

To complete the project, the township agreed to pay the \$37,000 it would cost to prepare the site for the harn. The township's responsibilities include geotechnical tests, soil samples, foundation design and construction, electrical service for security lighting and maintenance of exterior paint.

The Cady barn is one of just four barns left standing in Canton, and it's the one that's in the best con-

Canton residents came out Foundation Spaghetti Dinner, energy before checking out



dition, according to Trustee Melissa McLaughlin. She added that it's always been the intent of township officials and the Canton Historical Society to have a barn at the Bartlett-Travis house.

The posts and beams are original, and were handhewn by members of the Cady family, according to history teacher Darrin Silvester, whose students spent a significant amount of time researching the barn's history.

But Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter expressed concern that the barn may be a money pit, and pointed

PLEASE SEE BARN, A5

to Heritage Park this weekend for a heapin' helpin' of summer fun at the township's 15th annual Liberty Part

annual Liberty Fest. The four-day festival kicked off Thursday evening with fun and games for children, the *Canton Observer* pie-eating contest, and a movie under the stars at the amphitheater. Friday evening the fun con-

tinued with the Canton Firefighters Charity a euchre tournament and the Blooze Brothers all scheduled.

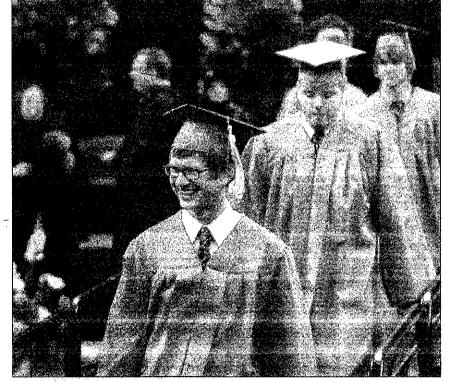
at 15th annual Liberty Fest

Saturday was the big day, which was scheduled to start with a parade on Ford Road. Also on tap were a classic car show, musical entertainment at the park and fireworks after dusk.

Today, Liberty Fest wraps up at 5 p.m. Enjoy a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. to get an early blast of the car show's second day, and the final day of the Kids Fun Zone. Visitors can enjoy entertainment at the amphitheater all day, starting with the Plymouth Fife & Drum corps at 11 a.m. Kathak Indian Classical Dance takes the stage at 3:50 p.m., followed by Central City Dance at 4:15 p.m.



Meghan and Emily Meredith pet a cute little porker at the Liberty Fest petting farm.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No more school daze

More than 400 seniors were graduated from Canton High School during the school's commencement exercise June 11 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. For a list of the graduates and more photos, please turn to Page A8.

Keeping Dad's memory alive

Families find ways to honor fathers no longer there BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

'Susan Ayoub and her four children know exactly how they're going to

honor their father for Father's Day today: The same way they've been doing it since he died a little more than five years ago.

Sharon Amey wasn't quite sure how she and her 5-year-old twins would manage their first Father's Day without the twins' father, who died suddenly in December.

The important thing, for both families, wasn't so much how they honored their lost loved ones, rather that they made sure they actually *did* honor them. Because while millions of dads are opening ties and going to dinner today, scores of children are

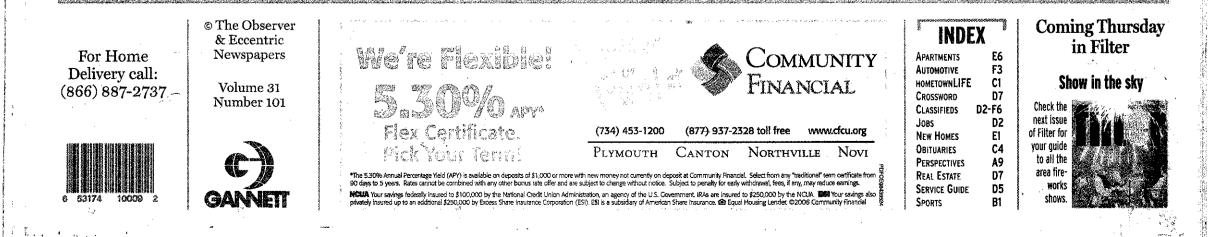


MARCUS SINGLETON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Ayoub and her children – Jessica, Angela, Nicolas, and Matthew – look through an old photo album for pictures of the children's father.

struggling to find a way to remember dads they've lost. According to experts, that effort is an important one in the grief process. "You never want to let a spirit diminish, especially for a child,

PLEASE SEE DAD, A4



AROUND CANTON

A reptilian experience

Cherry Hill School will host **Reptile and Amphibian** Encounters on Saturday, June 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. Space is limited and advance registration is required for this free event. The Visiting Naturalist Outreach Program from Nankin Mills Interpretive Center has been invited to give residents information about our natural wonders here in Michigan. Learn natural history while getting a close up look at many of Michigan's "herps." Herps include reptiles and amphibians. They will bring animals from both groups, including snakes, frogs, and turtles. Adaptations, coldblooded animals, and other topics will be discussed. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Canton Leisure Services at (734) 394-5460.

Design excellence nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for Canton's fourth annual Design Excellence Awards, which promote excellence in landscaping, architectural, and environmental design, is July 15. Judging for the competition will take place July through August and awards will be presented at an appreciation ceremony in October.

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ATM

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BONELESS ENGLISH CUT

GROUND FRESH HOURLY

KOWALSKI OVEN ROASTED

BEEF

ROAST

GROUND ROUNDISIRLOIN

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RUSSER'S VIRGINIA

ON THE GRILL

Categories for the Landscape Design Award include neighborhood entryways, residential homes, commercial retail and office buildings, industrial facilities, and public facilities. The award will be based on quality of design, use of plant materials, year round appeal, and creativity.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

Categories for the Environmental Excellence Award include detention pond maintenance, preservation. and wetland mitigation. The award is intended to highlight projects that preserve or enhance natural features, use native vegetation, and create natural habitats.

Categories for the Architectural Design Award include commercial retail and office buildings, industrial facilities, additions, renovations and remodeling, and public facilities. The award will be based on building design, quality of building materials, and quality of site design.

Nomination forms are available on Canton's Web site at www.canton-mi.org, the Summit on the Park, Canton's Administration Building, the Canton Library, and several Canton-area nurseries.

Completed forms must be sent to:

Canton Design Excellence Award

1150 Canton Center Road South

Canton, MI 48188

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The Design Excellence Awards are sponsored by Canton's Council for Community Excellence. For questions or more information please call (734) 394-5164 or visit www.canton-mi.org.

Hospital board appointment

Garden City Hospital recently announced the addition of Canton resident Linda Breakie, RN,



CRNI, B.B.A., to its board of trustees. Breakie is a successful operations executive with more than 20 years of experi-

ence. She has an associate degree in science and nursing from Henry Ford Community College, and a bachelor's degree in management from Northwood University. Breakie became associated with Garden City Hospital in 1977 when she was employed as a staff nurse. She was then promoted to head nurse, implementing a new oncology unit during that time. Since then, she has been a NMC homecare staff nurse, director of operations and clinical services at IVonyx, Inc., a healthcare consultant, director of infusion services at St. John Health System and general

USDA GRADE A

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And the winner is ...

Maeve Eagle celebrates after winning the Liberty Fest pie eating contest sponsored by the Canton Observer. The contest was held Thursday, which was the opening day of Liberty Fest. She was one of 21 participants in the annual contest. She ate the most pie in 30 seconds, and won a CD player.

manager at Coram, Inc. Currently, she is a managing member at Complete Infusion Services, LLC. Breakie says that with her history at Garden City Hospital, and with her fatherin-law having been first CEO of the hospital, she has never really been able to leave it behind.

"I love Garden City Hospital and want to see it thrive as an organization," she said. "I believe that there truly is a

E-mail Address: www.bobsofcanton.com

Thank You!

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DA GRADE A

ING

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DRUMSTICKS

place in the community for a community hospital."

Youth drama camps

Ever After Productions will host youth two weeklong drama camps for children aged 5-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Kids will learn basic theater concepts, improvisation and will participate in a final performance at the end of the week. Camp directors are staff of Ever After Productions. Camps are July 24-28 and Aug. 7-11. Camp is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. daily. The fee is \$130. Non-residents are welcome. The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road (at the corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads). Registration for camps is available through the Summit on the Park (46000 Summit Parkway). For more information, call Emily Sherman, (734) 751-4887.

Corvettes at the Summit

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

www.hometownlife.com

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.

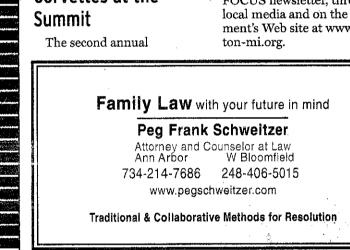
Show hours are 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Participant registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 9:30 a.m. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, July 10.

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

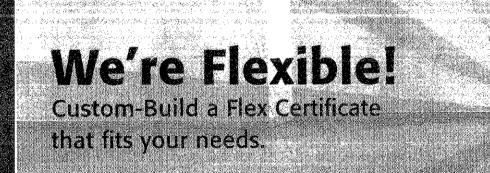
Public safety survey

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.can-









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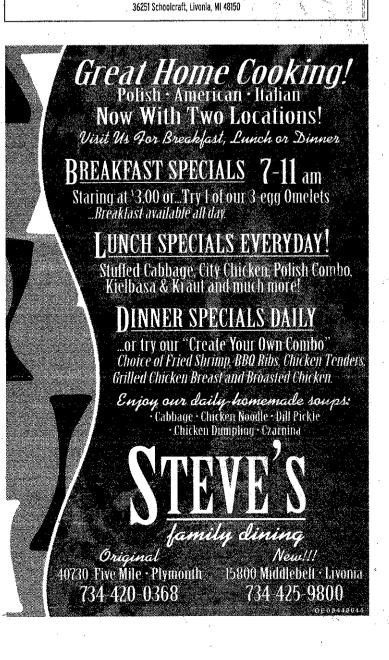
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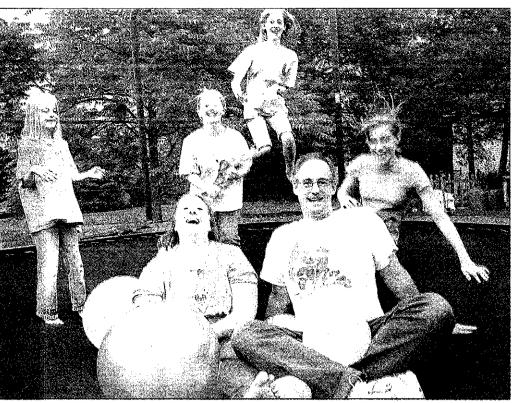


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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Banka family jumps on the trampoline at their Canton home. They recently completed the 100 Days to Health program through Canton Township.

Township program leads family down path to healthier lifestyle

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

For 100 days, Patti and David Banka watched their

approached their fitness goals. While some couples or groups enjoy a little competition when it comes to weight loss and exercise, Patti Banka

instead of piling into the family car and driving - to Plymouth for a Cinco de Mayo party.

Patti Banka admitted she had never been a fan of working out. Even though managing her household active, and she and her family enjoy playing outside and cycling, she never once pictured herself in a gym. But not going for workouts at least a couple of times a week. She feels stronger and less stressed out.

themselves in a big way they want to take a cruise.

reach the goal, Patti and having some fun along the way.

Break-ins plague Canton neighborhoods LOTZ ROAD BREAK-INS BY CAROL MARSHALL

STAFF WRITER

Neighborhoods throughout Canton are on alert, as a spike in property crimes has been reported during the last few weeks.

According to Canton Police, Glengarry East subdivision has had 11 incidents of thefts from cars and vandalism of cars between April 13 and the end of May.

The thefts occurred on Copeland Circle, Redfern, Cherrylawn, Metaline, Fairview, Walnut Ridge and surrounding streets.

"We're seeing ongoing activi-ty in this area," said Canton Police Sgt. Rick Pomorski. "There is no pattern, just numerous incidents of damage to property and larceny from autos." Sometimes the cars are left

unlocked, and sometimes the culprits have to break a window to get into the cars, he said.

Once inside the car, the perpetrators look for wallets, money, cell phones and anything of value.

They're basically looking for anything they can take," Pomorski said. "People are leaving things of value in cars, thinking that they're safe. But they're not."

There were three break-ins reported on June 8 and June 9, at a business and a condominium on Lotz Road. The business reported that someone had broken in two days in a row, and the home was burglarized once.

"At the business, suspects forced a side window open and went inside," Pomorski said. "They were looking for tools and money."

The condo was under construction, and the thief got away with tools.

LANDSCAPING LOOT

Throughout the township, residents have reported this month various landscaping items stolen.

Items such as solar lights, bird feeders, flowers, hammocks and other household goods have been reported missing.

Police report the incidents are widespread.

"We do have that kind of activity from time to time," Pomorski said. "It seems to be seasonal." He added that in the late fall and winter, police see an increase in people reporting snow blowers stolen from garages, and in the spring and summer, thieves are on the

lookout for landscaping materials.

Once the theft has occurred, very often the thieves will unload the items at local flea markets, where the stolen goods are sold.

BURGLAR IN BLACK

Last week a home in the area of Whitman and Whittier was burglarized. The theft took place late at night, and someone walking in the area saw the suspect, who was according to police dressed in black.

"We got there and the guy was gone. However, we saw some items - including a television - piled near a fence,' Pomorski said. "The person had already broken into the house, stashed the stuff by the fence and was coming back for more later."

Pomorski said that property crimes are at their highest during the warm weather months, and residents should remain observant and should be mindful of protecting their valuables. People should not leave things of value in their cars, and they should remember to close their garage doors, he said.

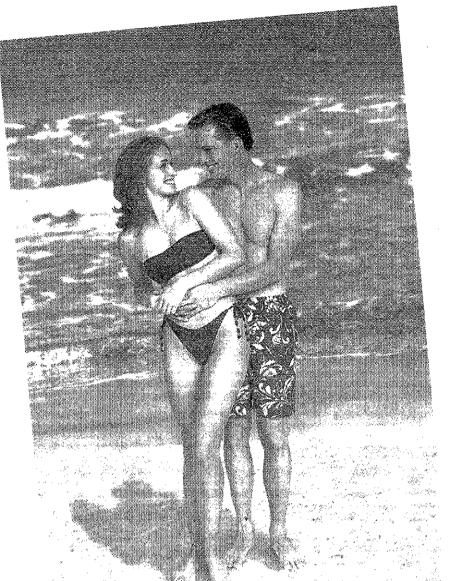
Anyone who sees suspicious activity should call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.



LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

Its Not Too Late...





DAD

FROM PAGE A1

because all they have sometimes are memories," said Pattie Bingham, outreach and special events coordinator at New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville. "You want to keep them alive."

Ayoub, a Canton resident, and her children - 16-year-old Angela, 15-year-old Jessica, 12year-old Nicholas and 10-yearold Matthew – did the same thing they do every year since the kids' father, Ed, died in January 2001 of renal failure.

The family wrote short messages and attached them to balloons, then took the balloons to the Livonia cemetery where their father is buried and released them.

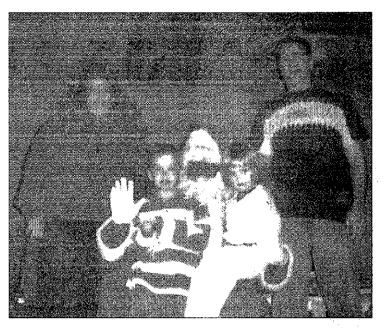
"They each write their own message," Ayoub said. "It's one way they can do something to feel close to their father. It's important they stay connected to him."

While it's gotten easier for the Ayoub children over the years, it's still a difficult thing to do. While friends and classmates are celebrating the day with their fathers, the Ayoubs do their celebrating at graveside.

"It was really hard at first," Angela Ayoub said. "Sometimes it was weird going to the cemetery, knowing it wasn't really him there. It's still hard, but you come to accept it. You learn everything happens for a reason."

It's a realization that's coming for Amey, too, though she's had barely six months to reach it. With energetic twins who just turned 5 to deal with every day - "They hit the floor running every morning," she said with a smile — Amey, also a Canton resident, has struggled to make sense of the situation.

Her kids are still too young, she said, to understand the



Sharon and Greg Amey, with twins Ashley and Kevin, shared some good times over the Christmas 2005 holiday.

talk about him every day. We sit and talk a lot about Daddy, about what we miss about him. We're there for each other through the happy, the sad and the anger."

Both families extolled the virtues of New Hope, the grief counseling center run by Cathy Clough of Plymouth. The center offers a variety of support groups to help widows, widowers and children who have lost loved ones.

"I don't know what I would have done without those guys," Amey says of the support group. "They've made us feel like we're not alone. They've helped us know what to expect, brought things to my attention I had no idea I'd have to face. You don't feel like you're the only one without a dad."

Counselors at New Hope believe getting help is the best way to deal with such an emotional loss. Groups such as the Circle of Hope, for younger parents, and the Kidz Group, help families stay connected with their loved ones.

"Obviously, that's very important," Bingham said. "We

Hope, as have her children. "It gives me a chance to talk

to other kids who are going through it." Angela Ayoub said. "At school, you're the minority. (In the group), they know what you're feeling."

It has gotten easier for the Ayoubs, who can even find some humor in their annual ritual.

"We write our notes, attach them to balloons, say a prayer and send them to heaven," Matthew Ayoub said. "(But) sometimes they're heavy, and every year at least one of them gets stuck in a tree."

Amey planned to take her twins to the cemetery to leave flowers on the grave of their father, a noted green thumb around his Canton neighbor-hood. After that, the family planned to go out to eat. She said she wants her kids to remember their dad, and to know he'd want them to go on without him.

"I think they feel different not having a dad," Amey said. "I want them to realize they're just like everyone else. They did have a dad, but he's in



<u>A</u> (C)

LOCAL NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

BARN

FROM PAGE A1

out that the township has far exceeded the amount it initially intended to spend on moving and restoring the Bartlett-Travis house. Further, the house is not being used by the community as much as township officials had hoped, she said.

"People are starting to complain to me. They are being turned away from using the Bartlett-Travis house," she said. "All this sounds great, but if we're going to do this, are we ready to commit \$200,000? We're fooling ourselves if we think this \$37,500 is it."

But according to Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin, people aren't being turned away from Bartlett-Travis house. There are restrictions for using the house — mostly having to do with the menu, and with not serving food or drink that could stain if spilled, which some people reject — so they seek out other venues for their events.

PURE ENTERTAINMENT

id of the Observation As Exception

"In the most delicate of societies, things get spilled," McLaughlin said.

The barn, at least for now, will be used only for storage and display purposes. To use the barn for events would require the addition of other safety features such as sprinkler systems, as well as the addition of bathrooms and sewer, amounting to more than \$157,000.

But it doesn't have to be completed overnight, Township Supervisor Tom Yack said.

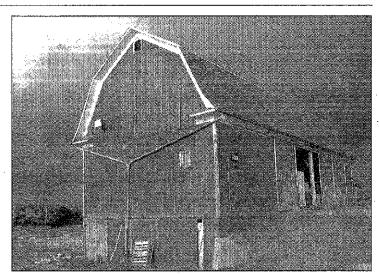
"The Bartlett-Travis house was eaten one bite at a time," Yack said, adding that restoration took 11 years after it was moved to the site in 1989. "We know if we don't do anything, at the end of July, the barn is gone forever."

And even if the only thing that happens to the barn is that it's used for storage, that would be OK, according to Yack.

"If it never got any farther than display and storage, the community would have been enriched because of it," he said.

Truștee Karl Zarbo favored

n your paper



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The township board voted Thursday to help move the Cady barn, which dates back to the early 1900s, to Cherry Hill Village.

the plan, but he said it was for a strange reason. As a former planning commissioner, he had voted consistently for development.

Residents asked him many times to remember Canton's farming heritage, and voting to save the barn is one way of honoring the township's history, Zarbo said.

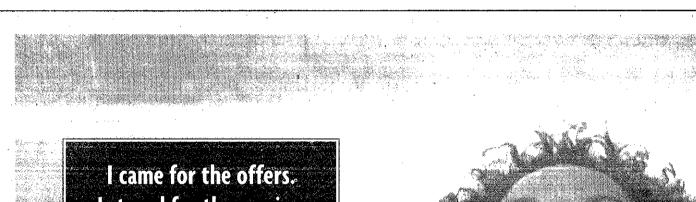
The Canton Historical Society is donating \$3,000 toward soil borings, and Clerk Terry Bennett is preparing a grant proposal for the Canton Community Foundation, in hopes of coming up with money to offset the cost of barn restoration. Deconstruction of the barn

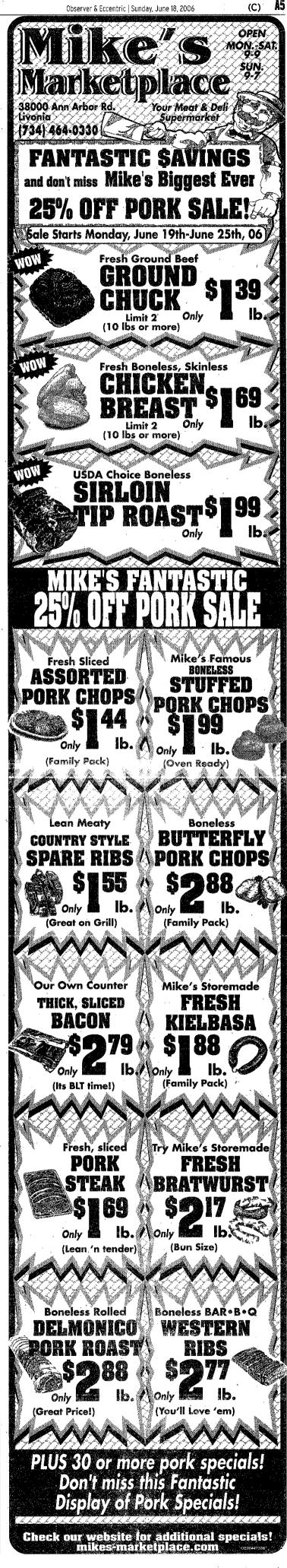
will likely begin July 4 and should take two weeks, according to Boyer.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com

Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor – A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com





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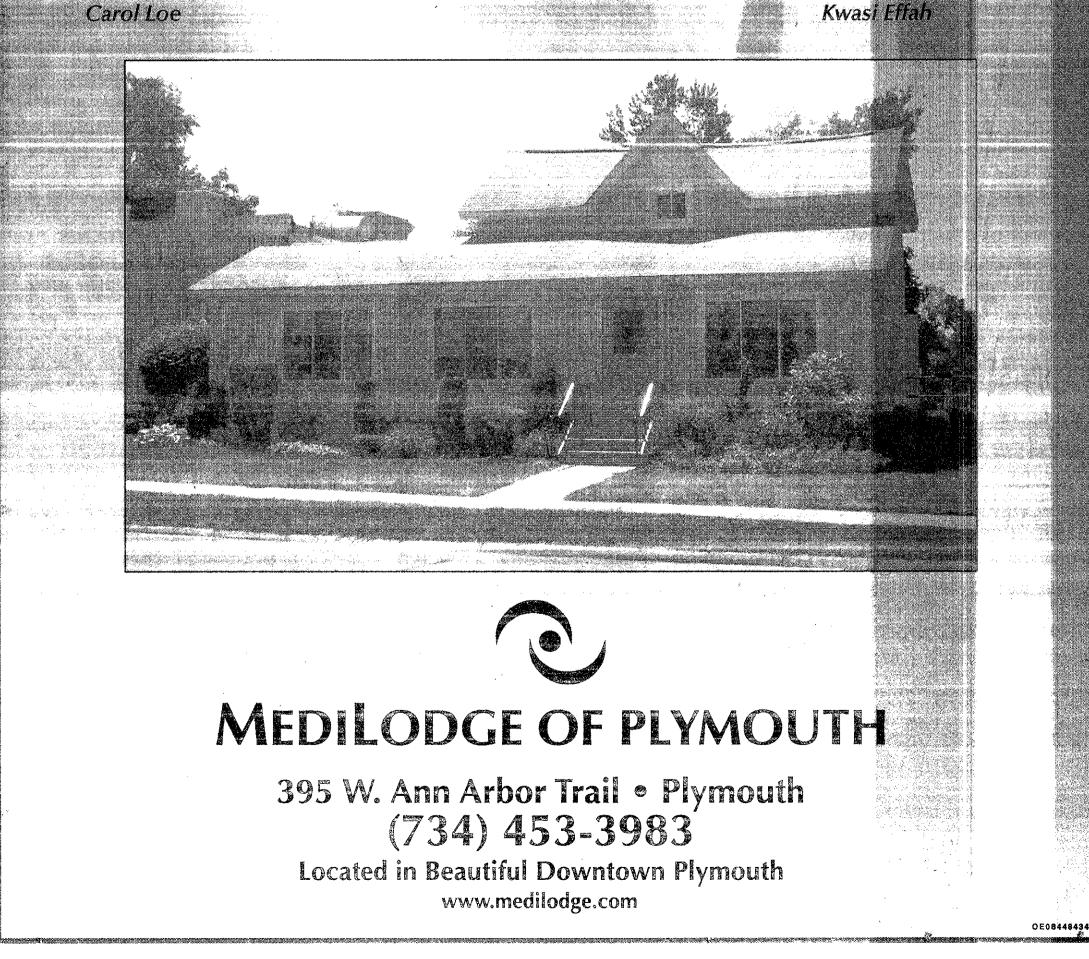
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LOCAL NEWS

Township looking at new rules for residents to rent space at parks

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

Canton Township is streamlining the process for park pavilion rentals and scheduling in some of its parks, in hopes of avoiding overcrowding and chaotic summer afternoons.

The Township Board of Trustees will later this month vote to amend part of its park ordinance, and will address usage of the newly constructed splash playground at Heritage Park.

The ordinance was last amended in 2000, and doesn't cover the popular splash playground, which was constructed in 2004, according to Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin.

The changes won't affect individual usage of the park, but will change the way the parks host groups and parties. Groups of 15 people or more must register at the parks

office to use the splash park and the nature trail at Flodin Park. Registration is free, and should help the department schedule use by groups, and balance the time for individual residents who also like using the parks, Conklin said.

And a lot of people are using the parks. In 2005, Conklin estimated there were nearly

FOCUS ON

32,000 users at the splash park.

Pavilion rentals have also jumped from 261 rentals in 2004 to more than 300 already this year. Conklin also estimates that several hundred thousand users visit Canton's park in a year, but she added there is no way of knowing exactly how many.

The increase is partly a function of the township's population growth, but also part of its culture.

"Most of our rentals are for birthday parties, family reunions, class reunions, school groups, and graduations," Conklin said.

"These are all things that bring families and friends together."

With the policy amendments, the township will, in addition to maintaining some control over the influx of large groups, be able to rent out pavilions in a more efficient manner, allowing more groups to use them, Conklin said.

(C) **1**

"We have streamlined our processes and now can rent a pavilion more than once in a day," she said.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

Local student completes pilgrimage

Jesse Varga, an Earlham College junior and son of Barbara Van Pelt and David Varga of Plymouth, has just completed Earlham's Camino de Santiago May Term 2006.

The course featured a threeweek peregrination across the original pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, the third most-popular site in Medieval European cultures. This course focused on the pilgrimage, the history and culture of the pilgrimage and peacemaking.

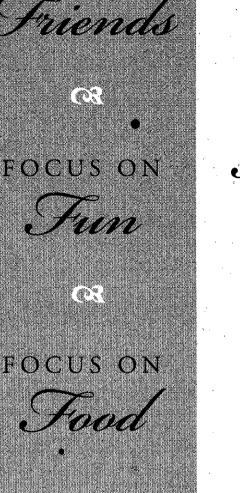
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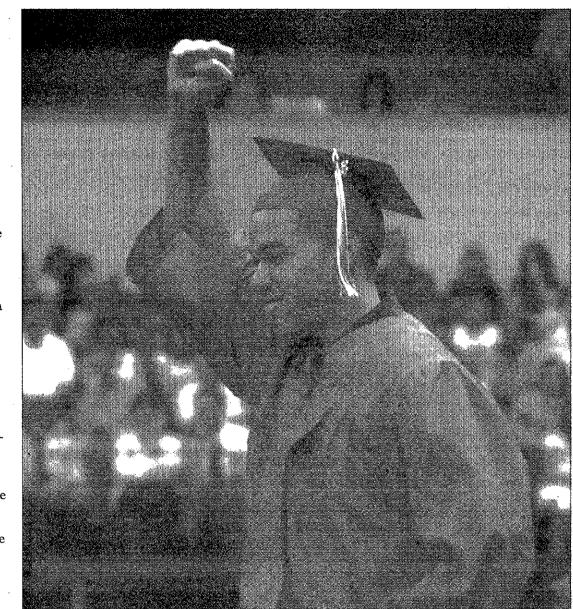
Elizabeth Grima Michael S. Guess Jessica Shae Gullen Natalie M. Haddad Megan Louise Hakala Cory Michael Hames Evan Douglas Hanser Leah Marie Hanson Sequoia Toi-Maria Harrison Senior class speaker Rachel Stoney Carrie addresses the class, teachers and

Elizabeth Hause Joseph Ryan Hayes Madonna Rae

Amy Lynn Healy Allison M. Henry Christine L. Hernandez Michael Clayton Hess David Ryan Hillyard Andrew Michael Hindt Joseph E. Hingelberg Karen Elizabeth Hogg Krista Anne Holcomb Katherine Elyse Horvath Elaine Catherine Howard Delon Sterrett Howard-Haynes

Catherine Chengxi Huang Kari Lynn Hubchik Stephanie Jane Hubel Janelle T. Hudak Kathryn Marie Huddleston Michael Brian Hurley George Suhail Husari Jennifer Lynn Husband Danielle Claire Hussey Teresa Kim Huynh Polly Angela Jackson Elizabeth Ann Jadczak Joseph John Jagadics III Lauren Jade Jasinski Ana Gabriela Jimenez Billie Ray Jones Ryan Michael Jonik Sumon Vanlese Joyner James Andrew Judge Jonathan Colin Judycki Shane R. Juntila Erin Marie Kaczor Rola Kazbour Frederick J. Keena Michael John Keesev Ryan M. Kelly Elizabeth O'Neil Kennett **Emily Anne Kenny** Katelyn R. Kerr Kalim Ullah Khan Tarik Q. Khasawneh Alan Jerome Koivula Andrew Robert Kokoszka Lauren B. Kolde Konrad K. Konsitzke Bradley Ryan Kopchia Christopher Michael Kosbe Kyle Thomas Kowalski Jennifer Lauren Krajovic Benjamin Scott Krause Julie Michelle Kubacki Kyle E. Kurtz Danielle Susan Lacasse Holly Ann LaCross Stephen Paul Ladwig Andrew T. LaFata Michelle Elizabeth Lager Ryan M. Landin Nicholas Joseph Landis Alexander J. Lanning Andrew L. Larsen Vanessa Louise Larson Justin James Latin 🖉 Steven James LaTulip Katlyn Elizabeth Leidal Ann Katherine Leiting Nicole Michelle Lesnau Christopher C. Lewandowski James M. Liddell XiuYa Lin Robert A. Lindman Alyssa Anne Lindow Shawn R. Little Nirusan Loganathan Jonathan Longsdorf Danielle Marie Lulko Megan R. Lytle Elisabeth Grace Mabie Charity Ann Madden **Ross Ronan Maguire** Christopher Barry Magyaros Evan Christopher Malamis Steven Michael Maloney

Lauren Stephanie Manees



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andre Bridges celebrates receiving his diploma during Canton High School's commencement exercise June 11 at Eastern Michigan University.





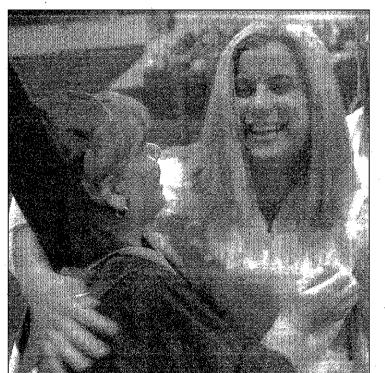
Brian Dean uses his cell phone to find his family in the EMU Convocation Center.

Angela Francine Schommer Jason Charles Schutze Sarah Elizabeth Schwenn Amanda Nicole Sequin Nicole Marie Shaw Michael Joseph Sheldon Mark E. Shepherd Joshua P. Shifferd John A. Sidor Stephanie Elyse Sielski Tyler D. Simescu Stephanie Lynn Simonovski Satwinder Singh Amanda Rose Sitko Sheree Lynn Slack Kevin R. Smiley Christopher A. Smith Gideon Mathew Smith Jeremy Eli Smith Karl Andrew Smith Kayce Tyler-Cooper Smith Kelly Lynn Smith Patrick B. Solon Jonathon Joseph Somercik Lance Andrew Stals Melissa Ann Staub Kylee Marie Stäugler Ashley Lynne Stirsman **Rachel Mary Stoney** Justin Timothy Stromski Michelle Marie Stuart



Doug McKelvey and Katlyn Leidal share a hug after Canton High School's graduation ceremony.

Nicole Marie Shaw receives her diploma from board member Joanne Lamar.



Graduate Kelsey Baily hugs her counselor, Barb Lehmann, at the June 11 graduation ceremony for Canton High School.

Joseph Paul Marin Alexander Liviu Marinica Nicole Whitney Mark Alexandra Michelle Martin **Richard James Martinez** Mary M. Mattarella Paige Therisa Galeana McBain Rebecca Elizabeth McCormack John Russell McCormick Anthony J. McDuff Erik Mikael McKee Douglas Preston McKelvey Joanna Grace McLean Matthew Paul McMillan Maggie L. McNicholas Chelsea Jupe Miller Jonathan C. Miller Jasmine Rose Millwood Patrick James Mitchell Dennis Leo Mollner II Jeremy Michael Mollner Kathryn Ann Morbitzer Molly Elizabéth Motley Michael Steven Munch Stephanie Jean Murray Swati Narang

Torrey James Neiger Mikole Yvonne Nelson Paul E. Newall Kelly Elizabeth Nicholson Corey A. Nicoloff Nathan J. Niedermeyer Jacob Alexander Nowak Domanique Tyea' Nowden Lisa Marie Nowicki Ruba Adel Nsheiwat Tiffany Jovce O'Brien Sean M. O'Connor Kyle Brett O'Neil Jillian Price Ogle Jessica M. Okins Leslie Anne Olech Joseph David Orner Kaitlyn E. Osborn Brittany Ellen Owens Rebecca Renee Pakos Claire Elizabeth Pardington Izabela Paszkowska Kishan M. Patel Maulik Hitesh Patel Mitesh Kirit Patel Monica K. Patel Secile Hitesh Patel Trushar Babu Patel

Chintan J. Pathak Alexander Fairbanks Paull Rachel D. Peacock Colleen Erin Peck Jared Cole Perez Allison Marie Perry Nicholaus A. Pesant Kyle Anthony Peters Nathan Justin Phillips Kylei L. Philo Justin David Pierce Jeffery Thomas Piper Mina Pirzadeh Daniel D. Pocock Lindsey Jorden Polderdyke Julie Ann Ponce Renuka Ponnaluri Kayla Marie Powers Katelyn Nicole Prechel Aaron Taylor Primeau Bryan M. Pruett Elizabeth F. Pruitt Chelsea Ann Quiroz Tiffany Amber Quiroz Gregory E. Rallo Joseph Anthony Rebottaro Anthony L. Recendiz Kaitlyn Jean Reed Scott D. Reidsma Chelsea K. Rhoades Mark B. Rice James R. Richards **Tiffany Nicole Richards** Christopher M. Richardson Heather Nicole Rivera Sean Michael Roberts Vincent A. Robinson Benjamin Thomas Robison Kevin B. Roelofs Jeffery S. Rogiero Shane Michael Roring Andrew Paul Rossow Allison Anne Ruda Shawn Michael Ruman Jessica L. Rumsas Aleah Marie Ryder Nicholas Steven Saia Karen D. Sandhu Samuel Gregory Santilli Juliana Michelle Sartor Daniel Sauter Brittney Lynn Scero Erica Nicole Schaefer **Ryan Patrick Schley** Derek Rodgers Schmitt Ryan D. Schnettler

Nivedhitha Subramanian Sujeesh Kurup S. Sudarsana Kurup

Michael A. Susterka Arth Rajesh Suthar Jenny L. Sutherland Natalie A. Sutherland Matthew John Sweda Jessica Lynn Swiger Ivreet Kaur Takhar Kathleen Ann Talarczyk Michael Christoher Tallon Jennifer Carol Thomas Kristin Melissa Thompson Tianna Janay Thompson **Troy Richard Thorne** Sara Renee Tiderington Kevin A. Tollison Mark Anthony Tomasso Michael Charles Tonna Silvana Irina Totan Ashley Tanya Trent Brian J. Tseng Justin J. Ucinski Aamir Maaz Uddin Ben Jon Underwood Shogo Uno Rachael Elizabeth Vail-Steele Jennifer K. VanGilder Sean O. VanLoozen William Vaughn Michelle Alexandria Venegas Alissa M. Vermeulen Christie M. Volante Rachel Caitlin Wade Brianna Adell Walton Devin Wayne Wanshon Kristin M. Ward Bradley Jacob Wardynski Gregory P. Warnecke Sammantha J. Werth Lisa Michelle Western Erika Marie White Phaltiel B. Whitlock Joseph Wilczak Rebecca Marie Wilczak Anna Sophia Williams Holly J. Williams Joseph Frank Wilson Eric Christopher Wilt Michael Paul Wingar Andrew Sean Witowski Charles Edward Wolfe III Ashley Erin Worthington Jayson E. Wurtzbacher Romeo D. Young Kelsy Hope Zemanski

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Zandstra out of GOP Senate race

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BY ALEX LUNDBERG STAFF WRITER

One of the three men running to replace Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow this fall has come up short on petition signatures, leaving two men to vie for the Republican nomination.

Jerry Zandstra, a member of the conservative Acton Institute's think tank, announced that he would no longer pursue a place on the Aug. 8 primary ballot. The announcement leaves Oakland **County Sheriff Michael** Bouchard and the Rev. Keith Butler to slug it out for the Republican space on the November general election ballot.

Zandstra said he dropped

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out of the race for the Republican Senate primary race after the Secretary of State's office said he fell short of the required number of petition signatures necessary to

"We disagreed and filed a challenge, but two of the four members of the board of canvassers were under indictment," he said. "When we got there, it seemed they were unfamiliar with the document we sent along prior."

The only option left to the campaign was to go to federal court to challenge the state's determination. The cost of making that move, and the time involved, made the decision for the campaign.

"There are only eight weeks to the primary and it would

cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000," Zandstra said. "We decided to abide by the board's decision."

As far as where he's throwing his support, to Butler or Bouchard, Zandstra is keeping those cards close to his vest right now. He said he would make an announcement about who he'd endorse, if anyone, at the Republican State

Committee meeting tomorrow. As for his campaign, he said he always thought he would be running on his economic credentials and talking about the state economy, but ended up talking about pro-life issues and the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative instead.

Bouchard said he's already picked up a few of Zandstra's endorsements, but for him the race has always been about Stabenow.

"She's been our focus and that's where our attention will continue to be," Bouchard said. "We're in a single-state recession and she's been getting 'zero' ratings from the National Federation of Independent Business. That's where jobs are being created."

He said Stabenow also ranks low on national security issues, something he'd focus on if elected to office.

Butler said since western Michigan (Zandstra's home) skews more socially conservative than the rest of the state, his departure will help.

"I'm both an economic and social conservative," Butler said. "I've been involved in social conservative causes all

Zandstra

my life."

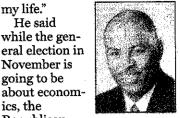
He said

while the gen-

November is

going to be

Bouchard



ics, the Republican **Butler** primary is going to be more about cultural issues and

those will be front and center leading up to the August primary.

Butler said he'd like to get Zandstra's endorsement, but will do just fine if he doesn't.

Political battle is continuing over SBT BY ALEX LUNDBERG

STAFF WRITER

Now that the secretary of state is sifting through the near 500,000 petition signatures County Executive L. Brooks Patterson turned in to repeal the state's Single Business Tax,

The SBT accounts for \$1.8 billion in revenues, the equivalent of 22 percent of the state's state spends on higher education or corrections. If that funding disappears, how, or

Citizen's Research Council Director for State Affairs Tom progressive and wise when it was drafted in 1976.

ernor concluded the business

taxes had significant problems," he said. "The corporate income tax fluctuated wildly, there was a tax on inventory, a tax on corporate net worth. The conclusion was that consolidating into a single tax

At the time, value-added taxes were all the rage in Europe and Michigan was applauded for dumping seven taxes for one stable tax. A lot has changed since then. He said the SBT has become more complex since it was first drafted.

If the SBT disappears, the state is going to have to make some serious decisions.

"A solution will probably involve two or more taxes to replace the SBT," Clay said. "The problem here is that voters are looking at a black box, the people who advocate removing the SBT don't have

proposals to replace it." State Rep. Bob Gosselin, R-Troy, said it looks like the legis-

lature will approve the petitions after they're found proper. As for replacing the revenue, he's not in favor of that.

"I hope they don't," he said. "I believe we're overtaxed and overregulated right now. We need true tax relief to encourage business and growth."

He said the state needs to

look at the money it's sending to Wayne County and other parts of the state for instances of waste that could be cut out entirely. That said, he doubts his fellows legislators will forego the entire \$1.8 billion and said plans that would replace only \$1 billion or \$1.2 billion would work to reduce the cost of state government well enough.

Following through on his State of the County promise to put the future of the state's Single Business Tax before the legislature, Patterson delivered nearly 400,000 petition signatures to the state.

He said that overshooting the 250,000 needed would give the margin of comfort to guarantee validation. The state will verify the signatures over the next 60 days and, if they're found valid, will pass them onto the legislature for a vote.

"Given the support I've heard, they will pass the legislation," Patterson said.

Because the effort to repeal the SBT is being done by petition drive, passage by the legislature will be the final act - no governor's signature is needed.

Patterson said leaders in the legislature have put together an ad hoc committee to consider alternate plans. He said the committee will be looking at

other states' approaches to see what makes them attractive to business and cobble together a plan that will work for Michigan.

State Rep. Marie Donigan, D-Royal Oak, said she has faith that the bipartisan committee will come up with a suitable replacement. Suitable, of course, as long as the replacement isn't worse than the status quo.

"It's important that the tax burden doesn't fall to the everyday residents of the state," Donigan said.

Patterson said the governor's insistence that the removal of the SBT be revenue-neutral may go by the wayside. "The replacement might be

only \$1.3 or \$1.4 billion, the difference will jump-start the state's economy," Patterson said. "History is on my side. When you cut taxes, businesses expand, they hire people who pay taxes and buy things."

The SBT doesn't need to be replaced, necessarily. What must happen to satisfy the state's constitution, Clay said, is that expenses and revenues must balance out. If the revenues generated by the SBT aren't replaced, or aren't replaced fully, the governor and legislature must start talking about spending cuts.



would be better."

CONDITIONING there's a chance that the tax could disappear very soon. budget - or everything the

will, the revenues be replaced?

Clay said the SBT was hailed as

"The legislature and the gov-

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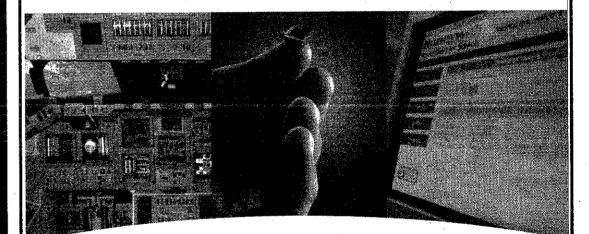
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May election date makes the most sense for schools

am writing on behalf of the Oakland County Superintendents' Association. The OCSA realizes that the issue of election dates has received much attention; and it is true that almost all of the school districts in our county chose the May option.

As the outgoing president of the OCSA, I want to express a viewpoint that provides perspective. Hopefully, political banter and suspicion can be set aside and be replaced by mutual respect and an understanding that differing views have a place in our democracy. This May, residents



throughout the state of Michigan had at opportunity to head to the polls on several issues. Items such as police and fire millages, library millages, nonhomestead renewals and vacant Board of Education seas were on ballots in several counties across

Roberts

I feel it is inportant to remind all citzens that under the Consolidated Election

Law, which Oakland County Jerk Ruth Johnson co-sponsored, thereare four election dates provided for governmental agencies and school districts.

the state.

It is true that most schoolsystems chose the May date over November, Ebruary or August; but this choice should not be viewed as being suspect. In fact, the selection of this date is in harmony with the desire of school officials to maintain consistency and bcus.

It makes little sense for andidates to join a board team in November. While individuals who run for these position are committed, caring people, the learnin curve is steep. The May election date permitsnew board members to function effectively even in those first months of service. Forcini, them to take on their new role after many of the key decisions are made would be wrongfor several reasons.

First of all, please keo in mind that the Consolidated Election Lar provided the choice of four days for a vlid reason – local control.

Secondly, I would thik that voters would expect their newly elected ficials to begin their service in a time frare that permits them to contribute in an oportune manner to the issues at hand. Numrous time-sensitive matters must be addressed prior to the start of the school year. Joing the board in November would, at the vey least, be unsettling. Furthermore, such times would do little to ensure a consistent ad productive board transition.

■ Lastly, school districts:arnot afford to be, as the saying goes, "pemy vise and dollar I must admit that I do find it interesting that school districts are being blamed for selecting a date that was provided in the law and maintains the most consistency. Many municipalities and county governments choose to have their primary elections in August. I hear little outcry relative to this date.

foolish." Costs must be measured against effectiveness. One poorly prepared board member could easily cost the taxpayers more than a May election does.

The May date provides a chance for voters to focus on local issues. In contrast, a November election would take on a partisan look; and the large number of items on the ballot can tend to be a bit confusing to voters.

School elections tend to be nonpartisan and most citizens like it that way. In fact, according to the Secretary of State's office, there was a 63 percent jump in voter turnout during the May 2005 election.

I must admit that I do find it interesting that school districts are being blamed for selecting a date that was provided in the law and maintains the most consistency. Many municipalities and county governments choose to have their primary elections in August. I hear little outcry relative to this date.

Michigan's economy relies heavily on tourism, so there are now laws stating that schools must not start until after Labor Day. Why then, do we consider the May election date "stealth" and an August date acceptable? Isn't it true that there are fewer Michiganders home during the summer months? That being said, I believe in local control and trust my municipal colleagues have good reasons for maintaining an August election date.

The Oakland County School Superintendents believe we need to stop arguing about this issue.

Instead, we would like to see more legislators and elected officials focused and prepared to make a difference. Given the choices we had under the law, the May election date best helps us to do this. The law is relatively new. Let's give our voters time to adjust and help them understand the value of keeping politics out of school elections.

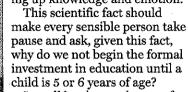
Al Roberts is superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools.

Build solid foundation with early childhood programs

nvesting in our youngest children is the best economic development tool we have as a state and nation. Don't take my word for it, ask a brain researcher or a Nobel Prize winning economist.

Brain research has been very clear for a number of years that nearly 85 percent of the brain's capacity is developed in the first five years of life. From the moment of birth to the time our children enter the formal years of schooling, their

tiny brains are like sponges soaking up knowledge and emotion.



I recall leaving my home a few years back to give a speech on the importance of high-quality preschool education and my teenage daughter inquired where I was

going. When I told her I was going to give a speech on the value of investing in our youngest kids and that 85 percent of the brain is developed in the first few precious years of life, she looked at me with that "boy, are you old folks stupid" look and responded, "If that is so, why does school not begin for most kids until after that important time has passed, duh?!"

If an inquisitive, snarly teen "gets it," you would think the resources for this critical investment would be flowing like miners seeking their fortune during the California gold rush.

Having served in leadership positions in both education and business, I have always believed that expenditures in quality education from the womb to the tomb are the best investment we can make as a state and nation. Investment in human capital will pay great dividends as we prepare for the disruptive global transformation that is taking place right before our very eyes.

Educators, researchers, child advocates and parents can make the impassioned and intense pleas for investing more of our limited state resources in quality preschool and K-12 education for reasons of fairness, moral and social justice.

Quotes such as "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" from the United Negro College Fund can tug at the heartstrings. These "soft" reasons for spending more tax dollars often fall on deaf ears from hardened business people and weary taxpayers who feel squeezed by tax burdens and ineffectual social programs.

However, along with the brain research data, the numbers clearly are convincing. Investing in high-quality preschool for all children has a high economic return. Yes, that is correct — we should support high-quality education for our youngest children under the arguments of fairness, moraliChildren coming of age without a solid educational foundation on which to grow will be the equivalent of building a deck of cards on a pile of sand.

ty and social justice, but also because it has an economic payback to society at large.

We know in the 21st century knowledge economy that a child without a solid education today will be an adult without much opportunity for a productive future tomorrow. We also know that once a child falls behind, they are likely to remain behind. While a policy of human capital neglect may have fit our industrialization model of the past, we cannot afford that type of policy in today's global, "world is flat" society.

Children coming of age without a solid educational foundation on which to grow will be the equivalent of building a deck of cards on a pile of sand.

James Heckman, 2000 Nobel Laureate, predicts a grim economic future for the United State at the twilight of the industrial age unless America keeps up with the global educational surge.

In his paper, *The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children*, Heckman and his co-author, Dimitriy Masterov, state: "Over 20 percent of U.S. workers are functionally illiterate and innumerate, a much higher percentage than leading European countries." "On productivity grounds," they continue, "it makes sound business sense to invest in young children, especially from disadvantaged environments."

Their paper shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool programs "experienced increased achievement test scores and high school graduation and decreased grade retention, time in special education, experience with crime and delinquency."

This is data not from a "bleeding heart child advocate," but a Nobel Prize-winning economist. This is data that you can take to the bank.

There is an extremely strong business and economic case to be made for investing in our youngest citizens, which will pay off for all.

Let's begin to build a strong foundation for our children, our families, our communities and our nation by investing more in high-quality preschool education. As the old oil commercial used to conclude: "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later."

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as Michigan's superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996-2001. Read his report "The New Education (R)evolution" at www.nacol.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.



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A12 (CP)(A10-LWReGc) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006



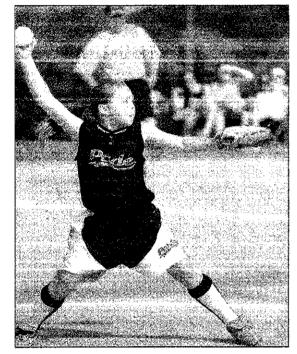
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2006 PC Pride June Summer Classic _____

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Plymouth-Canton Pride Blue B fast-pitch team warm up with a spirit-lifting dance prior to their opening game Friday night in the PC Pride June Summer Classic tournament.



Fired up for fast-pitch Annual softball tournament attracts hundreds of players

Pride pitcher MacKenna Payne winds up before unleashing a sizzling fastball during Friday night's opener of the Pride June Summer Classic.

STAFF WRITER

The popularity of youth girls fast-pitch softball is elevating faster than a well-thrown riseball.

That was never more evident than this weekend at several venues throughout the Plymouth and Canton area that were hosting the 5th Annual PC Pride Junior Summer Classic. Seventy-five teams from as far away as Petoskey, Niles and Windsor converged on the area for a three-day event that offered foul line-to-foul line action from sunrise to sunset.

"To show you how much the sport is growing, when I started coaching a 16-and-under team in 1996, there were five teams at the state tournament," said Rob Barnes, a coach for the TSI Thunderbirds fast-pitch softball program. "This year, there will be 130 teams at the state tournament.

"The girls love the camaraderie the sport offers and the coaching is excellent nowadays, too. We stress four things knowledge of the sport; No. 3 - competition; and No. 4 winning. And we never skip over the first three to get to the winning."

in this order: No. 1 – have fun; No. 2 – improve skills and

Canton resident Tony Boucher, who coaches his daughter's U14 fast-pitch team, said the sport offers a unique bonding experience for fathers and daughters.

"The other night there was a college softball World Series game on ESPN and my daughter and I sat down and watched it together," said Boucher. "My daughter would say, 'Dad, did you see that play?' and we'd talk about different situations that happened in the game. There aren't a lot of things like this that a dad and his daughter get to do together."

Like all upper-echelon youth sports, fast-pitch softball can get pricey. Players on travels team can expect to pay around \$650 per season and individual pitching and hitting lessons run around \$30 per half-hour session.

PLEASE SEE SUMMER CLASSIC, B6

Nagy is top golf coach

Please see All-Observerland girls golf team, B2.

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER.

Livonia Ladywood's golf program has been a model of consistency under coach



Kellianne Nagy. The Blazers have made seven straight trips to the state finals, all top 10 finishes, while placing sixth this season and fifth a year ago.

Nagy, who was selected Observerland Coach of the Year, guided the Blazers to a runner-up finish in the

Nagy

Catholic League, only behind Division I third-place finisher Farmington Hills Mercy

Ladywood was also runner-up to eventual Division II state champion Birmingham Seaholm at the regional.

All six of Nagy's starters gained All-Catholic League honors and all six earned All-Observer recognition on either first- or second-team.

"We were a well-rounded team with everyone contributing in all matches and tournaments," Nagy said. "It is a total team effort, which is nice because you never have to rely on one person. Being six strong is a blessing.

The Blazers, who featured four underclassmen, shot a 706 in the state finals held earlier this month at Grand Valley State

University's The Meadows.

"It was one of the strongest state tournament fields ever," Nagy said. "It was one of our best efforts, and we finished sixth. Usually there is one team, maybe two, that shoot under 700. But this year there were five teams, which is great, because I love to see girls golf growing like this. We now know what we need to do next year to be in contention for a state title and you can bet the we'll be there."

Nagy has guided Ladywood to seven topthree regional finishes. The Blazers have finished at least first or second in the Catholic League for the last five season.

She credits assistant coaches Keith Kompoltowicz and Ron Predmesky for much of the team's success.

"It's an honor to be a part of Ladywood athletics and to have two great assistants," Nagy said. "The three of us, all golfers with different backgrounds, work great together as a team. We're all about the T.E.A.M. concept - Together Everyone Achieves More."

Nagy currently serves as director of Business Development for the JohnBernard Co. in Royal Oak.

"It's a lot of juggling, but I'm fortunate to work for a company that allows me to work a flexible schedule during the season," she said. "To me, there is nothing better than coaching and mentoring the young ladies, as they not only develop their golf games, but their lives.

"I certainly hope to bring Ladywood a state title in the future."

Like father, like son Kavulich follows dad's officiating footsteps into Catholic League Hall

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

ball official Joe Kavulich hasn't blown many calls during his four-decadeslong career, but he admittedly missed a blatant illegal block during a key high school playoff game between Livonia Churchill and Livonia Stevenson in 2004.

And boy did he hear about it. Not from the jam-packed crowd at Stevenson, but from one of his officiating colleagues - his son, Mike.

"I flat-out missed the call," Kavulich recalled. "And as soon as the play was over, Mike ran over to me and said, 'How did you not see that block in the back?' Then he smiled and went back to his position. That's the kind of relationship we have. We can hassle each other — good-naturedly, of course — and get away with it."

On Monday, almost 25 years after Mike Kavulich followed his father's footsteps into football and basketball officiating, he followed Joe's path into

PLEASE SEE KAVULICH, B5



Plymouth resident Mike Kavulich (right) was inducted into the Catholic League Hall of Fame Monday night in a ceremony held at Fern Hill Golf and Country Club. Mike is pictured with his dad, Joe, who is also a member of the Hall. Both Kavuliches are longtime high school and collegiate officials.

Canton Leisure Services will be offering three summer sports camps:

Lacrosse honors Three members of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem boys lacrosse team earned All-State honors. Midfielder Johnny Groat and goalie Chris Sorensen earned secondteam honors while attacker Mitch French was voted onto the third

Fall soccer The City of Plymouth will be accepting registration forms for its fall youth soccer program through June 30 at the Plymouth recreation office located in the **Plymouth Cultural Center** at 525 Farmer. Business hours are 9:30 a.m. to

team.

4:30 p.m.

tificate.

All first-time registrants require a birth cer-

The fee for Under-6 through Under-8 divi-

and older divisions for residents and \$110 for nonresidents.

Call the recreation

department at (734) 455-6620, Ext. 304. Summer camps

sions is \$65 for Plymouth residents and \$100 for nonresidents. The fee is \$70 for U-9

A lacrosse camp for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 18 will be held Monday through Thursday, June 26-July 9: and July 10-13 at Heritage Park in Canton. The sessions will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m. To register, visit

www.americanlacrosse.co m or call (248) 333-3929.

A baseball camp will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 17-21 at Heritage Park. The camp is for kids between the ages of 7 and 14. The camp will be run by Pat Watson, who offers instruction games, videos and guests. Call (734) 483-5600.

Workout times

Following are the daily weekday times that the Plymouth High School weight room will be available to the school's athletes from June 19 through July 28: 🖬 football - 9-11 a.m. and 5-9 p.m.; and all athletes - 1-5 p.m. **P-CEP** hockey

A golf outing that will raise funds for the P-CEP's hockey teams will be held Saturday, Aug. 26, at Hickory Creek Golf Course in Canton. The entry fee for a foursome; is \$400, which includes 18 holes of golf (scramble format), a steak dinner, silent auctions and an opportunity to win sever: al prizes. Contact Chris Wolfe at (734) 453-8332 Kathy Lash at (734) 453 6518 or Noreen Desilets at (734) 397-5691.

Hall of Fame football and basket-

ALL-AREA GIRLS GOLF TEAM

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

All-Observerland golfers' high skills lead to low scores

Ashley Smith

Kelly Thomas

Ladywood

Salem

FIRST TEAM Shannon Warner, Soph., Liv. Churchill: The 10th-grader turned in a dazzling performance at the Division I state finals held at Michigan State University's Forest Akers (East Course) when she shot an 8-under 69-67-136 en route to medalist honors by 11 strokes.

B2

(*)

She averaged 39 for nine holes and 74 for 18 holes.

Warner's 74 also took the Leslie Park regional title in Ann Årbor. She also captured two of three invitational crowns and finished tied for second in a third tourney.

Warner also earned All-Western Lakes Activities Association honors with an 86. "Shannon's performance all year has been outstanding," Churchill coach Gary Harper said. "After spring break, when we started getting into the heart of our schedule, she really took her game to a new level. She has the type of game and mental makeup to play well in any conditions.

"We played in just about every type of weather this year and she never lets it phase her. She is a wonderful player at such a young åge, it's almost unbelievable. I look forward to seeing what she can do the next couple of years." Ashley Smith, Sr., Salem: The senfor was one of the most producve and dominant players in the history of Salem girls golf, having earned a seventh-place finish in the Division I state finals with a 76-75-151. It was her fourth trip to the state meet. Smith was also å three-time All-WLAA performer. She's heading to Grand Valley State on a golf scholarship. "Ashley is one of the best three or four players I've coached here åt Salem," said Salem coach Rick Wilson. "She's strong in all parts of the game. She not only hits the ball well, but she always seems to make the right decisions as far as shot selection and when to take chances and when not to. Ashley has been a great asset to our program the past four years and she will excel at the collegiate level as well."

Chelsea Bathurst, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The WLAA medalist shot a 77 at Pheasant Run and

2006 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM Shannon Warner, Soph., Liv. Churchill Ashley Smith, Sr., Salem Chelsea Bathurst, Jr., Liv. Stevensor Andrea Warzyniec, Jr., Liv. Ladywood Angela Jamrog, Jr., Liv. Ladywood Erica Mazur, Soph., Liv. Ladywood SECOND TEAM Ashley Bint, Sr., Liv. Churchill Kelly Thomas, Jr., Liv. Ladywood Kara Efimetz, Sr., Liv. Ladywood Abbey Wolfe, Jr., Liv. Stevenson Chrissy McHenry, Jr., Liv, Stevenson Lauren Doroghazi, Sr., Liv. Ladywood COACH OF THE YEAR Kellianne Nagy, Livonia Ladywood HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Sarah Walls, Lexi McFarlane; Franklin: Jessica Stchur, Mariel Meyers;

Stevenson: Priyanka Joshi, Laura Sims; Ladywood: Kaitlin Waldecker, Ann-Marie Casey; John Glenn: Jessie Veltri, Courtney McKinney: Wayne: Jenny Schmidt, Samantha Cruse; Canton: Chelsea Osburn; Plymouth: Melissa Miller, Katy Ingraham, Elaine Lafayette, Amanda Kerr; Salem: Katie Rzetelny, Anna Ross, Alyssa Mastic: Thurston: Emily Smith.

added an 84 at the Division I regional at Leslie Park in Ann Arbor to place seventh.

Bathurst averaged 43.36 per nine and was medalist five times. The team MVP and co-captain also took a seventh at the

Brighton Invitational. "Chelsea has greatly improved

each year she has been with us and this year was no different as she again cut over seven stroke off her game," Stevenson coach Jason Delo said. "Chelsea was invaluable to our team as she appeared in every match. We had to rely on her every time to give us a low score to be competitive.

Andrea Warzyniec, Jr., Liv. Ladywood: The Blazers' MVP had a team-best dual-meet average of 43, while finishing in the top three in five of Ladywood's six matches.

She was runner-up in the Catholic League Tournament, third at the Division II regional with a 79 and 11th in the state tournament with an 86-80-168 held at Grand Valley State University's The Meadows.

Warzyniec is also three-time All-Catholic League selection and three-time state qualifier. "Andrea's game is very solid

and she works hard all year on it, and it has definitely paid off,"



Shannon Warner Churchill



L HUNTHRYDD BENC Ashley Bint Churchill

Ladywood coach Kellianne Nagy said of Warzyniec, who earned Scholar-Athlete honors with a 3.9 grade-point average.

Angela Jamrog, Jr., Liv. Ladywood: The junior averaged 44 per nine in dual matches, placing in the top five in five of the Blazers' six matches.

Her 18-hole average was 89. The three-time All-Catholic League honoree recorded her best finish in three years at the Division II state finals by shooting 84-87.

Jamrog added a 89 at the regional and shot 40-44-84 at the Catholic League Tournament.

"^ ngela is dedicated to working hard on her game all year and it has shown, especially in her tournaments," the Ladywood coach said. "Angela was very consistent all season playing as our number two."

Erica Mazur, Soph., Liv. Ladywood: The sophomore averaged 44 per



Chelsea Bathurst Stevenson



Kara Efimetz Ladywood

nine holes, bettering her average by nearly 10 strokes from a year ago. Her 18-hole average was 93. She was also named

Ladywood's Most Improved Player this season. Mazur earned All-Catholic

League honors with a 92 and added a 92 at the regional. At the state finals she recorded a 91-96-187.

"Erica recently took up golf and worked extremely hard over the summer and in the winter," Nagy said. "Erica's hard work moved her up into the third and fourth spot this season. She was consistent all season."

SECOND TEAM Ashley Bint, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The senior captain boasted a dual meet average of 46 and a tournament scoring mark of 96. She played in every match for the 8-3 Chargers and was medalist twice.

Bint, a four-year letter winner, placed seventh in the WLAA meet with an 89, missing All-Conference honors by only one spot before settling for All-Division. At the regional, Bint carded a respectable 96.

"Ashley provided outstanding leadership throughout her career," Harper said. "She was reliable player who I could always count on for a score. She helped our team to many wins. She's very coachable and works hard. She's a just great person and a lot of fun to be around." Kelly Thomas, Jr., Liv. Ladywood: The junior averaged 46 per nine and 93 in tournaments. She earned All-Catholic



Andrea Warzyniec Ladywood



Abbey Wolfe Stevenson

League honors for the second straight season after shooting 41-

50-91. Thomas shot 97 at the regional and finished the year with a 94-90-184 in the Division II state

finals, her best effort of the year. "Kelly practices as hard or

harder than anyone, and her game has really come along," Nagy said. 'Kelly is very long off the tee and she has improved her short game, bringing her average down each year."

Thomas was also recognized as a Scholar-Athlete carrying over a 3.9 grade-point average.

Kara Efimetz, Sr., Liv. Ladywood: The senior co-captain averaged 48 per nine and 96 in tournaments.

She made the All-Catholic Team after carding a 92. She ended the season with a 94-94-188 at the Division II finals.

"Kara provided leadership on and off the course," Nagy said. "She worked hard in the off-season and worked her way up to the fifth and sixth spot this year, playing very consistent golf all season."

Efimetz is headed to Western Michigan University.

www.hometownlife.com

Erica Mazur Ladywood



Chrissy McHenry Lauren Doroghazi Stevenson Ladywood

> could ask for in a player," Delo said. "She worked diligently on her game and took every match to heart, whether we were winning or losing.

"As a captain and leader on this team, Abbey displayed the qualities that help teams become winners."

Chrissy McHenry, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The junior, who averaged 48.32 per nine, earned All-Division honors in the Western Lakes with a 96, good enough for 14th place.

She added a 14th at the regional with round of 93.

"This season was somewhat of a new challenge for Chrissy to overcome because she was finally out of the shadow of her bigger sister (Rachel)," Delo said, "and had to prove that she was every bit as capable to play well when it really mattered.

"Few people on this team played better than Chrissy when she really focused on her game." Lauren Doroghazi, Sr., Liv.

Ladywood: Most teams would kill to have this senior as their number six player as she averaged 49 for nine in dual matches and 97

in tournaments.

Angela Jamrog Ladywood

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Abbey Wolfe, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The junior averaged 46.59 per nine and earned medalist honors twice this spring.

She also shot a 94 to earn All-Division honors (13th) for the Western Lakes Activities Association co-champions.

Wolfe added a 93 to finished 14th as the Spartans took fourth in the regional at Leslie Park.

"Abbey was everything a coach

The senior co-captain made the All-Catholic League team by shooting a 91 at St. John's.

"Lauren was solid all season fulfilling our fifth and sixth position," Nagy said.

Doroghazi is a two-sport varsity letter winner, also playing ice hockey. She ranks 10th in her class with over a 3.9 GPA and will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall.



B3

(CP)



They're good - no 'Quest'ion about it

The Canton Quest '95 premier girls soccer team recently won its division in the Western Suburban Soccer League with a 9-1 record. The Quest averaged 5.8 goals per game. Pictured are (front row from left) Anna Turnbull, Kelsey Riley, Rachel Winters, Gina Goble, Maria Farmer, (back row from left) Neil Foster (team manager/assistant coach), Danielle Kaczanowski, Jordan Diedrick, Amy Callahan (team trainer/coach), Megan Labut, Madi Lewis, Alyssa Burris, Zoe Foster and Amanda Rodgers. Not pictured are Jacquelyn Bryden and Cassidy Callow.

Ignition to select players on Tuesday

The Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) announced Wednesday that the incoming Detroit Ignition will select up to 16 players in preparation for their inaugural MISL season during the 2006 Detroit Ignition Expansion Draft, via a 2 p.m (EST). teleconference on Tuesday.

The Ignition received designation lists from each of the active MISL teams on June 6. Team lists designate a maximum of nine players as "protected" for that team's roster (maximum of one goalkeeper) for the 2006-07 MISL season. The players not designated as protected are eligible for selection by the Ignition, who will draft a maximum of 16 players (two goalkeepers permitted) from MISL rosters.

Players selected in the 2006 MISL College Draft are excluded from the Detroit Ignition Expansion Draft. Current MISL teams may lose a maximum of

three players during the Expansion Draft. Once a player is selected from an existing team, the team will be allowed to return one unprotected player to its protected designation list.

In order to ensure the validity of the designation lists, a "trade moratorium" was imposed 14 days prior to the Expansion Draft and will end immediately following the conclusion of the Expansion Draft.

Results of the 2006 Detroit Ignition Expansion Draft will be made available to media immediately following the conclusion of the draft. Fans will be provided the information on the league's official website, www.misl.net.

Under the leadership of investor-operator John Hantz, team president Greg Bibb, and head coach Mark Pulisic, the Detroit Ignition will play its inaugural season at the Compuware Sports Arena, beginning in November. For

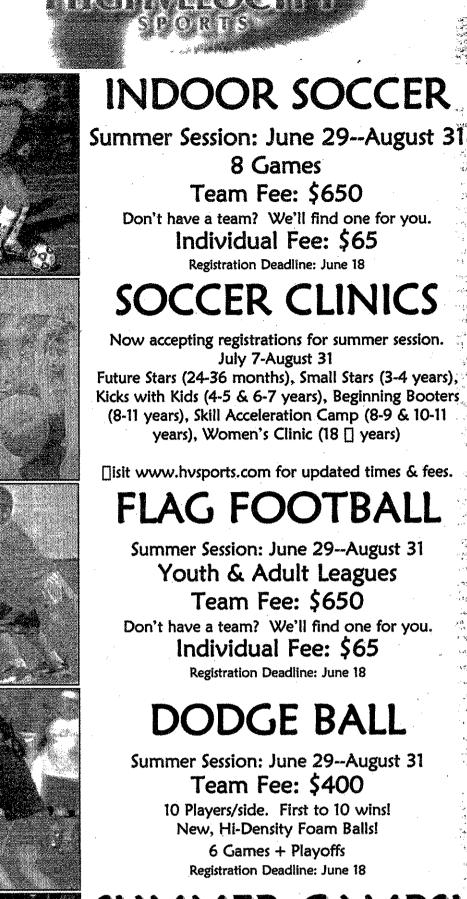
more information on the Detroit Ignition, visit www.detroitignition.com.

ABOUT THE MISL

The Major Indoor Soccer League is a single-entity organization with a coast-to-coast presence comprised of seven teams located across the United States, and features the finest indoor soccer players representing 31 countries around the world.

In February of 2004, the League announced an expansion team in Stockton, CA, that began play in 2005-06 as the California Cougars. In May of 2004, the League announced plans for an expansion team in Newark, NJ, that will begin play in 2007-08.

In April of 2005, the League also approved an MISL expansion team for Detroit that will begin play as the Detroit Ignition in 2006-07. Visit the Web site www.MISL.net.



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ALL-WESTERN DIVISION Pitcher: Hilary Payne, Soph., Canton. Catcher: Sarah Rounsifer, Fr., Northville. Infielders: Rachel Wade, Sr., Canton: Lauren Delapaz, Jr., Canton; Bridget Hughes, Sr.,

Coram, Soph., W.L. Northern; Brynn Kerr, Sr., Churchill; Amanda Alpert, Sr., Stevenson. Outfielders: Bridget Berg, Sr., John Glenn; Monica Piekarski, Jr., Stevenson; Jessica Howald, W.L. Central.

Pitchers: Bridget Long, Sr., Churchill; Claire Ostrowski, Jr., Plymouth. Catcher: Roya St. Clair, Sr., Stevenson. infielders: Laura Zima, Sr., Northville; Caitlyn Sidor, Sr., Churchill; Kim Klonowski, Jr., Plymouth; Kathryn Russett, Jr., W.L. Central.

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Northville.

Northville; Brittney Scero, Sr., Canton; Lauren Stemberger, Sr., Plymouth: Beth Heldmeyer, Fr., Plymouth. Outfleiders: Brittany Taylor, Fr., Franklin; Trisha Hackman, Sr., W.L. Western.

At-Large: Madison Dresser, Jr., Plymouth. **ALL-LAKES DIVISION** Pitcher: Brittany Burkhardt, Jr., W.L. Central. Catcher: Amber Holod, Jr., Churchill.

Infielders: Kait McKinley, Jr., Salem; Charli

Large: Maureen Bohr, Sr., Salem; Lauren Brueck, Soph., Stevenson. FINAL STANDINGS Western Division: 1. Plymouth, 8-2; 2. Canton, 8-2; 3. Northville, 7-3; 4. Franklin, 4-6; 5. Western, 3-7; Wayne, O-10. Lakes Division: 1. Churchill, 8-2; Stevenson, 7-3; 3. Central, 7-3; 4. W.L. Northern, 4-6; 5. Salem, 4-6; 6. John Glenn, 0-10. WLAA CHAMPIONSHIP Churchill 2, Plymouth 1 (15 innings)



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Gift Shop receive \$10 off the ticket price! Membership is free. Visit the Players Prestige™ Booth to join. Doors open at 8 p.m., shows begin at 9 p.m.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

B4

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Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS IERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

KAVULICH

FROM PAGE B1

the Catholic League Hall of Fame. Mike Kavulich was inducted into the Catholic -Hall in a ceremony held at the Fern Hill Golf and Country Club a little over a year after his father was honored.

"I've been officiating for a long time, so it was a nice honor," said Mike Kavulich. "The highlight for me is that I've been able to work a lot with my dad. Probably the two top memories I have were working the Class D state final football game between Beal City and Litchfield with my dad in 1994 and the Catholic League championship basketball game with him in 1999.

"I got to work varsity high school football games right out of the gate on my dad's crew along with Bob Williams and Paul Kinder. I learned a lot from those guys. For basketball, it took me a couple of years to work myself up to the varsity level, but I worked varsity football right away."

Mike Kavulich said the memories he's collected from

working with his dad's officiating crew are priceless. "I'll never forget the one time when we went up to Midland to work the Dow-Midland game," Kavulich reflected. "Well, a couple of hours before the game was going to start, Bob Williams realized he forgot his shoes. Since I was a runner, they gave me \$30 and told me to find a sporting goods store and buy Bob some shoes. We've had a lot of good times together."

While a student at Michigan State in the early-80s, Mike Kavulich got to watch his dad officiate Spartan basketball games.

How did he feel on the few occasions when the crowd rained boos down on his dad when they thought he made a questionable call against the Spartans?

"When he made a call that went against State, I gave him grief, too," Mike Kavulich said, with a hearty laugh.

Figuring out the best way to handle difficult crowds is one of the most important aspects of becoming an effective official, Mike Kavulich said.

"Most of the time, when a

fan says something negative to you, he's just trying to get a reaction from you," Kavulich said. "The best thing to do is turn and go the other way. The referees that talk back to the fans are the ones that don't make it in this business.

"We have a saying that we live by: Silence can't be misquoted. Even when we go out for a bite to eat after games, we have to watch what we say because you never know when a player's parents may be sitting at the next table."

Kavulich, the director of Ford sales for Tower Automotive during the day, officiates football games for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference on fall Saturdays.

He still manages to find time to work on his dad's crew for Friday night high school games as well.

"I really look forward to working the high school games with Mike," said Joe Kavulich. "We miss him on Saturdays when he has to go off and do the college games.

"Ever since Mike was young, I knew he'd become an official. I had the officiating bug and we both have the

same kind of mentality, so I had a feeling he'd get into it, too. I helped him get into it, but little by little, he's made his own name for himself."

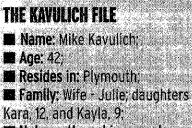
When he was younger, Mike Kavulich harbored visions of someday making it to the NBA or NFL as an official.

"Yeah, when I first started out I thought about trying to make it to the pro ranks," he said. "But then reality sets in. You look and see what it would take and how much sacrifice it takes and how lucky you have to be, and it's just not worth it - especially now that I have a family."

Kavulich and his wife, Julie, are the proud parents of two daughters: Kara, 12; and Kayla, 9, both of whom compete in youth sports. "I'll never get on an official

at one of their games because I've been in their shoes," Mike admitted. "But what I will do is go up to the officials after my daughters' games and tell them they did a nice job. Officials need to hear positive things, too."

ewright@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2108



Noteworthy achievement: **Recently inducted into Catholic** League Hall of Fame;

Education: graduated from Berkeley High School; earned bachelor's degree from Michigan State University (1987); earned master's degree in finance from Wayne State;

Officiating career: In 18-year career, he's worked seven 'Prep Bowls', two football state final games, 1 basketball state final game; two state semi-finals football games; and two state semifinals basketball games. Athletic feats: A stand-out distance runner at MSU, Kavulich finished third overall in back-toback Detroit Free Press Marathons in 1987 and 1988.

THE WEEK AHEAD

B5.;;

(CP)

LIVONIA MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE Sunday, June 18 (at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep H.S.) Oakland Cubs vs. Park Athletic (2), 1 p.m. Monday, June 19 (at Livonia's Ford Field) Oakland Cubs vs. Mich. Rams, 5;45 p.m. Mich. Monarchs vs. Det. Eagles, 8:15 p.m. (at Livonia's Bicentennial Park) Mich. Bulls vs. Park Athletic, 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 21 (at Livonia's Ford Field) Mich. Rams vs. Det. Eagles, 5:45 p.m. Mich. Bulls vs. Oakland Cubs, 8:15 p.m. (at Saline High School) Mich. Monarchs vs. Park Athletic, 6 p.m. Friday, June 23 (at Livonia's Ford Field) Mich. Rams vs. Park Athletic, 5:45 p.m. Oakland Cubs vs. Det. Eagles, 8:15 p.m. (at Saline High School) Mich. Monarchs vs. Mich. Bulls, 6 p.m. Sunday, June 25 (at Livonia's Bicentennial Park) Det. Eagles vs. Park Athletic (2), noon. Mich. Rams vs. Mich. Bulls (2), 5 p.m. (at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep H.S.) Mich. Monarchs vs. Oakland Cubs (2), 1 p.m. UNITED SOCCER LEAGUES W-LEAGUE Sunday, June 18 Mich. Hawks vs. Chicago Gaels at Marist (III.) High School, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24 Mich. Hawks vs. Minnesota Lightning at Livonia Stevenson H.S., 7:30 p.m. PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE Sunday, June 18 Mich. Bucks vs. Cleveland Internationals at Roch. Stoney Creek H.S., 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21 Mich. Bucks vs. Indiana Invaders at Invaders Sports Complex, 7 p.m.

YOUR LINK TO THE LINKS Check this feature every Sunday and Thursday for course information and great values from some of the areas finest courses!

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TOUGHEST HOLES IN THE STATE

by Jeff Lesson

fifth), it represents the two toughest holes in the state.

trouble with a forced carry. Others have more difficulty keeping it straight.

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single digit hanicappers to their knees. The tee shot on this 440 yard hole is a forced carry over wetlands of about 180-220 yards depending upon your line of attack. The further right you take your tee shot the closer you get to the hole, but you also have more water to carry.

ESSON ON GOLF

The approach shot to the elevated, well bunkered 18th green at Wabeek is no bargain either. Even after a solid drive you may still not have a straight shot to the green unless your tee shot ends up on the left side of the fairway. Otherwise, you are forced to hit a long uphill fade. The toughest parr five in the state in #7 at Wabeek. The 579 yard hole begins with an elevated tee shot to a narrow valley with out of bounds lurking on both sides and water about 240 vards away.

What makes a golf hole difficult is often a subjective discussion. Just as no two holes are the same, ditto for two golfers. Some have more

Even though the Wabeek Country Club in Bloomfield Hills did not make our list of the four most difficult courses in the state(it would have been

The toughest parr four has to be #18 at Wabeek. The former home to the PAL Invitational has a finsihing hyple that will bring even the best of

After much deliberation, we here at "Lesson on Golf" have come up with the toughest parr four and parr five holes in our state.

The second shot is a forced carry over wetlands. To get close to the extremely elevated geen you must take the second shot left. The further left you take it the more water one must carry. Even then you are left with a blind approach shot to the green.

There is also a tree in the fairway on #7 at Wabeek that course designer Jack Nicklaus allegedly disliked so much he refused to put his name on the course he co-designed with Pete Dye in the late 1960s.

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.

COURSE DIRECTORY

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Fox Hills Country Club 8768 N. Territorial Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 453-7272

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Hickory Creek Golf Course 3625 Napier Road Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 454-1850

idyl Wyld **Golf Club** 35780 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI (734) 464-6325

Liberty Golf Club 6060 Maybee Road Clarkston, MI 48346 (248) 625-3731

Lincoln Hills Golf Course 2666 W. 14 Mile Rd. Birmingham, MI 48009 (248) 647-4468

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Rolling Meadows Country Club 6484 Sutton Rd. Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 (734) 662-5144

> Sanctuary Lake **Golf Course** 1450 South Boulevard Troy, MI 48085 (248) 619-7600

Springfield Oaks. **Golf Course** 12450 Andersonvile Road Davisburg, MI 48350 (248) 625-2540 www.golfoakland.us

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Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS



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Westland Municipal **Golf Course** 500 S. Merriman Westland, MI 48186 (734) 721-6660

Whispering Willows Golf Club 20500 Newburgh Road Livonia, MI

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back nine is higher with

more trees and water.

Dir: Andersonville

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White Lake Oaks **Golf Course** 991 Williams Lake Rd. White Lake 248.698.2700 www.golfoakland.us

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006



PC Pride coach Scott Ampe offers advice to Katie Meade during the team's first-round game against another Pride squad.

SUMMER CLASSIC

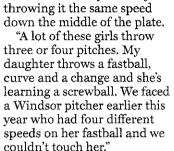
FROM PAGE B1

But it's all worth, according to the players' parents.

"This is a big deal for my daughter and her teammates," said Dana Rudnicki, whose daughter Haley plays on the Thunderbirds' 12U team. "I know they really look forward to these tournaments. It's an exciting thing for them."

Robert Lee, whose daughter Briana plays for one of the PC Pride's 14-and-under teams, said pitching is the key to a fast-pitch softball team's success.

"It's probably 75 percent of the game," said Lee. "But it's not necessarily how hard they girls throw the ball – it's more about location and movement. You can have a girl throwing 63 (miles per hour), but the good teams are going to figure



her out eventually if she's just

The tournament winds down today with championship games set for Pioneer Middle School, the P-CEP athletic complex and Plymouth Township Park. All games are free for the public.

Teams that finish first in their respective age divisions earn berths to the USSSA national tournament, which is set for July.

Results from this weekend's tournament will appear in Thursday's Observer.

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



Madyson Ampe displays proper bubble-aum technique



Madyson Ampe displays the results of her bubble blowing.



Mikayela Marciniak tries unsuccessfully to avoid Kristi Zink's tag

Whalers sign center Jenks

The Plymouth Whalers announced the signing of 15year-old center A.J. Jenks on Wednesday.

Jenks, who turns 16 later this month, was selected by Plymouth in the seventh round (132nd overall) in this past spring's Ontario Hockey League Draft.

A native of Wolverine Lake, Mich., Jenks played last season for the Detroit Honeybaked Midgets, tallying

26 goals and 29 assists in 66 games. Prior to last season, Jenk spent the bulk of his youth hockey career



playing in the Compuware system.

Jenks joins a long list of Detroit-area players the Whalers have signed from the Compuware youth system, including James Wisniewski (now with the Chicago Blackhawks), David Legwand (Nashville Predators), Nate Kiser, Jared Newman and Damian Surma.

"We're excited about having A.J. here in Plymouth," said Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "He's one of the top-rated prospects in his age group."

The International Scouting Service had Jenks rated second overall among the top 1990 birthdays eligible for this spring's OHL draft, not far behind the No. 1 pick, Steve Stamkos.

Jenks' signing comes less than a week after the Whalers inked 16-year-old defenseman Frank Grzeszczak, the Whalers' 11th-round pick in the 2005 OHL draft.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

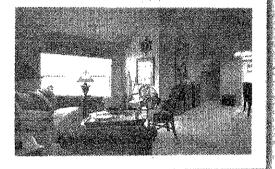


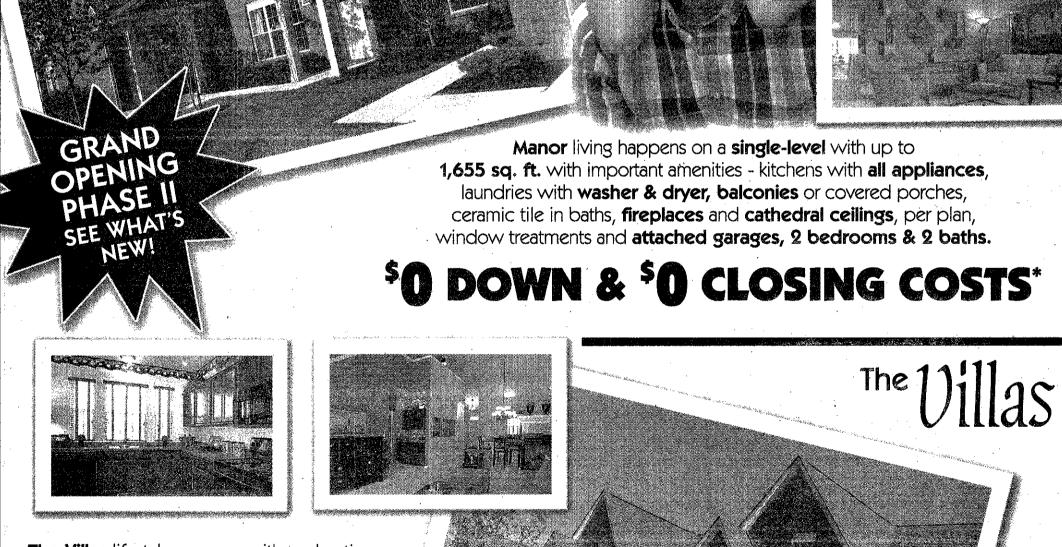
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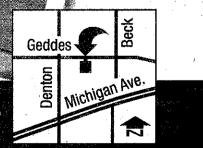
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

LOCAL SPORTS

Churchill's Sidor among three MU softball signees

Madonna University softball coach Al White recently announced the signing of three student-athletes to letters-of-intent including 2005 All-Observer first baseman Cat Sidor of Livonia Churchill.

Also in the fold are Northville's Bridget Hughes and Goodrich's Alyssa Bertrand.

"We are very excited about the addition of these three players," White said. "This is the start to what we believe will be one of our best classes in recent memory."

Sidor, who will make the short trip to MU from Churchill, earned four varsity letters in softball.

She helped lead the Chargers to a pair of Western Division titles and a Western Lakes Activities Association crown as a senior.

As a junior, Sidor hit .541 while helping Churchill to the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational championship, as well as Division I district and regional titles.

"Cat is probably the best defensive first baseman coming out of the high school level that I have seen in a long time," White said. "She is very smooth, very polished and we count on her moving right in and being a contributor. She also swings a good bat with good power, but like any other hitter making the transition to college, we will work with her to progress and constantly improve herself."

Playing first base for the Chargers, Sidor was a career .445 hitter.

She hopes to study Education at MU.

Hughes, a second baseman, earned seven letters as a prep, four in women's hockey and three in softball.

She was an All-WLAA honoree. "Bridget is a very intense player

SPORTS SHORTS

who fills a need for us at second base due to graduation," White said. "Hopefully she can step right in and contribute for us."

Bertrand, a catcher, helped Goodrich reach the Division II state semifinals.

"She is a good receiver and another player that comes from a great program," White said. "She's had great summer ball experience and she is a very intelligent player ... she knows the game very well and that will help her transition."

Bertrand has earned seven varsity letters as a prep, including three on the diamond and four in volleyball. The trio are phase one of what White hopes will be a total of six to eight recruits for the 2006 team.

"We're bringing in the type of student-athlete that can carry on the tradition of academic and athletic excellence we have established here at Madonna," said the MU coach, who guided the Crusaders to a 35-15 record in a berth in the NAIA regional finals.

"It's important for us to continue building on the successes we have had recently in our ultimate goal of a national title."

Archery introduction

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage its introduction to target archery, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Saturday, June 24, at the Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road (between I-96 and Plymouth Road). The fee is \$12 for residents and \$14 for non-residents. (Children 9-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.) The workshop proved both

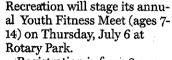
adults and children covers

proper technique, equipment use, rules and etiquette. Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. A limited number of instructional bows, arrows and other supplies are available at no cost. A half-hour break is scheduled during the workshop (no lunch is provided, but you can bring your own if desired). For more information, call

(734) 466-2410.

Youth Fitness Meet

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and



Registration is from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. the day of the event. There is no entry fee.

Youngsters will compete in the standing long jump, running long jump, chinning, dashes, agility course and softball throw.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WWSL signup

Fall 2006 registration is under way for the Wayne-Westland Soccer League, which will be from Sept. 9 through Oct. 29.

Forms are available at either the Westland Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, or the Wayne Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road.

No registration will be processed unless all the requirements are fulfilled. Late fees begin Wednesday, July 5 and registration ends Sunday, July 16. Among the WWSL upcoming events include the Fourth of July parade, with volunteers needed to help with the float on Thursday, June 29; annual picnic and fun day for all registered players from the spring season on Sunday, July 23; and annual banquet for fall players in November.

For more information, call (734) 467-5260; or e-mail http://www.eteamz.com/wwsl.

LJAL golf outing

The first annual Livonia Junior Athletic League golf outing will be Friday, July 14 at Fox Creek. The cost is \$75 per person or

\$300 per foursome. If interested, call Jeff at

(734) 427-0963. Boys hoop league

Registration is underway as the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage a boys basketball league Tuesday nights (ages 9-11) and Thursday nights (ages 12-14) at the LCRC, starting the week of June 26 through the week of Aug. 14 (no games July 3) at the LCRC, 15100 Hubbard.

Fees for ages 9-11 are \$42 (LCRC pass holder); \$51 (Livonia resident); \$58 (nonresident). Fees for ages 12-14 are \$49 (LCRC pass holder); \$58 (Livonia residents); \$65 (non-residents).

Volunteer coaches are also wanted.

For more information, call Barb Gamber at (734) 466-2918.

Men's flag football

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will run a men's 18and-over flag football program with games at 6:10 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday nights, Aug. 22 through Oct. 5, at Rotary Park (diamonds nos. 3 and 4).

The fee is \$220 per team (plus official fee per game). In addition to entry fees, a nonresident fee of \$30 will be charged to each non-resident. There is a maximum of \$210 per team. Teams much carry a maximum of 14 players and a minimum of 10.

Registration began Monday, June 5 and closes Monday, Aug. 14 at the Parks and Recreation desk at the Community Center, 15100 Hubbard.

There will be a managers meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15 at the LCRC. Initial rosters are due Aug. 21 with final rosters Sept. 1.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Gems auditions

Gems on Ice Synchronized Skating Teams are currently holding private auditions for the 2006-07 season.

The Gems, skating out of the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth, will be fielding Juvenile, Novice, Junior and Masters teams.

Interested skaters should contact director Elise Metro at director@gemsskatingteams.c om. For more information, visit

www.gemsskatingteams.com.

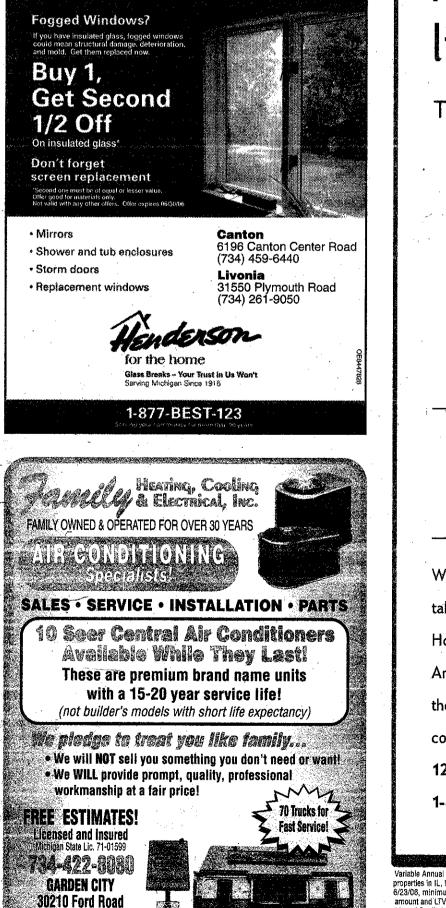
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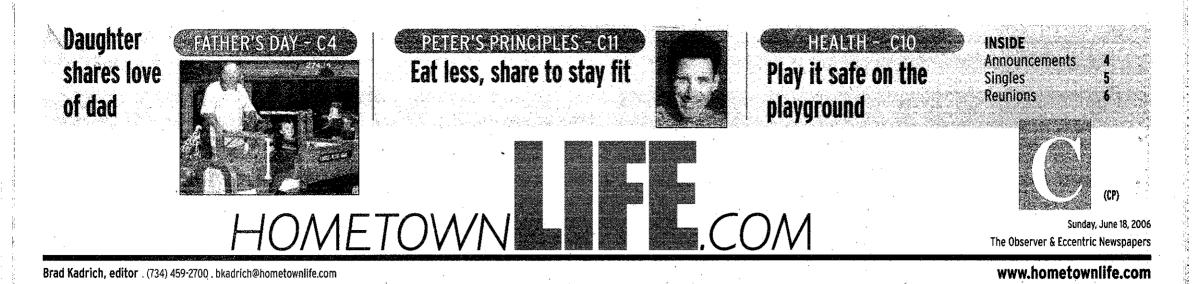
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Bus travel a good way to get going

am sure you have heard the phrase "Leave the driving to us.'

If you haven't, you have now. I have a wonderful challenge for you this summer and for many summers to come, which is get up, get out, and get going.

With gasoline prices at an alltime high these days, the summer vacation looks like it might be in jeopardy — but don't abandon your summer travel plans just yet.



Bobbie Jones

well-guarded secret. However, the time has come to let you in on it. One of the best ways I have found to

In the past couple of years I have enjoyed what seems to be some kind of

get out of town is to take a trip by tour bus. OK, I know what you are thinking. You're saying to yourself, "I gave up that bus stuff after my last trip on Greyhound." But, I say to you please don't discount this way of travel because it can provide you with a most beautiful and educational experience.

In the past the trips that I have embarked on only had the makeup of one demographic: The senior citizen. I have found myself being the youngest person on these creatively orchestrated trips. Oh, sure, I tell everyone that I am in my 60s and watch them look on in amazement, but chalk that u



Jeff Sieber gives a pep talk to the Livonia Meteors soccer team on which his daughter, Chelsea, plays. Chelsea is on the bottom right.

Ceaching dads

Kids keep fathers volunteering

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Coaching dads are the first to say they couldn't do it alone. Nevertheless they're the ones putting in hundreds of hours to volunteer on soccer, baseball and softball fields for parks and recreation teams around the area.

When told he had 37 requests for 19 spots on his soccer team, coach Larry Reed modestly replied, "Honestly, it is all the parents and other coaches who help me." Reed is only one of 30 dads and moms coaching kindergarten through third

flexible hours and I have a lot of help from my wife Tammy and her mom and dad making sure the kids go to the right place at the right time," he said ..

"My dad always pointed out the importance of having kids participate in activities, whether it's sports or something outside of school to gain self-confidence. Sports is a lot like life. You win and lose in sports. You learn to be a good winner as well as a good loser. I always tell the kids if you practice hard and put the effort in, you can be successful. You can do the same thing in life."

ways easy having your dad coach your team, but It's not a

PLEASE SEE COACHING, C3

a girl just having a little fun.

Seriously, however, people of all ages are welcome on these getaways and a variety of destinations and activities are offered to please everyone.

Bianco Tours, which has been in business for 27 years now and operates out of Taylor, Mich., will pick you up from several locations. I must admit that the local senior centers have seen most of the action but as stated before, everyone is welcome.

My new senior friends and I have enjoyed journeys to Mackinac Island, Casino Windsor and Holland, Mich., for the widely popular Tulip Festival. Also, trips to some of the area's best theaters are offered if you have a performance itch you need to scratch.

These trips are provided at prices ranging from \$25-\$120, which usually includes a meal at a fabulous restaurant. The trips that include an overnight stay may be a bit pricier, but are well worth it.

If you are a single lady or gentleman and don't want the hassle of planning your own elaborate vacation or just don't like to travel alone, this is the perfect way to go, have some fun and see the sights.

Now that I have convinced you, you want to know how to take advantage of all this, right? Well, for those living in Canton, Bianco Tours will pick you up from the Canton Senior Center at 46000 Summit Parkway.

Some of the neighboring centers that offer pickups are September Days Senior Center on Tyler Road in Belleville, as well as the Plymouth, Taylor and Westland centers. For more information you can call the Canton Senior Center at (734) 394-5485 or call Bianco at (734) 946-7021.

Do yourself a favor and rediscover bus travel this summer. You might find yourself having more fun than you thought you could.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and a regular contributor to the Observer. She can be reached via email at workhard36@aol.com

grade teams for Farmington Hills Special Services.

In the last five years, Reed's coached soccer and basketball teams for all three of his children - Maria, 10, Dino, 9, and Genna, 8. In addition to coaching soccer in spring and fall, he runs co-ed basketball and bowling leagues in fall and winter for St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills. Reed says he couldn't do it without the help of his wife, Mary.

"I started with a neighbor who had a daughter the same age as Maria," said Reed, a CPA and co-owner of Top Value Car & Truck Service Center in Livonia. "I didn't know about soccer, but gave it a shot and the kids had fun. Over the years I've become a much better soccer coach by learning from the other coaches."

Reed never coaches to win, but parents still keep coming back and supporting him.

"What we teach them is honesty, integrity, courtesy, selfcontrol, an indomitable spirit and perseverance," Reed said. "We always teach them those things and then ask them what's the most important thing? It's that they have fun.

"I know one thing, I like spending time with my kids. I get to see them become better players and better people. It's not all about the game. We want them to become team players and take that back into school."

Mark Barikmo learned all about coaching from his dad, Rodney. Born and raised in Garden City, Barikmo played in a youth athletic association as a kid. Today, he coaches the team his son Kirk, 13, is on, and another for his son Kory, 7, for the Garden City Youth Athletic Association. In the past, he has coached all five of his children, including Kari, a freshman at Garden City High School, and Kyle, a junior at the same school. Barikmo can't seem to stay off the field. He presently is helping out at practices for the pee wee league softball team his daughter Kelsey, 11, plays on. Barikmo started coaching after graduating from Garden City East in 1977.

"I've been fortunate to have a sales job over the years with

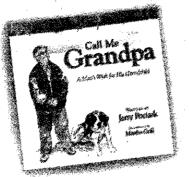


Author says to just call him grandpa

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

When Jerry Pociask's son called to tell him he was going to be a grandfather, the Westland man was so overcome with emotion that he decided to write a children's book. "Call Me Grandpa" follows Pociask through a soul-searching conversation about the meaning of life.

In the book, Pociask talks one-onone with a higher power after saying a prayer to grant his new grandchild a picture-perfect existence. The voice asks why Pociask asks for so much then proceeds to list the steps leading to a happy life. Over the years, Pociask, 53, has learned many lessons, from his experiences as a real estate broker to his recent venture as a new business owner. A divorce and travels around



Jerry Pociask was inspired to write this book after a phone call from his son, Jason.

the world left trails of grief and joy as well. "Call Me Grandpa" is a man's wish

for his grandchild. Marsha Grill, a

graphic artist for the Lansing State Journal, created sensitive watercolors to mirror the feelings found in his words.

"I've probably been working on this book my entire life," said Pociask. "We go through a lot in our lives. We turn around and we're 50 years old. I wanted a legacy for my grandchild."

Much of the wisdom Pociask draws on comes from being a life coach for Life Management LLC in Westland. Pociask helps people reach deep into their souls to ask what life is all about. He did just that when his son, Jason, called to say he and wife, Lindsay, were having his first grandchild Aug. 21.

'Casey is for real. The grandfather is a model," said Pociask.

PLEASE SEE AUTHOR, C2



Casey, Jerry Pociask's St. Bernard, is by his side throughout his new children's book.

www.hometownlife.com

AUTHOR

(CP)

C2

FROM PAGE C1

"It's not really a child's book, but could be read to a child to impart some life lessons. The book gives a sense of self, a sense of purpose. We all make mistakes in life. I want people to understand it's okay. "The first step to changing ourselves is forgiving ourselves. By not forgiving ourselves then we can't focus on now to make changes necessary for the future."

Pociask made sure to expose his children to as much as he could while they were growing up, Besides Jason, he has two daughters - Catherine and Jessica.

"I was close to my children," said Pociask. "My son was taken to theater as well as hunting and my daughters to theater and hunting. I plan to do the same with my grandchild. As a society we've lost

CONCERT SERIES

GUSTER wsg RAY LaMONTAGNE

TED NUGENT

TED NUGENT

DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

STYX / FOREIGNER

VEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

love it

9/12

7/26

8/17

8/18

8/22

9/6

9/7

<u>8/8</u>

sight of the value of grandparents. My grandparents were Polish immigrants. Lots of my values came from those teachings. One grandfather passed away early. The other spoke little English but I learned about hard work."

Throughout the years Pociask has concentrated on success. He earned degrees in business administration from Central Michigan University, and aviation from Northwestern Michigan College before holding corporate and nonprofit managerial positions.

"This publishing experience has been a learning experience," said Pociask. "I self-published and had to research everything from how do you get a bar code to learning about copyright and deciding on a printer. Now I'm setting up a Web site."

Casey, his trusty St. Bernard, has been by Pociask's side

DTE Energy

every step of the way.

"I bought her as a puppy," said Pociask. "At the time I was going through a divorce. She became a very good friend. Casey taught me unconditional love."

Pociask is counting on that love to be there while writing future children's books. Pociask believes he has more wisdom inside him to share.

"I'd like to have an impact on someone's life," said Pociask. "If I can change one child's life with my book and never know it, I'm a successful man."

"Call Me Grandpa" is available at the Book Cellar in Plymouth, Providence Hospital in Southfield, Northville Candle and Gift, Renaissance (734) 451-8203, or by sending e-mail to jwpoc@aol.com.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

MEADOW BROOK

CONCERT SCHEDULE

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Here's the schedule for the Music in the Air concert series, sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority; concerts are 7 p.m. Fridays in Kellogg Park:

- 📕 June 23 Sarah Lenore Band
- June 30 Mass Transit, R&B and groove band
- July 7 No show due to Art in the Park July 14 - TBD
- 🔳 July 21 Those Delta Rhythm Kings, swing, jazz and blues

July 28 – Westrin and Mowry, acoustic rock and pop

Aug. 4 – Retrospect Band, modern hits, new to the lineup

Unity in Warren, and by calling Aug. 11 - Rodeo Drive, modern country and radio hits, new to the lineup

> 🗰 Aug. 18 – Fifty Amp Fuse (formerly the Crackerjack Band)

🖬 Aug. 25 – Steve King and the Dittilies

Garage sale comes to mall June 23-25

Livonia Mall is renting tables for a unique garage sale June 23-25, at the mall on the corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt.

Rent a table inside the mall to sell no longer ing, no adult clothing.

for each additional table. Hours are 3-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. To reserve a space, call Shirley at (248) 476-

1160.

Every week, the Plymouth District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of Best Sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or on-line

www.plymouthlibrary.org

"PARENTS' CHOICE NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- 1. "Cowboy Slim," Julie Danneberg
- 2. "Desmond and the Naughty Bugs," Linda Ashman
- 3. "Star Climbing," Lou Fancher

4. "Clumsy Crab," Ruth Galloway

Sept. 1 – Lady Sunshine and the X Band

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Here's the schedule for the Music in the Park concert series for kids, sponsored by the Plymouth Community Arts Council, New Liberty Bank and McCully Educational Resource Center; concerts are noon Wednesdays in Kellogg Park:

- 🖬 June 21 Beverly Meyer, "The Music Lady"
- June 28 Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
- July 5 Jeremy Kittle
- July 12 Josh White Jr.
- 💵 July 19 Jan Krist
- July 26 Hometown Kids Concert featuring Phoenix, PCAC's Plymouth Uptown Players and more
- 🔜 Aug. 2 elmoThumm
- 🔳 Aug. 9 Gemini
- Aug. 16 Guy Louis, Chautaugua Express
- 🔳 Aug. 23 Matt Watroba

LIBRARY PICKS

5. "Duck and Goose," Tad Hills

FICTION

- 1. "The Husband," Dean Koontz
- 2. "Beach Road," James Patterson
- 3. "At Risk," Patricia Cornwell
- 4. "Book of the Dead," Douglas J. Preston
- 5. "Cold Moon," Jeffery Deaver

NONFICTION

- 1. "Dispatches from the Edge," Anderson Cooper
- 2. "Marley and Me," John
- Grogan 3. "Wisdom of Our
- Fathers," Tim Russert
- 4. "Mayflower," Nathaniel Philbrick
- 5. "Game of Shadows," Mark Fainaru-Wada

ALAN JACKSON 9/23 DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATR JIM GAFFIGAN 9/23 READOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAS JUST ANNOUNCED! JOHN MAYER / SHERVE CROW ON SALESOON

HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH wsg BETTER THAN EZRA 🗰

COMING THIS WEEK THIS WED., 6/21 - 7:00 PM LIN BUDSSOMS -



- THE TEMPTATIONS REVUE featuring DENNIS EDWARDS. THE MARVELETTES and THE CONTOURS featuring SYLVESTER POTTS: THE LEGENDS OF MOTOWN DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- TAKING BACK SUNDAY / ANGELS & AIRWAVES WS9 HEAD AUTOMATICA and THE SUBWAYS
- LONESTAR MEADOW BROCK MUSIC FESTIVA

29

30

CHICAGO / HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS 🔘 ABBA THE MUSIC 📽

1954 THE TRIZITE MO

STEVE MILLER BAND OTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

MAJOR ROCK

at

needed toys, games, housewares, and other valuable items. Vendors may only sell baby cloth-

Tables are \$15 each, \$8



HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cobras, a Colt Select League

Profitt said.



are involved with a lot of dif-

"It's a mixed blessing coach-

only reason I do it is for my kids. It's neat to be involved, to help them, to see them develop, to get to know their friends and get to know a little bit more about them."

engineer for DTE, will continue coaching his son Ryan's years, Wagner's coached his son D.J., 16, in soccer and Tbetter.

"I'm having fun with them," Wagner said. "You're seeing

to work them hard. I'm not success happens when they decide to work harder. I teach them about the rewards of hard work, being a team and

his youngest to a Christian the day before for a mission

One of the reasons I coach said. "My faith compels me to serve. It's one of the things I feel I'm called to do."



C3

(CP)

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

Daughter shares love for dad on special day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Walter Stark just can't sit still. The reason 82-year-old Livonia resident is so busy is because he's always making gifts for his family. He recently built his great grandson Landen Rain Moeller a fireman's bed to honor the memory of 9/11 firefighters in New York City.

"He always does for all of us," said his daughter Star Moeller, who shares her father with younger brother Wally and older sister Janet Smith. Landen is her grandson.

"He's always making everything for all of us for our homes. He made me a beautiful glider swing, a shed for my brother. He redid my basement when I lived in Canton. He just does everything. He wants to keep his mind occupied and keep it sharp. He likes to do things that are inventive."

Stark used parts from the beds of his dog Penny and Moeller's son Leon. Then he took the lids to her pans out of her cupboard for headlights.

Penny, his wheaten terrier, died about a year ago so it's a very special bed. Leon had carved Leon Plus Mom into it. That's now the dashboard. The steering wheel is from a video game. The bell is from a dinner bell for the backvard.

What amazes Moeller though is not Stark's creativity but his perseverance. His wife Emmy Jane died in December, 1999 and his two brothers Fred and



Walter Stark of Livonia enjoyed building this fireman's bed for his great-grandson Landen Rain Moeller. Stark says it is 'a salute to the bravest men on earth, the New York firemen.'

Billy within the last seven years. He himself underwent a quadruple bypass, treatment for cancer, and was incapacitated by a broken ankle. It was during the time Stark couldn't get around that Moeller and her husband, Ron, moved in to care for him. During the week they and their dog Aussie, an Australian shepherd,

stay with him and then go home to New Hudson on weekends. On Father's Day, they all plan to go over to dad's house for a barbecue.

"He's got a great sense of humor," said Moeller. "He's always hilarious, always making up stories and joking." Stark calls himself a junk yard dog. He seldom goes to bed without planning a project.

"I love my family and they love me," said Stark who at one time was a construction inspector for the city of Detroit. "It was a pleasure being a father. That part is fun."

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Recker-Wysocki

Bruce and Pamela Recker of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Recker, to Matt Wysocki, son of Darlynn and Robert Wysocki of Livonia. The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Eastern Michigan University and works as an elementary teacher for Livonia Public Schools. The prospective groom is

pursuing his bachelor's degree from Madonna University. He works as a police officer for the Southfield Police Department.

Jones-Rutter

Greg and Karen Jones of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Jones, to Jason Rutter, son of Jim and Tracy Rutter of Canton, who will be married in a garden ceremony at Fox Hills Country Club in July.

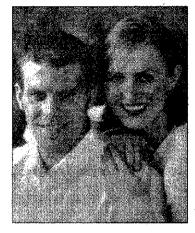
The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She received her degree from Michigan State University in interdisciplinary humanities and recently graduated from George Washington University with her master's in American studies.

The prospective groom is a 1999 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. He received his degrees from Michigan State University in history and interdisciplinary



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summer 2006 wedding is planned at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia.



social science and is currently attending George Mason University working toward his master's degree. He is employed by Harvard Design & Mapping in Arlington, Va., where the couple will make their home.

A Hawaiian honeymoon is planned.



RODNEY C. KROPF

Age 80, June 15, 2006. Beloved hus-band of Leneva. Loving father of Marsha and Gerald (Pam). Grandfather to Kristina and Gerry. Former city attorney of Livonia. Devoted Livonia Rotarian. Member of Harness Association, Wayne viicni State University Supporter, Contributor and #1 football fan. Visitation Monday 2-9pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Funeral service Tuesday, 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

RICHARD E. PONKEY Age 71, passed away June 14, 2006. He was born on September 19, 1934, to Albert and Marian (Hanses) Ponkey. Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Jan Ponkey; his loving mother, Marian Ponkey;

MARTHA (Marcie) LOUISE WOOLWEAVER

Made her transition peacefully on Friday, June 2, 2006, in California. She was 93½. Born November 15, daughter of Lawrence and Stella Meyerholtz. Marcie taught school in

'Children of Abraham' recreates biblical story to reunite faiths

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

On a stage, teens in a documentary get up one by one and describe their feelings to attentive peers.

That's not unusual, except that these teens are Christians, Muslims and Jews. And they're talking about religion.

One says she was teased by classmates because of her Muslim attire. Another says in his neighborhood, he never saw anyone who wasn't of his own Christian faith



Bloomfield Hills synagogue, Temple Beth El. But she only became involved in the interfaith movement toward the end of a fashion retailing career that included positions at Saks Fifth Ave. and the former J.L. Hudson Co.

Her first desire to do something to build understanding was after the Columbine High School massacre. But it was Sept. 11, 2001, that caused her to take action:

"My heart said, you need to reach out as a Jew and build lationships with Muslims and Christians."

C4 (*)

ROBERT ("Bob") L. KURTZ, SR.

February 19, 1916 – June 13, 2006. Born the first of 7 children to Clyde and Anna Kurtz, resident of Redford for over 80 years. Devoted husband of Lois Jane Bandelow for 67 years; loving father of Thomas (Sonja), Marie (James) Brucker, Robert Jr, (Nancy), and Edward (Deborah).Cherished grandfather of 14 and great grandfather of 14. Bob Kurtz was a selftaught tool and die maker and handyman extraordinaire. Bob was a member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church over 50 years. His kindness and gen-erosity touched many.Memorial serv-ice: Thursday, June 22, 2006, 12 noon at St. Paul's 27475 Five Mile Road, west of Inkster, in Livonia- Memorial donations may be made to the church, Angela Hospice, or Spina Bifida Foundation. Contact St. Paul's at 734-422-1470.



LAUREN J. La PLANTE Age 16, passed away June 14, 2006; born on January 13, 1990, to Kevin and Julie (Meakin) La Plante. She was formerly of Livonia, prior to moving to South Lyon 3 years ago. She attended South Lyon High School, was a member of the Debate Team, State Semi-Finals Debate, Team, and Softball Team. Swim Lauren is survived by her parents, Kevin La Plante and Julie Meakin-La Plante; grandparents Lewis La Plante, Valla-Dia (Wayne) Timlin; several loving aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by Thomas & Marilyn Meakin. Visitation Monday, 2 – 9 p.m. Funeral Tuesday, 11 a.m., with final visitation at 10:15 a.m., at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street (Ten Mile), South Lyon.

VERLAINE M. McINTOSH

Of Bloomfield Hills, June 13, 2006. Beloved wife of Donald H. Also survived by 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 3 brothers and 1 sister. Visitation-Funeral Mass took place at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, 1250 Kensington Rd., Bloomfield Hills, 48304. Memorial tributes to the Academy. For information call A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

nildren Rick Burroug CWO3 Jeffrey (Ellyn) Ponkey USCG, Andrea Vukmirovich, Joseph (Katie) Ponkey, Cindi (Kurt) Hartmann, Madonna Ponkey; eight grandchildren, Tara, Valerie, Adam, Samantha, Zak, Cara, Tyler, and Cami. He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Ponkey. A Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, June 17 at St. Joseph Catholic Church South Lyon. Donations may be made to Arbor Hospice, MS of Boston, MA or Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD SALVA JR. Jan. 28, 1934 - June 19, 2004 Miss you everyday, have wonderful memories of you. Loved by everyone, wife Judy, Eddie, family and friends. Most of all Amos and Andy. God bless you Duckie.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages" ... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

Sidney in a one-room schoolhouse until she married Herb (Wooly) in 1936. They moved to Michigan in 1945. In 1999 she settled in California with her daughter. She received her first cello when she was 12, playing until she was 88. She was a member of the Detroit Women's Symphony, the Space Coast Orchestra and Brevard Symphony (FL), the Hendersonville Symphony (NC), as well as being a member/manager of the Plymouth Symphony. She died with a recording of Yo-Yo Ma playing as her body was anointed in pure essential oils. Marcie was preceded in death by two chil-dren, John Michael (1942) and Patricia Louise (1943) as well as her husband, Herbert Edward Woolweaver (1986). She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Marsalee Forrestar, San Diego; stepson, Gary Woolweaver, Garden City; and stepdaughters, Suzanne Pepper, Charlevoix; and Joanne Adams, Brighton. She also leaves 14 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. Marcie was cremated and buried in Graceland Cemetery in Sidney, Ohio. Condolences to the family may be sent to: forrestar1@hotmail.com



ð **OBITUARY** POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz ý. L

Each seems surprised at the revelations and beliefs of others. They also are surprised to find that they all trace their heritage back to Abraham and worship the same God. In the end, they express empathy and come to an understanding.

"You don't have to be wrong for me to be right," says one.

The documentary is called Reuniting the Children of Abraham and includes the teen's conversations, enacted flashbacks to Biblical times and music. It's part of a multimedia project, Children of Abraham, which builds bridges of understanding between religions, cultures and races.

The play is inspired by the story of Abraham's two sons, Isaac and Ishmael, coming together to bury their father. Isaac was the father of the Jews and later the Christians, while Ishmael is the father of the Muslims. Abraham plays a significant role in the Torah, the New Testament and the Koran.

"Historically, nothing was written about their conversations, so we have the opportunity to tell the story in a new light," said Brenda Rosenberg, project founder. "The play can open minds and hearts by showing how peace is possible when we are willing to come together."

OVERCOMING STEREOTYPES

Children of Abraham calls for teens of different backgrounds to engage in dialogue and role-playing in order to understand each other. Rosenberg, of Bloomfield Hills. recalls the first project, in which the teens met for three months once a week. Participating teens of different races, religions and communities, including Detroit and Bloomfield Hills, had to overcome significant stereotypes about one another.

"In the beginning, they did not think they could be friends," she said. "It took four weeks just to go beyond the superficial.'

But they did become friends. "We who were hoping to facilitate transformation were



Brenda Rosenberg

transformed ourselves by the project," said one.

Victor Begg, founder of the Muslim Unity Center in Bloomfield Hills, helped Rosenberg get the project started; his son and daughter both participated in the play and documentary.

Begg, of Bloomfield Hills, said when he first heard about the project he was elated that "someone is taking the initiative and getting the story out that we belong to one family, that Father Abraham is our common ancestor."

Begg, who has been active in interfaith work, added, "The whole project is by children. That makes a major difference."

The documentary has been presented at churches, mosques, synagogues, schools and other locations.

In March, the multimedia program called Toolkit 4 Peace, showing all the available materials for groups to use, previewed at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

This spring, Rosenberg took the documentary and program to a conference in Israel on creative approaches to overcoming conflict. She now has an invitation to present it in Jordan.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION

The interest gives Rosenberg hope for building bridges of peace. But she knows it's not

The former Federated Department Stores vice president recalls with a smile that when beginning the project, "I thought if I was responsible for \$380 million worth of products for Federated Department Stores, how hard would it be to bring Christians, Muslims, Jews together? If I had had any clue as to how challenging it can be, I would have never taken it on."

Rosenberg is active in her

A DREAM OF PEACE

She met with area religious leaders to discuss what could be done locally. When Imam Abdullah El Amin from the Muslim Center of Detroit spoke of Isaac and Ishmael coming together to bury their father Abraham, "It was an epiphany."

That night, she dreamed of the archangel Raphaella taking the young Isaac and Ishmael through a four-step healing process of reconciliation. It included breaking bread together; turning to each one in turn and having them tell what it was like for them to be Abraham's son while the other listened without criticism; role-playing by retelling the story from the others' point of view; and then creating a new story.

Imam Abdullah and the Rev. Dan Buttry of the Baptist Peace Fellowship helped her create an outline for a children's play. Then her friend Julie Cummings of Birmingham suggested she call Rick Sperling at Mosaic Youth Theatre. She did so and the play was on its way. Playwright Rochel Urist and the NCCJ Interfaith Partners also contributed.

The program is showing fruits as people who have been involved have brought new interfaith efforts to their endeavors.

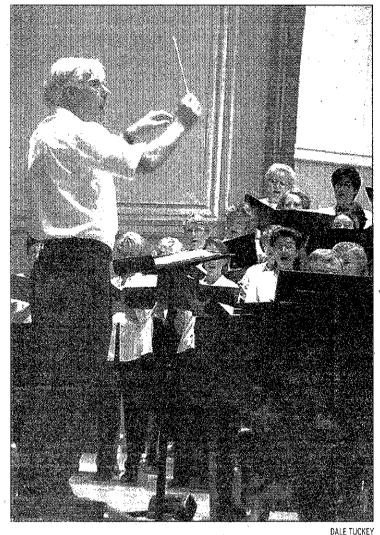
And it is receiving national attention. It was featured as a CBS network special. On Thursday, it aired nationally on the Bridges cable television station.

Rosenberg wants to bring the project to even more people.

Rosenberg compares the project to a tool kit that can be used for peace: "We have all the tools for peace, we just have to open up the tool box and start using them."

For more information contact Brenda Naomi Rosenberg: pathways2peace@comcast.net Or www.thechildrenofabrahamproiect.org.

Reunion concert draws singers from across country



Robert Pratt conducts the 2002 Youth for Understanding Alumni Chorale Reunion concert at Pease Auditorium in Ypsilanti.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Dr. Dennis Francisco calls his experience with The Michigan Youth Chorale life changing. At the time he was a student at Schafer High School in Southgate. The Youth for Understanding Exchange program opened up his eyes when he spent the entire summer of 1966 in South America with the chorale. While there he stayed with families in Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. The students were supposed to go to Argentina but there was a revolution going on.

Francisco, a Plymouth resident, relives those days next weekend when alumni from the 16 chorales from 1958 to 1973 gather for a reunion concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor. Donations will be accepted. Robert Pratt conducts, assisted by Len Riccinto.

"It was kind of a cultural exchange," said Francisco, an optometrist at Metropolitan Vision Associates in Dearborn Heights.

'We gave concerts at schools, public theaters, churches. As an 18 year old it's a life changing experience. You have preconceived notions about politics, freedom, poverty. When you're exposed to living in another country it turns all around when you travel."

About 85 members of the chorales will arrive on Friday night for a rehearsal, practice all day Saturday and then attend a banquet before singing the concert the next day. Francisco sang in the reunion chorale two years ago. Two years before he spent the whole weekend of the concert in Ann Arbor. The fun part he says, "is seeing the members." Some he hasn't seen in 40 years. Twenty-five of the 1966 chorale members will gather.

"It kind of relives some of the experiences we had on tour," said Francisco. "We'll sing at least one or two of the songs which were sung by our chorale, a Bach Cantata in German. Our director has high expectations. We'll sing in four different languages."

Robert Pratt of Ann Arbor conducted the chorale for the last 10 years of its existence. Members were selected from auditions. Once the chorale was assembled, rehearsals ran every Saturday from October to June. That summer the chorale traveled to Europe or South America for 6 to 7weeks. Originally known as the Michigan Youth Chorale, it became the Youth for Understanding Chorale for the last 10-years of its existence. The program was canceled after the 1973 tour. For more information, visit

www.choralealumni.com.

G.E.M.S.

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets 6-7 p.m. every Friday at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road. It is a water exercise class for MS patients and their families. Support group meeting 7:15-8:15 p.m. Call Karolyn Davis, (734) 459-9715, or Mike Hickey, (734) 522-0036. Walking club

Those interested in joining the St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Walking Club at Westland Mall can complete a registration card at Customer Service in the East Court of Westland Mall, located on Wayne and Warren Roads in

GETTING FIT

For more information, contact the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950, or visit www.stmarvmercv.org. Yoga clásses

(*)

C5

Began in January at the Assarian Cancer Center in Novi and Providence Hospital in Southfield. Times are 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday, Novi and 5:30-6:30 p.m. Southfield; 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Novi; 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Southfield, and 12:30-1 p.m. Friday. Novi. Presented by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts, the classes are \$10 walk-in, \$80 for 10° class card, \$70 for 7-week evening session. For information, call (248) 465-5455.



MISC. SINGLES

Moon-dusters

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. for more information, call Joe Castrodale, (248) 968-5197.

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

John ermall list at www.mspsc.com for special events, information (248)

544-6445. Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Euchre

Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members. Volleyball

Anytime 6:45-9:45 p.m. Drop-in volleyball in the gym and fieldhouse of the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of Telegraph. Cost is \$6. In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime 6:30 p.m. to dusk. Heritage Park.

Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Cost \$2. **Singles Connection Party**

SINGLES

7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21. For more information and registration, go to www.MetropolitanSinglesConnection. com.

Red, White & Blue Party and Dance 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, June 30, Pinewood Country Club, 8600 PGA Drive, Walled Lake, Admission \$15. For directions, call (248)669-9800..

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at

40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville. **Sunday Fellowship**

Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

Bible Studies-Prayer Nights 🖬 Learner's Bible Study - 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101.

🗱 Praying Together - 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church. Men's Bible Study _ 6:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office.

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C6 (*)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

A 40-year reunion for East Detroit

Saturday, Aug. 12, at Zuccaro's, 46601

Gratiot, Chesterfield Township. Call

Laura (Koster) Lavigne at (586) 263-

0677 or visit www.edhs1966.com for

A 40-year reunion is in the planning

Contact Dorothy at (248) 477-9478 or

stages for the summer of 2006.

A 30-year reunion is planned for

Road, between I-75 and Coolidge

Saturday, Aug. 12, 2006, at the Troy

Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver

Road. For information and to register

sign in at www.fhs75-76.org. Discount

if you register before Feb. 15. Cost is

\$65/person or \$120/couple. Forward

P.O. Box 20274, Ferndale, MI 48220

A 40-year reunion is planned for

Sheraton Detroit-Novi, 21111 Haggerty

Saturday, July 29, 2006, at the

payment ASAP to: FHS 75-76 Reunion.

High School's Class of 1966 is

more information.

Class of 1966

Epiphany Grade School

dzsnyder@hotmail.com.

Ferndale High School

Class of 1975/1976

Class of 1966

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to **Reunions, Observer & Eccentric** Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft. Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Belleville High School All Class Reunion for Belleville High School, 3-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Belleville High School Cafeteria. For information, contact Mildred Baker, chairperson, 139 Clarence St., Belleville, MI 48111; (734) 699-5231. Plans are in the works for the 7th Annual Alumni Banquet for Belleville High School. Committee members are planning for a tour of the high school, social time, and a dinner. Representatives from classes in the 1930s and on are arranging for alumni to return to their high school to reacquaint themselves with former classmates. Representatives are needed for several classes and addresses are being collected of alumni, so contact Chairperson Mildred Baker if you can provide information. Berkley High School

Class of 1971

A 35-year reunion. 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills, \$65 per person, spouses/guests welcome. Reservations due by June 15. Register and updates at www.berkleyalumni.org. **Cass Tech High School**

Class of 1955-57

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 15-17, 2006, at St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, Contact Rich Baylerian (248) 735-4495, Barbara Grajek Schanfrankek (248) 543-6353, Joann Ellison Armistead (248) 533-9525, Susan Wilmot Hitchcock at hitchcocksw@hotmail.com.

All classes ending in 6

The Cass Tech Alumni Association is hosting its annual Alumni Reunion Weekend, Aug. 4-6. This year they'll celebrate all alumni that graduated in a vear ending in six. The three-day event includes a picnic, golf outing and much more! the CTAA is also searching for all Cass alumni. Contact Steaphanie L. Jones (313)804-8019 or sjones@casstechalumni.org or www.casstechalumni.org. **Clarenceville High School** Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept.

29-Oct. 1. Sept. 29 - football game and party; Sept. 30 - banquet at Vladimirs of Farmington, \$45/person, open bar; Oct. 1 - breakfast at Leon's in Livonia. For more information call Sharon Byrnes Hawk at (248) 529-3016. **Cherry Hill High School**

Class of 1986

A 20-year reunion. Last graduating class, welcomes other classes. Friday, Sept. 15, at Double Tree Hotel, Romulus. For more information, contact Lisa (Brown)Graham at CHHS1986@hotmail.com or (734)9939. **Denby High School**

Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 16, 2006, at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. Contact Doreen (McClennan) Weber at dajweb@juno.com or Jerry Love at (586) 739-3840. **Detroit Chadsey**

Class of 1956

Looking for classmates. A 50-year reunion is planned for October 2006. All alumni from other years welcome. Contact Ted at (734) 462-2411 or Lillian at (734) 326-1324. Class of 1957

A 50th Reunion is being planned for the summer of 2007. Looking for January, June and Sumer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or

know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989)366-9288 **Detroit Cody**

Class of 1976

A 30-year reunion is planned for Sept. 30, 2006, at Summit at the Park in Canton. \$60. Make check payable to Cody '76 Reunion and send to Laurene Craig, 6736 Elizabeth, Garden City 48135. Contact Pat (Pletzke) Wauford at Swaulor@aol.com; OR Laurene (Zywica) Craig at (734) 536-3195 OR Harry Werwinski at bognutz@yahoo.com or (313) 274-7763. Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion, 5-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at Doubletree Hotel, Novi. \$78 per person, \$83 after Aug. 18. For reservations, call (248)348-5000. Class of 1961

Picnic at Kensington Metro Park, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 12. Contact Connie at (734)425-7094 or Rita at (248)348-7437 or Rita@fissiontech.com.

Detroit Cooley Class of 1966

A 40-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Farmington Hills. Buffet dinner, music, dancing, and a souvenir booklet. All interested

477-6802 or email: jwork2friends@yahoo.com Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1966

A 40-year reunion will be held 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2006, at the Troy Hilton. Anyone who attended Ford is welcome. Contact Ron Grant (home 248) 288-9376 OR (cell 586)-663-8844.

Detroit Mackenzie

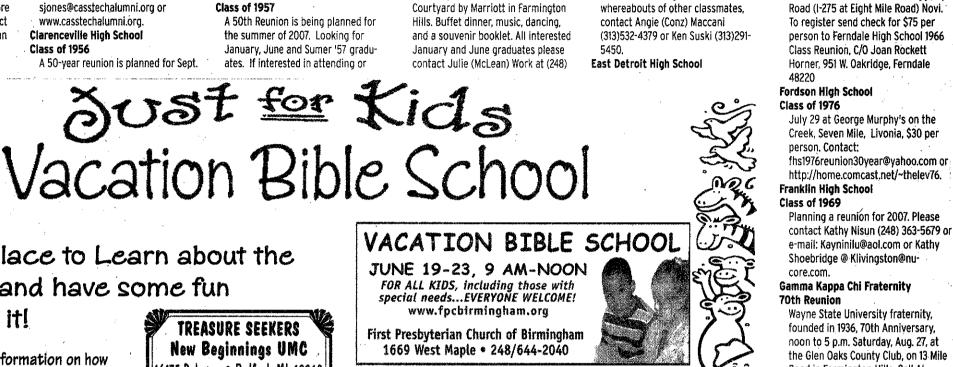
Classes Jan. , June and Summer 1956 A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 16, 2006, at the Novi Sheraton, For more information, call Haroid Kappen at (734) 261-0325 or okappen@earthlink.net.

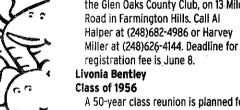
Detroit Salesian High School Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for July 15, 2006 at the Royal Oak Elks Club. Contact Tom Connelly (248) 546-4536 or Ron Altwies (734) 421-7143.

Detroit Southwestern Class of 1957

A 50-year reunion is being planned for September 2007. Looking for January and June graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, (313)532-4379 or Ken Suski (313)291-





A 50-year class reunion is planned for Friday, July 14, and Saturday, July 15, at the Hilton Gardens of Plymouth. For information, contact Sandy (Mensch) Curtis at (248) 426-7464 or Josie (Bonfante) Esper at (248) 777-1648.

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ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

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"I Hope You Dance" Cancer Survivors' Celebration

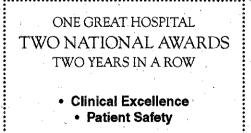
Special thanks to Karen Standfest, RN, MSN, VP. St Joseph Mercy Hospital, Macomb, keynote speaker at the 2006 Cancer Survivors' Celebration

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- Plymouth Whalers
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Cancer Center Ground Breaking Ceremony

Thanks to the Hearts of Livonia, our community leaders, donors and doctors for your support of the new St. Mary Mercy Cancer Center, opening Summer, 2007.

Our great doctors, nurses and associates... and our supportive community!



HEALTHGRADES



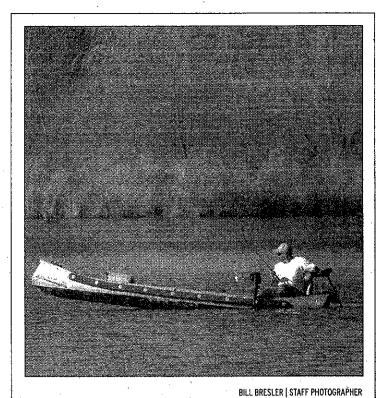
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Just chillin'

This is not a scene from somewhere up North. A fisherman enjoys a warm and sunny Tuesday afternoon on Phoenix Lake in Plymouth Township. We're not sure if the fish were biting, but it probably didn't matter to the fisherman.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Michigan Parkinson Foundation

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation is looking for volunteers. Regular orientation programs are held throughout the year to familiarize volunteers with the organization and the jobs there are to do. For more information, call (800) 852-9781, send e-mail to mpfdire@aol.com or fax to (248) 433-1150.

Clinical trial volunteers

Henry Ford Health System is looking for volunteers for two clinical trials. One trial for chronic low back pain compares acupuncture to conventional therapy.

For information, call (248) 380-6203. Breast cancer survivors who are taking hormone suppression therapy and experiencing hot flashes are also sought. The clinical trial is testing acupunc-

ture versus Effexor, call (313) 916-3938.

Samaritan Hospice companions Samaritan Care Hospice is seeking

volunteers to spend quality time with terminally ill patients and their families.

Hospice volunteers provide companionship and emotional support to patients for an average of one to three hours per week. Volunteers must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. Two five-hour training sessions are provided prior to your first assignment. For more information, call Chris Kokenos at (800) 397-9360.

Grief support volunteers needed Sandcastles, a grief support program for children and teens, is seeking volunteers for its sites in Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other communities. The program is sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System. Meetings are held bi-weekly. To register for training or for more information, call (313) 874-6881.

Hospices of Henry Ford is seeking volunteers who want to make a positive contribution to people in need. Flexible schedules provided. For information, call (800) 492-9909. **Beaumont Hospice help**

The Beaumont Hospice Volunteer Program is seeking volunteers (especially in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Clarkston, and Novi) to provide companionship and friendly visiting to patients residing in homes, nursing homes, or assisted livings in your area. For informa-tion, call (248) 743-9405.

Avalon Hospice visitors sought Avalon Hospice, serving Oakland County, is looking for a few friendly visitors to volunteer four hours per week, in their own community. Call Brian for more information at (248) 320-0106 or e-mail him at bhansen@avalonhospice.org for February/March training classes. **Blood** needed

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood, to donate visit any day Monday-Saturday, at the Livonia Blood Center, 36650 Five Mile. Walk-ins are available or make an appointment by calling (800) GIVE-LIFE. To donate blood you must be age 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in general good health:

Heartland Hospice companions Heartland Hospice of Southfield is looking for caring, compassionate and dedicated individuals to provide companionship to clients in their final stage of life and support to their families and caregivers, or provide office support. Heartland Hospice serves patients with a limited life expectancy and their families in the tri-county area. Any time you can give is welcomed and appreciated.

To sign up for training or for more information, call Mary or Brianne at (800) 770-9859.

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.

Recovery Inc.

living. Schizophrenics Anonymous

3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of month, at The Guidance Center, 19275 Northline, Southgate. Call (734) 785-7714, (517) 485-7168 or visit www.nsfoundation.org.

The Alliance for the Mentally III of Oakland County provides family support meetings for relatives of persons who suffer from mental illness on the first Monday of every month at 30233 Southfield, Suite 220, Southfield. For information and referral for AMI Oakland-South, call (248) 557-6440, AMI Oakland-North (248) 706-0591. AMI general meeting is held the fourth Thursday of every month. Education regarding mental illness-related topics is provided in the Administration Building Classroom AB1W (lower level) at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Time is 7:30 p.m., refreshments at 7 p.m. Call (248) 706-0591.

Thyroid cancer support The support group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family

SUPPORT GROUPS

members and friends, and meets monthly. For information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

www.hometownlife.com

Breastfeeding support

La Leche League of Livonia offers breastfeeding information and support at meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. For more information, cal local leaders: Sarah, (734) 266-0632, Jane, (248) 471-4232, or Gwen, (313) 937-4046.

Eating disorders support

Groups meet 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, use east entrance and take central elevators to 10th floor classroom A & B; 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, between Ford and Warren, use main entrance, take elevators after the gift shop down to the auditorium on the right. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of each month, parents only on fourth Wednesday of each month, at the same time and place as the Monday night closed group. For more information, call (734) 324-3089.

Alliance for the Mentally III

Family support meeting is held the first Monday of every month at 30233 Southfield Road, suite 220. Southfield. For information for AMI Oakland South, call (248) 557-6440. for AMI Oakland North, call (248) 706-0591. AMI general meeting is held 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month, at Beaumont Hospital Administration Building classroom ABIW in lower level, Royal Oak. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Call (248) 706-0591. The Wayne/Westland chapter, a self help and advocacy group for relatives and friends of the mentally ill, meets 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne at Bayview, first light south of Cherry Hill, Westland. For more information, call (313) 562-8498. All are welcome.





Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

The self-help mental health organization meets every Friday in the Southfield Parks & Recreation

Building on Evergreen at 10 1/2 Mile. For more information, call (734) 464-0027. Recovery also meets 2:30 p.m. Sundays, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard and West Chicago, Livonia; 7:30 p.m. Mondays, at St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, and 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, west of Middlebelt. For location or times of other meetings, call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. Recovery helps people who suffer from depression, tension, anger, low self-esteem and other feelings that interfere with effectively meeting the challenges of daily

Mentally ill support

Board of Education JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary



Enrollment in Wayne-Westland Community Schools, grades K-5, ENDS AUGUST 4th!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Fibromyalgia workshop

A local authority will be at the Carl Sandburg Library for a free workshop 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, to discuss what can be causing headaches. which he said is "often misdiagnosed and misunderstood." To register, call (248) 426-0201. Seating is limited. Ark concert

Jan Krist, along with percussionist Alan Finkbeiner and guest guitarist Jim Bizer will be performing at The Ark, 316 N. Main in Ann Arbor, on Thursday, June 29. The show begins at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

Northville parade

The Northville Community Foundation hosts Northville's Independence Day Parade 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 4 in downtown Northville. Parade organizers welcome Scout groups, neighborhood groups, church groups, car clubs, clowns, classic and vintage cars. Anyone wishing to get into Northville's parade can call (248) 374-0200 to register. Cut-off is June 30. **Bariatric seminar**

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia offers bariatric surgery, performed laparoscopically at its bariatric center. To learn more about the surgery, the hospital offers a free educational seminar 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium. Speakers are surgeon Tallal Zeni, medical director, Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Paula Magid, director of the bariatric proram. To register, call (734) 655-2692.

Healthy skin

"More Than Skin Deep," a program about healthy skin, will be presented 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, at the Holiday Inn on Plymouth Road at U.S. 23 in Ann Arbor. According to speaker Cindy Klement, "the health of the skin is a reflection of the health of our internal organs and overall nutrition. When you know the real secrets to natural beauty you can improve the health and appearance of your skin and improve your overall health in the process." Pre-registration is suggested, to ensure a seat and a handout. Cost is \$10. Contact the speaker, Cindy Klement, at (734) 975-2444 or go to www.cindyklement.com

Reducing stress

"Relax to the Max," a seminar on how to reduce stress, takes place 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20, at the Holiday Inn on Plymouth Road at U.S. 23, in Ann Arbor, According to speaker Cindy Klement, participants will "discover how to implement seven keys that will reduce your stress level and help you learn to stay calm in the midst of a crisis. Learn how to control your mood through breathing, improve vour nutrition to give you greater resilience and use herbs to mediate the effects of stress in your life." Preregistration is suggested, to ensure a seat and a handout. Cost is \$10. Contact the speaker, Cindy Klement, at (734) 975-2444 or go to www.cindyklement.com

Genealogical societies

The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets July 6, with speaker Guenter Loepertz discussing "Records to Trace Your Ancestors in Connecticut." The meeting takes place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 Grand River in Howell, with a help session at 6 p.m. The public is invited. For more information, call Margaret Bowland, program chair, (810) 227-7745.

Homebuyers' workshop

Ross Mortgage hosts a live on-line Homebuyers Workshop 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, to discuss the ins and outs of financing your next home. Register on-line at www.rossmortgage.com. The workshop is free. For more information, call (248) 547-4700.

Northville garden walk

The Country Garden Club of Northville is inviting everyone to attend their annual garden walk, featuring five dardens in Northville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 12. After seeing the flowers, visitors are invited to stop by Mill Race Village, where Cady Inn will be transformed into "The Potting Shed" where complimentary homemade sweets and lemonade will be served. Tickets in advance (\$10) are available and may be purchased after June 12 from Gardenviews, 202 W.-Main in Northville. For more information, call (734) 591-0360. Zoo shot party

On Tuesday, June 20, the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan and the Detroit Zoo team up to offer "One Zoo of a Shot Party," fora convenient place to get children ages 15 and older immunized against bacterial meningitis and/or receive the new tetanus booster that offers increased protection against whoop-

ing cough, known medically as pertussis. The program is open to students age 15, high school seniors and college freshmen living in dorms. The meningitis shot costs \$105; the tetanus shot is \$50. The event takes place 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the main entrance to the Detroit Zoo; parking is free for those being immunized. For more information, visit www.vna.org or call (248) 967-8755.

Summer school

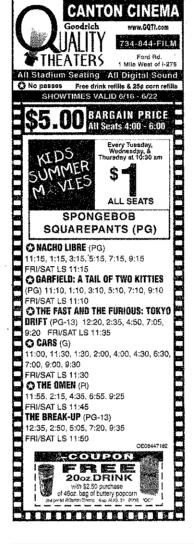
Summer courses are back in season at the Ann Arbor Art Center, offering favorites such as Drawing Fundamentals, Foundations, Painting

101, Basic and Continuing Watercolor, Exploring Watermedia and three levels of Ceramics. Semester dates run through July 10-Aug. 31 and discounts will be given for early registration by June 26. This summer the Art Center adds five new offerings in the celebration of art appreciation, ceramics, knitting and wine. Not only are these creative journeys, they are adventures in enlightenment. Debbie Kawsky, will share her art historical knowledge in a new class entitled He Said/She Said: Great Artistic Couples, which explores famous artistic couples like Pablo Picasso and Dora Maar, Edgar Degas and Mary Cassatt, for the shocking behind-the-scenes stories, their relationships, and the production of their most iconic works. Session 1 is Wednesday, July 12 from 7-9 p.m. and Session 2 is Wednesday, July 19, from 7-9 p.m. Kawsky will also instruct two sessions of Art and Scandal. This lecture series will focus on the exciting, yet tumultuous lives of painters and sculptors including Edouard Manet, Vincent Van Gogh, and Camille Claudel whose passion in both their personal relationships and their works of art quickly led to obsession, hatred, and tragedy. Session 1 is Wednesday, July 26, from 7-9 p.m. and Session 2 is Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 7-9 p.m. Simone Jenkins of Morgan & York will offer Artful Tasting: Bubbles and Cheese, a fourweek class pairing cheeses and sparkling wines from around the world. The class runs Thursday nights at 6:30-8:30 p.m. from July 13-Aug. 3. Everyone has gone crazy for crocheting, and in the six-week Wearable. Works of Art: Knit and Crochet for Pre-Teens and Adult, beginners can learn the basic stitches, materials and construction techniques for creating

small projects and then expand to make their own. Wearable Works is taught by Kristen Ham on Tuesday nights 6:30-8:30pm from July 11-Aug. 15 or Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. July 13-Aug. 17. The Ann Arbor Art Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging the community in the education, exhibition, and exploration of the visual arts. For more information, explore www.annarborartcenter.org, visit the Ann Arbor Art Center at 117 W. Liberty Street in downtown Ann Arbor or contact Janet Torno at (734) 994-8004,

Ext. 114. Charity golf

A summer days worth of fun never helped so many, which is just what golfers at the fourth-annual Michigan Tournament of Charities will do when they play at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club near Plymouth Aug. 28. Registration and breakfast begin at 9 a.m., with the 18-hole shotgun start at 10:30 a.m. Arbor Hospice & Home Care joins Open Door Ministry, Detroit **Rescue Mission Ministries, For the** Kids Foundation, Joy of Jesus, Band of Angels, Children's Therapy Fund and



Promise Village: Home for Children in benefiting from the generosity of MTOC and participants of the golf tournament. This distinguished golf tournament concludes with a banquet and live and silent auctions. Everyone is encouraged to join the evening festivities, which kicks off at 4 p.m. To register for this event, please contact Arbor Hospice & Home Care at www.arborhospice.org, email laren@arborhospice.org, or call 734-662-5999, extension 120. Registration can also be done through the Michigan Tournament of Charities website, www.mtocgolf.org and indicate supporting Arbor Hospice & Home Care.

Creative writing workshop

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A DESERVICE &

The Michigan Horror Writers presents its Spring 2006 writing workshop, "Revealing Character or What's in Your (Hero's) Wallet?" 3:45-6:15 p.m. Saturday, June 24 in the community room of the Madison Heights Fire Department headquarters, 31313 Brush, Madison Heights. Author Diane Burton offers tips for developing memorable characters which the reader will either root for or hiss at.

Admission is \$25 for Michigan Horror Writers members, \$30 for pre-registered attendees, \$35 for registration after June 3 and \$40 for walk-ins. Attendees should submit a sample of their writing with their registration. For more information or to register email Shelby at president@michiganhorror.com

Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, Livingston and western Wayne counties. Volunteers provide services such as friendly visiting, patient transport/patient outings, errand running, grief support and clerical services. Spring volunteer training is approaching. For more information contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones at (888) 973-1145.

Summer internships

The Ann Arbor Art Center is accepting applications for internships during summer 2006 at the Ann Arbor Art Center. Additional detailed descriptions can be found at www.annarborartcenter.org.

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Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@oe.hometownlife.com

Outdoor

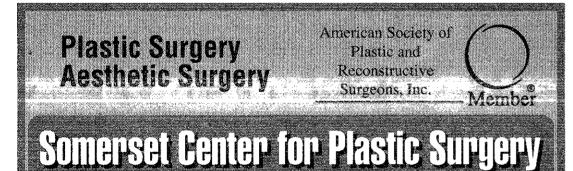


Prevention key to a safe summer on playgrounds

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Linda Reetz sees the lacerations, fractures and eye and head injuries resulting from children having fun on playgrounds. A registered nurse and director of emergency services at Beaumont Hospital, she is also the mother of three boys.

With the arrival of summer's carefree days, Reetz is expecting an increase in young emergency room patients suffering from injuries which could have been prevented. Playground safety



begins with parents. Even though the majority of playgrounds are inspected by the city or county, Reetz suggests parents find out if there is a child safety playground inspector assigned to their community who is responsible for ongoing maintenance.

"Being outside and being active is a wonderful thing for children, but with any activity there's always a risk of injury," said Reetz, a Troy resident. "Awareness is key. The ground covering is so important. They should be looking for wood chips or mulch, which is softest to fall on so they kind of get some resistance to the fall. Concrete you hit and it doesn't move."

According to the National Program for Playground Safety (www.playgroundsafety.org), every three minutes a child is treated in an emergency room for a playground-related injury. The nonprofit was founded in 1995 at the University of Northern Iowa with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as a resource for educational and research information. In 2004, their survey results showed Michigan's grade on park playground safety improved from a D in 2000 to a C-plus. While that is good news, Reetz estimates that 70 percent of the 200,000 children injured on American playgrounds were from falls. Parental supervision is critical.

"Children under age 5 should not be on equipment taller than four feet. They're just not physically coordinated and don't have stamina to play on higher surfaces," said Reetz.

Karen Kapchonik is especially proud of Rotary Park in Livonia.

It offers two major play structures, swing sets, a baseball diamond, an outdoor fitness center, and a firepit. A certified staff of Livonia Parks & Recreation playground inspectors make sure children have fun while staying safe.

"There are so many different play structures throughout the community," said Karen Kapchonik, superintendent for Livonia Parks. "All of them are plastic, except for Beverly Park, which is all wood. Plastic is colorful, better for maintenance, longer wear. "We always encourage residents to be eyes for us. If they see anything wrong to contact us. We have had to take swing sets down if we don't have protective fall material, a wood fiber. six to 12 inches to help break the fall." Daniel Wright, owner of the Outdoor Fun Store in Wayne, says poured recycled rubber



materials are the safest for cushioning falls, but costly. He recommends loose rubber, engineered wood fiber or triple-ground wood mulch for commercial and backyard play areas. Sand and pea gravel are also options.

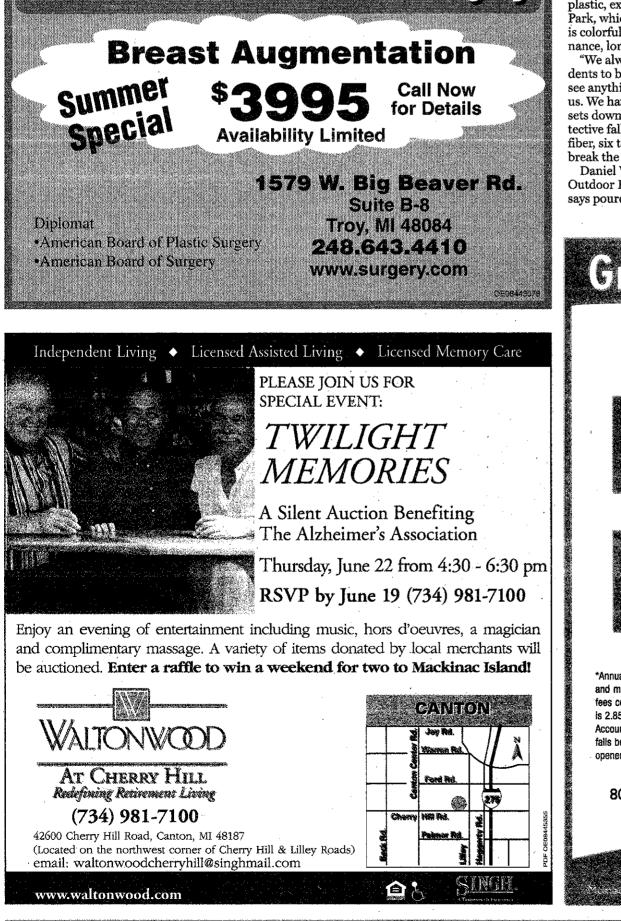
Outdoor Fun services and installs residential and commercial equipment for schools and parks. He offers a number of tips for parents to keep kids safe this summer.

One of his favorite public play areas is located at the Summit on the Park in Canton. Its big wood castles, newer metal and plastic equipment and a spray park provide a wide variety of fun.

"If it's made from wood, make sure the corners are rounded, no exposed hardware that could injure a child," Wright said. "Have them sit on a swing or go down a slide and see how stable the structure is."

A major danger for children is playing on equipment with their bike helmet on.

"I know of quite a few incidents in the past where children



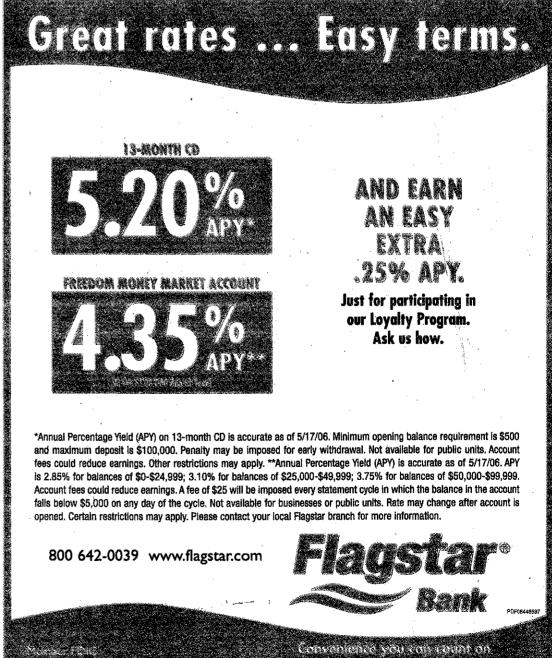
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have had problems with head entrapment where they could strangle themselves," Wright said. "The new equipment is designed to prevent this, but does not take into account bike helmets."

Reetz cautions parents about choking hazards. She said children should not wear clothing with drawstrings while playing.

"When she I was 6, I remember having a play structure in our backyard and seeing my older sister suspended on the slide," she said. "I eventually came to realize the string from her jacket hood had gotten hung up on the slide and she was suspended and couldn't move. Luckily, my mom was right there and saved her, but I can still picture her suspended there to this day."

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



www.hometownlife.com

Peter's Principles

Eat less and share to stay fit

Peter

Nielsen

Donna e-mails from Farmington Hills asking how to avoid overinduiging when entertaining clients at restaurants five nights a week. Donna, did you know that an average restaurant meal has a staggering 1,000 calories! (And that is without ever even looking at an appetizer or dessert!) One major reason for this is that the typical restaurant portion size contains 6 to 8 ounces of protein. Whether you're eating fish, chicken, or beef, a person shouldn't have more then 6 to 7 ounces of protein per day, not per meal.

My suggestion, to avoid piling on the calories, is to always cut the portion size in half. Another great tip is to share entrees, order two salads and double the vegetables! It's always better to take home a doggie bag than to weir that food on your waist ornips!



Brian from Fraer works out regularly. He i concerned because his sweat leve seems to increase with the levelof his physical

HEALTH

C11 Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006 (LWReGc-C9)(CP)

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Northland Pacers Walk Around the World

Endorsed by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports, in conjunction with Providence Hospital began June 2, with free noncompetitive walking and fitness program; at Northland Center, Southfield. Each registered walker receives a passport to record their progress, and a T-shirt. Walkers turn in their mileage logs each week. The mall then updates a world map that show the progress Pacers are making in their journey. It takes 24,901.55 miles to circle the globe. One lap through the center is equivalent to one mile. For more information, call (248) 569-6272 or visit www.shopatnorthland.com. The Northland Pacers walking program was begun in 1985.

UPCOMING

Asthma camp

For second through fifth grade students with asthma 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Aug. 14-18, at the Saint Joseph Mercy Health Exploration Station, 1600 South Canton Center Road, Canton. Campers will learn about what asthma really is, review personal triggers, medications, risk factors and self management while participating in interactive games and hands-on projects. Cost is \$175. Call (734) 398-7518. In the Health Exploration Station, an interactive health education center, kids can see real germs grow, crawl through a giant intestinal tract, and learn about body systems. In addition to the asthma camp, the Station offers an Amazing Me camp focusing on health and the human body for second, third and fourth grade students 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 10-14, and Aug. 7-11. Cost is \$169. Call (734) 398-7518.

The Parent Workshop is designed for parents-to-be and parents of babies from birth to 24 months, and caretakers. Parents learn everything they need to know to about incorporating signing into everyday life. The Sign, Say & Play class is a six-week program for parents and babies ages 6-24 months to learn and practice simpler signs in a fun, musical and play environment, series began May 12. Both programs are appropriate for special needs children and their parents. Preregistration required. Programs taught by Ruth HaberkornHalm, speech and language pathologist and certified Baby Signs instructor at The Kaufman's Children Center, West Bloomfield, Call (248) 737mpfdire@aol.com or fax to (248) 433-

1150. Mask fitting clinic

Visit the Sleep Disorders Center, room 329, Garden City Hospital (6245 Inkster road, between Warren and Ford) 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays to try new masks. No appointment needed. For more information, call (734) 458-3330. Schizophrenics Anonymous 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of month,

at The Guidance Center, 19275 Northline, Southgate, Call (734) 785-7714, (517) 485-7168 or visit www.nsfoundation.org.

Volunteers wanted

Henry Ford Health System is looking for volunteers for two clinical trials. One trial for chronic low back pain compares acupuncture to conventional therapy. For information, call (248) 380-6203. Breast cancer survivors who are taking hormone suppression therapy and experiencing hot flashes are also sought. The clinical trial is testing acupuncture vs. Effexor, call (313) 916-3938.

Volunteers wanted

Samaritan Care Hospice is seeking volunteers to spend quality time with terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice volunteers provide companionship and emotional support to patients for an average of one to three hours per week. Volunteers must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. Two five-hour training sessions are provided prior to your first assignment. For more information, call Chris Kokenos at (800) 397-9360.

Alliance for the Mentally III

Family support meeting is held the first Monday of every month at 30233 Southfield Road, suite 220, Southfield. For information for AMI Oakland South, call (248) 557-6440, for AMI Oakland North, call (248) 706-0591. AMI general meeting is held 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month, at Beaumont Hospital Administration Building classroom ABIW in lower level, Royal Oak. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Call (248) 706-

0591. The Wayne/Westland chapter, a self help and advocacy group for relatives and friends of the mentally ill, meets 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne at Bayview, first light south of Cherry Hill, Westland. For more information, call (313) 562-8498. All are welcome.

Hearing aid program

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

275 E. Hancock

C.S. Mott Center

Detroit, MI. 48201

(313) 577-7510

Individuals with hearing problems who meet eligibility requirements of hearing loss and low income criteria will be able to obtain free hearing aids from the Lions Hearing Center-Hearing Ald Program. Candidates should call (888) LHC-MICH for infor mation and if eligible will be referred to a Lions Club in Oakland/Macomb County for sponsorship and an office in Southfield, Bloomfield Hills or Detroit for testing and fitting. Alternatively, candidates may approach their local Lions Club for sponsorship and/or more information about the program.

A reminder about prostate cancer this Father's Day

Father's Day is a good time to think not only about what gifts to get dad but also how to show him that you truly care about his well-being. Reminding dad to talk to his doctor about prostate cancer testing is a gift that could save his life.

Prostate cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in men. In 2006, an estimated 234,460 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 27,350 men are expected to die from the disease. Fortunately, when caught in its earliest stages, the five-year relative survival rate for patients is nearly 100-percent.

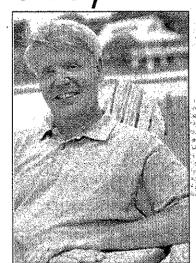
Men age 50 and older should talk to their doctor about the benefits and limitations of annual testing with the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal exams (DREs). Men at high risk, such as African Americans or men who have a history of prostate cancer in a close family member - father, brother, or son - should begin annual testing with the DRE and PSA blood test at age 45.

To help lower your risk of developing prostate cancer, the American Cancer Society offers the following suggestions:

🖬 At age 50 men should begin yearly PSA tests and rectal exams (at age 45 for those at high risk).

Find out if other family members have had prostate cancer.

Exercise on most days of the week.



Don't smoke or chew tobacco.

Enjoy a diet low in animal and dairy fats, and cut down on fatty foods.

Add more fruits and vegetables to your diet.

If you have already been diagnosed with prostate cancer, know that you are not alone in your battle. Contact your American Cancer Society at (800) ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org for information, support and local resources.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 14 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States.

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ONGOING

Baby Signs workshop

Weigh in is from 6:15 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight

sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

TOPS

Hospice volunteers

Avalon Hospice, a nonprofit Medicare certified hospice program in Oakland County, needs volunteers, training in your/area is available evening and daytime. Each of five training sessions lasts two-three hours and can be conducted one-on-one with our trainer to meet the demands of your schedule. For more information, call Brian at (248) 320-0106. Shot party

JUNE

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets 7 p.m.

Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton.

every Thursday, at St. Thomas A'

The Visiting Nurse Association partners with the Detroit Zoo to offer a double shot of vaccine protection to school-age children 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the main entrance of the zoo in Royal Oak. Children, ages 15 and older, can get immunized against bacterial meningitis and/or receive the new tetanus booster that offers increased protection against whooping cough, known medically as pertussis. Meningitis shot cost is \$105; Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis combined booster \$50. For more information, call (248) 967* 8755 or visit www.vna.org. Healthy cooking

10: 30 a.m. and noon-Tuesday, June 20, at Weight Watchers, 30076 Grand River, Farmington, No charge, Call (888) 3-FLORINE or visit www.8883florine.com.

Weight loss workshop

Easy weight loss secrets that work 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, with Dr. Carol Fischer, D.C., at Alfred Noble Livonia Public Library on Plymouth, between Farmington and Merriman. No charge. Seating limited. Reserve a seat now. Call (734) 425-8588. Golf outing

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor holds its ninth annual St. Joe's Pro Am Golf Classic presented by Huron Valley Urology Associates on Wednesday, June 21, at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton. This year's goal is to raise \$200,000 toward the purchase of a da Vinci® Surgical System, a state-of-the-art robotic system designed for minimally invasive surgical procedures. General donations and dinner tickets still available. Call (734) 712-4040.

Celebrities including Bo Schembechler, Ted Lindsay, Greg Kelser, Joe Kocur and Manny Legace will join in the fun June 21. The day begins with breakfast at 8 a.m., fol lowed by practice on the driving range and a 9 a.m. shotgun start. An awards dinner and a silent auction rounds out the day's events. Dick Scott Automotive Group is recognized this year for donating a Jeep Grand Cherokee to the hospital's K-9 security program. This is the second vehicle they have donated to the program.

fitness.

Don't swearit, Brian ... that's perfectly nermal! Almost everyone tlinks that people who are out of shape sweat more thanthose who are physicallyfit. In fact, just the opposite it true! Sweat is the body's way of cooling itself so it doesn't overheat.

One of the natural changes that occur, when you start a new workout program, is an increase in perspiration. And, while fit people usually perspire more than those who are out of shape, their sweat contains less salt because their bodies absorb the sodium more readily. So, try not to worry about it too much. Just look at it as worthwhile sweat equity!

If you have a health or fitness duestion you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, email Peter at www.peternielsen.com. Catch Peter daily on WDIV-NBC 4 & WWJ News Radio 950. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

send e-mail to rhh4962@aol.com. **Volunteers** wanted

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation is looking for volunteers. Regular orientation programs are held throughout the year to familiarize volunteers with the organization and the jobs there are to do. For more information, call (800) 852-9781, send e-mail to

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If you are a woman 45-55 years old, with an irregular or stopped menstrual cycle and you sleep poorly, you may qualify to be in our laboratory sleep research study.

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Arthritis Today

ROTATOR CUFF AND OTHER SHOULDER TERMS

When you hear talk of shoulder pain, inevitably the words that come up are "rotator cuf tear," "cuff tendinitis," and "arthritis." To physicians the term rotator cuff describes a group of three muscles that surround the shoulder forming a cuff around the front, back and top of the humeral head. It is the ability of the humeral head to swivel in its socket using these muscles that gives your shoulder its mobility.

If you have a rotator cuff tear, you have a tear in the tendon that fits over the top and/or back of the humeral head. In the majority of cases, the tear is in the muscle on top, the supraspinatus muscle

If you have a cuff tendinitis, you are almost always experiencing an inflammation of the tendon of the supraspinatus muscle at the location where the tendon anchors into the head of the humerus.

At times, the pain and loss of motion that a rotator cuff tear or tendinitis causes can be nearly the same. It is important for your doctor to make a distinction, as treatment for the two conditions is different. Furthermore, a supraspinatus tendinitis clears in time, but a rotator cuff tear may be something you will have to live with, or require surgery to resolve.

Arthritis of the shoulder is usually osteoarthritis. The problem is wear and tear on the head of the humerus with loss of cartilage. Treatment is possible, but as in the case of a rotator cuff tear, osteoarthritis of the shoulder is a problem you will need to live with or seek surgery to repair. All three conditions share the cause of injury as the reason for their occurrence. www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

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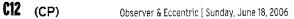
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(NAPSI) - Kelly Dodsonknows firsthand why companies value the ability to use computers and software. An administrative assistant in Kansas, Dodson used to keep her CEO's calendar by hand, until one day an important meeting slipped through the cracks.

That painful experience compelled her to seek training in the effective use of the company's scheduling software. And today she feels she couldn't do her job as well without it.

As early as 1999, the **Progressive Policy Institute** estimated that 75 percent of employees use computers in their work, and that figure continues to increase as computers make their way into more and more aspects of individuals' lives. Since just about every job today is connected to computers and software in some way, employees who lack the ability to use that information successfully are finding themselves increasingly marginalized.

The effects of this evolution for individual workers are real, and they show up most vividly when it comes to the bottom line. Research has shown that workers with the right computer skills can earn 17 percent to 40 percent higher wages than



Since just about every job today is connected to computers and software in some way, employees who lack the ability to use that information successfully are finding themselves increasingly marginalized.

those without, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and California Journal. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Office of Productivity and Technology agrees, emphasizing, "It is not merely the

employee having a computer on gy, Laura Stack, productivity his desk — but rather having complementary computer skills - that causes wages to

increase." Commenting on information workers' adoption of technolo-

expert and author of Leave the Office Earlier, said, "The people who succeed are those who take the time to figure it out rather than struggling each time, doing it the hard way, or taking

too much time. Employees who self-educate themselves will experience a performance boost from using the full range of available functions."

That is to say, whether you're an administrative assistant, auditor or staff attorney, having the right computer skills can make a difference in your career and your paycheck.

So what can you do to get those skills? Dodson was lucky enough to develop them on the job, with support from an understanding employer. But without basic computer literacy, it can be tough nowadays to get a job in the first place.

The Web offers a myriad of courses and programs on a range of technical skills, from basic computer literacy to complex programming and IT training.

"Software training is evolving into a just-in-time approach," Stack said. "Many workers complain about the slow response from the company help desk or lack of available training. It's more efficient for workers to access self-help online resources, such as Microsoft Office Work Essentials, to allow them to find answers to problems they are experiencing in real time.'

Microsoft Office Work Essentials is a comprehensive resource with occupation-spe cific tools in programs such as Microsoft Office Excel, Word and PowerPoint. The site has hundreds of free templates, how-to articles, product demonstrations, tip sheets and other resources. Available 24/7at

www.microsoft.com/workessentials, it helps professionals in more than 30 occupations including auditors, project managers, sales managers and human resource professionals - find tools to help them improve their skills.

"Local computer superstores and community colleges also offer inexpensive courses on many common software packages," Stack said. "The day I spent at Comp USA learning PowerPoint saved me much time and frustration of trying to figure it out myself. Doing a search at

http://www.amazon.com will display a vast array of literature to read on the topic."

Whatever method you choose, one thing is certain: 🐭 Educating yourself in today's computer programs is a sure way to make yourself more appealing to prospective and current employers.



D2 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

Deserver & Eccentric CLASSIE HOMETOWN/// 4 easy ways to place your ad: PHONE	<i>C.com</i> 579-SELL (7355)	Help Wanted-General 6000 Circle Mel 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	Help Wanted-General 5000 AUTO TECHNICIANS CRESTWOOD DODGE (734) 421-5700 BAND INSTRUMENT REPAIR PERSON Woodwind/Brass experience. (313) 278-0100 BENCH HAND Livonia based gear manufac- turing company is looking for	Help Wanted-Generat 5000 CNC LATHE OPERATOR Manufacturing Co. has imme- diate opening on 1st shift for a CNC Lathe Operator - Fanuc Controls - Minimum 3 yrs. exp. required. Mail or fax resume to: AIP, Inc. 1290 Maplelawn, Troy, MI 48084 Call: 248-649-7300, Fax: 248-649-8079 Attin: Mike	Help Wanted General 6000 Direct Care Make a differ- ence! 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 &	Help Wanted General 5000 Drivers TRIMAC Is Hiring in the Detroit Area INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS \$2000 Sign-On Bonus Home Most Weekends Dedicated Runs	Help Wanted-General GEAR HAND Openings in Hob, Shap Shave departments. Mu experienced. Benefits, air conditioned factory, of Send resume or appea Tifco Gage & Gean 33067 Industrial Roi
A easy ways to place your ad: PHONE	<i>C.com</i> 579-SELL (7355)	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 APARTMENTS	CRESTWOOD DODGE (734) 421-5700 BAND INSTRUMENT REPAIR PERSON Woodwind/Brass experience. (313) 278-0100 BENCH HAND Livonia based gear manufac- turing company is looking for	OPERATOR Manufacturing Co. has imme- diate opening on 1st shift for a CNC Lathe Operator - Fanuc Controls - Minimum 3 yrs. exp. required. Mail or fax resume to: AIP, Inc. 1290 Maplelawn, Troy, MI 48084 Call: 248-649-7300.	ence! 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 &	TRIMAC Is Hiring in the Detroit Area INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS \$2000 Sign-On Bonus Home Most Weekends Dedicated Runs	Openings in Hob, Shap Shave departments. Mu experienced. Benefits, air conditioned factory, c Send resume or appea Titco Gate & Gear
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HOMETOWN III 4 easy ways to place your ad: PHONE	<i>C.com</i> 579-SELL (7355)	APARTMENTS	Livonia based gear manufac- turing company is looking for	Eave 040 640 0070 Attas Miles	are CLA, Inc. trained, call our	COMPANY DRIVERS Up to a \$2000 Sign-On Benus	Livenia 48150 Phone: (734) 525-8
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Offices and Hours:		rating of apartment homes. Position includes for call	Landscape company looking	734-542-0524, 313-308-5658	the Employment section for more careers!	ers. We offer competitive wages, healthcare and bene-	Romulus, MI 48 (1-94 and Wayne R
ccentric office805 E. Map	le, Birmingham	rotation plus snow removal. Prior apartment maintenance	for experienced Brick Paver. Pay in accordance with exp.	CUSTOMER RELATIONS	Observer & Eccentric	fits. Send resume to HR Installer Dept., FSF, PO Box 930357, and Wixom MI 48393	GENERAL LABO
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State Manda & Canada & Date Marked Saturday and	schedules; Engage in general ledger and settlement reconcil-	All applicants must have a valid drivers license and will	FOR MORE	Customer Sales/Service	History, 6 months w/major carrier or 1 yr. exp.	BIRMINGHAM You have heard of thinking	9am-4pm: 734-7 GENERAL MECHA
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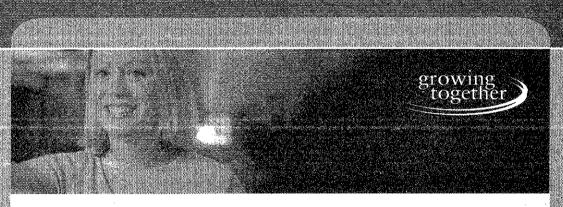
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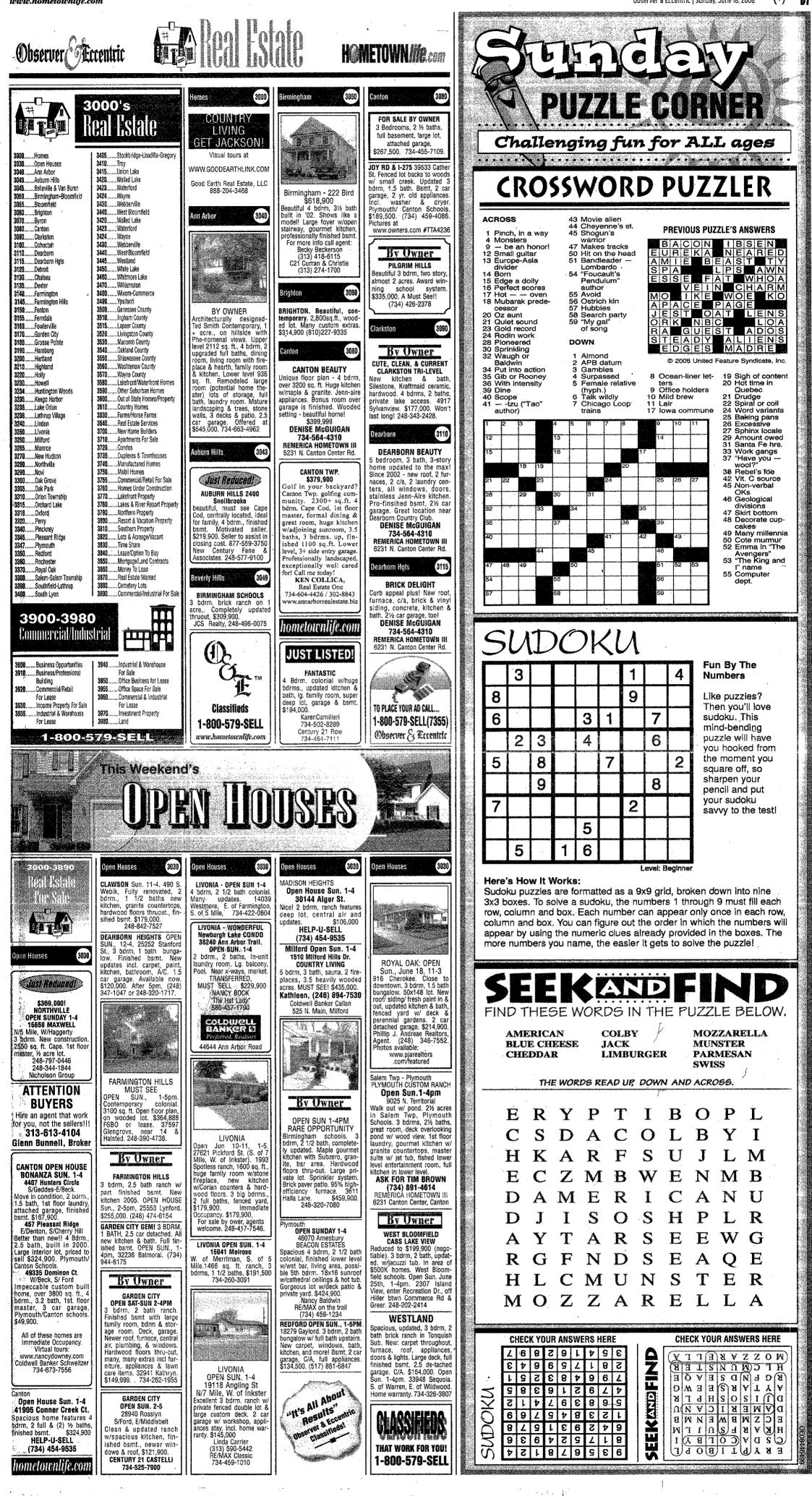
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006 (*) 07









Last week, two single mothers each received a set of keys to their brand new four-bedroom homes in Pontiac, thanks to the teamwork of local building companies and an architecture firm in Bloomfield Hills.

Dominick Tringali Architects, along with Bingham Development, Consolidated Development, Templeton Building Company, Palazzolo Brothers, Cohen Homes, Ivanhoe-Huntley Homes, Kellett Construction, Wellington-Chase Homes, and LaSalle Wealth Management, teamed up for Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County to construct two new homes for the 2006 Builder's Blitz.

These 11 firms had been working on their blitz build since mid-February, when they met at Dominick Tringali Architects' office in Bloomfield Hills to begin the planning stages of the two projects.

Led by Gwen Joseph, the director of corporate relations and special events for Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, the builders accepted the challenge of not only constructing the homes in two weeks' time, but also obtaining all materials necessary for construction – everything from the lumber packages to the hardware, all through donations from their suppliers and vendor contacts.

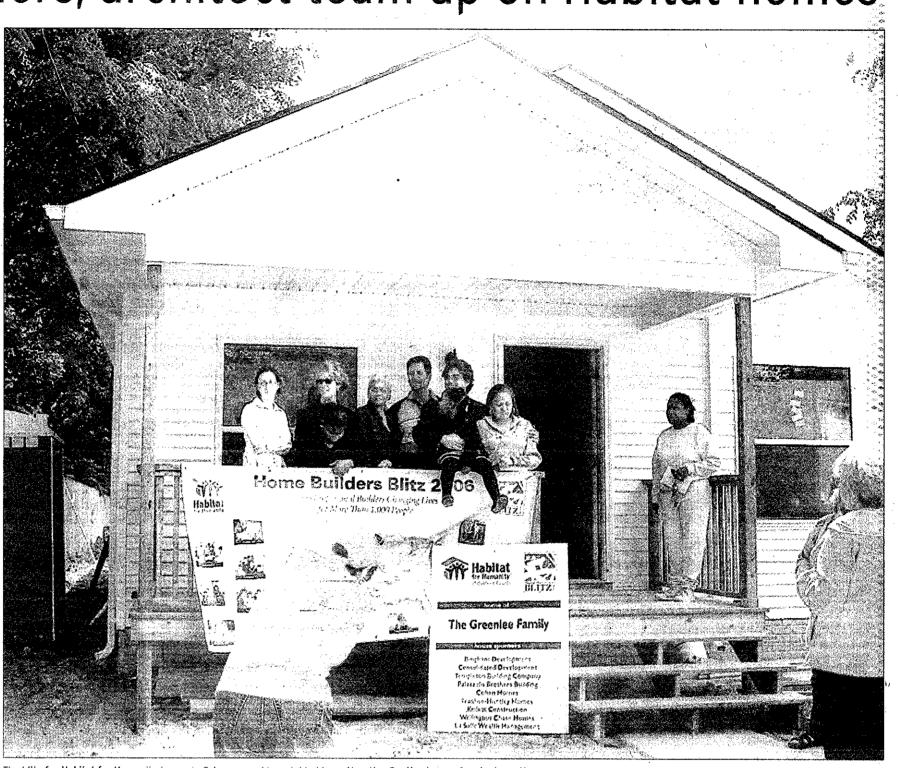
After five months of phone calls, meetings, and organization, the builders managed to achieve their goal and all materials were delivered to the job sites in time for their build.

Both of the four-bedroom, ranch style houses, located on Paddock Street in Pontiac, were completed and awarded to the homeowners on June 10, at a dedication ceremony and luncheon.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization with chapters around the country that builds quality, low cost homes for low income families.

The organization currently has a major rebuilding effort taking place in New Orleans and other Gulf Coast regions devastated by last summer's hurricanes, and also has ongoing projcet in the city of Detroit and Pontiac.

10 million - 10 mi



The blitz for Habitat for Humanity began in February and has yielded two attractive Pontiac homes for single mothers.





E2~

"It's the best time to invest in Michigan?"

In the 75 years since my grandfather founded our company, there has rarely been a better combination of low interest rates and a larger inventory of homes, making this year the best time to purchase your home. — Dan Elsea, President, Brokerage Services



RealEstateOne.com



LIVONIA - 3 BD brick cutic offers updated kit w/dishwasher (02), furnace w/central air (02), roof (98), windows (02), & insulated 2 car garage built in 04 w/upper level storage. Stove, refrigerator & home warranty incl. Call Sylvia Florence-Albert.

WESTLAND - Master bedroom w/fuil bath and WIC, kitchen w/beautiful refinished cabinets. backsplash. New windows & vinvl siding. Visit www.doortodreams.com or call Derek Bauer

(G30714)

(R20225) 734-2164942 \$156,900



734-678-4745

new counters & ceramic

little as \$219,900. Call for weekly specials. 734-207-9701 \$219.000 (ColmbSa)

2.5 Bas, large deck for leisure living, for as

Downtow



LIVONIA - Excellent location in popular sub. Colonial w/1829 sq. ft. 4/5 bedrooms, 1.5 baths & treed private backyard. Large deck porch, fireplace, finished covered basement. Newer furnace, roof, kitchen and bath. N off Schoolcraft to Brookfield to E on Scone, Call Michael Price \$233.900 (S32486) 734-216-9920



LIVONIA - JUST LISTED! Dynamite new kitchen accents this well maintained and updated throughout 4 bedroom colonial w/ finished basement, private yard, Florida room, 2 car attached garage & more. Call Marilyn Handloser.

248-231-4216 \$229,900 (A14216)



NORTHFIELD - UNBELIEVABLE PRICE Newer built. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo offers 1,687 sq. ft. 1st floor master, den/loft, full basement, 2 car attached garage, private yard, deck & like new condition. Call Marilyn Handloser

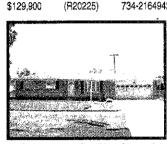
248-231-4216 \$169,900 (P9052)

LYON TWP - Custom, Fresh, Clean! Cane

cod w/loft over-looking hearth room, cstm

mahogany frt doors, cstm bit-in ent cntr,

freshly painted to neutral tones & carpet. Ca



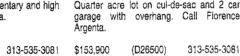
LIVONIA - Pristine Condition! Owner of 30 years has meticulously maintained & updated - large updated kitchen w/built-in hutch. Family room w/fireplace, door wall, patio, furnished lower level w/bath. Call Marilvn Handloser

248-231-4216 \$214,900 (L29825)



ranch w/large yard. Updates include newer roof, windows, front door & blinds. Short walk to South Redford elementary and high school, Call Florence Argenta

(N14126)



\$153,900 (D26500) 313-535-3081

REDFORD - Great open look w/newer

kitchen. Living room & family room w/

fireplace. Great home for entertaining.

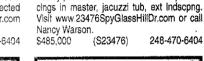


Great value in the heat of CANTON Canton! Updated, super clean, ground floor, 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo has neutral decor Large master bedroom w/walk-in closet. dining room, 1st floor laundry, and more! Call Peter Argenta.

248-719-3980 (S44425)\$103.900

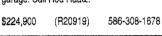


NOVI - Perfect for the family that desires low maintenance. Over 2,500 sq. ft. Butler s pantry, kitchen & nook, 2 story ceilings & windows, open floor plan, hardwood floors throughout 1st floor, backs to protected wetlands. Visit www.29949WhistlerDr.com or call Nancy Warson. (W29449) 248-470-6404 \$360.000





This home has a FARMINGTON contemporary feel. 3 bedroom & 2 bath brick split level neutral decor throughout plenty of space for entertaining (LR, FR, & GR) Newer windows 2 car attached garage. Call Rod Raatz





DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Gorgeous ranch condo. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, attached 2 car garage& full basement. Nestled in a unique village setting w/wooded area surrounding all. Call Mary Marinelli.

\$215.000 (A26713)

\$153,900



"TRUE TREASURE"! 3/4 CANTON - A premium acre. Extensively landscaped. beautifully appointed custom home on cul de-sac. Dual staircase. granite kitchen, 2way fireplace & \$92,000 in "post closing" upgrades. Call Carol Hussey.

(26068926)

723-751-9563



- PREMIUM LOT, SUPERIOR TWP **ELEVATION AND FEATURESI 4 bedrooms** 15x9 loft, 2.5 baths in this premium Colonial w/custom features throughout. Built-in entertainment center, hrdwd flrs, 9 ceilings, Jacuzzi, 4 deep bay, etc. Almost 2500 sq. ft. Built in 2004. Call Cathy Rakozy. (26051406) 313-990-6605 \$289,900



Fabulous Cape Cod on Nature's finest 3.5 acres. High-end custom builders personal home filled with quality and attention to detail. Call Cathy Rakozy

(26001079) 313-990-6605 \$849,900

Plymouth (734) 455-7000

217 W. Ann Arbor Road



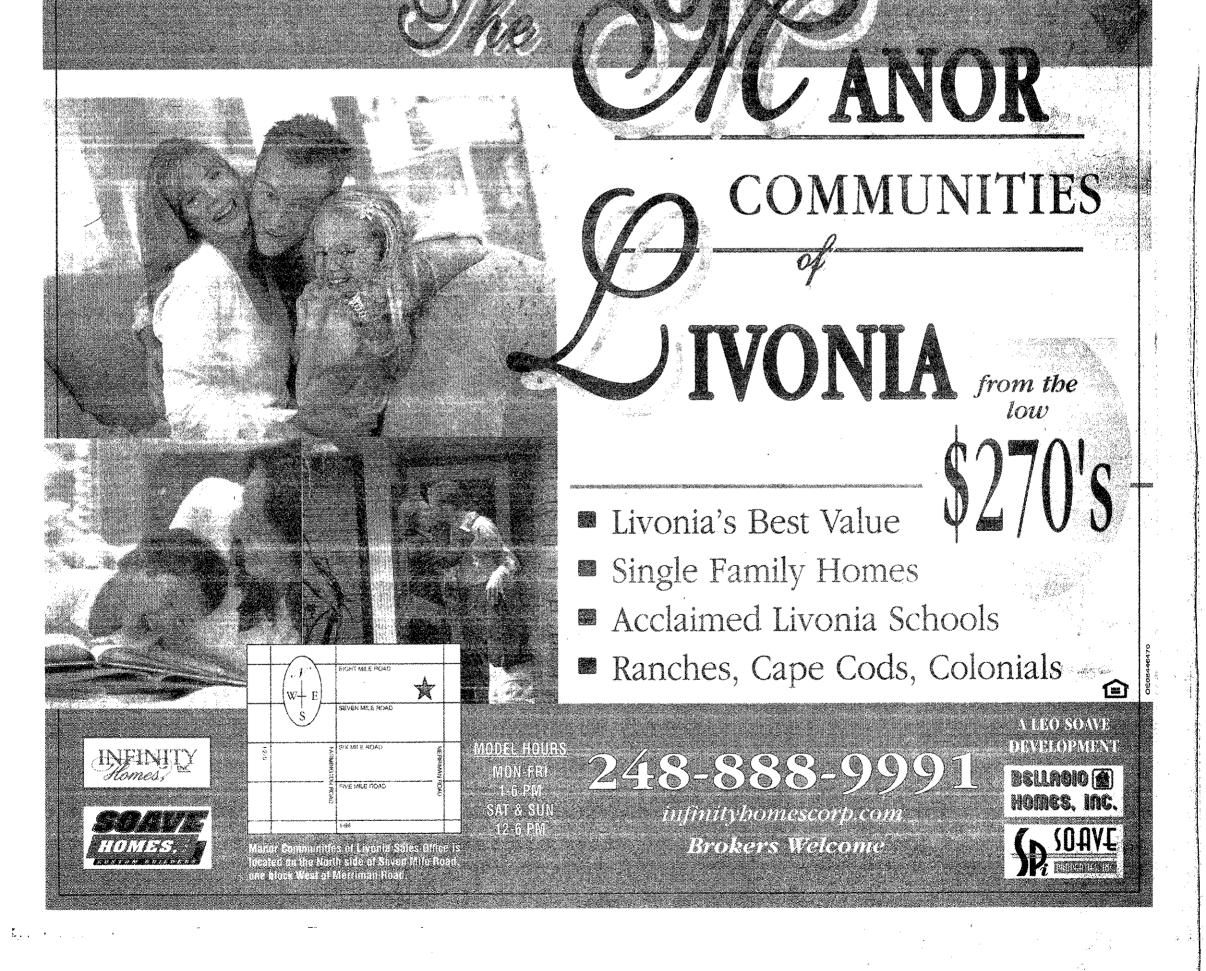
EXCEPTIONAL PINE WOODHAVEN ARBOR CAPE CODI Cape cod condo loaded w/extras: 2 bay windows, 3 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, dramatic gas fireplace w/ side windows, bonus loft area. Cathedral ceilings, deck, plumbed for third bath. Call Cathy Rakozy. (26090478) 313-990-6605 \$206,400

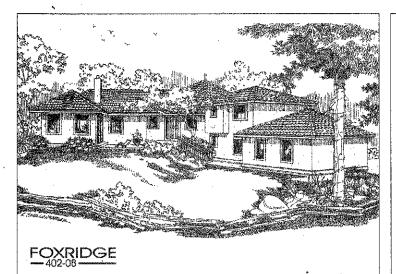


Livonia (734) 591-9200 38705 Seven Mile Road, Suite 150

313-909-6983

\$564,500





Foxridge will wrap homeowners in luxury

The Foxridge (402-08) is a wonderfully unique design allowing for maximum use of interior space and a compelling exterior.

Designed for a slightly sloping lot, the Foxridge would fit equally in the city or country. The central living area allows for the striking contrast of angled vertical lines with the more linear horizontal lines of the side wings.

The walk-through kitchen has been thoughtfully arranged with the eating bar in the main kitchen and the dining room to the right. This configuration permits the cook in the house to serve a multi-course meal or quick snack with ease. Kitchen features include an island cook top, double ovens and a lazy susan.

The right wing contains an office with full bath. Amenities include washbasin, linen storage and clothes hamper. On the lower level is an exercise room, with its own half bath.

The living area is impressive and features extensive windows allowing for a truly panoramic view and taking full advantage of natural light. The

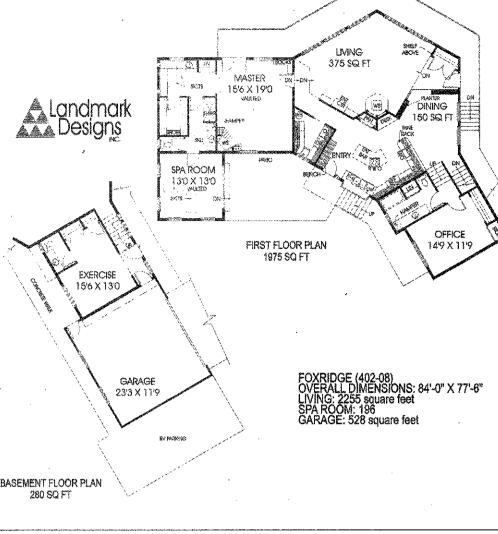
generous utility room is also centrally located for convenience.

The huge master suite is designed to pamper its owners. The fireplace adds warmth to this room for those cold winter nights. A bathroom the size of a small bedroom is filled with natural light from several skylights. The spa room can be entered through the master suite bathroom or from the patio.

Designed to compliment its environment, the Foxridge offers the opportunity for stylish and spacious living in a home intended to make the most of available space.

For a study plan of the FOXRIDGE (402-08), send \$15.00 to Landmark Designs, '33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for you dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.

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BRIEFS

Career Seminar

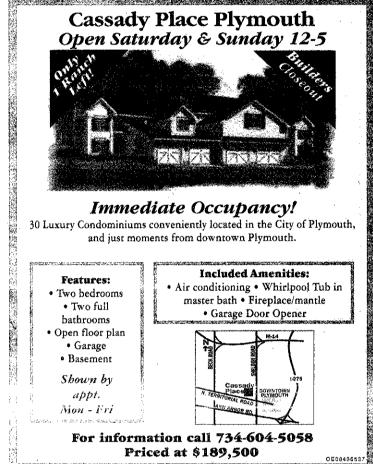
Keller Williams Realty will be hosting a Career Seminar 10 a.m. June 22 in Plymouth. The Plymouth office is located at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth, MI 48170. Participants will learn all they need to know about costs, compensation, training, and prelicense requirements. RSVP: (734) 459-4700.

Builders Institute

Henry Ford Community College in cooperation with the Oakland Builders Institute will offer a builder's pre-license class to help you pass the Michigan state builder's examination. The 16-hour seminar will be 6-10 p.m.

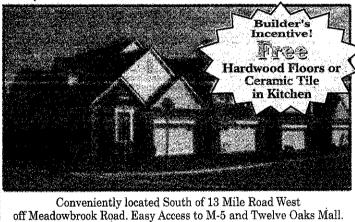
Tuesday/Thursday, July 11, 13, 18 and 20, at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Heights cam-pus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail.

The course is for those who want to subcontract construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building tradespeople who want to work legally in Michigan. Cost is \$189 for residents plus \$20 for textbook and sample questions, \$208 for nonresidents plus \$20 for textbook and questions. Pre-registration with payment is required by Friday, July 7, to Henry Ford Community College. To register, call (313) 317-1500.



Not Townhomes Condominiums

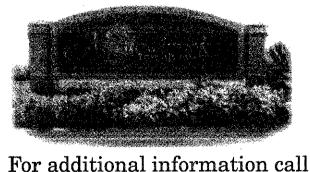
Meadowbrook



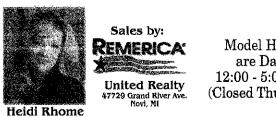
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Offering 12 distinct two story floor plans, some accommodating first floor master suites, 2 & 3 bedroom plans, ceramic baths, 9 ft. ceiling on main floor, first and second floor laundry rooms, full private basement with rough plumbing for bath, some daylight and walkout sites, 2 car garages, volume ceilings, walking paths, and low maintenance fee. Walled Lake Schools. **INCLUDED IN PRICE**

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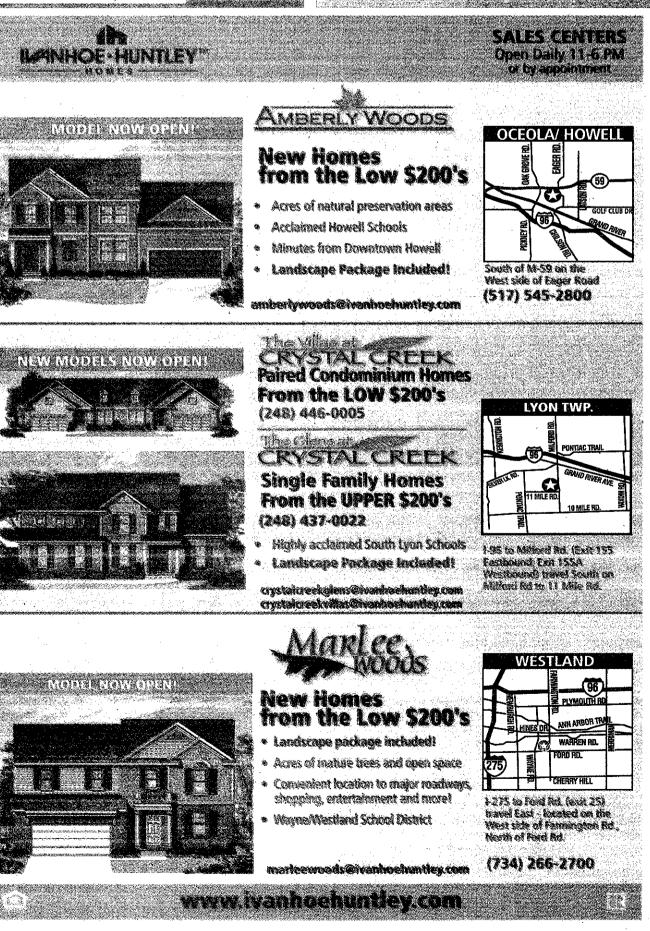


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Shore Mortgage

Shore Mortgage will offer a free Homebuyers/FICO score seminar 7-9 p.m. every third Monday through August. Seminars will take place at Shore Mortgage, 1741 N.

Canton Center Road, Canton. For reservations or more information, call (248) 433-3300.

Builders Institute

Henry Ford Community College in cooperation with the Oakland Builders Institute will offer a builder's pre-license class to help you pass the Michigan state builder's examination. The 16-hour seminar will be 6-10 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday, July 11, 13. 18 and 20, at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Heights campus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail.

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Building Industry Association

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will present:

Its Macomb County Golf Spectacular 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at Cherry Creek Golf Club, 52000 Cherry Creek Drive (24 Mile and Van Dyke), Shelby Township. Fees, including 18 holes of golf (spikeless course). cart, lunch, refreshments, dinner and golf competitions are \$145 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members, guests and nonmembers; \$60 for dinner only, \$200 for a hole sponsorship and \$250 for a hole sponsorship with dinner. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033. A development site tour of Partridge Creek in Clinton

Township 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2. The tour begins at Burton Katzman, 30100 Telegraph, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Bingham Farms. Parking is available on the south side, adjacent to the boundary of Bingham Office Park and Fitness USA. The community will feature 360 single family homes, 40 models and already constructed homes, 600 condo units, senior housing and a 600,000square-foot lifestyle center. The community is developed by Taubman Group and Trinity Land Development. Registration fees, including lunch, are \$40 for BIA members and \$60 for nonmember building industry professionals. For information, call (248) 862-1033.

A Certified Graduate Builder Series seminar on "Introduction to Business Management" 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. It will be taught by Chuck Breidenstein of Builders Professional Services. The seminar introduces builders and remodelers who are interested in improving their bottom line to systematic planning processes used by industry experts. Fees are \$140 for Remodelors Council members and \$160 for BIA members and guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.



BRIEFS

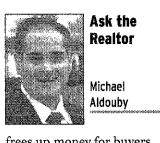
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Easy steps help protect your purchase price, such as paying closing costs

I don't want to lower my purchase price. What are some ideas of what I can offer the buyer instead of lowering the price?

Money is important. It is to everyone. You don't want to lower what you have in mind for your purchase price, however, you need to get your house/condo sold. Here are some ideas that you can offer to the buyer instead of a lower price.

■ Offer to pay the buyer's closing costs. Many buyers need to give cash to the lender up front. What you can do is offer to pay these costs to the lender by the buyer including it in the purchase price. This



frees up money for buyers, which could make the difference if they can afford to buy your house/condo or not.

See if you can buy down points for the buyer. Some times buyers can pay to get a reduced interest rate. This can be an issue if the buyer doesn't have perfect credit and will be paying a higher interest rate. You want to offer to buy down the points for the buyer.

Allow for a decorating allowance. Many buyers want to redecorate their new house but don't have much money to do so. Tell them they can have a decorating allowance. This money can be built into the purchase price, as well.

You can give the buyers an allowance for appliances. This may be a good idea if you are taking most of the expensive appliances. That way the buyers can pick the appliances that they want, rather than have to accept the ones that are already there. ■ Offer them an additional incentive such as a vacation. Many buyers don't spend much lavishly on themselves. However, if you offer them a vacation to the Caribbean or a cruise that may make a difference whether the buyers buy your house or not. You may also include buy-

ing them a big screen TV, or a "toy" that you think may catch their eye.

■ Maybe pay down some of the buyers' debt. This could made a big difference in their interest rate. They may owe money for car loans for credit cards. Offer to pay these debts. Offer them an additional incentive such as a vacation. Many buyers don't spend much lavishly on themselves. However, if you offer them a vacation to the Caribbean or a cruise that may make a difference whether the buyers buy your house or not. You may also include buying them a big screen TV, or a 'toy' that you think may catch their eye.

In today's Michigan slow real estate market you need to distinguish yourself from other sellers. Try to do something creative to get the sale and protect your purchase price at the same time. Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. Please feel free to call him at (734) 748-9621 or e-mail him at michaelsellshomes@realestateone.com

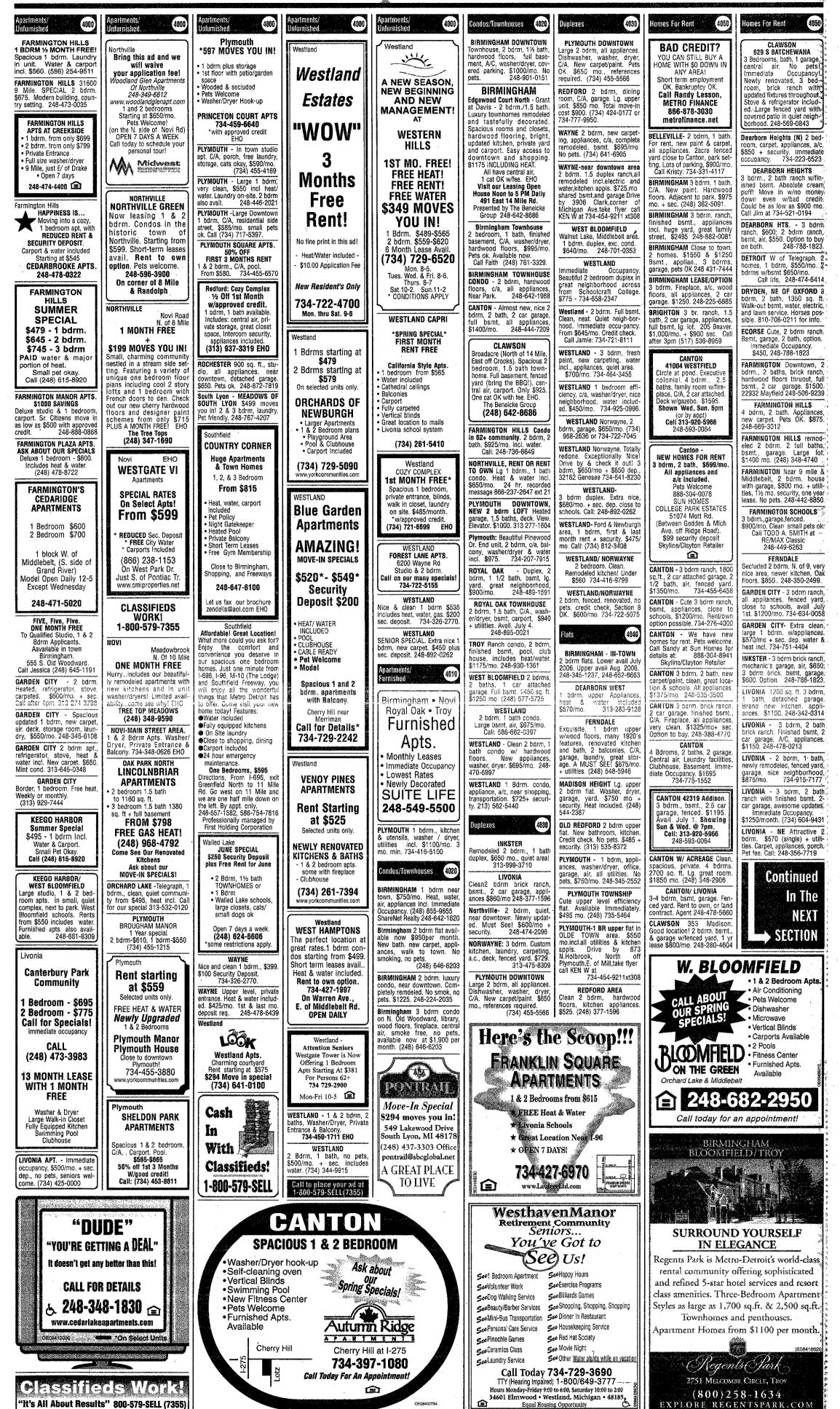




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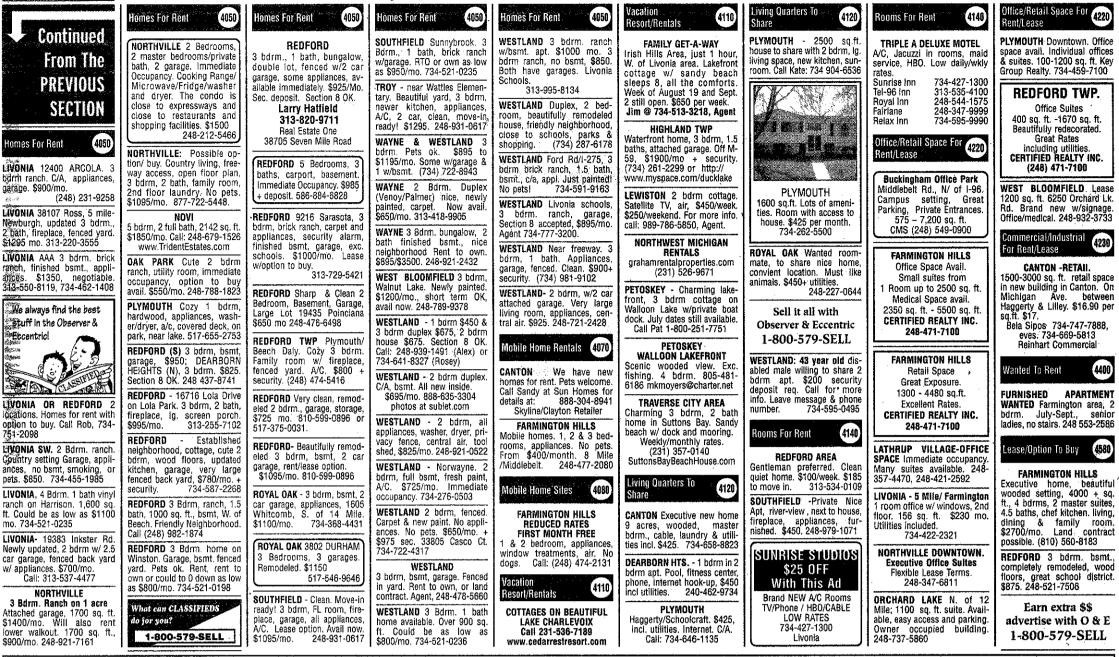
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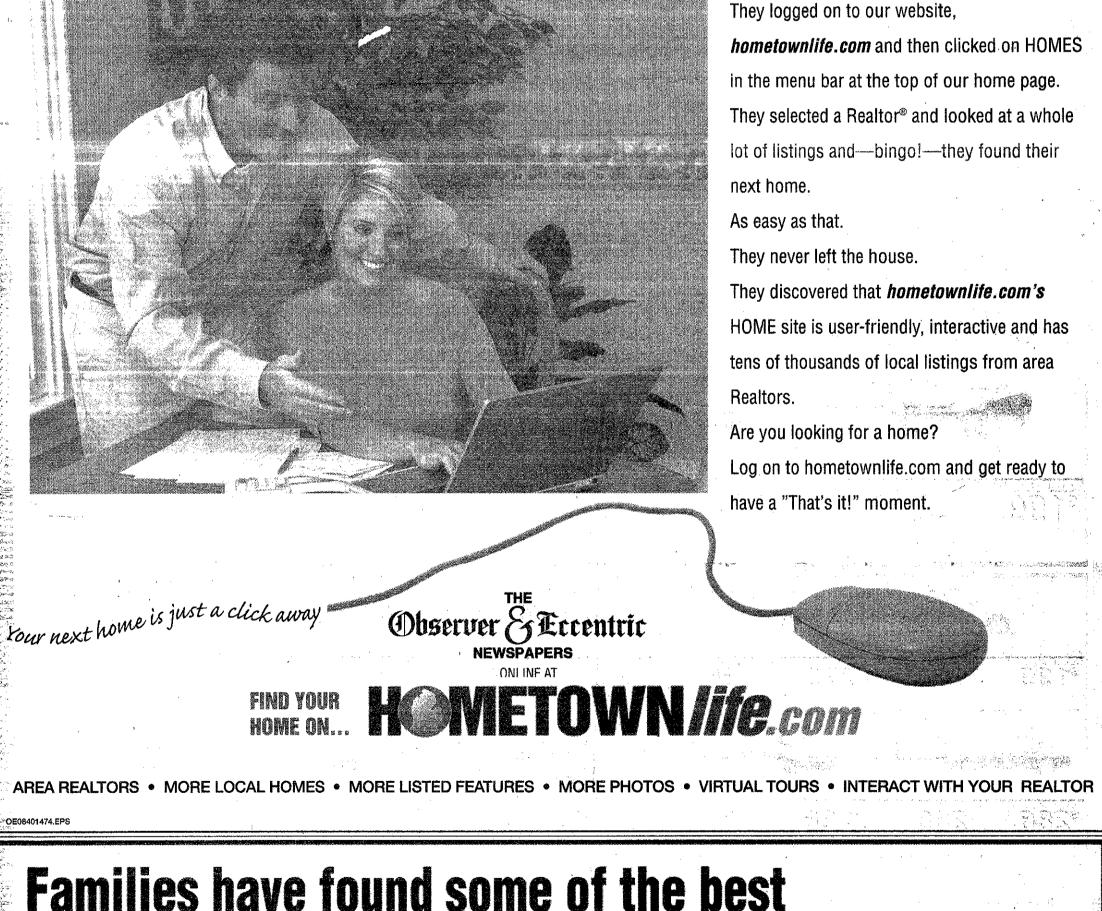
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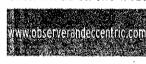
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CAReport



By Dave Menard Avanti NewsFeatures

I have to admit that when I think about SUVs. Mercury doesn t come readily to mind. I would venture that I m not alone in that regard; you re probably more likely to think of corporate parent Ford s offerings, or those of Toyota, Dodge or for the serious offroader, Land Rover. Mercury, however, is in the SUV game, and it s produced a pretty good one in its 2006 Mountaineer Premier.

The Mountaineer Premier is the upscale version of this redesigned AWD SUV. Although you can, for instance, get a special towing package, the Mountaineer -despite its name -is not really a serious off-road SUV.

This is more of a soccer-mom, run-about-town SUV. Not that there s anything wrong with that. It s been redone inside and out and the results are impressive.

Outside, it s an attractive package with some neat features new for this year. For instance, the Premier can be outfitted with power, automatic running boards.

When you open the door, the boards drop down automatically for easy entry and exit, and retract again when you close the door for a cleaner look. 18-inch aluminum wheels are also available for the first time on a Mountaineer and they re sharp.

The front end features the signature Mercury waterfall grille, and the rear taillamps feature thin horizontal bars across the lenses.

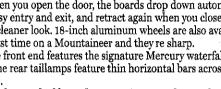
rails are all included, as well.

featured on the outside carry over to the interior.

steering wheel and the gear selector -moved to the center console from the steering column ---are wrapped in leather.

The doorhandles are now built into the front of the armrests, which takes a little getting used to, but it looks nice. Poweradjustable pedals are offered as an option, and the standard power leather seats are comfortable and can be heated.

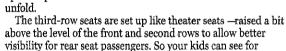
60/40 split bench seats are standard for the second row, but you can get second-row buckets. The bench seats fold flat and, when combined with the fold-flat third row bench seats, allow for a flat cargo area.



Fog lamps, dual heated power mirrors, and satin aluminum roof

The interior has been redone, too. The satin aluminum finishes The instrument panel is attractive and easy to read and both the

If you use the third row for seating, you might want to get the optional power-fold seats. At the touch of a switch the seats fold or unfold.



themselves, instead of asking: are we there yet?



2006 Mercury Mountaineer Premier. Type: Special purpose. Where built: St. Louis. Mileage: 14 city/20 highway. Base price: \$35,500. Price as tested: \$40,800

There s plenty of room for people and their cargo in the Mountaineer.

Leg, hip and headroom are plentiful and you get more than 82 cubic feet of cargo area when the second- and third-row seats are folded down.

The center console and the door pockets provide plenty of storage, although the lack of a tray or other compartment (other than the cupholders) in the center stalk is annoying (no place to set my iPod where I can see and reach it).

The Mountaineer Premier comes with dual-zone electronic climate control, cruise control, remote keyless entry, and a universal garage door opener. The standard audio system on the Mountaineer Premier is an AM/FM/six-disc CD system and it s very good.

You can get an integrated Sirius satellite receiver, and a rear seat DVD entertainment system, as well. An integrated DVD navigation system is also available, and it can talk to you in three languages (English, Spanish and French).

At almost \$2,000, it s pricey; you ll want to judge just how much you d actually use it, but if you do opt for it, you ll find it quick and easy to use.

Although the standard Mountaineer comes with a V6, the Premier comes with a new three-valve, overhead-cam 4.6-liter V-8. Its rated at 292 hp and 63.5 lb.-ft. of torque.

It s a fairly smooth engine and actually gets decent mileage for an SUV of its size. It s EPA rated at 14/20, but expect mileage closer to 14 than to 20. It does run on regular fuel, so that helps a little.

With the new engine comes a new transmission -- a six-speed automatic. You can, if you choose, also shift it manually.

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The transmission shifts smoothly, for the most part, although sudden accelerations and de-accelerations can give you a jolt as it jumps or drops gears.

The 292 horses come in handy; the Mountaineer gets going fairly quickly and you ll have plenty of power for passing and merging.

The Mountaineer sports a stiffer frame for 2006 and a new suspension system, bigger brakes and new steering.

The front suspension system features independent shirt- and long arms with coil-over shocks and a stabilizer bar. In the rear, it features independent trailing blade short- and long-arm architecture with coil-over shocks and a stabilizer bar.

The result is a fairly comfortable ride; smoother than most SUVs and without a lot of noise.

The brakes are excellent.

Mercury has given the Mountaineer front- and side impact airbags, and a safety computer that calculates the way airbags are deployed based on information like whether the passengers are buckled in, and their seat position and weight. Side curtain airbags are also available.

The 2006 Mercury Mountaineer Premier starts at \$35,500. Add the power running boards, tow package, DVD entertainment system, navigation system and 18-inch wheels and you re at around \$40,000. There s a lot to like about the Mountaineer Premier; it s attractive, gives you a nice ride, good power and comes with a nice set of features. Maybe it s time to start thinking about Mercury when we think about SUVs.

Write Dave Menard at avanti1054@aol.com < mailto:avanti1054@aol.com>.

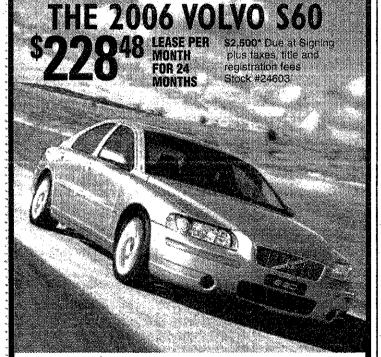
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F4 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 18, 2006

Automotive HOMETOWN ///e.com Observer Accentric Motorcyles/Minibikes/ 8070) Go-Karis 8240 8200 8290 8120 Junk Cars Wanted 8220 4 Wheel Drive 8280 **Sports Utility Trucks for Sale** Mini-Vans 8000's Homes/Trailers FOID HONDA CRV EX 2092 4x4, black, auto, CD, 1 owner, save thousands, \$15,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK HARLEY DAVIDSON 1990 FORD RANGER XLT 1996, **MERCURY VILLAGER 2002** FORD F150 1998 Super cab Autos/RV's Prowler 2003 Lite travel trailer **。**。 4x4, off road, black, beautiful, \$8,995. WRECKED & black, 6 cylinder, sharp, low miles, full power, \$5,950. Classic Ultra Electra slide out, central air, mint con-dition, sleeps 6-7, full kitchen, full bathroom w/outside show-Sport, leather, dual air, only Glide, two-tone ruby paint. Low miles - 36,0001 One \$8 995 **JUNK CARS** COLLINS MOTOR SALES JOHN BOGIN BUICK Fox Hills Extras. Asking 734-459-1757 734-525-0900 WAYNE (734) 721-1616 owner. er, cable ready, awning, ask 734-525-0900 Chrysler-Jeep WANTED! 8000 Airplanes \$10,900. 8320 Antique/Classic ing, \$13,500. (734) 728-4351 GMC SIERRA 2000 Extended LANDROVER 2004 Discovery (734) 455-8740 8020 Boats/Motors **Collector Cars** (734) 282-1700 HONDA 750 VFR 1994- Red. 8290 Sports Utility TERRY LITE 1999 Travel Cab Z71, \$15,995 SE, 4x4, auto, dual moon roof, am/fm stereo, low miles, exc. cond. 231-288-0439 8340 Acura 8030, Boat Parts/ 5,000 miles. Good shape, clean & runs good. \$2800. 248-486-0899 after 3pm, msg. **OLDS SILHOUETTE GLS 2004** Trailer 25', extras, hitch assembly. \$10,600/nego-tiable.. 734-427-6743 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** Equipment/Service 8360 Buick premium leather, chromes, TV, DVD, 25K, only \$17,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK CHEVY BLAZER LS 2001 4x4 804D.. ... Boat Docks/Marinas 8380.....Cadillac (734) 453-2500 8220 looks & runs great. Check out our 1st time buyers program. 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Sports & Imported Open all year! Lots from 8240 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 2006, 8260 8290 Sports UtilityVolvo Mini-Vans REPOS • BANKRUPTCY Vans Lou LaRiche Chevrolet \$8.000. Lots w/RV's. 8760 Autos Over \$2000 8300 Sports & Imported Extended cab, low miles from \$25,000. Clubhouse w/pool. Boating & SLOW PAY • DIVORCE 888-372-9836 BMW 325 | 1994, Convertible, 8780 Autos Under \$2000 w/pool. Boating & Fishing 3 Nearby Lakes, RV & Snowmobile Trails, \$18,900. CHRYSLER TOWN & COUN-**CHEVY ASTRO-CARGO** 82,000 miles, many extras, very good cond. \$11,000. 248-647-5436, 248-672-2226 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 1999, 4.3, auto, air, rally wheels & more. 150k highway miles. Very good cond. \$2700/best. 313-258-0986/ 313-563-2195 Let us help you make a TRY 2005 Touring, stow & go EXPLORER-2003 1-800-579-SELL 39,000 miles, good condition, \$13,000/best. Must Seil! 888-372-9836 power side doors, \$17,995 hunting. LOU LARICHE Fox Hills Northern Escapes Realty DODGE RAM 4x4 2002. 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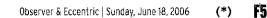
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