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Gonzalez gone

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will have at least one new member when new trustees are sworn in in January.

Vice President Dianne Gonzalez dropped out of the Nov. 8 election Friday, beating the

4 p.m. deadline for removing herself from the ballot. Gonzalez's departure leaves

incumbent President John Jackson and Trustees Steven Sneiderman and Nancy Eggenberger to face a dozen challengers in the nonpartisan race.

Gonzalez had been hedging in recent weeks about seeking re-election, citing time constraints imposed by the family business. She decided before Tuesday's filing deadline to get in, before ultimately deciding not to run.

Others in the race include Canton residents Mike Maloney, Mark Horvath, Mike Andro, John Nichols, Abdulateef Muhiuddin, Matt Dame, Clifton Nealy, Michael Redman and Angie Williams-Chehmani, and Plymouth residents Sheila Paton, Stephanie Goecke and John Barrett.

Contest winners

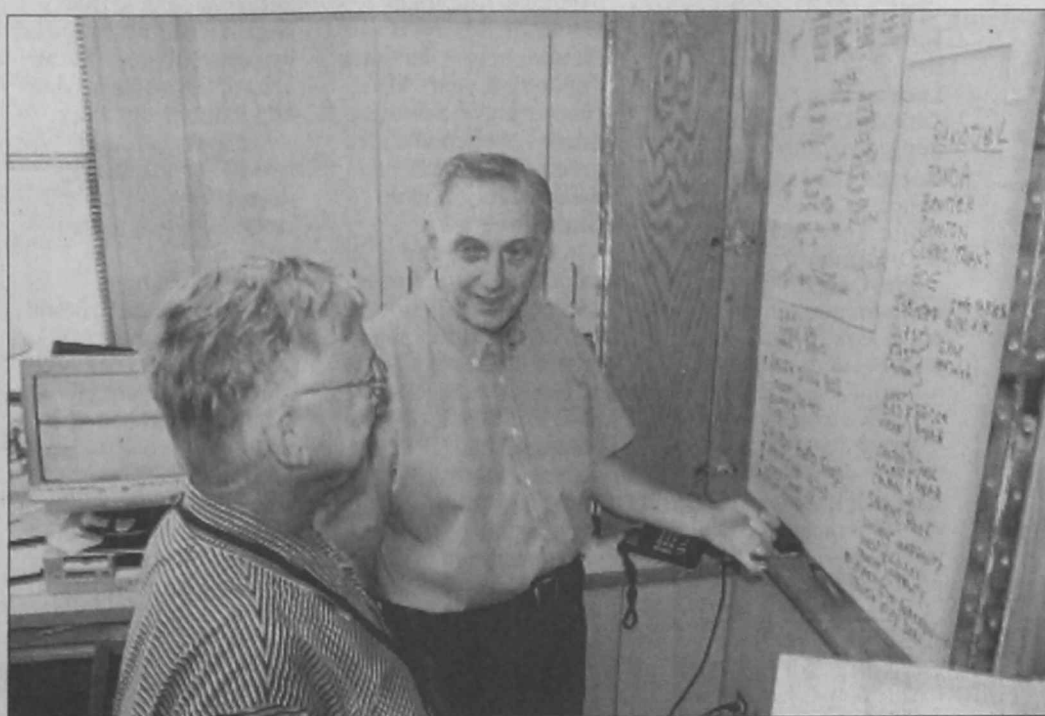
Winners in the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers Tony Bennett concert contest include:

Pam Carefelle of Canton, Ann Henningsen of Northville, Marian Cook of Livonia, Ilene Weathers of Birmingham, Daniel Underwood of Garden City, Ben Yee of Southfield, David Manning of Livonia, Jeanine Page of Novi and Rick Ralph of Milford.

Each winner receives two tickets to "An Evening with Tony Bennett," Aug. 24 at the Fox Theatre.

Contestants entered online or on the hometownlife.com Facebook page.

Check out our Facebook page at hometownlife.com next month for a chance to win an overnight stay at the Townsend Hotel and \$50 for dining in the Rugby Grille.



Ken Jacobs (right) discusses school issues with interim Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes. Jacobs retires Aug. 31 after more than 43 years with Plymouth-Canton schools.

Finished after forty (years)

'Jake' closes book on education career

By Brad Kadrach
Observer Staff Writer

Growing up in northwest Detroit, all Ken Jacobs ever wanted to be was a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, even going so far as to write a letter at one point to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

But, while he kept a hand in law enforcement with his later involvement in the 35th District Court, Jacobs' dream path took a different turn, ending up not in a courtroom, but in a classroom.

And that's where he stayed, mostly, for more than four decades, until his retirement this year as the deputy superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. That retirement becomes effective Aug. 31, when Jacobs will walk out of an educational facility for the final time.

And, after more than 43 years, it isn't going to be easy.

"It's a big move," Jacobs admitted. "It's time to move on, but it's still a big move."

Big moves aren't anything strange to Jacobs' career, considering he's made a lot of them, all within the district. In a career that has spanned more than 43 years, Jacobs has held just about every job

Please see JACOBS, A5



The gang was back together recently, when longtime Plymouth-Canton administrators got together. Talking about old times were (top, from left) retired history teacher and longtime National Honor Society advisor Scott Beaman (1966-2000) and retiring deputy superintendent Ken Jacobs, along with (bottom, from left) former Salem High School principals Pat Fitzpatrick, who retired in 2010; Gerald Ostoin, who retired in 2006; and Bill Brown, who served 1969-86.

THE JACOBS FILE

Who: Ken Jacobs

What: Retiring after 43-plus years in several capacities in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, the latest being deputy superintendent

When: Summer 1968 through Aug. 31, 2011

Highlights: Taught special education at Pioneer Middle School; assistant principal at Canton High School; two stints as interim superintendent; finishes out as deputy superintendent

Postscript: Jacobs plans on staying in Plymouth with his wife, Roxanna.

Readers get shot at picking school trustees

In November, Canton and Plymouth voters will elect four people to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

As part of our mission to inform the community, the Observer interviews candidates, attends public meetings and forums to report on the positions and ideas of candidates.

Based on our coverage, individual interviews and knowledge of each race, we offer our opinion in the form of a recommendation to readers.

We will continue that practice for the Nov. 8

election, but we also want our readers to join in the experience.

The unprecedented number of candidates who entered the race says the Canton and Plymouth communities are engaged in what is happening in our schools. Residents are interested and care about the direction of public education here.

That's why the Observer is seeking a reader panel for the Board of Education race.

We are looking for read-

Please see READERS, A7

Canton starts to deal with legacy costs

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

For the first time, Canton officials have set aside \$250,000 in the township's budget for certain legacy costs — largely retiree health care benefits — as local leaders begin to chip away at long-range costs.

"What we're saying is, this is a start," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

The seven-member township board and finance officials broached the subject Tuesday amid a new round of finance talks, part of a push to continually focus on a long-range, rolling budget rather than one-year plans.

The latest discussion comes after an outside auditing firm, Plante & Moran, warned in June that Canton faces a potential \$54 million liability over 30 years for so-called legacy costs such as retiree health care.

Canton has fared better at funding pension costs than retiree health care, but local officials realized even before auditors raised the issue that they needed to begin to address the long-range problem.

Township board members say a decision to place \$250,000 in the budget and create a line-item expense reflects a significant step toward addressing the problem.

"The good news is we have taken the bull by the horns," Trustee Pat Williams said. "We are better understanding the entire picture, and we are coming up with long-term solutions to long-term problems."

Williams said local elected leaders will continue to strive to carve out a balanced budget while focusing on legacy costs.

"It's complex," he said. "It's not easy."

Moreover, local officials are keenly aware that employee and retiree health care costs could be substantially affected by pending state legislation that essentially could force local government workers to pay at least 20 percent of the expenses.

Gov. Rick Snyder and certain legislators have pushed for such measures, which have drawn fire from employee groups who say such issues should be decided locally at the bargaining table rather than forced by state officials.

Regardless of the approach, local officials say they have to adopt a sharper focus on legacy costs.

During Tuesday's talks, Canton Finance Director Rick Eva sounded confident as he said local officials "are starting to chip away" at the costs.

The issue arose as Eva gave a financial update and brought to township board members several proposed budget amendments that are expected to win approval during Tuesday's board meeting.

Among the highlights:
• Canton has snagged an additional \$1.2 million a year in the constitutional portion of state-shared revenue after its population grew 18 percent to 90,173 during the last decade. Eva had predicted an uptick, though Tuesday marked the first time he

Please see COSTS, A3

Belly up



Patrons milled around the Cady-Boyer Barn during the first 'Brew, Brats and Bands at the Barn' event last year, and they're getting ready to do it again this year. For information on the Canton Historical Society fundraiser, please turn to page A3.

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AROUND CANTON

"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

CHARTER ACADEMY MEETING

Date/Time: Tuesday, Aug. 23, 6 p.m.

Location: Canton Charter Academy, 49100 Ford Road, in Canton

Details: Canton Charter Academy has scheduled a parent information meeting, where Principal Cathy Henkenberns, teachers and staff members will be on hand to present information about the school. The meeting will include an informal question and answer period. Tours of the school will be available.

Contact: To RSVP for the meeting, call (734) 453-9517.

GOLF FOR HOCKEY

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 27, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Hickory Creek Golf Club, Ypsilanti

Details: The Plymouth, Canton, Salem Boys Varsity Hockey Team's 13th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser includes a \$10,000 Hole-in-one contest, prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, first place, skins, and door prizes. Golfers receive donuts/bagels for breakfast, a hot dog at the turn and a buffet dinner. Cost is \$120.00 per player or \$425.00 a foursome.

Contact: To register please contact Patti at berlin.patti@yahoo.com

GRIEF WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Eight-week workshop beginning Sept. 12, Mondays from 7-8:45 p.m.

Location: Ward Presbyterian Church, 6 Mile and Haggerty

Details: Ward Presbyterian Church sponsors an eight-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," a free workshop open to anyone who is grieving after the death of a loved one and presented by Cathy Clough, Founder/Executive Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators.

Contact: For registration information call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church, (248) 374-5943.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org

Guilty plea gets GPS thief probation

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer



Pesant

A Canton man accused of stealing GPS units from unlocked cars has been placed on probation for two years after he pleaded guilty to one count of larceny from a motor vehicle.

Nicholas Anderson Pesant, 23, has averted a potential prison sentence of up to five years after prosecuting and defense attorneys reached a plea agreement. Pesant, sentenced in July, had no criminal record.

Canton police say Pesant was caught as he was fleeing a neighborhood on Overhill Lane, northeast of Geddes and Beck roads, where police Sgt. Mark Gajeski has said two GPS thefts occurred about 3:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4.

During one of the incidents, residents looked outside their home, saw

a suspect inside a vehicle, chased him away on foot and called police.

Police believe the intruder got into a getaway vehicle that Gajeski said was stopped by police officers in the area of Crowndale Lane and Stonebridge Way.

Authorities found two GPS units during their investigation and returned them to their owners.

Pesant had been ordered in June to stand trial for two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle and one count of receiving and concealing stolen property worth \$200 to \$1,000.

His decision to accept a plea agreement resulted in all but one charge being dismissed, according to

the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Though he isn't facing prison time, Pesant has been ordered not to violate any more laws and not to leave Michigan without permission. He also is subject to drug testing and must receive outpatient treatment for substance abuse.

Pesant also has to report for monthly probation appointments, perform community service, notify authorities of any address change, make a concerted effort to find a job and pay certain court fees and costs.

Larcenies from autos — a common crime here and elsewhere — have repeatedly prompted Canton police to warn drivers to lock their cars and to remove items, such as GPS units, that might entice would-be intruders.

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Mobile home fires rattle residents

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Two fires within nine hours inside two vacant mobile homes in Sherwood Village, a subdivision on Canton's southeast side, have rattled nerves among residents, fire officials said.

Though both fires started inside vacant homes, Fire Chief Tim Dunn said authorities still haven't ruled arson as the cause.

"We're not calling it arson at this time because we're still doing our

investigation," Dunn said Thursday morning.

Investigators have ruled out any speculation that the fires were electrical or caused by gas lines, Dunn said.

The first blaze was reported shortly after 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night in the 500 block of the mobile home park, located on Old Michigan Avenue southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty roads.

Firefighters went inside the vacant home and doused the flames. Damage was confined to one room, though heavy smoke

damage was reported throughout the home.

The second fire was reported just after 8:30 a.m. Wednesday inside a vacant home on the same street, just a few doors away from the first blaze, Dunn said.

Firefighters and police officers arrived to find the home in flames, and the fire was quickly extinguished though it caused extensive damage throughout the home, Dunn said.

Firefighters doused both fires before they could spread to any adja-

cent homes, the chief said.

Meanwhile, local authorities are asking for the public's help in locating any potential suspects, though the fires still haven't officially been ruled as arson-related.

Anyone who has information about the fires is urged to call the Canton Fire Department at (734) 394-5400. Moreover, anonymous tips for possible cash rewards may be made by calling Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP or an arson tip line at (800) 44-ARSON.

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Historical society brews up fundraiser

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer



Patrons began lining up for last year's event featuring beer, brats and bands.

for Dixieland, blues and early jazz.

Gregg King, event coordinator and township facilities supervisor, said beer connoisseurs should have plenty of choices.

"We hope to have 50 to 100 varieties of beer," King said.

Despite the variety, B4 strongly discourages drinking and driving by offering sharply reduced ticket prices to designated drivers.

Tickets cost \$25 in

advance and \$30 at the gate for those who plan to sample beer. Designated drivers pay just \$10.

Tickets are available at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway; the Canton Treasurer's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center; the Canton Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at Preservation Park; and the Canton Parks Office, on the second floor of township hall.

For more information, call (734) 394-5314.

Tickets include a complimentary craft and specialty beers, a tasting mug, brats with fixings, pretzels and the go-ahead to taste five beers, four ounces each. Additional beer-sampling tickets are available — four for \$5.

Last year, the Canton Historical Society raised \$3,500, part of which was used to build a foundation for a so-called lean-to roof — essentially an awning — for a Preservation Park pole barn that houses agricultural equipment and displays.

Holiday Market has become the main sponsor for the event, which also draws support from Liberty Street Brewing Co., the Canton Historical Society and Canton Leisure Services.



Canton Police are looking for help identifying this suspect in a fraudulent credit case.

Police seek help with suspect ID

The Canton Police Department is asking for assistance with identifying the suspect wanted for identity theft in fraudulent credit charges.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 50 years old, thin build, bald with a mustache.

The suspect's vehicle is a red pick-up truck, possibly a Dodge Dakota.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect is asked to contact the Canton Police Department at 734/394-5400. Anonymous tips can also be called in to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or online to www.1800speakup.org.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for a tip that leads an arrest.

COSTS

Continued from page A1

had publicly unveiled the figure.

Canton also has seen increased revenues from sources such as 35th District Court (\$150,000) and a revamped contract with its rubbish hauler, Canton Waste Recycling (\$130,892).

In the loss column, the township lost \$260,000 after the Michigan Tax Tribunal and the Board of Review further rolled back property assessments following appeals from homeowners seeking lower taxes.

Canton has scaled back its investment income projections by \$120,000 as interest rates

remained low.

The board is expected to approve a \$140,000 budget adjustment to reflect the cost of accelerating a township-wide residential inspection program, partly intended to find home improvements such as house additions and decks that might not be reflected on the tax rolls. Ultimately, the program is expected to generate revenues.

Meanwhile, as property values face a tedious rebound, Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said Canton will need to spur new development to "grow" its tax base. Planter & Moran has indicated the township's overall taxable value could gradually return to its former \$4 billion mark by

2018, compared to a one-time gloomier forecast of 2024.

To be sure, Canton has seen some new housing starts and has lured new businesses, though it has lost others: Durcon Inc. and Borders Books, to name two, are pulling out.

Tuesday's session was intended to give elected officials a snapshot of where Canton stands in mid-August, compared to one year ago. No one argued that the forecast has improved, though it remains guarded.

"Things are moving in the right direction," Trustee Todd Caccamo said. "We just don't want to lose momentum."

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Foundation pushes higher education

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Former Wayne-Westland school board member Trish Brown believes encouraging a more highly educated workforce is the only way to bring business to Michigan.

And instead of standing on the sidelines and railing about it, Brown formed Tipping Point Education, a Canton-based "think-tank, policy-making initiative" in favor of all "post-secondary efforts that promote educating as many members of society as possible," according to its mission statement.

"It's based on the concept of increasing and sustaining the middle class and building the work force while trying to attract certain businesses by having a more educated populace," said Brown, who claimed statistics show fewer than 10 percent of Detroiters, for instance, have a post-secondary education. "If major cities don't have an educated populace, companies won't go there."

Brown said the idea began to kick around for her while she was recuperating last year from an illness. Part of the impetus, she said, came during an event at Wayne County Community College, where she heard a young boy ask a friend, "Do you think I could go to college?"

The idea that someone wondered whether they could get a better education tripped an alarm for Brown. "No one had ever told this little boy he could do that," she said.

Using social media such



Trish Brown formed Tipping Point Education in November to push the idea that a workforce with more post-secondary education will attract the kinds of businesses needed to move the state's economy forward.

TIPPING POINT

What: Tipping Point Education
Where: Based in Canton

Why: A "think-tank, policy-making initiative" in favor of all "post-secondary efforts that promote educating as many members of society as possible."

Contact: Website is www.TippingPointEducation.com; e-mail TippingPointEdu@gmail.com

as Twitter while recuperating, Brown started working out the plan for TPE. She said it's about building the workforce needed to attract key businesses, such as the film and energy industries. She said it starts with giving youngsters the opportunity — and the urgency — to obtain post-secondary degrees.

She quotes a Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce study that points out the percentage of the U.S. workforce requiring some level of postsecondary education is up from 28 percent in 1973 to 59 percent in 2007 and is expected to increase to 63 percent by 2018.

"We want to increase the numbers of kids who move through high school into the post-secondary arena," Brown said. "That will change society."

The problem for Brown is she sees a "major crisis" at the community college level, where students are seeking higher education in droves, at least partly because of the economy. People are being displaced from jobs, she said, or are seeking more education to try and better themselves.

The problem, Brown said, is funding isn't keeping up with demand.

"People think tuition pays for community college, but it's only about 20 percent," Brown said.

"Most of their funding is tied to property taxes."

But money isn't everything. The key to success, she said, is keeping students "engaged."

"You could take all the money in the world and throw it into this plan," Brown said. "Unless people grab it and mold it, it's not going to work."

Brown, whose background is in public relations, has traveled the country promoting the TPE concept. She impressed Shawn King, the wife of veteran talk show host Larry King and the chairman of the board of the Larry King Cardiac Foundation enough that King provided a testimonial.

King said too many people out of work today are "in a state of imbalance and are seeking resources and solutions."

"This is a project and vision whose time is long overdue," King said. "I encourage everyone to take a hands-on approach to this effort, and hope you will join us as we build the America of tomorrow."

Brown said it's not about pushing public education over other forms, despite her background as a public school board member. For her, it's simply about changes she says are needed in society.

"I don't think I'm as much of a public education advocate as I am an advocate of bringing opposing sides together to identify the real issues in order to solve the problems facing education and society," Brown said.

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Pediatrician offers backpack tips

Even with summer in full swing, back-to-school shopping is just around the corner. Purchasing a new backpack is often a part of this shopping frenzy and deserves careful consideration, according to Dr. Alissa Brekken, a pediatrician at IHA pediatric Healthcare-Canton.

"Improper backpack use can lead to back injuries in children which may cause muscle strains, pain, and even curvature of the spine," Brekken said. "These backpack recommendations were made by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Occupational Therapy Association to help ensure your child's physical health is protected while they work towards academic success."

To help identify the ideal backpack for your child, consider the following characteristics:

- **Lightweight:** Light materials, including canvas, are better than heavy materials, such as leather, because they help to lighten the weight that must be carried.

- **Double shoulder straps and waist belt:** One shoulder strap can put a large amount of stress on the neck, back, and shoulder, while dou-

ble shoulder straps and waist belts help to distribute the weight over larger muscle groups.

- **Padding:** Wide shoulder straps and the surface against your child's back should be padded for comfort and safety.

- **Multiple compartments:** Weight should be distributed throughout various backpack compartments to help prevent back strain.

- **Rollers:** Backpacks on rollers are available but need to follow the recommended weight limitations as these bags must often be carried up stairs and through areas where it is difficult for the rollers to function properly.

After a safe backpack has been purchased, consider the following additional AAP and AOTA recommendations that were made regarding proper use:

- **Weight limit:** Children should not carry more than 10-15% of their body weight on their back. For example, a 60 pound child should not carry more than six to nine pounds. If your child leans forward or their back arches, the weight of the bag likely exceeds this limit.

Visit www.healthychildren.org or www.aota.org for additional information.

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JACOBS

Continued from page A1

available. After graduating from the now-defunct Benedictine High School in Detroit, Jacobs earned his bachelor's degree in special education — and subsequently a master's degree in administration — from Eastern Michigan University.

Coming aboard

After two years teaching special education in Wayne-Westland schools, Jacobs helped open Plymouth-Canton's Pioneer Middle School in 1968, starting as a special education teacher there. After three years of that, he took a job in job placement at the high school for a year, then moved to the new Canton High School as an area coordinator (they didn't call them assistant principals then) when it opened in 1972.

Former Superintendent Mike Hoben got Jacobs to do an interim principalship at Canton High School, and Jacobs has also been director of maintenance and operations, assistant superintendent and even did two stints as the interim superintendent while the Board of Education sought new leadership.

"The opportunity to get into administration presented itself," Jacobs said. "It appealed to me because you have the ability to make some changes. When you're teaching, you can affect the kids. In administration, you can affect change in the culture. I've had just about every job you can have in this district. There aren't many who can say that."

One of the things Jacobs did was bring in a young health educa-



Retiring deputy superintendent Ken Jacobs goes over 2004 bond projects with Bruce Haarala, the district's supervisor of maintenance and operations.

tor to teach some health courses and be the athletic trainer. More than 30 years later that teacher — Allie Suffety — is watching Jacobs wrap up a career he said was built on the idea of fairness.

"The health department had just opened and I was one of the first teachers," said Suffety, now an assistant principal at Salem High School. "I've known Jake a long time, and he's always been a firm leader, and he's always been really fair. He's been the kind of guy, in terms of how he handled things, who always had the best interest of the district, and especially the best interest of the kids, in mind."

Law abides

Jacobs never lost his love affair with law enforcement, even as he moved through education circles. In fact, he found out the two could be closely tied together and provide him a perspective that benefitted him in both fields.

A friend talked Jacobs into getting involved with the 35th District Court, and Jacobs started out

managing the court's work detail. He was soon the chief probation officer for the City of Plymouth and eventually became director of probation for the court.

And, while it was classified a part-time job, Jacobs put in a ton of hours, working mostly nights.

"Court was a heckuva experience for me," Jacobs said. "It served me well at high school. It taught you how to think on your feet, be independent and do the right thing."

Jacobs has watched a lot of his peers head out the door even as he knew his own career was drawing down. Bill Brown, the first principal at Salem High School, retired in 1986. Gerry Ostoin followed him, but was forced to retire himself for health issues in 2007.

And Pat Fitzpatrick, who helped get the district open and stuck around for 40 years at Salem High School, replaced Ostoin and retired from that chair a couple of years ago.

"The thing about Jake is you always got a straight

answer from him, and I always appreciated that," Fitzpatrick said. "We came up through the system and when you think of all the people who were there back at that time, and here we are in 2011, that's 41 years.

Jake and I were there all through all of that. With Jake and I, we had some good times together. We got along with people and Jake was always easy to get along with."

Things to miss

There are things Jacobs won't miss. For instance, he'll probably never look at snow the same way. Gone will be the 3 a.m. travels around the back roads of the community, trying to determine whether to call a snow day. He said Livonia Supt. Randy Liepa has already threatened to call him the first time it snows this winter, but Jacobs would likely dodge the call.

"I never want to drive the roads, looking at the weather, again," Jacobs said, smiling.

Suffety acknowledged it would be strange to see the district without Jacobs, but understands things rarely stay the

same. "I've got a lot of respect for him," Suffety said. "I know times change, and my time will come around soon enough, but it's still sad to see him go."

Jacobs agrees it's a little bit sad to be going, but he knows it's the right move. He also knows that, while it's a big move, it's not a distant move. Jacobs — "I've learned and grown with this community," he said — will maintain his Plymouth Township home, basically across the street from the high school park.

"It feels good to be a part of where I live ... I've been able to be an integral part of my community," Jacobs said. "The community put its faith in me, and I think I delivered. And when I leave, this is still my home."

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W-W's Middel opts for board study sessions

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

How Wayne-Westland school board members get information about the issues coming before them is changing.

School board President Carol Middel is moving away from solely using three-member board committees to a mixture of committees as needed and study sessions in which all of the trustees will get the same information at the same time.

"This will make it more efficient for the board," she said. "Everyone at the same time will hear the information and have a chance to react. I'll be able to hear what they're thinking. There's two sides to every coin and I need to see all aspects of an issue."

Middel made the announcement at this month's school board meeting.

"While using study sessions isn't easy, I feel it best serves the community," she said. "Board members will receive timely information, so there will be no gaps in information."

Middel announced her decision after Trustee Frederick Weaver questioned the lack of standing board committees.

"These committees are lawful and have for many years been a valuable resource for the full board to receive pertinent information before a vote," said Weaver.

He also called on Middel to establish "an open and standing study session at 5 p.m. on the board meeting night to public-

SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Wayne-Westland school board has two special meetings planned for Tuesday, Aug. 23, and Monday, Aug. 29. Both meetings will be at 6 p.m. in the Cabinet Room in the district's administrative offices at 36745 Marquette, Westland.

The Aug. 23 meeting will be a board governance workshop facilitated by Scott Morrell of the Michigan Association of School Boards. Morrell also facilitate the Aug. 29 which will include a board/superintendent goal-setting workshop.

ly discuss the agenda and to have all of our questions answered" in lieu of standing committees.

Weaver was attending his first meeting after being appointed by the Wayne RESA Board to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of William Gabriel in May.

He questioned the use of a committee, that met Aug. 16, to consider the specifics for selection of the school district's legal firm. The board tabled the selection of Lusk and Albertson as the district's legal counsel at its July meeting to look into seeking bids for the work. According to Weaver, the committee was made up of trustees who voted to table the appointment in July.

"There should be no exceptions given to form a special committee," he said in asking Middel to dissolve the special committee "for the sake of public accountability and trust," and invite all board members to an open public session "so this procedure may be open for all to see."

"I am not accusing you of impropriety," he said. "If we are going to have a fully open process, let's begin now."

Middel said the committee used the meeting to learn what an RFP — request for a proposal — is and look at ones from the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Dearborn school district used in seeking a general counsel. That information is being sent to all board members to see "if what is they want and what they feel we need in the form of a law firm."

"They're going to have input all along the way," Middel said, adding that the RFP will be discussed at a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Middel believes the use of study session will dovetail with transparency in government agencies. She added that she likes to interact with board members and that the community like to see that interaction and see how government works.

"In theory, this will help build trust in the community and among parents and students who watch meetings for classes," she said. "With this, everyone will have input."

Board Vice President John Goci voiced support for Middel's decision, saying that study sessions will allow all board members to be involved.

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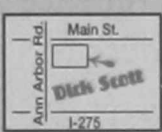
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Blitz hopes to help 300 youngsters

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Dr. Jeremy Hughes is taking part in his first "Back to School Blitz," the annual school supply drive headed by the Plymouth Salvation Army, but the importance isn't lost on him.

Hughes, interim superintendent for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, was impressed the fourth annual drive, sponsored by the Salvation Army but this year joined by nearly two dozen other agencies, including the school district, was targeting some 300 youngsters.

"That's a significant number," said Hughes. "I didn't realize it was going to help that many kids. That's a great thing."

The drive is designed to help provide school supplies to needy children in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville.

As the economy continues to struggle and most charity organiza-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debbie Abbey of Plymouth stops by the Plymouth Salvation Army with a donation of school supplies. Corps Officer Maj. Daniel Hull just happened to be in the parking lot when she rolled up.

tions are scrambling for financing, the PSA and 21 other local civic groups, churches and other charitable organizations are combining their efforts to make sure kids have what they need when school starts next month.

"We reached out and asked because everyone is taxed in terms of funding," said Laurie Aren,

director of family and community ministries for the PSA. "I thought everybody doing a little bit would be better than a few individual groups trying to do too much. The need is definitely there."

In addition to traditional school supplies, the

drive aims to provide youngsters with clothing items — primarily new socks and underwear in all sizes — as necessary.

Along with the clothing items, the Blitz is looking for items on the "School supplies wish list," including colored pencils, 24-count crayon boxes, one-subject notebooks, glue sticks, bottles of glue, markers, backpacks (especially for K-2 students), scissors (with rounded edges), yellow highlighters, one-inch, three-ring binders, red, black/blue pens, erasers, rulers, supply boxes/bags, composition books (wide ruled) and pocket folders.

For eligibility criteria or more information on the Blitz, e-mail Aren at Laurie_Aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or call (734) 453-5464.

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READERS

Continued from page A1

ers who want to find out more about the candidates. We don't want residents who have an ax to grind or who have already made up their minds. We want readers who have the interest and the community concern about election issues.

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are looking for you, too. If you're interested in receiving a short application, e-mail your name, address and a daytime phone number to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

We don't want people working for any particular candidate or appointed by any of the incumbents to any board committees.

To be eligible for the panel, you must be registered to vote, available to attend one group orientation meeting shortly after Labor Day, agree to attend at least one candidate forum sponsored by any local group, and be available to attend face-to-face endorsement interviews (roughly a four-hour commitment) in late September or early October.

Reader panel members will be photographed and profiled in the *Observer* and receive a \$25 gift card to Speedway, Meijer or Kohl's for their efforts.

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Cervi observes meals as well. "We want to provide residents with what they want," said Cervi. "One of our residents is a vegan; we go out and get meals for anyone who requests kosher or halal. "We goal is to provide for residents as if it's their home."

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Market hosts last boot camp session

It's the last time this season boot campers will get a workout session in 9-10 a.m. today (Sunday) before the Canton Farmers Market opens at 10 a.m. at Preservation Park, off Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill.

Market manager Tina Lloyd has urged market-goers to pick up their

fresh produce at the market after their workout—or even if they skip the boot camp.

The business Jam by Hand returns this week too.

Chef Paul is cooking at the market 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn cooking tips and simple recipes using seasonal produce.

Local blacksmith Ken Glowski will have a display in front of the Canton Historical Society's pole barn.

Musician Jen Cass will plan on the Bartlett-Travis porch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

And Canton's Recreation Station Bouncer will be at the market for free play for children.

Divorce, bankruptcy won't eliminate liability

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I got divorced a little over two years ago. At the time, my husband owed a substantial amount on his charge card. Under the terms of the divorce, he was responsible for that debt. About a year ago, my ex-husband filed for bankruptcy. He still owed a substantial amount on his charge card. Last week, I got a letter from the charge card company claiming that I am responsible for my ex-husband's debt. I have not contacted the charge company yet, but I wanted to get your opinion. I assume that since my ex-husband was responsible for the debt under our divorce, that I should ignore the charge card company. What are your thoughts?

A: Unfortunately, the fact that your divorce settlement obligates your ex-husband to pay off the charge card is not binding on the charge card company. The divorce agreement is between you and your ex and does not impact the charge



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Rick Bloom

card company. In addition, the bankruptcy only affects the obligation of your ex with the charge card company, not your obligation. Therefore, the real issue is not what was in your divorce settlement, but rather, what obligations, if any, you owe the charge card company.

The key in identifying if you have any liability is to determine whether you signed the application for the charge card. If you were a signatory to that application, or if somewhere down the road you signed a guarantee on that debt, then no matter what the divorce decree says, and no matter what happens in bankruptcy, you would have liability to the charge card company. On the other hand, if the charge card was in your husband's name and you were not a signatory or a guarantor, then you would have no liability and

the charge card company would not be able to pursue you. The key is determining whether you signed the charge card application.

I recommend that you contact the charge card company and have them provide you with the documents that were signed when the account was opened. If you did not sign those documents, then you have no liability. If it turns out that you did co-sign the application, there would be liability. The fact that your ex-husband was discharged from the debt has no bearing on your liability. The only thing that affects your liability is if you signed the application.

Whenever you co-sign for someone, whether it is a loan or a charge card, you're assuming certain legal responsibilities. The bottom line is that if you are asked to co-sign a loan, a charge card or whatever, take it seriously.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Big crowds expected for inaugural Hines Drive cruise

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Don Nicholson has done his share of car shows and cruises, but he has to admit that he's "blown away by the day" by the response to next Sunday's inaugural Cruisin' Hines Drive.

"I've been told that this will be the Dream Cruise of Wayne County," the Westland resident said of the Aug. 28 event. "I've had more hits to print the registration form on the website that there should be 5,000 cars bumper to bumper from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive."

Hines Park will be closed to "normal" traffic from Westland to Dearborn, and that section of roadway will be limited to classic cars and hot rods. A classic is any car that is 25 years and older, while a hot rod is anything that is modified, said Nicholson, the cruise organizer.

The event is drawing interest from in and around the metropolitan area as well as outstate and out of state. Inquirers have come from Lansing, London, Ontario and Ohio.

"People seem to really like it because it's the only cruise where you'll see just classic cars and hot rods," Nicholson said.

Nicholson is asking cruisers to download the registration form at www.DonNicholson.net and fill it out in advance to make registration move faster at the Nankin Mills pavilion on cruise day. All cars will have to enter and register at the Ann Arbor Trail entrance. There is no charge for registration.

Spectators will enter



Don Nicholson poses with his 1939 Willy's to show off the green "I cruised Hines Park" Street sign. According to Nicholson, the signs are "like the Holy Grail to cruisers. They're made by CruisNews magazine and only a rare few auto events get them."

at Merriman, Telegraph and Warrendale. All three of the pavilions in those areas will be free to spectators during the cruise. Vendors will set up in those areas, and several car clubs have rented locations "to do their thing," said Nicholson.

"The bike path will be open so people can still ride their bikes," said Nicholson. "There will be cars along the route so we ask people to be kinds to the cars, if they're on their bikes."

There will be parades of one brand or model of car in single file on the hour and Henry's Field in the Nankin Mills area is reserved for all pre-1931 vehicles. The Motorsports Hall of Fame will have Kenny Bernstein's top fuel funny car on display and the original Monkeemobile and Ghostbuster car will also be there.

The Six Foot Poles will perform from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the band stand in the Nankin Mills area. It's sponsored by Gordon Chevrolet. WOMC will be

doing live remote feeds from the same stage from 2 to 6 p.m.

"Six Foot Poles was the cruise band for Cruisin' Michigan Avenue and for my Wayne Skills Center car show," said Nicholson. "I think they've become the official car show and cruise band."

Mixed in with the vendors will be charitable groups like the Wayne Rotary Club, which will be doing fundraising for Fallen Soldiers. They're being sponsored by Tenyson Chevrolet.

Nicholson wants to see the public come down and watch what he says will be a "moving car show." He would love to see 15,000 cars come for the cruise. While he doesn't think he'll see that for the inaugural event, he "would like to make Hines Drive into one big traffic jam."

"The park lends itself to this; it's so natural," he said. "I wish I had done this sooner."

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Researcher: Future depends on raising overall test scores

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer



Plymouth-Canton interim Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes said his district has been proactive about improving student achievement as its demographics have changed. "It confirms so much of what we have been doing the past three years," he said of Dr. Ronald Ferguson's talk.

said. "We can see the seeds of those divisions even now in current politics," he said. "Old white people, young people of color have to survive together and support one another," he said, with young people voting in ways to support medical care for the elderly and the elderly voting in ways to support education.

Educators can't narrow the achievement gap alone, he said. Parents and business leaders also play critical roles.

White and nonwhite 1-year-olds score the same on IQ tests, he said, but by age 3, white children surpass nonwhite chil-

dren. "It's not genetic," he said. Parenting makes the difference. Infants need parents to talk to them continually from the day they are born, using hand gestures to help them understand before they know the meaning behind words. At age 2, they need to play simple board games so they can begin to learn to count and understand the relationship between numbers.

They also need parents who are warm and responsive but also provide structure, set rules and expect them to follow them.

Business leaders can assist by mentoring youth and discussing their careers with kids as early as fifth grade to help

motivate and guide them.

Classroom control

For educators, classroom control, which includes staying on task and maintaining mutual respect, is more important when teaching math and English language arts than caring about students or captivating them by making the material interesting, he said.

And educators shouldn't narrow the achievement gap by holding white students at current levels. Instead, they should concentrate on raising all students' achievement levels and measure their growth against state, not district, averages.

He said a racially-mixed, blue-collar high school in Massachusetts raised the writing scores of its students by more than any other school in the state by having everyone, even the football coach, teach writing. It was non-negotiable, he said.

Teachers provided feedback to the students, and the teachers' feedback was reviewed by the department chairs, who were supervised by the associate principal. "Everybody's work is visible," he said.

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Livonia board OKs meal deal with P-CEP

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia school board on Monday approved a cooperative food service agreement with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, recalled 22 teachers and set the annual Bounce Back-to-School event for 5-8 p.m. Aug. 31 at Stevenson High School.

Under the two-year agreement, Livonia students will get healthier, tastier food, a greater selection, and move through the line more quickly, officials said. They hope that will increase participation by 20 percent and raise the food service budget's surplus at the end of next school year by an estimated \$330,684, which would be split between the two districts.

Livonia's \$3.5 million food services budget is self-supporting and has a surplus of \$50,000 to \$150,000 each year. If the program generates additional revenue, some costs currently in the general fund could be absorbed by the food services budget, said Lisa Abbey, director of business services.

Plymouth-Canton's food services director will manage Livonia's program, but all Livonia food services workers will remain employees of Livonia.

"I can't wait to see the kids' faces at the start of the school year," Trustee Randy Roulier said after the board approved the agreement in a 6-0 vote. Board Secretary Rob Freeman was absent.

In Plymouth-Canton, the high school cafeterias are like mall food courts with six options including Mexican and Asian cuisine, premade salads and wraps, and hamburgers. The elementary schools have carts with a wide selection of vegetables.

Livonia will have increased food service expenditures, including paying half of the costs for the director, hiring an assistant director, spending about \$150,000 for equipment and marketing, and adding some part-time staff, Abbey said. However, the district expects to save money due to bulk purchasing and operating efficiencies. Livonia's food services director position was vacant.

A national movement to raise the achievement levels of nonwhite students is urgently needed for our country's future economic and social health, said a Harvard University faculty member and researcher who addressed a group of Wayne County educators in Livonia Thursday.

"If we can't make it happen, we may have already peaked as a nation," said Ronald Ferguson, faculty co-chair and director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard.

Because of changing demographics, black and Hispanic students, who have traditionally scored lower than white students in math and reading, will make up the majority of the workforce in 20 to 25 years as white baby boomers retire.

Already, white teens in 14 other nations do better in math than white teens in the United States, Ferguson said. Our country will continue to fall further behind unless we aim to raise the achievement for all children while narrowing racial achievement gaps.

"We're no longer leading world the way we were before. Other countries are doing better."

"We need young people who have the skills to be trained to fill those slots (left by retiring baby boomers)."

Ferguson addressed officials from Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi and Plymouth-Canton school districts during a professional training session at Schoolcraft College.

He said in 2000, whites comprised 68 percent of the U.S. population but in 2050 they're projected to make up just 46 percent.

Social strife

An achievement gap will lead not only to economic problems but to racial and age strife, he

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Astronaut recounts space shuttle flights for students

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Capt. David Leestma showed a photo of one of the space shuttles as it peeked through the clouds of Earth.

"I had no idea I would fly one of these," Leestma said. "I could not conceive of such a thing."

Leestma, who flew three space shuttles in the 1980s and 1990s, spoke Tuesday to a group of students from Square One Education Network at Tower International in Livonia.

Square One Education Network, a Waterford-based nonprofit, supports science, technology, engineering and math (or STEM) education among students in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

The network presented its inaugural Synergy Summit for Youth that day. Youth Summit participants, coming from schools around metro Detroit, explored discovery labs presented by engineers and scientists.

Leestma talked about his career as an astronaut, space exploration and NASA missions in discussing engineering with the students.

"I think it's really important to inspire the kids," Leestma said, minutes before his talk with the students. He also wanted to encourage them to study the STEM subjects, he said.

Learning to fly

Leestma, who lived in Muskegon and Grand Rapids as a youngster before his family moved to California, marveled at NASA's Mercury and Gemini programs as a



Capt. David Leestma, shown here in a NASA file photo, spoke to students at Tower International in Livonia on Tuesday.

boy and teenager. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and graduated with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1971. He received a master's degree the following year in the same field at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

"I found that I liked engineering," Leestma said. "I'm the guy who liked to take stuff and use it, or what they call operations. What I ended being able to do was fly an aircraft."

And he loved it, he said, showing a photo of himself flying an F-15.

NASA announced that they were accepting astronaut applications in 1977. After two members of his squadron

were accepted in 1978, Leestma applied and was accepted the following year.

Walking in space

In 1984 Leestma flew on the sixth flight of the Challenger. Leestma and astronaut Kathryn Sullivan conducted a 3.5-hour space walk (or what NASA calls extravehicular activity) to demonstrate the feasibility of satellite refueling.

Training for the flight involved learning how to reposition systems on the shuttle and "how to make things work."

"It becomes a game with the simulations and mission control," Leestma said of the training.

But when it came time for the flight, it was all business.

Leestma remembers a quote from a colleague about the potential danger of the space shuttle.

"It's a four and a half million pound bomb, and someone's going to light the fuse," Leestma said. "And you know that all the time, but you can't wait to go."

Nitrogen and oxygen pour out of the ship's tanks. "The machine is like it's alive and it can't wait to take off," Leestma said. "You have seven and a half million pounds of thrust, and it is quite a ride. It's like a catapult and it lasts for eight and a half minutes."

Leestma remembered the old *Superman* TV show in describing the speed of the shuttle. Superman could fly "faster than a speeding bullet."

"A bullet travels at about 3,000 feet a second," Leestma said. "You're going at 25,000 feet a second."

Weightlessness causes anything that is unsecured to float inside the shuttle, including dust and cracker crumbs from a recently consumed sal-tine.

The human body has two quarts of liquid it has to get rid of, and the body must be replenished of liquid before returning to Earth. Leestma said a human's stomach floats upward inside the body because of the lack of gravity.

"You feel very uncomfortable," Leestma said.

An unbelievable experience

Of course, the childlike wonder still exists for the astronauts, too.

"You say 'Wow, I can't believe I am doing this,'" Leestma said.

Besides the extravehicular activity with Leestma and Sullivan, that first shuttle flight included the deployment of a satellite using a remote manipulator system, operating a payload and a large format camera.

As he stepped out of the shuttle into space, the Earth was in his line of sight. "That is a long fall," Leestma thought. He held on tight, and stopped for a few moments before proceeding. He later learned that his EKG reading peaked when he stepped outside the shuttle.

Leestma said the international space station was built over 35-40 shuttle flights, calling it an "engineering marvel."

"There's a lot we need to learn about space before we head off to Mars," Leestma said. He believes that current elementary school children will be the ones who fly to Mars someday.

Leestma showed a newspaper photo, taken of him right after his first shuttle flight landed. The photo shows Leestma holding two of his children in his arms.

"When you get back, you weigh a ton," Leestma said. "My kids ran out, and jumped into my arms. I thought I was going to die."

Leestma also mentioned the Challenger and Columbia explosions during the discussion. "There is always a risk to fly in space," Leestma said.

"Safety is always a big factor when you design, especially when you go exploring," Leestma said, in describing what hap-

pened in the explosions.

Leestma then answered questions from the students. One asked about Leestma's grades. Leestma said he had good grades as a student.

Another asked about the difference in temperatures with the sun and without the sun. "You can hold your hand out, and one side of the glove will be 200 degrees and the other will be minus 200," Leestma said. "That's why the (astronaut's) glove is white. Everyone who designs these suits has to deal with not just the (lack of air) pressure but with the temperatures."

He was also asked what was the hardest thing to do in space. "That's to keep focused on the mission and what is going on," Leestma said.

Ken Kundrick, vice president of technology for Tower International, said Tower "gives the right environment for the students to learn about engineering."

Tower International is a global manufacturer of engineered structural metal components and assemblies. The company supplies the automotive industry with body-structure stampings and chassis structures. The company does similar product development work for the defense and aerospace industries.

"Engineering opportunities are endless," Kundrick said. "You can look at these parts and frames of pickup trucks, floors and powertrains, and the work that our company is involved in. It's huge."

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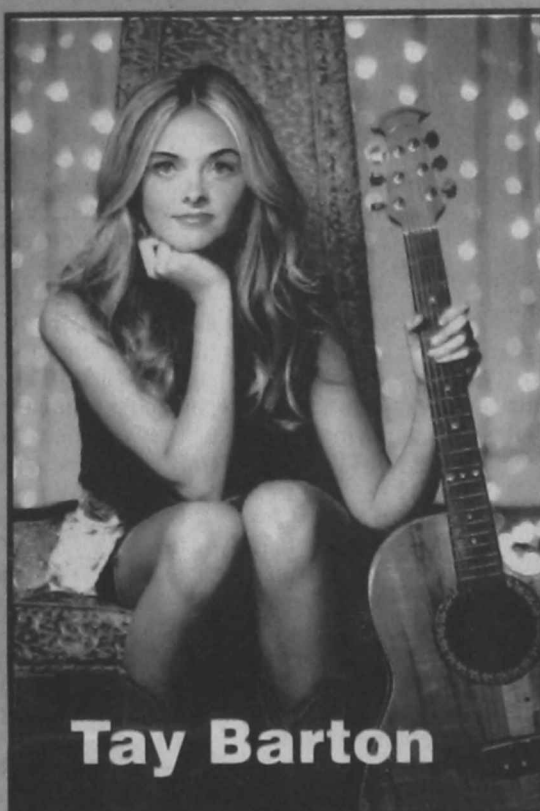


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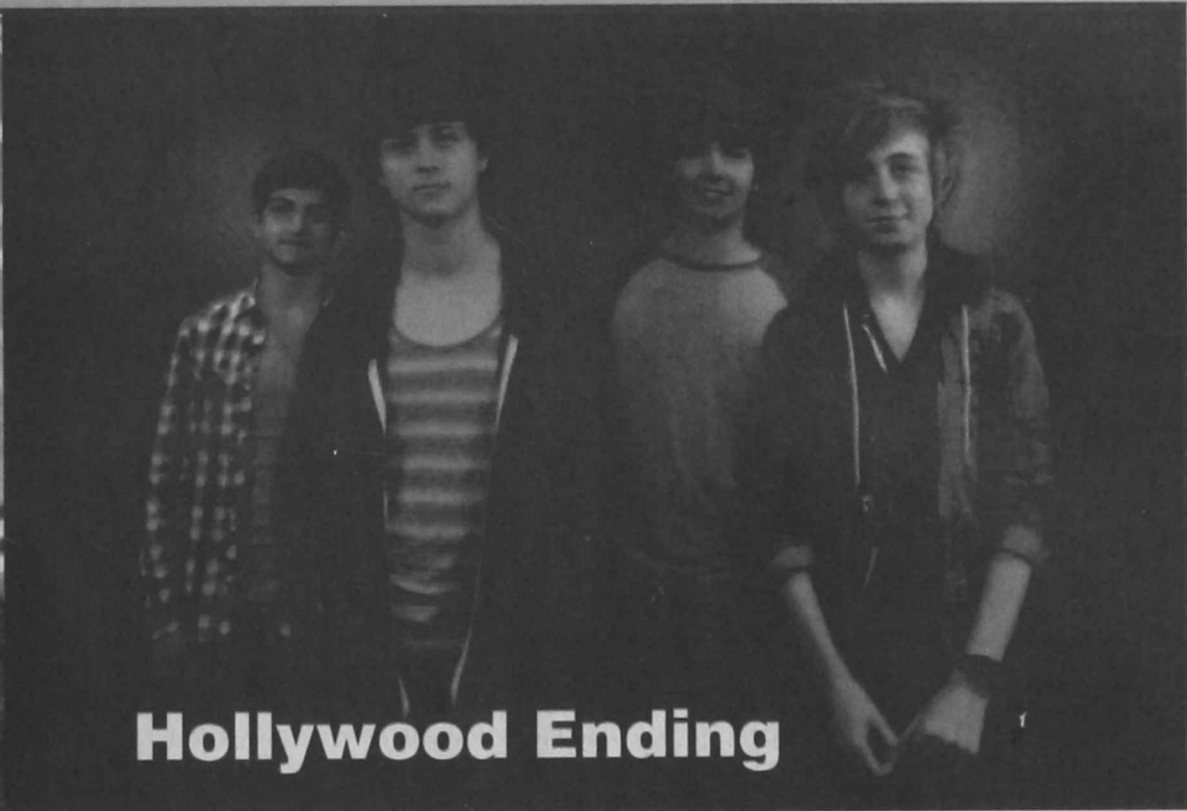
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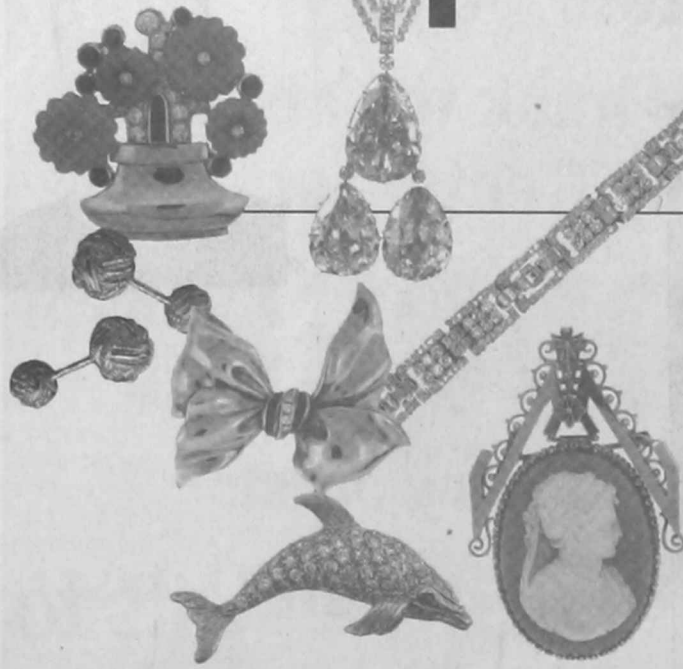
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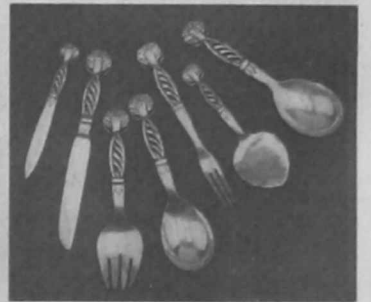
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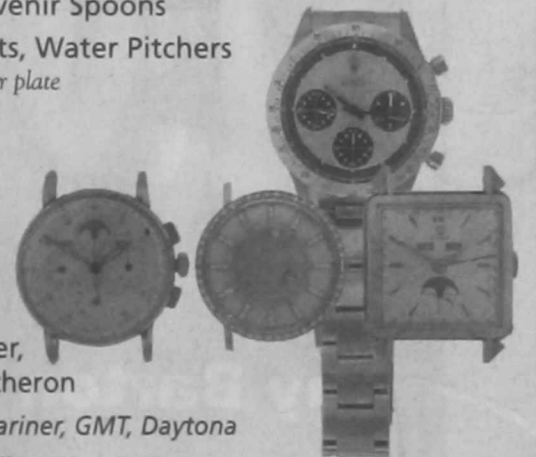
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2011 FOOTBALL PREVIEW — PT. 1

Chiefs itching to get started

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Tim Baechler and his Canton Chiefs aren't dwelling over what happened during the 2010 state football playoffs.

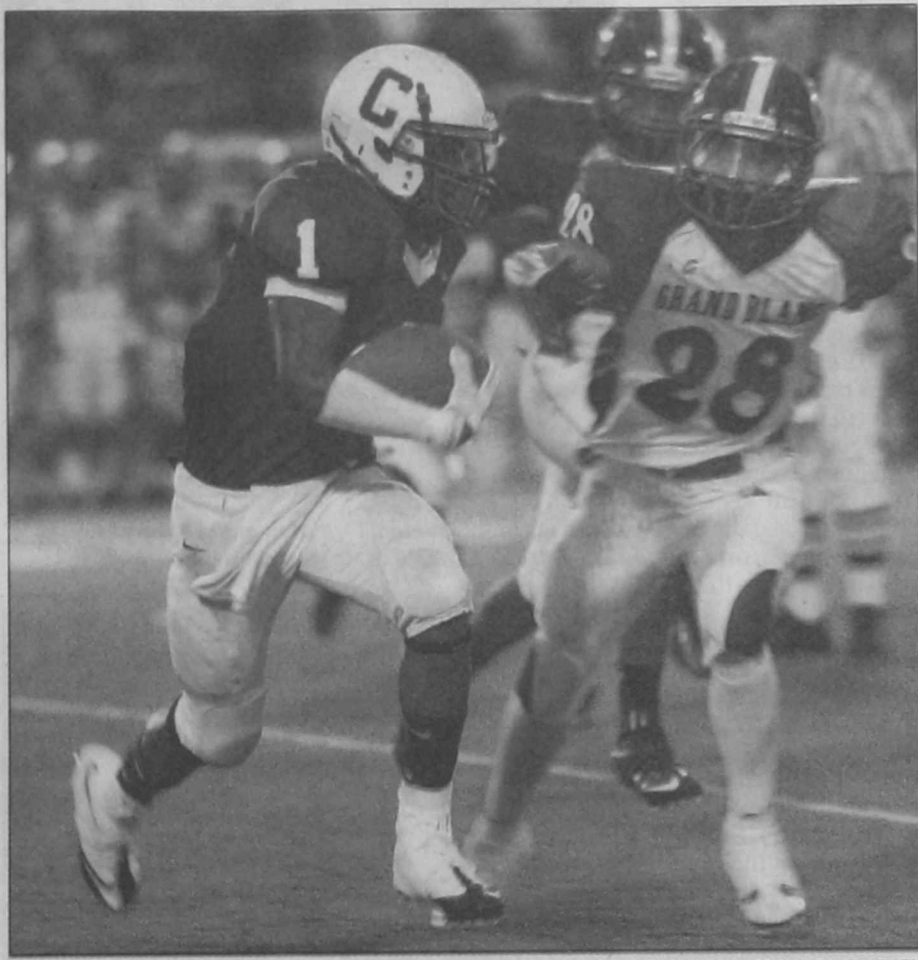
The Chiefs — favored by many prognosticators to reach the Division 1 title game at Ford Field — were tripped up by campus rival Plymouth in the second round of the postseason. Then, to rub salt into the wounds, the Wildcats marched all the way to the finals.

But the new season is about to start and the Chiefs won't be thinking about extracting revenge against Plymouth, at least not until they meet on Oct. 7.

Instead, the mission is to gear up for visiting Walled Lake Central (the opener is 7 p.m. Thursday) and keep improving for the long haul.

"Anytime you lose the last game of the year, you're upset about it, you're not happy," said the 14th-year Canton coach, watching his players run through calisthenics to open Wednesday afternoon's practice. "Two years ago we lose in the third round in overtime to CC (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) and the only thing we felt good about was we played very well.

"We played real well and lost. And that's easier to live with. But we're still upset. Even when we lost in '05 in the state championship ... there's only eight teams in the state that are really, tru-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Busting loose for a big gainer last season for Canton is halfback Kevin Buford (No. 1). He will reprise his role as an offensive catalyst again this year.

ly happy at the end of the season. And when you lose you're motivated. What can we do to get an inch better? That was our focus this offseason."

Once again, a creative, high-octane offense won't be among Baechler's worries entering the opener. The focus will be how the Chiefs' defense handles the potent Vikings.

"We don't have a lot of depth at certain posi-

tions, and we've got a few injuries going on right now," he explained. "But they're going to be a great defense — eventually."

"Unfortunately, we play Walled Lake Central and Grand Blanc right out of the gate. They're two very good, offensive teams. So they need to get great, soon. And three weeks (of practices) is not a lot of time."

Scoring threats

Of course, it helps that many of the key components are back from the 2010 season, when the Chiefs finished 10-1 and won their division and conference.

Quarterback Kyle Adams and the triple-back formation of halfbacks Kevin Buford (who recently made a verbal commitment to the University of Toledo), Ryan Jones and Zac

Merillat are all seniors and looking ready to embark on a mission.

"Their speed and explosiveness are big," Baechler said. "Kevin Buford, this will be his third year starting and he's just a great talent."

"He's just got that big-play ability, so does Ryan Jones and so does Zac. And so does Kyle throwing the ball and running the ball. All four of them have big-play ability."

The coaching staff can plug juniors Malcolm Hollingsworth and Kendall Scott into the backfield mix and not lose much. Baechler heaped some extra praise on Adams' plate, particularly about how sharp he's looked during the pre-season workouts.

"We're extremely happy with him, he's going to be a very good quarterback," Baechler said. "He reads well, gets rid of the ball on time. his ball-handling is good as far as faking and taking care of the football. We're very high on him, he's doing a great job."

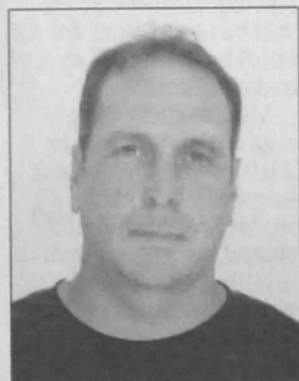
Adams will throw to several targets, including runners out of the backfield as well as tight ends/wide-outs Nick Tata, Evan Rinke, Matt McKoy and Scott Gring.

The compressed training camp (17 days) is one reason for Baechler to be slightly cautious about predicting what kind of offensive line he'll have.

"That's what's so frustrating, the whole state of Michigan's doing the

Please see CANTON, B3

BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW — PT. 2



'I'm excited about the upcoming season.'

JEFF NESCHICH
Plymouth soccer coach

'Cats to rely on defense

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

A tough-to-penetrate defensive wall is one of the calling cards of Plymouth's varsity boys soccer program under veteran head coach Jeff Neschich. And the 2011 season figures to follow the script.

The Wildcats, who finished 10-7-3 overall last year and 8-2-0 (second place) in the KLA South, have a solid group of defenders as well as a talented, athletic goalkeeper in senior co-captain Rene Mejia.

With other teams sure to have issues trying to find the back of the Wildcats' goal, the key to the

Please see PLYMOUTH, B2

'World' of softball suits her fine

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

All it took to spark Michaela Warner's deep interest in fastpitch softball was some encouragement from a friend.

Four years later, 13-year-old Michaela is a "world champion" as part of the Compuware Fastpitch Softball Club 12-and-under team. Her team won the National Softball Association Class A World Series, held July 26-30 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The hard-hitting cleanup hitter slammed a two-run double into the left-field corner to give her team (coached by Ed Ewald) the winning runs July 30 in the title-clinching 6-4 win over Ohio Classics. The NSA Class A title was the first for a Michigan-based 12U team in 20 years.

After the game was over, parents Paul and Cindy Warner of Canton said they and other softball moms and dads were more worked up about it than the athletes themselves.

"I think we were happier than they were because I don't think they knew what to do," Paul Warner said. "I know she was catching, she ran out to hug the pitcher and all the girls came in and did a real quick huddle. then they broke



Michaela Warner (left) of Canton proudly poses with Compuware 12U coach Ed Ewald after winning the National Softball Association Class A World Series.

into a straight line and shook hands."

Breathing a sigh of relief that Michaela's team got the job done was Cindy Warner, who admitted that "parents are always more nervous than the kids. They just go out there and play. They have the game to keep them busy, but we're the ones watching every mistake or wondering what's going to happen next."

Usually, what happened next was something good because the team finished 47-7 overall including a 33-3 record in Michigan-

based tournaments. At the World Series, Compuware won eight straight games against opponents from five states.

All in stride

Even several days after the infield dust had settled, Michaela Warner (who will be entering eighth grade at Dearborn Divine Child) seemed to remain business-like when talking about her team's winning ride.

"It (World Series) was a little

Please see MICHAELA, B5

Swimmer Seroka's named All-American

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

You can add national All-American swimmer to Adam Seroka's ever-growing resume.

Seroka this week embarks on the next chapter of his already-impressive life as he travels to George Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

The most-recent chapter's a riveting story in and of itself: Seroka, a recent Salem High School graduate-with-honors, was confirmed as a National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American for 2011 in the 500 freestyle.

Seroka could not be reached for comment Friday. But that lofty accolade is a source of much pride for longtime Rocks varsity boys swimming and diving coach Chuck Olson.

Just this year, in addi-



Adam Seroka is the latest Salem swimmer to be named an All-American by the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association.

tion to earning All-American status, Seroka won a state championship and inclusion on the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Dream Team in the 500 free and was named for the fourth straight year to the *Observer's* boys

Please see SEROKA, B2

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Continue from page B1

team having a run of success is whether Neschich can find enough timely offense.

"I'm excited about the upcoming season," said Neschich. "Rene Mejia will be in the pipes for us (and) he is looking strong and confident."

After serving in an apprentice-like role in 2010 behind then-senior keeper Kyle Brindza, Mejia's confidence should be boosted thanks to a plethora of hard-working defenders, led by senior co-captains Mike Ambrose and Zach D'Agostino. "Our defense looks to be strong," the coach said.

Other players expected to bolster the back line include seniors Brian Eggenberger and Kevin Hoffman, junior Jeff Pattison and sophomore Vikas Kanneganti.

Also in the goalkeeping mix to team up with Mejia is Mario Gruszczynski.

Taking care of all-important midfield duties will be Viet Nguyen, Mike Shackelford, Matheo Segovia-Plate and Mike Himmlspach, along with Chris Lebioda and Chris Bryden.

Up front, Neschich said junior strikers Chandler Olah and Do-Hyung Kim "are looking to be impact players for us this year" while Teddy Phillips and Kris Janevski will hopefully help spark the offense.

Plymouth swung into action during Saturday's annual Gary Balconi Invitational and will open conference play with a KLAA crossover match 7 p.m. Wednesday against visiting Walled Lake Central.

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SEROKA

Continue from page B1

swimming and diving first team.

And during 2010-11, Seroka's personal best time of four minutes, 32.90 seconds shattered the 21-year-old record of former Salem All-American Ron Orris.

Seroka, who will swim at Washington University, also earned all-state honors in the 200 free (third place, 1:40.73).

But as much as Olson raves about Seroka the swimmer, he is even more enthralled about Seroka the person.

Seroka received the Mike Kilgore Award for outstanding academic and athletic leadership.

"Adam follows a long list of All-Americans at Salem (about 30) since 1970," noted Olson in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "None of those served as captain for more than one season, whereas Adam was for three seasons. I think that speaks for itself."

"Those captains and All-Americans proved to be outstanding in their years following high school with great success in college and in their professional life."

"Adam will undoubtedly find success in the future having the foresight to prepare for the challenges to come."

The coach isn't alone in having that view.

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GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

MILFORD INVITATIONAL GIRLS GOLF TOURNEY RESULTS

Aug. 18 at Huron Meadows TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 324 strokes; 2. Flint Powers, 325; 3. Grosse Ile, 343; 4. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 347; 5. Birmingham Seaholm, 345; 6. Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, 352; 7. (tie) Livonia Churchill, Davison and Walled Lake Central, 354 each; 10. Novi, 355; 11. (tie) Northville and Farmington Hills Mercy, 356 each; 13. South Lyon, 362; 14. Hartland, 364; 15. Milford, 375-16. Livonia Stevenson, 377; 17. Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 378; 19. Dearborn Divine Child, 385; 19. White Lake Lakeland, 439; 20. Pinckney, 441.

AREA TEAM-BY-TEAM SCORING

Plymouth (324): 1. Kelsey Murphy, 71; 3. Sarah Thompson, 75; 12. Sydney Murphy,

81; 66. Kayla Whatley, 66; 76. Carly Curvin, 104.

Marian (347): 4. Macy Hudson, 76; 6. Kelly Lunghamer, 79; 9. Ellen Manson, 80; 86. Carlee Bazil, 112; 90. Victoria Li, 115.

Seaholm (349): 12. Essence Biggs, 81; 16. Rachel Wilson, 83; 41. Megan Lam, 91; 55. Jessica Harrison, 94.

Country Day (352): 16. Meghan Gatward, 83; 23. Piumi Jayatilake, 86; 41. Corrin Hepburn, 91; 47. Monika Hedni, 92; 55. Ellie Miller, 94.

Churchill (354): 5. Jordyn Shepler, 77; 38. Nicole Kruse, 90; 52. Jackie Burdette, 93; 55. Maggie McGowan, 94; 93. Claire Rose, 118.

Mercy (356): 16. Brenna Hammond, 83; 38. Allison Shaw, 90; 41. Erica Heath, 91; 47. Gillian Hickey, 92; 55. Rebecca Romero, 94.

Stevenson (377): 23. Becca Bubenheimer, 86; 55. Sarah King, 94; 66. Dana Smith, 97; 71. Kelsey Duntley, 100; 92. Alyssa Blaszkiewicz, 116.

Girls golf teams set to tee it up

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The three varsity girls golf teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are seeing the start of the 2011 season from different angles.

Once again, Plymouth figures to be a dominant team, spurred on by outstanding junior Kelsey Murphy.

Thursday served up more evidence to that end, as the Wildcats won the Milford Invitational at Huron Meadows Golf Course with a round of 324 strokes. Murphy was the individual medalist, tallying a 71 for 18 holes.

Elsewhere at PCEP, Canton's Chiefs could make a push toward contention in the ultra-tough KLAA South.

And despite low numbers to open the year, the Salem forecast calls for enthusiastic performances and a rise in on-the-course fortunes.

Following is a look at the three Park teams as the season begins to unfold:

Plymouth

Plymouth had an excellent 2010 season, finishing 10-0 during the regular season and going on to finish 11th at the Division 1 state tournament.

And head coach Chris Moore doesn't just have Murphy — who made last year's All-State Super Team after averaging 39.5 strokes per nine and 76 for 18 — back for another season.

All five of his top golfers in 2010 will give it another go this fall.

Junior Sarah Thompson, who shared team MVP honors last year with Murphy, is another standout. She averaged 43.5 and 88 for nine and 18 holes, respectively.

Senior co-captains Carly Curvin and Lindsay Dean and junior Danielle Allen also will be featured in Plymouth's lineup card.

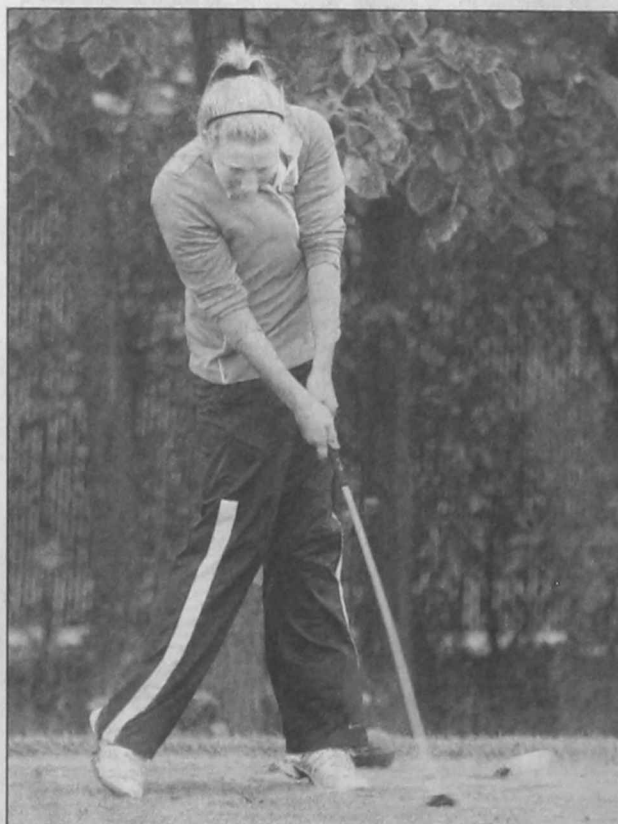
"We have very high expectations this year," Moore said. "The girls are working very hard to reach these lofty goals."

"After making it to the state tournament last year, the girls now understand what it takes to make it to the next level and what it is going to take to excel at the state tournament."

Top goals include working on the short game (chipping, pitching, putting), capturing the division and conference, making it past regionals and earning a spot in the Top Five in the state.

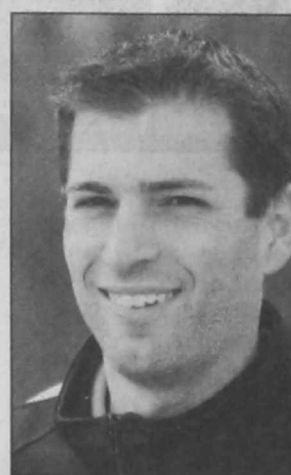
Newcomers include sophomore Kayla Whatley and freshmen Sydney Murphy, Justine Berry and Abbey Zacharias.

Rounding out the roster are juniors Jane McMurray, Sarah Uhlman, Lindsey Oprisiu and seniors Kendra Bartkowiak and Ashley Pawczuk.



Once again this season, Plymouth golfer Kelsey Murphy is likely to spark the Wildcats to good things.

Salem is looking for golfers to join the team. Those interested should e-mail head coach Ryan Nimmerguth at salemgirlsgolf@pccsmail.net.



Nimmerguth

The Chiefs get into the swing on Saturday, Aug. 25, in the North Farmington Invitational at Glen Oaks.

Salem

Although there are only six girls on the Salem varsity girls golf team — although Rocks head coach Ryan Nimmerguth said additional golfers are welcome to join up — all is not bleak.

In fact, Nimmerguth is optimistic about his squad because five of his golfers have varsity experience as well as a second-to-none work ethic.

"Even though we are short in numbers I am very encouraged by the practice habits of these girls," Nimmerguth said. "Last year was the first year of competitive golf for all of these girls and I look for us to be much improved."

"It shows in their game that many of these girls have been practicing over the summer."

Junior Gabrielle LeBlanc and sophomore Christine Li will carry much of the load at the top of the lineup.

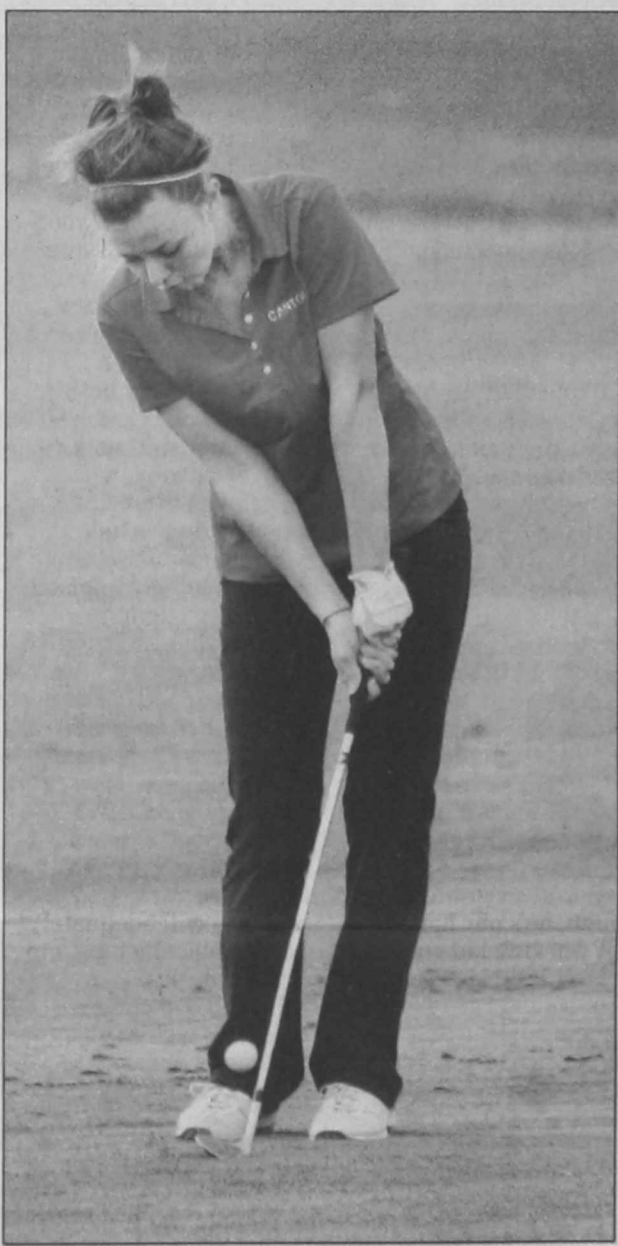
"I look for Gabrielle LeBlanc and Christine Li to lead this team," Nimmerguth said. "They both come into the season hitting the ball well."

Other varsity returnees are juniors Katie Vena, KaLaya Thomas and sophomore Amanda Bennett. The lone newcomer is freshman Kahrlee Kozan.

"I am excited for this team this year," he added. "It is a great group of girls that are very driven to compete."

Nimmerguth, of course, wouldn't mind having a couple more girls to join the roster. Those interested should e-mail him at salemgirlsgolf@pccsmail.net.

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One of the top golfers for Canton is Paige Osler, shown during the 2010 Kensington Conference meet.

Canton

For the Chiefs and head coach Tom Alles, this could be a very worthwhile season.

After going 5-5 in the KLAA South in '10, this year's squad returns seniors Kaylie Lobb and Paige Osler — the latter who was Canton's top performer with a nine-hole average of 49.9.

But juniors Katie Adams, Kayla Lagola and sophomores Kelsey McDougall and Chloe Luyet are coming on strong.

Both McDougall and

Luyet saw time on the varsity as freshmen and have a chance to keep improving (as do Adams and Lagola).

McDougall and Luyet averaged 50 and 53.3 per nine holes, respectively, in 2010.

"The only freshman on the team is Alyce Krumm, who could eventually make the varsity lineup," Alles said. "We hope to improve on our record of a season ago."

"I am also hoping to have an individual qualifier to compete in the state finals this year."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zac Merillat (No. 21), shown in this 2010 game, figures to be a key performer on both sides of the ball for Canton this season.

FAST FACTS

School: Canton. Head coach: Tim Baechler, 14th season. 2010 record: 10-1, champions of KLAASouth Division, KLAAS Kensington Conference. Notable losses to graduation: Ben Merbler, Davion Stackhouse, Ryan Powell, Ben Poirier, Braden Price, Garrett Bryden. Top returnees: Kevin Buford, Sr. RB-CB; Kyle Adams, Sr. QB-P; Ryan Jones, Sr. RB; Zac Merillat, SR. RB-LB; Zachary Smilo, Sr. DB. Others to watch: Malcolm Hollingsworth, Jr.; John Chadwick, Sr.; Kendall Scott, Jr.; Blake Lelo, Sr. Baechler says: "All we can worry about is our own daily improvement. All I can tell you is if we keep progressing like we are, we're going to be a great team at some point during the season. I don't know what that means as far as wins and losses goes." Schedule: (all 7 p.m. starts except as noted) Thursday, Walled Lake Central; Sept. 1 at Grand Blanc; Sept. 9 (6:30 p.m.) Livonia Franklin; Sept. 16 at Wayne Memorial; Sept. 23 Westland John Glenn; Sept. 30 at Livonia Churchill; Oct. 7 at Plymouth; Oct. 14 vs. KLAAS crossover; Oct. 21 Salem.

CANTON

Continue from page B1

same thing," he noted. "This is our sixth day with pads and it's not nearly enough. We've got a long way to go just as I'm sure everybody else does. "Blocking's always a work in progress, but we're getting there." There are linemen who are looking solid on the eve of the season opener. Baechler mentioned junior left guard Mike Ditzler, second-year starting right tackle Cameron Dillard (a junior), senior center Blake Lelo (a back-up center and guard in 2010), and either junior Darian Evans or junior Luke Denzer at right guard.

Double duty

On defense, the only returning seniors are defensive back Buford and linebacker Merillat. But that's a pretty good start, according to Baechler. "Zac's very quick, very tough, he's our hardest working kid on the team," Baechler said. "He transferred from Tecumseh last year as a junior. We're just lucky we got him. A great kid, great worker." Other members of the offense who can swing over to the defensive side of the ball include Scott (defensive back), Hollingsworth (lineback-

er), Dillard and DeRos (defensive line). "Until our depth improves they may see some time playing some defense," Baechler said. The Chiefs will have seniors Zachary Smilo and Michael Boes augmenting Buford in the defensive backfield. "They're very quick kids, even though they haven't had a lot of experience," Baechler added. "They've had a good summer in the passing league and we're liking what we see right now. "In practice they're not afraid to come up and hit and they both can run well." Baechler said senior John Chadwick, who is nursing an injury, is a player who can help the defense. "He didn't get a lot of reps last year on defense, but he should start somewhere," he continued. "Either outside backer or d-end." Canton will use quarterback Adams at the punter position, and juniors Scott Piwowar and Connor Shennan (both also varsity soccer players) will adequately handle placekicking and kickoff duties. "It's a good competition," Baechler said. "Connor's got the stronger leg but Piwowar's very accurate. We should be taken care of there."

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Warrior gridders hoping to avoid injury concerns

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Tenth-year Paul Guse can't help but be optimistic about this year's Lutheran High Westland football team, but there's one catch.

"With a school our size it's always depth," said Guse, who is coming off an 0-9 season. "I think our starters are as good as anybody's in the conference, but once the injuries start happening, and the dominoes start falling, we just don't have a lot of depth. We gave up 343 points last year, so obviously defense has to be a key for us. What's the key to this team being successful? Stay injury free. Those were our last words last year and then we had 7,000 injuries."

Guse, however, thinks the Warriors are on the right track to compete in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference where Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest shared the title in 2010.

"I like the attitude, we have a good group of kids who are willing to work really hard for us," Guse said. "But we're still trying to fit the pieces together. So far it's been a great attitude. I think we've had a really good camp and we've stayed relatively injury-free so far."

Meanwhile, the Warriors took a major hit when the team's second leading returner tackle Eddie Christensen, was lost for the season after suffering serious injuries in a summer car accident.

Two-time All-Conference player Dawson Dav-



AMY DAVENPORT

Senior center and inside linebacker Dawson Davenport (No. 70) returns this season for the Lutheran Westland High football team.

enport will lead the way, but the 6-foot-4, 235-pound senior missed four games last year due to injury after suffering a broken wrist.

"Dawson is the key to the defense," Guse said. "He's the inside linebacker who led the team in tackles last year. He played in only five games. He and Bobby Miller, our strong side corner (back), probably are the two keys to the defense."

Meanwhile, Guse hopes his team will improve its offensive production after averaging only 10.7 points per game.

"On offense, it's the offensive line as a unit," Guse said. "If they can

work together and work cohesively, I think we should have a pretty strong running game.

The Warriors could get a lift up-front from 6-5, 335-pound senior two-way tackle Ryan Miller.

"It's like night-and-day," Guse said. "Ryan is a lovable, nice kid, but worked his butt off literally in the offseason. He worked out with a trainer. He changed his body around from being kind of a being just a heavy kid to being a pretty athletic and agile kid. He went from squatting 185 (pounds) to 550. We're hoping if we can keep him healthy, that he can be a dominant force on both sides of the line for us."

PCA football program dropped

Just over a year ago, Plymouth Christian Athletic director Rick Swilley was excited about launching a high school football program.

But Year Two has been jettisoned. Swilley on Friday con-

firmed that the 2011 PCA football season was cancelled and directed all questions to new high school administrator Mark Wood.

The decision to pull the plug on prep football was reached over

the summer, Swilley added.

Last year's coach, Mark Rumschlag, could not be reached for comment. The 2010 team was beset by low participation numbers and struggled on the field.

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Golf for pucks

Hockey players seem to be natural golfers, and the two sports are coming together for a fundraiser later this month.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, at Hickory Creek Golf Club in Ypsilanti, a golf tournament to benefit the Plymouth, Canton and Salem varsity boys hockey teams will take place.

Proceeds from the 13th annual event will help those teams with the costs associated with playing the 2011-12 season.

There will be a \$10,000 hole-in-one contest, plus prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, first place, skins and door prizes.

Golfers will receive doughnuts and bagels for breakfast, a hot dog at the turn and a buffet dinner.

Cost is \$120 per player or \$425 per foursome. To register, contact Patti at berlin.patti@yahoo.com.

Big Prep Showdown

High school football is just around the corner, with Canton and Salem set to open with games on Thursday, Aug. 25, and Friday, Aug. 26, respectively.

The third Park team kicks off on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Big Prep Day Showdown at Eastern Michigan University.

That's because the defending Division 1 state finalist Plymouth Wildcats will square off at 11 a.m. that day against Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central.

The Plymouth contest is one of several to take place during

the Showdown at Rynearson Stadium.

For information on tickets, visit the Plymouth Wildcats website, www.football.plymouthwildcats.com.

Join the Legends

Are you a young baseball player from Canton or Plymouth looking for a new travel league experience?

Well, the Motor City Legends might be just the ticket for you.

The MC Legends are a new travel team in the KVBSA who will begin play in 2012.

Although comprised mostly of players moving up from the Motor City Giants 10U travel team, team officials are looking for a few elite players to fill out the roster.

Tryouts are 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, and 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, (with registration 15 minutes before each tryout) at Haggerty Diamond C (located on the northeast corner of Haggerty Road and Hines Park). Attendance at both tryouts is not mandatory.

Prospective players must be age 11 or younger by May 1, 2012, and a tryout waiver form must be completed. Contact Mike Zaia at (248) 462-9380 for more information and to pre-register.

There will be about 20 league games and three or four tournaments throughout the year, along with practices.

The cost to sign up is \$600 with half due on Sept. 15.

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Hickory Creek golf

Hickory Creek Golf Course,

located at 3625 Napier Road (at Ford Road), in Superior Township, has two upcoming golf events starting with the junior scramble for ages 5-17 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Volunteers are needed to walk with each group. Pizza and prizes follow at 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.

On tap is Ladies Night Out "Margaritas on the Range from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25 (cost \$20 before Aug. 20) along with the Glow Golf & Fish Fry from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30.

For more information, visit TrainwithTami@yahoo.com; or call (734) 731-0238.

Fall baseball

The 11th annual Total Baseball fall baseball league will be from Aug. 20-Sept. 25 at the Madonna University's Ilitch Ballpark, Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School and at Total Baseball-Wixom.

The 10-game schedule on Saturday (American) and Sunday (National) includes the following age group divisions: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, high school JV and high school varsity (wooden bats only on Sunday).

The cost is \$250 per player (jerseys, hats and coaches are provided). Team fees are \$1,200 (ages 9-14) and \$1,500 (JV and varsity) and includes umpires, fields and standings.

For more information, call Total Baseball at (248) 668-0166; or e-mail aaronk@total-

sportscomplex.com.

To register online, visit www.totalsportscomplex.com.

Soccer officials

The United Federation of Officials will stage its rookie soccer referee training class 5:30-11 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, at St. Alfred's School, 9540 Telegraph Road, Taylor.

The target audience is Class 1 for high school juniors and seniors, which will then be part of the MHSAA's Officials Legacy Mentoring program, along with Class 2 for interested adults.

The class fee - \$35 for high school students and \$55 for adults - includes MHSAA registration fees. (If already registered with the MHSAA, the cost is \$30.)

Those completing the course will be eligible to officiate high school, junior high and Catholic Youth Organization games for the 2011 fall season.

For enrollment information, call Byron Beattie at (734) 775-4134; or to request a registration form, e-mail bsqure@comcast.net.

Golf outing

The fifth annual Society of Notre Dame de Bon Secours family golf outing will be Saturday, Aug. 20, at Livonia's Fox Creek Golf Course.

The \$75 golf package includes 18 holes (with cart), meals and refreshments. Sponsors are also needed. For more information, call Paul Beaubien at (586) 419-8955.

Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its seven-week Learn to Skate Session I classes beginning the week of Sept. 12 through the week of Oct. 24 at Edgard Arena, 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Each class is 25 minutes and classes include:

4-and-up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Monday.

The fee for residents is \$55 or \$67 for non-residents. (Free skate rental is also available.)

Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

For more information, call Kerri Ahmet at (734) 466-2412.

Need CYO gridders

The Livonia St. Edith Catholic Youth Organization program has immediate openings for those interested in playing football this fall (grades 3-8).

For more information, call Steve Cooper at (248) 921-3772; or Jeff Sugg at (248) 921-3772.

Openings for grades 4-8 also remain for volleyball (girls) and soccer (boys and girls) and cheer (girls).

For more information, call John Michniak at (734) 732-5933.

Guide to Employment

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MICHAELA

Continue from page B1

more difficult because you got to see teams you never saw before," said Michaela, who hit .570 for the season. "You had to work harder because you'd never seen them and they could be from somewhere where they could play year-round."

There were 200 teams from 20 states to play in five age brackets.

But she said it was a blast to be down in Chattanooga, especially because she could visit tourist attractions such as Ruby Falls, an amusement park complete with water falls.

"I just thought it was really fun to play in the World Series," Michaela said. "To go different places like Ruby Falls. It was really fun."

Drive to excel

Softball's also been fun for her, ever since neighborhood friend Lauren Hayes stopped by the house one day in 2007.

"One of her neighbors, who currently plays for the older Compuware girls, came over and played catch with her and explained that she plays ball," Paul Warner recalled. "And ever since there, it's just been a drive of hers just to get better."

"She actually has the same number (No. 10) as her friend Lauren Hayes, who got her started in softball."

Hayes, a Canton resident who attends Livonia Ladywood, is moving up from the Compuware 14U team to the 16U team.

Meanwhile, Michaela Warner just found out she will play the next year of fastpitch softball with the 14U squad. It means another school year where softball ramps up time demands.

Cindy Warner said prac-



Michaela Warner delivers another clutch hit for her Compuware 12U fastpitch softball team during the recent NSA World Series.



Celebrating after winning the recent National Softball Association Class A World Series in Chattanooga, Tenn. is the Compuware 12U Fastpitch Softball Team. Pictured with their championship trophies are (front row, from left) Lauren Holdsworth, Morgan Ewald, Aryanna Dadabbo, Isabella Rocha, Jacqueline Spizizen; (back row, from left) Kevin Spizizen, Erika Selakowski, Kaylen Glenfield, head coach Ed Ewald, Kara Hart, Ron Hart, Jordyn Look, Kate Buckland, Michaela Warner and Mark Dadabbo.

tice can go until 10 p.m., with homework sometimes not starting until the car ride home "especially when it gets to May and June."

It goes with the territory for playing in such a competitive program.

"She's learned a tremendous amount at Compuware," Cindy added. "She

works hard, is focused on her softball, tries to watch softball and learn things on her own, too.

"... She works harder even if she's tired. Which she didn't do when she started. She'll work through all the pain."

With the big taste of victory, it's no surprise that Michaela wants to

keep motoring toward more softball success.

"I want to play it more," Michaela said. "I want to be aggressive, serious."

Sounds like high school coaches might be next to pay a visit to the Warner household.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL

Thursday, Aug. 25
W.L. Central at Canton, 7 p.m.
Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26
Salem at Ann Arbor Huron, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27
Plymouth vs. Monroe St. Mary CC at EMU Big Prep Day Showdown, 11 a.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Wednesday, Aug. 24
Mercy Invitational, 9 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 25
Huron Valley at Greenhills Inv., 9 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27
Gabriel Richard Inv., 8 a.m.
Portage Northern Inv., 8 a.m.
Ladywood Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
W.L. Central Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Mich. Lutheran Quad, 9 a.m.
Oakland Christian Tourney, 9 a.m.
Carleton Airport Invitational, 9 a.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Tuesday, Aug. 23
Ply. Christian at Oak Christian, 5 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 25
W.L. Central at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25
Roeper at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Wash. Christ. at Huron Valley, 5 p.m.
Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26
Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 3 p.m.
Luth. W'sld at Luth. South, 4:30 p.m.
A.A. Skyline at Plymouth, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS & GIRLS X COUNTRY

Saturday, Aug. 27
South Lyon Inv. at Island Lake, 9 a.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

Saturday, Aug. 27
Kenzie Classic at Howell, 1 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

Monday, Aug. 22
Seaholm Invitational at Forest Lake CC, noon.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Ladywood at DeWitt Inv., 7:30 a.m.
Brighton Homestead Invitational at Oak Pointe G.C., 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25
Farmington Invite at Glen Oaks Metro Park, 8 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 26
Grosse Ile Invitational at West Shore G&CC, 8:30 a.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Thursday, Aug. 25
Brighton at Plymouth, 10:30 a.m.
A.A. Huron Quad, TBA.
Ply. Christian at Wayne, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26
Monroe Invite, 8 a.m.

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Tuesday, Aug. 23
Ladywood at Mercy, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25
Ladywood at A.A. Skyline, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27
Ladywood at Cranbrook, 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Wednesday, Aug. 24
St. Francis (Ind.) at Madonna, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26
Schoolcraft at Ohio Kick-off Classic, TBA.

(UM-Dearborn Early Bird Classic)
Madonna vs. Shawnee St., 3 p.m.

Madonna vs. Trinity Christian, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27
(UM-Dearborn Early Bird Classic)
Madonna vs. Mt. Vernon, 12:30 p.m.

Madonna vs. Spring Arbor, 2:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Saturday, Aug. 27
Schoolcraft at Cincinnati State, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28
S. Suburban at Schoolcraft, 10 a.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Saturday, Aug. 27
Schoolcraft at Cincinnati State, 11 a.m.

Madonna at St. Xavier (Ill.), noon.

TBA - time to be announced.

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NEW FACES

• Denise Mintz, of Canton Township recently joined St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, as director of patient access and patient financial services. She is responsible for Emergency Center registration, Out-patient registration, scheduling, financial counseling and coordinating revenue cycle functions. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan and a master of science and administration in Health Care Administration degree from Central Michigan University.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital also recently announced these new medical staff members:

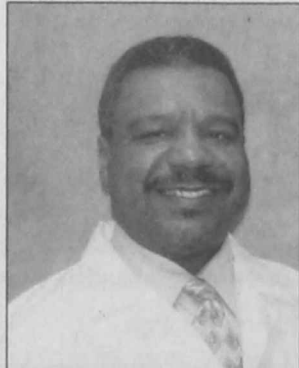
• Dr. Jeffrey Kimpson, a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, is board certified in anesthesiology and pain management. He received an M.D. degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, in Detroit and completed his residency at Providence Hospital, Southfield. Kimpson is located at Prizm Pain Specialists in Canton.

• Issam Mansour is board certified in podiatry and is a member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. He received a doctor of podiatric medicine degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, North Chicago, Ill. He completed a residency at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. He is located at the Advanced Foot & Ankle Care Center, in Novi.

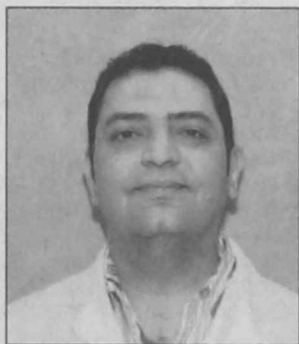
• Ryan Molli received a D.O. degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie, Pa. He completed a residency at the St. John Providence Health System, Detroit. He also completed a Total Joint fellowship at Joint Implant Surgeons, Inc. in



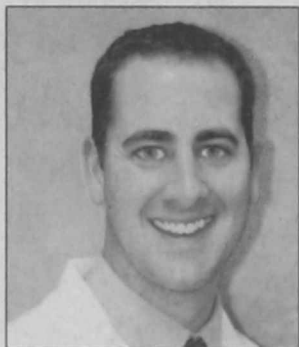
Mintz



Kimpson



Mansour



Molli

Columbus, Ohio.

August

FUN FEST

This Wayne County event offers hearing and vision screenings, blood pressure screenings, immunizations, breast feeding information, car seat and bike helmet giveaway, on-site HIV testing, lead testing, Head Start information, dental screenings, and more. It runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, on the grounds of the Wayne County Department of Public Health, 33030 Van Born, Wayne. (734) 727-7000

PROSTATE CANCER

Participants will learn about prostate cancer, prostate-specific antigen testing, men's health research, the risk factors for developing prostate cancer and the available treatment options at a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday Aug. 27 at the Marriott at Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti. The event, which will start with breakfast, is presented by University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Community Outreach Program and the Prostate Net. The event is free and open to the public. Register by calling (734) 998-7071.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local

YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina (734) 837-7700 with questions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

CPR CLASSES

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

FITNESS CLASSES

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

FOOD ADDICTS

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly

meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foodaddicts.org

HEALTH EDUCATION, SUPPORT & EXERCISE

Classes for cardiac rehabilitation, cardiac wellness, diabetes exercise and yoga are offered by the Garden City Hospital Health Enhancement Center. For information call (734) 458-3242. CPR (Adult & Infant), childbirth and child care education, support groups for cardiac patients, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; hearing loss; and Alzheimer's caregivers, are part of an array of offerings of Garden City Hospital's Community Education. For more information call (734) 458-4330. Free blood pressure and \$5 cholesterol testing are available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Garden City Hospital Lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citizens 10 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. Call (734) 458-4330 for dates. Most insurances cover new CPAP and BIPAP supplies every year. Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free mask fitting clinic for users, 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Try a new style of mask and learn how to get one. No appointment needed. For information call (734) 458-3330.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION

The Western Wayne Chapter, provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact afcrack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.



Run alongside our special guest Lila Lazarus this year at the 5K! Lila is best known in Detroit as the always-smiling, energetic and award-winning health reporter. When she isn't running around town with a camera crew, she's likely running a marathon, taking part in a triathlon, or teaching yoga.

Also, meet and greet Lila after the race!

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SOCIAL SECURITY



Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won**. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Conference celebrates African roots of Christian Orthodoxy

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E staff writer



Gomulka

It was a moment of revelation for Sharon Gomulka.

The Livonia woman, who was raised a Missionary Baptist and converted to Lutheranism, visited an Orthodox Christian Church one day several years ago and watched as white worshippers kissed the image of a dark-skinned man. It was the feast day of St. Moses the Black and the congregation had lined up to venerate his icon.

"I didn't realize it was his feast day and I didn't know about venerating icons. I had a paradigm shift of the many Caucasian people kissing this black man," Gomulka recalled. "And I began to question what kind of church is this? Who are these people that color does not seem to truly matter?"

The answer became evident as Gomulka and her husband, Ted, studied Christian history and learned about the "desert fathers," African saints who helped shaped the early church. The couple discovered that Orthodoxy not only recognized its African heritage, but also offered a deeper understanding of their Christian faith, a "fullness of Christian teaching."

"Being Orthodox became so right for us, said Gomulka, an African-American.

The couple and three

of their children — their eldest daughter remains Lutheran — joined the Orthodox church and are members of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia.

Creating awareness

Gomulka also chairs the Detroit Metro chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, a national organization of African-American Orthodox Christians. The group will hold its 18th annual Ancient Christianity and African-American Conference Aug. 26-28 at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile.

Cost, including registration and meals, is \$100 for two days, \$50 for one day and \$25 per day for high school and college students. Visit www.moses-theblack.org to register.

The Rev. Matthias Moriak, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America, is the keynote speaker on the conference theme "The Ancient Faith for Modern Problems." A full schedule of activities

is available on the Brotherhood Web site. The conference will include panel discussions, prayers, vespers, guest speakers and demonstrations, including a session on the connection between Orthodoxy and Negro spirituals.

Personal story

The Very Rev. Moses Berry, pastor of Theotokos "Unexpected Joy" Orthodox Church in Ash Grove, Ark. and the founder and president of the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, will explain how the ancient faith can free individuals from modern spiritual and mental prisons. He'll also offer a session on the African roots of Orthodoxy and the African-American experience.

"What Father Moses did that was pivotal for me was bringing in family artifacts," said Gomulka, who is familiar with his presentations. "He is the gate keeper of his great-great grandfathers' slave shackles. He has his great-grandmother's auction tag. He brings in quilts and talks about the oldest Negro cemetery in the Ozarks. It became this glue that I could attach myself to ... and understand that this is my story, too."

Gomulka said organizers hope to reach three distinct audiences with the conference — the Orthodox faithful, those who don't know the Gospel message, and African-American Christians.



The Rev. Moses Berry, president of the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, will speak at its conference Aug. 26-28 in Livonia.

"Many of us start our spiritual journey from the plantation ... tracing back to the point we got off the boat or just before we got on." But African-Americans can find their Christian roots in the early church, with the desert fathers. "It started much earlier."

"We invite clergy to come and grow with us on this spiritual journey of understanding African spirituality and roots." The invitation is designed to strengthen relationships and not to proselytize.

The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black's mission doesn't include evangelizing. It aims to create awareness of the Christian Church's African roots and heritage.

"That's another thing I like about the Orthodox Church. It doesn't proselytize. It's not out to get you to leave your church. Christians are Christians. We don't need to shuffle them around."



St. Moses the Black is one of many African saints.

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 Wednesday, August 24



Park it

Family Fun Nights

Park it is a **FREE** outdoor family fun night that includes live music, bouncy houses, kid's activities and free giveaways, followed by a family movie under the stars!

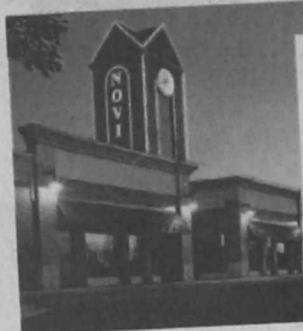


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Don't forget delicious dining in our great restaurants like Tony Sacco's Pizza, Bagger Dave's and Bonefish Grill. Or stop in Pei Wei, Potbelly's Sandwich Works or Athenian Coney Island for a great meal any time.



Bagger Dave's

Welcome Performance Bicycle and Massage LuXe Salon!

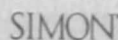
Two great new stores are open! Performance Bicycle, with bikes, bike helmets, cycling shoes, jerseys, shorts, sports nutrition, bike parts, Shimano and more at the best prices. Come relax at MassageLuXe salon - with an extensive selection of high end spa services at a very reasonable price. And look for the return of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, coming soon!

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The fall season needs more freezer space

As we go into the wind-up weeks of summer there is a marked increase in the sale of stand-alone freezers both upright and chest. Homeowners are thinking about the freezing of products for consumption during the cold days of winter. It is a human trait to stock up while the products are fresh and cost less and you may have the fisherman or hunter in the family who likes the taste of the wild.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

How do you make the right choice when purchasing a freezer?

First, decide if you want a chest or upright and which space it will consume in your home. Remember that the garage is not the place to install a freezer. A place where temperatures drop below 50 degrees can only create an expensive repair on

the product and I know your old one may have been working fine there for the last 20 years but today's products are not the same.

Find the coolest spot inside the house to give you better operating efficiency and make sure the floor is level. To help you decide on what size of freezer to purchase, the rule of thumb is that every cubic foot of freezer space equates to 35 pounds of food product.

If your choice is a chest freezer, see if you can get a couple of baskets thrown into the deal which helps in sorting out things for easy removal. A chest freezer is more efficient to operate than an upright. You can buy a self-defrost upright which is really expensive because it has a defrost system just like the kitchen refrigerator. I do not recommend the self-defrosting upright freezer for a few solid reasons. They can be expensive to repair as this following e-mail demonstrates:

Chris writes: "I have a Gibson

upright freezer that does not seem to be getting as cold as it should. Started noticing it when my son went to get a popsicle and it was really soft. Bought it in December 2002. It has worked well up until now. Tried to turn it up but still nothing. There is some ice build up at the bottom and towards the back of the freezer. Should I be able to feel cold air blowing out of the top inside back wall of the freezer?"

I will Chris at the phone number she enclosed with her mail and will explain to her that she has a failure in the defrost system of her freezer, which most likely will require a call for service and that's expensive. The heat introduced inside a freezer during the defrost cycle will remove nutrients and taste from the frozen product that may be noticeable to your palate. Great care needs to be taken when defrosting your freezer. Anything you use with a sharp edge can scratch the inside walls and cause the refrigerant to leak

out of the system which in most cases is not repairable. Remove and store any food products in a cooler or some other container and use a hair dryer or fan to circulate warm air inside the freezer. Be careful as to not melt any of the plastic walls and keep in mind that you are using electricity around ice and water.

After you install your manual defrost upright freezer stand to the side of the unit a place your hand near the top. Give it a gentle push and notice the door moving up and down which is why the product should be level. Raise the front using the two leveling legs in front by a half an inch higher than the rear. This will cause the door to close on its own should someone leave it ajar.

Stay tuned.

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

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Cruise set for Hines Drive on Aug. 28

The annual Woodward Dream Cruise ends this weekend, but the cruising season continues 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 on Hines Drive.

Hines Park will be closed to "normal" traffic from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive. Traffic on this section of Hines

will be limited to classics — cars 25 years and older — and hot rods, which is anything that is modified.

All cars must enter and register at the Ann Arbor Trail entrance. Participants can download a registration form at www.DonNicholson.net.

net to make registration move faster. There is no charge for registration.

Spectators may enter at Merriman, Telegraph and Warrendale. Cars will be on display and on the move. Vendors will be set up in pavilion areas near each entrance. The cruise will

include an hourly parade of one brand or car model. Cars will parade single file.

Car clubs interested in renting one of the remaining pavillions should e-mail Don@DonNicholson.net. Food and product vendor locations also are available.

Culinary event benefits student scholarships

Sample food, wine, beverages and desserts — and support student scholarships — at the Schoolcraft College Foundation's annual Culinary Extravaganza, a premier food and wine event that highlights the culinary talent at metro-area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

The 20th annual event runs 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept.

25, and will offer 50 food, wine, and dessert stations, a silent auction and raffle, along with a wine-tasting seminar led by vintner Lee Hershey and a wholesome healthy foods demonstration by master chef Jeff Gabriel. Proceeds provide scholarships and grants for students. Attendees can bid on a variety of gifts cards and baskets, including a

VIP wine-tasting at Chateau Chantal, a weekend stay at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or sports and entertainment packages.

Highlight of this year's raffle is a Hearts on Fire Diamond necklace from Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville valued at \$3,400. Other raffle prizes include \$500 cash, \$250 cash (two winners)

and three dinners for two at the American Harvest Restaurant at Schoolcraft.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

Individual tickets are \$50 and available at the college or online.

For more information or to purchase event tickets, sponsorship packages or raffle tickets go to www.schoolcraft.edu.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



METHOTREXATE IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatoid arthritis is a condition of inflammation that attacks the joints of the hands and feet. Features of rheumatoid arthritis include swelling in the fingers, pain and loss of function of the wrists, difficulty grasping, stiffness in the hands, and pain in the soles of the feet as if walking on stones.

In rheumatoid arthritis, the cells that line the joint are the targets of inflammation. What the person feels is the result of inflammation, namely swelling, joint effusion and pain.

Since inflammation underlies the features of rheumatoid arthritis, physicians turn to medicines that interfere with the building blocks that keep inflammation ongoing and destructive.

Methotrexate is the first drug of choice as it disrupts the sequence of elements needed for inflammation to work. Patients take the medication one time a week as the drug acts best as a single large dose rather than the conventional tablet-a-day regimen. If methotrexate alone fails to control inflammation, physicians add other medications to methotrexate to achieve effective therapy.

The nature of rheumatoid arthritis differs from osteoarthritis. In osteoarthritis the body constituent at risk is cartilage that lines the ends of bone. The underlying mechanism of change is injury and wear. They cause the cartilage to thin at a faster pace than the body can make repairs or synthesize new cartilage. Physicians have no medicine that will slow down the wear on cartilage or stimulate the body to accelerate repair and replacement. Therefore in osteoarthritis doctors can offer pain relief and counsel the patient when it is time to consider surgery.

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Annual car show benefits veterans



Ray Savage of Canton showed his 1947 Chevy Verno's Truck at the fourth annual Car Show for Vets.



Visitors stroll the fourth annual Car Show for Vets.



PHOTOS BY KEN ROGGE

The 2008 Thoroughbred Motorsports motorcycle belonging to Bradly Barnes, of Westland turned heads at the 4th Annual Car Show for Vets.

The fourth annual Car Show for Vets at the Polish League of American Veterans (P.L.A.V.) in Livonia, recently raised more than \$17,000 to support veterans organizations.

Prizes were awarded in each car class and those attending participated in a "bucket auction" for prizes such as autographed baseballs from Alan Trammel, Lou Whitaker and Kirk Gibson, a ride on the Yankee Air Force B-25 and a suite at an upcoming Detroit Tiger

baseball game.

The Motor City Muscle Car Club "Best of Show" went to Lance Paton of Belleville and his 1970 Chevy Monte Carlo. The Westside Gearheads "Club Choice Award" went to Doug Sparks for his 1936 Chevy. He also received the trophy for traveling the farthest — from Chino Valley, Ariz.,

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MIXED: Mon. 7:00 pm Tues. 7:00 pm Fri. 6:45 pm Sun. 7:00 pm	MIXED: (Every Other Week) Sat. 7:15 pm Sat. 8:00 pm Sun. 4:00 pm Sun. 7:00 pm	MIXED TRIO: Any Combination Tues. 7:00 pm <i>Starts Oct. 4th</i> Wed. 5:00 pm <i>Starts Sept. 7th</i>

Youth & Bumper League Saturdays 10 am Starts Sept. 10

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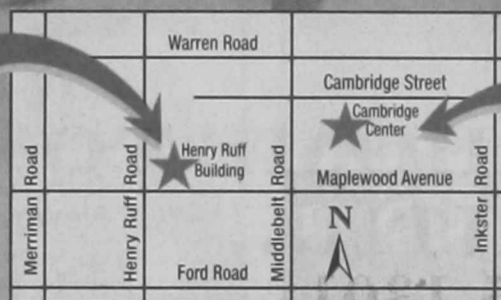
MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Enrollment: Aug. 15- Sept. 13, 2011

Enroll at Henry Ruff Building
30300 Maplewood, Garden City
Enroll Mon.-Thurs. 9am-4pm or by appointment

Call 734-762-8470

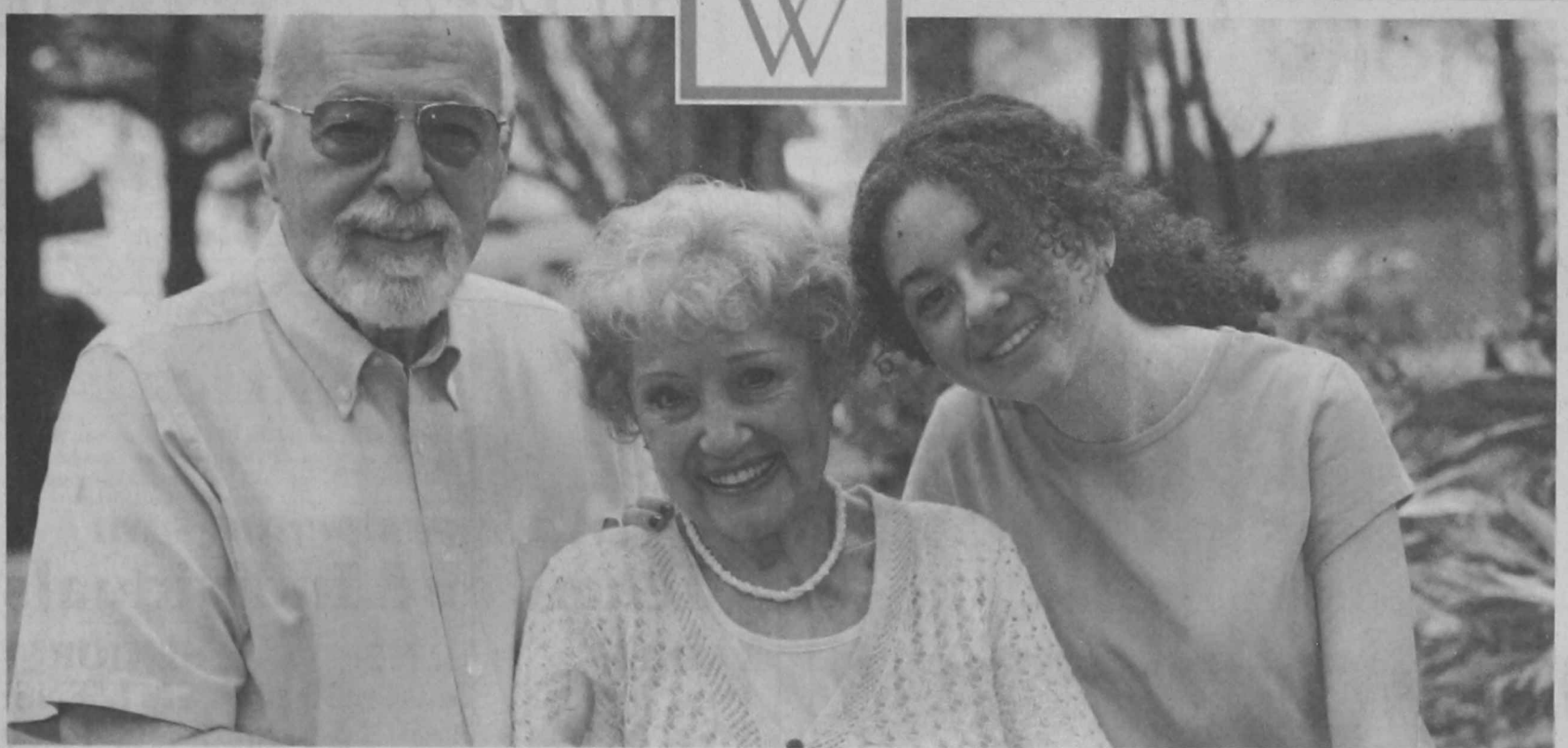
Ask for Debbie for more information



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CLASS OF 1971
 Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

DEARBORN FORDSON CLASS OF 1954

A 57-year reunion luncheon is planned for Oct. 6 at the Stitt American Legion Hall, Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information call Nancy Barlow Gaspar at (313) 581-6623 or e-mail to Pat Gaston Chiesa at patc629@aol.com.

CLASSES OF 1943-45
 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 16, at Park Place, 23400 Park, Dearborn. Luncheon will be served. Cost is \$20 per person. Send a check payable to Class of 1944 to Dolores Dysarz Hausch, 2100 N. Martha, Dearborn, MI 48128. For more information, call Dolores at (313) 278-4707.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS

ROBICHAUD

CLASS OF 1961
 50th class reunion Sept. 24 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS CRESTWOOD

CLASS OF 1981
 30-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Sept. 17 at Crystal Gardens, 5768 Grand River, Howell. Space is limited. Contact Cathy (Mamo) Dedakis at dedakis@chartmi.net, (810) 923-6446 or Sue (Toundaian) Turner at turnercrew@comcast.net, (734) 812-2937.

DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1961
 50th reunion Aug. 27 at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at

(734) 522-3167.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASSES OF 1950-69
 Noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, the Plymouth-Riverside Recreation Area, just west of Haggerty, in Edward Hines Park. Bring your own lunch and beverage or you can purchase hot dogs, chips, pop, and ice cream at the park. There will be an area reserved for Classic Cars (hot rod or custom), and music with a DJ. For more information, contact www.classcreator.com/Detroit-MI-Mackenzie-1960 or call Janet Cable Lauster at (734) 377-4009 or Dick Jankowski at (248) 685-8031.

JUNE CLASS OF 1961

50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29. For more information e-mail lvnerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FERNDALE HIGH

SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1961
 4:10-4:25 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9, gathering time at the high school, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. The reunion continues at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Somerset Inn, 2601 W. Big Beaver, Troy, with a social hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Weekend concludes with a final farewell and snack 12:30-1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at Dugan's 31501 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. Bill Stenbak at (231) 544-6522.

GARDEN CITY EAST & WEST

CLASSES OF 1966-67
 A casual, joint reunion is planned for Oct. 8. The organizing committee needs addresses of class members. Call Dale Bowes (Whiting) '66W at (734) 427-7148, Carol Gantt Fenner '67W at (734) 326-8467, Karen Colvard (Domanski) '66E at (734) 427-7012, Cheryl Gibbs '67E at (734) 340-9916/(313) 670-2402, or e-mail Dennis Russell at russ027@comcast.net.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1986
 25-year reunion, Saturday, Oct. 15. E-mail Trish First (Patty Buggy) for more information at pm2b2005@yahoo.com or contact Kristy Hickson (Roberts) on facebook.

GARDEN CITY WEST

CLASS OF 1981
 30-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Livonia. \$45 per person; \$90 per couple. Payment must be received by Sept. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Send a check or money order made payable to GC West Class of 1981, 32511 Windsor, Garden City, MI 48135. Questions? Call Erin (734) 751-2424.

LADYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1961
 Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

LIVONIA BENTLEY

CLASS OF 1961
 Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twmi.rr.com.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

CLASS OF 1966
 45th high school reunion, Oct. 8 at Laurel Park Marriott. Seeking classmates and contact info. E-mail contact info to Larry Ruzsas at Lruzsas187264mi@comcast.net or call him at (810) 599-3509.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASSES OF 1965-66

6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, behind the "old" high school. Attire is "whatever makes you feel good." Cost is \$35 per person and includes dinner, live music, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Tour of old high school will run 10-11 a.m. Saturday. Make checks payable to PHS Class Reunion '65 & '66 and sent to Doug Jaskirny, 47237 Hunters Park Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 for the class of 1965. Class of 1966 members send to Donna (Cook) Marshall 1337 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI. 48170.

REDFORD UNION

CLASS OF 1971
 6:30-11:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Tickets purchased before July 31 are \$38. Tickets after that date are \$48. Look for Redford Union Class of 1971 on Facebook or e-mail to RUHS71@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on Oct. 13, 2012. E-mail Linda (Horning) Tracy at lindatracy100@gmail.com or call her at (231) 882-7268 or e-mail Madeline Rice at paddlinmadeline@gmail.com.

ROYAL OAK HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1951
 A 60th reunion is planned for Sept. 14 at the Oxford Inn, 1214 Main, Royal Oak. The event will start with a social gathering at 4 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person. For more information and for reservation forms contact Fred Locke and Katy Marsh, 5464 Lakeshore, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059; (810) 385-3253; fjlocke@aol.com

Marycrest Heights is a newly constructed senior community, with a commitment to quality construction, safety, and maintaining a faith-based community atmosphere. With Marycrest Skilled nursing and rehabilitation services in your backyard, heated underground parking, and a range of community events and activities, Marycrest Heights provides independence, safety, and convenience.



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Community amenities:

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- Fitness center
- Heated Underground Parking
- Community garden
- Walking Paths
- Emergency Call System

NO ENTRANCE FEE

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 Livonia, MI

MarycrestHeights.org

Discover Sunset Hills Cemetery
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Our cemetery has rolling wooded lots and green pastures, providing a serene wildlife habitat.

1 FREE Burial Plot
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 Expires 9-30-11.

Managed by Westlawn Cemetery...a family focused & community based company
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Athletes are Made in the Summer

In sports that extra tenth of a second can be the difference between victory and defeat. House of Speed gives athletes of all ages the edge they need to win. Using certified trainers, specialized equipment and state-of-the-art training programs, House of Speed helps athletes enhance their explosiveness, speed & agility. House of Speed will help you excel at any sport. To register for a free speed pass session visit houseofspeed.com/livonia

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House of a Second
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All Sports Performance Camps
 - August 22 - 26 • 1 - 3 PM
 Cost \$150 per camp per week
 • Price includes a T-shirt (for all camps)

To register, go to houseofspeed.com/livonia click on Camps then click on the Register button.
 Hurry, space is limited!
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Learn about pharmacy career at workshop

Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education and Professional Development department will present a free pharmacy technician career workshop 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet with the instructor to review class offerings, course curriculum and certification requirements.

Hospitals and merchant wholesalers are expected to have the biggest demand for new pharmacy technicians over the next five years. Accord-

ing to Economic Modeling Specialists, the average earnings in Michigan are \$14.25 per hour.

The workshop will be held in the VisTaTech Center on Schoolcraft's main campus on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information on this workshop or other career transition opportunities, call the Continuing Education and Professional Development department at (734) 462-4448 or go to www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/pharmacy.

Musicians perform at Westland mall

Radio Disney AM910 Detroit will present a "Back 2 School" celebration with Tay Barton and Hollywood Ending, noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road.

Barton, 15, is a country singer from Laguna Beach, Calif. Hollywood Ending is

a pop/rock band with members from the East Coast and from London, England.

Other activities will include a fashion show, performances from Wayne-Westland Community School groups, and free activity stations throughout the mall.

Registration ends Sunday, Aug. 21 for a chance to win a private meeting with Barton and Hollywood Ending. Kids, 16 and under, also can register for a chance to win an electric guitar, autographed by Cody Simpson and Greyson Chance.

For more information visit www.radiodisney.com/detroit

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SHOWTIMES 8/19 - 8/25 No passes
 TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

GOD BLESS OZZY OSBOURNE
 WED. 8/24 7:30 PM

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (R)
 11:20, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55

SPY KIDS: ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD IN 4D (PG)
 LIGHTS UP SOUND DOWN SAT. 8:20 9:30 AM
 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:50, 9:00
 FRI/SAT LS 11:10

FRIGHT NIGHT (R)
 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

3D CONAN THE BARBARIAN (R)
 FRI-TUE/TH 7:05, 9:30
 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

THE HELP (PG-13)
 11:15, 2:45, 6:15, 9:20

3D FINAL DESTINATION 5 (R)
 \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40
 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

GLEE THE 3D CONCERT MOVIE (PG) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:05

RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

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, September 1, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 11-04 560 W. Ann Arbor Road
 Non-Use Variance Requested
 Neon lit Windows
 Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road corridor
 Applicant: Happy's Pizza

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

Novartis MS Education Link

An opportunity to learn more about multiple sclerosis (MS) and a prescription treatment option

September 8, 2011 6:30pm

Mediterrano Restaurant

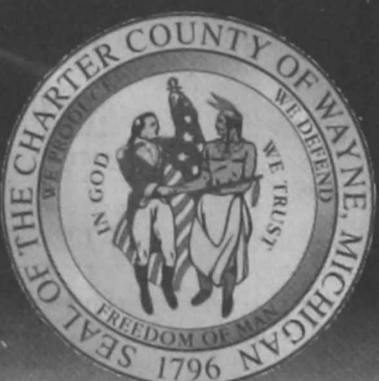
2900 S. State St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Please RSVP by September 7, 2011 by calling 800-973-0362.



Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
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THE OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY CLERK CATHY M. GARRETT

CLERK CATHY M. GARRETT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE UNVEILING OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART ONLINE CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM; FREE TRAININGS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS WILL BE OFFERED AS FOLLOWS:

- City and Township Clerks
Monday, August 22, 2011
 - o 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - o Charter Township of Northville
 - o 44405 Six Mile Road Northville, Michigan 48168
 - o (248)-348-5800
- Mayors and Supervisors
Tuesday, August 23, 2011
 - o Morning Session - 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - o Afternoon Session - 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - o City of Dearborn
 - o 13615 Michigan Avenue Dearborn, Michigan 48126
 - o (313)-943-2000
- Countywide Elected Officials
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
 - o 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - o Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Room 728
 - o 2 Woodward Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48226
 - o (313)-224-5525

- City Councils and Township Board of Trustees
Thursday, August 25, 2011
 - o Morning Session - 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - o Afternoon Session - 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - o Charter Township of Canton Township - Summit on the Park
 - o 46000 Summit Parkway Canton, Michigan 48188
 - o (734)-394-5100
- Local School Districts and Community College Board of Trustees
Friday, August 26, 2011
 - o Afternoon Session - 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - o Evening Session - 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
 - o Charter Township of Brownstown - Community Center
 - o 21311 Telegraph Road Brownstown, Michigan 48183
 - o (734)-675-0910

PLEASE CONTACT THE WAYNE COUNTY CLERK'S ELECTIONS DIVISION WITH ANY QUESTIONS @ (313)-224-5525.

http://www.co.wayne.mi.us/clerk_elections_financeinfo.htm

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



DAVIDSON, CAROLINE A.,

Age 94, August 15, 2011. She is the beloved wife of the late Mervyn (d.1980); the devoted mother of Harold (Nancy); and cherished grandmother of Nicole. Funeral Service Monday, August 22, 2011, 10:00 AM, at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Sunday 1:00-7:00 PM. Memorial tributes suggested to Angela Hospice: angelahospice.org heenev-sundquist.com



McLEOD, DOUGLAS A.

July 26, 2011, Age 93. Beloved husband of the late Betty. Dear father of Glenn (Martha) McLeod. Grandfather of Graham, Emily and Samuel. Great-grandfather of Ethan. Brother of Lillian and the late Evelyn. Douglas was a proud WWII Veteran of Aleutians & Europe who earned a Combat Infantryman Badge. He was a former designer for Ford Body Engineering and volunteered for World Medical Relief as well as the Livonia Adult Basic Education Program. Douglas was also a member of Cross Pointe Meadows Church. The family of Douglas McLeod has agreed to follow his wishes and generously donate his body to the University of Michigan Medical School for future research and education. Memorial Service: 11am Mon, Aug 22, 2011 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. Memorial Donations may be made in Douglas's name to either the Alzheimer's Association or World Medical Relief. For more info: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



WHEELER, KENNETH LEROY

of Plymouth, MI passed away at his home on August 16, 2011. Born in Sciota, Illinois on February 11, 1920 to Lawrence Oliver and Una May (VanOrder) Wheeler, the Wheelers moved to Fremont, MI where Ken grew up and attended the Fremont schools, graduating in 1937. He married Agnes E. Carlson of White Cloud October 12, 1946. Together they lived in Detroit, Garden City, and Plymouth, Michigan, with a year in the state of Washington. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Agnes, daughters: Diane (Bertel) Schou of Green Banks, WV, Janice (Geoffrey) Schrock of Plainfield, IL, LeAnna (Bruce) Christenson of Canton, MI, sons: Victor Wheeler of Plymouth, MI and James (Katherine) Wheeler of Sterling Heights, MI. Eleven Grandchildren; Paul Schou, Victoria Wheeler, Dylan, Kelsi, Kara and Dana Schrock, Ryan, Christina, Catherine, Carl and Julianna Christenson, and Sister Mildred (Arnold) Woodring of Fremont, MI. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Harry (Doris) Wheeler, and sister Lora Ann (Hessel) Wever. Ken was creative and industrious. He built his own Amateur Radio station as a boy and was an Amateur Radio Operator (W8SRX) for many years, making friends around the world. After marriage he designed and built their home in Plymouth, MI. During WWII Ken served in the U.S. Army from November 18, 1941 to August 21, 1945 stationed primarily in the South Pacific including Australia. He was injured by a bullet in the shoulder, suffered partial hearing loss, and contracted malaria, although he continued serving and was involved in battles in the East Indies, Papuan, Southern Philippines (Lib), Luzon, and New Guinea. Army qualifications included: Combat Infantryman Badge, and Radio and Code specialist. Decoration & Citations Ken received: Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Silver Battle Star, Bronze Service Arrowhead, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, Six Overseas Service Bars, One Service Stripe. Yes, he was a true American Hero. Ken received a BSEE Degree from Detroit Institute of Technology and a Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University. He taught Engineering classes at Detroit Institute of Technology and Wayne State University. Next Ken did top secret work for the U.S. Government at Burroughs Corp. (now Unisys), then worked at Chrysler on the Missile that carried the first U.S. man into space. His work included the Jupiter C and Mercury Projects, including the Redstone rocket. Working for Boeing took him and his family to Seattle for a year in the early 60's. Later, he worked with a committee to set engineering standards for U.S. Government. Ken was very proud of helping to start Washtenaw Community College by setting up the Electrical/Electronic Engineering Department in 1965. He wrote the first "purpose" statement for the college, and developed the first class catalog. Ken headed the Electrical Department, along with teaching and counseling students, until his retirement. Even long after retirement, students and staff would contact Ken for advice and help, and never turned down their requests. He loved to teach, work on cars or electrical equipment, and enjoyed talking to people and telling jokes. Each summer Ken and his family traveled and camped through all of the U.S. continental states and providence Southern Canada. Ken was an Eagle Boy Scout and remained in Scouting until his death, a total of 79 years. He was a role model for the Scout Oath and Law. From being a scout, to a troop Leader, to being a District Commissioner he enriched the lives of many boys and their families. Always encouraging boys to participate any way they could. One of Ken's quotes was; "If a young man has one good experience or learned one life skill through scouting, then the program has been a success." Ken worked with the Goodfellows, was Volunteer of the Year in Plymouth, and was an active member of the 41st Infantry Division Association, holding various officer positions. Visitation at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170, was held Friday. Funeral Service at the Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, was held Saturday. Memorial contributions may be directed to Boy Scouts of America, Sunset District, Great Lakes Council, 1776 W Warren Ave, Detroit, MI, 48208. Please share memories at: <http://www.schrader-howell.com>



WILTSE, JOHN A.

was born on November 25, 1931 in Pontiac, Michigan. He passed away on August 10, 2011, at Seton Northwest Hospital in Round Rock, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Leila Seese Wiltse; his son Peter, grandchildren Kaitlin and John P. Wiltse and their mother Elizabeth Palmarozzi, daughter-in-law Rhonda, of Plano, Texas, their children Heather Buegler, her husband Britt and their son Bo, Erica Harvey and Houston Harvey; daughter Lynne Hughes of Victoria, Texas, daughter Joanna Middleditch, her husband Tom, their children Sean and Samantha of Ypsilanti, Michigan; daughter Kerry Lovelady, her husband Glenn and their children Kerilee, Glenn, and Kevin of Mayer, Arizona. He is also survived by his brother Richard Wiltse and wife Bea of Tucson, Arizona. He is preceded in death by his brother James Wiltse of Norfolk, Virginia, as well as his parents, Cecil C. and Mary G. Wiltse. John graduated from Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Michigan. He graduated from the University of Michigan on June 15, 1957 with a B.S. in Pharmacy. He was initiated as an active member of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of The Rho Chi Society at Idaho State University on April 13, 1984 and went on to earn a M.Ed. in Vocational Education from Idaho State University on December 21, 1989. John served in the Army on active duty for 3 years and in the reserves for 5 years. He attended the Army Security Agency School to become a Morse Code Interpreter and was stationed in Graz, Austria. His service awards include: Army of Occupation Medal (Germany); National Defense Service Medal; and Marksmanship Badge (Carbine). After leaving the service, John took over Wiltse's Community Pharmacy in Plymouth, Michigan where he was a compassionate, competent owner for 25 years. Many customers remember him opening the store after hours so they could fill a prescription immediately and get their loved one on the way to good health once again. He was never too busy to explain medications or answer questions for anyone who came in the store. While involved in providing pharmacy care for many patients, he still made time to found the Plymouth Chapter of the Kiwanis Club and was president from 1969-1970. He was awarded a plaque for Outstanding Club Leadership as President for his time in office. After making the decision to sell the pharmacy, he and his wife, Leila, moved to Idaho where he taught in the Department of Pharmacy at Idaho State University. He was recruited by Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho to manage and develop their outpatient pharmacy. His development of the pharmacy was so successful that the hospital built a new outpatient pharmacy that was quadruple the size of the old one to accommodate the increased business. John retired from Saint Al's in 1997 but remained active in pharmacy. He was the Executive Director of the Idaho State Hospital Pharmacists from 1996 to 2001. He also received the Pharmacist of the Year in 1997. John and Leila decided to move to the sunny south and became members of the Sun City-Georgetown community in October of 2001. John soon became active in the Sun City Chapter of the Kiwanis Club and served as president from 2003-2004. In addition, he became founding member of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. He served as a pharmacist in Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. John continued to maintain his interest in helping others even after retiring as a pharmacist. He volunteered at the Scott & White Clinic in the lab. He had many neighbors and friends who will miss his smile, sense of humor and willingness to help others. He has touched the lives of many and will be sorely missed. The family wishes to thank the ambulance personnel who arrived so promptly, and the staff at Seton Northwest Hospital in Round Rock for their excellent care and obvious compassion. A memorial service will be held at Ramsey Funeral Home, 5600 Williamson Dr., Georgetown, Texas on Friday, August 19, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. The service will be followed by interment and graveside service at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, 11463 State Highway 195, Killeen TX 76542. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sun City Kiwanis Foundation Fund. You are invited to leave a message or memory in the memorial guestbook at: www.RamseyFuneral.com



DUFOUR, DANIEL L.

Age 30, August 4, 2011 of Garden City. Beloved father of Corbin Covell Beattie, Gavin, Nevaeh, & Kiera. Dear son of Catherine Dufour. Brother of Ann Harris and Brian Dufour. Uncle of MariAnn and Michael Harris and Bentley Galinis. A Funeral Service was held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City, Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 7 PM. Please share a memory of Daniel at www.rggharris.com.

DUTTON, CAROL ANN

August 16, 2007
Loving mother and grandma
It may have been 4 years
But we still love and miss you.

ERBEN, EDNA M.

Beverly Hills, MI. Age 83, Edna was born on April 19, 1928 in Jackson, MI the daughter of Maurice and Mabel (Sieboldt) Hath. She met Robert F. Erben Sr., while they attended the University of Michigan. After graduation they were married on July 1, 1950 at First United Methodist Church in Jackson. Edna is survived by her husband, Robert of Beverly Hills, MI their children; Robert F. Erben Jr., of Saginaw, Dr. Anne Erben of Troy and William Erben of Ann Arbor, grandchildren; Lindsay, Dan, Leah and Hannah, brother, Maurice (Judy) Hath and niece, Bridgette Hath all of Jackson. Edna was preceded in death by her daughter-in-law Cheri Erben in 2008. Edna was a teacher in Highland Park, MI before starting a family. She cherished her time with her children and grandchildren and enjoyed playing Bridge with her friends from Stonycroft Hills Club. Edna was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. Edna held a deep belief in education and the family requests memorial contributions be given to the Generations Fund at Ann Arbor Christian School where her granddaughters, Leah and Hannah attend. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham with Rev. Dr. John Judson officiating. Edna's family will receive friends at the church from noon until the time of service. Please sign Edna's guestbook at www.borekjennings.com or call 810-231-0200 for more information.

RUBIN, RUTH B.

Age 91, August 12, 2011 of Garden City. Ruth was a 29 year volunteer for the Garden City Hospital Guild. Beloved wife of the late Herman. Loving mother of Robert, Marilyn Wren, Roger (Mary) & Raymond (Gayle). Dear sister of Gerald Kuck, and the late Lois Gierada. Also survived by seven grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren. Services were held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City. Please sign the online guestbook at: rggharris.com

SIEMEN, ANNA MARIE

Age 69 of West Bloomfield passed away August 12, 2011. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Chuck Siemen. Survived by loving children Laura (Douglas) George, John (Kelly) Schemanske, Lisa (Rick) Behal Schemanske, Chuck, Jr. (Gwen) Siemen, Scott Siemen, Ann Marie (Michael) Siemen; 9 grandchildren; siblings Barbara Ellen and Leonard John, Mattson; cousins Judy McCourt, Pat McCourt, and Mary Dufina, also extended family and many dear friends. Funeral Service were provided by Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford. Memorial contributions encouraged to: your local hospice or the American Cancer Society. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons at 248.684.6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com



GOTHAM, ALICE NANCY

Age 88 of Livonia. Cherished wife of the late Byron Roy. Beloved mother of Janice Kozub and Greg (Nancy). Proud grandma of Alicia M., Kelly J., and Brian R. Dearest sister of Thelma and the late Eleanor and Raymond. Loving aunt to many nieces and nephews. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Alice had a great love for many activities such as gardening, swimming, tennis, reading, playing the piano, bike riding, ice skating, and story telling. Memorial Contributions may be made to Arthritis, Alzheimers and/or Lung Cancer Assoc. Funeral was Wednesday at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel Livonia. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Milestones

Furca-Blouin

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Furca of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Furca, to Jason Blouin, son of Julie Hunt of Livonia and the late Daniel Blouin.

The future bride is employed as a teacher in the Walled Lake School District. Her fiancé is employed by Pipefitters Local 636.

An August 2011 wedding is planned in Livonia.



Musser-Kremer

Amie Elizabeth Musser and James Edward Kremer II announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of John and Diane Musser of Livonia, graduated in 2007 from Churchill High School and is pursuing a nursing degree.

Her fiancé, son of James Kremer of Livonia and the late Carol Kremer, graduated in 2001 from Clarenceville High School and works for Bosch.

A September 2011 wedding is planned at Oakland Hills Community Church, with the Rev. C. Allen Kannapell officiating. A reception will follow in Dearborn.



Penn-Robinson

Julie C. Penn and Thomas A. Robinson, Jr. announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Alan and Frani Penn of Sarasota, Fla., and Vince and Susan Howard of Davie, Fla., is self-employed. Her fiancé, son of Thomas and Sue Robinson of Livonia, is a former Livonia city councilman and current candidate for the office.

A September 2011 wedding is planned in Livonia.



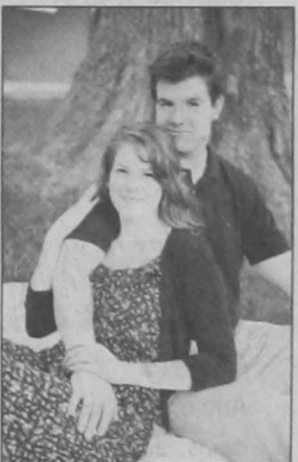
Thomas A. Robinson, Julie C. Penn, and her daughter, Sam J. Penn

Smyrnos-Dean

Michael and Jill Dean of Plymouth announce the engagement of their son, Robert Edwin Dean II, to Jennifer Grace Smyrnos, daughter of George and Elena Smyrnos of Grass Valley, Calif.

Robert graduated from the University of Michigan and received a law degree from Washington and Lee University School of Law. He is an assistant commonwealth's attorney for the City of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Jennifer graduated from the University of California, Davis, and is a



third-year law student at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Va.

An October 2011 wedding is planned in Lexington, Virginia.

Carbott-Pawley

Ruthanne M. Carbott and Thomas G. Pawley, both of Canton, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Richard and Rosaline Carbott of Northville, is employed as a senior underwriter for residential lending at Main Street Bank in Bingham Farms.

Her fiancé, son of Howard and Sharron Pawley of Oscoda, works in building maintenance for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation.

An October 2011 wedding is planned at St. John Neumann, Canton, followed by a reception at Wellers Historic Banquet Facility in Saline.



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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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By **KEN MCINTOSH**
STAFF WRITER

ICCA will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1970. Those that bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at by a specialist. With the help of these ICCA members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1970. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1970 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors Association also known as ICCA. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If it is rare enough, one coin could be worth over \$100,000 according to Eric Helms, coin collector and ICCA member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record \$1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICCA and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold, says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes can be worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on common coins made of silver. Helms explains that all half dollars, quarters and dimes made before 1965 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market he said.

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These

coins always bring big premiums according to the ICCA. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

Other types of items the ICCA will be purchasing during this event include U.S. currency, gold bullion, investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also at this event anyone can sell their gold jewelry, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Gold is currently trading at Record Highs. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell, you will be paid on the spot – it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewelry and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If you're lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

For more information on this event visit WWW.INTERNATIONALCOINCOLLECTORS.COM



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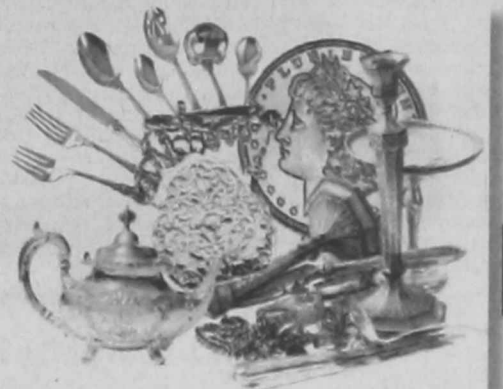
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9 Ways To Bounce Back After Losing Your Job

By Alina Dizik
Special to CareerBuilder

Rebuilding your confidence after a job loss can be difficult. It's easy to fall into the trap of feeling sorry for yourself, which can cause you to doubt your ability to land a new position. If that happens, make bouncing back your top priority.

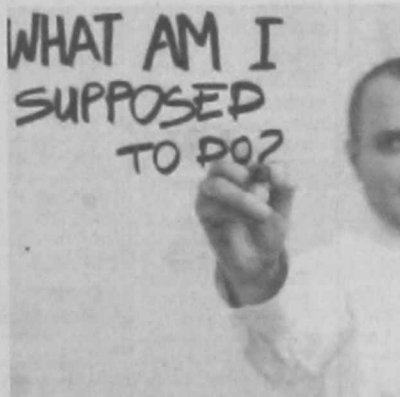
Here are nine ways to regain confidence after a job loss:

1. Develop a routine
Not having control of your job search can have a negative effect on your self-esteem. Instead of wallowing, treat the job search process like a full-time job and be thorough and deliberate in your search. "Develop a routine each day to regain control," says Jayne Mattson, senior vice president of Keystone Associates, a New England-based career management firm. "There are so many activities of a search that will keep you busy and that you have control over, so use your time wisely."

2. Find a supportive network
Being surrounded by supportive circle can help rebuild your confidence, Mattson says. "The people who believe in you really do want you to find the right fit and they will be your best advocates to others," she says. Anyone from former colleagues or acquaintances to family members can help boost your self-esteem after a layoff.

3. Help others
Instead of feeling sorry for yourself, use your new free time to help others. Establishing new connections and applying your skills to other areas like volunteering or taking on leadership positions in your community can help you to bounce back, Mattson says. "It will keep your skills sharp, make you feel better, but will also give you something to talk about when meeting others," she says.

4. Use positive affirmation
While getting support from others is key, it's also important that you believe in your own skills. Use each day to verbalize a positive affirmation and remind yourself that you possess valuable skills, Mattson



says. "Self-talk becomes an important part of rebuilding self confidence," she says.

5. Take time to do something you love
"Filling part of every day with something you love to do will keep your engines going longer," Mattson says. It can be as simple as reading a book or listening to your favorite song, but make sure it's a part of your day that you can look forward to.

6. Exercise
Exercise is a natural endorphin booster, so you're bound to be in a much better mood post-workout. If paying for a gym membership is prohibitive, keep costs low by jogging outdoors and doing an at-home yoga routine. Since you're no longer tied to your desk for hours each day, use the new flexibility to get back into shape and feel better about yourself.

7. Allow time to heal
Especially in a tough economy -- when job interviews are harder to come by -- it can take time to regain confidence and no one expects you to recover right away. "Don't beat yourself up," Mattson says. "Recognize that you will have good and bad days." Going through a job loss is never easy, and there's nothing wrong with allowing some time to heal.

8. Meet other job seekers
Knowing that you're not alone can go a long way

in helping boost your mood. Seek out networking events in your industry or attend job search lectures to get out and mingle with other job seekers. With less interaction in your day-to-day life, meeting others can play a big part in boosting morale.

9. Be ready for a tough road ahead
Being prepared for the less-than-transparent interview process can go a long way in protecting you from further disappointments and plunges in confidence. With high unemployment rates, being out of work has become standard for many professionals and isn't a reflection on your abilities.

Alina Dizik researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder. Follow @Careerbuilder on Twitter

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EPA estimated 19 city/26 hwy mpg

MSRP \$28,230



Featuring: Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Power Window, Seats, Locks. 8 At This Price - 111 Available

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\$1000 Down **\$241***
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SIGN AND DRIVE \$301*
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EPA estimated 17 city/24 hwy mpg

MSRP \$30,750



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EPA estimated 15 city/21 hwy mpg

MSRP \$39,945



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\$1406 due at signing.

SIGN AND DRIVE \$336*
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EPA estimated 17 city/25 hwy mpg

MSRP \$43,250



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\$1000 Down **\$357***
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