

WINS HAVE LOCAL
MAN ON THE
RIGHT COURSE, B1



BRINGIN' IT HOME
JAZZ FLOURISHES IN UNLIKELY VENUE, B4

SUNDAY
August 15, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PIPELINE

Wanted: Vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Plymouth Observer along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here.

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Send your photo in a jpg format to Plymouth Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or you can mail it via the postal service to 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when and where the photo was taken and what was special about your trip. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary.

Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Adventure guides

Parents looking for an opportunity to spend quality time with their children while doing some fun activities and getting to know other families are being encouraged to check out the Plymouth YMCA Adventure Guides program.

YMCA Adventure Guides is a parent-child program designed to help foster a lifetime of understanding and friendship and to strengthen the relationship between children and parents, according to Josh Landefeld, executive director of the Plymouth Family YMCA.

Adventure Guides will have the opportunity to develop a stronger relationship by joining a unique "Circle" with whom you'll participate in activities like games, camping trips, ceremonies and family adventures.

People interested in finding out more about the Adventure Guides program or registering for the upcoming year can contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or jlандefeld@ymcamedetroit.org.

To the dogs

Barktoberfest, a 2.5-mile dog charity walk, takes place Oct. 2 in Plymouth's Old Village.

The event, benefitting Homeward Bound Rescue and The Old Village Association, starts with check-in at 8:45 a.m. and the walk starting at 10 a.m. Registration, T-shirt, and waste bag pick-up is on Liberty, between Mill and Starkweather. Homeward Bound Rescue will be onsite with animals needing a forever home. Other local businesses and sponsors will also be present.

Registration and sponsor forms are available at the Old Village Market and on-line at www.OldVillagePlymouth.com. Preregistration fee is \$20 per dog and guarantees the owner a Barktoberfest T-shirt. Day of event registration is \$25 per dog and T-shirts are available while supplies last. Preregistration ends Sept. 11.

AG wraps up township assault probe

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The results of a state investigation into an assault complaint by Plymouth Township Clerk Joe Bridgman against Ron Edwards, the township treasurer, have gone to Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's office.

Bridgman accuses Edwards of trying to wrestle him to the floor at township hall shortly before the July 20 Board of Trustees meeting. No one was seriously hurt.

Michigan Attorney General Mike

Cox's office investigated Bridgman's complaint at the request of local law enforcement, said Joy Yearout, a spokeswoman for the attorney general.

"We had an investigator interview the parties involved and we passed on that information to the Wayne County prosecutor's office," said Yearout on Thursday.

Worthy's spokeswoman, Maria Miller, said she could not confirm or deny



Bridgman



Edwards

whether a report was received, but added that the prosecutor's office has received no warrant request in the incident. Yearout said Cox's office plans to make a warrant request this week.

Meanwhile, Edwards said he is preparing to file a complaint with the inspector's office at the U.S. Postal Service over a certified letter to Edwards, received at township hall, that he says was improperly opened before

reaching him. The letter is an issue in the current dispute, and the latest issue in a long-running feud between the two.

CHARGE RECOUNTED

Bridgman, who denies he or anyone in his office opened Edwards' certified letter, said the letter is beside the point.

"There is no person in this building that has the right to put his hands on someone else in a violent, assault-type manner," Bridgman said Friday.

Bridgman said he was leaving his

Please see **ASSAULT, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Concert lovers

Twelve-day-old Declan Quinn is already a regular at the weekly Music in the Park concert series hosted in Kellogg Park by the Plymouth Community Arts Council. He attended last week's concert when he was just five days old. He's held by grandma, Penny Irwin. Big sister, 4-year-old Keera Quinn, helps out. Mom Amanda Quinn, who probably isn't getting much sleep of late, sits and listens to the music of Guy Louis. For more on the concerts, please see the story and photos on page A9.

8
15

Review: GC police acted properly in fatal shooting

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City police officers have been cleared in a shooting incident which occurred last spring.

Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery said Thursday that the Public Integrity Unit of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has determined

that no criminal charges will be filed against Garden City officers involved in the April 2 pursuit and shooting death of 22-year-old Plymouth Township resident Jonathan Longsdorf.

James D. Gonzales, chief of the Special Operations Division of the Prosecutor's office, notified the Police Department that the investigation had

been concluded.

"It was determined that the death was the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound," Muery said.

Officers originally responded to the report of a man with a gun in the 6700 block of Elizabeth. As officers arrived in the area, updated information was provided by witnesses that the armed man had fled in a black Mitsubishi.

"Information provided by the dispatcher indicated the same vehicle had, minutes earlier, been involved in a 'shots fired' incident in Plymouth Township," Muery said.

Officer Ronald Kozloff, a 13-year veteran, saw the vehicle westbound on Warren nearing Merriman. As Kozloff

Please see **SHOOTING, A2**

Teacher doesn't let wheelchair slow her down

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



East Middle School teacher Tammie Groth (right) with sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students at an award ceremony after Groth had been nominated by one student as 'the teacher who influenced me the most.'

Born with spinal muscular atrophy, East Middle School teacher Tammie Groth has never taken a step in her life.

That makes the strides she's made in her life and her career all the more impressive.

Her work on the job — she teaches language arts and social studies — and her passion for advancing the causes of people with disabilities was certainly impressive enough for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which made Groth, a Livonia resident, the recipient of its 2010 Robert Ross Personal Achievement Award for Michigan.

Groth, 28, was selected for MDA's highest achievement award in Michigan for her outstanding work as an educator, for her dedication to raising awareness of disability issues in the community and for her determination to excel in spite of personal challenges.

"I was pretty excited," said Groth, a 1999 graduate of Churchill High School who has three bachelor's degrees from Madonna University. "I guess it's strange, because I don't really think of what I've done as a personal achievement. It's just living. People with disabilities fight our whole life to be considered equal, so to me it's just doing what I have to do to be a normal person."

It's a battle she's fought all her life. Growing up in Livonia, Groth dealt with expected taunts of children through her teen years, but found a safe haven among her academic peers. A student in Livonia Public Schools' gifted program, she took classes with friends she said "were all wrapped up in being smart."

"We wanted to go to Harvard and Princeton and Yale, so we cared more about our grades than about partying and stuff," Groth said. "That competitive drive really helped me. It kept me on track."

Please see **TEACHER, A4**



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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... C3
AUTOMOTIVE ... C5
CAREER BUILDER ... C1
COMMUNITY LIFE ... B4
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C3
OBITUARIES... B9
HEALTH... B10
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS... B1

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SHOOTING

FROM PAGE A1

attempted to stop the vehicle, several shots were fired at the officer by the driver, who was alone in the Mitsubishi.

"Officer Kozloff radioed for assistance and pursued the driver at speeds up to 70 miles per hour," Muery said.

The pursuit continued to the area of Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road with the driver continuing to fire at the pursuing officers. The fleeing vehicle then turned into the driveway of a residence on Orangelawn in Plymouth Township where it "stopped abruptly," he said.

"The driver again began firing out of the driver's side window at Officer Kozloff and Kozloff returned fire," Muery said. "A gunshot was then heard from within the suspect's vehicle and an assisting officer reported that he believed the driver had shot himself."

Longsdorf was transported to Botsford General Hospital

by the Plymouth Township Fire Department and was pronounced dead several hours later, Muery said.

The initial investigation was conducted by Plymouth Township police and then turned over to Michigan State Police. The results of an autopsy by the Oakland County Medical Examiner along with the results of the investigation conducted by the State Police, were turned over to the Prosecutor's Office for review.

Muery said, also, that an internal review of the actions of the officers was conducted by the Professional Standards Section of the Garden City Police Department.

"The decision by the Prosecutor's Office, an independent agency, that no criminal charges will be filed against the involved officers supports our internal findings that the officers acted in accordance with the law," Muery said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

"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

Nature/nurture

Dr. Mark Huston will return to the Plymouth District Library on Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. for "The Philosophy of Science and the Nature/Nurture Debate."

An instructor from Schoolcraft College, Huston returns as part of the Library's Exploring Philosophy series.

Sign-up is requested for this free program by phone at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

Corriveau coffee

State Rep. Marc Corriveau will host a "coffee hour" 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 16, at Grecian Cafe Family Restaurant, 413 N. Main, in Plymouth.

Chiefette car wash

The Canton Chiefettes hold a car wash Tuesday at the Plymouth Super Center, 400 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

A portion of each car wash price will be donated to the Chiefette organization throughout the entire day. The Chiefette Squads will be on site from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and again from 4-8 p.m. Donations gratefully accepted.

Preschool openings

Plymouth Christian Preschool, a division of Plymouth Christian Academy, has openings for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and young 5-year-olds for the 2010-2011 school

AROUND PLYMOUTH



Scooter surprise

Kelly Fortin of Gibraltar and Canton's Ron Ruedger were the lucky winners in a drawing conducted by staffers at Dick Scott Dodge. The drawing was done as part of a Customer Appreciation Contest where customers could enter their name to win an Aprilia Scooter just for taking a test drive. Scooters were provided by Dick Scott's Classic Motorcycles in Canton.

year. Check the school's website for information about preschool, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary programs, and call the school office to request a tour of the facilities.

Plymouth Christian Academy is located in Canton on Joy Road between Lilley Road and Morton Taylor/Main Street. For more information, check the website at www.plymouthchristian.org or call (734) 459-3505.

Jazz @ the Elks

The Elks are adding a Sunday outdoor jazz concert to their August repertoire.

The concert, featuring a variety of jazz legends, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2-6 p.m. The lineup includes Ron Kischuk at 2 p.m., with the Tartarsauce

Traditional Jazz Band, Judie Cochill, vocalist. At 3 p.m., jazz legend George (Sax) Benson Quartette plays. The Sven Anderson Trio with vocalist Janet Tenaj appears at 4 p.m. and the concert wraps up at 5 p.m. with the John Trudell Quintette and a surprise vocalist.

This event takes place rain or shine on the grounds of the Plymouth Elks on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth just west of Haggerty. There is no cover charge, and food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Then on Tuesday, Aug. 24, from 7-10:30 p.m., will be the ongoing Jazz @ The Elks event. Sven Anderson Trio will provide an evening of great jazz from Cole Porter to

Salsa. There is no cover charge but donations are appreciated.

Plymouth Elks Lodge No. 1780 is located on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth near Haggerty. Call (734) 453-1780 for more information.

Fall Fest crafts

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for the Craft Show, which takes place during the Fall Festival Sept. 10-12.

The show will be on Union Street north of Ann Arbor Trail; 10-foot-by-10-foot spaces will cost \$75 per day or \$200 for the weekend. The jewelry vendor application deadline has passed. All other vendors are awarded spots on a first come-basis.

Applications can be downloaded at www.plymouthfall-festival.com or for more information call or e-mail Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614 or cbrown57@comcast.net.

Class reunions

The Plymouth High School Class of 1970 holds its 30-year reunion Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Plymouth Elks Club. Cost is \$25 per person.

For more information visit www.plymouthclassof1970.com or Cathwage@med.umich.edu or call Cathy Wagenschutz at (734) 453-7939.

The Plymouth High School Class of 1955 holds its reunion 5-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Cost is \$45 per person. For more information, contact Terry West at twest@rosemoving.com or call (248) 473-8988.



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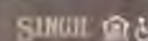


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ASSAULT

FROM PAGE A1

office, with folders in one arm and his meeting information packet in the other, just before the July 20 board meeting when he saw Edwards approaching, appearing upset.

He said, "What's up?" and Edwards replied, "You know what's up," Bridgman said.

According to Bridgman, Edwards put one arm to his chest and another to his neck and tried to take him down. Bridgman said he started to wiggle from Edwards' grasp, and that Eric Bacynski, the deputy clerk, pulled Edwards away and kept the men apart.

Edwards denies what Bridgman described happened, but would not comment further on the allegation, citing the pending proceedings.

The letter in dispute was from the city of Warren and rescinded an offer to Edwards of a job as the city's comptroller.

Bridgman said his office received a copy of the letter, addressed to the Board of Trustees and with no return address on the envelope, and that he had copies of it made and distributed to fellow board members as part of their mail. That's routine procedure for any mail addressed to the board, Bridgman said.

Edwards contends the letter distributed was a copy of a certified letter from Warren that he had received earlier, both at township hall and at his home, and that the certified letter sent to township hall had obviously been opened. That tampering, not the contents of the letter itself, is the focus of his complaint, Edwards said. "There's supposed to be trust in these offices," he said.

'BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCE'

Warren Mayor Jim Fouts said Edwards was impressive during two job interviews and had good credentials. "We were all set to hire him," Fouts said.

A start date of July 6 was agreed upon, Fouts said, and Edwards asked Warren officials not to let Plymouth Township officials know of the offer so as not to jeopardize his position there in the interim.

The salary was reportedly \$112,000; Edwards currently

earns about \$87,000 a year.

But Warren officials tried many times to reach Edwards, in order to wrap up details, and he did not return many calls, Fouts said.

"We had no other recourse" but to rescind the offer after not hearing back from Edwards for two weeks, Fouts said.

"It is certainly a very unusual, bizarre circumstance," Fouts added. The incident caused a delay in the hiring process of more than two months, Fouts said. The city has yet to hire a comptroller.

Denise Williams, Warren's personnel director, said the last anyone in Warren heard from Edwards, about two weeks before the start date, he said he was still planning to take the job. Then, a few days before July 6, Edwards could not be reached and did not return at least 25 calls, she said.

NOTHING IN WRITING

Edwards said he had changed his mind about taking the job and had informed a Warren official, not the mayor, of that via a voice-mail message. Personnel director Williams denied Edwards had informed anyone there.

Edwards said he had sought job guarantees in writing but did not receive them, and thus doesn't consider his verbal arrangement with Warren an offer.

"I never had a job offer because I never saw anything in writing," Edwards said. "I didn't get the guarantees I wanted, so it wasn't an offer."

Fouts disputed that Edwards had sought anything in writing. "With all due respect to him, that's not true," Fouts said.

Edwards said he didn't seek out the Warren job, but had been recommended for it by a third party.

Edwards filed a complaint over what he said was the letter-tampering with the U.S. Postal Service's consumer affairs division, confirmed U.S.P.S. spokesman Ed Moore on Friday. That office provided what information it could, Moore said, and the next step is for Edwards to make a complaint with the U.S.P.S. inspector's office.

Edwards on Friday said that he was awaiting the instructions on how to make such a complaint.

New Hindu temple ends one journey, starts another

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In all its majesty, the new Hindu Temple of Canton reflects a cultural icon and an architectural landmark for a flourishing, 1,000-member group of devotees who humbly remember their fledgling days, nearly 25 years ago, when they gathered in their own homes.

Their move this summer into their \$8.3-million, 37,517-square-foot building on Cherry Hill Road, east of Canton Center, represents a milestone in a long, sometimes-difficult journey and the dawn of a promising, new beginning for Hindus across metro Detroit.

"We are very, very proud," a smiling temple chairman, Manoj Sachdeva, said, on an August day when he and other temple officials provided a tour of the two-level building.

It's a place where Hindus and their visitors can worship, study, dance, practice yoga, celebrate weddings and organize community events such as free health fairs.

"Our temple is open to everybody, people of all faiths," said Suresh Shah, a construction committee volunteer.

Temple officials say the new building will put Canton and, indeed, southeast Michigan on the Hindu map and draw tourists who visit this area from much farther away.

Even for the most casual passer-by, a view from Cherry Hill Road shows two domes that grace the temple's roof — domes representing a religious presence inside. Closer up, a Hindu symbol of peace can be seen overhead, etched in the outdoor entrance area before visitors reach the large, cherry oak doors to the upper level.

Inside, the upper level unfolds with a ceiling image of a sky, crystal chandeliers, areas of granite floors and walls, marbled pillars and ceilings built 14 feet, 6 inches high. A prayer hall provides floor seating for nearly 1,000 people, and decorative altar areas along a wall represent a variety of deities.

"This is a huge deal for the community," Charlene Mitchell-Rodgers, president of

TEMPLE OPENING

What: Hindu Temple of Canton grand opening

Where: 44955 Cherry Hill in Canton

When: 4-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27; 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28; 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29

Features: Three-day open house celebration; final day includes a formal dedication and lighting of ceremonial candles at 11 a.m.

Details: Call (734) 677-5218 or (734) 981-8730

Media Consultants and public relations/marketing manager for Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc., said.

"We live in such a multicultural society, it is essential that we learn about other cultures and learn from each other," said Mitchell-Rodgers, who

worked with temple officials.

The upper level also has seven classrooms for activities such as Hindu dance and yoga, along with other rooms for offices and a library.

The temple reflects the culmination of a journey that began when this Hindu group stopped meeting in their homes and opened their first place of worship in 1990. It started as a much-smaller, 5,000-square-foot temple, fronting Cherry Hill Road on the same site. It was eventually expanded, though it was torn down this summer after the new, much larger temple was finished.

"We had very limited space," making it difficult to accommodate a burgeoning interest in dance classes, religious services, lectures and other activities, Shah said.

For more information about the temple and its grand opening, visit www.thehindutemple.org.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Directly overhead of the entrance to the temple is the Hindu symbol of peace. From left are Suresh Shah, a construction committee volunteer; Jatin Desai, temple board secretary; Anurag Bajaj, temple president; Manoj Sachdeva, temple chairman; Charlene Mitchell-Rodgers, a marketing representative; and Nitin Desai, who chairs the religious committee.



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TEACHER

FROM PAGE A1

RAISING THE PROFILE

All the while, Groth was fostering awareness of not only her disease, but the challenges facing the disabled in all walks of life. She's been very involved with the MDA, having been either a camper or staff member at the MDA summer camp for more than 20 years and working the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon locally every year.

Her mom, Connie Groth of Livonia, works for General Motors, and Tammie has attended a variety of conferences for people with disabilities.

All that work culminated in the MDA's top award.

"I'm very pleased to recognize Tammie as Michigan's Robert Ross MDA Personal Achievement Award recipient for 2010," MDA President and CEO Gerald C. Weinberg said. "Her work is a real asset to the community, and an example of the kind of leadership MDA is proud to support."

It's been a pretty successful career path for someone who didn't even want to be a teacher. Groth wanted to be an archaeologist, but discovered it was a difficult career field to get into, "especially with a disability." She briefly considered a career as a trauma counselor, but felt like she was too young to help people deal with their problems.

EDUCATIONAL HOBBY

While she was figuring it all out, she was obtaining a series of degrees. Groth has degrees in sociology and history/social studies from Madonna, with minors in sociology and English.

"By then, I'd majored and



The Muscular Dystrophy Association honored East Middle School teacher Tammie Groth of Livonia with its 2010 Robert Ross Personal Achievement Award for Michigan.

minored in just about everything, and I decided it would be fun to share all my knowledge," she said with a laugh. "So I went back to school to become a teacher."

She's in her third year teaching at East, where she also did her student teaching and some substitute teaching, and she doesn't let the wheelchair to which she's bound cramp her style. Her students barely notice it — "They see it at first, but after that they don't pay any attention to it," she said — and certainly don't let it get in the way of learning.

"I'm not trying to be a spe-

cial role model because I'm in a wheelchair ... all teachers are role models," said Groth, who will go back to school at Wayne State University to get her master's degree in library science. "I just want (students) to be successful. Education is a hobby for me, and I love learning. My kids love learning, and we get each other excited about learning."

ADVERSITY OVERCOME

Connie Groth knows kids growing up face a variety of roadblocks and challenges, and those obstacles are magnified for children like her daughter who has disabilities.

'I'm not trying to be a special role model because I'm in a wheelchair ... all teachers are role models.'

TAMMIE GROTH, East Middle School teacher who won MDA award

"I am so proud of her because people don't realize what she's been through to get to the point where she is," Connie Groth said. "She's so humble about it. With all the hard knocks people can come up against through childhood, she's made it through all this."

Connie Groth credited administrators at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for having the courage to hire her disabled daughter in the first place, praising them

for overcoming doubts and showing "the kind of awareness that's going to create a better atmosphere for the disabled."

"It's a big win for Plymouth-Canton, because they were fearless in hiring her," Connie Groth said. "The kids who see Tammie in a wheelchair are going to be aware that that's not what you look at. It's a huge win for Plymouth-Canton, because now there's a whole generation of kids who are

going to be more aware."

While Tammie Groth downplays her station as a role model, her mother thinks Tammie's success — in the face of people who doubted her and physical obstacles that slowed, but never stopped, her — should send a clear message to youngsters.

"I want to tell the kids, 'You have to believe in yourself,'" Connie Groth said. "It doesn't matter if your parents said you were stupid, it doesn't matter if you're fat ... none of that matters. You can't listen to what everyone is telling you. You just have to believe in yourself."

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ON CAMPUS

Wittenberg University

Ashley Fallon of Canton made the Dean's List for the spring semester at Wittenberg (Ohio) University. Fallon, a freshman and a 2009 graduate of Salem High School, is the daughter of Michael and the late Helen Fallon, and the stepdaughter of Jeanette Fallon, all of Canton.

Northwood University

Two local students recently received two-year degrees from Northwood University in Midland.

Kevin Frusti of Canton and Michael Stanford of Plymouth each earned his bachelor's degree in business administration.

Commencement speaker was James D. Farley, group vice president of global marketing and Canada, Mexico, and South America operations for the Ford Motor Company. He received a doctor of laws, honoris causa.

Private, nonprofit, and accredited, Northwood University specializes in managerial and entrepreneurial education at three full-service, residential campuses located in southern Florida, mid-Michigan and northern Texas.

Adult Degree Programs are available in eight states with many course delivery options including an online option.

Albion College

Several local students have been named to the Albion College dean's list for the spring 2010 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Laura Burton recently graduated from Albion College, receiving a degree in economics and management-accounting emphasis and a minor in English, with a concentration in the Gerstacker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. She is the daughter of Lewis and

Karen Burton of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

Charlotte Daly is majoring in art. She is the daughter of David Daly of Plymouth and Annemarie Linares of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy.

Jessica Eimers recently graduated from Albion College, receiving a degree in English education, and completing the elementary education program. She is the daughter of Michael and Mary Beth Eimers of Allegan and a graduate of Canton High School.

Sara Fifield recently graduated from Albion College, receiving a degree in history and a minor in management. She is the daughter of Debra Fifield of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

Sandra Nahra is majoring in communication studies and Spanish-TransAmerican Latina/o studies. She is the daughter of John and Judy Nahra of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

Emily Nemeth is a junior at Albion College. She is the daughter of Christopher and Terrie Nemeth of Plymouth and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

Alexander Yu is majoring in biology and economics and management. He is the son of Bennett and Amy Yu of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy.

Calvin College

Calvin College (Grand Rapids) has announced its spring 2010 Dean's List. To earn a spot on the list, students must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average.

Four students from Canton made the list: Andrew Adkins, majoring in environmental science, the son of Lezlie Cebulski; Derek Elenbaas, majoring in accountancy, son of Douglas and Gail Elenbaas; Audrey Freeman, majoring in business/CAS group, daughter of James and Laura Freeman; and Paula Manni, the daughter of Kelvin and Karen Manni.

Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University announced its list of May 2010 graduates.

Included among them were the following Canton residents:

- Tina Alagna
- Lester Booker Jr
- Wildner Christoffersen
- Aaron Ciborowski
- Patrick Davison
- Brett Giacomino
- Allison Gilson
- Holly Grenke
- Jason Halaas
- Ashley Hayden
- Brian Holland
- Leslie Hosmer
- Monique Knight
- Caitlyn Kolesar
- Kyle Kowalski
- Melissa Mahood
- Jessie Martin
- Leslie Mech
- Christine Popoff
- Terja Rumph
- Jonja Rumph
- Hannah Sheridan
- Robert Shimko
- Kelly Smith
- Michael Spitzley
- Trevor Stewart
- Kevin Tollison
- Kelly Wanamaker
- James Wilbur
- Jasmine Wilverton
- Brian Wolverton

The class also included the following Plymouth residents:

- Sarah Alexander
- Nicole Burdiss
- Angelo Constantine
- Kristin Cosens
- Benjamin Eberlein
- Michael Genrich
- Jason Hyde
- Emily Kenny
- Courtney Miller
- Mary O'Shaughnessey
- Elizabeth Roberts
- Lindsey Ross
- Juliana Sartor
- Sarah Schuetz
- Charles Steiner
- Kelli Turczyn

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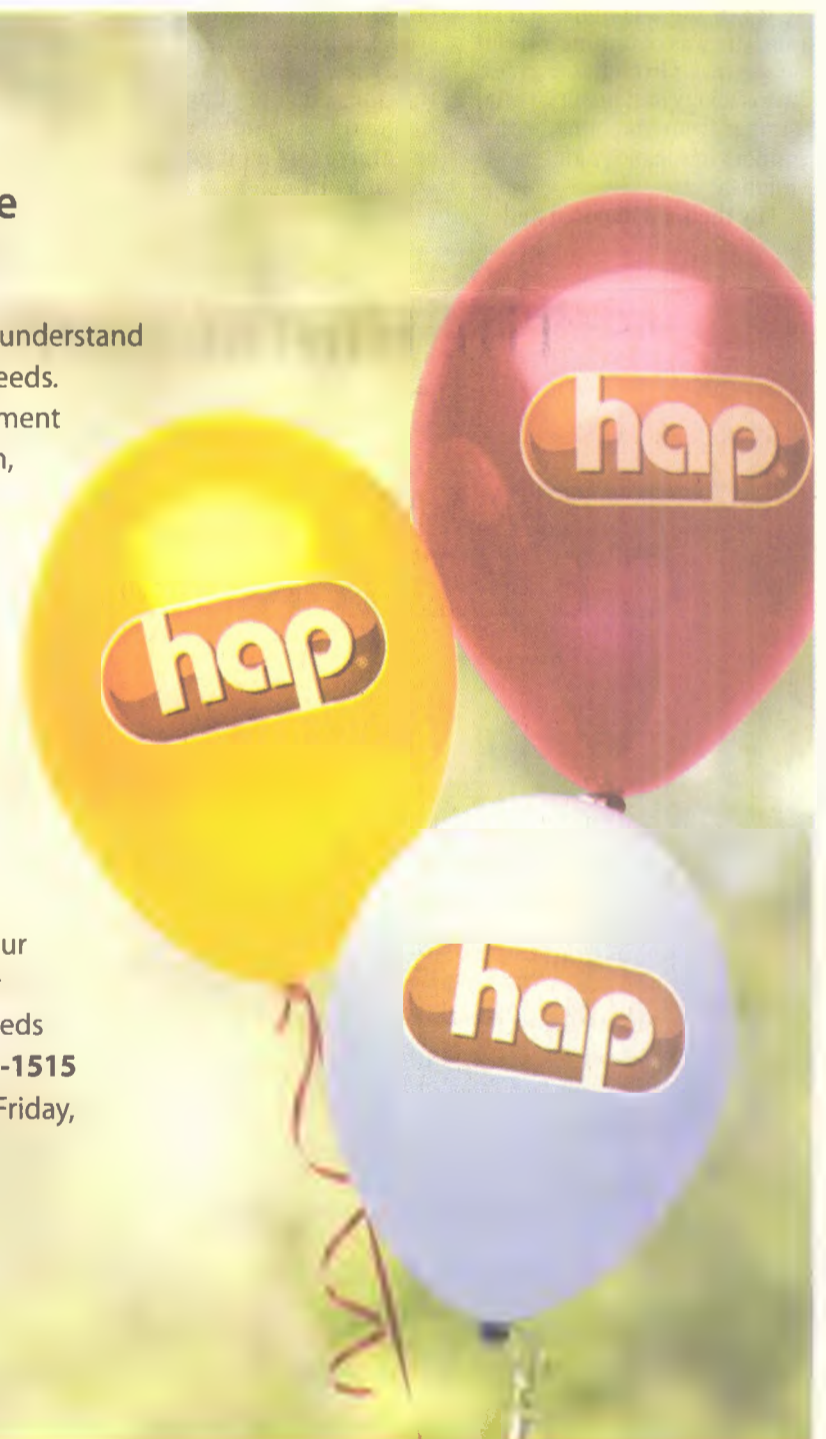
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Doris Biscoe, former TV News Anchor, may personally attend some of these workshops.†

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†Paid Spokesperson, Doris Biscoe, is a member of a HAP non-Medicare Plan.

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Reverse mortgage can be good solution

Q: Dear Rick: A few years ago, my son was having financial difficulties and to assist him we (my wife and I) took out a mortgage on our home. The deal was our son would make the mortgage payments on the home. The last few years, he has made the payment and there has been no problem. However, his situation has not improved and he can no longer make the payments. My wife and I can't make the payments. We talked to the mortgage company about restructuring, but our request was denied. The mortgage company recommended that we sell our home. We have equity in our home, but we don't want to sell. We love our house and have no intention of moving. I hope you can suggest an alternative to selling our home.

A: There is an alternative that allows you to stay in your home and ease your financial burden. It appears you qualify for a reverse mortgage and it may be the answer to your problems.

A reverse mortgage allows you to tap into the equity of your home, allowing you to stay in the home for as long as you like. Unlike a traditional mortgage — where you make monthly payments of principal and interest — a reverse



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

mortgage has no monthly payments. The mortgage is paid off in full when the home is sold. In addition, you are not under any obligation to sell your home.

If you stay in your home until you die, then upon death the house would be sold and the proceeds used to discharge the mortgage. If, for some reason, the house sold for less than the outstanding mortgage, neither you nor your estate nor your beneficiaries would be liable for the shortfall. The mortgage company assumes that risk.

A reverse mortgage would ease your financial situation because you could use the proceeds to pay off the existing mortgage.

In addition, if you are able to withdraw more money from your home, you could use that money for anything you want. Based upon your situation, it would make sense for you to explore a reverse mortgage.

Many seniors believe that reverse mortgages are some-

thing to be avoided at all cost. However, that is not the case. There are many situations where reverse mortgages make sense. A reverse mortgage is a great financial tool for a senior with financial issues, equity in their home and the desire to stay in the home long term.

On the other hand, I am not a fan of using the proceeds from a reverse mortgage to make an investment. In the past, many seniors were suckered into withdrawing equity from their home and then investing the money in high-risk investments. This strategy makes no sense. Equity in a home provides a cushion that should only be used in cases of severe financial difficulties.

Obtaining a reverse mortgage is a little different than obtaining a traditional mortgage. There are literally hundreds of different programs available for traditional mortgages. In addition, while fee structure and interest rates vary dramatically between different companies, this is not the case with reverse mortgages. Reverse mortgages have become very standardized and there are not a lot of options available to you. However, like anything else in the financial

world, the key is to deal with a company that you have confidence in and one which will work with your best interest in mind.

There are a number of fine reverse mortgage companies. One that I've had success with is First Financial Reverse Mortgage (www.firstloans.net).

In today's difficult economic times, seniors who are struggling should at least consider a reverse mortgage. The money from a reverse mortgage could be used to pay off an existing mortgage, pay off a high-interest charge card debt or even be used to provide additional cash flow on a regular basis.

The question to ask is do you plan to be in your home long term. If the answer is no, then a reverse mortgage is most likely not for you. However, if you are having financial issues and plan to be in your home long term, a reverse mortgage is definitely something to explore. Good luck!

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

No one injured in Canton garage fire

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton firefighters doused a blaze that began inside a garage where a homeowner had been welding on a pickup truck, Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher said.

No one was injured during the incident, which was reported around 4:40 p.m. Wednesday on Warren Road west of Canton Center by a passerby who saw the fire and called 9-1-1.

Township firefighters

arrived and found heavy smoke coming from a detached garage. With help from Canton police, they temporarily blocked Warren Road to traffic during the afternoon rush hour until they could secure a fire hydrant and attack the fire, Rorabacher said.

The incident occurred during an already busy day in which Canton firefighters already had made 12 runs for medical emergencies and fires, authorities said.

When firefighters arrived

at the Warren Road fire, the homeowner said no one was inside the garage but indicated there were potentially hazardous materials inside the structure, including what authorities described as welding and cutting equipment.

Fire officials didn't have any immediate damage estimates. However, fire officials indicated that the blaze caused significant damage to the interior of the cement-block garage. The pickup truck also was damaged.

Officials ruled the fire as accidental. A report from fire officials indicated the fire started in the pickup truck where the welding had occurred and then spread to the garage.

Rorabacher offered tips for anyone welding in a garage. He suggested keeping a garden hose nearby to douse any potential blaze and also making sure there are no potential fire-causing sparks before leaving the area.

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Hospice walk honors families and friends

Angela Hospice will host its third Walk of Remembrance to allow individuals, families, and friends to walk in honor of the loved ones they've lost, while enjoying fellowship and the scenic beauty of nature.

The walk takes place Saturday, Sept. 25, beginning at Madonna University in Livonia. Registration will open at 8 a.m., with the opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

"The Walk of Remembrance is a wonderful event for

anyone who has lost a loved one," said Syndie Best, volunteer coordinator for Angela Hospice. "It's a chance to set aside a couple of hours in our very busy lives and choose to remember the ones we love who have passed on. The beautiful surroundings of the walk route are enhanced by musicians and volunteers placed along the way. At the end of the walk, having an opportunity to decorate a rock with the name of a loved one is a very moving experience."

Last year more than 500 people participated in the Walk of Remembrance, and an even greater response is expected this year. The walk is a 2.3-mile route through the grounds of the Felician Sisters, including Madonna University, the Central Convent, Ladywood High School and Angela Hospice.

Northville resident and hospice nurse Kathleen Pidruzny attended the event in 2009, as well as in 2008. Each year Pidruzny brought eight of her friends and family with her, who thoroughly enjoyed the day.

"It's a beautiful walk," said



Northville resident Kathleen Pidruzny (far left) and her family walked in memory of her father Howard Pingston at the 2009 Walk of Remembrance. The group enjoyed bagels and painted rocks for the memorial garden at the end of the walk. With Kathleen (from left) are Colleen Brumo of Dearborn Heights; Allison La Combe of Canton; Colleen Pidruzny of Northville; Carla Sladewski of Dearborn Heights; Jo Ann and Veronica Brumo of Dearborn.

Pidruzny. "They loved it. They thought it was so peaceful."

So Pidruzny responded favorably to the opportunity to form a Walk of Remembrance team this year.

Event coordinator Barb

Iovan explained that this is the first year participants have been encouraged to form teams.

"Participants have been so positive about the event," said Iovan. "This year we are invit-

ing people to form teams as a way to both memorialize their loved ones and at the same time raise funds for Angela Hospice programs, while bringing friends and family together."

Anyone interested in form-

ing a Walk of Remembrance team is welcome to attend a Team Kickoff, either Thursday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m., or Saturday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m.

"We really hope to see the community come out to support this event," said Iovan. "It's a wonderful day and supports an important cause."

Individuals may also register in advance for the Walk of Remembrance by calling Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045, or downloading a registration form at www.angela-hospice.org. Registration includes a commemorative T-shirt, ribbon, craft, and refreshments. Fees for adults are \$20 in advance (or \$25 day of); children ages 6-12 are \$5; children 5 and under are free and do not need to register.

All proceeds from the Walk of Remembrance will benefit Angela Hospice's programs for terminally ill patients and their families, including free grief support counseling which is available to anyone in the community.

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Music to the ears

Veteran performers, newcomers boost concert attendance

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A hot summer and cool music that appeals to young and old alike are combining for another successful Music in the Park season in downtown Plymouth.

The noontime Wednesday concerts — there two more yet this summer — are drawing good crowds that Deb Madonna, president of the Plymouth Community Arts Council board of directors, also attributes to the Kellogg Park setting, the city's expert hosting of such events, and perhaps even Michigan's slow economy. The PCAC organizes the concert series, which began in 1984.

The shows bring out newborns, toddlers and older children, their parents and grandparents, and even senior citizens from local assisted-living facilities. Madonna said attendance seems to be up from other recent years.

"The audiences come out ready for a good time," Madonna said. "We have such a wide variety of ages."

Guy Louis and Chautauqua Express were the performers on Wednesday, making their second appearance of the season.

"He packs 'em in," Madonna said of Louis, a Music in the Park veteran.

This season's budget is about \$10,000, and Madonna is pleased that, despite a tough economy, sponsors are willing



Four-year-old Elizabeth Lauth gets her face painted by artist Colleen Gilgins.

to contribute to give people some free summer entertainment. She estimated that the series boasts a total attendance of 25,000.

"On Wednesdays in the middle of the day, we have a lot of people gathered together to have fun," she said. "And that's something the community can

be proud of."

The major sponsor of the series is the Wilcox Foundation. Huron Valley Ambulance, Monroe Bank & Trust, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.-Miracle League of Plymouth and chiropractor Dr. Brian Brackney are longtime sponsors, and Pediatric Dentistry is a new

sponsor this year.

"It good times, bad times, people work together, and that's something we've got to keep in mind," Madonna said.

Tom Seley, who performs as Mr. Seley, will make his first appearance in the series on Wednesday. He'll be bringing his four-piece band, the Troublemakers.



Guy Louis and friends get their dancing shoes on during Wednesday's Music in the Park concert in Kellogg Park. Louis, a popular attraction in the concert series, was making his second appearance of the summer.

"It is rock music but it has lyrics at the intellectual level and the humor level of third- and fourth-graders," said Seley, whose current recording is called *Cupcakeasaurus!*

Seley, who teaches elementary school in Birmingham, is a longtime musician with experience in rock bands while in high school and college.

His district's cancellation of the elementary vocal music program, and what he sees as a lack of good popular music for children who are no longer toddlers but aren't ready for love songs aimed at preteens, prompted him to start his band, he said.

"I'd never played in a kids band before. I gave it my best shot," said, who leads a

weekly after-school singalong for third- and fourth-graders at his school, Birmingham Covington.

Seley performed last fall in the Saturdays at the Penn series, also organized by the PCAC. "It was great. There were a ton of kids there," he said.

Joe Reilly, an acoustic folk and blues guitarist whose songs have themes of caring for the environment and the interconnectedness of all forms of life, will be the performer for the season's final Music in the Park concert on Aug. 25. It will also be Reilly's first appearance in the series.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council accepts donations toward the Music in the Park series. Call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Dance school expands to better serve community

Metro Dance Company in Plymouth expands adult, teen and preschool dance programs

BY ALISON BERGSIKER
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and Northville residents have something to dance about — Metro Dance Company in Plymouth has expanded its offerings this fall with more adult and teen classes and a wider range of times and dates for preschool classes.

"We've added more Tap, Hip Hop and Yoga for both teens and adults," said Kristie Wyler, studio director of Metro Dance Company. "We've really increased the choices of times and dates for preschool age dancers with more morning times."

Metro Dance Company, located at on the corner of South Mill (Lilley) and Ann Arbor Trail just outside of downtown Plymouth, has taught dance lessons to hundreds of children and adults since it's opening in 1997.

"We really try to offer something for everyone," Wyler said. "We've had a lot of customers say they had trouble finding classes for adults in the area."

Registration is now open for fall, with classes running Sept. 11 through June 2011. The studio offers classes in Ballet, Cecchetti, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Modern, Hip Hop, Breaking, Pom, Ballroom, Pilates and Yoga as well as competitive classes for dancers age 6 and older.

Children ages 2.5 to 5 are offered a fun introduction to the

basics of dance, called Preschool Combo, which combines Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Acro. Combo classes foster creativity, freedom and expression in movement and a love for dance while teaching, sharing, taking turns, waiting in line, socializing and cooperating with classmates.

"A beginning teen level class is available, so even if a 12- or 13-year-old has never danced before, they won't be placed in a class with younger beginning dancers," Wyler said.

Each year, experienced dancers are welcome to audition for the Metro Dance Company Competition Team. Members meet September through June, compete at 3-4 regional dance competitions and travel out-of-state for a national competition each summer. Dancers must attend weekly rehearsals and meetings and enroll in a weekly ballet class. Competition classes are available in Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Tap, Hip Hop, Pom and Ballroom. Solo, duo and trios are also available in discipline of choice.

But competition isn't the main focus of the studio. A variety of recreational classes are offered without a competitive edge.

"Some studios focus only on competition dancing, where we know some kids are just here to take a class or two for fun," Wyler said.

Technique classes are available

for adults in Hip Hop, Tap, Ballet (beginning-advanced), Pointe, Yoga, Ballroom and Pilates.

Friday night adult ballroom classes are a popular choice for adults. Group classes teach the style of the waltz, foxtrot, cha cha, rumba, tango, swing and salsa.

"Dancers don't need a partner to come to class — it's structured so you can just come in and learn the steps!" Wyler said.

For students interested in learning a syllabus-based method of ballet, Cecchetti Method Ballet is the way to go. Precise exercises are practiced in a set order each class, each building on the next. When ready, students are put up for examination and must pass before moving on to the next level of study. Students are eligible to begin Cecchetti Grade 1 at age 7 and work through Grade 7. Each level takes approximately 18-24 months of study to complete.

Private dance lessons are available for all ages, and skill levels and are scheduled around each customer's availability. Wedding choreography and social dancing lessons are popular among adults.



"Our wedding choreography classes are popular for couples interested in having traditional and non-traditional first dances choreographed and having their bridal party in for a group class," Wyler said.

Visit www.MetroDancePlymouth.com to register for fall classes online or for more information on all programs.

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Four things every parent should know before choosing a dance studio

1. What type of dance floor is used?

Dance is a very physical activity that requires a lot of jumping that can put a lot of stress on bones and joints, and most dance footwear does not provide any cushioning or support. Metro Dance Company uses a "floating" hardwood sprung floor in each of its three dance rooms that absorbs the shock of jumping, helping to prevent injuries.

2. What is the size of the class?

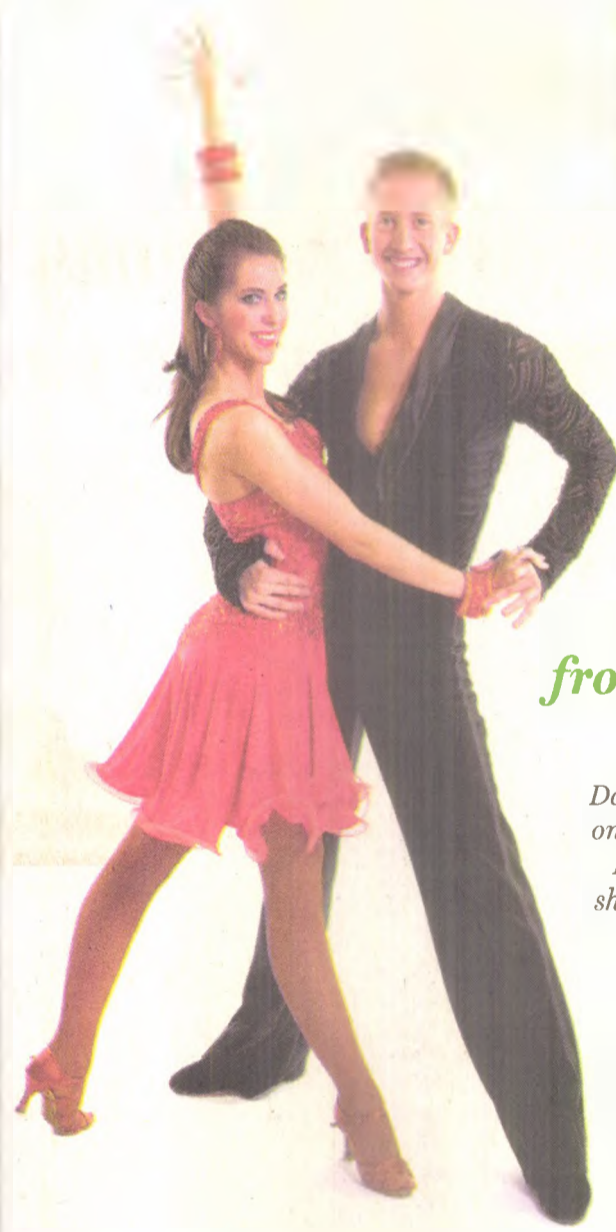
If the dance class has fewer students, each child will receive more personalized attention, learn more and have more fun. Metro Dance Company classes have smaller sizes to make sure no fundamental concepts are missed and to allow teachers to ensure students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

3. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios, the teacher or studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. Metro Dance Company has an office staff on hand during all regular class times, so dancers get immediate assistance.

4. What is the studio environment?

Metro Dance Company is committed to providing safe and quality instruction to children and adults of all ages and skill levels. The studio has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and offers students a choice of technique, recital and/or competitive dance classes. Students are taught about teamwork, a positive attitude, eating healthy and setting goals.



Metro Dance Company

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Testimonials from local parents:

"My daughter's experience with Metro Dance is a great pleasure. She has grown not only as a dancer but also as a team member.

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— Maribel Schaefer

"My daughter has basically grown up at Metro Dance. She has been dancing for over 12 years, and dance has shaped her into a disciplined, honest, fun and healthy person. She still lives to dance and loves every minute! Metro Dance is her second family!"

— Janice Johnson

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SECTION B
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SPORTS

INSIDE

MILESTONES, B9

HEALTH, B10

SUNDAY, August 15, 2010

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Driven by Dan Kanfoush of Buffalo, N.Y., the Fast Eddie II glides over the water during a hydroplane race.

Right on course

Dual wins have Sechler headed for APBA crown

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Following a two-for-one weekend in late July and a little engine retooling, Jim Sechler and his team are running smoothly again on the hydroplane racing circuit.



Jim Sechler

owner of the *Fast Eddie II*, and driver Dan Kanfoush won two more titles and boosted their American Power Boat Association lead with a successful trip to Cambridge, Mass. They won a sixth consecutive Summer National Championship and their third World Championship in the one-liter modified inboard class July 23-25. Both championships are decided in the same race. It's actually a three-in-one event with the Canadian Summer

National title also being a part of it.

Sechler, who resides in Farmington Hills, is not a member of the Canadian Boating Federation, however, so he couldn't claim that title, too.

"The Summer is harder to win than the World," Sechler said. "More people show up at the Summer than the World Championship."

"Why is that? The

Please see **COURSE, B2**

Xavier marks spot for Spartan center

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite missing his entire junior season, Jalen Reynolds still proved to be a hot commodity among Division I college basketball recruiters.

The 6-foot-9 senior center, who will suit up this winter for the first time at Livonia Stevenson High after transferring last December from nearby Livonia Clarenceville, verbally committed this week to Xavier University.

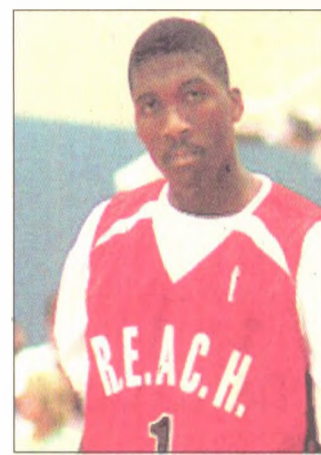
According to Stevenson coach Mike Allie, Reynolds has yet to qualify academically under NCAA entrance standards, but that didn't stop the offers from coming in from such schools as West Virginia, Pitt, Southern Cal, University of Detroit Mercy, Oakland University, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Duquesne and Providence.

"He had about 10 to 12 (offers)," Allie said. "He thought Xavier was the right fit and he loved everything he saw there. He liked the smaller campus. He knew what he wanted and he didn't want to waste everybody's time."

Reynolds made a couple of trips to Cincinnati and Allie took his squad to a team camp hosted by Xavier head coach Chris Mack.

"Xavier has been to five straight Sweet 16s and they've graduated 79 straight seniors, which is the most of any school in the NCAA," Allie said.

The Stevenson coach said Reynolds' narrowed his final choices down to U-D Mercy



Jalen Reynolds

and Xavier (a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference).

"He could have easily stayed home, but he decided to go away," Allie said. "Coach (Ray) McCallum (of Detroit) was a class act all the way in the recruiting process along with coach (Carlos) Briggs (McCallum's assistant)."

Reynolds spent his freshman year at Redford High, but switched schools for the 2008-09 season at Clarenceville where he started as a sophomore for the Metro Conference champions.

Clarenceville changed coaches prior to the 2009-10 season where Reynolds remained enrolled during the fall semester. He played with the Trojans through the preseason, only to transfer after his family moved to the Stevenson attendance area on Dec. 5, 2009.

After Stevenson administrators consulted with the

Please see **XAVIER, B2**

SIDELINES

Whalers promotion

Brian Sommariva has been promoted from assistant coach to assistant general manager with the Plymouth Whalers by club president Mike Vellucci.

It's a new position. Vellucci also serves as the team's

general manager and head coach.

Sommariva joined the Whalers as a volunteer assistant coach in 2006 and has since worked in a variety of jobs,

including video analysis and player development.

He was an assistant coach at Notre Dame Preparatory School for three years prior to joining the Whalers.

"Brian deserves this chance," Vellucci said. "I have been looking to fill this position for the last few years, and we're confident in Brian's abilities. He'll be assisting me with daily duties and be in charge of our scouting and drafts. We want to stay connected with our prospects, and Brian will be watching those relationships and maintaining those relationships."

Sommariva will assist Vellucci and associate coach Joe Stefan with associate coach and billet issues and player personnel decisions.

"This job is a natural extension for me to continue to work with the coaches and current scouts," Sommariva said. "They know my personality and I know theirs, so there should be a real good synergy among us."

Plymouth opens its regular season on Sept. 23 against Memorial Cup and defending OHL champion Windsor.

The Whalers' home opener is Saturday, Sept. 25 at Compuware Arena against the Barrie Colts.

For ticket information, call (734) 453-8400 or visit www.plymouthwhalers.com.

Dwyer All-Tourney

Connor Dwyer, a junior at Churchill High School, was selected all-tournament team at the National Amateur Baseball Federation 16-and-under World Series hosted recently in Northville.

Dwyer, an outfielder, batted over .400 and set a World Series record with four triples in a game as the Northville Broncos reached the semifinals before losing 2-1 to the Rotterdam (Ohio) Rams. Bronco pitchers Michael O'Sullivan (University of Detroit Jesuit) and Jeffrey Gurtley (Northville High) also earned all-tourney accolades.

Hole-in-one club

Santina Palazeti, of Farmington Hills, set a driver to ace the 116-yard, No. 1 hole in the Thursday morning women's 18-hole league at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Palazeti, who recorded her first ace in 30 years of golf, shot a 101 for 18 holes.

MU spikers facing rare underdog role

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jerry Abraham's 24th season as Madonna University women's volleyball coach can only be categorized by one word — uncertainty.

The Crusaders are coming off a respectable 32-7 season in 2009, but that didn't meet MU standards as crazy as it sounds.

The Crusaders, who tied for second place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and did not win a WHAC title for the first time since 1997, find themselves as a rare underdog role entering 2010.

PREVIEW

"I'd have to say Indiana Tech returning everybody will be the favorites," Abraham said of the defending WHAC champ. "And actually what's a very good thing — and it's a positive thing — we have a real talented league. Aquinas (College) is going to be strong. Davenport (University) has a new coach and she has everybody coming back pretty much. The new school (Northwestern Ohio)



Dempsey



Gatt

we played them in two tight games. From top-to-bottom it will be the most competitive WHAC since I've been here."

Three players graduated, including four-year setter Inta Grinvalds and top hitter Mary McGinnis (3.76 kills per game).

Two others left the program, while another was lost to academics. But Abraham remains optimistic and undaunted.

"We have a talented team," he said. "There's a lot of newness, a lot of competition in a couple of spots. We're looking for a second middle hitter. We have actually three players that will compete for that position. That a position now that is a major part of volleyball that needs to be defined."

"We lost some size and a few

Please see **SPIKERS, B3**

Catching up with ...

Wayne grad Guess on Irish football staff

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lorenzo Guess was always on the move when he started in two sports at Wayne Memorial High School.

These days, the former All-State guard in basketball and highly-touted quarterback-defensive back, who later played both football and basketball at Michigan State, recently unloaded his furniture in South Bend, Ind., where Guess now serves as assistant strength and conditioning coach for football at Notre Dame.

Two Men and a Truck never had it so good.

But Guess, now with a wife (Bianca) and a 5-month-old daughter (Nadia), hopes his moving days are over for the time being.

"It's funny," Guess said. "Since I started coaching about eight years ago, I've been in a different state every year. Now I'm trying to stay put."

Guess, who hopes to become a head coach in



Lorenzo Guess

the future, served last season as the tight ends coach for the Big East champion Cincinnati Bearcats, who finished 12-0 during the regular season before losing to Florida in the AllState Sugar Bowl.

But when Brian Kelly left Cincy prior to the bowl game to coach the Fighting Irish, Guess was changing addresses again.

Prior to his one-year stint in Cincinnati, Guess served on the strength and conditioning staffs at the

University of South Florida (2009), Alcorn State (2008), Kentucky State (2007), Cincinnati (2006) and Tiffin University (2005), the latter school where he earned his master's degree.

At Kentucky State, Guess wore three hats — position coach, video coordinator and assistant strength and conditioning coach.

Guess was the head strength and conditioning coach at Alcorn State before going to South Florida in 2009 where he served as the assistant strength and conditioning coach, while working with the women's volleyball and men's basketball teams.

But just after five months on the job, Guess was on the move again when Kelly came calling at Cincinnati.


Guess leaned on USF head hoop coach Stan Heath, a Detroit Catholic High grad and his former MSU assistant coach, for advice on his next move.

"He (Heath) said it was an

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Bringin' it home: Jazz flourishes in unlikely venue

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Jazz pianist Sven Anderson plays a gig at a "hang" every fourth Tuesday night in Plymouth.

"It's like a living room. It's got a fireplace and all these sofas," said Anderson, describing the scene. "The drinks are inexpensive. It's got a whole other thing going on as opposed to other night clubs in the area. I wouldn't even call it a night club. It's a club, but it's open to the public."

What jazz musicians like Anderson call a "hang," club members know as Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780. And that Tuesday night gig is a free monthly jazz performance designed to both acquaint the public with the art form, while stirring up interest in the lodge and its charitable programs.

The idea seems to be working.

"We started this in April and it's starting to build," said Byron Taylor of Plymouth, who created the concert series and recruited Anderson and his trio to perform every fourth Tuesday.

"We fixed the room up real nice and we decided, 'let's try something different.' Why not get something going to help build the Elk image? I've been an Elk for over 20 years. I love the Elks. We do a lot of good things. We're always looking for younger members to join the club. The more this



Jazz pianist Sven Anderson is a regular at the Plymouth Elks Club's fourth Tuesday concerts. That's band member Rob Emanuel on drums.

builds and the more members we get, the more we can help veterans, handicapped people, and kids."

INEXPENSIVE FUN

Taylor said the Tuesday night series has drawn several music lovers who subsequently joined the club.

"Young people today are looking for more than jumping around on the dance floor. This is a place where people want to come out to relax and enjoy. And one thing about the Elks, you pay \$2.50, not \$7 for a beer. That's why people have come out — not only to support the music, but they come to have a reasonably priced night out."

Anderson and his wife, Janet Tenaj, who sings with the band, say they like the

relaxed atmosphere and attentive audience.

"We had a really good time and it seems the audience has a good time," Tenaj said.

RECRUITING TALENT

Anderson and Taylor have been acquainted for about 20 years through the Detroit Federation of Musicians, where the Elks member and retired jazz drummer was a union board member who negotiated contracts, served as secretary and treasurer. He booked talent for the union's outreach programs in schools, nursing home and public parks and became friends with many working musicians in southeastern Michigan.

"I'm there (on Tuesdays) because of him, actually," said Anderson, noting their



Ron Kischuk (on trombone) and the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band will perform Aug. 22 at the Plymouth Elks Club.

JAZZ CONCERTS

Outdoor Jazz Concert: Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, west of I-275 in Plymouth. The musical line-up includes Ron Kischuk and the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band, with vocalist Judy Cochill, 2 p.m.; George Benson Quartet, 3 p.m.; Sven Anderson Trio with vocalist Janet Tenaj, 4 p.m.; and John Trudell Quintet with a surprise vocalist. Free admission. If it rains the concert will be moved indoors.

Jazz@The Elks: 7-10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24. The Sven Anderson Trio plays jazz from Cole Porter to salsa. Free admission but donations are accepted.

Contact: (734) 453-1780

longtime friendship. He and Johnny Trudell, George (Sax) Benson, and Ron Kischuk and the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band all accepted Taylor's invitation to perform at an outdoor concert Aug. 22 on

the Plymouth Elks Club grounds.

"It's really friendship is what this boils down to," said Kischuk, who heard about the event through Trudell. "People you work with for years want to try

something different. You find a way to make it work. Yes, it's about the art, the music, but it's also about community."

The concert is free, although beverages and food will be available for purchase. The show will move into the club if it rains.

"It's our first try and we'd love to see the place packed," Taylor said, adding that if it's successful, the concert may expand to an all-day or two-day event next year.

For more about the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, and its many programs, including Friday night fish fries and philanthropic outreach, visit http://plymouth_elks1780.tripod.com; (734) 453-1780.



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Let's get visual, visual: Arts group is on the move

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) this month will pack up and head to a location with more convenient parking and better visibility at New Five Village Shopping Center.

The organization, which offers classes, art exhibits and guest speakers at its monthly meetings, currently rents space in the Dickinson Center, a Livonia Public Schools building that houses special education services and community education classes. The school board voted in late June to close the building to save on expenditures.

The district had leased space to the group since 1983, but didn't have another room available, said Dorothy Amberger, VAAL board member.

"We had to start looking around. We're not for profit, so we couldn't afford a lot. Because of the economy this (new location) became available to us at a lower price."

It's just in time for the organization's fall class session that starts Sept. 7.

"We're in the process of cleaning up old place and cleaning up the new place which needs little spiffing up."

Summer workshops and classes will be held at Dickinson, located on

Newburgh just north of Six Mile, through Aug. 27. VAAL must vacate the space by Aug. 30.

"We didn't want to cancel any classes. We'll work around people with packing and so forth," Amberger said. "People volunteered to help with packing and cleaning and we'll have a mover to move everything."

SPRUCING UP

She said the new space needs a little TLC — a coat of paint, some cleaning and possibly new carpeting — before fall classes start.

The building formerly used as a tobacco shop and includes what Amberger sus-

pects was a cigar humidor because its walls are covered in cork.

"We're going to use that room, probably take the doors off and just make it an extension of the large room."

Amberger said the new site has better visibility than the Dickinson Center space and more convenient parking.

"We're right out on the strip mall. It has excellent parking — lots of parking spots. (At Dickinson) people had to walk all the way through the parking lot to the classroom, which is tucked into the back of the building."

She said easels and work space will be set up toward the front of the room, with

storage areas in the back. Water is available in a large sink in the restroom.

"We'll have that visibility to the community. We were thinking we might even have a sidewalk sale of our art some day."

Businesses in the mall include a UPS store, Chinese restaurant, and sandwich

shop, among others.

VAAL hasn't set a date, but plans to hold an open house after moving into the new building.

For information about membership and classes, call (734) 838-1204 or e-mail to vaalart@yahoo.com or visit vaalart.org.

Pet rescues offer vaccination clinic, adoption event

Livonia-based Tail Wagger's Inc., is helping animals stay healthy by offering a series of four low-cost vaccination clinics.

All clinics run 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first is today, Sunday, Aug. 15, at Sheehy Animal Hospital, 1870 Middlebelt, south of Seven Mile, in Livonia. Other clinics will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, at Pet Food & More, 15399 Merriman, at Five Mile, in Livonia; Sunday, Aug. 22, at Pet Food & More, 3052 Union Lake Road, at Haggerty, in Commerce Township; and Sunday, Sept. 12, at Pet Food & More, 1068 W. 14 Mile, Clawson.

Tail Wagger's, Inc., founder Laura Zain says she hopes "people will take advantage of this low cost vaccination clinic and get their pets properly vaccinated to avoid further health issues."

She said Sheehy Animal Hospital and Pet Food & More are donating staff and services for the weekend clinics.

Distemper, Rabies or Bordetella will cost \$12 each. Bordetella is recommended especially for dogs that frequent dog parks, boarding



facilities and doggy day cares. All three vaccines are available for \$30. Sheehy Animal Hospital also is offering micro-chips for \$30 per pet and heartworm testing for \$18.

No appointment is needed but an RSVP will help Tail Wagger's with planning. Pets will be taken on a first-come first-served basis. Zain expects a minimal wait time. To RSVP call (734) 560-4660 or e-mail vaccinationclinic@yahoo.com.

PURRS AND PAWS

Country Cat and City Kitty rescue presents its first "Purrs



Stella the horse from Berwyck Saddle Club will be on hand at Purrs and Paws in the Park Sunday to help promote the adoption event and craft show.

and Paws in the Park" animal adoption event and craft show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, Sunday, Aug. 15 at Claude Allison Park, located on Beech Daly, north of Six Mile in Redford.

Rescue organizations will offer cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, birds and exotics for adoption. A veterinarian from St. Julians Cat Care will be on hand to answer questions and

special guest Dana Lundon from 96.3 WDVD will emcee. Patty Perushak of Berwyck Saddle Club in Milford will offer horse and rider demonstrations. The event also includes dog agility demonstrations, service dog demonstrations, crafters and vendors, a 50/50 raffle, and pet food and kitty litter drives.

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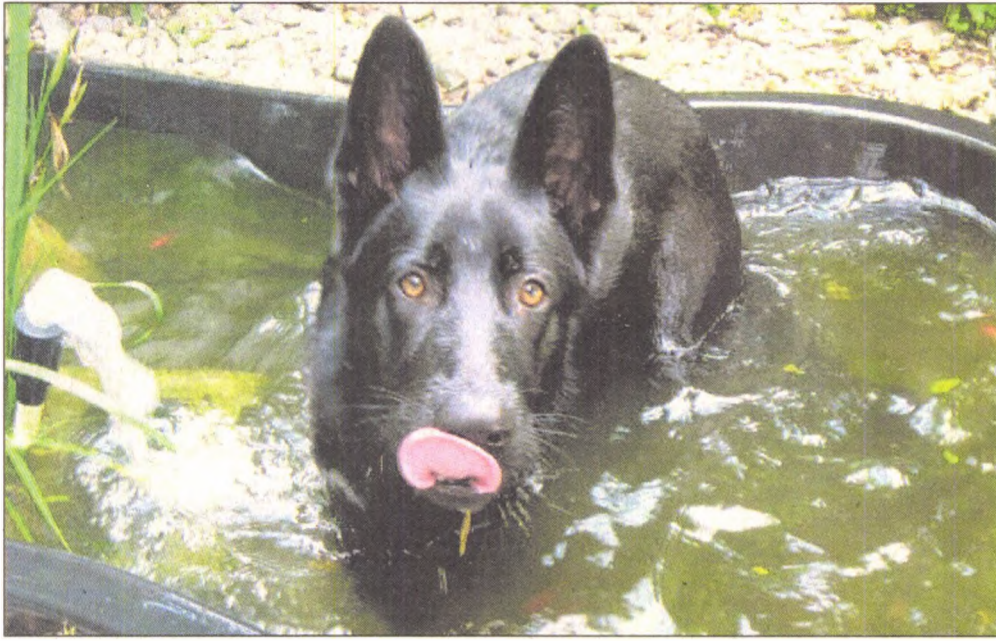
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Fun in the sun

This summertime snapshot was submitted by Valerie Schultheis, a Garden City resident and Canton Police Department records bureau staffer. The dog in the picture belongs to Valerie and her husband, George. Ghost is 1 year and 9 months old. The picture was taken last summer in their back yard in Garden City. 'He loves to run around the yard playing ball then jumping into the pond to cool off,' Valerie Schultheis said. 'He loves to work and help out around the house by picking things up and handing them to us. He is a true heel dog and is always at his daddy's feet or in his truck.'

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

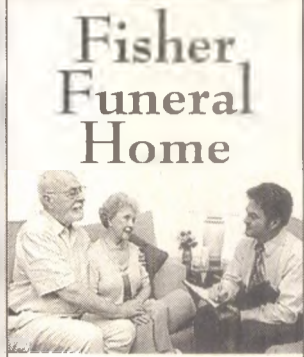
To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: July 20, August 17, September 14 & 28, October 12 & 26, November 16, and December 14

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

JOE BRIDGMAN, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: July 18, August 15, September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 14, and December 12, 2010
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St. Mary Mercy helps seniors at new emergency department

An emergency room visit can be stressful for anyone, but senior citizens can find the experience overwhelming.

To answer the needs of an aging population, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia opened the area's first emergency department dedicated to the needs of senior citizens July 14.

It is a regional initiative of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System, (a member of Trinity Health), but Livonia's was the first to open, according to Jennifer Kennedy, director of marketing/public relations St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

David Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, said, "Data shows that many seniors who visit the emergency department have complex conditions including multiple chronic illnesses, are on a number of medications, or have repeat visits. These new services are specifically geared to identify their unique needs, offer a physical environment that is more responsive to seniors and to reduce anxiety."

"Since the opening of our Senior Emergency Department we've had an extremely favorable response among patients and their caregivers, physicians and staff. We're pleased to be able to provide this exceptional service to our communities," added Spivey.

FIRST SENIOR ED

"This is Michigan's first implementation of a dedicated program addressing the emergency care needs and physical comforts of adults ages 65 and up," explained Garry C. Faja, president and CEO, St. Joseph Mercy Health System. "Since its opening, St. Mary Mercy-Livonia has had extremely favorable responses from patients and caregivers, families, physicians and staff."

Seniors often find a visit to a hospital emergency department to be overwhelming due to factors such as loud noise, a lack of privacy and the fast pace of interactions with staff. Poor hearing and neurological limitations often make it hard for seniors to understand.

Jack Weiner, president and CEO, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (Pontiac), said, "This is a continuation of our commitment to meeting the unique needs of our patients. Seniors have a unique set of situations that affect the delivery of their care. The Senior ED is a program that's structured to meet the particular needs of the senior population and to ensure that they have an outstanding and comprehensive experience."

Pressure-reducing mattresses to minimize soreness during longer stays, soft lighting, noise buffers, reclining chairs, large-print charts and discharge papers, oversized clocks, large print way-finding signs and non-slip/non-glare floors are among the amenities in a senior emergency department. Additionally, items frequently forgotten when a patient is rushed to the emergency department are provided, such as reading glasses and hearing enhancement technology.

"Our vision is to create a remarkable patient experience supporting the specific needs of seniors, their families and caregivers," Faja says. "Each emergency department will take extra steps to create that experience, which will offer additional comfort, safety, communication and security."

By Jan. 1, 2011, emergency departments at Chelsea Community Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy-Ann Arbor, St. Joseph Mercy-Brighton, St. Joseph Mercy-Livingston, St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland, St. Joseph Mercy-Port Huron, and St. Joseph Mercy-Saline will each have a Senior Emergency Department staffed by caregivers who are specially skilled in geriatric emergency care.

Collectively, the eight emergency departments serve five counties where seniors represent 21-25 percent of the total population. SJMHS conducted market research that indicated 85 percent of seniors and 91 percent of caregivers desire a specialized emergency care experience.

BENEFIT TO SENIORS

Also, emergency care traditionally focuses



The facility at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia is geared to the needs of senior citizens. This is a patient bay.

on treating patients' immediate health concerns and discharging them as quickly as possible so that additional patients can be seen.

Given the emphasis on speed, older patients often do not receive or understand instructions on what they should do to address their health issues once they return home. In addition, factors such as limited transportation, unfamiliarity with technology and difficulty dealing with bureaucracy may prevent them from going to follow-up doctor's appointments and/or obtaining needed medications in a timely manner. As a result, seniors have a high rate of return visits to the emergency department, leading to high costs.

With this program, medical staffs at each facility are taking additional geriatric emergency medicine training and nursing staffs will complete Geriatric Emergency Nursing Education through the Emergency Nurses Association. These courses allow physicians and nurses to sensitively and appropriately identify and treat patients with pre-existing conditions, multiple medications, dementia, living condition concerns, nutrition and depression. During a patient's stay at the senior emergency

department, a multidisciplinary team will assess physical function, cognitive status and level of risk. The approach will also include pharmacy and social work consultations, which will help seniors and their caregivers develop a care plan upon discharge from the emergency department.

The new emergency department is part of a growing trend to meet the needs of an aging population. In late 2008, Holy Cross Hospital (a member of the Trinity Health) in Silver Springs, Md., north of Washington, D.C., was the first hospital in the nation to create an emergency room specifically tailored to serve seniors.

Earlier this year, Bill Thomas, M.D., an international authority on geriatric medicine and elder care, visited Livonia to discuss senior emergency departments with hospital leadership and staff members. He is a consulting physician on the program.

Trinity Health is the fourth-largest Catholic health care system in the country. Based in Novi, Trinity Health operates 44 acute-care hospitals, 379 outpatient facilities, 33 long-term care facilities and numerous home health offices and hospice programs in eight states.

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20 Jobs That Pay Big Without a Degree

Anthony Balderrama, CareerBuilder.com writer

That the job market has been tough for the past two years is no secret. Job seekers suddenly struggled to find work and find industries that offered some security. Many of these people became job seekers after their companies began laying off workers, not because they wanted to change jobs.

As a result, education became the best option for job seekers who wanted to improve their resumes and gain a competitive edge in their hunts. Although earning a degree is an excellent move for several reasons, it's not the best choice for everyone. For one thing, education is expensive. If your problem is that you need to get a job in order to pay bills, school might not be your answer. Earning a degree is also time consuming and takes one or more years, depending on whether you want an associate, bachelor's or higher. Therefore, waiting to see the benefits of years of hard work isn't appealing to

everyone. That's why we've put together a list of jobs that don't require college degrees and pay well. In some cases on-site training or a certain level of experience might be necessary, but the minimum requirements for these positions don't involve a college degree.

If you're in the market for a job that doesn't require a degree but does come with a nice salary, here are 20 jobs to consider and their average annual salary:

- 1. Aides supervisor \$62,094***
Aides supervisors typically supervise home-health aides, monitoring quality of care and setting work schedules.
- 2. Assembly supervisor \$61,208**
Assembly supervisors oversee workers who put together products by using power tools or other dangerous equipment.
- 3. Assistant site manager \$87,614**
At a construction site, assistant site managers report to head site managers and plan, direct and coordinate the necessary tasks to

- 4. Automobile service station manager \$82,398**
The manager draws



- 5. Cable supervisor \$72,701**
Cable supervisors monitor workers who install, maintain and repair cables, and also perform related services.
- 6. Carpenter supervisor \$71,404**
Carpenter supervisors oversee carpentry work on a specified project to ensure that workers are on

schedule and executing plans accordingly. The supervisor also performs some of the carpentry duties if

- 7. Chemical supervisor \$68,071**
Chemical supervisors oversee workers who make chemical products, which involves handling dangerous substances and following strict guidelines.
- 8. Construction equipment operator \$51,386**
These operators are in charge of the large tools and equipment used during construction projects and they also inspect the equipment for safety and performance issues.

- 9. Credit and collection supervisor \$61,962**
Credit and collection supervisors manage employees who calculate credit risks and collections, and they sometimes review client credit history to grant or deny extensions of credit.
- 10. Data control supervisor \$61,691**
Data control supervisors manage data entry workers and are responsible for the completion and accuracy of that work. On occasion they help with assignments.
- 11. Electrical repairer \$55,605**
Electrical repairers disassemble and fix problematic electrical equipment and their components, which can range from small mechanisms to large technological systems, depending on the specifics of the job.
- 12. Flight service manager \$68,572**
Airlines hire flight service managers to ensure that flight attendants adhere to personal appearance and preflight requirements. They also compile flight reports.

- 13. Gas plant operator \$64,608**
Pipelines that produce and transport gas need to stay at certain pressures to function safely, and that's what these workers do.
- 14. Home care aide supervisor \$67,032**
Home care aides assist homebound patients with daily activities and some rehabilitation exercises, and the supervisor ensures that all patients are being taken care of properly by their aides.
- 15. Housekeeping manager of a medical facility \$61,304**
In a medical facility, the housekeeping manager sets the schedules and tasks for his or her team. Housekeeping duties vary depending on the type of medical facility, but managers must work with other hospital staff to ensure they are following health and safety guidelines.
- 16. Illustrator \$54,565**
Illustrators design fonts and images for a variety of media, from Web sites to print campaigns and video. They often work for advertisement agencies or freelance.

- 17. Lead carpenter \$69,431**
Lead carpenters ensure that construction projects are completed on time and correctly, and they perform some of the labor themselves.
- 18. Locomotive engineer \$70,116**
Locomotive engineers drive electric, diesel-electric or gas-turbine electric trains that transport passengers or freight.
- 19. Payroll supervisor \$64,223**
These supervisors oversee payroll employees to ensure that all pay calculations follow company policy, government regulations and tax codes.
- 20. Route sales manager \$66,362**
Product and service delivery teams have to achieve goals pertaining to customer satisfaction, efficiency and personal performance. The route sales manager monitors their work and keeps them on track to achieve their objectives.

*Salary figures based on data from CBA Salary.com.

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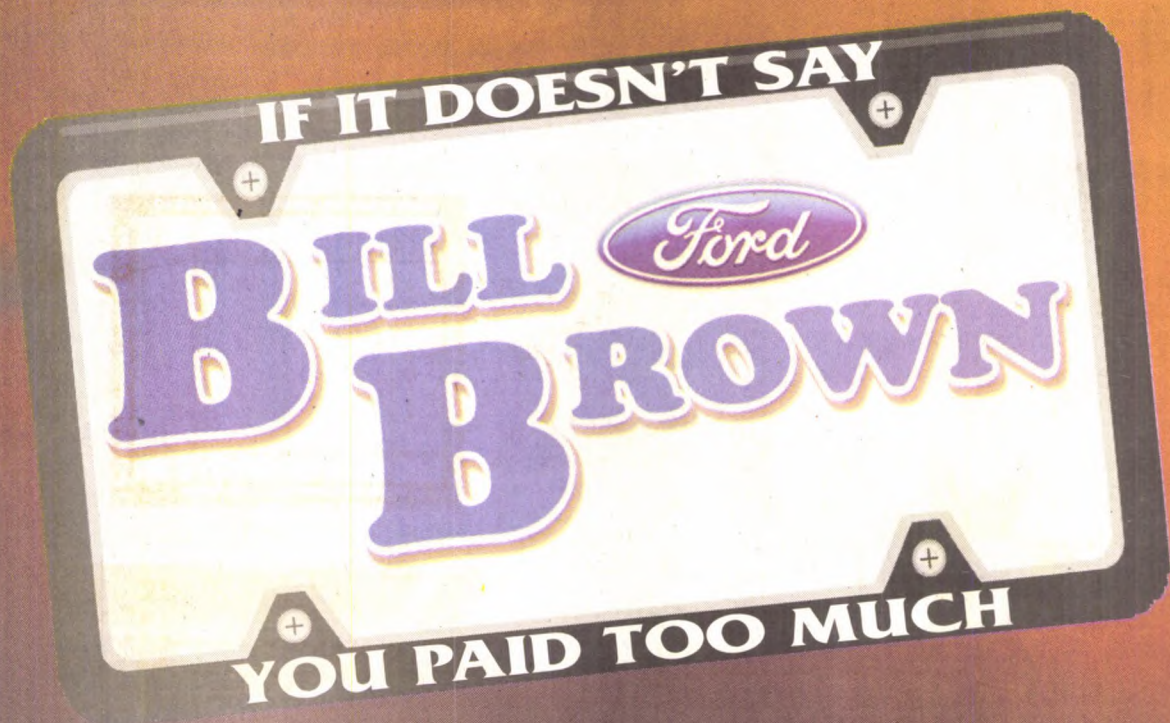
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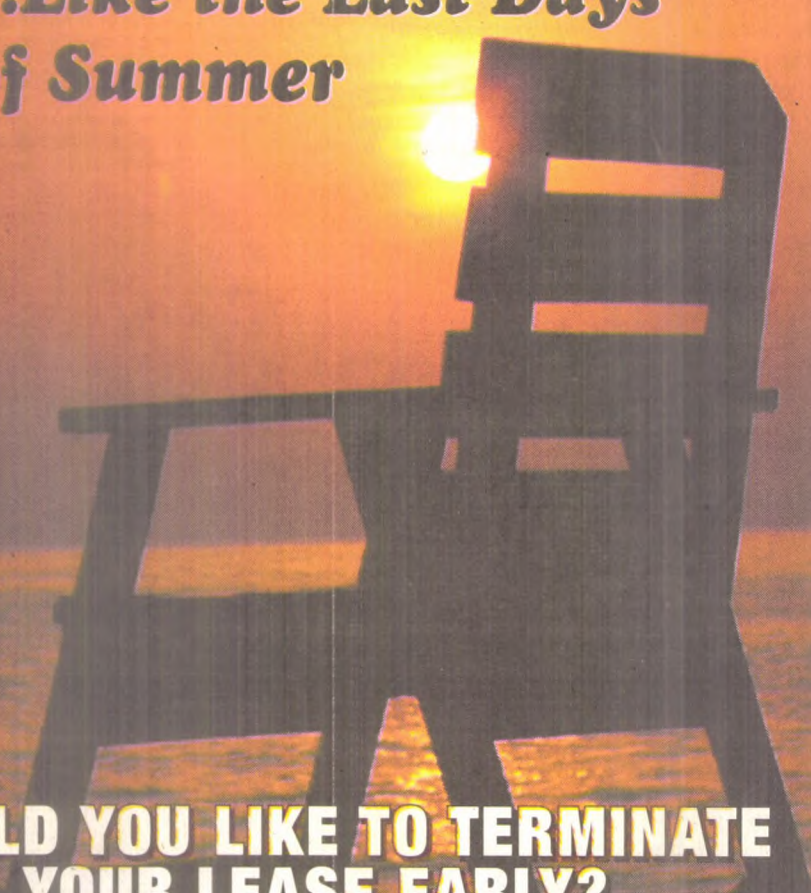
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\$348* Zero Down with \$414 due at signing. Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

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New 2010 Ford Fusion SE

Featuring: remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.

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New 2010 Ford Focus SEL

Featuring: automatic, power windows, locks, speed control, leather, SYNC, Sirius satellite radio.

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Featuring: remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.

\$377* Zero Down with \$489 due at signing. Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

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