



MOPS time, B5



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RICHARD GERE: WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT USA WEEKEND

Reader panel

The Plymouth Observer is looking for five to seven readers to serve on a panel whose goal is to develop an endorsement in the race for four Plymouth Township trustee seats.

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 the community concern about election issues. Our five-member resident panels will interview all the candidates and make their endorsement prior to the Nov. 6 election. We will publish our reader panel recommendations along side our recommendations.

To be eligible for the panel, you must be registered to vote, available to attend one group orientation meeting and be available to attend face-to-face endorsement interviews (three-hour commitment). You must agree to attend at least one candidate forum sponsored by any local group.

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

U-M ticket contest

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two great tickets to see the University of Michigan Wolverines homecoming game against Illinois on Saturday, Oct. 13, at The Big House. Entering is easy, just go to our website, hometownlife.com, and look to the right in our Don't Miss module for the Wolverines ticket contest. Fill out the short form and you are entered in the contest. Recommend the contest to a Facebook friend and get five extra entries for every person who also enters the contest. The prize winner will be selected in a random drawing from among all eligible entries Oct. 10.

Road work

Crews are expected to begin work Monday on Adams, north of the tennis courts at Central Middle School to Farmer. Access to the school will be available from Church along Adams to the school parking lot area.

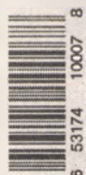
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Clerk, treasurer recounts scheduled for Thursday

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Recounts in two Plymouth Township Republican primary races are scheduled to proceed Thursday over the objections of the winning candidates.

Three members of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers decided Friday afternoon to move ahead with the recounts despite arguments from Treasurer Ron Edwards, who beat challenger Ed Schulz, and Nancy

Conzelman, who beat Clerk Joe Bridgman, who is seeking a second term.

The recounts by the county Board of Canvassers are to occur Thursday, but the time and place weren't clear as of late Friday.

Schulz, who lost by 400 votes, and Bridgman, who lost by eight votes, petitioned for the recounts days after the Aug. 7 primary.

Edwards and Conzelman both argued Friday that Schulz and Bridgman, respectively, had not

shown any evidence of the fraud or election mistakes they had alleged, in their recount petitions, had taken place.

"There's a process," Edwards said by phone before Friday's hearing. "We've gone through the process. The machines were checked. All this stuff worked."

Edwards said that, in his opinion, the state legislators who wrote the laws on election recounts didn't intend for them to be automatically granted.

"I think I've got a good case for

nothing happening," he said.

Likewise, Conzelman said Bridgman had not shown evidence of election fraud or mistakes.

"There isn't anyone in a better position, who's asking for a recount, who would know these facts" if there had been fraud or mistakes, Conzelman said of Bridgman, who oversaw the election.

Bridgman said last month that

Please see RECOUNTS, A6



Deb Madonna, the driving force behind the Miracle League of Plymouth, talks with Channel 4's Chuck Gaidica on the field's opening day.

Miracle worker

Hometown is where it's at for Deb Madonna

By Joanne Maliszewski
Correspondent

The Plymouth community and Deb Madonna are practically synonymous.

But it's not just her name that speaks to Plymouth. It's the energy and commitment she has always given to a roster of projects and activities that continue to energize the community.

"A lot of the programs would not be done without her. A lot of my success is in part due to her," said Jeff Burda, executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council. "She makes it easier for everyone to come to work. When you're local to the community, you put time into your community."

The arts council, of which she is the president, is just

one of the many successes that are publicly associated with Madonna. Her resume describes a woman on a mission. It also shows her passion for creating a nurturing community, especially for children.

In addition to her years of hard work with various school-related efforts,

Please see MIRACLE, A5

Heise's bill adds candidate accountability

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Like many people, state Rep. Kurt Heise thinks the idea of a political candidate reviewing his or her own nominating petitions for propriety and completeness should be a common-sense no-brainer.

Clearly, though, in the wake of the petition-signature scandal that brought down former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, not everyone uses such common sense.

So Heise, a Plymouth Township Republican whose 20th District represents Plymouth, Plymouth Township and part of Canton, has proposed House Bill 5875, which will require political candidates to personally review their petitions before filing for election or re-election with the Secretary of State.

The bill, Heise said, will improve accountability by requiring all state and federal candidates to sign a statement saying they've reviewed the completed petitions before they are filed — ensuring that candidates themselves are held responsible for the final review.

"This is a common-sense measure to help prevent the travesty we saw with the (McCotter) filing, which led to criminal charges and a special election that cost taxpayers an unnecessary \$650,000," Heise said. "The bill is an additional check to make sure candidates are aware of any discrepancies or

Please see BILL, A3

Skies clear as Fall Festival begins

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The threat of rain gave way to clearer skies and a mild breeze as the Plymouth Community Fall Festival began in downtown Plymouth Friday afternoon.

"They keep on saying it's going to rain," said Ron Seaman at Kellogg Park, the heart of the festival. But Seaman and wife Marsha, of Westland, had been at

the festival for about three hours, they said, and the skies had cleared instead of clouded. "Looks like it's clear for a while," Seaman said as he checked the weather on his smartphone.

The Fall Festival, a combination carnival, craft show, free concert and eating extravaganza, is a Plymouth tradition dating back to the 1950s. Service

Please see FESTIVAL, A2



Olivia and Eliana Corden, make sand art at the All In One booth. Mom, Mikala Corden says the girls, 4 and 5 years old, are often mistaken for twins. They are from Plymouth. All In One owner Connie Galbraith is also from Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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U.S. Attorney speaks at veterans' summit

Civil rights that are exclusive to veterans and military personnel will be the focus of U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade's keynote presentation at the Canton Community Foundation's third annual Veterans' Summit Thursday, Sept. 13.



McQuade

McQuade's presentation builds on the strength and growing popularity of the foundation's annual forums that inform veterans about benefits and programs available through Veterans Affairs. The U.S. Attorney will discuss the laws that protect the civil rights of service members while on active duty and on their return to civilian life. Specifically, McQuade will discuss employment rights of active military and veterans, financial protections while deployed, voting rights while stationed overseas, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. As an example, McQuade said, financial protections exist

that include rental agreements, security deposits, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgage foreclosure and auto leases, life insurance, health insurance and income tax payments.

"We want to raise awareness to ensure that service members and veterans' rights to employment, economic opportunity and voting are protected," McQuade said. "Those who have sacrificed so much for the rest of us deserve the full protection of the law."

McQuade will speak on the second day of the two-day Veterans' Summit. The first day, Sept. 12, is devoted to attorneys and legal advocates who work with veterans. The forum will provide updated information on veteran bene-

fits and provide eligible attendees with continuing legal education credits that are required to obtain and maintain accreditation with Veterans Affairs.

Events on both days will be at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

"We are excited that the U.S. Attorney asked to speak at our summit," said Joan Noricks, president of the Canton Community Foundation. "Her talk about civil rights is timely as public attention has turned to problems facing soldiers returning from overseas deployment and to older veterans in need of help."

The second day, which begins at 8:30 a.m., is entirely for veterans, family members and caregivers. This portion of the event will take veterans through the available VA benefits for which they may be eligible. Veterans and their guests are invited to a free lunch dur-

ing which McQuade will speak.

Veterans are encouraged to remain at the summit for the afternoon session, beginning at 1 p.m. when they can meet with a host of benefit representatives until 4 p.m. The arrival of the VA Mobile Vet Center will be an added bonus to the event. Veterans are asked to bring their discharge papers (Form DD 214). If a veteran does not have them, a benefit representative can retrieve the paperwork.

Veterans will also have an opportunity in the afternoon to meet directly with benefit representatives from the VA Detroit Regional Office, VA National Cemetery, OIF/OEF Coordinators from Ann Arbor and Detroit VAMCs, VA Educational Benefits, VA Healthcare System, VFW, DAV, MPVA, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America and Michigan County Counselors.

Veterans are asked to register for the event at www.cantonfoundation.org or (734) 495-1200.

DETAILS

What: Canton Community Foundation Veterans' Summit
When: Sept. 12-13, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Laurel Manor Banquet Center, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Why: If you are a veteran of any age, come learn about the benefits you have earned by service to your country. The day includes lunch, refreshments and opportunities to meet with professional veterans' advocates, including representatives from Veterans Affairs. Family members are welcome to attend the event. Bring your questions and be ready to learn everything you need to know to access your VA benefits.
Contact: For more information, contact the Canton Community Foundation, (734) 495-1200



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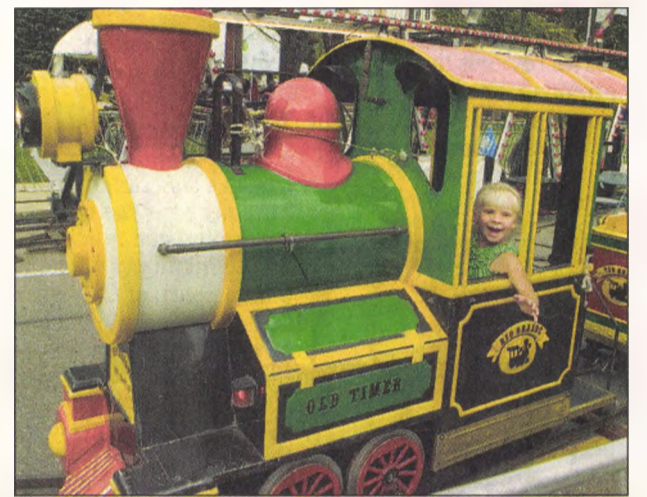
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Four-year-old Mackenzie Wegner is a train buff. Brother Cooper Wegner is 2 years old. He's behind Mackenzie. They're visiting Fall Festival with Mom, Kelley Wegner. The Wegner family is from Canton.

FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

clubs, churches, veterans organizations and other groups sell food and trinkets to raise money for their causes, and children enjoy the rides that line Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street.

The festival continues from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth's chicken barbecue, the festival's oldest tradition, is scheduled for Sunday, and the Seamans said they'd be back for it.

"We usually come here every year," Marsha Seaman said of the festival. "We look forward to it." Marsha said she especially likes the craft show on Union Street, which features more than 40 booths this year, while her husband said he likes to do some people-watching.

Luis Camuendo was making his sixth appearance at the festival's craft show with his booth, Inka Jatary, which sells imported items, mostly clothing and jewelry, from Mexico, India, Nepal and other countries.

"The location's very good," said Camuendo, who added he works

mostly in Ohio and Pennsylvania and that the festival is his only Michigan event of the season.

At the New Morning School booth in the park, admissions director Joan Barrett was helping kids with spin art — in which the artist dabbles paint on a spinning sheet of cardboard (powered by an electric drill under the art table) to create small paintings with a tie-dye effect. New Morning has brought the feature to the festival for years, Barrett said. The paintings are hung up to dry, to be picked up later by the artists after they enjoy the festival.

"Someone just told us they had a collection from about the last four years," Barrett said.

The Fall Festival continues from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The Rotary's chicken dinner — half a chicken, corn on the cob, a roll, soft drink and a cookie — is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until sold out) Sunday at Kellogg Park, with a takeout location at West Middle School. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Main and Penniman during the festival.

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Braden DiMarco is a big winner at Fall Festival's games. Braden and his mom Jodi DiMarco recently moved to Plymouth from Chicago.

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BILL

Continued from page A1

obvious foul play regarding signatures on the petition."

After an ill-fated, short-lived bid for the Republican presidential nomination, McCotter decided to seek re-election to his 11th U.S. House seat. The majority of the signatures on his petitions were ruled invalid, a ruling that eventually sparked criminal charges against four aides. McCotter at first said he'd run as a write-in, then dropped that bid.

It was that situation, which Heise called a "fiasco," that prompted Heise's bill.

"It's unfortunate we need this, but the McCotter fiasco has shown us we need some extra insurance the candidate has actually taken the time to read their petitions and at least, to the best of their ability, validate things are on the up-and-up," said Heise, who said he reviews his own petitions. "The purpose of this bill is to require some kind of assertion by the



Heise

candidate that he or she has looked at them and validated they are ready for submission."

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy has run for many offices — he was a Canton Township trustee and a state representative — and, like most people, figures monitoring your own petitions is a no-brainer for a candidate.

"It's hard to imagine needing to do anything like this (legislatively), but I've got no problem with the bill," LaJoy said. "I've done this many, many times and I can't even fathom not monitoring, reviewing and making sure everything is done properly. I don't know how you don't do that (as a candidate)."

Plymouth Township Clerk Joe Bridgman also questions the need for a law to compel what seems such a common-sense thing to do.

Bridgman, who has asked for a recount of

his eight-vote loss in the Republican primary, said a lot of volunteers circulate petitions for candidates — "That's part of the democratic process," he said — and it behooves the candidate to personally review them.

"When you file a petition to run, it's your responsibility for filing those petitions," Bridgman said. "Ultimately, those petitions should come back to the candidate, and the candidate should review them for completion."

Heise said he's been working on the bill "for a couple of weeks," and submitted it Wednesday. The bill's next stop is the House Committee on Elections. He said the bill wouldn't eliminate all problems, but it will at least introduce a measure of accountability.

"Obviously we can't expect the candidate to vouch for every signature," Heise said. "But certainly a candidate has the obligation to make sure there are no obvious signs of bad behavior."

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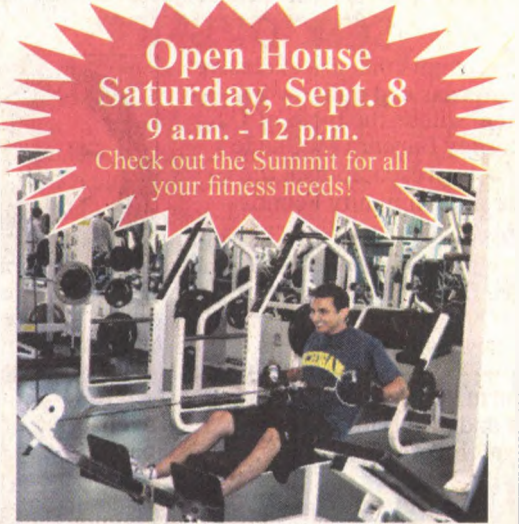
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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Northwood auto show

With fall fast approaching, excitement is steadily growing for the 49th Annual Northwood University International Auto Show (NUIAS). The NUIAS is held annually on the Midland, Mich., campus located at 4000 Whiting Drive. The executive board for the Annual NUIAS has been in the planning and creation process since December. The show will be held on October 5-7. The theme of this year's show is "Driving the Dream." Show hours are Friday, Oct. 5, from noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be exhibits ranging from luxury cars to recreational vehicles and almost everything in between on display at Northwood's campus as well as a variety of food, information and entertainment. The event is free of charge, offers free parking and is open to the public. For more information call the Auto Show office at: 989.837.4823.

Three local high school students, including Devon Corby of Plymouth Township, are members of the NUIAS junior executive board. The junior executive board is a program that gives high school students an opportunity to work with college students as well as gain professional experience in implementing a multifaceted event involving many vendors.

Corby is the daughter of Daniel and Patty Corby of Plymouth Township. She is a graduate of Ladywood High School, where she was involved in varsity skiing and lacrosse as well as holding the title of Scholar Athlete. Corby is currently a sophomore at Northwood University pursuing majors in Entertainment, Sport & Promotion Management and advertising and marketing.

Piano teachers

This is the time of year when many parents begin searching for a piano teacher for their child who has expressed an interest in learning to play the piano. The Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum is a great resource for individuals looking for the right piano teacher and an invaluable organization for piano teachers. Founded in 1970, the LAPTF meets monthly from September to May. Meetings are held at different locations including the Steinway Gallery in Commerce Twp, Evola Music Center in Canton, Schoolcraft College, and Madonna University in Livonia. Teachers interested in joining the LAPTF or visiting a meeting, are encouraged to contact membership chairpersons Amy Bonser at Amy@ExceptionalMusicLessons.com or Shannon Maclellan at Shannon.Maclellan@hotmail.com.

Program gives young learners an early start

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Like the parents of some 44 4- and 5-year-olds in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Christine Walters just didn't think her daughter, Kate, was ready to start an all-day kindergarten regimen.

Kate won't turn 5 until October, and Walters was "delighted" to find out there was another option. That's why Kate is one of the 44 students in the two sections of the new Young 5s program being offered in the district this year.

The program is designed to give parents a choice if they don't feel their child is ready for the stress of an all-day classroom setting.

"At that young age, I didn't think she was ready," said Walters, a Plymouth resident who has two other children in the district. This will really get her ready for kindergarten, so when she does go, she'll be much more confident. I wanted to give her every advantage."

Plymouth-Canton administrators decided to open the Young 5s program — and keep two sections of half-day kin-



Young 5s teacher Shannon Feiler leads her students through the message of the day.

dergarten — for just that reason. The program is housed at Hoben Elementary School in Canton, which administrators felt provided a central location for the district.

The Young 5s curriculum is developed to provide support for children whose parents think are too young to start kindergarten right away.

"A lot of these young learners need extra time," said Shannon Feiler, one of the two

teachers who will handle the classrooms. "Developmentally, a lot of them need support. This helps them develop the skills they'll need."

The district's kindergarten curriculum has been modified for the Young 5s into an active, multi-sensory lesson plan. The kids will move around, do a little dancing, some phonics work and do some "touch" math, learning numbers and letters.

"We get them up and moving," said Feiler, who has taught in the district for 16 years. "They do a lot of the same activities kindergartners do, just at a slower rate. We do a lot of hands-on learning."

Feiler will team with first-year teacher Jennifer Wert, a team Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, the principal at Hoben, said will best-suit the needs of the students.

"We want to prepare (students) so they'll be

ready," Wert said. "We want them to read and write, and develop socially."

The teachers were chosen, Vartanian-Gibbs explained, largely because of their passion for teaching young children.

"They have to love young children, and they have to have an understanding of the developmental process of 4- and 5-year-olds," Vartanian-Gibbs said.

Feiler has a particular sense of the needs of children, in part because she's had to learn about the special needs of her own daughter, now 12.

"I was really excited to be chosen to work with the youngest learners in the district," Feiler said. "I like the idea of getting these kids ready for their journey through elementary school."

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Young 5s students Ian Allen and Allison Wegrzyn make sure their folders are in the correct spot.

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MIRACLE

Continued from page A1

Madonna serves on the fundraising and development committee of 88.1 The Park (formerly WSDP) student-operated radio. She also hosts her own 88.1 radio show, aptly titled, "Community." She is the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. and chair of the Music in the Park series.

Miracle League passion

Her latest project, and one that has truly captured her passion for children, is the Miracle League of Plymouth, of which she is president and commissioner. More importantly, Madonna is the locomotive who made organized baseball for children with disabilities a reality.

"It is gratifying. It is fun to have worked on something and then to be out there at the field watching the kids," Madonna said. "It is a great project and once we started fundraising for it, I realized we were on the right track because it had meaning for so many people. You can want something all day long, but your idea has to have an appeal to other people."

Madonna's effort to help others goes beyond community activism. As a massage therapist at her business, QuixWorks Therapeutic Massage in Plymouth, her goal is to help people help themselves with their aches and pains. She also works with children who have special needs, such as autism, to learn how to manage the unwanted stimulation that can negatively affect them.

"I try to give people tips for taking care of themselves," Madonna said. "When you work with people, you are the rock. You have to be with them right then and there."

That's why setting personal and professional boundaries is essential for Madonna. Knowing what she can and will do and when, allows her to tackle goals with a positive and fresh approach. She has learned to draw the line between working and living her personal life.

Setting boundaries

"I try to be more aware and to make time for my life. I have learned to set boundaries. It takes the fun out of things if you don't," Madonna said. "When I'm out, I'm active. When I'm home, I'm like my kitties. I get in my pajamas and relax."

Madonna's personal life includes her husband, Marcel, an independent computer technology professional, and three grown sons who have moved out and started their lives. All three sons graduated from Canton High School and the University of Michigan.

Andrew, 29, is married and works in computer technology. Like Andrew, Mark, 23, a tax auditor, lives in Michigan. John is a teacher and now lives in Chicago.

"We are really proud of them," Madonna said, adding she is busy cleaning out their bedrooms to make more room in the house. "I miss them. As I



Deb Madonna in one of her favorite spots in town — the Miracle League of Plymouth baseball field.



Deb Madonna grew up on her paternal grandfather's farm, Good's Nursery, on 22 acres of what is now I-275.

am cleaning, I can sit and enjoy the photos of them when they were kids. I am learning how to be the parent of adult kids."

Madonna spent the first day of school this week looking at all the "first day of school" photos posted on Facebook. "I 'Liked' them all. I had my time when my boys were that young."

Reaching out

While her sons are the light of her life, Madonna's heart also goes out to all kids, especially those with special needs. Her passion for helping people found a path when she joined the staff at the former Plymouth State Hospital at Five Mile and Sheldon, following her 1969 graduation from Plymouth High School, now Central Middle School.

"I worked with kids who at the time were my age. I saw what happens when you do nothing (to help improve a life)," she said.

Her experience at the state hospital drove Madonna to Schoolcraft College for more education. Today, she is an occupational and massage therapist, as well as a women's health educa-

tor and parenting class teacher at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

"I worked in occupational therapy at the hospital. I knew how to do it and then I went to school for it," she added.

Hometown is where it's at for Madonna because she understands the importance of providing a nurturing community for the younger generation. She grew up on her paternal grandfather's farm, Good's Nursery on 22 acres of what is

now I-275. Twenty years ago, Madonna and her family moved back to the remaining 3.5 acres of the land her grandparents — C.W. and Flora — kept after the freeway went in.

Growing up

"It was a great place to grow up, so much to do and explore," Madonna said. "It makes me very happy to be living on a spot where I grew up."

Her grandfather, who at one time also owned a 75-acre farm in Canton, had a large greenhouse system and nursery, as well as a seven-car, two-story garage, sawmill and reservoir with an irrigation system near Ann Arbor Road.

"One surprise I had when I moved (back) in was the wild blue irises that my grandmother planted years before. They still bloom. The trees from my grandfather's nursery are planted at houses all over the area, so there's a little of him everywhere."

Her maternal grandparents, Bill and Blanche Davis, also lived in Plymouth and Canton and eventually moved to Tonquish Creek Manor.

Madonna believes the kindness and nurturing she received growing up is what keeps her connected to the community. "When I was little, I'd get free food samples at Johnny's Market or Terry's Bakery in downtown Plymouth," she said. "You couldn't be a bad kid because everyone knew

THE MADONNA FILE

Who: Deb Madonna
Hometown: Plymouth
Family: Husband, Marcel; sons Andrew, Mark and John
What: President, Plymouth Community Arts Council; president/commissioner, Miracle League of Plymouth
In her words: "It is a great project and once we started fundraising for it, I realized we were on the right track because it had meaning for so many people. You can want something all day long, but your idea has to have an appeal to other people."

who you were."

And they still know who she is.

Connecting with people

Her ability to connect with people amazes Bill Keith, manager for the 88.1 The Park radio station.

"She has always been willing to share ideas and introduce us to new people," said Keith. "She is a dedicated booster for our community. I'm always amazed by how many people she knows. Most importantly, her inquisitive spirit helps her create interesting radio shows."

Knowing a lot of people has helped Madonna in her latest passionate effort, the Miracle League of Plymouth, an organization dedicated to encouraging, supporting and creating the barrier-free Bilkie Family Field for children with special needs to play organized baseball in one of those passions.

"She was the driving force behind the project. Deb came to me and said, 'This is what I want

to do.' She is committed to community improvement. She does not take no for an answer and she has a record of success," said Bob Bilkie, Miracle League co-chair and CEO of Sigma Investment Counselors.

Madonna gathered community members whom she knew would support creating a ballpark for children with special needs. She naturally tapped fellow Rotarians, such as Bilkie and his wife, Shari, to follow her passion.

Beth Stewart, fellow A.M. Rotary member said Madonna has "extraordinary powers of persuasion and drive to see something through from start to finish."

"With her favorite saying, 'It's for the kids,' she makes people want to be involved, give money and do it all with a smile," added Stewart, a Plymouth Township resident and executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic.

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible," Madonna said, quoting Walt Disney, one of her favorite creative minds.

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Penn upgrades to digital movie projection

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Downtown Plymouth's Penn Theatre has installed a new digital projection system in anticipation of major studios' plans to wind down the distribution of movies in the traditional 35-mm film format.

The \$70,000 projector was put in place last month, and the animated *Madagascar III*, arriving on a computer hard drive rather than in several film canisters, marked the theater's digital debut.

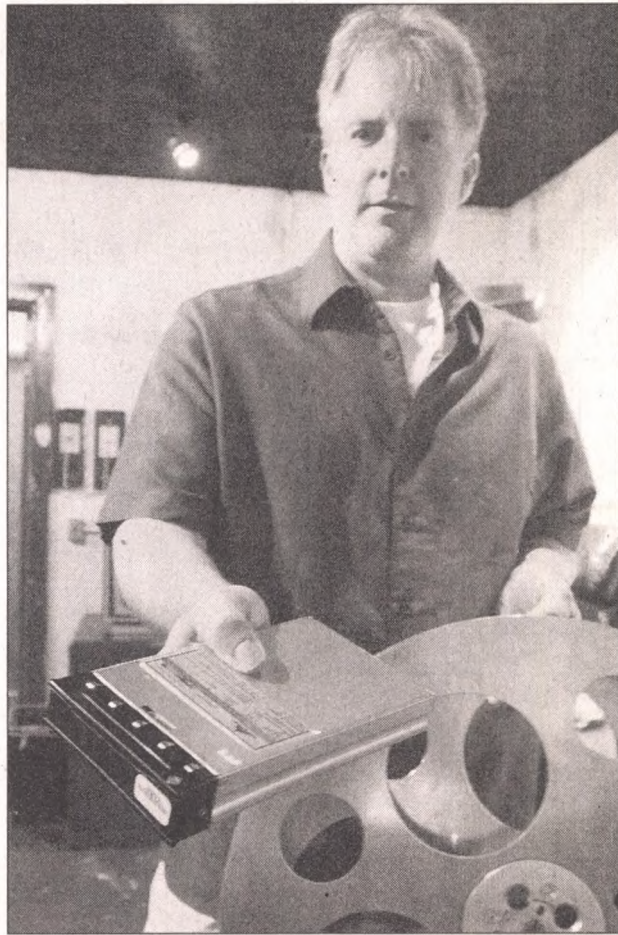
"To not have to haul that stuff anymore is really, really nice," said Ellen Elliott, executive director of nonprofit Friends of the Penn, explaining that the hard drive weighs six or seven pounds, versus a much heavier package of film reels.

"Before, we were looking at a box that weighed probably 50 pounds," or, for longer movies, multiple packages that were maybe 30 pounds each, she said. The move made the Penn's film deliveryman happy, she joked.

The Penn will keep its two 35-mm projectors, Elliott said, in order to show older movies not available in a digital format. The old projectors are original to the Penn, which opened in 1941.

The change comes as Hollywood film studios again make noise about phasing out 35-mm film production.

"Things are slowly being converted to where



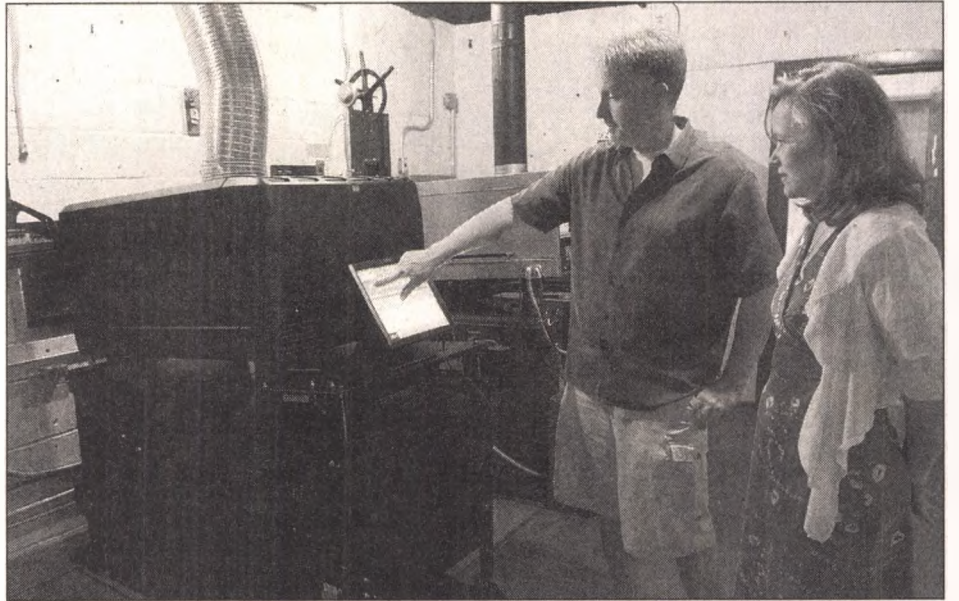
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Joe Elliott holds the hard drive that replaces the old school 35mm film reels. A full reel weighs 50 pounds. Longer films may have required two reels.

they're only going to be digital," Elliott said. Some smaller, independent studios use only the digital format now, she added. "By the end of next year, the six major studios, it is rumored that they are cutting out 35 millimeter."

The new projector is a Barco model that can accommodate all major digital technologies and can be upgraded in the future with simple software changes, Elliott

said. "We're trying not to get ourselves trapped into something," she said. The projector should be able to show any mainstream film released in a digital format.

The new system includes a computer server into which hard-drive movies are "ingested," in industry lingo, a process that takes 20 minutes or more. Elliott compared the setup for each movie to programming an iPod.



The digital projector has a 3,000-watt bulb that still requires an exhaust, just like the old projectors. Joe and Ellen Elliott press "play" and the show begins. Behind them is a film projector, one of two saved for showing films.



Since the Penn still has two film projectors, projector oil still sits on the shelf.

"You actually have to set up a playlist to tell it what to do," she said.

The picture and sound qualities of movies on the hard drives are always reliable, Elliott said, compared to movies on film, which had sometimes been scratched or otherwise damaged before arriving at the Penn. "The presen-

tation is perfect," she said.

The new system took the place in the Penn's projection room of the old 35 mm system, but the old system was moved to a different spot, and a hole cut in the wall for its projection beam to pass through.

The film projectors will be used to show older movies not available in a digital format, such as 1966's *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken*, starring Don Knotts, which is part of the Penn's Schocktober series next month.

Conversely, some older classics have been converted to digital format, such as the 1931 version of *Frankenstein*, starring Boris Karloff, which the Penn will also feature in its Schocktober series. Elliott said she's heard raves about the quality of *Frankenstein*, which has

been remastered as well as digitized.

"Every week they're doing at least two of these old pics and converting them to digital," she said.

Elliott said some fundraising had been planned ahead of the digital projector purchase, but that donations that came in the evening the theater was rededicated, after a major renovation in the summer of 2011, brought the Penn close to the projector's purchase price. Some \$53,000 was raised just that evening, she said.

"We have such a wonderful, supportive community," Elliott said.

"I am overwhelmed by it. ... I think people understand if they don't show support it's going to go away."

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

RECOUNTS

Continued from page A1

the use of the words "fraud" and "mistake" in the recount petition was required language, and that he was basing his

recount bid on the closeness of the race.

Neither Schulz nor Bridgman could be reached late Friday afternoon.

Friday's hearing was a re-do of separate hearings held late last month at which the can-

vassers also decided to proceed with the recounts. Edwards and Conzelman, who hadn't attended, then sought new hearings on the grounds that they hadn't been given adequate notice of the hearings.

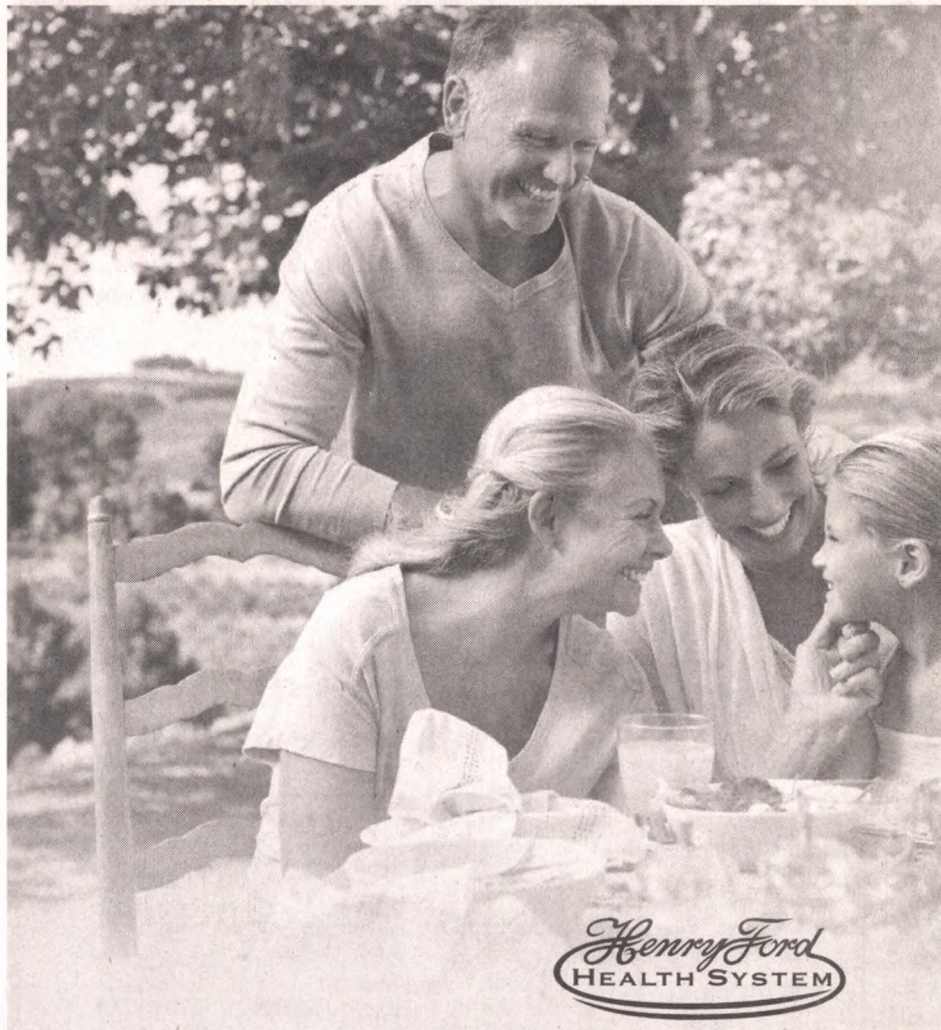
Edwards said he received an

email the evening before his scheduled hearing, while Conzelman said she never heard about it until after the fact.

The county Board of Canvassers members present Friday were chairwoman Carol Larkin plus Leatha Larde and Susan

Haroutunian, an alternate.

The GOP winner in the race for treasurer faces Democrat Rita White, a former assistant county prosecutor, in the November general election. The GOP clerk nominee has no Democratic opposition in November.



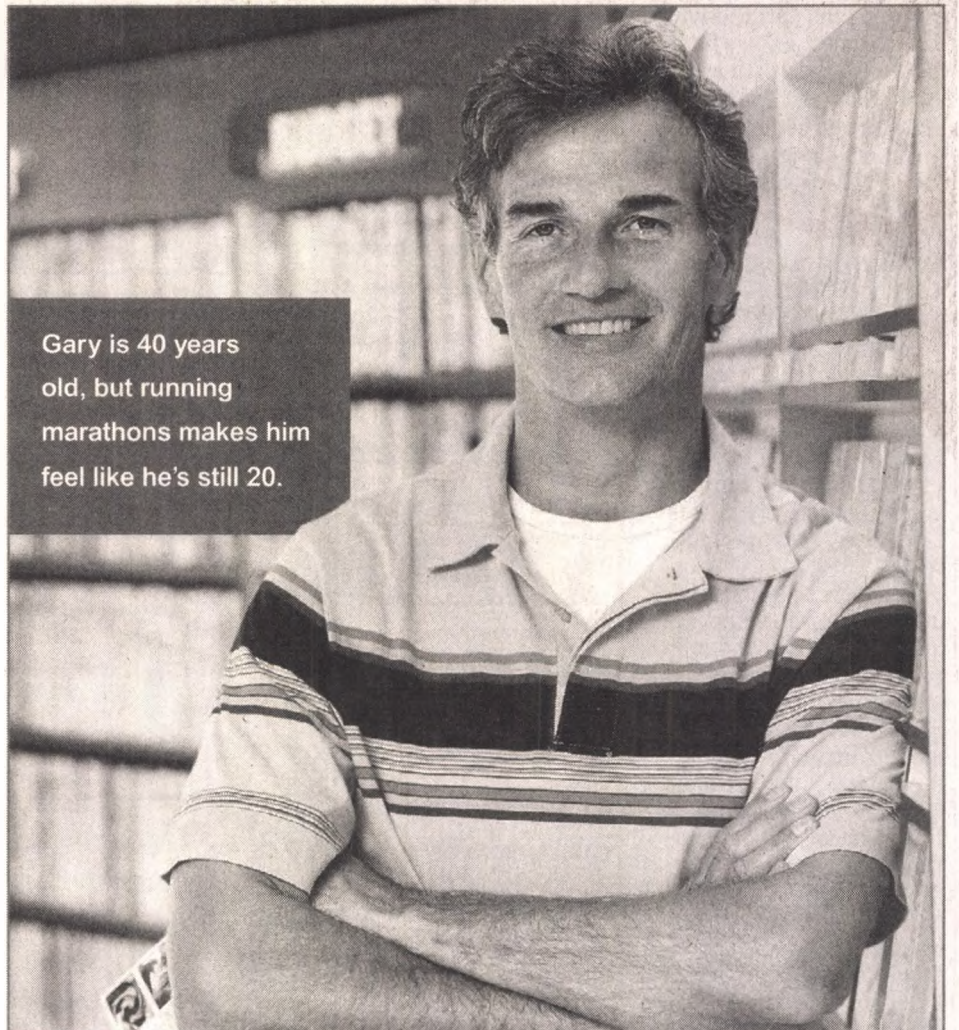
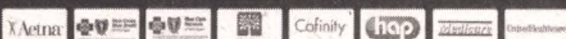
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Experts Predict...

BUSINESS NEWS GOLD DOWNTURN

Is Gold on the Edge of a Violent Downturn?

Gold is on the brink of a "violent downturn" and could even fall as low as \$700 an ounce as the risk of deflation in developed economies grows and technical pointers turn bearish, one expert tells CNBC.

"Just like you see oil falling from \$115 to \$80 - we will see the same thing with gold and it's already underway. It appears that the market has decided on gold's fate. And it's not looking pretty. It looks like gold is about to see prices collapse"

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Friends, family set fund for drowning victim

IN MEMORY OF HEATHER

What: Scholarship fund in honor of drowning victim Heather Nicole Hill

Why: To provide assistance with college costs for students pursuing an arts education:

When: Fundraisers are scheduled for Sept. 24, a bowling fundraiser at Town N Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road in Westland; Sept. 28, an all-you-can-eat benefit at Stockdale's on the Avenue, 34830 W. Michigan Ave. in Wayne; Oct. 12, another bowling fundraiser, this time at Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

How to help: Donate gift cards, gift baskets, raffle items or cash

Contact: Jennifer Grzymala, (734) 589-4768 or email jennieg71@sbcglobal.net

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Heather Hill would have celebrated her 21st birthday Friday. She loved to paint, and she wanted to be a fashion designer.

Hill, who drowned last month in a tragic accident on Belleville Lake, won't get to do any of those things. But her friends and family want to help other young people who'd like to follow the path Hill would have

chosen.

Toward that end, they're developing the Heather Nicole Hill Scholarship Fund, a charity they hope will help put other young students through school, the way Hill was helped.

Hill, who attended Plymouth-Canton's Starkweather Alternative High School, won the Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship a few years ago. It helped pay for her first year at Schoolcraft College.

"We're trying to build a scholarship for an art student in Heather's name," said Jennifer Grzymala, a friend and neighbor of Hill's for 15 years. "Depending on how much money we can raise, we'd like to do two, and we'd like to establish it every year. That was (Hill's)



Jennifer Grzymala (right) is helping organize a scholarship fund in memory of her longtime neighbor and friend, Heather Nicole Hill, who drowned in an accident on Belleville Lake last month.

dream, and we want someone else to be able to live her dream."

Toward that end, several fundraisers are in the works to try and raise money for the fund. Grzy-

mala is hoping local businesses, and even individuals, are willing to help with gift cards, gift baskets, items for raffle or simple cash donations to get the fund started.

BaseLine kicks off new season in Plymouth

Plymouth's BaseLine Folk Society, a group of musicians dedicated to the performance of traditional acoustic music, opens its eighth season Saturday with a show featuring the trio Circle of Friends and an open-microphone segment for new and veteran musicians.

The show starts at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council in Plymouth. Admission is \$5. Singer/songwriter Doug McClennen will host the evening.

BaseLine was founded in Northville in 2005

and in 2009 moved to the PCAC. Its shows are on the third Saturday of each month from September through May.

Folk musicians interested in performing during Saturday's open-mic session should arrive between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. to sign up. If there are more than eight open-mic performers, a lottery will be held. Open-mic participants can perform two songs, covers or originals.

Circle of Friends is made up of Mary Foley, Dean Barnett and Gordon MacDonald.

BaseLine, which is named for the bass line in acoustic music as well as Baseline Road, also known as Eight Mile, is now on Facebook. This season's lineup is posted there; the group is planning some "all open-mic" events in order to introduce its audiences to more performers.

The PCAC is at 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, in Plymouth.

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Author brings dad's story to museum

Teresa Irish has quite a story to tell.

After the death of her father, Aarol W. "Bud" Irish, in 2006, Irish opened the Army trunk that had resided in the family home her entire life. There, nestled in row after row, were her father's nearly 1,000 handwritten letters from World War II.

Visited only by him over the course of six decades, the letters were postmarked from November 1942 to December 1945. The fragile and yellowed pages were written to Bud's parents and to the sweetheart who



Irish

would become his wife, Elaine Corbat. From lonesome, moonlit nights listening to the Hit Parade, to the foxholes and front lines in Germany where Bud would receive the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and two Bronze Stars, to correspondence with the heartbroken mothers whose sons died by his side, this is a moving and historic story of life and loss, hope and persever-

ance, unwavering faith, and true love.

Irish will discuss her newly published book, *A Thousand Letters Home*, at the monthly meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The talk is free and open to the public.

Born in Saginaw, Michigan, Irish is the third youngest of the 10 children of Bud and Elaine Irish. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology from Michigan State University in 1984. She worked in higher education administration at Idaho State Uni-

versity from 1984-1990, followed by 10 years with a national staffing company where she was vice president of operations for the central United States.

Irish recently retired from her position as an executive for a publicly held national home healthcare and hospice company, where she was in charge of organizational effectiveness and executing operational initiatives. She now devotes her time to sharing the positive, life-affirming message of the "journey of the letters" through speaking engagements with book clubs, church

and veteran's groups, schools, scouting organizations, and others.

She supports a number of charitable organizations, both locally and nationally. Irish is married to Lt. Col. Bradley J. Foster, United States Army Reserve, and resides in Northville.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth. For more information, visit http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Friends-of-the-Plymouth-Historical-Museum-Monthly-Meeting_ET10.html?SortBox=201209 or call (734) 455-8940.



Teresa Irish will talk about her new book, 'A Thousand Letters Home,' during an appearance Thursday at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

State AFL-CIO leader: Obama speaks 'honestly about challenges'

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Karla Swift listened to President Barack Obama's speech Thursday night as he accepted the nomination as the Democratic candidate for president.

Swift, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO and a Livonia resident, was attending her first Democratic National Convention. She believes the president needs to continue to make



Swift

tough decisions to help the nation's economy if he is re-elected. "President Obama's administration has made substantial progress in getting the country back on its feet after the worst economic downturn in a generation," Swift said.

Swift said Obama spoke to the nation "honestly about the challenges that we still face," and pointed out the "inherent ridiculousness in Mitt Romney's plan to cut taxes for millionaires at a time when the middle class is still struggling."

"It's true that he is more than just a candidate now — he is the president, and he's shown us that he has what it takes to make the difficult decisions that the job entails," she added.

Swift heard Vice President Joe Biden twice this week — once at the Labor Day Parade in downtown Detroit, then again at the convention.

Biden is "an honest, outspoken and unwavering defender of working families who has never forgotten his working-class roots," she said. "His support for the collective bargaining process was evident in both speeches as he talked about the resurgence of the American

auto industry under President Obama's leadership."

Former President Bill Clinton's speech was probably Swift's favorite, she said.

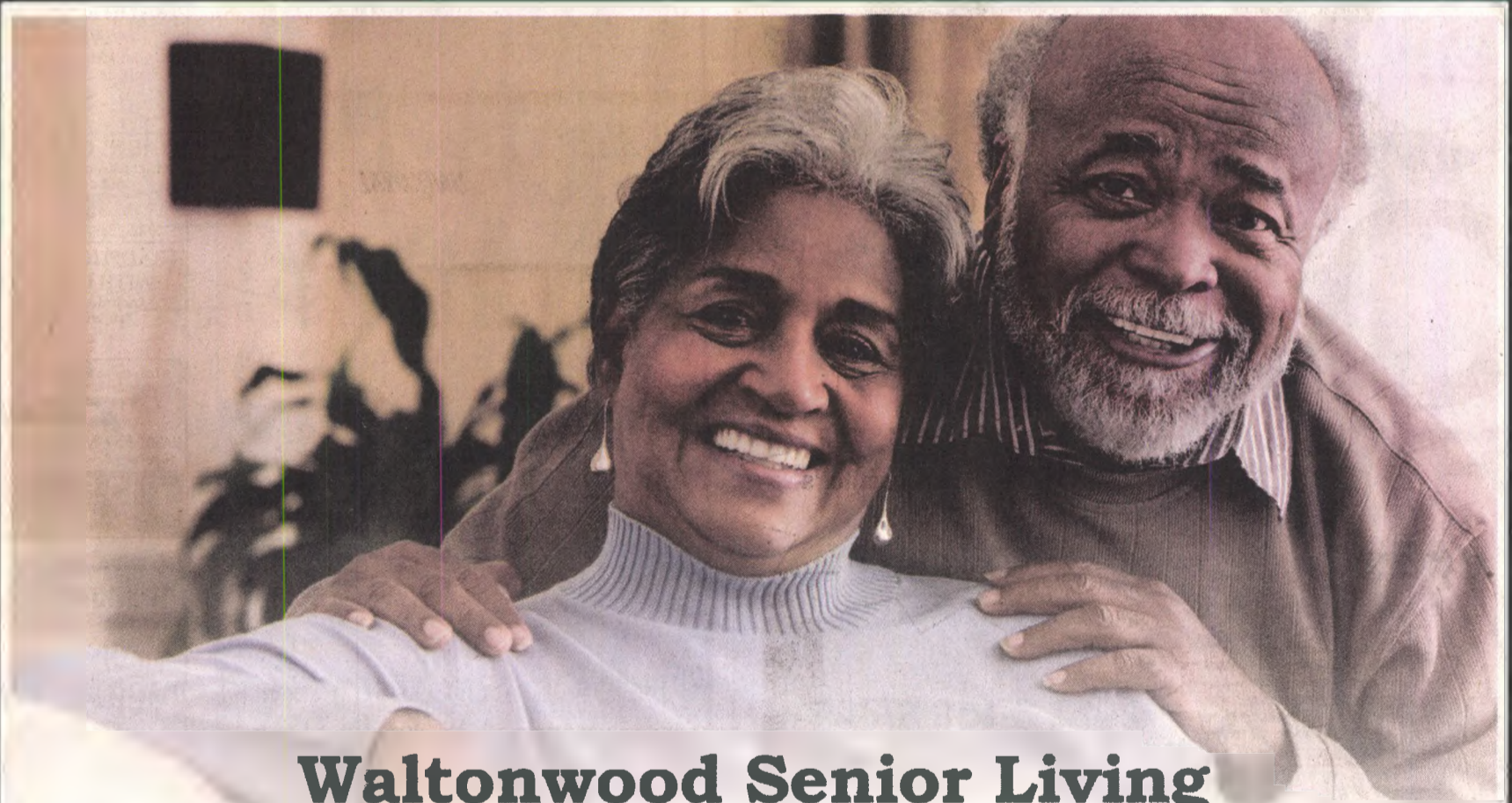
"I thought he provided a fantastic complement to the First Lady's speech the night before," Swift said. "Michelle Obama spoke to character and family values of the president, and Bill Clinton methodically laid out the numbers that support the case for a second term."

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Juggling the payout of paying off debts

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I hope you can help me make some financial decisions. My house is worth about \$125,000 and I have about \$50,000 left on the mortgage at 6% percent. In addition, my daughter will be graduating from college this year with approximately \$30,000 in student loans that I think is my responsibility and I would like to pay them off. I also need approximately \$15,000 of home improvement work done on my home. I am in my mid 50s and plan to work for another 10 or so years. If I separate the money that I have set aside for emergency purposes, I have another \$70,000 to \$75,000 that I can do something with. Should I use the money to pay off my mortgage and student loans or should I do something else with the cash? The interest rate on my student loan is 6% percent. I also consider myself a moderate risk investor.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: After reviewing your situation, there is another alternative to consider. I recommend that you refinance your home and pull out enough money to pay off the student loan. The interest that you pay will be considerably less expensive than you currently are paying and the interest should be 100 percent tax deductible.

When you look at what you're paying on the mortgage and what your payments will be under the student loan, you would have a significant savings. With regards to home improvements, that's something that you can also consider using the equity in your home.

The interest rate on your mortgage is nearly at its all-time low and the payment is going to be lower than what you would pay if you took out a home improvement loan.

By handling the student loan, home improvement and the mortgage by refinancing, it allows you to take the cash that you currently have and invest it for your retirement. Whether it's to fully fund your Roth IRAs or not, over the long run you should receive a significantly better return than the after-tax cost on the mortgage.

The strategy I'm proposing is based on investing the cash in a growth and income portfolio that would have at least half the money invested in equities. Over the long run, even though equities are always on a rollercoaster ride, they will generally outperform fixed-income investments such as CDs.

As a moderate risk investor, you understand equities and the rollercoaster ride that they are on. If you were a conservative investor, I would recommend that the excess cash be used to first pay off the student loans, then pay off the home improvements and then use the excess to pay down on the mortgage. My thought in that scenario is that if you're only going to invest in items such as CDs and annuities, you are further ahead to pay down your debts.

Paying debt down is always a good thing, however, what makes it better is to pay off the right debt. The key is to look at your individual tax situation and to pay off the debts first that cost you the most after taxes. In just about every situation that means paying down charge cards first. At the same time, the last debt that most people should pay off would be

their mortgage.

Being honest with yourself and knowing what type of an investor you are will help you make better decisions with your money. As a general rule, if you're the type of investor that doesn't like principal fluctuation and invests in fixed income items such as CDs, paying down debt is usually the best way to go. On the other hand, if you are the type of investor who understands the risk of investing, paying down high interest rate debt makes sense while investing your money as opposed to paying off low interest rate debt is the strategy to follow. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Church members visit sponsored children, prayer partners in Africa

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

For years, members of His Church Anglican in Livonia have been sponsoring children in Uganda and praying for members of a sister church in Rwanda.

Last month, seven of those members traveled to Africa to meet the children and their prayer partners in person.

Accompanied by their pastor, the Rev. C. Allen Kannapell, the members spent from Aug. 9-29 putting on a vacation Bible school for 200 children in Uganda and then visiting their sister church in Rwanda. They discovered how, despite the vast differences in their languages, cultures and histories, they are all one family.

"I learned what unites us," Kannapell said. "And that is God's spirit, God's word and God's love. There really is one language (God's word), but with different dialects."

"As we handled the Lugandan and Kinryarwanda Bibles alongside our English ones, and as we prayed each in our own languages, we couldn't help but feel that we were giving voice to one truth for one purpose under one God who makes us one by the language of his word."

John Musser, 20, of Livonia, a student at University of Michigan-Dearborn who works in his family's cleaning business, met John Peter Nsengimana, for whom he has been praying for about two years.

Answered prayer

"It was really cool to see him," Musser said. "He said (through an interpreter) that he had been praying to meet me, and God answered his prayers."

Nsengimana, in his mid-20s, is married and expecting his first child. He pastors a small church.

Musser also met two children in Uganda that his parents sponsor through I.N. (International Needs) Network. "We went into their home; they gave us places to sit," he said. "They were really nice."



Livonia church members visit with their African prayer partners on the shores of Lake Kivu. From left are (front row) Issachar Maniraguha, Ryan Maike, Barbara Lowe, Lisa Kannapell, Kate Robinson (a Flint resident who accompanied the Livonia parishioners), Augustin Hategekimana; (back row) John Musser, Philomene Ugirimari, Archdeacon Justin Zigiranyirazo, Pastor Allen Kannapell, Gloriann McDaonald, Tracy Freeman and Pastor Henri Benimana.

While there, they prayed for one of the children's fathers, who was recovering from a head injury. He said their visit gave the family something positive to think about, a distraction from the worry about the father's injury.

Musser said the trip was "life-confirming," something he'd like to do again. "I think they care more about relationships," he said, comparing Africans to Americans. "They care more about each other. We have more stuff. They don't have the stuff to think about; they think about each other."

This was Kannapell's second trip to Africa. He went two years ago with wife Lisa, and their three children, Nicholas, 16, Mary, 14, and Jonathan, 11, to meet the 20-some children his church sponsors through I.N. Network.

"We wanted to go meet them, and it was wonderful to go into their homes and see where they live," he said.

Making a difference

They also saw firsthand the difference the sponsorships make in the children's lives — the difference between an education and no education, he said.

"Many children in East Africa don't have money

for school fees, uniforms or books," Kannapell said. Or their families can't afford to let their children attend school instead of work.

Some of the children are AIDS orphans, having lost both parents to the disease.

The Livonia congregation, which has about 200 members, has been sponsoring children through I.N. Network for about eight years and praying for members of the Rwandan church for about two years.

"They're matched up," he said of the prayer partners. "There are 80 people in our congregation that are praying for 80 people in their congregation. They pray for each other."

They communicate through letters two to three times a year, which are translated by the Rwandan church's pastor and an English teacher there.

The sister church's pastor, Justin Zigiranyirazo, came to Livonia last fall to visit.

While here, members of His Church Anglican who has been praying for a woman named Marciana asked how she was. He told them that she and her two children had been kicked out of their home by her husband and was living with relatives in a 10-foot by 10-



John Musser of Livonia with his Rwandan prayer partner, John Peter Nsengimana.

"Part of our mission trip was to go and see that house," Kannapell said.

A few years ago, the congregation also took up a collection to purchase six cows, one for each of six families doing church work in very poor areas with poor soil conditions, he said. The cows supplied the families with manure to help them grow crops, milk for their children and, eventually, calves to sell for income.

The cows went to families who were starting little congregations in the countryside around the parish.

Kannapell said pastors in East Africa sacrifice to minister to their people. Those fluent in English — the countries' language of commerce — could succeed in business there or elsewhere.

"There's no clean water where they live," he said. "There's malaria, very little pay and incredibly long commutes with little infrastructure."

Getting out of ministry "would have blessed their family, but not their people," he said.

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Legal Notice
Charter Township of Plymouth
2012 Summer Taxes

Summer Taxes are due July 1, 2012 and payable through **September 14, 2012** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive.

Ron Edwards
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
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Publish: September 9, 2012

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2012
7:30 P.M.

Special Meeting

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2012 commencing at 7:30 p.m., to consider:

Application 1500, 46247 Five Mile RD: The applicant is in the IND zoning district and is requesting one variance.
The applicant is requesting that (2) wall signs be allowed on the front of the building facing east with a shared ingress/egress door.

Application 1501, 46201 Five Mile RD: The applicant is in the IND zoning district and is requesting one variance.
The applicant is requesting (1) wall sign be allowed on the front of the building facing north with no ingress/egress door.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: September 9, 2012

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Painting with plants

Farmington Hills gardener creates botanical oasis

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

There's something wildly creative, yet calculated, in Susan Liberty's garden designs.

The Farmington Hills engineer has a true gift for drawing a box, so to speak, then letting a free form of color and texture take over the space inside the box.

She calls it "painting with plants."

And, she's created a masterpiece in her back yard.

Inspired by renowned British horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll, who wrote, in the 1930s, about color schemes, Liberty connects well to Jekyll's ideas.

"She wanted to be a painter," said Liberty. "She decided that she was going to paint with plants. Her focus, for a long time, was creating beds that move from white and gray to all the colors of the rainbow."

Liberty's garden, which has multiple beds that are lined with boxwoods, carries a color scheme of whites and pastels. She carefully selected the plants so that some would be in bloom throughout the season. Some even bloom twice, including the English lavender and the spirea.

Know-how

A powertrain engineer at Ford Motor Co., Liberty said she became interested in gardening shortly after she and her husband, Tom, moved to their home on Balmoral Way in 1993. She would often look at gardening magazines and think, "I would love to have a garden like that!"

So, she enrolled in master gardening courses through Michigan State



Susan Liberty tends to the many plants and flowers in her garden.

University and eventually put in enough volunteer hours to become an advanced master gardener.

When designing her garden, she drew upon her artistic talents — she enjoys painting and drawing — and her engineering skills. She carefully selected plants suitable for her back yard, which is half sun and half shade.

Throughout her garden, she points to plants and trees that have come from friends, which, she said are important additions to the botanical space.

"It's fun to share stuff in the garden," she said. "Every time I see (something that was given to me), I'm reminded of that

friend."

Some favorites in her garden are the Japanese honey suckle, that wraps around an arbor; the Eastern red bud trees that bloom beautifully in the spring; the bee balm, which are a favorite of the honey bees; and the limelight hydrangea, which is a gorgeous, hearty plant that "holds its own weight."

Expense is always a consideration, said Liberty, who often purchases plants, shrubs and trees when they're small, or when they're on sale. For example, she ordered 225 boxwoods, but didn't pay too much because they were tiny.

That's part of the fun. "(Gardening) is a great



There's structure to the garden, but there's also a sense of free form, old English gardens in the center of each bed.



Susan Liberty walks through her garden, which takes up her entire backyard in Farmington Hills. She structured it with several beds that spray an array of pastels and whites.

activity, to be outside, and watch things grow," she said, noting that she does not use pesticides. "It's very stress relieving."

Sharing the love

Liberty found a way to share her love and knowledge of gardening,

Please see GARDEN, A13



Limelight Hydrangeas are among Liberty's favorite.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Meeting dates: September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23, November 13, and December 11

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

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: September 9, 2012

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PUBLIC HEARING CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A public hearing on the proposed 2013 budget for the Canton Public Library will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the library's Purple Room. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1600. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the library.

EVA DAVIS
Library Director

Publish: September 9, 2012

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting September 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

Sandra Young, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 X217

Publish: September 9, 2012

AT OE08786613 2x3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Plymouth District Library 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 on the following proposed 2013 budget:

General Fund	\$3,452,132
Debt Service Fund	564,251
TOTAL	\$4,016,383

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The proposed 2013 budget documents are available for public examination at the Plymouth District Library on the upper level at the Reference Desk during regular Library hours.

Patricia A. Thomas, Director
Plymouth District Library

The District Library Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon (7) seven days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Sandra Young, Secretary, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 X 217.

Publish: September 9, 2012

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GARDEN

Continued from page A12

by writing a blog. It's a handy way for her to keep her green-thumbed mother, Beth Fryc, who lives in Traverse City, in the gardening loop.

She also hopes to help other gardeners, too. Find her blog at www.allabout-mygarden.com.

Libertiny also enjoys volunteer gardening at the Church of the Transfiguration in Southfield and at St. Clare of Assisi at 10 Mile and Middlebelt. She also volunteers at the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn.

She's passionate about gardening, and it shows.

Constantly learning, she's experimenting with vertical gardening, which



This is an experiment in vertical gardening. This structure hangs on the wall of Libertiny's home. She said next year, she'll tweak the creation a bit.

was inspired by a large living wall she saw in Pittsburgh. She's trying it out, with a small wooden structure that's now hanging on the wall of her home.

Gardening is a fun and relaxing hobby for Liber-

tiny — and a bit humbling at the same time.

"I'm not in control of anything — it's nature," she said. "But, you can help it along."

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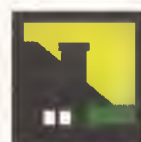
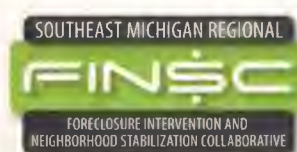
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Woman's Peace Project supports learning in Nicaragua

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

The classroom where Caitlin Marshall, 23, teaches in Nicaragua is a long way from those she attended while growing up in the Farmington school district.

The primary school in the rural community of Laguna de Apoyo is set in a "breathtakingly beautiful" jungle area at the bottom of a volcanic crater.

But the 55 kindergarten through sixth grade students have broken desks, few textbooks, little in the way of subjects outside of reading, writing and math, and a rusted play structure in the playground.

The school day is 7-11 a.m. If one of the three teachers is sick, the children go home.

Nevertheless, the children are enthusiastic students with supportive parents, she said.

"They are so eager for learning," said Marshall, a 2007 Farmington High School graduate. "They just have a huge lack of resources."

The Peace Project

Marshall is working to bring more opportunities and learning to them through a non-profit community program called The Peace Project.

The program works with youth to teach English and reinforce local education efforts.

Marshall talked about the program while home on a brief trip this week.

Marshall said the project came about while she was a student at the University of Maryland, where she graduated in 2011. There, she met Lara McKaye, 22, who was going to turn her family home in Laguna de Apoyo into a hostel and wanted to help the community at the same time.

McKaye needed someone fluent in Spanish to assist her and invited Marshall and fellow student Sarah Dobson, 23, to help.

Having switched her major from pre-med to pre-nursing in her senior year, Marshall had planned to take some time off.



Caitlin Marshall and her students pose for a photo in the Laguna de Apoyo primary school.



A young student is all smiles.

"The opportunity just landed in my lap," she said.

Thus, the Peace Project, a community project and non-profit, was launched in July 2011.

Marshall said they chose the name because she and Dobson had taken a university program on peace that inspired them to integrate peace into all their endeavors.

'Super warm and welcoming'

Marshall said when they

arrived in Laguna de Apoyo, they met with the parents and teachers to see what the needs were.

The community was unanimous — they wanted their children to learn, she said.

Specifically, they wanted them to learn English.

It's important because many families in the community work in hostels or hotels.

"They mainly make their living from tourism," she said.

"Everyone was super warm and welcoming," she added.

"They are very humble and very open to being helped.

They recognize that they don't get the opportunities that others have because it's so rural."

The resulting program includes Marshall and Dobson teaching twice a week at the school. They also tutor students after school, giving them the one-on-one attention that teachers can't because they are so stretched, she said.

In the months they've been there, they've seen a lot of progress, she said. This year, she hopes that no student will repeat a grade, something that is not uncommon.

In line with a project goal of creating a culture of peaceful conflict resolution and positive communication, they also incorporate "anti-bullying" skills and conflict resolution skills.

"It's been really rewarding seeing their growth," she said of her students, not only in their academic knowledge but in how they resolve conflicts.

American pen pals

Through Marshall, the children also have the opportunity to have an American pen pal.

Marshall showed a bundle of letters her students there had

written and illustrated to deliver to their pen pals in Spanish class in the Garden City school district.

The pen pal relationship was fostered by her mother, Cippi Marshall, a teacher at Farmington Elementary School in Garden City.

"It was a great way for my kids to learn English," as well as the students here to learn Spanish, she said.

The school year in Nicaragua runs from February to November.

In November, Marshall will return to the U.S. to attend a master's degree program in nursing. Another director, from Columbia, will arrive to take her place.

She plans to remain involved as a member of the board of directors.

Fund raising will be a focus next year, she said.

"We have run the past year entirely on private donations," she said.

She also hopes that the project will become a 501(c)3, which will allow more opportunities for support.

Contributions are tax deductible, through an account they have with the Keyser Rotary Club of Keyser, West Virginia.

Volunteers to help out with The Peace Project are also welcome, she said.

Marshall says the whole experience has been a blessing. "I love being there," she said.

"The students love learning and they are teaching me a lot, too.

"I'm very fortunate to have had the opportunities I've had."

To find out more, go to www.ThePeaceProjectNicaragua.org.

To make a tax deductible donation, visit the website, or write a check to "Keyser Rotary Club," with "The Peace Project" in the memo line, and mail to: Keyser Rotary Club, c/o Jennings Stickley, treasurer, 315 Hilltop Ave., Keyser, WV 26726.

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Primary winners look ahead to November in race for McCotter's unexpired term

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Republican Kerry Bentivolio credits his victory in Wednesday's special primary election to growing grass-roots support in the 11th Congressional District.

David Curson, who ran unopposed on the Democratic side of the ballot, expects to do some door-to-door campaigning and some mailings to defeat Bentivolio in the general election Nov. 6.

Bentivolio, a war veteran, reindeer farmer and former teacher who lives in Milford, won the Republican primary with 10,280 votes. Bentivolio will face Curson of Belleville, who received 11,451 votes, Libertarian John Tatar of Livonia and U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan candidate Marc Sosnowski of Dearborn Heights in the general election. The winner Nov. 6 will complete the unexpired term of Thaddeus McCotter, who resigned July 6, serving through the end of the year.

On Wednesday, former state Sen. Nancy Cassis of Novi finished second to Bentivolio with 8,804 votes; followed by Livonia residents Carolyn Kavanaugh, 2,654; Steve King, 1,715; and Ken Crider, 1,208.

Bentivolio credits door-to-door campaigning in western Wayne County. Bentivolio estimated that he has visited 1,500 homes. He also had volunteer help from members of his church who passed out literature at some of the polls. On Wednesday, Bentivolio visited precincts in Livonia, Milford and Novi.

Bentivolio agrees with voters who believe the cost for the special election was expensive and costly, but he also believes that the situation calling for the special election was so rare that it didn't merit spending more money to amend the state constitution to change it.

"You have to look at the history of American politics, and this is such a rarity," Bentivolio said. "It is one in thousands of elections. Why should we spend money to change the constitution when that may never happen again?"

Curson was not surprised with the low turnout. "Most people were infuriated with the election and the huge waste of money," Curson said. "It's too bad that there could not have been a

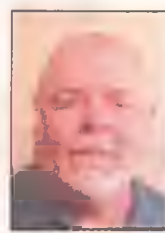
consensus candidate rather than spending \$650,000." Curson was referring to the Republican runoff between the five candidates.

Bentivolio said Wednesday's win reinforced his earlier primary victory, now that he is running in both the old congressional district to finish McCotter's term, and the new district for a two-year term.

Curson congratulated Bentivolio on his election victory, and thanked Bentivolio for his military service. Curson, who served in the U.S. Marines, said that while



Bentivolio



Curson

they both served in the military, their political views "couldn't be more different."

Curson was asked if he was concerned about running in a district that often votes Republican, but he said he was confident he would prevail.

"I don't get into anything that I can't win," Curson said.

Curson said the election in the old 11th District will be confusing to voters. "It will be a different kind of campaign because it's a confusing election," he said. "If I put a sign up in my yard in Belleville, people will think I'm run-

ning against John Dingell. If I put up a sign in Dearborn Heights, they will think I'm running against John Conyers, and if I put one up in Canton, they will think I'm running against Dr. Syed Taj."

That's because those congressional candidates are running in three recently redrawn districts, redrawn due to the new counts of the U.S. Census. Dearborn Heights is not part of the old 11th District.

Curson said his experience in the UAW in negotiating disputes between workers and management trained him well for Congress. Curson said he would work on the jobs bill, and veteran and health care issues.

Bentivolio calls himself a "Ronald Reagan-style

Republican," and would cut government spending and regulations. Bentivolio remembers helping out at the 1980 Republican National Convention, furnishing old apartment buildings to assist and accommodate lodging needs for Republicans in town. Hotel space was scarce, Bentivolio said, for that convention.

Bentivolio points out that as the only candidate on both ballots, should he win both elections, he will accumulate more seniority than the incoming freshmen congressmen in January.

"I will already have a staff on board, will be familiar with the bills on the table and have a chance to maximize that opportunity voters would give me," he said.

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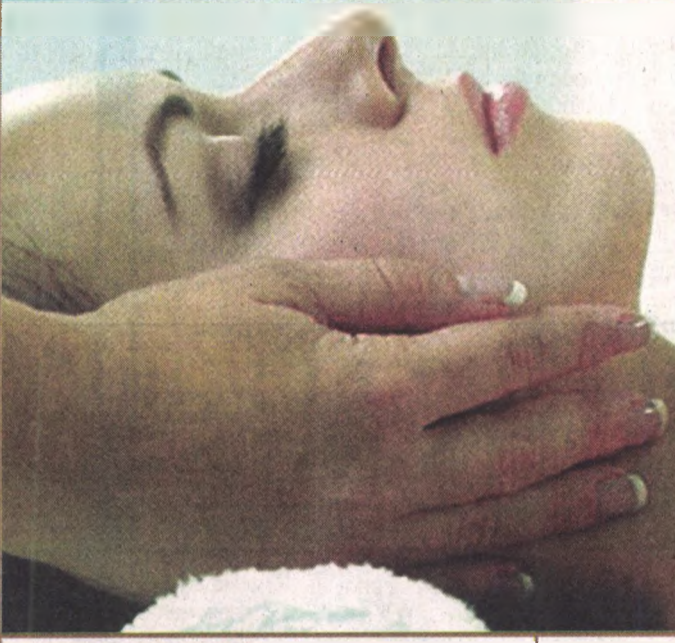
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Slow start dooms 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

An intense-as-advertised gridiron battle Friday night between Plymouth and host Livonia Churchill came down to the final series, ultimately decided when quarterback Jamarl Eiland's fourth-down pass landed in the wrong hands.

Livonia Churchill hung on for the 35-31 win, thanks to a timely interception by senior defensive back Andrew Abram, stepping in front of intended target Nate Emminger deep in the end zone.

Had Emminger caught the ball instead, the Wildcats would have prevailed in the KLAA South Division matchup. Plymouth fell to 2-1 with the loss, while the Chargers improved to 3-0.

"My coach told me to stay on (Emminger), so I did," Abram said about his clutch pick. "Plymouth's a great team, we give them all the respect. But we came out, we stayed hungry. We've been hungry for a long time."

That interception stopped the Wildcats' final march, which began at their own 33. After a holding penalty nullified what would have been D.J. Rossell's lead-changing 61-yard TD, Plymouth pushed forward to ultimately get a first down at the 10.

That's where the drive hit the wall.

"We're not normally a man-to-man team, but down in the red zone we went man-to-man and Andrew did a good job," Churchill head coach John Filiatraut said. "We had good pressure on the quarterback, and that's kind of what we wanted to make them do, was throw the ball."

"As you can see, they can run the ball and we struggled to stop it. But we were able to make one good play at the end of the game."



Trying to elude a Livonia Churchill welcoming committee is Plymouth running back Mike Kennedy (No. 2). At left for the Chargers are defenders Andrew Abram (No. 5) and Dwayne Scott (No. 15).



Plymouth running back Stefan Turrentine (No. 19) gets the jump on Livonia Churchill defender Dylan Siefman during Friday's game. The host Chargers earned a 35-31 victory.

Eiland needed to throw because Churchill's defense finally slowed Plymouth's running game, which accounted for 283 of the Wildcats'

419 yards of offense.

Drowsy start

According to Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk, the game really

was lost in the first quarter, to his dismay.

Churchill came out strong, getting touchdown passes of 49 and 39 yards from quarterback Seth Suida to Robert Foster and Abram, respectively.

"We sleepwalked through the first quarter," Sawchuk said. "We didn't come to play in the first quarter and you can't do that with athletes like they have."

"And there were two blown coverages, two perfectly thrown balls by their guys. But the bottom line is, I wasn't a very good coach for those guys this week. Maybe I didn't motivate them enough the first quarter."

Besides the throwing accuracy of Suida, who completed 9-of-18 passes for 201 yards and four touchdowns, a thorn in Plymouth's side was 5-10, 246-pound running back Romello Brown.

Early in the game, the Wildcats could not keep Brown from pushing the pile for big yards. Brown

Please see DOOMED, B3

Chiefs romp, 49-6

Canton scored on its first possession Friday night against Wayne Memorial.

And the Chiefs kept on scoring, building a 49-0 halftime lead en route to a 49-6 victory at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity turf stadium.

The Chiefs, who improved to 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the KLAA South Division, out-gained the Zebras 291-151 (including 255 on the ground).

Starting the ball rolling for Canton was Malcolm Hollingsworth, who scored on a 22-yard run about four minutes into the contest. The running back scored again on a 70-yard dash in the second quarter and finished with 123 yards on seven carries.

Before the first quarter ended, it was 21-0. James Hall took it in from the 4-yard line and sophomore quarterback Greg Williams threw a 16-yard scoring pass to receiver Matt McKoy.

The fun continued for Canton in the second, beginning with the long TD run by Hollingsworth just 21 seconds into the frame.

Also scoring before halftime were wide-out Joe Grinage (on a 20-yard pass from Williams), Wally Turner (on a 28-yard fumble recovery) and running back Charles Turfe (3-54), on a 39-yard run with 1:35 left before intermission.

Connor Shennan and Scott Piwowar provided six extra points between them, with Shennan connecting four times.

Another offensive contributor for the Chiefs were running back Brent-

Please see CHIEFS, B3

Sign up for YMCA girls programs

The Plymouth YMCA is excited to be celebrating its five-year anniversary of Girls on the Run and Girls on Track this fall.

Girls on the Run is a life-changing, experiential learning program for girls grades 3-5 and Girls on Track for girls in grades 6-8. The goal of the programs are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental and physical development.

The program follows a national curriculum focusing on educating and empowering girls at an early age so that every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams while training for a 5K (3.1 miles).

Girls on the Run will be available at 16 schools throughout the Plymouth, Canton and Northville area this fall, from the week of Sept. 17th through the week of November 26th. The culminating 5K event will be on Nov. 18. Registration for this season closes Friday, Sept. 14. For more information contact the Plymouth YMCA Office, 734-453-2904 or email: rmubaraz@ymcamedetroit.org.

Ocelot men boot Owens

Adrian Tash's goal in the 89th minute enabled Schoolcraft College to earn a 1-1 double overtime draw Wednesday with host Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio.

Romario Georgis assisted on the game-tying goal as the Ocelots, ranked No. 7 in the latest NJCAA Division I poll, stand 3-1-1 overall and 2-0-1 in NJCAA Region XII.

Owens (2-1-1, 2-1-1) took a 1-0 lead in the 29th minute on Glenroy Miller's unassisted goal, his seventh of the season.

Schoolcraft goalkeeper Tom Duquette played all 110 minutes making four saves.

Lady Ocelots down Delta

First-half goals by Maggie McLaughlin and Taylor Bunyak proved to be more than enough Wednesday as Schoolcraft College blanked Delta College, 2-0, in an MCCA and NJCAA Region XII women's soccer match.

The Lady Ocelots (4-2, 2-1) got an unassisted goal from McLaughlin in the 31st minute followed by Bunyak's goal from Emily Behnke in the 40th minute.

Salem still unbeaten after trouncing Novi

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In a battle of two run-happy teams, Salem capitalized on a few untimely Novi turnovers to get its first victory over the Wildcats in their five seasons together in the KLAA.

Salem struck first in the 30-13 victory at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's grass field.

After Novi junior quarterback Issac Burgess connected with sophomore Matt Sabo for a 14-yard gain on fourth-and-three during the opening drive, Novi (0-3, 0-1 Central) was at second-and-eight on Salem's 10-yard line, when Salem senior Mike McNamara picked off a pass attempt at his

own 5-yard line and carried it back 37 yards to the 42-yard line.

Four plays later, junior Drake Jordan (44 yards on seven runs) broke up the right side for a 27-yard touchdown run that would open a 7-0 lead following junior Alex Kenrick's point-after kick with 5:11 left in the first quarter.

The score would hold for the rest of the first half as both teams continued to run the ball, but Salem continued to create turnovers whenever Novi threatened in the red zone. The Rocks even stopped the Wildcats on fourth-and-one midway through the second quarter, but couldn't score themselves.

Please see UNBEATEN, B3



Dropping back to pass Friday night is Salem quarterback Jacob Deprez (No. 11), who is getting some blocking help from Mike McNamara (No. 20).

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Late goal enough to edge Rocks

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

All it took was one. Salem couldn't cash in when it counted Thursday and Livonia Stevenson did, as the visiting Spartans earned a 1-0 KLA Central Division boys soccer tilt.

The host Rocks had a number of prime scoring chances in the second half of a then-scoreless game, but were unable to deposit the ball behind Stevenson's stout defensive wall — led by senior goalkeeper Zach Verant.

Then with 11:09 to play, a Salem foul led to a free kick from more than 40-yards out by Stevenson senior midfielder Dominic Sabatini on the right side of the pitch.

He launched the ball high in the air and it sailed to the left of the cage over the head of Salem junior goalkeeper Collin Hewett, who could not punch it away from the traffic jam in and near the goal box.

Instead, Spartans' senior forward John D'Agostino timed his jump perfectly, heading the ball into the top right corner for his fourth marker of the season.

"It just sailed over the top of him (Hewett) and he wasn't even close to it," lamented Rocks head coach Ed McCarthy, whose team entered the contest ranked eighth in Division 1. "On the play before that, we really shouldn't have fouled. So we kind of gave them that opportunity on a moment that wasn't even dangerous. That was the unfortunate part.

"Even still, we have to find a way to score in these games. And Stevenson, we give them lots of credit, they made the game difficult for us today."

Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker said the Sabatini-D'Agostino combination has been a successful one in recent weeks.

"The goalie came out and he (D'Agostino) just headed it over him," Shingledecker said. "It was a



Salem junior midfielder Connor Cole (No. 9), shown from a game last month, and his teammates did everything but score in Thursday's second half against Livonia Stevenson.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

good goal and an excellent delivery."

First things first

That play wouldn't have mattered much without the goalkeeping of Verant, who made five saves. "Their goalkeeping was

very good," McCarthy noted. "They made scoring opportunities difficult on us and for all the chances we had, he was flawless. He just didn't make any mistakes." Stevenson defenders did need to clear the

ball away from the goal mouth on a couple occasions, but Verant slid out and kicked away a point-blank shot by Salem junior forward Brady Cole with about 25 minutes left.

Shortly after that, Cole fed a pass to junior midfielder Andriy Pelekh for a chip shot from about 15 yards that Verant retreated to nab.

With the win, Salem dropped to 4-2-2 overall and 1-1 in the KLA Central while Stevenson improved to 2-1-3/1-0-1.

Shingledecker added that getting the late goal to knock off such a strong team should give the Spartans confidence.

"We knew that they were the eighth-ranked team in the state, so we're trying to get ourselves going here and start to let people know that Stevenson soccer is still on the map," he said. "It's a good win for us. This (Salem) is an excellent team, well-coached and I felt we did the job today."

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Competing during a recent game is Salem senior forward Chris Dierker (No. 21), who like the rest of the team fell short Thursday against Livonia Stevenson.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Chiefs keep on winning

BOYS SOCCER

Canton invaded Livonia twice this week and came away with a pair of league wins.

Wednesday, the Chiefs won 3-1 at Livonia Churchill to improve to 6-1-2 overall and 2-0-0 in the KLA South entering Saturday's match against Salem (annual parents night for both teams)

Canton got on the scoreboard first, with a goal barely five minutes into the game. Senior co-captain Bobby Budlong chased down a loose ball deep in the corner and played a cross into the box, where senior Scott Piwowar was waiting to patiently settle the ball and drive a shot past Churchill keeper Colton Robison.

The game remained 1-0 until almost the midpoint of the second half, when the Chiefs struck again. In an almost identical play, Budlong won the race to a ball in the corner and found senior Bryan Tolinski alone in front of the goal.

Tolinski converted the pass for his first varsity point.

A few minutes later, Piwowar's left foot crossed a pass to junior Cody Widlak, who one-timed a volley past Robison. Churchill got a goal back with about 11 minutes to play, when junior Timothy Deyoung scored off a pass from senior Michael Murphy.

Canton's senior goalkeeper, Ian Wingate, made eight saves to earn the victory, including a diving save on a Charger free kick early in the second half when the game was still 1-0.

Wingate was helped all night by the play of Canton's senior defender, Connor Shennan, who patrolled the middle of the Chief defense and won battle after battle with Churchill forwards.

With the win, Canton improved to 6-1-2 (Overall) and 2-0-0 in the KLA

South. The Chiefs take on Salem in the two teams' annual senior night on Saturday.

PLYMOUTH 4, FRANKLIN 1: Viet Nguyen scored a pair of goals, including a penalty kick, to spark the Wildcats (2-5-2, 2-0) to a KLA South Division victory Wednesday over host Livonia Franklin (1-5-1, 0-2).

Jason Liguori and Teddy Phillips also added goals for Plymouth, which enjoyed a 1-0 halftime lead.

Franklin's Matt Freed tied it at 1-all early in the second half off an assist from Sean Hiles.

Franklin goalkeeper Spencer Lewandowski made 12 saves. James Gibbs and Mario Gruszczynski split time in goal for Plymouth.

"Once again we moved the ball and had many promising moments, but then things would dissolve," Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos said.

"Too many turnovers cost us." **CANTON 5, FRANKLIN 0:** On Tuesday, the Chiefs took on Livonia Franklin and scored three goals in the first eight minutes to take control of matters.

Senior co-captain Dan Ovesea opened the scoring, when he took a pass from sophomore Aiden Shennan and made a long run down the middle of the field.

Ovesea deked the Franklin keeper and tucked it into the open goal — the assist was Shennan's first varsity point. It was 2-0 just two minutes later, when Budlong drove a corner kick into the goalie box, where it was deflected by a Patriot defender.

Soon thereafter, Ovesea found himself on the end of another pass from Shennan, and his shot was also deflected into the Franklin goal for a 3-0 advantage.

Franklin played Canton close for most of the second half, but the Chiefs broke through again with just under 10 minutes to play.

Junior Zach Homco made a long run into the corner to keep a ball in play, and was able to slip a pass to senior Sachin Pindolia, who quickly found a wide-open Widlak, and he drove it into the net for a four-goal lead.

The Chiefs closed the scoring with less than three minutes to play, when Homco's corner kick was headed in by Shennan. It was Shennan's first varsity goal and Homco's first varsity assist.

Wingate (5 saves) and junior Brandon Pickert (3 saves) split the game in goal for Canton.

Wildcats, Chiefs renew tennis rivalry

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

On a scorching Thursday in the Park, Plymouth cooked to a 7-2 victory over Canton in a KLA Central Division boys tennis dual match.

The win opened the league schedule for both squads, and it would have

been a perfect way to begin for the Wildcats if not for victories by Canton's Rohan Vaishnav and George Zhou in the top-two singles flights.

"It was nice to get the victory here," Plymouth assistant coach Erik Batell said. "Especially since last year they edged us (5-4). It was good to

come in, have our new players step up.

"... We have all underclassmen singles players (and) we got two matches there and we swept doubles, so it was a good 7-2 win."

Canton head coach Barb Lehmann said her team is still very young and learning about itself. That process got underway Thursday.

"We haven't had the experience with this being our first official match," she noted. "It makes it tough for partners really to get themselves (working) together and working as a team. "But I think you'll see a difference as the season progresses."

Good competition

At No. 1 singles, Canton sophomore Rohan Vaishnav came from behind for a 7-6 (1), 6-4 win over Plymouth freshman Jordan Lu.

"I would say (Vaishnav's win) exemplified his level of competitiveness," Lehmann said. "... Rohan was strong until the end. It was a good match, a solid, good match."

Batell added that Lu "played a heckuva two-setter. And Kevin Hou and Jon Conn at 3 and 4 singles took the other couple matches that were very instrumental to the win today."

Kevin Hou and Conn earned identical 6-3, 6-4 victories over James Dodge and Kirk Wang, respectively.

Zhou earned a 6-3, 6-



Plymouth's No. 1 singles player, freshman Jordan Lu, looks to return the ball during a recent match. Thursday afternoon, he lost a tough two-setter against Canton sophomore Rohan Vaishnav.

1 win over Charlie Hou at No. 2 singles, which Lehmann said should prove to be a confidence-boosting performance.

"I think he walked into the first set a little uneasy, because it was the first match out here," she continued. "But he proved himself by taking that second set 6-1, that he was the better player today."

In doubles action, the Wildcats proved too tough throughout.

At No. 1 doubles, Dylan Grant-Cameron Earls defeated Michael Kelley-Nathan Benjamin (6-2, 6-1).

Plymouth kept it rolling at No. 2 doubles, as Joe Klots-Danny Sinnott got past Mitchell Trost-Craig Lou by a 6-1, 6-1 tally.

The third doubles team of Akash Yerakola-Praveen Loganathan



Thursday's contest against Plymouth opened the regular season for Canton's varsity boys tennis team. Keying the Chiefs are (from left) senior co-captain James Dodge, sophomores Rohan Vaishnav (No. 1 singles) and George Zhou (No. 2 singles) and senior co-captain Mitchell Trost.

bested Noah Lindlbauer-Athul Rao (6-1, 6-3); at No. 4 doubles, the duo of Jared Hopf-Tyler Smith registered a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Zain Ahmed-Paul Lou.

At No. 5, Plymouth completed the doubles sweep as Charlie Anderson-Brian Caragay defeated Shivang Shah-Nathan Samoy, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Team's meshing

Meanwhile, Lehmann sees promise for the Chiefs this fall because of how Vaishnav and Zhou

team up with senior co-captains Dodge and Trost.

"My No. 1 and my No. 2, they're both sophomores and great players," Lehmann said. "And then my two senior captains, ... they're really good guys and I think you see a lot more cohesiveness with the team than in past years."

"They respect all the kids on the team and they show that respect each and every day."

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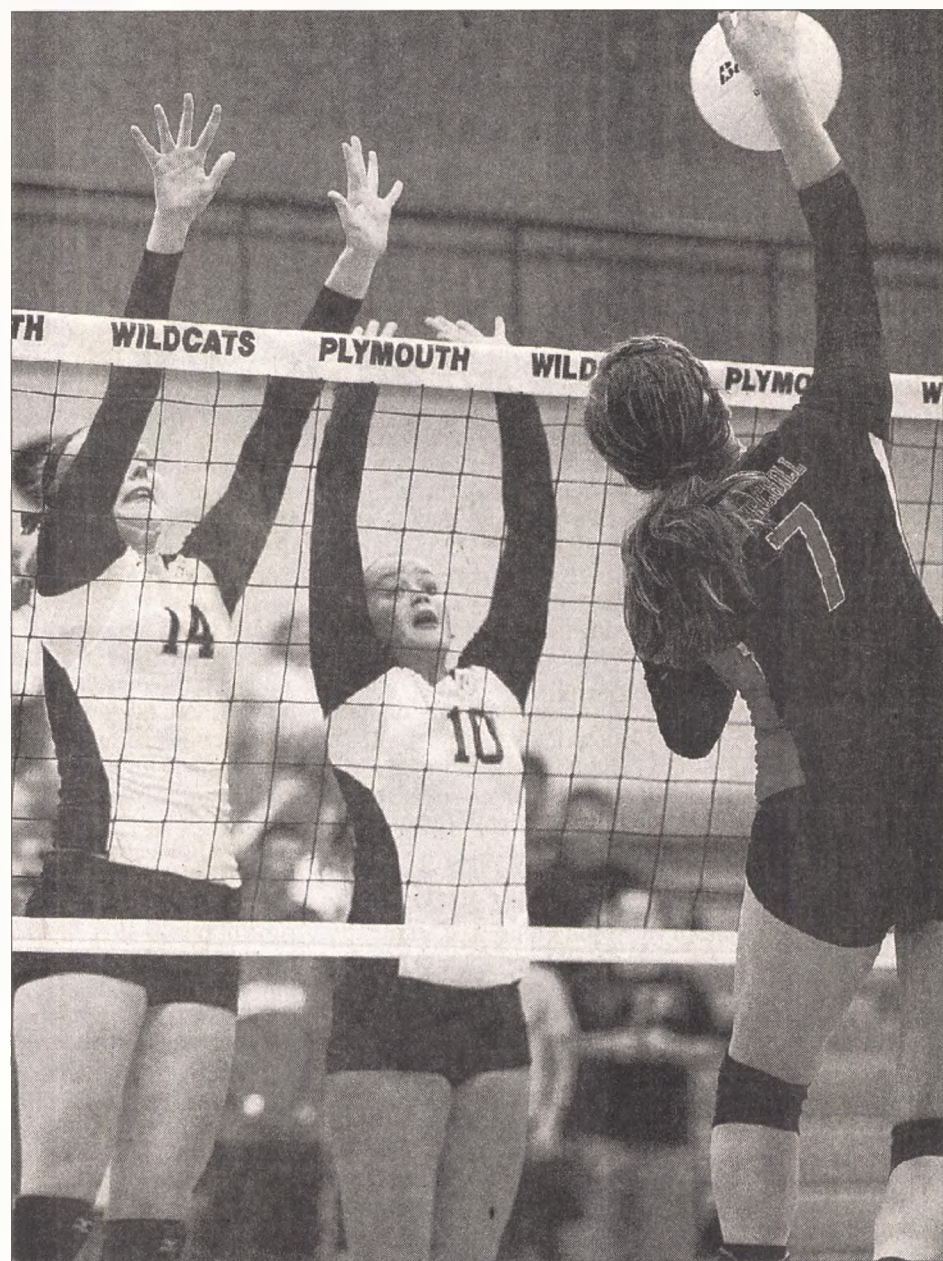
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Plymouth's Shelby Cheston (No. 14) and Taylor Rieckhoff (No. 10) jump to try and block Livonia Churchill's Mackenzie Hamill's spike attempt.

Net gains

Lady Ocelot spikers gear up for opener

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

When it comes to passing tests — both on the court and off — Schoolcraft College's volleyball team usually comes through with flying colors.

Honored nationally for their classroom excellence in 2011, the Ocelots have been acing their early preseason exams in the gym.

"We've done very well against the four-year schools we've scrimmaged so far," said third-year head coach Rod Brumfield. We're definitely holding our own."

Impressed by the sweat equity his team has invested during the off-season, Brumfield is confident SC can match or better last season's 29-14 record.

The Ocelots finished 9-5 and in a tie for third in the MCCA's Eastern Conference last season. They lost to Columbus State (Ohio) in the NJCAA District F Tournament at Grand Rapids Community College.

"This team's work ethic is unquestionable," he said. "These girls come to practice and they work, work, work. They all share the same desire to get better every time they touch the ball."

Brumfield said the Ocelots have earned an "A" in team chemistry early on.

"The girls played in a lot of open-gym stuff the past six months and they've gotten to know each other really well," he said. "Since practice started, the freshmen and sophomores have meshed seamlessly."

SC will be energized by sophomore captains Nicole Kempinski — a setter from Livonia Churchill — and defensive specialist Brooke Rycerz (Farmington).

"Nicole is a natural leader," said Brumfield. "She demands so much from herself and that rubs off on her teammates."

"I call Brooke our five-foot giant. In terms of work ethic, she like a quiet worker bee. Both Nicole and Brooke are well-received by all of our players."

Role model

Among the big hitters Kempinski will be setting for include fellow sophs Brittan Sprinkles (Carlton Airport) and Monika Rudis (Livonia Stevenson).

"Brittany is our silent giant in the middle," Brumfield revealed. "She's not real vocal, but she leads by example. She comes to practice every day and gets it done."

"Monica is a right-side player who is very talented and a huge contributor. She hits the ball very decisively."

Rounding out the Ocelots' sophomore class are Nicole Molnar (Canton) and Kara Kempinski, the 5-foot-5 twin sister of Nicole.

"Nicole is a very stable force on this team," Brumfield said. "She helps give us a very solid foundation."

"And with Kara — you talk about bringing some physicality to the game. She has great natural instincts to play defense. She's the real deal and is very vocal back there. She contributes a lot to this team."

The Ocelots' freshmen class is loaded with talent and potential. First-year front-row standouts include Emily Bondar, a 6-foot outside hitter from Allen Park Cabrini; Danielle Hopson, a 6-1 middle hitter from Albion; and Stephanie Gibson, a 5-5 all-around force from Brighton.

"Emily is a very solid hitter and she's very smart on offense," said Brumfield.

"Danielle has an outstanding work ethic and she has very athletic bloodlines; her father played basketball at the University of Michigan. She's getting better every time she touches the ball. And Stephanie is our trojan horse. She's 5-5, but she brings a game no one will expect. She has one of the fastest arm swings on our team and her instincts are very good."

Freshmen Megan Wright (Taylor Kennedy), Paige Schmidt (Westland Huron Valley Lutheran), Allie Dest (Huron Valley Lutheran) and Kortnie Bush (Southgate Anderson) will help solidify the Ocelots' defense and passing game.

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'Cats fall short in opener

Seniors Emily Norscia and Marissa Pomaville proved to be an effective one-two punch leading Livonia Churchill to a 25-22, 25-20, 25-17 girls volleyball win Wednesday over host Plymouth.

Norscia, a 6-foot senior outside hitter, finished with 15 kills and four ace serves, while Pomaville, a 6-1 senior middle hitter, contributed 13 kills and six blocks as the state-ranked Chargers (No. 6 in Class A) improved to 17-2 overall and 1-0 in the KLA's South Division.

For the Wildcats, top performers included Madelyn Betts (13 kills, 12 digs), Emilee Bey-

er (nine kills, 15 digs), Shayla Smalls (15 assists, three aces), Daniella Barile (13 assists, three aces) and Zoe Irvin (11 digs).

"We came out firing in the first game," Plymouth head coach Sarah Marody said. "...lots of energy, great communication but as the match went on, we seemed to lose some of the intensity."

"Lots of great things were happening out there, but we just couldn't take advantage and put together consistent runs."

Setter Katie Chartrand also chipped in with 28 assist-to-kills for Churchill, while Krystyn

Niescier and Julia Szuba paced the defense with 10 digs apiece.

"It's always tough going to Plymouth and it's a tough court to play on," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "They (Plymouth) are really athletic and we're thankful to come out with a win because we were able to grind it out."

Chiefs clip Wayne

Senior Miss Volleyball candidate Katie Horton's 19 kills, nine blocks and 17 digs went in vain Thursday as visiting Canton held off Wayne Memorial, 25-18, 25-18, 22-25, 25-17.

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DUAL MEET RESULTS

SALEM 128

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 58

Sept. 4 at Salem

200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Stephanie Solterman, Linda Zhang, Annie Patterson, Maddie Maikowski), 2:00.71; 2. Salem (Abby Aumiller, Kristy Rupp, Lisa Zhang, Jacey Lamoureux), 2:02.10; 3. Salem (Mckenzie Maurice, Yilka Veseli, Andrea Ringer, Alissa Amell), 2:16.27; 4. Livonia Churchill (Megan Lancaster, Madison Ytterock, Kylee Anderson, Allison Hill), 2:16.51.
200 freestyle: 1. Maddie Gorman (Salem), 2:06.08; 2. Vincenza Zaia (S), 2:11.64; 3. Brittany Gates (LC), 2:11.99; 4. Molly Jarvis (LC), 2:15.51; 5. Cassidy Sargent (S), 2:17.53.

200 individual medley: 1. Linda Zhang (S), 2:15.66; 2. Solterman (S), 2:29.54; 3. Claire Amin (S), 2:30.18; 4. Lancaster (LC), 2:45.15; 5. Hill (LC), 2:45.41.

50 freestyle: 1. Amanda Washko (LC), 26.02; 2. Julia Suriano (S), 26.39; 3. Maurice (S), 28.90; 4. Lamoureux (S), 29.58; 5. Amy Massie (LC), 30.75.

1-meter diving: 1. Yumi Nozawa (LC), 164.10 points; 2. Bridget Maul (S), 153.75; 3. Sydney Grenier (LC), 138.00; 4. Adelaida Jepperson (S), 130.35; 5. Lori Balfour (LC), 123.00.

100 butterfly: 1. Lisa Zhang (S), 1:00.79; 2. Aumiller (S), 1:02.82; 3. Washko (LC), 1:03.64; 4. Annie Patterson (S), 1:05.31; 5. Ytterock (LC), 1:21.95.

100 freestyle: 1. Gorman (S), 58.88; 2. Gates (LC), 1:01.78; 3. Amin (S), 1:02.44; 4. Jarvis (LC), 1:02.50; 5. Sargent (S), 1:03.26.

500 freestyle: 1. Suriano (S), 5:21.35; 2. Patterson (S), 5:43.73; 3. Maikowski (S), 6:26.57; 4.

Grace Tolen (LC), 6:26.81; 5. Kristen Gilley (LC), 6:28.92.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Churchill (Jarvis, Gates, Christina Fox, Washko), 1:49.52; 2. Salem (Gorman, Amin, Zaia, Suriano), 1:50.34; 3. Salem (Solterman, Sargent, Lamoureux, Ringer), 1:55.41.

100 backstroke: 1. Aumiller (S), 1:01.03; 2. Lisa Zhang (S), 1:01.15; 3. Solterman (S), 1:07.91; 4. Ytterock (LC), 1:15.30; 5. Gilley (LC), 1:18.51.

100 breaststroke: 1. Linda Zhang (S), 1:09.96; 2. Rupp (S), 1:23.67; 3. Lamoureux (S), 1:23.79; 4. Ytterock (LC), 1:23.96; 5. Massie (LC), 1:28.27.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Suriano, Lisa Zhang, Linda Zhang, Aumiller), 3:45.85; 2. Churchill (Washko, Jarvis, Fox, Gates), 4:05.32; 3. Salem (Zaia, Amin, Gorman, Patterson), 4:06.60.

Salem's dual meet record: 1-0 overall.



Salem's Abby Aumiller, shown in this photo, and teammate Lisa Zhang each received state cuts in the 100-yard backstroke in Tuesday's dual meet against Livonia Churchill. Aumiller and Zhang finished 1-2 in the event, with times of 1:01.03 and 1:01.15. Also earning a state cut Tuesday was Linda Zhang, finishing first in the 200 IM with a time of 2:15.66.

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MOPS

Group gives moms time for learning, camaraderie

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Coffee, sweet treats and adult conversation.

The eight moms gathered around a conference room table Thursday at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills couldn't ask for much more. While their preschoolers played in a supervised classroom down the hall, the women chatted, snacked, decorated a craft and reflected on Bible quotations. A new season of Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) was underway.

"It's a good time to get out of the house and talk to other moms," said Bridget Grace of West Bloomfield, explaining why she joined the group two years ago. "I've met other moms and I get a break from my kids. I really like this group of women. We get along well. We're one of the smaller MOPS groups, but it's kind of nice that you get to know everyone pretty well."

For the next nine months she and other MOPS members will meet from 9:30-11:15 a.m. the first and third Thursday at the church. Half of them also are members of the Orchard United Methodist Church congregation, although that isn't a requirement.

MOPS International, founded in 1973 by a handful of women in Wheat Ridge, Colo., is a non-denominational Christian organization open to mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. More than 3,900 MOPS groups meet in the United States and 35 other countries and are founded on the principles of community, mentoring, practical instruc-

tion and leadership development. Creative activities, guest speakers, demonstrations and discussion help carry out those goals.

But MOPS gatherings are as individual as are the women who create them.

"Last year we covered topics such as toddler nutrition, organization, fashion, exercise and fitness, common childhood illnesses," said Krista Stelmazek, co-coordinator for MOPS at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia. "We also closed the season with a spa pampering day. We had manicurists, a makeup artist and a masseuse."

Her MOPS chapter meets from 9:15-11:15 a.m., the second and fourth Friday of the month. Its first meeting is Sept. 14.

Food and conversation

Ethanie DeFoe, MOPS group coordinator, is getting ready to launch a new season of monthly meetings at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia. Her group will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. Her first session is Sept. 11.

"Our group is very laid back. It's a group of kind and genuine women. When they ask how are you doing today, they really mean it," she said.

Her MOPS chapter doesn't work with crafts, but members do view a short video that sparks conversation about the topic of the day. There's also a devotion at each meeting.

"We like to talk and eat good food," she said. "Conversations have been fun. I think what I love about our group is that I never feel judged."

"If I'm going through a diffi-



cult time in life, I know they'll be compassionate and I'll be listened to. We talk about all kinds of things."

Her MOPS chapter also runs a play group for their children the fourth Tuesday of the month, a book club and a "Moms Night Out" that has included such activities as movies, games, bowling, and service projects in the past.

"Each group tailors to what is best for them," said Alyson Gay of Novi, co-coordinator of the Orchard United Methodist MOPS. "If there is something a mom is struggling with or something a mom wants to learn about, that's what we want to have a speaker talk about."

Last year the women have listened to guest speakers

talk about organization, fashion, finance, gardening, parenting.

"You name it," said Suzanne Kosiba of Farmington Hills. "Whatever you want to learn about, you can learn about it here without the kids hassling you for an hour."

"I think some people might think MOPS is a support group and that therefore it means they have a problem and they don't know how to mother. And that's not at all what it's about."

A "mentor mom" with grown children attends each session and adds her experienced point of view to the conversation. But the meetings are just as much about camaraderie and fun as they are sometimes about parent-

ing issues.

"MOPS is about making you a great person so that you can be a good mom. This is not about your kids. When you come to MOPS it's about you," Kosiba said. "It's a support group in a way, depending on who is there and what they need. But there's also a lot of laughter."

For more about the Orchard United Methodist group, visit orchardumc.org or call (248) 626-3620

For Christ Our Savior Lutheran's group, call Defoe at (248) 227-6617 or e-mail to ethanie.defoe@gmail.com.

For the Memorial Church of Christ group, call the church at (734) 464-6722.

For other local groups, visit www.mops.org.

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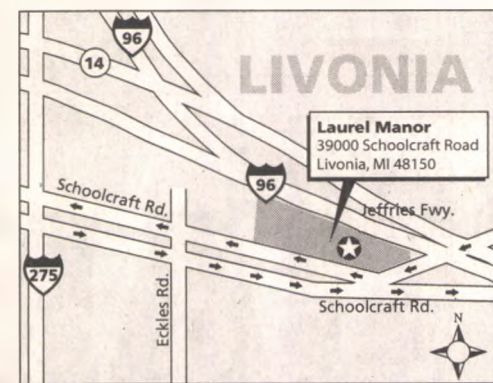
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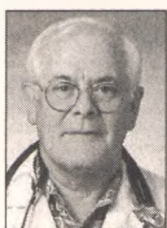
Beware: Your home may not be a safe haven

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

Our daughter, Hollie, asked me to come to her home when the service technician arrived on a Tuesday morning between 8-9 a.m. She was going to be away and I willingly played the role of guardian of the refrigerator.

I asked the service tech when he arrived what he was going to do to solve the problem of a leaking ice maker. Water had filled the bottom of the freezer section and frozen the door shut. Hollie had to pull the plug on the refrigerator so the ice could melt allowing the door to open. The refrigerator is only eight months old and I checked to see if there were any recalls on this product.

The service tech told me it was an upgrade and he



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

worked like an expert and answered every one of my questions. When completed, I introduced myself and he wasn't even nervous. His boss called me later and I told him I was very satisfied with the service. This again brings up the national issue of recalled appliances and why many people live in homes that could catch on fire and cause death and

would replace the icemaker and add a longer fill tube. I sat at the kitchen table and watched him at work. He knew what he was doing and had done several of these before. Let's just say he

destruction.

A month ago the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall on almost 800,000 dehumidifiers and then followed up with another recall on some 1 million dishwashers. A week ago 21,000 clothes dryers were recalled because of burners that stay on after the appliance has shut off. That's a guarantee that all the clothes inside the drum are going to ignite — and so is the rest of the house. *Consumer Reports* has a very specific detailed six-page report on appliance catching fire. It really goes into detail on why appliances are such a fire hazard and tells several horror stories of homeowners who been through the drama of it all. Go to consumerreports.org and read all about it.

They say that major appli-

ances cause more than 150,000 residential fires each year. More than 15 million appliances have been recalled in just the past five years. It is reported that there are more than 195 million appliances currently in American homes where people do not have a clue if they have a recalled product or not.

I think it's time for every homeowner to wake up before a fire puts them into permanent sleep. You can go to saferproducts.gov and check out many years of recalls on specific model numbers that may be in your home.

Another opinion comes from John Drenenberg, safety director with Underwriters Laboratory. Safety concerns arise as more appliances, or their components, are manufactured

abroad. Almost four of every five recalls in our tally involved products made outside of the U.S., with the majority coming from China.

Last year I was reading a notice of recall on an electric range and when I arrived at our cottage I discovered I had the very range mentioned. It didn't take me long to get a service technician to correct the defect and I'm such a skeptic that I still don't trust the fix on the product. I cut off the circuit breaker every time we leave the cottage. And so it goes when you own a cottage. There is always something to do. Keeping it safe is top priority. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.rr.com

Helping paws: Rabbits make great therapy pets

By L.J. McCulloch
Guest Columnist

Beyond psychotherapy, there is a form of psychological therapy that



Our Mental Health
Len McCulloch

has positively and profoundly affected people. It is referred to as pet therapy. Therapeutic animals are used as a treatment for people with emotional, mental and physical illnesses.

For example, The American Humane Society says several kinds of animals can be trained for therapy work. Through visits at senior's homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and hospitals, animals can provide comfort, fun and potential heal-

ing to the individuals they encounter.

In addition, Holisticonline.com states that the therapeutic use of pets as companions has gained increasing attention in recent years with people challenged by AIDS, cancer and a host of additional illnesses. The elderly population, children with illnesses and people with mental illness can experience the healing love of therapeutic animals. They bring joy to those they serve.

Pet ownership has been proven, through several studies, to affect people physiologically through the soothing and relaxing sense of touch. Merely watching a pet play or sleep lowers blood pressure and calms the nervous system. Pet owners also may feel needed and responsible for their pet, which often stimulates the human instinct for survival.

Some of the earliest uses of pet therapy in the United States were for people with mental illness. Research studies now show the positive physical effects on people from animals including pain reduction, elevated mood and improvement of survival rates of heart attack victims. There is also evidence that petting an animal can cause endorphins to be released in the human brain. Endorphins are chemicals in the brain that suppress the pain response.

According to The International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, a therapeutic animal may have healing effects on a non-communicative person. A patient may have with recall of memories after an interaction with a therapeutic animal. Those patients with traumatic brain injuries or chronic degenerative diseases

of the brain such as Alzheimer's, for example, have had various improvements while spending time with a therapy animal.

The Rabbit Lady

The Foundation for Pet Provided Therapy (FPPT), says that a friendly and docile rabbit can be a great therapy pet. Also, many rabbits are small enough to be "lap size" therapy pets compared to large therapy dogs. Rabbits offer the advantage of being the least threatening in temperament and the most gentle.

I have had the pleasure of knowing a rabbit lover named Nancy for many years. Nancy is a clinical social worker and has cared for and enjoyed the companionship of three therapeutic rabbits throughout her life. She related to me that several factors contribute to good mental health, and that pet

therapy and pet ownership are two which belong high on the list.

Nancy, also known as, "The Rabbit Lady," has asked and answered: "What is it about our furry friends that lights up our lives?" Several studies have delved into this subject and found that unconditional love is generally the prime reason people own pets. Books have been written on the different roles pets play for pet owners, including that of teacher, healer and protector.

Nancy says she believes that rabbits have a special place in the world of therapeutic animals because of their exceptionally mild and non-threatening nature. Therapeutic rabbits can be considered a safe bet when it comes to exposing them to people who are vulnerable or ill. Rabbits are not predators and so they are not inclined to act aggressively.

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary is home to future therapeutic rabbits that will help those afflicted with a variety of physical, emotional, and mental conditions. Visit its website at www.rabbitsanctuary.net.

Pet-A-Pet is a non-profit charitable organization providing pet therapy, including use of rabbits; www.pet-a-pet.org.

Dr. Paws, Inc. in Farmington Hills offers a network of therapy dogs and handlers that can perform animal-assisted therapy; www.drpaws.org.

Len McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, addictions and social work. For information about "The Rabbit Lady" and the "Our Mental Health Column" call McCulloch at (248) 474-2763, Ext.22.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won.** The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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REUNIONS

DEARBORN FORDSON

CLASSES OF 1946-47. 65th and 66th reunion: Thursday, Sept. 13 at the Stitt Hall in Dearborn Heights. Call Earl Berry at (313) 277-7130 or (313) 727-8983.

CLASS OF 1948

The January and June classes will hold a 64-year reunion lunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 20, at the American Legion, Carl E. Stitt Post, 232 Warren Road, Dearborn. For more information call Rose Marie Listwan Kopelkin at (734) 421-1485.

CLASS OF 1952

60-year reunion planned for Sept. 15 at Park Place in Dearborn. E-mail Al Orloff at orloffal@att.net or phone him at (734) 432-9308 or e-mail Marvin M. Smyth at mmsmyth@juno.com or call him at (313) 562-4378.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982 For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley

Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ROBICHAUD

CLASS OF 1962 50th class reunion, Sept. 29 at the 1-Under Bar & Grill Banquet Facility in Livonia. The committee is looking for classmates and contact information. All classes are welcome to attend. Send names, contact info and questions to the reunion committee website, robichaud62@yahoo.com. Check out "Robichaud 50th Reunion Class of 62" on Facebook and on classmates.com. Or call Paula (McGue) at (517) 304-9755.

DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1962 Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m.

Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

DETROIT EASTERN

ALL CLASSES Annual reunion will run 1:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan, i Warren. Special recognition will go to classes of 1942, 19542 and 1962. The open bar will start at 1:30 p.m., with dinner served at 2:30 p.m. Price is \$30 per person. Make reservations with Nancy Linhard at (586) 268-1187.

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASSES FROM 1950-69

Second annual picnic noon-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23, at Nankin Mills Pavilion in Hines park, located at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive in Westland. Bring your own picnic or purchase Michigan-made hot dogs, chips, pop, water and ice cream at the event.

Seating will be available under the shelter, or bring your own chairs. No need to pre-register. Call Janet Cable at (734) 377-4009 or e-mail mackenzie50s-60s@hotmail.com.

DETROIT WESTERN

ALL CLASSES Friday, Sept. 14 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriam, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Family-style luncheon plus prizes and plenty of school spirit. \$25 per person. Phone Mildred (Lois) Carpenter at (248) 427-0673 for tickets. Deadline is Aug. 25.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates from January and June classes for 50th class reunion Saturday, Sept. 22 at Western Golf and Country Club, Redford. Cost is \$62 per person. Other weekend activities include tour of school, evening icebreaker and Sunday brunch. For information call Judy Alegnani Murray, (313) 399-0507, Judy Hull Rakowski, (734) 459-3832,

Helen Knight Tucker, (734) 285-4927 or Ralph Brighton, (734) 513-7499.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962 The 50th class reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills; (248) 477-7800. The \$60 per person cost includes a welcome reception from 2-5 p.m. and an evening dinner dance with cash bar. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations deadline is Sept. 1. For more information call Michele Cook Hoffmeyer at (602) 290-6006 or e-mail to russmichele@yahoo.com. Check Classmates and Facebook FHS Class of 62 Reunion pages for more information.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973 Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on face-

book. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, Suzie Wright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffrexfordell@comcast.net.


GARDEN CITY WEST

CLASS OF 1972 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27. For more information e-mail to Janine (Alioto) Brown at jbrown@psm.inc.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962 50-year reunion for January and June graduates 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For information or to RSVP e-mail Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@Marilyn-5Jnyder.com, or call (586) 215-9445.

Arthritis Today
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DOWNSIZING IN ARTHRITIS

Doctors approach the treatment of arthritis, particularly rheumatoid arthritis, in an aggressive manner. If a patient is experiencing hand pain in the morning that lasts 2-3 hours and feels like the feet are stepping on stones, then therapy must be immediate and vigorous.

If the patient's arthritis responds with pain receding and swelling resolving, can the doctor withdraw therapy in a timely manner? No, doctors move cautiously when withdrawing medication.

In arthritis resulting from auto-immune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, spondylitis or Sjogren's syndrome, there are no laboratory tests that can confirm that treatment has succeeded in achieving a remission. The only way to know is to cut back on medication and follow the patient.

Definite rules-of-thumb exist. First, decrease only one drug at each appointment. If a patient with rheumatoid arthritis is taking both methotrexate 5 tablets a week and prednisone 10 mg/day, then the doctor will take one drug, say methotrexate, and decrease the dose from 5 tablets a week, to 4 tablets a week and observe whether pain or swelling returns. If after one month or two, the patient reports no worsening, the doctor can decrease medication again.

Second, decrease treatment in small increments. Then, if the decrease goes below being therapeutic, the patient need only make a small adjustment upward to return to a state of wellbeing.

Down sizing therapy is like walking a hill. Going up may be arduous, but coming down requires caution.

AT: 0608786072

Attorneys meet with divorce support group at Schoolcraft College Transition Center

Schoolcraft College Transition Center's Divorce Support Group will meet 7-9 p.m. twice monthly, starting Tuesday, Sept. 11, in room 225 at the McDowell Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

Group discussions, mediated by Dianne Hartman of Huron Ridge Associates, is set for Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis at each group discussion.

Other sessions include:
 • Jack D. McLean, an attorney with Creighton, McLean & Shea, PLC, will present an overview of the process for filing for divorce at the Sept. 25 session.
 • Attorney Marie A. Pulte will discuss the mediation process in

assisting couples in negotiating their divorce, post-divorce and co-parenting issues, on Oct. 23

• On Nov. 27, Cynthia J. Barnwell will discuss the intense emotions triggered by divorce during holidays and other special occasions and will offer coping skills.

The Dec. 25 session is cancelled because it coincides with Christmas.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend and registration is not required.

The Transition Center also offers one-on-one sessions with a divorce financial planner from Divorce Solutions and an attorney from the fall semester

through May without charge.

The divorce financial planner will be available 4:30-6 p.m. the first Monday of the month, starting Oct. 1 at the Transition Center on campus. Clients will be served on a first come first served basis. They may sign in beginning at 4 p.m.

Attorney Laura Reyes Kopack of Creighton, McLean & Shea is available the second Monday of the month and an attorney from the firm of Marie A. Pulte, PC, is available the third Monday at the Transition Center. Sessions are available from 4-6 p.m. on a first come first served basis. They may sign in beginning at 3:30 p.m.

For more information call the Transition Center at (734) 4652-4443.

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WELCOME BACK!

Here are things you can do to make this school year the best one yet.

- 1) Plan to do your best. Just like mom and dad make plans to complete a project, you need to succeed in the classroom. Schedule home work time. Find out when big projects will be due.
- 2) Extra Credit! Make your teacher really notice you by doing a little extra work.
- 3) Be a friend not a bully. You will have loads of new friends if you are a friend first.
- 4) Pick Me-Pick Me! Get involved. Maybe it's an extracurricular activity, club, or event.
- 5) Feed your mind and body! Kick-off your day with a healthy breakfast followed later with a nutritious lunch. It will help you be your best all day long.
- 6) Rest-Work-Play! After all is said and done, make sure to get plenty of rest and add some playtime in your school week.



Now go and have a great semester in school!

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Date of Birth: _____

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Email: _____

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*Parent's Printed Name: _____

*Parent's Signature: _____

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

* Required for Birthday Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|
| Hanna Richardson | Garden City | Sept. 5 |
| Patrick Kerrigan | Livonia | Sept. 18 |
| Mikey Palmer | Plymouth | Sept. 21 |
| Isaiah Bonner | Romulus | Sept. 25 |
| Ryan Stallworth | Southfield | Sept. 29 |

Share your talent!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?

Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.



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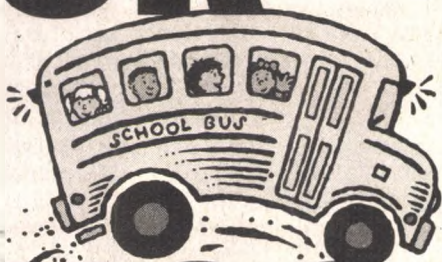
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Design/Layout: Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

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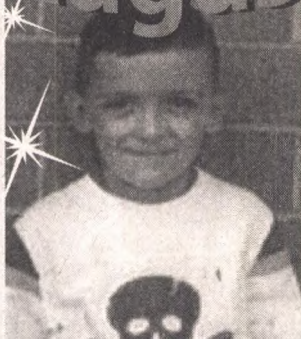
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Scoop's BACK TO SCHOOL



Hound Dog Highlights CONTEST

August Winners!



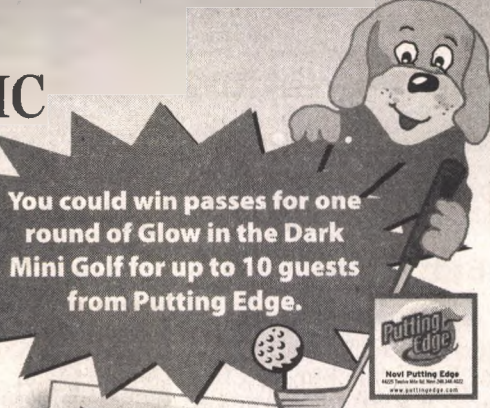
Parker had a lot of fun this summer spending time at his grandparent's cottage. "I had fun with my remote control cars, remote control boats, shooting BB guns and swimming. My brother and I did a lot of things while we were there! I went on my grandpas big boat and even went tubing for the first time."

Parker Howard, Garden City



David had a fun filled summer vacation including hot dog parties, paddle boating and a trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Sandusky, OH. "I swam, won 1000s of tickets in the arcade, and had huge bucket drop tons of water on our heads." He also send time with his Gram. and Papa fishing "I caught four fish...Those fish were taking my worms like crazy".

David Kott, Novi



You could win passes for one round of Glow in the Dark Mini Golf for up to 10 guests from Putting Edge.

Back-to-School

Scoop hopes this will be a great school year for you. Tell him about your first week of school. You could win. Include a photo with your letter.

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry: (Phone, email, home address)

Selected winners will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

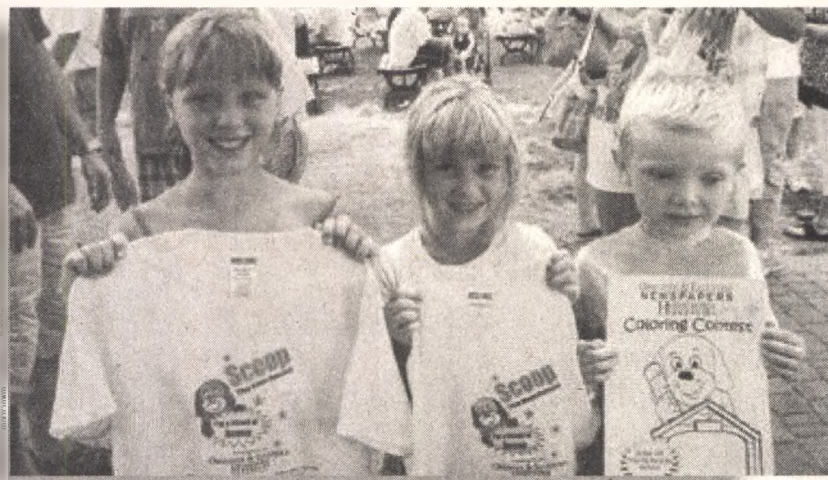


Aubree had a great summer exploring Northern Michigan including Petoskey, Traverse City, and Mackinaw. "We got to swim in Lake Michigan, and in pools and one hot tub! My sister and I were at a store in Travers City. We saw this bear outside and wanted to take a picture with the bear".

Aubree Ostrom, Livonia

Scoop's summer ADVENTURE

This summer Scoop was very busy making new friends at Plymouth Art in the Park and Redford Geriatric Community Picnic



Kyleigh, 8; Kaylyn, 5 yrs old and Hunter, 5 yrs old Howell



Beshira Graham, 2 Detroit; Ashley Brown, Oak Park; Lori Ensign, Clinton Township



Datwan Horton, 11 Detroit



Kyle Graces and Kieona Graces of Detroit



Emma Moxley, Asia Horton, 9; Zyrain Horton, 2 Detroit

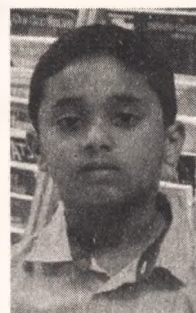
BULLY ME!

Do You Get Bullied? If you say YES...Well this story is for you.

One day it was recess time at school. I was playing Zombie tag with my friends. Everything was going smooth until... a bunch of big kids arrived and started bullying me. I was so frustrated because they ruined my playtime. The bullying not only affecting my playtime but is also affecting my learning at school and home.

I have to find a way to stop this bullying. Then I got the perfect idea. So the next day I was waiting for the big bullying kids to arrive and start the bullying.

Here they come. A gang of three. I put on a stone face and said "Okay bully me!" As soon as they started bullying, I started thinking about lunch, math, waking-up tomorrow, Friday's skating and all other good things. I never paid any attention to the bullies. Finally they were so frustrated about my positive behavior, they left and never came back to bully me. So long bullies!



Madhavan C. Thevar Editor and Writer of self-produced magazine McScribbles from www.mcscribbles.com

Third Grader at Highmeadow Common Campus

Madhavan C. Thevar Farmington

Deadline for submissions:

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, Mi 48170 All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on September 27th. or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Virtual surgery, group hypnosis aid weight loss

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Josh Ulch shed 80 pounds three years ago and has kept the weight off.

Ask him how he did it and he'll tell you that he literally put his mind to the task.

"I never believed in it. I thought it was something for entertainers," said Ulch, describing how he used to regard hypnosis.

His opinion quickly changed after some of his relatives attended a hypnosis weight loss seminar. He noticed their "amazing transformation" and wanted to lose pounds, too.

Ulch, a Troy resident who works in Livonia, took a group hypnosis session through Wellness Seminars, a Florida-based company founded by former Ann Arbor resident Rena Greenberg.

"You have to approach it with the mindset that you are going to listen to the suggestions and pay attention to them," he said, recalling his hypnosis session. "It may not be for everyone but it worked for me."

"My eating habits changed almost immediately. I look forward to grilled chicken with no cheese on it."

Greenberg will present the weight loss seminar again from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27 at Providence Medical Center, 37595 Seven Mile, Livonia.

The cost is \$69.99 if registered online at www.easywillpower.com. The price at the



Rena Greenberg, a former Ann Arbor resident who now lives in Florida, will lead a weight loss hypnosis seminar in Livonia this month.

door — with reservations — is \$79.99. Call (800) 848-2822 for more information. In addition to the two-hour session, participants will receive a booklet with behavior modification tips, a hypnosis audio CD to help reinforce the session, free seminar and hypnosis repetitions for a year, a card with inspirational and motivational quotes.

Subconscious mind

Greenberg has presented the weight loss seminar in more than 75 hospitals and medical centers, including St. John Health System, Crittenton Hospital, Oakwood Hospital and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, over the past 23 years.

"Most people come to me, whether privately or in a group because they have been on every diet there is. They know they need to eat healthier. They know they need to eat less and exercise. "The problem is subconsciously they are run by old patterns — binge eating, emotional eating, night snacking," Greenberg said. "For many people these messages come from childhood — 'Finish everything on your plate.' 'Have some cookies and milk, you'll feel better.' These messages are ingrained in your mind and all these years, just reinforcing those patterns."

Some individuals also associate pleasure with

foods that aren't healthful, she said.

"What hypnosis does is change the way you think about food subconsciously. My approach is about helping each of us access that deeper part of the mind that can guide us in a new way. And when that happens it's just natural to eat smaller portions and increase activity, all without feeling deprived. "Your mindset shifts."

Fascinated by the mind

Greenberg changed her own eating habits while in her mid-20s after a hospital stay. She studied nutrition and other health topics, and became fascinat-



Josh Ulch says group hypnosis helped him lose weight. This is his "before" photo.



Josh Ulch, who works in Livonia, is 80 pounds lighter after undergoing hypnosis. He lost the weight three years ago and has kept it off.

ed by "the power of the mind."

A graduate of City University of New York at Brooklyn College, she worked as a bio-feedback therapist in both private practice and at The Hospital of Joint Disease in New York City, N.Y. before founding Wellness Seminars. She also holds certification in hypnosis from The Eastern NLP Institute and the National Guild of Hypnotists.

In addition to weight loss and smoking cessation seminars, Greenberg also offers gastric bypass hypnosis as an alternative to surgery. She'll be available for one-on-one sessions Sept. 25-28 in Ann Arbor. Call (800) 848-2822 for reservations.

Gastric bypass hypnosis, a process that takes clients through a virtual surgery, began in Europe and has been

gaining attention in the U.S. Clients believe they went through the actual surgery.

Greenberg incorporated it into her practice two years ago and has since been featured on ABC's *Nightline* program. She likes the process because it costs less than the actual surgery, requires no recovery time and creates no risky side effects.

"It's a great alternative for people who don't want an operation. It does no harm," she said, adding that results have been "fantastic."

She helps to reinforce the virtual surgery through pre- and post-hypnosis sessions and take-home CDs. The entire package costs \$1,099.

For more information about Wellness Seminars visit www.easywillpower.com.

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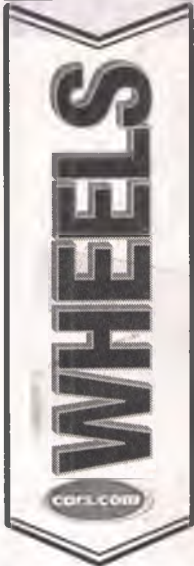
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