SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013 • hometownlife.com



REMEMBERING THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON **50 YEARS LATER**

Support up to curb fireworks laws

Township official long for reversal in Lansing

By Darrell Clem

After voting to halt late-night fireworks even on na-tional holidays, some Canton officials are hopeful state legislators may reverse laws that loosened restrictions on Roman candles, bottle rockets and other airborne devices.

"We're hoping that the Leg-islature will go back to the old way," Supervisor Phil LaJoy

said.
Elected officials in Canton and other communities have received a flurry of complaints, especially around the Fourth of July holiday, from residents who said loud fireworks rattled their nerves and

frightened their pets.
State Rep. Kurt Heise, R.
Plymouth Township, has heard
the same complaints, but he
said Lansing lawmakers said Lansing lawmakers
said Lansing lawmakers
said Lansing lawmakers
that were relaxed in early
2012. He said legislators
haven't been in session since
late June - before many of the
However, the state already
has allowed local governments

to restrict fireworks from midnight to 8 am on national holidays, the day before and the day after. The one exception is New Year's Day, when the ban cannot start until 1 am.

"I suspect that there will be those in Lansing who say let's wait another year, let's wait with the local ordinances play out." the local ordinances play out. The less said, though he added "there does seem to be a

movement (among some constituents) of returning to the state of the st

See FIREWORKS, Page A2

BROTHERLY LOVE

Union carpenters build ramp for retired Canton member

By Brad Kadrich

Beverly Langham, a diabet-ic who has suffered multiple strokes and a beart attack, needed a handicap-accessible ramp added to the Canton Township home she shares with her husband Chuck. But Chuck, a heart attack survivor himself, knew he wasn't going to be able to build it. So his brothers built it for him.

So his brothers built it for him brothers in a sibling with the brothers in the "week in the brothers in the "week in the brothers in the "week in this togother" sense that often accompanies union membership. Langham, a recently retired member of the Michigan Regional Count on the union family. Many union members joined in this week, building a new deck and adding a ramp to the front of Langham's on the front of Langham's count on his union family. Many union members joined in this week, building a new deck and adding a ramp to the front of Langham's Langham resident who organized the sense of th



dential local and Local 637 (commercial carpenters). The project, and others like it, are part of the council's mission to help in the community. Charlie Jackson, the treasurer's brother, figures he's worked on some 200 decks in the last 20 years decks in the last 20 years are some 200 years. It is not some 200 years of the projects in the union, Jackson said volunterering for such projects is a no-brainer. "We're supposed to help



Chuck and Beverly Langham appreciated the effort by union volunteers to build a new deck and ramp on their Canton Township

School board approves team changes

By Brad Kadrich

When Dr. Michael Meissen took the job as Plymouth-Cantook he job as Plymouth-Canton's new superintendent last month, he told Board of Education members he would have a 90-day plan to enact his idea of the direction the district should take.

This week, he put in place the biggest piece of that plan to date, reorganizing the responsibilities for the district's core team.

stibilities for the districts corrections to the control of the co

Drugs, alcohol did contribute to Canton man's death

Wrong cause originally reported by county office

By Darrell Clem

A spokeswoman has apologized after a mix-up by the graph county Medical Examiner's Office caused her to erroby telling the Observer the incorrect cause of death for Matthew Morris, a Canton man whose body was found after he was missing nearly three months.

alcohol and drugs.

"He died from alcohol and drug use and it was an accidental death," she said Thursday.

drug use and it was an acci-dental death," she said Thurs-day.

Mazur had earlier said Mor-ris died of natural causes, specifically heart disease, but she said she was given in-accurate information when she inquired with the medical examiner's office about his death.

death.

"Apparently there was an error in retrieving that file," Mazur said, calling it a case of "mistaken identity with someone who had a similar name" to Morris.

"It was an honest mistake

that was given to me by our chief investigator." Mazur said, apologizing for the mistake.

The latest information ruled Morris' death as accidental from a mix of alcohol and drugs, though Mazur didn't immediately know what kind of drugs.

urugs, though mazur dudni immediately know what kind of drugs.
Morris' body was found April 1 in a marshy area in an industrial area on Westland's far west side, not far east of the Walmart store on Ford Road.

Road. Foul play was ruled out as a cause of death. Morris had disappeared in mid-January from his Village

Squire apartment near Ford and Lotz roads. Friends had searched for him, worrying he may have fallen victim to foul play after his care was found in the Emagine Theater parking lot. The state of the search of the

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA

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United Wav starts new fund drive

Plymouth Community United Way kicks off its 2013 campaign Aug. 22 to raise money for programs that focus on basic needs, education and stability within Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne Coun-ty

For the last several years, PCUW provided years, PCUW provided and utility assistance because of the downturn in the economy. In addition to providing basic needs, this help PCUW pursue its new Community. Impact Initiative to advance the common good and improve the interest of the common good and improve the common good and improve the good and interest of the common good and good and interest of the common good and good

Community Office 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170 866.887.2737 Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00 p.n

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OBSERVER

HOW TO REACH US

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page A1

state should rake in tax revenues, and the should rake in tax revenues and has adopted a new ordinance and warned residents they could face fines and penalties if they shoot off fireworks during liter night hours, even during bolidays when there is no outright ban, gotten feedback that people like the restrictions, "township firustee Steven Sneideman said." I have not had anyone who said they are against the restrictions. Some have said they would like some have said they would like high-powered fireworks."

LOCAL NEWS

CICAL NEWS

Sneideman said he supports
rolling back the law, because
shooting off airborne fireworks 70 feet away from buildworks 70 feet away from buildmay not be enough. Moreover, he said there appears to
be violators in densely populate
afracas.

They so guidelines. 'S weideman said, "and it could result in dangerous situations. ...
Personally, I think fireworks
are best left to the professionallssize ies agid state legislators
are less that the guidance
and the said of allowing their restrictions
in densely populated areas,
including Wayne County communities, where fireworks can
potentially lead to more problems than in rural areas.

"I think this is not some-thing we're done with," Heise said, adding later, "I would like to see the local ordinances play these new restrictions work. But we may need to look at a different standard based on population. Maybe these local ordinances will work. We just done to be a support of the control Cannon Township Attorney Kristin Kolb said Canton, by outlawing all late night free-works, has placed the tightest restrictions it can under exist-ing states law, under the control of the control of the mend our ordinances to add those restrictions," she said. The new rules go into effect after the township board adopt-ed the changes Theedy eve-ning on a second reading of the

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CHANGES Continued from Page A1

ack down to the directors.

back down he said.

» Monica Merritt, who had been executive director of human resources, has been promoted to assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations.

supermenus-resources and labor rela-tions.

deanne Farina had her title adjusted to assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. She had been assistant superintendent for incomparity of secondary education Erin MacGregor, meanwhile, has been pro-moted to executive director of secondary education and of secondary education and for secondary education and Fixed Programments of the con-traction of

protessional everyones ment).

» Phil Freeman, who had been in charge of facilities and operations, has been made the assistant superintendent of programs and charge of the district's five middle schools.

Kate Dietrich joined the team last week as the new director of communications, community engagement and made of the communications. The school board approved the changes Tuesday.

Proved the changes day,
"When you get someone in who's been highly successful and they have a view to make things more effective, you go with it," said John Barrett, the board's president, "This reorganization will make the district more effective, but he district more effective, but he district more effective."





Doyle Goble of Belleville drives screws in the ramp at Chuck Langham's home

CARPENTERS

It's special to Langham, too, because Beverly can no longer negotiate the stairs. He hopes to get her a motorized roundabout to allow her easier access to their home.

On Thursday, he was preciative of "many to the stairs and the stairs are stairs are stairs. He stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs are stairs. The stairs are stairs. The stairs are stair

Swinginfusion draws a new generation doing the Lindy Hop By Joanne Maliszewski

Move over, Fred and Ginger. There's a whole new generation dom-inating the dance world

on ciraws at the swing dancing genre — every dancing about We're talking about We're talking about We're talking about dancing dancing

Kristine Oberan of Farmington and Anthony Wozniak of Livonia tear up the dance floor at the Third Annual Swinglinfusion Thursday night at the Sundquist Pavillion, PHOTOS BY JOHN/STORMAND (STORMAND) STORMAND STO

"I come every week, said Ayla Eichennhofer, who drives in from Fla-trock. "I love swing dancing — the Lindy

Long and the Charleston. I have been diamined the Charleston. I have been diamined for five years."

The crowds who gather every Thursday centre of the control of the control of Livonia, who is not only the disse jockey on non-live-band nights, but the organizer of Swinginfusion Farmington. Dan Shimokochi, and Eastern Michigan University graduate, offers the swing dance. A few years ago, he didn't know how to dance either the the present of the control of the control

dancing for two years."
Halley Bezoau, meansister, Madison, and friends Kimberly Phillips of Newport and April Scotts of Canton
April Scotts of Canton
fun and you get meet
fun you get meet
scotts has attended
when the girls were
asked if they would like
do the Lindy Hop or
con the fun and
ancer Ginger Rogers
— a shocked look
ancer Ginger Rogers
— a shocked look
crossed their faces,
crossed their faces,
so would be should be should be should be
it's more comfortable
it's more confortable
han wearing heels,"
said Phillips.

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Farmers Market snags state grant to boost programs

By Darrell Clem

Canton Farmers Mar-ket will implement healthy lifestyle pro-grams for upper ele-mentary school students in September after re-ceiving word it has se-cured a \$15,472 grant from the Michigan Eco-nomic Development Corp.

card derails of those rojects haven theen scided. The latest infusion of oney marks the third market for the latest infusion of oney marks the third market have been seen to the latest infusion of the latest late

tober.
Last year, the market ed part of its MEDC ant for healthy life-rile programs for mide school students, but ovd said this year's

focus in September will be upper elementary

be upper elementary school ages.

"This year, we're go ing to go a little bit younger," she said. "I think it's good to stark posed to the things they can do to stay posed to the things they can do to stay healthy. Canton's grant was one of 10 announced Thursday by MEDC officials, which approved a che Michigan Strategic Fund.

"Farmers markets improve und downtowns and bring vitality and a sense of place to our properties of the properties

strengtuen communities and a construction will match the state grant as it moves to improve programs and other market amenities, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said Michigan ranks fourth in the nation of the market and the said of farmers markets. Meanwhile, Lloyd has announced the Justice of this Sunday's news for this Sunday's news for this Sunday's Among the highlights.

» Musician Dan Mazur

makes his debut on the Bartlett-Travis House porch from 9 a.m. to 1

Bartlett-Travis House proch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chef Paul cooke up seasonal produce from 10:30 a.m. to noon. **
**Swap out children's books during a youth book exchange. Left over books will be donated to book exchange. Left over books will be donated to book exchange. Left over books will be donated to book exchange. Left over books will be donated to book exchange the book exchange t

awainote for lumping better storytime.

"A Get tickets early for an event dubbed frew,
Brats and Bands at the
Barn, set for 69 p.m.
Brats and Bands at the
Brats and Bands at
Brats and
Bra

Pooch parlor pairs pets, owners

By Darrell Clem

Canton shop owner
Julie Pello has made it
her business to give
pampered pets a stylish
makeover at Uptown
Poochie Parlor in Cherry Hill Village.
Now she house

real, no-kill shelter," she said.
If they can save an aminal in any possible aminal in any possible are to a said of the said makeover at Uptown
Proochie Parior in CherProche Parior in Cher
Proche Par

interact with potential owners.
"It's going to be a meet and greet," Clemmer said.
If aspiring pet owners find a dog they want, she said, they will begin a process that involves filling out a form and bringing any other dogs they have to the shelter potential new house-mate.

'Great shelter'
"It's a really great
shelter and it's a for-

Back-To-School Open House Wednesday, August 21 5-8 p.m.



Join us as we kick off our Fall Program and Class Registration with plenty of family fund Stop in For: Speelal Coupons - Discounts - Class Demos (Peschool / Karat e) and Morel) - Fun Activities for the kids - Bounce House - Dunk Tank - Face Paining - Free Community Swim 7-9pm (spece is limited). - Heart Roary from the Detroit Lions - Enter our drawing for areasone prizes, notating in FREE Season of Swim Lessons and a FREE 4-pack Fee.

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BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR BKADRICHOHOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Backpack drive benefits schools

By Brad Kadrich

In a couple of weeks, thousands of students in the Pyndisch of Students in the Pyndisch of Students in the Pyndisch of Students of Student



Dr. Michael Meissen Community Schools Maj. Keith Bailey, th Salvation Army.

Salvation Army.

Buren school districts, as well as many local churches, service clubs and private donors — launches a school supply drive Aug. 19. The drive seeks to collect school supply drive Aug. 19. The drive to collect school seeks to colle

nations 1-6 p.m. Friday,
Aug. 24. The supplies will
then be sorred and
possible solutions of control and
the solution of annilies Thesday, Aug. 27.
Needed supplies include backpacks (particularly for older students),
binders, supply cases),
bags, colored pencils,
markers, wide-ruled
paper and one-subject
note books, highlighters,

pens (red, black and blue), rounded-tip scisglue bottles, glue bettles, glue bettles



District gets new technology chief

By Brad Kadrich

With the approval of the May bond initiative, Plymouth-Canton Com-munity Schools admin-istrators are faced with the daunting task of empowering students with at It technology and pred or other learning device in the hands of some 18,000 students and 1,100 teachers. And now they have the guy to lead the ef-Elson Liu has been

the RIV to lead the effort.

Elson Liu has been fort.

Elson Liu has been the first the first three to find the first three to find the first three th

were in the process of refitioning a couple of techtions when Casteel
announced his retirement. That process stopped, she said, while
were brought and the posting got 21 responses,
including four from
the process of the process of the process
including four from
the process of the process
including four from
the process of the process
including four from
the process of the process
were brought back for a
second interview be
"a second interview be
"a second interview be
"a unanimous decision,"
Merritt said, on Liu.
Liu has been director
of technology for Brighthe process of the process
million bond and has
conducted pilot projects
worth some \$500,000 to
evaluate new technolBefore Brighton, Liu
spent eight years with
Howell Public Schools.
Liu carned a bacheford University and a
master's degree in educational technology
from MIT.

we need to lead us formad with this dynamic
team and this vision,"
Merrit said, on where the process
were deto lead us formad with this dynamic
team and this vision,"

District offers preschool class for 4-year-olds

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Depart-ment is offering a tuition-free program for 4-year-old children. The classes offer in-quiry-based learning in an exploratory program where children use class-room materials to ex-plore, discover and

Monday through Thursday, with full- and partday options. The full-day program is six hours per day. The half-day option is three hours per day. day. The hair-day option is three hours per day. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. Classes are free to eligible families who are residents of the Ply-mouth-Canton Communi-

ty School District. Children must be 4 years old by Nov. I. All nution-free classes are located at Allen Elementary, 11100 Haggerty Road, Plymouth.
Call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 for more information or visit http://early-childhood.pccs.k12.mi.us.



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CERTIFIED TRAINED TECHS

With attendance doubling over two years, Don Nicholson has every reason to expect the third installment of Cruisin' Hines to be ligger and definitely better. In the petter in the petter in med ay cruise of Hines Drive in Dearborn will roar to life at 9 am. Sunday, 12, 25. More than 40,00 classic cars—those at lesst 25 years old—and some way after they left the dealership—are expected to participate.

ueatersinp – are expected to participate.

"The third year is looking phenomenal," said cruise pro-moter Nicholson of Westland. "We're getting more and more calls and we have doubled the number of car clubs. We had 24 last year and 52 so far this year."

year," All this year. Hins Drive will be closed to regular traffic from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday for the cruise. In a switch from 18 year, cruisers must enter Hines Drive off Merriman, north of Warren Road. All spectators can enter at Merriman, Telegraph Road or the Warrendale picnic area in Dearborn Heights.

Few changes
The change for cruisers,
who beginning showing up well
in advance of 9 a.m., is to cut
down on the congestion that
developed at Ann Arbor Trail.
"With Ann Arbor Trail two
lans and Farmington and
Hines, it was like a funnel,"



The Cruisin' Hines T-shirt pays tribute to Henry Ford. This year is the

150th anniversary of the auto pion Nicholeon said. "The four lanes on Merriman, so hopefully traffic will flow a little better." Like the fact that a lot of cars want to get into the park, but I don't want the cruise to be known as a traffic jam. I want the want to be the control of the con

cruise. They will work at the spectator entrances and at the main gate to let cars in and pass out magazines. Volunteers between the Friends of Nankin Mills in raising money to restore a Model T that will put in the museum for children to "get in Michalon is holding a volunteers meeting at 6 p.m. Monday Aug. 19, at Nankin Mills, Ann Arbor Trail and Eines and the Mills of the Mill

Big turnout

Big turnout
There's no need to register
for the cruise, something Nicholson shelved after the first
cruise in 2011. He had used the
registration to develop a mailing list, but discovered it was
too costly.
"L'expected 4,000 and got
24,371. I couldn't afford the
postage," he said. Twe even
discontinued the goodies bags
don't look in them."
This is the first year CruiThis is the first year Crui-

don't look in them."
This is the first year Cruisin' Hines is included in Pure Michigan's Autopalooza and is being promoted outside of the state. Nicholson also was at the Woodward Dream Cruise this



More than 40,000 classic cars, street rods and modifieds filled Hines Drive last year for the second annual Cruisin' Hines ca cruise. FILE PHOTO

weekend to promote "all Auto-palozae vents."

Nicholson is pleased with the prominence the Hines cruse has achieved in just cruse has achieved in just cruse has achieved in just promote the Hines of the woodward Dream Cruise and Flint's Back to the Bricks.

"The Woodward Dream Cruise and Flint's Back to the Bricks."

"The Woodward Dream Cruise and Flint's Back to the Bricks."

"The Woodward Dream Cruise and Cruise his the invitor outle we be without it? Everyone strives to achieve that level."

For more information about Cruisin Hines, visit its website book page at www.face-book.com/CruisinHines.

smason@hon 313-222-6751

"The third year is looking phenomenal. We're getting more and more calls and we have doubled the number of car clubs. We

had 24 last year and 52 so far this year."

Being a landlord is no easy task

O: Dear flidt: I was just divorced and in the settlement I became the sole owner of a 12-unit apartment building. I have no experience on apartment building. I have no experience on apartment and that the building is a good investment and I should keep in the said I can hire a management company however, says I should sell the building and use the money to pay off the mortgage on my home. Through the mortgage on my home. Through the medical content of the said I was a support of the mortgage on the said of the said in the said i

debt.

A: In reviewing your deduct.

A: In reviewing your situation, I agree with your brother. My reasoning is based upon a number of different issues, the situation of the long best pible. The long has been dead with a life associated issues that a rise from owning earlier that a rise from owning all the issues surround. In recognize that you can hir a smangement company to handle day-to-green the long has been a life in such a life in the long has been a life in life in long has been a life in life in



monthly rent. It is not so easy. What makes it difficult, for example, is that call, for example, is that you like but they can't afford the rent, what do you do! If you can't honger than the setty answer that you would evict them, you probably should in be a personally, I would have a hard time evicining anyone and that is why I am not a landfout of the consider is if you line a work of the consider is if you line a work of the consider is if you line a work of the consider is if you line a work of the consider is if you may find that by the time you pay what does that do to your cash flow? You may find that by the time you pay what does that do to you cash flow you may find that by the time you pay what cash flow? You may find that by the time you pay what had not be that the young that the young that you want afford to be passive, where you cannot afford to do that do that do that do that they involved in the property. If you do not have the time or desire to be involved, it is probably a different with your money.

ey.
In your situation,
using the proceeds to
pay off a 6-percent mortgage is a very good use
of the money.
Good luck.



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XIIOT D

Zoo hosts Senior Day on Sept. 4

Plenty of activities planned for annual celebration

Senior citizens living in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties are invited to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo on Senuties are unived to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo in Senuties are universed to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo in Senuties of the Counties are universed and in Senuties of the Counties of t

Woehlke Palooza aims to help fallen firefighter's family

Some well-known musical acts will take the stage Firlduy and Saturday, Aug 23-24, when U.S. 12 and the Wayne-Westland Professional Fire Fighters. Local 1279 host the first ever Weehlie Palooza. First ever Weehlie Palooza was a stage of the stage of the

Wayne, rain or shine, begin-ning at 5 pm. Friday and noon and the ship of the ship of the ship of a corn hole tournament, fire-fighters auction and begin of the ship ong. Food and drinks also will sar at 6 pm. and feature the Thrill Billies, followed by Ty Stone and headliner LoCash Cowbbys.

On Sattley the palones.

On Sattley the palones.

On Sattley the palones are ship the ship of family activities. There will be kids' con-tests, including ice cream eating, Hula Hoop and musical bounce house, dunk iank and firefighters competitions like water ball, rolling water ball and combat challenge.

and combat challenge.

Firefighter events

Also planned is a fire statum cook off and untical demical combands of the statum cook off and untical demical conditions of the statum cook off and untide off the prod, drinks and a DJ also will be available all day inside and outside on the patio. WRIF-FM (IDLI) will broadcast live Saturday from U.S. La Bandits, Juke Box Herces, Pistol Day Herces, Pistol Day William (Juke Box Herces) and Juke Box Herces, Pistol Day William (Juke Box Herces) and Juke Box Herces (Juke Box Herces) an



A two-day event at U.S. 12 in Wayne will benefit the family of





Among the performers at Woehlke Palooza will be the LoCash Cowboys, who combine soul, rock, funk, pop, hip-hop and gospel in a high-energy version of contemporary country

version of contemporary country.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance at all wayne-Westland fire stations. Wayne-Westland fire stations are stationary of the station

"I really hope we get 6,000 people. Our goal is to generate 100 percent of the proceeds for the family fund." JOHN GOCI

firefighters."

Helping the family

reiging the family
Numerous fundraisers
have been held since Weehlke
died in the May 8 fire. He had
been with the department for
10 months when he responded
to a fire at Marvaso's Italian
Grille and Electric Stick just
after 8 a.m. A mayday distress
radio call was received from
him about 9:30 a.m. and his
body was recovered from the
collapsed building about 12:40
p.m.

collapsed building about 12-40 p.m.

It was determined that died of smoke and soot inhalation after became trapped in debris from the collapsed businesses. He was the first firefighter to fall in the line of duty in the city of Westland Fire Department's 47-year history.

duty in the city of Westland
Fire Department's 47-year
higher than the proper of the proper of the propular restaurant and
gaming room. In July, WayneWestland Fire Assistant Chief
Fire Marshal John Adams had,
Fire Marshal John Adams had,
Fire Marshal John Adams had,
the time, Adams said
that there was no evidence of accelerants found at the scene.
Goc is hoping the palvosa
Goc is hoping the palvosa
the proper of the

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stors, felms unleade Verinces, field years totors, furniture, printer / copy machines, and at d for Wednesday August 21st from 10am-4pm y August 23rd from 10am-4pm. View all item (866) 260-1611 for question

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TUESDAY AUGUST 27TH
SURPLUS BUSES - GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Livonia author hoping to encourage other families facing adversity

Doctors were so sure International States of the Control of the Co

Each other's hero
"I wrote it to honor
my daughter," Carolyn
Siewicki said. "She is my
hero. She survived and
did far beyond even that.
She has a list of accom-

plishments a mile long."
Carolyn said she wartof other children born
with physical and cognitive challenges and also
iet the public know how
the public know how
show the company of the company
to t



om right, at the recent CHARGE Syndrome Confer

"Entrust your works to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." Jennifer's motto always was, "I can try." Jennifer is now back

place her in a nursing home.

Instead, the Siewickis took her back home, where she had around-the-clock nursing care. By Christmas of that year, Jennifer had started. Siewicking the started of the started of the started of the started had started ha

Faith sustained

tem.
The Bible verse hang ing on their refrigerator Proverbs 16:3, was an inspirational reminder:

liners. She hopes to find a job working with animals or in the film industrial control of the co



at home, after living on her own while attending OU, looking for work, caring for her cat and keeping her family laughing with her one-

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Corn roast

Locations Cadylloyer Earn, Ridge put north of Chery Hill in Canton
Details: The Carton Lions Cub hosts its annual corn creat for a desiblent of \$5, hot dops, baked bearn, ice cream snow comes, poppon, criton sandy and cream street on the comes, poppon, criton sandy and graffig tickets for \$5 sach, which will give the giper a chance to win \$500 cath of the giper a chance to win \$500 cath of the comes of th

Taste Fest
Determer (right, Sept. 6, 6 8 p.m.
Locations, Sation, 855, 885 Starkweather in Pymouth's Gid Village
Details. The Pymouth's Carton Civitan
Club and Sation 855 sponnor Taste Fest,
which will offer great food and vivine
stations, personal sept. Sept. 18 p.m. 18 p.m.

Lacrosse camp

DateTime: Aug. 19-21, 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Northville Community Park
Datalis: Northville Parks and Recreation is offering a summer lacrosse cam
provided to the community of the community of

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Kids day

Students gathered in Plymouth for a reading session, credit union tour, snacks and much more at Catholic Vantage Financial Fledit Credit Union. Youth Program Coordinator in Galastis read to the Credit Union. Youth Program Coordinator in Galastis read to the age-appropriate and engaging manner. Galastis, with the help of the Plymouth Franch staff, gave students a tour of the credit union, with a special stop at the coin counter, drive through and vault area. The students, again Ses 10, enjoyed anacks around the conference table while isterning to Galastis read 'Lemonade in Winter' by Emily Jenkins and G. Plank Karas.

Summit open house

Location: Summit on the Park, Canton Details: Heralding in new books, backpacks and beginnings, the Summit on the Park community and fitness to the Park community and fitness will be welcome to discounted Summit memberships, free swimming (7-9 pm.) prize drawings, performances by Dm. Art Studio. Crusin' Custom Congo William Art Studio. Crusin' Custom Congo William Dm. prize drawings and prize drawings and prize drawings and prize drawings.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Suite 250, Canton
Details: United Home Health Services
offers free courseling with a certified
MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance
Program) counselor. The counselor can
help you understand your Medicare/
Medicaid eligibility and the various
plans, apply for Medicaid, research an
enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare supple-

mental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and repo-MedicareMedicaid fraud and abuse and explore long-term care insurance options. No appointment necessary. Contact: Call 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/ pages/about.html

Perennial exchange

Perennial exchange Dataffirms: Saturday, Sept. 7,9-11 a.m. Location: Eart end of Kellogg Park Details: The Tailwood Garden Club, member of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, is sponsoring a perennial exchange during the Primouth Fail Fail Festival. Bring perennial containing of Justice Perennial Containing Containing

CROP Walk recruiters meeting

Detailmer. Useday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.
Locations Geneva Probyterian Church,
Details All area churches, temples and
mosques in Canton and Pymouth are invited to send a representative to this
meeting regarding the CROP walt, to be held Sunday, Oct. 13, in Pymouth.
CROP hunger walts bring the whole community tegether in a common home and around the world.
Contact: For more information, contact

Gary or Becky Copenhaver at bgcope

'Come and See' dinner

'Come and See' dinner
DaterTime: Sept 7, 5-7 pm. Sept 8,
1-3 pm. Sept 1, 45-7 pm. Sept 2,
1-4 pm. Sept 1, 45-7 pm. Sept 2,
1-4 pm. Sept 2, 45-7 pm. Sept 2,
1-4 pm. Sept 2,

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations: » Monday, Aug. 26, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth. » Thursday, Aug. 29 1-6:45 p.m., Ply-mouth District Library, 223 S. Main,

Contact: To make an appointment, contact Diane Risko at 313-549-7052

Crafters wanted

Location: Plymouth
Details: Organizers say it's not too
early to send in an application for a
booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Cra
Show. There are only a few spaces left in
the show. Applications are available
on the Craft Show page at
www.plymouthalflestival.com.
Contact: For more information; conta
Colleen Brown, craftshow@plymouthafflictshia.com or 734-455-1641.

Vendors wanted

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 9 Location: First United Methodist Church of Northville.

Church of Northville.

Details: Organizer of the sixth annual Bizarre Bazaar are looking for crafter, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor, vendors and vendors with a World countries with a World countries with a World countries. Organized with a World vendors with a Buzanized with a World vendors and vendors with a World ven

Atchinson Ford has received the President's Award from Ford Motor Company, which is Ford's highest honor for customer satisfaction.

Bipolar support

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesd of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location: Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608,

Plymouth.

Details: The Depression Bipolar Sup-port Alliance is a self-help group for people surfering 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 grou Contact: Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Diabetes support sday of each

Date/Time: Second Thursday of each month, 2-3:30 p.m. Location: Plymouth District Library, 223

5. Main

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Ferr Vinling, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies. ement strategies. ntact: Call Fern Vining at 734-454

Support group

an Church, 36560 Cherry Hill, Westfand Details. Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? It your hear throken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts, who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a pales to talk and share with others, a per with all of the new and frightening experiences.

Contact For questions or more in-formation, contact Bonnie at 734-646-2237 or by email at prettymo-nach/@comactat Bonnie at 734-646-2237 or by email at prettymo-nach/@comactat.

Calling all crafters

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to

Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth

Township

Details: Crafters wanted for Delta
Kappa Gamma's 29th annual Craft
Show. Proceeds from the show will be
used to support college scholarships fo
local students focusing on careers in
education.



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Behind Franklin High School



Ex-Marine recalls service of Staff Sgt. Reckless - a horse

By Sue Buck

A local family is recalling a famous horse
named Staff Sgt. Reckless who played a part in
the Korean War
the Washington, D.C., area
late last month to pay
tribute to the horse,
which is now memorialized with a new statue
in addition to Batherson and his wife Barbara,
who live in Westland,
daughter Amy Frazee, a
Garden City resident,
order wife Anne
the War
Th

rse.
The Batherson family tended the dedication Staff Sgt. Reckless at e National Museum of e Marine Corps in pantico. Reckless was a rse that was so heroic

during the Korean War that the U.S. Marines promoted her to staff sergeant, an honor never before or since bestowed on an animal. She was not a mascot. She was an official military NCO.

The dedication event this year was tied in to the 60th celebration of the end of the Korean War on Saturday, July 27. It was part of a three-day event which drew 3,000 resule.

It was part of a three-day event which drew 3,000 people.

A plaque and photo were dedicated in her honor at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A statue of her was dedicated July 26.

her was dedicated July 26.
Batherson was a sequent in the Marines during the Korean War, "Reckless was very important to the Marines," he sample of an animal hat ample of an animal hat branch of the United States military, Originally purchased for \$250 from a Korean boy who needed money to buy an etc., she served with the Riffe Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, Fifth Marine Division and the 1st Ma-

track, he said. Sie was about two years old when purchased. The highlight of her The highlight of her Sie was a single day, she made SI solo trips to resupply multiple front line units was a single day, she made SI solo trips to resupply multiple front line units was a single day, she made SI solo trips to resupply multiple front line units was a single day, she made SI solo trips to resupply a single was a single was

near the stove.
Reckless was featured.
Reckless was featured in The Saturday Evening.
Post and Life magazine.
"She was on the Ed.
Sullivan Show," said
Frazee, who grew up in
Garden City, "The original tapes have all been
destroyed."
She was promoted to
sergeant about a month
before the war ended in
1953.
Reckless was retired.

1953.
Reckless was retired and brought after the war to the United States, where she was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959. Reckless gave birth to four foals in America and died in May 1968.
"She had a good life," Batherson said.

313-222-2249 Twitter: @SueSbuck



therson, daughter Amy Frazee, and wife, atherson, show off a photo of Reckless in the om at Batherson's Westland condo. BILL BRESLER I

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A statue of Staff Sgt. Reckless was dedicated in July in Quantico. She is shown carrying ammunition as she did when she worked for the Marines during the Korean War.

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The Environmental Quality Co. in Wayne is partnering with the Michigan Department of Environmental Qual-ity for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Mercury Collection Project

Restoration Initiative Mercury Collection Project Mercury Collection Project is an ongoing effort to collect and properly recycle mercury. Small and large business operations have traditionally mercury collection events. The project's objective is to address this issue and promote a long-term solution for recycling of mercury. The program is free to anyone in Michigan residents included. The program is viil send a free collection bucket with a shipping box to your door via

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common carrier. Each bucket will contain the easy-to-follow return interest of the containing device or devices, just simply apply the return label, provided with the mercury containing device or devices, just simply apply the return label, provided with your bucket, security of the containing devices of the containing devises. EQ will facilitate the recycling of the mercury containing devises. EQ will facilitate the recycling of the mercury containing devises made to the creamed through this mail-back program. Some examples of eligible mercury containing devises include therefore the containing devises include the containing devises with silver colored liquid inside, dental amalgam and hydrometers.

The project ends Sept. 30. Call 734-547. 2317 or email mercury-

bucket@eqonline.com to order a free collection container and instruc-tion kit. More information can be found at greatlakes-restoration.us/ or on the EQ website at www.e-conline.com

EQ website at www.e-qonline.com. The Environmental Quality Co. is a fully integrated environ-mental services and waste management organization based may an ex-tension of the control of the Wayne. It implements innovative technology and service solutions that minimize waste volumes, reduce costs and protect the environ-ment.

and protect the environment.
EQ owns ISO certified treatment, disposal and recycling facilities and manages an extensive line of remediation, industrial cleaning and total waste management services throughout the United States.

Picnic fires up drug awareness need

By Diane Gale Andreassi

A group tying to raise money to open a substance abuse treatment center in South Lyon is a couple of steps closer to its goal. Organizers are hoping this year's fundraising picnic should do a lot to bring them even closer.

incompanies year's fundratising picine's bould do a to to bring them even training picine's bould do a to to bring them even the control of t

towin a flat-screen WFI:
Live auction items
include a dinner for two
at Bacco Nestorante in
Southfield and an after
dinner from the Detroit
Yacht Club.
Picnic proceeds will
go toward opening a
substance abuse transition facility in stoon with
Lyon in cooperation with
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Lyon in cooperation
William Coultion, SR Mary Mercy Hospital, Botsford
Hospital Foundation and
Safari Club International
SE. Chapter of Michigan
Bowhunters.

"Our first goal of \$500,000 is now one-third complete, within this past year," said Richard Asztalos, CDS Founda-tion president.

Drug awareness
While raising money
is a focus of the pient,
the real emphasis is on
a focus of the pient,
the real emphasis is on
about the importance of
drug awareness, Asztalos
asid. Representatives
from Livonia Save Our
entation during the
pienic and host a booth recipient
and host a booth recipient
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pienic and host a booth with
while family suffers," he
added. "We are in an
epidemic of substance
abuse and lives are being
suicides and overdoses,
resulting in death. Learn
what you can do for those
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The DIB are put in a
bowl and everyone takes
what they want, oftentimes not knowing what
The CDS Foundation's
focus of drug awareness.

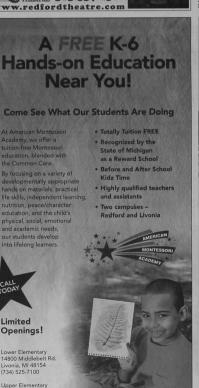
The CDS Foundation's focus on drug awareness began after Tino Del Signore died in a tractor accident three years ago on the farm. Del Signore, the 47-year-old son of John and Lina Del Signore, owners of Laurel Manor in Luyonia, was known for his generosity and philanthropic work, Asztalos safter Aug. 25 fundais.

has gone to U.S Fodus, and the control of the contr

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Dignity 1

50 years later ...

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST KEEPS WORKING TO FULFILL KING'S DREAM

By Sue Mason

Reasther Everett
Wassen Santher Everett
Road State May 12 Marin Luther King Jr.
Marin Luther Lu

"I think we thought it would be different," she said. "He kept the faith and gave us faith that it could happen. We had a good start, but we never made it to the finish line.

Everett is no stranger

good start, but we never and eit to the finish line." Everett is no stranger to segregation. She grew to segregation. She grew to segregation. She grew to segregation. She grew to segregation in North Carolina and attended a black high school. She remembers joining students in walking out of school, but they weren't protesting segremanding "equalization". They wanted the same things afforded students at the white high school. Promises were made. Promises were made to the black high school students were moved to the white high school and the white side is school. But it wasn't integration. The white students left for another school. "When the white kids got new books, we got



Something special." There were segre-gated water fountains and bathcos and bathcos and blacks had their own businesses. They were community and their own businesses. They were were allowed to go into the white communities. Everyone wanted to go to the better stores. "We really wanted to go to the better stores. "We really wanted to go to the better stores, and the store of the work of the store of the st

neighborhood of Brookjuny. N.Y. Her mother had gone to the predominantmother had gone to the predominantmother had gone to the predominantprofits and monthly to the control of the control
profits and monthly to the control
profits and the control of the control
profits and the control

'Living the dream'

"Living the dream"

By the time King made is tonic speech, Everett and her husband Arnell, a World War II Veteran, were living the dream. They were raising their bone in Westland's historic Annapolis Park Subdivision. They were among the first home to work the world war to be a wor

brought integration to the tidy neighborhood.

Everett still walke to be a considered to a considered to be a considered to a considered to be a c

now is to the content of the content

have to go through the things some of us had to, they can grow to be any-thing they want to be."

tegration to the borrhood.

The properties of the rails o

smason@hometownlife.com 313-222-6751 Twitter: @SusanMarieMason



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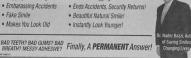
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ough the Mena

Menards finally opens to much fanfare

Large crowds fill store on first day

By David Veselenak

Susan Suboch has driven by the new Menards home mards home mards home mards home swement store several times. So when she saw the sign announcing it was open, she and her husband decided to check it out. She ended up walking out with a brand-new mailbox and humming bird feeders for her family's home in Garden City.

"It has a large variety

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ES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANCE 0: MAKE ME WANNA H TH. 8/22 8:00 PM

City.
"It has a large variety
of things to chose from,"
she said.
Menards opened Tuesday at 17201 Middlebelt.
The home improvement
store sells a wide array
of items, including light

store on first day
fixtures, lumber and
tools.
James Larkin, the
store's manager, said he's
surprised at the number
walked through the door.
The parking lof Tuesday
was filled.
"I did not expect it to
be that large the very
first day," he said. "I was
hoping for a great turnout, which we did receive."

Wayne County's first Menards

The store is the first Menards to open in Wayne County and one of two in the Detroit area. Another Menards opened Another Menards opened the county of the C

locations in Bay City and Jackson, said it's been great working in a store so close to the urban been great working in a store so close to the urban been great working better to "We've gotten a lot of great feedback from guests," he said, "They're happy we re here, we're happy to be here."

The store continues to accept employment applications, Menards off a company of the working working working the store has.

One of the biggest sections that has seen a lot of items get pulled off the shelf is the grocery area, something Larkin said is uncommon in other home improvement stores.

other home unproveness stores. A grand opening event is scheduled for Aug. 24, complete with local ce-lebrities signing auto-graphs and sales on sev-eral items throughout the store, Larkin said. Suboch said the trip she recently took to the



store was a good experi-ence and she said she'd gladly return. "Absolute ly," she said.

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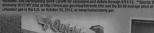


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Accounting problems remain for Dillon funds

Michigan state treasurer's campaign accounts show large discrepancies

By Paul Egan

LANSING — Three campaign finance accounts controlled by Michael Research Adv Dall Control Cont



State Treasurer Andy Dillon has had some trouble with his campaign finances from his run for governor, PATRICIA RECK I DETROIT TREE PROFES

Cities such as Detroit.

Among the reasons the state requires regular reporting by candidate committees and policial action committees and policial action committees is to assure donation limits aren't exceeded and that fund money is spent only in accordance with state law, Once a campaign is over, leftover more paign is over, leftover more more ways, such as denoting it to a charity or transferring it to another committee.

weys, such as donating it to a charity or transferring it to another committee. Dillon lost the 2010 Democratic nomination to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and laneri-stration of Gov Rick Snyder, who beat Bernero in the general election. The biggest accounting problem relates to the committee Dillon used for his general counting problem relates to the committee Dillon used for his general counting problem relates to the committee Dillon used for his gined, filed with the Secretary of State on Feb. 10, 2012, Dillon asked to close the account. The committee requests the manufacture of the committee requests the committee of the committee requests the committee of th

count.
Seven months later, in September 2012, Dillon's treasurer Michael Maher filed a corrected 2012 report showing the amount of money that couldn't be accounted for was actually much larger — about \$105,000.

"We have only a few dollars in our checking account," Dilton and the control of the control of

subshood discrepancy when uploaded to the state system, he said.
"It's a technical dilemma," and "the two parties can't figure out how to make it go away," he said. "We can't figure out what the next step ought to be."

out what the next step ought to:

A second fund, Andy Dillon for State Representative, was dissolved by the Secretary of State in April — despite showing an \$8,900 balance on paper and a zero bank account balance. A gain, in that case, Dillon the discrepancy to an unexplaimed accounting error.

"No person, including me as candidate or the treasurer Daniel Mahoney, improperly benefited from this account ince," Dillon said in the affidavit.

STATE TREASURER'S CAMPAIGN FUNDS IN DISARRAY

ampaign funds controlled by Mic een plagued with reporting prob urrently unaccounted for in the f

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Purpose: Was used to fund Dillon's campaigns as a Demo-cratic state representative from

cratic state type sec.
Rectford.
Fund balance on paper; \$8,914.53
Fund balance in bank: 0
Issue: The Secretary of State
allowed the committee to be
dissolved earlier this year despite
the financial discrepancy, which
Dillon described as "an
unexplained error in accounting."

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN
Purpose: Was used to fund
Dillon's unsuccessful Democrat
bild for governor in 2010.
Fund balance on paper:
\$104,871.05
Fund balance in bank: "A few
dollars."

Issue: The Secretary of State has refused to allow the committee to be dissolved because of the financial discrepancy. Dillon campaign officials say the large balance is a computer or accounting error, but they have not been able to resolve it.

FUND: DILLON LEADERSHIP FUND: PULLON LEADERSHIP FUND: Purpose: Dillon used it to support various candidates when he was a state representative and House speaker. Fund balance: \$4.667 Issue: The committee filed two overdue reports on friday, after overdue reports on friday, after the free Press. The Secretary of State assessed late reporting fines of \$775.

dollars:

SQURCES: Michigan Secretary of State's Office; Detroit Free Press research

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Woodhams said officials allowed Dillon's state representative committee to dissolve because the amount of the discrepancy was much smaller than the one in his gubernatorial account. Typically, "You and the state of the state o

since the fund was set up. He
blamed poor communities
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since the fund was set up. He
for sit and the fund to the fund of state about where notices for
required filings need to get
sent.

However, "I... need to do a
better job" of keeping up with
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Get an 'A' in personality for back to school

Parents, students stocking up for new year

By Beth Jachman

School days, school days, ear old slap bracelet ruler

School days, school days, dear old slap bracelet ruler days.

Graph of the school of t

At local Target stores, back to college is also big business with popular wire form lamps, chairs and stools and small space furniture to fit in dorm coms, according to Mike Lash, an executive team leader of logistics at the Westland Target.

of algebras.

Target.

It's my space

At the high school level, items to decorate lockers are popular with tenes who want to make that humdrum space their own - even with rugs and mini chandeliers. "If you want some stylish stuff, you can go ad out," said Whitney Spencer, it was the stuff, and with the stuff of the

"Tablets are becoming like the new notebook," he said. This year, some of the hot-test tech is the Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Tablets, the New ACER Windows 8 tablet and ACER Windows 8 tablet and Touch" technology, according to Office Depot spokesperson Raquel Erwin.

At Parget, USB strives, e.d.

At Parget, USB strives, e.d.

At Carrier, and the said are also popular, Lash said, are also popular, Lash said.

Get personal
Personalization is huge this year, so many students are choosing to create a custom-ized look Office Depot offers the Crayola Creation, where kids can customize their own crayon/marker assortment, according to Erwin.
Personalization is also a hit at Target. Duct tape in patterns and colors or popular terns and colors or popular exercised processes of the color of the patterns and colors or popular even clothes, Lash said.
Glitter notebooks, animal print pencil pouches, gamer calculators and paisley bind-

THINGS KIDS WANT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

ers, an assortment of white "blank-canvas" basics that allow students to try DIY and create one-of-a-kind designs unique to their personal style, are popular this year, according to Erwin.

Art supplies such as markers, crayons and paper are also popular, especially in neon colors, Hirschmugl sad.



"We're noticing for middle school kids, backpacks with matching accessories such as lunch boxes," Lash said. Also popular are backpacks and pencil cases in Hello Kitty, Spider-man and Iron Man, Hirschmugl said.

High school kids like plaid and tie dye backpacks, Lash said.

and tie dye backpacks, Lash said.

And those slap bracelet rulers, which are bracelets that can be stretched out to be used as a ruler, along with lion, monkey or zebra shaped lunch boxes and Lego folders, note-books and pencil cases are also on kids' lists for back to

Madonna offers course to become a court interpreter

Madonna University in Livonia will host an open house 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Spel I, Ironing more about its class that prepares Americans fluent in Spanish for careers as certified interpreters for the Michigan Court System. Court System Court System and the Court System of Continuing Education, the class provides the necessary training for students to take the state exam to be extracted to the court System of the Court System of the Court System of the Court System of Cour

nand. This 13-week course.

taught by Michigan State
Court Certified Interpreter Evelyn Willarruel
Segins Sept. 19. Villarruel
Segins Sept. 19. Villarruel
Successfully pass the
written part of the exam
(with an 80 percent or
higher), after which they
are invited to take the
oral portion, which then
Consecutive Interpreting
and Simultaneous
terpreting.
"Although Michigan's
economy is down, we
continue to see jub postcontinue to see jub postcontinue to see jub postcontinue to see jub postboth in the legal and the
medical fields, "Villarruel said.
An interpreter since
2005, she works in district and circuit courts in
Wayne, Oadland, Wastite-

naw and Livingston counties and is an interpreter considered to the counties and is an interpreter counties. The counties are considered to the counties and counties are considered to the counties and counties. The counties are considered to the counties are counties. The counties are considered to the counti

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SECTION B (CP) SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-469-4128

Meissen eager to begin new role



New P-CCS superintendent ready to tackle athletic issues head-on as 2013-14 school year looms

By Tim Smith

There's a new team in town to join the Chiefs, Wildcats and Rocks.
It's "Team Meissen," as new Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Canton Community Schools Superintendent Canton Community Schools Superintendent Canton Community Schools Superintendent Canton Community School and College football player — jumps into the "huddle" with teachers, students, coaches and parents.
The longtime principal of LaFollette High School in Madison, Wise, is thrilled to be here. He also knows Michigan is as much of here. He also knows Michigan is as much of the High School in Madison, Wise, is thrilled to be here. He also knows Michigan is as much of the High School in Madison, Wise, is thrilled to be here. He also knows Mill be kicking the wild be known of the town of the work of the William Canton Canton School S

"I'll be a cheerleader for all of them. They're all part of the team here. And that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

DR. MICHAEL MEISSEN

"May the best Plymouth-Canton (district) team win."

Color blind

Color blind

But to him, all three teams will be winnessed to him, all three teams will be winnessed to him, all three team here. And
that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team,
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."
Meissen sees the entire picture coming
into focus after just a short time at the helm.
He recently talked about being a sports
guy in a sports town, but also spoke at
the critical substitution of the control of the
description of the control of the
description of the control of the
three high school should have an athletic
director (currently, two ADs handle the
entire college-like campus), as well as why
coaches seem to be on a hotter seat than

See MEISSEN, Page B3



Let's get crackin'

Sights and sounds of football's return fill the air at P-CEP

By Tim Smith

The sounds of the season began in earnest Thursday.

On the opening day of full-pad workouts, Canton football players' shoulder pads were cracking. The players also were "hooting and hollering" their way through the spirited, free-for-all-4vs.-4 practice drill—and yelling encouragement amid whistle tweets.

Were set the strain of putting our offense and "Were the strain of the



Canton assistant football coach Dave Smilo (right) talks to a player about a practice drill Thursday, JOHN KERKEY!

Balconi Invite a good test

Eight-team soccer tourney Saturday

By Tim Smith

Some might call the Gary Balconi Invitational an opportunity for variety boys soccer teams to get in some glorified of another season. However, and the content of another season the start of another season. However, and the content of another season the start of another season the start of another season the start of the content of th

See INVITE, Page B4

Aces

here a golfers have been en enjoying plenty of the enjoying is a list of golfers who sam. Following is a list of golfers who sam, and the enjoying is a list of golfers who sam, and the enjoying is a list of golfers who e

O&E men's golf signup



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Team tops field at dodgeball regional

falls short By Tim Smith

Could what happens in Canton go to Vegas?
That almost was the case for members of 1
Time, winners of the recent Ultimate Dodge-ball Qualifier at Sky Zone in Canton.
The team, thanks to topping a field of 20

teams Aug. 3. had a chance to compete for up to \$50,000 in prices at the Ultimate Dodgeball Championship, Sept. 21-22 in Las Vegas, Nev. But it was not to be. Sky Zone used the winning percentage of each team in regionals across the country to determine teams going to Vegas. All of the teams who made the cut had a 100-percent un rate, while 1 Time owned one just under 80



percent
For the eighth Las
Vegas qualifier, a social
media contest took place
vegas qualifier, a social
media contest took place
on Facebook, where fans
could vote for their favortet team, a loy Zone
He added that, in ordet to be in that Facebook contest, teams
needed to have laffer.
Still, what the team
accomplished proved to
be quite a rush.
With the victor, the
With the victor, the
Still what the deal proved to
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Still what the team
accomplished controlly
that will be displayed at
Sty Zone and each member collected a \$100 gift
card.

ber collected a \$100 gift called the Called Valuable Player Mike Bohnett came away with a one-night goff spree at Grand Traverse Resort. In thirty and Potent great, but so is the sport itself, according to 1 Time captain Rick Lape of Tecumseh. "I personally got interest brought addressing to 1 Time captain Rick Lape for Ecumseh. "I personally got interest broughest brought addressing to the competitive nature of ft," Lape said. "A lot of people can throw, catch and done to the captain the can be competitive nature of the can throw, catch and done to the can throw the catch and the can be can throw the catch and the can throw the can throw the catch and the catch and



Throwing front-to-back during the recent Ultimate Dodgeball Qualifier at 5ky Zone in Canton are Mike Bohnett, Rick Holtz and T.J. Juarez.

Lape, along with Boh-nett, Rick Holtz, TJ Juan, Timmy Freuden-berg and Chad Wonderly, rolled through early round-robin action at Sky Zone.

They combined ef-forts to knock off the other four teams in pool play, having one of the top eight records follow-ing the round-robins (there were four group-

ings of five teams).

Then it was on to "one-and-done" single elim-ination and 1 Time came through yet again, de-spite it being the first tourney the team ever competed in on trampo-lines.

lines.
"Communicating as a
team is probably the
biggest asset," Lape said.
"We have played court
dodgeball for about three

years in rec leagues and charity events.
"However, (Aug. 3) was the first time for any of us on trampolines."
Another plus is the team is a tight-knit group of guys from southeast Michigan. Four players hail from Tecumseh, with one player each from Britton and Saline.

97TH MICHIGAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR

Plymouth alum Thompson just misses Final Four

The Final Four field at the 97th Michigan Wom-en's Amateur at Walnut Hills Country Club near-ly included a recent Ply-mouth High School grad-

uate.
Matchups for Friday's
Final Four were set after
Thursday's second and
third rounds of match

Family

(Rochester Hills), while Jennifer Elsholz (Grand Rapids) was to square off against Hailey Hrynewich Studen Grand Hailey Hrynewich Sthird, round match versus Plymouth grad Sarah Thompson (Canton) went to 19 holes. Hrynewich steed and just patiently waited for Thompson to make a mistake. "She was I-up for a

few holes on the back nine, "Hyrnewich said, "I invented to beat her on 18 and I did it with a good par. Then on 19, I got on the green and she will be the control of the

(East Lansing) went 20 holes.
"T've gone extra holes before in this tournament, but never twice in one day," Meier said. "I am going home and going to bed now!"
Meier said both matches were very tough and that all three golfers were playing very, very well.
"The first match with

well.
"The first match with
Liz was mentally draining because we were
both playing well and



arah Thompson putts during Thursday match play

knew it was going to take birdies to win," Meier said. "Then to go against Jackie, who was playing well, it was tough. I had two tough matches to-day." It is not play for Elsholz, match play for Elsholz, more than a little ner-vous in the first round of the day. "When I was going.

the day.
"When I was going into my second match,

nursacy match play.

my dad pointed out that I was in the top eight, which is pretty cool, and told me just to go out and have fun," Elsholz said.

"So that's what I did. But I think I almost gave my mom a heart attack in the first match." The propelling her to victory in both of her matches. "My putter was on fire," Johnson said. "And in the propelling her to victory in both of her matches."

I chipped in twice (Thursday), so I feel like the short game overall is finally there." A teammate of Thompson's with the 2012 Division I state champion Wildcats, Kelsey Mar-phy, was defeated in the second round by Ella Farmsi. The 97th Michi-gan Women's Amateur is sponsored by Palace Sports & Entertainment.

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Senior Moments capture bronze at national women's softball tournament

By Ed Wright

Competing in the Na-tional Senior Games against 15 other high-achieving 55-and-older women's softball teams, the Moments showed they can field, hit and

pitch with the best of them as they earned a bronze medal in the turned and turne

"The team from Far-mington wanted to enter the Michigan Olympic

Games, but they didn't have enough players, so mother teams to join them, after we won that, we decided to play in the national tournament; ence. Some of the ladies are been players and others have been players and others where been players and others where been players and others was a good mix."

After earning a gold medal in the Michigan tournament, the Morin of the more players with the more players with the more players and the players with the pl

medal.

One day after playing four games - which is a lot for a 2-5 and-under team - the Moments of rough a medal-round formis Sprit.

Proving she can never get enough softball, Baldwin played in a national team of the strength of the str

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To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: wewplymouthbeyorg. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

2013: August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings

Nancy Conzelman Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Rice coaching legend Fracassa planning to enjoy final season

By Marty Budner

Al Fracassis final season as Brother Rice's head football coach has attracted much attention. And rightfully so. Fracassas is a coaching con. Not only all Brother The 80-year-old mentor labe enjoys a high-profile reputation nationwide. As he begins his final season - 57th overall, 54 the past \$45 as Rice' - his passion for the game remains the same as it did when he played at old

Detroit Northeastern High School and Michigan State University.

"My attitude is good and Im happy overall," and Im happy overall," and Im happy overall, which was the most offer the 2013 football campaign, which his Warriors enter as the two-time defending Division. "I don't think of this as my last year. I'm just going out and trying to enjoy coaching football and I'm ready to go I still have that passion for the game.

game. "It's a great game," he

added. "I have a lot of good lidst on this team and a lot of good coaches who help me out. It's like a family we have here." There was one major disappointment for Fraunder way. On the very first day, juinor Delano Madison broke a leg and will be out for the season, will be out for the season, and the season of the season

Fracass enters his last year as the state's winningest coach with a 416-121-7 overall record. He is ranked seventh nationally in games won actionally in games won the country to have recorded 400 victories. The Hall of Fame coach has led Ricciteties and 14 Catholic League coach has led Ricciteties and 14 Catholic League championships. He was named the National High School Coach of the Year by the National Football League as the National Football League as the National Coach of the Year School Coach of the Year School Coach Pational Football League as the National Coach of the Year in 1997.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Need tennis coach

Wayne Memorial
High School needs a
varsity boys tennis
coach for the 2013 fall
season. Interested candidates should contact
Greg Ambrose at 734419-2214 or email ambrosep@www.

Franklin girls

Franklin girls teens!
Girls interested in playing high school tennis for Livonia Franklin during the are asked to contact coach Rick Clack at 734-945-5762 or email him at clack@comeast net.
For the common strength of the common and contact number in a voice message. There is off-season conditioning and off-season conditioning and off-season strength of the common and contact number in a voice message the season strength of the common and contact number in season season.

Learn To Skate

Learn To Skate
Livonia Parks and
Recreation will offer a
seven-week Learn To
Skate (Session I) each
seven-week Learn To
Skate (Session I) each
through Oct. 21 at Edgray Arena, 3841 Lyndon (one-half mile sufficient of
Farmington Road).
Schedule includes: 55.25 pm. (new, Snowplow Sam I, 2 or 3, Basic I and intro to synsic I and intro to synintro to synsic I and intro to synintro to synintro to synintro to synsic I and intro to synsic I and intro to synintro to synsic I and intro to synintro to synintro to synintro to synsic I and intro to s

after the state of the state of

will be held March 9-29, with show dates March 28-29. For more in-formation, call 734-266-2412.

Rec soccer openings
The Michigan Hawks under-II girls recreneeds a couple of players to complete its roster for the upcoming fall season.
The team plays in the WSSL and practices
Monday nights (starting after Labor Day) at 1The cost to play is 878.
Players should contact
The cost to play is 878.
Players should contact
ther 660-473-6604 or dhoradley 1515@shcglo-bal.net.

balnet.

CVO soccer signup
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Road, Superior Township.



On Thursday, the Canton Chiefs (above) participated in the first day of full-pad workouts. Plymouth's Wildcats cranked it up on the other side of the Park, while Salem's gridders remained at a team-building camp at Adrian College, JOHN KEMSKI

CAMP

where it teaches getting off blocks, tackling, off blocks, tackling, blocking and the kids have fun with it." In just 11 days, Canton will be hitting and tackling for real. The opener is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29, against West Ottawa on the junior varsity field at Plymouth-Canton Education-

al Park.
According to Baechler, bull into the first
weeks of practice is preparing for that Week!
opponent - and maybe
start to tune up for Week
2 opponent Brighton.
Sof ar, sog good, as far
as the opening week of
control.
He kids are great
kids, they re working
hard, 'Baechler said.
"We've got a lot of depth
on the offensive line, the

defensive line. I'm thrilled with what I'm seeing right now? Canton wasn't the only team sharpening up for the 2013 season Thursday at P-CEP. Plymouth's Wildcats were busy doing the same on the west end of the sprawling campus. Wasn't wasn'

camp.
"It gives us a way to focus," Salem head coach Kurt Britnell said. "No outside interference, no cell phones. Just three and a half days of football."

ball."
Plymouth and Salem
will face each other in
the season opener at 7
p.m. Aug. 29 on P-CEP's
varsity turf field.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Airport Invitational, 8:30 a.m. W. Bloomfield Invitational, 8:30 a.m. Salem Invitational, TBA. Gabriel Richard Invitational, TBA. ostern levitational, TBA Bar Gabriel Richard Invitational, TBA Gabriel Richard Invitational, TBA Bad Ass Tournament, TBA Saturday, Aug. 24 Saturday, Aug. 24 South Iyon in a vit Bland Lake 9:30 a.m. GIRLS SWIMMING Saturday, Aug. 24 at Howell Keruse Classic, TBA at Livoria Comm. Rec. Center, noon. GIRLS GOLF Thursday, Aug. 22 Highest Horors Invitational, 7:30 a.m. BOYS TENNIS Thursday, Aug. 22 Northville Quad. 8 a.m. COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Friday, Aug. 23 Svarls 47 Quikland CC Tourney, 11 a.m. S'craft at Oakland CC Tourney, 11 a.m. MU at UM-Dearborn Early Bird, TBA. Saturday, Aug. 24 Voraft at Oakland CC To MU at UM-Dearborn Early Bird, TBA. COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER Friday, Aug. 23

eary Univ. at Madonna, 6 p.m. aturday, Aug. 24 hookraft at Muskegon, 1 p.m. anday, Aug. 25 hookraft at Lake Michigan, 1 p.m. Schoolcraft of Missilagon 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 Schoolcraft at Lake Michigan, 1 p.m. COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER Friday, Aug. 23 Madenna at Sajore (Ind.), 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 Schoolcraft at Missegon, 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 Sunday, Aug. 25 Brock (Ontario) at Miedonna, 1 p.m.

MEISSEN

Continued from Page B1

continued from Page 81 ever before. In the past few months alone, Hymouth High Sabeshall and girls baskethall baseball and girls baskethall baseball and girls baskethall baseball and girls baskethall and girls baskethall baseball and girls baskethall and girls baseball and girls

Keep perspective
About controversies involving coaches, Meissen said he wasn't around when those problems cropped up and did not want to discuss specific situations.

not want to discuss spectrus situations.
"I don't think it would be proper for me to comment proper for me to comment "I'm focused on the future, looking forward."
But he wouldn't mind it if confrontations were given the boot and replaced by stronger ents and conches.
Meissen understands expec-

tations are ratcheted up in today's world, particularly in highly competitive districts highly competitive districts highly competitive districts highly competitive districts and the second of the s

Just chill

But in situations where parents get upset about coaches and referees, for example, es and referees, for example, establishment of the coaches and referees, for example, establishment of the coaches and establishment of



orough good and the Park cans to:

To me.

"A lot of discussions can occur about individual things through proper channels."

When it comes to talking things out; it won't hart to have failed and the proper channels."

When it comes to talking things out; it won't hart to have failed and college athletes to draw from. In fact, there very well could be parallels between what Meissen dealt with in his could be parallels between what Meissen dealt with in his common the proper of the proper

ment.
Meissen's vision for P-CCS
applies as much to what goes
on in the classroom as it does
to the stage, band room, gym
or field.
"I think sports within a

or field.
"I think sports within a school setting, done properly, are an extension of what you're trying to accomplish as a school." Messen said. "That it's a great laboratory for teaching and learning. That it truly is integrated into the you're providing for students. Absolutely."

Another area demanding Meissen's attention on the eve of the 2013-14 year is whether the district needs to add a third athletic director, to enable each high school to have one go-to person.

The subject is on the school.

go-to person.

That subject is on the table
Brodie Killian, the district's

deputy superintendent of business and operations, said a comprehensive study is well under way — including key community meetings where parents, coaches and studentablets could give input a couple forums with all different stakeholder groups, including a couple forums with parents where they were able to provide us with a lot of input on so that report will be done soon and into the hands of the superintendent and the board, which will kind of tie together a lot of issues."

intendent and the board, which will kind of its together a lot of issues."

No then such a special will be a special will be ready to be unveiled. "It would be difficult to speculate what the time frame might be." Messes asid. "I want to follow a logical seam of the special will be a special will be

Crusaders poised for conference push

All-WHAC players Parent, Ferrick lead the way

By Brad Emons

There's a slightly different air of anticipation entering the 2013 to entering the 2013 women's soccer season. For sure, expectations are pretty high and 1 think they have high expectations of them. The sure of the sure of



Ferrick Parent
counted on to provide
offense, along with sophifer Jurcak (Utica Elsenhower), who added seven
goals and four assists.
"She (Parent is very
motivated," Hodgson
said. "She Sheen coming
shealthy, she should be
"right around the same
amount. And Katlyn
Krysiak had nine goals
and missed half of the
season. Those two are
for sure."
Krysiak, however,
may not be able to play in
the season opener Friday
at Taylor (Ind.) Universtry. "She prolled her ankle
sheen sheen sheep the sheet of the season opener Friday
at Taylor (Ind.) Universtry. "She prolled her ankle
sheep the sheet of the sheet of

at Taylor (Inu.)
sity.
"She rolled her ankle
pretty good, but we're
not sure it's a sprain or a
stress fracture," Hodgson said.
Sanior Liliana Serra-

son said.
Senior Liliana Serratos (Dearborn), who
started all 20 games at
forward last season, adds
depth up front.
Senior Amanda Ferrick (Warren Cousino),
who recorded four goals
and nine assists a year



Senior midfielder Amanda Jenaway (Livonia Stevenson) started all 20 games last year for the Madonna University women's soccer team. TIM BUSCH | TBSPORTPDCCOM

the Madonna University wo ago, will get help in the midfield from sophofrom sophofrom the midfield from sophofrom the midfield from sophofrom the midfield from from Grand Valley State after playing a reserve role on the Lakers' NCAA Division II Final Four teamall-conference two of her three years," Hodgson said "Capoccia will be one of our better players. With those two in the midfield, and If the playing we should be fairly offensive."

Senior Amanda Jena-

way (Livonia Stevenson) way (Livonia Churchi) wa

ers.
Sophomore Blaire
Schmalenberg (Cousino)
returns as the starter in
goal after posting six
shutouts. She posted a
1.34 goals against and
.782 save percentage
She will be pushed by
freshman newcomer

freshman newcomer Katrina Arnold (Essex,

She will be pushed by reshman newomer Katrina Arnold (Essex, Ontario). "Blaire had a great year last year," Hodgson said. "And Katrina has couple of days, Goalkeeping is definitely on the rise from a couple of years ago." Hodgson, meanwhile, Hodgson, meanwhile, "I don't know necessarily about our depth with the wind of the work of the work

Young swimmer breaks record

Kylie Goit of Canton made a record-breaking splash at the recent 14 & Under Central Zone Swim Meet in Geneva, Ohio Under John Charles Can Michigan at the Aug. 2-4 meet, set a new state record in the 10 & Under 100-meter Freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 523 seconds. That time bested the play 100 minute, 523 seconds. That time bested the 105 35, established in 1990.

Display the second of the seco



Kylie Goit of Canton displays her impressive haul of medals recently earned at the 14 & Under Central Zone Swim Meet in Geneva, Ohlo.

Lady Ocelots expect to challenge again

Suffive Success is always measured in titles when it comes to the School-craft College women's soccep program. Sugged their second straight Michigan Community College Athletic Association crown last year with a 7-01 record-crown last year with last of the year with a 7-01 record-crown last year with season. "The standards set form the players have really sea that with year year with a few years with years wit

now with several teams — Muskegon, Detta, Tolledo Owen sund and an Tolledo Tol

forward, will be immense.

"We think we can
score the goals, but
Lauren was just a phenomenal athlete," Shivraman said. "She was
such a beast." a strong,
such a beast." a strong,
fear laid of an attitude.
For the strong was the star players. They're
good players and
they're special, but they
whereas Lauren just
enjoyed that a prat of the
game, the physicality of
game, the physicality of
the strong was the strong was
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game, the physicality of
The cupboard, however, is far from bare as
Shivraman returns the
the physical state of the physical
transparent of All-Region
and All-MCCA pick
Tara Gessler (Bright)
Tara

along with Lisa McMul-len (Livonia Churchill), Erin McKay (Rochester Hills) and Maggie McLaughlin (Grosse

Ile).

Returning in the midfield will be Samantha Jarrett (Northville), an honorable mention All-MCCAA selection, along with Alexis Walker (White Lake Lakeland).

land).
Forward Taylor Bu-nyak (Anchor Bay) also returns for her second

returns for her second season.

Among the promising newcomers are forwards Remy Houte-forwards Remy Houte-

INVITE

Continued from Page B1 Western, University of

Detroit-Jesuit and Dear-born Heights Crestwood. Second-round games will begin at 11:45 p.m., with final championship and consolation games

slated for 3 p.m. Unlike regular, 80-minute games, however, the Balconi matches are 60 minutes long—the proper length for players

who are still amping up for the start of the reg-ular schedule the week beginning Aug. 26. "Part of the day is really just gutting it out

and fighting fatigue," Duhl said. "It is truly a test mentally as well as physically for all the mans involved."

The sked
Following is the Balcon is chedule:

» Game 1: Salem vs.
Catholic Central (10 a.m., soccer stadium); Game 2: Plymouth vs. W.L. Northern (10 a.m., turf field);
Game 3: Crestwood vs.
W.L. Western (10 a.m., practice field); Game 4: Canton vs. U of D-Jesuit (10 a.m., freshman field);

» Game 5: Winners of

games 1-2 (11:45 a.m., socier stadium). Game 6. Consolation, games 3-4 (11:45 a.m., turf field), Game 7: Consolation, games 1-2 (11:45 a.m., practice field); Game 8: Winners of games 3-4 (11:45 a.m., turf field), as Game 9: Winners of games 8-3 (3 p.m., socier stadium). Game 10: Winners of games 5-7 (3 p.m., turf field), Game 11: Consolation, games 5-8 (3 p.m., practice field), Game 12: Consolation, games 5-8 (3 p.m., freshman field).

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CHAPTER TOWNSHIP OF PLY
ZONING BOARD OF APPE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5
6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zermag Board of Appeals will hold it September 5, 2013 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

ZBA application 1510, 46001 Amesbury: t district and is requesting one variance to part that will have a rear yard setback fifty (50) feet. The variance req-

The meeting will be in Hall Meeting Room.

further information contact Plymouth Township Building

CANINE WITH CANCER CARRIES ON PET THERAPY WORK

By Sharon Dargay

Chet, 6, and Talon, 8, welcome customers to Amazing.
Pet Grooming in Garden City
with wagging tails and grins.
Sometimes, they drop their
tys at a visitor's feet. Or open
noses and hunker down at a
client's side.
The two golden retrievers,
who are pet therapy dops, are
per form of the control of the control
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per for for the control
page 18.

Ford Road near Merriman, owned by their "mon" Liss Jacques.

"My regulars have known than shace they were babiles," they were babiles," they were babiles, and t

ter.
"They ask me every time
they come in how he's doing,"
she said. "It's nice that people
are so thoughtful. People put in
a dollar or two and anything
helps. I put it toward our bill."

Costly care
Jacques figures she and her
husband, Frank, have spent

approximately \$10.000 on Cohest restainent and care since he was diagnosed.

"When he first started, he went once a week for chemo and in rebruary, ended his treatment. He was in remistration of the comparison of the comparison, and the comparison of the comparison of

years.

Jacques admits she spoils her dogs. They go "every-where" with the couple, including on vacation to "grandmas and grandpas" house in Traverse City. They have their own chairs at home and sleep on their owners bed. Jacques husband takes them to the part on weekends and as a couple, they take the dogs twice



monthly to Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor with Pet-a-Pet, the pet therapy organiza-tion. They also visit seniors at St. Christopher Church in De-

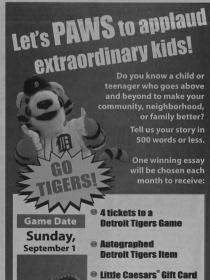
St. Clin Stopper Children in Be-from they are a very dedicated couple and both their dogs do pet therapy with us. I thak it, helps the patients considerably knowing Chet is going through this," said Mary Chamberlain, Peta-Peta-Peta facility coordinator for Heritage Hospital. "They know the dog is going through life-threatening issues of his own and yet he takes time to see them and makes people happy.

see their and happy.
"He wags his tail and shows how happy he is to be there,"
Chamberlain said, adding "and (chemo) is not an easy treat-



Tera Howard, a groomer at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City,





Observer & Eccentric MEDIA TIGERP

Subject line

Pre-Game recognition at a Detroit Tigers Game Email your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com

"PAWS FOR APPLAUSE" Please include the child's name, age, phone number and address.



Chet (left) and Talon work as pet therapy dogs and greet customers at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City.

THERAPY

Continued from Page B5

ment."
Chamberlain said Chet has missed his therapy visits just once since he was diagnosed.
As pet therapy dogs, Chet and Talon mostly visit the rehab unit at the hospital, where they stand at bedsides and welcome pats

and strokes from patients.
Jacques said Chet's vets
agree that it's a good idea to
keep him engaged and active.
She said pet therapy also gives
the couple a way to "give back"

the couple a way to "give back" to others.

"We struggle in our life, but we've had good fortune. We're healthy and have great friends and family. There are a lot of people who don't have that. They are lonely and it makes us happy

to bring our dogs and give some one a smile," she said. "I've al-ways done pet therapy and I love it. It's therapy to me. I get to see my friends and the dogs get to see their friends and the dogs get to see their friends. It's social and everyone has the same goal — to make someone else's Contact Jacques by calling the shop at 734-422-2660.

Well, here comes another front-loader story

Recently, Ruth Spencer
of VDD/VTV Chamel
of VDD/



Gagnon

U.S.A.

In the first few years of production by Maytag, a recall was announced to production by Maytag, a recall was announced to product of the first few years of the years of years years of the years of years of

Fall fashion show benefits historic house

Get a look at new fall clothing at the 44th annual Fall Pashion Show To Benefit the Longard Show To Benefit the Sh

Proceeds from the event will go toward restoration and uplesp of the historic Longare House, an elegant Georgianstyle massion acquired by the City of Farmington Hills in 2006.

Extensive renovations have been made to the home, which was originally built in 1869. The Longarer House is a popular venue for weeking programs such as Victorian teas, cooking shows, and music lessons.

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House are \$40. Call 248-477.
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Coording to the Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan some 91,000 students in the state's special education programs have a cludents of the state's special education programs have a policy of the state learning disability" applies when a student whose achievement in one or more of the basic learning areas of reading, writing or arithmetic which is expected, given the child's chronological age, intellectual level and grade placement. This also assumes that the learning disorder is not due to other reasons such as cognitional impairment of other physical health impairments (ADHD, seizure disorder, traumatic brain Injury, etc.).

A psychologist gives standardized reading, writing and arithmetic achievement tests and a standardized intelligence



test to diagnose a learning disability. Approximately, 5 percent of students in the percent of students in the lates are now identified as having specific learning disabilities. Some causes of lea/orning disabilities may be genetic, neurological, the result of birthing problems or perinatal exposure to alcohol, other exposure to alcohol, other discounties of the continuity of the continu

Misunderstandings

Over the past 30 years, I have worked with learning

disabled children and their parents and found that most of them do not understand that disables children and amost of them do not understand that the child is not retarded, lazy, or crazy. Also, in conducting approximately 1,000 Social martine children approximately 1,000 Social martine children and the children approximately 1,000 Social martine evidence of the past 20 years, I have seen numerous cases of learning disability in people who have also developed maladaptive also developed maladaptive and their families of what learning disability is and what some people believe that special attention needs to be given by teachers, parents and friends of the learning disability is and what have a social martine media to be given by teachers, parents and friends of the learning disabilities. These insulnerstandings can often be more devastating than the learning disabilities. These included low self-esteen, poor

self-image, conduct problems, delinquency, and a high dropout rate. It has been shown that there is a disproportionate number (up to 70 percent) of our prison population vs. our general population with diagnosable specific learning disabilities.

Considerations
Perhaps this sad state of
affairs can be deterred by
having psychotherapeutic
groups within schools for
learning disabled students, and
their families, wherein they
can see that they are "not the
only one." They can learn ways
to support each other, gain
understanding about their
composate for them. Learning alternative ways of gaining
self-esteem, through sports,
social programs and recreational activities, can aid in
deterring the only thing worse

than a learning disability, which is having a misunder-standing of their problem and a misguided opinion of them-selves.

Resources

» Help is available within
school systems; ask for a consultation with the child's teacher and the school district's
spschologist to learn more
about what can be done.

» The Learning Disabilities
Association of Michigan is at:
www.ldaofmichigan.org

L.J. McCulloch is a Diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is certified in brain injury, mental health, addictions, and social work. His monthly colu mn, "Our Mental Health" is archived at: www.farmlib.org/heritage collection/newspapers.htm. He can be reached at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

RELINIONS

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

CLASS OF 1973

A 40-year reunion is set from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Nov. 29, at the froquois Club, 43248 N. Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, Call 248-451-9653. Tickets are \$75 presale only, Includes dinn dancing, good times, Get tickets From www.73fish40.reunionmanage.com. Join the reunion Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/50345682023714. Reunion contact it Sande Easterwood Rouke.

GARDEN CITY

GARDEN CITY CLASS OF 1983 A reunion is set for Sept. 21 at Roma Banquet Hal Garden City. Cost is 550 per person. Make checks payable to Karen Boyd and mail to her at 28445 Bock, Garden City, MI 48135.

GARDEN CITY EAST-WEST

LIVONIA BENTLEY CLASS OF 1966

CLASS OF 1966
A birthday reunion will be held Friday, Oct. 11, at the Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Call 734-462-3100. Checkein and cash bar at 6 p.m. buffet dinner at 7 p.m., followed by dancing and D. Cost is \$65 per person. Email Kathy Sindon Shinn at theshinns@dat.net.

CLASS OF 1973

A reunion is set from 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 13, at Livonia Marriott, located at Six Mile and New-burgh. Tickets are \$60 for alumni and \$50 for teachers. The event is also open to other classes. Contact Marcia Elliott at 269-327-0657 or email mickey\$55@chatremin.net for ticket information.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN CLASS OF 1966

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1968 A 45-year class reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7. For more information, contact Susan Keith Johnson at spiglohnson4@comcast.net.

REDFORD THURSTON
CLASSES OF 1970S
A Best of the 70 recursion is planned for Aug. 24 at
Whispering Willows Golf Course Tin Cup Bat &
Whispering Willows Golf Course Tin Cup Bat &
Golf, 25500 Newborgh, Livonia. Tutket are \$25 per
person and include host of ouveres, grafully, music
door, All alumin welcome, Fort Cetest and more
information, email stchmidtkes/147@yahoo.com or
violf Thurston 73 of necebook.

REDFORD UNION

A 40th reunion is planned for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Burton Manor Banquet Center, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia. For reservations, visit www.ruhsclassof1973.com or contact Debi Cutshall at debi.k.cutshall@gmail.com.

SOUTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A d0h reurion is planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Westin Hotel-Southfield, 1900 Town Center. Dinner tickets are 399 and include food stations and a cash har. Other weekend activities include a casual meetigeret Friday, goff outing option Saturday morning and a tour of the school and brund Sunday. Register at www.southfieldhigh1973.com.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

The 40th reunion will include a picnic from 3-9 p.m. and an after-party from 9 p.m. to midnight Aug. 24. For more information, wist the reunion Facebook page: JGHS Class of 1973, Westland, or contact Carol Bevard at BevardC@aol.com or Kar Gooze at meowmorn@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1983

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

GARDEN & NATURE

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calen-dar to Sharon Dargay, Observer & Eccentric, sdargay@hometown-life.com, 615 W. La-fayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Butterflies
Brenda Dziedzic, ownor of Brenda Shutterfly
or of Brenda Shutterfly
"Learn about Butterflies
"Learn about Butterflies
inthe Garden," will demonstrate egg bleaching
techniques to prevent
at the next meeting of the
southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, (SEMBA), 7 pm, Wednesday,
BA), 7 pm, Wednesday,
Westland, Diane Pruden
from Monarch Watch
also will talk about tagterm on arch butterflies
Questions? Call 734-2235510 or sembabutterflycom. Butterflies

Outdoor survival Survival expert Mary Vance will show how to build a fire, use a bow drill, make a debris shel-

GARDEN

ter and extract pure
water from the earth
water from the earth
water from the earth
workshop, 10 a m-2 pm.
Workshop, 10 a m-2 pm.
Heritage Park, located
between 10 Mile and 118.
Mile in Farmington Hills
will be provided. The fee
park, Participants should
bring a bag lunch and
water, all other materials
will be provided. The fee
ages 16 and up. Advanced
registration is required
and available at https://
recregifupor.com or at
the Costick Center, 26600
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should meet at the Na
ture Center. Call 284-4771135 or e-mail asmith@figov.com for
more information.

more information.

English Gardens
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Friday, Aug. 23, at the West Bloomfield store. Pre-registration is required.

» Learn how to use plants for screening at a free presentation, Jun. 24, Aug. 24, am., Saturday, Aug. 24, am., Saturday, Aug. 24, am. Saturday, Aug. 24, am. Saturday, Aug. 24, am. Saturday, Aug. 24, am. Saturday, Aug. 31, am. Saturday, Aug. 31, am. Saturday, Aug. 31, am. Saturday, Sept. 7, at all stores.

» Get tips for fall lawn care and learn how to keep it healthy through the winter, at 10 Am. Saturday, Sept. 14, at all stores.

Area English Gardens Area English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Ma-ple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900, 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433, 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; 248-851-

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night sky, and heighten
your senses during a Full
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Herring Fars, 24915
tween 10 Mile and 11 Mile
Roads, Farmington Hills.
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23, starting at the Nature
Center in the park. Hikes
and children, Sand up.
No flashlights are needcontrol of the start of the start
power of t In the moonlight

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Classes will run from 5-9
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p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3 to
RESA Audiorium, 5454
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register, visit
msue anr.msu.edu and
click on events to navigate to the master gardener program.

gate to the master gardener program.

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The Louis and Pay
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The Woll Memorial Bible
To State of the Woll Memorial
Gardener was the State of Congregation Beth Alm,
Story W. Maple, West
Bloomfield. The garden
Contain the Bisle and is
meant to serve as a place
of miner reflection, of
education, and for social
and community gatherings. It is available for
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be arranged for any day
of the week except Saturday, If interested in a
group tour of the garden,
sanctuary with a Beth
Alm docent, call Rabbi
Steven Rubenstein at
248-885-6880, Ext. 17, or
mail ravste.

wendershame, G. Garden
wondbible garden.

Congress of the Sate of Sa

St. George Church's **Greek Fest** Sept. 6-8

Opining-day ceremine in the first hard seed of the New School Greek Festival are Friday, Sept. 6, when St. George Greek Orthodox Ave., is saluted for 85 Centurch, 43816 Woodward Ave., is saluted for 85 Centurch and Festivities began at noon with The Lighting of the Torch by Jack Weener, CEO Off St. del. Hospital, in front of the hospitals removated surgical wing.

"Olympa runner" Olympa runner" Olympa runner of the hospitals remove the hospital to the church ground starter will with carry the torch, running a short distance from the hospital to the church for its Argest Saganaki."

There, Sen. George Pappageorge, R-Troy, particularly of the Community at Largest Church for its continuing commitment and dedication from the state of Michigan to St. George Church for its continuing committee at the community at large.

Hours for the suit as the community at large.

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Hours for the Suit as the community at large.

MILESTONES

WEDDING

Theresa Bailey-Nathan Weidner

Theresa Bailey and Nathan Weidner were Nathan Weidner were Nathan Weidner were Lind of the Weidner Weidner Weidner Schaffel were der Gelege wird weidner der Weidn

Mo.
Elizabeth Bailey of
Dearborn was maid of
honor. Bridesmaids
were Audrey Jackson of
Plymouth, Kingerly
O'Brien of Mt. Pleasant
and Lindsay McCarthy
of Virginia.



The unofficial ring barriers for the cere many where Joey Grass are Joey Grass and Louis. After cocktails on the hotel's 13th Hoor patio, overlooking the famed Gateway where Joey Grass are Joey Grass and Louis. After cocktails on the hotel's 13th Hoor patio, overlooking the famed Gateway where Joey Grass are deciding party moved to the banquet hall. The couple selected decontracted of the party of the Joey Grass are decided by the Missourt University, She is employed by the Missourt University of Science and Technent of Global Learning. The groom, also a graduate of Wayne State University, Carmed a Triversity, Carmed and Technent of Global Learning. The groom, also a graduate of Wayne State University, carmed a Triversity of Science and Technelston, and the Joey Grass of Industrial psychology at the Missourt University of Science and Technelston, and the Joey Grass of Industrial psychology at the Missour University of Science and Technelston, and the Joey Grass of Industrial psychology at the Missour University of Science and Technelston, and the Joey Grass of Industrial psychology at the Missour University of Science and Technelston, and the Joey Grass of Industrial professor of Industrial professo

WEDDING

Bader-Moore

Pete Bader and Kristy Moore were married Sturtugy, July 20, at The Lost Arrow Resort on the Tittabawassee River/Second Lake in Grand Carlon of the Tittabawassee River/Second Lake in Grand Carlon of the List Daniel J. Grand of the Carlon of the Carlon of the List Daniel J. Grand of the List Daniel J. Grand of the List Daniel J. Grand of the Carlon of the List Daniel J. Grand of the List Daniel



The bride is the daugh-ter of David Moore of Livonia and Jane Moore of Wixom and is em-ployed as a global relo-cation specialist at Cor-rigan International in Farmington Hills. The couple resides in Livonia.

ENGAGEMENT Haddad-Darwiche

Haddad-Darwiche
Katie Marie Haddad
and Fadd Hussein Darwiche announce their
engagement.
The bride-to-be,
daughter of Kathy Haddad and Nabil Haddad,
actress and model in
Las Vegas. New: A huge
car fan, she also owns
two show and race cars.
Her fiancé, son of
Mona and Hussein Darnon, grew up in Lebanon, grew up in Lebanon, He owns a car
repair shop in Las Ve-



gas, Nev., and shares Katie's love of cars. A September 2013 wedding is planned at Burton Manor in Livo-

ENGAGEMENT

Mr.and Mrs. Michael Pankow of South Lyon and Mr. and Mrs. James Redington of Livonia are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Ashley Eliza-beth Pankow and Rob-ert Andrew Redington. The happy couple plans to marry in Octo-ber 2014.



ENGAGEMENT

Witkowski-Farquhar

Witkowski-Farquhar
Niki Witkowski and
Ross Farquhar announce their engagement.
The bride-to-be is the
daughter of Larry and
Debbe Witkowski of
Larry and
Michigan and is employed by EOS Solutions in Rochestor
The groom is the on
Farmington Hills and
Eric Farquhar of Livonia. He is a graduate of
Michigan and Livomia. He is a graduate of
Michigan State Univer-



sity and is employed by Domino's Headquarters in Ann Arbor. The wedding and reception will be held in April 2014 at the Indi-anwood Country Club in Lake Orion.

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DICKIMM,
LOUISE LINK
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below (Laman) Herchoods, James
John Charles, Michael
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Connolly, and the late Mauren
Excertain, Also an arrived by
grandehiddren. Life member of
grandehiddren. Life member of
grandehiddren. Life member of
grandehiddren. Life member of
her Plymouth Rock Masonic
Lodge. Gathering Suturdly, Aumemoral Service at Vermeulen
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Arbor Rd, thorn Shedom &
tributions may be made to
Attheriner's Assu.







heeney-sundquist.com HEENEY-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME

GABEL, JEFFREY T.

JEFFREY T.
Age 48, of Farmington Hills, died at his home on August 13, 2013. He is survived by his children, Audrey and Cameron, his mother, Ruth Gabel, Brother, Indien Hills, and Hills,

SHOEMAKER, MIRIAM LOVENIA ADKINS FAULKNER 92, passed August 16, 2013. www.oakesandnichols.com

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May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



AJ DESMOND SONS

To your health: Student, family show there's life after diabetes diagnosis

By Julie Brown

Jeff Hewlett, 19, of Novi was diagnosed at age 4 with Type 1 diabe

tes.
"It was certainly a shock at first," say a shock at first," say a shock at first," say a shock at first, say a shock at s

diagnosts
They got involved
with Jackson friends in
the JDRF Western Michigan Chapter, with a
walk that included former University of Michigan football coaches Bo
Schembechler and Lloyd
Carr. Rich Hewlett
played under Schembechler from 1979-83.
They later put togeth-



er their own team for an Ann Arbor fundraiser,

er their own team for an Ann Arbor fundraiser, rapidly becoming the top team. In 2006-07, they were asked about host-ing an event for the U-M Comprehensive Diabetes ing an event for the U-M Comprehensive Diabetes which is care. "There was a real interest in getting those two organizations more closely aligned," said Rich, an attorney with the Grand Rapids based unur has been the presenting sponsor for their golf outing the last three times.

golf outing the times.

The family appreci-

Il coach fardy Hoke (feft) intrenet stees support of the
Northville-Novi commuinty, Rich serves on the
JDRF board for southeast Michigan.
They transferred:
They transferred:
And the southadult endocrinology and
the younger Hewlett is
in an upcoming clinical
trail three:
In a fire the steel of the southtrail three;
by the JDRF and led by
Dr. Massimo Pietropaolo
U-M. Dr. Max, as he's
called, is studying the
puncreas in the stimulatentire in the stimulation in the stim

me."

He volunteered a couple of summers back at U-M and now works in a renal pathology lab there, a job he'll con-

ng a fundraiser.

timue part time when
school resumes. Jeff is
school resumes. Jeff is
staking mestly UAJ prerequisites now, not yet
decided on a major.
"It's something we aver
very personally vested
in," he said, with his
reresching out to others
who don't have their
resources.

The Hewletts have a
website,
website,
website,
website,
website,
website,
website,
school resourced
dabetes org, on their
foftors. They also recommend the JDRP website,
www.jdf.rog, especially
for those newly diagnosed.

"We do feel blessed," Rich said, "We are in a situation where we can hopefully show there are ways to live with it. Jeff's always been a great ambassador, include 1.34 Goods Brady Hoke, former coach Carr, his former teammates, Jeff's coaches and teachers, Rich's colens, friends and family. They had to skip the to Chris' illness and the economy.

Hit Me With Your Best Shot

Keeping children healthy with immunizations

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



For most parents, childhood vaccines can be both a source of reassurance and anxiety. Dr. Nicholas Packey, of the Garden City Hospital Center for Family Medicine, explains how vaccines provide invaluable protection with little risk for side effects.

Dr. Packey

Br. Packey

Jam's Meddone

A: It is true that a single child's chance of catching a
disease is low if everyone else is immunized. But your child is also
exposed to people other than just those in school. And if one person
thinks about skipping vacacines, chances are others are thinking
the same thing. Each child who isn't immunized gives these highly
contagious diseases more chance to spread.

Q: Do unmunizations cause autism?
A: Numerous studies have found no link between vaccines and autism. Likewise, a groundbreaking report from the Institute of Medicine found that thimerosal, an organic mercury compound used as a preservative in vaccines since the 1930s, does not cause autism. Still, some parents have opted not to have their children immunized, putting them at great risk of contracting deadly diseases.

patting item as great risks of contracting dearly diseases, sumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, especially, has come under fire despite many scientific reports indicating that there's no clear evidence linking the vaccine to autism. In fact, in 2004 a long-disputed 1998 study that suggested a possible link between autism and the MMR vaccine was retracted and rejected by all major health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

- Q: Are there dangerous side effects or reactions to childhood vaccines? Fortunately, severe side effects or reactions to vaccines are few and rare. The Strotten step is the first or reactions to vaccine are few and rare. The dispersion of the first shapely laxis, an allegrig reaction that can cause an itchy rash, throat swelling, and low blood pressure. Depending on the vaccine, side effects such as anaphylaxis can occur in 1 out of several hundred thousand, to 1 in a million vaccines.
- Is it dangerous for children to have so many vaccines administered at once?
 Available scientific data shows that simultaneous vaccination with
 multiple vaccines has no adverse effects on the normal childhood
 immune system. A number of studies have been conducted, and have
 shown that recommended vaccines are as effective in combination
 as they are individually, and such combinations carry no greater
 risk for adverse side effects. There is no evidence to suggest the
 recommended childhood vaccines overload the immune system.

Join Garden City Hospital every month at Westland Mall, for our wellness lecture series. At 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, Garden City Hospital provides helpful and in depth information on a variety of issues that impact our health every day. The next lecture, "Children & Bullying," is Saturday, September 14.

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nancing for Everyone!



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JOBS

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The kids are going back to school; should I?

It's now commonplace for job seekers to consider go ing back to school to advance ing back to school to advance their career. But is this a prac-tical move for everybody? Not always. There are different in-dustry standards for education, and a specific degree or certi-fication may not always move you forward.

While back-to-school com-While back-to-school com-mercials may already be play-ing on TV, avoid getting sucked in and decide for yourself if going back to school is the going back to school is the right move for your career. Ka-ren Southall Watts, business coach, consultant and author, provides the questions you should ask yourself when con-sidering further education, as well as the answers to best to determine your options.

How much do you know about the job potential for this course of study?

TOT CINIS COURSE OT SCULOY:
How much do you know about
local opportunities, the potential need to relocate to find
work and the results tit time from
entry-level wages to getting a
promotion? Many students enroll in "hot" fields such as nursing, for example, only to find
that they are unswited to the
physical demands of the job or
that they are kny local emilogethat there are five local emilogethat there are five local emilogethat there are few local employ-ers. Older students often have family obligations that mean they cannot pick up and follow the jobs after graduation.

What is your (true) comfort level with technology?

Many schools are pushing



registration and grading sys-tems, and making libraries and other resources accessible via the school website. Some older with intense computer use, although the stereotype of older students being computerphobic and younger ones being digital natives is a bit deceptive. In students of any age, the ability to use things such as Facebook, email or a smartphone does not equal the ability to do online research, use com-

and presentations, or interact

courses online, using online

Are you overloading your schedule?

Adult students tend to be finish education and training as quickly as possible in order to get into the job market. This in an overloaded and unrealistic schedule. Students who are depending upon financial aid sometimes feel pressured into taking the maximum amount of taking the maximum amount or hours possible. Combine these issues with family and job com-mitments, and a student can start an academic term in a "no win" situation -- there simply are not enough hours in the day to do what he or she wants.

Is there another option besides a full degree?

If a student is already mid-career, he or she may need only a few courses or workshops to get to the next level. Rather than shifting from one field into something completely un-related, it may be wiser to find ways to leverage past experi-ence and pivot to something that doesn't require starting from zero. It is essential for potential students to talk to and not just admissions advis-ers when making the decision to return to school and select-ing a course of study.

Education can be a great

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option for those who have re searched their career options they'd like to take. However, if schooling isn't a smart career move for you, there are other ways to gain momentum in your career and opportunities that may lead to bigger roles down

blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and worknlare issues

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Mazda plans to drive new Mazda6 top of midsize heap Because it's a scrap



py brand, Mazda has held on in the U.S. market without the vehicles or marketing muscle to pose a serious threat to Toyota's and Honda's dominance of the small-car market

over the last few decades.

But increasingly, Mazda does have the cars to compete in the hottest segments, like the lastest version of the CX-5 SUV and, now, the all-new Mazda mid-size sedan. And Mazda's marketing has wisely moved beyond the "zoom-zoom" mantra to a more differentiated pitch based on its SkyActiv sub-brand of "light-welght-ing" technologies and nameplate-centric campaigns that take advantage of the better vehicles.

"We realized long ago that we're not going to be able to out-shout any of our big competitors, so we have to be more big competitors, so we have to be more clever than they are, in unique and different ways." Jeremy Barnes, Mazda's director of PR and brand experience in the U.S., told me. "Our biggest challenge as a brand is not that people think poorly of our brand but that they don't think immediate high they will be a so that they don't think immediate high they are the are they are the are the are they are they are they are the are the are the are the diately of us.

This problem has become mostly a mar-keting challenge, because Mazda vehicles themselves sure are taking on their share themselves suit and taking on their shale of the responsibility for a turnaround. The new Mazda6 touts highly acclaimed new styling and the product line's fullest expression yet of SkyActiv technologies such as a more fuel-efficient engine and ransmission and lightweight new mate-

In fact, the car is completely new from the ground up, Barnes said, and is en tirely a Mazda creation; the Mazda6 it re s was a joint product of Mazda and its erstwhile partner, Ford.

The midsize sedan represents a huge departure from the old model, the sec-ond vehicle to flow from an engineering program that Mazda launched after the alliance with Ford ended in 2010. Mazda executives invested heavily in new en-gines and transmissions and lightweight aterials under SkyActiv.

Mazda6 combines high fuel economy with a sportiness that separates the car with a sportiness that separates the car, and the brand, from other Japanese com-panies' compact offerings and holds up well against other competitors including a redesigned Ford Fusion, Hyundai Sonata Kia Ontima and Volkswagen Passat.

The interior of the car already has won awards for its appearance and the use of quality materials. But some reviewers quanty materiats, but some reviewers have complained about cargo space and interior storage niches being too small and about a 5.8-inch touch screen, which is smaller and less sensitive to the touch than some competitors'



Interestingly, Mazda also plans to take Interestingly, Mazoa also pians to take the plunge into clean-diesel technol-ogy with a new diesel engine that will be available on the Mazda6 later this year. This will provide yet another "green" way that Mazda can differentiate its worthy new compact from the competition.

The other early product of Mazda's go-it-alone engineering is the CX-5, a new version of the compact SUV that just ranked highest of any nameplate in the segment in the new J.D. Power study of

For Mazda6, the brand launched its "Take6 Ride and Drive Program" sequen-

tially in 15 major U.S. cit-ies (though not Detroit) beginning this month beginning this month in Seattle and ending in November. The idea of this "experiential" initiative is for Mazda representatives to partner with restaurants where the brand's target Millennial demographic just happens to be waiting for a table. These "brand ambassadors" offer to take

a quick pitch about, and a test drive of, the Mazda6—which conveniently is sit-ting at the curb. Mazda offers gift cards or free dessert at the restaurant as a lure.

"They'll have gone out for dinner, and They'll have gone out for dinner, and our goal is to catch these people where they are rather than making them go where the cars', like a dealership, Barnes said. "We're trying to drive interest, get people behind the wheel of the Mazda6, understand what makes it unique and different — and do it in a way that's comfortable."

"It's an opportunity for them to see that the car does drive wonderfully. And when they're in the market to go shop-ping for a new car, if they think of putting Mazda6 on their shopping list, then we've done our job."

As a final reward for going along in Take6, Mazda gives each diner a Mazda6-branded spice grinder. "It's because food is typically a passion point for our kind of customers," Barnes explained. "The Mazda logo will stare at you. It's another memory device for when you're buying your next car.

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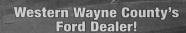
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