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Rouge run

Friends of the Rouge and Canton Township host the third annual 5K Run/Walk along the Rouge River Saturday, Sept. 29.

The route follows a scenic trail along the lower branch of the Rouge River, showcasing the unique natural features of the river. There may be a little mud and uneven surfaces. The run is timed and prizes will be awarded to the top female and male finishers for each age category. Proceeds benefit the public education programs coordinated by Friends of the Rouge, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon in Canton. For more information or to sign up, visit www.therouge.org.

Village Faire

Canton's annual Village Faire is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26, at Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge. This popular event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will provide many educational and entertaining activities.

The event features living history demonstrations, provided by the Sisters of Union, who will be onsite cooking and sewing in period garb.

No registration is required. To learn more about Village Faire, visit Cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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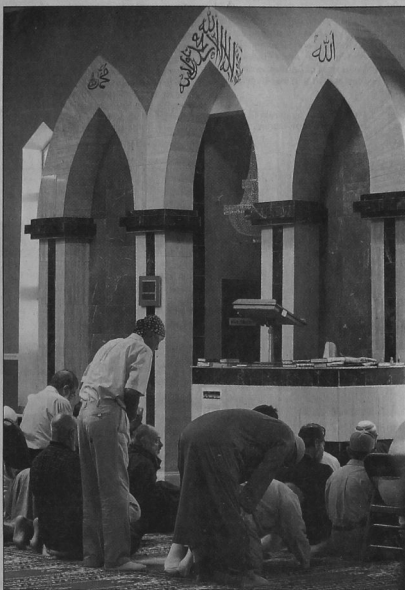
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Gathering for prayer in the masjid.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Message of tolerance

Mosque meal hopes for understanding

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Delivering an embracing Ramadan message inside the Canton Mosque, Mohammed Tayssir Safi, the Muslim chaplain for the University of Michigan, said the Islamic religion is often wrongly perceived as excluding certain people.

"It doesn't matter what race or ethnicity — it accepts everyone," he said. Safi's message of tolerance came Thursday evening as the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs marked the waning days of Ramadan, the holiest month of Islam, by inviting people of all faiths to share a sunset meal that ended a day of fasting for Muslims.

Canton-based Muslims sought to promote understanding and tolerance by teaching that Ramadan is a time to strengthen ties to God, partly by fasting and avoiding sex from dawn to sunset so that attention can be given to their faith.

"It's that traversing a path toward God," said Safi, who teaches Arabic at U-M and who was formerly the Canton Mosque's youth coordinator.

The mosque's latest community outreach effort followed earlier events such as a 9/11 observance last September and clothing drives to help area



Mohammed Tayssir Safi talks about Islam and its relationship with other religions. He is the Muslim chaplain and teacher of the Arabic language at the University of Michigan.

families in need. The gathering came as Muslims across America continue to face discrimination and violence in places such as Murfreesboro, Tenn., where a mosque finally was set to open this week after years of opposition and court challenges, and in Joplin, Mo., where a second fire deemed suspicious destroyed a mosque.

Muslims misunderstood

Even though Muslims believe in God, often called Allah, Safi said they have become increasingly misunderstood in recent years.

Please see **RAMADAN, A5**

Canton lowers the boom on big fireworks

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton has given final approval to a clampdown to partially silence the boom of Roman candles, bottle rockets and other fireworks that Michigan lawmakers began allowing this year to usher in new revenue and halt smuggling from other states.

Canton's ban starts Thursday to prohibit use of the more powerful fireworks except for three-day periods around national holidays, when state lawmakers blocked such restrictions.

Canton Fire Chief Tim Dunn sided with elected township board officials who voted Tuesday to approve the restrictions.

"It's definitely a good thing just to prevent injuries and limit the use of these fireworks," Dunn said. "Last July Fourth, everybody was complaining. People were shoot-

ing off fireworks well into the night. By having the new ordinance, it will minimize all that stuff."

Moreover, the state rules could be changed to become more restrictive if state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, manages to get one or more bills passed.

One bill would scale back from 10 national holidays to just three — Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day — when revelers could shoot off Roman candles, bottle rockets and other such fireworks.

LeBlanc had initially supported easing state fireworks laws — a decision he regrets because he believes most Michigan residents are "tired of the constant explosions" ushered in by the relaxed rules.

"I regret having voted for it," he said, "and I'd like to fix it."

Please see **FIREWORKS, A3**

Canton mom in national pageant

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton resident Lisa Hemmie has served in the U.S. Marine Corps, drawn attention to special-needs children, worked in radio sales for the Disney/ABC group and achieved a successful career as director of Premier Athletics/Michigan Xtreme Cheer and Dance in Plymouth.

She has been involved in charity projects for Toys for Tots, Mott Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House and Autos for Autism, which raises money for Garden City's Burger Center. One of her newest efforts involves helping to produce an anti-bullying video for an Ann Arbor-based, nationally syndicated television program *The Ariel & Zoey Show*.

Hemmie, a 43-year-old married mother of two, isn't just another pretty face as she prepares to represent the state of Michigan Aug. 23-29 during the Mrs. America Pageant in Tuscon, Ariz. She is among 51 women from all U.S. states and Washington, D.C., in the competition.

"I'm ecstatic," she said, realizing her opportunity can open doors for proj-



Lisa Hemmie of Canton represents the state as Mrs. Michigan in the Mrs. America Pageant in Tuscon, Ariz., this week.

ects she holds dear. "It's very exciting."

Beauty sleep

Crowned Mrs. Michigan last March, Hemmie isn't afraid to lose a little beauty sleep for issues important to her. Sitting in a Cherry Hill Village coffee-house Tuesday morning, she had received just four hours sleep after flying in from California, where she was involved as a national advisory board member for the U.S. All-Star Cheerleading Federation.

Please see **PAGEANT, A7**

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"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will place on a space-availability basis. Send details to bkadach@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 Barnabei from 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



Spotlight on 'Lady'

Canton's own Christine Kapusk Moore draws the plum role of Eliza Doolittle as the Spotlight Players bring "My Fair Lady" to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill stage next month. The show opens Sept. 14 and runs through Sept. 23, with 7:30 p.m. performances Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. matinee performances Saturdays and Sundays. Also in the cast: Canton's Patrick McKane as Alfie Doolittle, Anne Coutier of Canton as Mrs. Eynford-Hill and Denise Stafford of Canton as Mrs. Higgins. Tickets are available at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or on-line at www.spotlightplayers.org.

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 email kgladden@cantonline.org.

SENIOR FUN DAY

Date/Time: Wednesday, Aug. 22, noon-3 p.m.

Location: Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne

Details: Wayne Bowl sponsors a free Senior Fun Day featuring free bowling, coffee and snacks. Participants must be at least 50 years old.

Contact: Call (734) 721-7530 or visit www.Wayne-Bowl.com

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. Wednesday, Aug. 22; City of Plymouth: 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23; First United Methodist Church of Plymouth: 10 a.m. 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; VFW Post 6995 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.

POM CLINIC

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

Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

Details: The Canton Chieftettes host their pom 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 or call (734) 397-1782 for more information.

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Blitz brings school supplies for needy kids

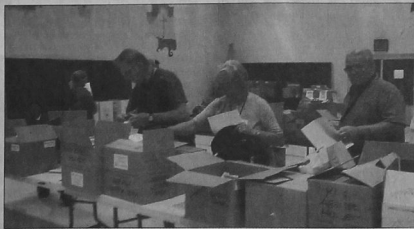
By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Staffers at the Plymouth Salvation Army know back-to-school time can be an expensive one, especially in a struggling economy.

For the fifth year, the Salvation Army is doing something about it.

This week, the Army will be collecting donations for its annual Back 2 School Blitz in an effort to help make it easier for needy families to meet the back-to-school burden. Donations will be collected starting Monday, and distribution takes place 1-6 p.m. Friday at the Corps headquarters, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth.

The Plymouth Salvation Army serves Canton, the



Ken Sullivan and Marge and Wayne Cooper helped with last year's Back 2 School Blitz, sponsored by the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Plymouth, Northville and Belleville. The Belleville blitz happens 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at Twisted Rooster Restaurant, 9729

Belleville Road. "Folks are continuing to struggle with their budgets," said Laurie Aren, the Salvation

Army's director of family and community ministries. "It's expensive to send multiple kids back to school."

Toward that end, Back 2 School Blitz seeks to outfit backpacks with a variety of school supplies. The Corps' school supply "wish list" includes standard items such as colored and @2 pencils, crayons, notebooks, glue sticks and bottles, markers, backpacks, scissors, yellow highlighters, socks/underwear, binders, pens, erasers, rulers, supply boxes/bags, composition books and pocket folders.

As of Friday, Aren said, more than 300 families had signed up. Aren said they're expecting more than 400 to register by drive's end.

Frank Ruggirello, Plymouth-Canton's director of community relations, said drives like this one are a

huge benefit to students in the district.

"Any program that helps get these kids ready for school is a blessing," Ruggirello said. "School supplies are tight, and this program makes sure kids have the necessary supplies to help them develop a positive learning experience."

Families can pick up their supplies Friday. The student-run radio station serving Plymouth-Canton Schools, 88.1 The Escape, will be on hand for the event.

Families can still sign up by calling the Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464 or email laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

FIREWORKS

Continued from page A1

Citing concerns about fires, injuries and neighborhood noise, the Canton Township Board of Trustees gave final approval Tuesday to the new ordinance that prohibits the more powerful fireworks except on national holidays, the day before and the day after.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin was among the earlier supporters of the change, saying she had "visions of badly burned property" after the state relaxed its fireworks laws.

Even before the Fourth of July holiday, Deputy Fire Chief Josh Meier had reported at least one Canton fireworks injury that required hospi-

tal care.

State lawmakers and Gov. Rick Snyder had supported easing the laws — a move supporters said would bring in millions of dollars in revenue from licensing fees and sales taxes from retailers cashing in on the changes.

Canton's ban applies year-round except for the 10 national holidays, though it has a provision allowing applicants to seek a permit and get a Canton Fire Department inspection to use the fireworks for events such as weddings and cultural celebrations.

LeBlanc commended Canton's action. "I'm glad Canton did it," he said, and he hopes his colleagues in the state Legislature are hearing the complaints he has heard since the relaxed laws took effect early this year.

LeBlanc already had introduced one bill to the House Regulatory and Reform Committee to allow local governments to have zoning control over fireworks, essentially forcing retailers to sell them from permanent structures rather than tents and other makeshift locations.

A second bill being drafted would make the permanent-structure rule a statewide law.

LeBlanc's third bill, also being drafted, would not only limit the more powerful fireworks to Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day — it also would give local communities more power even on those days to regulate the hours revelers can shoot them off.

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August a boom for Farmers Market

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

August has become a boon for farmers and hundreds of patrons who have been swarming the Canton Farmers Market, marking its fifth year on the township's far west side.

"We had a great day at the market last Sunday with over 750 attending," Tina Lloyd, market manager, said. "It's probably one of the highest attendances we've had for a regular season market."

The market, located in Preservation Park on Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill, returns 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today (Sunday) as patrons continue to support Michigan farmers and vendors who bring seasonal produce, smoked fish, summer sausage and numerous other foods and items such as wooden birdhouses and hand-crafted soaps.

An even bigger spillover crowd is expected Sunday, Aug. 26, when Canton's annual Village Faire occurs 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Preservation Park.

The Village Faire celebrates Canton's history and heritage by allowing attendees to watch living history demonstrations provided by the Sisters of Union, who will be on site cooking and sewing in period clothing.

Village Faire also includes music, face-painting, a petting farm, guided tours of the historic Bartlett-Travis House and a corn roast sponsored by the Canton Lions Club.

All-you-can-eat wristbands will be available during Village Faire, and no registration is necessary. The event is sponsored by Canton Leisure Services along with the Lions Club and the Canton Historical Society.

Lloyd said the Canton Farmers Market tends to draw one of its biggest crowds of the season during the Village Faire.

The market started in 2007 with an eight-week test run, grew the following year and now opens from spring through Oct. 14.

"The temperatures we had in July made it a little challenging," Lloyd said, but the faithful still turned out and crowds have increased since then.

"We have activities for the whole fam-



August has been a good month for vendors and patrons at Canton's Farmers Market.

ily," she said.

What to expect today:

• Musician Mark Reitenga playing on the Bartlett-Travis porch 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Swap out gently used books at the Market Book Exchange 10 a.m. to noon. Drop off books by 10 a.m.

• Chef Lee Ulrich plans to cook with heirloom tomatoes 10:30 a.m. to noon.

• The Canton Public Library hosts a story time, and the Recreation Station Bouncer is available for jumping. Story times are 10 a.m. and noon.

• Wild Birds Unlimited is set to offer backyard birding tips.

• Bartlett-Travis House tours occur 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Tickets also are available for the upcoming Brew, Brats and Bands at the Barn event, set for 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Cady-Boyer Barn. Over 50 craft and specialty beers will be available to sample.

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RAMADAN

Continued from page A1

Yet, he said Muslims want to worship God, help their communities and raise their families. "They're like everyone." Local Muslims hope to promote understanding by hosting community gatherings. Thursday's meal drew an estimated 45 people, and Muslims are trying to figure out how they can draw larger crowds. Canton mother of two Sarah Mohiuddin said Ramadan signals a time to remember God and bring together the community and families. "It's a time of year when we do a lot more prayer and a lot more remembering of God," she said. "It's a time to help the poor and to give to the people you love." Mohiuddin sought to instill a sense of giving to her children Hamza Syed, 6, and Sumayya, 3, by working with them to make baskets of brownies, cupcakes and dates to give to others. Dates are significant because they are typically the first food to break the Ramadan fast.

Forgiving others
Canton resident Khaled Almoadhoun, 20, said Ramadan is a time to fast and "purify your life" because "when you're fasting, you become more peaceful and more for-

giving" of others.

Another Canton resident, 27-year-old Muhi Khwaja, summed up his thoughts on Ramadan by calling it "a time to internally reflect on how we can be better in every way."

As Saffi gave his address, images of Ramadan prayers and celebrations from around the world flashed on a screen. Upstairs in the Canton Mosque, scores of Muslims bowed on a carpeted floor and prayed to God.

Saffi said many Americans mistakenly believe that Muslims only recently came to the United States. He said it is believed that 15-20 percent of slaves who were brought here were, in fact, Muslim.

"It's a revisionist history to think that we're new here," Saffi said, though the next wave of Muslims only occurred after the civil rights era of the 1960s.

Saffi said the word Islam means to submit to God, and he said it contains three foundations: outward worship, a belief in God, and spirituality that involves purification of one's self.

"Muslims are called to be good citizens," he said. To that end, local Muslims have vowed to continue to reach out with good deeds from the Canton Mosque to the larger community. They hope their efforts can lead to better understanding not just during Ramadan, but year-round.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Saima Mohammad lights candles.



Muhi Khwaja calls Ramadan "a time to internally reflect on how we can be better in every way."



Sarah Mohiuddin says she is teaching her children the need to help others.



A little boy munches on a date as adults pray the Maghrib, the fourth of five daily prayers, just after sunset.

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Teachers transition to all-day K

By Brad Kadric
Observer Staff Writer

The last time Amy Conn taught kindergarten, it was half-day classrooms at Field Elementary School in Canton.

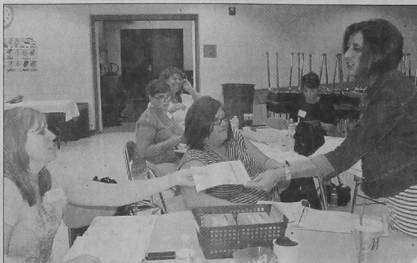
When next she steps into a classroom Conn, now a kindergarten teacher at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools kindergarten teachers face: A full-day curriculum.

It's the first year for an all-day kindergarten program for P-CCS schools, which switched to the format after the state cut funding in half for half-day kindergarten students. "It's just going to look a lot different," said Conn, who last taught kindergarten four years ago at Field. "I'm looking at it in terms of teaching first grade. A lot of what I did teaching first grade will be an asset in all-day kindergarten."

To get ready for the transition, kindergarten teachers throughout the district spent two days this summer in a sort of retreat, all-day training sessions designed to prepare teachers for curriculum changes that will bring the district in line with state core curriculum standards.

All curriculum areas were studied — including math, science and social studies — but teachers feel those areas of study are already "pretty good."

That's why much of the work had to do with increasing literacy levels, vocabularies and "stretching the curriculum out,"



PHOTOS BY PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Smith Elementary kindergarten teacher and trainer Maureen Visser hands out All-Day Kindergarten information to Tonda Elementary kindergarten teacher Cathryn Pumper.



Field Elementary kindergarten teacher Angela Wlosinski takes in the details of the all-day kindergarten training.

according to kindergarten teacher Maureen Visser, who helped organize the workshops.

"We call it 'lingering over learning,'" Visser said. "We want to give (students) the time to see it in practice and learn to do it themselves."

Time in the workshops was also spent on writing, "class meetings" which will be added to classrooms, and music, all of

which Visser said will still be key components of kindergarten learning. She said socialization will still be a big part of what students learn.

"But we have more time now," Visser said. "We're not squeezing into three hours what we really need six hours to teach."

That extra time, according to kindergarten teacher Eric Stamper, will also be beneficial to teachers,

who will be able to develop better relationships with students they've got all day, rather than just a few hours.

"The advantage is getting to know the kids better," said Stamper, in his fourth year as a kindergarten teacher. "With half-day, they're in and out so quickly. When you can build that better relationship with the kids, it makes everything easier."

Parents worried their child might not be able to adjust to the rigors of an all-day classroom setting needn't be concerned, according to Visser. After all, she pointed out, it's not like they're going to be trapped at a desk all day long.

"Kids need movement, they're up and moving, they're very active," Visser said. "They still need an opportunity to be S."

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RESA tax won't be on county ballot

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Back in May, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education voted to urge Wayne RESA to put a 2-mill tax increase on the November ballot to fund school operations.

But Wayne County voters won't get the chance to approve it because the proposal failed to gain enough support from other local school boards, including Livonia.

School boards representing at least 50 percent of the K-12 students in the county had to request by Tuesday that Wayne RESA place the proposal on the November ballot. The proposal was supported by just 44.3 percent, 5.7 percent short of the minimum requirement.

"It will not be on the ballot," Wayne RESA Superintendent Christopher Wigent said, adding that Tuesday was the deadline for making it onto the ballot.

The Livonia board was the last to vote on a motion requesting Wayne RESA put the proposal on the ballot. It voted 4-3 Monday against it.

The vote was the same back in May when the Plymouth-Canton Board took up the measure, except they voted in favor of the proposal.

"It's a source of revenue for us that would

not be available anywhere else," Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Jeremy Hughes told Plymouth-Canton board members at the time. "Budget projections over the next few years show us continuing to have deficits. I think all of us believe the Michigan economy will be getting better ... this is something that could tide us over."

Wigent said Livonia's vote would have made the difference. Had members approved the request, it would have been on the ballot.

But, he said, it's not fair to blame the Livonia board for the proposal not going before voters. "All the districts decided it," he said, adding Livonia just happened to vote on it last. "Had it not been Livonia (voting last), it would have been another district."

He said the boards for each of the 34 school districts in the county had to consider their financial, political and tax situations. He said it was a "community-by-community" decision, and he respected the local decision-making process.

Under the proposal, Wayne County RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) would have collected the tax and then redistributed it to districts in Wayne County based on the number of students each had enrolled.

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PAGEANT

Continued from page A1

"I represent 14 states in my region," she said. By Wednesday afternoon, she had boarded a plane to Dallas for a similar meeting. Hemmie has worked hard to help young people, particularly girls, learn the importance of team work, good health and community involvement, in hopes she can inspire them to be confident and reach their potential.

Stacey Sherman, media director for Mrs. Michigan, said Hemmie has steadfastly fought against any stereotypes that pageant critics aim toward contestants. Even as a young woman, Hemmie enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and graduated with honors. She had active duty, and her years of service including helping to plan and oversee motor transport operations.

Wowing the judges

A Milan native, she studied marketing and advertising at Eastern Michigan University, then worked as an account executive for



Hemmie

has used her title as Mrs. Michigan to promote the importance of volunteerism and the impact people can have on their communities.

Despite her busy schedule, she finds time for her husband of 17 years, Michael, an active-duty U.S. Marine, and their children Brandon, 15, a Salem High School sophomore, and Keila, 21, a Western Michigan University student.

"She's amazing," Sherman said. "It's exciting we have such a good representative from our state (competing in the Mrs. America Pageant)."

Hemmie will compete in interview, fitness and evening gown competition, so she'll try to wow judges with both intelligence and glamour. When she was named Mrs. Michigan, she won in categories for community service, fitness and interview.

As she prepares for the pageant, local residents who want to boost her chances of winning may go to www.mrsamerica.com and click on the delegates link to vote for her. It costs \$1, but the money

goes to charity. There's one caveat: Sherman said voting is expected to end at midnight Monday.

The website also will stream the competition live.

Closer to home, Hem-

mie is available to appear at events such as business openings, conventions, church or school functions, banquets, parades and civic occasions. To book her for an event, con-

tact Sherman by e-mail at media.MrsMI2012@gmail.com or by phone at (734) 564-6640.

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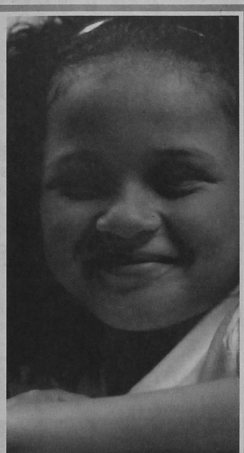


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The 36-hole medal play men's event follows Sunday, Sept. 2, at Livonia's Fox Creek and Monday, Sept. 3 at Whispering Willows golf courses.

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

Entries for the men's tourney, limited to the first 120 golfers, close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27. The entry fee is \$95 (does not include cart). To participate you must have a USGA index handicap (maximum of 20).

The men's event also includes a 17-and-under boys junior division. The entry fee is \$49.

You can register in person at Whispering Willows, located at 20500 Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile.

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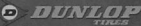
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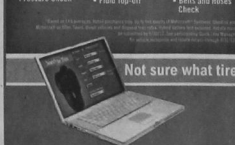
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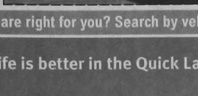
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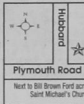
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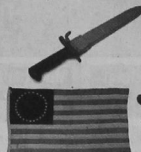
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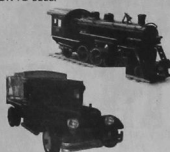
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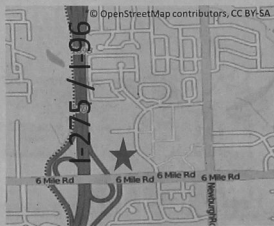
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Five file for two seats in W-W school election

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will choose between five candidates to fill two seats on the school board in the November school election.

Appointed school board member Frederick Weaver will be joined by former board member Jeffrey Hayton and newcomers Chandra Cozart, Paul Futch and Sally Madison in the election. Two terms, held by Weaver and board Secretary Cindy Schofield, will be filled in election. Schofield has chosen to step down after serving more than 12 years on the school board.

Weaver was appointed to the school board last

August to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of William Gabriel. This is his second stint on the school board. He was first elected to the board in 2001 and served until 2008 when he resigned after taking a ministerial position in Midland. He returned to the district and his home in Westland last year.

In announcing his intention to seek election to a full term, Weaver said he planned "to stay in and fight for the district."

"My love is for education and I will work diligently to move the school district ahead for the benefit of the students. I will do whatever I can that's within my power to defend what's been accomplished in this district," Weaver said.

A Westland resident,

Hayton also is a familiar face in the district. He was appointed to the school board in February 2011 to fill the remainder of Martha Pitsenberger's term and served until July. Hayton called the experience "intense but rewarding."

He is employed by the State of Michigan, performing quality analysis and systems development work for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget. He has his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and is in the process of earning a second master's degree in public administration.

His decision to seek a term on the school board is because he's "concerned about the direc-

tion that the district is headed financially and academically."

"I want to do what I can make sure that our students graduate with the education and motivation needed to be happy and successful in life," he said. "I know I can provide insight and ideas for changes that are needed to really bring the school district into the 21st century."

Also a Westland resident, Cozart is an attorney, employed with a local nonprofit organization that provides support to more than 3,000 adults and children with developmental disabilities. She also has a practice that focuses on the welfare of children and adults. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit

Mercy Law School.

"If elected school board trustee, I hope to draw on my experience to ensure our community's resources are effectively used to keep our school district competitive, given the current economic climate and the forecast of declining enrollment," she said. "As a stakeholder, I have a vested interest in ensuring the best opportunities will be at the fingertips of current and future students, like my daughter."

Madison, who has lived in the Westland area for more than 30 years, is attending Schoolcraft College where she is studying in the medical field and plans to complete her studies by the spring of 2013. She has been associated with PTA, volunteered in classroom, and have served as treasurer for her former homeowners' association.

"I feel that I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that will help me in being a board member," she said. "I feel the most important position of a board member is being an advocate for students. As a board member, I look forward to helping implement the common core stan-

dards to increase student achievement."

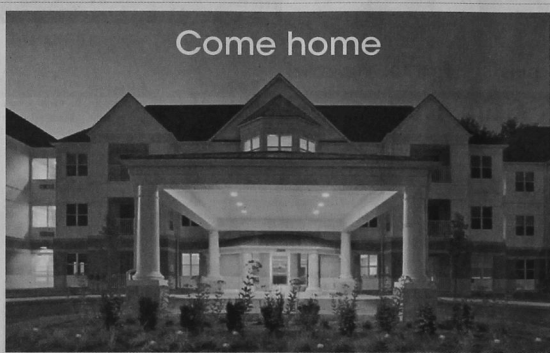
Futch lives in Wayne and is the pastor of True Love Christian Fellowship Church in Romulus. He received his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Arkansas and his master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University. Futch is a chaplain at the Juvenile Detention Center in Detroit and does tutoring at his church for students who need assistance with test-taking skills.

He is running for the school board because he would like to "a voice for the students as well as the families."

"In order for the students to achieve, they must strong support from their families," he said. "I want to be a part of the process that brings about solutions to the issues that we may face as a school district. I have a passion for the success of every student that I will serve."

The top two vote-getters in the Nov. 6 election will receive six-year terms on the school board.

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While voters will select two new trustees in November, the Wayne-Westland school board will have the task of filling a vacancy with the resignation of Trustee Andrea Clawson Aug. 14. Specifics on how the vacant position will be filled should be available through the superintendent's office on Monday, Aug. 20.

In a short three-sentence letter to board President Carol Middel, Clawson indicated that her resignation was "due to a personal decision that will affect my eligibility required to serve as a trustee."

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this position," she wrote. Clawson, who did not respond to a request to be interviewed, was elected to the school board in May 2011. A Westland resident, she was elect-



Clawson

ed board treasurer during an organizational meeting last July. She held the position until Dec. 12, 2011, when the school board accepted her resignation and selected Trustee Shawna Walker to replace her as treasurer.

The board has 30 days after being notified of the vacancy to fill it. If it can't reach a consensus, the decision is made by the Wayne RESA board. That happened last year when the board could not agree on a replacement for William Gabriel. The decision went to the RESA board which selected former board member Frederick Weaver.

— By Sue Mason

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A father's fight

Highland man says son wrongly accused of murder

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Bernie Pyne's life used to be like that of the typical Huron Valley resident.

Weekdays spent on the job to provide for his wife and kids. Family dinners at home each night. Church on Sunday.

Simple, ordinary, pleasant.

Problems were managed, troubles kept under control — including the mental illness which had plagued his wife, Ruth, for several years.

In early 2009, life changed.

Ruth's illness began spiraling out of control as she went through extended periods refusing to take the medication that had kept it at bay.

Over and over and over again, as Ruth's behavior ranged from bawdy to aggressive, Pyne resorted to calling police for help. Ruth would end up hospitalized, forced to take her medication, then sent back home.

Until the next time. It was an extremely stressful and difficult period, Pyne said, as mental illness dug in its claws and robbed the family of normalcy.

Yet it couldn't touch the love that held them together, he said. That was rock solid, impenetrable.

Then, May 27, 2011, Pyne's world came crashing down in a most violent, grisly way. Ruth — his wife of 32 years and mother to his son Jeffrey and daughter Julia — was found murdered in the garage of their Highland Township home.

Gone was the woman who had helped him build a family, a home, a life. Gone was the woman who had caught his eye in high school, captured his heart soon after and never let go.

When Ruth's life ended, so did life as he knew it.

Adding to his heartbreak was knowing she had died in a most brutal way — at the hands of someone else.

As Pyne grieves the loss of his wife — and as he recalls words she spoke to him early in their relationship — he's haunted by feelings of shame and embarrassment, and the sense that he let her down.

"Ruth had said to me once, 'I will always make you laugh, and I will always be safe with you,'" Pyne said, his eyes welling with tears. "As a man, this is the most emasculating thing — to have your wife murdered. It's a torment."

"I still can't believe this happened — it's unimaginable," he added. "Whoever did this to Ruth destroyed the entire family."



Bernie Pyne insists his son Jeff is falsely accused of murder. He said his family was devastated by the death of his wife Ruth and the subsequent arrest of Jeff.

HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'A tender heart'

Detectives with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office say they know who killed Ruth Pyne. They blame Jeffrey, the couple's first-born.

An indictment from Oakland County's citizens' grand jury last October led to the arrest of the then-21-year-old college student. Charged with first-degree murder, he's been jailed since, awaiting a Sept. 10 trial date.

The allegation is the most grave of errors, Pyne said.

"This was an overzealous rush to judgment, right away," he said. "It's very easy to jump to the conclusion that the police are right. But my son is not capable of this. He would never do this."

Jeffrey, he said, "is a tender heart," who never showed any aggression to his mother. They were extremely close, he said, and "did not argue or fight."

Ruth was arrested for "violent incidents" involving Jeffrey in 2009 and 2010 — a slap across the face and grabbing him around the throat, Pyne said. Yet too much has been made of this, he said.

"I hate it that Ruth has been portrayed as a monster," he said, noting Jeffrey wasn't harmed in either case and never struck back.

"If anything, he felt bad for his mom because of her illness," Pyne said. Diagnosed in her late 30s as bipolar with psy-

chotic features, Ruth generally kept the condition under control with medication, Pyne said. But she didn't need the drugs and not take them. Within weeks, signs of the illness would surface, such as laughing for no reason, talking under her breath, not sleeping for days and paranoia. Pyne said he was especially scared for Ruth when she started to believe someone had implanted a tracking device in Julia.

Those were times when he sought help from police — not because she had hurt anyone or there was an imminent threat that she would, but because she needed intervention to force her to take her medication, he explained.

In one instance, police put Ruth in jail rather than have her taken to the hospital like they had for previous calls to the home. She did, however, end up hospitalized in that case, due to a subsequent court order.

Widespread support

Pyne said there is a strong family of people — neighbors, co-workers, friends and members of both his and Ruth's families — who stand alongside him proclaiming his son's innocence.

"I've never had anybody come up and insinuate that they think Jeff did this," he said.

Pyne said he lives "every day wanting to know who did this. And it's not comforting at all to know the police went in

the wrong direction. Until you are in the system, you can't comprehend what it's like," he said.

Yet for those who conclude this is simply a case of a parent refusing to believe his child could commit such a heinous act, Pyne insists that the killer has yet to be caught.

He references a sighting of a hoodie-wearing stranger walking through his backyard and other yards in the neighborhood four days before Ruth's murder. A woman who lives nearby saw the young man and called police.

"She said he was sinister-looking, and scared her," Pyne said.

Oakland County Under-sheriff Mike McCabe, however, said Jeff's arrest followed a "complete and thorough investigation."

"There's no doubt in my mind that Jeff is the responsible party in this. The judge and jury will decide where it goes from here," McCabe said. "It's sad and tragic. But there's no doubt in my mind that we have the right person in custody."

Facing challenges

Along with mourning his wife and his unrelenting determination to "get Jeff home," Pyne must also deal with the day-to-day aspects of running a household.

Until his tragedy, his was the more traditional male role in the family — the main breadwinner working as an automotive engineer, while Ruth was a stay-at-home

mom, handling the cooking and cleaning and most of the other household chores.

Now, Pyne has taken all of it on — admitting that he doesn't even attempt to rival Ruth's talents. He keeps up the house the best he can, and if a meal is "adequate and nutritious," it's good enough for their table.

Following Ruth's death, plenty of people pitched in to help with "the transition," he said. "Now, Julia and I are basically doing it on our own."

Once a deeply religious man, Pyne admits his faith has been compromised by the course his life — and his family's life — has taken. He's also faced with a "financial burden beyond comprehension" to pay for Jeff's defense.

And then there is the challenge of helping 11-year-old Julia cope with the loss of her mother and — at least for now — the loss of a brother. The two siblings were very close, he said, and never had disagreements.

For the most part, Pyne said he hides his pain from Julia. "I try to keep it to myself, to not show it to her. Other times, I do let her see what it has done to me," he said.

Julia has attended only one of Jeff's court appearances, deciding not to return after seeing her brother in custody. "It tore her up to see her brother like that. She just broke down," Pyne said.

For now, Julia is "doing OK," he added. "We do talk about it, about what

happened. But we don't understand it."

Jeffrey shares a jail cell with nine others, and spends his days reading and exercising, Pyne said. "His (attitude) has been pretty good through this," he said. "Jeff knows he didn't do anything and that justice is going to prevail."

Pyne visits Jeffrey at the Oakland County Jail every chance he gets — usually once a week. He struggles with the thought that his son, who he said has never been anything but gentle and caring and never had a fight in his life, now lives amongst "hardened criminals."

"I miss him tremendously," he said.

With just weeks before the trial is set to begin, Pyne said he is "going to trust the Lord will have the truth come out" and that Jeffrey will be acquitted. "Otherwise, none of this makes any sense," he said.

"(Before this), I was just a family man. While (other men) were out enjoying golf, I was traveling to Jeff's basketball games or other activities. We did everything together as a family. And my family has been destroyed."

"I lost my wife, who was just a wonderful beautiful woman, a great mom and a great wife. But the focus now is to get Jeff home," he said. "We're getting on with life the best we can, picking up the pieces and trying to get Jeff home."

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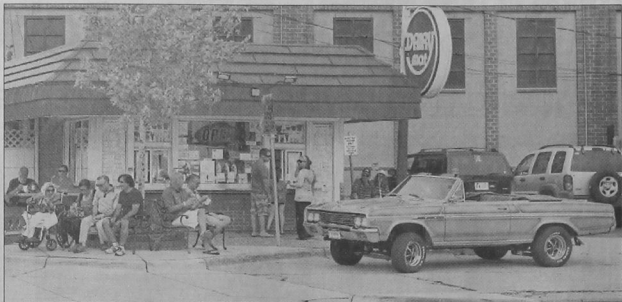
It's about sights,
sounds, smells
... even Elvis

By Jay M. Grossman
Observer Staff Writer

You can see the Woodward Dream Cruise: The cars, the people, the lawn chairs and Elvis impersonators. You can smell it: The onion rings, pizza, hot dogs and hamburgers. You can hear it: The engines, the music, not to mention the passing bits of conversation:



"That looks a lot like a '73 ..."
"Never started the motor ..."
"My parents sold it when I went to college ..."
There are memories: Elliot Erlandson, 18, of Royal Oak, is driving a 1963 Mercury Meteor that he restored in his back yard with his dad.
"We started working on this car when I was 11," he said. "It's been in our family my whole life — it was my high school car."
Tony Maria of Beverly Hills is cruising around in his 1965 Lincoln with the cool rear doors that open from the center.
"This is Christmas in August," said Maria. "This is like reliving your youth, only you get to drive the car you wish you had back then."
There are regulars, like Mike Merwin of Clarkston. He's been at every Dream Cruise since the first one in 1995.
"I'll go up and down the strip, checking out the cars," he said, his lawn chair planted near Woodward and Lincoln.
A million people, over 50,000 cars, lawn chairs for everyone. That's what the Dream Cruise is all about.



The Dairy Mat on Woodward just north of Maple was a hot spot during Dream Cruise week.

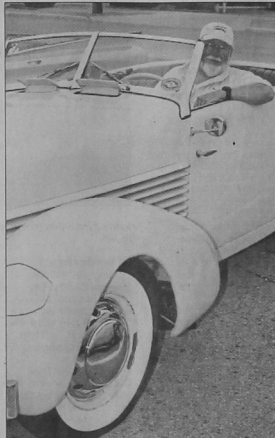
PHOTOS BY CARROLL DEWESE



Mary Doris from Rochester Hills (far left), Heather Swarhout from Birmingham and Cathy Cavellier from Bloomfield Hills enjoy a girls-only picnic out on Woodward.



Mr. Mustard and Mr. Pickle rev up the crowds in front of Hunter House Hamburgers at Maple and Woodward.



Howell resident Bob Rosenthal enjoys the Dream Cruise in a 1936 Cord he salvaged from Katrina in Gulfport, Miss.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kendall Hart of Garden City hopes he's one of the two chosen from the crowd to be on the 'Price Is Right.' If he makes it, he guarantees he'll be within \$1,500 on the value of the showcase.

Fans make pitch to be on popular game show

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Kendall Hart let them know at the registration table that he was a winner.

The Garden City resident was among hundreds of people who turned out at the MTR Westland Grand Cinema 16 in Westland to audition for one of two spots on CBS's popular *Price Is Right* game show.

"I'll be with \$1,500 on the showcase, I guarantee this one," said Hart who has always wanted to be on that show since age three. "I'd watch it with my great-grandma. I knew how to say come on down."

Price Is Right hopefuls were given 30 seconds to introduce themselves and tell producers why they should be one of two individuals selected to fly out to Los Angeles for the show. One person is guaranteed a place on contestants' row.

This was one of five auditions being held for the show in the U.S., and contestant wanna-bes came from near and far.

"We've checked in people from New York and Ohio already," said Melissa Rowe, sales marketing manager for CBS 62 in Detroit. "We did auditions here for *Survivor* in December and our show up. We've had close to 200 register in the first hour, so I think 500 will be a good number for this."

The "Outlaw Grandmas," Jane Pisarski of Hazel Park and Nancy Kinney of Madison Heights, were among hopefuls waiting in a theater for their chance to audition.

"My husband and I watched it, our day never got out until we watched *Price Is Right*," said Pisarski. "No day started right without it." "I watch it faithfully," added Kinney. "I raised a big family and took care of a lot of people, and everyone has told me it's my time to be on the show."

Terry Viegas of Detroit came armed with a vid-



The "Outlaw Grandmas," Nancy Kinney of Madison Heights and Jane Pisarski of Hazel Park, traveled to Westland to audition for the game show.

eo of when her mother appeared on *Price Is Right* 27 years ago.

"I hope the hook will be the show tape," she said. "It was in 1985, Bob Barker had dark hair. I think her daughter should be on it."

Rhonda Gates of Westland believed the stars were in alignment for her chance to make it on the game show. She had put the audition on her bucket list two months ago after seeing announcement in the newspaper, and because son Jacob had had his wisdom teeth out, she had the day off.

"My heart's jumping out of my chest," she said as she waited to go in and do her 30-second pitch.

Officially No. 15 among the contestants, she had written out her speech which highlighted the fact she was a veteran — she served in the U.S. Army — she loved to have fun, and she was there to win prizes. And for good measure, she tossed in that all of her pets are spayed and neutered.

"They're big about responsible pet ownership," she said, adding

that "it's all come together for me. It's my opportunity to win."

Son Jacob was also there, claiming "my mom made me come." His spiel was that it was his 21st birthday "and picking me would be a great birthday present."

This isn't the first time Jerome Weingarden of Westland has auditioned for a game show. He made it to the semifinals in auditions for *Wheel of Fortune* in 2007 and would have made it on the show had he solved the puzzle. He also had a spot on the *Dan Miller Show* in 2009.

"I watch it every day, I've been watching it since 1972," he said. "If I get on the show, I'm going to win."

The auditions are for the fall taping season and the people who auditioned should find out how well they did as soon as Sept. 7.

"How can this not be exciting?" said Arlene Zazula of Westland. "It's the best show, it has the best prizes. I like Drew (Carey), he makes me laugh, and besides, I've never been to L.A."

W-W's board sets goals for superintendent

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

After five hours of meeting over two different days, the Wayne-Westland school board

has reached a consensus on the two goals it wants school Superintendent Greg Baracy to focus on during 2012-13 — improving student achievement and developing a customer service plan for the district.

The board members, working with Scott Morrell of the Michigan Association of School Boards, were able to reach an agreement on Baracy's goals, but will need to meet again to finish work on their goals as a board.

"You need to start being clear with Greg what your expectations are," Morrell told the board. "What I see as success, what (Board President) Carol (Middel) sees as success may not be what all eight of you see as success."

Baracy said he wants to improve student achievement and show growth. While it would be nice to have a magic wand to make that happen, he told the board he will work diligently and take it to the buildings to "make sure we have skilled instruction in the classroom."

"We have to be intent on doing that every day, we have to work with the staff so we have that skillful instruction in the classroom," he said. "Our goal is to make sure that every student achieves."

Research shows that if you engage students

in the classroom they will make every effort to get to class," he said. "It goes back to having skillful teachers in the classroom. That's where the rubber meets the road."

The board spent a considerable amount of time in determining what kind of data it would need to measure growth in student achievement. As part of his review last year, Baracy provided information on state tests — the MEAP and high school MME — as well as ACT which should academic achievement in most areas.

"Are we providing the services? We're setting a goal, but as a goal is it what we're already doing," said Trustee Andrea Clawson. "We need to look at how we will measure student achievement."

Clawson expressed interest in wanting more data that would show student achievement at grade levels, and Paul Salah, the deputy superintendent for instruction, said that while local assessments are used regularly in the district, her request would represent generating thousands of reports. He added that Michigan is in the process of moving to Common Core State Standards that set clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare students for success in college and work and the district has yet to receive information on those assessment.

"We're in the midst of a major transition, the staff is looking at a major shift in how they teach,"

he said.

"I'm concerned that if we pick one subject at one grade level, we're not getting a snapshot of the district," said board Secretary Cindy Schiefel.

In the end the board agreed to have Baracy continue to provide the board with reports on students achievement using data culled from the state's MEAP and MME tests as well as local assessment data as it becomes available.

"Not all our students will achieve 100 percent, but we're going to go for that," Baracy told the board. "Our message is that we are making improvement in more areas than we didn't improve in. MEAP still is valid, reliable data."

The board also is asking Baracy to come up with a comprehensive and dynamic customer service plan that will change the way the district does business and delivers its product to improve students achievement.

Asked by Middel to do a survey of districts in Wayne County with customer service plans, Baracy said the likelihood is that other districts "have probably done nothing."

"If we're going to compete educationally, we have to get our stuff together," he said. "Parents now have choices, they don't just have to come to us. We need to do deeper and take the time to develop this plan."

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Walkers hit the streets to beat breast cancer

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Michele Tanderys and her friend, Cecelia Brown, both of Livonia, had just finished walking 24 miles Friday afternoon.

And they were ready for more, ready to total 60 miles in three days, continuing the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, with two other friends, Pam Smith of Beverly Hills and Melissa Marzotari of Bloomfield Township.

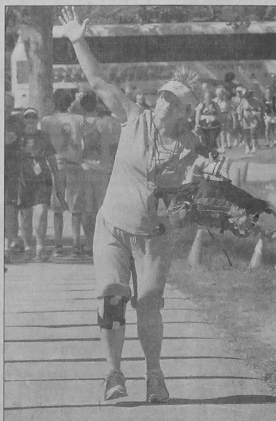
"We're walking for my friend, Missy," Tanderys said of Marzotari, who celebrated her fourth year cancer-free. Brown's mother-in-law is a 10-year survivor.

Last year, the event raised \$4.1 million with 1,500 participants, raising funds and awareness for breast cancer.

The four walkers were some of the 1,100-member contingent that walked from Oakland Mall in Troy through Clawson, Royal Oak, Beverly Hills, Southfield, Farmington Hills and Bloomfield before entering Livonia and camping at Greenmead Historical Park. Nationally, approximately 19,000 walkers participate in 15 walks.

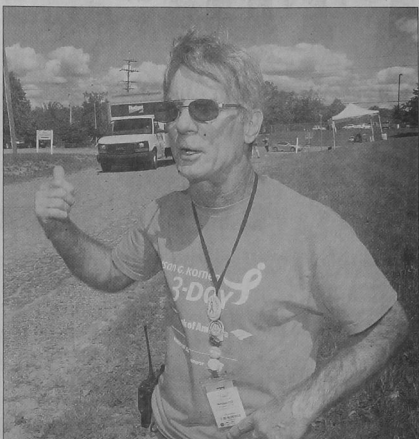
Tanderys, a sixth-grade teacher at Riley Upper Elementary in Livonia, raised \$2,800, and Brown, a first-grade teacher at Moraine Elementary in Northville, raised \$2,600. Both were walking in their first 3 Day. "I feel pretty good," Tanderys said. "I'm pleasantly surprised. My knees are a little wobbly."

"We started training in January and all summer. We could not have asked



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Kim Minito, of Livonia, dances her way into camp at the end of the 24-mile hike.



Volunteer Tom Liske is from Livonia.



Pam Smith of Beverly Hills, Cecelia Brown and Michelle Tanderys, both of Livonia, and Melissa Marzotari of Bloomfield Township, entering camp after the first day of the event.



Jill Buth, of Coopersville, enjoys a few moments of bliss, sitting in a massage chair and eating an ice cream sandwich

for better weather." Dr. Sheri Phillips, spokesperson for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, said money raised by the walkers helps provide more personalized medicine to bedside for patients, funds research and promotes early screening and educational programs. Approximately \$740 million was raised since 1982, Phillips said.

"Breast cancer death rates have dipped by 33 percent since 1990," Phillips said. "The five-year survival rate for early cancer was 74 percent in 1982. That is now 99 percent."

Phillips said the turnout for the Detroit walk was fabulous, noting it had nearly as many as Chicago's 1,200.

Tom Liske, whose wife, Pala, a breast cancer survivor and walker who was featured in an article in the *Livonia Observer* on Thursday, worked as a crew volunteer. He

was directing cars into the handful of available parking spaces. "It started out that I was supporting my wife, and now (the walkers) are family," Liske said of his volunteering. "We're all family. It's unbelievable."

Jennifer Paczas of Westland walked the 3-Day in the past, but decided this year to volunteer. "I wanted to help out in a different way," Paczas said. She worked on the lunch crew, serving up sandwiches, cookies and chips.

Walkers made their way into camp late Friday afternoon. Many were from southeastern Michigan, but some came a long way.

Ruth Susee of Kenduskeag, Maine, sat in a chair and relaxed with a bottle of water. It was her 15th walk.

"I'm a survivor," she said. She also had a close friend who was diagnosed in 2004, then died three

years later. She has other friends who have been diagnosed, too, whom she walks for as well. "I have four granddaughters and they are the main reason now," Susee said.

Susee participated in walks in California three times and in Chicago. "The community support here is wonderful," Susee said. "It is top-notch; it really is. It is amazing the people who are out."

Susee referenced the spectators out on the streets along the walk and at cheering stations, something not lost on Tanderys and Brown.

"Everybody was wonderful," Brown said. "My two favorite people who I saw today was a girl in her 20s. All she said was, 'Thank you so much for walking,' and an elderly woman, who was also sitting by herself, who said the same thing," Tanderys said. "In those moments, I wonder about their stories."

Kim Minito of Livonia, who is a special ed. para at Churchill High School in Livonia, danced her way down the walkway entering the camp. "The walk" was for my sister, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, friends and aunts," she said, adding that she felt phenomenal. "I've been training."

Minito said. "That's the secret."

Marzotari celebrates her fourth year with walk-out cancer with the walk, which is also her fourth

walk, as she has participated in each one each year since. "I raised a survivor's flag at last year's walk," she said. She walks "to find a cure," Marzotari said. "I love it," she said of the walk. "I love the camaraderie here. Everyone is here for the same purpose."

She intends to walk "until they don't let me walk anymore."

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3D SPARKLE (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15
FR/SAT/LS 12:00

3D THE KID WHO LIVED IN TIMOTHY GREEN (PG)
11:00, 1:20, 1:50, 4:15, 6:35, 9:05
FR/SAT/LS 11:25

3D THE KID WHO LIVED IN TIMOTHY GREEN (PG)
12:00, 3:15, 6:40, 9:20
FR/SAT/LS 11:25

3D THE CAMPAIGN (R)
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
FR/SAT/LS 11:25

DIARY OF A WHIMPY KID: DOG DAYS (PG)
11:10, 1:30, 4:05
FR/SAT/LS 11:25

DIARY OF A WHIMPY KID: DOG DAYS (PG)
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
FR/SAT/LS 11:25

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COVER STORY

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

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

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

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-75. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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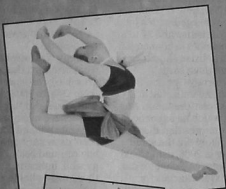
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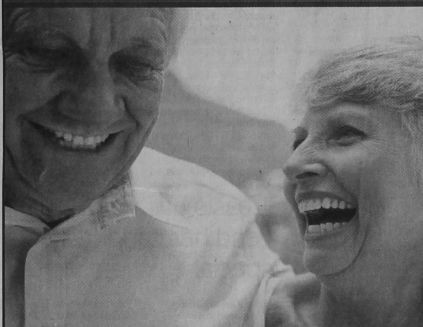
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529 Plan offers great flexibility for college expenses

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I have a 529 Plan for my grandchild, who will start graduate school in the fall. He didn't need the money for undergrad, but needs it for graduate school. Do I assume there is no problem using this money for graduate school? In order to withdraw the money, what type of paperwork and supporting documents will I need to provide the 529 company? I'm not sure it matters, but I don't have the Michigan plan.

A: There is no problem using the proceeds from the 529 for graduate school. That is one of the great benefits of the 529 Plan; you have flexibility as to when you can use the money.

In that regard, there is



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

potential scholarships, availability of loans, tax credits (such as the American Opportunity or Lifetime Learning) and other tax issues.

As to the paperwork, you need to provide the 529 carrier. Generally, it is relatively simple and straightforward. Most 529 companies do not require you to provide any backup docu-

mentation. However, they do require that you complete a form and indicate whether the money is for a qualified education expense.

The great majority of 529 companies do not require any backup documentation. That, however, does not mean that you do not have to have the documentation. In the unlikely event that you are audited, it is possible that the IRS will ask for documentation of any withdrawal from the 529 Plan. As long as the money withdrawn is for a qualified education expense such as room and board, tuition, books and required fees, there should be no problem. These expenses are known as qualified

expenses and so upon withdrawal of the money there are no tax consequences.

Talking about taxes on 529 Plans, when you do withdraw money, whether it's a qualified or non-qualified expense, you will generally receive a 1099Q. This is an informational document and it is up to you to determine if there are any tax consequences. Remember, if it's for a qualified expense, there would be no tax issues.

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.

Alleged petition fraud may extend back to previous McCotter campaigns

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer



McCotter

It appears Thaddeus McCotter's campaign fell short of signatures to nominate him in previous congressional campaigns, indicating the alleged signature fraud may extend prior to this year's congressional race.

Four staffers — Don Yowchuang, Paul Seewald, Mary M. Turnbull and Lorraine Orady — were charged with a total of 13 felonies and 21 misdemeanors in connection with petition signature fraud this year.

Attorney General Bill Schuette indicated at a press conference on Aug. 9 in which he announced the charges that the staffers likely did the same thing in 2008, using 2006 signatures. Schuette did not issue charges for 2008, he said, because the statute of limitations ran out.

At least two media organizations have analyzed the nominating petitions provided by Practical Political Consulting of East Lansing and reported that McCotter fell short of the 1,000 required validated signatures to run in 2010. One of them, the *Detroit Free Press*, found that McCotter's campaign did not obtain the minimum signatures in 2008.

Practical Political Consulting, which provides voter lists for candidates, had in its possession McCotter's nominating petitions between 2002 and 2010, which were obtained by several news outlets, including the *Observer*. The petitions exceed 800 pages in length.

Jim Daggy, a data architect with Practical Political Consultants, said he completed a "curious flip-through" of the documents, but had not completed a formal analysis of the documents. He found white spots near dates where it appeared that White out had been used at the election year at the top of the petition. The *Free Press* found that 2002 and 2004 petitions had few duplicates, but in 2008, at least 67 of the 177 petition pages submitted were either

copies or had been doctored by cutting and pasting dates from other documents onto the petitions. In 2010, at least 73 of the 167 pages turned in were duplicates, which would have invalidated more than 1,000 of the signatures. In 2012, the cut-and-paste and duplicate tricks were used.

Daggy was surprised at what he called the "progressive brazenness" from 2006 to 2010. "I can spot visual red flags and there were white spots or White out and some records never had any background color," Daggy said, indicating that those were photocopies.

A message was left with former McCotter spokesman Randall Thompson. Repeated attempts to contact McCotter have been unsuccessful since his resignation on July 6. In a statement after the charges were announced on Aug. 9, McCotter thanked the attorney general and his office "for their earnest, thorough work on this investigation."

Joy Yearout, spokeswoman for Schuette's office, said the office had obtained the electronic copies of the petitions. Yearout said the office wasn't anticipating additional fraud charges from the new information as the statute of limitations has passed.

"We are reviewing the information, and we could present this information in court to present a pattern of behavior," Yearout said.

Yearout said the investigation continues and that more interviews are being conducted. "If we find other laws were broken, we could file additional charges later," Yearout said.

McCotter was not charged. On Aug. 9, Schuette said his office "did not have specific, direct evidence" of his involvement.

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Cassiss has no plans to end her candidacy in special election Sept. 5

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Nancy Cassiss has no plans to withdraw her candidacy in the special primary election on Sept. 5 to fill the unexpired term of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter.

Cassiss, a former state senator from Novi who recently ran as the Republican candidate on the Republican ballot against Kerry Benivolio of Milford, in the new 11th Congressional District, is also running in the old 11th District along with Benivolio and Livonia residents Ken Crider, Carolyn Kavanagh and Steve King on the Republican ballot. The winner will face David Curson of Belleville, who is the lone Democrat in the general election on Nov. 6.

Benivolio issued a press release on Tuesday, calling on her to withdraw.

"Nancy Cassiss has changed her mind and decided to run in the special election even after stating on *Off the Record* that she would not run if she lost the primary," Benivolio said. "It's unfortunate, yet not sur-

prising, that she has decided to do this. Today, I call on Nancy Cassiss to reconsider her decision to run so we can focus on taking the fight to the Democrats, and I ask our supporters to do the same."

Benivolio said that if Cassiss won the special election, "it would cost the residents of Michigan's 11th Congressional District from having a Congressman with higher seniority come January 2013." If Benivolio wins the special election in the old district and again in November in the old and new districts, he would have two months seniority on the incoming class of freshmen Congressmen.

Cassiss said Benivolio's characterization of her comment on the television show was incorrect, and added that she made the remark in the context of only two candidates in the race. "That all changed when three people from Livonia filed," Cassiss said. "He's playing with words."

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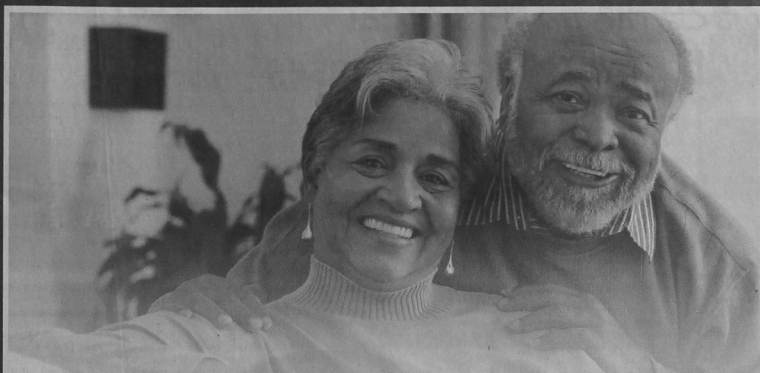
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2012 FOOTBALL PREVIEW — PART 1



Veteran Canton varsity football coach Tim Baechler gives instructions about a practice drill to players last week. He expects the Chiefs to continue as a contender.

Chiefs eye quick start

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

You won't catch Canton varsity head coach Tim Baechler looking back or looking too far ahead when it comes to gearing up for the 2012 football season.

For sure, Baechler's Chiefs weren't happy about losing to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in last year's playoffs—the second time in three years Canton's title hopes were dashed by the Shamrocks.

But as the new season kicks off, it will be about beating every opponent on the schedule, beginning with Thursday's opener against Midland (7 p.m. at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park).

"It's not who you lose to, it's when you lose your last game you're not happy," said Baechler, beginning his 15th season at the Canton helm.

"Even though you lose to a good team it doesn't matter, it still doesn't feel good.

"Believe me that's not the motivation (for 2012). The motivation is to win every game you play."

Midland went 9-2 last season, so the Chiefs' first-ever tilt against the Chemics will provide stiff competition.

"It's good to come in and you know you're playing a very good team and we've got to be ready to go," Baechler added. (against Brighton) before the Chiefs go to work against KLA South Division opponents.

Planning to win

"We're going to be able to compete," said Baechler, asked about whether he thought his team had the right stuff to win the division. "We plan on winning every game. Whether that happens or not, that's just our

mindset."

You won't find Baechler lamenting losing a boatload of top performers to graduation, either. Gone from 2011's roster are quarterback Kyle Adams, running backs Kevin Buford, Zac Merillat and Ryan Jones.

So are Zach Smilo and Evan Rinke, two mainstays on a defense that held four teams to 14-or-fewer points last fall.

Instead, it's merely time to reload.

At the top of the list is promising sophomore quarterback Greg Williams, who plays more like a junior or senior.

"He's got a good head on his shoulders," said Baechler, noting that Williams was a starter for the Canton varsity boys basketball team as a freshman. "He wants the ball in his hands, he wants to make plays in crunch time."

Please see CHIEFS, B2

Salem gridders set to flip the script

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Four years into the Kurt Britnell era at Salem, it's not quite yet time to pick the low-hanging fruit off the playoff tree.

But the long-awaited taste of success could at last be within reach as the Rocks prepare for the 2012 high school football season.

With a deeper, healthier roster, Britnell and everybody connected with the team expects it to be the year for finally getting over the hump in the standings and as a program.

"That's the expectations we have," Britnell said. "That's the next step, we're expecting to win. We as a staff expect to win. I think our players expect to win, I think our parents expect us to win."

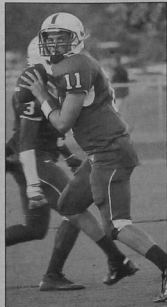
"And I think we're reaching to a point where even the outsiders are expecting that next step. ... You kind of talk about that in year one, year two, that's what we want to do and what we're striving for."

"But this is the year, with our first-year seniors, that we expect to win. If we don't win, that will be a huge disappointment."

Good signs

Bouncing a new slogan — "Win From Within" — an all-for-one team attitude solidified last week at a three-day mini-camp at Adrian College, all signs point to good things beginning with Friday's season opener (7 p.m. vs. Ann Arbor Huron at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park).

"The big thing we've done coming out of camp is we are competing. They have to compete to get a starting job. Before, it hasn't been that way because we've been that thin. We're finally reaching that



One of the keys to Salem's 2012 season is senior quarterback Jake Deprez (No. 11), shown from action last year.

point where everybody has to compete for playing time, and it's huge."

Britnell emphasized the benefits of the Adrian camp, where it was "nothing but football, no distractions. It's good to be a part of that."

Now, the goal is to build on that camaraderie with victories, enough to make some noise in the KLA Central Division and perhaps enjoy enough of an upward spike in wins from last year (the team went 3-6) to qualify for a playoff spot.

"I tell the guys why not?" Britnell said. "Our side is pretty wide open, so why not us?"

The Rocks will be led by returning senior quarterback Jake Deprez, who had some

Please see SALEM, B3

BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Chiefs eager to defend D1 title

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Defending its Division 1 boys soccer championship might be quite an assignment for the Canton Chiefs, having had so many key players graduate.

But veteran Canton head coach George Tomasso doesn't look at things quite that way as the 2012 season gets started this week (not counting Saturday's annual Gary Balconi Invitational).

"We're fortunate enough to be in a city where every team, every year is going to be competitive," said Tomasso, beginning his 10th year as head coach. "It depends on what results we get."

Last year's results were sensational, with the Chiefs going 24-1-2 and winning 1-0 in the D1 final against Grand Haven on a goal by Dan Ovesea.

Canton made it that far thanks to a 1-0 win over Warren DeLaSalle in the semifinal, thanks to a marker by Griffin Parks.

Although the Chiefs lost a number of key performers to graduation (including Connor Furgas-

on, Tyler Winningham and Mitch Posuniak to name just three), Tomasso is buoyed to know that both Ovesea and Parks are back for another season.

Ovesea (senior co-captain) and junior Parks will be counted upon for continued success up front and at midfield, respectively. But they won't need to do it alone.

The Chiefs' offense also will be strengthened by senior co-captain midfielder Bobby Budlong, healthy after being sidelined to injury in 2011.

Others in the mix up front include returning senior Scott Piwowar (midfielder/forward), junior Alex Rej and sophomore Aiden Shennan.

Another player Tomasso thinks can make opposing defenses pay will be junior midfielder Cody Wildak.

"Cody's a dynamic, quick player that has the ability to frustrate other teams' defenses," Tomasso said. "I think he can contribute offensively quite well."

Sophomore Jack Zemanski could be heard from at midfield, too.

Depth on defense

But Tomasso likes how his defense is shaping up, spearheaded by senior Connor Shennan.

Another player who could make an impact is senior defender Nick Tomei, described as "a strong athlete with a good, defensive mind. He does a good job organizing along the back line."

Other defenders include seniors Brian Galm, Sachin Pindolia, juniors Bryan Tolinski, Zach Homco, Robbie Morgan, Dom Murphy and Andrew Newton.

Last year's backup goalie will be the No. 1 guy — senior Ian Wingate, backed up by junior Brandon Pickert.

Canton opens the regular season 7 p.m. Monday at Walled Lake Western before hosting Northville 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"I think it's wide open this year," said Tomasso, about the KLA South Division. "It's a competitive division. We definitely have an opportunity to compete for it."

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One of the offensive mainstays for defending champion Canton is Daniel Ovesea (left), shown in this file photo.



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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

"He's not a great runner yet, but he's getting there. He's a good decision maker with the ball and he's got a good arm. He'll make all the throws."

Williams will have time to throw, with senior tackle and third-year starter Cameron Dillard (6-4, 290, verbally committed to Florida) keeping rushers at bay.

Others who will be tough on the offensive front include returnees Mike Ditzler (senior guard, 6-2, 240), senior guard Danny DeRosa (6-5, 240), Ken "K.J." Woolley (junior center, 6-0, 230) and junior guard Nate Michalik (5-11, 210).

"That's one thing we're pretty solid at is the O-line," Baechler said. "I feel pretty good about it."

Business as usual

Buford, Merrilatt and Jones might be gone, but the vaunted triple-back set will return.

Senior halfback and co-captain Kendall Scott heads the backfield line-up.

"He (Scott) played a lot last year when Kevin (Buford) was banged up and we didn't skip a beat with him," Baechler said. "He can run, he can

FAST FACTS

School: Canton.

Head coach: Tim Baechler, 15th season.

2011 record: 8-3 (including 1-1 in playoffs), 3-2 in KLLA South Division.

Notable losses to graduation: Kevin Buford, Kyle Adams, Ryan Jones, Zac Merrilatt, Zachary Smilo, Evan Rinke.

Top returnees: Kendall Scott, Sr. RB-DB; Malcolm Hollingsworth, Sr. FB-DB; Connor Shennan, Sr. K; Michael Ditzler, Sr. OL-LB; Dan DeRosa, Sr. OL-DL; Cameron Dillard, Sr. OL-DL.

Others to watch: Matt McKay, Sr. TE-DB; Greg Williams, Soph. QB; Jake Boucher, Jr. TE-LB; Western Price, Jr. RB-DB; Colby Morris, Sr. RB-DB; Nate Bartos, Sr. LB; Charlie Turfe, Soph. FB-LB; Scott Gring, Sr. TE; Olaniyi Owagbemi, Sr. DL; Ken (K.J.) Woolley, Jr. OL.

Baechler says: "We plan on winning every game. Whether that happens or not, that's just our mindset."

Schedule: (all 7 p.m. except as noted) Thursday vs. Midland; Thursday, Aug. 30 vs. Brighton (JV Field, 6:30 p.m.); Friday, Sept. 7, vs. Wayne Memorial; Friday, Sept. 14, at Westland John Glenn; Friday, Sept. 21, vs. Livonia Churchill (homecoming); Friday, Sept. 28, at Livonia Franklin; Friday, Oct. 5, vs. Plymouth; Friday, Oct. 12, at KLLA crossover; Friday, Oct. 19, at Salem.

catch, he can block. He's a tough player."

Junior halfback Western Price and senior fullback Malcolm Hollingsworth likely will be lining up with Scott more often than not.

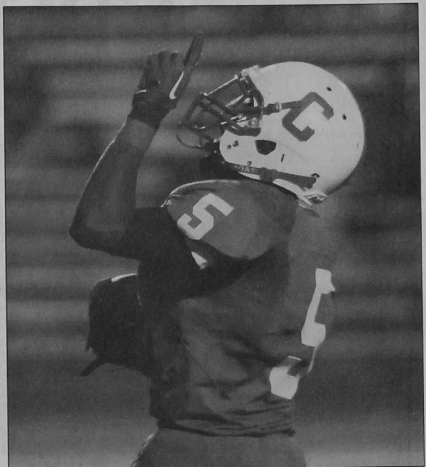
"I consider him (Hollingsworth) a starter he played so much (in 2011)," Baechler noted.

"He understands the full-back trapping game, he hits it well, he reads it well. I'm expecting big things out of him."

The trio gives the Chiefs players who can break free for long gainers or chip in with catches out of the backfield as needed.

Also part of the backfield rotation will be junior Rob Daoud and sophomore Chuck Turfe.

Scott and Price also will flank out and be wide receivers at times, while senior Matt McKay is penciled in at tight end (with senior Scott Gring and junior Jake Boucher



Returning for Canton is Kendall Scott (No. 5), who is a playmaker on offense and defense.

providing solid depth at the position).

"We got a lot of speed, guys who can catch," he said.

If Canton defenders are as strong as Baechler expects, the offense will get plenty of reps and chances to take points onto the scoreboard.

Both Dillard and DeRosa are slated for duty on both sides of the line, providing Baechler with a strong base.

Returning to start at left tackle will be 5-11, 250-pound senior Olaniyi Owagbemi. Other players who will be counting on include senior Austin Lynn (6-3, 225), junior Daniel Tidwell (6-0, 190) and senior Jack McAllister (5-11, 200).

"A good D-line controls the line of scrimmage," Baechler stressed. "Yes,

we're going to be very capable of controlling the line of scrimmage and that means stopping the run and putting a pass rush on."

Rounding out the D

One area in flux is linebacker, where coaches are evaluating players and determining their best options.

"It's up for grabs right now," Baechler said.

Candidates for middle linebacker include seniors Matt Suppelsa, Wally Turner, Darian Evans and Turfe.

Players who are fighting for outside linebacker spots are seniors Ben Slater, Nate Bartos and Boucher.

Meanwhile, opposing quarterbacks figure to have headaches throwing deep.

In the corners will be Scott, Price and diminutive senior Colby Morris with McKay and junior James Hall likely at safety.

"We've got a lot of speed," Baechler said.

The Chiefs also will have a solid kicking game, led by senior Connor Shennan, starting his fourth season with the team.

Shennan is at the top of the depth chart for kick-offs, field goals, extra points and punts although senior Scott Pivowar is also capable of booting the pigskin through the uprights and stepped in at times last season.

Another bonus is having Williams available to punt if needed.

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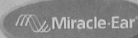
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SALEM

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good moments last year before injuries struck him (along with stand-out running back Marcus Houston and wide receiver Ryan Jankowski).

"There was a learning curve he had to go through last year," said Britnell about Deprez. "He's better at reading defenses now. He's knowing my expectations of him on the field and I think he's a true 'coach' out there."

Although Deprez is bigger, stronger and hopefully more durable, the Rocks front line should provide him with plenty of protection.

Returning starters on the offensive line include seniors Nick Howie (6-2, 320), Danny Strope (5-10, 226), Ray Fisher (5-11, 220) and Cain Smith (6-1, 180). All likely will be called upon for work on the defensive line, too.

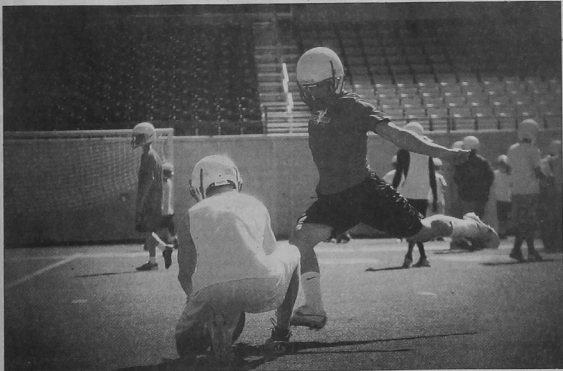
But Britnell will rotate senior Albert "Scooter" Martin (5-10, 195) at tackle and find playing time for senior Matt Grabowski (5-8, 220) and senior Alex Smith (5-7, 190).

"They're all technical, they communicate well about their blocking assignments," the coach noted. "It's just that those guys have a year of playing time under their belt, that's big."

"They've all had a good off-season, they're stronger, more athletic."

Mix and match

Having players able to be used wherever needed also applies to running



Salem junior kicker Alex Kenrick puts his foot into one during the team's minicamp at Adrian College.

back and receiver, enabling Deprez plenty of options to drive the offense.

A power running back who can shift gears is senior Mike McNamara, with juniors Drake Jordan and Gu'woin Ingram "shifty speedsters" able to break long runs and haul in spirals from Deprez as a bonus.

Augmenting the half-backs will be senior full-back Kyle Cameron, who can block and catch out of the backfield.

"He's a good, all-around football player," Britnell said.

Deprez' top throwing target very well might be returning senior starter Andrew Kelty, also expected to start in the defensive secondary.

FAST FACTS

School: Salem.

Head coach: Kurt Britnell, fourth season.

2011 record: 3-6 overall, 2-3 in KLAAs Central Division.

Notable losses to graduation: Marcus Houston, Evian Pardo, Nick Troher, Tyler Schultz, Jack Vida, Ryan Jankowski.

Top returnees: Jake Deprez, Sr. QB; Alex Kenrick, Jr. K-P; Andrew Kelty, Sr. WR-DB; Ivan Rhodes, Sr. WR-DB; Nick Howie, Sr. OL-DL; Matt Grabowski, Sr. OL-DL; Youssef Barakat, Sr. WR-DB; Kyle Cameron, Sr. FB-LB; Smith, Jr. OL-DL; Justin Broughman, Sr. TE-LB; Gu'woin Ingram, Jr. RB-DB; Michael McNamara, Sr. RB-DB; Andrew Aquier, Jr. OL-LB.

Britnell says: "That's the expectations we have. That's the next step, we're expecting to win."

Schedule: (all 7 p.m. except as noted) Friday vs. Ann Arbor Huron; Thursday, Aug. 30 at Walled Lake Northern; Friday, Sept. 7 vs. Novi (JV Field, 6:30 p.m.); Friday, Sept. 14 vs. Northville; Friday, Sept. 21 at South Lyon East; Friday, Sept. 28 at South Lyon; Friday, Oct. 5 at Livonia Stevenson; Friday, Oct. 12 vs. KLAAs crossover (homecoming); Friday, Oct. 19 vs. Canton.

or eight guys batting for three positions. It makes practice fun."

Britnell will be leaning on Howie and Cameron on the defensive line, too. They could get a boost from Hoover (6-3, 195), junior Tony Avant (6-0, 205), Fisher and senior Justin Broughman (6-1, 190).

"We can stay fresh because all of those guys are going to be playing offense, too," he said.

Numbers game

Slated to start at line-backer is Sydowski, who Britnell said "will do anything needed to win, he's one of those kids."

Several others vying for playing time there include Hunt, juniors Andrew Aquier and Jon Nushi and sophomore Ben Howie.

Freshman Alex Nicholson (6-1, 190) also is making a bid to make the varsity. If he does, he could see spot duty at line-backer.

The backfield will feature Kelty, McNamara, Jordan along with Barakat and Bocror.

According to Britnell, the Rocks' much-improved depth will be a factor as the squad goes through the season.

"I felt the first couple years we were kind of strapped with our options," he emphasized. "It was kind of like this is what we had and what we had to deal with."

In the past, I wouldn't say we had 22 starters. Now we have more than 22, that's why competition is so good."

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BOYS TENNIS PREVIEW — PART 1



Plymouth's Charlie Hou is one of the key returnees for the Wildcats this season.

'Cats could be tough

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth varsity boys tennis coach Tom Kimball will miss the start of the 2012 season to recover from rotator cuff surgery. He will be watching to see how the Wildcats, with interim coach Erik Batell in charge for a while, combine experience with fresh promise in hopes of building on last season.

Last year, the Wildcats finished tied for the KLAAS South Division title with Canton (each sporting 4-1 records). "I have some experienced and talented dou-

bles teams and I have some young, hard-hitting singles players," Kimball said. "I expect us to be in the running for another division title."

"And we should do some damage in the invitations and tournaments we participate in this fall."

Plymouth's singles lineup features young talent, with freshman Jordan Lou slated for the No. 1 spot.

Sophomore Charlie Hou is back and will start at No. 2 while freshman Kevin Hou and junior Jon Conn will handle No. 3-4 singles, respectively.

Where the experience

could be key is in doubles. Seniors Dylan Grant and Cameron Earls will be the No. 1 tandem with senior co-captains Joe Klotz and Danny Sinnott at No. 2. Seniors also comprise No. 3 doubles, with the duo of Praveen Loganathan and Akash Yerakola ready to roll.

At No. 4 will be juniors Bryan Caragay-Jared Hopf with juniors Charlie Anderson-Tyler Smith expected to fill the No. 5 position.

The Wildcats are scheduled to open the regular season Tuesday at Dexter.

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Rocks have chance to excel this season

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Despite losing several key performers from last season, Salem varsity boys soccer coach Ed McCarthy is enthusiastic about his team's chances in the KLAAS Central Division this fall.

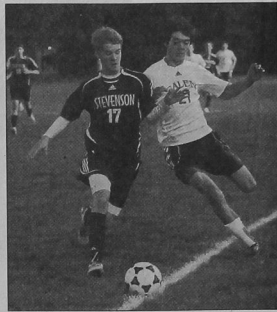
The Rocks, who finished 8-7-4 overall, are 6-3-1 in the KLAAS Central, lost defender Jake Genrich, midfielder Chris Ensor and forward Jake Pascarella, along with Blake Townes and Austin Covert.

Yet McCarthy is counting on players who were contributors in 2011 to take the next step.

"Although losing more than half of the scoring from last year, we are hopeful our attack can improve over last year," McCarthy said. "And defensively, if we can keep our goals-against average under 1.0 per game, we will have the opportunity for a good year."

"Ultimately, we would like to compete for the division championship and have a good run in the tournament," McCarthy said. Senior co-captains Tyler Fosdick (midfield) and Luke Hazen (defense) also will bring leadership to the pitch and help the Rocks mesh.

Joining Fosdick at mid-



Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 21), shown in this file photo, is back with the Rocks for his senior season.

field will be seniors Connor Cole, Andy Bashaw and junior Andriy Pelekh. Others in the rotation include juniors William Benintende, Traven Thai and Alex Price.

Hazen heads a solid cast of defenders. Also in the back line will be senior Grant McKinney, junior Josh Dillon, senior Daniel Marsden, juniors Joe Kunnath and Walid Kandah.

Scoring will need to come from returning starters Brady Cole (junior) and Chris Dier-

ker (senior) with help from juniors David Schroeder and Matthew DeMoss. The Rocks plan on getting playing time for both goalkeepers—Collin Hewett (junior) and Erick Beas (senior), both back from last year's squad.

"We should have experience in goal," McCarthy said. "Erick is an excellent shot blocker and Collin is able to dominate the 18-yard box with his reach."

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Solid nucleus to lead 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

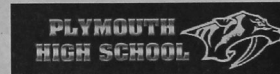
Jeff Neschich sees plenty of promise for his Plymouth varsity boys soccer team as it goes to work for another season.

The Wildcats (like the other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams) took part in Saturday's annual Gary Balconi Invitational and now prepare to start the KLAAS season with games this week. Plymouth hosts Walled Lake Central on Monday.

"I think we have a strong core of players," Neschich said. "And if they come together and jell together and do what is needed to take us to that next step."

"It's exciting, it's a great group of boys and I'm excited to work with them."

After finishing 7-5-2 overall and 6-2-2 in the KLAAS South Division in 2011, the Wildcats return



integral members of that squad. Co-captain Chandler Olah and D.K. Kim are "two explosive strikers" who should spark the offense.

In the midfield will be seniors Chris Lebolda, Ted Phillips and junior Viet Nguyen, all returnees.

Senior co-captain Jeff Pattison, senior Kris Javelski and junior Vikas Kannan are top defenders back from 2011, with sophomore newcomer Calvin McCracken expected to become a key part of the rotation.

"I think Calvin McCracken in our back line is going to be an impact player," Neschich

noted.

Another sophomore who has potential is Alex Decker.

In goal will be senior Mario Gruszczynski and sophomore James Gibbs. They will look to fill the void left by the graduation of standout Rene Mejia.

Rounding out the roster are Dan Butte, Jason Ligouri, Aaron Bergmans, Brian Brown, center-midfielder Harris and Mike Blake.

"I think we're going to be solid," Neschich said. "It's a work in progress, especially figuring out who fits where and how well we can fit pieces to the puzzle."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 6, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1497, 14975 Cleat ST: The applicant is in the IND zoning district and is requesting two variances.
 - The applicant is requesting that (1) wall sign be allowed on the front of the building facing Cleat ST with no ingress/egress door on the front of the building.
 - The applicant is requesting (1) monument sign allowed to be constructed without a brick or masonry base.
- Application 1498, 47519 Halvard: The applicant is in a TAR zoning district and is requesting one variance. The applicant is requesting (1) monument sign allowed to be constructed without a brick or masonry base.
- Application 1499, 47603 Halvard: The applicant is in a TAR zoning district and is requesting one variance. The applicant is requesting (1) monument sign allowed to be constructed without a brick or masonry base.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Published: August 19, 2012

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Pursuant to state law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at **STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANV ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI** on **August 25, 2012 at 10:00 am**, on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. **CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS**

Unit #013 - HAZELLE FRANCE, 9108 N LILLEY #140, PLYMOUTH 48170

Vacuum, TV, tables, dresser, stuffed chair, table game, misc. boxes and other items

Unit #412 - DONALD HOFFMAN, 650 PROVINCETOWN LAKE, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

Dewalt Recipal saw, Washer & Dryer, Wagner spray painter, Fan, (4) boxes of CDs, softball equipment, misc. mens clothing, (2) Finish Nails, folding chairs, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.

Unit #523 - CAROL LOESCH, 840 MC KINLEY, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

Golf clubs, table saw, stroller, shop vac, TV, kids toys, bookshelf, stereo equipment, 8mm movie projector, argus 300 projector, film splicer, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.

Unit #536 - CHRIS MANDELKA, 28428 DONNELLY, GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

Shelving unit(s), toilet, children games, saw horses, (3) sectional mirror, (3) wheel baby stroller, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

Unit #567 - DEREK DIDARIO, 3086 N. CUSTER, MONROE, MI 48162

Leather couch & loveseat, vacuum, stereo systems, fan, misc. carpet, Sharp TV, full mattress & boxspring, sentry safe, small tool box, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

Unit #621 - ROB CLOUGH, 9450 S. MAIN #101, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

Large dresser, camping chairs, propane tank, luggage, framed pictures, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

Unit #694 - NICOLE GNATEK, 1014 S. CAMPBELL, ROYAL OAK, MI 48067

Metal file cabinet, recliner, glass table with 4 chairs, TV, bed frame, mattress set, misc. xmas decorations, coffeemaker, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

Unit #695 - RICHARD ESTEP, 15670 NORTHVILLE FOREST DR., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

Metal Art pieces, metal trunk, duffel bags, model cars, misc. xmas decorations, walker, misc. books, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

Unit #722 - JEFFREY SMOLKA, 15863 ALEXANDER, LIVONIA, MI 48154

Dewalt drill & rotor, 6 lb. ladder, misc. boxes and other misc. items.

SALE DATE IS AUGUST 25, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M.

Published: August 19 & 20, 2012

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

Lady Ocelots retool roster, eye nationals

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Everything went according to plan for last year's Schoolcraft College women's soccer with one exception.

The Lady Ocelots went 15-0-2 in their first 17 games, only to be denied by host Delta College in the NJCAA Region XII championship game.

On penalty kicks after the two teams played to a scoreless draw through the first 120 minutes.

That loss kept the Lady Ocelots from going to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Brevard, Fla.

Eight players remain from that 2011 squad,

which captured the first-ever Michigan Community College Athletic Association title with a 6-0 record. Returning sophomore starters include forward Lauren Badalamente (Woodhaven), midfielder Emily Behnke (Warren Cousino), defender Rachel Eklund (Utica Eisenhower), midfielder Kayla Szado (Livonia Churchill) and defender Anthoula Papaioannou

(Riverview).

They are joined by holdovers Megan McDonald, a sophomore defender from Churchill; Alejandra Mesa, a midfielder from Livonia Franklin; and Kelly Twigg, a sophomore forward-midfielder from Churchill.

"We definitely want to defend the league championship, and play at the high standard that Schoolcraft is known for," said Schoolcraft coach Deepak Shivraman, now in his eighth season. "We have a great balance of veteran, savvy players with a fresh group of highly skilled and enthusiastic freshmen."

Shivraman has added 14 freshmen including local products Rachel Blackney (Churchill), a center-midfielder; Lisa McMullen (Churchill), a midfielder; Danielle Schendel (Canton), goalkeeper; Alexis Smith (Franklin), goalkeeper; and Shannon Merritt (Livonia Stevenson), outside-midfielder.

They hope to make up for the loss of Sam Zirelli (Texas A&M), Ashley Welch (University of Detroit Mercy), Lindsay McMullen (Madonna Uni-

versity) and Renee Boudreau, the latter three whom earned All-Region 12 and All-MCCAA honors.

Rounding out the squad are first-year players Taylor Bunyak (Anchor Bay), forward; Tara Gessler (Brighton), goalkeeper; Samantha Jarrett (Northville), midfielder; Hunter Jarecki (Grosse Pointe), defender; Madison Kobylk (Lapeer East), forward-midfielder; Erin McKay (home schooled), midfielder; Chelsea Meador (Warren Mott), defender; Sydney Popiel (Dearborn), forward; and center-midfielder, and Alex Walker (White Lake Lakeland), center-midfielder.

The Lady Ocelots launch their season at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Northville University.

"It's matter of how quick our new players can assimilate to our Schoolcraft soccer culture and learn and be able to operate within our systems of play and performance," Shivraman said.

"With women's soccer, one of the key things is to establish strong team chemistry and we are striving to do that on a daily basis."

Making a difference

Former Livonia resident finishes first year in 'domestic Peace Corps'

By Sharon Dargay
OBE Staff Writer

Katerina Sartori knew exactly what she wanted in her first job after college — and it wasn't big pay and benefits.

"My main focus was to work with poverty and education. Those are my two big passions," said the Mercy High School graduate. "I applied to places all over the country... Habitat for Humanity, domestic violence shelters, soup kitchens."

She found the job that she hoped would make a difference in kids' lives on the north side of St. Louis. Mo. One day after her graduation last year from Saginaw Valley State University, Sartori accepted an assignment tutoring first graders in reading. She packed her bags, said good-bye to her family in Livonia and began serving in AmeriCorps St. Louis.

"It's kind of like the domestic Peace Corps. There are multiple programs across the country. Our program in St. Louis is unique. We have an education team, which I serve on, and an emergency response team, which deals with tornado and fire." A third component,



Katerina Sartori, a former Livonia resident, says she enjoys tutoring youngsters in St. Louis, Mo. The Mercy High School graduate says she has always enjoyed helping others.

City-Wide Service Team, works out of the mayor's office. The education team works with students in kindergarten through ninth grade in nine St. Louis schools.

"It's referred to as devoting a year of my life to serving the community," said Sartori, in a phone interview from her home in St. Louis. "I'm never in anything for the money. I understand we need it to survive and I've learned to live very frugally. I work hard for the money I do earn and I don't throw it away on things that don't mean something to me."

Funded by grants
AmeriCorps members earn a monthly living stipend rather than a weekly paycheck during their 10-month assignments. They also receive a \$3,350 educational award when they leave the program. Sartori, who has a degree in communications, plans to return to school for a teaching degree in the future. In the meantime, she hopes the St. Louis school district will match a federal grant needed to bring the AmeriCorps team to Clay Elementary for another school year.

"It would be a shame to not have an opportunity to



Katerina Sartori helps youngsters improve their reading skills through her tutoring assignment with AmeriCorps.

be there. I had an opportunity to tutor one-on-one eight students below grade level for reading 90 minutes a week. I did my own personalized lesson plans and targeted skills for each of the kids," said Sartori, who also served as a teaching assistant in class. "Some of my students, when I started, were at preschool level. They didn't know the alphabet."

Sartori won't forget the day her students first wrote their own names. Or the girl who said if she were granted three wishes, she'd complete high school, college and find a nursing job to help her family.

"That was something that surprised me because I wouldn't expect someone in first grade to say something like that. A lot of kids don't think about continuing their education. No one expects them to continue their education," she said. "We were a

big presence in their lives, always encouraging them and believing in them."

Giving back

After school ended in June, Sartori worked in an AmeriCorps summer program that aids families in crisis. She also has volunteered on weekends at an animal shelter, where she adopted a terrier mix last spring.

Sartori can't recall a time when she didn't volunteer.

"When I was growing up, I always liked doing extra projects. I'd donate clothes, go to soup kitchens, things like that. In high school I started doing Relay for Life and any other volunteer options available."

While on winter and spring breaks in college, she volunteered at nonprofit organizations around the country, including a shelter in Washington D.C. and a group home for sexually

abused girls in South Carolina.

"I love it. I feel I was given a lot growing up and it's my way to give back," said Sartori, 24, the second eldest of four daughters. She credits her parents, Anthony and Margaret, for teaching her to help others through volunteering.

"Everyone has a passion in life and they have a lot of skills and talents and can use that to benefit others. If you're good with sports, help with a kids team. If you're good with cooking, you can donate to a soup kitchen. With animals, there are tons of shelters that could use extra hands. There's always something you can do. It's something you can continue in life. You can build from it and see where it takes you. My volunteering took me pretty far."

For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov.

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Join us for our Information Session on Sterile Compounding on Wednesday, August 29th from 6-7:30 p.m. Schoolcraft College, Biomedical Tech Center, room 170

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September

JAMBORÉE

Dawn Farm's annual event celebrates recovery from chemical dependency. This 39th annual gathering, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, will include entertainment for the entire family, live music by NoteWorthy, hayrides, silent and live auctions, a children's tent and midway, food, beverages and farm animals. The Dawn Farm gift shop also will be open. Admission and activities are free. Dawn Farm is located at 6633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. For more information call (734) 485-8725.

PROSTATE CANCER SYMPOSIUM

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University School of Medicine and The Prostate Net will present the second annual Prostate Cancer Symposium, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. Keynote presenter will be sexual health expert Jeffrey Albaugh, Ph.D. The symposium is free and will offer two educational tracks — one for

patients, families and advocates; and one for medical professionals, including social workers. The program is free. Pre-event registration is required because space is limited. Call (800) KARMANOS.

WELLNESS FAIR

The free program is aimed at adults, 50 and over, and will run 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Coskik Center, 2800 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. It will include healthy cooking and tai chi demonstrations; product and service exhibits; blood pressure, BMI and bone density screenings. A free lunch will be served at 1 p.m. to participants, age 60 and older. The event includes a chance to win a day trip through Bianco Tours. Questions? Call (248) 473-1830.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday,

at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadedetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

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

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 1608, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-

14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS

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

*Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue, Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Bedford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thurs-

day of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

CPR CLASSES

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

DIABETES SUPPORT

An adult diabetes support group sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club meets 2:30-3 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion will facilitate. There is no charge to attend. Discussion topics will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies. Call Vining at (734) 454-0859.

Run for the river, animals

River trail

Take a scenic 5K run or walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, along the lower branch of the Rouge River in Canton.

The third annual Run for the Rouge will be timed and follow a trail that shows off the unique features of the river. There may be a little mud and uneven surfaces. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Connection Church, 3855 South Sheldon, Canton. Prizes will be awarded to the top female and male finishers for each age category.

Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 on race day. Proceeds benefit the public education programs coor-

minated by Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.therouge.org.

Run Wild

Support veterinary care for the Detroit Zoo's animals by running in 5K or 10K races or walking in a 1.5-mile fun run, Sunday, Sept. 16. Runners will race along the streets of nearby Huntington Woods and walkers follow a course in the zoo, located on 10 Mile (1-696 service drive), at Woodward in Oak Lake.

The 5K will start at 8

a.m., followed by the 10K at 8:45 a.m. and the fun run at 9 a.m.

Registered participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and may attend a party after the race with food, beverages, children's activities and live entertainment. They'll also get free admission to the Detroit Zoo. Medals will be presented to the top two male and female finishers in each age category.

Registration by Aug. 31 is \$20 for the walk, \$25 for the 5K and \$30 for the 10K. After Aug. 31 add \$5 to each race category. For more information or to register, visit www.detroitzoo.org/runwild



until Sept. 12. Registration also will be available Sept. 14-16 at the zoo.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.

RHEUMATOLOGY

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ARTHRITIS AT 70

It is not unusual for a doctor to see patients in their seventies or eighties who have their rheumatoid arthritis for forty or more years. Treating these patients presents several problems. First is being sure that the joint pain the patient experiences comes from inflammation rather than from the strain.

The second problem is to determine if medications will give more help than harm. The risks for older people are considerably more than for members of the younger generation. For instance, a side effect of anti-TNF medications, highly effective in treating rheumatoid arthritis, is that the medication makes a patient susceptible to tuberculosis. The risk becomes greater in people who have past or latent tuberculosis now. Therefore the popular drugs such as Enbrel, Remicade, Humira, Simponi and Cimzia are contraindicated for their care.

Another problem for the elderly is cancer. Advancing age brings decreasing ability of the body to identify and eliminate abnormal cells. Medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis work by impairing the body's ability to mount the response the body needs to destroy abnormal cells. Thus, anti-arthritis medications increase the risk of cancer in the elderly.

Nor can patients with rheumatoid arthritis use non steroidal medications such as ibuprofen safely as they cause both stomach irritation and kidney impairment.

In sum, at present the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in the patient over age 70 is both difficult and unsatisfactory.

DEB761102

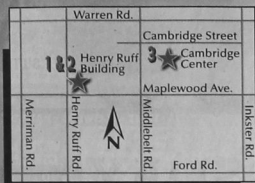
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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

August

CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25

Location: Livonia Church of Christ, 15431 Merriman, just north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: 11th annual show includes door prizes and DJ. Food and drinks will be available. The entry fee for showing a car is \$15 and entry forms are available at www.livoniachurch.net. Spectators are admitted for free. All makes of cars, trucks, motorcycles welcome. Class trophies and Best of Show trophy will be awarded. Goodie bags for the first 100 entrants. All proceeds benefit Angela Hospice

Contact: (734) 427-8743; www.LivoniaChurch.net

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, Canton

Details: Free clothing available to anyone in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686

CONCERT

Time/Date: 6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25

Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Musical groups from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton, will present selections of contemporary worship music

Contact: (734) 459-3333

FAMILY FAIR

Time/Date: 2-6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25

Location: Alpha Baptist Church, 28051 W. Chicago Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: AlphaFest Family Fun Fair will include a jumbo slide, dunk tank, face painting, balloon animals, caricatures, live

entertainment, and games for children of all ages. Refreshments are free to the public and will include hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and ice cream. Attendees 18 years and older will be eligible to enter a free drawing to win a TV or other prizes

Contact: (734) 421-6300 or www.alphabaptistlivonia.com

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 22

Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, 201 Elm, Northville

Details: Open house for interested prospective students and parents. St. Paul's offers three- and five-day preschool program, half- and full-day kindergarten options and Christ-centered instruction for grades 1-8. The school is small, Christ-centered, open to all faiths, with a family atmosphere

Contact: St. Paul's School office at (248) 349-3146 or Kristen Gulyas, admissions counselor, at (734) 883-6048

SEEKING CRAFTS

Time/Date: Show is Oct. 6

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: An 8- by 10-foot space can be rented for \$30. Tables are available for \$5 and electricity for \$5. Crafts must be handmade; no resale. Profits will go to mission work in the community

Contact: (248) 478-4708 or e-mail jainc2436@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: "Rocky Point Lighthouse" is designed for children, 5-11 or in K-5th grade. It will include stories about Jesus, crafts,

music, games, snacks, lunch and more. \$5 donation per child. Sponsorships are available to families in need

Contact: Register at (734) 427-3660

September

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 29

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

Details: Admission to this Bethany Together Dance is \$13

Contact: Loretta at (586) 264-0282

BIBLE STUDY

Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Nov. 13

Location: Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville

Details: W.O.W. Ladies Bible Study focuses on the Book of Proverbs in these interdenominational sessions. Fee is \$15. Free children's program for children, 5 and under

Contact: (248) 348-7600

DIVORCED CATHOLICS

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall, 47650 North Territorial, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings, a support group for divorced Catholics, meets. The Rev. John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, will talk, followed by a Q&A session that gives attendees the opportunity to discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration recommended. No admission charge for the event

Contact: newbeginning-solg@gmail.com

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Time/Date: Rosh Hashanah services, 7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16 and 10 a.m., Monday, Sept. 17; Yom Kippur services include Kol Nidre service, 7 p.m. Tues-

day, Sept. 25 and Neilah service and breakfast, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26

Location: Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 Ridge Road, at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, Canton

Details: No tickets are required. Donations accepted

Contact: (734) 480-8880; BetChaverim@yahoo.com; BetChaverim.com

Ongoing

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Cone Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for study in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YVCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7:30-8 p.m. the first and third Tuesday

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of Letter to the Hebrews. The

sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniast-michael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: (248) 374-5920

CLOTHING BANK

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday

Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call Pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS, 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Thursday, MOPSnext. Both programs run September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPSnext supports mothers of school-aged children

Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 522-6830 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPSnext

Details: Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope

Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dugs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service

All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs

Contact: (313) 563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday

Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests

Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1895, Shirley at (734) 464-3555 or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed

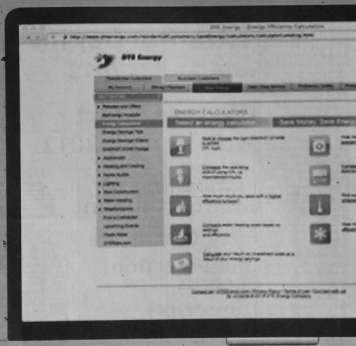
Contact: (734) 459-3333

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Tople-Sova

Anne Hill of Livonia and Marvin Tople of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine Anne Tople, to Adam Sova, son of Barb and James Sova of Cheboygan.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Canton High School. She attended Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie and earned

degrees in health care assessment and nursing, with a LPN certificate. She is employed as a supervisor of nursing at the Macomb Correctional Facility.

Her fiancé also graduated from Lake Superior State University. He earned an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He works in law enforcement.

The couple plans a September 2012 wedding.



Mazurek-Brown

Lenore Dennise Mazurek and Kevin David Brown announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Thomas and Dennis Mazurek of Livonia, earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is employed in marketing at Red Level Networks, an IT solutions company, in Novi.

Her fiancé, son of David and Marie Brown of Taylor, earned a dual degree in civil engineering and architecture from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. He is employed at Smith Engineering, a civil engineering firm in Detroit.

An October 2012 wedding is planned at Hope Lutheran Church in Allen Park.

Busscher-Hanchett

Janet Leigh Hanchett and Jonathan Raymond Paul Busscher were married May 12, 2012, at St. A. Beckett Catholic Church in Canton. A reception was held for family and friends at Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth. The bride's parents, Tim and Karen Hanchett of Canton, and the groom's parents, Dan and Mary Busscher of Hudson, hosted the reception.

Laura Schulz, Janet's best friend since second grade, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids included her three cousins, Christina Hanchett, MacKenzie Jones, and Katelyn Jones, along with close friends Katie Tate and Melinda McNeil.

Jonathan's best man was his brother, Jeremy Busscher. Other attendants were Michael Hanchett, brother of the bride, and friends Andy Monahan, Justin Brodell, John Stanley, and Alex Mihelich.

The bride and groom met as students at Michigan State University. They will make their home in Bloomington, Ill., where Janet works for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company as a claims analyst and Jonathan works for Oak Meadows Golf Club as an assistant golf professional.

BARR, SAMUEL DEAN

Age 88, of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late E. Bernice. Loving father of Shirley (Don) Baxter, Catherine (Howard) Fridson, Patricia (David) DeMore, and Denise (Greg) Igusa. Dear grandfather of Nathan, Blake, and Russell Fridson, Lisa (Jim) Rudolph, Duane (Jenny) DeMore, Debbie DeMore, and Barbara Igusa. Dearest great-grandfather of 8. Samuel enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers. In his spare time he loved bowling, and even rolled a 300 game. One of his favorite pastimes was pitching horseshoes in the backyard. A memorial visitation will take place at Fred Wood Funeral Home Rice Chapel, 36100 Five Mile Road (E. of Levan) Livonia, August 24th from 10:00 AM until time of 11:00 AM service. Please share memories at: fredwoodfuneralhome.com

CASARI, CASARA, CASALI, CASARI

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



DAVIS, CHARLES "BILL"

Age 81. Preceded in death by his first wife, Ann Louise Davis. Beloved husband of Mary Ellen Davis. Loving father of Deborah (Ron) Herzog, Charla (Todd) Halboth, Michella (Todd) Thomas, and Rebecca (Don) Stecker. Dear step-father of Mark (Karin) Smead, Lynn (Mark) Kramer, and Carey (Nancy) Smead. Grandfather of 16. Great-grandfather of 26. A devoted Christian and an active, dedicated member of Faith Bible Church in Livonia. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile Rd., Livonia 48154

DEMPESEY, JOHN W.

Age 90, of Plymouth, August 11, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Winifred. Dempsey. Loving father of Gary (Mary) Wenzel, Robert (Barbara) Kuntz, and Mary (Dempsy) Kuntz. Dearest grandfather of Randy, Keith, Shannon, Amy and grandfather of Kristin, John, Andrew, Evelyn, Delano and Kurtis. He is also survived by his brothers Earl and Cedric. He was preceded in death by his sister Mary Lou Sullivan. Funeral service was Wednesday, 6:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 3095 Hudson River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Wednesday, 1:00 - 8:00 PM. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

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Freeman-Caldwell

Karen Nicole Freeman and Ryan Thomas Caldwell announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Robert and JoAnne Freeman of Livonia, is a 2006 graduate of Churchill High School, Livonia. She graduated in 2010 from Michigan State University with a degree in human resource management and psychology and is employed as a busi-

ness analyst at Citizens Insurance, Howell.

Her fiancé, son of James and Nancy Caldwell of Macomb, Ill., is a 2006 graduate of Macomb High School, Macomb, Ill. He also earned a marketing degree in 2010 from Michigan State University and is employed as an agency services analyst at Citizens Insurance, Howell.

A September 2012 wedding is planned in Livonia.



DULZO, SHIRLEY ANN

Died on August 12, 2012, in Frederickburg, Va., where she was living with her daughter, receiving hospice care. Shirley is survived by sons Jim (Lene Wolff) and John (Catherine), daughter (Don Gings), and grandchildren Jackson Dulzo and Andrew and Chelsea Gings. Born to Josephine and Vincent VanTiem in Detroit on May 10, 1923, she attended Assumption Grade School, graduated from Nativity High, and worked for White Motors. She met Arthur Dulzo just before WWII; they were married in 1947. Shirley blessed her children with her bright, positive and kind personality and stayed close to them throughout her entire life. Shirley volunteered at the Farmington Community Center and as an adult reading program, and sang in the Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Gerald choirs. She visited Kenya, sailed along Maine's coast, saw the Panama Canal, and visited older relatives in Italy. She lived in her 70s and, at 80, hiked on the lake Royal with Jim and John's family - a lifelong dream. She was a avid walker, often seen heading to downtown Farmington or strolling along Lake Huron by her cottage. Her friends cherished her vivaciousness, open-mindedness, hospitality, generosity, and love of nature, music, and good food. The family is immensely grateful to have had her for so many happy years, and is inspired by her well-lived and warmly lived life. There will be a memorial in Farmington this fall. Information is available from her niece in Beulah, Mich. In lieu of flowers, please send gifts in Shirley's name to Hospice of the Sunrise Shore, in Alpena, Michigan.

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, Margie (Norman) McGarry, Jean Bland and Linda Gibson. Funeral services were conducted today at the Schaefer-Holmes Funeral Home - www.schaefer-holmes.com

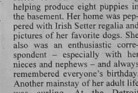
Age 91, died at Westminster Towers in Bradenton, Florida, on Friday August 10, 2012. The many friends of late William M. MacLachlan, III, who was active in the Chi Psi Fraternity. He served in the army (WWII) where he received a Purple Heart. He served and liberated the concentration camp Dachau. He later served in the Air Force reserves and after 25 years he 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 as a Member of the Quaker Country Club. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Ann, his children Bradley, and his son Gregory, Cranton and his seven (7) 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 Muncy Junior Tennis Program, 1450 Wild Oak Blvd. #139 Bradenton, FL 34210 on behalf of Cranton F. Jones.

JONES, CRANSTON FAIRBAIN (Cran)

Age 91, died at Westminster Towers in Bradenton, Florida, on Friday August 10, 2012. The many friends of late William M. MacLachlan, III, who was active in the Chi Psi Fraternity. He served in the army (WWII) where he received a Purple Heart. He served and liberated the concentration camp Dachau. He later served in the Air Force reserves and after 25 years he 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 as a Member of the Quaker Country Club. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Ann, his children Bradley, and his son Gregory, Cranton and his seven (7) 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 Muncy Junior Tennis Program, 1450 Wild Oak Blvd. #139 Bradenton, FL 34210 on behalf of Cranton F. Jones.

MACLACHLAN, JEAN GROSS

Age 93. Born December 13, 1919 in Elkins, West Virginia. Died Thursday, January 12, 2012 in Traverse City, Michigan. Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford A. Gross and Winifred Talbot, by her husband of 68 years, William Malcolm MacLachlan, Jr., and by her brother, Robert MacLachlan of Colfax, North Carolina. Although she lived most of her life in Michigan, Jean remained very attached to her childhood home of Elkins, West Virginia, where she liked to ski down the hill on barrel staves and was valedictorian of her high school class. She attended local Davis & Elkins College before transferring to Duke University, where she was an outstanding scholastic achievement, inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, but also participated in many social activities including the school cheerleader for three years at Duke. Jean joined the sorority Delta Delta Delta at Duke and kept in close with Tri Delta sisters all her life. It was at Duke that she met her husband, William M. "Bill" MacLachlan, a civil engineer. They married in November 1942. Their early married life was spent in Benton, Ark. where Bill worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority before joining the Navy. As a Seabee, he was sent to the Pacific, returning in 1946. After the war, Bill took a job with the general contractor Barton-Malow Co. in his native Detroit. Jean quickly adapted to a mountainous environment and also to her husband's penchant for Irish Setters, a lifelong passion. Over the years she "mothered" an unbroken series of "special children" helping produce eight puppies in the basement. Her home was peppered with dogs and regaled with pictures of her favorite dogs. She was also an enthusiastic correspondent, especially when her nieces and nephews - and always remembered everyone's birthday. Another mainstay of her adult life was caring for her brother, Detroit Curling Club, and she and Bill enjoyed the old Scottish game, a few "bumpers" and a little lifeline friends. They also were lifelong members of the Presbyterian Church, most recently of Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, the Detroit, Michigan, where they had moved in 1959. Jean loved the trips to Europe or beautiful places in North America that the couple took in their later years, a welcome break from the duties of a housewife. Articulate and a perfectionist, Jean was known to her friends and acquaintances above all for her keen sense of humor. In 2005, she and Bill moved to Fox Run Village in Novi, Michigan, where they made many new friends. They lived together until Bill died in 2010. Jean moved to 2011 to The Village at Fox Run in Novi, Michigan. She is survived by her children, William M. MacLachlan, III, of Glen Arbor, Michigan, and daughter, Catherine Gross Henderson of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Robert D. Gross of Lexington, North Carolina, and John Gross Soderberg of Lake Forest, Illinois; and William T. Gross, High Point, North Carolina. Jean is interred in Northbrook Presbyterian Church, Beverly Hills, Michigan. Her brother, William (Wilhelm), Pastor, A Memorial service will be held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the Chapel at Old Settles Park, just north of Berkleyville, Michigan. Burial will be at Glen Lake. Reunions will be served after the memorial service. Memorial donations may be directed to Duke University, Northbrook Presbyterian Church or the Michigan Presbyterian Village, Ill., sister-in-laws Dr. Margaret Herricks of Columbia MO and a sister-in-law, Cynthia (Vince) Eckholm of Antioch, Ill. Other survivors include her aunt Eugene Peters of Elk River, Minn. and her brother Dr. Theodore Herricks of Columbia, MO. She is survived by her nephews T. Scott Herricks and wife Cheryl, of Kearney MO, John Herricks and wife Kelly of Columbia MO, Paul Herricks and wife Julie of Rockford IL, nieces Martha Head and husband Stuart of Columbia MO, and her brother Dr. Theodore Herricks of Columbia MO. Her husband and brother Dr. Bill Holtz of Lynn Haven FL. A family service is planned and will be held to rest at Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, IL.



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 grandson of Wanda (Allen) Rose and the late Caroline (Henry) Ann. Donations may be made to the American Red Cross, 1400 W. Huron River Drive, Flat Rock, MI 48134.

TOLBOLD, DOROTHY JEAN

Was born to Frederick and Dorothy (Petra) Henriks on July 12, 1928. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 12, 2012. Dorothy was a graduate of Evanston (Ill.) Township High School. She married her husband, Dr. Fred T. Theodore Henriks, on August 12, 1950 and lived in Evanston and later moved to Beverly Hills, California. She worked for many years as a manager of the children's department at Jacobson's in Birmingham, MI. Dorothy and Bob enjoyed music, their cats, antiques and travel. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Fred T. Theodore Henriks of Columbia, MO. She is survived by her nephews T. Scott Henriks and wife Cheryl, of Kearney MO, John Henriks and wife Kelly of Columbia MO, Paul Henriks and wife Julie of Rockford IL, nieces Martha Head and husband Stuart of Columbia MO, and her brother Dr. Theodore Henriks of Columbia MO. Her husband and brother Dr. Bill Holtz of Lynn Haven FL. A family service is planned and will be held to rest at Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, IL.



MARACLE, JOAN MARRIAN

Died peacefully in her home with her family at her bedside on August 10, 2012, one day shy of her 70th birthday. Beloved wife of Vernon for 56 years. Dearest mother of the late Robert, and daughter Lynne (Tony) Minish and Leslie (Eric) Winterbottom. Loving grandmother to Todd, Stacy, and her son Dan. Jean, a graduate to Kelvin. Joan was born Joan Marrian Todd in Beaville, Ontario, Canada on August 11, 1933. A private family gathering was held per her wishes. Memorial contributions may be directed to The Center for Hope, 1216 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285. www.centerforhope.com

POLDERDYCK, SYLVIA J. (NICHOFF)

82, of Adrian, formerly of Westland, Michigan, died August 11, at her home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee. She is survived by her son, Wayne and Mary Nichoff on November 14, 1929 in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her children, Kerby (Steve) of Texas, Doris "Dorie" (Terry) Bishop of Florida, and Marie Louise of Fawcett, MI, 12 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Sylvia is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Henry Intermitt. It 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



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Family 'steps out' to raise money for diabetes

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Casey Schachern of Farmington Hills takes her role as a Red Strider Family Ambassador seriously.

At 11 years old, Casey, who has type 1 diabetes, is getting the word out about the American Diabetes Association (ADA) fundraising walk Sept. 15 at the Detroit Zoo.

Individuals with diabetes who participate in the event are identified as Red Striders. Casey, her dad, Chris — who has type 2 diabetes — her mom, Tracy, and younger brother, Tyler, will headline the walk as 2012 Red Strider Family Ambassadors. By sharing their story with others, they hope to increase awareness of diabetes and recruit more walkers for the cause.

"I was shaking," Casey said, recalling a recent presentation before 400 employees at Johnson Controls in Plymouth, where her parents both work as engineers. "I did it once before but only in front of 30 people."

The presentation came off without a hitch, as Casey and her brother both addressed the crowd. Tyler told listeners that he wanted to raise money to stop diabetes so that "people can have a better life and be happy." Casey explained that she had received thousands of shots since her diagnosis at age 4. She pointed out that some of the funds raised at the annual ADA diabetes camp in Fenton.

"Diabetes can be very hard, but the one thing I



The Schacherns of Farmington Hills — Tyler (left) Chris, Casey and Tracy — enjoy a visit to the ballpark.

look forward to is going to diabetes camp," she said, reciting a portion of her speech during an interview with the *Observer* last week.

"I like being around kids that are just like me, and I always have a good time."

Symptoms, complications

The ADA website describes diabetes as a disease that affects the body's ability to produce or use insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy. Individuals with type 1 diabetes don't produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes results from the body's failure to properly use insulin, combined with insulin deficiency.

Diabetes sometimes goes undiagnosed

because its symptoms — frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, weight loss, fatigue, irritability and blurry vision — may not seem threatening. But complications from untreated diabetes are serious and can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and nervous system disease.

Chris, whose father, a cousin and an aunt all are diabetic, suspected a medical problem when his symptoms began to emerge.

"I knew something was up. I was going to the bathroom at work 30 times a day. Literally," he said. A physician diagnosed type 2 diabetes and Chris began taking oral medication, later transitioning to insulin shots. Six months after his diagnosis, Casey, then 4, also began exhibiting symptoms, but neither

parent saw a red flag for diabetes.

"Because she was a little kid, I just thought she wasn't being smart about controlling her bladder," Tracy said. After two bladder infections, her blood was tested and Casey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

"That was a traumatic day," Tracy recalled. "At 4 years old, to all of a sudden have to get shots and have your finger poked, it's hard for a little kid to understand that."

Managing the disease

Tracy described Casey's onset of type 1 diabetes like "an autoimmune attack."

"Something kicked off a reaction that killed all the cells that make insulin. So, eventually you don't have any cells and



Casey Schachern is all smiles at the American Diabetes Association's annual walk last year at the Detroit Zoo. She and her family raised more than \$5,000 in donations from relatives, friends, co-workers and other supporters.

you can't make insulin. Giving medicine doesn't help you make more insulin. You have to inject it. Every time you eat, you get a shot of insulin."

When she started first grade, Casey began using a diabetes pump. It administers insulin through a small tube inserted under her skin. She changes the infusion site every three days rather than undergo shots six times a day.

"If you go someplace and for some reason you leave your insulin at home, that's a disaster," Tracy said. "But now, she's got the insulin on her. She can swim with the pump on."

"What we've always said for her is you can do anything anyone else does. She just has this

STEP OUT

What: The signature fundraising walk of the American Diabetes Association. Funds go toward research, public awareness, advocacy and programs, such as the annual American Diabetes Association camp in Fenton for children with diabetes.

When: 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15

Where: The Detroit Zoo, located on 10 Mile (I-696 service drive) and Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak.

Details: Form a team, join a team, walk as an individual or contribute to an online fundraising page.

Contact: stepout.diabetes.org


(diabetes) management thing she has to deal with."

Casey plays softball and basketball. Both she and her brother like to golf with their dad. The Schacherns are hardcore Spartan fans and enjoy Michigan State University football games, as well as Tiger Baseball.

Last year the Schachern Diabetes Walk Team raised \$5,080 for the ADA. Their pledge tally is approximately \$3,500 with less than a month before the event.

"People have been pledging. Ultimately we'll probably end up with 10-15 (walkers) on the team," Tracy said. "Our goal is to get up to \$5,000."

For more about the walk, visit stepout.diabetes.org.



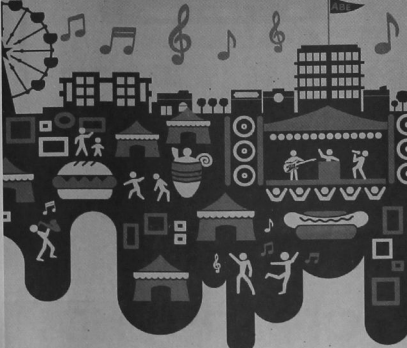
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





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Car Report

Advertising Feature

DIESEL POWER KEEPS GAINING WITH AMERICAN CAR BUYERS

By Dale Buss

With gasoline prices again penetrating the \$4-a-gallon mark in more places, it's timely to note that clean-diesel technology continues to gain on a once-skeptical American auto-buying public. Interestingly, the gains are coming at a time when hybrid sales also are climbing in substantial ways that the segment hasn't yet enjoyed.



of Volkswagen of America, said recently that he expects VW to "be able to sustain something longer-term on Passat above 25 percent TDI going forward."

"It's not just an economic argument that people respond to" in purchasing clean-diesel versions of Passat, because of the significantly higher mileage yield of diesel fuel over gasoline, he told journalists. "It's also the convenience of relatively infrequent trips to the gas station and the process of refueling. People enjoy the fact that you get extended mileage from TDI between refuels."

Clean-diesel sales of autos in the U.S. in the first half increased by nearly 28 percent over a year ago, including a 28-percent year-to-year increase in April, 14 percent in May and 22 percent in June, reports the Diesel Technology Forum.

"Despite some volatility in the auto market, clean-diesel auto sales have increased in 22



Audi established itself as a diesel advocate with this "Green Police" ad during the 2010 Super Bowl.

of the past 23 months with double-digit increases in 20 of those months noted Allen Schaefer, the Forum's executive director. "And diesel auto sales increased by more than 30 percent in 12 of these months."

Yet the Forum reported that U.S. hybrid car sales improved by nearly 64 percent during the first half when diesel sales were up by 28 percent; the overall car market was up by 15 percent. These figures seem to indicate that both technologies are gaining important new traction with U.S. consumers as a greater selection of models, in a wider variety of styles, and available at more price points, give mileage-conscious buyers more attractive options than even a year ago. And these new signs of traction for both technologies are coming even as many makers are able to

boast of significantly higher mileage for their conventionally gasoline-powered models.

What's more, even though gasoline prices this year didn't reach the heights of as much as \$5-a-gallon that some analysts had feared, the recent spike of 30 to 40 cents a gallon across the country, because of a variety of apparently short-term factors, was yet another reminder that the United States likely has entered an era where gasoline prices below \$3 a gallon will prove just a fond memory.

With more than 15 new clean-diesel models designated for the U.S. market in the next two years, even further substantial increases in diesel sales seem to be on the horizon. According to the Forum, the new models will include clean-

diesel versions of the Volkswagen Beetle; Audi A6, A8 and Q5 next year and a diesel version of A4 as early as next year; new BMWs with both new 2.0-liter and 3.0-liter inline-six-cylinder engines to expand its existing clean-diesel lineup in the U.S.; a new Jeep Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel planned by Chrysler for 2014; new diesel versions of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class line as well as other new diesels that will give the brand a total of eight diesel models by 2014; diesel versions of the new Cadillac ATS and Chevrolet Cruze next year; and the first mainstream diesel to be offered by an Asian manufacturer in a new Mazda model.

As a brand, Audi seems to be benefiting from its devotion to diesel in the U.S. at least as much as its sibling VW brand. Sales of the clean-diesel version of its A3 reached more than 46 percent of A3 sales in June as overall sales of A3 increased by more than 28 percent over a year ago. And for the other Audi clean-diesel model sold in the United States, the Q7 SUV, clean diesel accounted for nearly 26 percent of sales in July.

Audi led the way in promoting the use of clean diesel in the U.S. market when it wasn't nearly as promising a proposition as now. Partly as a way of differentiating itself from German rivals that sell far more vehicles in the U.S. market, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, Audi began making its Turbo Direct Injection clean-diesel system available on key models a few years ago.



Volkswagen is picking up production of the diesel Passat in Tennessee.



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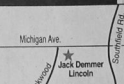
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