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May 10
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 34
Number 91

75 CENTS

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CONNECTION

Senior Expo: May 19

Celebrate senior life at the sixth annual Senior Expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. More than 60 exhibitors, demonstrations, music and educational programs will be offered throughout the day. Free admission and free parking are available. The event is presented by the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, Schoolcraft College, Caribou Coffee, V98.7 Smooth Jazz Radio and AM 580 Motor City Favorites. Look for the Senior Expo special supplement inside Thursday's *Observer*.

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Gillig leaving

Canton Public Library Board Chairman Dr. Jim Gillig has announced that he is retiring and leaving Canton. Gillig, who is a longtime Canton dentist, will soon move to North Carolina.

Gillig is the last remaining original library board member. In fact, he was on the original citizens committee that was instrumental in getting the millage passed for the library in 1979. The library opened Oct. 20, 1980, on the third floor of the Township Administration Building. Gillig, who has lived in Canton for 30 years, says his last day as a trustee will be the May 21 trustee meeting. Library officials are planning a May 29 reception in his honor to take place at the library.

Fight the flu

As the swine flu scare continues to be a concern across America, Canton officials want to ensure residents that they are doing all they can to actively monitor developments in the spread of the H1N1 virus in the area. Canton Leisure Services staff are regularly disinfecting surfaces throughout all public areas, particularly at the Summit on the Park. Parents who do not wish for their children to attend scheduled classes and programs can contact the Summit at (734) 394-5460 for updates.



Central Middle School student Brittney Berkey talks with Brian Foust, the teacher who, along with homebound teacher Gina Tock, nominated Brittney for the Turnaround award.

About face

Students honored for turning things around

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Samantha Thompson's mother died some five years ago, she was angry — at life, at her mom, at pretty much everything.

A Fenton resident at the time, Thompson at one point failed every class she was taking. She was soon shuffled to different school districts, including Clarkston and Dearborn Heights, before landing in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

It was in Dearborn Heights where her life really spiraled downward. Her studies suffered, she started making bad choices, hanging out with what she now calls "the wrong people." She was busted stealing at Westland Shopping Center and ended up in the Growth Works program for troubled teens.

And it was in Plymouth-Canton where she started to turn it all around. That's why she was one of 25 students honored Thursday at the 13th annual Turnaround Achievement Awards ceremony.

"After my mom died, I was very angry at everyone," acknowledged Thompson, a senior at Salem High School. "I started making pretty bad choices in my life."

When she got to Plymouth-Canton, she met the man she now says helped her see things better — Allie Suffety of the co-



Students stand and are recognized at the 13th annual Turnaround Achievement Awards.

ed Student Service Center (now an interim assistant principal at Salem High School). Suffety's friendly manner and honest counsel helped Thompson, now a mostly A-B student, see the error of her ways.

"He offered a friendly hand," Thompson said of Suffety. "He'd talk to me about things I really needed to talk about."

Thompson downplays his role, pointing out that Thompson, like the other students honored the last 13 years, saw things that needed to be changed and developed the desire to change them.

Her success, Suffety said, finally came because she started believing in herself.

"Samantha is indicative of the power of buying into something," Suffety said. "She's been somewhere where it's difficult to find a sense of self. The one thing she did (to succeed) is buy into herself."

That's the crux of the reason all of the students are honored at the Turnaround Achievement Awards. Sponsored annually by Community Bowling Centers, the awards are designed to recognize students who have made a significant change in their lives. They're celebrated for the changes they've made, whether they were in their academic or personal lives.

Please see **TURNAROUND, A6**

Groundbreaking for new Hindu Temple on tap

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nitin Desai of Canton Township can vividly remember October 1986, when interest in building a Hindu Temple in Canton gained some steam.

"I still remember the day, a committee with about 30 people meeting in my house," Desai said. "We only thought we'd have a small group of people and needed a small hall."

After using the Plymouth Cultural Center and other facilities, a small temple hall was constructed the next year on Cherry Hill Road between Sheldon and Canton Center that served about 110 worshippers. The temple was expanded in 1997. And now, with nearly 900 people worshipping at the Hindu Temple, groundbreaking ceremonies for a new 37,517-square-foot temple will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 15-17.

"We are going to have a two-story building that will replace the current building, which will be torn down for parking," said Desai, who is Hindu Temple president. "The Prayer Hall will hold 900 people for floor seating, and the basement will have a multi-purpose room that will seat about 450 people for conferences and seminars. We will also have classrooms and a kitchen."

Desai said the temple will cost about \$7.88 million, which — because of the economy — is down from an original estimate of \$8.34 million.

"In spite of the economy, jobs will be created here," said Avinash Rachmale, chairman of the Hindu Temple's finance and fund raising committee. "With (about 100) workers spending their days at the job site, many will spend their dollars at local businesses."

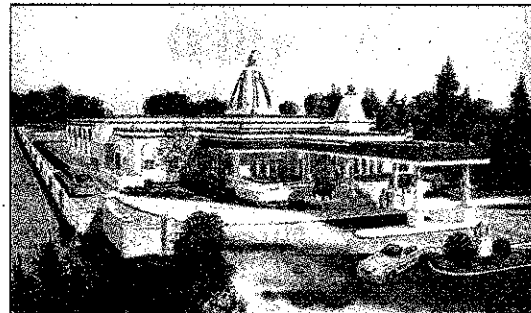
Desai said there's always been the thought a Hindu Temple needed to be constructed in the Canton area for the rapidly growing Indian population.

"I always felt we needed one on the west side," he said. "We didn't want to have to travel to Troy or downtown (Detroit) to have some place for worship." Desai said the project is being funded primarily with donations from members and the Indian business community. The three days of festivities will include prayer Friday night; religious ceremonies and cultural dances by children Saturday; and groundbreaking ceremonies Sunday.

The construction of a new Hindu Temple wasn't without controversy, as nearby homeowners sought to block what they considered a massive project in their back yards.

"We do appreciate their concern," Desai said. "Most of our activities, of which there aren't many late night, will be done by midnight. We want to be a good neighbor."

Desai said everyone is welcome to the groundbreaking festivities. More information is available at thehindutemple.org/events.



This is an artist's rendering of the new Hindu Temple.

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Local eatery shuts down to become movie set

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Tasca de Plata restaurant on Canton Center Road had so many white tents surrounding it this week, owner Jose Montes kept fielding questions from customers about Cinco de Mayo festivities at the Spanish eatery.

In reality, the business was closed for three days as crews turned the eatery into a diner to film part of a children's movie.

"I was caught off guard when they asked me to use it, but pleasantly surprised," said Montes. "I didn't know it was such a big-scale operation."

"I didn't make a lot of money for closing three days," he said. "I did it mostly for the publicity and to draw attention to the business."

The movie — *The Oogieloves*

in the *Big Balloon Adventure* — is produced by The Big Balloon Adventure Movie Production Company, which is based in Michigan. Kenn Viselman of Los Angeles, the producer of the show, is working with two Detroit-area investors.

With California the home of Hollywood, Viselman wasn't sure what to expect from Michigan workers. But that was short-lived.

"Michigan has been extraordinary," said Viselman. "There was some concern whether the production here was sophisticated enough to get this movie made. But I have never worked with more professional people."

"The tax cuts were really lovely, but we were committed to get Michiganders to work," he said. "My next movie, which was going to be done in L.A., is now

going to be filmed in Michigan."

Brittany Pask, 23, of Canton is one of those benefiting from the tax incentives being given filmmakers. She's one of 15 family members who work in the movie business.

"I have a degree in psychology, but I just felt the energy and this feels right," said Pask, who worked costumes and was one of four family members involved in this production. "It's been great for the businesses and great for Michigan."

Paul Isakson, 23, of Canton was involved in his third movie as a production assistant.

"It's kind of the lowest rung on the ladder, long hours (14 a day) but it's fun," said Isakson, who also worked on *Demoted* and *High School*. "I help make

Please see **MOVIE, A6**

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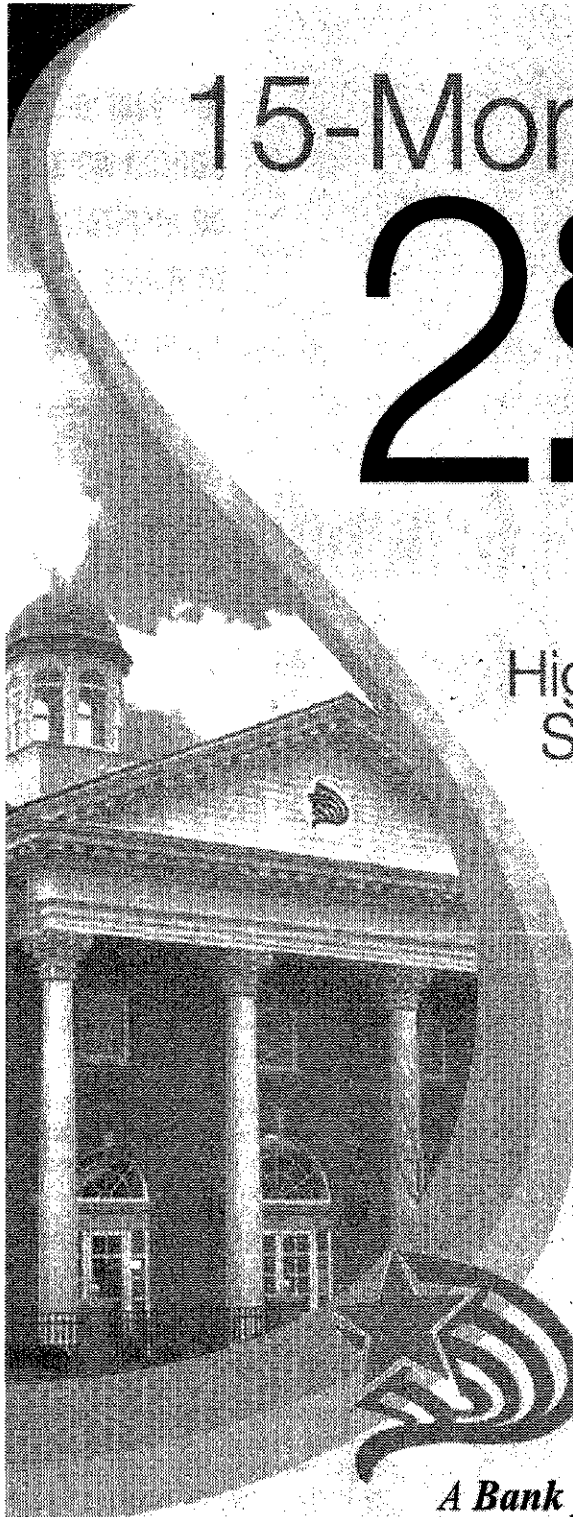
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Former band director takes reins of Alabama college band

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The fact Amy Boerma won't be directing either of her bands the rest of the year at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park didn't keep her from fronting a band again.

Boerma, currently on paid administrative leave pending reassignment, spent Friday and Saturday leading an all-star concert bands at the Jacksonville (Ala.) State High School Honor Band concert this weekend.

Boerma, who until recently had headed up the wind ensemble and varsity bands at P-CEP, is excited for the

Alabama opportunity.

"I've never done anything like this, and I think it's going to be a blast," Boerma said. "These are the top players from all over Alabama and Georgia."

According to Clint Gillespie, assistant director of bands at Jacksonville State, the concert features 476 musicians chosen from some 1,500 applicants from Alabama, Georgia and a couple of schools in Tennessee, all recommended by their band directors and chosen by faculty at the university.

The students were divided into five different bands, spent the day rehearsing Friday and then put on a concert for a huge crowd including between

7,000 and 8,000 parents at the university's Pete Matthews Coliseum.

Boerma was chosen to lead one of the five bands - the "White" concert band - based on the reputation she developed in 14 years leading various bands in the Plymouth-Canton system.

"We knew her through her excellent work with the concert bands," Gillespie said. "She's always received superior ratings with all of her groups, whether they were the younger or the older groups. Word travels quickly in the music world when you're good."

Boerma, who once turned down a chance to direct at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp because of scheduling conflicts, was excited about being able to take on this opportunity.

"I'll be working with the top kids coming in and choosing to spend two days to put together a concert," Boerma said before departing. "It's kids who love to play their horns and want to make music. It'll be a lot of fun."

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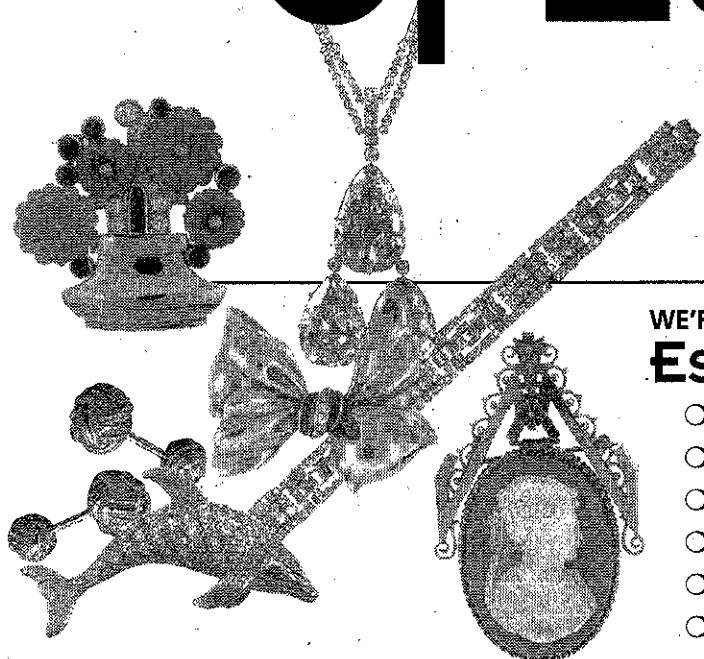
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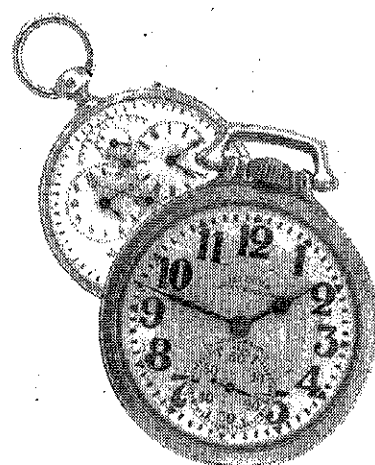
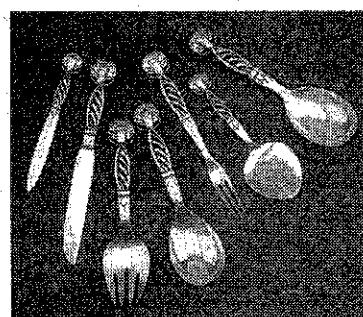


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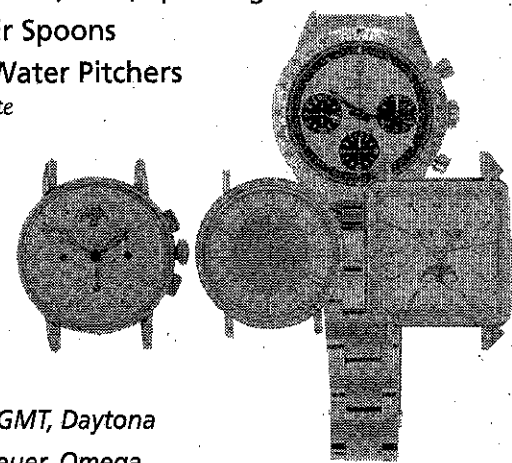
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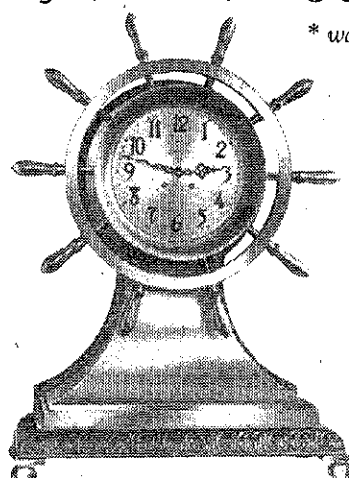
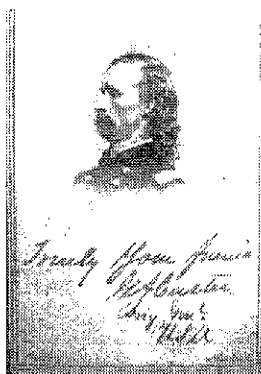


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EDUCATION

High school students find reward working with others

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They're high school kids from two totally different programs who come together during the school week to play Wii, shoot some hoops, toss around a football and even fly kites.

It's an eight-week pilot program that pairs students from Cambridge Alternative High School with high school-aged teens in Garden City's autistic program. The program draws students from the 34 school districts in Wayne County, including the Plymouth-Canton community.

After three weeks of interaction, the program is showing promise of being offered as a class in the 2009-2010 school year.

"It seems like a really good fit to mold the two programs together," said Debbie Eves, assistant director of adult and community education. "We wanted to get students more integrated into the high school, many come from other districts."

The Cambridge students, who have to have better grades and be community minded, teach their Burger counterparts to be good sports and show them coping skills by playing games, taking community walks or trips to the store. In the process, they build up their own self-esteem and improve their competencies.

Brandon Coffey of Westland was one of those students who "wasn't on the right path," but has changed a lot since enrolling at Cambridge. He's "done a 180" and is applying it to the program, he said.

He likes interact with the kids and gravitates to those who want to be by themselves. He's been able to get one boy who isn't always willing to participate to shoot some hoops.

"I love it, I look forward to doing it," said the 18-year-old. "It's something I enjoy doing."

Working with the Burger students isn't anything new for 17-year-old Carlton Smith of Detroit. His mother works with special needs people. He helps the Burger



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Rollinson works with Dylan Nesbett on the stationary bike as part of a program involving students from the Burger Center for Students with Autism and the Cambridge Alternative High School.

students play basketball and catch a football. Gabriel Young II of Detroit adds Wii and UNO to the mix. His favorite activities is a split between basketball and playing Wii Guitar Hero and bowling.

"They're really good at it, they win most of the time and I'm not trying to let them win," he said. "They beat me at it."

According to Burger teacher Eric Selix, the program is something that can be looked at with the restructuring of the autistic program. Older students will be moved to Burger West, with the Burger center on the east side of town housing toddlers through middle schoolers.

"It's something we looked at doing now with a look to the future when the organization is more homogeneous," he said. "It's a cooperative relationship that can extend itself through the years."

The students have done some cooking, had a birthday celebration and done

some community walks to local stores to work on group skills in a retail setting. There also may be a trip to the Wayne Recreation Center pool for a swim day.

"I think that'll be really fun," said James Rollinson of Westland who has helped the Burger students pick out food at the Kroger store on Middlebelt and how to use a crosswalk not "run through the parking lot."

The students are keeping anecdotal logs, jotting down what they see happening. The data will be used to evaluate and enhance the program.

"We want it to be rewarding for the students," said Eves. "We may be able to create a class with credit as along as the data supports it and shows students are getting something out of it."

Taraylen Ford of Dearborn has learned a few things from the interaction.

"It really has taught me take advantage of life and to respect people who are different from me," she said. "At first, I was kind of nervous, it was the first time I was around people with special needs, but I've learned their language now. My student relates more to me because I've learned his language."

Burger teacher Carrie Olson said the two groups of students getting together has brought about change. The Burger students seem to be more willing to break out of their patterns.

"One student recently started being closer to the group," she said. "He's off in a corner and he's still not part of the group, but he is closer to the group. He's becoming more socially aware."

The program lasts 90 minutes and Eves said they're finding the students are getting "a lot of altruistic rewards" because of it.

"They now think 'I'm here because I'm needed,' 'I'm here because someone is counting on me,'" she said. "And it gives them something bigger to count on. I think it's been rewarding for everybody."

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Missouri honors Plymouth nursing student

Faith Phillips of Plymouth was honored by the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing with a \$3,000 grant from the Missouri Hospitals Association and a \$500 Aird-LeMone Scholarship.

The Aird LeMone Scholarship was established by Priscilla Koepling, former director of the nursing undergraduate program at MU. The scholarship is designed to help non-traditional students in the nursing school.

"I am incredibly grateful for these programs and the financial support they provide," Phillips said. "The support removes a great burden from my family as I pursue my goals."

Phillips, a registered nurse, currently works for University of Missouri Health Care as a clinical educator. She plans to receive her master's degree in nursing with an emphasis on nursing education.

Phillips, a 1985 graduate of Livonia Ladywood High School, is the daughter of Jerry and Janice Pinkerton. She is married and has three sons.

Oratorical winners

Chris Wilder of Plymouth, representing the Plymouth Optimist Club, won first place in the boys division of the Suburban SE Michigan Oratorical Contest sponsored by Optimist International and held at the Advanced Technology Academy in Dearborn. Also of note was the second place finish of Lillian Thompson, from Canton, in the girls division. Both Wilder and Thompson attend Our Lady of Good Counsel and were coached by teacher Mary Thompson.

Wilder will now go on to compete for the Michigan District championship in Port Huron on May 16.

Class reunion

The Plymouth High School Class of 1959 get together for their 50th class reunion Aug. 20-23.

The featured event will be a reunion dinner Aug. 22 at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

For more information, e-mail janetmyership@aol.com or call Janet West Myers at (734) 261-0815.

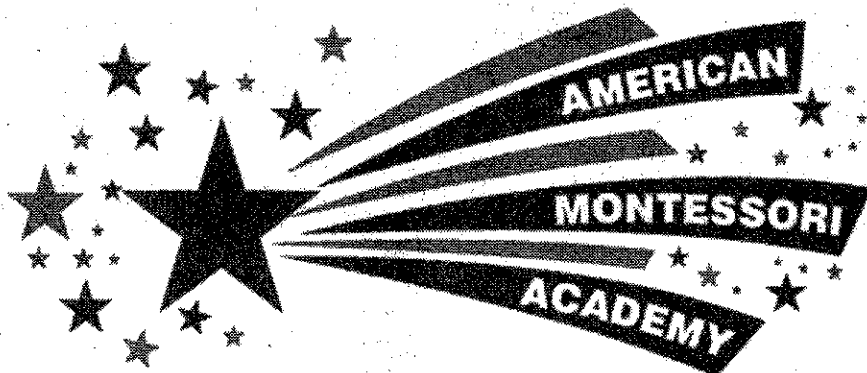
Olivet honor

Heather Michalsen of Plymouth was recognized as one of the top five graduating seniors as Olivet College recognized the best of its student body at the annual Honors Convocation.

The Donald A. Morris Awards are presented each year to the top five graduating seniors with the highest grade point average. Michalsen is a fitness management major.

The Donald A. Morris Award was named after a former president of the college. Morris served Olivet from 1977-92.

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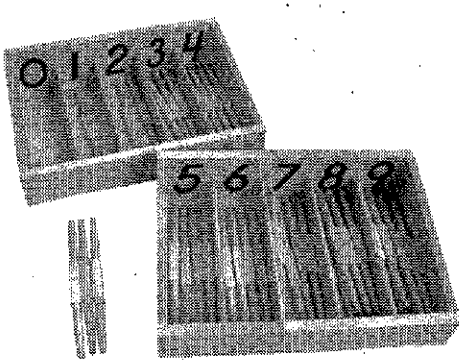
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Historical speaker

The Canton Historical Society will host author Joel Thurtell, formerly of the Detroit Free Press, at its May 13 (7 p.m.) meeting at the Cherry Hill School on Ridge Road in Cherry Hill Village. Thurtell is the author of "Up The Rouge! Paddling Detroit's Hidden River," which chronicles his five day trip paddling up the Rouge River in a canoe. Along the way he discovered human-caused abuses as well as natural beauty.

At the meeting Thurtell will discuss why and how he did it. He will also discuss what he found along the way, and his ideas on how to restore one of Michigan's most polluted waterways.

In addition, there will be a book signing May 23 at the Canton Historical Museum. For more information, visit www.canton-historicalsociety.org.

Christian singer to perform

Plymouth Christian Academy will host its annual Celebration of Excellence on Friday, May 15 at Calvary Baptist Church. Singer/songwriter Cheri Keaggy will be the special guest. Tickets are \$20 each with proceeds benefit the Plymouth Christian Academy Eagle Fund.

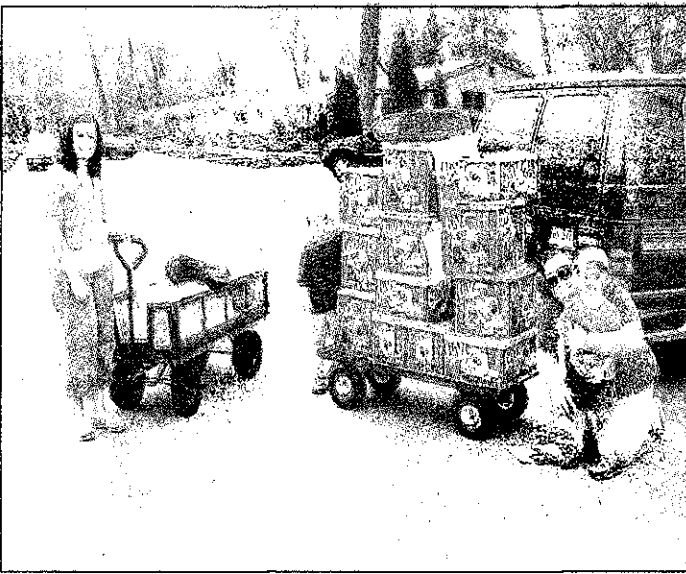
Born and reared in southern California, Keaggy began studying classical piano at age seven. Cheri began a job as a novice worship coordinator for her local church where "You, Oh Lord, Are My Refuge" was born.

Six albums, nine number one songs and a Dove Award later, Cheri Keaggy is recognized as a mainstay in the adult contemporary and inspirational genres. She has written every song on her latest release, "Because He First Loved Us," with the exception of the Carol King classic "You've Got a Friend."

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a strolling hors d'oeuvres buffet and silent auction. Keaggy performance will begin at 7:15 p.m. with a desert and coffee reception immediately following. For more information, e-mail JDart@plymouthchristian.org.

Random acts of fitness

Members of the Canton Leisure Services Fitness Prize Patrol will be hitting



Diaper patrol

Marybeth Levine, of the Canton-based Detroit Area Diaper Bank, and sons David and Nathan hand over 3,000 diapers to Kristen Chateau (left) of Starfish Family Services, a human service agency serving vulnerable families in Canton, Plymouth, Garden City, Westland and several other communities in Western Wayne County. Starfish became the first recipient to receive diapers from the newly-formed Detroit Area Diaper Bank. According to Starfish officials, the average infant uses up to 12 diapers per day, a toddler eight per day. But in low-income households, a baby may be in a single diaper all day or longer, increasing the risk of health problems from skin diseases to hepatitis. "Our goal with launching the Detroit Area Diaper Bank was to partner with nonprofit organizations that work with families in need of diapers and build a network to help meet those needs," said Levine, who founded the diaper bank. For more information on donating diapers please visit www.detroitareadiaperbank.org.

the streets looking to reward random acts of fitness during the weekend of May 23-24. Individuals or families spotted engaged in heart-pumping activities may be rewarded with prizes.

If you're caught walking the dog, riding your bike, taking a jog, or enjoying a stroll with your family or friends in the Canton area, you may get a special prize. Whatever your current fitness level, if they spot you exercising don't be surprised if you receive an unexpected treat.

The program is an effort to help residents achieve and maintain healthy lifestyles.

"It's our hope that this program combines the best parts of both of these healthy lifestyle initiatives, while adding a real element of excitement to it all," said Jennifer Provenzano, Canton Leisure Services recreation specialist.

Also watch for the Canton Leisure Services vans and staff in your neighborhoods and parks on the weekends of July 11-12 and August 22-23 and don't be surprised

if the Fitness Prize Patrol "busts you" for committing healthy acts of fitness and wellness. For more information on how you can be rewarded for your random acts of fitness, please call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.cantonfun.org.

Plymouth football golf outing

The Plymouth Wildcats Football Booster Club will be holding its eight annual Wildcats Football Golf Outing on Saturday, May 30, at Fellows Creek Golf and Banquet Center in Canton. The outing will be a best ball scramble with a shot gun start at 1 p.m. Players are needed as well as hole sponsors and donated items for a silent auction at the end of the outing.

Registration is \$100 per golfer. You can register by calling Bill Ballelli at (734) 416-9603 or Mike Walsh at (734) 453-6796. For more details, or to become a hole sponsor or auction item donor, go to the Wildcats Web site at www.football.plymouthwildcats.com.



A community 'hug'

State Rep. Dian Slavens, pictured here with Steve Henry and Paul W. Henning, was just one of many that attended Van Buren Schools' HUG breakfast and events over the weekend. About 300 community members attended the event, and formed a "hug" around Belleville High School. Approximately 3.5 tons of food was collected through the HUG month-long food drive for local food closets with the help of the Salvation Army. Henry and Henning were the co-chairs of the event.

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10:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13)
11:05, 11:35, 1:35, 2:05, 4:05, 4:35, 6:35,
7:05, 9:05, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

GHOST OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (PG-13)
12:25, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

FIGHTING (PG-13)
9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

17 AGAIN (PG-13)
FRI/SUN-TUE/TH 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00,
9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:50

SAT 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
WED 11:20, 1:55, 4:30

30 MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10

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CITIZENS
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MOVIE

FROM PAGE A1

sure everything goes smoothly. I want to get into post production and editing, so this will be good experience."

As for the *The Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure* — a children's movie which is expected to be released at the

end of the year — Viselman promises "it's quite unlike any movie you've seen before." "There's live action, costumed characters and some animation," said Viselman. "There's a lot of interactivity in this movie, designed to get kids dancing and singing. It will be fun for kids from 2 to 102."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Moms night out

A group of a couple dozen local women got a jump on Mother's Day when they attended the Mom Prom held recently at St. Thomas a'Beckett church in Canton. Here Mary Vargas and Lori Plate, both of Canton, make a grand entrance to the prom, which was held on April 24. The moms who participated got to go out for the night and revisit their high school years, while leaving the kids and husband at home. This was the fourth year the event was held by the Mom's Group. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the First Step domestic violence shelter and St. Vincent de Paul. For more information, visit www.themomprom.org or send e-mail to themomprom@yahoo.com.

TURNAROUND

FROM PAGE A1

"It takes strength of character to make the effort these kids make," said Diane Voigt, who with husband Mark owns Super Bowl in Canton. "It's a message not only to them, but to their peers, that there are positive things that happen to you when you make the right choices."

Students are nominated by teachers and administrators. One student is chosen from each elementary school, two from each middle school, and the rest from the three high schools. Betty Bloch, who has coordinated all 13 ceremonies, said the hectic run-up to the event is well worth it when the students accept their honors.

"Every year I ask myself 'Why keep doing it?' and every year, by the end of the banquet, I know why," Bloch said. "It's the most meaningful event ever, so exciting to see students get recognition who wouldn't otherwise get any. These are students who work the hardest, but don't ever achieve the success other students might achieve." Thompson attributed her desire to change to a quote she read from her favorite actress, Marilyn Monroe, who said, in part, "I believe everything happens for a reason ... things go wrong so you can appreciate when they go right."

The quote, she said, helped



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Turnaround kids gather for a photo. They are: Jamey Eatmon, Nicholas Wibright, Dylam D. N. Peters, Demetrius R. Sanders, Thomas M. McMaster, Zachary A. Behr, Brittney Berkey, Kym Facto, Khadeja Albarkat, Caton Hacker, Cody L. Korpus, Alyson J. Corona, Matthew J. Newby, Enisha D. Dempsey, Dakota J. Bergevin, Chelsea D. Chavez, Megan M. Mills, Stephen R. Rosselle, Danielle J. McNew, Amanda L. Mog, Katherine L. Kenny, Patrisha N. Allred, Samantha R. Thompson, Paul R. Zeuner and Charles R. Chavez.

her put everything in perspective, particularly the choices she was making. She has since told the "friends" she was hanging out with to hit the road, and she's much happier on the road she now travels.

"It's been very eye-opening for me," Thompson said Thursday. "I told the people who were bad influences to go away ... and now I'm actually pretty good."

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Mom, sweet mom

Local teens sound off on how they feel about Mother's Day

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mother's Day is all about mom and the special relationships they've formed with their children.

"What I love about my mom is her smile," said Amy Bhullar, 13, of Canton Township of her mother, Sara. "Whenever I'm feeling blue she's always been there, and that smile is so captivating it lures me into talking to her."

"She's very good at being a mother," added Bhullar. "She believes that children are a reflection of parents, so she's made sure to keep me and my sister in line to make sure we're kids she can be proud of."

Even though she constantly tries to fix his hair, 13-year-old Zach Cohen of Canton loves his mom.

"She's always taking me to

my baseball practices and she's been to almost all my games," said Cohen. "She's always been supportive of my school work and always pushes me to do extra credit."

Matt Haslam, 18, of Plymouth knows he has a good thing in his mom, Cecilia.

"She's very kind and sweet and really takes care of me," Haslam said. "She drives me around everywhere and that's really nice. And she cooks a lot, that's really good."

And despite the hard work, Sue Knight, 37, of Plymouth Township loves being a mom.

"Anyone who is successful has to work hard at it, and it's the same thing being a mom and raising two kids," Knight said. "It's a lot of work, but good work seeing your kids succeed and do well. That's the reward."

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TURNAROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following students were honored at Thursday's Turnaround Achievement Awards:

- Farrand Elementary — Jamey Eatmon
- Fiegel Elementary — Nicholas Wibright
- Gallimore Elementary — Dylan Peters
- Hoben Elementary — Demetrius Sanders
- Hulsing Elementary — Thomas McMaster
- Central Middle School — Zachary Behr; Brittney Berkey
- Discovery Middle School — Kym Facto; Khadeja Albarkat
- East Middle School — Caton Hacker
- Pioneer Middle School — Cody Korpus
- West Middle School — Alyson Corona; Matthew Newby
- Canton High School — Enisha Dempsey; Dakota Bergevin; Chelsea Chavez; Megan Mills; Stephen Rosselle; Danielle McNew
- Plymouth High School — Amanda Mog; Katherine Kenny
- Salem High School — Patrisha Allred; Samantha Thompson
- Starkweather — Paul Zeuner; Charles Chavez

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ENVY

SUNDAY
May 10
2009

Blakita's blast sends Chiefs home happy – B2

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B
(CP)

Ed Wright, editor, (313) 222-2047
ewright@hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN LIFE

Happy Mother's Day – now grab a pencil



Ed Wright

Since this is the second Sunday in May, I thought it would be fun to offer the following quick quiz for all those incredibly dedicated sports moms out there in Observerland.

As most sports families already know, we would probably be just fine with fewer coaches, referees and rules, but we'd be hurtin' for certain without moms.

For every one of the following sce-

narios you answer "yes" to, give yourself 3 points. I'll let you know how well you did once the quiz is over.

Dads, sons and daughters are encouraged to read along, too, (just to make sure mom isn't padding her score).

By the way, I am qualified to oversee this quiz because I've been married to the ultimate sports mom for 22 years.

O.K., grab your No. 2 pencils because we're ready to roll...

1. Have you ever sliced 10 or more oranges for your child's pee-wee soccer team?

2. Have you ever had to grab your pride-filled heart and figuratively pull it back into your chest after your child scored his or her first goal or swished his or her first basket?

3. Have you ever had to remind

your child to take his or her mud-caked cleats off at the door — only to discover the fresh set of muddy footprints leading directly to the refrigerator?

4. Have you ever felt the urge to politely correct the umpire on that called third strike that was definitely out of your child's strike zone?

Please see **COLUMN, B4**

GAME WRAPS

Chief linksters upend Patriots

Canton's boys golf team remained unbeaten Wednesday when it knocked off Livonia Franklin, 164-172, in a match played at Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth.

After being sidelined Monday and Tuesday due to schools being closed because of a probable case of Swine Flu at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Chiefs shook off the rust and prevailed thanks in large part to medalist Andrew Rickerman's four-over 39.

"We were a little rusty, but fortunately we played well enough to win," said Canton coach Tom Alles.

Also scoring for the Chiefs were Zach Conrad (40), Jeremy Lindlbauer (42) and Brendan Muir (43). Travis Hall carded a 48 for the winners.

Franklin was paced by Jordan Chisholm and Jacob Wirgau, both of whom shot 42's. Jimmy Johnson registered a 43 while Jon Holmes turned in a 45.

Canton improved to 5-0 in the KLAA South Division. Franklin slipped to 2-4.

Plymouth boys soccer meeting

All Plymouth High School students interested in playing for the Wildcats' boys soccer team next fall are encouraged to attend a meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the school's media center.

MU softball schedule

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced its schedule for pool play at the 2009 NIAA Softball National Championship slated for May 14-19 in Decatur, Ala.

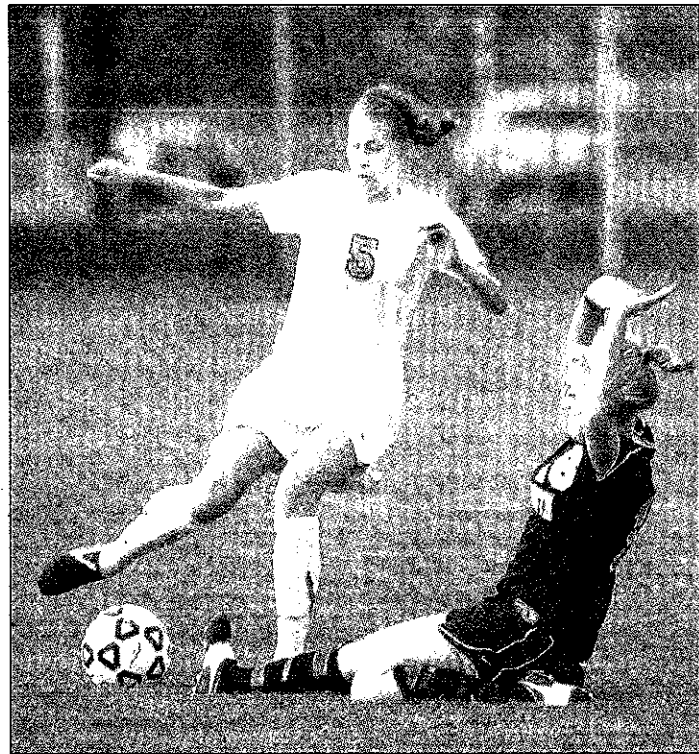
In the 32-team field, No. 13-ranked Madonna University (51-9) is paired with No. 4-ranked Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.) along with Holy Names (Calif.) and McKendree University (Ill.), both of which received votes in the final Coaches' Poll of the season.

MU and Point Loma have already met once this season with the Crusaders taking home a 1-0 win in its season opener Feb. 28 in Arizona.

The Crusaders have a 1-1 mark against teams in their pool as they sit at 0-1 all-time against McKendree. The two teams met in 2002 with McKendree earning the 7-1 win.

The Crusaders, who will play once per day in pool play, open action at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14 against McKendree (30-14) followed by a 6 p.m. Friday, May 15 matchup with Holy Names (24-16). MU wraps up action in Pool D at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16 against Point Loma (44-11).

All games will be played at the Wilson Morgan Softball Complex.



Canton's Lindsey Winters (left) and Plymouth's Jenna Livingston converge the ball at the same time during Thursday night's cross-campus clash at the PCEP soccer field.



Plymouth's Vittoria Miller (12) and Canton's Jessikah McClendon battle for possession of the ball during Thursday night's 1-0 Chief victory.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zeroing in on a title

Canton secures KLAA South lead with 7th shutout

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Looking for a quiet, secluded place to relax?

Try the back of the net the Canton girls soccer team is defending. It's proving to be a place that is rarely disturbed.

On Thursday against cross-campus rival

Plymouth, the Chiefs registered their seventh shutout of the season when they blanked the Wildcats 1-0.

The victory improved Canton's record to 7-1-1 overall and 7-0-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division.

The Chiefs are in the division's driver's seat and

will clinch the South title with victories over Wayne Memorial and John Glenn.

Junior goalie Samantha McPartlin has been the anchor for all seven shutouts, but Canton coach George Tomasso emphasized the team's brilliant defense is the result of a roster-wide effort.

"When you play well

defensively like we've been playing, it's not because one or two players have been playing well — it's because everyone on the team is doing their job," said Tomasso.

"Everyone understands it's a team concept and they're all playing to the best of their ability."

The game's lone goal

came with 32 minutes left in the first half when Canton forward Megan Staub secured a rebound of her own shot that caromed off a Plymouth defender and squeezed the ball past Wildcat goalie Marissa Williams and the goal post.

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Salem senior Sam Ott, pictured during a game last season, set the school's all-time career hits record Thursday with a first-inning double against Wayne in the second game of the Rocks' double-header sweep.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hit machine

Ott breaks record in Rocks' DH sweep

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sam Ott's four-year hit parade at Salem High School has led the sweet-swinging lefty straight into the school's record books.

On Thursday in the second game of a double-header against Wayne Memorial, Ott's first-inning double off Zebra pitcher Jesse Dorow was his 122nd career hit — one more than previous record holder Steve Cox.

The sweet achievement was icing on the cake for the Rocks, who swept the twinbill, 10-1 and 7-6, to improve to 15-6

overall and 10-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

"That's a nice record to have considering all the good players Sam had to pass," said Salem coach Dale Rumberger. "And with two or three weeks left in the season, Sam could end up making the record unreachable for anyone else."

"He's one of those kids that just loves to hit. He works hard at it and he has an open mind when it comes to learning new things. He takes batting practice seriously and he works hard in

Please see **OTT, B2**

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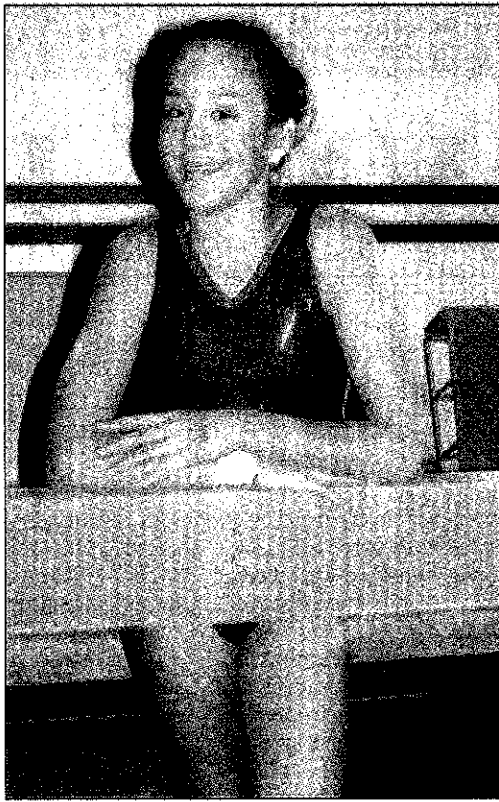
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COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL



Jacquelyn Bryden, a seventh-grader at West Middle School, competed for Gym America.



Olivia Ozeranic, a seventh-grader at East Middle School, also competed for Gym America.

Local gymnasts shine at regional meet

Several local junior gymnasts excelled at the Level 8 Regionals, which were held April 25-26 in Findlay, Ohio.

Athletes from five states were represented at the championship meet. Among the nine gymnasts who competed for Gym America were Jacquelyn Bryden, a seventh-grader at West Middle School, and Olivia Ozeranic, a seventh-grader at East Middle School.

Competing against a field of 63 other gymnasts, Bryden was the all-around champion, registering a score of 38.125. She won the vault (9.775), the beam (9.6) and the floor-exercise (9.55) competitions.

Ozeranic placed ninth on the vault (9.375) and bars (9.2); and placed 19th in the all-around with a score of 36.525.

The duo are coached by Claudia and Ed Kretschmer.

Several athletes from the Canton-based Splitz Gymnastics team also performed well in Findlay:

- Plymouth's Jeani Hatkow, 12, placed fourth on vault (9.55) and 16th in the all-around (36.65) in the Junior C age group;

- Canton's Alyssa Peters, 14, placed second on vault (9.575), ninth on beam (9.425), 11th on floor (9.225) and eighth in the all-

around (36.85) in the Senior C age group;

- Canton's Kelly Valentini, 14, placed ninth on bars (9.15), fourth on beam (9.475), 11th on floor (9.225) and 11th all-around (36.60) in the Senior C age group;

- Canton's Nikki Pilmer, 15, placed fifth on vault (9.45), third on bars (9.20), third on beam (9.525) and second in the all-around (37.25) in the Senior D age group; and

- Canton's Kate Jung, 16, placed 10th on floor with a 9.15 in the Senior E age group.

The girls are coached by Tony Angel and Eileen Spicher.

Wildcat netters wallop Zebras

Plymouth's girls tennis team aced Wayne Memorial, 8-1, Wednesday afternoon in a match played on the PCEP tennis courts.

The victory improved the Wildcats' record to 5-3.

The 'Cats won three of the four singles matches. The Zebras' lone point came when No. 1 player Morgan Greig outlasted Plymouth's Chelsea Craig, 7-6(2) and 6-4.

The Wildcats swept the

remaining singles matches as No. 2 player Jessica Bracey defeated Madelynn Bevil, 6-1, 6-3; No. 3 Sarah Mitchell blanked Xiyan Wang, 6-0, 6-0; and Julia Fratila white-washed Megan McGregor, 6-0, 6-0.

Plymouth lost just one set in the five doubles matches. The duo of Lindsay Stemberger and Radhika Patel set the tone by sweeping Nancy Watson and Kelsi Thomas, 6-1, 6-1, at No. 1. Other winners for Plymouth

were Lauren Jeong and Allison Santori, who defeated Alicia Evans and Melinda Powers, 6-1, 6-2, at No. 2; Claire Marchesano and Mandy Martin, who nipped Robbie Tomlin and Stephanie Tomlin, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, at No. 3; Annie Mackenzie and Gina Debiassi, who upended Lynn Mathew and Cailee Parendo, 6-2, 67-2, at No. 4; and Adriana Berent and Anne West, who routed Ashlee Szabo and Zoie Smallwood, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 5.

BASEBALL

Blakita's blast sends Chiefs home happy, 5-2

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately for Livonia Churchill's baseball team, Canton junior first baseman Cody Blakita failed to master the lost art of bunting during the fifth inning of Wednesday's KLAA South Division showdown.

With his team trailing 2-0, Seth Tschetter on first base and no outs, Blakita was given the bunt sign by Canton head coach Mark Blomshield. After fouling off Tad Evans' first offering and taking the second pitch for strike two, Blakita rocketed the third pitch over the left-field scoreboard to deadlock the game at 2-all.

Four batters later, Dan Stoney singled in Zane Birchler (who had doubled) to give the Chiefs a lead they would never relinquish in their 5-2 victory.

"A lot of coaches probably wouldn't have sacrificed down 2-0 in the fifth, but the guys were kind of playing in slow motion up to that point and I was trying to get something going," said Canton coach Mark Blomshield. "I thought about keeping the bunt on with two strikes, but Cody's been swinging the bat well, so I wiped (the bunt sign) off."

"When he hit that home run, it changed everything. It put us right back in the game. It was a huge hit."

Blakita's heroics made a winner out of junior south-paw Kevin Delapaz, who improved his record to 6-0 with three innings of scoreless relief. Delapaz entered the game with a miniscule earned-run average of 0.80.

"He has great mound presence," said Blomshield, when asked why Delapaz has been so successful. "He never gets rattled, he has good velocity and -- most importantly -- he can throw all of his pitches for strikes."

The Chargers seized a 2-0 lead in the top of the third when Jimmy Szymanski drew a one-out walk and scored two batters later ahead of Tyler Bledsoe's home run to right-center field.

Other than a Szymanski double two innings later, that was the only damage Churchill would inflict on Canton starting pitcher Alex Dixon, who gave way to Delapaz after Szymanski's lead-off two-bagger in the fifth.

"I thought Alex threw very well," said Blomshield. "The home run he gave up was on a pitch I called, and I told him not to worry about it. He was coming



YVETTE DIXON

Canton's Cody Blakita watches his fifth-inning home run take flight during the Chiefs' 5-2 victory over Livonia Churchill.

off a great start against Jackson Lumen Christi on Saturday."

The Chiefs padded their 3-2 lead in the bottom of the sixth when Dixon and Blakita walked and eventually scored on a Charger fielding miscue.

The setback dropped Churchill to 8-9-1 overall and 5-6 in the KLAA. Evans yielded six hits and five walks in 5.2 innings of work.

"He started us out with a lot of first-pitch breaking balls for strikes the first four innings," Blomshield said of Evans. "He kept us off balance. He was hitting the outside corners and we were trying to pull everything."

"Finally, Tschetter went with a pitch in the fifth and singled and then Cody hit the home run."

Blakita was the only Chief with two hits.

Plymouth sweeps South Lyon East

On Friday at South Lyon East, the Wildcats won the first game, 11-0, before routing the Cougars in the nightcap, 17-4.

Brad Lineberry earned the mound win in game one while Luke Merandi won game two.

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McRobb hurls Patriots past Plymouth

Pitcher Mark McRobb kept Livonia Franklin in the KLAA South Division baseball race Wednesday by winning both ends of a double-header against host Plymouth.

The senior right-hander went all seven innings in the opener as the Patriots rolled to an 8-2 triumph. McRobb allowed just five hits, struck out six and walked only one.

Offensively, McRobb and teammate Garrett Gumm both went 3-for-4, including back-to-back homers in the opening inning off Plymouth starter Cliff Buttermore.

Gumm finished with three

RBI, while McRobb, who also tripled, added two.

Ronnie Goble went 2-for-2 for the Wildcats, who committed five errors.

In the second game, Franklin improved in the KLAA South (tied with Canton) with a 5-3 triumph.

Plymouth took a 3-1 lead on Matt Skubik's 2-run homer in the fifth inning, but the Patriots answered with two in the sixth and two more in the top of the seventh.

Franklin tied it at 3-all on Dan Muller's RBI double along with Tyler Barnes coming home on a passed ball.

The Patriots kept the game even with a key defensive play in the bottom of the sixth when right fielder Mike Basner cut down a Plymouth runner tagging on a fly ball going from second to third for a double play as Nate Robinson made the putout.

Franklin won it on Gumm's RBI triple and Josh Weigand's sacrifice fly.

Gumm, the starter, exited in the sixth in favor of McRobb, who earned the victory.

Reliever Brad Lineberry, who came on for starter Mike Nadratowski in the seventh, took the loss for Plymouth (10-9, 4-6).

OTT

FROM PAGE B1

the off-season. He's become an expert at hitting."

Ott, who was hitting .529 through Thursday, and fellow senior Rock Joe Posler both announced this week that they would be attending Eastern Michigan University in the fall as preferred walk-ons to the baseball program.

Salem dominated the first game Thursday behind the 10-strikeout/five-hit performance of senior hurler Dave Hales and the 4-for-4 (including a home run) hitting effort of Posler. Shane Wilson suffered the mound loss for the Zebras, who were buried by the Rocks' 13-hit attack.

Ott belted his first home run and Justin Bashi had two hits and an RBI for the winners, who broke open a 3-1 game with three runs in the fifth and four in the sixth.

Salem needed a seventh-

inning rally to nip the Zebras in the nightcap. Trailing 6-4 in the bottom of the last frame, the Rocks were sparked by a lead-off single by Heath Parling, who scored on Ott's double to reduce the deficit to 6-5. Posler knotted the contest at 6-all with an RBI single. After Bashi reached on a fielder's choice, Hales laced a two-out double to deliver the game-winning run.

Senior Dave Russell earned the victory after working two solid innings in relief of starter Corey Streck.

Parling finished with three hits and three runs scored. Ott (3-for-3, two runs), Posler (2-for-4, RBI) and Hales (2-for-4, RBI) also shone at the plate for Salem.

The Rocks are set to host Northville Tuesday at 4 p.m. in a game that could determine the KLAA Central Division champion. Both teams entered Monday's games with just one conference loss.

SALEM 6-11, STEVENSON 3-2: The Rocks (13-6, 8-1), KLAA Central Division co-leaders, won

both ends of a double-header Wednesday against host Livonia Stevenson (8-10, 6-4) at Ford Field.

Joe Posler pitched a three-hitter in the opener as Salem earned a 6-3 victory. He struck out five.

Dave Loos went 2-for-3 with two RBI to lead Salem's offensive attack. Heath Parling added two hits, scored twice and knocked in a run. Sam Ott and Dave Hales also had RBIs.

J.J. Petterson homered for the Spartans.

In the second game, Salem racked up 14 hits in an 11-2 triumph.

Hitting stars for the Rocks included Drew Grabowski (3-for-4; three RBI); Justin Bashi (3-for-4; two RBI); Ott (2-for-4; two RBI); Parling (2-for-4; two runs); and Hales (2-for-4).

Ott, the winning pitcher, allowed just four hits and struck out 12 in seven innings of work.

Mike Tuttle knocked in a run for the Spartans.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Kristina Klusek (facing camera), pictured during a game earlier this season, played well in the Rocks' scoreless draw with Novi Thursday night.

Defense rules in soccer match between Salem-Novi

Goals were difficult to come by during Thursday night's Kensington Lakes Activities Association showdown between Salem and visiting Novi.

The Rocks and Wildcats battled to a scoreless draw that left Salem with a 4-3-3 overall record and 2-3-2 mark in KLAAs Central Division.

Senior net-minder Tracey Whalen earned the shut-out for the Rocks, who also received stellar efforts from Lauren Booth and Kristina Klusek.

"Tracey made two out-

standing diving saves in the first half, which really inspired the team and gave us a little momentum to build with," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "I thought we played a smart, aggressive game."

"Lauren had another excellent game at center back, organizing the team and stepping up to create early pressure on the Novi forwards. Kristina had an awesome game creating chances and really running the flank up and down the field. She rang a shot off the cross-bar in the second half."

Canton cheer camp

The Canton High School cheerleading team will be hosting a summer camp for kids in grades kindergarten through eighth grade on June 22 from 8:30 a.m. (check-in) to 4 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$50, which includes the clinic, lunch, an afternoon drink/snack and a Canton Cheer sports bag.

There are discounted rates for families with two or more siblings attending.

The registration deadline is June 1.

For more information, call (734) 765-1998 or send an e-mail to carriers@comcast.net.

P-CEP girls hoop camps

The Plymouth-Canton

Educational Park's girls basketball programs will be hosting a pair of hoop camps next month.

The first camp will be hosted by Canton coach Brian Samulski and his coaching staff from June 15-19. The camp, which is for girls in 7th through 9th grades, will run from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day at Pioneer Middle School. The cost is \$75, which includes a ball and T-shirt for each camper. The camp is No. 204 in the Community Education book. For more information, call (734) 416-2937.

The Plymouth, Canton and Salem coaching staffs will hold a camp for girls in 4th through 6th grades June 22-26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Salem High School. The registration fee is

Late Hornets' rally stings 'Cat LAX team

For 58 minutes Thursday night, Plymouth's boys lacrosse team was well on its way to an impressive road victory at Saline.

However, the Hornets stung the Wildcats with a late rally and escaped with a 12-11 victory.

Plymouth built leads of 6-2, 8-5 and 9-7 before Saline deadlocked the game with 3:54 left and one it with a goal two minutes later.

The Wildcats nearly knotted the game with a few seconds left, but Ryan Renault's effort was denied by the Saline net-minder.

"This was as tough as it gets," lamented Plymouth coach Mike Costello. "We fought so hard and played so



Martin

well. We were just a couple of possessions away from finishing them off. There is a fine line between winning and losing in this sport this year.

"Saline was ranked in the top 20 and we had them. I feel like Dennis Green, who was with the (Arizona) Cardinals at the time, when he said, 'We let them off the hook.' We've got to bounce back and get ready for our next games."

Pacing the Wildcats' attack were Connor Martin (one goal, four assists), Pat Smiatacz (two goals, two assists), Danny Norris (two goals, one assist), Renault (two goals), Brad Finch (one goal, one assist), Norm Freda (two goals) and Phil Flesch (one goal, one assist).

"Mike Justus was fantastic in net for us, stopping 10 shots — many of them from point-blank range," concluded Costello.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, May 11
Plymouth at Canton, 4 p.m.
Salem at Novi, 4 p.m.
Lenawee Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12
Northville at Salem, 4 p.m.
Oakland Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13
Wayne Memorial at Canton, 4 p.m.
Plymouth at Churchill, 4 p.m.
South Lyon at Salem, 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
Salem at Canton (DH), 4 p.m.
South Lyon at Plymouth (DH), 4 p.m.
PCA at Parkway, 4:30 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Monday, May 11
Novi at Salem, 4 p.m.
Plymouth at Canton, 4 p.m.
Lenawee Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12
Greenhills at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13
Wayne at Canton, 4 p.m.
South Lyon at Salem, 4 p.m.
Plymouth at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
Salem vs. Canton (DH) at Massey Field, 5:30 p.m.
South Lyon at Plymouth (DH), 3:30 p.m.
PCA at Macomb Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 16
Canton, Salem, Plymouth at Madonna Invitational, TBA
PCA at Trillium Academy (DH), 10 a.m.
Sunday, May 17
Canton, Salem, Plymouth at Madonna Invitational, TBA
BOYS LACROSSE
Tuesday, May 12
Canton at Holt, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 14

Division I Regional, TBA
BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday, May 12
PCA at MIAC Conference Meet, TBA
Wednesday, May 13
KLAAs JV Invitational at PCEP Stadium, TBA
Friday, May 15
Division I Regional at PCEP Stadium, 9 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Monday, May 11
Canton at Plymouth at Fox Hills, 3 p.m.
Salem at Novi at Novi Creek G.C., 3 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13
Wayne Memorial at Canton at Hilltop, 3 p.m.
Plymouth at Churchill, 3 p.m.
South Lyon at Salem at Fox Hills, 3 p.m.
Friday, May 15
Canton at John Glenn at Woodlands G.C., 3 p.m.
Salem at South Lyon East at Links of Novi, 3 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Friday, May 15
Division I Regional, TBA
GIRLS SOCCER
Tuesday, May 12
Wayne Memorial at Canton, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Salem at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Southfield Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.
South Lyon East at Salem, 7 p.m.
PCA at Parkway, 4:30 p.m.

GOLF RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 159
SALEM 164
May 8 at Fox Creek G.C.
Stevenson scorers: Drew Mossion and Tom Cullum, 38 each; Adam Giordano, 41; Joe Attard, 42; Dan Dufour, 44; Christian Debay, 45.
Salem scorers: Adam Powers, 37 (medalist); Arron Thompson and Brandon Duprey, 41 each; Josh Perrin, 45; Tommy Hollins, 46; Klye Zink, 48.
Dual match records: Stevenson, 5-2 overall, 5-2 KLAAs Central Division; Salem, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAAs Central.

SPORTS BRIEFS

\$75, which includes a ball and T-shirt for each camper. The course number is 202. For more information, call (734) 416-2937.

Canton Amateur Hockey Association

A registration session/open house for the Canton Amateur Hockey Association will be held Saturday, May 16, at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena, which is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. in Canton. Players of all skill levels and their parents are invited to attend.

All attendees will receive a free hot dog and pop, and there will be free skating available.

The first 90 kids to register for learn-to-play, mini-mite and mite hockey teams will receive free equipment for the season.

The learn-to-play league is for kids 4 to 9 years old. They will receive top-notch instruction on the fundamentals of skating and puck handling that will enable them to advance in competitive hockey.

The mini-mite cross and full ice hockey league is for kids age 6 and under. They will skate twice a week.

The mite hockey league is for 7- and 8-year-olds. They will skate the full ice twice a week.

For more information, call (734) 487-7777.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF PLYMOUTH CITY COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH LIQUOR MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing shall be held before the City Commission of the City of Plymouth on Monday, June 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Kellogg Park or in the event of inclement weather at the Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan. The Public Hearing will consider the following:

- 1) Application for Added Space (Outdoor Service Area)/Entertainment for E.G. Nicks
- 2) Application for Added Space (Outdoor Service Area) for Liberty Street Brewing.
- 3) Application for a Transfer of a Class C into the City for Nico & Valli to include, Sunday Sales, Entertainment, SDM, Outdoor Service
- 4) Application for a Transfer of Ownership for Tavern 1999
- 5) Application for a Transfer of a Class C into the City for Ironwood to include various permits.

Items will be discussed at the Public Hearing ONLY IF their applications and Local Approval Notice from the State of Michigan have been received by the City of Plymouth in advance of the meeting agenda preparation.

This is a public meeting and any interested person is invited to attend at the place and time stated.

Linda J. Langmesser,
CMC
City Clerk

Publish: May 10, 2009

TRACK & FIELD



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Paula Green, pictured handing the baton to Nicole Traittes in a meet earlier this spring, earned points in the Wildcats victory over Wayne Memorial Wednesday night.

GIRLS TRACK STATS

PLYMOUTH 112
WAYNE MEMORIAL 24
Wednesday at PCEP Stadium
Shot put: 1. Tyler Buchanan (P), 34 feet, 4 inches; 2. Isis Haywood (P), 27-6; 3. Askin (WM), 25-2.
Discus: 1. Tyler Buchanan (P), 100-7 (school record); 2. Isis Haywood (P), 75-4; 3. Askin (WM), 65-8.
Long jump: 1. Rebecca Knox (P), 15-4; 2. Reagan Engstrom (P), 14-5; 3. Long (WM), 13-6.
High jump: 1. Jackson (WM), 4-5; 2. Kristen Sturtz (P), 4-3; 3. Rachel Hille (P), 4-3.
Pole vault: 1. Rebecca Knox (P), 7-2; 2. Reagan Engstrom (P), 6-8.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Plymouth (Molly Slavens, Jamie Roberts, Sophie Roberts, Julie Forster), 12:03.09; 2. 100 hurdles: 1. Mandy McManus (P), 18:01; 2. Jenna Hamed (P), 19:55; 3. Michelle Friedow (P), 22:19.
100 dash: 1. Woods (WM), 13.5; 2. Krystal Whitlow (P), 14.3; 3. Burdell (WM), 14.4.
800 relay: 1. Plymouth (Rachel Hille, Rachel Burnard, Reagan Engstrom, Krystal Whitlow), 1:56.7.
1,600 run: 1. Brianna Hessler (P), 6:12.1; 2. Paula Green (P), 6:24.2; 3. Kelsey Reineri (P), 6:25.
400 relay: 1. Plymouth (Rachel Burnard, Krystal Whitlow, Carey Curvin, Whitney Harmon), 55.8.
400 dash: 1. Woods (WM), 1:04.1; 2. Rebecca Knox (P), 1:05.2; 3. Carissa Buttermore (P), 1:05.3.
300 hurdles: 1. Mandy McManus (P), 52.1; 2. Jenna Hamed (P), 55.1; 3. Michelle Friedow (P), 1:05.7.
800 run: 1. Jordyn Strahm (P), 2:54.4; 2. Brianna Hessler (P), 2:56.5; 3. Kelly Hahn (P), 2:56.8.
200 dash: 1. Woods (WM), 27.9; 2. Rebecca Knox (P), 28.9; 3. Reagan Engstrom (P), 29.8.
3,200 run: 1. Molly Slavens (P), 12:22; 2. Kelsey Reineri (P), 13:56; 3. Kelly Hahn (P), 13:56.
1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth (Carissa Buttermore, Jenna Hamed, Julie Forster, Krystal Whitlow), 4:32.
PLYMOUTH'S RECORD: 2-2.

BOYS TRACK STATS

PLYMOUTH 87.5
WAYNE MEMORIAL 49.5
Wednesday at PCEP Stadium
Shot put: 1. Jordan Birman (P), 40 feet, 10.5 inches; 2. Kyle Brindza (P), 40-8.75; 3. Keith Choma (P), 39-3.75.
Discus: 1. Kyle Brindza (P), 132-5; 2. Keith Choma (P), 124-0; 3. Brett Keys (P), 104-10.
Long jump: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 19-11; 2. Halley (WM), 19-3.75; 3. Long (WM), 18-11.
High jump: 1. Mills (WM), 6-0; 2. Waston (WM), 5-8; 3. Jackson (WM), 5-6.
Pole vault: 1. Grant Senkbeil (P), 11-5; 2. Andy Binn (P), 8-11; 3. Van Conklin (P), 8-11.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Plymouth (Derek Lax, Justin Heck, Ken Lomske, Jimmy Eiben), 9:59.23; 2. Wayne.
110 high hurdles: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 14-9; 2. Brandon Piliagian (P), 16-6; 3. Bally (WM), 18-8.
100 dash: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 11.3; 2. Clayborne (WM), 11-4; 3. (tie) Dante Fox (P) and Owens (WM), 11.8.
800 relay: 1. Plymouth (Vic Hicks, Adabiyi Billy Smith, Dante Fox), 4:42.9; 2. Derek Gielarowski (P), 5:02; 3. Matt Neumann (P), 5:02.1.
400 relay: 1. Wayne, 44.33; 2. Plymouth, 44.33; 3. Bozigan (JG), 52.5; 2. Vic Hicks (P), 52.6; 3. Ken Lomske (P), 54.0.
300 hurdles: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 39.9; 2. Doug Deykes (P), 43.8; 3. Bally (WM), 46.8.
800 run: 1. Warren Buzzard (P), 2:00.3; 2. Matt Neumann (P), 2:05.5; 3. Justin Heck (P), 2:11.3.
200 dash: 1. Clayborne (WM), 23.1; 2. Vic Hicks (P), 23.7; 3. Halley (WM), 23.7.
3,200 run: 1. Joe Porcari (P), 10:40; 2. Derek Gielarowski (P), 10:59; 3. Derek Lax (P), 11:07.
1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth (Warren Buzzard, Jalen Woolridge, Dante Fox, Ken Lomske), 3:33.
PLYMOUTH'S DUAL-MEET RECORD: 4-0.

CANTON 87
WAYNE MEMORIAL 51
Wednesday at PCEP Stadium
Shot put: 1. Alex Marsh (C), 38 feet, 9.5 inches; 2. Jason Foster (C), 36-11; 3. James (WM), 34-10.75.
Discus: 1. Jason Foster (C), 130-2; 2. James (WM), 94-9; 3. Marty Brudzinski (C), 91-3.
Long jump: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 19-11; 2. Halley (WM), 19-3.25; 3. Adam Payne (C), 19-2.5.
High jump: 1. Mills (WM), 6-0; 2. Ben Spreitzer (C), 5-8; 3. Keith Zech (C), 5-8.
Pole vault: 1. Eddie Koelzer (C), 11-11; 2. Nick Alaniva (C), 11-1; 3. Adam Payne (C), 9-11.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Canton (Paul Rakovitis, Zack Spreitzer, Greg Reed, Matt Gran), 8:52.9.
110 hurdles: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 14.9; 2. Hayatt Ali (C), 17.8; 3. Ben Spreitzer (C), 18.1.
100 dash: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 11.3; 2. Clayborn (WM), 11.4; 3. Hines (WM), 11.8.
800 relay: 1. Canton (Ryan Randall, August Garrett, Jordan Wisniewski, Sherif Hassanien), 1:35.1.
1,600 run: 1. Bradon Conley (C), 5:00.1; 2. Kyle Clinton (C), 5:04.3; 3. Jon Peck (C), 5:04.9.
400 relay: 1. Wayne, 44.4; 2. Canton, 47.1.
400 dash: 1. Jordan Wisniewski (C), 53.4; 2. Tyler Winingham (C), 55.4; 3. Culey (WM), 55.5.
300 hurdles: 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 39.9; 2. Hayatt Ali (C), 42.4; 3. Winston Roberts (C), 44.4.
800 run: 1. Josh Hurst (C), 2:09.3; 2. Paul Rakovitis (C), 2:11.4; 3. Keith Zech (C), 2:11.7.
200 dash: 1. Clayborn (WM), 23.1; 2. Halley (WM), 23.7; 3. Josh Nolan (C), 24.3.
3,200 run: 1. Greg Reed (C), 11:07.8; 2. Kurt Kowalski (C), 11:15.4; 3. Jon Peck (C), 11:22.6.
1,600 relay: 1. Canton August Garrett, Hayatt Ali, Ryan Randall, Jordan Wisniewski, 3:35; 2. Wayne, 3:55.

The Canton Public Library Board of Trustees is searching for a new member to fill a vacancy. If you are a Canton resident, over 18 years of age and would like to be considered for a Board seat, please send a resume and letter of interest by Tuesday, May 26, 2009 addressed to:

Colleen VanAuken, Vice Chair
1200 S. Canton Center Road,
Canton, MI 48188

Publish: May 10, 2009

CE0605754_202

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting May 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750
X217

Publish: May 10, 2009

CE06041296_243

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT. 734-354-3232 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 5/15/09, at 10:00 a.m., Mayflower auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

1986 Buick	Park Avenue	1G4CW69B2G1502804
1993 Ford	Escort	1FAPP1288PW349892
1995 Ford	F-150	1FTBF15N6SLB05746
1989 Honda	Accord	14GCA5624KA12408

Dated: 5/5/2009

Publish: May 10, 2009

CE0605730_242

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings scheduled for January 20, February 17, March 10 & 24, April 21, May 12 & 26 and June 9 & 23 are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtnwp.org.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Joe Bridgman, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: January 22, February 15, March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7, 2009

CE06040849_242.5

Patriots edge Wildcats in key KLAA South double-dip

Livonia Franklin used a combination of solid defense, good pitching and timely hitting to remain atop of the KLAA South Division girls softball standings on Wednesday.

The Patriots traveled to Plymouth came away with a double-header sweep, 1-0 and 6-1, to improve to 16-3 overall and 9-0 in the division.

Senior pitcher Natalie Sanborn improved to 12-1 on the year as she scattered three hits, fanned five and did not allow a walk in seven innings.

The Patriots also turned a key 4-6-3 double play in the sixth inning.

Franklin, the home team in the first game, tallied its lone run in the first on a single by

Brittany Taylor and Sanborn followed by Brianna Taylor's sacrifice fly.

Losing pitcher Lauren Smith gave up just three hits, fanned five and did not allow a walk.

Erin Rodas singled twice for the Wildcats.

In the nightcap, Franklin collected 10 hits led by Jessica Emery (3-for-4, triple, two RBI); Brianna Taylor (2-for-4, double, homer, two RBI); and Sanborn (2-for-4).

Brianna Taylor clubbed a 2-run homer in the third inning and Emery's 2-run triple in the seventh put the game away.

Smith took the loss for the Wildcats, who slipped to 11-3 overall and 7-3 in the KLAA South.

Rocks, Spartans split

On Wednesday at Stevenson, the Spartans won the opening game of a double-header, 1-0, before the Rocks bounced back to claim the nightcap, 11-1. The first-game loss snapped the nine-game winning streak of Salem, which was 17-6 overall and 8-3 in the KLAA following Thursday's sweep of Wayne Memorial.

Briana Lee suffered a hard-luck loss in game one against Stevenson as she yielded just one hit and one walk while striking out eight. The Spartans' lone run was unearned.

Heidi Schmidt, Alexis Powell and Lizzy Mazorowicz accounted for Salem's only hits.

The Rocks exploded in game two, which ended in the sixth on Lee's home run. The sophomore also pitched well, giving up just six hits while racking up six strikeouts. Pacing the winners' hitting attack were Schmidt (two singles), Mary Cox (three-run triple and a single) Christina Parsons

(RBI double) and Powell (RBI double).

Rocks sweep Zebras

On Thursday at Salem, the Rocks swept Wayne Memorial 11-0 (six innings) and 15-3.

Lee tossed a no-hitter in the first game, striking out 11 while yielding just one walk.

Offensively, Mazorowicz (3-for-3, two doubles, two RBI), Schmidt (two hits) and Mary Johnson (two hits) led the way.

Lee capped a spectacular two-way performance when she belted a game-ending grand slam.

Schmidt earned the mound win in the nightcap, yielding just four hits and one walk while striking out nine. The sophomore also sparked at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a triple and four RBI. Kelli Janiczek, Mazorowicz and Lee all contributed two hits while Parsons chipped in with a two-run double.

"Wayne has really picked it up a notch," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "The new coach is going a great job. They have some good hitters."

COLUMN

FROM PAGE B1

5. Have you ever exceeded the speed limit by, oh, maybe 8 to 10 miles per hour, while driving your child to a practice that started two minutes ago? (If you were pulled over as a result of your speeding but talked your way out of a ticket, give yourself 3 bonus points.)

6. Have you ever been alarm-clocked out of a deep sleep at 6 a.m. on a Saturday because your child had an 8 a.m. game and the coach wanted him or her there an hour early? (If you never hit the snooze button, give yourself 3 bonus points.)

7. Have you ever missed an episode of "Desperate Housewives," "Dancing With the Stars" or "American Idol" to attend one of your child's sporting events?

8. While watching one of your child's games, have you ever thought to yourself: "There's nowhere else I'd rather be right now..."

9. Have you ever sat through a drenching rain storm so that you wouldn't miss a minute of your child's soccer or football game? (Give yourself 1 bonus point for every time you did this without an umbrella.)

10. Have you ever been part of a human tunnel that was used during a pee-wee soccer team's post-game celebration? (If you provided the halftime orange slices for that game, give yourself 2 bonus points.)

11. Have you ever served as an emergency coach or helper at one of your child's practices — and heard one of your child's teammates say to your son or daughter, "Wow, your mom's pretty good"?

12. Have you ever wondered how incomplete your child's life would be without sports?

13. Have you ever felt your eyes well up with tears as your son or daughter walked off a high school field or court following their final high school game?

O.K., drop your pencils and add up your points.

Truthfully, it really doesn't matter how many points you got — if you read this far, you get an "A-plus" in my book. Heck, I'll give you a "B" just for picking up the Sports section.

While I can't distribute gold stars, I can offer this: *Happy Mother's Day!* Youth sports wouldn't be the same without you.

Ed Wright is the Sports Editor for the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at (734) 578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below. **MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Roderick L. Dallas and Lashawn Dallas, Husband and Wife to Beneficial Michigan Inc., Mortgagee, dated June 4, 2003 and recorded June 13, 2003 in Liber 38498 Page 443 Wayne County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Two Cents (\$151,299.02) including interest 8.720% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Wayne County at 1:00PM on May 28, 2009. Said premises are situated in City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 621, of Canterbury Gardens Subdivision No. 1, as recorded in Liber 37, Page 66 of Plats, Wayne County Records. Subject to the existing easements for public utilities, driveways, building and use restrictions, and zoning ordinances of record. Commonly known as 18411 Prairie St., Detroit MI 48221. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: APRIL 21, 2009 Beneficial Michigan Inc. Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-08703 ASAP# 3072874 04/26/2009, 05/03/2009, 05/10/2009, 05/17/2009

Publish: April 26, and May 3, 10, 17, 2009

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Stinar-Akins

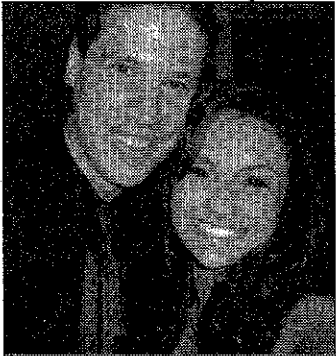
STINAR-AKINS

Priscilla Akins of Northville and Parker Stinar of Canton announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Steve and Mary Atkins of Northville, is a 2001 graduate of Northville High School and earned a bachelor of science degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Her fiancé, son of Kyle Stinar-Eckert of Canton, graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 2003 and earned a bachelor of administration degree from Eastern Michigan University. He attends the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

A June 2009 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Andary-Anton

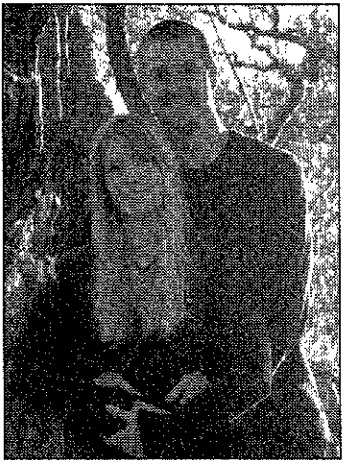
ANDARY-ANTON

Lyndsey Andary of Dearborn and Michael Anton of Livonia, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Louis D. Andary, Jr. MD, of Dearborn, is a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University and works as a Web designer and events assistant at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Office of Development.

Her fiancé, son of Donna Ogilbee and Jack Anton, both of Livonia, is a doctoral student at Argosy University.

A May 2010 wedding is planned at The Inn at St. Johns, Plymouth.



Johnston-Barrick

JOHNSTON-BARRICK

Shannon Lenore (Hilton) Johnston and Brent David Barrick, both of Canton, announce their engagement.

Shannon, the daughter of Ken and Cyndi Operhall of Livonia, is a graduate of Stevenson High School and attends Schoolcraft College. She works in Accounts Payable at Lautrec Ltd., Farmington Hills.

Brent, the son of David and Terry Barrick of Canton, is a graduate of Catholic Central High School. He graduated from Schoolcraft College in 2003 and attended Eastern Michigan University. Brent is a reptile breeder in Canton.

The couple plans a June 2009 wedding and honeymoon in St. Lucia.

Will it be easy to get ripped off?

Many years ago when I first started writing this column I used to tell you stories about homeowners being ripped off by different service industries and how involved I was in getting restitution for these consumers.

Yes, most of these were appliance cases, but there were other fields as well and basically I went to wherever Esther Shapiro, the past director of Detroit Consumer Affairs, asked me to go. Many times I acted as an expert witness for homeowners who filed a claim with their local district court and I was always armed with a copy

Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

of the Michigan Consumers Protection Act. This was the tool that people could afford to use in small claims cases when trying to right a wrong without the expense of hiring an attorney. I can tell you that in all of the many cases, when I was helping a consumer who had been ripped off by an appliance repair company, that customer got their money back plus some. This is not the way it's going to work from now on. The Consumer Protection Act isn't worth the paper it's written on.

Frank Kelley, the long standing attorney general in Michigan was in office when the Consumer Protection Act became law in 1976. He says he's sick over what has happened to this Michigan law which was praised as the best there was in the whole country. I am tired of legislators who profess their desires to help others and give back to their country, but are pulling the wool over everybody's eyes.

Today we have an attorney general who loves to see his name in lights and doing seminars on worthy projects which might just propel him to be the governor someday. Where has he been? Why hasn't he helped the very consumers who voted him into office? Isn't his job designed to protect the people?

EXEMPTED BUSINESSES

Every year I receive the complaints list of businesses that are most often listed in communications with the attorney general's office. For the past 10 years, the list has usually been the same. Now here is what is totally bewildering: The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled that businesses regulated by other laws are no longer subject to the Michigan Consumer Protection Act. Some of the exempted businesses are: Banks, mortgage brokers, debt collectors, finance companies, home builders, home improvement contractors, new and

used car dealers, auto repair shops, funeral homes, plumbers and electricians. Now here is something that is absolutely strange! Some of these industries I've just mentioned are the worst of the worst. How can they be exempted?

Does all this mean that we consumers have to depend on the agencies in Lansing that regulate these different industries? As far as I'm concerned, they've done very little these past 25 years. Michigan now ranks as one of the two most unprotected States in the country when it comes to consumer protection laws.

No longer will the Michigan homeowner be able to stand in front of a magistrate and hold up a copy of the Consumer Protection Act and profess to a court of law that what a certain company did to them is against the law. You will have to hire a lawyer to do what you could at one time do yourself. Maybe it's time Frank Kelley took up residence in his old office. The first question I would ask Mr. Kelley is, "Frank, how many of our current state legislators are attorneys?"

Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

HEISE-BOHM

Andrew and Lisa Heise of Northville, formerly residents of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Heise, to Kyle Bohm, son of Dennis and Donna Bohm of Stevens Point, Wis.

Lauren is a 2002 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2005 graduate from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with a bachelor of science degree in biopsychology and cognitive science. She is currently a fourth-year medical student at the University of Michigan and plans to pursue a residency in otolaryngology.

Kyle, a 2001 graduate of Stevens Point Area Senior High and a 2005 graduate of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with a bachelor degree in kinesiology, is also a fourth-year medical student at the University of Michigan and plans to pursue a residency in orthopedic surgery. As an undergraduate, Kyle was the co-captain of the men's varsity baseball team and *ESPN The Magazine's* Academic All-American.

A September 2009 wedding is planned.



Heise-Bohm

POSTERS HAPPENING AT THE ZOO

Fifty-four poster designs submitted by students from the College for Creative Studies (CCS) for the 2009 Detroit Zoo Poster Competition will be exhibited at the Zoo's Ford Education Center May 17 through Sept. 7, 2009. The exhibition is open during zoo hours and is free with zoo admission.

The artwork judged Best in Show, submitted by Crystal Mielcarek of Harrison Township, has been reproduced as the official Detroit Zoo poster and is available for sale at Zoofari Market for \$3. In addition, Mielcarek's original artwork has become part of the zoo's permanent art collection.

The poster designs submitted for the competition were judged by a panel of jurors from

the Detroit Zoological Society, CCS and Doner. Award selection criteria included artistic merit, originality, creativity, innovation, and adherence and relevance to the competition theme.

The winning poster designs were unveiled at an awards ceremony at the zoo on April 9. Scholarship contributions were awarded to the best-in-show as well as first- and second-place winners. Third- through fifth-place winners received individual Detroit Zoo memberships, and four honorable mentions received Zoo admission, parking, concession and ride tickets.

CCS is a private, fully accredited college enrolling over 1,300 students pursuing bachelor of fine arts degrees in art and design. For information, visit www.collegeforcreativestudies.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Ikebana floral art
Ikebana International Detroit Chapter hosts its annual fund-raiser featuring an Ikebana floral art demonstration by Professor Toshiko Shimoura, an exhibit of Ikebana flower arrangements by chapter members, a Japanese vocalist and pianist, and tea, 1 p.m. May 13 at Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile, between Lahser and Evergreen in Southfield. \$8 donation at the door.

The Rock Shoppe
The store, at 6275 Godfredson, in Plymouth, will hold two free installation classes, Saturday, May 16. The first starts at 10 a.m. and will show participants how to install a brick paver patio step by step. Free design help will be available. The second, at noon, will focus on step-by-step installation of retaining walls and pillars. A free lunch will be served between the two classes. Register by phone at (734) 455-5560 or e-mail to rcustomerservice@gmail.com

Tomato Fest
Nancy Szerlag, "Detroit News" garden columnist and avid tomato enthusiast, will share her secrets to grow perfect, organic and prolific heirloom tomato plants and more, at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. The class is free. Reservations at (248) 332-6430.

Orchid Society
Carolyn Butcher will give a slide show presentation on "Growing

Orchids For Novices" 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at the Michigan Orchid Society meeting. Butcher is a past president of the Michigan Orchid Society and has been an active member for more than 25 years. Bill Porter of Porter Orchids will show his orchids. The group meets at the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits Street, Birmingham. Admission is free. For more information call (586) 416-1496.

Plant Identification
Take a trail hike with the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, in Westland, and learn to identify native plants and trees. Wear proper shoes. Hike starts at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail.

\$3 for non-members. Parking on Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail. (734) 326-0578 or www.sembutterfly.com.

Artist reception
Meet painter Leslie Masters and see her nature-inspired works at a reception, 6-9 p.m., May 22, at Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. Masters is known both as a color painter and a teacher of painting and color theory. She has taught at colleges and art schools including Center for Creative Studies, University of Michigan, Mercy College in Detroit, and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. She has been on the faculty of the BBAC since 1969 and served as the assistant director there for 11 years. Her current paintings explore abstract color glow from the landscape around her Ann Arbor studio as well as the mountains and canyons of Europe and the American West. Light refreshments will be served. (248) 332-6430.

Geocaching fun awaits at Metroparks

Explore the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and discover history along the way with the "Metroparks Geocaching Adventure '09" game. Now in its sixth year of operation, this high-tech treasure-hunting game lures people armed with GPS units to find caches hidden in 11 Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Those who find all 11 caches and enter a keyword or phrase from each cache into a crossword puzzle can compete for prizes to be awarded later this year.

Eleven volunteers put the game together this year by hiding a cache, or a box with trinkets or treasures inside, in their assigned park. "The Metroparks was one of the first park systems in Michigan to encourage geocaching, and we wanted to help out," said Greg Crump, of Harrison Township, this year's game coordinator. "We've received many good comments from other geocachers on how much they enjoy the Metroparks game, and that we are carrying on the tradition. This is truly from the heart; everyone really

looks forward to doing the Metroparks game." Volunteers have hidden caches at Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Indian Springs, Kensington, Lake Erie, Lower Huron, Metro Beach, Oakwoods, Stony Creek, Willow and Wolcott Mill Metroparks.

To get started, find the game location coordinates of the MGA09 caches listed on www.geocaching.com. A game brochure, with the crossword puzzle, can be downloaded from this site or the Metroparks Web site, www.metroparks.com. An annual picnic/geocaching event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Indian Springs Metropark.

Geocaching, or treasure hunting with a GPS unit, is an international sport. A cache is a hidden box that typically contains a visitor's log plus trinkets, such as toys, knick-knacks or refrigerator magnets. Thousands of caches are hidden worldwide. Players are honor-bound to leave a treasure if they take a treasure from a cache. Once the cache is found, cachers can sign the

log, and post their find on the geocaching Web site.

"Our geocache game volunteers take great pride in providing this game for everyone to enjoy," said Tim Phillips, HCMA park planner. "This type of volunteerism helps bring extra value to our parks."

Located along the Huron and Clinton rivers, the Metroparks provide a natural oasis from urban and suburban life as well as year-round recreational activities and events. A regional park system, the Metroparks consist of 13 beautiful parks covering 24,000 acres, 10 public golf courses and two marinas on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, respectively. The parks also offer scenic nature trails, beaches, educational activities and exciting winter sports. A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark and is only \$20 annually for regular admission, \$12 annually for seniors, or \$4 daily. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling (800) 47-PARKS.

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 586-826-7318

email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

ARTHUR G. BEASLEY
Age 85, May 6, 2009. Beloved husband of Keiko. Loving father of Douglas and Linda Beasley and Peggy (Bill) Clink. Dear grandfather of Rachel, Jessie, Brian and Kumara. Arthur was a former officer of N.B.D. Bank and was a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corp. where he served as a pilot during WWII and the Korean War. Arthur will be dearly missed. No Service. Interment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com.

ROBERT WILLIAM COOPER
Formerly of Wingcroft Court, died on Wednesday, May 6 at the age of 94. He and his wife of 67 years, Helen Douglass Cooper, lived on Wing Lake for over thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Helen; his four children Robert, Douglas, Kent and Betsy (Montejo), as well as their spouses; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson. Mr. Cooper's body has been donated to the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Following cremation, the ashes will be buried at Acacia Park Cemetery. A memorial service was held May 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel at Henry Ford Village, Dearborn, Michigan. Donations in memoriam may be made to Hospice of Michigan or Lions Club International.

CAROLYN HERN
Feb. 20, 1943 - May 5, 2009. Mother of Jacqueline and Jon. Grandmother of Steven. Sister of Jeff, Sueann, and George. Service will take place in Hartland. Once known, never forgotten.

GLORIA "KAY" DOBEK
Of Westland. Passed away at the age of 74. Beloved wife of Joseph Dobek Jr and devoted mother of Debbie Bridges, Joseph Dobek I (Kathy), Susan McKenna, and Mary Dobek. Loving grandmother of Elizabeth, Rich, Joseph II, Kelly, Laura and Halle. Cherished great-grandmother of Christopher, Katie, Bria, Ana, Joseph III and Matthew. Send your condolences or memories to the family at www.neely-turowski.com

CAROLYN E. DRESCHER
Age 82. Of Orchard Lake, formerly of Birmingham. May 6, 2009. Beloved wife of 57 years to William M. Loving mother of Rebecca (Jerome) Meldrum and Kristin (Christopher) Mumford. Cherished grandmother of Megan Elizabeth and Sarah Lynn Meldrum, Benjamin Miles, Alexander Hall, and Raleigh William Mumford. Preceded in death by a brother, Clarence Thorson. Carolyn was a founding and active member of West Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Service was Saturday, 11:30 a.m. at West Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Arrangements entrusted to Prikley Funeral Home - Godhardt - Tomlinson Chapel, Keego Harbor. Memorials to the church are appreciated.

LUTHER D. BIRD
May 2, 2009. Age 86 of Livonia. U.S. Army Air Force-World War II. Born in Charleston, WV on October 28, 1922. Beloved husband of the late Ina Joyce. Loving father of Samuel, Sunday (James) Dupuis, David, and Luther Jr. (Barbara). Beloved brother of Kathleen Ketz and Dr. Samuel Bird of Beckley, WV. Also survived by grandsons Brendon Frazier and Steve Bird, great-grandchildren Matthew and Madison Frazier. Luther retired from the Livonia Public Schools as a teacher and counselor. He will be dearly missed. Private services were held. Condolences may be sent to the family via email birdmemories@yahoo.com

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NEIGHBORS

Mothers provide strong role models for their children

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mothers teach children valuable life lessons. The *Observer & Eccentric* communities are filled with women who work hard to support their families while silently demonstrating a compassion for all human beings.

Juliann Tuthill of Canton let us know about Gladys Gotts, who turned 104 on May 4. A few may remember the family's farm on Ridge, between Ford and Cherry Hill, where the Gottses grew sweet corn and melons and raised milk cows. Her daughter Dorothy Richards especially admires the strength her mother showed when Richards' father Percy died at age 53 and Gladys had to sell the 80 acres of land in the 1960s. The couple raised three daughters in the Plymouth/Canton area.

"I was 20-something when dad died, but had a younger sister still at home," said Richards, 76, of Canton. "My mother went to work at Julian on the corner of Canton Center and Ford as a clerk. It was a gas station and sold groceries like a party store. She waited on customers and dished up ice cream. She wasn't a person to complain and always had a smile on her face."

A friend eventually got Gladys a job at the Ford plant in Ypsilanti.

"She worked in the office until she retired as a secretary," Richards said. "She persevered. She's a durable strong woman, but gentle. She's very healthy except for breaking her hip at 100. She asks for no help at all at the assisted living home. She doesn't complain."

Theresa Zakrzewski still marches in the Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit at age



80. The rest of the year, the Livonia woman volunteers at The Parade Co. and Angela Hospice in Livonia. She's had two knees and a hip replaced in the last four years, but keeps going like the Energizer Bunny. To stay healthy, Theresa does water aerobics and lifts weights in addition to walking two to four miles a day. In the summer, she golfs at the family cottage in Caseville.

"She's an active and free spirit," said Susan Zakrzewski, one of five children that Theresa and her husband Thomas raised during their 58-year marriage. "She keeps up on current events and family. She taught

us how important family is, to be objective and be independent, to always follow our dream and you're never too old to learn something new. I always tell people my parents were very political and charitable. She would shop at Stan's Market on Schoolcraft and would demand to see the box to make sure it's union lettuce. She really practiced her beliefs. You have to commit at all levels when something is important to you. She's very special and we love her dearly. We'll be planting flowers for her on Mother's Day."

TRANSCENDING DIFFERENCES

The Rev. Paul Perez learned

about cultural differences from not only his mother Jody, but father Ray. The 26-year-old man is director of program development at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. Jody and Ray live in Livonia and raised three children.

"My mom is German, Irish and Dutch. Dad is Mexican heritage. Their marriage showed me love can transcend difference and that it takes more than tolerance, but trust, commitment," said Perez, of Rochester Hills.

Paul was named after his mom's favorite uncle, who died in a house fire when she was young.

"She was the youngest of

the grandkids and her Uncle Paul was kind and paid attention to her," Perez said. "She taught me it's about remembering people. Reaching out in kindness was important to her and our family. His death made an impact on her, how fragile life is. My mom has tried to make the most of each moment."

"She's an X-ray tech for an orthopedist who treats deformities. She got to know the children. It's always very painful for them to get in positions for X-rays. Even though their bodies were in bad shape, she felt they were alive and deserved respect."

Becoming a father made Brian Spuck appreciate his mother Alice even more. Alice and Earl Spuck married in 1971 and raised two sons in Canton.

"You don't reflect upon the sacrifices they made to help you achieve your goals or dreams," said Brian Spuck, of Rochester Hills. "It's positive reinforcement that you can do it. They have confidence in us. That goes for my dad, too."

TRAVELING TOGETHER

Brian Spuck's memories of family trips remain today, including ones to compete with his Livonia soccer team.

"We took family trips to northern Ontario to my mom's family cottage, where we learned to appreciate the outdoors and nature," Spuck said. "We would take soccer trips. My soccer team would travel to Colorado, Florida, out east to Virginia and New York. It was a financial and time commitment from the time I was 5 through high school. I remember them being coaches when I was younger and just being there, my mom teaching my younger brother Doug's soccer team."

"They gave us the confi-

dence to know the difference between what's right and wrong, taught us to treat people the correct way, and to do the right thing. When you become a parent, you appreciate how much your parents have done for you and continue to do for you and the sacrifices they make. My dad would drive me from Canton to Utica for soccer practice in rush hour three days a week. They put our development first. What we learned from them we apply to the next generation."

Brian's wife Angie couldn't agree more. Her parents, Laurie and Jack Downs of Garden City, raised three children. Brian and Angie have three children as well — Katrina, 5, Matthew, 3, and Sophia, 20 months.

"My mom is the strongest person I know," Angie Spuck said. "She's the oldest girl of six siblings and helped raised her siblings after her youngest sister had a closed head injury at 10. My mom was 17. She stepped up and took care of the others. The family fell apart when her sister died at age 31. She's the rock in our family. She taught me how to be a mom, to think for yourself, don't follow the crowd. She taught me how to be compassionate, how to put other people before yourself. When my kids get crazy, she helps ground me. We'll all be together this weekend for Mother's Day. We're going to have a fiesta because my mom's family is Mexican."

It's obvious Angie loves being a mom.

"Seeing their little faces, watching them grow, seeing things you teach them, it's the coolest thing ever," Angie said. "You can't describe the feeling."

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SPRING FLING

Livonia Neighbors & Friends hold its Spring Fling Tea meeting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Seven Mile, west of Gill, Livonia. New members are always welcome. For more information, visit www.geocities.com/livonianighborsandfriends/ or call Dorrie at (248) 777-3848.

The club was originally started as part of the Livonia Welcome Wagon and in 1975 separated from it and became Newcomers Club of Livonia. The club later changed its name to Livonia Newcomer's and most recently to Livonia Neighbors and Friends. The nonprofit women's club strives to establish and maintain friendships, mutual help, social relationships, and to take an active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community.

HOMELESSNESS

The plight of the homeless in Detroit will be featured at the Citizens for Peace monthly meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at Unity of Livonia on the north side of Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. The meeting is open to the public.

Fox 2 television's investigative reporter, Amy Lange, discusses homelessness here and elsewhere, shows videos and answers questions from attendees. Lange has been nominated for numerous Emmy awards and won an Edward R. Murrow award for a story on homeless veterans.

No admission fee, although the group will accept a \$5 dollar love offering. For more information, contact Colleen Mills, Citizens for Peace president, at cmills0079@yahoo.com or (734) 425-0079.

USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Livonia Library hold a book sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 15-16, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road, Livonia. Hardcover are \$1, paperbacks 50 cents, romances 25 cents, CD's and videos as priced. Sunday, May 17 a bag of books is \$5. For more information, call (734) 466-2495.

FRIDAY EVENING RECITAL SERIES

Cellist Robert deMaine and pianist Pauline Martin perform Bach, Beethoven and Brahms for the Friday Evening Recital Series 8 p.m. May 15, in the VisTaTec Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 students and available by calling (734) 462-4403 or online at www.schoolcraft.edu/music.

DeMaine has been praised by the New York Times as "an artist who makes one hang on every note." He has performed to critical acclaim as a soloist, recitalist, recording artist, and chamber musician throughout the world.

Martin continues to earn world-class recognition for her solo and chamber music performances and recordings. She has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and appears regularly with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUND-RAISER

Plymouth Christian Academy presents its annual schoolwide Eagle Fund Fund-raiser, a Celebration of Excellence, Friday, May 15, in the Calvary Baptist Church Auditorium, 43065 Joy, Canton. The event features vocalist Cheri Keaggy at 7:15 p.m. as well as a strolling hors d'oeuvres buffet at 5:30 p.m., with a silent auction, and dessert and coffee After Glow reception.

Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact Julie

Dart at (734)-459-3505, Ext. 169, or JDart@plymouth-christian.org.

RELAY FOR LIFE BENEFIT

Garden City Relay for Life team Hunting for A Cure is having a bowling fundraiser May 15, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. Bowling is \$22 for 3 games, shoe rental and pizza. Sign in is 7:30 p.m. Call Bonnie at (810) 499-2092 or (734) 522-4458, or Kristina at (517) 376-3128 to reserve a spot.

YOUTH CONCERT

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic holds its spring concert at noon Saturday, May 16th at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road in Livonia.

Advance tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 children/seniors, and \$8 adults, \$6 children/seniors at the door. Contact David Lindenmuth, the organization's president, at (734) 634-5250 or dlindenm@me.com for tickets or information.

TRACING HERITAGE

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday May 18, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The main speaker, following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting, will be Karen Krugman on "Stumble-My Favorite Way to Find Ancestors." Krugman will explain how stumbling has helped her find ancestors and how it can be applied to research. She is the current president of the Ford Genealogy Club. The 6:30 p.m. program topic will be announced. Meetings are open to the public. Guests

always welcome. For information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwccgs/.

MEMORY SCREENING LECTURE

Dr. Theodore Ruza, psychiatrist and medical director of Botsford Hospital's inpatient geropsych unit and Diane Zide, executive director of Botsford Commons Senior Community's Senior Living Services, discuss the importance of memory screenings at the Observer & Eccentric Senior Expo 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven

Mile, Livonia.

The Expo is free to the community.

The panel, conducted by Botsford Commons, is only one of many things to experience at the expo, which includes a number of exhibitors addressing a variety of senior issues.

Memory loss is certainly a concern of many senior citizens and their families. Alzheimer's currently affects more than 5 million Americans and is the leading cause of dementia in people over the age of 65, although Ruza stresses that proper

diagnosis is critical.

"Correctly identifying the cause of memory loss, or dementia, is so important, and can have a huge effect on a patient's quality of life," Ruza said, noting that dementia has many causes, some of which are reversible, such as vitamin deficiency and depression. "The quicker a true diagnosis is made, the sooner the best course of treatment can begin."

Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors in Farmington Hills.

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Birmingham Groves

Class of 1969

40th high school reunion will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2009, at The Community House in Birmingham. Contact Sue (Dickson) Carlson at (248) 737-1398 or grovesclassof69@aol.com for more information.

Brighton High School

Class of 1989

Planning a July 25 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

Cass Technical High School

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. Visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com.

com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Clarenceville High School

All Class Reunion

Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009 from 10 a.m. until close at Kensington Metropark, 2240 West Buno, Milford at South Martindale, Shelter T. Potluck lunch at 1 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and its BYOB on adult beverages, non-glass. To help cut cost, feel free to bring a package of burgers, hot dogs, and buns. This invitation includes everyone who attended the Livonia Clarenceville School system. Staff and faculty also welcome. For more information, contact Walter Ragland II at wragland2@hotmail.com or (269) 720-5679.

Dearborn Fordson High School

Class of 1964

45th Reunion 6 p.m. to midnight (dinner at 7 p.m.) Aug. 8, 2009, at Stitt American Legion Post #232, 23850 Military, corner of Telegraph and Warren, Dearborn Heights. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$27 at the door. Casual attire. Beer, pop & DJ provided. BYOB and wine. RSVP and send payment by July 23, payable to Sylvia Skelton, 1607 Edwin, Westland, MI 48186. For information, contact (734) 326-3964 or silly1021@comcast.net, or Barb Weide at (734) 416-9176.

Dearborn Heights Riverside

Class of 1967

A 42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Road, Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or gwiatr@gmail.com.

Detroit Blessed Sacrament

Class of 1952

Planning a high school reunion on June 27, 2009. Looking for classmates. Call Shirley Boots at (734) 525-8746.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit schools

Planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Post Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or e-mail to Marlene Kutnick Yamron hahatdc@yahoo.com. The reunion is planned for Feb. 27, 2009.

Detroit Mumford

Class of 1959

50th Reunion Aug. 1, 2009, at Somerset Inn, Troy. For more information, visit www.mumford1959.myevent.com or call (248) 788-7008.

Henry Ford II

Class of 1982

Looking for classmates to attend a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek Metropark. A reunion also is planned for 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doemer) Bambach at (248) 740-9759, ford21982@aol.com or visit www.classreport.org.

Detroit St. Casimir High School

Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009, class reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at PJcruisin@wowway.com.

St. Thomas

Reunion for anyone who attended Detroit St. Thomas Apostolic, 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at The American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy. There will be a complete sit-down dinner including all drinks and music. The cost per person is \$45. For information, call Rose Ann Filar-Novik at (248) 770-1271.

North Farmington

Class of 1979

Celebrate its 30-year reunion 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at Centaur Martini Bar in Detroit. For more information and to RSVP, e-mail nfhs1979@gmail.com.

Garden City High School East

Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 high school tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park large pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick at (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan at (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth at (734) 522-1845.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com.

or contact Paula at gchsl989reunion@hotmail.com.

Garden City West

Class of 1979

Holds a 30-year class reunion on Oct. 24, 2009 at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland. Classmates should register on the private Web site, <http://www.classcreator.com/Garden-City-MI-Garden-City-West-1979>, to get all information. Tickets will go on sale in the upcoming months on the Web site. E-mail questions to gcv79reunion@yahoo.com.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Bentley High School

Class of 1959

50th Reunion Friday, Aug. 28, 2009 golf at noon at Downing Farms, \$20 followed by 6 p.m. barbecue at Downing Farms, \$10; Saturday, Aug. 29, Bentley High visit at 11 a.m., free, and 50th Reunion Dinner at Walnut Creek Country Club at 6 p.m., \$40, and Sunday, Aug. 30, at Walnut Creek Country Club, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12. Hotels: Crown Plaza, Novi, (800) 227-6963, \$92, or Comfort Suites, Wixom, (248) 504-5070, \$69, mention Bentley High, Class of 1959, 50th Reunion. Call Jim "Cubby" Culbertson at (248) 446-0308 or e-mail jimculbertson@sbcglobal.net.

Classes of 1968-1970

Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

A 40th high school reunion is in the planning stages. The dates are set for Nov. 13-15. For information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynirillu@aol.com, or Kathy Shoebridge at klivingstone@nu-core.com.

Class of 1989

20-year Class Reunion, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Livonia Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive. Tickets \$55 (cash bar); checks payable to FHS Class of 1989, mail to: FHS 89 Class Reunion, P.O. Box 6139, Plymouth, MI 48170. Include contact information. For information, e-mail Angie at amilier@ctitle.com or Dennis at denny_dlorenzo@yahoo.com or call Dennis DiLorenzo at (734) 968-0064. Hotel reservations can be made at the Livonia Marriott, (800) 228-9290, or

www.marriott.com. Group reservation rates under Livonia Franklin 20-Year Reunion.

Milford High School

Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Mother Of Our Savior

All class reunion

Aug. 15, 2009 at Monahan's K of C in Livonia. For more information, Call Joe McCauley at (734) 420-2898.

Northville High School

Class of 1979

30 year Reunion 7 p.m. Aug. 15, at Genitti's in Northville. Tickets and more information at www.classcreator.com/Northville-MI-1979/index.cfm.

Novi Orchard Hills Elementary

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Orchard Hills Elementary School, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at Orchard Hills Elementary School, 41900 Quince Drive, Novi. RSVP to (248) 449-1400 or bhurst@novi.k12.mi.us. Program includes 1-2 p.m. tours of Orchard Hills, 2 p.m. celebratory program in gymnasium, 3-4 p.m. sock hop and refreshments.

Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School

Class of 1970

Planning a May 23, 2009 reunion at OLF Bradley Hall. Still looking for classmates that graduated with the class or joined the class any time during those years. E-mail Joan Barrett-Stec at stecland@aol.com.

Plymouth Canton & Salem

Class of 1979

30-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at Hyatt Regency Dearborn, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, with food stations open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$60 per person before July 1, \$75 per person after. For information, visit <http://home.rr.com/phs30yearreunion> or send e-mail to phs.1979@yahoo.com.

Redford High School

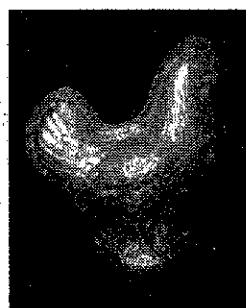
Classes of 1969-1974

Yost/Lodge/Murphy Jr./Redford High class and neighborhood reunion 6:30 p.m. till 2 Saturday, May 16, 2009, at Timber Wolf Tavern, 25641 Plymouth Road, Redford 48239. Cost is \$10 (pizza and appetizers), cash bar. For information, call (248) 388-2770 or send e-mail to bohatude@yahoo.com.

Redford Thurston High School

Class of 1969

A 40-year "casual" get together, Saturday, Sept. 5, Labor Day weekend, at G. SUBU's Leather Bottle Restaurant, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia. \$10 at door. Discounted bar and a band will play. Reserve tickets by calling Ted Enright at (734) 564-1699, or e-mail TedEnright@AOL.com.



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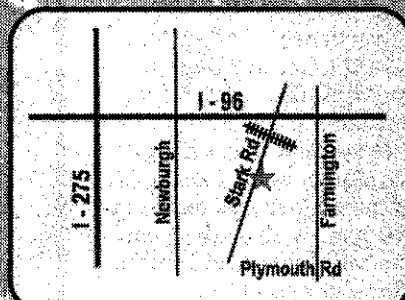
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After Clancy's stellar performance in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Royal Oak, my sister, Gwen, and I thought our worries were over. Finally our big blond Irish Wolfhound walked perfectly and never once tugged on the leash or ran off even though there were many distractions in this ultimate test of our obedience training.



Linda Chomin

for bad boys.

We'd just returned from shopping at Joe Randazzo's market in Westland when he pulled an entire bunch of broccoli from the bag on the counter. He ate all three stalks and left the rubber band which held the vegetables together.

It was apparent that over the winter he'd forgotten all of his lessons. It was time to call Bonny Wainz, our trainer. She suggested we send him to boot camp to learn a few manners before he stole something poisonous or ran into the street and got hit by a car because he pulled the leash from our hands.

Clancy left for Bonny's Boot Camp without looking back. He'd been working with Wainz for some time so he wasn't apprehensive about leaving with her. For Gwen and I it was a different story. Clancy had never been away from us since he was 8 weeks old. We

didn't want him to feel abandoned but we'd never forgive ourselves if he were hurt or killed.

Wainz tailors her program to the individual dog and only works with one dog at a time in the boot camp. Clancy was about to learn he was no longer in charge.

SETTLING IN

Day one she let him explore her house and meet her dogs, Windy, Fireball and Eclipse, before beginning training. Normally she places the dog in a crate before and after each session but Clancy was too big so he stayed in the kitchen. This seemed like an ideal alternative since "counter surfing" is one of his problems. Wainz spent a lot of time making and then leaving bologna sandwiches on the counter for him to snatch. The lesson reinforced the thinking that she was leader of the pack.

"While I was making the sandwich I declared two feet of space around me like an alpha dog declares a boundary while they're eating so no other dog can approach. If he came too close it was a body block and an 'Aaaa' (verbal warning)," said Wainz, owner of Alternative Canine Training. "Then I tried to set him up and left the room with a bologna sandwich on the kitchen table."

Wainz hid around the corner with her mystical acoustic bag which she threw at his feet to startle him when he went for the sandwich. The bag contains a chain inside but doesn't hurt the dog.

"It interrupts him so you can praise him for good behavior by saying 'good boy.'"



By the end of a week Bonny Wainz was able to walk Clancy (right) off leash with her dogs Fireball (left) and Windy. Wainz is a trainer as well as a behaviorist.

Every day Wainz set him up with different foods like liverwurst. Clancy was so clever he started stealing only when no one was watching so she had to set up a surveillance camera. For those who don't have equipment Wainz suggests placing food on a plastic bag or something that makes noise so you can hear the dog trying to steal.

In between the kitchen lessons, Wainz worked with Clancy on sit, stay, down and come. He already knew these

but didn't always respond. Next she taught Clancy to walk on a loose leash and finally off leash.

COLLAR TUG

"Before you can teach them anything you have to teach them to respect and listen to you. You have to get their attention. To walk on a loose leash they have to watch you. If they're ahead they're taking the leadership position," said Wainz. "They have to respect the narrow spaces like door-

ways to go outside. They need to know that leaders go first through narrow spaces. I used the old-fashioned European way of teaching him by continually working to get him to come off leash by attaching a clothesline to the collar and then tugging on it when the dog fails to come when called."

For the real test, Wainz took Clancy to a dog park in Royal Oak and then walked him around the city. He passed with flying colors. Eight days after beginning the boot camp he was a well-trained dog, but what would happen when he returned home? Wainz showed us how to claim back our house from this stealing pooch. We blew up balloons and placed them on the kitchen counter and table to scare Clancy away from the broccoli we'd left there. Each program or

boot camp is tailored to the dog's problems. It worked. The moving objects left him leery of the broccoli. Next we walked through our neighborhood off leash. When he strayed I'd correct him with a Aaaaat.

Wainz guarantees the training and I'm sure we'll need refresher sessions but I think we're on our way to having an obedient dog. Clancy has a strong personality so it just took longer than our first three wolfhounds. I just didn't think he would be 3 years old.

To contact Wainz, call (734) 462-2810 or visit www.alternativecaninetraining.com.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at Ichomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

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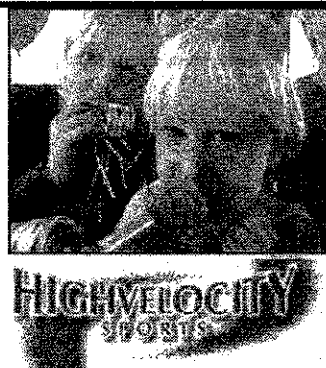
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ACHING AND NO ANSWER

The causes of joint and muscle aching include rheumatoid arthritis, lupus arthritis, gouty arthritis, osteoarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. This list is just the beginning of reasons why one can experience aching and swollen joints. A number of infections such as Parvo B 19 virus can present as arthritis; numerous medications can cause side effects that appear exactly like rheumatoid arthritis or gout.

Yet despite the list of known reasons for joint aching, instances occur when the doctor cannot find the cause of a patient's joint pain. At times, a thorough evaluation of the patient's history, physical findings, x-rays, other imaging and laboratory studies do not provide the information necessary for a diagnosis.

And without a diagnosis, a doctor is hard put to give a patient appropriate medications to treat the arthritis.

In such a case, how can a patient deal with the pain? First, the individual can be relieved that no underlying cancer, tumor or potentially life threatening problem exists. A thorough and sustained workup would uncover such conditions. Second, the individual should know that the vast majority of unsolved joint conditions eventually resolve. The body remains very good at healing itself.

Finally, the person with aching of unknown cause should make an effort to keep active, including daily exercise. Once the doctor has eliminated serious disease as the cause of arthritis, one can be assured that activity will not cause impairment. Rather, activity becomes the medicine of choice.

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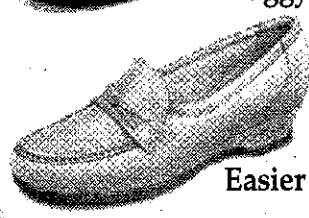
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Patients to benefit from hospital's residency program

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

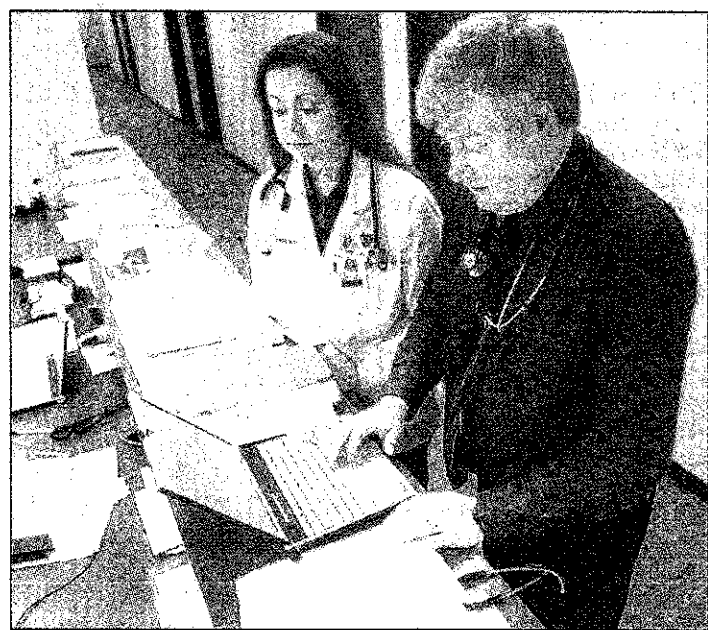
Patient care has changed since Dr. Kenneth Grimm was a resident at the University of Michigan Health System in the mid-1990s. While good teachers have always emphasized the importance of communication and the patient-doctor relationship the two qualities became essential to training after the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, which evaluates

and accredits medical residency programs in the United States, established six core competencies. Beginning in July 2010, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia will follow the guidelines when implementing a graduate medical education residency program through an affiliation with the University of Toledo College of Medicine. About a year ago, Grimm began working with third year medical students. The move to train residents elevates St. Mary's status as

a provider of medical education.

A family physician, Grimm co-directs the St. Mary GME program with Dr. Jeffrey Yanez, an internist. Both are on staff at the hospital. Grimm earned his undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and was chief resident at U-M. He is an instructor at U-M and the University of Toledo and taught in the residency program for the Oakwood Health System for 10 years. He practices family medicine at Infinity Primary Care at the St. Joseph Mercy Health System's Medical Center in Canton.

St. Mary will initially offer residencies in family and internal medicine with the intent to expand specialties. Length of residencies vary depending on the specialty. "Graduate medical education is a huge step for the hospital," said Grimm of Canton. "The University of Toledo already has students rotating right now. They don't have degrees yet. The residency program to start in 2010 is to train those graduated from medical school. They have a restricted educational license. They have to do a residency program and eventually sit for exam and become board certified. Two years of residency are required before you get a license from Michigan in family medicine. You wouldn't want a doctor to take care of you from just reading from a book. They can write prescriptions and orders but in a supervised setting. They will have an encounter videotaped with a patient. In family medicine we take the patient-doc-



Dr. Kenneth Grimm of Canton and third-year medical school student Laura Hall look at the results of an EKG test. Grimm is working with Hall as part of the teaching program at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. In July 2010, the hospital will implement a graduate medical or residency program through an affiliation with the University of Toledo College of Medicine. Hall, a resident of Circleville, Ohio, attends the university.

tor relationship very seriously. bedside manner and communicating so the patient can understand you, not looking at disease but the patients."

Initially 12,000 patients a year will benefit from the residency program which is part of an agreement with Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and the university. St. Mary is a member of the Saint Joseph system.

"Over the last 20 years residency changed to center more on the patient, providing high quality patient centered care," said Yanez who started his residency in 1989 and is currently on staff at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. "A graduate medical program benefits patients, gives a whole different look and feel to the

hospital. There's an additional person asking about their history, when did your pain start. It's continuing medical education with daily conferences, case reviews. This should enhance patient care. For physicians there's nothing like an inquisitive student asking you why. My job is to have a resident for three years, to evaluate the residents to make sure the community is getting the finest care possible. Did the resident explain everything to you well? Did they wash their hands before they examined you?"

In addition to increasing the quality of care, the residency program is expected to bring about 300 jobs to the area and add up to \$30

million a year to the local economy.

"We've been planning the program in earnest for about two years," said David Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "It evolved as a natural next step in the evolution of our hospital. We've grown every year, made investments in technology. It's going to allow us to more completely fulfill our vision to be a comprehensive community hospital. We expect only to grow over time. The residency program will bring faculty on, create educational opportunity for medical students. We've long been involved in training nursing students through relationships with Schoolcraft College and Madonna University, radiology techs, lab techs, physical therapy. For the longer term we hope from a strategic point many of the residents will stay in southeast Michigan and St. Mary and St. Joseph Mercy Health System.

Grimm fears that in the future demand for primary care physicians could exceed supply.

"We're going to face work force issues," said Grimm. "The medical system is training about 90 percent in specialty, only 10 percent primary care. The program is going to increase the number of primary care physicians. Primary care residents usually stay in the area they train. I expect 50 percent will stay. For people in the area, that means improved quality of care. It's very good now but takes it to the next level with more ready access to primary care."

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6000-6980 Announcements 	7000-7780 Merchandise 	Auction Sales 7060 VEHICLE AUCTION May 20th, 2009 9AM Viewing Auction starts at 10AM ALL AMERICAN TOWING 20735 Sunnydale St. Farmington Hills, MI 48336 1 blk. W. of Merriman Sunnydale runs N. off 8 Mile. 1997 Chevy 4 DR 1G1JC5241V7336319 1995 Ford 2 DR 1FALP62W6SH108050 1985 Honda VFS JH2PC1202FM10356 2000 GMC Van 1GKDM19W0YB540262 1999 Chevy 4 DR 2C8N13C4X6822985 1998 Pontiac 4 DR 1G2WJ52M0W2F72269 1996 Oldsmobile 4 DR 1G3AJ55M9T6393831 1999 Mercury 2 DR 1ZWT61L5X5631600 1964 Pontiac 2 DR 884P283046 1993 Chrysler Station Wagon 1P4GH9435P66789 1996 Ford 2 DR 3FASP1J8TR136680 1991 Chevy 4 DR 1G1LT53G4MY138571 1998 Ford Van 1FHE24Y2PHB41955 1996 Cadillac 4 DR 1G8K052Y8T1V30616 1991 Saturn 4 DR 1G8Z549XN2129561 1994 Chevy 2 DR 2G1FP2251R2208473 1999 Dodge 4 DR 1B3ES46C9YD582078 1994 Saturn 4 DR 1G8Z549XN2129561 1971 VW 2 DR 1113110363 1996 Plymouth 4 DR 1P3ES47C6T1D570363 1991 Pontiac 2 DR 1G2WJ52M0W2F72269	Rummage Sale/ Flea Market 7080 FRIENDS OF CAMP DEARBORN May 16, 10-3 pm at Camp Dearborn in Milford. Admission to park \$3 per vehicle. Vendor spaces available. Call Cathie 313-278-4856 Rochester - St. Paul's United Methodist Church 620 Romeo St. Fri. May 15, 9-5pm; Sat. May 16, 9am-noon (Bag Day). New sale rooms on lower level. Garage Sales 7110 BIRMINGHAM Too many items to list! May 14-16, 9 am - 4 pm. 1350 Lakeside Dr. 1 block west of Woodward, 1 block south of 16 Mile. CANTON CARRIAGE HILLS SUB SALE. Thurs-Sat., May 14-16, N of Ford Rd., S of Warren btwn Canton Center & Lilley Rds. Too much to list! CANTON MAYFAIR VILLAGE SUB-WIDE SALE! Thurs-Sun. May 14-17, 9am-5pm. S. of Joy, E. of Sheldon. Too much to list! CANTON MULTI SUBS: Oakville, Stonegate & Cherry Hill Orchards. N./ Palmer, S./ Cherry Hill. E. & W. of Lilley. May 14-17. Look for signs CANTON- Huge Garage/Estate. 45459 Muirfield Dr. W. off Canton Ctr. S of Cherry Hill. Household items, home decor, clothing incl XL men's, furniture, more. May 14-16, 9-5pm.	Garage Sales 7110 CANTON-Forest Trails Sub Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16, 9 am-5 pm. Off Sheldon, between Warren & Joy Roads. CANTON-SUNFLOWER SUB Thurs. May 14-Sat. May 16, 9am-7 W. of Canton Center & N. & S. of Warren. Look for signs and yellow balloons. FARMINGTON HILLS - HUGE SALE. Mon 5/11 - Sun 5/24, 9-4pm: 25471 Livingston Circle, Independence Commons. FARMINGTON HILLS Barrington Green Sub. W. of Drake, N. of 12 Mile Rd. May 14-16. Signs are at 2 entrances on Drake and 1 is on 12. GARDEN CITY Thu-Sat. May 14-16, 9am-5pm. 242 Belton, Cherry Hill & Inkster. Sports memorabilia, kitchen items & clothes. LIVONIA - 30126 Bentley, btwn Middlebelt & Henry Ruff, Lyndon 2 - 96. May 14-16, 9-5pm. Household items, some clothes & much more! LIVONIA - HUGE SALE 37545 Munger, S. of 6 Mile, W. of Newburgh. Mini flea market, clothes, small-plus sizes. May 14-16, 9-5pm. Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355) LIVONIA - MULTI FAMILY 18725 Gill Rd, S. of 7 Mile. May 14-16, 10-5pm. Collectibles, furniture, clothes & misc. LIVONIA 2 FAMILY 15449 Oporto, N. of 5, W/Middlebelt. Thu-Sat. May 14-16, 9-4pm. 40 years accumulation plus playhouse, tools, antiques.	Garage Sales 7110 LIVONIA May 14-16, 9-5pm. 19239 Glen Eagle Dr. N. of 7 Mile, E. of Newburgh. Household, clothes, ping pong table, collectibles. LIVONIA May 14-16, 9am. Antiques, collectibles, glassware, linens, weather vane, etc., 12100 Boston Post, N. of Plymouth, W. of Stark. LIVONIA-Enormous 4 Family! Thurs-Sat. May 14-16, 9am-7 Mayfield, Plymouth & Farmington. Furniture, household items, collectibles, craft & sewing supplies, much more! LIVONIA-Super Garage Sale Thurs-Sat. May 14-16, 9am-4pm. Won't want to miss! Furniture, China, household items, collectible glassware, books, clothing and much more. "Great Condition!" 19487 Gary Lane, N. of 7 Mile. NORTHVILLE PARKSTONE SUB ANNUAL GARAGE SALE - North of 6 Mile Rd., West of Haggerty Rd. Fri-Sat. May 15-16, 9-3pm. NORTHVILLE - DOWNTOWN HUGE SALE to benefit school project. May 13, 14, 15 & 16, 9-5pm. 229 High St., N. of Main St., W. of Center/ Sheldon. Antiques, furniture, toys, misc. NORTHVILLE: WOODSIDE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Thurs-Sat. May 14-16, 10am-4pm. Off Haggerty btwn 5 & 6 mile on W. side of Haggerty. NOVI Garage Sale, Orchard Hills Sub. May 15-16, 9-4. Meadowbrook & 10 Mile.	Garage Sales 7110 NOVI UPSCALE SALE Thurs-Sat., May 14-16, 8-6pm. 44489 Midway Dr. W/Novi Rd., N/off 9 Mile off Plaisance, follow signs. PLYMOUTH - Huge 3 Family Sale! Furniture, Rock Band, 12111 Tremont, off Haggerty, btwn Ann Arbor Rd & Ann Arbor Tr. May 14-16, 9-4pm. PLYMOUTH 3 FAMILY SALE Furniture, household items, baby/kids' clothes, toys, gear and more! May 15-16, 9am-4pm at 680 Simpson. PLYMOUTH Garage Sale! May 14-16. Furniture, household items., 9670 Red Pine. PLYMOUTH Multiple Families in DEER CREEK SUB. W/off Beck, N/off Powell. Thurs-Sat. May 14-16, 9am-3 pm. Furniture, toys, mower & more! PLYMOUTH TWP Huge Neighborhood garage sale, Lake Pointe Sub. Fri-Sun, May 15-17, 9-5pm. Entrances at 5 Mile, Haggerty, Schoolcraft and Wilcox Rd. Something for everyone! REDFORD Multi Family Sale - Furniture, household goods, women's clothes, stereo, sewing machine, lots of stuff! MAY 14, 15, 16, 10am-6pm. 13981 Centralia. ROCHESTER MASSIVE MOVING SALE Snell Rd., N. on Rochester Rd. W. on Snell, Oakland Twp. May 14, 15, 16, 8am-6pm. Check Craigslist.org for further details/Listing ROYAL OAK- Multiple family garage sale, 322 Amelia (13 1/2 & Main). Fri, 5/15, 8-6; Sat, 5/16, 8-4. No early birds. Toys, crafts, household items, clothes & more. Priced to sell. TROY , May 16, 8-4pm. 5045 Julian, off Long Lk, btwn John R & Dequindre. Old records, albums, Mini 78 RPM, quality new & misc items. W. BLOOMFIELD Lots of stuff, cool items, hot bargains! 3 Homes on Parkland & Gilbert Ridge, W off Middlebelt, N of Maple. May 14-16, 10am-4pm. WESTLAND Garage & Craft Sale May 14-16, Thurs-Sat, 9am-4pm. 35716 Fairchild, Wayne & Avondale. WESTLAND May 14 thru May 18, 9am-7pm. 36311 Avondale. Retired American Girl Dolls. Girls and Boys Abercrombie Limited Too Justice AE. Beauty Bath Cleaning Supplies, All Brand New. No Junk. Old Barbies, New in Box.	Garage Sales 7110 WESTLAND Multi Family Sale, 31699 Mackenzie, South of Joy, West of Merriman. Fri-Sat, May 15-16, 9-4pm. Moving Sales 7130 BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2207 Lost Tree Way. May 14-16, 9am-3pm. Garden, tools, bdrm furniture, couch, chair, bikes, household & more. FARMINGTON HILLS Woodhues Apts., 30300 W. 12 Mile, Apt. 204, W. of Middlebelt. May 15-17, 9-4pm. Fine furniture, art, books, jewelry, ladies' clothing & much more! WEST BLOOMFIELD MOVING SALE, May 14-17, 10-5pm. 7104 Pebble Park Dr. North off 14 Mile, West of Orchard Lake. Pebble Creek Condo, gated community, no sign. Everything must go! Household Goods 7160 CHAIRS Set up 6 Ladderback Chairs including 2 Armchairs. Like New! \$200. 734-464-8857 FURNITURE Living room couch, curved, neutral fabric. 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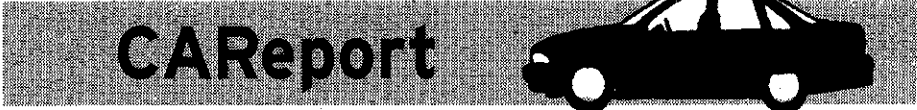
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Buick Lucerne: Luxury On The Cheap

Advertising Feature



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

Since 2006, Buick's most elegant and, thus, high-priced, sedan has been the Lucerne. Replacing the LeSabre and Park Avenue when it launched as a 2006 model, the Lucerne remains planted firmly as Buick's flagship sedan.

The Lucerne is what Buick execs are calling "the contemporary embodiment of Buick's tradition of style, comfort and performance." However, any prestige associated with the Lucerne is due to its gene pool. The Lucerne shares its structure and chassis with its more popular, higher-classed corporate cousin, the Cadillac DTS.

The Lucerne also benefits from its kin, by being built alongside the DTS at General Motors' award-winning Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Center. This facility earned consecutive quality awards in 2004 and 2005 from J.D. Power and Associates -- a company that provides consumer ratings. In 2006, the plant finally won the coveted Bronze Quality award by placing third in quality among all plants in North and South America.

All those accolades don't translate into auto sales for the Lucerne, though. Being categorized as an entry-level luxury sedan, the Lucerne faces direct competition with fan favorites like the Chrysler 300, Ford Five Hundred and Mercury Sable. The Lucerne offers an attractive package, but lacks the refinement associated with luxury cars.

The current Lucerne is available in four trim levels: CX, CXL, CXS and Super. The CX comes with 16-inch alloy wheels, keyless entry,

full power accessories, cruise control, power driver seat, an MP3-capable CD stereo with an auxiliary audio jack, satellite radio, steering-wheel audio controls and an auto-dimming rearview mirror. The CXL adds 17-inch alloy wheels, leather upholstery, dual-zone automatic climate control, heated outside mirrors and a power passenger seat.

The CXS comes with 18-inch alloy wheels, the Magnetic Ride Control adaptive suspension, driver-seat memory, heated front seats, a power tilt-telescoping steering wheel, a Harman Kardon audio system, a heated steering wheel, rain-sensing wipers, rear parking sensors and remote vehicle start.

The Lucerne Super, which we'll review in another column soon, adds a firmer version of the adaptive suspension, unique wheels and exterior styling touches, suede interior accents and a heated wood steering wheel.

Optional on all Lucernes are a CD changer, a sunroof, a lane departure warning system and a system that warns the driver when other vehicles enter the Buick's blind spots. Available on all but the base CX model are heated and cooled seats and a navigation system, while the CX and CXL can be equipped with a front bench seat that increases capacity to six people.

Four exterior colors added in 2008 were White Diamond, Crystal Red, Dark Mocha Metallic and Dark Crimson Metallic.

The Super features a cocoa/shale mixture, with cocoa on the instrument panel upper trim, door upper trim, steering wheel, carpet and floor mats, and shale on almost every other interior

trim including seats, instrument panel lower trim and door lower trim. The cocoa/cashmere offering changes the look by placing cashmere on just about every other interior trim, including seats, instrument panel lower trim and door lower trim.

The CX and CXL are powered by a V6 that pushes out 197 horsepower. In addition, there is a V8 engine available on the CXL and standard on the CXS that is good for 275 horsepower; on the Super it's tuned to make 292 horsepower. All Lucernes share the same four-speed automatic transmission.

For whatever drawbacks it may have, the Lucerne has been highly touted for premium safety since it debuted. The current model keeps this reputation intact.

In National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash tests, the Lucerne earned a perfect five-star rating for its protection of the driver and front passenger in frontal impacts. A four-star rating was given for side-impact protection of front and rear occupants.

There's a reason for these great ratings. The Lucerne's safety is provided by a litany of standard safety features. Every trim comes with anti-lock disc brakes, traction control, a tire-pressure monitor, front side-impact airbags and full-length, head-protecting side curtain airbags at no added cost. But that's where the trims' safety similarities end. The invaluable stability control system and brake-assist features are only standard on the CXS and optional for the V8 version of the CXL.

The Lucerne's safety is matched by its practicality. The available touchscreen navigation

system uses signals from global-positioning satellites to locate the Lucerne's position and display it on a virtual map. This priceless device is integrated into the instrument panel for easy access. The system also lets you know where the nearest locations of gas stations, restaurants and other points of interest are upon your request.

Added navigational support is provided by OnStar's Turn-by-Turn navigation system -- a standard feature installed on all Buicks. The Turn-by-Turn service allows drivers to talk in real time to an OnStar advisor, who in turn downloads complete step-by-step directions to the vehicle through the OnStar system. Audio cues are then automatically played through the vehicle's stereo system. This will allow drivers to reach their destination worry free, without even taking their hands off the wheel.

Overall, with the exception of a heated steering wheel, an upgraded version of OnStar and the offering of a few new color schemes, the current Lucerne is the same old, same old as previous models.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications. To read more auto news, go to allopinionsallthetime.com.

Buick Lucerne
Vehicle class: Luxury sedan.
Power: V6 or V8 engines.
Mileage: 16 city / 25 highway.
Where built: Detroit.
Price: \$26,350.

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