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Our Views, A8



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BLUM'S LANDING

Parents of slain soldier building outdoors retreat for wounded troops

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In one of the most remote corners of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, along a small picturesque lake, a lodge has risen among the scented pines. When it is complete, it will cater to some very special clients — wounded military personnel in America's war on terror.

The lodge, known as Blum's Landing, is the brainchild of Janet and Terry Blumberg, the Canton couple whose son, Trevor, was killed during the early days of the Iraq War. In fact, the whole project is to honor their son, who was known as "Blum" among friends, and others like him who have sacrificed so much fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Blumbergs hope the 12-acre retreat in Presque Isle County near Rogers City will provide some peace and tranquility to soldiers who have been wounded — either physically or mentally.

"I've talked to a lot of moms who are concerned about their sons. So many are coming back with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder)," said Janet Blumberg, who is



Terry Blumberg, the father of slain soldier Trevor Blumberg, with his son's dog Scrappy.

the principal at Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City. "The one thing that moms are saying is that their sons are not the same as they were when they left. They are different people. This place will give a sense of love and a sense of peace."

Trevor Blumberg, a 1999 Salem High graduate, was killed on Sept. 14, 2003 when a roadside bomb hit a convoy and destroyed the Humvee

occupied by himself and three other soldiers. They had been deployed to Iraq just three days earlier. A member of the 1st Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, he was 22 years old when he died.

The Blumbergs say their son loved to fish and camp, and all things related to the outdoors. He especially cherished the woods, lakes, and rivers of northern Michigan. When

BLUM'S LANDING

Owners: Terry and Janet Blumberg of Canton
What: A retreat in northern Michigan's Presque Isle County for "those who defend our freedoms"
To contribute: Visit www.blumslanding.org or call Terry at (734) 812-1500.

he first enlisted in the Army, he often told his parents how much he wanted to bring his fellow soldiers to Michigan for fishing and camping trips.

When the couple received Trevor's death benefits from the Army, they decided to invest it into something that honored his memory and his wish that, if he didn't come back, they would take care of his "guys" — those he served with in Iraq. Blum's Landing is the result.

They bought 12 acres of forested land on the small, non-motorized Orchard Lake, and have built a main house, which will serve as a kind of bed and breakfast for soldiers and their families. It is a placid

Please see **LANDING, A6**

Resident says Yack used e-mails to influence election

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On top of a vague law making it a longshot to prove Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack used his township e-mail account inappropriately during the recent primary campaign, Pat Lukasck says a \$400 fee stands in the way of her reading all of the e-mails that she believes Yack never should have sent.

Lukasck, a Canton resident, is a member of Watchdog Canton, and said she is bothered by the support the retiring supervisor gave Canton Township treasurer candidate Melissa McLaughlin during her campaign against Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks.

During the contentious campaign between the two candidates, Yack supported McLaughlin. Lukasck, a Noricks supporter, contends he inappropriately sent e-mails from his township account discussing the race and influencing people to vote for McLaughlin.

McLaughlin, a longtime Board trustee, won the August primary.

"It's very disturbing," Lukasck said, adding that she's read a few of Yack's messages. "It's obvious that he was pushing for Melissa to be elected and it's not right that he was using our tax dollars to push his agenda. This is not what we pay (elected officials) for."

Yack did not return calls to comment for this story.

Secretary of State spokesperson Kelly Chesney would not offer a direct comment on Lukasck's claims against Yack, but said it would have to be proved that the supervisor violated one of two sec-

tions the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Section 57 of the act states: "A public body or individual acting for a public body shall not use or authorize the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationary, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of contribution under section 4(3)(a)."

Even though proving a violation of the Act would be tough, Lukasck filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get all of Yack's e-mails that discussed a range of topics centering around the treasurer's race. Township officials responded by saying there are 172 e-mails that fit the criteria of Lukasck's request and put a price tag of \$398 on printing the messages.

An official in the township clerk's office said the fee is based off the hourly wage of the lowest-paid person able to collect the data.

Lukasck, who says her FOIA request isn't sour grapes over Norick's defeat, said she believes the fee is inflated.

"That's a lot of money," she said. "They know what they are doing."

While holding out hope that "someone comes through" to purchase the e-mails, Lukasck said her efforts center around principle not punishment.

"All (Yack) would get is a fine and a hand slap but I want our elected officials to know that this is ethically wrong," she said. "They should not abuse their power and use their office to intimidate people and push for candidates."

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2170

Canton man defends creation of fake Kwame site

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The creator of a Web site that began making headlines earlier this week has said the venture began as a way to bring attention to his blog, which supports Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Initially presented as a donating ground for a possible reelection campaign for the outgoing mayor, the site, www.kwamekilpatrick2014.org, has undergone several changes since Kilpatrick's camp reported it as a fake Monday.

The creator of the site has

not identified himself but has been reported by the Detroit Free Press as Charles Fitch, 36, of Canton.

The man declined an interview request Tuesday but e-mailed a statement that he never accepted any donations on behalf of Kilpatrick and that he can prove it.

"(The site) was a web hoax," he wrote. "We did not receive any donations or monies for the Kwame Kilpatrick restitution fund or for anything."

The man went on to write, "Our blog went up to raise awareness to the fact that it was not constitutional for the

Governor to step in because we believe it was too influential in forcing Kilpatrick's lawyers into accepting (an) unjust and unfair plea deal. This man had a right to a fair trial and his right was essentially taken from him as soon as the Governor stepped in."

Monday afternoon, the Web site was revamped to remove a prominent section that requested donations for Kilpatrick. On Tuesday, a much smaller "donate" tab was added near the bottom of the site's home page along with the line: "We ask that you make a donation so that we can keep this site running."



Not your average banjo player

Greg Kaiser, 13, of Canton won 3rd place in the national 2008 Fretted Instrument Guild of America (FIGA) Youth competition. Performing on a six-string banjo, Greg received a superior rating and accepted his award from the FIGA vice president after he performed with his family band at the Great Lakes International Banjo Convention in Dearborn on April 26. The FIGA competition for youth was open to all musicians 18 and under who play any type of fretted instrument. Greg has been playing guitar and the six-string banjo guitar for more than four years. He is a member of the Next Generation Banjo Band and the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society, and also performs with his family in the Kaiser Family Band. He will be a featured performer at the Banjorama in Flint on Sept. 13 (www.flintbanjoclub.com).

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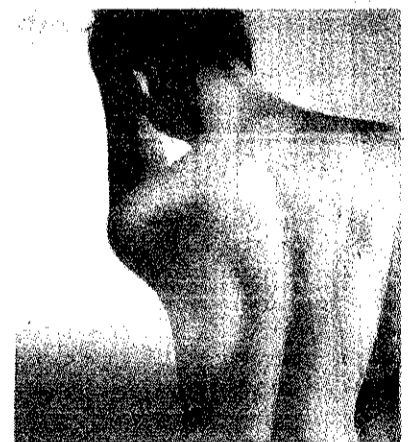
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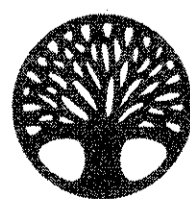
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AROUND CANTON

POW/MIA service

There will be a POW/MIA service at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19 at the Canton Veterans Memorial west of the Canton Township Administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton. For more information, contact John Spencer at (734) 397-8975 or john-scott44@yahoo.com.

All Saints health fair

All Saints Catholic School, 48735 Warren Road, Canton, will host a safety and health fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27. Highlights for the kids will include the Canton Fire Department's smoke house, fire and EMS vehicle tours, face painting, physical fitness competitions, inflatables, and bicycle safety tips. Highlights for the adults include Blue Cross & Blue Shield screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and body mass index, as well as parent information on child safety and health, free car seat inspections by Canton police officers, and child safety identification.

Antique appraisal clinic

The Canton Historical Society is hosting another DuMouchelle Antique Appraisal Clinic from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Cherry Hill School (corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads). By appointment only, and limited to three hand-carried items. The cost is \$10 for each verbal appraisal and \$15 for each written appraisal. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 254-0729. All proceeds benefit the Canton Historical Society.

The Best of Broadway

Orchestra Canton will present "The Best of Broadway" at 8 p.m., Sept. 13 at Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The show will feature "Broadway" favorites featuring the Canton Concert Band and the Spotlight Players. Ticket for the show cost \$25 and can be purchased in advance at (734) 451-2112, or at the theater box office prior to the show.

Junior Miss

Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss is looking for Senior High School girls who reside in Plymouth or Canton to participate in the 2nd annual Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

There is an orientation meeting at 6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Westland Friendship Center located at 1119 Newburgh Road, Westland. Bring a parent along. If you have any questions you can contact Marissa Sarnecky at (313) 215-3512 or e-mail at pejrmiss@yahoo.com.

Jazz Cafe debut

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill kicks off the 'All About Jazz Cafe', a monthly jazz experience featuring the Tony Ruda Quartet in partnership with the Michigan Jazz Society, on Saturday, Sept. 13. This intimate concert will be held in the Biltmore Studio. Tickets are \$17 and all seating is general admission.

Additional Jazz Cafes have been scheduled monthly on the following dates: Oct. 18; Nov. 8; Dec. 6; Jan. 17; Feb. 14, 2009; March 21; and April 25. Purchase tickets for all eight shows for \$120. For more information, or to purchase tickets visit www.canton-mi.org/villageheater. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person.

Canton Chieftettes events

The Canton Chieftettes pom pon teams present "Dancin' thru the Decades Variety Show" at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Salem High School Logan Auditorium. Tickets are on sale now for \$5 and are available from Chieftette team members and parents or can be purchased for \$6 at the door on show day. For more information visit our Web site www.cantonchieftettes.com

The Canton Varsity Chieftettes are holding a kids pom pon clinic from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sept. 13 at the Canton High School gym. The clinic is open to children ages 5-14. Pre-registration is now open on the Chieftettes Web site at www.cantonchieftettes.com or contact Chieftette parent, Sarena Bouse, at microhouse1@comcast.net.

Cost is \$35 per child and includes a T-shirt and snack. Discounts are available for additional siblings. Parents are invited to come see their daughters perform at noon on the day of the clinic. All girls attending the clinic will be invited to perform at the Canton Chieftettes Variety Show on Saturday Sept. 20 and at a Canton Varsity foot-

ball game. Pre-registered participants should arrive between 8:30-9 a.m. Same day registration is also available at 8:30 a.m. but enrollment is limited to the first 100 participants.

Christmas assistance

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps is currently accepting applications for Christmas assistance for residents of Northville, Plymouth, Canton, and Belleville. Families in need of assistance should contact The Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464 to set up an appointment. Candidates will be interviewed on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning on Oct. 14 through Nov. 14.

Applicants will need to bring picture ID for all household residents, proof of household income and expenses. For more information, please contact The Salvation Army Family and Community Ministries office at (734) 453-5464.

Sheldon Center meeting

A public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 to discuss the widening and reconstruction of Canton Center Road and Sheldon Road. The meeting is being hosted by The Wayne County Department of Public Services in cooperation with Canton Township in the PDC Room at Canton's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

Construction on this project is set to begin in the summer of 2009 and will include widening Canton Center Road to five lanes from Warren Road north to where Canton Center Road splits and turns to the northwest, reconstruction and widening Sheldon Road to five lanes from Canton Center Road to Joy Road and reconstruction and widening the Sheldon Road connector to three lanes from Sheldon Road to Sheldon Center Road.

At the meeting, residents will receive a project overview with preliminary plans as well as a road grading, drainage, and sidewalk improvement overview.

The meeting is open to the public and is an excellent opportunity to get answers to your questions and concerns. For more information please call Canton's Public Works at (734) 394-5150.

Businesses will meet about holiday shopping strategies

The holiday shopping season will be the main topic of conversation when Canton business owners and managers meet for the semi-annual Coffee Meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Border's Books (43435 Ford Road — southwest corner of Ford and Morton Taylor).

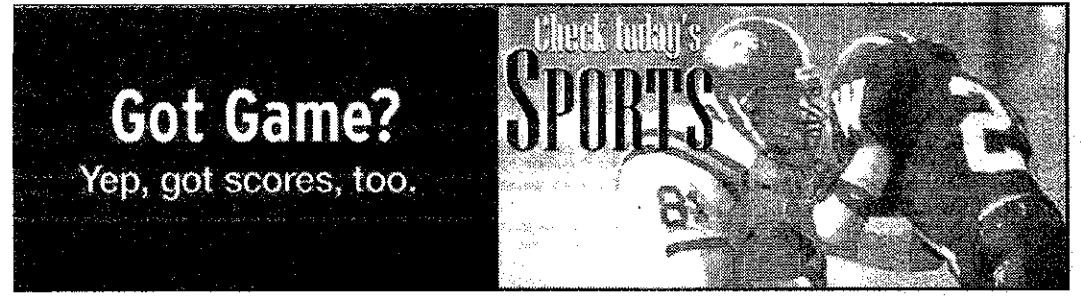
The Canton Marketing Partners, which is hosting the meetings planned for 8

a.m. and 1:30 p.m., is inviting all local businesses to attend and talk about promoting the Canton business community during the holidays. Participants can choose either of the two planned sessions. The theme of the discussions is "shop local."

Some of the topics that will be discussed include plans for the 2008 Holiday Discount program and the 3rd Annual

Holiday Fest event scheduled for Dec. 6 at the Willow Creek shopping center on Ford Road. Canton business representatives will be on-hand to talk about the success they have experienced with earlier discount campaigns and advertising on www.ShopCanton.org.

To register for one of the sessions, please call the Canton DDA at (734) 394-5184.



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<p>Back to School Lofthouse Cookies 2/\$5.00</p>	<p>Lemon Pepper Turkey \$6.99 lb.</p>	<p>Gourmet Lite Turkey \$7.99 lb.</p>
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Cookin' with Chef Reva "Kids in The Kitchen" Cooking Class Sunday, October 12 6-7:30 pm. Join us for an evening of Hands On Fun in The Kitchen. Tips for making your children love to "help" with meals, great ideas and stories about cooking and eating with children & new meal ideas. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, caregiver, student, or teacher, this is the class for you. Registration information: Please call 248-477-4333, ext. 226

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Don't change portfolio based on who wins White House

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Money Matters

Rick Bloom

many things remain the same. One area that remains unchanged is that every four years we have a presidential election. One question I get is: What effect will the outcome of the elections have on the stock market?

People want to know how they should position their portfolios and how they should react based upon which party wins the White House. I recently had a conversation with an investor as to what sectors of the economy he thought would perform better depending on the outcome of the election.

My advice is investors should not be speculating on what sector of the economy will outperform just because of election results. In fact, don't restructure or make adjustments in your portfolio based upon the outcome of the election.

It would make things easier if the U.S. economy was controlled by the party in power. It would make it somewhat easier in selecting our leaders. Unfortunately, it is not that easy. The American economy, contrary to what many people believe, is not controlled by the White House nor by Congress. It is important to recognize that the president has more power internationally than he does domestically. After all, if the president wants to raise or lower taxes, he can't wave a magic wand and make it happen.

I have read articles and I have heard statements on TV by so-called experts who are predict-

ing that if Barack Obama wins the election "these sectors" of the economy will do well, while if John McCain wins, "these sectors" will do well. As far as I'm concerned, these issues are totally irrelevant.

When it comes to the stock market, good news is bad news and bad news is good news. What that means is it is impossible to predict what happens in the market because what logically should happen doesn't mean that it will.

Instead of worrying about who's going to win the White House, spend time reviewing your portfolio. That's time better spent.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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With 'hands tied,' officials approve church plans

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Timothy and Nicole Zapinski have issues with the addition of a second entrance, while Gina Thibault and Laura Vespaziani have concerns about the placement of the building, but, in the end, the Canton Township Board of Trustees approved amended plans for Canton Friendship Church's proposed facility on the northeast corner of Beck and Salt roads.

"I think we are all in sympathy of where you are at, but our hands are tied in many respects," Township Supervisor Tom Yack said to Thibault and Vespaziani.

Calling the amendment request the "Hindu Temple revisited" because of the flap regarding the building's proposed location, Yack said the church's plans to move its facility 100 feet west of where it was initially planned are still in agreement with the township's standards.

"We do need to approve it,"

Yack said.

Thibault and Vespaziani are Hendrie Street residents and their homes sit directly north of where the church will now be built. The two have been meeting with church officials for about five years and were pleased with the previously approved plans for the site, which called for the building to run parallel with homes with larger backyards.

In the controversial Hindu Temple rebuild that was before the board earlier this year, homeowners surrounding the Cherry Hill Road site were frustrated that the board approved plans to relocate the facility from near the roadway to the middle of the narrow parcel. Like Canton Friendship Church, the Hindu Temple's plans met or exceeded the township's standards.

In addition to shifting its building 100 feet, Canton Friendship Church was also given approval to create a second entrance for its Beck Road facility that would be located

on Salt Road. The church bought a seven-acre parcel on Salt in January and will use the east side of the land to create an entrance to the church. That entry way will align with the front of the church.

Arguing that the second entrance will be mistaken for the main one, Timothy Zapinski, who lives on Salt Road, was unsuccessful in asking the board to postpone approval of that request.

"We honestly don't want this driveway," he said. After the board's vote, Pastor Mike Norton said members of Canton Friendship Church are thrilled the "long haul" to build at Beck and Salt is moving forward.

"We're happy. This is a big step for us," he said. The 10-year-old church previously met at Summit on the Park and now worships at the Michigan Theological Seminary in Plymouth.

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Rehmann Group promotions

The Rehmann Group, a Farmington Hills-based holding company, recently promoted two Canton residents.

Keith Schenkel, who works in the company's Troy office, was promoted from auditor to senior auditor. Schenkel is responsible for both public and private sector audits. He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with both a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in accounting.

Debbie Thomas, who works in the company's Farmington Hills office, was promoted from senior administrative assistant to office manager. Her responsibilities include supervision of the professional support team, overseeing building maintenance and coordination of office events.

Urban Science promotes local man

Canton's Randy Berlin has been promoted to global practice director of site solutions for the global retail consulting firm Urban Science. In his new role, Berlin will be responsible for the growth and development of the company's site practice, which is focused on improving individual retail

CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

location performance.

"Randy's experience working directly with automotive dealerships brings a hands-on perspective to his counsel on how automakers can efficiently assess and manage their franchises," said Katherine Kress, vice president, product development and management.

"Especially in today's economy, it's critical for companies to evaluate individual sites within their retail network in order to balance performance of market share and retailer profitability." Prior to his previous position as account executive for Urban Science, Berlin spent 21 years with Ford Motor Co. where he gained experience in dealership site selection, how to increase profitability at each location, and how to effectively target and market to customers. His most recent position at Ford was global franchise manager for the company's international export organization.

Berlin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Michigan State University. He also was elected class president at UCLA where he attended

the executive management program at the Anderson School of Business.

For more information on Urban Science, visit www.urbanscience.com.

NANCY L. LITTLE, Attorney,
P.O. Box 27397, Lansing, MI
48909-7397.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE

Decedent, Dorothy M. Keena Trust No. 1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust

The decedent, Dorothy M. Keena, who lived at 14704 Northville Road, Apt. 259 in Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, died August 14, 2008.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent and the trust described below will be forever barred unless presented to E. Thomas Keena Jr., Trustee of the Dorothy M. Keena Trust No. 1, dated August 16, 1993, 4731 Arapaho, Okemos, MI 48864, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Trustee: E. Thomas Keen, Jr., 4731 Arapaho, Okemos, MI 48864 517-351-5407.

Attorney: Foster, Zack, Little, Pastour & Manning, P.C. P-43113, Nancy L. Little P.O. Box 27397, Lansing, MI 48909-7397 517-706-5790

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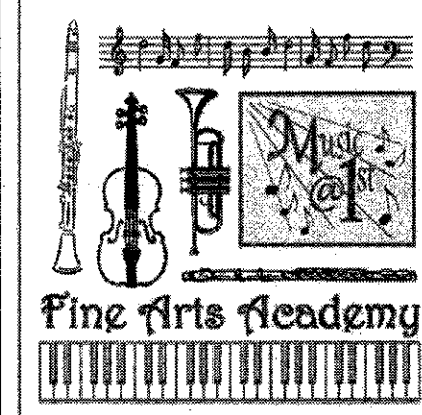
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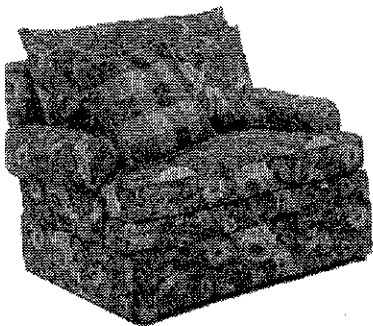
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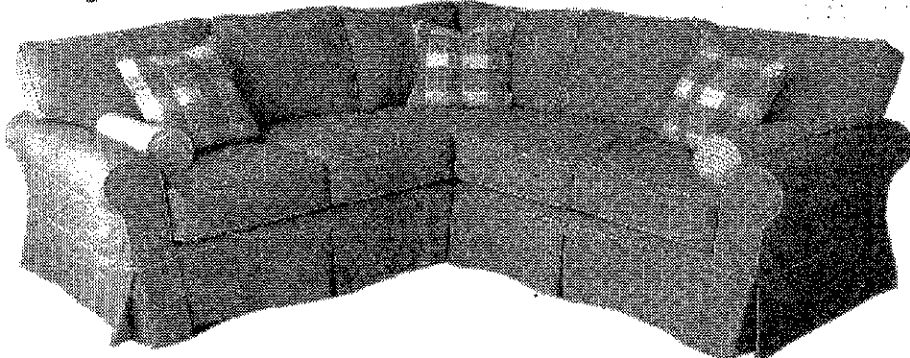
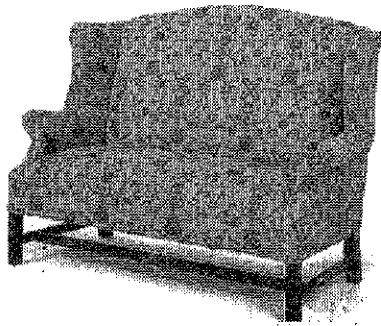
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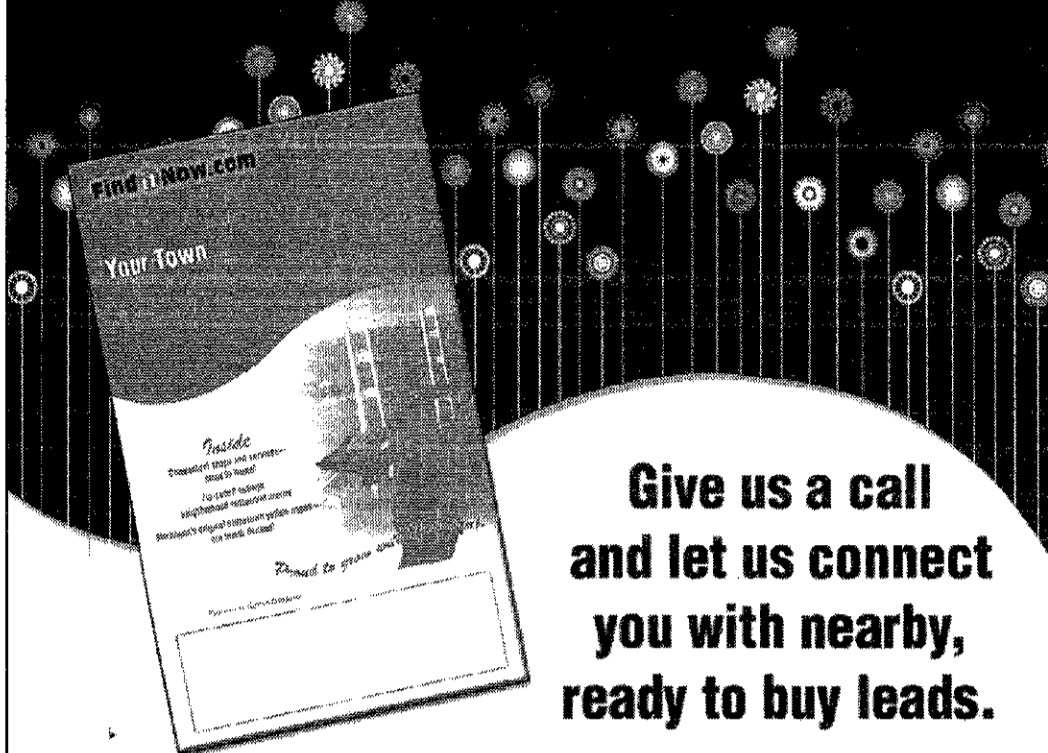
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LANDING

FROM PAGE A1

setting that borders a thousand acres of state forest land. It is also just minutes from miles of sandy Lake Huron beaches, the Black Mountain Recreation Area, trout streams, lakes, and thousands of acres of state forest. It's the kind of place Trevor would have loved, though he might question the size of the lodge.

"Trevor would say this is way too much," Terry Blumberg said. "He was the kind of guy that would be happy in a little shack."

Blum's Landing is still a work in progress. The main house has been built, but still needs

plenty of work. The interior walls and floors still need to be built. When it is done, it will contain a suite upstairs for visitors. The Blumbergs plan on living downstairs when they ultimately move there after Janet retires in a few years. They also plan to build a couple cabins closer to the lake so they can accommodate more soldiers and their families, as well as a dock and other amenities.

Terry Blumberg, who also served in the Army and is a veteran of the Vietnam War, estimates they have already spent more than \$100,000, and will need an additional \$300,000 to complete the project. He is working with military groups and others on fund-raising ideas, and would

love some help from the public on other ideas. They are also soliciting donations so they can complete the project.

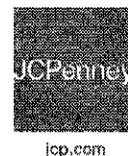
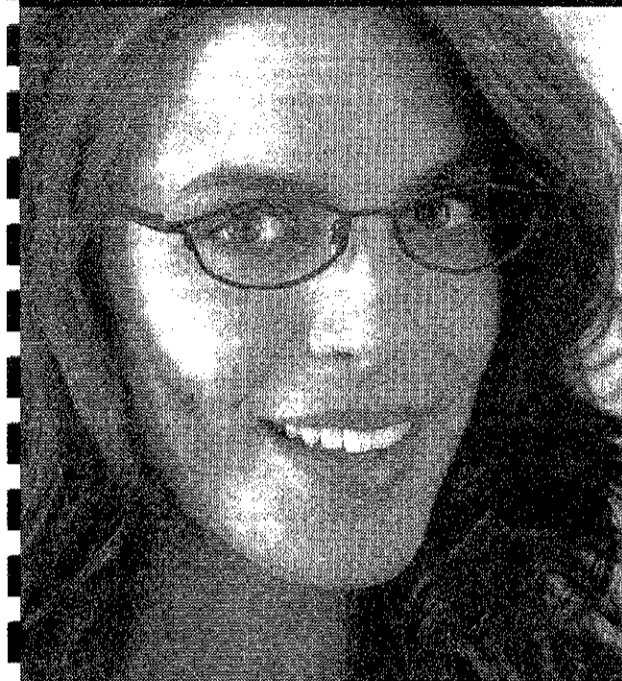
"I've never raised funds for anything in my life. This is all new to me," he said.

Of course the couple would much rather have their son back than build Blum's Landing. They say it has been difficult since losing him five years ago this week. That's why they are so determined finish this project.

"We miss him a great deal. It's hard to talk about," said Janet. "This is a way to honor his memory. No matter how hard, we're going to do this."

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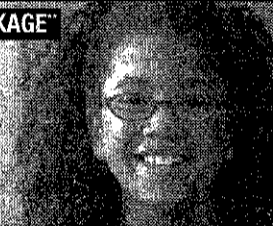
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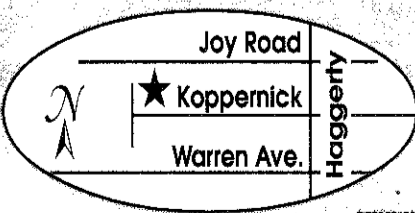
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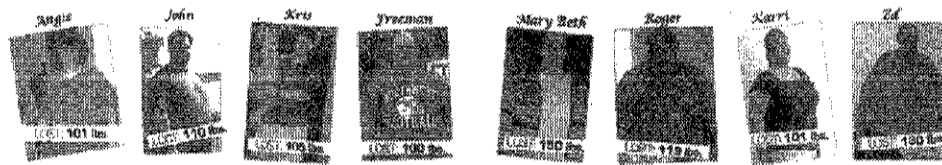
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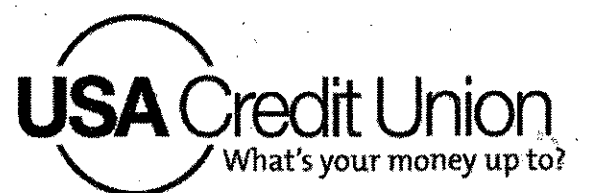
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OUR VIEWS

Judge neutrality is in court's best interest

There is no other liberty as important to being American as our right to freedom of speech. A major component of that freedom is being able to support whoever we want for public office. And it should go without saying that nobody understands this as much as the judges who are ultimately responsible for upholding our constitution and our laws.

While we often put judges up on a pedestal, literally and figuratively, they also share the freedom to support and endorse political candidates. In that sense, they are no different than the rest of us. The question is, how vocal should they be when it comes to endorsing other judge candidates, especially those who might serve in the same court? That question has again come to light in the 35th District Court, where there is an interesting race between Jim Plakas of Northville Township and Joe Barone of Plymouth Township to replace the retiring John MacDonald.

Judge MacDonald, who has served in the court for nearly a quarter century, has endorsed Plakas, despite a (non-binding) court policy that encourages sitting judges to remain neutral. As a result, Judge Mike Gerou has publicly endorsed Barone.

MacDonald shocked a lot of people two years ago when he endorsed Plakas, who ran against incumbent Judge Ron Lowe. Lowe, of Canton, won the election and is now the chief judge of the court. It was the first time in the history of the 35th District Court that a sitting judge made such an endorsement. There is no question it created a sense of hostility in the court and fostered the impression that the court was dysfunctional.

Gerou remained neutral two years ago, but decided to speak up after MacDonald again publicly endorsed Plakas. Gerou said he didn't want the community to get the impression that MacDonald was speaking for the entire court.

These developments have disappointed Judge Lowe, who was the one who put the policy in place that prohibits court employees from campaigning on court time or court equipment. He had also spoke to both MacDonald and Gerou, asking them to return to the tradition of remaining neutral, which he feels (and many others have felt) is in the best interest of the court.

MacDonald said he endorsed Plakas because he thinks Plakas will best serve the court after he retires. The U.S. Constitution gives him the right to do so. And therein lies the dilemma. Is that right more important than maintaining the court's neutrality? It is a tough question.

We tend to agree with Lowe, however. The court's three judges must work as a team. If there is animosity among the judges, how much faith will the public have in the court? If the judges wear their political agendas on their sleeves, how fair will they be when supporters of their political opponents come before the court? Will those opponents feel they are getting a fair shake?

Obviously it's too late to put the genie back in the bottle in this election, but we think in the future, sitting judges in the 35th District Court should go back to the tradition of remaining neutral. It is in the best interest of the court.

Consequences of 9/11 continue to affect us all

Seven years ago today, the life of every American was forever changed when two commercial jets slammed into the World Trade Center and a third set ablaze the headquarters of our nation's armed forces.

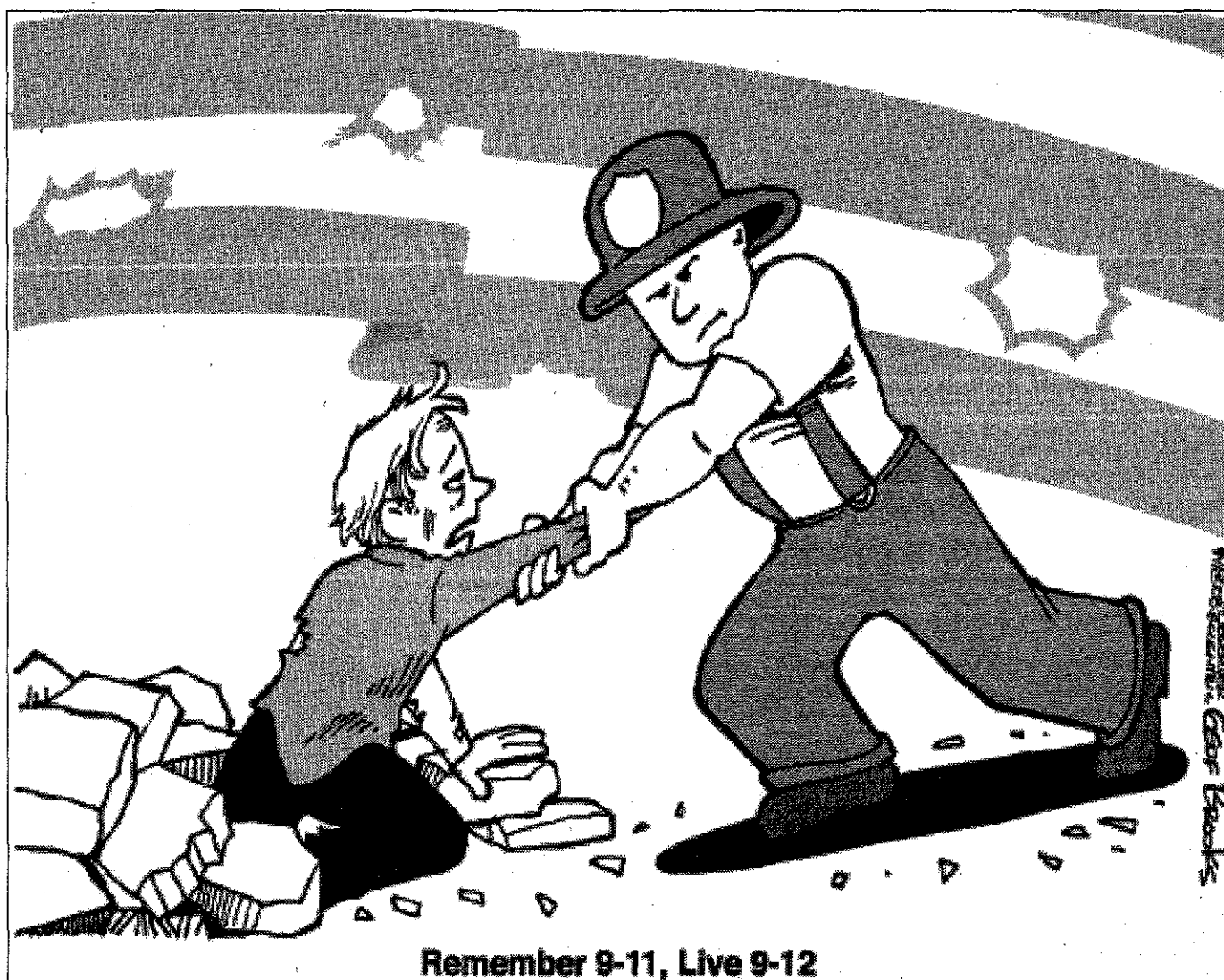
The terrorist attacks of 9/11 are this generation's defining moment in U.S. history. Just like former generations recall exactly where they were or what they were doing when news spread of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor or the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, we are frozen in time to that moment when television and computer screens across the country were filled with images of the Twin Towers ablaze.

In the days following the attacks, we were encouraged by our leaders to resume our normal lives and deny the terrorists their cowardly victory by plunging the country into a state of fear and uncertainty.

Our country remains strong and proud and free, but even today, evidence of how we have changed as a nation is readily evident both on a national and local level. The "war on terror" led to the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security and the controversial Patriot Act, and our nation's resources are being drained — and thousands of our young men and women placed in harm's way — by wars being fought in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And in our hometowns, we face greater scrutiny while visiting local municipal buildings, are subject to search when attending a local sporting event, and witnessed the demise of a very successful and popular local restaurant chain (LaShish) when its owner fled the country after being tied to funneling money to a suspected terrorist organization.

We will never be able to go back to our way of life prior to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. But we must as individuals, and as a community, continue to move forward in accepting and embracing the many challenges that we will continue to face in our daily lives.



Remember 9-11, Live 9-12

Bible is truth

I commend Bradley Fowler for reading and studying the Bible ("Twisted scripture?" Aug. 28). His lawsuit against a Bible publisher, however, was a vivid example of shooting the messenger because the message was convicting. The Biblical message and purpose is not generic and general, but rather pointed and personal. The Bible is not subliminal spin, but clearly affirms that, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16)

Hopefully Bradley Fowler will continue to study the Bible and be enlightened and encouraged by these words from Saint Paul the Apostle: "This is a worthy saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the chief." (I Timothy 1:15) Mr. Fowler, "Amazing Grace" is more than just a song to be sung; it is a truth that brings triumph.

David L. Rose
Canton

Losing deputies unacceptable

Wake up Wayne County! Proposed budget cuts to the Sheriff's Department would put 25 percent of Sheriff's deputies out of a job, which would threaten our safety, and the health of our communities.

We already have the highest unemployment rate in the entire nation, and would add hundreds more to the ranks of the unemployed with the layoff of 25 percent of our deputies. What would follow is hundreds more housing foreclosures, more abandoned buildings, and higher crime.

Sheriff's deputies are police officers 24/7. They can respond to community problems whether they are on duty or not. If they lose their jobs and are no longer police officers, then our communities would lose that many officers able and ready to respond to critical situations.

We need to let the Wayne County commissioners know this threat to our well-being is unacceptable.

Usama Amer
Canton

Where are the specifics?

As a tax professional, I have been disappointed that we haven't gotten any specifics on the tax implications of the Presidential candidates' health care plans, so I did some research.

Barack Obama has proposed a health care plan that institutes a National Health Insurance Exchange. It would be a watchdog group to make rules and regulations for health insurance companies. Employers who do not provide insurance would be required to pay a percentage of payroll toward a national health insurance plan. Unfortunately, the Web site's 15 page document was short on specifics.

John McCain advocates a much greater reform of the health care system. He proposes that an individual be given \$2,500 and a family \$5,000 in the form of a refundable tax credit, which would be paid directly to the health insurance company of your choice. In other words, the first \$2,500/\$5,000 of your health insurance costs would be government-provided with the choice of insurer left to you. Insurance could be purchased across state lines giving

LETTERS

greater choice and more competition. If you spend less than your tax credit amount, the remainder would be put into a health savings account for you. If it costs more, you would pay the difference. If your employer provides health insurance, you could keep that plan and change to an individual one at any time.

McCain has been criticized by Obama for making employer-provided health insurance taxable to you — A terribly deceiving half-truth, because McCain's plan more than offsets this with the new tax credit. McCain's health insurance would be portable. You could change jobs without the fear of being without health insurance.

Obama seems to be tinkering with the same old thing — you're still at the mercy of your employer who chooses your coverage and determines what you pay. McCain is proposing that the government share the cost with you and give you choice and portability. Now that's change.

Karen Krahmalkov
Canton

It makes me laugh

When I read the County News section of the *Observer* dated Aug. 21, "McCotter: Bush reaction to Georgia invasion 'inexcusable,'" it really made me laugh to read that U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter would criticize his "sidekick" President George W. Bush over the fact that the Bush administration was "surprised" by Russia's invasion of Georgia.

Isn't it ludicrous for Mr. McCotter to criticize President Bush over this event, while assiduously supporting our president for almost eight years of catastrophic decisions that have crippled our nation and will certainly have very long-term effects on all Americans?

Where was Mr. McCotter's criticism when the real dangerous decisions by our president and his staff were made regarding the pre-emptive strike on Iraq? The Downing Street Memo? The Preliminary Report of the Commission Investigating 9/11 that said, "We have no credible evidence that Iraq and al Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States? Abu Ghraib? Haliburton? Walter Reed Hospital? Blackwater? Body armor? Katrina? Guantanamo? Yellow cake? Waterboarding? Weapons of mass destruction? "Slam Dunk?" Mission Accomplished? "Bring 'Em On?" "Heck of a job, Brownie?" Tax cuts for the rich? Giving cluster bombs, tanks and all kinds of weapons to Israel to devastate Lebanese and Palestinian people? Spending \$12 billion a month on Iraq? Enron? Politicizing our Justice Department?

I could go on and on with this list, but I think most of the American public are aware of these and other pernicious events that have taken place in recent years.

Yes, it makes me laugh that Mr. McCotter would now try to distance himself from the current administration when their ship is sinking.

Frank Delewsky
Livonia

Potter-mania

I read *Plymouth Observer* editor Brad Kadrich's article in the *Observer*, "Wonders of wizardry come alive as passion for Potter prospers," Thursday, Aug. 28) and felt com-

pelled to comment. I'm an avid reader, and have always loved children's literature.

Several years ago NPR did a story about this amazing book written in England about a boy wizard and his adventures. Nothing in the story sounded appealing to me, until they said that the book was so popular in England that adults were buying the book and wrapping it in brown paper in order to read it on mass transit without appearing foolish.

Hmmmm. That intrigued me. It must be a pretty good children's book for adults to be enjoying it. I bought my first Harry Potter book and was hooked. I raved about it to my husband and daughter all to no avail (when you explain the story, it simply doesn't sound very appealing).

Finally, after several years, I began to buy the book tapes — read by Jim Dale. They are wonderful and make car travel much more enjoyable! They're absolutely magical to listen to. One evening, my family got into my car to go out to dinner and when I started the car, my book tape started — mid sentence, where I had left it earlier. I reached down to turn it off, and though he'd only heard a few words, my husband said "Don't turn it off. We'll listen for a few minutes."

Well, 10 minutes later we arrived at our destination and my husband and daughter were totally hooked. They didn't want to get out of the car because they wanted to continue to listen.

Since then, we've become THAT family that goes to each midnight book release party, and then greedily spend the weekend reading and ignoring all other duties.

But my family has taken it SO far beyond me. While I love Harry Potter books and have thoroughly enjoyed every one of them, my husband and daughter have purchased all the books on tape and listen to them constantly. Constantly! They're always on when I get home, and are always plugged in to my husband's car. They can quote long lines of dialogue from any book and finish sentences for various characters. And both are whizzes when it comes to Harry Potter trivia.

So, let your son know that I understand his pain. I live with Harry fanatics as well.

I'll tell you if you haven't experienced it yet, try one of the Harry Potter book tapes read by Jim Dale. He's won Grammy awards for his recitation of the books, and you'll be amazed as he does 140 different voices to convey these stories. Truly magical!

Janet Newcomer
Farmington

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"I have no doubt Governor Palin, who hunts, ice fishes, loves hockey and rides snowmobiles, will be warmly embraced by the people of Michigan — no pun intended. I utterly dig the pick of Governor Palin." U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, after Republican presidential nominee John McCain selected Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate

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Richard Aginian — Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Hunters must follow rules to help save state's deer

With Labor Day now in the rearview mirror, my favorite time of year is quickly approaching. There is no doubt that summertime in Michigan is wonderful, but, for me at least, nothing compares to autumn, when our state really puts on a show second to none.

I was in northern Michigan over the weekend, and there were definitely signs that fall is truly on the way. Along a number of forested highways and farm fields some of the trees are beginning to change color. Another sure sign that fall will soon be here is the piles of sugar beets, apples, and other forms of deer hunting bait already starting to appear outside of gas stations and stores.

In previous years the sight of the deer bait would be a welcome one for me, because, being a hunter myself, it is always a reminder that deer hunting season is just about upon us. However, this year things are different.

Baiting for deer in the Lower Peninsula is illegal this year. That's because on Aug. 25, state officials confirmed Michigan's first case of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a white-tailed deer on a privately owned cervid (POC) facility in Kent County.

CWD, which is a fatal neurological sickness that causes infected animals to quit eating, has been detected in deer out West for years. In 2002, it turned up in some deer in Wisconsin, so state officials felt it was only a matter of time before it arrived here.

Hoping to stop its spread, the first move the Department of Natural Resources made was to make baiting and feeding deer illegal. The reasoning is that when hunters (or homeowners for that matter) put out food, deer tend to congregate in larger than normal numbers, which means that if an infected deer is among the group, it can easily spread the disease to the others. It was the same logic the DNR used to ban baiting in areas where the deer herd was infected with bovine tuberculosis.

Many people are not happy with this logic, however, particularly all of the businesses that have come to depend on selling bait to hunters — from the farmers who make a little extra money to the mom-and-pop stores that have come to depend on hunters to keep their businesses going after the summer tourism season has ended. And of course many hunters are not happy about the baiting ban, because for far too many people hunting means staking out a spot close to a bait pile and waiting for the deer to come a callin'.

As a hunter, I've struggled with the baiting issue for years. I've never had much respect for the guys who will literally throw out truckloads of bait at the same spot year after year. I'm not sure how sporting that is. OK, it's not very sporting at all. At

the same time, I have no problem putting a worm on a hook to catch a fish. It's an ethical question that each hunter has to answer for themselves. And each person lives by a different code of ethics, so I've been able to look the other way when it comes to baiting.

However, when it comes to endangering the state's deer herd, I can no longer look the other way. We hunters must abide by this law, at least until it is learned whether the CWD has spread to other animals. I, for one, do not want to see our deer herd jeopardized by defiant hunters who are either too angry, stupid or lazy to quit baiting. There are other ways to hunt. Many hunters don't bait and are able to harvest a deer year after year. It takes a little more work, however, than pulling up with a truckload of sugar beets or apples.

Conservation officers with the DNR say they will make it a priority this year to be on the lookout for illegal bait piles. Violators of the bait ban would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and \$500 in fines, and could lose their hunting privileges. While others may disagree, I'm all for it.

If Michigan's deer herd is impacted by this fatal disease, hunters won't be the only ones that pay the price. Deer hunting is big business in Michigan, especially in northern part of the state where it props up the local economies. In total, it is estimated that deer hunters annually contribute more than \$500 million to the state economy through the purchase of such items as food, lodging, transportation, and hunting equipment. That's just too much to risk.

I hope the DNR also starts to crack down on the so-called privately owned cervid facilities, which is just a nice way to say game farm or game ranch like the one in Kent County where the positive deer was found. There are roughly 500 of these facilities in the state.

Just as I've never been a big proponent of hunters who sit over big piles of bait, I certainly don't have a whole lot of respect for so-called hunters who pay to kill trophy bucks (or other game animals) in fenced-in land. Where's the sport in that? What is worse is that these game farms are largely responsible for the spread of diseases like CWD, because they import animals from other facilities where animals are penned up. While I'm sure the owners of these facilities are legitimate business owners trying to make a living, in many cases their businesses are a direct threat to the overall sport of deer hunting.

And for me, and 700,000 other Michigan hunters, autumn just wouldn't be the same without the prospect of getting out in the field in search of the wily white-tailed deer.

Kurt Kuban is editor of the Canton Observer. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com or (734) 953-2164.

When will we ever learn that 'it's the economy, stupid'

Last Thursday was one of those historic, news heavy days.

On the national scene, the Republican National Convention was still feeling the euphoria of a well-received, feisty speech from



Hugh Gallagher

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the party's surprise nominee for vice president. Sen. John McCain accepted the party's nomination for president and presented his case for "change," the word in this year's campaign.

Meanwhile, locally, we were transfixed by the denouement of a political tragedy. The politically gifted and impossibly arrogant Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick finally brought an end to months of turmoil and political uncertainty. In a plea deal, he pleaded guilty to two counts of obstructing justice in the scandal known by tabloid shorthand as "the text messaging scandal."

A local daily gets to gloat. A governor gets off the hook just before she might actually have to make a politically dicey decision.

Some notable public officials breathe a sigh of relief and hope they finally get their pet projects (Cobo) off the ground.

And the mayor, well he vows that like the Terminator he'll be back.

Those are the stories that were riveting to most news watchers. But other stories may have more meaning. That Thursday the stock market took another dive, down more than 300 points on reports about bad job figures.

On Friday, those reports were confirmed, with August unemployment at a five-year high of 6.1 percent and job losses for the month at 84,000 (including 39,000 auto vehicle and parts manufacturing jobs). That followed on news from last week of stagnant economic growth.

As Bill Clinton learned when he was running for president at a time of recession, "it's the economy, stupid." That's the issue that should decide this election.

It should not be about rhetorical gifts, being a hockey mom (or a soccer dad), who gets off

the best gibes or who has the most family secrets.

As in all elections, those kind of issues seem to attract more attention than detailed policy statements and reasoned discussions of the issues that are pertinent to the majority of voters in this election.

They are especially pertinent to our communities — because we are an industrial region in a time when industrial jobs have moved to less developed nations; because our major industry is the highly competitive and troubled auto industry; and because we've wrestled for years with complex social and economic issues. We were the bellwether for the economic problems of the country and we are now one of the states most in play.

Sen. McCain and Sen. Barack Obama will need to lay out detailed information on what they will try to do if elected president. But potential voters also need to take the time, the effort to read what they propose. They deserve our attention for their ideas and their political acumen to move those ideas through the legislative and executive process.

Fortunately, for us, McCain and Obama pledge to have that discussion but the usual distractions of politics will often take center stage and get them off message on the economy, on energy, on health care, on national security.

A president can not take total blame for a bad economy or total credit for a good one. But a president can set in motion policies and programs that appropriately stimulate the economy, soften the blow of economic recession on the average person and address some of the major economic concerns that face all of us — paying for health care, paying for education, retiring without being a burden on our children.

Political theater is fun to watch and important in its own right. But the real story last Thursday became a footnote and that's a shame.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

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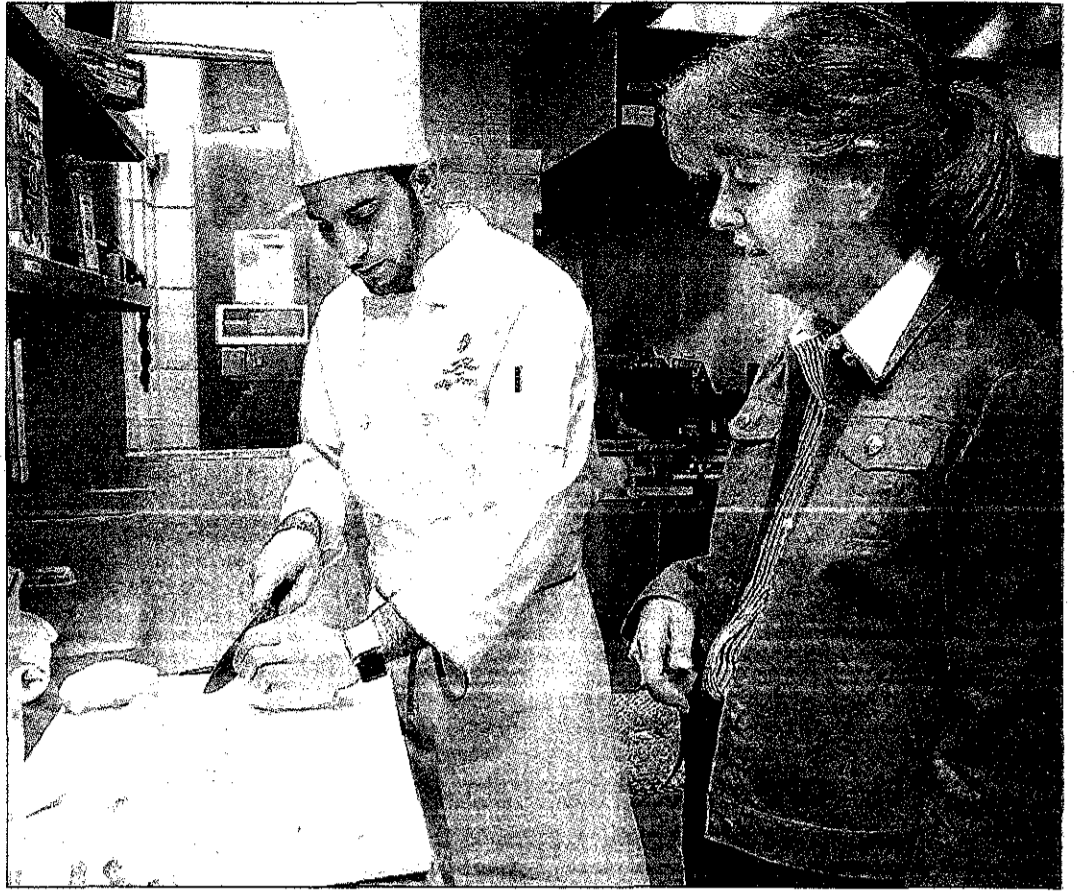
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JOHN HEIDER | NORTHVILLE RECORD

Mary Ellen King stops by and chats with chef-in-training Ahmet Termos at Schoolcraft College's Culinary Arts kitchen. King will chair a Culinary Extravaganza at Schoolcraft on Sept. 28 that will feature food and wine from local restaurants and will benefit the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

Schoolcraft's culinary event to benefit students

BY PAM FLEMING
NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

Mary Ellen King says if you like food and chances to win discounted gifts, plan to attend the 17th annual Culinary Extravaganza, Sunday, Sept. 28, at Schoolcraft College.

The 2-5 p.m. event at the VisTaTech Center on Haggerty Road just south of Seven Mile Road in Livonia will feature wine and samplings from many area restaurants, with proceeds funding scholarships for Schoolcraft students.

Cost is \$50 per person, \$20 of which is tax-deductible. To order tickets, call (734) 462-4518.

King, of Northville Township, is chairing the event for the second consecutive year.

She has served on the college's board of governors for about three years. During her first year on the board, she chaired the event's silent auction.

HIGHLIGHT OF FALL SEASON

She believes the annual Schoolcraft College Foundation fund-raiser is one of the highlights of the fall season in metro Detroit.

"I have several friends who have volunteered to help because they like the event so much," King said.

King has also served on the development committee of the Mercy Education Project in southwest Detroit for about three years. This nonprofit organization serves girls and women through after-school tutoring, summer enrichment, Graduation Equivalent Diploma preparation and teaching life skills.

Currently, she is working diligently on the campaign staff of Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville).

King grew up in Detroit and has lived in Northville since 1972. She was the first director of Northville Youth Assistance,

-serving this organization that helps local needy students for 18 years.

For the Schoolcraft College Foundation benefit, King suggests that attendees arrive early and come hungry. As of mid-August, 47 businesses were scheduled to provide samples at the benefit.

"This event highlights many of our local restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors," King said.

Not only will several new restaurants be represented at this year's Culinary Extravaganza, but, "We have some really great silent auction items," King said.

King encourages those planning to attend the event to purchase tickets now, as they must be purchased in advance.

Sponsorship opportunities are also still available in amounts from \$300-\$5,000 and provide additional benefits.

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Prep soccer action heats up



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Sherif Hassani blocks Plymouth's Vinh Nguyen from the ball during Tuesday night's cross-campus encounter. Hassani scored the first goal in the Chiefs' 2-0 triumph.

SECOND (HALF) EFFORT

Canton nets two late goals to edge Plymouth

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As a string of Canton shots whistled a few feet high of the cross-bar midway through the second half of Tuesday night's scoreless showdown against Plymouth, Chief head soccer coach George Tomasso encouraged his team with shouts of, "Be patient! Be patient!" A few moments later, Canton's

patience paid off.

With 14:16 left in the game, senior Sherif Hassani controlled a rebound a few feet in front of the Wildcats' goal and nudged the ball past sprawling Plymouth goalkeeper Kyle Brindza to give Canton a 1-0 advantage.

Five minutes later, Josh Hurst fired a rebound into the back of the net to account for the final scoring in Canton's 2-0 triumph.

Both goals were set up by senior Kyle Breitmeyer, who rifled a pair of sizzling shots that Brindza deflected, but couldn't control.

Scott Zech (first goal) and Jonathon Dugan (second) also picked up assists for the Chiefs. The victory improved the Chiefs' record to 4-2-3 overall and 2-1 in the Kensington Lakes

Please see **CANTON, B2**

Novi battles No. 1-ranked Salem to draw

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Salem's boys soccer team found out it was the No. 1-ranked team in the state in Division I.

On Tuesday, the Rocks' defenders played up to their ranking when they battled a dangerous Novi contingent to a scoreless draw on the PCEP varsity turf field.

The tie left Salem with a 9-0-1 overall record and 2-0-1 mark in the ultra-competitive Kensington Lakes Activities Association Central Division, which also includes No. 2-ranked Livonia Stevenson and No. 3-ranked Northville. Novi has garnered honorable mention status in the Michigan Soccer Coaches Association poll.

"Novi is a very, very good team," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy, whose squad is ranked No. 1 for the first time since 1997. "I thought we created enough chances to win, but we couldn't finish. I'm not overly distraught with a tie, though, because we played a very good team and it was our first game this year on turf."

Salem received strong play from senior defender Kevin Cope and junior goalkeeper Sasa Miskovic, said McCarthy.

McCarthy emphasized that the lofty ranking will not deter his team from its original preseason goals.

"There's no doubt the players are excited about it," McCarthy said. "But our No. 1 goal for the season is no different — win the division and play for a conference championship. Our next eight games will determine that."

Rocks defend E.L. crown

On Saturday, Salem captured the East Lansing Invitational for the second consecutive year as it won all three of its round-robin contests.

Junior goalkeeper Sasa Miskovic shined, playing half of the Rocks' tournament-opening 7-1 triumph over Gibraltar Carlson (Will Allen also played a half between the pipes) before playing all 80 minutes in a 4-0 victory over Ann Arbor Huron and a 3-1 win over host East Lansing.

Pacing Salem's offensive explosion in the opener were Jeremy Stoychoff, Sal Savage, Lachlan Savage and Evan

Please see **SALEM, B2**



Plymouth's Stephan Jahn (foreground) advances the ball upfield as Canton's Scott Zech pursues the play during Tuesday night's 2-0 Canton victory.

Eagles clipped in opening grid clash

Plymouth Christian opened its inaugural season of football Saturday afternoon with a 33-14 setback to the Muskegon Shoreline Breakers in a Christian Football League of Michigan contest played at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium.



LISA JIPPING

Plymouth Christian's Jordan Allen rushed for 102 yards on 11 carries in the Eagles' inaugural high school football game Saturday — a 33-14 setback to the Shoreline Breakers.

Defensively, the Eagles were paced by freshman Eric Jipping and Early, who blocked a pair of Muskegon extra-point attempts. PCA will travel to North Branch on Saturday for game No. 2 of their historic first season.

The Eagles' roster is made up of students from Plymouth Christian Academy, area public schools and home-schooled boys. The team practices at PCA, but has yet to secure a field for its home games.

On Saturday, the Eagles racked up 326 yards of offense — all on the ground. Junior running back Jordan Allen led the way with 102 yards rushing on 11 carries. Senior Josh Lowman added 55 yards on seven attempts while senior Andrew Weaver picked up 65 yards on seven rushes.

PCA's two TD's were scored by junior running back Jordan Early, who found paydirt from six yards out and junior quarterback J.R. Hope, who scored on a 27-yard run.



DEBORAH EDWARDS-ONORO

Plymouth's boys tennis team proved to be the host with the most as it won the inaugural Wildcat Invitational Saturday. Pictured (back row from left) are coach Tom Kimball, Alex Berk, Matt Dwan, Max Korpalski, Andy Mitchell, Hank Eckardt, assistant coach Jim Tucker, (kneeling from left) Tom Eggleston, Pat Onoro, Wen Ning, Drew Leist, John Lopus, Aaron Zhang, Mitch Kimball and (front row) Pat Bailey.

Top 'Cats: Plymouth wins own tourney

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's boys tennis team served notice at Saturday's inaugural Wildcat Invitational that 2008 may be a very good year.

Coach Tom Kimball's netters aced their opening test of the season by winning their own tournament by compiling 17 points, one more than runner-up Jackson. Two teams — Flint Powers and Salem (15 points each) — tied for third in the closely grouped standings, just

ahead of Dexter and Dearborn Fordson, who registered 12 points.

Plymouth's championship charge was led by its first and second doubles teams — Andy Mitchell-Max Korpalski and Alex Berk-Wen Ning, respectively — both of whom placed first in their flights.

The Wildcats racked up second-place points in all four singles spots — Pat Onoro, Aaron Zhang, Matt Dwan and Pat Bailey — and at No. 3 doubles, where Jon Lopus and Tom Eggleston earned two points.

The Rocks dominated singles play, taking first in three of the four brackets. Brothers Brett Foster and Brock Foster captured titles at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, respectively, while David Benson earned the crown at No. 4.

Salem's No. 1 doubles tandem of Josh Perrin and John Kang placed second.

The No. 3 doubles duo of Nick Zaggy and Tyler Butterfield led Jackson to its only first-place showing.

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Sidelines

Arctic Edge

skaters golden

Two dance teams that call Canton's Arctic Edge home won gold medals at last week's Junior Grand Prix events in Italy and France.

Ice dancers Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlein placed first at the Junior Grand Prix in Marenno, Italy, while ice dancers Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani collected gold at a similar event in Courchevel, France.

The Junior Grand Prix Series consists of eight international events in a cumulative, point-scoring format. Approximately 400 athletes representing more than 35 countries are expected to participate in the series.

GCYBSA tryouts

■ The Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association (GCYBSA) 12U tournament team tryouts will be held Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heritage Park in Canton. Players turning 12 on or before April 30, 2009 who are interested in playing tournaments in addition to their spring GCYBSA recreational baseball are invited to attend. Players can pre-register by sending an e-mail to the Watson5@wowway.com.

■ GCYBSA 9U tournament travel team tryouts will be held Sept. 21 from 4-6 p.m. at Heritage Park in Canton. Players residing in Plymouth, Canton or meeting residency requirements and turning 9 on or before April 30, 2009, are invited to attend. Players can pre-register by e-mailing valerie.mccarty@canton-mi.org.

For eligibility information on tournament teams visit www.gcybsa.com.

Men's rec hoop

There are openings for men's basketball teams in the Northville Parks and Recreation's Thursday night and Sunday night leagues. For more information, call Larry Potok at (248) 349-0203.

Precision Baseball fund-raiser

The public is invited to attend a fund-raiser at Precision Baseball, an indoor baseball training facility located in Canton, that will benefit Special Olympics. The comedy night event will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at the facility, which is located at 7835 Market St. in Canton.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the first comedian taking the stage at 8 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes the show, food and drink.

For tickets, send an e-mail to info@precision-baseballone.com or call (248) 761-9694.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP FOOTBALL Friday, Sept. 12... PREP BOYS SOCCER Thursday, Sept. 11... Saturday, Sept. 13... Sunday, Sept. 14...

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

Activities Association's South Division. Plymouth slipped to 4-5-1 and 1-1-1, respectively. "I give the boys a lot of credit because they stuck with it and never got frustrated," said Tomasso.

"More than anything, it showed how big their hearts are." Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich said he was encouraged by his team's play during the opening 40 minutes.

night. "We just couldn't keep it together in the second half. We had a couple defensive breakdowns that cost us and we didn't come out with the same energy we had early on."

Senior Nick Turnbull earned the victory in net for the Chiefs. Brindza was spectacular for the 'Cats early in the second half when he snared a bending Zech shot from 25 yards out with 32:14 left before knocking away another Zech missile 39 seconds later.

Between the 20:40 mark and the 18:17 mark, three Chiefs - Collan Baker, Yusef Bazzy and Joey Krizanek - threatened to break the scoreless deadlock, but their shots sailed high of the net.

Canton returns to action Thursday afternoon at Wayne Memorial before taking on cross-campus rival Salem Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

The win over the River Rats. Sal Savage also scored twice and Josh Pascarella contributed an assist.

In the two-goal victory over East Lansing, Matt Wooster, Stoychoff and Sal Savage scored goals while Garrett Rogers and Alex Tramel added assists.

Rock harriers shine at Brother Rice

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Chiefs third in Dexter

Salem's girls cross country team was flashing some heavy medal following Saturday's Brother Rice Invitational.

Four Rocks earned medals while leading coach Dave Gerlach's team to a seventh-place showing in the 17-team event.

Leading the way was sophomore Victoria Tripp, who placed 23rd with a time of 21:20. The three other medalists were: Kara Booms (30th in 21:49), Kelly Kerwin (31st in 21:55) and Kelley Determan (35th in 22:02).

Also running for the Rocks were Phoebe Van Hoof (38th in 22:05), Linda Ling (40th in 22:13) and Autumn Burin (56th in 22:47). Rochester Adams, the defending Division 2 state champions, placed first with 71 points, 86 fewer than Salem.

Plymouth 3rd at Bath

The Wildcats turned in a stellar bronze medal-caliber effort at the talent-rich Bath Invitational Saturday, compiling 90 points, 62 more than first-place Saline. Grandville placed second with 57 points. Senior Molly Slavens was among four Plymouth medal winners as she crossed the line in ninth place in 19:53.

The Wildcats' junior-varsity squad also placed third in their respective tournament.

Canton's girls cross country team finished third at Saturday's Dexter Maroon & Gold Invitational. The Chiefs finished with 79 points, 47 more than first-place Brighton. Dexter was second with 59.

"I thought we ran really well," said Canton coach Eric Pahl. "The younger girls are starting to figure things out."

The Chiefs were paced by Bianca Kubicki, who placed seventh with a time of 20:17. Other key contributors included Rachel Rohrbach (eighth in 20:23), Sarah Thomas (ninth in 20:25), Emily Southern (20th in 21:12) and Melanie Kulczycki (35th in 22:11).

GIRLS DUAL MEET RESULTS

CANTON 24, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 33 Sept. 9 at Nankin Mills... Individual winner: Megan McPherson (Franklin), 19:36.6 (school course record).

Salem finishers: 1. Jordyn Moore, 20:43; 2. Victoria Tripp, 20:44; 4. Kelley Determan, 20:57; 7. Kelly Kerwin, 21:08; 9. Linda Ling, 21:18; 11. Shannon Griffiths, 21:50; 12. Kara Booms, 21:51.

Salem finishers: 1. Aoriene White, 21:38; 3. Elise Chagas, 22:11; 4. Britta Swanson, 22:14; 5. Elyse Grymlewicz, 22:37; 6. Sarah Brown, 22:57.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 2500 S Industrial Hwy Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6130 (734)973-5584 on 9/26/08 at 12:30 Noon.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS. The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Board Proceedings September 2, 2008. A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan.

Wayne County's Department of Public Services. IN COOPERATION WITH CANTON TOWNSHIP ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE CANTON CENTER ROAD /SHELDON CENTER /SHELDON CONNECTOR PROJECT (WARREN TO JOY) CANTON TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN; T2S. R.8E.

Wayne County's Department of Public Services. Project Description: Wayne County Department of Public Services is undertaking the widening and reconstruction 1.11 miles of Canton Center Road / Sheldon Center Road / Sheldon Road from 400 feet north of Warren Road to 200 feet south of Joy Road in the Charter Township of Canton in Wayne County, Michigan.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST TO TRANSFER INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE #200-384 FROM MOTOR CITY MOLD, INC., TO SUPERVISOR CONTROLS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008. PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #200-384 from Motor City Mold, Inc., to Superior Controls.

SALEM FROM PAGE B1. Antich. Miskovic picked up a rare assist for a keeper. Dan Adsit, who was called up for the day from the junior varsity, also notched an assist.

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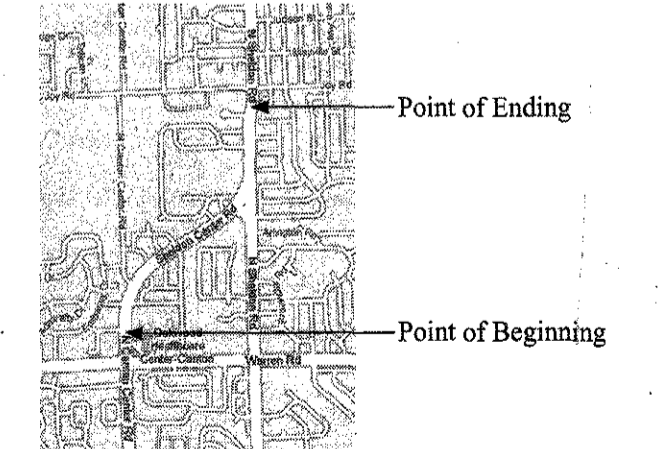
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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd Canton MI 48187 (734)981-0303 on 9/26/08 at 11:30 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Charter Township of Canton will be holding a public hearing regarding the 2009 proposed budget on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the township administration building located at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FROM PLYMOUTH BAKERY DIVISION OF PERFECTION BAKERIES, INC., FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008. PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request from Plymouth Bakery Division of Perfection Bakeries, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate on a 30,000 square foot addition to an existing facility.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FROM BREMBO NORTH AMERICA, INC., FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008. PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request from Brembo North America, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for a new 45,000 square foot facility.



- Project Overview with Preliminary Plans
Reconstruction with five lane cross section and intersection improvements
Road, grading, drainage and sidewalk improvements overview
Proposed Construction Summer 2009
Your opportunity to get answers to your questions and concerns

Seasoned Rocks prepared for a break-out campaign

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The present is bright and the future is now for the Salem boys cross country team.

With several key contributors returning from last year's team that placed 13th at the Division 1 state meet, Rock coach Geoff Baker has several reasons to be optimistic.

"We're senior-laden, so I expect us to be very competitive," said Baker.

Salem lost two of its top runners from last season to graduation: Kevin deBear, who is currently Wayne State University's No. 5 runner; and Craig Cowing, a four-year letter winner.

Returning to give the Rocks a solid nucleus are seniors Matt Devey, Jason Smith, Rob Curtis, Alex Lang and Jared Jones; and junior Mike Charara. Devey placed 19th at Saturday's Brother Rice Invitational, a meet in which Charara also medaled.

"Both Matt and Jason put in a ton of miles over the summer, so they're in very good shape," said Baker, when asked about his top two returners.

Baker said winning the new Kensington Lakés Activities Association Central Division will be no easy task.

"Any time you add a Northville, Novi and South Lyon, it's going to be tough," he said.

Other runners Baker is expecting contributions from are sophomore Jimmy Daniels and Neil Gerlach.

PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats' program has an air of newness to it thanks to the addition of first-year head coach Jon Mikosz and a talented foreign-exchange student.

Mikosz, a former stand-out long-distance runner at Canton and Eastern Michigan University, will fill the shoes of the highly successful Lee Shaw, who accepted a coaching position at Marygrove College during the off-season.

"I've always wanted to be a head coach, but I didn't think I'd get an opportunity like this soon," said Mikosz, who has served as Shaw's assistant. "A few years ago, I volunteered to coach and it's spiraled upward from there."

Mikosz's expectations for his team have risen recently -- and for good reason.

"If you would have asked me a few weeks ago, I would have said that this is going to be a rebuilding year," he said. "But we've had a few pleasant surprises and now I think we have a legitimate chance of winning our division."

The No. 1 surprise for the Wildcats is Elmar Engholm, a junior foreign-exchange student from Sweden.

"After his parents contacted me, I did some research on the internet and saw that there was an Elmar Engholm who ran a 2:01 800 meters last year, but I wasn't sure if it was the same one," said Mikosz. "We had a scrimmage last week and he ran a 16:45 flat 5K, so I knew at that point he was good."

Mikosz's coaching debut will also be bolstered by senior Derek Lax, a four-year varsity runner.

"Derek has definitely improved from last year and his attitude is great," said Mikosz.

Junior Warren Buzzard should be the team's No. 3 runner this fall following a stellar track-and-field campaign last spring. He'll be followed by junior Matt Neumann, sophomore Joe Porcari and junior Jimmy Eiben.

Other key contributors are freshman Derek Giclarowski, sophomore Stephen Balaze and sophomore Zach Koch.

CANTON

The Chiefs are coming off a stellar 2007 campaign in which they placed 14th at the D1 state meet after finishing second at their D1 Regional and second in the final WLAA conference meet.

"Our outlook is great for this season," said coach Bill Boyd. "We lost two key contributors to graduation -- Derek Hoerman, who's running for the University of Detroit, and Aaron McClellan -- but we're returning a lot of good runners and we added a couple

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

very good freshmen."

Leading the pack will be senior Duncan Spitz, who earned All-State accolades as a junior and holds the school record for the fastest 5K.

"I have high hopes that Duncan is going to have a good year," said Boyd. "He should be one of the top run-

ners in our league."

Spitz will team up with senior Kyle Clinton and junior Zach Spreitzer to give the Chiefs a potent 1-2-3 punch. Spreitzer ran a 16:51 as a sophomore.

Adding depth to the Canton attack will be senior Greg Reed; Jon Peck and Paul Rakovitis, who both contributed last year; and a pair of talented freshmen -- Mitch

Clinton (the younger brother of Kyle) and Miles Felton. Steve Watts has also ran well early on, Boyd added.

BOYS DUAL MEET RESULTS

CANTON 24, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 32
Sept. 9 at Nankin Mills
Individual winner: Kyle Clinton (Canton), 17:05.
Other Canton finishers: 2. Mitch Clinton, 17:37; 3. Greg Reed, 17:37; 7. Miles Felton, 18:27; 11. Steve Watts, 18:48; 13. Mike Gimers, 18:59.
Franklin finishers: 4. Paul Hanni, 17:40; 5. Austin Jones, 18:15; 6. Dylan Taylor, 18:16; 8. Nik Gherardini, 18:34; 9. Pete Walblay, 18:35; 10.

Jason Riffel, 18:40.
Dual meet records: Canton, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLAASouth Division; Franklin, 0-1 overall, 0-1 KLAASouth Division.

PLYMOUTH 19
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 42
Sept. 9 at John Glenn

Individual winner: Elmar Engholm (Plymouth), 17:07.
Other Plymouth finishers: 3. Derek Lax, 17:45; 4. Warren Buzzard, 17:51; 5. Matt Neumann, 18:04; 6. Joe Porcari, 18:20; 8. Jimmy Eiben, 18:38; 9. Derek Giclarowski, 18:47.
Glenn finishers: 2. Tim Boes, 17:31; 7. Jeff Adkins, 18:28; 10. Eric Mlynar, 19:08; 11. Ruben Maya, 20:22; 12. Ryan Vichinsky, 20:30; 27. Jeff Medel, 21:11; 31. Kelly Maxwell, 22:16.
Dual meet records: Plymouth, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLAASouth Division; John Glenn, 0-1 overall,

0-1 KLAASouth Division.
SALEM 26
NORTHVILLE 29
Sept. 9 at Cass Benton
Salem's finishers: 1. Matt Devey, 16:51; 3. Jason Smith, 17:10; 4. Michael Charara, 17:26; 8. Alex Lang, 17:54; 10. Neil Gerlach, 18:00.
Dual meet records: Salem, 1-0; Northville, 0-1.

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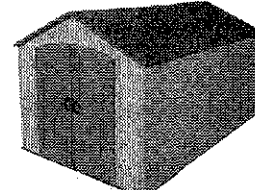
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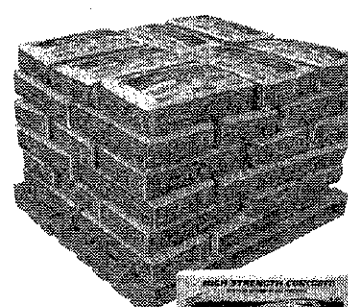
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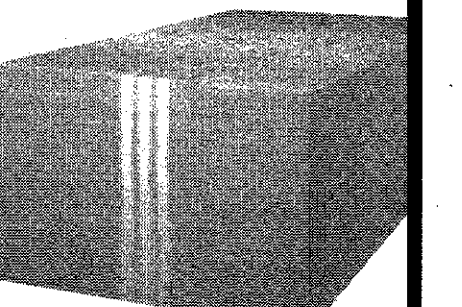
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All 3 PCEP volleyball teams shine at Madonna Invitational

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP VOLLEYBALL

None of the PCEP volleyball teams captured Saturday's Madonna Invitational, but all three knocked on the door to a title.

Canton, Salem and Plymouth advanced to the semifinal rounds before eventually succumbing. The Chiefs made it to the finals for the second time this season before getting derailed by White Lake Lakeland -- a team they ousted

in two sets in a pool-play match.

The host Wildcats were sidelined by the Eagles, 25-9 and 25-16, in the semis while the Rocks' day was ended in the semis by Canton, 25-9 and 25-16.

"The team played well together," said Canton coach Jen Barnes, whose team improved to 10-2. "They came out very strong in pool play and

we served aggressively, which I think kept us in control of most the games. Kacy Moran and Jordan Kieley kept us in control offensively while Kristen Muir and Allison Trapp stepped up their play and got kills in clutch situations.

"Although we beat Lakeland in pool play, we really struggled with our blocking against them in the finals. I don't think that we served as strong as we did earlier in the day, which allowed Lakeland to run their offense against us."

Canton dropped a thrilling final, 25-18, 21-25 and 15-13.

Moran had an incredible day running the Chiefs' offense as

she recorded 124 assists and added 11 service aces. Kieley racked up 58 kills, 39 digs and nine aces. Other players who made key contributions to the Chiefs' big day were Kristen Muir (31 kills, 38 digs), Allison Trapp (21 kills, four blocks), Shelby Anthony (53 digs), Gina Waite (27 digs, nine aces) and Janelle Burdiss (nine blocks and nine aces).

Plymouth rolled through pool play with a 4-0 record, defeating Flat Rock (25-12 and 25-15), Taylor Truman (25-9 and 25-6), Dearborn Heights Crestwood (25-12 and 25-6) and Waterford Mott (25-16 and 25-20).

Coach Kelly McCausland's squad received strong performances from Mandy McManus (24 kills), Katie Binger (15 kills, eight blocks), Megan Quinlan (12 kills), Briana Beyer (37 digs), Lauren Scott (24 digs) and Katie Solo, who registered 53 set assists.

Led by senior setter Jansan Falcusan, the Rocks breezed through pool play as well, knocking off Dearborn Heights Annapolis (25-11 and 25-9), Romulus (25-6 and 25-14), Gibraltar Carlson (25-17 and 25-12) and Waterford Mott (25-20 and 25-18).

Salem split with Tecumseh, losing 25-23 before winning

the second set, 25-13.

Falcusan recorded 83 assists, eight kills, 10 aces and 10 blocks. Other Rocks who sparkled were Nicole Merget (36 kills and six blocks), Kerry MacDonald (34 digs and four aces), Tracy Whalen (77 kills and 12 blocks) and Alexandra Engerer, who notched 20 kills.

"Overall, it was a good day for us," said Salem coach Amanda Suder. "Kelly MacDonald -- one of our top players -- was out, which didn't help. But I thought we played well. And kudos to Canton -- they have a very good team."

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Canton Lions roar past Redford Rangers, 32-18

The Canton Lions varsity football team roared against visiting Redford Sunday afternoon, 32-18, in a game played at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth.

The Lions' first score was set up when Ben Slater returned a blocked punt to the Rangers' 10-yard line.

Offensively, the Lions were paced by a potent ground game featuring Malcolm Hollingsworth and Jordan Ciciotti. The passing game was energized by long aerials from Jamarl Eiland and Brandon Lee to Nate Emminger and Luke Denzer.

Defensively, the Lions were led by Emminger, Kyle Durham, Brendon Swanson,

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

Tony Nyberg, Wally Turner and Cody Korpus.

The Lions put their unbeaten record on the line next Sunday when they travel to Rochester to take on the Redskins.

The Lions freshmen dropped an exciting 31-18 decision to the Rangers. The running game was fueled by strong blocking from Mason Robichaud and Isaac Jackson, resulting in strong runs from Victor Abraham and Jacob Miller, who accounted for the Lions' three TDs. Jacob McCall hauled in a key pass in traffic to set up a touchdown.

The defense was bolstered by strong play from Damarcus Kaigler, David Mason and Matthew Wayne.

The Lions' junior freshmen contingent turned in an intense effort against the Rangers. Turning in smooth performances for the offense were Jack Underwood, Justin Reynolds, Bennett Austin and Bradley Tyszkiewicz. The defense was led by Conner Flanigan, Wesley Askew, Chase Meredith and Ryan Cassidy.

Steelers varsity prevails

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers' varsity squad opened its home slate

Sunday afternoon with a 26-24 victory over the powerful Rochester Redskins. Steelers quarterback Brent Pilgian made several great plays through the air and on the ground.

PC running back Kendall Scott set the tone with hard running and Austin Sylvester provided several key blocks.

Defensively, the Steelers were paced by Patrick Krestschmer and Joshua Dennard, who were both tough on the line; and Michael Kennedy, who had key tackles in the victory.

The Steelers' junior varsity dropped a hard-fought 28-21 decision to the Redskins. The Steelers' offense was

powered by running back Daniel Ahearn, who churned his way to several first downs, and quarterback Gregory Williams, who proved to be a versatile playmaker.

Matthew McKoy displayed his passing ability in a game-ending play that wowed the crowd.

On the defensive side of the ball, Braden Abundis played well at nose guard, Drake Wanshon shined on the line and Cory Burnette excelled at linebacker and cornerback.

The Steelers' freshmen unit suffered a tough 13-0 loss to the 'Skins. Vinny Convertino played well at quarterback while Cameron

Stella was the team's top ground-gainer. On several occasions he followed the blocks of Adam McKee, who anchored the O-line. Joshua Stein was resilient on defense along with Jacob McKinnon and Isaac Emminger.

The Steelers' junior freshmen turned in an outstanding performance against the visiting Redskins. Bryce Lynn led the offense with a touchdown while Dean Kaye and Jake Cain opened gaping holes along the offensive front.

Defensively, the Steelers were energized by the play of Jimmy Knittel and Danny Lanava, who had a key fumble recovery.

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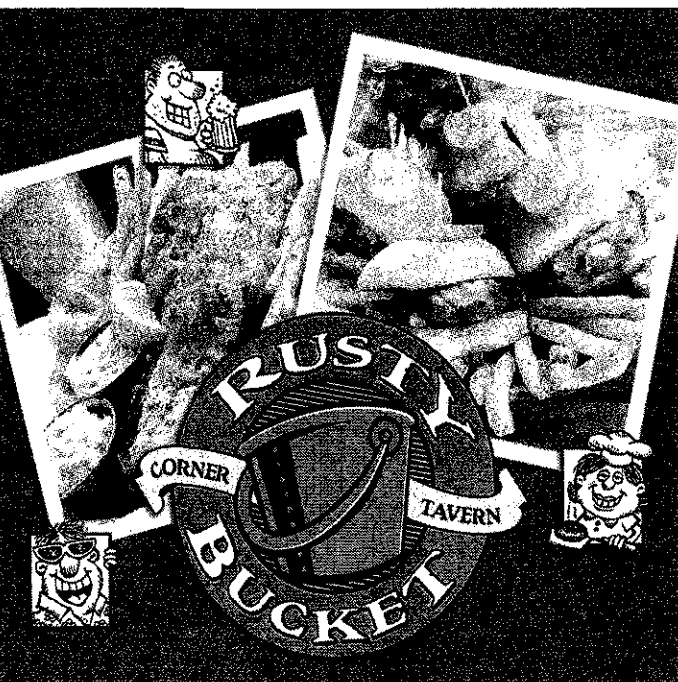
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Ramadan a holy time for all ages

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Even though the first grade students at Crescent Academy International skipped their morning snack, no one was complaining about fasting for Ramadan, a time of purification and reflection for Muslims. Instead the children seemed delighted to follow the practices of grown-ups who get up about 4:45 a.m. to eat before sunrise. Muslim adults do not eat during daylight hours. Whether or not students totally abstain from food and drink depends on their age. The 400 children in the Canton academy range from preschool to eighth grade.

"It's a special time in the school because Ramadan is holy month for Muslims," said Sommeh Flower, Crescent elementary school principal. Ramadan takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar which varies from year to year. "In the religion itself no one is required to fast until puberty however to experience Ramadan children usually like to do what their families are doing. They start not eating or drinking from dawn to dusk around third grade, practicing it, but not necessarily fasting all day. One of the goals is to feel hunger so you understand what life is like for people who are hungry. We always have a food drive during Ramadan that usually goes to a



Saifulla Ahmed sings a song about Ramadan.

shelter in Detroit.

"Ramadan builds your relationship to God, part of that is to purify. You also fast from bad habits, when it comes to children that includes wasting a lot of time watching TV or playing video games."

Muslims avoid food and drink from dawn to dusk then break their fast with Iftar. The families like to make their meals a little more celebratory during Ramadan depending on the country they came from.

The parents of academy students immigrated from the Arab countries, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Turkey. Dates and water are a traditional way to break fasting throughout the world. Afterwards the students

and their families go to the Canton mosque, the Muslim Community of the Western Suburbs for evening prayer services.

Monday afternoon students in Chrissy Kucher's first grade classroom were gathering around religion teacher Sahar Gelany for a prayer circle. The focus was on the first chapter of the Quran. Ramadan celebrates the month when Allah or God appeared to Prophet Muhammad with verses of the holy book.

"It's a sacred time, a way of training younger students to have a contemplative attitude toward prayer," said Flower. "We're trying to build that faith and self-discipline in our children. They've probably been



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Religion teacher Sahar Gelany talks with Shameena Shahzad about the beauty of the leaf she brought to school because it reminded her of Allah. The Novi girl is a 1st grader at Crescent Academy International in Canton.

saying the first chapter in the Quran since age 3. It's the first thing a Muslim child learns."

During Ramadan it's also a tradition to read the entire Quran and reflect on the meaning.

"It's an opportunity that comes once a year to devote yourself more fully to God and strengthen your relationship to him, because during Ramadan you are not as focused on daily needs and worldly desires," said Flower. "You're turning yourself more fully to God."

Shameena Shahzad of Novi brought a maple leaf to school that reminded her of Allah. Gelany asked who created all those colors. Like Christians, Muslims believe God created all things. Then it was time for Allah in the prayer circle, which ended with the children

singing a song to welcome Ramadan, a time to be kind to everybody. The reward of any good is multiplied between seven and 70 times.

The children were especially excited about the Eid or end of Ramadan when families gather to eat lots of food and cake and exchange presents. At the end of the month of Ramadan the Muslim Community of the Western Suburbs is renting a hall in Livonia for the special celebration, which begins with prayer. Muhammad Muniuriddin plans not only to be there for the Eid, but the rest of the 30 days of Ramadan. Starting at quarter to 10 every night, Muslims gather at the mosque in Canton.

"At sunset time everyone from the neighborhood, about

100, break their fast, go home to eat dinner then come back for late night prayer. We have five daily prayers for 365 days but in Ramadan there is a special late night prayer, Tarawih," said Muniuriddin, a member of the Muslim Community of the Western Suburbs for almost 30 years. "In that prayer a person who has memorized the whole Quran reads without looking for almost 1-1/2 to 2 hours for 30 days because Quran is divided into 30 parts. It's like a miracle of Quran, it is going on throughout the whole world in almost every mosque. One billion people are praying even in Japan, China, Korea. People will fast, do charity, give money to poor people."

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TENNIS RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 8 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 0
Monday at John Glenn
No. 1 singles: Pat Onoro (P) defeated Zach Ernat, 6-4, 6-2; **No. 2:** Matt Dwan (P) def. Nik Hubbard, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 3:** Andy Mitchell (P) def. Khari Stargell, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 4:** Pat Bailey (P) def. Mitch Dean, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 1 doubles: Max Korpalski-Aaron Zhang (P) def. Zach Edwards-Tommy Roark, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 2:** Wen Ning-Alex Berk (P) def. Asif Sheikh-Carlo Tajeda, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 3:** Drew Leist-Hank Eckardt (P) won by forfeit; **No. 4:** Don Henry-Grant Senkbeil (P) won by forfeit.
PLYMOUTH'S RECORD: 2-0 overall; 1-0 KLA.A.

Chief golfers poised for 'plen-tee' of wins

BY ED WRIGHT
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP GOLF PREVIEW

With its top two players returning from last season, Canton's girls golf team figures to be formidable in the newly formed Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

The Chiefs displayed a glimpse of what they're capable of last week when they tied for second place in the 18-team Livonia Franklin Invitational. Senior Chelsea Osburn finished second in the tourney with a 92 while senior Kara Gregory also excelled, placing sixth with a 102.

"Both Chelsea and Kara

have a lot of athletic ability," said Canton coach Dan Riggs. "They're both very smart players, too. You only have to tell them how to do something once."

Among the other linksters Riggs will also be counting on to produce solid rounds are Elizabeth Winther, Michelle Nagy, Erin Lixie and Alexandra Wie.

Sophomore Ariel Alber and Paige Osler are two promising newcomers to the Chiefs' roster.

"We had some nice success last year and we have a lot

of girls back, so hopefully it carries over to this year," said Riggs. "I don't know what to expect from the new league. I'd like to be competitive with Plymouth and Churchill, who I expect will be near the top of our division."

PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats' roster is loaded with youth. Among the top returners who should make an impact in their fortunes are juniors Liz Cizek, Megan Haggerty and LeAnn O'Shaughnessy; and sophomores Chloe Marentic, Christy Pattison and Stefania Sgambati. Haggerty will serve as the team captain.

First-year players who head coach Chris Moore will rely on include Lindsay Dean and Maggie Furlong.

He has also seen good things out of sophomore Veena Katragadda and freshmen Kendra Bartkowiak, Carly Curvin and Ashley Pawczuk.

"Our goals for the season are to truly focus on the short game," said Moore, who also coaches the Wildcats' boys team. "We believe that we can be competitive once we become more consistent from inside 125 yards."

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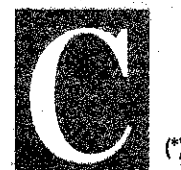
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WWOCAR taps Austin as Realtor of Year

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors has named its Realtor of the Year, Nancy Austin of Keller Williams Ann Arbor Market Center. She will be recognized at the state convention in Detroit Sept. 17-19, where voting will be done for the Michigan Realtor of the Year. She'll get her WWOCAR trophy in November.

Austin, a Canton resident since 1995, didn't anticipate being so lauded.

"I was shocked, truly. I was totally shocked," the honoree said. She hadn't been told of her nomination, and called colleague Carol O'Connor at Keller Williams, who nominated her. Austin told O'Connor of her surprise at being nominated.

"She said 'Yes, and you're going to win.'"

Austin's reputation is strong within the Realtor community and beyond. She has earned GRI, ABR, SRES, and ASP (Accredited Staging Professional) recognition. Austin was told she was the first Realtor who had earned the SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist) in WWOCAR. She has mentored a number of new Realtors during their first year. She has written and edited articles for *Newsline*, a WWOCAR print publication.

Working with seniors is particularly rewarding for the Realtor of the Year. "I do it because I know they need help. I just enjoy working with them." It takes longer to accomplish seniors' goals, but Austin finds it worthwhile. "I just love helping them, and I'm patient," she said.

She's been in real estate 25 years. "I've certainly been through every market you can think of, but it's been good to me."

Usually if someone doesn't make it in first year or so in real estate, they move on, she's found.

"People who are pleased with how you help them will refer people to you." A lot of referrals have helped her with her career, which includes condos and single family homes. Austin doesn't do commercial sales or vacant land.

"Real estate is cyclical." We're in a difficult cycle now, Austin said, and will cycle back but with slower speed. "I just foresee us getting back to a normal market." That's a market with 30-90 days to sell a home as more typical.

Gordon McCann, WWOCAR president, said the award is well-deserved. "Nancy's one of the people you can't speak enough of," said McCann, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake in Plymouth. "A



Nancy Austin is this year's #1 Realtor of the Year for the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. The Canton resident has been in the field 25 years.

very involved person as well as selling real estate."

McCann noted her extensive work with WWOCAR, as well as her ongoing efforts to help those in the field whose luck has changed. "It's a very well-deserved honor," he said, praising Austin's involvement in the Canton Chamber of Commerce, with Canton Township and beyond.

Austin has been a member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and served on a task force with the chamber regarding issues on the usability of the Web site. She has been an active member of the Area Council of the Aging and Canton Project Arts. Austin was the co-founder of a nonprofit organization, Birthright of Western Wayne County in 1972. The group has changed its name to AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center. It offers counseling and medical help for expectant mothers and clothing, equipment and lay-

ettes for newborns. The group has helped thousands since 1972 and remains a strong, volunteer-run organization.

She has been active in church activities in three parishes, currently at St. Thomas a Becket in Canton, and has taught religious education.

Austin has won numerous awards since becoming a Realtor, many of them real estate-related. She was nominated for the Athena Award, the recognition of an outstanding person by the Business and Professional Women. She was selected the Realtor Active in Politics for 2007 from WWOCAR.

Among her proudest moments was being able to help a family benefit from WWOCAR's Bowling for Charity several years ago. The toddler son had to be isolated from others due to allergies.

"They had to build a home that required special materials, which got very expensive," said Austin, whose work supported a home for the youngster and his family.

Austin has been elected by the general membership as a director to the WWOCAR Board of Directors where she represents District 3. Being a director is time-consuming, said Austin, who's on the government affairs committee for WWOCAR.

As a member of the Michigan Association of Realtors, she initiated and served on a task force addressing the issue of mortgage funding at closings. Austin has been to Lansing with WWOCAR to become more familiar with the Capitol, MAR issues, the Senate and House of Representatives.

"I actually initiated it," she said of the task force work. Austin was concerned about real estate closings where funds were not available as they hadn't been wired by mortgage companies. She was pleased to learn just recently legislation passed in Michigan "to regulate lenders, so that's a result of the initiative."

Austin is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy with a major in biology and a minor in teaching. She likes to spend time with her three adult children and three grandchildren. One child's in Gregory, Mich., about an hour away with two of the grandchildren, the others in Florida (with an Austin grandchild) and Connecticut.

Family and work keep her occupied, but she has other interests as well.

"I love to travel, I love to read," said Austin, who'll be traveling to Tunisia in Africa on a family wedding trip, a trek she's looking forward to. "I like contemporary novels, and I like nonfiction. I'm an ardent fan of the library, the Canton library."

Glacier Park home to some

Q: I have heard much about Glacier National Park and I am wondering whether a home and can be built or bought there?

A: There are approximately 70 to 80 homes in Glacier Park that were basically homesteaded and the people residing there are called "in holders."



Robert Meisner

The park does not allow any additional construction of single family homes, but you could purchase a home from one of the "in holders" under certain circumstances. Obviously, there is a desire on the part of the National Park Service to reclaim these homes to the extent possible because of the natural setting of the park.

Q: With the downturn of the market, I am wondering how it has affected Marin County or San Francisco in California?

A: While the progress of accelerated appreciation has lessened, there is a belief that the price of homes are still appreciating in good locations.

There is also significant development on the San Francisco waterfront. The technology debacle of a number of years ago seems to have stopped, and merchants seem to be doing well in the more affluent suburbs of San Francisco as well as San Francisco proper.

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

Partnership seeks to attract businesses

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan announced that Michael C. Stoskopf, CGP, executive officer, was welcomed on Aug. 13, representing BIA as a new investor in the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership (DREP) at the Partnership's annual meeting in Detroit. BIA has joined DREP at the committee level in order to be at the leading edge in representing the home building industry as businesses consider relocating to our area.

The Partnership's mission is to develop new business opportunities by providing a single point-of-contact for attracting firms considering relocation to or expansion in the Detroit region — defined as the 10-county area of southeastern Michigan. DREP has ongoing



Stoskopf

economic development efforts with firms in Europe, Asia, and North America. More than 100 influential private companies and public entities are participating as investors in the Partnership.

During the past eight years, the Partnership has helped generate \$3.5 billion in new development in the 10-county Detroit region. This was done by assisting 422 companies either relocating or expanding in the region. In the process, 10,150 new jobs have been created, increasing the region's annual purchasing power by \$1.4 billion.

"The economic health of the Detroit region directly impacts the health of our home building industry," said Richard Ives, BIA president, of Trinity Land Development. "We have a vested interest in helping attract new or expanded business ventures to our region. Each company relocating to the region means relocating employees who have families who need homes in which to live."

BIA's Board of Directors will hear an address by John W. Carroll, Jr., DREP executive director, covering DREP's plans for the coming year.

"BIA members comprise an important segment of the economy of southeastern Michigan," said Ives. "Joining forces with DREP and its other mem-

bers strengthens the impact we can make in rebuilding the economy of this region."

Headquartered in Farmington Hills, Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM) and Building Industry Association of SE Michigan (BIA) are trade associations representing nearly 1,600 builders, remodelers, multifamily property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multifamily residential construction industry. BIA is affiliated with the Michigan Association of Home Builders in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. Membership nationwide includes more than 235,000 individuals and companies.

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Farmington	34133 Cortland Ave 34937 Drake Heights Dr 35144 Drake Heights Dr 23065 Manning St	\$235,000 \$210,000 \$230,000 \$195,000	Garden City	6323 Deering St 31541 Leona St 32744 Leona St 33432 Leona St	\$60,000 \$40,000 \$88,000 \$95,000	Plymouth	799 Arthur St 12047 Hines Ct 9740 N Canton Center Rd 610 N Harvey St	\$155,000 \$196,000 \$337,000 \$213,000	58771 Carriage Ln 26067 Cornell Dr 999 Hidden Creek Dr 24041 Lyon Ridge Dr 54450 Royal Troon Dr 964 Stratford Dr	\$315,000 \$65,000 \$265,000 \$419,000 \$305,000 \$177,000
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Canton	240 Buckingham Rd 8156 Chatham Ct 425 Constitution St 46481 E Oak Manor Ct 50173 Heron Ct 51181 High Meadow Crossing S 49979 Jackson Ln 44222 Kingsley Ct 44224 Leeann Ln 6266 Porteridge Ln	\$212,000 \$705,000 \$245,000 \$259,000 \$320,000 \$375,000 \$219,000 \$207,000 \$205,000 \$205,000	Northville	44200 Deep Hollow Cir 39400 Northwind Ct 16079 Pine Valley Dr 51025 Sunday Dr 17450 Victor Dr	\$550,000 \$333,000 \$739,000 \$537,000 \$341,000	Redford	9612 Berwyn 19273 Garfield 19964 Inkster Rd 15962 MacArthur 9922 Marion 12851 Nathalie 16622 Negaunee 17166 Norborne 9166 Riverdale	\$125,000 \$125,000 \$35,000 \$64,000 \$85,000 \$109,000 \$90,000 \$77,000 \$130,000		



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Luxury Brands Look For Ways To Spark Sales

Advertising Feature

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CLASSIFIED INDEX table with columns for CLASSIFICATION and NUMBER, listing categories like Employment, Announcements, etc.



By Dale Buss

Sales of automotive luxury brands are struggling just like the overall U.S. market is. In fact, collectively, so far this year upscale marques have only managed to hold on to their 11 percent share of the market from 2007.

Lexus, for example, is off 15 percent in 2008 sales through the end of August; Porsche has fallen 17 percent; and BMW brand has suffered a decline of 7 percent. Among domestic luxury makes, Cadillac has plunged 13 percent for the year, while Lincoln has eased by 19 percent.

There's sort of a re-set button being hit by a fair number of [luxury] consumers," said Scott Keogh, chief marketing officer of Audi of America.

Added Mark Schirmer, a Ford spokesman: "The luxury market is down overall like the rest of the market, and we don't expect the luxury segment to buck the trend anytime soon. It will continue to struggle a bit in line with the overall market."

As the economic unevenness of 2007 evolved into this year's full-blown stagnation, luxury brands of all sorts have been trying to hold on to their gains of the previous several years. As they do so, their biggest challenge by far is the huge deterioration in personal wealth and resources of well-off Americans, because investment markets have turned down and because credit is much tighter. Higher gasoline prices have exacerbated those problems.



Detroit-area dealers pick up their 2009 Lincoln MKS.

Of course, Mercedes-Benz believes positive factors are at work as well in its ability to post the only sales increase for 2008 so far among major luxury brands, an 0.5-percent gain.

"A large part of our gain is the payoff of our strategy about choice and a diverse offering in the luxury segment," said Drew Slaven, marketing general manager for Mercedes-Benz USA. "Other manufacturers just don't have that."

Mercedes-Benz also has been stepping up its pace of product introductions. And in particular, it will begin emphasizing the availability of a clean-diesel option on some of its SUVs in all 50 states beginning this fall.

"So there's no sacrifice in fuel economy, and it will be packaged in products that are state-of-the-art," said Slaven. "So they're not only a solution to high gasoline prices but there's also a lot of torque, unlike with some hybrid powertrains. Slaven also believes that luxury consumers will continue to increase their preoccupation with "buying green - the downturn hasn't tempered that."

None of the other luxury makes are standing still as calamity befalls them either.

Audi, for example, is touting new powertrains, including diesel options, and new product offerings to keep its head above water. "We're launching our new A4 and getting new volume and increased production with the A5, so we're feeling good about where volume is going for the year," Keogh said. "We feel confident that it's our moment in time as consumers hit the reset button. Historically, we haven't gotten considered enough, and this will give us more opportunity to be considered."

Cadillac already has had some recent new-product successes, including its redesigned CTS sedan, and John Howell, global product director,

believes that the new Escalade Hybrid will rank as another. Cadillac began shipping Escalade Hybrids in August, with a \$3,600 higher price tag than for a conventional Escalade.

"They're a little more expensive," Howell allowed, "but they've got all the luxury features and content one wants in any Escalade, so you don't give up anything there - and of course you don't give up anything in fuel economy." Escalade Hybrid is manufactured along with the new Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon Hybrids. And while demand hasn't yet rumped up to a point where capacity is a problem, Howell noted that the Escalade "has the advantage within GM of having first-line status for the capacity that is available. So if people want them, they're going to have them."

And Howell fully expects Cadillac's luxury consumers to begin checking out the Escalade Hybrid. "It's easy to live with, and it can provide the image that people want," he said. "They want comfort and features - but they don't want criticism" about their vehicle's fuel economy.

For its part, Lincoln is counting on a continuing overhaul of its previous product line to increase its share of a down luxury market, Schirmer said. Its MKX crossover and MKZ sedan already have been widely hailed, and now Lincoln has brought out its new MKS sedan. Among the tough decisions Ford made about MKS, he said, was to make it available only in a six-cylinder - no V-8.

"People said that was a V8 segment," Schirmer recalled. "But now that the car is in the market and the market is the way it is, these same people are saying, 'Maybe you guys knew what you were doing.' Having a six-cylinder doesn't seem to be detrimental."

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