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THURSDAY
June 15, 2006

CANTON Observer

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District keeps promise of dropping levy

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When school superintendent Jim Ryan was making his presentations in an effort to sell the public on the Plymouth-Canton school district's bond issues in the May election, the question often came up about millage rates.

The two questions added up to 1.08 mills, though the district always said they'd only levy .82 mills. Added to the current rate levied for debt of 3.43, the total came up to 4.25 mills.

But Ryan, and the district's financial advisers, told anyone who would listen that current debt millage (the amount required to fund principal and interest payments on the district's existing debt) would drop, and that even with the new bond proposals, total debt millage would be just under 4 mills.

But opponents and critics accused the district of manipulating the numbers, a charge at which Ryan bristled.

On Tuesday, the district's Board of Education approved setting the district's debt levy at 3.15 mills, meaning the total had the bonds passed would be 3.97.

"In the 2006 bond presentations, we promised the debt levy would be decreased," Ryan told board members Tuesday. "Promise made, promise kept."

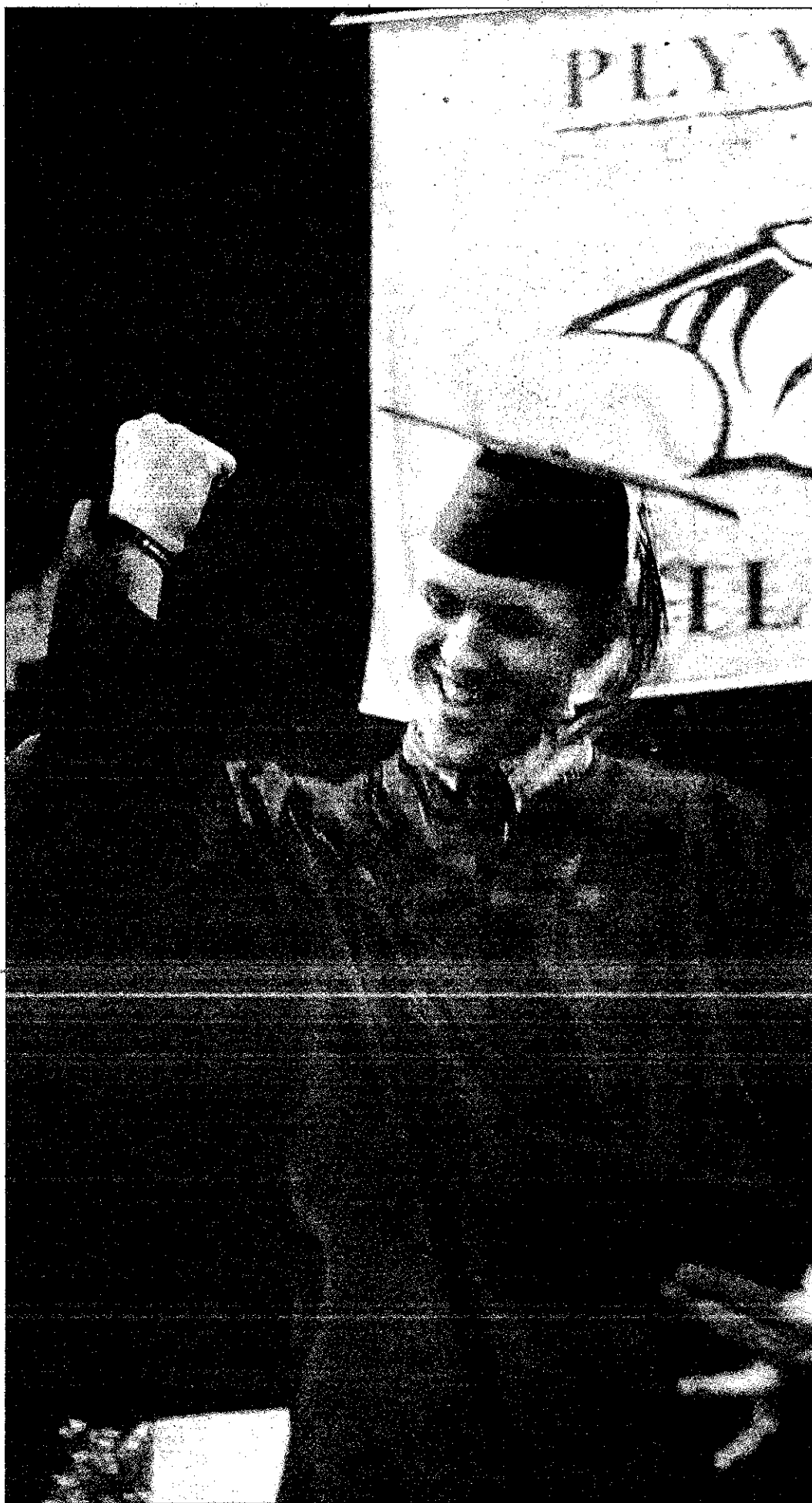
The board set the debt millage rate Tuesday to bring themselves a step closer to passing the beginning budget, scheduled to be approved at the district's June 27 meeting. To get there, and facing a potential deficit next year of \$4.2 million, the board had told the administration it wanted to see some \$2 million in cuts.

At its last budget session, the district was still some \$300,000 short of that, leaving Ryan and his staff scrambling to find them before Tuesday's meeting.

Among some \$123,000 in district-wide cuts the administration recommended were cuts by attrition of one retirement at the curriculum center; cutting some \$30,000 in printing and mailing costs related to publishing the district's "Celebrating Success" publication; and \$7,100 the district saved in restructuring the salaries of the district's three athletic directors.

Other cuts included some \$112,000 saved in food service, para-pro and transportation expenses due to two fewer calendar days, \$50,000 in telephone technology expenses and \$6,000 the district will save with the retiring of

PLEASE SEE DISTRICT, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No more books

Edward Austin Skotzke celebrates receiving his diploma as more than 400 Plymouth High School seniors became the first graduates of the 4-year-old school. For the list of graduates and more photos, please turn to Page A7.



Diane and Joe Leslie's pet cat, YumYum, has been missing since jumping out of the Florida couple's car window while they were shopping at Marshall's on Ford Road.

Where's YumYum? Florida couple 'devastated' by loss of family cat

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

When Diane and Joe Leslie left their Summerfield, Fla., home to attend a wedding in Canton, they had no idea their trip would take a devastating turn.

While visiting Michigan, the Leslies lost a family member — their pet cat, an Oriental shorthair named YumYum.

And ever since, Joe Leslie hasn't been able to eat or sleep, and they're both devastated, his wife said.

"When you have an Oriental shorthair, it's usually a one-person cat," Diane Leslie said. "My husband and YumYum are buddies. Wherever he is, she is."

The Leslies arrived June 7 in Canton and stayed overnight in a local hotel. On June 8, they were leaving the hotel to stay with their daughter in Canton, and stopped at Marshall's department store on Ford Road to do a little shopping. The weather was comfortable enough that they left YumYum in the car.

"I inadvertently left the back window down," said Diane Leslie, her voice breaking just a bit. "When I got back to the car, she wasn't there."

The Leslies have called the police every day, in hopes that someone has reported finding a lost cat. They've visited local animal shelters. They hired a pet tracking service, but the tracking dog wasn't able to pick up YumYum's scent. Desperate, the couple even called a psychic for some supernatural help.

The Leslies have canvassed the area on Ford Road daily and have distributed fliers, in hopes of finding YumYum.

Diane Leslie is not only missing YumYum, who she said is part of her family. She's also fearful for what the cat must be going through, she said.

"She's not an outdoor cat," she said. "I'm sure she's petrified and holed up somewhere and won't come out."

Not only does YumYum not have her front claws, but the cat also has asthma and requires medication.

The Leslies are offering a large cash reward to anyone who can find YumYum. They hope to find her before they leave for Florida at the end of the week. Anyone with information may call Diane Leslie at (352) 895-4125.

cmarrshall@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Dozens of students busted for drinking at huge Lenawee party

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

More than 40 graduates from Plymouth and Canton got more than their diplomas last week. They also got tickets from the police.

Police from Clinton Village, Cambridge Township, the Michigan State Police and Lenawee County Sheriff Department issued 47 tickets for minor in possession after they were called to a lakefront

home in Tipton, Mich., a small Lenawee County town located some 50 miles southwest of the Plymouth-Canton area and not far from Tecumseh. Charges are pending for two Plymouth residents, a 20-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman, who police said hosted the party at the Tipton vacation home.

"We got a call that there was an MIP (minor in possession party) on Evans Trail, and went to investigate," Lenawee

County Sheriff Lt. Cletus Smith said. Seven police officers responded to the call. "When we got there, there was a massive amount of vehicles near the property — cars parked at least 100 yards in each direction of the house."

Police found the young people drinking alcohol, and wrote out tickets on the spot. Because the underage drinkers were 18 years old, police did not call their parents, Smith said. None were excessively

intoxicated, so police didn't take any of them into custody. They confiscated the alcohol and left the party-goers at the property.

The incident did not affect graduation, Plymouth-Canton Public Schools Supt. Jim Ryan said.

"The kids were all free and done, and headed out of town after their last day of school," Ryan said.

Although there is a precedent from students who play

sports being suspended from play if they are caught drinking or get in trouble with the law, there is no school policy regarding graduation, he added.

The man and woman who police said were hosting the party do not own the house where the party took place.

"We believe they are either family members of the owner, or are family friends of the registered property owner," Smith said.

The property owners were unaware that the party was taking place, and did not give permission for the teens and young adults to be at the house, according to Smith.

The Lenawee County Sheriff Department presented reports Wednesday to the Lenawee County prosecuting attorney, and the party hosts could be charged with one-year misdemeanors by the end of this week or early next week, according to Smith.

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Coming Sunday in Health



New equipment can make
playgrounds safer

Road closures

Beginning today, Saltz Road will close east of Sheldon and Sheldon Road will close north of Cherry Hill as construction begins on stage two of the Sheldon and Saltz intersection improvements. During construction vehicles will only be allowed to travel south on Sheldon between Ford and Cherry Hill and Saltz east of Sheldon will be restricted to local traffic only. Drivers are advised to follow all posted detour routes.

Improvements being made at the Saltz and Sheldon intersection include: Removing the existing concrete pavement and eliminating the dip on Saltz, widening both Sheldon and Saltz to allow for exclusive right turn lanes in both directions as well as center turn lanes, improving storm drains, adding new traffic signals with mast arms and illuminated street signs, constructing new sidewalk with pedestrian crossings, and placing new pavement markings and signage.

Improvements are also being made at the Cherry Hill and Sheldon intersection and include: Widening both Sheldon and Cherry Hill to allow for exclusive right turn lanes in both directions as well as center turn lanes, providing new traffic signals with mast arms and illuminated street signs, constructing new sidewalk with pedestrian crossings, and placing new pavement markings and signage.

Construction on both intersections is expected to be completed by mid-July. For more information on the intersection improvements please call

Canton's Public Works at (734) 394-5150.

Handcrafters arts and crafts show

Handcrafters Unlimited will host its arts and crafts show at Liberty Fest in Heritage Park on June 16-18. More than 80 juried artisans will display their talents with such works as floral, jewelry, wood work, baskets, and clothing. Show hours are: 5-8 p.m. on June 16; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on June 17; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on June 18. For more information, call (734) 459-0050.

Lions Club pancake breakfast

The Canton Lions Club's 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday June 18 from 8-11 a.m. at Heritage Park. Scheduled as part of Canton's Liberty Fest, the event will offer an all-you-can-eat breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, ham, eggs, milk, juice, coffee and tea.

According to Lions Club President Nancy Williams, the group "donates 100 percent of the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast to individuals in need. This event is our primary fundraiser and is used to assist hundreds of local residents with their vision related needs to help improve their quality of life."

The event is open to the public. Tickets are available for a \$5 donation and may be purchased in advance by calling Pat or Nancy Williams at (734) 358-4280, or Linda Shapona at (734) 502-8300. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event.

Newcomers booth

The Canton Newcomers, a social, civic, and philanthropic group, invites the public to join local leaders, musical acts, and township service representatives at their Liberty Fest Awareness Booth the weekend of June 16-18 around the pond at Heritage Park.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about the wide variety of activities called Interest Groups offered by the Newcomers, along with asking us and our 'guests' questions in a casual environment," said Newcomers President-elect Karen Kruszka.

Scheduled guests include: Gerald Meier, principal at Bentley Elementary School, 6:30, Friday; Canton's own saxophone player, Justin Young, 6:30, Friday; Anita Rivera, diversity representative, 11 a.m., Saturday; Dr. Jim Ryan, Superintendent of Plymouth/Canton Schools, 1 p.m., Saturday; Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack, 2 p.m. Saturday; Canton Public Library (apply for a library card), 3 p.m., Saturday; a musical act from Orchestra Canton and a representative from the Clerks office (you can register to vote/submit an address change, right on the spot); noon, Sunday.

A calendar of summer event activities, local maps, health and fitness brochures and more will be distributed at the booth.

"We welcome the community to stop by, say 'Hello,' and find out about our Book Club, Playgroups, Ladies Day Out, Bunko, Chick Flick, Creative Kids, Euchre, Men's Poker, Ladies Night Out, Scrapbooking, Walking Club and more," said Vice President-elect Noreen Rybar.

For more information, please contact Karen at (734) 737-0755 or visit the Newcomers on the Web at Cantonnewcomers.org.

Help Russian orphans

Relieve Orphans' Suffering Everywhere is holding a yard sale to raise money to help orphanages in Russia. The sale will be 8 a.m.-6 p.m. June 15, 16 and 17 at Canton Charter Academy on Ford Road east of Ridge.

Bankruptcy specialist

Canton resident Stephen S. LaPlante, a principal in the Detroit office of Miller Canfield and a leader of the firm's Bankruptcy Group, will be a featured presenter at the American Bankruptcy Institute's 13th Annual Central States Bankruptcy Workshop, June 16-18 in Traverse City.



LaPlante

He will be part of the panel discussion on "Auto Cases: Where Is This Road Going?" specifically discussing new stakeholders in automotive sector bankruptcies. The conference is expected to attract more than 400 professionals.

LaPlante specializes in troubled automotive supplier workouts and bankruptcies. He also counsels creditors, debtors, and others in commercial bankruptcy and out-of-court workouts including litigation for both automotive and non-automotive manufacturers and suppliers. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Federal Bar Association, and American Bankruptcy Institute.

The American Bankruptcy Institute is the largest multi-disciplinary, nonpartisan organization dedicated to research and education on matters related to insolvency. It was founded in 1982 to provide Congress and the public with unbiased analysis of bankruptcy issues. The ABI membership includes more than 11,500 attorneys, accountants, bankers, judges, lenders, turnaround specialists and other bankruptcy professionals providing a forum for the exchange



Proud to be us

Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 433 recently completed a program to boost self-esteem, which included an interactive session of role-plays and skits, as well as workshops on topics that included how to handle the media and cultural messages, peer pressure and friendship. The program was part of Unilever and its Dove Self-Esteem fund, which are committed to helping youth reach their full potential by addressing self-esteem issues that impact them physically, emotionally and intellectually. The Girl Scouts of the USA helped create the program to boost self-esteem among adolescent and pre-adolescent girls.

Corvettes at the Summit

The second annual "Corvettes at the Summit" is scheduled for Saturday, July 15, at Canton's Heritage Park.

Presented by Corvette Legends Club and Canton Leisure Services with sponsorship by Les Stanford Chevrolet, the 2006 "Corvettes at the Summit" is expected to draw more than 100 Corvettes of all vintages for a daylong display and car show.

Specially trained judges will evaluate the presentation and condition of the entries. Trophies will be awarded to Corvettes that meet the judging standards.

The show will also feature music, food, a display of special interest Corvettes unique model cars, entertainment and door prizes. It will culminate in a Corvette road tour leaving from Heritage Park at 4 p.m.

Show hours are 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Participant registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 9:30 a.m. The awards ceremony

date is Sunday, July 10.

Admission is free for spectators. There is a registration fee for participants.

Public safety survey

May 31 marked the last day for residents to return their 2006 Public Safety Community Surveys. The surveys, designed to give Canton residents an opportunity to rate the services of the police and fire departments, were mailed out during the month of April to a random sample of residents in the community.

During the month of June survey responses will be tabulated. Once the final results have been determined, department officials will compare the survey results with the benchmark results established during a similar survey conducted in 2000. Final survey results will be published in Canton's FOCUS newsletter, through local media and on the department's Web site at www.canton-mi.org.

Canton High class reunion

Plymouth Canton Class of 1981 will hold its 25th reunion on Aug. 26 at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth Township. Organizers are still working on details, but they are planning a casual, low-cost event so as many people as possible will attend.

If you are interested in attending, please send your current contact information, including an e-mail address, if you have one to one of the following committee members: Ann (Genrich) Rockov, arockov@aol.com; Beth (Berberet) Schumacher, BSchumacher@jeromeaustin.com; Bob Mullen, RMullen@plymouthlegalgroup.com; Janet (Secord) Mailot, janetmailhot@yahoo.com; Jeri (Tomolok) Craig, rjoshm1@aol.com; Kallie (Bila) Michels, Kallie@umich.edu; Marilyn (McKendry) Smiatacz, Smiatacz@umich.edu; Robin (Dansby) Hays, robays@comcast.net; Terry (Garrett) Treasure, czh_treasure@yahoo.com.

Organizers will contact you again soon with the specifics of the reunion. They would also appreciate it if you could send updated contact information on others.

Grub crawl

Canton and the Canton Chamber of Commerce will be co-hosting Canton's 5th Annual Grub Crawl on Tuesday July 18, from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

All participants of this event, which is open to the public, must be 21 years of age or older. Cost is \$30 for a Grub Crawl T-shirt, which is the ticket into the participating restaurants, and transportation. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 30. You can register to participate by contacting the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

Restaurants participating in this year's Grub Crawl include: 4 Friends, 4 Season's Internet Café, Applebee's, Back Home Bakery, Bailey's Pub and Grille, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Central City Diner, Crows Nest Bar and Grill, Max and Erma's, Mexican Fiesta, Rose's Restaurant and Lounge, Rusty Nail, Shark Club, T.C. Gator's and TGI Fridays.

Grub crawlers will be sampling delectable dishes such as Cozze in Bianco (Steamed Mussels), Tortilla Soup, Chicken Marsala, Tamales and Enchiladas just to name a few.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE

Hands On Center
Presented by
Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

PRONE TO HEEL PAIN?

While runners often experience heel pain, it can happen to anyone. Persistent heel pain should prompt an assessment by a physical therapist to see if bad biomechanics is a contributing factor. Abnormalities in a person's walking/running gait stress the heel bone and attached tissues. Among these abnormalities may be excessive pronation, which means that the foot roll inward too much when a person walks or runs. The heel should be the first part of the foot to hit the ground when walking. Ideally, the arch distributes the weight first toward the outside of the foot and, then,

toward the ball. If the feet roll inward or outward too much, the plantar fascia and the heel bear the excess stress. Other causes of heel pain include a sedentary lifestyle during winter months. When people increase activity levels dramatically during the better weather, heel pain is often a result. When you require the care of a physical therapist, call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY now at 455-8370. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. New patients are welcome.

P.S. Being overweight or habitually carrying heavy loads may also lead to heel pain by putting added pressure on the heels.



John Cornutti, PT



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Bob Schumacher, PT

of ideas and information.

is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Rain

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Fate of historic barn to be decided at special meeting

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The fate of a historic barn could be decided tonight. It will be saved if Canton can come up with \$37,500 to help move it from its current location on school-owned property at Joy and McClumpha, to a site near the township-owned Bartlett-Travis house in Cherry Hill Village.

The Canton Township Board of Trustees called a special meeting for 7 p.m. tonight to vote on the expenditure. If the resolution is passed, the Cady barn, which dates back nearly 100 years, will be saved. If not, the barn will be destroyed to make way for new tennis courts the school district plans to build.

The barn was all but gone, after fund-raising efforts to cover the cost of moving the barn fell flat. But Canton resident Bob Boyer, who owns Boyer's Meat Processing, stepped forward to save the barn. He offered to put up \$75,000 to pay a group of Amish skilled tradesmen to

tear down, move and reconstruct the barn in its new location.

The board will vote on spending \$37,500 to pay for preparing the site. Soil boring tests need to be taken, the staking and foundation needs to be completed and electricity for security lighting needs to be added, plus the township would be responsible for painting the barn.

"Last fall, the board put in the 2005 budget \$60,000 to spend on relocating the barn. The \$60,000 would be used to match outside funding," Township Clerk Terry Bennett said. "The \$37,000 is below that. What has to happen is that the board of trustees has to make a decision one way or another on whether or not we're going to commit to moving the barn."

If the township commits, Boyer will have the time to finish the contract and get the required insurance before July 4, when the tradesmen would be able to move the barn. The only thing Boyer has asked in return for funding the moving

of the barn is that Canton's first fire truck, which he paid to restore, would be stored in it.

"There are not many people left in this world like Bob," Bennett said.

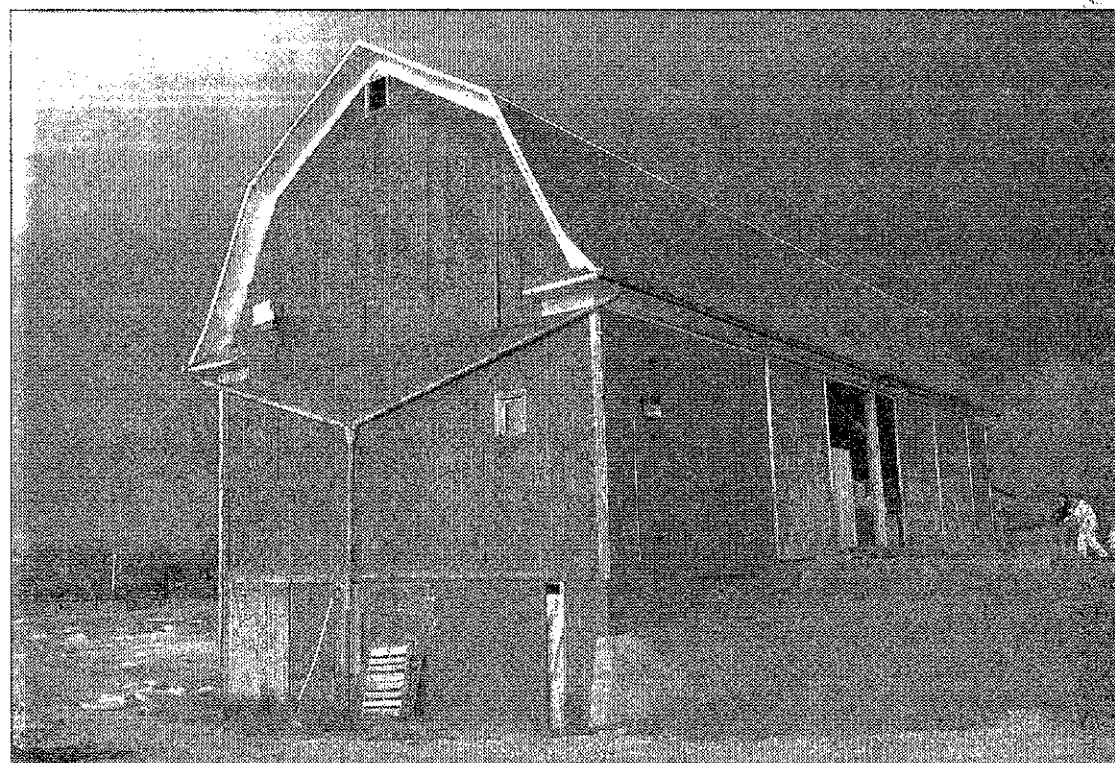
The board could not wait to vote at its next regular meeting, which is June 27, because that would not allow Boyer enough time to make the necessary preparations to hire the workmen.

If the project moves forward, the tradesmen will take apart the barn, transport it, reassemble it and put a roof on it, Bennett said.

Under this proposal, the barn would be suitable for storage and display only. If the board were to adopt another plan — one in which the barn could be used for events — the cost would be much higher, approximately \$157,000, Bennett said.

The additional cost would be due to site plan and design requirements, additional utilities such as water and sewer and the addition of hydrants.

In order to try to come up



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The old barn had been scheduled for demolition this summer.

with additional funding for the barn, Bennett is preparing a grant proposal to the Canton

Community Foundation, she said.

The board will meet tonight

at 7 p.m. at the Township Administration Building at 1150 Canton Center South.

Parade drill team to promote Canton shopping opportunities

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

It's all about the shopping. Or at least it will be for a few hours Saturday morning as a dozen Canton business people come together to form the "Shop Canton Drill Team," which will make its debut during the Liberty Fest parade.

The 12-member team includes members of the Canton Downtown Development Authority and the Canton Marketing Committee. They'll push brightly colored shopping carts down the road in order to promote shopping in the township's busy business corridor.

"There are businesses like

Bombay, and Bed, Bath and Beyond, and all the hype for the past few months has been about IKEA," said DDA board of directors member Tim Ford, who came up with the idea. "I said we should put something in the parade that has nothing to do with IKEA."

He came up with the idea, which he said is a copycat of the Briefcase Drill Team in Plymouth, about a year ago. It was put on the back burner as the DDA has been focusing on its branding and marketing plans, but now is the time to remind people that the DDA runs from all the way from Home Depot to Belle Tire, and there are plenty of shopping opportunities in the township

So the group will be pushing the shopping carts from Home Depot, Target and Joann Fabric, and yelling out cheers in hopes of firing up the crowd to shop.

"I don't know what you've been told," said Ford, reciting one of the cheers. "Canton's streets are paved with gold."

Local dance school owner Tim Smola helped out the team with "moves" and cheering, and the team has been practicing at the public works yard on Sheldon Road, said DDA director Kathleen Salla.

"It's going to be fun," she said. "It's pro-Canton and pro-shopping in Canton."

cmarshall@hometownlife.com

@ THE LIBRARY

Summer Reading has officially started at the Canton Public Library. Adult and teen program registration started June 12 and children's registration is June 19. Parents, be a good reading role model and sign up with your children. Enjoy a good book, have fun at a program and get a chance to win some prizes. There's something for every age and every stage this summer at the library.

The library will be closed for Liberty Fest on June 17 and 18.

NOW @ YOUR CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

■ Open Mic: June 24, at 2 p.m. Featuring special guest artists Clepper-George, from

Austin, Texas.

■ Contemporary Book Discussion: June 19, at 7 p.m. *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris

What's new @ your library. Here's a partial list of materials just in at the library. To see the whole list, visit <http://catalog.cantonpl.org/ftli> st.

Adult Books on CD

■ *The Saboteurs* by W.E.B. Griffin
■ *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
■ *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog* by John Grogan

Adult DVD

■ *The Sixth Sense*
■ *The Night of the Iguana*
■ *Glory Road*

Adult Non-Fiction

■ *1000 Films to Change Your Life*
■ *Altman* by Altman by Cornelia Funke
■ *The Thinking Fan's Guide to the World Cup*

@ The Library is compiled by Laurie Golden, marketing and communications manager of the Canton Public Library, which is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call (734) 397-0999 or visit www.cantonpl.org.

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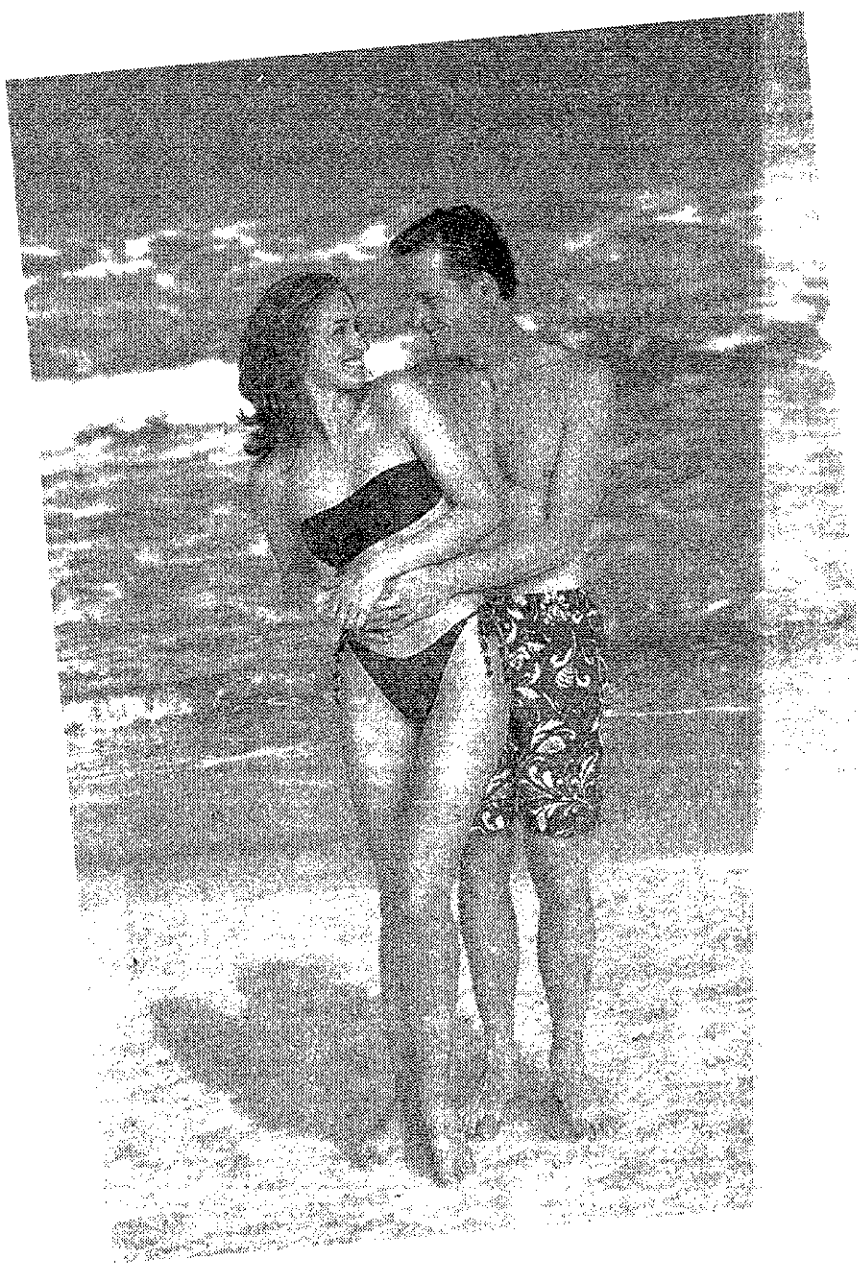
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Starkweather students Lauren Rowley (from left), Natalie Erickson, Jamal Buckner and principal Irene Ras helped prepare the food at the Starkweather cookout.

Learning to give back

Social studies lesson teaches community service

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Kim Delproposto's students at Starkweather found out they needed to do a community service project to learn how to give back to the community, it didn't take them long to come up with a plan: A cookout, bake sale and "Penny Wars" campaign to benefit the clothing bank housed at Salem High School.

What took a little longer was building the confidence they could pull it off. Once they realized it was going to happen, the 16 students helped raise some \$950 for their cause.

"They needed to learn about community service," said Delproposto, a teacher at Starkweather, Plymouth-Canton's alternative education center. "They had to figure out how to give back to the community."

The students — 11 of Delproposto's kids and five students of social studies teacher Wayne Eko — came up with a three-pronged plan: A cookout during lunch hour, a bake sale

during the cookout, and "Penny Wars." For the last part, Starkweather teachers were given a jug, and students put coins in the jug of the teacher they'd most like to see take a pie in the face, all for charity.

"At first, we didn't think we could pull it off," student Natalie Erickson of Canton said. "There was so much to do and so little time."

Once they started pushing the pie-throwing aspect, the students agreed, their confidence soared.

"When we started 'Penny Wars' we saw how everyone was willing to pitch in," said student Lindsay Poteracki of Plymouth.

"When I saw how excited they got over hitting a teacher with a pie, I knew we were going to make it work."

The staff members who took the pies in the face — principal Irene Ras, science/math teacher Ken Fistler and art teacher Nancy Blaylock — did so with pleasure.

"It was great fun," Blaylock said. "It was a great way to show sportsmanship and to show the kids we weren't



Starkweather principal Irene Ras was one of three staffers "volunteered" by students to take a pie in the face for charity.

afraid, and it raised money for a good cause."

The proceeds were enough to buy 42 backpacks for the clothing bank with enough left to buy some picnic tables for the school.

"I thought it was fun, because it was out of the ordinary," said student Jordan Coulter of Livonia.

"Instead of sitting in a classroom, we were planning a barbecue. I actually talked to people I wouldn't normally talk to."

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District teachers, board approve two-year contract

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

The tentative contract agreement between Plymouth-Canton Schools and its 1,100-member teachers union isn't so tentative anymore.

The two-year deal, which includes a 2-percent raise the first year and a wage-reopener for the second, starts Aug. 31 and runs through Aug. 30, 2008.

The teachers ratified the contract Monday, and the Plymouth-Canton Board of

Education approved it at its meeting Tuesday night.

In addition to the small pay hike, the deal includes an increase in co-pays for prescriptions and enhancements on many health issues, according to Chuck Portelli, Plymouth-Canton Education Association president.

"We settled a lot of issues that were hanging out there," Portelli said. "We divided the salary and calendar from the non-economic issues, and we'll still continue to bargain on those."

The sides reportedly reached the settlement May 26, after only a handful of negotiating sessions. At Tuesday's board meeting, both sides were complimentary about the interest-based bargaining process the teams used to reach the deal.

"I appreciate the cooperation of both teams," board member Rich Ham-Kucharski said. "I hope we can continue to look at creative ways not to impact staffs."

Portelli said having a contract and calendar will make for a smooth start of the 2006-

07 school year. Teachers report in August, with students returning Sept. 5.

"It was important to get it resolved before teachers leave at the end of the school year," said Portelli.

While no one was revealing the exact vote, teachers said the contract passed "overwhelmingly."

"With this agreement, our students, their parents and the remainder of the community understand we're all on the same page and preparing to provide the best educational

setting this fall," teacher Darrin Silvester told the board Tuesday. "They need to understand these are difficult times. That's why we as a group collectively, and overwhelmingly, accepted a cost of living decrease, knowing I might not buy as much milk next year as I did this year, but we understand difficult times."

"This sets the tone for allowing us to meet the new state academic requirements, adjust to the new academic calendar, hopefully provide a setting for a positive vote on any and all

school bonds we may propose again," Silvester said. "It is with this proactive approach by all of us that I know my school district is on the right track to provide all 18,000-plus students who come through our door a quality education."

It's only the first of nine contracts the school district needs to bargain with its unions.

Staff writer Tony Bruscatto contributed to this report.

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DISTRICT

FROM PAGE A1

the district's assistant director of transportation.

That brings the total cuts, Ryan said, to some \$8 million the last five years, without affecting programs.

"We've tried hard not to cut programs," Ryan said. "That's been my goal all along."

Ryan said the district faces a \$4.2 million deficit next year, but he said the possibility exists of the district actually breaking even next year. The board approved selling 26 acres of property the district owns at Joy and Beck for \$1.7 million, and Ryan hopes the district can pass a bond in February to recoup the \$2.3 million it spent on property for a new middle school in Canton.

"That would be a break-even budget," Ryan said. "The board did it by making smart cuts."

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PDF 060847416

Senior party shifts to Plymouth for 1st class of graduates

BY DIANE HANSON
CORRESPONDENT

There is little doubt that the biggest bash for miles around took place Sunday night at Plymouth High School in Canton Township. But no peace was disturbed as some 900 teenagers partied until the wee hours of Monday morning at the annual senior celebration following graduations of all three high schools — Plymouth, Canton, and Salem — earlier in the day at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center.

The 2006 class was the first graduating class from Plymouth High School and this was the first time the senior party, traditionally held at Salem, was held at Plymouth.

This year's theme, "Space Odyssey," was an easy choice for the senior party committee.

"The outer space theme was decided on because this was the class that traveled to space camps as fifth graders due to



Plymouth grads Kirra Bieszke (left) and Ashley Lapenta show off their fancy footwork in the "Digital Dance Revolution" room.

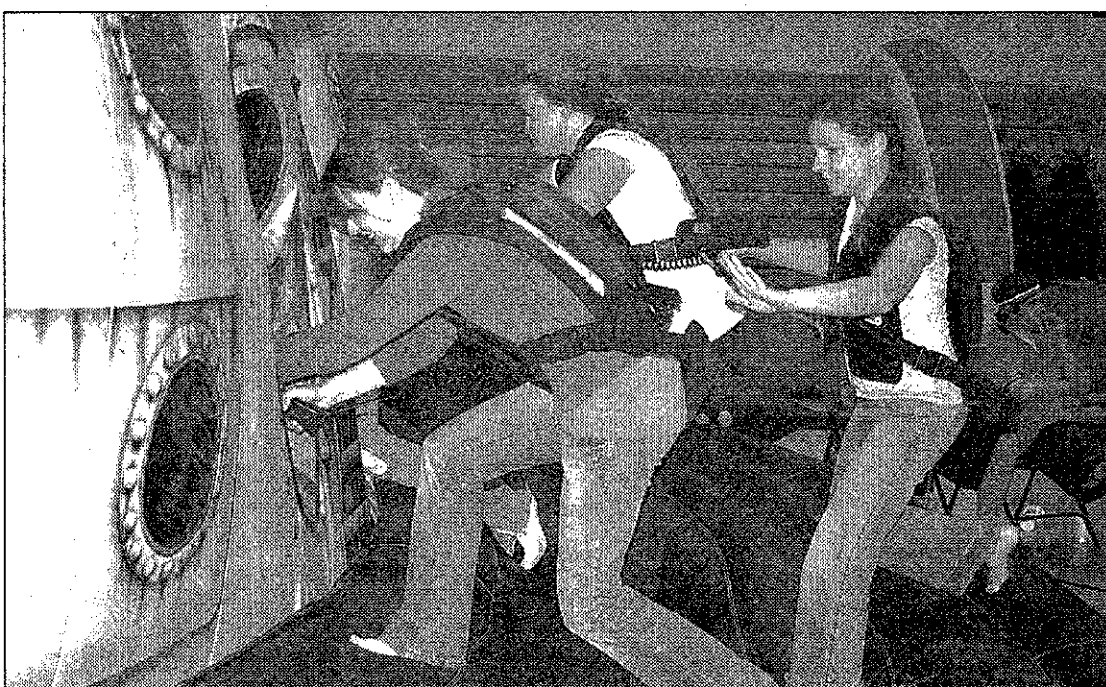
the generosity of an anonymous benefactor," said Connie Poremba, chairperson of the senior party. "We don't know

who that person was or even if they are in this area, but we thought if they are here and they found out we were doing 'Space Odyssey' because they had donated the money for space camp, it might be a nice way to honor that person."

That theme, sporting elaborate decorations from a space shuttle entry to flashing lights, dangling aliens and a multitude of spacey creations was appreciated by the grads, including Plymouth senior Lauren Blackley.

"The best thing about the senior party is the space camp theme because all of us went through it and this is like bringing it back," said Blackley who is going into medicine at MSU in the fall. "I was really excited when I saw the big rocket when we came in."

More than two-thirds of the 1,269 students in the graduating classes of all three high schools combined attended the gala and there's good reason for holding the mega-party on the night of gradua-



PHOTOS BY DIANE HANSON

tions. "It's a place to go and celebrate and be safe," said Poremba. "We know that they would be out partying and

this is a great thing. All the kids are excited. It's one last time to have a great time with their friends."

And there was an abundance of activities to keep all 900 graduates occupied.

The gymnasium was filled with such enormous blow-up games as a Velcro obstacle course, a two-lane bungee run, gladiator jousting and an impressive "Galaxy Cruiser" for laser tag. Throughout the school there were areas for digital dancing, music video creations, caricature and tattoo artists, and a casino complete with roulette, Black Jack, even a Texas Hold'em tournament. And, of course, there were the endless refreshments.

"This is great," said Vernon Stewart, a Plymouth grad bound for WMU in the fall. "We get to see everybody again before we go off to college."

Canton grad Kayla Powers, also Western bound, admitted her favorite thing at the party was the food. Then considering this was the last big gathering of her friends, she reflected, "It's going to be sad later. It's not now though. I'm having a lot of fun."

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FRI/SAT LS 11:30

THE OMEN (R)
11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

THE BREAK-UP (PG-13)
12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

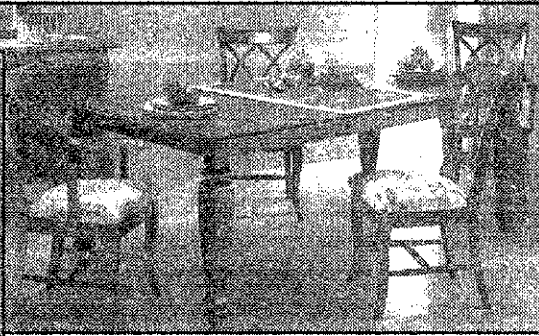
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Kathleen Suzanne Hale



Classmates Lindsay Vogelsberg and Jackie Dorre hug after Plymouth High School's graduation ceremony Sunday at Eastern Michigan University.



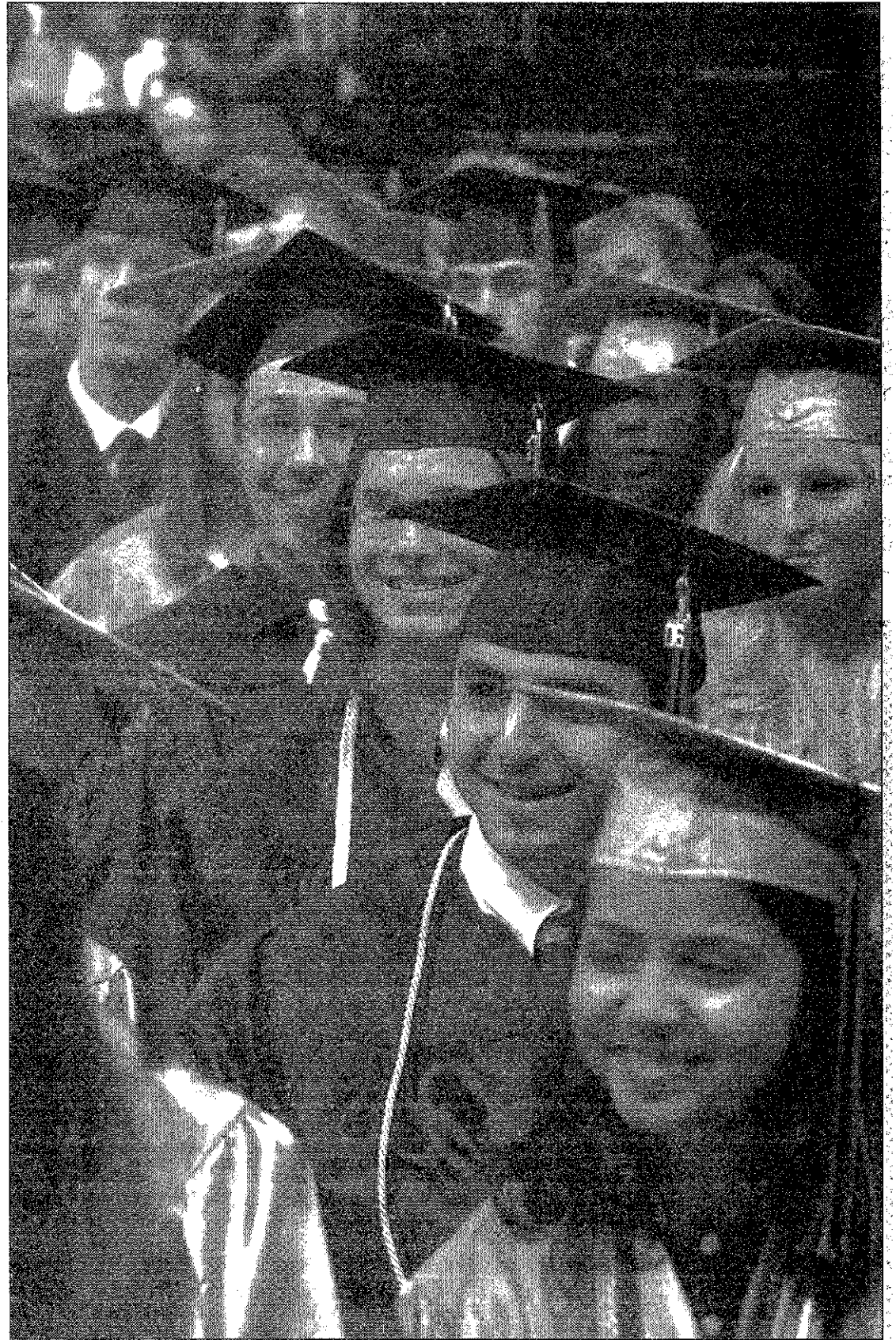
Senior Class President Yasaswi Paruchuri addresses her Plymouth High School classmates.

Matthew John Haling
Lauren E. Halpin
Janet Leigh Hanchett
Thomas G. Handrinos
Alexandra Yvonne Hanes
Syed O. Haris
Terrance Desmond Harris
Jeffrey Christopher Harrison
Katlyn Michelle Harrison
Alexander Harvey
Sarah Jane Haskins
Russell Hatfield
Megan Ann Heard
Megan M. Heeren
Danielle S. Henry
Brent Alexander Hernandez
Meghan Ann Hill
Ryan Paul Hocman
Theresa A. Hohl
Jessie Ellen Hollander
Kyle F. Horn
Mary E. Hotz
Molly Cochrane Howard
Alexander Lawren Hsieh
Scott J. Huddas
Kathleen Mary Hughes
Leah M. Humphries
Stephanie Hunt
Geoffrey Richard Huston
Katie Ignagni
Tatiana M. Imamura
Katelyn Marie Ingraham
Lindsay April Jackson
Daniel A. Jammoul
Kristin S. Jeong
Chase C. Johnson
Joshua J. Johnson
Brent M. Jones
Laura E. Jones
Mahesh K. Joshi
Paul J. Jouney
Rachel L. Juco
Lindsey M. Juras
Bassel N. Kadi
Amanda Leigh Kanaan
Michelle C. Kassabri
Harpreet Kaur
Tara L. Kay
Anneliese Marie Kelch
Chester Thomas Kelly
Scott F. Kelly
Shahana K. Khan
Fredric Keith Kitchen
Janet M. Kiuchi
Ashley Marie Kline
Kevin Kyle Kline
Paul T. Kluka
Andrew Guy Knisely
John D. Knoerl
Christopher A. Koitz
Caitlyn Ashley Kolesar
Erik John Korpalski
Steven M. Korpus
Nathan James Kostegian
Bradley M. Kraft
Heather M. Kubacki
Elaine Tracy Lafayette
Brittney Alicia Landers
Caitlin E. Langa
Ashley Joy Lapenta
Christine E. Laws
Melissa Michelle Lazaro
Joshua M. LeDuc
Amanda M. Leifson
Brian Thomas Leighton
Matthew Robert LeMerise
Jennifer L. Leshkevich
David Lee Lewandowski
Li Li
Alexandria Linerode
Harini Lingamgunta
Li Yan Liu
Ashley A. Lohrer
Christopher Lopez



An emotional Plymouth High School Principal Dr. Michael T. Bee tells the first graduating class, "What is it that I really want to celebrate? Your leadership." He described the last five years as the best of his life.

Andrew Scott Lord
Shayna Leigh Loughlin
Robert Lovelace
Luc Anton Lucaj
Steven Frank Lusco
Kevin Kenneth Luther
Courtney A. Mack
Bethany Ann Madigan
Ashley Elizabeth Mahan
Brian J. Mallia
Elizabeth Carol Martin
Keith Martin
Jennifer L. Mason
Nicholas Mazzocco
Tyler Lee McCarty
Michael McIntosh
Austin B. McKinney
Elizabeth Nichole McLaughlin
Nathanial Dean McManus
Lindsay A. McParlane
Manuela Medoro
Ryan Arthur Menkin
Justin Michael Michalek
Kevin Michael Mifsud
Alex Michael Mihelick
Julie Kristine Miller
Kevin J. Minor
Angelina Maureen Moise
Jeanine T. Moise
Caila M. Moore
Robert L. Morrow
Tanika Morrow
Jeffrey M. Movsesian
Gaurav D. Mukhi
Elizabeth Lorraine Mundy
Brittany E. Neal
Brittany Arena Neimeth
Jessica Lynn Gossett
Newberry
Daniel G. Norko
Kimberly Ann Olech
Ashley Elizabeth Olson
Erin Lynn Ondusky
Marion Kathleen O'Neil
Catalina Oprican
Sorin Oprican
Amy L. Ostrowski
Ramin Daniel Pakray
John William Palgut
Julie M. Palmer
Jared P. Panyan
Yasaswi Paruchuri
Chintan M. Patel
Kinnari Bhupendra Patel
Erik Stanley Patterson



More than 400 seniors took part in Plymouth High School's first graduation ceremony Sunday at Eastern Michigan University.



Kathryn Cannon switches the tassel of her mortarboard from left to right signifying that she is now a graduate of Plymouth High School.

Kenneth Richard Patterson
Jordan Andrew Payne
Natoya LaDawn Penn
Patrick Donovan Penner
Shayne D. Perkovich
Chelsey L. Pickard
Courtney A. Pickard
Jessica A. Pilkievitz
Rachel R. Pinckney
Tiffany Carroll Pitsos
Jennifer L. Pitter
Nicole Marie Pitts
James Michael Pomerson
Allison N. Poremba
Courtney Loraine Powell
Valerie Ann Pratt
Jacob E. Precht
Sasha Princess Pressley
Sarah Nicole Preston
Ryan Edward Pritz
Britni Noelle Puryear
Amy Quiambao
Michael R. Raden
Kristen Michelle Rakowicz
Anam H. Rashid
Sarah Jennifer Reading
Sandra Redzovic
Karissa M. Riley
Kristina J. Ring
Rachel Ann Rogers
Amar-Pal S. Romana
Stephanie Romano
Laura Dianne Rowe
Jillian Colleen Rowland
Keely Marie Rudolph
Chelsea Rae Ryan
Alexandria G. Saker
Ali A. Saleem
Madeline Ann Salvaggio
Rachael Elizabeth Sample
Gayathri Sankaralingam
Mousa Imad Saras
Cameron Carl Scharchburg

Beyer
Justin J.W. Scherbarth
Brian C. Schmieder
Kirsten A. Schroeder
Matthew Kenyon Schultz
Laura Marie Schulz
Sara Lynn Schwartz
Ashley Jay Scott
Chelsea Ann Seeholtz
Kevin Michael Serwatowski
Samir Shah
Hannah Maria Sheridan
Justin Joseph Sheridan
Nathaniel Christian Sherwood
Sarah Elizabeth Sherwood
Nicholas J. Siekirk
Michael Sikora
Andrew W. Simpson
Nicole Marie-Therese Sinis
Edward Austin Skotzke
Blair Reylyn Slack
Lauren Ashley Smith
Zahkia Marcela Smith
David Scott Snyder
Daniel Joseph Soberal
Nicole Christina Sofios
Benjamin Michael Solis
Megan Leigh Sommerville
Jill Patricia Spangler
Nicole M. Stack
Ryan M. Stamm
Karmel Cierra Starks
Lauren Kay Stemberger
Vernon Dewayne Stewart
Zack R. Stilson
Bryan R. Stotz
Jennifer Leigh Stuard
Brittini Maria Sturdivant
Nicole Marie Sumner
Nicole Marie Svec
Tiffany Elizabeth Svec
Murad Swaidan

Andrew K. Swanson
Christy N. Swisher
Brandi N. Swyhart
Fellenza Sylejmani
Nicholas A. Taggie
Mei-Ki Tam
Rachel Renae Tamagne
Zaki J. Tams
Cory Michael Tanaka
David M. Telega
Jamie Lynn Tesch
Ashley Angeleana Thayer
Ryan E. Thompson
Meghan Patrice Tkachuk
Sarah J. Trombley
Nichole Loraine Urrutia
Justin A. Vahosky
Lisa Danielle Van Camp
Michelle RoseAnn VanHaften
Corey A. VanSpronsen
Maxwell A. Vaughn
Anuj Vermani
Shelly Vermani
Lindsay Catherine Vogelsberg
Jenna Leigh Volstromer
Megan Wakar
Breana Maria Wallace
Nathaniel John Wallace
Jacqueline Nichole Walsh
Michael P. Walsh
Andy Wang
Xiwen Wang
Kevin M. Welch
Stephanie Whiting
Nicole Celia Widrosky
James Eugene Wilbur
Bradley W. Wiley
Jillian Ilene Wilhelm
Alec Joseph Williams
André Darnell Williams
Tina Reyna Wills
Brandon P. Winowiecki
China Marie Wood
Chelsea Rae Woodruff
Joshua Joseph Wortmann
Tong Wu
Ashleigh Danielle Wyatt
Bradley Alan Yergenson
Melanie N. Yike
Ronald J. York, III
Lisa R. Yount
Fatima Younus
Ali Jaafar Youssef
John H. Zaccone
Ashley Marie Zacharias
Mallory Ann Zarate
Kaleigh Ann Zebari
Chen Zhang
Siming Zhao
Antonia Ioannou Zitros
Bryan Richard Zochowski

Local therapist honored for efforts during 9/11 and Katrina

Nancy Malone, a Canton resident and long-time physical therapist at United Home Health Services, was awarded the Spirit of Caring Award from the Michigan Home Health Association (MHHA) on May 11 during its annual conference in Traverse City. According to MHHA, this prestigious honor is only given occasionally, as it is reserved for an individual whose contribution to home care is considered to be unique and of extraordinary value.

Malone was nominated for the award by her supervisor, Lynn Lariviere.

"Nancy has consistently demonstrated excellence in her profession and leadership qualities. She goes the extra mile in everything she does, including her relationships with her patients," said Lariviere, rehabilitation coordinator at United. "Nancy is a wonderful, caring person and an outstanding therapist. She has been such an asset to United Home Health Services. We are so thrilled that she has been recognized with this high honor."

Nancy not only has impacted her patients and co-workers, but also has reached out to those in need far from home. She drove to New York City soon after 9/11 occurred to assist in the rescue efforts at ground zero. There she hauled debris, performed basic medical care, and served food. She worked around the clock, resting only occasionally on a park bench while firefighters told their stories. This experience strongly impacted her dedication to serve.

Hurricane Katrina ignited Malone's desire to serve once again, so she traveled south with monetary donations, supplies, and food. This resulted in the founding of her charity Hands of Light in Action, whose mission is to assist people in need. She will be leading a caravan of Michigan residents including Oakland University and Schoolcraft College students to New Orleans and Waveland, Miss. from July 8-23 to continue her mission of aiding those devastated by the hurricane.

Nancy is humble about her award and accomplishments.



Canton resident Nancy Malone, a longtime physical therapist at United Home Health Services, holds her Spirit of Caring Award from the Michigan Home Health Association.

"I am grateful and honored to receive this award. I feel very lucky to be able to live my dream and follow my God-given path. There are so many home care professionals that go above and beyond with their support, love, and caring every day and I am very privileged to work with them. This has been an amazing journey already -- almost more than my

heart can take in," she said.

Malone is currently pursuing her doctorate in orthopedic manual physical therapy and has a developing interest in Therapeutic Touch. Donations and volunteers are being sought for Hands of Light in Action's July trip. For more information call (734) 788-9230 or access their Web site at www.handsflightinaction.org.

Charity needs help on trip

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Hand of Light in Action, the charity founded by Canton resident Nancy Malone, is planning a trip to New Orleans and Waveland, Miss., to help rebuild the communities that were wiped out during Hurricane Katrina. The group will offer free medical and dental care at a semi-permanent clinic, will continue helping with cleanup and rebuilding homes that were destroyed and will help in establishing programs for children.

Volunteers are needed, particularly those with skills in medical care. The dates of the trip are July 8 to July 23, 2006. Volunteers are welcome to go for one or both weeks.

In New Orleans, 150,000 residents have returned but only 25 percent of the doctors and professionals have returned, according to Malone.

"Many of the people coming into the clinic are unemployed middle class who have no

knowledge of the available charity systems as they have never needed them," Malone said. "Many of the families are still displaced or living in depressive areas in FEMA trailers, often with several families living in the same trailer. Conditions are deplorable."

All volunteers must be at least 18 years old to stay onsite at Operation Blessings. For more information, contact Nancy Malone at (734) 788-9230. Volunteers please go to www.handsflightinaction.org and fill out a request form. Those who can't volunteer are welcome to make donations of money or gift cards to CVS, Home Depot, Shell, Exxon, Albertson's, Sam's Club, and Wal-Mart. All donations should be sent to Hands of Light in Action, P.O. Box 87513, Canton, MI 48187. Hands of Light in Action is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation so all donations fully tax deductible - 100 percent of all donations are used for the relief effort.



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Clerk's office looking for election workers

The Canton Township Clerk's Department is now accepting applications for the position of precinct inspector for the 2006 primary election on Aug. 8, 2006 and the general election on Nov. 7, 2006.

The position of precinct inspector is limited to working on designated election days in the Charter Township of Canton. Applicants must be qualified, registered voters within Wayne County, and they must be United States citizens.

The applicant must fill out the application in their own writing and be willing to declare a political party affiliation.

Applicants must be able to work closely with others, assemble simple voting stations, read and write legibly in the English language, perform simple math calculations, follow instructions provided by the precinct chairpersons and possess interpersonal skills to work with the public.

Applications may be picked up in the Township Clerk's office during regular business hours, or may be downloaded from www.canton-mi.org; click on "Voting" to locate employment and inspector applications. For additional information call (734) 394-5120.

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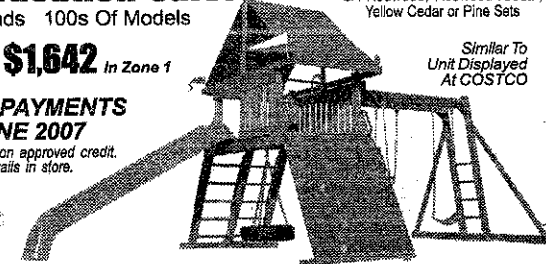
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(off Grand River, in front of Target)
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Future of Cobo studied

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

In the ongoing negotiations about what to do with the aging Cobo Center – rebuild, renovate, private or public partnership – policy makers at the annual Greater Detroit Regional Chamber conference on Mackinac Island have announced funding new research on the topic.

Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield, announced that \$50,000 in federal funds would be used to come up with a feasibility study put forward by the Coalition for Fueling Michigan's Future.

"I feel that now is the time to make Cobo Center not only a great event venue but also an institution of research and development that will fuel Michigan's economy well into the future," he said.

The future of Cobo has been a bone of contention for officials in Lansing and both sides of Eight Mile Road. In the past, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has pushed for an expansion of the city/suburb taxation arrangement that has sustained the conference center since its initial construction.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has fought that idea on a number of fronts, chief among them being his adamant belief that any expansion, renovation or replacement of the aging structure be done on the private sector's dime.

Michigan House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R- Novi, agrees.

"For too long, plans to expand and improve Cobo Center have relied on endless taxpayer subsidies and have been short on any positive private sector solution," he said in a press release. "This proposal opens the door for that private sector participation."

One of the main concerns on both sides of the argument is the future of one of Cobo's premier events, the North American International Auto Show. As the event has grown over the years, Cobo Hall is increasingly being seen as too small for the participants and similar shows in Chicago and Tokyo are starting to eclipse the Detroit venue. Attendees at the most recent NAIAS event in January have said the show could disappear from the Motor City in a few years if a change isn't made.

Ex-FEMA chief Brown: Expect to help yourself in a disaster

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

The man most identified with the federal government's failures in the wake of Hurricane Katrina last year told a conference of emergency and disaster specialists they have to get people prepared, mentally and physically, for the worst.

"You need to educate the community about what emergency management is," former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown said. "It's a fact, people don't think it will happen to them."

That idea is widespread even in areas where disasters are likely to strike. He told the story of a police official in the barrier islands off of Florida following a hurricane's landfall early in 2005 who said that despite their location, no one expected a natural disaster to affect them.

"There's a potential for terrorism, accidents and natural disasters," Brown said. "It happens all the time. People don't want to believe it can happen to them, but you have to make sure your homes and communities are safe. It can happen. It does happen. It will happen and it's your job to explain that to your communities."

While Michigan rarely gets an earthquake and no hurricane can do more than cause rain here, he said there are any number of trucks carrying chemical payloads that could crash on I-96 and cause a serious incident.

And FEMA isn't going to ride to the rescue when that



Former FEMA Director Michael Brown was the keynote speaker at the Oakland County Emergency Preparedness conference in Waterford June 7.

happens.

"During my tenure, there were 169 presidentially declared disasters at FEMA," he said. "There were thousands more where we were never called."

Of course, Brown touched on what happened in New Orleans when Katrina hit last fall. He said the relief effort had been hampered by a lack of coordination, bureaucratic confusion and media misrepresentation of what was actually the case on the ground.

"Our biggest mistake," he said, "was not leveling with the public like we should have."

He also said FEMA has to be its own organization again.

"I hope FEMA is taken out of (the Department of) Homeland Security and made a cabinet-level position again," Brown said.

In reference to natural disasters, West Bloomfield Township Supervisor David

Flaisher wondered about the wisdom of rebuilding in an area almost guaranteed to have another hurricane in the future.

"Because they're asking for federal funds to rebuild the levees," Brown said. "There should be a national discussion about it. Sometime we're going to have to examine how many times we rebuild the beach houses."

Rochester police Chief Ted Glynn said a lot of Brown's talk was outside the scope of his duties, but the message of self-reliance and preparation were not lost on him.

"A lot of us have a vision of FEMA riding in like the cavalry," Glynn said. "(The presentation) gave us a more realistic idea of what to expect. A lot of what he said was for police and fire officials, but it might be of more value for elected officials."

alundberg@oe.hometownlife.com

Schoolcraft's summer piano school scheduled for June 19 to July 13

Young pianists have a splendid opportunity to develop their art through solos, duets and performances with a professional string ensemble at Schoolcraft College's annual Summer Piano School.

Piano students from third grade through high school can enroll in the first session, June 19 through June 30 for solo piano performances and piano duets. Classes meet either 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. Mondays through Friday. Students take classes in composition, theory, rhythm and music history, and develop their sight reading and keyboard skills. There are opportunities for master classes and performances.

From July 5 through July 13,

the focus is on the advanced piano student ready to play concertos and chamber music. Students receive instruction in theory, music history, skills and technique, and perform in a number of recitals. They rehearse and perform with a professional string ensemble. Students must audition before being accepted and must memorize one movement of a piano concerto.

From July 5 through 7, classes meet from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. From July 10 through 13, there are 4 p.m. rehearsals with the orchestra and 7 p.m. recitals in the VisTaTech Presentation Room.

Instructors include Donald Morelock, an extraordinary teacher and musician, whose

students have won international competitions; Eugene Bossart, Schoolcraft artist-in-residence, and an expert coach and musician; and Michele Mustert, a performer and instructor.

Tuition for each session is \$300. Returning Summer Piano School students must contact the music office to register. First-time students must audition for placement. To schedule an audition, contact Patricia Minnick at (734) 462-4403.

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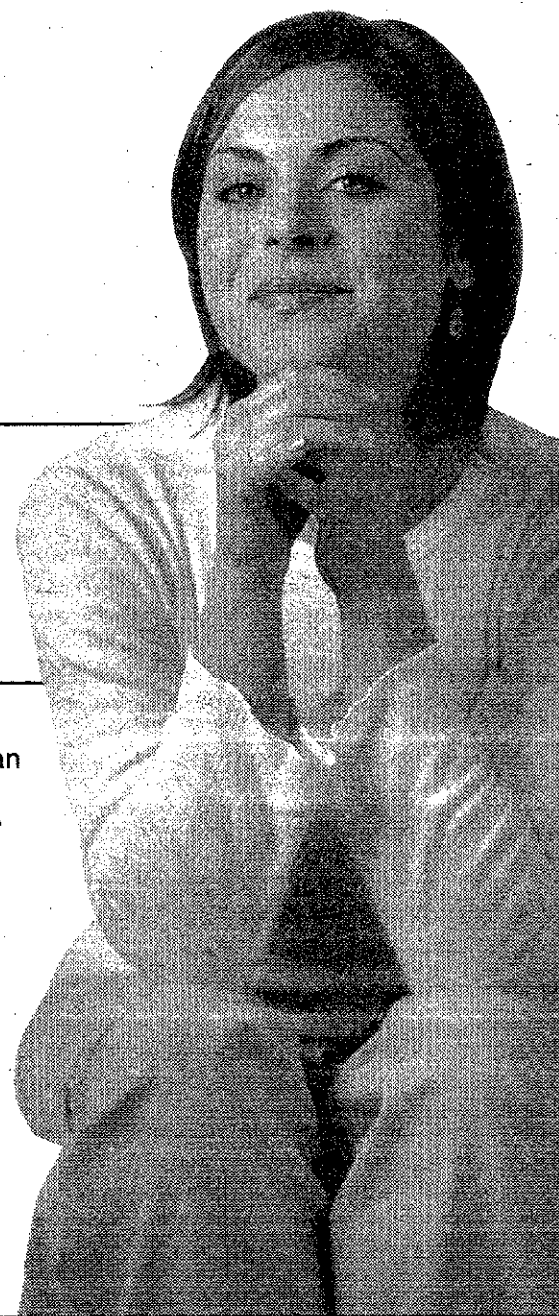
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OUR VIEWS

IKEA opening goes off without a hitch

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack said he couldn't remember a retail operation in the state of Michigan that garnered as much anticipation as IKEA. Perhaps with the exception of Cabela's in Dundee, he's probably right.

It's been about two years since Canton officials announced amid much fanfare that the Swedish furniture retail giant was going to build a store on the site of the old Super Kmart at Haggerty and Ford roads. Ever since then, excitement (and some apprehension) have continued to build until last week, when the store had its grand opening.

There was so much excitement, in fact, that some couldn't even wait for the doors to open. A record number of people (some 10,000) showed up for the special IKEA family day that was held the weekend before the official grand opening on Wednesday. Hundreds of people also camped out in the parking lot for a couple days so they could be some of the first to get a glimpse at the interior of the giant blue and yellow store.

Once the doors officially opened, there was a steady stream of happy shoppers. About 17,000 people showed up on Wednesday for the grand opening, and the crowds surged to more than 20,000 on both Saturday and Sunday.

Despite all those people and the traffic they brought with them, everything went pretty smoothly. And with the exception of one arrest of a disorderly person in the parking lot and one report of a stolen purse, there weren't any incidents that marred the celebrations.

Kudos also go to all the law enforcement agencies that helped keep everything orderly. And IKEA officials did a great job moving people in and out of the store, though finding a parking spot was a bit tricky for some customers.

There have been some grumblings from residents who live near the store. They feel traffic was already bad enough on Ford Road without adding a retail store that will attract an additional two million people to Canton's main business corridor. While certainly they have a valid point, the time to air those complaints was really a couple years ago when IKEA was going through the planning process.

IKEA Canton is here to stay. And if the thousands of customers who made the store's first week such a success were any indication, it's going to be a good ride. Hopefully all the other businesses along Ford Road will start to hear their cash registers ringing the same way as those at IKEA.

Separate school elections should be eliminated

The jury still is out on what impact Michigan's new consolidated elections law had on this year's local school elections.

Depending on who is asked, the May elections either were a waste of time and money, or helped maintain local control and an efficient transition of board members.

One thing for certain is if the spirit of the law was to reduce the number of times voters have to head to the ballot box in any given year, it failed.

And that is too bad.

Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson, who co-sponsored the bill while in the state Legislature, continues to argue the best dates to hold school elections are either in

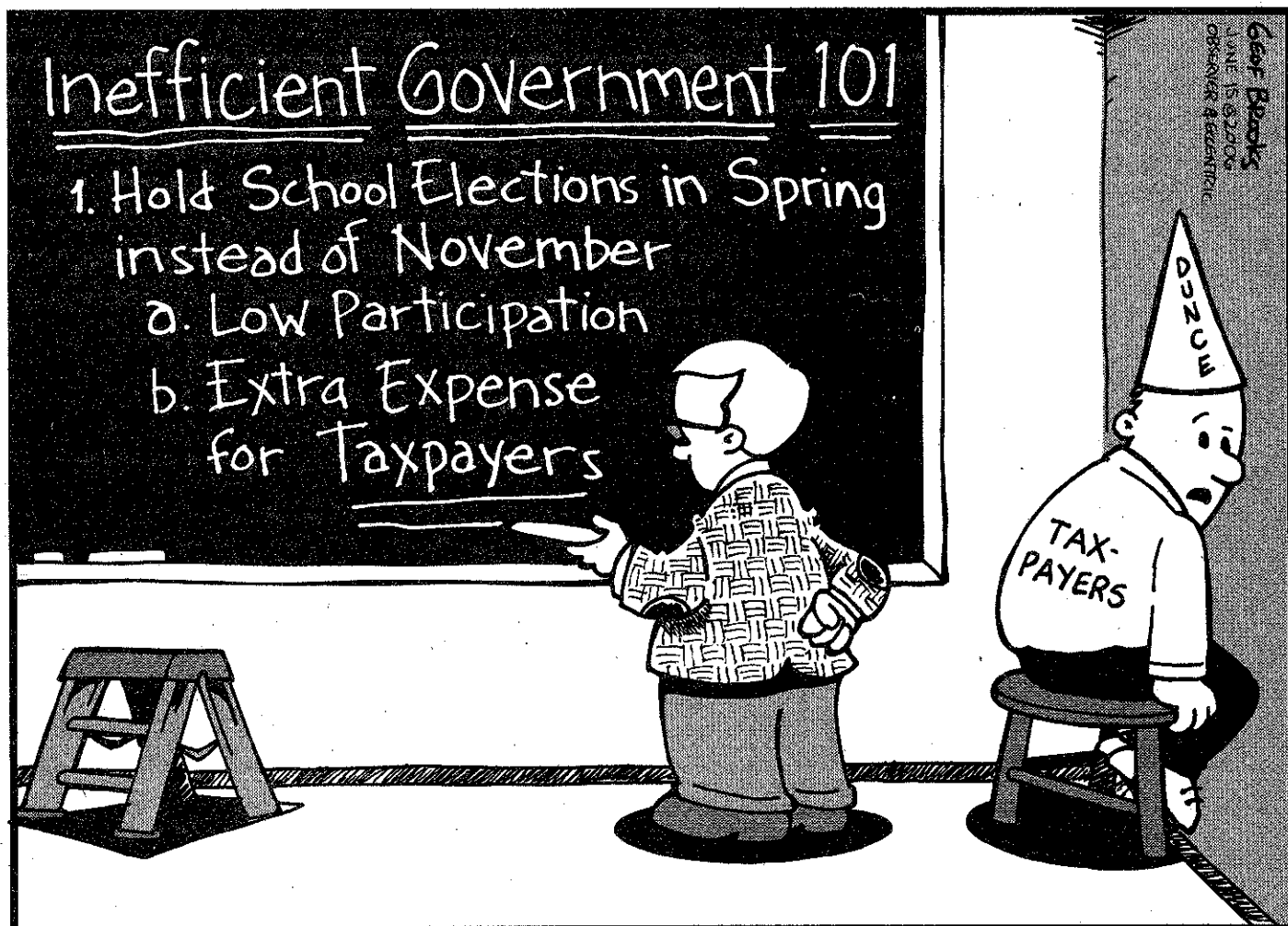
November with the general election, or with the August primary. Doing so would eliminate almost all cost to the state's financially strapped school districts, and bring savings to the county as well since it would have to staff one less election.

But many local superintendents argue there is good reason that nearly every single district in Wayne and Oakland counties voted to hold the election in May: It makes no sense to switch board seats in the middle of a school year, and school races would get lost on a lengthy general election ballot.

There are legitimate points in the local school officials' argument, but they can — and should — be resolved. A compromise should be found to address those concerns, while at the same time eliminating a school-specific election.

With budget dollars becoming ever so precious, it makes no sense for local school districts to finance elections when that responsibility has been shifted to the counties.

Let's have schools focus on educating our next generation of leaders, and leave the when, where and how of school elections to those paid and trained to run them.



"I just don't get it."

LETTERS

Why increase traffic?

IKEA has been a win for the state of Michigan. But IKEA will not be a win for most of the residents of Canton. Many residents are under the mistaken impression that revenues from IKEA will offset the revenue shortfall that led to recent budget reductions and layoffs in the township.

IKEA is expected to generate about \$1 million in annual property taxes and about \$5 million in state sales taxes. The township general fund will receive only \$70,000, while the rest will go to the State of Michigan and to the Canton's Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which plans to increase expenditures during a time of financial challenges.

Planned DDA projects include \$1.5 million for additional street lights, landscaping, portable stage/concert series, visitors guide and visitor related marketing, public art exhibits and a permanent art sculpture, and brick garden walls. In a 2005 press release, it states: "With over two million (IKEA) visitors expected each year, the Canton Chamber, the Canton Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Canton Township are joining forces to prepare for Canton becoming a 'destination.'"

But why are Canton officials so anxious to attract additional retail development to Canton (and increased congestion)? In an article by Paula Gardner in the *Ann Arbor Business Review*, DDA director Kathleen Salla said: "We're excited that businesses that had looked at Canton before are suddenly becoming more interested. ... IKEA ... makes the whole corridor more attractive for other retailers."

In the fall of 2002, Canton's DDA hired a consultant to help with development strategies, to attract investment, and reinvigorate Canton's commercial core. The study concluded that Canton could support 130,000 square feet of additional retail space by 2012. The study also concluded that Canton residents' major dislike is TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

Since that time, more than 40 businesses have joined Canton's DDA.

In a September 2004 MDOT study, one conclusion was: "As more development takes place, there is the likelihood of increased traffic congestion at the Ford/I-275 interchange and on Ford Road itself."

So can someone please explain why Canton's DDA and township board of trustees are actively pursuing additional retail development on Ford Road that will increase traffic congestion, which is the major dislike of Canton residents? How does that benefit Canton residents? And why should the DDA, largely comprised of retailers and appointed members, increase spending significantly during a time of budget reductions?

Dan Devey
Canton

A smooth opening

As a local resident of the IKEA store, I found it interesting to meet another former Canton resident in my doctor's office. Kathi Loomis mentioned an idea that had entered my mind on the opening day.

My wife and I parked our car in our driveway on the way home from the office in Farmington on the opening day of IKEA, then walked over to explore. To our

amazement, the traffic home about 6:15 p.m. wasn't any worse than any other evening trek through the I-275/Ford Road/Lilley corridor. But it was obvious as we turned up Haggerty Road, any thought of parking near the store was a lost idea. Police were handling the crowds crossing Haggerty Road from the east side IKEA parking lot. It was then I realized some sort of overhead crosswalk needs to be installed. That was the same idea Kathi suggested this morning.

I was first introduced to IKEA as a resident of Hong Kong in 1990. So, the news of an IKEA store coming to our neighborhood was an amazing thought. I've followed all the hoopla surrounding the event with some quiet admiration of all the things going on. I think we owe a great debt to the work of Tom Yack and the whole township team. Even our conversation with the police officers as we crossed Ford Road on the walk from our house showed the celebratory spirit of our "town." I wanted to go just to see it and be there on the opening day.

We didn't spend one cent in the store, but we participated and contributed to our community in another way which has been anticipated. On our return walk home, we ate dinner at Chili's. They've been my neighbor since they opened, but I have never visited that restaurant. It seems there will be some economic fallout to the surrounding businesses of Canton, and I was part of that.

When I pass the Ford and Haggerty intersection, I will be eager to watch the ebb and flow of life surging in and out of IKEA. Hopefully, it will be as smooth as opening day was for our return home from work. And, hopefully, we will keep the safety of people moving across our streets in mind as the traffic grows.

David H. Givens
Canton

The other side of IKEA

Just once, I'd like to read an article that doesn't solely focus on IKEA and how "wonderful" it is, and instead read about how irate the people who LIVE in Canton are.

We didn't want this abomination in our township and speaking for my family, friends and neighbors, we fail to see how it helps our bottom line. My drive home has already increased by 30 minutes and I didn't even go down Ford Road — it was just backup onto I-275 beyond Michigan Avenue. Oh, and gas prices jumped \$.10 overnight but remained steady in nearby Dearborn ... hmmm.

If the taxes generated by IKEA can help develop the schools or improve the police department that Canton has been trying to fund via millages — great. That's an example of what I want to see come from this. If I get "color-coded" shopping sections along Ford Road, traffic backups for 30 minutes just to get onto the freeway, or the inability to sit down at a decent restaurant because the area is flooded with non-Canton residents, then I don't see a reason to reside in Canton anymore (other than the fact that the housing market is flooded and I'd never get what I'd consider fair value for my home).

This is my opinion — and the opinion of those close to me. We'd all much rather see the police catch the degenerate running around Canton trying to kidnap chil-

dren than see them escorting people into IKEA as well.

I can see why IKEA is exciting from a local business perspective, but I'll never understand why anyone in their right mind would camp out or make such a fuss over furniture.

Robert Varto
Canton

Senator comes to aid

State Sen. Bruce Patterson goes out of his way to help his constituents, especially encouraging the aspirations of the youth within his district, and helping them achieve their endeavors. I know this because he did it for me. I was involved with the Canton Youth Council leadership for some years, and even served as president for my junior and senior years in high school. He took notice of my community involvement, and congratulated me, two years ago, when I was awarded a Community Supporter Award from Canton Township. From this time Sen. Patterson took active interest in my future plans and aspirations.

This fall, my heart was always set on attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; but unfortunately I was wait-listed. (There are so many qualified applicants!) I appealed for Sen. Patterson's help, and he put some urgent matters on hold to write a letter in my behalf. He went above and beyond his commitment by helping me, and in effect, helped to change the rest of my life for the better. Through Sen. Patterson's kind words and several personal prayers, the key turned, and I was accepted for a special early summer entry. I am excited to say I begin summer classes at U-of-M at the end of this month. This was truly a dream come true.

I can hardly tell you how thrilled this makes me. I am seeing a lifelong aspiration fulfilled, and it is because of Sen. Patterson, who listens and responds to our needs in every way he can. He makes things move, not only in Lansing, but in Ann Arbor, too! He uses his influence sparingly, but always for the positive of those whom he is elected by and for. I want to publicly extend my thanks to Sen. Patterson as a way to tell other people that they too can find help through him. His intervention has changed my life, not only today, but for the rest of my life.

Katherine Naszradi
University of Michigan, Class of 2010

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We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"What we're telling parents now is the same advice we always give. Even though you feel most comfortable and safe at your home, in this day and age you unfortunately have to be vigilant."

- Rick Pomorski, Canton police detective, warning parents to be aware, after a man tried to abduct an infant last week

Michigan could use another governor such as Milliken

"The temper which does not press a partisan advantage to its bitter end, which can understand and respect the other side, which feels a unity between all citizens ... which recognizes their common fate and common aspirations; in a word, which has faith in the sacredness of the individual ... this is what we have striven for."

— Former Gov. William Milliken, quoting Judge Learned Hand

Over Memorial Day weekend, I had the sad pleasure of reading Dave Dempsey's new biography: *William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate* (University of Michigan Press, \$29.95).

Sad, because we don't seem to have leaders like that any more. Bill Milliken, who left office voluntarily in 1983 after 14 years, was the longest-ever serving governor of Michigan.

Today, he is the living icon of political moderation. But his temple attracts few followers. The spirit of his career, quoted above in Milliken's final State of the State message in 1982, now seems a quaint, out-of-date anachronism.

We are all the poorer as a result. Milliken's career marked the height of a Michigan political culture that was distinctly sane, and which endured for nearly half a century, from Soapy Williams' 1950s to John Engler's election as governor in 1990.

Some would call it moderate, others bipartisan and others faintly elitist. And the glow of those days disguises the tough partisan conflict that always characterizes politics, then and now.

But Milliken's style was distinctive and effective. "Good government is good politics," he would say time after time. Above all, he was a gentleman, seldom harsh in his rhetoric, unfailingly civil even to his opponents and rarely going for purely partisan advantage.

The governor consulted with everyone, worked tirelessly to forge bipartisan coalitions and almost always found ways to reconcile differing points of view. Those who he appointed to senior positions in state government were amazed that he never asked their partisan affiliation during job interviews, but concentrated instead on how they proposed to carry out their responsibilities.

Many of his highest concerns seemed unusual, even radical at the time. But as the years passed, they became important parts of the canon of good, sensible, broadly acceptable public policy.

His concern for the environment and the Great Lakes perhaps was the most notable. "The Great Lakes (are) the world's largest collection of fresh water, and water will be for the Midwest almost like oil is to the OPEC countries," he said.

Seeing the catastrophic effect of the swings in prosperity of the auto industry in his state, he predicted that Midwestern states would have to restructure themselves if they were to recover.

He urged schools to start emphasizing computers and what we would now call "high tech" to prepare young people for a globally competitive economy. He urged an end of the hostile relationship between business and labor. He was consistent in supporting a woman's right to choose an abor-

tion.

And he was preoccupied with the concerns of the poor and the poorly treated; he forged an unlikely partnership with Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young, and later said that his support for harsh mandatory sentences for those involved in minor-level drug crimes was among his greatest mistakes.

In retrospect, it now seems clear that Milliken's decision not to run for re-election in 1982 marked the end of an era in Michigan politics. Author Dempsey quotes political scientist Peter Kibrak as saying that while Williams had campaigned for higher taxes and better services for the poor and Milliken had called for open housing and aid to Detroit, "(James) Blanchard and (Richard) Headlee, by contrast, stood for election."

What that meant was that both men largely had turned control over to "professional campaign consultants and pollsters who coin(ed) slogans and images to capture public sentiment rather than fashioning strong issue stands."

Dempsey thinks Blanchard governed in Milliken's guise, but also in his shadow. The Democrat won fairly narrowly in 1982 against an unbelievably clumsy Richard Headlee and in 1986 against a weak black opponent, William Lucas. As someone who had an occasional hand in the Blanchard administration, I agree that Blanchard took to heart the axiom that to win elections you need to occupy the middle.

He wanted to encourage "Blanchard Democrats" in the suburbs, where his predecessor had fostered "Milliken Republicans."

But the rise of Engler in 1990 marked the statewide comeback of what were once called "Neanderthal Republicans," conservatives who were anti-tax, anti-government, anti-choice, harsh and unsparing in their political tactics and self-assured in their condemnation of opponents. To this day, Michigan politics are enormously influenced (perhaps even dominated) by them.

No wonder Milliken from time to time after leaving office would come down from his Traverse City "mountain" to condemn extremism, self-righteousness and a political system so obviously out of touch with the everyday concerns of most people.

Sadly, as right as that is, he has been largely reduced to a voice crying in the wilderness.

In his entertaining memoir, *Off the Record* (U-M Press, \$29.95), Lansing correspondent Tim Skubick said he regretted not being there when Milliken and his wife "got in the Lincoln for the last time on Inauguration Day 1983.

Guys who were there tell me there wasn't a dry eye despite the bitter cold and the even more chilling feeling that a civil era of Michigan politics was walking out the door ... never to return in the same way."

They were, sadly, all too correct. In these days when our politics seems captured by ideologues of both left and right and our political system seems so dysfunctional and out of touch with ordinary people, it's hard not to be nostalgic for the contributions of William Milliken, an admirable politician and truly civilized man.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economic and education issues in Michigan. He can be reached at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Steroid tests shouldn't just be for pro athletes

Personally, I don't care whether Barry Bonds took steroids or not.

But we all should care whether our high school athletes are ingesting steroids, human growth hormones or other performance-enhancing drugs.

And, with few exceptions, that's a story which hasn't been told even in our steroid-soaked sports pages.

Do high school athletes in Michigan — in our local schools — take these illegal muscle-enhancing substances?

We don't know with any certainty. That's because we don't test. No state does.

But New Jersey, to its credit, recently announced plans to start.

The New Jersey plan would test athletes competing in next year's state championship contests.

Our own high school athletic association, our scholastic sports conferences and our school boards would do well to take notice — especially as this year's crop of high school athletes complete their own tournament games.

It's a good first step, though it could go a lot further. Already there's been some griping about the program's potential cost.

The New Jersey plan was announced last week but almost immediately overshadowed by revelations that a supply of human growth hormones had been found in a raid at the home of Jason Grimsley, a heretofore obscure major league baseball player.

Reports that Bonds, baseball's record-setting home run hitter, and other big league stars may have also used such substances have also made ongoing headlines throughout the past year or so. Yet, there's a difference.

Those players are professionals, competing against other professionals. That's not to condone what they did, if they did it.

But the issue of steroid abuse among scholastic athletes is far more serious.



Wayne Peal

The New Jersey plan would test athletes competing in next year's state championship contests. Our own high school athletic association, our scholastic sports conferences and our school boards would do well to take notice — especially as this year's crop of high school athletes complete their own tournament games.

For starters, those athletes are generally minors.

More importantly, their bodies are still developing, even as late as high school.

A steroid-enhanced high school athlete isn't just a danger to himself or herself — though steroid use is dangerous and can be deadly — they are also a danger to the athletes they compete against.

It's not just an issue of whether one athlete holds an unfair advantage over another athlete in terms of their ability to score touchdowns and gather scholarships, though that's important.

In contact sports especially, it's an issue of whether one athlete, artificially strong beyond their years, could seriously hurt a fellow athlete who plays by the rules.

Few of our local athletes will ever become professional, or even highly-placed amateur athletes, but thousands of kids play inter-scholastic sports in this state every year.

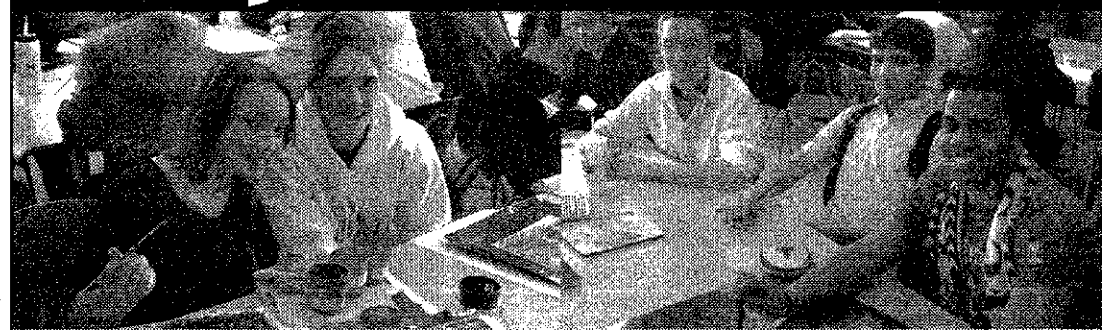
If you're a parent, chances are fairly good that your son or daughter either is, has been, or will be among them.

That's why Michigan should adopt its own testing standards.

Our kids need it and, as parents, we should demand it.

Wayne Peal is editor of the *Southfield Eccentric*. You can write him at 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009, send him an e-mail at wpeal@hometownlife.com or send him a fax at (248) 644-1314.

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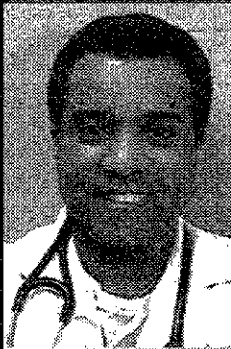
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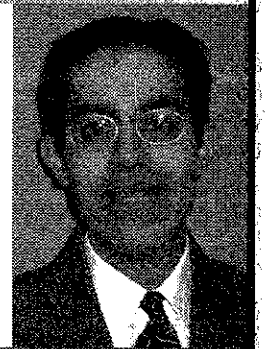
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Milliken urges Granholm, DeVos to stick to the issues

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Former Michigan Gov. William Milliken has not yet decided whom he will back in the 2006 gubernatorial campaign, but he has one wish for the two candidates: Keep it clean.

Milliken, in Plymouth Monday to sign copies of his biography at the Plymouth Historical Museum, said he hopes incumbent Democrat Jennifer Granholm and Republican hopeful Dick DeVos will keep the campaign about issues, not personalities.

"I'm hopeful the campaign will be a civilized and issue-based campaign," said Milliken, Michigan's longest-serving governor (1969-1982). "So far, I'm very encouraged. From what I've observed, (DeVos) is going to conduct that kind of campaign."

DeVos, who has grabbed the early lead in some polling, is obviously pointing to the economic struggles of the state in an effort to separate himself from Granholm. But Milliken said the state of Michigan's economy isn't Granholm's fault.

Milliken said the condition of the automobile industry is a large factor.

"The state is in severe stress because of the economy," Milliken said. "But it's not the fault of the governor. It just happens the auto industry

THE BOOK ON MILLIKEN

■ Title: William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate

■ Author: Dave Dempsey, policy adviser for the Michigan Environmental Council, a coalition of more than 65 environmental advocacy organizations

■ About the book: The story of one of the Great Lake State's most fascinating political figures, the "gentleman governor" of Michigan, who served 1969-82.

■ Publishers: University of Michigan Press and Petoskey Publishing

■ Availability: \$29.95 at www.press.umich.edu; \$19.77 on amazon.com

is in great difficulty, and that is reflected throughout Michigan."

Granholm, he said, is "doing everything a governor can do. I don't envy her."

Though he doesn't blame Granholm for the state's struggles, Milliken also said he "doesn't agree" with her on everything. He's also not sure where he stands on DeVos, whom he's only met once. He has talked with DeVos' people several times, he said, and plans to meet with the Republican candidate "in a few weeks."

Until then, Milliken hopes the two will focus on issues. Two of the big ones, he said, are the environment and the state's relationship with Wayne County and, more specifically, the City of Detroit.

"I'm hoping the environment can be discussed by both candidates," Milliken said. "I hope both of them recognize Detroit is important to the whole state. If Detroit is in difficulty, and it is, it's going to need the support of the governor of our state."

According to state Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth, who arranged for Milliken's book signing appearance at the Plymouth museum, it was Milliken's attitude toward the city that helped him take a majority in Wayne County in



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Rep. John Stewart and former Michigan Gov. William Milliken talk before the book signing event.

1978, Milliken's last term.

"It has been said Governor Milliken governed in the spirit of (Abraham) Lincoln," said Stewart, who invokes the memory of Milliken in describing himself as a moderate conservative. "There's nothing wrong with the phrase, 'We should be moderately conservative.'"

Whomever wins the 2006 race - Democrat incumbent Granholm or Republican challenger DeVos - the next governor faces stiff challenges, according to Milliken.

"He or she will have to bring the state back together again to deal constructively and forthrightly with our economic problems," Milliken

said. "It's always a challenge to recognize we are blessed with one of the most beautiful states on Earth, and what we do to protect our environment will be critically important."

Milliken said it might be awhile before he decides which candidate to back, because he still has to meet with DeVos and he wants to see how the campaign shakes out.

"I disagree with her on some things (but) under very difficult circumstances, (Granholm) is doing a good job," Milliken said. "I want to see how the campaign progresses and the positions the candidates take."

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Pat Ganzberger, at right, talks with Milliken biographer Dave Dempsey while Bill Milliken inscribes her book. She's a longtime friend of the governor and served four times as a delegate to Republican National Conventions.

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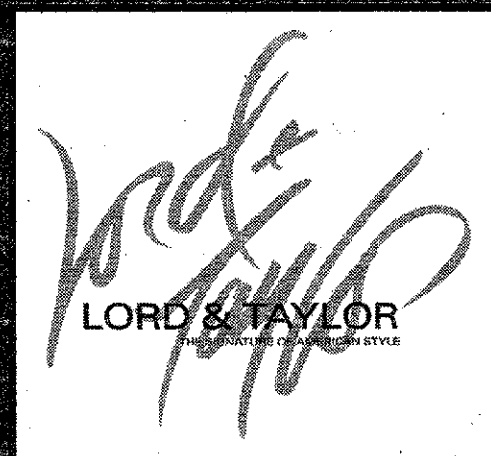
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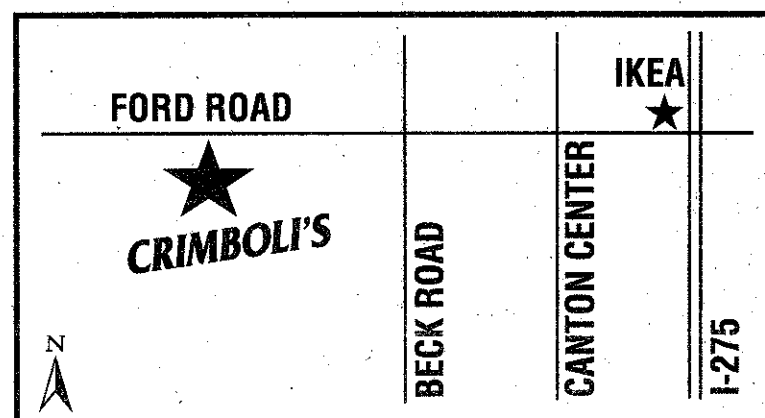
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Work of young authors to be featured on TV

Several young writers from Plymouth and Canton will have their stories showcased on Detroit Public Television, starting with broadcasts this weekend.

The authors - in grades kindergarten through the third grade - sent in their stories in record numbers to the 12th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Awards.

The children and their stories will be showcased in a broadcast special, The 2006 Reading Rainbow Awards, premiering Sunday, June 18, at 9:30 a.m. on WTVS Channel 56. Rebroadcasts will be June 19 at 5 p.m., June 20 at 6:30 a.m., June 21 at 1 p.m. and June 23 at 7 a.m.

The winning stories are on display at detroitpublictv.org. Detroit Public TV received 909 entries for the contest, which is designed to encourage children's creativity by inspiring them to write and illustrate their own stories.

Local educators and librarians served as judges of the entries.

First place winners will have their stories animated for the television special and have a \$1,000 grant awarded to their schools during the May 24 ceremony by Starbucks Coffee Company.

Local first place winners include:

■ First grader Robert Florence of Canton for "Out of Order"

■ Second grader Caroline Simko of Canton for "15 Going on 50"

■ Honorable mentions include: First grader Eleanor Lawton of Plymouth, third grader Catherine Lawton of Plymouth, and Benjamin Weaver of Plymouth.

The Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Awards are staged in conjunction with the PBS series seen weekdays at 1 p.m. on WTVS Channel 56.

Police department promotes new officer

The Canton Police Department recently promoted Jeffrey Seifert to the rank of police officer. Seifert worked for the department for five years as a public safety service officer (PSSO) and was the first person to participate in the department's Career Development Program. This program was designed for PSSO's who are interested in a career in law enforcement or firefighting.

After four years of service and employee development as a PSSO, eligible personnel are sponsored by the department to attend either a police or fire academy. Upon successful completion of an academy the employee will be given first



Seifert

preference for an open position as a police officer or firefighter.

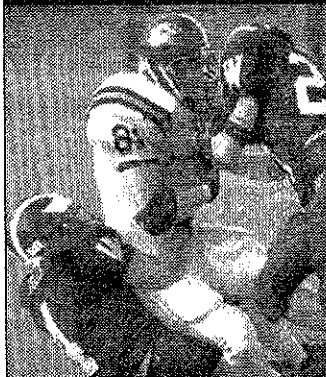
Seifert, 35, of Canton, received his associates degree from Washtenaw Community College and graduated second in his class at the Wayne County Regional Police Academy. Seifert also received

several awards from his academy class including the Douglas Pederson Scholarship Award "Outstanding Recruit," Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards "Outstanding Performance Award" and an award for "Unselfish Commitment and Dedication to Excellence."

All candidates for the Canton Police Department go through a vigorous testing process that includes both written and physical agility tests, oral board, medical and psychological examinations and an extensive background check.

To learn more about opportunities at the department visit www.canton-mi.org.

LIKE NUMBERS?
there are a pile
of them in
today's **SPORTS** section



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton 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 two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: June 15, 2006

OE0844657

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit an RFP for a **Long-Term Vending Contract** for the 2006-2007 school year and beyond. Specifications and bid forms will be available at the "pre-bid", meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 20th, 2006 at the Plymouth High School located at 8400 Beck Road, Canton, MI 48187. For further information, please phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. Sealed bids are due on or before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13th, 2006. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

Publish: June 15 & 18, 2006

OE0847592

WESTERN TOWNSHIP UTILITIES AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT 6 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CURED-IN-PLACE (CIPP) LINERS

Western township Utilities Authority is seeking proposals for rehabilitation of approximately 1,900 lineal feet of 24" diameter and 1,700 lineal feet of 30" diameter sanitary sewer pipe, as well as 65 lineal feet of 12" diameter and 315 lineal feet of 20" diameter sanitary sewer inverted siphon pipe located in Plymouth Township. Proposals are being requested for the installation of cured-in-place (CIPP) liners.

Companies or individuals who desire a copy of the bid documents should contact:

Ms. Sandy Forest
Western Township Utilities Authority
40905 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187
(734) 453-2793

All submittals must be received by July 13, 2006 at 1:00 p.m., at the above address. A public opening of the proposals will immediately follow the closing at the Middle Rouge offices located at 40905 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan.

Publish: June 15, 2006

OE0844643



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 10, 2006. The bid opening will be at 10:15 a.m., Monday, July 10, 2006 for the following:

PURCHASE OF SOCCER EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2006/2007 BUDGET YEAR.

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: June 15, 2006

OE0847554



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 22, 2006, for the sale of the following vehicles:

- 1994 Chevrolet Camaro
- 1995 Ford Taurus

The bid opening will be at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 22, 2006 at City Hall, 201 S. Main, Plymouth, MI. Vehicles and equipment are being sold "AS IS" with no warranty either expressed or implied. Vehicles and equipment may be inspected at the City Hall, Police Department, 201 S. Main, Plymouth, MI between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
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Publish: June 15, 2006

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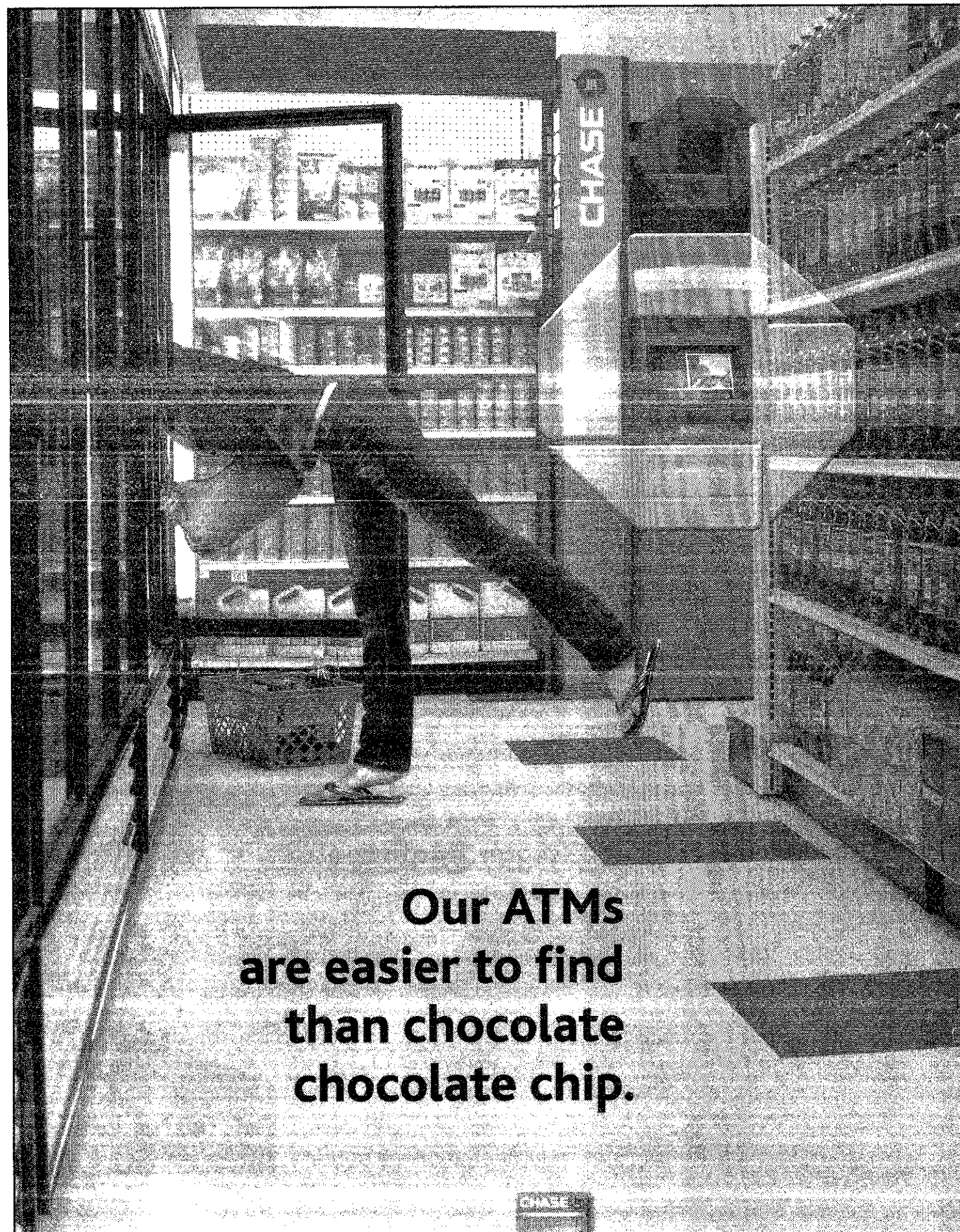


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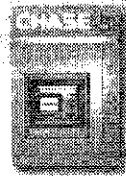
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Gratz defends affirmative action ban as civil rights measure

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Gratz, director of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, insists that the proposed ballot initiative amending the state Constitution to ban preferential affirmative action programs is a civil rights issue.

"The opposition wants to make this about affirmative action," she said. "They say affirmative action, equal-opportunity programs will be eliminated. This only affects certain kinds of programs, programs that give preference."

"It won't affect affirmative action programs that make sure wide nets are cast for positions, that you're not just going to the old boys network. It won't affect programs that make sure testing isn't biased toward one group or another. Those affirmative action programs can and should continue forever. We should always be looking at things to make sure they're not biased. But we want to go back to original intent of affirmative action."

Gratz met Tuesday with *Observer & Eccentric* editors the day after the Michigan Civil Rights Commission released a report finding that efforts by Gratz's group to place the issue on the November ballot "appeared to be based on a massive campaign of fraud and deceit."

The commission is calling on the Michigan Supreme Court



Jennifer Gratz from the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee.

to reverse an earlier decision declining to hear complaints about fraud in efforts to overturn the 2003 Grutter vs. Bollinger U.S. Supreme Court decision and called on Attorney General Mike Cox to investigate charges of criminal fraud in the gathering of petition signatures.

"It's ridiculous," Gratz said of the complaint. She said she had worked with the petitioners and helped with their training. She said there may have been some misunderstanding of the purpose of the initiative but no attempt was made to deceive anyone.

She said the commission's real problem was the name "Michigan Civil Rights

Initiative," because they define "civil rights" differently.

"It's important to note that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission have become completely political. They had no authority to do anything with the signatures," she said. "Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm appointed them to investigate even though she knew they had no authority."

David Waymire, a political consultant with Martin Waymire and spokesman for One United Michigan, which was organized three years ago to oppose the initiative, said in a telephone interview there is evidence of "excessive fraud in the collection of signatures."

"There was a disproportionate percentage of people who signed who were minority or from Democratic areas. They (MCRI) had handlers sent out to say this was a civil rights issue."

He said their intent was to "fool people."

SUCCESSFUL SUIT

In 1997, Gratz sued the University of Michigan after being rejected for admission to the university, claiming she was discriminated against because of the university's use of a two-track admissions grid system. In 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the preference program used in U-M's undergraduate Literature, Science and Arts program. In the separate

Grutter case, however, involving the UM Law School's admission's program, the Court upheld the university's policy based on promoting diversity on campus.

The MCRI Web site and Gratz have linked all opposition to the initiative to a radical group called By Any Means Necessary. But the amendment has been opposed by both Granholm, her gubernatorial opponent Dick DeVos, both Michigan United States senators, several business, labor and civic organizations. One United Michigan's board of directors includes representatives from the AFL-CIO, UAW, the Michigan Catholic Conference, the ACLU, Detroit Renaissance, New Detroit, the AFT and the MEA and the NAACP.

Waymire said the group also has the support of many chambers of commerce.

Gratz said the chair of the MCRI drive is state Rep. Leon Drolet. She said initiative supporters also include Michigan Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche and Attorney General Cox.

"BAMN is our most vocal opposition and who we deal with most often," Gratz said.

She called BAMN the "storm troopers" for One United Michigan. She also said the Michigan Civil Rights Commission has been "co-opted by BAMN" for political purposes. She also accused the commission of being part of

Granholm's re-election campaign.

Gratz questioned the sincerity of some Republican political leaders who oppose the ballot initiative.

"It's convenient for them to say that," she said. "It's politically convenient. They don't want it to be part of their campaign."

Waymire said he didn't see what political advantage a Republican candidate would gain by opposing the initiative.

"Our response is that it is vital to our state's economy to encourage diversity. The states that are doing the best are those that have incorporated diversity," Waymire said.

AFFECT ON WOMEN

Gratz said opponents were being deceptive in saying that the amendment would be detrimental to women.

"It's important to note that the initiative only affects three specific areas — public contracting, public employment and public education," she said. "Our opponents often talk about things outside of this that the initiative would have no impact on. They talk about girls' sports. A constitutional amendment in the state of Michigan will have no effect on Title IX and you need only look at California, they've had 10 years of history with the initiative."

She said the amendment would not affect state supported domestic abuse centers or breast cancer screening programs.

Waymire said the amendment would affect women's programs including special programs to involve girls in science, proposals for all-girl schools and other measures

'It's important to note that the initiative only affects three specific areas — public contracting, public employment and public education.'

Jennifer Gratz
Michigan Civil Rights Initiative

meant to help women.

He said it would return Michigan to the 1960s in terms of gender equality.

"I believe women should be judged on their character, their merit and their accomplishments, and not on their sex," Gratz said. "I want to know when I get called for a job opportunity that it's based on what I've done and not on my sex."

Gratz, who was living in San Diego, came back to Michigan this year to lead the campaign launched by California's Ward Connerly, who successfully led a similar campaign in California.

Gratz said she filed her original lawsuit because she saw the effects of the Michigan program on others who had sought admission to the school.

"You're taught all your life to work hard, do well in school, get good grades, be active in the community and good things will happen to you," she said. "You're taught all your life that race shouldn't be a factor."

She acknowledges that "we have had a horrible history when it comes to race, but I don't think you right that by discriminating against others."

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149



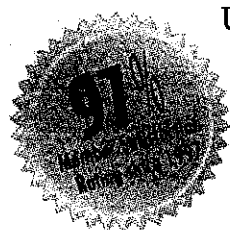
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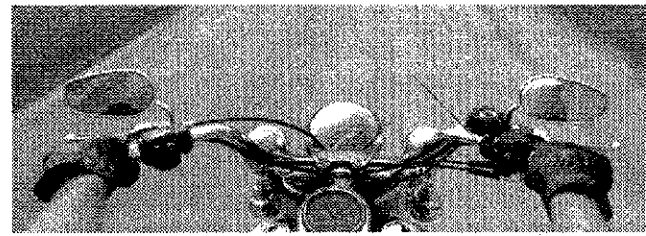
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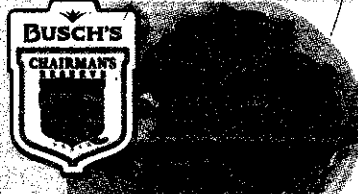
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7 valedictorians lead WMHS Class of '06

It was a reason to celebrate as the Wayne Memorial High School Class of 2006 gathered together one last time at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center June 3.

The commencement ceremony drew tears and cheers as the graduates listened to this year's Distinguished Alumni, the Rev. Monsignor Jeffrey Marc Montorton.

Leading the class were seven seniors who were selected to serve as the valedictorians. There was only one salutatorian.

Serving as the valedictorians of were:

- Jeremy Ferack, the son of Anthony and Ruth Ferack, who had a career 4.177 grade point average. He will be attending the Lawrence Technological University to major in electrical engineering.

- Jennifer Greenshields, the daughter of April Greenshields, who had a career 4.072 grade point average. She will be attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn to major in pre-law.

- Andrew Hermatz, the son of Dennis and Patricia Hermatz, who had a career 4.093 grade point average. He will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to major in business/marketing.

- Sara Michael, the daughter of Beate Michael, who had a career 4.15 grade point average. She will be attending Wayne State University to major in business management.

- Mengyu Shi, the son of Guo Chun and Meirung Shi, who had a career 4.012 grade point average. He will be attending Michigan State University to major in accounting.

- Wendy Turner who had a career 4.072 grade point average. She will be attending Valparaiso University to major in music performance/teaching.

- Sara Weimert, the daughter of William and Denise Weimert, who had a career 4.062 grade point average. She will be attending the University of Michigan-

Dearborn to study psychology.

The salutatorian was James Capraro, the son of Anthony and Andrea Capraro. He had a career 3.979 grade point average. He will be attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn to major in science.

Receiving diplomas during the commencement ceremony were:

Justin Alexander Ables, Endri Afeslari, Zohaib Ahmad, Abigail Alejandro, De'Angelo Allen, Lamar DeShaun Anderson, Allison Areeda, Mark Arnold, Kimberly Artuso, Heather Baker, James Robert Banks, Marques Banks, Michael Beach, Jennese Bean, Melanie Beard, Crystal Beaver, Monica Anna Beeson, Nikolay Belinov, Wade Bell Jr., Boch'Jenne Benjamin.

David Benson, Roland Berry Jr., Adam Beyer, Ryan Bies, Stefayne Ann Bliven, Jakob Scott Boertje, Lisa Booterbaugh, Jenna Bossio, Jasmine Sherell Bowles, Joshua Boyce, Bruce Brewer, Michelle Brewer, James Britton II, Daniel Brooks, Joshua Brown, Katie Brumfield, James Bryant, Megan Bugaiski, Corisa Deshon Butler, Rena Butler, Casey Cahill, Elizabeth Campbell.

Ashley Candy, James Capraro, Shane Caruso, Benjamin Paul Chalupka, Nicholas Chilson, Teal Christoffersen, John Cipolletti, Robin L. Clarke, Varney Clarke, Garmariy Lakeyia Cochran, Jamie Coleman, Justin Collop, Karen Contreras, Chelsea Cooney, Amy Cottenham, Sarah Craven, Michael Crill, Terry Curtis, Frank D'Agnillo, Stephan D'Annunzio.

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Alysa Antonia Henning, Andrew Hermatz, Crystal Herndon, Raymond Hicks, Christopher Hilger, Sylvia Hipke, Antoine Hister, Sylanee Anhye Holt, Kristie Homer, Noah Hooper, Nikolaus Horton, Sherry Hubbard, Sharita Hudson, Sandra Nicole Huff, Thomas Humphries, Raymond Hunter, James Illidge, Jason Jackson, Sarah Jackson, Emily Jamison, Jordan Michael Janowitz.

Misty Johnston, Angela Jones, LaDwan Jones, LaTache Jocia Jones, Megan Jones, Andrew Kaletto, Joshua Kapanowski, Amanda Kasprzak, Josef Kassis, John W. Kearsse III, Jenna Dolores Kellow, Kristen Nicole Kiracofe, Cody D. Kirchoff, Justin Koshorek, Harrison Kreutzkamp, Timothy Krous, Kellee LaBeau, Matthew Lancaster, Linda Marie LaPrise.

Alyssa Lasley, Angela LaTour, Carrie Susan Lauberts, Joshua Laughlin, Samantha Lave, Devin Liendo, Allyson Lipinski, Zachary Listman, Brandy Little, Brett Lockhart, Noe'li Love, Jessica Luke, Krystal Lytle, Kelly MacDonald, Jarett Machovec, Sheila Maine, Tiffany Malia, Kara Marie Marszalek, Earl Martin, Ashley Lynn Mason, Randy Allen Curtis Mason.

Jessica Matheson, Sara McDonald, David McElhaney, Jack McFadden, Theodore McKenzie, Laura McLean, Leanne Marie McManaway, Shawn McNamara, Maria Mendoza, Sara Michael, Daniel Miller, Sean Mills, Shannon Mitchell, Jason Moland, Martel Moon, Ashley Moore, Justin Moore, Steven Moore, Tashawna D'Nitra Moore, Kyle Moran, Kathryn R. Moro, William Morton, Paul Mosier, Michael Mullins, Jennifer Raquel Neeley.

Corey Nesbitt, Zachary Niemann, Louis Elliot North II, Keith Richard James Nutt, Kayla O'Mara, Brenda Ochoa, Alicia Offerman, Timothy Osborne, Kevin Paison, Anisha Shereese Pasley, Nichole Payne, Jemere Perkins, Amanda Perry, Steven Phillips, Haley Pickens, Ilona Piernicka, Michael Pitts, Jordan Plante, Sarah Irier, Nathan Polen, Daniel Robert Porta.

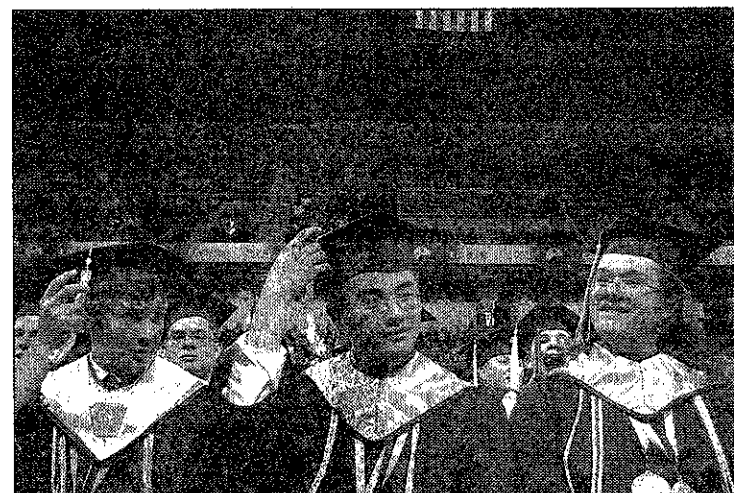
Jeannette Poster, Devon Price, Katina Privett, Kevin Pryor, Jessica Puschak, Conrad Pyne, Kenneth

Quann-Howard, Kara Quintal, Clifford Ralph, Nickolas Remington, Christopher Richardson, Christopher Richardson, Matthew Rizkallah, Ashley Robinson, Martez DeAndre Robinson, Stacey Robinson, Tiffanie Renee Robinson, Sara Roebuck, Kristina Rogers.

Danielle Rollins, Markina Shanea Ross, Samuel Ross Jr., Rebecca Rowland, Jillian Rudy, Timothy Rusinko, Carl Schmidt, Jennifer Marie Schmidt, Alisha Schrader, Alex Scott, Sequia Scott, Timothy See, Brandy Lynn Seregn, Mengyu Shi, Megan Shirshun, David Ray Sidener, Scott Harold Sieczkowski, James Sikora, Rebecca Christine Sikora, Blaine Simmons.

Ja'Nai Tiffany Sims, Angelica Smith, Christian Smith, Corey Smith, Iyonna Smith, Zachary Smith, Glenna Stephanie Smyth, Jin Song, Pajje Desir'ee Maria Speights, Nicholas Spence, Michael Emmanuel Springer, George Starkey, Andrey Stashko, Andreas Stavrou, Ashley Lynn Stephens, Jessica Lynn Stetler, Melissa Sturm, Robert Sweeney III, Lance Sydzik.

Cody Tatman, Aaron Tennant,



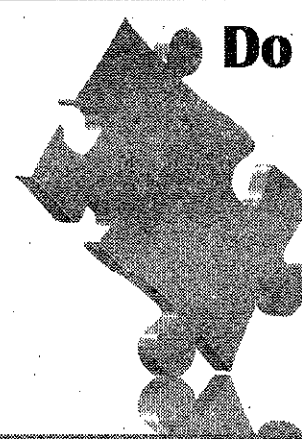
From left, Wayne Memorial High School graduating seniors Andrew Hermatz, Mengyu Shi and James Capraro turn their tassels to make their graduation official June 3 during the graduation ceremony at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center in Ypsilanti.

Jessica Terreault, Rachel Terryah, Brandon Tesner, Anitha Thomas, Kevin Dwayne Thomas, Shettoria Markkita Thomas, Kyle Thompson, Kristy Thullen, Mark Alan Tumminello, Chard Turman-Baggett, Wendy Turner, Michael Vaughn, Yen Vo, Crystal Wallace, Rebecca Anne Wallace, Christopher Walsh, Herman Ray Walters III.

Meredith Wangeman, Benjamin Weier, Sarah Denise Weimert, Amie'

Lynn Wells, Jana White, Mason Whitlark, Brittany Ryan Wilkin, Brandon Willey, Ryan Willey, Kyle Williams, Lori Williams, Amy Willingham, Heather Wilson, Richard Wilson, Jessica Woodard, Donald Woodman, Alexandra Worthy, Ryan Yoh and Andrew Zadigian.

Katie Elizabeth Boyles and Margaret Mae Starr received a Certificate of Attendance.



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LOE084012

Honoring their father

Mom, kids enter YMCA run to remember Dad

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Kathy Vitale of Canton knows one thing for sure: At least one of her children won't be joining her when the starting gun blasts off the start of the Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run Sunday.

Daughter Giovanna will "definitely be a cheerleader," for Vitale and whichever of her other two children — 14-year-old Gabrielle is definitely running, 11-year-old A.J. isn't so sure — joins her for the annual event her family will enter for the seventh straight year.

Vitale, and sometimes her children,

run the event every year in memory of her husband, former Canton football player Tony Vitale, who died in January 1995 after an allergic reaction triggered an asthma attack.

"We figured on Father's Day it's kind of a cool thing to do in his memory," said Kathy Vitale. "We don't sit and be sad, it's something that's a cool thing to do on Father's Day. It's been a great thing over the years."

The Plymouth Family YMCA hosts its 27th-annual Father's Day Run Sunday in downtown Plymouth. All proceeds will be used to help support the Y's Strong Kids Scholarship Campaign. Awards go to the top three finishers in all age categories, overall

male and female winner in each race and all kid participants. All registered runners get a T-shirt.

Age groups and start times include: Diaper Dash, 9 a.m. (0-12 months); Wee Walkers, 9 a.m. (12 months-2 years); Kid Trot, 7:30 a.m. (3-4 years); Kid Jog, 7:45 a.m. (5-8 years), 1M walk/run, 8 a.m.; 5k walk/run, 8:15 a.m.; 10k walk/run, 8:45 a.m.; and the unique 12th-annual Morse Dental Group MDG Triple (10.3 Miles).

Vitale will run in the 5k race, while her children will enter the one-mile walk. She said the family uses the event to celebrate and remember Tony Vitale.

"There's a lot of life there, a lot of energy," she said of the race. "You can be the last one across the finish line, and people are cheering like you won the Olympics. It's very good for your self-esteem."

Packet pick-up will be at the YMCA office, 248 Union, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 17 and at 6:30 a.m. on race day.

Register online at www.gaultracemanager.com, or call the YMCA office at (734) 453-2904. Pictures by Dr. Andrew Rubenstein will be available at www.plymouthpictures.com.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700



PHOTO BY ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

Rebekah Smeltzer, a 16-year-old resident of Monroe, was the female open triple champion at last year's Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run.

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 19, 2006 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

CHOPRA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 124 99 0003 003 (5701 BARR ROAD) FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO R-3, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. Property is located at the northeast corner of Barr and Mott Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, June 15, 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON,
Chairman

Publish: May 28 and June 15, 2006

CE084399219

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT (06-1)

Consider Canton Township-initiated amendment to the following articles:

Section 27.07 - Conditional Rezoning
Create a new section which implements the provisions of Public Act No. 577 of 2004 relative to enabling the consideration of conditional zoning amendment applications.

Section 27.04 - Planned Development District
Amend to add more specific guidelines for the "definite benefit" criteria. Amend the definitions and criteria for Planned Developments which results in a creation of a "minor" Planned Development.

Section 5B - Forest Preservation and Tree Clearing
Create a new section which moves the existing forest preservation guidelines in Sections 94-31 through Section 94-36 from the Code to Appendix A - Zoning. The change also amends the criteria for review of tree removal permits.

Article 5 - Stormwater Pond Landscaping
Amend Section 5.02, Subsection I, amending the landscaping requirements for storm water detention basins and incorporating detention basin planting guidelines by reference.
Amend Section 5.04, Changing the method of measuring the size of shade trees.
Amend Section 5.04A, Clarifying requirements for plant quality.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday June 15, 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: May 28 & June 15, 2006

CE08439920A

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Canton planning update

The Canton Planning Commission will meet on Monday, June 19 at 7 p.m. on the first floor of Canton's Administration Building. Items on the agenda include:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

■ Zoning ordinance amendments -- Consider request for modifications to the Forest Preservation regulation, changes to the Planned Development requirements, changes to the landscape requirements for detention ponds, and inclusion of guidelines and procedures for conditional rezoning requests.

■ McClumpha rezoning -- Consider request to rezone from RR, rural residential and RA, rural agricultural to RE, rural estate district. Property is located south of Warren Road between Ridge and Napier roads.

■ Chopra rezoning -- Consider request to rezone from RR, rural residential to R-3, single-family residential. Property is located at the

northeast corner of Barr and Mott roads.

SITE PLANS

■ Grandview Estates planned development district and Phase 1 preliminary site plan -- Consider final PDD and Phase 1 preliminary site plan. Property is located south of Geddes Road between Denton and Barr roads.

NEW BUSINESS

■ Grand Sakwa Michigan Avenue commercial center -- Refer review of proposed site plan and special land use to staff. Property is located at the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road.

Canton's Planning Services is currently considering the following item:

■ Site Plan approval for Starbucks Center, developer instigated revisions, located north of Ford Road and west of Lotz Road.

PLANNING COMMISSION
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MCCLUMPHA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS. 025 99 0004 000 (PART OF), (50385 WARREN ROAD) AND 026 99 0001 000, (PART OF) FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO RE, RESIDENTIAL ESTATE. Property is located south of Warren between Ridge and Napier Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, June 15, 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: May 28 & June 15, 2006

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filter

PURE ENTERTAINMENT

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Keeping it safe on waterways: Sheriff warns boaters who drink

Memorial Day weekend marked the beginning of boating season in metro Detroit, and the Wayne County Sheriff's Office Marine Division has been preparing to make sure the season is a safe one.

Sheriff Warren C. Evans has ordered an increased crackdown on people who operate recreational watercrafts under the influence of alcohol. It is estimated that half of all boating accidents are alcohol related.

"We want people to have fun this boating season, but above all, we want them to do it safely," said Evans. "I have instructed our marine officers to be extra vigilant in enforcing alcohol laws on the water."

Under state law, boaters are allowed to drink alcohol, as long as their blood alcohol limit does not exceed 0.10 percent. The legal limit in Michigan for boaters did not go down to .08 in October 2004 as it did for motorists.

"The limits may be different, but the penalties are the same," Evans said.

The penalty for a first offense of Operating While Intoxicated is a maximum \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. A second offense could bring a \$1,000 fine and up to one year in jail or significant community service. A person caught for the third time could face felony charges and possible prison

Sheriff Warren C. Evans has ordered an increased crackdown on people who operate recreational watercrafts under the influence of alcohol. It is estimated that half of all boating accidents are alcohol related.

time, Evans said.

The Sheriff's Office has six patrol boats in its marine division, and deputies will spend much of their time focusing on the county's primary waterway - the Detroit River - including areas of Lake St. Clair at the north end and Lake Erie at the south.

The Marine Division is staffed with six officers, specially trained in marine law enforcement and search and rescue. The unit performs law enforcement duties as well as search and rescue operations, boat livery inspections, boat accident investigations, alcohol enforcement and regatta patrols. Marine officers make about 6,000 stops per year in order to check boat safety.

Something else that boaters need to keep in mind as they take to lakes and rivers is the

fact that water temperature is still dangerously cold.

Even though the air temperature is starting to get up into the 80's, today's water temperature is still only 54 degrees. At that temperature, hypothermia can set in very quickly and the risk of drowning increases. Evans said that boaters need to be extremely cautious to avoid falling in the water and to always wear a personal flotation device.

There are more than 280,000 registered boats in Wayne County. Evans said each of them represents a potential accident or tragedy if the operators aren't cautious. Each year sheriff's deputies provide basic boater safety classes to more than 2,500 residents and classes are still being held. Class information is available online at

www.waynecounty.com/sheriff

Additional safety tips:

■ Though it is not illegal, all occupants of a watercraft should refrain from consuming alcohol while boating

■ Have enough life jackets for everyone on board and wear them at all times

■ Make sure life jackets fit properly

■ Know your boat's capacity

■ Boats should also be equipped with an adequate fire extinguisher, horn or whistle, lights or signal flares and a flotation device with a line attached.



Wayne County Sheriff's deputies will be out on the county's lakes enforcing water safety laws.

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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JUNE

Bible study groups

The Wednesday group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the Thursday group 7-9 p.m. June 15, on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church, Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible, the Thursday group The Letters of St. Paul from Prison. Classes are small and informal and based on the Little Rock Scripture Series. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Strawberry festival

5-9 p.m. Friday, June 16, on the grounds of Garden City Presbyterian Church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. Fresh strawberries, baked goods and beverages will be served. Bake sale, craft boutique, face painting for children. Square dancing troupe will dance and give lessons. In

case of inclement weather event will be held indoors in church fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. Call (734) 421-7620.

Benefit concert

7:30 p.m. Friday, June 16, to sponsor medical mission trip to Togo, West Africa, at Memorial Church of God, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (248) 348-5471 for more information. Concert features Cameron Warne (violin) and Rachael Kerr (piano).

Sock hop

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization to provide peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 16, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$15, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Choir concert

Sacred music by the High School Chancel Choir from Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Illinois 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 16, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit Birmingham-First Music, a community music outreach organization which is sponsoring the event. Call (248) 644-2040, ext. 136.

Breakfast meeting

For Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 17, at Leon's, 30149 Ford, across from Kmart, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

Sunday message series

Inspired by The Da Vinci Code 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 18, What about Mary Magdalene?, and June 25, Women, Jesus and Christianity, at Farmington Hills Church of God, 25717 Power, between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Call (248) 477-9144 or visit www.fhchurchofgod.org. Carillon series Begins 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, June 18 and continues July 9, 23 and 30; Aug. 6, 13 and 20, and Sept. 10, features guest carillonners from Australia, France, South, Carolina, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, and Illinois, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills. All are welcome. Call (248) 626-2515 or visit www.kirkinthekills.org.

Eucharistic adoration

Continues Wednesday, June 21, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia. The church will be open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service. Everyone is welcome to participate. Call (734) 261-

1455.

Anniversary celebrations

Grace Baptist Church's 50th anniversary celebration begins with a family picnic 11 a.m. Saturday, June 24, at Boulan Park in Troy. A concert will follow at 6 p.m. at the church, 280 East Lincoln, Birmingham. A special Sunday morning Recognition service (June 25) will be held 10 a.m. to noon. On Monday, ladies enjoy a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the church. The men play a 9-hole golf tournament starting at 9 a.m. at Sylvan Glen Golf Course followed by a cookout. For information, call (248) 646-2000, ext. 10, or visit www.gbministries.org. Visitors are welcome to come to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas A' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. Weigh in is from 6:15 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. We are a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

Scripture studies

7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Fall registration

Spiritus Sanctus Academy is accepting registration for fall for its academies in Plymouth and Ann Arbor. The private, Catholic schools grades K-8, are run by the Dominican Sisters of Mary. Mother of the Eucharist at 10450 Joy Road, Plymouth, call (734) 414-8430, and 4101 East Joy Road, Ann Arbor, call (734) 996-3855.

UPCOMING

Bible and playtime

For moms and tots 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays beginning July 12, at Vineyard Church of Farmington Hills 29200 Shilawasee (by Middlebelt and 9 mile). No charge. For information, call (248) 766-0143.

Free event

For students entering fifth through seventh grade, meet new friends, bring old friends, games, ice cream, make no-sew blankets for charity 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 21, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. RSVP to (734) 425-9333.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a'Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. The church is now accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

ONGOING

Learner's Bible study

7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Donuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Bible study

Two classes meet 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Wednesdays, and 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, on Plymouth at Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible. The Thursday session is reading the Letters of St. Paul from prison. Based on Little Rock Scripture Series. Call (734) 261-1455.

School registration

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-2007 school year, at 9600 Laverne, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information.

Bible study

Classes 9:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. On Sunday Family Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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HERBERT LESLIE BROWNFIELD,

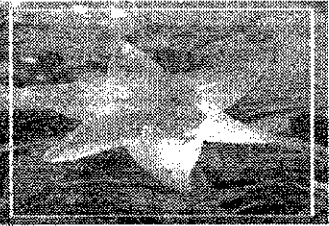
Age 95, June 12, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Helen. Loving father of William (Carolyn). Proud grandfather of Laura (Paul) Andoni, Michael, and the late Brian. Beloved great grandfather of Christopher and Matthew. Herbert worked at Chrysler Corporation from 1941 through his retirement in 1976. He was active in BASCC (Birmingham Area Senior Citizens Council) and Kiwanis International. Visitation, Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple Rd., Birmingham, Friday, 3 to 7:00 PM. Funeral Mass, St. Regis Catholic Church, 3695 Lincoln Drive at Lahser, Bloomfield Twp., Saturday, June 17th at 10:00 A.M. In lieu of flowers, tributes may be made to BASCC or Kiwanis International.

VIRGINIA K. GIBBONS

Age 88, a resident of Bloomfield Hills since 1965, died June 12, 2006 at Mercy Bellbrook in Rochester Hills. Mrs. Gibbons was born November 24, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Gibbons graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelors of Science, with a major in Chemistry and became DuPont's first female Chemist. Mrs. Gibbons was a member of the Christ Child Society and an active member of the Church of St. Owen in Bloomfield Hills. She enjoyed golf, gardening, travel, shopping, lunch, jewelry, but especially spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Gibbons is survived by her children, James, Patrick (Phyllis), Mary Lynn (Ron) Esak and Kathleen Ann Potter; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Gibbons is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, Martin Gibbons. Funeral from St. Owen Church, 6869 Franklin Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Thursday 11am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10:30am. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Rd. (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Wednesday 5-8pm. Scripture service 7:30pm. Interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Contributions appreciated to the Parkinson Foundation. 30400 Telegraph Rd., Suite 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025-5819.

MARGARET E. "PEGGY" HEBER

June 8, 2006. Age 84. Beloved mother of Mitchell (Christine), Patrice and Kim (Howard) Campbell. Dear grandmother of 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, and a son, Eric. Memorial service will be Monday, June 19 at Saint Daniel Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive, Clarkston at 10 am.

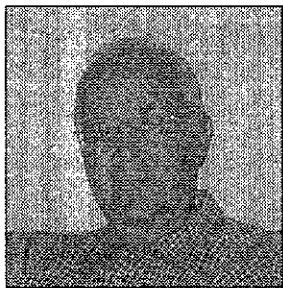


MARLENE VAN PATTEN

Age 62, June 12, 2006. Beloved wife of William. Dear mother of Deanna Harper (Dennis Pechler), Martin (Elizabeth) and Steven (Michelle). Loving grandmother of 12, great grandmother of 9. Sister of Shirley Kropidlowski, Harley Jerde, Eugene Jerde and Larry Jerde. Visitation Wednesday 4-9pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, (E.1-275). Funeral service 1pm at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9415 Merriman Road. In state noon. Memorials may be made to Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

ALICE M. PATTON

Age 91, of Birmingham, died Wednesday, June 7, 2006 in Gaylord. Mrs. Patton was born in Detroit on August 7, 1914. During the 1930's and the early 40's she worked as a bookkeeper for the National Bank of Detroit and volunteered as an ambulance driver for the Red Cross during World War II. On October 6, 1942 she married Harvey William Patton, a reporter, then managing editor of the Detroit News. After her marriage, she became a homemaker and raised four children. During the 1980's to the mid 1990's she volunteered at Providence Hospital in Southfield. For the last 15 years, she had been working-out 3 times each week at the Beaumont Cardiac Rehabilitation Center and taking classes in Tai Chi. Mrs. Patton was preceded in death by her husband Harvey William; her son and daughter in-law Harvey William Jr. and Pamela; her grandson, Scott Patton and her brothers Martin and James Jeremiah Gibbons. She is survived by her children, Anne T. Patton and her husband, George Mesritz of Birmingham, James M. Patton and his wife, Heidi Cook of Farmington, Mary Alice Patton of Chicago; and grandson, Daniel Colby Patton of Farmington. A memorial mass will be held Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 11 AM at Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham. Memorial contributions may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207. Arrangements were handled by Nelson Funeral Home, PO Box 1548, Gaylord, MI 49734.



WILLIAM "BILL" STOUT

Age 76, of Plymouth, passed away June 13, 2006. Bill was a real estate agent in the Plymouth area since 1978. He retired after 30 years of service in 1978 with the Wayne County Road Commission serving as a Fleet Manager. He came to Plymouth in 1937 from Howard City, Michigan. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Plymouth. Bill was a avid sports fan; U of M football and playing golf, he enjoyed very much. Bill's family, especially his grandchildren, is what he lived for. He is survived by loving wife of 40 years, Mary; his children, Thomas (Jeanne), Michael (Beth), and Susan (Daniel) Gerken; grandchildren, Zachary, Kiersten, Brendan, Madelyn, Alex, Jack, Lauren, Connor, Abigail; brothers, John and Robert (Colleen), and sister, Mary Maxey; Many nieces and nephews also survive. Funeral service Saturday, 11:00am, at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Thursday, 3-9pm, and Friday, 1-9pm. Memorials may be made to the Bill Stout Memorial Fund, c/o the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, or to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Michigan Chapter, 1421 East 12 Mile Rd., Bldg.A, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071.

PHILLIP CALVIN VAILS

Born in Detroit, Michigan on January 21, 1987. He was preceded in death by his mother, Yve Loren Vails and his great-grandmother, Dorothy Howard. Phillip accepted Christ at an early age and was very active at Friendship Baptist Church from then on. He was a member of the Jubilee Chorus, served as President of the Youth Department as well as President of the Junior Usher Board. Phillip also served as Vice-President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Midwest Region Youth in addition to other spiritual activities. Phillip graduated from Southfield Senior High School in 2005 with honors. He spent his summers working as a Day Camp Counselor for Southfield Parks and Recreation. He was a member of Thespian Troupe 1509, TechnoJays, and the Madrigal Choir. Phillip was among the first people to receive the Alexander Hamilton Award for Achievement. He was also Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee, a Southfield community service organization. Through Y.A.C., Phillip was asked to travel to South Carolina in order to promote the importance of community service during his senior year of high school. Phillip continued his education at Michigan State University where he majored in General Management and succeeded as an honors student. His activities included Professional African-Americans Networking, the Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience, and an internship for CollegeWorks Painting as a manager. Phillip made sure that God came first in his life and through all the hardships and adversity he faced, he never faltered. He was warm and kind, as well as genuinely nice and loving. He loved his family and had nothing but high hopes for them. Phillip loved music and was always rapping his gospel or his feelings. He went by the name of Preach. He was very proud that his music was positive, creative, and unique. He never failed to mention his love of God. Phillip's sense of humor was transcendent as he often managed to leave a room in stitches. His outlook was extremely positive, his spirit was strong, and he will always be remembered for his unforgettable smile. Phillip is survived by his aunts, Vivian Williams, Nancy Andrews (Michael), Juliette Crawford (Wallace), uncle Marlon Vails, guardians Paul and Linda Cooper, cousins Andrea Humanic, Terrance Vails, Thomas Vails and a host of family and friends. www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

MICHAEL G. CAPPEL

Born February 28, 1940, died June 11, 2006. Michael is survived by his partner, Joy; his four children, Michele, Melissa, Maureen, and Mick; his sisters, Gayle, and Jayne; and his grandchildren, Amanda, Ashton, and Pierce. He is loved and will be sorely missed and will be welcomed into his new home by his granddaughter, Alexandra. All are welcome and encouraged to attend a memorial service, at the Iverson Residence (please call 248-477-5985 for more information/directions) to celebrate Michael's life, at 5pm on June 16, 2006. To commemorate his service to the U.S. Air Force, an honor guard salute will take place at 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there and helping us to share in his memories.

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May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



Debbie Pranschke and son Joseph can't wait for the Vacation Bible School June 19-23, at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford. This year's theme is a treasure hunt.

Vacation Bible schools create Christian adventures

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

In the next several days Debbie Pranschke plans to move a large, black trunk to Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford. No, she's not donating it for a rummage sale, but borrowing it from a church member for this year's Vacation Bible School. The chest demonstrates the theme that Jesus is our greatest treasure.

Vacation Bible Schools around the area are assembling decorations to turn churches into treasure hunts, fiestas and the arctic this summer.

Pranschke, director of VBS and Sunday School at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, promises students (ages 3 to sixth grade) will have fun looking for clues that lead them to treasure 6-8:40 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23. In fact, her son Joseph has invited several of his friends to come along.

For the first time this year, parents have the opportunity to stay for a Timeless Treasures Bible Study while their children attend the Treasure Cove VBS at the church, 9600 Laverne, north of W. Chicago, east of Inkster. Children, who are registered in advance, receive a CD of the music played during VBS. For more information, call (734) 591-6367 or (734) 422-3536. There is no charge.

Joseph attended his first VBS at age 3. He's now 7 and looking forward to the Bible stories, music, crafts, games, skits, and snacks at VBS.

"He very much enjoys learning about God," said Pranschke. "He's excited about that, particularly about VBS because there is so much fun involved. I think it's a great thing to have the kids learn about God in a fun setting."

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Very Veggie VBS is sure to intrigue children from ages 4 through

sixth grade 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, at Covenant Community Church off Beech Daly, north of Five Mile, in Redford. No charge. Pre-registration appreciated, but not required. Call (313) 535-3100.

"It's based on Veggie Tales, a popular cartoon. The characters are vegetables," said Tammy Davey, who teaches the adult Bible school running concurrently with the kids' Veggie Tales directed by Kelly Govan.

"There will be crafts, music, games, snacks, and prizes for the kids. This is the first time for the adult Bible school. You can come and grow in Christ while you participate. Come alone or bring a friend even if you don't have a child in VBS. There's a nursery provided and it's also free. Adults will also do a craft - garden stones."

MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

It's a chilling experience at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Redford. An Arctic Edge Vacation Bible School takes place 6:15-8:35 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, for ages 3-17, at the church, 8828 Wormer. No charge. Call (313) 537-7480.

TRINITY CHURCH

This year's theme is 'No matter where you are, Jesus makes a world of difference' (for kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade, 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, June 19-23, at the church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road at Gottfredson, Plymouth. There is no charge for the kids VBS or a special program for parents. Parent Time is for parents of VBS kids. There will be presentations, projects and an opportunity to become familiar with the Bible stories your child is learning.

"We'll be traveling to five different countries," said Karen Hader, children's director. "Trading Places is the theme. We'll make it look like an airport in China, Brazil. It will be a busy week."

For more information, call (734) 459-9550.

WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Offers a VBS where adventure

meets courage 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, for students entering kindergarten through, entering seventh grade. Kids enjoy inflatables, crafts and loads of arctic adventures, at the church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. No charge. Call (248) 374-5975.

MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Jerusalem Marketplace: Where Jesus Walked to the Cross, is the theme of this year's VBS 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, at the church, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

GARDEN CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vacation Bible School to seek the treasure found in the Bible 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, June 26-29. Each day children take part in an actual dig and find treasures that remind them of the Bible story and God's promise for that day, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. To register, call (734) 421-7620. There is also a light dinner and adult Bible study.

BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE

SonTreasure Island is the VBS theme 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 26-30. Activities conclude with a Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m. June 30, at Bethel Baptist Temple, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 525-3664.

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasure Cove theme 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 26-30, for ages 3-11, at the church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. No charge. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fiesta: Where kids are fired up about Jesus 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 17-21, at the church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$18 for first child, \$15 each additional child. A CD of the week's music may be pre-purchased for \$6. Call (734) 464-0211.

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Beaer's Coffee, an East Lansing-based franchise, has come to Western Wayne County. The Canton store, located on the corner of Canton Center and Ford roads, opened its doors on May 30, while the Livonia store, on the corner of Farmington and Plymouth roads, began serving its customers on June 5.

Both locations offer cozy areas to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee, or take advantage of free wireless Internet access.

"My family lived in Lansing

for several years and loved the Beaer's experience, so when we decided to open a business of our own that factored heavily in our decision," said Steve Auvenshine, Livonia store owner. "Everybody wants to own a place they love."

Beaer's offers more than 30 specialty coffee, tea and frozen drink choices. Each day, customers can choose from six

special coffee varieties, as well as pastries, fruit, soups and sandwiches.

Canton's Beaer's Coffee is at 45430 Ford Road. Hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

The Livonia Beaer's Coffee store is at 33328 Plymouth Road. Hours are 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

For more information see the Web at www.beaers.com.

FATHER'S DAY GIFT FOR ALL

Livonia's Bright House Networks office wants you to reach out and talk to Dad this week. Just in time for Father's Day - June 18 - the company is offering free use of its video e-mail and digital phone service systems to metro area residents.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer these free services for Father's Day to our customers and other people in the area," said Robert McCann, president

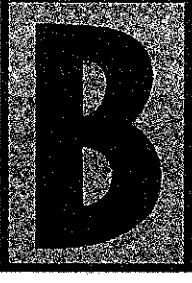
of Bright House Networks of Michigan. "This would be such a great surprise for fathers who might be serving in the military overseas to receive a video e-mail from a loved one."

Stop by between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, or Friday, June 16, at 4525 Farmington Road in Livonia - all to take advantage of the communication technology.

Video e-mail services allow visitors to send personalized video greetings to family mem-

bers. And the company's digital phone service can be accessed to call loved ones for free - anywhere in the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands or N. Marianna Islands.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.



**BEAER'S®
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State increases summer gas pump inspections

State officials noted that with the start of the summer driving season, consumers can pump gas at Michigan service stations confident that they are receiving both the quantity and quality of fuel they are expecting.

"While Michigan consumers wait for the Bush Administration to address to rising price of gas, they can rest assured that the state is doing everything that they get what they pay for at the pump," said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm.

"We have significantly increased the number of trained inspectors in the field and they are on the road seven days a week testing motor fuel quality and calibrating pumps to make certain consumers are protected."

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) inspected 7,000 pumps in fiscal year 2005 and is expected to increase that number by 50 percent during this fiscal year. MDA typically responds to complaints within 24-48 hours, with gasoline quality complaints receiving top priority. With the increased number of inspectors on the job, there will be additional random and unannounced inspections, as well.

"As the consumer watchdog at the gas pump, we take our motor fuel responsibility very seriously," said MDA Director Mitch Irwin. "Our inspectors are in the field seven days a week, but true vigilance requires everyone's help."

Irwin encouraged consumers to help by:

- Looking for the green Weights and Measures sticker on the gas pump, which verifies that the pump has been inspected and is in proper working order.
- Making sure that the price display on the gas pump is set to zero before the attendant starts the pump.
- Checking the sign on the roadway matches the price on the pump.
- Anyone who suspects problems at the pump is encouraged to call the MDA's 24-hour hotline for reporting complaints, (800) MDA-FUEL (1-800-632-3835).

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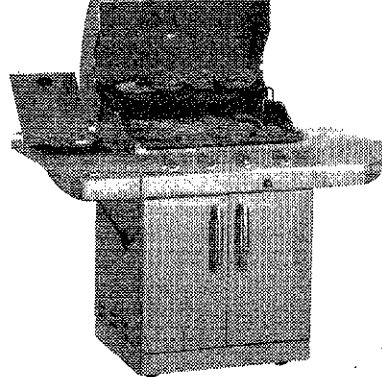
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- **PATIO FURNITURE SETS & REPLACEMENT CUSHIONS**
Offer excludes benches, swings, gazebos and outdoor accessory items. Price reduction taken at register. While supplies last.
- **50 LB. BAG QUIKRETE FAST-SETTING CONCRETE**
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\$1000-\$1499	\$100
\$1500-\$1999	\$150
\$2000 or more	\$200



Receive a free steel dump cart (#0918 or 153730) or spreader (#227732 or 144610) with your purchase of any Troy-Bilt or Husqvarna lawn tractor up to \$1299-\$2199. Offer valid now through 7/5/06. See store for details.

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SPORTS

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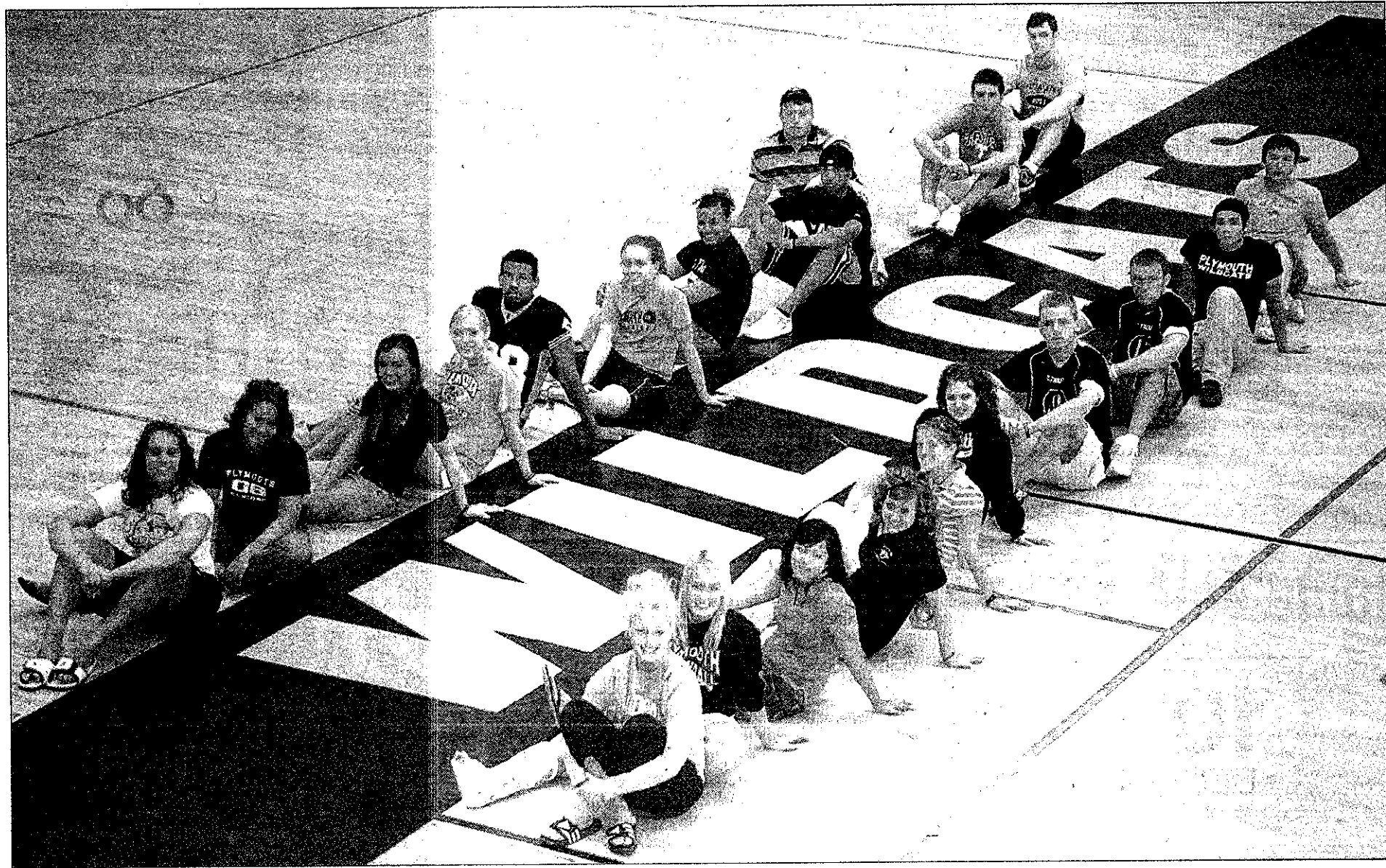
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Thursday, June 15, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pictured are 21 recently graduated Plymouth High School multi-sport athletes who helped build the foundation for the school's athletic program. Pictured are (top row from bottom) Kim Olech, Laura Schultz, Jackie Dorre, Janet Hanchett, Josh Le Duc, Colleen Flaherty, Jeanine Moise, Alex Harvey, Shaun Bailey, Ali Youssef, Taylor Fox, (bottom row from bottom) Lauren Stemberger, Katie Hughes, Elaine Lafayette, Amanda Kanaan, Kelly Buttermore, Amy Ostrowski, Sean Dillon, Jim Wilbur, Andy Knisely and Ryan Stamm.

The Foundation Builders

Plymouth's 1st class of student-athletes sets successful tone for future classes

Lauren Stemberger wasn't alone when she walked into her first "Bigger, Faster, Stronger" workout session in the Plymouth High School gymnasium one hot summer day in 2002.

She was accompanied by several hyperactive butterflies that fluttered around wildly in her stomach.

"I still remember that day like it was yesterday," Stemberger recalled last week. "I was pretty nervous and I had a lot of butterflies. Everything was new - the school, the students, the coaches. I was

excited, but I was apprehensive, too, because I knew nothing was going to be done for us. We weren't going to have older teammates that we could fall back on when things weren't going well.

"More than anything, I was excited because I knew that since we were the first class, we had a chance to establish the tradition at Plymouth High School. I was excited about the challenge."

Stemberger wasn't alone when she walked out of that ground-breaking BFS session two hours later. Instead of butterflies, however, she was accompanied by several new friends and teammates who

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Following is a partial list of on-the-field accomplishments members of the Plymouth High School class of 2006 have chalked up:

- The softball team has captured three District titles in four years; this year the Wildcats won the WLAA Western Division crown;
- The 2005 football team qualified for the D1 state playoffs in its first year with seniors;
- The girls basketball team won the WLAA Western Division title in 2005;
- The volleyball team was the co-champion of the WLAA Western Division in 2004-05; and
- The Wildcats boys track team was the co-champion of the WLAA Western Division this past season.

PLEASE SEE PLYMOUTH, B3

One bad inning sidelines Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

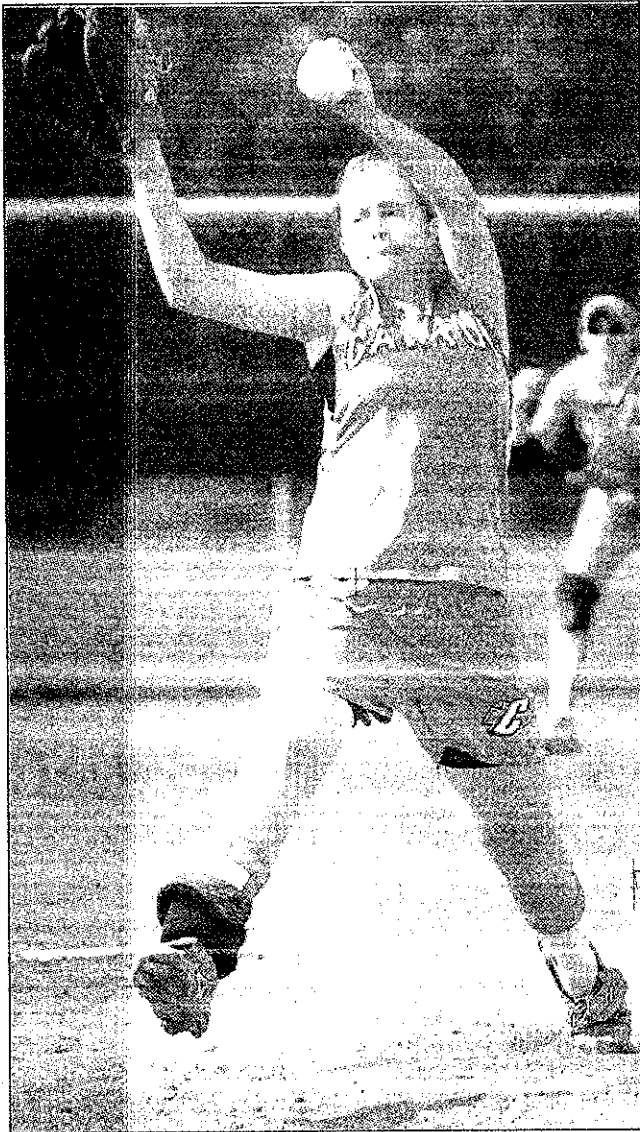
One miserable half-inning can't spoil a spectacular softball season.

But it can go a long way toward ending one.

Canton discovered that fact the hard way Saturday afternoon when a mistake-plagued fifth inning led to four Monroe runs and a 5-2 Trojan victory in a Division 1 Regional semifinal contest played at Saline High School.

The setback ended the Chiefs' season at 28-5-1. Monroe improved to 27-8, but was eliminated a few hours later by Southgate Anderson in the Regional final.

"First of all, Monroe has a good ballclub - give them credit," said Canton coach Jim Arnold. "Vince (Rossi) does a nice job over there. We just had a couple of mistakes in that



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton sophomore pitcher Hilary Payne pitched well in the Chiefs' 5-2 loss to Monroe Saturday afternoon. The southpaw yielded just six hits in six innings of work.

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, B3

McCormack ends career with style

Please see All-Observerland Girls Track Team, on Page B4.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Becky McCormack's final lap of the 1,600-meter run at the Division 1 Regional girls track-and-field meet May 19 was as happy ending as she rounded the second turn and caught a glimpse of the ticking clock on the scoreboard.

There was drama, a compelling storyline and a popular athlete - McCormack - who was trying to put the finishing touches on an against-the-odds feat.

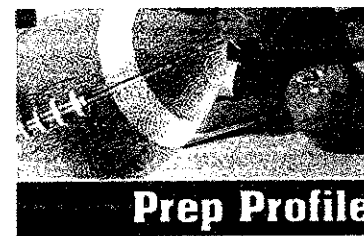
The only difference was McCormack, a senior captain on the Canton track-and-field team, wasn't sure if her quest for a D1 state meet qualifying time was going to have a Disney-like happy ending as she rounded the second turn and caught a glimpse of the ticking clock on the scoreboard.

"With 300 meters to go, I could see the clock and I knew I'd have to run the rest of the race in under a minute if I was going to qualify for the state meet," the senior said. "I knew it



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior Becky McCormack wrapped up her stellar high school track-and-field career by qualifying for the Division 1 state meet June 3 in East Kentwood. McCormack earned a combined eight varsity letters in track and cross country.



Prep Profile

PLEASE SEE MCCORMACK, B5

Sidelines

Ultra Schmitt

Canton sophomore Allison Schmitt had a busy weekend at the talent-laden Charlotte Ultra-Swim competition June 9-11 in Charlotte, N.C.

Swimming for the nationally acclaimed Club Wolverine team, Schmitt competed in five events, placing as high as seventh (2:05.75) in the 200-yard freestyle. Schmitt also placed 12th in the 100 freestyle (58.66 seconds); 20th in the 400 freestyle (4:24.60); 35th in the 100 butterfly (1:06.75); and 44th in the 200 butterfly (2:27.49).

The 16-year-old Schmitt was racing against collegiate and Olympics-caliber athletes.

Wildcat camps

The Plymouth High school football program will be hosting the following camps in the upcoming weeks:

■ A football fundamentals camp for players from 5th to 9th grades from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 26-28. To download an application, visit www.football.plymouth-wildcats.com; and

■ A Plymouth football development camp for players in 10th, 11th and 12th grades on June 26-28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To download an application, visit www.football.plymouth-wildcats.com.

Field hockey camp

Livonia Ladywood will stage its 2006 Blazer Field Hockey Day Camp (grades 6 through incoming freshman) from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at the high school, located at 14680 Newburgh Road (between I-96 and Five Mile Road).

The cost is \$50. All camp participants must provide their own shin guards, mouthpiece, water bottle and field hockey stick (some available to sign out at camp). Rubber cleats are recommended. You must also bring a sack lunch.

All campers will receive a camp T-shirt. An athletic trainer will be on-site.

Call the Ladywood athletic department at (734) 591-2323.

Hawks cruise

Oakland University's Kristi Swaving scored four times Saturday as the Michigan Hawks defeated the host Fort Wayne (Ind.) Fever for the second time this season, 5-0, in W-League soccer action at Hefner Stadium. Jessica Boyle added the fifth goal late in the game, tallying her first of the year.

The loss dropped the Fever to 0-3-1.

The Hawks head Saturday to Minneapolis to face the 3-1 Lightning before going Sunday to Chicago to face the Midwest Division co-lead-ers, the Gaels.

Young and talented runners give Salem reasons for hope

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Like a sprinter who gets out of the blocks cleanly, first-year Salem track-and-field coach Kyle Meteyer is focusing on what's in front of him, not what's in the rear-view mirror.

Although the Rocks failed to win a dual meet in Meteyer's inaugural year at the helm, he's excited about the future thanks to a core of young runners that should make Salem a force to be reckoned with in the not-too-distant future.

"We looked ahead to the future a lot this year because we didn't have a lot of experience or a lot of depth," said Meteyer. "But I like our potential. We have some very talented freshmen, sophomores and some first-year juniors coming back next season who found themselves filling varsity roles this year."

"I challenged the guys on a couple of points at our banquet last week. We need more depth next year, so I told the guys to use a little peer pressure on their friends and encourage them to run track next spring. We have a good core of athletes, but you need more depth if we're going to win the dual meets we want to win next year."

"I also challenged them to work as hard as they can during the off-season. I asked them to lift weights, run cross country, play football — whatever it takes to improve. Good track teams work 12 months a year. If you wait until March to get ready, it's too late."

Among the young athletes the Rocks will be counting on to carry the program back to the

upper-echelon of the Western Lakes Activities Association are freshmen:

- Rob Curtis, whose 1,600-meter time of 4:52 was sixth-best at the Bolger-Mangan meet in April;
- Brandon Goble, who was clocked in 2:17 in a leg of a 3,200-meter relay earlier in the season;
- Jace Bearden, who high-jumped a team-best 5 feet, 10 inches; ran under 56 seconds in the 400-meter dash and under 2:20 in the 800;
- Alex Covert, who shows potential in both the 200 and 400;
- Richard Lorey, a promising young hurdler; and
- Pat Patin, who was clocked in 12.0 in the 100-meter dash.

Sophomores who impressed Meteyer this season were:

- Scott Dreaver, who was clocked in 2:17 in the 800, 56.0 in the 400 and turned in a team-best long jump of 19-3;
- Kevin de Bear, Craig Cowing and Justin Kane, who give the Rocks depth and talent in the middle- and long-distance events;
- Jesse Pointer, who has flashed potential in sprints and jumping events; and
- Mike Giles, who could be one of the team's top hurdlers in 2007.

"There are a lot of other young guys who haven't seen the varsity rotation quite yet, but who probably will very soon," Meteyer concluded.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The future is bright for the Salem boys track team thanks to a talented group of underclassmen. Pictured are (front row from the left) Justin Kane, Kevin de Bear, Alexander Covert, (standing from the left) Craig Cowing, Mike Giles, Stephan Telenko, Jesse Pointer and Rob Curtis.

Whalers' home games to get earlier start

Plymouth Whalers sign key defenseman

The Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers will start home games earlier in 2006-07 at the Compuware Sports Arena. The Whalers — in response to their season ticket holders and fans — have moved the starting time of most of their home games to 7:05 p.m. from 7:30 p.m.

"We're a family-driven business," said Plymouth director of corporate sales and marketing Rob Murphy. "Moving our home games up to 7:05 will allow families to see the Whalers and leave most evenings by 9:35. That's important when you have children."

"We thank our season-ticket holders and fans for the suggestion."

The Whalers are holding ticket prices at \$14 for center-ice seating and \$10 for executive reserved.

The Whalers will open the 2006-07 season in Sarnia on Friday, Sept. 22. Plymouth's home opener is slated for the following night against Erie.

The Whalers' schedule features 48 games against Western Conference opponents, with 28 of those games within the West Division (eight each against Saginaw and Windsor; six each against Sault Ste. Marie and Sarnia) and 20 against Midwest Division opponents. The remaining 20 games are against Eastern Conference foes.

Saturday remains the pri-

mary home date for the Whalers, with 19 Saturday nights leading the way. Plymouth plays 10 home games on Fridays, two on Sunday afternoon and one each on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Plymouth will play its annual holiday matinee on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. against Windsor. The Whalers' annual "Green-Out" game will be played on Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. against Sault Ste. Marie.

The current OHL-champion Peterborough Petes make their only trip into Plymouth on Saturday, Nov. 25. Interstate rival Saginaw comes to the Compuware Sports Arena on Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Jan. 6 and Jan.

15, while the Whalers play at Saginaw's Dow Event Center on Sept. 27, Oct. 29, Jan. 12 and Feb. 21.

A wide range of promotions are planned for the upcoming season, providing families with a fun-filled event while watching a young team on the rise. The Whalers won its eighth West Division title since 1995 last season with a record of 35-28-1-4.

Season tickets for the 2006-07 season start at \$239 for 34 home games and are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena box office at (734) 453-8400. Fans purchasing new tickets or renewing current season tickets before July 15 are eligible to win "early bird" prizes.

The Plymouth Whalers signed 16-year-old defenseman Frank Grzeszczak, an 11th-round draft pick of the team in the 2005 Ontario Hockey League draft.

"We're very happy to have Frank in Plymouth," said Whalers president, general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci. "He's an excellent skater who should help us."

Grzeszczak — pronounced GRAY-shack — played last season with Sioux City of the United States Hockey League, where he tallied five goals and nine assists in 50 games.

"I'm excited to be playing for the Whalers," Grzeszczak said. "We're supposed to have an excellent team next season and I really want to be part of that."

Plymouth returns at least 12 players next season from a team that compiled a 35-28-14 mark and an OHL West Division title.

Among the returners are National Hockey League draftees Dan Collins (Florida),

James Neal (Dallas) and Ryan McGinnis (Los Angeles) as well as three Whalers who will be selected in the NHL Entry Draft on June 24 — John Armstrong, Andrew Fournier and Tom Sestito.

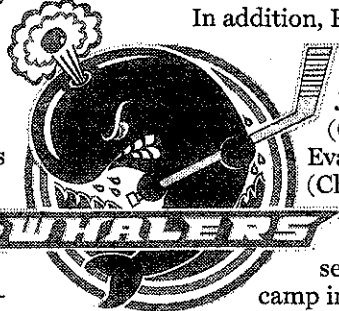
In addition, Plymouth could bring back NHL draftees Jared Boll (Columbus) or Evan Brophey (Chicago) as over-age players.

Before next season's training camp in late August, Grzeszczak has been selected to participate in the USA Hockey's Select-17 Festival July 8-14 in St. Cloud, MN.

Independent scouting publication "Red Line Report" said this about the newest Whaler at a previous USA Hockey evaluation camp:

"(Grzeszczak has) outstanding feet, the best here. Jumps smartly into the offense and has recovery speed."

With rule changes instituted in the Ontario Hockey League last year designed to promote offense.





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PLYMOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

would join her over the next four years in building the foundation for their new school's athletic program.

"It's funny, but by the end of that first BFS workout, I felt right at home here," she said. "Some of the people I met in that first class are some of my best friends today. One of them - Katie Hughes - is going to be my roommate at Michigan State in the fall."

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

In most ways, Stemberger and her 400-plus freshmen classmates faced the same challenges, obstacles and goals that the ninth-graders at Canton and Salem encountered that summer. Everything about high school for every student - regardless of whether they're attending a new school or one that's been around for 30 years - is more demanding: from the season-opening sports practices to the semester-ending exams.

What made the situation unique for the young student-athletes at Plymouth was that they were on the front lines when it came to building an identity for a school that was without one.

And they had to become leaders - whether they were ready for it or not.

Alex Harvey was more than ready.

"I was super excited about the opportunity I was given to help set the groundwork for the new school's athletic program," said Harvey, who has earned varsity letters in both basketball and baseball. "We wanted to establish the school's reputation based on our character, work ethic and teamwork, and I think we did that."

MIXED EMOTIONS

Not every student-athlete was overjoyed when they first found out they would be part of Plymouth's historical first class.

"I wasn't happy about it at all when I found out I drew Plymouth," admitted Andy Knisely, a state-qualifying swimmer the past four years. "I was really into swimming and I wanted to go to Salem or Canton because they had



Several multi-sport athletes from Plymouth's first graduating class congregated in the school's gym one last time on June 8.

established programs.

"Now, looking back, going to Plymouth was the best thing that could have happened to me because I participated in sports other than swimming, which helped me get into West Point. If I would have went to Canton or Salem, I probably would have just swam. Things worked out really well."

Hughes, who participated in swimming, soccer, volleyball and tennis, said the freshman season was a challenging one for the girls swim team, which had just seven athletes on its roster.

"The good news was that we all had our own lane for practices," Hughes said, smiling. "The bad news was that when you only have seven swimmers, you're not going to win many meets, which we didn't. We didn't win, but we stayed patient and knew that eventually things would get better."

YEAR OF GROWTH

Not surprisingly, a large

majority of the Plymouth student-athletes I interviewed last week agreed that the junior year was the roughest for them competition-wise.

"Almost every team we lined up against was bigger and stronger than we were that year because they had seniors and we didn't," said Taylor Fox, who will play football at Hope College in the fall. "We learned quickly that one year of growth and experience between the junior and senior years can make all the difference in the world."

"Our coaches kind of tricked us before we played Canton our junior year," Fox said, chuckling. "They told us that if we went out there and played hard and gave it everything we had, we could be competitive. Well, we got *smoked*, but we learned about perseverance."

"The junior year was the hardest because the speed of the game and the caliber of play we went up against was so much better than what we saw

at the JV level," said basketball player Kim Olech. "It took a while to adjust. We were better our senior years because of what we went through as juniors."

More than one Wildcat said the senior year was the toughest.

"That's the year we had to live up to all the expectations we set for ourselves and that others set for us," said wrestler/soccer player Ali Youssef.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Less than four years after they walked into the Plymouth gym for that initial BFS workout, the members of the Plymouth Class of 2006 have reason to be proud.

They successfully built the school's athletic foundation. And it is strong.

Ed Wright is sports editor for the Plymouth/Canton Observers.

CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

one inning that are mistakes we don't usually make. We had some communication problems that cost us a couple of runs.

"But when you finish 28-5 like we did, it's hard to be too disappointed. I'm extremely proud of each and every one of these players for the season they had."

Canton's chances of advancing to the Regional final game unraveled like a worn out softball in the bottom of the fifth when the Trojans capitalized on three hits and three Chief errors - one physical and two mental. The Trojans' No. 7 hitter opened the frame with a single and was promptly sacrificed to second. The next batter hit a ground that was snagged by Canton third baseman Brittany Scero, who looked back at the runner at second before firing to first. However, the throw was a split-second too late, leaving Trojans at first and second with one out.

Monroe lead-off hitter Jenna Kloster then hit a routine grounder to Chief shortstop Lauren Delapaz, who had to eat the ball when no one covered first.

Canton sophomore hurler Hilary Payne nearly escaped the jam unharmed when she caught Amanda Straub's soft line drive for the second out, but clean-up hitter Kendra Stadler delivered a clutch two-out hit that emptied the bases.

Monroe tacked on an insurance run when Jessica Irwin blooped a single into left, scoring Stadler.

During the early going, the game appeared to be one of those whoever-scores-first-wins battles. Payne retired the first 10 batters she faced while Irwin, a hard-throwing right-hander, yielded just an infield single to Sarah Anthony and a walk to Rachel Beaudoin in the opening three innings.

Canton struck first in the fourth when with one out Anthony laced a double and advanced to third on Kimmie Keppen's single. Payne helped her own cause when she delivered an RBI single to plate Anthony with the game's first run.

With Chiefs on second and

'... when you finish 28-5 like we did, it's hard to be too disappointed. I'm extremely proud of each and every one of these players for the season they had.'

Jim Arnold
Canton coach

third with one out, Irwin recorded a strikeout and a popout to subdue the Canton rally.

Monroe tied the game 1-1 in its half of the inning when Straub reached on an error, went to second on Stadler's infield single and scored on Irwin's hit.

Trailing 5-1, the Chiefs mounted a semi-rally in the sixth when Delapaz walked, stole second and scored from second on a wild pitch.

Alyssia Johnson singled and advanced to second on a wild pitch with one out in the seventh, but the senior right-fielder was stranded when Irwin handled the next two batters easily.

Payne performed well in defeat, yielding just six hits in six innings. Only two of the runs she surrendered were earned.

"It's exciting when you have a sophomore throwing like she does," said Arnold, looking ahead to next season. "Plus we have a couple of very good junior pitchers, so we have to be pleased."

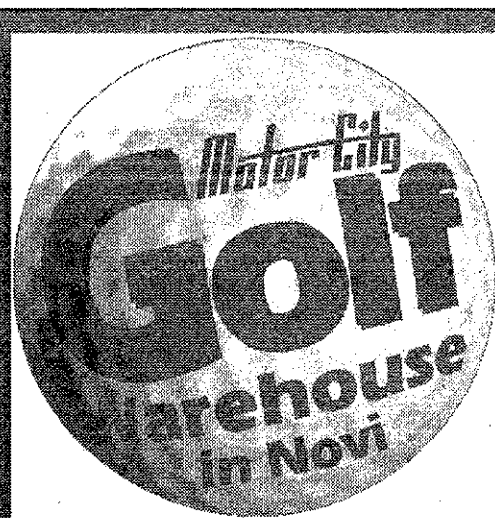
Irwin contained the Chiefs' healthy bats as well as any hurler this season, limiting Canton to five hits while striking out 11.

"She's good," said Arnold. "She has a very good rise ball. We did a good job of laying off it for the most part, but the ump was giving her the outside corner. She struck out our lead-off hitter four times, which is more than she struck out all year."

"Overall, it was a good year. We didn't win our conference or division, but we won the district and the girls played strong right to the end."

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Girls track team sets the pace

2006 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAMS FIELD EVENTS

Shot put: 1. Kyndra Abron, Soph., Livonia Churchill; 2. Jenna Hudry, Sr., Livonia Franklin; 3. Paige Evans, Jr., Livonia Ladywood.

Discus: 1. Lauren Krupsky, Jr., Churchill; 2. Robyn Whalen, Jr., Franklin; 3. Kailee Hobbs, Jr., Churchill.

High jump: 1. Alyssa Supplee, Sr., Franklin; 2. Brittany Petty, Jr., Plymouth; 3. Alex Serowkey, Soph., Ladywood.

Long jump: 1. Stephanie Okolo, Soph., Plymouth; 2. Megan Wilson, Jr., Franklin; 3. Chanel Payne, Fr., Westland John Glenn.

Pole vault: 1. Allie Vraniak, Sr., Salem; 2. Maria Winkler, Jr., Livonia Stevenson; 3. Kristin Zgorecki, Sr., Churchill.

100 hurdles: 1. Brittany Lockhart, Sr., Salem; 2. Diane Burek, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Brittany Gentile, Soph., Stevenson.

300 hurdles: 1. Taleece Jackson, Jr., Redford Thurston; 2. Tauri Rothermel, Jr., Churchill; 3. Casey Lynett, Jr., Franklin.

100 dash: 1. Lache' Wilkins, Sr., Churchill; 2. Mandi Coppola, Jr., Churchill; 3. Lauren Schweske, Jr., Lutheran Westland.

200: 1. Ashley Parker, Soph., John Glenn; 2. Marielle Kulling, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Alex Smedley, Fr., Redford Union.

400: 1. Allison Janda, Sr., Salem; 2. Katie Morasso, Soph., Ladywood; 3. (tie) Brittany Mrozek, Soph., Stevenson, and Nicole Thornsberry, Jr., Churchill.

800: 1. Lisa Arrowsmith, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Rebecca Rehberg, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Amber Cicala, Jr., Stevenson.

1,600: 1. Kristen Frey, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Rachel McFarlane, Soph., Churchill; 3. Becky McCormack, Sr., Canton.

3,200: 1. Kylen Cieslak, Sr., Churchill; 2. Hannah Cavichio, Jr., Salem; 3. Megan Macerati, Jr., Churchill.

RELAY EVENTS

400: 1. Plymouth (Stephanie Okolo, Soph.; Julie Hersey, Jr.; Jill Morton, Fr.; Janet Hanchett, Sr.); 2. Churchill (Tauri Rothermel, Jr.; Mandi Coppola, Jr.; Alicia Fedrigo, Sr.; Nicole Thornsberry, Jr.); 3. Stevenson (Marielle Kulling, Sr.; Chelsea Pashnick, Soph.; Brittany Gentile, Soph.; Diane Burek, Sr.).

800: 1. Churchill (Nicole Thornsberry, Jr.; Mandi Coppola, Jr.; Alicia Fedrigo, Sr.; Lache' Wilkins, Sr.); 2. Plymouth (Jill Morton, Fresh; Julie Hersey, Jr.; Janet Hanchett, Sr.; Stephanie Okolo, Soph.); 3. John Glenn (Chanel Payne, Fr.; Ashley Montgomery, Soph.; Jamie Mellas, Soph.; Ashley Parker, Soph.).

1,600: 1. Churchill (Tauri Rothermel, Jr.; Alicia Fedrigo, Sr.; Nicole Thornsberry, Jr.; Lache' Wilkins, Sr.); 2. Stevenson (Brittany Mrozek, Soph.; Denese Meier, Soph.; Rebecca Rehberg, Sr.; Lisa Arrowsmith, Sr.); 3. Salem (Linda Ling, Fr.; Allison Janda, Sr.; Alexa VanVleet, Soph.; Brittany Lockhart, Sr.).

3,200: 1. Stevenson (Rebecca Rehberg, Sr.; Kristen Frey, Jr.; Amber Cicala, Jr.; Lisa Arrowsmith, Sr.); 2. Churchill (Lindsey Graciak, Fr.; Erica Hoppa, Jr.; Rachel McFarlane, Soph.; Kylen Cieslak, Sr.); 3. Canton (Jennifer Thomas, Sr.; Sarah Thomas, Soph.; Becky McCormack, Sr.; Kelli Bargowski, Sr.).

COACH OF THE YEAR
Keith McDonald

FIELD EVENTS

Kyndra Abron, Jr., Liv. Churchill (shot put): The sophomore placed eighth in the Division I meet after finishing runner-up at the regional.

She also captured the Western Lakes Activities Association crown with a throw of 39 feet, 5 inches.

Abron also won the WLAA discus title (118-11) and added a fourth at the regional.

"Kyndra has found much success in the throws during her first two seasons," Churchill coach Keith McDonald said. "As she moves into her junior year, her throws coaches and I see great potential. Joe George and John Filiatraut have done a fantastic job with the throws all season."

"Kyndra has some huge throws in her next season. I expect to see her competing for an All-State spot in the shot put, and possibly the discus. As she continues to gain strength, her throws are only going to get better."

Lauren Krupsky, Jr., Liv. Churchill (discus): The junior earned All-State honors with a seventh-place finish in Division I with a throw of 120-0. She was also runner-up in the WLAA and regional meets.

In the shot put, Krupsky took third at the regional and fourth in the conference. Her best throw came at the state meet (36-7.5).

"Lauren sets her goals high and then works tremendously hard to achieve them," McDonald said. "She's a tremendous athlete who can compete in the sprints, jumps, middle distance and throws."

"She is often the last thrower to leave the rings. She is already making preparations to do even better next season. Throwing with talented athletes like Kyndra Abron and Kailee Hobbs has helped her to further her abilities. Her competitive nature in practice is a great plus for Lauren, as well as the rest of our throwers."

Alyssa Supplee, Sr., Liv. Franklin (high jump): The senior began the season with a pair of 5-2 performances, only to sit out three weeks after being diagnosed with mononucleosis.

After recovering, Supplee came back strong, including a pair of 5-4 efforts, while qualifying for the state meet for the second time in her career with a jump of 5-2.

She tied for 12th overall in Division I and was WLAA champion with a season-best leap of 5-5.

Supplee holds the Franklin school record at 5-7 and also shares the WLAA mark, set in 2005, with LaTasha Chandler of Westland John Glenn (1998).

"Alyssa has done an outstanding job for us over the past four years," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "In addition to the high jump, she has run the 100, 200, along with the 400 and 800 relays."

Supplee ranks in the top ten in four different events at Franklin.

"She has been a great leader this year," Bjorklund said. "Her career accomplishments are outstanding, and she is truly one of the best athletes I've ever had the privilege of coaching. We'll really miss her next year."

Stephanie Okolo, Soph., Plymouth (long jump): The sophomore got better as the

season progressed. She placed first in the Bolger-Mangum City Meet with an effort of 16 feet, 1.5 inches, the Western Lakes Activities Association conference meet with a 16-10 and the Division I Regional competition with a leap of 17-6.75. The two-year letter-winner has already collected five school records in her short high school career.

"Stephanie is a very strong runner who is only going to get better the next two years," said Plymouth coach John Dunn. "She has a lot of potential for future growth."

Allie Vraniak, Sr., Salem (pole vault): The four-time varsity letter winner had a season-high 10-foot effort against Westland John Glenn. Vraniak holds the Salem school record with a 10-6 she posted as a junior. The senior placed first in the City Meet and second in both the Division I Regional and the WLAA conference meet.

"Allie has a lot of natural athleticism," said Salem coach Julie Montgomery. "She uses that athleticism to excel in the pole vault."

RUNNING EVENTS

Brittany Lockhart, Sr., Salem (100 hurdles): The senior just missed earning a medal at the Division I state meet June 3 when she placed ninth in the 300-meter hurdles. Lockhart, a four-year letter winner, was the Division I Regional champion and WLAA conference champion in the 300 hurdles. She was the runner-up in the 100 hurdles in both events. She was the Rocks' top point-earner this season (115 points) despite missing three weeks with an injury.

"Brittany is a very talented athlete," said Montgomery. "She's quiet off the track, but on it she's very dynamic. It's always exciting to watch her in action. Brittany was a huge asset to the Salem track team."

Taleece Jackson, Jr., Red. Thurston (300 hurdles): The fleet junior qualified for the Division 2 state meet in the 300 hurdles, 110 hurdles and long jump for the second consecutive year and she didn't disappoint on the big stage June 3 at Forest Hills Northern.

Jackson earned all-state honors in both hurdles events, taking second-place in the 300 (45.51) and third in the 100 with a mark of 14.89, which shattered her own school record in the event.

Eagles head coach Al Chambo said Jackson bested her records in two other events, the 300 hurdles and 200 dash (26.06) and showed no signs of slowing down as she enters her senior season.

"Taleece dominated the hurdles at regionals for the second straight year," Chambo said. "And her performances at states shows that she (is) striving to compete at the next level."

Lache' Wilkins, Sr., Liv. Churchill (100 dash): Wilkins, who will be studying next season at the University of Michigan, ran a 12.5 to earn runner-up honors at the regional.

She was also member of three school-record sprint relay teams at Churchill.

The two-year captain and Scholar-Athlete also helped the Chargers to an undefeated dual meet season.

"Lache' is one of the hardest workers on

the team," McDonald said. "Her teammates have always been inspired by her performances and versatility. She can run the 100, 200 and 400 competitively, and has been an integral part of Churchill's success over the last four years."

"She is also a dedicated student and member of the community. Lache' will be missed not only for her performances, but also for who she is as a person."

Ashley Parker, Soph., Westland Glenn (200): The sophomore turned in her best time of the season with a 25.9 at the Tory Clark Relays in Adrian.

Parker was also Western Lakes champion (26.43) and took third at the regional (26.6).

She also earned a top-10 area listing with a 16-1 effort in the long jump.

"Ashley is an excellent runner, she works hard at practice and became a more determined runner this season," Glenn coach Carnella Turrentine said. "She's always positive and never complained about the workouts."

Allison Janda, Sr., Salem (400): The senior, who is headed to Bucknell University in the fall, flourished in her final high school season, placing first in the 400 at the Division I Regional meet and third in both the 400 and 800 at the WLAA conference meet. A winner of four varsity track-and-field letters while at Salem, she was named the school's 2006 Scholar Athlete Award recipient at a banquet held earlier this month.

"Allison is a team player," said Montgomery. "She's a great team leader who is super-dedicated. She exemplifies the three Ds: determination, dedication and dependability."

Lisa Arrowsmith, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (800): The senior is coming off a third-place finish last Saturday in the Midwest Meet of Champions (2:16.82) after placing fourth in the Division I state meet (2:16.75).

The new Stevenson school record-holder (2:16.15) was regional champion and WLAA runner-up.

The Spartans' second-highest point producer was also champion at the Stevenson and Ann Arbor Pioneer invitationals.

"I have been so very proud of what Lisa has accomplished over the last three years," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said of the Scholar-Athlete, who is headed to Ball State. "Through her sheer dedication, drive, determination and toughness, she became one of the best 800-meter runners this year."

Arrowsmith is a four-year varsity athlete and two-time state qualifier. She is also a member of Stevenson's school-record 3,200 relay squad (from 2005).

"With each of her track seasons, she has continued to improve upon her times, along with gaining more and more success by placing at big meets," Graham said. "She has been a true leader and role model for all our younger kids - showing them what hard work can accomplish if you want it bad enough."

"She will be missed next year, not only because of her talents on the track, but more importantly, of who she is as a person."

Kristen Frey, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (1,600): The junior broke the Stevenson school record in the 1,600 (5:04.0) and accumulated a team-high 152.5 points.

She was regional (5:09.36) and WLAA (5:10.88) in the 1,600. She also added a fifth in the WLAA meet in the 3,200 and contributed a fourth at the regional in the 800.

Frey added titles at the both the Stevenson (3,200) and Pioneer (1,600) invitationals. She was also runner-up at both the Ypsilanti (1,600) and Troy Clark (3,200) invitationals.

Frey also posted personal bests of 11:36.3 in the 3,200 and 2:19.1 in the 800.

"She's got a lot of natural ability that she's tapped into," Graham said. "And given the fact that she's such a hard worker and dedicated to her sport and event, her drive has helped her gain the success that's she's enjoyed the last three years as a varsity track athlete."

"She's the whole package. She's got a lot of drive and tenacity, and has capability of really being aggressive on the track, which has led to a lot of success."

"I'm really excited to see what she can do her senior year because all the experiences she's had will make her a wiser and stronger athlete."

Kylen Cieslak, Sr., Liv. Churchill (3,200): The senior earned All-State honors in the 1,600 (5:08.68) and recorded the area's best time in the 3,200 (11:19:26), which earned her 13th overall in Division I.

In the 3,200, she also took first in the WLAA, regional and Public Schools of Livonia Invitational meets.

The two-year captain and 2006 Academic All-State selection is bound for Northwood University. She holds three Churchill records including the 1,600, 3,200 and 3,200 relay.

"Kylen has been our most consistent distance runner since I began coaching her in her sophomore year," McDonald said. "She can run anything from the 400 to the 3,200, including relays."

"Kylen is most of the most dedicated athletes on our team. She has taught the other distance runners how to train and has demonstrated how good you can make yourself. Though we will miss her next season, her legacy will live on."

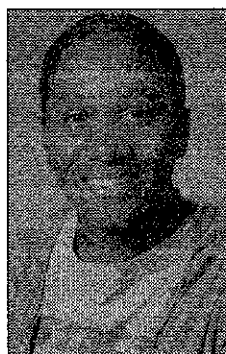
RELAY EVENTS

400 - Plymouth (Stephanie Okolo, Soph.; Jill Morton, Fr.; Julie Hersey, Soph.; Janet Hanchett, Sr.): The talented quartet raced to an impressive ninth-place showing at the Division I state meet June 3 at East Kentwood High School. The Wildcats' time of 50.29 was just .25 off the eighth-place finishers' time. They placed first at both the WLAA meet and the DI Regional meet.

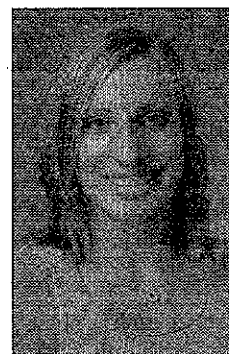
"With two sophomores and a freshman, they relay team has a bright future ahead," said Dunn. "They were very disappointed they didn't place at the state meet, but they actually ran extremely well. I would have been happy if they just would have placed at the Regional meet, but they won it which was a great accomplishment, especially considering how young they are."

800 - Churchill (Nicole Thornsberry, Jr., Mandi Coppola, Jr.; Alicia Fedrigo, Sr.; Lache' Wilkins, Sr.): The quartet was the Chargers' most consistent all season, finishing first at regional (1:46.13) and in WLAA meet (1:46.68).

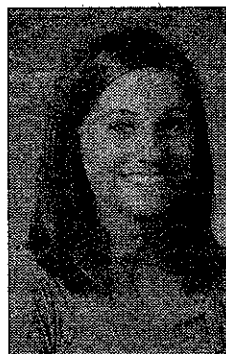
They turned in their best time with a 12th-place finish in the Division I state



Kyndra Abron Churchill



Lauren Krupsky Churchill



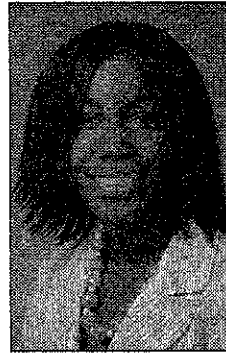
Alyssa Supplee Franklin



Stephanie Okolo Plymouth



Allie Vraniak Salem



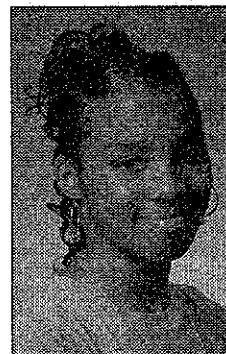
Brittany Lockhart Salem



Taleece Jackson Redford Thurston



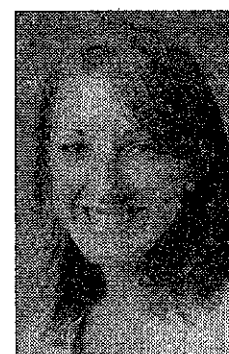
Lache' Wilkins Churchill



Ashley Parker John Glenn



Allison Janda Salem



Lisa Arrowsmith Stevenson



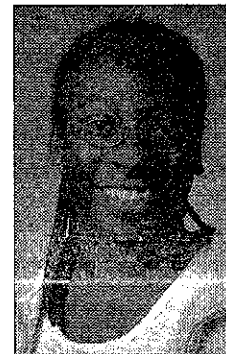
Kristen Frey Stevenson



Kylen Cieslak Churchill



Julie Hersey Plymouth



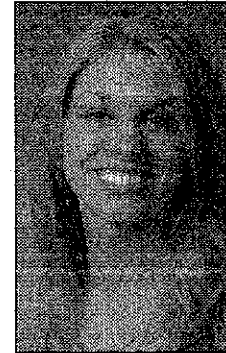
Jill Morton Plymouth



Janet Hanchett Plymouth



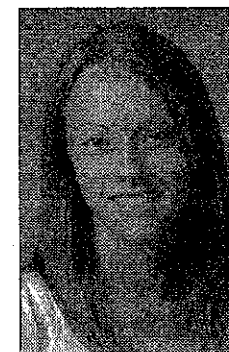
Nicole Thornsberry Churchill



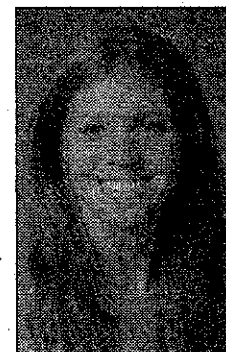
Mandi Coppola Churchill



Alicia Fedrigo Churchill



Tauri Rothermel Churchill



Rebecca Rehberg Stevenson

meet (1:45.63). "With a few exceptions, these four have run it in the same order," McDonald said. "They are confident with each other and demand excellence in the relay. If an exchange isn't perfect, they immediately talk about it and make changes so that the same mistake won't be made."

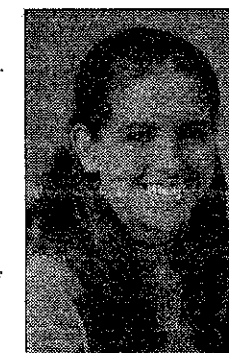
"This high expectation of a relay team has developed them into a strong team. Each and every one are incredibly hard workers and push each other in practice."

1,600 - Churchill (Tauri Rothermel, Jr.; Alicia Fedrigo, Sr.; Nicole Thornsberry, Jr.; Lache' Wilkins, Sr.): This foursome earned an 11th-place finish in Division I with a time of 4:06.12 after finishing first at the regional in 4:10.62.

The Chargers added a fourth in the WLAA meet.

"This relay was in flux throughout the season," McDonald said. "Just prior to the regionals, we were looking at 10 different athletes to run this relay. These girls were able to rise above the rest and represent us on the track."

"They did a fantastic job, including an exciting finish with their performance at the state meet. I was proud of them for the way they have competed and performed all season."



Amber Cicala Stevenson

3,200 - Stevenson (Rebecca Rehberg, Sr.; Kristen Frey, Jr.; Amber Cicala, Jr.; Lisa Arrowsmith, Sr.): The Spartan foursome finished fourth in the Division I state meet with a season-best clocking of 9:26.7, second best in school history.

Stevenson also captured the regional (9:38.75) and WLAA (9:38.57) titles, along with crowns at the Tory Clark Relays and Stevenson Invitational.

"Our athletes are developing a tradition of being one of the top 3,200 relays teams in the state," Stevenson assistant coach Nancy Gavor said. "This is our third consecutive top six finish."

"They knew this was the last time they would race together as a team and they raced hard to accomplish our goal of finishing in the top four."

"Our two seniors, Rehberg's 2:21 (800) and Arrowsmith's 2:16 splits provided great speed on both the lead-off and anchor legs. We'll miss their leadership."

"Rebecca, who has never been on this team in past years, but she proved through her hard work she was capable of being an important part of this year's relay team. The other three girls had experience from last year and again performed to their abilities."

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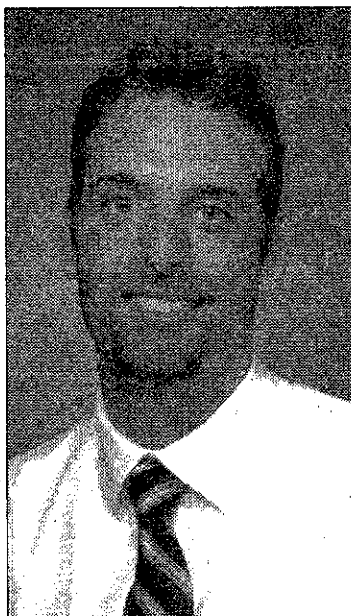
McDonald repeats as top girls track-and-field coach

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Churchill girls track and field team entered the 2006 season with high expectations and the Chargers did not disappoint.

Keith McDonald, who earned Observerland Coach of the Year honors for the second straight year, guided his team to an undefeated dual meet season and three coveted titles including the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational, Division I regional and Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

"The team set lofty goals this season and where able to accomplish nearly all of them," said McDonald, who just completed his third season at Churchill. "Seasons like this one are what make coaching so much fun. The opportunity to work with outstanding people, have fun, and win championships is high on any coach's wish list."



McDonald

McDonald, who previously guided Dearborn Divine Child to five straight Catholic League A-B Division crowns and two regional titles, boasted a trio of All-State performers (top eight finishers)

including Lauren Krupsky (discus), Kyndra Abron (shot put) and Kylene Cieslak (1,600-meter run).

McDonald singled out throws coaches Joe George and John Filiatraut, jumps coach Vern Williams, and distance coach Sue Tatro, for much of the team's success.

"They truly deserve of the credit," he said. "They do not always get the thanks and praise that they deserve."

McDonald, a 1995 Redford Catholic Central grad who earned his teaching degree from the University of Michigan, is already looking forward to 2007 because he returns his three top throwers, two top vaulters and a talented group of returnees in the distance events.

"When the hard work of all of those involved comes together to make a season like this one, lasting memories are formed," he said. "Hopefully next season we can find equal success."

MCCORMACK

FROM PAGE B1

was going to be tough because I had already cut a lot of time off my personal-best time up to that point."

With her teammates cheering on her every stride, McCormack crossed the line in 5:18.49 — less than a second under the qualifying standard and 14 seconds faster than her previous best effort.

"It was really exciting when I found out I did it," she said. "My teammates came up and congratulated me. The starter had to tell us to get off the track so they could start the next event."

INSPIRATIONAL LEADER

McCormack provided the youthful Chiefs with several inspirational moments during her senior season — both on and off the track. Her outstanding work ethic and words of advice set the proper tone for the team's underclassmen, who fed off McCormack's energy.

"Becky was the one that just about everyone on the team looked up to, both as a captain and a senior," said first-year Canton coach Chris Imber. "When Becky talked, people lis-

tened.

"She's an incredible athlete, too. Even though I ran track in college, I had a hard time keeping up with her when I ran with her. Becky told me before the season started that she had a crummy cross-country season and she wanted to make up for it in track. She certainly did that."

EARLY START

McCormack's passion for long-distance running goes back to her elementary school days when she would accompany her parents to 5- and 10-kilometer races. Instead of standing on the sidelines cheering on mom and dad, she got involved. "When I was really little, I'd always run the one-mile fun runs before the 5Ks and 10Ks," McCormack said. "Then when I was 8 or 9, I started running 5Ks. I'd usually finish first unless I was in the same age group as my sister, Sarah. I'd finish second behind her when we were in the same group."

McCormack, who runs an average of 20 miles a week, said running is anything but work to her.

"For me, running is fun; it always has been," she said. "I enjoy the feeling of going on

long runs because I don't have to think about anything when I'm running. It's very relaxing. My friend and I are thinking about running in the Detroit Marathon in the fall."

McCormack's track-and-field career nearly took a backseat to soccer, a sport she played frequently during her pre-high school years.

"I had to make a decision — soccer or track — my freshman year," McCormack said. "I had played soccer for 10 years, so it was tough giving it up. I thought about the decision for a while. Finally, my sister and my teammates talked me into track. I miss playing soccer, but I don't have any regrets about my decision."

BRIGHT FUTURE

McCormack is an outstanding student, having crafted a 3.54 grade-point average. In the fall, she will join her sister at Michigan State University, where she plans on trying out for the Spartans' track-and-field squad.

"I'm probably going to major in psychology and then I'd like to go on to law school," said McCormack.

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GIRLS BEST TRACK RESULTS

BEST GIRLS TRACK LISTING SHOT PUT

Kyndra Abron (Churchill) 39-5
Jenna Hudry (Franklin) 38-3
Lauren Krupsky (Churchill) 36-7.5
Robyn Whalen (Franklin) 36-6
Paige Evans (Ladywood) 33-7
Bridgid Malloy (Ladywood) 33-6
Rebecca Refenes (Luth. Westland) 33-5
Olivia Rork (Luth. Westland) 32-6
Kallie Hobbins (Churchill) 32-4.25
Andrea Poindexter (Wayne) 31-8

DISCUS

Lauren Krupsky (Churchill) 120-0
Robyn Whalen (Franklin) 119-4
Kyndra Abron (Churchill) 118-11
Kallie Hobbins (Churchill) 111-5
Jenna Hudry (Franklin) 108-6
Kathy Hansen (Wayne) 98-10
Colette Fodera (Stevenson) 95-6
Rebecca Refenes (Luth. Westland) 95-2
Bridgid Malloy (Ladywood) 95-0
Shannon Getchen (Churchill) 94-11

HIGH JUMP

Alyssa Supplee (Franklin) 5-5
Brittany Petty (Plymouth) 5-4
Alex Serowkey (Ladywood) 5-2
Kathryn Berger (Ladywood) 5-1
Meghan Liwinski (Stevenson) 5-0
Kara Plorkowski (Stevenson) 5-0

Izabela Paszkowska (Canton) 4-11
Mya Hall (John Glenn) 4-11
Jackie Griebek (Churchill) 4-10
Kristin Zgorecki (Churchill) 4-10
Mandy McManus (Plymouth) 4-10
Kija Colts (John Glenn) 4-10
Faten Saab (John Glenn) 4-10
Kayla Jones (Thurston) 4-10

LONG JUMP

Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth) 17-6.75
Taleece Jackson (Thurston) 17-0.5
Megan Wilson (Franklin) 16-8
Chanel Payne (John Glenn) 16-4.25
Ashley Parker (John Glenn) 16-1
Brittany Lockhart (Salem) 16-0.5
Jackie Griebek (Churchill) 15-10
Jessica McDougall (Redford Union) 15-9
Brittany McKinney (Canton) 15-7
Chrystien Guyton (Plymouth) 15-7

POLE VAULT

Allie Vraniak (Salem) 10-0
Maria Winkler (Stevenson) 9-6
Jackie Demers (Churchill) 9-4
Kristin Zgorecki (Churchill) 9-2
Eren Ural (Churchill) 9-2
Meghan Powers (Franklin) 8-8
Katie Hale (Plymouth) 8-8
Michelle Blackstone (Stevenson) 8-6
Kelly Tapella (Franklin) 8-8
Jennifer Olmstead (Churchill) 7-8

Heather Daniels (Wayne) 7-8
Anastasia Bending (Franklin) 7-8
Julie Hersey (Plymouth) 7-8

100-METER HURDLES

Taleece Jackson (Thurston) 14.89
Brittany Lockhart (Salem) 15.2
Diana Burek (Stevenson) 15.4
Brittany Gentile (Stevenson) 15.9
Casey Lynett (Franklin) 16.3
Tauri Rothermel (Churchill) 16.4
Stephanie DiGiandomenico (Ladywood) 16.6
Stephanie Misco (Ladywood) 16.6
Dana Eldred (Salem) 16.6
Margarita Lazarevska (Churchill) 16.6

300 HURDLES

Taleece Jackson (Thurston) 45.51
Brittany Lockhart (Salem) 46.1
Tauri Rothermel (Churchill) 48.15
Casey Lynett (Franklin) 48.4
Diane Burek (Stevenson) 49.3
Mallory Lukas (Churchill) 49.9
Brittany Gentile (Stevenson) 50.1
Natalie Jedruszko (Churchill) 50.1
Dana Eldred (Salem) 50.2
Chris Kenzie (Redford Union) 51.9

100 DASH

Lache' Wilkins (Churchill) 12.5
Brittany Lockhart (Salem) 12.5
Mandi Coppola (Churchill) 12.7
Lauren Schweske (Luth. Westland) 12.7

Chanel Payne (John Glenn) 12.7
Megan Wilson (Franklin) 12.7
Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth) 12.7
Jessica McDougall (Redford Union) 13.0
Krystal Parker (Thurston) 13.0
Marielle Kulling (Stevenson) 13.1
Ashley Montgomery (John Glenn) 13.1

200

Ashley Parker (John Glenn) 25.6
Taleece Jackson (Thurston) 26.1
Brittany Lockhart (Salem) 26.2
Marielle Kulling (Stevenson) 26.4
Alex Smedley (Redford Union) 26.5
Lauren Schweske (Luth. Westland) 26.6
Mandi Coppola (Churchill) 26.6
Megan Wilson (Franklin) 26.7
Nicole Thornsberry (Churchill) 27.1
Lache' Wilkins (Churchill) 27.3
Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth) 27.4

400

Allison Janda (Salem) 1:00.9
Katie Morasso (Ladywood) 1:00.9
Taleece Jackson (Thurston) 1:01.0
Lisa Arrowsmith (Stevenson) 1:01.3
Kylene Cieslak (Churchill) 1:01.4
Lache' Wilkins (Churchill) 1:01.4
Brittany Mrozek (Stevenson) 1:01.5
Nicole Thornsberry (Churchill) 1:02.0
Denise Meier (Stevenson) 1:02.8
Alex Serowkey (Ladywood) 1:03.2

Katey Ramthun (Luth. Westland) 1:03.2

Lisa Arrowsmith (Stevenson) 2:16.2
Kristen Frey (Stevenson) 2:19.1
Rebecca Rehberg (Stevenson) 2:24.8
Kylene Cieslak (Churchill) 2:24.9
Rachel McFarlane (Churchill) 2:24.9
Allison Janda (Salem) 2:25.4
Amber Cicala (Stevenson) 2:27.1
Kelli Bargowski (Canton) 2:27.1
Allison Patra (Redford Union) 2:27.5
Sarah Thomas (Canton) 2:28.9

1,600

Kristen Frey (Stevenson) 5:04.9
Kylene Cieslak (Churchill) 5:08.68
Rachel McFarlane (Churchill) 5:12.2
Lisa Arrowsmith (Stevenson) 5:16.7
Becky McCormack (Canton) 5:18.5
Erica Hope (Churchill) 5:33.1
Stephanie Perez (Stevenson) 5:34.5
Pam Bhullar (Plymouth) 5:38.0
Hannah Cavicchio (Salem) 5:39.3
Megan Macerati (Churchill) 5:41.0
Jackie Beeler (Plymouth) 5:41.0

3,200

Kylene Cieslak (Churchill) 11:19.26
Hannah Cavicchio (Salem) 11:20.8
Kristen Frey (Stevenson) 11:36.5
Rachel McFarlane (Churchill) 11:38.2
Megan Macerati (Churchill) 11:45.0

Stacey Richardson (John Glenn) 12:00.0
Becky McCormack (Canton) 12:02.0
Erica Hope (Churchill) 12:02.5
Pam Bhullar (Plymouth) 12:05.0
Stephanie Perez (Stevenson) 12:17.0

400 RELAY

Plymouth 51.1
Livonia Churchill 51.3
Livonia Stevenson 51.5
Salem 51.6
Westland John Glenn 51.8

800 RELAY

Livonia Churchill 1:45.63
Plymouth 1:48.0
Westland John Glenn 1:48.3
Livonia Stevenson 1:48.6
Canton 1:50.7

1,600 RELAY

Livonia Churchill 4:06.12
Livonia Stevenson 4:10.7
Salem 4:10.9
Livonia Ladywood 4:16.6
Canton 4:20.0

3,200 RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 9:26.7
Livonia Churchill 9:50.6
Canton 9:59.3
Livonia Ladywood 10:20.0
Franklin 10:34.3

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Pheasant season brings back fond memories

If you are over the age of 50, you probably remember the heydays of pheasant hunting in Michigan. Back in the 1950s and '60s and even into the early 1970s Michigan's annual pheasant harvest hovered around one million birds. Ringnecks were abundant and hunters dialed in on the bounty.

All that changed in the 1970s when farming practices evolved. Large machinery, much larger than in the past, allowed farmers to plant and harvest bigger fields than ever before. That meant if they eliminated fencerows, treelines and grassy habitat that had previously been left unplanted, they could increase their yields. Unfortunately, that spelled "d-o-o-m" for Michigan's No. 1 gamebird.

You can still hunt pheasants in Michigan and can still enjoy good success, but nothing like it was back in the "good of days." Today pheasant hunters in Michigan harvest somewhere in the neighborhood of 100,000 ringnecks annually. (Male pheasants - cocks, roost-



Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

ers or ringnecks - are the only ones hunted. Hens are protected.)

In 1982 a national conservation group calling itself Pheasants Forever Inc. was formed. The group's goal was protecting, maintaining and enhancing pheasant and quail habitat. The focus of the group was and still is to develop quality gamebird habitat.

PF is not a hunting organization. Rather it's a habitat group, although many of its members are hunters. The plan was to create a system of county chapters whereby 100 percent of the net funds raised by chapters remain at the local level.

Today, Pheasants Forever has over 630 chapters in 29 states across the country. There are

also several chapters in Canada. Here in Michigan, there are 37 PF chapters. The 38th Michigan chapter, the Oakland County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, is in the process of organizing.

The next meeting of the new group begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Oakland County Sportsmans Club in Clarkston.

If you are a gamebird hunter, farmer, or just interested in creating and maintaining quality gamebird habitat consider attending the meeting.

For directions to the meeting check out the OCSC web site at www.ocsc-mi.org

Contact PF state biologist Mike Parker at (517) 668-1033, (517) 896-4178 or via email at mparker@pheasantsforever.org. To learn more about the PF organization visit www.pheasantsforever.org

MOUNTAIN BIKE WORKSHOP

The DNR's Becoming an Outdoors Woman program is holding a Women's Mountain Biking Symposium from 9 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m. at Stony Creek Metropark, located just east of Rochester.

According to a press release, the workshop is geared toward the beginner and intermediate mountain bikers. Participants will learn general bicycle maintenance, how to ride trails and there will be an introduction to racing. A group ride and a prize drawing will conclude the workshop. Cost for the workshop is \$20 and enrollment is limited to 60 women. Participants should bring their own bike, helmet and lunch. Bagels and juice will be provided in the morning and water will be available throughout the day. Early registration is recommended. A registration form is available at on the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) page on the DNR web site, www.michigan.gov/dnr. Contact Tom Lining at bowl@mmba.org or Lynn Marla at marla@michigan.gov or (517) 241-2225.

Contact Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

Solid mound work paces Rams' sweep

Solid pitching was the highly prominent ingredient Sunday as the Michigan Rams blanked Park Athletic in a Livonia Michigan Collegiate Baseball League doubleheader at Ford Field, 8-0 and 6-0.

Albion College right-hander John Fileccia tossed a two-hitter over six innings in the opener to earn the win. He faced just 20 batters, walking two and striking out two before giving way in the seventh to closer Chris Rusin (University of Kentucky), who preserved the shutout with a pair of strikeouts.

Offensively, Kyle Hurtt and Andrew Stafford each knocked in two runs, while Mike Sacha went 2-for-3 with a double, two runs scored and one RBI.

Max Miller and Scott Cain also knocked in runs, while Matt Nickels and Cain each had two stolen bases. Mike Hart, the losing pitcher, allowed five runs on six hits and seven walks in five innings. Reliever Kyle Miller gave up two hits and three runs. Mike Boyd and Miller collect-

ed the lone hits for Park Athletic.

In the nightcap, Ryan Mosher (Wayne State) and Bobby Henderson (Eastern Michigan) combined on a three-hitter as the two did not allow a walk.

Mosher allowed just two hits and struck out four over four innings to earn the win. Henderson, the Redford Catholic Central High grad, faced only 10 batters, striking out seven and allowing only one hit. Tim Kalczynski (Michigan) knocked in three runs for the Rams, while Ryan Shay, Eric Vojtkofsky and Stafford each added two hits. Hurtt, Vojtkofsky and Stafford also knocked in runs.

Park Athletic's Chris Rigley went 2-for-3 in the loss.

Losing pitcher Brandon McClanahan went all seven innings, allowing six runs on eight hits. He walked five, hit a pair of batters and fanned five.

The Rams are now 5-3 in league play, while Park Athletic is 1-6-1.

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LESSON ON GOLF

by Jeff Lesson

TOUGHEST COURSES IN THE STATE

Often I am asked what is the toughest golf course, public or private, in the state of Michigan. What makes a course difficult is also represented by course rating and slope rating as set by the Golf Association of Michigan. Course rating is more reflective of distance, while slope rating takes into account the hazards and other features that make the course difficult.

The following are the four toughest golf courses in Michigan in the eyes of "Lesson on Golf":

1. **Indianwood (New).** This beautiful private course in Lake Orion is just too difficult to play for most golfers. It has more forced carries, tree lined narrow fairways and shallow greens than any other course.

It's sister course, Indianwood (Old), is one of the best courses in the state. It will also soon host the Women's US Open again.

2. **Treetops (Masterpiece).** Robert Trent Jones Sr. named the resort as he looked down upon the tops of trees from the 120 foot elevation drop on the stunning par three 6th hole at the resort. This original Treetops course has nary a level lie in most fairways. It is just too penal and does not often reward a good shot.

3. **(Tie) The Bear at Grand Traverse(resort)**

TPC of Michigan(private)

These two Jack Nicklaus designs located in Acme and Dearborn respectively are typical Nicklaus layouts. Both allow ample room to the right off the tee. After all, that was the tee shot that Nicklaus himself played.

They also are known for the most difficult approach shots in the state. Like Indianwood (New), bring lots of golf balls!

We look at the toughest holes in the state on Sunday.

Jeff Lesson hosts "Lesson on Golf" weekend mornings on WWJ Newsradio 950 and Saturday mornings 7-8am on 1270 XYT. He also co-hosts "Michigan Golf Weekly Saturdays at 6pm on CBS Detroit TV.

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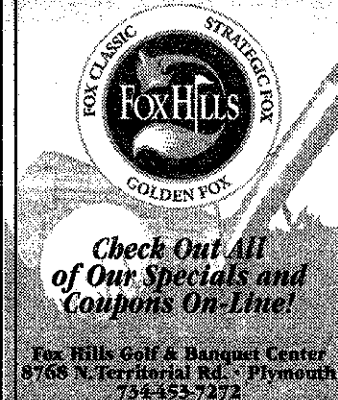
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Underdog Zebras hang tough with Jaguars

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It appeared to be a classic mismatch in Saturday's Division I baseball semifinal at Plymouth High School - state-ranked Allen Park, 29-4 overall, against 10-15 Wayne Memorial.

But the Jaguars needed a dramatic walk-off homer from sophomore third baseman C.J.

Maszal in the bottom of the 10th inning to fend off the pesky Zebras, 4-3.

The homer landed well beyond the left-center field fence, bouncing on the fly onto the adjoining tennis courts.

Maszal also kick-started Allen Park in the championship final with a two-run homer in the first inning as the Jaguars went on to beat Farmington, 6-2.

"He (Maszal) has hit all year," Allen Park coach Glenn Gulliver said. "He just hit a bomb. He's hit .460, .470 (batting average) - home runs; he's done it all. He's a strong kid; he can run; he has a lot of tools."

Wayne pitcher Justin Collop also showed why he is one of the most underrated pitchers in the area. The senior right-hander scattered nine hits, walked three

and struck out nine before Maszal's fateful blast.

"Justin (Collop) pitched that way all year," Wayne first-year coach Frank Garcia said. "Every time I put the guy out there, we had a chance to win. He had 124 pitches going into that last inning. He just made one bad pitch, but we wouldn't be here without him. He's got to understand he pitched a great game."

Collop survived a shaky second inning, fanning three straight batters after the first four Jaguars reached base. A.J. Webb, the Jags' starting pitcher, and Barry Cooper, both singled, followed by walks to Mike Reed and Jim Cates to force home the game's first run.

"The Wayne pitcher threw real well," Gulliver said. "He was in-and-out with his pitches. He had a good breaking ball and good control. We didn't hit any good balls off the kid (Wayne pitcher) until the last one."

"We were fortunate to come out on top. We made mistakes and gave them runs."

Wayne played "small ball" to take a 3-1 lead, scoring three times in the top of the fifth inning.

James Sikora reached base on an error followed by successive infield bunts for singles by designated hitter Tim Siegfried and Andrew Ponican, bringing home Sikora with the tying run.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne's Mike Patterson gets the force out as Allen Park's Anthony Savone breaks up a possible double play in the regional semifinal at Plymouth High School.

Earl Martin, who led off the game with a double, then doubled home two runs and found himself on third base thanks to Brent Rexin's sacrifice bunt.

"We haven't bunted a lot, but we put two great ones down," Garcia said. "When you put it in play, good things happen."

With only one out, Andrew Kaletto was hit by a Webb pitch, but the Zebras failed to capitalize and extend their lead when Kaletto was nailed at second on a botched double-steal attempt. Webb then fanned Clint Cavanaugh to get out of the inning.

"I told him (Martin), 'I want you stealing,'" Garcia recalled. "He's the fastest guy we got and it was a perfect situation. The second baseman fell down and

the catcher double-pumped, so maybe that froze him. I just said, 'Go.' It's just one of those things."

The score remained tied at 3-all until the 10th when Maszal unloaded on Collop's second pitch.

Webb, meanwhile, struck out 11, hit two batters and gave up just six hits in nine innings before giving way to Anthony Savone, who pitched the top of the 10th to earn the win.

"Against the No. 9 team in the state, I think we earned the respect," Garcia said. "And to take them to nine innings, I'm really proud of the kids."

"It was a fun year. To do what we did in the playoffs was amazing."

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Ladywood derailed by Bears, 5-3

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood's softball season was derailed for the third straight season in the Division II quarterfinals.

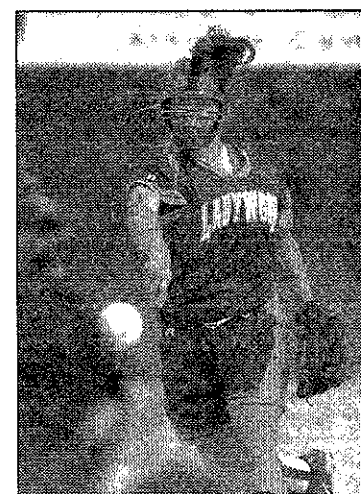
Monroe-Jefferson was the culprit Tuesday as the Bears pounded out 11 hits en route to a 5-3 victory at Troy Athens.

Jefferson, 26-8 overall, advances to the state semifinals for the first time in school history. The Bears will face Ionia, 37-6, in 6 p.m. Friday matchup at Battle Creek's Bailey Park.

Ladywood, the Catholic League A-B Division champion and ranked No. 1, bows out at 27-11.

"We can't seem to get over this hump for some reason," Ladywood coach Bob Lulek said of the quarterfinal setbacks, which includes losses to Trenton (2005) and Chelsea (2004). "They (Jefferson) have a nice, scrappy team. They were aggressive. They gave us fits. They got the bat on the ball and they put bunts down. We tried to be aggressive, too, but it did not work out as well."

Jefferson wasted little time pouncing on the Blazers, scoring



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Ladywood pitcher Kaitlyn Huddas fires another strike past a Highland Park batter during Saturday's regional semifinal.

twice in the opening inning as Susan Sontag led off with a single followed by an Ariel Cox bunt single. Both runners came home on Chelsea Dowler's double.

Katie Gedelian then beat out an infield hit, but the Blazers got out of the inning with a nifty 2-3-2 double play.

Ladywood got a run back in

the top of the third when Katie Mancini reached base on an infield error and came all the way home from first when Jefferson misplayed Rachel Jachym's double down the left field line. The Bears, however, regained their two-run cushion in the bottom of the third.

Katherine Pritchett was hit by a Lauren Taylor pitch with one out. Gedelian sacrificed her to second with a bunt and Pritchett raced home on Ashley Osborne's single to center as the throw to the plate failed to get cut off and squirted in the dirt past Ladywood catcher Donna Mainella. Ladywood put two runners on base with one out in the fifth when pinch-hitter Kaitlyn Huddas singled followed by Jachym's second hit of the day, but Jefferson pitcher Janae Castiglione worked out the jam she got Alyssa Abramowski to fly out after the Blazers botched a double steal attempt for the second out. Jefferson then added to their lead in the top of the sixth, scoring twice with two-out thanks to an RBI single by Cox, scoring Sontag, followed by an RBI double from Dowler, Jefferson's 11th hit of the day.



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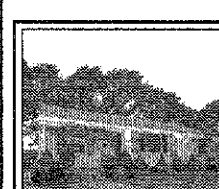
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 Great value. Attractive full brick ranch in prime area. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, large family room with fireplace and cathedral ceilings, newer sunroom, large living room. Upgrades include: roof, windows, and doors. Partially finished basement. All appliances stay.
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LIVONIA
 Great value. Attractive full brick ranch in prime area. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, large family room with fireplace and cathedral ceilings, newer sunroom, large living room. Upgrades include: roof, windows, and doors. Partially finished basement. All appliances stay.
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A must see! \$194,900. 734-658-0168	Royal Oak 3370 SALE \$430,000 LEASE \$2600 mo. 818 Wyandotte Ave. E. of Main, S. of Lincoln. Spacious 2251 sq. ft. Full bsmt. 3 bdrm, 2.5 baths. Hardwood. Great room w/ fireplace. Cathedral ceiling. Large lot w/ fenced yard. Gigantic back deck w/ 8 person hot tub. Appliances and window treatments stay. Will consider lease w/ option. Call Bob, 248-226-1830	Troy 3410 SPACIOUS 3 Bdrm, 1 1/2 bath ranch, w/living room, double lot w/pole barn & 2 car attached garage. Open layout w/neutral decor. Family room w/brick fireplace, screened porch, finished bsmt., fenced yard. Newer furnace, C/A & roof. By Owner \$189,000. 248-524-8002 Wayne 3424 3629 Clark, Wayne, MI. Completely remodeled 1500 sq. ft., 3 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath Colonial, close to downtown. OWN this home for \$820/Mo. List price is \$139,000. CLOSING COST/DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAIL. 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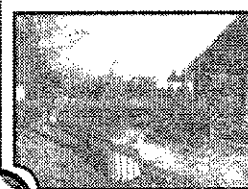
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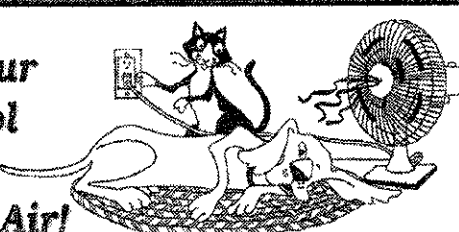
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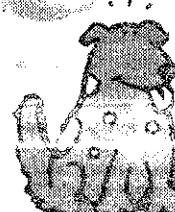
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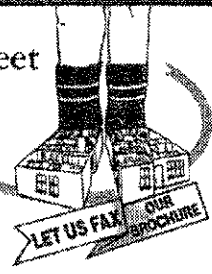
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COVER LETTERS — AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L.
Culp

Technology has influenced the job hunting process in many ways. Are online applications

making cover letters obsolete?

DEFINING FACTOR

Katherine Ebner, senior vice president of Organizational Effectiveness and Development at Kaiser Associates in Washington, D.C., doesn't think so. For me it's a defining factor for an application... the candidate's opportunity to stand out, even more than the resume.

Ebner has reviewed thousands of cover letters from senior executives seeking employment at her global strategy management consulting firm.

Professional services companies want to see the quality of the work that will be presented to the client, she says. The ability to write a strong cover letter is an indication that person can present himself in a successful, relevant and interesting way. Cover letters are also important in any sales or marketing position.

Some generalists take a different view. The virtual company eCareerCorner.com of Marcia Merrill L.L.P., assists clients nationally and internationally in developing cover letters. Like Ebner,

Merrill has reviewed thousands of them. She concedes that e-mailing, in particular, is diminishing the impact of a cover letter, because online applications usually require only a completed application form. In addition, companies often don't require them for internal applications. She indicates that technical positions requiring a faxed resume may not need a cover letter either.

However, Merrill mentions that a job requiring a person to write definitely needs a cover letter as a sample. A cover letter shows how you write and communicate, she states. It's an introduction to your resume. It's more in-depth, discussing what you can do for an employer and how your past experience would make you an asset.

Lou LaMorte, director of Career Services at La Salle University in Philadelphia, also brings a generalist's perspective. He received about 300 cover letters from students seeking internships and co-op assignments in a previous position at La Salle. The only situation he says that really doesn't require a cover letter is a job fair, where the cover letter is verbal.

Otherwise, it's the enticement to read a little further, to take a closer look at the resume, he explains. Like Merrill, he maintains that it demonstrates the ability to organize and communicate. A cover

letter is fairly influential in bringing a person in for the interview.

STANDOUT COVER LETTERS

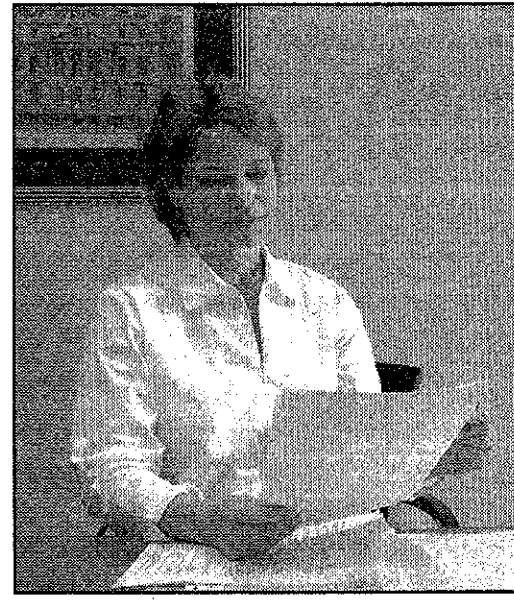
What makes a cover letter stand out? Ebner's favorite was short, lively, engaging and confident. The person came to life and demonstrated his intelligence and fit. It made me want to read the resume and get to know him, she recalls.

It consisted of four paragraphs using simple, clear language, speaking to the reader as another human being. There was no job seeking rhetoric.

A different cover letter back in the mid-1990s was the best one LaMorte has ever seen. The person submitted an attractive, creative letter that included a column down the right side listing and describing her skills. (He points out that these skills probably varied, depending upon the position.) She landed the job.

Merrill recalls someone in her office receiving a cover letter stating that the writer, a teacher changing careers, had pizzazz. She backed up her statement with self-confidence, subsequently demonstrating that she was an effective communicator for the next 15 years. She retired at 75.

If you're seeking a consulting, advertising or other creative position, be certain to write one with impact. Make it seem as if you're speaking with the person, not shoving words at the reader.



Katherine Ebner is a Senior Vice President at Kaiser Associates in Washington D.C. Katherine stresses the importance of a good cover letter.

Attach it to your resume and send it. Keep the campaign moving forward by following up. The most wonderful cover letter might not generate a call at all. A run-of-the-mill cover letter might not either. Make certain that you're running the campaign. After all, it's yours.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2006 Passage Media.)

Observer & Eccentric
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Help Wanted-General 5000
APARTMENT MANAGER
Needed for 70 units in Flint. Duties include leasing, rent collection, resident relations, paperwork, cleaning apartments & hallways, etc. Must have previous apartment management experience and must live on site. Fax resume and salary requirements to (248) 254-1070

Circle Mail
Apartment Manager
Career-minded individual needed to manage a mid-size apartment community in Westland. Experience a must. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume: (248) 358-3779

ACCOUNTANT

3-5 yrs exp. for growing Farmington Hills CPA firm. Prior CPA firm, Creative Solutions & Quickbooks exp. helpful. Resume to 248-436-9018

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APPOINTMENT SETTER

Ideal for anyone who cannot get out to work. Work part-time from your home, scheduling pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, Mon-Fri. (734) 728-4572

APT. COMMUNITY MANAGER

Needed for small Dearborn Heights apt. community. Position focuses on office but also includes some grounds/community responsibilities. Ideal for motivated individual with some apt. experience. Includes benefits, advancement opportunity and 401k. Fax resume to Danielle at: 248-589-1508.

Associates
Summer Openings
Excellent pay, flexible schedules, sales/service, no exp. req., conditions apply. Ideal for students ages 17+ (248) 426-4405

Attorney

Bloomfield Hills law firm seeks full-time attorney; 3 yrs. minimum exp. in foreclosure, bankruptcy and litigation preferred. Email resume in confidence to: 060106atty@mcclanlaw.com or fax to (248) 540-7572. Ref: 060106atty.

Auto Gordon Chevrolet has immediate openings for SERVICE TECHNICIANS. Apply in person 31850 Ford Rd., Garden City, MI or call Rick (734) 458-5270.

AUTO BILLER

needed full time for BMW auto dealership located in Farmington Hills. Exp. preferred. Health & 401k benefits. Fax resumes to 248-699-3000

APARTMENT MANAGER

With solid experience and track record. Dynamic & honest. Fax resume with salary requirement to: 248-569-9535

BODY TECH

Suspension and dash exp. State & I-Car Certified. Located in Plymouth. Fax resumes & references to 734-451-1842

AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN

CRESTWOOD DODGE (734) 421-5700

AUTO TECHNICIANS

CRESTWOOD DODGE (734) 421-5700

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE ADVISOR

5-Star Dealer has an immediate opening for an ambitious, CSI driven Service Advisor. Excellent pay plan & benefits package. Call Rod Harris to arrange an interview. Dick Scott Dodge 684 W. Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 451-3535

BENCH HAND

Livonia based gear manufacturing company is looking for an experienced skilled burr hand to hold close tolerances for aircraft gears & gears. 40+ hrs. 401(k), full benefits. Send resume or appear at: Tifco Gage & Gear 33067 Industrial, Livonia (734) 525-8000 Fax (734) 525-8400 sales@tifcogagegear.com

BODY PERSON

Heavy Duty Truck exp. for collision shop. 313-292-3090

BOOKKEEPER

Exp. with Quick Books Pro, bookkeeping, billing, & accounts receivables. Full/part time. Call 734-564-1948

BRICK PAVER

Landscape company looking for experienced Brick Paver. Pay in accordance with exp. Call Mike at 248-676-0700.

CADILLAC MEMORIAL GARDENS WEST

Masonic area, 4 lots, side by side, 2 vaults & companion headstone. 1/2 price! Call 706-745-4420

CHIMNEY SWEEP

\$1000+ per wk. No exp. necessary. Will train. Truck & ladder required 734-416-0800

CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE

Happy, fun loving person needed. Position is patient runner, computer, bookkeeping, will train for x-ray, must be able to type. 24-36 hrs. with Sat. 8-45-6-45pm. Please call 734-421-0101

CLEAN OFFICE

Mon-Fri. 1 hr early evenings. Grand River & 10 mile. 248-373-6244

CLEANING ASSISTANT

Eves 35+ hrs p/wk. Must have clean record, hardworker & teachable. 248 615-3554

CLEANING - OFFICES

Part-Time, Eves. Offices in Birmingham or West Bloomfield. (248) 615-3554

CLS/MORC

Trained Direct Care Staff 8 quality Group Homes. Drivers license required. Competitive wages. Call 248-814-6714

CNC LATHE OPERATOR

Manufacturing Co. has immediate opening on 1st shift for a CNC Lathe Operator - Fanuc Control - Minimum 3 yrs. exp. i required. Mail or fax resume to: AJP Inc. 1290 Maplelawn, Troy, MI 48064. Call: 248-649-7300, Fax: 248-649-8079 Attn: Mike

COMMERCIAL ROOFING FOREMAN

Exp. Reg. in EPDM, PVC, TPO, CPE Single Ply Applications. New construction, re-roofs, tear-offs. Must be a dependable & honest self starter with the ability to supervise an 8 man crew. Must have references and a proven track record. Send resume to: rcofermi@hotmail.com

Cosmetologists/Assistant Hair

Apprentice & Nail Techs Dependable. Alfaro Fox Salon 734-542-0524, 313-308-5658

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Wanted for part time. Must be flexible. Call btwn 7a-12p Mon-Wed 248-681-2250

DIRECT CARE WORKER

Canton Group Home. Staff for afternoon/midnight shift. Highly independent residents. Competitive wages/benefits. (734) 397-6955

Direct Care-- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLA, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, 06.

DON'T MISS

Career MarketPlace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers! Observer & Eccentric

DRIVER/ OFFICE WORKER

Needed for Japanese office. Must have driving experience and office skills. Salary, benefits. Send resume to: accounting@cdjdetroit.org or fax 313-567-0274

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

DRIVERS - LARGE VEHICLES

Owner/Operators w/insurance. Strait truck, cargo, cube-vans for busy courier. Great \$\$, Oakland County. Call: 877-288-5619

DRIVERS

2 mos. doubles exp. w/2 yrs. verifiable T/I exp. nightly shuttle. Call: 248-474-8100

Duct Work Rough & Service Installers

Experienced only. Fax: 248-615-3707 Call: 810-602-3368

FINANCE AND BUDGET DIRECTOR

Canton Township is currently accepting applications for the position of Finance and Budget Director. Ten steps to current salary scale Minimum \$87,749 Maximum \$114,025 per year. Oversees the Township's financial operations, preparation and maintenance of the annual budget, accounting system and related financial records. Responsible for the supervision of staff engaged in the preparation of financial statements, annual budget information and centralized accounting. Must have a minimum of ten years experience in municipal finance and/or accounting. Graduation from a college or university with a degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field. Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process will be available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org or may be viewed at the Canton Township Human Resources Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48186. Applications must be picked up at the Canton Administration Building, Human Resources Division, or on the Canton Township website. A Canton Township application form must be completed in its entirety and on file in the Human Resources Division prior to 4 p.m., June 19, 2006. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

FLOOR INSTALLER

Foster Specialty Floor is looking for experienced sports flooring installers and finishers. We offer competitive wages, healthcare and benefits. Send resume to HR Installer Dept., FSF, PO Box 930357, and Wixom MI 48393

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GARAGE DOOR INSTALLER & SERVICE TECH

Experienced. Call Delet Door Inc. 248-615-7788

A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

GEAR HAND

Openings in Hob, Shape and Shave departments. Must be experienced. Benefits, air conditioned factory, days. Send resume or appear at: Tifco Gage & Gear 33067 Industrial Road Livonia 48150 Phone: (734) 525-8000 Fax: (734) 525-8400 Email: sales@tifcogagegear.com

BANK OF BIRMINGHAM

You have heard of thinking outside the box-At Bank of Birmingham there are NO BOXES. Our customers won't choose from the same old off-the-shelf products and services. Instead, our services are customized to meet each customer's individual needs. So instead of getting to know our products and services, we want you to get to know our customers. One by one.

Our goal is to build Bank of Birmingham into the best community-based bank in Michigan by helping individuals, families & business owners reach their unique financial goals. Our offices to open soon in Birmingham & Bloomfield Hills.

We are looking for experienced professionals in:

- PART TIME TELLERS
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
- NEW ACCOUNTS

You may qualify if you have at least one year of banking experience as well as the communication and interpersonal skills to deliver an exceptional level of service. Email cover letter (required), resume & salary requirements to: HR@bkbk.com Bank of Birmingham is an equal opportunity employer. www.BankofBirmingham.net

GENERAL LABOR / ASSISTANT CARPET CLEANERS

Must have good driving record, attitude & professional appearance. Start immediately. Benefits available. Call 1-800-570-5104

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Dependable reliable people for fast-paced, power washing service. Experience not necessary. Full time. Drug testing. 248-482-0150

GOVERNMENT JOBS

Earn \$12-\$48 per hour Full medical/dental benefits 800-320-9353 ext 2429

HAIR STYLISTS

Now hiring one full time and one part time stylist. Guaranteed hourly rate, flexible hours for Livonia, Farmington, Garden City, & Westland areas. Call Steve today. 734-595-6003

HOSTESS

New home builder seeks hostess for new communities in Lyon Twp. & Canton. Email Resume: angel@palazzoobrothers.com

HVAC

Positions available for experienced Service Techs. Dan Wood Heating, Cooling & Plumbing 248-348-4242

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Maintenance & Service Commercial/Industrial Full-Time & benefits. Fax resume to MECC 313-535-4405 \$18-\$32 per hour.

HVAC COMMERCIAL SERVICE TECH

Experienced, full time position, with great wages and benefits. Call (586) 756-4411 or fax resume to: 586-756-8625

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Full & Part Time Positions in Canton. 734-721-9504

JANITORIAL POSITION

2 yrs exp. necessary. Full/part time. Fax resume to: (810) 239-9099

JIG GRINDER HAND

Experienced. Full-Time. Benefits. Call: (734) 425-0522

KIDS CAMP DIRECTOR

For Beverly Hills Club, full time, year-round. Oversees camps, Latchkey & program background required. Fax resume to Shawn Sage 248-642-7418 or Email to: shawn_sage@bhc.comcast.net

Lawn Fertilizer/Applyer

Experience a must. Salary, health benefits, paid vacation & year round work. Contact Mike 734-699-0010 or fax resume 734-699-0011

LEASING AGENT

Singh is seeking to fill a SINGH TIME position in the Novi area. Must be able to work weekends. We offer competitive wages, commissions, health, and dental insurances. E.E.O. Fax resumes to 248-661-9280 attn PS

LEASING CONSULTANT

Full time, including weekends for large western Wayne Co. Apt. community. Great opportunity for right person. Please Call 313-562-3988 or fax resume to 313-274-1927

LUBE TECH

Experienced tech needed full-time. BC/BS & dental insurance. Wage + bonus. Apply at: Lubemart 32960 Michigan Ave. NW corner of Veno, Wayne.

MACHINE/SHOP MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

We have a position available for a machinist repair technician. Must have at least 7 years exp., along with electronic, pneumatic, electrical, hydraulic, plumbing, CNC machines, and general shop maintenance. Starting pay \$16-\$24.50 depending on experience, and overall knowledge. Send resume to: 1364 Observer & Eccentric 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 oesume@oe.hometownlife.com Code 1364

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All advertising published in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 581-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserve the right to not accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to discriminate "any preference, limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983-3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and correcting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity Slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity." Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

MAINTENANCE

Full time, for condominium community in W. Bloomfield. Experience in physical maintenance of buildings & grounds. Call Leilani at 248-888-4700

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Needed for Walled Lake apt. complex. Must have some exp. in plumbing, electrical, HVAC. Salary + benefits. Fax resume to: (248) 624-5475 E.O.E.

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Required for Canton & Ann Arbor apts. Must have knowledge of HVAC, plumbing, and electrical. A Good driving record and knowledge of surrounding areas required. 734-455-7200

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Needed for an Oakland County luxury apartment community. Knowledge of heating & cooling a must. Certified a plus. Must have prior exp in apartment maintenance. If you are a team player & take pride in your work then you're just the person we're looking for! Great benefits for the right candidate. Fax resume & salary requirements to: 775-317-9167

AISIN

Accounting & Accounts Receivable

Aisin World Corp. of America, the North American Sales Headquarters and Technical Center for the Aisin Group, has immediate openings for Specialists in our Accounting and Accounts Receivable departments. The positions are located in Plymouth, MI.

These positions have been created to support our rapidly expanding business in North America. In these positions, you will:

- Assist with intercompany reconciliations (Key job function).
- Work with other Aisin North American companies on pricing and payment issues.
- Issue debits/credits.
- Post cash.
- Support continuous improvement activities.
- Perform other tasks and duties as assigned.

The qualified candidate will possess the following:

- 1 to 3 years of related experience with a Tier One automotive supplier.
- Automotive experience is required for consideration.
- Intercompany reconciliation experience is absolutely essential.
- Experience using JBA and other AS400-based systems.
- Excellent Excel and Access skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent planning and coordination skills.

If you are interested, please forward a cover letter (including salary requirements) and resume to the following address.

AWA
46501 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
ATTN: HR
Fax: 734-453-6460
Email: jthornley@aisinworld.com

Email messages with MSWord attachments are preferred.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/GROUNDS</p> <p>Full-time worker needed for Ann Arbor/Plymouth Area Cemeteries. Medical, Dental, Life, Disability, Vacation & Sick Pay.</p> <p>Apply in person: Washtenaw Memorial Park and Mausoleum 3771 Whitmore Lake Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Fax resume to: 248-641-3482 Attn: David Scott</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>PROPERTY MANAGER</p> <p>A premier commercial property management company located in SE Michigan is seeking a Property Manager for an office complex with potential for growth into additional properties. Applicant should have a minimum of 5 yrs management exp. operating all aspects of first class commercial real estate; a bachelors degree in business, and strong financial reporting. Please send resumes to: Box 1372 Observer & Eccentric, 38251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>RV TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES NEEDED</p> <p>Woodworker? Understand 12 volt/110 electricity? Have you worked with plumbing or do you do your own home improvements? Do you own your own RV? General RV is looking for hardworking, dedicated people to learn how to repair RVs. If you are a certified RV repair technician we have immediate openings in our growing service centers. Contact Chris Dietrich, Service Director, General RV Centers, (248) 349-0900, ext. 7039, email jobs@generalrv.com.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>SCREW MACHINE SETUP/REPAIR TECHNICIAN</p> <p>•Relocate to Northern Michigan</p> <p>Modern, air conditioned, smoke free, drug free facility offers excellent living and working environment. ISO-9001 certified, competitive pay, health insurance, 401K, and gainsharing program. If you are a team player with a strong skills and work history, send resume to: H & R Screw Machine Products, Inc. 5566 220th Ave. Reed City, MI 49677 Attn: Tim Halladay www.hrscrew.com (Please do not email resumes).</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>SHOP HELP</p> <p>Steel Industries Inc. is currently looking for the following positions: Shipping & Receiving, dayshift; Heat Treat Operators, trained on dayshift then moved to afternoons and Press Helpers, dayshift. Candidates should have some manufacturing exp. Must be able to read a tape measure and have basic math skills. Hi-lo exp. is a plus.</p> <p>We offer a competitive salary and benefits. If interested, apply in person Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm @ 12600 Beech Daly Road, Redford. No telephone calls. EOE</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>STILL SEARCHING?</p> <p>LOOK</p> <p>For Career Marketplace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers!</p> <p>Observer & Eccentric</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>GET HOME WHEN IT COUNTS!</p> <p>Expanding Private fleet is looking for OTR Drivers. Our freight is 90 % no touch. Light weight. No Haz. Year round. Competitive pay. Great benefits. 401k, medical & dental. Require 1 year exp or military equivalent. Good MVR & looking for a place to call home? Whiteline Express (800) 800-0288 x7366, or apply online at www.whiteline-express.com Sign on bonus for OTR \$500</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems 5010</p> <p>Java Programmer</p> <p>National fulfillment company, relocating to its new headquarters in Howell, seeks motivated and experienced Java programmer for web application development. Must possess the ability to develop, maintain and enhance corporate web applications. Skills should include Java and HTML. Some experience with SQL databases helpful, but not required. This is an onsite, full-time position. Interested parties should email resume & salary requirements to: hrdept@datapakservices.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>GENERAL OFFICE</p> <p>Part time, 15-20 hrs per week for fast paced office. 9am-4pm. Accounting exp. preferred. Call the Lark 10am-3pm 248-661-4466.</p> <p>Legal Secretary</p> <p>Bloomfield Hills law firm seeks full-time Legal Secretary. Exp. w/MS Word, Excel & Access required. Exp. in litigation, foreclosure & bankruptcy a plus. Email resume in confidence to: 060106legsec@mcanlaw.com or fax to (248) 540-7572 Ref: 060106legsec.</p>
<p>MECHANIC</p> <p>Part time. Flexible hours. Fleet of 11 cars. Must have own garage. Farmington, (248) 478-9007</p> <p>MORTGAGE ASSISTANT</p> <p>Mortgage broker located in Downtown Plymouth seeking assistant for processing, closing, post closing and other secretarial duties. 30 hrs/week to start. Please call Jim Harb at 734-453-0999 ext 17</p>	<p>PROPERTY MANAGER</p> <p>Real Estate & Management firm seeks self-motivated individual for multi-site condo management. Computer & previous experience required. Mail to: Personnel Dept. 9397 Haggerty Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST Part/full time, some accounting exp. for real estate investment co. Flexible hours. For further info call: Hagna at 248-538-5800.</p>	<p>SUMMER HELP</p> <p>Filling positions NOW! \$17.25 base-appt. Full/Part-Time, conditions apply, all ages 17+.</p> <p>SCHEDULER</p> <p>Wanted for a Westside Home care company. Exp req. Must have excellent people, communication & computer skills. Need to be able to multitask & share in on call responsibilities. Ref Box #1370 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 38251 Schoolcraft Rd Livonia MI or email: curesume@hometownlife.com</p>	<p>SPRINKLER TECHNICIAN</p> <p>Full time. Plumbing experience required. Fax resume: 734-454-3709</p> <p>Pictures Can Make A Difference!</p> <p>1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric</p>	<p>STERLING HEIGHTS Sterling Woods Retirement Community</p> <p>Newest luxury retirement community is looking for a dynamic & creative Activity Director to join our new team. Candidates should have experience working with seniors, excellent computer skills & superb customer service skills. Ex-cellent pay, medical, dental & vision, 401K. Qualified candidates should send resume to: sterling-woods@sbcglobal.net fax: 586-268-6560 EOE</p>	<p>TEACHER ASSISTANT</p> <p>For full/part-time for Preschool/Kindergarten. Mail life story, resume, references: HR, 32450 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, MI 48334</p> <p>TITLE EXAMINER</p> <p>A very reputable company in Canton has an opening for a Title Examiner. Duties will include abstracting statewide county records as well as examining. Please submit your resume by fax to: 888-894-8619 for immediate consideration!</p>	<p>WAREHOUSE DRIVER</p> <p>Sports floor installation firm looking for mature individual for delivery in tri-state area. Some overnight. Requires chauffeur license. Benefits. Send resume to HR Driver Dept., PO Box 930357, Wixom MI 48393.</p> <p>WAREHOUSE HELP</p> <p>Forklift experience helpful. Apply in person: Ultimate Floors, 12000 Globe, Livonia, 48150</p> <p>WAREHOUSE</p> <p>Material Handler. No experience. 7am-3:50pm Starting up to \$8/hr. 1960 W. West Maple, Walled Lake. 248-669-7170</p>	<p>Busy Garden City Insurance</p> <p>Agency seeks fulltime exp professional & ambitious Sales Agent. Salary + commission. Must possess good verbal & written communication skills & computer exp. Will assist in licensing. Exp. have strong people skills. Fax resume to 734-427-6050</p> <p>CLERICAL - Full-time data entry clerk position in fast paced Plymouth/Canton office full benefits. Knowledge of MS windows required. Send resumes to: Box 1369, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150</p>	<p>LEGAL SECRETARY</p> <p>Farmington Hills law firm seeks legal secretary with litigation exp. Word perfect req. Good benefits, great opportunity. Salary commensurate with exp. Fax resume to: 248-476-6564</p> <p>LEGAL SECRETARY</p> <p>Full or permanent part-time for Farmington Hills sole practitioner. Must have litigation exp. & be WordPerfect proficient. Email resume to: pgm@rneylaw.com</p>
<p>CLASSIFIEDS WORK!</p> <p>1-800-579-7355</p> <p>NEW SALON IN NOVI NEEDS</p> <p>Nail Techs, Hairstylists & Pedicurists. Send resume to kelimccoy@yahoo.com</p> <p>PAINTING Experienced. Interior/Exterior. Must have own tools/car. 248-866-1716 www.wolverinepainting.com</p>	<p>RETAIL SALES - Part-Time needed in beauty supply store. Exp. necessary. Call for more info. (248) 737-0950</p> <p>Roofing: SHINGLERS & LABORERS Exp'd. only. Ready, willing to work. Good pay. Call 313-377-7473, 248-346-6022</p>	<p>"It's All About Results"</p> <p>Observer & Eccentric</p> <p>1-800-579-SELL</p>	<p>\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ Immediate Cash for Structured Settlements, Annuities, Law Suit, Mortgage Notes & Cash Flows. J.G. Wentworth- #1 1-(800)794-7310.</p>	<p>DRIVERS - CDL-A w/tyr</p> <p>OTR Needed. Company up to \$50cpm. O/O's up to \$141/mile. Benefits in 30 days. Assigned Tractors w/No Touch Freight. 1-800-879-2486 x 286.</p>	<p>WANT HOME MOST WEEK-ENDS With More Pay? Run Heartland's Ohio Regional! \$45/mile company drivers \$1.22 for Operators! 12 months OTR required. Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953 www.heartlandexpress.com</p>	<p>WATKINS ASSOCIATES NEEDED. Flexible hours. Earn \$500-\$1000+/month Part-Time. Start while keeping your current job. No investment required. Free details. www.k783.com</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>ALL STEEL BUILDING SALE!</p> <p>"Final Two Weeks!" 20x28 Now \$4200. 25x32 \$5800. 30x42 \$9200. 40x62 \$14,900. Many models and sizes. Front end optional. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422</p>	<p>NOTICES</p> <p>THE ONE PROPHESED</p> <p>by major world religions will soon be seen & heard by everyone. Read all about it! Free literature: 800-870-6108. www.Share-International.org</p>
<p>PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER</p> <p>City of Plymouth Police Department</p> <p>The City of Plymouth Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Parking Enforcement Officer. Salary Range: \$10.00/hr to \$12.50/hr. For complete job description visit http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or at City Hall, 201 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170. Submit application by mail, e-mail or fax to: Personnel Coordinator. Fax: 734-455-1892 E-mail: jobs@ci.plymouth.mi.us Deadline for receipt of applications is 4:30p.m. on June 30, 2006</p>	<p>MICH-CAN STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED</p> <p>REAL ESTATE</p> <p>FT. MEYERS 1, 2 & 3 bedroom</p> <p>luxury condos from the low \$100s!!!! Call Allyn Watermann now for more info 1-888-521-3790 http://www.venetian-palms.com/ or www.paramountcompanies.com</p>	<p>LAKEFRONT AND LAKEVIEW PROPERTIES</p> <p>Nestled in the hills of Tennessee on the shores of pristine Norris Lake. Call Lakeside Realty at 423-626-5820 or visit www.lakesiderealty-tn.com</p>	<p>DR. DANIELS AND SON REAL ESTATE LOANS AND BUYS LAND CONTRACTS.</p> <p>Fast Funding, Private Money. Homes, Land, All Property Types \$10,000 to \$500,000. Any Credit, Any Reason, Deal Directly with Decision Maker. 1-800-837-6166, 248-335-6166 allan@drdanielsandson.com</p>	<p>GENERAL LABORERS</p> <p>High school graduates, ages 17-34 that would like to get into one of the largest employers in the U.S., call 1-800-371-7456.</p>	<p>AAA BAD CREDIT FINANCING</p> <p>No credit, Bankruptcy, Divorce, Slow pay Pre-Approved over the phone. Michigan's Best Selection! Call Ray 888-855-8632</p>	<p>HOMEOWNERS WANTED!!!</p> <p>Kayak Pools is looking for Demo Homesites to display our virtually "Maintenance Free" Pool. Save thousands of \$\$\$ with this unique opportunity! Call Now!! 800-31-KAYAK Discount Code: 522-L15</p>	<p>HUSKY METAL ROOFS,</p> <p>Standing Seam, New or Re-roofing. 15-colors, Warranted, Insulation, Steel 2x4 Reinforcement. Trim and Seals, Partial Financing, Homes or Curved Mobile Roofing. 1-800-380-2379</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>ATTEND COLLEGE FROM HOME.</p> <p>"Medical "Business "Paralegal "Computers "Criminal Justice. Job Placement Assistance. Computer provided. Financial aid if qualified. 1-866-858-2121. www.tidewatertechnline.com</p>
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CAREER MARKETPLACE

The award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is looking for Production Supervisors for daytime and night-time shifts.

Positions are full time and based out of our packaging & distribution center, located in Livonia. Responsibilities include supervising employees and the process of inserting advertising circulars and distribution activities, monitoring and coordinating the overall production work flow. One to three years experience in a packaging/distribution environment required, with prior management experience preferred. High school diploma or equivalent necessary; some college preferred. The successful candidates will also possess excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in MS office, in addition to being reliable, motivated and conscientious.

Production Supervisors

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is committed to diversity and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

E-mail (preferred): employment@hometownlife.com

Mail: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Human Resources Department
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150

Fax: 734.953.2057

Interested applicants may submit their resume (referencing Job Code PS0610) by:

Credit Manager

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is seeking an experienced Credit Manager to manage its receivables and collection procedures, analyze financial position of advertising customers and establish credit limits and payment terms. Candidate will report to the Controller and will manage a small staff. Candidate should have three to five years experience in credit and collections. Excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in MS office applications are essential. Previous management experience preferred, along with ability to demonstrate the art of negotiation and good customer service skills to develop win/win programs for clients and the newspaper to grow profitably.

We offer a competitive benefits package, 401(k), and opportunity for growth. Please submit resume and salary requirements in confidence to:

E-mail (preferred): employment@hometownlife.com

Mail: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers/Human Resources Department
36251 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia, Michigan 48150

Fax: 734-953-2057 Please reference Job Code: CM



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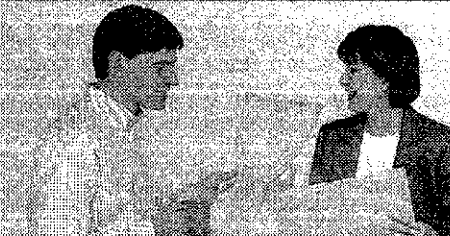
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Attention to detail, good organization, good verbal and written communication skills, computer skills are musts. Real estate experience helpful. Full time only. No benefits. Send resume to: team@bittinger.com

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RECEPTIONIST For one girl office. Must have computer knowledge. Call 313-535-0114

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SALES ASSISTANT & SERVICE ASST / BOOKKEEPER

HIRING 2 POSITIONS
Fast-paced Livonia financial firm seeking 2 detail oriented individuals w/ good computer, verbal & organizational skills. Must be competent in MS Outlook, Word & Excel. QuickBooks a Plus. Full time, some Saturdays. Salary \$22,000 + commensurate w/ exp. Benes available. Resume to: Fax 734-261-4868 / email: resume@rpfincfinancial.com

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Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Busy Livonia Practices seeking full time Dental Assistant, exp. preferred but willing to train the right individual. Benefits. Call 734-261-9443 or Fax Resume to 734-261-9484

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Exp., friendly, motivated person needed to join our periodontal team. Full-Time. Farmington Hills. Karen: (248) 851-1034

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full-Time or progressive Westland area office. Benefits. Exp. necessary. 734-422-5560

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Perfect career opportunity. Northville family practice. Recent exp. & X-ray certified necessary. (248) 348-7997

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We are seeking an enthusiastic and outgoing dental hygienist for Tues. 7-5 and possible Fri. 7-12. Call 248-646-3515

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A new Canton family oriented practice looking for someone who is friendly, organized & patient oriented. Some dental exp. required. Please fax resume to: Julie at 734-844-0136

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We are a Premier Oral Surgery practice in Plymouth, MI seeking a full time Dental Surgical Assistant. Dental assisting experience preferred. Benefits, 401k and the opportunity to advance are available. Interested candidates please mail your resume with cover letter to 9416 S. Main Street, Suite 211, Plymouth, MI 48170 Attn: Rachel or fax to 734-455-4433

RECEPTIONIST F/T

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CERTIFIED DIRECT CARE WORKERS
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Clinical position available for Novi office. Good clinical skills and prior exp. helpful. Must be able to work flexible hours. Salary commensurate with exp. benefits provided. Qualified individuals fax resume to: (248) 473-4424

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Exp. in Medical field only. Farmington Hills Neurology practice. Missy Scott, full time, Mon-Fri with benefits. Send resume/salary req. to Amy T. at 27555 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48334

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Medical office in Novi, 20-25 hours a week. 1 yr. exp. a must. Fax resume to 348-324-0009

MEDICAL BILLER
Experienced needed for a growing billing company. Fax resume to: (248) 851-3830

Medical Office Supervisor
Novi Plastic Surgeon Full Time with Benefits Excellent Work Environment. Front & Back Office Exp Req Fax resume to 248-788-0011

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1-800-579-7355
or email: oeads@hometownlife.com
Observer & Eccentric

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Help Wanted-Medical 5080

Podiatric Assistant Livonia
Part time. No exp. necessary, willing to train. Call Laura after 8:30am 734-261-3808

RECEPTIONIST & MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Busy Southfield dermatology office looking for receptionist & medical assistants. Exp necessary. Please fax resume to Attn Cheryl 248-353-3646 or 248-352-8666

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Exp. preferred or recovery room exp. Part time position open in Ann Arbor. Exc. wages and benefits offered. No weekends/holidays, 4 day work week, day shift only. Know-ledge of computers. Looking for excellent organizational and communication skills, must be able to multi task in a busy environment. Please fax resume to Attn: HR Manager, 734-995-4366.

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Immediate, full or part-time position in physicians office. Health insurance & pension plan. Email resume to: medjobs4u@aol.com

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Strykers Bar & Grill. Apply in person during the day. Westland area. 734-721-2737

COOKS Flexible hours. Apply within at Gatsby's, 45701 Grand River Ave., Novi.

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Now Hiring: Short Order Cook. Grand River & Haggerty. 248-426-0665

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Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

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PLYMOUTH: 2 days only!
Fri. & Sat., 11613 Chandler
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Oriental rug, variety of
housewares. Cash only.

**PLYMOUTH: PROPERTY-
HOUSE GARAGE SALE!**
Household, wedding, new
items, furniture, and more.
Fri., June 16 & Sat., June 17
9am-3pm

STORAGE UNLIMITED
15176 Beck Rd., just N of
M-14. 734-451-3200

ROCHESTER HILLS
Thurs., Fri., Sat.,
June 15-16-17, 9a-3p
1790 Quincey Dr. N of Tienke
W off Adams. 2001 Mercedes
Grand Marquis, 14,500 mile
antiques inc. piano stool
oil painting, Weller art pottery
foyer table, new furniture use
1 week, dresser, mirror
baker's rack, upholstered
occasional chairs, Pulaski di
play cabinet, German's pa
stered chairs, lamp, or
antiques inc. piano stool
cabinet, lamps, framed t
misc. patio furniture.

TIPKON
Very Large Estate Auction
at Cassone Mansion inc
101PM MI Sat., June 24
10:00am -200 photos at
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WEDDING GOWN 8/10, Ivory w/ beaded top. V-neck/ open back, sleeveless. Perfect for summer wedding! \$275/bride. 248 252-5362

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3 complete bdrm. sets King, 1 Full & 1 baby st w/bedding. Must Sell! \$999. Call Sam 248-790-7872

ADIRONDACK
PATIO PORCH FURNITURE
Natural wood, 2 glider chairs, 1 porch swing w/ head chains. \$300. (734) 354-0111

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Garage Sales
On The Internet!**
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Garage Sales **711**

WIXOM - Moving to Texas. Getting rid of a lot. Household items & lawn equipment. Jun 15, 16, 17, 9am-5pm. 121 Briarwood Ct., Beck & Potter

Moving Sales **713**

BIRMINGHAM 1 DAY ONLY
Sat. June 17 9am-4pm

BIRMINGHAM/ TROY 2 home moving sale. Appliances, furniture, clothing, decorative household, books, bikes. Sat. Sun., June 17 & 18, 9am-4pm, 2215 & 2199 Derby (1/2 btwn Adams & Coolidge)

ESTATE SALE
Rochester, 238 N. Hill Circle
 SAT. SUN. 10-4

FARMINGTON HILLS
Internationally recognized sculptor/designer moving studio. Sculpture sold as is. No delivery or installation. Sat. June 17, noon-8pm. 2955 Highmeadow (1 blk S. of Mile & Middlebelt).

glazed corner china cabinet
dressers, night stands, rug
lamps and much more!
EVERYTHING GOES! Kimber
Sub. 30091 WICKLOW RD
THURS-SAT. 9am-4pm

LIVONIA -Moving/Estate Sale
Old Rosedale Gardens, 114
Cranston. Fri. 12-4pm. Sat.
Sun, 9-3pm. Everything must
go! S./Plymouth, W./Merrim

LIVONIA: MOVING SALE
Laurel Woods Condo, 181
University Park. N. of 6 MI

W of Newburgh. Sat., June
& 24, 9am-5pm.

NOVI
WHOLE HOUSE SALE! Thurs-
June 15 thru Wed., June 2
41930 Canterbury, btwn 13
14 Mile Rds., E of Novi Rd.

OAK PARK Everything Mu-
GO! Vintage pieces, lots
cool stuff. 21361 West-ham-
ton, June 17 & 18 and June
24 & 25, 9am-5pm.

OXFORD

MOVING SALE
Everything must go! June
15-18, 8-5pm. 805 West
Glaspiro Road. 248-421-6666

**ROYAL OAK
HUGE SALE!**
Sat., June 17 ONLY, 9am
5pm. No early birds! 1730
Sycamore Ave.

SOUTHFIELD 23023 Staunton
N. 9 Mile E. of Inkster. Fri. Sat.
& Sun. 10-5. Designer clothes,
appliances, dishes, toys

TROY-Moving Sale!
June 15-16- & 17. 9-3pm. 16
Timberview Drive, c
Livernois btwn. Big Beaver
and Waddles.

WARREN - Thurs-Fri, 9am
4pm. 11317 Meadowbrook
btwn 12 Mile & Common, 1
off Hoover. Upright freezers,
desk, loveseats, lamp
housewares, etc.

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Hu

WEST BLOOMFIELD 305
Spring St., near Middlebelt
Walnut Lake. Toro riding law
mower, snowblower, tool
household. June 15-17, 9-5.

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8100... Recreational Vehicles
8110... Snowmobiles
8120... Campers/Motor Homes/Trailers
8140... Construction, Heavy Equipment
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8160... Auto/Truck-Parts & Service
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8180... Auto Financing
8190... Autos Wanted
8200... Junk Cars Wanted
8220... Trucks For Sale
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8250... Vans
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Jet Skis 8010

JET SKIS-TWIN TIGER SHARKS-770
1999, with double trailer and extras, clean and low hours. \$8200. (248) 608-9826

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130 hp & 1996 GTX 3-seater, 110 hp, incl 2 place trailer, exc cond. \$4995. 2 jet ski lifts. \$6600. Eves: 248-952-0830. Days: 248-835-5048

Boats/Motors 8020

ALUMINUM BOAT, 18' Blue Finn, Shorelander trailer & extras. 60 hp. Mercury outboard. \$2000. 248-797-3925

BASS TRACKER 16 ft. 25 hp Mercury trailer & trolling motor. Well maintained. \$1800. (734) 326-1150

BOAT 1970 Aircraft Fiberglass open 16' Boat w/70 HP Mercury outboard and trailer. Recently rebuilt floor and rear, repainted, lights, horn, skis, ropes. Very good condition. \$1500/best. 734-765-1538

CROWN LINE 225CCR 1994
22 ft., 502 engine, cabin, \$11,000. Checkmate Converter 1994, 303.28 ft. 450 engine, \$28,000. 248-486-0989 after 3pm, msg.

Four Winns 2000 Candia 1989
20 ft. deck, low hours. Must see! \$5,000/best. (248) 682-0117

PLAYBOY 1989 PONTON
20 ft., 35 hp Force, new deck, canopy, furniture, extras, in the water. \$2500. 248-820-9513

PONTON BOAT, 2001
Odyssey, 21', 50 hp, Mercury motor. Like new cond. \$6800. Call John at 248-887-9506

SEA DOO SPORTSTER JET BOAT 1995, 14 ft. with trailer, extras. Exceptional cond. \$8000. SOLD

SEARAY - hard top, 27 ft. drive-on trailer, \$16,500. Call 734-4425-9037, 248-474-5276

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12', 10'. New sail. Trailer. Like new cond. \$900. (248) 652-0796

WELLCRAFT ECLIPSE 1993
19 1/2 ft. 4.3 V6, 100, cuddy cab, loaded, Eagle tandem trailer, mint \$8000. 586-206-1520

Boat Parts/Equipment/Service 8030

OUTBOARD MOTOR
Mercury, 50 hp. 4 stroke, new in crate. \$4400. (734) 421-2274

Motorcycles/Minibikes/Go-Karts 8070

HARLEY DAVIDSON 1987
FLHT Classic ElectraGlide. Excellent condition! Inspected & rebuilt in 2002. \$9500. (248) 322-1063

HARLEY DAVIDSON 1990
FLHT Classic Ultra Electra Glide, two-tone, ruby paint. Low miles - 36,000! One owner. Extras. Asking \$10,900. 734-459-1757

HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA
Convertible FXDS 1999 1450 cc, under 5,000 miles, laser red, extra chrome, removable windshield & bags. \$9900. 313-623-4302

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Excellent condition. 22,000 miles \$7,500. 586-295-8666

HONDA 750 VFR 1984- Red, 5,000 miles. Good shape, clean & runs good. \$2800. 248-486-0899 after 3pm, msg.

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NO CREDIT/BAD CREDIT.
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WE BUY CARS! Top dollar paid for good-clean cars, trucks, vans & SUV's. Call for more information. COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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ALL AUTOS TOP\$\$
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Woodard's American Auto Parts, (734) 485-5500

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Trucks for Sale 8220

GM SIERRA 1993, Good running truck, well maintained, 149,000 miles, manual trans. \$1800. (734) 560-6765. Car can be viewed at 15342 Wormer, Redford.

GM SIERRA 2000 Extended Cab Z71, \$15,995.
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

GM SIERRA 2004 Extended Cab, 37K, \$16,995.
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY '96
Discovery Black, tan leather int. fully loaded. 5200 miles. \$8800 or best offer, exc cond. 248-449-7672

Mini-Vans 8240

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Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep (734) 455-8740

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LXI 2003, leather, power doors, 35K, \$14,888.
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DODGE GRAND CARAVAN ES 2003-All options. DVD, dual air, moonroof. Exc. 45,000 miles. \$16,300. 734-459-5251

FORD FREESTAR 2005, 7 passenger, rear air, certified, \$14,870.
NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

FORD WINDSTAR 2000, low miles, loaded, like new, \$6,995
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

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GRAND CARAVAN 2001 Sport, quad seats, dual air. Must see! COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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MERCURY VILLAGE SPORT 1999 75,000 miles. 4 buckets, roof rack, new tires, all power, tinted windows. Blue/ Green color. \$5900. (248) 879-9898

OLDS SILHOUETTE GLS 2004 premium leather, chrome, TV, DVD, 25K, only \$17,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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Vans 8260

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CHEVY EXPRESS CARGO VAN 2006 3/4 ton, "Tons of fun" only 10,000 miles, \$16,900.
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Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

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4 Wheel Drive 8280

CHEVY S-10 ZR2 2000 Extended cab 4x4, ice cold air! \$11,900.
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Supercab 4x4 Flareside, very sharp, auto, \$13,574
QUALIFIES FOR \$500 GAS CARD 800-611-5092

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CHEVY TAHOE Z71 2003, white, loaded, \$21,995.
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CHEVY UPLANDER 2006, DVD, like new, \$16,950.
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DODGE DURANGO 2003 4WD, 30,000 miles. Power options. Silver. \$12,200. Farmington area. (248) 760-8575

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39,000 miles. good condition. \$13,000/best. Must Sell!
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FORD ESCAPE 2004 XLT 4x4 13K, \$16,995.
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FORD EXPEDITION 1999, Eddie Bauer, black w/tan leather, \$6,888.
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FORD EXPEDITION 1999, 3rd row seat, \$6,995. COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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Automotive

The New 2007 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

Open-top cars are the greatest automotive currency in the summer, and there are more and more of them. Taken together, the latest crop of convertibles represents a great comeback for the genre that has been building slowly for several years.

The 2007 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder is a worthy — and fun! — contributor to the trend. I drove one during those great summer-like days of May, and I enjoyed the experience about as much as I've enjoyed any vehicle this year.

The Eclipse Spyder is quick, responsive, fairly roomy, and cuts a great figure on the road. At a suggested retail price of less than \$27,000 for the GS version that I drove, it'd be a great consideration for anybody looking for a way to optimize Michigan's great summer weather.

The vehicle also is an important one for Mitsubishi, which introduced this attainable exotic convertible earlier this year. The company is introducing a series of six new vehicles in the space of less than three years; the first was the 2006 Eclipse couple that came out last June, followed by the all-new mid-size Raider pickup truck. Upcoming new models include a second-generation Outlander SUV, the Lancer sedan and the tenth version of the legendary Lancer Evolution.

Designed to appeal to convertible and sports-car enthusiasts of all ages, the 2007 Eclipse Spyder echoes the concept-car design of its coupe sibling with sleek, muscular lines and engaging details such as bright-finish LED tail lamps and monacle-lens head lamps. It really resembles some of the classic European two-seaters more than rival Japanese vehicles or even new American open-tops such as the Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky.

When it comes to convertibles, you've also got to discuss the top, because it dictates so much of what the car is and how you experience it. Impressive about the Eclipse Spyder's top is that it folds completely out of sight under a flush-fitting powered tonneau cover in about 19 seconds, eliminating a visible top stack that



The Eclipse Spyder's top folds completely out of sight in about 19 seconds.

still gives some convertibles a baby buggy look.

The Spyder's top is made of cloth, compared with the vinyl used by some cars in this price segment. Its multi-layer construction includes a full headliner to prove the quiet, snug interior feeling of a coupe when it's raised. And when it's raised, the top design gives the Eclipse a distinctive, chopped speedster profile.

Also, the top is designed to resist ballooning at highway speeds, and the glass rear window features a defroster. In my book, the only drawback to the top was the fact that it's not fully automatic: It requires manual disengagement and re-engagement of the roof latches at the top of the windshield. But that's not a big deal.

In the oomph department, I found the power plant in the GS model just OK. Decidedly, the 162-horsepower, 2.4-liter, four-cylinder engine, mated to a five-speed manual transmission (a four-speed automatic is also an option) lacks the get-up-and-go, head-slaming acceleration of other, more premium convertibles, and that I found a disappointment. With gasoline prices where they are, however, the GS version's mileage stats of 22 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway were welcome figures.

And, I'm sure that the upscale version of the Eclipse Spyder convertible — the GT model, which carries a 260-horsepower, 3.8-liter V6 engine with either a five-speed automatic or six-speed manual transmission — delivers capably the kind of off-the-line response that

most convertible drivers would seek.

The Spyder I drove was very capable in terms of handling, cornering, and all the other driving maneuvers that just seem so much more immediate when your posterior is almost on the road and you can see everything around you so much better than in a vehicle with pillars.

The car's strongly sleek design theme continues inside the vehicle as well. One-piece, high-back front bucket seats — which, Mitsubishi says, were inspired by [the company's] involvement in motor sports — feature open head rests for a sporty look and enhanced rear visibility.

The wave-form instrument panel houses easy-to-reach controls and features distinctive, motorcycle-inspired gauges and ice-blue nighttime LED illumination.

Amenity-wise, the 2007 Eclipse Spyder convertible also scores pretty well. There isn't much room in the back seat or trunk, but you could kind of figure on that up front. The leather-wrapped steering wheel features audio-system controls, for example. Standard equipment includes a plethora of air bags, cruise control, keyless entry, power windows, locks and mirrors.

And a 650-watt Rockford Fosgate premium audio system ensures that you can hear your music, or your talk show, even with the wind playing with your hair!

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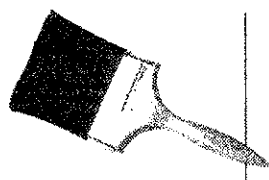
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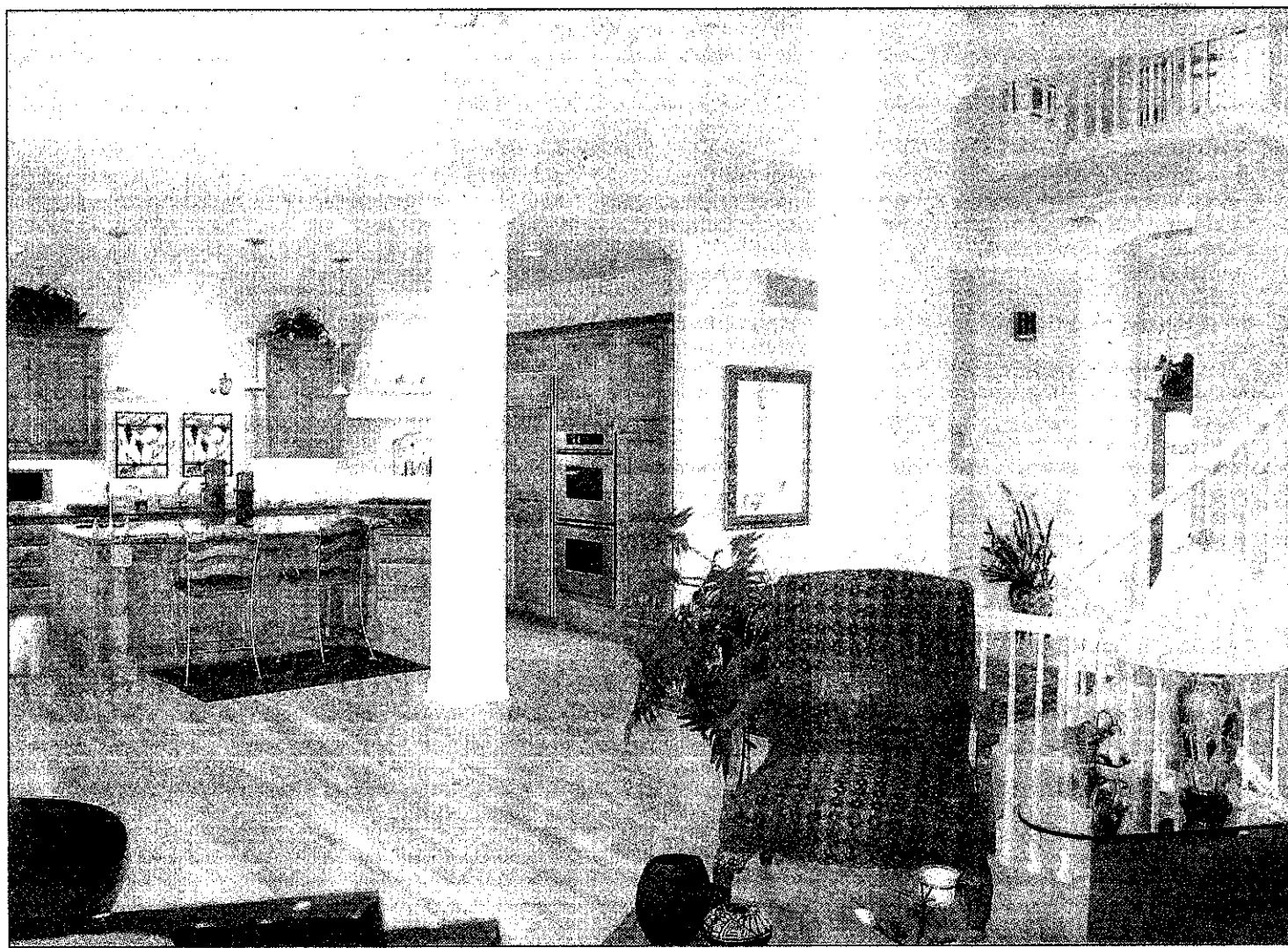
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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Just about every room in Gaylen Curtis' home has a view of Sylvan Lake, but the interior is beautiful as well. The house will be featured on the third annual Sylvan Lake Home and Garden Tour this Saturday.

From every Lakefront home has great views inside, outside angle

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Gaylen Curtis' lakefront home was built so that water could be seen from every room.

And every room of the house is a beautiful view itself, with distinctive architectural features, and attractive furniture and decor.

"I wouldn't describe it as Victorian or contemporary (but) eclectic both inside and out," said Curtis, an attorney who decorated the residence herself.

The 4,300-square-foot house will be featured on the third annual Sylvan Lake Home and Garden Tour, taking place this Saturday.

The community of Sylvan Lake may be small in size (1-1/2 square miles, about 850 homes), but it is big in civic pride and affection.

A sign at the city limit welcomes you to "The Prettiest Little City in the State of Michigan." For the first tour, nationally renowned artist Eric Weigand, a Sylvan Lake resident, designed the graphic logo; it has been used every year.

"It has a little bit of everything," Marlene Toby, one of the organizers, said of the event.

"It's a fun tour."

Visitors from around the country came specially for last year's tour, which pointed out kit houses in the community, she said.

DISTINCTIVE

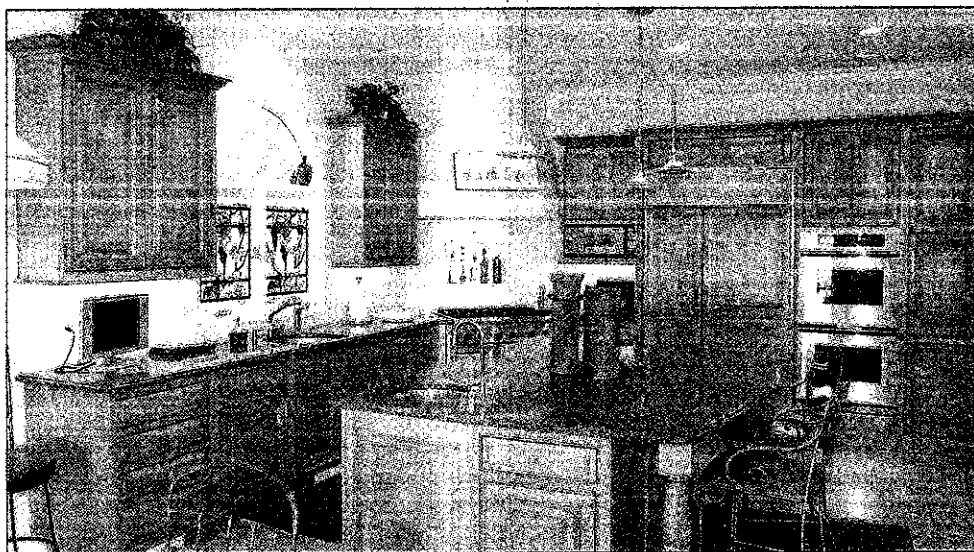
Glenn Wachler built the home as his dream house in 1999. One of its unusual elements is the indoor-outdoor gas fireplace on the three-level deck.

"It is very much used," Curtis said of the fireplace.

Wachler incorporated diamond shapes in the house because he comes from a family of jewelers.

The eclectic decor includes contemporary and antique (or antique-looking) furniture, and whimsical and sophisticated elements. There are large accessories (mirrors, urns) and small pieces (tables, slender wooden pedestals).

PLEASE SEE **ANGLE, D3**



The spacious kitchen, by DeGiullo of Birmingham, includes cherry cabinets, granite countertops and an oak floor. Heavy chairs in iron and wood line one side of the island.



A pedestal sink covered in a floral design is one of the distinctive features in the residence.

SYLVAN LAKE HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

■ **What:** A tour of residences from the early 1900s to contemporary. All proceeds will go toward the Sylvan Lake Community Center.

■ **When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

■ **Tickets:** Groups of 10 or more, \$10 each; prior to day of tour, \$12 each; day of tour, \$15 each. Tickets are available at Sylvan Lake City Hall, 1820 Inverness; Detroit Garden Works, 1794 Pontiac Drive; La Rosa Market, 2375 Orchard Lake Road. The tour starts at City Hall, where maps will be distributed.

■ **Information:** Call (248) 681-8624 or (248) 681-2750, visit www.sylvantour.com.



The master bedroom, with deep blue walls, contains a painting by famed artist Eric Weigand of Sylvan Lake and a shelf with Wedgwood pieces.

treocentral



Review: Palm

Products & Reviews >> Handheld
The long wait is over and the scrutiny and delve into what what's said here, but we're

Traveling with the
Stories >> Commentary > Jan 7th
James goes to a conference

TreoCentral is home to Treo news, reviews, discussion boards, and even an accessories store.

Make your Treo smarter with this software

If you own a Treo 650 or 700p, count yourself lucky — these smartphones rank among the top products in their class, and with good reason.

They're not only great phones, they're also equipped with the venerable Palm Operating System, meaning they can run a huge library of third-party programs.

I've rounded up nine excellent applications and utilities I think deserve a place on your Treo. You can find all of them at Handango.com, PalmGear.com, or both.



Tech
Savvy

Rick
Broida

First up is Butler, a collection of several handy utilities: An alarm clock, an "attention grabber" (which lets you know about received calls, new voice-mail messages, and so on), an application launcher, and improved control of volume buttons (using them to scroll pages of text or switch between previously used applications).

All in all, some darn good stuff — especially considering the \$7.95 price tag.

Equally indispensable is CallFilter. Like a spam filter for your phone, CallFilter lets you allow or disallow calls based on phone number, name, company and other criteria.

Disallowed calls will go straight to your voicemail. This is great when you're in a meeting and don't want to be disturbed unless it's something critical. CallFilter also allows you to use MP3 files as ringtones, a way-cool feature. It costs \$29.95.

Your Treo comes with a fairly basic SMS (Short

PLEASE SEE **BROIDA, D5**

OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

Tune in to our weekly column

It has been said that television is like radio with pictures. If that is true then the newspaper is like radio without sound.

With this in mind I, Dick Purtan, along with Purtan's People, embark on a journey never attempted by us before: a weekly soundless — and some might say, mindless — excursion through the world of print.



Dick
Purtan

The powers that be at the *Observer & Eccentric* thought it would be a great idea if we converted our little daily radio show on the Motor City's 104.3 WOMC-FM into a weekly column.

After many attempts to show them the folly of their ways, they remained convinced it was a good idea.

For some odd reason they believed hearing us six days a week wasn't enough. The people want more, they exclaimed. "No they don't," we shrugged. In the end, they told us our picture would be in the paper, and who

doesn't get excited about that?!

Now you have the opportunity to read along and listen. Try to contain your excitement. When you do a radio show you produce an unbelievable amount of words, phrases, utterances and, on occasion, complete thoughts. Enough material to — the *O&E* thinks — fill a weekly column.

What it doesn't realize is that in the radio world we aren't concerned with such pesky details as syntax and punctuation — especially commas. We never know where to put those pesky commas. And what's the deal with those semicolons? When are you supposed to use those? That being said, we make this promise to language arts teachers everywhere: Your position is secure. This column will be a weekly example to your students on how to butcher the English language.

But hey, this is America and we're supposed to *se habla Espanol*, right?

Unleashing a bunch of radio people on a newspaper is a grand experiment. A bold attempt to expand the horizons of human thought. A new voice in the wilderness of ideas. A thought-provoking missive that will ultimately incite the response — whose idea was this again? Tomorrow morning at 7:15 you could win a pair of tickets to see the Michigan-Michigan State game. Details are available at womc.com.

Hear **Dick Purtan & Purtan's People** between 5 and 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday on The Motor City's 104.3 WOMC-FM, and on the Internet at womc.com.

Prepare surface before you paint

With cold weather behind us it's time to look at some of the chores, such as outside painting, that are difficult to do during the winter months. Exterior painting isn't rocket science, but it takes quality materials and time to properly prepare the surfaces.

I can't emphasize enough the need for good-quality paint, whether you choose oil-based or water-based (latex). Latex, because of the tough finish it leaves and the ease of cleanup, is my personal favorite. However, if you don't properly prepare the surfaces, no paint – no matter how good – will fail.

Start by tying back or trimming any bushes or tree limbs that get in the way of your work. If the branches are touching the siding they should be trimmed anyway.

Wear damage can occur when these rub against the house.

Cover any objects, such as vents and air conditioner units, that may get spattered with paint. It's also a good idea to have drop cloths handy to cover porches and sidewalks. Remove loose and peeling paint from the surface. Scrapers designed for paint removal, wire brushes, sandpaper and sanders can be used.

A word of warning if your house was built before 1978: There is a good chance that at least one layer of paint contains lead. Don't scrape or sand the paint until you have it tested.

Most places where you buy paint will have additional information on lead paint removal.

See <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadinfo.htm#remodeling> for more information on lead paint removal, or contact a professional in lead remediation.

Once the loose paint is removed, fill any rotted or damaged areas with a good-

quality wood filler or auto body filler such as Bondo™. Caulk where necessary. Let the filler and caulk set up for at least one day.

Wash all the surfaces to be painted with a solution of trisodium phosphate (TSP) or a phosphate-free TSP substitute and bleach.

Apply with a brush or power washer, following the directions for the washer, and rinse thoroughly.

Exercise care when using TSP. Wear rubber gloves and other waterproof protective gear and definitely wear eye protection. Let the surfaces dry for at least two days.

Now you are ready to paint. Check the weather forecast to make sure there is no rain in the near future. It's best to get an early start while the air is cool, but make sure the surface is dry.

If at all possible, work on the shady side of the house and follow the shadow.

Use extreme caution when working on a ladder. Obviously you can be seriously injured from a fall.

Ladders can also damage

the home when improperly used or erected.

Special note: Be extremely careful when moving metal ladders anywhere near electric wires, even if you think they are properly insulated. Touching live wires while holding a metal ladder has electrocuted too many people.

For more ladder safety, see the Louisville Ladders C.L.I.M.B. Academy Web sites: <http://www.louisville-ladder.com/CLIMBVideos.asp> and <http://www.louisville-ladder.com/CLIMBBook.pdf>.

To make the job go even easier and faster, consider renting some of the various types of climbing devices and scaffolds that are available. Contact a rental shop near you.

Good painting to you!

Harry Jachym writes Ask Dad, a column on home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident. Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net or in care of Mary Klemic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Hill & Dale Garden Club

The Hill & Dale Garden Club will have a general meeting, with installation of new officers, 6 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at the Heritage Park Visitors Center, on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

The public may attend. For more information, contact Mar Scawly at (248) 333-3108 or stemar@comcast.net.

Junior gardeners

The Hill & Dale Junior Gardener's Workshop, featuring Wise Old Owl, will take place 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 17, at the Downtown Farmington Library.

The workshop is for ages 5-12, parents and younger siblings. Pre-registration is required. Call the library at (248) 553-0300.

Spring rose show

The Detroit Rose Society will have its annual Spring Rose Show Saturday-Sunday, June 17-18, at Universal Mall, 12 Mile and Dequindre.

Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to closing time Saturday, and from when the mall opens to 2 p.m. Sunday.

For information, call (586) 977-7367. Come and smell the roses, view some of the best exhibition roses in the country, and meet top rose exhibitors who will answer questions on gardening, exhibiting and all subjects dealing with rose culture.

Novice exhibitors are welcome. Bring a freshly cut rose from your garden, and Detroit Rose Society members will help you put it in the show.

All entries are judged by American Rose Society accredited judges, and ribbons are awarded.

Buying plants

Learn how to choose and plant the best trees, shrubs and flowers in Landscape Plants: Buying Wisely, a class at The Community House in Birmingham (Wednesday, June 21; cost is \$22).

To register and for more information, call (248) 644-5832 or visit www.communityhouse.com.

The class will be taught by master gardener Heidi Cook, owner of Liberty Street Gardens, which performs maintenance and design services in and around Farmington.

Seminars

English Gardens hosts free gardening seminars for the public 7 p.m.

Wednesdays in June at its six stores, including locations in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506; Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; Royal Oak/Troy, (248) 280-9500; and Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Perennial gardening will be the topic June 21. The basics of design, care and planting of perennials in the landscape will be discussed. Information on selecting plant materials, combining colors and varieties of plants, and caring for perennials during and after the growing season, will be provided.

Herb gardening will be the topic June 28.

Gardening programs

Gardening programs at The Community House in Birmingham include Hardy Perennials (Monday, June 26; cost is \$25) and Designing a Country Garden (Wednesday, June 28; \$25), both presented by Michael Saint, the owner of Good Earth Landscape & Interior Design in Clarkston.

To register and for more information, call (248) 594-6401 or visit www.communityhouse.com.

Topics at the hardy perennials program will include making invasive plants garden friendly, design tips, and some of the do's and don'ts of garden design.

At the country garden program, Saint will show how to create a big country feel in your garden regardless of the size.

Rose programs

Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, present a series of educational programs for the public. The popular programs are at the historic 1890s barn and display garden at Great Lakes Roses, 49875 Willow Road in Sumpter Township.

Each presentation lasts about 1-1/2 hours. Dress for the weather.

For information, visit www.GreatLakesRoses.com or call (734) 461-1230.

The schedule includes Insect and Disease Control for Roses (11 a.m. Sunday, June 18, repeated 11 a.m. Monday, June 19) and Rugged Rugosa Roses (1 p.m. Sunday, June 25, repeated 11 a.m. Monday, June 26).

Admission is free. Reservations aren't required.

The Insect and Disease Control presentation will feature a slide lecture and a tour of the Lindleys' garden. Special emphasis on natural and cultural controls to prevent and eliminate problems.

Bring leaves from your garden in a plastic sandwich bag for problem identification.

The rugosa roses program will feature a slide talk and garden tour.

Hidden Lake Gardens

The Royal Oak Garden Club will go on a field trip to Hidden Lake Gardens in the Irish Hills 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2.

The tour bus will leave from the Mahany/Meininger Community Center, 3500 Marais in Royal Oak.

Cost is \$7, which includes the tour bus, admission and boxed lunch.

Space is limited, so register early. Call Sherry Jurva at (248) 280-2540.

The 755-acre botanical garden features a greenhouse complex, a lake, a picnic area, a 6-mile, paved scenic drive, and thousands of labeled trees, shrubs and flowers.

Indoor plants include bamboo, banana, cocoa, coffee, sugarcane, tapioca and vanilla. A visitor center has informative exhibits.

Volunteers sought

Do you live in a condo or apartment and miss gardening?

The Royal Oak Garden Club is seeking volunteers (club members only) to tend these Royal Oak community gardens now to October: Glida's Garden, Community Center Garden, Cemetery Garden and the Zoo Garden.

Club membership is \$10 per year. Call Sherry Jurva at (248) 280-2540.

School of Gardening

The Michigan School of Gardening presents a variety of classes for different levels at The Community House in Birmingham, 380 S. Bates; Michigan School of Gardening, 29429 Six Mile in Livonia, just west of Middlebelt; Troy Continuing Education, 201 W. Square Lake Road; Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro in Ann Arbor; and Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, north of Square Lake Road and east of Telegraph.

Register early. Seating is limited. Some classes have pre-requisites. Special class sessions can be arranged for groups of 15 or more. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com.

The schedule includes: Ornamental Grasses and Alternative Lawns, Thursdays, June 15-22, in Livonia (fee is \$72); and Difficult Sites II: Harsh Exposures, Tuesday, June 27, in Pontiac (\$42).

Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Mary Klemic, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail mklemic@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

HOME CALENDAR

Urban Interiors

Urban Interiors, a home beautification and design shop, will have its grand opening 10 a.m. Saturday, June 17, at 31204 Five Mile in Livonia. The grand opening will feature a ribbon cutting at noon, hors d'oeuvres and champagne noon to 2 p.m., and the awarding of prizes.

Urban Interiors will provide home design services to make a residence more marketable, or to change its appearance if the homeowners can't move.

Call (734) 293-5954.

Spa and Backyard Expo

The Novi Spa and Backyard Expo will take place Thursday-Sunday, June 15-18, at the Rock Financial Center, on Grand River between Novi and Beck roads.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. Parking is \$5.

For more information, visit www.spa-expo.net.

More than \$5 million of hot tubs, above and in-ground pools, patio furniture, sunrooms, gazebos, decks, barbecue grills and more will be on sale, by the Midwest's largest hot tub and backyard retailers.

Retailers will offer discounts and free on-the-spot financing, with hot tubs starting at \$1,688.

Trunk show

Takako Ueki, owner of Habu Textiles, will show its current line of sweater and accessory kits as well as yarn

Monday, June 26, at The Knitting Room, 251 E. Merrill in Birmingham. The Knitting Room will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 6:30-8:30 p.m. for the event, at which more than 50 samples will be displayed. Call (248) 540-3623.

Habu Textiles was founded in 1999 as a showroom/gallery and weaving studio, working with a myriad of fibers including silk, bamboo, wool, ramie, paper and stainless steel. The fabric could be used for garments, home accessories or art. In 2001, the yarn shop was added to make a variety of Asian and Japanese yarns available.

Detroit walking tours

Preservation Wayne presents guided walking tours of five historical areas of Detroit (downtown, Eastern Market, Midtown, Auto Heritage and the Cultural Center), 10 a.m. Saturdays now through September.

It also presents Tuesday After Work tours in downtown Detroit 5:30 p.m. every week.

Tours of the New Center area are available by appointment.

Each tour offers a blend of the history of the area and what is happening now. Cost is \$10. Visit www.preservationwayne.org or call (313) 577-7674.

Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Mary Klemic, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail mklemic@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

Angie's List expands to metro Detroit

Angie's List, where thousands of consumers share their ratings and reviews on local contractors and service companies, has opened in Detroit and surrounding areas.

"For consumers throughout the area, from Mount Clemens and Pontiac to Ann Arbor and Southgate, this literally means thousands of ratings and reviews on local contractors and companies are available at their fingertips," said Angie Hicks, who started Angie's List 11 years ago.

Companies can't pay to be on the list, nor can they put themselves on the list. Only Angie's List members can submit reviews and ratings after they've hired a company or contractor.

Already, consumers in the Detroit area have added nearly 3,000 local companies to Angie's List.

Angie's List ratings and reviews are available in more than 250 different categories, from home improvement and maintenance, to services for lawn, garden, auto and pets.

During this opening time period, consumers can join Angie's List for free. Regular membership is \$5.95 a month.

Membership comes with unlimited access to the list and a subscription to the magazine, which includes stories, tips and information on home and consumer topics.

Members also have access to the Angie's List complaint resolution service.

For more information and consumer tips, visit www.angieslist.com.

Each month Angie's List

Companies can't pay to be on the list, nor can they put themselves on the list. Only Angie's List members can submit reviews and ratings after they've hired a company or contractor. Already, consumers in the Detroit area have added nearly 3,000 local companies to Angie's List.

receives more than 10,000 reviews from consumers across the U.S. on the local companies they've hired. In their reviews, members describe their project and the work done.

They also tell whether they'd hire the company again, and grade the company - A, B, C, D or F, just like a report card - in six areas: overall experience, price, quality of work, responsiveness, punctuality and professionalism.

Detailed comments and reviews include such subjects as whether the contractor was conscious of children and pets, if the contractor cleaned up after the work and how the contractor handled change orders.

Hicks started Angie's List in 1995 in Columbus, Ohio. She set out door-to-door collecting reports and recruiting members. Since then, Angie's List has grown to serve more than 375,000 consumers across the country.

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GARDEN WALK CALENDAR

Farmington

The Farmington Garden Club will host its biannual garden walk, A Garden Party, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 24, rain or shine. Tickets are \$10 and available at Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road. They will be available on the day of the event at the Visitors Center in Heritage Park, off Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile. Eight private gardens and one public garden will be featured. At the Visitors Center, club members will serve complimentary refreshments and Steinkopf Nursery will sell a wide variety of beautiful plants. A box lunch or salad will be available for a nominal charge between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call Betti at (248) 442-2742 or visit farmingtongardenclub.com.

Livonia

Friends for the Development of Greenmead will present its 17th Annual Garden Walk 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, featuring seven gardens and yards of homes throughout Livonia. Proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead Historical Village. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 the day of the walk. They are available at any Livonia library, the Civic Center Library Gift Shop (the library is on Five Mile, just east of Farmington Road), the Greenmead office (on Eight Mile, just west of Newburgh) and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall. Call (734) 466-2540 or (734) 425-4855.

Plymouth

The Trailwood Garden Club will present the 11th annual Flowers Are Forever Garden Walk noon to 8 p.m., rain or shine, Tuesday, June 27. Several lovely gardens in Plymouth will be featured. Complimentary refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$7 pre-sale, \$8 the day of the walk, half off for ages 12 and under, free for "little gardeners" carried in arms (strollers aren't permitted in gardens). Raffle tickets are \$1 or three for \$2. Tickets are available at Saxton's Garden Center, (734) 453-6250; at Backyard Birds in Plymouth, (734) 416-0600; and from Marilyn Detmer, (734) 454-4625.

Grosse Pointe

The 15th annual Summer Garden Tour, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Garden Center Inc., will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25, rain or shine. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 on tour days. They will be available at local merchants and at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive in Grosse Pointe Farms. For information, call the Grosse Pointe Garden Center at (313) 551-7511 Ext. 206 between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Master gardeners will be present at various locations to answer questions. Lunch will be available for purchase at Patterson Park.

Northville

The 13th annual Gardens of Northville Garden Walk will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 12. The Country Garden Club of Northville, a member of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, is sponsoring the event. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available at Gardenviews, 202 W. Main in Northville. Five gardens will be featured. Cady Inn at Mill Race Village will be transformed into The Potting Shed, where complimentary, homemade sweets and lemonade will be served. Music will be played as local vendors offer a selection of plants and garden items. Raffle tickets will be available at Mill Race Village only on the day of the event.

Canton

The Canton Garden Club's eighth annual Garden Walk will take place 1-6 p.m. Sunday, July 16, rain or shine. Visit beautiful private gardens in the Canton area. Shop for garden-related items from vendors at the Garden Market on the grounds of the Canton Historical Museum, where the Country Lines Michigan Heritage Quilt is displayed. Free admittance to the Garden Market and the museum. Garden Walk tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 the day of the event. They are available at Backyard Birds, Graye's Greenhouse, and Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace, all in Plymouth; Crimboil Nursery & Sweetwater Village, Keller & Stein Florist and Greenhouse, and Mary's Farm Market, all in Canton; and Feather Your Nest Antiques in Superior Township. Tickets will also be available July 16 only at the museum and each garden location. For more information, call Dianne at (734) 254-1023.

ANGLE

FROM PAGE D1

Curtis painted bright colors on some walls, such as orange in an upstairs bedroom and red in a lower level bathroom. Other walls and carpeting have soft tones.

On the lower level, Curtis finished a bedroom and added a bar.

The kitchen, by DeGiulio of Birmingham, features an oak floor, cherry cabinets, granite countertops, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, a Thermadore range and stovetop, and back-splash and walls covered in tile that resembles tumbled marble.

Heavy chairs with iron frames and wood seats line one side of an island. An area to the side is an open nook, with a table and more chairs.

The openness extends without interruption to the living room, which has a nature

motif in such elements as tall zebra statues and the leafy tree design on the base of a table lamp. A baby grand piano and a curved sectional are among the furnishings.

A sitting room is on the first floor, and a TV room on the second. An open area on the second floor is a charming vignette, with a round table, an antique desk in a wall recess, and a curved bench.

The deep blue on the walls in the master bedroom was already there. Accessories here include a painting by Eric Weigand, and a slender shelf arrangement containing Wedgwood pieces.

Among other interesting features in the home are the flower-covered pedestal sink in the first floor powder room, and the hidden bedroom that was converted from a playroom by Curtis' daughter — who turns 13 soon.

OTHER HOMES

The Sylvan Lake Home and Garden Tour will be as eclectic as Curtis' residence. Other featured homes include:

■ A house with a European chalet design, and custom carpentry and woodwork throughout. The home is known locally as the Owl House, because of a hand-carved owl at the site.

■ A kit house from the early 1900s that has been preserved. It has the original bathtub and hardwood floors.

■ Two other lakefront houses. On the deck of one is a table, with a base that is a stump from a tree that had to be cut down.

■ A remodeled Colonial that is the former home of Daniel Murphy, the first Oakland County executive.

mklemic@hometownlife.com
(248) 901-2569

Turn heat on pests

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

January and Alan ask: "We have an upstairs bathroom floor with termites, as well as a history of asthma in our family.

"A termite inspection has confirmed the need for fumigation, yet we are hesitant due to the onset of asthma in my brother after he had his home fumigated.

"We've contacted the pest control company that has pioneered the use of nitrogen in freezing out termites from localized home infestations. Do you have information on this method?"

You are among the growing number of homeowners who are seeking less toxic alternatives to the conventional methods of dealing with household pests.

According to Sheila Darr, executive director of the Bio-Integral Resource Center, a non-profit organization formed in

1978 to provide practical information on least-toxic methods for managing pests, the effectiveness of the liquid nitrogen method isn't as well documented as some of the alternatives.

According to Darr, one of the most effective and least toxic alternatives is one that uses heat.

This is a system wherein propane space heaters blow hot air through ducts into a tented structure, thus raising the ambient temperature to about 150 degrees. That brings the core temperature of the wood-framing members to about 120 degrees. That is all that is required to slay those little varmints. Plus, the heat isn't harmful to humans or to the structure or its contents,

although you should remove any electronic equipment susceptible to damage through heat. Technicians also warn that candles or thin sheets of plastic should be removed as well.



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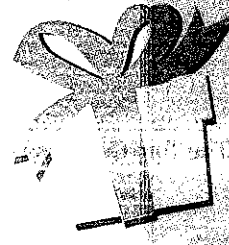
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BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

Message Service) applet for sending short text messages to other devices. funSMS 4 provides a much more attractive interface and a host of handy features. The \$24.95 program is a must-have for anyone who lives and dies by SMS.

And for anyone who lies and dies by instant messaging (or "IM-ing"), VeriChat makes it possible to hold real-time chat sessions with users on AOL, ICQ, MSN and Yahoo networks. It supports multiple chat sessions, user alerts (meaning it can notify you when a particular user comes online), and even file exchanges.

It also comes with a boatload of nifty emoticons — essential for any serious IM-er. VeriChat costs \$24.95.

Pocket Tunes Deluxe is the killer music app for Treo users. That's because it not only lets you play and manage MP3 and WMA files stored on your device, but also supports online music stores and subscription services. Just make sure you get an adapter so you can plug your favorite headphones into the Treo's annoyingly non-standard 2.5mm jack.

Wouldn't it be great if you could call someone just by tapping an icon? That's the idea behind TapDial, a \$9.95 utility that effectively creates speed-dial buttons right in your Applications screen.

If there's one key feature the Treo sorely lacks, it's voice dialing. Ideally, you should be able to just say the name of the person you want to call. With Voice



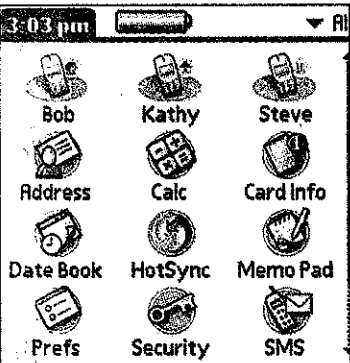
Pocket Tunes Deluxe turns your Treo into a sophisticated audio player, with full support for most online music services.

Dialer, a \$19.95 program, you can. Many people, myself included, find the Treo's volume to be seriously lacking. VolumeCare lets you increase the volume beyond what the hardware normally allows. Dozens of demerits to Palm for requiring a third-party utility to fix this annoying problem.

Finally, we come to Avvenu (avvenu.com), which enables you to remotely access files and folders stored on your PC.

This can prove mighty handy when you need to retrieve an essential file while away from the office. Avvenu is a freebie, and it works with other PCs, too, not just Treos.

One last thought: If you're looking for a good online hang-out where you can read reviews of Treo-related gear and interact with other Treo users, try TreoCentral (treocentral.com). The site also runs a store



TapDial makes speed-dialing a snap by assigning contacts their own icons.

where you can buy a wide variety of Treo accessories.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

How to read grass seed label

If now is the time to perk up your existing lawn or perhaps start a new one, then you may be thinking of grass seed.

Buying quality seed is the first step. Understanding the label on the grass seed package is key to buying the right seed for your lawn. Every grass seed package is required to have a label listing the contents. Here are some tips from the Web site yardcare.com to help you understand the terms. The Toro Company created the site to provide answers and information for all lawn and garden questions. Log on to www.yardcare.com for more information.

■ **Species and variety** — The label will list the species, or types, of grass seed in the bag by the common species name as well as by the specific variety name within the species.

For example, Midnight Kentucky Bluegrass is the variety Midnight from the species

Kentucky Bluegrass.

A mixture of grass seed will often contain more than one species as well as more than one variety from a given species.

Check with your county extension service or the experts at your local garden center to see what species mixture is best suited for your specific lawn conditions.

■ **Purity** — The number listed next to the grass seed variety name indicates the purity of the seed. Purity refers to the percent, by weight, of each lawn seed in the mixture.

You should look for packages with the pure seed percentage totaling 90 percent or more.

■ **Germination** — This indicates the percent of pure seed that has been tested and should grow when planted. The germination figure should be at least 80 percent.

■ **Crop seed** — This number refers to the percentage of the

mixture that is grown as a cash crop. It is best to find seed with less than 0.5 percent crop seed, as it may lower the quality of your lawn.

■ **Inert matter** — The inert matter on a grass seed label indicates the amount of the mixture that is incapable of growth. Think of this as "filler." High-quality grass seed contains little inert matter.

■ **Weed seed** — The weed seed that is listed on the label indicates the percentage of weeds in the package. It is best to choose mixtures with less than 0.5 percent weed seed.

Noxious weeds are extremely problematic for proper lawn growth and maintenance. To ensure quality lawns, avoid packages with noxious weeds.

■ **Test date** — Finally, the test date refers to when the seed was last tested. It is best to choose seed tested within the past nine to 12 months.

Step 1: Read installation manual

BY DAVID BRADLEY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

The least homeowners should expect when they hire contractors is by-the-book installation. Yet the abridged version of installation manuals often is all many hired workers read.

Installation jobs end up botched or corners are cut. Homeowners assume their dollars buy the best the building industry has to offer when in fact many are shortchanged.

For instance, windows may be shoved into openings and held in place with nails or sealed by cheap caulk.

Drywall lines shower walls but may soak up water like a sponge and isn't sturdy enough to hold many of today's heavy-weight tiles.

Quality flooring is doomed if subflooring isn't leveled or strengthened.

Homeowners don't escape all the blame. So fixated are many on materials they forget the back-end of the process.

They don't ask pertinent questions about proper installation. Few bother to read

manuals (even if they do the work themselves).

Most are away from home as work is done. They never see what transpires as materials are put in place.

The contractor a homeowner originally dealt with may be an installation pro but the labor is often shunted to inexperienced work crews. Such workers may lack sufficient training, specific product know-how or patience to see the job to a proper conclusion.

So rampant is here today-gone tomorrow installation that many manufacturers and retailers now resort to private installation networks to ensure the job is done right.

Supply chains such as Lowe's or Home Depot have ramped up installation services in part to relieve homeowners of the onus of installation and to appease product manufacturers. Product makers and vendors look bad if products fail due to installation negligence.

It's worth remembering that product warranties can be void with improper installation.

Wally Corwin, manager of product integrity for window

maker Jeld-Wen, says the firm includes exhaustive installation booklets with every window.

These lengthy materials, including CDs, are as much for worker enlightenment as for homeowner information. He estimates a thorough window installation is six to eight hours per window.

Homeowners should at least leaf through materials to know what questions to pose to contractors.

Materials also help educate the homeowner as to best installation practices or to know what to look for.

Here are some installation suggestions that consumers should talk through with their contractor prior to installation:

■ **Walk me through the installation process for this product.**

■ **May I read the installation manual before installation starts?**

■ **How experienced are you and your workers in installation procedures for this product or job?**

■ **What sort of installation is necessary to meet warranty guidelines?**

Try using metal when you re-roof

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

If you've got leaks and drips from peak to border, a brand-new roof might be in order.

While they cost more initially, metal roofs pay off in the long run, with lifetime transferable warranties, meaning you (or

future owners) will never have to re-roof.

And because they're fireproof, you might also pay less for homeowner's insurance.

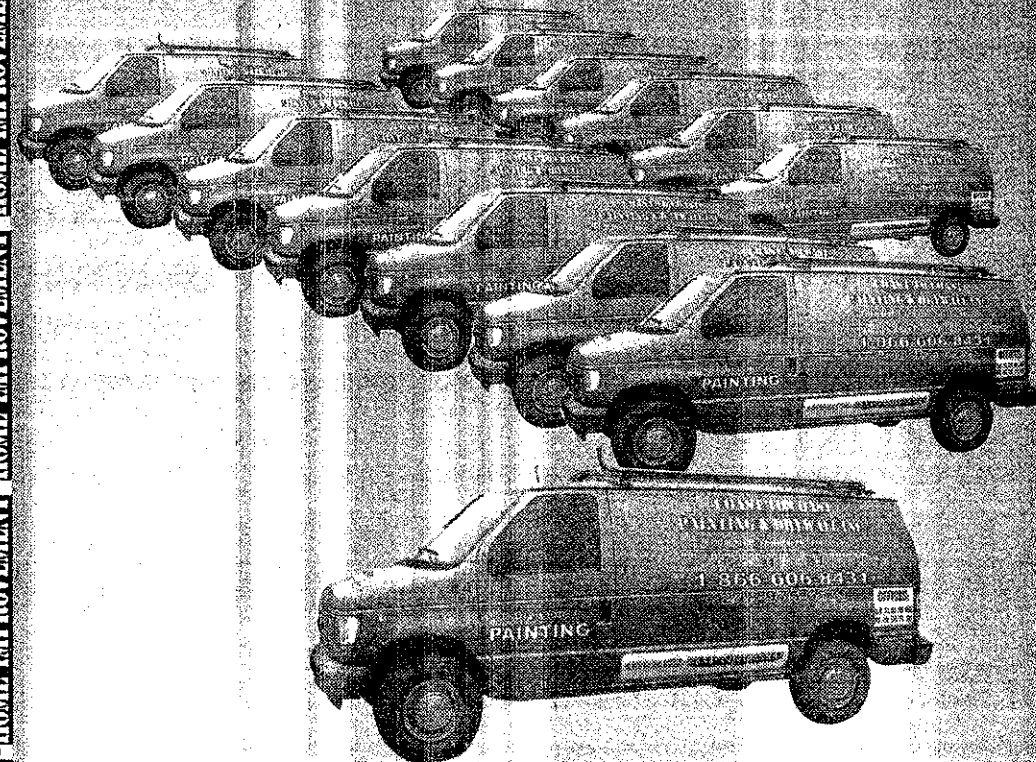
Another big benefit is greater comfort and energy savings. Metal roofs reflect more heat from intense sun, while asphalt shingles absorb heat and trans-

fer it indoors. And, contrary to what you might think, the sound of rain on metal is no greater than on traditional roofing.

Metal roofs are Earth-friendly, too (millions of old asphalt shingles wind up in landfills).

Plus, they are lightweight, install faster and come in various styles from shakes to tiles.

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Besides helping the chicken cook evenly, pounding the cutlets beforehand helps to tenderize them in this citrus chicken.

Tangy citrus chicken features tender cutlets

BY DANA JACOBI
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

When I was a child, my grandmother's landlord was French and, to top it off, a chef. On Sundays, his day off, Chef LaGrange always made coq au vin. This was before Julia Child taught us authentic French cooking, and the aroma drifting upstairs was like nothing I had ever known. The fragrance of that dish was what started my life-long passion for enticing chicken dishes.

During college, while living near New York City's Hungarian neighborhood, a clerk at a store that could have been in Budapest gave me her recipes for creamy chicken paprikash and a pungent goulash. Then my mother shared a recipe she found for Chicken Marengo. Made with garlic, tomatoes and white wine, in the late 1960s, it seriously impressed the men I dated.

Next came the era of the wok, when everyone learned to stir-

fry. My specialty was tossing together colorful combinations of chicken, crisp vegetables, and fresh pineapple that I seasoned with ginger, garlic and soy sauce. Northern Italian food then became the fashion, with restaurants featuring chicken piccata. What could be easier to make; just saute chicken cutlets, deglaze with chicken broth and lemon juice, and garnish with capers. But my chicken overcooked in the thin parts while remaining pink where it was thick. Cookbooks explained that pounding the chicken to an even thickness would prevent this.

If, like me, you have resisted pounding chicken cutlets, trust me, it is worth the effort. Besides helping the chicken cook evenly, pounding tenderizes it. This helps cutlets come out as delicate in this Citrus Chicken, my version of piccata, as they are when served in the most exclusive restaurants. If you do not have a mallet or the round and short-handled metal implement called a meat pounder, using a small heavy frying pan works nicely.

CITRUS CHICKEN

1 pound whole skinless and boneless chicken breast, cut in 4 (4 ounce) pieces
¾ cup fat-free, reduced sodium chicken broth
3 tablespoons lime juice
2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons minced shallots
2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon cold water
1 tablespoon chilled butter, cut in tiny pieces
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 cups baby arugula leaves
3 cups baby spinach

Place one piece of the chicken breast between 2 sheets plastic wrap or wax paper. Using a meat pounder, mallet, or small, heavy frying pan, pound the chicken until it is evenly ¼-inch thick. Repeat with remaining chicken pieces. In a measuring cup, combine the broth, lime juice, sugar, and shallots, and set aside.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the

chicken and cook 3 minutes. Turn, and cook until chicken is white in the center, 2-3 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a plate, cover loosely with foil, and set aside.

Pour the broth mixture into the pan, scraping with a wooden spatula to gather up any browned bits. In a small bowl, dissolve the cornstarch in the cold water and add to the pan. When the sauce boils and turns clear, 1-2 minutes, remove pan from the heat and whisk in the butter. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

In a large bowl, toss together the arugula and spinach leaves. Divide them among four dinner plates. Slice each chicken breast across the grain and at an angle. Arrange one sliced breast on top of the greens on each plate. Spoon over the sauce. Serve immediately, accompanied by cooked brown rice, if desired.

Makes 4 servings. Per serving: 195 calories, 7 g. total fat (3 g. saturated fat), 5 g. carbohydrate, 28 g. protein, less than 1 g. dietary fiber, 194 mg. sodium.

Dana Jacobi is author of *The Joy of Soy* and is a recipe creator for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Making your own salad dressing easy

BY BRYAN MILLER
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

NEW YORK – In a country where people routinely purchase premade versions of easy-to-make foods like croutons (seasoned toast), pancake mix (flour and baking powder) and even pre-buttered garlic bread, it shouldn't be a surprise that they also unthinkingly squander money on sugared-up, bottled salad dressings.

Look at the labels of brand-name dressings and, almost invariably, a prominent ingredient is high-fructose corn syrup. Making your own salad dressing is embarrassingly easy – and cheaper – than buying it in the store. Of course, preparing vinaigrette every day could become a nuisance, especially, if, like me, you often forget to make it until the last minute when hot food is already on the table.

My solution: Make big batches of the stuff and store it in wine bottles or mason jars.

There's no end to the dressings you can make. Novices might begin by preparing classic French vinaigrette, which is the mother lode for so many dressings. The key is to strike the proper balance among acid (vinegar, lemon juice), sweetness and viscosity (olive oil) and spicy (mustard, black pepper, hot pepper).

It goes without saying that the better the ingredients, the more flavorful the results.

Start small. A tossed green salad for four calls for about 1½ teaspoons mustard, 2 to 3 tablespoons oil, 1 tablespoon vinegar, salt and pepper. Whisk together all the ingredients except the oil; when blended, drizzle in the oil while continuing to whisk. Keep in mind that salad dressings, like hand-sewn Amish quilts, are never exactly alike even though the components are the same. Taste, taste, taste.

That accomplished, the fun begins.

We are coming into the season of fresh herbs, so experiment at will. It requires a lot of hard work and concentration to foul up vinaigrette – and if you manage to succeed in doing so, making corrections is merely a matter of boosting the flavor that's missing.

If you don't have access to fresh herbs in the off-season, look for a widely available dried-herb mix from France called Herbes de Provence, sold in a small clay crock. Commercial flavored oils and vinegars are good, but pricey for what you get.

I love garlic, but I infrequently add raw garlic to dressings that I plan to store. When the garlic is left to steep in olive oil, especially at room temperature, nasty things can happen. Vegetables and herbs that grow on or under the ground are likely to contain tiny fragments of soil. This soil, if placed in an anaerobic environment such as a container of oil, can generate botulism. But botulism can't grow in the presence of acid, like vinegar, so vinaigrettes should be fine.

The recipes below are more guidelines than dictates. For a softer, less biting dressing, you can substitute rice vinegar or cider vinegar.

The balsamic vinegars found in supermarkets, while not authentic, still add a pleasant, woody sweetness (the better ones have "Modena" on the label).

In the recipes below, fresh herbs are steeped in warm olive oil to release their flavors.

A vinaigrette-style dressing is good for as long as two months. I like to store salad dressings in wine bottles; it's classier than bringing a mason jar to the table.

A word of warning: Clearly label bottles in the fridge that contain dressing. More than once I have poured a thick, lumpy vinaigrette cocktail into a dinner guest's wine goblet.

TARRAGON-GRAPEFRUIT VINAIGRETTE

1½ cups olive oil
¾ cup canola oil
1 tablespoon fresh tarragon leaves, stemmed, chopped, or ½ tablespoon dried
2½ tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
¾ cup fresh grapefruit juice (sweeter pink or red are best), or to taste

In a small pot, combine over low heat the olive oil, canola oil and tarragon. Heat the oil just short of bubbling. Remove from heat and set aside for at least 60 minutes.

Meanwhile, in the work bowl of a kitchen mixer or a hand-held mixer, combine the mustard, salt, black pepper and 1 tablespoon of grapefruit juice.

Begin whisking on slow setting. Drizzle in about ¼ cup of the oil, then more of the grapefruit juice. Repeat in that order, tasting for balance as you go along, until the oil and grapefruit juice are exhausted. Cut with a little red-wine vinegar if it needs a boost of acidity. Taste for seasonings.

Using a funnel, transfer dressing to a standard 750-milliliter wine bottle (or a Mason jar). Seal securely and refrigerate. (New screw-cap bottles are best for this.) Refrigerate. Remove 15 minutes before using, and shake very well. Lasts at least a month refrigerated.

Makes about 2 cups.

This versatile dressing is ideal for fruit salads of all kinds. It's also good with grilled fruits. Because it is sweet, a little goes a long way.

MANGO, LIME AND FRESH GINGER DRESSING

2 ripe mangoes, peeled, flesh sliced off
½ teaspoon grated fresh ginger (dried is too harsh)
¾ cup fresh mint leaves
Juice of 2 limes
½ teaspoon Dijon mustard
Salt and white pepper to taste
6 tablespoons plain yogurt

In a blender, combine all ingredients except the yogurt. Puree until smooth.

Add the yogurt and puree. Taste – it should be smooth and moderately sweet. Store in an airtight jar for up to two weeks.

Makes about 2 cups.

SPRING LEMON AND ROSEMARY DRESSING

1½ cups olive oil
¾ cups canola oil
½ cup loosely packed whole rosemary leaves, chopped finely (or 1 tablespoon dried)
2½ tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice and zest of 1 lemon
¾ cup red-wine vinegar, or as needed

In a medium pot, combine over low heat the olive oil, canola oil and rosemary. Heat the oil to just short of bubbling. Remove from heat and set aside for at least 60 minutes.

Meanwhile, in the work bowl of a kitchen mixer or a hand-held mixer, combine the mustard, salt, black pepper, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, and the lemon zest.

Begin whisking on slow setting. Slowly drizzle in about ¼ cup of the oil. Whisk in 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Repeat, alternating oil and lemon juice (taste for balance as you go along) until both are exhausted. Cut with a little red-wine vinegar if more acid is needed. Taste for seasonings. Use a funnel to transfer contents to a standard 750-milliliter bottle (or a Mason jar). Be sure to scrape in everything from the bottom of the bowl. Seal securely. (New screw-cap bottles are best for this.) Refrigerate. Remove 15 minutes before using. Shake well. Store in an airtight jar for a month.

Makes about 2½ cups.

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If you have an item for the Taste calendar, please submit at least two weeks prior to your event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com or fax (734) 591-7279.

Weight Watchers

Tim Cikra, executive chef at Weight Watchers, will demonstrate healthy recipes using Faygo soda, free to the public, on the following dates and at these Weight Watchers locations: 9:15 a.m. Saturday, June 17, Franklin Plaza, 29195 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, and 10 a.m. and noon, Tuesday, June 20, West River, 30076 Grand River Ave., Farmington, call 1 (888) 3-FLORINE or visit www.florinc.com.

Classes at Busch's

Busch's All-American Grill focuses on basic grill techniques and demonstrates recipes on gas and charcoal grills, use of marinades, brines and rubs, 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 15185 Sheldon (at Five Mile), Plymouth (734) 414-5200, and Thursday, June 22, 24445 Drake (at Grand River), Farmington Hills (248) 427-7400.

International buffets

International buffets: Regions of North America, June 15, \$12 per person per meal, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. in Fifty One O One, Student & Culinary Arts Center, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, for reservations, call (313) 845-9651.

Italian wine dinner

Enzo Lucca, owner and winemaker of the Northern Piemonte estate of Dessilani, Italy, at Piemontese wine-makers dinner, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at Little Italy Ristorante in Northville, eight courses and seven wines, \$75 per person, which includes a glass of each wine and all courses

with gratuities extra, visit www.littleitalynorthville.com or call (248) 348-0575.

Beginning series

Valerie Wilson teaches vegetarian, whole foods cooking classes, learn about tofu, tempeh, seaweed vegetables and miso, 6-9 p.m., Tuesdays, June 20 and 27, \$120 for series, \$30 per class, class is held in Garden City, visit www.macroval.com or call (734) 261-2856.

Middle Eastern cooking

Summer 2006 series of healthy cooking classes by Valerie Wilson, 6-9 p.m., June 21, \$60 (\$30), and Middle Eastern cooking, 6-9 p.m., Friday, June 23, \$30; class is held in Garden City, visit www.macroval.com for details or call (734) 261-2856.

Thai cooking

Learn to make pad Thai, Chiang Rai eggplant and hot and sour soup, 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 19, instructed by Lawan Chandruang and her husband Adirek, who own Bangkok Bistro in Troy and Sterling Heights, \$30, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.

Summer salads

Take herbs and vegetables and turn them into salads and learn how to use leftover barbecue in "salad" sandwich ideas, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, instructed by Julie Djurich, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.

Wine classes

Summer tasting of wine regions in series of four sessions at 7:30 p.m., instructed by Nidal Daher and Marc Jonna, with the following classes scheduled: ABC (anything but Chardonnay), June 15; Mediterranean Region Wines, June 22; All American wines, June 29, \$28 each session, \$98

for all four, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.

Grapevine

The schedule of classes from the Grapevine School of Wine, includes Pinot Noir: The Seductress of Red Wine, 7 p.m., Monday, June 19, at Big Rock Chop House, 245 S. Eaton, Birmingham, (\$35, includes valet parking); Summer Barbecue Wines, 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, Station 885, 885 Starkweather, Plymouth, \$32; Chardonnay: The Worldwide Wow Factor, 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, The Quarter Bistro & Tavern, 300 S. Maple, Ann Arbor, \$32; Wonderful Whites Under \$15, 7 p.m., Monday, June 26, Big Rock Chop House, 245 S. Eaton, Birmingham, \$35 (includes valet parking); Sensational Summer Whites, 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 27, Station 885, 885 Starkweather, Plymouth, \$32; register online at www.grapevineschoolofwine.com. For additional information, call (248) 990-4613.

The Community House

Cooking classes will be taught this summer at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. To register, call (248) 644-5832 or visit www.communityhouse.com.

The following classes are scheduled: Appetizers from Torino, 7-9 p.m., Monday, June 26, \$24 plus \$6 materials fee payable to instructor of class; Desserts from Torino, 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, June 28, \$24 plus \$6 materials fee payable to instructor of class.

Vintage Wine Tasting

Viewpoint Estate Winery, 151 County Road 50 East, Harrow, Ont. hosts Southwestern Ontario Vintners Association 2006 Vintners Wine Tasting, 1-4 p.m. Aug. 12, tickets \$50, available at SWOVA wineries, visit www.vintagetesting.com

Primavera is perfect for seasonal vegetables

As spring melts into summer, farmers markets soon will be filling up with seasonal produce.

If you can't choose among the vegetables, mix them all together and serve alla primavera, which in Italian means "spring style." Any variety of fresh vegetables works.

One of the most popular dishes prepared this way is Pasta Primavera, pasta tossed or topped with raw and blanched, or lightly cooked, vegetables. It proves that pasta can be part of a healthful diet without being smothered in cream sauce or swimming in oil.

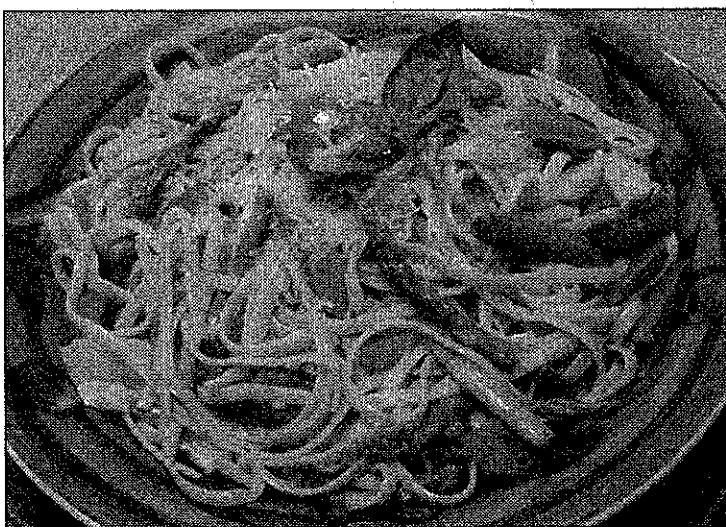
In addition to adding color and crunch to the pasta, the vegetables add nutrients and fiber. Asparagus is high in vitamins A, B and C, and a source of iron and potassium. Green beans have a fair amount of vitamins A and C. Translucent, bright green snow peas are entirely edible, including the pod. Although snow peas are available year round, they are at their peak in spring. Frozen snow peas can also be used.

Pasta primavera fits well into the American Institute of Cancer Research's recommendation that people rethink their eating habits so that their diet is richer in health-protective phytochemicals.

Nutritionists agree that vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans should cover two-thirds (or more) of the plate, and animal-based foods one-third (or less).

Studies show a strong connection between a diet high in plant-based foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and a reduced risk of cancer and other chronic diseases.

In the following recipe, the natural flavors of seasonal vegetables shine through a light tomato sauce. This dish is a



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Mix some summer vegetables together and serve alla primavera, which in Italian means "spring style."

perfect way to showcase the season's harvest of new vegetables.

PASTA PRIMAVERA

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 6 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 3 medium ripe tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup fat-free, reduced-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh basil leaves
- 1 small red onion, sliced thin
- 1 pound fresh snap peas, sliced in half diagonally, or 1 package (10 oz.) frozen
- 1/2 pound asparagus, cut into 2-inch lengths
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 cup diced yellow squash
- 1 cup small green beans (cut diagonally if larger than 2 inches)
- 1/4 pound whole-grain pasta
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided

Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat until hot. Add garlic and saute until golden, about 2 minutes.

Add tomatoes and broth and cook over medium heat, about 5 minutes. Add basil and red onion, cover and remove from heat.

Meanwhile, fill a pot large enough to hold all the vegetables with water and bring to a boil over high heat. Add vegetables and cook 1 minute. With a slotted spoon, transfer vegetables to a colander. Use the cooking water to cook the pasta according to package directions.

While pasta cooks, briefly rinse the vegetables with cold water, drain and add to the pan containing the tomato mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and put aside.

Drain cooked pasta and transfer to a large serving bowl. Toss pasta with 3 tablespoons of Parmesan, then stir in the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top and serve.

Makes 6 servings. Per serving: 326 calories, 7 g. total fat (1 g. saturated fat), 57 g. carbohydrate, 14 g. protein, 12 g. dietary fiber, 100 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Top grilled tilapia with tomato relish

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fish is ideal for cooks in a hurry: It often behaves best with light-handed cooking, and picks up flavor easily from standard seasonings used in just the right combinations.

Take this tilapia dish, for example, from a feature on seafood in the June issue of Health magazine. It can be prepared on the grill or in the oven in less than 20 minutes.

Tilapia is usually described as mild, which detractors might translate as dull. Well, not in this case, with a recipe calling for a well-chosen range of summery Mediterranean-style seasonings which you may already have at hand on your pantry shelves.

The Health feature includes a few cook's tips: Fish is done when it's opaque and flakes easily, usually after 10 minutes per inch of thickness at 400° F

to 450° F, with a turn in the middle. Cook clams, mussels and oysters until their shells open; if shells don't open, discard. Shrimp takes about 3 to 5 minutes; shells will be pink and the meat white.

TILAPIA WITH FRESH TOMATO RELISH

- Four 6-ounce tilapia, whitefish or halibut fillets
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 large chopped seeded tomato
- 1/2 cup sliced pimiento-stuffed olives
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1 tablespoon drained capers

Prepare grill, or heat oven to 450° F.

Tear 4 large (about 16- by 14-inch) sheets of aluminum foil.

Put each fillet on one half of each sheet. Brush 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and the lemon juice evenly over fillets; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Fold half the foil over each fish fillet to make 4 rectangular packets. Fold the remaining 3 edges over several times to seal.

For relish, mix together remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil, tomato, olives, basil and capers; set aside.

Place packets on grill over medium-hot coals or on a baking sheet in the oven. Grill, covered, or bake 6 to 10 minutes (depending on thickness of fish) or until fish is opaque in center. Carefully open packets; transfer to plates, and top with relish.

Makes 4 servings (serving size: 1 fillet and about 1/2 cup relish).

Nutrition information per serving: 243 cal., 10 g fat (2 g saturated), 120 mg chol., 36 g pro., 3 g carbo., 1 g fiber, 415 mg sodium.

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Next week's
PINK is BLUE
too! Summer
style for guys
and gals

pink picks

By Wensdy

This week, PINK Picks high-
lights cosmetics and special
offers featured at Parisian's
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Parisian's Beauty Workshop!

'A Day with Jay'

Jay Strongwater promotes Detroit Zoo event

Story and Photo By Wensdy White

When it comes to creating beautiful collectibles, Jay Strongwater doesn't monkey around. The renowned designer recently visited Saks Fifth Avenue Somerset for "A Day with Jay," an event to benefit the Detroit Zoological Society and promote "Sunset at the Zoo." Guests were treated to brunch from the Ritz, and Strongwater's story of how he went from creating haute couture jewelry to "jewels for the home."



Jay Strongwater

Sunset at the Zoo

Dress elegant summer chic for this wild affair in support of the Detroit Zoological Society. Includes a strolling supper, exclusive access to the zoo's exhibits, entertainment and prizes.
When: 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, June 16
VIP Reception: 6-7 p.m.
Tickets: \$125 and up
Call: (248) 541-5717, ext. 3750, or visit www.detroitzoo.org

"The buyers called back for a spring collection," he said. "I didn't even know there was such a thing!"

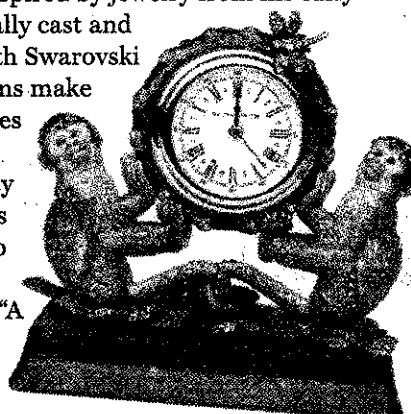
Before long, Oscar de la Renta commissioned jewelry for runway shows and Vogue Editor Anna Wintour, then at New York magazine, borrowed jewelry to feature in photo shoots. Strongwater quit school to design jewelry full-time.

After a wildly popular run, his chunky, ornate necklaces, earrings and bangles fell out of fashion in the mid-'90s, so Strongwater turned his talent and techniques to creating objects for the home. Today, his frames, vases, mirrors, treasure boxes, clocks and tables are still inspired by jewelry from his early career. Individually cast and

enameled, and hand set with Swarovski crystals and stones, the items make luxurious gifts or focal pieces for the home.

His Spring 2006 "Monkey Business" collection reflects the spirit of the Detroit Zoo event. Strongwater signed all purchases made during "A Day with Jay."

For more, visit www.jaystrongwater.com.



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The reader who sends us the hottest picks will win our Second Annual Reader PINK Picks Contest!

Those picks will be featured in our August 20, 2006 PINK issue, and our deserving reader will receive a \$500 shopping spree at Laurel Park Place, just in time for Fall!

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You must submit at least 12 PINK picks to be eligible. Use this issue's PINK Picks as an example.

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★ Don't be fashionably late! Get your picks to us by JULY 23rd

