers a banker beset with gout; a rakish scoundrel intent on seducing a married woman; an actress ill with fever, desperate for an audition; an unlikely duo of a newly-

appointed dentist and his first patient, a priest; the consequences of an underling sneezing on his superior and a musical duet about unrequited love.

"While we had planned to present another comedy, *Mister Roberts*, this fall, scheduling conflicts prevented us from doing so,"

Hane said. "We know that many people were looking forward to that show and we plan to bring it back into our roster soon. In the meantime, we wanted to ensure we offer our audiences what they've asked us for - comedy!"

"Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor* is a wonderful stage play," Hane added. "I originally directed this more than 20 years ago as a college student and while it is nostalgic for me, I've re-envisioned the entire production, updating it with modern twists and tongue-in-cheek humor."

Barefoot's cast, which heralds from throughout metro Detroit, includes Anne Cahalan (Detroit); Joseph Cone (Plymouth); Kristin Heitmeier (Northville); Ken Karges (Plymouth); Carol Lipinski (Garden City); Samantha Lowry (Novi); Jack Parr (West Bloomfield); David Pierce (Plymouth); Cal Schwartz

(Dearborn), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Sam Williams (Taylor), and Matt and Tim Majzlik (Canton). "The Brothers Majzlik," both of whom reside in Canton, are featured in "The Surgery," portraying an inexperienced young dentist and a pain-ridden priest. The scene is highlighted by a carefully choreographed dance scene which will leave audiences roaring.

While *The Good Doctor* officially opens Oct. 9 at 8 p.m., Barefoot Productions has teamed with local VFW #6695 to offer a special exclusive sneak peek Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. as a fund-raiser for the VFW chapter. All tickets for this special performance are \$20 with proceeds evenly distributed between the two groups.

"VFW #6695 has been one of our long-time supporters," said Hane. "From donating our theatre seating to their consistent patronage, we wanted a way in which we

THE GOOD DOCTOR

- **What:** Barefoot Productions' production of "The Good Doctor"
- **When:** Oct. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 at 8 p.m.; Oct. 18 and Oct. 25, 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Former Walker-Buzenberg building, 240 N. Main in Plymouth.
- **Tickets:** Senior and student tickets are \$10 and general admission tickets are \$12. Group rates are available for 10 or more, offering a \$2 per ticket discount.

could say 'thank you.' "We hope that all the seats for the October 8, 2009 performance of Barefoot's *The Good Doctor* are filled," said Gary Kubik, VFW #6695 representative. "All the monies donated to VFW #6695 are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use for the veterans of all wars. Our motto is 'honor the dead by helping the living.'"

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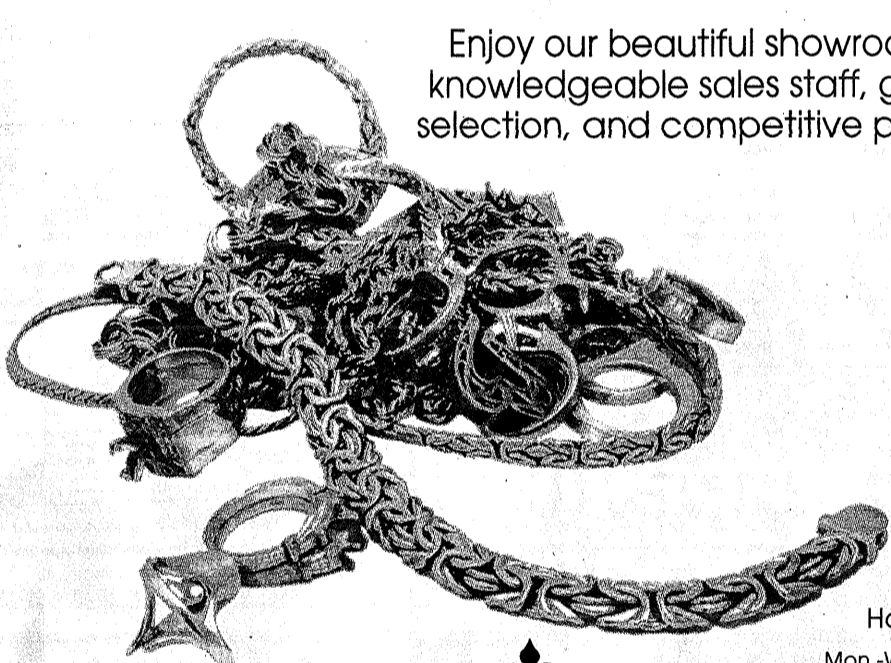
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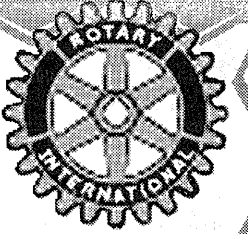
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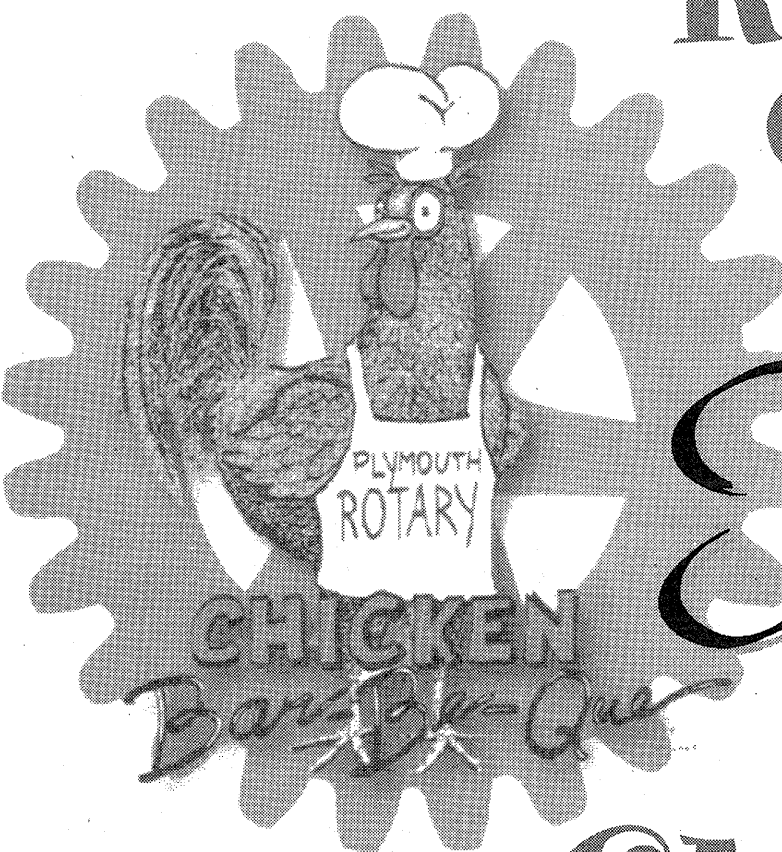
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| Tyler Mollenkamp | Shane Vorva | Abby Phillips | Abby Phillips | Matthew Collingwood | Kendra Valcicente | Kendra Valcicente | Matthew McCoy | Matthew McCoy | Zach Marsh |
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| Stephen | Jenna Newman | Tom Kerchen | Tom Kerchen | Parker Pakula | Marissa Pertler | Marissa Pertler | Erin Zaluze | Erin Zaluze | Erin Zaluze |
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| Sandra Steffani | Kristy Johnson | Cristina Bugescu | Cristina Bugescu | Stevie Haburne | Morgan Bartos | Morgan Bartos | Lauren Carnevale | Lauren Carnevale | Lauren Carnevale |
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Thank you to all who volunteered from the following groups and clubs: Canton High School Cheerleaders, Canton High School Football, Canton High School Swimming, Foundation Scholarships, P-CEP Rotary Interact Club, P-CEP High School Marching, Opportunity House, Plymouth High School Baseball, Salem High School Football and PCEP Mentors and Mediators, Plymouth High School Cheerleaders, Salem High School Swimming, and Friends of Rotary. We wish to thank any of the volunteers we may have missed but without whose help we could have never succeeded.

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LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

OUR VIEWS

Incumbents, former member deserve votes

When a city is facing challenges, particularly in the financial arena, it's probably a good time to hang on to as much corporate knowledge as you can when it comes to your city commission.



Ron Loiselle

Plymouth has done better than most municipalities at managing dwindling resources, having years ago decided to tackle looming deficits with a five-year plan officials have followed to the letter.



Dan Dwyer

That's why we're recommending voters return incumbents Gerry Sabatini, Stella Greene and Ron Loiselle, along with former commissioner and mayor Dan Dwyer, when they head to the polls for the Plymouth City Commission election Tuesday, Nov. 3.



Gerald Sabatini

Not only do all four of our recommendations have years of experience, three of the four — Dwyer, Greene and Loiselle — have all served as mayor. The fourth — Sabatini — is a calm, reasoned voice.



Stella Greene

Loiselle has the most commission experience, having served 24 years including two as mayor. During that time, The Gathering and parking deck were built, Tonquish Creek expanded and the downtown streetscape project begun.

He owns his own business in town, so he understands the commission's plight from that standpoint. He's also willing to tackle tough issues — he will be among those calling for a hard look at how fire protection services are provided to city residents.

Greene has also served a number of years, including her own term as mayor, during which the commission really started taking a look at a long-range plan to deal with shrinking revenues.

Greene's strength is her overall knowledge and experience in the community as a whole. She worked for years at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, has helped develop the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program, and has been involved in organizations of all sorts around town. That kind of well-rounded expertise is hard to come by.

Sabatini has served only one term, but his has been a voice of reason as the commission has debated budget issues, staffing, ordinances and other issues.

He hasn't held any kind of leadership position yet, but his work in his first term has earned him a second.

We're most excited about the potential return to the commission of Dwyer, one of the most forceful, decisive and dynamic commissioners the city has seen the last 10 years. During his tenure, Dwyer proved he could lead and that he could work well with commissioners.

He led the charge toward studying regionalization of fire services; the idea fizzled not because of anything Dwyer did, but because commissioners couldn't convince Plymouth Township officials to go along. The township's tune may be changing, though; look for Dwyer to push the idea again if he gets elected.

There are challenges ahead for the Plymouth City Commission, and we believe Ron Loiselle, Stella Greene, Gerry Sabatini and Dan Dwyer should be returned to the commission to help guide the city through them.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think the Detroit Tigers will fare as this season winds up?

We asked this question on Sept. 24 at the Plymouth District Library.



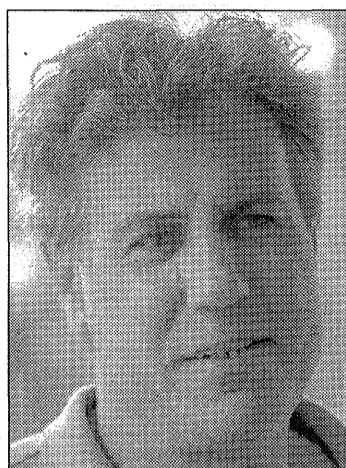
"Hopefully they'll win their division at least."

Leigh-Ann Bravo
Northville



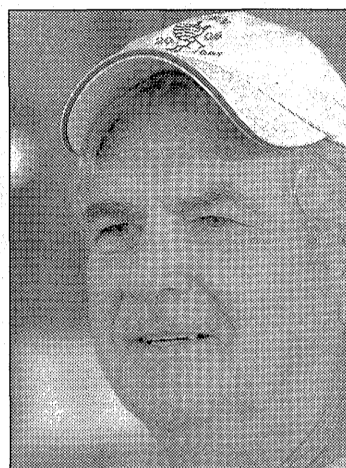
"Hopefully the World Series. I know they're two and a half games behind."

Cathy Tyler
Plymouth



"I think they'll make the playoffs. But I don't know if they'll get by the Yankees ... but their pitching could take them."

Mark Smith
Plymouth



"Really, they're going to blow it at the end. They always do."

Paul Kochanek
Trenton

LETTERS

Support farmers

Our weekly farmers market is growing with more farmers and local producers selling their products. Buying locally grown fruits, vegetables, pasta, bread and eggs puts money back into Michigan and provides us with healthy, farm-fresh food.

I think we should be doing everything we can to encourage people to shop at the farmers market; however, I do not understand why the farmers are not allowed to come on weekends that there are other events planned for downtown, such as Fall Festival.

The irony is that most Fall Festivals started as a celebration of the local harvest! At the peak of the growing season, the farmers are denied access to those of us who base our weekly meal-planning on the seasonal availability of their food.

I can only wonder how much of their harvest goes to waste that week. Surely there must be other places in town that would welcome their Saturday morning displays. How about the parking lots of any of the local schools or churches, whose lots usually aren't used on Saturday mornings? Or one of the many downtown parks? The Kmart parking lot? The cultural center parking lot? The old Buzenberg store parking lot? A local car dealership parking lot?

I am sure some creative thinking could make this happen. Please make this be the last year we choose amusement rides over our local farmers.

Cheryl Bord
Plymouth

McCotter's lead

Unlike others who always want to point out the negative in a situation, I don't see remote town hall meetings as a bad thing, but as an opportunity.

I am pleased to recognize any elected official or president, now and in the future, who embraces the latest technologies available in an effort to remain in close contact with constituents and to help reduce their carbon footprints.

Just like some newer colleges which deliver remote services through virtual classrooms, Thaddeus McCotter can be lauded for using the latest technologies which result in making his office more Earth friendly, while delivering positive solutions, remotely, to residents in his district.

Customers in my business know I can't be two places at once. But engineers who need immediate help or customers who are planning for the future know that a conference call or online support with equipment is just as good as being there when plans or solutions are needed right now.

Telephone town halls really are another way that politicians and corporations can help reduce their carbon footprints.

By not flying home to see your family as frequently as you would like, not getting a rental car and unnecessarily burning gas, you really show what it means for a politician to "go green."

Thank you for your personal sacrifice. I encourage all elected representatives to stop wasting unnecessary energy, and work harder for us by following McCotter's lead.

Glenn Kremer
Plymouth

Feisty opposition

I'm not a Republican, but I must take exception to the Sept. 24, 2009, letter that castigates and ridicules U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, "Is McCotter Afraid?"

How much of a majority is necessary for

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Submit letters via the following formats.

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E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

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

the Democratic faithful? Aren't the presidency and large majorities in the U.S. House and Senate enough for them? Won't they be satisfied until they hold every seat in Congress and can make laws by fiat?

We need a feisty opposition, now and forever, to protect our liberties and to keep the ruling party honest ("Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely"). Rep. McCotter is feisty and principled. Maybe that's why moveon.org (billionaire George Soros) and the Democrats have painted a target on his back.

Thomas M. Doran
Plymouth

Humane voice

Finally, animals have a political voice in Michigan. Humane Voters of Michigan (HVM), a nonprofit organization formed as a political action committee, works to support pending humane legislation in Michigan and supports humane candidates for public office.

To be effective, HVM has to have a large voter base who are willing to vote for good candidates and write their representatives about pending legislation. HVM will publish a scorecard every year on candidates' voting records on animal issues.

HVM encourages Michiganders to write to their senators and representatives to support a bill to stop cruel gas chambers as a way of euthanizing shelter animals (HB 4263), support a bill to end the practice of selling shelter animals to testing labs (HB 4663), support a bill to allow animals on factory farms enough room to turn around in their cages (HB 5127), and oppose a bill to allow factory farms to police themselves (HB 5128/SB 654).

Those who want to get involved or sign an online petition to ban the chaining of dogs can go to humanevoters-mi.org.

William McMullin
Lansing

Don't buy wool

With the arrival of cooler weather, we all want to purchase new "woolies" to keep us warm.

But before that happens, we should do a little research to find out how this wool is produced. A common source of wool is from Merino sheep, which are bred to have wrinkly skin resulting in more wool per animal.

During hot summer months, moisture collects in the sheeps' wrinkles. Flies are attracted to this moisture where they lay eggs, and when the eggs hatch, the resulting maggots start to eat the sheeps' flesh. To prevent this problem, many Australian sheep ranchers slice off chunks of flesh from around the sheeps' tail area. This bloody procedure is done without the use of pain killers.

This is perhaps more than anyone wants

to know about how wool is produced, but it is just one example of the cruelty inflicted on sheep to obtain their wool. There are many alternatives to wool, such as cotton, cotton flannel, polyester fleece, synthetic shearing and other fibers — all of which are cruelty-free. Please keep this in mind as you do your fall/winter shopping.

Ginda Gruse
Livonia

Save America's Arctic

You've probably seen the videos of the drowning polar bears on Oprah. And you've probably heard that there is a new bill moving through Congress to protect and preserve America's future with clean, green energy. You may not know that America's Arctic Ocean is home to abundant life — polar bears, walrus, ice seals, whales, the Inupiat people and much more. It is a treasure that has been part of our national heritage for generations.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has pledged to make wise decisions based on sound scientific principles. Along with hundreds of thousands of Americans, I recently urged Secretary Salazar to reconsider the Bush administration's foolhardy rush to drill in our only Arctic ecosystems.

Our only Arctic ecosystem. When it's gone, it's gone forever. Please urge Secretary Salazar to come up with a rigorous plan for America's Arctic that will ensure its survival.

Amy Grishaber
Livonia

Concerned about America

America, what does it mean to you? Do you respect it or do you tear its name down daily? Do you cherish the freedoms it has given to you or are you ungrateful? Do you care about it or are you too self-absorbed to make a difference? Do you worry about the way it's falling or are you ignoring the issues in the country around you?

Well, I'm not willing to sit around and let my country crumble. So it may not make much of a difference to many but, if it makes a difference to one person, I'll have accomplished something. So here's my concerns for our country as a 16-year-old proud American.

America

Our country's morals,
Are falling apart.
True patriotism has fallen,
From many hearts.
We used to salute,
And respect the flag.
Yet now some treat it,
As a useless rag.
"The Star Spangled Banner,"
Is our country's song.
If asked to sing it,
It's often sung wrong.
Sadly people buy,
Foreign products every day.
True devotion to our country,
Is quickly drifting away.
Our once strong government,
Is starting to be corrupt.
We need to fix this,
And do so abrupt.
American families,
Are filled with doubt.
They have forgotten,
What America's about.
How can our great country,
Be falling so far?
Have our citizens forgotten,
What convictions are?

Janel Evans
Westland

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

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

• In response to the story "Brighton-Roscommon bike trip fulfills rider's 50-year promise:"

RedfordRaised wrote:
"Kudos Mr. Semion. That's quite a trek. I can barely stand the 3 hr. car ride with the kids in the car every summer."

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



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Susan Rosiek
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Get into art at new Plymouth studio

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When it comes to art, kids who are "into it" are finding a new outlet in downtown Plymouth.

Intuit Art Studios, which opened on Wing Street last month, offers private and group art classes in different mediums for kids and adults.

Owner Katra Stubblefield, 29, was inspired to open her shop to share her holistic approach to teaching.

"There is a wonderful pleasure I receive from watching my students glow with pride as they learn more not just about art techniques, but about themselves," she said.

Intuit Art Studio is stocked with all kinds of materials, from paints, pastels and wax to pencils, ink and clay.

Stubblefield refuses to pick a favorite.

"I literally love it all," she said. "I enjoy welding, I enjoy doing sculpture. I work in all mediums — painting, jewelry, drawing. I can't pick that's why I don't pick," she said.

Most of her art classes are mixed medium, and tie in a theme. In A Lovely Mess, moms and tots drop in to play with all the materials in the studio for an hour together. In the popular Anime Club, students learn to illustrate in the Anime and Manga cartoon style.

In Art Inventions, kids visualize an invention, write about it, then bring it to life through canvas or clay. It's an example of how Stubblefield aims to teach more than art.

"A large part of what I teach is synchronicity," she said. "I believe teaching art while teaching history and science for example, is imperative for young minds to grasp just how connected the world is. For example, if we're learning how to draw the eye I teach them how the eye sees and how it works so they can draw it better."

Her method of instruction works particularly well in a unique Home School Art Class she teaches for children ages 5-12 on Wednesday mornings.

"In this class there is even more of an emphasis on other topics such as archeology or weather and how they fuse together with art projects," she explained.

GROWING UP WITH ART

Stubblefield grew up outside of Montpelier, Vermont. At age 16, she moved with her family to downtown Plymouth so her father could expand his business as a Japanese Landscape Garden Designer.

"I grew up surrounded by art. As a child my parents always put a special emphasis on the importance of art and how it ties in to the rest of life," she said.

After graduating from Plymouth High School in 1998, Stubblefield studied Fine Art at

Eastern Michigan University. She has exhibited work at galleries in Plymouth and Northville, and does paintings and murals on commission. She also taught classes for five years at Awakening the Artist Within in Northville, where she had a large following.

"Adults would come and they would bring desserts and wine and cheese and whatever," she said. "It was relaxation while they were learning art."

As the economy picks up, Stubblefield said she hopes to see more adults enroll at her new studio, but so far children and teen art classes are most popular.

Meredith Yancy, 14, of Plymouth, has taken several classes with "Miss Katra." Currently she's in the Friday night Anime Club.

"My favorite thing to do is marker pieces. In the beginning I wasn't very good at them and I look back and see how I've gotten better," Yancy said, adding that Stubblefield is honest with her criticism.

"She's really nice about it though," she said. "If there's something wrong she shows you how

INTUIT ART STUDIOS

What: Art Classes for children and adults

Where: 885 Wing St., Plymouth 48170

Classes for Children: Home School Art Class, 10:30 a.m.-noon Wednesdays, Oct. 7-28; Wax On, A Lovely Mess, Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., ongoing; Independent High School Study, 3-4:30 p.m. Fridays, ongoing; Anime Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Fridays, ongoing.

Classes for Adults: Vivacious Watercolor, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 3-Dec. 15; Independent Study, 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, ongoing; Drawing Basics, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 5-Dec. 17.

Contact: (734) 730-1624; intuitartstudios.com; intuitartmail@gmail.com

to fix it."

FILLING THE GAP

Stubblefield said the demand for classes at private studios is growing as more schools cut back on art classes.

"High schools, middle school and even elementary schools are dropping off art," she said. "I hear parents say they might have the art teacher come in with their art cart, or do a crafty project once a week. It's ridiculous. Art is fundamental to human nature. It's a way that people can express everything they see. It kind of unifies everything else a kid learns."



Katra Stubblefield recently opened Intuit Art Studios, on Wing Street in Plymouth to teach art to children and adults. Here she is with some of her students.

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JOE SCHEIDLER
As Keynote Speaker

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

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Many Pro-Life Group Representatives & Resources
2:30 PM Right-to-Life Annual Life Chain
3:30 PM Keynote Speaker

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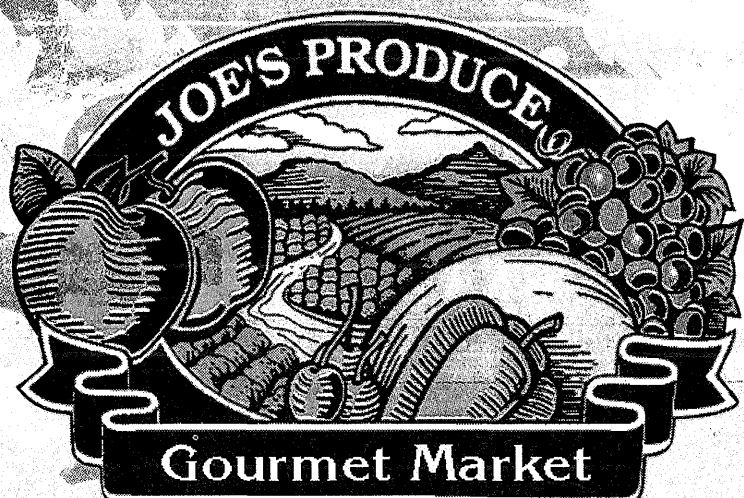
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SECTION B
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HOMETOWN LIFE

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Spikefest

Chiefs nip Wildcats in five-game match

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An intense, back-and-forth KLA South volleyball match between rivals Canton and Plymouth went the distance Tuesday night.

But the visiting Chiefs — after letting the Wildcats win Games 3 and 4 to even the match — eked out Game 5 by a 15-10 score to take a 3-2 victory. Canton improved to 11-4 overall and 3-1 in the South, while Plymouth fell to 12-4 and 3-1.

Canton actually trailed 5-0 in the deciding game.

"After the big hole we (made) for ourselves, we decided we needed to pull it together," Chiefs head coach Mary Kryska said. "Our passing improved and we were able to actually run an offense and start hitting again."

Sophomore outside hitter Kristen Muir (13 kills, 21 digs, six aces) sparked Canton with an overall strong performance down the stretch, Kryska added.

"We came out strong in Game 5, but a couple crucial kills by Kristen Muir gave Canton the momentum," Plymouth head coach Kelly McCausland said. "Overall, it was an intense and exciting match, but of course I was looking for a different outcome."

Canton senior outside hitter Jordan Kietly (19 kills, 19 assists, 23 digs) was a force to be reckoned with early and Kryska said "everything seemed to click" for the Chiefs thanks to some smart, aggressive play and good communication.

FIGHTING BACK

In Game 2, Canton took a big lead, but had to fend off the rallying Wildcats.

The Wildcats really got it going in Games 3 and 4, helped along by Canton's suddenly inconsistent play.

Plymouth's surge featured crucial blocks by senior middle hitter Kelly Smoltz (11 blocks for the match) and sophomore middle hitter Jessica Scott (four blocks).

"After being down two games, my girls came back with a force to be reckoned with," McCausland said. "They had a 'refuse to lose' mentality in Games 3 and 4."

In addition to the play of Muir and Kietly, Canton was sparked by sophomore middle hitter Alaina Turner (10 kills, seven assists), senior setter Traci Breitmeyer (22 assists) and senior defensive specialist Lauren Macuga (34 digs).

Other top players for Plymouth included junior outside hitters Dani Risi (12 kills, six aces), Kayla Bridge (12 kills, 26 digs) and sophomore defensive specialist Lindsay Stemberger (16 digs).

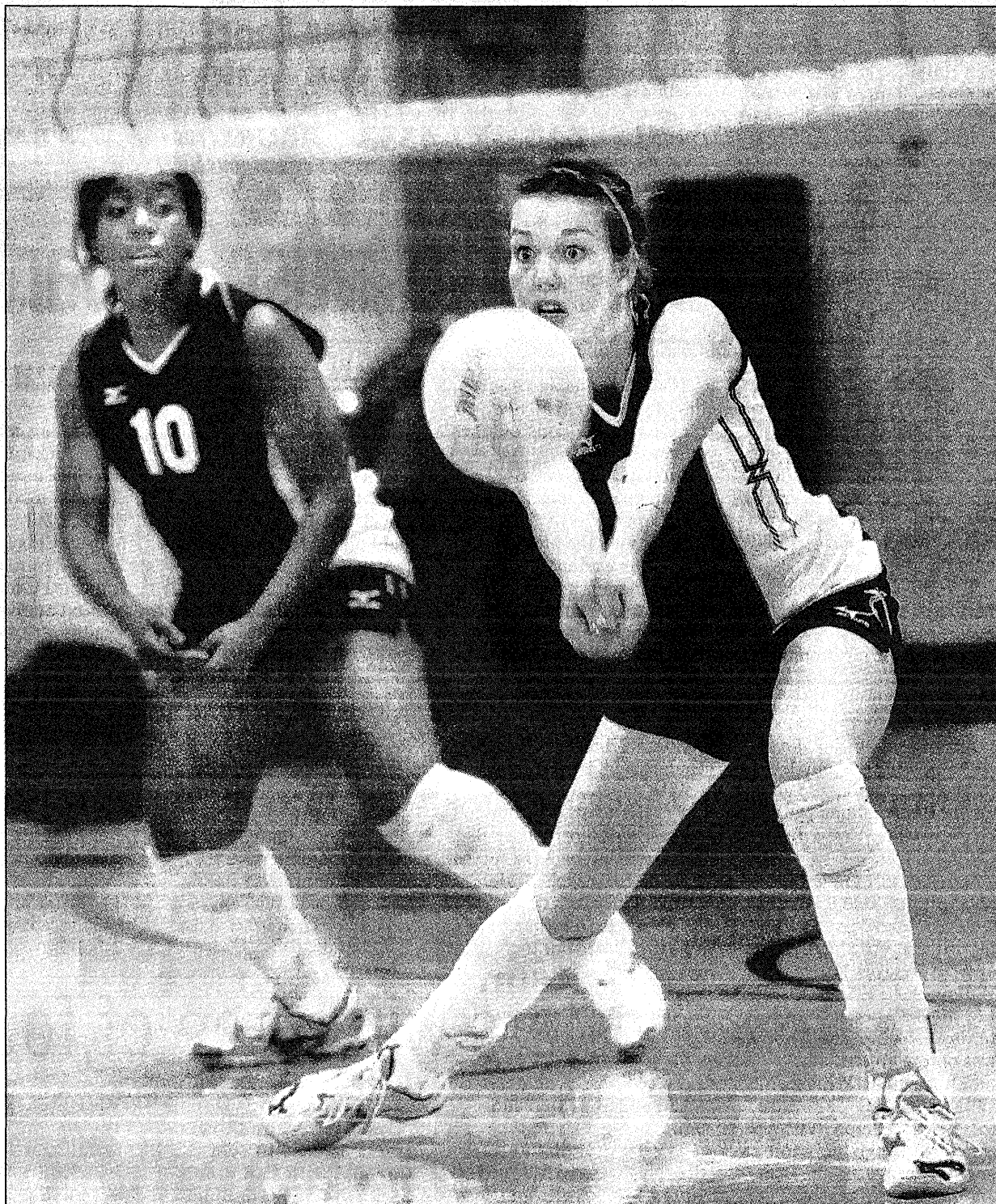
Novi tops Salem

Host Salem dropped a hard-fought KLA Central volleyball match Tuesday against Novi, with the teams taking turns in the victory column.

The Rocks ultimately lost in five, by scores of 25-19, 20-25, 26-24, 21-25 and 15-10 in the deciding game.

"The whole match we were just not consistent," Salem head coach Amanda Suder said.

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Now that's concentration. Plymouth Christian's Kristin Malcolm (No. 6) makes sure she bumps the ball over the net Tuesday. At left is teammate Brianna Harris.

Eagles bring hammer down

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Abigail Bartes wasn't about to let a one-game slump by her team spoil things Tuesday night for Plymouth Christian's volleyball squad.

The junior libero reeled off two aces among four laser-beam service points to open up the crucial third game against visiting Ann Arbor Greenhills, a team that had just evened the match 1-1.

For good measure, Bartes went on another four-point run later in that game, also featuring two aces, to put the Eagles up 19-15 en route to a 25-20 win. The clinching fourth game was all PCA, 25-12.

Bartes, along with all-around dominant play by sophomore

Kristin Malcolm and big contributions from others, sparked the Eagles to a 3-1 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference triumph.

The night didn't go exactly as planned for Eagles head coach Kelly Blackney.

After PCA (10-1-1, 4-1) won 25-14 in the opener, the Gryphons (2-10-2) came back behind powerful senior outside hitter Leah Topper (17 kills) to post a 25-18 victory in Game 2.

"I thought we had a letdown in the second game," Blackney said. "I felt they didn't do anything different, we just played down."

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

That's when Bartes went to work. "I was nervous at first," Bartes

said about her game-opening serving prowess that proved to be a springboard for the Eagles. "After I got the first one, I got really confident and all my teammates got me pumped."

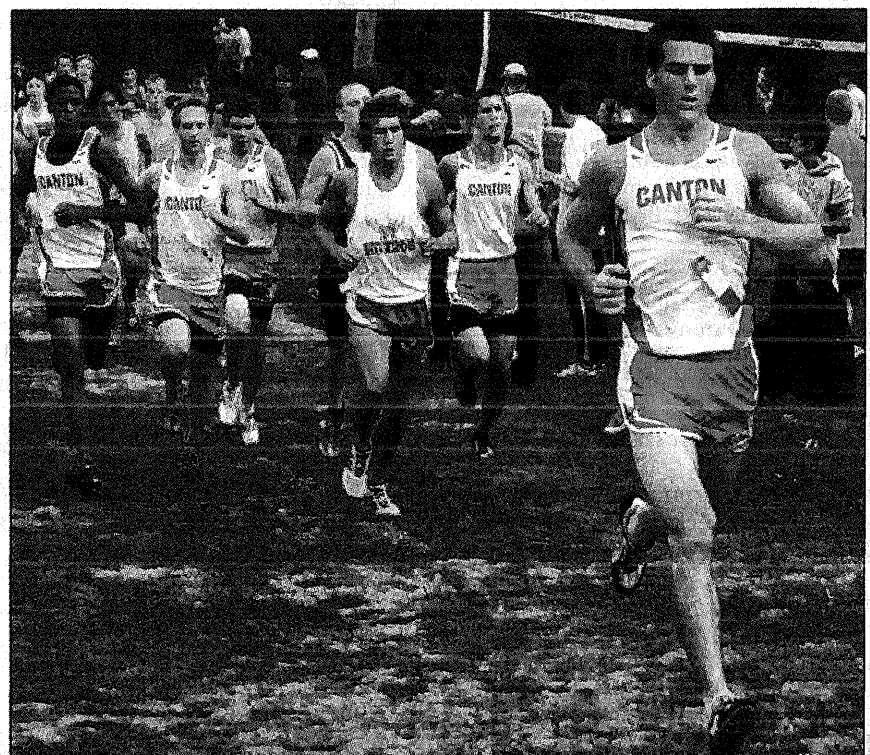
Bartes then smiled and revealed her serving secret.

"I bounce the ball three times, spin it in my hand, focus and then I just lean into it with as much power as I have," she said.

For Blackney, having consistent servers can't be underestimated.

Besides Bartes, the Eagles enjoyed big runs by Malcolm (a seven-pointer that blew open Game 1), junior setter Brianna Harris (four points in the first game) and

Please see **EAGLES, B3**



On path to victory

Keith Zech (right) of the Canton Chiefs leads a pack of teammates en route to triumph at Saturday's Monroe Jefferson Cross Country Invitational. Canton runners trailing Zech are (from left) Miles Felton, Jon Peck, Mitch Clinton and Paul Rakovitis, among unidentified opponents. Canton took first place at the 13-team tournament with 46 points, outdistancing Monroe (54) and ninth-ranked Brighton (56). For the Chiefs, Zack Spreitzer finished fourth with a time of 16-minutes, 33-seconds. He was followed by teammates Rakovitis (7th, 16:45), Zech (8th, 16:46), Clinton (10th, 16:48), Felton (17th, 17:12), Bradon Conley (18th, 17:12) and Peck (25th, 17:30). It was the third week in a row that Canton came home from a tourney with the first-place trophy.

Tough day for netters

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Both Plymouth and Canton took it on the chin Tuesday in KLA cross-over varsity boys tennis matches at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Wildcats (first in the KLA South Division) fell to 5-2 overall after losing 9-0 to KLA North leader Novi, considered by many one of Michigan's top squads.

"Today's not our best day, but Novi's a good team," Plymouth head coach Tom Kimball said. "I think they could be a top-five team in the state."

"We did OK in a couple flights where we held our own, kept our cool and played hard every point."

Kimball said his singles players in flights 2-4, primarily junior Matt Dwan, senior Andy Mitchell and senior Pat Bailey, played very well in defeat.

"So that's a positive," he said. "Don't give up, whether you're winning or losing."

But the season is coming along nicely for the Wildcats, even though the team has been without the services of senior Pat Onoro — the season-opening No. 3 singles player who is injured. Onoro could be back in

time for the Oct. 9 regionals.

In addition to winning their division, the Wildcats won the Dexter Invitational on Sept. 19.

Plymouth now will look to turn the page at Saturday's single-elimination KLA Kensington Conference tournament at Novi High School.

"We hope to have some good performances from our guys there," Kimball said. "Hopefully they will step it up at the right time for us."

"We just want to make a solid showing and have some good competitive play and prepare for regionals."

Meanwhile, Canton dropped an 8-1 match to Northville, another strong KLA North team.

Eagles boast medalists

At Saturday's Riverview Tennis Tournament, Plymouth Christian Academy's co-ed varsity team finished sixth out of seven teams.

But the Eagles were rewarded with third-place medals for sophomore Rachel Zandee (No. 3 singles), junior Blake Ringger (No. 2 doubles) and freshman Jonathan Manni (No. 2 doubles).

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GAME WRAPS

Canton golfers edged

On Tuesday at Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth, the Canton varsity girls golf team lost 219-226 to Livonia Churchill.

The medalist was Churchill's Jordyn Shepler, with a 48 on her card.

For the Chiefs, Paige Osler led with a fine score of 51. She was followed by Mary Winther (55), Erin Lixie (57), Kaylie Loble (63), Megan Baumgart (64) and Ariel Albert (66).

Cass Benton matchups

Tuesday was a busy one at Cass Benton Park as all three PCEP schools were represented in cross country dual meets.

The Salem and Canton girls were victorious against Novi and Plymouth, respectively. Meanwhile, Canton's boys team topped the Wildcats.

Following is a recap of the dual meets:

- Salem's girls defeated Novi, 22-39, led by first-place Victoria Tripp (19:29) and third-place Jordyn Moore (20:04). Other Rocks in the top 10 included Kelly Kerwin (sixth, 20:36); Autumn Burin (seventh, 20:51); Kara Booms (eighth, 21:03) and Ade Jepperson (ninth, 21:10).
- Canton nipped Plymouth 28-29, with Bianca Kubicki of the Chiefs taking first with a time of 20:03.

The Chiefs took places 4-6 as follows: Emily Southern, 21:01; Rachel Rohrbach, 21:04; Katie Grimes, 21:05. In 12th was Rachael Brunk (22:10). No Plymouth results were available as of press time.

- On the boys side, it was Plymouth prevailing over Canton, 24-33 behind the 1-2 punch of Joe Porcari (16:38) and Warren Buzzard (16:47).

Canton's Keith Zech took third with a mark of 16:52, but the Wildcats grabbed places 4-5 thanks to Matt Neumann (16:58) and Derek Gielarowski (17:03).

Rounding out the top 10 were Canton's Zach Spreitzer (sixth, 17:16), Mitch Clinton (seventh, 17:22), Paul Rakovitis (eighth, 17:28), Miles Felton (ninth, 17:36) and Bradon Conley (10th, 17:56).

Other finishers were Plymouth's Jimmy Eiben (12th, 18:07), Jimmy Maciag (13th, 18:08), Stephen Balaze (14th, 18:27) and Canton's Steve Watts (11th, 18:00).

Monroe Invite

The Plymouth girls cross country team finished fourth at Saturday's Monroe Jefferson Invitational with 107 points. The top three squads were Brighton, 65; Monroe, 82; and Livonia Franklin, 91.

For the Wildcats, Paula Green registered a personal best with a time of 20:17 and finished 12th. Taking 18th place was Julie Forster (a season-best of 20:47), while Nicole Traitses (19th, 20:48) and Kelly Hahn (23rd, a personal-best 20:57) weren't far behind.

Others finishing for coach Mary Kerwin's team included Julie Hahn (35th with her best time, 21:34), Tricia Pniewski (39th, 21:51) and Constadina Manettas (40th with a personal best time that was not reported).

"It was a successful day as eight girls ran personal bests and an additional four ran seasonal bests," Kerwin said. "We just need to keep improving every week and keep looking to the regional meet."

Eagle has landed for Canton's Osler

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kirk Osler didn't have a birdie in the final round of the Observer & Eccentric men's golf tournament held Sept. 20 at Whispering Willows.

But when the former Livonia Churchill High coach eagled the par-5, 489-yard No. 16, he pretty much knew he landed his first-ever O&E championship flight title.

"Those were my best two swings," said Osler, who now resides in Canton. "I hit a big drive and a 5-iron 200 yards to 12 feet. The putt was an 18-inch break. That was the clincher for me in my mind."

Osler, a Bentley High grad who coached the Chargers from 1990 through 2001, posted rounds of 74-77-151 for a five-shot victory over Livonia Stevenson High senior Drew Mossoian, who carded identical rounds of 78-78-156 in the two-day event held at Livonia's adjoining city courses at Fox Creek and Whispering Willows.

Osler took home a first-place trophy and a \$400 gift certificate, while Mossoian garnered a runner-up trophy.

"After a rough start, I was glad to finish strong," said Osler, who stays golf sharp by playing for the Fellows Creek Publinx team. "I was pretty pleased with a 34 on the back side. I went 3-3-3-4 the last four holes. It was a good finish."

It was Osler's first appearance in the O&E Tournament in "the last four or five years." He was asked by one of his former Churchill players, Bill Durham, now City of Livonia Golf Division director, to make a return.

"I can't give enough kudos to what they've done at Fox

O&E GOLF TOURNEY

Creek," said Osler, who owns a local blinds and closet systems business. "I hit 15 greens and shot 74 at Fox Creek. I haven't played there in a couple of years. They've done a spectacular job. The greens were fabulous. Their close to 12 in the on the Stimpmeter."

Leon Kashawlic, a 1996 Churchill grad who played under Osler, captured the first flight title by defeating 16-year-old Riley Butcher of Windsor, Ontario on the second-hole of a sudden death playoff.

Both players scrambled to make a bogey on the par-5, 478-yard No. 1 hole, but Kashawlic earned the title by saving par with a 10-foot putt on the difficult par-4, 405-yard No. 2 hole.

The Novi resident won a \$200 gift certificate and first-place trophy.

An engineering manager for BAE Systems, Kashawlic helped his cause to earn a playoff berth with birdies on a pair of par-4s (Nos. 4 and 13) to become the fourth ex-Churchill teammate to claim an O&E title joining Dave Higham, Gary Kraus and Chris Kiehler.

"Historically I'm not a good putter," said Kashawlic, who rebounded from an 87 Saturday at Fox Creek to post an 80 Sunday at Whispering Willows for a 167 total. "Today I hit the ball better than yesterday I stroked it well and I was on the greens."

"This course (Whispering Willows) has never been in this good of shape. With Fox Creek the rough has good length, the greens are firm and fast. They had some tricky pins (placements)." son for the final outcome, she added.

For Salem, Kerstin Johnson (10 kills, 15 digs), Lauren Dworzanin (17 digs), Nicole Merget (16 kills, eight blocks, eight digs) and Lauren Aschermann (21 digs) were the top players.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PREP GRID PICKS

Week 6

Friday, Oct. 2

Dearborn Heights Annapolis (3-2, 1-2) at Garden City (0-5, 0-3), 7 p.m.
Redford Thurston (4-1, 3-0) at Dearborn Heights Robichaud (1-4, 0-3), 7 p.m.
Dearborn Heights Crestwood (3-2, 2-1) at Redford Union (3-2, 3-0), 7 p.m.
Livonia Clarenceville (2-3, 2-1) at Madison Heights Bishop Foley (2-3, 1-2), 7 p.m.
Farmington (3-2, 2-2) at Farmington Harrison (5-0, 4-0), 7 p.m.
North Farmington (1-4, 1-4) at Bloomfield Hills Andover (0-5, 0-5), 7 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson (3-2, 3-0) at Novi (3-2, 3-0), 7 p.m.
Livonia Franklin (3-2, 2-1) at Canton (5-0, 3-0), 7 p.m.
Wayne (2-3, 0-3) at Livonia Churchill (1-4, 0-3), 7 p.m.
Plymouth (4-1, 2-1) at Westland John Glenn (4-1, 2-1), 7 p.m.
Plymouth Salem (1-4, 1-3) at Northville (3-2, 2-1), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Southfield Christian (3-2, 2-0) at Lutheran Westland (1-4, 1-2), 2 p.m.

Last week

Overall

Brad Emons

Annapolis
Thurston
Union
Clarenceville
Harrison
N. Farmington
Stevenson
Canton
Churchill
Glenn
Northville

Dan O'Meara

Annapolis
Thurston
Union
Clarenceville
Harrison
N. Farmington
Stevenson
Canton
Churchill
Glenn
Northville

Tim Smith

Annapolis
Thurston
Union
Clarenceville
Harrison
N. Farmington
Stevenson
Canton
Churchill
Glenn
Northville

Jim Toth

Annapolis
Thurston
Union
Clarenceville
Harrison
N. Farmington
Stevenson
Canton
Churchill
Glenn
Salem

Christian
9-3 (.750)
48-18 (.727)

Christian
10-2 (.833)
52-14 (.788)

Christian
11-1 (.917)
45-21 (.682)

Christian
10-2 (.833)
54-12 (.818)

Defensive muscle sparks young Lions

YOUTH FOOTBALL

It was another successful day of youth football Sept. 19 for the Canton Lions' quartet of teams.

First of all, the varsity Lions picked up an important divisional road win with a 14-0 shutout over the Meteors.

Offensive adjustments got things moving as the Lions scored two touchdowns in the second half, on runs by James Hall and Kenny Arnold behind solid blocking up front from Andrew Hunt, Austin Fisher, Ben Cockrum, Daniel Paulot, Dykiece Pruitt and Dean Underwood. Kicking extra points was Evan Thomas.

Preserving the shutout on defense were cornerback Sam Rizzo and linebackers Forrest Hall, Antonio Ochoa, and Daniel Tidwell.

"We made significant adjustments to our team after

week two's loss," said head coach Chris Tidwell. "We believe we have good athletes. We just had to put them in the right places to help our team."

"The boys responded with good attitudes toward these changes and followed through with a good week of practice. Now we have to keep improving every week."

In junior varsity action, the Lions won 18-7 to improve to 2-1 for the season.

Daniel Kilgore scored a rushing TD, leading a dominant ground assault. Jake Mallad and Chucky Turfe added six-pointers on the ground running behind O-Liners Jake Wickens, Isaac Jackson and Richard Lenczewski.

The Lions' defense held the Meteors at bay thanks to a strong collective effort from Jackson Austin, Freddie McGhee and Eric Daniels. There were big plays, too: Allante Wheeler intercepted a pass; Chucky Turfe stripped the ball from a Meteor and returned it for a TD.

Next Sunday the Lions continue there cosmic travels through Westland, taking on the Comets.

A hard-hitting game was played by the freshman Lions team as they ended in a 6-6 tie. The defense received strong play from Jason Arnold, Woody See, Brad Tyszkiewicz, Tevyn Smith, Ruben Williams and Mason Lamarand.

The offense turned in a gritty performance led by pass receptions by Joey Glunt, Noah Brown, Myles Beverly

and Spencer Brown, who turned a short pass into a long touchdown reception. Providing key pass protection was the blocking of Preston Sokol, Ethan Balogh and Connor Flanigan.

The junior freshman Lions had a strong defensive, hard hitting effort led by Myles Wagstaff, Connor Woody, Calvin Brown Jr., Micheal Linderman and Ayden Lang — who made a diving interception. The defense, shutting out an opponent for the second straight game, allowed few plays of positive yardage by the Meteors.

On offense, the blocking of Cameron Wilborn, Ethan Locke and Lawrence Austin opened many big holes for running backs Jerome Nichols and Bennett Austin to shoot through.

Steelers win three of four from Comets

Three out of four isn't bad.

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football squad lost a hard fought game Sept. 19 against the Westland Comets, 34-27 but that was the only downer of the day for the home teams.

Strong offensive play from Andy Day helped the O-line on several key drives, while Blaine Golles was a huge factor in blocking for the Steelers' running plays. Joshua Branch anchored the offensive line with his solid, hard hitting play.

The defense was held together by Connor Stellas' no-quit attitude, while Derek Young and Nick March both played tough and had key stops.

The Steelers JV squad came from behind to capture a 32-12 win over the Comets, with Cameron Stella scoring two touchdowns and kicking four extra points. The O-line was led by Christopher Vos, who stomped on Comet defenders to open huge holes for the running backs.

Jake Sydlowski had a breakaway run deep into the Comet red zone, followed up by a TD. Defensively, Jack Pardington showed the Comets he came to play tough with a QB sack, and Justin Vitez had a critical ball recovery on a Steeler kick-off. Dakota Lynn had an outstanding game controlling the defensive backfield.

The Steelers freshman

squad totally controlled their game over the Comets, winning 40-6. The offense was led by Ryan Young, who had a stellar day at QB, including a rushing TD.

Meanwhile, Vincent VanDerRoest blew open huge holes at left tackle while Aaron Brazelton had a great day running the football.

Vinny Convertino led the Steeler defense with several amazing tackles, and Jared Golles was instrumental at safety, making key tackles in the backfield.

The junior freshman Steelers conducted a blocking clinic when they faced the Comets. Playing in their first home game of the season, the Steelers — utilizing a ball control offense

— tallied 12 first downs, and three offensive scores.

Logan Walkley made it in to the end zone for his third consecutive game, due in part to the excellent helmet-rattling downfield blocks of Benjamin Bennett and Seth Troszak. Cameron Miller shined for the Steelers on an explosive 30 yard first down run, while Zachary Kubacki reeled in a perfectly placed 15-yard reception.

Defensively, the hard-hitting Steeler defense limited the visiting Comets to only two first downs in the game. Darien Moore had a standout game, collecting one of the two Steeler interceptions. Ian Gozdor led the linebacking corps with smothering hits that kept the Comets grounded.

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

"Our passing was off and (so was) our attacking. When you do not have those two things, it's hard to make things happen."

Novi's defense and passing surpassed the Rocks, a big rea-

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Plymouth YMCA eyes grant

Liberty Mutual will soon donate a \$2,500 Responsible Community Grant to 20 youth sports organizations demonstrating their commitment to doing the right things on and off the playing surface.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is hoping to be one of the recipients.

"The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program targets many of the issues we see happening at youth sporting events by shining a positive light on what it means to be a responsible coach and a responsible sports-parent," said Greg Gordon, vice president of Consumer Marketing at Liberty Mutual. "Beyond that, Liberty Mutual is making a significant financial contribution to support the efforts of local organizations like Plymouth Family YMCA."

The ongoing, community-based program offers meaningful, easy-to-use educational resources for youth sports parents and coaches, including access to on-the-field game and practice preparation tools as well as self-paced online courses filled with learning tools, videos and topics addressing youth sports issues.

The Responsible Sports program, including community grants, comes at a crucial time for communities where youth programs are

under pressure from increasing numbers of participants, limited volunteer activity and mounting program-administration costs.

Through the resources provided by the grants, it is hoped that "our organizations thrive even under challenging circumstances."

For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or go to www.responsible-sports.com.

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 learn-toskatearcticedge@yahoo.com.

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.

Public Notice



Office of the Wayne County Treasurer
Public Auction of Tax Foreclosed Property
October 19, 20*, 21* & 22*, 2009
International Center Building
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Detroit, MI 48226

*If necessary

BIDDER REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.
AUCTION BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 19
EACH DAY THEREAFTER THE AUCTION IS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.

A \$500 cashier's check (U.S. funds) payable to the Wayne County Treasurer must be shown at registration and is required as a deposit for each parcel successfully bid.

For Auction Rules and Regulations and list of properties, visit:
www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

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Rocks capture Madonna volleyball tourney

Consistency and excellent team defense propelled Salem to win Saturday's Madonna Volleyball Invitational at Plymouth High School.

The Rocks defeated Walled Lake Northern by a 25-21, 25-23 count after defeating Milford 25-13, 25-18 in the semifinal. Salem defeated Annapolis, Walled Lake Western and Chelsea in pool play and received a bye through the subsequent quarterfinals.

"The start of it was a little slow but as the day went on we got better and really stepped it up," noted Salem head coach Amanda Suder. "I am very proud of how my

girls performed. They worked extremely hard to stay consistent and positive through the day."

Nicole Merget sparked the Rocks with 77 kills, 46 defensive digs and 18 blocks, but she had plenty of support.

In addition, Suder said Lauren Aschermann had her best defensive performance of the season, with 52 digs and chipped in with nine aces.

Other top individual performers included Lauren Dworzanin (57 digs to lead the team, 25 kills), Kerry MacDonald (123 assists, 48 digs, 6 aces), Kerstin Johnson (25 kills, 39 digs, 8 aces) and Jillian Sommerville (31 kills).

WILDCATS STRONG

Meanwhile, the Plymouth Wildcats also had a strong showing, going undefeated in pool play before losing in three games to Walled Lake Northern in the semifinal.

The Wildcats defeated Dearborn Heights Crestwood (25-9, 25-11), Redford Union (25-13, 25-14), Dexter (25-19, 25-23) and Cass Tech (25-16, 25-9).

Against Northern, everything was clicking in the 25-13 first-game win. Coach Kelly McCausland said her squad's "dime" passing provided Katie Salo (87 assists, 11 aces, 17 digs) the opportunity

to "mix the offense up quite a bit."

Plymouth, however, fell 20-25 and 4-15 in the final two games, as the Wildcats could not react to Northern's outside hitters.

"And we simply ran out of gas," McCausland said. "Overall though I was impressed with how they played the entire day."

Salo wasn't the only Wildcat with a strong performance. She was joined by Kelly Smoltz (27 kills, 11 blocks), Alex Roberts (20 kills, 15 blocks), Dani Risi (23 kills), Mariah Tesarz (51 digs), Andrea Haidar (28 digs) and Lindsay Stemberger (19 digs).

EAGLES

FROM PAGE B1

senior Ariel Rack — whose run of six points in the fourth game put PCA up 10-6.

The Eagles were never threatened after that.

"Serving is the key to winning a game," Blackney said, "because if you serve well, that puts their offense at a disadvantage."

Bartes wound up with five aces for the night and 13 service points along with 13 defensive digs. A couple of those digs were all-out head-first dives to keep volleys going.

She smiled again when she said how PCA defenders do whatever it takes.

"Whenever the ball comes over, we yell, 'Save the baby' and we have to get the ball," Bartes said.

But her efforts, although significant, weren't the only story for the Eagles.

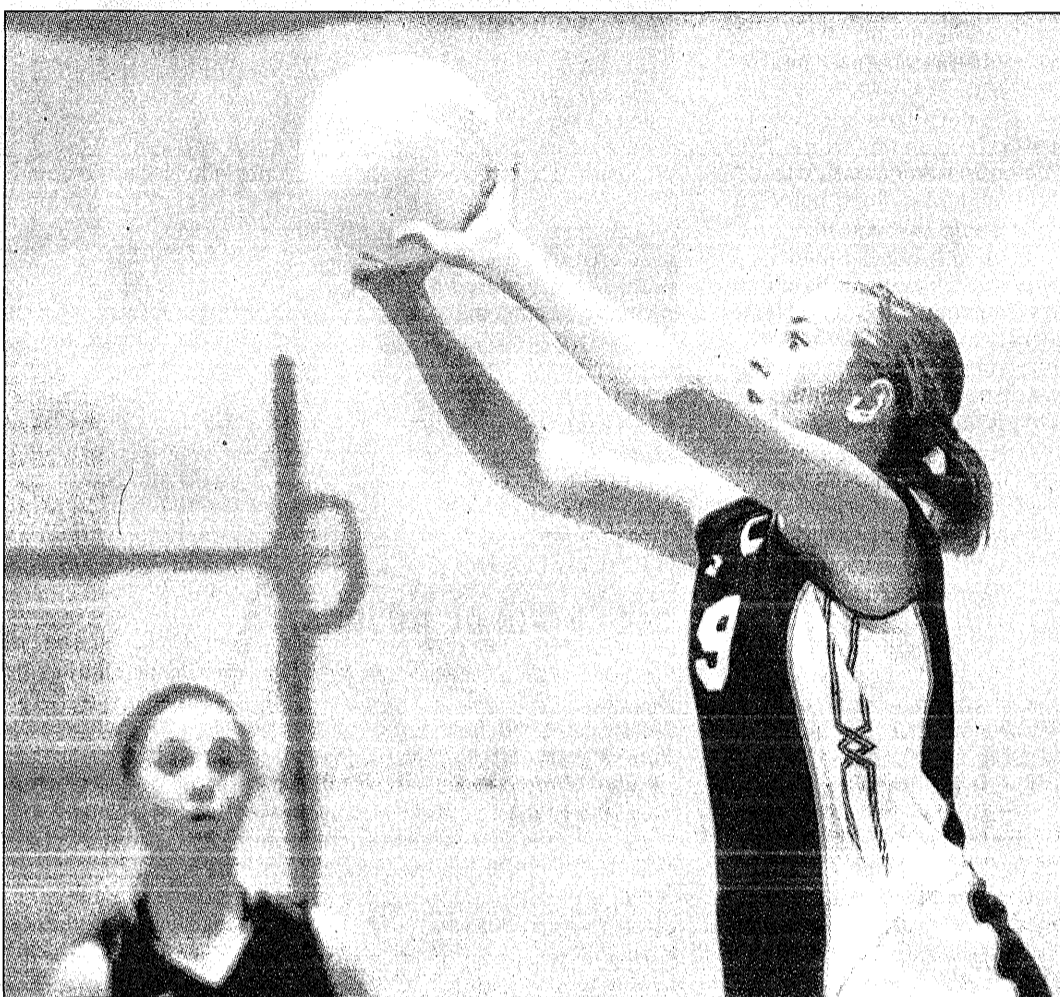
POWER UP FRONT

Malcolm tallied 19 kills and 16 digs, with her ability to handle duties all over the floor.

In the opener, besides scoring the seven service points, Malcolm hammered home a pass from Harris (33 assists) to score game point.

"Kristin, she's always really strong for us back row and front row," the coach added.

Junior Kristin Nill tallied six kills and 13 digs and junior middle hitter Folake Olojo went sky-high to drill timely



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian's Amy Zinn (No. 9) passes the volleyball while teammate Rachel Zandee watches during Tuesday night's match against Ann Arbor Greenhills.

points over the net throughout the match. Olojo finished with 10 kills.

"Folake Olojo, she's just very strong and she has a vertical (leap) of I don't know how many feet," Blackney said. "Sometimes it feels like she

can nail the ball and put a hole in the floor."

Meanwhile, Blackney is hopeful that the lag in performance Tuesday night won't be repeated in Thursday's big MIAC match at Lutheran Westland.

"The third game, they (Eagles) realized that at any given point they can't let up," she said. "They have to play their game at their level. They learned from that."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP FOOTBALL**
Friday, Oct. 2
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**
Thursday, Oct. 1
Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 3**
Romulus Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
UM-Dearborn Tournament, 9 a.m.
- BOYS SOCCER**
Thursday, Oct. 1
Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Luth. Westland at S'Field Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 2**
Plymouth Christian at Inter-City Baptist, 4:30 p.m.
- BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**
Saturday, Oct. 3
Ypsilanti Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Center Line Invitational, 10 a.m.
Falcon Inv. at Divine Child, TBA.
- GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING**
Thursday, Oct. 1
Canton at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 2**
Wayne Invitational, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 3**
Wayne Invitational, noon.
- GIRLS GOLF**
Thursday, Oct. 1
Ladywood Inv. at St. John's, 8:30 a.m.
- BOYS TENNIS**
Saturday, Oct. 3
KLAAS Kensington Conference
Tourney at Novi, 8 a.m.
- GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY**
Saturday, Oct. 3
Catholic League Championships
at Ladywood H.S., TBA.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**
Thursday, Oct. 1
Madonna at UM-Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 3**
Schoolcraft at Owens Tourney, 11 a.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**
Saturday, Oct. 3
Madonna vs. Davenport Univ.
at Livonia's Greenmead Field, noon.
Schoolcraft at Kellogg CC, 1 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**
Friday, Oct. 2
Madonna vs. Davenport Univ.
at Livonia's Greenmead Field, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 3**
Rhode Island CC at Schoolcraft, noon.
TBA - time to be announced.

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MILFORD- Christmas Wonderland Sale!!!! One of a kind merchandise! 3013 Polo Way Dr. Milford, MI 48380. Oct. 1st, 2nd & 3rd. \$5 and up. 248-460-3375

NORTHVILLE- Thurs-Sat, 9-5pm. 44172 Cottisford Rd. Off Novi Rd. between 9 & 10 Mile. Baby items, men's bike, furniture and more.

NOVI- Mom 2 Mom Sale, Sat., Oct 3rd. 9:00-noon. \$1 admission. 50200 W. 10 Mile at Oak Pointe Church. Gently used children's clothes, toys, books.

ROCHESTER Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 1st-2nd, 9:00am - 4:00pm, 633 Rewold, S. of Parkdale, W. of Miller.

SOUTH LYON- 12929 Stoneybrooke Court. South side of 10 Mile, between Dixboro and Rushton in Pembroke Crossing sub. Wed, Sept 30, 11-3pm. Thurs & Fri, Oct 1 & 2, 9-4pm.

SOUTH LYON- Oct. 1-3, Multi-Family Huge Tent Sale. 10a-5p. 312 Winchester, off Wellington. Great Selection for all, clean, no junk.

LIVONIA - ESTATE SALE. Whole house, inside & out. Antique Furniture, dining set, buffet, armoire, pie safe and more. lots of home decor, women's 2x-3x clothes, lg & small tools, air compressor. Oct. 1, 9am-6pm; Oct. 2, 9am-6pm; Oct. 3, 9am-2pm. 18864 Blue Skies Ct., south off 7 Mile, just east of 275. EVERYTHING GOES!!

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Moving Sales 7130
GARDEN CITY- 32415 Cambridge, at Hubbard. Oct. 2-4, 9-5pm. Tools, pool table, weight bench and much more!

NORTHVILLE - Moving Sale. Sat. Oct 3, 8-2pm. 46500 Greenridge Dr, 8 Mile & Beck Rd. Power tools incl radial arm saw, drill, press, grinder, sanders and hand tools. Antique bdsm set, old desk, men's and women's designer label clothes. Old Mercury boat motor, lawn equip, toys, many misc items. No early sales!

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Seguin's hat trick paces Whalers

Tyler Seguin scored his first-ever Ontario Hockey League hat trick to lead the Plymouth Whalers to an impressive 7-2 victory over the London Knights Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth (3-1-0-0) broke a 2-2 tie after one period with three goals in the second period and two more in the third.

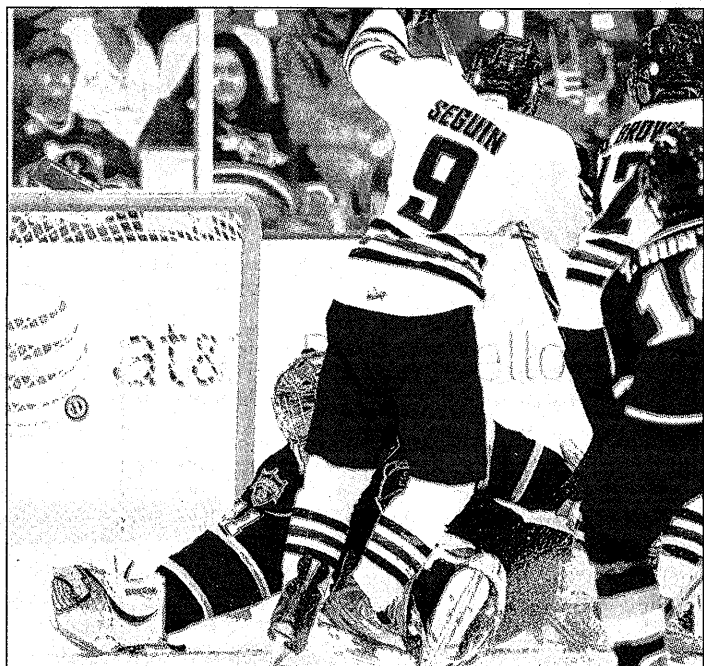
AJ Jenks, Myles McCauley, Garrett Meurs (first OHL goal) and Joe Gaynor all scored for Plymouth, who bounced back in a big way from a lackluster 6-1 loss in Saginaw last Thursday. Scoring for London (2-1-0-0) were Justin Taylor and Jared Knight.

"Tonight was an unbelievable bounce back effort," said Plymouth associate coach Joe Stefan. "Everyone was disappointed with the way we played in Saginaw."

"We had a real tough practice Friday and I think the boys got the message. They sure proved it with the way they came out tonight. They played a full 60 minutes."

A shorthanded goal by Jenks at 19:16 of the first stanza tied the game at 2-2 and sparked the Whalers.

"I picked up a puck that their defensemen fumbled and I wanted to get it to the net," Jenks said. "... I had to beat one guy to get the shot through and I think it went off



Celebrating his third goal Saturday night against London is Plymouth Whalers center Tyler Seguin. The Whalers routed the Knights, 7-2 at Compuware Arena.

a defenseman's skate. Good things happen when you get pucks on net."

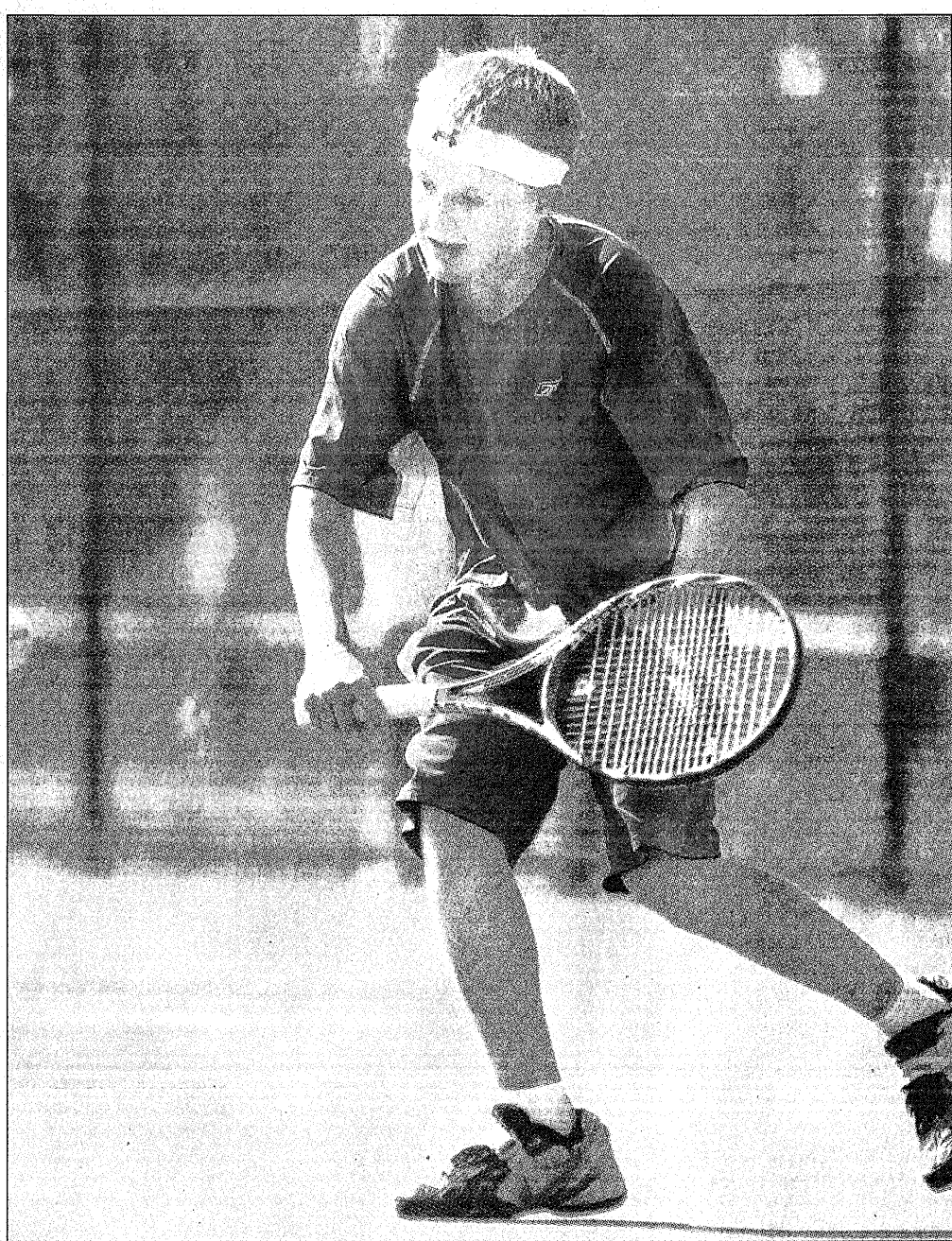
Plymouth took the game over in the second period on a pair of power play goals by Seguin. Seguin's hat trick goal with less than five minutes to play came on a deflection in the slot of Beau Schmitz's low shot from the right point.

"We know London is a physical team and we wanted to match that," said Seguin. "We wanted to crash the net and

battle." Seguin now has six goals and five assists for 11 points in four games this season.

Plymouth hits the road this week, playing in Barrie on Thursday, Sudbury on Friday and Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday. Plymouth's next home game is 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 against Sudbury.

The Plymouth Whalers include a number of players who attend high school at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rocks win at Woodhaven

The Salem varsity boys tennis team won a tournament for the third time this season, claiming Saturday's Woodhaven Invitational. All players scored at least two of three possible points per flight with the following winning their flights: Blake Foster-Josh Perrin, No. 1 doubles; Andy Steinman-Mike Keum, No. 2 doubles; Cody Hazen-Alek Zultowski, No. 3 doubles. Taking second places for the Rocks were No. 2 singles player Jacob Scott (pictured here from earlier this season), Dion Walker (No. 3 singles), John Kang (No. 4 singles) and Zenek Pelikh-Greg Selewski at No. 4 doubles. In recent weekends, Salem captured the Plymouth and Monroe tournaments.

Otieno sparks first win for Madonna

It took Moses to lead the Madonna University men's soccer team finally to the promise land.

Moses Otieno, a freshman forward from Kenya, scored a goal and added an assist Saturday as the host Crusaders, the defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champions, earned their first victory of the season at the expense of Concordia

MADONNA SOCCER

University, 3-0, at Livonia's Greenmead Field.

Mark Pikula's unassisted goal, his first of the season, proved to be the game-winner in the 23rd minute for MU, stands 1-4-2 overall and 1-3-1 in the WHAC.

Concordia falls to 4-4-1 overall and 2-3 in the conference.

Eric Kiebert then scored his second of the year just 23 seconds into the second half off an assist from Otieno, who in turn completed the scoring in the 55th minute off a feed from Cayle Lackten.

Goalkeeper Steve Besk made two saves to earn the first shutout of the season for the Crusaders, who return to action Wednesday at Saginaw Valley State.

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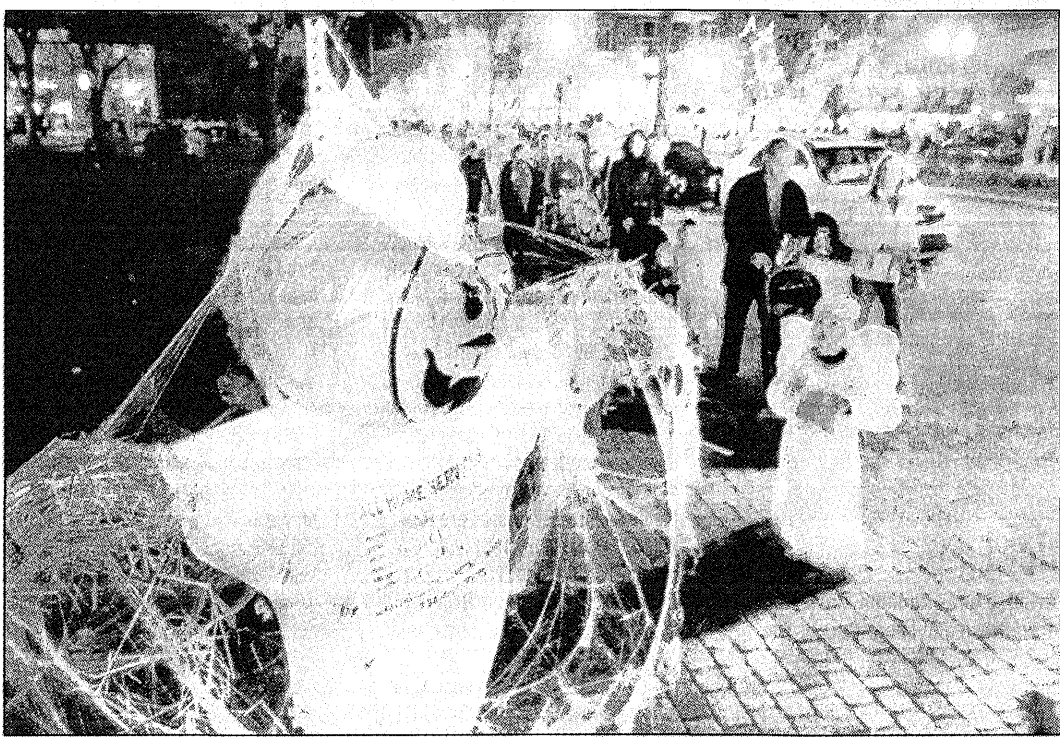
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Plymouth

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CHAMBER CHAT



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring "Scarecrows in the Park" in downtown Plymouth.

Grand openings

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce members are invited to attend these upcoming grand opening ribbon cuttings to celebrate the launch of these new businesses. Attending these openings are a great way to show your support for those willing to take a risk on starting a new business in the community and meet some of Plymouth's newest entrepreneurs.

- Friday, Oct. 2, 3 p.m., Salon Bella Vi, 635 South Main St.
- Tuesday, Oct. 6, noon, Plymouth Wellness Center, 1075 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (lunch will be provided).

Auction countdown

Fantastic items are rolling in for the 20th Annual Gala Auction on Friday, Nov. 6. Restaurants are getting creative by offering packages like an authentic Irish dinner for four at Sean O'Callaghan's or the opportunity for two people to serve as guest bartenders and serve their own party of ten at 336 Main. Those are only a couple of the many unique and special items that are already donated. If you have an item, gift certificate or even a unique idea for an auction donation to showcase your company, please contact the Chamber at 734-453-1540.

Invitations for the Gala Auction will be mailed later this week. The Major Sponsors for this year's Auction are Genesis Credit Union and Hines Park Lincoln Mercury.

Networking event

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors an After Hours Networking Event Thursday, Oct. 15, at the

Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon. The building is located south of the Sheldon Rd./M-14 exit and is on the east side of the road. The event will be from 5-7 p.m., but we encourage you come as close to 5 p.m. as possible. To make a reservation, please e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. There is no fee to attend this event.

This After Hours is an interactive facilitated networking event to maximize your ability to make business contacts (dinner included).

This event will show everyone from veteran "Networkers" to those who are never comfortable at these types of events techniques to succeed any situation. At this After Hours there will be an interactive presentation and pizza dinner hosted by Michael Jefferys of The Yes Network. Throughout his high-energy presentation, he will have people interacting and networking with each other to practice skills that can be used that night and into the future.

Some of the skills that will be practiced at the event include: How to connect with others by getting on their wave length; Body language and its critical role in building trust; Vocal patterns and how they affect rapport building; Using positive language; Eliminating verbal mistakes that can cost you.

When the presentation concludes there will be 45 minutes to an hour to network with everyone at the event.

Community & Business News

- New Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center opens in

Plymouth Township.

An incubator for emerging biotech and life science businesses had a grand opening last week at their new location in Plymouth Township. The Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center is a collaboration of public and private resources designed to connect well-funded experienced entrepreneurs with business accelerator organizations and start-up life science companies.

The center is 57,518 sq. ft. and offers office space and modern laboratories. There are already 10 companies in the facility doing research and development and room is still available to add additional firms.

The project is a collaboration of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Ann Arbor SPARK, Greater Wayne County Economic Development Corporation and a private foundation.

Art in the Park named 5th best arts and crafts show in nation

Sunshine Artist, America's Premier Arts and Craft Show magazine, named Art in the Park the 5th best arts and crafts show in the country. The festival takes place each year in Plymouth on the second weekend of July.

Scarecrows return

The Chamber is again hosting 25 scarecrows facing Main Street from Kellogg Park built by local organizations and businesses. Community Financial is the sponsor of this year's scarecrow display that will be up until Halloween.

The Scarecrow tradition is one more way the Chamber works to enhance our quality of life with traditions for our community.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to scams

I recently gave a talk at the West Bloomfield Public Library on scams that affect senior citizens. This is an important topic.

Seniors are not the only ones that become victims of scams, however, it seems that a disproportionate number of them are taken advantage of.

It is important to recognize that with all the changes that have occurred over the last decade in society, it is sometimes harder for seniors to adjust

to the pace of change. After all, when most seniors were working on their careers, they didn't have to deal with technology the way workers do today. If you talked about identity theft 15 or 20 years ago, no one would have even known what you were talking about. Today, it's one of the fastest growing crimes in America.

Scams can be divided into two areas. The first is when someone is illegally separating you from your hard-earned money (Bernie Madoff is a perfect example of this). The other that affects seniors is the overselling and the misrepresenting of products. A perfect example of this is long-term care insurance.

Although the product is legal, too many salespeople use aggressive sales tactics and misrepresentations in order to get the sale. Not every senior needs long-term care and even if there is a need, there are ways to purchase it in a cost-effective manner. If a salesperson uses aggressive sale tactics, it is time to walk away.

Another issue I discussed at the seminar was how life insurance is oversold. What I have seen occur, with seniors in particular, is selling life insurance to cover the cost of burial. I recently saw one ad that was recommending \$50,000 as a form of burial insurance. I don't know about you, but I certainly would not want to spend \$50,000 on a funeral. The bottom line is that insurance policies for burial are oversold.

When it comes to seniors, the greatest scams are in the investment category. Once again, the majority of them are sold by so-called investment advisers, overselling and misrepresenting their products. One of the most oversold products, and one that has seen numerous cases of misrepresentation, is variable annuities. I recommend that most investors avoid variable annuities. They are a legal product and in limited situations make sense. However, when a financial adviser recommends putting new money into a variable annuity, proceed with extreme caution. These products are stuffed with high fees and are notoriously anti-investor.

Other forms of annuities are also used to take advantage of seniors. Although I like many fixed and equity-indexed annuities, there are many that take advantage of investors.

Some fixed and equity-indexed annuities lock up money for 15-20 years with harsh penalties if you terminate before that time period. If you're going into a fixed or equity-indexed annuity, I recommend committing to a five- to seven-year maximum.

Another area I believe seniors are more susceptible to scams than other is taxes. My experience has been that if you want to fool

a senior, tell them you have an investment that will lower his/her taxes. Because the scam artist is aware that seniors are overly focused on taxes, they develop many products that they claim are tax-efficient.

The issue is not taxes, but rather what ends up in your pocket. Just because you lower taxes doesn't mean you have more money in your pocket. If someone approaches you with an investment product and the main selling point is it will save on taxes, look elsewhere.

In our ever-changing world, it gets more and more difficult to protect ourselves from scams. The Internet has opened a whole new opportunity for scam artists. It would be nice if the government had the resources to protect us, but it does not. The reality is that seniors have to rely on themselves.

The way to do so is to always check things out independently. If you cannot check something out independently, do not be afraid to walk away. If you're buying a product such as a long-term care policy, always get competitive bids from a number of different companies.

Never invest in anything that you don't understand. One thing investors should have learned over the last year is that there is something nice about keeping things simple. When investors get involved in exotic investments they don't understand, they increase the risk of being taken advantage of. To minimize risk and better protect yourself, don't be afraid to keep things simple. 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.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Fall seminar series

Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union hosts free financial seminars this fall. All are welcome to attend. The seminars will take place at the credit union's Plymouth branch located at 8817 Sheldon Road at the north-west corner of Sheldon and Joy. Reserve your seat by calling (734) 432-0212 extension 301.

• Wednesday, Oct. 14, "NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR IRAs IN 2010," presented by Local Financial Specialist. Hear from a local Financial Specialist how new tax rules for 2010 may allow you to convert an existing Traditional IRA into a Roth. Distributions from Roth IRAs are tax-free making this a great opportunity.

• Wednesday, Nov. 11, "COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID NIGHT," presented by College Financial Aid Representative. Go through the FAFSA (free Application for Financial Aid) process and see how your information is used to calculate the outcome. Grants, student loans and scholarships

will also be discussed, as well as tuition rates and other college expenses.

For more information, please call Emma Teller at (734) 432-0212, Ext. 204.

Book signings

The Canton Borders book store hosts a variety of book signings in the next few weeks, among them:

• Book signing with local educator Jennifer Greening, who will sign copies of her book, "Opening Doors, Opening Lives: Creating awareness of advocacy, inclusion, and education for our children with special needs." She tells the story of her personal experiences related to getting her daughter, Marissa, integrated into the general education system.

• Special storytime with author Cheryl Zuzo, author of "Being Bella: Discovering How to Be Proud of Your Best!" Oct. 3 at 2 p.m.

• Author book reading/signing, with a follow-up activity, by Tom and Veronica Davids, authors of "Wrestling the ABC's," Sunday, Oct. 4, 2-4 p.m. Full of informative expla-

nations and lively illustrations, this book explains wrestling in a fun and engaging way. "Wrestling the ABC's" teaches life skills, including sportsmanship, discipline, nutrition, fitness, teamwork, and motivation.

• Storytime and signing with Maria Dismody, author of "Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun," Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. "Spaghetti in A Hot Dog Bun" holds a timeless message: have the courage to be exactly who you are, no matter what.

• Release party for "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4: Dog Days", Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. Be the first to get your copy of the brand new installment in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and join in on the trivia, games and more.

• Author book discussion by Zina Kramer, author of "Hugging Grandma," Saturday, Oct. 17, 2-4 p.m. "Hugging Grandma" provides a positive example of how one child copes with a grandmother who has Alzheimer's. Hugging Grandma is a lovely and comforting story that acknowledges what the child has lost while teaching positive ways to cope with the new situation.

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

(248) 553-7170.
Rummage sale
 Pre-sale 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1, at Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Admission \$2 per adult for pre-sale. Big Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 3, admission free. Saturday everything half price, (734) 422-0149

OCT. 8-14
Blood drive
 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia; Call for appointments at (734) 425-8115.

Card party
 Breast cancer awareness luncheon and card party, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11, at SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Tickets \$8. Table and door prizes, 50-50. No smoking. For tickets or reservations call (734) 722-1343.

Concert
 Free Christian folk/country/rock concert, 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School, 3003 Hannan Road, at Glenwood in Wayne. Don Wharton will perform. For more about the singer, visit www.donwharton.com. For more about the concert, call the church at (734) 728-1950.

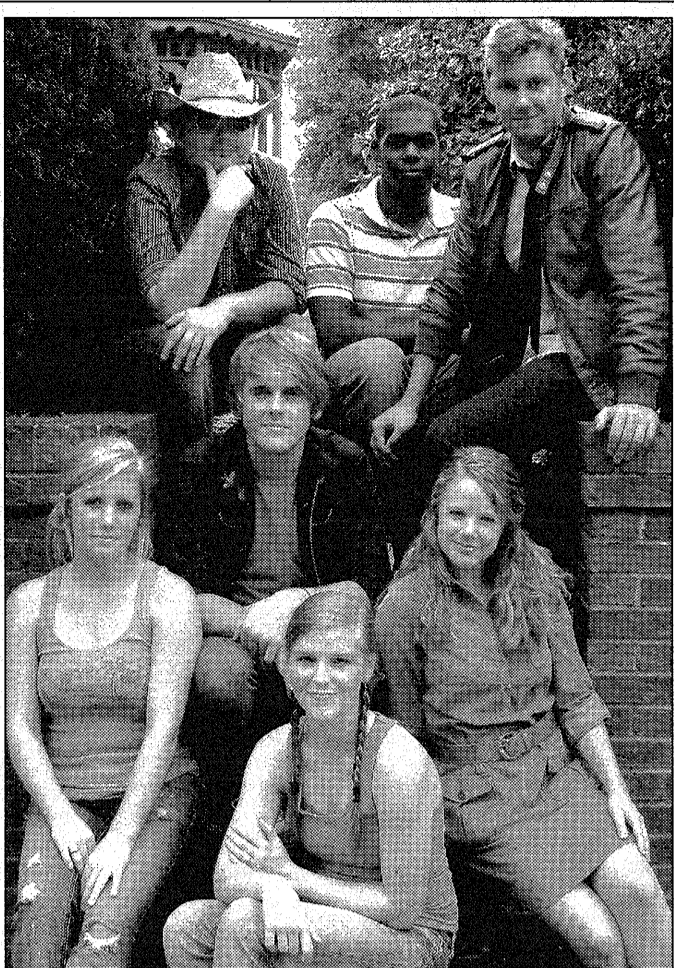
CROP walk
 The annual Plymouth/Canton CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 11. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. with the Walk beginning at 2 p.m. from St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. The Walk raises funds for Church World Service and the Salvation Army of Plymouth. For more information, contact Barb Fichtenberg at (734) 981-4205 or e-mail to bfichtenberg@hotmail.com.

Ministries conference
 The International Christian Education Association presents its annual Church Ministries Training and Discipleship Conference, Oct. 10, at Ward Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. The free general session, starting at 1:45 p.m. features Don Bartlette, author and international

OCT. 1-7
Grief recovery
 Six-week series begins 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at St. Edith Parish, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Grief Recovery deals with loneliness and other issues related to the loss of a spouse. Members of Widowed Friends, a "peer" support group in the Detroit Metro area, will facilitate. \$20 fee covers all materials. For information or to register call Priscilla at (734) 591-7879.

Life Fair 2009
 Pro-life pioneer and Pro-Life Action League founder and National Director, Joseph M. Scheidler, will give the keynote address at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at this program of pro-life activities at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, at Plymouth Road, Livonia. The fair, which will include exhibits and displays, begins with Mass at noon. An opportunity to participate in the Annual Life Chain will occur at 2:30 p.m., along Plymouth Road in front of the church, followed by Scheidler's remarks. The Fair is free. Refreshments and a children's story time will be available. (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207

Play
 A Broadway-style musical drama, "Mountain," is set for 7:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 We. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Sporting a cast of eight, with lighting, sound and choreography, the presentation will be offered for one night only as part of a 25-city introductory tour across the Midwest in preparation for a run Off-Broadway. Admission is free; seating is limited.



Broadway-style musical
 'Mountain' cast, from left: Jon Russell Cring, James Rudolph, Jasson Cring, Jared Corder, Emily DeFrance, Jackie Nash and Laura Douce. The Broadway-style musical drama is set for 7:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

speaker, and is open to the public. The conference runs from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and offers 30 workshops, exhibits and an all-day "Kids Korner." Four workshop choices, morning refreshments and lunch are included in the conference ticket price of \$35, before Oct. 7 or \$45 after. Students, teen through college, pay \$15 and children, ages 5-12 pay \$5 for Kids Korner activities. To register call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceonline.org.

OCT. 15-21

Auction fund-raiser
 The Servant Church of St. Alexander presents a silent auction with appetizers, 1 p.m., followed by a family-style dinner at 4 p.m. and live auction at 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18, at Vladimirs, 28125 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Tickets, \$45 per person. Proceeds will benefit the church's outreach activities, which include a weekly food pantry that feeds approximately 50 families and a youth mission that assists families in rebuilding homes.

Church Women United
 Annual Gathering of "Area 2" is Saturday, Oct. 17 at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth Road and W. Chicago Road, in Redford. Registration runs 9-9:30 a.m. Hospitality, devotions, program and lunch cost \$10. After-lunch activities include shopping at Greater Gifts (SERRV) and browsing Church Women United displays until 2 p.m. The Rev. Jeffrey Maxwell, pastor of Farmington First UMC will be the guest speaker. Liturgical dancers will enhance his presentation, titled "We Dance with God." Reserve by Oct. 2 with Betty Thomas at (313) 561-4792. Child care is available only if requested when reservation is made by Oct. 2.

OCT. 22-28

Coat distribution
 Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, is collecting new and used winter coats and apparel, including gloves, hats, scarves, boots, snowsuits, sweatshirts, and sweaters. Drop off items 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday through Friday. An afterhours box also is available under the church's front canopy. Items will be distributed on Oct. 24. All clothing will be free. People also may bring their old items and exchange them for new ones on that day. (248) 476-8222

Special needs dance
 Reservations deadline for Emmanuel Lutheran Church's "Harvest Costume Dance" for adults with special needs is Oct. 23. The church will host the dance 6:30-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia. Spend an evening of music, fun, and friendship and we dance the night away. Prize for best costume. There is no charge for this event. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited. RSVP to Judy Cook at Emmanuel at (248) 442-0307, or e-mail at judy@emmanuel-livonia.org.

OCT. 29-NOV. 4

Tea and fashions
 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov 1, at Sacred Heart Church's Banquet & Conference Center, 29125 W. Six Mile, Livonia. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes a gourmet luncheon provided by Thomas's Catering, as well as a fashion show of clothing from The Clothing Cover of Milford. There will be raffles, a silent auction and door prizes. Seating is limited to adults and teens only. For more information or to buy tickets, call the parish banquet and catering center at (734) 261-8560 or Jean Parent at (248-755-1777).

ONGOING

AWANA
 Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Drop children off or stay for a Bible study offered to parents from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study
 Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school

year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3's and 4's is offered Wednesdays - children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is located at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For information contact Sharon Detter, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbc-global.net.

■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615

■ Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchard-umc.org for updates.

■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472.

Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

■ Scripture studies, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

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

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

Hall rental
 ■ Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.
 ■ St. James Presbyterian, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information call the church at (313) 534-7730

Moms
 ■ Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners. For more information call Angie at (248) 427-1020.
 ■ MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays, Dunning Park Bible Chapel, 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford. MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. For information call Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767.

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

■ 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Call (248) 476-8860.

■ Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

■ 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month for prayer, spiritual healing and outreach at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

Singles
 ■ Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics at 11:30 a.m., Sundays, in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia. Walking club meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday in the Single Point office. All fitness levels welcome.
 ■ Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5.

Soup kitchen
 Learn about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit by participating in its "Day of Service" program. Dine with guests at the soup kitchen, tour the Earth Works urban garden, and take a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is seventh grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to crcrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Support
 ■ A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available 10 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia. There are no requirements, this is a service the church wants the community to be aware of and utilize if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.
 ■ Are you or someone you know struggling with depression, divorce, grief, addiction, relationship difficulties, or job loss? Real Life Church through its volunteers and partnerships with area ministries and professionals provides classes, seminars, care, support & recovery groups, counseling, and prayer to help you get through life challenges. Visit the Web site for details on current classes and groups offered as well as location, days and times www.realifelymouth.com.

■ The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month, at 41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.cantoncf.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.
 ■ Overeaters Anonymous meets 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia, and 7 p.m. Sundays, in Classroom 1 at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia. (313) 387-9797. www.aa.org

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

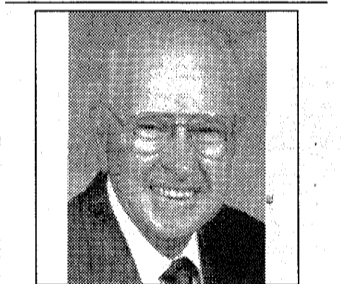
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DONALD AUGUST
 Age 86. September 28, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Irene. Loving father of Donald, Karen Lynn Glenn, Gregory, and Kevin (Cathy). Proud grandfather of five. In state on Friday 10:00 AM at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton with a Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM. Visitation Thursday 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 980 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland (btwn Ford and Cherry Hill). Interment St. Hedvig Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Assoc., 20300 Civic Center Dr., Southfield, MI 48076.
 To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



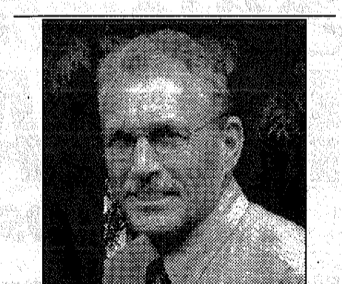
MARY ANNE HATFIELD
 A lifetime resident of Farmington Hills. Went home to the Lord on September 27, 2009 at 86 years of age. Beloved mother of Jill Remick and Jeff (Pat) Hatfield. Loving grandmother of Amy & Michael Remick and Brad & Curtis Hatfield. Mary Anne was a longtime employee of the Farmington School District and a resident of Grand Court in Farmington Hills. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept 30, 3 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. www.thayer-rock.com

DAVID J. SMITH
 62, of Alpena, passed away Sunday, September 27, 2009 at home. David was born June 24, 1947 in West Branch to Joseph and Irene E. (Campbell) Smith, and lived in the Houghton Lake area until his family moved to Plymouth in 1958. He graduated from Plymouth High School, and served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. On July 24, 1981 he married Elaine Rybka. They moved to Alpena in 2000. He was a carpenter by trade, and had a saw mill that he rebuilt in Plymouth, and moved to Alpena. He built all the cabinets and trim work in their house. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed helping others, especially with fundraising events. He was a life member of VFW Post #2496 where he served as Adjutant, and a member of the Cooties. David will be fondly missed by all those whose lives he touched. Surviving are his loving wife of 28 years, Dr. Elaine Smith, a sister; Louise (Bill) Kleinsorge of Gaylord, a brother; Jim (Geri) Smith of Estes Park, CO., his mother-in-law; Irene E. Rybka of Brighton, MI, a sister-in-law; Susan (John) Luce of Oregon, two brothers-in-law; Walter (C.J.) Rybka of Morehead, KY, Tim (Liz) Rybka of Washington and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Marriynn Burley in July of 2009, and his father-in-law, Walter Rybka. Family and friends will gather on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at McWilliams Funeral Home - Alpena from 10:00 AM until the time of the memorial service at 11:00 AM with Rev. Robert Case officiating. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Sunrise Shore, VFW Post #2496, Shelter, Inc., or the charity of your choice. On-line condolences may be registered at www.mcwilliamsfh.com



WADE U. EDDLEMAN
 Age 82, went home to be with his Lord on Sept. 27, 2009. Married 60 years to his loving wife, Faye. Adored by his 5 daughters, Brenda Zienert, Pamela Igrisan, Cheryl Patyna, Donne Greis and Lori Sheppard. Honored by 5 son-in-laws (he called his sons), Robert Zienert, John Igrisan, Martin Patyna, Michael Greis and Kevin Sheppard. Cherished by 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, with another on the way in the spring. Also survived by 2 brothers Bill & Bob Eddleman and sister Dorothy Rasberry. He will be greatly missed. Visitation will be held @ Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth on Thursday from 6-9pm and Friday 1-3 and 5-8pm. Funeral service at 10am on Saturday @ Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Rd., Canton, Michigan

MICHAEL GLEN KELLEY
 Age 68, September 24th, 2009. Beloved husband of Sharon. Dear father of Kristine (Mark Randall) Kelley, Sean (Allison Palmer) Kelley and Deborah (Rich) Leviere. Grandfather of Julia, Mimi, Julian and Evan. Brother of Sherry Reilly and Kelley "Sue" O'Malley. Son-in-law of Mildred Wesley. Visitation was Sunday 3pm - 8pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. A funeral service was held 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



RANDALL STEWART
 Age 57 of Presque Isle, MI. Beloved husband of Peggy. Dear father of Adam Stewart, Mark Stewart, Jillian (Charles) Kirby and Paul Avery. Grandfather of Hayden Kirby. Loving son of Donald (Betty) Stewart and the late Shirley Stewart. Brother of Donald Jr. (Cathy), Larry (Jan), Richard, Gerald and Judy (Jeff) Barrett. Randy graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School in 1970 and was a 35 year member of the Carpenters Union Local #687. Funeral Friday 7:00 p.m. at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.) Visitation Thursday 3-8 p.m. and Friday 2 p.m. until time of service. Memorials suggested to Gift of Life-Michigan in memory of Randy Stewart.

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Churches welcome pets on St. Francis of Assisi feast day

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

My dog, Hunter, is blessed — and he has a signed certificate to prove it.

Unity church minister, Rev. Dona Gilsdorf, gave us the document, describing him as a “precious creation of God’s unconditional love,” at her annual pet blessing last year. It was my first experience bringing a dog to church and Hunter’s first time in the annual outdoor service held the weekend closest to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The ceremony came complete with scripture readings, prayer, one-on-one blessings, a certificate, cross-shaped homemade dog biscuits, a pet food collection for shelter animals and a fellowship time that included a mashed potato-frosted meat cake for dogs.

The service celebrated the human-animal bond and confirmed what many pet owners already knew: That animals count in God’s eyes.

“Animals are so important to people,” agrees Tim Sullivan, deacon at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth. He’ll lead the parish’s pet blessing at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, in the outdoor grotto at the church. “It helps people connect and keep in mind that God created everything. There’s nothing that’s throw away. Even if you go back to the book of Genesis it says he created the animals...the fish in the sea and saw it was good.”

Sullivan, who owns a dog and three cats, says that as a pet lover he has a special interest in leading the blessing. He’ll read from Genesis, the book of Psalms, and will offer a short homily before blessing each pet.

VARIETY OF ANIMALS

“Some people have animals that are sick and they will bring them. And others, I think figure it can’t hurt.”

Sullivan said participants bring cats, gerbils, snakes and “you name it.”

“It’s interesting what people bring,”

he said. “It’s for any one who has a pet. You don’t have to belong here.”

Connie Hierta of Westland says the pet blessing at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Livonia often attracts passersby.

She’ll bring her cat, Lucy to the ceremony at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4. Refreshments, including hot dogs, potato chips and pop will follow.

“We all stand around in a circle and pastor (Rev. Barbara Cavin) leads the prayer and blesses each animal. I’d say last year we probably had 15 to 20 people. It’s a very sweet tradition.”

ST. FRANCIS

Churches nationwide uphold the tradition on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. The patron saint of animals and founder of the Catholic Franciscan Order of Friars wrote “All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures” in his Canticle of the Creatures, according to americancatholic.org.

The traditional Franciscan pet blessing also refers to the saint: “Blessed are you Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth the fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you Lord our God in all your creatures.”

“I feel I am blessed in so many ways and one of my blessings is to have a sweet companion,” Hierta noted. I want her to be well. I think St. Francis was right and they (animals) are part of our lives.”

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia incorporates the blessing into its 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 service.

The church’s contemporary worship ensemble will provide the music and the children’s choir will perform. The Rev. Linda Golden, senior pastor, will lead the blessing.



The Rev. Dona Gilsdorf, a Unity minister, blesses Hunter at an outdoor ceremony last year.

“Some people like to come and see the pets,” said Kathy Weinberg, administrative assistant. “We’ve had all kinds of pets including snakes. Pastor Golden is not fond of blessing the snakes but she does it. “Mostly it’s dogs and cats. I think we’ve had bunnies and an occasional hamster. It’s kind of fun to have animals here.”

Our Lady of Good Counsel is located at 1062 Church Street in Plymouth; (734) 453-0326; Holy Trinity Lutheran is at 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-0211; Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is at 9083 Newburgh, Livonia, (734) 591-0211. St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills, also plans a pet blessing, 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4.



A simply outdoor setting serves as a perfect backdrop for a pet blessing. Some churches also hold the ceremony in the sanctuary, often as a part of the regular Sunday service.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>	
<p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. <small>OE08026544</small></p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate <small>2 blocks South of Plymouth</small> United Methodist 10000 Beech Daley 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org <small>OE08050487</small></p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette <small>OE08026545</small></p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden <small>OE08026507</small></p>	
<p>St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a <small>OE08026545</small></p>	<p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 175 Years "On the Trail" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School @ 9:15 am Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Deacon Paul Perez Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org <small>OE08057848</small></p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs <small>OE08046703</small></p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALEY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor <small>OE08038517</small></p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (at rd. W. of Skeddok) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info <small>OE08050560</small></p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 455-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 <small>OE08050528</small></p>	<p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Childrens Education provided during both services Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter <small>OE08050897</small></p>	<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p> <p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vapouris Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygocurch.org <small>OE08054115</small></p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org <small>OE08051477</small></p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org <small>OE08050520</small></p>
<p>LUTHERAN-ELCA</p> <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584 SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS <small>OE08050888</small></p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org <small>OE08026511</small></p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron <small>OE08050867</small></p>		
<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available) <small>OE08026555</small></p>	<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com</p>			

OE08050789

Don't blink or you'll miss these films

They're only three minutes long, but the films shown Saturday, Oct. 3 at Farmington's Civic Theater will run the gamut from documentary to musicals and comedies.

Ruthann Christina, Farmington Hills, who created the Midwest 3-Minute Film Festival with the help of her husband, David Hande, says the experience will be "extremely interesting" for the audience.

Viewers will see 25 films during the event, which starts at 2 p.m., at the theater in downtown Farmington. A jury of local art and film industry professionals reviewed 60 submissions — which came from as far away as Russia and Australia — and picked the top films for the screening.

Cash awards will be given to the "Best Film," "Audience Choice," and first place films in each category.

"Our hope is that this is an annual event that not only celebrates filmmakers who are getting their start but becomes an event that allows people to be able to enjoy films that otherwise they wouldn't be able to see," Christina said.

Tickets are \$7 at the door.

For more information, visit www.midwest3.com.

Concert to help keep jazz festival alive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bill Cairo plays it modest when talking about his career as a jazz drummer. The Livonia man prefers to let his resume speak for itself. He'd rather shine the spotlight on the rest of the members of the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band. The six-member group with vocalist Judie Cochill take to the stage 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Schoolcraft College to raise funds for the Michigan Jazz Festival held annually on campus.

Drumming is in Cairo's blood. His father was a drummer and he's been playing since age 3. A graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia, Cairo studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston before becoming house drummer at Elmwood Casino in Windsor. Over the years he's performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Aretha Franklin, Jimmy Dorsey, and Billy Ray Cyrus, to name only a few. Pops concerts with the Detroit, Livonia and Rochester Symphony orchestras as well as stage productions at the Fox and Gem theatres and Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts round out his resume. He's not bragging when he says he's worked with every major act that comes into Detroit, but the credits don't stop there. He's done radio and television commercials in addition to teaching at Bill Cairo's Drum House in Redford for 35 years. He especially enjoys passing on his big band skills to high school students in drum clinics in the area.

Cairo is looking forward to playing traditional jazz music of the 20s, 30s and 40s at the Oct. 11 concert.

"People seem to enjoy it. It's just fun music. If it has a pulse we'll do it," said Cairo, a member of the Tartarsauce band 22 years, and the Johnny Trudell Orchestra for 30 years.

BORN SINGING

Judie Cochill sang with her share of legends over the years as well. The Bloomfield Township vocalist started singing for \$5 on Saturdays at the USO in San Diego then went on to become a backup singer on the 1960s variety shows of Danny Kaye, Red Skelton and Dinah Shore as well as television specials and commercials. She's performed with nearly every jazz musician, dance and big band in the metropolitan Detroit area. Her honey-smooth voice has been heard on countless CDs including her *Let's Do It* recording from 2005 and the new Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band's tribute to Chet Bogan and his Wolverine Jass Band.

"My mother said I was born singing," said Cochill. "I was raised in the Catholic school system from third grade where I was the only alto in choir then went on to high school. Dad made sure I got to hear all kinds of music."



Jazz drummer Bill Cairo of the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band.



Judie Cochill

Today Cochill continues to sing with bands around town and venues like the B'Jazz series in Birmingham. Like Cairo, music is in her blood. Two days a week she works as music secretary at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills. For 27 years she was staff alto at Christ Church Cranbrook and currently sings with the choir at Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal) in downtown Detroit. She sings with Ron Kischuk's Masters of Music Big Band every July at the Michigan Jazz Festival.

"I'm in music all the time," said Cochill. "Music's flowing through me all the time."

FISH AND NEW ORLEANS

Kischuk began leading Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band nearly 30 years ago. The trombonist formed the group with fellow Wayne State University students in the 1980s. They'd entered a competition and needed a name. At the time the schools teams were called Tartars. He says they

wanted to sound New Orleans-like and tie in to fish and seafood of the southern U.S. where jazz was born.

Through the years Kischuk's played with Johnny Mathis, Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight and recorded with The Four Tops, Grand Funk Railroad, and the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra. He's proud of the new CD which is available at the concert, cdbaby.com, and Kischuk's Masters of Music Studio, a conservatory in Royal Oak.

On Oct. 11, the lineup includes Johnny Trudell on cornet; Gene Parker, clarinet; Marion Hayden, bass; Chuck Shermataro, piano; and Cairo, Cochill and Kischuk.

"It's classic traditional New Orleans with Judie singing Bessie Smith's *I've Been Waiting for Your Phone Call* for 18 years. She tells a story with the lyrics," said Kischuk, a former Bloomfield Hills resident now living in Detroit.

Kischuk's been playing the Michigan Jazz Festival since it started in 1995.

"It's probably the most successful local free jazz festival," said Kischuk. "Nobody really focuses on local artists like the Michigan Jazz Festival where the preference always go to local artists. People are right on top of the stage. The musicians have interaction with them. There's no separation of artists and audience like most festivals. Midge Ellis (the Livonia resident who organizes the festival) is really the core to what goes on. Without her as a backbone you don't have a festival like this."

The Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band plays 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$15. Call Midge Ellis at (248) 474-2720.

SALUTING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Do you have a loved one who served our country in the armed forces? Would you like to give them a special message this Veteran's Day?



JOHN SMITH, Navy (2009)
Thank you for protecting our freedom! We love you and miss you and hope to see you home soon. Love Mom, Dad & Janie

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will be running a special page devoted to the many men and women who have served or are currently serving our country to protect our freedom, on Sunday, November 8th in the Observer papers and Thursday, November 11th in the Eccentric and Hometown Weekly papers

You can place your message and include a photo for only \$15

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Advertisement

Bob Vila endorses and recommends the famous EdenPURE® portable heater

Millions of Americans now saving up to 50% on their heating bills and raving about the "heavenly heat"

Does not get hot, cannot start a fire and will not reduce humidity or oxygen

By John Whitehead, Media Services

The famous infrared portable heater, the EdenPURE®, which can cut your heating bills by up to 50%, has been greatly improved.

You have probably heard about the remarkable EdenPURE® from Bob Vila, America's Favorite Home Improvement Expert, who endorses and recommends the EdenPURE® and on television features across the nation.

The new EdenPURE® GEN3 heater heats better, faster, saves more on heating bills and runs almost silent.

The EdenPURE® saves you big money on your heating bill, but, you will be toasty warm. The heat it produces is unlike any past heating sources. It produces what customers call "heavenly heat".

The EdenPURE® can pay for itself in a matter of weeks and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. But the EdenPURE® cannot cause a fire. That is because the advanced infrared heating element never gets to a temperature that can ignite anything.

The outside of the EdenPURE® only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets.

The EdenPURE® will also keep you healthy. That is because, unlike other heating sources, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room.

The advanced space-age EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater also heats the room evenly, wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. And, as you know, most other portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater.

Unlike other heating sources, the EdenPURE® cannot put poisonous carbon monoxide, any type of fumes or any type of harmful radiation into a room.

For more details on the amazing EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater, here is my interview with Bob Vila, America's Favorite TV Home Improvement Expert.

Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE®?

A. This advanced heating technology was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones. Jones found that a stack of a certain type of copper stored by his coal furnace kept his whole house warm long after the coal fire went out.

Through a great deal of research and development he came up with safe quartz infrared lamps to heat treated copper. This and other technology produced the EdenPURE® infrared portable heater.

This infrared heating process was designed around the three most important consumer benefits: economy, comfort, and safety.

Q. Why is it that this quartz infrared heating source uses less energy to create heat than other sources?

A. Actually, there is more than one reason. One of the primary reasons is that heat at combustion level, which is

Never be cold again



Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm

Pictured above is Bob Vila demonstrating the famous EdenPURE® GEN3 Model 1000 heater with a family. It saves big money on your heating bill while keeping you toasty warm with "heavenly heat".

what all other heat sources use, causes the heat to instantly rise, to the ceiling. Therefore, the heat is not evenly distributed, causing a very inefficient and uncomfortable heat source.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater does not use burning heat. Once the cured copper heat exchanger absorbs the infrared heat, it exhales the heat into the living area which is carried by the existing humidity in the air. This causes the heat to travel rapidly and evenly throughout a room.

In actual studies, photos using infrared lighting demonstrated that the heat was almost perfectly even from floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall. The EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared efficiency is based on the distribution of energized air, not on just fan movement. This heat is coined as "soft heat" due to how comfortable it is. Customers call it "heavenly heat".

Q. What are the other disadvantages of combustion heat sources?

A. Heat sources that are above the burning level have many unhealthy side effects. One of these is that it creates dry, irritating indoor air. It also burns a great deal of oxygen in the air. If you remember, when you sit in front of a fireplace or a portable heater or close to a heat source, you will remember yawning. This is because you are not getting enough oxygen.

This dry irritating heat and lack of oxygen dries out sinuses and mucus in the throat, and makes people susceptible to disease. The lack of oxygen causes fatigue.

Also, many combustible heat sources produce carbon monoxide, static cling, and some produce radiation.

Q. So you're saying that children or pets can come up to this unit and touch it and not be harmed?

A. That is absolutely correct. As a matter of fact, pets are actually drawn to this heat because it is a natural source of heat, just like the sun heats the earth. Animals are much

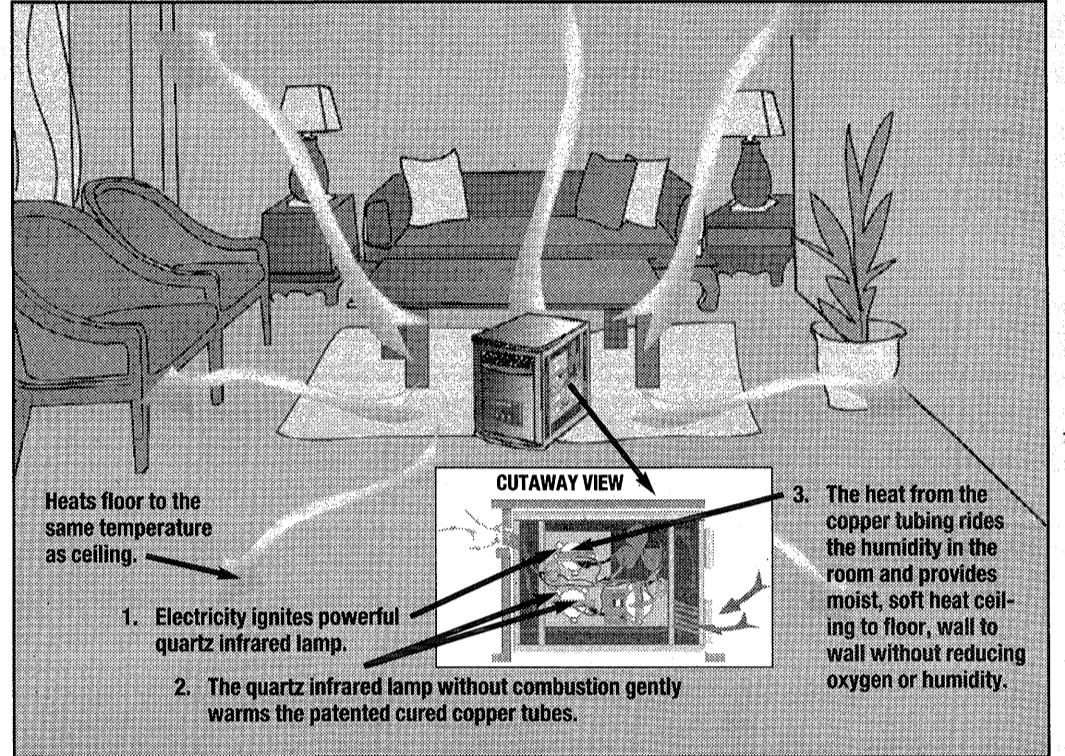
more instinctive than humans. This heat not only heats the air, but it also heats the objects in the room. It is a perfectly balanced heat.

Q. How can a person cut their heating bill by up to 50% with the EdenPURE®?

A. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, by up to 50%. The infrared quartz-cured copper heating technology also produces heat for 30% less cost than conventional services.

The EdenPURE® heater is now greatly improved. With no increase in price, the new EdenPURE® has been updated with the latest technology, safety, and comfort features to provide you with even greater comfort, more savings, and years of reliability. The EdenPURE® comes with a comprehensive three year warranty along with a 60-day no questions asked satisfaction

How it works:



Heats floor to the same temperature as ceiling.

1. Electricity ignites powerful quartz infrared lamp.

2. The quartz infrared lamp without combustion gently warms the patented cured copper tubes.

3. The heat from the copper tubing rides the humidity in the room and provides moist, soft heat ceiling to floor, wall to wall without reducing oxygen or humidity.

Testimonials from a few of the millions of satisfied EdenPURE® customers

The EdenPURE® has cut my gas bill to a third of what it was last year. *Leslie Wilson, Vancouver, WA*

I recently had an addition that was over 800 square feet added to my home. When it was completed we had to consider a heat source. We investigated everything from upgrading our current furnace, and duct work, to a vent less fireplace. Then I heard about the EdenPURE®. I must admit I was a bit skeptical, however I decided to place one in the room and give it a test. I can't tell you how pleasantly surprised I was. The EdenPURE® heater is our exclusive heat source and is comfortably heating our room at a cost of under \$15.00 per month. It is certainly refreshing to find a product that surpasses its performance claims. *D. Capps, Vancouver, WA*

With our EdenPURE® heater our gas bill dropped so much that the gas company called us and said our gas meter must be broken and they wanted to replace it. *John and Sandy Hopkins, Elyria, OH*

It's working great and heats the house well. I was so glad to find a company that stands behind their products and cares about customer concerns. I am now recommending the heater to family and friends. *Lyn Royer, Sterling, VA*

The EdenPURE® #1000 has saved 40% on our heating bill! My 18 month old daughter sits on it, that's how safe it is. The heater is also very mobile. *Steve G., Binghamton, N.Y.*

I must say I am well pleased with my new heater. So far it is working just like I had expected. We have a small home, slightly less than 1,000 square feet, so it should be sufficient for our needs. I like the quiet operation of the heater, because one gets tired of hearing the blower or a fan going on a gas furnace constantly. *Edna M., Forest Park, GA*

The EdenPURE® really puts out the heat like a little solar furnace. It's below freezing outside and cozy warm in the rather over large living room area where I'm using it. I have already noticed a 40 to 60% drop in the cost of my heating bills. *George B., Triangle, N.Y.*

I turned my thermostat down to 60. I have 2 dogs and 3 cats and all 5 laid down in front of it and were fast asleep. My chair is 1 foot away and it is like being in front of a fireplace. *Carl Cormier, Jerome, ID*

guarantee – we pay the return shipping.

This product has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories.

End of interview.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 comes in 2 models. The GEN3

Model 500 which heats a room up to 300 square feet and the GEN3 Model 1000 which heats a room up to 1,000 square feet.

The EdenPURE® will pay for itself in weeks. It will

keep a great deal of extra money in a users pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® will provide even greater savings as the time goes by.

SPECIAL READER'S DISCOUNT COUPON

The price of the EdenPURE® GEN3 Model 500 is \$372 plus \$17 shipping for a total of \$389 delivered. The GEN3 Model 1000 is \$472 plus \$27 shipping and handling for a total of \$499 delivered. People reading this publication get a \$75 discount plus free shipping and handling with this coupon and pay only \$297 delivered for the GEN3 Model 500 and \$397 delivered for the GEN3 Model 1000 if you order within 10 days. The EdenPURE® GEN3 comes in the decorator color of black with burled wood accent which goes with any decor. There is a strict limit of 3 units at the discount price - no exceptions please. Check below which model and number you want:

- GEN3 Model 500, number _____
- GEN3 Model 1000, number _____

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Authorization Code EHS1371. Place your order by using your credit card. Operators are on duty Monday - Friday 6am - 3am, Saturday 7am - 12 Midnight and Sunday 7am - 11pm, EST.

To order online visit www.edenpure.com enter Authorization Code EHS1371

To order by mail, by check or credit card, fill out and mail in this coupon.

This product carries a 60-day satisfaction guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied return at our expense, and your purchase price will be refunded – no questions asked. There is also a three year warranty.

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I am ordering past 10 days of the date of this publication, therefore I pay shipping and handling and full price totaling \$389 for GEN3 Model 500 and \$499 for GEN3 Model 1000.

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What Oktoberfest would be complete without German-style dancing? Dancers step and twirl at Redford Township's annual event last year.



Yodeling, brats, beer and music bring a bit of Germany to Redford

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

If you plan to practice for Redford Township's yodeling contest, you're taking the vocal art "way too seriously."

That's advice from John Danic, a past yodeling champion in the township's annual contest, which will be held during Oktoberfest weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 2-3.

"I just get up there and hope it comes out like yodeling and not something else," said Danic, who added that he occasionally sings — but doesn't yodel — in the shower.

"Very few people are yodelers and I'm not an official yodeler because I'm Polish," he said, with a laugh. "But I actually have to work Oktoberfest. I volunteer my time to do that, as an employee of the township. I handle all of the electrical set-up."

The festival is in its fifth year and Danic, the township's electrical inspector, has entered and won the yodeling contest a couple of times.

Danic says he didn't work hard to develop his talent for yelling "Little Old Lady You!"

"It just came as a natural voice inflection. I have a good voice range as a vocalist," said Danic, who describes himself as "a ham."

His tip for first-time contestants: Skip the Oktoberfest brew and "Don't drink too much" before taking the stage. Have fun with it and project your voice.

"My wife tells me about it all the time — I have a very loud voice."

Follow Danic's cue and you may end up with yodel champ bragging rights for the next year.

The yodeling contest is at 6 p.m., Saturday. The Bratwurst eating contest is at 9 p.m., Friday and has a \$10 entry fee. A Euchre Tournament runs 8 p.m., Friday and 7 p.m., Saturday. Sign up in advance for the contests or tournament by calling (313) 387-2653.

Oktoberfest runs 6-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2 and 1-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3 at Capitol Park, 12121 Hemingway, Redford Township.

The Polish Dukes, Martin Brothers Plus, Step 'N Line and Decades will perform.

The Redford Jaycees will offer a kid-friendly haunted hayride from 1-6 p.m. Saturday and a spooky version from 8-10 p.m., both festival days.

The festival features authentic German food, a Saturday Pig Roast, adult beverages and kid-friendly foods. The Pig Roast begins at 3 p.m. and continues until its gone.

A geocaching event, supported by Michigan Geocaching, will begin at 1 p.m. and include a learning session with the free use of GPS units for beginners.

Children will find free games, face painting, balloon twisting, cardboard castle building, pumpkin painting and more from 1-6 p.m., on Saturday.

The Redford Jaycees will sponsor a cutest baby contest and award prizes to first and second place for boys and girls in two different age categories. The entry fee is \$10. For more information, e-mail to jsmith@mijaycees.org or call (313) 535-1899.

For more information about Oktoberfest visit www.redfordtw.com or www.redfordtw-parksandrec.com

Chocolate tasting event offers traditional desserts

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mary Denning knows exactly what she'll serve at Sunday at A Chocolate Affair, the annual fund-raiser for First Step, Wayne County's domestic abuse shelter. She knows every year.

"We always bring our Bumpie Cake. It is our top seller and our customers' favorite," said Denning, owner of Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Westland. "Who does not love extra moist, dark chocolate cake with French buttercream bumps and than enrobed with chocolate fudge frosting? We have tried bringing different desserts, but everyone is always looking forward to our bumpie cake."

"One year we brought Sacher tortes, dark chocolate cake layered with red raspberry and enrobed with chocolate fudge. People loved it, but still wanted the bumpie cake."

Denning is among 16 vendors who will serve tastes of chocolate desserts Sunday, Oct. 4 at the event, presented by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Elizabeth Fagan Division. Denning has participated in the fund-raiser since its beginning, about five years ago.

"We love being involved with the Chocolate Affair. The proceeds all help First Step, which is such a great program," she explained. "I was honored to be able to walk through their home for woman and children. It was so moving. Nothing is more important than families and children. I know they are saving to build a new facility. They have a long way to go. All of this helps."

INVENTIVE DESSERTS

Jeff Zak has worked with First Step since opening his catering business in Plymouth 12 years ago.

"I do Thanksgiving dinner for them and did Chill at the Joe with them," Zak said, referring to the First Step fund-raiser at Joe Louis Arena last month. "I like to stay local and it felt good for business, good karma for business."

Like Denning, Zak and his Jeff Zak Catering have been with A Chocolate Affair since its beginning. Zak is known for serving inventive chocolate desserts at the event.

"We do something chocolatey. We like nice simple desserts. It's my version of savory food with chocolate," he said.

Last year he filled chocolate panini with roasted pineapple. This year's offering — chocolate quesadilla — evolved with his staff's input.

"It is really good. It's something we invented here and it's come a long way. It's a hodge podge of white and dark chocolate chips and then depending on what's around, marshmallow, dried cherry, toasted nuts, graham cracker. We'll use marshmallow sauce or caramel to tighten it up," Zak explained. "So, you can do anything. We've done it with chocolate and peanut butter. And we've done it with a



Jeff Zak catering in Plymouth will serve Candy Bar Quesadilla and Strawberry - Mango White Chocolate "Shooter" at the upcoming A Chocolate Affair.

wonton wrapper."

He'll serve the gooey-good ingredients on a six-inch browned flour tortilla Sunday. And offer a strawberry-mango white chocolate beverage to boot.

HELPING OTHER WOMEN

Barbara Weir, event chair, said about half of the vendors are new to A Chocolate Affair.

"It's good exposure for them ... it gives new businesses a chance to showcase their specialty and support the cause at the same time."

The Elizabeth Fagan Division of The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic Charity group with chapters throughout Michigan, created A Chocolate Affair a few years ago while looking for a way to help other women. The event is held the first Sunday in October in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month, Weir noted.

"What better way to get women together than by eating chocolate," she said, adding that participants like to "hang out all afternoon."

The organization raised \$4,000 for the shelter last year. Weir hopes to reach the \$5,000 mark this year.

A CHOCOLATE AFFAIR

What: Fund-raiser for First Step, the Wayne County domestic violence shelter.

When: 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4.

Where: In the Grande Ballroom at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth.

Who: Sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Elizabeth Fagan Division.

Details: Sample chocolates and chocolate desserts from local restaurants, bakeries, confectioners; with entertainment by the Livonia Symphony.

Tickets: \$25. Call Barba at (734) 453-1459 or Kattie at (248) 449-6570

Vendors: Armitage Catering, Novi; Jeff Zak Catering, Plymouth; Ginger Restaurant, Canton; On the Border Mexican Grill, Novi; Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Westland; Sanders Dessert & Candy Shop, Livonia; The Quarter Bistro, Ann Arbor; Romano's Macaroni Grill, Livonia; Ritz Carlton, Dearborn; Le Cocoa Bean Chocolatier & Coffee House, Canton; Grand Traverse Pie Company, Plymouth; Wildflours Bakery, Northville; The Dearborn Inn, Dearborn; Tropical Smoothie Café, Livonia; My Chocolate Garden and Stucchi's.

6 OUNCE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE

Mary Denning's Cake Shop in Westland offers this recipe for sweet chocolate treat.

- 8 ounces cold cubed unsalted butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1½ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2½ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup walnuts

Cream butter and sugar. Do not over mix! Add eggs one at a time. Mix until smooth. Add flour, salt, baking powder and soda. Mix until just combined. Add chocolate and nuts. Bake 22 minutes. Yields 7 cookies.

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BRIGHTON MJR BRIGHTON TOWNE SQ.	PARTRIDGE CREEK 14		

SORRY, NO PASSES. ©Disney/Pixar

For Showtimes: Check local listings or Text TTY with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)

Mich. Realtors get involved in creating jobs

Approximately two years ago, a group of Realtors from the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors and I were in Lansing on business as our legislators were getting ready to go into "lock-down" to figure out how and where to raise taxes to generate revenues in an effort to solve the state's budget crisis. At the same time, the state's housing prices were plummeting and the Big Three were downsizing significantly.

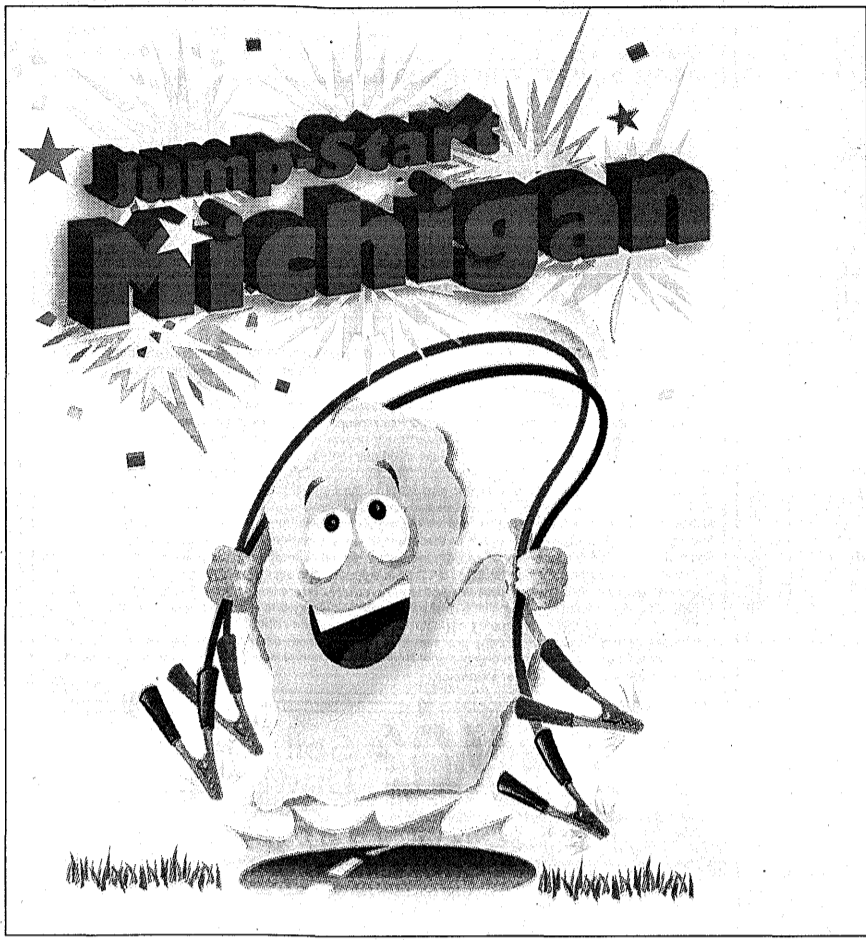
Discussions of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) and taxes on services were rampant in Lansing but there didn't seem to be any conversations about how we were going to replace those lost manufacturing jobs or what we were going to do to attract new businesses to Michigan. It seemed obvious that raising taxes on currently struggling business was not the answer. Surely that could cause more layoffs and not attract new companies to Michigan.

It was at this juncture that the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors (WWOCAR) made the decision that our role was much greater than simply helping folks buy and sell houses. We owed it to our clients to help them keep their homes and not only survive in Michigan but thrive in Michigan.

WWOCAR commissioned a yearlong research project called "Jump Start Michigan" with the guidance of Dr. Chris Petras, a political and policy analyst, and his research team. The goal of the Jump Start Michigan Project was to generate solutions for Michigan legislators and officials as they considered solutions to address the state's economic and housing market crisis.

The three phases to the Jump Start Michigan Project included:

1. Assessment and analysis of Michigan's economic and housing market conditions
2. Creation of a proactive theme to



COMMENTARY

embrace "Entrepreneurship for Economic Rejuvenation" with a focus on getting individuals to utilize their entrepreneurial capabilities.

3. Creation of a new program idea, "Entrepreneurial Rejuvenation for Unemployed Workers Program" (ERUWP).

Some of Petras' research showed Michigan has never recovered from the recession of 2001 while the rest of the country had recovered. The research went on to show approximately 600,000

Michigan jobs have been lost since the year 2000, 68 percent of those job losses coming from the manufacturing sector. While small business accounts for approximately 70 percent of job creation, Michigan is well behind the national average for small business start-ups.

Focus must be placed on the creation of jobs and the attraction of new businesses to Michigan both of which will increase revenues to the state.

The main theme and basic structure of Entrepreneurial Rejuvenation for Unemployed Workers Program (ERUWP) idea is:

1. Assessment of unemployed workers for entrepreneurial attitude and posses-

sion of an entrepreneurial skill

2. Provide training for unemployed workers through small business workshops

3. Assist qualified unemployed workers in finding funding sources for small business start-ups

WWOCAR's research shows:

1. Of the approximately 584,000 individuals currently unemployed, ERUWP has the potential to create approximately 3,500 new small businesses a year, employing approximately 16,000 people per year given industry sector opportunities in Michigan.

2. The state of Michigan has lost the majority of jobs in manufacturing which creates a pool of unemployed workers more adaptable to manufacturing and thus able to start small businesses that feed into the other manufacturing areas.

WWOCAR has met with several state legislators and officials who have all embraced the program's ideas. WWOCAR plans to educate citizens of Michigan on the program through a series of town hall forums and press conferences.

What the public can do:

1. Contact your legislators and ask them what they are doing to create jobs in Michigan and how they plan to attract new businesses to Michigan.

2. Tell them that you would like them to look at the ERUWP program for job creation.

To find out more about the Jump Start Report or the ERUWP program go to www.Jump-StartMichigan.com or call Gary Reggish, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors (WWOCAR) and owner of Remerica United Realty of Novi at (248) 374-6804, or Dale Smith, association executive of WWOCAR, at (248) 478-1700.

Gary Reggish, a Livonia resident, is broker/owner of Remerica United Realty in Novi and current president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

Cleveland condos have potential

Q: I have heard that there is a tremendous residential rebirth in downtown Cleveland. What can you tell me about it?



Robert Meisner

A: What was once a warehouse area is now a burgeoning restaurant and residential area and is indeed called the "warehouse

district." Additionally, there are several high rise condominiums being developed and sold in the center of the downtown area. Although certain preconstruction reservations on some of the condominium units have been canceled for various reasons, it does not appear as if the economic stagnation facing many big city condominium developments has reached Cleveland, which offers all of the cultural and transportation amenities including rapid transit to and from the airport and other vicinities. These condominium developments are located in areas which have a view of not only Lake Erie but of the Cuyahoga River. As in every instance, you are best advised to consult with a real estate agent knowledgeable about community association development as well as an experienced community association attorney before signing any purchase agreement.

Q: I am moving to a suburb of Boston, hopefully Needham, and I am wondering whether the real estate market has softened considerably there.

A: It appears that the suburbs of Boston, particularly to the west, have not suffered materially as a result of the economic downturn. Real estate prices have basically kept constant and, in some instances, have appreciated because of the desirability of living in cities such as Needham, and because of the paucity of real estate available. Indeed, open lots are few and far between and a number of tear-downs are taking place similar to what happened in Birmingham, Mich., in order to stay in the community.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD - OAKLAND

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of June 22-26, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

22633 Shadowpine Way	\$170,000
21234 Wheaton Ln	\$390,000
Oakland Township	
5195 Belmonte Dr	\$249,000
3528 Oakmonte Blvd	\$95,000
Oxford	
855 Inverness Dr	\$134,000
1141 Keble Ln	\$150,000
415 Spezia Dr	\$266,000
536 Thornehill Trl	\$146,000
Rochester	
469 Buttercup Dr	\$199,000
1923 Dunham Dr	\$220,000
1100 Harding Ave	\$150,000
881 Lafayette Ct	\$128,000
1260 Rock Valley Dr	\$209,000
Rochester Hills	
3055 Bathurst Ave	\$95,000
1220 Kings Cove Ct	\$110,000
959 Langley Rd	\$212,000
3680 Merrweather Ln	\$230,000
2435 Munster Rd	\$350,000
1393 Paddle Wheel Ln	\$90,000
954 Stanford Cir	\$245,000
South Lyon	
59086 Carriage Ln	\$209,000
1080 Chestnut Ln	\$210,000
137 N Hagadorn St	\$94,000
26411 Shumans Way	\$50,000
Southfield	
28546 Eldorado Pl	\$150,000
29650 Everett St	\$45,000
21689 Potomac St	\$88,000
Troy	
3714 Balfour Dr	\$346,000
2007 Cameo Dr	\$238,000
5824 Dawn Ridge Dr	\$189,000
5776 Northfield Pkwy	\$117,000
Walled Lake	
6109 Addington Dr	\$85,000
3100 Benstein Rd	\$40,000
29202 Chesapeake Cir	\$124,000
891 Woodhaven Dr	\$160,000
Waterford	
4200 Aquarina St	\$202,000
4874 Ashley Ln	\$40,000
2636 Bonita Dr	\$125,000
3162 Hidden Ridge Dr	\$67,000
6471 Maceday Dr	\$53,000
2622 Nottingham	\$193,000
5580 River Park Dr	\$160,000
2963 Shawnee Ln	\$200,000
6836 Tangle Wood	\$70,000
West Bloomfield	
2859 Ashley Ln	\$280,000
5961 Glen Eagles Dr	\$195,000
5291 Kingsfield Dr	\$200,000
4423 Laurel Club Cir	\$100,000
6792 Lee Crest Dr	\$92,000
7605 Lilac Ct	\$70,000
1535 Maryestone Dr	\$68,000
1973 Midchester Dr	\$210,000
6222 Northfield Rd	\$187,000
2423 Ogden Dr	\$160,000
5228 Park Ridge Ct	\$289,000
6301 Royal Pointe Dr	\$315,000
5586 Victoria Dr	\$326,000
28720 W 14 Mile Rd	\$204,000
White Lake	
9451 Montgold	\$90,000
Wolverine Lake	
969 Dunreath St	\$48,000

HOMES SOLD - WAYNE

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of June 15-19, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

41642 Rayburn Dr	Plymouth	\$231,000
12936 Andover Dr		\$290,000
9083 Countrywood Dr		\$325,000
11798 Deer Creek Run		\$337,000
13033 Graefield Cir		\$250,000
45500 N Turtlehead Ct		\$200,000
40807 Newport Dr		\$50,000
911 Palmer St	Redford	\$348,000
14933 Aubrey		\$63,000
18646 Dalby		\$70,000
25743 Dover		\$110,000
14052 Fenton		\$78,000
9264 Jerome		\$90,000
16008 Knight		\$36,000
9704 Lenore		\$86,000
19206 Norborne		\$55,000
8941 Seminole		\$75,000
36119 Avondale St	Westland	\$51,000
33757 Lacrosse St		\$88,000
6589 Quail Run Cir		\$99,000
32659 Sandra Ln		\$103,000
33891 Whitewood Pl		\$154,000
Canton		
43708 Belleauwood Ct		\$108,000
2457 Brookfield St		\$157,000
44820 Fair Oaks Dr		\$164,000
46291 Larchmont Dr		\$267,000
3783 Parklawn Dr		\$158,000
Livonia		
9206 Colorado St		\$117,000
17205 Dolores St		\$138,000
15471 Golfview St		\$131,000
36283 Hees St		\$115,000
14954 Hix St		\$102,000
31828 Maine St		\$140,000
11318 Melrose St		\$136,000
33309 Navin Ct		\$185,000
18528 Parklane St		\$190,000
29833 Pickford St		\$103,000
Northville		
46900 Greenridge Dr		\$324,000
254 Linden St		\$305,000
16095 Pine Valley Dr		\$532,000

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Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Mondays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Careers in Field

A free 59-minute Career Seminar will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, for those interested in real estate careers. Questions regarding startup cost, commission and success potential will be answered. It will be at Keller Williams Realty, 36642 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 266-9000 to reserve a seat.

Investors

Learn the Strategy to Wealth Advantages of Apartment House Investing presented David Seymour sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Oct. 8; 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake

Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

Foreclosure tours

Tour foreclosed homes in the Farmington and surrounding areas on every Sunday at 1 p.m., offered by Home Smart Realty, 20853 Farmington Road. Call (248) 426-6754 for more information and registration.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Michigan Building Training (1) on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Construction and Development Services, LLC, will present great tips on making a home more energy efficient, more durable, and environmentally sustainable. The importance of indoor air quality and low impact development will be stressed. The training is required for all builder members of Green Built™ Michigan.

Registration is \$65 for members of Green Built™ Michigan and \$85 for nonmembers. For registration information, call

(248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Michigan Advanced Builder Training on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 1-4 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Construction and Development Services, LLC, will present an advanced training for those already familiar with the basics of green building ready to delve deeper into the science of residential green construction.

This in-depth training will include a system approach to green building, the thermal dynamics necessary for the most effective and economical level of insulation, moisture control and durability of building envelope components, sustainability, superior indoor air quality, and economical materials. The training is suggested for all builder members of Green Built™ Michigan. It is sponsored by DTE Energy.

Registration is \$85 for members of Green Built™ Michigan and \$105 for nonmembers. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

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Ford's Popular Hands-free System Is In SYNC With The Times

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

The vast majority of U.S. drivers believes handheld texting while driving is very dangerous and should be banned nationwide, according to a new national survey released in late September.

Not so coincidentally, earlier this year, Ford Motor Co. released a study which said that its SYNC hands-free system significantly reduces the level of distraction when drivers select a phone number or choose a song on their MP3 player compared with the same operations with hand-held cell phones and music players.

For example, Ford's research conducted showed study participants spent an average of 25 seconds with their eyes-off-the-road to select a song with a handheld MP3 player compared with 2 seconds for those choosing a song using SYNC.

SYNC, which earned Popular Mechanics' Editor's Choice Award for best new products at the 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show, allows consumers to connect almost any mobile phone or digital media player with their vehicle (via Bluetooth or USB connection). The driver is able to operate them by using voice commands and a steering wheel-mounted control.

The success of SYNC continues to grow. By last summer, Ford's entire North American lineup offered the technology, with more than 1 million SYNC-equipped vehicles expected to be on the road by the

end of September.

Ford, working with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, helped develop guidelines for new telematics and infotainment systems. The voluntary guidelines set limits to the eyes-off-road time required to complete visual-manual tasks. Even though SYNC is a voice-based system, its visual-manual components covered by the Alliance guidelines were tested to ensure they meet the distraction requirements.

"Ford is committed to addressing driver distraction research and testing, and implementing our findings in safety and advanced infotainment systems throughout our vehicle lines," says John Shutko, Ford technical specialist in Human Factors and Ergonomics.

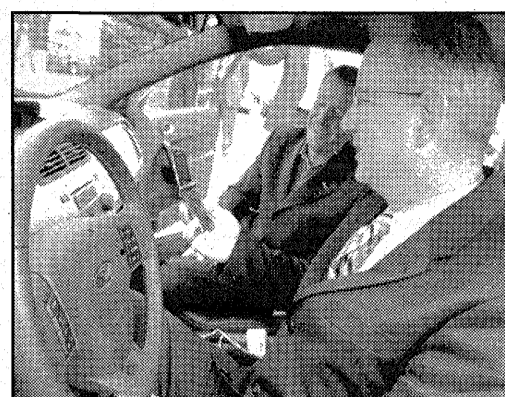
And with its new survey, Ford is spearheading societal concerns about texting while driving as well. The survey showed that 86 percent of U.S. drivers believe handheld texting while driving is "very dangerous" and 93 percent support a nationwide ban on texting.

At the same time, only 42 percent of respondents believe drivers would stop texting behind the wheel if the practice was banned. However, more than 75 percent believe there would be more compliance if hands-free or voice-activated technologies were widely available.

The online survey was conducted



One of Ford's latest and most exciting applications of SYNC is in the 2010 Ford Taurus.



A demonstration of SYNC technology in the Ford Focus.

September 18-21 by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates on behalf of the Ford Motor Company. Ford commissioned the survey as part of its efforts to understand driver perceptions related to distracted driving. Ford last week endorsed a proposed nationwide ban on handheld texting introduced by Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY).

"Research shows that activity that draws drivers' eyes away from the road for an extended period while driving, such as text messaging, substantially increases the risk of accidents," said Jim Vondale, director of Ford's Automotive Safety Office.

"That is why we support a nationwide ban on handheld texting while driving and why Ford has developed hands-free and voice-activated technologies to allow drivers to remain connected, but to do so while keeping their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road."

The survey showed that 67 percent of drivers said they believed voice-activated technology is a safe alternative to texting, and 76 percent said such a feature would be an appealing feature in a car.

The survey results came as the U.S. Department of Transportation was scheduled to host a summit on driver distraction in Washington, D.C., this week.

According to the survey, there is

confusion among drivers over existing state laws prohibiting handheld cell phone use and/or texting while driving. Currently 18 states have enacted such bans but nearly 40 percent of drivers in these states indicated they were unaware of the ban in their own state.

According to a NHTSA-sponsored 100-car study conducted by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, driver inattention that may involve looking away from the road for more than a few seconds is a factor in nearly 80 percent of accidents.

"A growing number of drivers are using handheld wireless communications and music-playing devices while driving," said Dr. Louis Tjjerina, Ford senior technical specialist. "Research clearly shows that manual operation of those devices that takes the driver's eyes from the road for an extended period of time creates the kind of distraction that causes accidents."

Ford developed the Virtual Test Track Experiment (VIRTTEX), a state-of-the-art simulator that monitors and analyzes a variety of driving behaviors. Since VIRTTEX opened in 2001, Ford has completed a number of driver distraction studies that have contributed to the development of Ford's Driving Skills for Life teen driving education program, the MyKey programmable teen-safety feature and SYNC.

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