

SUNDAY August 17, 2008



75 cents

Township eyes turn to general election

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Primary winners face unusual challengers

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFE WRITER**

In a Republican area like Plymouth Township, most of the election "action" every four years centers · around the August primary, with Republican primary winners generally being uncontested in the general election and going on to victory in November.

While that will be the case for five of the seven Republican primary winners this year, two full-time elected officials face an unfamiliar site: general election challenges.

With contested races for the 20th

District seat in the state House and for the 35th District Court seat, the Nov. 4 general election will give voters a variety of decisions to make.

Incumbent Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume faces the stiffest challenge, with both a Democrat (Mike Watts) and an independent (Don Schnettler) on the ballot.

Treasurer Ron Edwards also faces a challenge — independent candidate Richard Sharland, a semi-retired farmer who thinks the job should be a part-time gig.

Sharland advocates hiring a professional manager and turning both the supervisor and treasurer positions

THE NOVEMBER LINEUP

- Here's who'll be on the local ballot in the Nov. 4 general election:
- Plymouth Township Supervisor: Richard Reaume (R); Mike Watts (D); Don Schnettler (I)
- Plymouth Township Treasurer: Ron Edwards (R); Richard Sharland (I)
- 20th District, State House: Marc Corriveau (D); Jerry Vorva (D)
- 35th District Court (non-partisan): Joe Barone; James Plakas

into part-time jobs.

"I think we could eliminate some of the turmoil if we could get someone professional in charge, instead of the personalities we have in there now," said Sharland, who first moved to Plymouth Township in 1943. "I think the clerk's position is probably justified, because they have a lot going on every day."

Schnettler, who ran for supervisor

as a Republican four years ago, said he decided to run as an independent this time to try to beat the numbers game in a crowded Republican primary.

"I thought all the people I saw running are more Democrats running to get elected on the Republican ticket rather than actually being Republicans," Schnettler said. "I didn't see that many people I think are actually conservative. I didn't

want to run and possibly get knocked out against them."

Watts' reason for running is twofold: He wants to give back to his community, and he doesn't think such a small percentage of voters (this year it was just over 31 percent) should decide who's running the township.

"In my recollection, the winners of the Republican primary, an election where only 20 percent of registered voters vote, automatically become the elected officials," Watts said. "I don't think that's right. I think for positions that are that important there ought to be some further dialogue and not just let 20 percent of registered voters put those people in office."

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Daisy wall won't fall any time soon

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

An attorney's interpretation of the expiration date for the Daisy Square Planned Unit Development project in Plymouth has bought some

Freed officials have since taken their request for changes off the table, and Daisy Square project manager Barry Levin said Freed will continue with plans for the wall to be part of a four-unit building on the site. "We'll live up to the original



time for the lone remaining wall of the Daisy air rifle factory on Union Street.

The developer, Joseph Freed and Associates, in June told Plymouth planning commissioners they wanted to demolish the last wall of the old factory because it isn't stable and needs costly renovation. Freed officials were looking to renegotiate the terms of the PUD, which they thought expired this year.

However, City Attorney Bob Marzano wrote an Aug. 8 memo to city officials - which was passed on to Freed -- concerning a November 2005 amendment to the original 2003 PUD that pushed back the five-year timetable for completion to 2010. That, in effect, bought more time for preservationists to save the historic wall, part of the windmill and gun factory dating back to 1882.

agreement," said Levin. "We don't have any plans to make any changes at this point. We haven't made any decisions on how we're going to proceed forward."

In June, Levin told the **Planning Commission Freed** couldn't secure funding to construct the building until some of the units were sold. Levin said none of the units have been sold.

We can't give a definitive plan for this, we are marketing this building," said Levin. "When we get enough buyers we can build it to the original agreement."

The Planning Commission on Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution calling for city officials to aggressively pursue unfinished items of the Daisy site plan, including maintenance of the wall, landscaping and other property maintenance issues.



The original Daisy facade stands in front of the Daisy Square development.

Martha Washington and Dolly Madison are two of the First Ladies gowns featured in the Plymouth Historical Museum's exhibit.



Gown exhibit brings first ladies out of shadows

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Until most recently when presidential first ladies created their own stage and causes while living in the White House, most stayed in the shadows of their president husbands, remaining mostly out of the limelight.

The Plymouth Historical Museum's "Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies" exhibit shines the light on the women behind the presidents, from Martha Washington (1789-97) to Rosalynn Carter (1977-80). The gowns were commissioned by the Republican Party in 1971 and created by a team of designers under the direction of Don Nagel and David Zeese of Frankenmuth, Mich.

"Martha Washington didn't have an inaugural gown, so the dress being displayed is based on the kind of clothing she would have worn," said Liz Kerstens, museum executive



The display includes first lady dolls - including this doll of Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy – as well as full-size gowns.

tion. The Plymouth Historical Museum is open Wednesday,

director. "Thomas Jefferson's wife died 18 years before he became president, so his daughter served as his first lady. James Buchanan was a bachelor, so his favorite niece served as his first lady.

"Rosalynn Carter made a stir because she was the first first lady to take a dress off the rack instead of having it designed," she said. "Eleanor Roosevelt's gown was worn at the third inaugural. Nobody else has had a third inaugural."

The 14 reproduction inaugural ball gowns, as well as dolls of the first ladies, are on display at the Plymouth Historical Museum until Nov. 5, the day after this year's presidential elec-

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children (6-17) and \$10 for families.

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s poised once again to record an increase in enrollment.

BY TONY BRUSCATO

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Schools

Growth no

coming as

expected

However, preliminary figures indicate the increase could be much lower than projected last spring, resulting in less money for the general fund. School officials budgeted

for a 140-student increase this year,

Workman expected but early to have biggest projecenrollment, A5. tions show a modest

71-student increase as of Friday. With each student worth \$7,604 in state foundation grant money, it could be a significant financial loss for a district that's already had to make \$15 million in cuts over the past six years.

Enrollment projections point to an increase of 117 students at the high school level and a boost of 13 students in middle school.

However, elementary schools are looking at a combined 59 student decrease from last year.

"I'm cautiously nervous," said Board of Education President Judy Mardigian. "There's a buffer (in projections) at the high school. The question is are we going to lose as many students at the high school as we have in previous years?"

Traditionally, because projected high school student counts before school starts are less definitive than those in elementary

Please see GROWTH; A5

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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

Chili fest brings heat back to Plymouth Suit filed in teen

The 13th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off and Motorcycle Bike Show return to downtown Plymouth Sunday, Oct. 5.

The Chili Cook-off will feature a traditional Red Chili, a Green Chili and a Salsa competition. This portion of the cook-off is recognized by the International Chili Society and will follow all ICS rules. The winners in each category will advance to the 2009 World Championship Chili cook-off next fall.

A fee is charged to participants wanting to try their best to create a winning potof-chili. Top winners receive trophies and prizes. "Peoples Choice" chili samples will be available at noon, with competition samples at 1:30 and 3 p.m. for a \$1 donation per sample.

The bike show is a ride-in show with 17 different bike categories including Harley and non-Harley classes. There is a \$10 fee to enter a bike and all first place winners will



The 13th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off will attract huge crowds to the streets of downtown Plymouth Sunday, Oct. 5.

receive a trophy with judges choice winning a cash prize. The bike show takes place noon to 4 p.m. on Main Street at Kellogg Park. A "Chili Ride" will begin at MotorCity Harley Davidson in Farmington Hills and end up at the Chili Cook-off. A fee of \$10 will get participants VIP parking at the event on Ann Arbor Trail, plus \$5 in 50/50 raffle tickets. Another ride is planned to begin at the BMW dealership on Ford Road in Canton for all BMW bikers.

The Restaurant Chili Challenge takes place 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Penniman Ave and in Kellogg Park. A dozen restaurants will be vying for the prize of "Best Chili in Plymouth" award.

Other activities, mostly noon to 5 p.m., including live entertainment, dance team performances, and a children's activity area.

Anyone interested in cooking in the Red/Green/Salsa or Restaurant Chili Challenge should contact Annette Horn at (734) 776-9669. For event information go to www.greatlakeschili.com

Bike Show & Chili Ride inquiries should be directed to MotorCity Harley Davidson (248) 473-7433 www.motorcityharley.com. or BMW Motorcycles (734) 981-1479 www.bmwmcsem.com

All activities are done for the purpose of donating all net proceeds to local charities. This year's recipients are Western Wayne Habitat for Humanity and the Plymouth Lions Club.

Suit filed in teen MDOT worker's death

BY STACY JENKINS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a life taken too soon, and the family of Elisa Skinner-Bell wants to do everything possible to prevent another tragedy along Michigan's busiest roads and freeways.

Skinner-Bell, 16, died the afternoon of June 27 on the shoulder of westbound I-696 near Lahser, in Southfield, while working in the Michigan Department of Transportation's eightweek summer Youth Corps program.

The Farmington Hills teen was killed when a motorist, Gary Hall of Plymouth, crashed into the rear of the MDOT work van.

The Farmington Hills law firm of Samuel I. Bernstein filed a lawsuit this week against the motorist and MDOT.

MDOT's Youth Corp program, in existence for four years, hires high school students, ages 16-18, to clean up litter from highways while being mentored by college students.

Skinner-Bell was a good student who was to enter her senior year at Farmington Central High School in the fall. This was her first job and she was starting to drive a car on a driver's permit, said her aunt, Erica Bell of Farmington Hills.

"She never got the chance to do any of that," said Bell, who said her niece loved children and enjoyed photography. "It was a child's life that ended well too soon. To see that happen to someone else's family, I wouldn't wish that on anyone."

According to the complaint against MDOT, attorney Richard Bernstein is asking the court to put an end to the program, alleging proper safety precautions are not being taken to protect the teen workers. "We are filing this law-

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we are fining this lawsuit because it's clearly the only way to get the State of Michigan to take our best and brightest students out of harm's way rather than on the side of a freeway," said Richard Bernstein. "One family has already suffered because of this program, and that's one too many."

The suit alleges MDOT failed to place signs or barriers near the work zone and did not provide proper training or supervision for the workers.

"There were no cones out, lights, or anything like that," said Bell. "There were no signs posted and no thought was ever given to the fact that something could happen to a child."

Skinner-Bell's family is outraged that the program is continuing, despite the tragedy.

"We'd like to get the word out, that this program is continuing and there are no modifications being done," said Bell. "The program is going on, as if nothing happened."

MDOT spokesman Devon Pannecouk confirmed the program remains in operation, but could not comment on procedures or anything related to the lawsuit.

"It's against MDOT's policy to comment on pending litigation," he said. "We'll let the courts do their job."

The suit against Hall, the motorist who was not charged in connection of Skinner-Bell's death, claims he was negligent and reckless when he crashed his Ford Excursion into the work van. The suits are asking for a minimum of \$25,000 plus interest and attorney fees. The complaint has been filed in Oakland County Circuit Court and assigned to Judge Wendy Potts.



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"Around Plymouth" 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

Barefoot auditions

Barefoot Productions of Plymouth announces auditions for its next production, Playing With Fire (after Frankenstein) a play by Barbara Field, with performance dates Oct. 23-Nov. 2.

Auditions are 7-9 p.m. Aug. 25 and Aug. 26 at the old Walker/Buzenberg furniture store, 240 N. Main in Plymouth.

Barefoot officials say the production "is a faithful and stunning adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic horror novel, Frankenstein. Roles are available for four males (ages 19-25), one female (age 19-25) and one male (age 40-60). Auditioners should bring headshot, resume and a prepared monologue (if available.

For more information contact director Craig A. Hane at (734) 582-9688 or write Admin@justgobarefoot.com

Rotary speaker

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, Chris Lamar, Salem High School and Michigan State University graduate, will be the guest speaker at the Plymouth AM Rotary meeting at 7:00 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Lamar will be speaking on his experiences in teaching music at the American International School in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. On his way home for the summer he met up with two other Educational Park grads to hike up Mt. Kilamanjaro in Tanzania.

For further information, call Joanne Lamar, (313) 618-7548.

Internet workshop

Learn strategies and techniques to raise your Google rankings and increase traffic to your Web site during an interactive workshop 6-8:30 p.m. Aug. 19, (networking begins at 5:30 p.m.) at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Internet marketing expert **Corey Perlman will discuss** low-cost strategies such as using eNewsletters, press

AROUND PLYMOUTH

making "dog tags" with the proceeds being donated. Lynn Dery from REMAX of Canton will be collecting "Cell Phones for Soldiers'

where each cell phone or accessory turned in becomes an hour calling card for one of the troops.

Items are needed for the auction. Call Bill Balou at (734) 223-1118.

Children's book seminar

Children's book author and illustrator Charles Barker will present a two-hour class on how to write and publish a children's book 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman.

Participants will learn how to develop your story/ concept, how to determine what publishers might be interested in your work, how to approach publishers, how to write a book proposal and what to expect in the entire process from idea to finished book.

Cost is \$20 per person, with a limit of 15 people. To sign up for the class, con-

need to be reached about any

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts its 23rd annual "Senior Fest Picnic" 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at

Tickets Must be purchased by Sept. 8 at the PCCA office, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236. Tickets are \$6 for PCCA members, \$7 for non-members and guests, and include box lunch from Lee's Famous Chicken in Plymouth, entertainment and prizes.

Senior Transportation at (734) 459-8888.

Lotsa Helping Hands

Officials have announced Lotsa Helping Hands, a network of volunteers through Plymouth First United Methodist Church. **Plymouth First United**

Methodist Church, located at 45201 North Territorial in Plymouth, is providing a matching service, through LHH, of community needs and volunteers.

Having volunteers available to deliver meals, run errands to pharmacy & grocery stores, drive a person to chemo or doctor's office, or offering a simple act of kindness is worth more than words can say. Other nonmedical services include, but are not limited to, helping children with their homework, providing daily checkin for homebound recipients, assisting new moms with childcare for older children, prayer requests and English as a second language (free) starting in October (first 20 applicants).

LLH is serving Plymouth City residents at this time and plan to expand to Plymouth Township and Canton within the next few months. Anyone needing the service or knowing someone who needs it - or businesses wishing to sponsor - can e-mail helping-hands@ comcast.net

tact Barker by e-mail at cfbarker@earthlink.net or call (313) 506-5643 and leave your name & call back number in case you

schedule change, etc. Senior Fest picnic

Waterford Bend Park, located at 6 Mile and Northville Road.

For free transportation call

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Registration Walk-In or Phone-In August 25-28th Mon. thru Thurs. 4-7pm Auditions for Performance Company Sunday, Sept. 7th 2:30pm

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Library rocks Kellogg Park

The Plymouth District Library hosts a Library Rock Concert featuring The High Strung, one of the country's new young rock bands, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Library officials point out Rolling Stone Magazine, National Public Radio, the Washington Post, MTV and Entertainment Weekly all have favorably taken notice of The High Strung. Band members Josh Malerman, Derek Berk and Chad Stocker were all born and raised in Detroit. The free concert is sponsored by the Plymouth District Library. Learn more about The High Strung at http://www.thehighstrung. com/.

releases and blogs to create more buzz about your business and bring more visitors through your door. This workshop will be conducted in a simple, easy-to-understand presentation that Perlman promises to be fun, entertaining and extremely beneficial to your business.

Before creating the Small Business eBoot Camp, Perlman spent three years with the e-Commerce division of General Motors where he visited 37 cities throughout the country providing one-day seminars to GM dealership personnel. He left GM in 2002 to help build an internet startup, InfoAlly.com, which was recently acquired in 2005.

Anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming workshop, contact Sherrie Pryor from the Downtown Development Authority, (734) 455-1453.

Grief workshop

Ward Presbyterian Church sponsors an eight-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," beginning Sept. 8.

This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Cathy Clough of Plymouth, director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a presentation lowed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses.

about one aspect of grief fol-

The workshop will meet 7-8:45 p.m. for eight consecutive Monday nights at Ward Church, located at 6 Mile and Haggerty in Northville. For registration information call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5943. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call (248) 348-0115.

2008 car and bike show

Motor City Muscle Car Club, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Michigan **Regional Council of** Carpenters hosts the 2008 Car and Bike Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at the UAW Local 735, 48055 Michigan Avenue in Canton.

gb

All proceeds are going to Voluntary Services Group of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Among others, a project to place decent televisions in patient rooms is their goal.

The "Monkee Mobile," from the television show The Monkees, will be there through the day. Chapter 528 will be

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Everyone Welcome!

LOCAL NEWS

Haggerty Road Kohl's celebrates re-grand reopening

BY PAM FLEMING NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

A4

(P)

Brian Ford knows that easier shopping leads to better bottom lines.

That's why the store manager of the Northville Township Kohl's on Haggerty between Seven and Eight Mile roads was excited to direct a ribbon-cutting ceremony early Wednesday morning for the department store's re-grand reopening.

The Haggerty Road store opened in 1998, according to Ford.

"New features include automatic entrance doors, updated checkout stations, new fitting rooms with lounge areas, wider aisles, new merchandise displays to highlight the biggest trends in fashion and home, and new rest rooms," Ford said.

The store also has expanded junior, intimates and shoe departments and new carpeting throughout.

The store's transformation is part of a proactive approach to



PAM FLEMING

Jeff Bowles, remodel coordinator for the Kohl's at 20155 Haggerty, cuts the ribbon at the Northville Township store's re-grand reopening ceremony Wednesday morning. Pictured with Kohl's associates are Brian Ford, store manager, far left, and next to him, Richard Henningsen, Northville Township treasurer. The remodel includes such features as wider aisles, new merchandise displays and updated checkout stations.

create an inviting and inspiring shopping environment that



meets the evolving needs of the department store's customers. These transformations

are part of Kohl's new store design, launched in the fall of 2006, integrating comfort and convenience for today's shopper," Ford said.

The first Kohl's depart-

Menomonee Falls, Wis., the chain's corporate headquarters. The store offers men's, women's and children's apparel,

ment store opened in 1962 at

shoes, home goods, cosmetics, fragrances, lingerie and jewelry that appeal to the valueconscious consumer.

Township offers residents some lawn-watering tips

With summer in full swing, homeowners are watering their lawns, garden and other vegetation as an integral step in enhancing the attractiveness and value of their property.

Information released by Plymouth Township's **Division of Public Services** this week was designed to remind homeowners there are some times that are better than others for such watering, particularly if the resident wants to keep his water rates low.

Officials point out water demand in the township varies on any given day, with the hours when demand is the highest called "peak time." According to township civil engineer Patrick Fellrath, the amount of money the township has to pay - and therefore bill its residents - for water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is based on how much water is

used during these "peak" times.

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"By watering your lawn smartly, you may be able to keep your water rates in check," Fellrath pointed out in a release.

Citing a report from Michigan State University's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (there's a bulletin, E09turn at www.turf.msu.edu), Fellrath points out the optimal time for residents to water their lawns is in the early afternoon, just before the highest temperature period of the day.

"This will offer the additional benefit of cooling the grass and protecting it from the heat," Fellrath wrote. "You can still pamper your lawn and help keep water rates in check." Optimum watering hours, according to the township, are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Questions should be directed to the Plymouth Township Public Works Department, (734) 354-3270, Ext. 3.

Observer

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INVITATION TO BID CANTON TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of

Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 pm, Thursday, August 28, 2008 for the following:

FELLOWS CREEK GOLF CLUB - GROUND SERVICE **BUILDING ADDITION**

Project includes the renovation and expansion of the golf course maintenance building, removal and replacement of golf course parking lot and sediment removal from irrigation pond.

Bid documents are available to pick up at Siegal/Tuomaala Associates, 29200 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48034. A nonrefundable fee of \$60.00 will be charged for the bid packet. A 5% bid bond will be required.

Bid documents are on file and available for review at Canton Township Hall- Engineering 2nd Floor.

The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and accept only the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Township.

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TWO DATES TO CHOOSE FROM

Tuesday, August 26th at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Both events will be held at 133 W. Main Street, Suite 100, Northville, MI 48167

Presentation and questions should last approximately 45 minutes Refreshments will be served

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www.mainstreetbank.net



Workman count still highest

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

While early Plymouth-**Canton Schools projections** indicate declining student enrollment at the elementary school level, that's little consolation to Workman **Elementary Principal Jim** Burt

Workman is expected to have a student population of about 760 students this

and middle school, they gen-

erally start out higher and

come down dramatically by the official student count in

Mardigian said the district

is looking at a state foundation

grant increase of \$105, which is

only \$5 more than predicted by

the board during 2008-09 bud-

get discussions in the spring.

"It certainly impacts our

budget," said Superintendent

FROM PAGE A1

September.

year, by far the highest in the district. The next highest is Bentley, projected to have 596 students.

Superintendent Craig Fiegel put forth a preliminary proposal to the Board of Education on Tuesday to add an assistant principal at Workman. However, it could be a tough sell.

"I would like to find a way to make this work, but I also feel real strongly we made

hire more positions than we needed," said Judy Mardigian, board president. "We imposed a hiring freeze last year, and we've also got a very firm commitment to balance our budget." Fiegel said he plans to pres-

a real commitment to not

ent the school board with several options for Workman at a future meeting.

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Craig Fiegel of the projected student count. "We're being pretty conservative right now, thinking there's a few more numbers at the high school than what we're saying.

"Elementary isn't growing as much as we anticipated," he said. "We'll have to see if some of that growth comes later."

Despite the tight numbers, Mardigian still believes the district won't be a declining enrollment district this year.

"You could argue we won't because more private school students are choosing the public school option in these eco-



Publish: August 17, 2008

CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m., local time, August 29, 2008. The bid opening will be at 10:00 a.m., local time, August 29, 2008 for the following:

ADA Public Facilities Improvement Plymouth Cultural Center - ADA Door Replacement **Plymouth City Hall**

201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us .

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

> LINDA J. LANGMESSER, CMC City Clerk City of Plymouth

nomic times," Mardigian said. "And, people are not relocating because of the housing market. We might have a unique situation this year."

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- Implementing the International Baccalaureate Program in all grades.
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Grades	•	
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- Gifted and Talented*
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- * Students from outside the District must qualify for entry into the Gifted and Talented program by meeting the same criteria that is applied to residents of the Van Buren Public Schools District.

For more infomation, contact Kathy at (734) 697-6381, ext. 280 or visit www.vanburenschools.net



Today's Dedication . . .

Make Van Buren Public Schools Your Schools of Choice!



ON STAGE

Music in the Park

A6

(P)

The Music in the Park "kiddie" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sponsored by major sponsor McCully's Educational Resource Center, Main Street Bank, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and Huron Valley Ambulance, takes to the Kellogg Park stage Wednesdays at noon. The schedule:

Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends

Music in the Air

Here's the schedule for the Music in the Air concert series, sponsored by the Plymouth DDA and Blue Cross/Blue



in the Park concert series noon Wednesday in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

■ Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band



Jeffrey Cole Birou, son of Todd and Lisa Birou of Plymouth, recently gradu-



Matt Watroba closes out the Music

Shield:

University of Pennsylvania

ated from The University

of Pennsylvania with a

Master's Degree in Higher

Education Management.

University of Michigan in

This follows his gradu-

ation with a Bachelor's

Degree from the

Birou is a 2003

graduate of Canton

2007.



High School. He is employed by Drexel University in Philadelphia as an Academic Advisor at its College of Engineering.

Grand Valley State

Eleven Plymouth students were named to the Dean's List for the Winter 2008 semester at Grand Valley State University.

Plymouth students named to the list, which includes students who maintained a 3.5 grade-point average or better, include Brian Crandall, Kate Deruiter, Alexander Fox, Cameron Groenewoud, Carrie Hause, Kristen Kitti, Trevor Rice, Emily Sharpe, Kasey Shimp, Daniel Wagner and Kristin Ward.

Albion College

City budget deficits, neighbors encroaching on other's rights, state financing of stem cell research, and other "taken from the headlines" issues were among the many topics debated by a select group of Michigan high school students participating in the recent Operation Bentley held on the campus of Albion College.

Plymouth High School student Adam Harrison of Canton spent the week learning about government operations, writing and seeking support for legislation they developed, and engaging in local and state government simulations. Each year, Operation Bentley attracts top students from high schools across Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, to participate in the program. The students come

ON CAMPUS

from rural, urban, and small city areas and bring a wide variety of views on effective forms of government, personal and political beliefs, and prior experiences.

Denison University

Two Plymouth students were among the 540 graduates awarded diplomas at Denison University's 167th commencement held May 11 in Granvill, Ohio. Those awarded bachelor's degrees include:

Michael Christopher Ware, son of Michael C. Ware of Plymouth. Ware, a graduate of Salem High School, earned a bachelor of arts degree with a major in political science. Ware was the recipient of the Carl Jakust Scholarship while at Denison.

Jennifer Lauren Keehner, daughter of Pam Paxton-Keehner and William Keehner of Plymouth. Keehner, a graduate of Salem High School, earned a bachelor of arts degree with a major in educational studies. Keehner was a recipient of the Heritage Scholarship. She also volunteered with the Hope for Autism committee of the Denison Community Association and had her art work exhibited in the 2008 Five Colleges of Ohio Student Biennial Art Show.

Northern Michigan

Two Plymouth students recently earned degrees from Northern Michigan University.

Kimberly Mason earned her bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation leadership/ management.

Robert Rymph earned his bachelor's degree cum laude in management.

Boston University

Megan E. Camann of Plymouth was recently named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the Spring semester.

Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of more than 29,000 students in its 17 schools and colleges. The university offers an exceptional grounding in the liberal arts, a broad range of programs in the arts, sciences, engineer-

ing, and professional areas, and state-ofthe-art facilities for teaching and research.

Elmhurst (III.) College

Jacob Whitecar of Plymouth was among the students who maintained a 3.75 grade-point average or better and was named to the Dean's List at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Ill.

Loyola University

Lori Robinson of Plymouth received a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the College of Social Sciences at Loyola University in New Orleans.

The university awarded 913 degrees at its 97th commencement ceremony.

Calvin College

Two Plymouth students were among some 850 students participating in the spring commencement ceremony for Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

Jennifer Horst, the daughter of George and Nancy Horst of Plymouth and a Salem High School graduate, earned her degree in biology.

Kyle Vermeulen, son of James and Nancy Vermeulen of Plymouth and a Canton High School graduate, earned his degree in mass media.

Amherst College

Marcella McClatchey, daughter of Michael and Connie McClatchey of Plymouth, graduated recently from Amherst (Mass.) College.

McClatchey, who majored in religion, entered Amherst College after graduating from Ann Arbor Community High School. She received Amherst's bachelor of arts degree, cum laude.

Lawrence Tech

Seven Plymouth students were among those named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Spring 2008 semester at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. Named to the list were Luigi D'Abate,

Nathan Guideau, Matthew McLeod, George Placinta, Matthew Showalter, Chad Walborn and Bryan Zochowski.

Plymouth Fall Festival seeks crafters and cars for show

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival Sept. 5-7.

Once again, the craft show will be on Union Street. Ten-by-ten foot spots will be \$75 per day or \$200 for the weekend. Applications are available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival. com or for more information, call Colleen Brown at

(734) 455-1614.

CAR SHOW

Registrations are also being taken for the annual Antique Car show (1978 and older) that takes place during the Fall Festival (Sept. 6-7). This year, festival officials are bringing back the pre-registration cruise night Friday, Sept. 5, beginning at 6 p.m.

Registration before Sept.

5 will be \$10 for one day or \$15 for two days. Door prizes will be awarded both days. Applications will be available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival. com or for more info call Dave Reeves (734) 455-4018.

BUSINESS PROMOTION

Applications are now

available for businesses interested in booth space or Entertainment Sponsorship at the Plymouth Fall Festival, which runs Sept. 5-7. Booth applications can be found at www.plymouthfallfestival. com.

For more information or Entertainment Sponsorships, contact Colleen Brown, (734) 455-1614.

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COUNTY NEWS

Janus settlement likely won't create any new millionaires

Q: Dear Rick: I heard something on your radio show about the Janus Funds in regard to a settlement during the mutual fund scandal. I have not received my check yet. Should I be concerned?

www.hometownlife.com

A: There's absolutely no reason to be concerned. As of Aug. 15, Janus will distribute \$100,000,000 to investors. If you were a shareholder, you will receive a settlement. A \$100 million settlement sounds like a lot of money, however, in reality you and I will not be receiving large checks. After all, Janus Funds had millions of investors and the settlement gets divided over a large number of people. Whatever the settlement is, my philosophy is the money looks better in your pocket



existing IRA money into a Roth IRA, but I was told I do not qualify. A

friend of mine said in a couple of years I will be able to convert and use a Roth IRA. Is that true? A: Your friend is correct. In order to convert existing IRA money into a Roth IRA, your

adjusted gross income, whether you are married or single, must be less than \$100,000. However, in 2010 there is a temporary change in the law

that will allow those who earn more than \$100,000 to convert a traditional IRA into a

Roth IRA. I am a big fan of the Roth IRA because it allows money to grow tax-free, not taxdeferred, as in a traditional IRA. Even though you're investing post-tax money money that you've already paid tax on - vs. pre-tax money (as in a traditional IRA), the advantages of a Roth are substantial. In a traditional IRA, even

though you receive a writeoff for the money you are contributing, when you withdraw the money you pay tax on the initial contribution and the growth.

In a Roth, there are no taxes when the money is withdrawn. Therefore, all the income and

growth that accumulates in

your Roth will be tax-free. Another advantage of a Roth is the money is not subject to required minimum distributions. At age 70½, you must begin taking distributions out of your traditional IRA. At that time, the money is taxed at your ordinary income tax bracket. There is no required minimum required distribution for Roth IRAs. You can let a Roth IRA grow income tax-free for as long as you choose.

One issue regarding Roth IRAs that confuses people is estate taxes. Roth IRAs are income tax-free, but they are subject to estate taxes just like traditional IRAs.

However, the major difference is the income tax

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit recently named

John Hale as the nonprofit's

executive director of develop-

ment. Hale had been serving

development since April 2007.

Hale has eight years of expe-

rience with TSA's Development

Department. He has served

as Capital Campaign man-

Division's successful Kroc

as the interim director of

consequences for a Roth IRA are income tax-free, while a traditional IRA is subject to income tax. Even upon death, if your beneficiary inherits your traditional IRA there will be income taxes paid by the beneficiary along with any potential estate tax. While with a Roth there will be no income taxes to your beneficiary.

Whenever we're talking about tax laws, there is a caveat. Tax laws change faster than the weather in Michigan. It is possible that by 2010 the opportunity for people who make over \$100,000 a year to convert their traditional IRA into a Roth IRA could change.

If you make less than \$100,000 a year, I believe it is good strategy to consider converting a traditional IRA

Salvation Army taps development chief

into a Roth.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

My general rule is: You must have money to pay the tax due upon conversion without touching money you are converting;

■ Converting the money will not place you into a higher tax bracket; and

You should leave the money in the Roth IRA for at least five to seven years.

If you meet these requirements, you should convert to a Roth.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

Wayne County prosecutor launches citizens' academy

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has launched a new program designed to give residents a firsthand look into the workings of the criminal justice system and the way her office operates.

The First Annual Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Citizen's Academy is a free six-week course that will teach people how the prosecutor's office works that will run Tuesdays, Sept. 16 through Oct. 21 at Greater Grace Temple, 23500 W. Seven Mile Road (one block east of Telegraph) in Detroit.

Applicants to the program must be at least 18 years old with no felony convictions and no misdemeanor arrests within the last three years. To ensure these criteria are being met, brief background checks will be run on applicants. Waivers for these requirements, however, can be obtained on request

Worthy

the courses is free but space is limited. Participants should contact the office to secure a place by contacting the Wayne County Prosecutor's office at (313) 224-5780

to www.wavnecounty.com/pros-

ecutor. Applications for the program can be obtained online and returned via mail to Nicole Scott, c/o Wayne County Prosecutor's office, 1441 St. Antoine, 12th floor, Detroit, MI 48226.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's **Sports** section



or by going online

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Center application, associate director of Development and as a gift-planning specialist where he closed more than \$7 million in gifts during the four years he held that position.

Prior to his work with TSA, Hale held positions as a financial and tour manager for

Christian Rock artists, The Insyderz and as an assistant branch manager for the First of America Bank in Rockford, Ill.

A graduate of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., Hale lives in Rochester Hills.



(*)

A7



LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

A8

(P)



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Got Game? Yep, got scores, too.

West Point appointment

Daniel Pauley, son of David and Christine Pauley of Plymouth, recently accepted an appointment with the United States Military Academy at West Point as a Cadet in the Class of 2012.

Pauley was graduated from Detroit Catholic Central and reported to West Point June 3Õ.

Deployment return

Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Jacob S. Good, son of Edwin Good of Plymouth, and fellow Marines from 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, recently returned from a deployment to Latin America where they participated in Partnership for Americas (POA) 2008. More than 500 Marines

from units throughout the United States deployed with Special Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) 24 for the month long deployment which included training operations in the Dominican Republic, subject matter expert exchanges in Uruguay, jungle training, and a community relations event in Brazil and Colombia. The big-

MILITARY NEWS

gest humanitarian mission for the SPMAGTF was in San Clemente, Peru, which just last year suffered an earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale.

POA is an annual U.S. Marine Corps Forces South multi-national exercise with partner national governmental forces throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America to develop the relationships needed to ensure maritime security in the region.

Good is a 2004 graduate of Salem High School.

Navy basic training

Navy Seaman Recruit Colin T. Lampson, son of Deborah and James L. Lampson of Plymouth, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Lampson completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot

Rotary grant helps museum replace mural

The Plymouth Historical Society recently received a \$3,500 grant from the Plymouth Rotary Foundation that will allow for the replacement of a deteriorating mural of downtown Plymouth in 1909, located in the Sanford Burr Meeting Room on the lower level of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

According to museum executive director Elizabeth Kerstens, the original mural was donated to the museum in 1974 by the Rotary Club of Plymouth in honor of the club's Golden Jubilee.

The image used in the mural was taken by photographer and Plymouth resident Charles Draper during the annual Fourth of July celebration in 1909 and shows the business block between today's Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in

Avenue, complete with holiday celebrants, horses and car-

riages, and American flags. Draper printed the image as a wide postcard, Kerstens explained, which is what Upper Level Graphics of Plymouth is using to reproduce it as a mural.

The new mural will complement the other changes taking place in the meeting room this summer, Kerstens said. The museum's volunteer corps of maintenance men has been hard at work repainting the room and replacing ceiling tiles. The exterior doorwall from the "Cassidy House" on North Territorial now serves as the entrance to the cloakroom; the doorwall was placed in context by surrounding it with siding and adding a replica period lantern.

camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Lampson is a 2006 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy of Canton.

Marine Corps promotion

Marine Corps 1st Lt. Daniel A. Berg, son of Mary K. and Robert A. Berg of Plymouth, recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Marine Air Support Squadron Two, Marine Air Control Group 18, Okinawa, Japan.

Berg was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

Berg is a 2002 graduate of Ann Arbor Huron High School of Ann Arbor and joined the Marine Corps in May 2006.

And on Sunday, July 20, the room was officially named the "Sanford Burr Meeting Room" in honor of Salem Township resident Sanford Burr, president emeritus of the Plymouth Historical Society and longtime museum volunteer.

The facelift of the room is expected to be complete before the Sept. 11 monthly meeting of the Plymouth Historical Society, which is open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting of the 2008-09 year will feature Barbara Kincaid speaking on "Our Nation's First Ladies," in conjunction with the "Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies" special exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The museum is located at 155 S. Main and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS



today's SPORTS section



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David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: August 17, 2008

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COUNTY NEWS

TV debate program focuses on state House races in November

To help voters in southeastern Michigan cut through the campaign clutter, focus on the state's future, and make informed decisions in November, Detroit Public TV (DPTV), in association with the Center for Michigan, is offering to host debates between the top candidates in state House of Representatives races throughout metro Detroit. Debate offers will be extended to candidates in 47 contested races

www.hometownlife.com

DPTV and the Center are taking steps to guarantee the debates receive the largest possible audience; Video of every debate will be provided free and unrestricted to all media outlets and cable access TV stations in southeastern Michigan. The expectation is debate videos will be posted on media Web sites, aired on cable access, and used in TV news reports. Additionally, DPTV will broadcast debates on Channel 56 and post videos online.

"With so much attention on the presidential race, these debates are critical to helping voters focus on state 4 House races - and helping candidates focus on the issues that matter most to voters," said John Bebow, executive

director of the Center for Michigan, a non-partisan, non-profit "think-and-do" tank

In the past year, the Center has hosted 180 community meetings across the state to develop a "common ground" agenda. It includes three priorities for the state's future: 1) a globally competitive workforce; 2) a diversified economy and great quality of life; and 3) effective, efficient and accountable government.

'When you talk about Michigan's future, these really are the big three," Bebow added. "Everyone should be interested to see how the

candidates address these and other issues critical to turning the state around."

"The Great Debates is an extraordinary use of traditional and new media to engage and educate voters," said Rich Homberg, DPTV president and general manager. "It's also another example of how Detroit Public Television is working to better serve the people of southeastern Michigan."

The 30-minute, fixed-for-. mat debates will be taped at DPTV's Detroit studios in August and September and – due to production constraints - be limited to

two candidates. Candidates will field questions from respected journalists Nolan Finley, editorial page editor of The Detroit News, and Ron Dzwonkowski, editorial page editor of the Detroit Free Press. Other Detroitarea journalists may serve as hosts/moderators depending on debate schedules.

As debate invitations were mailed (and e-mailed) to candidates Aug. 6-8, DPTV Director of Program **Development Dave Manney** stressed the importance of candidate cooperation.

"We obviously can't force candidates into the studio,"

Manney said. "We need every candidate to embrace this project and reach an agreement with their opponent. Tell us you're ready for a serious debate of the issues and we'll make it happen."

The Center for Michigan is a "think-and-do tank" founded by Phil Power and a group of statewide business and political leaders in early 2006. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Center's objective is to assist our state through its current period of wrenching economic trouble and to lay the foundation of informed hope for a better future Michigan.

Educators can hone their skills at Detroit Zoo open house Aug. 26

The Detroit Zoological Society will host an open house for teachers and administrators on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 5-8 p.m., at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. "Zoolastic Achievement - Explosion 2008" will give educators the opportunity to learn about the educational offerings at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The free event will feature live entertainment, food and educational resources for the classroom and beyond.

Sponsored by DTE Energy Foundation, "Zoolastic Achievement – Explosion 2008" will provide educators insight into the zoo's dynamic, age level-appropriate

programs that teach important concepts about animals. habitats and ecosystems in alignment with the Michigan **Curriculum Framework** and Grade Level Content Expectations. The event will also offer tips on planning and optimizing school group visits with guided tours, self-led tours, scavenger hunts, interactive education presentations and backpack programs.

Teachers and administrators will learn about other educational options at the Zoo as well, including the Ford Education Center's Interpretive Studios, Wild Adventure Ride, Madeleine Berman Academy for Humane **Education and Humane**

Science Lab. A tram or walking tour of the zoo will highlight new animal habitats, including Meerkat Digs, and exhibits that feature interactive learning options. Guests will also meet David Gakure, Kenyan conservationist and Detroit Zoo education specialist, who engages students at the zoo and in the classroom with stories of people and wildlife in the African Grasslands.

Online registration for "Zoolastic Achievement - Explosion 2008" is available until Aug. 21 at http://www.

detroitzoo.org/zoolastic/. The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The Detroit Zoo is at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October (open at 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day) – with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August - and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission is

\$11 for adults 13 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older. and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12; children under 2 are free. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www. detroitzoo.org. The Belle Isle

Nature Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round and provides educational programming with interpretive staff support from the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. For information, call (313) 852-4056.







Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

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champions, she was twice nominated as. Manager of the Year. Her life story inspired the Paramount film Against the Ropes, starring Meg Ryan. A former journalist, TV host and radio personality in her native Detroit, Kallen is also a successful motivational speaker.



ten-vear-old Anastasia

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KYM L. WORTHY t was an historic noment in 2004 when Kym L. Worthy was sworn in as the first African-American, and the first woman, to become the Wayne County Prosecutor.

Worthy began her career in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in 1984. In 1994 she was elected judge of the Recorder's Court for the City of Detroit, then became a judge in Wayne County Circuit Court in 1997. Worthy is a strong believer in community service and has received numerous awards and honors for her role as community leader. She is the mother of



Thursday, September 18, 2008

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Hurry Last Chance To Register! Classes Start Sept. 2nd

is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to forbid any acts of discrimination in all matters dealing with students, parents, employees or applicar The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, mariti status, height, weight, or handicap. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 legislation at the Wayne-Westland School District may be referred to Ron Barrat Director, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185, (734) 419-2645. Furthermore, the School District guarantees the right to a free appropriate education for all school-aged handicappe appealed through the school dist ons and all limited English proficiency students. Revised by the Board of Education 2000. Any unresolved concerns may be

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COUNTY NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

Explore the tradition, community, creativity at State Fair

BY ANNE GREENSTEIN CORRESPONDENT

"Our State Fair is the best State Fair. Don't miss it! Don't even be late."

This quote from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1945 musical can apply to the Michigan State Fair, which starts on Friday, Aug. 22, and runs through Sept. 1.

The nation's oldest state fair, the Michigan State Fair was first held in 1849, only 12 years after Michigan attained statehood. The fair traveled around the state until it settled in its current fairgrounds at Eight Mile and Woodward Avenue in 1905. In addition to agricultural displays, the Miracle of Life Exhibit, contests, a midway and live entertainment is the Community Arts Exhibit.

The Community Arts Building was built in 1967 and houses many arts and crafts exhibits. Before this "home" was built, the exhibition was displayed underneath the grandstand or in the clubhouse. Normally, 5,000 pieces of art are exhibited, created by 2,000-3,000 people throughout the state. In addition to arts and crafts are baking, canning and greenery displays. Prizes are given to winners in these categories.

BUSY MAN

Consistently ranked tops in customer satisfaction surv

Peter Latouf, involved with the fair since 2000, for the first time is in charge of the Community Arts Building.

"The Community Arts Building is the main venue for showcasing the artistic talent of residents of the state. Professionals and nonprofessionals can enter different contests to win prizes or ribbons," said Latouf.

Contests for youth as well as adults are held daily. There are contests in homemaking crafts and hobbies involving fiber arts, doll making, photography or ceramics. Other contests are in baking, canning, woodworking, greenery and table decorating. Youth contests are similar to the adults but there is also a category for "Legos and K-nex.

"Best of show" or the "gold ribbon winners" from the county fairs compete at the Michigan State Fair. In addition to youth and adults are contests for the physically and mentally challenged to include everyone with an opportunity to participate. The Oakland County Fair does not include "Community Arts" competitions, so Farmington community residents who wish to compete must enter directly to the Michigan State Fair. Volunteers are present from the time people enter their artwork until the fair closes who watch the items submitted for judging and exhibition.

Ribbons are offered as prizes and small cash prizes are also awarded worth \$8 to \$25 depending on the contest. Some companies give cash prizes for their contests. Pillsbury gives a \$200 prize for the best pie crust in the show.

Demonstrations are held on a daily basis, in quilting, wood carving, and lace, painting porcelain, floral designs, making baskets from pine needles, Tshirt painting, using a spinning needle, and using a knitting machine. People can participate in these demonstrations and make a project. Baking and cooking demonstrations are also held each day.

Judges of the various contests come from county fairs and are professionals in their own field. Previous blue-ribbon winners also serve as judges. While many of the judges have been judging at the State Fair for years, a few for up to 40 years, they continuously get new judges.

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Eugene Kondash, every year, gives 35 ribbons for awards for canning, baking or handiwork for youth and adults in mem-



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Catherine Kondash, who lived behind the fairgrounds, "believed in the Fair with all her heart," said Eugene. She was a fair volunteer and exhibitor throughout her adult life. She baked fruit pies for the governor's luncheon. She gave baskets of homemade products including pies made from fruit in her garden to the governor every year dating back to G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams until Gov. John Engler.

Besides awarding ribbons, Eugene Kondash gives a gift to winners such as a book or craft project to the person related to the winner's category. Two "Viewers Choice" awards are given in memory of Kondash's mother. Eugene and his brother give two \$50 savings bonds, one for the adults and one for youth of displays that the public picks.

Eugene remembers when he was a boy during the late 1940s and early 1950s seeing the train bring people from all over the state to come to the State Fairgrounds. Last year, Steven Jenkins, manager of the fair, gave Kondash a Michigan State Fair award for his ongoing contributions.

Paul Karr, president of the Friends of the Michigan State Fair, leads this volunteer organization which supports the fair. The Friends support the fair with beautification projects.

They refurbish security guard booths, plant gardens, and assist with buying the carved rock signs found at the entrance off of Woodward Avenue and in front of the coliseum.

Most importantly, the Friends of the Fair annually awards scholarships to several Michigan high school seniors each year in agriculture and community arts.

"Over the past 15 years, the Friends have awarded \$40,000 worth of scholarships. This year we will award one \$1,000 scholarship in agriculture and two scholarships in community arts. (First prize is \$500 and 2nd prize is \$350)," said John Write, scholarship chairman.

For more information visit www.michigan.gov/mistatefair.

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

OUR VIEWS

Study candidates and issues before voting in November

This year's general election in November will feature ballots filled with important contests, both at the local and national level.

With our state's economy in the dumps and an entire Alexander, and our 5-year-old daughter, nation tiring of a seemingly endless war, those successful candidates from the president on down will be faced with significant and serious issues and challenges.

And the best way to make sure our political leaders are up to the task is

to elect the most qualified men and women for those positions.

Because the political stakes are so high, voters need to put in extra time becoming a truly educated electorate. Voting along party lines or simply going with the incumbent no longer are options.

Incumbents need to be challenged on their past performance and clearly explain why they deserve to keep their job. This is especially true in the state Legislature, where every seat in the House of Representatives is up for election.

available about each contested race in every hometown. Voters should study the candidates, and make sure their positions on critical local, regional or national issues is in line with their own beliefs and values. Local newspapers - including this one - candidate Web sites and voter guides produced by the League of Women Voters and other organizations are all good places to mine information about the races.

There is a wealth of information

There is a wealth of information available about each contested race in every hometown. Voters should study the candidates, and make sure their positions on critical local, regional or national issues is in line with their own beliefs and values. Local newspapers including this one – candidate Web sites and voter guides produced by the League of Women Voters and other organizations are all good places to mine information about the races.

Thanks to the hotly contested presidential races, area clerks are bracing for record turnouts at the polling places. Let's hope voters make the effort to ensure they cast an educated vote.

Thanks to voters

I want to express my gratitude to all those who supported my campaign for Plymouth Township clerk and to all those who voted for me.

My victory was truly a group effort! From family members placing mailing labels on fliers, to friends and supporters posting yard signs and encouraging others to vote for me, to family and friends working the precincts on Election Day by handing out fliers - I could not have done it without you!

My wife, Susan, our 11-year-old son, Sydney, experienced firsthand the ups and downs of a primary election. Along the way, they had the privilege of meeting many wonderful people.

Again, my family and I thank all of you for your support and hard work. I like to think that your efforts make everyone in Plymouth Township a winner!

Joe Bridgman

deputy clerk, Plymouth Township

Card trick

"One percent of our population owns 90 percent of our wealth." Perhaps you have heard this statistic at some time, as it has been thrown out there quite a bit of late as the chasm between rich and poor has been widening at unprecedented rates while the middle class is fighting for survival in a lethal financial stranglehold. You may have shook your head in amazement or in disgust and walked on. Free marketers would shrug and say, "That's how the dice fall ... that's how the game is played."

Bill Gates, one of the richest men, not just in America, but in the world, and billionaire Warren Buffet want to spend a million dollars to teach the card game bridge in schools. Does this reflect a massive disconnect between them and the real problems of real people - the other 99 percent of us?

How about spending it on real skills like reading and math? How about giving hope to bright students caught up in schools and neighborhoods where higher education is nothing more than an elusive dream? As the chasm continues to deepen, can we count on less and less relevancy, less and less understanding of the needs of 99 percent of people who live in the real world and struggle to pay

LETTERS

the mortgage, tuition, health care, utility bills, grocery bills, auto and home insurance? Ordinary Americans don't have 12 hours a week to play bridge as Warren Buffet does.

Mary Ann Bernardi

Trov

Mayor's jailing too harsh

The incarceration of Detroit's mayor for violating the terms of his bond which is essentially at the end of the day a white-collar crime is troubling on some many fronts. The public castration and humiliation that many believe is exactly what the mayor deserves in truth has never worked nor been a deterrent to those who have committed all manner of crimes.

There is no public good or civic lesson to be gained from the rumination and incarceration of an elected official for a white-collar crime in a country where public officials have committed crimes of a scope which dwarf the allegations of crimes the mayor is charged with. The notion that the mayor, an elected official, is the same as an average citizen is a myth and an insult to the reality of the truth. There has and there will always be preference for some in our criminal justice system in our country.

What happened today was the dangerous and freighting outcome of a mediadriven tabloid spectacle which not only has colored the objectivity of many in this region, but has impacted and tainted the administration of those in our criminal justice system who are sworn to carry out their duties without prejudice and political influence.

The mayor's alleged failures and personal shortcomings did not warrant his incarceration. Lesser measures were available to the judge to exercise his displeasure with the major's behavior for the judge to imprison an elected official only affirms to many how the agenda of those who do not have the interest of the citizens of the city have contaminated even the judiciary in this region.

> **Greg Thrasher** Birmingham

Sign of election season

A sure sign that the November elections are approaching recently occurred in the United States Senate. As if on cue, Senate Republicans have reintroduced their infamous "Defense of Marriage" amendment to the United States Constitution.

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The amendment attempts to enshrine discrimination into our Constitution, but it is really intended as an election year tool to pander to homophobes and other bigots who are a key part of the Republican voting base. The amendment itself does nothing whatsoever to defend marriage.

Moreover, one needs to look no further than the list of Senate cosponsors of this grossly misnamed Constitutional amendment to see the blatant hypocrisy involved. One is David Vitter (R-Louisiana), convicted of serial prostitution. Another is Larry Craig (R-Idaho), convicted of trolling for gay sex in an airport restroom.

Defending marriage? I think not. The Republican Party: come and get those family values right here!

> **Joe Golonka** Westland

Life in the fast lane

I read your (editorial) on whether government should mandate a speed limit cut.

You don't think this is the answer, and feel it should be up to individual motorists whether or not to slow down. Individuals who wish to slow down really have no choice in the matter, unless you are willing to risk being run off the road.

While I know I am in a very small minority with this opinion, I have always felt that a speed limit of 70 is too high. Even following the posted speed it is fairly routine to have people on my bumper, weaving in and out of traffic around me, and flashing their lights because I am not going fast enough. It gets really nasty when I dare drive 65 – and I'm not referring to being in the left lane!

If you leave a decision to voluntarily reduce speeds to a public who loves to speed, drive while on their phones, while putting on makeup, while reading newspapers, and who feel a need to pass you on subdivision side streets because you are only driving 25, it will not happen.

Marianne Jokisch

Rochester Hills

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Dr. Yasser Awaad is a pediatric neurologist who was employed by Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. until 2007. Since Dr. Awaad left Oakwood, the law offices of Benner & Foran have been retained by a large number of parents who believe their children were misdiagnosed with epilepsy and/or seizures by Dr. Awaad. If you think your child or children may have been misdiagnosed with epilepsy/seizures by Dr. Yasser Awaad, please contact the law offices of Benner & Foran for a free, no obligation consultation.

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COUNTY NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

And the living is easy: August is truly summer at its finest

here is nothing subtle about nature's way this

August – if you get out of your air-conditioned car, ditch the iPod, turn off the cell phone and get your feet off pavement.

August is the month of sparkling "fire" in the meadow and streaking "fire" in the sky. A month of phenomenal wild berry production, tall meadow flowers, gray treefrogs singing

to the approach of supercell storms. In Birmingham and Royal Oak and Rochester human habituated house sparrows hop around sweaty ankles under outdoor café tables in search of dropped dinner morsels. It's a month of the unpredictable and the predicable.

Among the predictable, the seasonal collision between Earth and a great curtain

of cosmic dust, the Perseids meteor shower - spawned by Comet Swift Tuttle - is already under way. Get out of the city! Get away from bright lights! The darker the sky, the more meteors you will see. Head for rural slices of darker northern Oakland County where the entire world does not glow all night in artificial light, or better yet go on a one tank of gas camping trip and find a

look out point by a Great Lake (away from lights) and you are in for a heavenly sky show. Barring heavy cloud cover the folks at Spaceweather.com are predicting you will see up to 100 meteors per hours before dawn on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

August brings a continuation of "sparkling fire" in moist meadows that have not been bathed in pesticides or cropped to golf course like

nothingness. Call them fireflies, call them lightning bugs; two names for the same creature, a tiny miracle beetle with the gift of bioluminescence, a butt end that glows and flashes and delights children and adults. The basic biology is simple: the male flies about and flashes the ladies. If the female likes what she sees, she flashes back. After a short dialog of "flash-dating" the meet-



Jonathan

Schechter

ing is arranged. Works faster than human Internet dating but poses some of the same risks: Imposters. Some fireflies practice trickery and deceit and flash signals of other species. Once the no-

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time-to-waste romantic suitor wings in, a cannibalistic death awaits.

August brings apple trees gone wild feeding deer gone tame. August brings bold fawns, young fox and coyotes exploring their world, often with mom out of the picture. Near tame house wren wrap up nesting. Big bluestem reaches for the sky along the Paint Creek Trail. Massasauga rattlers sun in seclusion at Indian Springs Metro Park and Independence Oaks. Pitcher plants devour bugs at Bald Mountain Recreation Area. August is the month suburban groundhogs love: gardens everywhere! Skunks scent humid nights. One of the skunks favorite treats down suburbia way are the subterranean nests of yellow jackets.

Evening bird song is on the wane, as insect chorus increases in preparation for the final night bug concert of September. Jewelweed, your nature-wise child knows it as "Touch Me Not," adds beautiful tiny orange trumpets to wet landscapes. Touch the seed pod and it "explodes" shooting seeds over a yard away. Every naturalist knows that trick.

Canada Geese temporarily displaced from Oakland Hills County Club by swarming hordes of golf crazed humans seek out short grass for their summer bulk up time. And here and there, sometimes along roadside ditches, more often at the edge of marshes and ponds, the increasingly common heron size, pure white American Egret stakes fish and frogs.

Before the month is over a hint of red appears in red maples, and black walnuts and hickories will be draped in the huge dirty-gray nests of the already here fall web worms. And of course, squirrels will be on nut gathering rampages, as we humans harvest elderberry and blackberries that line so many trailways and old railways.



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Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. He can be reached at oaknature@aol.com.



JONATHAN SCHECHTE

House wrens wrap-up nesting in August.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Justin Schroeder stores his late model race car in his family's garage. The 21-year-old Salem graduate is near the top of the Late Model Division standings at both Flat Rock Speedway and Toledo Speedway with less than a month to go in the season.



Canton man's racing career is in high gear at area tracks

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to driving, vellow is the universal color for slowing down — just not in Justin Schroeder's racing universe. Since he started putting the pedal to the metal in go-karts at the age of 8, the 21-year-old Canton resident's racing vehicles have been coated in sizzling yellow — the same hue as the

ond at Toledo, only 35 behind front-runner Herb Fair, Jr.

His first career late model victory came July 26 at Flat Rock in the 150-lap Moran Chevrolet/ Stan Yee Memorial when he snatched the checkered flag after surviving a nine-car, first-lap pile-up. On Aug. 8, he won the pole at Toledo Raceway before finishing fourth.

Waiting game



Schmitt earns bronze medal in 800 relay

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

All those years of sweat equity paid off big time for Allison Schmitt Wednesday morning in Beijing, China.

The 18-year-old Canton resident earned a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics around 11:40 p.m. local time Wednesday when she swam the first leg for the United States in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

Australia won gold with a world-record time of 7:44.31 while the host Chinese captured second in 7:45.93.

The U.S. touched in 7:46.33, more than three



Schmitt

than fourth-place Italy. Schmitt was in first place for nearly half of her 200-meter leg, however, she was fourth when

seconds faster

teammate Natalie Coughlin took over for the second 200 meters.

Caroline Burckle, Schmitt's roommate in Beijing, swam the third leg for the U.S. ahead of anchor Katie Hoff.

Schmitt has been weakened this week by an intestinal illness, **NBC Sports reported during** Wednesday's race.

Schmitt narrowly missed qualifying for the 200 freestyle finals earlier in the week when she turned in the ninth-best time in the semis. Only the top eight swimmers advanced to the finals.

Schmitt, who graduated from Canton High School in January, is headed to the University of Georgia in a couple of weeks with an athletic scholarship. She



PCS hockey golf outing

A golf outing to benefit the Canton, Salem and Plymouth hockey teams will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, at Hickory Creek Golf Club in Canton.

The fee is \$110 per player or \$400 per foursome.

Included in the fee are greens fees and a cart; a steak dinner; a snack at the turn; pop and water on the course; and prizes for best team, longest drive and closest to the pin.

The event will tee off with an 8 p.m. shotgun start.

For more information, contact Kathy Lash at (734) 453-6518 or Chris Wolfe at (248) 766-6754.

Canton X-country

The Canton High School boys cross country team, which started practicing last week for the 2008 season, is looking for new runners from freshmen to seniors.

No previous running experience is required.

All interested par-

ticipants should meet

outside of the Canton

Any questions can

North Building on

Joy Road. Monday

or Duncan (734)-207-0923). Golf news

Plymouth resident Scott Marzolino registered a hole-inone Tuesday, Aug.

12, at Raisin River Country Club in

Marzolino used a

five iron to ace the

195-yard third hole. He fired a 39 for

the nine-hole round. He was playing with

Brian Woodworth,

Chris Teklinsky.

Dan Christman and

An adult/child

The \$39 entry fee

Monroe.



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lightning-fast cars his long-time NASCAR idol, Sterling Marlin, still steers around ovals.

What worked for Marlin in his prime is working for Schroeder, who has been a consistent force in the late model divisions at Flat Rock Speedway and Toledo Speedway this summer.

Through last weekend's races, Schroeder was fifth in the point standings at Flat Rock, just 205 behind leader Eric Lee; and sec-

The quality that has been the catalyst to Schroeder's ultra-successful season - and his milestone victory last month - is not one you'd expect in a sport that measures its competitors with speed.

"I'm a very patient driver which. to be honest with you, is why I won my first race last month," said Schroeder, who

Please see SPEED, B2



age of 8 in gokarts (above). The biggest expense for his racing team is tires. Pictured at left are some of the used ones his No. 4 car have worn through this summer.

racing career

started at the

is a member of Club Wolverine. which is based in Ann Arbor.

Schmitt is expected to return to Canton on Monday for a brief stay before heading to Georgia. Her parents, Ralph and Gail, returned home Friday from their week-long journey to the Far East to watch their daughter compete in swimming's biggest event.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

through Friday at 8:30 a.m. be directed to one of the team captains: Kyle (734-454-4387), Greg (734-455-2908)

In love with in-line Local skating team excels at national event

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Watch Corky Zaron blaze a couple of laps around the Skatin' Station II's 100-meter in-line racing oval and you'll have a difficult time guessing his age.

The smooth-skating Livonia resident is 61 - old enough to be a grandpa to a few of his teammates on the SSII racing team - but he glides around the hairpin turns like a man half his age.

It's pretty amazing what hard work and a love for the sport have done for Zaron and several other local in-line racers, who last month earned enough gold at the National In-line Championships to open their own jewelry store.

Under the guidance of head coach Roy MacDougall, the Canton-based contingent placed fifth overall and won over 20 medals at the prestigious meet, which was held in Lincoln, Neb.

"For me, the two best things about in-line speed skating are that I get to hang around this team, which is as close and supportive as a family – and I can eat anything I want and not gain weight," Zaron said, smiling. "I was a runner for years, but running beat up my knees and hips. In-line skating is pretty much a no-impact sport - except for a few falls here and there - and you can skate as fast or faster than most people can ride a bike. It takes a pretty big commitment, but the rewards are phenomenal.

No age (or speed) limits

The two-year-old squad's 20-plus members range in age from 8 to 61. While most of the skaters live within a half-hour drive

to Canton, some -- like the husband-andwife duo of Scott and Kim Thomas -- travel three or four nights a week, 10 months a year, from as far away as Fowlerville.

"I raced on conventional roller skates 24 years ago, so when I started skating on inlines last year, it was like learning how to skate all over again," said Scott Thomas, 41, who won four medals and set three national records in Nebraska last month.

Northville resident Susie Jackson accounted for seven medals and placed first overall in the Grand Master Ladies Division. Jackson's son, Nathan, also fared well at his first national meet, placing second in the freshman boys division and second in the freshman four boys relay along with Kaleb Broomhall, Aaron Cingle and Zachery Dimitri.

"I love it because it's a sport I can do with my son," said Jackson. "And I got my sister back into it this year and we won Master Two-Lady Division."

Jackson's sister is Denise Koziara, who teamed with Lori Sparr, Vida Lavigne and Jackson to win the Master Four Lady race.

"It takes a lot of practice to get the technique down and it takes a lot of conditioning," said Koziara. "To be able to maneuver and pass at the high speeds we're going, you'd better have good technique.

"It's a great sport that's been around a long time. There were a lot of changes when it went from conventional quad skates to in-lines. There's new technology coming out every year that helps the skaters go faster and faster."

Please see SKATING, B3



Members of the Skatin' Station II in-line racing team brought home several medals from the 2008 National Inline Championships that were held last month in Lincoln, Neb. Pictured are (front row from left) Lauren MacDougall, Zach Dimitri, Denise Koziara, Kim Thomas, Nathan Jackson, Lindsey MacDougall, (back row from left) Corky Zaron, Scott Thomas, Jim Combs, Lori Sparr, Jerry Monticello, Susie Jackson, Jeff Smith and coach Roy MacDougall.



scramble will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, at Fox Hills' Strategic Fox layout in Plymouth Township. includes golf, food and prizes. For more information, call (734) 453-7272.

> The Century 2 Person Scramble will be held at the Fox Hills Fox Classic course on Thursday, Aug. 28. The ages of the

two-player teams must add up to 100. The \$39 fee

includes 18 holes of golf, a hot dog at the turn and a cold-cut buffet following the round.

For more information, call (734) 453-7272.

LOCAL SPORTS

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B2

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Hall of Fame performance

The Plymouth-Canton U12 Vipers travel baseball team recently traveled to Cooperstown, N.Y. - the home of the Baseball Hall of Fame - to compete in a tournament at the Cooperstown Dreams Park. The Vipers, who won their division in the KVBSA with a 13-2-1 record, went 6-4 in Cooperstown. They won their first two games in the single-elimination portion of the event before dropping a hard-fought contest against the "Boys of Baseball," a national travel team. Pictured (front row from left) are Jake Boucher, John Clark, Daniel Jipping, (second row from left) Jared Johnson, Jake Noel, Conner Stella, Griffin Parks, Curtis Martin, Tyler Wolfe, James Hall, Trent Schneider, Trevor Mac, Matt Taliaferro, (third row from left) coach Todd Taliaferro, head coach Tony Boucher, coach Doug Mac and team manager/coach Don Clark.

Rams' national championship hopes dashed in Johnstown

Nate Van Meter was probably the sole reason the Michigan Rams were heading home Thursday from the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

The 20-year-old left-hander from Muskingum College (Ohio) tossed a complete-game four-hitter and belted a three-run homer to propel the Zanesville (Ohio) Junior Pioneers to a 7-1 triumph over the Rams at Point Stadium.

The 20-and-under Rams, representing the Livoniabased Michigan Collegiate Baseball League, finished four days at the AAABA Tournament with a 2-2 record and end their season at 30-12 overall.

Van Meter fell behind 1-0 in the second inning on an RBI double by Aaron Wick (scoring Dan Augustine), but allowed only two hits the rest of the way and wiggled his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the eighth inning when he got Madonna

University's Shawn Little (Canton) on a strikeout and Wick on a groundout.

Zanesville, meanwhile, tied it in the third on an RBI double by Jordan Foster and took the lead for keeps on Zack Pollock's two-run double in the fourth off starting and losing Rams pitcher Tom Whiting.

Chaz Mohler contributed an RBI single in the fifth and Van Meter put the game away with a three-run homer over the left field screen in the top of the ninth.

The Rams used a total of four pitchers including Adrian College's Matt Tuttle (Livonia Stevenson), MU's Bret Spencer and Colin O'Connell. Spencer was the most effective, allowing one just one run in 3.2 innings of relief.

"Going 2-2 for the National Tournament - everyone was disappointed that they couldn't advance, but were pleased and proud of the fine season," Rams manager Rick Berryman said.





Perfect 10U's

The 10U Canton Cardinals capped an outstanding season July 18 by winning the AA World Series in Battle Creek. The Cardinals, who won 80 percent of their games this season, went 7-0 in the World Series and averaged 11 runs per contest. They were led by Brett Lee, who was named the World Series MVP after slugging four triples and a home run. Andrew Jossey also shined, batting at an .800 clip with five extra base hits and 10 RBI. Pictured (front row from left) are Trevor McManus, Cameron Stella, Kevin Anthony, Brett Lee, Michael Jossey, Cameron Shaughnessy, Andrew Heika, (second row from left) Aaron Madsen, Grant Hartwig, Andrew Jossey, Seth Hubbard, Michael Groff, (back row from left) assistant coach Dave Madsen, assistant coach Kurt Anthony, assistant coach Mike Groff and head coach Dan Hejka.

FROM PAGE B1

ish a lot of races."

by his older peers.

Catching a break

Schroeder's time came early in his July 26 victory. He started ninth but quickly moved to the front when all eight cars ahead of him were involved in an opening-lap crash.

He seized the lead for good on lap 80 and never looked back on the way to claiming the \$2,866 first-place check.

"We had quite a few family members and friends at the track that night and once Justin got to lap 112 or 113, they all started staring at me because I got a little nervous with him leading," Lisa Schroeder said, smiling. "I knew he'd do fine handling the car, but I was thinking to myself, 'Just don't get a flat tire!'

"It was a great feeling when he won. I can't even begin to tell vou how hard he's worked to get to where he's at now."

He knows his stuff

Schroeder's racing knowl-

edge extends beyond the driver's seat of his No. 4 car. He's also an accomplished mechanic, so when his vehicle isn't handling well, he can get a handle on the problem.

"Some of the guys just show up and drive; they don't know half the stuff they should," said Schroeder, who works full-time as a mechanic at MRFS Auto in Livonia.

"It definitely has helped me to know what I know about the mechanical part of it. When there's a problem, I have a head-start on everybody else when it comes to fixing it."

Not surprisingly, Schroeder's ultimate career goal is to end up in the pits — either as a driver or mechanic.

"I'd love to make a career of racing," he admitted. "Whether it's NASCAR or super late model racing, anything would be nice. I'm not worried about getting rich off it; I just want to make a living."

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Visit us online at hometownlife.com



Schroeder, who is one of

late model division, has been

praised repeatedly this season

His non-risk-taking style is

"I don't get nervous for

the youngest drivers in the

Be A Tiger For Kids On September 8th.

It's our chance to provide scholarships for the children at Cornerstone Schools. 100% of your donation supports these scholarships.

This year, more than ever, our children need help to go back to school. For only \$42 per month, you can be the light in a child's life.

> And, as a thank you, you'll get two free tickets to the September 8th Tigers game and Rock 'n Roar picnic and two T-shirts.

> > Call 1.800.343.0951 or visit CornerstoneSchools.org to donate.

Cornerstone **Schools**

Changing Detroit one child at a time.

Observer & Eccentric www.hometownlife.com

SUMMER

(Sept. 2-Oct. 30) Reg. Deadline: Aug. 27

SOCCER LEAGUES

Adult Soccer Leagues 8 Games Team Fee: \$650 or Free Agent Fee: \$80

New "Fun" Parent League 7 Games (Saturdays)

FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUES

FREE youth Basic Football Clinic with EMU players! Thursday, Sept. 4 7-8 pm for registered players. + 2 FREE tickets to EMU's Homecoming Game 9/27 **Youth and Adult Free Agent Fee: \$80** Youth and Adult Team Fee: \$650

DODGE BALL LEAGUE

Adult Dodge Ball Leagues now forming

Team Fee: \$450

6 Games + End of Season Tournament



Receive a FREE Uniform

when you register for

Fall Classes!

LIL' KICKERS

Now registering for the Fall Session soccer clinics. September 2-October 27

\$100 for 8 classes

Plus receive a FREE Uniform with fall registration!

For a list of classes, dates, & times, call (734) HV-SPORT or visit www.hvsports.com.

46245 Michigan Ave. in Canton (734) HV-SPORT www.hvsports.com



LOCAL SPORTS

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Skatin' Station II's Nathan Jackson (far right) was just one of the Canton-based team's members to excel at the National Inline Championships held last month in Lincoln, Neb.



www.hometownlife.com

Practice pays off

While the SSII racers make the sport look easy, it's anything but, according to MacDougall.

"A lot of people don't understand how much goes into this and how dedicated these people are," said MacDougall, whose daughters Lauren, 13, and Lindsay, 11, are members of the team. "You can't just throw a pair of skates on and go. They practice two to three hours a night, three or four nights a week. These skaters skate 50 laps when they get here for practice -- and that's just their warm-up."

After flourishing in the sport as a youth, 36-year-old Farmington Hills resident Lori Sparr gave up racing on skates at the age of 18 when she started college. However, the former University of Michigan strength and conditioning coach recently returned to the hardwood rinks to satisfy her competitive hunger.

"I wasn't very good when I first picked it up again, but I fell in love with the sport and realized how much I missed it," said Sparr. "I've found that the off-skates workouts are as important as the practices. It's lit a fire under me again because I love to compete and I hate to lose."

The late-July national meet brought an end to 10 months of training for the skaters, all of whom admitted they couldn't wait until practices resume sometime after Sept. 1.

"Years and years ago when I first started dabbling in the sport and my father was still alive, I asked him, 'Dad, when do I stop doing this?" said Zaron. "He said, 'When it's no longer fun.' Well, I still look forward to coming to practice and putting my skates on."

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1st and foremost

On July 20 the Plymouth Varsity Saberettes were named "Grand Champs" at the Mid American Pom Pon Summer Camp at Northwood University in Midland. The Saberettes earned first place each night during evaluations and were also awarded Day 3 peppy pom, most congenial Pom team and took third place for Senior Kick routine as "The Smurfs." Pictured are (back row from left) Anjelica Janevski, Kimberlin Butler, Lauren Jeong, Lauren Uhlian, Kirstie Liakos, Danielle Gomrick, Laura Krahel, Tiffany Granowicz, Kendall Torp, Christina Winkler, Hayley Wakefield (middle row from left) Maddy Kinsella, Allison Santori, Holly Runyan, Nichole Finch, Lindsay Potter, coach Shannon Domzalski, Alyse Ruark, Jennifer Turner, Jillian Covault, Megan Birdwell, (front row from left) Chelsea Schroeder, Katie Shelton, Megan Laporte, Kaseigh Zebari, Ashley Chiado, Coach Cheryll Custer, Becca Garzaniti, Lauren Rakowicz, Chrissy Stone and Brittany Turner.





WHERE YOU LIVE

Dollars spent with local businesses stay in our community!



17, 2008 (CP)

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BABIES AND BOTTLED WATER Babies may be accustomed to

being bottle-fed, but should they be drinking bottled water? According to the Centers for Disease Control, cavities among pre-school children are on the rise. Of course, the usual suspects are sugary drinks, sugar-laden snacks, and/or poor oral hygiene, but dentists also have another culprit in mind. The increasing use of bottled water is also thought to play a role in the increasing number of baby teeth with decay. While bottled water may be promoted as being healthier than tap water, it does not contain fluoride or other important minerals. Filters in home water-purifying systems may also play a role in excluding these decay-fighting elements from babies. If so, the dentist may recommend fluoride treatments.

Taught early enough, healthy habits turn into healthy lifestyles. Begin with a healthy diet that supplies minerals and other important nutrients, as well as proper brushing and flossing techniques. Continue with regular professional care and cleanings for a healthy smile that will last a lifetime. If you would like more information on how to get your child's dental experience off to a good start, we welcome our call at **734-453-9413**. We have both children and adults as patients here at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail**, **Ste. 201, Plymouth,** because everyone, regardless of age, deserves a winning smile.

P.S. Never allow a baby to sleep with a bottle filled with milk or juice in his or her mouth. Doing so essentially bathes the teeth with sugar water for prolonged periods.



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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



www.hometownlife.com

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Good vision critical for success in school

The Michigan Optometric Association reminds parents that good vision is critical for many classroom tasks such as reading books, seeing a blackboard and viewing a computer screen. Without an eye exam many children will suffer from undetected vision problems and some may even be misdiagnosed as having a learning disorder.

The American Optometric Association's 2008 American Eye-Q survey, which assesses public knowledge and understanding of a wide range of issues related to eve and vision health, showed 87 percent of respondents were unaware that one in four children have a vision problem that might affect learning.

"Over 400,000 school children in Michigan have vision conditions that can negatively affect learning," said Peter Agnone, MOA optometrist. "Many parents rely on vision screenings in school to check for eye problems, but that isn't enough. Comprehensive eye exams are necessary to detect problems that a simple screening can miss such as eye coordination and moderate amounts of farsightedness and astigmatism."

Optometrists can tell if vision skills are lacking or if the eyes are not functioning properly. These eye and vision issues can lead to headaches, fatigue and other eyestrain problems. Parents should be aware of symptoms that may indicate a child has a vision or visual processing problem. Be sure to tell an optometrist if a child frequently loses his or her place while reading, avoids close work, holds reading material closer than normal, tends to rub his or her eves. has headaches, turns or tilts head to use one eye only, makes frequent reversals when reading or writing, uses finger to maintain place when reading, omits or confuses small words when reading, or consistently performs below potential.

Studies indicate that 60 percent of children identified as problem learners actually suffer from undetected vision problems. In fact, according to the Eye-Q survey, only 39 percent of adults understand that behavioral problems can be an indication of vision problems.

Early detection and treatment provide the very best opportunity to treat and correct vision problems to help children see clearly. The MOA recommends that a child's first eve exam take place at six months of age. Unless problems are detected, the next exam should be at age three, and then every two years once a child begins school. Unfortunately, the Eye-Q survey showed that 57 percent of children did not receive their first eye exam until age five or older.

"Good vision doesn't just happen," said Agnone. "A child's brain learns how to use eyes to see just like he or she learns how to use legs to walk or a mouth to form words. The longer a vision problem goes undiagnosed and untreated, the more a child's brain has to overcompensate to live with the vision problem, instead of developing and learning normally.

For more information or to locate a Michigan Optometric Association doctor, visit http://michigan.aoa.org.

Networking for health

Adomaitis (right) of Farmington Hills introduces herself and 6-month-old daughter Rowan at a Holistic Moms Network meeting in the Plymouth District Library. Shannon Yee of Livonia and her children Eila, 3, and

Gwen

Josiah, 2, look on.





PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Stevens is the Metro Detroit chapter leader of Holistic Moms Network. Behind Stevens is Stephanie Rose of Farmington.



The Holistic Moms Network met for the first time at the Plymouth Library.

The room was crowded for the first meeting of the Holistic Moms Network on Thursday, Aug. 7.

Birth control pill risks, and neck pain solutions



Pam from Fenton emails that she is taking birth control pills and heard that she could be at an increased risk of cancer. Is this true?

A new study finds that women who take birth control pills have a higher risk of cervical cancer. Researchers studied more than 50,000 women. They found those who took the pills for at least five years had nearly double the risk of cervical cancer than those who had never taken the pill. But there is some good news. The study also found that risk disappeared a decade after women stopped taking the pill.

Peter Nielsen

Principles

Previous studies have shown the hormones found in birth control pills can protect against ovarian and womb cancer, which are harder to detect.

Mike from Clarkston emails saying he wakes up each morning with the worst pain in his neck and shoulders. What can he do?

Mike you are not alone. Doctors estimate that seven out of 10 people will suffer with the same pain at some point in their lives. The biggest cause is use and abuse. Here are three simple things you can try to help relieve the pain.

When you are at the computer or a desk, keep your head balanced directly over your spine. Keep both feet on the ground and sit all the way back in your chair.

How do you use the phone? Do you crick your neck to one side? That could be a big culprit. Try a head set or speakerphone to keep your head in a neutral position.

Do you carry a briefcase, bag or heavy purse? Carrying that weight on one shoulder all the time could cause pain. Try switching to a backpack or alternate which shoulder you use

Hopefully these simple things will help relieve your pain.

Peter Nielsen is a fitness expert and owner of Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield, and Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield. Catch him on WDIV and WJR, or visit www.peternielsen.com.

nearly 35 parents turned out for the first meeting of the Holistic Moms Network at the Plymouth District Library. Moms and dads from Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, Northville, Sterling Heights, Plymouth, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Westland, and Dearborn came to the event in search of ways to make their families healthier.

Holistic moms

gather to share

information

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

Andrea Stevens seemed surprised that

The national organization had told Stevens to expect 10 to 12 parents, but she passed out flyers at numerous places such as farmers markets in an effort to reach as many moms as possible. The Redford mom of two is starting the local chapter of the nonprofit that offers support for parents interested in natural living. The turnout was indicative of the popularity of the holistic movement. The nonprofit has grown to 120 chapters nationwide since it was founded five vears ago.

Stevens began thinking about following a healthier lifestyle while taking a holistic birth class at the Center for the Child Bearing Year in Ann Arbor before her daughter was born 21/2 years ago. Even before then she had quit drinking diet soda after reading a book on aspartame which she blames for giving her headaches. Since the holistic birth class Stevens has further researched everything from nutrition to vaccines and decided to return to living the way she grew up. Her mother Joyce Murch never fed her family processed or fast foods. Today Stevens teaches the Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth in Dearborn and prefers cooking from scratch to eating out.

"I'm just a regular mom not a holistic expert by any means," said Stevens. "I try to do a little step at a time, try to buy as

much organic and locally grown food as possible. I boost the children's immune systems through proper nutrition and supplements. They get lots of fruits and vegetables and we avoid high fructose corn syrup. I opted not to vaccinate our children because of so much information about adverse reactions and long term health effects. That's not to say I don't let my mother-in-law take the kids to McDonald's once in a while. I don't want it to be taboo and then they want it more."

Like Stevens, co-leader Daedra Surowiec of Dearborn started reading labels when she was pregnant four years

"I wanted to know what I was putting in my body. I stopped drinking pop," said Surowiec. "When you have something growing in your body you start thinking about what you're putting in your body.

Tali and Julian Wendrow of West Bloomfield started making changes in their lifestyle because of their two children ages 15 and 13.

"Our daughter has autism and we found making changes in the kids' diets made a difference," said Tali Wendrow. "Our son has ADD. We started with a yeast-free, gluten-free diet for our daughter. We eat more organic, avoid artificial flavors and colors and found it was helping diminish symptoms of autism and ADD and they're hardly ever sick with the flu."

"Even organic produce gets rained on. We can't screen out everything but we found a healthy eating approach helps with prevention," added Julian. "We avoid antibiotics and keep their immune

later in the second second

systems optimal by other means."

Gwen Adomaitis of Farmington Hills, like the Wendrows, came to the meeting to network with parents who believe as she does. The \$45 membership fee includes a newsletter and the opportunity to participate in an e-mail group to exchange information.

"I wanted to find a community of people on the same path to keep things natural, to be able to go to a play group and not worry about food dyes, to try to eat food as natural as possible, to cook at home from food we might recognize, things my great grandmother did," said Adomaitis who gave birth to two of her children at home. Adomaitis takes her children to a pediatrician with a holistic practice in West Bloomfield. She was toting her 6-month-old daughter Rowan in a baby sling.

"I got started when I had my first child in the hospital with a midwife six years ago. It kind of snowballed. I now make a lot of my cleaning products."

The Metro Detroit chapter of the Holistic Moms Network meets 9:45-11:45 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. The topic for the Sept. 4 meeting is toxic ingredients in household and personal care products. Stevens hopes to add an evening session for working moms if she receives enough requests.

For more information, visit www. holisticmoms.org, call Andrea Stevens at (313) 220-4592 or send e-mail to amstevens14@juno.com.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

AUGUST Vinyasa yoga

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17, Vinyasa yoga blends strength and flexibility training emphasizing power, precision, timing, grace and coordination, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. To register, call Julie Burt at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.netafit.org.

Blood drive

From 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, in the DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Conference Center, 1 William Carols Drive, Commerce. Pledge a blood donation by going to www. givelife.org with the sponsor code DMC and choose the HVSH drive. Walk-ins welcome but appointments encouraged to prevent lengthy waits.

Diabetes in the school An educational session for school personnel, with or without medical training, on how to care for a child with diabetes, presented by University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, 1819 S. Wagner, Ann Arbor. Cost is \$20. Call Jennifer Schwab at (734) 615-4596 or send email to schwabja@med.umich.edu. Inner engineering

Led by Isha Yoga Teacher Sadhguru

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Jaggi Vasudev Wednesday-Tuesday, Aug. 20-26, free intro talk 7 p.m. Aug. 20, at The Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. Contact (248) 722-0111 or detroit@ ishafoundation.org.

Sharing & Caring

Education and support program for breast cancer survivors features field trip Ai Chi: Range of Motion through Aquatic Exercise 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. at the Goldfish Swim School, 2388 Cole St., Birmingham. To register or for more information, call (248) 551-8585. Movie marathon

Begins 10:00 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, and runs for 24 hours through Saturday

morning at Emagine Theatre in Novi to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, an independent foundation that helps families cope with the many financial and emotional stresses of battling leukemia, lymphoma and related blood disorders.

Raising a minimum of \$105.10 in pledges will get you admitted to the Theatre for 24 hours of watching your choice of current-run movies, also lunch, dinner and continental breakfast on Saturday morning, snacks throughout your stay and all the pop and popcorn you can eat. New for this year is the "Family Pack Special" for a family of four. A

special admission allows parents with two children to arrive on Friday at 5 p.m., watch two movies, have dinner, and enjoy pop and popcorn all for the same pledge total as one individual, \$105.10. Register online at www.leukemiamichigan.org or call Children's Leukemia Foundation at (800) 825-2536. Individuals aged 13-17 may only participate until 10 p.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Alzheimer's memory walk

Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, rain or shine. To start a team or make a donation, contact the Alzheimer's Association at alzome. org or (248) 351-0280. The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's research, care and support. For more information, visit www.alz.org.

Hatha yoga classes From 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays begin-

ning Aug. 26 to Sept. 30, in Classrooms 1 and 2 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Hatha Yoga increases flexibility, energy level and strength at your own pace in a non-competitive setting. Class participants need to be able to move between a standing position to a hands and knees position with ease. There is a fee. Space limited. To register, call (734) 655-1162.

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LOCAL NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

Floating on a Dream Cruise



The Northwood Shopping Center, located at the intersection of 13 Mile and Woodward, is considered the epicenter of the Woodward Dream Cruise.

PHOTOS BY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN STORMZAND



John Stormzand | Staff Photographer The intersection of Woodward Avenue and Twelve Mile saw some of the heaviest cruising activity.



It wasn't easy to navigate Woodward Friday evening if you weren't a classic car cruiser.



hoa. That is one pink car. Oakland County Sheriff's deputies Dave Losinski and Bill Christensen spot it immediately. Even hundreds of feet above the ground it pops out — a Pepto Bismolcolored drop inching north on Woodward Avenue Friday night.

Losinski and Christensen are members of the Sheriff's Department Aviation Unit, a helicopter patrol division that's monitored county skies since 2001.

This weekend saw the unit's helicopters hovering up and down Woodward, as they patrolled the 14th annual Woodward Dream Cruise.

The unit helps the nearly two dozen other police agencies in monitoring the festivities that, from hundreds of feet above, take on an almost mythic quality.

The great American road that is Woodward stretches into the horizon, lined with tiny bits of candy-colored cars. Christensen said in the

years he's patrolled the Dream Cruise, there haven't been any serious incidents. A few disorderly conduct problems, a few cases of people trying to steal tires from cars.

"I haven't heard of very much beyond that," he said.

Christensen attributes the relative lack of incidents at the Dream Cruise to the heavy police presence on the ground, and the deterrent effect of the helicopter patrol.

"We're actually a presence more than anything," he said.

- By Megan Pennefather



Classic cars were displayed in Memorial Park in Royal Oak Friday.



Spectators take in the cruising action in front of Potbelly's on the west side of Woodward north of Normandy in Royal Oak.



By 8 p.m. Friday, Woodward was home to a classic car traffic jam.



Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Store and share large files on the Web without spending a dime

Question: How can I share large files, like photos and videos, with friends and family members?

Answer: When I need to do this, I invariably turn to YouSendIt (yousendit. com). Granted, the Web offers countless similar services, but I like YouSendIt because it's quick, easy, and free - and because I'm a creature of habit. I may need a new

> habit, however, now that I've discovered Drop.io

Without so much as

setting up an account

or providing an e-mail

address, you can choose



(www.drop.io). True to its name, this service is like an online dropbox for your files. Or, to put it another way, permanent temporary storage.

Rick Broida

Tech Savvy

a Web address for your "drop" (drop.io/whatever-name-you-want), select the file(s) you want to upload, enter a password (optional), and specify how long the drop should exist: anywhere from 1 day to 1 year.

You can, of course, share your new URL with others if you want to provide access to your files - and you don't have to worry about the decor. The "drop space" looks quite attractive and offers several views for browsing files.

What's more, sharing a Drop.io URL with co-workers is like creating an instant online workspace for collaborating on files and documents.

In recent months the service has added even more interesting features, such as audio recording by cell phone: When you create a drop, you get a phone number and extension you can dial into to record meetings, podcasts, reminders, or whatever.

In a nutshell, you dial the number, wait for the prompt, and enter your extension. Whatever audio gets recorded by your



phone is converted to an MP3 file and stored on your

Drop.io can also



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Faith and Grace Hargrave are 4 and 6 years old. Their mother, Bonnie Arndt, dressed both of them from head to toe, including backpacks, for under \$15.

www.hometownlife.com

IOP



DAV THRIFT STORE

What: The DAV Thrift Store

north of Ann Arbor Trail on

the east side of the street.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

520-5328.

Phone: (734) 513-6020.

Donations are accepted at

the store every day. Pickup

is available by calling (866)

Monday-Saturday, and 10

Where: 8050 Middlebelt,

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O & E STAFF WRITER

Sarah Kennedy struts through the DAV Thrift Store in Westland showing off her outfit. The 17vear-old Westland girl assembled the trendy skirt, tank top, sweater, shoes, purse, beads, and bracelet for under \$15. Bonnie Arndt dressed both of her daughters Faith, 4, and Grace, 6, from head to toe, including backpacks, for under \$15. Sharon Jones of Detroit dressed for success in a pants suit with briefcase for \$15. Lashawna Wright is constantly looking for bargains as night manager of the store that

opened March 28.

She shops for back to school clothes for her 12year-old son Chandler year round. His Tommy



The free Edison program for Windows helps you calculate annual savings based on simple changes to settings.

or PDF you've uploaded: Just click Send, then Fax, and then enter the recipient's fax number. Presto: The document gets delivered just as though you'd sent it your computer's power from a fax machine. (You're limited to

documents of no

more than 20 pages each.) Receiving a fax is a bit more

complicated: You have to e-mail a special cover sheet to the recipient, who must use it as the top sheet when sending your fax. The pages will arrive in your drop as a PDF, which you can then download, view, print, etc

Amazingly, all these Drop.io services are free. Bookmark this site pronto.

Question: How can I reduce the amount of energy consumed by my computer(s)?

Answer: Windows users should check out Edison (verdiem.com/edison), a free utility that helps you manage your PC's power settings and shows your estimated annual savings for every tweak you make.

The program includes separate settings tabs for both work and non-work hours (which you can designate using the Schedule tab). Using a slider, you nudge vour PC toward "save less" or "save more" Edison makes corresponding adjustments to the display, hard drive, and suspend settings. As you drag the slider, you get instantly updated annual-savings figures, which you can make even more accurate by plugging in the actual kilowatt/hour costs for your home or office.

This is a brilliant, easy-to-use little application I hope everyone will try. Sure, you can tweak the same power settings without it, but there's something very satisfying about seeing how much money you'll save at the same time you're conserving energy.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheapskate blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheapskate). He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.



Steven Ellis is the co-manager of the DAV Thrift Store in Westland.

Chandler Wright of Redford is 12 years old. His Tommy Hilfiger jeans cost \$3.98 at the DAV Thrift Store in Westland.

Hilfiger jeans cost \$3.98.

The DAV Thrift Store is able to offer low prices on used clothing every day because merchandise is donated to the organization which provides services for disabled American veterans. Sales reduce the costs for customers even more. Signs located throughout the store show weekly specials and on Monday seniors receive an extra 25 percent off of clothing.

"If you wait for them to be half off you get an even better deal," said Lashawna Wright of Redford. "I'd been looking for shoes but didn't want to pay \$40 to \$50 because he's so hard on them. These are Adidas. I got them for \$4.98." Martine Vartanian and her sister Denise Bendall like shopping for work clothes at the thrift store.

"On Sundays certain items are a quarter each or five for \$1," said Bendall, a Redford resident who works at the 35th District Court in

Please see THRIFT, C2

Volunteers brighten life for seriously ill Livonia girl



This is the playroom where Celeste Gosselin does her painting.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

Celeste Gosselin squealed with delight when she walked into her newly redecorated rooms. The sixyear-old girl considers herself an artist so the playroom is one of her favorite places.

Thanks to the hard work of a group of volunteers from The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Celeste has a cheery environment to brighten the long days she spends there. Diagnosed with acute lymphocitic leukemia in 2004, Celeste spends almost the entire day in her bedroom and playroom.

"I like the pink and white colors and the butterflies," said Celeste. Suzanne Gosselin is just happy that her little girl is happy.

The family had just moved into their Livonia home in October when a week later they found out Celeste was no longer in remission. For a while the Gosselins spent more time at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor than their new home.

Celeste is once again going through chemotherapy. When her white blood cell count is down she has no ability to fight infection and



must remain isolated in her home.

"She was bubbling over, but before she was very nervous a lot of her things would be moved and changed," said Suzanne. "I was relieved that she accepted everything so wonderfully. Certain things are very unpredictable for her now. The play room is more like an art room with book shelves. In the center of the room is a flower painted table that she does her painting and stuff. I'm happy but it's a bittersweet happiness. She only has me to play with. I play Barbies with her, jump on her trampoline. We had a garage sale just to buy a trampoline. It makes her laugh. It's great therapy.'

Tawnya Johnson and the rest

and a construction of the second s

of the volunteers at The Inn at St. John's took six weeks just to plan the theme. The co-workers found out about Celeste while attending a luncheon for the Suite Dreams Project in May after she was nominated to receive a dream bedroom through the Rochester-based nonprofit. Working with the staff at The Inn, Tawnya and eight other volunteers raised over \$5,000 to redo the two rooms.

"We started with her favorite colors," said Johnson, who led the project's volunteers. "She's six and a little girl so pink is the big thing. We hired a muralist, Upon a Wall, to paint the flowers,

Please see PINK, C3



Sixyear-old Celeste Gosselin of Livonia likes the pink and white colors in her new bedroom.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

Polish dance classes to begin in September

The Polish National **Alliance Centennial Dancers** is registering children ages 4-18 for Polish dance classes this fall with Suzan Charuba Marzec. The group will hold an informational parent meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Simply Polish, 28841 Plymouth Road, one block east of Middlebelt, Livonia. Classes start the following Wednesday and run through March 21. The classes conclude with a recital by

the PNA Centennial Dancers and the adult Radomianie Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. The performance was held at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton last April. For more information, call

(734) 266-9995 or visit www. PNACentennialDancers.org.

Marzec has been teaching Polish folklore dancing for 20 years. The classes include instruction in the customs, traditions and language of Poland.

Livonia Civic Chorus looking for new members

The Livonia Civic Chorus begins its 2008-2009 season with a rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Frost Middle School, 14041 Stark, Livonia.

New members are always welcome. All vocal ranges are needed, especially tenors and bass/baritones.

The chorus meets every **Tuesday from September** through May and performs two major shows each December and Mav.

For more information, call (248) 543-2946, send e-mail to gerisings@sbcglobal.net, or visit www.livoniacivicchorus. org.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

Time is running out and Lillian Malley is a little worried. The Farmington Hills woman still doesn't have enough crafters for the boutique which is part of the Redford Suburban League's annual celebrity fashion show. The Fall Festival of Fashion

takes place Wednesday, Oct.

ROM PAGE C1

Plymouth. "That's a real bargain with gas the way it is." "I shop here all the time," said Vartanian, a Westland resident who works for Comcast. "I just lost 43 pounds and am going to lose more so I buy clothes and then donate them back that way somebody else gets a chance to wear them. I got all of my summer stuff for maybe \$20. I've gotten brand names, Ralph Lauren, Gloria Vanderbilt, things with tags still on them."

Timna Peterman of Redford comes once a week to buy merchandise to sell on eBay.

"A lot of people are doing that," said Peterman. "I see whatever is a good deal that I know will sell. I also find goodies for me. They price it to move it out. The store is very neat and well organized."

Manager Carla Monier shows off the back room where items go through a four step process before ending up on the sales floor.

There's nothing with holes, no broken zippers or stretched out material because we only want to put out the best of the best," said Monier of Northville. "It comes through the door and goes through a sorting area. Electronics are all tested. If it doesn't work it's thrown out."

The racks and racks of



Redford Suburban League seeks crafters

Proceeds from the event go to the Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

Once again this year Rich Fisher and Doris Biscoe host the fashion show spotlighting clothes from Lord & Taylor and the Men's Wearhouse.

"We have quite a large boutique with all kinds of crafts including jewelry, door wreaths, decorations, flower arrangement, a lot of Christmas of course, doll clothes," said Malley, Redford Suburban League board member and publicity person for this year's fashion show.

We're looking for any kind of crafters/vendors. Skirted tables are \$45 each. The boutique opens at 9 a.m. Crafters can come in at 7 a.m. to set

up. Lunch for them is \$15. The fashion show runs after lunch at noon.

www.hometownlife.com

For more information about the boutique, call Sara Gorman at (313) 937-8583 or Josetta Howes at (248) 960-0853.

Tickets for the fashion show are \$45 per person, includes luncheon. Call Miriam at (734) 981-6003.

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uniform separates for 99 cents. For \$5 they can get a whole outfit from head to toe including shoes," said Monier. "We're able to give good deals because everything is donated. People in Michigan are so generous."

Duane Alexander has been managing thrift stores since 1985. His Retail Management Specialists in Oklahoma City, Okla. oversees the DAV Thrift Store owned by Disabled American Veterans. Although staff is paid, there's always a need for volunteers.

"We have everything in household except for food, guns, ammo with the exception of large appliances and mattresses," said Alexander. "We just need more people to know about us."

Rolly Lee is especially excited about the opening of the DAV store, the first in Michigan. Proceeds go to programs that help disabled veterans with transportation and to make their stay at VA hospitals easier. Past contributions to VA hospitals have included everything from wheelchairs to TVs. Thenonprofit organization was founded after World War I.

'We act on behalf of disabled veterans to make sure they get the benefits they earned," said Lee, state adjutant for the DAV. "The store is going to help us be self sufficient and help us to do more things for disabled vets and their families."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharon Jones of Detroit is dressed for success. The total cost of her outfit was \$15 including the briefcase.

sweater, tops, pants, shoes, boots, children's clothes, maternity and evening wear fill only part of the 25,000square-foot store. Furniture, throw pillows, toys, wicker baskets, books, TVs, coffee pots, household items like dishes, knick knacks,

golf clubs, and car seats are among the thousands of items for sale. It's the perfect place to not only dress for less but furnish a dorm room or cottage.

ping for back to school, buying jeans, shirts. We have

"People are already shop-

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C2



VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ARTHRITIS AS A TEST OF NERVES

Often pain in the hands or feet indicates the onset of arthritis, but not always Particularly in the aged, a discomfort that is in part pain, but in part numbress, can begin with no warning in the feet. The discomfort starts in the toes, and over time moves upward into the ankle and lower leg.

The discomfort is bilateral, i.e. in both feet and is present day and night. For most people, the discomfort is worse at night and disrupts sleep. In medical practice, this feature of night pain helps the doctor make a diagnosis. Arthritis improves when one is not walking or standing.

In contrast, problems involving the nervous system worsen while in bed. The reason is that at night outside stimulation is at a minimum, so internal discomfort magnifies. Such day and night pain involving the feet is called "stocking" neuropathy. The word

stocking is apt as the pain, numbress, tingling, and wooden feeling begins in the toes and works upward following the distribution of a stocking going from toes to the ankle.

In some instances the hands also become numb and tingling, beginning in the fingertips and working back to the wrist. That pattern received the name "glove" neuropathy

This type of peripheral neuropathy occurs in diabetics, the elderly, and at times, in others for unknown reasons. Treatment is not with arthritis drugs but with neurologic medications such as Lyrica and Neurontin.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com





www.hometownlife.com

fairies and butterflies. We ended up doing two rooms. We didn't replace the carpeting so it gave us the opportunity to do her second room, a playroom.

"This was our first undertaking. We wanted to do something that made a difference in our local neighborhoods. Everyone brought their ideas. We did a lot of online late night shopping. People purchased plain lamps and added hanging butterflies, crystals. My husband painted the stripes. She was so excited when she came home, giggling and checking out her new stuff. Her family was so happy. It was great."

Dana Orlando was concerned because so many of the volunteers contributed to the design of the rooms.

"We had five different women with five different personalities and tastes come together for the design. That's probably why it took six weeks," said Orlando, associate director of sales at The Inn. "We all have children. Mine are ages 3 to 14, all boys. I was having a blast with that."

Jayne Taormina says the volunteers were a dream come true for her. As project director for Suite Dreams she coordinates the volunteers and assists them in creating bedrooms for sick children. The nonprofit was founded by Kay Ponicall and Kris Appleby.

"That's how we want every Suite Dreams projects to go," said Taormina. "We hope they consider this again."

There was one hitch in the project though. Celeste was unable to start chemotherapy when complications arose due to a low platelet count. The volunteers had planned their work around the young girl's hospital stay.



Celeste Gosselin is pictured here with the angels from The Inn at St. John's.

"How wonderful they were with us," said Jeff Gosselin, Celeste's father. "The day we took Celeste in for treatment was supposed to be an admission. We knew they were working on the house. We drove back home and talked to Tawnya and they put us up in a room at The Inn at St. John's, the most beautiful hotel room we ever stayed in.

"At the house they went around and cleaned, rewashed all of her clothes, folded them and put them in the dressers, rearranged and sorted her toys, vacuumed the house. That made that homecoming so much nicer. Getting that kind of bad news is rough. Having all those things made it a lot easier. Celeste was able to swim in the pool there. She hadn't been able to swim for a year. She's limited to going outdoors because chemo makes her sensitive to sunlight. It was a couple day vacation almost. Everyone who came did such an amazing job. It's extremely impor-



This was Celeste Gosselin's bedroom before volunteers from The Inn at St. John's redecorated.

'At the house they went around and cleaned, rewashed all of her clothes, folded them and put them in the dressers, rearranged and sorted her toys, vacuumed the house. That made that homecoming so much nicer. Getting that kind of bad news is rough. Having all those things made it a lot easier...' JEFF GOSSELIM, Celeste's father.

tant to Celeste."

Wednesday was painting day for Celeste.

"I painted when I was 3 or 4. I'm a really good artist now," said Celeste. "I drew a peacock. It's hard. Nobody can draw a peacock."

For more information about Suite Dreams, visit suitedreamsproject.org or call (248) 601-0799.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Ballet companies to hold auditions for new season

C3

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Young ballerinas have not one but two chances to audition and land a role in *The Nutcracker* as well as other productions for the 2008-2009 season.

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company holds auditions Sunday, Aug. 24, at Joanne's Dance Extension, 42020 Koppernick, Canton. The fee is \$10.

Dancers will be evaluated in a full length ballet class which consists of a warm up at the barre and center work. Selected dancers will be evaluated on their pointe work and partnering. Scholarships are available for boys.

Auditions begin at noon for ages 7-9, 1 p.m. for ages 10-12, and 2 p.m. for ages 13 to adult. All dancers should bring a dance photo and resume which includes the dancer's training and performing experience.

Girls must wear black leotard, pink tights and ballet shoes; boys, black tights or jazz paints, white T-shirt and ballet shoes. Teens and adults should bring pointe shoes which are optional for younger dancers.

Older boys may be asked to partner during the audition class.

Select dancers may be asked to stay for the next audition class. Dancers are selected to join the company based on their demonstration of ballet technique. For more information, call (734) 676-

7233 or visit www.metroshoresballet.org. The Livonia Civic Ballet Company holds

auditions Sunday, Aug. 24, at Miss Jean's Dance Arts, 19215 Merriman, Livonia. The fee is \$10.

Auditions begin at 1 p.m. for ages 6-9 with 2-years minimum ballet experience; 2:15 p.m. for ages 10-12 with 4-years minimum ballet experience, and 3:30 p.m. for ages 13 and up with 6-years minimum ballet experience.

Proper ballet attire required. Bring pointe shoes if you have them. For more information, call (248) 474-8722.





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EUNICE J. GRAHAM

Of Waterford; August 11, 2008; age 97; Beloved wife of the late Donald Graham; Loving mother of Ross (Marcia) Graham and Donald (Flora) Graham. Beloved grandmother of David Ross Graham and Paul Donald Graham. Great-grandmother of Maya Elizabeth Graham. Mrs. Graham was retired from American Motors and was a resident of Canterbury on the Lake for over 13 years. She attended services at St. Luke's Memorial Chapel and also enjoyed watching Chapel and also enjoyed watching sports, playing cards and reading. Funeral Services will be held Friday, August 15, 2008, 1:30 p.m. at the St. Luke's Memorial Chapel at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road, Waterford. Officiating Father Robert Kerr. The family will receive friends Thursday 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the Riverside Chapel, Simpson-Modetz Funeral Home, 5630 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. Memorials may be made to World Medical Relief. Online guest book: www.modetzfuneralhomes.com

FRANCES B. KEZERTA

Formerly of Of Saline, MI, Farmington, Hills, MI. Beloved mother and grandmother. Age 94, passed away on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at Arbor Hospice Residence in Ann Arbor, MI. She was born December 24, 1913 the daughter of William George and Texas Caladonia (Jackson) Miller. On September 14, 1946 at Trinity Methodist Church in Highland Park, MI she married Harry Kezerta, Jr. and he preceded her in death on December 11, 2004. Frances was a member of Orchard Methodist Church in Farmington, MI, the Order of the Eastern Star, White Shrine of Jerusalem and was a member of the Farmington Senior Center where she and her late husband taught bridge. She was also a former member of the Farmington Players. She is survived by her daughter, Terry (Daniel) O'Toole of Saline and her grandson, Brendan Michael Kezerta O'Toole of Orlando, FL. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Cremation has taken place. A memo-rial service will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 2:30 P.M. at Brecon Village 200 Brecon Drive, Saline. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to Brecon Village and envelopes will be available at the service. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmiller Funeral Home, Saline.





DELIA "GRACE" (ESTES) MIKTON

A long time Detroit Metro area resident peacefully left us on Tuesday morning, July 22nd to be with her heavenly father after demonstrating amazing strength and capacity to love despite a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. She was admired and loved by family and friends throughout her life and particularly known for her expertise in real estate, knowledge of alter-native health methods, compassionate heart, and providing excellent service to her clients. Grace was preceded in death by her parents, Mae Estes Kelly and Alfred Estes, a son, Phillip and 8 of her 10 siblings. Those who will miss her include siblings Kyle Estes of Carleton, Michigan and Ruth (Estes) Mullins of Woodhaven, Indiana, dear friend and sister-in-law Wanda Estes, her daughters Brenda Wallace of Ocean Shores, WA., and Cindy Dake of Livermore, CA., 8 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, many loved nieces and nephews, dear friends primarily in Michigan and California, and nearly 40 years of cherished real estate clients and wellrespected peers in the industry. Services to honor Grace's life will be held by her family at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, ivonia, Michigan on August 24th at 6:00pm. In keeping with her life's passion for serving, over the course of the past year, Grace expressed further desire to serve the underprivileged. Due to complication of illness, Grace was unable to fulfill her heart's desire. In an attempt to carry out her wishes serve, her family has selected the following venue for donation: Grace Cottage, a non-profit agency / 2734 Kelly Street, Livermore, CA 94551.



LLOYD EDWIN RICHARDS and

RUTH LEONA RICHARDS

The sons of Lloyd and Ruth Richards are sad to report the deaths of their parents, but rejoice in knowing the promise of eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ruth was born in Wooster, Ohio, to Harry and Leona Frantz Lester on August 9, 1926 and she passed away on January 7, 2007.

Lloyd, the son of Edwin and Helen Keech Richards, was born in Detroit on May 26, 1929 and died in his sleep in February 2008 Lloyd was a graduate of Cooley High School in Detroit and a veteran of the



THEODORE R. STAGGERS Of Birmingham passed away peaceful-ly on July 30, 2008. Ted was born February 10, 1921 to Harley and Mabel Stuart Staggers in Fairmont, West Virginia, the youngest child of eight. A state tennis champion by the age of 15, he married his high school sweetheart, Bette Lee Clark of Grafton, W. Va., on January 14, 1944. They were married 63 years, until her death last year. Shortly after his mar-riage, Ted completed his military training and was sent overseas. He attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, and later Captain, of the Army Air Corps in WWII. A daring P-51 fighter pilot, he flew many bombing escort missions over the English Channel with the 339th Fighter group based in Fowlmere, England. On September 11, 1944, Ted was shot down over Germany and served out the balance of the war in a POW camp. Upon the lib-eration of the camp in May 1945, U.S. Army personnel believed he had died from starvation, but Ted had other ideas in mind. Returning to his wife back home. Ted was transferred by the Army to Arizona, where he recuperat ed and spent the time teaching young officers the art of golf, a lifelong pas sion at which, together with his tennis he truly excelled. After his discharge in 1947, Ted earned his BA at Ohio State University and went to work for the General Electric Company, where he stayed his entire career until retirement in 1983. He and Bette relocated to Birmingham in 1951. They adopted two children, Kimberly Ann and Stephen Stuart. Together with an amazing group of friends who stayed together over 50 years, Ted and Bette enjoyed dancing, entertaining, golf and travel for many happy years. Ted was predeceased by his wife and son. He is survived by his daughter and several grandchildren. A memorial service to celebrate his outstanding life and service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at The First Baptist Church of Birmingham 300 Willits, Birmingham, Michian. Ir lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to: AmeriCares 88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, Cl 06902. Arrangements: A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-362-2500

nare memories at: obit.DesmondFuneralHome.com

GRACE F. WOODARD August 11 2008 R

Lover Not a Biter T by Moon Doggie.

Williams-Kulisz

Dennis and Denise Williams

of Metamora announce the

Vanessa Crystal Williams,

to Kenneth David Kulisz of

Beaverton, Ore. He is the son

of David and the late Shirley

Kulisz of Livonia. Vanessa

High School and earned a

in public administration

is a graduate of Lapeer East

bachelor's degree in political

science and a master's degree

from Oakland University in

Rochester Hills. She works for

Klarquist Sparkman, LLP in

Portland, Ore. Kenneth is a

graduate of Stevenson High

School in Livonia and earned a

bachelor's degree in communi-

cation design from The College

for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Bob and Pam Beste of

Garden City announce the

William Weintz of Shelby

Township. He is the son of

Ohio and the late Donald

engagement of their daughter,

Justine Weintz of Columbiana,

Barbra Olivia Beste, to Elton

engagement of their daughter.

On the prowl: Doggie statement Ts, like this black cotton stretch shirt with pink sugar glitter lettering that reads "Lover Not a Biter," will earn Fido even more attention on his evening stroll. Available at www.moondoggieinc.com.

The Furminator

Get your paws on: The FURminator, the best de-shedding tool for cats or dogs around. Find them at The Posh Pup in Livonia or Marcy's Groom a Pet in Birmingham.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Keep it long

Don't give your lawn a buzz cut if you want it to grow healthy. Tall grass promotes deep roots which need less water and fertilizer contributing to a thick healthy lawn, according to Lillian Dean of the Healthy Lawns and Gardens Program of Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA). Thick grass also serves as a water quality filter, helping to keep sediment and other pollutants out of storm drains and rivers.

Cutting grass tall is an easy way for residents to protect waterways, yet in a study conducted in 10 southeast Oakland and southwest Macomb County neighborhoods last month, SOCWA found that more than 70 percent of all households cut their grass too short, leaving two inches or less on the blade after cutting. The study, funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, measured grass height three times during a single week.

To find out more about lawn cutting and care, attend a free "Healthy Lawn Care Workshop" from 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 18, at the Ferndale Public Library, 222 East Nine Mile, just east of Woodward. Rick Lazzell, horticulture educator from Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College, will be the quest speak er. All participants will receive an information packet and opportunity for personal consultation on lawn care. Register by calling (248) 288-5150 or e-mail: LFDean@ aol.com. Walk-ins welcome.

Maintain the Magnificence

Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club is selling

Weintz. Barbra is a 1998 graduate of Garden City High raffle tickets during an ongoing fund-raiser School and received her under-

Beste-Weintz

PET PICKS

Tasty Treat: Carob-dipped Scottie Biscotti, a cinnamon cookie dipped in dog-friendly carob, available at Three Dog Barkery, 550 Forest Ave, Plymouth.

www.hometownlife.com

Caught on film: Grab a copy of the third season of "Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan," now on DVD and on sale at www.cesarmillaninc.com.

Out of this world: Planet Dog's new Cosmos collection of Orbee-Tuff toys keeps big dogs (65 to 100-plus pounds) happy chewing minty-flavored, durable orbs. Order the colorful, bouncy balls at www.planetdog.com

Got a pet-centric pick to share or suggest? Send us a tip or jpg photo of your pet and its favorite accessory or toy at scasola@hometownlife.com

Compiled By Stephanie A. Casola



He works as a graphic technician for the Dick Hannah Auto Group in Vancouver, Wash. The couple are planning a January 2009 wedding at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac.



PATRICIA E. McKENNA

Beloved mother, political activist and supporter of the arts, aged 70, formerly of Huntington Woods, Birmingham and Troy, passed away in the arms of her children on July 29, 2008 in Tucson, AZ. The daughter of Irish immigrant Patrick McKenna and Michigan native Helen Keene, she attended the Kingswood Cranbrook School and graduated in 1959 from Denison University in Ohio with a BA in Theatre and English. Her marriage in 1961 to Detroit police officer Gordon "Buck" Grant produced three children: Patrick Grant (1963), Daniel (Stacey) Grant, and Gael (1969) (1971) (Michael) Giles. Patricia and Gordon divorced in 1974. Patricia's many talents and interests were reflected in her multi-faceted career. Amongst the positions and activities she held were: model for the International Car Shows held in Detroit, investigative journalist for the Detroit News, director/actress of amateur theater for the Ridgedale Players in Pleasant Ridge, private investigator for a retired FBI agent (she obtained a degree in Law Enforcement and Protection from Mercy College in 1978), talent booking agent (clients included comedian Tim Allen), and assisting the administration of McKenna Industries Inc., an automotive model making firm established by her late father. She was accepted as a member in the American Academy of Certified Geniuses in 1987. In the last two decades of her life she lived in the American southwest (NM and AZ) where she wrote poetry and plays, articles for the local newspapers, fought corruption in her local government, helped youths with substance abuse problems and sponsored local immigrant families. She will be lovingly remembered by her children and grandchildren Courtney, Meghan and Grant Thomas, her brother Michael McKenna of West Bloomfield, her nephews, Mick (Eulalia and family), Brian and niece, Stephanie. Her body will be cremated and a memorial service will be held within the year in the greater Detroit area

Paying

Tribute

Life of

Loved One

Your

Korean Conflict. Ruth graduated from Royal Oak High School. They were married on March 19, 1955 and made their home in Garden City until they moved to Alpharetta, Georgia in 2001. While living in Michigan, Ruth and Lloyd were avid bowlers, enjoyed gar-dening and spending time with their family. In Michigan, attending their children's and grandchildren's musical concerts and sporting events was an important and enjoyable part of their lives. After moving to Georgia, they were able to spend more time and continue to attend the events of their vounger grandchildren.

They are survived by son Michael Karen) McClain of Brownstown, son leffrey (Barbara) Richards of Alpharetta GA, grandchildren Robert McClain, Kathleen (EJ) (Amy) eracki, Jessica Richards, James Richards and great-grandchild, Anders McClain. Ruth and Llovd were members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Alpharetta, GA. Memorial services were held in Alpharetta with burial at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia.

DUANE P. ROSENTHAL

Age 81, August 12, 2008. Beloved husband of Elizabeth. Dear father of Pamela (Gary) Lewis, Robin (Eugene) Petruska and Terri (Paul) Thor. Loving grandfather of Michael, Elizabeth and David Petruska. Visitation was at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Funeral Mass was at St. Genevieve Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Genevieve to be used for the religious education program.

STANLEY J. SKAISTIS

ge 88, of Birmingham, died peaceilly August 14, 2008, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Mr. Skaistis was born July 7, 1920, in Benld, Illinois. He was an active member of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club, National Men's Garden Club and on the Board of Directors at Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC). Mr. Skaistis enjoyed volunteering at Birmingham area schools as well as gardening, photography and winemaking. He was an avid clock and stamp collector. Mr. Skaistis is survived by his children, Lynn (David) Contos, Mark (Jean) Skaistis and Paul Skaistis and grandchildren, Brian Contos, Leslie (Scott Hinze) Skaistis, Jeffrey Skaistis and Joel Skaistis. He is also survived by his nephews, Bruce, Mike and Bryan Skaistis. Mr. Skaistis is preceded in death by his wife, Jean. Memorial service at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Road, Monday Birmingham. 2pm. Memorials appreciated to First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 or Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC), 2121 Avenue, Birmingham, Midvale Michigan 48009. Condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com

Michigan Bell Telephone after thirty years of service as an operator Member of the 1st Baptist Church of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Arthur, Dear mother of Doran L (Katherine) Woodard, Ivan (Patricia) Woodard, Pauline Bayliss of Florida and the late Sharon De Wulf. Also leaves numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Services were held Saturday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Interment followed a Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth Contributions suggested to the American Heart Association Share your special thoughts and memories at: schrader-howell.com

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Accentric

Call 1-800-579-7355



The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadl will be placed in the next available

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 586-826-7318 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser

> 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355

ask for Char or Liz OE08579123

to benefit Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club. which maintains the hall's 14 gardens. Supporters may purchase tickets (\$10 each, or 11 for \$100) for a chance to win \$2,500, \$1,250, and \$625 cash prizes. The drawing will be held 1 p.m. Aug. 19 at Meadow Brook Hall and Gardens, but ticketholders need not be present to win. To purchase tickets, call Laurence Cathey at (248) 467-0617.

Kids and butterflies

The Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) will present art projects, live butterfly exhibits and stories for children at its next meeting, at 7 p.m., Aug. 20, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, Admission for "Getting Kids Involved with Butterflies," is \$3 for nonmembers. No charge for children. There is parking on both Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail. (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

Fall gardening tips

Nancy Szerlag, author of "Perennials for Michigan and Annuals for Michigan" will present the free gardening seminar "Fall Gardening Tips Make Spring Magic," at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Art Van, 29905 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, Refreshments will be served. Call (888) 619-2199.

From Garden to Plate

Learn the basics of canning, freezing and storing fresh produce for optimal quality and safety through the Michigan State University Extension Oakland County. Robin Danto, MSU Extension instructor will teach a class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Tollgate Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook, Novi. \$20 per person. (248) 858-0887 or e-mail to smkithlin@oakgov. com.

Medicinal plants

Herbalist Jim McDonald, with more than 14 years experience in gathering, preparing and usuing herbal remedies, will lead a walk through woods and field to explore the medicinal virtues, folklore and preparation of common weeds and herbs, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14, at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center, 2375 Indian Lake Road, Oxford. Some of the plants to be covered include Burdock, Yellow Dock, Solomon's Seal and Wild Yam.

To register, send an e-mail with your name, phone and workshop title and date to clifford@uheac.org. Payment can be made at the door (\$50) or in advance (\$40) by sending a check made payable to: UHEAC, 2375 Indian Lake Rd., Oxford, MI 48370.

graduate degree from Western Michigan University in 2002. She works as a human resources administrator for Burroughs Corp. in Kalamazoo. Elton is a 1988 graduate of Canfield High School in Canfield, Ohio. He earned his undergraduate degree from Ohio University in 1992 and graduate degrees from Villanova University in 1994 and Western Michigan University in 2003. He is

Chmura

Jason and Christina Chmura of Livonia announce the arrival of their son. Nathan Alphonse Chmura, born July 19, at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. He is grandson to Ron and Mary Valenti of Forest Hill, Md. and Stan and Sherry Chmura of Willis, Mich. Greatgrandparents are Stanley Ulle of Forest Hill, Maryland and Mary D. Valenti of Allentown, Penn.

completing his doctoral dissertation through Western Michigan University and is currently a professor of history at Macomb Community College. The couple is planning a September wedding.

BIRTH



ANNOUNCE YOUR WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT, **BIRTH OR ANNIVERSARY**

To submit a form and photograph online:

1. Go to Hometownlife.com and click on Customer Service 2. Under Reader Services you'll find a link to Submit an Announcement, choose the appropriate one and follow the instructions.

3. Photos must be e-mailed in jpg format to photos@hometownlife.com and must meet our listed requirements.

4. Announcements are all free of charge.

To send a form/photo by mail:

1. Mail to The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009.

2. Oakland County residents should send announcements to Sharon Dargay, or e-mail questions to sdargay@hometownlife.com. Wayne County residents should send announcements to Stephanie Angelyn Casola, or send e-mail to scasola@hometownlife.com.

3. Announcements run in the Sunday Hometownlife sections of the paper and are placed in the order they are received and depending on space restrictions.

4. For more information, visit http://www.hometownlife.com/apps/pbcs. dll/section?Category=CUSTOMERSERVICE.



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

Selective Hearing or Hearing Loss?



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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008

Create a fund-raising team and walk in Mega March '08

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Jackie Petiprin, an account executive at SMZ Advertising in Troy, took on an added title and job responsibilities last week: Captain of Jackie's Barkers.

The Royal Oak woman will lead a team of walkers — families, friends, and colleagues — in the Michigan Humane Society's (MHS) third annual Mega March for Animals on Sunday, Oct. 5.

It's a mission she takes seriously, but with a playful spirit.

"It's so much fun. I encourage anyone to do it. It's two miles and it goes by real quickly. It's so much fun to see all the different dogs out there. And I'll do anything for my doggies."

Individuals and teams — consisting of family members, friends and business associates — will collect donations over the next seven weeks, assemble with their pets on Oct. 5 at Hart Plaza in Detroit and walk en masse for two miles. About 4,500 animal-lovers walked last year, raising nearly \$250,000.

"This year, in tough economic times, it is more important than ever that more people and their fourlegged friends join us and support the mission of the Michigan Humane Society and help us surpass that figure," said Jan Cantle, MHS public relations and media coordinator. "Imagine, if you ask 25 co-workers, friends, and family to donate \$5. That's \$125. It costs just about \$120 to provide food and medical care for one animal. If each walker came with \$120 or \$240 ... that is a lot of animal lives changed.

'ANIMAL LIVES CHANGED'

"While our goal is to raise \$300,000 this year we like to think of it more in terms of animal lives



That's Jackie Petiprin in the front row holding her Chihuahua, Hank. The Royal Oak resident convinced friends, family and colleagues from SMZ Advertising in Troy, where she is an account executive, to walk with her last year in the Mega March for Animals.

changed. Most importantly, we need help from the community to meet this goal."

The money raised will go toward the Michigan Humane Society's programs and services, which include its three shelters, animal adoption and care, cruelty investigation, legislative advocacy, education, veterinary centers, wildlife care, spay and neuter programs and assistance with animal behavior problems.

Jackie's Barkers has raised nearly \$500 in the week since it was formed. Petiprin was among dozens of local business representatives who attended the Mega March corporate kick-off breakfast on Aug. 7, at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. They watched a tear-jerking video about homeless animals, heard pet adoption success stories, listened to representatives from the walk's major corporate sponsors, as well as from MHS staffers, and left with bags full of posters, brochures and a step-by-step guides to help them form Mega March teams.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

"This is a wonderful cause," said Jason Vines, senior vice president of Compuware, a major Mega March sponsor. "A lot of my colleagues at Compuware have been doing it for a long time."

www.hometownlife.com

Cheryl Phillips, an MHS board member who also represents major sponsor Masco Corp., said she strolled one of her five cats in a buggy through the dog-heavy crowd the past two Mega Marches.

"It's amazing to see this peaceful convergence of cats, dogs," she said, urging listeners to "get out there and speak with our feet."

Petiprin will have Emmie, her Coon hound-beagle mix, and Hank, her Chihuahua, on hand. She and a friend walked as individual donors during the first Mega March. Last year, she created a team and got employees at SMZ involved. This year's team is already up and running.

"SMZ Advertising did the Mega March logo this year," Petiprin added. "Nancy (Gunnigle) at the MHS contacted me earlier in the year and asked if we could design the logo pro bono. Since we are all animal lovers at SMZ, we said absolutely."

Webster, a Labradoodle owned by SMZ chairman Jim Michelson, serves as a company mascot of sorts. A photo of Webster, wearing a scarf and sunglasses on his head, pops up when visitors to the SMZ Web site click on a bone-shaped "fetch" icon. Each image dispenses a kibble of wisdom.

"He comes to work every day," Petiprin said. "He normally lay's outside of Jim's office. The Mega March is pretty intense. I think Webster would love it."

To form a Mega March team or sign up as an individual donor, visit www.michiganhuman. org or call (866) MHUMANE. See Webster by logging onto www.smz.com.

Win a bear, get design help, take a class

Stop by the youth bedroom department in any Art Van location from Sept. 2-14 and register to win a Build-A-Bear stuffed toy.

The giveaway celebrates the new Build-A-Bear bedroom collection by Pulaski Furniture, being introduced this month at Art Van.

The furniture is designed by kids for kids and features changeable options including wood-tone and painted drawer fronts, two styles of drawer knobs, a "beary" special place

in each bureau chest for a child's furry friend and countless storage options

less storage options. There will be additional opportunities to win bears and other prizes at bear-stuffing parties next month at Art Van. The parties will feature

refreshments, kids' activities and personalizing stuffed toys.

They will run from 3-7 p.m., Sept. 19 at the Ann Arbor store, 425 E. Eisenhower Parkway; from noon-4 p.m., Sept. 20 at the Shelby Township store, 14055 Hall; and 3-7 p.m., Sept. 26 at the Novi store, 27775 Novi Road.

Visit artvan.com for more

gy options at a workshop from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at Upland Hills Environmental Awareness Center, 2375 Indian Lake Road, Oxford. He'll explain how to assess needs, explore conservation measures, and evaluate cost-effectiveness and feasibility of renewable energy options such as solar, wind, geothermal, radiant floor heat and other alternatives. The workshop is for anyone who wants to reduce their dependence on grid energy. A \$10 minimum donation is requested. To register, send an e-mail with your name, phone and workshop title/date to clifford@uheac.org. Pay at the door or in advance by sending a check made payable to: UHEAC, 2375 Indian Lake Rd., Oxford, MI 48370. For more information call (248) 693-1021 or visit www.uheac. org

HANDS-ON

Learn to use sustainable "green" products in renovating and decorating your home through two fall workshops at The Community House in Birmingham.

Debra Christy-Merriman of Wake Up Your Space, teaches how to use green products to increase the value of your home, from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18. She focuses on remodeling kitchens from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2. Each session costs \$29. Register for the workshops and check out other homerelated classes, including Feng Shui and Ten Steps to a Sensational Room, at www. communityhouse.com

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OFF THE GRID Wayne Appleyard, co-founder of Sunstructures Architects, will talk about renewable ener-

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2008 commencing at 6:00 p.m.,., to consider:

- Application 1461, 5770 Napier: the applicant is requesting a variance to allow cellular communications panel antenna arrays on existing microwave tower on a nonconforming property.
- Application 1462, 46477 Arboretum CR: the applicant is requesting a variance to install a generator in the front third of the side yard.

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

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

Publish: August 17, 2008





(*) **C7**

130th Season

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Tokyo String Quartet Sabine Meyer clarinet Sweet Honey In The Rock Kodo

Batsheva Dance Company

New York Philharmonic Lorin Maazel music director

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Brentano String Quartet Peter Serkin piano Richard Lalli baritone

Aswat (Voices): Celebrating the Golden Age of Arab Music with Simon Shaheen

The Rite of Spring Compagnie Heddy Maalem

Soweto Gospel Choir

Milton Nascimento and the Jobim Trio

Anne-Sophie Mutter violin Camerata Salzburg

Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 5 & 6 András Schiff piano

Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman pianos

Joe Lovano "Us Five" Quintet and Jason Moran

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra Leon Botstein music director Robert McDuffie violin

Handel's Messiah

Rubberbandance Group

Farewell Tour Guarneri String Quartet

Tord Gustavsen Trio

Gilgamesh Kinan Azmeh clarinet Kevork Mourad MaxMSP

14th Annual Ford Honors Program, honoring the Royal Shakespeare Company, Michael Boyd, and Ralph Williams

Richard Goode piano

Chanticleer

Lawrence Browniee tenor Martin Katz piano The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma cello

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Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 7 & 8 András Schiff piano

"Dedicated to You" Kurt Elling Sings the Coltrane/Hartman Songbook

Takács Quartet Marc-André Hamelin piano

From the Fez Festival of Sufi Culture in Fez, Morocco Mohammed Bennis and the

Hmadcha Ensemble

UMS Choral Union

Julia Fischer violin Milana Chernyavska piano

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 17, 2008 (*)









The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com Efficiency hallmark of the Hall's design

The symmetrical exterior of the Hall (406-66) is accentuated by "Dutch clips" in the roof design. With 2,060 square feet of living space and a basement option, this is a sturdy, brick home with an efficient floor plan.

The garage easily fits two cars as well as allowing extra storage and shop space in the rear. There is a door to the back yard for taking the lawn mower outside. From the garage, there is a convenient kitchen access for carrying items inside. A utility room, enhanced with deck access as well as a half bath, is also located near the garage entry.

The family room is spacious and close to the kitchen. One whole wall contains bookshelves for the library look. Sliding doors to the deck makes those Sunday afternoon lunches fun. The kitchen overlooks the covered porch. Cooking is made easy with an enormous counter and cabinet space, and an eating bar at the end. There is the perfect window above the sink area for watching the outside and taking one's mind off dishes and cooking.

The dining room is next to the kitchen and has a built-in hutch. This is a great touch because it uses area that would otherwise be lost. The bay windows in this room overlook the porch. Across from the main entry is the living room with a gas fireplace in one corner. This room has a pillared entrance, which magnifies the solidity of the home. The entire right end of the Hall consists of a master suite, two bedrooms, and a full bathroom. Outside the rooms are storage closets that can also be used

for linen. Entry to the enormous mas-

an area for one's imagination and for extra space. Stairs are located between the kitchen and garage.

the end. There is the perfect For a study plan of the HALL (406-66), send \$15 to window above the sink area Landmark Designs, 33127 for watching the outside and Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) taking one's mind off dishes and 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, light, and a linen closet is to help you search our portfolocated at the entrance. The lio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will bathroom has both a corner apply). Or you may order or tub and a shower. Because of the width of this suite, part search online at www.ldiplans. could be used for a sitting com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.







Office Walk-in Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After Hours: Call (734)591-0900

Sunday, August 17, 2008

ter suite is through two French doors. The walk-in closet has a window in the end for extra

room. A basement plan is available. It is undeveloped and unfinished. This leaves

Cooking is made easy with an

enormous counter and cabinet

space, and an eating bar at

cooking.

BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Mortgage market

North Star Home Lending will present a seminar series, "Everything you always wanted to know about today's mortgage market, but were to afraid to ask." In a free 10-part seminar series, North Star Home Lending will present industry leaders to address topics such as: how to qualify for a mortgage; where are home values going; how to lower your property taxes; getting the most out of your home; specialized financing including renovation, investment, and second home purchases

Each seminar will feature a 60-minute presentation by an industry expert on the highlighted subject with a 30minute question and answer period following. Refreshments will be available.

The seminar series will continue on the first and second Thursday of each month with a new topic. For additional information and or to RSVP, contact either (248) 594-9300 or (313) 827-0990. North Star Home Lending may also be contacted by e-mail at info@ northstarhomelending.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers present "Cash In On CAPS" on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. CAPS refers to the Certified

Aging-In-Place Specialist designation offered by the National Association of Home Builders and earned by attending specific classes held locally at BIA headquarters.

Bob Johnson, Johnson Building Co., will present topics that relate to CAPS: using CAPS to expand your customer base; evaluating your qualifications to serve aging customers; marketing for jobs; knowing the similarities and differences between ADA and CAPS; using universal and elegant design; and describing the CAPS certification program.

Registration is \$35 for BIA members. Advance registration required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www. builders.org.

BIA and Bank of America will also sponsor a Fall Parade of Homes event running from Aug. 15 to Sept. 14. Parade of Homes features ready-tomove-in homes as well as under construction and pre-construction homes throughout southeastern Michigan.

Fall Parade of Homes, the 14th annual fall exhibition of new model homes located across southeastern Michigan, opened on Aug. 15 and runs through Sept. 14. Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Bank of America Mortgage are the sponsors of this public event.

The Parade of Homes offers potential homebuyers a unique opportunity to visit the area's finest model homes, including condominiums and singlefamily homes, affordable housing and estate-sized homes.

Visitors to the homes will have an opportunity to see firsthand the latest trends in energy efficiency and green building, architecture, interior design, amenities and materials. The 37 model homes range in base price from \$95,900 to \$1,999,900.

Architects and building industry experts will judge the homes and award winners in several categories prior to the event opening. The judges will make their decisions based on the innovative use of space and design, aesthetic appeal of the home and value for the price.

A Parade of Homes magazine containing renderings, features and location maps for all homes was distributed within select home delivery of The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press on Aug. 15 and available at select CVS/ pharmacy locations throughout southeastern Michigan and at all participating model homes beginning Aug. 15. Parade of Homes will also be featured at BIA's Fall Remodeling & Design Expo, Oct. 10-12; at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

For additional information on the 2008 Fall Parade of Homes beginning Aug. 15, please call (248) 862-1032 or visit www.builders.org. The program Web site, www.BIAparadeofhomes. com, went live on Aug. 15, and will feature informative news stories on home ownership and economic issues as well as details on each home.

BIA will also sponsor a Parade of Homes event in the spring.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Training on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Association headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

In this third of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses "Energy Efficiency" using materials and methods that result in Green Built[™] certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement.

The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Sales & Marketing Council (SMC) will present "Accelerating When The Market Stalls " on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Todd Hallett of TK Design & Architecture will present topics including planning for today's buyer, strategies for difficult lots, green building,

capturing emotion with elevation, renderings, pricing strategy, and analyzing your product. The program includes a Plan Review Workshop for attendees to have their individual plans or elevations reviewed by the speaker. (Provide materials to Sheila Denstaedt at BIA offices before Sept. 4.)

Registration fees are \$10 for SMC members, \$15 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its NAHBR Professional Remodelers will sponsor a Certified Graduate Course: Sales And Marketing on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. This course counts toward prelicensure and continuing education competency for the State of Michigan. The course also counts toward earning the following designations: Certified Graduate Associate, Certified Graduate Builder, and Master Certified Sales Professional.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of **Builders Professional Service Group** will instruct on four essential topics to help you turn your business into a profitable, market-driven enterprise. You will learn how to research the marketplace, choose the optimal location, product and price, generate buyers through effective promotion, and close the maximum number of sales.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM) will present an **Economic Forecast And Legislative** Update For The Multifamily Rental Industry on Friday, Sept. 19, from noon to 2 p.m. at PI Banquet Center, 28847 Franklin Road, Southfield. Registration and networking begin at 11 a.m.

Attendees will be provided with information on our local and national rental markets, along with a status report on state legislative issues facing the residential rental industry.

Economic Forecast keynote speaker is David Littmann of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Market Update speaker is Kevin Dillon of Hendricks & Partners, sponsors of the event. Legislative Update speaker is Joseph Palamara of Karoub Associates.

Registration fees are \$20 per person for AAM members and \$30 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www. builders.org.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a Fair Housing for Maintenance Staff seminar on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Kathleen Mabie of Ann Arbor-based Success on Site will provide fair housing information specifically geared for on-site leasing consultants. Topics include telephone techniques and proper documentation, Internet and e-mail communication, leasing tour, resident communication and team building. Situations that are encountered every day will be the basis for the presentation.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Tours, classes

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Real estate investors can learn from experts in a two-day class, \$99 includes classroom and field experience. Contact AddedValueRealty.com, (248) 787-7325.

Tours are Sunday at 1 p.m. Meeting place is the Home Depot parking lot at I-96/Telegraph.







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