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IN THE PAPER TODAY

TV Book: *The Observer Newspapers have discontinued the TV cable guide. Reader surveys have shown that the guide hasn't been popular with the majority of our readers. We will continue to focus our attention on improving other aspects of your newspaper. We apologize for any inconvenience.*

COMMUNITY LIFE

Cool for school: *It's an end-of-summer tradition ... parents and children heading to stores to shop for school clothes. And for today's students, clothes sporting name brand logos are hot, hot, hot. /B1*

AT HOME

Respected residences: *The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's Historic Home Tour presents outstanding examples of various architectural styles. /D6*

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival: *Every weekend, more than 200 actors reach out and touch the hearts of as many people as they can during the Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly Township. /E1*

Theater: *The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes," a delightful musical for the whole family, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. /E2*

REAL ESTATE

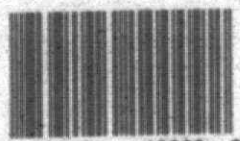
Carriage trade: *Million-dollar homes are more than just shelter. /F1*

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Support swinging to closer site

NEW HIGH SCHOOL

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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After years of a public stance that a new high school will be built on the corner of Joy and Beck roads because that's what voters were promised in the 1997 bond vote, the current Plymouth-Canton school board is poised to change its position. Plans are to build the new school closer to the two existing high schools at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The net result of a presentation by six educators and administrators to the board Tuesday may have swayed what support remained for building the new school on the western edge of the complex owned by the school district.

"The high school administration and staff are always working toward the ideal educational program. The physical plant should not become a hindrance in our quest," Salem High School Principal Gerald Ostoin said in reading the recommendation to the board. "Because the location is permanent, it is imperative that the site provides the maximum range of utilization. Therefore, we believe that the third facility must be accessible within the 10 minute passing period."

Many benefits

The committee summarized that to provide a high quality secondary edu-

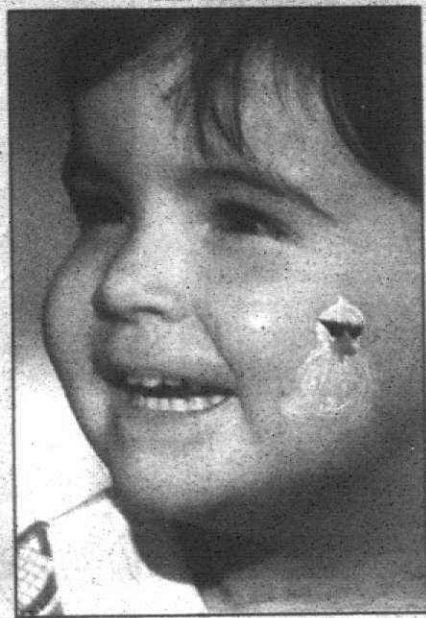
Please see HIGH SCHOOL, A6

Who are these guys?



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Filling the bill: *Some real, live ducks add excitement to what was a rather dull wait for the rubber ducks to cross the finish line in Heritage Park Friday night, as the First Annual Great Canton Duck Derby debuted. At right, Kelsey Poyer, 2½, shows off her temporary tattoo after visiting the face-painting table sponsored by D & M Studios of Canton. For more photos from Friday's festivities, please turn to Page A3 in today's Observer.*



Interim chief faces full agenda

An old debate and new issues are crowding the calendar for Ken Walcott, who will lead Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for the next six months.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON

BY VALERIE OLANDER
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Ken Walcott was hungry for a challenge when he took on a six-month interim job heading Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. And, with slightly over a month in the seat, Walcott certainly has his plate full.

As the nationwide search for a new superintendent continues, an old debate has regained steam over where to locate the third high school in proximity to the other two existing schools. Also at issue is the changing of school boundaries due to the construction of the new Discovery Middle School in Canton and staffing concerns due to last year's buyout of teachers and a flurry of resignations. School is set to begin Aug. 31 with most of the positions now filled.

Please see SUPERINTENDENT, A4

Guests, staff sing praises of inn manager

BY SCOTT NEINAS
STAFF WRITER

EVERYDAY HEROES



Anyone who can keep 250 guests happy must be doing something right. And Maria Wyatt, general manager of Marriott's Fairfield Inn at Ford Road and Haggerty, does just that.

Wyatt was nominated by hotel employee Richard Dennis for the Canton-Observer's "Everyday Hero" designation. The Observer is highlighting people around the township who put the "service" in customer service.

Wyatt says deteriorating customer service standards over the years have made her job both more challenging and more rewarding.

"It makes my job easier because people kind of expect bad service. It doesn't take much to impress a guest," she said.

"But when someone pays for a hotel room, they're not taking anything tan-

gible away from the experience. They're not taking anything but a memory home with them. I think our guests come back because of us," she said, referring to her staff.

Some of the things Wyatt does for visitors are truly gallant, no matter what they're accustomed to.

"She goes out of her way to help the guests any way she can," said Dennis. "I hate to use this cliché, but she goes above and beyond the call of duty."

Wyatt said she and her staff try to provide guests with "nice little things that they wouldn't expect" like birthday cakes, a ride to the airport, even gifts.

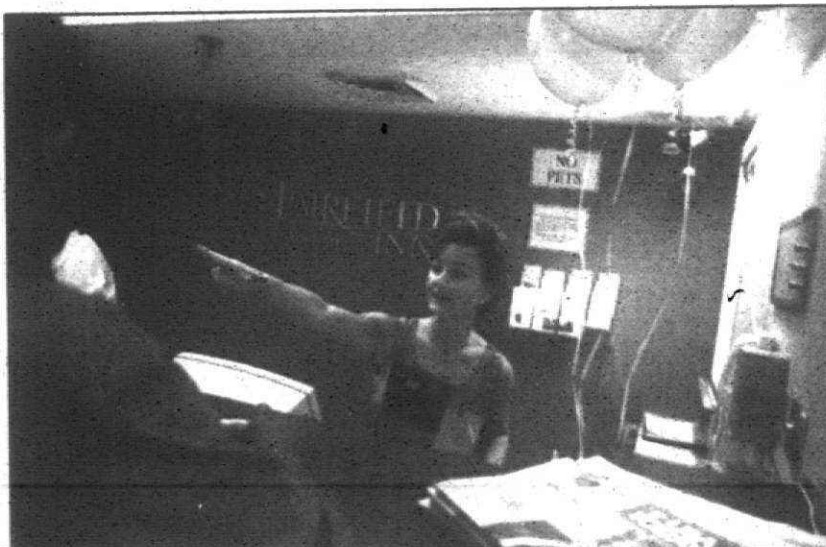
"If a guest is having a bad day, she'll have flowers sent up to their room," Dennis said.

Wyatt says the key to providing good customer service is anticipating the needs of the guest.

The things that can't be anticipated, Wyatt takes care of on the fly.

Like the time she ran to a toy store and bought baby presents for some

Please see HEROES, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

This way, please: *Maria Wyatt checks in a customer and directs him to his room at the front desk of the Fairfield Inn on Ford Road in Canton.*

Legislators seek to slow flow of out-of-town trash

BY SCOTT DANIEL
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When it comes to trash, Michigan shouldn't be a dumping ground for other states and countries, according to Canton Republicans Loren Bennett and Bruce Patterson.

Earlier this year, the state legislators introduced senate and house bills, respectively, to stop or at least slow the flow of garbage from outside Michigan's borders.

Both bills are currently in committee and could only become law if the U.S. Supreme Court changes its mind about waste shipments. In 1992, the high court ruled that such shipments are protected under the Constitution's interstate commerce clause.

"We're trying to send a message to Washington," said Bennett, "and show them in strong terms that we're very serious about this issue."

Patterson agreed. "I hope they do the right thing," he said. "It seems like the kind of issue

states should have a say in." Sauk Trail Hills General Manager Laurie Kendall, who runs a Canton landfill, thinks the legislation will have a difficult time passing.

"The concept isn't legal," she commented. "Interstate commerce has been supported by the courts."

Nationally, Michigan is among the top four states in importing trash. Nearly 15 percent of waste going into state landfills comes from other regions.

According to Bennett, the state faced a "severe" landfill space shortage in the late 1980s. Since then, recycling efforts and opening of new landfills has created a glut of space.

"There was an oversiting of landfills," Bennett said.

Consequently, imports have shot up. That's not true in Sauk Hills' case, however. The landfill imports less than one percent of its waste from outside of Michigan annually, said Kendall.

Please see TRASH, A4

Man shot in foot, cops say charges likely for 2

BY SCOTT DANIEL
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A Canton man suffered gunshot wounds to both feet Tuesday after arguing with two men.

The incident occurred at about 1:30 p.m. at the DeSwan Motel on Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road. The Canton man was taken to Annapolis Hospital in Garden City following the incident.

"His injuries didn't appear life-threatening," said Canton Police Sgt. Jerry Hardesty.

The two suspects, both Canton men, were being held by township police pending charges. Neither had been arraigned by Observer press time Wednesday.

Police responded to a 911 call from the motel at 1:39 p.m. Tuesday. Upon arriving, police met with the victim, whose name is being withheld, in the motel lobby.

The incident occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the DeSwan Motel on Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road.

The two suspects were taken into custody minutes later without incident, police reports said. Both appeared to be intoxicated at the time of the shooting, police said.

The argument began over a cell phone, according to reports.

A small caliber rifle was used in the shooting. The same suspect fired both shots, Hardesty said.

The second suspect will likely be charged with assaulting the Canton man.

"Prior to the guy being shot," Hardesty said, "it's our belief that the other guy committed an assault."

Rusty Nail has call in to carpenter after incident

A 23-year-old Walled Lake man was charged with malicious destruction of property Saturday in connection with an incident at the Rusty Nail bar on Ford Road.

According to township police reports, the man entered the bar at about 1 a.m. The bar refused to serve alcohol to the 23-year-old because he appeared to be intoxicated, reports said.

The man then left and kicked the door on the way out. Reports said the blow broke molding around the door and caused an estimated \$500 damage.

Police were called to the scene. Officers found the man minutes later in a nearby parking lot, reports said. He was arrested without incident.

Drugs found

Canton officers arrested a township man after discovering marijuana on him Sunday. Officers were dispatched to the

COP CALLS

between Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The woman told police she thinks an ex-girlfriend of her son's may be responsible. She said several incidents, such as unwanted deliveries and obscene phone calls, have occurred since the relationship ended about a year ago.

Bike stolen

A 13-year-old Canton boy reported his bicycle stolen to township police Saturday.

The Brookshire Street resident rode to Blockbuster Video on Ford Road at about 6 p.m. and left his bike outside. When he returned minutes later, the bike was gone.

The bike is valued at \$150. Police have no suspects.

Numbers

Canton Police received 278 calls for service for the weekend of Aug. 13-15.

A total of 23 traffic crashes were reported, one with injuries. Fourteen calls were made for family/civil trouble and 13 for malicious destruction of property.

Heroes from page A1

guests' grandchildren. "They were visiting their grandchildren here for the first time," Wyatt said. "They didn't know their way around."

Dennis said Wyatt's genuine consideration and thoughtfulness sets her apart from the rest. "Maria's never too busy for a guest, you won't see her hiding in an office all day. I've never worked in an environment like that," Dennis said.

Dennis added that Wyatt treats the employees just as good as the guests. "It makes you look forward to coming in to work."

After working in the catering industry for 14 years, Wyatt decided she needed a change.

Wyatt's career with Marriott started eight years ago when she applied for a job at the company's Courtyard hotel at Metro Airport.

"As soon as I walked through the door at the airport Marriott, I knew this is what I wanted to do," she said.

Wyatt lives in Southgate with her husband Danny and their two daughters, Kaitlin, 3, and Kiersten, a 6-month-old.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMAN

Career plans: "As soon as I walked through the door at the airport Marriott, I knew this is what I wanted to do," says hotel manager Maria Wyatt.

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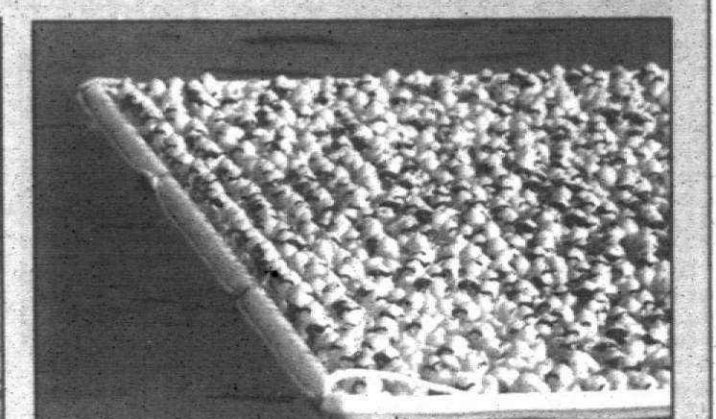
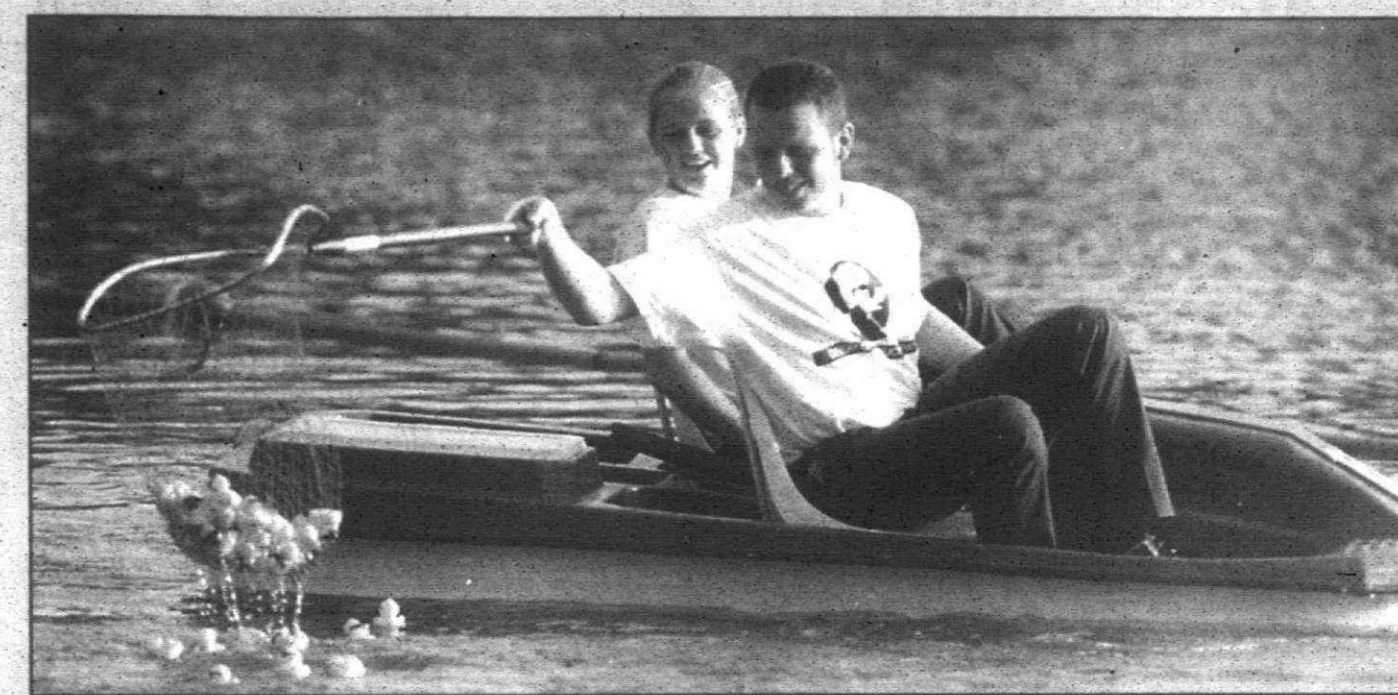
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Derby watchers get quacking at Heritage Park ponds



Ready, set...A closeup of the ducks as they are corralled in the pond before the start of the event. Throughout the summer, ducks were available for "adoption" at park events and through the parks and recreation office. Below, Canton Parks and Recreation Supervisor Bob Dates and his crew wait patiently for the winner to cross the finish line.

Helping hands: Kim Yount and Kevin Dare of the Canton Community Grounds Maintenance Crew "rescue" several ducks who got off course due to the firehose that was used to prod them along toward the finish line.



Special guest: "Quackers" gives a hug to Paige Michael, 6, while friend Lindsey Moore, 10, Alaina Michael, 2, Catherine Quenga, 6, and Courtney Moore, 8, look on at right. Quackers guide, Jamie Vergari, is at left.



CANTON CONNECTION

Tops at Concours

Robert and Judy Ann Kohl of Canton took home the trophy for Most Significant Ford Car for their 1955 Thunderbird at the Concours d'Elégance show Aug. 2 at Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University.

Some 270 vintage and classic cars were entered at the 21st annual event this year. A 1937 Bugatti Type 57 SC owned by Ralph Lauren and restored by Paul Russell of Essex, Mass., was awarded the Governor's Trophy for Best of Show.

The Kohls and their car were featured in a July 29 story in the Canton Observer.

Grand opening

Lynch's the dance apparel store, has opened at 7399 Lilley Road (at Warren).

In addition to traditional dance wear, the store sells theatrical makeup, clown supplies, sequins and trims, tiaras, appliques, novelties and other items. There is a large selection of Halloween costumes and accessories for sale or rent.

The Canton location is a second store for Lynch's, which also has a Dearborn location.

A Grand Opening and Back to Dancing School Sale Aug. 25 to Sept. 4 will feature 10 percent off all dance shoes and 20 percent off regularly

priced leotards, tights, unitards, skirts, skate dresses and legwarmers.

The Canton store phone number is (734) 207-8842.

Engler appointee

Lita Popke, of Canton, has been reappointed to the state Board of Ethics by Gov. John Engler.

Popke has been an attorney with the Detroit law firm of Weisman, Trogan, Young and Schloss since 1994.

The Board of Ethics takes and reviews complaints of unethical conduct by public officers and employees, conducts inquiries into the allegations, and makes recommendations to the appointing authority as a result of its findings.

Popke will serve on the board until February of 2003.

Mary Kay award

Dawn Otten-Sweeney of Canton is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award given at a recent Mary Kay Inc. business seminar in Dallas.

The award is given to Mary Kay independent sales directors for exceeding \$650,000 in product sales during the contest period.

the Canton Public Library

Did you know?
■ Sunday, Aug. 22 is "Be an Angel Day." This is a day to do a small act of service or kindness for someone.
■ The Michigan State Fair begins Tuesday, Aug. 24 and runs through Monday, Sept. 6.
■ The first library was established in Charleston, S.C. in 1698?
■ The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."
■ Almonds are members of the peach family?

tape available from the library
■ "The Ghostway" by Tony Hillerman
■ "The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon" by Stephen King
■ "A Handful of Dust" by Evelyn Waugh
■ "The Happy Return" by C.S. Forester
■ "The India Fan" by Victoria Holt
■ "Into the Wilderness" by Sara Donati

Magazines for kids
Here are some magazines of interest to young readers:
■ Chickadee
■ Child Life
■ Contact Kids
■ Creative Kids

A stitch in time
Here are some fiction selections with a sewing theme:
■ "How to Make an American Quilt" by Whitney Otto
■ "House of Elliott" by Jean Marsh
■ "Persian Pickle Club" by Sandra Dallas

Web Watch
Check out these new Web sites:
■ <http://www.photographynewwork.com>
■ <http://www.investorsville.com>
■ <http://www.thebestintheworld.com>
■ <http://www.aecla.com>

Hot topic of the week
■ The Michigan State Fair is the oldest state fair in the country and the second largest paid admission event in the states. More than 500,000 people of all ages are expected to attend this year's fair, which runs from Aug. 24 through Labor Day (Sept. 6).
■ The Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorogi of the library staff. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call 397-0999.

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High school from page A1

the east site (closest to the two high schools) would maintain a strong core curriculum; be more cost effective than the west site (on Beck Road), where students would have to be bused on campus; would maintain optimal teaching conditions; and would continue safety and consistency in discipline.

The committee stressed that in just about all areas, having the new high school built on the far reaches of the property would most likely eliminate course offerings, require some duplicate classes, create schedule conflicts, and force teachers to lose out on cooperative planning and sharing time because of distance.

New figures for busing students from the current high schools to a west site location indicate it would cost the district \$80,000 for two buses to transport students, and increase the current 10-minute passing time

between classes.

The board is expected to vote on which site it wants to build the new high school at its Aug. 24 meeting. Three trustees appear ready to support the east site.

Board reaction

"I've been ready to vote east for three years," said Trustee Roland Johnson, who at times during the battle over location remained a lone soldier in supporting a site close to the present high schools. "I've had three kids go through the schools and I'm happy with it."

"I think construction costs of either site will be about the same, but service and curriculum are important, so the east site is the one for me," said newly-elected board member Steve Guile.

"I support east because we have to vote the big picture of cost and the impact of students,"

'I've been ready to vote east for three years. I've had three kids go through the schools and I'm happy with it.'

Roland Thomas, Plymouth-Canton school board member

said board vice-president Elizabeth Givens. "I want to look down the road and see what else we can use those acres (west site) for."

Undecided

The other four board members, who have continually stressed a west site school, refused to tip their hands as to where they'll vote Tuesday. However, the curriculum and cost factors are giving them something to think about.

"I still think there's a lot of misinformation out there," said Trustee Darwin Watts. "I'm not

going to say how I'll vote at this time, but there are some things that supported my views that I already came to the table with."

"Last spring we didn't have all the information ... and we only knew of one location (to build)," said Susan Davis, board president. "There are a lot of other factors involved, like future use of the land and cost for transportation. Now we have all the facts we didn't have last spring."

When asked directly if she now supported an east site, Davis said "I need to think about it a bit more, but it could be a possibility."

Trustee Judy Mardigan has always been adamant that she helped sell the \$79.8 million bond issue to voters on the premise the school would be built at the corner of Joy and Beck roads. But she does concede there are some good reasons to move the school.

"From a curriculum standpoint it looks like it's easier to deliver, assuming east is a 10-minute walk (from the existing facilities)," admitted Mardigan. "If we decide on an east location, what are we going to do to make it a more personalized setting for students? I'm not quite ready to vote east on Tuesday. There are still a lot of unanswered questions."

"I want to get all the information before I make a final decision, like finding out if the east site can be reached in the 10 minute passing period. Other factors, including site studies, financial and curriculum impli-

cations, need to be taken into account," said board member Mark Slavens, an attorney. "However, I still think there are legal and ethical implications with this decision. I want to do what's best for the children of this community."

Voters promised

While most who attended the session were educators in favor of the east site, there were those who still favor a west site location, as presented during the bond vote.

"Whenever I asked where the new school would be, the only answer I ever got was Joy and Beck," Paul Schraupen told board members. "There's a sign at Joy and Beck. I voted for Joy and Beck. If I had been told the east site was the choice, my vote would have been no."

House leader says he learned basics in the Army

By MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

"Please ... state Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, retorted, his voice dripping with disdain.

He was talking about his status as a reservist in the U.S. Army. Having joined at age 17, with the approval of his parents, Raczkowski went to basic training and advanced infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga., between his junior and senior years at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

Today, he's a company commander with the rank of captain. He is paratrooper and pathfinder qualified. He goes to training one weekend a month and for one 18-day exercise each year.

So, the question was whether that gave him a sense of kinship with Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield, a fellow reservist as well as a fellow state lawmaker.

... He's a Navy man," Raczkowski said.

Apparently, some rivalries run deeper than party affiliation.

Raczkowski, "Rocky" to friends and constituents because they have trouble pronouncing his last name, "Ratch-koff-sky," takes obvious pride in his military involvement. His office in Lansing sports a number of army-oriented toys, including a stuffed bear wearing camouflage and a mechanical infantry soldier, which crawls and shoots a machine gun. But he's serious about it.

"The military is boot camp for the body," he explains. "People ask me why I went to law school if I don't intend to be a lawyer. Law school is boot camp for the mind."

The army has also taught him leadership skills, skills he said



Military look: State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, decorates his office with army type toys, a reminder of his service in the Army Reserve.

he is now using in his role as a state legislator. In his second term, he has already risen to the post of House majority floor leader. That puts him second in command in the House Republican caucus, he said, and his job is to manage the schedule as proposals come to the floor for a vote. Essentially, he's in the center of all the activity, offering up each item up for action to the chair during sessions of the House of Representatives.

Raczkowski says he doesn't like to talk much about his political ambitions, it puts people off, but he does admit he's interested in running for House speaker in the year 2000. He hasn't made a decision, he said. And he won't until January. Rep. Pan Godchaux, R-Birmingham, has already announced her interest in that post.

"I enjoy politics," is his only response to questions about his plans.

Current House Speaker Chuck Perricone, R-Kalamazoo Township, is often criticized for his leadership style, as being too dictatorial. He's been accused of pushing the GOP agenda too quickly at the expense of hearing out the minority view.

Raczkowski won't comment on Perricone's style, or on the criticisms, but he does say his leadership style would be different. He said he believes there is time to hear out all views.

"You don't think of the military teaching you compassion for those you lead, but it does. You have to have their respect," he explained.

Raczkowski is still quite young to be in such a leadership role in state government at 30. Born to immigrants, Raczkowski speaks, reads and writes Polish, although he grew up in Farmington Hills.

"They (mom and dad) achieved the American dream ... They came here with nothing, just the shirts on their backs, and a willingness to work hard. They taught me that," he said.

And that is how he approached campaigning in his first attempt at state office at age 24. He lost to Jan Dolan, but came back as the underdog the next time around and won the seat at age 26.

"Nobody gave me a chance of winning, this young little spot from Farmington Hills. And when we won, I gave me the opportunity to prove to them that young people should not be underestimated. They are a great wealth, if we challenge them. If you don't challenge them, you lose a whole generation. If you challenge them and expect me to win, then you will get more out of them."

Still, his "first love," he said, is his business.

"I started that in 1993 with \$500 in my pocket and going to an auction in Ohio where I bought one printing press," he said. "An A.B. Dick press, we still have it. It sits off in the corner. It's going fairly well. We are growing it (the business) slowly."

Raczkowski recently moved the business from Eastpointe to Madison Heights. Call Mainline Communications, its specialties in printing, marketing and advertising, producing everything from business cards to annual reports. The business now has about 3,000 square feet of space and three employees. He's still actively involved in the operation of the business.

Raczkowski has other ambitions. He's quite open about his hopes of starting a family and

No millionaires, but golf outing a 'success'

George Paul came within 18 feet of becoming a millionaire Thursday at the Canton Cham-

ber of Commerce golf outing. Paul was one of 10 finalists in the chamber's "Million Dollar

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR PET

Veterinary Notes

by **Elizabeth Routson, D.V.M.**

FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (FeLV)

The feline leukemia virus (FeLV) damages a cat's immune system, predisposing it to cancer and a variety of infectious diseases. One of the most devastating diseases a cat can contract, FeLV can be transmitted via an infected cat's bodily excretions, through the placenta prior to birth, or through the milk during lactation. Infected cats are candidates for cancer, anemia, kidney disease, and many secondary infections. Symptoms may include lesions on the skin and mucous membranes, lethargy, weight loss, or chronic gingivitis. The best way to determine if a cat is FeLV at this time, it is important to have cats vaccinated to protect against it.

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P.S. Even though it is not mandatory, it is a good idea to test your cat for the FeLV virus before vaccination. Because they can be born with feline leukemia, even kittens should be tested.

Hole-in-One Challenge," part of the annual tournament for the first time. For his shot, which fell 17 feet, 8 inches short of the pin, Paul won a big-screen TV.

The finalists were selected through a series of five fundraising "shoot-outs" held before the golf outing. The \$1 million was put up through an insurance policy, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Special Olympics, said Ryan Ambrozitis, chamber executive director.

This year's golf outing at Fellows Creek was a success, Ambrozitis said.

"We had 216 golfers and the event sold out six weeks in advance. The Hole-in-One Challenge got exposure on (TV channel) Fox 2."

"We're very pleased with the way things went," Ambrozitis said. "David Griffin (event chairman) did a fabulous job with it."

The golf outing and annual dinner auction in March are the chamber's two biggest events.

Other winners at Thursday's event included:

- **Closest to the pin, men** - Mike Travis, Jack Demmer, Lyn Wegryn;
- **Closest to the pin, women** - Mary Roehr, Tracey Kholman, Kelley Anne Petroskey;
- **Longest drive, men** - John Hirschman, Gregg Dutton, John Finch;
- **Longest drive, women** - Vicki Franzen, S. Drury, Ellen Kershenbaum;
- **Top foursome, mixed** - Tracey Kholman, Judy Labuda, Tony Minghine, Dan Durack;
- **Top foursome, men** - Norrell team with Mike Gouin, Bob Dates, Phil Lajoie, Bruce Patterson;
- **Gold Cup winner** - Norrell

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Metro opens 450-space parking lot

A new 450-space parking lot was opened last week at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

In keeping with the airport's color-coded theme, the lot is called the Red Lot. It is located on the East Service Drive across the street from the Northwest cargo building with the 747 air plane painted on the side. The current Red-overflow lot at Lucas Drive and the East Service Drive will continue to serve as a backup parking lot when all other lots and the deck are full.

The new Red Lot is the third economy lot at Metro Airport with a flat rate of \$6 per day or \$36 per week. If you park for six days, the seventh day is free. The new lot will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with free shuttle service to all terminal buildings.

To receive a parking brochure, call (734) 942-3558.

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Group issues 'wake up call' on local governments

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

Citizens Research Council of Michigan, the oldest independent public policy research group in the state, has issued a "wake up call" to local government.

There are too many local units of government, too many school districts, and too many special purpose units of government, like intermediate school districts and community colleges. That makes them inefficient. They overlap and are left to fight over limited resources. The taxation and financial structure for local government, as a result, is highly complex and confusing, even for those who are familiar with how it works.

"Local officials are going to have get past the fight to protect their turf," said Eric Lupher, senior research analyst for the CRC and author of the report. "This will probably require action from the state, if we really want it to happen. But left to their own devices, local governments probably will not move toward regionalization."

That's probably not what the Michigan Municipal League expected to hear when it called for the report during a Symposium on the Future of Local Government in Michigan back in June. It asked for five papers from a variety of researchers, including CRC, across the state on the challenges facing local government in the coming century.

What the CRC produced was a report called "A Bird's Eye View of Michigan Local Government at the end of Twentieth Century."

Local government was primarily designed in the last century and has been highly resistant to change, the report states.

"Despite the advances in communications and transportation, the geographic area of most local governments in Michigan continues to reflect the distances horses could travel in a day," the report concludes.

Michigan has a large number of local units and "the structures of many local units, particularly townships and counties, reflect the 19th century emphasis on a diffused executive function."

Michigan has 2,884 local units

of government, ranking it 14th among the 50 states. Michigan ranks seventh among the states in terms of general purpose local units, including 83 counties, 1,241 townships, 273 cities and 262 villages.

"Special-purpose local units include 564 school districts, 54 intermediate school districts, 28 community college districts, 14 planning and development regions, and 263 special districts and special authorities," the report concludes.

The report notes that a number of reforms have been proposed in recent years which would simplify local government, eliminating the village form of government, eliminating the distinction between cities and townships, providing more services on

a countywide basis, eliminating intermediate school districts and further consolidating school districts to reduce their numbers.

"The number of school districts has experienced a 92 percent decline since the turn of the century," the report stated. "It is argued that further reductions would lead to greater economies and efficiencies. Since Proposal A, school districts are much less dependent on property taxes. Consolidation would allow districts to reduce administrative costs to concentrate more dollars on classroom needs."

Additional improvements could be made if, "The number of local governments competing for limited resources could be reduced and small local governments could consolidate with

other units to expand the base of local resources," the report concludes.

It also suggests that adopting government structures "led by an executive" would be more efficient. Elimination of overlap in the power granted to various forms of local government is also recommended.

For its part, the Municipal League has yet to respond to the report. And phone calls to the organization this week were not returned.

Strong advocates of home rule, the Municipal League typically argues that the ability of local governments to set their own policy is often what gives communities their local flavor.

County sponsors one-day teachers institute on youth violence

A one-day institute will be conducted for teachers and administrators on youth violence and intervention methods from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23, at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Annex, Room 3, 33500 Van Born Road, in Wayne.

Instructed by Eastern Michigan University's Comprehensive Education Assistance Center,

this class will explore the planning process and response guidelines for teachers and school administrators when confronted with violent acts by youths.

The class will explore bomb procedures, weapons discharge, acts of domestic terrorism including weapons of mass destruction, hostage situations and response capabilities should the affected school require law

enforcement tactical intervention.

The program will be built around an incident command structure that interfaces with law enforcement and fire response personnel.

The class will be taught by Skip Lawver, an assistant professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Technology, and William Dangler, a retired

Ypsilanti Township fire chief.

Lawver is the program coordinator for EMU's Public Safety Administration Program, directs tactical training program for law enforcement at EMU and teaches Special Weapons and Tactics classes and hostage rescue courses for law enforcement.

Lawver also teaches courses on foreign and domestic terrorism, arson investigation, haz-

ardous materials and incident command. He is also working with various law enforcement agencies as they prepare response plans for school systems across the state. Lawver is also the project administrator for Youth-At-Risk, a grant funded program.

Dangler teaches courses in the Public Safety Administration Program, including emergency

preparedness planning, incident command, foreign and domestic terrorism and issues in emergency preparedness. Dangler is also a response person for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is currently training across the country on terrorism issues.

For more information or to register by phone, call (734) 487-0370.

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JACK GLADDEN

How quickly adults forget

Why can't they be like we were ...
Perfect in every way?
What's the matter with kids today?

"Bye Bye Birdie" fans will recognize those more-than-slightly-tongue-in-cheek lyrics from that rock 'n' roll musical of the early '60s. The lament, of course, goes back to the beginning of mankind. Or, at least, to the second generation.

When Cain slew Abel, Adam probably shook his head and wondered, "What's the matter with kids today? So much violence."

Now anyone who has ever been the parent of a teenager knows that having such a creature around can sometimes be an unnerving experience. Often it can be quite maddening.

Yet, just how different are kids today? Were we, the adults, really "perfect in every way" when we were their age? Or, as we become more curmudgeonly in our middle years, are we losing both our patience and our memory?

Case in point: A colleague of mine noted that while residents and officials in Plymouth decry the practice of teenagers "cruising" in that western Wayne County community, another group of people is practically deifying the very same activity with the "Woodward Dream Cruise."

The Dream Cruisers, of course, date back to the '50s and '60s when drive-ins were the hangouts and drag racing down two-lane streets was a common (and illegal) practice. But that was then and this is now. That was us and this is them.

One of my favorite songs is "Okie from Muskogee." It's a favorite because of the lines that go:

We don't smoke marijuana in Muskogee

We don't take our trips on LSD
And white lightnin's still the biggest thrill of all

Never mind that "white lightnin'" was just as illegal as marijuana. It was the drug of choice of the good ole boys. Marijuana was the drug of the long-haired hippies. Besides, white lightnin' was then and marijuana was now.

Then and now

Any time some "enterprising" writer comes up with a story about archaic laws that are still on the books somewhere, one of them is certain to be a law against "spitting on the sidewalk." That was then. Now Plymouth police apparently have decided that "sitting on the sidewalk" is equally abhorrent.

That was the case when a 15-year-old teenager was ticketed, fined \$210 and sentenced to 32 hours of community service for sitting on a downtown sidewalk. Technically, he was charged with "obstructing" the sidewalk. Some cynics tend to believe he was ticketed for being a teenager in Plymouth.

That colleague who brought up the Dream Cruise also made another point about modern society: "They've made it illegal to be a teenager."

Now and then

Before we get too despairing of "today's" teenagers, think back.

"West Side Story," that classic tale of rivalry and violence among teenage gangs, was brought to the screen in 1961, and before that it was a Broadway musical.

"Rebel Without a Cause," the James Dean classic promoted as "a challenging drama of today's teenage violence," was released in 1955.

"Reefer Madness," that hokey melodrama about teenage marijuana addiction, was first released in 1936 under the title "Tell Your Children."

"Confessions of an English Opium Eater," telling the story of how opium could destroy your life, was published in 1821.

And, oh yes, "West Side Story" was loosely based on - you guessed it - "Romeo and Juliet," that ultimate Shakespearean romance that centered around the rivalry (and violence) of teenage gangs.

Yeah, teenagers can be pains in the behind. They can be obnoxious. Infuriating. Frustrating and maddening. But the truth is they always have been.

And we used to be them.

Jack Gladden, a copy editor for The Observer Newspapers, lives in Canton. Reach him by e-mail at jgladden@oe.homecomm.net.

COOL FOR SCHOOL

Kids favor brand names for back-to-school duds

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Carrying a stack of designer jeans and shirts at Mervyn's California, Scott Osinski, 11, believes that clothes definitely make a difference in social status at school.

The sixth grader from Belleville was shopping at the Westland store recently when he explained his logic.

"If kids wear geeky sweatshirts that their moms buy, they usually don't get any friends," Osinski said.

His mom said she allows Scott and his twin brother, Sean, to pick out most of their own clothes.

Another Mervyn's shopper, Brittany Ivan, 12, agreed with Osinski.

"Kids pay attention to clothes," said the Belleville resident. "People judge you by your clothes."

For the first time this year Brittany and her brother Josh won't be wearing school uniforms. Uniforms provided an easier routine every morning, because there wasn't any choice involved, but they were also more expensive.

And since there were dress down days at their previous school, their mother Brenda explained, her kids had to have the costly uniforms, as well as the other clothes.

Brittany said she was bored by the repetition of wearing the same thing everyday and was looking forward to what she could wear this school year.

"I got tired of the uniforms," she explained.

During an informal survey of area shoppers combing the racks of garments, mostly jeans, days before the school bells will ring in the new millennium school year, most mothers either guided their children away from designer clothes or begrudgingly paid the inflated prices.

Looking for logos

Standing outside the dressing room at Mervyn's, Sharon McGuire of Garden City was waiting for her daughter and son to emerge with their most recent picks. She was looking for anything with the Nike and Adidas logos.

"My 10-year-old (son), I can steer away from the name brands, but my 14-year-old (daughter) has gone to the dark side," McGuire said followed with a laugh. "I couldn't steer her away."

In Mervyn's children's department, Julie Dumtie, 5, was shopping with her mother, Sara, and brother, Michael, 7. Although she was wearing a hot green dress, Julie said she prefers pants for school.

Michael was a fashion statement in a B.U.M. T-shirt and Pipes shorts. In fact, the second grader prefers Pipes pants, too.

Lyn Taylor of Canton, who was shopping with her children, Jessica and Angela, at Meijer in Westland said tries to avoid designer clothes. But, every now and then something



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

slips in.

Jessica, a sixth grader, was in the market for flared and carpenter jeans. Angela, a fourth grader, wanted Nike shoes. Their five-year-old brother, Joshua, will wear whatever mom buys.

Down the aisle from the Taylors, Eric Sopko, a second grader at Hulsing Elementary in Canton, was shopping with his mother, Karen and younger sister, Rachel. He wears only solid or stripes shirts, without designs. He also prefers long shorts and Nike shoes.

"It's inappropriate to have shirts with dinosaurs and stuff," he added.

His sister, Rachel, likes anything with Barbie on it.

Undaunted by the task ahead, Karen Sopko was ready to forge on.

"We've just begun," she said. "We're going to hit Kohl's and Target, too."

Robin Maslyk was disappointed with the styles offered in young girls' dresses for her daughter Lauren, 8. The styles were much too mature for a young girl, she added.

"She's not going to wear anything that's here," Robin Maslyk said. "My girl loves to wear dresses and I don't think these dresses are appropriate for this age bracket."

"We're not into the fads and for the most part, not the things that will come and go. We're into the traditional."

Her brother, Todd, is going into kindergarten and will wear what mom decides ... Case closed.

Maslyk wasn't ready to give up either.

"We stop and browse everywhere, because there's always that one piece that you find," she said.

Kelli Clevenger, a 10-year-old from



Which ones?:

Checking for school clothes at the Meijer store in Canton, Heather Quinlan (photo above), 10, confers with her mother Nancy about a pair of jeans. Over in the shoes section, Angela Sanyog (photo at left), 9, tries on shoes under the watchful eyes of her mother Lynn, brother Joshua, 5, and sister Jessica, 11 1/2.

Wayne, likes baggy shorts, flare pants and B.U.M. Equipment shirts. Her eight-year-old sister, Sara added khakis to Kelli's list.

Robby Stone, 7, also of Wayne has simple tastes: "I like my glow in the dark shirt with a dinosaur on the front."

He also prefers baggy shorts and break-away jeans, pants with snaps from waist to shoe, for easy changes that are especially popular among athletes.

The bad news, he said, is that his mom doesn't like either fashion style.

Heather Quinlan, a 10-year-old fifth grader at Tonda Elementary School in Canton likes anything with Tweetie Bird on it. Last week, she was checking the Tweetie Bird jeans. She already has Tweetie Bird shortsalls and T-shirts.

Please see CLOTHING, B2

Angel Care cares for parents who grieve

Helping others: Mary Piontek has found a way to heal the wound of losing her premature son with Angel Care, a volunteer organization committed to comforting grieving families.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
smason@oe.homecomm.net

The needlework of strangers has touched Mary Piontek profoundly. Among her most precious possessions is a small handmade quilt and a blanket, the work of strangers made to comfort those who grieve.

The quilt, no bigger than a foot square, and blanket are for her son Andrew who was stillborn at 26 weeks on March 17.

"He was presented to me in his own special blanket," Piontek said. "It meant so much to me that someone would take the time to make a quilt for someone who died."

The blanket as well as making the cap and gown for her son's burial have inspired the Redford resident to form Angel Care, an organization committed to comforting grieving families.

Angel Care volunteers make, collect and distribute handmade blankets and burial gowns to St. Mary, Henry Ford, Providence and Huron Valley hospitals.

"They might not take the pain away, but a family can look at it and know someone else cares," she said.

Please see ANGEL CARE, B2

CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

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Class of 1979
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(734) 981-8637

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Class of 1968
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Class of 1959
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LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Class of 1979
Nov. 27 at Vladimir's in Farmington.
(734) 459-6486, (734) 459-0254 or at NOWANDTHEN.COM/REUNION or ALUMNI.NET

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Class of 1984
Nov. 26 at the Livonia Elks Club
(734) 421-0852

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Class of 1979
Nov. 27 at the Novi Hilton Hotel.
(248) 344-4457, (734) 416-5013 or JHeyNow@aol.com
Class of 1984
Nov. 5 at The Excalibur in Southfield.
(800) 677-7800 or reunions@taylorpub.com

MERCY
Class of 1949
noon-4:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Marriott Inn in Livonia
(248) 349-8589.
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion for June 2000.
(248) 851-7620
Class of 1989
Nov. 27 at Baker's of Milford.
(313) 621-8350
Class of 1979
Nov. 27 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(248) 344-8767
Class of 1994
A reunion is being planned.
(248) 476-3270
Class of 1959
12:30 p.m. Oct. 16 in South Lyon.
(248) 344-8767

NORTH FARMINGTON
Class of 1969
Oct. 2 at the Double Tree Suites in Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press #2
Class of 1979
Nov. 26 at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn.
(248) 737-4419
Class of 1978
Nov. 27 at Big Daddy's in West Bloomfield.
(248) 366-9394, press #4

PLYMOUTH SALEM
Class of 1973-74
A reunion is planned for Oct. 9.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

PLYMOUTH SALEM/CANTON
Class of 1989
Nov. 27 at Burton Manor in Livonia.
jeni@optimalinc.com or P.O. Box 633, Farmington 48332-0622
(734) 421-0852

REDFORD UNION
Class of 1979
Aug. 28 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(313) 592-8537 or (734) 416-0807
Class of 1964
A reunion is planned for October; all former RU students welcome.
(734) 427-1327
Class of 1989
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 532-9414 or reunion89@juno.com

ST. ALPHONSUS
Class of 1954
Sept. 18 at Toppers in Dearborn.
Sybilla Roy, 29839 Greenland, Livonia 48154

ST. HEDWIG
Class of 1954
Oct. 1 at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.
(313) 278-8890

ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD
Class of 1979
Sept. 11 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(734) 432-0774 or (734) 254-9616
All-Class Reunion
Sept. 10 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia. Dinner reservations can be made for 5-7 p.m.
(734) 522-5424 or SMRALUMNI@AMERITECH.NET
Class of 1969
Nov. 27 at Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.
(734) 453-5423 or by e-mail at mcoulter@gr-lakes.com

WAYNE
Class of 1950
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion.
(734) 428-9379 or (734) 721-8036

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at Roma's of Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press #1
Class of 1979
Oct. 30 at Laurel Manor in Livonia.
(734) 722-7870

YPSILANTI
Class of 1989
Oct. 2 at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor.
(248) 360-7004, press #3

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- Check out our investment options to help your money grow
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Canton golf from page C1

utors at the state and regional tournaments last season. In fact, the Chiefs have only lost two members of last season's squad — but they were key members. Ben Tucker was the team's top golfer for much of the previous three years...

Twisters pull off a pair of comeback wins

Fair warning: If you're weak of heart, be wary of any Wayne County Twisters football games. The Twisters, a semi-pro team associated with the Lakeshore Football League...

FOOTBALL

But last Saturday's game against the Zanesville (Ohio) Fury at the Academy of Detroit in Inkster proved to be even more dramatic, with the Twisters prevailing in overtime, 20-14.

scored and added a two-point conversion to go up 14-7. But the Twisters answered, with Elswick finding Leonard Morawa with a 22-yard TD pass with 55 seconds to go...

Taormina finishes 2nd in Triathlon of Champions

BY BRAD EMONS SPORTS WRITER bemons@oe.homecomm.net Things are looking up for Livonia triathlete Sheila Taormina. The 1996 Olympic gold medalist in swimming (women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay) pocketed \$2,000 with a second-place finish in Sunday's 13th National City Triathlon of Champions event in downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

distance course in 1 hour, 58 minutes and 39 seconds. Lindquist, the top-rated U.S. triathlete, won \$10,000 to bring her season earnings to \$23,850. Taormina's time was 2:00:05.8, while Becky Gibbs of Minnetonka, Minn. finished third in 2:00:24.2.

Triathlon Championships in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. "I'm in pretty good aerobic shape right now, but I'm not really in racing shape just yet," Taormina said. Ranked 131 in the world in points, Taormina will head next week to Lausanne, Switzerland to compete in an International Triathlon Union (ITU) race.

Salem golf from page C1

seniors with considerable experience return, and a couple of juniors join them. Tops on the list are three seniors: Matt Leon, Ryan Nimmerguth and Mark Doughty, each of whom contributed significantly to Salem's success in '98.

Lake Central for the overall WLAA championship (which combines dual-meet results with the final tournament), and they weren't overly impressive at the state tournament. "I like our chances," said Wilson. "We've got a lot of good experience back from both the regional and state tournaments. I thought Nimmerguth, Leon and Doughty got a bit rattled at state. If we can get to that level again, we'll be the better for it."

mouth Canton, to name a few — but it will still be plenty tough in the conference. Central returns nearly all of its starters and Canton has plenty more to call upon, as does Glen and a couple of the Farmington schools. Still, as Wilson said, "I do feel (confident), because of the experienced kids we have coming back."

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THE WEEK AHEAD PREP FOOTBALL Friday, Aug. 27 Borgess vs. East Catholic at Garden City Jr. High, 4 p.m. Chichester at Redford Union, 7 p.m. Lincoln Park at Franklin, 7 p.m. Cooley at Westland Glenn, 7 p.m. Wayne at Romulus, 7 p.m. Crestwood at Garden City, 7 p.m. Thurston at William Run, 7 p.m. Dearborn at Stevens, 7:30 p.m. Canton at Ypsilanti, 7:30 p.m. P.H. Northern at Salem, 7:30 p.m. Oxford at Farmington, 7:30 p.m. Roseville at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m. Oxford at Harrison, 7:30 p.m. Harper Woods at Clarensview, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 Mt. Carmel at Luth. W. Mid., 1 p.m. St. Agatha vs. Port Sentinel at RU's Kraft Field, 1 p.m. Redford CC vs. A.A. Pioneer at Pontiac Silverdome, 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Wednesday, Aug. 25 St. Alphonsus at Clarensview, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27 John Glenn vs. Thurston, TBA. Novi at Chichester, 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 Stevenson at Troy, 11 a.m. N. Farmington at Millard, 12:30 p.m. W. Bloomfield at Harrison, 12:30 p.m. Redford CC at Riv. Richard, 1:30 p.m. (Basket Tournament at CEP) Saturday, Aug. 28 Portage Central at Salem, 10 a.m. Troy Athens at Canton, 10 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER Saturday, Aug. 28 Schoolcraft vs. DuPage (Ill.) at Valparaiso (Ind.), 11 a.m. Madonna Alumni game at Whitman Field, 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 Schoolcraft at Valparaiso (Ind.), TBA. WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER Saturday, Aug. 28 Schoolcraft at Alma College, 2 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Friday-Saturday, Aug. 27-28 Schoolcraft at Keller University, TBA. Madonna at Mesa St. (Colo.), TBA. (Basket Tournament at CEP)

SPORTS ROUNDUP BULLDOG SWIMMERS 1ST The Bulldog Aquatic Club, based out of Schoolcraft Community College, came away with three titles at the Michigan State Swim Meet held recently at the University of Michigan. Angela Simeckosky (Livonia) captured the 1,500-meter freestyle for Girls 15-18, while Alandra Greenlee (Northville) won the 200 freestyle for 10-and-under. The foursome of Amy Black (Northville), Andrea Hurn (Livonia), Jenny Carr (Novi) and Erin Schubert took first in the 400 medley relay for Girls 13-14. Among the other state qualifiers included Elizabeth Hurn, Livonia; Jenny Crabbill, Canton; Ariel Greenlee, Ava Ohlgren, Scott Whitebeck and David Whitebeck, all of Northville. The BAC also sent 11 swimmers to the six-state Zone meet in Indianapolis, Ind., lifting Team Michigan to eight medals. The Bulldog Aquatic Club will stage an open house for interested competitive swimmers (ages 7-18) from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 7-10, at the Schoolcraft College pool. LIVONIA METEORS RUNNER-UP The Livonia Meteors, an under-12 girls soccer team, finished runner-up to the Bay Village Storm in the Northwest Ohio Soccer Festival last weekend in Maumee, Ohio. The Meteors, coached by Doug Calvin and assisted by Brent Taylor, defeated the Michigan Rowdies of Trenton (13-0) and the NOSO Hurricanes of North Olmsted, Ohio (3-0), and tied the Storm (1-1) in a crossover match. The Storm then defeated the Meteors in the title matchup, 2-1, in double overtime. Members of the Meteors include: Christen Biskelonis, Angie Bond, Ashley Calvin, Kate Kelly, Allyson King, Mary Mattarella, Mary Poeschl, Jamie Radley, Michele Roffey, Anna Ross, Aleah Ryder, Paige Taylor, Lauren Trosell, Casey Van-Sweeringen and Sara Jo Wilson. Jeff Bobo is the team trainer, while Mike Trosell is the team manager. YOUTH BASEBALL TRYOUTS *Tryouts for the 15-16 year-old Michigan Lake Area Rams, will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 and Sept. 12 at the Madonna University baseball field. For more information, call Rick Arbogast at (313) 291-8969. *Tryouts for the WaCo Wolves Federation Baseball Club 12-and-under teams will be Sunday, Aug. 29 and 29 at Municipal Park in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Bill Hardin at (313) 562-4667 or Jeff Dolkowski at (313) 274-6951. *Tryouts for the Westland Federation Wildcats, a 12-and-under Little Caesars travel baseball team, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, Aug. 28-29 at Rotary Park in Westland. For more information, call Shawn Dunford at (734) 595-3496 or Don McCloud at (734) 261-1619. *Experienced players are urged to tryout for a Livonia Travel youth competitive baseball team in the Little Caesars League from 1-3 p.m. (10-and-under) and 3-5 p.m. (12-year-olds) Sunday, Aug. 22 and 29 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park (field No. 8). For more information, call Bill Leins at (734) 261-4712 (10-and-under), Bob Olson at (734) 464-7990 (12-year-olds) or Bill Rabe at (248) 474-2739. *Tryouts for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras travel baseball teams will be Saturday, Aug. 28, and Sunday, Aug. 29. Players should plan to attend both days. Tryouts for the 13-, 12- and 10-year-old teams will take place at Pioneer Park (Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads). The 13-year-olds will have tryouts 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Mel Borock, manager), 12-year-olds from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Alan Borsen, manager) and 10-year-olds 2:30-4:30 p.m. (Marc Berlin, manager). Tryouts for the 15-, 14- and 16-year-old teams will take place at Founders Park, fields Nos. 7 and 8 (Eight Mile Road, two miles east of I-75). The 15-year-olds will have tryouts 9-11 a.m. (Dan Petry, manager), 14-year-olds from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Chuck Pinkston, manager) and 16-year-olds 2-4 p.m. (Tony Agosta, manager). Ages are determined as of Aug. 31, 2000. Players are asked to arrive a half hour early to sign in. All players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and cleats. For more information call (248) 788-0691.

Tae Kwon Do from page C1

said Rose, who also serves as an international referee. "We had interpreters with us most of the time, but most Koreans speak some English, which also happens to be the official language of Tae Kwon Do." The tour was more than a sight-seeing excursion of temples, palaces and beautiful countryside, not to mention experiencing first-hand the hustle and bustle of one of the world's most populated cities. "Training started at 6 a.m. and we didn't go to bed until 11:30 p.m.," said Chris Rose, a Senior Master. "One morning we trained on the Sea of Japan. It's called 'Land of the morning calm.'"

she's so fast, so powerful and so smooth," said Paul Rose, who is classified as a Master instructor. "It was just amazing watching her." Eating Korean food was another part of character, but Chris Rose said the Michigan students adjusted well. "We ate on the floor sitting up with our legs crossed, using chopsticks," she said. "It's a lot of rice, vegetables, noodles, soup, with some meat and fish. Some of it is spicy, but you get used to it." Added Ron: "Actually the students felt healthier. I know I did. Some of our students lost weight." Although the Kick's group stayed at a nice resort, getting adjusted to sleeping on the floor with roll-up mats was another challenge. "I have a bit of a bad back, but after a couple of nights on the floor it (the back) actually started feeling a lot better," Paul Rose said. The group also visited the world headquarters of Tae Kwon Do, the Kukkiwon, known as the Madison Square Garden of South Korea. "You just feel so different

SC preview from page C1

Ireland), Tony Maldonado (Stevenson) and Joey Brincat, who are all strong possibilities at any of the midfield spots. Mike Jones scored 24 goals as a senior at Fenton; he's one potential forward. Andrew Meyers was a versatile player at Dearborn; others to watch are Rob Barnes and Kevin Brown (Brighton). Dimitriou won't deny this is a rebuilding year. "Of the six guys back, none of them was a real force last year," he admitted. "So it is a rebuilding year." But that doesn't mean this season's team won't match last year's. "We were 18-4 last year," the SC coach said. "I think we're capable of that. Obviously, our goal is to make it to nationals." It won't be an easy objective to realize. "It's going to take consistent goal-keeping," Dimitriou said. "The other thing is whether we can score timely goals. Who can put in goals at the right times for us?" Those are questions that may take time to answer. The Ocelots will begin their quest next weekend (Aug. 28-29) at the College of DuPage (Ill.) Tournament.

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Outdoors from page C5

Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

FLY TYING
The River Bend Sports Shop Fly Tying Club meets every other week in Southfield. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474 for more information.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Hours for archery and clay target shooting

are noon to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Rifle range hours are 3 p.m. to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

NATURE CLUB
Ages 8-12 will learn about the outdoors during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

SUMMER EVENING STROLL
Explore the park's natural and cultural history through a variety of weekly hikes and interpretive presentations during this class, which will be held at 7

p.m. each Thursday through the end of August at Maybury.

BATS OF MICHIGAN
Learn all about bats during this slide presentation, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at Maybury.

KIDS GARDEN DAY
Learn about gardening, weather, helpful insects and animals during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Maybury.

MICHIGAN BIRDS OF PREY
Learn about the habits and habitats of birds of prey during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Maybury.

SCARECROW WORKSHOP
A short presentation on scarecrow lore followed by a chance to construct some scarecrows for display at the farm, begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at Maybury.

BIRD HIKE
Observe and identify bird species seen throughout the park during

this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at Maybury.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

GEOLOGY
Jr. Girl Scouts can complete all the requirements for their geology badge during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at Indian Springs.

STORIES IN THE SAND
Children ages four to seven can enjoy a story and a fun beach activity during this program,

which begins at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at Stoiny Creek.

HURON RIVER CLEAN UP
Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Huron River from Proud Lake through the Kensington Metropark during the 12th annual Huron River Clean Up, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Kensington. The rain date is Saturday, Aug. 28. Call (248) 685-7129 for more information.

ASTRONOMY
See the moon and stars like never before during this program, which begins at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20-21 and is hosted by the Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs.

INSECT WEEKEND
Explore a pond on Saturday and a field on Sunday during this two-day program, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at Hudson Mills.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"Illuminata" a comedy/love story about a New York City repertory company and its ambitious, restless playwright, opens today, exclusively at the Maple Art Theatre, 4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 855-9090.

SATURDAY



The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes" 2 p.m. at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 children, call (248) 988-7032.

SUNDAY



The Allman Brothers perform with special guest Lucinda Williams and others during a Southern rock festival, 7 p.m. at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets \$34.50 pavilion, \$17.75 lawn. Call (248) 377-0100 or www.palacenet.com

HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: Take a trip down memory lane during the Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday, Aug. 21. Festivities take place in downtown Birmingham and other communities along Woodward Avenue. For up-to-date event information, call 1-888-4WDC-1963 or visit the Web site www.dreamcruise.org. Events include the Motor City CruiseFest, Michigan State Fair Grounds, 5-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 offers entertainment and classic car displays. Admission is \$3 adults, children 12 and under admitted free, parking \$5. Call (248) 204-6060 for more information.

THE Renaissance Festival

WHERE ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

What: 20th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival
When: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends & Labor Day, through Sunday, Sept. 26
Where: 12600 Dixie Highway, Holly Township.
Directions: I-75 Northbound Traffic - Take Exit 106; stay in left lane of exit, travel two blocks, then turn left onto Dixie Highway southbound. Travel two miles south. Festival is on the right.
Schedule of themes
Tickets: \$13.95 adults, \$11.75 seniors age 60 and older, \$5.95 children (5-12), children age 4 and younger, free. Advance tickets \$12.50 adult, \$5 children (5-12). For information, call (800) 601-4848, or (248) 634-5552.

Theme Schedule

- August 21 & 22: "Renaissance Romance," passionate pastimes
- August 28 & 29: "High Seas Adventure," swashbucklers invade Hollygrove
- Sept. 4, 5 & 6: "Wonders of the World," an exploration of the mysteries of the East
- Sept. 11 & 12: "Highland Fling," Celtic games, bag pipes and dance
- Sept. 18 & 19: "The Emerald Isle," celebration of Irish culture
- Sept. 25 & 26: "Sweet Endings," a presentation of chocolate delights

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
 STAFF WRITER
 fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

About a half-an-hour before the King and Queen of Scotland are expected to arrive at the gates of Hollygrove, nearly 200 actors gather around one of the main stages on the site of the 15-acre Renaissance-age village. "Your job is to reach out and touch the hearts of as many people as you can," said Lu Harding-Capots, creative director of the festival, now in its 20th year. "This is your playtime," said Harding-Capots, as she twisted her shoulders, stretched her legs and encouraged the interactive theater company to breathe deeply and envision a world far from the grounds of Holly Township and present-day, high-tech reality.

"Welcome our guests into your play space."

This gregarious group of thespians hardly needs encouragement.

Their reality is obviously descended from the historic land of pleasure and merrymaking of four centuries ago. Just try to pry

any of the actors from their roles as peasants, nobility and jesters. Nothing doing.

For the nearly 30,000 people expected each weekend of the festival, the con-jured world of Hollygrove is the closest thing to living history.

The festival enters its second of a seven-weekend schedule of thematic events, including this weekend's celebration of the romantic pursuits of the Renaissance era, long before there was discount dining, video stores and Hallmark cards.

At Hollygrove, it's common to see visitors walking the grounds tearing away at a drumstick the size of a Brontosaurus bone, sipping a glass of mead, or giving a thumbs up or thumbs down to jousting competitors.

"There are no wallflowers here," said Patricia Taylor, festival marketing director. For that matter, there are no walls.

"At some museums, it's 'look, but don't touch,'" she said. "Here, you're an essential part of what's going on."

Since its inception in 1979 as one of the first Renaissance Festivals in the country, the celebration at Hollygrove has been among the top in the nation, according to Taylor, who claimed the Michigan festival is rated alongside those in Shakopee, Minn., and outside of Dallas-Fort

Please see FESTIVAL, E2

Into role: Valerie Schendel of Clarkston (left) assists Tammie Graves as she prepares to assume the persona of the Baroness Lady Anne of Hartland. Below, a peasant boy, Brandon Viliaro of Commerce, (left), presents a bouquet of flowers to Lady Anne.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLINSKY

Merrymaker puts on a noble act

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
 STAFF WRITER
 fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

Wearing a crown of baby's breath and a slightly nervous expression, Tammie Graves came to the Renaissance Festival as both a guest and participant.

Graves is a graphic artist for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, whose bouts of "hamming it up" are well known to her colleagues, but perhaps less recognized by the public.

To those from the historic land of merrymaking, she is kin.

What Graves of Hartland lacks in acting experience, she makes up for in sheer desire to one day stand upon the stage and recite William Shakespeare's words.

Shortly after stepping through the Hollygrove gates, Graves expected that her wish to be among the cast who brings the Renaissance to life would land her a role among the peasants.

"I had pictured myself as a wench," said Graves, who prepared for her part in Holly-

grove by watching "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Robin Hood" and memorizing a list of Elizabethan phrases.

Little did Graves know that she had the look of nobility.

Whisked away to a second-story wardrobe room at the edge of the Renaissance village, Graves slipped into a whoop skirt and a royal blue, velvet dress embroidered in gold and sequins.

In moments, Graves' dream of

Please see MERRYMAKER, E2

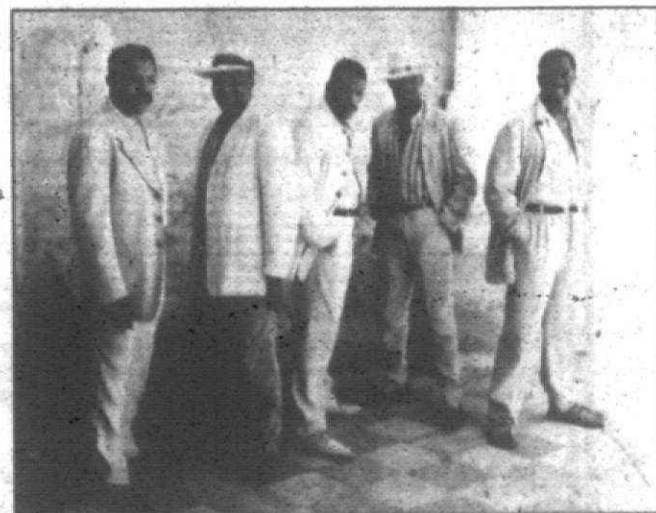


Royal attention: During his visit of Hollygrove, the King of Scotland was enamored with Lady Anne.



SUMMER TRADITION

Michigan State Fair offers 'something for everyone'



Featured performers: The Temptations are just one of the many popular groups performing at this year's fair.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
 STAFF WRITER
 scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Brad Coombs can barely spare a second to talk about his involvement as entertainment director of the Michigan State Fair.

But when he does, his voice rings with pride. He compares choosing the line-up to putting the pieces of a puzzle together. Taking into consideration which days need to be scheduled, which performers are touring during that time and available to play, and what will ultimately fit into the budget, he's managed to organize a diverse musical line-up for the third year in a row.

"The State Fair is the second largest (in attendance) paid event in the state of Michigan behind the North American International Auto Show," said Coombs. That means he's serving an audience that includes every "age, race and economic sphere in the region." Metro Detroiters are joined by crowds of people from across the state — reaching as far south as

Please see FAIR, E2

Michigan State Fair

When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24 through Monday, Sept. 6. The midway is open until midnight on weekends, and 11 p.m. weeknights.

Where: The Michigan State Fairgrounds, are on the southeast corner of Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue.

Admission: \$9 adults, \$2 Children under age 11; Children under 2 free. Parking \$5

More family entertainment: Visitors to the fair can show their ticket stubs at Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village for \$2 off adult and \$1 off children's admission. Visitors to Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village can use either of those ticket stubs to receive a discount of \$2 off an adult ticket to the Michigan State Fair.

For more information: Call the Michigan State Fairgrounds (313) 369-8250 or visit the Web site

www.mda.state.mi.us/statefair
 See entertainment line-up inside

Fair from page E1

Toledo and as far east as Canada... We try to provide something for everyone... "It's frustrating and fun," he said.

An Evening with Olivia Newton-John September 1 7:30 PM... An Evening with John Tesh September 2 7:30 PM... ON SALE NOW! pine knob music theatre

of this year's line-up... The line-up includes an eclectic collection of music, from rock to Motown to country... providing free concerts, they must cover the ever-increasing costs associated with those shows.

Merrymaker from page E1

of portraying the life of a peasant were dashed. The hat atop her head, and the attendant who laced up her bodice from behind were clear signs that she was no ordinary wench.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS • HOUSEHOLD HINTS • HOUSEHOLD HINTS... HOUSEHOLD HINTS • HOUSEHOLD HINTS • HOUSEHOLD HINTS... Tune-in Bob Allison's Ask Your Neighbor

Entertainers will perform at The Band Shell, located at the southwest entrance to the Michigan State Fairgrounds... Ray Cyrus 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27 Tyrese 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 38 Special 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 Temptations 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30 Kenny Chesney 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31 Detroit Area Choirs 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1 The Isley Brothers 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2 Alabama 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3 Ginuwine 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 98 Degrees 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5 Hank Williams Jr. 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 6 Journey

Festival from page E1

Worth. Last year, a strong man's competition was added to appeal to sports fans. This year a murder mystery and celebration of Irish culture were added. In the future, Taylor expects that the festival will be open during the week to draw students and kids at summer camps.

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Actors' Company presents 'The Emperor's New Clothes'

The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes," 2 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 at Trinity House Theatre... Mike Gravam grew up seeing live theater. Knowing that a lot of kids don't have the same opportunity makes him sad, and enough to do something about it.

As a child, Gravam saw the show performed by The Prince Street Players at the Detroit Institute of Arts... "It's fast-paced, upbeat," said Gravam about The Prince Street Players LTD Production of "The Emperor's New Clothes."

"Discover the magic of live theater," is his wish for both adult and children's audiences... "Kids today are bombarded by the media," he said. "Many have never seen a live theater production. They don't get to meet the actors after seeing a Disney cartoon."

explaining why she enjoys children's theater so much. "Theater is in our hearts and we want to cultivate a new audience." Presenting a show is work, but Gravam says he's having a blast doing it.

Positive signs point to cultural awakening in Detroit

Attention-grabbing Detroit events such as The Three Tenors concert and the opening of the MGM Grand Detroit Casino undoubtedly lured many new or estranged visitors to the city this summer... The windfall for the Michigan Opera Theatre and the boost in Detroit's reputation as a cultural center gave us something major to celebrate.

So, on a beautiful mid-August afternoon, I let my mind drift as I drove down Woodward Avenue from Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS studios... Well, just past the Center for Creative Studies on your left, there's the cultural center. That's the Detroit Institute of Arts, and behind it is the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

the casino. But I also saw a lot of vacant, neglected lots. And you tell me this huge hole used to be a department store? And you broke the train in the air when you blew it up? It does give me a nice view of that big mural of Barry Sanders. Maybe if his team opened holes this big to run through he wouldn't have retired from football.

Keep your promise to come back, Norm, and I just may buy you that brat and beer. After a couple weeks off due to Detroit Public TV's summer pledge drive, BACKSTAGE PASS returns to the air 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, with legendary Detroit soul artists The Dramatics and new acoustic rock from The Ludlites.

THE GEM & CENTURY THEATRES... NOW PLAYING AT THE CENTURY THEATRE... FORBIDDEN HOLLYWOOD... THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL SPOOF OF THE MOVIES!

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MOVIES

'Dick' has explaining to do, but doesn't strike out

BY JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER
An informal poll of contemporary teenagers produced this finding: the Watergate affair was "something about Nixon and a bunch of other guys." So didn't someone, sometime during the making of "Dick," the Watergate "what if" satire, wonder "what if" no one gets it?

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Advertisement for 'GUIDE TO THE MOVIES' featuring a grid of movie listings for various theaters including National Amusements, One Vedio, Star Rochester Hills, and others.

quite strike out. For those of us who followed the saga from the June 1972 "tricky-dick burglary" until "Dick" boarded that helicopter one last time in August 1974, "Dick" offers some fun, if not funny, theories. Who was "Deep Throat"? How did the 1812-minute tape gap happen? Where did Nixon get that off-imitated two-handed peace gesture?

Williams and Dunst are talented teens who have already shown other colors on their acting palettes; being typecast as dumb blondes shouldn't be a problem.

MUSIC

Blue Rose extends boundaries

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.hometown.com.net
A lot of things can change in seven years. Just ask members of the Detroit-based band Blue Rose.

Advertisement for 'SPORTS CARD SHOW' featuring 'MICHIGAN'S LARGEST' event with trade, buy, and sell sections for sports cards, comics, and memorabilia.

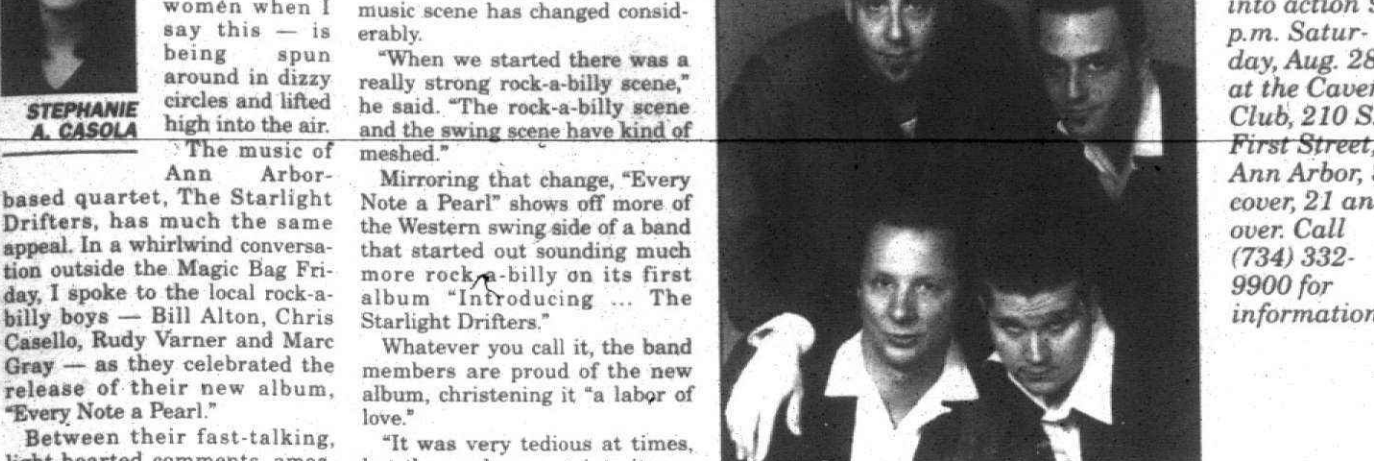
Peace: Betsy Jobs (Kirsten Dunst, left) and Arlene Lorenzo (Michelle Williams) team up to take Washington by storm and take down the president in "Dick."



KERRY HAYES AND MAELI GROSSMAN

'Every Note A Pearl' on Starlight Drifters release

By far the best part of swing dancing — and I suppose I speak on behalf of women when I say this — is being spun around in dizzy circles and lifted high into the air.



Check them out: The Starlight Drifters swing into action 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Cavern Club, 210 S. First Street, Ann Arbor, \$5 cover, \$1 and over. Call (734) 332-9900 for information.

CD REVIEW

Sophie B. Hawkins 'timbre' falls flat

Sophie B. Hawkins' "timbre" falls flat. With a title like "timbre," Sophie B. Hawkins third and latest release seems to scream "look out below, listeners." All it's missing is a capital "T."

Advertisement for 'MICKY BLUE EYES' featuring a photo of the cast and promotional text for the film.

Advertisement for 'THE END OF AN ERA' featuring 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA' and 'FINAL 6 WEEKS!' with showtimes and contact information.

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit Presents

Advertisement for 'Artist's Studio' featuring a sculpture exhibit and sale by Jewell Soble, including details about the event and ticket information.

"BIG LAUGHS, GREAT STARS."

Advertisement for 'BRING A DATE, OR BRING THE FAMILY.' featuring the movie 'RUNAWAY BRIDE' with cast members Julia Roberts and Richard Gere.

Advertisement for 'DETROIT ROCK CITY' featuring a large photo of a rock concert and details about the event.

DINING

Matt Prentice has hand in 'Unique' deli at casino

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

For the past three months Matt Prentice has been totally focused on Deli Unique, a New York style deli inside the new MotorCity Casino in Detroit.

He's not running the restaurant, but it's his baby. Prentice, president of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, licensed the name "Deli Unique" to the casino, and will serve as its consultant on design, menu selection, restaurant operation, hiring and training staff.

"I'm excited to be part of this," said Prentice during a press conference on Aug. 10 at casino headquarters in downtown Detroit. "They asked us to create something different, fun, entertaining, bigger than life. It will be a cafeteria-style deli, and barkers will entertain guests waiting in line. It will be very New Yorkish."

Theatrical types, comedians, and even housewives who enjoy the thought of getting paid to pick on people are auditioning today and tomorrow for one of

seven full-time barker positions at the restaurant. Each barker will earn \$10 an hour to start with a built-in salary increase after six months. If you're interested in auditioning, call Dave Mitchell (248) 646-0370, Ext. 213.

Chuck Ajlouny, managing partner of URC's Plaza Deli in Southfield, is Deli Unique's barker prototype, and will be training the barkers. Born and raised in Detroit, he developed his "bark" while living in Brooklyn, New York.

"I take orders, talk to you, I insult you, call your sandwiches. It spices things up," said Ajlouny. "We have fun at lunch time, it keeps it lively. You have to be quick-witted, smart, and have a strong voice. We tried to get Pavoratti, but he wasn't available."

During the press conference he gave reporters a taste of his bark. "Are you guys ready or what," he asked. "Everyone gather round, I got a restaurant to run."

The 20 different sandwiches with names like "It's No Gam-

ble," "Jackpot," and "Lox of Luck," range from 5 ounces to 20 ounces. Pay a \$1 more to double the meat for deli size sandwich.

Big Eight "a deli fresser," is an "obnoxiously large sandwich" — 20 ounces of meat, including corned beef, pastrami, brisket, turkey and salami, served on an onion roll with 3 ounces Swiss cheese, 4 ounces coleslaw and Russian dressing. Hearty soups and main dish salads will also be served. Desserts, created especially are "larger than life." Imagine a five layer chocolate mousse cake.

"The deli will have over 200 seats, and be designed to feed a lot of people fast. It will offer the best quality sandwiches served on hot, out of the oven bread," said Prentice.

MotorCity Casino approached Prentice with the restaurant concept. "We think it's a tremendous opportunity for our company," he said. "It will help our reputation not only locally, but nationally."

"The name acquisition lends credibility to whatever we have to offer," said Lane W. Maxcy,

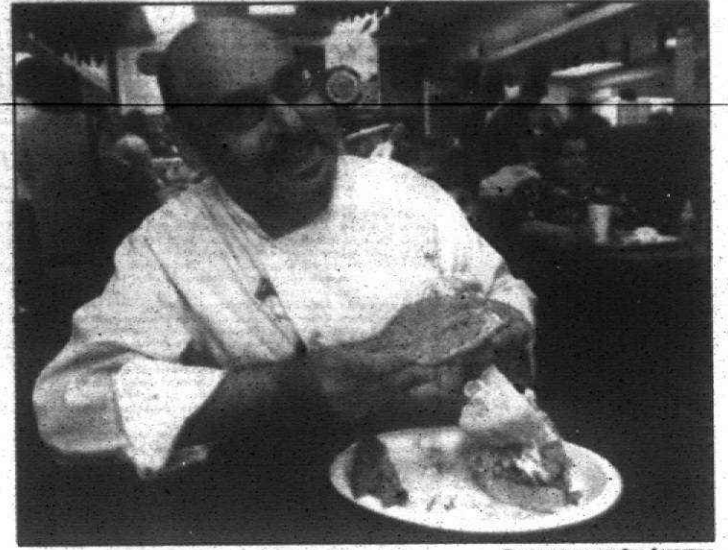
director of food and beverage for the casino.

"Matt Prentice has built a reputation for world-class food service and has a fantastic local track record," said Jack Barthwell, director of public relations for the casino.

Scheduled to open sometime this fall, the temporary MotorCity Casino will cover approximately 12 acres around the former Wonder Bread Bakery at Grand River and the Lodge Freeway. The casino, owned by Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. (a joint venture of Detroit-based Atwater Casino Group and Las Vegas-based Mandalay Resort Group) will have two live entertainment venues, two main floors of gaming, a third floor non-smoking gaming area, and fourth floor high-limit area.

Deli Unique, along with a fine dining restaurant, buffet and Middle Eastern restaurant will be in the former Continental Bakery building attached to the main gaming building by two skywalks.

If you want a taste of what the new Deli Unique will be like,



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

Number one barker: Chuck Ajlouny, managing partner of URC's Plaza Deli in Southfield, presents the Plaza Special, corned beef, cole slaw, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing on rye. Ajlouny keeps people laughing at lunch, and will train barkers at the MotorCity Casino.

visit Ajlouny during lunch at Plaza Deli, 29145 Northwestern Highway, corner of 12 Mile Road, Southfield, (248) 356-2310.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

What's Cooking includes listings of new restaurants, special dinners, menu changes, restaurant anniversaries and renovations.

Schoolcraft College — Sample dishes from more than 60 metro Detroit restaurants

and food distributors 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 during Culinary Extraganza, in the Waterman Center on the Schoolcraft College campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, (between Six and Seven Mile roads, west of I-275.) Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 for two. Call (734) 462-4417. Event proceeds help pay for scholarships for Schoolcraft College students. During the event, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon of Unique Restaurant Corp. will present a wine seminar, matching wines to the foods from selected restaurants. A live auction will feature packages designed to

pamper and delight lucky bidders. Packages include a gourmet dinner for eight in your home, prepared by a Schoolcraft chef, and weekend getaway to Pelee Island with wine tour and tasting, dinner and hotel for four. Stay tuned to the Dining page for more information.

Bella Ciao — 118 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor (across from the Ann Arbor Art Center) offers "intimate dining with a European flair." The restaurant is open 5:30-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Call (734) 995-2107 for information, or www.belaciao.com on the Web.

L.A. Subs — The next time you're hungry for a sub, visit the newly opened L.A. Subs, 36147 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 261-4240. Menu also includes Buffalo wings, Shrimp in a basket, and pepperoni rolls. They're open 10 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday.

Too Chez, 2715 Sheraton Drive, Novi (248) 348-5555 will offer customers ordering lunch or dinner all bottles of wine served during the meal at 25 percent discount Monday through Thursday from now through Nov. 15.

By-the-glass wines are not included in the promotion. For wine lovers, this is an opportunity to learn more about pairing wine with food. Executive Chef Greg Upshur and Maitre d'/Dining room Manager Achille Bianchi say they are at the ready to make food recommendations matching discounted wines selected by diners.

Titanic Dinner at Duet 3663 Woodward Ave. at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Detroit, (313) 831-3838, Thursday, Sept. 9, \$125 per person plus tax and gratuity is a complete entertainment package, including a

before-the-show feast featuring authentic recipes prepared on the infamous ship, tickets to see the stage version of "Titanic" at the Fisher Theater plus transportation to and from the Fisher. A wine package specially selected by URC Wine Director and Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon will be available at additional cost. Recipes for the four-course feast are from the "Last Dinner on the Titanic" cookbook by Rich Archbold and Dana McCauley and bearing the signature flair of URC Corporate Chef Jim Barnett. Due to ticketing, reservations must be secured with a credit card.

EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS

Just in case you missed it, here are some of the restaurants we've recently featured on the Dining Page.

Panini Cafe and Grill — 42087 Ford Road (between Haggerty and Lilley roads in the Sears Shopping Plaza), Canton, (734) 981-7000. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Menu: Middle Eastern cuisine with some American dishes, sandwiches, salads,

fresh juice, cappuccino and espresso. Vegetarian friendly. Kid's menu for children age 10 and under. Cost: Lunch \$4.95 to \$9.95; dinner entrees \$7.95 to \$13.95. Combination platter for two, \$16.95. Credit cards: All majors accepted. Seats: 50, all non-smoking. Reservations: Accepted. Carry-out: Available. Catering: Catering menu, 24 hours advance notice for catered items, minimum eight people per order. Gift certificates: Available

Marco's — 32758 Grand River (in Village Commons Mall) Downtown Farmington (248) 477-7777. Open: Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday; dinner 3-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3-10:30 p.m. Friday; 4:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday. Menu: Eclectic collection of classic Italian with innovative dishes and specials that are more "novello" (new). Pastas are served with freshly-baked bread and fresh green salad. Main

courses include a side dish of pasta, vegetable and potato. Meatless options: Many Highlights: Intimate, comfortable, relaxed atmosphere to enjoy the heritage of Italian food. Outdoor seating for 20 at four tables. Restaurant seats: 85, smoking section 20 seats Handicap access: wide front door, no steps. Cost: Antipasti (appetizers) \$5.95-\$8.95; Zuppa (soup) \$2.50-\$3.50; pastas \$12.95 to \$17.95; Piatti della Casa (main dishes)

\$14.95-\$22.95. Luncheon menu includes fresh salads \$6.95-\$8.95; sandwiches \$4.95-\$5.95; pastas \$6.95 to \$12.95; entrees \$7.95 to \$13.95. Reservations: Recommended on weekends, and

for parties of six or more. Parking: Ample self park. Credit cards: All majors accepted. Extras: Gift certificates available, restaurant can be reserved for private parties.

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