



CANTON OBSERVER

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Canton police brew up Coffee with a Cop

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton resident Maria Winters braved Ford Road traffic Friday morning, even though she detests it, because she knew Canton police would be at the Bob Evans restaurant. "I do my best to avoid it," she said of Ford Road.

Winters navigated the bustling road to attend Canton's inaugural Coffee with a Cop

session, an informal way for residents to talk with local police officers.

"This is the first time I ever met a real policeman in Canton," she said.

Winters and her friend Evelyn Moore learned that they and their friends at the Canton Senior Center could call to arrange a tour of the local jail and a ride-along with a police officer.

"I want to see a real jail,"

Winters said.

Learning curve

Moore came to Coffee with a Cop because she wanted to learn more about public safety issues.

"I think it's important to know more about your community," she said.

Police Lt. Dave Schreiner, Deputy Chief Robert Kerr, Sgt.

See COFFEE, Page A3



Maria Winters and Evelyn Moore stopped by the Bob Evans Restaurant on Ford Road to have a cup of coffee with Officer Dave Schreiner and Sgt. Bob Smedley. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOING WITH GRACE



Bill Gauthier (seated) with (from left) his son Ryan Gauthier, daughter Kelly Benko, son Bill Gauthier Jr. and wife Karen Gauthier at the 2012 MDA Muscle Walk.

Canton man wins MDA inspirational award

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

Bill Gauthier needs an oxygen mask — and soon a ventilator — to breathe, can't dress or shower himself, can't brush his teeth and has to sleep upright in a chair.

Diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in 2011, Gauthier is prepared to face the day when speaking will be impossible and he'll need to use an eye-movement-activated device to communicate.

Nevertheless, Gauthier, 61, isn't complaining.

"From the very beginning, I accepted the terminal part of the disease," he said. "It hasn't stopped me from living. I live every day one day at a time."

The Canton resident and Dearborn High School graduate was a credit man-



Bill Gauthier poses with MDA Goodwill Ambassador Allison Stanley, holding his 2013 Most Inspiring award.

ALS FACT SHEET

» ALS strikes both men and women, generally between the ages of 40 and 75, although many patients are young adults in their 20s and 30s.

» In the United States, there are more than 30,000 people living with ALS. More than 5,000 people are newly diagnosed with ALS each year.

» An estimated 1,000 people living in Michigan have ALS, with 200 new diagnoses each year.

» ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries.

» 50 percent of patients with ALS live three to five years, 20 percent live five to 10 years and 10 percent survive 10 years or more.

» "Familial" ALS suggests the disease is inherited. Only 5-10 percent of people with the disease appear to have inherited it.

— From the Muscular Dystrophy Association

See GAUTHIER, Page A2

Ideas flow for Central property

Residents, officials put forth proposals

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are still months away from making a final decision on the disposition of Central Middle School, but that's not stopping people from popping up with their own ideas.

And there are plenty. The latest idea being floated suggests the possibility of city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township officials collaborating on a community center project that would fulfill recreational needs in both communities and keep many of the facilities, especially the indoor pool and the outdoor fields, intact.

It wouldn't be the first time the two communities partnered for recreation. According to City Manager Paul Sincock, township officials gave the city a \$1,500 grant — part of a larger grant it got from the state — to apply to the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Sincock pointed out the city has already put use of the green space around Central Middle School into its recreation master plan "for a number of years." That plan, he said, includes things like multiple recreational facilities, outdoor athletic fields, improved lighting and turf on the football field and a walking path throughout the entire site.

The site's newest facility, Bilkie Field, where the Miracle League of Plymouth plays its baseball games for special-needs players, is also part of the plan, said Sincock, who said the city would be willing to sit down with the township to talk. "We're always interested in what options are available,"

See CENTRAL, Page A8

Canton Public Safety officials strive to improve service

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Touting new technology, fresh leaders, regional cooperation and a well-defined vision, Canton Public Safety officials have laid out their blueprint for elevating an already acclaimed department to new heights.

Their goal, they say, involves sharpening their focus to provide



Mutchler

top-shelf services for Canton's 90,000 residents, its visitors and its business community.

"Our core values are what keep us going forward," Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said.

Mutchler and other high-ranking public safety officials as-

essed their efforts Tuesday evening as they led Canton's elected leaders on a sweeping tour of police and fire facilities inside the municipal complex on Canton Center.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, Canton's top elected official, seemed impressed by what he saw.

See SERVICE, Page A3

Canton royalty



It was a good homecoming night for Canton High School's Allie Archibald and Jamal Dixon and an even better night for the Chiefs. Archibald and Dixon were named queen and king and the Chiefs beat Westland John Glenn, 55-14.

ANN ESPINOZA



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GAUTHIER

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ager by day and hockey referee by night and weekend when he started having neck pain and weakness. He was interviewing for a new job during that time and sometimes it was all he could do to keep his head upright for the duration of the interview, Gauthier's wife Karen said.

It took a couple of years to reach a diagnosis of ALS and from there life changed dramatically for Gauthier. The former avid golfer and all-sports enthusiast's focus has changed. He uses his time these days to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association so that people like Autumn, an 8-year-old who's had spinal muscular atrophy since birth and has been an inspiring force for him, can live life to the fullest. The MDA provides funding for children like Autumn to go to camp

each year and helps coordinate their care and equipment needs, in addition to researching treatments and cures for numerous muscle diseases. The organization also provides much-needed support groups for patients and their families.

At MDA's 2013 Show Strength Telethon, Gauthier was awarded the organization's first Most Inspiring Award for his upbeat attitude in the face of adversity.

"I just think there's someone out there who can inspire us all," said Robin Rhea, executive director for the Greater Detroit MDA. "Bill, through the whole process, has been so positive. He's always asking, 'How are you doing?' and 'What can I do to help?' He wants to give back and help others, despite what he's going through."

It's not just other ALS and neuro-muscular patients Gauthier inspires. He's a powerful force in the lives of everyone who knows him. One friend, David Win-



Bill Gauthier is a frequent attendee at MDA lockups, during which companies raise money for the organization by obtaining telephone pledges.

ter, who's known Gauthier since his dorm days at Eastern Michigan University, wears an ALS bracelet every day in Gauthier's honor.

Winter, a Plymouth lawyer, said Gauthier has a great spirit.

"What I see in Bill is grace, courage and strength of character," Winter said. "While fighting a deadly, debilitating disease and a decreasing quality of life, he expresses no sadness — only strength. His primary goal is security for his family and to spearhead fundraising to aid in research for a cure of this awful disease." Gauthier has orga-

nized many golf outings, attended MDA lockup fundraisers and participated each year in Detroit's MDA Muscle Walk. Last year, Gauthier and his extended family raised \$9,500 for the MDA walk.

He helped promote the MDA Muscle Walk by writing a letter that sheds light on the driving force behind his diligent fundraising. "The most important reason I walk is for the kids," Gauthier wrote. "Since I was diagnosed later in life, as a kid I was able to run, jump, play catch and do other things. Kids with muscular disorders are not able to enjoy these

simple things."

ALS, a neuro-muscular disease characterized in its early phases by muscle weakness and stiffness, is just one of many similar diseases the MDA supports through clinical research, patient and family support and advocacy. As the disease progresses, the muscles stop working and the disease ultimately affects swallowing, breathing and speech abilities.

ALS has severely compromised Gauthier's diaphragm muscles, so he has difficulty breathing. Always the optimist, Gauthier said he's thankful he can still use his legs and arms. At home, he can usually be found in front of his large-screen computer, emailing friends and family, accessing photos or chatting on Facebook with other ALS patients.

Gauthier attributes much of his success to his support system: his wife Karen, son Ryan and his wife Adriana, daughter Kelly Benko and her husband Chris and son Bill Jr., in addition to the many long-term friends who've stuck by him and the ones he's met through the MDA.

He said many spouses can't handle the caretaking that comes with ALS and leaves their husbands, so he's grateful to have Karen.

"Without help, I couldn't get by," he says. Gauthier is also quick to mention his 3-month-old grandson Adrian and days-old granddaughter Hadley. "I want to be a part of their lives, at least a little bit," he said.

A sports buff at heart, Gauthier thinks of his disease the same way he would a game. "I give my best effort" in living with ALS, he said. "That's what I attribute a lot of my success to throughout my life. Whether I win or lose, I will know I've done my best."

His wife Karen said his new-found sport is raising awareness and money for ALS and other neuro-muscular diseases. He'll do anything he needs to do, she said.

Gauthier never one to play the sympathy card, doesn't care why people donate to the MDA, as long as they do.

"Even if they just look at me and feel sorry for me and make a donation, that's OK," he said. "Working with the MDA, I really feel good about myself."

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COFFEE

Continued from Page A1

Bob Smedley and Officers Jeff Zajac and Mike Kirby sipped coffee and spoke with residents as Canton police sought to develop closer ties with the community.

Zajac said it's a way for residents to interact with police in a relaxed atmosphere, rather than when they're worried after being a victim of crime.

"They get a perception from what they see on TV," Zajac said.

Kirby said it's important for residents to know police officers are there to help them.

"We want the citizens to know we're here for anything and everything they need," he said.

One resident, Rosemary A. Jones, stopped by Coffee with a Cop not because she had questions, but just to thank the officers and show her appreciation for the times they patrol her neighborhood.

"And I appreciate you for putting your life on the line all the time," she told them.

Getting comfortable

Winters, meanwhile, suggested Ford Road traffic patterns could be altered like those in Battle Creek. There, she said, motorists get to use

left-turn arrows at the beginning, rather than the end, of traffic light cycles at intersections. She said it's an issue officials should consider.

Schreiner explained that Canton can't make those decisions, only levels of government such as the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Canton Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden has said Coffee with a Cop can serve a useful purpose.

"We want residents to feel comfortable approaching police officers with concerns or problems in their area," he said. "It's not easy to do when we're in a police car or at the scene of an incident."

Other Coffee with a Cop sessions are scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Village Coffee-house, 50166 Cherry Hill Road in Cherry Hill Village; 9-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at L. George's Coney Island restaurant, 43711 Michigan Avenue; and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Big Apple Bagel, 302 N. Canton Center.



Jones

dclcm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238
Twitter: @CantonObserver

Canton fire officials announce open house

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Children can dress up in firefighter gear, tour a fire station, see fire trucks and received fire safety "fun bags" as the Canton Fire Department rolls out its second annual open house.

The event happens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at Fire Station No. 1, 1100 S. Canton

Center, next to the Canton Administration Building.

The open house, which coincides with National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12, drew 150 last year.

"We're probably expecting 200-plus this year, just because the word's out a little more and it was set up a little earlier," Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein said. The event includes fire station

tours, a fire gear dress-up station, fire prevention handouts, hot dogs and popcorn. Moreover, Canton's Fire Safety House will be open for children to tour.

Also during October, firefighters will sponsor fire safety talks at local elementary schools and sponsor an annual fire prevention poster contest. Information for the competition will be distributed through elementary schools.

SERVICE

Continued from Page A1

'Second to none'

"It is the best. I don't think there's any question about it," he said. "They're second to none."

Canton Public Safety has adopted CompStat, a management philosophy that incorporates computer-generated data, and CrimeView software to allow police to hone in on crime trends and geographic "hot spots" so resources can be deployed for maximum benefit. Police can identify neighborhoods plagued by an uptick in burglaries or areas where auto thefts have spiked.

"In the past, (officers) would aimlessly drive around on patrol and hope to get lucky," Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden said.

The latest technology also has helped Canton better analyze its emergency response efforts, allowing firefighter paramedics to reduce the average time it takes to reach the scene of emergencies to just 5½ minutes. Even

better map-related technology is on the horizon.

"We believe through this technology, we're going to reduce our response time (even further)," Fire Chief Joshua Meier said.

Staff turnover

Public Safety officials say they are making gains despite a rapid turnover among the ranks. The fire department lost its 11 command officers in one sweeping exodus this year, allowing other employees to move up in rank and ushering in the still-ongoing hiring of new firefighters.

Moreover, four out of five police lieutenants have been on the job less than a year. Mutchler has lauded the contributions of retirees, while saying the turnover of police and fire employees has allowed Canton to start afresh.

Among other highlights from Tuesday's three-hour session:

» Township board members toured a room where police officers train with a computer-generated, interactive simulator to learn the best way to face hundreds of possible real-life situations. The goal is to teach officers

to respond with verbal commands, Tasers, pepper spray, batons or guns, depending on the crime scene.

"It's not just firearms. It's everything," Officer Matt Jenkinson said.

» Elected leaders were told Canton is among 20 communities involved in the Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association, an effort to boost regional efforts when firefighters face challenges such as a furniture store explosion in Wayne in late 2010. Township board members got an up-close look at urban search-and-rescue and hazardous materials vehicles and two new Canton ambulances.

» For the first time, Meier said the fire department is embarking on a process by 2015 to become accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Canton would become the largest department in Michigan to achieve it.

"We'll be in a very select group," Mutchler said.

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Credit union branch teaches kids to save

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Michelle Richards knows the value of a buck and she wants the students at Starkweather Academy, the alternative high school in the Plymouth-Canton school district, to learn the same lesson.

Now they have their chance. Richards, a program coordinator for Community Financial Credit Union, was on hand Wednesday as CFUCU opened another student-run branch in a local school. The branch, which will be open every other Wednesday for Starkweather students, is the 39th student branch CFUCU has opened in its service area.

The credit union now has branches in all but two of Plymouth-Canton's school buildings. It has also opened branches in several Novi and Northville schools.

"The main goal is for students to get in the habit of saving money at an early age, so they don't face the financial difficulties some adults are facing," Richards said.

Students fill all of the critical jobs in the branch, including computer operator, teller, branch manager and marketing. Students interested in working for the branch have to fill out a job application, view a presentation about the goals and policies of the credit union and go through the job interview process.

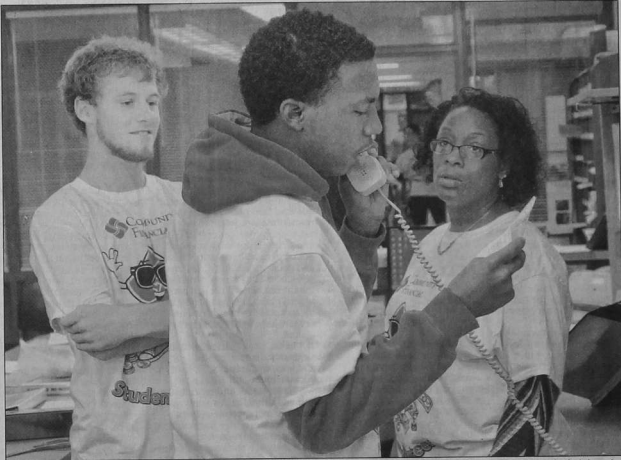
Kim DelProposto, an economics teacher at Starkweather, worked with CFUCU officials and business teacher Eric Souva to put the program together. DelProposto said the whole goal is to teach students about financial matters.

"It's important they learn about saving and money management at an early age," DelProposto said. "We're excited to have this in the school and helping the students start those habits early." The students rotate through the various jobs. Melissa Fisher was working the teller's cash box Wednesday and was excited to be part of it.

"The word 'economics' scared me at first," Fisher said. "This is giving me a chance to see through all of that." Zuri Turner, a 16-year-old student from Canton, said opening an account helps her save money and gives her a little bit of independence.

"Instead of having to ask my mom to go the bank, I can just come and do it myself," Turner said. "I can just come here and, if I have a few dollars, I can deposit it."

It's the kind of lesson Souva wants all of the students to learn. "A lot of kids don't understand the importance of saving money," he said. "This gives them the opportunity to do it during the school day. They don't



Jalen Clark and Marty Peck make an announcement to the school that the credit union branch is open for business. School administrative assistant Rolanda Harris watches. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Community Financial education partnership coordinator Michelle Richards (right) offers advice for the branch opening to Bre King and Emily Allera. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

have to go by themselves and figure it out all on their own."

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Tyler Sears spins the wheel for a chance at a prize. He is watched by Jalen Clark. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Vermeulen Funeral Home proudly announces the addition of Funeral Director Jim Henley to their staff.

Jim is a graduate of Wayne Memorial and Wayne State Mortuary School, he has worked in funeral service since 1996. He recently accepted a position at Vermeulen Funeral Home and is happy to be back in the area to be closer to his family and community, "I like to take care of people I know and see every day in the community". Jim married his high school sweetheart April, they have a daughter Tommi Ann and son Jay. He has served on the Wayne City Council since 2009, the Zoning Board of Appeals since 2004, longtime member of the First Congregational Church of Wayne, past Master of the Wayne Masonic Lodge, 2004 and proud parent of a WYAA's Comet football player.

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PCA welcomed home-school students Sarah Reinhart, Bruce Wilson, Jacob Reinhart, Josh Pop, Richard Wilson, Dillon St. Ledger and Nicole Reinhart.

PCA partners with home-school families

Parents grateful for program's benefits

While the 2013 school year has begun, it's not just the traditional students who have returned to the classroom at Plymouth Christian Academy.

PCA also welcomed a contingent of home-schooled children, whose parents send them to PCA part time for classes such as music, art, physical education, computers and world language.

It's the third year PCA has opened its doors to the home-school community. Caryn Huntsman, interim superintendent and elementary principal and a member of the PCA staff for 21 years, has welcomed these families with open arms.

"With the number of children being taught in their home on the rise, PCA has identified a need to partner with this community and offer a one-

or-two day option for elementary home school families," Huntsman said. "Families with students in grades 6-12 can work with the school counselor to determine the classes and schedule that best work for them."

Kathleen Reinhart of Canton has been sending her children to the PCA Home School Program since 2010.

"The program, program facilitator, principal and teachers of the school have always made my children feel welcome and they are always included in every school activity, such as field day, concerts and class field trips," Reinhart said. "My kids have benefited from the art, music and world language classes. I have benefited from having teachers in my kids' grades that are willing to answer questions about curriculum and teaching methods. The program has been a wonderful addition to our home

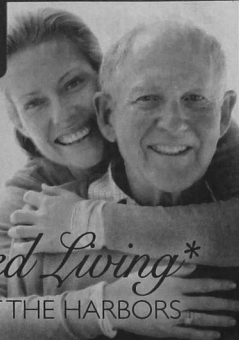
school week."

Academics are an obvious part of a child's school experience, but another very significant aspect is socialization. Reinhart appreciates the role the PCA Home School Program plays in this area.

"This program has been great for our family," she said. "It allows the kids to see friends that they have made since the beginning of the program and provides them with lessons in areas that I feel I lack the skill to teach myself." Huntsman said PCA understands and appreciates the reasons people choose to home-school their children and wants to "partner alongside these families to offer education and support."

For more information on the program, call the PCA admissions director at 734-459-3505, ext. 2120, or email her at bonnie.varney@plymouthchristian.org.

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Farmers market promotes healthy kids program

By **Darrell Clem**
Staff Writer

Using a portion of state dollars it received, the Canton Farmers Market has announced a program intended to improve children's health by encouraging proper nutrition and fitness.

Market manager Tina Lloyd said only 30 students in grades 4-5 can sign up for the Healthy Start to School initiative and they face a deadline by noon Friday.

Healthy Start to School happens Sunday, Sept. 29. It features cooking with Chef Paul, a fitness activity and interactive nutrition activities. By participat-

ing, students receive a gym sack and \$10 in "market money" to spend that same day at Canton Farmers Market, in Preservation Park on Ridge north of Cherry Hill.

The program uses just a portion of a \$15,472 grant the market received from the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Last year, Healthy Start to School focused on middle school students.

"This year, we're going to go a little bit younger," Lloyd said. "I think it's good to start young and get kids exposed to the things they can do to stay healthy."

Their children online at www.cantonfun.org using the online registration button on the left menu, then search 9000.911. First-time users need to set up an account.

On the day of the event, parents can check in their students at the market at 10:15 a.m. Activities occur 10:30-11:30 a.m. and shopping happens at 11:30 a.m. The market closes at 1 p.m.

Anyone who has questions may call (734) 394-5375 or send an email to cantonfarmers-market@canton-mi.org.

dklem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238
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Sandy Melcher Root portrayed Zaida Gottschalk in the 2012 Plymouth Characters Cemetery Walk. **MARTY KERSTENS**

Plymouth's 'ghosts' highlight cemetery walk

Visitors get the chance to meet and greet some of the characters from area's past at Riversiders Cemetery during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Plymouth Characters' Cemetery Walk."

During the walk, set for Saturday, Oct. 26, participants will hear the tales of ghosts, such as Civil War soldiers Asa Joy and Ralph Terry, undertaker William Bassett and photographer Romeo Wood.

Walks begin at 4 p.m., with small groups departing every 15 minutes from the Massey Ball Field parking lot adjacent to Riversiders Cemetery and the 35th District Court, off of Plymouth Road.

Parking is available in the ball field parking lot. Refreshments, provided by event sponsor Courthouse Grille of Plymouth, will be available at the cemetery following the walk.

The walk lasts 60-90 minutes and involves some walking over uneven ground; organizers are urging participants



Jack Grant of Plymouth portrayed Cyrus Pinkney in the 2012 Plymouth Characters Cemetery Walk. **MARTY KERSTENS**

to wear sturdy walking shoes and bring flashlights for later tour times.

Tickets are \$10 per person, or purchase a Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum membership and receive up to two free tickets. A purchase of a Kellogg Park membership (value \$25) will get the recipient one free ticket; a purchase of a Daisy membership (value \$50) will get the recipient two free tickets.

Tickets can be purchased on the Museum's website

(<http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Plymouth-Characters-Cemetery-Walk-at-Riversiders-Cemetery-ET45.html?Sort=Boys-201210>) using PayPal or at the museum during open hours. Tickets are \$15 at the cemetery and will not be sold from the website the day of the cemetery walk.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, visit the website or call 734-455-8940.

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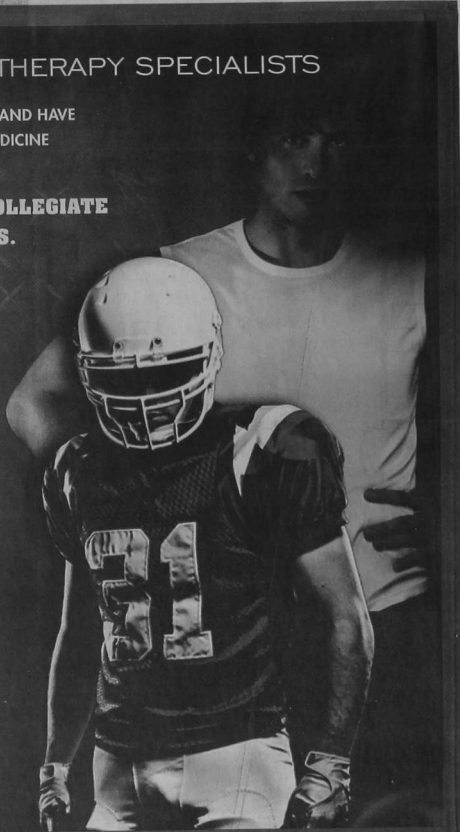
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MSU coach from Canton killed in crash

By Lindsay VanHulle
Gannett Michigan

LEROTY TOWNSHIP — Michigan State athletics officials recalled assistant softball coach Charles Fobbs, who was killed in a crash on eastbound Interstate 96 near M-52, outside Webberville, Michigan State Police said. Authorities said his Chevrolet HHR left the road at 6:25 p.m. and rolled multiple times after he swerved to avoid slowing traffic. He died at the scene.

Fobbs was hired as an assistant softball coach for the 2013 season, according to his official MSU biography. He had worked for the team as a volunteer coach in 2009 and specialized in hitting and catching. From 1991-2008, Fobbs was the varsity softball coach at Detroit Cass Tech, where his team won five Detroit Public Schools league championships,

12 district titles, a regional title and advanced to the state quarterfinals. He also worked as an assistant football coach at Cass Tech from 1994-2008.

"He was an exceptional person," Cass Tech football head coach Thomas Wilcher told the *Detroit Free Press*. "He was always fun, always laughing. He was always trying to help you out, always trying to figure out how to get something done. He was always trying to figure out how to get kids ahead. He lived to make people happy. He was the only guy I knew who would sit there and coach kids all day long. That was all he wanted to do — coach kids."

Fobbs is a 1989 graduate of the University of New Mexico, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business technology.

He founded Detroit Cannon Youth Organization, a nonprofit youth development organization for urban kids. His wife and stepdaughter live in Canton.

"I'm absolutely devastated by the loss of my very good

friend and a wonderful human being," MSU softball coach Jacquie Joseph said in a released statement. "We have lost someone incredibly special — he dedicated his life to helping develop young people and this is a tremendous loss. My heart is with his family and all those who had the privilege of knowing him."

"Our thoughts are with Charles' family and friends at this incredibly difficult time," MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis said in a statement. "We also have heavy hearts for Jacquie Joseph and her softball family here at MSU. More than a coach, Charles was a good friend to many here in our athletics department and across the state of Michigan."

Fobbs coached with Wilcher for 15 years at Cass Tech and was the best man in Wilcher's wedding.

"We were together for a long time," Wilcher said. "I liked how he always tried to make sure that a person would try to reach their potential and he understood all it would take



Detroit Cass Tech varsity softball coach Charles Fobbs coaches against Detroit Southeastern on April 19, 2007, in Detroit. JERRY S. MEMOZA/SPECIAL TO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

was hard work to achieve some type of success at athletics."

When Wilcher became head coach at Cass Tech, he coached the offense and Fobbs ran the defense before they switched roles a few years later.

Wilcher was not surprised when Fobbs decided to give up football and concentrate on coaching softball.

"He always coached softball, his dad did softball and he learned from his dad — Charlie Fobbs," Wilcher said. "He trained hard. He taught a lot of girls how to play softball. He

was always at a softball coaches camp. He learned a lot from other softball coaches."

Fobbs is survived by his wife Lisa and stepdaughter Hannah Shuler. Funeral arrangements are pending. MSU's Sunday doubleheader against Detroit Mercy has been canceled.

State police have asked anyone who saw the crash to call the Lansing post at 517-322-1907.

Detroit Free Press sports writer Mick McCabe contributed to this report.

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CENTRAL

Continued from Page A1

Sincock said. "It's a great tie between the downtown and Old Village area. It would be a really nice facility."

But Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said such talk is premature. Without more detail - and with no decision yet by the Board of Education - any decision would be tough to reach, Reaume said.

"No one has (officially) brought anything forward; someone did talk to me, but they said they were still working on details," Reaume said. "Canton (the Summit) and Livonia (recreation center) did that and it cost them something like \$20 million."

"We're for recreation, but we'd have to see more details," he added.

"We wouldn't close the door." A grass-roots group made up of citizens and community leaders started meeting over the summer to talk about Central's fate and what role the property could play in the community. The district is planning to close Central following the 2014-15 school year and open a new middle school in Canton in September 2015.

Preserving and re-purposing the building - with features such as a competitive swimming pool, a recreation pool, a gymnasium, meeting rooms, a fitness center and arts facilities - is a top priority for the group. And a joint city-township effort would be more than appropriate, supporters say.

"I consider the city and township one community," said Deb Madonna, president of the Miracle League of Plymouth and a township resident. "I grew up here and it's always been that way. I think we have to appreciate that the city of Plymouth, which is just two square miles, provides much to (township residents) and we don't pay taxes to have all those activities going on. What would life be like for the township residents if there wasn't a downtown like ours?"

There is some sentiment in the community to simply save the historic building - Central Middle School was the original Plymouth High School - but Sincock warned that might not be such a great selling point, since it might not be feasible.

"I wouldn't say, 'Save Plymouth High School' until you do an assessment of the building," Sincock said. "In the end, it may come down."

Central's fate, obviously, is being discussed within the district. District administrators, led by Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen, plan to provide a report to the Board of Education detailing a variety of data, including outstanding leases connected to the property, revenue sources from current users of the property, any bond money impacts and other legalities before the property can be sold, in October.

Before the board makes a decision, likely in January, trustees and administrators plan on listening to the people.

"The board respects what the community thinks," Meissen said. "The idea is to be very open, very transparent and follow a decision-making model where the board has an opportunity to do their homework, develop some ideas and then talk with the public about it."

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Before the board makes a decision, likely in January, trustees and administrators plan on listening to the people.

"We're always interested in what options are available."

PAUL SINCOCK
Plymouth city manager



Schoolcraft student Muhammad Yaqoob attempts to drive while "impaired" by the simulator. He lives in Canton. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Simulator teaches Schoolcraft students an important lesson

James Pratt, working with Arrive Alive, programs what driver Muhammad Yaqoob of Canton will experience behind the wheel. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Schoolcraft College, in conjunction with the Schoolcraft College Foundation and Student Activities Office, offered a distracted and drunken driving education program for students on the Livonia campus Thursday as part of School Fall Festival.

UNITE's Arrive Alive program uses a high-tech simulator, impact video and a number of other resources to educate students about the dangers of drunken driving and texting while driving. The simulator allows students to experience, in a controlled environment, the potential consequences of drunken and distracted driving.

One of the most commonly recognized driving distractions is cellphone use. About 89 percent of all Americans have a cellphone, according to CTIA-The Wireless Association. Drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Arrive Alive Tour from UNITE brings health and wellness programs to high school and college campuses across the nation.

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Schoolcraft receives grant for training program

Livonia-based Schoolcraft College has received a piece of the \$474.5 million in U.S. government grants to expand demand-driven skills training and strengthen employer partnerships. Schoolcraft College will get more than \$1 million as part of a consortium of eight Michigan community colleges that together received nearly \$25 million.

The Michigan colleges will focus on improvements in advanced manufacturing and will help students with job skill readiness, basic skill development, pathways to certificates and degrees, employer involvement, online/hybrid courses, education plans, prior learning assessments and career services.

The grants are part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program. This is a multi-year \$2 billion initiative to expand targeted training programs for unemployed workers, especially those impacted by foreign trade.

AT A GLANCE

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O THE FAMILY (R)
11:00, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
FRIDAY 11:55
O INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 2 (PG-13)
11:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
FRIDAY 12:00
RIDDOCK (R)
ON-SITE UNLOCKED SEATING AVAILABLE
11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
FRIDAY 11:55
LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER (PG-13)
FRI-SUN 12:00, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10
MON 12:00, 9:10
TUE 12:00, 9:20
WE'RE THE MALLERS (R)
11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

Plymouth eater among Tater Tot winners

Local restaurant stages contest to set world record



The pressure builds for the last man on the team, Jared Exel of Farmington Hills (right). It will be his turn to stuff in the tater tots when Jason Bejer of Wayne finished his basket of golden death. That turn never came because Jason blew his tots all over the floor, immediately disqualifying the team. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nathan's Famous Frankfurters in Coney Island, N.Y., has its annual world hot dog eating championship.

Now Bar Louie in Livonia has an annual "Rock the Tot" tater tot eating contest.

The event took place at 8 p.m. Thursday simultaneously with Bar Louie locations across the country. Bar Louie seeks to set the world record for most tater tots eaten simultaneously across all locations.

The local event was judged by Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West and Livonia Treasurer Dennis Wright.

"It was an experience," West said. "You never know what you're getting into with something like this. You can definitely tell there was lots of energy and competitive juices flowing at this event."

At each location, the contest was broken into two parts - team relay races and a solo competition.

At the sound of the buzzer, the first team member ate their pound of tots as fast as

they could. The second team member started their pound when the first team member finished and so on. The first team to finish their four pounds of tots won.

The winning Livonia team consisted of Jack Gundersen of Walled Lake, Jonathan Treece of Livonia, Josh Treece of Westland and Brandon Zanski of Flat Rock. They each won a "Rock the Tot" champions T-shirt and free tots for a year at Bar Louie.

The other team was disqualified when one of the team members threw up.

Matthew Holowicki of Plymouth was the winner of the solo challenge to eat as many tater tots as possible in three minutes. He consumed two pounds of tater tots under the deadline. His prize was a \$250 Bar Louie gift card, champion trophy, T-shirt and free tater tots for one year.

The top five local winners from across the country will be awarded airfare and hotel accommodations to Cleveland to attend the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and compete Oct. 5 at Bar Louie Cleveland for the title of "Rock the Tot" national champion. The grand prize winner will receive a \$500 cash prize, free tater tots for a



Jonathan Treece of Livonia shovels in the tater tots during team competition. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and hold the world record for most eaten tots in three minutes.

Almost 250,000 tater tots were consumed nationwide during last year's competition. The 2012 national champion, Jamie McDonald, consumed five pounds, four ounces of tater tots in six minutes.

The contest is in its sixth year nationally.

For more information, visit www.rockthetot.com and facebook.com/barlouie.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ACA town hall

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.
Location: Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center
Details: State Rep. Dian Slaven, D-Canton, hosts a town hall meeting on the Affordable Care Act. Special guests Jenita Moore, director of policy for the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services, and Don Hazert, director of Michigan Consumers for Health Care, will join Slaven at the event. "As the new health insurance exchange opens Oct. 1, many people still have questions about what the law means for them," Slaven said. "I'm hosting this meeting to reach out to my constituents and give them the information they need to benefit from and fully comply with the law."
Contact: For details, call 517-373-2575

Jazz @ the Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 hosts the Russ Miller Quintet as part of its jazz series. The group features Russ Miller on flute and saxophone,

Charlie Miller on trumpet, Cliff Monson on keyboard, Jeff Pedraz on bass and Dave Taylor on drums. Russ Miller is on the faculty in the jazz department at Wayne State University. There is a \$10 donation at the door.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com. See you there!

Senior Brigade town hall

Date/Time: Monday, Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites residents of the 20th District to a Senior Brigade town hall forum to discuss phone and mail scans from the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. "Local issues are at the core of a state lawmaker's role and set of responsibilities," said Heise, R-Plymouth. "That's why I'm hosting town halls on issues that really matter to residents of the district, issues that help improve the quality of life for all of us." All residents are invited to come to the town hall to gain more information about this issue and others affecting senior citizens.

Genealogy workshop

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the sixth in a series of genealogical workshops to help family historians of all levels research their American ancestors. This seminar features Amy Johnson Crow and Laura G. Prescott, both genealogical speakers on the national level. Crow is a genealogical content manager with Ancestry.com. Prescott is a professional researcher, writer and speaker. She offers a unique mix of history, genealogy and technology to find answers and ancestors. Her specialties include online research sources, working with master source collections and fitting technology to genealogy. She is a consultant at Fold3.com and past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists. There is limited seating and the event is filling up rapidly. The fee for the day, \$40, includes the four lectures, lunch and the option of touring the museum's special exhibit, "6474," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on its website at <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/genealogyseminar>. ET119.html?Sort=Box2201309.



Eatin' and ridin'

The 18th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off and Motorcycle Show takes place 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in downtown Plymouth. Along with the traditional Red Chili competition there is a Chili Verde contest (Green Chili) and a Salsa contest. A Best Booth contest and People's Choice winners will also be awarded prizes. A motorcycle show and two charity Chili Rides are planned by Motor City Harley Davidson and Dick Scott's Classic Motorcycles. The Chili Bike Show is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both rides are open to all bikes and will arrive in downtown Plymouth at 11:30 a.m. All money raised during this event goes to Western Wayne Habitat for Humanity and Penrickton Center for Blind Children.

Contact: For more information, call the museum at 734-455-8940.

Plymouth-Canton AAUW Book Sale

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. The sale will be part of the Delta Kappa Gamma craft show.

Details: The purpose of the American Association of University Women is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Proceeds will benefit the Plymouth-Canton Branch scholarship fund. The group is now collecting gently used fiction and non-fiction books, children and adults (please no encyclopedias, textbooks or damaged books).

Contact: For more information or to donate books contact

Becky Copenhaver at 734-981-6023 or bcopenhaver@yahoo.com or Shirley Zaetta at 734-455-8366 or szetta@wow-way.com.

Diesel Club luncheon

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft in Livonia

Details: The Detroit Diesel Retiree Club hosts its annual luncheon and business meeting. It's primarily a social club that provides information to its members about items which may impact all retirees of Detroit Diesel Corporation from GM, through the current ownership. Guests enjoy social interaction beginning at 11 a.m., a buffet luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and brief business meeting with discussion on any topics of current interest to the attending guests. Cost to attend the lunch

is \$23.
Contact: For information on the luncheon and preregistration contact Robert Pavl, membership director, at 734-455-2668, email rpavlo64@prodigy.net or John Ledelin, president, 313-863-8850, e-mail die-seljm@aol.com.

Delta Kappa Gamma craft show

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth

Details: Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women in education that provides scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students pursuing a degree in education, hosts its 29th annual craft show. Juried crafters will display handmade jewelry, pottery, clothing, seasonal decor, metal sculptures,

gourmet foods and more. The event will also offer drawings for several prizes, including two handmade Amish quilts, a golf outing at Fox Hills Country Club, tickets to a 2014 Detroit Tigers game, a gift package to 932 Peninman Bed and Breakfast and gift certificates to five local restaurants. Also, the American Association of University Women will join the craft show with a used book sale. Breakfast and lunch items will be available in the cafeteria. Admission is \$2.
Contact: For more information, contact Debbie Cortelli at debcortelli@comcast.com or Alice Chrenko at dachrenko@hotmail.com.

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1-3 p.m.

Location: United Home Health Services, 2206 S. Canton Center Road, Ste. 250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified Medicare/Medicaid Medical Assistance Program counselor. The counselor can help you understand your Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare and supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse and explore long-term care insurance options. No appointment necessary.

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

Mom 2 Mom

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Location: St. Edith's Church, 15083 Newburgh in Livonia
Details: The MOMS of St. Edith hosts its biannual Mom-to-Mom Sale, featuring 74 tables of gently-used maternity, baby and kids clothing, toys and furniture. Early Bird Admission at 8:30 a.m. is only \$2 and regular admission is \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon. St. Edith & St. Kenneth MCPA supports mothers of young children in a supportive and caring environment.

Contact: For more information, please visit www.stekmops.com or on Facebook at St. Edith St. Kenneth Mom-to-Mom Sale.

Seeking crafters

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 7
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum is accepting applications for its annual Juried Craft Bazaar. Applicants are required to submit three to four photos of craft items for judges to determine participants as there is a limit of crafters to five per category. Table rentals are \$30 each and most are eight feet wide, although there are some space variations available. Space is tight, so vendors will need to limit their display area to the size of the table or an equivalent space. The museum is offering free admission that day for both museum patrons and bazaar shoppers. Crafters are requested to donate an item for the museum's raffle.
Contact: The application is available at www.plymouth-history.org/middle/downloads/event11/craft_show.pdf. Crafters not accepted for the bazaar will receive a full refund.

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Next to Bill Brown Ford across from Saint Michael's Church

Freedom House: a beacon for refugees

Detroit institution brings message to Garden City Rotary meeting

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Cheryl Willett, retired from Garden City Public Schools since 2002, is anxious to inform others about what she's been up to recently.

For four years, she has worked as a volunteer for Freedom House in Detroit, a temporary shelter for refugees.

Freedom House has assisted refugees and survivors of persecution from around the world for 30 years and helps them gain asylum and a new start on life.

Willett brought Deb Drennan, executive director of Freedom House, and Lucie Nyobe, a refugee from Cameroon in Africa, to Thursday's Garden City Rotary Club meeting.

"I have always been interested in international affairs," Willett said, adding that she has been inspired by the stories told by the refugees about how they overcame immense challenges.

Freedom House is a nonprofit, non-political place that exists to provide shelter for victims of persecution seeking political asylum in the United States and Canada. Persecution means to harass, punish, injure, oppress or otherwise cause someone to suffer physical or psychological harm.

Saving lives

It's believed that through the years, it has saved hundreds of lives and helped many build new lives.

Finances are always a concern because its services are free to the refugees who seek temporary shelter and cannot work. Freedom House recently lost a major grant, so Drennan is worried about

the future. "I can't send people away from Freedom House," Drennan said. "Everyone should be treated with justice and dignity."

People come from all over the world for help. Nyobe, who has been in America for two years, fled her country after she was brutally tortured. She was delivering election ballots perceived to be against the current regime and suffered at the hands of her captors. "I was raped," she said.

Knowing that the time was coming when she would be killed, she was given a bag containing clothing and a visa. She took it and fled.

She ended up in Atlanta, Ga., where she lived in the streets for six months before coming to Detroit. With the help of Freedom House, she said she is gaining back her "life and dignity" through the kindness of strangers.

According to published reports, political transitions in sub-Saharan Africa have consistently been difficult, in part, because incumbent heads of state have been obsessed with retaining political power for life.

The road has been rough for Nyobe.

"Lucie feels a lot of anxiety," Drennan said.

Prove persecution

Refugees seeking asylum have to be able to prove they have been persecuted. When fleeing for safety, many don't have all the necessary documentation. The U.S. is reportedly tightening down on requests for asylum, making it more difficult.

Freedom House tries to service all the needs by providing a tempor-

ary home and transitional housing, once the refugee gets asylum.

"Our services include medical services, mental health care, education, job training, recreation and legal aid," Drennan said.

"But asylum cases take a long time – typically eight to 12 months, sometimes years. The refu-

gees are not legally allowed to work while they wait.

"So they help where they can," Drennan said.

For more information about Freedom House, call Drennan at 313-964-4320.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
313-222-2249
Twitter: @SueBuck



Deb Drennan, executive director of Freedom House in Detroit, and Lucie Nyobe, a Cameroon native, spoke Sept. 19 to members of the Garden City Rotary Club.

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Singing Hot Dog Man: Just say no (to ketchup)

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer



Charley Marcuse selling hot dogs at the 2012 World Series. DAVID BLOOM

It was April 12, 1999, the final Opening Day in the old Tiger Stadium and the first day on the job for Charley Marcuse — better known as the Singing Hot Dog Man.

"My dad saw an article in the newspaper that they were looking for vendors," Marcuse said. "I was looking to make a little extra cash and liked the idea of working outdoors — I thought it was perfect."

Indeed, it was perfect. Charley not only sold hot dogs, he built a reputation for his operatic singing during the games. Life was good, until a few weeks ago, when Marcuse was fired by the company that holds the food concession contract at Comerica Park.

Rumor has it he protested too loudly whenever a customer in the stands wanted ketchup on their hot dog.

Marcuse, 33, acknowledges he's definitely a mustard guy — he even started his own line of mustard in 2008 — but he's coy

The important thing is, I've worked the same way for 15 years. So any suggestion that something is new doesn't make a lot of sense.

Q: What's wrong with ketchup?

Marcuse: My first year at ballpark was the first year they had packets for condiments — up to then, the mustard was slapped on with a tongue depressor.

One of the first groups I came to, they were "horrified," so to speak, that I had ketchup packets. They told me there's no place for ketchup on a hot dog.

I took what they said to heart and ever since then I've always encouraged the tradition of putting mustard on the hot dog.

Baseball is a game of tradition.

You take your hat off and stand up for the national anthem. You stretch during the seventh inning.

So yeah, I carry ketchup and I've given it out. But I strongly encourage the use of

mustard on a hot dog.

Q: How did the singing start?

Marcuse: That same first season, they had The Three Tenors at the stadium and I decided to have fun with it.

I put a bow tie and tailcoat over my uniform and started singing opera to sell hot dogs. Whole sections applauded.

Q: What are you going to miss most about the job?

Marcuse: Really the fans — that's what I keep coming back for. It started out as a summer job, but it really turned into a passion of mine. I built great relationships.

I have lots of regular customers who come and find me to get a hot dog. I'm going to a wedding next weekend of a customer I've befriended.

Q: You don't think the organization jinxed the team by dismissing you so abruptly?

Marcuse: I don't think so, not at all. I think we have a very talented team and I'm cheering for them as much as

everyone else.

Q: Is anyone trying to help you win back your job?

Marcuse: There's been a lot of fan support. I'm also a member of a union and we've filed a grievance, so that's going through the appeal process.

I would very happily go back and there would be no hard feelings — certainly not on my end. I just try to do the best I can to create a special experience. The feedback I get is overwhelmingly positive.

Again, I sell a lot of hot dogs.

Q: What's next for you?

Marcuse: The season is close to done.

Hopefully I'll be able to work some playoff games — certainly I'll be watching them. If this really is the end, I'll have to regroup and take on something new.

Some people have said I'm only talking to the media to make a name for myself.

But you called me, I didn't call you. I'm a hot dog vendor, for goodness sake.

I'm not doing it for the money and glory.

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Paddlers needed for first Rouge River canoe race

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer



Kurt Kuban (left) and Matt Muholland on a practice run down the Lower Rouge River.

Attention, all canoeing enthusiasts. If you are looking for a challenge and want to paddle some relatively unknown water—not to mention have a chance to win some cash—I've got the perfect opportunity for you.

The main feature of the Rouge-A-Palooza festival Oct. 12 in downtown Wayne is the inaugural Logjam Classic Canoe Race. Organizers of the event, of which I am one, wanted to do something to celebrate the progress local communities have made in cleaning up the Rouge River in recent years. The city of Wayne has been at the forefront of this movement.

The canoe race covers a three-mile course through the Wayne County-owned Lower Rouge Parkway, which is a green ribbon of forest where trees tower overhead and wildlife makes its home. It is an oasis of nature in an otherwise urban landscape.

Friends of the Rouge has organized a group canoe trip on the Lower Branch of the Rouge each October for several years now and its popularity has continued to grow, with more than 50 people taking part last year.

To raise more awareness to this budding recreational opportunity, we decided to organize the race this year for those looking for a new challenge.

Here are the basics. Our hope is to get up to 30 canoes in the race. Each canoe must have two partners. Due to the limited size of the river, teams will be sent every five minutes and will be timed. The team with the best time will be awarded cash (the total will depend on the number of competitors) and tro-

phies cut from an actual Rouge River logjam. The beginning of the race is just east of John Hix Road on Commerce Court behind the Wayne County Department of Environment office, while the completion is at Goudy Park behind Wayne City Hall, where Rouge-A-Palooza will be taking place.

The festival will feature five bands (local favorite Tyrone Hamilton, folksinger Alan Cayn, bluesgrass trio Troublesome Creek, all-country band Cornadaddy, and the bluesy rockers Big Patty), a beer tent featuring Michigan brew, a kayak raffle, rubber duck race, build your own miniature boat race for the kids, environmental educational booths, civic group booths, children's activities and a corn hole tournament. There will also be food vendors (Mean Weenie food truck, Las Cazuelas Grill, Avenue American Bistro, US-12 and Papa Romano's).

In addition, Friends of the Rouge will also be organizing its annual paddle trip, which will begin at the conclusion of the canoe race. For more information about how to join the trip, visit its website at www.therouge.org or contact the group at 313-792-9900. There will be canoe rentals available through

Friends of the Rouge. For me, however, the race is the main event of the festival. In a day and age with extreme competition like the Tough Mudder being so popular, the Logjam Classic should be appealing to paddlers who are looking for a tough physical challenge. Despite the name, there won't be any impassable obstructions in the river, but the Lower Rouge is a fairly technical course. There are logjams to maneuver around (and under, in some cases), riffle areas that must be navigated and lots of bends and turns to the river.

For this reason, we are only allowing experienced canoeists in the race. And you must be in good physical condition to participate.

Our rules are pretty basic: there must be two people in a canoe and any canoe can be used. Unlike the famous AUSAble Canoe Marathon, the Logjam Classic is more of a sprint. Winning teams should finish in less than an hour.

Although Michigan Avenue and Ford Motor Co.'s massive Michigan Assembly complex are nearby, competitors in the race will never know it as the river traverses its way through a scenic terrain of large cottonwoods, maples, willows and sycamore trees.

LOGJAM CLASSIC RULES/REGISTRATION

The race takes place Oct. 12 in Wayne. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at 3600 Commerce Court in Wayne.

Here are the rules:

- Two contestants for each canoe. They must remain as a team for the duration of the race, in the same canoe as started with.
- Any canoe may be used.
- Competitors must be at least 18 years old.

• Contestants must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD. (personal flotation device).

• Commonly accepted rules of sportsmanship will prevail. Intentional capsizing or damaging an opponent's canoe will mean disqualification.

• Preregistration is a must due to limited spots. Contact Kurt Kuban at 734-716-0783.

The whole point of the race is to draw more attention to the Lower Rouge and all the efforts that have been made to turn it back into a recreational resource for communities like Wayne, Canton Township, Westland and even Inkster and Dearborn further downstream. In fact, plans are currently underway to have the Lower Rouge designated a national water trail. Water quality of the river

has improved dramatically in recent years, as local communities continue to make changes to clean it up.

The best thing about the Rouge River is the fact it's in our backyard. People who live in the Detroit area usually have to drive an hour or more to paddle a Michigan river. Our goal is to provide that opportunity closer to home.

If you think you have what it takes, preregister

by contacting me at 734-716-0783 or kkuban@hometownlife.com. We are only allowing 30 canoes in the race. Cost is \$30 per boat. Each competitor will get a Rouge-A-Palooza T-shirt. If you don't have a canoe, but would like to compete, you can rent one for \$35 through Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rentals by contacting Jeff Valender at 248-795-7434.

If you don't want to compete in the race or participate in the group paddle, but are interested in efforts to clean up the river, head over Oct. 12 to Rouge-A-Palooza as we celebrate our river.

Kurt Kuban is the environmental reporter for the Observer & Eccentric. Newspapers, community editor of the Northville Record and a Rouge River cleanup volunteer. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com or 734-716-0783.

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Scientist shares his love of bats

Great Lakes Bat Festival on tap

By Sandra Armbruster
Staff Writer

SOUTHFIELD — Rob Mies can thank his dad for his interest in bats. At least, that's how the whole thing started, he says.

"My dad took us camping every year," said Mies, who, as executive director of the Organization for Bat Conservation, could be called the original Bat Man. "I loved night time. I would walk through the fields with a flashlight."

Bats, as everyone knows, are nocturnal. Eastern Michigan University professor Alan Kurda really shined the light on Mies' future career.

"It was really by happenstance," Mies said. He was already studying ecosystems at EMU when he started working

with Kurda. "I said, 'Hey, this bat thing is pretty good,'" he said.

Now, Mies has learned a lot more — like that there are 950 species of bats all over the world and that they have both an ecological and economic benefit.

So Mies — with his organization, which is headquartered in Cranbrook, where there is a bat center — spends his time spreading the word about all things related to bats.

And just in time for Halloween, Mies is bringing the 12th annual Great Lakes Bat Festival on Sept. 28 to the Southfield Pavilion, on Evergreen Road south of 11 Mile.

The event will include everything from a large tent outfitted like a bat cave to presentations and chances for hands-on activities. The real bats will be handled by the pros, though.

What can you learn by



Rob Mies shows an audience a bat during one of his many presentations each year.

going? Well, there will be a chance to buy Mies' new book, hear a talk by the first person to survive a rabies attack and learn things like a single bat must eat 2,000-5,000 insects every day.

Visitors also will have a chance to make bat houses out of old Chevy Volt battery covers. Bat houses, Mies said, are especially important in older neighborhoods by providing shelter for bats who might otherwise want to live behind house shutters.

The Organization for Bat Conservation sponsors 2,000 programs each year, Mies said, keeping him busy traveling all over to teach about bats

and help organize other bat festivals and organizations.

But Mies says he is a field biologist at heart and still does some research. Finding that he has "a bit of a knack for education," however, changed his career.

Unlike overly cautious adults, "kids just totally dig it," Mies said of bat education.

"That's awesome. (They) will learn about bats in a safe and fun, engaging way." The "cool thing," Mies tells the youngsters, when they ask a question he can't answer, is that science changes and that they can discover the answers themselves.



Bats are nocturnal animals that are very beneficial to humans, according to Rob Mies, executive director of the Organization for Bat Conservation.

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MEETING NOTICE
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A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z-13-07	641 Wing Non-Use Variance Requested Rear & Side yard Setbacks Zoned: RT-1, Two Family Residential Applicant: Keri & Dan Dinica
---------	--

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: Sunday, September 22, 2013

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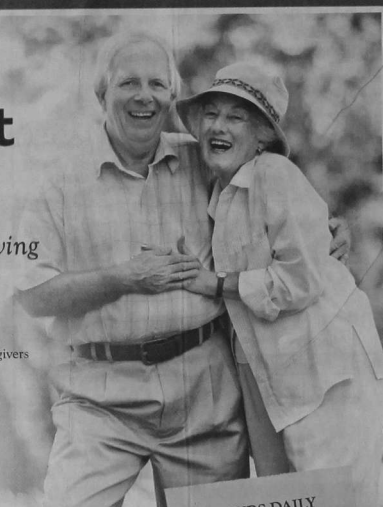


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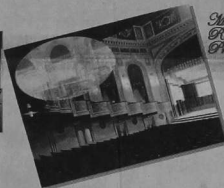
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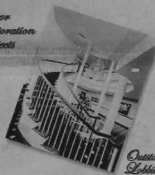
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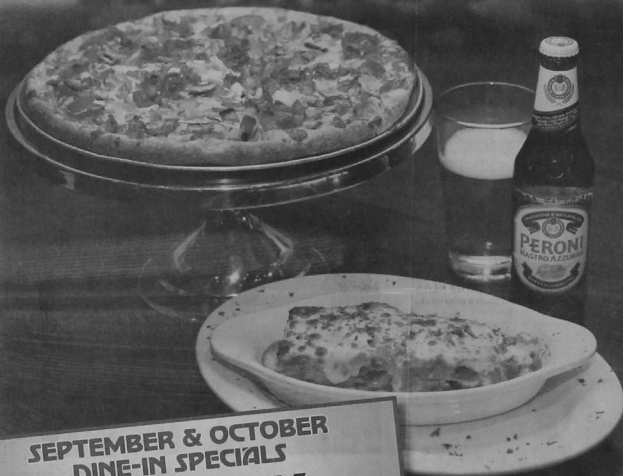
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SPORTS

PREP FOOTBALL - WEEK 4

Franklin stuns Plymouth, 24-21

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin put on its bullet-proof vests Friday night.

After building a 24-7 lead, the Patriots took state-ranked Plymouth's best shots during the final quarter and walked out of the Wildcats' den with an eye-opening 24-21 KLAASouth Division football victory.

The loss snapped a two-game losing streak for Franklin, which now stands 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the South.

"We've had a real rough two weeks," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "There was a lot of doubt in their minds. And I think that first quarter kind of brought it to a head, then all the sudden they saw they could compete. They saw they were a good football team. This is hopefully going to be our springboard."

Franklin junior Dan Huber was certainly a catalyst offensively as he ran for a hard-earned 137 yards on 29 carries and three touchdowns.

"We came into practice off a two-game losing streak and we just came ready to play," Huber said. "Just our focus was better than anything."

After leading 10-7 at half-time, the Patriots extended their advantage to 10 with the 6:52 left in the third quarter on a 7-yard TD run by the 5-foot-11, 190-pound Huber.

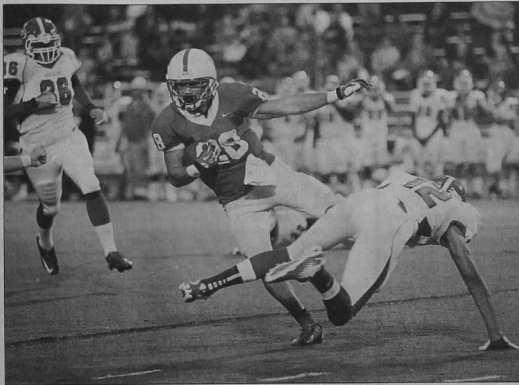
Franklin then got the ball back just 1:34 later, when Tony Vella hit Plymouth quarterback A.J. Convertino, jarred the ball loose and Zach Buda recovered at the Wildcats' setting up a 9-yard Huber touchdown run to make it 24-7 following Alejandro Castillo's PAT.

But Plymouth would not quit, pulling to within 24-21 as D.J. Rossell (15 carries, 98 yards) scored on a 33-yard TD run with 4:54 left in the third, then Convertino threw a 22-yard scoring pass to Connor Stella followed by the two-point conversion pass to Josh Morris with only 2:48 left.

But with the Wildcats out of timeouts, Franklin killed the clock as Huber rushed for a pair of key first downs to seal the win.

"I just knew we had to carry the ball and not let them get it back," Huber said.

See PLYMOUTH, Page B3



Canton running back Charles Turfe (No. 28) eludes Westland John Glenn defender Andre Brown (No. 12) during Friday night's game. ANN ESPINOZA

Chiefs pour it on, 55-14

Rockets, rain can't dampen Canton's homecoming

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The prediction of heavy thunderstorms Friday night did not come to pass, but the Canton Chiefs rained down points instead.

Canton also made its homecoming game one to remember as the Chiefs pelted Westland John Glenn 55-14 in a KLAASouth Division football tilt.

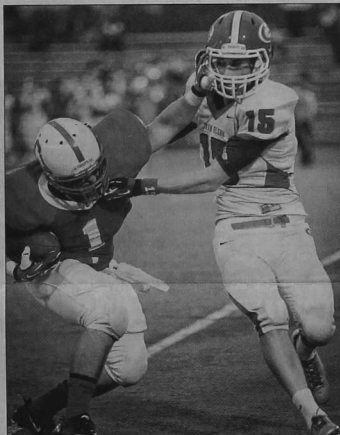
Scoring almost at will in the first half to go up 35-0 by the time the homecoming king and queen were crowned, the Chiefs (4-0 overall, 2-0 in the KLAASouth) had such a grip on the victory that the second half was played with a running clock.

"This is a fun group. They're practicing their butts off and it's a game of momentum," Canton head coach Tim Baechler said. "It's a little bit of a surprise that we're doing it so well."

"We really haven't had many close games other than the first one. But I'm not going to complain."

Baechler credited a total team effort on defense for the lopsided outcome.

Apparently, in addition to watching the Weather Channel, the Chiefs spent some time studying film of John Glenn running back Devon Spalding — who ran for about 220 yards the previous week against Livonia



Westland John Glenn's Travis Solberg (No. 15) tries to bring down Canton running back Robert Daoud (No. 1). ANN ESPINOZA

Franklin.

Spalding could not get untracked against Canton, winding up with 11 all-purpose yards.

Slow 'mo'

According to John Glenn head coach Tim Hardin, his squad

See CHIEFS, Page B3

Heroes on Hines races

Wayne County Parks will sponsor its first Heroes on Hines half-marathon and 5-kilometer races Saturday, Oct. 5, with proceeds going toward the creation and maintenance of the First Responders Memorial to be erected at Hines Drive and Haggerty.

The half-marathon starts at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K at 8:30 a.m.

The event is sponsored by Running Fit and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The cost is \$34 (5K) and \$59 (half-marathon) if registering through Oct. 3. Visit heroesonhines.com.

Golf and triathlon

PGA professional Tami Beal will be staging a 5-kilometer run-walk, 20K bike and nine-hole golf scramble at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 at Hickory Creek Golf Course. The cost is \$75.

For more information, visit TrainWithTami.com or call 734-731-0238.

Hole-in-one

Plymouth resident Dan Martin, 67, recently scored a hole-in-one at Bushwood Golf Club in Northville. Martin ace'd the 128-yard, No. 3 hole using an 8-iron. He finished with a 31 for the day. It was his second hole-in-one.

Schoolcraft grounds Jets

Romario Georgis figured in all four second-half goals Wednesday to propel the Schoolcraft College men's soccer team to a 4-0 victory over Jackson Community College.

The Ocelots, who snapped a modest two-match losing streak, improved to 3-4 overall and 2-3 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Joshua Hayer scored what proved to be the game-winning goal in the 48th minute off an assist from Georgis.

Georgis then scored an unassisted goal 1:34 later, his sixth of the season, to make it 4-0.

Goals by Victor Ammons and Mustafa Raychouni in the 55th and 57th minutes, respectively, sealed the win as Georgis assisted on both tallies.

Schoolcraft starting goalkeeper Sean Simney played the first 62:54 and made four saves before giving way to Ryan Tikey, who completed the shutout.

KLAAS VOLLEYBALL

Wildcats rally, win first ever at Churchill

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Already trailing 2-0 in sets Thursday at Livonia Churchill, all Plymouth needed was an energetic play to shake off the rust.

And that big spike kill by Wildcats' junior middle hitter Olivia Beyer turned out to be the start of something good — and historic — against the Chargers.

Plymouth roared back to win that third set by a 25-23 score and went on to post 25-13 and 15-12 wins to clinch the KLAASouth Division varsity girls volleyball match in five.

It was the first time in Plymouth history that the Wildcats defeated the state-ranked Chargers at Churchill, coach Sarah Marody said.

"We couldn't get anything going," said Marody, about the opening 13-25 and 12-25 losses. "We were sitting back on our heels and being reactive instead of proactive."

"After Olivia Beyer's kill on the 10-foot line in the third game we decided to wake up and play our game."

All of a sudden, the Wildcats' thumpers were thumping and the defense was shutting down the Chargers.

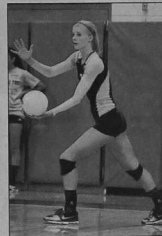
"Nothing was going to hit the floor and our blocking game was finally turning around," Marody said. "And the atmosphere was electric. The girls were ready to leave it all on the court."

Key contributors were many for Plymouth, now 9-4 overall and 2-1 in the KLAASouth. (Churchill's fell to 14-5-1, 2-1.)

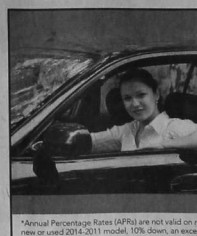
Beyer spearheaded the Wildcats with 17 kills along with 11 blocks and 17 digs in an outstanding all-around performance.

Emily Burkman (11 kills, three aces, 23 digs), Shayla

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B4




Plymouth's Olivia Beyer gets set to serve the ball Thursday night. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



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GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

SALEM 112 PLYMOUTH 74

Sept. 19 at Salem
200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Julia Solares, Linda Zhang, Krista Xu, Lisa Zhang); 1:53.27; 2. Salem (McKenzie Masarik, Stephanie Soffman, Claire Amin, Cassidy Sargent); 2:03.76; 4. Plymouth (Lauren Wichee, Helen Tullak, Abby Lovince, Alyssa Bauder); 2:15.92
500 freestyle: 1. Sarah Dombrowski (P); 1:44.82; 2. Patricia Freytag (S); 2:02.86; 3. Molly Rowe (S); 2:06.83; 4. Anna Patterson

(S); 2:08.88; 5. Meghan Sornicola (P); 2:28.90
200 individual medley: 1. Linda Zhang (S); 2:10.78; 2. Xu (S); 2:17.28; 3. Anna Leahy (P); 2:19.95; 4. Soffman (S); 2:24.82; 5. Casey Wang (P); 2:38.32
50 freestyle: 1. Allison Leming (P); 26:17; 2. Sargent (S); 27:21; 3. Solares (P); 27:28; 4. Cayin Waters (P); 27:70; 5. Isabelle Grotzner (P); 27:85
Diving: 1. Megan McKeenan (P); 184.20

points; 2. Beth Henderson (P); 150.85; 3. Katherine Harris (P); 145.90; 4. Alyssa Bucceroni (S); 122.35; 5. Heather Mital (S); 91.30
100 butterfly: 1. Lisa Zhang (S); 59.77; 2. Waters (P); 1:07.34; 3. Vivianca Zala (S); 1:08.33; 4. Hannah Pollard (S); 1:12.88; 5. Taitan (P); 1:13.32
100 freestyle: 1. Leming (P); 57:11; 2. Molly Rowe (S); 58:34; 3. Sargent (S); 1:01.13; 4. Amin (S); 1:02.02; 5. Waters (P); 1:02.07

1:02.07
500 freestyle: 1. Dombrowski (P); 5:02.88; 2. Lisa Zhang (S); 5:35.18; 3. Patterson (S); 5:37.95; 4. Zala (S); 5:54.61; 5. Wichee (P); 6:24.53
200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Beth Wichee, Leming, Dombrowski); 1:48.16; 2. Salem (Rowe, Sargent, Patterson, Zala); 1:49.89; 3. Salem (Pollard, Amin, Kate Cousins, Masarik); 1:54.56
100 backstroke: 1. Freytag (S); 1:02.52;

2. Earls (P); 1:02.54; 3. Solares (S); 1:03.55; 4. Soffman (S); 1:04.35; 5. Tullian (P); 1:11.12
100 breaststroke: 1. Linda Zhang (S); 1:07.25; 2. Xu (S); 1:11.36; 3. Pollard (S); 1:25.89; 4. Sornicola (P); 1:25.85; 5. Waters (P); 1:29.19
400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Quirino, Rowe, Lisa Zhang, Linda Zhang); 3:45.89; 2. Plymouth (Dombrowski, Earls, Leming, Waters); 3:52.12; 3. Salem (Soffman, Patterson, Freytag, Xu); 3:55.94

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Chiefs top field at New Boston Invitational

Canton's varsity boys cross country team last weekend featured the top two runners and the top team in Division 1 at the 5,000-meter New Boston Invitational.

The Chiefs finished well in front of the field with 22 points. In second place was Dearborn (36), followed by Ypsilanti Lincoln (98), Farmington Hills Harrison (119), Belleville (125) and Dearborn Heights Crestwood (153).

Earning medalist hon-

ors was Canton's Billy Toth, with a sparkling time of 16 minutes, 51.9 seconds.

But teammate Evan Dunklee was right on Toth's tail, finishing second with a time of 16:58.0.

Toth and Dunklee outpaced Harrison's James Weekley, third overall in D1 with a time of 17:03.

Several other Canton runners also had strong performances to help the Chiefs place first in the team standings.

In fifth place was Evan Childs (17:36.2), with Ammar Chishtil seventh (17:44.8).

Other Chiefs to finish included Mike Roberts (12th, 18:23.6); Sean Carey (13th, 18:27.7); Nick Socha (16th, 18:38.1); Brendan Noble (17th, 18:41.8); Isaac Pennock (23rd, 19:17.3) and Zac Clark (25th, 19:33.0).

CANTON 18 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 43
Sept. 17 at John Glenn

no time available.

Other Canton finishers: 2. Billy Toth; 3. Evan Childs; 5. Michael Roberts; 7. Christian Frost; 9. Nick Socha; 10. Sean Carey.

Glen finishers: 4. Micah Orr; 6. Eduardo Maya; 8. Chris Codd; 12. Austin Hickerson; 13. Ben Biber; 18. Caleb Patterson.

Dual meet records: Canton, 1-1 overall; 1-1 KLA South Division; John Glenn, 0-2 overall; 0-2 KLA South.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Salem squad back on track with two victories

Salem's varsity girls cross country team looked to rebound from a couple of tough tournaments and did just that Tuesday.

The Rocks took both ends of a double dual meet against South Lyon and South Lyon East at Island Lake Park (15-50 for each matchup).

Salem (2-0 in dual meets) put eight runners in front of the first South Lyon and South Lyon East runners.

"The girls bounced back with a dominant performance after a rough weekend," Salem girls cross country coach Dave Gerlach said. "A beautiful day brought out

some good performers. We turned things around today and got back on track."

Kayla Kavulich led the Salem assault with a first-place finish of 19 minutes, 56 seconds.

The next seven finishers also were from Salem. Those included (in order): Lauren Arquette,

20:23; Anya Cho, 20:29; Natasha Stevenson, 20:49; Kayla Hughes, 20:55; Elizabeth Tripp, 21:07; Emily Marcano, 21:21; Sierra Bowden, 21:31.

Salem will look to keep the momentum going with a dual meet Tuesday, Sept. 24, against No. 1-ranked Northville at Willow Metropark.

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Eagles put hammer down on Warriors

PCA comes out strong after defeat to Lancers

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There would not be a repeat of Tuesday night for Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity volleyball team and the Lutheran Westland Warriors paid for it.

The Eagles on Thursday night hammered visiting Lutheran Westland in three sets, making sure they did not again let a victory slip away — as they had done two nights earlier against Oakland Christian.

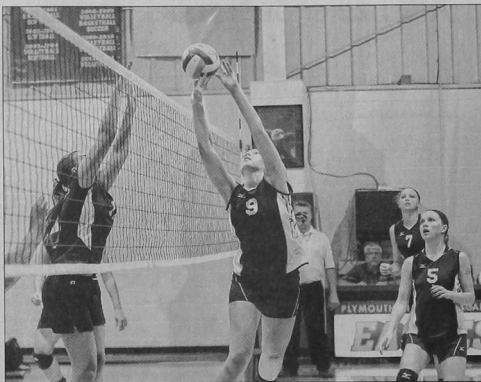
PCA took advantage of some late miscues in the opening set by the Warriors to win 25-18 and pulled away with 25-17 and 25-13 victories in the subsequent sets to sweep the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference — Blue Division match.

"We came out really aggressive and ready to make up for that (Oakland Christian) game," said PCA senior middle blocker/setter Jen Malcom. "We got to get a good pace to set our offense up and once we do that we're pretty much good."

Eagles' head coach Katie Decker said the team (6-3 overall, 1-2 in the MIAA Blue) talked about finishing the job against the Warriors, and she wasn't disappointed.

"We were just focused on maintaining our confidence," Decker said. "Even though we had such a tough loss (against the Lancers), I just kept emphasizing confidence and that we were going to play all the way through the game. We weren't going to stop after the second game. They came out and they definitely played well. There were a lot of things they did much better than."

According to Warriors head coach Kevin Wade, whose team dropped to 2-6-1 overall



Plymouth Christian's Jen Malcom (No. 9) bats the ball over the net Thursday against Lutheran Westland. Teammates Raina Postma (No. 5) and Danielle Witkowski (No. 7) watch the play. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

and 1-1 in the division. Thursday's contest was a bit of a letdown after the team's victory over Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

"We had a really tough match on Tuesday, a real emotional high, and today was definitely a hangover. Not taking anything away from Plymouth Christian, they played very well."

"But compounding it with our mistakes makes for a short night."

Mourning miscues

The tone was set early, according to Wade.

"In the first set we were right there, (but then) eight straight errors and they win the game," Wade said. "Second set we picked up right where we left off and tried to

chase to come back, but too little, too late.

"Sometimes it's just one of those nights. They kept putting the pressure on us and we kept making mistakes."

PCA senior outside hitter Rachael Fuller (13 kills, 10 digs) and freshman outside hitter Olivia Mady (15 kills, eight digs) did much of the damage against the Warriors.

"She (Fuller) was on fire tonight," Decker said. "She couldn't do anything wrong. She was digging, she was hitting, she was all over the place."

For the Warriors, senior libero Julia Nancy had a strong night with 20 digs.

Senior Leah Refenes contributed five kills and five assists.

Juniors Sabrina Morrison

(nine digs) and Alexandra Lange each went 9-for-9 from the stripe.

In the second set, Malcom's six-point service run (with Malcom setting up slams by Mady for two of the points) gave PCA a commanding 18-8 advantage.

It was more of the same in the third set, with Malcom serving four points in a row, helping build a double-digit lead (18-7).

Wade lamented that whenever the Warriors seemed to have something brewing, they would serve the ball into the net or send the ball out of bounds.

"Against a team this good, you can't give them any extra points," he noted.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Serving the ball for Salem is Tess Ganich. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page B1

Smalls (six kills, 12 digs, 24 assists), Dani Barile (13 assists), Haylee Weber (21 digs) and Katie Stevens (eight digs) all chipped in with solid showings.

"Our seniors and veterans led the turnaround and carried the team," Marody said.

Salem bounces back

After Tuesday's tough loss to Northville, the Salem Rocks needed a pick-me-up and got one Thursday against South Lyon.

Salem scored a 25-17, 25-17, 25-20 KLAAs Central Division volleyball victory to improve to 3-6 overall and 1-2 in the division.

Michelle Dierker was outstanding with 12 kills out of 19 attempts while Tess Ganich added 13 kills, eight aces, six digs and 22 assists.

Also helping Salem's cause were Nicole Jablonski (16 assists), Kelly Whalen (eight kills), Nikki Manser (16 digs) and Kelly Lidzbarski (26 digs).

"Our serve receive was much better and that allowed us to have an attack," Rocks coach Amanda Nies said. "Defensively, we were well and passed well. Our serving team was a little shaky missing 14 serves... but we overcame it."

South Lyon fell to 0-3 in the KLAAs Central.

Meanwhile, Salem got swept 20-25, 10-25, 22-25 Tuesday by Northville, as the Rocks had trouble finishing off sets.

Lidzbarski and Ganich had 10 and nine digs, respectively while Taylor Jaaska collected six assists.

Chiefs prevail

On Thursday, host KLAAs South Division leader Canton (7-2, 3-0) downed Wayne Memorial (0-12-3, 0-3) in three sets, 25-8, 25-22, 25-15.

BOYS SOCCER

Rocks, Chiefs still undefeated

Salem's juggernaut of a varsity boys soccer team did plenty of damage Thursday against South Lyon East, winning 9-1.

For the host Rocks (8-0-3 overall, 6-0-0 in the KLAAs Central), Brady Cole scored three goals and assisted on three others to pace the team.

Tallying two assists each were Matt DeMoss and David Schroeder.

Registering the shutout was junior Chad Wind. Other players to score included Connor Cole (from Jacob Kunath), Luke Nolte (from DeMoss), Max Kummer (from Brady Cole), Jordan

Salhani (from Schroeder/Brady Cole), Nick Massey (from Collin Hewett) and Joe Kunath (from Brady Cole).

Will Benintende also picked up an assist.

South Lyon East dropped to 2-7-0 overall and 0-6-0 in the KLAAs Central.

Chiefs win again

Canton also stayed undefeated for the season with Thursday's 5-0 win over host Westland John Glenn.

A four-goal first half got things started for the Chiefs. Scoring two of those markers was Griffin Parks, with single tallies by Mathew Causley

and Bailey Riegel. Drawing assists on those goals were Aiden Sherman, Alex Rej and Sam DeLoy.

Finishing off the scoring in the second half was Jason Ren, who was awarded a penalty kick after a skillful run into the box.

Strong defense and sturdy goalkeeping (shared by Brandon Pickert and Andrew Lochies) helped the Chiefs up their record to 10-0-2 overall and 6-0-0 in the KLAAs South Division.

John Glenn is 3-7-0 and 1-5-0. Carter Schenk set up an early goal for Griffin Parks

Friday night and it held up as visiting Canton earned a 1-0 victory over Walled Lake Northern.

Goalkeepers Brandon Pickert and Jay Krebs each played a half in goal to earn the shutout for Canton (11-0-2, 6-0).

PLYMOUTH WAYNE D. Danny Rivlin scored a pair of goals Thursday leading the Warriors (4-1, 4-1) to a KLAAs South Division victory at Wayne Memorial (1-8, 0-6). Brandon Burger and Michael Broden also added goals for Plymouth, while goalkeeper Kevin Favero posted the shutout.

LUTH WESTLAND J. CALVARY S. They continue tallied a pair of first half goals Thursday as host Lutheran Westland (2-2, 2-0) downed Plymouth Christian (1-5, 0-6).

Calvary scored in the 15th minute off a cross from Nick Hinesy and added a goal in the 35th minute on a free kick from Walter Gomboski. After Calvary scored in the 39th minute to cut the deficit to 2-1, Gomboski scored midway through the second half in a penalty kick to seal the win.

RUNNING

Hines Park Heroes race good timing for Kurtis

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Doug Kurtis has covered the gamut when it comes to distance running.

But the 61-year-old Livonia, the world record holder for sub 2-hour and 20-minute marathons (76), will prep for his final marathon (Oct. 19 in Detroit) by running the First-ever Wayne County Parks Heroes on Hines half-marathon on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Kurtis, who has completed an astounding 199 of his 202 marathons in under 3 hours, can literally walk out his back door and onto the Hines Park course.

"I've been running Hines since 1968 because I grew up off of Hines," Kurtis said. "That's an area I'm so familiar with, so it's kind of fun to be able to race where I run all the time."

Proceeds from the race, which also includes a 5K run, will go toward the First Responders Memorial currently being erected at the corner of Hines Drive and Haggerty Road.

Kurtis, a six-time Detroit Marathon winner and five-time U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier, is more than happy to support the cause for those firefighters, EMTs and police officers who have lost their lives as first responders.

Back in April, Kurtis' wife

Ann completed the Boston Marathon just minutes after the bomb explosions went off.

"I've seen renderings of the (Hines for Heroes) memorial and it looks fabulous," said Kurtis, a Stevenson High grad who ran at Michigan State. "This race is special, especially by having what happened in Boston. The risks those people take are amazing. You have to be strong-willed to do that and to be put in harm's way. It's a tough thing to do, especially on a consistent basis."

Kurtis, a Ford Motor Co. retiree who underwent prostate surgery in 2012, has bounced back in 2013 with a series of nice performances.

On May 5, he completed his 199th marathon under 3 hours in Mississauga, Ontario, with a clocking of 2:58:12 (13th overall).

In June, he was gunning for his 200th 26.2-mile run in under 3 hours, but fell short at one of his favorite races, Grandma's in Duluth, Minn., (where he's won twice).

"I was battling some allergies and my training was not good," said Kurtis, who ran 12 sub-2:20s in 1989. "Usually I'm pretty consistent and good at racing, but I probably went out of little too hard and ran out of gas with five miles to go. At three (to go) I pretty much knew I wasn't going to make it (three hours), so I bagged it and kind of backed off."



Livonian Doug Kurtis will prep for the Detroit Free Press Marathon by running the Heroes for Hines half-marathon Oct. 5. DAVID MCCALLEY

Coming off his best half-marathon of the season, a 1:24:24 Sunday at the Capitol City River Run in Lansing, Kurtis has been pleased with his 2013 race campaign.

"At the beginning of the year I almost said I'm done with my career," Kurtis said. "But people told me, you're

two away from 200 sub 3-hour marathons. If I don't do it now, I'll never do it."

The Free Press Marathon will be Kurtis' final competitive hurrah as he'll concentrate full-time on being director of a pair of highly popular downtown races, the Turkey Trot and Corktown.

He'll continue running and doing races for fun, but the high mileage weeks will subside.

"That's it, if I don't do it, I'm done," Kurtis said of his sub 3-hour goal in Detroit. "I'm running 70 miles per week. It's a lot of work. The Heroes run is really my last race before Detroit, so it kind of fits in perfectly with my schedule. Seventy miles a week is a lot of work, but I don't want to devote that much time to training. I've been doing this for 45 years now. I just said, 'Alright, that's enough.' I'll stay in shape and run races for fun, but I don't want to race at this level anymore."

Meanwhile, the chance to run on familiar turf is something Kurtis couldn't pass up on Oct. 5.

"Like any team you're better off at home," he said. "You just feel more comfortable when you know your surroundings."

The Heroes on Hines half-marathon starts at 8 a.m. followed by the 5K at 8:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by Running Fit and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. The cost is \$34 (\$50 and \$59 (half-marathon) if registered by Oct. 3.

For more information, visit heroesonhines.com.

benmons@hometownlife.com
313-222-8651

ArtPrize shows works from overseas to around the block

The fifth annual ArtPrize opened last week with more than 1,500 entries at 169 venues – both indoors and out – in Grand Rapids.

The event is both an art exhibit and competition, with prizes awarded by public vote ranging from \$200,000-\$5,000. A panel of experts decide on addi-

tional awards of \$20,000-\$100,000.

ArtPrize is free, open to the public and runs through Oct. 6. Events, such as gallery talks, are held daily in conjunction with the city-wide exhibit. For more information, visit artprize.org.

Anyone over age 18 can enter – registration for

next year's ArtPrize will start in spring 2014 – by signing up, making an exhibit agreement with an ArtPrize venue and then displaying their art work.

Several local residents are participating this year. The Observer talked with four of them about their unique pieces.

— Sharon Dargay

MORE ARTPRIZE: Theater installation inspires Livonia jewelry maker. Westland painter's trip Up North led to her entry 'Indian Summer.' All stories by Sharon Dargay

Redford artist takes a prehistoric approach to painting

Tony DeCesco wants visitors to do a little simulated splunking at his ArtPrize entry in Grand Rapids.

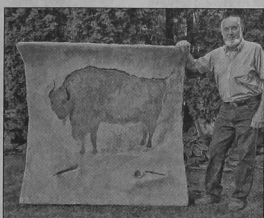
The 80-year-old Redford artist created a concave prehistoric-style painting, "Spirit of the Buffalo," that's designed to imitate a cave drawing.

"The thought came to my mind last November of the buffalo and it grew from that," DeCesco said. "I thought it would be unique, what I had in mind. I made a metal frame on wheels and have metal and cement. It weighs about 160 pounds and it's five feet high and five feet wide."

The result is a moveable hunk of cement that gives viewers the feel of a cavern wall without the hassle of having to crawl through a cave. DeCesco fashioned handmade tools to "paint" the dry powder dye onto the wet surface of his cement canvas.

"It's the way I thought it would turn out. I'm quite happy with it."

"Spirit of the Buffalo" is on exhibit indoors at the Harris Building, 111 S. Division.



Tony DeCesco with his ArtPrize entry. It is inspired by the cave paintings of Spain. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Tony DeCesco's work is in three dimensions and includes tools that a cave painter might have used.

"It's the third buffalo I've painted. The first I painted almost totally red and the second had 22 different colors. I

sold those at Native West Gallery in Plymouth."

Since retiring 17 years ago, DeCesco has

found plenty of time to paint and has exhibited his work at Art-is-In-Market in Livonia and Starring Gallery in Northville among other venues.

"I sell in some galleries and have a bunch at home. I pass them out to the kids," said DeCesco, who is married and has grown children. "I've been in construction all my life. I retired in construction. I've lived in Redford for 46 years. I built my own home here."

DeCesco said he "always enjoyed art," but had little time to pursue his passion while employed. Working as an architectural draftsman for several years helped fill the need to draw.

Since retirement he has taken art classes at Schoolcraft College, but is mostly self-taught. He works in both oils and acrylics and is known for abstracts, landscapes and floral paintings.

DeCesco said he wouldn't mind winning an ArtPrize cash award, but is happy just to display his work at the event.

Metal meets fur in outdoor panda bear sculpture

Melissa Machnee of Canton combined two unlikely materials for her ArtPrize entry, "Yoga Bear." The 67-inch panda wears faux fur over its aluminum frame as it sits atop a lotus flower.



Melissa Machnee of Canton created this happy panda, "Yoga Bear" for ArtPrize in Grand Rapids.

last year.

"It's the perfect spot, right in front of the Calder piece," she said, referring to the Alexander Calder sculpture, "La Grande Vitesse," a Grand Rapids landmark that anchors a plaza at the Ford Building.

Machnee has a dozen other pieces on display outdoors in the Irish Hills where she created a sculpture park at her family's cottage.

"Yoga Bear" is on display outside the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building U.S. Court-house, 110 Michigan Street NW. It's the same location Machnee displayed her submission

She used scrap aluminum in "Yoga Bear" to keep costs down and create a lighter sculpture than her previous steel ArtPrize entries.

"It made it a lot easier to install this year."

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

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- Salsa Competition
- Restaurant Chili Challenge
- Motorcycle Show
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Read the book, see the play and wear Livonia artist's jewelry at ArtPrize

Samantha Lewis designed her ArtPrize entry — some 40 pieces of jewelry — with its exhibit venue in mind.

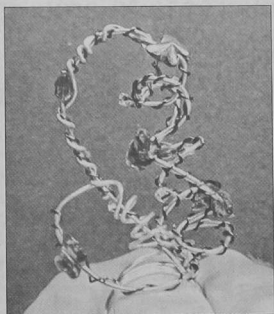
The Livonia woman's collection of earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings are on display at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, which will present the drama, *The Giver*, next month. The play is based on a Newbery Award-winning book by Lois Lowry about a rigidly-controlled utopian society and the two individuals who remember what the world was like when it had color and variety.

"I've never been in an art competition before. Last year I went to ArtPrize without a plan and just walked around to see what I could see. As I was walking around I thought, I think I could do this."

"Initially I thought I would do something on an under-the-sea theme, but when I started learning more about the Civic Theatre I said I wanted to do something themed around a show. I wanted to do *The Giver*."

That was last June when Lewis began working on the components of her entry, "Spectrum of Thought." It's on display in a window at the theater, 30 N. Division Ave. The pieces are meant to show a progression from monotone "sameness" to color and personality.

It's the first time that Lewis, 24, who is a self-taught jewelry maker, has created a collection



Samantha Lewis says she wears her handmade rings before selling them to make sure they are comfortable.

to suit a particular theme and venue.

While completing her ArtPrize entry over the summer, Lewis also was busy filling orders for weddings, launching a website (samanthaoriginals.com) and making pieces for exhibit at Merri-Craft Florist in Livonia.

She also works as a Mary Kay Cosmetics consultant, a job that helped pay her way through general business classes and welding instruction at Schoolcraft College, along with the retail merchandising management program at Madonna University.

She started making her own jewelry about 10 years ago after getting her ears pierced. "All of the earrings I got were uncomfortable. I started working with lighter materials and

making them myself. I'm always balancing the industrial elements, the metallics and chains, with natural elements." She tries to make pieces that are "outrageous, fun and unforgettable." That includes 7-inch-long earrings and stone-studded wires that are twisted into abstract shapes on simple finger rings.

She sets out her creations to make sure they feel comfortable and stand up to everyday wear.

Lewis said she has enjoyed the ArtPrize process. From application to exhibit. "I know there's a big focus on winning, but it's been more of a journey for me. I've never done a (jewelry) line with so much thought. It's stretching the boundaries for me."

Fabric images recall trip to northern Michigan for Westland painter

Joanna Tlok of Westland captures movement, smooth texture and the weightlessness of silky scarves in her oil paintings.

But there's more to her still life compositions than realistic images. Every fold, every draped and flowing swath of fabric evokes a memory or emotion.

Tlok's ArtPrize entry, "Indian Summer," recalls a warm late summer/early autumn day with its orange and gold hues.

"It was a trip to Indiana River in northern Michigan," Tlok recalled the setting that inspired her work. "The atmosphere was amazing. There was fog, like a veil. It was so beautiful. I remember the situation and after a few months when I had the time to paint it, I just confirmed what was in my mind."

"I don't take photos. I don't sketch. My process is completely different than other artists."

Although her work is on display at galleries in Birmingham, Pittsburgh, Pa., and soon in Ann Arbor, "Indian Summer" is Tlok's first entry into ArtPrize. A friend suggested that she submit a painting for the event.

"I sent an image and they accepted. I am so happy to see the huge focus on art and the joy of what you can see and do there (at ArtPrize)," Tlok said. She plans to see her work on display at The Jon Hartman Photography Co. & 87 Orange Photography, 105 S. Division Ave., in Grand Rapids this weekend.

Tlok, who is married



Joanna Tlok of Westland painted images of scarves for "Indian Summer," her ArtPrize entry.

and has two grown daughters, began dabbling in art as a young child in her native Poland.

"I always knew I wanted to do it, be creative and live in an artistic world."

She attended art school in Wroclaw, Poland and then took education classes, enabling her to teach at the elementary level. When her family moved to Michigan 22 years ago, Tlok decided to paint while also raising her daughters.

"My husband asked me what I was going to do here (in the U.S.) and I also questioned myself. My English is not perfect. I didn't want to be involved with another school. I realized I

had to do what I had to do and what I love to do and that is art."

At first she started painting images of glass that she had collected while in Poland. She painted a series and found a gallery owner in Birmingham who was "crazy about glass" and willing to display her work.

"I remember at this time I painted a lot of glass, but at some point the fabric became number one for me. Fabric is something different. I have to use my imagination and it is more difficult."

Tlok hopes "Indian Summer" at ArtPrize will help expand the audience for her work and enable her to meet other artists.

Hat sales, luncheon benefit island 'jewel'



Julie Volles SOCIAL SCENE

It goes no better than a gorgeous, sunny evening on the rooftop of the Madison Building, overlooking the Tigers vs. Mariners game at

Comerica Park and raising money for the Belle Isle Conservancy. Wednesday night's Benefactor Party was a grand night of mingling and a



Milliner Genia Conti (left), Stephanie Shelters of Grosse Pointe, Tatiana Grant of Farmington Hills and Renee Peck of St. Clair Shores show off their hats at the Polish the Jewel Benefactor Party. Conti is donating a portion of all luncheon hats sold online (www.genacnti.com) to the Belle Isle Conservancy. JULIE VOLLES



Julie Jezzimir of Bedrock Real Estate Services and Belle Isle Women's Committee founding board member Marcy Hayes of Farmington Hills attend the Polish the Jewel Benefactor Party. JULIE VOLLES

preglow of sorts for the ninth annual Polish the Jewel, Belle Isle Legacy Luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

On the scene was Milliner extraordinaire Genia Conti who hand-crafted one-of-a-kind hats to sell to the guests to wear to the luncheon, which will be held at the

Belle Isle Casino. Conti generously donated 20 percent of her proceeds from the night to the Conservancy. More than 500 women will wear their chicest hats to the Polish the Jewel Belle Isle Legacy Luncheon this week. Conti also will donate 10 percent of luncheon event hats sold

on her website to the Conservancy (www.genacnti.com).

Since its founding in 2004, the Conservancy has raised close to \$3 million for various renovation projects on Belle Isle. Luncheon tickets are \$125 to \$1,000. For reservations, call (248) 336-8360.

LEGAL NOTICE 1954 PA 188 PROCEEDINGS NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING Charter Township of Plymouth Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of Petitions of property owners within the Township filed with the recorder owners of land whose front footage constitutes more than 50% of the total front footage of the hereinafter described Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth proposes a road paving project on Ridgewood Drive and to create a Special Assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by Special Assessment against the properties benefited therein.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth has tentatively determined its intention to make the hereinafter described improvement:

The proposed improvements shall consist of milling, and/or pulverization, and/or removal of the existing bituminous road with the placement of a new bituminous pavement surface and/or cross section, as well as miscellaneous driveway and drainage work, which may be needed to facilitate the replacement of the asphalt road pavement. It is understood that this is primarily a road improvement project and therefore any drainage problems existing prior to the project will not be corrected except where said modification is necessary to protect the life of the road pavement. Existing water problems, such as standing water, etc., outside of the roadway will not be resolved by this program. It is further understood that this alternate, if permitted by the County of Wayne, could be subject to special conditions dependent upon the findings of the soils investigation report, existing subsurface conditions, etc. The project commences at the north right-of-way line of North Territorial Road and proceeds northward on Ridgewood Drive for approximately 2130 feet to the south right-of-way line of M-14 Expressway.

That it has further been tentatively determined that the following described lots and parcels of land will specially benefit from said improvements and will constitute a Special Assessment District against which the cost of said improvements shall be assessed:

The district limit for footage along Ridgewood Drive consists of parcels numbered R-78-031-99-0001-000, R-78-031-99-0002-000, R-78-031-99-0003-702, R-78-031-99-0003-701, R-78-031-99-0004-000, R-78-031-99-0005-004, R-78-031-99-0008-000, R-78-031-99-0009-001, R-78-031-99-0009-002, R-78-031-99-0010-000, R-78-031-99-0011-000, R-78-031-99-0012-000, R-78-031-99-0013-000, R-78-031-99-0014-000, R-78-031-99-0016-000, R-78-031-99-0015-000, and R-78-031-99-0019-000 located in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 27, T1S, R8E, and R-78-015-99-0002-000, R-78-015-99-0003-000, R-78-015-99-0004-000, R-78-015-99-0005-000, R-78-015-99-0006-000, R-78-015-99-0007-000, R-78-015-99-0008-000, R-78-015-99-0009-000, R-78-015-99-0010-000, R-78-015-99-0011-000, R-78-015-99-0012-000, R-78-015-99-0013-000, R-78-015-99-0014-000, R-78-015-99-0015-000, R-78-015-99-0016-000, R-78-015-99-0017-000, R-78-015-99-0018-000, R-78-015-99-0019-000, R-78-015-99-0020-000, R-78-015-99-0021-000, R-78-015-99-0022-000, R-78-015-99-0023-000, 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Local girls act on the professional stage in 'Macbeth'

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sara Borsodi's girl 12, but the Redford girl has performed in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* on two different stages.

"My first play at Motor City Youth Theatre was *Macbeth*. It was a concert version," said Sara, a seventh grader at Pierce Middle School. She played multiple roles, including King Duncan's murderer, messenger and servant in that production.

She and Natalie Wilson, 9, who's also a Motor City Youth Theatre member and a fourth grader at Cass Elementary in Livonia, play children in the current production at The Hillberry Theatre on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit.

Motor City Youth Theatre director, Nancy Florkowski, got the girls the gig.

"I'm in the show also," said Florkowski, who plays Lady Macbeth's gentleman. "The director asked me for kids, because I have connections."

Although two undergrad students are cast as students in the play, the director wanted smaller actors for two of the child roles. That's when Florkowski suggested Sara and Natalie for the parts.

Sara and Natalie were my leads in *A Little Princess* (last year). Natalie played the princess and Sara was Miss Minchin, which is a huge grown-up role."

Florkowski said she knew the two girls could handle the show which

includes several matinee performances this fall and in spring 2014.

"They do have lines. The lines normally become a one-liner, but they are sharing them. They do get murdered in this play. It's a horrible scene but so well done."

Choreographing a scene

Sara, who hopes to pursue theater in college, said she learned a lot about scene fighting and choreography through the production, particularly for her death scene.

"I get killed by the murderer, choking me. I'm yelling and screaming. He grabs me on the shoulder and turns me, but doesn't hurt me," she said, describing the staging technique. "I put my hands on the front of my neck, because my back is to the audience and I grab onto the rope. When he pulls the rope down I start making choking noises."

Sara, daughter of Rebecca and Dan Borsodi, said her favorite part of the play is performing the death scene.

"There aren't many times in life you can scream and continue screaming and have everyone be okay with it," she explained.

Having fun

Natalie, daughter of Jan and Earl Wilson, also performed in *Les Miserables* at Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills, in addition to shows at Motor City Youth Theatre. She says acting in *Macbeth* has been fun, even though

technical week rehearsals were long and rigorous.

"In the green room you can listen to them on stage," she said. "It's really fun. I think I'm going to be doing plays and acting all my life."

Florkowski said the adults in *Macbeth* have enjoyed working with the girls.

"They're love talking to the kids," said Sara and Natalie fit right in

and make themselves at home."

Macbeth opened Friday, Sept. 20 and runs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 5; and 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 and Oct. 4-5 at the Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit; (313) 877-2972. Tickets range from \$25-\$30 for adults and are \$20 for seniors and students.

Visit cpca.wayne.edu/theatre/danceandfor tickets.



Sara Borsodi (right) performs in the cast of "Annie" last year.



Natalie Wilson (center), plays Molly in a production of "Annie" last year.

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Passage

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

BLOOM, MARIAN J.
Age 91, of Northville, formerly of Southfield, passed away September 18, 2013.
Online condolences at: caterlinefuneralhome.com

KONIECZNY, DONALD V.
Age 79, of Northville, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away September 18, 2013.
Online condolences at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

MATTISON, CHRIS
Age 59, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, September 18, 2013, Grandview Hills City High School, Garden City, MI Class of 1973. He was employed with Rich's products, Hilliard, OH. Chris enjoyed wood working and bicycling. Preceded in death by parents Wilbert and Helen (Mikula) Mattison, nephew Mike Mattison and uncles Charlie and George Mikkila. Survived by wife, Linda (Mrs.) of Calumet, MI, Dennis (Sue) Mattison of Martinsburg, WV, Glen (Ann) Mattison of Lakota, MI, Carol (Lynn) Beerbower of Upper Arlington, OH, Clyde (Judy) Mattison of Apache Junction, AZ, Lisa (Jim) Landini of Manchester, MI, Dale (Linda) Mattison of Garden City, MI, Mike (Gosdzinski) Mattison of Milan, MI and Kaye Mattison of Durham, NC, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and special friends Reba and Dennis. Memorial contributions may be made to Big Cancer Fund, 10000 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA 91395. Interment at Hilliard. Celebration of Life Service will be held 2pm Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 102 Garden City, MI. Arrangements completed by TIDD FUNERAL HOME WITH CREMATORY, Hilliard, OH. www.tiddfuneralservice.com

PORTER, DAVID S.
Of Middlebury, CT passed away Friday Sept. 13, 2013. David was the loving husband of Ruth Porter for 61 years. Son of Eleanor and Sidney Porter, born Feb. 15, 1928, Newell, West Virginia. David attended The Peddie School in NJ and continued into Yale University, where he graduated with his Bachelor's Degree from the School of Engineering. His first employment was with the US Steel Works in PA, he then moved into the Sanford School of Orlford. CT. David then became the Vice President of the Keyrite Co. in Seymour, CT. In 1976, David purchased Uniprise Sales Corp., which has since evolved into Uniprise International Inc. in Terryville, CT. David was inoperable a member of the Middlebury Club. He was an ingenious inventor who held multiple patents on a variety of inventions. Aside from his creations, he was an avid golfer and tennis player. David was a member of Highfield Country club for over 40 years, as well as the CT Seniors Golf Assoc. He was also a member of the Middlebury Congregational Church. Besides his wife, Ruth, David is survived by his sister, Harriet Secrest of Bloomfield Hills, Mich and twin brother, Sidney Porter Jr. who was inoperable a member of East Liverpool, Ohio. He is also survived by his children, Susan and wife Susan and his children Katherine, Stephen and Ellen, including his granddaughter, Susan and wife Susan and his daughter Suzanne Porter Lavioie and her children Bruce, René and Carly. He is also predeceased by his daughter Cynthia Berman. Memorial services will be private. Arrangements by Carpio Funeral Home, Southbury. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Easter Seals, 22 Tompkins Street, Waterbury, CT 06708

WANNARD, GREICHEN E. ALLI
Born December 30, 1947, age 65 years young, of Jacksonville, Florida left this Earth to our Almighty God in Heaven on this 8th Day of September in our 21st year of our Lord 2013. Beloved wife of Bruce Andrews, they were together for 38 years. Loving sister of Peter J. Van Horn, Charles J. Van Horn, Garrett D. Van Horn, William K. Van Horn, Stephen J. Van Horn, and Robert M. Van Horn. Devoted daughter of Elizabeth, Garrett and Charles J. Andrews, 6000 Middlefield Road in Birmingham, Michigan. U.S. Army, University of Michigan and the University of Hawaii Graduate was ardent promoter of domestic and wild animal rights, preservation, and welfare. A long time Animal Activist. Everyone that has crossed Gretchen's path in Life should take part in a Celebration of her Life from Birmingham, Michigan to Boston, Massachusetts to Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville, Florida. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gretchen's memory to the Jacksonville, Florida Humane Society or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Animals (ASPCA). Our only Sister has left us, a voice we loved and missed, a place is now vacant in our homes and Hearts, which can never be filled. Sleep our Sister, Sleep our Mother, Sleep our Daughter and when you please, Wish our travels and be with our Father, Charles, and Mother Elizabeth, along with our Brothers, Peter and Charles. Additional Information may be obtained by contacting the Van Horn Family at telephone (248) 200-9277

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VLOCH, NINFA "FANNE"
September 6, 2013 age 93 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Walter. Loving mother of Diane M. Mack and the late John A. Mack. Dear grandmother of Teresa (William) Evans, Pam (Lou) Tigan and the late Diana Ann Mack. Dearest Great-grandmother of Joshua Zachary and Rachel Evans and Christina and Maria Tigan. Also leaves one sister Evelyn Felz. Survived by her husband, Plymouth Improvement Association, 230 Grand St., Copper Harbor, Michigan 49918.

VALENTI, RONALD J.
Age 72, of Livonia, passed September 17, 2013. Beloved husband of the late Judith for 38 years. Loving father of Elizabeth (Lawrence) Poupard, John (Jennifer) Valenti, and Susan (Brian) O'Meara. Dear grandfather of David (Tina), Lauren, and Olivia Poupard, Maxwell, and Theodore Valenti, and Katherine, Dana, and Charlotte O'Meara and the late Brett Poupard. Cherished son of Lorraine and the late James John (Mae) Valenti and Frank (Marjorie), Mary (Roy) Zolno, and the late Diana Grandall. Brother, Lorraine and Frank. He leaves behind many other loving family members and friends. A memorial celebration and mass were held over the weekend. Memorial contributions may be directed to the family of Ronald J. Valenti.

SESTOK, NANCY (DIXON)
Age 89, August 20, 2013 of Birmingham, MI. Beloved wife of Charles III, Mother of Charles IV and Evan. Memorial Service Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 10:30am Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Memorial contributions may be made to Copper Harbor Improvement Association, 230 Grand St., Copper Harbor, Michigan 49918.

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www.hometownlife.com

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NEW FACES

Two doctors, a family physician and a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist, have joined the staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Kori Rothman, D.O., sees patients at two locations of Rehabilitation Physicians, P.C. at 28455 Haggerty, Suite 200, in Novi, and at 19850 Middlebelt, in Livonia.

After graduating from Midwestern University - Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Illinois, Rothman completed a year of internship at Botsford. She continued her post-doctoral training with the three-year physical medicine and rehabilitation residency program at University of Michigan, where she subsequently completed an interventional spine fellowship.

Rothman is a member of three ongoing research projects and has been involved in a variety of clinical research projects for more than a decade. Her work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals as co-author. Her research interests include interventional and non-interventional spine, sports medicine, and community health.

Rothman has worked with the University of Michigan women's basketball team and Eastern Michigan University's football team. She also has given free health care to the homeless as a volunteer at the Rainbow Clinic and the REST Clinic in Illinois. A marathon runner, Rothman has also served as a volunteer for the New York City Marathon Medical Team.



Liza J. Weathersby, M.D., board-certified in family practice, now sees patients at the hospital-owned Botsford Medical Center located at 15540 Beech Daly, in Redford.

After graduating from Wayne State University Medical School, Weathersby completed a three-year family practice residency at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc.

She also served as lead physician for the Hamilton Community Health Network in Flint, which provides health care services to the underserved in Genesee County. Her experience also includes several work and volunteer positions that serve the disadvantaged. She has been a group leader at the Wayne County 4-H Community Center in Detroit, given motivational speeches to young people at the King-Parks-Chevez Program in Detroit, delivered Meals On Wheels to shut-in senior citizens, volunteer tutored in math at the Detroit Boys and Girls Club, voluntarily delivered basic medical services at the Cass Clinic in Detroit, and lectured Detroit Public high school students about the risk of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

SEPTEMBER ADDICTION CLASSES

Dawn Farm offers two classes about chemical dependency, starting with "Addiction 101" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17. James Balmer, presenter, Dawn Farm, will examine the dynamics of alcohol and other drug use, review addiction as a brain disease and provide an overview of the process of recovery from addiction. Participants will learn how individuals experience initial and continuing alcohol and other drug use, gain an understanding of the basic process and diagnosis of addiction, gain a basic understanding of how the brain functions in a person with alcohol/drug use, and become familiar with tools used to treat addiction. Charles Gehrike, M.D., will present "How To Support Recovery and Not Support Addiction" at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24. The session is designed to help participants find effective methods to support another person's recovery while maintaining their own health. Both sessions are free and will be held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 3305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti; 734-485-8725, www.dawnfarm.org

SENIOR WELLNESS

The City of Farmington Hills presents a free wellness fair for adults, 50 and older, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Farmington Hills. The event will include health screenings, demonstrations, health vendor exhibits, door prizes and a free lunch for attendees, 60 and over. For more information, call the city's Senior Division at 248-473-1830.

WEIGHT LOSS SEMINAR

Julisa Hernandez, a naturopathic doctor from New York, will talk in Spanish about weight loss techniques, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Courtyard Marriott, 3205 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor. Cost is \$35 per person. Participants will receive informational materials. For more information, call Lili Alvarez at 248-259-7010.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Paul Makeda, M.D., director of gynecological robotic surgery, will present a series on women's health topics 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Bladder dysfunction is the topic this month and pelvic prolapse is next month's topic. Presentations are free but registration is required. Call 734-655-1980.

WALK WITH A DOC

Dr. Jeff Pierce of Botsford Hospital will talk about managing back pain during the walk, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call the Nature Center at the park, 248-477-1135.

ONGOING AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington Branch and 1:15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia Branch. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

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

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

www.stmarymercy.org

BLOOD PRESSURE

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (SS), and lipid panel (510) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Plaster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and second Tuesdays and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, Westland; 9 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays at the Berwyn Senior Center, 26155 Richardson, Mondays at the Botsford Senior Center, every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center, 1221 Hemmingway, Redford Township. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1030, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Members open to families. All leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

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

Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of each month at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue, Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village at Redford on Five Mile. The training group meets 10 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of each month; the evening group meets 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at 313-843-2550, Ext. 233.

CHOIR THERAPY

The Therapy Chorus of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with a kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychorus.org

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

CPR CLASSES

Classes range from basic CPR for people who want to know how to help save a life to certification for those Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce.

First aid classes are also available. Classes are offered weekly evenings and Saturday mornings. Prices vary. Preregistration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call 248-937-3314.

Class focuses on health supplements

Sandy Baumann, author of *Wellness Superheroes*, will teach a class in the benefits of health supplements 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia.

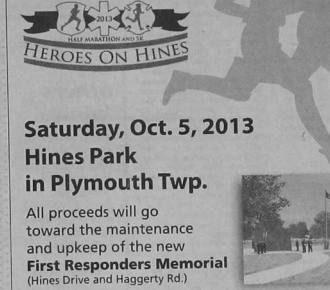
She'll talk about CoQ10, omega-3 fats, magnesium and vitamin D and how they help reduce arthritis pain, leg pain, diabetes issues, high cholesterol and high blood pressure, while also increasing bone density, easing

depression and memory loss and increasing cancer survival.

Participants will learn about their deficiencies, common food and supplement sources and recommended dosages. Cost is \$25. Preregister by calling Livonia Family YMCA at 734-261-2161 by Sept. 23. YMCA membership is not required to attend the class. A workbook fee of \$8 is due in class. Cash in the correct amount only will be accepted.

HEROES ON HINES HALF MARATHON AND 5K

Wayne County's First Annual Heroes on Hines Half Marathon and 5K



Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013
Hines Park in Plymouth Twp.
All proceeds will go toward the maintenance and upkeep of the new First Responders Memorial (Hines Drive and Haggerty Rd.)
For registration and race details go to HeroesOnHines.com

www.HeroesOnHines.com

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Battling the Butterflies

The Start of a New School Year Can Be Traumatic

Whether their summer was jam-packed with activities or filled with complaints of boredom and nothing to do, kids often have a tough time making the transition back to school. Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, Clinical Director at the Garden City Hospital Center for Counseling, explains why and gives us a few expert tips on reducing the drama.

As with any new or potentially unsettling situation, like starting school for the first time or entering a new grade or new school, your children need time to adjust. Remind them everyone feels a little nervous about going back to school, and soon, it will all become an everyday routine.

Emphasize the positive things about going back to school, such as seeing old friends and making new ones, learning new and exciting things, buying new clothes or cool school supplies, or getting involved in sports and other activities.

It's also important to talk to your child about what worries them and offer reassurance. Are they afraid they won't make new friends or get along with their teachers? Is the thought of schoolwork stressing them out? Are they worried about the bully from last year?

Consider adjusting your own schedule to make the transition smoother. If possible, it's especially beneficial for parents to be home at the end of the school day for the first week. But many working moms and dads just don't have that flexibility. Instead, try to arrange your evenings so you can give them as much time as they need during those first few days.

To help ease back-to-school butterflies, try to transition kids into a nightly routine. Also make sure that they:

- Get plenty of sleep: establish a reasonable bedtime so they will be well rested and ready to learn in the morning
- Eat a nutritious breakfast: they're more alert and do better in school if they eat a good breakfast every day
- Write it down: this will help them remember important information such as their locker combination, what time classes and lunch start and end, their homeroom and classroom numbers, teachers' and/or bus drivers' names, etc.
- Get organized the night before: homework and books should be put in their backpacks by the door and clothes should be laid out in their bedrooms

Although it's normal to be anxious in any new situation, a few kids develop real physical symptoms, such as headaches or stomachaches, associated with the start of school. If you're concerned your child's worries go beyond the normal back-to-school jitters, speak with your child's doctor, teacher, school counselor or consider seeing someone like me.

If you would like to make an appointment at the GCH Center for Counseling, call 734.421.3374.

Join Garden City Hospital every month at Westland Mall, for our lunch and lecture series. At 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, a GCH Health Expert will provide helpful and in depth information on a variety of issues. Save the date: October 12, "Love Your Breasts".

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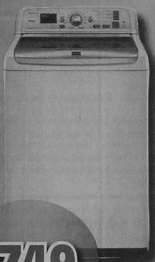
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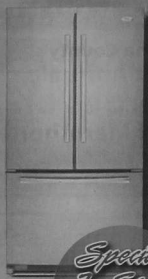


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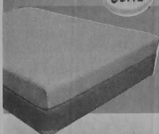


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- This Vehicle Features:**
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 - 6-speed SelectShift® Automatic Transmission
 - AdvanceTrac™ with Roll Stability Control™
 - Reverse Sensing System
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
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EPA-estimated rating of
 18 city /
 25 highway MPG*

\$259 For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$1,222 Cash Due at Signing
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 Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
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