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75 CENTS

# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Plymouth District  
Library



Economy  
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Neighbors, B6

## PIPELINE

### Halloween movie

The Plymouth Community YMCA is hosting a Halloween celebration at the Penn Theater with a showing of "Monster House" on Saturday, Oct. 31. Doors open at 10 a.m. with a gift bag for all the kids and chances to enter a drawing for gift baskets from local merchants. There will be a photographer to take photos, so wear your costumes!

Tickets are \$4 and are available by calling the YMCA at (734) 453-2904. Space is limited, so call for your tickets today. This event is sponsored in part by Community Financial. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds go toward the Plymouth YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign which helps ensure that no one is turned away from our programs that help build a healthy spirit, mind, and body.

### First Step

Judith Barr, Associate Director of First Step, will present a program on domestic violence on Oct. 29, 2-3 p.m. at the Canton Public Library.

First Step is a local resource offering free services to individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and First Step believes that prevention and awareness are key components to ending violence in our communities.

This program will be held in the library's Purple Room. It is free, no registration is required. For more information, visit [www.firststep-mi.org](http://www.firststep-mi.org) or [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org).

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road in Canton.

### Smith spree

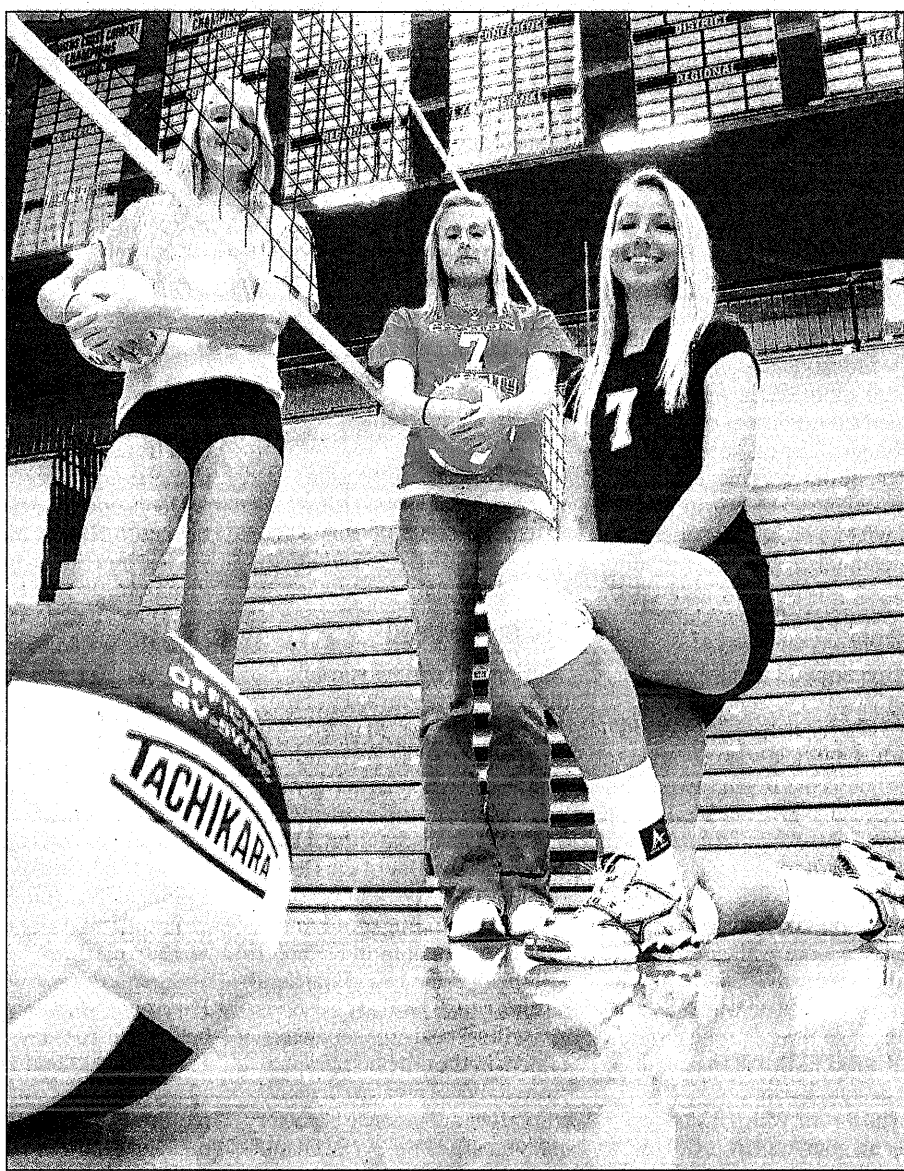
Smith Elementary School hosts its seventh annual Holiday Shopping Spree Fund-raiser 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 in the school gymnasium. Admission is free.

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.

### In the Park



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The intense rivalries between Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's three volleyball teams doesn't preclude (from left) Salem's Nicole Merget, Canton's Jordan Kielty and Plymouth's Kelly Smoltz from being friends. Turn to B1 for the story.

## Money, business dominate Plymouth candidate forum

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Money and business development were twin themes as five candidates for the Plymouth City Commission spoke to voters in a public forum Wednesday evening. Many of the questions were business-related, and money - specifically, a projected shortage of it - was a part of many of the answers as candidates took 10 questions from Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. The chamber-sponsored forum was held in front of about a dozen people at the Plymouth District Library.

"I don't know if it's so much a matter of cutting as it is of using dollars wisely," said candidate John Barrett, a retired high school principal, when asked what three items would be at the top of his list of city budget cuts.

The city's current general-fund budget is \$7.6 million; lower property values and pending revenue-sharing cuts from the state are expected to eat into revenue for the next fiscal year.

None of the candidates named specific items they'd cut; all referred to a pending review of the way police, firefighting and emergency medical services are delivered as a possible opportunity for long-term savings.

Incumbents noted the city has gradually trimmed its work force over nearly a decade.

"There is very little left, in fact, to be cut," said Commissioner Stella Greene, who is seeking her fifth elected term. Greene is the executive director of the Dearborn Community Arts Council.

The other candidates are two-term incumbent Commissioner Gerald Sabatini, 24-year commissioner Ron Loiselle, and two-term former Commissioner Dan Dwyer. Loiselle, Greene and Dwyer each served two years as mayor while on the commission.

The election, for four commission spots, is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Tracy Hewitt is on the ballot but is not campaigning.

All candidates defended a planned 2010 renovation of the downtown streetscape in

Please see **FORUM, A2**

## District calls for formula change in face of cuts

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As the cuts get deeper into his district's per-pupil foundation grant, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Craig Fiegel thinks it's becoming more important to look at the way that money is disbursed.

Faced with the latest announcement by Gov. Jennifer Granholm that she'll take another \$127 per pupil away from districts if the Legislature doesn't find another way in 30 days, Fiegel renewed a call for revision of the formula for distributing the money.

"I think the formula is inequitable," said Fiegel, in his second year at Plymouth-Canton, where he came from an Illinois district. "They fund schools at different levels for no apparent reason, outside of that's where they were 15 years ago when the formula went into place."

The latest cuts announced this week by Granholm come on the heels of a previous cut of \$165 per pupil. The combined cuts, if they become effective, would strip Plymouth-Canton of some \$5.5 million from its budget.

The cuts are across the board, so that districts at the lower end of the funding spectrum are losing just as much cash as those at the higher end. However, as a percentage of their budgets, those districts are hurt more by the cuts.

That's what Fiegel would like to see changed.

"I think they need to look at the formula, and how they tax to get the revenue to fund schools," Fiegel said. "A good formula would have a mix of property, income and sales tax, so that when one's down maybe it doesn't affect all of them."

"Now, in this economy, that might not be the case," he added. "But generally you're not asking once source to fund everything."

The cuts will cause administrators to comb the budget again, something they'd already done - more than once - in trying to cover the initial cuts.

Fiegel said administrators were



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Second-grade teacher Joy Michelsen hugs former student Suzy Shelton on the first day of school at Gallimore Elementary. Michelsen and other teachers and administrators are facing some \$5.5 million in funding cuts from the state.

comfortable they could survive the first wave of cuts.

"We felt like we were in a position within our budget that we could tighten up... we had more students, so that impact was lessened a little," Fiegel said. "We felt we could hold the line on some things, and probably use some cash reserves to meet that need, and we'd be OK this year. The challenge would be getting it out of future budgets."

But with deeper cuts come deeper problems, leaving the district to either cut programs or dip deeper into its fund balance. But Fiegel said doing that to survive this year's cuts only delays the inevitable if nothing else changes.

"The more you have to do that this year, the less flexibility you have next year. It just makes the job that much more difficult," Fiegel said. "We could weather the storm for a year. Using some of that at this point is reasonable, but it's not a good practice. If you use your savings account, that's one-time dollars. You don't get that again."

### Index

- APARTMENTS ... C3
- AUTOMOTIVE ... C5
- CAREER BUILDER ... C1
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
- EDUCATION ... A4
- HEALTH & FITNESS ... B8
- MILESTONES ... B5
- NEIGHBORS ... B6-7
- OBITUARIES ... B5
- REAL ESTATE ... C3
- SPORTS ... B1

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## Police seek witnesses to fatal crash on M-14

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A head-on collision on westbound M-14 near Beck Road killed an Ann Arbor woman early Wednesday evening.

Virginia North was driving a Toyota Prius in the freeway's center lane when it collided with an eastbound Ford Fusion that had crossed the median at about 6:45 p.m., according to officers at the Michigan State Police Metro South post.

North was pronounced dead at the scene and was transported to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, police said.

Trooper Kim Lawton said it's not clear why the Fusion was traveling in the wrong direction, but, based on the driver's description of the accident and some physical evidence, it's possible the Fusion had been bumped by

another vehicle, causing the driver to lose control. Lawton, the trooper in charge of the investigation, is asking for information from any witnesses to the incident.

The Fusion's driver, a Beverly Hills woman, was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, Lawton said, but her injuries were not considered life-threatening. There were no passengers in either vehicle.

There were no outward signs, Lawton said, that drugs or alcohol were a factor in the crash. North was using a seat belt, he said.

A third vehicle on the freeway, a Ford Focus, was struck by debris from the collision, but no one inside was injured, Lawton said.

The investigation continues. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or what led to it can call the MSP's Metro South post at (734) 287-5000.

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**FORUM**

FROM PAGE A1

answering a question that mentioned the cost and the inconvenience to business owners the construction could pose.

"The streetscape has been a benefit for the city, the whole entire image of the city," said Sabatini, a financial analyst at Ford Motor Co.

"Even though this is a costly repair, (tax money is) captured from businesses in the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). It must be used there," said Loiselle, an accountant.

The renovations, designed to update the streetscape and improve pedestrian safety, could cost as much as \$1.8 million,

though the DDA board has not finalized the scope of the work and could narrow it, said Tony Bruscati, the authority's operations director.

All five agreed the city should do what it can to help businesses outside the downtown development district. Dwyer said the city is helping businesses by simply keeping it an attractive place.

"I think that's why we're still a vibrant community when everyone else is struggling," said Dwyer, the administrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

All five also endorsed a search for savings in the way Plymouth delivers public safety services; the current commission has tentatively approved such a study, at an initial cost of \$25,000. Dwyer said more regionalization

of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which now serves Plymouth and Plymouth Township, is the way to go.

Most candidates said they'd like to provide more parking in downtown Plymouth, but noted a lack of funding to do so in the near future.

Sabatini said he'd favor studying curbside parking on Main Street (a limited amount is available now in the center of town) with a two-lane instead of a four-lane road.

Barrett said available parking should be more apparent to visitors, and that not every motorist can park in front of his or her destination.

Greene, noting her answer might not be popular with business owners, said they should be steering employees away from prime spots.

"If business owners would aggressively look at positioning their employees to use less popular slots for parking we'd have an enhanced parking situation," she said.

Sharp differences were seen in the answers to a question about how the candidates, if elected, would approach the prospect of a medical marijuana outlet in Plymouth. The question is likely moot, however, as marijuana for medical purposes can only be grown by a registered patient or designated caregiver, not legally sold, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Greene and Loiselle both they'd favor such an outlet if it could be regulated. Greene said she has multiple sclerosis and that marijuana has been shown to be beneficial to MS patients. Loiselle suggested there could be a benefit to the city in the form of taxes or fees.

Sabatini said he'd need to study the issue more, while Barrett and Dwyer came out adamantly against medical marijuana. "I would take a very strong position that we would avoid that at all costs," said Barrett.

The forum, which lasted just over an hour, was recorded on video for local cable broadcast, but no broadcast schedule had been set as of Friday.

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**Handbell festival**

The combined bell choirs of Plymouth churches will present a Handbell Festival Concert at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22. More than 50 handbell ringers will join in celebrating the Thanksgiving season with a program featuring music performed by all of the choirs ringing together, and by each bell choir individually. The concert will also include audience sing-along of familiar Thanksgiving hymns. The choirs participating are from First United Methodist directed by Marcia Van Oyen, Our Lady of Good Counsel directed by Eileen Page, First Presbyterian directed by Sue Scott, and St. John's Episcopal directed by Julie Ford. Admission is free; an offering will be received to benefit the Salvation Army. First United Methodist Church is located at 45201 North Territorial Road, a mile east of Beck Road, and offers ample parking and barrier-free entrance. For more information (734) 453-5280.

**AROUND PLYMOUTH**

own transportation to Riverside Cemetery.

Doors open at 8 p.m. at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, in downtown Plymouth. No tickets are necessary; there will be a \$10 admission fee at the door. For more information, call (734) 455-8940, or visit the Web site [www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html)

**Medicare workshop**

The Plymouth District Library will again be offering workshops to assist individuals who are looking to enroll in the prescription programs offered by Medicare.

Co-sponsored by CVS Pharmacy, workshops will be held on all Tuesdays in November - Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24 - from 10 a.m. to noon. Attendees are required to put all their current medications in a bag and bring it to the workshop.

Trained library staff members will review the medications and obtain a comparative look at the programs offered.

Space is limited; register by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

**Chiefettes clinic**

The Canton Chiefettes are hosting a Pom Pon Clinic for kids ages 5-14 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Canton High School gym in the Phase III building.

Kids will learn a pom routine and a short dance routine. Cost is \$45 per child and includes a T-shirt, poms and a snack. Discounts are available for additional siblings and for participants of the August 29 clinic. Parents are invited to watch their daughters perform at 2:30 p.m. All girls attending are invited to perform at a Canton Varsity Basketball game Dec. 11.

Registration is from 11-11:30 a.m. the morning of the clinic. Visit our Web site at [www.cantonchiefettes.com](http://www.cantonchiefettes.com) to pre-register and save \$5 before Nov. 13. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants.

For more information e-mail [pomclinic@cantonchiefettes.com](mailto:pomclinic@cantonchiefettes.com)

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The 20th annual Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Gala auction, features a variety of items for live and silent auctions, many on a rock 'n' roll theme including Elvis, Madonna and the Beatles.

## Rockin' the manor

Chamber offers chance to party like a rock star

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth will party with some of the world's biggest rock stars — OK, with their stand-ins — during a dinner and auction planned for next month.

Plymouth Rocks, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's new marketing theme, is also the theme for this year's chamber dinner and auction, its 20th annual such event.

Set for 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Laurel Manor in Livonia, it's the chamber's biggest fund-raiser of the year.

"This supports the work of the chamber, to promote the community as a place for business, and to attract visitors and attract residents to our community," said Wes Graff, the chamber's executive director.

Between 300 and 400 people are expected this year; the dinner and auction have netted \$35,000 or more for the chamber in each of the last five years, Graff said.

The event will feature the likes of Madonna, John Lennon, Mick Jagger and other rock giants (actors from Plymouth's Barefoot Productions) who'll mingle with the crowd, Graff said.

There will be silent, live and raffle auctions (\$2 or \$5 raffle tickets to enter), and the rock 'n' roll theme carries over

to many of the auction items: a life-size Elvis Presley cutout, a limited edition of the new *Beatles: Rock Band* video game, a \$100 gift certificate for a tattoo, Bruce Springsteen concert tickets and more.

Other auction items include:  
• A helicopter ride with radio station WJR traffic reporter Joel Alexander.  
• The chance to brew, name and premier your own beer at Plymouth's Liberty Street Brewing Co.

• The chance carry the banner for Plymouth's own Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team in the Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade.

• A "Night at the Museum" at the Plymouth Historical Museum, a party for up to 10 children with a showing of the 2006 comedy *Night at the Museum* and actors dressed up as historical figures.

• The chance for two children to be Santa's helpers upon his arrival in downtown Plymouth on the day after Thanksgiving.

The auction will also feature more traditional items, such as toys, tools and household items.

Tickets are \$75 and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner and an open bar. For reservations, call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.

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# Roundtable effort works for greater inclusion

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dr. Syed Taj became a political trailblazer last year when he became the first India-born candidate ever elected to the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

"It was tough," Taj said. He campaigned diligently by talking one-on-one with residents, drawing support from his medical patients, seeking votes in places of worship and gaining the endorsement of the Democratic Party.

"Canton has been very ahead of the game in inclusion," Taj said, "but of course there's always room for improvement."

Taj's achievement is what the Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion hopes will become more common not only in elected offices, but also among school district positions, police departments, appointed boards and, indeed, organizations across local communities.

The volunteer group believes representation should reflect the increasingly diverse population of the Plymouth-Canton area, said

member Anne Marie Graham-Hudak. "We want to make sure there are no barriers to minorities or anyone," she said.

Guided by the Michigan Roundtable — a statewide organization dedicated to the same goals — the local group's strategic planning committee has worked this year in focus groups, community meetings and other venues to develop an action plan to promote diversity and inclusion.

The effort continues during a meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Canton High School, 46181 Joy Road. The public is invited, and Graham-Hudak said specific goals and details will be unveiled by the diversity group's strategic planning committee.

Graham-Hudak said scores of people have been involved in the effort, at times working in separate groups to discuss education, law enforcement, public representation and other areas.

She said other goals include ensuring that local communities don't have policies and procedures in place that could discourage, even unintentionally, participation by a

wide range of people.

The group hopes to foster change in Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Graham-Hudak said the three-community area is the target of the diversity group because "we're joined together by one school district."

Taj lauded the group's efforts. Earlier this month, he and others helped encourage diversity by drawing a packed house to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill for an acclaimed program honoring the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the late India leader who embraced nonviolence in his efforts to bring about social justice and equality.

Taj said the crowd was so large, not everyone could get inside the theater.

"We do this in India, so we thought we'd do it here, too," he said.

Meanwhile, for more information on the Michigan Roundtable effort, log on to [www.mroundtable.org](http://www.mroundtable.org) and click on the Plymouth-Canton Initiative, or send an e-mail to [plycandci@gmail.com](mailto:plycandci@gmail.com).

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

# Former youth commissioners are honored for their service

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eight former members of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission were praised for their service on Monday evening.



Potter

Mayor Phil Pursell, at the start of Monday's regular City Commission meeting, read a proclamation in honor of the eight, most of whom have just left the group because they have moved into their senior year of high school.

The commission is for students in

grades seven through 11. It is an 11-member advisory board to the City Commission on issues pertaining to young people, as well as a service organization.

Youth commissioners have supported the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys For Tots Christmastime toy donation program and have raised money for the restoration of the fountain at Kellogg Park.

Also honored was Michele Potter, who founded the PCYAC while on the City Commission and has been serving as the group's liaison to the City Commission.

"They needed a voice," Potter said of founding PCYAC. The PCYAC held its first meeting seven years ago.

Potter is stepping down as PCYAC liaison, to be replaced by Commissioner Ed Hingelberg.

"I dragged in Ed," she said. "It's time for me to graciously back out."

At Monday's meeting to receive copies of the proclamation were former youth commissioners Adam Harrison, Kristen Kboystynsky, Alexandra Manolis, Allison Carpenter, Rachel Norman and Sarah Dix.

Not present were Leanne Carr and Jahvni Patel.

Potter said all but one of the PCYAC slots had been filled, and that the group had a candidate for the one remaining position.

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**Canton, Michigan**

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**FINANCING AVAILABLE**

# EDUCATION

## Plymouth-Canton marchers host band spectacular

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

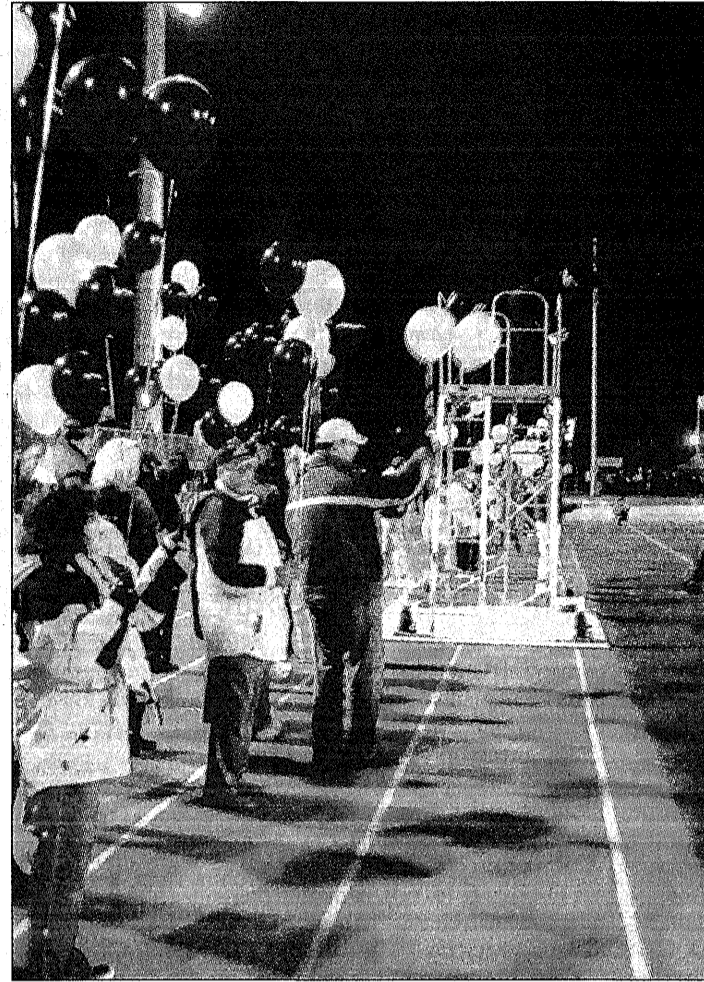
Eighteen high school marching bands from southeast Michigan converged on the P-CEP home gridiron Saturday for a spectacular and talented display of choreography and color, along with masterful music and marching at the Great Lakes Invitational, an annual competition hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band and Music Boosters.

"It is a great event to see the passion of all these kids," said a delighted John Noss, GLI chairperson and vice president of the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. Noss' son, Jacob is a junior percussionist who plays marimba in the band.

"It's a lot of work, too," conceded Noss who added that this is the single biggest fund-raiser for the 170-member band, raising some \$20,000 each year, and entertaining 6,000 to 8,000 spectators, band members and crews. "We have about 150 volunteers, including alumni, alumni parents and current members filling all the spots - concessions, cleaning up, transportation, first aid, announcing, you name it, all the positions were filled by volunteers."

The event began with 140 seventh- and eighth-grade band students from area middle schools, under the direction of P-CEP associate director Sheldon Frazier, playing the National Anthem.

Local bands placing in the top three of Flights I, II, and III, included in Flight III - South Lyon, third; and Redford Thurston, second. P-CEP principal William Zolkowski, former principal of Thurston, presented the award to them. Novi took third in Flight I, and in Flight II Walled Lake Central captured the first-place trophy and the highest score, 81.6, of



PHOTOS BY DIANE HANSON

Parents of seniors in the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band prepare to release 170 yellow and black balloons - one for each student in the band - before the band begins their exhibition performance of their show, "Beneath the Surface," at the Great Lakes Invitational Saturday at the Park.

the competition which also netted them the Lundy traveling trophy, named in honor of the late John Lundy, a dedicated P-CMB supporter and booster.

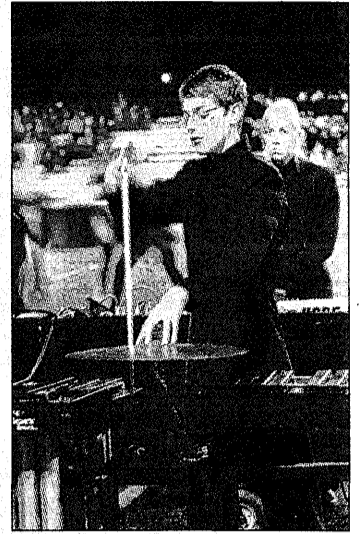
Lundy's family, wife Dee and children John and Susan, both alumni of the P-CMB, presented the award along with Dr. Craig Fiegel, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Other presenters included Judy Mardigian, school board treasurer; Carrie Lawler, Canton associate principal; Barry Simescu, school board

vice president; John Jackson, school board trustee; and the district's visual and performing arts director Tim Schoenherr.

The P-CEP marchers performed their eerily entertaining show, "Beneath the Surface," in exhibition as hosts of the event at the end of the evening and to the delight of those packing the home bleachers.

"I'm very excited about this show," said Canton senior clarinetist Kristen Johnson. This is Johnson's fifth year with the renowned band since she started as an eighth-grader. "This



Percussionist Patrick Miller pulls a bow across the edge of a cymbal to create an eerie sound, adding to the overall effect of Plymouth-Canton's competition show at the Great Lakes Invitational on the home gridiron Saturday while Alyssa Downs concentrates on the drum major's direction as she plays the synthesizer.

show is kind of creepy and very fascinating in the way everything is portrayed."

Trombonist Matt Katafiacs, also a Canton senior, agreed. "I think the show this year is special," he said. "There is just this vibe about this show that I've never felt in any of the other shows I've done over the past three years."

That's a good thing according to P-CEP director of bands David Armbruster, still in the process of adding elements to the not-quite-complete show.

"We're adding some creepier sounds at the beginning and it's setting the mood," he said. "We have the ending of the show, but I'm not going to give that away. Let's just say it's going to be a very memorable show from beginning to end."

The next competition for the P-CMB is the Huron Valley Invitational at Lakeland High School, White Lake, Oct. 31.



Community Financial's Spellbinders - Sue Bellaire, Brynn Paskauchas and Barb Johnson - claimed the crown at the 2009 Spelling Bee fund-raiser for the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council.

## Credit union teamwork spells Bee success

### S-U-S-P-E-N-S-E.

For several rounds at the 2009 Spelling Bee fund-raiser for the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council, that was the most important word as teams from Community Financial and the Plymouth District Library battled down the stretch.

In the end, it was the bankers over the librarians, with Community Financial's Spellbinders - Sue Bellaire, Brynn Paskauchas and Barb Johnson - claiming the crown, beating Mary Mackie, Vicki Sisteck and Susan Stoney of the Plymouth District Library's Spellbound. The two squads topped a field of 13 teams, led through the process by emcee Chris Butzlaff.

All proceeds will be used to help adults in our community gain proficiency with reading, writing, and speaking the English language.

"It was a fun night," said Joyce Silagy of the Plymouth Canton Community Literacy Council, who co-chaired the event, conducted at Yazaki North America in Canton. "This event is significant for at least two reasons, one being that there are always more people who need tutoring than there are tutors available. All proceeds from this event will be used to train tutors, provide materials for tutoring, and to coordinate services."

"The other is that even though we are suffering the effects of a sluggish economy, we matched and surpassed last year's donations," Silagy added. "And we did it because more sponsors participated than ever before, and they did it at levels they could afford."

Gold sponsors for the event included Yazaki North America, Alphagraphics and Michigan Educational Credit Union.

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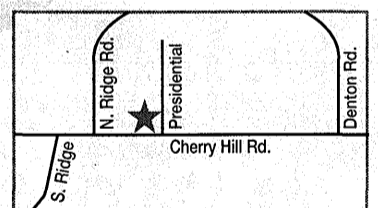
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# Local man faces future after swimming accident

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a beautiful August day at the Marshbanks house in Canton.

Dad Tim, who'd been laid off for a year from Ford, had finally found a new job. The family had sold its home. The weather was nice, there were friends and family gathered and the makings of a barbecue dinner were being put together.

It was a perfect August day. Until ...

While his parents were putting the touches on preparations, 22-year-old Josh Marshbanks decided he was going to take a dip in the family pool. A female friend decided to join them. Trish Marshbanks remembers what happened next like it was yesterday.

"She came running back in, screaming for us to call 911," Trish recalled. "I went out looking to see if Josh was pulling a prank."

It was no prank. In the pool, Trish Marshbanks saw Josh's friend cradling Josh's 6-foot-7 body. She looked into her son's eyes, which she says were just blank.

"My first reaction was, 'This can't be happening,'" Trish said. But it was. Josh had dove into the pool and hit the bottom, injuring his spinal cord and fracturing his C5 vertebrae.

Emergency medical responders tried reviving Josh, then transported him to St. Joseph Hospital in Ypsilanti. He was placed on life support, with machines doing his breathing for him. Within 24 hours, doctors fused three vertebrae and for three weeks he fought complications such as fever and pneumonia.

And for 11 weeks, while the immediate family fought the battle, they were joined by their "other" family, friends of Josh's and co-workers at Wright Asset Management in Plymouth, where Trish works.

"That waiting room at St. Joe's ... i made one phone call and that waiting room was filled," Trish recalled. "We were stepping over kids and people and family that just needed to be there."

Watching the Marshbanks' go through it was like watching one of their own, according to Janet Durante, who works with Trish at Wright.

"It was devastating for everyone," Durante said. "When it's one of your own .. we're like a



Josh Marshbanks was injured in August in an accident in his Canton swimming pool.



Zac, Josh, Trish and Tim Marshbanks

family here. We're all very close, so it's like our second family. For someone in that family of ours to be hurt so badly ... we just put ourselves in Trish's place and thought how we would feel."

Trish said the outpouring of support has "been phenomenal." "I wouldn't wish what we've gone through on my worst enemy ... to go out and see your 22-year-old who was healthy five minutes ago with just a blank stare on his face," Trish said. "I always knew I was blessed with friends ... I don't think a heart can hold all that."

Since the accident, Josh has fought back. He's paralyzed from about the armpits down, with some movement in his upper body but no feeling below the waist. Still, using a motorized wheelchair, the Marshbanks brought Josh home Friday.

Now his friends are organizing a fund-raiser to help defray what are projected to be astronomical medical expenses. The fund-raiser takes place 5-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at the Italian American Banquet Hall in Livonia. It'll feature a buffet dinner, music, live and silent auctions.

"We wanted to do something for trish and her family," Durante said. "We all love (Trish) dearly and we wanted to help. We've had wonderful response, all kinds of donations for the auction, cash donations. It started a little slowly, but it's really picked up."

Trish said the accident hasn't changed her son's outlook all that much.

"He has always had, and thankfully still has, such a great outlook on life," Trish said. "He's still Josh, and that hasn't changed. He still wants to do the things he did before. He might have to find a different way to do it, but he's ready to do that."

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

# Chainsaws, chili highlight Canton's new event

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After some 300 people came by to view the first Chainsaw Art and Chili Cook-off, organizers are hoping they've carved out a successful new event.

The event, put together by Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Public Art Committee, drew big crowds to the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail, located off Morton Taylor Road at Michigan Avenue.

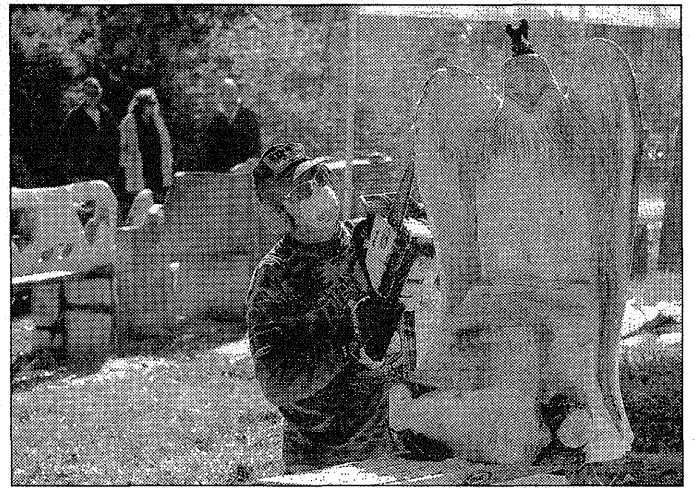
"We wanted to showcase the fall beauty of the trails and as an event to bring people together for a great time and for a great cause," said Jon LaFever, Recreation Coordinator. "Overall, it was a great success for a first-time event, and definitely has the potential to grow in the future."

The event included four chainsaw artists (two others backed out at the last minute), who provided demonstrations and displayed some of their work; LaFever said several pieces were sold as a result.

Two of the carvers - West Bloomfield's Tom Fink and Emil Szkipala of Chesterfield Township - also produced a permanent art piece along the trail.

"Many folks were astonished by how it turned it out ... it's definitely worth a visit to the trails to see," LaFever said.

The event was the brainchild of Kim Michael, a volunteer with the Canton Public Art Committee. She said she's traveled enough, and watched enough television, to have seen some other



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chainsaw artist Emil Szkipala works on an eagle. Szkipala, of Chesterfield Township, calls himself "Chainsaw Man of Michigan."



Rose Pawluzka and Carlo Valentine dance to the music of Bob Balch and Carl Zimmerman.

logging competitions. She also talked to organizers of the Paul Bunyan festival in Oscoda as part of her research.

"You just see different ways of using things," Michael said. "We're always trying to

come up with new things to do to expose Canton to different ideas."

The chili cook-off drew two competitors - Tim & Sally's restaurant and the Canton Fire Department. Tim & Sally's put out a spread that included chili, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches and beef brisket.

"We're going to make a contribution to the (fire-fighters') Foundation, which benefits families victimized by house fires through the Canton Firefighters #2289 Charity Foundation," LaFever said.

Michael and LaFever were excited by the way the event turned out, and said plans are already underway for next year's festival.

"We've already been talking about a couple of things," Michael said. "We definitely want to do it again."

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

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

### CONSOLIDATED ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Notice is hereby given that a Consolidated Election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. At which time candidates for the following offices will be voted upon:

Local School District Board Member

Plymouth-Canton Community - 4 Year Term - 3 positions  
Plymouth-Canton Community - Partial Term Ending 12/31/2011 - 1 position

And the following County Proposal:

Proposition O  
Operating Millage Renewal

To renew the millage authorized in 2000, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2008 rollback rate of 0.9529 (about 95 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2010 through 2019), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$43,495,573 in 2010.

YES

NO

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964  
Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMONOD J. WOJTOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of August 12, 2009 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan		Voted Increases	Years Increase Effective
Taxing Authorities	Date of Election		
County of Wayne	August 8, 2000	1 mill	2009
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	August 2, 2005	0.25 mills	2010
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2001	1.5 mills	2010
SCHOOL DISTRICTS		Voted Increases	Years Increase Effective
Taxing Authorities	Date of Election		
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	September, 2004	18 mills	2014 (non homestead only)

Applications for absentee ballots for Plymouth Township registered voters may be obtained at the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (354-3224 or 354-3228). Absentee ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters, in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, October 31, 2009. On Monday, November 2, 2009 qualified voters shall receive their ballots and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

Charter Township of Plymouth Polling Locations is:

Precinct 1	Farrand Elementary School	41400 Greenbriar
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft
Precinct 3 & 4	Township Hall Office	9955 N. Haggerty Road
Precinct 5	Bird Elementary School	220 N. Sheldon Road
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 Ann Arbor Trail
Precinct 7	Living Word Church	46500 N. Territorial Road
Precinct 8	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 Haggerty Road
Precinct 9	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 10	Fiigel Elementary School	39750 Joy Road
Precinct 11	Praise Baptist Church	45000 N. Territorial
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 13 & 16	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 14	Isbister Elementary School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 15	First United Methodist Church	45201 N. Territorial Road
Precinct 17	NorthRidge Church	49555 N. Territorial Road

All polling locations in the Charter Township of Plymouth are handicapped accessible.

Joe Bridgman, CMC  
Clerk  
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 25, 2009

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**CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRES**  
PG-13 11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

**SAW VI (R)** 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35  
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

**ASTRO BOY (PG)** 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG)**  
12:15, 1:10, 2:25, 3:20, 4:40, 5:30, 6:50, 7:40, 9:00, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:20, 11:55

**LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R)**  
11:05, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

**COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13)**  
FRI, SUN-TUE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30  
FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
SAT, TH 7:00, 9:30 WED 11:30, 2:00

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Connie Kronen of Canton, Jennifer Doumanian of Canton, Nancy Kootz of Canton and Karen Hofbauer of Plymouth attended the Women's Giving Circle annual meeting. Doumanian says this was her last social event for a while - she's expecting a baby - her second daughter - any day.



Enjoying the hors d'oeuvres provided by personal chef Paul K. Penney of Aussie in the Kitchen are Shon Dwyer of Plymouth and Sherry Quatrochi of Northville. Dwyer and Quatrochi were guests of Cathy Koepke, a Women's Giving Circle member from Northville.



JoAnn Haddad of Canton donates money as part of the Women's Giving Circle Pass the Purse collection. A staple at Giving Circle events, Pass the Purse money is used for immediate needs that may not otherwise be met through the grant process. Since its inception in October 2006, the Women's Giving Circle has collected \$3,449 with Pass the Purse. The \$565 collected Oct. 14 will be donated to the Canton Goodfellows to be used for gifts of toys and clothes for local children.

# Ilitch inspires Giving Circle members to make a difference

Confidence, courage and a can-do attitude.

Denise Ilitch said these are the qualities most evident in the successful people she has met and worked with over the years.

Ilitch, a member of the metro area's most prominent business and sports families, told some 150 women gathered earlier this month in Canton that "everyone can make a contribution" to society.

"Whether it's time, money, creative resources or emotional support - everyone can make a difference," she said.

An attorney, Ilitch is owner and publisher of *Ambassador Magazine*, president of Ilitch Enterprises and owner of Denise Ilitch Designs.

Ilitch was the featured speaker at the third annual meeting of the Women's Giving Circle, a women's philanthropic fund affiliated with the Canton Community Foundation.

Known for her interest and activities with non-profits, Ilitch has established three foundations - Lovelight Foundation which enhances the lives of impoverished children through education, outreach and funding, Ilitch Charities for Children and the Atanas Ilitch Osteosarcoma Foundation.

She is president of the Board of Kids Kicking Cancer



Enjoying the meet and mingle portion of the annual meeting are Canton residents (from left) Marion Rozum, Heidi LaFever, Lisa Rozum, Marie Everitt, JoAnn Haddad and Maureen Hassien. Marion Rozum, Lisa Rozum and Heidi LaFever are founding members of the Women's Giving Circle.

and serves on the boards of Clockwork Home Services, the Nstar Community Bank and Starfish Family Services.

Introduced as a "tireless advocate for women and children," Ilitch said she "always tries to say yes and do something" for these causes when asked.

Ilitch told the audience that confidence is critical to success because "you must believe

in yourself." "Confidence is also contagious," added Ilitch.

She noted education is one of her keys to confidence. "The more knowledge I have the more confident I am," she said.

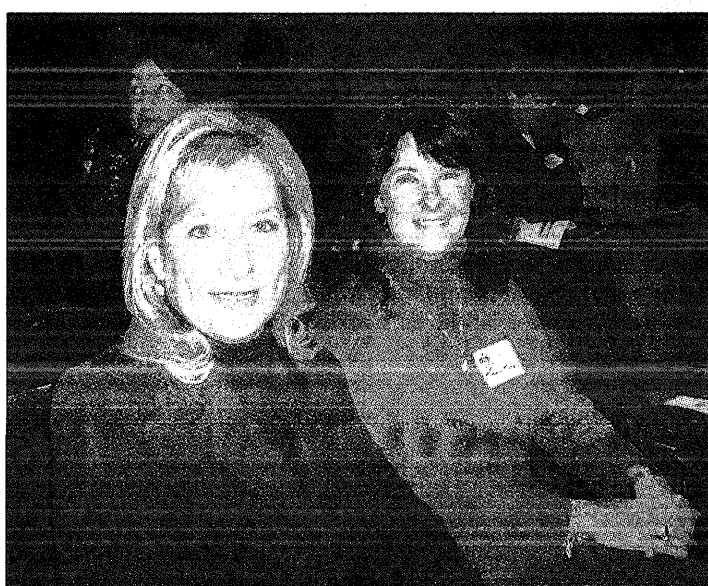
Her quest for knowledge led her to law school (she is a graduate of the University of Michigan and University of Detroit School of Law).

She encouraged audience

members to challenge themselves and adopt a can-do attitude and have the courage to "push out of your comfort zone and believe that anything is possible."

"For me it was publishing," said Ilitch, whose *Ambassador Magazine* is celebrating its third year.

She encouraged the women present to "follow your heart and connect with something



Denise Ilitch, business leader, magazine publisher and philanthropist, was the featured speaker at the Oct. 14 annual meeting of the Women's Giving Circle in the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. She is joined by her friend and Giving Circle member Kathy Males of Canton.

you love." Meghan Giersdorf, 27 of Canton, who attended the Oct. 14 meeting, said Ilitch's presentation "made the event special."

"She's impressive and very motivating," said Giersdorf. "She's someone to look up to."

The Women's Giving Circle funds programs for women and families in the Canton and Plymouth communities. Grants have been awarded to First Step, Girls Scouts, Elder Law Center, YMCA Strong

Kids, Salvation Army, GEMS and other groups.

The grant cycle begins in January, nonprofits interested in applying should contact the foundation at (734) 495-1200.

The Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle was formed with three objectives: to provide grants which address the needs of local women and their families, to create an endowment to meet future needs, and to build a community of women philanthropists.

# OfficeMax makes teacher's day

Wayne-Westland teacher consultant Connie Leaym of Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton has a nice comfy chair to sit in. It's one of the \$1,000 in school supplies she received as the winner of the OfficeMax "A Day Made Better" contest.

Principal Julie Mytych wrote an essay, nominating Leaym for the honor.

"I had to write an essay on why that person should receive the honor and Connie came to mind," she said. "She works with so many students and supports so many teachers in our school."

Leaym received her award at a surprise assembly.

"To say I was surprised is an understatement," she said. "I appreciate the way it was done, it was quite a moment. I felt a little bit like a rock star."

More than 1,000 teachers across the country were recipients of "A Day Made

Better," a national cause event founded by OfficeMax and nonprofit organization, Adopt-A-Classroom. The name, "A Day Made Better," is derived from the concept that OfficeMax and Adopt-A-Classroom can make at least one day better for teachers by providing them with essential classroom supplies.

Through 1,000 simultaneous events, including the one at Walker-Winter, OfficeMax seeks to call attention to the issue of teacher out-of-pocket spending and motivate the public to take action by supporting local educators through Adopt-A-Classroom. "A Day Made Better" was first conducted in October 2007 and has since contributed to the funding of more than 10,000 classrooms.

In addition to a new chair, Leaym a printer, digital camera and a variety of school supplies.

"I did share," Leaym said.



Connie Leaym, a teacher at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton certainly had "A Day Made Better" when staff from the Office Max Store 631 in Ann Arbor surprised her at school with more than \$1,000 worth of classroom supplies. Leaym was nominated for the award by Principal Julie Mytych. Posing with Leaym (third from left) were Ken Schaal (From left), Mytych, Merritt Ligrow, Shawn Empsom, Nathan Vonbroda.

# Financials reveals a lot about company

**Q:** Dear Rick: I am interested in following the stock market and learning more about it. I've gone to a few of your seminars and I also have been watching the business shows on television. I am confused about earnings. It would seem to me that if a corporation reports good economic numbers that would reflect positively on the company's stock. I've noticed a few times over the last few weeks that a company will report it beat the analysts' estimates but then the stock goes down. That doesn't make any sense to me. What am I missing?



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

**A:** Sometimes things regarding the market don't make sense. I believe the stock market is irrational over short periods of time. That is why I say that good news is bad news and bad news is good news. I always remind investors that it is very difficult to time the market. However, there are some points that I believe can help you better understand the market.

First, it is important to recognize that the stock market is always looking forward. In other words, the market is more concerned with what you are going to do next quarter versus what you have done last quarter. When companies report earnings they are reporting what happened in the past. That doesn't necessarily reflect what is going to happen in the future.

Another important issue is when you hear about a corporation's earnings on television, there are generally no details about the numbers. In many situa-

tions, because of accounting rules, there can be one-time adjustments that can significantly affect earnings for the quarter. When professional investors and money managers analyze a corporation's earnings they look at much more detail.

Even though a corporation's earnings were good this quarter, there may be hints in the financial statements that next quarter may not be as good. That is why it is important that when you analyze a financial statement, you don't look just at the bottom line numbers, but you look at all the details, including the various notes accompanying the financial statements.

I've always felt that to be successful, investors need to take a long-term approach. One mistake many investors make — and this includes professional investors as well — is they are short-sighted.

As far as I am concerned, quarterly earnings are important, but they should not affect your investment decisions. Remember, there is a difference between a trader and an investor. An investor looks long term, a trader looks day-to-day.

Good luck!

**Q:** Dear Rick: Explain the difference between a living will and a medical durable power of

attorney. Which do you recommend?

**A:** The documents are used in estate planning and both deal with medical issues.

A living will states if you do not have a quality of life, you don't want to be around. In other words, if there is no quality of life you do not want any extraordinary measures used to keep you alive.

A medical durable power of attorney goes one step further and says without a quality of life, you don't want to be around and allows you to name an individual who will determine whether you have a quality of life.

A medical durable power of attorney is a much better document than a living will. The problem with the living will is it leaves quality of life open to interpretation.

A medical durable power of attorney takes care of this because it allows you to appoint an individual who can make that decision. Of course, that person doesn't have to be a doctor or a lawyer, and as far as I am concerned, it shouldn't be. The person should be an individual such as a spouse or other loved one who will make

the decision you would have made based upon the facts at the time.

In the past, when there were issues with end-of-life decisions the only thing that you could consider was a living will. However, for the last 20 years new laws have been developed that give individuals more power over these decisions.

I strongly recommend a medical durable power of attorney rather than a living will. In fact, I'll go one step further and recommend that all adults in Michigan, whether they are 18 or 88, have a medical durable power of attorney. You do not want to leave important medical decisions to outsiders. You want to keep that decision within the family.

You can execute your own medical durable power of attorney without having to incur legal fees. A link is available on my web site where you can download a free medical durable power of attorney form. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money@matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money@matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

# 'Rent' comes to Village Theater

Destination Theatre, in cooperation with Canton Township, presents the Broadway hit, *Rent*, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill Oct. 29-Nov. 1 and Nov. 5-7.

The cast, hailing from all over metro Detroit, brings the vision of the late Jonathon Larson alive on stage for seven performances.

Set in the Greenwich Village of the late 1980s, *Rent* tells the story of seven friends struggling to keep their artistic dreams and Bohemian ideals alive while dealing with drug abuse, poverty and the ever-prevalent shadow of AIDS. Jonathon Larson wrote the story based on his own experience living in Alphabet City in the Village.

Destination Theatre officials say their fall production

of *Rent* "will leave you wanting more of Mark, Roger, Mimi, Joanne, Maureen, Collins and Angel and singing the memorable songs that break your heart and give you hope at the same time."

Performances are 8 p.m. Oct. 29-31; 3 p.m. Nov. 1; and 8 p.m. Nov. 5-7.

The Sunday, Nov. 1 performance will benefit the HIV/AIDS Resource Center in Ypsilanti. HARC provides services to people who are at risk of living with HIV/AIDS. Five dollars off every ticket sold will be donated to the center.

Tickets (\$15 general admission) are on sale now and may be purchased at DestinationTheater.org. Tickets are also available at Canton's Summit on the Park box office, 4600 Summit Parkway, (734) 394-5460.

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## W-W schools halt projects to await committee report

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has put several sinking fund projects on hold while it waits to see what the recommendation on school closings will be from its 21st Century Schools Committee.

Superintendent Greg Baracy made the announcement Monday, saying that it affects projects that have yet to be started, including media centers for elementary schools like Madison in Westland where work was scheduled to start after the first of the year.

"The only way to sustain educational excellence is to be as efficient as we can be and utilize the resources we have available," Baracy said. "We can no longer afford to operate buildings at 50 percent. We have to restructure ourselves."

The committee has the task of coming up with a plan that accommodates a loss of enrollment and a continuing decline in revenue. The committee, which has been working on a plan since July, last week heard reports from subcommittees which have been investigating different ways to deliver an educational program.

The tentative proposal is to close seven elementary schools and create 10 kindergarten-fourth-grade schools, two fifth-sixth-grade schools, two middle schools and two high schools. Instead of having schools in which student population divide up between middle schools and high schools, youngsters would stay with their classmates from kindergarten through 12th-grade under the proposal.

The subcommittees are now looking at the configuration and how the district can be split up to accommodate. No determination has been made on which schools would be recommended for closing.

"They're doing a lot, they want to preserve the district's educational excellence," he said. "I believe we can become a better school district, I believe we can be more efficient."

Baracy thanked the committee, made up of parents, residents of the community, employees and administrators, for their work. Members have devoted a lot of time to do research and it's apparent they want to preserve Wayne-Westland's educational excellence, he said.

"They have a lot of work to do, they recognize that this is about the kids and about educational excellence," he added.

The goal is to present a completed plan to the school board in December for its consideration. Implementation would be at the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

More information about the 21st Century Schools Committee, including video presentations, minutes and agendas, can be found on the district's Web site at [www.wwcsd.net](http://www.wwcsd.net).



Carole Kayden, a volunteer from Royal Oak, gives out candy at one of the many treat stations to Christopher Deyonke from Canton.

## Nothing scary about BOO-tiful event at zoo

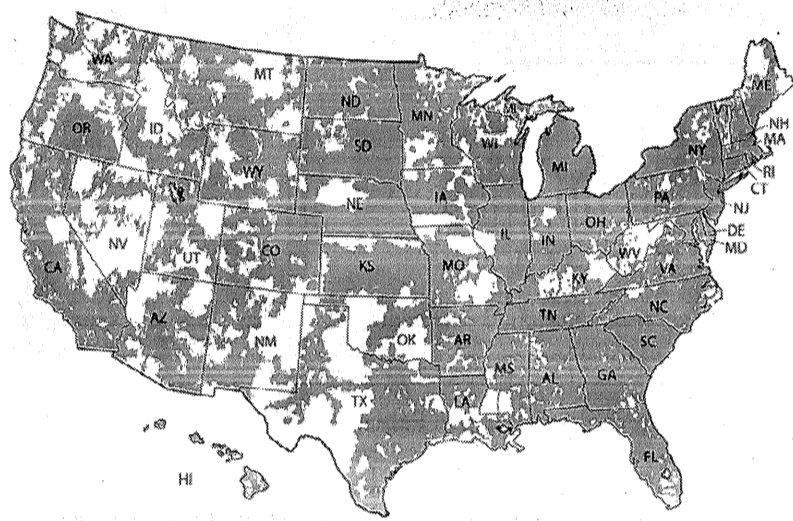
There were plenty of treats, but no tricks, for youngsters and their parents who ventured out to this year's Zoo Boo, at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak. Zoo officials said they were pleased with the initial turn-

out, which amounted to 9,517 from Oct. 16-18.

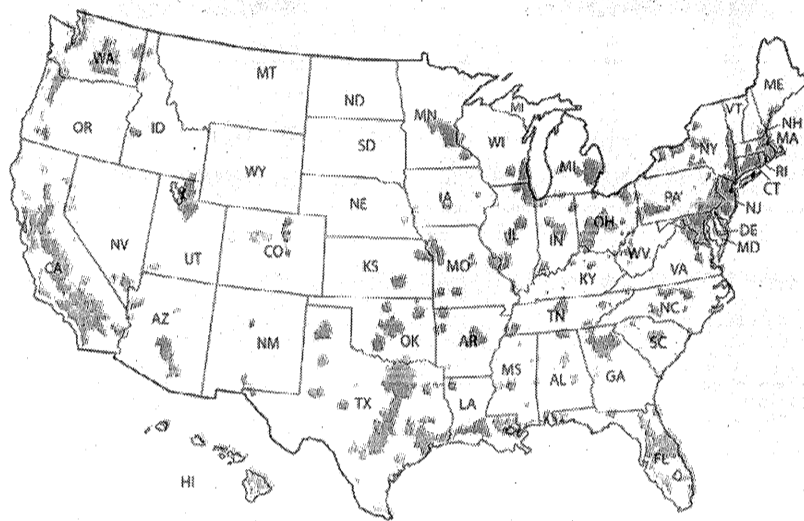
The event included candy, of course, disbursed by volunteers dressed up for the event. But the trail through the zoo also included dioramas and inflated

characters to delight young and older alike.

The Zoo Boo continues from 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 25, and Oct. 29-31. The event will be held, rain or shine, according to zoo staff.



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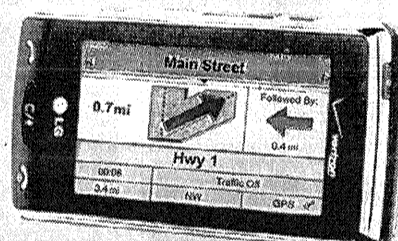
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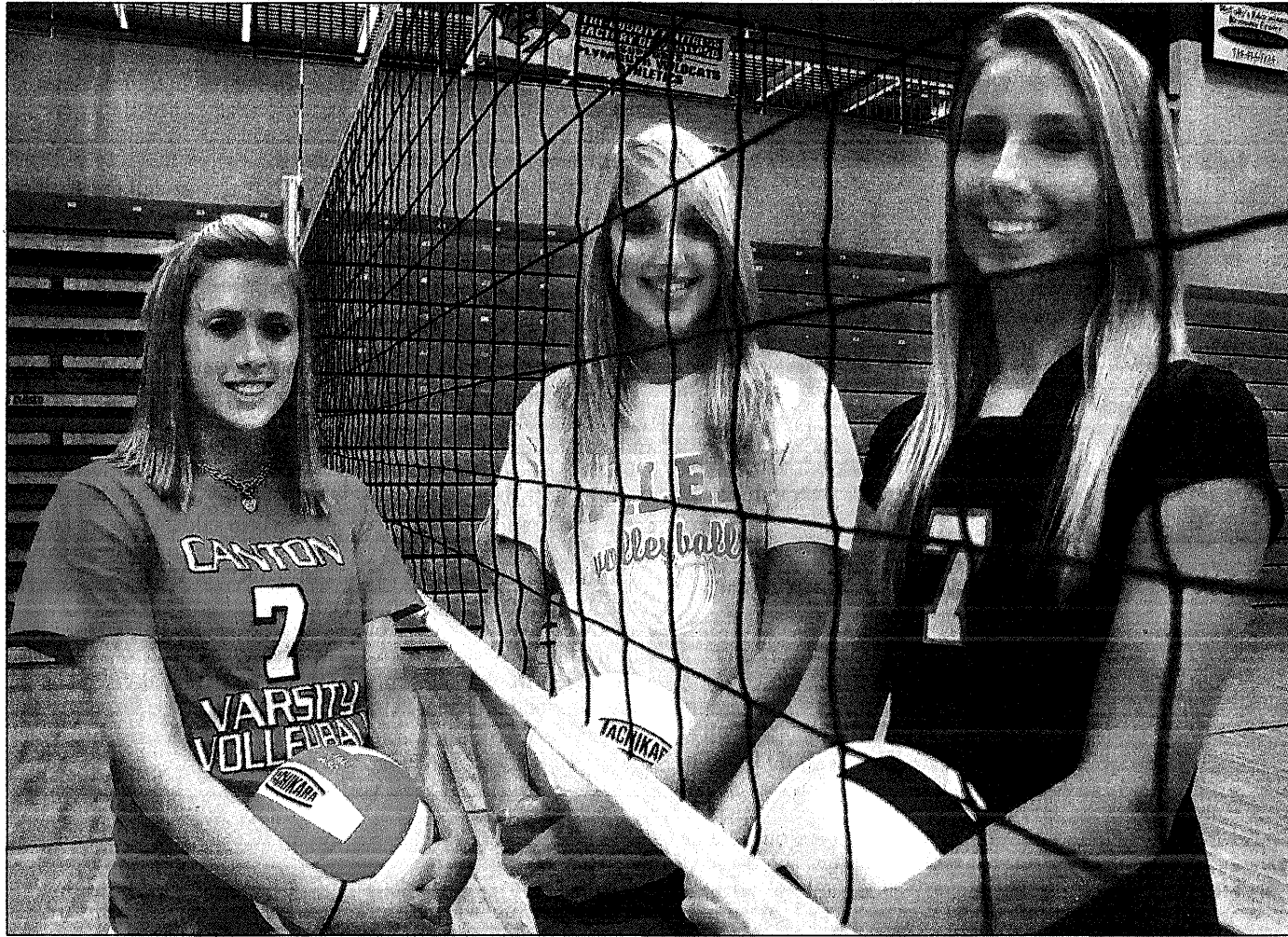


# HOMETOWN LIFE

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

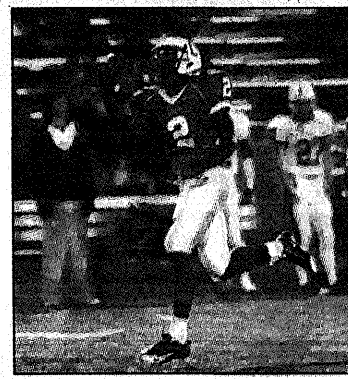
Salem soccer  
nips Northville  
to advance to  
finals - B2

## SPIKEYTOWN



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The smiles on the faces of (from left) Canton's Jordan KIELTY, Salem's Nicole Merget and Plymouth's Kelly Smoltz belie how competitive they are against each other when it's game time.



Canton junior Davion Stackhouse catches a pass late in the first half and runs it in for a TD. After a good kick, the score was 42-0.

### GAME WRAPS

#### Canton spikers sweep

After a slow start Thursday, Canton's varsity volleyball team came away with a 3-0 victory over visiting Wayne Memorial. The Chiefs took the games by scores of 25-10, 25-17, 25-20.

Head coach Mary Kryska said because two starters did not play due to injury or illness, bench players needed to step up and they did. Freshman Erica denBoer collected six kills and seven digs in a fine all-around performance.

Other standouts included Jordan KIELTY (8 kills, 14 digs), Lauren Macuga (10 digs) and Jackie Waite (11 assists and solid defense).

"Everyone on the team contributed to this win and I was happy to see everyone getting varsity experience," Kryska said.

#### Senior sendoff for Salem

It was "Senior Night" Thursday for Salem's varsity volleyball team and the Rocks celebrated with a 3-0 win over South Lyon (25-19, 26-24, 25-18).

Seniors Lauren Dworzanin (6 kills, 5 aces, 5 digs) and Elyse Engerer (3 kills, 2 aces, 4 digs) contributed to a winning night in their home swan song. "I am very proud of my two seniors," said Salem head coach Amanda Suder. "They have worked hard all year and it was a nice way to win in three last night to end their last home game."

Suder said junior Nicole Merget had a "phenomenal" match with 12 kills and only one error in 24 hitting attempts. Other solid efforts were turned in by Kerry MacDonald (20 assists, 3 aces), Kristina Klusek

Please see **GAME WRAPS, B4**

### Canton pounds Rocks

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On a wet Friday night, Canton rained points down on defenseless Salem to roll to a 62-11 KLAAs crossover football victory.

The win, in the annual game for the Sandman-Cummings Trophy, moved the Chiefs to 8-1 while Kurt Britnell's first year as Salem head coach ended at 2-7.

"It's nice to win it (the trophy)," said Canton head coach Tim Baechler. "Salem dominated the series a long time ago. That was a little goal to get them fired up to play this game."

He said both teams now have won the trophy 14 times.

Doing most of the damage for the Chiefs was 5-9 senior running back, Adam Payter. He provided a sample of what he was going to bring all night at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park when he ran

Please see **FOOTBALL, B4**

### PCEP's place for impact volleyball players to mix it up, mingle

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

During the day, they might slap hands in friendship.

But when the bright lights shine down on the volleyball court at night, friendships go out the window.

Then it's hammer time for three front-row dynamos who compete for the three varsity teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Want to scale the heights and thump the ball over the net or easily block an opponent's salvo? There's 6-foot, 2-inch Plymouth senior middle hitter Kelly

Smoltz and 6-3 Salem junior middle hitter Nicole Merget.

And don't forget Canton senior outside hitter Jordan KIELTY, who is smaller (5-10) but might have the biggest amount of fire in the belly.

"I don't get as many opportunities to block as many balls," said KIELTY, during a joint interview recently in the Plymouth gym. "But if I get set the ball, I try as hard as I can to get the kill because I know that pumps up my team."

#### WINNING FEELING

KIELTY — who, like Smoltz and Merget, is a co-captain for her team — recalled

a recent KLAAs South showdown at Livonia Churchill. One game was down to the clinching point.

"It was 25-24 and I had the ball set to me and I remember I was so angry, I wanted to win," she said. "So I swung as hard as I could and we got the point."

"It helped us into the next game, the adrenaline rush of winning on that point."

Her PCEP rivals also relish the goosebump feeling that comes with scintillating competition.

For Merget, a power play at the net is

Please see **SPIKEY, B4**

### Salem girls capture 1st conference crown

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The girls cross country banner draped on the wall inside the Salem gymnasium has been blank for quite some time. No more.

The Rocks brought home their first-ever conference or league title under coach Dave Gerlach by capturing the KLAAs Kensington crown held Thursday afternoon at Kensington Metropark's Possum Hollow course.

The Rocks, who took fifth in the same meet a year ago, placed five runners in the top 16 while staving off a strong effort by Northville (63) and defending champion Livonia Churchill (66). Novi was fourth in the 12-school field with 87.

"To my knowledge, this is our first conference or league title," said Dave Gerlach, now in his 15th year as Salem's coach. "I'm so proud of them. They've been a coach's dream and have done everything I've asked. And because they've been so coachable, they've been able to reap the benefits."

Junior Victoria Tripp, who covered the challenging 5-kilometer course in 19



minutes, 29 seconds, placed fifth to lead the Rocks.

Also scoring for Salem was senior Jordyn Moore, 10th (19:50); freshman Shannon Flynn, 11th (19:51); sophomore Kelly Kerwin, 13th (19:54); and junior Kara Booms, 16th (20:07).

"All year our motto has been: 'Pack and Pace,'" Gerlach said. "As far as today, they ran the race strategy to a 'T.' We wanted to run controlled, yet aggressive the first mile. We wanted to run our race, and then go after it at the two-mile (mark)."

"I thought Kelly Kerwin really stepped up today. She's had some decent races. We knew we had to have our fourth and fifth runners step up to win a meet like this."

Northville placed three in the top 10 led by Gina McNamara (fourth), Erin Dunne (seventh) and Katie VanderVoort (ninth).

Alex Rodriguez and Alexander Drayback finished 18th and 25th,

respectively, for the Mustangs.

McNamara is sophomore, while the other four are freshmen.

"Personally we ran better than I thought," Northville coach Nancy Smith said. "We wanted to finish third or better. We lost when we raced Salem and Novi before, but we've improved a ton since then. And we've never before beaten Churchill."

"The girls ran amazing and I feel we have a solid five now."

Churchill got a repeat first-place finish from senior Sara Kroll, who broke the 18-minute barrier with a time of 17:54. But the Chargers did not place any others in the top 10.

"We knew we had a shot the way the girls have been running," Salem coach Dave Gerlach said. "We figured it would be a four-team race. Churchill was ranked ninth (in Division 1) and we were 12th. And after seeing the results (this year), we knew it was feasible."

Kroll won going away for her second straight individual title.

"It actually went by pretty fast," said

Please see **GIRLS CC, B2**

### JORDYN MOORE

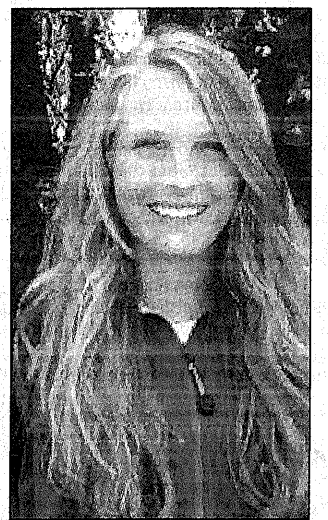


Who: Jordyn Moore, Salem senior, girls cross country captain.

Miscellany: Moore, 17, carries a 3.97 grade-point average. Her parents are Joe and Mary Ann. Career honors include Observerland honorable mention in 2007 and All-Observerland 1st team in 2008.

Captain's job: "The job of a captain is about being a leader" and role model. "It is about being positive and hopeful in times of doubt. A lot of times it includes putting the team before yourself."

Leadership style: "Before making any big decisions, I like to talk to the assistant captains (Rachel Morrison, Emily Willer) or sometimes talk to the whole



team. I want to make sure I am doing what is best for the team."

Why her?: "I think I was chosen as captain because I showed that I was capable of being a leader during my past years on the team by being positive, encouraging and acting as a role model."



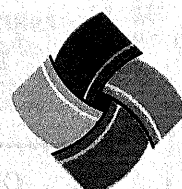
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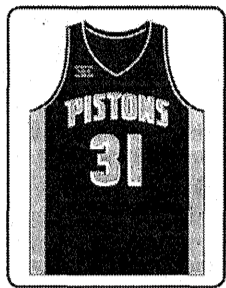
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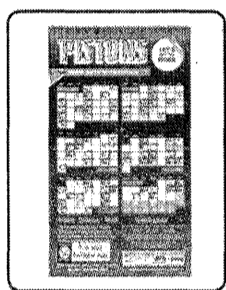
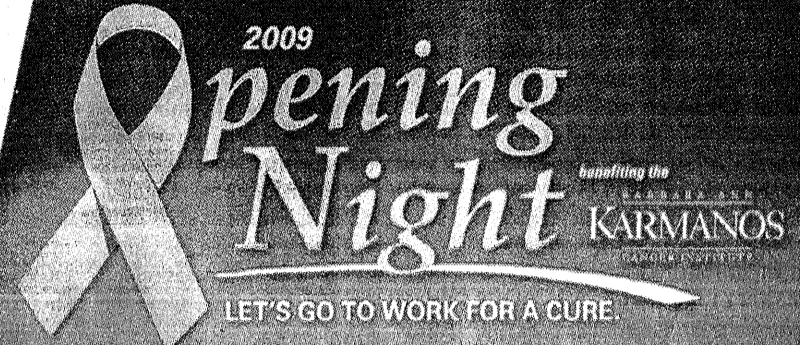
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**8:00 PM**



*Charlie Villanueva Halloween Jersey to first 5,000 fans courtesy of* **DATAMAIL**

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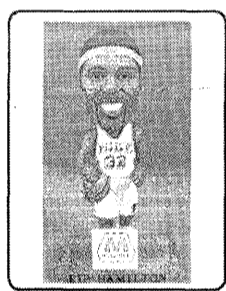


**TUE, NOV. 3**  
**7:30 PM**

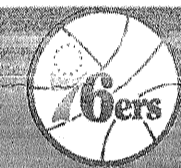


*Pistons Schedule Magnet to first 20,000 fans courtesy of* **You play Schools win.**

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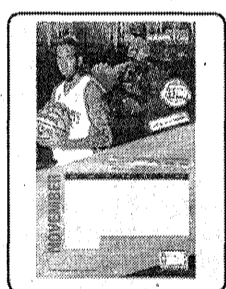
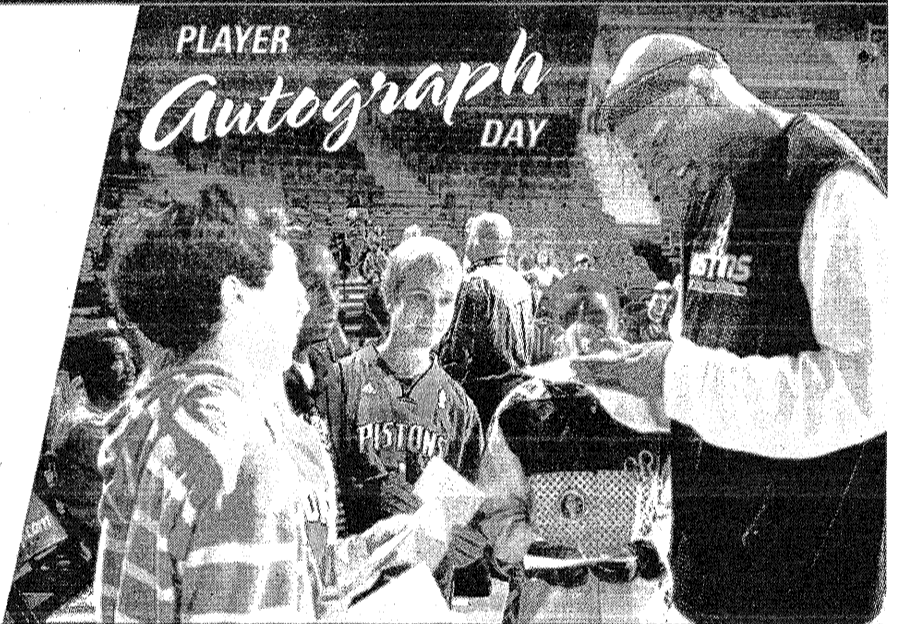
**SUN, NOV. 8**  
**1:00 PM**



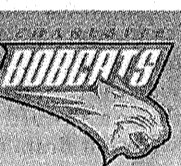
*Richard Hamilton Mini Bobblehead to first 7,500 fans courtesy of* **MARATHON**

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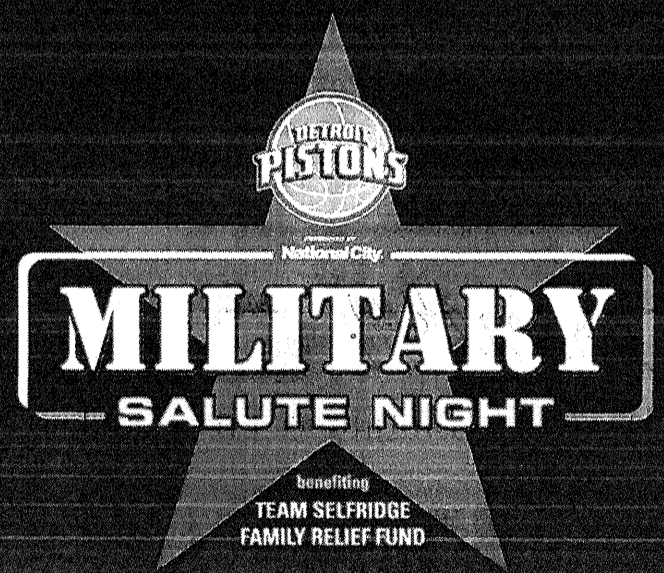
**WED, NOV. 11**  
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*Pistons Player Calendar to ALL fans courtesy of* **TOTAL HEALTH CARE**

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**SUN, NOV. 15**  
**6:00 PM**



*Tayshaun Prince Mini Bobblehead to first 7,500 fans courtesy of* **Cavalier**

Friends & Family Fun-day: 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 sodas and 4 T-shirts for \$89 (upper) or \$199 (lower).



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**SPIKEY**  
FROM PAGE B1

exciting to be part of, let alone watch from the stands.

"Everybody gets so excited if you have an awesome kill or a sweet block," Merget said. "So that really helps pump everyone up, it gets the game going at a faster pace."

Smoltz agreed that kills and blocks energize the Wildcats.

"When I'm supposed to go get a kill, get the point, I know that pumps up my team," Smoltz said. "I just want to get that point and then we start playing better, we're more focused."

What the three players bring to the floor on game day is only part of the picture.

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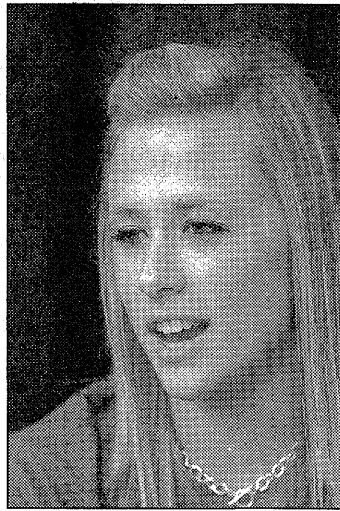
There's a strong element of one-upmanship, too, between them.

That is a common thread for most PCEP athletes. On Tuesday, Kielty and Smoltz squared off against each other during an intense, five-game match.

"There's always that trash talk between all the schools, it's like that in every sport," Kielty emphasized. "I have a couple friends on other teams in my classes and it's not awkward or anything."

"After the game it's like nothing happened."

According to Merget, "I feel it's really fun when you play the other two schools, because it's like your friends but you



**'It makes it so much fun, it makes the high school experience ten times better when there's big rivalries like that.'**

JORDAN KIELTY, Canton



**'Everyone's friends, so when you play them, yeah, of course you want to win. But you can't let yourself get psyched out about it, too.'**

KELLY SMOLTZ, Plymouth



**'Everybody gets so excited if you have an awesome kill or a sweet block.'**

NICOLE MERGET, Salem

want to beat them at the same time."

"Everyone's friends, so when you play them, yeah, of course you want to win," Smoltz said. "But you can't let yourself get psyched out about it, too."

"You almost have to just like picture them as just another team until you're done playing."

Meanwhile, Kielty, Merget and Smoltz have more in common than being able to hammer away for their respective teams.

They are part of the sprawling "Park" with its one-of-a-kind, three-school campus.

"I think it adds to it, the high school experience," Kielty said. "At football games, when we're playing Plymouth or Salem, everyone gets so into it and makes the rivalry so big."

"It makes it so much fun, it makes the high school experience ten times better when there's big rivalries like that."

Concurring was Merget. "It's kind of like we're one giant school, but through sporting events you separate and compete against each other. It's kind of different."

"It's not the same as if you were just one school," Smoltz added. "A different school

might be known for just one sport. But all three schools have different things."

**COLLEGE PREP**

Successfully navigating PCEP is an experience they hope to draw on when they go to college, perhaps continuing their volleyball careers.

"Here you get split up from all your friends, surrounded by all these people you don't know," said Merget, adding that classes often contain a pool of students from all three high schools. "That's going to prepare you for going into college."

Kielty and Smoltz each nodded their heads.

**HEAVY HITTERS**

• **Jordan Kielty:** The 17-year-old Canton senior co-captain is a 5-10 outside hitter. She carries a 3.6 grade-point average and is in her fourth season with the varsity team.

• **Nicole Merget:** In her third year with the Salem varsity, 16-year-old Merget — who stands 6-3 — owns a 3.7 GPA. She is co-captain.

• **Kelly Smoltz:** She is a Plymouth senior middle hitter and co-captain now in her third varsity season. The 17-year-old has a 3.6 GPA.

"It will help us because we're used to that big group of people," Kielty explained. "We're meeting new people every day, we're used to having big rivalries, which is like the college experience."

Smoltz said having classes in different schools "gets you ready for going place-to-place, having to walk."

Of course, it isn't likely that future college life will match "the Park" for sheer uniqueness.

After all, there's three high schools on one campus filled with student-athletes who mingle during the day and mash it at night.

For this talented trio, that's not so bad.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

**GAME WRAPS**

FROM PAGE B1

(5 digs) and Alli Morrison (6 digs).

Salem finished the conference schedule with a record of 7-2 for second place in the KLAA Central. The team took a 30-4 overall record into Saturday's conference tourney.

**Wildcats tough**

Even though Plymouth dropped a four-game volleyball match to KLAA South leader Livonia Churchill on Thursday, Wildcats' head coach Kelly McCausland couldn't have been prouder.

"I am so proud of our level of play today," McCausland said. "After an upsetting loss to Canton we worked on our mental toughness at practice. Our main focus going into tonight's match was to continue battling through every point."

McCausland said the team worked on blocking Churchill's strong outside hitters "and they executed" beautifully with Kelly Smoltz (7 blocks, 8 block deflections) and Alex Roberts (7 blocks, 17 block deflections, 6 kills) leading the way.

Erin O'Connor "had a great game" with 17 digs and 100-percent serving while Lindsey Stemberger (24 passes), Dani Risi (27 assists, 11 digs) and Katie Salo (27 assists, 11 digs) also playing well.

Plymouth fell to 22-10-1 overall and 5-5 in the KLAA South.

Seniors Sarah Suppelsa and Cierra Yetts collected 20 and 17 kills, respectively, leading KLAA South Division champion Livonia Churchill past stubborn Plymouth in four games, 25-17, 25-19, 24-26, 25-13.

"All four were good, competitive games," said Churchill coach Mark Grenier, whose state-ranked team is 41-4 overall and 10-0 in the KLAA Central. "Plymouth put up a big right side and it gave us some fits. We had to adjust around that."

Other contributions for the Chargers came from Darcy DeRoo (six kills), Taylor Kerr (41 digs), Nicole Kempinski (29 digs), Cory Urbats (30 assists, 13 digs) and Erin Menard (four kills, five blocks).

Plymouth falls to 22-10-1 overall and 5-5 in the KLAA South.

**PCA 3rd in MIAC**

Plymouth Christian Academy played at Rochester Thursday night in a round-robin tournament, hanging in against Class A schools, said Eagles' head coach Kelly Blackney.

PCA defeated Ferndale, Lutheran North and Brandon, but lost to Clarkston to move to 21-8-2 on the season.

"We played very well against Class A schools, something that we have been working on with our young team," Blackney said. "We always play intimidated against bigger schools, but last night we changed that."

The Eagles finished conference play in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division and placed third, with a weekend tournament at University of Michigan-Dearborn and Tuesday's 7 p.m. home match against Macomb Christian still to play.

**FOOTBALL**

FROM PAGE B1

it in from 22 yards just four minutes into the game, to open up the scoring.

But Payter was far from done. After a three-and-out by the Rocks' offense, he burst down the right sideline for a 77-yard romp and it was 14-0.

"Our offensive line was awesome, that's about all I can say," said Payter, who scored four TDs and rushed for 232 yards (on just eight carries) all before halftime. "It was wide open and they did a great job."

After Payter's second touchdown, the Rocks made a serious bid to cut the lead in half.

Sophomore running back Marcus Houston picked up some good yardage and senior quarterback Jake Peterson connected on a 35-yard pass to Alex King — who won a jump ball at Canton's 18-yard line. King later caught a 58-yarder and finished with 107 yards in four catches.

**BIG PLAY**

The drive continued inside the 10, when on the second play of the second quarter Peterson's pass over the middle was picked off at the goal line by Canton junior linebacker Garrett Bryden.

Then it was off to the races as Bryden raced the entire length of the gridiron — 100 yards exactly — to put a pin into Salem's balloon.

"That was key," said Chiefs' head coach Tim Baechler about the Bryden interception and TD return. "They were moving the ball and they had a nice drive going there."

"That kind of broke all their momentum and I think it kind of broke their spirit a little bit."

The Chiefs were far from done, building a 42-0 lead at the half and invoking a running clock in the second half.

A 33-yard strike from Canton senior quarterback Kevin Delapaz to junior tight end Angelo Lanava and Salem penalties contributed to the third TD in three drives and a 28-0 edge. Scoring on a five-yard run was Payter.

Another interception by the Chiefs, this time by senior defensive back Arron Boudreaux at Canton's 4-yard line, gave Payter another opportunity to bust a play.

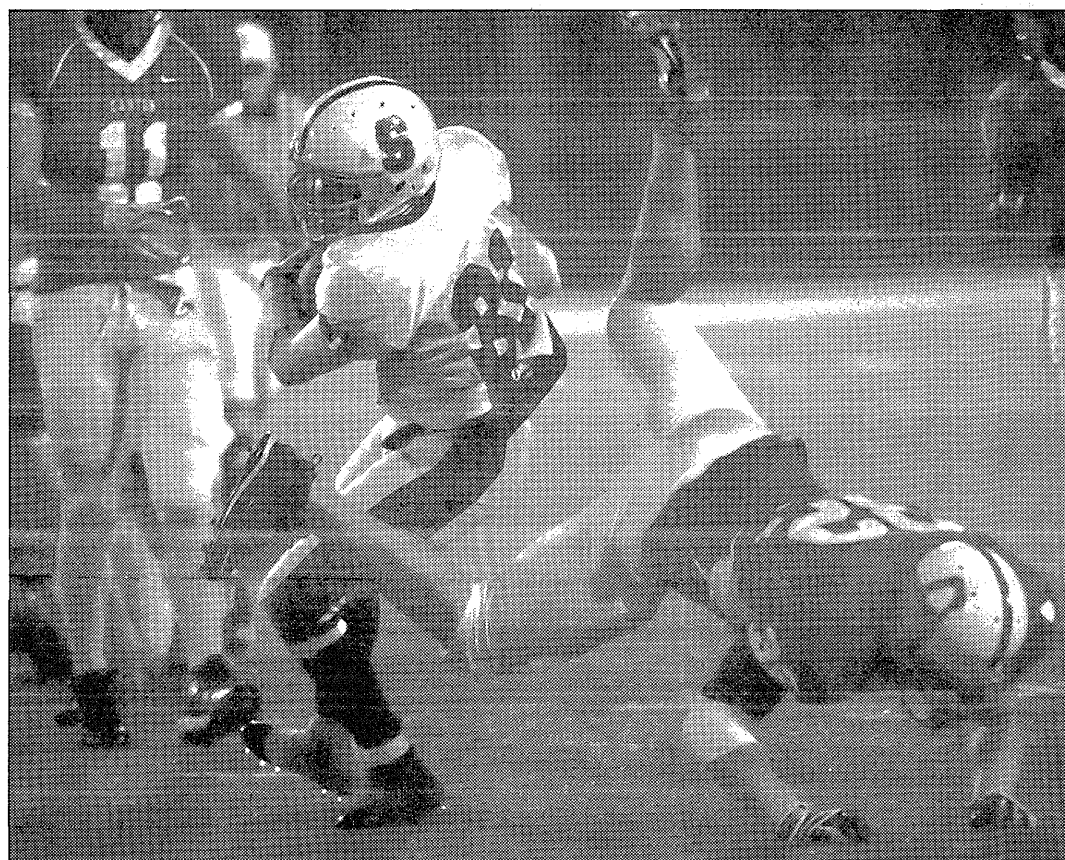
He did, with an up-the-gut 96-yard touchdown run on first down, opening up a 35-0 lead.

"We looked pretty good in the first quarter, moving the ball and doing some things," Britnell said. "We just had some breakdowns in blocking assignments with their zone blitz. "We've got to learn from it and get better as a program. You can't make those mistakes against teams like that."

Delapaz then threw a 2-yard TD pass to junior running back Davion Stackhouse (back after missing the previous game) with 34 seconds to go in the half and freshman Connor Shennan made his sixth of eight extra points.

**NOT AGAIN**

It was more of the same to start the third quarter, with



Salem didn't have the ball much Friday against arch-rival Canton. But that didn't stop Rocks' sophomore tailback Marcus Houston (No. 31) from running hard on the wet turf. Here Houston eludes hard-charging Canton senior linebacker Alex Dixon (No. 32 at right).

Salem fumbling the kickoff and giving the Chiefs a first down near the goal line.

Sophomore Kevin Buford scored on a 1-yard run just 1:23 into the third.

The Chiefs kept pouring it on, even after putting reserves into the contest.

First it was junior quarterback Ben Merbler scoring on a 7-yard keeper late in the third. Then with time running out in the fourth, junior running back Nick Alaniva scored on a 33-yard run to complete the Canton scoring.

Salem did finally get on the board in the fourth when junior Ethan Walsh split the uprights on a 39-yard field goal — to make it a 55-3 game.

Senior quarterback Brian Maksimovic, who had the golden touch after entering the game in the third (4-4, 71 yards), threw a 34-yard TD pass to wide-out Brandon Ciciotti with about five minutes remaining.

Now, Baechler will await Selection Sunday (7 p.m. on Fox Sports Detroit) to see who

the Chiefs play in the opening playoff game. Britnell will look back on a "roller-coaster" season and plan for the future.

**Late results**

Results from Friday night's Plymouth football game at Adrian were not available as of press time.

The Wildcats took a 6-2 mark into the game and are assured of a playoff berth.

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# NEIGHBORS

## Economy scaring you? Get creative with your costumes

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OSE STAFF WRITER

If you plan to pinch pennies on a costume this Halloween, you're not alone.

According to the National Retail Federation, consumers will spend approximately \$20 on costumes and will shell out an average \$56 — down \$10 from last year — on all Halloween trappings. Young adults will spend nearly \$20 less on ghoulish garb and decor.

"With part-time jobs more scarce and parents unable to help out financially, many young adults have been impacted substantially by the economy," stated Phil Rist, executive vice president for Strategic Initiatives, BIGresearch, the firm that conducted the spending survey for the national retailers group.

"The overriding theme for Americans' Halloween celebrations this year will be, 'How creative can I be, and how little can I spend?'"

Karla Lukasuk hears that mantra every year in the Salvation Army Thrift Store that she manages in Livonia.

"Our customers are very clever and creative. They are looking to create their costumes through what we have in the store. Sometimes it's just filling in. They already have parts and they come in for the rest," she said.

And although Christmas decor has begun to supplant Halloween items on a few shelves in the store, more of



Karla Lukasuk suggests a Bride of Frankenstein look with an inexpensive gown from Salvation Army Thrift Store. Add a little ghoulish makeup, add a goofy feather hat or give yourself a vertical 'do and you're ready to party.

the spooky stuff will arrive with other merchandise this week.

### ONE OF A KIND

"Between clothing and bric-a-brac we put out at least 5,000 items a day, Monday through Friday," Lukasuk said. "It's a treasure hunt every day."

Brian Cochrane, who oversees the six Salvation Army shops in Western Wayne County, sees at least one man every year "who lost a bet or his wife or girlfriend egged him on" in search of the perfect women's dress for Halloween.

"When they come in together with their buddies, we always have one of our

sales girls help them pick what would be their size," he said.

### LOW COST

A quick scan through one shelf and two shopping carts turned up a grass hula skirt for 99 cents, partially-trimmed masks at two for 99 cents, plastic hats, glitter wings and accessories at more than half off their original price.

"The closer we get to Halloween, the bigger the discount," Lukasuk noted. "There's a lot of last-minute trying to put a costume together. We'll definitely help people throw something together."

"One that comes to mind is a woman who decided she would be a tourist. So she came in and found a tacky, tropical print button-down shirt. She found rope-style sandals, a Polaroid box-style camera that you wear around your neck and she found some really wild sunglasses. I even found her some globe earrings."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army Thrift Store employee Lauren Alder shows off clothing for a 1980s girl costume. The bonus? You can wear the pieces separately after Halloween, too ... if you dare.

She and her staff created these costumes from clothing on hand:

- Overalls and new flannel shirt for a farmer look, \$14.
- Button-down country-style shirt, distressed blue jeans and straw for a cowboy, \$14.
- Bride's dress — you add makeup and hair to become Frankenstein monster's mate — for as low as \$5.
- Pinker animal stripe pants, pink sweater and vest create a punk rock girl for about \$18.
- Housecoat, furry slippers and shower cap or curlers make for a scary look at around \$7.

### Secrets from theater costumers

If you're looking for Halloween costume fodder, check out your linen closet.

"Old tablecloths make lovely angels and ghosts," says Patti Wachtel, costumer for Rosedale Players in Redford. "Make a robe for a shepherd. Princesses look good in old lacy table cloths."

"I used to do this for Joanne Fabrics. I'd sit at a table and make kids' costumes without sewing. I'd show how to make up things. I'm pretty creative because I had little boys."

Her sons are, too. One of them went trick or treating as

road kill one year in a costume that consisted of a painted-on tire, lots of stuffed animals and a good deal of fake blood.

Another year, "he took a box and covered it with black silk and ran the straps from his Boy Scout backpack through it." He cut the bottom off the box, eased himself into it — after dressing up as a vampire — and carted his own "coffin" along with him.

Last year Wachtel made a Tootsie Roll by folding and sewing one side of fleece fabric. She simply gathered the top and added lettering.

"Another cute one is if you want to be a crayon. Take a sheet out of the color you want it to be," and sew it the same way you'd make a Tootsie Roll. Add electrical tape lettering and make a pointy hat from triangular felt.

Don't let a lack of sewing skills hold you back.

"I use a lot of stick-on Velcro, the cheap kind from the dollar store," she said.


Another idea: Glue a print of a famous painting, such as the Mona Lisa, to cardboard, cut out the face and you become the painting.

Barbara Bloom, president of Spotlights Players in Canton, offered a simple-to-assemble costume suggestion: "I was a road one year."

She wore a black shirt and black pants with yellow tape placed down the center. "Little pieces of paper" and stuffed animals gave the illusion of litter and road kill on the highway.

— By Sharon Dargay

**Arthritis Today**  
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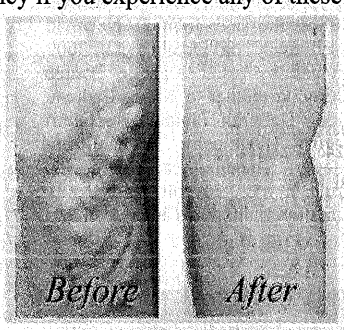
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Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

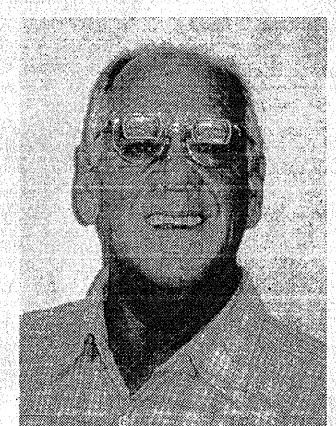
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800. Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

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# Tail Waggers USA rolls a strike for animals Benefit on tap

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Aunt Jean Polka is dancing for joy in heaven.

"She's totally high fiving me," says niece Laura Zain, of Livonia, who founded the Tail Waggers Bowl, an annual fund-raiser for animals, in memory of her aunt.

"We have a huge passion for animals in our home. My aunt used to say if she had \$100,000 she'd donate it all to animal welfare. She had a bar in Detroit and used to feed every stray around. Her biggest concern was 'what will happen to the animals when I die?'"

When she did die, at age 52 of a massive aneurysm, Zain adopted her aunt's "bar hound" and called an animal welfare group to round up the strays.

Zain also created what she initially thought would be a one-time bowling event to raise money for animals and fulfill her aunt's long-time dream.

"Sixty two people showed up. The following year people started calling the bowling center."

Within five years, Tail Waggers USA and its annual bowling event had raised \$100,000 — the amount Aunt Jean had always dreamed about.

"Now here we are with our 20th anniversary year," Zain said. "I never thought we'd be here 20 years. I'm overwhelmed by that. But I feel like there is no stopping us now."

"We have our mission and we've never changed. What makes us unique is that we're raising money to give back to community, to people who need help with their animals."

Tail Waggers USA runs a pet food assistance program for pet owners who can't afford to feed their animals.

"We have various food bar-



Laura Zain, founder of Tail Waggers USA in Livonia, with furry friends at last year's bowling event.

that. It's whatever it takes to keep these animals with their families."

The bowling event has helped to keep the organization's coffers in the black. In previous years, the one-day fund-raiser has earned from \$27,000-\$52,000.

"It's crazy ... it's from bowling," said Zain, who maintains a day job with an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit.

Although Tail Waggers Bowl is the organization's signature event, it also runs "Comedy for a Cause," held at Joey's in Livonia; and Woodstock, which combined music and dancing in Commerce Township.

Zain hopes to add a fashion show fund-raiser in spring 2010.

A spaghetti dinner Nov. 14 at the Bailey Center in Westland isn't just about good pasta, but it's also aimed at helping the family of 7-month-old Avery Klemola cope with the financial fall-out of their daughter's cancer treatment.

"My mom has home day care and provides care for Avery. So we've known them for quite a while," said Laurie Kidd of Livonia. She and her sister, Rhonda Silcox of Garden City, are coordinating the spaghetti dinner benefit for Sheila and Shawn Klemola, their baby daughter and two sons.

Although the family has health insurance, Sheila is not working while her daughter is undergoing treatment.

"Their income has been

drastically cut. We want to raise whatever we can to help them," Kidd said.

Tickets for the spaghetti dinner are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 14. Children under 2 are free.

The benefit dinner and raffle will be held 4-9 p.m., at the Bailey Center, 3665 Ford Road, Westland.

To donate goods, services or gift certificates for the raffle, call Silcox at (734) 576-3578 or e-mail to dnr@wowway.com. Or call Kidd at (734) 891-3616 or Laurie6467@aol.com.

Can't attend the fund-raisers? Donations will be accepted for the "Avery Klemola Fund" in care of Kidd, at 9065 Cardwell, Livonia, MI 48150.



rels throughout the city, even into Washtenaw County. There's no process for asking for food. We hope people will be honest (about their need) but they don't have to fill out forms."

The group sponsors low-cost spay, neuter and vaccination clinics and maintains an emergency assistance fund for pets in crisis. Calls for emergency assistance come from individuals, families, rescue organizations and veterinarians on behalf of their patients.

"I've never liked thought of putting a dog to sleep because

of lack of funds. It breaks my heart," said Zain, a single mom with three sons, two dogs and several cats at home.

"We've always kept that as a concept, to help people pay for (vet) services. It could be something like a dog went blind because of bad cataracts or was in an accident and injured. Maybe it's cancer treatment. We fix a lot of knees and legs. The majority of our calls are from good pet ownership families. Their dog (or cat) has a catastrophe or crisis."

Zain tells the story of a Livonia family whose dog suffered from a painful paw. One veterinarian suggested amputating the dog's leg or putting the pooch to sleep. The family called Zain and asked for help. Tail Waggers paid for \$800 worth of diagnostic tests at a veterinary specialist. The tests revealed a cancerous tumor on one toe. The toe was amputated and the dog — with leg intact — survived.

"We don't have limitations on what we spend. We've spent \$60 on this and \$4,000 on

## 20TH TAIL WAGGER'S BOWL

**What:** Tail Waggers' USA signature fund-raising event for animal welfare

**When:** 9:30 a.m. (for kids), 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 8 p.m., bowling times, Nov. 7

**Where:** Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** \$25 admission includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, anniversary T-shirt and lunch or dinner. At the kids-only session, youngsters can take an oath to become "Pet Cadets." They'll receive cards with a telephone number they can call if they see an act of animal cruelty. Animals will be on hand at the event

**Contact:** (734) 560-4660 to reserve a lane

**Donations:** Can't bowl? Donate to the cause via [www.tailwaggersusa.org](http://www.tailwaggersusa.org) or mail checks to Tail Waggers, 27859 Oakley, Livonia, MI 48154

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Help Wanted-Office 6020

**RECEPTIONIST, FT**

Help Wanted-Office 6020

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## Dental practice buys back kids' candy

If your kids love trick or treating but you're worried about all that candy eroding their teeth, tempt them with a little cash to turn in their sugary loot.

Masri Orthodontics, 35200 Schoolcraft, Suite 104, Livonia, will buy back Halloween candy 4-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

It will give \$2 to each child per pound of surrendered candy. One dollar will go to the child and \$1 will be donated to Livonia Goodfellows; a charity that provides food and other supplies to local families

and veterans in need.

The surrendered candy will be shipped overseas to military troops in Iraq, along with hand written letters from the community.

The event helps the Livonia Goodfellows in its mission to provide assistance to those in need and promotes great oral hygiene by offering an alternative to Halloween Candy consumption.

Last year Masri Orthodontics collected 500 pounds of candy and donated \$500 to the Livonia Goodfellows.



Kids and parents wait patiently to trade candy for cash last year at Masri Orthodontics in Livonia.

## St. Mary Mercy Gala supports education

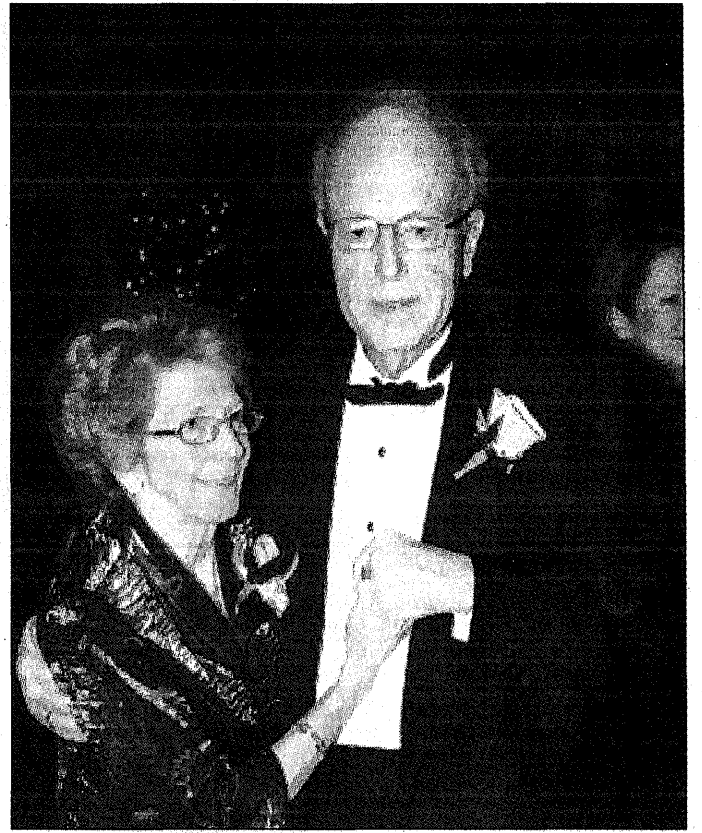
St. Mary Mercy's 17th Annual Gala earlier this month raised more than \$200,000 for the hospital's Graduate Medical Education Program. More than 600 guests attended the "Golden Anniversary" event at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, in Livonia.

"The support of our generous sponsors truly makes a difference to this hospital and the communities we serve," said Sara Stauffer, director of development, in a statement. "The proceeds from this year's event will assist in building a vital component of St. Mary Mercy's residency program — clinical research."

The program, slated to begin in summer 2010, includes medical student education, residency, research and training programs. It will designate St. Mary Mercy as a training hospital.



David Mendelson and his mom, Phyllis, dance up a storm at the St. Mary Mercy Hospital's gala.



Bill and Bridget Phillips enjoy the music at St. Mary Mercy Hospital's recent gala.

### KNOW THE SCORE

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



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

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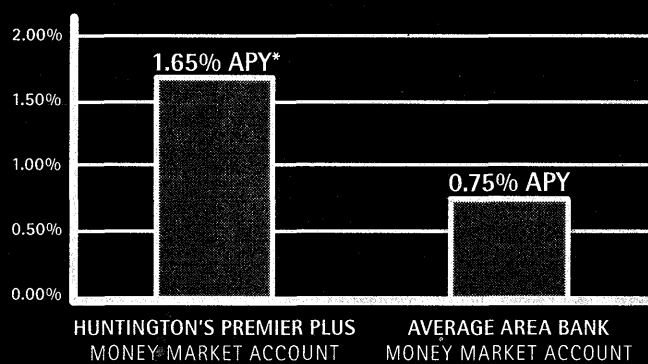
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## A picture is worth a thousand words.



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