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CENTER CLASS OF 2010, A3



PLYMOUTH'S BID
FOR DT CROWN
FALLS SHORT IN
SEMIFINALS, B1



SUMMER SAFETY
OPINION, A8

SCOUT EARNS EAGLE
LOCAL NEWS, A2

THURSDAY
June 24, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 124
Number 89

\$1.00

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

hometownlife .com

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

July 4th fun

Fourth of July is approaching, and with it will come parades, fireworks and family traditions.

We'd like to know how you celebrate our nation's birthday. Maybe your neighborhood runs an annual decorated bike parade. Or you go whole hog to deck the house and garden in red, white and blue. Do you continue a family or personal tradition that day?

Tell us about it. Write to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com or 615 W. Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Include a photo if you like. Make sure it's in jpg format if e-mailing.

We'll share your story with other readers on July 4.

Cheli at Verizon

Former Detroit Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios will meet fans and sign autographs at the Verizon Wireless Canton store tonight (Thursday) from 6-7 p.m.

Chelios is the former All-Star, Stanley Cup champion and captained the U.S. team in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Italy.

The Verizon Wireless Communications Store is located at 41802 Ford Road (next to Chili's Restaurant) in Canton.

Senior grant

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle Foundation, the members of which are local women in the Plymouth and Canton areas.

"Their mission is to help out with unmet needs in the community through grants and other activities," said Bobbie Pummill, the director of the PCCA. "This grant will serve as seed money in the development of chair exercise for senior citizens in the community."

Pummill said the program will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center, and will begin in the fall.

Cruise raffle

The Plymouth Symphony is conducting a raffle June 30 for a cruise on the Celebrity Cruise Lines of the Great Cities of the Western Mediterranean Oct. 30 to Nov. 6.

The raffle includes the cruise for two from Barcelona, Spain, to Nice, France, and Genoa, Florence, Rome and Naples/Capri, Italy, including airfare for two roundtrip from Detroit to Barcelona.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be at the Plymouth Arts Council.

Travel arrangements have been made through Travel Leaders in Plymouth. This cruise package is also available to anyone interested in cruising the Western Mediterranean. Contact Travel Leaders for details, (734) 455-5810.

Contact the Plymouth Symphony office - (734) 451-2112 or online at www.plymouthsymphony.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Board tells legislators: Hands off funding

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While passing their 2010-11 budget, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education trustees had a message for Lansing:

Hands off.
The board Tuesday passed its \$152 million budget, though rumors continue to swirl both about the possibility of legislators dipping into the school aid fund to solve general fund problems and about the possibility better-than-expected revenues would eliminate the need for an anticipated \$268 cut in per-pupil foundation allowances.

Plymouth-Canton's budget, which includes a projected \$4 million deficit that would be offset by the district's fund balance, was arrived at through months of budget workshops and, for the first time, citizen input through the use of participatory budget committees.

But, shortly after passing the budget, trustees also passed a resolution calling for Lansing to avoid, at any cost, using education funding to solve the state's other budgetary crises. It's bad enough, trustees said, legislators haven't settled the education funding situation, making it more difficult for local districts to take care of business.

"It's a sad point," board Treasurer Judy Mardigian said. "I think the state owes us a budget that we can plan for."

Administrators were told recently in a memo from the Michigan School Business Officials that "... the need for a 2010-11 Foundation Allowance cut beyond this year's \$165 appears not to be necessary, as well."

But Superintendent Craig Fiegel said he was concerned about the existence of additional revenue and had hoped to have details before Tuesday's meeting.

"It's an election year," Fiegel reminded board members. "I'm concerned (whether) the revenue is there. I'm

concerned about any discussion of the foundation level."

The 2010-11 budget includes a projected 100-student loss, some \$3 million in cuts board members approved after the participatory budget process, and the expected \$268 cut administrators were expecting next year.

Watchpoints in the budget process used by administrators included:

- Staffing — The district should save some \$3.4 million in expenditures with the retirement of 88 top-level teachers.
- Negotiations — Not all of the

Please see **FUNDING, A5**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margaret Dunning fires up the 500 cubic inch V-8 in her 1970s vintage Cadillac Eldorado convertible.

A happy hundred 'Beautiful world' helps Dunning live her life

BY TONY BRUSCATO
CORRESPONDENT



Margaret Dunning, who turns 100 years old on Saturday, said the key to longevity is 'taking advantage of a beautiful world.'

Margaret Dunning is both nervous and excited about turning 100 years old Saturday, and all the hoopla that's being planned to celebrate, mainly at the Plymouth Historical Museum, of which she is the main benefactor.

"I'm getting nervous over it, and I generally don't," said Dunning, who lives in Plymouth, several blocks from the museum located at Main and Church streets. "I think 'What have I done to deserve any of this?' I have enjoyed life and I have enjoyed people and activities very much. I'm really quite excited about seeing people I haven't seen for quite some time."

"Somebody asked me how I got to be so old," added Dunning. "I told them each year you add one and it then stretches out to be 100. I never thought about 100, it was just one of those things."

Nobody would have guessed Dunning would make it to 100 when she was born June 26, 1910 on a farm in Redford — in a home which still stands at the corner of Plymouth and Telegraph roads — to Charles and Bessie (Rattenbury) Dunning. There were complications, and when the doctor asked whether he should save Bessie or

Please see **DUNNING, A5**

YMCA run draws Father's Day crowd

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

More photos of race, events, A9
Results from all the races, B1

When Tom Betts moved from Rhode Island to Wixom, he said goodbye to longtime friend Ken Johnson. They hadn't seen each other in 10 years until Sunday, when the two ran in the Plymouth YMCA's Father's Day Run together.

The 79-year-old Johnson was in town from Warwick, R.I., for his nephew's daughter's wedding Saturday and called up 60-year-old Betts with an idea a few weeks ago.

"We had a family wedding yesterday in Livonia and looked it up on the computer," Johnson said of the 5-kilometer (3.1 miles) race he and his wife, Joan, 67,

ran with Betts.

Johnson was the only participant in the 75- to 99-year-old age group, finishing in 35 minutes, 19 seconds, not far behind Betts' 30:17, but ahead of Joan's 47:53. Johnson and Betts were at the finish line cheering Joan on together as she crossed.

"I wouldn't have (run) if it wasn't for him," Betts said of Johnson. "It was a nice day. It's usually really hot out."

Mike Hatsios also makes a tradition out of the Father's Day Run. He finished the one-mile event in 6:51, good for seventh in his

Please see **RUN, A5**



CHRIS JACKETT

Wixom resident Tom Betts hadn't seen his friends, Joan and Ken Johnson of Warwick, R.I., in 10 years before the three ran the 5K race in the YMCA Father's Day run Sunday in Plymouth.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS	C2	CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2	REAL ESTATE	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C6	HOME & SERVICE	C2	SPORTS	B1
CAREER BUILDER	C4	OBITUARIES	B9	STRICTLY BUSINESS	B5

Plymouth man pleads guilty to indecent exposure

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD
STAFF WRITER

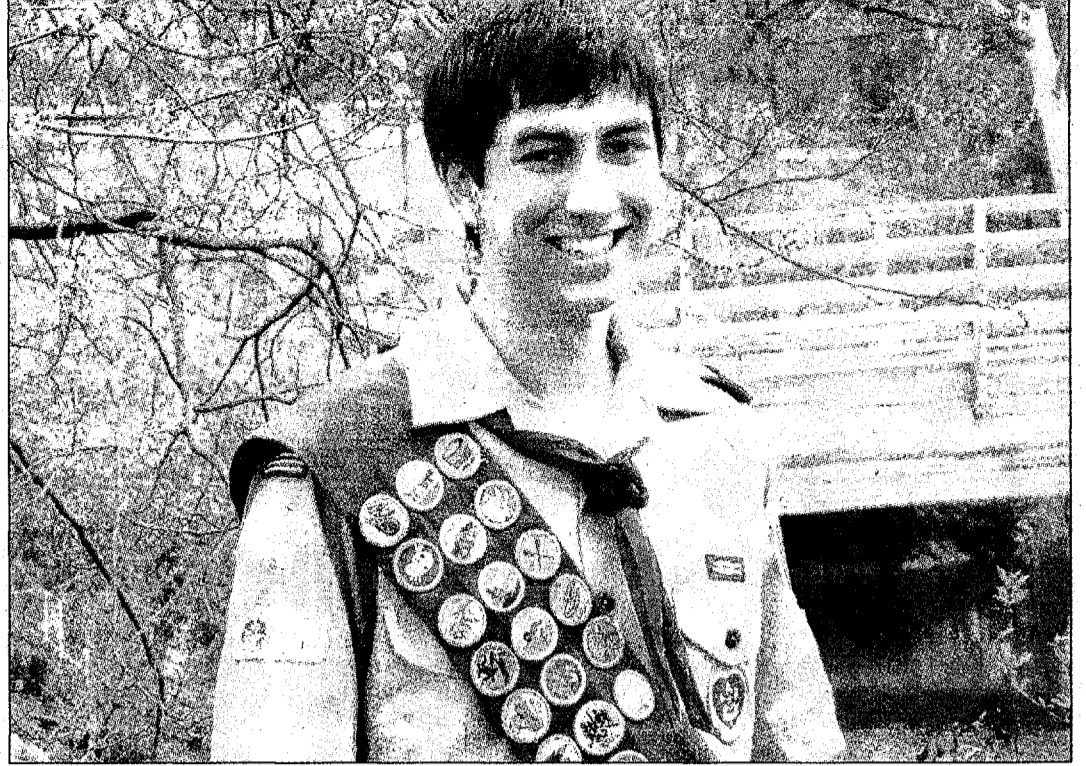
A Plymouth man with a history of exposing himself in public has pleaded guilty to indecent exposure for a June 16 incident in Milford's Central Park. Thomas Henry Werry, 60, entered his pleas June 23 before Judge Dennis Powers of 52-1 District Court in Novi. He is back in the Oakland County Jail unable to post 10 percent of a \$10,000 bond, and is scheduled to be sentenced July 8. Werry faces up to one year in jail and \$1,000 fine for the misdemeanor charge. Werry's court-appointed attorney, Joshua West, requested mental health treatment for his client. "I don't think jail is the best place for him," West said. Powers told Werry he has "a sickness" and was continuing his bond because he

posed a threat to the community. "I'm not satisfied you're going to behave yourself," Powers said. Werry was convicted of indecent exposure in 2007 in Charlevoix County. Police said he also was charged with a sex offense in Birmingham in 1977, which was dismissed. The June 16 incident occurred around 8 p.m. when two teen boys reportedly saw Werry in the park, wearing nothing but shoes and socks. One of the teens saw his genitals, police said. When confronted by the teens, Werry reportedly got dressed and walked a couple blocks north to a church near Detroit and Main streets. When police arrived at the church and spoke to Werry, he reportedly said he had taken off his clothes in the park because he wasn't feeling well and was trying to defecate near the dumpsters, police said.

Eagle rank proud moment for Scout, family

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gregory Mogos of Plymouth Township is glad he completed his Eagle Scout project. Mogos, 18, is a recent Plymouth Canton High School graduate. Mogos, son of Denise Mogos of Plymouth Township and the late Vincent Mogos, did a cleanup project at Nankin Mills with other Scouts. "It was tough, but I guess in a sense people make it seem harder than it really was. It definitely takes an effort," he said of the Eagle award, the highest honor in Boy Scouting. Now that high school's through, he'll attend Schoolcraft College, and is considering careers as an EMT, nurse, physician's assistant or medical doctor. "Lots of organizational and leadership skills. Definitely writing and presentation of a large project," he said of what he learned from his Eagle project. "I think this is a little more in-depth" than a school project.



Recent Plymouth Canton High School graduate Gregory Mogos is an Eagle Scout and Plymouth Township resident.

"Anybody could set out to do it," the Eagle Scout said. "It's a challenge, but it's worth doing." Gregory Vincent Mogos,

also the stepson of Bill Semion, received his Eagle Scout Badge on Sunday, May 2, at the Friendship Station in Plymouth Township. Mogos is a member of the Great Lakes Council Troop P-6 in Plymouth Township. He has been involved in Scouting since he became a Tiger Cub in the first grade. He advanced through the ranks as a Cub Scout, and became a Boy Scout in 2003. Since that time, he earned the 27 merit badges, including those required to become an Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project involved removing invasive species from a Grow Zone (natural area) and removing and reconstructing more than 200 feet of split rail fence bordering the Grow Zone at Nankin Mills Nature Center

in Westland, a Wayne County Park. Twenty-two people participated with a combined total of 125 hours to complete the project. Denise and Bill Semion are proud of his work with Scouts and elsewhere. "I'm very proud of him. It's very gratifying to watch your son take the steps in leading the kind of project. He's always enjoyed Scouting," Denise Semion said. He likes the camaraderie and developing leadership skills. Greg Mogos, who has an older brother, works at Home Depot. His mom noted only 2 percent of boys who enter Scouting attain the Eagle rank. "You've got to celebrate your kid's successes," she added. jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

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CORRECTION
A story in the Sunday, June 20, *Plymouth Observer* about the Music in the Park series, the concert series hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council aimed at children's audiences, should have said the Wilcox Foundation is the series' major sponsor.

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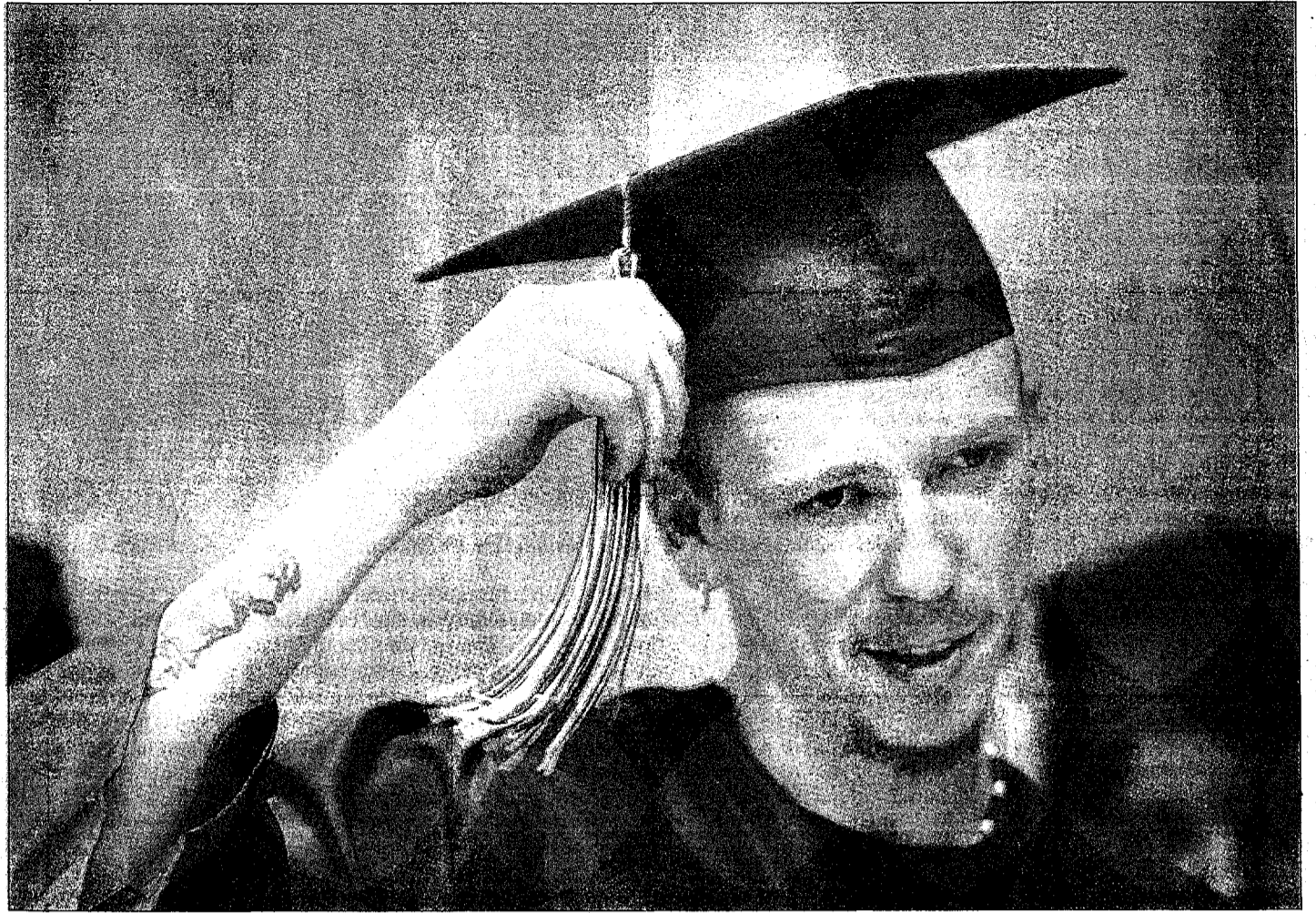
Taking the next step

Here are the 2010 graduates from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Starkweather Education Center:

Khalid Abdullah
 Marc Vincent Ajrouche
 Syed Shehryar Ali
 David William Anderson
 Nicholas Patrick Austin
 Steven Gottfried Bates
 Meghann Leigh Beaver
 Courtney Elizabeth Bevil
 Scott Alan Bidwell
 Tyler Gregory Bourcier
 Dan Larkin Bozeman II
 Kristyn Irene Brennan
 Morgan E Brown
 Michael Karl Carroll
 Andrew Michael Collins
 Kathleen Marie Cook
 Joshua Matthew Cushman
 Samantha Christine Daniels
 Doris Edzila Dogbatse

Jonathan Donald Eldred
 Natalie Marie Esser
 Michael Joshua Farley
 Ashley Diane Farrell
 Chelsey May Goodes
 Nicholas David Gordon
 Jasmine Grady
 Jessica Jeanne Guinn
 Lisa Zahi Haddad
 Zackaria Omar Hamed
 Brandon Michael Hendrick
 Heather N Hill
 Michael Levi Hobson
 Lisa Marie Howard
 Travis Ryan Jones
 Stephanie Catherine Jones
 Theodhora Kana
 Joseph Easa Kasseees
 Scott Patrick Kelly
 Mohammed Ibrahim Kobeissi
 Lexus Marie McKee
 Nicholas Anthony Morales
 DeMarcyon Timothy Palmer
 Melissa Lauren Pond

Holly Renee Poteracki
 Aaron Daniel Puschell
 Andrew John Puschell
 Ashley Marie Quick
 Eric Joseph Schenk
 Devin Matthew Schiller
 Carl David Schultz
 Gregory James Shrader
 Laine Christopher Simons
 Aaron J Sniatacz
 Bryony Spigarelli
 Dalton James Stamper
 Andrew William Starling
 Kevin Dale Sterling
 Nicholas John Stock II
 Cara Autumn Tatarelli
 Jamescia Devon Taylor
 Stephanie Lynn Umfleet
 Emily Nicholle Vlisides
 Muneeb Ahmed Wains-Malik
 Martez Maurice Walker
 Xavier David White
 Dakarai Denziah Williams

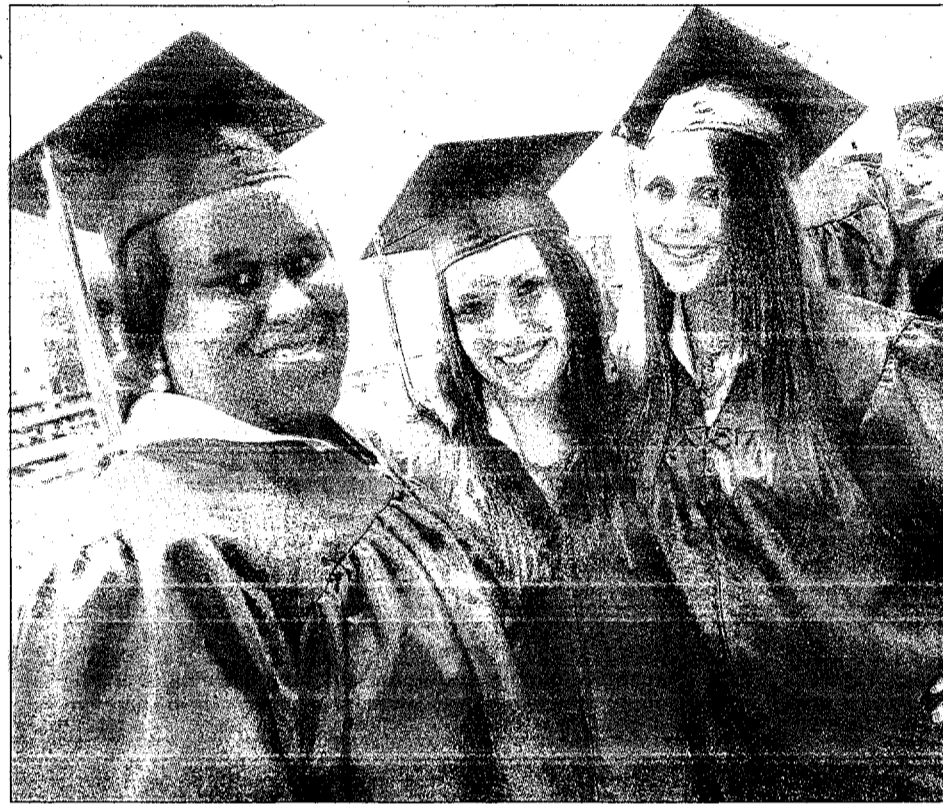


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Hendrick waits for the procession to begin. He was one of four student speakers at the ceremony.



Dalton Stamper has a big hug for his mom, Tina Stamper.



Starkweather Education Center graduates Morgan Brown, Allicia Burrone and Erica Cagle.



Starkweather Education Center coordinator Kevin Lane welcomes the crowd.

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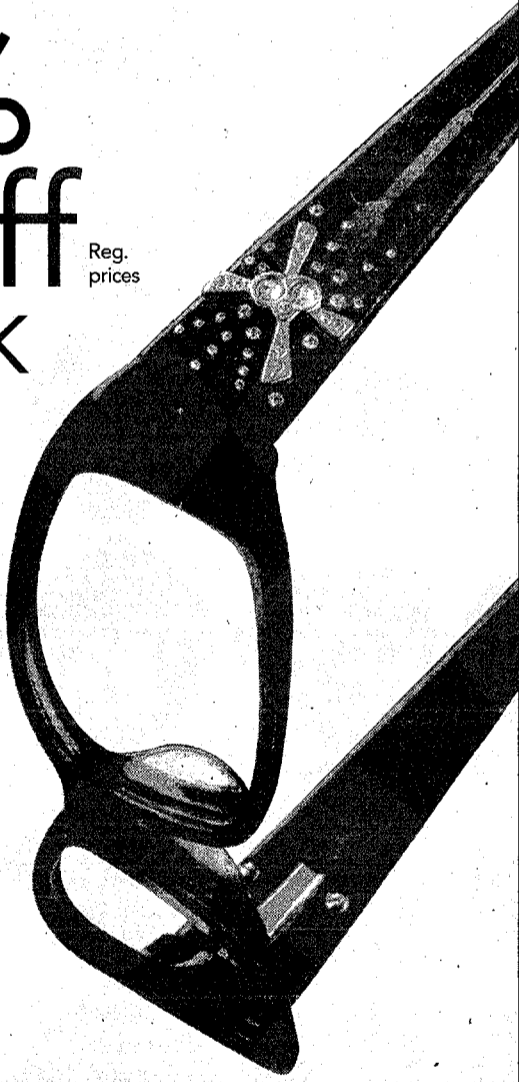
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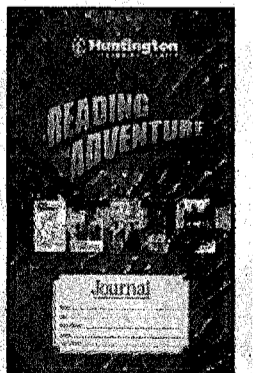
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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkdrich@hometownlife.com

Citizens meet

The Concerned Citizens Committee meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 29, in the Friends Room at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

Discussion will be conducted on issues pertinent to Plymouth Township government. Organizers said the group's main objective is "to encourage citizens to take an interest in local issues."

Mortgage workshop

Homeowners who are at risk or may soon be at risk of losing their homes will have a helping hand to reach for, courtesy of a workshop being held in Plymouth and hosted by Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia).

The Mortgage Crisis Workshop will be held 6-8 p.m. Monday, June 28, at the Plymouth District Library, located at 223 S. Main Street in Plymouth. Counselors will be present to address questions regarding foreclosure and to inform homeowners who have fallen behind in their payments how they can get help.

Cox said a PowerPoint presentation will also be made to further inform workshop attendees of their options.

For more information about the Mortgage Crisis Workshop, call (313) 224-0946 or go to www.FightMortgageForeclosure.com.

Pottery painting

New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with the Plymouth Community United Way, is offering an evening at Creatopia in downtown Plymouth July 27.

This event is for parents with children who are interested in painting a pottery piece in memory of someone who has died. Dinner will be at Subway (next to Creatopia) starting at 6:15 p.m. After some brief instructions, painting will begin at 7 p.m. and will conclude at 8:30.

The event is free, but space

is limited. Call New Hope at (248) 348-0115 to register.

Sports sale

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department hosts a buy-or-sell All Sports Equipment Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Anyone with new or gently used sporting equipment they'd like to get rid of is welcome to participate. Admission is free. Rental fee for a 10x10 space is \$20.

To reserve your space or for more information contact Michelle or Kim at (734) 455-6620.

Backyard decathlon

Sun and Snow Sports sponsors a Backyard Decathlon to benefit the Miracle League of Plymouth 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26 in Kellogg Park.

Games will include Bocce Ball, Corn Hole, Badminton, Washers, Ladder Ball, Disc Golf Putt Challenge, Lawn Darts, Putting Green Challenge and Horseshoes. Prizes will be awarded. Check in at Sun & Snow Sports, 388 S. Main, to obtain a wristband. Proceeds from the events, as well as 5 percent of the in-store sales that day, will go to Miracle League of Plymouth.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (donations for MLP will also be accepted).

For more information, contact Debra Madonna, Miracle League of Plymouth, (734) 377-0914 or debra@miracleleagueplymouth.org or Alex Parent at Sun & Snow Sports, (734) 927-0007.

Toastmasters open house

Motor City Speakeasy of Plymouth presents an open house Monday, June 28, at the Plymouth District Library.

Toastmasters will greet guests from 6:30-7 p.m., and the meeting runs 7-8 p.m. Admission is free, and organizers said the meeting is geared toward anyone interested in improving verbal skills, gaining leadership skills or who is curious about Toastmasters.

Featured speaker will be



Graduating class

Fifteen students from Dearborn Heights Montessori Center's eighth-grade class were recently honored during the school's 21st graduating class ceremonies. Twelve of the students attended DHMC for more than 10 years, beginning with the preschool program. "We are confident that our graduates will make an excellent transition to their high schools of choice," said Kay Neff, head of school. "We are privileged to have a diverse population of students, which is represented by the schools they plan to attend." Graduates will attend high schools throughout the metropolitan Detroit area, including Academy of the Sacred Heart, Cabrini, Catholic Central, Clarenceville, Dearborn, Divine Child, Mercy, Plymouth-Canton, and University of Detroit Jesuit.

Sheryl Kubiak, first-place winner in Toastmasters District 28 Humorous Speech Contest.

For more information, contact Maggie Staples, (586) 201-5117 or e-mail mstaple3@msn.com

Garden walk

The 15th annual "Flowers are Forever" garden walk in Plymouth takes place Tuesday, June 29, from noon until 8 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are: pre-sale, \$8; and \$10 on the day of the walk. Tickets for children 12 and under are half-price; there is no charge for babes in arms. Strollers are not permitted.

The Trailwood Garden Club, a branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, is the sponsor. Tickets are available from Garden Club members, Backyard Birds on Main Street and Saxton's Garden Center on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. The ticket includes descriptions of the seven gardens as well as a map to the gardens. Tickets will be available after June 1.

The gardens have a variety of features as well as

many ideas that can be adapted to your own garden. Complimentary refreshments, raffle and perennial sale will be at one of the gardens.

Trailwood Garden Club's projects include: plantings in downtown Plymouth, at the new Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park, and at the Plymouth Township offices; plantings and bird-feeder at the Medilodge of Plymouth nursing facility; Plymouth Fall Festival Perennial Exchange; Christmas decorations at the Plymouth Historical Museum; Michigan 4-H; Detroit Agricultural Network; and other related activities.

For additional information, please contact Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

Host families

AYUSA International is a non-profit high school foreign exchange student organization which welcome teenagers from more than 65 countries worldwide and provides a host family placement and ongoing supervision for 5- and 10-month academic programs.

These young people look forward to a warm bond of friendship with host families and a

rewarding cultural exchange. Host families are asked to provide meals and a bedroom either shared or private. Students pay for all other personal expenses while in the U.S.

For more information, call Sue McGrath, (313) 278-8424.

Grief workshop

Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a one-day grief seminar, "From Grief to New Hope," Saturday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The workshop will be presented by Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. All adults who are learning to cope after the death of a loved one are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the seminar. Ward Church is located in Northville at 6 Mile and Haggerty Roads. Registration is not necessary, but if further information is needed call Barb Brace at Ward Church at (248) 374-5943.

For information about New Hope Center for Grief Support's other age and loss specific groups call (248) 348-0115.

Class reunion

The Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem Class of 1990 hosts its 20-year reunion Saturday, July 17.

For more information, e-mail pcpsclassof1990reunion@gmail.com

Summer of Service

The YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps Program will once again be supported by the Wilcox Foundation. The YVC Summer of Service program is made possible through the support of the Wilcox Foundation.

The Summer of Service program includes eight one-week sessions that provide participants with an extensive service-learning experience as well as having some fun. "Our goal is to help every participant understand and believe in the difference their service can make in their community, and the difference it can make within them," explained Plymouth YMCA Community Program Director Jenny Paffi. "In addition to gaining community service hours, participants interact with a diverse group of individuals as well as learn more about themselves and their community."

"Jack Wilcox supported the Plymouth YMCA and its objective of teaching young people the importance of their leadership and involvement in guaranteeing a successful future for the Plymouth community," explained Wilcox Foundation committee member Dan Herriman.

For more information about how to become involved with the program as a participant or an agency, please contact Heather Jones at the YMCA office, 734-453-2904 or hjones@ymcamedetroit.org.

Call for crafters

The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried handmade-only Craft Show on Saturday Oct. 15, at West Middle School in Plymouth from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event draws some 1,500 customers and features food and drawings.

For information on how to take part, call or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE 716@comcast.net or Alice Chrenko, (248) 348-5561 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

New Morning camp

New Morning School offers summer camps for children ages 3-11. Science themes include beginning and advanced Lego NXT Robotics and K'Nex, Disaster Science, and Sports Science. Discovery Days classes for the preschool set include Castles and Dragons, Construction Zone, Firefighters, and Outer Space.

For dates, times, and registration information, download the school's brochure at www.newmorningschool.com/summercamps.htm or call (734) 420-3331.

Spanish camp

Students in preschool through fifth grade are invited to join Bilingual Fun for a week long day camp 9 a.m. to noon July 26-30 at Praise Baptist Church.

Children will learn Spanish through thematic activities, music, movement, hands on activities, cultural crafts, outdoor play, and the week ends with a Fiesta! Registration is now open.

Contact Bilingual Fun at info@bilingualfun.com or (877) 686-7399 for more information.

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DUNNING

FROM PAGE A1

the baby, Charles said to save his wife. Margaret was delivered and not given a very good chance to live. Not only did she survive, but is celebrating the century mark Saturday while looking 20 years younger.

"Secrets?" quizzed Dunning when asked if there were any for making it to 100. "There's a beautiful world, so take advantage of it ... of all the beautiful people and the inventions and things. Enjoy them and participate in them."

Dunning certainly takes her own advice. She still likes traveling, especially to Europe on river cruises, as well as trips with the many car clubs to which she belongs. In fact, Dunning still has several classic cars stored in her garage, which she calls her Gasoline Alley. And, she loves to talk cars.

"I love carburetors, but now there aren't any more," said Dunning, who tinkered with machinery on the farm. "I love to take them apart and put them together."

It's still not unusual for Dunning to be in the garage, washing her vehicles or looking under the engine of her 1930 Packard, which she calls "my love and joy"; the 1931 Model A Ford pickup; the 1966 Cadillac Seville which she believes is her "best rider, just like being in a rocking chair"; the 1975 Eldorado and her "regular" driving car, a 2003 Cadillac.

"The Packard has a four-speed transmission, and you hit that into third gear and it revs and revs and revs," said Dunning. "It's absolutely thrilling."

Anyone who has driven with Dunning — and she'll admit it



Margaret Dunning as a World War II-era American Red Cross worker.

— knows she has a lead foot. She also drives one of her cars in the Woodward Cruise each August.

"I'll have to tell you I'm very glad I don't think I'll have to buy a new car," Dunning said. "I'm afraid I can't quite trade the internal combustion engine for electric. I know electric is as smooth as can be, it's terrific. I will take awhile to digest that."

While Dunning loves the automobile and most of the inventions that have transpired over her 100 years, she's not in favor of everything that's new.

"I don't have a computer," she said. "I use them for business, but I still use pencil and paper. And, I will not e-mail. I am not going to answer a bunch of silly e-mails. They can call me on the telephone and get a short answer."

When Dunning's father died in 1923 at the age of 57, she and her mother moved to a home in Redford and then, a few years later, to Plymouth. Dunning still resides in the house on Penniman, which her mother built.

After attending a private school in Massachusetts, Dunning returned to

BIRTHDAY BASH

Here's how Plymouth is celebrating the 100th birthday of philanthropist Margaret Dunning:

- On Saturday, Dunning's birthday, well-wishers will line the streets between her house and the museum to greet her just before noon.

- Tributes led by master of ceremonies Roger Weber, WDIV reporter

- The formal opening of the new Plymouth Historical Museum exhibit, "Margaret's 1910." The celebration and museum open house will last until 4 p.m.

- A classic car show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, on Church Street between Main and Union. The show, before and during the celebration at the museum, will feature cars from car clubs with which Dunning has been associated.

- The continuation of the celebration and exhibit museum open house, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 27. The folk and gospel group Four-Hearted River will perform, and refreshments will be available.

- Dunning will be the grand marshal for Plymouth's Good Morning U.S.A. Fourth of July Parade, Sunday, July 4, and will drive her 1931 Ford pickup truck in it.

Plymouth in 1927 and graduated from the old Plymouth High School (currently Central Middle School) in 1929. She attended the University of Michigan for two years and then studied at the Hamilton Business School in Ypsilanti.

In the early 1930s, Dunning worked at the Phoenix Mill Ford Plant in Plymouth that employed only women. She worked as a bank teller and

assistant cashier for the First National Bank of Plymouth and later at the Plymouth United Savings Bank.

In 1947, Dunning purchased Goldstein's Apparel on Main Street and renamed the store Dunning's. She sold it 20 years later.

Dunning is probably best known by many as the philanthropist who helped the Plymouth Historical Society build its permanent home. In 1971, when they were looking for money to build a new museum, Dunning donated more than \$100,000 that resulted in the 15,000-square-foot building at Main and Church streets.

When the Plymouth Historical Society wanted to expand, Dunning again stepped forward with a \$1 million donation to construct an additional 9,500 square feet.

Dunning, who was also instrumental in building the Dunning-Hough Library less than a block away, is a permanent member of the Historical Society's Board of Directors.

"I'm very proud of the museum," said Dunning. "I can provide the brick and mortar, but the rest had to come together. We have so much talent in this town ... it amazes me the new things they've come up with these exhibits. They do a great job."

Sanford Burr, 84, is a past president of the Historical Society and still a board member. His father was president when the museum was dedicated.

"She loves that museum, that's her baby," Burr said of Dunning. "Margaret has been a very good friend, I hold her friendship as one of the finest things that has happened to me. She's as sharp as a tack, I can't believe she's 100. I think she'll outlive all of us."

FUNDING

FROM PAGE A1

district's bargaining units (notably the teachers) have settled contracts. Contract settlements would have to be added to the expenditures, including some \$2.7 million in step increases that may have to be included.

- Health care costs — Reports received by the district indicate costs will rise at rates varying from 5.8 percent (vision) to 10.9 percent (prescription drugs).

If the state leaves the \$268 in the foundation allowance, that would mean a \$5 million

RUN

FROM PAGE A1

age group; wife Beth finished 21st of 41 women in the 35-39 age group, running it in 31:55.

"We've been doing this every year for 10-12 years," the 40-year-old Plymouth resident said. "It's just great family fun time for us. The atmosphere — it's a lot of fun. People don't take it too seriously. I think it'll be fun to watch the kids run."

After his son, Nicholas, 6, ran the Junior Jog and Christopher, 3, ran the Tot Trot, they stuffed their faces with white powdered doughnuts provided by one of the race's several sponsors.

"I think I might do the mile next year," said Nicholas, who has ran in the Junior Jog twice and Tot Trot once, all since his dad transitioned from participating in the 5K to the one-mile race.

increase to the 19,000-student district.

Board President Steven Sneiderman praised his fellow board members and the citizens who took part in the participatory budget process.

"We worked-hard to get this budget, and I'm comfortable with it," Sneiderman said. "I want to thank (board members), and especially the citizens, for their hard work."

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Friday, June 25 in Kellogg Park...Steve Moaklar & Parker Welling (country/pop)

STEVE MOAKLAR

"You're sweet, like I can't deny." These are the opening lyrics of Steve Moaklar's first full-length album, "All The Faint Lights." The same words can be spoken about the music that this Pittsburgh native has been making for the past five years. Having previously released two EPs — "The Weight of Words" (2007) and "Like I Mean It" (2008), Moaklar has proved himself to be a master pop craftsman with anything but faint lights in his future.

His music features sweet melodies and moving narratives that stick in the listener's head like happy memories. His songs have a maturity listeners wouldn't expect from a young twenty-something who is among a new generation of pop-rock songwriters who call Nashville home.

Moaklar has evolved as a performer from his days as an early teen in his first band to his time as a young adult stepping into a solo career. Whether he's playing at a large venue in front of hundreds of people or at a coffee shop with a handful of people, attendees can expect a well-rehearsed, passionate performance. His sincere lyrics sung over his catchy, mellifluous melodies, coupled with his down-to-earth qualities and apparent disregard for his undeniable talent, has listeners not only finding music that they both enjoy and can relate to, but also finding a friend. Find out more at: <http://www.myspace.com/stevemoaklar#ixzz0rb443w00>

PARKER WELLING

Parker Welling is a talented and charismatic artist who has generated her very own, unique brand of country music. A songwriter by nature, she has been consistently writing songs since the age of 10 and has a large catalogue of hundreds of original songs.

She has been taking her music to the stage since she was 15 years old. Her distinct voice sets her apart from other country entertainers. Her individual style of songwriting has been influenced by such artists as Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Melissa Etheridge, Jewel, as well as many other acts. Although she is a Nashville native, Parker spent the early years of her career as one of Canton's best-kept secrets.

Despite her young age, audiences of all ages and musical tastes find it easy to relate to this out-of-the-box singer/songwriter. Her one-of-a-kind vocal quality and unique sound quickly made her a favorite, packing out everything from coffee shops to large venues in the local indie scene where "emo" and rock bands once ruled.

Save the Date For These Future Friday Performances of Plymouth Music in the Air:

- July 2 Steve King & the Ditties (rock & roll)
- July 16 The Crutches (alternative)
- July 23 Gia Warner (pop/rock/R&B)
- July 30 Trilogy (variety)
- Aug. 6 Shawn Riley Band (Irish/Celtic)
- Aug. 13 Randy Brock (country)
- Aug. 20 Bluescasters (blues)
- Aug. 27 Mass Transit Band (country)
- Sept. 3 Lady Sunshine & the X Band (R&B)

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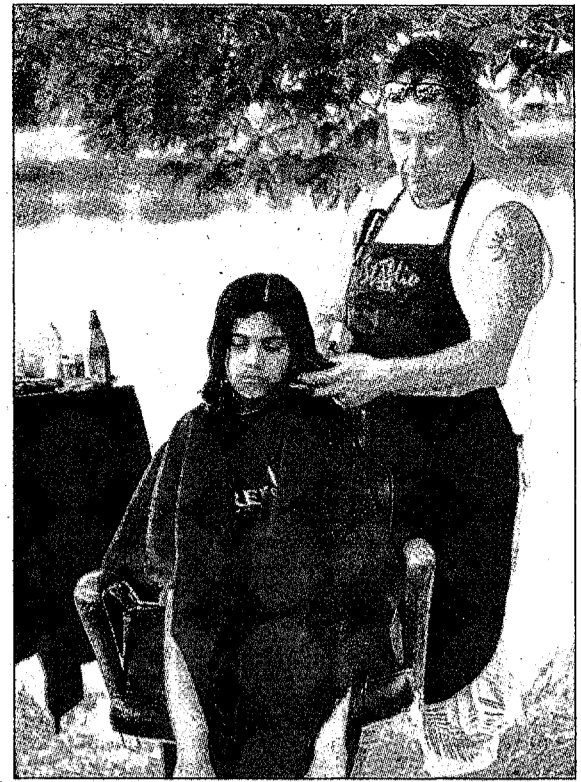
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The Tabasco Cats were playing one of the many stages as clouds rolled in Friday night during the 2010 Canton Liberty Festival.



ANN ESPINOZA

Varsha Ganapathy of Canton gets a haircut from Don Detrow from Studio One hair salon on Ford Road during the 2010 Canton Liberty Festival. Studio One was cutting hair to benefit the Canton Goodfellows.

Storm can't dampen success of Canton's Liberty Fest

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Huge crowds watched dazzling fireworks erupt Saturday night over Heritage Park, capping a three-day Liberty Fest that hit just one serious snag when Friday evening storms forced organizers to shut down early, cancel an outdoor movie and hasten rock band The Verve Pipe's stage exit.



Aunt Emilie Frisk with Nolan and Katelyn Spray were among the huge crowd on hand for the parade.

"We got all the people out of the park safely, which is the most important thing," Sean Fletcher, Canton recreation and facilities supervisor, said.

What a difference a day makes.

Saturday morning ushered in a picturesque day as parade lovers lined Ford Road to watch clowns, scouting troops, the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, pom pon squads, karate kids, public safety officers, a princess and politicians — some 100 groups in all — celebrate Liberty Fest.

"The weather was just spectacular," Fletcher said. "It couldn't have been better."

Though crowd estimates are difficult at best to pinpoint, local



Lunch was on the menu for Katie Xu, with her friend Tiffany Tsou, Saturday during the Liberty Fest.

officials guessed that as many as 50,000 people attended the 19th annual Liberty Fest, scarfing down food, climbing aboard carnival rides, enjoying international dance performances, cheering rock bands and applauding a new cricket field in Heritage Park.

Despite large crowds and traffic snarls, especially along construction-plagued Canton Center Road near Heritage Park, township police reported no serious incidents or overly rowdy behavior.

"It looks like everything went fantastic," Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek said. "We couldn't ask for anything better."

Parents pushed babies in strollers and, in some cases, rode with their children on bicycles built for two. People visiting local relatives came from states as far away as Texas, if not farther, and gave Canton's foremost summer event an enthusiastic thumbs up.

"It's really nice," said Romulus resident Courtney Chaney, who works in Canton.

Even the festival traffic flowed a little more smoothly than some officials had expected. And while a few children got separated from their parents in Heritage Park, Fletcher said Liberty Fest organizers worked quickly to reunite them.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy lauded Canton Leisure Services employees and festival volunteers for pulling off a successful event.

"I thought it went great," he said. "Just seeing the smiling faces of all the people — and the thousands of people in the park — I just think it was a good time had by all. I think people look forward to it every year, and it's just very well-attended. And, it shows the diversity of our community."



Ethan and Kayleigh Childress of Northville enjoy the spaghetti dinner, which benefitted the Canton Firefighter Charity Foundation.

ANN ESPINOZA



Boy Scouts traveled the parade route bearing the American flag during Saturday's Canton Liberty Festival parade.



Jeremy Adkins and sister Heather on the Spider, one of some two dozen rides featured in an expanded carnival at the 2010 Canton Liberty Festival.

MILITARY NEWS

Michigan Army National Guard

Dennis Fletcher of Plymouth has joined the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Michigan Army National Guard and is assigned as an Infantryman.

He is a 2008 Canton High School graduate. He is currently attending Michigan State University where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He attended basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., in May. Upon completion, Rose will remain at Fort Benning to be trained as an infantryman and is scheduled to graduate in August.

He is the son of Dennis and Martha Rose of Plymouth.

ROTC scholar

Matthew J. Wetzel has been awarded an Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend a host college or university. High school seniors from across the United States are selected after a competitive application process based on comprehensive tests scores, scholastic

achievement, school officials' evaluations, extra-curricular activities, and community involvement.

The majority of scholarships cover full college tuition, provide a textbook allowance and pay most laboratory or incidental fees. The scholarship program also pays a \$350 tax-free monthly allowance to each student during the academic year, which increases to \$500 by his or her senior year. The value of a scholarship may exceed \$100,000, depending on the student's choice of school and the type of scholarship offered.

Upon graduating from college and completing the ROTC program, the cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Air Force. The new lieutenants select and enter various career fields to train as pilots, navigators, engineers, medical, personnel, business management fields, and special operations.

He is the son of Robert and Karen Wetzel of Fleming Island, Fla., and grandson of Gene and Cathy Wetzel of Twinsburg, Ohio. His grandparents, Jim and Jan Bailey, reside in Canton.

Saving for college expenses should start early

It seems that all the financial news of late has been bad. However, there is some good news about tuition at a variety of Michigan universities.

College tuition over the last decade has skyrocketed. For example, since 2001, tuition at Central Michigan has increased 139 percent, Eastern Michigan 90 percent and the University of Michigan 68 percent.

That is why it is good news when Michigan universities are finally paying attention to the cost of tuition and implementing a variety of cost cutting measures.

Three of Michigan's largest universities have bucked the recent trend when it comes to tuition increases. Eastern announced a tuition freeze. The U-M at Ann Arbor announced its smallest tuition increase in 26 years of 1.5

percent, and Michigan State University which had previously announced a 4.9 percent increase reduced that to 2.5 percent. For students at these universities, lower tuition costs for the upcoming school year is good news.

Unfortunately, the good news isn't universal throughout Michigan because universities such as Michigan Tech and Saginaw Valley have announced nearly 6 percent increases in tuition. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that U-M, MSU or Eastern won't have hefty increases next year.

When I went to college, (MSU undergrad and U-M Law School) tuition was relatively inexpensive. Today, that is no longer the case. An incoming freshman at U-M will pay nearly \$12,000 per year in tuition while a typical student at MSU will pay a little over \$11,000.

College tuition is expensive and obtaining a college education is more important than ever. Rest assured that tuition cost will rise at greater rates in the future, so there is no time

like today to think about saving for a loved ones college education.

It has never been easier to save for a child's education, particularly here in Michigan which has two college savings programs — the Michigan Education Trust and the Michigan Education Savings Plan.

The plans are different but they both offer a wide variety of benefits and they are not mutually exclusive.

The MET is a pre-paid tuition program. You can buy a semester, a year or even a full four-year undergrad education.

The MESP is an investment program and the money grows on a tax-free basis. When money is withdrawn and used for a qualified education expense (such as room and board, books and required fees) there are no tax consequences. The beauty of the

MESP is that the money can basically be used for any public or private institution in the country.

In addition, one of the nice things about the MESP is it only has a \$25 minimum.

There is no doubt that MSU, EMU and the U-M did students a favor with regards to tuition increases. Hopefully, this won't just be a one-year occurrence and, moving forward universities will be much more fiscally responsible.

However, college costs will continue to rise and the best way to save for a college education is to start as soon as you can and do it on a regular basis. Good luck!

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



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OUR VIEWS

Safety first

Make it a fun and safe summer

For many Americans, summer means fun in the sun. The kids are out of school, and it's time for outdoor activities like riding bikes and swimming. But, it's the time of year children — and adults — are most likely to be injured.

Injuries can happen in a blink of an eye, and there are plenty of things out there to cause them. From bicycles, skateboards, inline skates and swimming pools to the sun, parents need to be vigilant to keep their children safe.

Parents may think they have everything under control, but the American Academy of Pediatrics has a few suggestions on how to make this summer safe for kids. We believe they're worth sharing with our readers. The last thing we want to do this summer is write stories about injuries and even deaths that could have been prevented by following a few common sense safety tips.

At the top of the AAP list is sunburn. A suntan may look cool, but a sunburn is bad news. The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up, wearing a hat, sunglasses and cotton clothing with a tight weave.

Playgrounds are a great place to while away the hours on a lazy summer afternoon, but they also pose hazards for children. The AAP recommends that parents supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

The AAP says parents should have their children stay in the shade and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours — between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. And on both sunny and cloudy days use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater that protects against UVB and UVA rays. Apply enough and reapply every two hours or after swimming.

When it comes to the backyard swimming pool, it's a no-brainer to never leave children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment. Adult supervision is the key. Use layers of protection to prevent a swimming pool tragedy. That includes placing barriers completely around the pool to prevent access, closely supervising children and being prepared in case of an emergency.

Don't use inflatable swimming aids, such as "floaties," as a substitute for approved life vests. They can give children a false sense of security. Better yet, teach your children how to swim. However, the AAP cautions that parents shouldn't view swimming lessons as "drown proofing" a child of any age.

Playgrounds are a great place to while away the hours on a lazy summer afternoon, but they also pose hazards for children. The AAP recommends that parents supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

Check to see if the equipment is well-maintained. Open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends can be hazardous and moving parts can pinch or trap any body part. Make sure metal slides are cool to prevent children's legs from getting burned. And don't allow children to play barefoot on the playground. Also make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60 percent of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical.

Kids also are out in droves on their bicycles, skates and skateboards. One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding, and when riding scooters and all-terrain vehicles.

According to the AAP, children need to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many accidents happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. A helmet protects your child from serious injury, and should always be worn. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

And even if they roll their eyes or moan and groan, talk to them about safety — the need to look both ways when crossing a street and not darting out from between parked cars.

AAP's last recommendation has nothing to do with fun in the sun, but it's well worth mentioning. Every year, children are injured or killed as the result of lawn mower accidents. It may seem like a fun thing to do, children should not ride as passengers on ride-on lawn mowers. The chance of a small child falling off and falling under the machine far outweighs the good time you might be having. A lawn mower is meant to cut grass. If you want to take a child for a ride, do it on an ATV.

If you think it's time for your children are ready to start helping with the outdoor chores, take into consideration their age. The AAP says children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers. And make note of the footwear — sturdy shoes, not sandals, are recommended.

We urge our readers to take a long, hard look at keeping their children safe this summer. An ounce of prevention does matter. What you do now can mean the difference between a good day of fun in the sun and tragedy.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you plan on attending Plymouth's Fourth of July parade even though it starts at 7:30 a.m.?

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



"I'll be up at 4 o'clock for it. Be down there working on the stage area. It's kind of like Christmas morning. The choreography is done, now it's time to see if the spectators approve."

Fred Hill
Plymouth
parade organizer



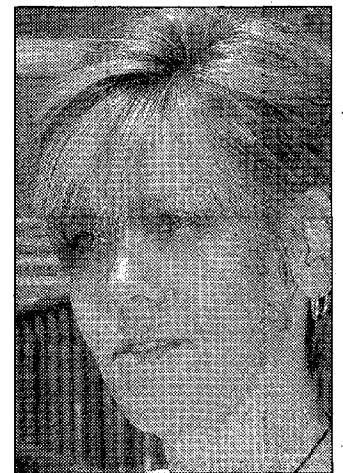
"I am from around here. I haven't been to it, though. Too early."

Haley Swart
Canton Township



"Probably not, no. I'm not from around here."

Chris Cavanaugh
Redford Township



"Yes. This will actually be my first. Just moved to Plymouth this year and have just found most of the activities here incredibly fun."

Kellie Collins
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Lions pride

This past Memorial Day, our Community was very lucky. It had a parade of adults and kids, organizations and individuals. All for the purpose of honoring our veterans and the sacrifices they made for our country. Not many communities do that anymore.

The Plymouth Lions Club is extremely proud to have been a part of making that happen. We wish to thank the Plymouth VFW, Plymouth Vietnam Veterans, American Legion Posts 112 and 391 for organizing the parade and ceremony. A huge thanks also, to Past Post Commander and Lion Steve Monaghan for being Master of Ceremonies.

Finally, our Lions Club would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their monetary donations that made the parade and ceremony possible: American Legion Post 112, Plymouth IOOF, Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, Plymouth Knights of Columbus, International Minute Press, John Lacney, Phil Pursell, Richard Reaume, Paul Sincok, Ken Caporale, the Sabatinis, Sharon Jordan-Crowley and others who wish to remain anonymous.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

We thank you all so much and God bless you for your support.

Douglas Hincker
Ken Caporale
Plymouth Lions Club

Obama the dreamer

President Obama is a dreamer. His solutions for the oil spill include collecting from BP for the damaged economy. Examples offered were: fishermen for shrimp not caught; hotels for vacationers not checked in; and restaurants for meals not served. BP will be bankrupt before their engineers are paid!

He claims to have been on top of the disaster from day one, but he rejected the Dutch offer of assistance. Shutting down successful drilling operations kills jobs and the economy. He should make drilling easier in order to avoid going beyond our 12-mile territorial waters. International seas at 5,000 foot depths are legal but dangerous.

His solution to break the oil habit will put the country back on its feet. Henry Ford eliminated walking and horse-drawn vehicles — and we are not prepared to return. The environmentalist theory is currently a dream. President Obama should wake up!

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Next governor must set a vision, lead

It's the vision, stupid.

Former President Bill Clinton made famous the phrase, "It's the economy, stupid," during his successful 1992 presidential campaign against George H.W. Bush.

With Michigan leading the pack in unemployment throughout the nation, not only have we lost nearly a million high paying, middle-class jobs the last decade, but home foreclosures have ruined lives and neighborhoods even as the stock market behaves like a roller coaster.

While it seems tempting for the seven candidates running for Michigan governor to dust off this old rallying cry, this is exactly the wrong rhetoric for what Michigan needs.

Michigan will not move boldly into the future with our eyes fixed on the rear view mirror. The "good ole days" are not likely to return. The world has changed in dramatic ways. We need a leader that understands this fact. Candidates need to stop pandering to the desire to rewind the clock and instead provide a shared vision and common agenda for the people of Michigan to rally around.

Watching the seven governor wannabes "debate" at the recent Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference troubled me and others greatly. At a time when Michigan longs for bold, decisive leadership, leadership was AWOL, at least during this encounter.

To be fair, the format was tailor-made for sound bites, "gotcha" politics and rear-view mirror thinking. The candidates, all of whom I know to some degree, are better than what they displayed at their

coming-out party.

The debate, for the most part, saw the candidates staying in their safe political lanes pandering to their political bases, be they public employees unions, or anti-tax, anti-government rhetoric.

Certainly, conventional political wisdom demands sucking up to their respective parties core constituencies. Yet for Michigan to prosper in this hyper-competitive, disruptive, transformational, global knowledge economy, we must demand more than the same behavior that has driven us into the ditch we are in.

Michigan needs a new leader for a new time. The same old, will just not do anymore.

Leaders, lead. Problem solving begins with identifying the problem. As Pogo would say in the old comic strip, "we have met the enemy, and it is us."

The people of Michigan need and want work. We have been losing jobs in roaring tsunamis and replacing them in tear drops. Producing jobs on the scale on which they have been lost will take decades. Promises to the contrary is just that — promises.

What the candidates can and should be selling to the voters are their compelling visions for a new Michigan. Leadership begins with strong beliefs. It continues with persuading a critical mass to adapt these new beliefs and a willingness to do the hard work, endure shared sacrifices and the hardships necessary to put this belief into practice. Without being dour and pessimistic, the citizens of this state are seeking a leader that will level with us and pull us together for a better future.

Before listening to what politicians are promising us, let's ask them three questions:

1) What do they truly believe?

2) Where do they want to lead the state?

3) Why should I sign on for the ride? Politicians traveling the safe road will not take us to where we need to go.

Machiavelli's *The Prince* is a classic study of power: how to get it, expand it and use it to maximum effect. Michigan needs a governor Prince.

Let's hope that Michigan's next governor takes this Machiavellian quote and makes those that fear the "new order of things" believers in both change and progress:

"It must be considered that there is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things. For the reformer has enemies in all those who profit by the old order, and only lukewarm defenders in those who would profit by the new order ... Thus it arises that on every opportunity for attacking the reformer, the opponents do so with the zeal of partisans, the others only defend him halfheartedly, so that between them he runs great danger."

Yes, there is danger for the governor candidate that sets his vision and asks the citizens of this state to join in the quest. The greater danger rests in pandering, staying comfortably in the present partisan lanes telling the votes only what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

It is the economy, stupid. But it will be a leader with bold vision that sets the right course for Michiganders to follow with a chance to help re-build the great state of Michigan. It is clearly the vision, stupid!

Tom Watkins is an education and business consultant in the U.S. and China. He was state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He can be reached at: tdwatkins@aol.com.



Tom Watkins

Father's Day fun



PHOTOS BY CHRIS JACKETT

Runners and their families gather snacks between races at Sunday's YMCA Father's Day run in Plymouth.

Runners continue annual tradition in YMCA run

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

The crowd gathered for Sunday's YMCA Father's Day Run in downtown Plymouth was a mix of old friends and new. With more than 2,000 people crowding the streets, some were experienced runners, while others were there for the atmosphere and camaraderie.

Plymouth resident Jim Michels, 49, ran the one-mile race with his daughter, 14-year-old Madeline.

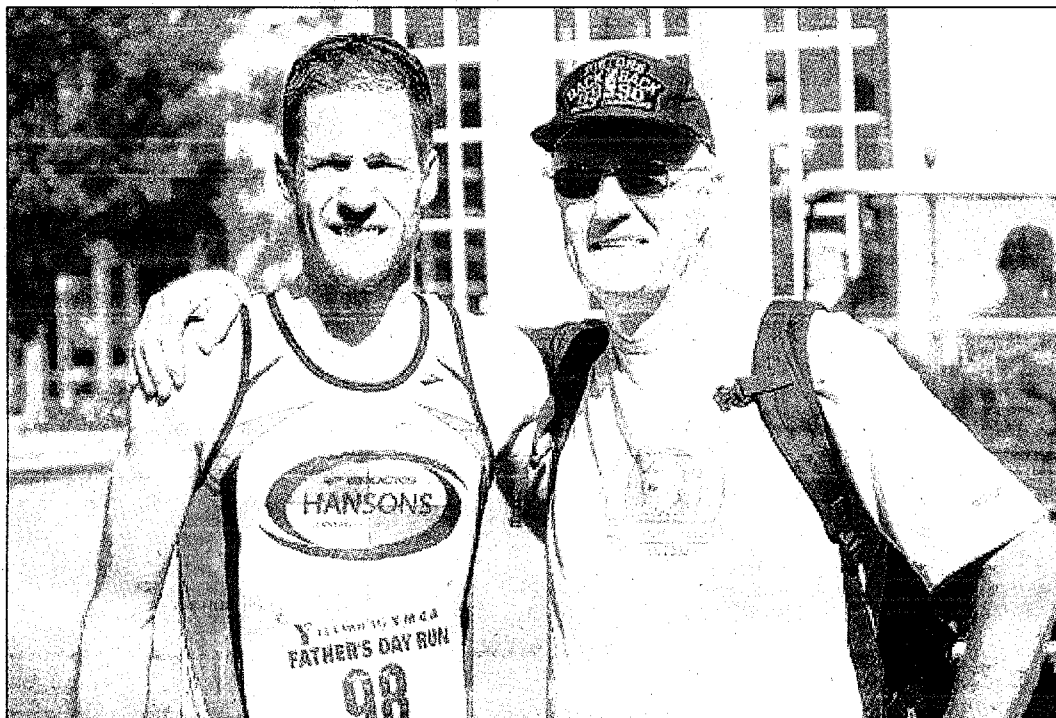
"I'm looking to have some fun," Michels said before the race. "We kind of do it as a tradition on Father's Day."

Michels said he goes out for breakfast with his father-in-law, wife and daughter before watching the 10-kilometer runners go by their front yard in a nearby neighborhood. He's run in the event 17 of the 31 years it has been around, but used to do the 5k until his daughter started racing five or six years ago.

"I feel pretty good. I run three or four times a week just to keep in shape," Michels said.

Madeline plans to join Plymouth High School's track team as a freshman next spring, but has been a participant in the Father's Day Run alongside her dad for five or six years already.

"It's been a little rough at the beginning,



Lake Orion's Clint Verran stands with his dad, Jay, after winning the 10-kilometer race to clinch the MDG Triple 10.3-mile race.

but fun toward the end," she said. "I did the 5k a few years ago and it was a total fail. If

you pace yourself at the beginning, it's a lot easier."

Although many fathers were in attendance for Father's Day, it was Lake Orion dad Jay Verran, 63, who got one of the best presents Sunday morning. His son, Clint Verran, won the 10k run and the overall MDG Triple, which combines the times of racers who ran in all three events, a total of 10.3 miles.

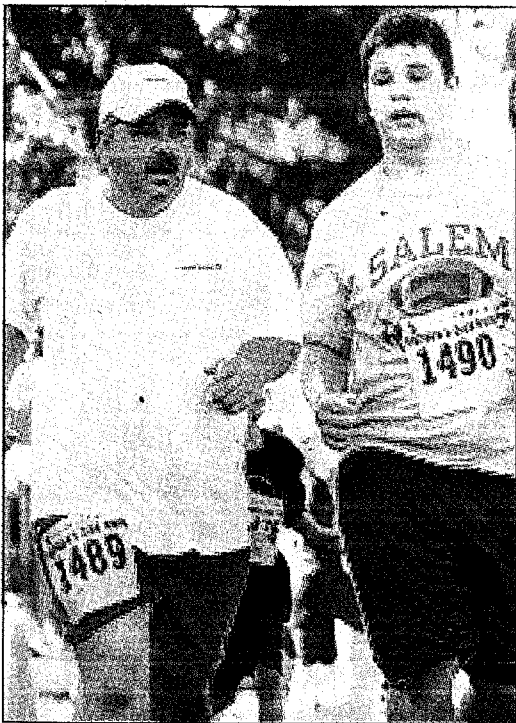
"I just carry shoes," Jay Verran said. "It's fun to be with him on Father's Day."

Clint, a 35-year-old Lake Orion resident and former Eastern Michigan University track star from the 1990s, wanted one last good run before he has surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his knee. He said he has run more than 100,000 miles in his lifetime.

"I do a mix of running and cycling. I plan on doing the Chicago Marathon" later this year, Clint said. "Your car breaks down at 100,000; your body breaks down at 100,000."

Clint Verran, who has been running for 20 years, finished second in both the one-mile (4:33) and 5k (15:28) races, but won the 10k in 32:48 to earn his second MDG Triple title in 52:49, four seconds ahead of 22-year-old David Brent of Monroe. Clint's first Triple title came in his only other attempt, when he won all three races in 1997.

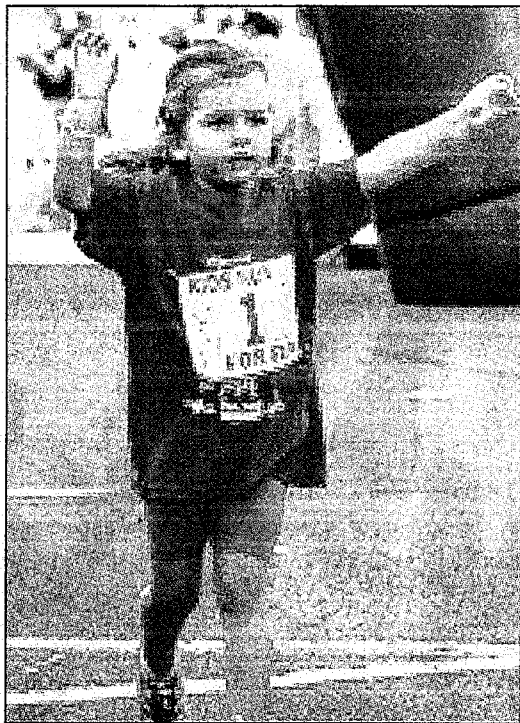
"I had the day off and it's Father's Day," he said. "I'm going to have knee surgery and I wanted to test out to see if I really need it."



Plymouth residents Sam and Andy Stukel finished the 5-kilometer race together Sunday.



Plymouth's Madeline Michels completes the 1-mile race during Sunday's YMCA Father's Day Run.



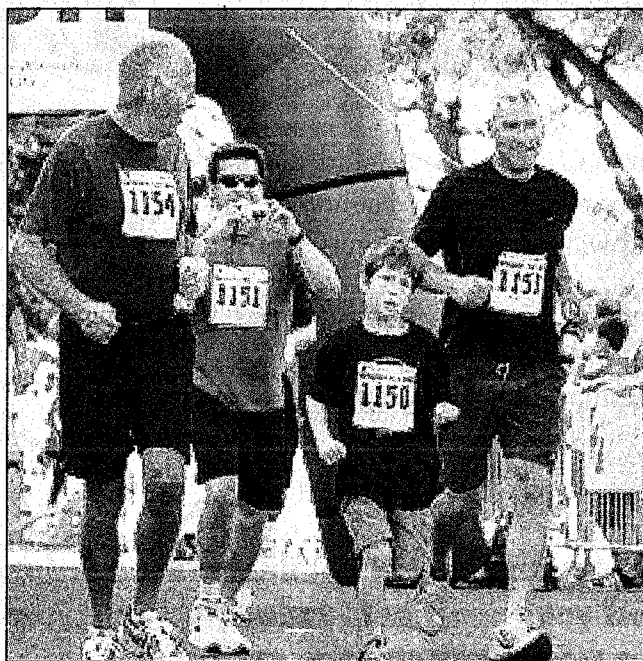
After finishing the quarter-mile Tot Trot, some children chose to celebrate.



Canton resident Michael Lehnis wraps up the 5-kilometer run in Sunday's YMCA Father's Day run in Plymouth.



Participants of the Junior Jog take off in the first 100 feet of the quarter-mile event at Sunday's YMCA Father's Day run in Plymouth.



Tom York of Northville (from left), Tom and Anten Stelovich of Plymouth and Tommy York of Ann Arbor ran the 5-kilometer race together.

Pilots soar over model aircraft

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Al Zerber has had a lifelong love affair with radio-controlled airplanes, but then that's true for most members of the Detroit Aero Modelers Club.

The club meets at the Redford Community Center except for June through September when pilots gather at their field in Rouge Park in Detroit. The weather is too nice to waste flying time.

Zerber, a Garden City resident, became a DAM member in 1988. Back then planes flew on steel wires. Today model aircraft is radio-controlled, remotely with a hand-held transmitter, and powered by electric motors and internal combustion engines.

"My dad, brother and I used to fly U control in Rouge Park," said Zerber, club membership chairman. "I was about age 10 or 12. You get addicted to RC stuff."

Zerber went on to work as an airplane mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. Today as a retiree he spends nearly every weather-permitting day at the field flying his 30 plus planes and helicopters. It can get to be an expensive hobby with planes ranging from around \$100 to \$15,000 or more for a jet with turbine engine.

"You see something, you go get it," said Zerber. "It's like a big kid in a toy box."

Members from Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Farmington Hills, and throughout the metro Detroit area will join Zerber in that toy box at the third annual Mid America R/C Heli Fun Fly Friday-Sunday, June 25-27, at the field in Detroit.

"People from all over the country are coming, 100 plus pilots, one from Switzerland," said Zerber. "It's amazing what they can do — 3D flying, precision acrobatics."

Founded in 1974, the DAM offers novice flight training,



PHOTO BY DAVID L. MALHALAB

Al Gerber, membership chairman of the Detroit Aero Modelers Club, prepares his Brio 10 Elite model airplane for flight in Rouge Park.

Safety plays a major role during training and flying. DAM was chartered in 1978 through the Academy of Model Aeronautics, a nonprofit organization to promote model aviation as a sport and recreation activity.

"It's a lethal weapon with carbon fiber blades rotating at 2,000 RPM," said Zerber. "You want to make sure nobody's in the line of fire."

As the club's safety officer, Dennis Gazdecki makes sure the rules are followed. The Livonia man said, "People have cut fingers off trying to start aircraft. You can get hurt seriously or if it gets out of control and hits somebody, they can get hurt."

Gazdecki joined the club six years ago after an auto accident left him unable to work for a period of time. It was then he decided to put a plane together. Two years later Gazdecki finally took the aircraft out to the field to learn how to fly it. Today he owns 30 airplanes and five helicopters and rarely has time to fly as he's back working seven days a week.

"It's exciting. It's like a drug addiction," said Gazdecki. "There are a lot of good people

FUN FLY

- **Who:** Detroit Aero Modelers Club
- **What:** 2010 Mid America R/C Heli Fun Fly
- **When:** Friday through Sunday, June 25-27
- **Where:** Detroit's Rouge Park at the corner of Joy and Spinoza

out at the field, good conversation. There's always someone at the field from 9:30 a.m. to evening if not windy or raining."

A Garden City resident who became serious about flying model aircraft about 15 years ago, Donald Allen remembers the days when pilots built aircraft from kits. Planes are about 90 percent assembled when purchased today.

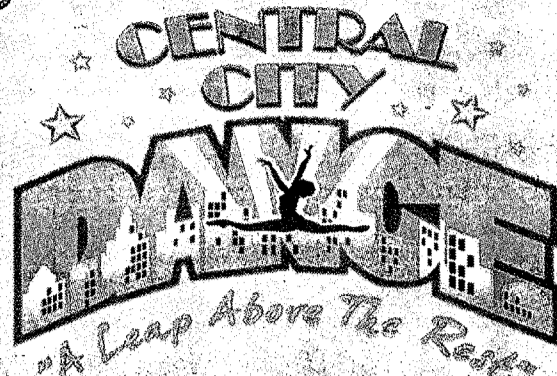
"I enjoy the camaraderie of the group, being outdoors in the fresh air. It's the challenge of trying to do something you haven't done previously," said Allen. "A few of us are airplane nuts, some people just artists and like to build them but don't fly them. The fun thing is you're never done. There's always something more (to learn or buy)."

Allen owns about 15 planes including two biplanes, a World War II F4 Phantom, and four helicopters. He also has a simulator on his computer to practice maneuvers. He is especially excited about the helicopter event June 25-27.

"If you want to be impressed, you'll see helicopters do things you never could imagine," said Allen. "I have a simulator to practice and still can't do things. It doesn't cost you if you crash it. You can go online and fly with other people."

Children as young as three are invited to the field to learn about flying model aircraft.

"We even had a 7-year-old flying a helicopter," said Allen. "They know video games. It's all eye-hand coordination. It's easier to teach someone in their teens than an adult."



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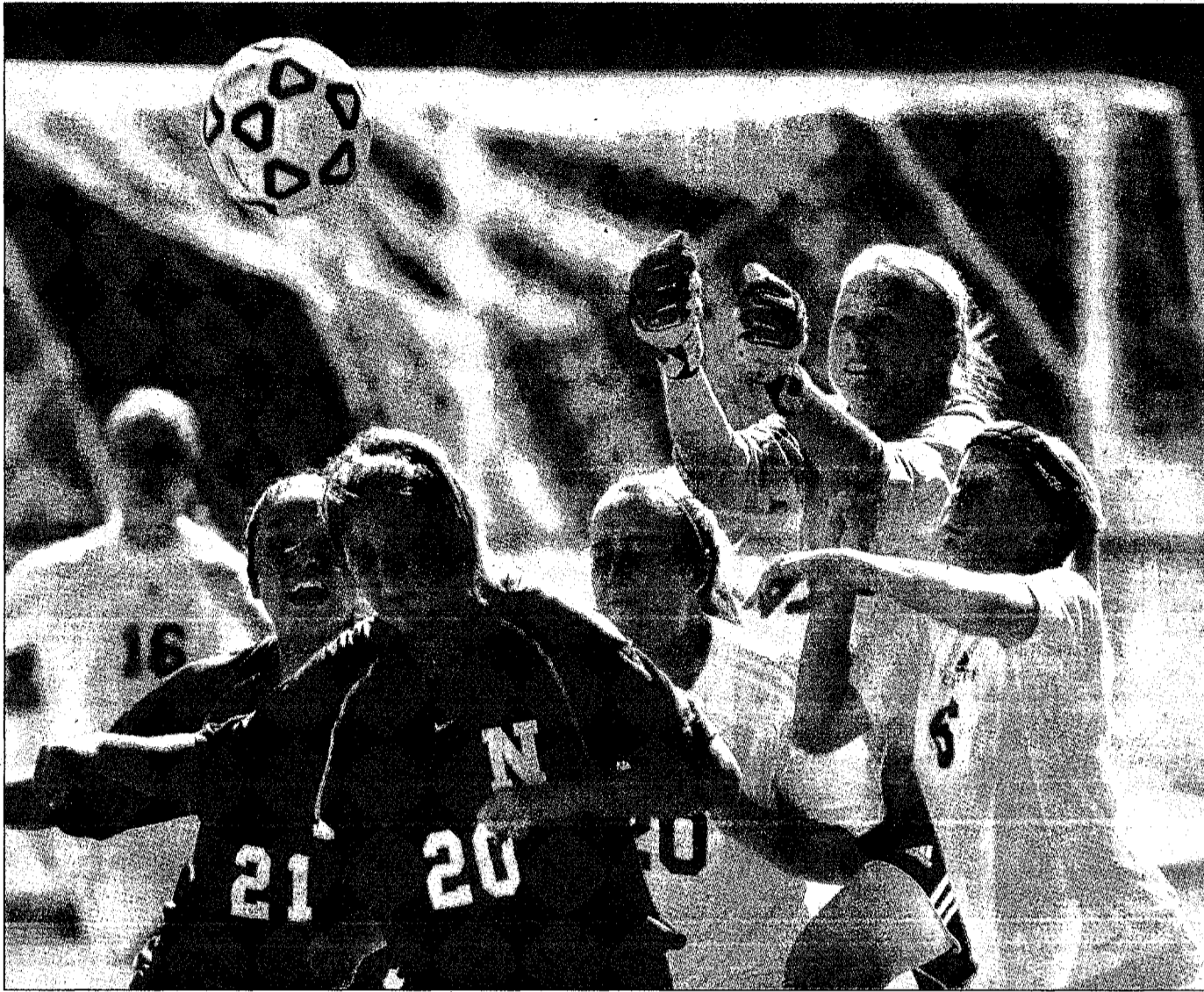
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GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP



Plymouth goalie Marissa Williams, right, rises above all others in trying to make a punch-save during the Wildcats' state final soccer game at MSU on Saturday. Novi's Nickie Greenhalgh (No. 21) and Jessica Jarvis try to score on Plymouth.

FINAL VERDICT

Overtime penalty kick thwarts Plymouth's bid for a D1 title



Battling for a 50/50 ball are Plymouth sophomore Stephanie Sheridan (left) and Novi's Katie Barry.

Novi girls soccer coach Brian O'Leary challenged his players not to let Plymouth goalkeeper Marissa Williams get in their heads if Saturday's Division 1 final came down to penalty kicks. It did and she didn't. After an official ruled a hand ball in the box midway through overtime, Novi senior defender Morgan Haffey faced the junior goalie 12 yards away. Haffey stalled for a few moments — taking a page out of Williams' book — then stepped in and blasted a laser inside the left post at 7:37 of overtime to give the Wildcats a 2-1 triumph and the championship. For Novi (21-2-2), it was the fourth D1 title under O'Leary since 2005. "I always tell them rule No. 1, wait for the whistle and rule No. 2, hit it firm," said O'Leary, following the victory at Michigan State University. "Don't be cute, don't try

to aim it. Hit the thing and be a believer in where it's going. ... She hit a rocket right in the corner, no goalie's going to save that."

TURNING THE TABLES

O'Leary said the coaching staff worked with players on what to do in a penalty kick scenario against Williams — who had been golden during shootouts, winning three games in that fashion as underdog Plymouth (15-5-4) marched to MSU's DeMartin Soccer Complex. "We knew their goalie likes to play head games on the thing," O'Leary said. "The ref asks her if she's ready and she said no. And she did that to Northville (district opener) and Northville really got rattled by it. "So I said to the girls, 'I'm not going to say a word, it's up to you to throw it back in their face.' If you notice, Morgan did a real good job. She turned her back on her

Please see **SOCCER, B3**

Close finishes mark Father's Day Run

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

The Plymouth YMCA's Fathers Day Run brought more than 2,000 people to downtown Plymouth Sunday morning to participate in a variety of races.

There was a quarter-mile Tot Trot (ages 3-4), quarter-mile Junior Jog (ages 5-7), one-mile run/walk, 5-kilometer run/walk that led up to the Morse Dental Group Triple award, decided by the runner with the best combined time from participating in the one-mile, 5k and 10k races all in a row for a 10.3-mile run.

This year's MDG Triple winner was 35-year-old Clint Verran of Lake Orion. Verran, who finished with a combined time of 52 minutes, 49 seconds, also won the Triple during his one other attempt in 1997, which followed a collegiate track career at Eastern Michigan University.

Verran is scheduled to have knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus today, but plans to run in the Chicago Marathon Sept. 12.

TEST RUN

"I had the day off and it's Fathers Day," he said of his decision to join the Plymouth race after a 13-year hiatus. "I'm going to have knee surgery this Thursday and I wanted to test out to see if I really need it."

A 20-year veteran of competitive running who has logged more than 100,000 miles, Verran finished second in both the one-mile (4:33) and 5K (15:28) races, but won the

10K in 32:48 to earn his second MDG Triple title in 52:49, four seconds ahead of 22-year-old David Brent of Monroe.

Brent defeated Verran by a fraction of a second in the 5K in 15:28 after finishing third in the one-mile, just a fraction of a second behind Verran at 4:33.

Rondell Ruff, 27, of Gallitzin, Pa., won the one-mile in 4:31, but finished third in his age group in the 5K (16:31) and fifth in his age group's 10K class (35:54). He was 10th in the overall Triple standings in 56:56.

Also placing in the top three of an overall single event were 28-year-old Northville resident Nick Allen (third in 5K in 15:40) and 23-year-old Pinckney resident Nicholas Kutzeffares (third in 10K in 32:52).

Kutzeffares was third in the Triple in 53:25, while Allen was fifth in 54:27. Troy's Christopher Hammer, 24, was fourth in the Triple in 54:00.

The women on the track were just as impressive, but Westland's Angela Matthews, 26, led the way by winning two of three races to claim the Triple title in 1:00.13. Dearborn's Erin Webster, 24, finished just behind Matthews in all three events.

The competition between the two started off close, with Matthews winning the one-mile run in 5:05, just two seconds ahead of Webster. Fenton's Lisa Veneziano, 45, finished third in 5:40.

Matthews gave herself some space in the 5K with a 17:39

Please see **RUN, B2**



Finishing the 5-kilometer run during Sunday's 31st Plymouth YMCA's Father's Day Run are Mark Faulkner of Canton and Teresa Mei of Plymouth.



With top NHL prospect Tyler Seguin leading a very competitive team, coupled with family friendly ticket plans, the Plymouth Whalers enjoyed a 25-percent spike in attendance during 2009-10. Ticket prices will be unchanged for the 2010-11 season.

Whalers to hold line on prices in '10-11

The Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers will start the upcoming 2010-11 season against a pair of traditional rivals on the road.

The Whalers open the 2010-11 season on Thursday, September 23 at Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Windsor against the OHL and Canadian Hockey League Champion Spitfires. After playing in London on Friday, September 24, Plymouth hosts the Eastern Conference-champion Barrie Colts in the home opener 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25 at Compuware Arena.

Saturday remains the primary home date for the Whalers, with 20 Saturday nights leading the way. Plymouth plays nine home games on Friday, one on Sunday afternoon and one each on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Game time remains 7:05 p.m. for all but three of Plymouth's 34 home dates. The Whalers will play three home matinees, all starting at 2 p.m. Those include the annual Kids Day game 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 vs.

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

Delapaz shines at Comerica

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kevin Delapaz and Jeff Sorenson both went out with a bang in their final high school baseball appearances Monday night.

Delapaz, a senior left-hander from Canton, didn't need the Detroit River to create his own fireworks as he walked away MVP award as the East handily defeated the West, 12-2, in the annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Classic at Comerica Park.

Delapaz, headed to Bowling Green, was starting and winning pitcher, going three scoreless innings. He allowed only one hit and a walk while striking out three.

Delapaz, who moved to left field in the later innings, also gunned down Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central's Zak Wilkerson with a perfect throw on the fly to the plate in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Wilkerson was trying to score from third on a sacrifice



Delapaz

fly. "It was a little sore from pitching. I pitched a few days ago, too," Delapaz said. "But you only get to play at Comerica a few times — so I let it go."

Sorenson, a first baseman-outfielder-pitcher from Livonia Stevenson, also delivered an RBI single in the eighth inning.

"I sat on the curveball and got a good hit out of it," said Sorenson, who is headed to Wayne State in the fall.

When he arrived, Delapaz was practically in awe of the Comerica Park surroundings.

"It was hard to take everything in, from the huge scoreboard to the beautiful field, and all the stands," he said. "Throughout the game I was trying to take in new stuff the whole time. It was a lot of fun."

"We have a really nice mound on my field — at Canton

ALL-STAR CLASSIC

— but it's a beautiful mound. It was great to pitch off it."

The Canton ace admitted he had some nerves, but was pumped up when he got out to the mound.

"I'm not going to lie, there was some adrenaline there," he said. "I wanted to put on a nice show. It was nice to be able to pitch in front of an All-Star team like this. There were a lot of friends and family, it was nice to see so many people came out for me."

Sorenson soaked in all the ambiance of playing in the Major League stadium as well.

"It was a great experience, a lot of fun," he said. "It's great to play at Comerica Park."

When Sorenson first stepped out to the Comerica Park field, he'll always remember one thing.

"Probably the scoreboard," he said. "It's gigantic."

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There was no shortage of extra effort at the Division 1 girls soccer final. Here, Novi's Ellen Brinza (left) and Plymouth sophomore Jessica Scott each try to gain possession.

Postseason puts 'Cats on map

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even as they could hear Novi girls soccer players celebrating their Division 1 state championship, Plymouth's finalists were trying not to let that situation spoil their own victory party.

Plymouth's Wildcats didn't win the title, having lost 2-1 to Novi's Wildcats on an overtime penalty kick at Michigan State University.

But head coach Jeff Neschich and his players left DeMartin Soccer Complex Saturday knowing they've officially arrived as a program to be reckoned with.

"It's insane, no one, no one thought we'd be able to do this, and it's just crazy," said junior defender Katelyn Moss. "I'm happy to have made it this far. Usually, no one predicts that we'll make it past the first round of districts. So to be able to do this is insane."

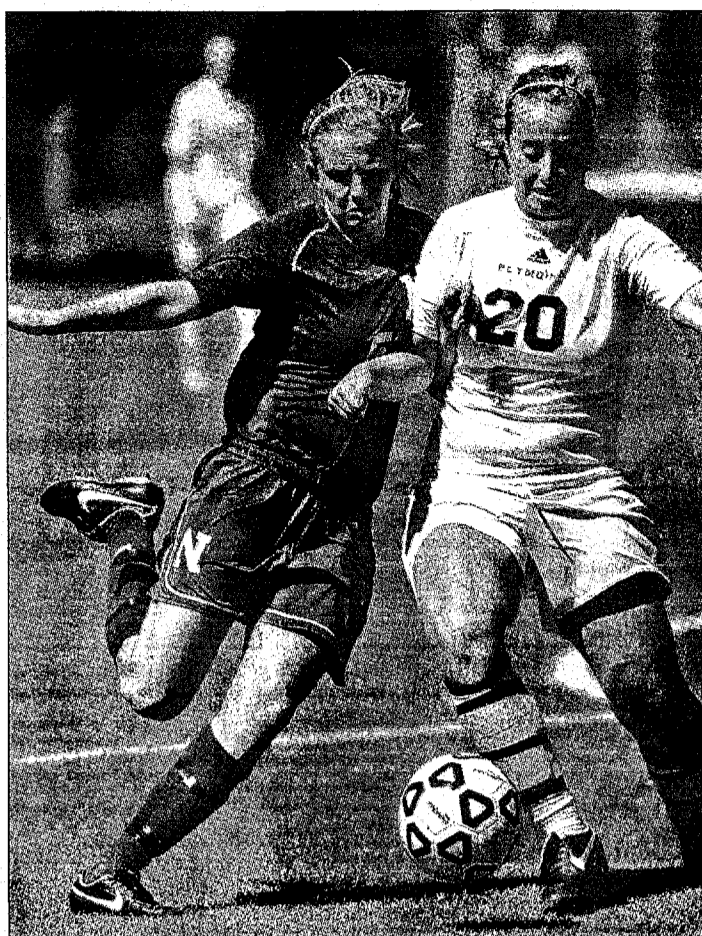
Moss emphasized that the Novis, Northvilles, Cantons and Salems — among others — know Plymouth now is securely on the soccer map.

"I think a lot of teams will be taking us a lot more seriously," Moss said. "I think every single team we played thought they were going to beat us and we came out and surprised them."

According to Neschich, many of the those returnees who just experienced the state tournament push will be stoked for 2011 to begin.

"We've got so many kids coming back," Neschich said. "I think we'll focus and take this little sting to our pride and focus on next year coming back for the championships."

One of those players is junior goalkeeper Marissa Williams, instrumental in Plymouth's Cinderella-like postseason run. Despite the bitter loss, she managed to keep things in



Novi's Courtney Laux (left) battles Plymouth's Meeghan Hughes in the first half of Saturday's Division 1 final. Hughes is one of the seniors who helped Plymouth emerge as a very strong team in 2010.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

(Williams), she bent down to tie her shoe, took a little tape off and gave it to the referee."

Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich questioned the ruling against sophomore midfielder Jessica Scott that led to the winning PK.

"A girl fell down and accidentally touched it," Neschich said. "It really didn't impede their play at all. Yeah, it was a tough call but what can you do? ... I think there's some leeway, he could have let that one go."

Junior defender Katelyn Moss, who played her typical reliable game in the back, lamented the critical decision.

"Jessica Scott made a great effort to stop the ball to their player, unfortunately the ref made a call," Moss said. "I don't think he should have called it. She was on the ground, it wasn't intentional."

Williams, still clutching the runner-up trophy under the awning at Plymouth's bench, smiled when discussing the ruling.

"If the ball hits your hand it has to help you in some way," said Williams, who posted 15 shutouts this year including four in the postseason. "She's on the ground, it hit her hand, it didn't help her in any way whatsoever."

"The ref asked me if I understood the call and I was, 'Yeah,

I wouldn't have made it.' But whatever. It was a perfect goal, it hit the side netting. That's one of those unstoppable ones even if you dive the right way."

EARLY DOMINANCE

The way the first half unfolded, with plenty of tic-tac-toe precision passing by Novi, few in the stands could have predicted such a finish.

During the opening 40 minutes, Novi outshot Plymouth 9-2, almost played keepaway with the ball and took a quick 1-0 advantage.

Senior defenders Taylor Hoover and Morgan Haffey combined for a goal just 10:04 into the contest.

Haffey, who along with Ellen Brinza and Alli Howard were the lone holdovers from Novi's 2007 title team, served a free kick from the left side of the pitch. Hoover then headed it in past Williams.

"Nicki (Caruso) had a break-away and had a one-on-one," Hoover said. "She took her and the defender bit and got her ankle. Morgan just served a great ball in and it was beautiful, all I had to do was change the ball's direction and that was it."

But the second half was more evenly played (Novi's shot advantage was 8-5) and Plymouth started to pick up some offensive steam.

Plymouth finally gave their fans plenty to cheer about when junior forward McKenzie Hengesh scored with 13:29 to go in regulation.

Hengesh, parked on the doorstep, headed the ball behind Novi junior goalkeeper Gabby Gauruder — denying her of a 19th shutout.

"We got it back out to (junior forward) Jen Babcock and she did a second try in crossing it," Neschich said. "They left McKenzie Hengish wide open far post and she just drilled it, headed it in."

Plymouth finished the half with momentum, but could not get the tie-breaker.

WINDS OF CHANGE

O'Leary said warm breezes played a role in how regulation was almost a tale of two halves.

"They play very direct, they play a lot of straight balls (to forwards)," O'Leary said. "The wind slows it up enough to make it a 50/50 ball instead of a direct pass."

"Flip that over, the second half the wind helped them get the ball to the forward a little quicker and we struggled a little bit more."

The Novi coach, meanwhile, said the latest trophy is just a bit more sweeter than those the Wildcats earned in 2005, 2006 and 2007 because this year's run wasn't expected.

"The other three when the season started a state championship was within our expectations," O'Leary said. "But when this season started, I don't think we were one of the top-20 teams in Michigan and I don't think anybody on our team thought we were."

perspective.

"Yeah, it was heartbreaking to lose," Williams said. "But Plymouth hasn't won a district game before much less even made it here. You can't be too upset."

Also following the D1 final, Neschich wanted a few moments to think about what the 2010 Wildcats were able to accomplish.

He praised a dedicated group of seniors for leading Plymouth through some rough waters to MSU.

Those seniors included defenders Meeghan Hughes, Katie Krajewski, midfielders Jessica Heck and Carley

McQuiston (who broke a leg in late April and missed the rest of the year).

"They did it, they led us here," Neschich said. "It's something we talked about with them for four years and it seemed like an insurmountable task getting by Northville, who we have to face every year in our districts."

"And it's just a challenge getting by Canton. As a program, we've never beaten them at the varsity level on the girls side. That was another huge accomplishment. It was one thing after another this year and it was good times, a great season."

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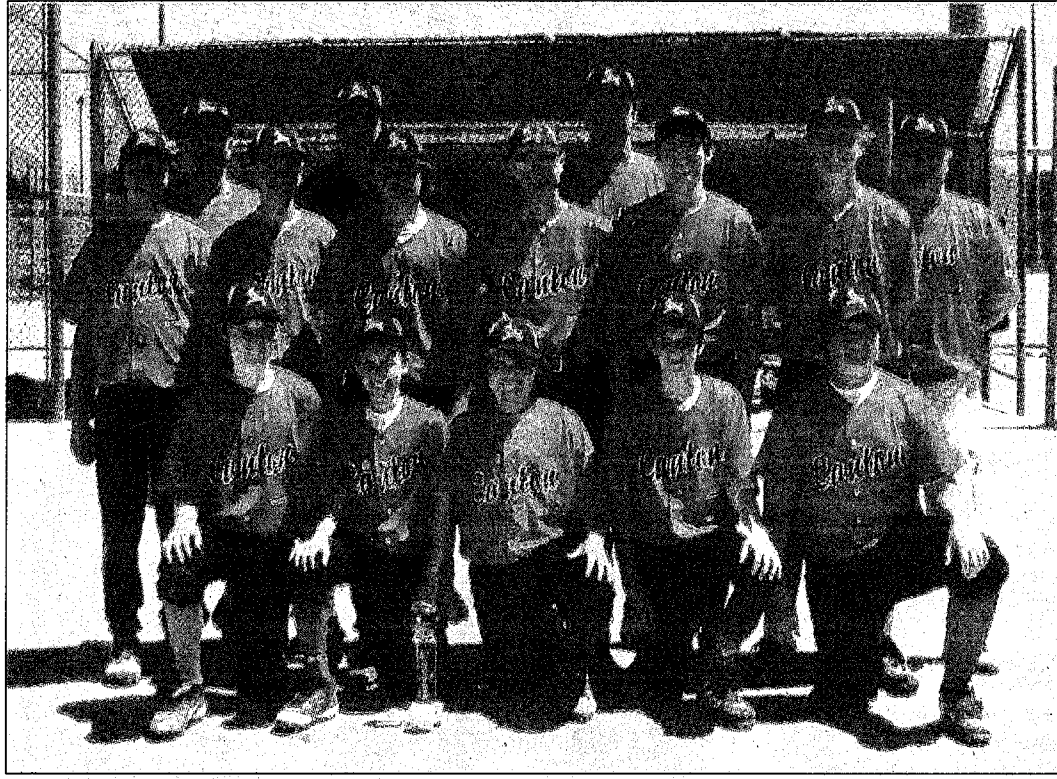
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Members of the 12U Canton Cardinals, who won the USSSA Memorial Day NIT at the Canton Sports Center, include the following: front row (from left) Kevin Anthony, Cameron Shaughnessy, Trevor McManus, Griffin Shiminski and Mike Groff; middle row (from left) Frankie Bellino, Andrew Hejka, Andrew Jossey, Ravi Mahanti, Grant Hartwig and Seth Hubbard; back row (from left) head coach Dan Hejka, Sr., assistant coaches Vince Shiminski, Kurt Anthony and John Shaughnessy.

12U Canton Cards capture holiday tourney championship

Put another trophy on the shelf for the 12U Canton Cardinals. The boys in red went 5-0 over the Memorial Day weekend to capture the championship at the USSSA Memorial Day NIT, at the Canton Sports Center.

The Cardinals advanced to Sunday's final game after a strong pitching performance from Seth Hubbard. He struck out eight batters to lead the Cards to 11-3 win over the Lansing Hit Club.

That set up the championship showdown against the Southfield Indians. The Cardinals kept the momentum going, both in the field and at the plate. Pitcher Frankie Bellino and the Canton defense held the Indians to

two runs in 5 2/3 innings. But as the Southfield bats started to get hot, a rifle shot from catcher Andrew Jossey to Andrew Hejka was right on the money. Hejka tagged the Southfield runner for the third out to end the game and give the Cardinals a 6-2 victory.

Over the weekend, Canton outscored their opponents 55-7. The hitting attack was led by Andrew Jossey (.667/3 triples), Grant Hartwig (.545), and Andrew Hejka (.533/2 triples). Hejka also hurled a no-hitter in pool play against Diamonds White from Grand Rapids. Kevin Anthony, Cam Shaughnessy, Michael Groff and Seth Hubbard each picked up six RBI for the weekend. The weekend was another

proud moment for Cardinals head coach Dan Hejka, Sr., who's been with many of these boys since they were 9 years old.

"Compared to previous years we started slowly this year, but in the past couple weeks the boys seem to have hit their stride," said Hejka. "I have worked them hard and they are responding. They understand that teamwork and defense wins games."

To date, the team has captured 11 tournament titles, 2 state championships and a world series victory. This season, the Cardinals are 20-5-1, with more league play, tournaments and a trip to the Ripkin Experience in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina still ahead this summer.



Winning Wings

The Canton Wings Squirt hockey team went undefeated during the spring season (10-2-0), clinching the Squirt B division and winning the playoffs. The games were played at the Arctic Edge in Canton. The team includes (front row, from left) Kurt Jensen, Aidan Ross, Christian Skomra, Christian Putlock, Kurt Faerber, Brandon Garber and (in front), goaltender Peyton Grainer; (middle row, from left) Rhami Itani, Grahm Rais, Luke Davis, Kaleb Brabbs, Devin Dowd and Jake Dowd; (back row, from left) head coach Dean Garber and assistant coach Pat Dowd. Not pictured is assistant coach Rais.



State Cup champion Hawks

The Michigan Hawks '97 U13 girls soccer team celebrates recently after winning the MSYSAS 2010 State Cup. The Hawks defeated Vardar in a double overtime shootout at Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac. With the victory, the squad moves on to the Midwest Regionals June 26 in Beavercreek, Ohio. The team also won the spring MSPSP Premier Division 1 with a 7-1-1 record. In the front row (from left) are Cassie Phillips, Taylor Lambouris, Lexie Shamoun, Kelly Sweeney, Rylee Jayson, Mackenzie Travis, Sydney Kettlewell, Claire Allen and Shannon Magnan. In the back row (from left) are coach Dave Hicklin, Nicole Zuckerman, Holly Hermans, Kylie Knight, Olivia Hartman, Laekyn Jaciuk, Erin Emmanuel, Courtney Peterson and assistant coach Tony Phillips. Not pictured is Olivia Kitz.

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'Cats eighth at D1 meet

An outstanding season for Plymouth's varsity boys golf team closed out with an eighth place finish at the Division 1 state finals, held June 11-12 at Forest Akers East.

Head coach Chris Moore said his team finished with a two-day score of 594, just three strokes shy of finishing fifth for the tourney, which featured the team setting a new team record for the second time in a week.

On Day 1 of the finals, the Wildcats shot a total of 293 to again set the new school mark (which in turn broke the record 300 from the regionals). On opening day, Josh Heinze led the way with a 71, followed by Justin Bauer (72), James Bryans and Ryan Bauer (each 75).

The second day leader was Bryans, with a 74. Ryan Bauer tallied a 75 while Heinze and Justin Bauer each chipped in with scores of 76.



Encore for Blue Jays

The Canton U9 Blue Jays are all smiles after winning their division May 30 at the Canton Cup. It was the team's second straight championship at the annual tournament. Pictured are (front row, from left) Zoey Lowe, Taylor Jakubiec, Cali Murad; (middle row, from left) Emilie Cannon, Claire Brish, Jordan Manley, Marina Traub, Julia Noel, Adrianna Parrado, Abby Grant; (back row, from left) coaches John Jakubiec, Eddie Traub, Manuel Parrado.

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Foundation grant secures museum's future

In honor of the 100th birthday of Plymouth philanthropist Margaret Dunning and her long-standing commitment to the Plymouth community, the Community Foundation of Plymouth has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Foundation officials cited Dunning's "generous philanthropic support and guidance over the years," which they said "has been instrumental in helping to build and expand the Plymouth Historical Museum."

"The Community Foundation of Plymouth felt it fitting to present its own gift to the Museum in honor of Ms. Dunning's 100th birthday and in recognition of her commitment to this valuable community resource," said Foundation spokesperson Sue Upton.

The foundation's grant will allow the museum to finish decorating the Sanford Burr Meeting Room. Eight historical photos from Plymouth's past will be enlarged and mounted around the room to complement the large mural of Plymouth's downtown on July 4, 1909.

The Plymouth Historical Museum has established a new endowment fund in Dunning's honor that will provide for the museum in perpetuity.

Foundation officials said Dunning's largest impact on the Plymouth community has been through her volunteer service and philanthropic support, most notably in helping to establish the Plymouth District Library, helping to build and expand the



The Community Foundation of Plymouth's Advisory Committee presented Margaret Dunning and Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, with the grant award to the Museum in the entrance to the Dunning-Hough Library. Pictured with Dunning and Kerstens are (front, from left) Jim McKeon, Jeanne Baldwin, Karen O'Keefe and Walt Menard and (back, from left) Fran Toney, Julie Howell Romein, Penny K. Joy, Jim Jabarra, Bill Lawson, Bill Lawton, Jim Vermeulen, Jr., and Dan Herriman.

Plymouth Historical Museum, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Community Federal Credit Union in Plymouth (now Community Financial).

Dunning and her mother started what is now the Plymouth District Library when, in 1947, they purchased property to house the Plymouth branch of the Wayne County Library System. Today the library is housed in the Dunning-Hough Library.

In 1971, Dunning donated more than \$100,000 to the Plymouth Historical Society to help build a museum facility to house Plymouth's

historical artifacts. In 1998, Dunning gifted \$1 million to support the Plymouth Historical Museum's 9,800-square-foot addition intended to house a sizeable collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia. Dunning is a permanent member of the Plymouth Historical Society's Board of Directors.

"I'm honored to accept this gift for the Museum, and am grateful for all you do for the Plymouth community," said Dunning, who then drew a laugh by adding, "I'm also quite delighted to see that the check has a few zeroes."

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, the Plymouth Historical

Museum's executive director, said the foundation's grant will allow museum officials to complete their vision for the meeting room.

"We deeply appreciate the Community Foundation of Plymouth's gift in honor of Margaret Dunning and her 100th birthday," Kerstens said. "The endowment fund will provide another safeguard for a sustainable future for the Plymouth Historical Museum. With the community's support, the Fund will grow, which in turn will ensure the Museum can continue to flourish and grow - to provide a stable historical foundation for future generations."

CHAMBER CHAT

Golf outing

Reservations to golf or to be a sponsor at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's annual golf outing are now being taken. The event takes place Monday, July 12, on the Golden Fox course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. Tee off is at 10 a.m.

The golfing package includes lunch, refreshments on the course, cocktails/beer and dinner. Foursomes also receive a tee sign, sponsor recognition and one free \$25 raffle ticket.

For more information about golfing or being a sponsor, call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail wes@plymouthmich.org. Cancellations must be received by July 1, 2010.

Chamber on Facebook

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has two sites on Facebook with over 8,700 followers. If you would like to promote a special service or sale at your business, please provide the information to the Chamber by e-mailing wes@plymouthmich.org. To see the Plymouth Rocks fan page, go to http://www.facebook.com/home.php?_f=/pages/Plymouth-MI/PlymouthPlymouth-Tow

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Top Web Site

To help members see other web sites in the community and get ideas they could use for their own sites, the chamber features a different member's site each week.

This week's featured site: The Rock Shoppe at www.rock-shoppe.com

Matinee Thursdays

The Penn Theatre will start their Summer Matinee Series on Thursday, June 24, with a showing of "Mary Poppins." The series continues with a different movie each Thursday through Aug. 26. Go to www.penntheatre.com for the full summer schedule. Showings are at 1 and 7 p.m. and all seats are \$3.

Sporting Goods Sale

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department hosts a buy-or-sell All Sports Equipment sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer). Anyone with new or gently used sporting equipment is welcome to participate. Rental fee for a 10x10 ft. space is just \$20. To reserve space contact, Michelle or Kim at (734) 455-6620. Admission is free.

Resource Display

The display wall in the chamber office is a great way to get your business noticed. Profile Display Inc. will be contacting businesses to let you know how you can advertise on the display cabinet. Spaces are limited. If you would like to act now, call (888) 545-9853.

BUSINESS BRIEFS



The Plymouth DDA plans to set up a booth to help businesses promote themselves during the annual Art in the Park festival July 9-11.

Art in the park

With Art in the Park less than a month away (July 9-11), Plymouth Downtown Development officials know many businesses try to make the most of the big events by providing incentives for visitors to wander inside. Some of the ideas from merchants include putting balloons outside the front door, offering rest rooms for public use, offering refreshments such as coffee, water or treats, hosting a sale, putting festive displays in the window or giving out coupons.

This year, the DDA is planning to set up its tent at Art in the Park, providing there are enough merchants to help staff it. Those who sign up are invited to hand out coupons or samples, display merchandise, etc., at the booth during the festival. The DDA will also help by supplying Visitor's Guides and magnetic clips to hand out.

Business owners interested in showcasing their business in the booth should contact the DDA by Wednesday, June 30.

For more information, e-mail dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us or call (734) 455-1453.

Business News

Two local Plymouth companies, Working Dog Signs and Victory Packaging, have teamed up with the DDA to provide recycling at the Friday Night Music in the Air concert series.

Victory Packaging donated the receptacles and Working Dog Signs provided the stickers to mark the receptacles as recycling. Remember to dump plastics, aluminum and paper products in the recycling bins, with all other garbage going in the usual black cans.

Plymouth in 3D

Several businesses contacted the Plymouth DDA this past week about LunaTech, which

is partnering with the DDA for a 3-D look of downtown Plymouth on its website. Visitors will be able to click a new icon on the DDA's home page and "fly" through downtown businesses. Each business that has signed up will have a 3-D mock-up of the establishment and all sorts of information made available, such as store hours, menus, pictures, websites and even tours of the business.

Business owners who haven't been contacted by LunaTech and are interested should contact the DDA office.

Resource workshop

In an effort to help communities diversify industry, move the region forward and create jobs, Wayne County, in partnership with the University of Michigan's Community Economic Adjustment Program, is hosting a Community Resource Workshop at Henry Ford Community College to give businesses an edge on economic recovery.

"This workshop will directly link Wayne County's local communities and community agencies with representatives from the state and federal government, which helps the region continue to move forward, diversify and grow," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "Together, participants and businesses will discuss projects, funding opportunities at the state and national level, and subsequent proposals for development."

The workshop will be held on July 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Henry Ford Community College, located at 5101 Evergreen Road in Dearborn. Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano will give opening remarks.

For more information on Wayne County's Community Resource Workshop and to register, contact Carmen Wells Quigg at (734) 998-7016.

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Canton dance student performs ancient classical routines

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Anjali Patel has chosen her saris, one a peacock blue and the other, bright green, for her big day on Saturday, June 26.

Her invitations have been sent. The food and decorations are planned. The professional photographs are done. And guests soon will arrive from India to celebrate with her in Canton.

"We laugh sometimes. It's almost like throwing a mini wedding without the groom," said Anjali's mother, Nita Patel. "There's a lot of work that goes into it."

She and her husband, Pankaj, have been planning their 17-year-old daughter's Arangetram — a solo dance performance — for months.

Anjali, a 2010 Canton High School graduate, has worked toward it for 10 years under the guidance of dance guru Chaula Thacker, director and founder of the Chauladevi Institute of Dance and Yoga. She's also a member of Nadanta, a dance troupe founded by Thacker.

"I started dancing ballet and tap, probably when I was 5," said Anjali, a National Honor Society student who played soccer and swam on the varsity team during high school. After discovering Bharat Natyam, Indian classical dance, Anjali dropped tap and ballet to study the ancient dances that originated in Tamil Nadu.

"It taught me more about my culture. It's really unique and I like that," she explained her interest in Bharat Natyam.



Anjali Patel, a member of the classical Indian dance troupe, Nadanta, will perform a two-hour solo program Saturday, June 26.



Anjali Patel of Canton demonstrates a classical Indian dance move.

TELLING A STORY

The three elements of Bharat Natyam are pure dance, interpretive dance and dance drama.

"In Indian classical dancing there are different hand gestures, positions, expressions and very different music," Anjali said. "Most of the dances are about certain gods in Indian culture. It's explaining about or devoting to the gods."

She'll start her two-hour solo performance with a dance called Ganeshtuti, a dedication to Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles, and Shiva, the lord of dance.

Most of the eight other dances that will follow pay homage to a god or tell a story through interpretive, pure or dramatic dance.

The program also includes

a "Padam," a dance Thacker choreographed especially for Anjali.

"I talk about being a strong devotee to all gods and I also thank the audience for coming," she said, explaining what the Padam's movements are meant to convey.

Anjali attends dance classes three times a week, participates in summer dance camp and has worked on perfecting her Arangetram program for the past year.

"The past three years, after learning the dances, I've become more passionate about it. I feel like I'm fully into the dances, able to describe the stories," she said.

SOLO DANCERS

That level of dedication

separates the casual dance student from someone those working toward an Arangetram.

"People take it for granted that they'll be able to do that (an Arangetram). But no, that's not true," said Thacker, who has five students involved in solo performances this summer. "It has to come from the heart. Not from mom or dad or me or other classmates."

Students of Anjali Patel of Canton has been learning Bharat Natyam, Indian classical dance, for 10 years.

participate in several dance showcases during their years of study. Thacker uses the first showcase to select or reject dance students.

"I hate myself when I reject students, but I also don't want to degrade the quality," Thacker explained. "One hour a week in class is not enough. They learn theory, foot movements, head, eye, neck movements. There's so much to do."

Dance students take yoga classes in addition to classical training. There's meditation, stretching and posture exercises.

DETERMINED

Thacker recognized Anjali's dedication early on in her training. Although Anjali was born without a left hand, she was determined to excel at Bharat Natyam.

"I knew if she could handle this situation (her handicap) so nicely, she probably would go through the showcase and achieve what she wants," Thacker said.

Nita Patel hopes other parents will take note of Anjali's achievements.

"A lot of people, if they have kids that are handicapped, may be overly-protective," Nita said. "I think the message I want to send is to give them a chance. Maybe they will flower." Anjali said her lack of a hand is "no big deal," even in the expressive Bharat Natyam dances.

"I can do all of the steps in the dances," said Anjali, who will enter Michigan State University this fall. "And if there is anything, like with this hand, I must do, I automatically do what I can."

DSO salutes America, offers free show

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra will celebrate Independence Day for four nights at Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

It also plans a free appearance at 8 p.m., Friday, June 25, at Maple Beach in Kensington Metropark in Milford. The 18th annual Salute to America concert series runs Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4, in the Walnut Grove Historic district of Greenfield Village, located at The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd. Advance member tickets are \$19 for ages 13 and up and \$12 for ages 5-12; non-members pay \$22.50 for ages 13 and up and \$14 for ages 5-12. Tickets bought at the event are \$23 for adult members and \$15 for youth; non-members pay \$27 for adults and \$17.50 for youth.

Steven Reineke will conduct the symphony in performing popular sounds of America, including the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Moon River*, *America the Beautiful* and John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. Each evening will conclude with the music of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and live cannon fire followed by a spectacular fireworks finale.

Gates open at 6 p.m. and performances begin at 8:30 p.m. Attendees may bring chairs and blankets to the concerts. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. River Raisin Ragtime Revue will provide pre-concert entertainment.

The Henry Ford will offer pre-concert activities for children, including nineteenth-century lawn games and a special visit from Greenfield Village's historic baseball teams, July 1-2. Children ages 12 and under are free with purchase of an adult ticket. For more details, visit www.TheHenryFord.org.

Kensington Metropark is located north of I-96, at Kent Lake Road (exit #153). The concert is free with park entry permit. A daily permit costs \$5. Annual permits are \$25; \$15 for senior citizens. For more information visit www.metroparks.com or call (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178.

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ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through July 31
Location: 15095 Northville Road, south of Five Mile, Plymouth
Details: "Inner Worlds & Animals" paintings by Charles Aimone and sculpture by Joan Painter Jones, Contact: (734) 420-0775

Downtown Northville
Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Friday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 26 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 27
Location: Streets of downtown Northville

Details: "Art in the Sun," with more than 75 artists selling their works.
Contact: (248) 344-0497

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through June 27; gallery hours 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "West of Center," contemporary annual all media show features works by more than 60 artists

Also on display: Photos by Northville dentist William S. Demray, through June 24
Contact: (248) 344-0497



Savory Beet & Goat Cheese Tart

Say Yes To Beets with contest entry

The "Say Yes! To Beets" Recipe Contest is up and running. So grab an apron and a jar of beets, roll up your sleeves and head to the kitchen. Your recipe could be the \$2,500 Grand Prize winner. Aunt Nellie's Beets add a delicious difference to many recipes year-round — whether an appetizer or dessert, soup or salad, side dish or main dish. Savory Beet & Goat Cheese Tart, a past grand prize winning recipe, is a great example of how one contestant used pickled beets in a deliciously unexpected way. She topped a refrigerated pie crust with caramelized onions, goat cheese and the sweet-tangy beets to make an elegant but easy tart — perfect as a first course or a light entrée.

Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, creativity and ease of preparation. Recipes can be newly created or an existing favorite that features changes the judges deem significant. For complete contest rules, visit www.auntnellies.com. Contest deadline is August 13.

SAVORY BEET & GOAT CHEESE TART

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 large yellow onion, very thinly sliced (about 2 cups)
1 refrigerated pie crust (half of 15-ounce package)
1 jar (16 ounces) Aunt Nellie's Sliced Pickled Beets, well drained
1 package (8 ounces) herb and garlic-flavored goat cheese
2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
Grated or shredded lemon peel (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 450°F. In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onions; cook and stir until softened and golden brown about 15 minutes, reducing heat if necessary. Remove from heat.

2. Unroll crust and place on ungreased baking sheet. Spread onions evenly over crust, leaving a 1-inch border. Arrange beets over onions and dot with goat cheese. Sprinkle with thyme.

3. Fold pastry edge over beets crimping edges, leaving center uncovered. Bake until crust is golden, about 20 minutes.

4. To serve, slice into wedges and garnish with

thyme and lemon peel, if desired.

Makes 10 to 12 appetizer servings.

Nutritional Information per serving (1/10 of recipe): 213 calories, 6 g protein, 14 g carbohydrate, 14 g fat, 286 mg sodium, 18 mg cholesterol, less than 1 g dietary fiber, 1 mg iron, less than 1 mg thiamin, 355 IU Vitamin A, 2 mg Vitamin C.

To use drained beet juice: Reserve 1/2 cup drained beet juice and combine with 1 clove minced garlic, 2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard and 2 teaspoons honey in blender container. Blend on high 10 seconds. Pour 1/3 cup oil into mixture with machine running and blend well. Serve as salad dressing.

Cook's Notes:
Substitute 1 teaspoon dried thyme for fresh, if desired.

— Courtesy of Family Features

4

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Steve Medonis of Dave and Marlene's Produce bags produce for Shaina Johnson at the Plymouth Farmer's Market last year.

Farmer's markets are in full swing

Looking for flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables? Visit a local farm market. You'll also find meats, cheese, artisan breads and crafts at some locations.

Visit michigan.org for a statewide list of markets and farm stands. Here's a list of local markets:

ANN ARBOR — (May-December) on Saturdays in the Kerrytown District, the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market features locally grown produce, flowers, shrubs, plants, jams, honey, maple syrup, jellies, baked goods, grains, fruits, eggs, dairy products, homemade wearing apparel, toys, jewelry, home decorations, furniture, dried flowers, pottery and candles all in an open-air atmosphere. info@annarbor.org

BIRMINGHAM — Open Sundays through October 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Birmingham Farmers Market City Parking Lot 6. Seasonal

fresh flowers and produce are the main attraction all locally grown on family farms in southern Michigan. Honey, syrup and handmade goods available. Each week the Birmingham Farmers Market offers a variety of live entertainment from blues to bluegrass.

CANTON — Every Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 17 (rain or shine) in Preservation Park, located at 500 N. Ridge. Market offers a variety of home grown foods and handmade goods.

The local growers, producers and farmers offer vegetable, fruits, herbs, bulbs, grains, meats, plants, and more. New vendors this season with Michigan-made products include The Plymouth Popcorn Company, offering a variety of gourmet flavored popcorn; Farmington Soap Works with natural hand-made cold process soaps and Prochaska Farms from Tecumseh offering annuals, vegetable and herb plants, seasonal produce and organic cheese from the Four Corners Creamery.

For more about the market, visit Cantonfun.org and click on farmer's market under the community events tab.

DETROIT — Eastern Market offers everything from luscious and colorful farm fresh fruits and vegetables to meat products (beef, pork, lamb, poultry, geese, duck and rabbit) to herbs and spices, nuts, candies and a variety of condiments and all are supplied by the retailers and wholesalers spread over this 4.3-acre area. The public farmers market is open on Saturdays only, but most of the businesses in the area are open six days a week (Monday through Saturday). Closed on Sunday.

FARMINGTON — The Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Saturday through Nov. 20 at Sundquist Pavilion in Riley Park, located on Grand River Avenue, east of Farmington Road, in downtown Farmington. Features a wide selection of flowers and plants, seasonal fruits, vegetables and bakery goods. Crafts from selected local artisans also will be on display. For more information, visit www.downtownfarmington.org and click on farmer's market.

GARDEN CITY — The market runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Wednesday, rain or shine, through Oct. 27 at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Middlebelt in the Garden City Town Center Plaza. For a list of special activities at the market, go to www.gardencity.org.

LIVONIA — Livonia Farmers Market is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays beginning June 19 through Oct. 9 at the Wilson Barn, Middlebelt and West Chicago, Livonia. Call (734) 261-3602.

NORTHVILLE — The Northville Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 28 and features over 100 stalls of fresh produce, plants, and flowers. Other finds are honey, bakery goods, fine juried crafters, garden art, soaps, jewelry, furniture, woodworking, and home accessories. The market is located in the Northville Downs parking lot at the corner of Seven Mile and Sheldon roads.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP — Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday, June 13 through Oct. 24, at the Marquee, located within the Town Hall complex, 15145 Beech Daly, a block south of the Five Mile and Beech Daly intersection, in the heart of downtown Redford Township. For more information, call Downtown Development Authority at (313) 387-2771.

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth Farmer's Market is open 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 30 (no market on July 10 (Art in the Park) and Sept. 11 (Fall Festival)). Flowers, produce, bakery items, jams/jellies/sauces, garden decorations and more. In The Gathering near Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

ROYAL OAK — Located in the Civic Oak at the corner of 11 Mile and Troy Street, across from the library and adjacent to the 44th District Court. The Royal Oak Farmers Market provides one of the premium farm market venues in southeast Michigan. Farm producers sell from an enclosed building, with ample parking, on Friday during the farm season (May through Christmas) and Saturday all year round. During growing season, farmers are only allowed to sell what they grow.

SOUTH LYON — The South Lyon Farmers Market is open 2-7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 29. Located at the Veteran's Memorial Parking lot on Liberty Street at Pontiac Trail. There is ample on-street parking surrounding the area, as well as a municipal lot across Liberty Street and another on Well Street. Market features a variety of produce, plants, flowers and some handmade crafts from local artisans. Call (248) 437-1735 for more information.

WAYNE — Market is open 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays through September then 3-6 p.m. in October next to the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave. For more information, go to www.ci.wayne.mi.us.

WESTLAND — The market is open through Oct. 26, at on the east side of Westland Shopping Center along Wayne Road. Fresh strawberries, tomatoes, sugar snap peas, herbs and flowers were among the offerings when the new market kicked off on June 15.



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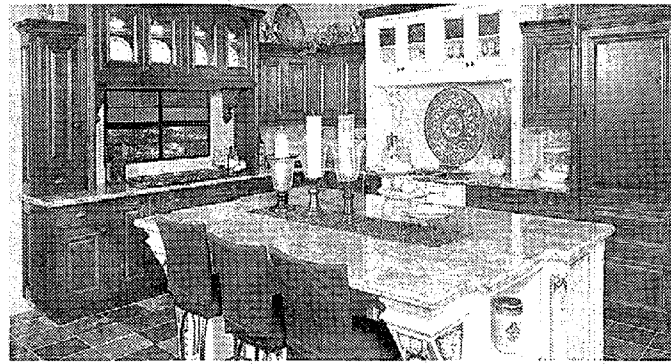
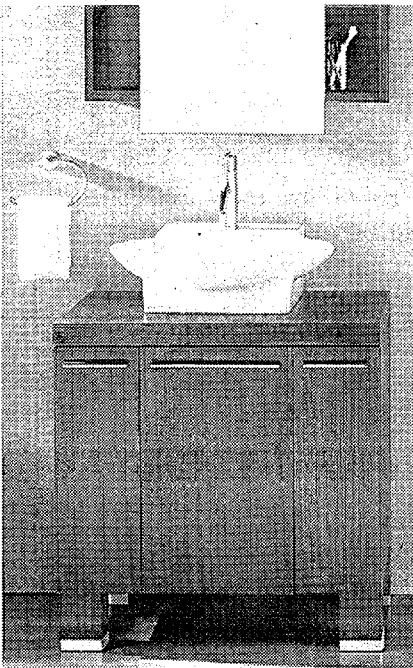
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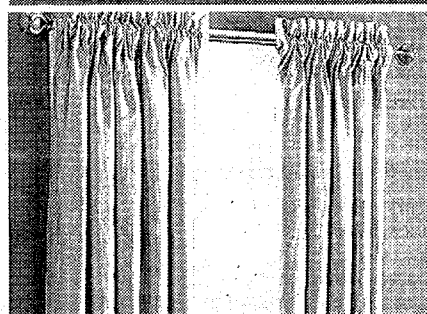
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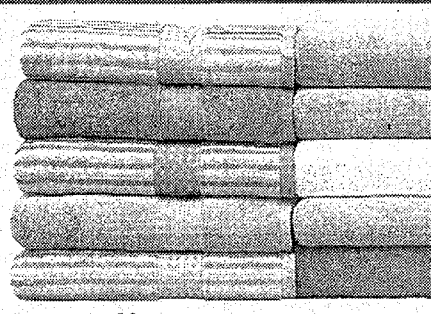
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CANTON POLICE AUCTION

These vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction. The auction will be on Tuesday, June 29th at 10:00 a.m. The auction will be held at 6375 Hix, Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, the starting is for towing and storage.

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1994	Geo	Prizm	1Y1SK536XRZ039456
1995	Dodge	Caravan	2B4GH25K4SR111668
1997	Jeep	Gr. Cherokee	1J4GZ58S5VC582703
1985	Ford	Box Truck	1FDNF70H3FVA30605
1989	Ford	Ranger	1FTCR10A4KUC35160
1993	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1445P2350670

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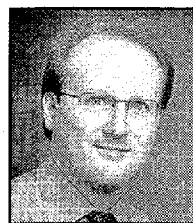
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GENERAL MOTORS' SLIMMER COST STRUCTURE IS PACKING A WALLOP

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

With all the positive things that have begun accruing to General Motors as it attempts to leave 2009 behind, the biggest one of all has only begun to materialize: GM's fast-improving manufacturing-cost position versus its biggest foreign rivals.

That's right: GM likely has begun enjoying a new cost edge. Some analysts say that it already has reached as much as \$2,000 a car over models built by Japanese competitors in the United States and that GM's overall cost advantage may soon become as much as double that amount. Other experts peg GM's improving manufacturing-cost comparison not as optimistically -- but at no worse than a draw compared with any of its major competitors at this point.

GM's improved cost position is showing up in its new vehicles and will make a big difference in the quality and pricing of the upcoming Chevrolet Cruze, a highly touted small car that is due out soon. The consensus is that Cruze will leap-frog GM's last small car, the five-year-old Chevrolet Cobalt -- and pose serious competition to segment leaders such as the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla.

For a company that perpetually faced a roughly \$2,000-a-car cost disadvantage for most of the last few decades versus

its Japanese rivals, the turnaround in costs is monumental for GM. More than anything else as GM's recovery plays out, this factor could ensure that the company not only is surviving but thriving again as an independent entity within a few years.

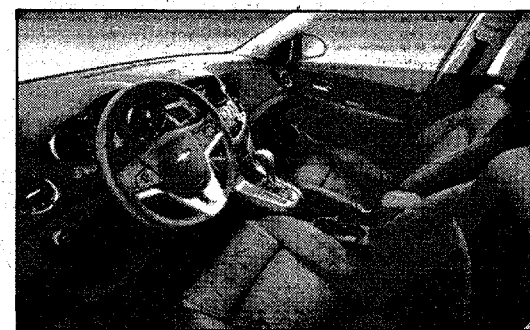
"It means the curse they've been carrying for 20-some years is gone," said David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a long-time student of GM. His outfit recently estimated that GM and Chrysler each has cut the cost of making each U.S. vehicle by \$5,000. "People are going to be surprised. GM is going to be right at the center again of what will be a highly profitable industry."

GM in its restructuring last year wiped out \$30-some billion in debt and reduced it to under \$10 billion now. And that was after GM earlier had gotten the UAW and other unions to let GM off-load its "legacy" pension and health-care costs onto a new, independent entity whose financial risks mainly fall to the unions, rather than to the company.

GM had battled the cost bugaboo fruitlessly for decades. It couldn't make a small car competitively in the United States because of the huge manufacturing-cost differential, seen in the form of a woeful labor-cost



The 2011 Chevrolet Cruze is expected to cut a strong profile for GM when it is introduced later this year.



GM is applying its growing cost savings to improve interiors in new cars like this Cruze.

current workers and turned management of those funds over to the union.

GM soon will be able to test its newfound leverage with Cruze. And while Cruze was under development long before GM filed for bankruptcy, outside analysts and GM executives agree that the company's new cost environment has been enriching Cruze as it is readied for its debut.

"The level of execution is unbelievable compared with the Cobalt," Cole said. He said that an innovative suspension system that creates more trunk room is one major reason, from the Cruze design hatched a few years ago. But the addition of noise-insulation materials around the rear is an improvement that could have been added much more recently, partly as a result of vehicle managers' increasing confidence about costs.

In any event, said Ken Morris, GM's executive director of global vehicle integration, "We're very happy with where the Cruze will be against the competition when it comes out."

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