

INDEPENDENCE DAY

- REMEMBER SACRIFICES AS WE CELEBRATE A PROUD NATION, A12
- MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC SALUTES AMERICA, B6
- HAVE A SIZZLING FOURTH WITH GREAT FOOD, B8

ALL-AREA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

SPORTS, B2

Bark for Life

Anyone interested in raising money that can help create a world with more birthdays could consider creating or joining a team on the American Cancer Society's Canton Bark For Life web page.

Bark For Life teams raise funds to celebrate survivorship and to contribute to the American Cancer Society's mission of helping people stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back against cancer. It's easy and there's no fundraising minimum required.

Anyone raising \$100 or more will receive a 2012 Bark For Life T-shirt.

Bark For Life of Canton takes place 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Heritage Park in Canton. Pre-registration is available online.

Find Bark For Life on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bark-For-Life-Canton/112774065475859>

American salute

The Michigan Philharmonic is performing An American Salute on Saturday, June 30, in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

The concert is free and sponsored in part by the O&E and Hometown Newspapers in partnership with the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, The Wilcox Foundation, Atsalis Dental Excellence and the Grand Traverse Pie Company. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and hear the orchestra perform.

Photo buys

If you've ever seen a photo in the *Canton Observer* and thought, "I just have to have that photo," you're in luck.

Any staff photo is available for purchase online. All you have to do is simply click on the "buy photo" button and a new browser window will open to the photo store.

Anyone who needs help should contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com or by calling (313) 222-8730.

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County hopefuls agree: Ficano the problem

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Scandals rocking Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's administration have ramped up criticism by 10th District Wayne County Commission hopefuls, with three of four candidates calling for his ouster.

Republican hopefuls Richard

Convertino, a Plymouth attorney, and Shannon Price, constituent relations staffer for Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, are battling for the GOP nomination in the Aug. 7 primary. Both are Canton residents.

Democratic candidate James Amar, a Plymouth resident and retired labor mediation supervisor, faces Matthew Fiems, a Can-

ton resident and Wayne County real property appraiser, in the August Democratic primary.

The party nominees will square off in the November general election for a two-year term.

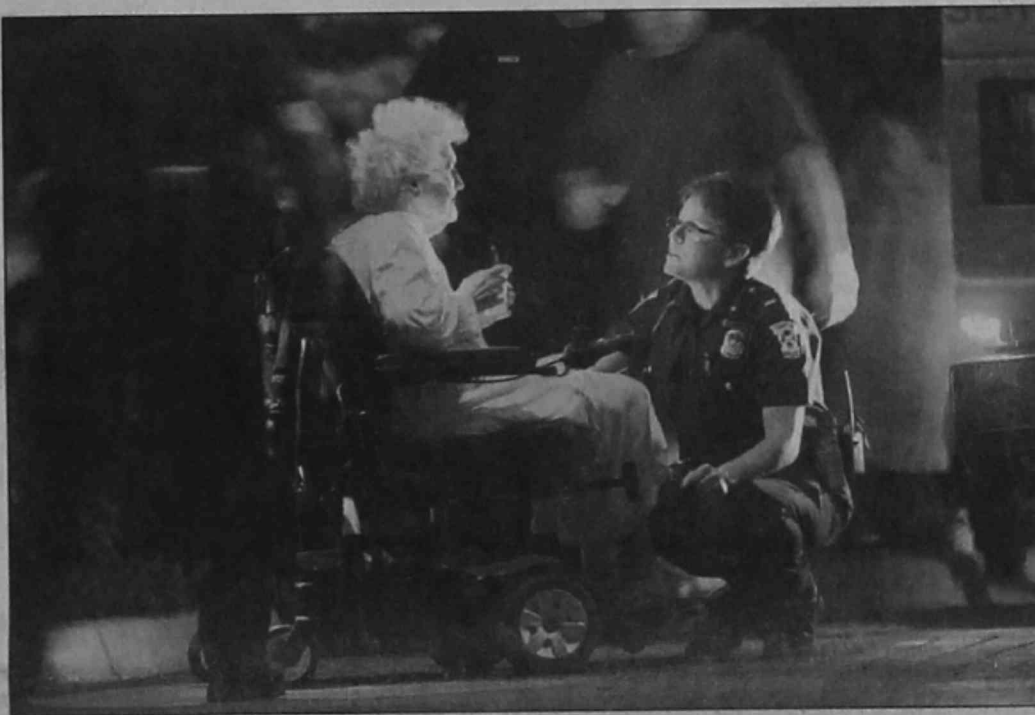
Recall defense

Convertino defended his second attempt to wage a recall campaign against Ficano, who

has denied wrongdoing amid a federal corruption probe and mounting criticism over lucrative severance and retirement packages for close aides.

Price and Fiems have called for the commission to let voters decide a charter amendment that could usher in height-

Please see FICANO, A7



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lt. Debra Newsome helps a resident who will be moved to the Summit for the night.

Fire forces seniors to evacuate

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

John Bourne, 82, was asleep in his third-floor residence when fire erupted late Tuesday night in a second-story unit of Waltonwood at Carriage Park, forcing the evacuation of some 85 residents and sending four to hospitals from the senior housing complex southeast of Ford and Canton Center roads.

"I was asleep and the fire alarm went off," Bourne said early Wednesday morning, waiting his turn for a shuttle bus that was taking seniors to other locations. "I got up to see what was going on."

Within moments, Canton firefighters and police arrived on the scene of a second-floor kitchen fire and ushered seniors outside, where they waited until shuttle buses took them to places such as Summit on the Park.

Canton Fire Battalion Chief Ken Arble said a 9-1-1 call came in about 11:40 p.m. Tuesday after a fire started in a residence on the north side of the building.

"There was smoke visible on the first floor when we got here," Arble said.

Canton firefighters and



A late-night fire at Waltonwood on Canton Center, south of Ford Road, forced the evacuation of residents Tuesday.

police got an estimated 85 seniors to safety as firefighters made their way to a burning residence to douse a fire that started inside a residence where Arble said a woman lived alone.

Fire Chief Tim Dunn said four residents, including the woman who lived in the fire-damaged unit, were taken to area hospitals for smoke inhalation.

"We completely evacuated the building," Dunn said, as shuttle buses took seniors, some of them in wheelchairs, to Summit on the Park.

Firefighters quickly learned the fire had started in the kitchen of the woman's residence.

"The stove was on," Dunn said.

Arble said firefighters from all three Canton fire stations rushed to the scene and received mutual aid from the Plymouth Community Fire Department and the Westland Fire Department. He said seniors were taken to at least two hospitals, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti.

Arble said firefighters doused the blaze within 15-20 minutes. He said fire damage appeared to be contained to one unit, though smoke had spread through other parts of the building.

Arble said the fire started in an end unit on the north side of the building. "That helped us" in battling the

Please see FIRE, A4

District inks custodian contract

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

They have to take 17 furlough days. They don't have dental care, or vision protection.

But the 73 custodians who are members of the Plymouth-Canton Custodial/Maintenance Association have something they didn't think they'd have a couple of weeks ago.

Jobs.

After negotiating until the proverbial 11th hour, the union and negotiators for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools reached an agreement on a new contract that will keep the union's members working for the district.

Union members ratified the deal Tuesday afternoon; the district is expected to sign it at a meeting July 9.

"We took a big hit," said Kathy Ladenberger, president of the custodians' local. "We're part of a family, and we weren't willing to give that up."

Once the union ratified the deal, the Board of Education Tuesday night voted to suspend any talks with potential contractors for custodial services. The district won't pursue privatization of the union.

Union concessions amounted to some \$1 million. According to Ladenberger, it's the second straight year the union has given that amount in concessions.

"We are pleased and commend them for fine bargaining and for reaching concessions at the midnight hour," said Moni-

Please see CUSTODIANS, A7

ELECTION PROFILES

The Canton Observer will be running question-and-answer-style profiles on the six candidates running for Canton Township Trustee.

The three full-time elected officials — Supervisor Phil LaJoy, Clerk Terry Bennett and Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin — are running unopposed.

The schedule for the profiles:

- Today — Joseph Cafarelli and Deborah Whyman (see page A3)
- Sunday, July 1 — Tom Yack and Greg Demopoulos
- Thursday, July 5 — Pat Williams and John Anthony



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"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

POM CLINIC

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 25, 9-11:30 a.m.

Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

Details: The Canton Chiefettes host their pom pon clinic for potential cheerleaders ages 5-14. Students will learn pom pon techniques and a short dance routine. Parents will be treated to a performance at 11:30 a.m. Participants will also perform at the Canton High School varsity football game Aug. 30. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, \$50 at the door.

Contact: Pre-register at www.cantonchiefettes.com; call (734) 397-1782 for more information.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 4, 6 a.m.

Location: The Gathering, downtown Plymouth, next to the Penn Theater on Peniman Ave.

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band (PCMB), will be the beneficiary of the third annual "Good Morning USA" Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. Tickets are available at the door for \$7 per person, children under five are free. In addition to pancakes and sausage, patrons can enjoy juice and coffee as they watch the annual Independence Day parade. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band for the upcoming marching band season.

SLAVENS COFFEE

Date/Time: Mondays, July 2 and July 16, 5-6 p.m.

Location: Daydream Cafe, 47192 Michigan Ave., in Canton

Details: State Representa-

tive Dian Slavens (D-Canton) invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours. Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township.

Contact: Call toll free at (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov.

POLISH DANCE

Date/Time: July 21-28

Location: Orchard Lake Schools campus

Details: The Polish Centennial Dancers from the Plymouth, Canton, Livonia (Western Wayne County and Oakland County) area hosts a Polish Youth Course at Orchard Lake Schools where students between the ages of 10 through 14 study from a curriculum that includes Polish language, history, song and dance. Study about the Polish culture from Polish instructors and make friends from all over

the United States. The \$300 includes lessons, swimming, sports, room and board for the entire week.

Contact: For information and application, call or email Ron or Barb Martin at (734) 634-7780 or email PNAS3Martin@hotmail.com.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

Contact: To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

CHICKS 4 CHARITY

Details: Woman's Life Chapter 827-Chicks 4 Charity will be offering a \$500 scholarship(s) for part time students and \$1,000 scholarship(s) for full time students to women residing in Canton and the surrounding areas that are looking to transition back into the workforce. Applicants must be attending an accredited Michigan college, university or trade school in the fall of 2012. Preference will be given to women that demonstrate financial need, education/training needs, and those who are involved in the community.



JULIE YOLLES

Rooftop party

Alese Small (from left) of Oak Park, Shannon Morgan of Canton and Krysta Pate of Detroit enjoyed the perfect weather Monday night at the VIP Detroit Rooftop Party to benefit The Parade Company. The event, aptly themed "We Love Detroit," sold out far in advance this year. Held on top of the Miller Parking Garage, adjacent to the Renaissance Center, guests had prime dining and viewing for the 54th Annual Target Fireworks, which was created and produced by The Parade Company. The Hob Nobble Gobble and the VIP Rooftop Party are the two major fundraisers each year to support the Parade Company and America's Thanksgiving Parade.

Contact: For additional information please contact Zlatina Dimova at dimova.zlatina@gmail.com. Applica-

tions must be postmarked by July 1st, 2012 and winners will be notified by August 1st, 2012.



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Saturday, July 7 10 am-4 pm

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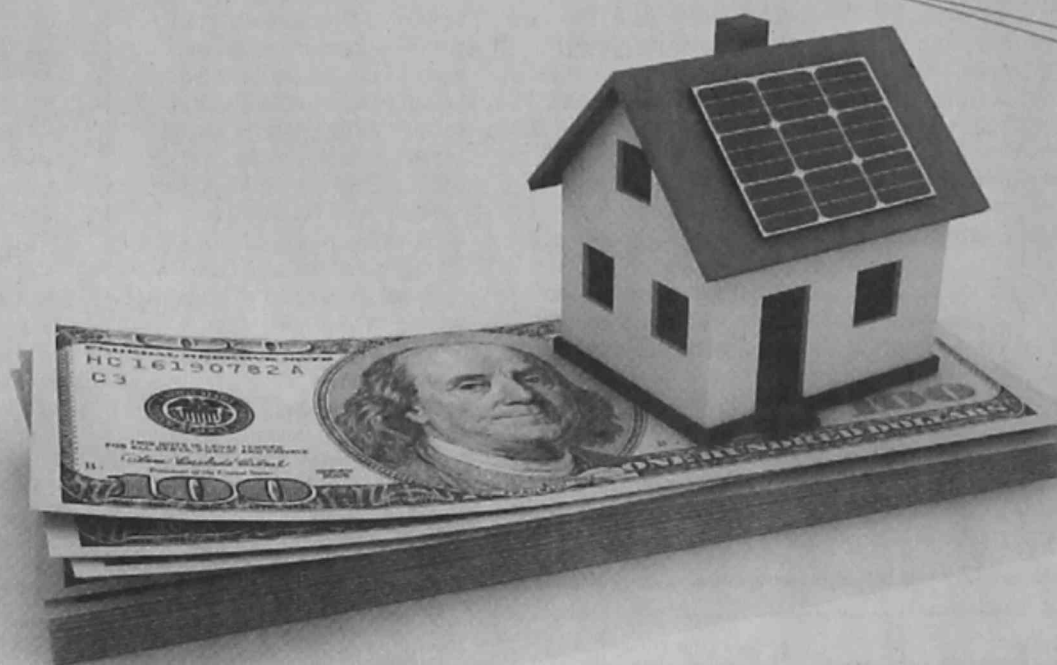
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Challengers take aim at Canton board seats

Canton resident Joseph Cafarelli is seeking a seat on the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

He recently offered opinions on a variety of questions:

Observer: Why are you running for a township board seat?

Cafarelli: Give service to a great community, improve fiscal responsibility, lower water rates, reduce government cost, increase revenue without increasing taxes.

Observer: What are the three biggest issues facing Canton? How would you address them?

Cafarelli: 1) Loss of revenue due to depreciating property values during the recession. Align compensation retirement plans for elected officials and employees with the private sector; corporate

and personal sponsorship of township parks/events/activities; give incentives to businesses to start up and expand; sell unused property township owns. This will put them back on the tax rolls; limit spending to revenue acquired; fully fund pension plans and other liabilities; balance budget.

2) Water and sewer rates are too high. Reduce water usage during peak hours; construct water tanks/towers; explore buying water from other communities; explore drilling wells.

3) Ford Road and the Ford Road/I-275 interchange need improvement. Two turn lanes from westbound Ford Road to southbound Haggerty; remodel the quasi-travel/turn lane between I-275 and

THE CAFARELLI FILE

Name:

Joseph Cafarelli

Hometown:

Canton

Family: Married 27 years;

three children

Profession: Retired from AT&

Education: Colorado School of Trades

Community involvement: Western Wayne County Con-

servation Association kids

coach; Right to Life Life Span.

Contact: Facebook: Joseph Cafarelli; email Cafarelli.

joseph@gmail.com



Haggerty, Morton Taylor and

Lilley to create a continuous traffic lane on Ford Road westbound from I-275 to Canton Center; All parking lots on Ford Road should be connected.

Observer: What strengths would you bring to the board that set you apart from the other candidates?

Cafarelli: Small business experience, including budget, research and development, manufacturing and sales; Union representative and official, including strong negotiation skills in contract negotiations and interface between employees and company management.

Observer: Much has been said about the need for communities to consolidate services to save money. What areas should Canton explore that aren't already in place?

Cafarelli: Eliminate

redundancy by combining staff in different departments.

Observer: Canton has taken steps — a public safety tax increase, employee concessions, budget cuts — to avert financial problems. Going forward, what steps are needed to guarantee Canton maintains the financial stability it needs to provide the level of services residents have come to expect?

Cafarelli: Reduce government by removing waste; align compensation retirement plans for elected officials and employees with private sector; give incentives to businesses for start-up/growth, to spur commercial growth and employment; corporate and private sponsorships of township parks/events/activities; and sell unused property to put back on tax rolls.

Former rep wants to make tough choices

Canton resident Deborah Whyman, a former state representative, is seeking a seat on the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

She recently offered opinions on a variety of questions:

Observer: Why are you running for a township board seat?

Whyman: I have lived in Canton nearly 30 years; I like living here. I don't want to be taxed out of my home, and I bet my neighbors don't either. Tough choices need to be made now or the taxpayers of Canton are going to pay the price down the road.

Observer: What are the three biggest issues facing Canton? How would you address them?

Whyman: 1) Questionable spending priorities (Like federal government raided social security, the Canton Board raided police and fire budget, and then turned around and voted a two mil tax increase. The Board has failed to adequately fund legacy costs. While we have huge art projects spilling across Ford Road, Public Safety pension plans aren't fully funded. We cannot continue to fund facilities we cannot afford with our declining tax base — and call that "quality of life". Canton taxpayer deserve better.

2) Increasing costs, failure to fund legacy costs that we must now play 'catch up'

3) The need to make local government more efficient. Services should be consolidated and all contracts for goods and services should be competitively bid out.

Observer: What strengths would you bring to the board that set you apart from the other candidates?

Whyman: I have worked in government, as have many of the candidates. Yet, I am an outsider to local Canton government. I want more transparent government to avoid the scandals we see rocking Wayne County government and other local governments. I see the role of local government much more narrow than it currently operates today. I am not wedded to the reasoning or mistakes of the past. I have a fresh perspective.

Observer: Much has been said about the need for communities to consolidate services to save money. What areas should Canton explore that aren't already in place?

Whyman: There is always room for improvement when it comes to consolidation of services. However, Canton does not have the serious issues with this topic that Plymouth and Northville have. Canton should be focused on open bidding. Canton needs to make its bidding process more open to the public. The trash hauling contract

THE WHYMAN FILE

Name: Deborah Whyman

Hometown: Canton

Profession: Attorney

Education: B.S.B.A., Major: Manage-

ment Information Systems; M.S.A.,

Major: Business Management; J.D.

Previous Public Sector Experience: State Representa-

tive (1993-1998)

Community Involvement: Member, Charter School

Board



has not been bid in many years. How can we truly know what the current price for trash pickup is if we haven't shopped around?

Observer: Canton has taken steps — a public safety tax increase, employee concessions, budget cuts — to avert financial

problems. Going forward, what steps are needed to guarantee Canton maintains the financial stability it needs to provide the level of services residents have come to expect?

Whyman: In tough economic times everything is on the table. The current

level of services residents have come to expect may no longer be realistic in these times. Everyone wants services, but are they willing to pay for them? As I go door to door it is apparent most people are struggling to survive. I see foreclosed homes in every neighborhood.

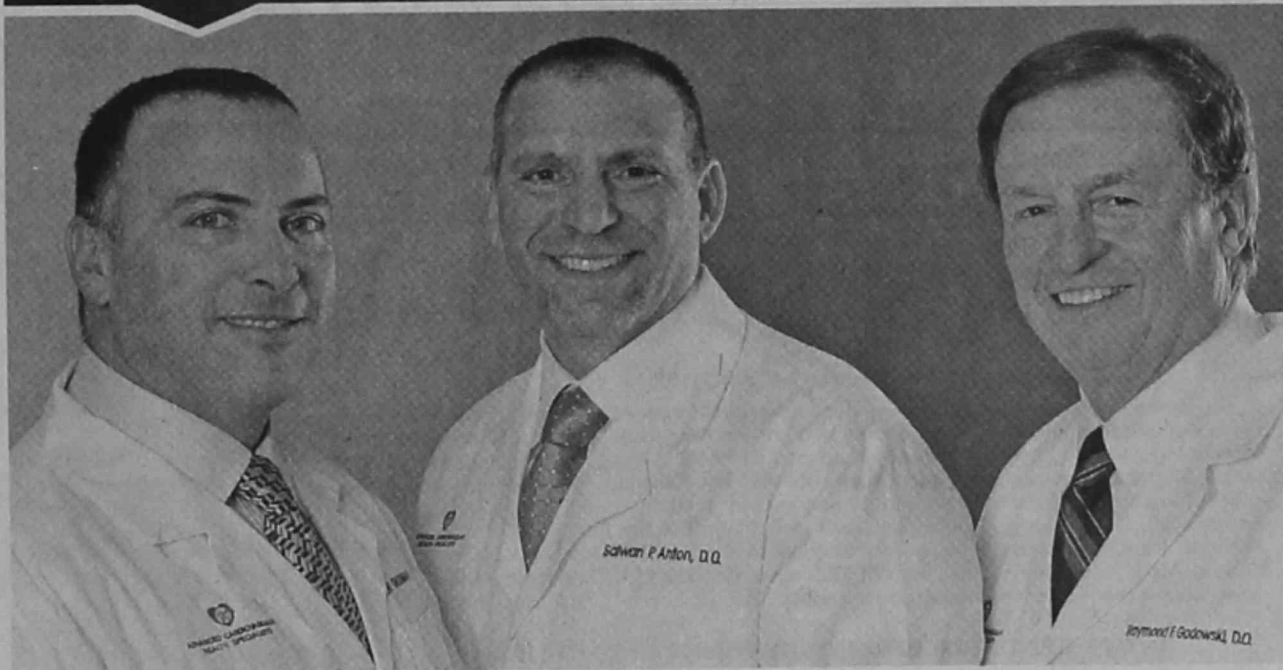
The 'quality of life' facilities taxpayer's fund has gone beyond the ability of the tax base to support. For example, Canton has TWO public golf courses. One is self-sustaining, the other operates at a loss. It is unconscionable in these tough economic times that taxpayers

are asked to subsidize a golf course when the Township has two. For openers, I would suggest the golf course that operates at a loss can be privatized, supported through a special assessment district, or closed.

I take exception to the public safety tax increase. Voters passed a public safety increase as they are willing to pay for the service. But, just as the federal government raids the social security fund when times are tough, Canton officials raided the public safety budget. Then a majority of the Board put up the votes to increase taxes again.

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FIRE

Continued from page A1

fire, he said.

"We got a good hit" in knocking out the fire, Arble said. "It could have been far, far worse."

Firefighters, police officers, Waltonwood employees and Canton Leisure Services employees remained on the scene after the fire had been extinguished to tend to seniors and get them into shuttle buses.

Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries for The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, was at Summit on the Park where she and others cared for seniors and brought food to them.

Some officials on the scene indicated some seniors might be taken to Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, another senior complex in Canton. Relatives picked up some seniors.

Larry DeKarske, 62, said he was asleep when the fire started. He said he was sleeping soundly after getting 12 shots earlier in the day for what he described as degenerative joint disease.

Most seniors appeared calm as they waited outside a sister senior complex across from Waltonwood at Carriage Park, a complex that provides an array of senior services.

Arble said firefighters made repeated sweeps through the building after the fire had been doused to make sure all seniors had gotten out and to ensure there was no longer a threat. The investigation was continuing, but he said it appeared the fire was started accidentally when a stove was left on. Bourne, waiting for his turn on a shuttle bus, said he and other seniors were handling the situation as best they could.

"I'm doing fine," he said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Wyandotte man has been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges he pulled a woman out of a van in Canton and hit her as he drove off, injuring her and her 4-month-old daughter.

Canton police have described the 38-year-old defendant, Brian Nadeau, as an acquaintance of the woman.

Nadeau is facing trial after 35th District Judge Ronald Lowe ruled Friday during a preliminary exam that there was sufficient evidence against him.

Nadeau, charged with two counts of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, could face 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine if convicted.

Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said the incident unfolded June 12 after the 29-year-old woman was

yanked out of a van that had pulled off the road in front of a business on Belleville Road south of Michigan Avenue.

The woman was able to get her daughter before Nadeau is accused of climbing back into the van and intentionally hitting the victim as he drove away, police have said.

Police have said the woman was able to divulge what had happened before she was taken to a hospital for treatment. The child sustained a head injury, though authorities said

neither mother nor daughter had life-threatening injuries.

A not-guilty plea has been entered for Nadeau, who was jailed June 14 after 35th District Judge James Plakas set a \$100,000 cash or surety bond.

Nadeau is accused of fleeing the scene, but Canton authorities said he was later arrested in Detroit by officers with the Western Wayne Community Response Team, which spotted the suspect and the van.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Indecent exposure

A woman told Canton police she was driving west on Michigan Avenue at Lotz when a man pulled alongside her vehicle and exposed himself about 5:45 p.m. Monday.

The woman said the man was driving a black Ford Focus and was traveling on the left side of her car. She told police she looked over and saw him expose himself.

A police report described the man as in his early 20s with a tattoo on his right shoulder, possibly with red ink. The woman said she lost the man when she turned off of Michigan Avenue.

Duking it out

Police investigated a fight among women that erupted about around 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the Sherwood Village mobile home park, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty Road, a police report said.

A woman told police she was driving down a street and tried to pass another vehicle that was double-parked and hit it. She said another woman confronted her and a fight ensued.

The driver said the woman's daughter, who is 8 months pregnant, also joined the fracas. When police arrived, the driver said she had passed out and didn't know what had happened at that point.

CRIME WATCH

The driver had scratch marks on her face and neck. The other woman had a black eye and scrapes on her arms, legs and back, the police report said.

No one wanted to prosecute, the report said.

Smelly time

A man accused of stealing cologne from the Canton Meijer store was arrested along with another male driving an alleged getaway vehicle, a police report said.

Police received a call shortly before 11 p.m. about the incident inside the Meijer store at Ford and Canton Center roads.

An employee told police that a white male wearing a yellow button-down shirt had stolen cologne and fled as a passenger in a gold Chevy Lumina, a police report said.

Officers spotted the car leaving the Meijer store and stopped it on Ford west of Sheldon, locating the suspect in the back seat. An investigation revealed two bottles of Joop and one container of Burberry cologne under a seat, police said.

Police arrested one man for retail fraud. The driver, meanwhile, was taken into custody for driving with a suspended license.

Domestic dispute

A woman who lives on Thornwood, northeast of Ford and Napier, contacted police and alleged her husband had put his hand around her throat and

choked her shortly before 5 a.m. Saturday.

She said she and her husband were in the process of divorcing, according to a police report.

The woman told police she awoke and her husband had a hand on her neck and was squeezing. She said she never lost consciousness or feared for her life.

The woman said her husband was upset because he was leaving for a fishing trip and couldn't find his lunch. He already had left when police arrived.

The woman told police she didn't wish to prosecute. She said her husband has no criminal history.

Credit card fraud

A woman notified Canton police that her credit card had been used fraudulently. She went to the police station on Canton Center south of Cherry Hill to make a report.

The woman said she had been to a Walmart in Dearborn the day before and lost her card. She told police she believes she dropped it near the checkout counter.

She told police the card had since been used for a fraudulent purchase for \$214 from a Dearborn restaurant.

The woman told police she already had contacted her bank.

Compiled by Staff Writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

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Open enrollment for the 2012-2013 academic school year ends on Thursday, 7/5/2012 at 5 PM. Applications are available for Young Five Kindergarten - Grade 6 and can be obtained at the temporary office location on site, by visiting www.NHAschools.com, or by calling National Heritage Academies (NHA) at 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at South Canton Scholars Charter Academy, located at 3085 South Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

South Pointe Scholars Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Publish: June 28, 2012

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NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

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August 3	John E. Lawrence	Willow Creek Shopping Center Ford between Lilley & Haggerty	5
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FICANO

Continued from page A1

ened powers to impeach the county executive and legally oust him.

Only one candidate, Amar, stopped short of calling for Ficano's departure, saying the situation will resolve itself if Ficano faces criminal charges or if he survives the scandals and puts his popularity to test in a re-election bid in two years.

All four candidates discussed Ficano and other issues Monday during separate interviews with the *Observer*. They are competing in a newly redrawn 10th District that includes Canton and the Plymouths.

Amar doesn't favor a recall effort or a charter amendment.

"I believe the situation ought to play itself out," he said.

Circus atmosphere

Amar said a recall effort "could be grandstanding," and he said a charter amendment could further disrupt county government.

"You could wind up having a circus," he said.

Convertino said he hopes to raise money to pay Wayne County residents \$1 for each petition signature they collect to oust Ficano. Convertino denied he launched a second recall attempt to draw attention to his candidacy.

"I'm more interested in running (Ficano) out of office than I am running for (the county commission) office," he said.

Price said he believes a more effective approach is allowing voters to decide a charter amendment giving the commission powers to impeach with a three-quarters vote and get the issue before a Wayne County Circuit Court judge for disposition.

"We have to restore some semblance of honesty and integrity to the commission and the county as a whole," Price said.

As for whether Ficano should be ousted, he said, "I'm there."

Trading barbs

Price said a charter amendment ballot proposal in November could give the commission long-range powers, should another elected official come under fire as Ficano has. Moreover, Price accused Convertino of using a recall attempt for his own gain.

"I do feel that it's politically motivated and financially motivated for his business," Price said.

Convertino has denied such allegations. He said his last recall attempt in October failed because his supporters, many of them Wayne County employees, withdrew their support after they reached an accord with Ficano on pay

issues.

Convertino didn't rule out support of a charter amendment, yet he said action needs to happen now on the recall front.

Fiems, meanwhile, said he had potentially risked his own county job as an American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees worker by entering the commission race and calling for Ficano's ouster by a charter amendment due to what Fiems called mismanagement.

With Ficano refusing to step down, Fiems said the commission should pursue a charter amendment.

"I believe for the good of Wayne County, Bob Ficano needs to resign," Fiems said.

He said county government has become embroiled in gridlock.

"It's a real shame. There's a paralysis in the county that I think will only leave when Ficano leaves," Fiems said.

Moreover, Fiems said too many Wayne County Commission members have acted for too long as "a rubber stamp" for Ficano, at least until the scandals widened and Ficano's popularity took a dramatic dip.

"I consider myself a different kind of Democrat," he said.

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'Variety show in motion' marks Plymouth's 4th

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

With fanfares from marching bands and Scottish pipers, rock-n-rollers and a Frank Sinatra tribute band, Plymouth's "variety show in motion" will hit Main Street at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

The city's annual Fourth of July holiday parade, dubbed the Good Morning U.S.A. Parade, is a longtime Independence Day tradition that mixes entertainment with performers and local — and national — celebrities.

"You just don't know what you're going to see in the parade, and adding variety to it all the time is the goal," said Fred Hill, who is organizing his 16th Fourth of July parade under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. Hill calls the parade "a variety show in motion."

"We're not heavy on floats at all," he said on Monday. "Originality, that's what we crave."

Hill, a Plymouth Realtor, is also the founder and leader of the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill team, which has made appearances in parades all over the country.

Hill's drill team will bring up the rear of Plymouth's parade; his primary job Wednesday is to organize and direct the many bands and entries that will go before.

They will include Steve King and the Ditties, a popular local rock band that will be performing on a moving stage, plus a "Sounds of Sinatra" tribute band.

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, the Martin Luther King High School Marching Band, the Cabar Feidh Pipe Band and period groups Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps (Revolutionary War era) and the 5th Michigan Regiment (Civil War) are among the other musical acts.

CUSTODIANS

Continued from page A1

ca Merritt, the district's executive director of human resources. "We commend the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our amazing custodial workers."

Last year's concessions included the loss of 21 jobs; this year, no jobs were lost. But the union took a 10-percent pay cut, lost their uniform allowance, have no dental and vision insurance coverage and agreed to take 17 unpaid furlough days.

Even with that, union members, who staged an informational picket a few weeks ago in an effort to get the board to stop talk of privatization, were happy to still have jobs.

"I'm glad we're still here," Ladenberger said. "I'm not pleased with the cuts. It's a little disheartening the district looked to us for another million dollars. But I'm glad the word 'privatization' is out of the district's vocabulary."

"The way things are going, the jobs just aren't out there," she added. "I'm glad we got to save 73 jobs."

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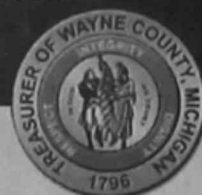
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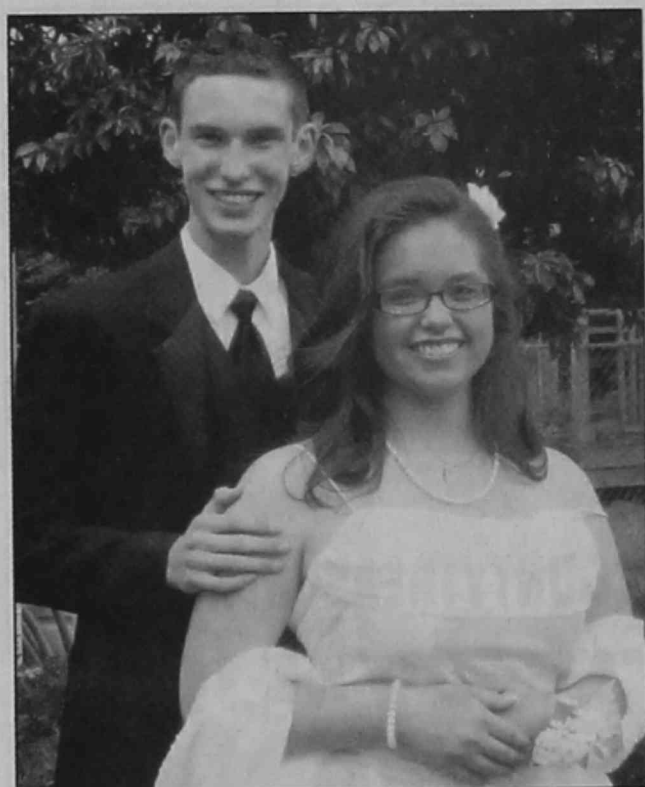
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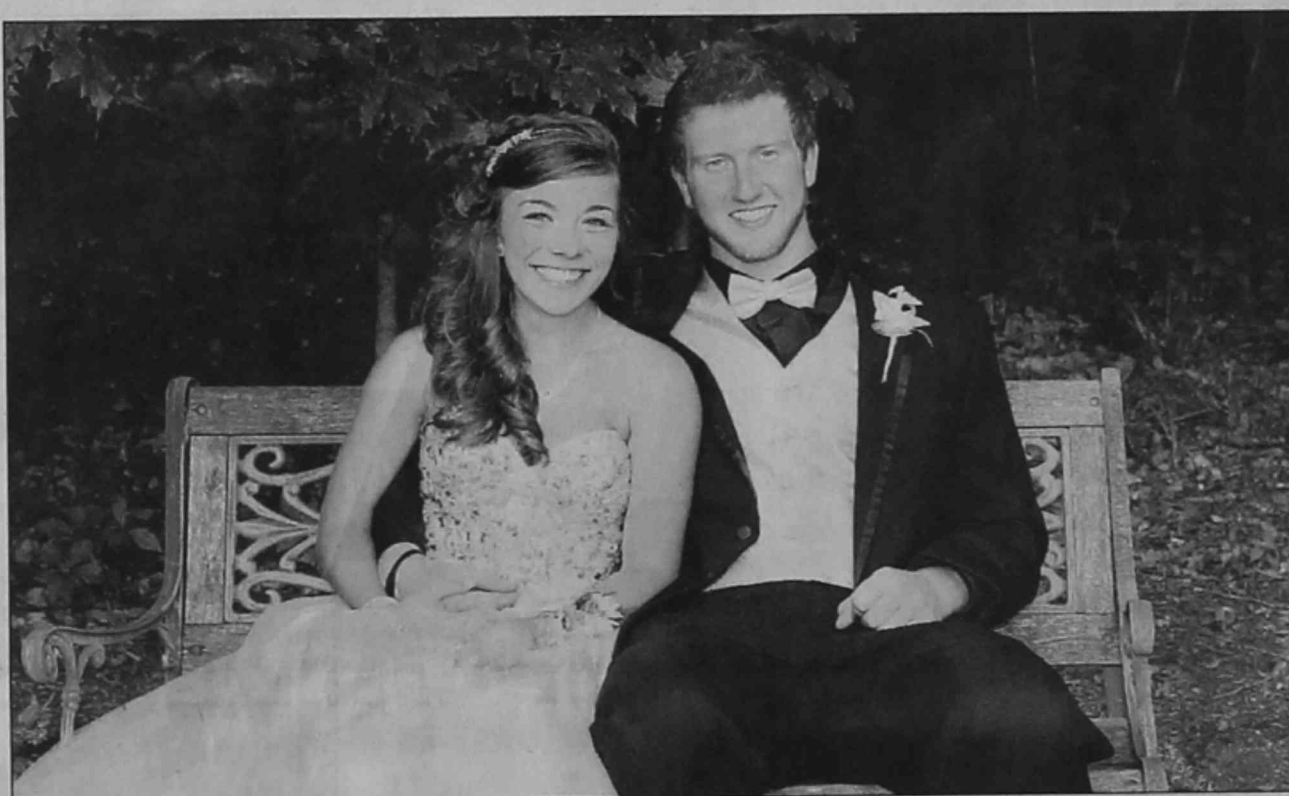
The gang's all together — Sarah Howard, Lindsey Davidson, Marisa Pfister, Rachael Zandee, Angela Hall, Kristen Lindberg and Leah Vuletic — before Plymouth Christian Academy's prom.



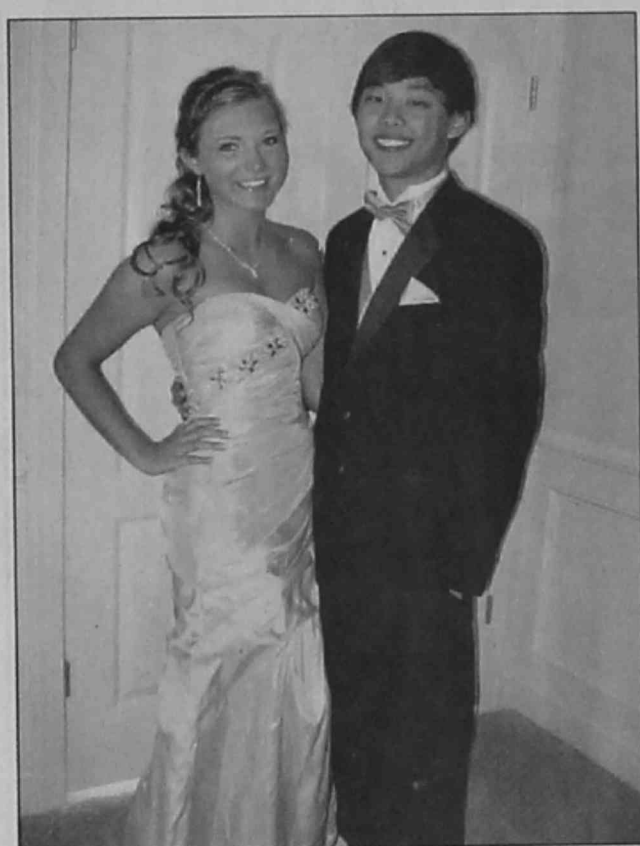
Irene Pool (from left), Josh McGowan, Michael Pool, Drew Gissendaner and Rebecca Perry, all Plymouth High School students.



Adam Stankiewicz and Tara Sadek at the Plymouth Senior Prom, 2012.



Derek O'Flynn of Canton High School and Sydni Sheathelm of Davison High School on June 2.



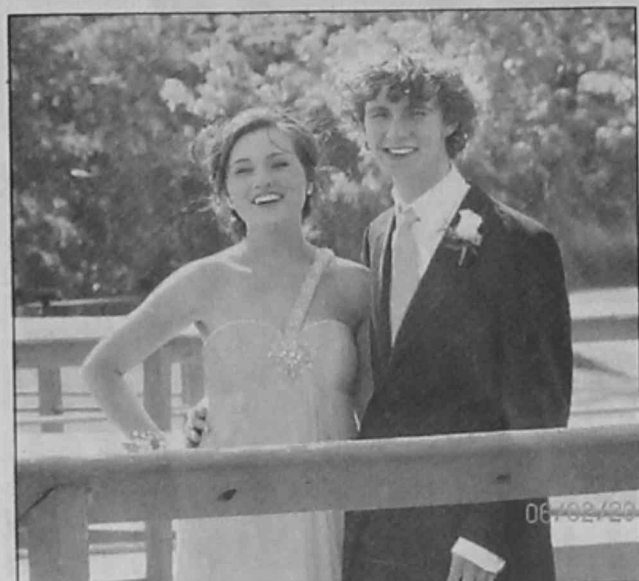
Alex Chapman and his date, Anna Fanelli, before Plymouth Christian Academy's prom.



Plymouth High School graduates (from left) Ellie Anderson, Katie Bartek and Erin MacKenzie attend their 2012 prom.



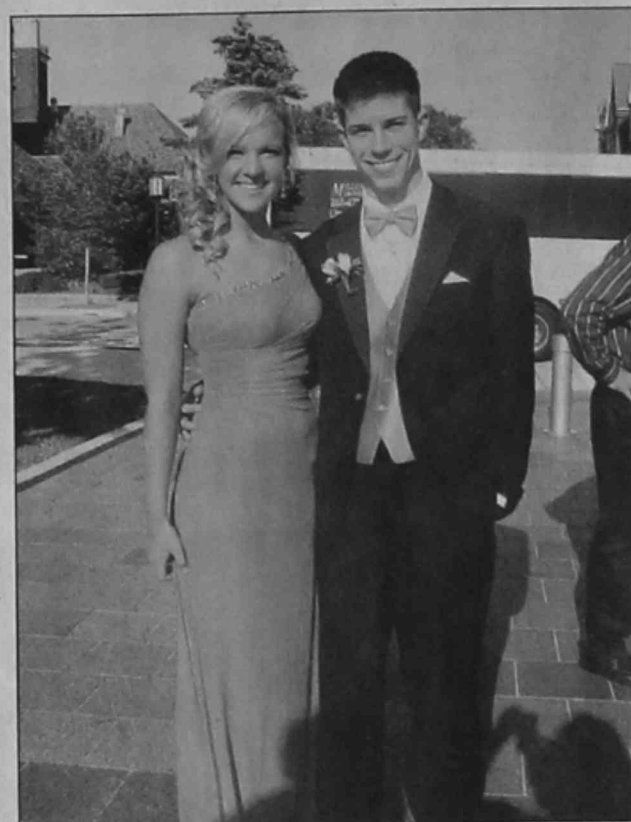
Twin sisters Mrianna and Sonia Werda connected at the PCEP prom.



Plymouth High School students Jared Ooms and his date, Lindsey Magaldi, ready for prom.



Frankie Porth and his date, Kaite Kildow, attended the prom at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn.



Makenzie Williams of Plymouth and Greg Genette of Farmington Hills attended the Mercy High School prom.

Democrats battle in 11th congressional race

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Much media attention was focused recently on the Republican side of the ballot in the 11th congressional race.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia and Kerry Bentivolio of Milford turned in petitions with signatures to declare their candidacies. McCotter's petitions were found to have duplicate signatures, a finding that invalidated them. He declared a write-in candidacy, then withdrew, and announced he was not seeking re-election. A group of prominent Detroit-area Republicans threw their support behind Nancy Cassis of Novi, who is now a write-in candidate.

On the Democrats' side of the ballot, two candidates, Dr. Syed Taj of Canton and Bill Roberts of Redford, are also vying for their party's nomination.

Taj recently retired as chief of medicine of Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, where he worked more than 29 years as a doctor. He still sees patients in his private practice.

Taj is ending a four-year term on the Canton Board of Trustees, deciding not to seek re-election to that board and instead run for Congress.

Roberts has been supporting Lyndon Larouche since 2001, after having been "completely disgusted" with the choices for president in 2000, and "having also witnessed firsthand the complete



Dr. Syed Taj

political impotence of my own generation."

Endorsements, loyalty

Taj has received endorsements from the 11th District Democrats, Oakland County Democrats and every local Democratic Club in the district. Taj calls Roberts an "imposter" running as a Democrat who wants to impeach President Barack Obama, "Don't be fooled by fake Democrats," reads Taj's campaign literature.

Roberts responds that Taj's comments are "cultish."

"The idea that you have to take a loyalty oath to a president no matter what happens and what heinous crimes he commits, it's cultish," Roberts said. He added: "The idea that you have to be an Obama supporter to be a Democrat is ridiculous."

Roberts believes Obama should be impeached for what Roberts called Obama's assassination of Samir Khan and others who were alleged to be connected to Al Qaida and



Bill Roberts

for the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the detention of American citizens indefinitely.

"You have a complete suspension of due process," Roberts said.

Taj ran because he wants changes in Congress.

"Things aren't looking so great in Congress," Taj said.

"There's complete gridlock and nothing is being done. Congress needs professionals and not career politicians."

Roberts said he is running because he loves this country. "We're seeing it destroyed under the last three presidential terms," Roberts said.

Policies of Obama and former President George W. Bush and the bank loans have "choked off credit for private investments" and created continued joblessness.

"There's been a collapse of the physical economy in this country," Roberts said.

Health care act

Taj supports the Affordable Health Care Act.

"The bill itself is a path to provide health care to everybody," Taj said. "People just don't realize the good it provides."

Taj points to insurance coverage now provided for children, who are attending school, out of work or cannot get health insurance, up to the age of 26 under their parents' policies.

Before, many Americans with pre-existing conditions were locked or priced out of the health insurance market, getting a bill for cancer treatments or transplants, Taj said.

Insurers are now required to cover a number of recommended preventive services, such as cancer, diabetes and blood pressure screenings, without additional cost sharing such as copays or deductibles. In January 2013, the law provides new funding to state Medicaid programs that choose to cover preventive services for patients at little or no cost, so that more Americans can receive preventive care.

"They want people to have annual physicals," Taj said.

Attorneys general from several states are challenging the Affordable Health Care Act. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on it in late June.

Taj believes increased employment can help save Social Security. "Social Security is not in trouble," Taj said. "We have enough money up through 2037." With more workers contrib-

uting to the system, the money will continue to grow to fund Social Security and keep it solvent.

Glass-Steagall Act

Roberts supports the reinstatement of the original Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. "The Federal Reserve System is bankrupt, rotten all the way through with the gambling debts of the last 20 years; the attempt to pay this debt is ruining people's lives. Glass-Steagall must be adopted to remove this debt from the books of the U.S. government, ending the bailout of 'too big to fail' by separating investment, insurance, and commercial banking activities into wholly separate institutions," according to Roberts' website.

Taj points to his work on the Canton board as proof he can work with Republicans. Trustees reviewed a proposed 22-percent water rate hike or using money in a general fund, reserved for repairs and maintenance. "We had money in our water and sewer general fund," Taj said. "We looked at whether we go with 22 percent or do we help these people, some who were losing their jobs."

The board looked at various figures, but settled on a compromise amount of \$1 million and a smaller, more affordable hike, Taj said.

Roberts called Larouche "a guy who does not pull his punches."

"He says what's true whether or not it's polit-

ically pragmatic," Roberts said.

"If you have a connection to our Constitution, you recognize and see a sense of history, and you recognize the dangers of compromise of principles," Roberts said, explaining his support of Larouche.

Taj has a good working relationship with the other six trustees, all Republicans. Most of the time, votes are 7-0, Taj said.

"(The board) could have passed a bill, 6-1, but that never happened. We always have a discussion," Taj said.

Taj said 40 percent of the new 11th District is Gary Peters' old district, in which Peters won in 2008 and 2010, formerly a Republican stronghold and Joe Knollenberg's old district, Taj points out.

Taj believes his experience in day-to-day dealings with patients and familiarity with health policy issues can help the district.

"It is a very professional, well-educated district," Taj said. "It is the most affluent district in the state. It is also a great chance for the Democrats."

Taj said his role as a congressman is to help everyone in the district, regardless of party affiliation or support.

"If we can get more money to fix our roads, that will help every single person who uses those roads," Taj said.

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Kiwanis Club ready for golf outing

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is preparing for the club's largest annual fundraiser, the 30th annual Charity Golf Outing, to be held Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Fox Classic Golf Course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth.

The event begins at 8 a.m. with a pre-golf breakfast and shotgun start at 9 a.m. Contact Dan Herriman, Golf Outing Chair, (734) 459-5440 or email dherriman@herriman.net for more information on the outing, sponsorships and registration.

Organizers said it is not your "everyday" golf outing. It's golf, music, food, contests, surprises between the holes, and an after-golf dinner program. The Charity Outing is open to the general public and the general public is encouraged to participate in this high-spirited, entertaining golfing experience.

The outing includes a return to its past by celebrating with a barbecue chicken and ribs dinner following 18 holes of golf, food and fun.

The event is a great way to have local businesses get their name in front of over 250 volunteers and golfers, with signs on the course, mention in the Keep-sake Program and mention on the club's website. Most importantly, 100 percent of the proceeds go to help fund the on-going community service projects the club supports such as the Plymouth Salvation Army, Mott Children's Hospital, Growth Works, First Step, YMCA of Plymouth, Plymouth's Tonquish Manor, Plymouth Coun-



The Lee's Chicken mascot got some love at last year's Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth golf outing, the club's biggest fundraiser of the year.

cil on Aging, Habitat for Humanity, United Way of Plymouth, Special Olympics, Plymouth Clothing Bank, Plymouth Canton Schools and many more.

This year the outing cost is only \$150 per golfer or only \$600 for a foursome. Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth also offers many sponsorship opportunities. Again, the general public is welcome to participate as golfers. Individuals and local businesses can still be sponsors of this event and assist the Kiwanis Club in con-

tinuing the club's mission.

More than 90 members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, founded in 1967, take great pride in assisting the community in a number of programs, anything from building a wheelchair ramp for a resident's home, to replacing a roof for a family in need, to hosting Plymouth's annual Good Morning USA Parade on July 4.

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth continues to lead the way in Michigan with an orga-

nization called Kids Against Hunger. As a group they have assisted in the purchase and packaging of over 1,000,000 meals for food banks, disaster relief and malnourished areas throughout the world since getting involved in 2005. The goal is to have one school in each level (elementary, middle, high school) in each district nationwide package food one time a year. If this goal is achieved Kids Against Hunger can nearly wipe out death due to starvation internationally.

Beware of investment risks, diversify

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Last week, the Federal Reserve concluded a two-day meeting and one of the results was the statement that interest rates are going to remain low until at least 2014. What that means is that U.S. treasuries, certificates of deposit (CDs) and fixed annuities similarly are going to have low rates of return for a period of time.

Ever since the financial crisis arrived, interest rates have been kept artificially low. The theory being is that low interest rates will help spur growth in the economy. And although that may be true, it is important to realize that it comes with a cost.

One group of people that are paying for the financial crisis is senior who typically will invest in CDs, U.S. treasuries and annuities for income purposes. Seniors have found that their income has been slashed over the last few years. The Federal Reserve's recent comment certainly doesn't give hope to those individuals who need income. The question is what are seniors to do?

In the search for income, some seniors have made some very expensive mistakes. In order to receive higher income, investors have sought out higher yielding investments. Unfortunately, with higher yielding investments come greater risks. Some senior have invested in foreign CDs thinking that they were as safe as federally insured CDs. Unfortunately, they found that they were not. Other seniors have invested in low-rated bonds — junk bonds — thinking they were safe but they were not. The problem is that people are so desperate to get higher rates of return on their money they're ignoring the risks that are associated with these types of investments.

Another strategy that some seniors are implementing is turning to dividend-paying stocks as, once again, a way to produce higher income. Dividend-paying stocks are a good investment and

they make sense for an income investor, however, it should only be one piece of the puzzle. Just like growth investors need to be diversified, the same thing with income investors. Income investors cannot afford to put all their money in stocks because they're assuming too great of a risk. Income investors need fixed-income investments like high grade corporate and government bonds. Even though the yield is low on these investments, there is a different risk associated with them vs. dividend-paying stocks.

One of the reasons I'm constantly reminding people to keep their costs under control is so they don't run into the trap where they feel desperate to produce higher returns. When that happens they get involved in low quality and questionable investments. There have been lots of stories recently of seniors who have taken substantial losses in their quest to receive higher yields. Don't fall for the slick sales talk; use common sense. If someone tells you you're going to get 7 or 8 percent without talking to you about the substantial increase in risk, you know you're dealing with the wrong person.

I would love to tell you of an investment that would substantially increase your yield without correspondingly increasing your risk but I can't. The reality is that low rates of return are going to be with us for at least another year and a half to two years. The bottom line in these challenging economic times you cannot afford to abandon common sense. With one-year CD rates below 1 percent and a 10-year U.S. treasury paying approximately 1.6 percent, you cannot get substantially higher returns without increasing your risk.

That doesn't mean that you can't have a portion of your portfolio in items such as high-yield bonds or emerging market debt, what it means is that you can't have the majority of your income portfolio in high-risk investments. 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.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

New book introduced at Schoolcraft Thursday

For many years, Ed Draugelis practiced law in Plymouth representing, among other clients, the City of Plymouth, the Plymouth Community School District, Northville Downs and Livonia's Schoolcraft College.

"As the years wore me down, increasingly I turned to my first love, writing. My regional play was produced at Northville's Marquis Theatre in approximately 1985. After that, I wrote a series of children's books. My first adult novel, 'The God Symposium', was published in 2005."

Draugelis' second pub-

lished novel, "COLD WATER," a mystery thriller, is being introduced to the public in the DiPonio Room of Schoolcraft College from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, June 28 by publisher Oak Tree Press.

Schoolcraft, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, is mentioned through one of the characters in the novel as having one of the best two-year culinary arts programs in the country.

The event will include appetizers and a cash bar, and the opportunity to meet the author and learn about his writing process.

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Filled with wall-to-wall trampolines, Sky Zone provides a way to move and sets the stage for a variety of activities such as 3-D Dodgeball and SkyRobics.

COURTESY SKY ZONE

Sky Zone job fair hopes to fill jobs

Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park, creator of the world's first all-trampoline, walled playing court, will open its newest facility in Canton this summer at 42550 Executive Drive.

Sky Zone bills itself as the "ultimate 3-D play experience for teens, parents and kids to jump, leap and defy gravity on the patented all-trampoline walled playing court."

Sky Zone provides guests with activities fit for all ages and fitness levels. Filled with wall-to-wall trampolines, Sky Zone provides a brand new way to move and sets the stage for a variety of activities such as 3-D Dodgeball and SkyRobics - an invigorating and fun, yet highly effective, fitness class that can burn up to 1,000 calories in an hour.

Participants can also partake in "Open Jump,"

where they can bounce for fun, freestyle their latest moves, or jump into a giant foam pit. In addition, the facility is also the perfect venue for a unique and memorable group outing, offering birthday party packages, corporate team building programs and other group events such as churches, schools and camps.

And while not yet open, the new Sky Zone Canton is already making a positive economic impact by bringing more than 100 new jobs to the community. To fill these open positions, a three-day Job Fair takes place at the new indoor trampoline park on Thursday, June 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday, June 29, from noon to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interested persons should download and

complete an application that can be found online at www.skyzonesports.com/canton or on Sky Zone Canton's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/skyzonecanton) and bring with them to the Job Fair. More information and updates about the Job Fair can be found on those online resources and by calling (734) 981-0007.

"In 2004 when the first Sky Zone opened its doors, we knew we wanted to spread our concept throughout the United States and allow as many people to experience a new kind of activity and entertainment," said Jeff Platt, President of Sky Zone LLC. "Thus far, our facilities have been a big hit in other parts of the country and we are looking forward to introducing Metro Detroit residents to the perfect combination of fun and fitness with Sky Zone's ultimate high-fly-ing experience."

For more information on Sky Zone, including class and event details, visit www.skyzonesports.com.

CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Botsford bound

Dr. Karen Plymel of Canton has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. This board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist sees patients at Michigan



Plymel

Perinatal Associates, P.C., 18181 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 302 in Dearborn. After receiving her medical education from Ross University School of Medicine, Plymel performed her clinical training at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, where she served as the 2008 administrative chief resident. Prior to attending medical school, she worked as a certified occupational therapist and was director of occupational therapy at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga.

Plymel is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology.

Platinum car show

A summer tradition roars into Canton, featuring some glitzy bling and bumpers next month. The Power and Platinum Car Show, hosted by the Showroom of Elegance and the America's Most Wanted Car Club, rolls into Showroom's parking lot at 6018 North Canton Center July 19. The event will offer lots to look at, food and entertainment from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

"This car show is free to the public, and we'll be offering some great discounts throughout the event on some great jewelry pieces," said Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance. "We're also donat-

ing partial proceeds of all jewelry sales to the Autism Society of Michigan."

Some of the vendors will also be donating a percentage of their food sales to the charitable organization which offers educational resources and materials, workshops, seminars and other services to Michigan families coping with Autism.

For more information, contact Showroom of Elegance at (734) 207-1906 or at info@showroomofelegance.com.

Cancer fight

July 1 is the last day Canton-area HomeGoods shoppers will have the opportunity to support cancer care and research while shopping at the off-price home fashions retailer. More than 200 HomeGoods stores nationwide will be participating in the 12th annual HomeGoods "Helps Families Fight Cancer" campaign benefiting the Jimmy Fund, which supports pediatric and adult cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass.

HomeGoods customers can participate by making a \$1, \$5, or \$10 contribution at the register to "Help Families Fight Cancer" with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Dana-Farber. New to this year's program, customers also have the opportunity to purchase a reusable shopping bag featuring artwork by a Jimmy Fund Clinic pediatric patient for 99 cents. HomeGoods will contribute 50 cents for each bag purchased to the Jimmy Fund.

"For more than 10 years, HomeGoods and its dedicated customers have raised more than \$3 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. We are so grateful for their continued support in our fight against cancer and helping families facing this disease," said Suzanne Fountain, director of the Jimmy Fund.

Don't roll the dice on a lump sum payout.

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CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Grub Crawl

The Canton Chamber of Commerce, Charter Township of Canton and the Downtown Development Authority will be co-hosting Canton's 11th Annual Grub Crawl Tuesday, July 17, from 6-10 p.m. This event is open to the public and participants must be 21 years of age or older.

The Grub Crawl is an opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their cuisine as well as promote Canton's diversity while having fun. In past years sponsors have had participation from about 14 restaurants in the community.

"The Grub Crawl is an exciting and fun event for the Canton community and businesses", said Thomas Paden, President of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

According to Paden, last year almost 500 people attended this event. Tickets (T-shirt) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants. T-shirts are on sale now and can be purchased at the Chamber office. T-shirt sizes are on a first-come, first-served basis so reserve yours early.

Sponsorships are also available and going fast! If you are interested in par-

ticipating in the Grub Crawl, go to our website at www.cantonchamber.com click on forms/flyers to print a ticket order form and drop it by the Chamber office at 45525 Hanford Road. You can also call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

Major sponsors for this event are Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc., Central City Dance, Conrad Insurance Agency, Jack Demmer Ford, Inc., Jade Child Development Center, Sunrise Family Dental Care, Republic Services, Schoolcraft College and TDS Metrocom.

Networking coffee

The Canton Chamber of Commerce sponsors its networking coffee 7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, July 12, in the Community Room at Saint Joseph Mercy Canton Health Center, 1600 S. Canton Center, in Canton.

There is no charge for members; a \$10 fee is required for non-members. Hosting and presenting sponsor is Saint Joseph Mercy Canton Health Center.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com.

Free seminar on pension buyouts

Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills and the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper are co-sponsoring a free educational seminar on the lump-sum buyouts offered to salaried retirees of General Motors and Ford Motor Co. at 9 a.m. Thursday, July

12, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. For more information or to register, call (248) 932-5200 or email seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com. A continental breakfast will be served. Participants must pre-register.

OUR VIEWS

Self-evident truth

Remember sacrifices as we celebrate a proud nation

As with many holidays born out of patriotic impulses, the true meaning of Independence Day can be easily lost amid the parades and the barbecues, among the sparklers and the games.

And it's easy to forget, because the brave sacrifices of our military men and women today come in faraway lands like Afghanistan and Iraq, that the very first sacrifices on the road to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness came right here on home soil.

Some 25,000 Americans perished, and another 25,000 were injured as the colonies fought — and died — for the right to determine their own destiny as a country, one of the truths leaders of the Second Continental Congress decided were self-evident.

Though it holds no legal authority, The Declaration of Independence, as Jefferson wrote in a letter years after penning it, was "intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion."

Thus, Thomas Jefferson and the rest of the Founding Fathers laid the foundation for what has stood — for 236 years and counting — as the bedrock principle of our nation. Fifty-six men, representing colonies from north and south, signed it, each of them risking death as revolutionaries.

The leaders of the revolution — Hancock and Franklin, Washington and Jefferson — are household names. But let's not forget the 50,000 dead and wounded, whose names we've never known and never will. It was their deeds, and their sacrifices, that became synonymous with freedom.

As you line the streets for local parades, celebrate with fireworks, and grill burgers and hot dogs for the holiday picnic, remember them and honor their accomplishment.

The truth of their sacrifice, and the magnitude of its meaning, should be self-evident.

Play it safe with fireworks

A new state law removes the ban on most fireworks that shoot into the air so pyrotechnic-lovers no longer need to smuggle from neighboring states. We urge consumers to use caution.

The wider variety of fireworks for sale in Michigan is expected to translate into \$8-\$10 million annually for the state, according to state Rep. Harold Haugh, D-Roseville, one of the bill's sponsors.

Under the state law, fireworks cannot be sold to anyone younger than 18. The law also prohibits using fireworks while under the influences of alcohol or drugs.

Consumer-grade fireworks may not be used on public, school or private property of another person unless permission is obtained to use fireworks at that location. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's most recent data, three Americans died and 8,600 were taken to the hospital with injuries as a result of fireworks in 2010. Children younger than 15 accounted for 40 percent of those injuries.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Community Health said there were three fireworks-related fatalities in the state in 2006-10, one in 2006 and two in 2007. Read and practice these tips courtesy of the state fire marshal.

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities, including sparklers
 - Light fireworks one at a time
 - Keep a bucket of water or hose on hand
 - Never stand over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse
 - Never re-light "dud" fireworks that have not fully functioned
 - Never point or throw fireworks at other people
 - Only use fireworks on designated days
- Make it a safe July 4th holiday.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your idea of the perfect Fourth of July holiday?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"On the water with the family and a face full of ribs."

Jay Barker
Romulus



"Spending it with family and friends and having a good old time."

Cheryl Birr
Dearborn Heights



"A sunny day, a picnic in the park and (listening to the music of) John Philip Sousa."

Mary Rodrique
Canton



"A picnic with family."

Dana Orozco
Canton

LETTERS

No cherry-picking

Thanks for taking time to write about the recent changes at WSDP, the student radio station for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, and the increased emphasis on fundraising.

We serve on WSDP's Advisory Committee and the WSDP Fundraising Subcommittee. Our committees have been working with the students and station management to bring improvements to the station and fundraising (as your article reported, raising more than \$25,000 in the past year).

Earlier this year, the station changed its format to provide even more news and information about the community and the school district to students and area residents. The station is the Plymouth-Canton community's only live media outlet offering 100 percent local coverage of our community; a fact that benefits not just the students who generate this broadcast content, but the school district and the community as a whole.

We are concerned with the idea that the station can be financially self-sufficient in five years, as the previous school board had suggested. This would require raising over \$100,000 year-in and year-out which doesn't seem realistic based on the station's limited professional staff (1.5 employees) and its role as an extended communications tool for the school district.

An increased focus on fundraising would put the station manager in a unique position of having to raise his salary each year. We can't think of any other district employee being asked to meet that burden. Nor can we think of any other booster club, parent group, etc. that is tasked with raising funds for entire salaries. Asking just one extra-curricular program to do so does not seem fair.

As an educator, the station manager's skills are best applied when he is teaching the practical aspects of radio broadcasting and mentoring the station's student managers about leadership. Though the station manager and assistant manager positions are not classified as teachers, they should be looked at as important educators because of the time they spend working with students. That time will only be eroded if fundraising demands increase.

We recognize that the board is in a tough position balancing the district's budget, and we appreciate their service to the schools. We hope they will find a way to raise additional funds that has all users of the building, grounds, and district resources contributing in an equal and fair way. We understand that the station has a responsibility to raise funds for its capital improvements and for its share of expenses.

But extending its financial burden to include the salaries of staff is not equitable. This is not a time to cherry-pick from groups that are working hard to improve their programs, the students, and our community.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Debra Madonna, ReGina Shamberger, Joan Noricks, Todd Chatman, Scott Herrold, Elaine Kirchgatter, June Kirchgatter and Jake Bugeja
WSDP Advisory Committee

No privatizing

I was very upset to hear that the board is considering privatizing our school secretaries/administrative assistants.

Cory Chambless and Kathy Schwalm are as vital to the learning environment at Tonda as any teacher. In fact, they are the first faces families see and have contact with every child in the school, not just the 27 assigned to a classroom.

I have been witness to their compassion, confidentiality and professionalism. Mrs. Schwalm stands outside, in the cold, directing traffic to make our parking lot safer for our youngest Timberwolves and our special needs Timberwolves. I was outside with her one day and witnessed the grandparent of a student flip her off with his middle finger because she very politely told him he could not park in the (posted) no parking zone. She simply smiled and handled this professionally. I did not.

Just last week another parent called because they were concerned when their child was not where they were supposed to be when their grandmother came to pick her up. When the child failed to answer the pages, Mrs. Schwalm went to physically look for the child, and delivered her to the grandparent with a stern, but kind discussion.

I have watched the kindness and compassion Mr. Chambless uses when he helps our diabetic students. His manner is kind, but casual, making the child feel at ease and that this is just a part of life, not anything that makes them different. Mr. Chambless is gentle and deeply concerned about our students, so much so that he made changes to his own personal life and made a commitment to live a healthy lifestyle as an example to the students he loves and cares about.

Both Mr. Chambless and Mrs. Schwalm have a great knowledge of our students, especially those with diabetes, asthma, and allergies. I would be willing to bet that either one of them could tell you the normal peak flow for most of our asthmatic kids off the top of

their heads.

As the parents of two asthmatic children, and a daughter with life-threatening allergies, we feel totally at ease sending our daughter to school under the watchful and knowledgeable office staff of Tonda. With one nurse serving eight schools, this knowledge, matter and commitment is vital.

I urge the board to carefully consider the best interest of our children when this decision is made. Mr. Chambless, and Mrs. Schwalm are vital to the success of Team Timberwolf, and I am sure the district is full of many others in the other schools.

Jennifer Moore
Canton

Attacking religious freedom

President Obama has no respect for religious liberty nor for our U.S. Constitution. This November, the American people need to wake up and vote Obama out of office. Not only have his economic policies been an utter failure in not stimulating the economy, but his attack on religious liberty and in particular the Catholic church has been relentless.

There are important items that Americans need to know in regards to Obama's Health and Human Services Mandate on telling every religious institution that there must be mandatory coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

- The mandate does not exempt Catholic charities, schools, universities or hospitals

- The mandate forces these institutions and others, against their conscience, to pay for things they consider immoral

- The mandate forces coverage of sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs and devices as well as contraception

- People of all political persuasions are unified in their opposition to the mandate

- The federal mandate is much stricter than existing state mandates

- Many people, religious and secular groups, have spoken out in opposition to the mandate.

When the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. It is part of our American heritage and our most cherished freedom. If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, then all other freedoms can be taken away. We can no longer claim to be the land of the free if government takes our right to worship and practice our faith according to one's conscience. Our religious freedom is under attack by the Obama administration, so I urge my fellow Americans to vote for the Republican nominee and get Obama out of the White House.

The First Amendment as stated in the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Jeff Schubert
Livonia

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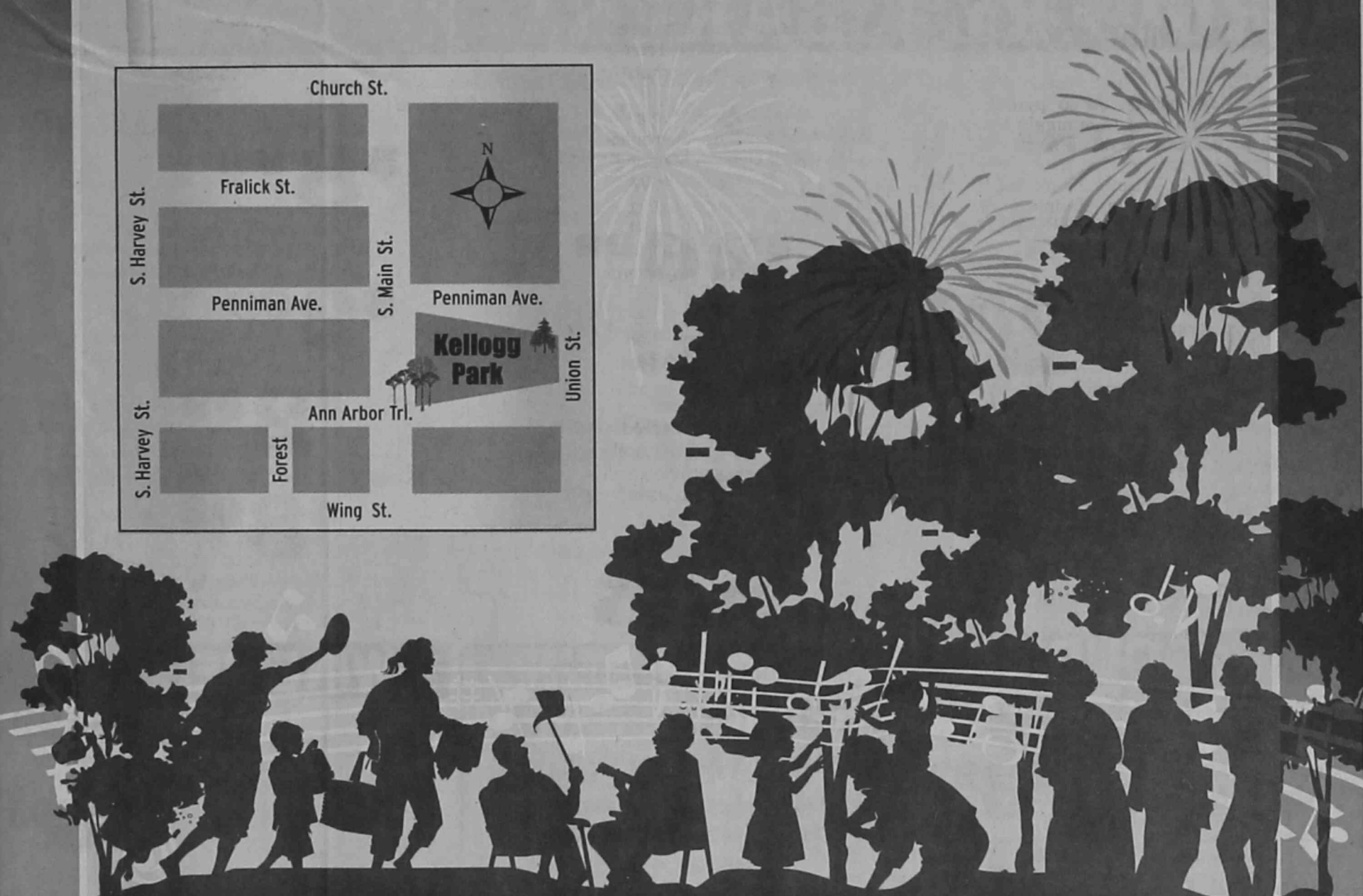
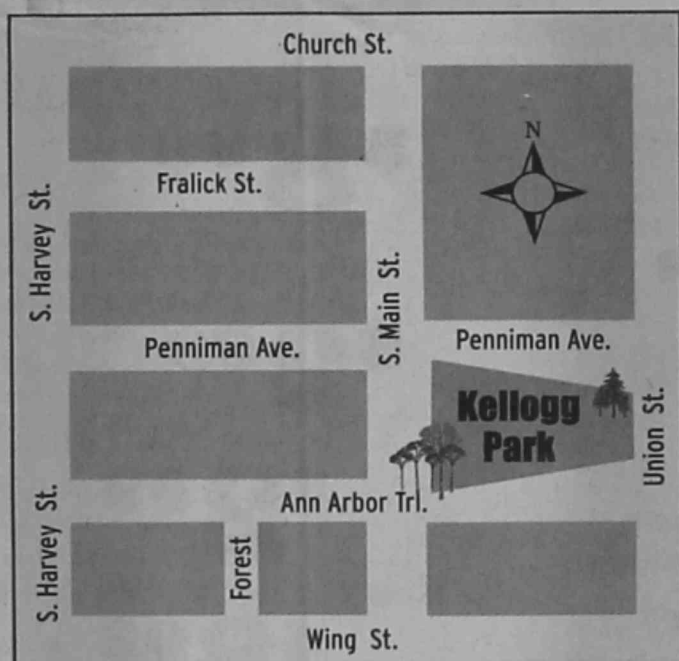
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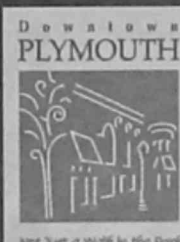
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SPORTS

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Canton's Schmitt books London flight



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Canton swimmer Allison Schmitt is heading to her second Summer Olympic Games after winning the 400-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials Tuesday night in Omaha.

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Canton High grad Allison Schmitt punched her ticket to her second straight Summer Olympic Games by winning the 400-meter freestyle Tuesday night in the U.S. Olympic Swimming Team Trials held at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb.

The 22-year-old, who trains at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club under coach Bob Bowman, flirted with world record pace through the 200-meter mark and just missed Katie Hoff's American record of 4:02.20 with a clocking of 4:02.84.

Chloe Sutton of the Mission Viejo (Calif.) Nadadores finished second and also earned a trip next month to London with a time of 4:04.18.

Kathleen Ledecy, a 15-year-old representing the Curl Burke Swim Club (Md.), just missed out of an Olympic Team berth in third with a clocking of 4:05.0.

Schmitt, who led wire-to-wire, recorded the third-fastest time in the 400 freestyle this year. Earlier in the day she recorded the top time in the prelim heats among 113 Trials qualifiers with a 4:05.60.

"I heard the crowd going at it about the 100 and 200, and I fell off (pace) a lit-

tle bit, but I'm still happy with that race," Schmitt told the *USA Swimming.org* website. "I've had a great year of training, and I'm just excited to see where I am right now."

The 2008 Canton High grad, a four-time NCAA champion, took a year off from swimming from the University of Georgia to train in Baltimore under Bowman, who is also Michael Phelps' coach.

"I definitely heard the crowd going, and just got excited, and hoping for that wall to come faster than it did," Schmitt told NBC Sports' Andrea Kremer after the race.

She captured a bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing

Olympic Games in the women's 4 x 200 freestyle relay and took ninth in her strongest event, the 200 freestyle.

In a meet earlier this month in Austin, Texas, Schmitt recorded the world's second fastest time (1:55.04) in the 200 freestyle where she is seeded first going into Wednesday's prelims followed by the finals scheduled for Thursday night.

Schmitt, a 2011 FINA World Championship gold medalist in the 800 freestyle relay and 2009 silver medalist in the 200 freestyle and 800 freestyle relay, is also a contender

Please see SCHMITT, B3

Grid All-Stars play at Alma

North Farmington tailback Kevin Miller and Garden City quarterback Tyler Steele will be representing the East squad in the 32nd annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday at Alma College's Bahlke Field.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Miller and the 6-2, 200-pound Steele are among 44 players on the East team, which will be coached by Macomb Dakota's Mike Giannone.

The game will be aired live on FoxSports Detroit with Matt Shepard doing the play-by-play and Rob Rubick the color commentary.

All Star game tickets are \$5 pre-sale, per ticket, and \$10 per ticket at the gate on game day. Tickets are also available through www.mhsfca.com.

Barrett wins Meijer crown

Canton's Robert Barrett placed first in the men's 25-29 shot put with a toss of 46 feet, 5 inches in Saturday's the Meijer State Games held East Kentwood High School.

Barrett was coming off a lifetime best throw of 47-7 the previous week in the 16-pound shot in an Dynamo Last Chance held June 16 in Mount Pleasant.

"I am very happy with the last two weeks of competition especially since I sprained my ankle two days ago and couldn't put all my weight on the my right ankle yesterday," said Barrett, a coach at Sports Performance.

Former Livonia Churchill and Kent State University Nia Henderson won the women's open shot put with a throw of 16.88 meters and was third in the women's invitational shot put with a toss of 15.64.

Former Churchill and Central Michigan University standout Craig Kielty took the men's 45 open javelin with a throw of 47.33 meters.

Hole-in-one

Redford's Jeremy Byrnes, 34, used an 8-iron, to ace the 161-yard No. 9 hole, June 21, at Glenhurst Golf Course on June 21.

Byrnes, who posted his second ace in 20 years, carded a 9-hole round of 41.

Ultimate Trial

Heptathlete Wade eyes U.S. track spot

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

Just hours away from the most important competition of her track-and-field career, Bettie Wade is confident she's ready and prepared for it.

The former Farmington High School and University of Michigan athlete will participate in the U.S. Olympic Trials in the women's heptathlon Friday and Saturday in Eugene, Ore.

"I try not to think of it as the biggest meet of my life," the 25-year-old Wade said. "I try to think of it as just another track meet. But this one is definitely going to be very special, and I'm very excited for it."

This will be Wade's second attempt to make the Olympic team. She



Bettie Wade

competed in the 2008 Trials and finished ninth with a score of 5,723 points.

To make the team and the trip to London for the July 27 through Aug. 12 Games, Wade needs to hit the Olympic heptathlon standard of 6,150 and finish in the top three.

She has yet to hit that

mark, but she's very close. Wade scored a personal best of 6,143 at the end of March to win the Jim Click Combined Events heptathlon in Arizona.

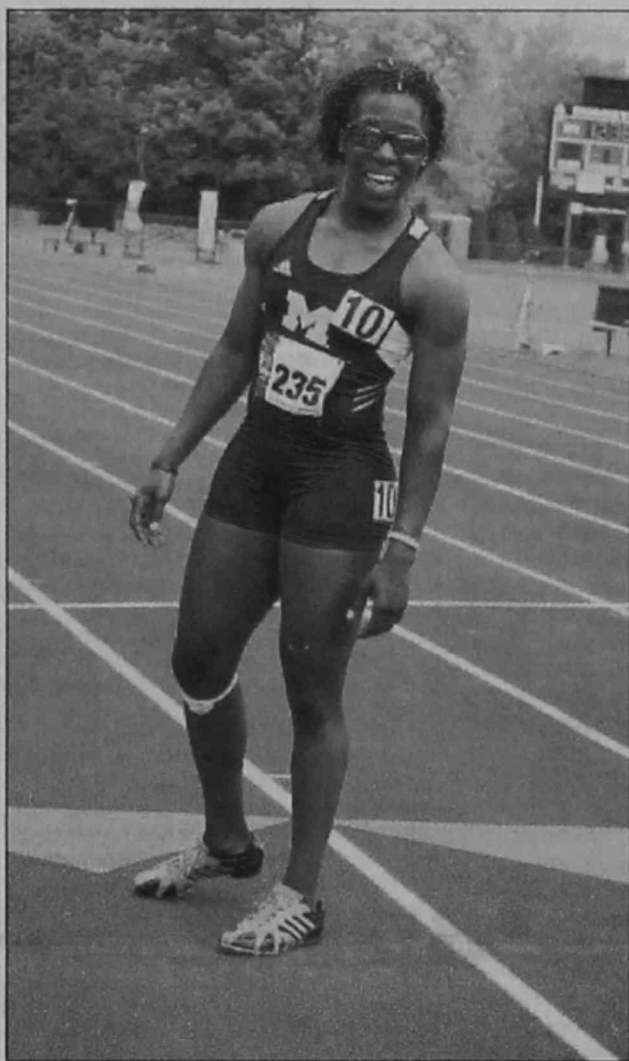
"I was seven points off that day," Wade said. "From where I was and the shape I was in three months ago, I'm light years ahead of that."

"If I stay focused, stay relaxed and have fun, I know my training will put me over the Olympic standard. My next goal is to get in the top three."

Wade, who hasn't competed since May 5, said her training has been going amazingly well in recent weeks.

"I've worked really hard on the track," she said. "I'm further along

Please see WADE, B4



Former Big Ten champion Bettie Wade's goal is to make the U.S. Olympic team in the heptathlon.

Livonia's Barber goes to Capitals

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Riley Barber grew up a Pittsburgh Penguins fan and is not afraid to admit that Sidney Crosby is his favorite player — even after living in the Livonia the past five years.

The 18-year-old Barber, however, will have to quickly switch allegiances after going in the sixth-round (167th overall) to the Washington Capitals on Saturday during the second day of the National Hockey League Draft.

Ironically, the NHL Draft was held in Pittsburgh where Barber grew up before moving to Livonia as a seventh-grader.

"It was awesome, pretty surreal seeing your name up there with an NHL team next to it," said Barber, who spent the past season with the Ann Arbor-based U.S. Under-18 National Development Team. "I've had a lot of family watching it at my house and it was really cool."



Barber

Barber entered the NHL Draft ranked No. 86 among North American skaters.

"Actually I thought I was going to go higher," said Barber, a 6-foot, 194-pound right winger. "I was projected pretty high, like third round or so. Things didn't work out as high as I wanted to, but I landed in a good spot. It really doesn't matter where you go, it's what you do next."

That next move is to play for Miami of Ohio where he becomes the 56th RedHawk in program history to be drafted in the NHL and the second by Washington. Miami will now have five NHL draft picks on its 2012-13 roster.

"I just visited Miami and just fell in love with it," said Barber, who also entertained offers from Michigan and Michigan State. "As soon as I visited Miami, it was dead-on and that's where I wanted to go."

Barber, who spent his initial youth in suburban Pittsburgh, grew up in a hockey family.

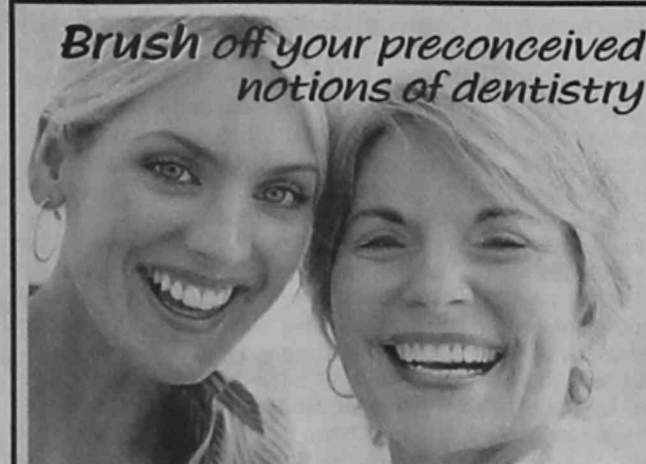
His father, Don, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, played four seasons

Please see BARBER, B4



TOM SORENSEN | PHOTO

Livonia's Riley Barber, a member of the USA Hockey Under-18 National team this past season, was selected in the sixth round Saturday by the NHL's Washington Capitals.



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All-area team boasts elite talent

FIRST TEAM

Alexis Smith, GK, Franklin: The senior, a four-year starter, led the Patriots to their first-ever district title while allowing just three goals and saving four consecutive shots in a shootout win over Garden City in the final.

The all-district and all-Kensington Lakes Activities Association selection is headed in the fall to play for Schoolcraft College.

"Alexis is a complete player," coach Dean Kowalski said. "She was able to challenge her teammates throughout the season to help prepare them for the play-off run. Alexis always competes at a high level and always gives her team a chance to win."

Catherine Garber, D, Ladywood: The junior center back earned Division 2 third-team all-state honors and first-team all-Catholic League for a team that finished 21-3-2 and allowed just 17 goals all season.

"Catherine is the heart and soul of our back line," coach Ken Shingledecker said. "She is a three-year starter and is a major reason we were able to cut our goals-against back this year. So many times this year there would be that moment when you thought the other team was going to have a dangerous chance and Catherine would step up huge with a big tackle. I'm excited to see her grow into a leadership role heading into her senior year."

Robyn Mack, D, Canton: The senior demonstrated that basketball isn't the only sport she is superb in, providing leadership and skill in the back while helping the Chiefs on offense when necessary.

Despite playing with a wrist injury much of the season, she had a big impact on Canton's march to the Division 1 state semifinals.

Her penalty kick goal in the district final against Northville evened the contest. She scored Canton's lone marker in the 2-1 semifinal loss to Troy.

"Robyn is one of the best defenders in the state and can stop almost anyone," Reddy said. "She is a defender but is also a great offensive player with speed and a great shot."

"She is a dominant force up top in the air and can make her way to the goal."

Mack, a third-year starter and co-captain, tallied eight goals and five assists. For her efforts, she was named to first-team all-state as well as the all-conference, district and region squads.

She will attend Grand Valley State University, but probably only play women's soccer.

Paige Brennan, MF, Ladywood: The senior captain earned first-team all-state and all-Catholic League honors for the third straight year.

The Dream Team selection finished this season with three goals and 27 assists for the Catholic League and district champions.

"Paige had a tremendous season for us," Shingledecker said. "She located herself a little deeper in our midfield and concentrated more on defending and getting everyone involved. It translated into us scoring 27 more goals than last year and giving up six less."

"Paige is completing the most accomplished career that anyone has ever had at Ladywood. She led us to a state final last year, and to the school's first-ever Catholic League championship this year. It will be hard to think about Ladywood soccer without Paige running our midfield, but she has left the program in a great spot moving forward."

Sami Roumayah, MF, N. Farmington: The senior midfielder was a four-year standout for the Raiders and will play NCAA Division I soccer at Eastern Illinois University. Roumayah, who made the coaches all-state third team, scored seven goals and had 10 assists for the Raiders, who were 10-7-2 and public-school city champs for the fourth year in a row.

"Sami is the most complete offensive player I've had the pleasure of coaching at NFHS," coach Tim Russell said. "For four years, she was the key cog in our offense, and she only got better as the years passed."

"In the last couple years, she added some key components to her game. She became a much better defender, helping to clog the field for our opponents. Her passing and field vision went off the charts. Not only could she see her teammates' runs to open space, but she enhanced her ability to get the ball to those spaces with finely textured passes."

"And, finally, she became a much more physical player. Whereas, people were able to push her around a little bit more her sophomore year, this season, she did most of the pushing. On top of all of that, she was a terrific team leader."

Mackenzie Williams, MF, Mercy: The senior midfielder made the all-area team for the second year in a row after scoring six goals and assisting on nine others. Williams was a four-year starter and was instrumental in the Marlins having their best season in recent memory. She also plays for the Michigan Rush club team. "Mackenzie has been special since day one," Babler said. "From the time she got here, it took a half hour to find out she was bypassing other freshmen and jayvees in tryouts. She said, 'You're not watching me very much.' I said: 'You're right; we're not paying attention, because we know where we're putting you. We're putting you on varsity.'"

2012 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOCCER FIRST TEAM

Alexis Smith, GK, Liv. Franklin, Sr. Catherine Garber, Def., Ladywood, Jr. Robyn Mack, Def., Canton, Sr. Paige Brennan, MF, Ladywood, Sr. Sami Roumayah, MF, N. Farmington, Sr. Mackenzie Williams, MF, Mercy, Sr. Melissa Kucukarslan, MF, Farm., Sr. Katelynn Krause, MF, Salem, Sr. Megan Trapp, MF, Canton, Sr. Dayna Stevens, MF, Liv. Stevenson, Sr. Rachel Blackney, MF, Liv. Churchill, Sr. Stephanie Dillon, MF, Plymouth, Jr. Madi Lewis, F, Plymouth, Jr. Allyson Krause, F, Canton, Sr. Kelly Capoccia, F, Ladywood, Sr. Mackenzie Higgins, F, Mercy, Jr. Justice Dean, F, Garden City, Sr. Shannon Melvin, F, Garden City, Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Danielle Schendel, GK, Canton, Sr. Kylie Robb, GK, Plymouth, Soph. Kasey Bunio, GK, Garden City, Jr. Taylor Lambouris, Def., N. Farm., Fr. Rachel Winters, Def., Canton, Soph. Amy Lindberg, MF, Farm. Harrison, Jr. Kelsey Parrinello, MF, Churchill, Soph. Taylor Babcock, MF, Mercy, Fr. Emily Lundh, MF, Salem, Sr. Zoe Foster, MF, Plymouth, Jr. Akanksha Vaishnav, MF, N. Farm., Sr. Angela Mancini, F, Redford Union, Sr. Maria Garcia, F, Thurston, Soph. Nicole Zuckerman, Def., Stevenson, So. Sydney Climie, F, Westland Glenn, Fr. Ashley Murphy, F, Liv. Clarenceville, Jr. Dominique Sarnecky, F, Ladywood, Jr. Irena Dedivani, F, Farmington, Soph. Sam Wiemer, F, Luth. Westland, Sr. Abby LeMerise, F, Ply. Christian, Fr.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeannine Reddy, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Rachel Tomassi, Alexis Tzafarglou, Erin Emmanuel; **Franklin:** Emily McCullen, Michelle Tuyo, Natalie Desautel, Jessica Maurer; **Stevenson:** Olivia Kitz, Alexi Kliza, Emily Chrasz, Abby Urso; **John Glenn:** Olivia Cabildo, Raven Buck, Cecilia Said; **Wayne Memorial:** Amber Parrish, Crystal Fletcher, Emma Karson; **Clarenceville:** Lindsey Fosth, Summer Reddick; **Ladywood:** DeYana Walker, Sara Even, Emily Huddleston, Liz Danger, Marissa Ozog, Shelby Walsh; **Lutheran Westland:** Angela Morrison, Jessica Drife, Michelle Greening; **Canton:** Gabby Epelman, Natalie Schmidt, Alexandra Bryden, Gabby Malec, Kaly Berinti; **Plymouth:** Alyssa Dillon, Alyssa Burris, Emily Burkman, Megan Peplinski, Maria Farmer, Stephanie Sheridan; **Salem:** Olivia Kaye, Nancy Krutty, Kylie Knight, Emma Tardiff, Katie Binsfeld, Claire Huddas; **Plymouth Christian:** Emily Gerulis, Jenna Abraham, Rachel Zandee, Lauren Paulson, Martha Mullett; **Mercy:** Kirsten Padalis, Katie Coerd, Elaine Weber, Sue Panetta, Allie Gorcyca, Monica Mackie; **Farmington:** Lauren McCann, Arielle Lochrie; **Harrison:** Catherine Barkach, Alexandra Schwartz; **North Farmington:** Jessie Trimmer, Amanda Lumley, Claire Reno; **Garden City:** Rachel Hahn, Bailey Terrell, Lindsay Yankasky, Maria Carver; **Redford Union:** Nikki Busuito, Jordan Chapoton, Lindsey Gehlhausen, Ashley Sandelin; **Redford Thurston:** Rachel Pebbles, Joey Lynne Litwa, Michelle Ramos, Krystle Rehn, Gabrielle Van Well.

"You could tell she was outclassing everybody. Her footwork has always been phenomenal. She's a natural midfielder. The thing she had to work on was learning it's okay to shoot. If you're 30 yards out and got the corner, let it go. If she plays somewhere in college, they'll do well getting her."

"I thought she was one of the better midfielders in the Catholic League. She was a good leader for us and, with the other captains, expanded the off-season program at Mercy."

Melissa Kucukarslan, MF, Farmington: The senior midfielder is another four-year, varsity standout who served as the primary catalyst for the Farmington offense. Kucukarslan scored 13 goals and had 11 assists in leading the Falcons to a 10-5-4 season and runner-up finish in the OAA Blue Division. She is a member of the Michigan Rush club team and will be a preferred walk-on at Michigan next season.

"Melissa is one of those very special players who combines good soccer skills and good people skills," coach Matt Gasp- arotto said. "She knows how to talk to teammates; she knows how to talk to coaches. She's just a very special player and is very deserving of this honor. She is one of the best players in our league. I enjoyed coaching her for four years, and I hope she can go on and continue to play at Michigan."

Katelynn Krause, MF, Salem: The senior co-captain was everything coach Joe Nora could have expected for his team and then some.

And Krause collected a lot of hardware to go with the praise.

She was named this year's Salem High School Female Athlete of the Year, made the all-conference and all-district teams and earned an all-state honorable mention selection.

In addition, with her 4.0 grade point average, she won an all-state academic award from the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association.

"Katelynn is a player without fear," Nora said. "She runs forever, wins about every ball in the air, and has been a great team leader."

"A player like Katelynn doesn't come along very often. She plays with every ounce of her heart and uses her positive team-first attitude to inspire everyone around her."

The four-year starter will be playing women's soccer at Grand Valley State University.



Alexis Smith
Franklin



Catherine Garber
Ladywood



Robyn Mack
Canton



Paige Brennan
Ladywood



Sami Roumayah
N. Farmington



Mackenzie Williams
Mercy



Melissa Kucukarslan
Farmington



Katelynn Krause
Salem



Megan Trapp
Canton



Dayna Stevens
Ladywood



Rachel Blackney
Churchill



Stephanie Dillon
Plymouth



Madi Lewis
Plymouth



Allyson Krause
Canton



Kelly Capoccia
Ladywood



Justice Dean
Garden City



Shannon Melvin
Garden City



Jeannine Reddy
Canton coach

Megan Trapp, MF, Canton: One of the KLAA's top, physical players, the senior's fourth year on the varsity was outstanding.

Trapp, a co-captain, scored 11 goals, added 11 assists and always wreaked havoc in the box at the end of corner kicks.

Those leaping headers resulted in key goals in the district final against Northville and regional semifinal against Dearborn.

"Megan is a very strong, dominating player who is can beat anyone in the air," Reddy said. "She helped the team by playing in the center midfield and offense this year."

"She has a great shot and can take anyone on if her heart desires. She is a smart teammate who has a desire to win."

Slated to play women's soccer at Eastern Michigan University, Trapp was rewarded for her season with selection as a third-team all-stater along with being picked to the conference, district and regional teams.

Dayna Stevens, MF, Stevenson: The four-year varsity performer earned all-KLAA, all-district and honorable mention all-state honors in 2012 after scoring 10 goals and added three assists.

Headed for Saginaw Valley State, Stevens also earned all-conference honors as a juniors and was named team MVP this season.

"Dayna was a two-year captain and a great leader on the soccer field," coach Chris Grodzicki said. "Her drive and confidence on game day made her a tough mark for opposing defenses. From the wide midfield position, Dayna was a threat with either foot every time she was within 35 yards of the goal. When she got the ball in the box, there was no better player with possession playing back-to-goal."

Rachel Blackney, MF, Churchill: The senior was a three-year varsity performer who served as captain her senior year.

She finished her career with 10 goals and 14 assists and will play next season at Schoolcraft College.

"Rachel is the fittest girl that I have ever coached," coach Dave Hebestreit said. "She spent a lot of time in the off season each year preparing herself for high school. She was the physical, spiritual, and emotional leader of this year's team, someone the players looked to for guidance and support, both on the field and off. I could always trust her to support team goals before individual goals and even when she was playing out of position and I spoke to her about it she stopped me and said, 'Hebes, I will do it for my team.' She is caring, selfless, and a tenacious competitor."

Stephanie Dillon, MF, Plymouth: As a sophomore, Dillon garnered all-state honorable mention status and she followed that up with a very impressive junior season for the Wildcats.

Dillon scored 11 goals and chipped in with nine assists while excelling in the midfield — whether supporting the back line or sparking the offense.

"Stephanie was our most consistent player this year," Neschich said. "She took charge and control of the midfield. "Her ability to create and attack as well as balance the field and defend was outstanding."

Her strong and confident play on the pitch earned her selection to the all-state third team. Other accolades included being named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-regional squads.

Madi Lewis, F, Plymouth: All it takes is one step for Lewis to be off and running into the opposing team's offensive zone.

More often than not, the junior made something happen, scoring 24 goals and adding 25 assists for a Plymouth High record.

Her offense was instrumental in the Wildcats winning the KLAA South Division, going 14-3-3 overall and 9-0-1 in the South.

To cap it all off, she won the Gatorade Player of the Year Award for Michigan girls soccer and was a first-team all-stater. She also earned selection to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-regional squads.

"Madi is a one-of-a-kind player," coach Jeff Neschich said. "Her pace of play really separates her from other players."

"Her decision making in the attacking one-third is at another level. Her work rate in the games as well as at the practice field marks her as one of the most determined players around."

Allyson Krause, F, Canton: The three-year varsity player was a catalyst for the Chiefs, scoring 25 goals and contributing 10 assists to a team that went 17-3-3.

Canton's first regional championship in a decade had a lot to do with Krause's tough-to-defend style of play.

Krause found a way to save her best for top opponents. For example, she scored a highlight-reel goal against Saline in the regional final — the only goal in Canton's 1-0 victory.

"Ally has tremendous speed, skills and can run her way through a team," coach Jeannine Reddy said. "She mentally understands the game better than anyone I have ever coached."

"She helped our team get to the final four this season with her great skills and love for the game."

The co-captain earned selection to the all-KLAA, district and region teams and was a first-team, all-state pick.

Kelly Capoccia, F, Ladywood: The first-team all-state and all-Catholic League pick ended her senior year with 24 goals and 11 assists.

Capoccia, a four-year varsity player and school's all-time leading scorer, also served as team captain.

"Kelly got herself into great shape before the season and that helped propel her into one of the top players in Division 2," Shingledecker said. "Kelly scored two of the biggest goals of the season in the second half of the Catholic League semifinals against Notre Dame Prep to lead us to a 2-1 win. Without those clutch goals, we would have never even had a chance to win the Catholic League championship. She will always be known for her leadership and high work rate. Those two traits have helped set the tone of what we want Ladywood Soccer to be known for."

Mackenzie Higgins, F, Mercy: The junior forward scored 12 goals and had four assists for the Marlins, who were 14-5-4 and won a Division 1 district championship. A three-year starter and all-state honorable mention, Higgins uses her exceptional speed to press the attack and pressure opposing defenses. She also plays for the Michigan Hawks club team.

"Mackenzie is one of the best true forwards we've had at Mercy since I've been here," coach Butch Babler said. "It didn't matter who we played — Ladywood or Marian — other teams had to account for her. In the district meeting, all I had to say was 'No. 14' — 'Oh, yeah!'"

"Mackenzie has a great scoring mentality. She's learning as she gets older when to give the ball up. She knows when to really explode and put on the speed and when to back off a little. She's going to be a real good asset for us next year. More and more, she's learning what it takes to lead a team."

Justice Dean, F, Garden City: After missing her entire junior season with a knee injury, Dean returned with a vengeance this season, registering 28 goals and 16 assists while leading the Cougars to an outstanding 17-2 campaign. A stellar two-sport athlete, Dean has earned a scholarship to play basketball at Madonna University. She earned honorable mention all-state accolades in addition to first-team all-WWAC, all-district and all-region honors.

"Justice's skill set is impressive in so many different ways," said Garden City coach Jason Dean. "She scores goals in different ways and sometimes goes under the radar. She is great with her ball facing away from the goal and possessing while having a defender on her back. She has the ability to face a defender up and penetrate by them. She wins the ball out of the air on all of our set pieces. She is composed when finishing the ball and has a tremendous ability of ignoring the pressure."

Please see ALL-AREA, B3

Glen Gators top Breakers in swim dual

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

On a laid-back summer evening, there was drama and excitement in the Farmington Glen Aquatic Club pool when the Gators met rival Beechview in a rare dual competition Monday.

The up-and-coming Gators pulled out a 291-284 victory over the three-time defending Farmington city champions in a Northwest Suburban Swim League meet.

The teams were tied at 164 during the individual events, but Glen had pulled ahead at the end, 255-248, with only the six relays remaining.

"That's where we came out, because they won three and we won three," Beechview coach Driska McCullough said of the seven-point difference. "I thought we could get the fourth relay, but we didn't and I knew we were done then."

"(The Gators) had some really good swims. I'm glad for them on their 50th (anniversary of the club)."

The teams split the 40-and-under mixed relays with eight points awarded to the winning relay and four for the runner-up.

The Gators boosted their lead to 283-268 and clinched the team victory by winning the 52-and-under girls and boys medley relays. The Breakers won both 66-and-under freestyle races to make the final tally closer.

"Going into the relays, I was pretty confident on two of our younger relays, and we just had to make sure we



ARLEEN DUARTE

Members of the Farmington Glen team were in a celebratory mood after their win over rival Beechview. Pictured (from left) are assistant coach Molly Tyler, Bella Feenstra, Abbey Rush, Brody Jamieson, Jenna Hazeltine and Charlie Jones.

won one other along the line," Glen coach Drew Hansz said.

"It was nice; it's exciting for the kids. A large percentage of our team is the younger children. We're predominantly a 12-and-under team."

It was the first time in four years the teams had met in a dual meet. Scheduling is based on team finishes at the previous year's NSSL meet, and the Breakers have consistently placed higher than the Gators, who are beginning to catch up.

"It was fun swimming a team we haven't swum in a while," Hansz said. "I used to coach there before I came over here, and I know Driska very well. She's a great coach and has been in the community forever. I'm just excited that we had a great night like this."

"These dual meets are to see what kids can do. I was never that worried about winning or losing it. As it turns out, it's nice that we won; it makes everyone happier."

McCullough said the Gators performed as expected. Their strong

showing was not a surprise to her.

"No, they've been doing really well," she said. "Drew has been working them really hard; they have a lot of new swimmers. It's been good for them."

McCullough, who coaches the Farmington High School girls and is an assistant coach for the Harrison-Farmington unified boys team, has coached many of the swimmers on both sides. That added to the rivalry and the level of competition.

"(Beechview's main rival) used to be Kendallwood, but now it's the Glen," McCullough said. "The kids had fun today. Whoever won it was going to be a great meet."

"Hopefully, we'll get the Glen at the city meet (Saturday at Kendallwood). If they take it, they take it, but we're going to give it our best."

Hansz, who also coaches the year-round Great Lakes Aquatics Akitas, has helped to build up the Glen program from 80 swimmers a couple years ago to 180.

YOUTH SWIMMING WINNERS

FARM. GLEN GATORS 291
BEECHVIEW BREAKERS 284
June 25 at Glen Aquatic
GIRLS WINNERS

Ashley Turak (B), 11-12 50 back, 42.02; Julia Borri (B), 13-14 100 IM, 1:21.32; Marina Borri (B), 15-18 50 breast, 37.51; Madeline Greaves (G), 8-U 25 back, 22.36; Emma Inch (G), 9-10 50 fly, 39.91; Analiese Schneemann (G), 11-12 50 free, 35.14; Emily Brunett (B), 13-14 50 fly, 31.34; Olivia Rath (B), 15-18 50 back, 33.51; Ella D'Errico (B), 8-U 25 free, 21.64; Julia Zink (B), 9-10 50 breast, 48.63; McKenna Greaves (G), 11-12 100 IM, 1:24.59; Julia Borri (B), 13-14 50 breast, 40.98; Miranda Doecker (B), 15-18 100 free, 1:05.76; Ella D'Errico (B), 8-U 25 fly, 29.31; Danielle Mykanen (B), 9-10 50 back, 44.15; Ashley Turak (B), 11-12 50 fly, 43.16; Madison Ruffin (B), 13-14 50 back, 35.38; Marina Borri (B), 15-18 100 IM, 1:15.89; Madeline Greaves (G), 8-U 25 breast, 22.29; Lia Munson (G), 9-10 50 free, 36.70; McKenna Greaves (G), 11-12 50 breast, 43.18; Emily Brunett (B), 13-14 50 free, 29.61; Miranda Shelly (B), 15-18 50 fly, 31.97.

BOYS WINNERS

Seth Fleming (G), 11-12 50 back, 35.99; Charlie Zink (B), 13-14 100 IM, 1:14.50; David Olson (B), 15-18 breast, 36.49; Jared Visser (G), 8-U 25 back, 23.47; Andrew Ludden (B), 9-10 50 fly, 51.14; Charlie Jones (G), 11-12 50 free, 34.08; David Ratze (B), 13-14 50 fly, 36.01; Grant Borregard (B), 15-18 50 back, 29.78; Jared Visser (G), 8-U 25 free, 19.87; Matt Lane (G), 9-10 50 breast, 50.45; Seth Fleming (G), 11-12 100 IM, 1:21.04; Charlie Zink (B), 13-14 50 breast, 38.43; Eric Gensheimer (G), 15-18 100 free, 56.79; Danny Groechel (G), 8-U 25 fly, 26.49; Trevor Jones (G), 9-10 50 back, 44.43; Tanner Neill (G), 11-12 50 fly, 39.71; Trevor Franklin (G), 13-14 50 back, 35.64; Grant Borregard (B), 15-18 100 IM, 1:04.34; Bo Hahn (G), 8-U 25 breast, 28.57; Trevor Jones (G), 9-10 50 free, 37.94; Tanner Neill (G), 11-12 50 breast, 45.76; Trevor Franklin (G), 13-14 50 free, 29.04; Eric Gensheimer (G), 15-18 50 fly, 27.27.

RELAY WINNERS

40-and-under mixed 200 freestyle, Glenn (Lia Munson, Bella Feenstra, Charlie Jones, Madeline Greaves), 2:26.02; 40-and-under mixed 200 medley, Beechview (Meghan Roshak, Kellie Flynn, Alyson Podwoiski, Michelle Ledermann), 2:34.72; 52-and-under girls 200 medley, Glenn (Sydney Balk, Bev Kowaleski, Analiese Schneemann, Jacqueline Welday), 2:22.82; 52-and-under boys 200 medley, Glen (Seth Fleming, Riley Balk, Nur Duarte, Tanner Neill), 2:22.82; 66-and-under girls 200 freestyle, Beechview (Marina Borri, Mikayla Doecker, Miranda Shelly, Olivia Rath), 2:03.26; 66-and-under boys 200 freestyle, Beechview (Peter Romero, David Olson, Grant Borregard, Tyler Roshak), 1:44.51.

"A lot of these (Glen) kids have come over and taken that jump from just summer recreational swimming, and it's a whole different animal," Hansz said.

"It's never easy but the kids who come every day — vast improvement! It becomes fun because they begin to see the results, how much faster and stronger they are moving through the water."

While the dual-meet win provided a feel-good moment for the Gators, they have to maintain a long-term outlook, according to Hansz.

"It's one step and we're getting better as we go," he said. "If you put too much emphasis on wins and losses, kids start to look at the wrong side of why this sport is so special."

"It's a journey. You can't just say, 'I won first place in the NSSL meet and I'm done; I can't get any better than this.' Kids do start thinking like that if you place too much emphasis on wins and losses, what color the ribbons are."

"If you keep kids enjoying themselves, having fun doing hard work, it will just naturally build, and this team has grown."

SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

in the 100 freestyle, which will be held Friday (prelims) and Saturday (finals) in Omaha.

Tucker shines

Miranda Tucker, 15, of the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers made a strong showing in Thursday's preliminary heat in the 100 breaststroke with a 31st place finish in 1:10.45, bettering her 106th seeding time of 1:11.75.

Tucker, from Plymouth Township, is home schooled and will be entering her 10th-grade year.

Coached by Josh and Alexandra Morgan, Tucker will appear in the U.S. Olympic Team Trials again on Friday where she is seeded 93rd in the 200 breaststroke with an entry time of 2:35.0.

Arakelian update

Livonia Stevenson High incoming junior Nick Arakelian, 16, finished 59th overall Monday in the 400 individual medley in the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Omaha.

Arakelian, a member of Kingfish Aquatic Club in Waterford, was clocked in 4:29.23, well off his 51st seeding time of 4:26.25.

He will swim again Friday in the 200 IM where he is seeded 103rd (2:06.12).

Meanwhile, sister Caroline Arakelian, 17, a recent Stevenson grad, swims Wednesday in the 200 IM where she is seeded 85th (2:18.68).

The Queens (N.C.) University signee, also a member of Kingfish and coached by Brad Brockway, has also qualified for Saturday's prelims of the 200 backstroke where she is ranked 55th overall (2:15.73).

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ALL-AREA

Continued from page B2

Shannon Melvin, F. Garden City: Melvin teamed up with Dean to give the Cougars a potent one-two punch, scoring 20 goals to go along with seven assists. Her talent caught the eye of the Marygrove College coaching staff, who offered her a scholarship to play at the next level beginning in the fall. Melvin earned honorable mention all-state honors in addition to first team all-WWAC, all district and all region accolades. "Shannon has so much opportunity when she has a ball at her feet," said Dean. "She can run past players, she has an arsenal of moves, and knows when to lay the ball back to another player when she cannot attack. Her natural left

foot gives her the opportunity to deceptively create chances when it looks like no chances could be made out of the play. Her knowledge of the game makes her even more effective in the clutch situations."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeannine Reddy, Canton: The regular season did not garner a KLAA South Division crown, but the Chiefs made up for that with a long, successful postseason run to cap off the year for Reddy.

Canton finished with a 17-3-3 record, capturing the D1 district with a 3-2 upset win over No. 1-ranked Northville thanks to a free-kick goal by sophomore Gabby Epelman.

The Chiefs went on to win their first regional title in a decade before falling 2-1 to Troy in a hard-fought semifinal. Reddy, in her second

year with Canton's varsity after a stint coaching the JV, helped calm the waters whenever the players were nervous to start contests.

Her steady demeanor on the sidelines helped steer the team toward success more often than not.

"We had some great wins and the most memorable and exciting was beating Northville and Plymouth in districts," Reddy said. "I knew we had a great team but I don't know if they realized how much potential they had and how good they were."

"We proved to everyone that we were one of the best in the state this season. Making the state semis is a huge accomplishment and the team should be very proud of themselves. I look forward to the 2013 season and what it has ahead for us."

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WADE

Continued from page B1

than where I thought I would be at this time. My coach (Cliff Rovelto) and I are very excited to see everything come together and to see what I do this weekend."

Wade was not so optimistic about her prospects a year ago. She had some so-so results by her standards in 2011, and she even considered giving up on her Olympic dream.

"A lot of the times and scores I put up were significantly less than anything I've done," Wade said. "After the season ended, I didn't know if I wanted to do this 2012 season."

"My family was so incredibly supportive. They helped me realize everything is a process and some times you're going to be down. You have to keep pushing and believe in yourself. God has a bigger plan for me, so I had to push through it and see what can happen."

"I don't think I would've worked as hard as I have if last season hadn't happened. Hopefully, everything is going to fall into place this week."

Serious training

Wade rededicated herself to the sport and her goal, and the results have raised her stock among the experts in track and field. One website lists her as one of the favorites to make the U.S. team.

"I do not look at rankings," Wade said. "I don't look at what people are saying at all. I'm confident in my training and

confident in myself. At the end of Saturday night, I hope to be in the top three and make the team."

Wade has been training at Kansas State University in Rovelto's post-NCAA program. She had been a full-time assistant with the KSU women's team, but she decided she couldn't do that and train for the Olympics, too.

"My main focus needed to be on full-time training," Wade said. "Last year was very, very busy, trying to balance a 40-hour job while trying to train at an elite level. Some people can do it; I learned I cannot."

"I've been able to focus on my training this year, not just go through the motions. I'm doing all the right things with my body and mind to have great performances and, hopefully, great competitions."

Getting better

Wade still owns the Farmington High record in the high jump, and the long jump is one of her best events, too. She has made advances on the track and with the shot put.

"My speed has increased significantly this year, and that has helped with the (100-meter) hurdles," Wade said. "I think the hurdles will be one of my strong events this week."

"My speed is probably the biggest (improvement). The shot put is coming around. In the last month, I've had the best shot put practices of my life, so I'm eager to see what's going to happen."

Wade credits a don't-hold-back attitude for her recent gains.

"The reason I think I'm improving so much is I don't try to be cautious any more," she said. "When I get out of the blocks, I'm either going to go down or run the race of my life. But it's not going to be anything in between. I haven't gone down yet, so I keep on doing it."

Wade's personal records in the seven events that comprise the heptathlon are 13.41 seconds in the hurdles, 24.42, 200 dash; 46 feet, shot put; 6-0.75, high jump; 20-11, long jump; 40-44 meters, javelin; 2:16.87, 800 run.

"The 800 is the event I have to break through a mental barrier the most," she said. "I'm not used to continuing to run when I hurt, so my coach says to just gut it out."

Ultimate goal

In other meets this year, Wade won the high jump at the Nebraska Invitational and the 60-meter hurdles at the Iowa State Cyclone Classic and the Manhattan KSU Open. She also was third in the USA Indoor Combined Championships.

The crowning achievement for Wade, who holds a degree in financial mathematics from U-M, would be an Olympic berth on the U.S. team.

"Ever since I resumed training last October, I made sure every day leading up to the Trials I accomplished something and gave it my all," Wade said. "I've done that and I feel prepared, and I'm excited to see what's going to happen."

"I'm just hoping to have the meet of my life that will put me in the top three."

Wilson leads Whaler NHL draft trio

Plymouth Whalers right wing Tom Wilson was selected by the Washington Capitals in the first round (16th overall) of the 2012 National Hockey League Entry Draft held Friday in Pittsburgh.

On Saturday, the Colorado Avalanche selected Whalers center Mitchell Heard in the second round (41st overall), while right wing Cody Payne went to the Boston Bruins in the fifth round (145th overall).

Wilson, 18, was ranked 15th overall among North American skaters by NHL Central Scouting.

He collected 27 points (nine goals, 18 assists) and 141 penalty minutes in 49 games with Plymouth of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and added 13 points (seven goals, six assists) in 13 OHL playoff games.

The Toronto native was voted as the "Best Body Checker" in the OHL's 2012 Western Conference Coaches Poll and was a runner-up for the "Hardest Worker" category.

The 6-foot-4, 203-pound forward won a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2011 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament, posting three goals in five games. He also captured gold with Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, recording one assist and six penalty minutes in four games.

Heard was Colorado's first pick of the 2012 draft and taken 41st overall in the second round. The 20-year-old averaged a point-per-game during the 2011-12 OHL season, collecting 57 (29 goals, 28 assists) with 111 penalty minutes in 57 games for the Whalers.

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound center finished third on the team in goals, was sixth in points and ranked second in PIM.

Heard, who was a teammate of 2011 Avalanche draft pick Garrett Meurs, also finished second on Plymouth in power-play

goals with 10.

The Bowmanville, Ontario native added 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in 13 playoff games.

Payne, a 6-2, 201-pound forward from Weston, Fla., recorded two goals in 10 games with the Oshawa Generals of the OHL in 2011-12 before being traded to the Whalers.

With Plymouth, he tallied three goals and 11 assists in 50 games, and skated in nine OHL playoff games, recording an assist.

The 18-year-old played a full season with the Oshawa Generals in 2010-11, where he tallied 13 points and a career-high of plus-7. He scored one goal in the 2011 OHL Playoffs against the Kingston Frontenacs.

In the 2009-10 season, Payne played for the Mississauga Reps in the Greater Toronto Hockey League, where he netted 39 goals and tallied 26 assists.

Winter Festival awaits prep icers at Comerica

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Yes, the Red Wings and Maple Leafs will be playing at the Big House next New Year's Day.

But for the Canton and Plymouth varsity boys hockey teams, nothing will be bigger than participating in one of four outdoor prep contests in mid-December at Comerica Park in Detroit.

Coaches for both teams were thrilled about getting in on the highly anticipated Winter Festival — which will also feature a game including the Plymouth Whalers of the OHL.

Final details are still to be firming up, but the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and KLAA South Division puck rivals will square off against each other either Dec. 18 or 19.

"It will be an amazing experience for all the players and coaches involved, and the fact that it is a rivalry game only adds to the excitement," Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento noted. "Both schools are

thrilled to have the opportunity, and we are working together to make it an event that will be remembered for years to come."

Concurring was Chiefs head coach Jeremy Majszak.

Had to try

"As soon as we heard about this event we knew Canton had to get involved and what a better opponent than our rink-sharing neighbor Plymouth," Majszak said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Majszak said more than 100 teams applied to make the cut for the four games.

That two relatively fledgling programs (13 years or less) will get to take the Comerica ice is something both coaches vow they won't take lightly.

They said it's going to be a big deal for the teams — undoubtedly making it more attractive for players to tryout for the teams this fall — and hope the community feels the same way.

"We're very excited about this and are work-

ing very hard to make this a community event," Majszak said. "We are hoping this really helps out high school hockey in the area (by) putting it on a such a grand stage."

"We're now in our 13th season and these programs have come a long way — being ranked top 10 in the state, winning division and conference titles."

Vento said each school will receive 500 tickets as part of the entry fee. "We are asking if we can get more, if not, they will be for sale at Comerica on the day of the game."

He urged community members, students from both high schools and alumni to "be a part of what should be a memorable event."

Added Majszak, "What's more fun than tailgating outside of Comerica grilling and preparing for a great high school hockey rivalry?"

Final details of the Canton-Plymouth event will be announced to the public as soon as available.

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BARBER

Continued from page B1

at Bowling Green and was also selected in the sixth round (120th overall) of the 1983 Draft by the Edmonton Oilers.

Don Barber played a total of 115 NHL games and parts of six seasons with four different teams including the Minnesota North Stars, Winnipeg Jets, Quebec Nordiques and San Jose Sharks (scoring 25 goals and adding 32 assists).

Riley got his start locally playing for Little Caesars while living with Tomei family in Livonia as a seventh-grader.

The next three seasons he played in the Compuware youth program where he showed great promise.

"I basically moved up here for better hockey," said Riley, who attended both Holmes Middle School and Stevenson High. "My whole family, my mom, my dad and two brothers, moved up here ninth grade and now we call it home."

During his junior year of high school, Riley was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 USHL Future's Draft and played for the Dubuque (Iowa) Fighting Saints in 2010-11, helping lead them to the Clark Cup title for winning the

USHL Playoffs, as he scored a pair of goals in 11 games.

In his lone season with Dubuque, Barber played in 57 regular-season games, totaling 28 points on 14 goals and assists each. He also represented Team USA in international play as well.

Barber then earned a roster spot with the prestigious U-18 National Development team in Ann Arbor, which also spawned Livonia native and NHL All-Star Ryan Kelser (now with the Vancouver Canucks).

Barber recorded 35 points (20 goals, 15 assists) in 56 games while earning a gold medal this past April in the U-18 World Junior Championships in the Czech Republic after compiling one goal and two assists in six games (capped by a 7-0 victory over Sweden in the finals).

"I've been fortunate to be on the last two years on two winning teams," said Barber, who recently graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. "I've been real lucky the past two years, but this year was fun. I got to play with kids my own age instead of some who were older guys. We were all the same age. It was pretty cool, especially winning the World Championship. They put a lot of pressure on us to

win it. We've won it four years in a row and it was a pretty big milestone. We played an unbelievable tournament. We gave up less than one goal a game the whole tournament. We were pretty good defensively. It was a blast."

Known for his speed, Barber's skills can translate on about any level.

"Last year, my role (in Dubuque) was to get ice time because I was the youngest kid on the team, and one of the youngest in the league being a rookie," he said. "Last year, it was more just trying to do whatever to get on the ice. This year I took over more of a scoring role, more power play and a scoring role, you could say."

With two Miami of Ohio recruits opting to go to the Ontario Hockey League and forfeiting their college eligibility, Barber should get plenty of opportunities to thrive with the RedHawks, one of the nation's top NCAA programs.

And eventually he may get the chance to line up against his favorite player in Crosby.

"What you do after the Draft is really what matters now," he said. "I'm not really worried about where I went. The next step is huge."

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Youngsters involved in Summer Jam, the Vacation Bible School at Livonia Church of Christ, show off the Compassion International booth.

Summer Bible school students help others

Chickens or mosquito nets?

Seeds, soccer balls or drought supplies?

Youngsters involved in Livonia Church of Christ's annual Vacation Bible School got a chance to decide last week where their church will donate funds for mission projects.

"In years past, we have had a program where kids could earn tickets

and redeem at our 'store' for fun prizes during VBS," Dave Blanchard, youth minister, wrote in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "This year, we wanted to do something that would benefit others."

Children who attended the "Summer Jam" Vacation Bible School last week placed their tickets into their choice of five cans, each representing a specific fundraising ini-

tative from Compassion International.

The church plans to donate to those initiatives based on the amount of tickets each canister received. Mosquito nets, for example, each cost \$10. Chickens cost \$16 and soccer balls are \$16.

"Each of these things is donated, by way of Compassion, to kids in impoverished countries. Part of our Summer Jam pro-

gram includes education about children in impoverished areas, as a means of helping our kids develop a better understanding of their place in, and responsibility to the world around us," Blanchard wrote.

"The kids seem to love this program."

He said youngsters didn't miss the "goodie" store and were excited to help others.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

June

DANCE

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, June 30

Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, east of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Presented by Bethany singles group; admission \$13

Contact: Loretta from Bethany East at (586) 264-0282

DEDICATION

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, July 1

Location: St. Genevieve-St. Maurice parish, 29015 Jamison, east of Middlebelt, south of Five Mile, in Livonia

Details: Archdiocese of Detroit Bishop Francis Reiss will dedicate the new parish of St. Genevieve-St. Maurice at the first Mass of the combined parishes

Contact: (734) 427-5220

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, June 28

Location: Our Lady of Victory Parish, 133 Orchard Drive, Northville

Details: The "Grieving with Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include the Rev. Denis B. Theroux, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www.goodmourningministry.net or call

the parish office.

Contact: The church at (248) 349-2621, www.olvnorthville.org

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, June 28-30

Location: In the thrift store at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: All items, except those marked firm, priced over \$1 are 50 percent off the price marked; bake sale

Contact: (313) 534-7730

SUMMER RETREAT

Time/Date: 8:30-11 a.m. June 27, July 11 and Aug. 1

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia

Details: The retreat is aimed at moms and will begin with Mass at each session, followed by a continental breakfast and a program. The theme for the series this year is "Whole and Holy: The total Catholic Woman." Participants may sign up for 1, 2 or all 3 classes to fit busy schedules. A children's ministry is available at \$2 per child per meeting. The first session will highlight the mind and will use the teachings of Pope John Paul II to illustrate the connection between faith and reason. The second session will focus on body and will include a spa morning. The last session will discuss spirit, looking to St. Teresa of Avila and St. Francis de Sales for ways to integrate women's daily lives with a heart for holiness. The series is open to all and registration is required

Contact: (734) 261-1455 Ext. 207 or www.livoniastmichael.org

July

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 19

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church & School, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Details: Spoke Folk Christian music concert; free will donation

Contact: (734) 728-3315

FREE LUNCH

Time/Date: Noon-2 p.m., July 14

Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Road, (northbound Southfield service drive), north of Eight Mile, in Southfield

Details: This is a free luncheon and all are welcome

Contact: (248) 569-2972

MOVIE NIGHT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

Location: Bixman Hall at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "The Way" will be screened. A brief discussion will follow the film. Admission is free and refreshments will be served

Coming up: See "Monsignor Quixote" at Summer Movie Night, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 at the church

Contact: RSVP at (734) 425-5950

THEOLOGY DISCUSSION

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 11

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills

Details: "Wine, Cheese and Theology" brings folks together for conversation over light refreshments. It is led by First Presbyterian's Transitional Associate pastor, the Rev. Jim Faile. Discussion topic is forgiveness

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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CRAIG, JERRY N.

Of Waterford, MI, June 21, 2012, age 49. Simple Funerals 248-227-1954
SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

DEKROUB, JOSEPH CASSEM

Passed away June 17th surrounded by his large, loving family. Born June 25th 1918 in Highland Park, Michigan, Joe graduated from Plymouth high school in 1936 and received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Texas Chiropractic College in 1938. He served in the United States Air Force during WWII, as a pilot trainer. After the war he worked for Ford Motor Company until 1976 when he retired and resumed his chiropractic practice. A generous and devoted family man, Joe was also a terrific dancer, an enthusiastic golfer and an avid hunter and fisherman. Preceded in death by his parents Cassem Solomon DeKroub and Agnes Mandry DeKroub, sister Dorothy Sala, and first wife, Francis Dunn, he is survived by his wife Sheila DeKroub, daughters Paula Marie (Smith), Michele Ann (Monson), Linda June (Darwish), Lori Ann (Karides), and son Joseph Cassem DeKroub, Jr., as well as nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Donations to Henry Ford Hospice would be gratefully accepted. Services will be private.

MARTIN, Bernard T.

Of Macomb, MI, June 19, 2012, age 81. Arrangements by Simple Funerals 586-777-0555
SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

May
you find
comfort
in Family
and
Friends



DiDOMENICO, PATRICIA "PATSY"

Age 81, June 24, 2012. Loving wife of Chick DiDomenico. Beloved mother of Mary Medley, Joseph (Lisa) DiDomenico, Geraldann "Keke" (Phil) Lester and Robert "Sundance" (Jennifer) DiDomenico. Dear grandmother of Lauren, Joey, Joshua, Alyssa, Jon, Zachary, Solair and Morla. Sister of Dayton Kennedy. Services were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home and burial was at Parkview Memorial. Memorials may be made to the American Kidney Foundation or to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

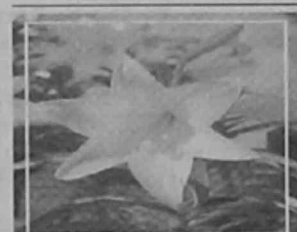


WEBSTER, GERALD W.

Passed away Friday June 22nd in Novi, Michigan at the age of 92. Beloved husband of the late Ethel for 61 years. Dear father of Linda (Tim) Smith & Brian (Cathy) Webster. Loving grandfather of Ryan, Christopher, Michael, Kyle, Blake, Hailey, Rachel & Sarah and greatgrandfather of Willa. Longtime Redford Resident, President of Redford Union High School class of 1938 and a WWII Army Veteran. Visitation Sunday, July 1st 1:00 pm until Funeral Service at 4:00 pm. Interment Monday, July 2nd at Oakland Hills Cemetery.

WESTBERG, Charles R.

Of Rochester, MI, 2012; Age 80. Arrangements by Simple Funerals, 248-227-1954
SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com



WILLIAMS, SHIRLEY M.

Age 82, June 26, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Carl. Dear mother of Michael (Gail) and Deborah (Thomas) Dubois. Grandmother of Robert (Andrea), Aimee (Thomas) Lawrence, Lauren and Anne Dubois. Great grandmother of Colin & Guy. Visitation Thursday 2-8pm. Funeral service Friday 11:30am at the John N. Santeju & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to Civitan of Plymouth, Farmington Community Library or Odyssey Hospice. www.santejufuneralhome.com

In memory of



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Nan Washburn directs the Michigan Philharmonic.

Michigan Philharmonic salutes America

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will return to Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth this Saturday — and this time musicians hope to finish what they start.

The symphony's Kellogg Park debut was cut short last year because of lightning and the thunderstorm that followed.

"We got through only four songs before police came through," said Beth Stewart, Philharmonic executive director, in an interview earlier this month. "The park was packed. It was shoulder to shoulder. We're hoping for that kind of crowd again."

Tony Bruscato, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) operations director, hopes Mother Nature cooperates for the concert. "An American Salute" will include patriotic music and will start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 30.

"This is something Beth and I talked about last year and said wouldn't that be a great concert to have," Bruscato said. "It's not

unlike the experience people have when they go to Greenfield Village. You can hear one of the best orchestras around and listen to great music for the holiday."

Bruscato said visitors may bring blankets, chairs and picnic coolers.

"The nice thing about the park is even when it's full it's not like being on top of each other," he said. "It's a fun place to be. A lot of places have a downtown. Very few have a Kellogg Park in the middle."

The Michigan Philharmonic concert is free and sponsored in part by the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers in partnership with the Plymouth DDA, The Wilcox Foundation, Grand Traverse Pie Company and Atsalis Dental Excellence.

Scoop the Newshound will make an appearance on behalf of Grand Traverse Pie Company and the Observer & Eccentric. He'll give coupons to guests for pizza, movie tickets and discounted pie slices.

For more information about the Michigan Philharmonic and its upcoming concerts, visit www.michiganphil.org.

Canton summer jazz series returns along Ford Road

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Penny Wells will kick off eight weeks of jazz along Ford Road in Canton next week.

The singer-songwriter and Detroit native is a crowd favorite at the Canton Color Tour Jazz Series, the summer music program that turns retail parking lots into performance spaces every July and August.

The series' seventh season will start Friday, July 6, at Kohl's in the New Towne Plaza, located in the "purple block," at Ford and Sheldon, and then move to other retail locations that are identified by different "color blocks" along Ford Road the following weeks. All concerts are free and run from 7-9 p.m.

"It's a great way to end the work week and transition into the weekend," said Kathleen Salla, Downtown Development Authority director. "It's our little niche. No one else in our immediate vicinity does jazz. People who love jazz follow our concerts."

"It's relaxing. I think the people who come enjoy it. We have people who get up and dance. That makes it fun."

Salla said the concert series began after participants at a discussion on promoting the arts in Canton suggested using parking lots along Ford Road as performance venues. The DDA, Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Leisure Services initially worked with a radio station to produce the events. Three years ago the organizations took on the task together.

Salla said the concerts help acquaint audience members with the businesses along Ford Road, and familiarizes them with the retail area's color-coding system.

She estimates the summer series draws between 500-1,000 jazz lovers weekly.

"Because we have big parking lots, people come early in their SUVs and tailgate at the concerts," Salla added.

Concert-goers can bring their own food or buy from area merchants. Several local eateries offer carry out specials each week and Jimmy Johns will deliver directly to a patron's concert seat.

"We encourage people to bring chairs," Salla said. "We do have about 50 chairs set up ahead of time."

In addition to Wells, these other per-



Penny Wells performs 7 p.m. Friday, July 6 at the Canton Color Tour Jazz Series.

formers will jazz up Ford Road this summer:

July 13 — Nate Harasim, Sam's Club in the orange block, Ford and Lotz. Harasim, a keyboard artist, will make his first appearance at Canton Color Tour Jazz Series.

July 20 — Flutist Alexander Zonjic, Centre Village at Kroger, in the yellow block, Ford and Canton Center.

July 27 — Demetrius "Krayon" Nabors, Lowe's in the green block, Ford between Sheldon and Morton Taylor. The jazz keyboard artist will make his first appearance at the Canton series.

Aug. 3 — Jazz guitarist John E. Lawrence, Willow Creek Shopping Center, in the blue block, Ford between Lilley and Haggerty.

Aug. 10 — Kimmie Horne, Super Bowl in the purple block, Ford between Canton Center and Sheldon. Horne is a regular at the Canton Color Tour Jazz Series.

Aug. 17 — Randy Scott, professional musician, record producer and composer, will be at IKEA located in the blue block, Ford and Haggerty.

Aug. 24 — Lin Rountree, known for his performance of "soul jazz," will make his first appearance at the series. He'll be at Home Depot, located in the orange block, Ford and Lotz.

For more information, visit shopcanton.org.

Concerts are held indoors at the Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road during rain.



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Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Patti Smith: Camera Solo, shows performer Patti Smith's photographs, through Sept. 2; Five Spanish Masterpieces features works by Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Dali, through Aug. 19; Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, July 11-Jan. 6, 2013

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through July

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Behind the Lens 6" includes more than 100 photos taken by Pioneer Middle School 8th graders during a trip to New York City

Contact: (734) 416-4267

Comedy

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 4

Location: The Power Center, E. Huron at Fletcher in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: Song parodies and sketches by political satirists, The Capitol Steps. Tickets are \$30-\$50

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or A2SF.org

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Mike Merryfield, through June 30; Matt McLowery, July 5-7; Nate Fridson, July 11-14; Mike Dambra, July 18-21; Dwayne Gill, July 25-28

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Bobby Tesel, June 28-30; Michael McDaniel, July 5-7; Kevin McCaffrey, July 12-14; Mike Baldwin, July 19-21; Andy Woodhull, July 26-28; Shen Wang, Aug. 2-4; James Ervin Berry, Aug. 9-11

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, June 24

Location: Power Center, E. Huron at Fletcher in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: Pilobolus performs styles ranging from playful to intense to gravity-defying. Tickets \$30-\$50; kids, \$10

Coming up: Circa performs a fusion of acrobatics, aerial stunts, tumbling and contemporary dance, 8 p.m. July 6-7 at the Power Center; tickets \$25-\$45 for adults, \$10 for children

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or



Music in Motown

Vocalist Jill Jack is among the entertainers, including jazz ensemble Straight Ahead, who will perform Saturday, June 30, at In Seventh Heaven — Magic and Music in Motown at the Roostertail in Detroit. The fundraiser benefits For The Seventh Generation, a Wayne County organization that matches foster children with donations of goods and services. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will include a raffle featuring sheet music and other items signed by Motown legend Abdul "Duke" Fakir of the Four Tops. Kelly Ramsey Photography, Kid Rock and Park West Galleries also donated items. Tickets are \$100 and available at www.fortheseventhgeneration.org.

A2SF.org

FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Lyskawa V.F.W. Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights

Details: Singles and couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments

Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Thursday, July 5

Location: Michigan Theater, located on E. Liberty, just west of S. State, in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: "Cinematic Titanic" features the original cast and creators of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" riffing on some of the cheesiest movies ever made; \$25 general admission

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or A2SF.org

COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Gates open at 7:30 and movies start at dusk; open nightly through Sept. 2

Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth

Details: Listen to the film

through a battery-operated FM radio or your car radio. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under. Students with ID pay \$7 Sunday-Thursday

Contact: (734) 453-8300

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, June 29-30 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 1

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "The Three Stooges," \$3

Coming up: "The Lucky One," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 6-7 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 8; "Bernie," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 13-14 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 15

Summer Cinema: All

and 7 p.m. "The Incredible Shrinking Woman," Thursday, June 28; "Harry & The Hendersons," Thursday, July 5; "Shrek," Thursday, July 12; "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," Thursday, July 19; "The Rookie," Thursday, July 26; "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Thursday, Aug. 2; "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. June 29 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. June 30

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "Casablanca," tickets \$4

Coming up: "The Wizard of Oz," 8 p.m. July 13 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. July 14, \$4; "Cool Hand Luke," 8 p.m. July 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. July 21, \$4; Abbott & Costello double feature, "Buck Privates," and "Abbott & Costello meet the Killer," 8 p.m. Aug. 10 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 11, \$5; "North by Northwest," 8 p.m. Aug. 24 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 25

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free.

Exhibits: "Moving to His Own Beat - Fela: The Man, the Movement, the Music," celebrates the life and music of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, through June 17; "The Chris Webber Collection: Exceptional People During Extraordinary Times, 1755-Present," includes rare artifacts collected by Detroit native Chris Webber, through September; "Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney," through Sept. 9

Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; new exhibit opens June 28 and runs through Nov. 7

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies" is the new exhibit, featuring 14 reproduction inaugural gowns. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows



Michael on Fire performs Saturday, June 30 at Trinity House Theater in Livonia.

start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, June 29; Michael on Fire, June 30; The 77's Unplugged, July 7; Malcolm Holcombe, July 13; Zak Morgan and Duke Otherwise Family Show, July 14; Kelsey Rottiers and the Rising Tide, July 20; Dave Carter Tribute featuring Potter's Field, Aug. 3; Beth Wood, Aug. 17. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: (734) 464-6302

THE ARK

Time/Date: The BoDeans & Michael McDermott, June 28; The Pines, June 29; The RFD Boys & Friends, June 30; Becca Stevens, July 1; Victor Wooten, July 2; Bill Frisell explores the music of John Lennon, July 3; Gandalf Murphy & the Slambobian Circus of Dreams, July 5; Detour, July 6; Janiva Magness, July 7; Diana Lawrence & Phoebe Hunt, July 8; Adrian Legg, July 9; Johnny Clegg, July 10; James Vincent McMorrow, July 11; Edwin McCain, July 12; Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds, July 13; The Good Lovelies, July 14; Corey Harris & The Rasta Blues Experience, July 15

Location: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

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- Judith Reedy
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- Michael Simpson
Milford
- Nancy Stempien
Livonia
- Richard Booms
Northville
- Roger Vaughn, Jr.
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Sizzling, Sparkling 4th

On July 4th, the perfect party calls for friends, food, fireworks and plenty of red, white and blue.

"It's an easy party to pull off," says Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton. "Our celebration experts have created a patriotic-themed spread of sweet and savory treats to provide star-spangled fun for everyone."

Start the festivities off with a bang using festive tableware and decorations like 4th of July party pics — a simple way to add spark to any celebration. Play up the Independence Day theme throughout — from beverage to dessert.

"Serve an easy-to-eat meal dressed up with holiday colors," says Siler. "All Star Sliders on Cornbread Buns are a delicious spin on the classic burger. The cornbread buns are baked using the Wilton Star Whoopie Pie Pan to add a festive twist to the traditional bun. Patriot's Peanut Butter Popcorn — a yummy mix of popcorn, peanut butter and colored candies — is an ideal salty-sweet treat. Packed in star-studded gift bags, this easy-to-make goodie is a party favorite and a perfect take-home for guests."

Cool down when the temperature rises with refreshing, fruity Red and Blue Raspberry Lemonade. Have a blast decking out the glasses with stripes, stars and swirls using edible blue Sparkle Gel.

What's more fun than the fireworks finale? Dessert! Guests will ooh and aah over Banana Split Surprise Cake — a decadent dessert with a surprise strawberry ice cream center. It's a new take on cake and ice cream, great for serving a crowd.

Visit www.wilton.com for more celebration ideas.

All Star Sliders on Cornbread Buns

Makes 12 buns and 12 sliders

Cornbread Buns
¼ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup yellow cornmeal
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
¼ cup sour cream
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 eggs, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray Star Whoopie Pie Pan with vegetable cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, salt and pepper. Add sour cream, oil and eggs, stirring just until smooth. Fill cavities ¾ full, spreading batter to edges of star.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until center of bun springs back when touched. Cool in pan 5 minutes; remove to cooling grid. Repeat with remaining batter.

Sliders
¼ pound ground chuck
1 egg, lightly beaten
½ small yellow onion, minced (about ½ cup)
½ cup shredded pepper-jack cheese
1 teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon chili powder
5 to 6 dashes hot sauce, or to taste

Preheat grill or broiler to medium high heat. In large bowl, combine all ingredients until well incorporated. Form into twelve 2-½-inch patties. Cook 2 to 3 minutes per side.

Serve with star buns and your favorite condiments.

Patriot's Peanut Butter Popcorn

Makes about 8 cups

1 bag (3.2 ounces) butter flavored microwave popcorn
½ cup peanut butter
¼ cup firmly-packed brown sugar
1 bottle (3 ounces) Patriotic Nonpareils or other patriotic sprinkles

1 package (12 ounces) Red Candy Melts Candy

Make popcorn according to package directions. In large bowl, microwave peanut butter and brown sugar for 1 minute; stir to combine. Add popcorn and stir until well coated. Sprinkle liberally with non-



Patriot's Peanut Butter Popcorn (left), All Star Sliders on Cornbread Buns, Red and Blue Raspberry Lemonade.

pareils, stirring to distribute. Spread onto parchment-lined sheet pan.

Melt Candy Melts Candy according to package directions. Drizzle over popcorn. Let set at least 10 minutes before serving.

Red and Blue Raspberry Lemonade

Makes about 8 servings

1 ½ cups (about 6 ounces) fresh raspberries, divided
1 can (12 ounces) frozen lemonade concentrate
Water
Blue Sparkle Gel

Place one raspberry in each cavity of the Star Ice Cube Silicone Mold. Cover with water; freeze several hours to set.

Reserve remaining raspberries.

In large pitcher, mix lemonade according to package instructions. In food processor or blender, pulse remaining raspberries until smooth; strain through sieve to remove seeds. Stir raspberry puree into lemonade. Serve with raspberry ice cubes in glasses decorated with Blue Sparkle Gel.



Banana Split Surprise Cake

Banana Split Surprise Cake

Makes 8 to 10 servings

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
4 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 ripe bananas, mashed (about 1 ¼ cups)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup (about 8 ounces) hot fudge sauce
1 pint (about 2 cups) strawberry ice cream, softened
1 box (10 ounces) Vanilla Whipped Icing Mix
Fresh strawberries, halved
Star Pics

Preheat oven 350°F. Spray Fancy Fill pans from set with vegetable cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; set aside. In large bowl, beat butter

and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs, vanilla and mashed banana; mix well. Add flour mixture alternately with sour cream; blend thoroughly but do not overmix. Pour into prepared pans.

Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan on rack; remove from pan and cool completely.

Divide fudge sauce and spread evenly into cavities of cake; freeze 10 minutes. At same time, remove strawberry ice cream to soften. Fill cake cavities with ice cream. Assemble cake by inverting top layer onto bottom layer.

Prepare icing mix according to package directions. Ice top and sides of cake; freeze at least 2 hours or until ready to serve. Garnish with strawberries and star pics.

Courtesy of Family Features

Local building initiative puts Michiganders back to work

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) announced that on Tuesday, June 5, in New Hudson, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first home being constructed for the Made in America/Built in Michigan initiative. The home is being built by Rick Elkow of Elkow Homes, a building company based in Wixom, and member of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA).

Several other BIA members are also involved in the program, including Todd Hallett, AIA, of TK Design & Architecture in Howell, who designed the home and DTE Energy's Builder-Developer Liaison, Robert Veresan, AIA, who is working toward making the home net-zero in terms of energy consumption and emissions. The group was joined by Lyon Township officials, including Supervisor Lannie Young and Treasurer Patty Carcone, along with other guests from within the residential construction industry. Community residents, from the Twin Pines neighborhood where this home will be built, also joined the festivities.

Michael Stoskopf, BIA's CEO, and one of three originators of the program, remarked, "This groundbreaking marks a 'Back to the Future' moment as Rick and his team help bring new home construction back to its roots as a local and state-focused endeavor. By committing to use American-made materials and supplies — with a particular emphasis on Michigan-made products — means that jobs will be created and sustained here, thus strengthening our economy."

Supervisor Young echoed these sentiments, adding, "This is a terrific day for BIA, Elkow Homes and Lyon Township!"

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Building Indus-



Cutting the ribbon to launch the Made in America/Built in Michigan initiative in Howell are, Michael Stoskopf (left), CEO of BIA; Rick Elkow, Elkow Homes; Todd Hallett, AIA, TK Design & Architecture; Patricia Carcone, Lyon Township treasurer; and Lannie Young, Lyon Township supervisor.

Supervisor Young echoed these sentiments, adding, 'This is a terrific day for BIA, Elkow Homes and Lyon Township!'

try Association of SE Michigan (BIA) and Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM) are trade associations representing nearly 600 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. BIA is affiliated with the Michigan Association of Home Builders in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.



Builder Rick Elkow officially breaks ground to begin construction for the first home in the Made in America/Built in Michigan initiative in Howell.

Equal standard usually avoids litigation

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I have a situation where we had valet parking services for some of our residents, but then we decided to cut out the service. One of our residents, who is an African American over the age of 40, is threatening to sue the association alleging that the new parking system violates the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against him on the basis of race and age. What do you think we should do?

A: It is unlawful to discriminate against any buyer or renter because of race, age or disability as it violates the Federal Fair Housing Act, among other statutes. It is also unlawful to refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services

when such accommodation

is necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to enjoy a dwelling.

When, however, the parking or other regulations

apply equally to all residents, the decision to rescind valet parking services affects African American residents exactly the same way in which it affects Caucasian residents, it is proper, and a federal court recently made such a ruling. Nor would depriving residents of valet parking lead to segregated housing or place a burden on African Americans seeking fair housing. However, some sort of accommodation may have to be made if the person is disabled, but you should check with your community association attorney with respect to that matter.

Q: Does the board have a right to reject the resignation of a board member?

A: I do not think that for the resignation to be effective it is dependent upon the board accepting it unless there is such a provision in the bylaws. Once the director resigns, it is effective at the time of the resignation, if it is done in accordance with the requirements of the association bylaws to the extent that there is any procedure for same. Of course this depends on the specific state statute and governing documents. For example, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition requires acceptance of someone asking to be excused from a duty or position. In fact, there is language that the duties of the office must not be abandoned until the resignation has been accepted and becomes effective. However, most new nonprofit statutes provide that a resignation is effective upon communication to the board president or other officers. It is the communication of resignation that fulfills the requirement. Again, you should discuss this matter with your legal counsel.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com.

This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 20-23, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
50153 Grant St \$266,000
50185 Grant St \$246,000
48299 Greenwich Ln \$222,000
44280 Harsdale Dr \$150,000
47934 Pavillon Rd \$327,000
47611 Royal Pointe Dr \$285,000
42350 Saratoga Cir \$128,000
4527 Shoreview Dr \$202,000
4218 Timberline Dr \$205,000
8303 Trafford Ct \$85,000

47121 Yarmouth Dr \$315,000
GARDEN CITY
33269 Alvin St \$86,000
784 Arcola St \$34,000
6555 Henry Ruff Rd \$75,000
29851 John Hawk St \$20,000
29009 Krauter St \$35,000
32660 Marquette St \$70,000
31783 Rosslyn Ave \$21,000
29655 Winter Ct \$34,000
LIVONIA
15537 Deering St \$55,000
18261 Deering St \$33,000
37956 Donald St \$135,000
16725 Fairfield St \$220,000
11722 Farmington Rd \$75,000
15114 Golfview Dr \$175,000
14055 Golfview St \$142,000
29814 Grandon St \$44,000
8993 Melvin St \$98,000

33412 Myrna St \$115,000
8862 Oporto St \$84,000
33796 Trillium Ct \$211,000
NORTHVILLE
390 First St \$94,000
16967 Abby Cir \$350,000
438 Eaton Dr \$190,000
47609 Pine Creek Ct \$165,000
41633 Sunnydale Ln \$230,000
39516 Village Run Dr \$225,000
47010 W Main St \$650,000
PLYMOUTH
46964 Burning Tree Ln \$224,000
1654 Cassidy Place Dr \$128,000
46718 Darwood Ct \$415,000
821 Deer Ct \$100,000
940 Fairground St \$170,000
9059 Quail Run Dr N \$366,000
14295 Shadywood Dr \$132,000
45620 Trillium Ct E \$262,000

REDFORD
19424 Dalby \$40,000
9911 Farley \$36,000
18530 Fox \$21,000
17244 Inkster Rd \$17,000
24307 Lyndon \$41,000
14393 Mercedes \$40,000
17745 Norborne \$27,000
WESTLAND
753 Ethan Dr \$156,000
32081 Hazelwood St \$29,000
420 Lansdowne Dr \$146,000
32639 Mackenzie Dr \$79,000
29854 Malvern St \$66,000
38595 Monmouth St \$76,000
7430 N Farmington Rd \$131,000
7809 Rivergate Dr \$55,000
32132 Sandra Ln \$87,000
1138 Sharon St \$35,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 5-9, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS
15753 Buckingham Ave \$189,000
BIRMINGHAM
359 Ferndale Ave \$211,000
463 Golf View Blvd \$233,000
1936 Haynes St \$345,000
724 Hidden Ravines Dr \$360,000
1798 Pembroke Rd \$147,000
588 Pierce St \$1,650,000
1759 Washington Blvd \$235,000
1978 Webster St \$475,000
2092 Yorkshire Rd \$200,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS

4091 Willoway Place Dr \$230,000
2658 Brady Dr \$175,000
4248 Lakeridge Ct \$325,000
4240 Wabek Lake Dr S \$205,000
3431 Westchester Rd \$300,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
6508 Cathedral Dr \$225,000
1594 Dell Rose Dr \$204,000
560 Fox Pointe Ct \$505,000
1290 Greenglen Ct \$164,000
739 Hawthorne Dr \$377,000
6330 Hills Dr \$355,000
3753 Lane Lake Rd \$560,000
5430 Longmeadow Rd \$1,250,000
1742 S Hill Blvd \$133,000
43344 Woodward Ave \$625,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP
3636 Sandbar Dr \$165,000
4709 Winewood Ln \$168,000
FARMINGTON
34225 Conroy Ct \$180,000
23206 Hawthorne St \$45,000

35523 Heritage Ln \$120,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
27343 Arden Park Cir \$100,000
27502 Bridle Hills Dr \$174,000
22303 Cass St \$175,000
24474 Cote Dnel Dr \$153,000
28092 Golf Pointe Blvd \$210,000
29805 Hemlock Ave \$104,000
35106 Red Pine Dr \$160,000
FRANKLIN
31420 Lucerne Dr \$305,000
MILFORD
309 W Washington St \$67,000
NOVI
45191 Bartlett Dr \$341,000
50793 Calvert Isle Dr \$526,000
28346 Carlton Way Dr \$132,000
28514 Carlton Way Dr \$142,000
23166 Heatherwoode \$94,000
23655 N Portledge \$52,000
24966 Rocksmouth Ave \$211,000
41801 Primrose Dr \$110,000

SOUTH LYON
58689 Castle Ct \$40,000
58734 Castle Ct \$40,000
57837 International Dr \$60,000
59591 Mary Ln \$50,000
61131 Saddlecreek Dr \$271,000
61150 Saddlecreek Dr \$294,000
61181 Saddlecreek Dr \$320,000
26373 Shumans Way \$50,000
SOUTHFIELD
19815 Butternut Ln \$125,000
17627 Cornell Rd \$35,000
16911 Crescent Dr \$103,000
29760 Red Leaf Dr \$93,000
29422 Rock Creek Dr \$71,000
23471 Tamarack Cir \$46,000
WHITE LAKE
1869 Crystal Ln \$164,000
9512 Marina Dr \$55,000
8111 Vanden Dr \$88,000
8079 Wildwood Ln \$218,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors

Michael Jeffreys will speak Thursday, July 14. Sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland 5:30

p.m./ 9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, John R just north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. Seminar free to members; \$20 non-members. Call (800) 747-6742 (www.REIAofOakland.com)

Career Seminar

Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For more information, contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or mworkman@kw.com.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership.

Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler, (313) 277-4168.

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BY OWNER

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BY OWNER

Westland Co-op Townhouse
3 bdrms, 1.5 baths, full bsmt, wonderful community w/large pool & clubhouse. Livonia schools. \$33,000. Available immediately! 734-536-6669

Open Houses

By Owner

LIVONIA
9080 Hanlon, 48150
Open house Sun 1-4pm. Move-in ready 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1266 sq. ft. ranch offers 2 car gar., kit w/new granite counters & birch cabinets. Updated baths, new plumbing, electrical & furnace. \$129,900. Call Don 734-762-9276

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Commercial/Retail For Sale

CANTON: 3000 SF retail space on Michigan Ave. between Hagerty & Lilley. \$14/sq. #3101955. Beta Sips. 734-669-5813, 734-669-4100. Reinhardt Commercial

Northern Property

BY OWNER

LIVE AND WORK UP NORTH ST. IGNACE!
Refined owner selling 11,000 sq. ft. retail building with view of marina and Mackinac Island. Also, lakefront residential lots on Straights of Mackinac and view of Mackinac bridge. Call David: 906-643-9268

Resort & Vacation Property

HAAS LAKE PARK:
In New Hudson. Enjoy fishing, swimming, campfires, sun porch, oversized deck, sleeps 6 or more. Less than 10 Miles from South Lyon. Asking \$9000, any reasonable offer considered. Call Sheri: 734-546-7247. Rent: 734-546-7249. www.haaslakepark.com

Florida Homes/Properties



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2700 sq. ft. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, lg study w/built-in bookcases, lg living room with fireplace has Rosewood Wall, high ceiling with indirect lighting, huge kitchen area with 47 cupboards & 27 drawers, dining room, 2.5 carport, paved circle drive, finished detached building with a complete dark room, has water & electricity, could be mother-in-law suite with additional plumbing. Has to be the prettiest yard in Marianna. Hardwood Trees, Dogwoods, Pine, Palm, Azaleas, etc. Inground sprinklers on 1.65 acres. 45 miles to Dothan, ALA, Orto Bainbridge, GA and 75 miles to Panama City, FLA. You'll feel your living in a state park. 1 block from Chipola College, 3 bks to the hospital. Yet in a woods in the middle of town that deer come to visit. Call or send your offers to Ron & Esther Smith, 4331 4th Ave, Marianna, FL 32446 850-482-7969

Apartment

BELLEVEILLE: 400 N Liberty. Spacious 1 bdrm, w/lg walk out patio, featuring a panoramic lakeside view. Relaxed atmosphere. \$700/mo. 734-699-8529

CANTON:

1 bdrm, appliances & carpet, \$550 includes heat. PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm, \$575. Year Lease. 734-455-0391

FARMINGTON HILLS

Maple Ridge 23078 Middlebelt Rd. Spacious 2 bdrms, C/A, \$300 sec. 50% off 1st 3 mo. w/ approved credit. (248) 473-5180

GARDEN CITY:

Lg 1 & 2 bdrms. Appl., heat/water Free. \$550 & \$600 + security. 734-464-3847, 734-513-4965

LIVONIA: HEAT/WATER INCL

Spacious 1 bdrm, wood floors, balcony. \$735/mo. 734-516-0541

WESTLAND \$300*

Moves You In! Spacious 1 bedroom Private entry On-site maintenance. Hurry, won't last! 734-721-6699 EHO *call for details

WESTLAND

Hickory Woods Apt. \$224 MOVE IN! 1 Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrm-\$650 FREE GAS & WATER (734) 729-6520 *Short term leases available

CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES

PLYMOUTH: 2 bdrm, 950 sq. ft., all appl., washer/dryer, C/A, balcony, fireplace, carport, private entrance. Rent incl utilities & condo fee. Mo to mo lease, pets okay. \$875/mo. (313) 531-4363

DUPLEXES

REDFORD: Updated 2 bdrm, 1 bath, private bsmt, new carpet, great cond., safe area, no pets. Share gar. \$750 incl water. Sec 8 ok. 248-790-7848

Homes For Rent

Farmington Hills: 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1000 sq. ft. updated kitchen w/appl. Lg. backyard. \$890/mo. 248-342-0314

Homes For Rent

GARDEN CITY - 29031 Elmwood.
3 bdrm, 2 bath, fireplace, shed, fenced, C/A, \$795/mo. Showing Wed, Sat & Sun at 7:15pm. 313-920-5966

GARDEN CITY: Clean 2 bdrm, fully finished upstairs, c/a, 1 car. \$825/mo. + \$825 Sec. 1 yr. lease. 734-591-9329

LIVONIA SCHOOLS: Immaculate 3 bdrm ranch, 2.5 heated gar. No smoking/cats. \$1050 + 1/2 mo. sec. 586-291-9675

WESTLAND: 1400 sqft brick bsmt, gar, fenced, hardwood floors, stainless steel. \$1000/mo. 734-641-9898

WESTLAND: Available Now! 3 bdrm duplexes, new carpet & paint, very clean, fenced. \$675-\$700. 313-418-9905

WESTLAND: Prem. lot 3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, bsmt, c/a. New carpet & paint. No pets! \$875. Special. 734-591-9163

WESTLAND: Pretty 2 bdrm ranch, Appliances Included, 1.5 car garage, No pets, Immed. occ. \$595/mo + sec. Agent: (734) 522-2429

Mobile Home Rentals

FARMINGTON HILLS OWN OR LEASE \$575/mo. OR LESS
• Site Rent Included • 3 bdrm, 2 full baths • All Appl. • We Finance • New & Pre-owned avail. **Little Valley** 248-231-0801 www.LVHomes.net

Vacation Resort/Rentals

HARBOR SPRINGS: Cozy condo, sleeps 4, golf, pool, tennis, near beach. Many extras. 313-823-1251

Rooms For Rent

LIVONIA: Furnished, kitchen privileges, cable, washer/dryer, all utilities. Retired male preferred. \$360/mo + \$100 deposit. (734) 469-4902

Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease

MACKINAC ISLAND MAIN ST. SHOPS: 1100-1900 sq. ft. prime retail space avail. Call: (231) 301-1133

REDFORD TWP.

OFFICE SUITES 2 Locations Beautifully redecorated. Great rates incl utilities. CERTIFIED REALTY INC. (248) 471-7100

Lawn, Gardening Maintenance Service

HMK LAWN CARE, LLC

• Lawn Mowing
• Edging
• Trimming
• Shrub Removal
• Property Clean-Up
(734) 741-3904 kh@hmklawncare.com

Homes For Rent

\$199 MOVES YOU IN

BRAND NEW HOMES IN CANTON

Free rent to 6/1/12. Beautiful 3 Bed/2 Baths homes with all appliances Starting at \$649 Call us today! (888) 272-3099 Academy/Westpoint 41021 Old Michigan Ave • Canton

*Offer valid on select homes only. Expires 5/30/12. WAC www.academywestpoint.com

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

Asphalt/Blacktop/Sealing

DJ'S BLACKTOP DRIVEWAYS
• Paving • Patch • Seal Coating Free est. • www.djpaving.com 734-337-2157, 734-397-0811

Brick, Block & Cement

CEMENT WORK
Drive-ways, Patios, Porches, Stamped Concrete. Best prices! 734-341-6947

MASONRY REPAIR

Chimney's, porches, patios, and waterproofing. Free Est. Call 248-773-1020

Electrical

FAMILY ELECTRICAL
City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. 734-422-8080

Handyman M/F

COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENT
Any Size Job. Licensed. Free Estimates. 734-259-9326

Hauling/Clean Up

A-1 HAULING
Move scrap metal, clean basements, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/Oakland. Central location. 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

Clean-up/Hauling Srv.

Cheap Rates! Garages, bsmts, attics. Free Est. 248-521-8816, 248-489-5955

Landscaping

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACROUSE SERVICES
Clean-ups, landscaping, grading, sodding, hydro-seeding, retaining walls, ins. work, brick walks & patios. Drainage & lawn irrigation systems, low foundations built up. Weekly lawn maintenance. Haul away unwanted items. Comm. Res. 39 yrs exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est. www.lacrouseservices.com 248-489-5955, 248-521-8816

Lawn, Garden Rototilling

A1 ROTOTILLING
New & previous gardens, \$35 & up. Troy Built equip. 32 yrs exp. Call Ray: 248-477-2168

Moving/Storage

A1 A+ Movers A+ Service
Lic. & Insured-Efficient 3 men. \$75/hr. 866-633-7953

Painting/Decorating Paperhangers

PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int • Ext • Plaster/Drywall Free est. • Staining • 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

QUALITY PAINTING

Thorough preparation, father and son company for over 20 years. (248) 225-7165

Roofing

Leak • Roof Repairs • Flashings • Valleys • Hail • Wind Damage • Ins Claims
Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic / Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

Tree Service

AL'S TREE SERVICE
Removals, Lot Clearing, Stump Grinding, Pruning. Free Est. Lic/Ins. 248-277-0474

CUSTOMERS SERVICE

Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email: phonevorkinfo@aol.com

Customer Service/Clerical

Professional firm in Livonia seeks self starters with good communication skills and problem solving ability. Must have phone exp. Full time. Fax resume to: 734-591-3029

DELI COUNTER PERSON

Good pay, Southfield. Sid: 248-860-4499, 248-352-7377

DIRECT CARE

Part-Time for our Group Homes in Wayne County. Call: (248) 614-6714

DIRECT CARE STAFF

Full & art time positions available in Livonia and Westland. \$7.40/hr. 313-359-5959

DIRECT CARE STAFF

Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland. (734) 722-4580 x9

DIRECT CARE WORKER

PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 394-5620

DIRECT CARE:

Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, #9

Help Wanted-General

PRE-PRINT CLERICAL POSITION
This is a full-time position offering daily challenges in a high volume department for our newspapers. The primary role of this position is to act as a liaison between advertising staff and the printer/packaging center to ensure the scheduling, distribution and delivery of inserts/circulars for the 13 O&E and Hometown publications. The position of Pre-print Specialist will be responsible for receiving, processing and scheduling electronic orders, verifying the accuracy of orders including billing and circulation amounts, working with advertising staff and finance to resolve rates and billing issues, and preparing reports.

To apply visit website at: https://performancemanager4.successfactors.com/career?company=Gannett

Type in requisition number 4105

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

www.hometownlife.com

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS NEEDED

Twice a week Thursday mornings & Saturday afternoons

Deliver the Observer Newspapers to homes in Western Wayne County

Must have vehicle, valid driver's license & insurance

Please call 734-582-8690 for more information

Help Wanted-General

Automotive Service Technicians
Hines Park Ford is seeking ambitious and motivated individuals to join our Service Team! We are in need of individuals to fill a Heavy Engine Tech and Diesel Tech positions. Individuals must have prior Automotive Service Technician experience, technical automotive knowledge, organizational skills, and a strong work ethic. We offer a great work environment, medical, dental and life insurance, as well as paid vacations and a 401K plan!

Email resume to: jobs@hinespark.com

BARBER OR COSMETOLOGIST

Full or Part-time for Milford BarberShop. Call Ken: (248) 685-2811

BORING MILL

Exp d. only operator on Toshiba-Shubura 5" Machine. Redford. Call Don: 313-535-7631

CAD/DETAILER

Contractors Steel Co. in Livonia is seeking a Cad/Detailer. Good math and communication skills are required. Applicants must be functional in AutoCAD 2000. We offer a competitive pay and benefit package for qualified individual. Fax resume to CSC @ 734-452-3919.

CASHIER FT & PT

Southfield. Call Sid: (248) 860-4499

CUSTOMERS SERVICE

Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email: phonevorkinfo@aol.com

Customer Service/Clerical

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To apply visit website at: https://performancemanager4.successfactors.com/career?company=Gannett

Type in requisition number 4105

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

www.hometownlife.com

WAREHOUSE PERSON

Restoration Co./Contents Division seeking qualified warehouse person. Job will entail heavy lifting, must have CDL & forklift certification, previous supervisory and moving experience is a plus. Must have organizational skills. Fax resume: 734-994-7794 or email: chuck.elsenberg@us.belfor.com

TRAVELING ROUTE CLEANERS

Leads and trainers needed for 2nd shift corporate accounts. \$9-\$11/hr. plus paid drive time and gas bonus. Valid license, reliable transportation, ability to travel 100 miles per shift. Pass FBI, fingerprint and drug screening. Apply on line: www.grbsinc.com. Type in "Route" under area available to work on application. EOE

WAREHOUSE PERSON

Restoration Co./Contents Division seeking qualified warehouse person. Job will entail heavy lifting, must have CDL & forklift certification, previous supervisory and moving experience is a plus. Must have organizational skills. Fax resume: 734-994-7794 or email: chuck.elsenberg@us.belfor.com

Help Wanted-General

ADOPTION
WE ARE PRAYING FOR A NEWBORN TO LOVE. Open hearted, loving couple wishing you would call. Authorized Medical & Legal expenses paid. Call Lisa & Frank toll free 1-855-ADOPT-123.

ADOPTION - AFFECTION, LOVE & SECURITY AWAIT YOUR NEWBORN

Experiences paid. Marlene Hope & Anthony. 1-866-664-1213.

HELP WANTED

GORDON TRUCKING, INC. CDL-A DRIVERS NEEDED! \$1000 sign on bonus! Regional & OTR positions. No Exit Counsel! Material Mech. Benefits, 401K, EOE. Call 7 days a week! 866-950-4382

HELP WANTED-DRIVER

AVERTIT IS LOOKING FOR CDL-A DRIVERS! Live-on-call. Benefits. Package and Weekly Homeless. 4 Months' TIT Experience

BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

Household Goods

CHINA CABINET lg. lighted, mahogany w/beveled glass. Purchased from Gormans. Asking \$500. 734-753-3111

COMPUTER DESK - 60" Sauder Desk Top w/wupper shelves, keyboard tray & lower storage. \$125. 734-771-4863

DESK Hon Executive Desk, 3' x 6', laminated walnut finish. Very good cond. 3 drawers incl one filing drawer. Disassembled. \$150/negotiable. Call Al 248-737-0343

hometownlife.com

GARAGE SALES

hometownlife.com

English Pine Flip-Top Table & 4 Chairs Arhaus Collection. Originally \$2000. Mint cond. \$750. 248-626-4632

Appliances

STOVE: GE Electric stove, flat top, 31" wide, black & white. \$70. Call: 313-585-0789

Exercise/Fitness Equipment

TREADMILL: Variable speeds, great cond., like new, rarely used. Best Offer. Call: (734) 981-1452

Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment

LAWN MOWER: TORO 20" Cordless Electric Mower, used 1 season, now using lawn service. \$200 w/attachments, price neg. Call: 248-557-7857

LAWN TRACTOR: Montgomery Ward, with bagging attachment, 12 hp, 42", needs work. \$200. 734-422-0391

Cats

CATS: Adorable cats to a good home. Good with children. Call: 248-573-5211

CATS: Fixed rescues & 2 male, 9 wk old kittens, must stay together, need loving homes. 248-738-4901, 248-214-9898

CATS: Fixed rescues & 2 male, 9 wk old kittens, must stay together, need loving homes. 248-738-4901, 248-214-9898

KITTENS: 5-6 wks. old. Need loving home. Call: 248-660-6604

Dogs

SHIH TZU PUPS, AKC Vet checked, shots, solid black females, highly socialized. (734) 699-9525

Pets Wanted

SHIH TZU / BICHON PUPPIES 5 lovable females; \$300/males \$250. For more information call 248-443-5675 or 313 622-9553.

Garage/Moving Sales

LIVONIA - Estate & Garage Sale! Furniture, washer/dryer, treadmill, & more! 6/28-7/1, 10-6pm. 16747 Stanmoor, off 6 bwn Middlebelt & Inkster.

LIVONIA: Extended Family Garage Sale. Variety of household items, Thur., Fri. & Sat. 9-4. 11775 Boston Post. Plymouth/Stark Rd.

LIVONIA: June 27, 28 & 29 Wed-Fri 9-5 Sat, June 30 9-12. Materials from retired teacher, albums, 45s, misc. things. 36139 Roycroft. Btwn. 5 & 6 Mile, off Levan.

MISC. ITEMS Sofa (Brown) IKEA, Baker's rack, 2 bar stools, Must sell! YOU MOVE!! \$225 for all or best offer! CASH only, NO checks! Canton area. 734-981-2090

NEW HUDSON- 59579 Sterling. Fri. 29 - Sat. 30. 9-5. Something for everyone & it all must go!

NEW HUDSON: Fri.-Sat. 6/29-6/30, 9-4pm. 60309 Lamplighter Dr. Collectibles, household, horse/show, clothing, etc.

NORTHVILLE GIGANTIC ESTATE/GARAGE SALE 526 Orchard Drive, btwn W. 7 Mile & W. Main. Furniture, dishes, glass, football table, household items. June 28 & 29th, 9am-5pm & June 30th, 8am-12.

NORTHVILLE YARD SALE: Furniture, antiques, collectibles, raccoons, dishes, tons more! June 28-30, 9-5. 633 Novi St. S. of Baseline.

NOVI: 24368 Hampton Hill, 10 Mile bwn Meadowbrook & Novi Rd. June 28-June 30th, 9-6pm. Moving & Downsizing! Household misc. TV, clothing, end tables & much, much more!

PLYMOUTH 6/28-6/29 (Thurs & Fri.), 9am-4pm, 6/30 (Sat), 9am-noon. 46107 Litchfield Dr. (Ann Arbor Rd & McClumpha). Furniture, households & children's items.

PLYMOUTH HUGE SALE - HIGH END - Furniture, piano, dishes. June 28 & 29, 9am-4pm & June 30, 9am-1pm. 12464 Howland Park Dr.

PLYMOUTH: Huge garage sale! 48935 Micol, on the corner of Haggerty & Micol; 1 blk S of Ann Arbor Trl. Furniture, designer clothing (S-XL), lots of household misc., water color paintings. Fri & Sat 10-4pm. Sun noon-4pm

REDFORD: 26235 Elba, SW of 5 Mile & Beech Daily. Thurs - Sat, 9-5pm & Sun noon-4pm. Kid's clothing, toys, house goods & more!

Royal Oak: Multi-Family Garage Sale 1917 Roseland Ave. Friday, June 29, 9am-3pm. Antiques, furniture, toys, household goods, kids' clothing

SOUTH LYON: Moving Sale. Thurs. & Fri. 8-1. 9763 Dickerson Ct. Treasures, everything under the sun. No early birds.

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Shopping plaza
- 5 Cuts timber
- 9 Montana and Flutie
- 12 Mumble
- 13 Discharge
- 14 Afternoon break
- 15 — monster
- 16 Buffalo habitat
- 18 Bronte
- 20 Grove
- 21 A mummy may have one
- 23 Genres
- 25 Ancient city
- 26 Home of jazz
- 28 Hieroglyphics bird
- 32 Fish or voice
- 35 Gridiron div.
- 36 Fewer than one
- 37 Movie lioness
- 38 Remnant
- 40 Pharaoh's god

- 41 Entry permit
- 43 Lazybones
- 46 Went to the polls
- 49 Gaelic pop star
- 50 Worked with stone
- 53 Med. staffers
- 56 Unburdened
- 57 Foot part
- 58 Three oceans touch it
- 59 Tofu base
- 60 Castor, to Pollux
- 61 Right after

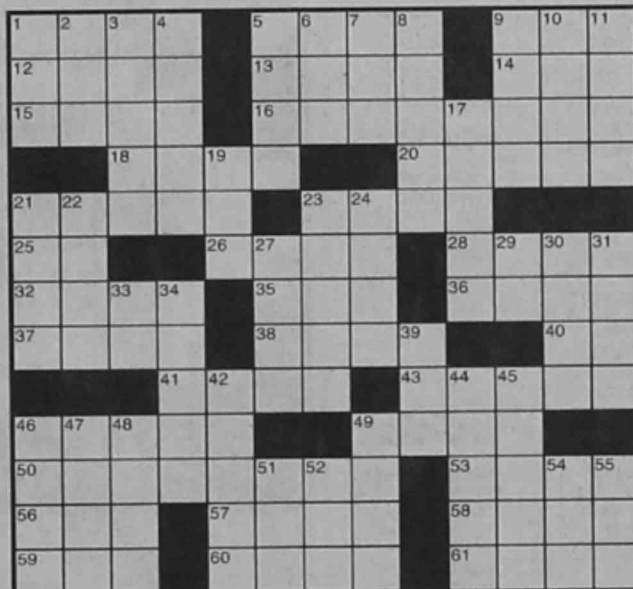
DOWN

- 1 Food additive
- 2 Muhammad
- 3 Crown wearer
- 4 Food holders
- 5 Horse's gait
- 6 Not their
- 7 Cookie-selling org.
- 8 Pilot's control
- 9 Handy swab (hyph.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books
at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

		5						7
	3		9				6	5
		6	1		3	2	4	
			5		1		3	
		3	2					
9		1	8		7		5	2
7			6					
				9		5	8	
				2	5			6

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Word Search — Golden Years

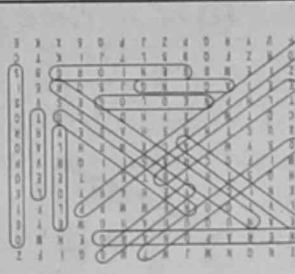
B T N G N M J W T M S G I F Z
T N E R A P D N A R G E H M O
E E A N U Q U H A H G W E Y S
C L V T O O R E M W R P L F T
N X N I C I Y E H A R Y D L E
A H Q S T H T B T E I T E E O
T M I F O C R A S I I G R V P
S D S Y W I A C X W R H L A O
I X U S T H R S H A S E Y R R
S C D T W I X Y N D L C D T O
S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

Active	Brittle	Golden	Prescription	Seniors
Aging	Discount	Grandparent	Relaxation	Travel
Assistance	Elderly	Osteoporosis	Retired	Years

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

9	6	7	9	2	8	1	4
1	8	9	4	6	7	2	9
8	2	4	8	1	9	6	5
2	9	9	7	8	8	1	6
4	7	1	6	9	2	8	9
8	8	6	1	4	9	7	2
6	4	2	8	9	1	9	7
9	9	8	2	7	6	4	8
1	7	1	8	9	4	8	2

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Now is the time to clean out those closets, basements and garages and turn those items into cash! Place your ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies to reach thousands of bargain hunters and receive some FREE items too!

Clip & Save Coupons!

\$2.00 OFF the purchase of any **LARGE COMBO** at our Concession Stand

One coupon per purchase. Not valid with other coupons. No cash value. Offer expires 11-01-12.

EMAGINE
THE MUSIC OF AMERICA & MORE

EMAGINE CANTON
39535 Ford Road • Canton
EMAGINE NOVI
44425 W. 12 Mile • Novi
EMAGINE WOODHAVEN
21720 Allen Road • Woodhaven
EMAGINE ROCHESTER HILLS
200 Barclay Circle • Just N. M59
Rochester Hills
CINEMA HOLLYWOOD
12280 Dixie Highway • Birch Run
EMAGINE ROYAL OAK
200 N. Main, Downtown Royal Oak
www.emagine-entertainment.com
Movie Line: 888-318-FILM (3456)

\$3.00 OFF ANY 8 SQUARE PIZZA

*Not valid with any other coupon or discount. *One coupon per person, per pizza, per table. No cash value. Offer expires 11-04-12.

Buddy's Pizzeria
Restaurant/Bar/Carry-out
Detroit 313-892-9001
Warren 588-574-9200
Farmington Hills 248-855-4800
Livonia 734-261-3550
Dearborn 313-562-5900
Auburn Hills 248-276-9040
Carry-out/Cafe
Pointe Plaza 313-884-7400
Carry-out only
Royal Oak 248-549-8000
Bloomfield Hills 248-645-6300
Join Our E-mail club at
www.buddyspizza.com

OUR GARAGE SALE KIT includes:

- Signs
- Price Stickers
- Inventory Sheets
- 2 pages of great advice for a successful garage sale
- 1 pass for 2 to Emagine Theatres
- Free 4 Square Buddy's Pizza
- Buddy's Food Discount Card
- Ad placed on hometownlife.com with "Map It" capabilities

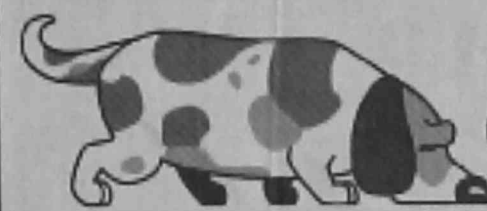
Place your ad online at **hometownlife.com** & receive **2 PASSES for 2 to Emagine Theatre & Buddy's Pizza!**

hometownlife.com

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

1-800-579-7355

Sniff Out a Great Deal in Your Classifieds!



To Place An Ad Call 1-800-579-SELL



Motorcycles/Minibikes/Go-carts/Off-road

HARLEY 2003
Softail Standard 100th Anniversary Edition, 5400 miles. Lots of added chrome, Samson Legend series, Hell Raiser pipes. Very clean, kept in garage! \$11,999. 734-272-1178.

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2006
STREET GLIDE FLHX
Cobalt blue, 6727 miles, exc. cond., \$14,500. 313-283-2210

Auto Misc.

FORD 1998 Shuttle Bus
White, holds 16 passengers & 2 wheelchairs or 4 pull down jump seats, wheelchair lift, 47,084 miles. Overall in good shape. Only Serious Inquiries. Contact Ron at: 734-451-1155

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR For Clean USED CARS

AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7500

Trucks for Sale

CHEVY SILVERADO EXT CAB
2x4, Pewter, 92K \$6,995

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