

VOTE

ENDORSEMENT RECAP
SEE OUR VIEWS, PAGE A12.

Look inside for
MONEY SAVING COUPONS!

NINE JOBS THAT AREN'T ENTRY LEVEL BUT DON'T REQUIRE A DEGREE

CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

Foundation pick

Former Plymouth-Canton school board Trustee Nancy Eggenberger has joined the Canton Community Foundation Board of Directors.

The Canton resident was elected to the board for a three-year term. Eggenberger also serves as chair of Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle and is seeking election to the Canton Library Board of Trustees in November.

Education has long been a focus for Eggenberger, a former teacher, who recently accepted a part-time instructor position at Washtenaw Community College. She expects to teach in the Academic Skills Department. Eggenberger has a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Michigan University.

"I like being involved in my community," Eggenberger said. "Joining the Canton Community Foundation is a good way of serving the community. I want to leave Canton a better place."

Eggenberger, her husband John and their three children have lived in Canton since 1992.



Eggenberger

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Tuesday's primary shapes field for November ballot

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Bombarded by campaign literature, roadside political signs and door-knocking candidates, Canton voters casting ballots in Tuesday's primary will help shape the field of candidates for the Nov. 6 general election.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Local voters will narrow the field of Republican candidates

for part-time township trustee from six to four, help choose party nominees for the 10th District Wayne County Commission race and weigh in on Wayne County jail and Detroit Institute of Arts tax proposals.

They will decide, along with voters from Van Buren Township and Belleville, whether incumbent state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, advances to the general election or whether challenger Kiz Ahamiojje of Belleville

should face Republican Joe Barnabei of Romulus.

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, isn't on this year's ballot, but he shared his thoughts on how candidates likely feel as they race toward Tuesday's finish line.

He said he felt "amazingly peaceful" on Election Day two years ago, but he knows how harrowing the political campaign can be.

"You always wonder if it's

going to be good enough," Colbeck said, adding later, "A lot of (candidates) are probably biting off their fingernails."

Drawing close to the election can usher in a sense of relief—or dread—as candidates ponder their campaign efforts.

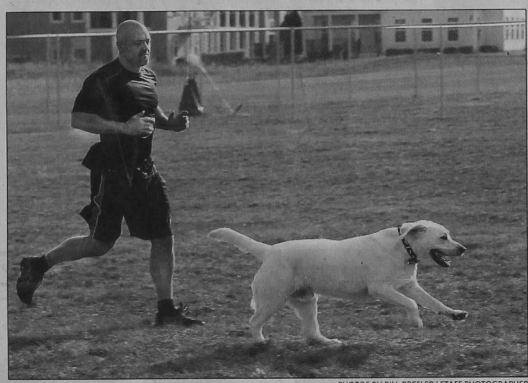
"What if it comes down to one vote? What if I had knocked on one more door? What if I had made one more phone call or put

Please see PRIMARY, A2

School supply golf

The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township announced a promotion to support school supply collection efforts of the Plymouth Community United Way. From Aug. 5-11, patrons who donate a new backpack with at least four school supply items inside will be given a voucher for free golf to be used at a later date. Backpacks and supplies should be brought to the St. John's Pro Shop, where golf vouchers will be distributed.

The drive is designed to equip children with essential supplies such as pencils, paper, calculators and binders.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Minghine and Cody get a little exercise at the dog park. Minghine says Cody visits the park three to four times a week.

Canton dog park marks first anniversary

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton officially went to the dogs one year ago this coming Thursday.

Amid much tail-wagging, barking, drooling and whimpering, Canton canines last Aug. 9 helped usher in the formal grand opening of a long-awaited, off-leash dog park on Denton north of Cherry Hill.

"We've been coming here since it opened," Canton pet owner Susan Henson said Thursday morning after bringing her two Cavalier King Charles spaniels Ruby, 5, and Max, 6, to the park.

"We're very grateful to have a good dog park here."

Henson, husband Steve and their 16-year-old daughter, Morgan, live just two miles from the six-acre, fenced-in dog park that provides separate play areas for larger canines over 20 pounds and their smaller counterparts.



Bob Leney and daughter Morgan enjoy the evening as Marley gets some shade.

"The convenience is wonderful," Henson said.

Her family has one of nearly 800 dog park memberships that Abe Vinitski, Canton park and golf supervisor, said are currently in use, down from nearly 1,100 last year.

"We had expected around 500 (memberships)," Vinitski said.

"We're pretty happy with having 700 to 800. It's a good number for the park."

Obviously not all dogs congregate at once. Some weeks, Henson said her pets visit the park as many as four times, though the outings have been scaled back amid a sweltering summer.

"My dogs don't handle the heat well," she said.

Lately, Canton resident Mary LeMerise has brought her 8-year-old golden retriever Sunny to the dog park most days.

"This is something I have wanted since I got Sunny 8 years ago," she said Thursday morning.

LeMerise and her family welcomed a place where Sunny could make new friends and run free without a leash.

"I get to know the regulars

Please see DOG PARK, A3

Canton plans party to honor golden girl, Allison Schmitt

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

After earning four Olympic medals—two of them gold—Canton High School graduate and consummate swim star Allison Schmitt is certain to face an adoring fan base after she returns from London.

"We're hoping to have a big celebration in the community to welcome home our Olympic star," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Friday.

The details hadn't been worked out Friday, but Canton hopes to honor Schmitt for talents that have catapulted her to fame and made her medal-accepting smiles known around the world.

"We're planning on a big deal," LaJoy said.

Schmitt earned her second gold medal in as many days Wednesday and catapulted the United States in front in the anchor leg to clench the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay in the London Summer Olympic games.

Please see SCHMITT, A2



ROB SCHUMACHER / USA TODAY

Canton High grad Allison Schmitt flashes a smile after winning the 200-meter freestyle to capture her first gold medal at the London Summer Olympic Games.

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SCHMITT

Continued from page A1

Schmitt also is likely to be honored at some point by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, though nothing had been scheduled Friday as the star athlete and her family remained in London.

The school district posted a congratulatory message on its website, lauding Schmitt for her accomplishments.

At Canton's Summit on the Park, which has an aquatics center, Schmitt's Olympic wins have stirred conversation. Jon LaFever, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator, said employees jokingly have said they would like to swim against Schmitt in a Summit pool.

"Everybody's really proud that she's from Canton and here we are again in the national spotlight with one of our own," LaFever said.

He said lifeguards and other Summit employees have been keeping up with Schmitt's medals.

"We're all watching," he said.

Schmitt was on Canton High School's swim team for four years.

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CORRECTION

A story on the front page of Thursday's *Canton Observer*, "Friends, fans cheer hometown hero to Olympic gold medal," incorrectly stated that swimmer Missy Franklin of the U.S. won a bronze medal in the women's 200-meter freestyle at the Olympics in London. The bronze was won by Australian Bronte Barratt; Franklin finished fourth.

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AROUND CANTON

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

SLAVENS COFFEE

Date/Time: Mondays, Aug. 6 and Aug. 20, 5-6 p.m.
Location: Daydream Cafe, 47192 Michigan Ave., in Canton
Details: State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours. Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township.
Contact: Call (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Date/Time: Sunday-Thursday, Aug. 19-23, 6:30-8:45 p.m.
Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton
Details: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church hosts Vacation Bible School, including Adventures on Promise Island, where kids discover God's lifesaving love. There will be bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, music, skits, and more. For children 4 years old - 5th grade. Registration on or by Aug. 12 is \$5 per child or \$10 maximum per family. Reg-

istration after Aug. 12 is \$8 per child or \$15 maximum per family.
Contact: Call the church office at (734) 495-0035.

GOOD GRIEF GOLF

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 8, shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Location: Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon
Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts the 14th annual "Good Grief" golf outing will be held. The proceeds from this outing will benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a bereavement outreach center located in Northville. New Hope provides free grief support services and resources to men, women, teens, and children throughout southeastern Michigan. The cost for this four-person scramble, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, contests, and prizes, is \$125. Dinner only is \$35 per person.
Contact: For information about sponsorship opportunities or registration information, contact Carol Spennachio at (248) 348-0115 and visit www.newhopecenter.net.

CLASS REUNION

Date/Time: Friday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. to midnight
Location: Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: Combined 1982 Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem 30-year reunion. Deadline to order tickets is Aug. 1. Tickets can be ordered thru: <http://sites.google.com/site/cantonsalem1982>, or www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsalem1982 or cantonsalem1982@gmail.com for \$45 per person. Dinner, dancing, D.J. provided.

KIDZ KAMP

Date/Time: Aug. 16-17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold, Northville
Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support presents the third annual KIDZ KAMP, a safe place for a grieving child to come share his or her own unique story with other grieving children. Knowing they are not alone helps them hope. Sharing their story offers them healing. Music, games, crafts, lunch—a time of healing and fun. The camp will have adult supervision with approximately one adult for every five children. Children ages 4-12 are invited to attend but 4-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult. The camp (including supplies and lunch) is free, but space is limited.
Contact: To register or get more information, contact New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or www.newhopecenter.net.

PRIMARY

Continued from page A1

up one more sign?" Colbeck said. "You can get your stuff wrapped up in knots."

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett has one final plea for absentee voters to return their ballots, as her office workers juggle an Aug. 7 primary, a special Sept. 5 election for the 11th Congressional District and, finally, the Nov. 6 general election.

But first, this Tuesday. Canton voters will eliminate two GOP township trustee hopefuls from a field of six that includes elected incumbents John Anthony and Pat Williams, appointed incumbent Greg Demopoulos, former Supervisor Tom Yack, former state Rep. Deborah Whyman and newcomer Joseph Cafarelli.

The lone Democratic trustee candidate, former Plymouth-Canton school board President Steven Sneideeman, will advance to the Nov. 6 ballot.

The three full-time township board members — Bennett, Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin — are unopposed.

Canton voters will help shape the Nov. 6 election for the 10th District Wayne County Commission race by choosing between Republican foes Shannon Price, a constituent relations director for Attorney General Bill Schuette, and Plymouth attorney Richard

Convertino. Both live in Canton.

On the Democratic side, voters will choose between 10th District candidates James Amar, a retired labor relations mediator from Plymouth Township, and Matthew Fiems, a Wayne County real estate property appraiser from Canton.

In the 11th District Congressional race, Republicans Nancy Cassis of Novi and Drexel Morton of Canton are running write-in campaigns against the lone Republican on the ballot, Kerry Bentivoglio of Milford.

Democrats Syed Taj, a Canton Township trustee, and Lyndon LaRouche supporter William Roberts of Redford are vying for their party's nomination.

Canton voters will see six Canton Public Library board member names on the ballot for six seats — incumbents James Fausone and Kim Schulz alongside candidates Nancy Eggenberger, Michelle Farrell, Sommer Nicole Foster and Thomas Hartnett.

On the nonpartisan section of the ballot, Canton voters will help decide whether to renew 0.9381 mills as part of a county millage for jail operations. They also will have their say on a 0.2-mill proposal to support the Detroit Institute of Arts.

If approved, the millages would be levied for 10 years.

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DOG PARK

Continued from page A1

here," LeMerise said. "There's one lady who knows all the dogs."

A Canton resident for 26 years, LeMerise and others have lauded Canton officials and volunteers for bringing the facility to the community. And though she doesn't want her suggestions viewed as criticisms, she said the park could be improved with amenities such as more trees, a drinking-water source for dogs and a shaded pavilion with picnic tables.

Vinitzki and other Canton officials have indicated they plan to gradually improve the park, which had its official grand opening last August though dogs had begun playing there in May of last year. One planned addition involves installing electronic entry devices at the gates.

While most canines have had friendly encounters at the park, Vinitzki said there have been a few "isolated incidents" including one dog biting another, though he said most owners have taken ownership of the site and have worked out any issues. Canton hasn't banned any specif-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Chris Minghine and Cody talk with Bob Leney at the dog park. Marley decides to stay in the shade.

ic breeds.

"There's no real pattern to the things people ask about, but one of the biggest questions has been how to handle aggressive dogs," Vinitzki said.

To that end, he said, humane society books and occasional training sessions have been provided. Moreover, periodic dog park orientation programs have been strongly suggested for members.

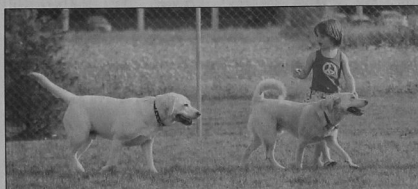
Canton requires dog owners to make sure their pets are licensed and are up to date on all their shots.

Vinitzki commended the early work of a now-defunct group called Friends of the Canton Dog Park, which helped

spearhead the project and raise money for it. He said a new steering committee is in place and has scheduled its next meeting for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, in the basement of the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center. The public is welcome.

Overall, Vinitzki said he believes the dog park has been embraced by most who use it, even though local officials acknowledge the site still needs more amenities to make it complete. "I think it has turned out to be a great addition to the community," Vinitzki said.

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Morgan Leney plays with Marley and Cody at the Canton Township Dog Park on Denton north of Cherry Hill.

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Chinese educators tour W-W's career center

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

East met West Monday in the commons of Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center, as school officials showed off the center's automotive programs to a group of visiting Chinese educators.

The group, automotive instructors at Xinjiang Communication Technical College in Urumqi in northwest China, were on a three-day trip to the Detroit area to see the American automotive manufacturing system and how students are prepared for automotive careers.

"Here, the lessons are very good, the equipment and the teachers are better," one Chinese educator said. "In China, the number of students is huge, the buildings are larger, but the lessons are not too good. In Chinese classrooms, teachers talk and students have less time to do things."

His comments came after a tour of the center's automotive and welding classrooms, led by Jim Schirmer, automotive technology instructor for the center's high school program. Schirmer was joined by Mark Batko, who teaches the adult program, center Assistant Principal Sue Wilk and Job Placement Coordinator Cindy Candella in hosting the visit, set up by Thomas Fisher of SPX Service Solutions.

"This is the second year we've done this," Fisher said. "It's a reward for the top instructors. It also allows them to



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Interpreter Oliver Zhang translates comments made by Sue Wilk, assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, for 20 Chinese educators.

benchmark how their training is being done." The group arrived Sunday in Detroit for a three-day visit that included the Rouge Factory tour, a self-guided tour of The Henry Ford and a stop at the career technical center.

SPX partners with the Automotive Youth Educational Systems and works with the center and "the folks in China," Fisher said.

The career technical center draws students from several school districts, including Redford Union, South Redford, Van Buren and Inkster, providing training in 19 different fields. The programs are hands-on learning.

"Our day is structured like a day on the job," Schirmer told the group. "The students start off by punching in on a time clock. They do a little of everything."

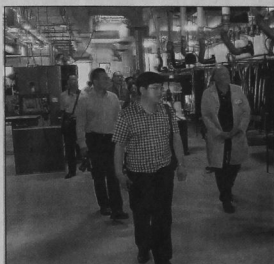
Class work is a small



Huang Zhi Yuan (left) and Diayu Hang take pictures of the staff at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

part of what the students do. Most learning

is done working on vehicles people bring in to be repaired. Some learn-



Automotive Technology instructor Jim Schirmer (right) shows Chinese educators who teach automotive technology at Xinjiang Communication Technical College in Urumqi, the welding classroom at the career technical center.

ing is computer-based or through videos and, according to Schirmer, some lessons are being transformed into web-based instruction.

"You used to have to be a master of everything, but now it's just in time learning," Schirmer said.

He told the teachers that the most important thing is to have a teacher who can connect with students and make them want to learn.

"There's not a lot of difference between our students and yours," he said. "Not all of our students go to college, but because they go into the trades, they shouldn't feel bad because they're doing something others can't do."

The Chinese educators were impressed with the program, taking photographs of everything they saw and everyone they met. But the most popular activity was posing for photographs

in Schirmer's blue lab coat with its eye-catching shoulder patch, proclaiming him as a certified master technician through the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence. That's one of two certifications students can get. The other is through the state of Michigan.

"This is very good, I like it," said one educator who posed with Schirmer wearing the blue coat.

The visit is a prelude to the start of school when, for the first time in three years, the enrollment will be more than 1,100 students.

"Expanding our programs has been a big draw for a lot of districts," Wilk said. "These classes are expensive for each district to do alone. We have a proven track record and a good reputation in the community."

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Food pantry aided by Arctic Edge festival

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Arctic Edge Ice Arena employees estimated that nearly 600 people attended a Family Fun Fest that helped raise money for Canton-based Open Door Ministry, a local food pantry that feeds 460 area families every week and helps them find jobs.

Brook Boggs, arena marketing specialist, said the three-hour event last weekend drew more than twice the number of visitors organizers had expected.

"We thought we might get 300 people," she said. "We were very pleased with the turnout."

Families and particularly children enjoyed free activities, such as open skating, face-painting, balloon sculpting and ice cream, though the event had a serious component for aiding Open Door Ministry.

Early tabulations indicated a strong response to the effort.

"Our raffle proceeds and a portion of a sports memorabilia silent auction helped us earn \$1,600 to donate to the Open Door Ministry," Jonathan Castine, Arctic Edge marketing and design specialist, said Tuesday.

As more money rolled in, the amount had climbed to \$1,718 by Thursday.

Raffle prizes included an academic evaluation by Huntington Learning Center, a Summit on the Park birthday party package and a one-night stay in a jacuzzi suite at Canton's Holiday Inn Express, among numerous other gifts.

Children also had an opportunity to meet Arctic Edge's new mascot, Artie Edge, who took to the ice with youngsters.



PHOTOS BY JOHN CASTINE | HOCKEY WEEKLY

Tim Thurmond, balloon sculptor, created balloon animals for over three hours and spent five hours earlier in the day on the large penguin to his left. Lindsay Allen, 6, of Canton gets an elephant balloon as her mom Lisa looks on.

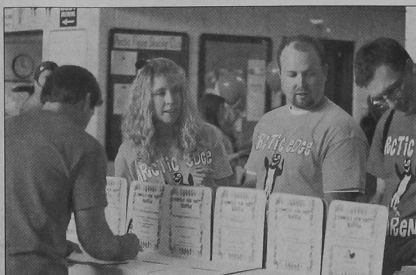


Open Door Ministry food pantry volunteers Michele Yoder (from left), who runs the jobs program, and ministry co-directors Jackie and Steve Darr at the Family Fun Fest.

They also were wowed by acclaimed balloon sculptor Tim Thurmond, who brought a 6-foot-tall pen-



Sophie Wegryn, right, of Ypsilanti gets flower art on her hand by one of five face painters at the Fun Fest.



Arctic Edge marketing employees Brook Boggs and Jonathan Castine (middle) pull winning tickets for the event raffle.

guin made of balloons. Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr had called it "fantastic" that Arctic Edge helped out the food pantry, which has seen demand for help

increase. One of Open Door's biggest projects has become raising money to buy the vast warehouse, on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue, that it had leased

since 2003. For more on the ministry, go to www.opendoorfoodministry.org.

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Schofield says 'no' to fifth term on W-W board

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

There will be a new face on the Wayne-Westland school board in January, following a decision by long-time board member Cindy Schofield not to seek a fifth term in the November election.

A Wayne resident, Schofield has decided "it's time to move on to other things in my life." "All of my children live in Texas and we will be traveling a lot," Schofield said. "I think the school district is better served by having people on the board who have children in the schools."

Schofield, current board secretary, is in her 13th year on the board after her four-year

term was extended six months to accommodate a state law that moves school elections from May to November. The new term also has been lengthened to six years.

Frederick Weaver will be seeking his first full term on the board after being appointed in August 2011 to fill the remainder of a term that had been held by William Gabriel. Prior to that, Weaver had served on the board for 7½ years, leaving in 2008 after taking a ministerial position in Midland.

"I plan to stay in and fight for the district," Weaver said. "My love is for education and I will work diligently to move the school district ahead for the benefit of the students. I will do

whatever I can that's within my power to defend what's been accomplished in this district." Wayne-Westland residents interested in serving on the school board will have until 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, to file nominating petitions. School board hopefuls who want to have their names on the Nov. 6 ballot must file an affidavit of identity and nominating petitions with a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 100 signatures of registered voters or a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee in lieu of petitions with the Westland or Wayne city clerks.

Packets containing the affidavit and petitions are available in the city clerk's office in Westland City Hall, at 36601 Ford, west of Wayne Road,

Westland. Schofield said her strength as a school board member was having students in the district. That let her see how the policies and procedures the board enacted affected children and parents. She believes "a strong parent is a very important component of the school board" and that without that connection, "it's time for me to move on."

However, she plans to remain involved in the school improvement team and the district's literacy corps and has let school officials know that she is willing to serve on a committee that requires a citizen component.

"I'll still be here and still be involved with the district, just not on the school board," she

said. The high points of her service, she said, include completion of the 1998 bond issue work and the sinking fund projects which have given Wayne-Westland buildings that are "bar none, the finest in the state." She also is proud of the work she did in instruction and the district's talented and gifted program. The latter was something she had been wanting since joining the school board.

"That's a big thing for me," she said. "It's something I fought for. My kids may not be able to take advantage of it, but future generations will."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

W-W fills three administrative positions

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has begun filling vacancies created by the departure of several administrators.

The school board recently approved the appointment of Aaron Baughman as executive director of the curriculum department, Kelly Kaminski as co-principal at Marshall Upper Elementary School in Westland and Jennifer Keats as principal of Roosevelt-

McGrath Elementary School in Wayne. Baughman has been with the district since 2001. He started as a teacher at Hoover Elementary before moving to Marshall Middle School where he taught seventh-grade English and language arts, served as an assistant principal and principal and briefly as a co-principal when the school became an upper elementary in 2010.

He move over to the district's administrative offices in September

2010, serving as director of professional development.

Baughman has a bachelor's of arts degree in English and elementary curriculum from William Tyndale College and a master's of science degree in administration with a major in educational leadership from Madonna University.

"He's been with the district quite some time and has done an outstanding job," said Superintendent Greg Baracy in recommending him for the position. "He has a boat-

load of experience." "Thank you for the opportunity," said Baughman. "Curriculum is where my heart is. I'm excited to have the opportunity to improve our programs."

"We're glad to have you as part of a team with a little different focus," said school board President Carol Middel. "We know you will work hard for our students."

Kaminski also joined the district in 2001 as an eighth-grade teacher at Franklin Middle School. She spent five years

teaching at Taft-Galloway Elementary before returning to Franklin to be an intervention specialist. The Elementary Teacher of the Year for Wayne-Westland in 2007, she has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from Western Michigan University and a master's of arts degree in education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I'm so very proud of her, she has been an outstanding leader of our Galileo Leadership Consortium," said Baracy. "I want to thank the board and my new teammates," said Kaminski. "I look forward to working hard and I appreciate the faith you have in my ability."

Baracy pointed out Keats "came up through the ranks" since joining the school district in 2002. She has been a second-grade teacher

at Hicks Elementary, a first-grade teacher and Reading First literacy coach at Taft-Galloway and an intervention specialist at Stevenson Middle School.

She has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary and early childhood education from Temple University, a master's of arts degree in education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a master's of science degree in educational leadership from Madonna University.

"This position is important to me," Keats told the school board. "I'm pleased to see the names presented tonight," said school board Secretary Cindy Schofield. "I look for great things at Marshall, Roosevelt, McGrath and in curriculum."

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By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

After hosting events such as a 9/11 observance and a clothing drive to help the needy, the Muslim Community of Westland is again reaching out to the larger community by offering a free program and dinner, or Iftaar, that refers to an evening meal when Muslims break their fast during the month of Ramadan.

The MCWS Outreach Committee has scheduled the breakfast-at-sunset gathering for 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Canton Mosque, 4040 Palmer Road at Lotz. The meal is set for 8:34 p.m. The event is believed to be an evening of "conversation and great food" in a flyer the MCWS is distributing to welcome the community.

The invitation and ways to sign up can be found at www.breakfastatsunseteventbrite.com. More information also is avail-

able by sending an e-mail to mcwsoutreach@gmail.com.

It's not the first time MCWS has reached out to the larger Canton community in an effort to promote understanding and to build bridges with-in the community.

The Canton Mosque also hosted an observance on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by assembling diverse religious groups at the mosque. Local Muslims also have collected coats and other clothing items to help needy families.

Last April, the MCWS was one of several religious groups to participate in a health fair hosted at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. The event was free and was intended to help people to welcome the health insurance they needed to pay for basic health screenings.

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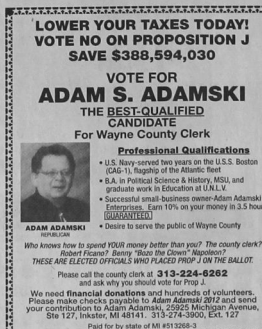
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Police laud Canton killer's sentence

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer



Sutton

Romulus police are applauding a sentence of 20-40 years in prison for a Canton man who brutally murdered a 57-year-old Romulus resident, Frank Jones, who was found lying face down in his own bathroom, with his head covered by a plastic bag and his hands tied behind his back.

Michael Joseph Sutton, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, was formally sentenced Thursday by Wayne Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny for killing Jones, whose

son found the body in a pool of blood.

"I think ultimately we are pleased as a law-enforcement organization that this defen-

dant stepped up and accepted responsibility for the crime he committed," Romulus Police Capt. Derran Shelby said. "We do feel that justice has been served."

Shelby attributed the "quick apprehension, arrest and guilty plea" by Sutton to the help

Romulus authorities received from Canton Police, Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

"We are very thankful for their assistance," Shelby said Thursday.

Sutton, 41, faces 40-60 years in prison after pleading guilty July 10 to second-degree murder — a decision that averted a mandatory life term he would have received if he had been convicted on original charges of first-degree murder and torture.

Early in the investigation, Romulus Police Chief Robert Dickerson had said Jones and Sutton had an "intimate rela-

tionship."

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office had ruled the cause of Jones' gruesome death as blunt force trauma.

Canton authorities have said Sutton lived in the Autumn Ridge apartment complex near Cherry Hill and Lotz roads before his capture. He was arrested near his residence after he tried to flee from authorities.

Jones had a Ford Mustang that Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said was found in the Walmart parking lot on Ford Road east of Lotz in Canton.

Shelby said the finding of the car was one of the clues that helped lead police to Sutton. Romulus police also have cited phone records and other evidence they say led to charges against Sutton.

Jones lived in the 15600 block of Springhill in Romulus and was a registered sex offender. According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, he had served three years in prison for child sexually abusive material or activity.

Jones had been released from prison in August 2009.

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Real BarBQ swaps dessert for school supplies

Many children look forward to arriving on the first day of school with new notebooks, backpacks, and writing supplies, but some residents know it's a different story for children whose families can't afford these items.

Real BarBQ of Can-

ton wants to help raise awareness and help kids in the community who are in need, so they are offering an incentive for the community to donate.

From Monday, Aug. 6, through Friday, Aug. 17, Real BarBQ at 42452 Ford Road at Lilley in

Canton is offering a complimentary dessert to patrons who bring in school supplies valued at \$5 or more.

Collected school supplies will then be given to the Salvation Army as part of their "Back to School Blitz" program.

P-C band boosters hold bottle drive

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is seeking donations of returnable pop cans or plastic bottles on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Supporters who wish to donate can drop off returnables 7:30-9 a.m. at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road

in Canton.

The returnable can fundraiser was organized to raise money for the marching band to travel to the Grand National Band Championships in Indianapolis in November.

People who would like to donate, can bring

returnable cans or plastic bottles in a plastic bag to Plymouth High School, near the yellow trailer.

Parent and student volunteers will be present to assist. No glass containers can be accepted.

The fundraiser is hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters.

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Taj supported by many physicians, far outspends Roberts

By Ken Abramczyk
STAFF WRITER

Syed Taj has far outspent his opponent in the Democratic primary race in the 11th Congressional District, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. Taj received \$278,723 in net contributions and



Taj

spent \$231,322 for the election cycle, the most of all of the candidates. He carried over a balance of \$78,448. Roberts has a balance of \$3,273, collecting \$11,804 and spending



Roberts

\$7,925. Taj lent \$59,697 to his campaign. Natalie Mosher, Taj's campaign manager, said Taj lent himself the money because he never anticipated he would have a primary.

"That really changed the whole budget issue," Mosher said. "He had to make sure he had enough money for that election. It isn't that unusual for a non-incumbent, and it's his first time out." Taj, a Canton trustee, and William Roberts of Redford, a Lyndon LaRouche supporter, will be on the ballot in the primary election Tuesday

with the winner facing the Republican winner in the general election Nov. 6. That winner will serve a two-year term in the new 11th District. This election is a separate one from the special primary election held on Sept. 5 to fill the vacancy in the current 11th District created by Thaddeus McCotter's resignation July 6.

Roberts wasn't concerned about how much Taj spent. "We're focusing our campaign to get voters to help shape policy in Congress," Roberts said. Roberts is encouraging voters to call on Congress to stay in session until it passes HR 1489, the Glass Shield Act, and wants President Barack Obama impeached. A strong majority of Taj's campaign contributions are coming from physicians or others in the medical field.

"Doctors don't normally get involved in supporting political candidates, but they are excited that they have one of their own," Mosher said. "He understands the Affordable Health Care Act, he's practiced in Great Britain, India and the United States and who better to understand the background of health care." Taj has received \$999 from West Oakland Democrats and \$250 from Plymouth Democratic Club. Among his expenses are \$3,745 for yard signs and \$486 for T-shirts from Events 2000 in Wayne. He also has spent money to rent office space in Novi for his campaign headquarters and to DTE for electrical service there.

Mosher said Taj knew the race would be expensive. "It's not concerned," Mosher said. "We need to get through the primary. There's people who are waiting on the sideline, but now with these latest endorsements (AFL-CIO and NOW) that you will see some significant movement that will be ongoing."

Roberts has collected \$8,992 from individuals through this election cycle. He reported \$57 spent on yard signs from Savicki & Sons \$221 in banners and \$369 in printing from Detroit Print Shop. He also spent another \$600 in signs from Buildsign.com in Austin, Texas.

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FRIGAT LS 11:20

Q 3D STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11:55, 4:45
1:55, 7:10, 9:40, FRIGAT LS 11:55

Q STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13) 11:55, 4:45

Q THE WATCH (R) 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45
FRIGAT LS 12:00

Q THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13) 11:25, 1:40, 2:45, 3:00, 6:05, 6:20, 9:20, 9:45
FRIGAT LS 11:15

Q AGE OF CONCENTRATION: BUILT (PG) 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

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Campaign costs exceed \$500,000

Cassis fronts herself funds for campaign; Bentivolio gets boost from Super PAC

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer



Cassis



Bentivolio

Candidates in the 11th Congressional District race and others spent over \$500,000 with what the candidates hope will carry them to a win in Tuesday's primary election.

One of them, Kerry Bentivolio, received a significant boost from Super Political Action Committee money, to the tune of \$146,007, between July 23 and 29 alone, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission.

A Super PAC is an organization that can spend an unlimited amount of money for or against a political candidate. Super PACs are a mechanism that organizations can legally bypass contributing directly to a candidate, who is limited to \$2,500 from individuals for each election. Federal election laws prohibit super PACs from spending money "in concert or cooperation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, the candidate's campaign or a political party."

Democrat Syed Taj lent the most at \$231,322, followed by Republican Nancy Cassis at \$141,252. Republican Kerry Bentivolio has spent \$46,447, according to campaign finance reports filed for the second quarter of the year and a report covering part of July.

Bentivolio is also the recipient of support from the Liberty for All Super Political Action Committee. That Super PAC, founded by two Ron Paul supporters and is now funding TEA Party candidates throughout the country, spent \$146,007 in recent days in support of Bentivolio. Most of that money spent with Third Dimension Strategies of Little Rock, Ark. to contact voters by phone. Some funds were designated for campaign mailings.

"Members of the state party establishment met behind closed doors to pick a candidate they could count on to toe the moderate line: Nancy Cassis. That's when Liberty For All stepped in to support the real conservative, and the grass-roots choice," the group said on its website.

That Super PAC has received \$1.7 million from John Ramsey, a 21-year-old college student in Texas. Bentivolio also has received the endorsements of TEA party groups in Oakland County.

Robert Dindoff, campaign manager for Bentivolio, said Bentivolio doesn't control where Super PACs spend their money.

"We didn't go to the group and ask for money," Dindoff said. "They looked at Kerry's positions on limited government and decided they liked him."

Dindoff added that the campaign is happy that the money is spent to support Bentivolio, but that it was Liberty For All's choice to spend it that way. Freedom's Defense Fund also spent \$61,104 on behalf of Bentivolio for campaign ads, voters' lists and other expenses.

Spending their own
Three of the five candidates appear to be funding their own campaigns by lending themselves money to win the primary and hopefully the general elections.

Cassis, a write-in candidate, has loaned herself \$200,000 and carries \$147,422 "cash on hand" into the final days before the primary.

Bentivolio's report showed that he is \$68,855 in the hole after he paid himself back \$50,000 of a \$65,000 loan, but that report does not reflect the accurate figures of his cumulative totals because of a problem with either

the FEC software or the numbers that were entered on the forms, according to Dindoff.

Dindoff said he has spoken to the FEC and expected the problem would be corrected.

Dindoff said he believed the other line items of contributions and expenditures were accurate.

Bentivolio had reported \$91,183 cash on hand for his campaign as of June 30. With contributions and expenses figured from that number without the loan repayment, it would have equalled \$72,337.

Democrat Syed Taj lent \$39,697 to his campaign. Write-in candidate Drexel Morton did not file a report. Morton said he is relying on "word of mouth and social media" to get out his campaign message.

Dindoff said Bentivolio lent himself the money because he is running against someone "who is spending four or five times what he is."

"If someone is going to spend \$200,000 plus of their own money and spend it on

negative attacks, he has to do something," Bentivolio said.

Cassis quickly raises funds

Cassis has spent \$141,252 and received \$88,675 during the election cycle since she declared herself a write-in candidate in early June. During the reporting period from July 1-18, Cassis collected \$26,925 from individuals and \$8,000 from political committees, among them the American Medical Association PAC, \$2,000, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, \$1,500, and Automobile Club of Michigan PAC, \$1,000.

Among her expenses from July 1-18, Cassis spent \$17,831 in postage with Allegis Print and Imaging of Plymouth, \$6,582 in signs and \$27,154 in advertising. Campaign manager David Mroz said Cassis has fronted herself the money because "she feels the voters of the 11th District deserve a proven conservative."

"She believes strongly enough in that to pull her life savings to run," Mroz said.

Mroz said she is drawing support from the local GOP leaders because "they know her record as a state legislator."

"She's a woman of principle," Mroz said. "She's worked hard and for her to get that individual support,

and she takes it very seriously."

Bentivolio reported that he had received \$8,570 in contributions July 1-18. In his quarterly report filed for the April 1-June 30 period, Bentivolio received \$45,205 in contributions and spent \$19,021.

Contributions ranged from \$20 and \$25 to \$5,000 from a contributor in California.

Bentivolio received \$5,250 from Young Americans for Liberty PAC.

Bentivolio spent \$6,351 on printing, \$6,000 for ads with Fox News Network, and another \$26,000 to Sunshine Communications of Ft. Meyers, Fla. for ads. Bentivolio also owes \$21,130 to Strategic National in Grand Rapids for Facebook ads, promotional

advertising, logo, email services and an absentee voter mailing.

Dindoff said that Bentivolio's money from individuals showed the "clear divide" between the candidates between grass roots supporters and the Republican establishment.

The candidates' reports can be viewed at FEC's website at www.fec.gov.

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Don't pay off student loan with 401(k) disbursement

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I have decided that it would make sense for me to quit my job and become a stay-at-home mother. At work I have a 401(k) plan which is approximately \$75,000. My husband thinks that I should have my 401(k) plan rolled over into an IRA. I, however, still have a student loan and would like to take the money from the 401(k) plan to pay off my student loan. I owe approximately \$50,000. Do you think that is a good idea? My husband says that with his income we should have no problem continuing to make the debt payments. I figured it would be better to just pay the debt off. Currently, the interest rate on my student loan is 4 percent.

A: In reviewing your situation, it doesn't make sense to pay off your student loan. I recommend that you transfer the money from your 401(k) plan into an IRA.

My reason is based upon a number of things. The first deals



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

with retirement. I cannot stress how important it is to put whatever you can away for your retirement. As I've said many times in the past, retirement is a brand new concept in the history of man-

kind and it's going to cost you more than you think. It is possible that you and your husband will live longer in retirement than you worked. I believe that by investing the money in a well-balanced and diversified growth portfolio, you will (in the long run) earn more than you are paying in interest. Of course, that doesn't mean that every year you will earn more, because there will be some years when the market is down. However, over the long run, you will do much better by letting your

401(k) money grow tax-deferred in an IRA.

I also based my conclusion on if you do withdraw money from your 401(k), it is subject to tax, both from the federal government and the state of Michigan. It will also be subject to a 10-percent penalty. Therefore, you will lose about 40 percent of your money between taxes and penalty.

Tax-deductible

Another factor is, more likely than not, your student loan interest will be tax-deductible. According to the IRS, you can deduct up to \$2,500 in student loan interest every year. The one caveat is the fact that the deduction phases out if your modified adjusted gross income for a married couple is more than \$120,000. If your income is more than \$150,000, then the deduction is not available. For most people, modified adjusted gross income is the same as adjusted gross

income. And you can deduct your student loan interest even if you do not itemize deductions. This is one of the few deductions that you can take even though you may not itemize. IRS Publication 970 spells out the tax rules for deducting student interest and deals with all the tax benefits available for education.

On the whole, I am a fan of reducing debt. I generally like as little debt as possible. However, there are exceptions to the rule. The major exception is home mortgages. Particularly with the low interest rates we now have, the after-tax cost of mortgages is very low, therefore, in many situations it does not make sense to pay down those debts early. Student loans are also another potential exception. In this situation, because of the tax ramifications associated with withdrawing money from a retirement account, it generally does not make sense to use those

resources to pay down your student loan.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to allocate as many resources as they can for their retirement. We all know that eventually there will be changes in Social Security and they won't be for our benefit. Pensions are generally a thing of the past. It is up to us to save for our retirement.

The key to making sure that you can have a long and happy retirement, from a financial standpoint, is to save as soon as possible and invest wisely. That means making sure you have a well-balanced and diversified portfolio geared for long-term growth.

Good luck!

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



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Contamination site has Brookfield resident concerned

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

As the grand reopening of Central City Park nears, a similar pollution remediation project is under way on a parcel that will soon be available for recreational use.

Located south of Ford and west of Hix, the approximately 28 acres of the 180-acre parcel known as the National Airport property is now owned by the City of Westland.

Most of that 28-acre parcel was used as a general and industrial landfill from 1958-65 and remnants of drums were removed in 1994. There is concern about direct contact exposure to lead and arsenic in the soil and methane gas needs to be monitored.

Like Central City Park, this property has a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-approved plan for remediation that includes removing existing trees, regrading, installation of geotextile barrier which will be covered with top soil and grass, along with methane gas monitoring.

"The same folks at the MDEQ who were involved in Central City Park are involved in this," said City Attorney James Fausone. "There is no problem with the metals on the site moving."

Patricia Fenech, who lives in the Brookfield Village subdivision south of the property, is upset that she wasn't notified about the contamination when she bought her home in 2007.

"My concern is me and it's a concern for other residents. No one told us about the contamination," said Fenech. "The mayor (William Wild) said people knew about it. The developer knew about it."

Having the contaminated property nearby has affected her home's value,

NATIONAL AIRPORT AT A GLANCE

The National Airport property, where landfill pollution is being remediated and the property restored for possible recreational use, was used as a private airport prior to 1949. This airport became known as National Airport in approximately 1967 and operated until about 1980. The airport occupied a portion of a 180-acre parcel that extended from Ford Road south to Cherry Hill and from John Hix Road west to Lotz Road. The 180-acre parcel was located in both the City of Westland and in Canton Township.

An approximately 26.9-acre portion of the 180-acre parcel was used as a municipal and industrial landfill. That includes 8.5 acres that later was part of the Emagine Theater property. The site was closed in 1965, the year before Nankin Township became the City of Westland. When the airport closed in 1980, a development company purchased the property. In 1992, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources designated an approximately 26.9-acre portion of the property as the former landfill, which allows unrestricted development of the remaining approximately 155 acres of the original 180-acre parcel.

The Consortium of Ford Motor Company and 3M has been involved since 1994 when a consultant removed and disposed of drum remnants that were discovered on the site.

The site has been extensively studied. Some direct contact exposure risk to lead and arsenic was found and needs to be controlled. Methane gas that needs to be monitored. The consortium plans on obtaining a DEQ approval of a final remediation plan that will allow eventual use of the site for recreational purposes.

said Fenech, adding she would be legally required to disclose the nearby contamination, if she were to sell her home.

"The developer told us it (the property) was a wetlands," she said. "My concern is that the city should have put up signs saying 'don't enter - it's contaminated' like they did at Cooper School."

Citing a letter from the MDEQ, Fenech said no one is supposed to be in contact with the soil on the property.

"Kids play there, swim in the creek - I've seen them. There is a lot of sexual activity at night," Fenech said.

The former landfill was located at the northern part of the parcel while

the subdivision is located south of the parcel.

"There is no migration of the contamination, there was no requirement to give notice," said Fausone, noting the landfill had been closed since 1965.

"The site has been studied extensively. It's at the north side of the site and not near the residents."

Methane gas occurs naturally as landfill materials break down, he said, so methane levels will be monitored.

As part of the agreement that transferred ownership of the property to the city, a consortium of Ford and 3M, both identified as liable parties along with the city as successor to Nankin Township, agreed to complete the remedia-



In the 2002 U.S. Geological Survey aerial photo, the site of the former National Airport was largely covered by several commercial buildings. However, it appears that a section of runway pavement from the former east-west runway still remained intact (at the center of the photo), as well as some of an unpaved northwest/southeast runway.

tion. Additionally, a deed restriction requires the property be used for recreation and \$390,000 was provided for the city-wide

recreational improvements. Plans call for work to be done on the property during the summer of 2012

with seeding in the spring or fall of 2013.

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OUR VIEWS

Incumbents, Yack get nod in trustee primary

With all of the political battles swirling in surrounding races, the Canton Township Board of Trustees race in the Aug. 7 primary is relatively calm.

Six candidates are vying in the Republican primary for four nominations (the top four will battle the only Democrat, Steven Sneideman, for four seats on the November ballot).

We recommend Canton voters choose incumbents **Pat Williams** and **John Anthony**, appointed incumbent **Greg Demopoulos** and former Canton Township Supervisor **Tom Yack** in Tuesday's vote.

Anthony is seeking his second term on the board. A former FBI special agent, he brings an analytical mind to the board. He's intelligent, thoughtful and is willing to look at ideas from all sides. He's been part of a board that fought its way out of a \$14 million budget deficit two years ago, using a combination of cost-cutting and department realignment, reduction of salaries and other measures to bring it back to balance. Anthony is a voice of reason on which the board relies as it tackles the issues facing the township.

Williams is also seeking his second term. As an account manager for a Tier 1 automotive supplier and a partner in a pet cleaning products manufacturer, Williams has a unique set of experiences from which to draw as he considers issues facing the board. Williams also backs the arts effort in Canton as part of the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities and civic groups such as the Canton Lions and Rotary clubs.

Demopoulos was appointed last year to fill the remaining portion of Todd Caccamo's term, and he has been a solid addition. The thing to like about Demopoulos is the road he took to get there. Demopoulos has served on the township's Zoning Board of Appeals, the Merit Commission and the Planning Commission. That's a municipal background few trustees ever get.

Yack, the longtime Canton Township supervisor, is well-versed in how things run, dealing with issues ranging from public safety to roads and everything in between. He knows the players when dealing with regional issues, and he knows how the system works.

The Canton Township board has been operating smoothly and efficiently. **Pat Williams**, **John Anthony** and **Greg Demopoulos** have been a part of that, and **Tom Yack's** previous experience would make him a natural fit. We recommend those names to voters casting ballots in the Aug. 7 primary.

Slavens earns nod in House 21st District

Dian Slavens is seeking her third — and final — term representing the state House 21st District, which includes most of Canton. We believe Slavens, a Canton resident, has earned another term, and we recommend her to voters in the Democratic primary on Aug. 7.

Challenger **Kiz Ahamiojie**, a Farmington Hills native now living in Belleville, is an earnest, intelligent young man whose biggest concern is education. But he's never been politically active, and jumping all the way to the state House is a big political leap.

Slavens is respected by leaders around the district, and she has proven she can work well with others, even those with a different party designation after their name.

Slavens is in touch with the residents in her district, she votes her conscience with the best interests of her district in mind and she's a woman of strong character.

We believe **Dian Slavens** deserves re-election in the Aug. 7 primary.



Slavens

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Cassis, Taj our choice for 11th

Voters in the 11th Congressional District will nominate a Republican and a Democrat in the Aug. 7 primary election to move on to the general election in November for the position's full term. A special election will be held Sept. 5 to fill the remainder of the term of **Thad McCotter**, who stepped down July 6.

We recommend **Nancy Cassis** of Novi as the Republican nominee. Her name won't be on the ballot — voters will have to write her name in and fill in the circle next to it. Opponent **Kerry Bentivolio** is the only Republican name on the ballot.

Cassis has a proven track record as a state senator, state representative and Novi City



Cassis



Taj

Council member. Cassis is knowledgeable about the issues and holds the same conservative values as most mainstream Republicans in the district.

Syed Taj gets our nod as the Democratic nominee. A medical doctor and a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, Taj is a good listener

who would be able to compromise and work across the aisle. Taj supports increased border patrols to stop illegal immigration, but wants to improve the immigration process so that foreigners who want to work professionally in this country can get here, just like he did.

We recommend Republican **Nancy Cassis** and Democrat **Syed Taj** Aug. 7.

Price, Amar for county seat

One thing is abundantly clear among the four men running in the Aug. 7 primary for the newly drawn Wayne County Commission 10th District: they all want Wayne County Executive **Robert Ficano** out.

But the performance of the county executive isn't the only problem facing the commission, and we believe Republican **Shannon Price** and Democrat **James Amar** display a better sense of the issues.

Price wants a thorough audit of county finances, an online county "checkbook" open for viewing by the public and a charter amendment that would give the Board of Commissioners the power to impeach the county executive.



Price



Amar

ideas he says could improve the economy: a drive to increase tourism; incentives for the movie industry; and the further promotion of the Aerotropolis business park.

We recommend Republican **Shannon Price** and Democrat **James Amar** in the Aug. 7 primary for the Wayne County Commission 10th District seat.

LETTERS

Toxic products

Over the past year, a series of studies have uncovered information that is surprising and disturbing: hazardous chemicals such as cadmium, lead, arsenic, mercury, and toxic flame retardants are often present in a wide array of children's products purchased in Michigan, including car seats, Halloween makeup, jewelry, changing pads, and even nursing pillows.

In response to these issues, a coalition of health, environmental, and faith-based organizations have created the Healthy Products, Healthy Kids platform. The platform provides common-sense proposals for legislation that would protect children from these hazards, such as giving consumers a right to know whether the products they are buying for their kids have toxic chemicals in them.

Toxic chemicals in our children's products should not be an issue in this day and age. A recent poll found that two-thirds of Michigan voters support stricter regulation of chemicals in products, and this majority exists across party lines. I urge Patrick Colbeck, and Thaddeus G. McCotter all candidates for state representative to sign onto this platform and, if they are elected, to support legislation to protect our children. This issue cannot wait any longer.

Lauren Bonney
Canton

Need Hoekstra

Pete Hoekstra is the U.S. Senator that Michigan needs in Washington. The country is on the precipice of financial disaster and only a candidate with the impeccable moral character of Pete Hoekstra can produce the reform the country needs.

While serving in the U.S. Congress for 18 years, Pete Hoekstra was never touched by the corruption in Washington. He slept on the couch in his office during his years in Congress, not because he was a penny-pincher, but because he wanted to ensure that he would not be tainted by the culture of corruption that is Washington D.C.

In addition to Congressman Hoekstra's moral character, he brings to the job the background and experience needed to be effective immediately. The precarious condition of our country does not afford us the luxury of sending someone to the Senate who will have to learn the job. From his business experience, Pete knows

what employers need from government in order to succeed, and from his government experience he knows how to enact the reforms that businesses need to begin hiring again.

Pete Hoekstra has always stood strong on the conservative principles of less government, more personal responsibility, and common-sense free market solutions. In tough times, Pete has been called on to make the tough decisions and he has always been ready and willing to do what was needed for the country. Pete is again ready to make the difficult decisions and be effective from day one.

Linda Burns Topp
Harrison Township

Supports Hoekstra

There are so many points I like about Pete Hoekstra, I don't know where to start.

Pete has been endorsed by Governor Snyder, Congressman Paul Ryan, Herman Cain, Senator Pat Toomey, Governor John Kasich, Congresswoman Michele Bachman, Rep. Justin Amash, and Sen. Rick Santorum to mention just a few.

Pete has been incredibly competitive in polls, going to within 5 points of Stabenow before the primary and he has consistently held a commanding lead over Clark Durant. Unlike Durant, Hoekstra has run a clean and positive campaign.

He served as the ranking member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, playing an instrumental role in reforming the intelligence community after the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Working with both Democrats and Republicans, including a Democrat president, Pete Hoekstra helped balance the federal budget in the 1990s. During that time, there was in fact a budget surplus.

His main primary opponent, Clark Durant, doesn't have nearly enough name recognition as Pete has. Durant is also plagued by the disturbing facts surrounding his \$500,000.00 salary from a non-profit school system in Detroit. Instead of reinvesting that money into the charter schools Durant has chosen to provide himself with a compensation that far exceeds the national standard for Charter School directors.

There have been rumors about him taking too much money out of his non-profit charter school organization. He doesn't have the "it" factor that Pete has, Pete is just a real

likeable kind of guy, that is accessible and understands business, economics and politics. He will do right by the citizens of Michigan.

Adam Raessler
Troy

Magic in Lansing

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

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

However, like any audience member at a magic show, I ask, "How can they do this?" After all, Michigan cities are falling into insolvency like pins in a bowling alley. Schools from kindergarten to college are gasping for life, dosing or imposing additional taxes on students and parents in the form of rising tuition. Crime is skyrocketing, property burms to the ground regularly, and people are left to die because municipalities are forced to lay off policemen, firemen and EMS staff since the state is not paying the money it owes these entities. Roads, bridges, infrastructures are falling to pieces because the state can't afford their upkeep. Prisons are closing, pension systems are collapsing, teachers are sent packing, children are going hungry, social services for the needy are reduced, unemployment benefits are drastically cut, yet our GOP legislators attempt to claim, with straight faces, "We have a budget surplus."

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

Walter Sobczak
Novi

MJENF

Saving Zeus

Westland woman raises funds to treat dog's rare disorder

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Melissa Crowley is putting social media to the test in getting the word out about her dog Zeus. She has a blog, a Facebook page and even a Saving Zeus website, all aimed at helping her 6-year-old Rottweiler.

A part of her "family" since he was seven weeks

old, Zeus is in need of medical testing and treatment of a rare genetic disorder that is causing him severe pain and difficulty walking.

"He is the most loving, caring, gentle giant in the world. He truly loves everyone," the Westland resident said. "He is my utmost favorite dog of all the dogs that have been in my life over the last many years. The thought of losing him makes my heart break and causes me physical pain."

Zeus was diagnosed with immune-mediated polyarthritis in May. According to Crowley, an allergic reaction to antibiotics has caused his immune system to attack his joints, leaving permanent damage in its wake.

Zeus has allergies and Crowley estimates she and her husband have spent upward of \$20,000 on allergy treatments and skin and ear infections over the years.

He had been on an antibiotic for a skin infection for 14 days. It hadn't cleared up, so a second round was ordered. Eight days into the second round, Crowley came home to find that Zeus wouldn't get up for anyone, including her neighbor that he "loves." He couldn't put weight on his front legs, he had difficulty sitting and standing. She stopped giving him the antibiotics and within 24 hours he was back to normal, but shortly after that he had several accidents in the house, something he never does.

"The doctor wanted to do an urinalysis for a bladder infection and used a different antibiotic that had to be made especially for him. A 10-day supply cost \$300," Crowley said. "Within three days, Zeus couldn't walk. The vet said he was having a reaction to the antibiotic. This time he didn't get better."

Zeus was put on two different types of pain medications, but those didn't provide relief. Now doctors are giving him high doses of the drug prednisone to depress his immune system so that it stops attacking his joints.

Each time they lower the dose, he has a relapse.

The prednisone is keeping Zeus comfortable, but it isn't a long-term solution. Prednisone can cause diabetes and Cushing's disease. The doctor at the Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield wants to do digital X-rays and

joint taps to see what else is going on in Zeus's joints. The tests alone cost \$2,000, and Crowley estimates she needs \$5,000 for the test and the treatment.

The Catch-22 is he needs the tests before he can get the treatment.

"We don't have the funds and the only other option is to wait until it gets worse and we have to have him put down," Crowley said. "We've spent so much on this dog over those six years, but this time we don't have \$2,000. My husband calls him the million-dollar dog."

Crowley has launched an online fund-raising site, www.giveforward.com/SavingZeus, where people can log on and make a donation, and a Saving Zeus Facebook page — www.facebook.com/#/SavingZeus. She also is blogging about her beloved pet at www.savingzeus.wordpress.com.

So far she has gathered \$1,205 in donations.

She's also doing a fund-raiser — Putt for a Cause ... and Save These Paws — planned for Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Putting Edge, 44225 W. 12 Mile, Novi. The event will be 1-4 p.m. and include 18 holes of miniature golf, arcade games, pizza and pop, prizes for the most holes in one and the best game score and a \$500 raffle. Advance tickets are \$20 and \$25 the day of the event. Tickets are available by calling Crowley at (248) 755-0550 or at melissacrowley668@att.net.

Admitting that it saddens her to see her dog in so much pain and unable to do the things he loves to do, she hopes she'll be able to raise the money needed to save him before it is too late. If Zeus's condition worsens and he passes away before the fund-raising efforts are complete, or if they don't raise enough money for his tests and treatment, proceeds will be donated to his veterinarian, Dr. Steven Mantay, owner of Healthy Paws Veterinary Medical Center in Westland, to help another animal in desperate need of medical attention, Crowley said.

"I just can't bear to sit back and wait until the day comes to put him down without doing everything I can to try to help and save him," Crowley said. "I will be completely heartbroken, if we lose him."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



Melissa Crowley has started a fund-raising drive to benefit her six-year-old Rottweiler, Zeus, who has a rare disorder, Immune-Mediated Polyarthritis.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its annual meeting August 21, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandra Young, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750 X217

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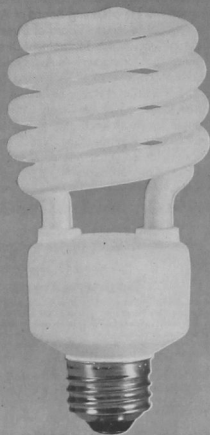
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- Canton Township Zoning Board of Appeals Member
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- Canton Soccer Club Tournament Director - 7 Years
- Central Park Homeowner's Association Board Member
- 35th District Court Public Defender 1996-2008
- Parish Council Member - Holy Cross
- Canton Township Recreational Advisory Committee
- Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Attorney for 24 years with offices in Canton
- 24 Year Canton Resident

www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com

"A lawyer by trade, Demopoulos has provided another analytical mind as he has transitioned into the seat."

— Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

Endorsements

Canton Township Supervisor - Phil Lajoy
Canton Township Clerk - Terry Bennett
Canton Township Treasurer - Melissa McLaughlin
Canton Township Trustee - Pat Williams
Canton Township Trustee - John Anthony
State Senator - Patrick Colbeck
Former State Senator & Representative - Bruce Patterson
Former State Senator & Representative - Loren Bennett
Former Canton Township Supervisor
& Trustee Candidates - Tom Yack
Endorsed by the Canton Observer on July 19, 2012

"The thing to like about Demopoulos is the road he took to get there. Demopoulos has served on the township's Zoning Board of Appeals, the Merit Commission and the Planning Commission. That's a municipal background few trustees ever get."

— Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

**For Greg Demopoulos' Platform
visit www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com**



Pictured: The Demopoulos Family

"The Canton Township Board has been operating smoothly and efficiently. Pat Williams, John Anthony and Greg Demopoulos have been part of that, and Tom Yack's previous experience would make him a natural fit. We recommend those names to voters casting ballots in the Aug. 7 primary."

— Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

Phil Lajoy: "Greg is part of a team that is balancing our budget, cutting costs, maintaining fund balance reserves, reducing water and sewer rates and maintaining Canton's quality of life."



Pictured: Trustee Demopoulos & Supervisor Lajoy



Pictured: Trustee Demopoulos

Trustee Demopoulos: "I have brought much to the table since my appointment to the Board of Trustees 10 months ago. I want to continue pushing for state and federal dollars to alleviate traffic congestion at Ford Road and I-275 and a water tower which can reduce water rates up to \$3 million per year for our Township."

Trustee Anthony: "Trustee Demopoulos has been an effective force on the Board, makes positive suggestions and works as a team member to keep Canton a model community."

Trustee Williams: "Greg has made significant contributions to the Board of Trustees. He brought his legal experience and knowledge of Canton to the Board and needed no learning curve."



Pictured: Trustees Anthony, Demopoulos & Williams

Melissa McLaughlin: "Communities thrive because people like Greg work for all of us. Greg has 20 years plus of making Canton a priority."

Terry Bennett: "Greg knows Canton, as a soccer club director, a volunteer, planning commissioner, prosecutor and now as Canton's newest Trustee. Greg is good for Canton."



Pictured: Treasurer McLaughlin, Trustee Demopoulos & Clerk Bennett

SECTION B • (*)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR
ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 578-2767



PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT
Members of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team learn blocking technique on the sled Thursday afternoon. A heightened emphasis on safety is stressed for all drills.



Garden City Youth Athletics Association football commissioner Scott Murray holds an older, replaced helmet with one of the program's new helmets. The new helmets are lighter and the interior padding better helps absorb collisions.

Clinic targets injury issues

Canton-based Dynamic Athlete Performance will team up with Henry Ford Health System to offer a free-of-charge Lower Extremity/ACL Prevention Clinic on Monday, Aug. 20, from 6-8 p.m. at Dynamic Athlete Performance, which is located at 46615 Michigan Avenue.

The clinic will feature a presentation on lower-extremity anatomy, ACL injury-prevention tips and specific strength-training exercises for athletes who compete in sports such as soccer, basketball and volleyball.

Among the presenters will be Henry Ford Health System sports medicine physician Brett Martin, former world-class decathlete Chad Smith and athletic trainer Nicole Schreiber.

To register for the clinic, call (734) 961-3271 or send an e-mail to info@a-p-t.com.

YOUTH FOOTBALL'S 'SAFETY' BLITZ

Junior gridiron programs place high emphasis on players' health

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

In an era when concussion-related scrutiny continues to pile on the National Football League, junior gridiron gladiators have never been safer.

That is the overwhelming consensus of several Observer-land-area youth football coaches and administrators, who say a recent all-out "safety" blitz has made the sport's athletes as safe as ever.

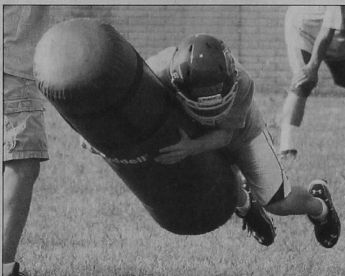
In addition to significant equipment improvements — particularly pertaining to helmets — coaches are much better educated when it comes to concussion recognition and post-concussion treatment.

"From what I've seen, player safety is a lot better now,

even compared to four or five years ago," said Jake Wieloch, the varsity head coach of the Canton Lions. "There's been a jump in quality in the design of the equipment and our coaches have a much greater awareness of what's going on out on the field as far as recognizing concussions."

"Just like with everything, parents need to weigh the risks against the benefits. Football is a contact sport, so there are risks involved, but thanks to the upgrade in equipment and education, the risks aren't as great as they were several years ago. Also, the benefits of playing a team sport like this are numerous: Learning life lessons like getting up after you get knocked

Please see SAFETY, B3



Livonia Falcons player Sean Miaszdowski displays proper shoulder-first tackling technique during Thursday's practice.

Combs ESPN All-American

Livonia Ladywood pitcher Briana Combs was recently named to the Gatorade/ESPN All-American second team for the 2012 season.

Combs, who was also named 2012 Miss Softball by the Michigan Interscholastic Softball Coaches Association and 2012 Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year.

Combs, who will attend Cleveland State University in the fall on a softball scholarship, boosted a career record of 149-11 with 1,400 strikeouts and an earned run average of 0.21.

She went 38-1 her senior year with 378 strikeouts and an 0.21 ERA while batting .528 as the Blazers captured the MHSAA Division 2 state championship in June.

2012 LONDON SUMMER OLYMPICS

Schmitt's gold rush continues

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Allison Schmitt did it again and did it in the clutch.

The Canton High grad earned her second gold medal in as many days pushing the United States in front in the anchor leg to capture the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay Wednesday night at the London Summer Olympic games.

The 22-year-old, coming off a gold medal performance Tuesday in the 200 freestyle, provided the anchor leg as the Americans clocked an Olympic-record 7 minutes, 42.92 seconds. The time was only 0.84 second off the world record.

"The best thing is bringing home gold for the U.S.," Schmitt said. "It's my first Olympic gold medal in the relay."

Joining Schmitt on the podium for the gold medal



KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY

Canton's Allison Schmitt (far left) proudly flashes her 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay gold medal along with teammates (from left) Shannon Freeland, Dana Vollmer and Missy Franklin.

ceremony were relay teammates Missy Franklin, Dana Vollmer and Shannon Freeland.

"The first three ladies had an amazing swim and I just wanted to bring it home for them," Schmitt said.

Australia led by over a

half-second entering the final leg, but had to settle for silver in 7:44.41.

Schmitt swam the final leg in 1:54.09, just half second off her 200 freestyle first-place finish and the second

Please see SCHMITT, B2

Bachrouche PR's in 800 freestyle

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

North Farmington grad Katya Bachrouche, representing Lebanon, posted a personal best time of 8 minutes, 35.88 in the women's 800-meter freestyle Thursday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

The 22-year-old University of Virginia All-American finished second in Heat 2 behind Julia Hassler of Liechtenstein, who was clocked in 8:35.18.

Bachrouche, however, did not make it to the Friday's final.

American Katie Ledecky, only 15, won the gold medal in an American record time of 8 minutes, 14.63 seconds. Spain's Mirela Belmonte Garcia took the silver in 8:18.76, while Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington grabbed the bronze in 8:20.32.

Bachrouche's time ranked 18th overall among the 35 preliminary heat participants. She bested her previous 800 freestyle time

Please see OLYMPICS, B2

Redford Jr. grid practice

The Redford Catholic junior football program will kick off Monday with condition practices from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Loretto in Redford.

Players between the ages of 8 and 14 who are interested in playing football are encouraged to sign up on Monday. The program is especially in need of freshmen players.

For more information, contact Pat Wagner at (313) 690-0117.

The team kicks off its 2012 season on Aug. 25.



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KIRBY LEE | USA TODAY
Canton's Allison Schmitt is all smiles after anchoring the U.S. to a gold medal in the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay Wednesday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

SCHMITT

Continued from page B1



KIRBY LEE | USA TODAY
Canton's Allison Schmitt (far left) flashes her gold medal after winning a gold medal Tuesday in the 200-meter freestyle at the London Summer Olympic Games.

fastest split ever in the world on Tuesday.

"I knew it was close, I saw it was neck-and-neck all race and I just wanted to swim my own race like in the 200 last night," Schmitt said. "I just wanted to feed off that energy and bring home the gold tonight for the relay."

France touched third in 7:47.49 to earn the bronze while Canada was a distant fourth in 7:50.65.

"I knew Allison was going to pull off something amazing and the rest of us had to at least be even with every-one else," Vollmer said. "Knowing that I fought as hard as I could that last 50 to either get ahead or at least stay even with the field so every person diving in would have the best chance they could."

Earlier in the day, Australia clocked a 7:49.44 in Heat 1 to earn the top qualifying time. The Americans, winner of Heat 2, were seeded second going into the finals after posting a time of 7:50.75.

Schmitt, who took a year off from the University of Georgia to train for the Olympics under coach Bob Bowman at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, has earned a total of four medals during the London Games including two gold, a silver in the 400 freestyle and a bronze in the 4 x 100 freestyle relay.

The 2008 Canton grad also earned a bronze medal in the 800 freestyle relay at the Beijing Olympics.

bemom@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Area athletes to be inducted in CMU Hall

The late Kevin Young (Farmington High) and Allison Campbell (Livonia Stevenson) are among six former Central Michigan University greats who will be inducted this fall into Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame.

Receiving the highest honor bestowed by the department are soccer player Allison Campbell (2000-01), baseball player Young (1992-94), cross country/track coach Craig Fuller (1982-86, 1990-2008), wrestler Carleton Kinkade (1984-88), softball player Hope Roberts (1998-2001), and basketball player David Webber (1999-2002).

The newest class will be enshrined on Friday, Oct. 26, in a ceremony at the CMU Events Center. The free event is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. The group will also be recognized at halftime of the 3:30 p.m. football game against Akron on Saturday, Oct. 27.

"This is another class of inductees that has continued the proud tradition and championship culture of CMU Athletics," CMU Director of Athletics Dave Heeke said. "Our induction cer-



Kevin Young



Allison Campbell

The late Young was a key member as a third baseman of the 1994 baseball team which captured the Mid-American Conference tournament title and appeared in the NCAA tournament, along with the 1993 team that won the MAC regular season championship.

He earned first-team All-America honors and was the MAC Player of the Year in the 2004 season, during which he batted .415 with 17 home runs and a then CMU record tying 63 RBI.

Young was selected in the 1994 Major League

emoney is the highlight of the year as we look forward to reuniting with our former student-athletes and celebrating alongside the many people who have helped them succeed."

Baseball Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers and reached double-A in 1997 before retiring from pro baseball after four seasons.

A native of Farmington Hills, Young passed away unexpectedly in 2008 at the age of 36. His wife, Michelle, and children Hanna and Liam survive him.

Campbell was a two-year standout on the women's soccer team after transferring to CMU from the University of Tennessee.

She was named first-team All-Mid-American Conference in 2001 and second-team in 2000. Her name frequently appears in the CMU soccer record book, with single-season records for goals (14), assists (8) and points (33).

Campbell also set a single-match record with three goals in a game against Buffalo in 2001.

She has earned two master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts and is currently a merchandising representative for a leading sales and marketing services company in Livonia.

OLYMPICS

Continued from page B1

of 8:44.5 by over nine seconds.

The top three prelim times were posted by Adlington (8:21.78), Denmark's Lotte Friis (8:21.89) and Ledecsky (8:23.84). Bachrouche, who was able to walk through the

London Summer Games' opening ceremonies, was only one of two swimmers to represent the Lebanon team. She dual citizenship through her father, who was born and raised in Lebanon.

Bachrouche, who turns 23 on Aug. 18, finished seventh last summer in 400 freestyle at the World University Games in China. Last December, Bach-

rouche captured four gold medals in the 200, 400 and 800 freestyles, along with the 200 IM, at the Pan-Arab Games held in Doha, Qatar.

In February, Bachrouche moved to Los Angeles to train with the Trojan Swim Club, a post grad team at USC.

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SAFETY

Continued from page B1

down, and to keep going when you feel like stopping."

Just say know

There is a growing trend among youth-league organizations to require coaches to recognize the symptoms of concussions. The Garden City Youth Athletic Association mandated such a program this summer.

"We asked all of our head coaches to complete an online program offered by the University of Michigan," said GCYAA football commissioner Scott Murray. "They had to complete the program and then pass a test."

Murray, who is also the head coach of the Garden City High School varsity football team, said concussion awareness has increased dramatically in recent years.

"Back in the day, they used to say, 'You got your bell rung kid, shake it and get back in there,'" Murray said. "Nowadays, if a concussion is diagnosed, the kid sits out and he stays out until he is cleared by a doctor."

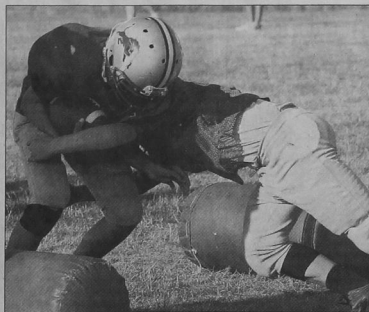
"We do a better job of tracking the athletes' concussions and other serious injuries," added Pat Elvy, who oversees the Farmington Rockets' football operations. "A player is not allowed to play after he suffers a concussion until he is cleared to return by a doctor. If he suffers a second concussion, he's not allowed to play any more."

Elvy said the sport's mentality has changed 180 degrees when it comes to dealing with concussions. "You used to hear things like, 'Suck it up, be a man,'" he said. "Now there's more education out there and less understatement of the seriousness of the situation."

High tech

Comparing the helmets today's young players wear to the ones their parents strapped on is like comparing a Lexus to a Pinto.

Modern headgear is lighter, better padded and designed to absorb



ED WRIGHT

The Canton Lions worked on proper form tackling mid-way through Friday night's practice at Heritage Park in Canton.

the shock of collisions.

"The price has gone up considerably," Murray said, "but when you consider the kids' safety, it's well worth it."

The helmets used by the Livonia Junior Athletic League's players are packed up and sent away to the manufacturer each year so that they can be thoroughly inspected.

"We send them to Riddell for re-conditioning every year," said Mark Mims, who heads the Livonia Falcons' program. "Each helmet is tested. If they don't pass the test, they're rejected and taken out of commission."

A new rule was also recently instituted that requires all helmets that are 10 years old to be thrown out even if they're fit enough to pass inspection, Wieloch said.

Kevin Pott, the president of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers, said the Steelers' organization has been pro-active when it comes to player safety.

"We have done several things with regard to a heightened awareness involving concussions," said Pott. "We have yearly certification

of our helmets. We work with Riddell on equipment grants to continuously upgrade our equipment, and we provide concussion training for all our coaches."

Recent studies have shown that milners guards play a major role in concussion prevention. "A lot of players will chew the ends of their mouth guards while they're standing on the sidelines during games or at practice," Elvy said. "We check the condition of the mouth guards before every game because one thing that can cause or worsen the effects of a concussion are when the molars in the back of the mouth come together during a collision."

In the wake of the recent revelations that concussions create serious long-term health issues for NFL players, some observers have predicted the demise of tackle football in the next 25 years.

"If that ever happened, it would be very unfortunate," said Murray, because this game offers so many life lessons that other sports can't.

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ED WRIGHT

Members of the Livonia Falcons flag-football team go through stretching exercises Thursday afternoon. The players are equipped with kick-boxing helmets for safety.

Youngest gridders are well-protected

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

You're never too young to learn the fundamentals of football.

That was the philosophy of the Livonia Junior Athletic League's four youth football programs, which created opportunities four years ago for first- and second-graders to get an early taste of the sport.

"We had a lot of our older players' younger siblings sitting around watching their brothers play, so we decided to start up a flag football program for them, just so they can learn the basics of the sport," Livonia Falcons football unit director Mark Mims said. "There was enough interest to start a team and we have 21 players this year."

Unlike a lot of youth flag football leagues throughout the Detroit area, the LJAL teams

equip their players with headgear to help prevent concussions and other head-related injuries.

"Even in flag football, there can be incidental collisions that take place, so we purchased kick-boxing helmets for all of the players," Mims said. "They only cost about \$17 each, but they provide a layer of protection for the young kids."

The four Livonia flag teams play eight games per season and open the fall with a four-way scrimmage against one another.

"The flag games usually start about two hours before the first tackle game of the day," Mims said. "It's a great way for the young kids to learn all the terminology, what the different positions do and how the game is played."

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12-13U baseball

Tryouts for the 2013 13-and-under and 12-and-under City Riversharks travel baseball team will be held Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday (Aug. 12 at West Quadplex, which is located on Forest Rd. (between Venoy and Hubbard) in Wayne.

The 13U tryouts will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday and from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The 12U tryouts are set for 7:30-9 p.m. on Tuesday and 12-3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

All players are encouraged to sign up to 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the tryout.

Players are not required to attend all three tryouts. Players must be willing to commit to 40 to 50 games, including weekend tournament play, from April through July. For more information and to pre-register for tryouts, send an e-mail to motocricityriversharks@gmail.com.

13-U baseball

The Michigan Bulldogs will be holding tryouts for their 13-and-under baseball team from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, August 5 at Bicentennial Park's (Field No. 8), located off Seven Mile and Wayne roads in Livonia.

Players are asked to show up by 1:45 p.m. to get warmed up and fill out a tryout form.

Email Scott Coughlin at scottcoughlin@yahoo.com for more information.

12-U baseball

Open travel baseball tryouts for the 12-and-under Dearborn Heights Knights will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7 and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 at the Canfield Arena/Centennial Park, located south of Ford between Beech Daly and Inkster Roads.

Interested players must be 12 years-old prior to May 1, 2013 and only need to attend one of the two tryout sessions.

For more registration information, call head coach Brad Ebben at (248) 924-0489, or e-mail bebben11@att.net.

Tryouts for the Livonia Longhorns, an under-12 baseball team, will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4 at Livonia Franklin High School.

For more information, call coach Matt Fournier at (734) 968-0499.

11-U baseball

Tryouts for the 2013 Motor City Chiefs under-11 travel baseball team will be at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 at Massey Field, 790 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 at Castle Gardens, 14501 Hix Road, Livonia.

Players are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to tryout time to register and warm up. (If unable to attend, a player evaluation can be scheduled upon request.)

For more information, call Dan Sheehan at (734) 377-3123, or Ken Gaffney at (734) 395-4058.

You can also e-mail motorcitybaseball@gmail.com.

U-11 baseball

The Livonia Lakers will hold under-11 baseball tryouts from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, Aug. 4-5, at the Livonia Rotary Park (Diamond No. 4).

Tryouts are open to residents of Livonia schools (public or private only).

For more information, email Aaron Rumberger at ccrumberger@yahoo.com.

U-9 baseball

Tryouts for the Livonia Bats, an under-9 baseball team, will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 at Livonia Franklin H.S.

For more information, call coach Bill Schaffer at (734) 891-3896.

Plymouth High hockey camp

Plymouth High School hockey players interested in trying out for the varsity team this fall are encouraged to participate in a summer mini-camp that begins Tuesday, Aug. 7, with a 90-minute skate at the Canton Arctic Edge Arena starting at 7:30 p.m.

A second skating session will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9. The Plymouth varsity hockey mini-camp is a series of on-ice sessions and off-ice workouts for three weeks.

For more information, call Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento at (313) 215-3394, or visit the team's website: www.hockeyplymouthwildcats.com.

Salem Rockettes set golf outing

The 12th annual Salem Rockettes Golf Outing is slated for

Sunday, Aug. 5 at Fox Hills Golf Club, 8768 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth.

Cost is \$100 per golfer for 18 holes of golf (scramble format) on the Premium Classic Fox course, followed by a buffet dinner and silent auction.

Also on tap will be contests with prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and much more.

Register on-line at www.golf-foursome.com/event/salem-rockettes.

Golf classes

Later summer youth and adult golf classes are available during the month of August at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township.

There will also be a Golf Enhancement Session, Practice Drills for Your Irons, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6 at the practice range.

Included in the \$20 cost is range balls and swing tips. (Golf after 6:30 p.m. is an additional \$10, including cart.)

For more information or to book a lesson, contact PGA professional Tami Beal at TrainWithTami@yahoo.com; or call (734) 731-0238.

Meteors hold golf outing

The Westland Meteors youth football and cheer program will stage a golf outing Sunday, Aug. 5 at Fellows Creek Golf Course, 2936 S. Lotz Road, Canton.

Check-in for the four-person scramble begins at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$75 (includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner). Prizes include best team score, longest drive, closest-to-the-pin, 50-50 raffle and other raffle items.

For more information, call Meteors unit director Don Gibbs at (734) 740-0069, or e-mail unitdirector@westlandmeteors.com.

You can also call booster president Daniel McNea at (734) 781-5253 or e-mail dmnea@gmail.com.

Hawk golf outing

The Farmington Harrison High School Football Boosters Club will have its annual golf outing Sunday, Aug. 5, at Cattails Golf Club in South Lyon.

The event will be a Texas Scramble starting at 2 p.m. The cost is \$100 per player or \$400

per foursome. A steak dinner will follow the golf outing.

A registration form is available at www.gohawks.org or people may register by calling Dave Race at (248) 376-1535.

Hawks girls hoops

Free tryouts for the Livonia Junior Athletic League Hawks, a sixth-grade girls basketball team, will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Churchill H.S. Fieldhouse (Court No. 2); 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12 and Thursday, Aug. 23, both at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (Main Gym No. 2). Tryouts are open to anyone who reside in the Livonia Public School district regardless of school.

For more information, contact coach Jennifer Sopko at jennifer_sopko@hotmail.com; or call (248) 854-4207, or coach Doug Freed at 204east126@hotmail.com; or call (734) 634-5134.

Farmington girls swim tryouts

The Farmington High School girls swim and dive team is looking for interested girls to join the team. There are no tryouts, and everyone will get a chance to compete.

Practice officially begins Wednesday, Aug. 8, at Farmington High. For more information, contact coach Driska McCullough at (248) 561-2090.

Meet the team night at Churchill

Livonia Churchill High athletics will stage a Meet the Team Night beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15 at the Churchill Auditorium. All Churchill athletes from all three seasons, along with their parents, are urged to attend.

For more information, call (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

Charity bowl

The seventh annual Bowl-4 Animal Rescue will take place 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

All proceeds benefit the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Whether you bowl or not, you can help animals by becoming a sponsor, making

a donation, donating an auction item or by getting pledges (donations).

The event has raised nearly \$100,000, and organizers are hoping to surpass that figure this year. Participants can earn V.I.B. (Very Important Bowler) status by raising \$300.

The event includes bowling, food, music, auctions, raffles, karaoke and more. For more information, email michelle@yourbowlingcoach.com or call (248) 615-9060.

Run, bike golf

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

The cost is \$65 (through Sept. 15) or \$75 (through race day). Included in the cost is a free golf clinic conducted by PGA professional Tami Beal at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26 at Hickory Creek. Tami's Tri includes gift pack, prizes and lunch included. Space is limited to 144 golfers.

Proceeds will go to the non-profit organization Growth Works, Inc. of Canton and Plymouth.

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

Triple Threat hoop program

Triple Threat Training is hosting a developmental club for young basketball players at High Velocity Sports in Canton, running from Sept. 9 through Oct. 22. The six-week club is for boys and girls of all ages. The club (\$250) is designed for those entering grades 3-8 who are interested in taking their game to the next level. Training will focus on improving individual skills, basketball IQ, strength, conditioning, speed and agility.

In addition to age-appropriate workouts will be instructional scrimmages with referees on Sundays from 3-6 p.m. A jersey will be included.

High Velocity is located south of Michigan Ave. west of Canton Center/Belleview Road in Canton. Call (734) 341-1336 or e-mail Troy Coleman at tcoleman@tsttsports.net for more details.

Michigan Jaguars bounce back to capture U.S. championship

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

The Michigan Jaguars '96 Green took last year's US Youth Soccer National Championship loss to heart by earning the Under-16 title on enemy turf with a 2-0 victory over Carolina Elite in Sunday's final at the Manchester Meadows Complex in Rock Hill, S.C.

The national U-15 runner-up from a year ago, the Jaguars captured the coveted title thanks to first-half goal Bloomfield Hills' Nathan McLean (Novi Detroit Catholic Central High), who pounced knock down off his team's long throw in. That was followed by the match clincher during the 79th minute as Saline's Jason Carmack (Ann Arbor Huron) connected off a counter attack.

Jaguars center-defender Zachary Bock (Novi CC) was named MVP of the tournament, while goalkeeper James Hague (Walpole Lake) captured the Golden Glove Award.

The Jaguars, the only Michigan squad to win a national title, kept their team virtually intact after losing 3-1 to the Chicago Fire Academy Juniors in the 2011 championship final.

"Actually we carried the same team and added two new players," Jaguars coach Barry Scott said. "I think the difference was knowing the disappointment of not winning it last year. It really made them determined and focused to go back and win it this year."

"That was the driving force knowing they were so close last year — it was the determination and focus to go back and do one better."

On July 25, Berkley's



Members of the U-16 Michigan Jaguars '96 Green hoist the US Youth Soccer National Championship trophy after posting a win over Carolina Elite Sunday in Rock Hill, S.C.

Iain Mason (Birmingham Groves) scored a pair of goals, while McLean and Travis Hamers (South Lyon East) added one tally apiece as the Jaguars opened first-round play with a wild 4-3 win over Arsenal FC Lukey, the California-South Region VI champion.

A day later, Carmack tallied the lone goal in the 43rd minute to give the Jaguars a 1-0 victory over Lehigh (Pa.) Valley '95 United.

That set up a semifinal match Friday against the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Blackhaws with Carmack, Luai Fakhoury (Farmington Harrison) and Hamers scoring goals in a 3-2 triumph.

"We're a great team due to the fact that we have a lot of depth," Scott said. "Normally we have three, four or five different scorers. In this tournament we had five or six players that scored at least one goal. So having that depth and being able to have multiple players score from all positions was huge."

The US Youth Soccer

National Championship series began last fall with 10,000 teams competing in state regional and national qualifying tournaments. The field was pared down to the top 60 teams, ages 14-19, with the Jaguars capturing the Midwest Region League, Michigan State Cup and US Region II titles.

Rounding out the Jaguars' 19-member squad includes: center-midfielder Ken Krolnick, midfielder-forward Griffin Parks and Mattheo Plate, all of Canton High; midfielder Nicholas Oakley and fullback Matthew Kiura, both of Novi H.S.; defender Philip Ritchie, Novi CC; midfielder Joseph VanHouten, Northville H.S.; midfielder Vikram Mathias, West Bloomfield H.S.; goalkeeper K. Scott Michael, South Lyon H.S.; midfielder Michael Winters, Ypsilanti Lincoln H.S.; fullback Antonio Risto, Dexter H.S.; and defender-midfielder Reid Tennant, Ann Arbor Skyline H.S.

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Bullish on baseball

Ex-NFL player leads LCBL team to stellar season

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Frank Gallagher played seven seasons in the NFL, but the 69-year-old manager of the Michigan Bulls would rather talk baseball any day.

His 22-and-under Bulls, the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League champion with a 27-8 record, have earned another trip to the 16-team National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series, Aug. 9-14, in Toledo, Ohio.

It's the Bulls' fifth straight trip to the NABF World Series. Gallagher's 2005 team captured the NABF title in 2005 and were runners-up in 2004. Last year the Bulls reached the semifinals.

Gallagher, who played offensive guard for the Detroit Lions from 1967-72, including two trips to the Pro Bowl, has been at the helm of the Bulls since 2001. He is also the owner of the Bullpen Baseball Academy in Novi.

The Bulls had to hold off the hard-charging Michigan Knights (26-9) to win the LCBL title on July 22 with a 5-2 victory in the first game of a double-header as right-hander David Fredericks, who will play next season for Wayne State, got the victory.

"We played extremely well for a long period of time, then we had a bad streak at the end of the year where we lost six out of seven games," Gallagher said. "But the last three games we played extremely well. We were 21-3 at one point. I thought our league was a lot better this year, so we had competition within our league."

Fredericks, who played for Grand Rapids Community College last spring, is joined on a quality starting staff that also includes Josh Vandemark (Madonna University/Hicks, Ohio), Mark Heard (Northwood University/Farmington Harrison) and Riley Smith (Siena Heights/Farmington High).

The team's closer has been Ethan Vasiliakos (Wayne State).

The LCBL is a wood bat league where low scoring games are the norm as pitching and defense rule.

"We have good pitchers in a good league," Gallagher said of the LCBL. "I shouldn't say this, but Smith probably throws about 70 MPH, but he has had an amazing season. He threw a one-hitter for us against the (Michigan) Rams."

The Bulls' top hitter this season has been outfielder Phil Regnier (Novi), a starter at Central Michigan University, who is batting over .400 to go along with 30-plus stolen bases. Regnier is joined in the outfield by Steve Pelletier (Madonna/Harrison) and Kevin Conway (Wake Forest/Detroit Country).

Shortstop Pat Mackenzie (CMU/Birmingham Brother Rice), first baseman Brad Linberry (Madonna/Plymouth) and third baseman Theo Piccirilli (Western Michigan/Orchard Lake St. Mary) are all hitting over .300, while Ryan Horvath (Owens Corning/Madison Heights Lampshire) provides solid play at second base.

Tyler Huntley (Morley Stanwood), a red shirt freshman from CMU, and back-up Jacob Rhodes (Western Kentucky/Bellefonte), both handle the catching duty.

The Bulls open pool play Aug. 9 at Bowman Park in Toledo. The two top teams from each of the four pools advance to the single-elimination semifinals, which will be played at Lourdes (Ohio) University's all-turf field.

"When it came down to winning three of our last four games, we did so," said Gallagher, a native of Chester, Pa., who played the college football at North Carolina. "This team is very good, one of the better teams I've had."

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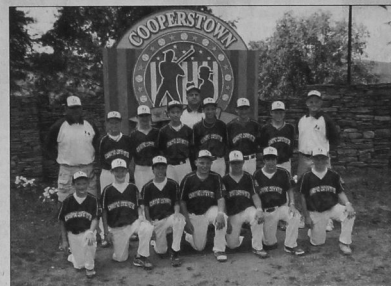
Hail to the Chiefs

The 10-and-under Motor City Chiefs closed their 2012 season with 10 straight wins and back-to-back tournament championships at the Wolves Open World Series at Founder's Sports Park in Farmington Hills (July 20-22) and Frankenmuth Summer Heat Tournament (July 27-29). Team members include (top row, from left) coaches Ken Gaffney, Tom Rorabacher, Tom Dono, Dan Sheahan, Dan Behn; (middle row, from left) Gabe Mitchell, Kyle Gaffney, Will Resler, Thomas Dono, Greg Littlefield, Kyle Littlefield; (bottom row, from left) Matt Behn, Kai St. Germaine, Greg Wilacke, Colin Sheahan, Ryan Strojny; (front) Brandon Rorabacher.



Softball impact

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield impact, the first-ever 10-and-under team in the history of the Western Wayne County League, finished 11-2 to capture the Silver North Division crown of the WWCL. They also finished runner-up, July 21-22, in the Black River Rumble Tournament in Port Huron. Team members include (front row, from left): Kacey Noseworthy, Sarah Cassidy, Hannah Kramer, Sydney Gordon, Nicole Roggow, Kelly McCullough; (second row, from left) Lyndsey Bruce, Kara Erickson, Isabel Randle, Sarah Williams, Jordyn Kravitz, Jenna Frommer; (back row, from left) coach Deb Lapin, coach Grant Kravitz, Molly Simpson, Kelly Simpson, manager Jeff Simpson and coach Larry Frommer.



Thunder visits Cooperstown

The 12-and-under Livonia City Thunder, AA travel baseball team recently wrapped up a 31-12 season, including 5-2 record in the week-long National Cooperstown (N.Y.) Tournament of Champions at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The Thunder was fifth seeded team going into the playoffs and placed third overall in a team fielding competition. Jake Beaune led the way with three homers, including one over the park's "Green Monster." Other homers came from Connor Beck, Jack Bushart, Connor Jakacki and Craig Jakacki. The Thunder also captured the Shawnee Shootout and Memorial Day NIT tournaments, while earning a runner-up finish in the Pinckney Pirates Classic. Members of the Thunder, sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings and Baskin Robbins, include: (back row, from left): coach Dennis Bushart, Jake Beaune, Spencer Weber, Zack Choppas, coach Dave Kubeshesky, Michael Harding, Connor Beck, Parker Graham and coach Joe Jakacki; (front row, from left) Cole Bushart, Jack Bushart, George Ferguson, Carl Clapp, Craig Jakacki, Joe Kubeshesky and Connor Jakacki. (Not pictured is coach Joe Choppas).

Local netters shine in Schoolcraft Classic

Unseeded Aimee Moccia of Livonia won all three matches to capture the Girls 18 singles title, July 27-29, at the U.S. Tennis Association Schoolcraft Classic Junior Classic.

Moccia, who will be a junior at Stevenson High, defeated top seed Allison Motea of Oakland Township, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 10-6 (super breaker) for the championship after disposing Kelsi Black of Monroe in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-3, and second seed Abigail Andrews of

Brighton in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-0.

In the Girls 16 final, Emma Worley (Northville) defeated Madeleine Szuba (Plymouth), 6-2, 6-4. Both were unseeded. Michiko Ota (Ann Arbor) topped Sydney Phipps (Fenton) for the Girls 14 title, 6-2, 6-1, while top seed Madeleine Stone-Whately (Ann Arbor) downed Neha Chava (Northville) in the Girls 12 championship.

In the Boys 16 final, top seeded Akhira Ota (Ann Arbor) downed Jordan

Jacobsen, 7-5, 6-1, while top seed Jordan Lu (Canton) took Boys 14 crown with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Patrick Reed (Monroe).

In the Boys 12s, fourth seed Joseph Croskey (Grosse Pointe Shores) defeated second seed Sidharth Amarnath (Novi), 6-2, 6-0, while second seed Aditya Suryakumar (Canton) took the Boys 10s singles title with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Kenny Prather (Grosse Pointe Farms).

LionTown

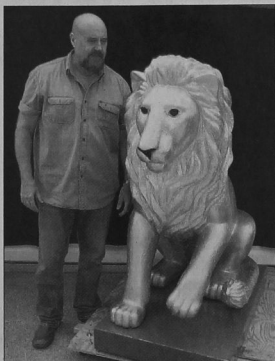
Livonia artist's work will roar into Birmingham this month

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Alan Casadei is surprised he doesn't have carpal tunnel syndrome. His painting technique, you see, is all in the wrist. No matter if he's slathering layer after layer of paint onto canvases or carefully applying a sculpting gel to a fiberglass lion, Casadei wields a palette knife instead of a brush to create texture in his creations.

"I've done so much texture. The way you use your wrist... it's a wonder I don't have carpal tunnel," said Casadei, 61, with a laugh during an interview Thursday at his Livonia home. "The whole thing with me is to do something different. I try not to do something that everyone else is doing."

When he was selected to paint one of 50 lion sculptures for an upcoming charity fundraiser, Casadei began his project at the same starting line as other participating artists. Each received an identical 58-inch-tall, 4-foot-long jungle cat, primed and ready to become a work of art. Casadei broke ranks with traditional brush painters to painstakingly apply a texture medium with his palette knife, roughening the lion's smooth fiberglass surface and giving it its mane

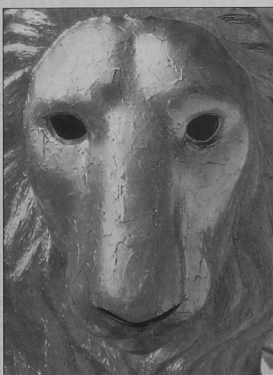


Alan Casadei and the lion he painted for LionTown, a fundraiser for the Children's Charities Coalition. His work will be on display starting Aug. 20 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham.

and coat a coarse appearance. He topped the textured medium — which took 40 hours to apply — with silver-hued aluminum industrial paint and colored the animal's eyes and nose black with enamel car paint. He contemplated adding a clear, protective coat to the piece, which weighs

approximately 40 pounds and sat atop a wheeled platform in his driveway last week.

"This took a really long time to do. Every little line is as if I were doing dots," Casadei explained. "That's the kind of work I do, even on my paintings. Each line is done with a palette knife."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Every inch of the lion shows texture applied by artist Alan Casadei.



Paintings from years of Alan Casadei's work, hang from the floor joists in his basement studio.

Art for charity

The silver lion, dubbed "Top Cat" after a cartoon Casadei remembers watching as a child, will go on public display Aug. 20 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham. It's part of the LionTown

fundraiser that will benefit The Children's Charity Coalition and the Detroit Lions Foundation outreach programs. All of the decorated lions will be auctioned at a gala event Oct. 16 at Ford Field in Detroit.

LIONTOWN

What: A fundraiser for The Children's Charities Coalition and the Detroit Lions charities includes a display of more than 50 lion sculptures — decorated by local artists — an auction of the works and a gala.

When: Lions will go on display Aug. 20 and will be auctioned at the LionTown Gala and Auction on Oct. 16.

Where: Lions will be on display throughout Metro Detroit including Allen Park, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Dearborn, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Rochester, Royal Oak, Warren and Southfield. See Alan Casadei's Lion in Shain Park, in downtown Birmingham.

Gala: Tickets range from \$250-\$100 for the event, which will start at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at Ford Field in Detroit. The event will include games and fun on the field, tailgate-themed dinner and cocktails, an opportunity to meet Detroit Lions team members and management, and a silent and a live auction.

Contact: Get tickets by calling (248) 258-5511. Visit www.liontown2012.com.

Casadei said the texture technique was an easy choice for his LionTown project. That's the way he creates all of his paintings.

"I have my own technique. I use almost anything I can just to see what kind of texture it will make."

That includes materi-

Please see LIONTOWN, B7

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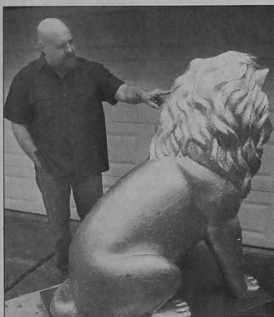
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Artist Alan Casadei spent many hours working texture into the surface of the lion.

LIONTOWN

Continued from page B5

as such as Styrofoam and sawdust that he layers on canvass with acrylic paint, using his palette knife.

Casadei, who is married and has a grown daughter, began experimenting in abstract paintings a few years before his retirement in 2007. He spent 35 years in the maintenance department at General Motors, but also took art classes at Madonna University, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, the College for Creative Studies and Wayne County Community College, where he earned an associates degree in fine arts.

After retirement he picked up the pace of his painting, spending hours in front of the easel in his makeshift basement studio. "I always had it in my mind that when I retired that's when I would really start painting. I've been painting and painting and painting. The whole thing with me is I've got to get my stuff out there."

Casadei sold some of his works at a few art fairs and exhibited paintings at a store in Laurel Park mall for about a year. He has a few paintings at a gallery in Peoria, Ill., and at Starring "The Gallery" in Northville, as well as Northville Art House. Occasionally he exhibits at Detroit Artists Market in Detroit. But most of his works hang from the ceiling and on the walls

in the basement, sharing space with laundry, stored Christmas decorations, weight equipment and appliances.

Subterranean gallery

He cautions visitors to watch their heads as they walk beneath the suspended canvasses. He figures, 50-60 paintings are displayed in the room.

"You guys know any galleries that need some paintings?" he quipped. "You can't even move around in here there is so much stuff on hanging on the walls. What I really want to do is go to New York or Chicago, some place where they are really buying."

Casadei has offset the cost of canvases and paint by working as a movie extra. He has appeared in 15 Michigan-made films, including *Stone*, starring Robert De Niro and Edward Norton, (look for him in the visiting room scene) *Real Steel*, and *Red Dawn*. He turned down a three-week stint for the movie, *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, last summer, but recently spent a day on the set of a film about tornadoes.

"It's cool just watching the way movies are made," he said, adding that he'd never trade art for film.

"This is my passion, the painting. The extra work is just a way to get a few dollars for paints and canvases. If I wanted to get serious about it, I'd take acting classes."

Walk for cancer services, animals

In Livonia

Registration is underway for St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 6th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Cancer, an event that celebrates the lives of cancer survivors, patients and honors the memory of loved ones.

The event will start at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 9 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, in Livonia. Runners and walkers will be routed through residential streets on the course, which is certified by USA Track & Field.

Proceeds support Cancer Services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, including transportation for patients traveling to and from the hospital for treatments and necessary products and services from the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center. Last year, the SK raised nearly \$24,000.

Cost to participate is \$22 for runners and walkers who pre-register on or before Aug. 31. The fee includes a race T-shirt.

Pre-registrations after Aug. 31 are \$27 and include shirts while supplies last.

Race day registration for all runners and walkers will be from 7-8:30 a.m.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners of each age division of the SK Run. All runners and walkers are automatically entered into a post-race drawing for prizes. Register at www.stmarymercy.org. Questions? Call (734) 655-1590.

Walk expands

The Michigan Humane Society will hold several kickoff events this month for its annual Mega March for Animals, which will offer two walk



sites this year.

In addition to its Hart Plaza home in Detroit, the largest walk for animals in Michigan also will be held at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Both Mega March walks are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 7.

The kickoff events will give walkers and team captains information about the two locations, as well as fundraising efforts. Online registration will be available at each kickoff event. Attendees will receive a free gift and anyone who registers for the 2012 Mega March at a kickoff event will be entered into a drawing to win three months of free pet food.

All Mega March registrants who sign up online also will receive a free collapsible pet bowl. Local kickoff events are:

• 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, Westland.

• 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14 at Canine College, 23717 Research Drive in Farmington Hills. Registration also is available at www.michiganhumane.org/MEGA. For more information call (866) MHUMANE.

Golf outing benefits veterans

American Legion Post 32 in Livonia is accepting registration for its 12th annual golf outing.

The event is planned for Sept. 8 at Hilltop Golf Course, 47000 Powell, Plymouth. A shotgun start will kick off the action at 9 a.m.

Cost is \$80 per person or \$320 per team. The price includes a continental breakfast, dinner and prizes.

All proceeds benefit programs for veterans. To register or for more information call Tony Brinza at (734) 721-2615.

Program aims to help seniors live happy lives

Botsford Commons Senior Community will offer its "Living the Fullness of Life" program at three locations this fall.

The program includes informal presentations by Botsford Commons' experts and their affiliates.

The first presentation is set for 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13 at the McDonnell Towers, 24350 Civic Center Dr., Southfield. Call (248) 426-6908 to register.

The second presentation will be held 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28 at Schoolcraft College's VisiTa Tech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information.

The final presentation will run from 11 a.m.-1

p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the William Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Register at (248) 473-1830.

With useful, timely information, "seniors can live full, happy lives," stated Margaret K. Lightner, president of Botsford Commons Senior Community.

Presenters will include Richard Young, Ph.D., of Wayne State University on aging and fitness; geriatrician Dr. Annette Carron on healthy aging; Diane Zide on brain fitness and Dawn Doyle with a talk titled "Getting Your Documents in Order: Community Resources."

Space is limited for all dates. Advanced reservations are recommended, but not required.

Spay/neuter program targets Redford pets

Livonia-based Tail Waggers' 1990 is offering a new program to help Redford Township residents spay or neuter their pets at low cost.

Pet owners are required to contribute toward the cost of the surgery, but the amount is based on their income levels. A complimentary rabies vaccine is included with the service as well as a heartworm test

for dogs.

Tail Waggers' 1990 received a grant from PetSmart Charities, enabling it to provide the service, which is available only to Redford Township residents.

To make an appointment, call (734) 560-4660. Visit the Tail Waggers 1990 website at www.tailwaggers1990.org.

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THE REACH OF ARTHRITIS

Physicians know that the reach of arthritis goes beyond bones and joints. For example: people with rheumatoid arthritis may have shortness of breath and difficulty climbing stairs because of rheumatoid-associated lung disease. How the arthritis injures cells lining the lungs is unknown, but early treatment of the arthritis lessens the chance of developing lung disease.

Another area where arthritis enters unexpectedly is in the heart. Investigations over the last two years have uncovered a relationship between rheumatoid arthritis and coronary artery disease. A person with rheumatoid arthritis is more than twice as likely to experience a heart attack as someone who does not have rheumatoid arthritis.

This increased risk occurs because rheumatoid and similar arthritic conditions, bring on a concomitant inflammation. The inflammation is not confined to the joints but reaches throughout the body with a predilection for the coronary vessels. In turn, blood vessel inflammation causes a loss in the smooth lining of the vessel. Platelets and cholesterol accumulate at the defect, causing occlusion of the artery and an acute heart attack.

Another area where arthritis, in this case rheumatoid arthritis, makes its presence known is in the spleen. The arthritis causes the spleen to enlarge, this change crowds and damages the blood cells and platelets that stream through the spleen. In time the damage is sufficient to cause the cells and platelets to fall apart leaving the person with anemia and a platelet count too low to prevent bleeding.

Physicians are aware of the far reaching effects of arthritis and are prepared to find and treat them.

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Lyme group looks at disability support

Attorney Gary Bimberg will talk about social security disability payments at the next meeting of the East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at North-west Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 North-western Highway, South-field.

Bimberg is a frequent lecturer, author and instructor on "Social Security Disability Claims from an Advocate's Point of View." He has been a shareholder and director at Levine Benjamin since 2000, and along with Joseph Houle, heads the Social Security Division at the firm.

The program is open to anyone with a disability or who cares about someone with a disability. The East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group is sponsored by the Michigan Lyme Disease Association. For more information visit www.mlda.org or call (888) 784-LYME.

Tool helps parents determine sleep quality

A new app based on University of Michigan Health System research is designed to help parents identify sleep and breathing problems in their children.

The app, called Sleep Champ, features a series of yes-or-no questions about a child's behavior and characteristics that can help parents figure out if their child is getting quality sleep.

The app is based on the Sleep Related Breathing Disorders Scale, a questionnaire developed by Dr. Ronald D. Chervin, the Michael S. Aldrich Collegiate Professor of Sleep Medicine and the director of the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center. The scale is designed to assess sleep quality, specifically identifying symptoms of sleep-related breathing disorders.

U-M licensed the scale for use in the app, which was developed by health information technology company, Zansors, LLC. The app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

"Appropriate identification and treatment of childhood sleep disorders can make a huge difference, for years to come, in the lives of children and their families," Chervin said. "I very much hope that, at minimum, the Sleep Champ app will create better awareness about sleep and breathing problems that children can have, and about the potential

consequences."

App users will be asked about their child's behaviors, including questions about snoring, breathing and other related characteristics, such as poor attention, hyperactive behavior, impulsiveness and sleepiness that can be signs of poor sleep quality.

"Many parents have unanswered questions or concerns about their children's sleep, and for good reason," Chervin said. "Parents realize, even sometimes when doctors don't, that how a child sleeps could have a lot to do with how they're going to behave the next day. And that can have a lot of influence on the quality of the day for the whole family."

Parents receive a score after answering the app questions. Depending on the score, they may be advised to take their child to a pediatrician or sleep medicine specialist for more information.

"If you're a parent and you fill this questionnaire out and you think your child has some of these symptoms, it might raise the possibility that your child would really benefit from going to a pediatrician and discussing with them to see whether a sleep disorder might be diagnosed," Chervin said.

For more information about the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center, visit <http://www.med.umich.edu/neuro/sleeplab/>

Blood drive offers prize, friendly contest

Blood donors will get a chance to win a \$500 gas card for participating in the annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16 at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Participants also may cast a vote for their favorite team in the Battle of the Badges, a friendly competition between the Farmington Hills Police and Fire departments.

"It's a great cause. It's open to the public, too," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief Chuck Nebus, adding that the police-fire contest is designed to stir interest in the blood drive and encourage participation. "We promote it in

the department."

All blood types are needed during the Battle of the Badges blood drive. Type O is especially in high demand because it can be transfused to patients in other blood groups and is used in most emergency trauma cases when a patient's blood type isn't known.

Hospitals in southeastern Michigan need more than 900 units of blood each day. Thousands of patients in nearly 70 Michigan hospitals are dependent on blood for the treatment of cancer and other diseases, for surgeries and organ transplants, and for emergency and trauma care.

Blood donations

decrease while the need for blood increases during the summer. August is traditionally the most difficult month to collect donations and local inventories often fall to critically low levels.

To make an appointment to donate on Aug. 16, go to www.redcross-blood.org. Enter the sponsor code costick-center and follow the instructions to set up an appointment time for the blood drive.

Giving blood takes approximately one hour. Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be 17 years of age or older. For more information, call (800) GIVE-LIFE.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 50% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Car Report

C-MAX ENERGI PLUG-IN VS. VOLT, PRIUS

By Dale Buss

One of the most interesting battles of the new car-model year will be a three-way tie fight in the plug-in hybrid segment among Ford's new C-Max Energi, the new Prius plug-in and the reigning champion (and only real contestant until now), the Chevrolet Volt.

Ford announced suggested pricing starting at \$33,745 and provided some glimpses into its go-to-market strategy for Energi. Ford also will be launching a conventional C-Max hybrid.

For Energi, the company is emphasizing the car's smaller battery system than Volt. This means Energi purchasers are eligible only for half the tax credit of Volt purchasers and will be stuck with much shorter battery-only range.

But it also contributes to the fact that Energi owners will be required to pay a lower price than Volt buyers, both sticker and after the tax credit, and both sticker and after the tax credit, and both sticker and after the tax credit.

Meanwhile, the Prius plug-in, PHV — which so far is sold only in a few states — has a much shorter electric-only range than Ford's C-Max Energi. While its sticker price is lower, its net price after the U.S. tax credit is higher.

Here are most of the relevant numbers. The main reason for the differences lies in the size of the battery pack in each model: The larger the battery pack, the longer the electric-only range. Volt has the largest battery pack. In turn, federal tax credits are based on the size of a vehicle's battery pack (though some state tax credits are uniform):

MPGe (miles per gallon equivalent): Volt 98, Prius PHV,



Chevrolet Volt keeps acquiring more marketplace traction.

95, Energi 95.

Starting sticker price: Volt, \$39,145; Prius PHV, \$32,760; Energi, \$33,750.

U.S. government tax credit: Volt, \$7,500; Prius PHV, \$2,500; Energi, \$2,995.

Net price after credit: Volt, \$31,645; Prius PHV, \$30,260; Energi, \$30,755.

Electric-only range: Volt, about 38 miles; Prius PHV, about 15 miles; Energi, about 20 miles.

Range including gasoline engine: Volt, about 400; Prius PHV, 540 miles; Energi, 550 miles.

Michael O'Brien, Ford's electrification marketing manager, acknowledged Volt's longer electric-only range but said, "there are tradeoffs. One of the things we do have is a larger fuel tank" in C-Max Energi. But Chevy spokesman Michael Albano noted that Volt's electric-

only range "is enough to cover most Americans' daily commutes" he added that the two plug-ins sport "different technologies designed for different customer needs."

In any event, this new competitive phase should go a long way toward popularizing plug-in hybrids in the United States, as Ford (a non-recipient of a U.S. government bailout, unlike Volt's maker) and Prius (with a track record of success with hybrids that is unparalleled in the industry) extend the market beyond the controversial Volt.

The new cars will challenge Volt but also raise the visibility and credibility of the entire segment.

"All the research we've done suggests the number of folks interested in this segment is a huge opportunity, and if we can just get the value equation right, we have the opportunity to take

advantage." O'Brien told me. He said the "customer-affordability" issue has been "one of the few inhibitors to [plug-ins] and EVs having a larger impact."

O'Brien said Ford is able to undercut Volt on the sticker price for Energi largely because of "our global platform" for C-Max, which was designed in Europe. "With so many variations, it's able to deliver some terrific efficiencies for us."

The biggest rivalry so far between advanced electrified vehicles, Volt versus the new electric Nissan Leaf, really hasn't been much of a contest lately. Even with its many travails and a demand arc that so far remains unclear, Volt sales so far this year have topped 8,200, more than 220 percent ahead of last year's pace, while Leaf sales through June were only 3,200 in the U.S., off nearly 19 percent from a year ago.

The advantage of Volt is that you have no range anxiety." http://blogs.forbes.com/chevy/chrispry/ Chevy's vice president of sales, reminded me. "That's a concern people have. Most owners go 4,000 miles between fill-ups of Volt and the majority of them don't buy gas on a regular basis, but they know that if they need to go outside the normal routine, they can."

Perry said that GM still hasn't made a long-term call on Volt production because it still doesn't have a solid read on long-term sales prospects. A couple of years ago, GM believed that it could boost Volt sales relatively quickly to tens of thousands of vehicles a year, but it has shelved such hopes for now.

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Ford is pushing into plug-ins with the new C-Max Energi.

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