PARADISE: CLUB HOSTS POND AND WATER GARDEN TOUR COMMUNITY LIFE, B5





Man faces attempted murder



James Martin Hoffman (right) with defense lawyer James Menna at Friday's preliminary hearing, was bound over for trial on two counts each of assault with intent to murder and felony assault.

Husband will be tried on two counts following incident where wife was hit by pickup truck at Canton condo

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The first thing Jennifer Frohock-Hoffman said to Canton Police officers arriving at her Canton condo June 25 was, 'He tried to kill me.'

That was her testimony Friday in the preliminary exam for her 54-year-old hus-band, James Martin Hoffman, who now faces five charges, including two counts of assault with intent to murder and two counts of felony assault stemming from the June 25 incident in which he allegedly struck his wife with his F-150 truck.

Prosecutors asked for second attempted murder and felony assault charges Friday after Frohock-Hoffman testified her husband hit her with the truck, backed up and tried to hit her a second time before plowing into her 2008 Ford Mustang, parked in the garage, and pushing it through an exte-rior wall into the living room of the condo.

"I was at first shocked and then I was scared," Frohock-Hoffman testified in Friday's hearing before 35th District Judge James Plakas. "I couldn't believe my husband was trying to kill me.'

Minor argument

At the end of the hearing, Plakas bound Hoffman over for trial in Wayne County Cir-cuit Court. He faces a July 18 arraignment there. He remains in custody with a \$500,000 bond. He faces penalties of up to life in prison if convicted.

The incident happened shortly after 7 p.m. Wednes-day, June 25, at the Preserve on Fellows Creek, near Palmer and Lotz roads.

Frohock-Hoffman testified the incident occurred after the couple had a minor argument earlier in the evening and stemmed from her belief her husband, whom she testified has a drinking problem, had

See HUSBAND, Page A2

District finance chief resigns position

Killian will return to private sector

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The way Brodie Killian figures it, he could stick to his current job and help one school district or he could take the opportunity that suddenly presented itself working with any number of districts.

To paraphrase Star Trek's



Mr. Spock, Killian decided the needs of the many out-



weigh the needs of the few

Killian

and since promoted to deputy superintendent for business and operations, an-nounced his resignation this week. The resignation, which takes effect July 31, is expected to be accepted by the district's Board of Education at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

Career path

Killian has accepted an offer with William Blair & Co. as a director in its Debt Capital Markets Investment Banking Department.

'I have been given a tremendous opportunity to go back to my roots," said Killian, who came to Plymouth-Canton from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. "I had done a lot of work with school districts prior to joining Plymouth-Canton, helping districts access the municipal bond market. This is right in my wheelhouse. I feel honored to be able to still help school districts and, rather than helping one, I'll be helping many.'

Team losses

Killian becomes the fourth member of the district's cabinet-level administrative team to leave this school year. Former assistant superintendent of facilities and operations Phil Freeman left last fall to become superintendent of

See KILLIAN, Page A2

HITTING ALL THE NOTES Canton musician shines

in U.S. Army Field Band

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

.S. Army Sgt. 1st **Class Christopher** Blossom saw an opportunity to pursue his life's dream 10 years ago - and he took it. Ten years later, he couldn't be happier with his decision.

Blossom, a 1997 graduate of Canton High School who joined the Army in 2004, is a saxophonist with the U.S. Army Field Band, a position that gives him the career he's wanted since even before he joined the Plymouth-Can-ton Marching Band back in high school

'I fell in love with music and (that feeling) really picked up in high school being in the marching band," said Blossom, a Canton native now stationed at Fort Meade, Md. "(Marching band) was just awesome. It was a really great experience for me and I really picked up the bug. I couldn't really see myself doing anything else, to be honest.'

Blossom, the son of David and Rebecca Blossom of Canton, was the drum major when he was in the P-CEP Marching Band. He graduated in 1997, two years before the band won the national championship. Blossom's sister Monica was in that championship contingent. "That's something she

always has on me," Blos-

See BAND, Page A2

Art fest opens to big crowds

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Big crowds and sunny skies marked Friday's start of Plymouth's 35th annual Art in the Park, a show that draws artists and crafters from around the country and a loyal following to browse and buy their works - and enjoy music, refreshments, art demonstrations and more.

By 3 p.m. Friday, paid parking lots on the downtown perimeter were full or nearly so and festival crowds were building in the aisles of artists' display tents throughout Kellogg Park. With booths on Main, Penniman, Ann Arbor Trail and Forest, Art in the Park continues through 5 p.m. Sunday.

"It's great to see that," Brenda Felkerson of Taylor said of the crowds. She was strolling the booths on Main with friend Jeanette Reeck. "Plymouth is very nice, very nice to walk around."

The women said it was their second visit to Art in the Park. "It's got a little bit of everything," Reeck said

Art in the Park 2014 fea-

tures more than 400 exhibitors, more than 90 of them new to the show, with works in a range of styles and every medium from oil paints to wood to metal to fiber to clay. There is free live music, mural-making, theater and other activities for children and art demonstrations, from a "living mural" to artists working on boardgame-themed sidewalk murals.

John Kelly and Sam Garrett, both 13 and of Plymouth, had a booth in the children's section of the festival, near the Kel-



By 3 p.m., crowds were building in the aisles of artists' booths throughout Kellogg Park. Art in the Park continues through Sunday.

See ART, Page A2



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INDEX

Community Life ... B5 Homes. 07 Services. 02 Crossword Puzzle C4 Jobs C1 Sports... B1 Education A4 Obituaries G B7 Wheels. Health **B**8

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Killian, hired in 2011 as Plymouth-Canton's director of finance

HUSBAND

Continued from Page A1

been drinking. She testified she heard "a crash" in the garage and thought recycling bins had fallen over

When she entered the garage to check out the noise, she testified she saw her husband backing his F-150 down the driveway and over trash bags that had been placed there. As she stood at the head of the driveway, she testified, she heard the F-150's tires make a noise she described as "a screech" and watched as the F-150 accelerated toward her.

Motion denied

According to her testimony, the truck hit her in the right leg and nearly pinned her against the Mustang before backing up. She testified she managed to "hop out of the way" as the F-150 approached again. She said the truck missed her and hit the Mustang with enough force to cause it to crash through the wall and partially into the

KILLIAN

Continued from Page A1

Lakeshore Public Schools in Stevensville.

Former marketing chief Kate Dietrich left to return to a post with the American Cancer Society a couple of months ago, while assistant superintendent for teaching and learning Jeanne Farina left for a post with the Ingham County Intermediate School District.

No information was available on how or when Killian will be replaced. Killian said Victoria Amore, who came in at the same time as Killian to be the district's director of finance, will retain that post

Board of Education Treasurer Mark Horvath, who chairs the board's finance committee and worked closely with Killian, said while he's happy for Killian, it's a loss to the district.

"It's not something I'm that pleased about from

Under examination from Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Lukiewski, Frohock-Hoffman testified there "was no braking" by the truck

living room.

Under cross-examination by defense lawyer James Menna, Frohock-Hoffman testified her husband did not make any threats and was not yelling at her during the incident.

When Frohock-Hoffman was done testifying, Menna asked Plakas to dismiss the original felony charges and deny Lukiewski's motion for the additional charges. He argued there'd been no testimony indicating Hoffman had intent to hit his wife or even knew she was on the driveway.

Plakas refused, granting the prosecution's motion and binding Hoffman over for trial.

"(Frohock-Hoffman) was struck with a vehicle," Plakas said. "I don't know how the intent could be (interpreted) any different.'

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the district's perspective, but I'm sure it's a great opportunity for Brodie," Horvath said. "It's tough to make that transition from the private sector to a school district. ... I think he's been pretty successful. We'll certainly miss him here.

Killian said he was happy to have worked with the district's teachers, staff, students and parents on "critical issues," such as passing the \$114 million bond last year, restructuring the district's debt to improve its financial position and revamping the transportation department

"I can't thank the Plymouth-Canton staff, parents and students enough for the opportunity to work with them on some really critical initiatives," Killian said. "I wouldn't have left if I hadn't felt we've done some good work around finance, transportation and facilities.

BAND

Continued from Page A1

som said with a laugh.

Music lover

Blossom has always been a musician. In addition to the sax, he's also played the clarinet and the bass clarinet. He was in the band at the University of Michigan, where he was busy obtaining his master's degree.

He played bassoon, as did his future wife Anne (they were married in 2008)

While he was finishing up at U-M, Blossom discovered the U.S. Army was auditioning players for the U.S. Army Field Band. He was "looking for a way to have a job," had a lot of student debt and the service "was just a good fit for me.'

While they're eminently proud of him, Blossom's decision surprised his parents.

"I was taken back a bit," David Blossom said. "I asked him, 'Are you sure you know what you're getting into?' He was willing to do that to get where he wanted to go. He's always been consumed with music. He's taken it to the next level."

Lots of travel

The U.S. Army Field Band is the touring musical representative for the Army, traveling thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of music throughout the nation and abroad. Since being formed in March 1946, the field band has appeared in all 50 states and more than 30 countries on four continents.

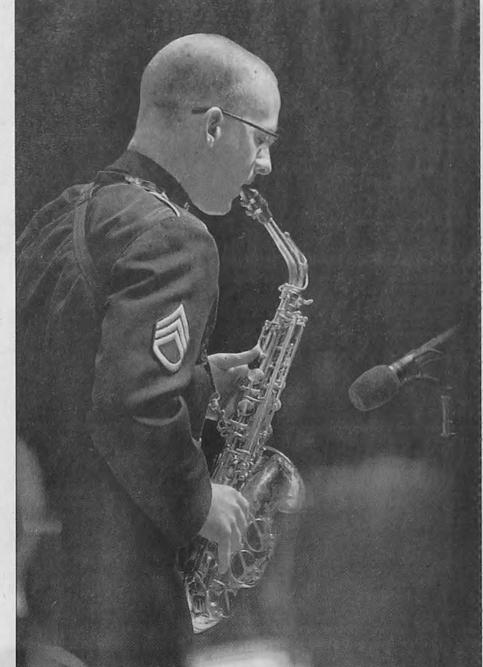
Blossom said the band travels more than 100 days a year and he estimates it plays some 120-140 concerts a year. As an outreach pro-



Continued from Page A1

logg Park fountain, selling small clay creatures and other creations they made themselves. It is their second year at Art in the Park ...

"I like to do art," said Sam, who has taken classes in drawing, painting and sculpture.



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Blossom of Canton joined the Army in 2004.

gram, the band plays formal public concerts, school assemblies, educational outreach programs, festivals and radio and television appearances.

All the travel can get tiresome, he said, but technology is making it easier. Programs like Facetime and Skype make it easier to stay in touch with Anne and their 18-month-old son Desmond.

Great place

"You kind of find the balance," Blossom said. "It's hard to be away from home for so long, but that bridge has kind of been built with technology. Stuff like that makes it easier to be on the road than it used to be.

He's done a lot in his musical career, including time spent at Interlochen ("It's a really

intense music camp and I just loved it," he said). He can see himself staying in the band - and the Army - for a long time.

"I really love being in the field band," Blossom said. "It's the right fit for me. It's such a great place to be. I get to play with world-class musicians every day. It's such a good job. You just can't really beat it.'

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CORRECTION

A story on ballot is-Kumar, a candidate for

sues that appeared in the June 10 Canton Observer should have said Dr. Anil

the U.S. House 11th District seat, resides in Bloomfield Hills.

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'You name it, I can try to make it," John said.

The two said they're impressed by the works other artists bring to the festival.

"It's pretty good. I like seeing the different thing each person does,' Sam said.

For more information about the show, including on the round-trip shuttle service visitors can use to avoid parking hassles, visit www.artinthepark.com.

miachman@ hometownlife.com

Rachel Bissonnette (right) and Bethany Grysko work a on Monopoly-themed sidewalk chalk mural Friday at Main and Penniman. Another mural, inspired by the board game Clue, was under way on Ann Arbor Trail.

SUNDAY FUN

What: Plymouth Art in the Park When: Concludes at 5 p.m. Sunday

Where: Around Kellogg Park and the streets of downtown Plymouth

4

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Senate hopefuls offer views on issues

Two candidates - incumbent Sen. Patrick Colbeck and political newcomer Matthew Edwards - are seeking the Republican nomination for the state Senate 7th District seat, which includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township and Livonia. The candidates offered their views on several issues

State and local roads and bridges are in deplorable shape. As a member of the Legislature, how would you address the issue? Explain where you believe the money should come from.

Colbeck: Michigan already spends 53 percent more per mile than the national average. Road funding solutions focused on raising taxes would only send good money after bad until we address the quality of our current road construction. I have developed a path to fix our roads that doesn't require tax increases. Readers can see it at MorninginMichigan.com.

While I continue to pursue full implementation of this plan, please note that I have already been successful ob-taining over \$5M in state funding to address the Ford Road/I-275 traffic safety issue

Edwards: First, I would cut spending for unnecessary programs. Second, I would consult with experts on how to eliminate the gas and sales tax on gasoline and replace it with a revenue stream that stays consistent so there is enough revenue to repair roads on a yearly basis. The current system does not provide a consistent revenue stream due to economic conditions.

Whatever revenue increase is needed I would make sure that it is offset with a reduction in auto insurance premiums. Also, I would make sure businesses pay their fair share based on a professional study on how much they damage the roads. If they're responsible for 30 percent of the costs they will

PATRICK COLBECK **Residence:** Canton

Colbeck

How long have you lived in the district? Over 18 years Family: Married to my wife, Angie, for 19 years. Our parents and several family members live in Livonia.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, 1987; Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor, 1988; graduate of the Life Sciences Department of the International Space University, Strasbourg, France, 1989

Current job/profession: Currently serving as the state senator for the 7th State Senate District. My management consulting business has been put on hold during my service as state senator.

Community involvement: Member of Northridge Ghurch in Plymouth; co-founder and board member for the Michigan Freedom Center serving military personnel and their families at Detroit Metro Airport and the Troy Military Entrance Processing Station; member of the U.S. Navy League; honorary member and supporter of the Civil Air Patrol; member of the Northville, Canton, Plymouth and Livonia Chambers of Commerce; earned designation as a Microsoft Small Business Specialist; member of Good News! Via de Cristo lay Christian apostolic organization.

pay 30 percent. All revenues collected would be tax deductible on both the federal and state tax returns.

Did the Senate do the right thing this summer by adjourning without really addressing the issue?

Colbeck: We did address the issue. We passed several bills promoted in my road funding plan. These bills focused on ensuring that all of the taxes gathered at the gas pump go towards our roads (SB 6, SB 149) and reducing the costs of maintaining our roads by requiring warranties and competitive bids on road projects (HB 4251, HB 5460, HB 5167). These reforms go along with funding increases of \$737 million in the FY14 and FY15 budgets. It is a disservice to our taxpayers to suggest that the only way to fix our roads is to raise taxes.

Edwards: It was irresponsible for elected officials to leave before finding a solution to this major issue.

Twenty years after the implementation of Proposal A, there remains a wide disparity in per-pupil funding for school districts throughout the state. How would you address this concern? What is your recommendation? Be specific.

Colbeck: The push for "equity" in funding has hurt our school districts. Most recently, this push diverted over \$100 million from "donor" districts (i.e. most of the school districts in the 7th State Senate district), to lower-funded school districts. The result was a \$60-perpupil increase rather than a

\$94 per pupil increase. We need to be pushing for "fair" funding that addresses cost of living differences throughout the state, not "equal" funding. I have fought successfully to do so in previous years. I will continue to push for fairness in funding as we go forward.

Edwards: First of all our home prices are dependent on the quality of the public schools in our community. We need to invest the right amount for education in every district to produce a world class education for our young adults. I would not raise taxes, but reapportion how the current dollars are spent in a fair and equitable manner between all districts. I would also reward districts based on their performance so there is competition between districts to perform.

The 7th Senate District is a diverse district that includes an ever-changing



MATTHEW EDWARDS

Residence: Plymouth Township

How long have you lived in the district? All of my life Family: Ron (father), Mary Pat (mother), Thomas (brother), Theresa (sister), Mark (brother)

Education: Graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management Current job/profession: Hilltop golf course

Community Involvement: Plymouth Township Fourth of July picnic for 18 years. Salvation Army food collections

diverse population in Canton. What do you see as the issues in the district and how would you address them?

Colbeck: I prefer to focus on the principles that unite us rather than those that divide us. As Americans, we are all united by the common belief expressed in our Declaration of Independence that we are all created equal. One of the biggest issues we face today is that there are many among us who seek to divide us into subgroups for the purposes of political gamesmanship.

We need to rekindle an appreciation for the expression "e Pluribus unum" which translates to "from many into one." This signifies that the ideas that unite us are stronger than those which divide us.

Edwards: The district needs at this time is to fix the roads, attract employers with high quality jobs and provide the funding to our communities that was taken away so they can provide a safe and vibrant community without raising your local taxes.

Does the redrawing of the district's boundaries change its needs, and how do you plan on addressing those needs?

Colbeck: Most needs transcend any arbitrary political boundaries. We all need jobs. We now have over 19,000 jobs within a 25 mile radius of Canton. We all need access to affordable health care. That is why I continue to oppose the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) and have developed a better approach called the Patient-Centered Care Solution (See Morningin-

Michigan.com). We also need access to quality education. That is why I oppose one-size fits all education models such as Common Core and promote policies that empower parents with education choices.

Edwards: No.

What makes you the best candidate for this position?

Colbeck: My service to date reflects that I have consistently remained focused on the best interests of my constituents not playing politics. Rather than simply saying "no" to bad legislation, I have gone the extra mile to provide better alternatives. Over 20 years of engineering and management experience has taught me that government policies have real world impacts.

This experience has provided me with the insights to go beyond the talking points and dive into the unvarnished facts driving our issues. For more information, I encourage you to view my editorials, speeches, solutions and the data supporting these solutions at MorninginMichigan.com.

Edwards: I will work for you the voter and not special interests. Just look at the past four years, they gave big business a tax break and raised taxes on individuals (pensions and eliminate some homestead credits), they failed to fix the roads, which caused insurance rates to go up, car repairs went up and we have less money in our what you earn in your pocket.

pockets. How is that being fiscally conservative? I will make sure you keep more of



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ON CAMPUS

Lawrence Tech

The following students have been named to the dean's honor roll for the spring 2014 term at Lawrence Technological University. To be named to the honor roll, a student must maintain at least a 3.5 average for the term. Students from Plymouth making the list include Marko Issac. majoring in business administration; Andrew Kieltyka, majoring in graphic design; Erin Lixie, majoring in mathematics/computer science; and Nicholas Paul, majoring in computer science.

Canton students making the list include Alexandra Bryden, majoring in mechanical engi neering; Mahmoud Hafiz, majoring in operations engineering; Bhavika Patel, majoring in biomedical engineering; Daniel DeWater, majoring in architecture; and Katelyn Watson. majoring in civil engineering.

Grand Valley State

Nearly 2,900 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in April 2014. Students who graduated at the conclusion of the winter 2014 semester in April include: From Canton: Sherri E. Anderson, BS; Ryan L. Barrie, BS; Britany M. Brasseur, BS; Kylie L. Hakala, BS; Julia G. Hisey, BBA; Max Julien, BS; Melanie E. Kulczycki, BS; Katherine J. LaFever, BS; Katrina R. Maynes, BA; Jordyn A. Moore, BA; Justin D. Morley, BA; Josh M. Pascarella, BBA; Samantha E. Schaeffler, MSA; Molly A. Slavens, BA; and Jessica N. Soblesky, BS.

From Plymouth: Jessica L. Bra-cey, BS; Anne R. Giocondini, BA; Katherine J. Hagen, BA; Anthony B. Mullins, BSW; and Nicholas D. Schreiber, BS

Walsh College

Meysha Moutzalias of Plymouth made the honors list at Walsh College for the 2014 spring semester.

Canton students making the list included Gregory Collins, Muhammad Shahid and Huma Kashif.

Contractor issues won't slow charter

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Officials from Canton Preparatory High School, the charter school being built on Cherry Hill in Canton, said the bankruptcy filing of its general contractor this week won't have any negative impact on the project.

Lamar Construction Co. of Hudsonville notified its employees Wednesday it will close its construction operations, putting some 180 of its 280 employees out of work.

In a news release, the company said current economic conditions caused it to "immediately discontinue and wind down business operations."

"Closing our doors is disheartening and we give my sincerest thanks to all of the employees and customers of Lamar Construction Company for their loyal service and patronage over the years," the company wrote in its release. "Today is a very sad and difficult day for all of us."

Backup plan

The closure was potentially bad news for Canton Preparatory High School, a Lamar Construction project scheduled to open in September. But Matthew Chesney, prin-

cipal of the new school, said Lamar's decision didn't come as a complete surprise, so the school was "ready with a Plan B.'

"It won't have much of an effect at all on our project," Chesney said. "It was a disappointing turn of events, but it was something we knew could be a possibility. We created some backup plans and put them in place. We took control of the sub-contractors ourselves and are handling the construction.

The school, to be operated by PrepNet, is scheduled to open Sept. 2. It's being built right next door to property on which Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are building a new middle school.



Officials say construction on Canton Preparatory High School, the charter school being built on Cherry Hill in Canton, won't be affected by the fact its general contractor, Lamar Construction Co., filed this week for bankruptcy. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No impact

Chesney said much of the initial work for which Lamar was primarily responsible including underground parts of the project such as water and power - was already either completed or close enough for PrepNet to take over.

'The hardest parts are always the underground work," Chesney said. "Things can get tricky when you're dealing with underground. ... Lamar was able to make sure that was able to be taken care of smoothly. Now that those are completed, our people can take control of it and manage it just fine.'

Carl Berry, president of Canton Prep's board of directors, said in light of Lamar's bankruptcy filing, sub-contractors were all consulted and assured they'd be paid.

Berry said his "first concern" was whether Lamar's situation would "impact us." However, Berry said, the project continues on track.

"The work is going on as scheduled," Berry said. "(Lamar's decision) isn't going to impact us."

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Work continued at the site of the charter high school being built in Canton despite the bankruptcy filing of its general contractor, Lamar Construction Co.

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LOCAL NEWS

Credit union helps sponsor summer events

Community Financial Credit is sponsoring many of the family oriented events happening in the area.

The credit union is sponsoring a wide array of fun, from movies to concerts and everything in between.

"Families are the building blocks of our communities; they are why organizations like Community Financial exist," said Sarah Cousineau, marketing manager for Community Financial. "That's why we are proud to be able to sponsor community events that promote families enjoying time together."

Several of the events sponsored by Community Financial include: » The Penn Theater Summer Cinema Matinee Series » Canton Thursday Night Concerts

» Friday Family Fun Nights
in Novi
» Novi Tremendous Tues-

days

» Tunes on Tuesdays in Northville

» Tuesday Mornings in the Park in Novi

For more information on Community Financial events throughout the summer, visit www.cfcu.org/calendar.

To stay connected with Community Financial and keep up to date on the latest financial news and information, text "CFCU" to 70 000.

Children flock to see animal exhibit

Animals are always a big attraction for kids and that was the case Thursday at the Plymouth District Library.

The library drew more than 100 children as it hosted its Fizz Boom Animals program. Staffers from the Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom brought a wide variety of animals for kids to share and enjoy.

Whispering Pines owner Christina Kinde introduced an alligator and a hedgehog, among others, to the crowd. Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom was founded in 1999. From the home farm in Lexington, staffers make approximately 25 educational presentations at schools and libraries each year.

Fizz Boom Animals is just one of many of the library's summer reading programs happening this summer. They



Whispering Pines owner Christina Kinde introduces an alligator to the crowd of children at the Plymouth District Library.

are made possible through the support of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library, the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. For more information, call the library at 734-453-0750.

Wayne-Westland does 'very well' on state MME test

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Hard work has paid off for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools after its 11th-graders performed "very well" on the Michigan Merit Exam and ACT tests administered earlier this year.

"We are proud of the gains made at each of the high schools," Greg Baracy said in an announcement made just before he retired as superintendent. "The hard work of our teachers, administrators and central office team to align the curriculum, utilize high-quality, nationally normed assessments, like NWEA, EXPLORE and PLAN, as well as providing timely and additional assistance through a variety of during-the-day and after-school intervention programs are reaping huge benefits."

The Michigan Department of Education released results of the test scores, which showed statewide gains in all subjects, led by big jumps from 2013 to 2014 in both social studies and reading scores of 5.3 and 5.2 percent, respectively.

"The continued improvements over time show the value of requiring Michigan students taking rigorous coursework," state Superintendent Mike Flanagan said. "Whether they learn the higher-level concepts in a traditional classroom or in a career-tech course, students are learning."

Big jumps in scores

According to Baracy, Wayne Memorial High School students performed particularly well, posting gains of 10.8 percent in reading when compared with last year and 9.9 percent in writing. Wayne students had gains in all subjects except social studies when comparing the 2013 and 2014 results.

"Overall, Wayne Memorial is scoring at its highest levels in almost each area over the past four years and continues to close the achievement gap between poverty and non-poverty groups," Baracy said.

John Glenn High School students posted gains of 5 percent in reading, 4.9 percent in writing and 1.3 percent in science.

Statewide, student reading scores posted both short- and long-term increases of more than 5 percentage points. While math, writing and science results continued to show progress, social studies broke new ground in reversing a downward trend of several years.

According to the MDE, much of the success is rooted in the continued implementation of the Michigan Merit Curriculum that has students learning rigorous math, science, social studies and English language arts concepts, as well as visual and performing arts and a world language.

Reading proficiency scores increased 5.2 points from 53.5 percent to 58.7 percent between 2013 and 2014 and 6 points in the four years since 2010, representing the largest long-term gain of all subjects and students tested.

Score reverses declines

Social studies scores gained more than 5 points from 2013 to 2014, reversing several years of declining scores. Science scores were up nearly 3 points this year, from 25.7 percent to 28.4 percent, and a similar amount during the past four years. Writing scores increased from 49.3 percent to 50.8 per-

cent in the past year and almost 4 points since 2011.

Math scores showed a fouryear gain of 1.5 points and small increase of 0.2 points from 2013 to 2014.

"We still have heavy lifting to do, particularly on further reducing the achievement gap, but these results show that we now are headed in the right direction among high school students who are graduating soon," Flanagan said.

The MME is administered annually in the spring to high school juniors. It's composed of the ACT Plus Writing college entrance exam, WorkKeys job skills assessments in reading, mathematics and "locating information" and Michigandeveloped assessments in mathematics, science and social students.

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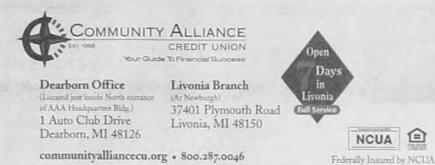
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ISSUES FORUM

Date/Time: Monday, July 21, 7 p.m

Location: Summit on the Park, Canton

Details: The Canton Republican Caucus hosts the second Canton Township Issues Forum, which will consist of factual presentations of issues affecting the residents of Canton Township, the Plymouth-Canton School District and other local communities. The primary issues to be discussed are Personal Property Tax issue, Proposal 1; local education funding, the local school district and Intermediate School District proposals; Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the possible transfer to the suburbs or to a private entity; roads; and questions, during which all questions submitted by attendees of the June 9 forum will be answered.

LIBRARY CONCERT Date/Time: Tuesday, July 15, 7

p.m Location: Canton Public Library,

1200 Canton Center, Canton Details: The Canton Public Library welcomes the R.J. Spangler Trio, and special guest Larry Smith. Spangler will speak about the rich history of jazz and blues in the Detroit area and will perform examples of the discussed music. Smith will accompany the trio during its performance. Smith, a saxophone player, played with some of the greats such as Sonny Stitt and Aretha Franklin

Contact: For more information, visit www.cantonpl.org/connectyour-summer or ask any library staff

PRICE HOURS

Date/Time: Monday, July 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton

Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, will be conducting district office hours. The session allows constituents the opportunity to sit down with Price and discuss matters of concern within the community.

Contact: For more information, contact Mike Mitchell, staff aide to Price, at 313-224-0882.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING

Date/Time: Aug. 6, 1-3 p.m. Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste 250, Canton Details: United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor who will help you understand: Medicare/Medicaid eligibility,



Volunteers needed

Compassionate Care Hospice is looking for volunteers like Caitlin Berdijo, who assembled vases of "Compassionate Blooms" to be delivered to hospice patients. Volunteers service areas including Oakland, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Volunteers receive training and ongoing coaching and social opportunities. The next new volunteer orientation is fast approaching and will take place at the office in Canton. Contact Justine Galat, volunteer coordinator, with questions or to apply for a brief interview at jgalat@cchnet.net or 888-983-9050.

transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare, plan options, assistance programs, drug Insurance, and Medicare/ Medicaid fraud and abuse identification and reporting. Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also provided

Contact: Heather Pinage, 734 727-2063. Specify you are requesting an appointment for the United Home Health location. For MMAP information visit www.mmapinc.org/pages/ about.html

HOOPS CAR WASH

Date/Time: Sunday, July 13, from noon to 3 p.m. Location: Dick Scott Dodge, Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Details: The Salem High School girls basketball team hosts a car wash fundraiser. Proceeds will help offset the cost of uniforms and equipment throughout the season

LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES Time/Location: Each Wednes

day, 7-8:30 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Dates:

» July 30, The Film Score Grows Up - After World War II, films and film music become darker and more realistic.

» Aug. 20, The Classical Film Score, Lost and Found - Big changes in films and scores in the '50s but it all comes back again in the '70s.

Details: The Plymouth District Library will host music professor Karl Schmidt for a four-part series this summer. Schmidt will present music and video excerpts from films such as The Jazz Singer (1927), Gone With the Wind (1939), The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) and High Noon (1952), as well as a study of political and social changes that influenced all forms of art, including films. This music series is made possible through the Michigan Opera Theatre's Department of Community Programs and the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

Contact: Call 734-453-0750. FALL FEST CRAFTERS

Date/Time: Craft show is during Plymouth Fall Festival, Sept. 5-7 Location: Downtown Plymouth Details: It's not too late to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. Organizers say spaces are limited and are filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at

www.plymouthfallfestival.com. Contact: For more information, contact Colleen Brown, craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com.

HISTORY KIDS KAMP Date/Time: Saturday, July 26,

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Location: Plymouth Historical Museum Details: The Plymouth Historical

Museum hosts its third annual History Kids Kamp, where

children can experience aspects of the Civil War by recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken, as well as a chore race consisting of old-fashioned tasks from the mid-1800s. There will also be a scavenger hunt, which will entertain and educate while kids search for clues to solve a puzzle. Children will be able to chat with Civil War soldier re-enactors who can answer questions, demonstrate marching and much more. The boys will be given the opportunity to "enlist" in the army.

Tickets purchased by July 18 are \$35 per child; after that, tickets are \$40; alternatively, the purchase of a new or renewed Daisy membership to the Ply mouth Historical Museum (value \$50) will allow one child to attend for free. The target age

for children is 6-12 years old; however, children under 8 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours or can be purchased using PayPal on the museum's website. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main.

Contact: Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations: » Sunday, July 20, 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 44800 Warren, Canton » Monday, July 21, 1-6:45 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

» Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Living Word Church, 46500 N. Territorial, Plymouth

» Monday, July 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Geneva Presbyterian

Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton

» Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Drive, Canton

» Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Super Bowl Lanes, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

» Wednesday, July 30, noon to 5:45 p.m., Canton Municipal Office

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives in the local community. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Call 800-REDCROSS to make an appointment

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Date/Time: Oct. 18 Location: West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth Details: The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried Craft Show.

Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.

Contact: For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debcortellini@comcast.net or 734-451-1525

BNI MEETING

Date/Time: Each Thursday, 7-8:30 a.m.

Location: Red Olive Restaurant, 1051 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Details: The BNI Northville-The \$1 million Referral Chapter meets every Thursday morning. Contact: For more information, visit www.NorthvilleBNI.com





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96

LOCAL NEWS

Letters home reveal history

Museum donation gives soldier's view of World War II

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Tony Pequeno doesn't know Harry H. Gleason, but he knows a lot about him.

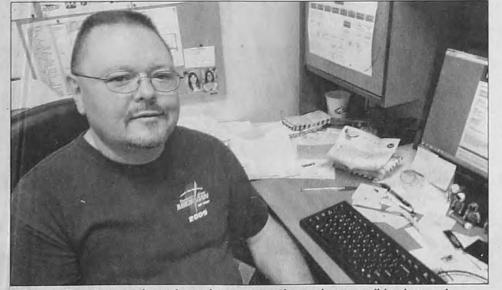
Stationed in Calcutta, India, during World War II, Gleason wrote several hundred letters home to his wife Estella. Pequeno has taken on the task of inputting them into the data base at the Yankee Air Museum.

"I feel like I know him," Pequeno said. "This has given me an appreciation of what people went through during the war."

Pequeno works in artifacts and restoration management at the air museum and has been painstakingly transcribing the letters, numbering more than 1,000, into computer files. In his first month, he had been able to get through 20-25 letters. The plan is to save the transcripts to a flash drive, than make scanned copies of each letter before the originals are placed in acidfree plastic sleeves to preserve them.

Gleason, who was a corporal in the U.S. Army Air Corps, worked in the headquarters in Calcutta in 1944 just before D-Day. The collection, which was donated to the museum, was everything he wrote home to his wife in Detroit. Unfortunately, it contains none of her letters.

Of the more than 50 he has typed so far, Pequeno said the letters have given him a sense of what war was like and about the end of the war. It has also made him



Volunteer Tony Pequeno is getting to know Harry Gleason by transcribing letters the World War II Army Air Corps corporal wrote to his wife Estella. PHOTOS BY SUE MASON

realize that the young people "had everything on their shoulder" and attacked adversity "with grace."

Common theme

"In many of the letters I've transcribed, the way Mr. Gleason felt about his wife was a common theme," Pequeno said. "He certainly loved his wife very much and missed her equally as much. In many of the letters, it is also very apparent how Mr. Gleason relied on his wife to handle the day-to-day chores which normally fell on the husband, such as paying bills, handling repairs, managing the money

"Mrs. Gleason also held a full-time job as well and their relationship shows how the role of women changed during the war years," he added. "They really learned to attack adversity with grace. I've never read anything so in-depth and so personal. They were letters home. He knew they would be censored, but he had no fear about getting personal."

In one letter, he wrote



Tony Pequeno is working his way through hundreds of letters written by Harry Gleason while he was stationed in India.

about being off for seven days, telling his wife that "the 7 days I had off gave me a good rest I am sure and will enable me to do my job better as these hot months come upon us. And they are getting hot, the temperature was 105 degrees today."

In another, he expressed admiration for the family life President Woodrow Wilson had.

"One thing I liked about President (Woodrow) Wilson's life was the closeness of his first marriage and how he had found the true companionship as I know I have found," he wrote. "You are so much a part of me my darling, I need you in every decision of life in every way I turn. I look to you for the encouragement I need. Even now when we are so many, many miles apart, in everything I do, I think first of you and ask myself would you want me to be this way or that, do this or not, and is what I am doing going to bring about the happiness that my wife wants in life. Yes, darling, there never could be anyone to play the part in my life on Earth that you are play-

ing." Pequeno has yet to discover Mrs. Gleason's first name nor what

A LETTER HOME

"First thing I want to say is I love you – all I have been able to think about since Victory in Europe is how wonderful it's going to be when this whole thing is over and we can be together again to build our home and make our place in this world together. I get so excited when I think about how I am going to have to compete with others for the good jobs. I am not afraid of what's ahead, I've set myself a goal and it's plenty high and I intend to reach it. Not right away, of course but I'll reach it.

"I got back to work this morning to find plenty waiting for me to do, we are working like mad getting plans and matters that I cannot explain to you because of security reasons but I can assure you that the Japs are not going to like what is in store for them. As you know when the point system came out Rotation stopped temporarily and we are now sweating out the new plan if any. Certainly out of all the men in Europe there are plenty who have not seen the time overseas that I have and feel sure that the Air Forces will provide a means of cutting down the amount of time in the field as soon as possible. We can at any rate look forward to the final end of this blasted war and see real happiness I am sure.

"Well those Super Fort (B-29 Superfortress) raids on Japan are really beginning to tell. I hope they give them everything we got until they give up and if they don't give up, there won't be anyone left. Maybe that would be a good thing eh?"

Harry Gleason May 26, 1945

Gleason did in the Air Corps, other than his rank and where he worked. He hopes, at some point, to find out.

The museum has other letters, some from World War I, but nothing as extensive as Gleason's. The letters are part of his collection that was donated to the museum. Pequeno hopes to go back through and find a photograph of Gleason and his wife to put faces with the correspondence.

Many donations

The museum has thousands of donated uniforms, equipment and artifacts that it uses as part of its displays. Everything from uniforms and combat boots and helmets are carefully cataloged and archived. The donations cover the major wars, dating back to World War I.

For volunteers like Pequeno, who has been working at the museum since fall 2010, it's exciting to have the artifacts, but even more exciting to know the who, what, why, when and where behind it. Many times, donors leave before volunteers have time to get information about the person the items belonged to.

In the case of the Harry Gleason collection, Pequeno doesn't know who made the donation, but the museum is thankful to have it.

"This is an exciting project. This what we're about and why we do it," he said. "It's just so neat. It makes the hair on my arms stand up."

People can make donations at the museum, located on the grounds of Willow Run Airport, 47884 D St., Belleville. For more information, call 734-483-4030.

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Canton Leisure Services is encouraging individuals and families to get outside this summer, offering recreation opportunities the week of July 18-25. Canton Leisure Services and the National Recreation and Park Association are challenging everyone to get out and visit their community parks and recreation during National Park and Recreation Month.

This year's Park and Recreation Month theme, "OUT is IN," encourages individuals, families, friends and co-workers to do something outside every day that they would normally do inside.

Families will have a chance to get outside to kick off "OUT is IN" Week, as Canton Leisure Services hosts a Family Camp Out Movie Night in Heritage Park on Friday, July 18. Families can set up tents and camp overnight at Heritage

Park and view an outdoor screening of Despicable Me 2 (rated PG), as well as take part in family-friendly activities. For more information on that event, visit www.can-tonfun.org or call 734-394-5460

"Our goal for July is to have no child left inside,' said Andrew Grose, event coordinator. "Canton Leisure Services makes it easy for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors and have fun in the sun all summer long.

Camp programs offered by Canton Leisure Services will also be getting outside during the week to participate in events like canoe rides, nature walks and bird watching.

For more information on Canton events and programs and recreation ideas, visit www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.



The Splash Pad provides an opportunity for kids to get outdoor activity.

Nonprofit groups issue fundraiser challenge

Kelly's Kidz of Canton and Dutton Farms of Rochester have partnered and issued a fundraiser challenge to help raise money for camp participants this summer.

Kelly's Kidz will match every dollar that Dutton Farms raises, up to \$7,500. These critical funds will be used for the Dutton Farm Scholarship Program to provide 10 kids the opportunity to attend its summer camp program.

"We go to great lengths to ensure that each person enrolled in our program experiences success each and every day," director Michele Smither said. "We don't see ourselves as staff, we're first and foremost their friends and their peers. This is a high-quality program that assists those who come to live a full, productive and highly satisfying life. The generosity of Kelly's Kidz is an amazing and creative idea to help us spread the word about what we are trying to accomplish, but also reward many

kids this opportunity to experience something they wouldn't have had a chance under normal circumstances.'

The multi-faceted program offers training in independent living skills, job skills, horticulture, animal care, healthy living and on-site job opportunity. Many special-needs individuals have had their funding cut and are unable to participate in summer camps.

These types of cuts have had a dramatic affect on Dutton Farms, as its enrollment would've suffered. Kelly's Kidz seized the opportunity to make this a reality.

"Kelly's Kidz is always on the lookout for other organizations whose mission mirrors ours," said Kelly Hermann, co-founder Kelly's Kidz. "We have learned about Dutton Farms this spring and are impressed by the services that they are providing to these kids. We are offering the grant as a challenge to the community to help Dutton Farms, as



Kelly's Kidz of Canton and Dutton Farms of Rochester have partnered and issued a fundraiser challenge to help raise money for camp participants this summer.

well as further spread awareness about our mission, which is to help kids live the best life they possibly can.

Dutton Farms does need the

help of donors near and far to maximize this opportunity. Donors are encouraged to share the information with family, friends, neighbors and local organizations to continue to support special-needs individuals and their families. Please click on the link below to support Dutton Farm.

To help, go to www.fundraise.com/dutton-farm-inc/ dutton-farm-summercamp?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=f&utm_campaign=s1dn

Dutton Farm is a not-for-

profit organization that serves individuals with a mental, physical or emotional impairment in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. Its goal is to create an atmosphere of acceptance and flexibility when serving the disabled community.

Kelly's Kidz is a not-forprofit organization whose mission is to help physically im-paired kids live the best life that they possibly can. Kelly's Kidz supports these kids and their families through monetary grants for supplemental insurance, scholarships and driver's education.



Slain soccer referee remembered for his passion

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

Walled Lake resident John Hollowell attended fellow referee John Bieniewicz's funeral Thursday donning apparel he typically would only wear on a soccer field.

Hollowell, who last officiated a high school match with Bieniewicz several weeks before his death, came to his funeral wearing a black alternate referee jersey, complete with a black stripe across his badge.

"I said, 'I'm going to be in a church, I should be in a suit,'" he said. "But then I thought, 'I'm going to wear my black (jersey).' I didn't get to the (visitation) the other day. The last time I saw John was on a field."

Hollowell was one of many mourners Thursday morning who filled Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford to bid farewell to Bieniewicz. The 44-year-old Westland resident died July 1 after succumbing to injuries he sustained from being assaulted during a soccer match he was officiating in Livonia.

Remembered as a referee, dialysis technician at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and an overall kind man, Hollowell said Bieniewicz had recently mentioned to him during a storm delay at a game the two were working that he wanted to spend more time at home with his wife and two young sons.

"There was a lightning delay and I really got to talk to John," he said. "He was going to be careful with what games he took, because he wanted to spend more time with his kids."

John Cuschieri, who graduated with Bieniewicz from Catholic Central High School when it was



Pallbearers for John Bieniewicz place his casket in the hearse after the funeral. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Mourners for John Bieniewicz wait as his casket is loaded in the hearse.

in Redford, said he lost contact with Bieniewicz for several years, but recently began talking to him again. Through the connections of the Internet, Cuschieri communicated with him through an email listserv that had been created with some friends.

"I'm glad we reconnected," the Milford resident said.

He said Bieniewicz was a devoted wide re-

Summ

ceiver for the Shamrocks back then, even though he did not catch many passes. He also played basketball and discovered soccer later in life, coaching his children and becoming a referee.

Farmington Hills resident David Tartoni married the sister of one of Bieniewicz's close friends and was taken into their friendship circle almost immediately. He said it was clear Bieniewicz was a man that cared about many things through his messages.

"I felt like he was a next-door neighbor, because of the communication we all had," he said. "It was just so awesome to see passion behind the things he talked about."

'We should not have to be here'

The Rev. Paul Undlin of Hosanna-Tabor spoke of Bieniewicz's commitment not only to his job and family, but to his religion. The clergyman said Bieniewicz was a devoted Christian.

Undlin said he had wished he did not need to preside over a funeral for Bieniewicz, who he said died before his time.

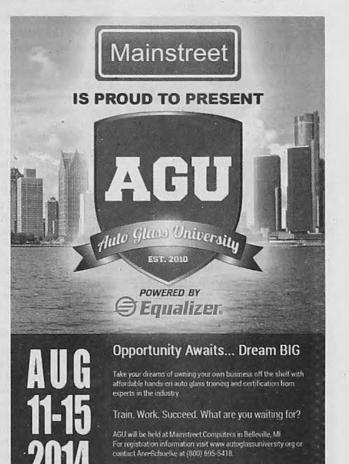
"There's nothing good, there's nothing right, there's nothing proper about the need to be here today," he said during his sermon. "We should not have to be here." Bieniewicz's remains are expected to be cremated and interred at a later date.

The man accused of assaulting Bieniewicz was in court several hours before the funeral to be arraigned on new charges of second-degree murder, punishable by up to life in prison. He is due back in court later this month for a preliminary examination in Livonia.

Hollowell said he communicated with Bieniewicz a little after working with him on the field and said Bieniewicz won't be forgotten anytime soon.

"You remember good people," Hollowell said. "That's John."

dveselenak@ hometownlife.com 734-678-6728 Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



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U-M opens state-of-the-art health care facility

Northville center will offer great care

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

After more than a year of construction, the shiny new University of Michigan Northville Health Center is ready to open its doors to hundreds of patients. The building, located at Seven Mile and Haggerty roads in Northville Township, will bring about 200 jobs to the community, including more than 100 doctors.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Monday afternoon marking the facility's opening. A number of community and business leaders joined a group of health professionals to unveil the 100,000-square-foot, two-story primary and specialty care facility, which will begin taking patient appointments July 15.

During the ceremony, the health center's staff emphasized that the aim is to offer great care to the local community with the help of state-ofart equipment and tools.

Commitment and capability

"The University of Michigan Health System is committed to meeting the needs of today's patients, wherever they are and no matter how well or sick they may be," said Dr. Michael M.E. Johns, M.D., interim executive vice president of medical affairs at U-M. "The care provided by U-M doctors, nurses and other health care providers is consistently ranked among the nation's best."

During the tours, staff members introduced the different sections within the health center.

In addition to primary and specialty care, the center offers a comprehensive musculoskeletal program designed to care for bones, joints and muscles; eye care for adults and children; sub-specialty pediatrics; radiology services such as diagnostic imaging, bone ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging; infusion for cancer and non-cancer treatment; and



The new University of Michigan Hospital Northville Health Center is located at the southwest corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty roads. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

a medical procedures unit used for colonoscopy, capsule endoscopy, spinal injections and other procedures.

Employees at the center are looking forward to getting started full time next week.

"I'm excited to be a part of this innovative care model coming to Northville," said Dr. Audrey Fan, M.D., medical director. "This new, considerably larger space brings together many of the essential services a patient may need for comprehensive health care. This top-quality care is close to home and convenient for adults and children living in western Wayne County."

Under its roof there are 100-plus physicians and dozens of nurses, medical assistants, therapists and mid-level providers. A big part of it will be that can provide 40-plus specialties that will partner with community physicians for the convenience of patients.

"This facility gives us a very visible way to bring excellent care to the people of Northville



Dr. Edward A Hurvitz. M.D., with the Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center, works with physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists and others in a team approach to care.

and surrounding areas in metropolitan Detroit," Johns said.

Community partnership

Attendees like Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix were impressed. He helped with the ribbon-cutting and echoed the sentiment among many, saying this opening will be a very big opportunity for

the community.

"We're so proud to have you here," he said to the health center's staff.

Johns said the facility is also an economic benefit to the area. Citing the creation of nearly 200 jobs to using local vendors, he said the partnership it has with the community is very important.



Dr. Valerie P. Castle, M.D., chair of the Department of Pediatrics at University of Michigan Hospital, talks about the new facility's impact on area children.

This facility is a big part of the REIS-Northville LLC joint venture between Schostak Bros. and Co. and REI Investment Group Inc. They have a 25-year lease agreement with U-M.

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



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The relay team posed for a photo in Washington state at Fort Worden State Park, site of a Sri Chinmoy Peace Mile, established in 1988.

International relay stops July 25 in Westland

An international relay run will be making a stop Friday, July 25, in Westland.

Participants in the Oneness-Home Peace Run are scheduled to reach Westland City Hall, on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh, around 11:40 a.m.

Mayor William Wild will welcome them to the city.

The goal of the international relay run is to remind people that world harmony and world peace are not mere dictionary words, but realities that will slowly materialize in our world.

The aspiration for a culture of friendship, oneness and peace is symbolized by the passing of the Olympic-style torch from hand-to-hand, community-to-community, nation-to-nation.

The international

team of 12 runners covers 80-100 miles a day, carrying a flaming torch.

The runners will reach the state of Michigan on July 22 at New Buffalo and pass through Niles, Three Rivers, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Jackson, Chelsea and Dexter. They'll leave Ann Arbor on July 25 en route to Detroit. The run will pass through the Downriver area on July 26 before crossing into Canada.

The Peace Run is not associated with any political cause, there is no fee charged for participation and no funds are being raised. It is simply a universal statement of the potential for world harmony and peace based on the idea that each individual can influence the course of progress toward global harmony among peoples and nations.

The inspiration for the World Harmony Run is late peace visionary Sri Chinmoy. Often described as a Renaissance man, Sri Chinmoy was an athlete, philosopher, artist, musician and poet. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of the ideal of world friendship and oneness. Sri Chinmoy can in

Sri Chinmoy saw in sports a powerful instrument for promoting world harmony. Volunteers all over the world are carrying on this vision by taking the torch to communities on six continents.

More information about the Oneness-Home Peace Run can be found online at www.peacerun.org.

The website includes information on events in the various countries around the world and a daily log with photos and videos.

Do your homework before purchasing an annuity

Q: Dear Rick: I was thinking about moving some of my investments from my IRA into a five-year annuity. The salesperson is pushing a 10-year product. What do you think?

A: The first issue is what type of an annuity are you thinking of purchasing.

You can divide annuities into two main areas: fixed annuities and variable annuities. Fixed annuities can either be the traditional fixed annuity, where you get a guaranteed rate of return, or what is known as an equity-indexed annuity. An equity-indexed annuity will have a lower guarantee than the traditional fixed, however, you can get extra return based upon how the stock market performs.

The other main branch of annuities is variable annuities. With a variable annuity, you typically have a variety of mutual funds to choose from.

The only one I would consider would be a fixed annuity. It makes no sense to buy a variable annuity within an IRA. The main benefit of the annuity is that it grows tax-deferred. The money in an IRA is already tax-deferred, though, so there's no reason to incur additional fees to get tax deferral.

In addition, the costs of the mutual funds within the annuity are also expensive, so you are hit with unnecessary high fees. In a fixed annuity, you don't pay the same fees as with a variable annuity.

In some situations, it would make sense to buy

Conference of Western Wayne backs Prop 1

The Conference of Western Wayne, a nonpartisan consortium of 18 western Wayne County communities, passed a resolution of support for Proposal 1, a statewide ballot referendum on the Aug. 5 ballot that seeks voter approval to complete reforms that would phase out Michigan's personal property tax If passed, Proposal 1 would phase out the obsolete personal prop erty tax and replace the revenue with a variety of funds generated in part from the state's use tax and a new essential services assessment charged to manufacturers that attained PPT

relief.

These combined revenue sources would be directed to local units of government.

"Our communities have relied on the personal property tax as a revenue source to help atmosphere."

The elimination of PPT and the approval of Proposal 1 will help increase Michigan's competitiveness with other states and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business nities.

CWW represents 18 communities, more than 700,000 residents and nearly 100,000 businesses.

Members included Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Livonia, North-



a fixed annuity within the IRA. If you want a guaranteed rate of return without any risk to principal, a fixed annuity is a good way of going.

Shop around for annuities because they're not all the same. Some will give a guaranteed rate for one year; others will give a guaranteed rate for longer periods of time. In addition, the rates do differ, depending upon the company.

As to the time frame in this low interest rate environment, five years would be the maximum that I would commit to. Locking into a product for 10 years in this environment makes no sense.

Interest rates are low, so why would you lock up for a long period of time? The reason the salesperson is pushing the 10-year annuity is because of commissions. The commissions that the annuity companies pay are much greater for a 10-year policy than a five-year policy.

One thing to keep in mind when you shop around for your annuity is to know and understand the penalty provisions. What sort of penalty do you have to pay if you decide a year, two years or three years from now to cancel the policy? The penalties can be dramatically different between companies.

I want the lowest penalty possible. After all, why should I incur high penalties to get my money back?

Like every other investment product, annuities are complex and many are stuffed with unnecessary fees. Take your time, do your homework and don't let anyone talk you into something. Make the right decision for your situation.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloom assetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloom assetmanagement.com.



rund essential services such as, police, fire, EMS and schools. PPT amounts have been declining and it is an antiquated tax for businesses," Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said. "Proposal 1 will give our communities and schools 100-percent revenue replacement without raising taxes, while allowing for a more business friendly investment and create more jobs, while providing a stable revenue source for local commuville and Plymouth and Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Redford townships.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

At the general election on November 4, 2014 four Plymouth District Library Board members will be elected for a four year term. Candidates must file an Affidavit of Identity and a nonpartisan nominating petition by 4 p.m. Thursday, July 17, 2014 at the Wayne County Clerk. A \$100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a petition. Information about the Plymouth District Library can be found at www.plymouthlibrary.org.

Publish: 7/06/14



Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860

OSTEOPOROSIS

At times, the old ways are still the best ways. To prevent osteoporosis, the rules remain: exercise, take calcium and vitamin D and avoid falls. That advice, which could come from your grandmother, also graces the latest medical literature.

The preferred way to get calcium is through food such as milk and cheese. If a person cannot eat dairy, then calcium carbonate or citrate pills will do; usually 1000 mgm/day suffices. A person also needs Vitamin D to absorb the calcium and lay it properly into bone. People living in Michigan cannot expect exposure to sun to provide the Vitamin D needed - about 800 units/day; supplements in 400-800 units are available at drugstores or as additives to orange juice.

Exercise is important, and any exercise is good. Running is no better than walking and swimming is as good as walking. One should exercise daily, at least 6 times a week, but going seven days a week is not overdoing it. The exercise should last at least thirty minutes.

When a person reaches age 70 gait and equilibrium become a consideration. Get rid of throw rugs, or if having one is a necessity hang it on a wall or any other place except a floor. Walking with small weights - 2 to 3 lbs suffices - needs to be added to the exercise regimen. Such weights, little as they seem, help keep up muscle strength and staming.

Medicines exist to prevent bone deterioration. Studies show taking oral or injectable biphosphonates, or anti bone re-absorbing agents such as denosumab help reduce fractures. But these agents do not work if the person, at the same time, is not regularly exercising and not eating in a bone healthy manner. Funerals Only Have to "Look" Expensive Complete Funeral Service \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$3,850 \$500

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LOCAL NEWS

Family takes an adoption journey

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Kathe and Tom Ray's family will grow even more when they arrive back home to Novi from the war-torn country of Ukraine.

They're currently on a difficult journey to adopt four more children from this eastern European country that is being rocked by turmoil with neighboring Russia. They have seven children, ranging in age from 13 to 32, and in the past month the plan was to go to Ukraine to adopt three teenagers: Kristina, Anna and Yuri.

However, there have been some surprises along the way.

"We've been in Ukraine for 11 days. We had our first SDA (adoption agency for Ukrainian government) appointment on June 24. We got a bombshell," Kathe wrote by email this past week. "One of the girls we were coming for has a brother. We were faced with a life-and-



death decision that had to be made within five minutes."

They were only approved for three orphans and they already had them chosen. The question before them was, "If we add on the brother, who would we leave behind?"

They decided to go meet the girl and her brother. He had just turned 17 and the Rays thought he possibly might not want to be adopted and might agree to separate. They traveled to the region of Zaporozhye by prop plane to meet both kids – and Kathe said they "promptly fell in love with both of them."

"It could not have been more meant to be. We asked them to be our kids and they both said yes," she wrote.

The next day they traveled seven hours by train back to Kiev to file the papers and wait for their next referral date. In the meantime, they found out there was a way to adopt all four, so they've been "madly going back and forth between Ukraine and the States to get the necessary paperwork done and updated for four."

There next appointment was scheduled for July 8.

Tough yet rewarding

This adoption journey began in 2012, after the Rays got an email from someone who had forwarded it from someone who had forwarded it from someone else. It said that there was a boy, 15, who was visiting from Ukraine that needed a host family for the last three weeks of the summer because the original family had an emergency. They ignored it

nored it. "Then it bugged me, so I kept going back to it," Kathe said. "Finally, three days later, I said

WANT TO HELP?

The Ray family needs some financial assistance with the adoptions. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can go to PayPal and their account: arbonnekathe@msn.com. Mark it "gift" so no fees are assessed. "We will definitely appreciate all the help we can get!" Kathe Ray said.

something to my husband Tom over dinner. And he said, 'Why not?' So that's how we met Vlad."

After Vlad had been with them for about a week, the Rays learned what the fate was for these kids once they turn 16.

"Every August they are turned out of the orphanage and are completely on their own. No government assistance, no education, no housing, nothing. We were shocked," Kathe said.

Tom's response was "you know we have to adopt him" and she agreed.

"We had no clue what it would take to do an international adoption. Good thing or we probably would have said no," she said looking back.

But they didn't.

Reasons for adoption

When asked why this is important to them, Kathe replied, "Honestly, we live our lives according to the Bible. In it, the mandate for us is to take care of the widows and the orphans and to live a right life. We sort of looked at that for a long time as a nice thing, but it wasn't for us. Now we realize it was for us. It's for everyone, really."

She added, "We are just doing the right thing. What God wants us to do – take care of the orphans, give them a life and a future. And



Anna, 16, (left) and Kathe Ray after Anna said yes to being adopted by the Novi family.

someday we're going to have lots and lots of grandchildren."

They are both 56 years old. Tom drives a bus for Novi Public Schools and Kathe is a regional vice president and independent consultant with Arbonne International.

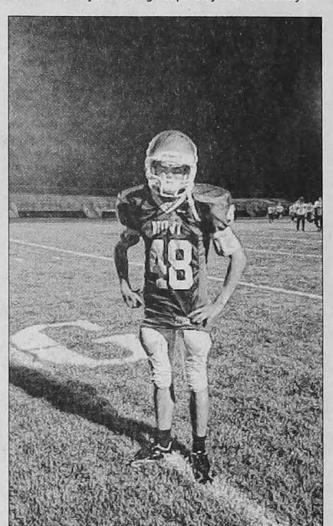
The journey and challenges continue

Kathe said some of the most difficult things have been working with and pulling together paperwork for two governments, raising \$50,000 (for which they ended up taking out a \$25,000 loan) and figuring out how they were going to be out of the country for a good two months and still run everything at home.

Kathe said maybe the most difficult things is "missing our families at home and being in a foreign country where we can't even really spend time with our new kiddos. "It's all very hard, but

worth it."

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Vlad Ray was a member of the Novi High School JV football team last year. He was the Rays' first adoption from Ukraine and came to Novi in 2012.

Mary is 34 years old. She just purchased her first home and is searching for the perfect couch. Her plan for a few months from now? A new convertible.

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Cooke School's ConnectUS fills need for impaired young adults

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Eileen and Michael Whalen started ConnectUS as a way to provide programming for multiply physically impaired, wheelchair-bound adults over the age of 21. Little did they know that five years later it would grow and become an important community resource.

ConnectUS was established in 2008 to fill a big need for individuals, like Michael, who are transitioning into life postgraduation from the Cooke School in Northville.

Eileen was worried there wouldn't be much for her son Michael to do, so instead of waiting for something to come along, they created their own nonprofit corporation to help out where they can. It operates in the Livonia, Northville, and Plymouth communities.

"We asked ourselves, what can we do?" she said. "This is based on the belief that everyone has something to offer and that the needs of one can be an opportunity for another."

She added, "Our goal is to make the connection happen."

The program is designed to provide stimulating activity for members, as well as educational and social connections for student interns and volunteers. It consists of regularly scheduled adapted activities for the program's members.

Each month, the program hosts events enabling impaired young adults to take their volunteer buddies through assembly lines of adapted equipment. At these events, they produce things like book covers and all sorts of felt hand puppets.

One recent activity that took place at Cooke was the International Puppet Assembly Program. Another activity is baking of ginger cookies and dog treats

"Everyone is gaining from this program," said Jessica Onkka, Michael's teacher at Cooke. "This has been huge for our staff and school." Onkka said Eileen's level of

effort has made ConnectUS a



Cooke School student Lisa Nguyen shares a high-five with Nadine Harris (right, off-camera) as assistant Kay Kane (left) directs Nguyen through the ConnectUS workshop June 6. The program allows Cooke students, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities, to help to make hand puppets, which are then given to kids in local foster care home. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

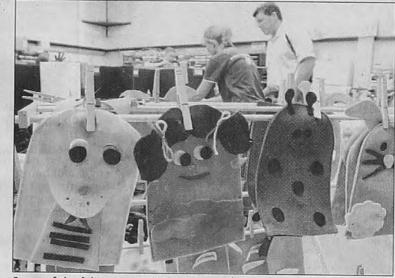
working success and she expects it to be a fixture at Cooke for years to come. Cooke Principal Jennifer Bugar agreed.

'It's a fantastic program because it gets its participants involved in important activities that act as a bridge to the community," Bugar said.

It's a true cooperative project through which the members interact with community volunteers, who are invited to share their time and talents.

Michael graduated from Cooke last month, but through ConnectUS he will be back to help out someone just like him.

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Some of the felt puppets drying on a rack, awaiting their new homes.



Jenny St. Peters works with her brother Michael Whalen in creating some of the hand puppets June 6. It was Whalen's idea and wish that Cooke students could work on the project to help foster kids. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





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INSIDE: COMMUNITY LIFE, B5-6 • OBITUARIES, B7 • HEALTH, B8

SECTION B (CP) SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

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

WEST 19, EAST 7



Members of the East All-Star team stand before images of the American flag displayed on the large Comerica Park scoreboard during the national anthem. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STARRY NIGHT

Galaxy of state's best high school baseball players enjoy Comerica spotlight

> By Tim Smith Staff Writer

The 33rd annual East vs.West All-Star baseball game at Comerica Park wasn't exactly a crisp, well-played affair. The West stars scored early and often en route to a 19-7 rout of the East squad.

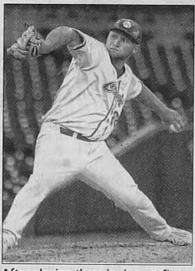
But for several area players who were on the losing end Thursday night, the thrill of ending their prep careers on a major league field overshadowed the many walks, errors and other misplays that seemingly multiplied during a threehour contest.

Take Plymouth Christian



One of the top players for the East was PCA's Daniel Jipping, running to first after singling in a run in the opening inning.

ping, who will be playing Division I baseball at Central Michigan University. He was a standout, going 3-for-4 (including a



After playing three innings at first base, Canton's Nick Hazergian tossed a scoreless seventh inning for the East.

in three runs.

"It's beautiful, it's awesome, you get a different feel here,' Jipping said. "You got the score and the press box, the nice lights. You don't get this at PCA; it's just real good.

Canton's Nick Hazergian went 0-for-1 at the plate and played a few innings of defense at first base. But his biggest moment was being able to pitch the bottom of the seventh. The lefty retired all three batters he faced.

What a rush

'First base was cool, I played (the) fourth, fifth and sixth innings at first base and that was exhilarating," said Hazergian, bound for Saginaw Valley State University. "But nothing was as exciting as running out from center field from the bullpen.

"To see the whole stands and everything, it was great. It was really an experience. It's something I'll remember for the rest of my life.'

Other Observer & Eccentricarea players in the prestigious Michigan High School Baseball

Canton hopefuls miss 'Target'

The 24 national finalists in the 2014 Major League Base-ball Pitch, Hit & Run program presented by Scotts, the official youth skills competition of Major League Baseball, were announced recently on MLB Tonight on MLB Network.

But Canton hope-fuls Luke Janack and Ben Brandt missed the cut in the boys 9-10 division and boys 7-8 division, respectively.

Only three contestants per division (nationwide) move on to compete at the National Finals and take part in activities this week at Target Field in Minneapolis, Minn

Luke, 10, and Ben, 8, each won the recent team championships in their respective age divi-sions at Comerica Park in the MLBsponsored state contest.

That came after finishing first in the PHR local and sectional championships at Eastern Michigan University. Both attended Workman Elementary School in 2013-14 and play on different teams with the Michigan Blue Jays travel program.

New coach for Pens

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins varsity girls hockey team has a new coach.

Jenna Donnelly has been named to coach the defending Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 2 champions. She succeeds coach-es Mary Beth Smith and Brad Johnson, who have moved on to other opportunities. "Jenna will do a fantastic job and Mary Beth and I could not be happier that she is taking over where we left off," Johnson wrote in an email to the Observer.

See ALL-STARS, Page B3

Plymouth Y programs

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering a variety of youth instructional programs.

The programs include preschool soccer, preschool and youth basketball and volleyball. Ages vary by program, but offer something for children age 3-14.

The programs are open to YMCA and community members. For more information, contact the YMCA at 734-453-2904 or visit ymcadetroit.org/ plymouth.

BUSY COLLEGE CAREER IN THE CARDS PCA's Bailey primed for double duty

Garden City native to join soccer, track teams at Concordia

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Throughout his career at Plymouth Christian Academy, Jacob Bailey had no worries when it came to a heavy workload.

The Garden City native competed in one sport after another at PCA — sometimes even doubling up during certain seasons, which he did in the fall with boys soccer and cross country on his plate.

And extra sports duty is going to follow the 19-year-old Bailey as he moves over to Concordia University. Bailey recently signed his national letter of intent to join Concordia's men's soccer and men's track and field programs.

'It definitely happens, but it is rare for any college athlete, especially a scholarship college

athlete, to do two sports," Concordia Athletic Director Lonnie Pries said following Bailey's signing ceremony at PCA. "But we're blessed to have him. I know our soccer and cross country (coaches) battled a little bit, but I know Jacob's heart's with soccer.

"In the fall, that (soccer) is what he'll be doing, with track in the spring."

Bailey's mom, Rebecca Bailey, said her son had individual scholarship offers on the table from Concordia for soccer and track. He could have accepted either or both - the latter being his ultimate choice.

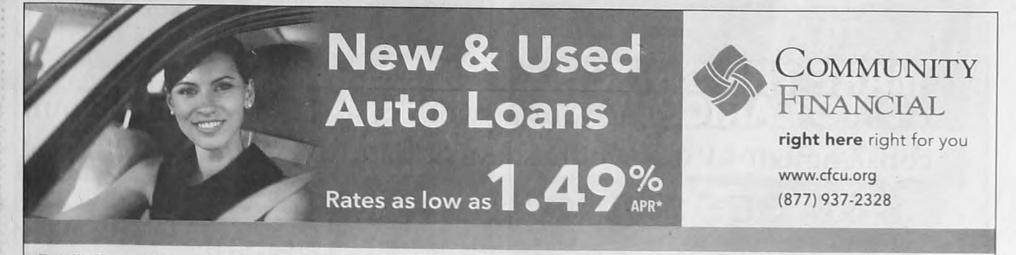
A major reason behind that decision was getting the combined scholarship money.

"I could have gone just for soccer, but it would be a lot

See BAILEY, Page B4



Plymouth Christian Academy's Jacob Bailey (front, right) will play two sports at Concordia University, where he signed his national letter of intent. Joining Bailey during the recent ceremony are his mom, Rebecca Bailey of Garden City (front, left) and (standing, from left) PCA Athletic Director Rick Swilley, PCA track and cross country coach Jennifer Lemieux and Concordia Athletic Director Lonnie Pries.



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Plymouth's Jordan: Future 'Michigan Man'?

Wildcats' offensive tackle receives verbal offer from Hoke

By Evan Paputa Correspondent

Michael Jordan had a surprise ending to his University of Michigan summer football camp last month.

Following his fourth day at the camp, Jordan - an offensive tackle entering his junior season with the Plymouth Wildcats - was called into U-M head football coach Brady Hoke's office.

In the office, alongside his father (also Michael Jordan) the talented lineman sat there in disbelief that his dream school was verbally offering him a full-ride scholarship.



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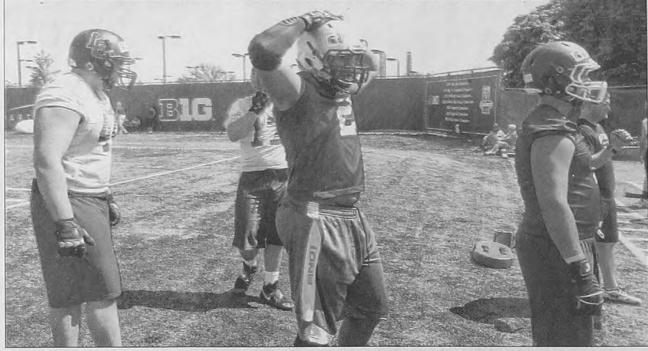
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Michael Jordan (middle) participates in one of several summer football camps he has attended recently. EVAN PAPUTA

Hoke's office," said Jordan, a 6-6, 280-pounder. "He said my film was

very impressive. I was really happy about it (the offer), both of us were.

He said, 'You got the scholarship offer.' "I was really sur-

prised and shocked, but I didn't show it. As soon as I got in the car to go home, I screamed 'Yes!' It feels pretty good knowing that I can become a Division I athlete.'

The non-binding Michigan offer was Jordan's first from any school. He has not accepted it, however

That offer could be on the table for more than a year. According to NCAA stipulations, players can not receive written scholarship offers until Aug. 1 entering their senior year.

Like a sponge

At the camp, Jordan got to work with firstyear offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier and veteran offensive line coach Darrell Funk. Nussmeier and Funk were constantly interacting with Jordan and giving him pointers on techniques

"On the field, coach Funk taught me about hands placement, he worked with me a lot about my technique," Funk said. "(Nussmeier) told me that I was doing really well at the camp.

Jordan soaked up every bit of information he could at the camp. Before participating, he had an idea of the 'Michigan Man' mentality that Hoke preaches, but gained a complete understanding after living it for four days.

"All of the coaches always talked about character," Jordan said. "That really sunk in my heart and I thought about my character and how it looks to everybody else.

They also talked a lot about what it means to be a 'Michigan Man.' That really impressed me.'

Respect is a key ingredient to any relationship and the Jordan-Hoke one is no different. They have respect for one another and have one common pastime besides football.

"My dad told (Hoke) that I was a wrestler. He smiled and told us that he was a wrestler, too," Jordan said. "I like coach Hoke. He's a solid guy that is going to tell it to me straight.

Jordan spent some time at the camp with a few players of note. One

was Eric Swenson of Downers Grove (Ill.) South, who verbally committed to Michigan. Swenson also will graduate in 2016.

"We talked about the camp," Jordan said. "We talked a lot about different things that we could improve on."

Another recruit that Jordan talked with was 2015 Michigan QB commit, Alex Malzone of Brother Rice. "(Malzone) came up to me in the parking lot and said hi as I was getting into the car," Jordan said. "He looked like he knew who I was.'

Brennen Beyer, current U-M player and 2011 Plymouth alum, also talked to Jordan at the camp.

"I went up to Brennen and said, 'Hi, I'm from Plymouth also.' It looked like that he appreciated me coming up and talk-ing to him," Jordan said. Plymouth head coach

Mike Sawchuk has always been a huge supporter for Jordan.

"Coach Sawchuk, he pushes me a lot and helps me always become a better player," Jordan said.

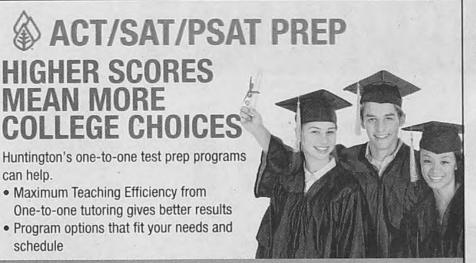
Sawchuk, in an email to the Observer, was thrilled to learn about the offer to Jordan.

"I think it is a tribute to Michael's work ethic and his parents' willingness to keep him focused," he wrote.

Thus far, Michigan has offered only two other potential 2016 recruits who live within the state. Hoke and his staff seem to be targeting the top players in the country at every position

Jordan is honored as one of the few to be offered from the state of Michigan: "It shows me that hard work really does pay off.'

Besides the Michigan week-long camp, Jordan participated in Michigan State's camp June 1 and the Michigan Elite Camp in February.



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ALL-STARS

Continued from Page B1

Coaches Association game were North Farmington second baseman David Lett (0for-1, hit by a pitch) and pitch-er/first baseman Grant Reuss of Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's catcher Will Salter (1-for-3 for the East team) and West Bloomfield pitcher Dazon Cole were among other players on the East squad.

Reuss, picked by the Detroit Tigers, and Cole, an At-lanta Braves draft choice, were recognized before the game as the only participants who were MLB selections last month.

"It was a great experience, a once-in-a-lifetime experience here at Comerica with some of the best players in the state," Reuss said. "It was an honor to be recognized for being drafted, so it's a great way to end my high school career.

Reuss will pitch for the University of Michigan as he begins the journey he hopes will someday lead back to Comerica with the Tigers.

He started at first base Thursday and went 0-for-2 before exiting the game and returning to pitch in the eighth. Players were permitted to re-enter the contest. "I was fortunate enough to

play here each year of my varsity career," Reuss said. "Obviously, the crop of talent is second e to none and it was a great time being with some of the guys that are going on to play at the collegiate lev-

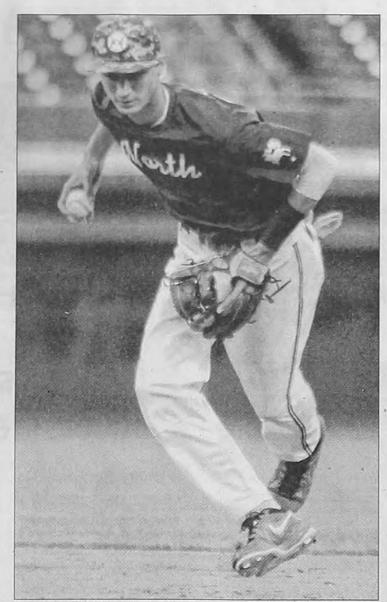
Squaring it up

The night got off to a good start for the East squad as Jipping drove in the game's first run with an oppositefield single to right off Hudsonville flamethrower Keegan Baar — who Jipping said was "throwing 90, 93 (mph)."

After making an out in the fourth, Jipping sat out for a few innings before coming back with a vengeance.

Jipping's eighth-inning triple off Alexander Sova (Midland Dow) rolled to the warning track nearly 420 feet. from home plate.

It was 3-0 (count), so I knew he was going to throw me a good pitch, so I said, 'I have to swing at it no matter what it was," said Jipping, who started the game in left field and finished at catcher. "He happened to throw me a real good pitch. Off the bat I actually thought it was gone, but I guess I don't have that much power."



David Lett of North Farmington played second base in the later innings of the game. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



East catcher Daniel Jipping (PCA) has a word with pitcher Grant Reuss (Cranbrook Kingswood) in hopes of stopping another rally by the West. Reuss is a recent draft pick of the Tigers.

East starting pitcher Gar-rett Schilling of Madison Heights Bishop Foley got through the bottom of the first inning unscathed, but the (Notre Dame Prep) got two runs back with a towering homer into the right-field seats, slicing the deficit to 6-3.

Tack-on runs

Back and forth the teams went against a parade of pitchers as the scoring continued.

In the top of the seventh, Austin Petravicius of Wyandotte Roosevelt singled home a run to make it 8-4 and Lett was hit by a pitch to reload the bases with one out. The rally fizzled there, however.

Jipping's triple in the eighth was followed by a run-producing single to left by Brad Schaenzer (Lake Orion) to cut the West lead to 8-5.

That was as close as the East would get, thanks to a five-run bottom half of the eighth, highlighted by a bases-clearing double to right by Tecumseh's Phil Carey

After the East tallied two runs in the top of the ninth to make it 13-7, the West was given the green light to bat in the bottom half despite the game being well in hand.

COLLEGE SPORTS MU's Abraham inks local softball trio

Also adds middle hitter Looper in volleyball

> **By Brad Emons** Staff Writer

Madonna University dualsport coach Jerry Abraham has spent the off-season diligently replenishing his women's softball and volleyball rosters

Abraham announced three new additions to his 2015 softball squad with the recent signings of Julia Cavagnini (Livo-nia Churchill), Mallory Daschke (Novi) and Erika Randall (Livonia Stevenson), who all signed to continue their academic and athletic careers at Madonna starting this fall.

Meanwhile, he completed his volleyball recruiting class by adding Battle Creek Lakeview's Casey Looper, who joins incoming freshman Amanda Hawkins (Livonia Stevenson) as well as junior college transfers Emily Johnson (Grand Rapids CC/Grandville) and Spencer Stokes (Oakland CC/ Clio)

Cavagnini, a center fielder, hit .490 for the Chargers with 25 RBIs and 40 runs en route to all-district, all-region,

all-KLAA and first team all-Observer honors as a senior

"Julia has great game sense as a softball player and moves well laterally to attack the ball defensively and can play all three outfield positions," Abraham said. "She makes great contact on the ball, runs well and knows how to play at a competitive level."

Daschke, another outfielder who hit .377 with 18 RBIs and 35 runs, comes to MU after graduating cum laude with the President's Education Award and picking up eight KLAA scholar-athlete awards. She lettered in both basketball and softball for the Wildcats.

On the diamond, she was selected as Novi's top outfielder and earned the senior lead-ership award in 2014. Daschke was the basketball team's sportsmanship award winner as a senior as well.

"We were fortunate to get Mallory late in the recruiting process," Abraham said. "She's a center fielder with good range who has great speed in the field and on the bases. She hit lead-off for her team in high



Stevenson pitcher Erika Randall recently signed an NAIA letter of intent at Madonna University. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

earned all-SMAC, all-region and all-state honors, as well as all-city and team MVP honors in basketball.

"Casey is a big, strong kid and is our first player out of Lakeview," said Abraham, who guided MU to a 41-2 record last



season and advanced to the NAIA National Championship's quarter-final round. "She comes from a good program and is well-coached by Heather Sawyer. What we like about her is that she is a dynamic player who can hit from the

outside, but is really comfortable in the middle. She has a terminating-type attack and is an excellent blocker. Casey gets good reach over the net and has a good sense on the court as far as defending the

Men's cager signs

opposing hitter."

Head men's basketball coach Noel Emenhiser announced another addition to his 2014-15 roster with the signing of Ricky Rojeski to a letter of intent. Řoješki will continue his academic and athletic careers at Madonna starting this fall.

Rojeski, a 6-5 forward from Dearborn Heights Crestwood, recently signed an NAIA letter of intent to play basketball with the Crusaders, joining Goodrich guard Grant Smith.

Rojeski earned all-city and all-Western Wayne Athletic Conference honors as a senior.

Cavagnini

Jipping smiled while making that comment.

"But it was just great," he added. "I saw it (over the outfielder's head) and I just hauled it as hard as I could. It was just so great."

West broke loose for five runs in the second. That surge featured an RBI triple to left by T.J. Baker of Clinton. Trailing 6-1 after four in-

nings, East MVP Aiden Cullen tsmith@hometownlife.com

Because it was an exhibi-tion, that gave several players the chance to see action. By the time that final half-inning was completed, six more West runs crossed the plate.

SPORTS ROUNDUP



East players and coaches gather moments before the 33rd annual MHSBCA All-Star Game began Thursday at Comerica Park.

school and has the potential to possibly turn around and possibly train as a slap hitter here. Mallory is also a great student who has the ability to challenge for a position in our outfield.'

Randall, a two-team alldistrict and four-year varsity player, was Stevenson's top pitcher, going 12-10 as a senior. She finished with three career no-hitters and five one-hit outings. She also hit .445 with 18 RBIs en route to team MVP and second team all-Observer honors.

"I feel that Erika is one of the area's best pitchers," said Abraham, who returns 17 letter winners, including NFCA allregion selections Bree Crampton and Emma Cook from a 34-10 team. "She has the ability to play first base and possibly in the outfield as well for us. Erika is a very gifted and allaround athlete who has the ability to play.'

Looper, a 6-foot middle hitter, earned three letters in volleyball to go along with two more in basketball. As a senior, she led Lakeview to district and Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference East Division titles.

The volleyball team MVP

He helped the Chargers earn Class A district and WWAC Red Division titles.

'Ricky is a good fit as a player and person and will thrive here because of his char-acter and work ethic," said Emenhiser, who returns 12 letter winners off last season's 20-12 team.

Soccer signee

Madonna women's soccer coach Jeff Hodgson recently announced the signing of Woodhaven's Allie May to an NAIA letter of intent for the 2014 season.

May, who hails from Brownstown, earned all-Downriver and all-district honors for coach Bernie Turner. May, who helped Woodhaven to three straight Downriver League titles, was also a four-year honor roll awardee.

"Allie is a talented player who comes from a good club program and has played at a high level," Hodgson said. "She will be a key piece for us starting this fall.

The Crusaders, coming off a 10-9-1 season, open the 2014 season Aug. 21 in an exhibition match at Brock (Ontario) University.

'Cats summer baseball clinic

The Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic is slated for Wednesday, July 23, at Plymouth High School.

Boys and girls entering grades 1-4 will work on offense and defense from 9 a.m. to noon; those entering grades 5-8 will do the same 1-4 p.m.

The sessions will help youngsters improve skills by focusing on "age-appropriate skill development in a positive, fun, learning environment."

The cost is \$25 before July 20 and \$30 after the due date. Cost includes a snack and water. Plymouth Wildcats spirit wear will be available for purchase

Check-in will be at the Plymouth High School varsity baseball field, located off Joy Road at McClumpha behind the P-CEP tennis courts next to Salem High School

In case of cancellation or change of venue due to inclement weather, par-

ents will be contacted via email. Campers will need to bring a baseball glove, cleats, bat, water bottle and wear a baseball hat.

Contact varsity head coach Jason Crain at plymouthbaseball@pccsmail.net or plymouthbaseballboosters@gmail.com.

Churchill golf outing

The fourth annual Churchill softball golf outing fundraiser will be Sunday, Sept. 28, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

The cost is \$65 for golf and dinner. Dinner only is \$20. The format is a four-person scramble. Contact Steve Gentilia at 734-776-

1716 (churchillsoftball@gmail.com) or Kevin McHugh at 734-748-8520 (kmchugh12@yahoo.com).

Think summer golf

PGA teaching professional Tami

Bealert is offering a series of golf classes and events at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3525 Napier Road, Superior Township.

Adult classes include: Golf enhancement sessions - 6-7 p.m. Mondays, July 14, 21 and 29 (cost \$25); ladies clinics noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, July 16 and 23; or 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 17 and 24 (cost \$25 per hour or \$65 for a three-hour course)

Youth classes include: three-day PGA Sports Academy Juniors (ages 8-17) - 9-10:30 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday, July 15-17 (cost \$85); Girls Golf Academy Juniors (ages 8-17) 10:30-11:25 a.m. Wednesdays, through Aug. 7 (five-week course for all skill levels; cost \$85); Little Linksters (ages 5-8) - 5-5:50 p.m. Thursdays, through Aug. 7 (five-week course; cost (\$75); and Junior Golfer (ages 8-17) - 1-1:55 p.m. Thursdays, through Aug. 7 (fiveweek courses; cost \$85)

To register for classes, visit Train-

withTamiGolf.com. For more information, email TrainwithTami@gmail.com. You can also call 734-731-0238 or 734-927-3265.

Franklin grid outing

The Livonia Franklin football benefit golf outing will be Saturday, July 26, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

There will be a shotgun for the fourperson scramble starting at 8 a.m. The cost is \$65 (includes prizes, contests, hot dog and pop at the turn, dinner and afterglow at the 1 Under Bar & Grill).

Checks should be made payable to Franklin football and mailed to: 9623 Westmore, Livonia, MI 48150.

For more information, call Chuck Roth at 734-637-6719 or Dan Cline at 734-748-5283. You can also email chuckrothcarpentry@gmail.com or dan.cline@trw.com.

LOCAL SPORTS

hometownlife.com

Canton's Kielty to play volleyball at Wayne State

Recent Canton graduate Madison Kielty's volleyball career will be continuing at the next level.

Kielty, a standout libero for the Chiefs, recently signed a national letter of intent to play NCAA Division II women's volleyball at Wayne State University

Canton head coach Steve Johnson lauded the signing.

"Madison has worked hard for the past four years as a Chief and has excelled both on the court as our libero, as well as off the court in the classroom, to catch the eye of the Wayne State coaching staff, Johnson wrote in an email. "We are very proud of her and hope to see her commitment to the game take her through a healthy four-year college career.

Johnson added the Kielty signing "also marks the end of an impressive eight-year backto-back run in Canton volleyball for the Kielty family,'

referring to Madison being preceded by older sister Jordan

Their hard work and dedication has become the definition of what Canton volleyball is and they will be missed," the coach wrote. "Both Jordan and Madison have had huge im-

pacts on me as a coach. "It is my pleasure to have worked with them, as well as their parents Dave and Gayle, throughout my career here at Canton.'



Canton grad Madison Kielty (seated) recently signed to play women's volleyball at Wayne State University. Standing (from left) are her dad Dave Kielty, Canton Chiefs varsity coach Steve Johnson and her mom Gayle Kielty.

Whalers pass on CHL import draft

Plymouth Whalers general manager Mark Craig took a hard look for the recent Canadian Hockey League import draft and - with the 19th and 79th choices available - decided to take a pass.

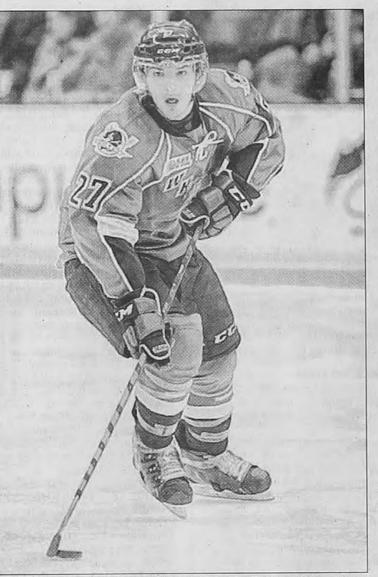
CHL teams can keep two import players on the roster. The Whalers have New York Islanders draftee Victor Crus Rydberg and Yannick Rathgeb already on the roster.

According to Craig, both players plan on returning to the Whalers for the upcoming season

"We had some good offers from players and their agents with the 19th pick," Craig said. "But we're happy that Victor and Yannick have recommitted to Plymouth.

Crus Rydberg, from Sweden, scored 12 goals with 26 assists for 38 points in 62 games last season for the Whalers.

Rathgeb, from Switzerland, scored seven goals with 14 assists for 21 points in 57 games last season in Plymouth. Rathgeb also played for Switzerland in the 2014 World Junior Championships.



Defenseman Yannick Rathgeb of Switzerland will return for another season with the Plymouth Whalers. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

BAILEY

Continued from Page B1

harder for me to get the money I needed to go to Concordia," Bailey said. "So track was (financially) necessary. But I love doing track, so I wanted to go there."

Used to the grind

"He's going to have to work pretty hard to stay up with it, but he's used to it," Rebecca Bailey said. "He played four varsity sports the past two years and he still maintained a very strong GPA.

"I am pretty confident in his work ethic and his abilities

up at PCA (including boys basketball). During 2013-14, he was named to the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference first team for track and second team for soccer.

Happy coincidence

Another plus for Bailey as he looked for a scholarship chance was befriending PCA student-athlete Aliah Pries whose father just happened to be the Concordia athletic director. "I ended up becoming friends with her and I didn't (originally) know her dad was the athletic director," Bailey said. "It helped a lot and it just kind of fell into place." Meanwhile, Lonnie Pries said he is happy with how it all worked out, both for Bailey and Concordia. "All the coaches, teachers, parents I've known here at Plymouth Christian just think he's an extremely talented athlete, obviously," Pries said. "But he's also just a great, dedicated young man to his sports and highly committed.

Nationals loom for **Riverside RASCals**

Livonia roller skating arena hosts Tuesday's Evening of Champions

A record 30 skaters from the Riverside Arena Skating Club (RASCals) in Livonia are preparing to compete at the USARS National Roller Skating Championships from July 20 through Aug. 3 at Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln, Neb.

The Riverside RASCals, led by coach Lawaun Modrich and assisted by Jillian Heersink, qualified skaters in 23 events at the recent Great Lakes Regional Championships last month.

The skaters compete in a variety of disciplines including compulsory figures, solo and team dance, creative solo dance, free style and precision team. The ages of the skaters range from 6 to 50.

The Riverside RASCals are hosting an Evening of Champi-ons, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, featuring many of the skaters

who qualified to compete at the national championships, as well as a pasta dinner and skating to live organ music played by Riverside Arena owner/ operator Lionel LaMay. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5

for seniors and children ages 6-10. Children 5 and under are free. Riverside Arena is locat-ed at 36635 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Call 734-421-3540 for more information. The skaters participating in

the championships are: Casey Sheppard, Tatum Sheppard, Emma Chappell, Steve Chappell, Caliel Conley, Cassidy Conley, Carrington Conley, LaKeisha Conley, Mari DeSchryver, Reese DeSchryver, Ryan Heersink, Jillian Heersink, Ian Heersink, Jade Ross, Sofia Cueva, Stephanie Cueva, Hanna Denes, Kinka Kimfon, Kierra Trinity, Estella Clark, Chloe LaMay, Tina Stadnik, Olesya Stadnik, Andrew Esser, Miranda Esser, Tanvi Karkare, Joshua Stadler, Christine Asai, Miranda Brooks and Mahnaz Shafii.

Reaching Higher gives prep cagers glimpse at future

High school basketball players to train in front of college coaches at Milford-hosted MHSAA event

The annual Reaching Higher showcases of Michigan's top high school basketball players will return for the sixth year beginning Wednesday with the boys event.

On the following Wednes

experience includes classroom sessions for student-athletes and their parents, as well as on-court drills and scrimmaging.

The events aim to give athletes a vision of what it takes to become a college basketball player and also succeed in college life. Participants in the program were selected by a committee of BCAM members. The process began in December, when local high school coaches submitted nominations to the selection committee. Participants were chosen in February. A complete list of expected attendees can be found on the Reaching Higher page of the MHSAA website (http:// www.mhsaa.com/sports/girlsbasketball/reachinghigher.aspx).

He said he pursued a soccer scholarship at Olivet Nazarene University, but "they didn't offer me enough money to go there, so I said no."

Schoolcraft College was another possibility for the high-scoring forward, who scored 18 goals in 2013 (and 50 for his four-year varsity career).

"But then the Concordia position opened up and so I took it," Bailey said

In addition to competing in both sports for Concordia, which is a member of the NAIA's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, Bailey will study for a career as an athletic trainer. He brings a 3.2 grade-point average with him from PCA.



Bailey

Soccer is Bailey's favorite

sport: "I've been playing it for 14 years and it was my goal to play soccer for a college.' But he also

likes to run, demonstrating his abilities both on the PCA cross country and track teams. As a senior, he posted a personal best time of 2:03.69 in the 800 meters.

"I was curious about track my freshman year," Bailey said. "But I couldn't do it. In my sophomore year, coach (Jennifer) Lemieux dragged me into it and I just ended up being good at it and I ended up loving it, too."

Bailey excelled in all of the sports he in which he suited

"That's the kind of people that we want at Concordia. We're blessed to have him."

day, July 23, the state's top girls prospects will take the floor. The event also has a new home, Milford High School in Highland Township.

More than 200 athletes with aspirations to play at the college level will train and scrimmage under the tutelage of high school coaches from across the state and in front of college coaches expected to represent all three NCAA divisions, the NAIA and junior college levels.

Coaches from 40 college basketball programs, including 13 from Division I schools, attended the 2013 Reaching Higher events.

An educational effort by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, the Reaching Higher

The boys event begins at 3:30 p.m. July 16, with scrimmages running 5:45-8:40 p.m. The girls event begins at noon July 23, with scrimmages 2-5 p.m.

Churchill hoops

The Churchill girls 2014 summer basketball camp (grades 5-9 in the fall) will be 3-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, July 15-18, at the high school. The cost is \$50.

For more information, email coach Matt McCowan at mmccown54@gmail.com or call 248-761-9201

Canton football

A summer football camp run by the Canton High School program is slated for July 14-17 at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity field.

The camp is for players entering grades 7-9 in fall 2014. Times are 5-7:30 p.m. Contact Richard Mui at 248-229-2738

Visit www.cantonchiefsfootball.com to download a flier.

Wildcats baseball

The Plymouth Wildcats summer baseball clinic will be Wednesday, July 23, at the Plymouth High School baseball field.

The first session is 9 a.m. to noon for boys and girls entering grades 1-4; the second is 1-4 p.m. for boys and girls entering

grades 5-8.

The cost, which includes a snack and water, is \$25 before July 20, \$30 after that date. Participants need to bring a glove, cleats, bat and baseball hat.

To obtain a registration form, contact head coach Jason Crain at plymouthbaseball@pccsmail.net or plymouthbaseballboosters@gmail.com.

Lutheran soccer

A soccer mini-camp for beginning and intermediate players (boys and girls ages 5-12) will be 6:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 21-24, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. The cost is \$20 (includes T-

shirt, snacks and soccer ball). To register, visit www.chris-

toursavior.org; or call 734-522-6830.

Harrison volleyball

Harrison High School will host a girls volleyball camp July 22-24 in the school gym.

The hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for girls who will be in the grades 4-6 in the fall, 1:45-4 p.m. for girls in grades 7-8.

The cost is \$55 at the door. There is a family discount of \$50 per girl for a family with two or more children participating. A concussion form must be

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

completed and signed. Go to farmington.k12.mi.us to find the form.

For more information, call either coach Mike Love at 313-758-1185 or coach Sue Kendall at 248-505-7261.

Summer camps

On tap this summer through Canton Leisure Services are basketball and baseball summer camps instructed by longtime coach Pat Watson.

The camps will emphasize drills and skills that cover offensive strategies and defensive plays in game situations. Mornings will be spent on drills focused on improving fundamentals, while afternoons will be used for scrimmages. Participants should pack a sack lunch and a water bottle.

Basketball: There will be three weekly basketball camps at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Those sessions (for ages 7-14) will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as follows; Session 1, July 7-11; Session 2, July 21-25; Session 3, July 28 through Aug. 1. The fee is \$150 for residents and \$160 for non-residents.

Baseball: The baseball camp is slated to run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 14-18 at Canton Sports Center, 46555 W. Michigan Ave. Ages 7-14.

To register, visit cantonfun.org, call Canton Sports Center at 734-483-5600 or visit either Canton Sports Center or Summit on the Park and inquire.

Churchill football

» The Livonia Churchill Twilight football camp (grades 3-8) will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 23-24, at the high school.

The cost is \$50. You can register in pérson beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at the football field pavilion

» Churchill will also offer a camp for grades 9-12 including advanced offense and defense techniques, 5-8 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday, July 27-29

Campers will need cleats, running shoes and a signed liability agreement. All checks should be made payable to Churchill High School: Allen

Feigel, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150. No refunds two weeks prior to start of camp.

Franklin girls hoop

The Livonia Franklin girls summer basketball camp (grades 5-8 as of this fall) will be 4-7 p.m. July 29-31 at Franklin High School.

The camp is free to all. To register email coach James Milican at jmilican@livoniapublicschools.org. Please give name, age and grade when registering.

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage summer cross country base camps for serious high school runners 8:45-9:45 a.m. July 28 through Aug. 1. The cost is \$75.

MU will also hold long runs 7:30-9 a.m. Saturday, July 19, July 26 and Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park.

The cost is a \$2 donation each long run.

For more information, email Pat Daugherty at pdaugherty@madonna.edu. Daugherty can also be reached during the evenings at 734-658-0226 (cell) or 734-432-5634 (office).

JULY 13, 2014

SUNDAY, Y 13, 2014 CONMUNITY LIFE

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Pond turns Livonia yard into backyard paradise

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

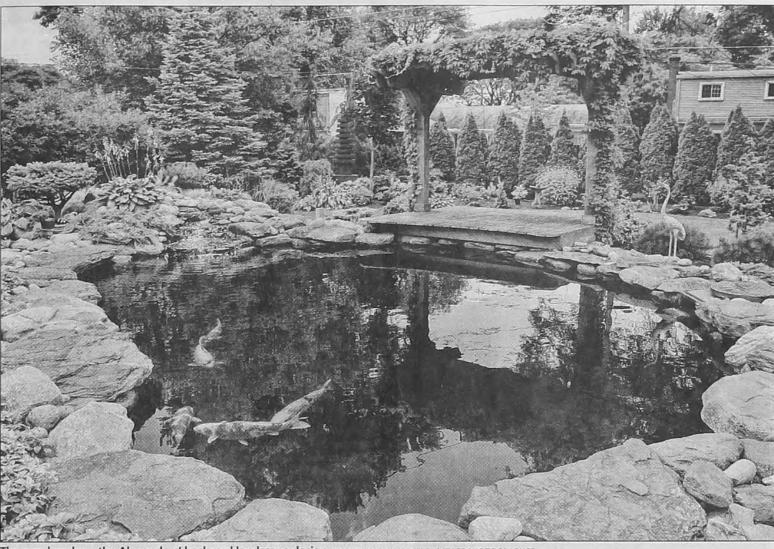
Teri Alexander thought she knew what "pond" meant when her husband, Ray, suggested he install one in their back yard.

"I had a preconceived idea of what that was because my dad had one of those small kidney-shaped shallow ponds that he put in the yard. He'd fill it up in the summer and put some goldfish in. So, I thought Ray was going to put a little preformed one. I came home one day from work and walked into the back yard and my husband and son are in this pit," she said, laughing. "OK, so pond doesn't mean a little

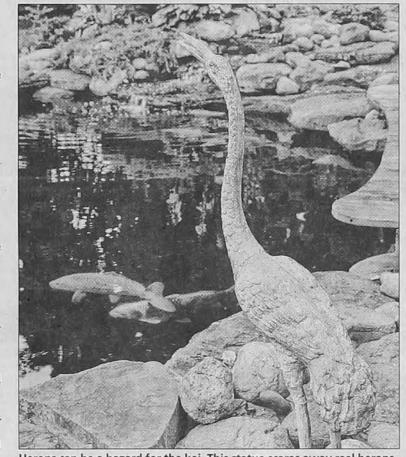
preformed plastic." The "pit" Ray dug formed the foundation of a 1,500-gallon pond at their former home in Dearborn Heights, and created a new hobby the couple would enjoy for years to come. By 1999, they attended their first koi fish show and started learning about the 90-plus varieties, called "living jewels" by koi enthusiasts. By 2004, after moving into a larger home in Livonia, Ray, who works as a machine shop foreman, and Teri, an intensive care nurse at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, were ready to take their backyard hobby to the next level.

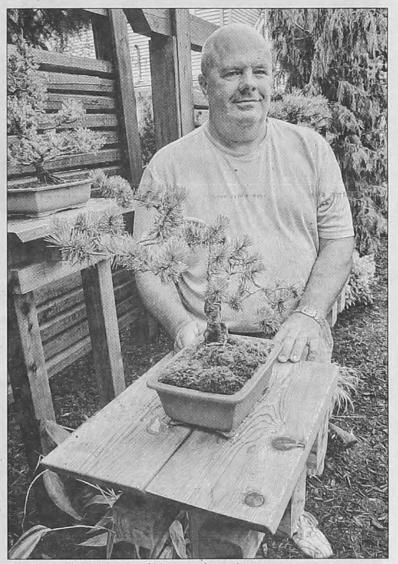
"We went to a lot of differ-ent shows and talked to experts and a couple of local people helped. Once we bought the bigger home, I said, oh, bigger pond. It's still not big enough for me," Ray said. "The same length and width would be OK. I'd want it deeper. It's better for the fish. It builds their muscles up better."

Their 10,000-gallon, 5-footdeep pond, complete with wa-terfall, 10 koi fish, and small decorative deck, is one of eight sites features on the Michigan Koi & Pond Club's 16th annual Pond & Water Garden Tour Saturday, July 19, throughout Livonia. Ray is president of the organization and Teri is secre-



The pond anchors the Alexanders' backyard landscape design. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





tary. Visitors to the Alexander residence will see the pond, its surrounding gardens of conifers, hostas, and flowers; statuary, including a Japanese-style sculpture Ray crafted from concrete; Ray's collection of bonsai trees - some are award winners - that he planted and maintains; and possibly a hummingbird or two that visit feeders in the yard, a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

When their pond was on the tour two years ago, Teri recalls that some visitors stayed more than an hour, just watching the fish and hummingbirds.

"It's very relaxing. We like to watch the fish and feed the fish. The pond also draws other wildlife. You should hear all the frogs. There is a bullfrog here now," Teri said, scanning the pond's rocky perimeter. "We have bullfrogs and a lot of toads. Ray says he has noticed some green frogs, so when we cut the lawn, we have to be careful and move the toads and frogs away."

Maintaining a pond

The pond also occasionally attracts fish-thieving blue heron, although most of the koi are too big, at 20-30 inches long, and heavy, at 15 to 18 pounds, for the birds to steal. But because the heron can peck at the fish, Ray often covers the pond with netting.

"The thing about a pond, is if you don't want to do any yard work or you don't want to do any maintenance, then a pond is not for you," Ray said. "I'm out here monkeying with this thing every other day.

A drain in the center of the pond extracts fish waste, leaves and other debris from the water, and sends them through a pipe to a tank hidden under the deck. From there, the water runs through pipes to a filtration system hidden in a shed, and then returns to the pool. Filtration skimmers along the perimeter of the pond also remove debris and must be maintained on a reg-

Herons can be a hazard for the koi. This statue scares away real herons, who are territorial by nature. The Alexanders still need to cover the pond with a net to discourage the flying thieves.

POND & WATER GARDEN TOUR

What: Michigan Koi & Pond Club's 16th annual tour focuses on ponds at eight homes in Livonia When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday,

July 19 Where: Tour starts at the home of Bruce Modetz, club treasurer, 32525 Six Mile, between Merriman and Farmington Road, Livonia.

What: The tour is self-guided, at your own pace. A pond tour booklet and map is provided at the starting point. Talk with homeowners and Michigan Koi & Pond Club members at each location

Admission: Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, 5-15, accompanied by an adult. They're available at The Pond Place of Michigan, 3505 W. Highland Road, Milford; Barson's Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman, Westland; and at the tour's starting point Contact: www.mkpc-se.com

ular basis. An air pump near the center of the pond enriches the water with oxygen, helping feed "good" bacteria that keeps the fish habitat clear.

Although koi fish can hibernate in deep water during the winter, Ray places a greenhouse over his pond when temperatures plummet, maintaining a warmer climate for his colorful school of "living jewels." He adds a spa heater if needed from January-February. Koi fish can cost anywhere from \$50-\$20,000, depending on their variety and show quality. The couple has

shown some of their fish and recently entered a three-year program to become koi show judges.

"I have always liked fish and even when I was a boy I enjoyed fish," Ray said. "I had an aquarium and I wanted to take it to the next level. Now I have my aquarium right here.

Small ponds

"I built this myself and had people help me. But if someone went to someone else and said I want a pond like this, it would probably cost them close to \$40,000 to build. I'm guessing, but I know labor isn't cheap,' he said.

Both Ray and Bruce Modetz, club treasurer, whose home is the starting point of the tour, say pond hobbyists don't need a large back yard to enjoy a water feature. They can start small.

This is a stunning pond ... but if we showed nothing but large ponds, we scare people,' Modetz said, watching the koi swim in the Alexander pond. "When we do our pond tours, we do large ponds, small ponds. We've got something for everybody's budget. It's just a great hobby.

The Michigan Koi & Pond Club meets at 1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month from March through October at private homes, vendors and other sites throughout southeastern Michigan. For more information, check its website at www.mkpc-se.com.

Ray Alexander with one of his many bonsai trees.

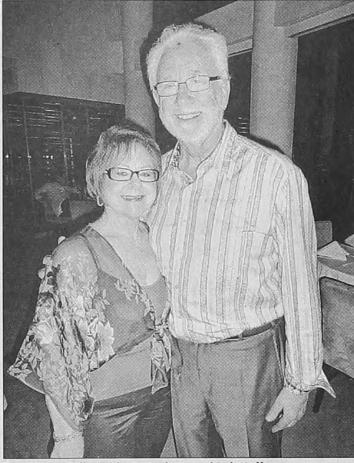


Koi, some of which are 15 pounds, swim through the Alexanders' backyard pond.

The Right on Q Barbershop Quartet, Matthew Tipton (left) of Sterling Heights, Kenneth Klein of St. Clair Shores, Ed Bax of Livonia and Rick Anderson of Clinton Township, are all smiles at the Catch the **Fireworks with** Cass party. They performed at the event, which raises money for **Cass Community** Social Services.



Fireworks party supports anti-poverty work



Farmington Hills residents Paulette and Bob Koffron PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST



ass Community Social Services drew nearly 300 supporters to the ninth annual Catch the Fireworks with Cass party last month at Coach Insignia, on the 75th floor of the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

Detroit Pistons Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas was the honorary chair. Title sponsor was the Ford Motor Co. Fund and Burt Jordan and Canton resident Jim Vella, also from Ford, co-chaired the event, which raised more than \$100,000 for Cass Community Social Services.

"Everything and everyone has come together to support Cass' mission of fighting poverty and creating opportunity in the City of Detroit," said the Rev. Faith Fowler, Cass' executive director.

Fowler will launch her book, This Far by Faith: Twenty Years at Cass Community, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Visit www.casscommunity.org for more information.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or (248) 642-9465

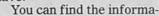
Clean dryer vents to prevent fire

lot of years writing and sometimes I wonder how I don't run out of material that is of interest to the readers. I must say that with the volume of emails I receive from readers, there is always something that goes with the flow.

Pat recently sent me her views on washing machines: "I read your column all the time and am worried that when it comes time for me to replace my 1990 GE washer; there won't be a decent ma-chine to buy. My mom had to replace hers last year, and bought one of those 'no agitator, digital control' beasts. She hates it and wishes she had repaired her old one. It takes TWICE as long to wash the clothes, they aren't clean when 'done,' you have to rinse them again and the 'choices' to select don't match her needs. I would really like to know what to get, as the guys at the service company have told me they can't get parts for my machine any more."

Well folks, I answered Pat's email and gave her my opinion as to what is the best washing made today. It still applies today that to learn you must ask a question especially about major home appliances

The intent of this column is to give you information that in turns makes you ask a question and following is an example of just that. In the appliance service industry, a technician knows which brand of clothes dryer will contain the most lint within the cabinet. We are amazed at how much lint will not travel to the outside through the vent line on certain brands of dryers. Do you know that Frigidaire (Electrolux) has a class action filed against it? The brand names include White Westinghouse, Kelvi-nator, Gibson and a few others and the suit claims that millions of these dryers have been sold in the past 10 years. This means that these dryers are more prone to catch fire than other brands and I wonder just how many already have.





APPLIANCE DOCTOR

tion by clicking on Frigidaire class action suit and read all about it. I know you haven't seen much about this in the mainstream media and this subject is near and dear to my heart. I happen to be the guy who wrote the law for the state of Michigan regarding proper venting of a clothes dryer. That law is now in effect throughout the United States. By the way, one of the responses from Frigidaire states that you should clean the interior cabinet every year if you own one of these dryers.

Going back to many past columns, let me repeat myself. There are some 18,000 dryer fires a year in this country, homes burn, people are hurt and some die. Damage results run into the millions because homeowners generally pay little attention to the clothes dryer as long as it dries clothes. They fail to put vent cleaning on a regular schedule, they don't pay at-tention to obtuse noises that occur and do not realize that a clothes dryer is the most dangerous appliance in their homes. I strongly urge every one of you to take off the dryer vent line and make sure it is perfectly cleaned. While you are at it, take the dryer apart and use your vacuum cleaner to clean the built up lint inside the cabinet.

Remember one thing, please. It is the lint that catches fire and nothing burns faster. That's a reason why Boy Scouts today bring a handful of lint with them on outdoor camping trips. Last comment before I go is that I enjoy writing this column for you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our 'award winning' classified section!

Fuide to logment To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355



Contest asks kids, teens to write about grandparents

The deadline for school-age students submit entries to AARP Michigan's fifth annual "Why I Love My Grandparents" Essay Contest is Aug. 1.

The contest - intended to celebrate the important role grandparents play in the lives of families - is open to Michigan elementary through high school students, ages 6-18 and essays can be about one or

more grandparents, living or deceased.

Prizes will be awarded to winners in each of three age categories. The Grand Prize winner will receive an e-tablet.

The essays from children 6-10 are limited to 300 words, ages 11-14 are limited to 500 words, and 15-18 limited to 750 words.

Winners will be notified by phone. Detailed rules of the contest are at

www.aarp.org/mi. Winners will be listed on that website on Grandparents Day, Sept. 14. All entries must include name, address, age, phone number, email address, school and grade.

Entries can be mailed to: AARP Michigan, Grandparents Day Essay Contest, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing MI 48933, or emailed to miaarp@aarp.org.

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

FUKUDA-HESLIP

Jade Nicole Fukuda and Sean Michael Heslip announce their engagement

The bride-to-be, daughter of Todd and Virgie Fukuda of Canton, attended the University of Hawaii. Her fiancé, son of Dan and Maureen Heslip of Manchester, attended Michigan State University. Both are employed by Little Caesars at Comerica, in Detroit.

A September 2014 wedding is planned at Cornmans Farm.

Sean Michael Heslip and Jade Nicole Fukuda

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

HAMMERSLEY-BROWN

Shanna Katherine Hammersley and David Miller Brown announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Donald and Cleta Hammersley of Bitely, is a 2003 graduate of Walkerville Public Schools and a 2007 graduate of Central

Michigan University, with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

Her fiancé, son of Paul and Susan Brown of Livonia, is a 2004 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 2008 graduate of Central Michigan University, with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. An August 2014 wedding is planned in Northville.



GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Butterflies

Learn about outdoor photography, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at the next meeting of Southeast Michigan **Butterfly Association** (SEMBA) at the Nanking Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Cindy Oleszkowicz, a professional photographer and Brendon Weil, SEMBA vice president, will build on a presentation they made last year about butterfly and nature photography. Attendees will spend some time outside and may bring their cameras. Parking is on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. Cost is \$3 for nonmembers; 734-223-5510 or visit www.sembabutter-

English Gardens

» Learn which of the more than 100 varieties of hydrangeas are best for your garden at a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19, and 1 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

» Caring for your Summer Garden, a free presentation, starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 26. » Learn what's involved in creating a fairy garden, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 2. » Children, 3-12, can make a fairy garden,

11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. Cost is \$39.99. Preregister in the store or at EnglishGardens.com. » Get the basics on

creating a beautiful garden in the shade at a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

Friends of the Rouge

Friends of the Rouge board president, Mike Darga, leads a walk, "Explore the Rouge: Newburgh Lake on Foot," 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 24. He'll talk about history of the area as participants walk three miles around Newburgh Lake. Meet at the comfort station on the

south side of Hines Drive, west of Newburgh. Free for Friends members; \$5 for nonmembers. RSVP at therouge.org.

Full Moon Hike

Hike runs 9-10 p.m. Aug. 8 at Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, south of 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Cost is \$3 per person. Hikes are for ages 5 and up. Preregister at recreg.fhgov-.com. Or pay at the event.

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County

Successful seed saving can make the difference between high germination rates and low or no germination at all. Learn the proper way to save open-pollinated tomato seeds by the fermentation method. Paul Rodman, Master Gardener emeritus and longtime seed saver, will share his secrets, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at MSU Extension, 5454 Venoy, between Michi-gan Avenue and Van Born, Wayne. For information, call 313-719-1181.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JULY CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: Branches Band will perform sacred and secular

Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655 FILM SCREENING AND

day, July 16

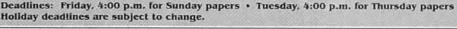
Farmington Road, Livonia Details: Free screening of Gravity. Refreshments provided and a brief discussion will follow

Contact: RSVP to 734-425-5950

View Online

www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 · fax 313-496-4968 · www.mideathnotices.com





ALLAM. JOSEPH HALEEME



LaFORGE. JOAN ROSE Was born on May 7, 1938. He Age 74. July 7, 2014. Loving

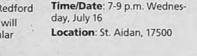
NESBITT, ALEXANDRINE M. (SANDY)

Passed away July 2, 2014. Beloved wife to the late William R Nesbitt. Loving mother to Chris (Elaine), Tom, and Paul (Rhon-da) Nesbitt. Dear sister to Eileen Merline and Donald McIntyre. Also survived by eight grandchildren. There will be a celebration of Sandy's life July 23 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Iroquois Club, 43248 N. Woodward Ave.,



music

DISCUSSION





Shanna Katherine Hammersley and David Miller Brown

WEDDING

MILESTONES

JANES-MARCOU

Jessica Honore Janes and David Joseph Marcou II were married June 28, 2014 at the Multi Lakes Conservation Association

Jessica is the daughter of Diane and Larry Janes of Livonia. David's parents are Billie and Larry Milton & Teresa and David Marcou of all of Chesaning. The bride's attendants were Penny Szopko, Kristen Schuler, Kelli Harkins and Gwendolyn Weber. Groom's attendants were Elijah Leineke, Nick Tom-linson, Tony Pusey, and Joe Lamb.

The couple took a Carribean cruise for their honeymoon.

They reside in Livonia.



Jessica Honore Janes and David Joseph Marcou II

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

MCGOVERN-CAMPBELL

Ashley McGovern and Connor Campbell announce their engagement. Ashley is the daughter of Jason and Michele McGovern of Farmington Hills and Connor is the son of Duncan and Maura Campbell, also of Farmington Hills.

The couple plans an August 2014 wedding.



Connor Campbell and Ashley McGovern

passed away on July 9, 2014. Loving husband of Catherine née Riccobono. Cherished father of Jim (Mary), Dominic (Jennifer) and Matthew (Daisy). Proud grandfather of Olivia, Josephina, Francesca, Veronica, Dominic Jr., Giovanni and Trinity. For those who wish to make a contribution in Joseph's memory the family suggests donations to: Disabled American Veterans MI Chapter 17779 E. 14 Mile Rd. Fraser 48026 In Memorium: Joseph J. Allam. Arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. Please share a memory at

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



HORNE, DELLA

88, a longtime resident of the Bel-Aire Subdivision in Farmington, died on July 8, 2014. Born in Canada, Della moved to Farmington in 1955, three years after her marriage to the late David Horne. Here she remained and raised her family, Jim and Sandy. Della took a great deal of pride in having a lush green lawn and her beautiful Pin-Oak trees. Della was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church, active in the United Methodist Women group and served as group publicity chairperson for many years. Della was a familiar face at Farmington YMCA where she Family worked out daily and has many friends. Proud mother and grandmother, she leaves her son, Jim (wife Kathy) Horne, daughter, Sandra (husband Steve) Roth and five grandchildren, Stephanie, Ashley, Matthew, David and Julie, and one great-granddaughter, Abigail. Della inspired many by her strong commitment to her family, church and exercise throughout her life. Visitation Monday, July 14th, 2-8 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk. West of Farmington Rd.) Funeral Tuesday, July 15th, 11:00 a.m. (in state 10:00 a.m.) at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Interment to follow at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign www.thaver-rock.com

wife of the late Richard Ray LaForge, dear mother of Lesa (William) Westerman, Rhonda (Daniel) Ross, and the late Richard Ray LaForge, Jr., beloved sister of Carol (Charles) Cassie, Frank (Lynne) D'Angelo, and Russell (Mary) D'Angelo, proud grandmother of eight, greatgrandmother of four, and stepgrandmother of many. Memorial Gathering Wednesday, July 16 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., with Memorial Service at 12 p.m., at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd, Livonia. Share a memory at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



MALLON, **CLARENCE RICHARD** Born November 2, 1920, passed away peacefully the morning of June 23, 2014. He was guided in life by the principles of family, faith and work. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty-one years, Mary (nee Walker); parents Fred and Amanda (nee Burk); brothers Frederick, Raymond and sisterin-law Elizabeth (nee Ruettinger). He is survived by his cherished children Frederick James and Clare Amalia Mallon; adoring grandchildren Matthew, Melissa Thompson and Mark Malfour loving lon; greatgrandchildren and many loving nephews, nieces and extended

family members. During his ca-

reer às an aeronautical engineer,

he was part of the team which

developed the heat shield for

John Glenn's Mercury capsule

and ended his career working for

the Motor Vehicle Manufacturer -

Livonia. He was a life-long Lu-theran and attended Emmaus Lu-

theran Church upon his return to

Michigan. A Family Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 19th, 10 a.m. at Glen Eden

Memorial Park Chapel, 35667

W. Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI

48152. Rev. Timothy P. Halboth,

Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Redford officiating.

www.thayer-rock.com

Association in Detroit and Photon, a laser manufacturer in

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Angle's Place, 29299 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 48034 are appreciated.

STEVENS, HELEN C. (NEE BORTHWICK)

Age 93, of Oxford, formerly of West Bloomfield, Michigan, died peacefully in the presence of family on Tuesday, July 1, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth. Loving mother of Mark (Lynn) of Westland, MI and Lynn of Chicago, Illinois. Cherished aunt of nephews Mike Clarence Borthwick, Borthwick, and niece (Liz), James Mary Woodruff. A private family service will be held at a later date. Memorial tributes to your favorite charity would be appreciated.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

B8 (CP) SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

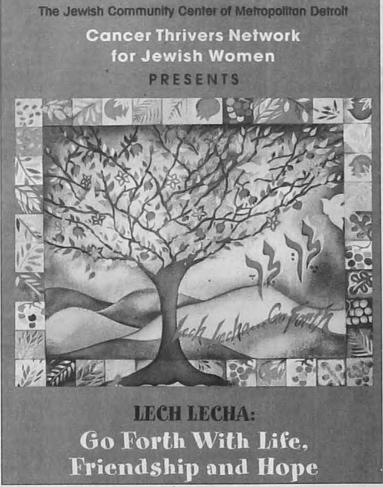
Cancer 'thrivers' to dedicate mural at annual luncheon

Cancer Thrivers Network for Jewish Women will focus on both science and art at its annual fundraiser and luncheon Friday, July 18, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

The featured speaker, Allen Lichter, M.D. and CEO of of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, will talk about "The Future of Oncology: New Developments in Cancer Diagno-sis and Treatment." Lichter is the former dean of the University of Michigan Medical School where he oversaw the creation of a new biomedical science research facility. He also served as director of the radiation therapy section of the National Cancer Institute's radiation Oncology branch. He received the Gold Medal from the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science

The organization also will dedicate a mural created by Farmington Hills artist Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan. It's designed to honor all cancer thrivers and was made in memory of Cancer Thrivers co-founder, Patti Nemer. After the luncheon, it will hang in the lobby of the Jewish Community Center.

"I've done a lot of work with community installations," said Kaplan, whose largest work of art hangs in the Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills. "And I've worked with kids in



The poster depicts the mural that will hang in the Jewish Community Center.

schools, hospitals and with seniors.

"This mural is similar to the community installations I've done. It's a work of art but it's composed of individual contri-

Blood pressure screening

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor the

free screening, 3-7 p.m. July 16, at the

Wayne Farmer's Market, Goudy Park,

Learn ways to make desserts that won't

derail your health goals in a workshop

with a dietitian from Botsford Hospital,

6-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at Busch's

Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloom-

3355 S. Wayne Road in Wayne.

Cooking workshop

butions. They wanted to do something in honor of their co-founder, Patti, and asked if I could come up with a concept." Kaplan used sand, a medi-

um she often uses while work-



Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan, a Farmington Hills artist, creates with mosaic, sand and other media. She made the mural that will be dedicated at the Cancer Thrivers luncheon.

ing with patients at Children's Hospital of Detroit, which she visits twice weekly. The Cancer Thrivers mural shows a pomegranate tree, symbolizing the "tree of life," and its border depicts images of grapes, olives, figs, dates, barley, wheat and pomegranate. Members of Cancer Thrivers had the opportunity to work with Kaplan on the smaller images and make a take-home project.

"It was exciting for them to be a part of the installation," Kaplan said. "We wanted them to take home something from the tree, to have a connection to what was done.'

The mural is called "Lech Lecha" which means "Go Forth" in Hebrew.

"The feeling I wanted to do in this piece was to go forth in



Allen Lichter, M.D., will talk about new developments in cancer diagnosis and treatment at the Cancer Thrivers luncheon, Friday, July 18.

strength because Patti had that tremendous attitude."

The Cancer Thrivers Network for Jewish Women's mission is to enrich and empower Jewish women through activities, friendship, resources, education and humor. The network welcomes women who have been diagnosed with any kind of cancer at any time in their lives. Members are dedicated to thriving and not just surviving cancer.

The luncheon will start with registration at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the guest speaker at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple. Tickets are \$36. Contact Michelle Passon at 248-895-2664; smp1543@comcast.net or Sandy Schwartz at 248-851-4616; sandyrschwartz@gmail.com.

- By Sharon Dargay

Upcoming

Blood drive

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 in the North Auditorium of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. To schedule an appointment, call 800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Appointment signups are also available in the hospital cafeteria. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

field. Cost is \$5 and includes a \$5 Busch's coupon, recipes, and samples. Registration is required. Call 248-539-4581 or visit the guest service counter at the store

Diabetes management

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free seminar that will include such topics as meal planning, blood sugar control and physical activity, 5-7 p.m. July 30 at Oakwood Welness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive, Dearborn. To register, call

800-543-9355 or visit oakwood.org.

Hip, knee pain

David Markel, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon, will talk about hip and knee pain from 6-7 p.m. Monday, July 21 at the Fisher Auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Register by calling 888-751-5465.

Walk with a Doc

Patricia Schmidt, a board-certified

internist, will offer strategies for healthy living, noon to 1 p.m. July 17, at Heritage Park Nature Center, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. She will explain how exercise, nutrition, rest, play, and humor are important in the management of chronic medical conditions; how to put balance into your life; and how to develop healthy habits .. Walks are held rain or shine. Healthy snacks provided. Register by calling Botsford Hospital at 877-477-Doc1 (3621), option #1.

DIABETES QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!



Summer offers you the opportunity to enjoy the warm outdoors, vacations, picnics and even learn new life skills. Garden City Hospital's Diabetes Summer School invites you to a FREE event focused on promoting healthy living and having fun.

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014; 6 - 8 PM GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL Medical Office Building, Lower Level Classrooms 6245 Inkster Road | Garden City, MI 48135

This is the perfect event for family members, friends and individuals with diabetes, prediabetes, or who are at risk for diabetes complications. Some of the small-group topics to be covered include Planning a Picnic Lunch, Diabetes Jeopardy Trivia, and Becoming a Fat Detective. Guests can also expect door prizes, refreshments, and a diabetes book sale.

> To RSVP, call 734.458.4330. Space is limited.

> > RDEN U

in July Gift

See the Christmas in July special section in print or online beginning July 24th

Publication Dates: July 24: Observers and Hometown July 27: Eccentrics

Look for this holiday icon hidden on the pages of the either in print or online Christmas in July section. Correctly identify all of the pages where the icon is hidden and mail the entry form or enter the contest on Facebook.

- Tony Bennett (Value \$198)
 - Cutco Paring and Trimmer Knife Set (Value \$125)
- 📕 \$50 Meijer Gift Card
- \$25 Schakolad® Chocolate Factory Gift Card

Six will win (good only at Northville location)

MassageLuXe Spa Certificate Package 1 hr massage or LuXe Facial plus 15-minute HydroLuXe Massage (\$89 value) Three will win (good at Novi and West Bloomfield (soon to open) locations

Ten others will win Emagine Theatre movie pass and Buddy's Pizza coupon

Mail to: Attn: Christmas in July, Observer & Eccentric Media, 29725 Hudson Drive, Novi, MI 48377

Gift Sponsors:

Cutco * Kitchen 43215 Grand River Ave, Novi

CUTCO.

Schakolad Chocolate **Factory of Northville** 20450 Haggerty Rd, Northville



MassageLuXe Spa 43296 Eleven Mile Rd, Novi and 6563 Orchard Lake Rd. West Bloomfield (opening in July)

MASSAGELUXE



2014 Holiday Icon



August 4th, 2014



By Robert Half

mlife.com

Sure, your annual review can be nerve-wracking. But it can also be a great opportunity for you to further your professional future and impress the boss with your dedication and drive. Rather than focusing on your anxieties about how your performance will be evaluated, come up with some questions for your manager that will help your career development and improve your chances of glowing reviews in the future. Here are six questions to get you started:

also inside... Homes • Wheels • Pets • Services

1. What steps do I need to take to reach the next level?

Don't beat around the bush if you're interested in moving up in the company, let your supervisor know. If you follow her advice, she'll likely take note of your dedication and ambition and keep you in mind when filling or adding positions. There's a good chance that she'll also be impressed by your commitment and loyalty, and she'll know that you intend to stick around and help the firm grow.

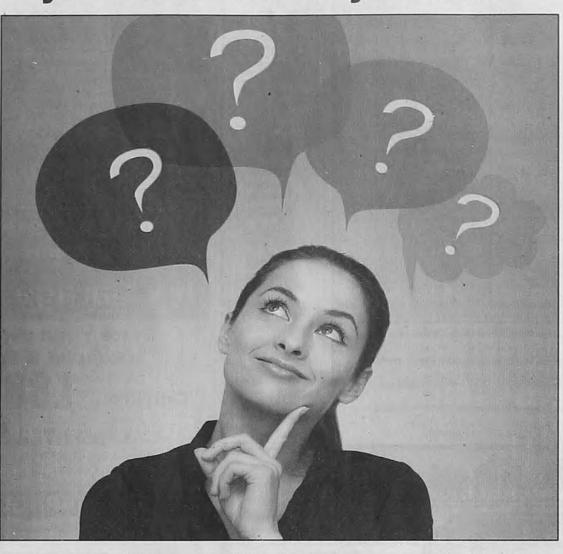
2. What are my department's priorities for the coming year, and how can I help meet them?

In addition to demonstrating that you're a team player and invested in the corporate goals, the answer to this question will help you meet expectations for your next annual review. Knowing exactly what your employer wants to accomplish will help you set your own goals and align them with those of the organization.

Asking this question highlights your concern for the company's well-being and your willingness to be part of the solution. It also demonstrates your interest in the welfare of the organization as a whole, and not just your role within it. To really

Your review questions can help you decide where you are at

JOBS



impress your manager, do some research into industry trends and competitors before the annual review so you can discuss the firm's challenges in detail.

3. What skills or training would you recommend to improve my performance?

Even if your job title hasn't changed in the past few years, chances are your job description has shifted or grown with time. Whether it's technical training or a public-speaking workshop, your manager might have some suggestions for upping your game.

If your review contains suggestions for improvement, don't get defensive. Rather, show you're keen to address your shortcomings by asking your manager for advice on how to better your performance. For example, if you were told to demonstrate more initiative or creativity, ask for concrete steps you can take to develop those skills. Consider proposing a mentoring relationship, if your boss doesn't suggest it first.

4. What were the department's biggest successes over the past year?

It's easy to get fixated on criticism in a performance review. If you start to feel flustered or upset by the negatives in your evaluation, take a step back and nudge the discussion in a more positive direction with this question.

By asking your boss to list the team's accomplishments, you're giving him a reminder that you had a hand in those wins.

5. What can I do to help my coworkers and management?

This is a particularly useful question to ask if you've just received a glowing annual review. Even if your manager already thinks you're a rock star, it never hurts to drive home the point that you're a master team player. It shows you're concerned about more than just yourself and that you want colleagues and the entire company to succeed as well. And you never know when your bid to help may turn into an offer for a leadership position.

6. Can we schedule a follow-up to discuss this further?

No matter how much you prepare for your annual review, the meeting will likely contain a few surprises. Tell your manager that you'd like to think about all the feedback she's provided, and schedule another meeting once you've had time to carefully consider what's in your evaluation. At the follow-up meeting, you can ask any further questions you have.

Instead of dreading your annual review, consider the one-on-one with your manager as an opportunity to move your career forward. Relish the praise, but focus on the constructive criticism so you can perform even better in the next six to 12 months. By asking the right questions and acting on the answers, you're setting the stage for your next evaluation and future professional success.

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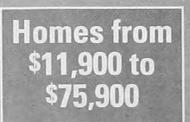
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'Big House' Soccer Match Will Top Off Chevy's **'Futbol' Emphasis**



The synergistic power of Chevrolet's new soccer-based marketing platform will be on full display in August when Manchester United, the world's most famous soccer club, comes to the University of Michigan's "Big House" stadium in Ann Arbor to play Real

By Dale Buss



Man U stars with the Chevy logo newly adorning thei Madrid in a sold-out venue.

Nearly 110,000 soccer fans there will pay homage to the reality that "futbol" is the hottest new branding platform in sports, even in the United States, and that Chevrolet has put itself front and center with campaigns that appeal not only to Americans but to prospective Chevy customers around the globe.

Lately, Chevrolet has produced a flash of soccerrelated marketing that is streaking like a mean header toward General Motors' goal of globalizing the brand. The launch of the \$70-million Manchester United jersey deal and Chevy's role in World Cup fever are ratcheting the brand significantly closer to its goal of universal ubiquity.

Along the way, the most-promoted vehicle by

Chevrolet is its most global: the Cruze sedan, whose popularity is growing both in the United States and many other countries.

We're talking here about the world outside of Europe, that is. Even as GM withdraws Chevrolet from Europe so that it doesn't compete with Opel and Vauxhall there, company executives are counting on the England-based Manchester United soccer franchise to help vault Chevy to worldwide awareness. Man U says its global fan base is almost 700 million people, nearly half of whom live in the Asia-Pacific region that has become crucial to Chevrolet's expansion plans.

"Man U provides a global stage for our brand, in particular in markets where we want to grow," Chevrolet CMO Tim Mahoney told me. "Early last decade, virtually all Chevrolet sales were in the United States. Now, more than 60 percent of them are somewhere else."

Thus the focus on the Man U deal, which now has put the Chevy golden bow tie on the jerseys of soccer icons such as Wayne Rooney -- hallowed brand real estate that has been occupied officially only by four other brands before Chevrolet.

This month Chevrolet launched a global campaign around the long-in-themaking sponsorship that includes a web site where visitors can sign up to get one of the shirts and a video that looks at the history of Man U shirts stretching back to the Nineteenth Century. There also was an app by which fans could submit their likeness to be on a Man U virtual jersey on the first day.

Soon after the end of the World Cup in Brazil, Chevy also is bringing the Man U team to the United States to play the L.A. Galaxy at the Rose Bowl in Los gotten slices of the rapt attention around the tournament by hundreds of millions of fans worldwide. One ad that has played on Univision in the United States, for instance, illustrates how the passion for the game and the incumbent nationalism communities. And Chevy and Man U said that "club legends" will be working with coaches and children in developing regions around the world, including in Bandung, Indonesia.

All of these soccer-related campaigns



Angeles in the new Chevrolet-branded shirt. Then comes the Big House match in August.

"That's a way to reach a fan base here that we haven't connected with," Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president for Chevrolet, told Marketing Daily:

Added Mahoney: "When we looked at globalizing the brand, Man U provides a global stage that is effective even in the United States."

Chevy also has competed vigorously during the World Cup season with the dozens of other big brands that have of the World Cup run from generation to generation -- in this case father to daughter -- and has run in contextually relevant matches featuring Argentina and Brazil.

"We're on Univision now as much as Honda and Ford are," Mahoney said. "It's an important part of who we are, and it's complementary to our Man U efforts."

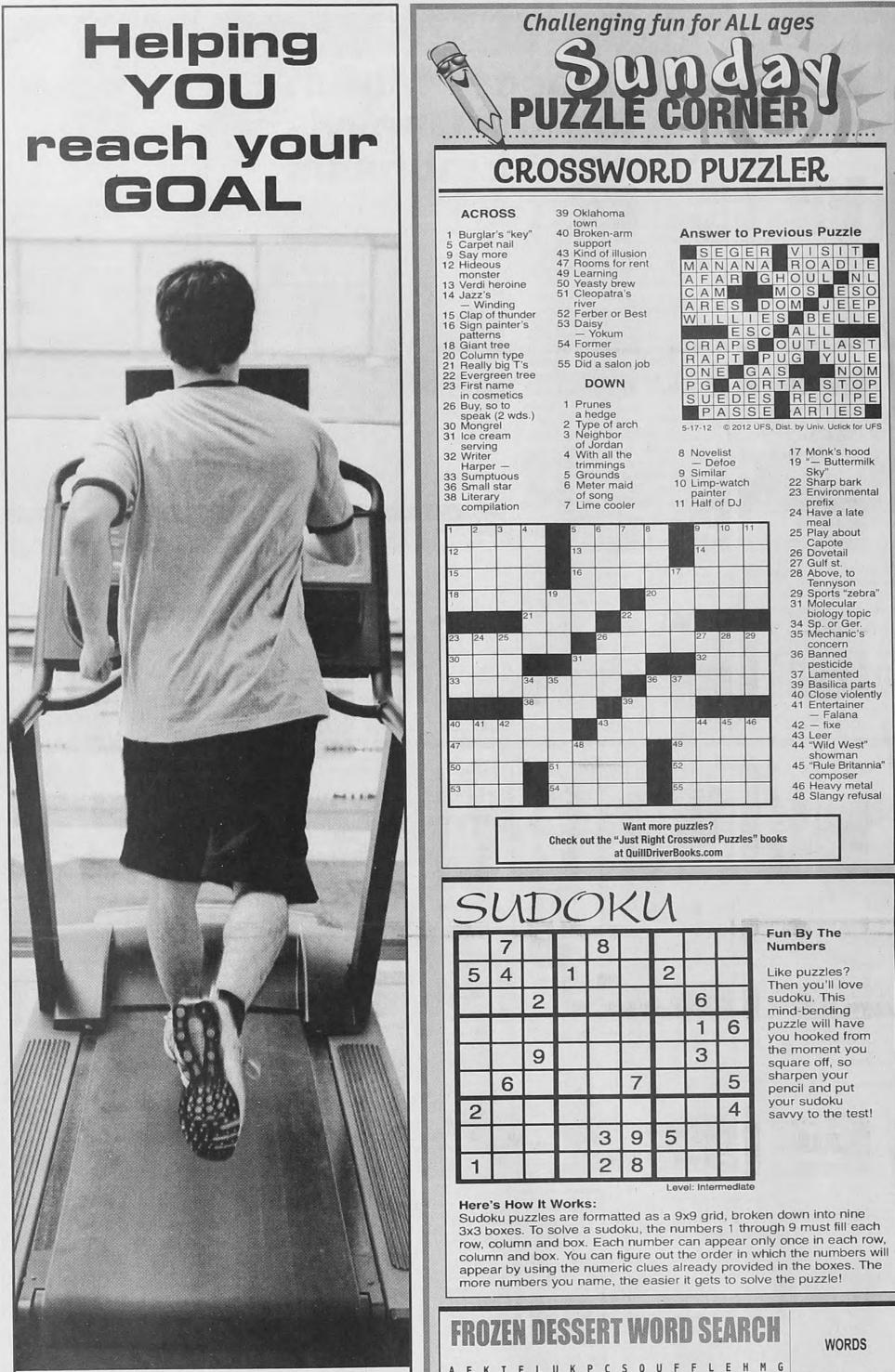
Chevy also is collaborating with an outfit called One World Futbol Project to donate and distribute 1.5 million nearly indestructible soccer balls to organizations working in developing also are part of a much larger new initiative by Chevrolet, "What Do You #PlayFor?" It's a social and digital effort that begins in earnest with all the attention around soccer this summer but is intended to be flexible and extendable to other sports-themed campaigns.

"The idea is to tap into the power of play," Mahoney explained. "It's a platform that fosters creativity and ingenuity. It works against soccer, motorsports, cricket, hockey and baseball. We wanted a platform that spanned all of those sports."

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OPEN 2-4 | 70 Clairview, Grosse Pte. Shores Must see! Spacious 3 bedroom ranch in the village. Completely updated. \$549,000 Chris Dasaro (313) 879-2921 Joe Rich (313) 924-1516



OPEN 1-3 | 726 E. Sherman, Holly This home is NOT a Drive-By...you have to get inside to appreciate! \$159,900



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OPEN 1-4 | 812 Waddington, Bloomfield Village Charming Village Colonial on very desirable street. Extensively updated. \$775,000 Lisa Masters (248) 365-7889



OPEN 1-4 | 15921 Amore, Clinton Twp What a great Colonial! Many updates!! 4 bedroom 2 story beauty. \$230,900 Hosted by: Bridget Robidoux (586) 200-1641



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OPEN 1-4 | 11082 Garden St., Livonia Great price for this clean and very well



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OPEN 1-4 | 37280 Woodside Ln., Clinton Twp California style in-ground heated pool in desirable Moravian Forest. \$229,000 Mickie Schulte (248) 825-8440



OPEN 1-3 | 29670 Middlebelt Rd., Bldg. 2, #9, Farmington Hills - Rare 3 bedroom 2 bath 1st floor unit in Woodcreek Vig! \$124,900 Diane Shires (248) 825-8401



OPEN 2-4 | 188 Kerby, Grosse Pte. Farms Charming 4BR updated Tudor with original detail. Formal living room. \$389,000 Dori Daskas (313) 924-1501



OPEN 2-4 | 2227 Pine Bluffs Ct., Highland Newer home in gorgeous setting, curb appea! Petoskey Building Co. \$337,000 Karen Thomas (248) 365-7891



OPEN 1-4 | 1615 Balsam Way, Milford All the amenities you are looking for are in this beautiful Colonial. \$630,000

Susan Wojtasek (810) 735-3430



OPEN 1-4 | 47035 W. Main St., Northville Home on a 1 1/3 acre sanctuary of woodland gardens, walk to town. \$1,100,000 Anne Smith (248) 796-0944



OPEN 1-4 | 1545 Nancy G Lane, Orion Twp. Lake Orion's best kept secret! Perfectly situated on allsports, private lake. \$222,475 Hosted By: Mark Wayne (989) 244-1317



OPEN 12:30-2:30pm | 3434 Sandy Ridge Ct., Shelby Twp. - EXQUISITE! Custom built home at the end of a cul-de-sac. \$500,000 Kathleen Trupiano (248) 639-4952



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OPEN 1-4 | 49439 N. Glacier, Northville Hard to find end unit daylight ranch in desired Coves of Northville Ridge. \$380,000 Cynthia Flora (734) 233-9949



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OPEN 1-4 | 1011 Troon, St. Clair Newer, lovely Colonial which has it all with a first floor master suite. \$399,900 Laila Abud (313) 263-5142



OPEN 1-4 | 3861 Big Beaver Rd., Troy Near Somerset and Birmingham. Lovely, updated 3BR ranch. Open plan. \$250,000 Mary Fitzpatrick (248) 365-7921



OPEN 1-3 | 7791 Biscayne, White Lake Lake Living is a Lifestyle! Enjoy coming home and going for a swim, a ski. \$374,900 Susan Wojtasek (810) 735-3430

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Windridge with finished basement! \$285,000 Vickie Reasons (313) 432-9375



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OPEN 1-4 | 313 N.Washington Ave., Royal Oak What an amazing find within walking distance to downtown. \$480,000 Karen Greenwood (248) 230-2208



OPEN 12-2 | 1715 N. River Rd. #83, St. Clair. River view! End unit 2nd story ranch condo, lots of light and privacy. \$137,500 Don Alcorn (810) 671-5688



OPEN 12-4 | 8132 E. Pearson, Utica Immaculate custom ranch w/fully finished ower level offers up to 6BRs. \$299,900 Scott Jesnig (586) 554-2969



OPEN 2-4 | 464 Burgess Dr., White Lake Lakefront for summer? Cedar Island lake oakland cty's best kept secret! \$360,000 Karen Thomas (248) 365-7891



maintained brick ranch! \$114,500 Marianne Prokop (248) 513-8520



OPEN 1-4 | 43100 Westchester, Novi Updated Chase Farms Colonial on private culde-sac backs to protected woods! \$525,000 John Goodman (248) 365-7944



OPEN 1-4 | 1312 N.Pleasant St., Royal Oak Well kept and cared for bungalow on a quiet street. Walk to town. \$239,900 Michael Presser (248) 327-4355



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Lynn Roderick (248) 255-4530



OPEN 1-3 | 377 Pinnacle Ct., Orion Twp. Warm, inviting walkout garden ranch with an expansive great room. \$329,000 Elisa Sboukis (248) 817-4533



OPEN 1-4 | 522 Cherry Avenue, Royal Oak Amazing bungalow in outstanding locale. 3 bedrooms w/great sized master. \$229,900 Karen Greenwood (248) 230-2208



OPEN 1-3 | 1027 Fountain Dr., Troy Jackpot! New ranch listing in Merihill Acres Hard to find 2150 sq. ft. ranch. \$354,900 Jeffery Alasina (248) 365-7914



OPEN 2-4 | 3935 Lake Front St., Waterford 100 feet of amazing frontage on all-sports Cass Lake. \$1,300,000 Patty Zielinski (248) 939-5266



OPEN 12-1:30 | 1699 Brentwood Dr., Wixom Remodeled 4BR in Hidden Creek with granite kitchen provides space & style \$225,000 Tracy Wick (734) 233-9942



