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Larry Oldford (from left), Jessica Battle, Angelica Grady, Ryan Daniels, Joan Noricks and J.D. Robison.

Rotary scholars

Canton Rotary Club has awarded three vocational scholarships to members of the graduating class of 2009.

The winners were Jessica Battle, who plans to study nursing at Schoolcraft College; Angelica Grady, who will study radiology at Henry Ford Community College; and Ryan Daniels, who will study engineering at Schoolcraft College.

The Canton Rotary Club meets noon Mondays at Carrabba's Italian Grill on Haggerty in Canton noon Mondays. The club welcomes membership inquiries. Contact Lisa Kennedy at (734) 454-4058.



High flyers

Nicholas Elwell of Canton and Mike Collins from Plymouth react to being in free fall on the ride Mega Shot as the 2009 Canton Liberty Festival opened. The festival started Thursday and included the annual parade Saturday morning and the fireworks display Saturday evening.

Players take field to fight ALS

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton Township has stepped up to the plate to fight the disease that killed New York Yankees legend Lou Gehrig by hosting a vintage baseball game using mid-1860s rules.

That means no spitting, no swearing and certainly no brawls during this mannerly fund-raising match between the Early Riser Base Ball Club of Detroit and the Northville Eclipse team.

Canton organizer Bob Mosher, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer and lifelong baseball fan, said the game is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, on soccer field No. 1 in Heritage Park, off Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Baseball fans — known by old terminology as "cranks" or "rooters" — are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets. The rain date is July 2.

GOOD CAUSE

While there's no admission fee, volunteers plan to accept donations to fight amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a progressive, fatal disease caused by the degeneration of motor neurons that travel from the brain to the spine and essentially tell the body's muscles what to do. The money will go to the Cambridge, Mass.-based ALS-Therapy Development Institute, which funds more than 30 researchers.

"It's a horrible disease," said Mosher, whose family isn't affected by ALS but who became involved after reading a magazine article last year while he and his wife, Natalie, were flying home from an overseas vacation.

The vintage ball game comes 70 years after an ailing Gehrig quit his beloved sport and made his famous "Luckiest Man" speech July 4, 1939, in Yankee Stadium, telling the crowd that "I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for."

He died two years later at age 37.

Amy Whipple, a Rochester Hills resident and Midwest regional director for the nonprofit ALS-TDI, said 5,000 to 8,000 Americans are diagnosed each year with ALS, "and 30,000 people are living with it at any given time."

Whipple lost an aunt to the disease, and her family, alone, has raised \$1.6 million to fight it. She said 86 cents for every dollar raised for ALS-TDI goes directly to research.

Mosher, who in high school played summers for the



Royal Oak-area Babe Ruth League, called it fitting that a baseball game — the quintessential American pastime — should be organized to help raise money for a disease that killed Gehrig.

"I am really hopeful that this is something that will resonate with the fans," he said.

Vernors ginger ale, root beer, ice cream, peanuts and Cracker Jacks will be sold to provide some ballpark atmosphere, and Mosher said he hopes the fund-raiser could become an annual event.

DISEASE HITS HARD

Whipple said ALS patients usually live two to five years after they have been diagnosed. The disease affects the legs, arms, eyelids, tongue and other body parts, and those who have it eventually lose the ability to talk, swallow, kiss, hug, eat and breathe.

"It does not discriminate," Whipple said. "People of all ages can get it. The youngest we have seen is 16, and

Please see **BASEBALL, A3**

Audit shows Canton's in fine shape — for now

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bucking the trend of many deficit-plagued communities, Canton has steadily boosted its general fund surplus for three consecutive years, but township officials are bracing for tougher times amid projections of declining property taxes revenues, rising employee health care costs and deeper cuts from Lansing.

Canton's budget surplus rose from \$2.8 million to nearly \$7.4 million from 2005 to 2008 — an accomplishment an outside auditing firm, Plante & Moran, said has made the township the envy of its neighbors and, indeed, communities across Michigan.

Yet one of the firm's partners, Frank Audia, advised the township board during a Tuesday evening audit session to strive to protect its "golden goose" as ominous economic forces — largely beyond local control — loom. He commended officials for amassing a general fund surplus that amounted to 28 percent of the \$27 million revenues in 2008, because "you're going to need it."

Plante & Moran gave township leaders the highest possible audit rating for a one-year period ending last Dec. 31. The firm did, however, recommend a few financial fine-tuning measures that local officials said already are being developed.

Even if Michigan's beleaguered economy scores a much-needed rebound, local officials acknowledged the fallout from declining property values — and tax revenues — likely will hit even harder within two years. Moreover, auditors indicated they are virtually certain that Michigan's budget crisis will mean even deeper cuts in state-shared revenues to local communities.

Rick Eva, the township's finance director, said he already has started planning for such revenue cuts to stave off a money crunch. Similarly, Canton had pared its staffing levels even before the former building boom slowed.

Audia warned that although some projections have indicated that state-shared revenue could actually increase during the next year, "we're not buying it." More likely, he said, Michigan will be forced to trim those dollars in efforts to alleviate its own money woes.

And while the township has been imposing a lower operating millage, or tax, than it is authorized to levy, local officials have appeared reluctant to tap into the additional 1.24-mill that is at their disposal. They have strongly indicated they aren't willing to increase the burden on residents who, themselves, are dealing with a sour economy.

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State cuts having grim effect on school budget

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Residents who show up at Tuesday's public hearing on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' 2009-10 budget are going to hear what the district believes is largely good news.

The district will add more than \$700,000 to its fund balance this year, and is hoping to break even in 2009-10, depending on the performance of some health care funds and negotiations with its various unions.

That'll be the end of the good in what is expected to be a good news-bad news hearing. The 800-pound gorilla expected to be sitting in the room is what happens the following year.

Michigan Department of Education estimates say the state's education fund, originally

'We've visited with colleagues from other districts, and they're all feeling the same thing. They don't know what to do, either.'

CRAIG FIEGEL, Superintendent

expecting a shortfall of some \$429 million, will now actually fall some \$600 million short of expectations.

The result? Cuts of some \$370 per student starting in 2009-10. The state will use federal stimulus funds to hold school districts harmless next year, but the cut leaves Plymouth-Canton some \$11 million in the hole in 2010-11, when stimulus money won't be available.

While administrators made more than \$2 million in cuts

to balance next year's budget, Superintendent Craig Fiegel told board members Tuesday the potential deficit the following year has school officials not only in Plymouth-Canton, but all around the area, scratching their heads.

"We've visited with colleagues from other districts, and they're all feeling the same thing," Fiegel said. "They don't know what to do, either."

One area the state could look, in an effort to soften the per-pupil blow, would be to cut funding to some "categorical" programs, such as adult and vocational education and at-risk programs. Plymouth-Canton spends some \$1.7 million on such programs now.

School officials had called

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

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Preschool open house

The Goddard School will host an Open House on Friday June 26 from 9 AM to 6 PM. The school provides educational programs year round for children 6 weeks old through kindergarten. It is located at 6697 North Canton Center Road, between Ford and Warren Roads.

Registration is now open for summer and fall programs. For more information contact Jennifer, Ashleigh or Carl at (734) 454-4737, or on-line at www.goddardschool.com/Schools/Canton-MI/Schools.aspx

Classic car show

Waltonwood at Cherry Hill will be holding a classic car show and silent auction on Friday, June 26, to raise money and awareness in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The senior community will host approximately 25 classic cars provided by Americas Most Wanted Car Club as well as a silent auction with items donated from local businesses.

All proceeds from the event will be given to the Alzheimer's Association's Greater Michigan Chapter to provide education, training and support services for individuals with Alzheimer's and their families in the local community.

The show is located at 42600 Cherry Hill in Canton from 5-8 p.m.

Spotlight auditions

The Spotlight Players are getting ready to present *Oliver*, written by Lionel Bart and directed by Barbara Bloom.

Auditions take place Sunday, July 12 (for youth up to age 16). Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Auditions for all adult roles (age 16 and over) are Monday, July 13, and Tuesday, July 14, registration each night begins at 6:30 p.m. Performance dates are September 18-20, 25-27 at the Village Theater at Cherry

Hill, 504300 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Follow Oliver, an orphan, from the workhouse of his birth to an upper class neighborhood in London and meet all the strange, wicked, miserly and nice people that enter his life including Fagin, Nancy and the Artful Dodger through wonderful songs and a light hearted approach to a very dark Dickens tale.

For more information contact (734) 480-4945 and leave a message for Barbara Bloom and visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

Corriveau hours

State Representative Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) invites residents to talk with him about any issues or concerns during his new office hours.

Corriveau's new office hour schedule is set to begin on July 6. He will hold office hours on the first Monday of each month at the following times and locations:

- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., in Northville
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road
- 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., in Plymouth
- 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 129 W. Liberty St. in Plymouth

Corriveau also holds coffee hours and other events throughout the 20th District to talk with as many residents as possible about any issues or concerns. If your business or organization would like to schedule an event with Corriveau, please contact his office toll-free at (877) 20TH-REP, or send an e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, Nov. 21. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fundraising event to be held



Flower power

This year's Canton Garden Walk is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 27, rain or shine. The Klemick family garden at 7765 Bircklan (pictured here) is among those on the tour. Sponsored by the Canton Garden Club, the event can be attended by purchasing tickets at any of the gardens or from Grayes Greenhouse, Plymouth Nursery, Backyard Birds in Plymouth or by calling (734) 459-8327. Tickets are \$7. The addresses on this year's Garden Walk are 600 S. Ridge Road, 7111 Epping, 4485 Napier, 7678 Bircklan and 7765 Bircklan. The Canton Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc. and the National Garden Clubs Inc.

at Plymouth High School in Canton. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by June 26 for the first wave of jurying. For more details, contact exhibit coordinator Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, over 7,000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

Book signing

Award-winning author Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin will be autographing copies of her latest children's book, "Haiku For You: With Some One Room School House History," and her other books during an appearance at the Plymouth Historical Museum 1-3 p.m. June 24.

Her other books include "Cheryl's Musings: A Day In The Life Of An Award Winning Poet & Photographer," a slice of life vignette and mini writing guide which was released in 2008.

She'll also be at the Southgate Borders Express, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, June 27.

Vatcher-Martin is also the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, tutoring, instructional design, consulting, photography, editing and publishing company. Her phone number is (734) 397-1626, e-mail her at peroinc5@comcast.net or visit her Web site at camartin.blogspot.com/

Hazardous waste day

The Wayne County Department of Environment's Land Resource Management Division will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Northville Public Works, located at 650 Doheny Drive, north of Seven Mile and east of South Main Street. This free event is open to Wayne County residents only.

Examples of acceptable waste being collected include household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only), solvents, nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, mercury fever thermometers, smoke detectors, computer monitors, printers, scanners,

mice, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, copiers, and televisions.

Items that will not be accepted include: commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete.

For information on how to dispose of these items, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

Salem golf outing

The Salem High School Baseball Team hosts a golf outing in honor of the passing of Milt Thackaberry at noon Saturday, June 27, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

Registration is \$125 per golfer and includes a golf with cart, lunch, dinner and door prizes and raffle for the group. Tickets to attend the dinner only are \$50 per person. Hole Sponsorship packages are available.

Register for the event by e-mailing Steve Gordon at sgordon88@sbcglobal.net or Glen Kordick at gjkordick@gmail.com. For more information regarding this event or sponsorship opportunities, contact Steve Gordon at (734) 262-9000 or visit on-line, www.rocksbseball.com.

Summer camps

Plymouth-Canton Community Education is offering a number of summer camps and programs for all ages - preschool to adult.

One of the most popular courses is the Safety Town Program for kindergarten and first graders, which teaches kids about house emergencies, emergency vehicles, fire safety, bicycle safety and stranger danger.

Registration is now open for all courses. For details visit the Community Education Web site www.pccs.k12.mi.us or call (734) 416-2937.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

the 2010-11 funding problem, which they've seen coming for some time, a "cliff."

"The thought is, if (the state) reduced some of the categorical, they can make it more of a slide instead of a cliff," said James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services. "It's still a guessing game. Unfortunately, at this late stage, we don't know."

Administrators shaved nearly \$2 million from the 2009-2010 budget by making cuts in elementary-level staff, administrative cuts and energy savings. They also shaved travel funding and the number of para-professionals. At this point, the district is not considering measures such as increasing class sizes or increasing the distances for walkers.

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THE NANOEVER (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30,
9:45 FRI/SAT 11:55

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DRAW ME TO HELL (PG-13)
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EDUCATION

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Ave Maria

John Travis Mihelick, a resident of Canton, received a Juris Doctor degree from Ave Maria School of Law during the Law School's Seventh Commencement Exercises. Mihelick was one of 87 students taking part in this year's Commencement.

The son of Dave and Kathy Mihelick, Mihelick earned his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. Mihelick plans to take the bar examination for the state of Michigan this summer.

Olivet College

Two local students were among those graduating from Olivet College at the school's commencement exercises. Heather Michalsen of Plymouth, who graduated

summa cum laude, and Kelli McKee of Canton each earned bachelor of arts degrees from the school.

Lee University

Jacob Papazian of Canton was named to the Dean's List at Lee University for the Spring 2009 semester. Students with a semester grade-point average of 3.7 or higher make the list.

Papazian is the son of Chuck and Debbie Papazian. Lee University is a four-year liberal arts university in Cleveland.

Madonna University

Many Plymouth students were named to Madonna University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the winter 2009 term: Jamie Marie Anderson, Brigid Eileen Behmer

Rachel Berezak
Daniel M. Bowe
Andrea Rose Burdette
Kali Dawn Burnette
Shelley Victoria Catalan
Kevin M. Crilley
Megan C. Daniels
Amy A. Davidson
Anna Kathryn Dempsey
Matthew John Esper
Valerie A. Fischer
Caroline Foster
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Sophie Marie Stevenson
Mary Angela Stock
Jessica Lynn Teper
Sarah Ann Thieffels
Marleigh Justine Whetstone
Theresa Marie White
Brandon Lee Wilcox
Jem Wojcik-Shook
Tara Nicole Young



The Coca Cola team (Jen Baetenf, Mike Mackiewicz, Mike Grady and Joe Abbate) shot a 61 to win the PCCS Open Wednesday.

Rain doesn't stop golf proceeds from pouring in

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A driving rain that might have stopped postal carriers from keeping their appointed rounds couldn't stop some 114 golfers from doing their best to support Plymouth-Canton Schools Wednesday.

That's how many golfers showed up for the annual Educational Excellence Foundation golf fund-raiser, the PCCS Open, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. The first couple of hours drew sometimes heavy rain, but it never dampened the spirits of those out there to help.

"It was a great event," said Carole Kody, the director of the EEF. "Despite a challenging economy, businesses, PCCS staff and individuals enthusiastically came out to support public education. That support is just one reason why Plymouth-Canton Schools are so successful."

The annual event raised some \$20,000, which will benefit the district's elementary summer academy for students who have fallen behind in

reading and math. The team from Coca-Cola - Jen Baetenf, Mike Mackiewicz, Mike Grady, Joe Abbate - won the event championship, firing an 11-under-par 61 to win. The same score was enough for the West Middle School team to claim the coveted Old Hickory Stick (which goes annually to the best team comprised of district staffers). That team featured Brian Brace, Mike Lazich, Principal Clint Smiley, Roy Cole. Smiley also won the Old Hickory Stick last year as a member of the Dodson Elementary School staff. The event is the biggest fundraiser for the EEF, the foundation that's been in existence nearly 25 years and constantly striving to support educational excellence. The EEF funds such things as student scholarships, special projects, teacher activities, PTO groups, the Clothing Bank and dozens of other PCCS programs. The PCCS Educational Excellence Foundation can be reached at (734) 416-2718 or on the Web at www.supportpccs.org.



PHOTO BY MARY HOLALY

The West Middle School team of Brian Brace, Mike Lazich, Clint Smiley and Roy Cole shot a 61 to capture the coveted Old Hickory Stick.

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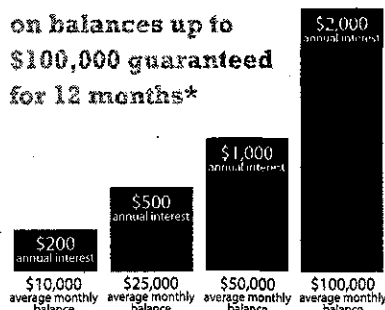
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Happy Father's Day!



"I love my dad because he is a "help-type" Dad. He helps me with my math, soccer and building awesome snow forts!! We love to play sports games together too, he is so fun!"

David McGrath, 8
Canton

"My dad is the best at explaining things. He always gives great examples and is really patient too. He is a great artist and will surprize us in the morning with notes before he goes to work. He is the #1 Dad!!"

Samantha McGrath, 11
Canton

*We
love you,
Dad!*

Dear ol' dad doesn't always get the recognition he deserves so for Father's Day, we invited readers to tell us in 100 words or fewer the most important thing their father ever taught them. Here are some of the entries we received. We hope you enjoy reading these heart-felt tributes as much as we did.

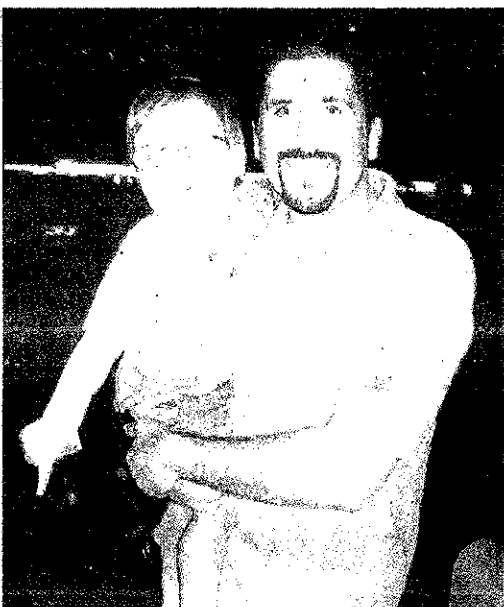


Chuck Mahnken
"Our Dad has taught us to do stuff that's nice, to share, and to be silly!"
Lily Mahnken and
Sophie Mahnken,
both 5
Plymouth



"Whenever I think about my dad (who lives in Livonia) I smile. He is always in a good mood, is extremely kind to everyone, is intelligent and is one of those people that is a joy to be around. He always has a new joke to tell and is a great story teller. My dad is amazing. He still teaches English even though he retired years ago. One of the most important things my dad taught me was to enjoy words, both reading and writing. Books were everywhere in the house. In so many ways my dad has made my life much more rewarding and for that I thank him."

Joan Bellemare
Plymouth



Brett Laugh

"My dad is a super hero. He is strong and big. I am a super hero, too. I am going to be strong and big like him!"

Caden Laugh
Canton



"My daddy has taught me that unconditional love is the most important thing a father can give his daughter. He loves me for who I am and what I accomplish on a daily basis. He is the best daddy and I love him very much."

Kaelyn Elizabeth Foley
Canton



Chris McDougall

"I love my dad because he always coaches my baseball team and he plays catch with me a lot."

Patrick McDougall, 9
Canton



Jeff Horton

My dad is my hero. He has taught me many lessons in life, but the best lesson I've learned from him is perseverance. My father has faced many challenges in his life, but he always tackles them with a smile on his face and determination in his heart. He has taught me to never give up. If you work hard for what you want, you will succeed. Dad, you are the greatest man in the world and I work hard every day to be more like you. I love you Daddy."

Jennifer Horton
Plymouth



"From working on computers to mowing the lawn to excelling in school. From remodeling the kitchen to running a gas line to setting up the grill and leveling sand for the pool. From steaming off wallpaper to pulling cable and using power tools. Whether I'm working on home improvement or schoolwork or even traveling to Europe, my Dad teaches me that there's nothing I can't do."

"Listened when you talked, Dad
Followed where you walked, Dad
And you know that I will always do the best I can."

- "Life Of A Salesman," by Yellowcard
Maria Wellman
Canton



Scott Stafford

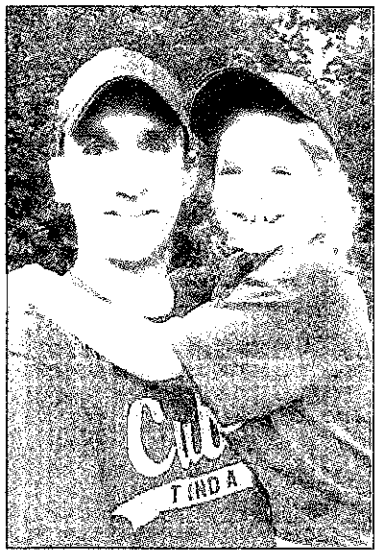
"The most important thing my Dad ever taught me was perseverance. From a very young age he instilled in me good values, work ethics, and stressed the importance of education. He would sit down with me at night for hours going over my homework in high school. He was so patient and encouraged me to never give up. To this day, whenever I need advice I go straight to my Dad. He is my rock. I love you Dad!"

Laura Stafford
Plymouth

Dave Barry

"My dad has taught me many things in my life but the most important ones were to be loving, kind and respectful to others. I love him so much and he teaches me more every day. Love you dad!!"

Meghan Barry
Plymouth



"My dad is the best because he wrestles with me and reads to me too!"

Maureen McDougall, 6
Canton



"My dad has taught me many important things. I think the most important thing is my faith. My dad always reminds me of how much God loves me. He always brings us to church on Sundays and leads us in prayer before meals. He also sends me to a great, holy, private Catholic school. My dad is very holy and a great example for me. I love my dad!"

Hannah Lang
Canton



Bill Smulsky

"The most important thing my Dad has taught me is to be a good person. He is a good person, so he tries to teach me how to be one, too. He also spends a lot of time teaching me how to play basketball and how to do better in math. But teaching me how to be a good person is the most important thing of all."

Tom Smulsky, 10
Canton

Jin Kim

"My dad is a good tennis player so he taught me how to play tennis. He would serve the ball and I would try to hit it back to him. Sometimes it would go over the tennis court fence. This is why me and dad go to the court every weekend. So I could get some practice. I feel like I get better and better with tennis...even though I still mess up a lot. Dad found out that one court, I'm more used to, but the other courts I'm not."

Alexander Kim
Canton

Young Champions All Stars take aim on national title

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A group of youngsters from Westland and Canton are aiming high in cheerleading. Members of Westland Young Champions' All Stars, they're getting ready to compete for a national title after placing first in the state in Division 4.

"It's a nice group of girls. They're a well-rounded team, they fit together like a puzzle," said coach Danielle Santo. "They all get along fantastically. They're very caring to each other within cheer and outside cheer."

The team ranges in age from 9 to 16 and is part of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's Young Champions, a division of Cheer America. They prac-

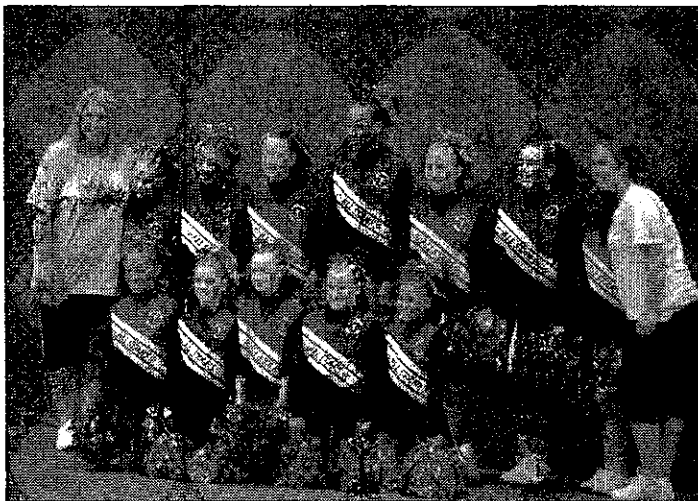
tice once a week at the Bailey Recreation Center.

According to Santo, the girls have been working hard in a quest for a state championship. They've done well at regionals, but never seemed to make the top spot at state competition.

"They did some difficult moves that raised the bar at the state competition," said Santo. "Some old coaches came and saw them and said they had improved 100 percent. They couldn't believe how fantastically they pulled together as a team."

'FEARLESS'

The team has three fliers — Kelly Davis and Kelly Coffin of Westland and Becca McForley of Canton — who Santo describe as "fearless."



The Westland Young Champions All Stars pose with their coaches for a victory photograph after winning the state championship last month. They're now preparing for national competition in Grand Rapids in late July.

The team also includes twins Morgan and Mackenzie Parrent, Jessie Gilmer, Kaitlin Koval, Kayley Riker, Rio Santo, all of Westland, Danielle Hart of Madison Heights, Bryanna Olsen of Dearborn Heights, and Aiyanna Perkins of Detroit. The assistant coach is Tara Krolowski.

Santo has plenty to say about each girl and what they bring to the team.

About her fliers, Santo

praised Davis, a fairly new to the Champions program, for doing split stunts. She's the only one at state competition to perform the stunt "that's very hard to do." Coffin is the team member who "really tries the hardest," while McForley is the "daredevil."

The twins are an added bonus with their work and commitment to practice and competition, while Gilmer and Koval, the bases for stunts, "are a great pair, they

complement each other."

"It's amazing how they work together," she said.

Riker has incorporated some stunt skills in her mounting skills "that are fantastic, and Rio Santo, Santo's daughter is a versatile cheerleader. She is an excellent back spotter and base."

Hart, the team's "powerhouse jumper," is new to the team this year.

"I actually think she was one piece of the puzzle needed to complete the team," said Santo about Hart. "She filled a hole in the team."

Santo describes Perkins as a "fantastic performer" who's "good at everything she does." Olsen has been with the team from the start when she lived in Canton. Her dance abilities shine in competition.

TEAM EFFORT

Santo also has praise for her assistant coach who takes the girls' confidence level and keeps them motivated and for parents Kim Coffin and Charlotte Spiteri. Coffin runs the team and works with parents, keeping Santo connected with the girls, while Spiteri handles

the conditioning work.

The team will compete in the national competition in Grand Rapids on July 25 where they'll go against some 35 other Division 4 teams from around the country. Santo has high hopes of the team winning.

"They're all performers, when it comes to competition time, they thrive," she said. "They don't have the jitters. Once they're put in the situation of a competition the things I complain about at practice go away."

And the program's Division 3 team also is making news, winning a third place in regionals and a second in state competition.

"It's a huge accomplishment, when it comes to competition, they've never placed in regionals before," Santo said. "I had one little girl say, 'Now we have to place first in nationals and we'll have a first, second and third.'"

While the Division 4 girls prepare for a trip to nationals, they're also fund raising to go to cheer camp for Division 4 teams in August. The goal is to raise \$4,800, "to make sure everyone can go," Santo said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

1. Z 09-03849 Penniman, Ste 201 Non-Use Variance Requested 2nd Floor Hanging Sign Zoned: B-2, Central Business Applicant: Pinnacle Wealth Management Group
2. Z 09-04 1324 Sheridan Non-Use Variance Requested Building Height, Use above 2nd Floor Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Jason Lukasik
3. Z 09-05 1655 Cassady Non-Use Variance Requested Privacy Fence Air Flow Variance Zoned: PUD, Planned Unit Development Applicant: Sharon Dobbs

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: June 21, 2009

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PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUD EXTENSION

PUD 08-02 377 Amelia
Amelia Row Planned Unit Development, Approval Extension
Zoned: PUD, Planned Unit Development
Applicant: Connektiv

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: June 21, 2009

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **District-Wide Waste Disposal and Recycling Services**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Jim Larson-Shidler in the PCCS Business Office at (734) 416-2740. Technical questions should be directed to Harry Lau of the PCCS Maintenance Department at (734) 416-2970. Sealed bids are due to the PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: June 18 & 21, 2009

CE08681821 - 2x3

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Some of the Local and Statewide projects we sponsor are:

- Michigan Child ID/Program
- Beacon Reading Project Volunteer Readers
- Scholarships/Student Assistance
- Pathways Senior Living Facility & Youth groups

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June 27th
150 Year Celebration

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Hiring attorney is essential when filing for bankruptcy

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column about bankruptcy. After doing some soul searching I've decided that it would be the best course of action for me. I have talked to a couple of attorneys regarding bankruptcy and they have quoted me a fee that appears to be the going rate. A friend of mine told me about an Internet site where you can do your own bankruptcy and at a fraction of the cost. What are your thoughts on someone filing their own bankruptcy?

A: I think it is a lousy idea for people to handle their own bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy is a federal procedure which is administered by the federal courts. When you file for bankruptcy you are dealing with federal rules and procedures that are complex and sometimes difficult to navigate. If you fail to dot all of the "i"s and cross all of the "t"s, you may find you did not get the results you desire and that could lead to problems. After all, your creditors, whether they are a charge card company or a bank, are going to have lawyers represent them. You are at a severe disadvantage if they have an attorney and you don't.

I realize that hiring a bankruptcy attorney is expensive but it is essential. It would be nice if bankruptcy was simply a matter of filling out a few forms. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Particularly, when it comes to sheltering assets from creditors, there are a variety of options you can choose from. A good bankruptcy attorney helps you make the right choices. In addition, when you go to court you want someone who is experienced in that forum and who will represent only you. That is exactly what a good bankruptcy attorney should do.

I recognize that bankruptcy attorneys do not come cheap. However, there are ways to reduce your costs. I recommend contacting your local bar association if



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

you are having trouble paying for an attorney. Generally, the local bar association can assist in finding a qualified attorney at a reduced cost.

I recently read an article regarding individuals who were representing themselves in a variety of court matters. Unfortunately, the end result for the majority of those people was less than favorable. Too many people believe that the judge will help an individual who appears without an attorney. Although, on the whole judges do try to assist individuals who appear on their own,

there is only so much they can do. After all, in any procedure the judge is required to be impartial. Therefore, any assistance is limited. Every judge that I have ever spoken with always agrees that it is a mistake for an individual to represent themselves. In fact, there is an old saying in the legal business which is, "an attorney who represents himself has a fool for a client."

I think it is great that you talked to the attorney about fees and that you received some competitive prices. You have every right to know when you hire an attorney how he/she will charge you. In many cases the attorney should be able to provide you with a flat fee or a good faith estimate as to the total fees you will be required to pay.

I know sometimes it is uncomfortable to discuss fees. However, every good attorney I know never hesitates to talk fees with their clients. If your attorney does not want to talk about fees and costs and makes you feel uncomfortable about the conversation then it probably means that you're dealing with the wrong attorney.

I would like to wish all fathers a Happy Father's Day, particularly my dad, Mitch, the greatest father a son could have.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

AROUND CANTON

Grub crawl

The Canton Chamber of Commerce, Charter Township of Canton and the Downtown Development Authority co-host Canton's eighth Annual Grub Crawl Tuesday, July 21, 6-10 p.m. This event is open to the public and participants must be 21 years of age or older.

The Grub Crawl is an opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their establishment as well as promote Canton's diversity while having fun. Participating restaurants in this year's event include: 4 Friends Restaurant, Applebees, Antonio's Cucina Italiana, Bailey's Pub & Grille, bd's Mongolian Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Chili's, Crow's Nest, Max & Erma's, Rose's Grill & Bar, Shark Club, Shish Kabob Café,

T.C. Gator's Sports Page, and T.G.I. Friday's.

"The Grub Crawl is an event for the community and businesses. It's really important that we continue to have functions that include our entire community, and the Grub Crawl gives us this opportunity," said Dianne Cojei, President of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

According to Cojei, last year almost 600 people attended this event. Tickets (t-shirt) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants. T-shirts are on sale now and can be purchased at the Chamber office. T-shirt sizes are on a first come first serve basis so reserve yours early. If you are interested in participating in the Grub Crawl, please contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

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Plymouth-Canton Diversity and Inclusion Initiative

Changing Demographics

Changing Attitudes

Changing Perceptions

Be part of the global economic revitalization of Plymouth and Canton! Be part of the next wave of global business interests in Plymouth Canton! Come celebrate with fellow residents the diversity already here and the work of inclusion by the citizens, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the local governments!

7 p.m., June 25, 2009
Reception and Entertainment
Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI 48188

This is an effort supported by Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and the Ford Foundation

RSVP to Stacey Stevens 313-870-1500 sstevens@miroundtable.org or to Nikhol Atkins at natkins@miroundtable.org

Violin workshop put music in kids' hands

The Little Stars Foundation has successfully completed the four-week-long free violin workshop and more than 20 local elementary children, ages 5-10 and many of whom had never touched a musical instrument before, were able to take advantage of it.

The workshop was led by Amy Sun, the founder and director of The Little Stars Foundation, with assistance from several members of TLSF: Lily Chen, Paul Shen, Alan Sun, Anna Sun, and Marlowe Susselman. The workshop used various methods, including games and interactive activities, to make learning the violin easy and fun. With the individual help from TLSF members, students learned the fundamental skills of violin playing, and were able to play violin music.

At the conclusion of the workshop, TLSF organized a graduation recital for on June 10, and all workshop participants had an opportunity to play songs themselves in front of a large audience (composed of family members and friends). They also had opportunity to watch TLSF members play beautiful violin solo pieces.

"One of the most enjoyable moments was watching all of the students play Mozart's Twinkle Twinkle Little Star song with current TLSF members in the end of the recital," Amy Sun said. "The students are also very excited they were awarded their trophies and certification, to

recognize their diligent work.

"Music is very important in early childhood development," Sun said. "One of the challenges is that kids don't get exposure to music. In the Plymouth Canton school district, there are no string instruments programs in elementary schools, so many kids have to wait until middle school or high school to learn

string instruments in their school orchestra."

To fill the gap and to promote music education in the local community, Sun said, TLSF offered this four week free violin workshop to elementary school kids to get them started on the instrument.

The Little Stars Foundation is a nonprofit charitable orga-

nization whose mission is to promote music education for children in the local community, and to provide an outlet for children who love music and care about senior citizens. For more information regarding The Little Stars Foundation, please visit the group's Web site at www.thelittlestars.org or contact Amy Sun, (734) 981-1947.

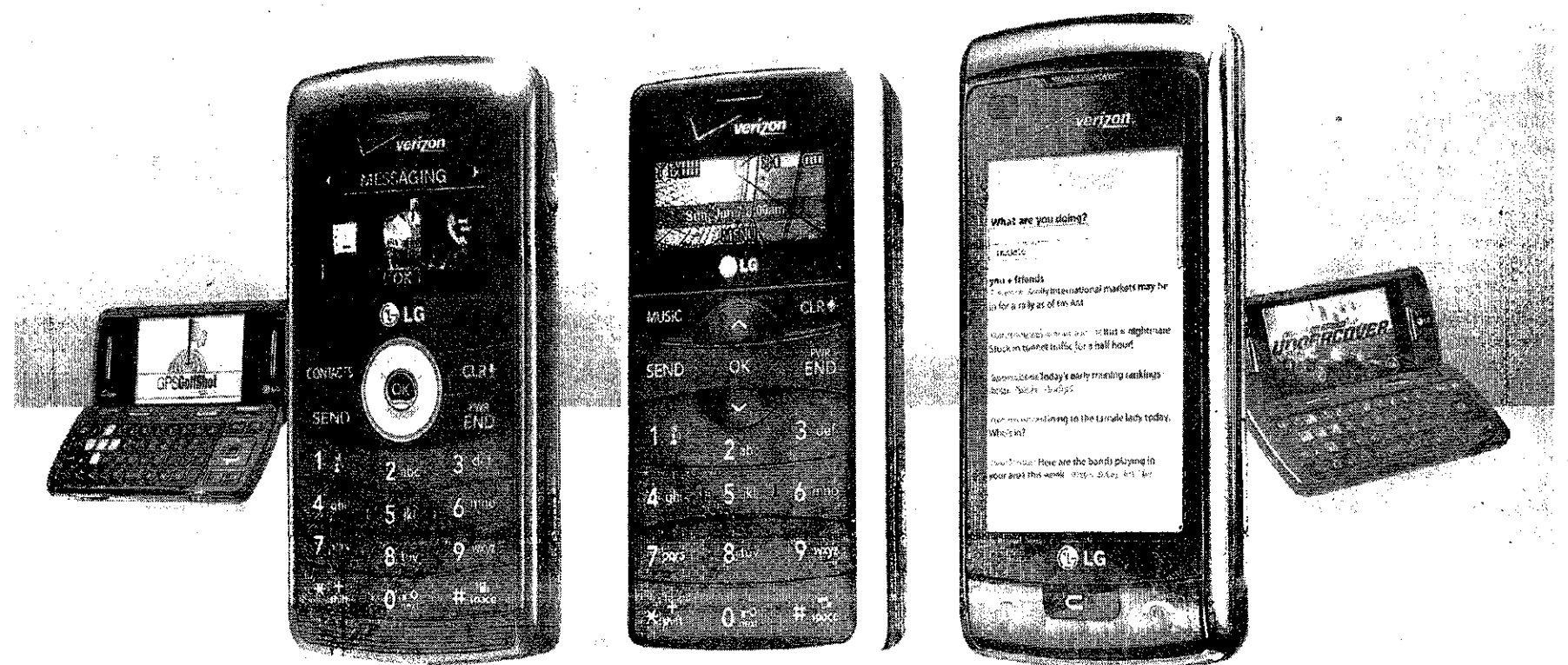


The Little Stars Foundation director Amy Sun showed students to handle the bow properly during the workshop.



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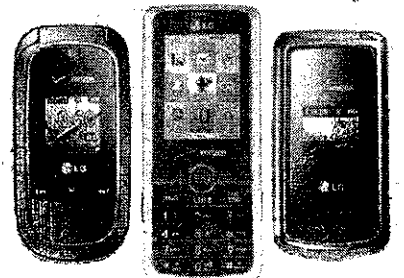
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Michigan's top amateur golfers set to tee off - B3

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B
(*)

Jim Toth, editor (313) 222-6785
jtoth@hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN LIFE

Marcos, Bell receive Raider Cup awards

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Erica Marcos and Brandon Bell are the 2009 recipients of the Raider Cup awards, recognizing them as the top female and male athletes in the North Farmington High School senior class.

The awards are also based on the athletes' overall school and community involvement.

Both participated in three sports and were active in extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

Marcos competed in diving, gymnastics and track and field, earning a total of 11 varsity letters. She was a state qualifier in all three sports and a team captain in two.

She was a two-time state qualifier in diving, and she sometimes swam a relay for the Raiders, too.

Marcos was an all-around gymnast, meaning she competed in all four events. She quali-



Erica Marcos



Brandon Bell

fied for the regional every year and the state meet once.

In track and field, Marcos owns the school record and was a three-time state qualifier in the pole vault. She also competed in the long jump, high jump and hurdles.

While maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Marcos participated in the Summer in the City clean-up program, was a member of the NFHS Captain's Club and played the flute and piccolo in the school's symphony band.

Marcos will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in biology and science. She



Erica Marcos, who earned 11 varsity letters at North Farmington, is the winner of the Raider Cup among senior female athletes.

will be a preferred walk-on with the track team, joining her sister, Andrea, the 2006 winner of the girls Raider Cup Award.

Bell competed in football, basketball and baseball. He will attend Western Michigan University and will be a preferred walk-on with the football team.

"It's a great honor, because there

were a lot of great candidates this year," Bell said of his selection for the Raider Cup. "As I look back, I'm glad I stuck with three sports, because at times I was thinking about dropping one. But I'm glad I stuck with all three."

Bell earned eight varsity letters — half of them in baseball in which he was the starting

center fielder on the varsity team throughout his high school career.

He was a two-way starter in football, carrying the ball many times from the tailback position and playing inside linebacker on defense.

In eight games, Bell led the Raiders in all-purpose yards and scoring. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry and nearly 27 per kick return. An All-OAA White Division player, Bell was North's leading tackler with 66, including four for loss.

In basketball, Bell's athleticism fit well with North's aggressive, trapping, scrambling style of defense. His dribbling and shooting abilities were assets offensively.

Bell was a leader in Dunkel Middle School's Boys Only Leadership Development Program, and he served on the diversity committee at North and the African-American Student Network.

SIDELINES

Bucks edge Fever

Kenny Uzoigwe's bicycle kick goal in the 78th minute proved to be the difference Thursday as the host Michigan Bucks edged the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Fever, 2-1, in a Premier Development League soccer victory at Ultimate Sports Arenas in Pontiac.

The Bucks led 1-0 in the first half on Jake Stacy's second goal of the year off an assist from Piotr Nowak.

The Fever, which had ousted the Bucks in the US Open Cup last month, evened the score at 1-1 in the 58th minute on a goal by Keith Detel off a one-time cross from Chas Perry.

The high energy of the Bucks' fresh legs then paid off in the 78th minute when Uzoigwe scored another one of his patented high profile goals for what would turn out to be the game-winner.

Tony Walls found Uzoigwe with his back to goal at the top of the 18. With two defenders on his back, Uzoigwe chested the incoming pass, headed it one time to set up the acrobatic, overhead kick.

The second-place Bucks, 6-2-1 (19 points) in the PDL's Great Lakes Division, return to action 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Ultimate Soccer Arenas vs. the Forest City London (Ontario), 3-0-3 (13 points).

Football camp

The Plymouth Wildcats football team is holding its Youth Camp June 22-24 at the PCEP Turf Stadium for players interested in honing their linemen or passing skills.

There will be two sessions of the camp, being run by coach Mike Sawchuk. For those going into grades 5-9, sessions will be 5-7 p.m. each day; players entering grades 10-12 go 7-9 p.m.

Please go to www.plymouthwildcats.com for camp brochures and more information. Sawchuk can be reached at (734) 582-5696.

Learn to skate

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton is offering eight weeks of learn-to-skate sessions, beginning Tuesday, June 23.

Classes are 30 minutes each with 15 minutes of free time and are grouped by age and ability.

Parents can register children at the Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Avenue, or call (734) 487-7777 for more information.

New CAHA site

The Canton Amateur Hockey Association recently unveiled a new and improved Web site for the 2009-10 season.

The site has all the information anyone might need about CAHA teams, leagues and coaches for next year as well as brand new online registration.

Check it out at www.cantonhockey.org.

Bulldogs put bite on diamond opposition

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No deficit is too large, no lead too small — they're the Motor City Bulldogs and they beat them all.

Well, nearly all.

The Garden City-based U11 boys baseball team has compiled quite a season to date, winning 22 of 24 games (a loss to the Livingston Storm and tie with the Detroit Bees being the only blemishes) and already solidifying a berth in next month's Baseball Player's Association World Series to be held in Warsaw, Ind.

"We're having quite a year," voiced Bulldogs assistant coach Ken Montroy. "The kids get along, the parents get along - we just have a nice nucleus going for us and that certainly has a lot to do with our success."

The Bulldogs, the core of which has been together the past three seasons, were granted a spot in the July 21-26 World Series following their recent sweep of four games at the BPA Gold Cup Qualifier held in Jackson, MI. The tournament championship was one of two this season for the Bulldogs - the other coming at Saline Summer Slam.

The Bulldogs, first-year members of the Northwest Suburban League, opened play at the BPA Qualifier with a resounding 12-0 triumph over Dansville, and followed that up with a lopsided 13-1 decision over Adrian. Their stiffest test came in game three where Grand Rapids-based Around the Horn Stampede Black opened up a quick 6-0 lead after one inning, only to see the determined Bulldogs bounce back and bite their opponents, 10-9, to gain a shot at the tourney title.



All-Area softball team

Plymouth infielder Beth Heldmeyer, one of the area's top players again this season, was a sparkplug for the Wildcats, who won a district title. See page B2 for the All-Observers softball team.

Rapid fire frenzy

Area trio to join region's top shooters on state range

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some say it's like golf — only with different targets, different equipment, different obstacles and a different degree of adrenaline.

It's the competitiveness among individuals that likens the little-known sport of practical shooting with the popular game of golf, and three area sharpshooters will be deeply involved this weekend in one of the sport's most prestigious events.

The Area-5 Championship, presented by the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) and sponsored by Infinity Firearms, is being contested at the South Kent Sportsman's Club in Dor, MI, through Sunday. Nearly 280 shooters are slated to display their marksmanship over 12 challenging stages and sending more than 50,000 rounds downrange.

"This is the biggest competition I'll see," expressed Garden City native Rob Gaffney, who along with Roy Neal of Plymouth and Dave Maurice of Canton, have their sights set directly on knocking down enough targets in a limited span of time. "For an area match around here to have so many big dogs then, yes, this is a prestigious event."

Practical shooting measures the ability to shoot accurately and rapidly with a full-power handgun, rifle and/or shotgun. Speed, accuracy and power form the three sides of the triangle and each match measures a shooter's ability in all three areas.

Shooting stages, called courses, are obstacle-laden and require as many as 30 shots to complete. Scoring measures points registered per second and weighs the score to compensate for the number of shots fired. Points are deducted for misses, thus lower-

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Talented softball players abound in Observerland

FIRST-TEAM PLAYERS

Briana Combs, Fr. P, Liv. Ladywood: The freshman hurled the Blazers all the way to the Division 2 state finals while posting an overall record of 36-4.

In 285 innings, Combs finished with 305 strikeouts and posted an earned run average of 0.37 en route to All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region and first-team Division 2 All-State honors.

Combs also batted .324 in the ninth spot in the batting order.

"Briana is one of the best conditioned athletes I have ever been around; she trains to compete seven days a week, tirelessly," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said. "Her teammates tease her that she never wants to lose, even in a drill. Her abilities and competitiveness on the mound allowed us to play with the best programs."

Briana Lee, Soph. P, Salem: The sophomore pitcher made an all-around impact, going 17-6 with a 0.84 earned-run average, striking out 218 batters in 133 2/3 innings and chipping in on offense with a .369 average and six home runs.

Lee was the Rocks' defensive MVP and was named to the All-KLAA and All-Region teams. She

"In just two seasons she has struck out almost 450 batters," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "That's pretty amazing in itself. She has the potential to really make a name for herself. The next two years should be pretty interesting."

Brittany Taylor, Sr. C, Liv. Franklin: The senior catcher led the 32-6 Patriots in several offensive categories from the leadoff spot, including runs (58), hits (63), doubles (13) and stolen bases (32).

She also batted .485 with two triples, five homers and 23 RBI. Her on-base average was .566 and her slugging percentage .731.

During her illustrious career, Taylor batted .493 with 226 hits, 18 homers and 103 stolen bases.

Taylor made All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and Division 1 honorable mention All-State.

"Brittany brought positive energy every single day," Franklin coach Linda Jimenez said. "Her presence behind the plate was exciting to watch as was her base running. Besides her outstanding softball skills, she's a great role model. The Taylor twins will be greatly missed. They have left Franklin High a better place."

Megan Lawrence, Jr. 1B, F.H. Mercy: Megan Lawrence: A junior first base-



Briana Combs
Ladywood



Briana Lee
Salem



Brittany Taylor
Franklin



Megan
Lawrence
Mercy



Beth Heldmeyer
Plymouth



Briana Taylor
Franklin



Mary Cox
Salem



Stacey
Klonowski
Plymouth



Taylor
Cummings
Farmington



Stephanie
Arnold
N. Farmington

man, Lawrence started drawing lots of interest from college coaches after an outstanding season in which she batted .438 with 42 hits (10 doubles, two triples and a home run). She scored 20 runs and knocked in 18. She made just three errors and had a .995 fielding percentage. Her slugging percentage was .615. Lawrence made the all-state first team after being named all-Catholic and all-region.

"Megan is a very competitive individual," coach Jack Falvo said. "She expects a lot of herself, and we could always count on her to be a gamer and to compete. She has improved tremendously, and we expect, with her and the other returning seniors, to be the core of our team next year."

Beth Heldmeyer, Sr. 2B, Plymouth: Heldmeyer's consistency in the field and at the plate played a big role in Plymouth's 32-10 season, which reached the Division 1 regional final.

She batted .496 and was rewarded by being selected to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams.

"Beth is a very valuable player to us," said Plymouth coach Val Canfield. "Just having her and Stacey Klonowski up the middle is a dynamic duo. Beth is real aggressive defensively and she is a real powerful contact hitter."

Heldmeyer will go to Sienna Heights, where she will run cross country, Canfield noted.

Briana Taylor, Sr. SS, Liv. Franklin: The senior shortstop, a first-team All-State selection in Division 1, led the Patriots with 13 homers (school-record), three triples and 41 RBI.

Taylor batted a team-best .508 with an on-base average of .551 and a slugging percentage of .893. The clean-up hitter also finished with 62 hits, eight doubles and 14 stolen bases.

For her career, Taylor batted an identical .493 along with her twin sisters Brianauna with a total of 215 hits, 16 homers, 73 stolen bases and 119 RBI.

Defensively this season, she finished with 110 assists (school record) and 51 putouts with only seven errors (.958 fielding average).

"She has unbelievable range at shortstop," Jimenez said. "Her strength and agility make her perfect for the position, but you can't help be impressed with her soft hands."

"Briana is also a first-class young lady who was well-respected by her teammates and coaching staff."

She is headed with her twin sister to Grand Valley State on a basketball scholarship.

Mary Cox, Sr. SS, Salem: Her coach, Southerland, issued high praise for the senior shortstop by calling her "one of the most all-around student-athletes I have coached" in her 25-year career.

Cox again spearheaded the Rocks in her second season as team captain, ripping 50 hits and knocking in 30 while batting .442 out of the key No. 3 spot in the lineup. When needed, the team leader helped out as a reliever and played crisp defense.

"(She's an) extremely hard worker and achiever," Southerland noted. "You could see this by her awards."

Cox won the Salem Rock Solid Award, collected her second Salem Golden Glove and was named to the All-KLAA and All-District squads.

Stacey Klonowski, Jr. SS, Plymouth: The junior shortstop, like Heldmeyer, was a driving force for the Wildcats as they marched to the regional final.

Klonowski batted .476 and was picked to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams in recognition of her outstanding all-around season.

"Stacey is just an unbelievable player and I'm glad she's returning for her senior year," Canfield said. "She is real consistent, has a powerful arm and makes the hard plays look easy. Plus, she has a powerful bat and is a key hitter with runners in scoring position."

Taylor Cummings, Sr. SS, Farmington: Cummings was a four-year varsity starter, the first three at second base before moving to shortstop this year. She led the Falcons (20-19) with a .439 batting average. In 39 games, she had 54 hits with seven doubles and a home run. Cummings scored 28 runs and drove in 33 as the team's No. 3 hitter. Her on base and



Miranda
Rysdorp
Canton



Cara Miller
Ladywood



Shannon
Pietruszka
Garden City



All Robinson
Farmington

slugging percentages were .482 and .520, respectively. She is an all-OAA Red and all-region player.

"When it came down to the clutch moments, she was the player I wanted up to bat," coach Stefanie Volpe said. "There was never a time I didn't trust her with the bat. She's a great kid and a smart ballplayer. She was a leader on the field. She was a captain, so the kids looked up to her; the younger kids responded to her."

Stephanie Arnold, Sr. SS, N. Farmington: A four-year starter who spent two seasons each at second base and shortstop, Arnold helped the Raiders win the OAA White Division championship (20-0) and finish 29-7 overall. In 36 games and 112 at-bats, she batted .410 with 46 hits, which included 13 doubles, one triple and six home runs. Arnold scored 46 runs and had 36 RBI. She had just nine errors at the busiest position on the field for a .907 fielding percentage. Her on base score was .508. Arnold is also an academic all-state player.

"She had one of the best individual seasons I've ever seen here at North," coach Dave Brubaker said. "She has a great deal of power, and she has a great eye for the ball. She did everything extremely well, and that was good for the team. She played hurt most of the year with a sore arm, but she didn't let it affect her. She was a gamer; she went out there and played hurt, and I attribute that to how much she loves the game."

Miranda Rysdorp, Sr. OF, Canton: Chiefs head coach Jim Arnold knew what kind of performance he could expect every game out of Rysdorp, a strong-armed outfielder with a potent bat.

Rysdorp batted .481, with 16 extra-base hits and 26 runs, a catalyst behind many of the Chiefs' rallies. She was named to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams and was the Canton batting champion.

"She has speed as well as a strong arm," Arnold said. "She had two putouts at first from center field."

Shannon Pietruszka, Sr. OF, Garden City: Although the end result wasn't the same as last year when the Cougars captured the Division I softball title, the individual performance turned in by this senior outfielder was just as spectacular. Competing in her third varsity campaign, Pietruszka batted .342 with a slugging per-

centage of .425 after clubbing 25 hits. She scored 22 runs, drove in 12, stole eight bases and fanned only nine times.

"Shannon has been a very strong outfielder for us the past three seasons," Garden City coach Barry Patterson said of Pietruszka, who will attend Marygrove College and play volleyball. "She was again our team's sparkplug. She just always seemed to get everyone going."

Cara Miller, Fr. OF, Liv. Ladywood: The freshman center fielder led the Blazers' hitting attack with a .390 average with 21 doubles and 25 RBI.

The tall and rangy Miller made All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region and honorable mention All-State honors in Division 2.

"Cara is simply a tremendous athlete and a tremendous person," Scott Combs said. "Her work ethic is impeccable. When we moved her to cleanup in the order, we moved as a team to a new level. Cara hit a three-run homer in our first game of the year to win it, and set the pace from then on."

All Robinson, Sr. OF, Farmington: As the leadoff batter, the senior center fielder was adept at getting on base. She had 60 hits (all but one singles) and a .429 batting average. Robinson, who accepted an offer to play at Madonna University, was 22-of-23 on stolen bases, scored 33 runs and contributed 11 RBI. Her on base and fielding percentages were .448 and .931, respectively.

"Any time she was on base, she was a threat," coach Stefanie Volpe said. "She can make a lot happen; she can drop it down and beat it out or slap it past you. Her speed is her biggest weapon. She was my fire, my spunk. As the leadoff hitter, she's the one who got the game going. Even if she got out, she was jumping in the dugout, trying to encourage and get the troops fired up. That's why she won the Coaches Award. When we weren't in the dugout, she was our other half (of the coaching staff)."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Scott Combs, Liv. Ladywood: The second-year coach guided the Blazers to a 37-8 overall record and a berth in the Division 2 state finals before losing to Niles, 4-0. Ladywood earned district and regional tourney titles. The Blazers also captured the Catholic League's Central Division and was runner-up to Allen Park Cabrini in

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOFTBALL FIRST TEAM

Briana Combs, Fr. P, Liv. Ladywood
Briana Lee, Soph. P, Salem
Brittany Taylor, Sr. C, Liv. Franklin
Megan Lawrence, Jr. 1B, F.H. Mercy
Beth Heldmeyer, Sr. 2B, Plymouth
Briana Taylor, Sr. SS, Liv. Franklin
Mary Cox, Sr. SS, Salem
Stacey Klonowski, Jr. SS, Plymouth
Taylor Cummings, Sr. SS, Farmington
Stephanie Arnold, Sr. SS, N. Farmington

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOFTBALL SECOND TEAM

Natalie Sanborn, Sr. P, Liv. Franklin
Katie Severson, Sr. P, N. Farmington
Erin Rodes, Sr. C, Plymouth
Laura McKelvey, Sr. C, N. Farmington
Jordan Searcy, Sr. 1B, Garden City
Hilarie Wertz, Fr. 1B, Garden City
Alysa Gietl, Jr. 1B, Liv. Ladywood
Chelsea Williams, Soph. 2B, Liv. Franklin

COACH OF THE YEAR

Scott Combs, Liv. Ladywood

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Jesse Lerner, Samantha Partain, Kaitlyn Mattson; **Churchill:** Katie Stodulski, Taylor Kerr, Katina St. Pierre; **Clarencville:** Charmaine McQueen, Val Sochacki; **Brittany Brooks,** Lisa Wilson, Stephanie Bishop; **Franklin:** Nicole Emery, Natalie Polakowski, Jessica Emery, Mariah Barcus; **Garden City:** Ashley Lynn, Kelsey Susalla; **Harrison:** Michelle Westcott, Emma Williams, Arisa Nagasaka; **John Glenn:** Stacey Truskowski; **Ladywood:** Jennifer Kelley, Gina Sykes, Julie Bushart, Courtney LaValley, Carli SanMillan, Sara Stempin; **Lutheran Westland:** Emily Wilson, Cathy Haller; **Mercy:** Katherine Garry, Brittany Stallworth, Ellen Panetta; **N. Farmington:** Karleigh Creighton, Amelia Mittelbrun, Eileen Tausch, Katie Creighton, Megan Young; **Plymouth:** Jillian Brennan, Lauren Smith, Jessica Bondy; **Redford Union:** Kim D'Arcangelo, Tory Heber, Sarah Sanders, Danielle Sweeney; **Salem:** Christina Parsons, Emily Pitcole; **Stevenson:** Shellee Wilson, Kristina Vackovic; **Thurston:** Becca Burgess, Kara Laskos, Bre Taylor; **Wayne:** Hailee Lankton, Kathy Harris.

the A-B Division playoffs.

One of the Blazers' biggest accomplishments was winning the Michigan Stars Classic against several state-ranked teams.

"We played the toughest schedule possible to prepare for the state tournament," Combs said. "We have only one thought process in practice — quality not quantity."

"The players have bought into my insistence on either doing it right or we don't move on. We have short practices, never more than 90 minutes. The players decided at the start of the year to practice seven days a week, and we had fun every day."

Combs played four sports and lettered 11 times at Battle Creek Harper Creek H.S. He went on to Kalamazoo College where he played baseball and basketball, earning eight letters. He has a law degree from the University of Detroit and a private practice in Novi.


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Area golfers set to play in Michigan Amateur

BY MARTY BUDNER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After a year's absence because of back problems, Bill O'Connor is eagerly looking forward to playing again in the Michigan Amateur.

The 98th edition of the tournament is scheduled for June 23-27 at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden. The 128-player field engages in two rounds of stroke play with the top 64 advancing to match play.

"It's the biggest Amateur event in the state, and you always want to do well in it," said O'Connor, a 1985 Brother Rice graduate.

"If you can win your state Amateur once in your lifetime, that is something you can always take with you," he said. "It's something to be proud of and have a feather in your cap, so to speak."

The 42-year-old O'Connor has played in 17 Michigan Amateur tournaments dating back to 1992, missing only last year's event.

A Birmingham resident and member of Oakland Hills Country Club, O'Connor has advanced to the Sweet 16 round of the tournament five

MICHIGAN AMATEUR FACTS

WHAT: 98th Michigan Amateur sponsored by the Golf Association of Michigan

WHEN: June 23-27, 2009

WHERE: Spring Meadows Country Club (Linden, MI).

FIELD: Starting field of 128 amateurs for stroke play. Top 64 qualify for match play.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND: Saturday, June 27 (Semifinals and Finals, Match Play. Tee times start at 8 a.m.)

DIRECTIONS: Take US-23 to exit 79 (Silver Lake). Go west to Ripley Road. Go north on Ripley Road to the club.

INFORMATION: 1-810-735-4363 (Spring Meadows Pro Shop)

times, with his best finish coming in 1993 at Travis Point Country Club in Ann Arbor. O'Connor advanced to the semifinal round that year, losing to eventual champion Del de Windt of Bloomfield Hills on the 17th hole.

His golf resume also includes Michigan Mid-Amateur play, where he's finished in the top 10 on nine different occasions. He was the Michigan Mid-Amateur runner-up in 2004.

O'Connor was the Horton Smith Championship runner-up in 2002. He's played on nine state Fuller Cup teams and a dozen Atlas Trophy

teams. He's been a seven-time Golf Association of Michigan honor roll member.

O'Connor plans to play the Spring Meadows Country Club course at least once in preparation for the upcoming Amateur. He believes his game is starting to improve following his time off from back surgery in 2007.

"I've been able to practice more than I have in the past couple of years with having a bad back," he said. "I'm excited and I think I have a chance to do well. I should be able to make match play and we'll see what happens from there."

"It's mostly a young field to

AMATEURS ON THE LINKS

The following golfers from the Observer & Eccentric's coverage area have scheduled tee times in the 98th Michigan Amateur:

PLYMOUTH: Bill Zylstra; Chad Johnson; Adam Hogue.

LIVONIA: Michael King; John Proben; Tommy Lucko; Patrick Alger; Kevin Janasik.

FARMINGTON HILLS: Matt Malloure; Mike Beals.

BIRMINGHAM: Sazan Bardha; Bill O'Connor; Stephen Jones; David Hall.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS: Matt Alessi; Gene Gizzarelli; Eric Spencer; Brett Hudson; J.C. Wilhelm.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP: John Berg; Nick Moran.

BEVERLY HILLS: Mark Hamilton.

SOUTHFIELD: Ron Jona.

ROYAL OAK: Joe Carroll.

begin with, and there will be a few of us mid-ams who will go out and play well, and hopefully I'm one of them."

Macker tourney makes only metro-area stop

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If basketball is your game, as either a player or spectator, the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Tournament June 27-28 in Southfield will be of interest to you.

"The Macker" is part of the second annual Southfield Sports Festival and is the only one scheduled to take place in metro Detroit this year.

Bill Waterhouse, director of Southfield parks and recreation, expects a repeat of last year when about 100 teams participated in the city's first Macker tournament. He estimates a crowd of nearly 3,000 people will attend the two-day event. There is no charge for admission.

"We had a good time last year," Waterhouse said. "I think everybody enjoyed it. We had good weather. It's always weather-dependent when you have an outdoor event."

"We enjoyed putting it on. We're hoping it will be at least that and exceed that this year."

"If you participate, it's good competition. If you want to be a spectator, come out, enjoy the weekend and see some pretty good basketball."

The Macker organizers are still accepting online registrations and will probably do so until the last possible time, according to Waterhouse.

Teams can register at www.macker.com; click on Southfield to go to the correct site.

There will be five youth age divisions (10 and under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18), one adult division (19 and older) and a wheelchair division open to all ages.

Each team is allowed a maxi-

mum of four players. The team fee is \$128 and includes a T-shirt for each player and a minimum of three games.

All games will be played in the Southfield Municipal Complex parking lot at 26000 Evergreen Rd. between 10 and 11 mile roads and just south of I-696.

The tournament times are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 27, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 28. Restrooms and concessions will be available.

BULLDOGS

FROM PAGE B1

With momentum clearly on their side, the Bulldogs needed only three innings to score 12 runs and dispose of the Michigan Elite, 12-0.

Montroy, of Garden City, and Ken Hollenbeck, of Westland, serve as assistants on the staff, while Dallas Kidd and Rob Moyers, both of Garden City, share the head coaching duties.

"Dallas has stepped in this year and done a fantastic job," Montroy said. "He's from the old school and he teaches the kids like they need to be coached."

"We're fortunate because we do have a great nucleus of players and they like to compete," Montroy went on. "We never

feel like we're out of a game. We were down 6-0 in the first inning and came back to win. We haven't lost since Mother's Day weekend. It's a pretty good situation we have going right now."

Talent can be found all around the diamond as the Bulldogs' 2009 roster is comprised by Vinnie Bakerian (Garden City), Sammy Hollenbeck (Westland), Brendan Wetmore (Westland), Travis Kidd (Garden City), A.J. Montie (Livonia), Robbie Moyers (Garden City), Jordan Pressley (Romulus), Jarid Latham (Garden City), Cody Montroy (Garden City), Donovan Sheridan (Garden City), Frankie Luscka (Garden City) and Jacob Ledesma (Dearborn Heights).

SHOOTERS

FROM PAGE B1

ing the final score. All of this occurs in approximately a three-minute span.

ON THE RADAR

Gaffney, Neal and Maurice, all are experienced shooters having more than five years each competing in the ever-growing sport. They will be using pistols familiar to them in their bid to achieve high scores and continue their trek upward in terms of classification.

Neal, 37, currently holds down 'A' classification, and with another outstanding performance this weekend, could move into the Master category.

"It takes a ton of practice and discipline to be successful in this sport," said the Redford Thurston graduate, who was introduced to practical shooting in 1998 and became obsessed with it by 2000. "After I got out of the military, I was looking for an adrenaline sport. I discovered it and it really became contagious."

"I've been a hunter and fisherman most of my life, so I like the outdoors," said Maurice, 46, currently a 'B' class shooter who is zeroing in on 'A' status. "I saw it on TV and thought it would be fun to try. What I had to do was learn how to shoot a pistol pretty well, so I went to the shooter's range and took training sessions. I started working and practicing and really enjoyed it."

There is a lot of skill involved in knocking down targets, but the real rush, all three agree, comes in the form of athleticism and the level of competition put forth.

"I just like the competition," said Neal, whose weapon of choice will be a custom-made Strayer-Voigt Infinity (SVI). "I don't care if we're playing for tiddlywinks, we're playing for money and for pride when we're out there. This weekend happens to be for a little more."

WHAT A RUSH

Handling a firearm while on the move poses the greatest obstacle for these competitors. And like any other sport - whether driving a golf ball, negotiating a turn at 200 miles per hour or completing a marathon - to be successful takes a great work ethic, poise and concentration.

"Practical shooting is a fast and furious pistol sport," said Maurice, who often is dressed in a polo shirt, shorts and football spikes, along with the mandatory safety glasses and ear protection during his time on the course. "The sport does a lot to teach you how to shoot effectively and technically correct. My thrill is being confident I'm pretty well trained in how to handle a gun."

"This sport is high-speed decision-making with a gun in your hand," described Neal. "We do all the things your mom told you not to and I think that's what makes it so addictive for many."

The fun isn't limited to the happenings on the course or the range either, as socializing plays a big role in attracting new faces to the sport.

"I competed in an Indiana Sectional and the people there were a scream," said Gaffney, a 'C' class participant who will also be firing a SVI model. "The sport is a lot fun because it is competition, but the social gathering is something that is very important and fun, too."

Whatever the results, Neal, Gaffney and Maurice are in agreement the experience will outweigh that of any other competition based on the caliber of participants.

"If you have an ego, you're going to get crushed because you're rolling the dice with the best in the world," Neal said.



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NEW PATIENTS

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get creative

The Livonia Public Library and the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) are offering a Teen Art Camp for students 12 years and older.

Two sessions will be held at the Civic Center Library: 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, July 20 and 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.

Local artist Lin Baum will teach the class, with a focus on an introduction to representational drawing in pencil. VAAL will provide the art supplies. There is no charge for the class.

Students entering seventh grade and up can sign up for the Sandburg Teen Summer Art Camp offered at the Sandburg Library in Livonia.

This class is taught by Julie Cooper, fine artist and teacher. The cost is \$45.

The sessions run one week, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, Aug. 10-14. Students will create a large canvas acrylic painting.

There is no residency requirement for either program. To make a reservation to attend either program, contact Patti Goonis at (248) 893-4010.

Divorce support

Attorney James J. Harrington III will discuss divorce proceedings with emphasis on pre and post custody issues at the next meeting of the Divorce Support Group at Schoolcraft College's Transition Center. The group will meet from 7-9 p.m., in room 225 at the McDowell Center, Tuesday, June 23.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

A certified divorce financial planner from Divorce Solutions is available for consultation from 5-7 p.m., the first Monday of the month at the Transitions Center. Clients are served on a first come first served basis. Sign in begins at 4:30 p.m. The service is free.

Attorney Laure Reyes Kopack from the firm of Creighton, McLean & Shea, is available for free consultation from 5-7 p.m., the second Monday of the month and attorney Marie Pulte is on hand the third Monday of the month. Sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the Divorce Support Group call the Transitions Center at (734) 462-4443.



Jerry Young and Lyla Young

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Jerry Young and Lyla (Hall) Young, of Farmington Hills, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 25.

The couple was married June 25, 1949 in Detroit. Jerry is retired from General Motors and Lyla worked for Farmington Public Schools. Their children are Cindy Primer, Jerry Young, Jr., Pam Schultes, Judy Chimner, Craig Young, Todd Young, Lou (Bunny) Hozeska, Jennifer Young. They have 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The couple will celebrate with a family picnic in the park.



Marilyn Joyce and Donald Siebert on their wedding day in 1959.

Donald A. and Marilyn Joyce (Head) Siebert of Gwinn, formerly of Livonia, marked their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 14. The couple married in 1959 at Dunning Park Bible Chapel in Redford. Donald is a 1949 graduate of Highland Park High School and worked for Chrysler in various jobs over 35 years, retiring from the Chrysler Engine Plant in Trenton.

Marilyn is a 1955 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. A Cleary Business College graduate, she worked for Bower-Freeman and Bower in Ypsilanti.

After marrying, the couple lived in Wayne for three years before moving to Livonia where they raised three children. After 34 years in Livonia, they moved to Gwinn, where Donald drove a school bus for eight years and Marilyn ran her own day care business. They are now retired.

The couple is active at Lake Superior Christian Church and has been involved with Upper Peninsula Bible Camp and Little Lake Gospel Chapel. Marilyn enjoys crafts, piano, singing in choir, Bible studies and is a member of a study club in Gwinn. Donald is a member of an amateur radio

club. They enjoy supporting Gospel causes together.

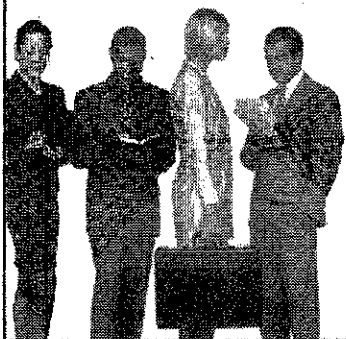
Their children are Craig (Cathie) Siebert of Plymouth, Davis Siebert of Dearborn Heights, the late Amy Siebert, Dona Joyce (David) Dillon of Fort Worth, Texas. They have nine grandchildren.

They celebrated with family and friends at Tailwinds, on the old Sawyer Air Base in Gwinn. Cheryl (Young) Mounsey of Gladstone, who served as the flower girl in their wedding, and her husband, Dennis, also took them to dinner in celebration of their milestone anniversary.



Marilyn Joyce and Donald A. Siebert

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Guide to Employment

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MILESTONES



Edwards-Reddy

EDWARDS-REDDY

Jeannine Edwards and James Patrick Reddy announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Donald and Tuk Su Edwards of Canton, is a 2000 Salem High School graduate and a 2005 Wayne State University graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology. She's pursuing a bachelor's degree in secondary education at Eastern Michigan University and is in a residency program at Detroit Medical Center. She coaches girls and boys soccer at Canton High School and works at Dairy Queen in Canton.

Her fiancé, son of Patrick and Carole Reddy of Plymouth, is a 2000 Canton High School graduate and a 2006 Eastern Michigan University graduate with a bachelor's degree in science education. He teaches at Agape Christian Academy and coaches boys basketball at Canton High School.

The wedding will be held in July 2009 on the beach at Lauderdale by the Sea, Fla. The reception will be held at Sea Watch in Lauderdale by the Sea, Fla. A second reception will be held in Canton.



Stewart-LaPrairie

STEWART-LAPRAIRIE

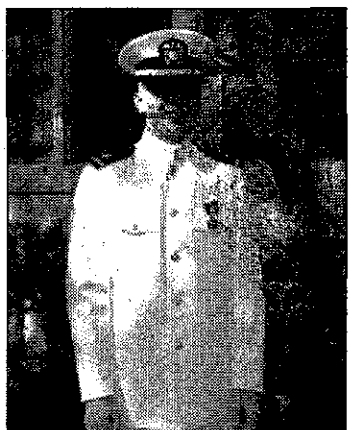
Meghan Stewart and Ryan LaPrairie announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jeff and Sherrie Stewart of Farmington Hills, is a 2007 graduate of Western Michigan University and currently works as a docent for Detroit Zoological Park.

Her fiancé, son of Cathie LaPrairie of Ortonville and Pierre LaPrairie of Troy, is a 2006 graduate of Grand Valley University. He's employed by the Bureau of the Census, Detroit.

A June 2009 wedding in Royal Oak is planned.

MILITARY MILESTONE



Braden Schrock

Braden Schrock

Braden Schrock, of Farmington Hills, graduated from the University of Michigan in aerospace engineering and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on May 1, 2009. He began the first stage of his training in EOD (Explosives Ordnance Disposal) at Dive School in Panama City, Fla., on May 14.

Women can get free job search help

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The JVS Women To Work program has long been helping women find employment after they've been home with family responsibilities and out of the paid workforce. A summer Women To Work program will be held 9 a.m.-noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Tuesday, July 7 and wrapping up Aug. 6. An informational meeting from 9-11 a.m., Tuesday, June 30, kicks off the free five-week program, at the Jewish Vocational Service office in Southfield.

Participants also must be available at other times to complete an assessment and for individual meetings with Judy Richmond, JVS employment specialist.

The program helps women (men are also eligible) with job search basics such as resume writing and interviewing skills. Also covered are job search strategies and stress management. Those interested in participating should call Richmond at (248) 233-4232.

"It's intended for people who are able to begin work immediately," said Richmond.

The program draws women from the northern suburbs, as well as western Wayne County.

"I've had people as far away as Howell and Lake Orion. It's typically Detroit and the northern suburbs.

"We're seeing more people," she said, noting that layoffs have hit workers hard in southeastern Michigan. "People have to be perhaps more persistent in terms of the job resource connections they make. It's important to be realistic."

Highly motivated job-seekers will find work, she said. JVS employment specialists and career development pros can help new graduates who "may have to look in a new direction or explore other avenues."

Richmond is pleased to see career information offered even at the high school level. It's a good idea to make some career decisions while still in school, Richmond said. She pointed out that some young people graduate from college without clear career goals.

"It takes some career counseling to help people in those decisions."

This is the first time in recent years that JVS has offered a summer Women To Work program. The current economic climate has created more need for women to return or enter the workforce for the first time, Richmond said.

Charter One Bank sponsors Women To Work. "We're glad that's continuing," she said of the bank's support.

JVS main offices are at 29699 Southfield Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile, in Southfield.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Birmingham Groves

Class of 1969

40th high school reunion, 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, with buffet dinner, DJ and cash bar, at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. 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.

Clarenceville High School

All Class Reunion

10 a.m. to park closing, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009 at Kensington Metropark, 2240 West Buno, Milford at South Martindale, Shelter T. Bring a dish to pass for 1 p.m., potluck lunch. BYOB for adult beverages in non-glass containers. 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, cor-

ner of Telegraph and Warren, Dearborn Heights. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$27 at the door. Casual attire. Beer, pop and 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 High School

Class of 1969

40th Reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at the Knights of Columbus O'Kelley Hall, 23663 Park Street, Dearborn, 48124. Tickets are \$45 each. For information, call Tom Gillespie at (313) 418-6070 or e-mail Maryann (Taylor) Manduch at mmanduch@wideopenwest.com.

Dearborn Heights Riverside

Class of 1967

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 Henry Ford

Class of 1969

July 25 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$65 per person, \$120 per couple, and include dinner, beer, wine, pop and cash bar. DJ and photographer.

Looking for classmates. Call Nancy Sylvester Wampler at (734) 718-5428 or e-mail to jnwampler@yahoo.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.

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.

Classes at Madonna

Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies is offering a class called "User Friendly Garden" that is ideal for gerontology students or anyone working with the elderly. Participants will learn simple and inexpensive ways to adapt a garden to someone with disabilities and/or age-related changes in physical abilities. Class meets 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 27. Cost is \$24.

The class meets in room 1003 in the academic building on the Madonna University Livonia campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, at Levan. (734) 432-5804 or visit <http://www.madonna.edu/pages/officecontinuing.cfm>.

Contest

The deadline to enter the Farmington Garden Club's 23rd Good Neighbor Garden Contest is July 1. The contest is open to all residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Judging will be July 6-10. Gardeners who are entered will be told which day the judging will take place at their gardens. The first, second and third place winners will receive a gift certificate from Steinkopf Nursery. Entry forms are available at farmingtongardenclub.com and at Steinkopf Nursery. You may also send gardeners name, telephone number and location of garden to FGC, 34621 Beechwood, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335-4010. If the garden is not your own, get gardener's permission to enter the garden. For more information, call (248) 474-0866.

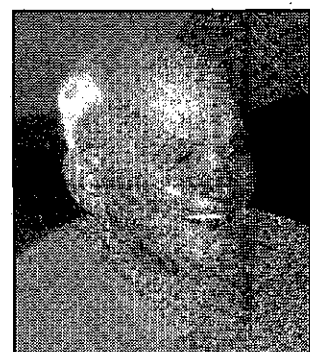
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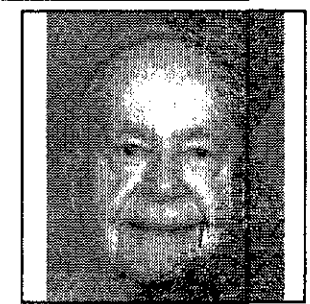


WILLIAM (Bill) BANCROFT

Age 81, of Livonia, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital of Livonia on Sunday, June 14th, 2009. Papa has gone home to join Nanny (Louise) his loving wife who preceded in death. Also to join his brother Joe and sister Adele Moran. Papa leaves a daughter Pat Cuda, the pride of his life granddaughter Jenny Lee (Jen Jen) DeGorsky, (Greg) and three great-grandchildren Jonathan, Samantha and Joseph. Papa's nieces are Nancy Clark, Diane Drugach, and nephews are Mike, Robert and John Moran. There are many other extended family members which Papa was always so thankful for that were a big part of his life. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 23rd at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly (I-75 North to exit 108, turn left onto the highway heading south and follow signs to cemetery). Papa served in the USMC 1947-51. He remained a Marine throughout his life with a strong love of his country and a man of strong faith. In lieu of flowers, memorial to the Michigan Humane Society will be appreciated. On-line condolences may be left at: www.haleyfuneraldirectors.com

GEORGE CLIFFORD BRYDGES

Age 66, of Farmington Hills, passed away Saturday, June 13, 2009. Burial will be 10:00am Friday, June 26, 2009 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd., Holly. Online condolences and tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of: www.sharpfuneralhomes.com



CLIFFORD F. BURK

Age 89. Died in Novi, MI on June 18, 2009. Husband of the late Agnes (McNamara). Loving father of Clifford Jr. (Bonnie) of Bloomington, IN, Patricia of Oscoda, MI, Catherine (Richard) Young of Plymouth, MI and the late David (Nancy) of Grandville, MI. Grandfather of Sean, Kelly Ryan and Sarah Daily, Kristen Micallef, Keith and Lauren Young. Great-grandfather of Madison, Emily, Addison, Allison and Connor. Mr. Burk graduated from Parma Schaeff High School in 1937, served four years in U.S. Army Air Corps, in WWII. He began working for DeLuca Check Printers in the Cleveland Plant in 1946 and served as plant manager of the Detroit Plant from 1959 until retiring to Charlotte, NC in 1983. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. He returned to Novi in 1993 and became active in Church of the Holy Family and their Knights of Columbus Council #11811. Visitation at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi (248) 348-1800, Saturday 5-9pm and Sunday 2-4 and 6-9pm. Instate at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, Monday 10am with funeral liturgy at 10:30am. Online sympathy message at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

HELEN A. DELY

Age 90, June 17, 2009. Dear sister of Anna (Nelson) Altenbernt, Barbara (Fred) Warren, Betty Liddle, Irene (Robert) Phillips, Edward (Violet) Dely and the late Mary Clark, Louis and Steven Dely. Visitation Thursday, June 25, 2009 from 3pm-9pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Funeral services will follow on Friday, June 26, 2009 at 11am at the funeral home. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

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KATHLEEN "Kathy" P. GOUDREAU

Age 69, of Northville, MI, passed away suddenly in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Providence Hospital as the result of a heart attack. Her loving family was with her when she went to be with the Lord. Kathy was raised in St. Ignace, MI by her parents, Bernard and Gertrude Crouch. She graduated in 1957 from La Salle High School. She started college at Northern Michigan University but left to marry her high school sweetheart Wilbur "Pudd" Goudreau and to raise her children. They moved to the Detroit area and she began her career in her 20's selling Rubbermaid and Tupperware. In 1981 Kathy and her husband opened Kamar Office Products in Pontiac, MI. She devoted endless hours to building a successful business and worked so hard until the very end. When Kathy wasn't working she enjoyed travelling with her family, especially taking trips to Disney World with her grandchildren. She enjoyed her collection of Beanie Babies, Santa Bears, and dolls. Shopping at TJ Maxx was a favorite pastime. Kathy gave a lifetime of generosity to her family, friends, employees, and even strangers. She was a very strong and proud woman who was loved deeply by her family and friends. They will miss her more than words can express. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 51 years Wilbur; daughters Carol Goudreau, Roxanne (Jeffrey) Fesko, and Angela (Ryan Terry) Goudreau; grandchildren Amanda, Christian, and Cassie; father Bernard Crouch; sister Bonita Meade; brothers Terry (J.A.) Crouch, Daniel (Stephanie) Crouch, and Brian (Lisa) Crouch. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, her beloved dog Coco and cat Rumor. Kathy was preceded in death by her son Robert Paul, her mother, her brother Bill and sister Penny. Friends and family may visit Wednesday, June 17, 2009 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009, 11 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, or Michigan Humane Society.

TRISHA JULIEN

Age 44, passed June 6, 2009. Beloved daughter of Douglas & Eva, dearest sister of Heather, Amanda, Nicole, Cheryl, Margaret & Vickie; one niece Alisa. Cremation has taken place, with final resting at Canton Cemetery.



ARCHIE "Mac" MACDONALD

Born November 8, 1925, passed on to tell his stories to a new audience on June 9th, 2009 at 7:58pm in Raleigh, NC. Born in Detroit, he served eight years in the Navy during WWII & made life long friends on the USS Buckley DES1. He married Margaret Bork in 1954, settled in Garden City, MI & raised two children in a house full of laughter. He drove trucks, worked at Detroit Metro Airport in the Fire & Police Depts, retiring from Airport Operations. They all travelled together when Mac wasn't making windmills, wishing wells, fixing someone's car or with friends at local hangouts. He was preceded in death by his parents, three siblings & his first wife of 40 yrs, Margaret MacDonald. He is survived by his second wife, Alyce MacDonald; daughter, Victoria MacDonald; son, Dean MacDonald (& Katie); grandchildren, Heather Kingery (& Matt), Renée MacDonald & Max Wickham; sisters, Flora (& Jim), Margaret Ann, Barbara, Anne (& Fraser), Evelyn; brothers, Murdoch, Hugh (& Gail Marie), Neil (& Terri), Grant (& Karin); & numerous stepchildren & step-grandchildren. No services will be held in MI, if you would like to remember "Mac", you may leave your thoughts, messages or condolences at: www.archiemacdonald.wordpress.com

THERESA A. RINGHOLZ

June 14, 2009, Age 56 of Westland. Beloved wife of Michael. Dear mother of Joseph (Christina), Terry, and Shaun (Angie). Daughter of Virginia and the late William Helfrich. Sister of Gail Hassel and Richard Strain. Grandmother of Michael, Shayler, Drake, Amelia, and Haley. Services at The Uhl Funeral Home, Westland, Thursday, June 18, at 11:30am. Visitation at the funeral home Wednesday, 3-9pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at: www.uhlff.com

STANLEY TELMAN

Age 95, passed away June 14, 2009. Beloved husband of Sophie for 72 years; dear father of Don (Mickie), Ray (Rhonda), and the late Diane (John) Breitenbach; dearest grandfather of Mark, Teri, Ashley, and Kristen; and great grandfather of Tori and Donovan; also survived by sister Anita Conser. Funeral services will be 10:30 am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. The family appreciates memorial contributions to the Livonia Rotary Charitable Trust, PO Box 51964, Livonia, MI 48151. Please share a memory with the family at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

JOSEPH WEGZYN

Age 88, passed June 13, of Garden City. Beloved husband of the late Bunny. Loving father of Mark (Mary) and David (Colleen). Grandfather of Matthew, Michael, Mark Luke and Maximilian. Brother of Cass and the late Stella. Services will be held on Monday, June 29 at 10am in St. Raphael Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood, Garden City, MI



FRANCES WIMSETT "Wimpy" FORESTER

Died in Southfield on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Age 88. Wife of the late "Tiny", George Wayne Forester, Jr. (1920-2001) for 55 years. Life-long resident of Birmingham, Michigan. Born Frances Marion Wimssett on April 20, 1921 at a house her parents were renting in Birmingham which is four houses north of her residence for the last 49 years on Pierce Street. She was the only child of the late Nellie Elizabeth Smith (1894-1954) of Clarkston, Michigan and the late George Leo Wimssett (1894-1942) of New Haven, Kentucky. Frances was educated in Birmingham at Barnum Elementary School and graduated from Birmingham Baldwin High School in June of 1939. She was a member of the Baldwin school bands, playing the saxophone which two of her children later played. Frances began working at Michigan Bell Telephone Company as an operator in 1939, eventually becoming an assistant chief operator and then head clerk. At the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham on April 10, 1946 she married her beloved "Tiny" - George Wayne Forester, Jr., the last of six children of the late Mary Elizabeth Clift (1890-1957) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the late George Wayne Forester, Sr. (1885-1951) of Detroit, Michigan. After her marriage, Frances continued to work part-time at Michigan Bell helping with monthly accounting and statistics. She was very proud to be asked to come back to work full-time during 1950 to help with what was called "the cutover" - the change to dial telephone service in the Birmingham area. After that was completed, Frances left Michigan Bell to start preparing to raise what would be a large family. Three years later her children began arriving at an almost alarming rate. By the summer of 1953 Frances and George had built a small summer cottage on the water on Saginaw Bay near Caseville, Michigan. Their six children were born from 1953 to 1962 so two more bedrooms were added to the cottage in the 1950's. The family spent many happy summers there, she and the children from June through Labor Day and George driving up almost every weekend and for vacations. Frances was active in Baldwin Elementary School, Barnum Junior High School, and Seaholm High School in a variety of roles. Her children were involved in many sports, drama, and music in school and outside of school and she made every effort to attend as many games, meets, and performances as she could to support them. Frances was a voracious reader and very knowledgeable about what was happening locally and globally. She was a strong supporter of all the Detroit sports teams and loved to watch any team or individual sport - tennis, golf, the Olympics - on television. There can be no mistake that Frances raised her children with help from George. Her children and grandchildren, all Foresters, sorely miss her and honor her memory. Steve (Kathy Nunez) and daughter Mackenzie and son Jack of Dearborn, Greg (Lisa Boynton) and son George of Metamora, Randolph (Rochelle Rosenthal) and daughter Ivy of Birmingham, Thom (Lauretta Gambino) and sons Mike and Tom, Jr., of Royal Oak, Nancy of Portage, and John (Elaine Staley) of Oak Park. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, Helen Forester Seiden of Florida and Irmalee Forester Halsey of Michigan. Frances is mourned by her many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. She was a person who never failed to keep in touch with her family and the people she knew. Frances is greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Service of remembrance was held Thursday, June 18th. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial tributes to The National Audubon Society, or Leader Dogs for the Blind, or The Lighthouse Preservation Society. view obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

NEIGHBORS

Pursuing her passion

Redford woman turns job loss into opportunity

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

When Beverly Moody of Redford was laid off from work few months ago, she knew she'd never find another job quite like the one she had.

An animal-lover since childhood, Moody had gotten used to bringing Oliver the pit bull mix, one of her four dogs, to the office with her. As the public relations director for Leader Dogs for the Blind, she had been surrounded by canines at work, both those of other employees and the dogs in training.

"It was heavenly. I was so happy, but I had set the bar so high at job satisfaction, I knew if I left and worked for a PR agency or in hospital PR, I knew I'd never be that happy again."

In spite of the poor economy and the fact that her husband had been laid off from his job as an events planner the previous month, Moody took the plunge into entrepreneurship and started her own pet-sitting, dog-walking and obedience business called Sit, Stay, Play!

She is based at home but travels throughout Western Wayne and South Oakland counties, meeting clients where they live.

"I didn't know anything about business, but there was this wonderful alignment of coincidences," said Moody, an East Lansing-area native who has worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations in metro Detroit since graduating from college.

A coworker had given her husband a gift to use the services of Right Management, a national leader in job outplacement, career coaching and leadership development. They also offered advice on self-employment and starting new businesses.

"I was able to do a two-day seminar and learn about creating a business plan," Moody said. "I knew I'd do pet sitting, dog walking and obedience."

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Moody has competed with two of her dogs in obedience. One has participated in agility and two have worked as therapy dogs. All four mixed breed dogs were rescues. She also adopted three cats.

"I've always loved all animals ever since I was little. I grew up with a white dog, Taffy, and she never left my side. I was always glued to her. We had a cat when I was little. I went to horseback riding camp. I'd see strays in the street and say, 'we need to get them and bring them home.' My father told me 'one day when you grow up and get your own house you can have as many dogs and cats as you want.' I guess I've done that."

As a pet sitter, Moody visits and cares for animals in their homes while their owners are gone on vacation or even simply working late.

A standard visit runs 20 minutes, although that can be lengthened or other services, such as dog walking, obedience lessons or extra play time can be added. Moody describes her obedience technique as "positive, motivational training."

SPECIAL SERVICES

"Since I had a cat with kidney failure I learned to administer sub-Q fluids. I am offering to do that for free," she said. The process entails placing a needle, attached to a drip line and fluid bag, under the cat's skin. Cats with advanced kidney disease sometimes require hydration by this method.

"I'm also offering muscle conditioning exercises. That's wonderful for larger dogs, to build up muscles in the back. They do that by learning spins, weaving in and out of your legs, jumping up and touching your hand."

"My goal when I leave the house is that the pet will be tired and happy."

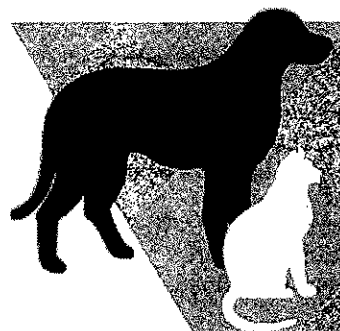
Moody also offers Sit, Stay Play parties designed for three or more individuals who want to train their dogs in a group setting.

"It's a casual, fun atmosphere. If there are more than four dogs, I'll have another instructor with me."

Moody is certified by the American Red Cross in pet first aid and CPR. She's also insured and bonded. To learn more about her services and fees, visit www.sitstayplaywithbev.com.



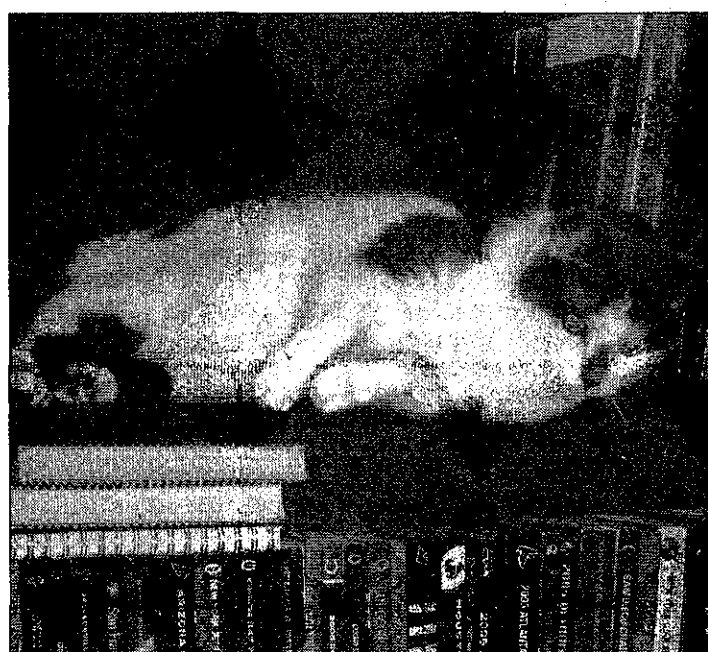
Beverly Moody of Redford and her dog, Giuseppe, compete in obedience. He earned his first obedience title at his first trial.



PET PROJECTS

Pet Projects is a series of occasional stories about animals.

If you've got a story idea about an upcoming pet-related event, an animal welfare issue, volunteer opportunity, rescue organization, play group, trend or business, we'd love to know about it. Send to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail to 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226



One of Beverly Moody's cats, Peter, lounges on a bookcase. Clients who are apprehensive about administering sub-Q fluids to their own cats will get help from Moody. She'll do it for free in honor of Peter.

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Education, awareness can help save lives

On May 19, 2009, a lawsuit was filed against the General Electric Company and Samsung Electronics, Inc., in connection with GE-branded microwave ovens. The lawsuit seeks certification of a nationwide class on behalf of persons who have owned a GE-branded microwave oven manufactured on or after Jan. 1, 2000.

According to plaintiff's counsel, Hassan Zavareei, "the lawsuit alleges that GE and Samsung were responsible for the design, manufacturing, branding, marketing, and sale of microwave ovens that contained a defect that made the microwave ovens unreasonably dangerous. Because of the defect, the microwave ovens are susceptible to activating on their own, leading to smoke and

potentially extensive fire damage. We also allege in the complaint the defendants were aware of the defect no later than 2002 but failed to take the necessary corrective measures or to warn consumers."

The lead plaintiff, Timothy Hennigan, purchased a GE-branded microwave oven in February 2001. In June 2008, Hennigan's microwave began running completely on its own, causing the emission of sparks and smoke. As a result, his home suffered smoke-related damage, and his microwave oven could no longer be used. Through their investigations, lawyers for the putative class have uncovered dozens of reports of similar incidents across the country, including incidents that led to hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage and pet fatalities.

The complaint seeks, among other things, compensatory damages, restitution, and a permanent injunction.

The lawsuit is captioned Hennigan. V General Electric Co. & Samsung Electronics

America, Inc., and was filed in federal court in the Eastern District of Michigan. Plaintiff is represented by the Washington, D.C. law firm of Tycko & Zavareei LLP, and the Miller Law Firm of Rochester. A copy of the complaint can be downloaded from the Tycko & Zavareei LLP Web site, www.tzlegal.com.

Upon reading the above, a trigger goes off in my head and causes all sorts of reserved emotions. I picture the woman who approached me some years ago to tell me her 21-year-old daughter had died in her apartment which had caught fire. She came home from work and took a cat nap and never woke up again. The fire department blamed the microwave oven and the insurance company said that the young lady was cooking something and went to sleep. The woman told me her daughter would never do anything like that and she couldn't even get

anyone to inspect the microwave oven. Oh, how I remember her tears as she spoke with me.

Just before I wrote this column I went to the Google search engine and looked up recalls on Samsung Microwave Ovens. Jumping out at me are the recalls on microwaves installed in RV and camper trailers. It's now summertime in Michigan and think of all the little ones that are going to be traveling with their parents. I pray that everyone installs a smoke detector in their kitchen as well as their campers and travel homes. The way they're making products overseas these days a little awareness can go a long way. 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@twi.rr.com

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MORE ON LOW BACK PAIN

Over a lifetime, most people will experience one or more episodes of low back pain. Over 90% of these episodes are self limiting. That is, over time, the body will repair the damage that occurred, and the individual can return to the posture, pace, and way of life that was his or her custom before the back pain came on.

The catch phrase in this scenario is "over time." In the case of low back pain, the discomfort can last for months. In particular, the problem of extreme stiffness in the morning, lasting for hours, and of prolonged discomfort after arising from a chair or getting out of a car after a long drive, are back disabilities that are the first to come and the last to leave.

Thus, when back pain lingers, and ordinary walking and arising becomes an annoying, even an alarming chore, the obvious step is to see the doctor and get a prescription; a month or more of physical therapy or sophisticated treatment such as back injections.

The alternative is to wait as long as six weeks since in most instances the pain will resolve. Exceptions to waiting include pain that travels down the leg, pain not relieved by resting on the back or side, low back pain accompanied by fever, and intense low back pain that exerts a crippling effect.

Patients seeing their doctor early in their episode of back pain, often are disappointed. The doctor usually does not take x-rays and sends the patient home on small doses of Vicodin. However, that approach represents good medical care. The person receives what is needed for pain but the option for more investigation remains open if the discomfort does not resolve as expected.

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SPOTLIGHT ON:

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

SMOKELESS NOT HARMLESS

A recent study shows that use of snuff and chewing tobacco by adolescent boys in this country has surged over the past few years. According to a report from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there has been a 30 percent increase in the rate of smokeless tobacco use among boys aged 12-17 years over a recent five-year period. This finding is worrying on at least two important fronts: First, smokeless tobacco is as addictive as cigarettes and does not assist in weaning oneself from smoking. Second, using smokeless tobacco products increases the risk of oral cancer. Because dentists are usually the first to see signs of oral cancer, they have a stake in preventing it.

Breaking the smokeless tobacco or cigarette smoking habit now can greatly reduce your risk of developing oral cancer in the future. One of the most important things we can provide you with is education. Teaching you good oral hygiene, however, is only the first part. The rest is up to you. We'll help you keep an eye on your dental health beginning with a thorough oral exam. Call us at **734-453-9413** for an appointment here at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.** We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. New patients are always welcome.

P.S. Chewing tobacco and snuff contain 28 cancer-causing agents.

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Hospital 'Healing Garden' boon for cancer patients

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Gerry Kruse used to watch cars and people go by as he underwent chemotherapy at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. But these days the Plymouth Township man has another option — looking out the windows at a scenic park-like setting with a fountain, pond and plants.

"It makes it its own pleasant environment, something to look it while you're getting your medicine. It is an improvement," said cancer patient Kruse, who likes that visitors now have a place outside with benches.

The "Healing Garden" was donated by George F. Riley as an enhancement to the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, which has been open about three years. Farmington Hills resident Riley is a local businessman and philanthropist.

"His family has had care here," said Sara Stauffer, director of major gifts and special events at St. Mary Mercy. "His children were born here. He was raised on the Felician property." Riley's father was the electrician on the Felician Sisters' mother-house grounds in Livonia.

"He believes in the mission of St. Mary Mercy," she said.

Riley said in a statement: "We are pleased to be able to make this gift available to an institution that is so vital to our community, and to help make a difference to families in need of support." Additional information on Riley's foundation can be found at www.therileyfoundation.org.

In 1998, George, 77, and his wife, Dolores, founded the Riley Foundation, a Farmington Hills-based charitable organization that focuses on making children's lives better.

The Rileys first reached out to benefit children and families at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and School, the family's home parish. Funds helped build the Family and Early Childhood Center and improved facilities in the school, as well as the church building. A sculpture of Jesus with children is on the school grounds, in memory of the Rileys' son who died in a car accident at age 15.

The St. Mary Mercy garden, named for Riley, was dedicated June 11 and is part of the capital campaign to advance cancer care and treatment at the center.

"Because healing and peace can be found in nature it was a way he could give back to our patients and families," Stauffer said.

Family members and friends visiting patients receiving chemotherapy can enjoy the gazebo, fountain and benches outdoors. Patients can also go outside, depending on their course of care. Stauffer noted some patients are there two-four hours, making the outdoor setting particularly welcome.

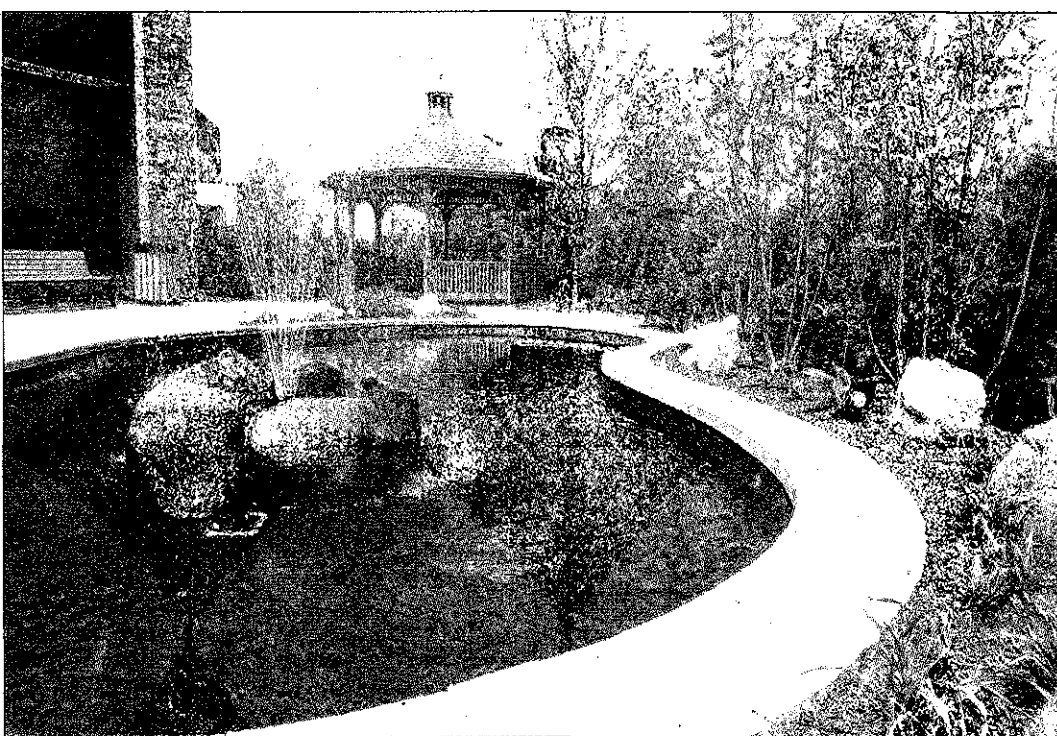
"People love it," she said of the garden, dedicated during a cancer survivor session. "People are excited to be able to share this. Family members are thankful. We're very blessed to have his generous philanthropy."

Registered nurse Michelle Zolotarevsky of the Our Lady of Hope center watched the progress as the garden went in.

"It's awesome," she said. "For it to come to life now, it's beautiful."

Even in the short time the garden has been open, Zolotarevsky has seen patient stress levels drop.

"It brings a smile to their face because it's beautiful scenery," she said. "It takes



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new pond and gazebo are visible from the cancer center.

away their stress."

Being able to go outdoors when not getting treatment, for lunch or to read, also helps.

"We have the gazebo they can sit under if it's a hot day," Zolotarevsky said. She's already noticed patients are less likely to pull their window shades down.



The pond as seen from the gazebo. Patients receiving chemotherapy sit in the area behind the glass.

Get in shape at Cardio Concert Club

If you're a fan of old time rock 'n' roll and like to walk and stroll, register for the Cardio Concert Club offered by Canton Leisure Services during the summer Thursday concert series.

Participants will complete 30 minutes of cardio exercise during the live performances, which start at 7:30 p.m. and run to 9 p.m., at the amphitheater in Heritage Park, located just west of the Canton Administrative Office at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton. All attendees will be entered into a weekly drawing for music-themed gifts and incentives. Cardio

Club members who make it to at least seven concerts will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the summer.

The walking program started Thursday, June 18, and continues through Aug. 6.

All fitness levels and ages may attend. The registration fees are \$10 for Canton residents and \$12 for all non-residents.

"We hope that people who already join us for the Thursday Night Concert Series will be encouraged to walk a few laps while they enjoy the music, and that walkers who

haven't experienced our popular weekly music experience yet will like what they hear," stated Jennifer Provenzano, a Canton Leisure Services Recreation specialist.

The Thursday Night Concert Series will feature many bands, including The Backbeats on June 25, Export on July 2 and Jump Street Swing Band on July 9.

For more information on the Cardio Concert Club, the Thursday Night Concert Series and for many more ways you can stay active all summer long, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE 22-28

The key to health

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at Whole Foods, 7350 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. The key to restoring health naturally will be discussed. Limited to 20. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor/holistic physician.

Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

Learn about getting relief from this medical condition that is caused by gradual narrowing of the spinal canal, at an educational event, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, at Botsford Hospital's Administration Building, Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. This is an opportunity for

patients with spinal stenosis to meet with an expert and learn more about management and treatment. (877) 477-DOCI

Melanoma Forum

Free forum, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, at ComfortSuites-Wixom, 28049 S. Wixom Road, Wixom. Discussion will include: identifying melanoma, differences between melanoma and skin cancer, melanoma stages, treatment options and more. Organized by Kim's Klub, an organization created in honor of a 39-year-old wife, mother and Canton resident who died after a seven-month battle with melanoma. Register at www.kimsklub.com or call Leslie Garoufalidis at (248) 953-0884.

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"They increased my rate!"

SUNDAY

SECTION C

careerbuilder

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Email: eads@hometownlife.com
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Billing/Invoice Questions: 313-222-8748

Deadlines: Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday
Thursday edition 2:00 p.m. Tuesday

Eccentric office: 6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312
Observer office: 41304 Concept Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

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All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724963 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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NEWSPAPERS
HOMETOWN
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28500 Warren Rd., Westland

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Established die shop has immediate openings for experienced Die Designer utilizing unigraphics NX3 or higher. Designers needed for progressive, line, and transfer dies. Excellent benefit package.
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Box 1776, ceresume@hometownlife.com

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EOE

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Call Toni: 248-353-4747

DENTAL ASSISTANT
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DENTAL ASSISTANT
For Westland office. Full-time. 2-3 yrs. exp. req. Benefits. Please Fax, Attn: Loretta (734) 722-5192

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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The Village of Westland, a mission of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, is looking for fulltime LPN to work days in our Licensed Assisted Living Cottages. Experience with seniors in Assisted Living or Nursing home is a must. Qualified candidate must possess top notch LPN skills with attention to detail, resident centered care and ability to work every other weekend. Only qualified candidates need apply. No phone calls please. Send resume and qualifications to:

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Call 877-531-9955

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BIKINI WAITSTAFF & BARTENDERS
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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

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TEACHER
Needed to homeschool child in Fall, 5th grade. Nov. Exp. cert. a must. FAST reading cert. a plus. 4 days/wk, 3.5 hrs/day. Call: 248-348-3149

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NOVI - 39424 Country Lane, 2
bdrms, 2.5 bath, bsmt, garage,
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SOUTHFIELD - 2 bdrms (2nd
floor), carport, pool, heat,
water & appliances. Sec. 8 ok.
\$800-\$825. 248-559-5101

TROY - On Big Beaver by
Rochester Rd. 3 bdrms, 2 full
bath, attach. garage, \$1195.
313-743-4642, 248-627-9214

Westland
Condos/Townhouses **4020**

FARMINGTON
1 bdrm, util. incl., washer &
dryer in unit. \$595/mo. NO
credit check. (734) 467-7375

NORTHVILLE 6 Mile/Haggerty.
2 bdrms, 2.5 bath, 2 car, fire-
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Jac. \$1,200. (419) 902-0827

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\$800-\$825. 248-559-5101

TROY - On Big Beaver by
Rochester Rd. 3 bdrms, 2 full
bath, attach. garage, \$1195.
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WESTLAND-I-275 Area, Ranch
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248-544-1575, Days 734-427-
1300, Comfort 248-504-5080.

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For Rent/Lease **4230**

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0001-2450
Home & Service Guide
A-Z listing of services and businesses in the area.

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All types of cement work. Stamped concrete avail. Rick Coleman (313) 538-8279

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Chimney Cleaning/ Building & Repair 0480

BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO. -New & repairs. Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595 313-292-7722

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One Man And A Tractor
1 Hour Equals The Work Of 10 Men!

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•Land Leveling & Site Clean-up
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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Delivery trucks
- 9 TV band
- 12 Qom's country
- 13 Translucent gem
- 14 Grass-skirt accessory
- 15 Conduit
- 16 "Minimum" amount
- 17 Pen point
- 18 Mag execs
- 20 Sears a steak
- 22 Humming
- 25 Tiny speck
- 27 Winged Victory
- 28 Tijuana "Mrs."
- 29 Impudence
- 33 Road sign symbol
- 34 Parcel of land
- 35 Shakespearean oath
- 36 Part of MIT
- 38 Switch positions
- 39 Fasten a shoe

- 40 Subsidies
- 42 Listens closely
- 43 Silly
- 46 Baby fox
- 47 Fruit-bearing tree
- 48 In stitches
- 51 Light tan
- 55 Cold-weather malady
- 56 Radar blip
- 57 Fraud
- 58 Stadium cry
- 59 Whistle sound
- 60 Ike Turner's ex

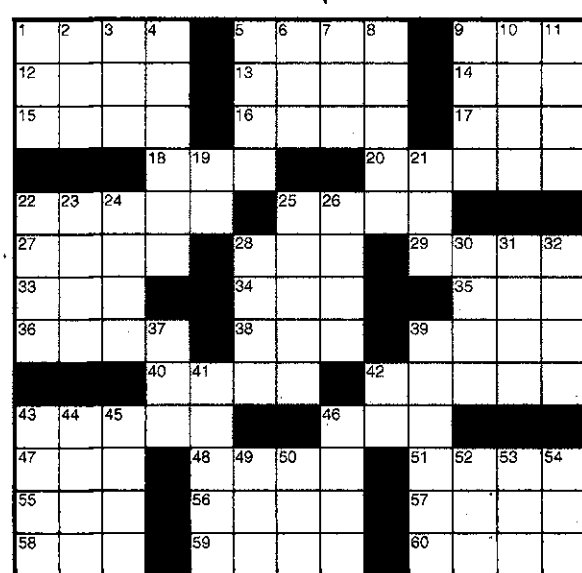
DOWN

- 1 Celeb
- 2 "Exodus" character
- 3 Doze
- 4 Cold symptom
- 5 Drags
- 6 Acid rain watchdog
- 7 The "it" game
- 8 Choose
- 9 Wrist bone

Answer to Previous Puzzle

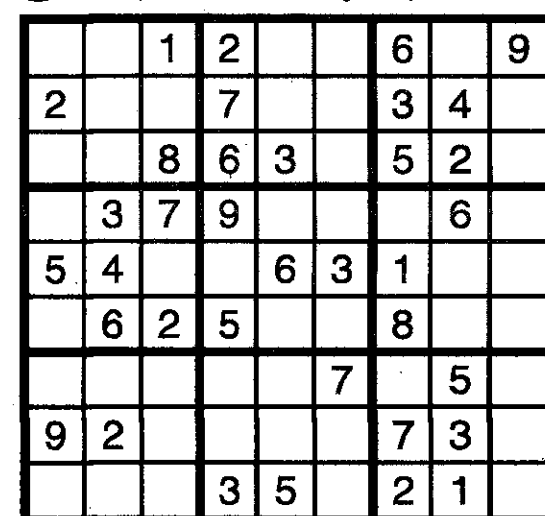
RELY MAAM NAB
OBIE AURA ODE
SOFA INCLINED
ENTRANT IO
ERE SCUBAS
STUNK FEE USO
HERD VIA WRAP
IRA APR WARNS
PILAFS EEL
CR PADDIES
RENTACAR OSLO
OLE MEWL REAL
TIE EONS FEND

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- 10 Immediate successor
- 11 White lies
- 19 Donut qty.
- 21 Old crane
- 22 Not for
- 23 Good, in Grenoble
- 24 Luau strummers
- 25 Hair curlers
- 26 Dobbin's dinner
- 28 Unkempt one
- 30 Off in the distance
- 31 Dampen a stamp
- 32 Wine sediments
- 37 First-down yardage
- 38 Breaking news
- 41 Attacked from all sides
- 42 Casual hello
- 43 Uncertain
- 44 Longest river
- 45 Water, to Pedro
- 46 Muscle cramp
- 49 Kind of system
- 50 Reporter's question
- 52 Tai — ch'uan
- 53 Jogged
- 54 Ms. Thurman

SUDOKU



Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

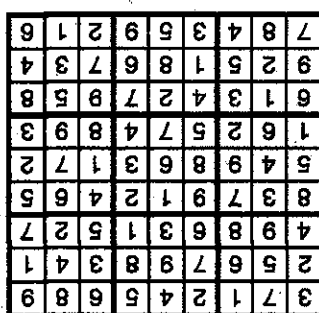
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

BAY CANAL CREEK GULF LAGOON LAKE OCEAN POND POOL RIVER SEA STREAM

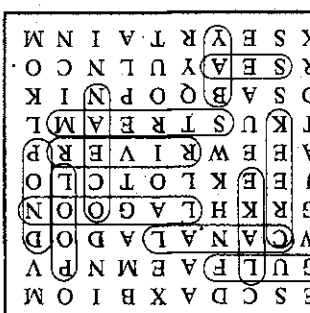
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

E S C D A X B I O M
G U L F A E M N P V
W C A N A L A D O D
G R K H L A G O O N
J E E K L O T C L O
A E E W R I V E R P
T K U S T R E A M L
D S A B Q O P N I K
R S E A Y U L N C O
X S E Y R T A I N M

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



SUDOKU

SEEK AND FIND

Market Place

6000-6980
Announcements
LOOK HERE

Personals 6000

PRAYER Pray 9 hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. M

Announcements & Notices 6200

FREE Job Training Grants Seminar!
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7000-7700
Merchandise

Antiques/Collectibles 7020

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Jobs

Real Estate!
Garage Sales!
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The best local classified!
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Auction Sales 7080

Notice is hereby given that on July 22nd, 2009 at 3:00 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Stor Room Self Storage, 40600 Michigan Avenue, Canton, MI 48188. Unit (s) may or may not include the following: Household items, Recreational items, and/or Misc. Goods. #0210 Susan Griffin, 0234A Lia & TJ's Tasty Doughnuts, 0314 Walter Claydon, 0405 Stephanie Mayer, 0435 Paul Barone, 0747 Carlos Chavez, 0807 Melinda Early-Pitts

Rummage Sale/ Flea Market 7080

ST. HUGO Rummage Sale
2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills. Wed. June 24, 6pm-9pm. Charity Preview \$2 Admission. 25% Mark Up. Thurs. June 25, 9am-4pm. Fri. June 26, 9am-12pm Bag Day.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

LIVONIA ESTATE SALE 6/25-6/28, 9-5pm. 31103 Robert Dr., East of Merriman, off of Denne, between Orangelawn and Richland. Furniture, Clothing, Household Items, Books, Collectibles, etc. Everything Must Go!

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

LIVONIA: ESTATE SALE June 25-28, everything must go. Make us a deal we can't refuse. 9am-5pm. 16715 Stanmoor. S. off 6 Mile, btwn. Middlebelt/Inkster.

Garage Sales 7110

BLOOMFIELD HILLS SUB-WIDE GARAGE SALE!
Balmoral Orchards Sub. Just W of Franklin Rd. btwn. Quanton & Walnut Lake Rd. Many homes included. Thurs-Sat. June 25-27, 9-4pm. Lots of great stuff!

Garage Sales 7110

CANTON Huge 3 Family Garage Sale - 47871 Royal Pointe Dr., S. of Warren, W of Beck. June 25-26th, 9am-4pm.

"It's All About Results" Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

CANTON: 6865 Montfort. June 25-27, 8-4pm. Multi-Family Sale. Baby items, clothes, books & goodies. Off Sheldon, btwn. Ford/Warren.

CANTON: Subwide Garage Sale. Central Park Sub. S. of Cherry Hill, E of Denton. 15 households. Thurs-Sat. June 25-27, 9-4.

Dearborn Historic Springwell Park

Annual Garage Sale - Huge! Over 50 homes! Fri., June 26th, Sat., June 27th, 9am-5pm. Sun, June 28th, 10am-2pm. Located at corner of Rotunda & Greenfield

AUCTIONS FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR SALE

PUBLIC AUCTIONS: 1) Gigantic Audio/Visual Auction. Thurs., June 25, 10:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Fairgrounds. 2) Gym Equipment Auction, Tues., June 30, 10:30 a.m. 44451 Groesbeck. Details: 248-473-1547. www.MichiganAuctionNews.com

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Garage Sales

7110

FARMINGTON HILLS - Sub sale, Hunter's Point Colony, 6/25-6/27, 9-5, Stanhurst Rd, W/ Drake, N/ 13. Designer & kid's clothes, household, misc.

FARMINGTON HILLS - Ramblewood Sub Annual Sub Sale - June 25-27, 10am-4pm. Enter on Tanglewood (Southside of 14 Mile, between Drake and Halstead).

GARDEN CITY - 6105 Deering, N. of Ford, S. of Warren, btwn Middlebelt & Inkster. June 25-27th, 9-5pm. Tables, patio furniture, kitchen items, tools, & lots of misc.

LIVONIA - 36648 Dardanelle, 7 Mile/Levan. Furniture, glassware, dishes, household items. June 22-27th, 10-4pm.

LIVONIA - Multi family sale. Baby & kids clothing, household items, tools, ride-on toys. 6/24-6/27th, 9-4pm. 14619 Park St., at 5 Mile/Levan

LIVONIA - 14679 Park Ave. S. of 5, E. of Levan. Thurs-Mon. June 25-29, 9-4. Collectibles, comics, coins, cards, household goods, clothes.

LIVONIA - Multi-Family. 9230 Merriman Rd. Wed-Fri. June 24-26. Antiques, tools, jewelry. Women's plus size clothes like new. Men's clothes. Furniture. Many misc. household items.

MILFORD - 1680 Cooley Lake. June 25, 26, 9:30am-5pm; June 27, 9:30am-3pm. Lots of glass and crystal, hobbies, tools, Ping Pong table. Sorry, no clothes!

NORTHVILLE - Merchandise of all kinds! 46399 Pinhurst Cir, Northville Hills Golf Sub. S. of 6 Mile, E. of Back. 6/25 & 6/26; 8-4pm. 6/27; 9-noon.

Garage Sales

7110

NOVI - Walden Woods sub sale! June 25th-27th, 8-4pm. 11 Mile btwn Taft & Beck. <http://onewoods.com> - Tons of baby/kid gear, clothes, beds, TV, skis, piano, bikes!

PLYMOUTH - MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Lots of great stuff! Kid's, household items, etc. Thurs-Sat, June 25-27, 9am-6pm. 1340 Palmer St.

PLYMOUTH 14473 Robinwood Dr. W. of Haggerty, S. of Schoolcraft. Thurs-Sat. June 25-27, 9-5. Good Bargains.

PLYMOUTH ANNUAL SALE 8800 Corinne. Joy & Main. June 24-26, 9-5. Perennials (200+), boys 16M-3, girls 4-6 good clothes, tools, plus more.

PLYMOUTH - Multi-Family Garage Sale - June 25-27, 8am-6pm. 40300 Schoolcraft, btwn Eckles & Haggerty. Household & misc. electric material, furniture, girl's brand name clothes & women's, books, shoes, toys, lots more!

REDFORD - June 25th-27th, 9am-5pm. Clothes, stove/oven, hot tub, rubber stamps, books, small furniture etc. \$188 Columbia, between West Chicago and Joy, just east of Inkster Rd.

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

REDFORD-15949 DENBY, N of 5 Mile, E of Inkster. Antique dealer overstock! Vintage items, many smalls, glass, porcelain, costume jewelry, household, & more. Dealers, e-bayers & all are welcome. New stuff daily! Don't miss this one! 6/25-6/27, 9-4pm.

Garage Sales

7110

SOUTH LYON HUGE 3-DAY 6/26-6/28, 9am-5pm. Indoor Sale! Industrial, Estate, Personal Items, Tools, Books, Desks and Furniture, Micro-waves, TV's, Fork Truck, Tool Crib Fence, Band Saws, Glass Display Case, Furniture, Oak Dining set, Rock tumblers and saw, Rock Collection, polishing grit. 12624 W. 10 Mile Rd. 2 mi W of South Lyon.

SOUTHFIELD: 3 home sale. New/Used Items. Household, clothes, furniture. Fri-Sun. 9-5. 29230 Bermuda Lane. Off 12, btwn Lahser/Evergreen.

Household Goods

7160

BDRM. QUEEN SIZE with mattress, dresser, mirror, 2 nightstands & armoire. Good cond. \$1000/best. 248-821-1043

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7500

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7880

HOLLAND LOPS BUNNIES (3). 8 wks. old. To a good home. (248) 437-5534

Found - Pets

7829

CAT: Female, long hair, creamed to white color, has pink collar with diamond bow. Area of Whipple & Haggard St. in South Lyon.

Lost - Pets

7930

SREWARDS LOST ROTTWEILER Emmy, young, spayed, gentle and timid. 517-862-4965

LOST: Female Rottweiler, 80 lbs. Black & Tan. Extremely shy. Name: Emmy. Likes hot dogs & cube cheese. Lost 6-17. Last seen on Walton & Squirrel, N. bound. Reward for the return. Contact: Matt: 734-819-0515 or Mark: 248-895-0997

LOST: Young Cat, on 5-31, black, female, had a green collar & tag, but may be missing. Near Cherry Hill & Lotz. (734) 397-8187

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Cadillac SRX: Best American-made Luxury Crossover

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

The new SRX is Cadillac's offering to the popular crossover SUV segment. Crossovers are car-based as opposed to truck-based. So with the SRX you get the roomy cabin, elevated driving position and confident power of an SUV, without the awkward driving dynamics typically associated with them.

Cadillac didn't reinvent the wheel when it designed the SRX a few years back. Instead it based it on the same platform of its CTS luxury sport sedan. This was a smart move, because the sharp-edged styling and precise handling of the CTS has translated perfectly to the SRX.

The SRX, assembled in Lansing, has earned an award-winning reputation for its crisp design, outstanding performance, practical functionality and value, as evidenced by being named a Car and Driver Best Luxury SUV a few times.

Despite its high accolades, Cadillac enhanced the SRX's interior two years ago with a new instrument panel, hand-wrapped upper trim, console, center stack, door trim, wood trim, analog clock and steering wheel.

The cockpit has soft tactile surfaces, new flush-mounted switches and controls, and classy, not tacky, use of wood-grain and chrome trim. The SRX's spaciousness is complemented by a streamlined center console and the addition of a new storage compartment on the passenger side of the instrument panel.

The SRX's instrument panel and door trim were built using Cadillac's "cut-and-sew" interior process that combines advanced technology with the hand-rendered expertise of expert craftsmen. The SRX's cockpit is hand-built, in the same way the limited-production STS-V and XLR-V models are.

On the exterior, the SRX has a large profile. Besides giving the SRX a bold stance, its long wheelbase, which is the longest in its class, helps provide superior ride quality and dynamic stability.

A near 50-50 weight distribution, low center of gravity and stability control system help the SRX deliver a fine balance between sports-car performance and refined ride quality.

The SRX is offered in two trim levels, which are separated by what's under the hood: V6 or V8. The V6, at just over \$37K, includes 17-inch alloy wheels, leather seating, OnStar telematics, a Bose audio system with CD player and XM satellite radio, dual-zone automatic climate control, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, full power features and rear park assist.

With the V8 for around \$44K you'll also get 18-inch alloys, xenon HID headlights, a tire-pressure monitor, heated front seats, power-adjustable pedals, real wood accents, a power front-passenger seat and a six-disc CD changer. Most of the V8's features are optional on the V6.

Stand-alone options for both models include a Magnetic Ride Control suspension, a third-row seat, a separate rear air-conditioning system, an extra-large Ultra View sunroof, a DVD rear entertainment system, surround-sound audio and a navigation system. The Sport Package adds larger 18- or 20-inch wheels, unique front and rear ends and a limited-slip differential.

On a sunny day, if you want the wind in your hair while seating in the second row, an optional Ultra View sunroof is available. It spans both front rows, allowing nearly all passengers to experience open-air driving.

Also available is UltraView Plus, a vented glass panel that extends over the available third-row seating, and turns the SRX into a greenhouse on wheels.

The V6 SRX comes with a 5-speed automatic transmission and the V8 SRX has a 6-speed automatic. Both versions are available in a rear-wheel or all-wheel-drive.



The Cadillac SRX offers a luxurious interior that befits the Cadillac moniker. So if you want the prestigious driving experience of the Escalade, but don't want to be robbed at the pump, the SRX is for you.

The technologically advanced interior of SRX boasts a voice recognition system that is programmed to understand around 40 commands, enabling drivers to switch between audio controls and map views without taking their hands from the wheel. While the system doesn't support destination entry via voice command, it does let you "voice tag" destinations that have been manually entered on the map.

The cabin may be sleek, but the steering wheel doesn't telescope, and its manual-tilt function adjusts in wide increments rather than a precise range. It may be small, in retrospect, but those are the types of things a discerning luxury-car buyer wants.

Standard safety features on the SRX include anti-lock disc brakes, stability control and front-seat side as well as side curtain airbags for the first two rows.

In National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash tests, the SRX scored four out of five stars for driver and front-passenger protection in frontal impacts. Side-impact tests resulted in a perfect five-star rating for front and rear passengers. In Insurance Institute for Highway Safety frontal-offset crash tests, the SRX scored "good," the highest rating possible.

Another standard safety feature, though underrated, is the rearview mirror, which is auto-dimming with an eight-point compass. Its ultrasonic rear parking feature will let you know if you are close to backing into another object. This is most useful when you are backing into a tight parking place.

The SRX is not only a good people hauler, but also a good luggage hauler. There's plenty of room in the second row, though the optional power third-row seat should be reserved for kids. But with the third seat folded flat into the floor, 32 cubic feet of capacity behind the second-row seats is freed up. And with the second-row down, too, you'll have 70 cubic feet

available.

In addition to numerous storage areas, an optional rear cargo management system, available as an alternative to the third-row seat, offers three cargo compartments and includes a removable storage bin. It's perfect for stowing anything from emergency kits to sports equipment to DVDs or CDs for a long drive. For still more cargo packing, large side storage bins along the rear cargo area are standard.

Although the SRX is a big vehicle, weighing around 4,500 pounds, it blends a smooth ride and sporty handling of a regular-sized car. For an even more superior ride the optional Magnetic Suspension system is available. This system uses shock absorbers that are filled with a special fluid that changes its flow when subjected to a magnetic force. The result is a computerized, real-time adjustable suspension in which the shocks can switch from their softest to firmest settings in the time it takes the Cadillac to cover 1 inch of the road at 60 mph.

If you want the capability of an SUV and the luxury that is synonymous with the Cadillac name, get the new SRX. It is one of the best all-around American luxury vehicles there is.

Kevin Koloian reviews cars for Avanti NewsFeatures and allOpinionsAlltheTime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications.

Cadillac SRX
Vehicle class: Crossover SUV.
Power: Equipped with V6 and V8 engines.
Mileage: 16 city / 24 highway.
Where built: Lansing, Mich.
Price as tested: \$47,055.

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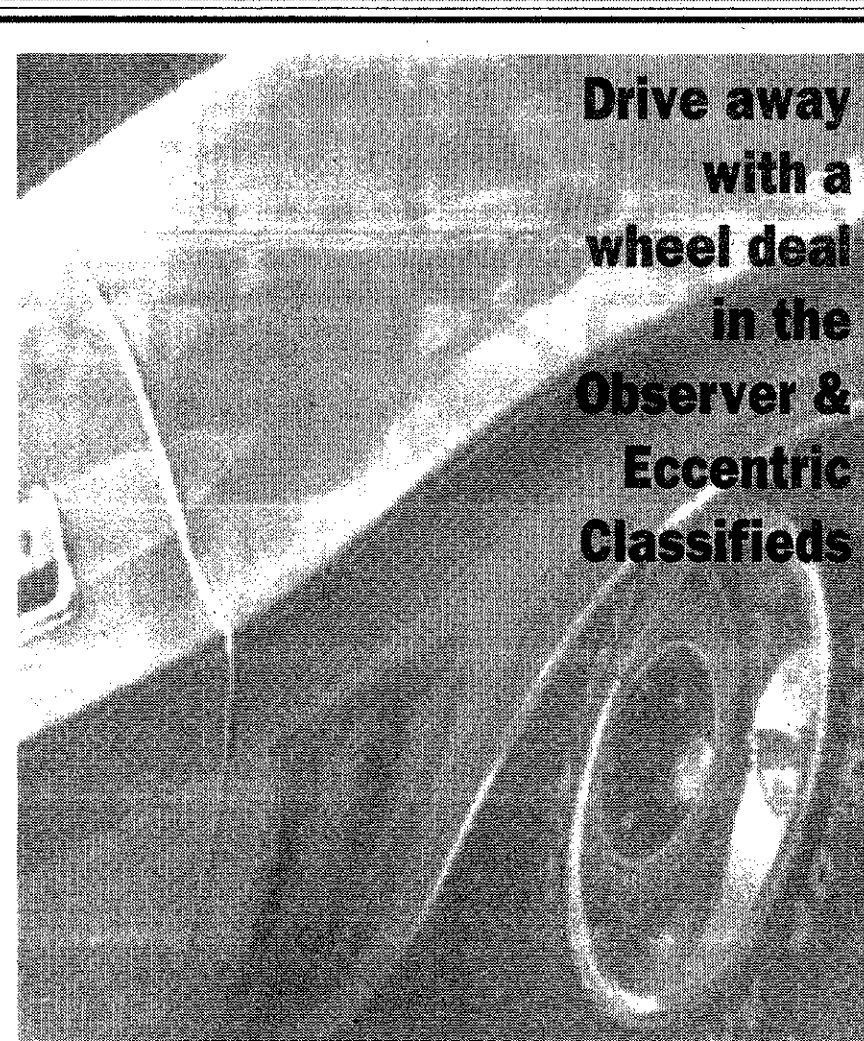
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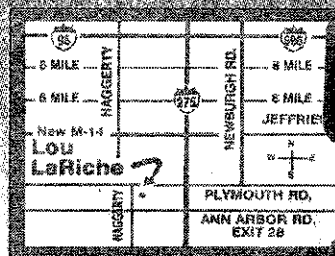
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PAY ONLY \$13,588**

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Auto, running boards, OnStar, stripes, stereo CD, air, power windows & locks, tilt steering, cruise control, remote start. Stk# 9Y2424D



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WAS \$20,825

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PAY ONLY \$16,697**

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2009 CHEVROLET MALIBU

Power windows & locks, tilt steering, cruise control, stereo CD, mats, OnStar, body molding, rear defogger. Stk# 6840



\$282** Per Mo. 39 Mos.

LEASE FROM JUST \$841 Down • \$1500 Total Due

WAS \$22,505

NOW \$20,784**

LESS REBATES \$3,000

PAY ONLY \$17,784**

WITH GM EMPLOYEE, CURRENT LESSEE OFFERS & LOYALTY OFFERS

2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA

3.5 V6, power windows, locks & seat, tilt steering, cruise control, stereo CD, rear defogger. Stk# 9C6460



\$363** Per Mo. 39 Mos.

LEASE FROM JUST \$732 Down • \$1500 Total Due

WAS \$24,665

NOW \$22,767**

LESS REBATES \$3,500

PAY ONLY \$19,267**

WITH GM EMPLOYEE, CURRENT LESSEE OFFERS & LOYALTY OFFERS

2009 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS

3.6 V6, 6 speed auto trans, power windows, locks & seat, tilt steering, cruise control, 7 passenger seating, OnStar. Stk# 9T2394



\$419** Per Mo. 39 Mos.

LEASE FROM JUST \$842 Down • \$1500 Total Due

WAS \$29,990

NOW \$27,653

LESS REBATES \$2,250

PAY ONLY \$25,403**

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2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO

Ext. cab, 4.8 V-8, auto, overdrive, deep tinted glass, power locks, remote keyless entry, stabilitrak, trailering. Stk # 9T2315



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LEASE FROM JUST \$632 Down • \$5800 Total Due

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Only \$129** mo.

A/Z Plan, 36 Months/36,000 Miles, \$2569.80 due at signing

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NOW...A/Z Plan... \$11,529**

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Stk. #4

Only \$245⁹⁵** mo.

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New 2009 Ford Flex SE FWD

Stk. #92340

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NOW...A/Z Plan... \$20,667²⁰**

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Stk. #92229

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A/Z Plan, 36 Months/36,000 Miles, \$2677.15 due at signing

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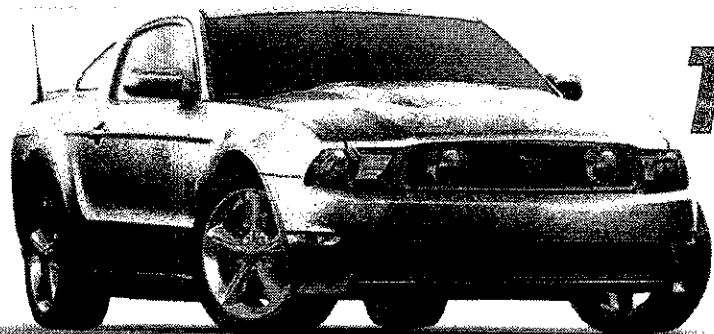
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importantly, in the hope of prosperity we share with our community.

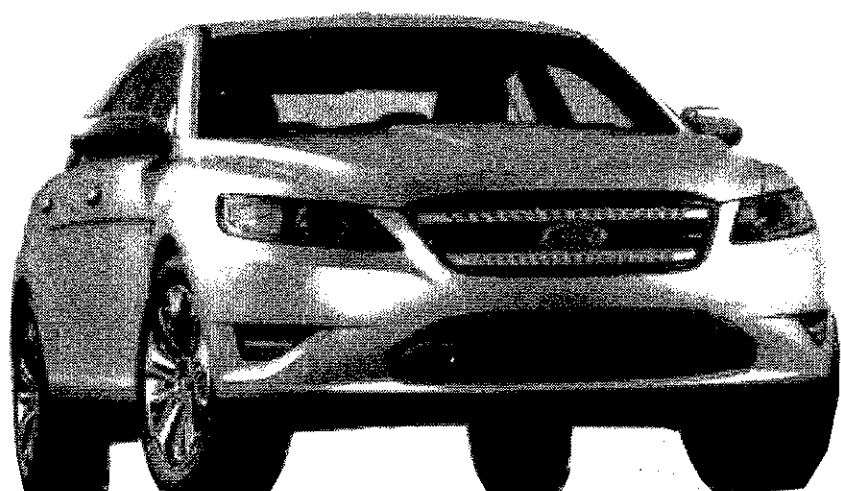
We also take inspiration from Alan Mullaly, President and CEO of Ford, who's been down this road before...and won. And we believe together we will win again.

I'm Mark Douglas, President of Avis Ford, and I hope this message inspires you to go out and "Drive One."



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UP TO
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MPG

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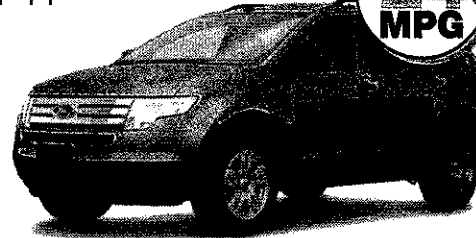
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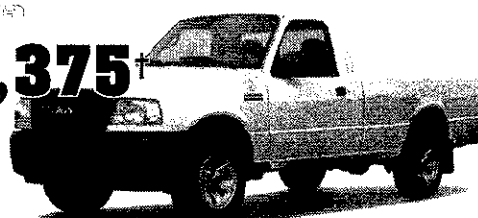
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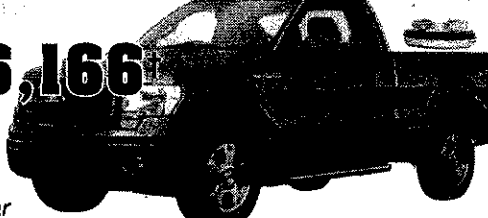


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V-6,
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Equipped!!



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Fully
Equipped!

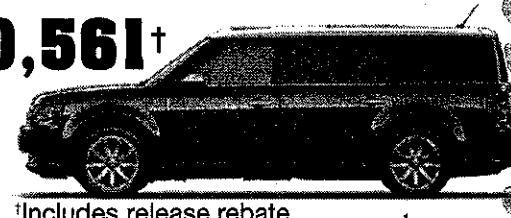


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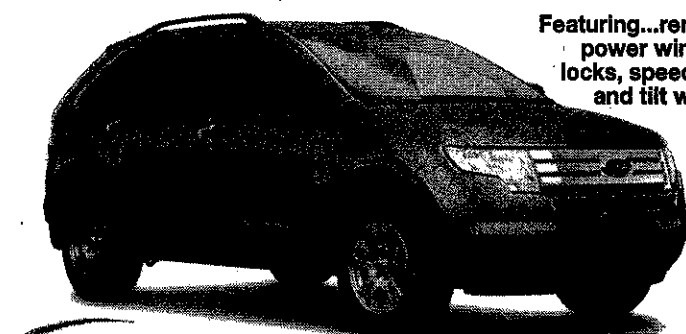
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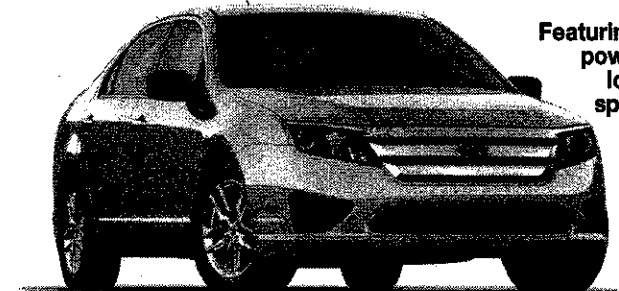
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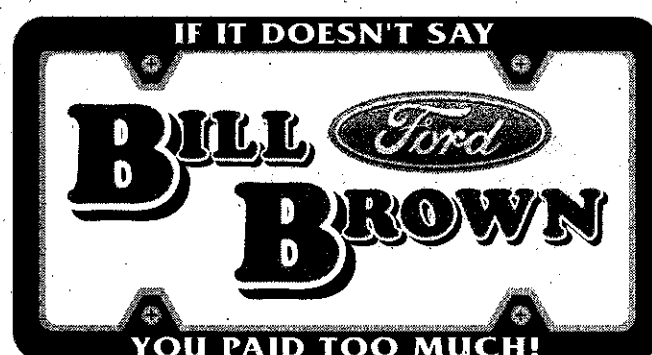
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