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Blood drive

The American Red Cross sponsors a blood drive next week in Canton as part of the Red Cross Scholarship program.

The drive, which takes place 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, is being organized by Canton resident Amanda Druckenmiller, who hopes to find 30 or more donors eligible to receive a scholarship grant from the program.

Donors will be placed into a drawing for a \$500 gas gift card. Donors can register by calling Druckenmiller at (734) 740-6883 or online at www.givelifefor.org (sponsor code: summitonthepark).

Walk-ins are welcome. The Summit on the Park is located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Slavens calls for election reform, speaker step-down

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

State Rep. Dian Slavens is urging reforms to election and campaign laws and calling on GOP House Speaker Jase Bolger to resign in the aftermath of an alleged effort to rig a state legislative race by paying a fake Democrat to enter the contest.

Slavens, D-Canton, also is suggesting a probe by the House Committee on Ethics and Elections into accusations Bolger and state Rep. Roy Schmidt orchestrated Schmidt's 11th-hour defection to the Republican Party to seize victory in the Grand Rapids race.

"House Speaker Bolger broke the public's trust," Slavens said, as a crowd of 25 supporters joined her Thursday afternoon

during a press conference inside the Canton Administration Building.

Lashing out

Slavens and other Democrats lashed out at Bolger and Schmidt amid mounting criticism over allegations Schmidt offered \$1,000 to a fake opponent whose ultimate decision to withdraw unraveled the effort. Kent County Prosecutor Bill Forsyth criticized the scheme but said it didn't violate any laws.

Ari Adler, Bolger's press secretary, said by telephone from Lansing that Bolger "has no intention of resigning his position" after authorities ruled no laws had been broken.

However, Bolger and Schmidt have

Please see REFORM, A5



State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, called for election reform and the resignation of House Speaker Jase Bolger at a Thursday press conference.

Support volunteers

St. Joseph Mercy Health System in Canton, Cancer Support Community and the American Cancer Society are looking for local volunteers to work with newly diagnosed cancer patients and their families by providing support and information on free community resources available to them.

Volunteers need only a willingness to help and comfort level in working with cancer patients. Those interested are asked to commit to volunteering at least two times per month in half day increments.

To volunteer, contact Andrea Bridson, health initiatives coordinator for the American Cancer Society, at (248) 663-3512 or andrea.bridson@cancer.org to learn more.

Schmitt support



While former Plymouth-Canton swimmer Allison Schmitt is in London for the 2012 Olympics, where she will go for the gold in the 200- and 400-meter freestyles and as part of the 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay, her friends made sure she knew she had their support back home. The Rock outside Salem High School has been painted in the traditional red, white and blue and adorned with the Olympic rings. For more on Schmitt, please see Page B1.

School supply golf

The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township announced a promotion to support school supply collection efforts of the Plymouth Community United Way. From Aug. 5-11, patrons who donate a new backpack with at least four school supply items inside will be given a voucher for free golf to be used at a later date. Backpacks and supplies should be brought to the St. John's Pro Shop, where golf vouchers will be distributed.

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Fundraiser set for families of victims in Canton crash

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

The communities of Canton and Wayne have stepped up to help the families of two teens who died tragically Tuesday during a two-car crash near the Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Canton where the young women worked.

Canton resident Jim Reed, who handles promotions for Wayne Bowl, confirmed a fundraiser has been scheduled 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at the bowling center, 36900 Michigan Ave. between Wayne and Newburgh.

Reed didn't know Brooke Kennedy, 18, or Danielle Beavers, 19, but he wanted to help the families of the Belleville High School graduates after hearing of the tragic accident that happened shortly after 2 a.m. Tuesday. Reed approached Wayne Bowl owner Mike Lucente, who agreed to host a fundraiser to help the families with funeral and other expenses.

Reed has been working with former Ruby Tuesday server Stephanie Gazdag, who knew Kennedy

and Beavers, to organize the fundraiser.

"I worked with them for two years and still considered them good friends," Gazdag, 21, said Friday. "When they started working there, it became more of a family atmosphere at work."

Reed said tickets to the fundraiser cost \$20 and include bowling and pizza donated by the Papa Romano's owned by Patrick Currier in Wayne.

Reed said tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling him at (734) 674-2436. Gazdag also said tickets may be bought from her by calling (734) 582-3675.

The fundraiser will include raffles, 50/50 drawings and door prizes, and Reed said local businesses who want to donate items for the raffle may contact him.

Kennedy and Beavers, passengers in a yellow Chevrolet Cavalier, were killed when the car was heading south on Canton Center and was struck broadside on the passenger side by a white Monte Carlo traveling east on Michigan Avenue.

The Cavalier was driven by a 24-year-old Whittaker man, and the Monte Carlo was driven by a 21-year-old Westland man.

Canton police have said the investigation is continuing. No charges had been filed.

Canton Special Services Sgt. Pat Sullivan said a preliminary investigation indicates that alcohol and speed didn't appear to be factors in the crash.

He said the three people in the Cavalier had been to a social gathering after work. He said the driver of the Monte Carlo apparently was on his way home from work.

Sullivan has said Michigan Avenue motorists typically have a flashing yellow light at the time the accident happened, while Canton Center drivers have a flashing red light.

Kennedy and Beavers grew up in Belleville and attended Van Buren Schools. Superintendent Michael Van Tassel has issued a statement calling them "wonderful young ladies."

School board eyes search

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

With the end of Jeremy Hughes' tenure as superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools less than a year

away, the district's Board of Education has begun the process of finding his replacement. Hughes

The board Tuesday reviewed a proposed timeline put together by trustees Mark Horvath, Barry Simescu and Mike Maloney that would have a new superintendent in place before Hughes' contract expires at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

Under the timeline, the board would hire a search firm by mid-October, screen initial candidates in December, begin interviews in January and select finalists by early February. The successful candidate would be chosen by mid-May. The board took no action on the plan, though consensus seemed to be it was a good timeline.

"The key point is that, by March or April, if anyone is going to move to another district, that's when they're going to make that decision," said board Secretary Judy Mardigian, who was the board president the last time the district conducted a search.

Board President John Barrett is taking volunteers and will likely appoint a three-person subcommittee to get the process started, though

Please see SEARCH, A5

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AROUND CANTON



Wish you were here

Four Canton families vacationing on the beaches in Morehead City, N.C., made sure to take their Canton Observer with them. In addition to lounging on the beach, the families were there to watch a former Salem High School baseball player, now playing for Eastern Michigan University, play for Coastal Plain League College Summer League Morehead City Marlins. Included in the trip were Ashley Liakos, Tanis Lamoureux, Alex Brekke, Sam Ott, Hallie Ott, FIN the mascot, Grace Brekke, Andrew Liakos, Devin Lamoureux, Jake Brekke, Adam Liakos and Jocey Lamoureux.

"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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Date/Time: Sunday-Thursday, Aug. 19-23, 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church hosts Vacation Bible School, including Adventures on Promise Island, where kids discover God's lifesaving love. There will be bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, music, skits, and more. For children 4 years old - 5th grade. Registration on or by Aug. 12 is \$5 per child or \$10 maximum per family. Registration after Aug. 12 is \$8 per child or \$15 maximum per family.

Contact: Call the church office at (734) 495-0035.

SLAVENS COFFEE

Date/Time: Mondays, Aug. 6 and Aug. 20, 5-6 p.m.

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

Details: State Rep. 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 (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov

CHILL OUT

Date/Time: Monday, July 30, 7 p.m.

Location: Rotary Park, Pavilion #1, on Six Mile between Farmington Road and Merri-man in Livonia

Details: Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox hosts an outdoor town hall to discuss current issues affecting Wayne County taxpayers and take questions from the audience. Free root-beer floats and Boston Coolers will be served.

CLASS REUNION

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. to midnight

Location: Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: Combined 1982 Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem 30-year reunion. Deadline to order tickets is Aug. 1. Tickets can be ordered thru: sites.google.com/site/cantonsaleml982, or www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsaleml982 or cantonsaleml982@gmail.com for \$45 per person. Dinner, dancing, D.J. provided.

MMAP COUNSELING

Dates/Times: 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 1, 1-3 p.m. Sept. 6, Oct. 3, Nov. 1 and Dec. 4

Location: United Home Health Services office, 2200 Canton Center in Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers the community free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor who can help review Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug insurance, assist with Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify & report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options. No reservations necessary.

Contact: Call United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

Lightning strike sets house afire

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton house caught fire early Thursday after lightning struck a nearby tree, touching off a chain of events that caused an electrical meter to explode on the back of the home and a gas line to catch fire, Chief Tim Dunn said.

No injuries occurred as a family that lives inside the two-story home got out safely and called for help, allowing Canton firefighters to quickly arrive, douse the blaze and limit the damage mostly to an exterior wall, except for light smoke indoors.

"They got there pretty quick and did a good job," Dunn said. Lightning struck the tree about 6:55 a.m. Thursday, causing flames and heavy smoke in the 43000 block of Appledwood, southeast of Palmer and Sheldon.

Firefighters made sure the family had made it to safety and quickly battled the fire, partly by using a dry chemical fire extinguisher on the burning gas line, Dunn said.

"We were real fortunate the petting house at home and heard the explosion when the meter blew off the back of the house," the fire chief said. If no one had been at home, he added, "this could have been a lot worse."

The bulk of damage was confined to the back exterior of the two-story home. The fire started as early morning storms rolled across southeast Michigan, knocking out power to thousands of area residents.

Summer fun at the Canton Public Library

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Do: What you love!



Read: *The Wolves of Isle Royale* by Rolf Peterson
Attend: *Calling All Babies: Animals*, August 9, 10:00 AM
Do: Go on a nature walk behind the library



Read: *Oscar Season* by Mary McNamara
Attend: *Jim Gill* August 10, 7:00 PM at Heritage Amphitheater
Do: Watch a movie based on a book



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Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is opening its doors to students in Wayne County

P-CCS will be accepting nonresident students who live in Wayne County in the following programs:

- Afternoon, half-day Kindergarten (limited to 12 students) at Hoben Elementary
- Talented and Gifted, Third Grade (limited to 20 students and testing is required) at Dodson Elementary
- International Academy, Ninth Grade (limited to 10 students) at Plymouth High School

Accepting applications beginning July 16. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on July 31. Applications can be completed on the District website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us



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- **March, 2012** - Those 4 Board Members **voted to close Fire Station #2** in Lakepointe on Wilcox Road near Haggerty. (Where an EMS vehicle normally had been ready for service)
- **June, 2012** - A Grandmother at the pool with her grandchildren in Bradbury Coop. on Haggerty Road & Joy Road suffers a heart attack and falls under water. The EMS vehicle, **now located at Fire Station #3 on Beck Road**, must travel across the township for rescue, and arrives **10 minutes** after the 911 call.
- Grandmother **dies** of drowning.
- Who will be **next to die** from EMS failure?

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Summer programs offer learning opportunities

New Morning School in Plymouth, the only pre-K through eighth-grade parent cooperative school in Michigan, is currently offering a variety of summer programs offering an early foundation of learning and play school officials said is grounded in the latest brain science and supported by the work of Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget.

The school will host an open House for fall programs on Fridays, Aug. 3 and Aug. 10, at 10:30 a.m., followed by the student Science EXPO. All are invited.

The summer programs at New Morning School are designed for children ages 3 to 11 who are looking for a fun, educational summer experience.

"With programing focused around what kids already love, New Morning School has a program that is a good fit for every child," officials said.

Discovery Days are classes that expose children ages 3 to 6 to a topic of interest during a week's time. Students are encouraged to attend both early- and mid-morning sessions to create a week of half-days. Discovery Days run Monday through Friday. Classes starting on July 30th include Messy Mondays, Princesses &



New Morning students will have a variety of opportunities to learn about science during the school's summer programs.

Fairies, Everything Spanish and Transportation Station. The following week, beginning Aug. 6, children will enjoy Splash! Fun With Water & Giants of the Earth.

The next Junior Explorer camp (entering kindergarten or first grade) begins July 30. Students will be learning about Slippery, Slimy, Stupendous Science, a kitchen chemistry experience.

Science camps are planned for older students. Starting July 30, campers (entering second grade through age 11) will enjoy NXT LEGO® Cars & motor sports and Race Car Science. The following week (entering first grade

through age 11) students will explore Astronauts and Space Travel, Alien Adventures & Space Wars and Splitting Starlight. Student may attend mornings or full day with latchkey.

The Summer Daze Program (ages 4-11) runs in week-long sessions with themes as varied as August 13-17 Animals Discovered (Aug. 13-17) and Voyage Around the World (Aug. 20-24). Kids can attend full day with latchkey.

More details on these exciting Summer Camps including registration form, age ranges, dates, and fees are available on New Morning School's website www.newmorningschool.org.

ON CAMPUS

Top graduating seniors of 97 area high schools in the Detroit metropolitan area will be honored by the Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa.

More than 3,500 graduating seniors in the public, private, and parochial high schools in southeastern Michigan who maintained a 3.75 grade point in their academic classes are receiving a certificate of recognition from the Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa, which is comprised of members of the national scholastic honor society residing in the Detroit area.

"These students have earned recognition as future leaders and scholars by doing what it takes to rank at the head of their classes, and they deserve all the praise and recognition we can give them," said Dr. Seymour J. Wolfson, president of the organization.

Local students honored include:

• Canton High School: Kyle Adams, DeQuan Alexander-Douglas, Lour Arafat, Melanie Baker, Nicholas Barton, Katherine Benner, Ghan Beydoun, Jennifer Bird, Alexandra Bryden, Lucas Carpenter, Laura Castle, Stefania Cesario, Kristen Childs, Lindsey Conrad, Shawn Davies, Michael Ding, Alyssa Downs, Amanda Drukenmiller, Christina Edgerton, Michael Flegemann, Erin Fowler, Anna Genrich, Moleka Ghannam, Jeremy Ginnard, Shane Ginnard, Andrew Green, Katherine Grimes, Alan Halim, Dana Hoerman, Jay Jin, Robert Johnson, Cody Kahrs, Matthew Kemper, Amanda Kilgore, Alana Kramer, Shean Krolkic, Rebecca Krupp, Anna Larue, Jesse Lamer

Ian Lafebvre, Sydney Liedel, Kaylie Lobb, Steven Marion, Lindsey Mason, Travis Michalak, Tim Mjnsberg, Navkiran Munday, Rebecca Muresan, Roxana Muresan, Crystal Nance-Panek, Mitchell Nixard, Ann Noetzel, Jennifer Nyberg, Jacqueline Paezold, Shelby Palmer, Christa Phelps, Alanna Philipose, Morgan Prebenda, Steven Price, Bryan Ren, Courtney Schmidt, Kinari Shah, Aftab Shaik, Bhavnesh Singh, Gunisman Singh, Jonathan Sitko, Ajay Schmeckety, Emily Southern, Celia Staniak, Amanda Sweet, Jacob Taylor, Andrew Wade, Joshua Wendel, Grace Wine, Victor Zhang

Mariam Asadullah, Amber Beattie, Andrew Berner, Erica Bingham, Rachel Bissonnette, Valerie Bolterman, Edward Borninski, Nathan Brocci, Emma Buchele, Matthew Bugajski, Sarah Chapman, Lauren Chipman, Zachary D'Agostino, Lauren Dime, Sarah Dillon, Christina Dreyer, Nicholas Durak, Aaron Evans, Tyler Goble, Nisha Gopal, Jack Griffin, Bridget Grobosky, Brook Grobosky, Elyse Grynewicz, Harpreet Hehar, Joshua Heinze, Natalie Howard, Brett Jia, Alison Johnson, Evan Johnston, Kelly Karst, Calley Kethler, Amanda Knie, Kristyn Kosmya, Penny Kuang, Bora Kwak, Rebecca Leevegood, Heidi Lewis, Steve Lin, Jennifer Liu, Abigail Livingston, Simon Lubin, James Macag, Constancia Manetta

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• Plymouth High School: Sarah Akbar, Karumvir Badwal, Nicholas Bair, Meredith Barton, Nicholas Blank, Mary-Elizabeth Bent-entine, Amanda Beyer, Nicholas Blank, Autumn Brun, Courtney Davis, Kali Defever, Daniel DeWaters, Avery Dives, Sushmitha Diraviam, Kody Duhl, Brandon Duschl, Trevor Ewell, Eleanor Fine, Stephanie Fogoros, Brittany Galliers, Drew Hansen, Lauren Hansen, Nicholas Hazen, Rachel Head, Rebecca Hershock, Ashley Hinojosa, Michael Holland, Adam Hülcher, Rachel Johnston, Kristopher Kachin, Kendall Kelly, Preethi Kesavan, Christina Knoll, Katelynn Krause, Kyle Latack, Irene Lu, Taylor Liddane, Halle Lindberg, Emily Lundh, Courtney March, Anjali Martin, Joao Mazzon, Isabelle McCormack, Megan McCormack, Jenna McGowan, Laura Miller, Nicole Mott, Gavin Nicol, Jacob Nosenicz, Amy Novotny, Daniel O'Keefe, Markus Olin, Jamie Olson, Asha Patel, Bijal Patel, Nikita Patel, Aalaina Peerbottle, Alexandra Piotrowski, Narges Pourmandi, Shipli Prasad, Ian Pudney, Maria Radzwin, Carrie Ramseyer, Kristina Righter, Sameer Sahi, David Schoenes, Mallory Scrimger, Lauren Seroka, Adee Siddiqui, Nicole Simmons, Sunpreet Singh, Eric Smudski, Sara Stappers, Nicholas Stewart, Peter Su, Scott Su, David Telgen, Scott Theisen, Monica Topolovec, Sarah Vander, Devon Vantone, April Vernon, Dorothy Wong, Christine Yu, Angie Zu

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Alleged drug debt leads to extortion charge

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland man is facing trial for extortion amid accusations he tried to get money from a Canton couple for an alleged drug debt their grandson owed.

Endri Djelli, 18, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Djelli's legal troubles stem from an incident Canton police say began around 2 a.m. July 8 when an acquaintance allegedly called him to bring a \$100 bag of marijuana to the Motel 6 near Ford and Hagerty roads.

Canton Detective Tim Wright said when Djelli went to the motel, he

claims he was robbed at gunpoint by the acquaintance and another man who walked out to his car.

"He said they went back into the room," Wright said.

Djelli, allegedly accompanied by his girlfriend, left the motel but notified police that he had been robbed, fueling an investigation that led to the capture of the two men.

As the incident unfolded, Wright said, Djelli is accused of going to Wynchdery Apartments near Hagerty and Cherry Hill, where the acquaintance's grandparents live.

The couple, in their late 60s, contacted police and alleged an attempt had been made to coerce them into paying the marijuana debt, Wright said.

Police subsequently found Djelli at his girlfriend's residence in Canton.

Djelli was arraigned July 9 in 35th District Court on a single count of extortion, though the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office didn't issue any charges against the other men.

Djelli, with a \$20,000 personal bond, was ordered by 35th District Judge Michael Gerouti to stand trial after he waived his right to a preliminary examination that had been scheduled for July 20, according to the court.

Djelli's defense attorney couldn't be reached for comment.

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REFORM

Continued from page A1

apologized for efforts to fool voters, and Adler said Bolger is willing to look at proposed election-reform bills regardless of which political party proposes them.

That's not enough for voters like Shirley Poling of Westland, who came to Slaven's press conference.

"There is a pattern of abusive power development," Poling said, adding she was angry for Bolger's earlier role in muzzling two female legislators for statements they made in a debate on abortion and reproductive rights.

"This situation speaks of such a lack of character and ethics."

Broken trust

She said Bolger and Schmidt should pull out of politics for "creating distrust in their constituency. I find that reprehensible."

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, said legislators on both sides of the aisle in Lansing have suggested new legislation following the scandal involving Bolger and Schmidt.

"I'm always ready to take a look at any legislation that helps to clarify the process," he said.

"I want to make sure that, whatever we do, it does not decrease access to candidates to run for office."

"I think everybody would be interested in making sure the process is tightened up for everyone,"

Heise said. "I think both parties are looking at ways to clarify this situation in the future."

Slaven, who faces Democratic challenger Kiz Ahamioje in the Aug. 7 primary election, touted a series of bills she said could deter actions such as those by Bolger and Schmidt. The laws, if enacted, would:

- Increase fines for committing election fraud from \$1,000 to \$10,000.
- Provide a later filing deadline if a political party loses a candidate within seven days prior to the cut-off. The party would have 14 additional days to pick a candidate of its choosing.
- Bolster residency rules by requiring state legislative candidates to live in their district for at least 60 days prior to running for office.
- Require candidates who switch political parties to return all campaign contributions they received during the last year.
- Force party-switching candidates to disclose the change during any fundraising effort.
- Require legislative and other candidates to file their affidavits for candidacy in person, rather than sending someone else.
- Force incumbents to file one week earlier for reelection, giving challengers an additional week.

Denied fairness

"This is not just a Grand Rapids issue," Slaven said of the Bolger-Schmidt scandal. "This is a matter of every citizen of Michigan having the right to

an open and accountable democracy."

Slaven said an estimated 50,000 people in the 7th District have been denied a fair election because of what happened.

Slaven said the latest set of bills follows earlier efforts by Democrats to adopt reforms, but she said Republicans have "stonewalled" changes.

"People like House Speaker Bolger just don't get it," she said.

Some Republicans have drafted legislation, however. One bill by state Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Byron Center, would extend the candidate filing deadline by five days if a candidate receives party or write-downs during the last two days before the cutoff.

Slaven called on voters of all political parties to demand change to avoid another scandal.

"We need everybody in this great state to stand up and say enough is enough," she said.

What Bolger and Schmidt did may not have been ruled illegal, Slaven said, "but what was done was unethical, and we want to change that" through new legislation.

Canton resident Leonard Zabawski, who attended Slaven's press conference, agreed.

"Democracy is important," he said. "We need to keep democracy, transparency and ethics so there is no fraud or rigging of elections."

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SEARCH

Continued from page A1

it will not have decision-making power. Those decisions will be made by the full board.

Among decisions to be made:

- The budget. Horvath said conversations with Brodie Killian, the district's executive director of finance, indicate the budget for a search is generally \$25,000 to \$30,000. If that money isn't already in the 2012-13 budget, it will have to be found.
- Hire a search firm. The last time the board hired a new superintendent, when Craig Fiedler was chosen in 2008, the district used Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates of Glenview, Ill. There was dissatisfaction at the time because the firm turned up no candidates from Michigan. The board took proposals from half a dozen search firms four years ago.
- Decide on level of community engagement, and how that will look.

Some board members pointed out the search

firm will help with that. "A lot of this work will be helpful for the consultant," Simescu said. "We as a board have to decide which firm we want to work with."

Horvath's timeline also includes dates for deciding whether the board should shift gears and get another interim superintendent. If the board isn't satisfied with the candidate pool for the full-time job, Horvath's plan would have trustees making that decision in February and March.

"If I have a goal to have (a new superintendent) in place by Time X, and I don't feel I have enough (candidates), I have a process to fill that," Horvath said.

Horvath also said he hopes the board can come to a unanimous decision this time around. In 2008, when the board ultimately hired Fiedler, they approved his contract with a unanimous vote. However, former board member Diane Gonzalez cast a dissenting vote on the selection.

"I'd never take a job where I had seven bosses and they all didn't vote to hire me," Horvath said.

Mardigan called the upcoming decision "critical."

"The superintendent will drive the direction of the district for the next three-five years," she said. "I think building in the step for an interim is a smart step because of the importance of the decision."

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Unanswered questions

Plymouth mom wants accountability in Livonia school case

By Brad Kradich
Observer Staff Writer

Lauren Gohl just wants answers. Gohl, the Plymouth woman whose son, Jayden, is at the epicenter of an incident that could cost one Livonia Public Schools teacher her job, is glad the teacher, Sharon Turbiak, has been removed from the special-needs classroom she taught at Webster Elementary School in Livonia. Turbiak, who has been removed from the special-needs classroom she taught at Webster Elementary School in Livonia. Turbiak, who has been removed from the special-needs classroom she taught at Webster Elementary School in Livonia. Turbiak, who has been removed from the special-needs classroom she taught at Webster Elementary School in Livonia.

decide whether she'll lose her job. Maria Miller, spokesperson for Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Wroth, said charges weren't filed against Turbiak because there was insufficient evidence to support them. "We did not have a case that we could prove beyond a reasonable doubt in court," said Maria Miller, assistant prosecuting attorney and director of communications. Miller said the evidence presented by the Livonia Police Department was insufficient for misdemeanor or felony charges, and no new evidence has surfaced to reopen the case at this time, despite rumors to the contrary.

"The case was looked at, it was investigated, witnesses were spoken to, and we reached the conclusion that with the facts and evidence we had, that we did not have a case we could prosecute in court beyond a reasonable doubt," she said. Miller said the warrant request involved "a number of people." While the legal wheels turn, Gohl wants others who witnessed the incident, and failed to report it to anyone, to be held accountable. She wants explanations for the actions of Livonia Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa, Webster Principal Shelly Moore and district human resources chief Cindy DeMann, among others. "The question is what

did they know, when did they know it and what did they do about it?" Gohl said. "The district allowed this to happen. Every single one of them needs to be held accountable." The case stems from a March 5 incident during which a social worker said she witnessed Turbiak grab Jayden by the top of his head, jerk it back "quite aggressively," yell at him and continue to jerk his chin upward while pushing the top of his head back because he had thrown a toy.



Lauren Gohl of Plymouth wants answers about the handling of an incident involving her son, Jayden, at Webster Elementary School in Livonia.

Life-threatening Gohl is angry she didn't hear anything about the incident for nearly two months, despite doctor's orders on file with the school state the doctor or Gohl must be notified immediately of any type of injury, bump or bruise to the boy's head. Jayden, now 4, was born with hydrocephalus, has endured seven surgeries and has a brain shunt. "Any head injury at all can be life-threatening to my son," Gohl said. Liepa told the Observer last week he believes Gohl should have been notified immediately, but that "a judgment call was made at the time about whether there had been an injury to (Jayden's) head or not."

"This is the first I've heard of that," Gohl said. "Who made that judgment call? Only a medical professional could make that call." Liepa agreed Gohl should have been notified immediately, but that "a judgment call was made at the time about whether there had been an injury to (Jayden's) head or not."

employees, including administrators, are identified as witnesses on a heavily redacted 75-page police report. The Livonia school board voted unanimously June 18 to recommend the state tenure commission fire Turbiak. The district has already fired a paraprote who worked in the same classroom as the teacher. She also has not been charged with any crime and denies any wrongdoing. **Written directive** Gohl wants more held accountable. She said Moore "lied to me" when finally notifying her of the incident, initially telling her Jayden wasn't involved. She said DeMann "kept putting (Turbiak) back in the classroom," even after previous incidents were reported in April 2011 and again last October. After the October incident, Gohl said, a timeline of events provided her

Several school district employees, including administrators, are identified as witnesses on a heavily redacted 75-page police report. The Livonia school board voted unanimously June 18 to recommend the state tenure commission fire Turbiak. The district has already fired a paraprote who worked in the same classroom as the teacher. She also has not been charged with any crime and denies any wrongdoing. **Written directive** Gohl wants more held accountable. She said Moore "lied to me" when finally notifying her of the incident, initially telling her Jayden wasn't involved. She said DeMann "kept putting (Turbiak) back in the classroom," even after previous incidents were reported in April 2011 and again last October. After the October incident, Gohl said, a timeline of events provided her

Please see QUESTIONS, A7

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Local leaders, volunteers smooth road for Concours

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Long before car collectors from across the country began arriving last week for today's Concours d'Elegance of America, an army of officials, business leaders and volunteers was working behind the scenes to make sure the visitors were welcomed.

More than 400 local volunteers are helping out for the 34th annual Concours, an exhibition of more than 300 classic, antique and collectible vehicles scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Inn at St. John's. The show is returning to the township for a second year; it had been at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills for decades.

Concours executive director Jim McCarter said Friday that the Plymouth community, from public officials to businesses to service club members, jumped into the event "with both feet" beginning last year and that he couldn't run the Concours without their help.

"We want it to look as nice as

we can," said township Supervisor Richard Reaume, who was personally out Thursday, along with Department of Public Works employees, picking up roadside debris in the area around St. John's. Reaume was also seeing that the streets in the area were swept, planning to have the DPW on Friday lend picnic tables and traffic barriers to the event, and even enlisting Wayne County to send road workers to grind down high spots in the pavement, he said.

"It's just everybody trying to come together to add the little touches," he said.

At St. John's, volunteers from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce were providing the Concours with an office staff, registering exhibitors and members of the media, selling merchandise, giving directions and offering suggestions on how visitors might spend their time in the area.

Earlier in the week, they arranged gift bags for exhibitors and reading brochures for Concours visitors.

Volunteers

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What: 34th annual Concours d'Elegance of America, an exhibition of more than 300 rare, unique and collectible vehicles.
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 29.
Where: The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth Township.
Cost: \$25 a person, includes brochure, parking and shuttle service. Children 12 and under admitted free.
Parking: The ACH (formerly Visteon and Ford) plant, 14425 N. Sheldon, at M-14, Plymouth Township. A shuttle will drop visitors off at the exhibition and return them to the lot. Shuttle service is also available in downtown Plymouth, in the Old Village neighborhood and at the Hilton Garden Inn.
More information: Call (248) 643-8645 or go to www.concoursusa.org.

Chamber president Wes Graff said Friday that, so far, visitors are expressing a lot of interest in Bumpers, Bikes and Bands, the annual street fair in Old Village that was planned for Saturday.

Reaume said out-of-town visitors have filled two township hotels, the Hilton Garden Inn and the hotel at St. John's, and others are staying at hotels in Livonia.

In addition to the chamber's volunteer office staff, members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth were running

the street from St. John's."

Graff said Friday that, so far, visitors are expressing a lot of interest in Bumpers, Bikes and Bands, the annual street fair in Old Village that was planned for Saturday.

Reaume said out-of-town visitors have filled two township hotels, the Hilton Garden Inn and the hotel at St. John's, and others are staying at hotels in Livonia.

In addition to the chamber's volunteer office staff, members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth were running

the parking lot for Concours attendees, at the ACH plant on Sheldon Road, and local Rotarians are providing security and assistance at St. John's itself.

Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority was instrumental in organizing a Concours shuttle service from sites in the city (next to Kellogg Park and on Starkweather near Station 885 in Old Village), in staging an exhibit of Concours-like cars for Friday night's Gia Warner concert in Kellogg Park, and in making advance ticket sales available at downtown businesses.

"We try and do as much as we can," said John Buzavis, the DDA's director of business operations and special projects. "It's just such a great event for the area, anything we can do, we certainly will."

Last year's Concours debut at St. John's drew more than 11,000 people, McCarter said, and he expects about the same number this year.

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QUESTIONS

Continued from page A6

by Liepa indicated Turbiak was given a "written directive" that included instructions to "provide a calm, nurturing, predictable environment in the classroom; refrain from being sarcastic; do not challenge staff about their reporting on this matter; maintain a professional relationship with students/staff; work collaboratively with staff; discuss best classroom practices."

In April, during an investigation into staff complaints about the working relationship among staff in that classroom, more allegations and concerns surfaced about the classroom atmosphere and practices with students, officials said.

Mark Schultz, a former police officer who serves as the district's administrator of employee relations and public safety, began an internal investigation April 23 and the following day reported the alleged abuse to the Livonia Police Department, which conducted its own investigation.

It was Schultz, Gohl said, who told her Jayden was involved and that the incident "definitely was about (child) abuse."

Not reported

Gohl said Schultz was the first person to report the incident to Child Protective Services, despite the fact the law requires such reporting by all school members.

"The administration was aware, and they failed to take it to the next level," Gohl said.

"They broke the law (by not reporting it to CPS). The fact the administra-

tion knew this was going on and did nothing is sickening to me."

Liepa said Thursday he agrees with Gohl that people need to be held accountable. "Absolutely, we have to look at ourselves, be reflective and address any issues," he said.

He declined to specify whether or with whom any disciplinary action will be taken. "It's no different from any other personnel matter," he said, explaining his reason for not going into detail.

Liepa said he believes students in Turbiak's classroom were mistreated, but would not comment on whether he thought the allegations were child abuse.

"Child abuse mean a lot of different things to different people. There's no question we felt there was mistreatment," he said. "Obviously, we've taken the appropriate action."

Asked if he thought any laws were broken, he said: "That's really for the police to decide. With us, it has to do with expectations, that's what we're focused on."

He said the district is working with the prosecutor's office in reviewing its processes before the start of next school year to see if they need strengthening and improving.

"We're looking at every aspect with regard to the issues raised," he said. "We have to make sure classrooms are meeting the expectations we have" and "everybody knows what the expectations are."

Staff writer Karen Smith contributed to this report.

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PHOTO BY ANN ESPINOZA

An emotional Joshua Bobbish, his sister Jillian Bobbish and Tim Duncan are joined by other family members and friends in the candlelight vigil for Jourdan Bobbish and Jacob Kudla.

Bodies of Westland teens found in field in Detroit

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The morning after a prayer vigil was held for two Westland teens, their bodies were found in a field near Detroit City Airport - roughly five miles from the family member's home where they were last seen.

Police said the bodies were found around 9:30 a.m. Friday in a partially mowed field near Lyford Avenue, adjacent to Detroit City Airport on city's east side. The teens had been shot in the head, apparently execution style, according to Detroit police.

Detroit police officers broke the news to family members who had gathered near Joy and I-96 to resume searching for the teens near where their car had been recovered on Monday.

At the prayer vigil Thursday evening, lighted lanterns floated off into the night sky as a crowd of family, friends and well-wishers held candles and offered prayers for the safe return of two teens.

The candlelight prayer vigil was held Thursday in the parking lot of Livonia Churchill High School where Jacob Kudla, 18, and Jourdan Bobbish, 17, met and became friends.

Redford residents Dan and Erin Sisty came to the vigil with four-year old son Aidan. Erin Sisty has an older son who is a close friend of Bobbish.

"Jourdan went on a lot of family vacations with us," said Erin Sisty, whose son became friends with Bobbish when he was living in Redford.

"Since learning of the teens' disappearance, Dan Sisty said his stepson has been calling Bobbish without response.

"We want to support the family," said Dan Sisty.

Erin Sisty wasn't surprised by the large crowd that gathered for the prayer vigil.

"He used to live in Redford, so some teachers came. There are also



ANN ESPINOZA

Friends and family members held lighted candles at a Thursday evening vigil for the two Westland teens who disappeared in Detroit last Sunday evening. The boys' bodies were found earlier today in a field in Detroit. It is believed both boys were shot in the head.

teachers and friends from here," she said.

Morgan Barr, Rachel Core and Amber Wyman came to the vigil from Dearborn - they are friends with Jourdan Bobbish's older brother Josh.

"I've been close to Josh for a long time, so it was important for me to show support," said Barr.

"I'm here to show support for the family and let them know they aren't alone," said Core.

Bobbish was about to start his senior year at Churchill while Kudla had graduated and was now attending Schoolcraft College.

During the vigil, Richard Baxter - Kudla's uncle and the last family member the teens visited - tearfully asked for help to locate Kudla and Bobbish.

"I'm really sorry for what happened. I was the last to see the boys. This is killing me," Baxter said.

When the bodies were found, family and friends were gathered expecting to resume search efforts Friday morning in the area of Joy and I-96 in Detroit near where Kudla's 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier had been recovered Monday afternoon.

The teens had gone to

the east side of Detroit to visit Kudla's uncle. They left Sunday night and hadn't been seen or heard from since.

Two men were arrested for stealing the stereo equipment from the Cavalier but charges have not yet been filed. Kudla's cane, used after recent knee surgery, was found behind the apartment building where the car was located.

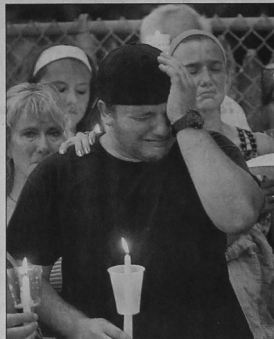
Where the teens went, who killed them and how they ended up across the city from their vehicle are questions that remain to be answered.

rogers@hometownlife.com
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ANN ESPINOZA

Family members have been circulating these posters in Detroit in the area where Jacob Kudla's 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier was recovered on Monday.



ANN ESPINOZA

Joshua Bobbish, Jourdan Bobbish's older brother, breaks down in tears during the vigil held at Livonia Churchill High School Thursday evening.



ANN ESPINOZA

Nancy Meyers, Jourdan Bobbish's great aunt, and her daughter Amya join in a candlelight vigil for the teen and his friend Jacob Kudla who have been missing since July 22.

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The Plymouth and Canton Observer Christmas in July contest is back this year inside Hometownlife INSPIRE and online at hometownlife.com.

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print edition of INSPIRE or download the form online and mail to: Christmas in July, ATTN:

Hometownlife INSPIRE, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Contestants can also enter online through Facebook (see the holiday icon in the Don't Miss module) at hometownlife.com.

All entries must be received by midnight July 31. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries.

W-W seeks line of credit

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school officials have been given the go-ahead to open a line of credit not to exceed \$6 million.

The Wayne-Westland board voted 7-0 to allow Jim Larson-Shidler, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services, to begin the process for securing the line of credit. The money, if needed, will be used to cover school operations during the 2012-13 budget year.

"We didn't have to use the line of credit last year, but with a deficit of \$8 million going forward, we may have to this year," Larson-

Shidler told the school board.

The district expects to receive \$99.8 million in revenue for 2012-13 and spend \$108.2 million. It will use a majority of its more than \$10 million fund equity to cover the shortfall, leaving it with just \$2 million in the bank. The line of credit will help the district handle any cash flow problems it may experience in its general fund.

Part of the problem is the three-month gap between the start of the school district's and state's budget years. Wayne-Westland's starts on July 1 and the state's on Oct. 1. The district doesn't receive its first school aid payment until mid-October.

The line of credit also will be less costly for the district which will be able to use what it needs and pay interest only on that amount, something that's not possible if Wayne-Westland were to get the funds from the State of Michigan.

"If we borrow from the state we have to take the entire amount for the entire year, with this, we only take what we need," Larson-Shidler said.

Wayne-Westland, however, must have to get prior approval of the line of credit from the State Treasury Department.

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Five kids, a dress and a mission

They are five kids represented by The Dress of Many Colors. Their mission is to raise money to meet the needs of individuals and families struggling with cancer.

Two families — the Bonacorsi and Morelli families — came together. The Bonacorsi family of Plymouth includes Kenna, 13, Roman, 10, and Mario, 6. The Morelli family of Bloomfield Hills includes Gianni, 13, and Mia, 12. Together, they are "5 Kids 4 A Cure."

In 2006, their lives were impacted by cancer when their mother/unt had been diagnosed with breast cancer. As a survivor, she is their inspiration for the dress of many colors.

The Dress of Many Colors was introduced at the 2011 Livonia Relay for Life. Made up of colored ribbons to represent each color of cancer.

Their latest event was Art in the Park in Plymouth where the dress was completed and will soon be auctioned off.

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- Married 18 years, two children

Endorsements (partial list):

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy
Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon
Polish American Congress
Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police
Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO
Wayne County Sheriff's Association
Michigan Court Officers

Connect with the campaign:

www.JaneEllenGillisForJudge.com

Please Vote on August 7th

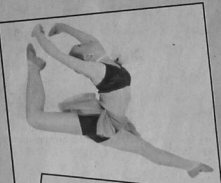
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Check out our website: www.the-dance-connection.com

Youth no impediment for entrepreneurs

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Being young certainly doesn't mean you can't succeed in business. Just ask Bill Gates — or Sergio Troiani, Eric Wierszewski and John Govan. Troiani, 17, lives in Plymouth Township and just graduated from Catholic Central High School, as did Wierszewski, 18. Govan, 17, is a recent Divine Child graduate. The three young men just started PIN (Personal Incentives Network), with a website of www.joinpin.com. Visitors to such places as Fiamma Restaurant in downtown Plymouth

can upload discount offers to a mobile app. So far, they have mostly Plymouth businesses, as well as Westland, Canton and Dearborn, Troiani said. Wierszewski and Govan live in Dearborn. Troiani and Govan will head to Grand Valley State University this fall. Wierszewski to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, including an international program in China.

"The three of us came up with the idea this December," said Troiani. They've been visiting businesses to arrange discounts. "We take that deal and we advertise it,"



John Govan (left), Eric Wierszewski (center) and Sergio Troiani have started a discount deal businesses including restaurants and services, using a distinctive keychain.

Troiani said. They offer two styles of keychain, each good for life at \$20. There's no clipping of coupons

involved. The men set up several categories online of food, drink, entertainment, shopping and

services. They're hiring a sales force to assist when they leave for college. The two at Grand Valley State will also reach out to the Grand Rapids market. "The company will continue to prosper while we go to college," Troiani said. "It's helping the local community."

He touts their service over those like Group-pon, noting no cost now to businesses and a low one later in the business's growth. "We're helping them to grow," Troiani said. "They keep the profits."

The field is competitive, he agreed, with

direct mail businesses. "We're trying to get our foot in the door," said Troiani, who emphasized social media as being important to their business. "We're making this user-friendly to both generations," he said of baby boomers and with kids. The participating business needs only to use the distinctive keychain for verification.

The men were able to overcome legal issues with two being minors and owning a business, with parental help. For information, go online or call (855) JOIN-PIN/564-6746.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Dr. Ayman Daoud
is pleased to announce
the opening of

INTERNAL MEDICINE OF CANTON, (IMC)

43050 Ford Rd Suite 160
Canton, MI 48187

(The clinic is located on the north side of Ford Road one quarter mile west of Lilley, across the street from Buy Buy Baby and Game Stop)

Appointments

734-927-4486 Fax: 734-927-4487

IMC, a small and friendly clinic, is open to men and women ranging from young adults to senior citizens. Ayman Daoud, M.D. is a long time resident of Canton and has practiced Internal Medicine for over 15 years. Dr. Daoud, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and has worked and trained at various medical centers including the University of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center, and Henry Ford Hospital.

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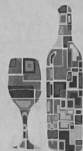
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Half Off Flatbreads 5pm-7pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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For reservations, call

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Five
RESTAURANT

Five Restaurant is located within The Inn at St. John's
44045 Five Mile, Plymouth www.theinnatstjohns.com

Candidates don't like special election costs

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Most of the five Republican candidates are angry about the cost of the special election to fill Thaddeus McCotter's vacated seat, but they are also adamant that the old 11th Congressional District deserves representation over the last few weeks of the year.

Five Republicans, including a former school board member in Livonia, and one Democrat have filed to run in the special election Sept. 5.

McCotter resigned July 6, ending his term six months early after what he called a "nightmarish month and a half" in apparent reference to his duplicated signatures on petitions turned into the Secretary of State that resulted in an investigation by state Attorney General Bill Schutte. The duplicate signatures were invalidated so he fell short of the minimum signatures required to run.

On July 13, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, acting in Gov. Rick Snyder's absence, called for a special election to fill the 11th District by the vacancy created by McCot-

ter's resignation. Former state Sen. Nancy Cassis, former Livonia school board member Steve King, Carolyn Kavanagh of Livonia and Kenneth Crider of Livonia filed last week to run on the Republican ballot in the 11th Congressional District. David Curson of Belleville filed as a Democrat.

The candidates had until 4 p.m. Monday to withdraw, but none of them did. Residents in the current 11th District will be voting in a special election Wednesday, Sept. 5, and again Nov. 6 to fill the unexpired term. All of Livonia is included in both the former 11th District and the redistricted 11th District.

'Thad ought to pay'
Robert Dindoffer, campaign manager for Kerry Bentivolio, said Thaddeus McCotter is to blame for the \$650,000 estimated cost of the special election to local communities. Livonia's cost is estimated at \$50,000.

"It's no one's fault but Thad McCotter's, and he ought to pay," Dindoffer said. McCotter could not be reached for comment. Since Bentivolio filed

first, he asked others not to file, Dindoffer said. If only one candidate had filed in each party, the governor would have canceled the special primary election. Dindoffer also said another candidate had run as a Democrat in a previous state election. Steve King ran as a Democrat in the race against John Walsh in 2008. "It appears that someone is trying to manipulate the system," Dindoffer said.

Dindoffer believes residents in the 11th District should have representation, especially in a lame-duck session he expects toward the end of the year. "There is all kinds of absurd legislation that is proposed in a lame-duck session," Dindoffer said.

Should Bentivolio win the special primary and special general election in the old 11th District and win the general election in the new 11th District, it will help Bentivolio better represent the district, Dindoffer said. "He will get a couple of months seniority, which will help him get better committees," Dindoffer said.

Cost a 'travesty'

Nancy Cassis, former state senator from Novi, said the cost of the special election was a travesty. She said she "sincerely regrets the cost and confusion" created by the special election.

"We have to explain to people why the special election is necessary and that is because Congressman McCotter resigned and created this vacancy," Cassis said. "The real key here, though, is the prevention of about six weeks that the people of the 11th District would not have representation during a lame-duck session, when they will be dealing with important pieces of legislation."

"It brings about confusion and costs, but it is still a democracy and an important six-week session."

Crider is a steel metal worker in the heating and air conditioning field. Crider has never sought elective office before. When McCotter didn't qualify and then quit his write-in campaign, Crider didn't like Bentivolio's views. "The only choice I had didn't represent my views," Crider said. "I haven't voted for anyone

but a Republican." Crider believes residents also deserve the right to vote, even at the \$650,000 cost. "Government wastes a lot of money, but it's never a waste of money for people to have a vote," Crider said. "It's what democracy is all about."

'Law of the land'
The U.S. Constitution also requires the representation, Crider said. "It's the law. It's the law of the land."

Crider said he was contacted by some Republicans, whom he didn't identify, who wanted him to withdraw his candidacy. "I don't agree with that," Crider said. "People need to have a choice. Besides, it's the law."

Crider calls himself a "common man who can bring common sense to government."

"People are fed up with the status quo, and the professional politicians in government," Crider said. Kavanagh, the daughter of 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh, could not be reached for comment.

King said the election was part of the Republican selecting the Republican

candidates. "If they didn't like the process, the governor, state Senate and state House, where there is a Republican majority, could have changed it," King said. "They could have changed the process."

King said Bentivolio and Cassis had already filed, so for King to withdraw at that point would not make sense for King since the election would already be scheduled.

King said "nobody said anything" about the \$10 million the state spent on Michigan's presidential primary when the primary date was moved up by Feb. 28. "Nobody cared about that (nobody cared)," King said.

King also reiterated his stance on the Livonia school board that he opposed scheduling special elections in August and May, but rather scheduling them along with city or state elections to cut the costs to the district.

Since McCotter's resignation, the special election "is now a mess." "It is confusing," King said. "I've had to educate every voter, and that's why it took so long to get signatures."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

Close of Registration For the Special Primary Election September 5, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: that August 6, 2012, is the last day to register to vote, in order to vote in the September 5, 2012 Special Primary Election.

Registration for Plymouth Township electors will be taken at the Office of the Clerk, 9955 N Haggerty Road, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a resident is unable to register during regular office hours a call to the Clerk at (734) 354-3224, can set up a convenient time for the resident.

Below is a listing of the offices that will be on the September 5, 2012 Special Primary Election. Sections are the Republican Party, and Democratic Party.

Partisan Section:

Representative in Congress - 11th District - Partial Term Ending 01/02/2013

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Published: July 29, 2012

000079101 - 500



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

NOTICE OF THE CLOSE OF REGISTRATION

FOR THE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that August 6, 2012, is the last day registrations can be accepted in order to be eligible to vote in the above stated election to be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Registrations will be accepted at the Canton Township Clerk's Office, 1150 South Canton Center Road, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration can also be made by any Secretary of State Branch Office or State Designated Agency. Persons with special needs who are unable to register in the above mentioned manner are urged to contact the Clerk's Office at 734-994-5120. Mail-in registrations postmarked by August 6, 2012 will also be accepted.

Terry G. Bennett
Canton Township Clerk

Published: July 29, 2012

000079101 - 500



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 2:00 p.m., July 31, 2012. The bid opening will be at 2:00 p.m., July 31, 2012 for the following:

2012 Central Parking Deck Restoration Project

City of Plymouth
Downtown Development Authority
c/o City Clerk
Plymouth City Hall
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 2:00pm EDT on July 24, 2012 in the office of the City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority located at 831 Penniman Ave. Plymouth, MI 48170

Electronic Bid Documents can be obtained by contacting Mark Sampson of Carl Walker, Inc. (269) 381-2222 and requesting a set of Bid Documents for the Central Parking Deck restoration project in Plymouth, MI. Static bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Published: July 22, 2012

000079101 - 500

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF PLYMOUTH STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a "State Primary Election" will be held in the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time candidates of the Republican, Democratic and Non-Partisan Candidates along with two county proposals will be voted upon:

- UNITED STATES SENATOR
- UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - 11TH DISTRICT
- REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE LEGISLATURE - 20th DISTRICT
- WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
- WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF
- WAYNE COUNTY CLERK
- WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER
- WAYNE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS
- WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, 10th DISTRICT

And in the CITY OF PLYMOUTH:

DELEGATES TO THE COUNTY CONVENTION

And the following NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATES:

JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT - 3rd CIRCUIT, NON-INCUMBENT POSITIONS
Vote for note more than 3

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of June 27, 2012 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increase Effective
County of Wayne	November 2, 2010	1 mill	2015
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	September, 2004	18 mills	2014 (non-homesated only)
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The following Wayne County Proposals will appear on the Primary Ballot:

WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL WAYNE COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY MILLAGE

The Wayne County Art Institute Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 296 of 2010 and formed to allow for continuing support of art institute services to the students, residents and visitors of Wayne County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real and personal property to provide revenue to an art institute services provider for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing art institute services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.2 mill on all of the taxable property located within the County be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2012 through 2021? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage would generate approximately \$8,284,722 in 2012

YES ___

NO ___

WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL PROPOSITION J JAILS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2002, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the 2011 rollback rate of 9381 mills (about 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2012 through 2021) for any of the following previously authorized uses.

To acquire, construct, and/or operate jail, misdemeanor, or juvenile incarceration or detention facilities, and for adult penalty options, such as work release, home detention and community restitution, with at least one-tenth of the millage used to acquire, build and operate a juvenile offender work/training institution? This renewal is estimated to generate at least \$38,859,493 in property tax revenue in 2012.

YES ___

NO ___

Polling Locations for the City of Plymouth are as follows:

PRECINCT #1, #2, #3 & #4 Plymouth Cultural Center
525 Farmer Street, Plymouth

Applications for Absent Voter Ballots for the City of Plymouth registered voters may be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's office, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Absentee Ballots will be issued to qualified absentee voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 4, 2012. On Monday, August 6, 2012, qualified register voters can apply for a ballot and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Published: July 29, 2012

000079334 - 844

O&E, Hometown crew spruces up I-275

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Staff members from the *Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weeklies* did their part to keep a stretch of I-275 in Livonia a little more tidy. The company joined the Michigan Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program last week, where people and groups can volunteer to collect trash alongside the state's highways. The project was something Mark Warren, circulation manager for the newspaper group, had been thinking about for some time. "I pass by the roadside signs all the time and thought that could be us," he said. "I thought it was a great way to get involved with the community."

The company adopted the stretch of I-275 between Six Mile Road and I-96 in Livonia. The debris alongside I-275 was about what one would expect near a busy highway. There were plenty of random car parts, likely from the various fender benders seemingly on a daily basis. An entire car hood and plenty of tire fragments were among the vehicular highlights.

Fast food bags, beer cans and water bottles were other common finds, all scooped up and tossed into trash bags for MDOT to pick up later.

Among the more unusual finds were a cell phone, plastic frogs, golf balls, a credit card and even a \$20 bill.

"That was a big surprise," admitted Warren, who apparently had karma on his side for organizing the endeavor. "There was a lot of trash to pick up. That was a bit of a surprise."

In all, the group collected more than two dozen garbage bags filled with trash.

"I drive that stretch all the time, and the nicer it looks the better I feel about my hometown," said Diane Andreassi, a Livonia resident and *South Lyon Herald* reporter who was among the dozen or so volunteers last week.

Volunteers for the Adopt-A-Highway program clean up litter along more than 7,200 miles of highway. Cleanups take place in April, July and September.

"Volunteers in the Adopt-A-Highway program perform a tremendous public service," stated State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "They take great pride in their communities, and help MDOT concentrate its limited resources on repairing roads and bridges."

In 2011, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers collected more than 75,000 bags of trash, saving taxpayers \$1.5 million in cleanup costs, according to Steudle. The volunteers include members of various civic groups, businesses and families.

Highway sections are still available. Learn more about the program online at www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway.

pallmen@hometownlife.com
(248) 685-1507, Ext. 226



MICHELLE PALMERI

The *Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weeklies* cleanup crew included (from left): Linda Rigdon (sales), Tom Carron-Smith (circulation), Deb Conner (administration), Diane Andreassi (editorial), Frank Cibor (sales), Jenna Smith (Tom's daughter), Lisa Walker (sales), Troy Gibson (circulation), Mark Warren (circulation), Gail Smalley (sales) and Philip Allmen (editorial).



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September 13th

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Marycrest Heights
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Livonia, MI

MarycrestHeights.org

Community Amenities:

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- Resident Activities
- Media Room Lounge
- Fitness Center
- Heated Underground Parking
- Community Garden
- Walking Paths
- Emergency Call System



PHILIP ALLMEN

Frank Cibor and Deb Conner have some fun out of the office while participating in the Michigan Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program last week.



PHILIP ALLMEN

Mark Warren has his eye on another piece of trash on the northbound side of I-275 near Six Mile Road.

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Paying off mortgage with lump-sum withdraw may have tax consequences

Q. Dear Rick: My wife and I have a dilemma that we hope you can help us with. We are in our early 60s and are both retired. At this point we are not taking Social Security and plan to delay that a couple of years. Currently, my pension and my wife's severance more than cover our living expenses. We have a \$150,000 mortgage on our home. The interest rate is 4.5 percent and we have approximately 15 years left. For many reasons we cannot refinance. My wife is more conservative than me and she would like to take the money out of our IRA and pay off the mortgage. I think with interest rates so low it doesn't make sense to pay the mortgage off. What do you recommend?

A: I don't want to come between you and your wife, however, I think it would be a mistake to withdraw the money in one lump sum from your retirement account. My



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

reasoning is based on when you withdraw the money, it is subject to ordinary income tax; which means you will lose a significant amount of money when you withdraw toward taxes. Withdrawing the money in one lump sum would also throw you into a higher tax bracket.

I believe that money should be used to increase the quality of your life. If having the mortgage paid off would do that, I would recommend to do it over a five-year period. Based upon the number you provided and upon current tax laws,

you could make a lump-sum payment of approximately \$25,000 per year for the next five years. Coupled with your current payment, you would have the house paid off in five years. Doing it this way would not throw you into a higher tax bracket.

One question I'm frequently asked is whether it makes sense to pay off mortgages. As far as I'm concerned, there are two ways to think about this issue. The first is purely from a financial standpoint. Look at what the mortgage is costing after tax, versus money earned after taxes, if invested. If, for example, the mortgage, after taxes is costing 2 percent and after taxes that money was earning you 4 percent, from a financial standpoint, it

would make sense to keep the mortgage. On the other hand, if the after tax cost of the mortgage was 4 percent and you were earning only 2 percent on your money, paying off the mortgage would make sense.

Some people sleep better at night when their homes are paid off. In that regard, it's not a financial decision, but a peace of mind decision. In those cases where people will feel more comfortable by having their house paid off, it does make sense to work on a program to accelerate the mortgage payments.

Never forget that money is a tool that is used to increase the quality of your life. The goal is not to accumulate as much money as you can but to live a

fulfilled life. Money is a tool that can assist you. That doesn't mean we don't have to watch our money and be vigilant with it; but rather, it should never be the end withal.

One of the challenges in life is to balance quality of life versus the reality of our finances. If you let the scales tip too far in either direction that is where problems will develop. I wish I had an easy answer, but I don't; what I do know is that it is possible to have that balance. Good luck!

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

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WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER



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- Last year assisted over 14,000 taxpayers in avoiding foreclosure, stabilizing neighborhoods, and stopping blight.
- Developed partnerships with over 20 neighborhood organizations to keep people in their homes.
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C 20 STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13)

11:15, 4:45

C THE MATCH (R)

12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45

FRISAT LS 12:00

C THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13)

11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 2:45, 3:00, 3:20,

6:05, 6:15, 6:40, 9:15, 9:30, 10:00

FRISAT LS 11:00

ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (PG)

12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:50, 9:00

TED (R)

FRU-TUE/TH 7:00, 9:20

FRISAT LS 11:40

BRAVE (PG) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15

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BUSINESS NEWS GOLD DOWNTURN

Is Gold on the Edge of a Violent Downturn?

Gold is on the brink of a "violent downturn" and could even fall as low as \$700 an ounce as the risk of deflation in developed economies grows and technical pointers turn bearish, one expert tells CNBC.

"Just like you see oil falling from \$115 to \$80 - we will see the same thing with gold and it's already underway. It appears that the market has decided on gold's fate. And it's not looking pretty. It looks like gold is about to see prices collapse"

Hurry in to Showroom before the predicted slide in gold prices.

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Canton, MI 48187
P: 734.207.1906



www.showroomofelegance.com

The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth and the Plymouth Community United Way invite you to

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A Back-to-School Supplies Drive

From August 5-11, when you bring in a NEW school backpack with at least 4 school supply items inside, The Inn at St. John's will give you a voucher for a complimentary 18-hole round of golf to be used later*.

* Daily number of promotional tee times limited. Mention promotion when making your tee time.

For questions or tee times
Call 734.453.1047.



44045 Five Mile Road
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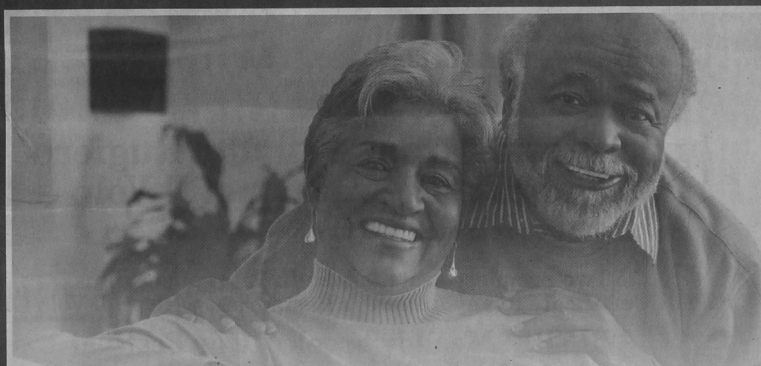
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SECTION B. (*)
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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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TIM SMITH, EDITOR
tsmith@hometownlife.com
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SPORTS

Pride and joy

Canton will have collective eye on Schmitt at London Olympics

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

All of Canton will be crowding their television sets or computer screens in the coming days to keep up with Allison Schmitt at the Summer Olympic Games in London.

One of her former coaches with the Canton girls swim team certainly will.

"We're very proud that Canton High School has an Olympian," said Ed Weber Thursday, who along with Molly Raines coached Schmitt in the mid-2000s when she began to show all-world skills. "... We are very excited. We followed her since Allison took the year off from Georgia to train for the Olympics."

Schmitt, a 22-year-old who graduated from Canton in 2008, is with the U.S. Olympic Swimming Team where she will go for the gold in the 200- and 400-meter freestyles and as part of the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200-meter freestyle relays. At the U.S. Olympic Trials late



Canton's Allison Schmitt pumps her fist to celebrate her win in the 200-meter freestyle at last month's U.S. Olympic Trials in Omaha, Neb. She broke her own American record in the event with a time of 1:54.40.

Please see SCHMITT, B4

litch hockey scholarships

Vaughn Birchler of Plymouth and Joseph Kristofik of Farmington Hills were among eight players from the Little Caesars AAA Hockey Club and Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League to receive a portion of \$20,000 in scholarships from litch Charities.

On the air

The new 88.1 FM WSPD will air the Plymouth Whalers Hunger Free Summer Alumni Game beginning 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, from Compuware Arena.

Whalers play-by-play voice Pete Krupsky and analyst Sean Baligan will have the call of the game. Long-distance listeners can hear the game online at www.881theescape.com.

The Whalers are asking fans for a donation of 10 canned goods for admission. Tickets for \$10 can be also purchased by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or by going online to www.plymouthwhalers.com.

Holes-in-one

Several golfers scored aces recently at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center near Plymouth.

On Wednesday, 13-year-old Jackson Sartain of Canton used an 8-iron to ace the 141-yard No. 3 hole of the Woodlands Course. He carded a 9-hole round of 39.

Canton's Steve Matera, 53, sank a hole-in-one on July 22. He used a 9-iron to ace the 102-yard No. 6 hole of the Hills course and finished with a score of 37 for nine holes.

And on July 21, 63-year-old Dave Young of Monroe aced the No. 5 hole of the Hills course. He used a 5-iron to sink his 126-yard shot and scored a 9-hole round of 33.

MU athletic teams lauded

The National Association of Interscholastic Athletics announced Thursday its 2011-12 NAIA Scholar Teams with school records nine Madonna University squads (out of 11 sports) being honored.

Led by women's golf with a 3.50 grade-point average and women's basketball at 3.48, MU breaks its own previous mark of eight set in 2009-10.

"The importance of academics that our coaches have stressed to the student-athletes speaks volumes to the sustained success we have had," MU athletic director Bryan Rizzio said.

Stevenson alum heads Class of 2012 for Schoolcraft men

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Randy Henry went to build upon last year's 19-12 season record and Friday he took a step in the right direction by signing Livonia Stevenson guard Jonathan Campbell.

The 6-foot Campbell earned first-team All-Observer honors as a junior on the Spartans' 19-4 Class A district and KLA&A Central Division championship teams where he averaged 14.5 points and 4.5 assists per game.

"I like the idea of having a local kid on the team, and at the same time he's going to make contribution for you because we only have one guy return-

ing," Henry said. "There's a great chance that he'll be able to fit into a starting role. And he's going to be a little more mature because he's 19. It's not like a young guy coming in as an 18-year-old and wide-eyed excited about coming to college."

During his senior year, Campbell was eligible for only nine games after the Michigan High School Athletic Association declared he could only play first semester. The MHSAA declared that he had used up eight semesters after being home schooled prior to enrolling at Stevenson.

During his abbreviated eight-game stint his senior year, the three-point

Please see CAMPBELL, B3

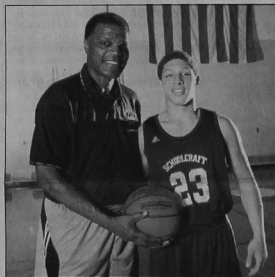


PHOTO BY MAT SCHWEDT

Schoolcraft College coach Randy Henry (left) signed Livonia Stevenson guard Jonathan Campbell to an NCAA basketball letter-of-intent on Friday.

Clack is ageless wonder on the links

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

If age is a handicap, then Dil Clack is an exception to the rule.

The 88-year-old, who resides in Canton, appears to be getting better despite his advanced years after carding a 70 during his Red Fox Saturday League at the Links of Whitmore Lake.

For Clack, who has been the league director for 35 years, it is believed to be the lowest 18-hole round in a Fox Hills League by any senior player over 65.

His front nine score was 32 and back nine 38 with five birdies in total.

Clack played from the senior (gold) tees, which

were 4,185 yards.

There was an ironic twist to his round because Clack and his Red Fox Saturday League members had to play at Links of Whitmore Lake due to a golf outing at Fox Hills that day.

"It's the best I've ever shot," said Clack, who is currently in first place in his Saturday Red Fox League and is gunning for his 15th league title. "I have shot a 71 at Fox Hills, but that was over 20 years ago."

Clack has been a starter at Fox Hills for 23 years ever since retiring from the Garden City Schools in 1989 where he worked for the building and grounds department.

Clack normally works

Sunday through Tuesday at Fox Hills, and then plays golf Wednesday through Saturday.

He also plays in a Friday league at the Fox Classic Course.

"I really don't keep a handicap," he said. "But we have a secretary and we keep all the score sheets in the Saturday league and mine is 17."

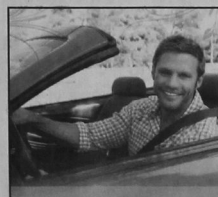
Going long

Clack, who has been a league director for 35 years, credits his recent success to a newly purchased Taylor Made driver and 3-wood. He plays with a senior-flexed set of Wilson flat shafts.

Please see CLACK, B3



Dil Clack, 88, is still going strong after firing a 70 at the Links of Whitmore Lake in the Fox Hills Red Fox 65-and-over Saturday league for seniors 65-and-over. He is originally from Garden City and now resides in Canton.



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In the same boat

Outboard racers eager to compete at Grass Lake

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

There's no huge pile of cash and ESPN coverage for Plymouth's Sam Pilato and other hydroplane racers who will be competing Tuesday through Saturday at Grass Lake, Michigan.

But Pilato said that's no deterrent from taking part in the 2012 Stock/ Junior Outboard Nationals, hosted by the Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association. About 100 racers from across the United States and Canada will make the trek to the Jackson area event.

"These are all amateur racers, and as competitive as it is we're all pretty much friends," said Pilato, 56, in his fifth year racing his 87-M boat in the C-Stock runabout class. "So it's really more kind of

bragging rights.

"There's no money to be made or anything like that. But it's just a bunch of us guys and gals who enjoy the sport and this is kind of the best of the best."

Others who are ready for the race include Andrew Tate of Canton (B Stock Hydro, C Stock Hydro) and Livonia's Josh Tocalino (AX Hydroplane, AX Runabout).

Recently, Tate won a divisional championship in BSH in Akron, Ohio and could be a contender at Grass Lake.

Tocalino will go for the gusto in two very competitive junior racing classes, looking to reach speeds of 50 miles-per-hour. He also is a fifth-year racer.

According to Pilato, anybody can sign up for the Grass Lake race, from 10-year-olds to those in their

70s. But to have a chance at winning, which he does, entails surviving elimination heats.

"Let's say there are 15 entries in a particular class," he explained. "They'll run an elimination and eliminate certain people by the way they find and wind up with a final group of racers."

"Out of those racers you will have a winner."

Everybody will race the same course, albeit in different classes.

"Each class represents a specific set of criteria," Pilato said. "It's based on weight, your age, and the type of power and boat that you use."

For more information on the Grass Lake Outboard Nationals, go to www.michiganhydroplane.com.

tim@hometownlife.com

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Members of the North Farmington-West Bloomfield 16-and-under Cobras include (front row, from left) bat boy John Wierimaa, Patrick Wierimaa, Bobby Williams, Connor Jeffries, Eric Stanis, Patrick Williams, Ian Gillis; (back row, from left) coach Mike Bjerke, Austin Krus, Corey Williams, Brennan Williams, Danny Sanders, Mitch Sykes, Tyler Davis, Alex Shimmons, coaches Andrew Stanis and Bill Davis.

Cobras win Triple Crown tourney

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield 16-and-under Cobras put the pedal to the metal by winning seven straight games and the Great Lakes Spectacular Triple Crown baseball tournament, July 12-15, in Mount Pleasant.

Despite falling behind 2-0 after the top of the second inning, the Cobras answered with six runs of their own and never looked back in a 10-6 championship final victory over the Oakland Whitecaps of Waterford.

"This was an entire team effort with contributions from all team members," Cobras coach Bill Davis said. "Everybody stepped up at different times over the seven games to seal the victories. Pitching and defense was solid and the

offense came up with some key hits. I am very proud of the boys."

The Cobras reached the finals with a come-from-behind 6-5 semifinal victory over the Central Michigan Stars.

Trailing by three runs with one out heading into the bottom of the seventh, the Cobras strung together four hits to tie the score. With runners at second and third, the Stars issued an intentional walk to load the bases followed by a Cobras walk-off sacrifice fly to complete the rally.

The Cobras' run started with a 3-0 record in pool play to earn the top seed in the 24-team bracket followed by elimination round victories over Slezak Baseball of Davison, 11-2, and the Northville Broncos, 1-0.



Sam Pilato of Plymouth races in his 87-M hydroplane during a recent event. He is competing at this week's outboard nationals near Jackson.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Wayne football

Wayne Memorial High will be staging summer football camps.

For more information, call new varsity football coach Lee Grizzell at (313) 408-8765.

MD boys hoops

Madonna University will stage a series of summer boys basketball camps including:

- All-Star - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 30-Aug. 3, (cost \$200); Post/Perimeter, 4:30-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 30-Aug. 3 (cost \$150).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCruaders.com.

Plymouth High hockey camp

Plymouth High School hockey players interested in trying out for the varsity team this fall are encouraged to participate in a summer mini-camp that begins Tuesday, Aug. 7, with a 90-minute skate at the Canton Arctic Edge Arena starting at 7:30 p.m.

A second skating session will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.

The Plymouth varsity hockey mini-camp is a series of on-ice sessions and off-ice workouts for three weeks.

For more information, call Wildcats head coach Gerry Fenton at (313) 215-3394, or visit the team's website: www.hockey.plymouthwildcats.com.

Triple Threat Hoop program

Triple Threat Training is hosting a developmental club for young basketball players at High Velocity Sports in Canton, running from Sept. 9 through Oct. 22. The six-week club is for boys and girls of all ages.

The club (\$250) is designed for those entering grades 3-8 who are interested in taking their game to the next level. Training will focus on improving individual skills, basketball IQ, strength, conditioning, speed and agility.

In addition to age-appropriate workouts will be instructional scrimmages with referees on Sundays from 3-6 p.m. A jersey will be included.

High Velocity is located south of Michigan Ave. west of Canton Center/Belleville Road in Canton. Call (734) 341-1336 or e-mail Troy Coleman at tc@triplethreatsports.net for more details.

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Perfect Mets!



With their June 26 victory, the 12-Under Mets Little League baseball team of the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association won the championship and finished undefeated with a 15-0 record. Coached by Jerry Dorman, the Mets knocked off the pesky Red Sox—who reached the title tilt thanks to defeating the league's No. 2 and No. 3 teams (Blue Jays, Cubs, respectively). Pictured are the victorious Mets. In the front row (from left) are head coach Dorman, Jared Dorman, Andrew Beaudoin, Nick Arbanas, Gary Calhoun and Josh Kline. In the back row (from left) are assistant coach Kevin Swope Sr., Kevin Swope, Gage Bitzer, Marcus McNutt, Matthew Mondro, Brad Byrnes, Carter Kahl and assistant coach Josh Utley. Not pictured is Jacob Kalinowski, described by coach Dorman as an "awesome catcher and fine young man."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Need cheer coach

Livonia Clarenceville High School is currently accepting applications for its varsity girls cheerleading coach position.

To apply, send a resume, letter of recommendation and references to Clarenceville athletic director Kevin Murphy at kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us.

Golf classes

Late summer youth and adult golf

classes are available during the month of August at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township.

Also, the next Golf Enhancement Session, "How to Dial in Your Irons," is from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, July 30 at the Hickory Creek practice range. The \$20 cost includes range balls and swing tips. (Golf after 6:30 p.m. is an additional \$10 with cart).

For more information or to book a lesson, contact PGA professional Tami Beallert at TaimwithTami@yahoo.com; or call (734) 731-0238.

Impending return to Willows for Shepler, Ioanou

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Both Jordyn Shepler and Andrew Ioanou know Whispering Willows Golf Course like the back of their hands.

It was their home course for four years for the two graduating seniors from Livonia Churchill High, who won their respective 16-17 age divisions Wednesday in the 2012 Motor City Junior Championship at Willows.

Ioanou, who will attend Schoolcraft College and try out for the Ocelot

men's team, captured the Boys 16-17 title for the third straight year with 79 to beat Churchill teammate Brian Sexton, who will be a senior this fall, by two strokes.

Ironically, it wasn't the best of days for Ioanou.

"It was pretty bad actually," the second-team All-Observer selection said. "I just wasn't feeling it yesterday I guess. I really couldn't get around on the ball and just kind of made out though on myself."

"Surprisingly my putter was working pretty good. It felt good. I had one three-putt, but it was from 80 feet."

Ioanou admitted he hasn't played much summer tournament golf since the high school season ended in early June.

"The long game is kind of hurting me right now, but hopefully it will get a little better," he said. "I've been working (a job) and playing beach volleyball. I just got started with my friends (in volleyball) and it's been a lot of fun. We go around a lot of different places and play pickup."

Shepler, meanwhile, has been a first-team All-Observer player for the Chargers and will play this fall on a scholarship to Madonna University.

She gave herself mixed reviews after shooting a 79.

"It was a pretty good round for me," said Shepler, who turns 18 on Sunday. "I played well and just tried to have fun. It's a decent score, but I think I can do better."

"I started with a birdie on the first hole, and then I had two eagle putts on



PAUL WORLEY

Canton's Jack Boczar captured the 13-and-under division at the Motor City Junior Golf Championship Wednesday at Whispering Willows with a 73.

number eight and 16, but both lipped out."

Shepler said she plans on playing Tuesday in Livonia's Tournament of Champions event — also at Whispering Willows.

"I'm trying to get ready for Madonna golf (Aug. 1)," Shepler said. "I'm trying to keep my consistency. I've been working and practicing."

The most impressive score was turned in by Boys 13-and-under division winner Jack Boczar, who shot an impressive 73 from the 5,200-yard forward tees to beat fellow Canton native Justin Kapke by five strokes.

Both will be eighth-graders and are eventually headed to Plymouth High.

Boczar, who attends Discovery Middle School, posted two birdies with only one bogey and one double-bogey.

Despite standing only 5-foot-1 and weighing 87 pounds, Boczar hits 220 yards regularly off the tee. He takes lessons from Jeff Goble at a driving range and dome in Auburn Hills. Boczar also competes during the summer for Colony Swim Club, but prefers golf.

"My long game was working, but my putting wasn't the best," said Boczar, who has played 15 Meijer Junior Tour events this year including a third-place finish recently at Edgewood Country Club.

Meanwhile, Edgar Lewis IV, of Livonia, took the Boys 14-15 crown with an 83, two strokes better than Justice Graves of Canton.

The Girls 15-and-under victor was Northville's Julia Shaw with a 118.

benmons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

JUNIOR GOLF RESULTS

2012 MOTOR CITY JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
July 25 at Whip. Willows

BOYS RESULTS
16-17: 1. Andrew Ioanou (Livonia), 79; 2. Brian Sexton (Livonia), 81; 3. Justin Harris, 82; 4. (tie) Chad Macorkindale and Hayden Sackey, 89 each; 6. Herbie Taylor, 96; 7. Ryan Giliva, 99; 8. Jason Wyszoki, 113; 9. Justin Legel (withdrew). **Long drive:** Ioanou; **closest-to-pin:** Sackey.

14-15: 1. Edgar Lewis IV (Livonia), 83; 2. Justice Graves (Canton), 85; 3. Alex Cleaver, 89; 4. T.J. Kuffian, 95; 5. Alex Westphal, 102; 6. Nicklas Beers, 103; 7. Ryan Bohr, 106; 8. Alec Moore, 113; 9. Matthew Flood, 118; 10. Colin Burford, 125; 11. Brent Wilkerson (withdrew). **Long drive:** Moore; **closest-to-pin:** Kuffian.

13-and-under: 1. Jack Boczar (Canton), 73; 2. Justin Kapke (Canton), 78; 3. Dominic Marsales, 86; 4. Saahib Murradi, 90; 5. Canon Graves, 96; 6. Logan Welch, 102; 7. Jacob Karwowski, 119; 8. Rob Gulick, 120. **Long drive:** Kapke; **closest-to-pin:** Boczar.

GIRLS RESULTS
16-17: 1. Jordyn Shepler (Livonia), 79; 2. Kayla Whately (Canton), 82; 3. Christina Briden, 93; 4. Maggie McGowan, 95; 5. Kristin Swad, 97. **Long drive:** Whately; **closest-to-pin:** Shepler.
15-and-under: 1. Julia Shaw (Northville), 118; 2. Kendall Payne (Livonia), 127; 3. Marin McGowan, 128. **Long drive:** Shaw.



PAUL WORLEY

Edgar Lewis IV, of Livonia, shot an 83 to capture the Boys 14-15 age division Wednesday at the Motor City Junior Golf Championship held at Whispering Willows.

Mercy to host Mary Angela Run

The 10th annual Mary Angela Run is slated to take place 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 12 at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

For the fourth year, the event will benefit Angels' Place, a nonprofit which provides housing and services for people with developmental disabilities.

This will be the first year the run takes place at Mercy, the school that Mary Angela DiGiovanni graduated from.

The Mary Angela Run is dedicated to the memory of DiGiovanni, who was involved in a fatal car accident in January of 2003.

She was a University of Michigan Public Health student with a desire to improve health care and

help people in need, and her family has pledged that her life will continue to reach out and help others.

"Mary Angela was a caring and dedicated person who wanted to help many different people and we believe that Angels Place has the same ideals," said race coordinator Sue Vincent who is also Mary Angela's aunt. "We have had a great turn out every year with nearly 500 people attending, and we're hoping to have another great event this year."

The event has raised approximately \$40,000 each year for the past nine years.

"Whenever I think of the Mary Angela Run, I see in my mind's eye

the image of Mary Angela with blue angel wings embracing and protecting the people we serve," said Cheryl Loveday, Angels' Place executive director. Registration is now open with a standard entry fee of \$25 or \$50 for a Mary's Angel sponsor, which includes a special Mary's Angel T-shirt and recognition on event signage.

Participants may register in advance or on the day of the event beginning at 7:30 a.m.

There will be chip timed 5K and 10K runs, plus a 1-mile fitness walk and childrens run.

For more information on the Mary Angela Run, or to register, please visit www.angelsplace.com.

CLACK

Continued from page B1

"I'm getting more distance," Clack said. "About 15-to-20 years, more than I've been hitting. Normally I'll hit the ball out there maybe about 185-190 off the tee. I get it mostly down the middle all the time because the shorter you hit the ball. The better control you have on it."

He managed baseball in Garden City for 28 years, including six years of little league before moving up to Babe Ruth (with his son Rick, who is currently the Livonia Franklin girl's tennis coach).

He also coached Connie Mack baseball (ages 16-18) and he organized the Garden City Class A Invitational league where he directed that league for 15 years. "Anybody could play in that league," Clack said. "I myself started playing in that particular league when I was 49 years-old and played until I was 63."

At the age of 62, Clack proved he was the Satchel Paige of the Garden City Class A circuit once pitching all nine innings and winning against an all-star team from

Detroit that featured five ex-Major League stars.

On Thursday, Clack proved his round of 70 was no fluke as he carded a 76 on the same Links of Whitmore Lake.

Clack said he has never taken a golf lesson and basically learned the game on his own. He's had five hole-in-ones in the "last six or seven years," but only two came when he had witnessed.

"I've playing since World War II," he said. "I'm playing pretty good golf right now. I'm in excellent health. I weigh about 165 pounds and I go about a golf lesson and smoke and do a lot of exercise working outside of Fox Hills. I go to the Summit (Parkway) and walk in that indoor track. I walk every day and walk a mile, so I keep myself in pretty good shape."

He's taken a page from Paige's book when it comes to golf and living when he was quoted saying, "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."

Did Clack apparently isn't looking back.

benmons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851

CAMPBELL

Continued from page B1

sharpshooter switched to the point-guard position where he averaged 15.5 points and 5.5 assists per game as Stevenson went 6-2. Ironically in his final game against Novi, Campbell went down with a season-ending ankle injury in the first minute of play.

"What I also liked about him when he came and worked out for me was that he has great quickness," Henry said. "He can get up and down the floor quickly, so he's going to add a dimension where he can handle it and put the ball in the hole. He's a good push man. He can dish it, handle it and shoot the three."

Henry also announced he has signed nine other players including area products Grant Betner, a 6-foot guard from Salem's KLA championship team, Terrall Sewell, a 6-6 forward from Canton, Kyle Bambach, a 6-0 guard from Stevenson who played for the Ocelots two years ago, and Redford's Joniero Bry-

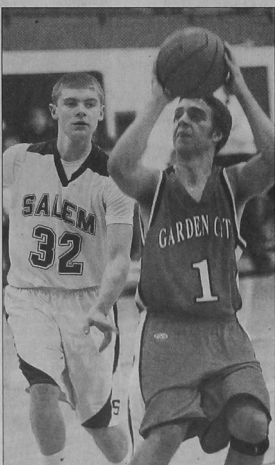
ant, a 6-4 forward via Grayson H.S. in Loganville, Ga.

Also in the fold are 6-4 small forward Nicholas Redmond and 5-11 guard Keith Sykes, both from Detroit Plymouth Educational Center Prep; Salah Alawgari, a 6-3 guard from Hamtramck Frontier International; Marcus Williams, a 6-4 forward who played two years ago at Henry Ford CC; and Chris Brown, a 6-1 guard and 2010 grad from Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Henry also said 6-4 forward Adonis Bryant (Lahser) will join the Ocelots' 2012-13 squad as a walk-on.

Meanwhile, Richmond Jackson, a 6-5 forward from Detroit, is the only returning player off last year's squad for Henry. "He's a kid that went to (Detroit) Cass Tech, dropped out of (Detroit) Mumford and then came back and got his G.E.D.," Henry said. "He's been a real success story for us and pulled a 3.8 (grade-point average) his last semester."

Henry added that he hopes to sign two more players by Tuesday.



Schoolcraft also signed Salem's Grant Betner (No. 32), shown in this 2010-11 photo with Garden City's Brandon Kennedy.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

U-9 baseball

Tryouts for the Livonia Bats, an under-9 baseball team, will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 at Livonia Franklin H.S.

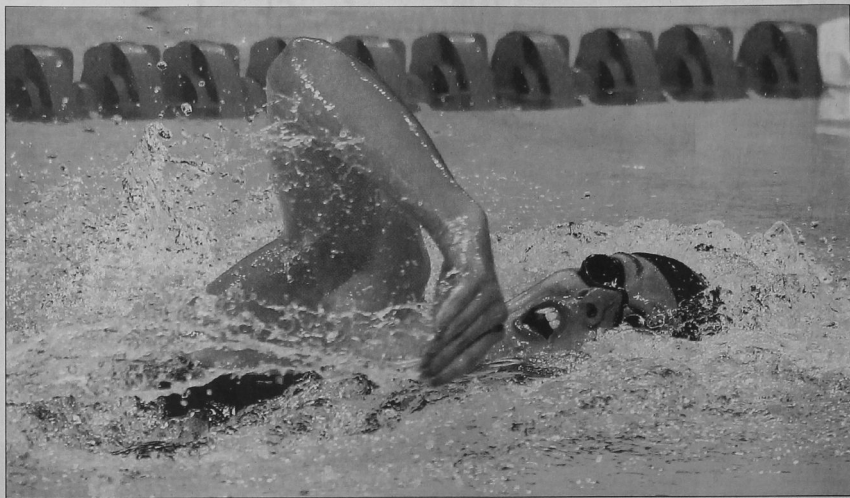
For more information, call coach Bill Schaffer at (734) 891-3856.

Salem Rockettes set golf outing

The 12th annual Salem Rockettes Golf Outing is slated for Sunday, Aug. 5 at Fox Hills Golf Club, 8768 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth.

Cost is \$100 per golfer for 18 holes of golf (scramble format) on the Premium Classic Golf course, followed by a buffet dinner and silent auction.

Also on tap will be contests with prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and golfing pro. Register on-line at www.golftour.com/event/salemrockettes.



PHOTOS BY GANNETT NEWS SERVICE | USA TODAY

Carving her way through the water en route to a record-breaking finish in the 200-meter freestyle at the recent U.S. Olympic Trials is Allison Schmitt of Canton.

SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

last month in Omaha, Neb., she broke her own American record in the 200 free with a mark of 1:54.40.

Still the same

Weber said Schmitt seems to still be the same fun-loving girl who enjoyed joking with her teammates almost as much as coming from behind in a relay to drench the competition.

"The respect factor that we hear other coaches and other athletes talk about Allison really go right in line from our experiences," Weber noted. "So she hasn't changed a bit. When you hear the interviews with other athletes, you hear how Allison is fun to have at practice.

"She's always in with the jokes, excited to be there. We had that day in and day out for four years."

Looking back on when Schmitt started her Canton career as a high school freshman, the veteran coach recalled how much potential she had.

"She came in as a freshman very excited about swimming," Weber said. "She still hadn't had the big breakthrough."

Others saw it, too. "Chuck Olson, the Salem coach, he came up to me as she was a freshman," Weber continued. "And he said after one of the first times he got to see her swim was 'She can do things in the water that I have never seen before.'



After completing her heat in the 200-meter freestyle at the recent U.S. Olympic Trials, Allison Schmitt glances at the scoreboard to see how she finishes.

"And what he meant by that is the way she can grab the water, (get) her elbow up underwater and pull herself up and over."

While Schmitt was a sophomore, Weber and Raines kept working with her on breakouts and turns.

"You could see her finding that niche after her sophomore year," Weber said.

"She started to make her Junior Olympic team and it proceeded on to winning state meet her junior year, winning state meet her senior year.

"She was second place in the 50 and 100 (free) her sophomore year and right after that some magical switch happened. She went from being an excellent swimmer to being the swimmer we know now."

Gold's the goal

As great as she swam for the Chiefs, Schmitt really took off after she graduated. She nabbed a bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in the women's 4 x 200 relay.

From there she went to the University of Georgia, where she became a four-time NCAA champion.

But in the next two weeks at the London Olympics, Schmitt will be focused on bettering 2008 by winning a gold medal or two.

That could be next for a supreme athlete who Weber recalled having an absolute disdain of defeat.

"There are just tons of stories about how she would come back on a relay," from a length or more, Weber said. "We often put her fourth, because Allison hated to lose."

With Schmitt's talent and fierce mindset, it's no surprise she's on the world stage once again — and that those in her hometown who had a part in her career also feel like a winner.

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 469-4128

ALL ABOUT SCHMITTY

Who: Allison Schmitt, nicknamed "Schmitty," member of the U.S. Olympic Swimming Team who will compete in four events at the London Olympics (200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, 4 x 100 freestyle relay, 4 x 200 freestyle relay).

When: Check local TV listings and USA Swimming's Web site, www.usawimming.org for more details.

Olympics: The opening ceremonies were Friday and the games continue until Aug. 12.

Local ties: Schmitt, 22, is a 2008 graduate of Canton High School, where she was a state champion. She went on to earn the bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and followed up with NCAA championships at the University of Georgia. She trained for the Olympics under the watch of coach Bob Bowman at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club.

Family: Her parents are Ralph and Gail Schmitt of Canton. Allison is one of the family's five successful student-athletes, all who swim at Canton. Those include Kirsten, Derek and twin sisters Kari and Sara (currently playing Division 1 women's hockey at Ohio State University).

Schmitt

Suburban Ice ready to give thanks

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

While the weather on Saturday, Aug. 4 figures to be sizzling, a day-long celebration of hockey is just around the corner at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills.

The arena's seventh annual "Open House" is slated from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and should draw plenty of Livonia left-wingers, Garden City goalies and Pee Wees from Plymouth.

Everything that is on the agenda won't cost participants a dime. Inside the arena will be men's drop-in hockey (10-11 a.m.), women's drop-in (11 a.m. to 12 noon), back-to-back sticks and pucks sessions (12 noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m.) and open skating from 2-3 p.m.

All hockey and skating sessions will take place at the arena's Pepsi Rink.

But there will be plenty of fun outside, too. There will be street hockey, face painting, slide boards and plenty more — not to mention free popcorn,



Youngsters battle it out in a game of street hockey during last year's Open House at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills. A bevy of free activities will be on tap at the arena on Saturday, Aug. 4.

soft drinks and hot dogs.

"We're always looking for ways to give back to old customers and generate new customers," said Geoff Bennetts, general manager of Suburban Ice Farmington Hills.

Bennetts estimated that anywhere from 300-400 hockey-loving people will come out for the event. "Those who do want to come out should pre-reg-

ister by calling (248) 888-1400 as soon as possible.

Bringing in newbies to the SIFH fold is always part of the plan, he continued. But the open house is a "thank you" to the regulars more than anything else.

"This is really an opportunity to give back to our customers who spend money with us all year," Bennetts said.

To gear up for the event, Bennetts said more than 1,000 index-card-sized orange fliers were handed out during the Farmington Founders Parade on July 21.

For more on SIFH programs, go to www.suburbanicefarmingtonhills.com. Suburban Ice Farmington Hills is located at 23996 Freeway Park Drive.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

13-U baseball

• The Michigan Bulldogs will be holding tryouts for their 13-and-under baseball team from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, August 5 at Bicentennial Park's (Field No. 8), located off Seven Mile and Wayne roads in Livonia.

Players are asked to show up by 1:45 p.m. to get warmed up and fill out a tryout form.

Email Scott Coughlin at scottcoughlin@yahoo.com for more information.

• Tryouts for the 2013 Northville Cubs, a 13-and-under baseball team in the KVDISA travel league, will be from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, July 29, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, July 30 and Wednesday, Aug. 1, at Maybury State Park, located off Eight Mile Road (one mile west of Beck Road).

For more information, e-mail Jim Marshall at jim@northvillebaseball.com.

12-U baseball

• Open travel baseball tryouts for the 12-and-under Dearborn Heights Knights will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7 and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 at the Canfield Arena/Central Park, located south of Ford between Beech Daly and Inkster

Roads.

Interested players must be 12-years-old prior to May 1, 2013 and only need to attend one of the two tryout sessions.

For more registration information, call head coach Brad Ebben at (248) 924-0489, or e-mail bebben1.att.net.

• Tryouts for the Livonia Longhorns, an under-12 baseball team, will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4 at Livonia Franklin High School.

For more information, call coach Matt Fournier at (734) 968-0499.

U-11 baseball

Tryouts for the 2013 Motor City Chiefs under-11 travel baseball team will be at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 at Massey Field, 790 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 at Castle Gardens, 14501 Hix Road, Livonia.

Players are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to tryout time to register and warm up. (If unable to attend, a player evaluation can be scheduled upon request.)

For more information, call Dan Sheahan at (734) 377-3123, or Ken Gaffney at (734) 395-4058.

You can also email motorcitybaseball@gmail.com.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Twenty years later, Livonia band continues to entertain

By Joanne Maliszewski
 Correspondent

Five hometown boys and Bentley High School pals are proof you don't have to be Hollywood or New York City to be successful musicians with a considerable following.

"We don't have any grand illusions. We are just having fun," said Greg Panaretos, one of five original members of the popular The Major Woody Band.

Graduation, marriages, children and jobs kept the friends busy over the years; some staying in touch and playing music together. But in 1992, Glen Dickson decided it was time to make their continuing love of music official and organize a new band.

One element, however, was missing for the five friends who gathered now as adults to venture into a professional world of music. The new band needed a name.

The name

Founding member Carl Gerhard one day just said it: "The Major Woody Band."

The name has stuck. "Back in the day, we were just throwing names around. It really doesn't mean anything. It's just a silly phrase," Dickson said.

Still, the name is interesting enough to draw the requisite attention from fans in the region. Of course, good music is what keeps the fans coming back for more.

The Bentley High School grads just took down the house at the Livonia Spree Festival and continue to be



The Major Woody includes: Mark Lutz, (back, left) Tim McPherson, Carl Gerhard, Duran Grisa, Glenn Dickson, (front, left) Carrie Firth, and Greg Panaretos.



The band rocks out.

booked throughout the year at the region's favorite clubs.

Now in their late 40s and early 50s, band members are celebrating The Major Woody Band's 20th anniversary. A milestone to be sure, but members

also recognize the length and depth of friendships and a commitment to playing good music.

Right out of the gate, original Major Woody members Michael Wigand, Dickson, Carl Gerhard, Chris McCro-

ry and Panaretos agreed they wanted to be known for being different.

"We like all music but we wanted to play alternative music," Panaretos said.

When the decision was made to include the Motown landmark, *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*, it wasn't the popular Marvin Gaye version, but a more soulful rendition by Gladys Knight & the Pips.

Heavy rock-and-roll and some punk also captured the band's interest. But as Dickson said, "we knew that if we wanted to be successful and make money we would have to play dance music and some of the classics."

When band members

said classics, however, they aren't necessarily talking about imitating music on mainstream radio. It's not exactly "oldies but goodies." They sing classic artists, but not necessarily the songs that made them famous.

"We really do off-the-wall classic. We don't do the usual," Dickson said. "We really try to stay new."

Staying true

The band does their homework, searching for new music that will be a hit with their fans. "We try to stay true to the recordings and the artists because we also want the music to be recognizable," said Tim McPh-

erson who joined the band six years ago.

"If the musicians' wives like dancing to their selections, the songs stay in the repertoire. "Our wives have good taste in music," Panaretos added.

Twenty years later, Major Woody has remained true to its roots. Friendship, family and a love of good music continue to sustain the band and the relationships forged long ago as teenagers. It is also a part-time gig for the band. Each member has a day job and each works on their own for practice and for searching new music.

Along the way new members have joined the band, bringing what Panaretos calls a new kind of professionalism.

Joining the original five members is Tim McPherson, Mark Lutz, Duran Grisa and Carrie Firth, the lead vocal and a special education teacher for the Livonia Public Schools. McCrory of the original group has left as Susan Harwell, who sang with the group for a while.

Each of the members gives credit for their musical success to their alma mater: "Dr. (Jerry) Smith (music teacher) and Bentley High School — there's a lot of talent in that school," Dickson said.

Sell it

It was Smith who not only taught them music, but an important fact about the business. You have to sell it. "Now it's Glen who tells us that," Panaretos said.

Please see WOODY, B6

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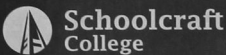
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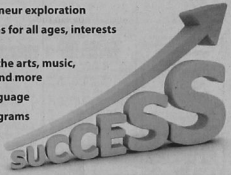
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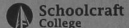
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WOODY

Continued from page B5

It's one thing to make good music, it's another to play and present it in a way that keeps people coming back for more. The show has to be entertaining.

"You can get stuck into the vortex," said McPherson, who followed the band before he joined it. "The crowds have a good time because they watch and see us having a good time."

That means constant change and searching for music that can be universally appealing to the 25 to 65 age group. It is the reason The Major Woody Band plays a wide variety that includes David Bowie, some Motown and even Lady Gaga.

"We try to stay on the edge," Panaretos said. "But maybe not exactly the way people have heard it before. We will have people say to us, 'who did that sound or I haven't heard that so long.'"

The music is an art, but it is also finding the right venues. McPherson tends to handle that task. But it's more than just scheduling a gig. He prefers to create partnerships with clubs and owners. It creates longevity and trust.

Weddings and other functions remain a part of the band's venues. Members try to personalize the music program for the guests of honor. At one wedding, band members invited the groom to bring along his trumpet and play with them.

Despite its success, the band was floored with the reception it received at the latest SPSS in Livonia. "Between sets, I couldn't say hello fast enough to all the people who were coming in," Panaretos said.

It's been 20 years and nothing has dampened band members' spirits. "We are very loyal to Livonia. We will still be doing this when we are all 97," McPherson said.

For more information about The Major Woody Band, visit the band on Facebook.



Budget-friendly road trip tips

With warm weather season in full swing, now is the time to start planning your fun family getaways. If you are concerned about affording it all, author and financial expert Farnosh Torabi offers the following tips to help you have fun and save money on your next vacation.

Bank on gas-saving apps
Look to budget-friendly websites, such as www.GasBuddy.com, which also offers an app that helps you find the closest gas station with the best prices near you. Another gas-saving app is [GasLog](http://www.GasLog.com). It costs \$99 and calculates your car's fuel economy, then provides tips on ways to make your car more fuel-efficient.

Rent a car
It turns out that, contrary to popular belief, it can actually be cheaper to rent a car for weekend getaways than it is to drive your own. According to a study by Brett Smith, co-director, manufacturing, engineering and technology for the Center for Automotive Research, when renting a compact car from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, for example, at its weekend rate, the savings can come to 12 cents per mile. If your getaways is a 300-mile round trip, the fuel savings could be more than \$20.

"By renting a car, you reduce the stress and mileage placed on your vehicle, and you can upgrade or

downgrade depending on the size of your family and fuel economy needs," explains Torabi.

Pack and save
On road trips, most people grab a few snacks every time they stop for a gas. Over time, those candy bars and sodas can really add up. A family of four can easily spend \$15 for drinks and snacks at just one stop. "One easy way to lower the cost of your trip is to pack your own food. Pack a cooler full of bread, peanut butter, string cheese, water, juice and plenty of fruit. You'll be less likely to splurge while filling up the tank, make healthier choices, and save a bundle over all," says Torabi.

Book hotels on Sunday nights

This is when the weekend rush is over and hotel managers have time to talk on the phone and discuss available discounts. Ask to get a free night's stay if you're staying for more than two nights. That's at least \$100 saved right there. Better yet, skip the hotel and find a cheap, but chic, guest room in a local home or apartment through websites such as www.AirBnB.com and www.OneFineStay.com.

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Aviation artist's work selected for Air Zoo

Robert Aikins, a Farmington Hills resident and a member of the American Society of Aviation Artists, will show two paintings in the ASAA 2012 International Aerospace Art Exhibition at The "Air Zoo" Aviation Museum, in Kalamazoo. Aikins was one of 51 artists from around the world whose work was selected for the show, which runs through Sept. 8.

His works, titled *Showtime* and *Target Toyama*, depict both the beauty and horror of aviation history.

Aikins retired from Ford Motor Company as chief designer, Ford Trucks, in 2000.

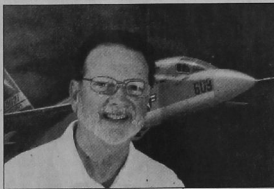
"I wanted to return to my love of aviation and try something new, which turned out to be oil painting," he said. "Since then, I have completed over 100 paintings and my work covers all phases of aviation history."

Last year, he was accepted as an Artist Member of the American Society of Aviation Artists with work exhibited at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

Showtime, one of the two paintings chosen for exhibit at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, shows a WACO — a 1930s type biplane now manufactured in Battle Creek — as it appeared in September 2007 at the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends Air Show in Columbus, Ohio.

The painting won Second Place in the General Aviation Category of the American Society of Aviation Artists Exhibit 2012.

Target Toyama shows the devastation of a 1945 B-29 attack on the chemical and textile manufacturing center of Toyama, Japan in which 95



Robert Aikins of Farmington Hills is an aviation artist.



"Showtime" by Robert Aikins.

percent of the city was destroyed.

The piece won the Four Feathers Enterprises award for the most creative approach to telling an aviation story or depicting an aviation event.

The American Society of Aviation Artist was formed in 1986 to bring together, in one professional body, artists who are leaders in the field, for the purpose of recognizing and promoting interest in aviation art as a fine art form.

Artist members are selected by a group of their peers on the basis of their demonstrated abilities and experience. Membership currently numbers more than 250 artists and associate

members representing all corners of the United States. Aikins has been an ASAA member since 2011.



Target Toyama by Robert Aikins.

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Arthritis Today

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WHEN DRUGS WON'T DO

If your car develops a new noise, you take the care to a mechanic with the question what does this new noise mean? Often the mechanic, after inspecting the vehicle, can tell you that the engine is fine, the brakes are in working order, the cooling system is passable, and nothing is loose under the hood or car. In short, the auto is good to go. Still, he may be unable to tell you why you have the noise, and will conclude with the advice to live with it.

A similar situation can occur with the body, particularly with the joints, muscles and their attachments. If you suddenly have a new pain that persists, in the area of your knee or hip, you have a reason to question if the problem is a strain or even possibly a cancer? Making a doctor's appointment is an exercise in good sense.

Your physician then has the responsibility to evaluate the pain. By a combination of examination, laboratory and imaging findings such as x-ray, CT and MRI scanning, the physician usually can provide answers to your concerns.

In some instances, he may conclude in a manner akin to the mechanic's answer. The pain does not represent an injury, a tumor or cancer, is not an infection, and does not reveal arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus. The problem is not potentially life threatening or crippling, nor represents another condition needing medical attention.

The treatment of choice for this pain is to do nothing, a conclusion as important as uncovering a cancer, a conclusion that should not be a disappointment, but a relief.

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Helping seniors drive safer, longer

Since January 2011, nearly 10,000 Americans turn 65 every day, joining the fastest growing age group in the nation. According to a recent American Automobile Association (AAA) survey of that booming population, nearly half of seniors worry about losing their freedom and mobility when the time comes for them to transition from driver to passenger.

From understanding how vision changes can affect one's ability to drive at night, to researching the effects certain medications can have on one's driving ability, it's important to get the facts about driving for seniors. Use these tips from AAA to help ensure you and your family members are driving safely:

Evaluate your driving.

While most seniors are experienced drivers, it's important to take time to consider one's driving "health" and habits. For instance, how frequently do you wear a seatbelt? Do you use your signal and check for nearby traffic before changing lanes? Does traffic cause you to feel anxious? When was the last time you had an eye exam? You can take a Driver 65 Plus self-assessment at www.SeniorDriving.AAA.com to get a clear picture of just how good your driving skills really are, and you'll also get suggestions for improving your driving.

Be aware of how aging affects driving habits.

From hearing and vision loss, to mental fitness and



reaction time, seniors may not notice the gradual differences that can impact their driving ability. For instance, by age 60, your eyes need three times the amount of light to see properly as they do for people 20 years old, which means it's more difficult to see at night. Likewise, one-third of Americans suffer from hearing loss by age 65. This can pose a problem, as senior drivers may be unable to hear high-pitched noises such as emergency response vehicles while on the road.

Reaction times can be slower for seniors as well. But preventative measures can go a long way.

When following other vehicles, seniors should increase the distance between their car and the car in front of them, to allow more time to react to sudden braking.

Eliminating distractions in the vehicle and avoiding heavy traffic can also help seniors identify emergency signs, and avoiding driving at night is another safer option for seniors.

Find the right fit.

With the wide array of vehicles offering all sorts of convenience features, seniors may not realize that their car may not be optimally adjusted to fit them. For example, sitting too close to the steering wheel can interfere with steering and cause fatigue, as well as injury, should the airbag deploy during a collision.

Make sure you have at least 10 to 12 inches between your chest and the steering wheel.

When seated properly, you should be able to see the ground in front of

your car within 12 to 15 feet and 1 1/2 car widths left and right.

Visit www.car-fit.org to assess the safety of your vehicle, find the proper seat and mirror adjustments and more.

Take a refresher course.

No matter how many years a driver has been on the road, a refresher course can help reinforce the basics such as identifying road signs, as well as provide information on updated driving rules and new vehicle technologies.

Talk with your doctor and pharmacist.

Ensure that the medications you take — both prescription and over-the-counter — will not impair your ability to drive safe-

ly. In addition, make sure all your medications go through one pharmacy, so the pharmacists on staff can better assess any potential drug interactions.

Top 5 driving tips for seniors

1. Prepare for a drive by adjusting your mirrors and seat to ensure you can see properly. Always wear a seatbelt.
2. Eliminate distractions, such as the car radio, which can interfere with your ability to hear emergency response vehicle sirens and other important sounds.
3. Avoid driving in bad weather, heavy traffic or at night.
4. Making left-hand turns can be difficult for people with limited vision. Avoid left-hand turns at

intersections with signals by making three right hand turns around the block when possible.

5. Manage slower reaction times by increasing the amount of space between your vehicle and the car in front of you, allowing for more time to react to sudden braking.

Tips for family members

If you're concerned about the safety of a senior family member, look to resources such as their doctor or your local DMV, that can help identify their capacity to drive, and find transportation resources to help them manage daily needs.

If your family member has received two traffic citations, warnings or been involved in two collisions or "near misses" within a two year period, it may be time to look for other forms of transportation.

Make sure your family member speaks with their doctor and pharmacist about prescription and over-the-counter medications that may impair their ability to drive safely.

Talk with family members, friends and neighbors about organizing a car pool to help seniors who need rides find transportation. Look to local public and supplemental transportation options as well.

Read more about assessing your family member's ability to drive, as well as where to find alternative transportation, at www.SeniorDriving.AAA.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

SOCIAL SECURITY

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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• EMT Day Class	9/17/12	T-Th	Taylor	
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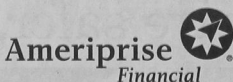
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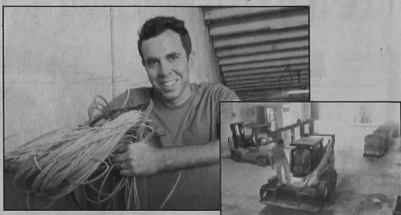
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New Recycling Business Pays Cash for Your Metal and Old Computers



Michael Bassirpour has opened Advanced Recycling, located on Merriman road between Plymouth Road and Schoolcraft. Michael and crew will take your scrap metal and turn it into cash.

Advanced Recycling, which specializes in metal and plastic recycling, opened in May, 2012. President Michael Bassirpour answered the following questions about his business.

Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature:
We are a full-service metal and plastic recycling company. We purchase scrap metal from industrial, commercial, and local residents. We provide roll-off services and trucking. We are open six days a week and pay the best prices for excess metals.

What makes your business unique:
Our exceptional customer service and best prices in town separate us from our competition. We do what we can to maximize supplemental income for anyone who brings us metal. We work with industrial businesses and local home owners. When they clean out their basement/garage and find old tools, barbecue grills or anything metal, they can bring it to us for cash. Trash for Cash. They can also bring us old their old

computers. Electronic material poses a hazard to the environment, we will recycle this material, including shredding hard drives, and make sure it does not end up in a landfill.

How did you first decide to open your own business in Livonia?
I have been in this industry for years. I believe with the local industrial business and the good people, Livonia is the perfect place for our business. We wanted to reach out to this area because there is no other metal recycler in the city of Livonia.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Yes, August 2nd, Advanced Recycling will be having our first Customer Appreciation Day. Not only will our industrial, commercial and residential customers receive the best prices for the metal, plastic and old computers, they'll get a free lunch. We'll be serving hot dogs, chips and soft drinks all day. We welcome Livonia residents to visit, see our facility, learn what they can bring in for cash instead of leaving at the curb, and enjoy a hot dog on us!

Advanced Recycling is at 12240 Merriman, Livonia. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information, call (734) 266-2700 or visit www.advrecycling.com

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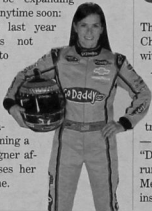
Who's News

Q Is Danica Patrick married, and does she have any children?

Gail Versch, Plymouth, Wis.

The 30-year-old NASCAR driver is, in fact, married. In 2005, Patrick married Paul Henthof, a physical therapist she met 10 years ago when she was rehabbing a hip injury from yoga. The couple live in Phoenix, but they probably won't be expanding their family anytime soon:

Patrick said last year that she is not yearning to have kids. The fan favorite does, however, harbor aspirations of becoming a clothing designer after she crosses her final finish line.



Q Can you please tell me how old Danielle Colby Cushman is?

Bobby Eisen, Bartlett, Ill.

The multi-tattooed star of History Channel's *American Pickers*, who chats with buyers while working at Antique Archaeology, is 36. Cushman, who is a mother of three, also has owned a roller-derby team and founded the burlesque troupe *Burlesque le' Mustache* — she dances under the name “Dannie Diesel.” The Iowan also runs the boutique 4 Miles 2 Memphis, which sells antique-inspired clothing.

Q Why did Christopher Meloni leave *Law & Order: SVU*?

Connie White, Marysville, Wash.

He just decided that 12 years was long enough on one show, and so he moved on to other things, such as playing a vampire politician on the HBO series *True Blood*. “It’s a great life. You get up in the morning, pop in your gangs

and you get to stake someone,” says Meloni, 51. After hanging up the L&O shield, Meloni’s only worry — “The idea of waking up and saying, ‘Gee, what am I going to do with myself today?’” — proved short-lived: In addition to *True Blood*, he has a part in the upcoming *Superman* movie *Man of Steel* and earned his pilot’s license. It’s scary “only for the first nine months,” the actor says about flying a single-propeller plane. “It’s not tiddlywinks.”



BIRTHDAY BUZZ

7.29
Wil Wheaton 40

7.30
Hilary Swank 38
Christopher Nolan 42
Laurence Fishburne 51

7.31
J.K. Rowling 47
Wesley Snipes 50

8.1
Tempest Bledsoe 39

8.2
Kevin Smith 42

8.3
Tom Brady 35
Martha Stewart 71

Martin Sheen 72
Tony Bennett 86

8.4
Barack Obama 51

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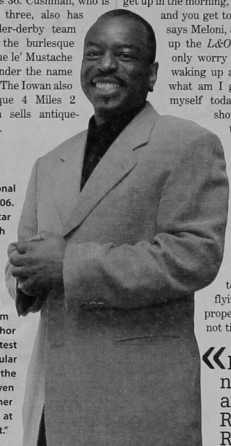
Who's hot in Hollywood

A generation of kids grew up on Alvar Burton's educational PBS show *Reading Rainbow*, which aired from 1983 to 2006. Now he has an app for that, and the current *Perception* star aims to bring his and other authors' work to children with iPads. “There’s been a precipitous decline in children’s literacy in the past decade,” says Burton, 55. “No Child Left Behind is doing exactly that: leaving our children behind, and that is not OK.” ... “There’s definitely sex and there’s

definitely romance, there is no red room of pain, there’s not even a hot-pink room of mild discomfort,” says chick-lit author Jennifer Weiner in comparing her latest book, *The Next Best Thing*, with the popular *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Weiner, 42, relishes the freedom that life as a novelist has given her. “When you’ve got little kids [her daughters are 4½ and 9], it’s nice to be at home with your little desk in the closet.”



WEINER



« Burton now has an app for *Reading Rainbow*.

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If you must go, have this ready

This summer has brought wildfires and power outages that have caused many to leave home in a hurry.

A small, secure box is best for quick escapes.

Leatrice Urbanowicz of Frederick, Md., suggests keeping a "grab and go" box with all your important documents. Make it small and fireproof, and stash a little cash for immediate needs.

Put your name, address and phone number in permanent marker on the outside of the box, too. That way, in case of a house fire, tornado or worse, your items are more likely to be recovered.

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Relax: Procrastination can be productive

IF YOU'VE MASTERED the art of waiting until the 11th hour to complete the task at hand, you may be more productive than you think. A new study finds that people who take a break from an intellectual task to do some mindless activity, then return to it, perform about 41% better after the break than those who never deviate.

Delayers get a bad rap in our culture, something that John Perry, professor emeritus of philosophy at Stanford University and author of *The Art of Procrastination*, would like to change. "For the most part, procrastinators actually get a lot done," he says.

Perry points out that on a deadline, procrastinators become masters of file-organizing. Although the

quarterly report may not get done until 10 minutes before it's due, the previous week at the office hasn't been a waste. "Some people think the solution is to eliminate all other distractions from your life," says Perry, a self-proclaimed procrastinator. "That's bad advice. The more things a procrastinator has to do, the more productive he'll be."

A procrastinator's biggest vice: the computer. Unplug your laptop before using it, which initiates an automatic shutdown time.

"Self-manipulation will help you keep procrastinating under control," Perry says. "It's not a matter of willpower — it's



Delayers get a bad rap.

knowing your tendencies and staying one step ahead."

— Julia Savacool



AUGUST CAN BE discouraging for any gardener: Leaves look brown, flowers produce fewer buds, and delicate plants wilt in the heat. Rather than throw in the towel, revitalize your garden, suggests Burpee Seed Co. CEO and Chairman

George Ball. Here are some tips from the third-generation seedsman:

Just add water. In late summer and fall, humidity declines, causing soil moisture to evaporate quicker. Creating a watering schedule and sticking to it is more important than ever.

Be sure to water in the morning, when roots are driest; resist the urge to douse plants throughout the day. "It's better to underwater than overwater, because the roots will drown," Ball says. "If the plant looks hungry or thirsty, it'll droop just a little bit. That's when you want to soak it."

Think green. It's not too late to add fast-growing veggies to the patch. Ball's suggestion: "Concentrate on your leafy greens, like collard greens, mustard greens and salad greens."

Spinach and leaf lettuce take only 30 days to mature and can be planted as late as September.

Have fun. Why not show off the fruits of your labor with a party in the backyard, with your crops as refreshments? Ball recommends "garden-gating," a homey, family-friendly version of tailgating. "You can use freshly picked vegetables and grill them with brats and beer and watch the big game on an outdoor TV." How about garden-gating for the Olympics? □

— Joanna Hlavacek

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MUSICAL 'SPARKLE'
WAS A LABOR OF LOVE
BY A HAPPY, CONFIDENT
AND COMFORTABLE
WOMAN. **BY JULIE HINDS**

Just as a photographer was to start snapping at a recent magazine shoot for *Sparkle*, the background music landed randomly on Whitney Houston's version of *I'm Every Woman*.

"I burst into tears," says the movie's producer, Debra Martin Chase, a longtime friend and colleague of the music icon. "I heard her voice and it just registered. I believe it was her way of saying to us, 'I'm there with you.'"

Expect a similar wave of emotion when *Sparkle*, one of this summer's most anticipated movies, opens Aug. 17. What was to be a

comeback — this was Houston's first film since 1996's *The Preacher's Wife* — now represents a final chapter in her rocky, remarkable life.

"This is the best performance of her career, and she knew it," Chase says. "The irony is, she was really comfortable in her skin in a way that I hadn't seen in a long time. She was like, 'This is who I am. My life's been complicated, but I'm happy.'"

A brighter legacy

Contentment often seemed in short supply for Houston, a superstar whose private life was under constant public scrutiny. The world em-

braced her chart-topping songs and box-office successes but was glued to gossip about her turbulent marriage and drug abuse.

In February came the startling news that she had died at age 48 in a Los Angeles hotel room of what

eventually was determined to be an accidental drowning, with heart disease and cocaine use as contributing factors.

The media presented a portrait of a troubled diva battling personal demons: Her last days were illustrated by snapshots of a sweaty, disheveled Houston leaving a pre-Grammys party.

Chase says the movie will leave fans with another image — that of a gifted, focused star starring in, and executive-producing, a labor of love. “People will look at her — beautiful, healthy, joyous — and think of *Sparkle* first, before they think about the pictures of her coming out of the nightclubs.”

A few months before her death, Houston spent about six weeks filming in Detroit. *American Idol* winner Jordin Sparks, who plays the lead role of Sparkle, describes her as a caring, maternal force.

“Every morning, she would walk into the hair and makeup trailer, and she would open the door and she’d go, ‘How are my babies today? God is good. You guys doing OK?’” says Sparks, who’s making her film debut. “She was always just so encouraging. She was so full of joy and so full of light, because this was her baby. She’d been working on this movie and getting it out for, I think, 10-plus years.”

Motherly:
American Idol winner Jordin Sparks makes her film debut as Whitney Houston’s daughter, a singer named Sparkle.



Unafraid of the past

Houston grew up in New Jersey watching the 1976 original version of *Sparkle* that broke Hollywood barriers with its story about the hopes and struggles of a singing sister group made up of beautiful young women of color.

At a small gathering with reporters at a Detroit church in November, a regal and relaxed Houston described how *Sparkle* inspired her: “I would go every Saturday, for, like four months straight, and I would watch the matinee to the evening show.”

When she and Chase became producing partners, Houston suggested updating the music-laden drama that meant so much to her. In 2001, their plans to have singer/actress Aaliyah play the title role were tragically halted by her death in a plane crash.

Years later, this version jelled, with characters moving from the streets of '50s New York to an affluent African-American family in '60s Detroit. In the movie, Sparkle and her sisters form a group. Houston plays their mother, Emma, a dress shop owner and ex-singer aware of show business's hazards. Houston wasn't afraid of

similarities to her life, especially the downward spiral of Sister, Emma's daughter drawn into a drug-filled, abusive relationship.

“There were lots of parallels between her life and my character, and she would not shy away from talking about that with me,” says Carmen Ejogo, who plays Sister. “She was a true artist in that sense. She was willing to expose herself.”

Houston spread enthusiasm. “She would play gospel music in the morning; Fred Hammond, CeCe Winans, Kim Burrell. That was her favorite thing. It set the tone of the day,” says lead hairstylist Kim Kimble, star of WE-TV's *L.A. Hair*.

On the set, Houston enjoyed rubbing elbows with cast and crew. She hung out in the lunchroom and shared stories with awed extras. “She was always laughing and smiling and singing. It would be nothing for us to be sitting around and she would break out into a hymn,” says Detroit singer Beth Griffith, who was Houston's stand-in and who bonded with the star over sharing a birthday.

Houston still had the power to dazzle a crowd. During filming at a church, Houston brought everyone to tears when she per-

Continued on page 9

An extraordinary life



1963
Whitney Elizabeth Houston born Aug. 9 in Newark.

1981
Cover model, *Seventeen* magazine.

1983
Arista Records' Clive Davis hears Houston; signs her on the spot.

1985
Self-titled album is best-selling debut; No. 15 include *Saving All My Love for You*, *Greatest Love of All*.

1987
Second album, *Whitney*, includes *I Wanna Dance With Somebody*, breaks record for No. 1 hits.

1989
Meets R&B singer Bobby Brown.

1990
Third album, *I'm Your Baby Tonight*.



1991
At Super Bowl, sings national anthem.

1992
Weds Brown July 18. Stars in movie *The Bodyguard*. *I Will Always Love You* breaks sales records.

1993
Daughter Bobbi Kristina born.



1995
Second movie, *Waiting to Exhale*.

1996
Third movie, *The Preacher's Wife*.

2002
Admits drug use. Signs duet with Brins on album *Just Whitney*.

2003
Brown charged with battery; she has facial injuries.

2006
Separation; divorce final in 2007.

2009
Comeback album, *I Look to You*.

2012
Houston dies Feb. 11. *Sparkle*, her last work, hits theaters Aug. 17.

2013
To be published in February, mother Cissy Houston's book on “my daughter's true story.”



HOUSTON AND SPARKLE IN SPARKLE: ALICIA LARAU; STYLING: FAYE HARRIS; HOUSTON AT ST. TERESA: ANDREW HARRISON; WEDDING: BOBBI KRISTINA; THIS LIFE PICTURES; HOUSTON WITH ALAN: DEE HEDRICKS; HOUSTON: VAU GLETT; IMAGES: VLAD; DANIEL; PHILIP; LITTY; MAZZO

Photo storage made simple

BY HOLLY C. CORBETT

IF YOU HAVE DRAWERS overflowing with photographs, images cluttering your computer's desktop and random pictures stored on your smartphone, getting control of your precious memories — or simply locating them — can seem like mission impossible. Try this step-by-step plan to get organized and save time searching for pics:

Start a routine.

"To keep organizing photos from becoming an overwhelming project, set aside 15 minutes a month to grab all of your devices and sweep pictures onto your computer," says Melissa Lin, director of merchandising at Mixbook, an online photo-book site. Other options for uploading images include SmugMug, Picasa or Flickr.



JAMES GRIFF, GETTY IMAGES

Weed out bloopers.

To save time sorting through photographs later on, immediately delete or toss blurry or unflattering or duplicate shots, Lin says.

File vs. frame.

Sort and then file prints in storage boxes to keep everything neat, says Nan Pritchard, a buyer at Exposures, a company specializing in picture-organizing products. "Display any photos you want to leaf through or that could be conversation-starters in acid-free albums or frames."

Choose your album.

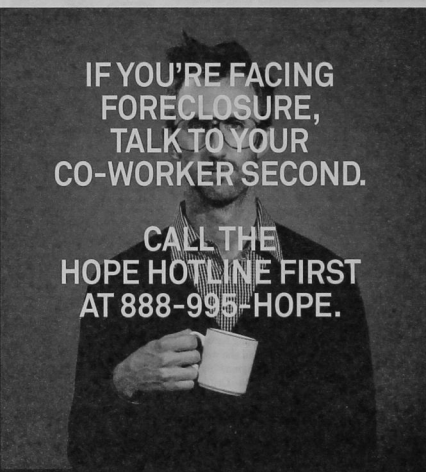
A three-ring album with removable pages allows for the greatest flexibility; double-weight pages last longer for frequently used albums, Pritchard says. "Memo albums — with space for jotting captions — cover personalization, and spine patches identify what's inside."

Group and label.

Photos will be pre-organized if you upload monthly, "but creating folders is key for finding them fast," Lin says. It is helpful to label each folder by event, such as Florida 2010, and then create subfolders, such as Miami and Orlando. Same holds true for prints. Group photos into separate storage boxes using tab dividers for subfolders.

Store safely.

Avoid storing print photos in basements or attics, Pritchard says. "CDs and DVDs offer a compact way to store and back up your digital photo files, and corrosion-protection pocket pages can expand the longevity of your discs from 40 to 120 years," she says. Companies such as iMemories can convert photos into discs. ☐



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Continued from page 7

formed *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* clad in a flowing gown. "She sang that song so beautifully, it was as if we were in a church service," Griffith says. "It was no longer acting."

Says director Salim Akil: "Knowing when to hit the high note and when to restrain one's self is very important in life, and I think that's what she embodied. If you go back and you listen to her music or watch some of her performances, what you will notice is an elegance and a beauty to the restraint."

Houston was proud of being on time to work, says friend BeBe Winans, author of the new book *The Whitney I Knew*. Via e-mail, he notes: "Whitney called me as soon as she landed in Detroit, seeing [as] some of my family still lives there, and she asked for my brother Pastor Marvin Winans' number so she could attend his church." In a paparazzi-free haven, Houston joined the cast one night at a jazz club and wore pearls to a Detroit Lions football game.

As *Sparkle's* opening nears, colleagues are excited and sorrowful. "Since this was something so passionate about," Sparks says, "we want to represent her and celebrate her and represent this movie in the best way we possibly can."

Griffith recorded the broadcast of Houston's funeral but hasn't felt ready to watch it. "After I heard she died, it made me want to work harder and better," she says. "I really feel like she gave me a part of her."

And now, with *Sparkle*, Houston will give all of her fans one last gift. ☐

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DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

A trio of tempting toppers that'll give summer salads a flavor boost.

WITH ALL THE colorful, just-picked produce available in the summer, it's hard not to be inspired to whip up a salad. Nature has already done most of the work by providing a garden of glorious, healthy ingredients. All you need to do is pull them together and drizzle with a dressing that allows them to shine.

All too often, though, the dressing we choose does more damage than good, drowning fresh produce in artificial ingredients and unhealthy fats, and adding hundreds of calories. But making tasty, low-cal dressings couldn't be easier.

Here are three for you to try.

A drizzle of fresh dressing makes just-picked produce shine.

veggies or to dress a crisp green salad.

Then there is a subtly sweet balsamic vinaigrette lightened with orange juice. The juice replaces about half the oil in the traditional recipe and brings a citrusy punch.

Finally, there's a dressing that uses nutrient- and fiber-rich avocado as its base, which lends it a stunning pale green color and a decadent, buttery taste. Spiked with tangy buttermilk, lemon and herbs, it offers a gentle yet bright flavor to any salad or a simple sliced ripe tomato.

The first is a classic creamy ranch made lighter by subbing much of the mayo with Greek yogurt. It's so rich and flavorful you will never miss the extra fat and calories. It begs to be used as a dip for cut

De-Light-ful Ranch Dressing

- ½ cup plain Greek-style non-fat yogurt
- ¾ cup low-fat buttermilk
- 3 Tbs. mayonnaise
- 1½ Tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. onion powder
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tb. finely chopped fresh chives
- ¼ tsp. salt

In a medium bowl, whisk together all of the ingredients until well combined.

NOTE: All dressings will keep in the refrigerator two to three days in an airtight container.

Yield: 8 servings

Per serving (2 Tbs.): 50 calories, 2g carbohydrates, 1g protein, 4g fat (0.5g saturated), 0g fiber, 2.5mg cholesterol, 144mg sodium

Orange-Balsamic Vinaigrette

- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 1 tsp. finely grated orange zest
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

In a medium bowl, whisk together all of the ingredients until incorporated.

Yield: 8 servings

Per serving (2 Tbs.): 70 calories, 2g carbohydrates, 0g protein, 7g fat (1g saturated), 0g fiber, 0mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium

Contributing editor and registered dietitian ELLIE KRIEGER is host of Food Network's *Healthy Appetite*, which airs on the *Cooking Channel*. Her most recent cookbook is *Comfort Food Fix: Feel Good Favorites Made Healthy*.

Tangy Lemon Herb Avocado Dressing

- ½ ripe avocado
- ¾ cup low-fat buttermilk
- 3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 3 Tbs. chopped fresh parsley
- 3 Tbs. chopped chives
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Put all of the ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth.

Yield: 8 servings

Per serving (2 Tbs.): 30 calories, 3g carbohydrates, 1g protein, 2g fat (0g saturated), 1g fiber, 0mg cholesterol, 100mg sodium

- European design with a truly feminine appeal!
- Criss-Cross Front™ provides you with an automatic bust lift!
- The supportive material in the cups shapes and forms your bust to perfection!
- Extremely comfortable to wear – all day long!

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stretches to
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Up to size 52

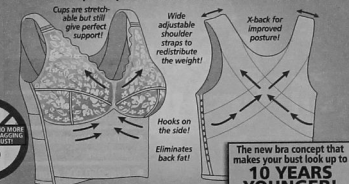
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Perfectly Shaped Bust & Total Upper Body Sculpting!

**Innovative Criss-Cross Front™ and X-back for
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The new bra concept that
makes your bust look up to
**10 YEARS
YOUNGER!**

Say goodbye to:

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- ✓ Bulges under your bust!
- ✓ Sagging bust!
- ✓ Bad posture!
- ✓ Shoulder pain!

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support and lift without underwire!*

This unique bra concept is already a huge success in Europe – helping women all across the continent to get the shapely bust, comfort and support they've always dreamed of! It shapes and lifts – thanks to 2 wide, criss-crossing, built-in panels on the front! The clever design eliminates back fat and bulges under your bust! X-shaped reinforcement in the back corrects your posture and supports your back. And it's amazingly comfortable – no underwire and nothing to chafe your skin! The controlling cups are soft and flexible, yet still support your bust, while easily adjusting to periodic changes in your body.

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- The Super S-t-r-e-t-c-h cups are both controlling and flexible – they adjust easily to periodic changes in your body!
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		\$ Amount:		

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Wit & Wisdom

STICKDOKU

BY TERRY STICKELS

Use your logic to find the correct number for each square. When finished, all nine rows across, all nine columns down and all nine 3-by-3 boxes must contain all nine numbers, 1 through 9, with no repeats.

		2		9				8
			1	7				6
			3	2				
7								
6		9				1		2
								3
				4	7			
8				5	4			
1				8		2		

To print a larger version of Stickdoku, visit usaweekend.com.

FRAME GAMES

BY TERRY STICKELS

Can you solve these puzzles? Each communicates a well-known saying, person, place or thing. Answers below.

1. **KIDDING**

2. **HEADDEERLIGHTS**

3.
$$\begin{array}{r} 11111 \\ \text{EZ} \end{array}$$

4. **A HUMIDITY**
N
A
D

5	1	4	7	3	8	8	1	2	8	2	6	5
8	2	6	1	7	5	4	3	4	3	6	3	4
3	6	6	2	2	5	6	5	6	2	4	7	8
2	2	4	4	6	6	6	1	8	7	3	7	3
2	7	6	3	6	8	4	7	1	5	2	2	2
4	6	4	7	1	8	5	3	2	3	2	3	4
9	6	3	2	1	8	4	5	4	4	7	4	7
4	8	1	7	5	3	3	3	2	6	6	6	6
5	4	7	2	4	9	6	3	1	8	3	1	8

STICKDOKU ANSWERS:

1. All kidding aside
2. Deer in the headlights
3. Once over easy
4. Relative humidity

FRAME GAMES ANSWERS:

Next week in USA WEEKEND

The power of



sisters



How to buy vintage

Keep your eyes open! Summer is a great time to find nostalgic clothing.

BY FRANCESCA CASTAGNOLI

If *Mad Men* reruns are not satisfying your vintage-fashion fix, then get ready: Summer is the ideal time to hunt for one-of-a-kind retro finds. "Outdoor flea markets are incredibly democratic when it comes to finding vintage pieces. It doesn't matter where you live — you never know what you are going to find," says Cameron Silver, author of *Decades* and founder of the renowned vintage-clothing store in

Los Angeles of the same name. But before you start haggling over a Pucci jumpsuit, we asked Silver to share some vintage-shopping secrets to help take the mystery (and the moths) out of buying a dress old enough to be your mother.

Accessorize on the cheap:

For shoppers who are new to buying old clothes, Cameron suggests you start with inexpensive accessories. "If you get a fun beaded necklace for \$3.99, chances are you won't regret it if you never end up wearing it," Silver says. He also applies that rule to buying accessories through eBay, which can be a backup plan if bad weather

turns a weekend flea-market trip into a wash-out. "If your purchase price is less than the shipping cost, you won't feel that guilty," he says.

Inspect the quality: Often things that look OK in a booth or shop won't survive a trip to the dry cleaner, where chemicals and heat can cause fabric to fray and worsen holes that were too small for you to see. "If it's something like a loose button, it's OK," Silver says. "But if there are armpit stains, it really smells terrible or there is reweaving from moth holes, don't buy it. Quite often the cost of the repairs will exceed the value of the garment."

Keep it current: "The danger with vintage is that when people want to look retro, they wear it

head-to-toe, and it becomes a costume," Silver says. The trick is to wear a *Mad Men* shift with a shoe that's popular now, like a fun summer wedge rather than a vintage heel. "The beauty of vintage worn well is that it can make you look modern as well as distinctive," Silver says.

Buy by body type: One of the most striking differences between vintage and current clothes is fit. "There's no doubt that people were smaller-boned, weighed less and were even shorter," Silver notes. Certain decades work best

for certain figures. Women with slim hips can wear the flapper dresses of the '20s. If you are narrow-shouldered, Silver suggests you opt for the extra heft of '40s shoulder pads. Curvy figures will be flattered by '50s fashion, and small-chested women can take advantage of the slinky tops and halters that ruled the '70s.

Safeguard your closet: A great vintage find can enhance your wardrobe — as long as it doesn't bring any moths along with it. Silver suggests that whenever you buy a new item, particularly wool and cashmere, put your sweater in the freezer for a few hours. This will kill moths and other fabric-munching insects that may have hitched a ride. Afterward, hand-wash the item in a gentle laundry detergent. Silver prefers all-natural detergents from a store that specializes in organic products, such as Whole Foods.

Bring cash: In the world of vintage, the popular eras may change, Silver says, but there is one constant: "Cash is king." ☐



If you are new to buying vintage, start with accessories.



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*BARBARA NICHOLAS "Watch Your Step: While Washing Up," *New York Times*, 16 Aug. 2011. *New York Edition*, ed., Section D, sec. D7. Web.
**CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention



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