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Back in town

Thousands of walkers in the Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day will once again make their way through Plymouth Saturday, reportedly sometime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., with lunchtime generally a good time to be in Kellogg Park supporting the walkers.

Fans can cheer them on and offer support to the men and women who walk 60 miles in three days to raise money to fight breast cancer.

This year the walkers will be coming into town from Hines Drive to Starkweather. It's right onto Main Street, left on Church, right on Union, right on Ann Arbor Trail to Sheldon Road and on to Northville.

Rail work

CSX Transportation will perform crossing repairs on Levan Road, between Plymouth Road and Schoolcraft Road, in the City of Livonia beginning on Monday, Aug. 20. The project is expected to be complete on Friday, Aug. 31. The detour route will be Schoolcraft to Newburgh to Plymouth Road back to Levan Road.

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Golden reception



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Olympic gold medalist Allison Schmitt was welcomed by a huge throng of adoring fans Tuesday night.

Adoring crowd welcomes home Olympic hero

By Darrell Clem
 Observer Staff Writer

Olympic swim star Allison Schmitt waved and smiled as a cheering, adoring crowd of fans gave their world-renowned celebrity a roaring welcome-home rally befitting royalty.

Holding a bouquet of flowers and wearing one of five medals she earned in London, Schmitt, 22, simply beamed Tuesday evening as fans waved small U.S. flags and repeatedly chanted "U.S.A." as she stood on a stage at the Heritage Park Amphitheater.

Accompanied by her parents and four siblings, the Canton High School graduate seemed thrilled to return home before starting her senior year at the University of Georgia, where she is studying psychology. "To actually be here is a great relief," Schmitt said. "It feels so nice to be home in Canton right now under this pavilion."

It marked a long journey for a girl who began swimming when she was 9, honed her skills in high school, earned a bronze medal in Beijing, China, in 2008, and broke records in London as she clinched three gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

Next prize

Already, Schmitt has her eye on the next potential prize for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "I had a great experience this time



Olympic medalist Allison Schmitt acknowledges cheers from the crowd.

around," she said, "and I hope to repeat it in four years."

Canton will certainly cheer her on, judging by Tuesday's crowd that formed a huge post-rally line to get her autograph. More than 90 minutes after the celebration ended, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator

Please see HERO, A3

Recounts sought in township races

By Matt Jachman
 Observer Staff Writer

Edwin Schulz, defeated in the race for Plymouth Township treasurer by a margin of nearly 9 percent in last week's Republican primary, is seeking a township-wide recount.

Schulz, a certified public accountant and longtime township resident, won 2,066 votes in the Aug. 7 primary, losing to incumbent Treasurer Ron Edwards, who had 2,466 votes.

Township Clerk Joe Bridgman said Schulz filed paperwork requesting a recount, in all 12 township precincts, and of the absentee ballots that correspond to all 12 precincts, shortly before the Tuesday afternoon deadline. The petition to the township's Board of Canvassers says the recount is being sought due to fraud or a mistake in the vote-counting.

Schulz, making his first bid for public office, did not return repeated calls late Tuesday and early Wednesday.

Edwards, who is seeking his fifth four-year

term as treasurer, appeared confident, following Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting, that his win is secure.

"It's sort of hard to overturn 400," he said. "I don't see it happening."

Edwards won his first township race, in 1996, by fewer than 200 votes.

Bridgman, who lost his Republican primary race to challenger Nancy Conzelman by eight votes, 2,246 to 2,238, and has also asked for a recount, said the manual recounts will be done by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers and are unlikely to take place before the Tuesday, Sept. 5, special primary in Michigan's 11th Congressional District. Both the state and the county must certify the primary results before recounts can begin, Bridgman said, and that hasn't taken place.

Both he and Conzelman and Edwards and Schulz will be notified of the time and place of the respective recounts, Please see RECOUNTS, A4



Edwards



Schulz

Readers get chance to influence election

As part of its mission to inform the community headed into the Nov. 6 general election in Plymouth Township, the Plymouth Observer interviews candidates, attends public meetings and forums to report on the positions and ideas of candidates. Based on our coverage, individual interviews and knowledge of each race,



we offer our opinion in the form of a recommendation to readers. We will continue that practice for this election, but we also

Please see READERS, A4

GETTING INVOLVED

To be eligible for the Plymouth Observer reader panel, you must be registered to vote, available to attend one group orientation meeting in the next two weeks, agree to attend at least one candidate forum sponsored by any local group, and be available to join other panel members in face-to-face endorsement interviews with the candidates.

Reader panel members will be photographed and profiled in the Plymouth Observer and receive a \$25 gift card to either Speedway, Meijer, Kohl's, Joe's Produce or Target.

Email your name, address and a daytime phone number if you are interested in receiving a short application to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



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New art event creates downtown Plymouth buzz

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Painters, potters, jewelry-makers, photographers and other artists visited downtown Plymouth on Saturday to give art lovers an intimate look at their work.

Art About Town, organized by downtown business owners and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, featured some 30 artists, from a variety of media, who set up their easels and workbenches at downtown shops and eateries, allowing the public to watch and ask questions as they drew, painted, shaped clay or just talked about their art.

The event, which evolved from previous downtown art strolls, also included street musicians and chalk reproductions, on the sidewalks, of well-known masterpiece paintings, such as Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and Paul Cezanne's *Apples In A Basket*. Some businesses offered hands-on art projects for kids.

In contrast to last month's Art in the Park, one of the busiest art fairs in the state, with artists from across the country, Art About Town was a low-key, less-crowded event celebrating local art.

"We're actually able to park close in. ... We're not as crowded," said Kate Barkley of Westland, who attended with her fiancé, Scott Barritt, and children Charlie and Jackson Barkley and McKenzie Barritt. Barkley said the event seemed like a good way to soak up some Plymouth atmosphere without the crowds and pressure that come with major events.

"Art makes the world go 'round. Keeps people happy," said potter Leslyn Rank, who was making clay tiles at Hands On Leather on Forest.

Rank, of Westland, has been a member of Plymouth's Village Potters Guild for about two years and has been making tiles for about a year. At a bench in a corner at Hands On Leather — owner Nancy Ball is a longtime friend — she pounded white clay into plaster molds that she had previously carved to make decorative tiles depicting owls and giraffes. A display of her



Bethany Grysko, of D and M Art Studio in Canton, renders a chalk version of "Apples In A Basket" by Cezanne, in front of Dearborn Jewelers on Ann Arbor Trail.



Local potter Leslie Greeniesen works on the potters wheel at Old World Olive Press.

tiles — many with animal themes — was nearby.

Rank has a degree in graphic design but said she likes the utilitarian nature of pottery.

"People can touch the stuff, use it in their everyday lives, drink coffee out of a cup I make," she said.

Next to Rank, Ball's husband Mike, a syndicated humor columnist and musician, entertained browsers with a song, accompanying himself on guitar, and talked about his columns and books, which were offered for sale.

"We didn't know what to expect, but I like it," Nancy Ball said of Art About Town. With many people typically on trips or busy with back-to-school shopping in August, she said, the event livened up what could have been a sleepy retail Saturday.

"I'm quite pleased," said Colleen Cannon, the owner of TranquilliTea, the tea shop on Ann Arbor Trail. Cannon, who displayed some of her own pottery — dishes, platters and wall sconces — at the store and also hosted a tea tasting, said the event had brought people in. "Everything's worked out really well."

At Dearborn Jewelers, portrait and landscape painter Kathleen Ericson talked about her work, some of which was on display. Ericson sold three pieces on Saturday and got two commissions for paintings, said Teri Allen, one of the store's owners. "She was thrilled," Allen said.

Allen, who helped organize the art stroll, said it brought people into her store who hadn't been there before, and drew other visitors who hadn't been downtown in years.

"I was pleased with it and I think it will just continue to grow and get better," she said. "It's definitely something I'd like to see continue."

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Flautist Lauren Erickson and student Hannah Lang play in front of the Chamber of Commerce office on Ann Arbor Trail.



Scott Brown creates a chalk portrait of a lion. The former businessman says that he has "come out of the closet as an artist. I'm just having a gas with this."



Mary Martin browses through note cards at photographer Kelly Dobson's Forest Avenue studio.

CORRECTION

A story in the Aug. 12 *Plymouth Observer* incorrectly stated that Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer voted in favor of a plan that would create parking zones in downtown Plymouth.

Dwyer did not vote on the measure, which was defeated at the Aug. 6 City Commission meeting,

with four commissioners voting no and two voting yes. The mayor said he is not obligated to vote on items before the commission, except to break a tie.

Dwyer said that had he voted, he would have voted against the parking zone plan.



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HERO

Continued from page A1

Jon LaFever said Schmitt was finally ushered away from fans who continued to seek autographs.

"Allison would have stayed all night," he said. Canton youngster Mackenzie Williams, 9, brought her grandmother, Arlenda Peterson, who was visiting from Tuskegee, Ala. Why?

"Because there's an Olympic person from where I live, and I want to get her autograph," Mackenzie said. "She has represented our country, and she did a great job."

Canton mom Sabitha Ajaykumar brought her daughter Reema, 7, for Schmitt's homecoming.

"We wanted to see Allison in person. We are so excited to see her," Ajaykumar said. "It was so good to watch her (during the Olympics). It's like we have a local celebrity. We're so proud. I have told everybody that we have a local Olympian."

In a tribute to Schmitt, the Canton Varsity Chiefettes performed a cheer routine and the Plymouth Canton Cruisers swim club carried U.S. flags to the stage. BeckRidge Chorale gave a stirring rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Beautiful day

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who along with several other officials estimated the crowd at 2,500 to 3,000, gave Schmitt a township proclamation honoring her and a congratulatory Olympic flag embroidered with the words Canton Township.

"What a beautiful day for the community," LaJoy said.

In a strong show of bipartisan support, state Reps. Dian Slavens and Kurt Heise brought to Schmitt a state resolu-



Signs and cheers greeted Allison Schmitt.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Allison Schmitt and WJR's Paul W. Smith are welcomed to the Heritage Park amphitheater by Vic Faust of WXYZ-TV. At right, parents and siblings.



Allison Schmitt greets hundreds of fans at Canton's Heritage Park Pavilion.



Allison Schmitt signs her autograph for 9-year-old Mackenzie Williams of Canton.

tion also signed by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Gov. Rick Snyder. Heise said he couldn't recall a Canton athlete who had achieved the Olympic status Schmitt did.

Schmitt won gold in the 200-meter freestyle, 4x100-meter medley relay and 4x200-meter freestyle relay, silver in the 400-meter freestyle

and bronze in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

Schmitt was accompanied Tuesday by her parents, Ralph and Gail Schmitt, her elder siblings Kirsten and Derek and her two younger twins, Kari and Sara. At one point, Ralph Schmitt had four of his daughter's medals hanging on his arms as fans approached

to touch them.

The Schmitts formerly lived in Pittsburgh, but it appeared no community could have given the Olympian a better welcome than Canton.

"I can't believe all these people," Ralph Schmitt said. "This is so special. This is the reason we came to Canton."

As the crowd packed



The Canton Cruisers Swim Club leads the procession.

the Heritage Park Amphitheater grounds, Cherry Hill Village Theater ushers Rita Morris and Marian Busa helped newcomers find places to watch the celebration.

"This makes me so proud of Canton Township," Busa said. "I'm so proud of the people of Canton."

As Schmitt's fans watched, she sat on the stage and answered questions posed by WJR radio host Paul W. Smith, who told Schmitt, "You will never feel more love than you've got right here with your friends and family."

Sun-sprayed

Vic Faust, WXYZ-TV Channel 7 co-anchor who served as master of ceremonies, remarked that once-cloudy skies gave way to sunshine as Schmitt arrived from a pre-rally press conference at Summit on the Park.

Schmitt recalled when

she earned her first gold medal in London and watched as the American flag was raised in ceremony.

"It was something I'll never forget," she said, adding later, "Walking away from the Olympics with five medals is something I never thought would happen."

Schmitt credited her family, coaches, teachers and friends with inspiring her to practice swimming as early as 5:15 a.m. and to strive to reach her goals.

After her performance in London, Schmitt has her hopes pinned on the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Are we going to root for her in Rio de Janeiro?" LaJoy asked Tuesday.

The roar of the crowd said it all. What's four years? That's plenty of time to plan another celebration.

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RECOUNTS

Continued from page A1

Bridgman said, so that they or representatives can be present.

The recount petitions cost the candidates \$240 each, or \$10 per precinct and \$10 per absentee precinct.

The Republican treasurer nominee will face Democrat Rita White, a former assistant county prosecutor, in the November general election.

Bridgman defends petition

Bridgman, who petitioned for a recount in his race on Friday, on Tuesday responded to charges by Conzelman that seeking a recount in an election run by himself and his office calls into question his abilities.

Bridgman said that while he trains election workers, he can't micro-

manage them on election day, when they are at polling places around the township and at township hall. "I can't be in 13 or 14 places at one time," he said.

He said he is especially interested in the 383 absentee ballots that were spoiled because the voters crossed party lines. Voters in the partisan primary had to pick either the Democratic or Republican party, and crossover votes were thrown out.

While voters at the polls have the opportunity, if they have spoiled their ballots, to cast a new one, absentee voters don't have that chance, as they aren't present when the ballots are run through tabulators and election workers can't retrace a



Bridgman



Conzelman

spoiled absentee ballot to a specific voter.

Bridgman said it's possible some absentee

voters who crossed party lines made attempts to correct their ballots, but that the vote-tabulating machine wouldn't pick that up. If canvassers, during a recount, can determine that a crossover voter tried to correct his or her mistake, he said, that vote could be counted.

Asked if he had evidence of fraud or mistakes in the vote-counting in his race, Bridgman said, "Just the fact that it's so close."

The Republican nominee in the clerk's race faces no opposition in the general election.

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Township gets clean financial bill of health

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Township spent less, saved more and reduced its long-term costs — all while dealing with a nearly \$1 million drop in revenue — last year, according to its annual financial report and a report by outside auditors.

The information was discussed at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting as auditors from Plante Moran presented their findings for the 2011 budget year. The firm gave the township an "unqualified" opinion — the highest possible — on its financial reporting, saying that records fairly and accurately show the township's financial picture as of last Dec. 31, the end of the budget year.

"We've done a great job and everything went well," said Treasurer Ron Edwards of the audit presentation. "We've lowered our legacy costs, we've put money into the fund balance. What isn't

there to like?"

Edwards and auditors said the township's general fund spent \$11.4 million last year, \$1.2 million less than was budgeted and \$800,000 less than in 2010. That came with a revenue decline of about \$900,000, most of it due to a drop in property taxes (about \$700,000) and cuts in grant funding.

Plante Moran's Joe Heffernan warned that, because of the way property assessments are applied to taxes, the township could continue to see declining tax revenue, despite property values that appear to be rebounding. "We're still going to likely see reductions," Heffernan said.

The township generated more than \$6.8 million in property taxes in 2011, about 54 percent of its general-fund revenue.

Other highlights of the financial reporting included:

- Public safety (police and fire) spending that was down \$1.5 million, or

about 12 percent, from 2010. Still, public safety accounted for more than two-thirds of the general fund, at nearly \$9 million.

- The addition of more than \$360,000 to the general-fund fund balance, the money the township has on hand to pay for ongoing expenses. The fund balance was nearly \$3.47 million as of Dec. 31.

- A slight reduction in future health-care costs for retirees, now estimated at \$19.3 million. Future pension costs are estimated at \$5 million; together, retiree pension and health-care costs make up the so-called "legacy" costs.

"When you amortize that over 30 years, they're fine, and they're going to go down more," Edwards said.

- Total assets, in excess of liabilities, of \$57.1 million. Of that, \$44.6 million was in capital assets, and the rest was cash.

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READERS

Continued from page A1

invite readers to join in the experience. The *Plymouth Observer* is seeking five to seven residents for a reader panel for the race for four open seats on the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees.

We are looking for readers who want to find out more about the candidates — not residents who have an ax to grind or those who have already made up their minds. We want readers who have the interest and con-

cern about election issues affecting the community.

Our resident panel will interview all the candidates, attend at least one candidate forum and formulate and write their endorsement, for publication in the Thursday, Nov. 1 edition of the *Plymouth Observer*. The reader panel endorsement will also be posted online at hometownlife.com

We are looking for voters who represent a wide range of ages and experiences in the community. Ideally, we would like to recruit a new voter (age 18 to 25). Are you a first-

time voter or a local college student? If so, we invite you to apply. Are you married with children, a single mom or dad, a senior citizen, a new resident? We are looking for you too.

Who we aren't including are current or former candidates or anyone working for them, nor anyone appointed by any of the incumbents to any board or commission.

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Plymouth Township Police Department report.

At a nearby house, all four wheels were stolen from a Ford Taurus, which had been left sitting on bricks, police said.

Other vehicles targeted

- All four wheels were stolen from a Ford Flex, also on the night of Aug. 5, as the car sat in the driveway of a house on Karl Drive, south of North Territorial and east of Napier.

Police said the Flex had been left on landscaping blocks that were not from the same property.

- A navigation device and its charging cord were reported stolen Aug. 2 from a Ford Fusion parked outside a house on Stone Hollow court, south of Ann Arbor Road and east of Ridge.

The car was sitting in the driveway, unlocked, at the time, the complainant told police. The theft occurred some time between 6 p.m. Aug. 1 and 8 a.m. Aug. 2, police said.

- The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a Pontiac Grand Am Aug. 7 as the car sat outside a business on General Drive near Ann Arbor Road.

The theft had occurred between Aug. 3 and Aug. 7, police said.

Fast-food heist

A man recently left the drive-through window of the Burger King on Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty without paying for the two sandwiches he took, a police report said.

The theft occurred just before midnight Aug. 1, a restaurant employee told police. The man was driving what was described as a silver Chevrolet minivan.

The sandwiches were worth a total of \$8.78, a police report said.

Trap stolen

A man on Greenbriar Lane reported the theft of a raccoon trap Aug. 2.

The man told police he had set the single-door trap shortly after midnight Aug. 2 and went outside about 8:30 a.m. to find it was gone, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

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HEISE HOURS

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 17, 7:30-9 a.m.
Location: Panera Bread, 20140 Haggerty (just south of 8 Mile) in Northville.
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. No appointment is necessary. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Aug. 28, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth
Details: The genuine clarinet phenomenon Dave Bennett will be performing with Doug Cobb on Drums, Kurt Krahnke on Bass and Cliff Monear on Keyboard. Step back in time as Dave plays the tunes of Benny Goodman, Pete Fountain, Artie Shaw and other clarinet greats. Go to www.davebennett.com to hear some great clips of his music. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

CALL FOR CRAFTERS

Date/Time: Oct. 13
Location: West Middle School, Plymouth
Details: The Delta Kappa Gamma Craft Fair is looking for crafters. Proceeds go for scholarships for future educators from the Plymouth-Canton High Schools. There are 80 crafters, 1500 customers, food and drawings.

Admission is \$2.

Contact: Crafters can contact Judy at (734) 347-1001 or Alice at (248) 348-5561 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

JOB SEEKER WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Bayou Grill, 404 Main in Belleville
Details: A job seeker workshop hosted by Joe Barnabei from Beacon Hill Technologies, who specializes in finding jobs for people in Michigan. This event will cover building a great resume, interviewing, effectively searching for a job, tips and tricks of the job boards and networking. All of this is free. There will also be an opportunity for professional, one-on-one assistance with your resume and interviewing technique with all proceeds going to a great charity. One-on-one resume assistance will cost \$20 and one-on-one interview coaching will cost \$20.



Miracle coming

The Miracle League of Plymouth opens its summer season Saturday at Bilkie Family Field, 357 Theodore in Plymouth, and the League is still looking for "buddies." A Miracle League Baseball Field removes barriers that prevent children with mental and physical special needs from playing baseball. Buddies assist players according to their needs and bring enthusiasm and good spirit to each game. Miracle League Baseball is Hope, Determination and a display of Human Spirit that is unequalled. Volunteers can sign up at www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/79234563240298009.

GIVING BLOOD

Details: The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at a variety of locations this month. Blood drives are scheduled for 1-6:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at Plymouth High School; 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, Living Word Church; 1-6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, City of Plymouth; 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth; 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, Canton Library; 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, St. Kenneth Church; 2-7:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth; 1-6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, Salem High School; 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, Plymouth District Library. Donors will be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$500 gas card.

Contact: Call Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

POM CLINIC

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 25, 9-11:30 a.m.
Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

Details: The Canton Chieftettes host their pom pon clinic for potential cheerleaders ages 5-14. Students will learn pom pon techniques and a short dance routine. Parents will be treated to a performance at 11:30 a.m. Participants will also perform at the Canton High School varsity football game Aug. 30. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, \$50 at the door.

Contact: Pre-register at www.cantonchieftettes.com; call (734) 397-1782 for more information.

CLASS REUNION

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. to midnight
Location: Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Details: Combined 1982 Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem 30-year reunion. Deadline to order tickets is Aug. 1. Tickets can be ordered thru: https://sites.google.com/site/cantonsalem1982, or www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsalem1982 or cantonsalem1982@gmail.com for \$45 per person. Dinner, dancing, D.J. provided.

GOOD GRIEF GOLF

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 8, shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Location: Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon
Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts the 14th annual "Good Grief" golf outing will be held. The proceeds from this outing will benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a bereavement outreach center located in Northville. New Hope provides free grief support services and resources to men, women, teens, and children throughout southeastern Michigan. The cost for this four-person scramble, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, contests, and prizes, is \$125. Dinner only is \$35 per person.
Contact: For information about sponsorship opportunities or registration information, contact Carol Spennachio at (248) 348-

0115 and visit www.newhopecenter.net.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org.

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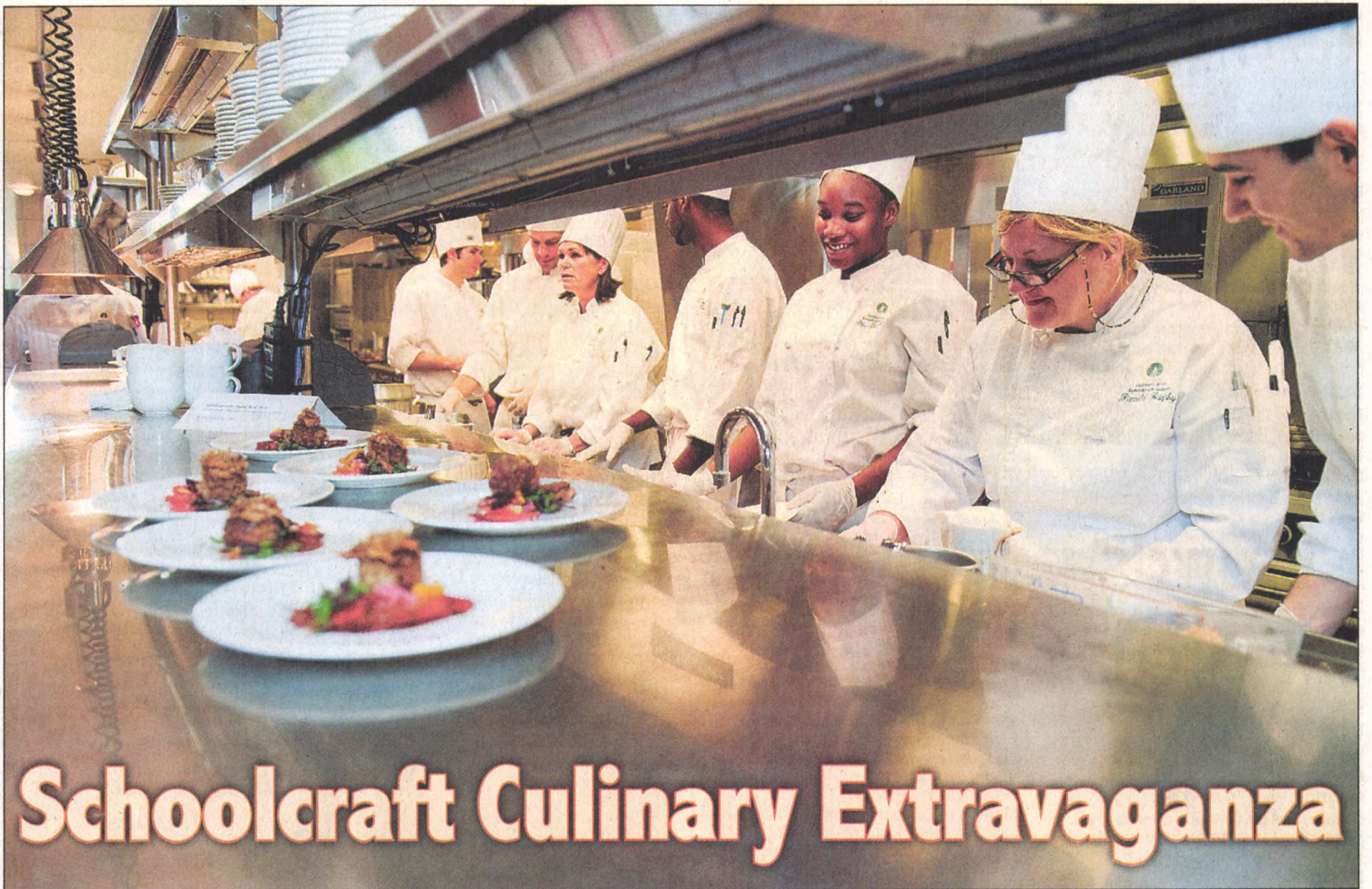
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Culinary students at Schoolcraft College help prepare entrees for patrons attending Culinary Extravaganza. The award-winning culinary program attracts students of all ages from throughout the state.



Mike Jacobson, sous chef, was staffing the sampling table for Mitchell's Fish Market at last year's culinary extravaganza. Mitchell's of Livonia will return to Culinary 2012.



Wine vendors throughout the state will offer samples at this year's event. In addition, vintner Lee Hershey will share his knowledge of wine at a special tasting seminar scheduled that day.

Sample fine food, wine, desserts to aid student scholarships

If you enjoy fine food, wine and desserts save this date — Sunday, Sept. 23.

The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza is planned from 2-5 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center on Haggerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road. Restaurants, pastry shops and area beverage vendors will offer up some of the finest culinary delicacies and products found in any one place.

The event raises money for scholarships and plays a vital role in providing needed support for students pursuing an education at Schoolcraft.

Kristina Mayer, an officer of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors, is chairing the event for the third consecutive year.

Mayer says the generosity of event sponsors is vital to the foundation's fund raising efforts. Mayer, vice president and branch manager of Bank of Ann Arbor's Plymouth Township office, heads a group of more than 20 community and college members working on this year's event. Many more volunteers — including many Schoolcraft students — are helping behind the scenes to deliver the best possible experience for culinary



Culinary extravaganza is known for its wide ranging offering of luscious desserts.

patrons.

Sponsor packages range from \$300 to \$5,000 and are still welcome. All sponsor packages include company name and logo in the event program, on the Schoolcraft electronic sign, in a special Thank You advertisement in the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers and complimentary event tickets. Platinum (\$5,000), diamond (\$2,500) and gold (\$1,000) sponsorships also include admission to a pre-event VIP private reception one hour before the public event.

Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution).

The event highlights the culinary talents of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors. Guests can sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food/beverage stations, a silent auction, raffle prizes and seminars on wine-tasting and healthy foods (presented by master chef Jeff Gabriel).

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant — The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth; Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay; Black Tulip Grille, Wixom; Cadillac Coffee Company, Madison Heights; Coffee Express Company, Plymouth; Dream Cakes, Commerce Township; McCormick/360 Vodka, Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council, Mitchell's Fish Market, Livonia; Old World Olive Press, Plymouth; Something Chocolate, Birmingham; Steve & Rocky's, Novi; The Sardine Room, Plymouth;



Luscious desserts are among the many samples offered to those attending the Schoolcraft Culinary Extravaganza.

DETAILS:

What: The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza

When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

Where: Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center on Haggerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road.

Cost: Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution).

Contact: (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

present to win.

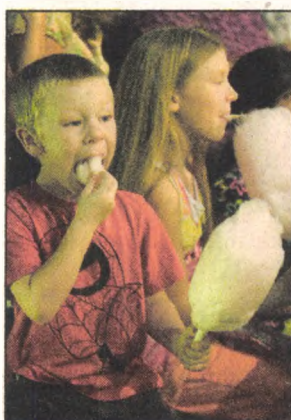
In addition to food, eventgoers can bid on a variety of silent auction items including entertainment and sport packages. All proceeds from the event benefit the Schoolcraft College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization providing scholarships for students, including those in the college's renowned culinary arts program.

To purchase tickets and/or learn more about sponsorships or donate a silent auction item call (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.



Randall Schmidt and his 2-year-old son, Koen, of Plymouth are ready for an afternoon at the circus.

Crowds jam big top for circus atmosphere



Colin and Keeghan Burns, 5 and 9 years old, enjoy their cotton candy. They are from Livonia.

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

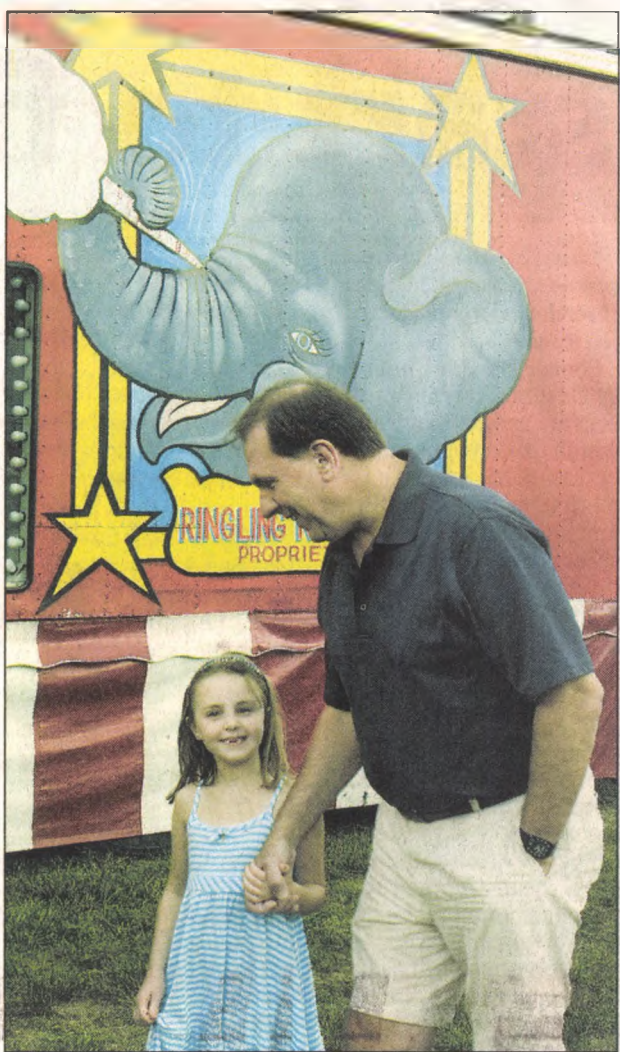
As a child care worker for the Penrickton Center for the Blind in Taylor, Jessica Ball knows how important contributions from the Plymouth Lions Club are to the center's operation.

On Tuesday, she and some of her kids from the center got a chance to witness up-close where those contributions come from.

Ball was one of some 900 people who attended the first performance Tuesday of the Kelly Miller circus, sponsored for two shows by the Plymouth Lions Club. And she was glad to be there.

"It's very important for the kids to get out," Ball said. "They get to experience different things they may not get to experience otherwise."

What they witnessed was Kelly Miller's brand of circus, which featured



Mike Wozny and daughter Emma, 5, waiting in line for the Kelly Miller Circus.

elephants, horses, llamas, camels, clowns and international circus stars as Kelly Miller celebrates its 74th year.

The Plymouth stop is part of a 10,000-mile journey that will see the circus perform in some 200 cities through October.

The performances act as a fund-raiser for the Plymouth Lions, who use the proceeds they earn to

fund their outreach programs, including their efforts in partnership with the Penrickton Center.

"We spend it back into the community on many community oriented projects," said Fred Field, who served as the Lions' circus co-chairman. "Many of us remember as children attending a circus with



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four-year-old Julia Sokolowski of Livonia rides an elephant at the Kelly Miller Circus. She attended the circus with her mom, Meghan Sokolowski.



Christian Ciszewski, 5, favors a Batman theme when getting his face painted. He is from Howell and attended the circus with grandma, Connie Myler of Livonia.

our parents, and taking our children to a circus. We want to continue these memories for the next generation."

Ball and her kids enjoyed the circus, and appreciate the Lions' continued generosity.

"They make a lot of donations, and they help us out a lot," Ball said. "(The Lions) are very important to the work we do."

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PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

Business workshop

Tickets are going fast for the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's business development workshop, "Social Media for Business," set for 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the chamber office.

Social media is driving traffic for many businesses by helping them strengthen their relationship with current customers and gain new customers.

This workshop will concentrate on how to do this in a time effective manner that links multiple types of social media together to create the largest impact. You will also learn about easy ways to use mobile communication where much of the web business is going. For example, you can use your phone to snap pictures and then use multiple social media platforms at one time to send an immediate marketing message which can yield big results.

The workshop will feature Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Google Plus, Social Cam, Instagram and mobile applications.

There is no cost to attend. To RSVP contact teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

After-hours mixer

Dozens of people have already signed up for the chamber's next After Hours at Karl's Cabin, set for 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22.

Plymouth Community Chamber members will enjoy a nice summer evening on the patio (or inside if it rains) at one of Plymouth's finest restaurants, Karl's Cabin. This event will again provide you the opportunity to expand your network in a relaxed outdoor setting with delicious food and a cash bar. Our end of summer After Hours is an annual tradition of fun, great food and networking in short sleeves, summer dresses and casual wear.

Our Chamber had about 100 people attend last year when we were at Karl's Cabin in the fall.

There is no fee to attend; RSVP by Aug. 21 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Farmer's market

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's Farmers Market continues 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday's through Oct. 27 in The Gathering across from Kellogg Park and the street in front of the park.

The Farmer's Market will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 8, during the Plymouth Community Fall Festival.

Summer camps

The Plymouth Community Arts Council has a wide selection of summer camps for kids of all ages and interests. Included are classic art camps, music camps, theater camps and more.

For more information, visit www.plymoutharts.com.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Sharer Design works on remodeling projects like this kitchen from beginning to end.

Firm designs start to finish

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Sharer Design: Sharer Design Group is a full service remodeling firm which takes your project from design to completion, in a timely fashion. Sharer Design Group offers three different lines of custom cabinetry including our original line, Sharer Cabinetry, designed by Justin Sharer.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Sharer Design: I have spent my entire professional career in the design industry. After obtaining a degree in architectural construction technology, I began my career as an apprentice with a custom remodeling company in Dearborn. I studied closely with masters of the trade and learned every facet of the kitchen and bath design industry, from cabinet making to design to project management. I went on to become a licensed residential builder and lead designer at the company. In January 2012, I opened Sharer Design Group LLC in downtown Plymouth. My passion has always been to create spaces homeowners can enjoy and now I get to do it every day at Sharer Design Group.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Sharer Design: Growing up in the Plymouth-Canton area, I have always wanted a business in downtown Plym-

SHARER DESIGN GROUP

Business name: Sharer Design Group, Plymouth
Your name and title: Justin Sharer, owner/creative director

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened when: January 2012

Number of Employees: 2

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Your business specialty: We specialize in custom kitchen and bathroom remodeling. We also have a full interior design service.

Business phone | website: (734) 582-9660 | www.sharerdesigngroup.com

outh. Plymouth is a great place to live and work.

It is always great to see the friendly people walking by waving to the dogs getting water and treats in front of our showroom. We look forward to having Sharer Design Group in Plymouth for many years.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Sharer Design: We offer a custom designed line of cabinetry, Sharer Cabinetry, that you can only get from us. This line of cabinetry has door styles you cannot find anywhere else. Another thing that is unique is that you work with only one person for the entire remodel. This makes the remodeling process easier from start to finish without wondering who to contact, or who is coming to your home today.

Observer: How has the business changed since it opened?

Sharer Design: Since opening in January 2012 we have already had some great changes from introducing our origi-

nal line of custom Sharer Cabinetry, to new displays being installed this year, to great business relationships with other companies in Plymouth.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Sharer Design: This has been a great year for kitchen and bath remodeling. We are seeing more people putting money into their home for the future instead of moving. We have also been seeing more basement remodels to give homeowners more livable space.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Sharer Design: Work hard and have fun. There is nothing better than seeing the smiles on customers faces.

Observer: What does the future hold for your business?

Sharer Design: There are a lot of exciting things in Sharer Design Group's future. We have new displays going into our showroom in 2012. We will be expanding the Sharer Cabinetry line with more designs.

Home, new home



On Aug. 3, Plymouth Computers and the Mac Bench cut the ribbon on their new location at 1378 S. Main in Plymouth. They do computer service at their store or in your home. They also sell refurbished computers. Pictured are owners Susie and Paul Capozzoli, owners of Plymouth Computers, owners Ben Shaft and Jon Garcia of The Mac Bench, their staffs and members of the Chamber Ambassadors.

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PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Banking manager

Bank of Ann Arbor announced Maryanne Dunleavy has been hired as Senior Vice President and Private Banking Manager.

Dunleavy has 28 years of banking experience in commercial lending, trust and retail banking. She was most recently employed by Fifth Third Bank as a Vice President in the middle market commercial lending group. She has been a top sales producer in her various banking assignments, brings a strong credit back-



Dunleavy

ground, and has been successful in creating and executing strategic growth plans. Maryanne will be a key addition as Bank of Ann Arbor strengthens its efforts to reach the professional, medical, and higher education communities. Dunleavy has a Bachelor of Arts and Science from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Detroit.

Web design

Amish Tables, an online provider of Amish-made furniture, announced a new design for their website: www.amishtables.com. This website is focused on providing customers with the company's very popular expandable tables that can seat up to 20 people

and other dining room furniture. The launch of the design follows the company's recent relocation of their local showroom from Ann Arbor to Plymouth.

The goal for the new design was for a clean and updated look as well as better functionality that would offer customers a user-friendly site with better filtering capabilities to help them determine what they need. "We wanted the look and feel of the site to emphasize that the furniture we provide is built to our customers' specifications and needs," remarks Debra Stewart, Business Manager for Amish Tables.

The design was a collaborative effort between Build/Create Studios and Amish Tables' staff.

Business News

From the desk of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Delta Diamond Setters & Jewelers is running its 29th Annual Sale through Aug. 18. All in-stock merchandise is on sale with discounts ranging between 15-40 percent off.

- Spa Agio is celebrating its one-year anniversary and is thanking its customers for helping the spa to get there. Spa Agio is celebrating with an open house every Friday and Saturday.

- Jill Andra Young Photography has finished moving from her Penniman studio into her new studio space at 502 Forest. Look for her new sign and a 50/50 coupon on her web site through Sept 15.

Botsford Commons hosts forum on senior living

Botsford Commons Senior Community will present its "Living the Fullness of Life" program 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, in the Vis-Ta-Tech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty

Road, Livonia. The program will provide information on aging safely and other resources for seniors. "Living the Fullness of Life" includes informal presentations by Botsford Commons and

its affiliates; "Aging and Fitness to Drive" by Dr. Richard Young, Ph.D of Wayne State University; "Healthy Aging" by geriatrician Dr. Annette Carron; "Brain Fitness" by Diane Zide; and "Get-

ting Your Documents in Order; Community Resources" by Dawn Doyle. Space is limited. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information. Botsford Commons

Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills.

Space is limited. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information.



Barefoot Productions presents "Food, Glorious Food" Saturday night.

Food featured in Barefoot production

Everyone likes to eat, but the folks at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth believe hearing about food can be just as good.

That's why they believe participants may be salivating at "Food, Glorious Food," Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Barefoot Productions theater, 240 N. Main in Plymouth (near the railroad tracks). Local actors and actresses will serve an evening of essays, poems, comedic skits, short stories and songs of good taste - all about food.

Performers include Anne Cahalan of Detroit, Betty Berryman of Canton, Chad D'Aigle of Northville, Christine Steves of Woodhaven, Laena Bradley of Livonia, Lauren Berryman of Farmington Hills, Nathan Corliss of Canton and Valerie Haas of

Inkster. But that is not all for the evening. For dessert, audience members will be treated to jazz music from The Adam Dib Quartet, topped with dancing. For the first time, the Barefoot stage will transform to a dance floor.

Members of the Adam Dib Quartet include Michael Webber (guitar), Josh Bartolomeo (bass), Theodore Roberts (drums) and Adam Dib (saxophone). The quartet, all involved with the Wayne State University jazz studies program, has been performing together in the Detroit area for three years. Accompanying the quartet for this performance is David Alexander on piano and Denzel Maurice on trombone.

Upcoming events at

Barefoot include "Opera Chat" by noted lecturer Louis Brown for Un Ballo in Maschera (The Masked Ball), Improv at Barefoot featuring Some Kind of Players, Josh White Jr. Concert, Sleepy Hollow, Driving Miss Daisy and A Christmas Carol, A Narrative. More details are available at justgobarefoot.com.

Tickets for "Food, Glorious Food" are \$15. However, if you bring in a recipe, you will receive \$5 off your ticket price. Recipes will be used for the first Barefoot Productions Cookbook, so be sure to put your name and city on the recipe card.

RSVP by calling the box office at (734) 560-1493. Tickets can also be purchased at the door or at justgobarefoot.com.

5K walk/run to raise money to build wells in Africa

Families in Zambia, Africa, walk an average of six kilometers a day to collect water. After traveling this distance, the water they find is often dirty and disease-ridden. Yet, they still drink the water, compromising their health, because it's all they have to survive.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, the Thirst For Life 5K Walk/Run will be held in Bicentennial Park in Livonia.

One hundred percent of the money raised from this event will be used towards building wells in the villages of Mayo and Hamandu in Zambia.

A group of people from NorthRidge Church in Plymouth decided to organize this 5 K Run/Walk to help raise funds for these projects. The church recently launched a long-term project (a 10-15 year plan working towards self-sufficien-

cy) in these communities through a partnership with World Vision.

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children, families and communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

"What inspired the idea was that a group of people within the church decide to train and participate in the Chicago Marathon to raise money for these projects in Zambia. We wanted to allow those folks that aren't marathon runners to get in the spirit too," explained event organizer Donna Hammar.

"It is fantastic how many people have opened their hearts and have come forth wanting to participate in this effort."

Organizer Tracy Vasilloff encouraged Thirst

For Life 5K Walk/Run participants to bring the whole family. Children 12 and under can participate in the one mile Fun Run, earning a medal when they cross the finish line.

Peter Nielsen, fitness expert and host of "Peter Principles" on WXYZ-TV Detroit Channel 7, will be there sharing his principles for living a healthy lifestyle.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the race begins at 9 a.m. Bicentennial Park is between Gill and Newburgh on Seven Mile Road.

Entry fees before Sept. 5 are \$25 with a T-shirt, \$15 without a T-shirt; \$20 after Sept. 5 and race day, and \$10 for the kids' fun run. Any leftover T-shirts will be sold for \$10 on race day.

For more information and to register, go to www.ThirstForLife5k.org.

Schuetz crime bill passes House Judiciary

Attorney General Bill Schuetz's central crime legislation, known as Violent Offense-Fourth Felony or VO-4, passed from the Michigan House Judiciary Committee Wednesday. The VO-4 plan allows prosecutors to require a minimum 25-year sentence for certain repeat criminals who have committed four felonies while progressing to more violent crimes.

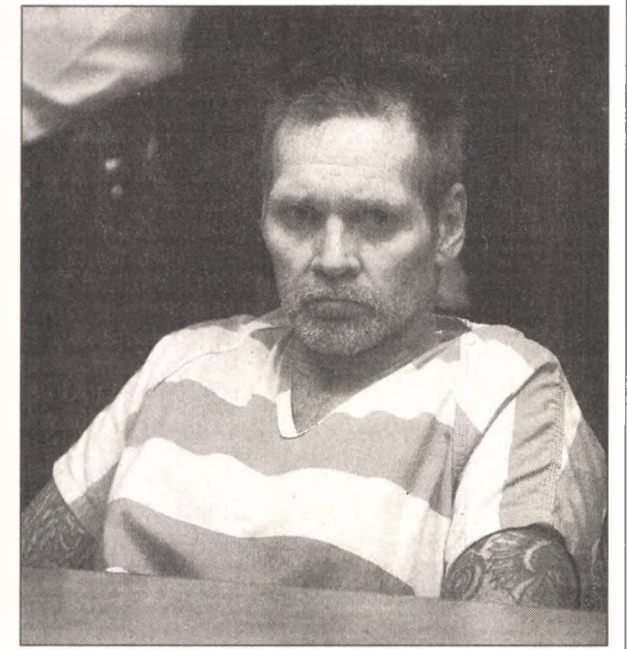
Schuetz's team, led by Director of Public Affairs Rusty Hills, testified at Wednesday's hearing and was joined by Linda Nehasil, widow of Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil, Detroit Police Officer Arthur Matthews, Saginaw County Prosecutor Mike Thomas and Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz.

The committee reported a house version of the bill by a vote of 11-1, with three members abstaining. The legislation now heads to the House floor for consideration.

"Today the House Judiciary Committee advanced legislation crafted to target the worst of the worst: repeat violent offenders," said Schuetz. "This legislation will break the cycle of violent crime by removing the most dangerous offenders from our streets."

"Public safety is the first priority of government, and VO-4 moves the needle in a positive direction, toward safer communities."

Senate Bill 1109, introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), would implement the VO-4 sentencing reform by strengthening Michigan's Habitualization Law. The legislation targets the worst repeat violent offenders by establishing a prison sentence of at least 25 years for a select group of repeat violent crimi-



FILE PHOTO

Terry Bowling, under Attorney General Schuetz's proposal, would have faced a possible minimum of 25 years in prison after his fourth conviction for armed robbery in 1999, which occurred more than 10 years before Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil was killed in the line of duty. Bowling was convicted of second-degree murder in the Nehasil case.

nals convicted of a serious violent crime after being convicted of three prior felonies, at least one of which was a violent assaultive crime.

During his testimony, Hills gave examples of convicted murderers with long rap sheets who would have been behind bars and been unable to commit murders had the tougher VO-4 sentencing provision been in place at the time of their fourth felony conviction.

Hills highlighted the case of Terry Bowling, 49, who was recently convicted of second-degree murder and other crimes for his role in a home invasion that resulted in Officer Nehasil being killed in the line of duty last year. Prior to facing the second-degree murder charge, Bowling had six felony convictions and nine misdemeanors. Under Attorney General Schuetz's proposal, Bowling would have faced a possible minimum of 25 years in prison after his fourth con-

viction for armed robbery in 1999, which occurred more than 10 years before the death of Officer Nehasil.

Schuetz has repeatedly pointed out that the cost of crime — physical, mental and monetary to victims, families and communities — is immense. A study published online by the National Institutes of Health estimates that just one murder creates approximately \$8.9 million in victim costs. Using their methodology, conservative estimates suggest that Michigan faced approximately \$710 million in victim costs for its 556 reported murders in 2010 alone.

VO-4 is endorsed by Detroit Police Chief Ralph Godbee, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), Michigan Sheriffs Association, Police Officers Association of Michigan and Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, among others.

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2003	KIA	Sorento	KNDJC733935031412
2001	Dodge	Dakota	1B7G126X81S169176
2001	GMC	Yukon XL K1500	3GKFK16T11G265393
1993	Pontiac	Bonneville SE	1G2HX53L3P1205001
2002	Chevrolet	Trailblazer	1GN2T13SX22281766
1999	Ford	Contour SE	1FAFP6630XK199386
1972	Chevrolet	Monte Carlo	1H57H2R546597

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1997	Saturn	SC2	1G8ZG1275VZ325307
1994	GMC	Sierra K2500	1GTGK29KXRE53136
1995	Buick	Riviera	1G4GD2218S4723641
2001	Hyundai	Elantra Gis/gt	KMHDN45D01U049257
1998	Chevrolet	Monte Carlo Z34	2G1WX12KXW9114833

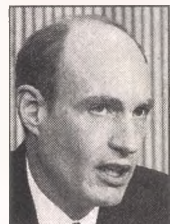
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OUR VIEWS

Fraudulent signatures McCotter owes voters an apology, explanation

State Attorney General Bill Schuette announced charges last week again four members of former U.S. Rep.



McCotter

Thaddeus McCotter's staff in connection with fraudulent signatures on McCotter's nominating petitions.

McCotter, who served five terms in Congress before resigning last month, was not charged.

McCotter issued a brief statement via e-mail through a spokesman thanking the attorney general for his work on the investigation, but has not made himself available for interviews.

McCotter owes his former constituents an explanation of why, in Schuette's

By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months.

words, he wasn't "minding the store" and why he left them with a \$650,000 special election bill to fill his unexpired term ending in December.

Regardless of whether McCotter was involved in copying and pasting old signatures to get his name on the ballot, the buck stopped with him. He needs to step up, accept

responsibility and apologize for failing the voters of the 11th District, who entrusted him in a position of leadership.

For some time, we have been hearing complaints from constituents about how staffers have not followed through with the most basic requests, like helping them to get White House tour tickets, and about McCotter's not showing up at candidate forums or holding town hall meetings in the district.

Such indifference and pompousness is inexcusable from a public servant and his office.

By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months. By that time, Congress will have decided and voted on budgets, tax breaks and most major issues for the year.

Constituents understand when politicians resign before the end of their term for personal or family health reasons. But all McCotter said at the time of his resignation was that the investigation into the fraudulent signatures had severed the "necessary harmony" between the needs of his constituency and of his family, requiring him to leave.

McCotter's refusal to finish out his term was a selfish act.

Taxpayers are burdened with the cost for the special primary election in September and will have to pay for the salary of the winner of that race.

It's a sad and sorry end to McCotter's political career, which included a brief run last year for the Republican nomination for U.S. president.

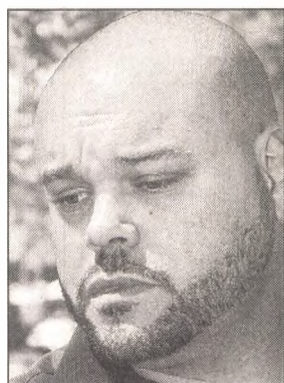
McCotter is an intelligent individual, whom voters and Republican leaders faithfully stood by over the years.

Too bad he didn't afford them the same courtesy in return.

COMMUNITY VOICE

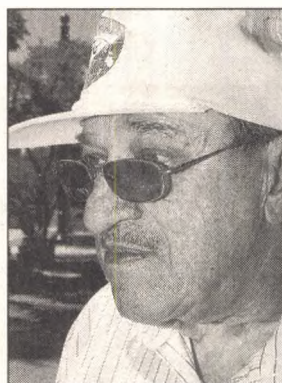
Are you more optimistic about the economy than you were a year ago, and why or why not?

We asked this question at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.



"Absolutely. I'm in the construction trades, so I've seen a lot more progress in the building industry."

James Thorpe
Plymouth



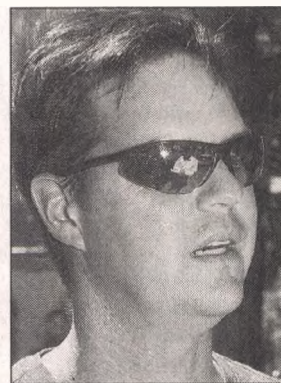
"No. Because we can see that things are getting from bad to worse."

James Vinas
Canton Township



"I am, because I still have a job. I have two jobs right now."

Kayley Dahring
Northville Township



"Yeah. ... From driving around and seeing the pace of building, it just gives me optimism that people are at work and able to afford new homes."

Paul Schmid
Salem Township

LETTERS

Thanks for support

Now that the primary election has been held and the votes counted, I wanted to thank the *Observer Newspapers* for their endorsement of my candidacy as a Democrat for Wayne County Commissioner in the new 10th District and for their objective appraisal of my qualifications and ideas.

The coverage of the race was fair and you presented the voters with information that allowed them to have the opportunity to evaluate the candidates who are seeking election to become Wayne County Commissioner and will represent the residents of the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township.

Your coverage of events significantly contributes to strengthening public awareness about issues vital to the Plymouth Canton Community.

James Amar, candidate
Wayne County Commissioner
10th District

GOP Medicare foes

At least Paul Ryan seems to be right in step with the chronic mendacity of the Romney campaign now that he has been tapped as the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

On Saturday morning Ryan strode confidently to the podium and within seconds had advanced his first lie as the VP candidate, that Obama had cut Medicare by \$700 billion (the figure has been increased from \$500 billion) over the next 10 years. It doesn't seem to matter

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published Thursday.

that Politifact.com and Factcheck.org and many other credible referees have debunked this claim on numerous occasions whenever any Republican, like former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter for instance, dared to push it.

Ironically the alleged "Obama cuts" represent savings from eliminating what can be categorized as waste, fraud and abuse that sprang from Medicare Advantage providers overcharging Medicare for services rendered. (Doesn't getting a handle on something like this sound just like something a self-styled deficit hawk Republican like Paul Ryan would have fallen in love with?)

The savings this would create would then be applied to fund other non-Medicare programs included within the Affordable

Care Act and cause no reduction in benefits to subscribers since amounts equal to the overcharges would no longer have to be spent within the Medicare budget.

It seems that one could safely assume that since both Romney and Ryan and virtually every Republican in Washington has assailed Obama for these cuts that aren't really cuts at all, that all would reinstate these funds to Medicare immediately, if ever they had the chance. Nope, the Ryan budget, passed by the Republican-dominated House and endorsed wholeheartedly by Mitt Romney does not restore this funding in any way shape or form and Romney has put forward no such reinstatement plan.

The point is beware future seniors of the obvious hypocrisy. This faux-rage is a ploy to convince you that the R-and-R and Republican team are friends of Medicare though nothing could be further from the truth. Romney/Ryan and Republicans intend to slash funding, "voucherize" the program and turn it over as a block grant to the states, increasing out of pocket expenses to as much as \$6,000 per year per enrollee according to experts after of course raising the age of qualification from 65 to 67. If they get their way, Medicare will look and act nothing like the program seniors have depended upon for more than a generation and that future retirees so richly deserve.

Mitch Smith
Canton

STAFF COLUMN

Panel to play key role in November election

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

One of the recurring themes of the August primary election in Plymouth Township, especially from the 13

Republican candidates challenging for the four trustee seats, is that local residents don't have enough of a say in how their township is run.

"The board doesn't listen to us," was the rallying cry of the challengers.

As the Nov. 6 general election approaches, the *Observer* is going to turn that sentiment around, providing five residents a chance to speak for others in deciding who they think should get the chance to represent them on the township board.

We are convening our second Reader Endorsement Panel for the purpose of learning about and interviewing the four Republicans and two Democrats who survived the primary challenge for the trustee seats. There are also challenges for both the supervi-

sor and treasurer seats, but our panel will focus on the bid for the four part-time seats.

It's an idea we first used, with a great deal of success, in the 2011 Plymouth-Canton Community Schools race. Our reader panel vetted the candidates and narrowed the field to six recommendations. Of the six, three — Mark Horvath, Sheila Paton and John Barrett — were elected to the board (they actually did better than the newspaper; only two of the four *Observer*-endorsed candidates — Barrett and Paton — made the cut).

The panel interviewed all of the candidates, attended a candidate forum, and basically did their homework, arriving at their endorsements with logic, reasoning and knowledge behind them.

Now, following a primary season in Plymouth Township that was, at times, a three-ring circus of political movement, claims, accusations and attacks, it's time for our readers involved again.

It isn't likely to get that ugly again, with three incumbents and a former trustee on the Republican side, and a pair of Democrats who seem to get that it's the trustee spots they're seeking, and not one of the full-time elected offices.

Many of the challengers in the primary inexplicably targeted treasurer Ron Edwards, and made the election a referendum on the board's handling of the fire department situation. The voters have now spoken twice on that issue, having resoundingly turned back a special assessment district earlier this year, and choosing all three incumbents over any of the challengers.

Hopefully that means our reader panel won't have to sift through all of that rhetoric. They'll be able to talk about more substantive issues and leave the zaniness of the primary behind. In some ways, that makes the job harder.

As our school board reader panel proved, though, residents are smart enough — and passionate enough — to do the job.

Eligibility requirements are listed in the story on page A1 of today's *Plymouth Observer*. Email your name, address and a daytime phone number if you are interested in receiving a short application to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

Roth IRA remains great investment vehicle

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Where did summer go? It's hard to believe that Labor Day is just around the corner. Before you know it, the elections will be here and we'll be talking about 2013. While we still have time left in 2012, there are some things that you may wish to consider; and now is a great time to do it. The first is a Roth IRA conversion.

Over the years, I've written a lot about Roth IRAs because they are a great investment vehicle.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

They're one of the few investment vehicles that can work for just about everyone, no matter what age or tax bracket.

The fact that you can have money grow tax free and not be subject to the 70 plus required minimum distribution rules, is a great benefit.

Most people believe that in order to invest money

in a Roth IRA you have to be working; that is not the case. Anyone can take existing IRA money and convert it into a Roth IRA. The one major exception is if you are over 70 plus you cannot convert your required minimum distribution. However, you can convert anything above and beyond that. Roth IRA conversions must be completed by the end of the year.

Many people are charitable in nature and make contributions on a yearly basis. Typically, people will write a check to their favorite charity. However, as opposed to doing

that, one thing to consider is donating appreciated securities.

Tax advantage

The advantage is you get to write off the contribution based upon the fair market value of the security; but, you also can avoid paying taxes on the gain. For example, if you had a mutual fund that you paid \$1,000 for and now it's worth \$1,500, if you donate the security you'll get the full \$1,500 deduction and you'll avoid paying taxes on the \$500 gain. Even if you don't itemize your deductions, the fact that you

are avoiding the tax on the gain is a valuable consideration. Of course, if you're itemizing, then it's even more of a win. And the charity will not have to pay any taxes when they sell the security.

Also looking ahead, it's not too early for those who have a flexible spending plan through an employer to look for opportunities to use that money before the end of the year. If you don't the money, you lose the money. Now is a good time to evaluate your situation and make sure you have a game plan so you won't lose your money.

Before you know it our focus will be on the Lions and the Red Wings and the Tigers season will be a thing of the past. Therefore, while there is still some time, look for opportunities to be a little more efficient with your money. After all, the money you save ends up in your pocket - exactly where it belongs. 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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BOYS SOCCER

Balconi invite is Saturday

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Every August at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park isn't just about the return of high school football. It's also home to the annual Gary Balconi Soccer Invitational.

All eight varsity boys soccer teams in the tourney will play three 60-minute games beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, with three simultaneous contests.

On the varsity turf field will be Salem and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central while Plymouth squares off against Walled Lake Northern at the soccer stadium (Canton Center Road) and Canton takes on University of Detroit - Jesuit on the freshman field (corner of Joy-Canton Center roads).

Also competing will be South Lyon East and Walled Lake Western (Field No. 4, west of the football field).

Teams will follow up with contests at 11:45 a.m. and 3 p.m., including consolation matchups.

The tournament helps teams get the kinks on ahead of the start of the regular season on Monday.

"It provides a great opportunity to see three different, high level teams so that you can quickly learn your team strengths and weaknesses," Salem coach Ed McCarthy said. "Nearly every year, the team that wins this tournament is one of the top-10 teams in the state when the rankings come out."

Gary Balconi is a former athletics administrator at PCEP who championed the boys soccer program.

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 469-4128



Enjoying a light moment during Tuesday's press conference at Canton's Summit on the Park is U.S. Olympic gold-medal winner Allison Schmitt, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt.

Good as gold

Home in Canton, Olympian Schmitt still on Cloud 9

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The buzz of being one of the world's best swimmers isn't getting old for Canton's favorite daughter, Allison Schmitt.

Home to celebrate Tuesday — just over a week removed from a five-medal performance at the London Summer Olympics — the 22-year-old Schmitt said all of that gold (and some silver and bronze, too) won't quench her competitive quest anytime soon.

During a press conference at Summit on the Park in Canton, the happy and still-humble U.S. Olympian talked about the 2016 Summer Olympics slated for Rio.

"I'm definitely thinking about Rio," Schmitt said. "I am planning to do four more years, I had

a great Olympics this past time, it was a lot of fun, and I want to repeat it. So I am definitely looking forward to Rio."

But before returning to the University of Georgia to continue working toward a degree in psychology and working toward her next Olympic stop, Schmitt is enjoying the fruits of a decade worth of dedication and devotion to her sport.

Hero's welcome

Part of that is dealing with the celebrity treatment, such as the press conference and subsequent homecoming rally for Schmitt at Heritage Park.

"This is my favorite place to be, it's a very welcoming place,"

Please see SCHMITT, B3



The Olympic success she experienced in England is something Allison Schmitt still can't quite grasp.

Mary Angela race results

Dan Jess Jr., a former Farmington Hills resident, was the men's overall winner in the 10-kilometer race Sunday during the 10th annual Mary Angela Run in Farmington Hills.

The 31-year-old Jess won the race, which began and ended at Mercy High School, with a time of 37 minutes, 28.8 seconds.

Jess, who has won the race previously, was a standout runner at Catholic Central High School and now lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Emma Steppe, 24, of Ann Arbor was the women's 10K winner in 41:18.2.

John Pennington, 15, of Beverly Hills was the top male runner in the 5K race with a time of 16:24. Lindsey Elton, 33, was the overall female winner at 24:07.1.

The event is named in memory of the late Mary Angela DeGiovanni of Farmington Hills, who was a Mercy graduate and University of Michigan student.

As in past years, organizers hoped to raise nearly \$40,000 for Angels' Place, a nonprofit that provides housing and services for people with developmental disabilities.

WSU Hall

The Wayne State University Athletic Department Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for its class of 2013.

Nominations for WSU's 38th Hall of Fame class will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 16, 2013.

Persons wishing to nominate an athlete must include a list of athletic achievements, letters won at Wayne State and a current address of nominee (or relative if nominee is deceased).

The nominee must have graduated or left Wayne State at least five years prior and received one athletic award.

For more information, visit the school's website at www.wsuathletics.com.

Tami's Tri

Tami's Tri, a 5-kilometer run, 20K bike and nine-hole scramble golf event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier, Superior Township.

The cost is \$65 (through Sept. 15) or \$75 (through race day). Space is limited to 144 golfers.

Proceeds will go to the nonprofit organization Growth Works, Inc. of Canton and Plymouth.

To RSVP, email TrainWithTami@yahoo.com. For more information, call (734) 731-0238 or visit www.TrainWithTami.com.

She swims English Channel to help find cure for ALS

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Six Ann Arbor women — including Canton High School athletic trainer Susan Butcher — literally went all in for a good cause.

Butcher was part of a group of friends taking the plunge late last month into The English Channel for an organization called Ann Arbor Active Against ALS.

The women swam back and forth across the 21-mile English Channel, finishing the job in 18 hours, 55 minutes to edge the previous mark of 18:59 established in 2007 by a team from Mexico. They swam from England to France and back again in order to generate money to help the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. About \$90,000 has



Canton High School athletic trainer Susan Butcher, at White Horse Pub in Dover, England, proudly points to proof that she was part of a record-breaking group that swam the English Channel in late July.

already been raised (with \$120,000 the ultimate goal); donations are still being accepted at www.channelforals.org.

"I was honored to be a part of it," said the 33-year-old Butcher, a native

of Michigan City, Ind. who swam four years at Eastern Michigan University. "It was a great

"I was honored to be a part of it. It was a great group of women, a fantastic experience and I'm so glad I did it."

SUSAN BUTCHER
Canton athletic trainer

group of women, a fantastic experience and I'm so glad I did it."

Also part of the relay team were Jenny Sutton Jalet, Melissa Karjala, Emily Kreger, Amanda Mercer and Bethany Williston.

Beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Friday, July 27, the women swam in one-hour blocks with an escort boat (staffed with lifeguards) nearby at all times.

Please see CHANNEL, B2

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CHANNEL

Continued from page B1

But Butcher stressed that it was paramount for the women to each complete their 60-minute stints to keep the relay moving.

"We would swim for an hour and then rotate every hour," she said. "We had a set order and as soon as we set our order we couldn't stray from it. So you had to swim."

Butcher looked out of her office at Canton High School, where she was helping football players gear up for Monday's practice.

"I was probably as far away (from the boat) from here to the wall (across the corridor)," she said. "I was probably one of the people who swam farther away. Some were really close, maybe five or six feet away."

The channel itself made for a very challenging experience, Butcher explained.

"At the time it was rough," she said, "because you were battling sea sickness, you're battling cold, and when you're in the water it was 60 degrees and we couldn't wear any wet suits. It was just a regular swim suit, cap and goggles."

"A couple of the ladies had night swims, so they had to wear glow sticks attached to their back and lights on the back of their goggles."

Butcher said the group did not swim as part of any official competition.

"There's always people swimming the channel, for any reason, whether it's a solo or various relays," Butcher said. "Ours was a charity relay."

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CHRIS HILTZ

Completing a two-way swim of the English Channel in record time were (from left) Amanda Mercer, Bethany Williston, Jenny Jalet, Susan Butcher, Emily Kreger and Melissa Karjala.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL

Thursday, Aug. 23
Midland at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
Ann Arbor Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Lansing Sexton, 7 p.m.
L. W'sld at Cranbrook, 5 p.m.
Bradford at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Churchill at W.L. North., 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Glenn at Farmington, 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Monday, Aug. 20
Wayne at RU, 5:30 p.m.
N.B. Huron at C'ville, 6 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 21
Luth. W'sld at L. N'west, 6 p.m.
Northville at Canton, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
C'ville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
S. Lyon at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Saturday, Aug. 18
Hartland Invitational, 8 a.m.
Battle Creek Tourney, 8 a.m.
Port. Central Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Grand Haven Inv., 8:30 a.m.
W. Bloomfield Inv., 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 21
Thurston at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Mercy Inv. at Wixom, 8 a.m.
Franklin at N'ville Quad, 9 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 23
Greenhills Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 25
Portage Northern Inv., 8 a.m.
Ladywood Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Mich. Luth. Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
W.L. Central Inv., 8:30 a.m.
Airport Tournament, 8:30 a.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday, Aug. 25
South Lyon Invitational at Island Lake, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING
Saturday, Aug. 25
Mercy Invitational at Livonia Rec. Center, noon.

GIRLS GOLF

Thursday, Aug. 16
Highest Honor Invitational at Huron Meadows, 8 a.m.
Chelsea Invitational at Reddeman Farms, 8:30 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 17
Monroe-Jefferson Inv., 8 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 23
Churchill vs. John Glenn at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.
BOYS TENNIS
Saturday, Aug. 18
Stevenson Quad, 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 21
Farmington at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
City Quad at Stevenson, 9 a.m.
RU at Wayne, noon.
John Glenn at Belleville, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23
RU at Franklin, 10 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
RU at John Glenn, 10 a.m.
Churchill at Howell Quad, TBA.
Saturday, Aug. 25
Stevenson Quad, TBA.
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Saturday, Aug. 18
Saline Invitational, 9 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 20
Ladywood at Saline, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Ladywood at Regina, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
S. Heart at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday, Aug. 21
St. Francis (Ill.) at MU, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Spring Arbor at MU, 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
(UM-Dearborn Early Bird)
MU vs. Georgetown, 3 p.m.
MU vs. Daemon, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 25
(UM-Dearborn Early Bird)
MU vs. St. Xavier, 10:30 a.m.
MU vs. Point Park, 2:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S SOCCER
Wednesday, Aug. 22
S'craft at Northwood, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 23
MU at W. Ontario, 4 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
MU at Fanshawe, 1 p.m.
S'craft at Sag. Valley, 5 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

(Note: some schools have not released schedules as of press time.)



Cards fly again

The Canton Cardinals 13U travel baseball team trumped their recent state championship by winning the Baseball Players Association Northern Zone World Series in Owensboro, Ky. from July 25-29. The Cardinals went 4-0 in bracket play, beating the Boonville (Ind.) Gold 8-4 in the Championship game. The Cardinals outlasted a strong field of 18 teams from five Midwestern states to capture the crown. The players will all receive fitted World Series Cardinals with their World Series Championship trophy (and ring in the corner) from the tournament: (front row, from left) Jacob MacBrien and Jimmy Walkinshaw; (middle row, from left) Evan Voyles, Justin Dolney, Luke Hirshman, Cody Zidzik, Jason Arnold; (back row, from left) coach John Knorr, coach Rob Hirshman, Brennan Brooks, Brandon Knorr, Noah Spencer, coach Alan Zidzik, coach Greg Voyles. Not pictured: Andrey Napolitano.



Fastpitch power

A 2012 graduate of Plymouth High School was among softball players from Observerland participating July 23-28 in the USSSA 18U World Series in Salisbury, Md. Raylean, as well as Rebecca Greco (Dearborn Divine Child) and Rachel Jason (Livonia Churchill) were on the 18U Gold Fastpitch team (based in Ann Arbor) that went 4-3-1 to place fifth out of 42 teams. Games were played against squads from New Jersey, Ohio, Delaware, Maryland and New York. They are coached by Doug Kennedy, member of the USSSA coaches hall of fame and Tom Bedolla. Pictured in the front row (from left) are Dana Page, Kate Laverty, Rebecca Greco, Jess Weaver. Pictured in the middle row are (from left) Allison Raylean, Lauren Howe and Rachel Jason. Pictured in the back row (from left) are coach Doug Kennedy, Anna Hargrove, Stef Vanderlugt, Bekkah Guy, Andi Dragonetti, coach Tom Bedolla and Morgan Groom.

Tennyson joins new junior league

The AAU American Athletic Union announced recently that a new the Tennyson Chevrolet Junior Hockey Club will participate in the newly formed Midwest Junior Hockey League.

The MWJHL will be a 12-team league consisting of six Michigan clubs including Wayne, Hartland, Fraser, Sault Ste. Marie and Traverse City along with teams from Toledo, Cleveland, Dayton, Ohio as well as Louisville, Ky., Kankakee and Bloomington, Ill.

Tennyson Chevrolet will play out of the Ice Box Arena in Brownstown and will be owned and operated by AZ Sports Inc.

Tennyson club president Keith Lang also announced that Grosse Ile and lifelong downriver native Dan Vasquez has been named G.M. and head coach.

For more information, contact the team offices at (734) 548-8248 or visit www.tennysonhockey.com.

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Potent MU spikers eye NAIAAs again

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's volleyball program continues to have high expectations and the 2012 season will be no different.

The Crusaders finished 30-10 a year ago as head coach Jerry Abraham, who ranks second all-time in the NAIA in wins (970), completed his 25th season.

But a third-place regular season finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and a loss in the WHAC semifinals to eventual champion Indiana Tech fuels Abraham and his squad going into Tuesday's season opener at home against St. Francis (Ill.).

MU hasn't won the WHAC title or gone to the NAIA Nationals since 2008.

"It's been a couple years, but don't get me wrong, we've had good seasons the past two years, excellent seasons," said Abraham, who has



Madonna junior setter Evia Prieditis was an All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection last season.

guided the Crusaders to 12 WHAC crowns and 11 NAIA National Tourney appearances. "But to get to the (NAIA) national tournament is one of goals.

"There's a lot of talent,

a lot of depth at almost every position. And the good thing about it is that I have 14 solid players - all of which can play. I'm very excited about the group."

The Crusaders lost



Freeman

three key players to graduation including third-team NAIA All-America Karie Altman (team-high 456 total kills) along with four-year starter Amanda Koszela (team-high 575 digs) and Megan Fricke (393 kills and 349 digs).

All-WHAC selections Nastija Baranovska, 6-foot senior middle hitter from Riga, Latvia, and 5-9 junior setter Evia Prieditis (1,660 total assist-to-kills), from Milford, will lead the way this season.

"We have good leadership in Evia (Prieditis), who is one of the best setters around," Abraham said. "The team is well-focused and trained very hard in the offseason. They're training real hard right now, but it's one step at a time."

Other returnees include 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Samantha Geile

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

(Fruitport); 5-5 junior defensive specialist Amanda Obrycki (Allen Park Cabrini); 6-3 junior middle hitter Emilie Freeman (Lutheran High Westland); 5-9 senior outside hitter Taylor Dziewit (Almont/St. Clair Community College); 5-6 sophomore defensive specialist Roxy Duzey (Sterling Heights); 5-11 sophomore outside hitter Kayla Vogel (Hastings); 5-5 sophomore defensive specialist Cassie Castro (Saline); and 6-0 junior outside hitter Nastija Seremetjeva (Riga, Latvia), the latter whom was limited to seven sets last season after undergoing knee surgery.

"We've got good setting, good passing, good hitters," Abraham said. "The chemistry is really good. Sam (Geile) is a sophomore now. We have a little more termination and a little more determination on the outside. I think we have what it takes."

Abraham also has four

new recruits who could catapult the Crusaders back to the top of the WHAC paced by 6-foot junior middle hitter Stacey Catalano (Utica Eisenhower), who played two seasons at Grand Valley State, along with 5-10 junior outside hitter Ashley Hulbert (Fruitport), who led all NJCAA Division 2 players last year in total kills with 689 at Muskegon CC. Also joining the MU squad are two freshmen - 5-9 outside hitter Breanna Geile (Fruitport) and 6-4 middle hitter Connor Morrish (Flushing), a transfer from McNeese State (La.).

"We brought in three transfers, two of whom are freshmen," Abraham said. "I'm hoping that the returning kids, and the experienced kids are blending in, and make it a strong group. I'm confident the improvement is going to happen real soon in the year."

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SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

Schmitt said. "I feel comfortable here and I love being here. It's an amazing place to be, and to be able to be here with my family ... with all the fans, supporters and friends that are around this town, it's a great atmosphere to be in."

After winning gold three times in London - including a world record in the 400-meter medley relay team and a U.S. and Olympic record in the 200 free (1:53.61 - Schmitt said she only wished she could share her achievements with everybody who helped her since her days with the Plymouth Canton Cruisers. She also won one silver medal and one bronze medal.

"It's something I want to share with everyone," she said, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt behind a podium at the Summit's Chestnut Room. "Every person that's helped me get to where I am today, just being able to share my success with other people means a lot to me."

"Last night, some girl came up to me and started crying. She always wanted to shake my hand. So just being able to touch someone's life like that, it means a lot."

The magnitude of what she and her U.S. teammates were able to do continues to elude her, at times.

"I'm still on Cloud 9, nothing has really sunk in yet," Schmitt said. "The first time it sunk in was my silver medal in the 400 freestyle and I was crying on the podium."

"Ever since then, I think it's been surreal. People have come up to me, coaches and staff members on the U.S. team came up to me and said 'Do you need me to pinch you?'"

She's the same

Schmitt considers herself to be the same person



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Listening to Allison Schmitt's press conference are siblings Kirsten, Kari, Sara and Derek - all excellent student-athletes in their own right.

she was before the Olympics began in late July.

But she acknowledged things are different.

"I haven't gone one place where people haven't come up to me, congratulated me, asked me if I was Allison," she noted. "So it's kind of cool that people watch the Olympics, people know who I am."

With a grin, the 2008 Canton High School grad joked about always wanting to be famous. "I feel like when people recognize me I know I'm still no movie star, but I'm trying to get there."

Speaking in front of a mammoth American flag draped on the wall behind her, Schmitt talked about what it meant to realize her long-standing Olympic dream - including standing on the podium during the national anthem.

"It's a feeling that I'll never forget," she said. "... I'm speechless now, I really don't know how to explain it. It was an honor, not only representing the U.S. but having the national anthem played for me."

Worth it

Neither will her family members who were there in London for the amazing run.

"It's special," Ralph

Schmitt said. "To think the flags are being raised for her, very special moment in my life, one that I will never forget."

According to Gail Schmitt, the medal ceremonies did not prompt flashbacks to her days of chauffeuring Allison to and from swim practices or feelings of all of that being "worth it."

"I don't think we ever thought to do them in hopes of something, in hopes of a scholarship, or in hopes of an Olympic medal," Gail said. "Those things are great, and they came, but those were things you were doing at the time because that was what everyone was enjoying. If they weren't than we wouldn't be doing it."

"I guess that's why none of that really flashed back, it wasn't like 'Oh, it was all worth it' because I think it was all worth it even if we didn't have all these wonderful results."

Ralph and Gail, he explained, encouraged all five of their kids to compete as student-athletes if that's what they wanted to do - and as long as they gave it their all.

"We both took the kids all around, to all their various sports," Ralph said. "... at times it was very hectic, but we made

the commitment that our kids were allowed to try what they wanted to try.

"Their only requirements were that whatever they started they finished and that they give 100-percent effort. That's all we asked. They did that."

Allison's siblings (Kirsten, Derek, twins Sara and Kari) all were in attendance at the press conference. All were or are outstanding student-athletes in their own right.

Each one's special

She then said she kind of understands what it must be like to be a parent, having earned five medals that each came with distinctive memories.

"There definitely is a special moment attached to every medal," Schmitt added. "Someone asked me what my favorite medal is and I can't pick one."

"It's like asking my parents which of the five of us is their favorite child. It's hard to describe, a different feeling, a different moment, a different memory attached to each one."

Soon, however, the medals and accolades from the London Summer Olympics will be put aside. It will be time to embark on the next wave of success.

Women, men to vie for O&E golf crowns

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The four majors have come and gone, but the 2012 competitive golf season is far from over.

The annual *Observer & Eccentric* golf tournaments are right around the corner with the women's event scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26 at Livonia's Whispering Willows followed by the 36-hole medal play men's event Sunday, Sept. 2 at Livonia's Fox Creek and Monday, Sept. 3 at Whispering Willows golf courses.

Registration for the women's 18-hole medal play event closes on Sunday, Aug. 19. The entry fee is \$50 (does not include cart) and you must have a U.S. Golf Association handicap index.

Former Michigan state player Shellie Morton shot a 3-under 69 to win the championship flight title with a nine-stroke advantage over Livonia's Deb Horning, while Arlene Shields of Livonia took the first flight title.

Entries for the men's tourney, limited to the first 120 golfers, close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24.

The entry fee is \$95 (does not include cart). To participate you must have a USGA index handicap (maximum of 20).

This year's men's event also includes a 17-and-under boys junior division. The entry fee is \$49.

Prizes will go for both the men's low gross and low net scores in each flight. (Trophies will be awarded to the top junior finishers.)

Andrew Rousos of Novi captured last year's men's championship flight with a two-day total of 77-74 - 151 edging Livonia's Matt Robinson by a stroke.

Livonia's Sam Williams took the first flight, while Livonian William Himm, a past O&E championship flight winner, placed first in the 55-and-up senior division.

You can register in person at Whispering Willows, located at 20500 Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

For more information, visit www.golflivonia.com; or call (248) 476-4493.

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Reign kicks competition

The U14 Plymouth Reign 99 Boys Green team were the tournament champions in their age group this past weekend in the Rush Kickoff Classic. The Reign defeated the LCSC Meteors 5-1 in the tourney championship game on Sunday. Earlier in the weekend, the squad defeated Rush Downriver 99B Nike (3-2), RSC Lightning 99 White (3-2) and tied Rush Jackson 99B 1-1. Standing are (from left) coach Worteh Sampson, Jamie Crosby, Charlie Grybas, Bennett Brooks, David McGrath, Brendan Kelly, Ryan Buzenberg, Jared Lee, Mikey Schwartz, Adam Saunders, Joel VanHook, Anthony Iacopelli, Andrew Estey and Ben Tetlow. Kneeling in front are (from left) Luke Kurili and Aiden Hurley.

Cyclists of all levels welcome at Bike Fest

By Marty Budner
Observer Staff Writer

Biking is Jeff Surnow's passion.

Surnow organized the inaugural Birmingham Bike Festival last year, which he declared an outright success. However, he was so busy making sure everything ran smoothly that he was forced to watch all the racing action.

Well, the Birmingham businessman couldn't stay away from peddling for a second straight summer.

Surnow will race in the 50-Over Division of the 2012 Birmingham Bike Festival scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26, the week after the Woodward Dream Cruise.

The event, which this year will include more races, more bikers, more vendors and more attractions, promises again to populate and bring excitement to the streets of downtown Birmingham.

And Surnow can't wait. "It seemed like when last year's event was over, not only were we blessed with great weather, but the racers were very pleased with the course and the way it was set up and organized," said Surnow from inside his downtown Birmingham office. "Everything seemed to

very, very smooth.

"I found that as the event's founder and organizer, I was watching the races and handling things around the course. I began to think I wish I would have made time to race. I figured since I put all the time and effort into it, I might as well have some fun too.

"I am a biker and I love cycling, and I do it so much, I thought it would be nice to have the founder take some time to race," he said. "I'm going to do it this year and I'm excited about it."

The Birmingham Bike Festival's featured attraction is the exciting criterium street racing which involves highly skilled and trained professionals. The criterium race is scheduled to begin at 3:45 p.m. and will be on a six-tenths of a mile track. The winner, who will receive a cash prize, is the first across the finish line without having been lapped.

Racing, however, is not restricted to the pros.

A total of 16 races — doubled from last year — fill the agenda. Anyone from the novice to the more formally trained is invited to register.

One of the new events is the Municipal Workers Relay Race, which will involve city officials from

neighboring communities in a four-team relay. Besides Birmingham, the race figures to include representatives from Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkley, Bloomfield Hills, Lathrup Village and Southfield.

The Birmingham Bike Festival incorporates concerts at Shain Park, bike races geared towards children and the handicapped, and various vendors from the world of cycling.

A bike valet will be set up for families wanting to park their bikes in a supervised area while checking out all the activities. While it is a non-profit event, any monies collected from vendors and sponsors will aid a number of charities, including Make-A-Wish Foundation, Cerebral Palsy research, Tour de Cure for diabetes and Miles Levin Nepal Foundation, among others.

Events begin at 8 a.m. "Last year we had overwhelming accolades from the community, from many, many, many people, and many businesses," said Surnow, whose presenting sponsor is Fred Lavery Audi of Birmingham. "That helped us decide to do it again. And we decided to expand into more charitable causes and took them all on."

Parents urged to get in game about children's nutrition

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Packaged in bright, eye-catching containers that are covered with bold promises — "Get bigger, stronger, faster!" and "Instant Energy!" — powdery dietary supplements and so-called energy drinks are stealing the attention and the dollars of young athletes, most of whom are looking for a competitive edge on the shelves of area vitamin stores.

Amidst the onslaught of supplement manufacturers' multi-million-dollar marketing blitzes, several local health and nutrition experts are offering the following advice to the parents of the products' potential users: Just say "know."

"The first thing a parent should do if they know their son or daughter is taking supplements is talk to a doctor or a dietician about the supplements," said Chad Smith, a former world-class decathlete and owner of Canton-based Dynamic Athlete Performance. "They need to find out exactly what their kids are putting into their bodies — especially if the kids are under the age of 18.

"Young athletes struggle with inadequate nutrition-based knowledge, lack of healthy food options and making right food choices. It starts at home with the parents. Coaches are the next important influence in a young athlete's health. Proper nutrition is just as important as the training. It doesn't matter how hard you train; if you eat junk, you're going to feel like junk."

Expensive habit

The massive tubs of powdery substances that promote weight gain — they protein is one example — have become

popular with young athletes, despite \$50 price tags.

"What young athletes need to understand is that all the protein they need can be found in whole foods like meat, chicken and cottage cheese," Smith emphasized. "Do you know how many chicken breasts you can buy for \$50? A lot."

Smith said the importance of a balanced diet can't be overstated.

"This is very important because young athletes need to maintain a steady balance in their blood sugar," Smith said. "When blood-sugar levels fluctuate, so does one's energy levels and mood. Low levels of blood sugar can cause hypoglycemia, which can lead to decreases in cognitive abilities, including concentration.

"It's important to maintain a balanced diet so that you have a high state of mental and physical energy during practice and games."

Smith said lean protein, healthy fats, fruits, vegetables and whole grains can help maintain steady blood-sugar levels.

Timing is everything

John Carbone, a sports nutritionist at Eastern Michigan University, said athletes of all ages need to feed the body at the right time and with the right things.

"The type, intensity and duration of activity should determine how best to replenish the body," he said. "For example, endurance athletes — like cyclists and swimmers — should typically be consuming around four grams of carbohydrates per one gram of protein in their post-workout meals in order to properly replenish and rebuild their muscles."

The growing emergence of energy drinks in

the athletic arena is detrimental to athletic performance, nutrition experts agree.

Energy "boosters" brought in nearly \$51 billion in 2011 and the market is expected to grow to \$79.2 billion by 2016, according to BCC Research, a market analysis firm.

"Energy drinks are not the best way to go," said Carbone. "These products typically emphasize that energy is released or manufactured due to a special blend of vitamins and other ingredients, when any energy rush should actually be attributed to the presence of caffeine and other stimulants."

Smith said that a popular 24-ounce version of one energy drink packs the same caffeine potency of 11 cans of pop.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Nutrition and the Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness state that energy drinks "are not appropriate for children and adolescents and should never be consumed."

Old reliable

Both Smith and Carbone praised the role milk can play as a post-workout beverage.

"Quite a few studies have shown that milk — particularly skim and chocolate milk — is a viable option as a sports drink," Carbone explained. "Milk contains protein and its consumption post-exercise stimulates muscle synthesis, providing a boost to net muscle protein balance. It also contains carbohydrates for energy and many important vitamins and electrolytes, making it a great post-exercise beverage."

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Whalers acquire defenseman

Plymouth Whalers general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci announced the acquisition of 18-year-old defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto from the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds in exchange for 17-year-old left wing Mitchell Dempsey and 16-year center Dylan Mascarin.

"With three defensemen leaving from last year's team, we were looking to add more experience to our defense," said Vellucci. "Curcuruto is a young veteran who will help."



Curcuruto

overall) of the 2010 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection.

He played for Team Ontario at the 2011 World Under-17 Championships.

In two seasons with the Greyhounds, Curcuruto scored four goals with 38 assists for 42 points and

62 PIM's in 119 games. Curcuruto was selected in the seventh round (182nd overall) by the Columbus Blue Jackets in the 2012 National Hockey League Entry Draft.

Dempsey was originally selected by Plymouth in the first round (11th overall) in the 2011 OHL Draft and scored a goal with four assists for five points in 34 games last season as a rookie. Mascarin was originally taken by Plymouth in the 5th round (93rd overall) in the 2011 OHL Draft.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Draft skate

The Canton Victory Hockey Association will be having its 2013-14 house league draft skate on Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

There will be conditioning skates prior to the draft skate on Tuesday, Aug. 14 and Thursday, Aug. 16. For more times and information, please call the Arctic Edge at (734) 487-7777.

Sign up for Saints

The Washtenaw Saints Football Team, of the Christian Athletic League of America, is currently looking for interested young men (6th through 12th grade) to join the team.

There are no tryouts and everyone will get a chance to compete. Practices are underway at Domino Farms in Ann Arbor from 5:30 to 7:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information contact coach Jeremy Florence at (734) 649-0532 or by e-mail at Lemmie@aol.com.

Thirst for Life Run

The Thirst For Life 5K Walk/Run will be Saturday, Sept. 8, at Bicentennial Park in Livonia to benefit Team World Vision.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., the race at 9. Bicentennial Park is on the north side of 7 Mile Road, between Gill and Newburgh roads.

All of the money raised will be used to fund water and sanitation projects in

the villages of Mayo and Hamandu in Zambia, Africa.

For more information and to acquire a registration form, go to www.ThirstForLife5k.org. World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children, families and communities worldwide.

Hawks girls hoops

Free tryouts for the Livonia Junior Athletic League Hawks, a sixth-grade girls basketball team, will be 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, and Thursday, Aug. 23, both at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (Main Gym No. 2).

Tryouts are open to anyone who reside in the Livonia Public School district regardless of school.

For more information, contact coach Jennifer Sopko at jennifer_sopko@hotmail.com; or call (248) 854-4207; or coach Doug Freed at um24osu12@hotmail.com; or call (734) 634-5134.

Hilltop glow golf

Hilltop Golf Course, located on Beck Road just north of Ann Arbor Trail, in Plymouth, is hosting Glow Ball each Friday night through Sept. 1 for just \$25 per player.

The fee includes nine holes of golf, glow ball, neon necklace. Plus there are food and drink specials available.

For more information, call (734) 453-9800 or go to www.hilltopgc.com.

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Church members put paws together in prayer

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

The Rev. Dale Miller led a worship service Sunday, Aug. 12, with a special assistant at his side.

His miniature pinscher, Chip, was on hand — and on leash — as Miller, the pastor of Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, led a pet blessing.

"He was in all his glory working with the pastor," Miller quipped.

All seven dogs that attended the church's first pet blessing were on good behavior during the brief outdoor service that entailed readings, a prayer for pets and an individual blessing of each canine and their families, along with spectators.

Miller said pet blessings have roots in the Roman Catholic Church and St. Francis of Assisi.

"Other churches have done them, too. It's a recognition of all creation. We're recognizing the goodness of our pets."

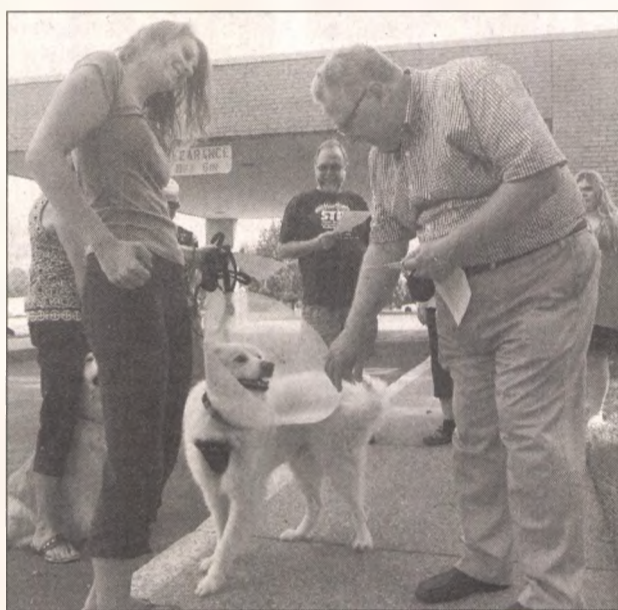
Pet blessings generally are held in late September or early October, close to St. Francis of Assisi's feast day on Oct. 4.

"The reason we did this is we're having Vacation Bible School this week and the theme is animal crackers," Miller said. "Part of its mission is learning reverence and respect for all creation." Youngsters this week also get a chance to donate toward an outreach project that deals with plants or animals. The program is loosely connected with Heifer International, an organization that enables supporters to donate goats, pigs, fish and other animals to individuals around the world.

"We thought a wonderful little kick-off to the whole week would be a blessing of animals," Miller said. "We had fun with it."



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jacob Patterson, 10, of Redford plays with Mandy McNeil's 10-week-old puppy, Oberon, at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church pet blessing on Sunday. McNeil lives in Farmington Hills.



Kim Baughman's dog, Bear, wearing a cone because he injured his tail, gets a little attention from the Rev. Dale Miller at Nardin Park United Methodist Church's pet blessing. Baughman is from Farmington Hills.



Two-year-old Teddy, (right) owned by Gloria Knappenberger of Commerce Township, checks out Kim Baughman's dog, Bear.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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GIBSON, VIRGINIA M.

August 11, 2012, age 77. Significant other John G. Battaglia. Beloved mother of Richard (Lynn) Gibson and Cheryl Reitz. Grandmother of Erin and Ashley Gibson, Justin, Curtis and Brandon. Sister of Robert B. Baumgartner, Marge (Norman) McGarry, Jean Bland and Linda (George) Hieronymus. Funeral services were conducted today at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home - www.schrader-howell.com

CASARI, HILDA C.

August 11, 2012 age 86 of Canton. Beloved wife of Herman. Loving mother of Tom (Beth) and Bob (Claudia). Dear "Nana" of Tommy and Sasha. The Funeral Service was held Tuesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home. Interment United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



DEMPSEY, JOHN W.

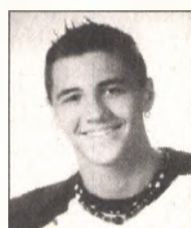
Age 90, of Plymouth, August 11, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Winnifred. Dempsey. Loving father of Gary (Mary) Wencel, Ken Dempsey, Barbara Kaminski and Mary Dempsey Knox. Dearest grandfather of Randy, Keith, Shannon, Amy and great-grandfather of Kristen, John, Addison, Evelyn, Delano and Kurtis. He is also survived by his brothers Earl and Cedric. He was preceded in death by his sister Mary Lou Sullivan. Funeral service was Wednesday, 6:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Wednesday, 1:00 ~ 8:00 PM. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

JONES, CRANSTON FAIRBAIRN (Cran)

Age 91, died at Westminster Towers in Bradenton, Florida, on Friday August 10, 2012. The cause was Alzheimer's Disease. Born July 6, 1921, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Cran was a graduate of the University of Michigan where he was active in the Chi Psi Fraternity. He served in the army (WWII) where he received the Bronze Star for bravery and liberated the concentration camp Dachau. He later served in the Air Force reserves and after 25 years achieved the rank of Major. He was a successful business owner in the Detroit area for 32 years before retiring to Florida. Cran was a member of the Birmingham Athletic Club, Orchard Lake Country Club, Oakland Hills Country Club and Kirk in the Hills. While in Florida, he served as a Docent at the Ringling Museum for over 10 years and was a Member of EL Conquistador Country Club. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Ann, his children Bradley, Connie, Gregory, Cranston and his seven (7) grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in Michigan on Saturday September 15th at 11:00am Kirk in the Hills Church. Memorial contributions are welcome and should be mailed in lieu of flowers to the Vic Muncy, Junior Tennis Program, 3450 Wild Oak Bay Blvd. #139 Bradenton, FL 34210 on behalf of Cranston F. Jones.

POLDERDYKE SYLVIA J. (NICHOFF)

82, of Adrian, formerly of Westland, passed away Saturday, August 11, at her home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee. Sylvia was born to John and Mary Nichoff on November 14, 1929 in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her children, Keyth Terry of Texas, Doris "Dorie" (Steve) Bishop of Florida, and Marie Liddon of Farwell, MI; 12 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Sylvia is preceded in death by her son Dan Terry. Interment will take place at a later date at Cadillac West Memorial Gardens in Westland. Those wishing to make a donation in Sylvia's name should consider Hospice of Lenawee, envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home. Condolences to the family are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com



ROSE, ERIC WAYNE

September 16, 1984 - August 4, 2012. Age 27, of Westland. Beloved son of Ronald and Christine. Dearest brother of Paul, Marc and Michael Rose. Loving grandson of Wanda (Allen) Rose and the late Caroline (Henry) Ahern. Donations may be made to the family of Eric Rose. Visitations were held on Thursday and Friday at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. Services were held at Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday. Burial at Michigan Memorial Park, 32163 W Huron River Drive, Flat Rock, MI 48134.



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Live music, improvisation benefit cat rescue

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Cat got your tongue? It won't if you watch the Glockenspiels perform improv games and scenes Saturday, Aug. 18, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Even shy audience members won't have trouble contributing ideas when Glockenspiels director Laura Gumina asks for scene suggestions.

"The audience is getting idea prompts. Every member of the audience, because they give us ideas, will get an envelope," she explained. Inside they'll find words for things, places and relationships they can shout out to the improvisers when called on.

"We work together in improv. I tell the audience, we need you when we perform. We all join in. It's interactive."

The Glockenspiels consist of volunteers from Gumina's monthly Tuesday drop-in improv classes, "Improvisation...Alive in the Moment" at Trinity. They'll perform scenes based on audience suggestion at the 2 p.m. show, which also will feature sets by singer-songwriters Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann.

The performance is a fundraiser for one of the area's newest animal rescues, New Beginnings Animal Foundation, (NBAF) led by Amanda Houts of Livonia. Admission is by donation and there will be silent auction items on display. Anyone who brings cat litter or food will be entered into a prize draw-



Robin Monterosso will perform Saturday, Aug. 18, at a fundraiser for New Beginnings Animal Foundation in Livonia.



Members of the Tuesday night improv drop-in classes at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia perform as the Glockenspiels.

ing. Gumina, a Plymouth resident, has fostered three of New Beginnings' adoptable cats. "They need supplies

and they are struggling, like all rescue organizations. So, on their web page, Amanda put out a cry for fundraiser ideas. I got them the musicians

and the Glockenspiels," Gumina said.

Starting a rescue

Houts had volunteered for other rescues, including Better Life Canine Center, a Livonia dog rescue, before founding NBAF last March.

"I'd always end up with cats. They just come to me," Houts said. "I'd call around to other rescues and try to find a place for them. I exhausted the friends and family who could take in cats. I decided why don't I start this rescue and make it successful, even if it's smaller. It will help out a few cats."

The rescue averages four adoptions a month and its volunteers foster approximately 20-25 adoptable cats. All adoptable cats are spayed or neutered and given all necessary vaccines

NEW BEGINNINGS ANIMAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

What: Students from the Tuesday night improv drop-in class have formed the Glockenspiels for this one-time show to raise money for New Beginnings Animal Foundation, a local cat rescue. The troupe will perform improv between sets by musicians Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann. The event also includes a silent auction and audience members who bring cat litter or food will get a chance to win a door prize

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Where: Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Admission: By donation

Contact: (734) 464-6302



Kathy Kitzmann will sing a few cat songs during her performance Saturday, Aug. 18 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

before they are sent to their new homes.

Houts works in the concierge area at a local hotel and spends her free time rescuing stray, abandoned and homeless cats, in addition to trapping

feral cats, getting them neutered or spayed and returning to the outdoors.

"It's like another full-time job, but it's worth it," said Houts, who has

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Suburban Collection Showplace hosts Michigan's largest Indian event

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend India Day – the largest celebration of Asian Indian culture in the Midwest – held without admission at The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

"It's a great event to see and learn about Indian culture, history and traditions," said Ramesh Gudapuri, India Day chairman for the past six years.

Gudapuri has been living in Novi for almost 10 years and is a board member of the event presenter: India League of America, a non-profit, secular organization formed in 1978 with a mission to champion the interests of Indian American community in Michigan.

This one-of-a-kind event salutes India's Independence Day, which was Aug. 15.

The opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. with a parade with participants dancing and performing music while dressed in traditional costumes that represent each Indian state. The parade route ends at the main stage where all dignitaries and special invited guests are welcomed with marigold garland and given a red tilak, a customary religious mark worn on the forehead. The opening ceremony concludes with the lighting of the lamp, a Hindu custom to give thanks to the Lord and acknowledge a new event.

"It's a symbolic gesture to God to bless us with success," said Gudapuri. He anticipates guests will include state and local officials, like State Rep. Hugh Crawford and Dave Staudt, Novi's mayor pro tem.

Following the ceremony, the celebration will continue with fun for all ages. More than 300 Indian performers are scheduled throughout the day. From patriotic songs and folk music to classical and Bollywood-inspired dancers, the line-up includes regional dance academies as well as professional entertainers from local groups such as Nadanta, Thirak Kathak, Orissa Society, Detroit Telugu and Gujarati Samaj.

"There will be something for everyone," said Gudapuri.

In addition, attendees also will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of authentic Indian food provided by a number of local restaurants, including Mirichi Indian Cuisine, Udipi and Royal Sweets. More than 100 vendors will be on-site to display and sell authentic Indian apparel, costumes, arts and crafts, home furnishings and jewelry.

"Our special thanks to Ford Motor Company who has been wholeheartedly supporting India Day since the inception," said Gudapuri.

Other event sponsors include Chrysler Group LLC, Consumers Energy, McDonalds, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC, Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Royal Sweets, Ram Cre-



A traditional Indian dance group performs at last year's India Day in Novi.

ations, HCL Global, Sistar Mortgage, and Global Marble & Granite.

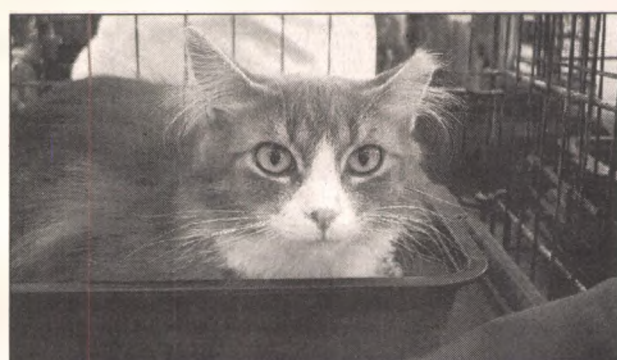
While Gudapuri estimates that there are approximately 50,000 Indians in the metro Detroit area, the event attracts a lot of others as well.

"We're putting forth effort this year

so they can understand and learn about our culture and diversity."

For more information about India Day, visit www.ilamichigan.org.

The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.



Sylvia is among New Beginnings Animal Foundation's adoptable cats.

RESCUE

Continued from page B6

three cats and two dogs of her own.

Animal lover

Gumina adopted a three-legged Pomeranian that was rescued from a puppy mill. She began fostering cats for NBAF after discovering its Facebook page.

"I started following their Facebook page. They'd go to Ohio to deliver a cat, to Flint to get a cat. They'd go to adoption events," said the long-time theater teacher, director and actor.

Like Houts' volunteers, Gumina's improvisers live throughout the Metro area.

She started the drop-in improv classes as a Meetup.com group with nine students in June 2010.

"We now have 200. At our Tuesday night meetings I average between 16 and 20 people," she said. Sessions cost \$10 and meet the third Tuesday of the month, except this month because of the fundraiser.

Gumina also teaches at Palaestra Home School Co-op in Livonia and at a church in Detroit.

"You don't know how

many people have written to me that they joined this class to get out of their shyness. They love it," she described the drop-in sessions. "Some who started with me in June (2010) are still with me and they are good."

She said the art form also teaches trust, give and take, listening, working in a group and working toward a mutual goal. "It's accepting and non-judgmental. Everyone has a good time," Gumina said. "The audiences here eat it up because it's just friendly fun. We don't swear and we don't reference sex or body parts. We are family friendly."

For more information about Gumina's drop-in improv class at Trinity House Theatre, visit Meetup.com and search for "Improvisation...Alive in the Moment."

For more about New Beginnings Animal Foundation, visit its Facebook page, e-mail to adopt. nbaaf@gmail.com or call (734) 743-1142. The group holds adoptions noon-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, the first weekend of the month, at Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland.

For more about Trinity House Theatre, visit trinityhousetheatre.org.

Senior troupe performs in Canton

There's still time to see The Still Got it Players' performance of *Old Hams* at the Village Theater in Canton.

The show, about residents in a home for aging performers, continues through Sunday. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, 2 p.m.; and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

The play tells the story of the actors, singers and musicians who to save their home from the tax collector and from the

greedy son of an attorney intent on selling the property and turning it into a shopping mall.

The Still Got it Players is the senior troupe within Spotlight Players, resident community theater group at the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students, and \$11 for groups. They're available online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

Art

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through Aug. 24

Location: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Fire and Ice" exhibit features photos by Royal (Roy) Severs. Severs was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001. His now-limited mobility, however, has not put a damper on his love for photography. He often uses a vehicle to get him to his subjects, whether on land or water

Contact: (248) 473-1800

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Patti Smith: Camera Solo, shows performer Patti Smith's photographs, through Sept. 2; Five Spanish Masterpieces features works by Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Dali, through Aug. 19; Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 25

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Thoughts With Thread" exhibit features art quilts, woven tapestries, embroidery, paper, baskets, felted wool and figurative work

Coming up: "Beyond Borders: Mosaic Exhibit and Auction" runs Sept. 7-22 and features mosaic work by artists from around the world that will be auctioned online at <http://www.BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF>. Online bidding runs from 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1 to 9 p.m. Sept. 21. Opening reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 at Northville Art House

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Comedy

ANDIAMO NOVI

Time/Date: 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Location: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi
Details: "Comedy Held Hostage" tour with Chill-

GET OUT!



Mass Transit plays Thursday, Aug. 16 at Stars in the Park in Farmington Hills.

ian Thomas, Jarred Kreger and Susan Coletti. Tickets are \$10, available at the Andiamo Novi Theatre ab

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Mike Bonner, Aug. 16-18; KT Tatara, Aug. 23-25; Joe Zimmerman, Sept. 6-8; Adam Richmond, Sept. 13-15; Greg Warren, Sept. 20-22; Chris Porter, Sept. 27-29

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MASTERS OF TAP

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Location: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: The show caps the three-day 5th Motor City Tap Fest and features its faculty in performance. Dancers include Gregg Russell, Sarah Reich of "So You Think You Can Dance?," Avi Miller and Ofer Ben, Dr. Harold "Stumpy" Cromer, Robert Reed, Karen Callaway and many others. Tickets are \$25-\$35

Contact: www.motorcitytapfest.com

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

STARS OF RUSSIAN BALLET

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Location: Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor

Details: Stars of the Russian Ballet gala performance features dancers from international companies. Tickets are \$48-\$68

Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Lyskawa V.F.W. Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights

Details: Singles and couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments

Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

available from the Michigan Union Ticket office

Contact: (734) 763-8587

Film

COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Gates open at 7:30 and movies start at dusk; open nightly through Sept. 2

Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth

Details: Listen to the film through a battery-operated FM radio or your car radio. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under. Students with ID pay \$7

Contact: (734) 453-8300

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 17-18 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Snow White and the Huntsman," \$3

Coming up: "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 25-26

Summer Cinema: All shows screen at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com



Beth Wood, a singer-songwriter from Oregon, performs Friday, Aug. 17 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

It's easy being **cheesy**

A grown-up grilled cheese sandwich



Smoky Bacon Cheddar Panini

A classic grilled cheese sandwich is one of the iconic foods of childhood. And while plenty of people still enjoy a basic grilled cheese, many are looking for ways to take their favorite sandwich from the kiddie table to the grownup table.

Of course, your choice of cheese is the key to the perfect sandwich. Different types of cheese will provide unique flavors and textures. Flavored cheese slices lay a tasty foundation for a wide variety of sandwich toppings. And certain cheeses, such as Borden Grilled Cheese Melts, are made specifically for their creamy consistency when melted.

Experimenting with new ingredients can also dress up everybody's favorite sandwich. Create your own signature sandwich with additions such as:

- Fresh or sun dried tomatoes
- Bacon or prosciutto
- Avocado
- Fresh herbs such as sage, basil, oregano or cilantro

- Jalapeño
- Pickles
- Roasted red peppers
- Caramelized onions
- Flavored cheese slices such as Southwest Pepperjack, Smoked Cheddar or Applewood Bacon Cheddar

- Apple or pear slices
 - Dijon or honey mustard
 - Smoked or mesquite turkey
- You can also change things up with different breads. Try pumpernickel, rye, seven-grain, sourdough or English muffin bread.

To find more deliciously cheesy recipes you can feel good about sharing with your family, visit www.FriendsofElsie.com.

Super Apple Ham-n-Cheese

- 2 slices whole grain bread
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- ½ tablespoon honey mustard
- 1 slice extra sharp cheddar
- 2 large slices deli ham
- ½ apple, peeled and cut in thin slices

Spread one side of each slice of bread with butter. Then spread opposite side of bread with honey mustard. Place one slice of bread butter side down in skillet over medium heat. Layer one slice of cheese, ham and apple. Spread second piece of bread with honey mus-



Super Apple Ham and Cheese



Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

tard and place honey mustard side down on top of sandwich. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, flipping to ensure each side is golden brown and cheese is melted.

Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 slices white or wheat bread
- 2 slices Borden Grilled Cheese Melts
- 1 tablespoon orange marmalade

Spread ½ tablespoon of butter on one side of a slice of bread and place butter side down in a skillet over medium heat. Top with one slice of cheese, then spread with marmalade. Layer second slice of cheese. Spread remaining butter on one side of second slice of bread, and place butter side up on sandwich. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, flipping to ensure each side is golden brown

and cheese is melted.

Smoky Bacon Cheddar Turkey Panini Melts

- 1 cup yellow onion, cut into strips
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 8 slices sourdough bread
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 8 slices turkey (about 8 ounces)
- 8 slices smoked cheddar slices
- ½ cup roasted red peppers pieces, drained

Heat oil in small skillet over medium heat; add onions and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until tender-crisp. Spread mayonnaise evenly onto one side of each bread slice. Layer 2 slices turkey, 2 slices cheese, grilled onions and roasted red peppers evenly on each of 4 bread slices. Close each with top half of sandwich. Spread butter on top and bottom of sandwiches; grill in skillet or clamshell panini grill until cheese melts and bread is toasted.

Cheddar-Apple Pie Panini

- 1 slice Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles Sensations
- 1 slice Granny Smith apple
- Dash of apple pie seasoning
- 2 slices bread of choice
- Butter

Lightly butter panini grill. Slice bread in thick slices; place a slice of Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles Sensations on one slice of bread, and top with a slice of Granny Smith apple.

Top the apple slice with a dash of apple pie seasoning or cinnamon. Finally, place the top slice of bread onto the sandwich, and grill until nicely browned.

Grilled Bacon-Cheddar-Sundried Tomato

- 2 slices Applewood Bacon Cheddar
- Sun-dried tomatoes — not oil packed
- 2 slices sourdough or seeded rye bread

A twist on the standard grilled cheese — prepare by buttering sourdough or other artisan bread on one side and grill in fry pan — put cheese and sun dried tomatoes between slices and grill until cheese is melted and bread is browned.

Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Sharks and burgers

FARMINGTON HILLS — Jaws Jumbo Burgers will wrap up its Shark Week Friday, Aug. 17. The restaurant, located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road, is showing movies about sharks this week. For more information call (248) 855-2228.

In the pink

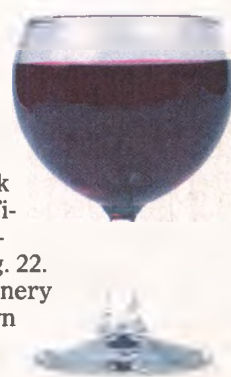
PLYMOUTH — Kids, their dolls and escorts can participate in a Victorian-style tea, complete with tea sandwiches and desserts from Jeff Zak Cater-

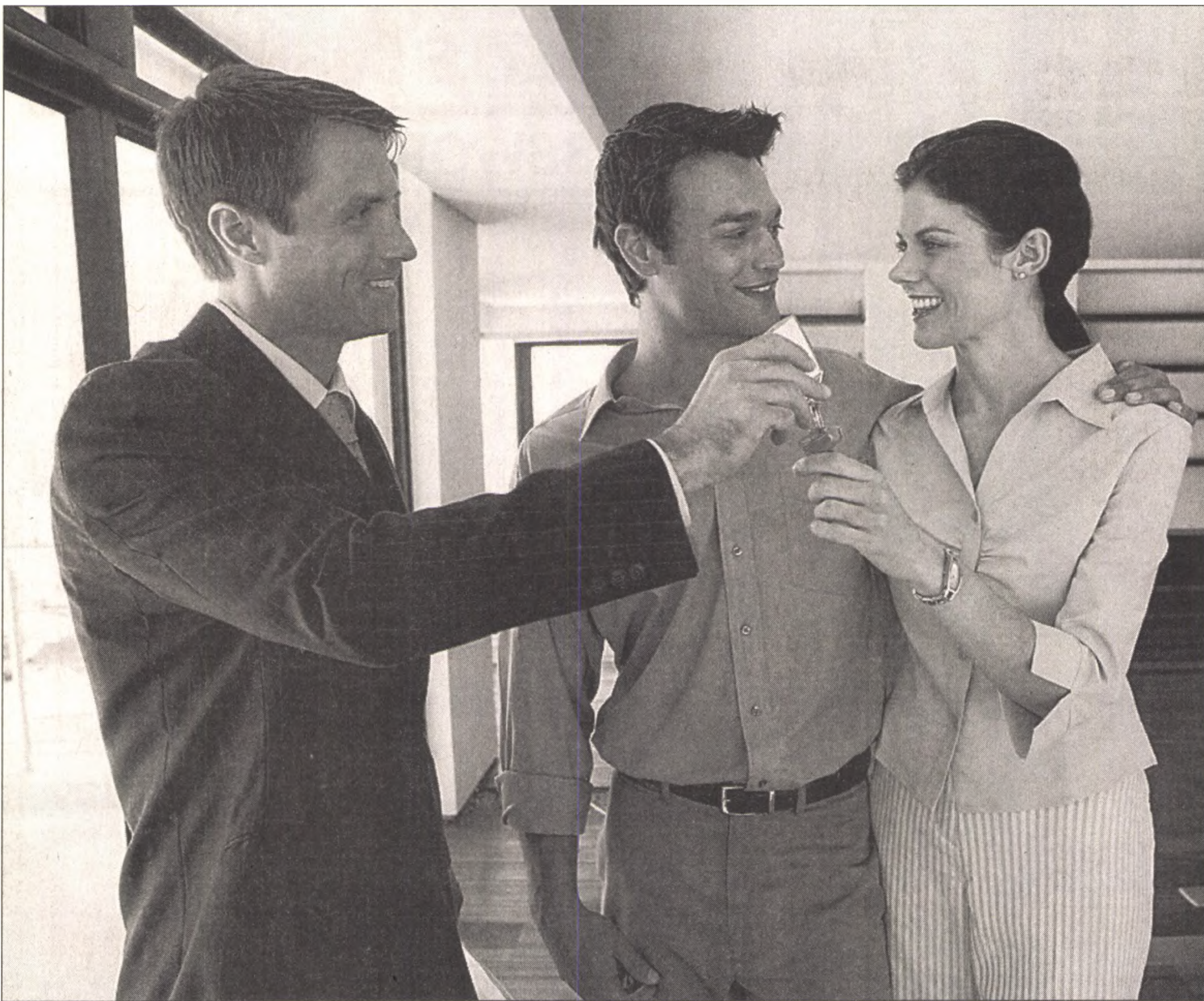
ing, Aug. 24 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one child and \$18 for each additional person. Buy tickets at the museum or online at www.plymouthhistory.org, using PayPal. The fun starts at noon and will include storytelling, dressing up a glamour photo, and a make and take craft after the tea. The museum is located at 155 Main. (734) 455-8940.

Wine tasting

LIVONIA — d.vine fine wines is tak-

ing registration for a tasting with Bob Morus, of Phelps Creek Vineyards and Mt. Defiance Wine Company, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22. This small boutique winery focuses on estate grown Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Cost is \$20 for Wine Club members and \$25 for non-members. Call (734) 432-3800.





Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes down to an honest assessment of what you can afford.

Buying a home: Prepare by getting your finances in order

For those considering buying a home, the current real estate market presents some unique opportunities. One of the side effects of the economic roller-coaster ride of the past few years is that home prices have gone down and more homes have gone on the market. For buyers, that means more choices and better deals. However, those same tumultuous years also can teach buyers a lesson: Make smart buying decisions and be wise with your finances.

Impulsive buying is never a good idea when it comes to a purchase as significant as a home, but it was something of a trend at the height of the mid-2000s. Now, with banks lending far more cautiously, you need to be absolutely certain that your finances are in order — and healthy — to be able to get the best deal on

your purchase.

There are a number of steps you can take to get ready to buy a home, and you might need to work on them simultaneously. Consider that you'll need to start saving, if you haven't already, but you'll also need to review your credit score and do what you can to either maintain it or work toward healthier credit. Both of these tasks will help make the home-buying process better for you.

Your credit is an important factor in determining the terms under which you can get a mortgage. Broadly speaking, the better your credit is, the more positively you'll be viewed by lenders — and that can lead to better interest rates. And because you'll be paying off your home for years to come, it's important to get the best rate possible.

Start by checking your credit report. You're entitled to one free check of your report, from TransUnion and other credit reporting agencies every year. As much as you need to check your report to find out what shape your credit is in, it's also essential to review it for inaccuracies or fraudulent activity, both of which can have a negative impact on your score.

If your credit health needs some work, start taking action immediately. Paying bills on time, reducing your overall debt and limiting new credit inquiries can all help to build your credit — but be patient, as it can take time for your positive actions to take effect. Nevertheless, the sooner you make the effort, the sooner you'll see results.

Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes

down to an honest assessment of what you can afford. Keep in mind that you might be approved for a loan that's larger than what is practical for you to afford. While it may be tempting to buy a pricier house, the stress of struggling to make payments could diminish your enjoyment of your new home and even put you at financial risk. One rule of thumb is that most borrowers can afford a home loan that runs about 2½ times their annual salary.

Buying a home is a complex process, but one that is ultimately very rewarding when done right. By organizing your finances well in advance, you'll help set yourself up for success. For more information about credit and buying a home, visit www.transunion.com.

— Courtesy ARA

Environmental contamination may play a role

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am wondering in a condemnation matter whether evidence of environmental contamination and remediation costs is admissible to reduce the condemnation award?

A: There was a recent decision out of Illinois which found that evidence of environmental contamination is no different than evidence of a leaky basement, a cracked foundation or a dilapidated roof. The court reasoned that if the damage and costs of repair would influence a purchaser in determining how much to pay for the land, then such evidence is relevant to fair market value and admissible in a condemnation proceeding. It should be noted that only 12 states have addressed this issue and a slim majority has allowed consideration of contamination and mediation costs in determining fair market value. You are best advised to consult with your real estate lawyer.

Q: I have always thought that when you are enforcing a deed restriction, the court will balance the equities, so to speak, in terms of the enforceability of the restriction. What do you think about that?

A: While each case is unique to its own facts, in a recent appellate decision out of Rhode Island, the court reasoned that a land owner that deliberately violates restrictive covenants must remove the offending structures without the benefit of the balancing of equities. The court indicated that, ordinarily, if enforcement of a restriction disproportionately harms the defendant with little benefit to the plaintiff, a court may balance the equities, but the benefit of that doctrine is generally reserved for an innocent party that proceeds without knowledge that he or she is encroaching upon another's property rights. If the parties, however, are not innocent, and they construct a home that they knew violated at least some of the restrictions in that particular case, they will be ordered to tear down the premises.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate career seminar

Learn about the \$50 Income Guarantee 6:30-7:30 p.m. today at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, in Plymouth. For more information contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or mworkman@kw.com.

Finance seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited, so call (248) 547-3006 or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of April 30-May 4, 2012 at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

248 Charterhouse Dr.....	\$115,000
49761 Courtyard Ln.....	\$165,000
685 Foothill Dr.....	\$85,000
50177 Grant St.....	\$241,000
47231 Hanford Rd.....	\$232,000
8234 Holly Dr.....	\$110,000
43248 Pepperwood St.....	\$184,000
44275 Postmill Ct.....	\$130,000
265 Shana St.....	\$160,000
45825 Spinning Wheel Dr.....	\$200,000
41500 Stafford Ct.....	\$140,000
1244 W Crystal Cir.....	\$215,000

GARDEN CITY

32507 Bridge St.....	\$81,000
31027 Florence St.....	\$69,000

LIVONIA

16111 Golfview St.....	\$224,000
9910 Henry Ruff Rd.....	\$129,000
14542 Huff St.....	\$130,000
11807 Hunters Park Ct.....	\$238,000
29645 Jacquelyn Dr.....	\$135,000

35646 Joy Rd.....	\$88,000
37563 Kingsbury St.....	\$140,000
18186 Lathers St.....	\$52,000
15605 Mayfield St.....	\$77,000
11431 Merriman Rd.....	\$88,000
11208 Middlebelt Rd.....	\$26,000
31624 Pembroke St.....	\$76,000
29100 Terrence St.....	\$155,000
32825 W Chicago St.....	\$133,000

NORTHVILLE

16744 Bradner Rd.....	\$224,000
16726 Country Knoll Dr.....	\$220,000
16185 Pine Valley Dr.....	\$75,000
17745 Rolling Woods Cir.....	\$421,000

PLYMOUTH

11827 Amherst Ct.....	\$220,000
1682 Cassidy Place Dr.....	\$139,000
49903 Cooke Ave.....	\$461,000
1530 Nantucket Rd.....	\$150,000
1542 Nantucket Rd.....	\$165,000
9183 Redburn Ave.....	\$178,000
1199 S Sheldon Rd.....	\$27,000
13508 Westbrook Rd.....	\$515,000

REDFORD

12920 Brady.....	\$70,000
13542 Brady.....	\$70,000

14162 Breakfast Dr.....	\$153,000
14204 Breakfast Dr.....	\$151,000
14266 Breakfast Dr.....	\$142,000
20492 Centralia.....	\$20,000
26720 Joy Rd.....	\$15,000
26720 Joy Rd.....	\$15,000
19328 Kinloch.....	\$7,000
19319 Lexington.....	\$53,000
18216 Macarthur.....	\$40,000
14207 Marshall Dr.....	\$129,000
25501 Saint Martins Ave.....	\$20,000
18711 Woodworth.....	\$13,000

WESTLAND

37269 Amhurst Dr.....	\$80,000
32727 Avondale St.....	\$77,000
31816 Bay Ct.....	\$9,000
8149 Beatrice.....	\$95,000
31132 Beechnut St.....	\$67,000
35805 Canyon Dr.....	\$71,000
32018 Cheboygan Ct.....	\$4,000
111 Daniel Ave.....	\$72,000
35469 Farragut St.....	\$4,000
34665 Hazelwood St.....	\$46,000
32222 Oscoda Ct.....	\$4,000
8208 Parkside Dr.....	\$177,000
33725 Tawas Trl.....	\$95,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the weeks of April 16-20, 2012 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32461 Beaconsfield St.....	\$310,000
20301 Elwood St.....	\$148,000
18175 Kinross Ave.....	\$303,000
31975 W Bell Vine Trl.....	\$430,000
32757 White Oaks Trl.....	\$450,000

BINGHAM FARMS

30375 Oakview Way.....	\$232,000
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BIRMINGHAM

909 Bird Ave.....	\$470,000
928 Chapin Ave.....	\$500,000
672 Chester St.....	\$400,000
2655 E Maple Rd.....	\$28,000
932 Forest Ave.....	\$380,000
1311 Henrietta St.....	\$489,000
852 Henrietta St # 854.....	\$535,000
1893 Maryland Blvd.....	\$176,000
323 N Eton St.....	\$57,000
1818 Yorkshire Rd.....	\$280,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

2932 Squirrel Rd.....	\$245,000
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BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1938 Cragin Dr.....	\$300,000
674 E Fox Hills Dr.....	\$39,000

1758 S Hill Blvd.....	\$138,000
5770 Snowshoe Cir.....	\$390,000
6080 Snowshoe Cir.....	\$269,000
5156 Woodlands Ln.....	\$250,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22236 Averhill St.....	\$90,000
31625 Belmont St.....	\$141,000
37167 Berkleigh Ct.....	\$285,000
29373 Birchcrest Way.....	\$296,000
34727 Bunker Hill Dr.....	\$145,000
27636 E Echo Vly.....	\$41,000
30342 Essex Dr.....	\$160,000
21884 Flanders St.....	\$130,000
35767 Fredericksburg Rd.....	\$200,000
30831 Hunters Dr #23.....	\$67,000
36172 Old Homestead Dr.....	\$165,000
25931 Power Rd.....	\$235,000
35361 Stratton Hill Ct.....	\$355,000
24089 Susan Dr.....	\$205,000
27716 Westcott Crescent Cir.....	\$92,000

FRANKLIN

25875 Romany Way.....	\$450,000
30656 Woodside Dr.....	\$334,000

MILFORD

2886 Lonon Dr.....	\$186,000
653 Sweetbriar.....	\$105,000

NOVI

45119 Bartlett Dr.....	\$369,000
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22649 Foxmoor Dr.....	\$255,000
51148 Halffield St.....	\$45,000
51159 Halffield St.....	\$45,000
27023 Ladbrooke St.....	\$45,000
27039 Victoria Rd.....	\$45,000
28188 Wolcott Dr.....	\$104,000

SOUTH LYON

26400 Daria Cir.....	\$305,000
53792 Edgewood Dr.....	\$49,000
58731 Peters Barn Dr.....	\$335,000
336 Princeton Dr.....	\$150,000
24845 Ravine Dr.....	\$2,000
24845 Ravine Dr.....	\$100,000
52860 Willowbrook Dr.....	\$61,000

SOUTHFIELD

17620 Gateway Cir.....	\$39,000
29480 Marshall St.....	\$65,000
30123 Rock Creek Dr.....	\$115,000
28117 Selkirk St.....	\$35,000
29041 Tiffany Dr W.....	\$45,000
5000 Town Ctr.....	\$42,000
18824 Webster Ave.....	\$105,000
18405 Westhampton Ave.....	\$23,000
17320 Westhampton Rd.....	\$123,000
20815 Winchester St.....	\$73,000

WHITE LAKE

231 Horizon Rd.....	\$98,000
658 Red Bank Dr.....	\$285,000

HOMES
apartments.com . HomeFinder

Homes

TY OWNERS
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A "Richhouse Remodel"
9060 Hanton, 48150
Open house Sun 1-4pm.
Move-in ready 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1266 sq ft. Ranch offers 2 car gar. w/ w/ new granite counters & birch cabinets. Updated baths. New plumbing, electrical & furnace. \$129,900.
Call Don 734-634-9463

TY OWNERS

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734-481-3321

Cemetery Lots

MAUSOLEUM CRYPT FOR SALE - Oakland Hill Cemetery, 12 Mile/Novi Rd. Pray level. \$8000/ea neg. 248-474-7827

Apartments

FARMINGTON HILLS
Maple Ridge
23078 Middlebelt Rd.
Spacious 2 bdrms, C/A. \$300 sec. 50% off 1st 3 mo. w/ approved credit.
(248) 473-5180

GARDEN CITY: Lg 1 & 2 bdrm, Appl., heat/water Free. \$560 & \$600 + security.
734-464-3847, 734-513-4965

REDFORD: 1 bdrm, fridge/stove & water incl. \$325/mo. + electric & sec deposit
(313) 254-3394

Condos/Townhouses

Dearborn/Melvindale: End unit condo. 2 bdrm, attached garage, like new. Bad credit may be okay. **248-224-6696**

TAYLOR: 2 bedroom. Available NOW. Like new. Bad credit may be okay. (248) 224-6696

Duplexes

LIVONIA: 2 bdrm, finished bsmt, garage, immaculate, carpet, all appls, a/c. Sec. dep. No pets. **734-231-5597**

Homes For Rent

DEARBORN HEIGHTS: 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, Crestwood Schools, \$1250/mo. (313) 580-5018

Homes For Rent

LIVONIA Schools: 3 bdrm, 2 car garage, c/a. Fully renovated, all new. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

WESTLAND: 2 Bdrm, fenced yard, 1.5 car gar. No appliances/pets. \$600/mo. \$900 security. (734) 722-4317

Mobile Home Rentals

SENIOR 55+ COMMUNITY
FARMINGTON HILLS
\$594⁹⁵/mo. Or Less
• 3 BDRM • 2 BATHS • 1140 SF • LARGER AND LESS EXPENSIVE THAN COMPARABLE APARTMENTS
Little Valley
248-231-0801 www.lvhomes.net

FARMINGTON HILLS OWN OR LEASE

\$575. OR LESS
• Site Rent Included
• 3 bdrm, 2 full baths
All Appl. • We Finance
• New & Pre-owned avail.
Little Valley
248-231-0801 www.lvhomes.net

Vacation Resort/Rentals

Sheridan Vistana Resort, Orlando, FL. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, sleeps 6. Oct. 14-21. \$900 **313-613-5874**

Rooms For Rent

CANTON: 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo to share with professional female. \$600/mo., utilities incl. Call: (248) 915-5946

Looking for a NEW home?

Be sure you look in your Observer & Eccentric Classified section for all the newest local listings!

SERVICES
hometownlife.com

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DJ'S BLACKTOP DRIVEWAYS
•Paving •Patch •Seal Coating
Free est. • www.djpaving.com
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Palmer Asphalt Seal Coating
Call 734-420-1631 for a free est. 10% off with mention of ad! Servicing since 1973!

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Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

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FAMILY ELECTRICAL
City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. **734-422-8080**

Handyman M/F

COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENT
Any Size Job. Licensed
Free Estimates. **734-259-5326**

Hauling/Clean Up

A-1 HAULING
Move scrap metal, clean basements, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/Oakland - Central location. 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

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Livonia, MI 48150
Driveways, garage floors, porches, awnings, railings, brick work.
We also build garages!
734-425-7966
Call today for a Free Estimate!

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SUNRISE BUILDING GROUP
734-425-0000
• Garages • Siding
• Additions • Dormers
• Cement work
All Home Improvements!
734-425-0000
Call today for a Free Estimate!

Hauling/Clean Up

Clean-up/Hauling Srv.
Cheap Rates! Garages, bsmts, attics. Free Est.
248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

Housecleaning

QUALITY CLEANING SERVICE
20 yrs. exp. Insured
Commercial & Residential.
Call Peggy: 734-751-2330

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COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACROUX SERVICES
Clean-ups, landscaping, grading, sodding, hydro-seeding, retaining walls, ins work, brick walks & patios. Drainage & lawn irrigation systems, low foundations built up. Weekly lawn maintenance. Haul away unwanted items. Comm. Res. 39 yrs exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est. www.lacrouxservices.com 248-489-5955, 248-521-8818

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Painting/Decorating Paperhangers

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• Wallpaper Removal •Int •Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair
•Staining. 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

QUALITY PAINTING

Thorough preparation, lather and son company for over 20 years. (248) 225-7165

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Leak • Roof Repairs
• Flashings • Valleys • Hail • Wind Damage • Ins Claims
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JOBS
builder.com

Help Wanted-General

ASSEMBLY
Start your NEW school year off right: dynamic manufacturer in Plymouth is looking to increase production staff! We are eager to train dependable, bright individuals who can demonstrate a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Entry level, full & part time - day-shift positions are available. High school diploma required. We WILL work around your school schedule. Competitive wages and a generous benefit package including 401(k), EOE. Please email your resume including salary requirements to: hr48170@yahoo.com

AUTO NEW CAR & TRUCK SALES
For an upscale Westside dealership. New car experience is a must. 401k, health and dental insurance, great pay plan. Please apply in person or email resume to bob@jeannotte.com Bob Jeannotte Buick-GMC Truck Plymouth, MI 48170

CARPET CLEANING ASSISTANTS
Needed for Westland and Troy locations. Must have good driving records, be able to pass drug test, great pay & benefits. Call: 734-260-1645

CONCRETE LABORER
Min 2 yrs exp w/valid driver's license \$10-\$11/hr; 50-55 hrs/wk. Call 313-928-1212

CUSTODIANS
Needed for local schools. \$9+/hr. to start. 2nd shift. Part-Time, Mon-Fri. with some weekends. Must have reliable transportation, pass FBI/state finger print/background check & drug screen. EOE. Apply online at: www.grbsinc.com

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A/F
Ameripius Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A
BRINKS Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.25	0.875	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.25	0.875	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	4	0.25	3.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.25	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.25	0.875	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	3.375	0	2.625	0.5	J/A/V/F

Above Information available as of 8/10/12 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.
Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.
All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032
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Challenging fun for ALL ages
Thursday PUZZLE CORNER
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Take hastily
 - 5 In good shape
 - 8 Fastidious
 - 12 Roulette color
 - 13 Victorian, e.g.
 - 14 Lhasa —
 - 15 Column support
 - 17 Very, informally
 - 18 Common Market, briefly
 - 19 Time of the mammals
 - 21 Like jokers, sometimes
 - 24 Puts up, as artwork
 - 26 Biscotto flavor
 - 28 Sault — Marie
 - 29 Plaything
 - 32 Win at rummy
 - 33 Start the day
 - 35 Vocalist —
 - 36 Dog days in Dijon
 - 37 Gallivant
 - 38 Mr. Spock's father
 - 40 Woody or Marcus
 - 42 Oxford tutors
 - 43 Rebel's foe
 - 46 Pro vote
 - 48 Walkie-talkie word
 - 49 Wasted (hyph.)
 - 54 Major — (steward)
 - 55 Gunk
 - 56 Southwest art colony
 - 57 In a while
 - 58 Sweetie pie
 - 59 Kind of pump

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NOV	PHIL	SHIM								
ABA	AERO	AIDA								
BOG	YESTER	DAY								
SEALED	SPA									
BEE	SHACK									
RIOT	RENO	LOA								
EON	CAROM	BAL								
BUD	AWED	WALE								
ASSET	ION									
LTD	UNKIND									
JELLY	ROLL	AAA								
FOIE	ANNE	NTH								
KEEN	BEAT	SOL								

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
		18			19	20				
21	22	23		24	25					
26				27	28			29	30	31
32				33	34				35	
36				37				38	39	
		40				41		42		
46	44	45			46	47				
48				49	50			51	52	53
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

- DOWN**
- 1 Econ. indicator
 - 2 Beluga delicacy
 - 3 Give a helping hand
 - 4 Engenders
 - 5 Command to a canine
 - 6 Rollover subj.
 - 7 Natural gifts
 - 8 DEA agents
 - 9 Touche provoker
 - 10 Big —
 - 11 Painted tinware
 - 16 Where GA is
 - 20 Curved moldings
 - 21 Compensation — for keeps
 - 22 Stripe
 - 25 All kidding —
 - 27 Silent flier
 - 29 Beginner
 - 30 Eclipse, to an ancient
 - 31 Tibetan oxen
 - 34 Elizabethan knight
 - 39 Customizes
 - 40 Tire center
 - 41 Parachute material
 - 43 Jedi master
 - 44 Home-products brand
 - 45 Verne's captain
 - 47 Einsteinium, in the lab
 - 50 London lav
 - 51 Perfume label word
 - 52 — de guerre
 - 53 Kitchen meas.

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU
Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

8	4			2				6
		2	6	3			1	4
3	1					8	9	2
5				6				7
				4			6	
2					3		8	
			1	9	4	6		
4	5			8				
6	8			7	5	9	4	

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — Boating

P	B	K	E	R	S	I	A	U	G	A	D	L	W	Y	
I	H	O	K	N	S	R	O	X	G	C	A	H	I	G	H
X	R	N	A	M	I	T	O	H	G	E	J	F	R	X	
X	J	F	V	T	R	G	A	L	W	L	M	E	K	N	
M	L	C	A	G	R	F	N	R	S	I	R	V	C	V	
R	V	Y	R	E	Z	K	O	E	B	O	C	E	O	C	
T	S	K	Y	G	O	E	C	A	T	O	N	S	D	M	
S	B	L	T	O	E	L	E	O	X	W	A	T	E	B	
H	S	Q	L	S	V	S	M	M	G	X	O	R	J	R	
I	T	Z	R	E	Y	O	U	B	D	J	K	U	D	R	
P	Y	X	S	H	Y	P	T	Y	T	E	F	A	S	O	
H	M	S	K	I	A	J	V	D	E	O	U	A	N	H	
H	E	P	O	R	T	Q	F	M	V	K	I	V	N	C	
L	L	T	A	K	L	X	I	H	T	L	A	O	Z	N	
Z	B	S	P	D	U	D	T	P	U	I	U	L	A	A	

anchor dock life vest safety ship
boat engine motor sail starboard
buoy lake port sea vessel

Sudoku
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

8	4	5	2	1	6	9	3	7
1	7	2	9	8	3	5	6	4
8	9	4	6	1	3	2	7	5
4	5	3	1	7	6	9	2	8
6	9	3	2	8	5	4	7	1
1	2	7	8	9	4	6	3	5
2	7	6	2	5	3	4	9	8
2	7	1	4	8	3	6	5	2
3	6	8	7	1	4	5	9	3

Word Search
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

0800781999

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted-General

HVAC TECHNICIAN/INSTALLER
5 yrs. minimum exp. Residential/Light Commercial. Fax resume: 734-525-7439

Lawn and Landscape
Farmington Hills based company hiring for landscape and lawn laborers and supervisors, turf, tree & shrub techs and supervisors. Competitive wages based on skill and exp. benefits available.
Call (248) 474-7403 or email humanresources@greenlawngroup.com

LAWN CARE LABORERS:
Westland area. MUST HAVE min. 3 yrs. exp. Full or part-time available. (734) 891-8994

Help Wanted-General

PURCHASING
Full-Time position open in Sterling Heights. Position includes quoting and purchasing electrical equipment & lighting for commercial projects. College degree required.
Call: 586-843-2313

TRAVELING CLEANER
Must have reliable transportation within 90 miles of home. Pass background check. \$10/hr. plus paid travel time, bonus mileage. Second shift Mon-Fri. E.O.E. Call our HR Hotline for IMMEDIATE consideration: 800-410-1181

Help Wanted-Medical

EXP MEDICAL ASSISTANT
2-3/yr. min exp. GI drs. office. Farmington Hills area. Fax resume to: 248.471.8904

MEDICAL BILLER
Full-time position available in busy pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Exp. in coding and charge entry, minimum 3 years exp. Excellent wage and benefit package. Mon-Fri day shift, no holidays or weekends.
Send resume via fax: ATTN: HR Mgr. 734-995-4366 or e-mail to: debk@michiganpainspecialists.com

RN
FT position available in busy pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Experience w/ recovery or critical care background preferred. Excellent wage & benefit package. Clinic hours are M-F, day shift. No holidays or weekends.
Send resume via fax: ATTN: HR Mgr. 734-995-4366 or e-mail to: debk@michiganpainspecialists.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage

FOOD SERVICE: CATERING SUPERVISORS
Dining Services Management Company has immediate openings for a Full/Part-time Catering Supervisor and a Part-time "Fine Dining" Catering Supervisor at a Detroit College/Conference Center. Minimum 3 years catering experience required. Fine dining experience a plus. Must be an innovative, self-starter who is creative with strong organizational skills. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Friendly, energetic, customer service oriented individuals need only to apply.
Please forward resume: sales@ovalions.diningservices.com

Work on Mackinac Island - Make lifelong friends.
The Island House Hotel and Ryba's Fudge Shops are looking for help in all areas through October: Front Desk, Bell Staff, Wait Staff, Sales Clerks, Kitchen, Baristas, Housing, bonus, and discounted meals. 906-847-7196 www.theislandhouse.com

Help Wanted-Domestic

CAREGIVER WANTED:
24 hr. shift. \$100. Livonia. References required. 734-591-9288

Position Wanted

TREASURE HOMECARE: Over 15 yrs exp. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for our clients. 313-895-5927

Household Goods

FORMAL DINING: Bernhardt, Thomasville. Lg china, server, table, 2 ext., 8 chairs. Formal gold top coffee table, dark gold, lg gold mirror. All estate, call: 586-574-9037

HUTCH 2 pc. oak. Top is glass & lighted. Storage on each side w/3 drawers in between. \$200. 248-887-7352

NEED NEW CARPET?
Call The Carpet Guys and save up to 50% when you shop from home all this week! www.CarpetGuysOnline.com (800) 375-7847

DAK TABLE
With leaf & 4 chairs. Very nice. Exc. cond. Paid \$2000. Asking \$500. 734-680-6100

TABLE, dropleaf, solid oak, 2 ladderback chairs. Great for a breakfast nook or dining table for 2. \$50. 248-851-6221

Estate Sales

FARMINGTON HILLS: 8/17-8/18, 9-3pm. Stamen Acres, 3159 Rocky Crest Rd., off Orchard Lk Rd, btwn 10/11 Mile. Ranch home also for sale, dining rm set, bookcases, end tables, desk, chairs, entertainment center/TV, lamps, rocker, dryer, oven/stove, records/turn tables, books, Tupperware, Pyrex, yard tools, etc.: insulators, typewriters, wall art, luggage, file cabinet, household, vintage, Christmas.

PLYMOUTH ESTATE SALE: 8:30-5 Thur, Aug 16 - Sun, Aug 19. Items include a C-8 Gibson guitar and a vintage 8mm movie camera. Other items include collectibles, furniture, glassware, crystal & more. 311 N. HOLBROOK. Come early for best selection!

SOUTH LYON ESTATE SALE: Aug. 16-18, 10:30am-6pm. 11831 Shenandoah Drive, Centennial Farm. Living room, dining room & bdrm furniture.

SOUTH LYON ESTATE SALE: Thurs-Sat, 9-5pm. Dishes, household goods, furniture, tools, everything must go! 25234 Potomac Dr., Heritage & Pontiac Trail.

Garage/Moving Sales

CANTON - ESTATE SALE
August 16-18, 9am-4pm. 7348 Green Meadow Lane, Covos of Canton, Warren & Lilley.

CANTON HUGE GARAGE SALE! Thurs., 8/16 - Fri., 8/17. 326 Country Club Lane. Everything priced to sell! Household, toys, lawn mower, furniture, even a Honda Shadow VTX and more! No early birds please!

CANTON: Garage Sale.
Aug. 17-18, 9-4pm. Furniture, appliances, riding lawnmower & other items. 51164 High Meadow Crossing, W. of Ridge, off Cherry Hill.

GARDEN CITY: Furniture, household items & more. 6215 Central, Apt. 9, 48135. Mon, Aug. 20, 10-6. Cash Only. 313-687-3301

LIVONIA - ESTATE SALE Aug. 16, 17, 18, 9am-5pm. 29705 Robert Dr. Railroad Memorabilia, Tools, Craft Supplies, few Antiques, Holiday, Household and More!

LIVONIA - St. Paul's Mom 2 Mom Sale: Sat. Aug. 18, 9am-1pm. 27475 S. Mile Rd. Gently used & new children's clothing, toys, furniture, etc.

LIVONIA - TEACHER'S SALE Fri. & Sat. 9-5pm. All subjects, books & more! Pre-K-4th Grade. 28604 Sunnydale, N of 5 Mile, E of Middlebelt.

LIVONIA Sacred Heart Church Garage Sale - 29125 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia (east of Middlebelt). Thousands of items, low prices! Fri., 9am-5pm., Sat., 9am-3pm.

LIVONIA - Mega sale! 16800 Bell Creek Ln., Aug 17 & 18, 9-6pm. Collectibles (1970s pinball machines: Valley Wizard, Captain Fantastic; Habersham armoire (Monet series), Majolica pedestal Jardiniere matching set), furniture, Christmas, floral, etc.

LIVONIA-Huge Multi-Family! Furniture, household items, crystal & decorating accessories. 37750 Pickford Dr. Aug. 17-18, 8am-7

LIVONIA: Huge Multi-Family Sale! Thurs-Sat, 9am-6pm. 37491 Myrna, off Newburgh btwn 5 & 6 Mile. Misc. household, furniture & lots more!

LIVONIA: Thurs-Sat., Aug. 16-18, 9-4pm. 36536 Munger Court, 6 Mile & Newburgh. Household items, kid's toys & sport's equip.

MILFORD: Moving, everything must go! Bargains! Martindale, btwn Dawson & GM Roads. Aug. 16-18, 8am-5pm.

NOVI Sale at 26200 Taft Rd. Novi, MI. Friday and Saturday, 9am-5pm. Records, Boxed CD sets, Kitchen Tables, ceiling fans and misc.

NOVI: Annual Yard Sale! Old Orchard Condominiums, 10 Mile & Haggerty Rd. Sat., Aug. 18th, 8am-4pm. Rain day Sun. Aug. 19th, 8am-4pm.

PLYMOUTH BARN SALE: Sponsored by Plymouth Garden Club, 30+ families participating. Aug 16-18, 9-5pm. Behind 9445 Bradford Ct.

PLYMOUTH POINTE CONDO COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE Fri Aug 24th, Sat Aug 25th, 9-4pm. North Territorial & Ridge Rd

Help Wanted-General

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email: phoneworkinfo@aol.com

DIETARY SERVERS for American House Senior Living in Livonia. Apply within btwn 9-4 at: 11525 Farmington Rd.

DIRECT CARE
For DD residents. Prefer exp. & MCRC Training. Must have good driving record. Fax resume: 248-478-8620

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland. (734) 722-4580 x9

DOOR TO DOOR SALES
\$9+ commission. Mulligan Home Improvement. 248-477-5900

DRIVER - FULL TIME
40 hrs week, \$10/hr. Must be able to live 50 lbs, have good driving record, be able to pass drug screen & DOT physical, and be able to get Chauffeur's license. Apply in person: 8975 W 7 Mile Rd. Northville MI 48167

FLORAL DESIGNER:
Creative, skilled, part-time flexible hours. Call: (313) 937-3858

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE LABORERS:
Part-time mornings, \$8.25/hr. Apply in person, Brae Burn Golf Club in Plymouth.

HVAC Service Technicians
Or installers & Residential Journeyman Electricians, experience needed.

Better Working Conditions
• Better Pay
• Better Benefits
• Full-Time Work Year Round (3 LOCATIONS)
FAMILY HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRICAL INC
Main office: (734) 422-8080

MATERIAL HANDLERS/ FORKLIFF DRIVERS
Can you lift up to 50 lbs? Or do you have forklift experience? If so, we want you to join our team! We need sit-down forklift drivers, cherry pickers, reach truck drivers, and electric and manual pallet jack operators. Certification a plus! Select Staffing not only has the best job opportunities available in today's growing job market, but we also offer such support services as a 24-hour hotline, software training, flexible hours, exceptional pay rates, and career coaching. Full-time, employee benefits include health insurance and safety incentives. Apply Today! www.wegpeople.com

MORTGAGE PROCESSOR
For Farmington Hills 37 yr. established broker. Must communicate with applicant & process loan from start to finish. Exc. compensation for qualified individual. Call Howard: 248-848-0999 x14

OPTICAL DISPENSER/SALES:
Part-time flexible hours, exp. required, \$9/hr. to start. Send resume: visioneyesonyou@hotmail.com

OPTICIAN & Medical Billing
Plymouth, flex time Exp necessary. Fax resume to: 734-453-4640

PAINTERS NEEDED
Looking for exp'd painters & apprentices. Benefits await. Driver's license & own transportation required. Email: akonis828@gmail.com or call Greg: 248-684-8592

PLUMBER - Exp'd
New Construction Commercial. Reliable transportation. Email resume ostlundplumbing@aol.com Westland- 734-729-1300

Reach even more potential employees with an O&E Recruitment Package!
For details call 1-800-579-7355

TRUCK DRIVER
Full-Time
Novi Distributor seeks driver for local & metropolitan area. General hrs. are 6:30am-5pm, Mon-Fri. Includes some order picking, loading & unloading trucks. Must have clean driving record.
Call: 586-843-2303

WAREHOUSE Part-Time
Entry level stock work, customer service, and lighting display work position at Novi distributor. Will Train. Hours include Saturdays & some weekdays & evenings.
Call: 586-843-2303

WAREHOUSEMAN/ SWING DRIVER
Need Class A license. rsass@cdcdist.com

Help Wanted-Office Clerical

RECEPTIONIST
Get out of the house & make a few \$\$ Retirees Welcome. Real Estate a Must. Email: dmz@remsrealstate.com or call: 313-387-1275

SECRETARIAL FULL-TIME
APR/AR Manual Bookkeeping. Must have office exp. MUST APPLY IN PERSON: Brose Electrical 37400 W. 7 Mile Livonia. (734) 464-2211

RN, LPN or MA
With Experience, needed for GROWING dermatology practice in Ann Arbor/ Plymouth area. Full-Time, excellent pay & benefits.
Email or Fax Resume to: a2derm@aol.com (734) 996-8767

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage

Bar/Waitstaff & Cooks.
Exp. required. Apply in person: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville.

DINING ROOM SERVER Part-Time
at retirement community. Apply within: 37501 Joy Rd. Westland, MI 48185 EOE

Help Wanted-Sales

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives for the below territories:
• Farmington area
If you who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales and can think big to take their place as part of our Advertising team with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, South Lyon Herald, Novi News, Northville Record and Midford Times.
• College degree or equivalent work experience in field sales.
• Proven sales track record.
• Have impeccable communication skills.
• Outstanding computer skills.
We offer base + commission and benefits in a work environment that is stimulating and fast-paced along with opportunities for career growth with Gannett Co. Inc.
Email resumes to: idranginis@hometownlife.com Attn: Sales EEOC

BUY & SELL
hometownlife.com

Personals

LOOKING FOR THE WOMAN
Who was requesting information about Catherine Favor in 2000. Please contact: (360) 850-2971

Antiques/Collectibles

UTICA ANTIQUES Market
Largest outdoor market in SE Michigan. Come shop/sell Sept 8 & 9! 586-254-3495

Household Goods

BDRM SET- Girls Twin, maple, incl matching desk w/hutch & chair. Iron head/foot board. Complete \$250. 248-345-0208

DINING ROOM SET - OAK:
4x4x60, 2 leaves, small buffet, 4 chairs, \$250. Oak bdrm set, queen bed, dresser, mirror, armoire, 1 nightstand, \$200. Call: (248) 887-6583

DINING ROOM SET-
Unique, wroomy chestnut. Incl 6 chairs, 2 seats, and buffet. Table measures 72". \$1500. 248-330-4173

Appliances

STOVE, Smooth Top, GE Electric, white. Good condition. \$70. 248-752-5899

Sporting Goods

GOLF CLUBS - MEN'S: Adam's A012 irons 4, 5, 6 hybrid, 7 though gap wedge, like new, \$285. Call: (248) 437-9414

Cats

KITTENS & CATS - RESCUES
Fixed, need loving homes. 248-738-4901, 248-214-9898

Lost - Pets

DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR BIG CAT last seen in Farmington Hills on 7/29. Grey & black stripes with big ears. Reward if found. Troy 313-529-6902 or Sandy 313-482-6969

Auction Sales

The SUPER AUCTION
Be There

Pottery (400 Pieces) • Huge Toy Collections incl Star Wars, Robots, G1 Transformers, Lionel Trains, Cast Iron, Tin Litho, Tonka, • Gold & Silver Coins • Gun Collection • Rare Vintage Baseball Cards • Arcade Games • Comics • 1931 Oakland Sedan • 1952 Harley Davidson Motorcycle • Jewelry • Military • Police Badges • Bronzes • Sterling • Banks and More!

Saturday, Aug. 25th, 2012 @ 10:00 AM
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds 5055 Ann Arbor - Saline Rd Ann Arbor, Michigan
3 Rings per hour
Complete details with pics @ TheSuperAuction.net

Education/Instruction

PIANO LESSONS
In my Garden City home. \$20 per 1/2 hr weekly lesson. Annual spring recital plus 4 performances, no additional fees. 734-421-8784
www.sparkworksanddesigns.com/novmusicmusic.htm

Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL FRONT DESK HELP
2-3 days with possibility of more hrs. Some evenings. Dentrix knowledge a must. Ortho billing helpful. Fax Resume: 734-522-6937

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Plymouth Dental office seeking person Thursdays only. 8:30-5pm. Call 734-459-9360

Reach even more potential employees with an Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Recruitment Package!
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www.sparkworksanddesigns.com/novmusicmusic.htm

DINING SET, 9 pc dark wood, cane back chairs newly reupholstered w/pads. \$150/best. 734-432-5974

DINING SET, Ash, Table, 6 Chairs, Buffet, China & Cerio Cabinets, 11 pcs. Exc. cond. \$1200. 313-563-8998

DINING TABLE: 6 chairs, china cabinet, sofa, love seat, cherry end tables, lamps & lawn tractor. Call: 248-685-2510

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Garage Sales
hometownlife.com

Home Sale/ Flea Market

GARDEN CITY: Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage Sale. 1841 Middlebelt Rd. S. of Ford. Aug. 16-18, Thurs. & Fri., 9-5pm. Sat., 9-2pm.

CASH IN WITH CLASSIFIEDS
1-800-579-SELL

Estate Sales

WEST BLOOMFIELD: Estate/Moving Sale-Over 10,000 items. Antiques, antique bedroom set, furniture, high-end art, electronics, computers, men's new & lightly used clothes L, XL & 2X, leather goods, household items, fine china Wedgewood, Waterford Crystal, Ralph Lauren dishes, jewelry & more. Thurs-Sun, Aug. 16-19, 10am-dusk 7538 Greenway Lane 48324 Birchwood Park Sub., off S. Commerce & Keith.

NOVI: Annual Yard Sale!
Old Orchard Condominiums, 10 Mile & Haggerty Rd. Sat., Aug. 18th, 8am-4pm. Rain day Sun. Aug. 19th, 8am-4pm.

PLYMOUTH BARN SALE:
Sponsored by Plymouth Garden Club, 30+ families participating. Aug 16-18, 9-5pm. Behind 9445 Bradford Ct.

PLYMOUTH POINTE CONDO COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE Fri Aug 24th, Sat Aug 25th, 9-4pm. North Territorial & Ridge Rd

Angela Hospice
734-464-7810
www.angelahospice.org
14100 Newburgh Rd. Livonia, MI 48154

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Garage/Moving Sales

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REDFORD - Exercise equip. housewares, electronics, tools, table & chairs, crystal & more! 16967 Kinloch; S of 6, E of Inkster. 8/16-8/18, 8-5pm.

REDFORD - Garage Sale Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 9-5pm. Tools & more. 19393 Seminole.

REDFORD-BIG GARAGE SALE 19473 Glenmore, Redford, MI 48240. Thurs-Sat., 8/16/12 to 8/18/12, 9am-5pm.

REDFORD: Interesting Sale. Many antiques, 1912 Titanic Picture, etc. Furniture, organ, Fri-Sun. Aug 17-19 9-5. 15564 Centralia. 5 Mile/Beech

SOUTH LYON MOVING SALE! Aug. 16-18, 9-5pm. Furniture, large glass coffee table, tools, pictures, dresser, chest of drawers, metal desk, lamps, leather recliner, 2 rockers, 1 ottoman, toys & men's 26 inch bicycle. 25861 Lexington Dr. #5 in Colonial Acres.

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WESTLAND - 290 Stephanie. Aug 17-18, 10am-5pm. Baby items, infant boy clothing, women's clothing & more.

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DODGE RAM 1500 2004 Hemi, ext cab, black. Must see! Only \$11,995 \$12,795

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GMC SIERRA 2009 Ext cab, 2500, w/plow, 37K, gray. \$23,995

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GMC SIERRA SL 2009 W/T, 41K, Ext Cab, 4x4, Red. \$21,995

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CHEVROLET VENTURE 2003 Bright White! PL, CD & Cloth! Comes With Warranty! Reduced to \$6995!

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Vans

DODGE RAM 3500 2000 Wheelchair lift, high-top, low miles, \$4200.

FORD ECONOLINE E-250 2011 P21467-Commercial. \$19,988

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Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE CXS 2009 Silver, Loaded, 42K. \$29,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CHEVY SUBURBAN SLT 2005 Pewter, Very Nice, 87K, \$15,995

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CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 2002 12C9426A - 4 WD, 4 dr, Red. \$9,988

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BMW 650 I Sport 2007 Sport, Black, 40K. RARE! \$35,495

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BMW X5 2007 Galaxy Gray, 3.0s, leather, AWD, chrome! Luxury meets durability! Only \$28,955!

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PONTIAC TORRENT 2008 Phantom Black, remote start & certified! SUV excitement! Only \$15,899!

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07 AWD 2008 49K, Tan, Only \$30,675

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LACROSSE CXS 2011 27K, Silver, loaded, \$29,995

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LESABRE 2000 Cocoon brown, alloys, and leather! Climb in... get comfortable! Just \$7,995!

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Buick

LUCERNE CXL 2007 White, leather, very nice \$13,995

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RENEVOUS 2005 CX, brown 78K, very nice \$10,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

Cadillac

SRX LUXURY 2011 Black, loaded, 21K, like new! \$31,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

Chevrolet

AVEO 2008 Red Pepper, L.S., alloys, & power options! GM certified! Only \$8995!

Lou LaRiche (888-372-9836)

AVEO SLT HATCHBACK 2008 4 Dr., air, alarm, auto, pl cruise, CD, anti-lock brakes, pw, full service history, 1 owner, ps, am-fm stereo, 8500 miles. Excellent. We are taking our 89 year old mother off the road! \$11,000.

CHEVROLET CORVETTE 1998 White hot, leather and convertible! Chevy Muscle! Just \$19,499!

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IMPALA 2010 LTI Silver, 26K, Cert. \$15,600

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IMPALA LS 2007 12C8482B - 4 dr, sedan, Burgundy. \$8,998

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IMPALA LT 2002 Black, sharp. Only 79K. \$7,995

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IMPALA LT 2008 12T3200A - 4 dr, sedan, 3.5L, \$13,988

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MALIBU 2010 Raven Black, LTZ, leather, and sunroof! Confidence in the Ride! Only \$18,686!

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MONTE CARLO 2006 Victory Red, leather, sunroof, and remote start! Super Sport muscle! Only \$16,995!

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TRaverse 2009 Blue Haze, LT, ABS, and OnStar! Adventure awaits! Reduced to \$20,987!

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ENCLAVE 2009 CXL, White, AWD, Loaded, Only \$23,995

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Lou LaRiche (888-372-9836)

LACROSSE CXS 2011 27K, Silver, loaded, \$29,995

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CHARGER 2010 Gray, 31K. \$17,995

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Ford

FORD FLEX SEL 2009 FWD, Ice Blue, Very Nice, \$20,495

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FUSION SE 2011 V6, blue, 32K. Best buy \$16,495

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TAURUS SE 2006 White, looks and runs great! \$6995

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GMC

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TERRAIN 2011 - SLT1 Silver, FWD, 22K, Only \$27,349

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Meet The Builder, Friday-Sunday August 17-19, Noon - 5 p.m.

**Tony Scappaticci,
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See our two New Ranch Models and enjoy Maintenance Free Living to its fullest at Golf Ridge Villa Homes.

Meet Tony Scappaticci, our builder and discover why our homebuyers appreciate working with him. He takes personal pride in all aspects of the building process. Tony has been designing, developing and building new single-family homes, condominiums and apartments in the Detroit area for over 35 years.

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So enjoy fun food, meet Tony and see our two new ranch models at beautiful Golf Ridge Villa Homes.



The Exterior...

- Dramatic site amenities
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- First floor master suites with luxurious bathrooms
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Sample fine food, wine at culinary extravaganza

The Schoolcraft College Foundation presents the 21st annual Culinary Extravaganza from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23 at the VisTaTech Center on the Livonia campus.

Tickets are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution). The premier food and event highlights the culinary talents of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors. Guests can sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food/beverage stations, a silent auction, raffle prizes and seminars on wine-tasting and healthy foods (presented by master chef Jeff Gabriel).

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant - The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Township; Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay;

Black Tulip Grille, Wixom; Dream Cakes, Commerce Township; Something Chocolate, Birmingham; Steve & Rocky's, Novi; The Sardine Room, Plymouth; Zumba Mexican Grille, Royal Oak and more.

Raffle prizes include: \$1,000 cash (grand prize); \$500 cash (second prize) and \$250 cash (third and fourth prize). Dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant rounds out the fifth, sixth and seventh raffle prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Schoolcraft College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization providing scholarships for students, including those in the college's renowned culinary arts program.

To purchase tickets and learn more about sponsorships call (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

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DREAM CRUISE IS
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Great cars with classic styling will be on display at the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise.

Dream Cruise ready to roll: Classic cars, special events on tap

Auto enthusiasts near and far are ready for Saturday's annual Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise, the self-proclaimed world's largest car event.

The Woodward Dream Cruise, the world's largest one-day automotive event, celebrates 18 years Aug. 18 and expects to see car enthusiasts from all over the globe for a day of cruising, reminiscing and ogling of old classics and new hot rods.

Cruise events

There will be plenty of things for people to do on Saturday at Memorial Park in Royal Oak, or what Woodward Dream Cruise President Greg Rassel calls "ground zero" for the event.

The park will be hosting a classic car show as well as featuring several vendor and automotive displays.

On Dream Cruise morning, Shrine Catholic High School will host the inaugural Cruise in Shoes 5K run/walk on Woodward Avenue.

In Berkley, cruise celebrations begin on Aug. 17 with the official Classic Car Parade of the Woodward Dream Cruise on

12 Mile Road, a Young Adult Street Dance, live entertainment and children's activities.

Westborn Market on Woodward Avenue also gets into the act Friday night with its annual Champagne Cruise to benefit Forgotten Harvest. The event typically has more than 500 attendees and has raised more than \$1 million for the nonprofit since it began in 2003.

The city of Birmingham is back as an official member of Woodward Dream Cruise Inc. after a three-year hiatus that was due to construction projects in the city and a lack of money coming back to the members from sponsorships.

The city's cruise day events include a classic car show for vehicles 1970s and older on South Old Woodward, a Chevrolet display with an employee car show, live entertainment and interactive displays, and WCSX-FM (94.7) will be broadcasting live on Bowers Street.

For up-to-date information on the Woodward Dream Cruise and events leading up to the cruise, visit www.woodwarddreamcruise.com.



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Sudoku

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	2	7	5		4	8		6
	6		2		8		3	4
		8	9	1				
3	1							5
	4		7					
	5			9	2			
		4						9
1	7			4				
2			8		6			5

Level: Beginner

				8		5		
				2		6		
7	5		4		9			
					8			
		8	5	7	3	2		
							8	4
	6	9				3		
	3		2				7	
1								6

Level: Intermediate

		2	1					4
	9		6					
8		1	3					6
	3		9		5		2	8
7	5			8			1	9
					1			
	2	7				6		
5			4					

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 10

PAVERS

Continued from page 7

In the front yard, homeowners want curb appeal and are using similar materials that are being used in the backyard, contractors said.

"I'm doing a lot of driveways now. People are not waiting to make these repairs anymore. Some people living in a 25-year-old home are ready for an update," Oprita said.

Stamped concrete is a popular choice, as well as stone aggregate, and can give a home an impressive appearance from the street.

Brick pavers

Driveways are being expanded slightly, with some using brick pavers for borders on each side of the drives, allowing for two cars to park comfortably and open doors without the dings. Most driveways were built 16 feet wide. The extra 2-foot-wide borders make a comfortable 20-foot driveway.

Linear sidewalks are being rebuilt with attractive curves and rounded front porches using the same material as the driveway.

Cost-wise, stamped concrete is cheaper than stone aggregate and stone aggregate is cheaper than brick pavers.

Contractors said price is varied. People are spending between \$3,000 to \$10,000 on stamped concrete and stone aggregate for patios, sidewalks and driveways.

Brick pavers cost about \$12 per square foot installed and can range up to \$65 per square foot for natural stone. The cost for all materials is dependent on many factors, such as prep work and grade level.

Joseph Capaldi of Capaldi Construction said asphalt is a cheaper option for driveways needing repair and can last a long time if properly built. The key is to make sure the contractor does the necessary prep work. Just putting a layer of asphalt over an old cracked surface is not going to last long. An underlying Petromat or fabric, costing about \$3 per square foot, will add a moisture barrier, preventing the cold and hot weather from fracturing the asphalt, he said.



Epoxy technique

Homeowners are adding space by making garages livable and one way they are doing that is with epoxy flooring.

The polished concrete is basically a glue product. A two-part activator is mixed and hardens, giving the top coating a decorative surface that is high in durability and prevents any type of mold or mildew.

"It not only looks cool, you can mop up your garage," said Joseph Capaldi of Capaldi Construction.

It's slip resistant and doesn't crack.

Various colors and flakes are available, with the most popular ones being shades of blue and black on a grey base or a mix of tan colors, he said.

It's great for big families or people with children or grandchildren, allowing an extra area for toys, or for holiday gathering spaces. Some people have installed bars, flat-screen TVs and bathrooms in garages with the epoxy flooring, Capaldi said.

And you can park your car on top of it, too. Grease and mud can be wiped off easily.

An epoxy floor can be installed for \$1,000 to \$1,800.

"People are using this on porches and in basements," he said.

Prepping the garage floor is a huge part of making sure the epoxy is properly installed. Poly-washing and degreasing are necessary for the epoxy to seal. Most contractors include that in the price of the job.

— By Valerie Olander

Christmas in July winner



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rebecca Gillespie of Livonia won the grand prize in the Hometown Life INSPIRE 'Christmas in July' contest. Rebecca and Kevin, along with their 3-month-old daughter Sarah (appropriately dressed in a holiday outfit), were presented with the \$250 prize last week. Rebecca said that she found the icon search challenging, but fun. She had her husband double-check her work to ensure that she did not miss any of the holiday icons placed throughout the section. Other prize winners (not pictured) are Norman Williamson of South Lyon (second prize, \$175) and JorJan Allen of Redford (third prize, \$75). More than 750 people entered the contest by mail or online. The winners were selected in a random drawing of all entries that correctly identified pages on which the holiday icon appeared.

Pets eat the darndest things

By Dr. Carrie Tokar, DVM
Guest Columnist

Do you own one of "those" dogs or cats? I mean, one that likes to eat anything and everything, food-based or otherwise?

Some pets just don't seem content with their own food. My first experience with this behavior was with my childhood dog, Czechers. He was a Dalmatian who liked to ingest clothing. If a sock or personal undergarment went missing, eventually the mystery would be solved as it made its way out of his digestive tract, one way or the other. Fortunately, he never required medical or surgical intervention.

The first dog I owned as an adult, JJ,

was not so lucky. He was a doberman who took every opportunity to get into something he shouldn't. When he was only six months old, he raided a moving box full of clothes. He successfully vomited four dress socks, but the athletic sock didn't budge and caused an intestinal obstruction. I worked at an emergency clinic at the time, and at 4 a.m. I performed his first and thankfully last foreign body removal surgery.

I diligently tried to keep inedible objects out of his reach, but it wasn't easy. For example, the day I brought my first daughter home from the hospital, I let JJ get used to her scent by leaving him alone with her baby hat. In the midst of all the excitement (or exhaustion), I didn't realize he consumed the hat until I found it in the backyard in a pile of vomit. Throughout my 14 years in practice, I have sur-

Please see VET, 10

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Source: Bill & Rod's Appliance



By Mary Quinley
Contributing Writer

Thinking about updating your kitchen, but not too sure what's hot and trendy in the color world of cabinets, countertops and appliances? Not to worry. We asked local experts to share their expertise. Here's what they said.

Cabinets

For starters, pick your cabinets before choosing a countertop. One color option in cabinets is cherry, a classic, rich-looking dark wood that works best in a larger size kitchen, says Joseph Capaldi, owner of Capaldi Construction. Homeowners with smaller kitchens often choose a shade of oak. Most of Capaldi's customers who choose oak prefer the unstained finish.

Maple is lighter than oak. It doesn't have the distinct wood grain that the oak brings out, Capaldi said, but it's very durable.

Some consumers are requesting corner cabinets be placed six inches higher than the cabinet next to it. The demand for glass fronts has lessened, except in custom homes where cabinets are installed in formal dining rooms. Capaldi has worked for homeowners who wanted their kitchen cabinets removed — providing there was ample counter space — and a pantry installed. "It's kind of a new trend with a walk-in closet or storage area," he said.

When Justin Sharer, owner and creative director of Sharer Design Group in Plymouth, designs smaller kitchens, he uses "painted white or Lancaster white (an off-white) to keep the kitchen bright." His customers also request medium to dark stained wood, i.e., alder, maple or cherry.

Sharer explained two popular cabinet styles — a shaker door with a simple molding for a transitional style



and, for a contemporary look, a slab panel door style with kerfs (grooves) cut into the door for added dimension.

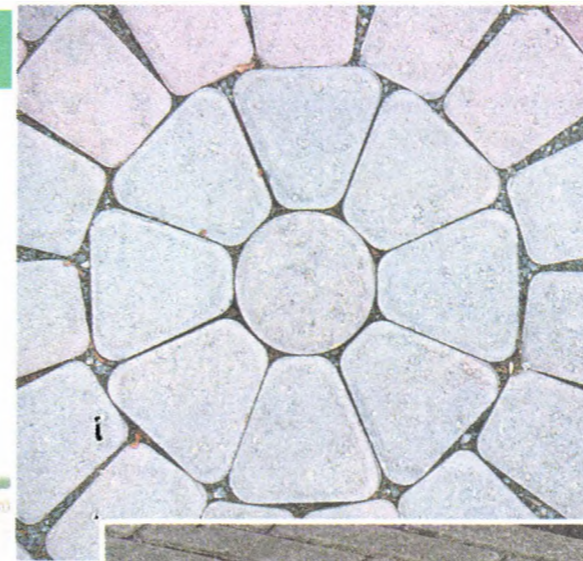
Knobs and handles are both very popular for cabinet hardware, Sharer said. Polished nickel and brushed nickel are favorite finishes for square-shaped knobs with a classic square-shaped handle.

Countertops

People are surprised when Entela Sulollari, owner of Granite City in Livonia, tells them the pricing for granite. "Granite is very affordable. Prices start at about \$30 per square foot," she said.

There are lots of pluses to installing a granite countertop. Granite is durable and fixable, there are almost 4,000 choices of colors and the upkeep is easy, Sulollari said.

Please see KITCHENS, 10



Pavers, stamped concrete create curb appeal

By Valerie Olander
Contributing Writer

Homeowners are sprucing up yards — front and back — to create an outdoor patio paradise or an inviting entranceway with curb appeal by using stamped concrete, brick pavers and exposed aggregate on driveways, sidewalks and porches. "People have only so many months of nice weather, so they want something they can enjoy outdoors," said Gerry Vento of Vento Decorative Concrete in Livonia.

The standard square concrete slab patios typical of older homes are being replaced with elegant stamped concrete and/or brick pavers, allowing for different look and feel for a backyard utopia, he said.

Stamped concrete comes in 30 different designs, which can look like more expensive brick pavers. Pigment dyes allow for any color imaginable. The concrete is reinforced with wire and steel mesh and lasts a lifetime in Michigan's ever-changing weather conditions, he said.

Wood decks are being replaced with raised patios of stamp concrete, too, requiring much less maintenance, said George Oprita of Elegant Stamped Concrete.

Wood decks tend to need annual staining and often need replacement boards as the wood ages, gets weak and brittle. Wood also becomes attractive havens for bees, wasps and other critters.

Stamped concrete

"Stamped concrete is basically maintenance-free and can be made to look like more expensive brick pavers," Oprita said.

Contractors say business is on the uptick this year as homeowners frustrated with low home values are staying put, investing in home improvements and adding livable space outdoors.

Eric Lloyd of Serene Surroundings in Plymouth said brick pavers and natural stone are among popular choices.

"People want outdoor fire pits, enclosures and outdoor pizza ovens. It really becomes an extra room, an expanded living space," Lloyd said.

Landscaping creates a relaxing paradise feel for a backyard getaway, he said. Another benefit is that the outdoor "room" does not add to the taxable assessed value like a structural addition would, Lloyd said.

Exposed aggregate is another popular material for patios, porches, driveways and sidewalks. The pebble-look comes in various colors and is sanded down to a smooth surface.

Please see PAVERS, 8



Eric Lloyd of Serene Surroundings provided these examples of how recent projects help enhance curb appeal at two homes. Brick pavers and fresh landscaping provide a finished look to this Plymouth home, above. (Before is at right.)



Stamped concrete adds texture and design to this special patio and fireplace at a home in Ann Arbor. Both projects are the work of Serene Surroundings on York Street in Plymouth. (Before is at left.)

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VET

Continued from page 6

gically removed several gastrointestinal foreign bodies from dogs (including carpet, corn cobs, golf balls, pacifiers, rocks, coins and toys). My most memorable surgery was removing a whole 13- x 9-inch broken Pyrex dish from a dog's stomach. Apparently, the freshly-baked cinnamon buns in the dish were not enough to appease this dog's appetite.

The curious nature of cats can lead to foreign body ingestion also. I have removed several sewing needles and yarn from cats. I once removed 14 ponytail holders from a cat's stomach. The owner was aware that the cat played with them, but didn't know he was eating them.

Statistically, young adult dogs and cats are more prone to abnormal ingestions, but pets don't always read the textbook and some never outgrow this behavior. Daisy, an American bulldog, was brought in on an emergency basis 11 times for abnormal ingestions. She not only had a taste for fabric, socks and dolls, she also enjoyed toxins, including chocolate and xylitol (an ingredient often used in sugarless gum). She required several hospitalizations, but somehow only one surgery.

Scout, on the other hand, has had two foreign body surgeries so far. He's a golden retriever who had surgery to remove Silly Putty® from his digestive tract when he was 5 years old. At 9 years old, he had another surgery to remove a quarter and two felt furniture sliders from his stomach.

Regardless of age or breed, if you suspect your pet has eaten a foreign object, contact your veterinarian immediately. An office visit will most likely be recommended. After taking a history (symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and decreased

appetite) and performing a physical examination, X-rays will likely be taken.

Objects such as metal and rocks can be seen easily, but objects such as clothing or plastic can be elusive.

In this case, a contrast barium study or ultrasound may be needed. Bloodwork is ideal to evaluate your pet's hydration status and to screen for other medical conditions. If an obstruction is diagnosed, surgery is indicated. The object is removed through an incision into the stomach or small intestine. If intestinal blood flow is compromised or if a linear foreign body has occurred (an accordion-like bunching of the intestine), then some of the intestine may need to be removed. IV fluids, antibiotics and pain medication are given, and most pets require a day or more recovery in the hospital. Upon discharge, I always warn owners about "repeat offenders," since future gastrointestinal surgeries on the same pet become more challenging.

If your pet has a tendency to swallow foreign objects, keep your veterinarian's phone number on speed dial. Quick action by inducing vomiting, as instructed or performed by your veterinarian, may expel the object before it becomes a problem. Sometimes, an endoscope can be used to successfully remove an object from the stomach. But if an obstruction develops, early surgical intervention on a stable patient increases the chance of a full recovery with fewer complications.

If you are lucky enough to own a pet that would never eat anything besides what is put in their bowl, count yourself blessed. But if you own one of "those" pets, consider getting pet insurance (Daisy's mom and dad did).

Dr. Carrie Tokar is a veterinarian at Milford Veterinary Clinic P.C., 110 Canal St., Milford. For more information, visit www.milfordveterinaryclinicpc.com.



KITCHENS

Continued from page 6

When granite is installed, it is sealed with a protective coating which, depending on use, lasts for a year or so. To maintain this lustrous finish, customers are encouraged to apply a sealant (about \$10) yearly. Home improvement stores carry the product.

"Almost all of our kitchens are designed with either granite or quartz stone tops," Sharer said. Quartz countertops are a man-made product with 93-percent mined quartz; they are non-porous and don't require any maintenance, he explained. Other countertops he installs are solid-surface DuPont Corian, marble and solid wood tops. For customers requesting backsplashes, tile is still the most popular choice.

According to Capaldi, laminate is gaining some popularity in countertops. Patterns have disappeared, he said. Customers tend to pick solid colors. "If a customer uses cherry wood, the countertop will usually be lighter," he said. "I always push for paler colors because they are not overwhelming." Laminate

starts at about \$5 per square foot.

Appliances

At Bill & Rod's Appliance in Livonia, stainless steel has been "the" hot color for appliances. Usually, said Joe Legato, general manager, when people are thinking about purchasing new appliances, they tend to change to stainless steel. "It makes the kitchen updated." Stainless steel prices for refrigerators range from \$799 to \$3,400. Stove prices are \$549 to \$4,000. Microwaves run \$249 and up.

Another popular color option for appliances is black. White is always a traditional color, Legato said: "White will look classic in any interior. People with white appliances tend to stay with white and if (they have) black or bisque (off-white) color, they tend to switch to stainless steel."

French doors and side-by-side refrigerators are very popular in kitchens, Sharer said. Another hot seller is the energy-efficient induction cook top, with a quick boiling feature. Stainless steel does show finger prints, he added, but the new stainless cleaners make it easy to keep appliances clean.



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9	2	7	5	3	4	8	1	6
5	6	1	2	7	8	9	3	4
4	3	8	9	1	6	5	7	2
3	1	9	8	6	2	4	5	7
8	4	2	7	5	3	1	6	9
7	5	6	4	9	1	2	8	3
6	8	4	3	2	5	7	9	1
1	7	5	6	4	9	3	2	8
2	9	3	1	8	7	6	4	5

Intermediate

2	9	1	7	8	6	5	4	3
3	8	4	1	2	5	6	9	7
7	5	6	4	3	9	1	2	8
6	1	2	9	4	8	7	3	5
9	4	8	5	7	3	2	6	1
5	7	3	6	1	2	9	8	4
4	6	9	8	5	7	3	1	2
8	3	5	2	6	1	4	7	9
1	2	7	3	9	4	8	5	6

Advanced

6	5	2	1	9	7	8	3	4
3	9	4	6	8	2	1	5	7
8	7	1	3	5	4	2	9	6
1	3	6	9	4	5	7	2	8
2	8	9	7	1	3	4	6	5
7	4	5	2	6	8	3	1	9
9	6	3	8	7	1	5	4	2
4	2	7	5	3	9	6	8	1
5	1	8	4	2	6	9	7	3

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