



Serving on the 2011-12 Homecoming Court are (from left) Josh Rimatzki, Justin Reinholz, Kerigan Riley, Sydney Anderson, Joseph Paul, Amber Prong, Alana Duqum, Emily Jackson, Mikey Inglis (2010 Homecoming King), Sharon McCall (2010 Homecoming Queen), Kyle Mills, Vince Allen, Stephen Rich, Alaina Elkins, Megan McFarlane, Andrew Smutek, Danny Belczak, Lexi Roupas and Amber Petisce.



Amber Prong and Vince Allen were crowned 2011-12 Homecoming King and Queen.

Chocolate theme, 27-26 win make for sweet Churchill homecoming

Churchill High School's 2011 Chargers and the Chocolate Factory Homecoming Weekend Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 turned out to be a huge success, according to Homecoming chairs Rachel Roe, Rachel Tomassi and Jake Brown. Churchill kicked off the weekend with a spirit-filled Homecoming assembly. Students participated in both a "Violet Beauregarde" relay race and an Oompa Loompa hairstyle competition, playing on the theme. Performances were made by Varsity Cheer, Varsity Pom Pon, Marching Band, as well as CAPA's rendition of *Don't Stop Believing* by Journey. Churchill Varsity Football challenged the Canton Chiefs to a 27-26 victory, a huge win for the Chargers. The half-time show included Varsity Cheer, Varsity Pom Pon and Marching Band. Following the performances, the

2011 Homecoming Court was introduced to the crowd. Each court member took the field and the king and queen were announced. Senior Vincent Allen was crowned as the 2011 Homecoming King, alongside Amber Prong, the 2011 Homecoming Queen. Despite the cold weather and rain, Churchill fans stayed and supported their Chargers. On Saturday, approximately 1,100 CHS students came to the Homecoming Dance. The halls were transformed into Churchill's own version of a Chocolate Factory. Churchill's Student Activities Director Karla Halvangis said, "Numerous staff members have commented that this was the most spirited spirit week ending with one of the best assemblies we've had in years, and to that I give credit to the three chairs, Rachel Roe, Rachel Tomassi and Jake Brown."




Students pose by some of the Homecoming decorations at the dance.

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Mom wants treasure hunt to honor daughter

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Most people seemingly pay no attention to pennies.

Maria Sterlini of Canton hopes to change all that.

In a tribute to her daughter, Lynda, stricken with stage four pancreatic cancer, Sterlini is hoping to organize a "treasure hunt" Tuesday — her daughter's 38th birthday — that will have people all over the area not only paying close attention to what it says on them.

"In God We Trust."

It's sort of become Sterlini's mantra, in light of the health of her daughter, diagnosed in 2008 with a cancer doctors said would kill her within a month.

But Lynda Sterlini has held on, beating the odds to become what her mother calls "a medical miracle." And Maria Sterlini believes the penny has a lot to do with it, in particular the saying on the front.



Maria Sterlini of Canton is hoping to organize a treasure hunt Tuesday to highlight the penny in honor of the saying printed on it, "In God We Trust."

With her daughter stricken with a terminal disease, Maria found herself "at the lowest time of my life," when she says she suddenly started seeing pennies everywhere. They were next to her car, on windowsills, in bathrooms in parking lots.

One day, she said, she came across "a pile of pennies," and thought, "What is this? Somebody

dropped all these pennies. There's got to be a message there."

She gazed at the pen-

nies and saw that phrase: "In God We Trust."

"What that meant to me is I have to trust in God to protect and watch over my daughter, and bring her the people she needs," Maria said. "She's always told me that God would take care of her."

Maria said she and her friends were talking about the pennies, and remembered a few years ago someone wanting to remove "In God We Trust" from them. As a means of rebelling against that idea, she and her friends began ending all their e-mails with the phrase.

Now Maria wants to organize a treasure hunt of pennies. She's hoping to talk parents and grandparents into

spreading them among their children, in yards where kids can search for them, or in backpacks or bedrooms.

She's hoping companies will spread them among their employees, in conference rooms and cafeterias, where workers can find them, all to help spread the message: "In God We Trust."

"Maybe people will never look at a penny the same way again," Maria said. "I would like everybody to participate that day, whatever it means to an individual person ... if they take a moment to say a prayer, or if they just remember and pay attention. If it just gives them a moment of hope, it'd be well worth it."

It's been worth it for Maria and Lynda, who

has survived these years despite doctor's prognostications. Maria said U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter has arranged to fly a flag Tuesday, complete with a penny, in honor of her daughter.

"She's a miracle," Maria said of Lynda, who has a 21-year-old son, Daniel, and a 15-year-old daughter, Alexa. "Doctors really don't know how she's alive. She has been through the gamut. Any one of the things should have taken her, but she's a medical miracle. She's such an inspiration."

Anyone who wants to help Sterlini take part in the treasure hunt can call her at (734) 981-3952.

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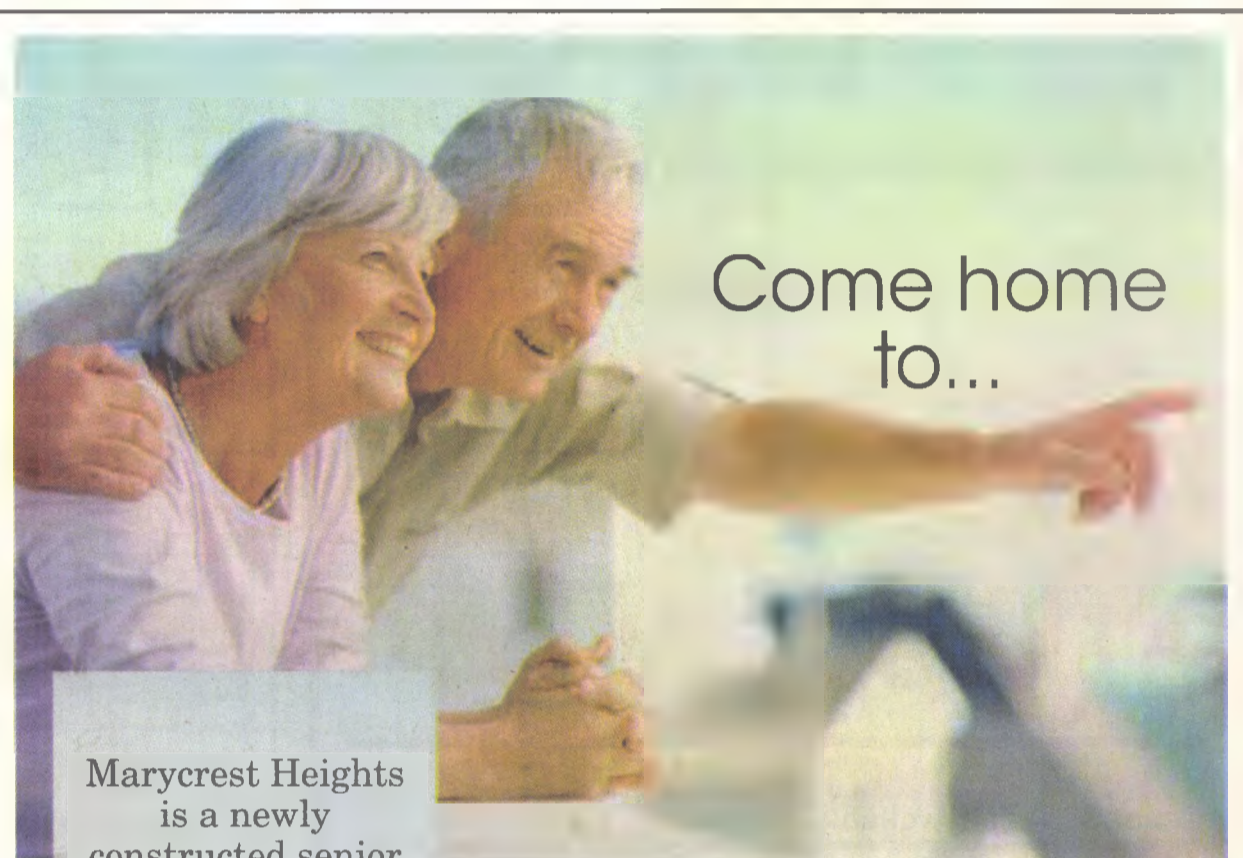
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Living trust can benefit partner, children

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my mid-70s and a widower. I have a significant other who's about 10 years younger than me. We have lived together for the past seven to eight years. We are not married and because of some financial and legal issues, we don't plan to get married, however, most of our friends think we are. I want to make sure that she is taken care of upon my death. I've talked to my adult children about this and, to say the least, they're not happy. Is there a way that I can protect my significant other during her lifetime and, at the same time, not upset my children



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

too much? The house we live in is mine and my investment accounts are in the high six figures. She has some assets, but not nearly enough to maintain herself if something should happen to me. Any ideas?

A: There are a number of different ways that you can proceed. I would recommend a living trust in which you stipulate that upon your death, the assets remain in the trust and are used for the benefit of your significant other. Then, upon her death, those assets would be distributed to your children. This would protect your significant other during her lifetime and, at the same time, provide what is left in the estate upon her death would go to your children, not her beneficiaries. This would accomplish both your goals. However, there are a couple of sticking points that you will have

to resolve.

The first is how much would you want your significant other to get on a year-by-year basis? You have many options in this regard. You can provide that she gets the income from the trust, put a provision that provides she gets a set monthly distribution from the trust for as long as she lives (with or without a cost-of-living adjustment), or she can get a distribution based upon her actual living expenses. Whether you want her to have access to the principal of the estate or not is something that you also need to consider.

The other sticking point is who would be the trustee of this trust. In most situations, I want family members to be trustees, however, that may not work in your situation. I suggest having two trustees so that there is some sort

of check and balance. What you don't want is the trustees fighting and causing all sorts of problems. This is one of those rare cases that I may recommend you consider a professional trustee such as a bank or an attorney, however, you do have to proceed with caution. Choosing the right trustee is essential.

While you're setting up your living trust, you should also consider a medical durable power of attorney. If there is some sort of medical emergency, who would you want to make those decisions? Would you want your significant other or your children? Right now if something should happen, your significant other would have no rights. If you want her involved in the decision-making process, you definitely need a Medical Durable Power of Attorney. (A

free Medical Durable form is available on my website by opening the following direct link: Medical Durable Power of Attorney/Declaration of Medical Care.)

More and more couples are finding that for whatever reason, a formal marriage doesn't work in their situation. In those situations, it is more important than ever to make sure you establish the proper documentation to protect each other if something should happen. Currently, under our present laws, significant others virtually have no rights.

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 website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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SYNAGOGUE

Continued from page A1

"We don't want to bring in as part of the building the real story," Lewkowicz said, adding the real story is the history of the synagogue.

The building is up for sale.

Final services Oct. 28-29

The synagogue's last official day is Oct. 29. Final sabbath services will be held Oct. 28-29.

The congregation has been meeting in the building on West Seven Mile Road just west of Merriman for 40 years.

Some of the families will be joining Congregation B'nai Moshe in West Bloomfield, Lewkowicz said, because it is small and close-knit like Congregation Beit Kodesh. However, some of the members, such as those in their 90s, may find it difficult to drive that far for services, she said.

The congregation has blazed a few trails in its 53-year history. It was the first conservative congregation in the metro area to elect a woman president.

It is the only conservative synagogue in western Wayne County, and has no paid staff. Volunteers and learned members of the congregation lead services — mostly all in Hebrew on Saturday mornings and more modern on Friday.



FILE PHOTO

The synagogue celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. Members at that time included Sam Reick, Norma Gandolfi, Phyllis Scherman, Sally Stein, David Scherman and Phyllis Lewkowicz.

Members like family

The congregation prided itself on its close family atmosphere and spirit of volunteerism.

Jeff Kirsch of Farmington Hills, a longtime member and past president, said if the congregation had more young families to sustain it and take over the leadership responsibilities from the aging members, it probably would have looked for another building. "It wouldn't make sense without families to continue it," he said.

Kirsch said it is sad to see the demise of the synagogue, of which his parents and grandparents were a part of and where he had his bar mitzvah. "I've never gone elsewhere; this has been kind of my home," he said.

Kirsch said the members treat each other like

family: "Everyone in the synagogue knows everybody and because of that people are ready to step up and help out when they can."

He said the synagogue also reached out to the community, raking leaves and completing fall home improvement projects every fall for seniors in Livonia, Southfield and Farmington Hills through a program run by the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park.

Kirsch and Lewkowicz are hopeful about the future, however.

Kirsch will still see each other and meet new friends at Congregation B'nai Moshe, where they will begin a new chapter.

Said Lewkowicz, "There must be a silver lining somewhere."

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OPRAH

Continued from page A1

Volkswagen in Livonia.

The Nowells were invited to be on Winfrey's show after Monica Nowell nominated Paula as her hero.

Paula's 14-month-old daughter, Maria, has Down syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes lifelong mental retardation, developmental delays and other problems. Monica said she wanted to raise awareness of Down syndrome, the health problems that come with it, which most people don't know about, and the need for research. She said she thought Winfrey's show would be the best platform in which to get her message out because her show reached so many people.

"I wrote from the heart," she said. "I just wanted to get the word about babies and children with Down's. I just said Paula and all the parents are heroes for going through so much."

Monica said October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month, but few people realize it.

Paula Nowell said Maria has already had five surgeries, including cataract and open heart surgery. The open heart surgery took place two days after they appeared on Winfrey's show.

"The Down's syndrome is one thing," she said, but the health problems



Paula (left) and Monica Nowell each picked a red-colored 2.5L 2012 Beetle.

are another.

Paula Nowell, 34, said it was a surprise when Maria was born with Down syndrome. She had tested negative for the disorder during her pregnancy, she had two previously healthy children and she didn't fit the typical age bracket for the disorder. She knew something was wrong almost right away. "I went to breast feed her and she turned blue," Paula said. She was rushed from St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Monica is a special education teacher so she meets a lot of parents of children with special needs. She thinks Paula is doing a wonderful job raising Maria.

"She's making sure Maria gets all the therapy she needs and the doctor care, and there's a lot of doctor care."

Paula, who teach-

es math at Stevenson, has continued to work despite the challenges of raising a special-needs child and caring for two other children ages 3 and 5. "Work for me is kind of my downtime," she said. "This is my sense of normal."

Monica said they weren't asked to be guests in the show so they didn't get a chance to talk about Down syndrome. But they were invited to sit in the audience with the other heroes and longtime fans being honored on Winfrey's show that day. In addition to cars, they were gifted with Apple iPads, earrings and Coach purses.

Monica said the timing of the show was meant to be. "I was so happy that Paula could have that excitement and that thrill because the next day she was preparing for the open-heart surgery."

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TV anchor gives hope to inner-city teens

GIVING HOPE FACTS

Formed in 2006, the Giving Hope, Giving Circle provides grant making initiatives that address the needs of local women and their families, creates an endowment fund for the future, and builds a community of women philanthropists. By pooling their charitable dollars, members of the Circle are able to make a greater philanthropic impact. To date more than \$28,000 has been distributed through the fund which is held at the Canton Community Foundation. HOPE (Help, Opportunity, Philanthropy and Education) are the circle's key ingredients. Local organizations receive

ing grants in the past include First Step, Girl Scouts, Open Door Food Pantry, Starfish Family Services, Plymouth Council on Aging, Oakwood Healthcare Foundation, Canton Public Library and the Miracle League. Giving Hope has:

- 77 current members
- \$81,400 pledged
- \$74,637 endowment fund
- \$6,085 collected through pass the purse

Sponsors of this year's annual meeting were St. John Providence Park Hospital, DTE Energy Foundation, Canton Township Leisure Services, MSA, Showroom of Elegance and Canton Park Dental.

"Giving back - that's what I believe life is about." That was the message Rhonda Walker delivered to more than 150 women at last week's Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle annual meeting in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Canton. The WDIV Channel 4 morning news anchor talked about being raised by loving, supporting parents in a "family that always encouraged giving." Walker was the keynote speaker at the Giving Hope event "Women & Philanthropy; Paying it Forward." And Walker is an example of a woman paying it forward. She received the 2010 Community Service Award from the Ford Motor Company and the Woman of the Year Award from the YWCA of West-



Keynote speaker Rhonda Walker was welcomed to the annual meeting by board members (from left) Debbie Maloni, Jean Noricks and Giving Hope Chairwoman Loren Wadington.

ern Wayne County. She is active with Cornerstone Schools, Winning Futures Mentor Collaboration, and Links, Inc. In 2010, McDonald's recognized her deep commitment to the community and for empowering teen

girls through the Rhonda Walker Foundation. While most people know her as the morning news anchor at WDIV-Channel 4, Walker is also president of the Rhonda Walker Foundation, a non-profit mentoring program for teen girls. The mission of the foundation is to "empower inner city teen girls toward becoming strong, confident, successful and moral future leaders."

Girls are recruited in middle school (eighth grade) and continue until high school graduation. They meet monthly and attend workshops, seminars, retreats and field trips focused on career, education and personal development. Programs include college tours, etiquette training, job-shadowing, team building and leadership training.

Walker plays an active part in the meetings and is accessible to all of the girls. She participates in all monthly meetings including field trips and retreats. She stressed that while the programs are aimed at encouraging and helping the at-risk girls, the teens also are encouraged to "help others."

"We try to teach our girls that you always have something to give - if it's not money you can give your time," said Walker, explaining that girls prepared gifts and food baskets for families at area homeless shelters and do a variety of volunteer work in the community.

Walker is proud of the foundation's success in helping to give inner city girls the encouragement and support needed to succeed. She is joined by a 13-member board of directors and many volunteers. "We have a 100-percent high school graduation rate," said Walker, who started the foundation in 2003 shortly after speaking to group of girls then being approached by one teen who asked how she could become a better person when everyone around her was discouraging her and telling her she wouldn't amount to anything. "I knew that if no one else was encouraging her, I would," said Walker. That event was the impetus for the Rhonda Walker Foundation "Girls into Women" program, which began shortly after that speaking experience. "God kept giving me the ideas and the people," added Walker.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Walker was born in Detroit and raised in Lansing. She has been a news anchor at WDIV since 2001. She spent seven years in pharmaceutical sales and marketing before leaving to pursue her dreams and winning the job as traffic reporter at Fox 2. Walker's message of giving and hope resonated with the women attending the Wednesday event. "I watch her every morning and she's a beautiful person inside and out," said Debbie Zevalkink, of Canton. Nadine Cook, representing St. John Providence Park Hospital (one of the event's sponsors) said Walker's sincerity and passion for helping others is evident. "She's a very special person and it shows," said Cook, who lives in Canton. For more about the Rhonda Walker Foundation go to www.rhondawalkerfoundation.org. The foundation will host its annual fund-raiser Sunday, Oct. 23 at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit. This year's event honors women in technology.

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THE THING (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

THE BIG YEAR (PG) 12:15, 2:20, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:15

FOOTLOOSE (PG-13) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

REAL STEEL (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

50/50 (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

ABDUCTION (PG-13) FRI-MON/WED/TH 7:15, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55 TUE 9:35

DOLPHIN TALE (PG) 11:15, 4:15, 6:45

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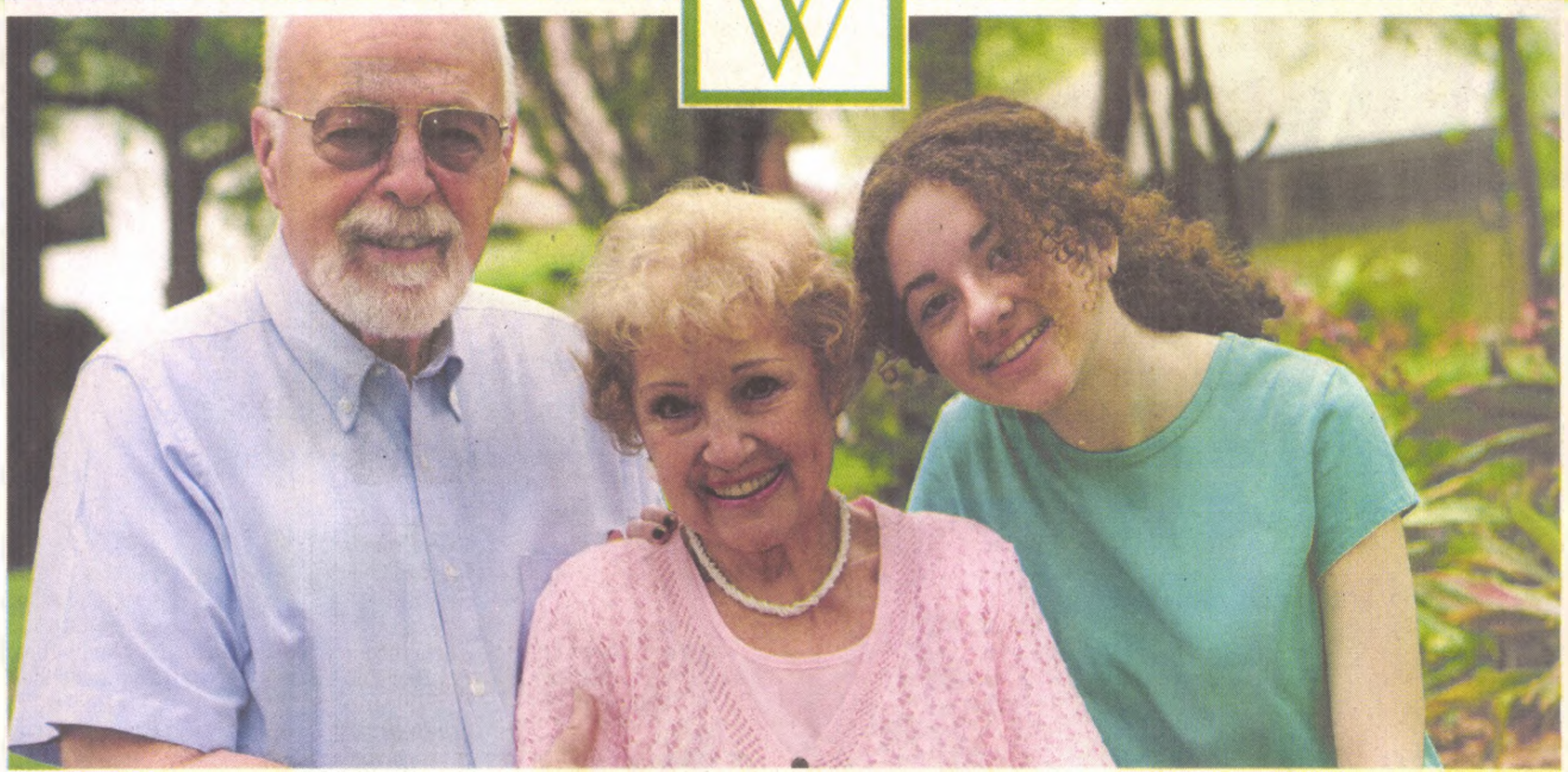
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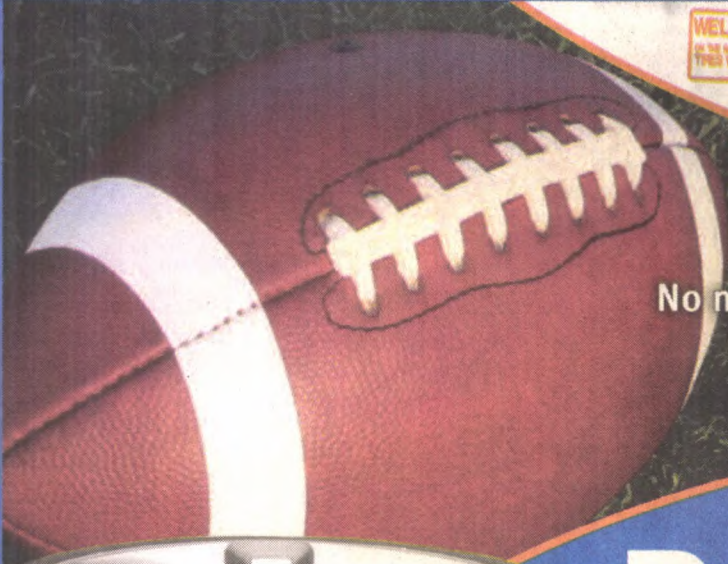
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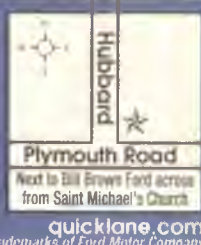
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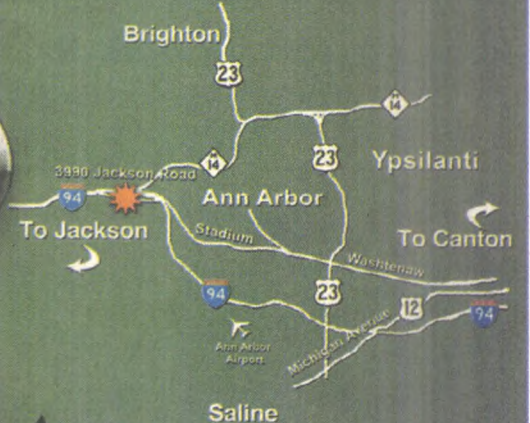
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'Cats hold on in conference final

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Players on Northville's varsity football team might be automatically getting out of the road whenever they see a black-and-silver truck with No. 5 on it for the foreseeable future.

The Mustangs were literally run over by Plymouth senior stud running back Donte Fox, who sparked the Wildcats (8-0) to Friday's 24-20 victory to win their first-ever KLAA Kensington Conference championship. "My mindset was help our team make history, get this

PREP FOOTBALL

championship and continue our undefeated season," Fox said. "We're trying to do something very special this year. It takes all of us to do it and I'm just doing my part."

Fox rushed 22 times for 145 yards, scoring on runs of 23 and 16 yards, and added 58 yards for his four catches. All night long, he busted through road blocks.

Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk smiled when talking about Fox.

"You gotta take advantage of a player like that when you

have him," Sawchuk said. "He's a great kid."

But Sawchuk quickly emphasized that it's a team game, with individual success a nice bonus.

"Around here we preach, like Bo (Schembechler) said, the team, the team, the team," Sawchuk said. "And if the team plays well and Donte plays well too, then we're going to be pretty good."

Boy was he ever, although a late rally by the Mustangs (7-1) threw more than a scare into the host Wildcats.

cial teams play by junior Jared Davis to clinch the victory and championship.

With just 1:20 left, the Wildcats were forced to punt. The ball hit the leg of a Northville blocker and Davis pounced on it at Northville's 46.

"I didn't see the ball, I just heard (teammates yell) 'fumble,'" Davis said. "I saw 23 (Sam Tacconelli) and I just took it from him on the ground. ... I just wanted to go get the ball, run down there and help my team win."

Sawchuk described the kick

Ear to the ground

In fact, it took a clutch spe-

Please see FOOTBALL, B4



Canton eyes another title

Last week, Canton's varsity girls volleyball team (29-6-0, 9-1-0 in the KLAA South Division) won the division title.

On Tuesday, the Chiefs will look to add to their trophy case when they host Novi (30-3-1) in the Kensington Conference championship game. The contest is slated to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Rocks serve up win on 'Senior Night'

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

On a night when seniors were under the spotlight, Salem's varsity girls volleyball team glimpsed what the future might feature Thursday night.

Rocks head coach Amanda Nies brought Kelly Whalen up from the junior varsity. She played flawlessly as Salem swept South Lyon East, 25-11, 25-16 and 25-21.

"I just moved Kelly up from JV," Nies said. "She played excellent in her first game with no errors" not to mention five kills.

Of course, Salem veterans also played well as the Rocks totaled 12 aces from the stripe and took care of the Cougars from the get-go.

"It was senior night so it was very nice to win the game on their last night playing at home," Nies said. "The girls started off very strong with their serving.

It was a great night because everyone was able to play and every game I could put different lineups in and switch things around."

Senior Kara Hewett tallied four kills along with five of those aces.

Other Salem stalwarts included senior Quinn Fillingner, with 22 assists, senior Katie Vincent (10 digs, four aces), Brooke Berberet (nine kills), Erika Hatcher (six



Keeping a rally going for Salem on Thursday night is Emily Lipa (No. 7).

kills), Katie Heitmeyer (five digs, three aces) senior Parisa Rashidi (three kills) and senior Leslie Rodriguez (two aces, one block).

The victory moved Salem's record to 3-8 overall and 3-7 in the KLAA Central.

Strong at tourney

That win followed an excellent showing at the Oct. 8 Waterford

Please see SALEM, B3



Salem's Kara Hewett (No. 8) elevates to knock the volleyball over the net Thursday against South Lyon East. Providing backup support is teammate Katie Heitmeyer (No. 3).

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lacrosse meeting

An informational meeting for parents of prospective Plymouth boys lacrosse players will take place 7-9 p.m. Wednesday in Room 710 at the high school.

The meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about playing lacrosse for the Plymouth Wildcats. Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country and the team is activity recruiting players for the 2012 spring season — no experience necessary.

For more information, see the team website at <http://www.lacrosse.plymouthwildcats.com>.

Blazers draw 2-2 vs. Huron

Livonia Ladywood tuned up for the field hockey state tourney by earning a 2-2 tie Thursday with visiting Ann Arbor Huron.

The Blazers got a goal and assist from senior Kylie Birney, while junior Jackie Snyder added the other goal. Senior Erin Cronyn also had an assist as the Blazers improved to 12-2-3 overall and 4-2-3 in the division.

Huron (11-0-1, 7-0-1) got goals from Kelsey Gradwohl and Katie Yeatts.

Ladywood goalie Mackenzie Holme made three saves, while Megan Wesner and Tori Westhead combined for two saves for the River Rats.

"It was a great game where we scored first each time with Huron tying the score," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said. "We moved ahead in the first half with a halftime score of 2-1. It was like a state playoff game and my players were up to the challenge."

Canton kickers KLAA's best

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Three times Wednesday night, Canton senior Tyler Winningham sent a corner kick toward the Walled Lake Northern goal.

Three times, a teammate was able to turn each of those corner kicks into a goal as the Chiefs knocked off the host Knights 3-0 in the KLAA association boys soccer championship match.

The win gave Canton (15-1-2 overall) its first ever association title, with the Chiefs now gearing up for the 5 p.m. Monday district opener at home against Ann Arbor Skyline.

"We had Connor Shennan, Connor Furgason and Nate Bergeson all in the box," Winningham said about his corner kick strategy. "They're big guys who can jump, so I just



Corner kicks by Canton's Tyler Winningham (No. 6), shown from earlier this season, set up all three goals in the KLAA association final.

aim for them."

Senior forward Mitch Pepper actually scored two of the goals, with Furgason's marker sandwiched between them.

Making six stops for the

shutout was senior goalkeeper Steven Murphy.

"We've always done well on set pieces," Canton head

Please see SOCCER, B3

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Canton boys win division crown

Pack running at its finest once again lifted Canton's varsity boys cross country team to victory and a title in the process.

The Chiefs captured the KLAA South Division championship with Tuesday's 15-47 victory over Wayne Memorial at Cass Benton Park.

Canton, 5-0 overall, now prepares for the KLAA conference championship meet Thursday at Huron Meadows.

Canton grabbed the top five places against the winless Zebras, with Mitch Clinton the top finisher with a time of 17:09.

Taking the next four spots, in order, were Miles Felton (17:49), Tom Walkinshaw (17:58), Billy Toth (18:03) and Andrew Stephens (18:10).

Wayne's Devin Gibson took sixth

Please see CANTON, B2

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Hospital supporters get dance lessons from pros

By Sharon Dargay
O&E staff writer

A little bit of Hollywood waltzed its way to Livonia last weekend.

Edyta Sliwiska and Alec Mazo, professional dancers with the popular television show, *Dancing with the Stars*, performed for an audience of more than 600 guests at St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 19th Annual Gala on Friday, Oct. 7. They also asked the crowd to join them on the dance floor at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center to learn a few dance moves.

"What was so exciting was for everyone to get to see the real dancers up close. And they were so personable and energetic," said Dan Murphy, who chaired the event. The gala's "Dancing like the Stars" theme, a twist on the television title's program, was Murphy's idea. He and his wife, Clare, take ballroom dance lessons and have competed.

"We love dancing and we also love the *Dancing with the Stars* show. My thought was that it would make it an event that everyone would be interested in attending."

Murphy was awarded a disco ball trophy, similar to the kind won by dancers on the television show, for chairing the event.

"It was his vision for the *Dancing with the Stars* theme. It was only appropriate to present him with a mirror ball trophy," said Sara Stauffer, director of development. "It was a unique way to celebrate the theme."

Stauffer said the event raised more than



Rob and Kristin Casalou of Novi have fun on the dance floor.



Gala committee members and volunteers include Patrizia Trupiano and Josie Norcia, both of Northville, Monique Marks of Detroit, Suzy Crossley of Northville, Mandy Buch of Novi, and Lynn Tokoph of Northville.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Edyta Sliwiska and Alec Mazo of "Dancing with the Stars" take a spin across the ballroom floor at the Gala fundraiser for St. Mary Mercy Hospital.



Tamara and Mark Lark of Novi look at jewelry offered by Sal Scotto Divetta of Orin Jewelers during St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 19th annual Gala.



Dancers from The Dynamic Dancers Performing Company entertain.



The crowd gets excited as "Dancing with the Stars" couple Edyta Sliwiska and Alec Mazo enter the ballroom.

\$230,000 for the Generations Together Campaign that is funding the hospital's new South Pavilion. The \$89 million construction project began

earlier this year and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. When it's finished, the new 154,000 square foot addition will include

an emergency center with two triage rooms, four trauma bays, six rapid assessment bays and six bays for minor injuries, 14 general treatment rooms, 14 senior citizen treatment rooms, seven behavioral medicine treatment rooms and two radiology rooms. The center also will offer visitors a waiting room and meditation area.

Please see DANCE, B7

It's homecoming Oct. 22 in East Lansing!

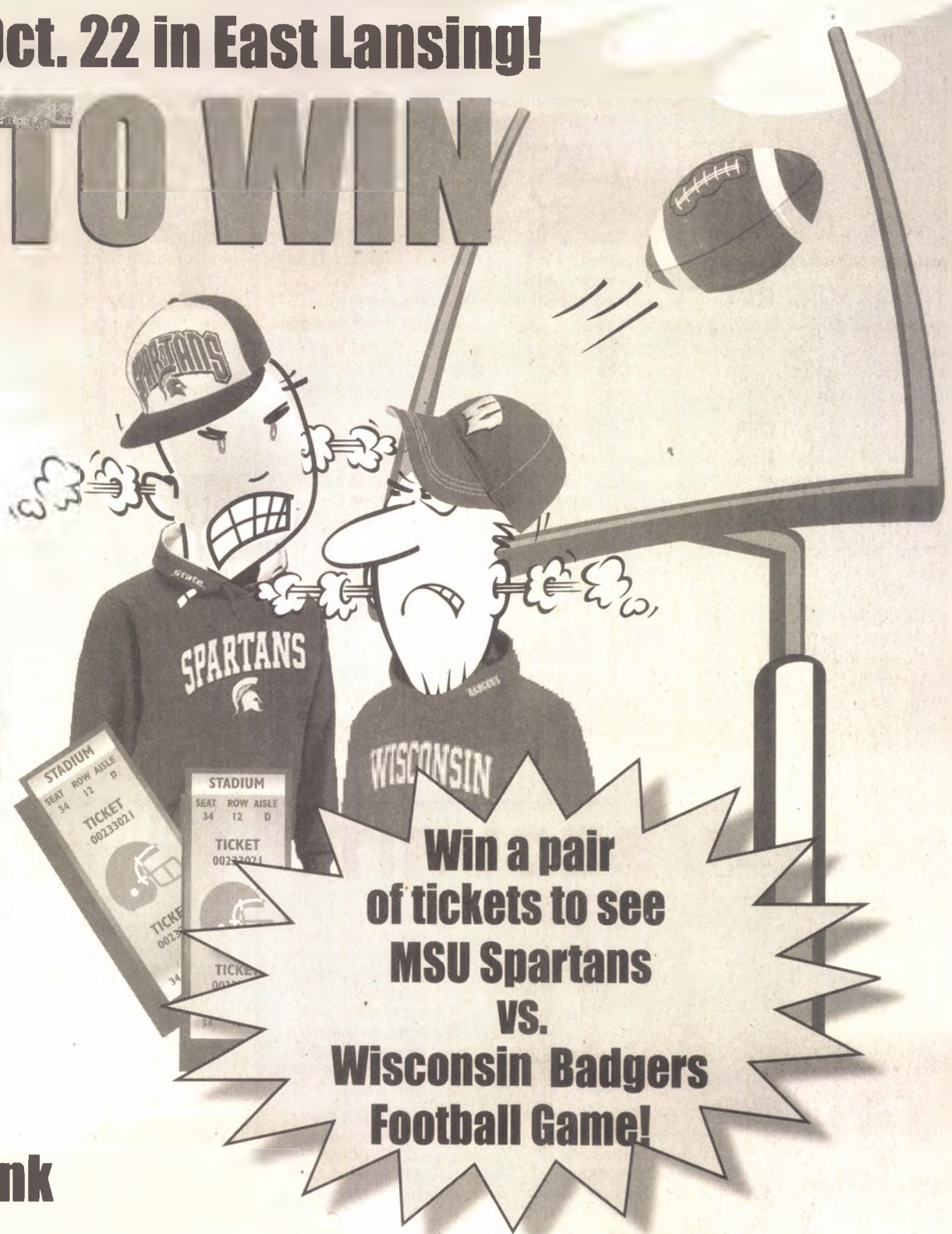
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REUNIONS

Send information on local class reunions to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Class reunion information may also be mailed to Dargay at Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971
Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

JUNE CLASS OF 1961
50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29. For more information e-mail lvanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

CLASS OF 1962
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

GARDEN CITY WEST

CLASS OF 1981
30-year reunion, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Livonia. \$45 per person; \$90 per couple. Payment must be sold at the door. Send a check or money order made payable to GC West Class of 1981, 32511 Windsor, Garden City, MI 48135. Questions? Call Erin, (734) 751-2424.

LADYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS OF 1961
Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

REDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971
40th reunion, 7 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Livonia Marriott. Cost is \$45 per person and includes strolling dinner and DJ. Cash Bar. Contact Susan (Brock) Pfeiffer at (248) 360-8437 or Susan (Matheson) Plaine at (248) 752-3618 for more information and address to send check. Also listed on Facebook.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962
Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19, 2012. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve and Camille Shy of Plymouth have fun on the dance floor after learning a few moves from Edyta Sliwinska and Alec Mazo of "Dancing with the Stars." That's Kristin Casalou (right) of Novi applauding.

DANCE

Continued from page B5

The second and third floors of the addition will house 80 private inpatient rooms with full bathrooms.

The construction project also includes renovation of 90 existing semi-private rooms on the third-fifth floors of the hospital: They'll be turned into private rooms.

Sponsors of the 19th Annual Gala were William and Bridget Phillips and family of Phillips Service Industries, Inc., Dan Murphy of Great Lakes Investment Group-Phyllis Fargo Advisors, Emergency-Wellness Medical Group, PC, and Hearts of Livonia.

WXYZ-Channel 7 News anchor JoAnne Purταν emceed the evening. Mel Ball and Colours Band provided the music and Dynamic Dance Group of Walled Lake performed.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

SEMBA

Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) will present a program "Seed Collecting, Saving and Planting," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Participants will

learn how to collect seed from butterfly plants, store them during the winter and how to plant them in the spring. \$3 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.semba-butterfly.com.

Hosta

Members of the Metro Detroit Hosta Society will see a photo recap of the 2011 National Hosta Convention at their next meet-

ing, 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Jan Everson will present the program. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome. For more information e-mail to Hgold2843@comcast.net.

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workshop at www.englishgardens.com.

Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

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Hoop it up for fun and fitness

By Sharon Dargay
O&E staff writer

Jan Henry seamlessly passed a revolving hoop from her waist to just above her head. It hovered like an oversized halo, and then headed back down her body to its starting point.

Henry, a Farmington Hills resident, stepped her way across the studio floor Wednesday night at Positive Attitude Dance Academy in Farmington, swaying her hips forward and back to keep the hoop in motion.

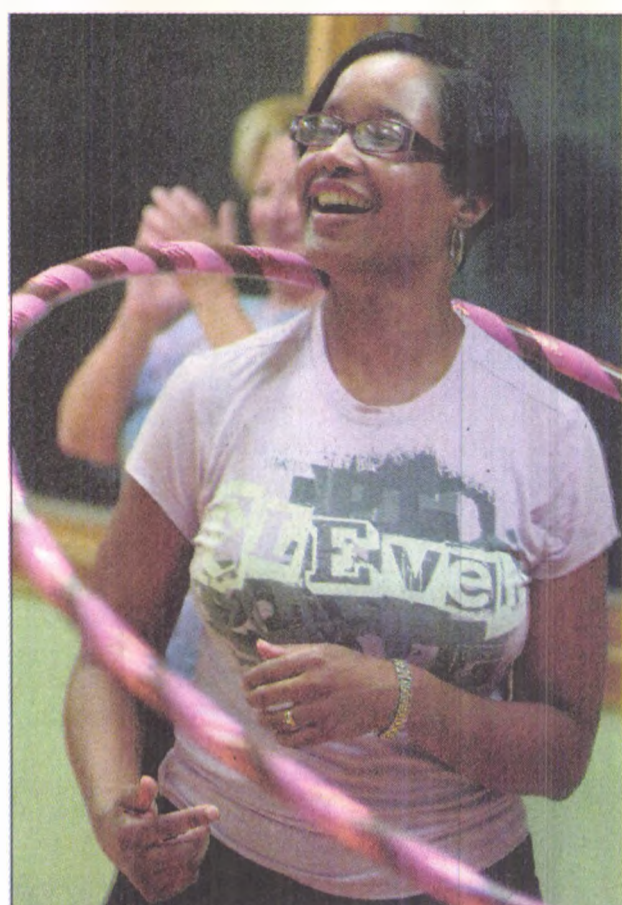
"You want one foot in front, one in back," she coached potential clients during her free introductory class to Hoopnotica, an exercise program that mixes hoop skills and dance moves.

"Upper body stays over the hips. You want to avoid leaning forward — the hoop will fall. The other thing, keep that tummy tucked in."

As a personal trainer, Henry also employs more traditional fitness methods, such as weight lifting, cardiovascular movement, walking, hiking and running. She added Hoopnotica to her resume a year after noticing a hoop on display in a local active wear shop. The staff moved clothing racks aside and allowed Henry to try spinning the hoop.

"A few revolutions and yeah, I thought, I can do this. It just hit me. I didn't know a whole hooping community existed," she said.

She studied with a Hoopnotica instructor,



Ermon Sims of Westland tries a few neck moves with her exercise hoop during a free trial Hoopnotica class at Positive Attitude Dance Academy in Farmington.

starting with basic hip and waist hooping and then moving on to creating hoop routines set to music. She received her certification in the program late last year.

Bigger hoops

Hoopnotica developed out of a single class in 2004 in Los Angeles, Calif. Today it offers the hoop and movement curriculum, instructor certification, training DVDs and hoops.

The fitness hoops are larger and heavier than the child-sized Hula Hoop made by Wham-O in the 1950s or found in toy stores today. The bigger diameter

and larger-sized tubing helps to slow the hoop down, making it easier to keep off the ground. Tape around the tubing helps create friction that keeps the hoop close to the body.

The Hoopnotica Web site says the hooping workout can burn up to 600 calories an hour.

"This is total body, so it's cardiovascular," Henry said. "It's core because we're working our waist. When people get real comfortable with these I put them down into a squat and into lunges. When you're first working with waist hooping, you do feel it in your quads



Instructor Jan Henry (right) shows Jenny Arntz how to keep a hoop in motion. Arntz and her mother-in-law, Pam, drove from Stockbridge, west of Pinckney, to the exercise class in Farmington.

and you feel it in your abs the next day."

Learning basics

Students in her trial class concentrated on keeping the hoop revolving around their waists.

Marlene Masterson of Farmington easily picked up the movement and began walking while hooping.

"I remembered how to do it. It came back to me," said Masterson, recalling Hula Hoops from her childhood. "These are actually easier to work with than the smaller hoops."

Roger Miller of Canton stretched his arms outward to help with his balance as he kept the revolving hoop off the floor.

"I thought if I could learn to do this it would be helpful in dancing. I like to dance," he said. "The other thing, too, is



Carrie Mnich of Livonia exercises amid a sea of hoops.

that they have these 50s dances and they always have Hula Hoop contests."

Henry is organizing classes for beginners. She hopes to start them this week, but class

times and days will depend on the responses she receives. To join a class, e-mail Henry at hoop-trainer@henry-web.net. Visit her information site at www.idealife.com/profile/jan-henry.

"You've got to learn the skills and then the goal is that within a couple weeks or months to develop routines to music and then we can really get into it. We can have flash mobs and all that great stuff," she said.

"I was at the market in Farmington and they had a Zumba class and I swear there were 30 women all in formation. That's what I want. That's what I'm trying to build here."

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CHRYSLER PRODUCTS HELP BRANDS LEAD THE PACK

By Dale Buss

No wonder Chrysler executives went out of turn last week and announced their September sales before their traditional mid-day monthly slot. The company posted a whopping 27-percent increase in U.S. sales last month, to 127,334 units compared with 100,077 units, the best relative performance of any of the top-tier automakers by volume for the month.

It was sort of like how Florida is trying to jump the gun and host its presidential primary before Iowa. But Chrysler's news apparently was too exciting to wait. Not only were its overall sales up significantly in September, but the retail-sales component soared by 50 percent.

That's right: In the sales component that most reflects the

mood of the buying public, Chrysler and its dealers far outperformed the fleet-sales component that is tied to commercial purchases and is far more volatile.

Northland Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge General Manager Jack McInerney agrees that consumers' concerns about Chrysler's 2009 bailout "have gone away, especially after the company paid back the government." But the Oak Park dealership is seeing rising sales and showroom traffic these days mainly because Chrysler and its brands are nailing the products that they need to appeal to car buyers these days.

"People feel good about Chrysler and our brands again and their local roots, but if we don't have what they're looking for - which we didn't always have a few years ago - they're going to move on," McInerney said. "And they're not."



Jeep's new Grand Cherokee has become a great lease option.

Reid Bigland, Chrysler's head of U.S. sales, said in a release last week, "Irrespective of the economy, strong products equal strong sales, and with our retail sales up a whopping 50 percent, that is exactly what we have. We have now gained more retail market share than anyone else in the country. There is no double-dip downturn going on around here."

So what is going on around Chrysler? For one thing, its brands have re-emerged with clear vibrancy under Fiat ownership. Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram Truck brands each posted sales increases in September, led by a 42-percent surge for Ram truck. Ram pickup sales were up 45 percent, for the best sales month of any this year and the best September sales since 2007.

Jeep sales once again were strong, as they have been all year, up 24 percent over a year

ago. Chrysler said they were driven by availability of the new Compass, whose sales were up 306 percent over a year ago. Grand Cherokee sales rose 78 percent through September compared with sales of an older version a year ago. And Wrangler and Liberty each posted double-digit sales increases.

McInerney said that Grand Cherokee sales have been strong for the entire year since their introduction and that Northland is able to accommodate more buyers now because of easier availability of lease deals. Three years ago, almost all transactions for the previous version of the Grand Cherokee were leases, he said; that dropped to nearly zero during the depths of the recession. Now, it's back up to 30 to 40 percent.

"It's much easier looking at affording a Grand Cherokee with leather seats and a moon roof for

about \$38,000, if you can pay \$450 a month for three years in a lease, versus having to put down \$5,000 to \$6,000 down to get the vehicle for twice as long," he said.

Even the Chrysler brand with the thinnest product line, Chrysler itself, has been making the most of things: Its new 300 sedan, for instance, just got an uncharacteristically strong recommendation from Consumer Reports, which is highly influential with many American consumers.

"The ride is fantastic, whether it's all-wheel or rear-wheel-drive," McInerney said about the 300. "Plus you've got a moon roof, back-up sensors and cameras, and even a little window shade in the rear. Plus it's a great-looking car. It really brings people into the showroom."

Thus, with 300 sales up by 50 percent for the month because of the new model, compared with a year ago, the Chrysler brand logged its best sales month since August 2008 and the best September sales since 2007.

Perhaps the most remarkable element of Chrysler's run is that it has occurred without resorting to the deep-incentives play that American automakers too often have used over the last several years, to the long-term detriment of their brands. In fact, according to an analysis by Edmunds.com, Chrysler was the only major automaker besides Toyota to lower U.S. incentives in September from August, down by 2.5 percent while Toyota's dropped by 1.9 percent.



The new 2012 Chrysler 300 has intrigued critics and consumers alike.

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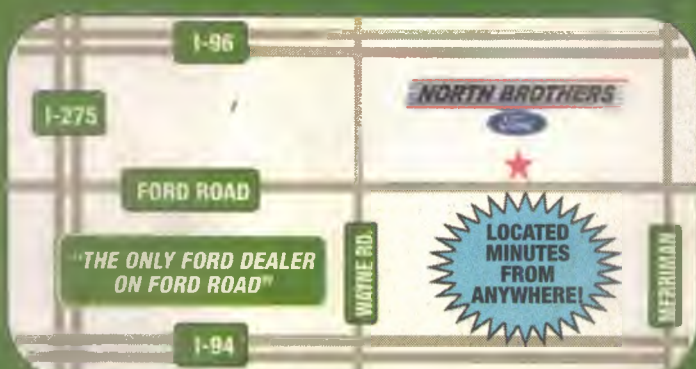
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