



PLYMOUTH WOMAN RETURNS AFTER PEACE CORPS ASSIGNMENT, A4

Plymouth District Library

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TEAM LOOKING FOR 6TH CHAMPIONSHIP
SPORTS, B1

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Back to school

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps is accepting applications for those seeking assistance with backpacks and school supplies through Aug. 12.

Parents with children in grades K-12 in need of supplies are encouraged to call The Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464 to schedule an appointment for assistance. Proof of household income and identification for all students will be required.

Anyone interested in donating school supplies can contact Laurie Aren at the church office or by e-mail at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org

Sidewalk sales

Shoppers are being urged to "Shop Local! Shop Downtown Plymouth!" as the annual Downtown Plymouth Sidewalk Sales take place July 23-24.

Sale hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, July 23, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 24.

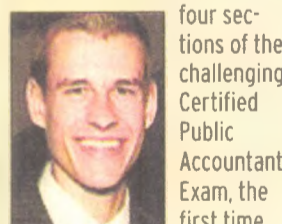
Downtown Plymouth's wide variety of shops and galleries will offering discounts and bargains during the sale.

Participating shops include Basket Kreations, Candy Trail, Frameworks, Hands on Leather, Haven, Home Sweet Home, Jill Andra Young Photography, Kennitz Fine Candies, Maggie & Me, Magnolia, A Fresh Flower Market, Merle Norman, Penniman Gallery, sideways, Sun & Snow, TranquilTea and Wilcox Consignment.

For more information, call the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-1540.

Young gun

Bradley Brennan, a 2010 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's College of Business and a 2007 Plymouth High School graduate, is believed to be the youngest certified public accountant in the state of Michigan, according to school officials. Brennan recently was notified he passed all



Brennan

four sections of the challenging Certified Public Accountant Exam, the first time he took them, at age 20, and seven months. While the state and national boards of accountancy cannot verify Brennan's claim because records are not kept regarding age and test accomplishment, Eli Broad, billionaire businessman and philanthropist, has long contended he was the youngest person to become a CPA in the state of Michigan. The Broad Foundations verified Broad was 20 years and 11 months when he passed the exam in 1954. Broad is a graduate of Central High School in Detroit and Michigan State University. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

A-h-h-h-h-h!

Weather clears for strong Art in the Park kickoff

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The weather was smiling on Plymouth for the opening Friday of the annual 31st Art in the Park.

The rain — a brief but intense shower early on — passed quickly, leaving clear skies and, thankfully, cooler temperatures.

In Kellogg Park, and on Main, Penniman, Union, Ann Arbor Trail and Forest, the crowds built quickly, as visitors browsed — and bought — at booths displaying the works of painters, sculptors, jewelry-makers, wood-carvers, candle-makers, weavers, clothing designers, tie-dyers and more.

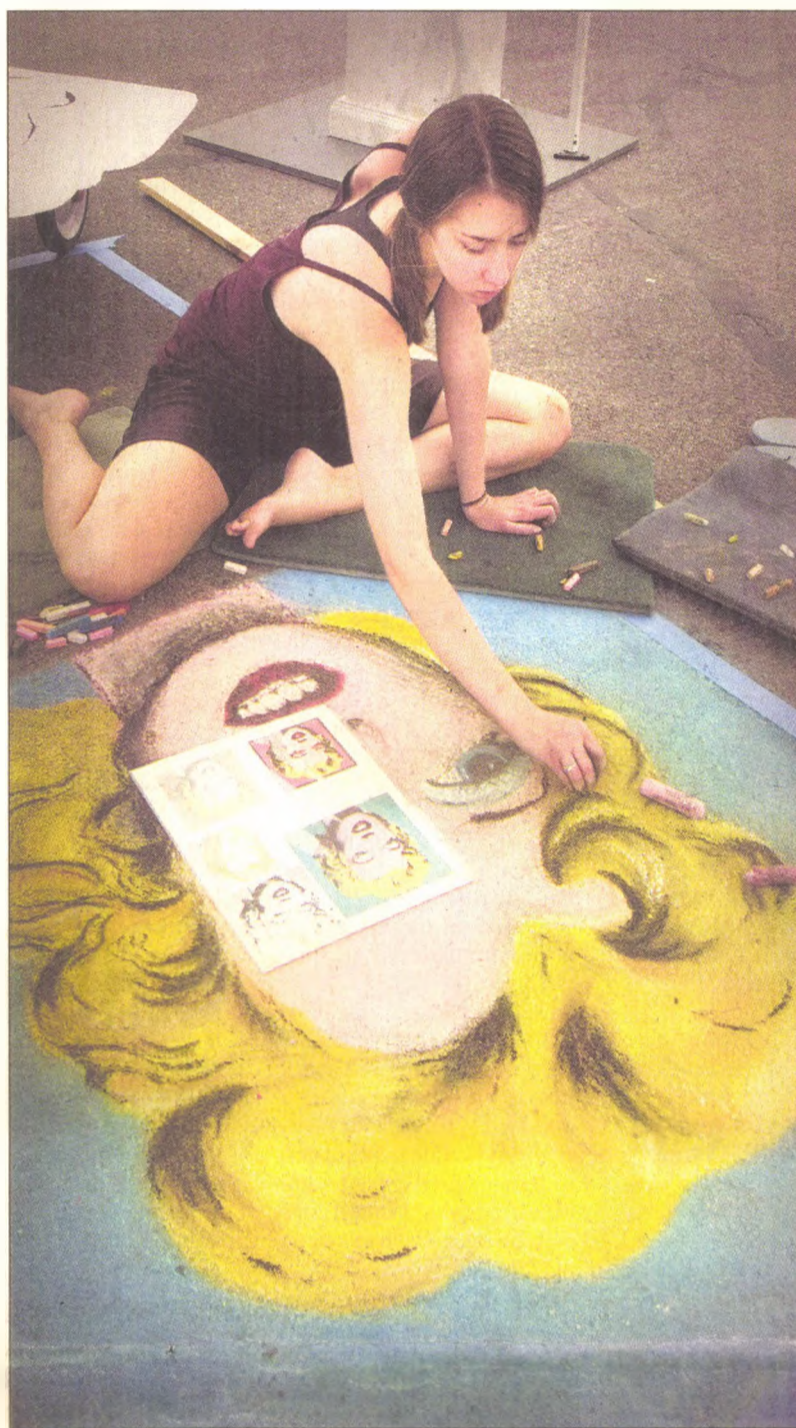
The entertainment — the Zumar Jazz Band and magician George Tait, who did a part-mime, part-mannequin act in the middle of Main Street — also drew fans, as did the requisite fair food: popcorn, fruit smoothies, kielbasa, fresh-squeezed lemonade.

"Real nice crowd, very friendly and open," said Gregg Adams, who turns scrap metal into garden art. "The live music's always a nice attraction."

Adams is a sculptor with a Louisville, Ky.-based outfit called Yardbirds, which specializes in dog, cat and bird figures. He and wife Tracie are representing the company, set up on Ann Arbor Trail, at Art in the Park this weekend; he figured it was his fourth trip to the show.

Diane Kenny of Mountaindale, N.Y., has made about twice as many visits, and has built up a loyal Plymouth customer base for her products, women's clothing she and her husband, Ed, make by hand.

Please see **ART, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bethany Grysko of D and M Art Studio creates a chalk rendering of an Andy Warhol portrait of Marilyn Monroe.

Ex-scoutmaster arraigned on sex charges

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 49-year-old Canton man and former leader of Plymouth-based Boy Scout Troop 781 has been arraigned on multiple charges amid allegations he used his position of authority to coerce at least two teens into criminal sexual conduct.

William Arther Hoefling, a former Scoutmaster also accused of using the Internet to commit crimes and providing alcohol to a minor, faces a July 30 preliminary exam after he was arraigned Tuesday in 35th District Court on 10 separate charges. He has been released from custody after posting a \$5,000 cash bond.



Hoefling

Hoefling, facing allegations dating back to August, has been removed from his Boy Scout duties.

"I can tell you that he is no longer associated with the troop," Assistant Scoutmaster Jeff Sisolak confirmed Thursday.

Canton police declined to reveal where the criminal sexual activity allegedly occurred, saying they didn't want to taint the case before it unfolds in court.

"We're investigating claims by at least two persons," Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

The boys, now 15 and 16 years old, would have been about a year younger at the time Hoefling is charged with sexually abusing them.

The troop has about 60 members — boys in grades six through 12, Sisolak said, adding that he didn't feel comfortable discussing the allegations against Hoefling.

The most serious charges against Hoefling are punishable by 20 years in prison upon conviction. Charges include:

- Child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony.
- Two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with multiple variables, including a victim between the ages of 13 and 15 and involving coercion of the victim by exerting a position of authority. These charges carry a possible 15-year prison sentence.
- Three counts of using computers and the Internet to communicate with another to commit a crime. Two of these counts are punishable by 20 years in prison, one count by four years.

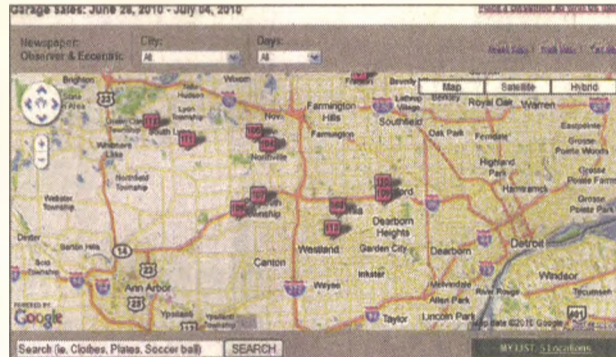
Please see **CHARGES, A2**

Garage sale map makes bargain hunting easy

Garage sale treasure hunters now have an easy way to make the most out of their day. We've added an innovative garage sale mapping feature to our website — hometownlife.com — that allows users to not only see exactly where the best sales are taking place, but also create a custom map that makes getting to them much easier.

The days of writing down addresses and plotting a course from one sale to the next are over because our new feature does all the work for you.

To get started, simply go to hometownlife.com and click on the garage sale map located below the main carousel of stories. A map showing the location of each sale will open in a new browser window. From there, users are able to select the sales they want to go to and generate a custom map that routes the easiest way from location to location. The garage sale map is proving popular with our online readers, too, as hits have tripled since its debut two weeks ago. That means anyone who wants to advertise a garage sale in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and *Hometown Weeklies* may do so with the added confidence



of knowing a growing number of bargain hunters are turning to hometownlife.com to make sure they don't get lost along the way. For a look at the current listings, go directly to the map at this link: <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/99999999/CLASSIFIEDS01/100610002>.

To place an ad for your garage, estate, rummage-sale or auction, call our toll-free number: (800) 579-7355.

Focus on jobs in 7th state Senate race

Munfakh: State must be 'business friendly'

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Abe Munfakh has no illusions the process of fixing the state will be easy, but he figures the place to start is pretty simple.

Michigan, said the former Plymouth Township trustee, must become more business-friendly.

"This state has not been business-friendly for a lot of years," Munfakh said. "No attempt has been made to compete with our neighbors."

Munfakh, 67, a retired engineering management consultant, believes his



Munfakh

business background makes him the choice to help Michigan do just that. He's seeking the Republican nomination in the state's 7th Senate District, the seat being vacated by the term-limited Sen. Bruce Patterson (Canton), in the Aug. 3 primary. The district includes Belleville, Brownstown Township, Canton, Flat

Please see **MUNFAKH, A5**

Colbeck: Make state an 'enterprise zone'

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Patrick Colbeck believes the way for Michigan to climb out of its economic doldrums is clear, if not obvious: Climb from what he says is a ranking near the bottom in business friendliness in the country to the top spot.

And the way he says the state should do it is to "start treating businesses as customers, not piggy banks."

"Businesses provide jobs ... the more people who have jobs, the more



Colbeck

taxpayers we will have," Colbeck said. "The more taxpayers we have, the more tax revenue we generate. The more tax revenue we have, the more we can effectively support the government services called for under our constitution."

Colbeck, a self-employed management consultant from Canton, is seeking the Republican nomi-

Please see **COLBECK, A6**



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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Jewelry evaluation

The Plymouth Historical Museum will be holding a jewelry evaluation day with appraisers from Joseph DuMouchelle International Auctioneers, Appraisers & Estate Buyers in Grosse Pointe Farms on Wednesday, July 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The experts will evaluate, as well as purchase, your gold, platinum, diamond, and estate jewelry both antique and modern. In addition, they are also interested in purchasing sterling silver flatware and hollow ware (no silver plate please). Appraisals are by appointment only and time slots fill up quickly.

Oral evaluations will be provided for \$10 per item. There is a maximum of four items to be appraised per 15-minute time slot. Call for an appointment, (734) 455-8940 or e-mail secretary@plymouthhistory.org. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth.

Jazz at the Elks

Plymouth Elks Lodge No. 1780 presents "Jazz @ The Elks" with the Sven Anderson Trio on Tuesday, July 27, from 7-10:30 p.m.

Sven Anderson will be on piano and John Barron on bass with other musicians joining in. Don't miss an evening of great jazz from Cole Porter to Salsa in a beautiful club setting.

There is no cover charge but donations are appreciated. The Plymouth Elks Lodge No. 1780 is located on Ann Arbor Road, west of Haggerty, in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-1780 for more information.

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.

Art, theater camps

Summer Art Camps are in full swing at the Plymouth Community Arts Council! Half-day camps for ages 5-12 are offered in a wide variety of themes, ranging from the traditional favorites; Drawing, Painting, Pottery and Performing Arts to some new camps, including Diva Art, Camp Earth, Construction-Destruction Art and Musical Theater. Also new this year are the Littlest Artist Studio and the Celebration Art Camp, intended for the 4 1/2 - 6 year old first time camper.

Camps are offered either in morning or afternoon sessions. For families looking for an all day camp, lunch care is available between the two sessions. Prices vary for PCAC members and non-members. For specific dates, times and prices of the camps, or to register for any of the camps, please visit the Plymouth Community Arts website: www.plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278.

Scottish fun

The Scottish American Society of Michigan will host a fun summer Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) 3-7 p.m. Sunday, July 25, at the Commonwealth Club, 30088 Dequindre Road in Warren. Partial proceeds from the second annual fundraising event by the group will go to benefit the Vietnam Veterans Post 154 in Roseville.

The Ceilidh will feature a Scottish meal of steak pie, mushy peas, chips (fries) and cole slaw, plus great entertainment including Detroit Caledonian Pipe Band, solo piping competition, Highland dancers, Celtic fiddler, Raggle Taggle Band, and more. Tickets

are \$20 per person or \$15 for kids 10 and under. Kids 4 and under are free. Seating is limited to 150 and the cut off for tickets is Monday, July 21. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more ticket information, please visit www.scotsofmichigan.com or send e-mail to scotsofmi@yahoo.com.

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

Matinee series

Community Financial Credit Union, Packaging Corporation of America and the Plymouth District Library sponsor the Summer Cinema Matinee Series at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth throughout the summer.

The schedule of movies includes "Pee Wee's Big Adventure," July 15; "Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo," July 22; "Back to the Future," July 29; "The Wizard of Oz," Aug. 5; "American Tail 2: Fievel Goes West," Aug. 12; "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," Aug. 19; and "Muppet Treasure Island," Aug. 26.

Shows are at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; the box office opens a half-hour before each showing. All seats \$3. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com

Golf outing

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is holding a golf outing Aug. 12 at the Inn at St. John's, and golfers are needed.

The cost is \$125 per person or \$500 for a foursome. It is a 9:30 a.m. shotgun start and all the proceeds go to recreation programs, supplies, equipment, and facility improvements.

For more information or to sign up go to ci.plymouth.mi.us/index.aspx?nid=1111, or call the Recreation Department at (734) 455-6620.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Potts of Ypsilanti creates photo-collages created with hundreds of close-up photographs of scenes. Potts was a vendor at the annual Art in the Park this weekend.

ART

FROM PAGE A1

Kenny, who studied pattern-making in the 1970s, designs the pieces herself, instead of relying on computer-generated patterns.

"We have a lot of the same people coming to buy over and over again," Kenny said.

Kenny could've taken her brand, Cloz's, to an art fair in her own state this weekend

CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1

• Distributing sexually explicit matter to children, a two-year felony.

• Selling or furnishing alcohol to a minor, which is a misdemeanor.

Police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said the allegations came to light after one of the boys mentioned it during a counseling session. He and other authorities cautioned against drawing wider conclusions against scouting organizations just because of one case.

A statement from Canton police indicated the charges against Hoefling involve "inap-

— at half the distance and half the price, she said — but said Plymouth is the better option.

"The setup crew here is better than any show I've ever been to anywhere," she said. The workers are organized, communicate well and are easy to reach, she said.

About 300,000 visitors were expected at Art in the Park over the course of the weekend.

Marion Wait and Betty Dillon, both of Plymouth Township, were making their fifth or sixth trip to Art in the

Park. Both said they enjoyed the range of talent and the fresh ideas on view.

"I think it's expanded a lot and I like to see the new features," said Dillon, who had picked up a sculpture of a frog riding a skateboard.

"It's not so overwhelming like (the) Ann Arbor (festivals), but there's so much variety," Wait said.

Art in the Park continues Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

propriate conduct and contact with minors" affiliated with the Boy Scout troop with which he was formerly affiliated.

Schreiner declined to elaborate on the allegations.

"It's not our intent to publicize this case in particular, but he was serving in a social group that was obviously visited by many kids within the community," Schreiner said. "It's important that we notify members of the community that this conduct did occur. We would certainly investigate any other incident where somebody was victimized or has information pertaining to this case."

Schreiner called the developments "a sad occurrence, and it's disheartening," but he said

it's important for the public to know that authorities are investigating the case.

Authorities have been investigating the allegations for several weeks, Schreiner said, adding that "the details of the case, we want to keep confidential."

"We've obviously had contact with the parents," he said. "They are aware of the situation."

Hoefling was arraigned after he voluntarily turned himself in.

"He did cooperate with the officer in charge," Schreiner said. "He did display cooperation during the investigation during the investigation."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crews had to do a little repair work on the compass at the intersection of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail.

Downtown Plymouth gets face-lift fix

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Downtown Plymouth's new make-over has already gotten a partial make-over of its own — less than two months after it was completed.

The compass logo in the intersection of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail was redone over two nights last week because the original graphic had begun to peel in some spots. The work was completed early Thursday and the full intersection was ready for traffic Friday (but closed for the three-day Art in the Park event, which ends Sunday).

The problem, said Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, was that temperatures when the graphic was first made in

May were too high, meaning the stains dried before they could properly penetrate the concrete. Ditto with the epoxy sealant that protected the graphic, he said.

Contractor GM & Sons of Whitmore Lake decided to redo the design rather than trying to fix it, Bruscato said. The company had given their work a one-year warranty.

"It was hot once again, and they didn't want to run into the same problem," Bruscato said.

That meant working at night during cooler temperatures, Bruscato said. Workers stripped the original logo on Tuesday night and re-applied the stains, and on Wednesday night coated the logo with epoxy to protect it, he said.

The difference has already prompted compliments, he said.

"The colors are much richer than they were the first time, because it actually turned out to be a stain that penetrated the concrete," Bruscato said.

GM & Sons didn't hesitate to live up to its warranty, Bruscato said, and even upped the warranty from one year to three. "If anything goes wrong, they'll be back out here to fix it," he said.

"They were disappointed themselves," Bruscato said. "This is the first time they've done this, and of course it's a signature thing for them."

The \$2 million downtown streetscape improvement project is being run and paid for by the DDA. Work is completed for this year; Phase II, which will focus on the intersection of Main and Penniman, is scheduled to start next spring.

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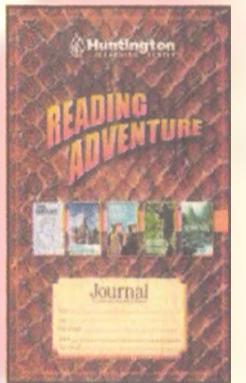
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Plymouth volunteer back from Peace Corps assignment

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH
CORRESPONDENT

"The toughest job you'll ever love" is the Peace Corps motto and Plymouth's Ashleigh Shiffler couldn't agree more.

The 22-year-old Shiffler recently returned from two years of Peace Corps service in Guatemala.

"It was an incredible experience with some of the hardest and best days of my life," Shiffler said. "It taught me to be creative and resourceful and to see the potential that I have in myself."

As a freshman in high school, Shiffler came home one day and told her mom she wanted to join the Peace Corps. The idea was not far-fetched, since her family always emphasized community service. Around the same time, she fell in love with the Spanish language and desired to travel and see the world.

Upon high school graduation, she attended Hope College,

where she attained degrees in Spanish and Sociology.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps is an agency devoted to world peace and friendship. Currently, 7,671 volunteers and trainees are serving in 77 countries. Their service includes the areas of education, health and HIV/AIDS, business development, environment, agriculture and youth development. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the application process is lengthy.

Shiffler's placement in Guatemala, a Spanish speaking country, had a lot to do with her previous volunteer work in health related and social services. She'd been there before and envisioned a tropical and warm climate and, at first, it was. Her three-month language and technical training was right outside Antigua, a popular tourist attraction. She lived with a family, who taught her about local customs and culture.



Ashleigh Shiffler recently returned from two years of Peace Corps service in Guatemala, where she helped youngsters such as these children she posed with in Chuistanci.

"Learning so much about another culture and country helps you learn a lot about yourself, your culture and your country," she said.

After her training, Shiffler was assigned to Olinstepeque, a village in the mountains, about 2,500 meters above sea level. The climate was a shock for Shiffler.

"It was six months of rain every day and six months of not a drop of rain," said Shiffler, who had a cell phone and Internet access, but no indoor heating. "I could even see my breath inside my house on cold nights." The first months were rough, she said.

Shiffler's primary assignment was part of the healthy schools program, where she taught health, nutrition and hygiene in three very rural elementary schools. She saw stu-

dents frequently, but her main focus was to train the teachers. She learned to be resourceful when she held an 8-hour long workshop, in Spanish, for 250 teachers with a \$12 budget.

Shiffler's secondary project was as director of Girls Leading Our World, which was an overnight three-day camp for underprivileged and indigenous girls between 12-17 years old. For most of the girls, GLOW was their first camping experience and first night away from home. Guatemalan girls, Shiffler discovered, are hardly given any opportunities.

"When they are given just a little bit of encouragement, a little bit of motivation from people they look up to, the results are just incredible," said Shiffler, who taught the girls about self-esteem, health and leadership. These are new concepts for most, said Shiffler, who admitted she "loved to see their enthusiasm when they realized that they can play an active role in their own lives and their communities."

Guatemala has over 20 different indigenous populations, each with its own language.

They share a lot of the same culture and customs, but it varies between regions. Shiffler found it interesting that cell phones came quickly for these regions and almost everyone has a cell phone.

However, when she went to the mall, she said, "Many had never seen an escalator and were taking pictures with their cell phones."

For the majority of Shiffler's service, she was the only Peace Corps volunteer in Olinstepeque, where the locals spoke K'iche' and Spanish. She lived alone in a house she furnished from recycled things. She learned how to get herself out in the community and now feels "completely capable in almost every situation."

Now that Shiffler is back in Michigan, she is ready to make a difference as the Council Director of GOTR of Greater Detroit through the YCMA of Metropolitan Detroit. She wants to explore more of Michigan and the U.S. as a whole.

For more information about the Peace Corps, go to: www.peacecorps.gov.

Tickets flow for grub crawl

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Food lovers who relish trying different restaurants have scooped up some 300 tickets for Grub Crawl, an event that allows patrons to sample dishes from 13 Canton eateries.

"We only have about 100 tickets left," said Jana Porter, Canton Chamber of Commerce administrative assistant.

Hungry? Better hurry. Patrons pay \$35 and get T-shirts that serve as their admission to Grub Crawl, 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, followed immediately by an after-hours, free-pizza gathering at Kickers All-Star Grill on Michigan Avenue.

In a community that touts its diversity, the combined Grub Crawl menu offers an international flavor of dishes

such as chicken milano, fajitas, pierogies, chicken shawarma and barbecue ribs.

Though three popular Italian restaurants are among the participating eateries, the event offers a broad choice: 4 Friends Bar & Grill, Antonio's Cucina Italiana, bd's Mongolian Grill, Bailey's Pub & Grille, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carraba's Italian Grill, Chili's, Crow's Nest Bar & Grill, Rose's Restaurant, Shish Kabob Cafe, Super Bowl Pizzeria, T.C. Gators Sports Page and T.G.I. Friday's.

Patrons are assigned a starting point, from which they can make their rounds by driving themselves or boarding shuttle buses and vans that continually travel the Grub Crawl route.

The chamber sponsors the event along with Canton Township and the Downtown

Development Authority.

Porter has noticed a change this year as participants buy tickets. In previous years, chamber members accounted for as much as 60 percent of Grub Crawl participants. This year, non-chamber residents have bought a majority of the tickets.

That, officials hope, could expose participating restaurants to a broader customer base, in hopes patrons will like the food they sample and return to explore the menus.

"We have a huge turnout by residents this year," Porter said.

For tickets, stop by the chamber office, 45525 Hanford Road west of Canton Center and north of Ford, or call (734) 453-4040.

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MUNFAKH

FROM PAGE A1

Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron Township, Northville Township, part of the city of Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Rockwood, Sumpter Township, Trenton, Van Buren Township and Woodhaven.

"I believe Michigan needs to be run like a business by businessmen, not politicians," said Munfakh, who chairs the Wayne 11th Republican Committee. "I am an outsider who is not looking to further my career in Lansing, but to fix the disaster that the present administration has created. Michigan is bleeding, and I know how to heal it."

Munfakh, the retired president of Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc., and CEO of his own company, Munfakh & Associates, LLC, said job creation will be his "laser focus" if elected. He said the state needs to create a better business environment, easing up in areas such as permits and regulation and lowering the tax burden.

While Munfakh agrees the Single Business Tax the state dumped a couple of years ago was burdensome, he said the law with which it was replaced is equally cumbersome and more difficult to understand.

"It's so complicated, and rather than reduce taxes, they increased them," said Munfakh, who has lived in Plymouth for 32 years. "Small business is the engine that drives the state, and these are the ones paying the most taxes. How can they expand and stay in the state with that burden?"

Munfakh said his top priorities would include spending cuts and a better budgeting system. Legislators should have a two- to three-year budget plan, adopting the one-year

THE MUNFAKH FILE

Who: Abe A. Munfakh, 67

What: Republican candidate, 7th District state Senate seat

Family: Wife of 40 years, Darlene; two daughters, three grandchildren

Residency: Plymouth, 32 years

Community involvement: president, Schoolcraft College Foundation Board; Plymouth Community Foundation; worship commission and minister of hospitality, Our Lady of Good Counsel; chairman of the board, Arab American & Chaldean Council

Hobbies: Music appreciation, fishing, reading

Related experience: Plymouth Township board, three terms; Plymouth Township planning commission; Wayne County Planning Commission; executive committee, SEMCOG.

Profession: civil engineer, retired president of Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc.; CEO, Munfakh & Associates, LLC

Education: bachelor of Science in civil engineering, Louisiana State University; management courses through University of Michigan; registered professional engineer in Michigan, Indiana and Louisiana

Website: www.Abe4Michigan.org

budget as required by the state Constitution. But Munfakh also said the state should start with "zero-based" budgeting "as is done in the private sector," he said, and start from scratch, rather than using the previous year's budget as a starting point.

"If you start at zero, you're going to find out the budget is going to be much smaller," he said.

Spending cuts should start with state payroll and benefits, the "prevailing wage" provision to paying for projects should be changed and taxes should be cut "so smaller industries get the message we are business-friendly," Munfakh said.

Munfakh also:

- Does not believe the state's sales tax should be expanded to include services. "Services are an industry that tend to human needs," he said. "To put a tax on human need is unfortunate, and I wouldn't do that."

- Doesn't think the state should necessarily be advocating for particular industries, such as the film industry, as a means of attracting business

to the state. "The state should be advocating for bringing (all) business to the state, as opposed to pitting one community against another," he said. "Attracting the movie industry worked, but I think they gave away too much."

- Thinks the way to go is lowering taxes on everyone, including small businesses. "I also propose eliminating the surcharge on the Michigan Business Tax and lowering it by changing the formula, and eliminating red tape in state government by requiring rapid issuance of permits and reducing requirements for locating in Michigan, which would make us competitive with our neighboring states, grow our economy and create jobs."

Munfakh, whose third grandchild, Colleen, was born just a couple of months ago, said he's not running for the Senate just to get the gig.

"I'm not a professional politician, I'm not looking for a job," Munfakh said. "I'm doing it for your family, and I'm doing it for my family."

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COLBECK

FROM PAGE A1

nation in the state's 7th Senate District, a seat being vacated by the term-limited Sen. Bruce Patterson (Canton), in the Aug. 3 primary. The district includes Belleville, Brownstown Township, Canton, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron Township, Northville Township, part of the city of Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Rockwood, Sumpter Township, Trenton, Van Buren Township and Woodhaven.

Colbeck, who launched his campaign with an April 15 speech during a Tax Day Tea Party event in Plymouth, said he's running a "grass roots" campaign. He thinks his management background gives him the right perspective on the ways to fix Michigan and its long-suffering economy. "My bread-and-butter is going into dysfunctional situations," Colbeck said. "There's a different mindset when you go at it from a design engineer perspective. That thinking can extend into the business

system very well. I have what it takes."

Colbeck said the way to start is to cut expenses, rather than increasing revenue in ways such as tax increases. Pointing out he signed a Taxpayer Protection Pledge, Colbeck said the state can't "tax ourselves to prosperity."

"Everyone is focused on the revenue side of the ledger," Colbeck said. "We need to lift the hood and look at the other side."

Colbeck would not support expanding the state's sales tax to include services, and would prefer to see the entire state become an "enterprise zone," though he said it won't happen.

"If most folks agree that lower taxes inspire economic growth, why isn't the entire state of Michigan an enterprise zone?" he said. "The answer is fairly simple — special interest politics. Most politicians want to get personal credit for bringing new business to their district. What we need are more 'general interest' politicians. We need to put representatives into state government that seek to look out for the good of the entire state.

THE COLBECK FILE

Who: Patrick Colbeck, 44
What: Republican candidate, state 7th Senate District
Family: He and his wife, Angie, have been married more than 14 years
Residency: 14 years
Community involvement: outreach coordinator for Good News! Via de Cristo, member of Canton and Northville Chambers of Commerce, member of SharePoint Users Group, NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township
Hobbies: reading (history, religion, politics), golf, volleyball
Related experience: treasurer, Canton Charter Academy Board (2009-present)
Profession: Currently a self-employed management consultant (11 years total experience. Past six years have been on my own). Also provides IT consulting and web hosting services. Also has held senior management positions within the professional service and manufacturing industries, and provided systems and design engineering support for NASA and the Department of Defense.
Education: Detroit Catholic Central High School (1983); bachelor's (1987) and master's (1988) degrees in aerospace engineering, University of Michigan; International Space University, life sciences (1989).
E-mail: Committee@ColbeckforMISenate.com
Website: www.FixingMichigan.com

A healthy state economy is the best way to ensure a robust economy in their district."

Colbeck said education is his top funding priority. "We need to encourage school districts to operate more efficiently by consolidating administrative services such as payroll, ben-

efits management, and information technology support into shared service pools," said Colbeck, who serves as treasurer for the Canton Charter Academy board.

His other priorities:
 • Health care expenses: "Health care costs are the

most significant expense item for employers and families alike. We need to ensure that we provide Michigan citizens and employers with access to low cost and high quality health care solutions. The only proven solutions of this nature are capitalist solutions such as those afforded by the adoption of Health Savings Accounts (which) eliminate the administrative costs associated with having insurance companies process transactions for frequently used, basic services such as doctor visits and lab work."

• Stakeholder-based organization structure: "I would work with the next governor to extend the concept of shared service consolidation for school districts to our state government as a whole," he said. "We need to rationalize the 18 different

state departments into six stakeholder-based departments featuring one department focused on shared services. Not only would this cut expenses, it would also help to improve the quality of these services by decreasing the number of touchpoints that stakeholders would face when engaging the state government."

• Colbeck also supports term limits, saying they "encourage service-driven representation in the spirit of the Father of Our Country, George Washington. We need a healthy rotation of those experiencing the impacts of legislation and those of us responsible for implementing legislation to ensure that the legislation is pragmatic and beneficial."

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

School break-in

A false alarm at Pioneer Middle School on Ann Arbor Road sent the Plymouth Community Fire Department there early on July 1.

The school had been broken into and an alarm deliberately pulled, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

Arriving firefighters spotted a broken window in an exterior door and called police. The incident occurred about 2:30 a.m.

Police contacted the school principal, who inspected the building and found nothing missing and nothing else vandalized, police said.

Thefts from vehicles

A purse, cash, debit cards and 30 compact discs were among the things reported stolen on Tuesday from a vehicle parked outside a house on Ann Arbor Trail.

The GMC Jimmy, parked in a driveway, had its windows rolled down, the victim told police. The theft occurred between 11 p.m. Sunday and 1:30 p.m. Monday, she told police.

Cash was reported stolen June 19 from an Oldsmobile Alero parked outside a house on Ivywood Lane.

The car, which was in a driveway, had been left unlocked, the victim told police. The theft occurred between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on June 19, he said.

Other items, including a backpack and a wallet, had apparently also been stolen, but were found in a Dumpster at a gas station at Five Mile and Northville Road and turned in to police, who returned them to the victim, a police report said.

Mowers stolen

A trailer full of lawn-care equipment, including two riding mowers, was reported stolen recently from a township landscaping firm.

The enclosed, silver-colored 2008 model trailer was taken from Anthony's Landscaping Inc., on Haggerty just north of Joy Road, an employee told police.

The theft occurred between June 19 and June 21, a police report said.

- By Matt Jachman

Realtors offer valuable service in today's tough market



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Q: Dear Rick: I recently retired and my wife and I have decided to move out of state to be closer to our kids. We would like to move sooner rather than later. We want to sell our home to save the real estate commissions. My wife doesn't like that idea. What do you think? Our house is paid off.

A: Congratulations on retiring. I hope you and your wife have many decades enjoying the fruits of your labor.

A few years ago, it was relatively easy to sell your house by yourself. In today's market, homes are sitting for long periods of time and mortgages are no longer easy to get. The real estate market is much more difficult than it was a few years ago.

The short answer is of course you can sell your house on your own. However, the issue is whether it is a smart move.

Let's look at what a good Realtor does. He/she helps you properly market your home. This may include setting a realistic price or recommending certain repairs or improve-

ments or even some cosmetic changes to your home. A good Realtor knows what buyers in today's market want. In other words, Realtors can assist you in making the house as sellable as possible.

Another job of the Realtor is to bring qualified buyers to your home — buyers who can qualify for a mortgage and can afford your home. You don't necessarily want to deal with window shoppers. You want to deal with serious homebuyers.

A few years ago, there were more buyers than sellers. That is no longer the case. Sellers have numerous options available and a good Realtor helps direct them to you.

The key to selling your home on your own is to honestly look at whether you have the attributes and the patience to sell the home. You can, by using the Internet and reading dif-

ferent articles, determine what things need to be done to your home to make it readily sellable. The downside is you can read 10 different articles and get 20 different opinions.

The other issue is can you attract qualified buyers to your home? In the old days, it was relatively simple. In today's savvy world, buyers look at a number of different places.

Another issue Realtors assist with is who you let into your home to view it. Unfortunately, many in our society take the opportunity to visit homes, not to buy them but for other purposes. There is always a security factor that you have to take into consideration.

Lastly, the Realtor also makes sure that all the i's have been dotted and the t's crossed. Whether that means checking on the buyer to make sure that they have been approved for the mortgage or that title work or inspections have been done. You can do this on your own, however, it is a commitment.

If someone has the time and is willing to do some homework about selling a house,

it can be done. However, it's important to recognize that it's not easy.

Either way you choose to sell the house, you will need an attorney. A real estate attorney should be the first individual you retain. Before signing any documents, make sure an attorney has reviewed them.

Even the agreement you sign with your Realtor should be reviewed by an attorney. In any real estate transaction, whether you're buying or selling, it is important to retain the services of a real estate attorney.

In today's difficult real estate climate, selling one's home is challenging but not impossible. The money saved by not using a Realtor can be substantial, however, weigh the cost vs. your time, energy and frustration in trying to sell your home.

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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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Canton graffiti

A man notified Canton police after he found what appeared to be gang graffiti on a sidewalk near his house on Raintree, southwest of Haggerty and Warren.

The man told authorities someone spray-painted the words "Bloods 4 Life" and other graffiti between the hours of 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday.

The man also reported finding vulgar drawings spray-painted on the sidewalk.

Police said it appeared to be an isolated incident.

Fridges swiped

A manager of the Sherwood Village mobile home park, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty Road, reported that three used refrigerators were stolen after maintenance workers temporarily placed them outside, near a storage facility, last Thursday afternoon.

One female witness told police she saw a pickup truck pull up, and three white males made two trips to haul away the refrigerators.

Benz broken

A woman told police her silver Mercedes Benz was vandalized while it was in a parking lot on Ford Road east of

Lotz on June 29.

She reported that someone left a profane note on her windshield and a sanitary napkin on her driver's side window. She also said two scratches, apparently made with keys, were found along the side of the car. She also said someone had dented and scratched the front right bumper.

A police report indicated the damage was around \$1,000.

Gas guzzler

He could afford to drive a Lexus, but he apparently couldn't afford to pay — or didn't want to pay — his gas-line tab.

A police report indicated a man put \$20 into the gas tank of his black Lexus and drove off shortly before 6:30 p.m. June 29 from a BP station on the southwest corner of Joy and Sheldon roads.

The suspect was described as a white male, 35-45 years old, wearing blue-jean shorts and a white shirt.

Man assaulted

Canton police were investigating reports of an assault that a 74-year-old man said occurred the afternoon of June 28 on Old Michigan, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty.

Police arrived on the scene and found the man lying on the ground with an injury to the right side of his face. Neighbors were tending to him.

The man told police he had driven a 50-year-old woman to a business near Detroit Metro

Airport to fill out a job application, and he said she became irate on the way home, began yelling at him, calling him names and assaulting him in the vehicle.

After they arrived at a residence on Old Michigan, the man said the woman continued assaulting him, prompting him to pick up a golf club to try to keep her away from him. But, he said she grabbed the golf club, knocked him to the ground, kicked him in the face, stole his keys, went inside the house and left carrying a blue bag.

Canton firefighters took the man to a hospital for treatment.

Wallet walk-off

It's an invitation too tempting for thieves — finding a wallet in an unlocked car.

A woman told police that a wallet was stolen from her car in a parking lot of her apartment on Walton, southeast of I-275 and Joy Road, between noon and 4 p.m. Saturday.

The woman told police the car wasn't locked. The wallet contained \$200 and other belongings.

Blanket boosted

A man told police that a flannel blanket was stolen from his 2006 Ford Explorer between 9 p.m. last Thursday and 7:30 a.m. Friday while it was parked in his driveway on Terrell Court, southwest of Lilley and Saltz.

The man told police he may have left the vehicle unlocked.

Salem grad's essay in best-selling anthology

At a time when it seems like optimism is in short supply, one book brings hope. *Cup of Comfort for a Better World*, the latest in the National Bestselling Cup of Comfort series, shows that even in dark times people can find good in their lives.

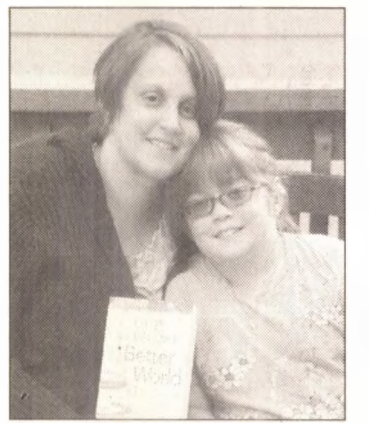
Among the 55 contributors to the book is 1986 Salem High School graduate Cristina Trapani-Scott. She will be discussing and reading her essay, "The Power of Pebbles," as well as signing books at the Borders in Canton Saturday, July 24, at 2 p.m.

She said the essay tells of the "inspiring generosity and support" her daughter, Kiki, who has a rare form of dwarfism called Kniest Syndrome, received from her elementary school classmates as she recovered from major surgery that required her to have to learn how to walk all over again.

"The Power of Pebbles" was chosen from more than 2,000 submissions to be included in the book that was released in March.

Trapani-Scott lives in Ypsilanti with her husband, Jay, and their two children, Josh and Kiki. She has worked as a newspaper reporter and columnist for 11 years and has earned recognition from the National Newspaper Association and from the Michigan Press Association. In addition, her poems and fiction have been published in *Hip Mama Magazine*, *Mamazine.com*, the *Writers Reading at Sweetwaters Anthology* and the *Bear River Review*. She also earned two Kentuckiana Metroversity writing awards in 2008 and 2009 while she was a graduate student in the low-residency MFA in Creative Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. She's also awaiting the release of *More Sweet Lemons*, an anthology of writings on Sicilian culture that will include three of her poems.

In addition to the July 24 book signing, Trapani-Scott also will be leading a regular monthly essay writing group at Borders the third Tuesday



Author Cristina Trapani-Scott with her daughter, Kiki Peck.

of every month. The first essay writing group will meet Tuesday, July 20, at 7 p.m.

Crepes menu

Locally owned Plymouth Coffee Bean Company launched a new Crepes Menu this weekend.

Steve Prokes, co-owner of the Plymouth Coffee Bean Company (or "the Bean" as it is commonly referred) said, "I was on a trip to California and never had a crepe before. I went into a shop, ordered one and watched them make it. The whole experience was so good that I decided that we had to start making crepes at the Bean."

With their new crepe maker they're offering a fun experience with made-to-order crepes. The menu includes some of the more sought-after sweet variations with fillings of Nutella, strawberries, bananas, whipped cream and chocolate as well as the savory including ham, cheddar, and turkey. The Crepe menu offers the "Famous Five" as well as "Create-Your-Own" options, all affordably priced.

The "Bean" is located at 884 Penniman in Plymouth and is open 7 a.m. to midnight daily. For more information, call (734) 454-0178.

Golf America

Golfers of all abilities and all ages are invited to attend Play Golf America Day at Pheasant Run Golf Club on Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Highlighting the day will be free instruction and golf clinics — conducted by PGA teaching professionals — for beginners, intermediate, and advanced level players alike. There is also a free women's clinic from 9-11 a.m.

Pheasant Run Golf Club, designed by world renowned golf course architect Arthur Hills, is part of the Arthur Hills Michigan Golf Trail. This 27-hole layout, located at 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton, covers more than 300 acres of rolling terrain and traverses over 10.5 miles.

To find more information about Play Golf America Day and other golf specials available at Pheasant Run Golf Club, visit golfrgce.org or call (734) 397-6460.

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FRIDAY! LS 11:30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE (PG-13) 10:15, 10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 3:45, 4:15, 6:30, 7:00, 9:15, 9:45
FRIDAY! LS 11:55
KNIGHT AND DAY (PG-13) 11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
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Ambrose embarks on dual A.D. role in WW

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Greg Ambrose is now wearing two hats.

That's because he'll be overseeing athletics at both Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn high schools.

The new dual position, held originally by Glenn athletic director Brian Swinehart, was consolidated for the 2010-11 school calendar year because of budget cuts.

Ambrose, who has been Wayne's A.D. since 2006, was reassigned to an assistant principal's job at the same school, but recently moved back into athletics after Swinehart announced he was leaving for a similar position at Central, Western and Northern highs.

Ambrose began his double-duty on Tuesday and is still working out all the parameters.

The plan is to either work half days at each high school, or spend three days one week at one school and two at the other, then alternating each week.

"It's still a work in progress as far as when and where, it all depends where the need is," Ambrose said. "I don't have all the details worked out yet."

"The biggest part is the transition and maintaining the same things at John Glenn. It's like adopting another family. They have to get used to me and I have to get used to them. Right now is a familiarity thing and I'm working on accessing everything I'll need."

Ambrose was scheduled to meet with Swinehart on Thursday and be briefed.

"We'll have an assistant A.D. in each building," Ambrose said. "Kathy Stellema will be at Wayne and Ron Staples is at Glenn. Each position has an extra hour of release time. That was taken care of by Brian (Swinehart)."

Ambrose arrived at Wayne-Westland after spending four years as an athletic administrative building coordinator at Farmington High under district-wide A.D. Dennis Noe.

Ambrose, a graduate of Rochester H.S. and Alma College, taught 15 years in the Farmington Public Schools where his wife Bonnie also is employed as a para professional. His daughter Caroline will be a junior at Michigan State.

Ambrose said he has all fall coaching positions in place at both high schools with the exception of boys cross country and boys varsity basketball at Wayne (where Wayne Woodard resigned last month after 10 seasons).

"Wayne (Woodard) did some really nice things for our kids," Ambrose said. "I've got some applications, but it's a matter of getting through them and finding someone. We're falling behind right now because of the timeline. I had hoped by this point we'd have someone, but it hasn't happened because of vacations and so forth."

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The Fast Eddie II is named for owner Jim Sechler's late brother and driver Dan Kanfoush's son. Sechler and Kanfoush have won five straight APBA championships with the Fast Eddie II.

Hydroplane racing team goes for sixth national championship

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jim Sechler of Farmington Hills and his team have won five consecutive national championships in hydroplane racing and are working on their sixth.

Sechler, the owner of the Fast Eddie II, and driver Dan Kanfoush are again the current leaders in the American Power Boat Association's one-liter modified class.

They hope to add to their season point total when they go for a sixth straight win at the Quake on the Lake July 17-18 on Pontiac Lake in Waterford.

"Every year it gets harder and harder to win with the competition," Sechler said. "At the last race in Syracuse (N.Y.), the best we could do was third."

"It used to be it was relatively new and everyone else was coming up to speed. Now, there are four or five boats every race that can win. We're hoping to win, but we're going to have to see."

Sechler recalled a race several years ago when the team didn't have the right set-up and was late on the start. "We gave up a few miles per hour



Jim Sechler

but still won the race, because we had enough speed on the boat," he said. "Now, if you make one small mistake, you can go from first to third really quick."

That hasn't happened very often to Sechler, 47, a product design engineer for TRW who likes to tinker with

engines in his garage and has an integral role in making the Fast Eddie II go.

Sechler and his team have set 14 world records in their class. There are only four possible records based on the length of the race courses, but they keep breaking their own records, Sechler explained.

All APBA races are five-mile races. The number of laps depends on the length of the course. The Quake on the Lake will consist of five laps on a one-mile course.

The event also will be a charitable fund-raiser for the Rainbow Connection, which is similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation that grants special requests for children.

Sechler's team can earn another 400 points next weekend. There will be a qualifying heat and a final heat both days, and each heat is worth 100 points.

In the last five years, the Fast Eddie II has won 196 of 210 heats. Teams can enter a possible 30 events each season, but the national championship is based on the best 15 races.

Please see **RACING, B2**

SIDELINES

All-State netters

North Farmington led the way as several area girls earned postseason All-State recognition by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

In Division 2, North senior Jennifer Yen took All-State honors in singles, while teammate Akanksha Vaishnav, sophomore, was honorable mention.

The Raiders' senior doubles team of Emily Hand Emily Jan also made All-State.

In Division 1, Livonia Franklin junior Angelica Woods earned honorable mention in singles.

MHSTeCA Regional Coaches of the Year included Barb Lehman (Canton) and Lin Ware (Salem) in Division 1-Region 3; and Whitney Wasielewski (North Farmington) in Division 2-Region 11.

Here's Johnny

NHL goaltending great Johnny Bower made a lot of stops during his Hall of Fame career, and he'll make another one 2 p.m. Sunday. That's when Bower will make an appearance at Perani's Hockey World in Livonia.

Bower, whose best seasons were with the Toronto Maple Leafs during the 1960s, will sign any item for \$15. Perani's is located at 19330 Middlebelt Rd., between 7 and 8 mile roads. For more information, call (248) 476-8100.

Waza FC at nationals

Five area soccer players are members of the under-16 boys Waza FC East Black that will compete in the U.S. Youth Soccer national championship tournament July 21-25.

Jake Finkbiner (Farmington), Adriel Neely (Farmington Hills/Detroit Country Day), Ashwin Vaishnav (Farmington Hills/North Farmington), Jeff Thomas (Livonia/Churchill) and Cameron Roberts (Redford/U-D Jesuit) are among the 17 boys from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties who comprise the team.

Waza FC East Black was the runner-up to the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors at the June regional tournament in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Since the Crew Juniors had already qualified by winning the U.S. Youth Soccer National League, Waza FC also advanced to the national event in Overland Park, Kan.

In regional pool play, Waza FC edged Omaha (Neb.) FC Elite, 2-1; tied Chicago Fire, 1-1; and defeated Javanov (Ky.), 3-1.

Waza FC defeated Cleveland FC in overtime in a semifinal game, 3-2, but lost to the Grand Rapids team in the final, 1-0.

Glenn football camp

Westland John Glenn will stage a football camp for incoming grades 11-12 from 9 a.m. until noon July 12-14.

The camp is open to the public. You do not have to attend Glenn High School. For more information, including camp fee, call Glenn coach Tim Hardin at (734) 620-0063.

The Buck Stops Here

Goalkeeper Hildebrandt proves quick understudy

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mitch Hildebrandt would be a perfect candidate for the TV show, "The Apprentice."

And after serving two years as an understudy to starter Steve Clark, the Oakland University goalkeeper wouldn't need an interview with Donald Trump.

Just give him the position. Hildebrandt, a Livonia Stevenson grad, is coming off a stellar season in his first year as a starter with the Golden Grizzlies. The 6-foot-1, 205-pound redshirt sophomore led OU to a 9-5-3 overall record, including a 5-0-1 mark in the Summit League.



In 17 games, Hildebrandt allowed just 13 goals and made 94 saves (.879 percentage). He finished with seven shutouts, including wins over nationally-ranked Dayton and Michigan.

For his efforts, he was also named Team All-League and Summit League Defensive Player of the Year.

Hildebrandt has continued his stellar play so far this summer with the Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League.

Please see **KEEPER, B2**



MICHIGAN BUCKS | PHOTO

Livonia Stevenson grad Mitch Hildebrandt (far left), who will be red-shirt junior this fall at Oakland University, was named Premier Development League Goalkeeper of the Week after posting his fourth shutout of the season.

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Tying the knot: The second time around, things are a bit different

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Weddings the second time around tend to be smaller with less of the glitz associated with the first one.

Gina Tait, owner of Events 2 Remember in Farmington Hills, says most brides who walk the wedding aisle for the second time are calmer than first timers.

"When they marry for the second time, a lot of the times, it's for the right reasons," Tait said.

Her client, Yolanda Smith of Detroit, plans to marry in October.

"You are more mature the second time around," said Smith, who was married for seven years. "You understand what is important and not to sweat the small stuff. A lot of times the reasons for being married when you are younger is the dream — the home, the husband and the kids. The second time around you are focused on peace of mind, love and companionship. And those are the things you look for and find."

The most common question second time brides ask is whether it's OK to wear white, said Christi Henderson, owner of Affordable Events by Chris in Livonia.

"All the etiquette rules are out the window," she said. "You can do what you want. The brides have already had the princess wedding. The big focus is on the party and the reception. It seems like the second weddings are much lighter. The focus is on the actual marriage and the celebration that follows."

The couple places emphasis on making sure children from previous marriages feel included. The children, no matter what their ages, are often cast as focal points of second marriage ceremonies.

Laura Bommarito, owner of What an Event in Plymouth, said she planned a



Please see **TYING, B6**

Tips on blending families

Getting married a second time often means uniting children from past marriages and that can be just as tricky or more than trying to make the marriage work.

Since one out of two Western marriages ends in divorce, people trying to bring children of different marriages together have a lot of company. Some 66 percent of marriages and living together situations fail when children are actively involved, according to statistics from the Stepfamily Foundation.

Throw into the mix trying to deal with ex-spouses, ex-in-laws, new stepchildren and all the problems of everyday life. Instead of families blending, they can easily divide into factions. Here are some strategies to help.

- Make each member of the new blended family feel loved and wanted.
- Help the child, young or old, decide whether they will "have" to call this new person dad or mom.

• Talk about how everyone in the new family will get along on a daily basis.

• Ask yourself whether one set of children are making more sacrifices than the other.

• Try to be a good example to the child that true love can exist even if it didn't work out with his/her mom/dad.

• Make a real effort to understand the children personally by regularly asking what is going on in their lives; know what their favorite food, color and television show are?

• Make sure you agree with your new spouse about rearing rules and apply them evenly to all the children.

• Don't call the child my "step" daughter or son to others because that automatically separates the two of you.

• Timing is important. Don't jump into a second marriage before you and the child deal with the loss of the spouse.

• Above all, BE PATIENT.

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USES AND ABUSES OF MRI

The development of MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is as important to medical care today as the introduction of x-rays was to the advancement of medicine in 1897.

In the field of arthritis, MRI allows a physician to see the supporting tissues of joints. The ability to accurately diagnose a meniscal tear in the knee or a rotator cuff tear in the shoulder by MRI means that the orthopedic surgeon can determine the operation a patient needs, the equipment required, and the type of repair materials to use before he makes the first incision.

As a result the operation can proceed smoothly and the surgeon can act without delay. The patient has the proper repair and remains under anesthesia for the least amount of time needed. However, a physician will not obtain an MRI for every swollen joint or persistent muscle pain. In many instances of arthritic pain, an x-ray will give the physician the information he needs to make a diagnosis. If a question arises whether pain comes from a fracture, no imaging is better than an x-ray. The same holds if the physician believes a knee problem reflects osteoarthritis. No imaging trumps weight bearing x-ray films of the knee.

Remember, that MRI is expensive, usually costing \$1,300 or more, and requires that the patient go to a center with MRI equipment. In contrast, an x-ray costs \$35, with the equipment in the doctor's office.

Also, keep in mind that an MRI is not perfect. If a patient hurts, and the MRI shows no abnormality, the conclusion is not that there is nothing wrong. Rather, the result shows the MRI did not pick up the impairment.



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Canton Community Foundation program helps with college cost

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dustin Piepsney played football and baseball in high school, but his bread-and-butter sport, according to his dad, was wrestling.

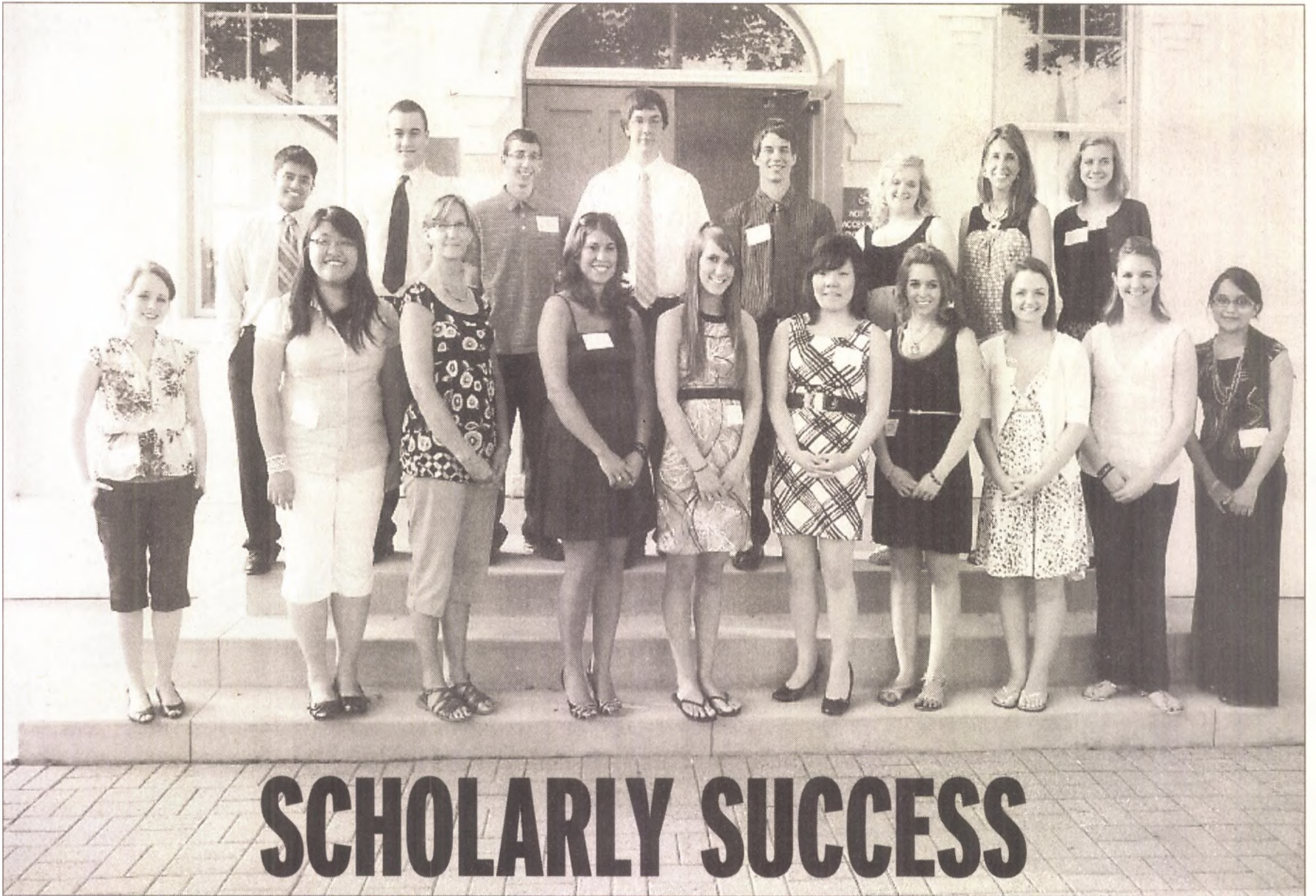
So when Canton residents Bill and Amy Piepsney decided to establish a scholarship with the Canton Community Foundation in honor of their son, who passed away in December 2008, it seemed natural to give it to an athlete. That's why Jason Avedesian, a wrestler, got the \$750 scholarship.

"One of the main reasons we did it was to keep his name alive and honor him," Bill Piepsney said. "He was such a generous, giving person, it's a way to follow up with something he'd be all for. We donated it for sports, which is what he would have liked."

Bill Piepsney said he and his wife were overwhelmed with the generosity of people helping raise money to endow the scholarship.

"We just want to thank the community for supporting us," he said. "A lot of people put a lot of effort into raising the money for it."

It was one of 25 scholarships,



Students collected more than \$31,000 in scholarships handed out this year through the Canton Community Foundation's annual scholarship program.

totaling \$31,200, handed out this year in the annual scholarship program sponsored by the CCF. It was the 20th year for the scholarship program, which CCF officials consider one of their most important annual programs.

In those 20 years, the Canton Community Foundation has given out more than \$495,000 in grants.

And, judging by the stories

they hear back from recipients, the money handed out in one of the foundation's most important programs is being put to good use.

The primary requirements for eligibility for a CCF scholarship is residency in either Canton or Plymouth and a minimum 2.5 grade-point average. Each scholarship, Noricks pointed out, may also carry other eligibility require-

ments; for instance, some stipulate the student must attend a school in Michigan.

Noricks said the bulk of the scholarships given out over 20 years have gone to students who continued their studies in Michigan. The feedback from recipients, she said, is very positive.

"You feel really good when you see the success stories from some of the students over the

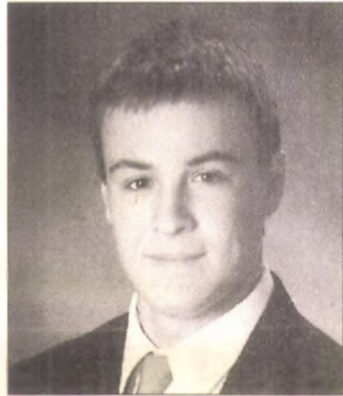
years," Noricks said. "When they come back and report how they've done and what the scholarships have meant to them, it's a good feeling."

A variety of scholarships are sponsored. Yazaki North America sponsors two, valued at \$8,000 each; the CCF partners with the Schoolcraft College Foundation on a pair of \$500 scholarships and funds a pair of \$1,000 scholarships

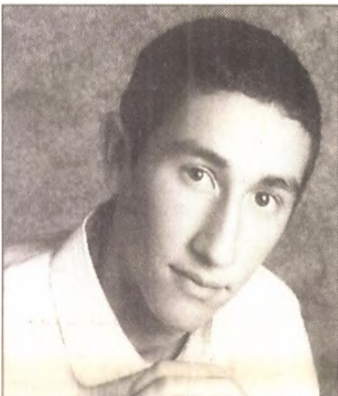
on its own. The family of Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton Township trustee, endowed three \$500 scholarships this year.

"An educated society is very important," CCF President Joan Noricks said. "If we're able to assist students who might not be able to do that otherwise, that's a good thing."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899



Jason Avedesian



Yusef Bazy



Ryan Daniels



Angela Donald



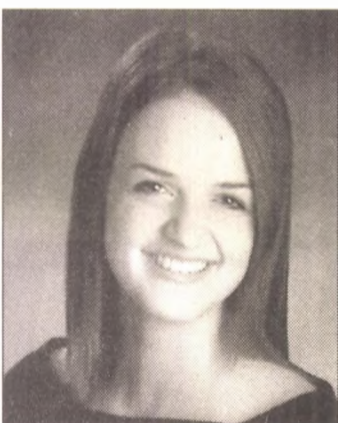
Amy Geick



Heidi Good



Kelly Hahn



Jillian Hattie



Julia Hisey



Alanna Mason



James Middleditch



Rujul Parikh



Anjali Patel



Priyasha Patel



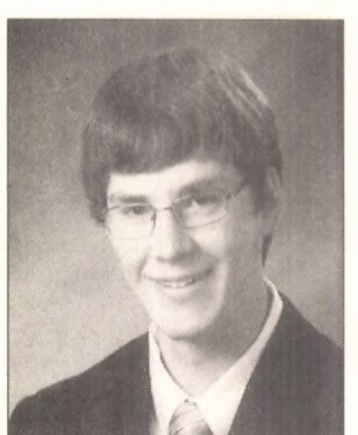
Brooke Rodwell



Alyse Ruark



Nancy Szczepanski



Alex Wolski

THE SCHOLARS ARE ...

Jason Avedesian, Yazaki	\$8,000	Julia Hisey, Whalen	\$500	Alyse Ruark, Taj Family	\$500
Yusef Bazy, Soccer Club	\$1,000	Kelly Larimore, Soccer Club	\$1,000	Tehreem Sajjad, Taj Family	\$500
Kirsten Clemans, Leadership	\$500	Alanna Mason, CCF/SCF	\$500	Stephanie Stergiadis, CPBW	\$500
Ryan Daniels, CCF/SCF	\$500	James Middleditch, Piepsney	\$750	Nancy Szczepanski, CPBW	\$500
Angela Donald, CCF/EMU	\$1,000	Rujul Parikh, CCF	\$1,000	Caroline Williams, Yazaki	\$8,000
Amy Geick, CCF/Klei	\$500	Anjali Patel, Taj Family	\$500	Alex Wolski, Kiwanis	\$1,000
Heidi Good, Durack	\$500	Priyasha Patel, Demmer Ford	\$650	Zhuo Wu, CCF	\$1,000
Kelly Hahn, Schulz	\$300	Brooke Rodwell, CCF/U-M	\$500		
Derek Harvey, CCF/EMU	\$1,000				
Jillian Hattie, Denski	\$500				



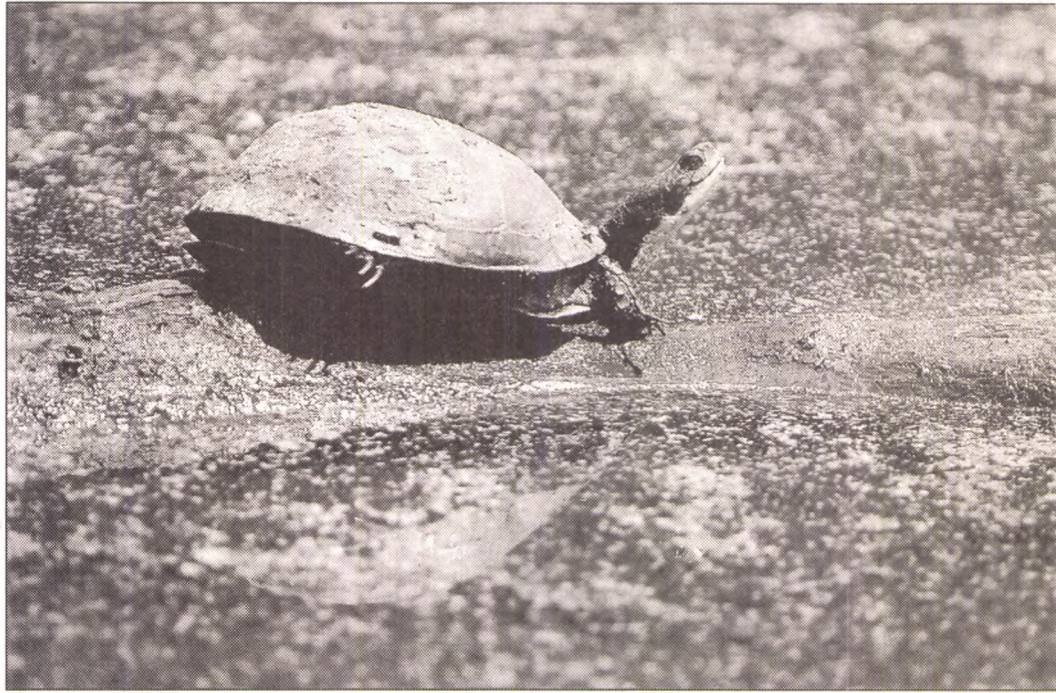
Zhuo Wu



Bill and Amy Piepsney, with scholarship recipient Jason Avedesian (center), endowed a scholarship in honor of their son, Dustin, who passed away in December 2008.

A variety of scholarships are sponsored. Yazaki North America sponsors two, valued at \$8,000 each; the CCF partners with the Schoolcraft College Foundation on a pair of \$500 scholarships and funds a pair of \$1,000 scholarships on its own. The family of Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton Township trustee, endowed three \$500 scholarships this year.

Visit Kensington Metropark for summertime fun in sun



A turtle basks in the sun at Kensington Metropark.

HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A number of interpretive events will be offered in August at Kensington Metropark.

For additional information or to register for programs at the Kensington Metropark Nature Center or Farm Center located near Milford/Brighton, call (800) 477-3178.

At the Nature Center:
 "Dinosaur Days," Sunday, Aug. 1, at 2 p.m., Nature Center. The fascinating world of dinosaurs will be explored through slides, fossils and models. Plus, help build a scale model dinosaur skeleton. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Rattlesnakes and Their Lookalikes," Saturday, Aug. 7, at 1 p.m., Nature Center. Not every snake that makes you quake is a rattlesnake. Learn to tell the difference between rattlesnakes and similar species found in the area. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Nature's All-You-Can-Eat Buffet," Sunday, Aug. 8, at 2 p.m., Nature Center. Locate the many edible plants in nature and take home some recipes. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Family Fishing Friday," Friday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m., West Boat Launch. Bring the family and learn to fish. Poles, tackle and bait will be provided, or bring your own. Meet at the West Boat Launch. For ages

8 and older. Fee: \$5 per person. Preregistration required. Participants 16 years and older must have a fishing license.

"Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening," Saturday, Aug. 21, at 1 p.m., Nature Center. Discover how to plan an all-you-can-eat restaurant to attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your back yard. For ages 10 and older. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Beasts on the Beach," Sunday, Aug. 22, 1-4 p.m., Martindale Beach. Snakes and turtles are among the most fascinating of all animals. While at the beach, meet the interpreters and learn all about them during this ongoing, free program.

"Calling all Owls," Friday, Aug. 27, at 8 p.m., Nature Center. Owls are mysterious and fascinating birds. Separate fact from fiction, and then attempt to locate resident screech owls. For ages 6 and older. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Spiders and Friends," Saturday, Aug. 28, at 1 p.m., Nature Center. Learn about some of nature's most misunderstood creatures and sort out fact from fiction. For ages 6 and older. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

"Summer Insects," Sunday, Aug. 29, at 2 p.m., Nature

Center. Grab a butterfly net and head out to the field with an interpreter to see what you can find. Fee: \$2 per person. Preregistration required.

At the Farm Center:
 "Apple Gel Candle," Saturday, Aug. 7, 2-4 p.m., Farm Center. Customize your own fragrant candle to take home or use as a gift. Fee: \$10 per person. Preregistration required.

"Senior Hayrides," Wednesday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Farm Center. Free tractor-drawn hayrides are available for seniors at the Farm Center for Senior Appreciation Day.

"Papermaking," Saturday, Aug. 28, 2-5 p.m., Farm Center. Give a valentine created from your hands as well as your heart. Enjoy learning the basic process of papermaking. Fee: \$15 per person. Preregistration required.

"Horse-Drawn Hayrides," weekends, noon to 4 p.m. Take a relaxing horse-drawn hayride past the fields and through the woods. Hayrides are \$3 per child, \$5 per adult. For more information, call (248) 684-8632 or (800) 477-3178.

Individuals needing assistance in order to participate in these programs should contact the interpretive center at least 72 hours prior to the program. A Metroparks vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark which is only \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors, or \$5 daily. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling (800) 47-PARKS.

Located along the Huron and Clinton rivers, the Metroparks provide a natural oasis from urban and suburban life as well as year-round recreational activities and events. A regional park system, the Metroparks consist of 13 parks covering 24,000 acres, 10 public golf courses and two marinas on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, respectively. The parks also offer scenic nature trails, breathtaking beaches, educational activities and winter fun.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting July 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
 Plymouth District Library
 223 S. Main Street
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 734-453-0750
 X217

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS
 Where hometown stories unfold

HEALTH

Sunday, July 11, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Class focuses on kids with diabetes

The Pediatric Endocrinology Department at the University of Michigan is offering a class for grandparents, teachers, baby sitters, step-parents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes.

The new class will meet from 1-4 p.m., July 29, at the Danto Auditorium, in the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, located at Fuller and East Medical Center Drive, in Ann Arbor. It will teach the skills needed to care for a child with diabetes.

The class will be an interactive and educational session with plenty of time to practice and time to ask questions.

The cost is \$15 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class and light refreshments.

It will cover such topics as Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, insulin pens, syringes, and pumps, calculating insulin doses, nutrition, exercise, low blood sugar, glucagon, glucose monitoring, A1C, urine ketones, and complications.

Call (734) 764-5175 with questions. Make checks payable to the University of Michigan and send it to Pediatric Endocrinology, Attn: Caregiver Class, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, D1205 MPB, SPC 5718, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

JULY

Eye exams

The Coburn-Kleinfield Eye Clinic will offer free eye examinations for senior adults from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at 33400 W. Six Mile, at Farmington Road, in Livonia. Board-certified physicians and staff members will screen for glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and other eye conditions which are more common among older individuals. The exam is free and patients will be examined in the order of their arrival. A limited supply of free eye drops for glaucoma will be distributed at the screening. Free parking is adjacent to the clinic building, which is wheelchair-accessible, and free refreshments will be served. Patients are asked to bring two canned goods or other non-perishable food items that will be donated to Help's on the Way, a local non-profit organization that provides food to the needy in the Detroit area. (734) 421-2020

Caregiver class

Learn the skills necessary to care for a child with diabetes, 1-4 p.m. July 29, at the Danto Auditorium, in the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, located at Fuller and East Medical Center Drive, in Ann Arbor. The Pediatric Endocrinology Department at the University of Michigan is offering a class for grandparents, teachers, baby sitters, step-parents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes. The cost is \$15 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class and light refreshments. Call (734) 764-5175 with questions. Make checks payable to the University of Michigan and send it to Pediatric Endocrinology, Attn: Caregiver Class, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, D1205 MPB, SPC 5718, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Physical Therapy

Find out how physical therapy can help relieve back, knee and shoulder pain while keeping joints and muscles strong and healthy, at a free community seminar presented by Beaumont Hospital. The one-hour seminar will be led by a Beaumont physical therapist and a Beaumont doctor. The program is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., July 29 and 6-7 p.m., Aug. 2, at the hospital, located on Woodward Ave., and 13 Mile in Royal Oak. Register at (800) 663-7377.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day



Eating for heart health is among topics covered in local classes.

Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail: jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information, call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.oa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary's Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of

each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-

Thursday. Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

Arthritis Foundation programs

Winter classes begin for warm-water and land-based exercise programs, Tai Chi, and a six-week series that offers keys to successful arthritis self-management, in Canton, Redford and Westland. Call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Health enhancement classes

Classes for exercise (including yoga), CPR and childbirth, and support groups for cardiac, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; Alzheimer's caregivers; and the hard of hearing. The classes are part of an array of offerings at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Blood pressure (free) and cholesterol (\$5) testing are also available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Garden City Hospital lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citizens every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. For information, call (734) 458-4330. Free mask fitting clinic

For CPAP and BiPAP users, most insurances cover new supplies every year, try a new style of mask and learn how to get one 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. No appointment needed. For information, call (734) 458-4330.



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2010 GMC Terrain Is Helping GM Reinvent Itself

Advertising Feature

CAReport



GMC's all-new Terrain is a key product in the reinvention of General Motors

Special to AVANTI NEWSFEATURES

This 2010 compact crossover SUV slots below the Acadia and gives the brand a sensibly sized utility vehicle that is capable of achieving 32 miles per gallon on the highway when equipped with the base 2.4-liter, four-cylinder engine.

The Terrain is the sibling of the Chevrolet Equinox, and the two vehicles share platforms, powertrains and some interior components.

Compact crossovers appeal to those who want easy maneuverability and cargo flexibility but don't need a third seat. Chief competitors include the Hyundai Santa Fe, Ford Escape, Toyota RAV-4 and Honda CR-V.

There are four Terrain models. Prices begin at \$24,995 for the front-wheel-drive SLE1 and top out at \$31,745 for an all-wheel-drive SALT. An SALT with all options will exceed \$36,000.

Anti-lock brakes, vehicle stability control and traction control are standard.

GMC is a premium brand, and the Terrain offers nicer materials than the Equinox.

Amanita News Features test drivers drove both the 3.0-liter V-6 and the 2.4-liter 4 cylinder. The 4 cylinder performs well and is expected to be the engine of choice for about 50-percent of buyers. Throttle tip-in is a bit soft, and initial acceleration is not quite as lively as that of the Terrain's competitors, but the engine management software was designed that way for smooth acceleration and maximum fuel economy. City mileage is rated at 22 mpg for front-wheel drive and 20 mpg for all-wheel drive.

The four-cylinder has a maximum towing capacity of 1,500 pounds, so that limits towing to a couple of personal watercraft or motorcycles. The V-6 can tow 3,500 pounds. It is rated at 18 mpg in the city and 25 on the highway.

Each engine has its own specific six-speed automatic transmission.

Because the four-cylinder engine produces some low-frequency noise at certain rpm levels, GMC has adopted active noise cancellation. A microphone detects any booming sounds inside the vehicle and sends

counteracting sound waves through the audio speakers. The result is a quiet ride at all times.

The fit, finish and quality of materials, especially inside, are best in class. Wind and road noise are minimal.

The well-designed cabin has an instrument panel highlighted with silver accents. The center stack contains flush-mounted buttons for the audio and climate-control system. Red ambient lighting highlights the console and cup holders.

Standard equipment includes a rearview camera that projects an image in the rearview mirror, OnStar, XM satellite radio and USB connectivity for MP3 players.

Options include a programmable power liftgate, navigation system, premium audio and a rear-seat entertainment system with two 8-inch LCD screens, one on the back of each front seat.

The steering wheel controls for cruise and audio have rotary knobs that can be rolled with a thumb, and they're simple and intuitive.

Rear-seat legroom is quite

generous, thanks to the back seat that can be moved backward and forward 8 inches. Put the seat forward and it is easy for front-seat passengers to reach an infant in a child seat. Put it back for adult legroom.

Storage bins are numerous, including one atop the center stack and one under the center armrest that is large enough for a laptop computer. There are four power outlets.

One drawback is that the rear cargo area is a bit narrow, and the low roof means some large items, such as a bicycle, may not fit easily.

Safety features include six standard airbags, including side-curtain airbags and pelvic/thorax seat-mounted side airbags. Let us know what you think. Write to the editors of Amanita News Features at avanti1054@aol.com

2010 GMC TERRAIN

Power: Available in a 2.4-liter 4-cylinder engine or 3.0-liter V-6.
Mileage: 22 city / 32 highway; 18 city / 25 highway.
As tested: Around \$36,000.

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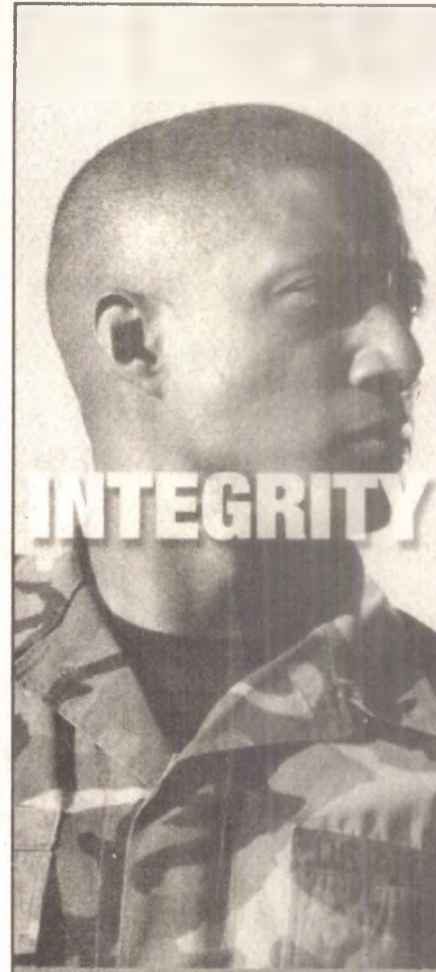
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