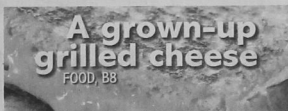




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Contract OK'd

With the opening of the 2012-13 school year near, the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education took care of some business Tuesday, approving tentative agreements with a variety of unions.

The board tentatively approved contracts with the district's non-affiliated administrators and support staff, its operating engineers, security officers and garage employees and its Educational Office Personnel.

Community Day

The Summit on the Park opens its doors to all Canton residents for a free Community Day on Thursday, Aug. 23.

Visitors to the center can enjoy a free trial day and test out all that the facility has to offer from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., including the Fitness and Aquatic Center; Dance & Aerobics Studio; gymnasium, racquetball court and indoor track; steam room and sauna; and Kids' Corner Child Care Center.

The Summit on the Park is located at 46000 Summit Parkway. For additional information, visit www.summitonthe-park.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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Golden reception



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Olympic gold medalist Allison Schmitt was welcomed by a huge throng of adoring fans Tuesday night.

Adoring crowd welcomes home Olympic hero

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Olympic swim star Allison Schmitt waved and smiled as a cheering, adoring crowd of fans gave their world-renowned celebrity a roaring welcome-home rally befitting royalty.

Holding a bouquet of flowers and wearing one of five medals she earned in London, Schmitt, 22, simply beamed Tuesday evening as fans waved small U.S. flags and repeatedly chanted "U.S.A." as she stood on a stage at the Heritage Park Amphitheater.

Accompanied by her parents and four siblings, the Canton High School graduate seemed thrilled to return home before starting her senior year at the University of Georgia, where she is studying psychology.

"To actually be here is a great relief," Schmitt said. "It feels so nice to be home in Canton right now under this pavilion."

It marked a long journey for a girl who began swimming when she was 9, honed her skills in high school, earned a bronze medal in Beijing, China, in 2008, and broke records in London as she clinched three gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

Next prize

Already, Schmitt has her eye on the next potential prize for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "I had a great experience this time



Olympic medalist Allison Schmitt acknowledges cheers from the crowd.

around," she said, "and I hope to repeat it in four years."

Canton will certainly cheer her on, judging by Tuesday's crowd that formed a huge post-rally line to get her autograph. More than 30 minutes after the celebration ended, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator

Please see HERO, A3

Walgreens bringing jobs to Canton

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Drugstore giant Walgreens has confirmed it plans to open a large specialty pharmacy in Canton, shifting 250 jobs here and creating another 50 positions within two years.

Walgreens plans to consolidate three Ann Arbor area facilities next spring by investing in a now-vacant, 64,000-square-foot building in the Haggerty II Corporate Park near Haggerty Road and Michigan Avenue.

Canton Township officials embraced Walgreens' decision and said it provides another indication the local economy is starting to rebound.

"We are steadily filling up our vacant buildings and most, importantly, we are bringing jobs to the community," Kristen Thomas, economic development and marketing analyst, said Wednesday. "Our goal is to keep growing."

Local officials have said new growth is critical to helping Canton continue to rebound from an

economic downturn that stalled development and caused property values to plummet.

Judie Kral, general manager for Ann Arbor-based Walgreens, said the specialty pharmacy in Canton will essentially serve as a mail-order location that ships medications to patients across the United States.

Moreover, she said, the facility will house call-center agents, patient-care coordinators and pharmacy technicians. It's not intended as a retail business.

In the wake of two recent break-ins at Canton pharmacies, local officials such as Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin asked Kral about Walgreens' security plans for its new facility.

"We do a robust security system," Kral assured local officials.

In a move to support the Walgreens project, the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday evening to approve a six-year tax exemption for personal property the

Please see WALGREENS, A2

Police urge vigilance in wake of break-ins

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton has been stung by an outbreak of home invasions that authorities say could be related.

"They're occurring in the daytime," Detective Andrew Colthurst said Tuesday.

Colthurst and Detective Erik Kaledas confirmed at least four home invasions that occurred during a two-week span, resulting in stolen items such as a gun, a laptop computer, money and jewelry.

A fifth incident involved only the theft of a gasolinet out of a residential garage, with a neighbor's surveillance camera capturing a potential suspect from a distance.

Anyone who has information about any of the incidents is urged to call Canton police at (734)

394-5400. Anonymous tips for a possible cash reward may be made by calling Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP, logging on to www.1800speakup.org or texting CSM and a tip to 274637, or CRIMES.

Kaledas indicated there's a strong possibility some or all of the incidents could have been committed by a small group of intruders preying on neighborhoods while homeowners are away.

Public Safety Director Pat Nemecek urged residents to be vigilant in their neighborhoods and to report any suspicious activity.

What follows is a synopsis of the latest reported incidents:

A couple that lives on Hunters Ridge, off Lilley south of Palmer, notified

Please see BREAK-INS, A4



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Pit bull attack sends victim to hospital

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A pit bull attacked a 43-year-old woman outside a Canton inn Sunday night, causing injuries serious enough that she was admitted to a hospital, authorities said.

The incident happened about 9 p.m. after the victim and a 42-year-old man, described as the dog's owner, became embroiled in a domestic dispute in the parking lot of America's Best Value Inn and Suites, northeast

of Ford and Haggerty roads, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

"The pit bull apparently attacked the lady and bit her, causing injuries that required her to be taken to the hospital," Schreiner said.

Most of the woman's injuries appeared to have occurred on her arms and legs, he said, and the victim was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti.

Canton Fire Chief Tim Dunn confirmed that Canton para-

medics transported the woman to the hospital.

Schreiner said it appears the man and woman had been staying with the dog at the Canton inn where the incident occurred.

"Witnesses said the dog became agitated when the two people were having a domestic dispute and attacked the lady unprovoked," Schreiner said.

The pit bull was captured and turned over to the Huron Valley Humane Society. Tanya Hilgendorf, the humane society's

executive director, said the dog should be held for a routine, 10-day quarantine to determine if it has been exposed to rabies.

"The dog is still owned by its current owner, so nothing can really happen with it until he relinquishes ownership or the court orders something differently," Hilgendorf said.

"That dog would not be a candidate for adoption," she said.

Schreiner said the man apparently was bitten on his hand and arm when he pulled the dog off the woman, though it appears he

wasn't seriously injured. Schreiner said the man was taken into custody for an unrelated warrant for failing to appear in 52-3 District Court in Rochester Hills.

Authorities cited two potential scenarios that could arise from the incident. The dog's owner could be cited under local ordinance for having a vicious dog, or the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office could decide possible charges.

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Pair among convicted in pharmacy scam

A Canton pharmacist and a pharmacist were among six people convicted this week by a federal jury of running a billing scheme that charged the government more than \$57 million for painkillers and other drugs that were unnecessary or never provided.

It took the jury three days to convict the six defendants on 26 counts, concluding they committed conspiracy, health care fraud and unlawfully distributed prescription drugs.

Among the convicted were Babubhai (Bob) Patel, 49, who owned 20 pharmacies and was charged with bribing doctors to write phony prescriptions that were filled

through his pharmacies, and Patel pharmacist Brijesh Rawal, 36, of Canton.

"(The) verdicts eliminated one of the largest diversion conspiracies ever uncovered in the state of Michigan," said Robert Corso, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Detroit, said in a statement. "The convictions, particularly of the medical professionals, are significant. These individuals abused their positions of trust and endangered the lives of countless people by illegally distributing opiate painkillers and depressants throughout southeast Michigan and beyond."

WALGREENS

Continued from page A1

pharmacy company plans to install in the Haggerty II Corporate Park facility. To strike back against an economic downturn, township officials have used such incentives as much as possible to become more competitive and attract new businesses.

"Anything that we can do to help the business community grow and thrive will benefit Canton Township as well as its residents," Trustee Pat Williams said Wednesday. "We really have been trying to focus on higher levels of employment opportunities in our community."

Early on during Tuesday's discussion, town-

ship Supervisor Phil LaJoy disclosed that his sons, who operate an employment agency, do business with Walgreens as a company.

Township Attorney Kristin Kolb didn't cite a conflict of interest and told LaJoy's board colleagues they had the authority to decide if they perceived any conflict that should prevent him from voting.

No one perceived a conflict. Even if LaJoy had recused himself, the Walgreens tax exemption would have easily passed with supportive votes by other board members.

"Personally I don't feel he has a relationship with the company," Trustee Dr. Syed Taj said.

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

JOB SEEKER WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Bayou Grill, 404 Main in Belleville

Details: A job seeker workshop hosted by Joe Barnabell of Beacon Hill Technologies, who specializes in finding jobs for people in Michigan. This event will cover building a great resume, interviewing, effectively searching for a job, tips and tricks of the job boards and networking. All of this is free. There will also be an opportunity for professional, one-on-one assistance with your resume and interviewing technique with all proceeds going to a great charity. One-on-one resume assistance will cost \$20 and one-on-one interview coaching will cost \$20.

BLOOD DRIVE

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Canton Public Library
Details: The Canton Public Library will host an American Red Cross blood drive. You may walk in or reserve a spot. Donors in the month of August are automatically entered in a raffle for a \$500 gas card. You must be 17 and capable of giving an entire pint. Hospitals in southeastern lower Michigan use 900 pints of blood per day; we hope to collect 31 pints.

Contact: Call Kathie Gladden at (734) 397-0999, Ext. 1071 or emailing gladdenk@cantonline.org

HEISE HOURS

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 17, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread, 20140 Haggerty (just south of 8 Mile) in Northville

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. No appointment is necessary. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REKUPUR or e-mail kurt@heise.house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

GIVING BLOOD

Details: The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at a variety of locations this month. Blood drives are scheduled for 1-6:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at Plymouth High School; 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, Living Word Church; 1-6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, City of Plymouth; 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth; 10 a.m.

AROUND CANTON



Pom prowess

The Canton Chieftettes were named grand champions this week at the Mid-American Pom Pon Summer Camp Competition at Northwood University in Midland. In addition to the grand championship, Chieftettes won first place in the senior kick line, and 11 girls were chosen to be part of the Mid-American All-Star team.

to 3:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, Canton Library; 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, St. Kenneth Church; 2-7:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, VFV Post 6695 in Plymouth; 1-6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, Salem High School; 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, Plymouth District Library. Donors will be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$500 gas card.

Contact: Call Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

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) 495-0255.

POM CLIMC

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

Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

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

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

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 Spennrich at (248) 348-0115 and visit www.newhopecenter.net.

MMAP COUNSELING

Dates/Time: 1:30 p.m. Sept. 6, Oct. 3, Nov. 1 and Dec. 4

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

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

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

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HERO

Continued from page A1

Jon LaFever said Schmitt was finally ushered away from fans who continued to seek autographs.

"Allison would have stayed all night," he said. Canton youngster Mackenzie Williams, 9, brought her grandmother, Arlenda Peterson, who was visiting from Tuskegee, Ala. Why?

"Because there's an Olympic person from where I live, and I want to get her autograph," Mackenzie said. "She has represented our country, and she did a great job."

Canton mom Sabitha Ajaykumar brought her daughter Reema, 7, for Schmitt's homecoming.

"We wanted to see Allison in person. We are so excited to see her," Ajaykumar said. "It was so good to watch her (during the Olympics). It's like we have a local celebrity. We're so proud. I have told everybody that we have a local Olympian."

In a tribute to Schmitt, the Canton Varsity Chieftees performed a cheer routine and the Plymouth Canton Cruisers swim club carried U.S. flags to the stage. BeckRidge Chorale gave a stirring rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Beautiful day

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who along with several other officials estimated the crowd at 2,500 to 3,000, gave Schmitt a township proclamation honoring her and a congratulatory Olympic flag embroidered with the words Canton Township.

"What a beautiful day for the community," LaJoy said.

In a strong show of bipartisan support, state Reps. Dian Slavens and Kurt Heise brought to Schmitt a state resolu-



Signs and cheers greeted Allison Schmitt.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Allison Schmitt and WJR's Paul W. Smith are welcomed to the Heritage Park amphitheater by Vic Faust of WXYZ-TV. At right, parents and siblings.



Allison Schmitt greets hundreds of fans at Canton's Heritage Park Pavilion.



Allison Schmitt signs her autograph for 9-year-old Mackenzie Williams of Canton.

tion also signed by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Gov. Rick Snyder. Heise said he couldn't recall a Canton athlete who had achieved the Olympic status Schmitt did.

Schmitt won gold in the 200-meter freestyle, 4x100-meter medley relay and 4x200-meter freestyle relay, silver in the 400-meter freestyle

and bronze in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

Schmitt was accompanied Tuesday by her parents, Ralph and Gail Schmitt, her elder siblings Kirsten and Derek and her two younger twins, Kari and Sara. At one point, Ralph Schmitt had four of his daughter's medals hanging on his arms as fans approached

to touch them.

The Schmitts formerly lived in Pittsburgh, but it appeared no community could have given the Olympian a better welcome than Canton.

"I can't believe all these people," Ralph Schmitt said. "This is so special. This is the reason we came to Canton."

As the crowd packed



The Canton Cruisers Swim Club leads the procession.

the Heritage Park Amphitheater grounds, Cherry Hill Village Theater ushers Rita Morris and Marian Busa helped newcomers find places to watch the celebration.

"This makes me so proud of Canton Township," Busa said. "I'm so proud of the people of Canton."

As Schmitt's fans watched, she sat on the stage and answered questions posed by WJR radio host Paul W. Smith, who told Schmitt, "You will never feel more love than you've got right here with your friends and family."

Sun-sprayed

Vic Faust, WXYZ-TV Channel 7 co-anchor who served as master of ceremonies, remarked that once-cloudy skies gave way to sunshine as Schmitt arrived from a pre-rally press conference at Summit on the Park.

Schmitt recalled when

she earned her first gold medal in London and watched as the American flag was raised in ceremony.

"It was something I'll never forget," she said, adding later, "Walking away from the Olympics with five medals is something I never thought would happen."

Schmitt credited her family, coaches, teachers and friends with inspiring her to practice swimming as early as 5:15 a.m. and to strive to reach her goals.

After her performance in London, Schmitt has her hopes pinned on the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Are we going to root for her in Rio de Janeiro?" LaJoy asked Tuesday.

The roar of the crowd said it all. What's four years? That's plenty of time to plan another celebration.

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Police believe this may be a suspect in one of several recent home-related thefts. In this case, the man is suspected of stealing a gasoline can from a garage.

BREAK-INS

Continued from page A1

police after their two-story home was ransacked between 8:10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday. Missing items included a video camera, a digital camera, a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun and ammunition. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the items — or any suspect who may have taken them — should call police.

According to a police report, one neighbor reported a possible Ford Escape backing out of the driveway by a "rough-looking" white female who had bleached blonde hair, though it's not certain the woman was involved in the incident.

During roughly the same time frame, a home invasion was reported to have occurred on Westfield Circle, southeast of Cherry Hill and Haggerty, where police say items such as money, a laptop computer and religious coins had been taken from a two-story home.

Meanwhile, home invasions occurred between 8 a.m. and noon Aug. 2

and July 30 at what Kaled described as colonial-style homes in Canton. Both involved the theft of jewelry.

The Aug. 2 incident happened on Metairie Drive, southeast of Salt and Lily roads, and the July 30 home invasion occurred on Fleetwood Court, southwest of Ford and Morton Taylor roads.

Lastly, Coltrush said a man believed to have stolen a gasoline can from a garage on Georgetown, near Cherry Hill and Lotz, was captured on a surveillance camera. The incident happened on the afternoon of Aug. 2.

Police released a distant photo of the possible suspect, described in a police report as a 5-foot-9 black male in his 20s weighing approximately 160 pounds.

Coltrush said the suspect got into what was believed to be a two-tone, tan-and-green Ford Explorer, possibly an Eddie Bauer edition made around 2000.

He was wearing a T-shirt, possibly gray, calf-length baggy pants or gym shorts, loosely tied high-top gym shoes and possibly a silver watch or bracelet on his left wrist.

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A rash of larcenies from autos has prompted Canton police to warn residents to avoid leaving their valuables inside vehicles where thieves might be tempted to steal them.

Several incidents happened last weekend in the Sheldon-Hanford area, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

"A lot of times these incidents occur in pockets," he said, "and there's no way to predict when and where they're going to happen."

The thefts have occurred both in residential neighborhoods and

business districts, Schreiner said. They often happen when drivers leave their vehicles unlocked, though he said criminals also have smashed out windows to steal wallets, purses, sunglasses, iPods, cell phones, GPS units, briefcases and other items they might keep or sell for profit.

Schreiner urged residents to remove their valuables from vehicles or, at a minimum, hide them where they can't be seen by would-be thieves.

"Don't make it easier than it needs to be for your stuff to be stolen," he said. "When you take away the temptation to steal, hopefully they are going to go away and realize it's

not a target-rich environment."

Even in places that have a comparatively low crime rate, police say auto owners shouldn't let down their guard by leaving their belongings for the taking.

"We want to take away their ability to steal," Schreiner said. "We want to have nothing here for them to steal. We appreciate when people lock up their cars and secure their valuables. That makes it better for us and our community."

Anyone who has information about the larcenies from autos is asked to call Canton Police at (734) 394-5400.

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CRIME WATCH

Walmart huffing

Canton police went to the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue west of Belleville Road after an employee reported seeing a white male suspect huffing — or inhaling — fumes from a can of cleaner used on computers, keyboards and similar equipment.

Police found the man sitting in a red Chevrolet Camaro shortly before 1 p.m. Monday.

A police report indicated the man appeared to be passed out with the can in his hand. The man initially denied he was involved in huffing, but later admitted it and told police he had been doing it for a few weeks, a police report said.

The man told police he had been attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and that he is retired and bored, the police report said.

Police cited him under a local ordinance that prohibits incidents such as huffing.

Taser time

Canton police had to fire a Taser gun to capture a man who first led police on a car chase and then tried to flee on foot, a police report said.

The incident started shortly after 12:30 a.m. Aug. 8 when an officer spotted a Pontiac Sunfire, with a brake light not working, traveling north on Haggerty Road near Ford, the report said.

The vehicle exceeded the speed limit and turned onto Old Haggerty, a dirt-and-gravel road, without signaling and then speeding at 40 mph in the 25 mph zone, the report said.

Police said the driver ignored an attempt to stop him, but another officer pulled in front of the suspect's vehicle as it approached Old Haggerty and Warren.

An officer got out of his patrol car and pulled his pistol as a precaution, ordering the suspect out of his car. He initially acted suspiciously and then began running away, finally prompting an officer to fire a Taser gun to capture him, the police report said.

The man allegedly told police he was running

because he had warrants for his arrest and had marijuana in his pocket. He said he was running toward his girlfriend's house to see her before he went back to jail, according to police.

A search of the man revealed marijuana, a police report said. He also had warrants for his arrest out of Canton for being disorderly and providing false information to police.

He was taken into custody.

Scene stealer

Canton police tracked down a driver who admitted he hit a truck but left the scene at Fellows Creek Golf Course while he was calling in an order for Bray's Hamburgers, a police report said.

Police received a call about 7:20 p.m. Aug. 9 that a man's Ford F-150 had been struck by another Ford F-150 while it was parked at the golf course, on Lotz Road north of Michigan Avenue.

The victim was golfing but was informed of the incident by someone else.

Canton police ran a license plate for the driver who left the scene and learned he lived in Westland, the police report said. They caught up with him, and he explained he wasn't paying attention when he hit the truck.

The suspect told police he had gone into the clubhouse to try to locate the other driver but was unsuccessful, though the police report indicated his story was refuted by others.

The suspect was cited for failing to provide identification at the scene of the accident.

Home invaders

Canton police are continuing to warn residents to secure their valuables following a recent rash of home invasions and larcenies from autos.

An incident on Greenwood Drive, northwest of Ford and Haggerty, lends credence to the warnings.

A man contacted police Saturday to report that someone had gone in his garage, which was open, to steal a GPS unit out of his minivan, which was unlocked.

Garage thefts

A man told police items such as a miter saw, a chainsaw, two sets of golf clubs, an air compressor and baseball gloves were stolen from his garage on Springfield, southeast of Cherry Hill and Denton, sometime prior to 3 p.m. Friday.

The man told police the door to his garage door had his three-car garage had been left open.

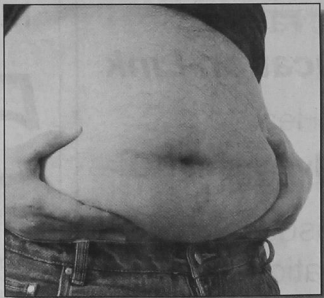
Compiled by Staff Writer
Darrell Clem from Canton
Police Department reports.

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New art event creates downtown Plymouth buzz

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Painters, potters, jewelry-makers, photographers and other artists visited downtown Plymouth on Saturday to give art lovers an intimate look at their work.

Art About Town, organized by downtown business owners and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, featured some 30 artists, from a variety of media, who set up their easels by downtown benches at downtown shops and eateries, allowing the public to watch and ask questions as they drew, painted or shaped clay — and talked about their art.

The event, which evolved from previous downtown art strolls, also included street musicians and chalk reproductions, on the sidewalks, of well-known masterpiece paintings, such as Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and Paul Cezanne's *Apples In A Basket*. Some businesses offered hands-on art projects for kids.

In contrast to last month's Art in the Park, one of the busiest art fairs in the state, with artists from across the country, Art About Town was a low-key, less-crowded event celebrating local art.

"We're actually able to park close in. ... We're not as crowded," said Kate Barkley of Westland, who attended with her fiancé, Scott Barritt, and children Charlie and Jackson Barkley and McKenzie Barritt. Barkley said the event



Bethany Grysko, of D and M Art Studio in Canton, renders a chalk version of "Apples In A Basket" by Cezanne, in front of Dearborn Jewelers on Ann Arbor Trail.

seemed like a good way to soak up some Plymouth atmosphere without the crowds and pressure that come with major events.

"Art makes the world go 'round. Keeps people happy," said potter Leslyn Rank, who was making clay tiles at Hands On Leather on Forest.

Rank, of Westland, has been a member of Plymouth's Village Potters Guild for about two years and has been making tiles for about a year. At a bench in a corner at Hands On Leather — owner Nancy Ball is a longtime friend — she pounded white clay into plaster molds that she had previously carved to make decorative tiles depicting owls and giraffes. A display of her tiles — many with animal themes — was nearby.

Rank has a degree in graphic design but said she likes the utilitarian nature of pottery.

"People can touch the stuff, use it in their everyday lives, drink coffee out of a cup I

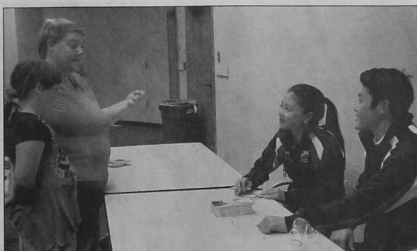
make," she said.

Next to Rank, Ball's husband Mike, a syndicated humor columnist and musician, entertained browsers with a song, accompanying himself on guitar, and talked about his columns and books, which were offered for sale.

"We didn't know what to expect, but I like it," Nancy Ball said of Art About Town. With many people typically on trips or busy with back-to-school shopping in August, she said, the event lived up to what could have been a sleepy retail Saturday.

"I'm quite pleased," said Colleen Cannon, the owner of Tranquil Tea, the tea shop on Ann Arbor Trail. Cannon, who displayed some of her own pottery — dishes, platters and wall scones — at the store and also hosted a tea tasting, said the event had brought people in. "Everything's worked out really well."

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405



Olympic dream

With dreams of appearing in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia, ice-dancing siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani took time from their training at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena to talk with fans at the Canton Public Library, where they signed autographs and drew names for prizes during a program at the Canton Public Library sponsored by the library and Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena, where the pair trains. In 2011, the Shibutanis became the first ice dance team in U.S. history to win a medal — bronze — at the World Championships in their debut senior season. They also took the silver medal at the U.S. Championships and Four Continents Championships behind their training mates, American pair Meryl Davis and Charlie White, 2010 Olympic silver medalists.

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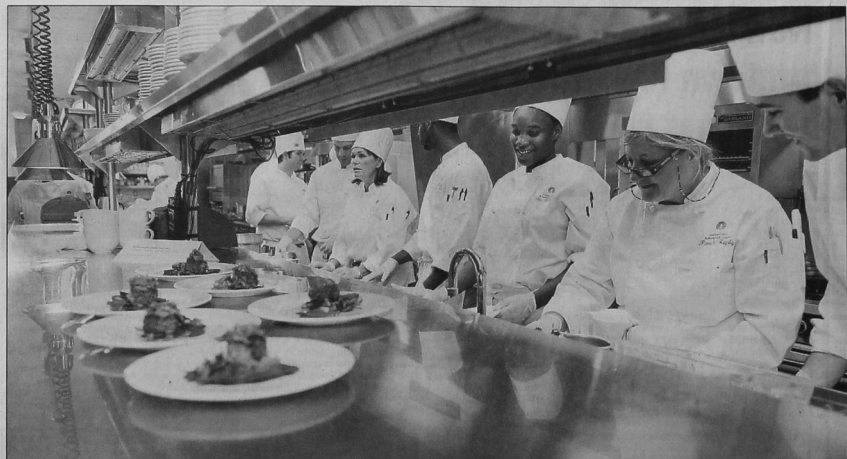


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Schoolcraft Culinary Extravaganza

Culinary students at Schoolcraft College help prepare entrees for patrons attending Culinary Extravaganza. The award-winning culinary program attracts students of all ages from throughout the state.



Mike Jacobson, sous chef, was staffing the sampling table for Mitchell's Fish Market at last year's culinary extravaganza. Mitchell's of Livonia will return to Culinary 2012.



Wine vendors throughout the state will offer samples at this year's event. In addition, vintner Lee Hershey will share his knowledge of wine at a special tasting seminar scheduled that day.

Sample fine food, wine, desserts to aid student scholarships

If you enjoy fine food, fine and desserts save this date — Sunday, Sept. 23.

The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza is planned from 2-5 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center on Hagerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road. Restaurants, pastry shops and area beverage vendors will offer up some of the finest culinary delicacies and products found in any one place.

The event raises money for scholarships and plays a vital role in providing needed support for students pursuing an education at Schoolcraft.

Kristina Mayer, an officer of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors, is chairing the event for the third consecutive year.

Mayer says the generosity of event sponsors is vital to the foundation's fund raising efforts. Mayer, vice president and branch manager of Bank of Ann Arbor's Plymouth Township office, heads a group of more than 20 community and college members working on this year's event. Many more volunteers — including many Schoolcraft students — are helping behind the scenes to deliver the best possible experience for culinary



Culinary extravaganza is known for its wide ranging offering of luscious desserts.

patrons.

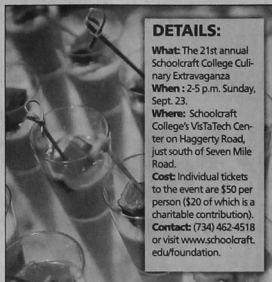
Sponsor packages range from \$300 to \$5,000 and are still welcome. All sponsor packages include company name and logo in the event program, on the Schoolcraft electronic sign, in a special Thank You advertisement in the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers and complimentary event tickets. Platinum (\$5,000), diamond (\$2,500) and gold (\$1,000) sponsorships also include admission to a pre-event VIP private reception one hour before the public event.

Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution).

The event highlights the culinary talents of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors. Guests can sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food/beverage stations, a silent auction, raffle prizes and seminars on wine-tasting and healthy foods (presented by master chef Jeff Gabriel).

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant — The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth; Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay; Cadillac Coffee Company, Madison Heights; Coffee Express Company, Plymouth; Dream Cakes, Commerce Township; McCormick/360 Vodka, Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council, Livonia; Old World Olive Press, Plymouth; Something Chocolate, Birmingham; Steve & Rocky's, Novi; The Sardine Room, Plymouth;



DETAILS:

What: The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza
When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.
Where: Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center on Hagerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road.
Cost: Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution).
Contact: (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

Luscious desserts are among the many samples offered to those attending the Schoolcraft Culinary Extravaganza.

Vintner's Cellar Canton Winery, The Elite Catering Company, Livonia; Wisteria Bakehaus, West Bloomfield.

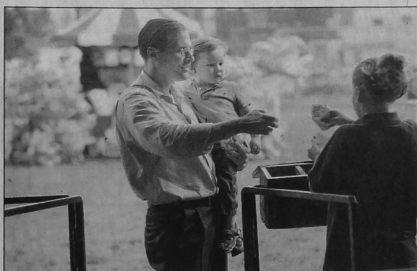
Vine2Wine Custom Winery of Northville and Zumba Mexican Grille, Royal Oak.

Raffle prizes include: \$1,000 cash (grand prize); \$500 cash (second prize) and \$250 cash (third and fourth prize). Dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant rounds out the fifth, sixth and seventh raffle prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Winners need not be

present to win.

In addition to food, eventgoers can bid on a variety of silent auction items including entertainment and sport packages. All proceeds from the event benefit the Schoolcraft College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization providing scholarships for students, including those in the college's renowned culinary arts program.

To purchase tickets and/or learn more about sponsorships or donate a silent auction item call (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.



Randall Schmidt and his 2-year-old son, Koen, of Plymouth are ready for an afternoon at the circus.

Crowds jam big top for circus atmosphere



Colin and Keeghan Burns, 5 and 9 years old, enjoy their cotton candy. They are from Livonia.

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

As a child care worker for the Penrickton Center for the Blind in Taylor, Jessica Ball knows how important contributions from the Plymouth Lions Club are to the center's operation.

On Tuesday, she and some of her kids from the center got a chance to witness up-close where those contributions come from.

Ball was one of some 900 people who attended the first performance Tuesday of the Kelly Miller circus, sponsored for two shows by the Plymouth Lions Club. And she was glad to be there.

"It's very important for the kids to get out," Ball said. "They get to experience different things they may not get to experience otherwise."

What they witnessed was Kelly Miller's brand of circus, which featured



Mike Wozny and daughter Emma, 5, waiting in line for the Kelly Miller Circus.

elephants, horses, llamas, camels, clowns and international circus stars as Kelly Miller celebrates its 74th year.

The Plymouth stop is part of a 10,000-mile journey that will see the circus perform in some 200 cities through October.

The performances act as a fund-raiser for the Plymouth Lions, who use the proceeds they earn to

fund their outreach programs, including their efforts in partnership with the Penrickton Center.

"We spend it back into the community on many community oriented projects," said Fred Field, who served as the Lions' circus co-chairman. "Many of us remember as children attending a circus with



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four-year-old Julia Sokolowski of Livonia rides an elephant at the Kelly Miller Circus. She attended the circus with her mom, Meghan Sokolowski.



Christian Ciszewski, 5, favors a Batman theme when getting his face painted. He is from Howell and attended the circus with grandma, Connie Myler of Livonia.

our parents, and taking our children to a circus. We want to continue these memories for the next generation."

Ball and her kids enjoyed the circus, and appreciate the Lions' continued generosity.

"They make a lot of donations, and they help us out a lot," Ball said. "(The Lions) are very important to the work we do."

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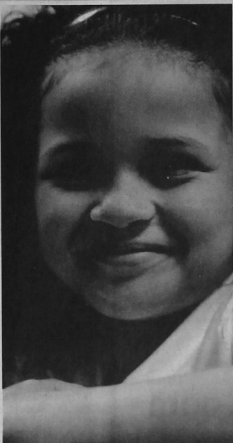
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CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

New broker

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announced that John Farhat has joined its Birmingham office branch.

Farhat has been involved in the housing industry most of his life, starting his career in the construction business. He also spent several years working in the lending industry, and eventually obtained his real estate license. John has a special concentration in Royal Oak properties.

He was drawn to CBWM specifically because of the management, strategic use of technology and its forward-thinking business culture.

"I am excited John is now on our team," said Kelly Sweeney, CBWM CEO. "Our clients will benefit from his experience in the lending and building industries, as well as his extensive brokerage expertise."

Allstate honors

Allstate Insurance Company has recognized Allstate agency owners Bruce Lamb and Joseph Pacut for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitability. They are now two of the top Allstate agencies in the nation in auto, property and commercial insurance and financial services sales.

These agencies have achieved the distinctive Allstate Honor Ring award based on their 2011 achievements in service.



Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel announced that John Farhat has joined its Birmingham office branch.

ing customers and driving successful business results. For more than 60 years, the Honor Ring has been Allstate's symbol of outstanding achievement and honorees have proven to be champions in growing their agencies and serving Allstate customers. These agents' dedication to customers and the community has allowed them to achieve this honor.

"It's a tremendous honor to be an invitation to be a part of Allstate's Honor Ring," Lamb and Pacut said. "Our agencies are fully committed to helping customers meet their protection and retirement needs throughout the year and we're proud of the recognition from Allstate."

Bruce Lamb is located at 1722 South Lilley Road and can be reached at (734) 844-7000.

Joseph Pacut is located at 43679 Michigan Ave. and can be reached at (734) 895-8123.

Diamond lessons

Selecting the one ring that makes an engagement or marriage official can be a lot of pressure. Showroom of Elegance, a jewelry boutique located at 6018 Canton Center in Canton, is hoping to educate those seeking the down-low on diamonds with a free class called Diamond 101.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, from 6-7:30 p.m., wedding couples can stop in for a presentation from diamond expert Rick Gouthro, owner of Diamond Emotions. Refreshments and sweet treats will be available for people attending the Diamond 101 class.

Anyone interested in diamonds may attend. To RSVP for this event please contact info@mgcenterprises.com or call Showroom of Elegance at (734) 207-1906. You may also visit www.showroomofelegance.com for information regarding other upcoming events.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Sharer Design works on remodeling projects like this kitchen from beginning to end.

Firm designs start to finish

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

Sharer Design: Sharer Design Group is a full service remodeling firm which takes your project from design to completion, in a timely fashion. Sharer Design Group offers three different lines of custom cabinetry including our original line, Sharer Cabinetry, designed by Justin Sharer.

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

Sharer Design: I have spent my entire professional career in the design industry. After obtaining a degree in architectural construction technology, I began my career as an apprentice with a custom remodeling company in Dearborn. I studied closely with masters of the trade and learned every facet of the kitchen and bath design industry, from cabinet making to design to project management. I went on to become a licensed residential builder and lead designer at the company. In January 2012, I opened Sharer Design Group LLC in downtown Plymouth. My passion has always been to create spaces homeowners can enjoy and now I get to do it every day at Sharer Design Group.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Sharer Design: Growing up in the Plymouth-Canton area, I have always wanted a business in downtown Plymouth.

SHARER DESIGN GROUP

Business name: Sharer Design Group, Plymouth

Your name and title: Justin Sharer, owner/creative director

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened when: January 2012

Number of Employees: 2

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Your business specialty: We specialize in custom kitchen and bathroom remodeling. We also have a full interior design service.

Business phone | website: (734) 582-9660 | www.sharerdesigngroup.com

outh, Plymouth is a great place to live and work. It is always great to see the friendly people walking by waving to the dogs getting water and treats in front of our showroom. We look forward to having Sharer Design Group in Plymouth for many years.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Sharer Design: We offer a custom designed line of cabinetry, Sharer Cabinetry, that you can only get from us. This line of cabinetry has door styles you cannot find anywhere else. Another thing that is unique is that you work with only one person for the entire remodel. This makes the remodeling process easier from start to finish without wondering who to contact, or who is coming to your home today.

Observer: How has the business changed since it opened?

Sharer Design: Since opening in January 2012 we have already had some great changes from introducing our original

line of custom Sharer Cabinetry, to new displays being installed this year, to great business relationships with other companies in Plymouth.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Sharer Design: This has been a great year for kitchen and bath remodeling. We are seeing more people putting money into their home for the future instead of moving. We have also been seeing more basement remodels to give homeowners more livable space.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Sharer Design: Work hard and have fun. There is nothing better than seeing the smiles on customers faces.

Observer: What does the future hold for your business?

Sharer Design: There are a lot of exciting things in Sharer Design Group's future. We have new displays going into our showroom in 2012. We will be expanding the Sharer Cabinetry line with more designs.

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CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber luncheon

The next Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

Guest speaker will be a representative from Oakwood Hospital. Sponsors are Community Financial and Schoolcraft College.

Cost is \$25 for members (advance registration) and \$30 at the door or for non-members. Reservations are required, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com.

Golf outing

Each year the Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts an Annual Golf Outing, and this year's takes place Thursday, Sept. 13, at Pheasant Run Golf Club of Canton. This event is open to the public and there are various packages available for purchase.

- Team Sponsor \$2,500 - Includes Company name on all advertising, recognition in all weekly emails and articles promoting event, banner with company name listed as sponsor at event, sponsor recognition on Chamber web site, reserved table with signage and recognition at dinner, golf shirts with your logo for all your team members,

golf for four including 18 holes of golf w/cart, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course and dinner.

- Golf for Four Package, \$600 - Includes golf with cart for four, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, buffet dinner, prizes, gift package and more.

- Golf for Four Sponsorship Package, \$650 - Includes golf for four with cart and a hole Sponsorship, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, signage at the course, recognition at the dinner.
- Individual Golf, \$150 - Includes golf with cart, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, and more.
- Dinner Only, \$35.

The Ryder Cup style format was a big hit last year with team Barone being the big winner. The Chamber Cup focuses on the larger team accomplishment. Teams are formed and pairings are created where everyone is on a level playing field for two 9-hole match plays. This allows all golfers, regardless of their skill level, to contribute points for their team in the hopes of winning the Canton Chamber Cup.

For more information call the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

Botsford Commons hosts forum on senior living

Botsford Commons Senior Community will present its "Living the Fullness of Life" program 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, in the Vis-Ta-Tech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty

Road, Livonia. The program will provide information on aging safely and other resources for seniors. "Living the Fullness of Life" includes informal presentations by Botsford Commons and

its affiliates; "Aging and Fitness to Drive" by Dr. Richard Young, Ph.D. of Wayne State University; "Healthy Aging" by geriatrician Dr. Annette Caron; "Brain Fitness" by Diane Zide; and "Get-

ting Your Documents in Order; Community Resources" by Dawn Doyle. Space is limited. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information. Botsford Commons

Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills.

Space is limited. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information.



Barefoot Productions presents "Food, Glorious Food" Saturday night.

Food featured in Barefoot production

Everyone likes to eat, but the folks at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth believe hearing about food can be just as good. That's why they believe participants may be salivating at "Food, Glorious Food," Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Barefoot Productions theater, 240 N. Main in Plymouth (near the railroad tracks). Local actors and actresses will serve an evening of essays, poems, comedic skits, short stories and songs of good taste - all about food. Performers include Anne Cahalan of Detroit, Betty Berryman of Canton, Chad D'Aigle of Northville, Christine Steves of Woodhaven, Laena Bradley of Livonia, Lauren Berryman of Farmington Hills, Nathan Corliss of Canton and Valerie Haas of

Inkster. But that is not all for the evening. For dessert, audience members will be treated to jazz music from The Adam Dib Quartet, topped with dancing. For the first time, the Barefoot stage will transform to a dance floor. Members of the Adam Dib Quartet include Michael Webber (guitar), Josh Bartolomeo (bass), Theodore Roberts (drums) and Adam Dib (saxophone). The quartet, all involved with the Wayne State University jazz studies program, has been performing together in the Detroit area for three years. Accompanying the quartet for this performance is David Alexander on piano, Denezel Maurice on trombone. Upcoming events at

Barefoot include "Opera Chat" by noted lecturer Louis Brown for Un Ballo in Maschera (The Masked Ball), Improv at Barefoot featuring Some Kind of Players, Josh White Jr. Concert, Sleepy Hollow, Driving Miss Daisy and A Christmas Carol, A Narrative. More details are available at justgobarefoot.com. Tickets for "Food, Glorious Food" are \$15. However, if you bring in a recipe, you will receive \$5 off your ticket price. Recipes will be used for the first Barefoot Productions Cookbook, so be sure to put your name and city on the recipe card. RSVP by calling the box office at (734) 560-1493. Tickets can also be purchased at the door or at justgobarefoot.com.

5K walk/run to raise money to build wells in Africa

Families in Zambia, Africa, walk an average of six kilometers a day to collect water. After traveling this distance, the water they find is often dirty and disease-ridden. Yet, they still drink the water, compromising their health, because it's all they have to survive. At 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, the Thirst For Life 5K Walk/Run will be held in Bicentennial Park in Livonia. One hundred percent of the money raised from this event will be used towards building wells in the villages of Mayo and Hamandu in Zambia. A group of people from NorthRidge Church in Plymouth decided to organize this 5 K Run/ Walk to help raise funds for these projects. The church recently launched a long-term project (a 10-15 year plan) working towards self-sufficient-

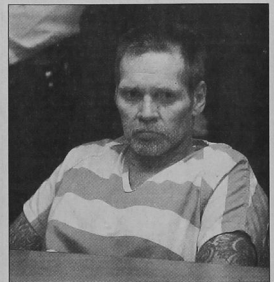
cy in these communities through a partnership with World Vision. World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children, families and communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. "What inspired the idea was that a group of people within the church decide to train and participate in the Chicago Marathon to raise money for these projects in Zambia. We wanted to allow those folks that aren't marathon runners to get in the spirit too," explained event organizer Donna Hammar. "It is fantastic how many people have opened their hearts and have come forth wanting to participate in this effort." Organizer Tracy Vasiloff encouraged Thirst

For Life 5K Walk/Run participants to bring the whole family. Children 12 and under can participate in the one mile Fun Run, earning a medal when they cross the finish line. Peter Nielsen, fitness expert and host of "Peter Principles" on WXYZ-TV Detroit Channel 7, will be there sharing his principles for living a healthy lifestyle. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the race begins at 9 a.m. Bicentennial Park is between Gill and Newburgh on Seven Mile Road. Entry fees before Sept. 5 are \$25 with a T-shirt, \$15 without a T-shirt; \$20 after Sept. 5 and race day, and \$10 for the kids' fun run. Any leftover T-shirts will be sold for \$10 on race day. For more information and to register, go to www.ThirstForLife5K.org.

Schuette crime bill passes House Judiciary

Attorney General Bill Schuette's central crime legislation, known as Violent Offense-Fourth Felony or VO-4, passed from the Michigan House Judiciary Committee Wednesday. The VO-4 plan allows prosecutors to require a minimum 25-year sentence for certain repeat criminals who have committed four felonies while progressing to more violent crimes. Schuette's team, led by Director of Public Affairs Rusty Hills, testified at Wednesday's hearing and was joined by Linda Nehasil, widow of Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil, Saginaw County Prosecutor Thomas and Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz.

The committee reported a house version of the bill by a vote of 11-1, with three members abstaining. The legislation now heads to the House floor for consideration. "Today the House Judiciary Committee advanced legislation crafted to target the worst of the worst: repeat violent offenders," said Schuette. "This legislation will break the cycle of violent crime by removing the most dangerous offenders from our streets." "Public safety is the first priority of government, and VO-4 moves the needle in a positive direction, toward safer communities." Senate Bill 1109, introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rick Jones (R-Grand Lodge), would implement the VO-4 sentencing reform by strengthening Michigan's Habitualization Law. The legislation targets the worst repeat violent offenders by establishing a prison sentence of at least 25 years for a select group of repeat violent criminals convicted of a serious violent crime after being convicted of three prior felonies, at least one of which was a violent assaultive crime. During his testimony, Hills gave examples of convicted murderers with long rap sheets who would have been behind bars and been unable to commit murders had the tougher VO-4 sentencing provision been in place at the time of their fourth felony conviction. Hills highlighted the case of Terry Bowling, 49, who was recently convicted of second-degree murder and other crimes for his role in a home invasion that resulted in Officer Nehasil being killed in the line of duty last year. Prior to facing the second-degree murder charge, Bowling had six felony convictions and nine misdemeanors. Under Attorney General Schuette's proposal, Bowling would have faced a possible minimum of 25 years in prison after his fourth con-



FILE PHOTO

Terry Bowling, under Attorney General Schuette's proposal, would have faced a possible minimum of 25 years in prison after his fourth conviction for armed robbery in 1999, which occurred more than 10 years before Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil was killed in the line of duty. Bowling was convicted of second-degree murder in the Nehasil case.

viction for armed robbery in 1999, which occurred more than 10 years before the death of Officer Nehasil. Schuette has repeatedly pointed out that the cost of crime, financially, mentally and monetarily to victims, families and communities - is immense. A study published online by the National Institutes of Health estimates that just one murder creates approximately \$8.9 million in victim costs. Using their methodology, conservative estimates suggest that Michigan faced approximately \$710 million in victim costs for its 556 reported murders in 2010 alone. VO-4 is endorsed by Detroit Police Chief Ralph Godbee, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAAM), Michigan Sheriffs Association, Police Officers Association of Michigan and Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, among others.

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2003	KIA	Sorento	KNDJ733935013412
2001	Dodge	Dakota	1B7G126X81S169176
2001	GM	Yukon XL K1500	3GKFPJ36711G265393
1993	Pontiac	Bonneville SE	1G2HJ35313P205001
2002	Chevrolet	Trailblazer	1GN2T13S22281766
1999	Ford	Contour SE	1FAFP6630XK99386
1972	Chevrolet	Monte Carlo	1H57H2R546597
Year	Make	Model	VIN
2001	Hyundai	Accent GL	KMHCG45C01U15671
1999	Chevrolet	Malibu LS	1G1NE52M2C6145793
1997	Saturn	SC2	1G8ZG127V2Z25307
1994	GM	Sierra K2500	1GT0T0K3K93R35136
2001	Buick	Riviera	1G4GD221854723641
2001	Hyundai	Elantra G4wt	KMHND45D01U049257
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OUR VIEWS

Fraudulent signatures McCotter owes voters an apology, explanation

State Attorney General Bill Schuette announced charges last week again four members of former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's staff in connection with fraudulent signatures on McCotter's nominating petitions.

McCotter, who served five terms in Congress before resigning last month, was not charged.

McCotter issued a brief statement via e-mail through a spokesman thanking the attorney general for his work on the investigation, but has not made himself available for interviews.

McCotter owes his former constituents an explanation of why, in Schuette's words, he wasn't "minding the store" and why he left them with a \$650,000 special election bill to fill his unexpired term ending in December.

Regardless of whether McCotter was involved in copying and pasting old signatures to get his name on the ballot, the buck stopped with him. He needs to step up, accept responsibility and apologize for failing the voters of the 11th District, who entrusted him in a position of leadership.

By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months.

For some time, we have been hearing complaints from constituents about how staffers have not followed through with the most basic requests, like helping them to get White House tour tickets, and about McCotter's not showing up at

candidate forums or holding town hall meetings in the district.

Such indifference and pompousness is inexcusable from a public servant and his office.

By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months. By that time, Congress will have decided and voted on budgets, tax breaks and most major issues for the year.

Constituents understand when politicians resign before the end of their term for personal or family health reasons. But all McCotter said at the time of his resignation was that the investigation into the fraudulent signatures had severed the "necessary harmony" between the needs of his constituency and of his family, requiring him to leave.

McCotter's refusal to finish out his term was a selfish act.

Taxpayers are burdened with the cost for the special primary election in September and will have to pay for the salary of the winner of that race.

It's a sad and sorry end to McCotter's political career, which included a brief run last year for the Republican nomination for U.S. president.

McCotter is an intelligent individual, whom voters and Republican leaders faithfully stood by over the years.

Too bad he didn't afford them the same courtesy in return.

COMMUNITY VOICE

If you get a chance to vote on it, would you support or oppose Michigan's emergency manager legislation?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



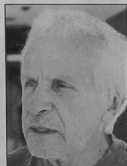
"I'd probably support it. Some communities are too far deep into (financial troubles) and can't find a solution."

Michael Thomas
Canton



"I haven't made up my mind, but I do wonder where the people who are appointed (as emergency managers) got their credentials."

Tareq A. Samra
Canton



"I've changed my mind several times because I see it from both sides. I can't make my mind up to give you a definitive answer."

Tom Piasta
Canton



"I support emergency manager legislation because I believe when communities are faced with having an emergency manager, there's a reason for it, and it's typically mismanagement by elected officials."

Bill Serchak
Milford

LETTERS

Thanks for support

Now that the primary election has been held and the votes counted, I wanted to thank the *Observer Newspapers* for their endorsement of my candidacy as a Democrat for Wayne County Commissioner in the new 10th District and for their objective appraisal of my qualifications and ideas.

The coverage of the race was fair and you presented the voters with information that allowed them to have the opportunity to evaluate the candidates who are seeking election to become Wayne County Commissioner and will represent the residents of the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township.

Your coverage of events significantly contributes to strengthening public awareness about issues vital to the Plymouth Canton Community.

James Amar, candidate
Wayne County
Commissioner 10th District

GOP Medicare foes

At least Paul Ryan seems to be right in step with the chronic mendacity of the Romney campaign now that he has been tapped as the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

On Saturday morning Ryan strode confidently to the podium and within seconds had advanced his first lie as the VP candidate, that Obama had cut Medicare by \$700 billion (the figure has been increased from \$500 billion) over the next 10 years. It doesn't seem to matter that Politifact.com and Factcheck.org and many other credible referees have debunked this claim on numerous occasions whenever any Republican, like former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter for instance, dared to push it.

Ironically the alleged "Obama cuts" represent savings from eliminating what can be categorized as waste, fraud and abuse that sprang from Medicare Advantage providers overcharging Medicare for services rendered. (Doesn't getting a handle on something like this sound just like something a self-styled deficit hawk Republican like Paul Ryan would have fallen in love with?)

The savings this would create would then be applied to fund other non-Medicare

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.

programs included within the Affordable Care Act and cause no reduction in benefits to subscribers since amounts equal to the overcharges would no longer have to be spent within the Medicare budget.

It seems that one could safely assume that since both Romney and Ryan and virtually every Republican in Washington has assailed Obama for these cuts that aren't really cuts at all, that all would reinstate these funds to Medicare immediately, if ever they had the chance. Nope, the Ryan budget, passed by the Republican-dominated House and endorsed wholeheartedly by Mitt Romney does not restore this funding in any way shape or form and Romney has put forward no such reinstatement plan.

The point is beware future seniors of the obvious hypocrisy. This faux-rage is a ploy to convince you that the R-and-R and Republican team are friends of Medicare though nothing could be further from the truth. Romney/Ryan and Republicans intend to slash funding, "voucherize" the program and turn it over as a black grant to the states, increasing out of pocket expenses to as much as \$6,000 per year per enrollee according to experts after of course raising the age of qualification from 65 to 67. If they get their way, Medicare will look and act nothing like the program seniors have depended upon for more than a generation and that future retirees so richly deserve.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Magic in Lansing

Colon, Mich., has distinction of being called the "Magic Capital of the World." It earned this title because it attracts magicians from around the globe to its facilities, where the tools of their trade are fashioned. However, after recently learning that our GOP legislators in Lansing claim Michigan is wallowing in a budget surplus, I say the title should be transferred from Colon to the capitol.

Harry Houdini or David Copperfield at their best would be hard-pressed to equal the impossible illusion our Republican representatives in Lansing are pretending to pull off when they say Michigan suddenly has a budget surplus. Even more astoundingly, Speaker Prestidigitator Jase Bolger claims that since the Legislature can find no new ways to spend this "surplus," it will be returned as a whopping tax refund of about \$15.86 for the average worker.

However, like any audience member at a magic show, I ask, "How can they do this?" After all, Michigan cities are falling into insolvency like pins in a bowling alley. Schools from kindergarten to college are gasping for life, closing or imposing additional taxes on students and parents in the form of rising tuition. Crime is skyrocketing; property burns to the ground regularly; and people are left to die because municipalities are forced to lay off policemen, firemen and EMS staff since the state is not paying the money it owes these entities. Roads, bridges, infrastructures are falling in pieces because the state can't afford their upkeep.

Prisons are closing, pension systems are collapsing; teachers are sent packing; children are going hungry; social services for the needy are reduced; unemployment benefits are drastically cut; yet our GOP legislators attempt to claim, with straight faces, "We have a budget surplus."

Oh, heavens yes, if these Republican legislators can pull off this budget scam, they truly are top-notch magicians, for they will once again have distracted their voting audience with illusory actions.

Walter Sobczak
Novi

Roth IRA remains great investment vehicle

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

They're one of the few investment vehicles that can work for just about everyone, no matter what age or tax bracket.

et. The fact that you can have money grow tax free and not be subject to the 70 plus required minimum distribution rules, is a great benefit.

Most people believe that in order to invest money

in a Roth IRA you have to be working; that is not the case. Anyone can take existing IRA money and convert it into a Roth IRA. The one major exception is if you are over 70 plus you cannot convert your required minimum distribution. However, you can convert anything above and beyond that. Roth IRA conversions must be completed by the end of the year.

Many people are charitable in nature and make contributions on a yearly basis. Typically, people will write a check to their favorite charity. However, as opposed to doing

that, one thing to consider is donating appreciated securities.

Tax advantage

The advantage is you get to write off the contribution based upon the fair market value of the security; but, you also can avoid paying taxes on the gain. For example, if you had a mutual fund that you paid \$1,000 for and now it's worth \$1,500, if you donate the security you'll get the full \$1,500 deduction and you'll avoid paying taxes on the \$500 gain. Even if you don't itemize your deductions, the fact that you

are avoiding the tax on the gain is a valuable consideration. Of course, if you're itemizing, then it's even more of a win. And the charity will not have to pay any taxes when they sell the security.

Also looking ahead, it's not too early for those who have a flexible spending plan through an employer to look for opportunities to use that money before the end of the year. If you don't the money, you lose the money. Now is a good time to evaluate your situation and make sure you have a game plan so you won't lose your money.

Before you know it our focus will be on the Lions and the Red Wings and the Tigers season will be a thing of the past. Therefore, while there is still some time, look for opportunities to be a little more efficient with your money. After all, the money you save ends up in your pocket - exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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

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SECTION B • (CP)
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SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR
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BOYS SOCCER

Balconi invite is Saturday

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Every August at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park isn't just about the return of high school football. It's also home to the annual Gary Balconi Soccer Invitational.

All eight varsity boys soccer teams in the tourney will play three 60-minute games beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, with three simultaneous contests.

On the varsity turf field will be Salem and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central while Plymouth squares off against Walled Lake Northern at the soccer stadium (Canton Center Road) and Canton takes on University of Detroit—Jesuit on the freshman field (corner of Joy-Canton Center roads).

Also competing will be South Lyon East and Walled Lake Western (Field No. 4, west of the football field).

Teams will follow up with contests at 11:45 a.m. and 3 p.m., including consolation matchups.

The tournament helps teams get the kinks on ahead of the start of the regular season on Monday.

"It provides a great opportunity to see three different, high level teams so that you can quickly learn your team strengths and weaknesses," Salem coach Ed McCarthy said. "Nearly every year, the team that wins this tournament is one of the top-10 teams in the state when the rankings come out."

Gary Balconi is a former athletics administrator at PCEP who championed the boys soccer program.

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Enjoying a light moment during Tuesday's press conference at Canton's Summit on the Park is U.S. Olympic gold-medal winner Allison Schmitt, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt.

Canton

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Good as gold

Home in Canton, Olympian Schmitt still on Cloud 9

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The buzz of being one of the world's best swimmers isn't getting old for Canton's favorite daughter, Allison Schmitt. Home to celebrate Tuesday — just over a week removed from a five-medal performance at the London Summer Olympics — the 22-year-old Schmitt said all of that gold (and some silver and bronze, too) won't quench her competitive quest anytime soon.

During a press conference at Summit on the Park in Canton, the happy and still-humble U.S. Olympian talked about the 2016 Summer Olympics slated for Rio.

"I'm definitely thinking about Rio," Schmitt said. "I am planning to do four more years, I had

a great Olympics this past time, it was a lot of fun, and I want to repeat it. So I am definitely looking forward to Rio."

But before returning to the University of Georgia to continue working toward a degree in psychology and working toward her next Olympic stop, Schmitt is enjoying the fruits of a decade worth of dedication and devotion to her sport.

Hero's welcome

Part of that is dealing with the celebrity treatment, such as the press conference and subsequent homecoming rally for Schmitt at Heritage Park.

"This is my favorite place to be, it's a very welcoming place,"

Please see SCHMITT, B3



The Olympic success she experienced in England is something Allison Schmitt still can't quite grasp.

Mary Angela race results

Dan Jess Jr., a former Farmington Hills resident, was the men's overall winner in the 10-kilometer race Sunday during the 10th annual Mary Angela Run in Farmington Hills.

The 31-year-old Jess won the race, which began and ended at Mercy High School, with a time of 37 minutes, 28.8 seconds.

Jess, who has won the race previously, was a standout runner at Catholic Central High School and now lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Emma Steppe, 24, of Ann Arbor was the women's 10K winner in 41:18.2.

John Pennington, 15, of Beverly Hills was the top male runner in the 5K race with a time of 16:24. Lindsey Elton, 33, was the overall female winner in 24:07.1.

The event is named in memory of the late Mary Angela DeGiovanni of Farmington Hills, who was a Mercy graduate and University of Michigan student.

As in past years, organizers hoped to raise nearly \$40,000 for Angels' Place, a nonprofit that provides housing and services for people with developmental disabilities.

WSU Hall

The Wayne State University Athletic Department Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for its class of 2013.

Nominations for WSU's 38th Hall of Fame class will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 16, 2013.

Persons wishing to nominate an athlete must include a list of athletic achievements, letters won at Wayne State and a current address of nominee (or relative if nominee is deceased).

The nominee must have graduated or left Wayne State at least five years prior and received one athletics award.

For more information, visit the school's website at www.usathletics.com.

Tami's Tri

Tami's Tri, a 5-kilometer run, 20K bike and nine-hole scramble golf event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier, Superior Township.

The cost is \$65 (through Sept. 15) or \$75 (through race day). Space is limited to 144 golfers.

Proceeds will go to the nonprofit organization Growth Works, Inc. of Canton and Plymouth.

To RSVP email TrainWithTami@yahoo.com. For more information, call (734) 731-0238 or visit www.TrainWithTami.com.

She swims English Channel to help find cure for ALS

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Six Ann Arbor women — including Canton High School athletic trainer Susan Butcher — literally went all in for a good cause.

Butcher was part of a group of friends taking the plunge late last month into The English Channel for an organization called Ann Arbor Active Against ALS.

The women swam back and forth across the 21-mile English Channel, finishing the job in 18 hours, 55 minutes to edge the previous mark of 18:59 established in 2007 by a team from Mexico. They swam from England to France and back again in order to generate money to help the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. About \$90,000 has



Canton High School athletic trainer Susan Butcher, at White Horse Pub in Dover, England, proudly points to proof that she was part of a record-breaking group that swam the English Channel in late July.

already been raised (with \$120,000 the ultimate goal); donations are still being accepted at www.channelforals.org.

"I was honored to be a part of it," said the 33-year-old Butcher, a native

of Michigan City, Ind. who swam four years at Eastern Michigan University. "It was a great

"I was honored to be a part of it. It was a great group of women, a fantastic experience and I'm so glad I did it."

SUSAN BUTCHER
Canton athletic trainer

group of women, a fantastic experience and I'm so glad I did it."

Also part of the relay team were Jenny Sutton Jalet, Melissa Karjala, Emily Kreger, Amanda Mercer and Bethany Williston.

Beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Friday, July 27, the women swam in one-hour blocks with an escort boat (staffed with lifeguards) nearby at all times.

Please see CHANNEL, B2

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CHANNEL

Continued from page B1

But Butcher stressed that it was paramount for the women to each complete their 60-minute stints to keep the relay moving.

"We would swim for an hour and then rotate every hour," she said. "We had a set order and as soon as we set our order we couldn't stray from it. So you had to swim."

Butcher looked out of her office at Canton High School, where she was helping football players gear up for Monday's practice.

"I was probably as far away (from the boat) from here to the left (across the corridor)," she said. "I was probably one of the people who swam farther away. Some were really close, maybe five or six feet away."

The channel itself made for a very challenging experience, Butcher explained.

"At the time it was rough," she said, "because you were battling sea sickness, you're battling cold, and when you're in the water it was 60 degrees and we couldn't wear any wet suits. It was just a regular swim suit, cap and goggles."

"A couple of the ladies had night swims, so they had to wear glow sticks attached to their back and lights on the back of their goggles."

Butcher said the group did not swim as part of any official competition.

"There's always people swimming the channel, for any reason, whether it's a solo or various relays," Butcher said. "Ours was a charity relay."

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Completing a two-way swim of the English Channel in record time were (from left) Amanda Mercer, Bethany Williston, Jenny Jalet, Susan Butcher, Emily Kreeger and Melissa Karjala.

CHRIS HILTZ

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL

Thursday, Aug. 23
Midland at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
Ann Arbor Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Lansing Sexton, 7 p.m.
L. Wsld at Cranbrook, 5 p.m.
Bradford at W.L. North, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Farmington, 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Monday, Aug. 20
Wayne at RU, 5:30 p.m.
N.B. Huron at Cville, 6 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 21
Luth. Wsld at L. N'west, 6 p.m.
Northville at Canton, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Cville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
S. Lyon at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24
Ypsi Lincoln at Glenn, 4 p.m.
Garden City at Wayne, 4 p.m.
L. Wsld at Liggett, 4:30 p.m.
RU at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 25
Steve at Troy Athens, 1 p.m.
Glenn at Lincoln Inv, TBA.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Aug. 18
Hartland Invitational, 8 a.m.
Battle Creek Tourney, 8 a.m.
Port. Central Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Grand Haven Inv., 8:30 a.m.
W. Bloomfield Inv., 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 21
Thurston at Cville, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Mercy Inv. at Wixom, 8 a.m.
Franklin at N'ville Quad, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23
Greenhills Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 25
Portage Northern Inv., 8 a.m.
Ladywood Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Mich. Luth. Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
W.L. Central Inv., 8:30 a.m.
Airport Tournament, 8:30 a.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday, Aug. 25
South Lyon Invitational at Island Lake, 9:30 a.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING
Saturday, Aug. 25
Mercy Invitational at Livonia Rec. Center, noon.

GIRLS GOLF

Thursday, Aug. 16
Highest Honor Invitational at Huron Meadows, 8 a.m.
Chelsea Invitational at Redden Farms, 8:30 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 17
Monroe-Jefferson Inv., 8 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 23
Churchill vs. John Glenn at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Saturday, Aug. 18
Stevenson Quad, 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 21
Farmington at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
City Quad at Stevenson, 9 a.m.
RU at Wayne, noon.
John Glenn at Belleville, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23
RU at Franklin, 10 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
RU at John Glenn, 10 a.m.
Churchill at Howell Quad, TBA.

Saturday, Aug. 25
Stevenson Quad, TBA.
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Saturday, Aug. 18
Saline Invitational, 9 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 20
Ladywood at Saline, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 22
Ladywood at Regina, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24
S. Heart at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday, Aug. 21
St. Francis (Ill.) at MU, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 22
Spring Arbor at MU, 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 24
(UM-Dearborn Early Bird) MU vs. Georgetown, 3 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 20
MU vs. Daemen, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 25
(UM-Dearborn Early Bird) MU vs. St. Xavier, 10:30 a.m.

Women's Soccer
Wednesday, Aug. 22
S'craft at Northwood, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23
MU at W. Ontario, 4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24
MU at Fanshawe, 1 p.m.
S'craft at Sag. Valley, 5 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.

(Note: some schools have not released schedules as of press time.)



Cards fly again

The Canton Cardinals 13U travel baseball team trumped their recent state championship by winning the Baseball Players Association Northern Zone World Series in Owensboro, Ky. from July 25-29. The Cardinals went 4-0 in bracket play, beating the Booneville (Ind.) Gold 8-4 in the Championship game. The Cardinals outlasted a strong field of 18 teams from five Midwestern states to capture the crown. The players will all receive fitted World Series rings, a goal the players had from the beginning of the season. Pictured are the victorious Cardinals with their World Series Championship trophy (and ring in the corner) from the tournament: (front row, from left) Luke MacBrien and Jimmy Walkinshaw; (middle row, from left) Evan Voyles, Justin Dolney, Jacob Hirschman, Cody Zidzik, Jason Arnold; (back row, from left) coach John Knorr, coach Rob Hirschman, Brennan Brooks, Brandon Knorr, Noah Spencer, coach Alan Zidzik, coach Greg Voyles. Not pictured: Andrey Napolitano.



Fastpitch power

A 2012 graduate of Plymouth High School was among softball players from Observerland participating July 23-28 in the USSSA 18U World Series in Salisbury, Md. Raylean, as well as Rebecca Greco (Dearborn Divine Child) and Rachel Jason (Livonia Churchill) were on the 18U Gold Fastpitch team (based in Ann Arbor) that went 4-3-1 to place fifth out of 42 teams. Games were played against squads from New Jersey, Ohio, Delaware, Maryland and New York. They are coached by Doug Kennedy, member of the USSSA coaches hall of fame and Tom Bedolla. Pictured in the front row (from left) are Dana Page, Kate Laverty, Rebecca Greco, Jess Weaver. Pictured in the middle row are (from left) Allison Raylean, Lauren Howe and Rachel Jason. Pictured in the back row (from left) are coach Doug Kennedy, Anna Hargrove, Stef Vanderluyt, Bekkah Guy, Andi Dragonetti, coach Tom Bedolla and Morgan Groom.

Tennyson joins new junior league

The AAU American Athletic Union announced recently that a new the Tennysen Chevrolet will participate in the newly formed Midwest Junior Hockey League.

The MWJHL will be a 12-team league consisting of six Michigan clubs including Wayne, Hartland, Fraser, Sault Ste. Marie and Traverse City along with teams from Toledo, Cleveland, Dayton, Ohio as well as Louisville, Ky., Kankakee and Bloomington, Ill.

Tennysen Chevrolet will play out of the Ice Box Arena in Brownstown and will be owned and operated by AZ Sports Inc.

Tennysen club president Keith Lang also announced that Grosse Ile and lifelong downriver native Dan Vasquez has been named G.M. and head coach.

For more information, contact the team offices at (734) 548-8248 or visit www.tennysenhockey.com.



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Potent MU spikers eye NAIA's again

By Brad Emmons

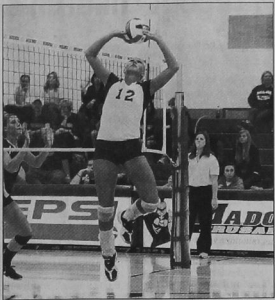
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's volleyball program continues to have high expectations and the 2012 season will be no different.

The Crusaders finished 30-10 a year ago as head coach Jerry Abraham, who ranks second all-time in the NAIA in wins (970), completed his 25th season.

But a third-place regular season finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and a loss in the WHAC semifinals to eventual champion Indiana Tech fuels Abraham and his squad going into Tuesday's season opener at home against St. Francis (Ill.). MU hasn't won the WHAC title or gone to the NAIA Nationals since 2008.

"It's been a couple years, but don't get me wrong, we've had good seasons the past two years, excellent seasons," said Abraham, who has



MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna junior setter Evia Prieditis was an All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection last season.

guided the Crusaders to 12 WHAC crowns and 11 NAIA National Tournament appearances. "But to get to the [NAIA] national tournament is one of goals."

"There's a lot of talent,

a lot of depth at almost every position. And the good thing about it is that I have 14 solid players—all of which can play. I'm very excited about the group."

The Crusaders lost



Freeman

three key players to graduation including third-team NAIA All-America Karie Altman (team-high 456 total kills) along with four-year starter Amanda Koszela (team-high 575 digs) and Megan Fricke (393 kills and 349 digs).

All-WHAC selections Nastja Banarovsky, 6-foot senior middle hitter from Riga, Latvia, and 5-9 junior setter Evia Prieditis (1,660 total assist-kills), from Milford, will lead the way this season.

"We have good leadership in Evia (Prieditis), who is one of the best setters around," Abraham said. "The team is well focused and trained very hard in the off-season. They're training real hard right now, but it's one step at a time."

Other returns include 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Samantha Geile

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

(Fruitport); 5-5 junior defensive specialist Amanda Obyrick (Allen Park Cabrini); 6-3 junior middle hitter Emilie Freeman (Lutheran High Westland); 5-9 senior outside hitter Taylor Dzewit (Almont/St. Clair Community College); 5-6 sophomore defensive specialist Roxy Duzey (Sterling Heights); 5-11 sophomore outside hitter Kayla Vogel (Hastings); 5-5 sophomore defensive specialist Cassie Castro (Saline); and 6-0 junior outside hitter Nastja Seremetjeva (Riga, Latvia), the latter whom was limited to seven sets last season after undergoing knee surgery.

"We've got good setting, good passing, good hitters," Abraham said. "The chemistry is really good. Sam (Geile) is a sophomore now. We have a little more termination and a little more determination on the outside. I think we have what it takes."

Abraham also has four

new recruits who could catapult the Crusaders back to the top of the WHAC paced by 6-foot junior middle hitter Stacey Catalano (Utica Eisenhower), who played two seasons at Grand Valley State, along with 5-10 junior outside hitter Ashley Hulbert (Fruitport), who led all NJCAA Division 2 players last year in total kills with 689 at Muskegon CC. Also joining the MU squad are two freshmen—5-9 outside hitter Breanna Geile (Fruitport) and 6-4 middle hitter Connor Morrish (Fushing), a transfer from McNeese State (La.).

"We brought in three transfers, two of whom are freshmen," Abraham said. "I'm hoping that the returning kids and the experienced kids are blending in, and make it a strong group. I'm confident the improvement is going to happen real soon in the year."

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SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

Schmitt said. "I feel comfortable here and I love being here. It's an amazing place to be, and to be able to be here with my family... with all the fans, supporters and friends that are around this town, it's a great atmosphere to be in."

After winning gold three times in London—including a world record in the 400-meter medley relay team and a U.S. and Olympic record in the 200 free (1:53.61)—Schmitt said she only wished she could share her achievements with everybody who helped her since her days with the Plymouth Canton Crusaders. She also won one silver medal and one bronze medal.

"It's something I want to share with everybody," she said, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt behind a podium at the Summit's Chestnut Room. "Every person that's helped me get to where I am today, just being able to share my success with other people means a lot to me."

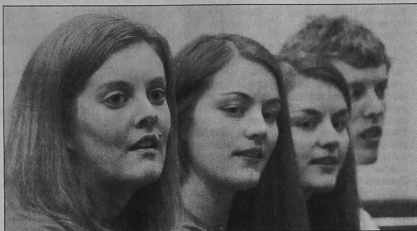
Last night, some girl came up to me and started crying. She always wanted to shake my hand. So just being able to touch someone's life like that, it means a lot."

"The first time it sunk in was my silver medal in the 400 freestyle and I was crying on the podium."

"Ever since then, I think it's been surreal. People have come up to me, coaches and team members on the U.S. team came up to me and said 'Do you need me to pinch you?'"

She's the same

Schmitt considers herself to be the same person



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Listening to Allison Schmitt's press conference are siblings Kirsten, Kari, Sara and Derek—all excellent student-athletes in their own right.

she was before the Olympics began in late July. But she acknowledged things are different. "I haven't gone one place where people haven't come up to me, congratulated me, asked me if I was famous," she noted. "So it's kind of cool that people watch the Olympics, people know who I am."

With a grin, the 2008 Canton High School grad joked about always wanting to be famous. "I feel like when people recognize me I know I'm still no movie star, but I'm trying to get there."

Speaking in front of a mammoth American flag draped on the wall behind her, Schmitt talked about what it meant to realize her long-standing Olympic dream—including standing on the podium during the national anthem.

"It's a feeling that I'll never forget," she said. "...I'm speechless now. I really don't know how to explain it. It was an honor, not only representing the U.S. but having the national anthem played for me."

Worth it

Neither will her family members who were there in London for the amazing run.

"It's special," Ralph

Schmitt said. "To think the flags are being raised for her, very special moment in my life, one that I will never forget."

According to Gail Schmitt, the medal ceremony did not prompt flashbacks to her days of chauffeuring Allison to and from swim practices or feelings of all of that being "worth it."

"I don't think we ever thought to do them in hopes of something, in hopes of a scholarship, or in hopes of an Olympic medal," Gail said. "Those things are great, and they came, but those were things you were doing at the time because that was what everyone was enjoying. If they weren't that we wouldn't be doing it."

"I guess that's why none of that really flashed back, it wasn't like 'Oh, it was all worth it' because I think it was the joy that we all had. If we didn't have all these wonderful results."

Ralph and Gail, he explained, encouraged all five of their kids to compete as student-athletes if that's what they wanted to do—and as long as they gave it their all.

"We both took the kids all around, to all their various sports," Ralph said. "...at times it was very hectic, but we made

the commitment that our kids were allowed to try what they wanted to try."

"Their only requirements were that whatever they started they finished and that they give 100-percent effort. That's all we asked. They did that."

Allison's siblings (Kirsten, Derek, twins Sara and Kari) all were in attendance at the press conference. All were or are outstanding student-athletes in their own right.

Each one's special

She then said she kind of understands what it must be like to be a parent, having earned five medals that each came with distinctive memories.

"There definitely is a special moment attached to every medal," Schmitt added. "Someone asked me what my favorite medal is and I can't pick one."

"It's like asking my parents which of the five of us is their favorite child. It's hard to describe, a different feeling, a different memory, a different memory attached to each one."

Soon, however, the medals and accolades from the London Summer Olympics will be put aside. It will be time to embark on the next wave of success.

Women, men to vie for O&E golf crowns

By Brad Emmons

Observer Staff Writer

The four majors have come and gone, but the 2012 competitive golf season is far from over.

The annual Observer & Eccentric golf tournaments are right around the corner with the women's event scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26 at Livonia's Whispering Willows followed by the 36-hole medal play men's event Sunday, Sept. 2 at Livonia's Fox Creek and Monday, Sept. 3 at Whispering Willows golf courses.

Registration for the women's 18-hole medal play event closes on Sunday, Aug. 19. The entry fee is \$50 (does not include cart) and you must have a U.S. Golf Association handicap index.

Former Michigan state player Shelle Morton shot a 3-under 69 to win the championship flight title with a nine-stroke advantage over Livonia's Deb Horning, while Arlene Shields of Livonia took the first flight title. Entries for the men's tournament, limited to the first 120 golfers, close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24.

The entry fee is \$95 (does not include cart). To participate, you must have a USGA index handicap (maximum of 20).

This year's men's event also includes a 17-and-under boys junior division. The entry fee is \$49. Prizes will go for both the men's low gross and low net scores in each flight. (Trophies will be awarded to the top junior finishers.)

Andrew Rousos of Novi captured last year's men's championship flight with a two-day total of 77-74—151 edging Livonia's Matt Robinson by a stroke.

Livonia's Sam Williams took the first flight, while Livonia's William Himm, a past O&E champion, placed first in the 55-and-up senior division.

You can register in person at Whispering Willows, located at 20500 Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

For more information, visit www.golflivonia.com; or call (248) 476-4493.

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Reign kicks competition

The U14 Plymouth Reign 99 Boys Green team were the tournament champions in their age group this past weekend in the Rush Kickoff Classic. The Reign defeated the USC Meteors 5-1 in the tournament championship game on Sunday. Earlier in the weekend, the squad defeated Rush Downriver 99B Nike (3-2), RSC Lightning 99 White (3-2) and tied Rush Jackson 99B 1-1. Standing are (from left) coach Worth Sampson, Jamie Crosby, Charlie Grybas, Bennett Brooks, David McGrath, Brendan Kelly, Ryan Buzenberg, Jared Lee, Mikey Schwartz, Adam Saunders, Joel VanHook, Anthony Iacopelli, Andrew Estey and Ben Tetlow. Kneeling in front are (from left) Luke Kurili and Aiden Hurley.

Cyclists of all levels welcome at Bike Fest

By Marty Budner
Observer Staff Writer

Biking is Jeff Surnow's passion. Surnow organized the inaugural Birmingham Bike Festival last year, which he declared an outright success. However, he was so busy making sure everything ran smoothly that he was forced to watch all the racing action.

Well, the Birmingham businessman couldn't stay away from pedaling for a second straight summer. Surnow will race in the 50-Over Division of the 2012 Birmingham Bike Festival scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26, the week after the Woodward Dream Cruise.

The event, which this year will include more races, more bikers, more vendors and more attractions, promises again to populate and bring excitement to the streets of downtown Birmingham. And Surnow can't wait.

"It seemed like when last year's event was over, not only were we blessed with great weather, but the racers were very pleased with the course and the way it was set up and organized," said Surnow from inside his downtown Birmingham office. "Everything seemed to go

very, very smooth. "I found that as the event's founder and organizer, I was watching the race and handling things around the course. I began to think I wish I would have made time to race. I figured since I put all the time and effort into it, I might as well have some fun too. "I am a biker and I love cycling, and I do it so much, I thought it would be nice to have the founder take some time to race," he said. "I'm going to do it this year and I'm excited about it."

The Birmingham Bike Festival's featured attraction is the exciting criterium street racing which involves highly skilled and trained professionals. The criterium race is scheduled to begin at 3:45 p.m. and will be on six-tenths of a mile track. The winner, who will receive a cash prize, is the first across the finish line without having been lapped.

Racing, however, is not restricted to the pros. A total of 16 races — doubled from last year — fill the agenda. Any one from the novice to the more formally trained is invited to register.

One of the new events is the Municipal Workers Relay Race, which will involve city officials from

neighboring communities in a four-team relay. Besides Birmingham, the race figures to include representatives from Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkeley, Bloomfield Hills, Lathrup Village and Southfield.

The Birmingham Bike Festival incorporates concerts at Shain Park, bike races geared towards children and the handicapped, and various vendors from the world of cycling.

A bike valet will be set up for families wanting to park their bikes in a supervised area while checking out all the activities. While it is a non-profit event, any monies collected from vendors and sponsors will go to a number of charities, including Make-A-Wish Foundation, Cerebral Palsy research, Tour de Cure for diabetes and Miles Levin Nepal Foundation, among others.

Events begin at 8 a.m. "Last year we had overwhelming accolades from the community, from many, many people, and many businesses," said Surnow, whose presenting sponsor is Fred Lavery Audit of Birmingham. "That helped us decide to do it again. And we decided to expand into more charitable causes and took them all on."

Parents urged to get in game about children's nutrition

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Packaged in bright, eye-catching containers that are covered with bold promises — "Get bigger, stronger, faster!" and "Instant Energy!" — powdery dietary supplements and so-called energy drinks are stealing the attention and the dollars of young athletes, most of whom are looking for a competitive edge on the shelves of area vitamin stores.

Amidst the onslaught of supplement manufacturers' multi-million-dollar marketing blitzes, several local health and nutrition experts are offering the following advice to the parents of the products' potential users: Just say "know."

"The first thing a parent should do if they know their son or daughter is taking supplements is talk to a doctor or a dietitian about the supplements," said Chad Smith, a former world-class decathlete and owner of Canton-based Dynamic Athlete Performance. "They need to find out exactly what their kids are putting into their bodies — especially if the kids are under the age of 18."

"Young athletes struggle with inadequate nutrition-based knowledge, lack of healthy food options and making right food choices. It starts at home with the parents. Coaches are the next important influence in a young athlete's health. Proper nutrition is just as important as the training," doesn't matter how hard you train if you eat junk, you're going to feel like junk,"

Expensive habit

The massive touts of powdery substances that promise weight gain — why protein is one example — have become

popular with young athletes, despite \$50 price tags.

"What young athletes need to understand is that all the protein they need can be found in whole foods like meat, chicken and cottage cheese," Smith emphasized. "Do you know how many chicken breasts you can buy for \$50? A lot."

Smith said the importance of a balanced diet can't be overstated.

"This is very important because young athletes need to maintain a steady balance in their blood sugar," Smith said. "When blood-sugar levels fluctuate, so does one's energy levels and mood. Low levels of blood sugar can cause hypoglycemia, which can lead to decreases in cognitive abilities, including concentration."

"It's important to maintain a balanced diet so that you have a high state of mental and physical energy during practice and games."

Smith said lean protein, healthy fats, fruits, vegetables and whole grains can help maintain steady blood-sugar levels.

Timing is everything
John Carbone, a sports nutritionist at Eastern Michigan University, said athletes of all ages need to feed the body at the right time and with the right things.

"The type, intensity and duration of activity should determine how best to replenish the body," he said. "For example, endurance athletes — like cyclists and swimmers — should typically be consuming around four grams of carbohydrates per one gram of protein in their post-workout meals in order to properly replenish and rebuild their muscles."

The growing emergence of energy drinks in

the athletic arena is detrimental to athletic performance, nutrition experts agree.

Energy "boosters" brought in nearly \$51 billion in 2011 and the market is expected to grow to \$79.2 billion by 2016, according to BCC Research, a market analysis firm.

"Energy drinks are not the best way to go," said Carbone. "These products typically emphasize that energy is released or manufactured due to a special blend of vitamins and other ingredients, when any energy rush should actually be attributed to the presence of caffeine and other stimulants."

Smith said that a popular 24-ounce version of one energy drink packs the same caffeine potency of 11 cans of pop.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Nutrition and the Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness state that energy drinks are not appropriate for children and adolescents and should never be consumed.

Old reliable
Boys' and girls' sports praised the role milk can play as a post-workout beverage.

"Quite a few studies have shown that milk — particularly skim and chocolate milk — is a viable option as a sports drink," Carbone explained. "Milk contains protein and its consumption post-exercise stimulates muscle synthesis, provides a boost to muscle protein balance. It also contains carbohydrates for energy and many important vitamins and electrolytes, making it a great post-exercise beverage."

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Whalers acquire defenseman

Plymouth Whalers general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci announced the acquisition of 18-year-old defenseman Gianluca Curcuro from the Sault Ste. Marie Greynolds in exchange for 17-year-old left wing Mitchell Dempsey and 16-year center Dylan Mascarin. "With three defensemen leaving from last year's team, we were looking to add more experience to our defense," said Vellucci. "Curcuro is a young veteran who will help."



Curcuro

Curcuro was originally selected by the Sault Ste. Marie in the first round (14th

overall) of the 2010 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection.

He played for Team Ontario at the 2011 World Under-17 Championships. In two seasons with the Greynolds, Curcuro scored four goals with 38 assists for 42 points and

62 PIM's in 119 games. Curcuro was selected in the seventh round (182nd overall) by the Columbus Blue Jackets in the 2012 National Hockey League Entry Draft.

Dempsey was originally selected by Plymouth in the first round (11th overall) in the 2011 OHL Draft and scored a goal with four assists for five points in 34 games last season as a rookie. Mascarin was originally taken by Plymouth in the 5th round (93rd overall) in the 2011 OHL Draft.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Draft skate

The Canton Victory Hockey Association will be having its 2013-14 hockey league draft skate on Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

There will be conditioning skates prior to the draft skate on Tuesday, Aug. 14 and Thursday, Aug. 16. For more times and information, please call the Arctic Edge at (734) 487-7777.

Sign up for Saints

The Washtenaw Saints Football Team, of the Christian Athletic League of America, is currently looking for interested young men (6th through 12th grade) to join the team.

There are no tryouts and everyone will get a chance to compete. Practices are underway at Domino Farms in Ann Arbor from 5:30 to 7:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information contact coach Jeremy Florence at (734) 649-0532 or by e-mail at Lemmie@aol.com.

Thirst for Life Run

The Thirst For Life SK Walk/Run will be Saturday, Sept. 8, at Bicentennial Park in Livonia to benefit Team World Vision.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., the race at 9. Bicentennial Park is on the north side of 7 Mile Road, between Gill and Newburgh roads.

All of the money raised will be used to fund water and sanitation projects in

the villages of Mayo and Hamandu in Zambia, Africa.

For more information and to acquire a registration form, go to www.ThirstForLife5k.org. World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children, families and communities worldwide.

Hawks girls hoops

Free tryouts for the Livonia Junior Athletic League Hawks, a sixth-grade girls basketball team, will be 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, and Thursday, Aug. 23, both at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (Main Gym No. 2).

There are spots open to anyone who resides 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 248-240126@hotmail.com; or call (734) 633-5134.

Hilltop glow golf

Hilltop Golf Course, located on Beck Road just north of Ann Arbor Trail, in Plymouth, is hosting Glow Ball each Friday night through Sept. 1 for just \$25 per player.

The fee includes nine holes of golf, glow ball, neon necklace. Plus there are food and drink specials available. For more information, call (734) 453-9800 or go to www.hilltopgc.com.

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Church members put paws together in prayer

By Sharon Dargay

O&E Staff Writer

The Rev. Dale Miller led a worship service Sunday, Aug. 12, with a special assistant at his side.

His miniature pinscher, Chip, was on hand — and on leash — as Miller, the pastor of Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, led a pet blessing.

"He was in all his glory working with the pastor," Miller quipped.

All seven dogs that attended the church's first pet blessing were on good behavior during the brief outdoor service that entailed readings, a prayer for pets and an individual blessing of each canine and their families, along with spectators.

Miller said pet blessings have roots in the Roman Catholic Church and St. Francis of Assisi. "Other churches have done them, too. It's a recognition of all creation. We're recognizing the goodness of our pets."

Pet blessings generally are held in late September or early October close to St. Francis of Assisi's feast day on Oct. 4.

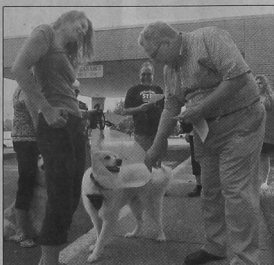
"The reason we did this is we're having Vacation Bible School this week and the theme is animal crackers," Miller said. "Part of its mission is learning reverence and respect for all creation." Youngsters this week also get a chance to donate toward an outreach project that deals with plants or animals. The program is loosely connected with Heifer International, an organization that enables supporters to donate goats, pigs, fish and other animals to individuals around the world.

"We thought a wonderful little kick-off to the whole week would be a blessing of animals," Miller said. "We had fun with it."



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacob Patterson, 10, of Redford plays with Mandy McNeil's 10-week-old puppy, Oberon, at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church pet blessing on Sunday. McNeil lives in Farmington Hills.



Kim Baughman's dog, Bear, wearing a cone because he injured his tail, gets a little attention from the Rev. Dale Miller at Nardin Park United Methodist Church's pet blessing. Baughman is from Farmington Hills.



Two-year-old Teddy, (right) owned by Gloria Knappenberger of Commerce Township, checks out Kim Baughman's dog, Bear.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



CASARI, HILDA C.

August 11, 2012 age 86 of Canton, Beloved wife of Herman, Loving mother of Tom (Beth) and Bob (Claudia). Dear "Nanny" of Tommy and Sasha. The Funeral Service was held Tuesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home. Interment: United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GIBSON, VIRGINIA M.

August 11, 2012, age 77. Significant other John G. Battaglia. Beloved mother of Richard (Lynn) Gibson and Cheryl Reitz. Grandmother of Erin and Ashley Gibson, Justin, Curtis and Brandon. Sister of Robert B. Baumgartner, Marge (Norman) McGarry, Jean Bland and Linda (George) Hieronymus. Funeral services were conducted today at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home - www.schrader-howell.com



JONES, CRANSTON FAIRBAIN (Cran)

Age 91, died at Westminster Towers in Bradenton, Florida, on Friday, August 10, 2012. The cause was Alzheimer's Disease. Born July 6, 1921, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Cran was a graduate of the University of Michigan where he was active in the Chi Psi Fraternity. He served in the Army (WWII) where he received the Bronze Star for bravery and liberated the concentration camp Dachau. He later served in the Air Force reserves and after 25 years achieved the rank of Major. He was a successful business owner in the Detroit area for 32 years before retiring to Florida. Cran was a member of the Birmingham Athletic Club, Orchard Lake Country Club, Oakland Hills Country Club and Kirk in the Hills. While in Florida, he served as a Docent at the Ringling Museum for over 10 years and was a Member of EL Conquistador Country Club. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Ann, his children Bradley, Connie, Gregory, Cranston and his seven (?) grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in Michigan on Saturday September 15th at 11:00am Kirk in the Hills Church. Memorial contributions are welcome and should be mailed in lieu of flowers to the Vic Mancy, Junior Tennis Program, 3450 Wild Oak Bay Blvd., #139 Bradenton, FL 34210 on behalf of Cranston F. Jones.

POLDERDYKE SYLVIA J. (NICHOLF)

82, of Adrian, formerly of Westland, passed away Saturday, August 11, at her home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee. Sylvia was born to John and Mary Nicholf on November 14, 1929 in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her children, Keith, Terry of Texas, Doris "Dorie" (Steve) Bishop of Florida, and Marie Liddon of Farwell, MI. 12 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Sylvia is preceded in death by her son Dan Terry. Interment will take place at a later date at Cadillac West Memorial Gardens in Westland. Those wishing to make a donation in Sylvia's name should consider Hospice of Lenawee, envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home. Condolences to the family are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com



ROSE, ERIC WAYNE

September 16, 1984 - August 4, 2012. Age 27, of Westland, Beloved son of Ronald and Christine. Dearest brother of Paul, Marc and Michael Rose. Loving grandfather of Wanda (Allen) Rose and the late Caroline (Henry) Ahern. Donations may be made to the family of Eric Rose. Visitations were held on Thursday and Friday at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. Services were held at Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday. Burial at Michigan Memorial Park, 32163 W Huron Drive, Flat Rock, MI 48134.

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Live music, improvisation benefit cat rescue

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Cat got your tongue? It won't if you watch the Glockspls perform improv games and scenes Saturday, Aug. 18, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Even shy audience members won't have trouble contributing ideas when Glockspsiel director Laura Gumina asks for scene suggestions.

"The audience is getting idea prompts. Every member of the audience, because they give us ideas, will get an envelope," she explained. Inside they'll find words for things, places and relationships they can shout out to the improvisers when called on.

"We work together to improv. I tell the audience, we need you when we perform. We all join in. It's interactive."

The Glockspls consists of volunteers from Gumina's monthly Tuesday drop-in improv classes, "Improvisation...Alive in the Moment" at Trinity. They'll perform scenes based on audience suggestion at the 2 p.m. show, which also will feature sets by singer-songwriters Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann.

The performance is a fundraiser for one of the area's newest animal rescues, New Beginnings Animal Foundation, (NBAF) led by Amanda Houts of Livonia. Admission is by donation and there will be silent auction items on display. Anyone who brings cat litter or food will be entered into a prize draw



Robin Monterosso will perform Saturday, Aug. 18, at a fundraiser for New Beginnings Animal Foundation in Livonia.



Members of the Tuesday night improv drop-in classes at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia perform as the Glockspls.

ing. Gumina, a Plymouth resident, has fostered three of New Beginnings' adoptable cats. "They need supplies

and they are struggling, like all rescue organizations. So, on their web page, Amanda put out a cry for fundraiser ideas. I got them the musicians

and the Glockspls," Gumina said.

Starting a rescue

Houts had volunteered for other rescues, including Better Life Canine Center, a Livonia dog rescue, before founding NBAF last March.

"I'd always end up with cats. They just come to me," Houts said. "I'd call around to other rescues and try to find a place for them. I exhausted the friends and family who could take in cats. I decided why don't I start this rescue and make it successful, even if it's smaller. It will help out a few cats."

The rescue averages four adoptions a month and its volunteers foster approximately 20-25 adoptable cats. All adoptable cats are spayed or neutered and given all necessary vaccines

NEW BEGINNINGS ANIMAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

What: Students from the Tuesday night improv drop-in class have formed the Glockspls for this one-time show to raise money for New Beginnings Animal Foundation, a local cat rescue. The troupe will perform improv between sets by musicians Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann. The event also includes a silent auction and audience members who bring cat litter or food will get a chance to win a door prize.

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Where: Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Admission: By donation

Contact: (734) 464-6302



Kathy Kitzmann will sing a few cat songs during her performance Saturday, Aug. 18 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

before they are sent to their new homes.

Houts works in the concierge area at a local hotel and spends her free time rescuing stray, abandoned and homeless cats, in addition to trapping

feral cats, getting them neutered or spayed and returning to the outdoors.

"It's like another full-time job, but it's worth it," said Houts, who has

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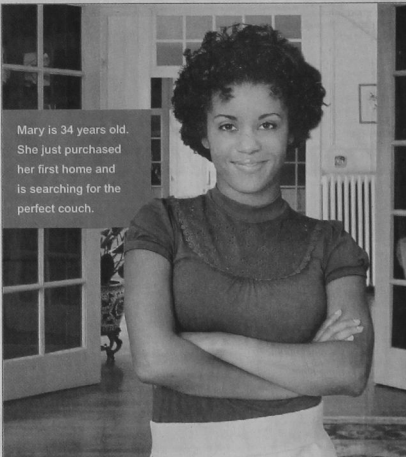
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Suburban Collection Showplace hosts Michigan's largest Indian event

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend India Day – the largest celebration of Asian Indian culture in the Midwest – held without admission at The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

"It's a great event to see and learn about Indian culture, history and traditions," said Ramesh Gudupuri, India Day chairman for the past six years.

Gudupuri has been living in Novi for almost 10 years and is a board member of the event presenter: India League of America, a non-profit, secular organization formed in 1978 with a mission to champion the interests of Indian American community in Michigan.

This one-of-a-kind event salutes India's Independence Day, which was Aug. 15.

The opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. with a parade with participants dancing and performing music while dressed in traditional costumes that represent each Indian state. The parade route ends at the main stage where all dignitaries and special invited guests are welcomed with marigold garland and given a red tilak, a customary religious mark worn on the forehead. The opening ceremony concludes with the lighting of the lamp, a Hindu custom to give thanks to the Lord and acknowledge a new event.

"It's a symbolic gesture to God to bless us with success," said Gudupuri. He anticipates guests will include state and local officials, like State Rep. Hugh Crawford and Dave Staudt, Novi's mayor pro tem.

Following the ceremony, the celebration will continue with fun for all ages. More than 300 Indian performers are scheduled throughout the day. From patriotic songs and folk music to classical and Bollywood-inspired dancers, the line-up includes regional dance academies as well as professional entertainers from local groups such as Nadanta, Thirak Kathak, Orissa Society, Detroit Telugu and Gujarati Samaj.

"There will be something for everyone," said Gudupuri.

In addition, attendees also will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of authentic Indian food provided by a number of local restaurants, including Mirichi Indian Cuisine, Udupi and Royal Sweets. More than 100 vendors will be on-site to display and sell authentic Indian apparel, costumes, arts and crafts, home furnishings and jewelry.

"Our special thanks to Ford Motor Company who has been wholeheartedly supporting India Day since the inception," said Gudupuri.

Other event sponsors include Chrysler Group LLC, Consumers Energy, McDonalds, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC, Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Royal Sweets, Ram Re-



A traditional Indian dance group performs at last year's India Day in Novi.

ations, HCL Global, Sistar Mortgage, and Global Marble & Granite.

While Gudupuri estimates that there are approximately 50,000 Indians in the metro Detroit area, the event attracts a lot of others as well. "We're putting forth effort this year

so that you can understand and learn about our culture and diversity."

For more information about India Day, visit www.iamichigan.org. The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.



Sylvia is among New Beginnings Animal Foundation's adoptable cats.

RESCUE

Continued from page B6

three cats and two dogs of her own.

Animal lover

Gumina adopted a three-legged Pomeranian that was rescued from a puppy mill. She began fostering cats for NABAF after discovering its Facebook page. "I started following their Facebook page. They'd go to Ohio to deliver a cat, to Flint to get a cat. They'd go to adoption events," said the long-time theater teacher, director and actor.

Like Houts' volunteers, Gumina's improvisers live throughout the Metro area.

She started the drop-in improv classes as a Meet-up.com group with nine students in June 2010.

"We now have 200. At our Tuesday night meetings I average between 16 and 20 people," she said. Sessions cost \$10 and meet the third Tuesday of the month, except this month because of the fundraiser.

Gumina also teaches at Palaestra Home School Co-op in Livonia and at a church in Detroit.

"You don't know how

many people have written to me that they joined this class to get out of their shyness. They love it," she described the drop-in sessions. "Someone who started with me in June (2010) are still with me and they are good."

She said the art form also teaches trust, give and take, listening, working in a group and working toward a mutual goal. "It's accepting and non-judgmental. Everyone has a good time," Gumina said. "The audiences here eat it up because it's just friendly fun. We don't swear and we don't reference sex or body parts. We are family friendly."

For more information about Gumina's drop-in improv class at Trinity House Theatre, visit www.meetup.com and search for "Improvisation...Alive in the Moment."

For more about New Beginnings Animal Foundation, visit its Facebook page, e-mail to adopt. nabaf@gmail.com or call (734) 743-1142. The group holds adoptions noon-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, the first weekend of the month, at Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland.

For more about Trinity House Theatre, visit trinityhousetheatre.org.

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/Date: 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 photography 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-Thursday, through Aug. 25

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Thoughts With Thread" exhibit features art quilts, woven tapestries, embroidery, paper, baskets, felted wool and figurative work

Coming up: "Beyond Borders: Mosaic Exhibit and Auction" runs Sept. 7-22 and features mosaic work by artists from around the world that will be auctioned online at www.BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF. Online bidding runs from 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1 to 9 p.m. Sept. 21. Opening reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 at Northville Art House

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Comedy

ANDIAMO NOVI

Time/Date: 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Location: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: "Comedy Held Hostage" tour with Chilli-



Mass Transit plays Thursday, Aug. 16 at Stars in the Park in Farmington Hills.

GET OUT!

ian Thomas, Jarred Kreeger and Susan Coletti. Tickets are \$10, available at the Andiamo Novi Theatre ab Contact:

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: Mike Bonner, Aug. 16-18; KT Tatara, Aug. 23-25; Joe Zimmerman, Sept. 6-8; Adam Richmond, Sept. 13-15; Greg Warren, Sept. 20-22; Chris Porter, Sept. 27-29

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

FAIRLAKE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

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

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

Details: Singles an 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

MASTERS OF TAP

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

Location: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Details: The show caps the three-day 5th Motor City Tap Fest and features its faculty in performance. Dancers include Gregg Russell, Sarah Reich of "So You Think You Can Dance,"

Avi Miller and Offer Ben, Dr. Harold "Stumpy" Cropper, Robert Reed, Karen Callaway and many others. Tickets are \$25-\$35

Contact: www.motorcitytapfest.com

MOON DUSTERS

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

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

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 from 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: 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 17-18 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Snow White and the Huntsman," \$3

Coming up: "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 25-26

Summer Cinema: All shows screen at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3

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

Senior troupe performs in Canton

There's still time to see The Still Got it Players' performance of *Old Hams at the Village Theater* in Canton.

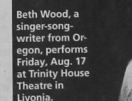
The show, about residents in a home for aging performers, continues through Sunday. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, 2 p.m.; and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

The play tells the story of the actors, singers and musicians who to save their home from the tax collector and from the

greedy son of an attorney intent on selling the property and turning it into a shopping mall.

The Still Got it Players is the senior troupe with in Spotlight Players, resident community theater group at the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students, and \$11 for groups. They're available online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater.



Beth Wood, a singer-songwriter from Oregon, performs Friday, Aug. 17 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

It's easy being cheesy

A grown-up grilled cheese sandwich



Smoky Bacon Cheddar Panini

A classic grilled cheese sandwich is one of the iconic foods of childhood. And while plenty of people still enjoy a basic grilled cheese, many are looking for ways to take their favorite sandwich from the kiddie table to the grownup table.

Of course, your choice of cheese is the key to the perfect sandwich. Different types of cheese will provide unique flavors and textures. Flavored cheese slices lay a tasty foundation for a wide variety of sandwich toppings. And certain cheeses, such as Borden Grilled Cheese Melts, are made specifically for their creamy consistency when melted.

Experimenting with new ingredients can also dress up everybody's favorite sandwich. Create your own signature sandwich with additions such as:

- Fresh or sun dried tomatoes
 - Bacon or prosciutto
 - Avocado
 - Fresh herbs such as sage, basil, oregano or cilantro
 - Jalapeño
 - Pickles
 - Roasted red peppers
 - Caramelized onions
 - Flavored cheese slices such as Southwest Pepperjack, Smoked Cheddar or Applewood Bacon Cheddar
 - Apple or pear slices
 - Dijon or honey mustard
 - Smoked or mesquite turkey
- You can also change things up with different breads. Try pumpernickel, rye, seven-grain, sourdough or English muffin bread.

To find more deliciously cheesy recipes you can feel good about sharing with your family, visit www.FriendsofElsie.com.

Super Apple Ham-n-Cheese

- 2 slices whole grain bread
 - 1 tablespoon butter, softened
 - 1/2 tablespoon honey mustard
 - 1 slice extra sharp cheddar
 - 2 large slices deli ham
- 1/2 apple, peeled and cut in thin slices
- Spread one side of each slice of bread with butter. Then spread opposite side of bread with honey mustard. Place one slice of bread butter side down in skillet over medium heat. Layer one slice of cheese, ham and apple. Spread second piece of bread with honey must-



Super Apple Ham and Cheese



Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

tard and place honey mustard side down on top of sandwich. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, flipping to ensure each side is golden brown and cheese is melted.

Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 slices white or wheat bread
- 2 slices Borden Grilled Cheese Melts
- 1 tablespoon orange marmalade

and cheese is melted.

Smoky Bacon Cheddar Turkey Panini Melts

- 1 cup yellow onion, cut into strips
 - 1 tablespoon canola oil
 - 8 slices sourdough bread
 - 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 - 8 slices turkey (about 8 ounces)
 - 8 slices smoked cheddar slices
 - 1/2 cup roasted red peppers pieces, drained
- Heat oil in small skillet over medium heat; add onions and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until tender-crisp. Spread mayonnaise evenly onto one side of each bread slice. Layer 2 slices turkey, 2 slices cheese, grilled onions and roasted red peppers evenly on each of 4 bread slices. Close each with top half of sandwich. Spread butter on top and bottom of sandwiches; grill in skillet or clamshell panini grill until cheese melts and bread is toasted.

Cheddar-Apple Pie Panini

- 1 slice Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles
- Sensations
- 1 slice Granny Smith apple
 - Dash of apple pie seasoning
 - 2 slices bread of choice
- Butter
- Lightly butter panini grill. Slice bread in thick slices; place a slice of Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles Sensations on one slice of bread, and top with a slice of Granny Smith apple. Top the apple slice with a dash of apple pie seasoning or cinnamon. Finally, place the top slice of bread onto the sandwich, and grill until nicely browned.

Grilled Bacon-Cheddar-Sundried Tomato

- 2 slices Applewood Bacon Cheddar
 - Sun-dried tomatoes — not oil packed
 - 2 slices sourdough or seeded rye bread
- A twist on the standard grilled cheese — prepare by buttering sourdough or other artisan bread on one side and grill in fry pan — put cheese and sun dried tomatoes between slices and grill until cheese is melted and bread is browned.

Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Sharks and burgers

FARMINGTON HILLS — Jaws Juno Burgers will wrap up its Shark Week Friday, Aug. 17. The restaurant, located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road, is showing movies about sharks this week. For more information call (248) 855-2228.

In the pink

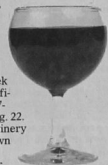
PLYMOUTH — Kids, their dolls and escorts can participate in a Victorian-style tea, complete with tea sandwiches and desserts from Jeff Zak Cater-

ing, Aug. 24 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one child and \$18 for each additional person. Buy tickets at the museum or online at www.plymouthhistory.org, using PayPal. The fun starts at noon and will include storytelling, dressing up a glamour photo, and a make and take craft after the tea. The museum is located at 155 Main. (734) 455-8940.

Wine tasting

LIVONIA — d.vine fine wines is tak-

ing registration for a tasting with Bob Morus, of Phelps Creek Vineyards and Mt. Deffiance Wine Company, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22. This small boutique winery focuses on estate grown Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Cost is \$20 for Wine Club members and \$25 for non-members. Call (734) 432-3800.





By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am wondering in a condemnation matter whether evidence of environmental contamination and remediation costs is admissible to reduce the condemnation award?

A: There was a recent decision out of Illinois which found that evidence of environmental contamination is no different than evidence of a leaky basement, a cracked foundation or a dilapidated roof. The court reasoned that if the damage and costs of repair would influence a purchaser in determining how much to pay for the land, then such evidence is relevant to fair market value and admissible in a condemnation proceeding. It should be noted that only 12 states have addressed this issue and a slim majority has allowed consideration of contamination and mediation costs in determining fair market value. You are best advised to consult with your real estate lawyer.

Q: I have always thought that when you are enforcing a deed restriction, the court will balance the equities, so to speak, in terms of the enforceability of the restriction. What do you think about that?

A: While each case is unique to its own facts, in a recent appellate decision out of Rhode Island, the court reasoned that a land owner that deliberately violates restrictive covenants must remove the offending structures without the benefit of the balancing of equities. The court indicated that, ordinarily, the court proceeds with a restriction disproportionately harms the defendant with little benefit to the plaintiff, a court may balance the equities, but the benefit of that doctrine is generally reserved for an innocent party that proceeds with a restriction despite its knowledge that he or she is encroaching upon another's property rights. If the parties, however, are not innocent, and they constructed a home that they knew violated at least some of the restrictions in that particular case, they will be ordered to tear down the premises.

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 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisnerlaw.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate career seminar

Learn about the \$50 Income Guarantee 6:30-7:30 p.m. today at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, in Plymouth. For more information contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or mworkman@kw.com.

Finance seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit! Hear from an expert in 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.

Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes down to an honest assessment of what you can afford.

Buying a home: Prepare by getting your finances in order

For those considering buying a home, the current real estate market presents some unique opportunities. One of the side effects of the economic roller-coaster ride of the past few years is that home prices have gone down and more homes have gone on the market. For buyers, that means more choices and better deals. However, those same tumultuous years also can also teach buyers a lesson: Make smart buying decisions and be wise with your finances.

Impulsive buying is never a good idea when it comes to a purchase as significant as a home, but it was something of a trend at the height of the mid-2000s. Now, with banks lending far more cautiously, you need to be absolutely certain that your finances are in order—and healthy—to be able to get the best deal on

your purchase.

There are a number of steps you can take to get ready to buy a home, and you might need to work on them simultaneously. Consider that you'll need to start saving, if you haven't already, but you'll also need to review your credit score and do what you can to either maintain it or work toward healthier credit. Both of these tasks will help make the home-buying process better for you.

Your credit is an important factor in determining the terms under which you can get a mortgage. Broadly speaking, the better your credit is, the more positively you'll be viewed by lenders—and that can lead to better interest rates. And because you'll be paying off your home for years to come, it's important to get the best rate possible.

Start by checking your credit report. You're entitled to one free check of your report, from TransUnion and other credit reporting agencies every year. As much as you need to check your report to find out what shape your credit is in, it's also essential to review it for inaccuracies or fraudulent activity, both of which can have a negative impact on your score.

If your credit health needs some work, start taking action immediately. Paying bills on time, reducing your overall debt and limiting new credit inquiries can all help to build your credit—but be patient, as it can take time for your positive actions to take effect. Nevertheless, the sooner you make the effort, the sooner you'll see results.

Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes

down to an honest assessment of what you can afford. Keep in mind that you might be approved for a loan that's larger than what is practical for you to afford. While it may be tempting to buy a pricier house, the stress of struggling to make payments could diminish your enjoyment of your new home and even put you at financial risk. One rule of thumb is that most borrowers can afford a home loan that runs about 21 times their annual salary.

Buying a home is a complex process, but one that is ultimately very rewarding when done right. By organizing your finances well in advance, you'll help set yourself up for success. For more information about credit and buying a home, visit www.transunion.com.

— Courtesy ARA

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the Observer & Eccentric-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	
248 Churchhouse Dr.	\$115,000
49767 Courtyard Ln.	\$165,000
685 Foothill Dr.	\$85,000
50177 Grant St.	\$241,000
47231 Hanford Rd.	\$232,000
8234 Holly Dr.	\$110,000
42428 Peppervood St.	\$184,000
44275 Postmill Ct.	\$130,000
265 Shana St.	\$160,000
45825 Spinning Wheel Dr.	\$200,000
41500 Stafford Ct.	\$140,000
1244 W Crystal Cir.	\$215,000
GARDEN CITY	
32507 Bridge St.	\$61,000
31027 Florence St.	\$23,000
LIVONIA	
16111 Golfview St.	\$224,000
9910 Henry Ruffl Rd.	\$129,000
14542 Hurst St.	\$130,000
11807 Hunters Park Ct.	\$238,000
29645 Jacquelyn Dr.	\$135,000

35646 Joy Rd.	\$88,000
37563 Kingsbury St.	\$140,000
16186 Lathers St.	\$52,000
15605 Mayfield St.	\$77,000
11431 Merriman Rd.	\$88,000
11208 Middlebelt Rd.	\$26,000
31624 Pembroke St.	\$76,000
29100 Terrence St.	\$155,000
32825 W Chicago St.	\$133,000
NORTHVILLE	
16744 Bradner Rd.	\$224,000
16726 Country Knoll Dr.	\$220,000
16185 Pine Valley Dr.	\$75,000
17745 Rolling Woods Cir.	\$421,000
PLYMOUTH	
11827 Amherst Ct.	\$220,000
1682 Cassidy Place Dr.	\$139,000
49903 Cooke Ave.	\$461,000
1530 Nantucket Rd.	\$150,000
1542 Nantucket Rd.	\$165,000
9183 Redbud Ave.	\$178,000
1195 S Sheldon Rd.	\$27,000
13508 Westbrook Rd.	\$15,000
REDFORD	
12920 Brady	\$70,000
13542 Brady	\$70,000

14162 Breakfast Dr.	\$153,000
14204 Breakfast Dr.	\$151,000
14266 Breakfast Dr.	\$142,000
20492 Centralia	\$20,000
26720 Joy Rd.	\$15,000
26720 Joy Rd.	\$7,000
19328 Kinloch	\$15,000
19319 Lexington	\$53,000
16216 MacArthur	\$40,000
14207 Marshall Dr.	\$129,000
25501 Saint Martins Ave.	\$20,000
18711 Woodworth	\$13,000
WESTLAND	
37269 Amhurst Dr.	\$80,000
32727 Avondale St.	\$7,000
31816 Bay Ct.	\$9,000
8149 Beatrice	\$95,000
31123 Beechnut St.	\$67,000
35805 Canyon Dr.	\$71,000
32018 Cheyobgan Ct.	\$4,000
111 Daniel Ave.	\$72,000
35469 Farragut St.	\$4,000
34665 Hazelwood St.	\$46,000
32222 Oxocda Ct.	\$4,000
8208 Parkside Dr.	\$19,000
33725 Tawass Trl	\$95,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

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

BEVERLY HILLS	
32461 Beaconsfield St.	\$310,000
20301 Elwood St.	\$148,000
18175 Kinross Ave.	\$303,000
19175 W Bell Vine Trl.	\$430,000
32757 White Oaks Tr.	\$450,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
30375 Oakview Way	\$232,000
BIRMINGHAM	
909 Bird Ave.	\$470,000
928 Chapin Ave.	\$500,000
672 Chester St.	\$400,000
2655 E Maple Rd.	\$28,000
33800 East Ave.	\$180,000
1311 Henrietta St.	\$480,000
852 Henrietta St. # 854	\$535,000
1893 Maryland Blvd.	\$176,000
1223 N Elton St.	\$57,000
1818 Yorkshire Rd.	\$280,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
2332 Squirrel Rd.	\$245,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1938 Cragin Dr.	\$300,000
674 E Fox Hills Dr.	\$39,000

1758 S Hill Blvd.	\$138,000
5770 Snowshoe Cir	\$390,000
6080 Snowshoe Cir	\$269,000
5165 Woodlands Ln.	\$250,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
22236 Alverhill St.	\$90,000
31625 Belmont St.	\$141,000
37167 Berkeleigh Ct.	\$285,000
34772 Birchcrest Way	\$295,000
34727 Bunker Hill Dr.	\$145,000
27636 E Echo Vly	\$41,000
10340 Essex Dr.	\$160,000
21884 Flanders St.	\$130,000
35767 Frederickburg Rd.	\$200,000
30831 Hunters Dr #23	\$67,000
36172 Old Homestead Dr.	\$165,000
25931 Power Rd.	\$235,000
35361 Stratton Hill Ct.	\$355,000
24089 Susan Dr.	\$205,000
27716 Westcott Crescent Cir.	\$92,000
FRANKLIN	
55875 Romany Way	\$450,000
30656 Woodside Dr.	\$334,000
MILFORD	
2886 Lorien Dr.	\$186,000
653 Sweetbriar	\$105,000
NOVI	
45119 Bartlett Dr.	\$369,000

22649 Foxmoor Dr.	\$259,000
1148 Halffield St.	\$45,000
51159 Halffield St.	\$45,000
27023 Ladbroke St.	\$45,000
27039 Victoria Rd.	\$45,000
28188 Wolcott Dr.	\$104,000
SOUTH LYON	
26480 Farvia Cir	\$305,000
37923 Edgewood Dr.	\$49,000
58731 Peters Barn Dr	\$335,000
338 Princeton Dr.	\$42,000
24845 Ravine Dr.	\$2,000
24845 Ravine Dr.	\$100,000
26820 Willowbrook Dr.	\$61,000
SOUTHFIELD	
17260 Gateway Cir	\$39,000
29480 Marshall St.	\$65,000
10123 Oak Creek Dr.	\$115,000
28177 Selkirk St.	\$35,000
29441 Tiffany Dr W	\$45,000
5000 Towson Cir.	\$42,000
18824 Webster Ave	\$105,000
18405 Westhampton Ave	\$23,000
27320 Westhampton Rd.	\$723,000
20815 Winchester St.	\$73,000
WHITE LAKE	
211 Horizon Rd.	\$98,000
658 Red Bank Dr.	\$285,000

