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Hepatitis scare

The state health department issued a public alert Monday following an investigation into a former Michigan health care worker—and former Canton resident—who has been charged with infecting at least 30 patients in New Hampshire with hepatitis C, a chronic disease that causes liver failure.



Kwiatkowski

Michigan's health department is urging patients to be tested for the disease if they received injectable narcotic medicines when the man, former Canton resident David Kwiatkowski, worked at four metro Detroit hospitals between 2005-2007. The hospitals, according to Gannett News Service reports, included Sinai-Grace in Detroit (June-October 2005); Harper University Hospital (October 2005-September 2006); U-M Health System (Sept. 11-Dec. 8, 2006); and Oakwood Annapolis in Wayne (Jan. 15-Sept. 15, 2007). Patients who received injectable narcotics at these hospitals should contact them to be tested, said the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Friends, fans cheer hometown hero to Olympic gold medal

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Tuning out—mostly—the day's news from London, friends and fans of swimmer Allison Schmitt tuned in Tuesday night to see the former Canton High School star cruise to Olympic gold.

Schmitt, a 2008 CHS graduate, dominated the women's 200-meter freestyle at the Summer Olympics on Tuesday, taking first with an Olympic record of 1 minute, 53.61 seconds. It was her fourth Olympic medal; she had won a bronze Saturday, a silver Sunday and had also won a bronze in 2008 at the Beijing Games.

Supporters, a number of whom had deliberately avoided learning the outcome of the race, gathered at the Rock Bar and Grill in downtown Plymouth to cheer on Schmitt during the delayed television broadcast. Their excitement building as Schmitt, 22, swam to a commanding lead, they exploded in celebration as she touched the pool wall at the London Aquatic Centre.

"I couldn't be more excited and happy for her," said Sue Heinzman, a co-athletic director at the Plymouth-Canton



Peggi Bica (in the foreground) and the rest of the crowd cheers as Allison Schmitt wins the gold medal. See related stories in Sports on page B1.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Beating the heat



Jacob and Luke Hernandez take aim at grandpa Vince Asta.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Splash pad helps kids keep their cool

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Vince Asta gets wet, courtesy of grandsons Jacob and Luke Hernandez.

Canton children facing one of the hottest summers on record have kept their cool by swarming splash playgrounds at Summit on the Park and Flodin Park.

"It's a lot of fun because it's a place where you can

cool off when it's hot," Arjun Patel, 8, said, after he and 5-year-old brother Ayush drenched themselves Monday afternoon at the Summit splash pad.

Their mother, Rita Patel, didn't seem to mind the heat as she stayed dry sitting on a bench facing

Please see SPLASH, A3

Clerk urges return of absentee ballots

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Amid a frenzied election season, Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett has made an appeal to absentee voters to return their Aug. 7 primary election ballots as quickly as possible.

"The sooner we can get them back, the better," Bennett said Wednesday morning.

In another development, Canton absentee voters are expected to start receiving their ballot applications late this week or early next week for the special Sept. 5 primary election that arose after U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, abruptly resigned in the aftermath of a petition-signature scandal that has fueled a state investigation.

The actual absentee ballots for the Sept. 5 election will not be mailed out until after the Aug. 7 primary—a move that is expected to ease an already complicated election season

Please see ABSENTEE, A2

Back to school

The Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Belleville, hosts its fifth Back 2 School Blitz Aug. 24 at the Plymouth Corps, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth.

For more information on donating or volunteering, call Sandy Kollinger, (734) 453-5464.

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Canton grandma falls victim to money scam

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

An 84-year-old Canton woman was bilked of \$1,960 after a scam artist posing as her grandson phoned her twice to say he was in Spain and needed money wired to him.

"That's a very common scam

that's going around," Canton Deputy Police Chief Robert Kerr said Tuesday.

The victim became suspicious when she received a third call for money, and she notified local police in late July after she learned her grandson was actually in Chicago and not vacationing in Spain as the caller indicated.

The latest hoax started when the Canton victim received a phone call, supposedly from her grandson, saying he had received a free plane ticket to Madrid, Spain, from a friend. The caller said he had gotten into trouble because a woman traveling with his group had been caught with marijuana, a police

report said.

The caller claimed he needed money for bond and turned the phone over to a supposed police officer who confirmed the scenario.

The Canton grandmother sent \$980 through Western Union

Please see SCAM, A3

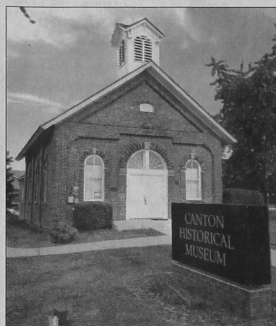


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The Canton Historical Museum is closed temporarily for repairs.

SCHMITT

Continued from page A1

Educational Park. Heinzman teased up as she hugged other Schmitt fans in the room.

"It just gives you chills," she said, adding that she is making plans for an Allison Schmitt Day at the school.

"I've seen her do that so many times," CHS grad CarolAnn Sexauer said of the way Schmitt pulled ahead of 17-year-old phenom Missy Franklin, who was ahead of Schmitt early but ended up with a bronze medal. "I'm really happy for her."

Sexauer, who will be a sophomore at Central Michigan University, played basketball at Canton with Schmitt's sisters Kari and Sarah, twins who are now at Ohio State University on the hockey scholarships.

"It's just so whole cool for the whole family," she said. In addition to Allison, Kari and Sarah, Ralph and Gail Schmitt have an older daughter, Kirsten, and an older son, Derek.

Many Schmitt fans at the Rock were parents of athletes who had played on Chiefs teams with Allison Schmitt or her siblings. Heinzman, who helped organize the party, said the group had pledged to avoid learning the outcome of the race so it would be a surprise.



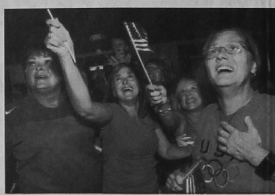
Allison Schmitt loosens up before the race.

Heinzman said her cell phone "blew up" with calls and messages Tuesday afternoon, but that she avoided it.

"You kind of felt like you were there," she said of watching the race. "It was terrific." "I didn't go online. I didn't watch the news," said Greg Cottrell, who has a daughter who played basketball for CHS.

The parents — they jokingly call themselves the Book Club — are "a little, tight-knit group" that sprang from their children's involvement in Canton athletics.

"All the families kind of grew real close as friends and they kind of watched the kids grow up," said Cottrell, who



Vivi Sexauer, Donna Cottrell, Peggy Bica and P-CEP Athletic Director Sue Heinzman celebrate after Allison Schmitt wins a gold medal.

drove the Schmitts — except for Allison, who had traveled earlier — to the airport as they headed to London last week. Schmitt on Wednesday

captured another gold medal as a member of the U.S. 4 x 200 relay team.

mjchman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Canton museum closes for repairs

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A 128-year-old schoolhouse used as the Canton Historical Society's museum since 1982 has closed indefinitely for repairs.

The former one-room Canton Center School, an icon on Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer, needs work by historians learned a drain around the building had become clogged and caused water to seep into a crawlspace, rotting some floor joists and leaving some mold, said Gregg King, Canton Township facilities supervisor and a historical society board member.

"The deterioration is very similar to buildings of (the museum's) age, so we just want to take reasonable measures which will slow down any further deterioration that normally occurs in buildings this age," King said.

Historians learned of the problem recently as they were taking down a longtime exhibit — titled "Whose Farm Do You Live On?" — that allowed locals to trace the history of the land on which they live, dating as far back as 1825.

A specific repair plan

— and what it will cost the township — are in the works.

Canton Historical Society President Bill Tesen said while board members are disappointed that the museum will need extensive work, they are pleased repairs will be made.

"We want to see the building going strong for at least another 128 years," he said.

Museum Director Liz Carlson said museum-related work will continue while the building is closed. She said the computer and records have been moved to the historic Bartlett-Travis House in Cherry Hill Village, where a team of volunteers continues to digitize paper records. Future museum exhibits also are being planned.

Historical society members intend to notify the public when the museum is ready to reopen.

Research questions and other queries still may be posed by sending an e-mail to cantonhist@comcast.net. Volunteers and donors may contact Carlson at lizcarlson@comcast.net.

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

"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

AROUND CANTON

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

GOOD GRIEF GOLF

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 8, shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Location: Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon

Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts the 14th annual "Good Grief" golf outing will be held. The proceeds from this outing will benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a bereavement outreach center located in Northville. New Hope provides free grief support services and

resources to men, women, teens, and children throughout southeastern Michigan. The cost for this four-person scramble, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, contests, and prizes, is \$125. Dinner only is \$35 per person.

Contact: For information about sponsorship opportunities or registration information, contact Carol Spennachio at (248) 348-0115 and visit www.newhopecenter.net.

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: <https://sites.google.com/site/cantonsalem1982>, or www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsalem1982 or cantonsalem1982@gmail.com for \$45 per person. Dinner, dancing, D.J. provided.

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ABSENTEE
Continued from page A1

for voters.

"The ballots for the special election for sure will not go out until after the Aug. 7 primary," Bennett said, "so it's not going to be confusing."

There is one exception: The process was started earlier to accommodate military personnel.

Candidates on the Sept. 5 special election ballot include Democrat David Curson of Belleville and five Republicans — Kerry Bentivolio of Milford, former state Sen. Nancy Cassis of Novi and Livonia hopefuls Steve King, Kenneth Cridler and Carolyn Cavanaugh.

Meanwhile, for the Aug. 7 primary election, Bennett said 5,916 absentee ballots had been issued as of Wednesday morning — and only 3,475 ballots had been received by the clerk's office for a 59-percent return rate just five days before the primary.

Bennett implored voters to try to return their Aug. 7 absentee ballots quickly.

The clerk's office, located in the Canton Township Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center, will be have special hours from

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Library rolls out three-day bash

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Medal-winning ice dancers, a popular children's musician and an outdoor party featuring art-making projects, clowns, games and other activities are coming to town as the Canton Public Library crowns another successful summer season intended to inspire patrons to read, explore and learn.

"We've had an awesome summer," Laurie Gold, the library's marketing and communications director, said.

Culminating the library's Connect Your Summer program, Golden has announced a three-pronged series of programs expected to draw large crowds Aug. 9-11. And it's easy to participate — admission is free, registration isn't necessary.

Celebrating the spirit of the Olympics, brother-sister ice dancers Maia and Alex Shibutani — who train at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena and who hope to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia — are visiting the library at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.

The pair last year became the first U.S. ice dance team to win a medal — bronze — at the World Championships in their debut senior season. Golden said. The pair also took the silver medal at the U.S. Championships and Four Continents Championships, behind their training mates Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who became 2010 Olympic silver medalists.

The library program is for all ages. Golden

said, "and the Shibutanis will have time to answer questions and sign autographs."

One day later, nationally acclaimed children's educator, innovator and musician Jim Gill is appearing at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at the Heritage Park Amphitheater for a program sponsored by the library and Canton Leisure Services.

"Jim Gill has rock star status in children's music and early learning," Golden said.

Gill has wowed parents and children alike and has appeared at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"We are very lucky to have him again and also fortunate that Canton Leisure Services is partnering with us to host it at a venue large enough to hold the crowd we are expecting," Golden said.

Capping three days of activities, the library is having its Connect Your Summer party 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, outside the library, 1200 S. Canton Center.

It's billed as a backyard bash for summer reading participants that includes a musical review by Earth Angels, an art-making project that ties in with a partnership with the Detroit Institute of Arts, face-painting, clowns, snow cones, a photo booth, games and a "bounce house," Golden said.

"It's a day of crazy fun," she said.

For more on Canton Public Library programs, go to www.cantonpl.org or call (734) 397-0599.

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SPLASH

Continued from page A1

the water-gushing haven. "It's nice to break up the day and watch the kids play," she said, smiling.

Apparently many people share their views. Abe Vinitzki, Canton Leisure Services park and golf supervisor, said splash playground usage has spiked along with sweltering summer temperatures.

"Usage is definitely up," he said. "With all the 90-degree weather we've had since the first of June, I would dare say we're up a good 30 percent."

Vinitzki based his estimates on water usage and the number of Summit visitors, many of whom have become return users to the Summit and Flodin Park splash playgrounds.

Moreover, Vinitzki said this season are staying later in the day. Sydney Frey, 6, took a short break Monday at the Summit to join her grandmother Sandy Frey and aunt Stacey Forrester, all of Canton.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sydney Frey, 6, enjoys the Summit splash playground on a hot summer day.

"I like going under the buckets," Sydney said, referring to a splash park amenity that fills up with water then dumps it on children. "I think this is a great idea for

kids," Forrester said. She and Frey came with a friend, Paula Slavick, who was babysitting Connor Maupin, 5, and two of his siblings, Katelyn, 3, and Christian, 2.

"I like it because I can go under the rainbow and get wet and play with the fire hydrant," Connor said. Slavick brought snacks such as pretzels and goldfish crackers.

"We had to bring fish to the (water park)," she said.

Not far away, Allison O'Hara of Canton brought her grandchildren David Moomaw, 6, and his sister Caitlyn, 4, who were visiting from Maryland.

"We've been here a few times this summer," O'Hara said. Stepping out of the water, Caitlyn shivered momentarily until grandma wrapped her in a towel.

"It's warm on the floor (of the splash pad)," Caitlyn said.

"I like going through the red rings," David said, before he cut his interview short for good reason. "I want to get back in the water now."

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SCAM

Continued from page A1

and later received another phone call indicating her grandson needed an additional \$980 for court costs. She again wired the money, the police report said.

"All these scams seem to originate from outside the U.S.," Kerr said.

The victim became suspicious after she received yet a third call indicating her grandson had missed his flight home and needed another \$900 wired to him. She asked him to call back later and, in the meantime, contacted her actual grandson and learned he hadn't been to Spain.

The grandmother contacted a credit card company and was urged to contact her local police department.

She did, and that's exactly what Kerr said

potential victims should do if they have any doubts about the authenticity of a caller asking for money.

"If they think there's any validity to the call, they should first contact other relatives and confirm it," he said. "They shouldn't send any money without confirming it."

Anyone who has become the victim of such scams is encouraged to call their local police department. Kerr said authorities can steer the victims to the proper agencies if they need to take further action.

AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, offers the following tips to help protect grandparents from scams like the one involving the 84-year-old Canton woman.

- Don't fill in the blanks with information to a caller. Instead, ask questions to try to verify whether the call is really a grand-

child or other relative.

- Even if a caller gives proper identification, ask for family details such as the name of a family pet, a favorite vacation spot or an important anniversary — assuming this information isn't already on a Facebook account or similar location.

- Ask for a callback number for the police station or other place where the caller is supposedly located — then verify the number with an online search or other method.

- Volunteer to return

the call to a grandchild or other relative's cell phone, but don't ask for the number. Get it from a trusted family member who has it.

- Don't give out account numbers. Although fake grandchildren usually request wire transfers, some may ask for bank or credit card account numbers.

- If possible, verify claims of a grandchild in trouble with a parent.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime-fighting Night Out returns to Canton



Crime Dog McGruff has been a popular guest at previous Canton Night Out events.

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

An event that champions crime-fighting efforts while allowing Canton Community Watch volunteers to interact casually with local police officers and firefighters returns next Tuesday to Heritage Park.

Canton and thousands of communities across the nation will mark the 29th annual National Night Out in hopes of strengthening ties between vigilant neighborhood groups, police officers and firefighters. Canton's event is

free and happens 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, on the north side of Heritage Park.

"It's kind of a national way of drawing attention to getting to know your neighbors, being the eyes and ears of the community, spending time outdoors and keeping an eye out for suspicious events in neighborhoods," Canton Special Services Lt. Pat Sullivan said. "We do this (National Night Out) in Canton to reward our Community Watch members."

Last year over 400 Canton Community Watch volunteers turned

out for the event. This year's crime-prevention celebration features a hotdog picnic, inflatable bouncers, a disc jockey, several displays such as police cars and fire trucks, crime-prevention handouts, child identification kits and other activities.

Canton residents, businesses and homeowner associations who don't participate in Community Watch are encouraged to show their support by turning on their exterior lights in honor of National Night Out, Sullivan said. One of NNO's slogans has been "Lights On Means Lights

Out for Crime" to promote the proper use of outdoor security lighting to deter crime.

Target is the national corporate sponsor of this year's event. People interested in attending should make reservations through their local Community Watch coordinators. Anyone who isn't aware of who their coordinator is or who wants more information about becoming a Community Watch member — should contact Sgt. Sullivan at (734) 394-5411.

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Police arrest ex-boyfriend after attempted break-in

Attempted break-in

1 Canton police arrested the ex-boyfriend of a woman who phoned for help as the suspect was trying to break into her first-floor apartment on Honeytree at Canton Crossings, an apartment complex southeast of Joy Road and I-275.

The incident happened around 1:25 a.m. Monday when police received a report of a home invasion in progress.

Police rushed to the scene, surrounded the building and advised the woman to come to the door wall of her apartment, a police report said. The suspect had disappeared before officers arrived.

Police found pry marks on the woman's door wall and on a window, the police report said. Police searched the area and located the ex-boyfriend in a car.

The police report indicated that officers learned the ex-boyfriend was living illegally in the United States from Mexico. He told police he has been with her for seven years. Police placed the suspect in custody for violating a personal protection order and for attempted home invasion. The investigation was continuing.

Property damage

2 A Canton woman agreed to pay for damage to a tree and sign that were allegedly struck by a vehicle that left the scene. Police received a report

of the incident at Meadowbrook Townhouses, near Haggerty and Palmer, shortly before noon Monday.

A manager told police an unknown driver had struck a no-parking sign and a tree and left the scene without providing identification. Part of the front grill of the vehicle was left at the scene, a police report said.

Police located the residence where the damaged car was parked. A woman told officers that a man she had met through a friend had been driving the vehicle, but she said she didn't know where the alleged offender lives.

The woman told police she was asleep in the back seat of the vehicle when the incident happened. In the end, she offered to pay the cost of repairs, a police report said.

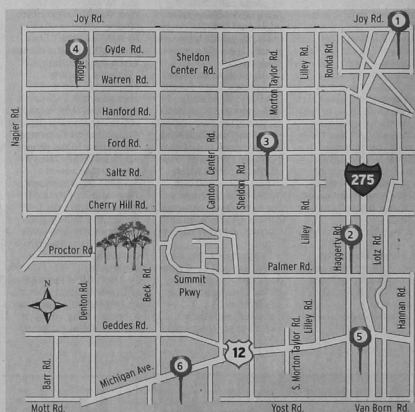
Break-in

3 Police were investigating a home invasion that was reported about 12:30 p.m. Monday in the 43500 block of Fleetwood Court, southwest of Morton Taylor and Ford. A police report indicated a woman left home and returned to learn a break-in had occurred.

The report indicated that a variety of items were missing. The incident remained under investigation.

Trespassing

4 A Canton man who owns a few acres of land near Ridge and Warren roads notified police after he learned that



someone apparently had been staying in the woods near his house.

Police received a call about 3:35 p.m. Saturday. The man told an officer to the wooded area where he had found two chairs, a table, a tarp and garbage in the woods. He said a chained rope on his property had been cut.

The man told police he has had problems in the past with people going onto his property. He told police he intended to throw away the items he found, but he wanted to file a police report to document the situation.

Warrant arrest

5 Police arrested a suspected heroin user after going to the Sherwood Village mobile home park southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty Road, a police report said.

The incident happened shortly before 1 a.m. Friday after police went to the area after receiving a call that someone had been shooting out lights in the neighborhood.

Police encountered a woman and learned she

had a warrant for her arrest out of Westland for possession of heroin. Police found several syringes in the woman's purse, a glass crack pipe, needles and what was suspected of being heroin in folded up in a lottery ticket, the police report said.

Retail fraud

6 A woman following allegations she tried to steal a baby monitor, or alarm, along with a baby swing from the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue west of Belleville Road, a police report said. Police received a call about the incident last Friday.

An employee told police the woman was confronted in the parking lot but she refused to return to the store after she allegedly left the store without paying for the merchandise.

Police arrested the woman during the investigation into retail fraud. It also was learned she had warrants for unrelated traffic violations.

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

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F213	Katrina Binns
A005	Loraine Stanton
I315	Bethany Tucker

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Crowds thrill to car show classic

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

One thing Suzanne Thomas-Hughes learned growing up with a father who was a car nut and a Ford Motor Co. employee: Car shows make for great photo opportunities.

That's why Thomas-Hughes, a former Plymouth resident now living in Wolverine Lake, knew her dad's Facebook page would be loaded with pictures from the 34th Concours d'Elegance, staged Sunday at Plymouth Township's Inn at St. John's.

"It's an amazing show you can't see anywhere else," said Thomas-Hughes, herself now an avid car enthusiast. "Dad goes to car shows all over the country, and he said this was the best he'd ever been to. That's saying a lot. His Facebook page will be overflowing."

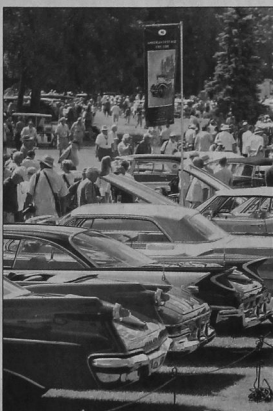
It's not like Thomas was alone, either. Huge crowds took advantage of excellent weather to ride one of several shuttle busses out to the showing of classic and rare automobiles and motorcycles in the world.

Following the theme, "Genius of the Automobile," the show featured cars ranging from dragsters to racers, Duesenbergs and Delahayes and even a no-wheel hovercraft-style propelled vehicle.

Cameras were in great supply as spectators moved around some 300 automobiles and motorcycles on display.

Ron Radtke of Novi said he goes to Concours "whenever I can." His camera was whirring.

"You don't see these kinds of cars anywhere else but these kinds of



Cadillac fins and crowds were everywhere.

shows," said Radtke, who himself owns a 1979 Chevy Van. "I love taking these kinds of pictures."

Of course, while the show is just that — a show for the spectators — it's also a show for the exhibitors, who compete for "Best in Show" honors in a variety of categories.

Terence Adderley of Bloomfield Hills brought three cars to Concours, and one of them — a 1929 Duesenberg Beverly Sedan — won "Best in Show" for the Duesenbergs.

Adderley said he's been involved in Concours for more than 30 years.

"You never know for certain if certain kinds

of cars are going to be there," Adderley said. "You learn something every year. It's very interesting ... it's fun."

While Radtke and Adderley come every year, Sunday's show was a first for Bob Richardson of Wayne. Richardson said he thinks about going every year, but that work often gets in the way.

Not this year. "A lot of the vintage and classic cars are here," said Richardson, who said he's owned a 1955 Belair and a 1973 Barracuda. "I'm a muscle car man myself. Here you get to see all the classics."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A fashion show featuring cars such as this Hummer with models was one of the highlights at the Concours d'Elegance of America at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.

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Vote out the long time Incumbents:

RON EDWARDS, KAY ARNOLD, BOB DOROSHEWITZ, and MICHAEL KELLY!

- 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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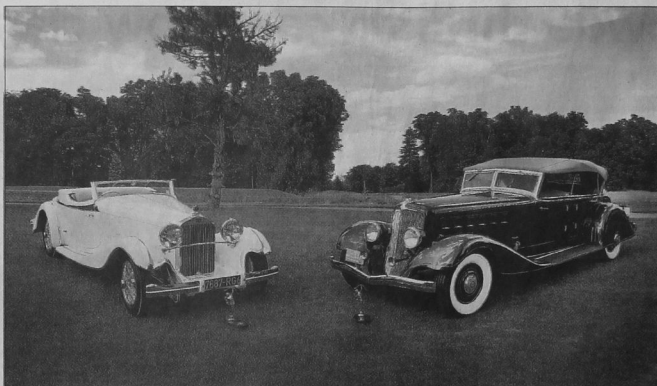


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Two 1933 models took the best-in-show honors at Sunday's Concours d'Elegance of America at the Inn at St. John's. The winners were a Delage D85 Coupe Roadster (left, European class) and a Chrysler Imperial Dual Cowl Phaeton (domestic class).

Classic show impresses the crowd

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Cindy Ash was everywhere over the weekend as the Concours d'Elegance descended on the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.

At one point, Ash was working the office/media room. On Sunday, she was outside in the sun, helping direct traffic at the shuttle bus stops.

She was one of hundreds of volunteers on hand to help out with the classic car show, hosted by St. John's for the second straight year. Ash was one of more than two dozen volunteers organized by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce to help with the event.

"I just love Plymouth," Ash said. "I want the event to go as well as it can, and I want to do whatever I can to help."



This 1960 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz convertible was a popular view.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chamber president Wes Graff said helping out only serves to enhance Plymouth's image. That's why the 16 chamber volunteers were giving some 170 hours to the effort.

"It fulfills the mission of the chamber, because Concours brings us a lot of prestige here," Graff said.

Those efforts paid off, if the reaction of the spectators was any indication. Huge crowds filled the St. John's grounds for the 34th annual show.

Paul and Carol Dawson came in from Kitchener, Ontario, and left impressed by the show.

"It's extremely well done," said Paul Dawson, who said he particularly enjoyed viewing the Duesenbergs on hand. "It has an interesting number of categories. The show really exceeded our expectations."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Hood ornament on a 1927 Minerva AFS Roadster.



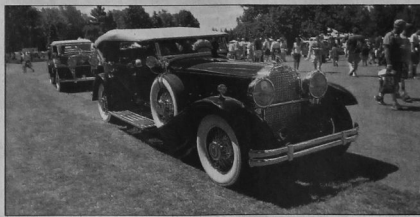
Car fans came by the thousands.



Brian VanConat from Auburn Hills checks out a 1965 McLaren M1-B.



Jim Austin from Northville takes a short nap before getting back to viewing the cars.



A 1930 Packard 745 makes its way into the show.



Marnie McFadden from Toronto gets a close up shot of a 1934 Morgan Wheeler Super Sport.



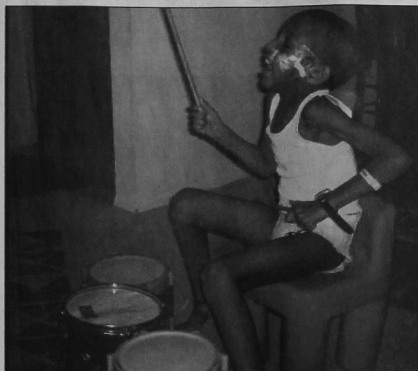
Tommy Lemere and dad, Brian, from Dearborn, get a close look at a 1964 Competition Dragster.



Nicole Snyder and her sister Kristine came all the way from California with their parents, but weren't that interested in the cars. They preferred to read their favorite books, "13 Secrets" and "Unwind."

CHERISHED MEMORIES

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruelhen at lruelhen@hometownlife.com for more information.



In spite of his disabilities, Tyler Ruffin always has a smile on his face, according to his mother Robin Joyce.

Paragon company helps tenant care for seriously ill son

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Everyone has someone who inspires them. For Robin Joyce, it's her son Tyler Ruffin. He smiles and never once has questioned why he isn't like other children his age. For Stacy Berninger, it's Robin Joyce because she always smiles.

Tyler is a wheelchair bound, legally blind and speech impaired 7-year-old, suffering from what doctors believe is a rare form of a neurological dystrophy. But Joyce can't be sure, since she can't afford to pay for the genetic test that would confirm their diagnosis. Medicaid won't pay for it, and the single mom doesn't have the \$3,000 to \$10,000 that she costs.

But she does have her faith and she believes in miracles like the one that happened last week when she received a check for \$3,212 from Paragon Properties, the property management company for Westwood Village Apartments where she lives.

"I'm so thankful," said the Westland resident. "When I need help and people see me as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Walk for Wishes event at the Detroit Zoo in May, Tyler, his mother and 12-year-old sister participated in the event as a way of saying thank you to Make A Wish for sending the family to Walt Disney World.

"Robin is a single mom and the care she provides for her son is amazing," said Berninger, Paragon's regional manager. "The Make-A-Wish charity is something dear to my heart due to family circumstances. I do what every year and decided to see if we could do something with Paragon."

Berninger talked with Paragon Vice President Justin Dunkel and the decision was made to match dollar for dollar the amount the team raised. Berninger sent out a proposal for donations to other Paragon properties. She was thinking they would collect \$1,500 to \$2,000 and was pleased to see it top \$3,000.

The money is going in the Tyler Ruffin Charity Hope Fund. It might not be enough for the genetic test, but it's more than enough to cover the cost of the \$300 vest Tyler



At age 7, Tyler Ruffin is in a battle with his mother, Robin Joyce, to win over a rare form of a neurological dystrophy.

needs to help with his posture.

Tyler was once a healthy, playful and vibrant little boy, but at about age 3½, his mother began to notice that he seemed clumsy and fell down frequently. She mentioned to the pediatrician that she thought his equilibrium was off. The doctor noticed he walked with a wide gait and referred her to a neurologist who found the youngster had low muscle tone. An MRI showed that his cerebellum had shrunk, and the doctor at Children's Hospital determined that he had a degenerative condition, but wasn't able to give a specific diagnosis. Joyce took Tyler to doctor after doctor and even four neurologists. Last November, the doctors began testing him for a specific chronic degenerative condition known as juvenile neuroaxonal dystrophy, but they can't say for sure that's what he has with the genetic test.

"My son went from stumbling when he walked to crawling, he went from not being able to crawl to being wheelchair bound," said Joyce. "He had no balance, no coordination, and he couldn't feed himself. As it went on, it affected his vision. The doctors said he had macular degeneration due to atrophy of his brain."

"Tyler's speech also became garbled and he drooled because of weak muscles in his mouth. He had difficulty eating and swallowing and it was determined he was at a high risk for choking, so he was given a feeding tube. He came home from the hospital with five cans of milk.

"It was very emotional to see him deteriorate. He was so small, he was only 39 pounds," said Joyce. "I couldn't sit at the table and eat and see him being fed by a tube, so I prayed and now he's eating some soft foods and no aspirating. His speech is more clear and he isn't choking as much. I see progress. Joyce has done a lot of

HELPING TYLER

People interested in helping Tyler Ruffin can send checks, made payable to the Tyler Ruffin Charity Hope Fund, to P.O. Box 851408, Westland, MI 48185.

For more information, contact fund coordinator Elizabeth Johnson at (313) 862-7554 or fund administrator Robin Joyce at (313) 330-6609.

research. She now knows the condition is irreversible and that currently there is no treatment plan. The life expectancy for a child with the condition is 10 years.

"Every day I tell Tyler I love him more than yesterday, and I tell him we're in this together and we're going to win," Joyce said. "As long as I have the support of others, I can keep going."

The goal of the Tyler Ruffin Charity Hope Fund is to raise money to cover the cost of genetic testing that is not covered by Medicaid and provide funding for his medical needs and adaptive equipment. Because of his illness, Joyce hasn't been able to work, so gifts like what she received from Paragon are greatly appreciated.

"Words can't ever express how much I appreciate Paragon for stepping up to the plate for me," she said. "They're my family."

Admittedly, the past four years have been a journey of faith and believing. Joyce has faith God will help Tyler and direct her to people and agencies that will help her. She also believes in miracles. After all, she is "fighting for Tyler's life."

"I don't focus on what around mine and ask him what he promises and he tells me he'll never give up," said Joyce. "I tell him this is a fight, and he says we're in it with me. I don't focus on what could have been. I believe Tyler's life is in God's hands and every day I trust in God."

Berninger said Paragon is now looking to do other things like something for the Michigan Humane Society in August or September and do the Make-A-Wish walk again next year.

"Robin and her family are so positive," said Berninger. "Robin takes it day by day and always smiles. She's inspired me to do something for others."

samazon@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8751

Yankee Air Museum ready for Thunder Over Michigan air show

The roar of airplane engines will fill the sky over Willow Run Airport this weekend as the Yankee Air Museum presents its 2012 Thunder Over Michigan air show. The air show, a fundraiser for the Yankee Air Museum in Van Buren Township, runs Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4-5. It's expected to attract 40,000-45,000 people who will be treated to a view of the only privately owned Sea Harrier F/A2, and FiFi a Boeing B-29 Superfortress.

"This year's theme is 'Mustang Mania' and honors the P-51, today's most recognized World War II warbird. Twenty P-51 Mustangs, including Jack Roush's 'Gentleman Jim' P-51D Mustang, will perform at the air show.

The battle reenactment will bring to life the sights sounds and smells of ground and air warfare over World War II Europe. Using re-created historical re-enactors and restored vintage aircraft, tanks, half-tracks and other equipment, the reenactment will bring history to life.

According to show director Kevin Walsh, visitors will get to see U.S. and German troops square off in a battle that feature authentic armor and reenactors in historically accurate dress. The P-51 Mustangs will provide tactical air support for the embattled American ground forces.

Show goers will be able to speak with the pilots, tour some aircraft, and see exhibits. There will be a kid's zone, a beer garden and food available.

But the show stopper will be the Sea Harrier F/A2. Originally designed for the Royal Navy, the Harrier is known for its vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and was made famous for its service during the Falklands War. Art Nalls, a retired and decorated Marine Corps pilot, purchased the Sea Harrier in 2005 and spent two years restoring the aircraft to flying condition.

Art Nalls, of Lasby, Md., flew seven different planes while in the Marines in 1976-1998, and the Harrier was his favorite for how it handles. The Harrier can lift like a helicopter, hover in mid-air, fly at the speed of sound and even backwars.

The show grounds will open at 9 a.m. both days as does the Ford Mustang car show, Grandstands, Bomber Club, Fighter Club and Officers Club and the Kid Zone play area. The ground and air battle reenactment will be at 10:30 a.m.

The air show will be 11:40 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a P-51 Mustang demo with Valdo Lench, a World War II Primary Trainer Flight (two PT-17's and PT-19, BT-13 Valiant demo with



Art Nalls will fly his plane, the only privately Sea Harrier jet, at the Thunder Over Michigan air show at Willow Run Airport this weekend.

THUNDER OVER MICHIGAN

What: Thunder Over Michigan Air Show
When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4-5
Where: Willow Run Airport, 47884 D St., Van Buren Township. Directions can be found at the Yankee Air Museum website at www.yankeearmuseum.org/airshow
Cost: \$30; \$25 if purchased before noon Aug. 5. No charge for children age 15 and younger. On-site parking is \$10.

Michael Kennedy, a T-6 Texan Formation Flight with seven aircraft, HH-65 Dolphin demo, the B-29 Superfortress, F-86 Sabre demo, the air and ground battle with an A-36 and 17 P-51 aircraft, a P-51 Mustang Formation Flight, MH-60 Knight-hawk demo, a World War II fighter and bomber flight with a P-38, two P-47's, B-17 and three B-25's and the Sea Harrier demo.

The air show grounds will close at 5 p.m. Airplane buffs can get a ride in the P-D Mustang "Gunfighter," which is selling \$1,500 for a 20-minute once-in-a-lifetime ride. People interested in a ride can contact Larry Lomkin at captainll@cox.net.

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Ruby Tuesday benefits helps United Way

Ruby Tuesday in Plymouth is supporting Plymouth County Community United Way by donating a portion of the proceeds to the nonprofit Friday through Sunday, Aug. 3-5.

For every diner who brings in a flyer, Ruby Tuesday will donate 20 percent of the cost of the meal. To print a flyer, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org.

Serving the Plymouth and Canton community since 1949, the Plymouth Community United Way focuses on basic needs, education and stability. It continues to see an increase in requests for food and rent assistance in Plymouth and Canton due to the economy.

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CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS



Kyle Wardynski (left), Mickey Smith and David Stinson were among five contestants who took part in Saturday's Olympic-style eating contest at the RealBarBQ Canton Saturday. Wardynski won the contest by downing 12 pulled-pork sandwiches in eight minutes.

Slider contest

Some 50 people watched as five contestants tackled RealBarBQ's "slider" eating contest Saturday.

The Olympic-style contest was designed to kick off in conjunction with the 2012 Olympic Games. The idea was simple: The one to eat the most pulled-pork sandwiches in eight minutes wins. That honor went to Kyle Wardynski, who ate a dozen of the restaurant's specialty. Wardynski won a \$200 RealBarBQ gift card.

The other four contestants each earned a \$25 RealBarBQ gift card.

New doctor

Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton welcomed Mushahid Raza, MD to their medical staff.

Board certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Raza completed his residency at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne before coming to Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton. He is on staff at OAH.

Dr. Raza earned a B.S.N. from the Medical Academy for Post-Graduate Studies in St. Petersburg, Russia and his Doctorate of Medicine from Kuban State Medical Academy, also in Russia. Prior to joining the Oakwood staff as a registered nurse in 2006, he completed internships

at medical centers in Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Raza began his post-graduate medical training at OAH in 2010, during which time he was named Intern Resident of the Year. Since then, he has been very active in the Oakwood community, serving as a member of the Internet Committee for the Oakwood Annapolis Residency Program, conducting peer reviews for the Oakwood Family Medicine Residency Program and moonlighting at Oakwood Healthcare Center-Garden City. Fluent in Urdu, Russian, Hindi and Punjabi, Dr. Raza has often served as a translator in the OAH emergency department.

Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton is located at 7300 N. Canton Center Rd. Dr. Raza is now accepting new patients. Call (734) 545.8001 to schedule an appointment.

Huntington open house

The Huntington Learning Center, a supplementary academic services provider, which offers K-12 tutoring in reading, writing, math, phonics, study skills, test prep and exam prep, is hosting an open house on Friday, Aug. 10, from 3-5 p.m. at 44630 Ford Road in Canton.

The open house will feature light refreshments, goodie giveaways, center tours, staff meet-and-greets, and a chance for parents and kids to ask questions about homework and academic readiness as they prepare to go back to school. There will also be prizes provided by local businesses such as China Garden, Toarmin's Pizza, prize packs by the Plymouth Whalers for a Drive-In Movies 4-Pack and a Whalers Tickets Prize Pack, Kroger and Jet's Pizza gift cards, and more.

The Huntington Learning Center offers individualized programs to students after conducting an in-depth academic evaluation that helps identify the areas causing a child trouble in school. The center discusses the results and its recommendations with parents, and builds a customized program that focuses exactly on where that parent's child needs help.

For more information, call (734) 207-7930.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Amish Tables features products made by the Amish, and the company has shipped to every state and internationally.

Firm sets table for customers

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Amish Tables: Our products are made by the Amish and we have shipped to every state and internationally. You choose your wood, your stain and your size! It's a truly custom product allowing customers to get exactly what they need and what will fit in their homes.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Amish Tables: We opened first to sell large tables for large families for Christmas and for Thanksgiving and for homeschoolers.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Amish Tables: We needed a walk-by, drive-by location and Plymouth is a very craft appreciative town.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Amish Tables: Largest tables ever, custom made to order, can be shipped most anywhere, and the ability to carry on the web has made us available to everyone.

Observer: Do you have a humorous tidbit you can share about being a small business owner?

Amish Tables: One day

AMISH TABLES

Business name and address: Amish Tables, 236 N. Main, Plymouth

Your name and title: Nell Narowski, CEO & owner

Your hometown: Ann Arbor

Business opened when: Opened in 1995 in the basement of our home.

Number of employees: 7

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Your business specialty: Started with long extendable dining tables for up to 24 people and up to 22 feet. We later added Living Room, Bedroom, Baby, Office and Accent furniture.

Contact: (734) 927-1110 | www.amishtables.com; additional website: www.amish-furniture-home.com for all of our products; Friend us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/amishtables

I was having a garage sale, back in the day before these tables could be shipped. Some Amish wandered into my garage sale and my husband said, "Oh my goodness, these are the very Amish I wanted to talk to about using hardware so the legs could be removed and the tables could be shipped." This was back in the day before a shipping company existed and before the Amish were using hardware to make the table legs detachable. This was a good day for us and an amazing event for these Amish to wander into my garage on their way home from a conference.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Amish Tables: Surprisingly, real wood furniture made by the Amish seems to be a trusted and a commodity to be desired. We have been growing every year.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Amish Tables: Being online has truly helped. You never would have thought that people would buy and ship a 22-foot table, sight unseen and then love it!!! The testimonials have greatly helped us. We now also offer a business to business program for leasing and bulk discounts.

CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

First Friday

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Club meets 8:30-9:45 a.m. Friday, Aug. 3, at the chamber offices located at 4525 Hanford Road in Canton.

It's an opportunity for one-on-one networking in a small group setting. This networking event is limited to 10 separate businesses plus a sponsor. Participants should bring business cards, flyers, etc., to share with the group. Participation in this networking event is limited to once per quarter. The fourth member to register will be asked to bring bagels or doughnuts.

To make a reservation, call (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com. The event is sponsored by Showroom of Elegance.

Chamber golf

The Canton Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing takes place Thursday, Sept. 13, at Pleasant Run Golf Club in Canton. Sponsors include Barone Law Offices, Bovitz CPA, P.C., Jack Demmer Ford, Lou LaRiche Chevrolet and Plumbing Professors.

For details on how to register or for more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-4040.

Family Fun Fest

The Canton Chamber of Commerce presents Family Fun Fest 1-4 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46613 Michigan Ave., in Canton.

The free skate with Artie event features music by DJ Roman, games on ice, balloon sculptures, face painting, raffle prizes, a sports silent auction (to benefit local families in need through Open Door Ministry, Canton's Food Pantry) and more.

Membership max

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's Membership to the MAX is designed to show how to use the Canton Chamber to its fullest capacity.

The meeting takes place 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the chamber office, 4525 Hanford Road in Canton.

The chamber's goal to help members redeem all of the advantages that accompanies their membership. Reservations are required, call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com. Sponsors are Bovitz, CPA, P.C., Molly Maid and Showroom of Elegance.

Business workshop

The Canton Chamber sponsors Business Education Workshop Series #3 on the topic, "Using Technology To Boost Your Business," 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office, 4525 Hanford in Canton.

There is no cost for members and first-time guests. The event is presented by Bart Patterson.

Call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com to reserve a spot.

Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 PM
from August 3rd - August 24th

2012 Canton Color Tour

JAZZ SERIES

Date	Artist	Location	Color Block
August 3	John E. Lawrence	Willow Creek Shopping Center Food & Huggery	
August 10	Kimunde Horne	Super Bowl	
August 17	Randy Scott	IKEA Food & Huggery	
August 24	Liz Rountree	Home Depot Food & Lutz	

JAZZY CARRY OUT SPECIALS

Mention "ShopCanton" at participating restaurants to get the specials from 6-8 PM on concert Fridays. For details on carry out specials contact the restaurant.

Antonio's Cucina Italiana- 734-981-9800	Hayden's Grill and Bar- 734-895-3388
Applebees- 734-455-7510	Jimmy John's- 734-844-4112
Balley's Pub and Grille- 734-844-1137	Leo's Coney Island- 734-981-5483
Carrabba's Italian Grill- 734-844-7400	Palermo's- 734-455-5210
Chili's- 734-844-9050	Parthenon Coney Island- 734-981-0200
Elite Pizzeria- 734-335-6716	Real BarBQ- 734-667-3996

Visit ShopCanton.org for updates and details
facebook.com/ShopCanton
twitter.com/ShopCanton
#JazzColorTour

Every week, the first 25 people who turn in receipts for \$25 or more from a Canton merchant will receive a FREE personal cooler.

In the event of inclement weather, all concerts will be held indoors at Super Bowl 45100 Ford Rd.



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Commerce



ShopCanton.org SHOPCanton

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

Wayne County Circuit Court

add the face

Eleven candidates are vying for three open positions on the Wayne County Circuit Court bench. Six candidates will advance to the November election. The term is six years. Judges are paid \$139,190 annually. Candidates Rohn Mitchell and David Whitaker did not respond to the Observer questionnaire. Readers seeking more information leading up to Tuesday's primary can also read questionnaires and resumes submitted to the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. Go to www.detroitlawyer.org/judicialcandidateevaluationcommittee.html. Come back Sunday to the Observer for responses from candidates Brian L. Morrow, Kelly Ann Ramsey, Mark Somers and John Joseph Sullivan.

ELECTION 2012



Karen Braxton
Karen Braxton of Canton Township holds a bachelor's in economics and political science from the University of Rochester and a juris doctor from Case Western Reserve University Law School. Her professional affiliations include Board of Trustees RE700L, Wayne County Criminal Justice Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association and the NAACP. RE700L is a program that serves the needs of young people that are in the juvenile justice system. Braxton works directly with female youth in the program offering tutoring, mentoring and professional and personal guidance.

She is married to Thomas Braxton. The couple has two children. Karen currently attends Plymouth-Canton Schools. The family attends El Beth Baptist Church in Redford.

State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)
I am currently a trial attorney in a solo practice.

How do you make a difference on the court?
I handle a wide variety of cases including cases in criminal, probate, juvenile, landlord-tenant and family law. I am dedicated to providing excellent legal representation to each client, including those who may not otherwise be able to afford quality legal counsel. I practice primarily in the Wayne County Circuit Court giving me extensive knowledge of the court system in which I seek to serve.

Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?
I want to be judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court because I am confident that I can bring equality, efficiency and effectiveness to the Court. Effectiveness by ensuring that everyone is treated equally regardless of their race, sex or socioeconomic status; efficiency by taking the bench in a timely and expediently yet thoroughly handling each case before me and effectively by using established programs in Wayne County (like RE700L) to help underprivileged youth.

Describe your judicial philosophy.
I have tried over 100 cases in solo practice, including criminal (felonies, misdemeanors, capital and non-capital) and juvenile cases (delinquency and neglect). Of those, approximately 50 percent have been jury trials.

Describe your judicial philosophy.
Regardless of what division assigned, I intend to serve everyone who comes into the Wayne County Circuit Court with integrity, fairness and respect. Many people come to court for different reasons. They may be victims, party to a lawsuit, defendants, jurors, attorneys, etc. I intend to listen with an open mind to any party before me and make a decision based upon the law and not my personal beliefs. I also intend to make decisions that, if appropriate, will benefit the community as a whole, not just a small segment of the community.

Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.
I am most proud of my UAW endorsement because my father was a member for 26 years and I am proud to have the support from an organization that was very important in my upbringing.

Describe your trial experience.
I have had extensive experience trying cases in front of juries for over 25 years. I have tried over 30 complex civil jury trials for my clients and have tried over 250 jury trials in eight different counties

How can you make a difference on the court?

I intend to use my role as a judge to help others, specifically underprivileged youth, in the county. While I am appreciative of every opportunity that I have been afforded, I wish to share my knowledge and experiences with others that may not have had the same opportunities. In addition, by focusing on the youth in Wayne County, I am able to target an impressionable group that will give me an alternative to a life of crime.

What expertise – in business or law – gives you an edge over your opponents?

Over the years, I have practiced in each division of the circuit court where I could be assigned. In my private practice, I interact with judges, court staff and the thousands of people who visit the courts each day. It is important that I be practiced in each area because judges and their divisions assigned to their divisions and you must be prepared to serve an ready and eager to serve.

Kevin Cox

Cox lives in Livonia. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. He is married to Elizabeth Cox. The couple has five children: Kiefer, 23; Casey, 20; Jack, 17 and Brian, 14. His community involvement includes St. Edith Parish Association, St. Edith CYO Athletics Board of Directors and coach of Catholic Central Day Club, fundraiser for the Salvation Army, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and the United Way.

State the nature of your current practice.
I am a judicial attorney general in the labor division of the Office of Attorney General. I represent the State in Michigan in state courts and administrative hearings. I prosecute businesses and individuals who have defrauded the state in tax matters.

Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?
My decision to seek judicial office is due in large part to the fact that I was raised by my parents. My parents were a trial lawyer and a judge. We did not have lawyers and judges in our neighborhood. My parents taught my brothers and I that judges were the glue that held together all that was just and fair in our society and that there was no higher calling than to serve the public as a judge.

Describe your trial experience.
I am highly qualified to serve. I have extensive experience as a trial attorney for over 25 years and have had the benefit of watching and learning the qualities that make judges effective and efficient. Prior to practicing as an AAG, I was in private practice for 25 years. My practice was comprised of complex injury litigation throughout the state. I owned and managed a law firm of 12 attorneys and I were in Wayne County. I have litigated cases in over 40 counties in Michigan, resulting in several successful jury verdicts and hundreds of settlements. In addition, I have handled several cases that have been heard in the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

Describe your trial experience.
I have had extensive experience trying cases in front of juries for over 25 years. I have tried over 30 complex civil jury trials for my clients and have tried over 250 jury trials in eight different counties

in Michigan. Many of my trials have been reported in professional journals, trial reporting services and in the news media. Virtually all my trial experience has required the use of sophisticated technical, medical and scientific expert witnesses in addition to extensive legal research and brief writing. I have also litigated hundreds of other cases that have settled on the eve of trial.

Describe your judicial philosophy.

I believe must serve the community with integrity. I believe that our system of justice works only if judges are committed to seek the truth and treat all citizens fairly and with respect.

Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.

I received the highest rating for skill and ethics as determined by my peer attorneys and family members in both years and I was rated "Well Qualified" in the recent judicial ratings issued by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (DMBA). The DMBA Committee evaluated the fitness of each candidate for judicial office based on the candidate's legal ability, trial experience, integrity, honor, judicial temperament and reputation. The "Well Qualified" rating is the highest rating given to any candidate in this race.

How do you make a difference on the court?
I am also proud I represent the endorsement of three Michigan Attorneys General and the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Law enforcement leaders want a judge who knows how to deal with crime in our community, and I will.

How can you make a difference on the court?
I believe I will make a difference on the court and studied very hard to become a successful trial attorney and my work ethic will not change as a judge. I know that to become a great judge, I must work and study hard and be prepared for all cases on my docket. I also have a great respect for our system of justice, which is obligated to protect all citizens who participate in the legal process.

What expertise – in business or law – gives you an edge over your opponents?
I believe that I am the candidate with the most courtroom trial experience and thus most capable of running an effective and efficient court. Because I have appeared in front of hundreds of judges over the past 27 years, I feel confident that I have learned the qualities necessary to preserve the integrity of our legal system, protect our rights and uphold our laws.

Jane Ellen Gillis

Jane Ellen Gillis, 49, holds a bachelor's of science from Western Michigan University and a juris doctor from the Detroit College of Law. Michigan State University Law School. She is a member of the Michigan Bar Association, the Incorporated Society of Irish Judges, the American Lawyers, and State Bar of Michigan, Criminal Law Section. A life-long resident of Wayne County, she is married and the mother of two children. In 1993 she received the Spirit of Detroit Award for her work at the Dominican Life Center where she taught reading to high school dropouts, "many of whom were left behind by the system because of learning disabilities."

State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)
For the past seven years I have worked as a trial attorney in the State Prosecutor and I have been assigned to the trial division for over four years. Previously I worked as a solo practitioner for 13 years specializing in probate, criminal, collection, family and juvenile law. In 1995, I was appointed to be a Special Assistant to the Attorney General Frank Kelley to handle collection cases in Wayne County in addition to my regular practice. Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?

I have always been dedicated to my community, becoming a judge would allow me to further the commitment and to continue working as a public servant. In addition having worked as a prosecutor for the past seven years and a solo practitioner for over 13 years has given me a wide variety of experiences. I have represented defendants, juvenile delinquents and family cases in both years and I was rated "Well Qualified" in the recent judicial ratings issued by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (DMBA). The DMBA Committee evaluated the fitness of each candidate for judicial office based on the candidate's legal ability, trial experience, integrity, honor, judicial temperament and reputation. The "Well Qualified" rating is the highest rating given to any candidate in this race.

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Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.

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I am also proud I represent the endorsement of three Michigan Attorneys General and the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Law enforcement leaders want a judge who knows how to deal with crime in our community, and I will.

How can you make a difference on the court?
I believe I will make a difference on the court and studied very hard to become a successful trial attorney and my work ethic will not change as a judge. I know that to become a great judge, I must work and study hard and be prepared for all cases on my docket. I also have a great respect for our system of justice, which is obligated to protect all citizens who participate in the legal process.

What expertise – in business or law – gives you an edge over your opponents?
I believe that I am the candidate with the most courtroom trial experience and thus most capable of running an effective and efficient court. Because I have appeared in front of hundreds of judges over the past 27 years, I feel confident that I have learned the qualities necessary to preserve the integrity of our legal system, protect our rights and uphold our laws.

Adel Harb

Adel Harb, 47, is a Dearborn resident who received his juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is a member of the Michigan State Bar, Wolverine Bar and Texas Bar. Harb is married and the father of two daughters. He is a member of the Michigan Association for providing

State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)
I have been assigned to the trial division for over four years. Previously I worked as a solo practitioner for 13 years specializing in probate, criminal, collection, family and juvenile law. In 1995, I was appointed to be a Special Assistant to the Attorney General Frank Kelley to handle collection cases in Wayne County in addition to my regular practice. Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?

I have always been dedicated to my community, becoming a judge would allow me to further the commitment and to continue working as a public servant. In addition having worked as a prosecutor for the past seven years and a solo practitioner for over 13 years has given me a wide variety of experiences. I have represented defendants, juvenile delinquents and family cases in both years and I was rated "Well Qualified" in the recent judicial ratings issued by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (DMBA). The DMBA Committee evaluated the fitness of each candidate for judicial office based on the candidate's legal ability, trial experience, integrity, honor, judicial temperament and reputation. The "Well Qualified" rating is the highest rating given to any candidate in this race.

member of the Great Lakes Council for Boy Scouts of America.

State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)
I have been in private practice for over 20 years with emphasis on family law and criminal. I have been a deputy state law mediator and facilitator for 12 years.

Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?
I believe I can make a difference.

Describe your trial experience.
I have extensive trial court experience in both District and Circuit Courts for over 20 years.

Describe your judicial philosophy.

I believe in law, apply the law, and never be afraid of making decisions.

Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.
Fannie Lou Hamer and 13th Congressional District.

How can you make a difference on the court?
I would bring a diverse personal history to the bench, professionally and culturally.

What expertise – in business or law – gives you an edge over your opponents?

Being an attorney, magistrate, and mediator has given me the appropriate temperament.

Dana Margaret Hathaway

Dana Margaret Hathaway lives in Grosse Pointe Farms. She holds a degree in chemistry from the College of Charleston, and juris doctor from the University of Detroit Law School where she was associate editor of the Law Review. She is a member of State Bar of Michigan, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, Illinois State Bar Association. Hathaway is married and the mother of two daughters, Riley and Mackenzie. She is a member of St. Paul Church of the Cross, Grosse Pointe Farms. She has been active and served on the general citizen committee in youth assistance organizations devoted to the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect, by providing positive alternatives to children and families.

State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)
As a Wayne County prosecutor, I handle felonies and misdemeanors that are charged in Wayne County. I work hard daily to ensure that justice is done on behalf of crime victims. I know how to efficiently move a court's docket because that is what I do everyday. Before joining the prosecutor's office, I worked for a national law firm where I specialized in high-stakes litigation for seven years. Primarily, I defended product liability and personal injury actions and litigated commercial actions across the country. I represented Ford, General Motors, and many of the international clients.

Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?

A judge is a public servant and I intend to run for circuit court because it is critically important that we elect competent judges who have shown an unquestionable commitment to public service. I've been awarded by Legal Aid and Defender Association for providing

quality pro bono legal services to people who otherwise could not afford competent legal representation.

Judges also analyze and apply the law. I've won the Excellence for the Future Award in legal reasoning and analysis and I was named a Michigan Super Lawyers - Rising Star for my litigation experience.

Describe your trial experience.
I've handled close to 100 trials and evidentiary motions during my career in both civil and criminal law. As a prosecutor, I've also handled countless felony preliminary examinations.

Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.

I handle preliminary examinations in Wayne County courts on a daily basis, in addition to jury and bench trials.

Describe your judicial philosophy.
Be fair and follow the law. Judges must apply the law equally and fairly to every person appearing before the court.

Two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.
I am honored to have received endorsements from The Detroit News and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthly. The Detroit News endorsement was through, well informed and unbiased partisan agenda. It recognized my "strong work ethic," my commitment to move a court's docket swiftly. I am also grateful to have received the endorsement from Prosecutor Kym Worthly because she is a no-nonsense prosecutor committed to your court's safety.

Prosecutor Worthly's endorsement recognizes my knowledge of criminal law and procedure as well as trial experience. I appreciate her recognition of my qualifications for judicial office.

How can you make a difference on the court?
The Third Circuit Court is one of the busiest courts in the state. However, the court is currently operating with limited judicial financial resources. I'd like to improve the delivery of justice to the public by implementing specialty courts. I'd seek to expand the scope of mental health court and implement a veterans court.

Specialty courts reduce crime and recidivism rates while effectively using taxpayer dollars and ultimately save taxpayer money. Also, while I will always advocate for law, I won't be afraid to seek for improvement in the law where it is necessary, pursuant to the judicial process.

What expertise – in business or law – gives you an edge over your opponents?
I have an unusual background for an attorney. While I was in law school, I worked full-time as a forensic chemist at the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office. The Medical Examiner's office ranks among the top five in the country and handles over 100 forensic cases annually. As such, the laboratory analysis requires extreme attention to detail. My analysis of biological specimens aided in criminal investigations and thousands of cases of cause of death determinations.

The non-incumbent judges elected this year will be the only presiding criminal matters. My scientific background and criminal law experience make me uniquely qualified for a position Wayne Circuit bench.

OUR VIEWS

Time to move

Board begins critical superintendent search

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education started looking last week at the process it will use to replace Dr. Jeremy Hughes, who is entering his second — and final — year as the district's superintendent of schools.

It might not be possible to overstate the importance of this decision, given all the board has been through the last couple of years.

While Hughes' steady hand has stabilized things in his tenure, the board will still have to fight its combative reputation as it tries to find a permanent leader willing to come in and steer the ship.

And, while the current board is working to smooth its operating procedures and meld its governing philosophies, these trustees are likely to be saddled in professional circles with the dysfunction the previous board exhibited toward the end of its tenure.

Having said that, there are things to like about the process this board will follow in choosing Hughes' replacement.

They understand the importance of the search firm to the process, a lesson certainly Barry Simescu and Judy Mardigian, the lone trustees who were on the board for the last superintendent search, learned back then. No one seemed completely satisfied with the field of finalists brought to them by Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, the Glenview, Ill. firm charged with the last search. Particularly unsettling was the firm's inability to find a Michigan-based candidate who might have been more familiar with local funding and other issues.

Board members also seem in tune with getting the community involved, something the board has actually been fairly good at when considering major decisions.

And the idea of forming a secondary process to choose an interim leader, while on the surface seeming prepared for failure, is actually — intended or not — an acknowledgement this might not be the easiest position in the world to fill right now. Having a process to find a temporary chief gives board members a chance to make certain they've got a quality candidate pool for the permanent job.

Perhaps the board should have started sooner, because the timeline as it exists leaves precious little room for error. But it also gives the board a good chance at finding someone to provide the kind of stability and leadership the district very much needs.

Yes on jail millage

Voters will be asked to renew 0.9381 mills to support the Wayne County Jail system on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

The millage is a 10-year renewal and money is used to operate the jail and fund other programs such as juvenile detention programs and facilities, work release programs, home detention and youth drug counseling.

While there is a lot of grumbling about how Wayne County manages tax dollars, most suburban leaders (of both parties) and all law enforcement officials, admit that this is a necessary renewal. The issue is how to make sure suburban communities are receiving their fair share of services.

This is not a new millage, it is a renewal (0.9381 mills or 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value). Retaining the millage means keeping more than 2,000 accused felons off the streets.

The jail millage renewal is estimated to generate approximately \$39 million in property tax revenue in 2012.

Michigan statute requires counties to provide jail facilities to house pre-trial felons and certain criminals sentenced to one year or less of incarceration.

Vote **yes** on Proposal J to continue funding the Wayne County Jail System.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Where's your favorite summertime place to buy fresh vegetables and fruit?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"The Farmers Market in Plymouth."
Loretta Olson
Plymouth



"Probably Meijer."
Kristi Bowman
Westland



"Westborn (on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn)."
Alvin Jackson III
Dearborn Heights



"The Canton (Farmers) Market."
Tai McDade
Canton

LETTERS

Supporting Price

I am writing in support of Shannon Price for county commissioner in the Republican primary Aug. 7.

As a former Canton Township attorney, I have worked with the county on issues relating to parks, property taxes and infrastructure projects. It is clear to me that a strong new voice is needed on the county commission.

Shannon understands the issues facing Canton and Plymouth as donor communities on parks, roads and jails. Shannon will fight for us and fight to bring our tax dollars back into our communities.

Audrey Robinson
Plymouth

Career politician

Dear Cassis for Congress Committee:

I am using the *Observer* letters to the editor as I cannot find who you are; I only can find what you keep sending to my mail box.

What you send is what I and other Republicans who believe in the principals of our party disdain. You seem to be bent on bashing the only legitimate Republican candidate for Congress for the 11th District. Your candidate, whom I believe is a lovely person, did not go through the district process to get to be a candidate of the district, but instead has a well-financed committee whose members I cannot locate.

You believe that Mr. Bentivolio is not enough of a career politician to represent the 11th Congressional District. Ms. Cassis has been a career politician and her endorsements are from other career politicians. So a vote for Ms. Cassis then is a vote to have career politicians continue to run our government. It is because of your yellow journalism-type mailers, which your well-financed committee continues to send, that I have decided to work to ensure that Mr. Bentivolio wins the 38th Precinct Aug. 7. I hope all other Republicans who are tired of letting career politicians try to tell us how to live, what to believe and how to vote do the same.

Ron Berglund
Precinct 38 delegate, Canton

Context is everything

Shamefully, it seems as if the Romney folks are intent on basing much of their campaign upon using creative editing rather than presenting a case for how Gov. Romney represents a clear policy break from the disastrous Bush administration, both economically and otherwise, or has a legitimate plan going forward.

The latest adventure in editing, representing the fifth incidence of Obama blatantly being quoted out of context in an ad, involves the so-called "you didn't build that" quote. The dishonest Romney version seems to be gaining traction with many seemingly sane Republicans, although it should be clear to any "objective" observer that the quote attributed to the president was clearly lifted from context.

You be the judge: Obama's

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

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

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

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

entire statement, "Somebody helped to create this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive. Somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business — you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen. The Internet didn't get invented on its own." Now the Romney ad version: "If you've got a business — you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." All I can say is, "really?"

For those who enjoy the he-said-she-said reality show style of politics or are looking for "proof" of what you want to or already believe, Word has the Romney campaign has been busy in the cut room creating another deceptive masterpiece.

This edition includes a portion of a speech where Obama in reality is regaling the accomplishments of the Clinton administration skillfully sliced and diced down to what appears to be evidence of Obama making false claims and being out of touch when evaluating his own administration.

Aside from being sophomoric and amateurish, basing weeks of a campaign on editing tricks to convince voters that someone said something that they didn't in order to lend substance to a particular narrative is less than honest and should be beneath someone who piously claims to be a paragon of integrity.

Creative editing, coupled with the pattern of deceit involving how time was spent, misrepresenting facts and creating a veil of secrecy around business and financial dealings and tax returns, makes Romney as questionable as any presidential candidate in recent history. Ask yourself, "Would you buy a used car off of this guy?"

Mitch Smith
Canton

Roberts no 'Democrat'

I appreciate the information regarding the candidates for the 11th Congressional District. I, of course, am a strong supporter of Dr. Syed Tai. People keep saying they want a candidate with practical experience, he is the man. I am disappointed that Bill Roberts calls himself a Democrat. After talking to his supporters outside of Chase Bank, I could see that

they were not Democrats.

I took the time to look up Lyndon LaRouche — positively frightening. Bill Roberts should explain who Lyndon LaRouche is and what he stands for. I don't think that most people would mistake Mr. LaRouche (or Mr. Roberts) for an FDR Democrat. I was a little amused by what they intend to do: a huge waterworks plan out west financed by the money returned from the various bailouts. When I asked how they hoped to get the money from the banks, they said we just take it — it doesn't matter if Wall Street fails. Also, I was told all of the countries in Europe need to go back to their own currencies (couldn't quite figure out what that had to do with us).

I hope the person who wins cares about the people he or she represents. It is not about a party: Republican, Democrat or LaRouchian. It is simply about the people.

Angela Woods
Livonia

Support ACA?

In an address given to the nursing profession around the time of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII reminded those present and the whole Catholic community that it is basic Catholic teaching to advocate a "quality life" for everyone from "womb to tomb." Living a life of quality from birth to death requires the recognition that health care is going to be necessary. Every pope since John XXIII has consistently argued for the right for everyone to have a "quality life" from the beginning to the end of that life.

I agree entirely with the Rev. Rob Anderson of St. Mary's in Milford, and in fact said the same to my parishioners at St. Alexander. The idea that the archbishop of Detroit is not going to agree with the consistent Catholic teaching of advocating "quality life" is a stupid claim to lay at his feet.

The forefront for religious freedom was in part designed to focus on the Affordable Care Act as it affects the abortion question. The goal is to make sure that agencies and colleges are not forced to support anything that we oppose for religious reasons. Now that we have an actual constitutional bill on the books, we can address those objectionable parts of the bill, what we feel need clarification.

Rev. Bob McGrath, pastor
Servant Church of St. Alexander

DIA is a jewel

Great art and architecture elevate all great cities and make them enriching places to live, as well as inviting destinations to visit.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is a jewel in the crown for Michigan and deserves to be preserved by Michiganders. As Robert Motherwell expressed, "Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it."

Jill Farber-Bramson
West Bloomfield

CRIME WATCH

Vehicles vandalized in township

A pickup truck and a motorcycle belonging to the same man were both vandalized while parked outside his Plymouth Township workplace in June or July, police report.

The vandalism occurred in a parking lot at McLane Foods, on Pilot Drive south of Five Mile and east of Beck Road, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

Chrome trim on the complainant's 2006 Ford pickup had been scraped in several places, police said, and a stereo speaker on his motorcycle had been cracked.

The incident occurred between June 24 and July 20, the complainant told police.

Laptop theft

A laptop computer was reported stolen from a house on Gold Arbor Road, north of Ann Arbor Road and east of Mill Street, on July 26.

The computer had been left on a table, the complainant told police. The theft occurred between midnight and 3 a.m.; it is unclear if the door had been locked.

Truck theft

A company work truck was reported stolen July 25 from a business on Galleon Drive, south of Five Mile and west of Beck Road.

The 2007 Ford flatbed was taken from TriStar Fire Protection some time between 6 p.m. July 24 and 4:30 a.m. the next day, a police report said. The truck had a white cab with the letters TSFP painted in blue on both doors. The bed of the truck carried a winch.

The complainant told police the keys had not been left with the truck.

Scrapers strike?

A truck cap and a scrapped condenser unit were reported stolen July 23 from the back lot at a business on Ann Arbor Road between Sheldon and Main Street.

The theft took place between the evening of July 20 and earlier that morning, a police report said.

School window smashed

A window at Fiegel Elementary, on Joy Road east of I-275, was discovered broken on the evening of July 26.

Officers dispatched to the area on a report of a loud crowd of people found the window broken, but police say it doesn't appear as though the building had been entered.

Police talked to two different groups of people in the area and both denied having broken the window. One group said the window was broken when they arrived at the school playground to play basketball, police said.

—By Matt Jachman

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- **Plymouth Township Trustees have, *by sheer power, without regard to the wishes of the electorate, reduced the safety of your family in fire and medical emergencies.*
- **The Treasurer has *forced his unilateral decisions* on other Members of the Board to close Fire Station #2, to reduce our Fire protection from fires, and to cut our EMS service from 24 Paramedics to 15.
- **While *fully funding a golf course* and *paying \$606,000* to buy 300 acres of vacant land (with questionable title), *those 4 Trustees* voted for response to Fires that depends on *persons who are "on call" from their home or work*
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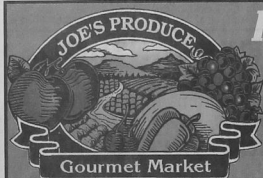
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Schmitt's a humble, driven American idol

As I walked out of the Canton High School natatorium following my first meeting with Allison Schmitt seven years ago, I wasn't sure what had impressed me more about the emerging high school swimming star — her incredibly long limbs or her unassuming humility.

Although I peppered her with questions regarding the individual state records she had recently collected, Schmitt was politely insistent on talking about the Chiefs' relay teams she was a part of and how her teammates deserved equal billing in the article I was putting together.

Ed Wright

Much like her talent, Schmitt's smile was ever-present and radiant.

I could tell from the get-go that this young lady had a heart of gold.

Now she has a medal to match, which surprises me about, oh, zero percent.

Saw it coming

Four years ago this summer, I interviewed Schmitt about her recent experience at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. She talked exuberantly about meeting Kobe Bryant and President Bush; sharing a pool with the likes of Michael Phelps and Dara Torres; and winning a bronze medal as a member of a relay team.

While the pride she felt in the medal she carefully held in her hands that day was evidently abundant, there was something in the tone of her voice and the look in her eye that convinced me she wasn't completely satisfied with a single medal.

When the subject of the 2012 London Olympics came up, Allison flashed a 50-meters-wide smile like in so many words, expressed how excited she was to begin working toward those games, which at the time seemed such a long, long way away.

1 in a million

It's easy to get chills when you think about what Schmitt has accomplished

Please see WRIGHT, B3



ROB SCHUMACHER | USA TODAY

Canton's Allison Schmitt is all smiles after setting an American and Olympic record in the women's 200-meter freestyle (1:53.61) Tuesday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

CANTON'S GOLDEN GIRL

Schmitt delivers smashing performance in London

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's Allison Schmitt proved Tuesday she's in a world of her own.

The 22-year-old just didn't take a gold medal. She devoured it.

Swimming in Lane 5, Schmitt took charge from the start and didn't let off the gas to capture the women's 200-meter freestyle at the Summer Olympic Games at the London Aquatic Centre.

In a dominating performance, the 2008 Canton High grad set both an Olympic and American Record in 1 minute, 53.61 seconds with Camille Muffat of France, the Olympic champ who beat Schmitt for gold on Sunday in the 400 freestyle, taking second in 1:55.58.

Australian Bronte Barratt took third in 1:55.81, edging American 17-year-old Missy Franklin (1:55.82), who was slight ahead of Schmitt at 50 meters, for the bronze. Reigning Olympic champion and world record holder Federica Pellegrini placed fifth in 1:56.73.

Schmitt, who flirted with world record pace, shattered Pellegrini's Olympic record of 1:54.08 and broke her own American mark of 1:54.40 set in last month's Olympic Trials.

"I couldn't be happier," Schmitt told USAswimming.org. "I couldn't see anything other than the racer next to me, so I didn't know where I was or what the time was. I just tried to keep focused and to keep calm. Mike (Phelps) and I were joking before the race, and he said:

"As soon as you get on the blocks, it's time to start focusing."

Ironically, Schmitt took charge out of the blocks, hit the water first and never looked back.

"In (Olympic) trials I was a little heavier in the legs and I could feel it coming home," she said. "My strategy today was to lay off the legs so I could bring it home stronger. I knew I was taking it out fast but I knew the last three 50s (meters) I would have to work the legs hard."

Schmitt now has a total of four Olympic medals to her credit including a bronze for the U.S. in Saturday's 4 x 100 freestyle and a silver on Sunday in the 400 freestyle. She also captured a bronze in the

Please see SCHMITT, B3

80-somethings are a hit on area softball diamonds

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Ed Wayne carefully aligned his knuckles on the handle of his silver-barreled Easton softball bat Tuesday morning as he stepped into the batter's box on the northwest diamond at Redford Township's Claude Allison Park.

Feasting on the first high-arcing delivery he saw from the opposing team's pitcher, Wayne laced a sizzling ground ball to the right of the shortstop, who couldn't get a grip on the fluorescent-yellow ball, giving Wayne a well-deserved infield single.

Even if the Metro Detroit Signs defender had fielded the ball cleanly, it would have taken an Ozzie Smith-caliber play

to throw out Wayne, who possesses good wheels for a catcher — not to mention uncommon swiftness for a man who is just a few days shy of blowing out 87 candles on his birthday cake.

"I've still got some speed," said a grinning Wayne, who, unlike a few of his over-70 Redford Grill teammates, refuses the luxury of a pinch-runner.

When he took the field a few moments later, Wayne snagged a couple of warmup pitches from his younger battery mate: 86-year-old Bobby Richardson, who keeps hitters at bay with a deceiving mixture of curve balls and spin balls.

While the dynamic pitcher-catcher duo came up a little short in their quest to lead Redford

Grill to a victory Tuesday morning, they continued to defy Father Time.

"Hopefully when the angels do come down to take me away," Richardson quipped. "I'm out there on that softball field. I love playing that much. I eat it. I live it. I sleep it."

Like clockwork

Although they're both well into their seventh decade of playing baseball or softball, Wayne and Richardson display Cal Ripken-esque qualities. Both octogenarians rarely sit out an inning, let alone miss a game, for their Redford-based team, which plays a 30-game schedule that runs from April through August.

And both refuse to take

Please see SOFTBALL, B4



ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Over-70 Redford Grill softball players Ed Wayne (left) and Bob Richardson form one of the most-experienced batteries around. Both players are 86-years-young.

Hole-in-one

Bob Sitkauskas, 59, of Livonia, used a pitching wedge to ace the 140-yard, No. 6 hole Sunday at the Coyote Preserve in Fenton.

The Bentley High grad shot 90 for 18 holes. The hole-in-one was witnessed by playing partners Jim Brady and Tom Cook.

GC tennis tryouts

Tryouts for the Garden City High School boys tennis team will be held 9-11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the school's tennis courts.

For more information, contact head coach Ron Pummill at pummillr@gardencityschools.com.

RU soccer tryouts

Open practices for the 2012 Redford Union boys soccer teams will be begin 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at McGowan Elementary School in Redford. Any RU student interested in playing varsity or junior varsity soccer should attend. Players are encouraged to bring water bottles. Official tryouts will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 13-15 at the same site.

For more information, contact head coach Jim Gibbs at one-mearncanino@yahoo.com.

GC volleyball tryouts

Tryouts for the Garden City High School volleyball teams will be held Aug. 6-10 in the school's gymnasium.

Signups and measuring will take place Monday (5 p.m. for varsity and 6 p.m. for junior varsity), conditioning will be held Tuesday and official tryouts will be held Wednesday through Friday (JV will start at 5 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.). For more information, contact head coach John Pace at gardencityVB@yahoo.com.

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.

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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 scott.coughlin@yahoo.com for more information.

• Tryouts for the 2013 Northville Cubs, a 13-and-under baseball team in the KVBSA 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 beben.ait.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.

11-U 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 Park, 730 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 Sheehan at (734) 377-3123; or Ken Gaffney at (734) 485-4851.

You can also e-mail motorcitybaseball@gmail.com.

U-11 baseball

• The Livonia Lakers will be holding tryout baseball tryouts from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 4-5, at Livonia's Rotary Park (Diamond No. 4).

Tryouts are open to residents of Livonia schools (public/private only).

For more information, email Aaron Rumberger at rcrumberger@yahoo.com.

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) 891-3896.

Plymouth High school 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 Vento at (313) 215-3394, or visit the team's website: www.hockey.plymouthwildcats.com.

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 Fox 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 much more.

Register on-line at www.golfoutingpro.com/event/salemrockettes.

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.

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

Meters hold golf outing

The Westland Meteors youth football and cheer program will stage a golf outing Sunday, Aug. 5 at Fellows Creek Golf Course, 2936 S. Lotz Road, Canton.

Check-in for the four-person scramble begins at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$75 (includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner). Prizes include best team score, longest drive, closest-to-the-pin, 50-50 raffle and other golf items.

For more information, call Meteors unit director Don Gibbs at (734) 740-0069; or e-mail unitdirector@westlandmeters.com.

You can also call booster president Daniel Ebea at (734) 781-5253 or e-mail dnee@ymail.com.

Hawk golf outing

The Farmington Harrison High School Football Boosters will have its annual golf outing Sunday, Aug. 5, at Catrials Golf Club in South Lyon.

The event will be a Texas Scramble starting at 2 p.m. The cost is \$100 per player or \$400 per foursome. A \$25 dinner will follow the golf outing.

A registration form is available at www.gohawks.org or people may register by calling Dave Race at (248) 376-1535.

Hawks girls hoops

Free tryouts for the Livonia Junior Athletic League Hawks, a sixth-grade girls basketball team, will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Churchill H.S. Fieldhouse (Court No. 2); 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12 and Thursday, Aug. 23, both at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (Main Gym No. 2).

Tryouts are open to anyone who reside in the Livonia Public School district regardless of school.

For more information, contact coach Jennifer Sopko at jennifer_sopko@hotmail.com; or call (248) 854-4207; or coach Doug Freed at um240sul2@hotmail.com; or call (734) 634-5134.

Farmington girls swim tryouts

The Farmington High School girls swim and dive team is looking for interested girls to join the team. There are no tryouts, and everyone will get a chance to compete.

Practice officially begins Wednesday, Aug. 8, at Farmington High. For more information, contact coach Dr. Kris McCullough at (248) 561-2090.

Meet the team night at Churchill

Livonia Churchill High athletics will stage a Meet the Team Night beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15 at the Carli Auditorium.

All Churchill athletes from all three seasons, along with their parents, are urged to attend.

For more information, call (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

Charity bowl

The seventh annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue will take place 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

All proceeds benefit the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Whether you bowl or not, you can help animals in need by becoming a sponsor, making a donation, donating an auction item or by getting pledges (donations).

The bowl has raised nearly \$100,000, and organizers are hoping to surpass that figure this year. Participants can earn V.I.B. (Very Important Bowler) status by raising \$300.

The event includes bowling, food, music, auctions, raffles, karaoke and more. For more information, email michelle@yourbowlingcoach.com or call (248) 615-9060.

Triple Threat hoop program

Triple Threat Training is hosting a developmental camp 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, defense, 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/Belleveue Road in Canton. Call (734) 341-1336 or e-mail Troy Coleman at tcoleman@tttsports.net for more details.

GCYBSA tryouts

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association will be hosting several tryouts for travel and recreational teams in the coming weeks.

All of the tryouts will be held on Saturdays at Canton High School's varsity field and a \$10 fee will be required.

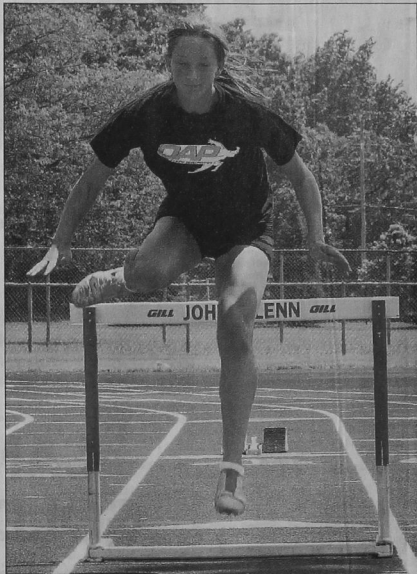
The tryout schedule is as follows: Aug. 4-9-10U (noon-2 p.m.), 11-12U (2:15-4:15 p.m.), 13-14U (4:30-6:30 p.m.); Aug. 11-9-10U (noon-2 p.m.), 11U (2:15-3:35 p.m.); Aug. 25-9-14U (noon-2 p.m.). Teams part in a makeup session between 9 a.m. and noon. Times will be assigned.

Pre-registration is strongly suggested and info can be found at www.gcysba.com. For more information contact dankraft@hotmail.com or cott@canton-mi.org.

GC novice hockey

The Garden City Hockey Association will be offering a novice hockey program for kids who would like to learn to play the sport. The eight-week program, which begins in September, costs \$40. Rental equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on the program, visit www.leagueineup.com/gcha; or contact Darlene Hennessey at shardog@northwestl.com; or (313) 917-4173.



Kristin Smith works on her hurdling technique during a workout session Friday afternoon at Westland John Glenn High School.

Westland hurdler fits right in on national track stage

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Westland's Kirsten Smith didn't have to face Usain Bolt during her debut appearance at last week's National Junior Olympics track and field meet in Baltimore, Md. But the rapidly-improving 16-year-old hurdler faced off against plenty of competitors who possessed lightning-bolt speed.

"There were some crazy fast girls there," Smith said, recounting her first visit to the prestigious meet. "Overall, I was pretty proud of the way I ran, especially since I've only been running track for two years."

Smith quickly proved she belonged among the nation's elite high school-aged hurdlers as she qualified for the semifinals in the 400-meter hurdles with a personal-best time of 1:04.62 in the preliminary round.

"I ran OK in the semis,

but I wanted to make it to the finals so bad that I think I put a little bit too much stress on myself," she said.

Competing in the talented 100-meter prelims, Smith posted a time of 15.31 seconds, which was two-tenths shy of her previous best.

"It was fun talking to some of the other girls about hurdling," she said. "But most of the time everybody was pretty focused, so it was pretty serious out there."

Smith said the experience of competing against elite competition — athletes trekked in from as far away as Hawaii — will only make her better once she laces up the spikes next spring for Westland John Glenn's track and field team.

"This will definitely help," she said. "And I want to get back here next year, so I know what to expect."

Smith said a lot of her

away-from-the-track time last week was spent checking out sights in nearby Washington, D.C.

A month away from the track awaits Smith, who was hampered at times by a back injury she suffered during her days as a competitive gymnast.

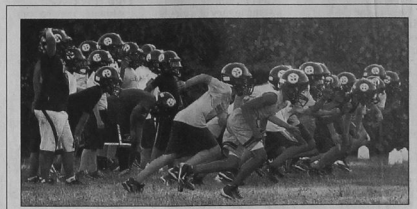
"I'm going to take all of August off to help my back get better," she said. "Next year at this time, I want to be running in the low 60s (seconds) in the 400."

Smith's future is bright — both on the track and off.

Owner of a 4.0 grade-point average, she aspires to pursue a degree related to sports medicine upon her high school graduation.

In addition to training for the National Junior Olympics this summer, Smith has helped tutor elementary-aged kids in math.

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ED WRIGHT PHOTOS

Off and running

Like most area youth football teams in the Observerland area, the Plymouth-Canton Steelers kicked off pre-season practices this week at Central Middle School in Plymouth. In the above photo, members of the junior-varsity Steelers run end-of-practice drills.

At right, a member of the junior-freshmen contingent completes a ball-secure drill as water from a nearby sprinkler keeps him cool. Check out Sunday's Observer for a story on how area youth football programs place a major emphasis on safety.





Canton High grad Allison Schmitt led from start-to-finish in the 200-meter freestyle to capture her first gold medal in women's swimming Tuesday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

Silver lining for Schmitt's great effort

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Canton swimmer Allison Schmitt earned a new colored medal with a runner-up finish in the women's 400-meter freestyle Sunday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

The 22-year-old Canton High grad took the silver after being nosed out for the gold by Camille Muffat of France, who set an Olympic mark with a time of 4 minutes, 01.45 seconds.

Schmitt, meanwhile, established a new American record with a clocking of 4:01.77, breaking the mark of 4:02.20 set by Katie Hoff. It was Schmitt's third career Olympic medal. Muffat and Schmitt each beat the Olympic mark of 4:02.19, set by Federica Pellegrini of Italy at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington finished third and took the bronze in 4:03.01, while Denmark's Lotte Friis finished fourth in 4:03.98.

In the final, Schmitt, who swam in Lane 5, next to Muffat in Lane 4, was second behind the French champion after his first turn. She stayed on Muffat's shoulder throughout the race. She made a charge in the final 50 meters but couldn't gain enough to make a move for the lead.

"I knew it would be close," Schmitt told USA Today. "It was tough. I could feel it, the pain coming in, but I was just hoping for the finish. Just

kicking hard. Just like we do in practice every day."

A smiling Schmitt accepted her medal in a gray Nike jacket and black pants, a standard look for the U.S. team, which won four medals in four finals Sunday. All three 400 freestyle medalists hugged before France's national anthem was played.

Both swimming in Heat 5 during the morning prelims, Muffat and Schmitt posted the two fastest times in 4:03.29 and 4:03.31, respectively.

"The gold is always a gold medal, but I couldn't be happier right now," Schmitt told USA Swimming.org. "I'm proud to bring home the silver medal for the U.S., and I'm looking forward to competing again tomorrow."

Relay bronze

On Saturday, Schmitt collected her second Summer Olympic Games bronze medal as the U.S. squad placed third Saturday in the women's 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay.

Australia took home the gold medal with an Olympic record time of 3:33.15 followed by silver medalist Netherlands (3:33.79) and the U.S. (3:34.24, also an American record).

In 2008 following her high school graduation, Schmitt captured a bronze medal in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay in Beijing.

Schmitt swam the anchor leg for the American quartet on Saturday. Lead-off leg Missy

Franklin got the U.S. off to a flying start and second leg Jessica Hardy held the lead through the halfway mark, but the U.S. fell behind by split second at the end of Lia Neal's third leg.

Australian anchor Melanie Schlangher then brought home the gold by overhauling both Schmitt and Ranomi Kromowidjo of defending Olympic champion Netherlands.

Swimming anchor first three legs for the Australians were Alicia Coutts, Cate Campbell and Britany Elmslie.

Schmitt swam a leg during the preliminary heat that the Americans won in 3:36.53. Australia captured the other heat in 3:36.34.

200 free heats

On Monday, recorded a semifinal heat time of 1:56.15 in the 200 freestyle. The time was second-fastest among qualifiers, trailing only Australia's Bronte Barratt (1:56.08) and three-hundredths of a second ahead of medal rival Muffat.

Earlier in the day, Schmitt also posted the second fastest time of the five preliminary heats (1:57.33) with only Pellegrini going faster (1:57.16).

"I feel like I've been preparing for this race all year," Schmitt said after her first prelim heat. "I definitely feel ready to swim. I've been swimming well all year."

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SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

4 x 200 freestyle at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Schmitt will now try for another medal — perhaps gold again — in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay on Wednesday. The prelim heats start at 5:26 a.m. (EDT) with the final set for 5:04 p.m. (EDT) or

9:04 p.m. (London time). She now has three different colored medals in her possession.

"I got a whole collection of them now," Schmitt said. "Right now, they're somewhere in my room, a secret place, I kind of stashed them."

Schmitt took a year off to train for the Olympics from the University of Georgia to train under coach Bob Bowman at the North Baltimore (Md.)

Aquatic Club. The NCAA champion plans to return to Athens and swim for the Bulldogs her senior year.

"I am still the same person walking out of here with the gold medal or walking out of here in eighth place," she said. "I am excited to go back to school after being away for a year."

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Schmitt earns 2nd career bronze

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Canton High grad Allison Schmitt collected her second Summer Olympic Games bronze medal in women's swimming as the U.S. squad placed third Saturday in the women's 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay in London.

Australia took home the gold medal with an Olympic record time of 3 minutes, 33.15 seconds followed by silver medalist Netherlands in 3:33.79 and the U.S. in an American record time of 3:34.24.

The 22-year-old Schmitt, who captured a

bronze medal in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay in Beijing, swam the anchor leg for the American quartet.

Lead-off leg Missy Franklin got the U.S. off to a flying start and second leg Jessica Hardy held the lead at the halfway mark, but the U.S. fell behind by split second at the end of Lia Neal's third leg.

Australian anchor Melanie Schlangher then brought home the gold by overhauling both Schmitt and Ranomi Kromowidjo of defending Olympic champion Netherlands.

Swimming the first three legs for the Australians were Alicia Coutts,

Cate Campbell and Britany Elmslie.

Schmitt, who took a year off from the University of Georgia to train under coach Bob Bowman at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club (Md.), swam a leg during the preliminary heat that the Americans won in 3:36.53. Australia captured the other heat in 3:36.34.

Natalie Coughlin, who swam in the preliminary heat, but was lifted from the final for the U.S., picked up her 12 Olympic medal of her career with the third-place bronze.

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WRIGHT

Continued from page B1

—and how high her ceiling is if she continues to pursue competitive swimming in the years to come.

When you consider how many people in the world swim (billions, right?), how many swim competitively beginning at a young age (millions, easy), how many are good enough to earn a college scholarship for swimming (thousands every year, I'd guess) and how many survive the pressure-packed Olympic Trials — just a precious few — it shines a ray of perspective on her remarkable feats.

All of us non-Olympians can only attempt to imagine the daily drive, the unyielding focus, the unthinkable sacrifice and the painful training the path to gold requires.

American idol
I was a little disap-

pointed in the degree of props the national media was giving Schmitt heading into Tuesday's 200-meter freestyle final. Every headline on every website I visited — ESPN.com, SI.com, CNN.com, to name three — alluded to the emergence of teen sensation Missy Franklin, the decade-long dominance of Phelps or the disappointing performance of gymnast Jordyn Wieber.

There was barely anything on Schmitt — even though a national magazine had picked her to win gold in the 200 free a couple of weeks ago.

A few minutes after she blew away the competition in the 200 freestyle with an Olympic-record effort, a cbsports.com writer started his column like this:

"There is a swimmer we all need to get to know a little bit better."

Amen, brother, I whispered to myself.

For all of us with sons or daughters who possess sky-high aspirations

— whether their dreams include becoming a brain surgeon, an NBA point guard or an Olympic swimmer — we now have a feel-good story we can share with them about someone who grew up literally right around the corner; someone who used hard work, humility and high morals to defy astronomical odds.

That someone's name is Allison Schmitt.

And she is a true hometown hero.

Ed Wright is sports editor for the Redford and Garden City Observers. He can be reached at (734) 578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

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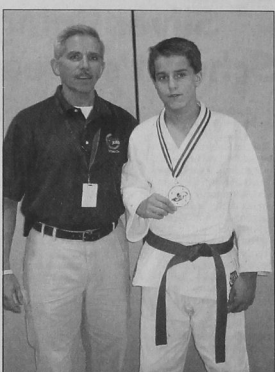
Livonia judo standout kicks it into high gear

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Nick Delopolo, Marti Malloy and Travis Stevens may not be Olympic household names. But for up-and-coming Livonia judo competitor Nick Joseph, they're as important as Team USA basketball players LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and Kevin Durant. Joseph, who has Olympic dreams himself, earned a pair of bronze medals last month in two major junior tournaments competing in the 58-kilogram class in the Juveniles A division (birth years 1997-98).

At the recent USA Judo Junior Olympic Nationals in Irving, Tex., Joseph overcame a first-round defeat with five straight victories. He then competed against participants from 27 different countries in the Junior U.S. Open Judo Championships where he finished 2-2 and took home another bronze.

According to Joseph, there are number of factors which make a good judo competitor. "You have to have good cardio, good stamina," he said. "You have to have good strength, be flexi-



Livonia's Nick Joseph (right), standing with his father, Rick, displays his bronze medal after finishing third last month in the USA Judo Junior Olympic National Championship.

ble and be a good athlete. You have to have good technique and be able to focus. A lot of it is mental.

Joseph, who will be an alternate for the U.S. Junior team at the Pan Am Games this fall in Brazil, had to meet the 127.6-pound weight limit to compete. "I had to cut a little bit of weight, not too much," said Joseph, who stands 5 feet, 8 inches. "Just had to watch what I eat."

Joseph has been training the past five years under coach Noburo Saito at Saito-Wed Judo Club in Birmingham.

"Conditioning is a big part of it," he said. "I work out at the three or four days a week where I run, lift and do strength training."

Judo, meanwhile, has been a big part of Nick's life since an early age. "My dad (Dr. Rick Joseph) and my sister Alexandra (now 18) both did it," Nick said. "And I said, 'Whoa, this looks cool,' so I started doing it."

Combined with his silver medal at the Scholastic National Judo Championship in March, Joseph

has secured the No. 2 ranking in his age and weight class.

"I'd say it's been one of my best years," Nick said. "Every event coming into nationals I took first in every tournament (including the Can-Ams in New York and Midwestern Championships in Chicago)."

Joseph will be starting his freshman year later this month at Novi Detroit Catholic Central High where he plans to play soccer.

"I still want to stay in shape, not the same training I did before nationals, but because soccer is coming up, and in case I get that call and go to Brazil," he said.

And he'll be keeping a close eye on his Olympic heroes: Delopolo, Malloy and Stevens during the London Games.

But Nick knows there's always a price to pay in more ways than one. "It would be nice to go to the Olympics," he said. "But it's hard because you need a lot of funding for stuff like that."

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Rams dominant in Ohio

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

It was a dominating performance to say the least for the Michigan Rams in last weekend's All-American Amateur Baseball Association regional in Zanesville, Ohio.

The 20-and-under Livonia Collegiate Baseball League representative capped a 3-0 regional run with a 14-0 five-inning mercy-rule victory over Buffalo (N.Y.) at Gant Stadium.

Outscoring their opponents 27-1 over a three-game span, the Rams advance to AAABA National Tournament for the eighth time under manager Rick Berryman

beginning Aug. 5 in Johnstown, Pa.

The Rams jumped out to a 5-0 lead after three innings and put it away with nine runs in the top of the fourth.

Miles Sorise, who went 2-for-2 with three RBI, belted a 3-run homer in the third inning.

Also pacing the Rams' 14-hit attack were J.P. Maracini (2-for-3, two RBI) and Matt Priebe (2-for-3, one RBI).

Justin Sherman also knocked in two runs, while Brandon Katta, Garrett Gordon and Donnie Eaton added one RBI each as Buffalo starter Mike Wagner was roughed up for nine runs on five hits and five walks in three

innings.

Winning pitcher Mitchell Patterson worked the first 3 1/3 innings, allowing seven hits and a walk while fanning four. Reliever Josh Pazyant (Livonia/Jackson Community College) retired the final five batters allowing one hit.

The Rams also got a boost defensively from Gordon, who threw out runners at the plate from his center field position both in the second and fourth innings.

Buffalo, which lost 5-1 to the Rams on Saturday, got two hits apiece from Mike Wagner and Vinnie Pirelli.

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Ex-Spartans propel Rams

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Former Livonia Stevenson High pitchers Evan Pichota and Jeff Sorenson figured prominently in the Michigan Rams' 2-0 start in Saturday's All-American Amateur Baseball Association Regional tournament at Gant Stadium in Zanesville, Ohio.

Both thirds complete games as the Rams defeated Buffalo, 5-1, and the host Zanesville Junior Pioneers, 8-0.

"I'm proud of my kids from Livonia because I coached both of them - they did a bang-up job and both threw very well," said Rams manager Rick Berryman, who just completed his eighth year as Stevenson varsity coach.

Pichota, a redshirt freshman from Madonna

University, threw a three-hitter in tournament opener in the Rams' four-run win over Buffalo (N.Y.) The right-hander struck out four and walked only three in the first seven innings for the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League 20-and-under qualifier.

Offensively, Donnie Eaton led the Rams' 11-hit attack, going 3-for-3 with an RBI, while Michigan Cobras' pick-up Matt Priebe went 2-for-4.

Also knocking in runs for the Rams were J.P. Maracini, Garrett Gordon and Miles Sorise.

In Game Two, Sorenson also went all seven innings allowing just two hits and a walk in the shut-out over the Pioneers.

The sophomore from Wayne State struck out 11 and got plenty of run support as Priebe led the way

going 2-for-4 with three RBI.

Gordon also went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Brandon Katta scored three runs.

Sorise, Dominic Jarrett and Cobras' pick-up Logan Curtis each added an RBI for the Rams, who will face Buffalo at noon Sunday at Gant Stadium.

Berryman said he plans to start left-hander Mitchell Patterson (Spring Arbor) in Game Three as the Rams will try and clinch an automatic berth in the AAABA National Tournament, Aug. 6-12, in Johnstown, Pa.

Buffalo, which eliminated host Zanesville, needs two wins over the Rams Sunday to advance to the AAABA Nationals.

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SOFTBALL

Continued from page B1

the senior league's performance-enhancing drug of choice: ibuprofen.

"Every once in a while, my wife will offer me a Tylenol for my arthritis, but I don't need that stuff," Richardson said. "I'll drink one cup of coffee in the morning and I'm ready to go."

In an era when Major League Baseball players

miss multiple games with health issues as much as a torn cuticle, Wayne and Richardson are virtual iron men.

"It's hard to keep them out of the lineup; they come to play every day," Redford said. "I remember Bob Mosher said, 'Bob and Ed are really an inspiration to younger guys, even though most of us are in our 70s. We hope that we're in the kind of shape - in terms of body and spirit - that they're in when we're their age.'"



ED WRIGHT PHOTOS

Young fans

A passion for baseball engulfed both men at an early age, when they idolized members of the 1930s Detroit Tigers teams.

"When I was 9 years old, I was playing center field in a game on the sandlot near my house and somebody hit one over my head," Wayne recalled. "I ran back, back, back and caught it, and thought to myself, 'I want to play in the majors someday.'"

After perfectly mimicking the Tigers' entire 1934 starting lineup, Wayne revealed his favorite player as a youth was Tigers third baseman Marvin Owen.

"He was 6-foot-5 and he only hit about .205, but I liked him," Wayne said. "He was a great fielder. His hands were so big, he could hold seven baseballs in one hand."

"I always liked Charlie Gehring and Hank Greenberg," Richardson added. "Really, I liked all of the Tigers."

Both players can't get enough of the sport, particularly Richardson, who pitches for a pair of teams once he migrates to Florida every October.

"My family thinks I'm crazy for playing so much," Richardson said. "My two sons, who live in Tampa, ask me, 'When are you going to quit, dad?' I tell them, 'You love golf and I love softball. I'll keep playing until I can't.'"

Richardson figures he's played some form competitive baseball or soft-

Ed Wayne, 86, takes a rip at a belt-high pitch during Tuesday's slow-pitch softball game at Metro Detroit Signs.



Bob Richardson delivers a pitch during the second inning of Tuesday's game at Claude Allison Park in Redford.

ball for 71 of his 86 years. "I played from the time I was 9 until I was 59," he said. "The only reason I quit playing then was because we were running out of guys to play. When I picked it back up when I was 64 and haven't stopped since."

Wayne's softball career hit a speed-bump in 2007 when he suffered a stroke.

"I used to play the outfield before then, but now I can't throw it as far anymore," he said. "I didn't miss any games, though."

The two men then packed up their equipment bags, slung them over their backs and walked down an asphalt path toward their cars.

By the looks of their faces, the anticipation was already building for their next game two days later.

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For more about golf in Michigan www.TeetUpMichigan.com

Students learn math, reading at church

Faith Community Wesleyan Church in Livonia will offer a summer learning enrichment program for students, 4-5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, 15 and 22.

C.L.E.A.P. Frog is designed to help sharpen skills in math, reading, science and other disciplines, within a Christ-

centered learning environment. The free community program encourages parents and guardians to get involved with what their children learn and to get to know others in the community. A variety of classes will be available to students going into grades 1-5. Special classes will be

available for teens and tots, 4-5.

Pre-registration deadline is Aug. 3. No walk-ins will be accepted. Call Mary at (248) 471-1322, Melissa at (734) 466-8604, or Angela at (313) 377-0840.

The church is located at 14560 Merriman, Livonia.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



CROTEAU, MICHELLE MARIE

Age 53 of West Branch, passed away Sunday, July 29, 2012 at her home. Michelle had lived in West Branch since 1998, formerly of Livonia. She enjoyed her computer, the food network, music and chat rooms. Michelle is survived by her daughter, Freya Croteau of Chicago, her son Eden Croteau of Livonia, her father John P. Young and her brothers, David Young of Redford and Michael Young of Indiana and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother John A. Young. Per her wishes, cremation has taken place. Arrangements by Stuenkel & McLaren Funeral Home, West Branch, Michigan.



HAUK, JANITA O.

Conductor Emeritus of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, passed peacefully surrounded by her family at her Lake Sazy, Florida home on a Sunday, July 29, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 79. After college, Mrs. Hauk taught elementary music and vocals in the Wyandotte and Wayne school districts in Michigan, and played in the Detroit Women's Symphony, the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, and the Dearborn Symphony. Her first conducting assignment was with the Livonia (Michigan) Youth Orchestra. Mrs. Hauk and her late husband Marvin Hauk relocated from Michigan to Charlotte County in 1987. She leaves a son, Todd Hauk, of Westland, Michigan; a daughter, Alea Hauk DeNeau of Seattle, WA; a brother, Jan Riedel of Tiffin, OH; two sisters, Karen Riedel of New York, NY, and Dalee Miller of Pittsburgh, PA; David Bervenitz of Wesley Chapel, NC; and three grandchildren, Amber Hauk, Natasha Bervenitz, and Jeremy Bervenitz. Visitation hours are on Wednesday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Kay-Spencer Funeral Home, 635 East Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2, at the funeral home. Burial will be in Royal Palm Memorial Gardens, 27260 Jones Loop Road, Punta Gorda. In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Mrs. Hauk's memory to the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 510476, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0476. Visiting Angels Home Care Services, 25166 Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33949; or Tidwell Hospice, 917 N. Arcadia Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

VATCA, SAM

Age 86, suddenly, July 29, 2012. Beloved husband of Connie. Loving father of Dawn (Todd) Tillman, Shelly (Dan) Buzacka, Cindy (Don) Murphy and the late Kimberly Ahola. Dear grandfather of Ashley, Jordan & Mackenzie, Preston & Parker and Cade & Connor. Dear great-grandfather of Angelina. Brother of Helen (John) Casperetto. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia. A Funeral Mass for Sam was August 2, 2012 at St. Colvete Catholic Church, Livonia. Memorials may be directed to the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com

WIK, TERRY L.

Age 70, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away July 27, 2012, arrangements by Thayer-Reck Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

In memory of



IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM C. FERMAN, OD

November 29, 1928 - August 31, 2007 of Clermont, Florida, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away from complication of Parkinson's disease. He was born November 29, 1928 in Detroit. He was a member of the Air Force Reserve attaining the rank of Captain; member of and past president of Wayne County Society of Optometrists, Metropolitan Detroit Optometric Society and Michigan Optometric Association. He was president of the Plymouth Rotary and past master of the Masons. Dr. Ferman maintained optometric offices in Detroit and Plymouth for 43 years. Surviving is his wife, coldest sweetheart and the love of his life for 57 years, Ora Lee Ferman; children Gregory Ferman and wife Christine of Plymouth, MI, Susan Gordon, Westland, MI, and Ted Ferman and wife Debra, Canton, MI as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "You are loved beyond forever."

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

August

CLASSIC CARS

Time/Date: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4
Location: St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Classic Car Show celebrates 50 years in Livonia. Goodie bags for the car owners and games for the kids
Contact: Rod at (248) 982-6502

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, Canton
Details: Free clothing available to anyone in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686

KIDS CAMP

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Aug. 6-9
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Designed for kids, 5-12, the camp will include nightly themes with related activities presented by church members. Monday is dance night; Tuesday is soccer night; Wednesday focuses on photography and drama rounds out the week on Thursday. Fee is \$5 per student or \$10 per family. Register at www.christoursavior.org
Contact: Linda Hollman at (734) 522-6830

MASS CARDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18
Location: St. Valentine Church, 14841 Beech Daly, Redford
Details: After Mass, participants will enjoy light refreshments in the school meeting room, along with cards and socializing. Sign up to bring food items such as veggie tray, dip, chips, salad, cheese and crackers. Drop off your dish by 4 p.m. at the school meeting room. RSVP by Aug. 10
Contact: Ann Marie at (248) 477-6167, Donna at (734) 420-0461 or Laura at (734) 942-3866

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12
Location: St. Sabina Church, 25605 Ann Arbor Trail, just east of Beech Daly in Dearborn Heights

RELIGION CALENDAR

Details: Includes craft and bake sale. Donate items at gym door #10. Craft table rental costs \$20 for parishioners and \$25 for non-parishioners. Sponsor tables are \$50
Contact: maryloujanig@yahoo.com

SEEKING CRAFTERS

Time/Date: Show is Oct. 6
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia
Details: An 8- by 10-foot space can be rented for \$30. Tables are available for \$5 and electricity for \$5. Crafts must be handmade; no resale. Profits will go to mission work in the community
Contact: (248) 478-4708 or e-mail jnstr2436@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 6-10
Location: Emanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Details: SPLASH VBS is for kids entering preschool (potty-trained) through 6th grade in the fall of 2012. Registration fees are \$5 for one child, or \$10 per family and will include crafts, games, singing, Bible stories, science, snacks, and more. Pick up an application at the church or register by phone
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6:30-8:45 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Aug. 19-23
Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton
Details: "Adventures on Promise Island," is designed for children, 4 years-5th grade, and will include Bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, music, skits, and more. Registration on or before Aug. 12 is \$5 per child or \$10 maximum per family; after Aug. 12 is \$8 per child or \$15 maximum per family
Contact: (734) 495-0035

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City
Details: "Rocky Point Lighthouse" is designed for children, 5-11 or in K-5th grade. It will include stories about Jesus, crafts, music, games, snacks, lunch and more. \$5 donation per child. Sponsorships are available to families in need
Contact: Register at (734) 427-3660

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



GEDDES, LORETTA J.

Age 83, July 29, 2012. Dear wife of the late Jim. Loving mother of Dan (Cindy), Bill (Leannette), Tim (Terry) and Mary (Tom) Landroch. Proud grandmother of Dan, Luke, Elizabeth, Lauren, Connie, Jimmy, Kenny, Amanda, Katie, Tabitha and Josephine. Loving sister of Gee (Jim) Meloche and Marilyn (Al) Smith. Also loved by nieces, nephews, extended relatives and friends. A generation of neighborhood children in Garden City and 35 years of St. Raphael catechism students felt her love. She touched lives in remarkable ways. Please no flowers. Make donations to the Crohn's Colitis Foundation of America, www.cffa.org. Services were held Tuesday. Arrangements by Santos & Son Funeral Home. Share memories at www.santosiunfnerhome.com

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Band plays original blues, rock tunes in Farmington Hills

By Sharon Dargay
OSE Staff Writer

Bob Young will make his dream come true when the Delta Twins band takes the stage Thursday, Aug. 2 at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.

"Heritage Park is almost in my backyard," said Young, who makes up the core of the band along with Tom Kozaneccki, also of Farmington Hills. Young, married and the father of four children, grew up in Redford and lived in Livonia before moving to Farmington Hills 30 years ago. "When we moved here and we took the kids to Heritage Park, I saw the amphitheater. It's been my dream for 10 years to play in that amphitheater. Now it's coming true."

Young and Kozaneccki, who's also married and has two grown children, will perform as the Delta Twins, along with a back-up band, during the weekly "Stars in the Park" concert series in Heritage Park, located at 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. The show will start at 7 p.m.

Young plans to make sure the show is as unforgettable for the audience as it will be for Delta Twins. "We saw Shout!, the Beatles tribute band several weeks ago to get a feel for the site. That was a great audience and it gave us an idea what to do to make the evening special for people — not



The Delta Twins are Bob Young (left) and Tom Kozaneccki (right). Also playing with the group are Bob's son, Josh, (left background) on bass guitar, Jake Burdock on lead guitar and Leland McCann on drums.



The Delta Twins logo

just a bunch of guys standing on stage but engaging the crowd and making them a part of the show," Young said. "This is a showcase event for us and we're going all out."

With wireless equipment, they'll have the capability to walk among listeners, encouraging the audience to sing along or clap their hands to the Twins' bluesy Americana "rock music for the soul." Young also is looking into getting swing dancers

to perform during a few songs.

"I can't promise it, but my hope is to get two to four couples. We want to make it more than just watching people stand in position in front of a mic. This is going to be a big event for us."

The band will record the performance as it does most of its shows. Songs from previous appearances at clubs in the metro area landed on two CDs, *King-Size Plan*, recorded in 2010 and *Skyline*, recorded last year at the Skyline Club in Southfield. Both will be sold at the Heritage Park concert, along with Delta Twins gear.

Meaningful lyrics

Young and Kozaneccki began playing together in 1998 at church. Three years ago they started performing at secular venues, hoping to make a positive impact "on the world" with their music. "Delta Twins implies Delta blues, but it's really more about delta, the difference," he said, referring to the triangle-shaped Greek symbol. He describes their song lyrics as having depth without being pretentious.

"We're not promoting a religion," he said. "I'm influenced by the philosophy of Jesus. One of the last things he said to his disciples was to love one

another. We need to be willing to go that far as a society. If the world were to follow the 'golden rule' it would be a different place."

Although that notion underpins many of Delta Twins' original songs, their approach has always been to "get toes tapping, heads bobbing and bodies involved." "If you get the body involved, you might get the head involved. If you can get the head involved you might get the heart involved. And that is when you make a difference."

Young began writing songs at age 13, after exploring the poetry of Simon and Garfunkel in

an English class. During college he took music theory and piano, later teaching himself guitar and working with music and computers. Young is self-employed as a software developer.

Kozaneccki, who works as an analyst at a financial firm, learned violin from his grandfather. That led to playing bass guitar, mandolin, autoharp and just about "anything with strings," Young said.

"He's good with hand percussion. Self-taught."

Around town

Delta Twins has performed at Callahan's Music Hall in Auburn Hills, Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham, Trinity House Theatre in Livonia, Liberty Street Brewery Company in Plymouth and many other clubs. Outdoor venues have included Campus Martius Park, the Buy Michigan Now Festival and Victorian Festival in Northville, iART Festival in Redford, Founders Festival and ThriveFest in Farmington and Stars & Stripes Festival in Mount Clemens. They've been involved with the Canton firefighters' charity fundraiser at Liberty Fest the past three years.

"We love being associated with stuff like that. That's making a difference."

The band will perform at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 on the main stage at the Buy Michigan Now Festival in downtown Northville. Young and Kozaneccki also will play at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16 at the Mentobe Cafe, 3336 Grand River Ave., east of Farmington Road.

For more information, visit www.deltatwins.com.

Learn about river on Rouge cruise

There's still time to register for the Friends of the Rouge 4th Annual Rouge Cruise that will feature narration by John Hartig, refuge manager of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge.

Cost is \$45 for the event aboard the Diamond Belle, 5:45-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7. Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 3.

The route will take the boat past Zug Island and as far into the Rouge River as the turning basin at the Ford Rouge Complex. Participants may bring binoculars for a chance to spot great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, kestrels, kill-

deer, belted kingfishers, spotted sandpipers, green herons and other native Michigan birds. For this dinner cruise, each ticket covers the cost of one meal (veggie option available). A cash bar with snacks also will be open throughout the evening.

Space is limited. Register at (313) 792-9900 or register online at www.therouge.org. Admission is non-refundable and the event will take place rain or shine. Attendees will board the boat at Stroh's River Place near the intersection of Atwater and Joseph Campau in Detroit.

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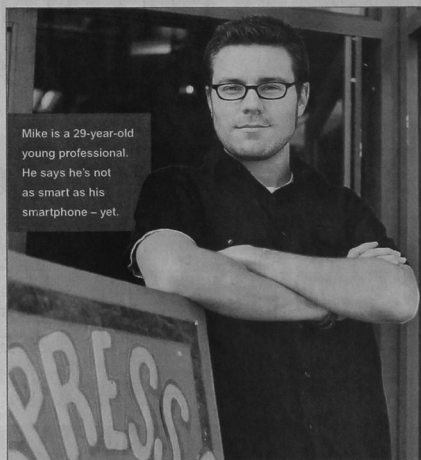
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Art

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through Aug. 24
Location: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: "Fire and Ice" exhibit features photos by Royal (Roy) Severs. Severs was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001. His now-limited mobility, however, has not put a damper on his love for photography. He often uses a vehicle to get him to his subjects, whether on land or water
Contact: (248) 473-1800

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Patti Smith: Camera Solo, shows performer Patti Smith's photographs, through Sept. 2. Five Spanish Masterpieces features works by Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Dali, through Aug. 19. Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Aug. 3-25; artist reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Thoughts With Thread" exhibit features art quilts, woven tapestries, embroidery, paper, baskets, felted wool and figurative work
Contact: (248) 344-0497

Comedy

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open mic, 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Shen Wang, Aug. 2-4; James Ervin Berry, Aug. 9-11; Mike Bonner, Aug. 16-18; KT Tataru, Aug. 23-25
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Thursday
Location: Lyskawa VFW, Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights
Details: Singles and couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments
Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday, dance lessons 7-8 p.m.
Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$5 for Moon Dusters members
Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (482) 968-5197

STARS OF RUSSIAN BALLET

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18
Location: Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor
Details: Stars of the Russian Ballet gala performance features dancers



Bob Cox (left) and Conner Rhoades, both of Plymouth, work puppets in "Avenue Q." Farmington Players presents the show Aug. 10-25.



Lynn Krawczyk's collage will be among the works on display at the "Thoughts With Thread" exhibit, Aug. 3-25 at Northville Art House.

from Marinsky Theatre. National Ballet of Ukraine, the Bolshoi Ballet and other international companies. Tickets are \$48-\$68 available from the Michigan Union Ticket office
Contact: (734) 763-8587

Film

COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Gates open at 7:30 and movies start at dusk; open nightly through Sept. 2
Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth
Details: Listen to the film through a battery-operated FM radio or your car radio. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under. Students with ID pay \$7
Sunday-Thursday
Contact: (734) 453-8300

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 4-5
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "The Avengers," \$3
Coming up: "Men in Black 3," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12
Summer Cinema: All shows screen at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Thursday, Aug. 2; "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3



Stars of the Russian Ballet gala is set for Aug. 18 at the Power Center in Ann Arbor. The performance will include dancers, such as Keenan Kampa, from top international ballet companies.

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com
REDFORD THEATRE
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Aug. 10 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 11
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit
Details: Abbott & Costello double feature, "Buck Privates," and "Abbott & Costello meet the Killer," \$5
Coming up: "North by Northwest," 8 p.m. Aug. 24 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 25
Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

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

Exhibits: "The Chris Webber Collection: Exceptional People During Extraordinary Times, 1755-Present," includes rare artifacts collected by Detroit native Chris Webber, through September. "Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney," through Sept. 9
Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Nov. 7
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies" is the new exhibit, featuring 14 reproduction inaugural gowns. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: Maia Sharp, Aug. 2; The Makem & Spain Brothers, Aug. 3; Riverfolk Festival Finale Concert with Christine Baffa & Friends, Bob Black & His Bluegrass Boys, Songwriting Contest Finalists & The Raisin Pickers, Aug. 4; Harpeth Rising, Aug. 6; The Persuasions, Aug. 7; Open Stage, Aug. 8; The Applesseed Collective, Aug. 9; Candye Kane, Aug. 11; JJ Grey & Mofo, Aug. 12
Location: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hours of oeuvre. Proceeds from Jazz at the Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans
Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Dave Carter Tribute featuring Peter's Field, Aug. 3; Julie and John Pennell, Aug. 9; Ronny

Cox, Aug. 10; Beth Wood, Aug. 17. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted
Contact: (734) 464-6302

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Monday, Friday, Saturday
Location: 884 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: Open mic on Monday; live music Friday-Saturday. Americana, folk, rock, pop, country and soul by solo singers, duos and bands
Contact: (734) 454-0178

Something different

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27
Location: Italian American Banquet & conference Center, 39200 Five Mile, between Newburgh and Haggerty, Livonia

Details: "Cruise for a Cause" classic car show. Classic cycles welcomed. Proceeds of 50/50 raffle benefit Go To Light of Life Foundation
Contact: (734) 953-9724 or (734) 953-1137

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, with extended hours — 8 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 6956 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free. Reduced admission is \$5 for all guests after 5 p.m. Wednesday

Wild Summer Nights: Concerts take place 6:30-8 p.m. in the main picnic grove and are free with zoo admission. Performers are Jill Jack, Aug. 6; Gemini, Aug. 15; Sun Messengers, Aug. 22; Playdate and Friends, Aug. 29. Guests may bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Food, snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase from Zoo concessions

Zoomeat: The after-hours, 21-and-older event will take place 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the gate. Parking is free for Detroit Zoological Society members and \$5 for non-members. Includes live entertainment at the Horace H. Rackham Memorial Fountain, and food and adult beverages available for purchase. Guests can view animal habitats, experience the Wild Adventure Ride and take a ride on the carousel
Contact: (248) 541-5177

TINY TOT OLYMPICS

Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 3
Location: Heritage Park Amphitheater, south of Cherry Hill, west of Canton Center, in Canton

Details: Children, 2-6, can participate in Olympic-inspired activities and games. The fee is \$3 and no advance registration is required
Contact: www.cantonfun.org or (734) 394-5460

Theater

FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11 and Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 16-18 and 23-25; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12 and 19
Location: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake Road and Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills

Details: The edgy musical, "Avenue Q," draws inspiration from the format and characters of "Sesame Street," but is designed for adult audiences. The characters occasionally spew profanity as they grapple with adult themes. Tickets are \$18 for adults, students pay \$16 and seniors get a \$2 discount on Aug. 12. "Thrifty Thursday" discounts are \$2 for Aug. 16 and 23
Contact: www.farmingtonplayers.org or (248) 553-2955

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Are you ready for ribs?

When it's time to fire up the grill, go beyond the bun this season with succulent pork ribs. Armed with these juicy tips and a great recipe, you'll be ready to grill with the best — and that could mean big prizes for you.

Need a rundown on ribs? The National Pork Board has the tips and tricks you need to know to take your grilling game to the next level:

- Back ribs originate from the blade and center section of the pork loin, which is known for the "finger meat" between the bones. Back ribs also are referred to as "baby" back ribs because they are smaller than spareribs.

- Spareribs, usually larger and heavier than back ribs, are known for their delicious, meaty pork flavor.

- Dry rubs are a mixture of herbs and spices applied to ribs just before barbecuing to create an intensely flavorful, smoky crust.

- Ribs are often basted with sauces during the barbecuing process to enhance flavor and to cre-

ate a sweet and savory glaze. For best results, brush ribs generously during the last 30 minutes of cooking.

- Always use tongs, not a fork, to turn ribs as they cook — piercing the meat causes juices to escape.

- When grilling ribs, adding aromatic wood chips like hickory, apple or oak to the preheated coals infuses the meat with the distinctive smoky flavor prized in authentic barbecue.

Think you have a winning rib recipe? Enter the "Dibs on My Ribs Pork Recipe Cookoff." Visit www.porkbeinspired.com/dibsonmyribs and enter your original sparerib recipe before Aug. 12. All entries must use a minimum of three ingredients, including pork spareribs, at least one McCormick spice or seasoning product, and at least one Kraft Foods BBQ sauce (if recipe requires a sauce).

Two Grand Prize winners will receive a one-year supply of groceries and the chance to attend the 2013 Memphis in May

BBQ Event in Memphis, Tenn. Visit the website for complete rules and entry form.

Sweet, Spicy, and Smoky Spareribs

Serves 6
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 2 hours

- 5 pounds spareribs, cut into 4-rib slabs
- 1 tablespoon smoked sweet paprika
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons cumin, ground
- 1 teaspoon ground chipotle chiles, or chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ cup honey, heated until liquid

Mix paprika, salt, oregano, cumin, chipotle or chili powder, garlic powder and onion powder together in small bowl. Sprinkle generously over both sides of ribs. Let stand at room temperature while preparing grill.

Prepare outdoor grill for indirect medium-hot grilling. For a gas grill, remove cooking grates. Preheat grill on High. Turn 1 burner off.

Place disposable aluminum foil pan over off burner and add 2 cups water to pan. Replace grates. Adjust heat to 350°F. For a charcoal grill, place disposable aluminum foil pan on 1 side of charcoal grate. Build fire on opposite side, and let burn until coals are coated with white ash. Spread coals in grill opposite pan and let burn 15 to 20 minutes. Add 2 cups water to pan. Position cooking grate in grill.

Lightly oil cooking grate. Place ribs over foil pan and cover grill. Cook, adding water as pan as needed, until ribs are browned, fork-tender, and meat pulls away from end of bone, about 2 hours. (For charcoal grill, add 10 briquettes to fire every 45 minutes to maintain heat.) During last 20 minutes, occasionally brush both sides of ribs with warm honey.

Let stand 5 minutes, cut into ribs, and serve hot.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Meandering smorgasbord of coffee geekness

By Dan Dean
Staff Writer

I recently visited Port Austin over the Independence Day holiday and I can report that according to my coffee-loving extended family (who all thought someone else was bringing the coffee) there is not a good cup to be found anywhere in the Thumb. Thankfully for them, coffee is always part of my pretrip checklist and I made a last-minute purchase on the fly at an unexpected gem in downtown Rochester. The Desert Oasis features fresh roasted coffee from the teenage son of owner Jamal Harrod. Here is a thumbs up from the Thumb-traveling Dean clan to Nathan for saving the day with his batch of fresh beans from Rwanda.



Coffee Preacher

Speaking of traveling, what do you do when you go on vacation? In this day of smart phones, there is a thumbs up for places online. And while it is fun to check out new places when traveling I typically do not leave my coffee

drinking in the hands of such intuitive reviews as "Has great hot chocolate" or "Love the atmosphere." I have a couple standard solutions depending on where I am going. Of course it always starts with planning to buy fresh roasted beans before leaving. For camping trips I take a small manual burr grinder and a one-cup plastic dripper and boil water in a pan on the camp stove.

If I am hoteling it, I will take along a small electric water kettle, and if I have room, I will take a Chemex brewer and smaller blade grinder to replace the dripper and hand grinder. I will usually dial in the amount of coffee before leaving either paxcell or beans in one-serve baggies or taking along a scoop of some sort, with a predetermined mark for the amount of beans needed per serving.

A trip to the Thumb was saved with a last-minute stop on the way at Downtown Rochester's Desert Oasis where I found a great Rwandan coffee.

Smart ideas

I read an article recently that rated the best iPhone apps for coffee geeks. I am a total rookie when it comes to smart phones but I have checked out a couple of the recommended apps that are pretty cool. Bloom Coffee Timer (\$1.99) is a timer you can use at home for brewing coffee using a number of different devices such as Beehive and Hario V60 drippers, Chemex and French press among others. You can edit and save new profiles when you dial in a coffee and want to save the details. The other is SmartCoffee (free). I have not tried out all the functions like using the camera in your phone to evaluate coffee beans you might want to purchase, but it is full of great information that could help determine what coffee you will like to drink based on parameters you choose.

Reuse

I love fresh vegetables and one of the things on the fall "to do" list is building a composting bin. We are the proud producers of our first garden — one whopping 4-foot square garden with two tomatozillas, plus crowding out the two cucumbers, three corn, two pepper and an assortment of carrots and onions. Every time I trim celery stalks and cut up carrots to munch on at work, I cringe when I have to throw the ends into the garbage. I also cringe when throwing away coffee grounds as they are a great addition to a compost pile. Oregon State University Extension Service, which has been composting literally tons of coffee grounds collected from local coffee shops since 2001, has found that used grounds make an excellent addition to a compost pile. In a 2008 *Science Daily* article I read online, the folks at the OSU Extension say that coffee grounds contain about two percent nitrogen and about 10 percent balanced with one part carbon material such as brown leaves or twigs. Paper coffee filters are OK to add as well. OSU also noted that coffee grounds seem to attract earth worms.

My favorite is back

Jeff Taylor at BT's Coffee calls it a great transitional coffee. I call it "simply awesome" and it is back in stock at pscoffee.com (\$18.20 for a 12 oz. bag). It is Panama Elida Estate, the first coffee that I tasted that made me a believer when I was previously a skeptic. Drinking this coffee you understand when coffees are described as: bright and juicy fruit forward with a floral tea room aroma. The bright acidity resembles that of a pineapple. Sweet strawberry notes complement the creamy body with a honey finish. Try some, you will not be disappointed.

Dan Dean is a former independent coffee shop owner and Assistant Managing Editor for Presentation at the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers. He can be reached at ddean@hometownlife.com.

Great gluten-free grilling

Cookouts, picnics and barbecues mean sharing food and good fun with family and friends. For those living gluten-free, whether due to dietary restrictions or personal choice, these gatherings can cause added stress, because finding foods they can eat may prove difficult. Likewise, gluten-free eaters may worry they'll be perceived as picky or difficult.

But with today's great-tasting gluten-free options, such as cookies and brownies, hotdogs and hamburgers, and even pizza crusts, gluten-free individuals can now join in the hot-off-the-grill goodness. Hosting your own backyard barbecue? Here are some simple tips to make gluten-free grilling deliciously easy and safe for all your guests:

- Always check the labels. Gluten shows up in some surprising places, including many condiments and even some processed meats.
- Many grilling side dishes are naturally gluten-free, so set out plenty of potato salad, grilled



Spicy Slaw Dogs

vegetables, corn on the cob, melon and other fruits, and baked beans.

- Grill any gluten-free foods first — that way you'll avoid the possibility of cross-contamination with foods that do contain gluten. You can also grill individual meals inside foil or parchment packets and prevent cross-contamination that way, too.
- If you're going to someone else's party, bring your own crackers and snacks, and even your own gluten-free buns.

And, try this recipe for Spicy Slaw Dogs which is completely gluten-free,

from the hot dogs and condiments to the tangy slaw and tender buns. You can find more great gluten-free recipes for grilling — and anytime — at www.udisglutenfree.com.

Spicy Slaw Dogs

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 15 minutes

- 1 pack gluten-free hot dog buns such as Udi's
- 1 pack gluten-free hot dogs
- 2 tablespoons stone ground mustard, (gluten free)
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce, (gluten free)
- ½ teaspoon vegetable oil

- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon sherry vinegar
- ½ cups finely shredded green cabbage, (about ½ head)
- 3 fresh red or jalapeño chiles, (seeded and thinly sliced)
- Salt to taste
- Gluten-free hot dogs

To prepare hot dog buns:

Mix together butter and mustard; spread on buns. Lightly toast buns on grill.

To prepare hot dogs: Mix together ketchup, soy sauce, vegetable oil and garlic in a small bowl. Cut cross-hatch in hot dogs. Pour mixture onto plate and roll hot dogs in it. Grill to desired doneness.

To prepare slaw: In large bowl, stir honey with sherry vinegar until honey is dissolved. Add shredded cabbage and chiles; season with salt and toss. Let stand until cabbage is slightly softened, tossing a few times, about 15 minutes.

Place grilled hot dog in hot dog bun and top with slaw.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Improve your curb appeal with a few outdoor painting projects

Summer is finally here, and with warmer temperatures and longer days, it's the perfect time to brighten up your home with a few outdoor painting projects. You can add the right amount of color and increase your curb appeal in just one weekend, leaving you the rest of the season to enjoy the finished product.

Your home, your style

Before rushing to pick out a new paint color or even accessories, first determine what will complement your home's existing exterior features. By keeping in mind your house's style factors — like its design, size and age — you'll be able to make updates that add value to your home. Next, look for inspiration by browsing through home catalogs, online or even by driving through a few nearby neighborhoods. Make note of the color combinations you like on homes that are similar to yours.

Once you have your new palette in mind, you're ready to get to work. The fastest way to make an impact? Apply a fresh coat of paint or stain to outdoor areas like doors, shutters, trim and railings.

To achieve professional-looking results, be sure to use a high-quality painting tool. If you're looking for a brush that can get nearly every job done, try the new XL Elite brushes from Purdy. These are great for interior and exterior projects because they provide ultimate performance with any paint or stain by delivering the perfect finish on any surface. Plus, they work great in all environments, but best with heavy-bodied and fast-drying coatings. Also, when properly cleaned and cared for, Purdy brushes will last for a number of years.

Doors, shutters and trim do more than just accessorize your



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home; they also make a big impact on its overall impression. Unfortunately, they take a beating from exposure to the elements, causing them to become faded and dingy. By repainting them, you can quickly make your house look more polished and refined. As with any painting project, surface preparation is the first important step. Make sure the surface is clean, dull and dry before starting to paint or stain. It is also important to remove loose or peeling paint so that you are starting with a smooth and uniform surface.

Now that the house looks refreshed, don't neglect wood fencing and latticework.

Update these surfaces with a new coat of paint or stain. Not only will it keep your entire property looking impeccable, it will help protect and extend the life of your fence or latticework. Surface preparation is also key for these projects. After cleaning the surface, remember to replace any broken or failed wood and replace any nails or screws that have failed before you start applying the paint or stain.

Be sure to add a few finishing touches to your lawn to really make it look pulled together. Planter boxes can add color and interest to your curb appeal, and can be rearranged whenever you're looking for a change. Freshen up your curb appeal, especially using a bold shade to brighten things up. When picking out plants and flowers for the boxes, include a variance in size, color and texture for optimal results.

With these new summer projects, it's easy to increase your curb appeal, especially with the right painting tools and tips. Adding fresh colors to the outside of your home will make it more inviting for anyone who visits.

— Courtesy ARA

Investing options in Asia

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I travel to Asia and spend several months out of the year there. I am wondering if housing costs and/or the cost of living is less expensive in Cambodia than say Hanoi or other parts of Vietnam.

A: Generally speaking, upscale housing is generally more expensive in Cambodia. Every house usually has what is referred to as a "spirit house" separately attached which is designed to keep out the bad spirits and protect the family. The American dollar and English is widely

spoken and there is a new high rise condominium under construction now in Phnom Penh. The units will range from \$150K U.S. to close to \$800K for a penthouse unit on the 26th floor or above. Condos in Hanoi generally are much more expensive per square foot in the city but as always, it depends on the location and the amenities.

Q: I hear Thailand offers a great deal for residential investment and/or living. What briefly can you tell me?

A: Bangkok has many condominium high-rises that foreigners can invest in. Of course, the cost of the five star hotels are located, the more expensive in this capital city. Indeed, condominiums are literally twice as expensive here than in Thailand's second largest city, Chiang Mai, which has no public transportation, unlike Bangkok, which has subways and buses. The economy is growing, but real estate is much cheaper than, for example, in Singapore, although the cost of living and currency is favorable to the U.S. dollar. It is best to consult with several different real estate agencies before making a purchase.

Q: I am interested in the residential opportunities for purchase in Seoul, Korea, because our company is planning on building a factory in the area. What do you know about Seoul?

A: Like most major cities in Southeast Asia, Seoul has a number of high rise apartments which they utilize as condominiums in the center or around the center of the city. Again, the cost of land in the center of the city is a premium and is very expensive. However, Seoul has the opportunity to develop certain underutilized areas with respect to high rises, and new condominium apartments are being built at relatively modest prices. That opportunity in Seoul is much better than, by way of example, Vietnam, as there are many more cars, with fewer restrictions in terms purchasing, as well as the fact that there are at least two major auto manufacturers in South Korea. I would contact an American broker to assist you in the purchase of an apartment near the core of the City.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit meisnerlaw.com. This column should not be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS/WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 16-20, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
41461 Bobcat Ct \$126,000
1991 Brookfield St \$135,000
3976 Brookstone Dr \$185,000
1145 Highbrook Dr \$351,000
1416 Ledgewood Dr \$158,000

43090 Ryegate St \$155,000
1937 W Franklin Dr \$69,000
1128 Whittier Dr \$165,000
CANTON CITY
32673 James St \$84,000
31457 Sheridan St \$19,000
VILVANIA
36515 Ann Arbor Trl \$175,000
38160 Ann Arbor Trl \$29,000
11498 Cardwell St \$60,000
29559 Curtis Rd \$130,000
36264 Dover St \$84,000
32827 Fargo St \$13,000
19351 Hillcrest St \$135,000
15545 Merriman Rd \$145,000

37478 N Laurel Park Dr \$111,000
29168 Rayburn St \$65,000
31553 Scone St \$140,000
NORWICH
16795 Country Knoll Dr \$244,000
16065 Pine Valley Dr \$565,000
PLYMOUTH
424 Adams St \$132,000
1676 Cassidy Place Dr \$149,000
304 Pinewood Cir \$62,000
136 S Union St \$17,000
784 York St \$102,000
REDFORD
14213 Breakfast Dr \$125,000
9976 Farley \$24,000

17309 Fox \$25,000
19420 Kinloch \$21,000
20102 Kinloch \$38,000
24645 W Chicago \$19,000
WESTLAND
34205 Aztec Dr \$72,000
8320 Emerald Ln E \$141,000
31510 Fairchild St \$60,000
32132 Glen St \$16,000
32326 Glen St \$53,000
8355 Rickie Ln \$80,000
1132 S Carlson St \$100,000
369 S Norma St \$91,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 2-6, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BINGHAM FARMS
23910 Greenleaf Ct \$260,000
30885 River Crossing St \$250,000
BIRMINGHAM
1748 Greenfield Rd \$94,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
229 Eden Rd \$120,000
5250 Brookdale Rd \$745,000
4459 Chamberlain Dr \$377,000
2651 Colonial Way \$180,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
3390 Burning Bush Rd \$770,000
831 Highwood Dr \$1,875,000
4875 Keithdale Ln \$315,000
4597 Kitzgate Blvd \$685,000
1580 S Hill Blvd \$65,000
4592 Wagon Wheel Dr \$393,000
2860 Whittier Dr \$320,000
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
5025 Kirkdale Dr \$282,000
1170 Fenwick Dr \$50,000
4110 Forest Edge Dr \$220,000
3109 Ivy Hill Dr \$130,000
634 Sherbrooke St \$122,000
1957 Tiley Cir \$155,000
FARMINGTON
28805 E King William Dr \$218,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
27900 Berrywood Ln \$27,000

26262 Dundalk St \$180,000
24882 Martel Dr \$110,000
28499 Orchard Lake Rd \$200,000
28007 W King William Dr \$275,000
22974 Willowbrook Dr \$235,000
FRANKLIN
25675 Denison Dr \$285,000
26415 Scenic Hwy \$160,000
MILFORD
2250 Applewood Ln \$200,000
861 Byron Dr \$128,000
1164 Riverside Ln \$268,000
NOVI
21772 Chase Dr \$430,000
29740 English Way \$250,000
22889 Emishore St \$359,000
26332 Fieldstone Dr \$259,000
40562 Lenox Park Dr \$251,000
27869 Middleton Dr \$152,000

47330 Scarlet Dr N \$207,000
21899 Shadybrook Dr \$200,000
1127 South Lake Dr Unit 219 \$42,000
24343 Venice Dr \$236,000
23361 Whitehall Dr \$460,000
SOUTH LYON
335 Gibson St \$105,000
22290 Quail Run Cir \$120,000
26451 Shumanns Way \$100,000
252 University Ave \$65,000
SOUTHFIELD
25827 Arrowhead St \$66,000
30575 Old Stream Cir \$74,000
27461 Sutherland St \$87,000
WHITE LAKE
935 Aglata Dr \$136,000
9694 Cedar Island Rd \$50,000
830 Sunnybeach Blvd \$150,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@fadedvalue Realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Finance seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited, so call (248) 547-3006 or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage

Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, ext. 33.

Investors

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

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler at (313) 277-4168.

Come & learn all about "flipping" notes

This is a seminar about buying financial notes secured by real estate at a discount and re-selling the note for a higher price for a profit. Sponsored by Real

Estate Investors Association of Oakland from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 9, at Club Venetian, John R Road, just south of 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights. Seminar is free to members and \$20 for non-members. Call (800) 747-6742 or visit online at www.REIAofOakland.com.

Shopping for Investment Property

This is Class No. 3 in a series of 10 classes sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. The 3 1/2 hour class will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marias, Royal Oak, (north off 13 Mile, between Crooks and Main). The class teaches "What & Where" to buy investment property. Cost is \$49, plus materials.

For more information, email to REIAClass@AddedValueRealty.com or call (248) 787-7325.

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