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USA WEEKEND — INSIDE



Photo contest

There's still time for ghosts, goblins, witches and warlocks to participate in our second annual Halloween Photo contest.



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You can vote once a day and encourage your friends to vote, too. The contest ends Nov. 8, so you'll have plenty of time to share photos from Halloween night, and compete for prizes via Facebook.

U-M tickets

All you Michigan Wolverine fans who always wanted to see a game at the Big House but couldn't get tickets now have your chance. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the Nov. 19 game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers through a special Facebook promotion.

To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the sweepstakes tab, or go to Hometownlife.com, and click on the Wolverine helmet in our Don't Miss module. The contest winner will be selected at random Nov. 14.

Senior hunger

Comfort Keepers in Plymouth and Canton hosted two food drives in the last month at Hiller's Market in Plymouth for resident to donate to the STOP Senior Hunger campaign. The two food drives, plus other donations including the Plymouth Senior Center and Chicks 4 Charity, have resulted in 437 pounds of nonperishable food items.

"Hunger Action Month is in September, but seniors go hungry all year," said Jeanne Trumpy, owner of the Plymouth/Canton franchise. "We cannot fight every factor affecting hunger, but we can start here in our community by creating awareness about the issue and helping family members become more aware of the signs of hunger and malnutrition."

Comfort Keepers has placed donation boxes at Livonia Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church in Plymouth and Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Canton.

For more information, contact the Comfort Keepers office in Plymouth at (734) 397-1111.

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Township owns land at proposed tech park site

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Township officials are banking on the Wayne County Advanced Technology Park.

So much, in fact, that the township now owns almost a third of the site of the proposed high-tech park, which, if developed, would be made up of about 1,000 acres straddling Five Mile, between Beck and Napier, in Plymouth and Northville townships.

State, county and local officials see the area as well-suited for use by high-tech research and manufacturing firms, such as those involved in the mak-

ing of the batteries used in electric vehicles. Their vision also includes business districts — with restaurants, grocery stores and child-care facilities — and even a recreational area that could be used by people who work in the park as well as local residents. The area is close to Plymouth Township's industrial belt west of Beck, which includes several high-tech firms.

Taking advantage of a county tax sale, Plymouth Township last summer bought 323 acres in the area of Five Mile and Ridge that Supervisor Richard Reaume said would be part of the tech park. The cost of the land, just over \$606,000, was among the list of

bills approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting Tuesday.

Reaume described the purchase as part of the seeding process for developing the tech park.

"You have to have a plan, you have to market it and you keep moving forward," Reaume said Thursday.

Reaume said about 100 acres of the township's purchase would be set aside for parkland that would be developed with the financial assistance of companies locating in the tech park. The park would be contiguous with a similar recreational area north of Five Mile in Northville Township, he said.

"I don't know where you can buy that many acres for parkland these days," he said.

The rest of the township's acreage, Reaume said, could be sold off as business parcels once the tech park is developed.

The proposed WCATP includes the former Western Wayne Correctional Facility in Plymouth Township, a 126-acre site that is up for sale, Reaume said. It also includes the roughly 48-acre Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township, which Reaume said is envisioned as one of the tech park's commercial areas.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405



Plymouth-Canton staffers Patty Russo and Kristen Hennessey, along with Board of Education members Dianne Gonzalez and Adrienne Davis, made the trip to Washington, D.C., to accept honors for Dodson Elementary School's performance in the HealthierUS program and First Lady Michelle Obama.

District cooks up food service successes

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Kristen Hennessey and her staff in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools food services department have done such a good job in-house, they've now taken their show on the road.

After a 2010-11 school year in which the program — brought in-house two years ago after a long relationship with Sodhexo — grew by leaps and bounds, the food services staff is now handling similar programs at Livonia schools, and providing meals, for the first time, to Our Lady of Good

Counsel in Plymouth. That expansion of duties comes after a year in which the program contributed some \$188,000 back into the general fund after spending \$92,000 to upgrade equipment at seven schools.

The results are showing in the bottom line. Growth is occurring nearly everywhere in the program. Lunch participation has seen a 3-percent annual growth over the last two years, while breakfast participation has soared an average of 29 percent.

Daily meals have gone from 8,398 per day to more than 10,000, an

increase of some 743 meals per day.

"I measure everything with growth; if we're feeding more students, we're meeting the need," Hennessey said. "The staff has embraced the program. They're doing a great job."

That work has shown up inside and outside the cafeterias, enough so that first lady Michelle Obama took notice. Hennessey recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she and other Plymouth-Canton representatives were honored for the Bronze Award recently won by Dodson

Please see FOOD, A2

Turn your life around, judge tells ex-teacher

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A former Plymouth High School history teacher appeared remorseful Friday as a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, with references to the Book of Ecclesiastes and folk music, sentenced him to probation for unlawfully carrying a pistol.

"I'd like the opportunity to turn everything around and start fresh, and I think that can happen tomorrow," Raymond Schepansky told Judge David Allen Friday morning.

Allen, quoting the Pete Seeger song *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, which was famously recorded by The Byrds in the 1960s, then said he wants Schepansky to get his life back on track.

Schepansky could have received up to three months in jail under sentencing guidelines. There's a time to get things together, "and a time to screw things up," Allen told him.

"I do believe in redemption, Mr. Schepansky, and if you shovel as much s-t as I do around here, you have

to, to stay sane," Allen said.

Schepansky, a popular teacher who had attracted student support during his legal ordeal, pleaded guilty to the weapons charge last month. It stemmed from an April 14 incident in which police found a 9-mm pistol in his car as he arrived at the high school. Schepansky was in a dispute with Erin MacGregor, the assistant principal at the time, the day before, testimony in 35th District Court indicated.

Three additional weapons charges — carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, carrying a weapon in a weapons-free school zone and possessing a firearm when attempting to commit a felony — had been dismissed earlier by Judge Mike Gerou in district court. Schepansky's guilty plea last month came on the day Allen was to hear testimony on a motion by the county prosecutor's office to reinstate those charges.

Schepansky must also undergo a psychological

Please see TEACHER, A2



Raymond Schepansky, right, and attorney Richard Convertino during an earlier court appearance. Schepansky, a former Plymouth High School teacher, was sentenced Friday to two years' probation for unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon.

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Little suspense in Plymouth commission election

The four people on the ballot for four spots on the Plymouth City Commission are virtually guaranteed victories in next month's election.

Barring a successful write-in campaign — highly unlikely — incumbent Commissioners Michael Wright and Ed Hingelberg will return to the commission after the Tuesday, Nov. 8, vote. They will be joined by newcomers Meg Dooley and Diane Bogenrieder.

The top three vote-getters will each win a four-year commission term, while the fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term; the new terms begin later in November.

Because of a cost-cutting move made last summer, the rate of pay for the commissioners elected this year will go from \$40 a meeting to \$20 a meeting.

Current Commissioners John Barrett and David Workman were

eligible to seek re-election but decided not to; Barrett, who is finishing a two-year term, is running for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education.

In view of the upcoming election, the *Plymouth Observer* is offering a snapshot of each candidate and their views on current city issues, beginning today with profiles of Hingelberg and Dooley on page A7.

Halloween chic



Ava Carty, 5, of Plymouth came dressed as a bride to last Sunday's Pumpkin Palooza in downtown Plymouth. With a bouquet in one hand and plastic pumpkin, Ava was ready to collect treats from area merchants. The new Halloween event for children replaced the former Great Pumpkin Caper. Downtown streets were closed from noon to 4 p.m. for games, prizes, activities, entertainment, candy stations, a haunted alleyway and, of course, the always popular trick-or-treating.

CORRECTION

In Thursday's Canton and Plymouth *Observer* sports section, an infobox accompanying a story about the playoff football game between Canton and Plymouth incorrectly said the Chiefs rallied to win 31-30 on Oct. 7. The Wildcats won the game.

Support for I-275 project grows as hearing nears

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Calling the I-275/Ford Road area "a traffic problem hot-spot for years," state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, has formally joined the push to address safety issues near the beleaguered interchange.

Heise issued a statement Friday, just four days before the state Senate Transportation Committee comes to Canton for a milestone public hearing on I-275/Ford Road traffic problems.

Canton officials, drawing support from many local, county and regional leaders, hope federal

authorities will approve a \$20.3 million grant to fix the traffic-clogged area and end a nine-year push for interchange improvements.

Heise has joined a list of officials who plan to address the Senate committee during a hearing set for 6 p.m. Tuesday at the ballroom of Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway west of Canton Center.

Local officials hope to pack the hearing with area officials and residents, in a show of support for fixing the interchange.

"This area has been a traffic problem hot-spot for years," said Heise,

who formerly served on the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's Transportation Advisory Committee. "It's time we take residents' safety seriously by making the changes needed to create safer and less congested alternate routes."

Intersections along Ford Road near I-275 are among the highest-crash spots in Michigan, local officials have said.

Local officials hope to receive \$20.3 million in federal TIGER — Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery — dollars. They say the project would fix a troubled area, create jobs and ease traffic con-

gestion along Ford Road.

On Tuesday, the Canton Township Board of Trustees also adopted a resolution supporting improvements and urging the Michigan Department of Transportation to include the project in the state's long-range road plan.

The project calls for adding new ramps, or slips, to let drivers on the south I-275 exit ramp access Haggerty Road without going onto Ford. It also calls for a service drive on the east side of the interstate from Cherry Hill north past Ford Road.

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FOOD

Continued from page A1

Elementary School for its healthier-choice initiatives.

Healthy choices

Healthier choices caught on so well that Hennessey and her staff rolled out a new, healthy menu and hope to earn similar honors for the

rest of the district's elementary schools.

"We rolled out the menu at all 16 elementaries," Hennessey said. "Hopefully, any day now, we're going to hear all 16 elementary schools are at least at the Bronze level."

The district has also now fully implemented the PaySchools program, which allows parents to see what their children

are eating and also lets them pay into their students' meal accounts online. Parents used the program to the tune of some \$546,000 last year, and deposited some \$136,000 in September alone this year.

"It's a very worthwhile program," Hennessey said. "It's reducing the amount of cash we're dealing with."

The performance, par-

ticularly the increase in participation, drew praise from the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

"It's wonderful to see the growth, especially in the breakfast meals," Trustee Barry Simescu said. "So many kids come to school not being prepared because they haven't had a good meal."

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TEACHER

Continued from page A1

cal examination, complete an anger management course, and own no weapons and refrain from using alcohol and illegal drugs during his probation.

Allen said he wouldn't object to transferring the case to Tennessee, if Schepansky relocates there, but defense attorney Richard Convertino said later that while moving to Tennessee was a possibility for his client, it's not a certainty.

"He's trying to lift himself up by his bootstraps," Convertino said outside the courtroom.

Schepansky had taught in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for more than a decade. He was fired by the district following his April 14

arrest and also submitted a letter of resignation. Wearing a dark gray suit and sporting a beard, Schepansky declined to answer questions as he left the courthouse.

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Needed: 200,000 diapers by Thanksgiving

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Unpaid yet seemingly tireless, Canton resident Marybeth Levine has collected nearly 639,000 diapers since April 2009 for scores of nonprofits, charities and social service agencies that help families across metro Detroit.

Now, the Detroit Area Diaper Bank needs help collecting 200,000 diapers by Thanksgiving as Levine faces a holiday season when demand for help grows, though donations can slow down.

Levine already has collected nearly 129,000 diapers for her fall campaign, though she seemed a little worried as she stood inside a Canton-based storage unit where she has stored diapers since her charity outgrew her basement.

"They go out as fast as they come in," Levine said, stacking diapers on a shelf. "It has always been a constant challenge."

Levine started her volunteer work to help agencies meet a need not covered by safety-net programs such as WIC (Women, Infants & Children), food stamps and Medicare.

"We love Marybeth and what she's doing," said Paula Brown, chief development officer for Starfish Family Services, which serves western Wayne County. "I don't know how we made it without her."

"It's just not a healthy situation for families who have children and no diapers," Brown said. "Some of these moms are desperate for these diapers. This is an incredible service Marybeth is doing." Brown estimated



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marybeth Levine has drawn accolades near and far for her volunteer work collecting diapers for needy families.

that Starfish, alone, has received more than 40,000 diapers from DADB.

Levine and her volunteers also have drawn accolades from First Step, which provides shelter for domestic abuse victims from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Redford, Garden City and other western Wayne County communities.

"Families often come to First Step with just a few possessions they can carry — and no money for diapers," said Theresa Bizoe, associate director. "The diaper bank's services help support these families as they go through changes needed to keep their families safe."

DADB also collects diapers for adults, especially the elderly who may be sick and incontinent.

Levine hopes to surpass her 200,000-diaper mark by Thanksgiving, and numerous donation drop-off sites are listed on the DADB's website at www.detroitareadiaperbank.org. The site also provides ways to donate money to the tax-deductible organization, and it lists an array of regional diaper drives helping

core of volunteers, including husband Steve, a Ford Motor Co. purchasing program manager, and their sons John, 9, David, 7, and Nathan, 5. "Every penny goes to buy supplies."

Moreover, businesses, community organizations, faith-based groups and others who want to become involved as diaper drop-off sites or who want to sponsor one-time diaper drives can learn how from the website.

The anchor event for the fall diaper campaign occurs 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 16-17 at the Canton Public Library, where, once again, donors can drop off diapers at a truck donated by a local catering business, Fat Chef in a Little Coat. Laurie Golden, the

library's marketing and communications manager, said it's important to help the diaper bank because "so many of our library users — infants and toddlers, disabled and elderly — are supported by the work the diaper bank does."

Golden said the library can't address literacy and learning unless basic needs are met.

"A child that is suffering the physical effects of not having a clean diaper is not able to focus on learning early literacy skills," she said. "By partnering with the diaper bank, we hope to help those in our community who are struggling to fill basic needs."

Levine's website even lists ways to help by pur-

chasing diaper bank clothing, hats, coffee mugs and other items.

Though 75-80 percent of those helped by the diaper bank live in Wayne County, Levine said the organization also reaches into Oakland, Washtenaw, Macomb and Monroe counties.

The diaper bank will accept diaper packages that have been opened but not used up, Levine said. While baby diapers are in highest demand, she also cited a specific need for children's diapers sizes 4 through 6 and for adult diapers in XL and XXL sizes.

"We take any size, any brand," she said.

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FRI/SAT LS 12:00

PUSS IN BOOTS (PG)
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FRI/SAT LS 11:15

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12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

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FRI/SUN/MON/TH 11:25, 4:25, 9:20
SAT 9:20 TUE 11:25, 4:25
WED 11:25

THE THREE MUSKETEERS (PG-13)
FRI/SUN/MON/TH 1:55, 6:55
SAT 6:55 TUE/WED 1:55

FOOTLOOSE (PG-13)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

REAL STEEL (PG-13)
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Tenth anniversary honors Dodson school namesake

By Maggie Wunderlich
Correspondent

When George Dodson learned a Canton elementary school would be named after him, he was overwhelmed with the tribute. Ten years later, at a recent Dodson Elementary anniversary celebration, he still feels overwhelmed.

The staff gathered to honor the namesake of their school, who is "an inspiration and shining example," according to Principal April Quasarano.

"We promise we will continue to grow and do everything we can to continue to make our students and community stronger and very successful," Quasarano said. "We stand behind our motto at Dodson that we are learning today and leading tomorrow."

The staff presented Dodson with special gifts from each grade in the form of service projects, including planting bulbs, grounds beautification and upkeep. The staff also gave Dodson a framed picture of the Dodson students.

"You obviously left some big footprints here and are remembered so fondly and so lovingly," Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the Plymouth-Canton superintendent who was a guest speaker, told Dodson.

Born in Kentucky in September 1925, Dodson overcame many hardships, including the Great Depression and World War II. During his WW II service, he earned two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars for Valor. He also came in contact with hungry and ragged



George Dodson accepts a gift from Dodson Elementary School Principal April Quasarano as the school that's named for him celebrates its 10th anniversary.

children. This memory stayed with him years later and greatly influenced his decision to change careers from real estate to teaching.

Artwork pleases

The 86-year old Dodson was overjoyed with the gifts from the Dodson staff and especially loved the children's artwork and pictures of smiling faces. His first teaching job was at Geer School in 1965, where he worked in the one-room schoolhouse for two years. He then taught sixth grade at Allen Elementary, for two years. Around that time, he developed an elementary counseling program to help disadvantaged children and was a counselor for three years at Stark-

weather and Gallimore Elementary.

Dodson became principal at Gallimore in 1972 and in 1980 at Smith Elementary, until his retirement in 1988. He was called out of retirement, in 1996, to act as interim principal at Gallimore and, later, at Fiegal Elementary. Lastly, from 1999 to 2000, he served as Interim Director of Transportation.

Dodson reassured current teachers that there are teachable moments.

"When you hit one, dwell on it and stay with it. Kids will learn," he said. "Laughter is life's music. Every day you should laugh with your kids."

Family is Dodson's greatest joy in life. He's been hap-

pily married to Melba for 60 years, and together they are proud of their two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and are excited for the upcoming birth of a new great grandchild. His face lights up at the mention of his family.

Dodson has seen various educational changes since his early days.

"There are unbelievable electronics in the classrooms today and there's better teacher training. Kids are better prepared," he said.

Dodson Elementary will have more anniversary celebrations throughout the year, including school-wide and community events. Look for them on the website www.dodson.pccs.k12.mi.us.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Job fair

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Michigan Educational Transportation Services will be having a Job Fair for P-CCS Transportation from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the Driver Lounge Area on 1024 South Mill Street, Plymouth.

METS is looking for individuals with clean driving records and the ability to work with children. Part-time, flexible work available. Training provided for candidates that need it.

Bring your resume and stop in to speak with a recruiter! Please contact METS if you have questions at (517) 647-7765.

Anonymous donor

An anonymous donor has contributed \$750 to create the West Middle School Field Trip Fund. This special fund will pay field trip fees for any student who does not have the financial means to participate. In addition, the donor has agreed to match any additional contributions made to the fund up to another \$750.

Anyone who would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the West Middle School Field Trip Fund, can send a check to EEF, 454 South Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Please write WEST M.S. on the memo line.

The Educational Excellence Foundation serving Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (EEF) is the fiduciary for more than 50 scholarship and grant funds that exclusively benefit Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Donations to EEF are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information please contact Carole Kody, Executive Director at (734) 416-2718 or carole.kody@pccsmail.net

Airing interviews

The Escape 88.1 (WSDP-FM) will air interviews with each of the candidates for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education between now and the election on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The interviews will air during the Community Focus Program.

Community Focus normally airs on Wednesday at 5:40 p.m. but to accommodate all 15 of the candidates the station also will air the interviews on Tuesday at 5:40 p.m. Listen each week for the interviews and learn about the candidate's thoughts on a variety of issues including school funding, the search for a new superintendent, budget cuts and much more.

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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 bkdrich@hometownlife.com

HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS

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

Location: Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host the annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Ensemble, a juried art and craft exhibition. Exhibitors include makers of hand-crafted jewelry, season holiday gifts, floral arrangements, purses, wood crafts, glass works, clothing and linens, paintings, painted glass ornaments and more. There will also be food, baked goods, door prizes, a raffle and entertainment. Admission is \$2.

Contact: (734) 454-9052.

DAISY WALL RAFFLES

Date/Time: Every Tuesday through Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Roc, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: The PPN will be holding 50/50 raffles to raise funds for the Daisy Wall. Tickets are \$1 each, the more tickets sold, the bigger the jackpot. Ticket buyers don't need to be present to win.

BEANS AND BARBECUE SAUCE

Date/Time: Nov. 5-12

Location: Plymouth and Canton Neighborhoods

Details: The annual Scouting for Food Can Do Food Drive is coming. Starting Nov. 5, Cub Scouts from all over the Canton and Plymouth area will distribute bags to homeowners on door knobs and mailboxes. Load up the bag with unexpired, unbreakable and imperishable containers of food. Everything from beans, barbecue sauce and baby formula is needed. Simply put the bag on your front porch anytime during the week. It will be picked back up by cub scouts on Saturday, Nov. 12. The food will be redistributed to local pantries in time for the holidays.

Contact: Boy Scout Troop 743 by e-mailing Miguel Lopez at miglopezb@sbcbglobal.net or call (734)

844-3151.

COLLEGE PLANNING

Date/Time: Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will sponsor a free two-part program for high school students and parents who are approaching college decisions. John Boshoven, Counselor for Continuing Education at Ann Arbor's Community High School and West Frank Jewish Academy in West Bloomfield will share years of experience in this field. The programs include: Finding the College that Fits, Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m., and Paying for the College that Fits, Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

Contact: Register for these programs by calling the library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

HEARING LOSS

Date/Time: Nov. 2, Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: "Living with Hearing Loss" is a three-part series con-

ducted by Gerald Hug and Anne Barlow of the Hug Center for Hearing. Attendees will interact with the presenters and be able to ask questions. Caregivers, family members and friends can attend, but space is limited.

Contact: Register by calling (734) 451-0800.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Date/Time: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Ste. A, Canton

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts an ongoing grief support group, The Grief Journey, for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The goal of the group is to provide support and education on the grief process. There is no charge.

Contact: For information, contact Ann Christensen, (888) 983-9050.

MOPS MEETINGS

Date/Time: First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plym-

outh

Details: The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

Contact: Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail stekmops@gmail.com, or visit www.stekmops.org

GOODFELLOW VOLUNTEERS

Date/Time: Nov. 17, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library Waldorf Room, 223 S. Main

Details: The Plymouth Goodfellows are looking for volunteers for their annual newspaper sale day (Dec. 3) and for other duties. The group is an all volunteer organization that works from September-January. Our goal is to make sure there are no Plymouth children without a Christmas.

Contact: plymouthgoodfellows@yahoo.com

Schoolcraft hosts discussion of the African American Experience

Juanita Moore, president and CEO of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, will discuss the African American journey through time at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Schoolcraft College. The presentation is

free and open to the public and will be held in the McDowell Center on the college's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads. Guests will have an opportunity to meet with Moore following the presentation.

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit preserves and educates the public on the history, life and culture of African Americans. Founded in 1965 by Dr. Charles H. Wright and expanded in 1997,

the museum serves as the world's largest resource center dedicated to African American history, providing educational programs and exhibitions document-

ing the horror of slavery, the struggle for freedom, and the civil rights movement. For more information about the museum, visit <http://www.thewright.org/>.

The Schoolcraft College International Institute is hosting Moore as one of several events and activities in celebration of the Focus: North America Series in 2011.

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Canton's young library patrons have a new friend

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Nichole Welz still seems as thrilled by libraries as she did that childhood day when her family took a little cockapoo mutt named Benny Waffles to a pet show.

Two years after they had rescued him from a dog pound, they marched him right up to a Bay County library branch housed in a trailer. So what if the pet show didn't catapult Benny Waffles to stardom. It became a lifelong memory for Welz, who has had strong ties to libraries most of her 41 years.

"I wasn't the biggest reader," Welz recalls of her childhood days, "but I loved dog books. I always had a love of the library."

Welz hopes to instill a similar love for libraries in children after being hired as the Canton Public Library's new program specialist for children, tween and teen services. She was hired from among 10 finalists to replace Kristen Kostielney, who took an out-of-state job.

Welz has become the new face of the Canton library for local children, and she welcomes her new role.

"I love it. It's great," she



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nichole Welz already is enjoying her new job as the Canton Public Library's program specialist for children, tween and teen services.

and information could only help them overcome difficult situations.

While in college, she worked in Michigan State's business library as part of a work study program, and prior to her Lansing job she was employed as a children's librarian in Grand Rapids.

Laurie Golden, the Canton library's marketing and communications manager, said a three-member committee chose Welz because of her library experience, her involvement with youth and her positive outlook for children's programming.

"She sees the big picture of things," Golden said.

Welz said she enjoys seeing children become young readers after they first develop an appreciation for pictures and words.

"It's just that first stepping stone into literature," she said.

Welz plans to continue longtime traditions, such as children's story-time sessions. She also said she wants to develop ties with community organizations and cultural groups to nurture their involvement in youth programs.

Although she just started her job, she already has been impressed by the dedication of Canton library employees and the diverse community the facility serves.

"I'm very excited to work in a community like this," Welz said.

Benny Waffles would be proud.

said, smiling during an interview in the department where she works.

Welz doesn't mind the commute from Lansing, where she lives with husband Karl Ericson — a Lansing Community College instruction librarian — and their two children, Hazel, 8, and August, 6. Welz last worked for the 13-branch Capital Area District Library, selecting materials and spearheading programs for children and teens.

Welz applied in Canton after hearing of the vacancy and considering the solid reputation of the local library and its employees.

"They are very well-known across the state," she said. "They are very impressive. Their enthusiasm is contagious."

Welz embraces the chance to work in a single-branch library where

she can develop closer ties to children, their parents and her co-workers.

Welz grew up in the Bay City area, one of three children born to Marilyn and Edward Welz. She received her undergraduate degree in telecommunications from Michigan State University and her master's degree in library and information science from Wayne State University.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, she volunteered for a year in Toronto with Covenant House, an organization that provided food and shelter for homeless youths ages 12-18 while trying to steer them to better lives.

"I remember taking them to the library. I helped some of them get library cards," Welz said.

She believed that linking them to knowledge

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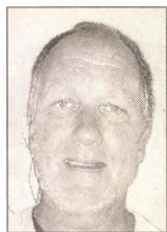
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Incumbent Hingelberg wants to continue city roles

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer



Hingelberg

things going."

Hingelberg, 56, has three major commission roles he wants to continue:

liaison to the Youth Advisory Commission, a board of students that's active in the community and weighs in on issues of interest to young people; informal liaison to the Old Village Association, a group of home and business owners in the revitalized Old Village neighborhood; and chairman of the joint Plymouth-Northville board that will oversee the Northville Fire Department once it begins providing fire-fighting and emergency medical service in Plymouth in January.

Change and challenges

Hingelberg sees the latter project — as a cost-cutting measure, the city is withdrawing from the Plymouth Community Fire Department it now shares with Plymouth Township and joining Northville — as one of Plymouth's challenges, but says he is "very confident" the new system, which also involves an expanded role for Huron Valley Ambulance, will provide good service at a savings.

"The model we're looking at, it works," said Hingelberg, who was an on-call firefighter in Troy for six years, as well as a police and fire department chaplain there.

Another challenge — as always — is the city budget, Hingelberg said. Plymouth's general-fund budget for the current

fiscal year is just under \$7.2 million.

Hingelberg said city officials are constantly "tightening the belt" and looking for greater efficiencies and ways to keep retiree and health-care costs under control. In comparison with other communities, Plymouth hasn't taken as much of a hit, but the economy "is going to be a new reality for us, even when it rebounds," he said.

Managing growth

Hingelberg also:

- Says the commission's cap on licenses to serve alcohol by the glass — 14 licenses in the central business district, 10 outside downtown — is working well.

"It was time to slow down," he said. The cap was imposed in 2010, and recently raised from eight to 10 licenses for

establishments outside downtown.

"Too many (liquor licenses) were coming in too quickly," Hingelberg added, and it's "imperative" to maintain a balance of businesses.

- Expects a parking deck, either at the location of the existing deck on Harvey or at a new site, will be the long-term solution that comes out of current discussions about downtown parking issues. Meanwhile, the Downtown Development Authority is "flipping over all the rocks they possibly can" to find ways to add to the parking stock in the short term, he said.

Community connections

Hingelberg is the operations director for Cass Community Social Servic-

es in Detroit and a former clergyman in the United Methodist Church. The ability to connect with a wide range of people, he said, has served him well on the commission.

Hingelberg and his wife, Julie, moved to Plymouth from Canton Township not quite seven years ago; she is the dean of student services at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. The Hingelbergs have five grown children.

Hingelberg has a bachelor's degree from Adrian College, where he studied philosophy and communications, and a master's of divinity degree from Boston University. He can often be seen around town with his Newfoundland, Tashmoo, named for an early 20th-Century steamer that plied the waters between Detroit and Port Huron.

Dooley looks to step up involvement in community

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer



Dooley

the city. She's likes

the sense of community — neighbors who look out for one another, a vibrant, walkable downtown that serves as a central meeting place.

"I plan on being here as long as possible," she said recently. "I want to do my part in making sure it stays as special as it is."

Cash and cars

Dooley listed ongoing budget issues and a need, in the long term, for more public parking downtown as the city's two major challenges.

City officials were closely watching the budget — nearly \$7.2 million in the general fund this fiscal year — even before the recession, and Dooley says there may be more opportunities for savings by further partnerships with neighboring communities; trash collection, professional services, equipment purchases and transportation are some examples she cited. But service-sharing isn't always the right thing either, she said.

The city may be able to expand its tax base by encouraging more businesses to move into town, Dooley said.

To do this, she said, officials can make sure businesses understand exactly what the expectations

are, and work to resolve issues that may cloud downtown's perception of the city, such as the availability of public parking.

Such work is being done right now by city officials and a new parking committee. Dooley said she wants to see short-term and long-term solutions — and the latter, she said, should be a large-capacity parking deck.

Liquor licenses

Dooley was initially a critic when a cap on the number of licenses to sell alcohol by the glass (currently 14 licenses in the central business district,

10 outside of it) was proposed, but has softened her view.

"I understand some of the rationale for having a cap much more than I did," she said, citing public safety and the need to maintain a diversity of businesses in town as good reasons for a downtown license cap.

But Dooley said she doesn't see the need for a liquor license cap outside the downtown area.

Dooley graduated from the University of Michigan in 1996 with a bachelor of arts degree in education. She went to work for a lawyer in Plymouth,

giving her initial experience with the community, and began practicing law with the same firm after earning her law degree from Wayne State University in 2001, working in family law and commercial litigation.

Looking at all sides

She is currently taking time out to raise sons Kieran, 5, and Cormac, 4. Husband Chris is in sales with Foresee, an Ann Arbor company that measures customer satisfaction and does market research. The Dooleys have lived in Plymouth for nearly 10 years.

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

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

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'Intelligent' light poles are launched in Farmington Hills

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

If you thought you saw light poles along 10 Mile in Farmington Hills beaming different colors or playing music recently, it probably wasn't your imagination.

For the last several months, eight new "intelligent" light poles have been tested outside of Illuminating Concepts, between Orchard Lake and Middle Belt.

The digitally controlled light poles are only limited by what people want to use them for, say develop-

ers at the company — and that includes light shows and music, in addition to allowing for attached digital illuminated signs with pedestrian, traffic and weather notifications, festival ads, videos and much more.

"The potential for such systems has been obvious to everyone who has seen the technology at work," said inventor Ron Harwood, president of Illuminating Concepts.

The technology is called "Intellistreets."

"Intellistreets is adaptable to what its environment needs, when it

needs it," Harwood said.

The wireless system also allows for reduced energy costs with dimmable, programmable and "smart" LED lighting, which draws less energy than traditional lighting and is controllable from a remote Internet-based command module.

'One of the best and brightest'

On Friday, the Intellistreets system was officially launched to the public in a ceremony at

Please see LIGHTS, A9



Jeff Stribbell, marketing director of Outdoor Media Group at Illuminating Concepts, demonstrates the new intelligent light pole technology.

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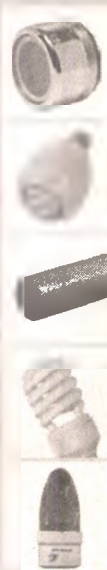
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

NOVEMBER CONSOLIDATED ELECTION Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Notice is hereby given that a consolidated election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time candidates of the Non-Partisan sections will be elected or nominated.

Non-Partisan Section:

Board Member Plymouth-Canton Community

POLLING LOCATIONS ARE:

Precinct 1	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft Rd
Precinct 3	Township Hall	9955 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 4	Fiegel Elementary School	39750 Joy Rd
Precinct 5	Isbister Elementary School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 W Ann Arbor Trl
Precinct 7	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 8	Praise Baptist Church	45000 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 9	Living Word Church	46500 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 10	NorthRidge Church	49555 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 11	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Rd W

All polling locations are accessible to the elderly and the handicapped.

Applications for Absentee ballots may be obtained during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011 the Clerk's Office will be open; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to issue Absentee ballots to qualified voters in person.

On Monday, November 7, 2011, qualified voters may be issued an Absentee ballot in person and shall vote them in the Clerk's Office, until 4:00 p.m.

Plymouth Township Clerk's Office
9955 N Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: October 30, 2011

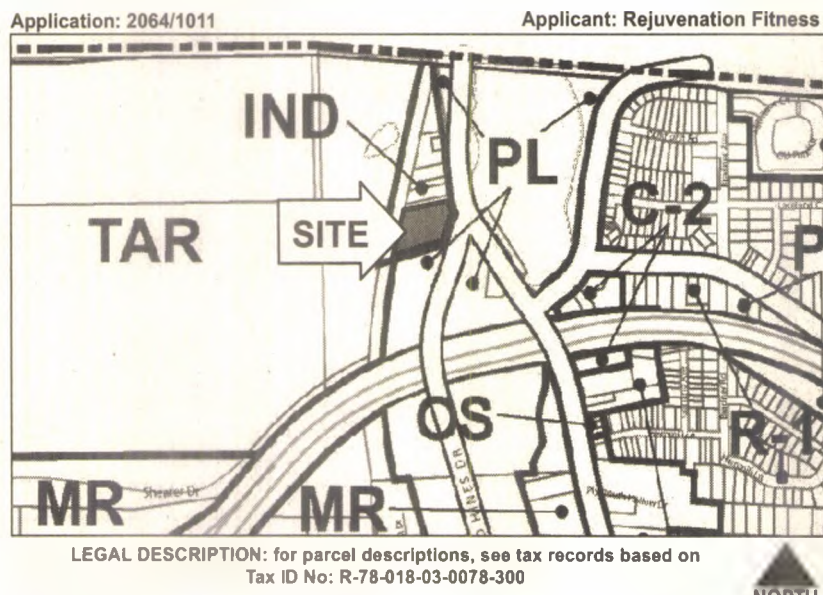
CE0875602-3a8

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Special Land Use
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 PM
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL for a fitness center in the Industrial District (IND) on Tax ID R-78-018-03-0078-000, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 19.2. The property is located North of M-14, South of Five Mile Road, East of C&O Rail Line, West of Northville Road.



The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, extension 6. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service)

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: October 27, 2011

CE08756787 3x8

LIGHTS

Continued from page A8

the company attended by state, county and local officials and other dignitaries.

Harwood told those attending that the idea was born partially of his experience at Disneyland, where visitors leaving were given way-finding technology to tell them where to go when the park was ready to close.

It was also because of 9/11, Harwood noted, saying it became obvious that people in an emergency needed way-finding and audio alerts.

The resulting technology is the result of collaboration between area universities, Oakland and Wayne county executives, the city of Farmington Hills, police and fire and his staff, Harwood said.

"I'm only the guy who was smart enough to hire people smarter than me," he said.

"The great thing about Illuminating Concepts is that it represents one of the best and brightest companies that we have in Michigan," U.S. Rep. Gary Peters said in his remarks. "I think what's exciting about this project is that this is something Illuminating Concepts can sell all over the world."

At the forefront

"This is another example of Farmington Hills being at the forefront of innovative technology," Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis said.

The city invested federal grant money that supports green technology initiatives into the company, making Farming-

ton Hills the first site in the world to feature Intel-listreets.

The city system, however, in order to have it on other streets. The light poles on 10 Mile will remain as demonstration light poles for clients.

After remarks by dignitaries, the ribbon was cut at the entrance to the company property, after which the light pole began playing *It's a Beautiful Day*.

More demonstrations were then given inside the building.

Jeff Stribbell, marketing director of Outdoor Media Group at Illuminating Concepts, said the company is expecting to receive orders now that it's launched the product.

"We've had significant interest. It's incredibly fun," he said, showing with a tablet how the pole can be programmed.

Lots of possibilities

Farmington Hills Fire Chief Corey Bartsch said he was intrigued.

"Anytime we have the opportunity to reach out to the public to tell them about various hazards, that's good," he said.

"It will be interesting to see the applications and if this is affordable as well," Farmington Hills Police Chief Chuck Nebus said. "There is a wonderful list of wonderful applications."

The celebration was company-wide. While he didn't work on the project, Larry Park, industry designer at Illuminating Concepts, said, "It's great because there's a lot of excitement around the product. It's great to be in a company, especially in Michigan right

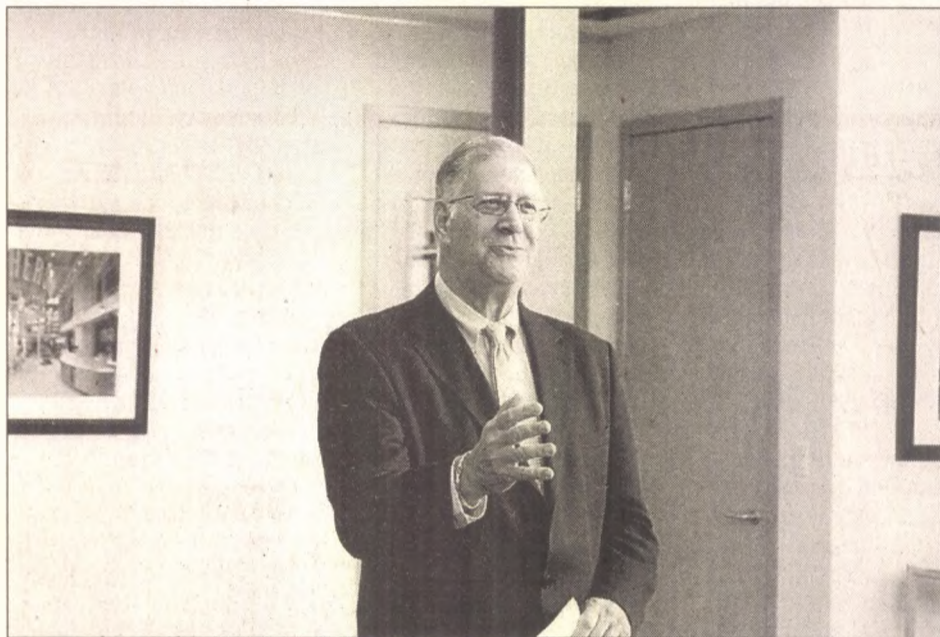


Intellistreets inventor Ron Harwood cuts the ribbon to launch the new system; other officials at the event were, from left, Deputy Oakland County Executive Phil Bertolini; Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis; and U.S. Rep. Gary Peters.

now, that is investing in creating new technology."

The technology was touted by the company as "revolutionary technology that combines homeland security, energy conservation, entertainment, concealed audio control, concealed direction and rerouting, aesthetic applications and much more, into a public fixture — the urban light pole."

Founded in 1981, Farmington Hills-based Illuminating Concepts is one of the world's largest lighting and media design firms.



Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis congratulated Illuminating Concepts on its new technology at the Intellistreets launch.

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Paddling down the Rouge wasn't easy but definitely encouraging

Well, we did it. It took us pretty much most of the daylight hours over a three-day period, but we were able to canoe the Rouge River from Canton all the way to Dearborn — a journey of about 22 river miles. Of course, along the way we had to duck under, pull over or just get out and walk around the logjams. By the end of the day, we had only made it to Lilly Road, which was far short of reaching our goal of getting half way through Wayne. We were also very sore.

And I'm happy to report that nobody in our group of about a dozen foolhardy souls died or was seriously injured during our exploratory venture.

The group — which included myself, members of Friends of the Rouge, and some officials from Wayne County, Canton Township and the city of Wayne — shoved off on the morning of Friday, Oct. 7 at Beck Road in the western portion of Canton. On Sunday evening, just as the sun was setting in the west, we pulled up near Fairlane, Henry Ford's historic estate in Dearborn. Ford's estate, located on the campus of U-of-M Dearborn, sits majestically on the main branch of the Rouge River, near its confluence with the Lower Rouge River, which is the branch we floated on. Our trip took us through most of Canton, Wayne, a portion of Westland, Inkster, Dearborn Heights and finally Dearborn.

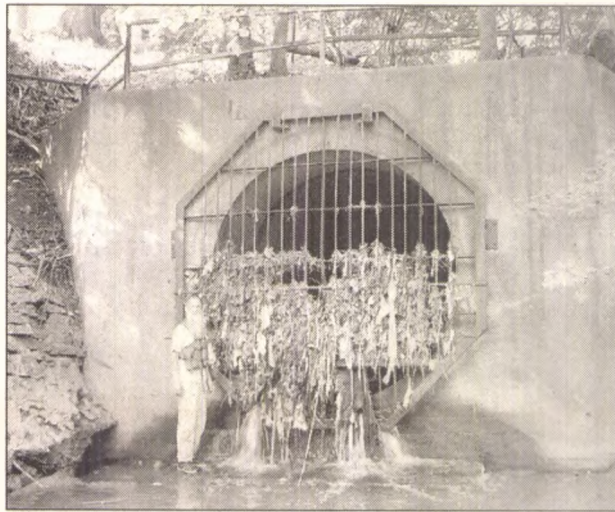
Day one was perhaps the most grueling. The river is smaller in western Canton, and it winds quite a bit. As a result, it

is just littered with fallen timber that has created dozens and dozens of logjams. That meant us finding any means necessary to get past each one — many had to be portaged around. We quickly became experts at figuring out either to duck under, pull over or just get out and walk around the logjams. By the end of the day, we had only made it to Lilly Road, which was far short of reaching our goal of getting half way through Wayne. We were also very sore.

Day two began at Lilly and we made our way east, traveling under I-275 and towards Hannan Road and into the city of Wayne. There weren't as many logjams as the previous day. By the end of the day, we had reached Wayne Road, where we pulled out at Goudy Park — the site of a dam, which was appropriate because this dam (under Wayne Road) was the reason for our trip in the first place. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources long ago declared the dam a nuisance, because it impairs the ability of fish to move up and down the river to spawn. More significantly it is the only dam on the Lower Branch of the Rouge.

After years of efforts to find the money for the project, it was recently announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Great Lake Restoration Initiative would provide grant money to remove the dam, most likely in 2012.

Friends of the Rouge, a group with a long history of trying to save the Rouge, saw the dam removal project as a way to also promote the recreational opportunities of the river, especially fishing and canoeing. That's when the idea for our trip was hatched.



Bill Craig checks out a giant outfall in Wayne that was built to send storm water runoff from streets directly into the Rouge River. There are many along the river.

So at the end of day two, a couple of us decided to shoot over the dam, which is only about six feet high. Fortunately we survived. While it now seems foolish, it was pretty exhilarating at the time.

Day three was by far the most rewarding. Because of the work volunteers have been doing over the last decade or so, most of the river is open through the city of Wayne, east of Wayne Road. We actually got to paddle continuously for very long stretches, making it to Inkster Road by lunch. We paddled on into Dearborn Heights. At Telegraph Road, we had a debate. It was about 4:30 p.m. The plan had been to take out there, and finish the trip on a fourth day. Some of us wanted to complete the journey that day though — Fairlane was only a couple miles away. We took a vote, and we decided to finish the trip that day. It was a great decision, because as we pulled up at Henry

Ford's elegant home next to a large waterfall he built on the river, there was a perfect sunset. It was an appropriate end of our journey.

I have to say, I have been on a few adventures in my day, including some backpacking trips out West and back country camping trips in Canada, and this three day paddling excursion on the Rouge ranks right up there. It was tough, but in the end it was a memorable accomplishment.

This was all about letting the public know of the potential of the Rouge River — and its recreational possibilities. I can say without any hesitation, this long forgotten and ill-treated river is on its way back. It could be a great resource and add to the quality of life of our area, especially in the communities it passes through. It also goes through a really nice forested corridor, which in many places is reminiscent of northern Michigan. Over the course of our three day adventure, we saw plenty of wildlife. There were plenty of fish in Canton, including some big pike. We



Matt Mulholland of Wayne climbs over a large logjam. There were more than 100 logjams along the route.

saw deer and raccoons, mink and plenty of species of birds, including some egrets and blue herons that squawked at us for disturbing them when we got out of the canoes and visited a really nice man-made wetlands area in Inkster.

The Rouge River is never going to the AuSable or the Manistee, two of the most beautiful and popular rivers in the state. Or even the Huron for that matter. The Rouge River watershed is home to more than a million people. And that many people cause lots of problems for a river like the Rouge — storm water runoff, garbage, and even dumping of raw sewage (which we found a couple cases of in Dearborn Heights). But

the Lower Rouge could be a real nice canoe route, especially from Canton to Inkster Road. It is something that Canton, Wayne, Westland and Inkster should really try to promote, not to mention Wayne County, which owns most of the land along the river.

With a little more attention, it could be a nice draw to our area. It is in our backyard. If we were able to make it a viable canoe route, which I really believe is a possibility, it would be a heck of a legacy to leave to future generations.

Kurt Kuban is an editor with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com or (248) 437-2011, ext. 245.

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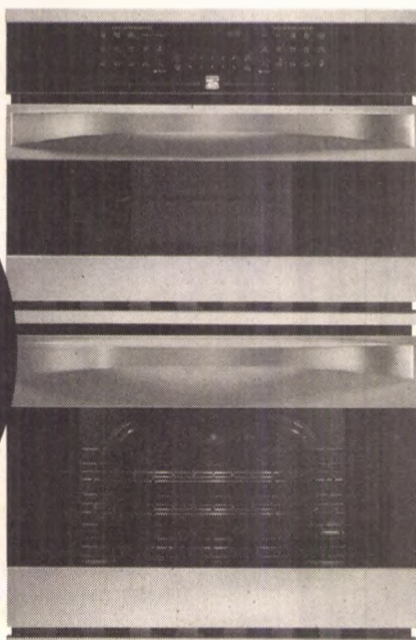
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Shakespeare meets Players in 'I Hate Hamlet'

It's a love story, a ghost story and a comedy. And if you've never experienced theater up close and intimate, you won't want to miss *I Hate Hamlet*, presented by Spotlight Players Nov. 11-13 and 18-20, in the Biltmore Studio at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The story revolves around Andrew, a successful young television actor, who is offered the role of Hamlet for Shakespeare in the Park. Set up in a temporary apartment once used by the great Shakespearean actor John Barrymore, he finds himself visited by Barrymore's ghost and becomes a reluctant student of the great master as the ghost begins training him for the part.

Soon his virginal girlfriend Deirdre, his agent, Lillian, Felicia, the real estate agent, and his entrepreneurial friend Gary are drawn into the mess. Mayhem and romance ensue.

The show is performed with the audience on three sides and the content is not recommended

for children.

"The show is a celebration of actors and acting," said director Mike Cuba. "It is a comedy that pokes fun of Shakespearean actors while at the same time showing us why they are so wonderful at what they do, and why they work so hard to do it."

"It is a comedy that manages to work four romances into a show with only six characters! And where else can you see John Barrymore, the greatest Hamlet of them all, live on stage," he added.

I Hate Hamlet is a loving look at live theater, and the crazy talented people who make it their home. It's also a celebration of the greatest work of the greatest author in the English language, William Shakespeare.

Dave Durham of Garden City is John Barrymore, suave debonair ladies' man and a ghost. Rebecca Winder of Canton is Deirdre McDavay, the swooning, emotionally supersaturated girlfriend. David Fedewa of Canton is Andrew Rally, successful young

TV doctor, and doubt-ridden potential Hamlet for Shakespeare in the Park.

Also appearing in the production are Lindsay Frischmuth of Plymouth is Felicia Dantine, New York City real estate agent and sometime psychic, Pat McKane of Canton, the self-centered

Hollywood entrepreneur Gary Peter Lefkowitz and Raychel Rork of Canton is Lillian Troy, elderly theatrical agent for Andrew, who once had a fling with Barrymore.

Shows will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 and 18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 and 2 p.m. Sun-

day, Nov. 13 and 20, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. The 2 p.m. performance on Saturday, Nov. 19, will feature two sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired community.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for senior cit-

izens and students under age 19. They're available at the theater box office by calling (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460, online at www.spotlightplayers-mi.org or in person at the Summit on the Park or at the door. The box office opens one hour prior to showtime.



Dave Durham of Garden City, who plays the ghost of the famous John Barrymore, dances with Rachel Rork of Canton, who appears as Lillian Troy, an elderly theatrical agent for Andrew, who once had a fling with Barrymore, in 'I Hate Hamlet.'

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Walsh wants separate business court

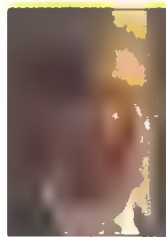
By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Legislation was introduced Wednesday to create a new business court system in Michigan.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, introduced a bill that would create a new court division with four regions.

The business court would consist of circuit judges assigned by the Michigan Supreme Court in a number based on the volume of business litigation filed in a particular region. The court would have jurisdiction of cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.

Walsh said a separate business court, similar to how family and criminal divisions operate, will help streamline the legal process. He expects the



Walsh

legislation will be discussed by the House Judiciary Committee during its discussions expected in January on judicial reform on the number of circuit judges throughout the state.

Walsh said his proposal won't cost taxpayers money.

"Business cases are more complicated and they take a long time," Walsh said. Denser populated areas with larger caseloads would incorporate the new business divisions.

"It would help with the caseload similar to drug courts, where the parties are familiar with the law

and circumstances," Walsh said. "It's less frustrating to all the people involved. If you have a judge in front of you who knows the law, it's less frustrating and more efficient."

Judges won't be jumping between different laws in deciding cases, Walsh said. "They're trying to multi-task, switching from criminal to business to family law," Walsh said. "There's a loss of efficiency when they switch."

Walsh said these judges could hear cases on banking or commercial transactions. Companies may be disputing contracts on when payments are made or how the company will be financed.

"When they go to business court, there may be more consistent judgments and fewer appeals," Walsh said, thus

driving down costs. That will help the state's economy, Walsh said.

Walsh said a few other states, such as Delaware, are using a business court division. "I wouldn't say it's prevalent, but it's growing," Walsh said.

Under House Bill 5128, the new court division would be divided into four regions. Region 1 would consist of Calhoun, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe and Wayne counties. Region 2 would include Genesee, Macomb, Oakland and Shiawassee counties. Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Cass, Eaton, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Washtenaw counties would be in District 3. The remaining counties would fall under District 4.

Schoolcraft welcomes author of Gospel of a Cab Driver

The Pageturners book discussion group will welcome local author Roger M. Aljuni, M.D., who will be discussing his book, *Gospel of a Cab Driver*, at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday at Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

This special Meet the Author event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Gospel of a Cab Driver is the story of Zechariah, an illegal immigrant and the son of a Muslim father and a Jewish mother. It is also the tale of America's recent political,

religious and cultural entanglements. Set around the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the novel addresses themes of identity, geopolitics, and cultural and religious tolerance — all within the frame of a love story.

Aljuni was born in Palestine and moved to the United States in 1954. He lives and practices medicine in Michigan. He and his wife have four children. *Gospel of a Cab Driver* is his first novel.

Copies of *Gospel of a Cab Driver* are available for a discount in the Schoolcraft College Bookstore and will be available for purchase at the Meet the Author event.



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HARP might provide relief for struggling homeowners

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: Five years ago, I purchased a new home. I paid \$475,000 and I had a \$450,000 mortgage. At the time I bought the home, I had some problems on my credit and because of that I'm paying a little over 7 percent. I've tried to refinance, but since my home is now worth about \$375,000, the mortgage company says I can't refinance. I love my home and I don't want to screw up my credit rating by walking away from my mortgage. Do I have any options?

A: Normally I would tell you that there is very little that you can do at this point in time. Typically, mortgage companies will only refinance a home if you have equity in the home. In your case, since the home



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

is worth less than the mortgage, there is no equity. Therefore, in most cases there would be no opportunity to refinance and take advantage of the lower rates. There is, however, a potential solution to your situation.

The government just announced new rules for the HARP plan. HARP (Homeowner Assistance Refinance Program) is a federal program that was established a couple of years ago. The program was supposed to help about five million people in your situation refinance; howev-

er, not unlike most federal programs, it failed to deliver as promised. That being said, they have just amended the rules for HARP and with those new rules you may have the opportunity to refinance your mortgage.

The new rules were just announced and it will be a few more weeks until all the rules are out, however, the basics of the plan state that if your home is worth less than the mortgage and the mortgage is guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac (which over half the homes in America are), then you meet the basic requirement for this program. There are also other requirements that you must meet. These include that you can't have missed a mortgage payment over the

last six months, and in the last 12 months you can have missed only one payment. In addition, under this plan you still would have to meet certain income requirements to qualify for the loan.

Based upon the information that you have provided, it does appear that you should be able to take advantage of this program and be able to reduce your interest rate from over 7 percent to a little over 4 percent. One further caveat about the program is there are costs. Even though the refinancing costs have been reduced, there is still a cost. However, an interesting tidbit about the program is that if you reduce the term of your mortgage to less than 20 years, then the cost of refinancing will

be waived. A further note, I am not sure if all mortgage companies will have the same fee for this program; therefore, it pays to shop a round.

The government's new HARP plan is not for everyone and will not solve the housing crisis in America; however, it can make a significant difference to many Americans. If the mortgage on your home is greater than the value of your home and if you have been making your mortgage payments, I would recommend that you contact your mortgage lender over the next few weeks to determine if you qualify. Interest rates are at historic lows and this provides a great opportunity for people who were previously unable to refinance their

home. My advice is don't delay and contact your mortgage company as soon as possible. Not all mortgage companies will offer this program, however, I suspect many will.

Like all government programs, there'll be some twists and turns and more paperwork than is needed. However, if you can reduce your mortgage payment by a couple of hundred bucks a month or knock five to 10 years off your mortgage, I would suspect it's worth putting up with a little hassle.

Good luck!

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

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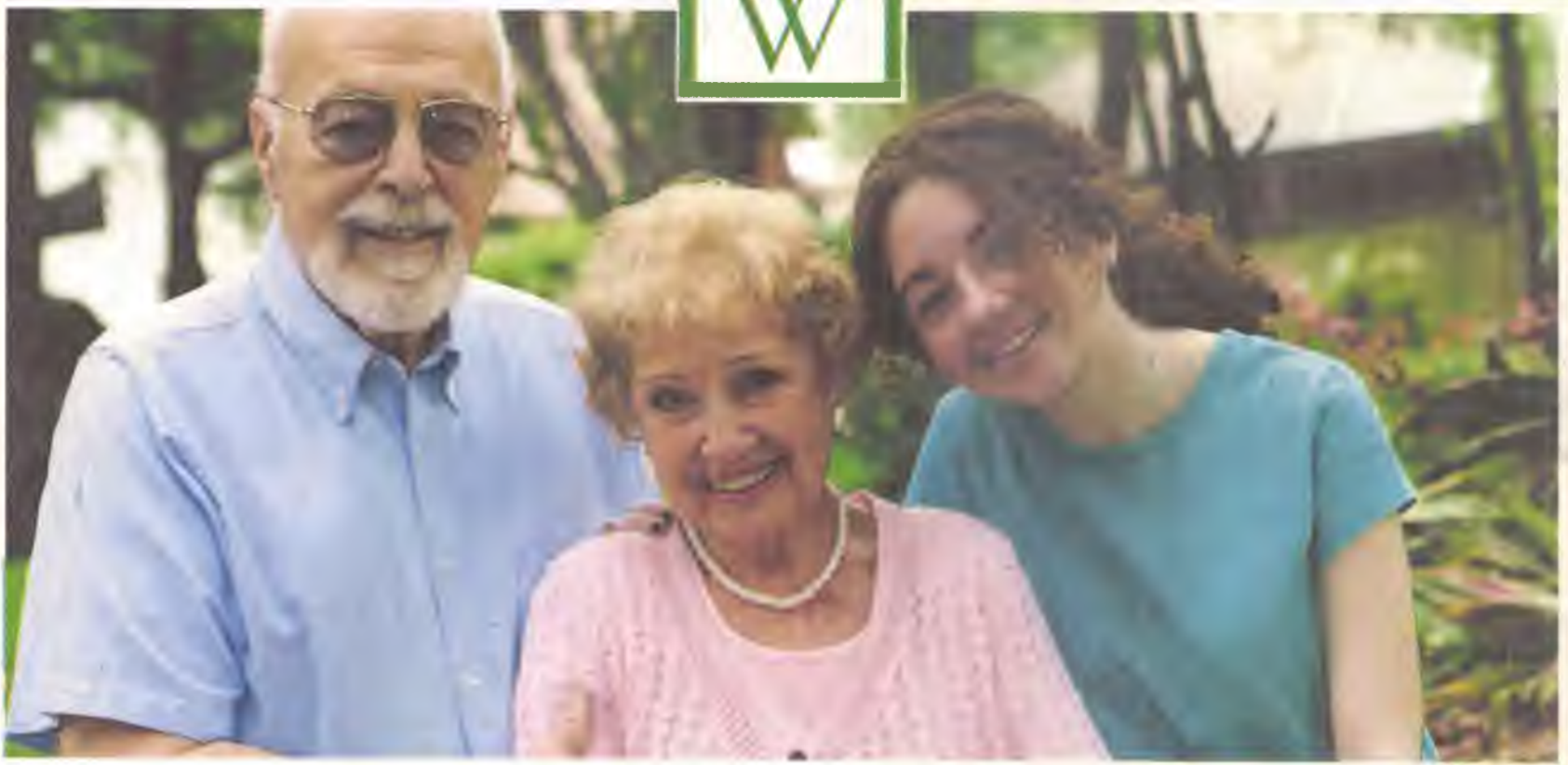
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OE08757900

Chiefs late field goal crushes 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

For a while Friday night, a new "Fox Theatre" was opening at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park thanks to the power running of Plymouth senior Donte Fox.

Fox reeled off two huge gainers, one a 53-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and a 59-yarder setting up his one-yard TD plunge in the fourth to even the Division 1 pre-district football game against Canton.

But in the end, the Chiefs pulled the red carpet out from under the defending D1 finalists. Junior kicker Scott Piwowar calmly split the uprights from 35 yards as time expired to give Canton its thrilling 24-21 victory.

"Just do everything you do in practice and put it right through the uprights," said Piwowar, recalling what his holder said to him just before the crucial kick. "And that's



Canton running back Ryan Jones (No. 14) looks for yardage as Plymouth's Stefan Turrentine (No. 19) frantically chases him Friday night. At left, Devin McMillian (No. 9) of the Wildcats fends with Chiefs blocker Zac Merillat (No. 21) in an attempt to get to Jones.

JOHN KEMSKI

Please see FOOTBALL, B3

Extreme spikers

Club Extreme Volleyball will be hosting final tryouts for the 2011-12 season on Nov. 5 and 6, from 1-5:30 p.m. each day. For more information, go to www.eteamz.com/clubextreme.

Wrestling meeting

Attention, Salem wrestlers and their parents: the 2011-2012 season is right around the corner. And it actually kicks off with the Nutrition and Parent Information Meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3 in the Salem library. It is a mandatory meeting. For further information or answers to questions, please see one of the coaches in the wrestling room or send an e-mail to coach Pete Israel at salem-coach@gmail.com.

Chiefs still wary about Novi

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Although her Canton girls volleyball team reached the finals in the Gold Bracket at the recent Kensington Lakes Activities Association tournament, Chiefs head coach Mary Kryska is looking for more consistency and focus as the state playoffs begin.

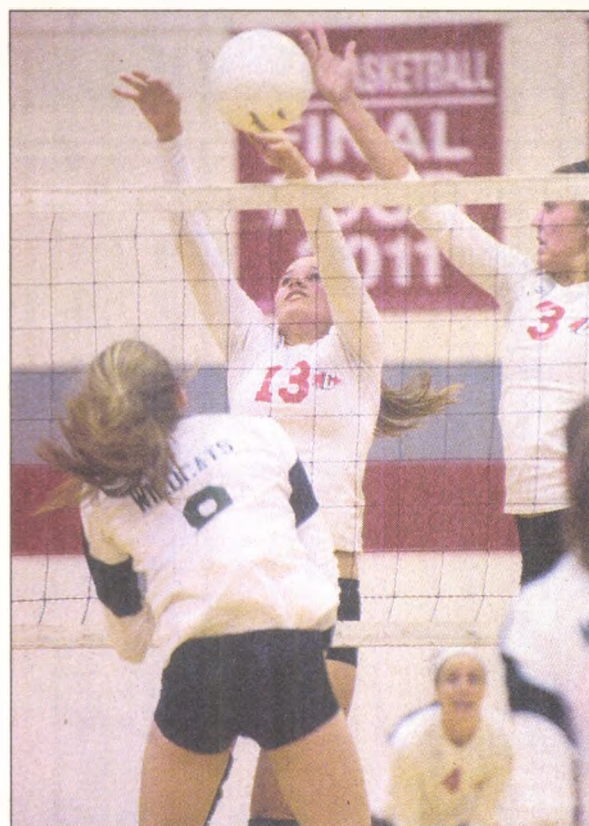
Canton (37-9) will face Salem in a Division 1

Please see CHIEFS, B2

DISTRICTS NEXT

All three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park schools will have their girls volleyball teams playing Tuesday at the Novi-hosted Division 1 districts. Following is the schedule for opening games, according to the MHSAA website:

- Tuesday, Nov. 1: 5 p.m., Northville vs. Plymouth;
- Nov. 1, 7 p.m., Canton vs. Salem.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holding the fort in the front row for Canton during a recent game are Erica den Boer (No. 13) and Alaina Turner (No. 3). The Chiefs begin districts Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER REGIONALS

Canton wins 3-0 in D1 regional semi

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Whenever Canton needed an offensive spark Wednesday night, junior forward Daniel Ovesea was there to provide it.

And at the other end of Saline High School's rain-soaked soccer field, the defensive side was nailed shut by Canton senior goalkeeper Steven Murphy.

The result was a 3-0 victory over Dearborn in a Division 1 boys soccer regional semifinal. Canton (21-1-4) will square off at 1 p.m. Saturday against Ann Arbor Pioneer in the regional final, also at Saline's Hornet Stadium.

"Pioneer's a great team. We just got to keep playing how we're playing," Chiefs senior co-captain Mitch Posuniak said. "We went through a tough district, and now one of the tougher games in regionals."

"Basically our whole season's been preparing us for this. We had a really hard schedule."

Posuniak slipped a couple of times on the wet turf with nobody in his vicinity. Others also lost their footing.

But he more than made up for that with Canton's second goal — expertly set up by Ovesea, who happened to score the two other goals.

"I knew Dan was just waiting for the opportu-

nity to just slot it across because we've been working on that," Posuniak said. "He came to the end, line and played it across, so when I saw it come across, I just kept my composure and tapped it in."

That goal came with 25:25 remaining in the second half to give the Chiefs a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy maintained that lead with several daring plays. He ranged far out of his goal area to beat Dearborn players such as junior forward Ali Jawad and prevent empty-netters.

"Steven Murphy stood on his job today. He did a great job of keeping the shutout going," Can-

ton head coach George Tomasso said. "He made key saves in key moments of the game."

"If there was a game ball to give out, Steven Murphy would definitely get it."

Cherry on top

Just for good measure, Ovesea tallied his second of the night and 20th of the season with only 15 seconds to play.

Following a Tyler Wingham corner kick, sophomore forward Griffin Parks threaded a pass to Ovesea, whose blast from outside the box looked to be stopped by Dearborn senior goal-

Please see SOCCER, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In this game from earlier this season, Canton's Mitch Posuniak (No. 12) and Ken Krolicki (No. 14) rush down the field. Posuniak scored a goal in Wednesday's regional semifinal win against Dearborn and both players played well defensively in a 3-0 victory.

Holes in one

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center continues to be the place where golfers score aces.

• Patricia Noel of Garden City scored a hole in one on Oct. 4. She used a Burner Driver and Srixon golf ball to ace the 139-yard No. 2 hole at the Lakes course.

• On Sept. 17, Michael Leahy of Oxford scored a hole in one on the 170-yard No. 12 hole at the Golden Fox course.

The 34-year-old Leahy used a 3-wood for his impressive shot.

Pioneer ends Blazers' run

Stephanie Terrell tallied a pair of goals Thursday as Ann Arbor Pioneer earned a 3-0 state semifinal victory over Livonia Ladywood in a match played at Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Shelby Sypica tallied the other goal for Pioneer and goalie Cameron Evans made two saves to post the shutout.

Ladywood senior goalie Mackenzie Holme had five saves.

"The score wasn't indicative of how we played," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said. "The girls played great. Reaching the Final Four was an awesome accomplishment with a 15-3-3 (overall) record."

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FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

exactly what I did."

Canton head coach Tim Baechler, whose 8-2 squad will play the winner of Saturday's game between Northville and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, credited his offense for an efficient, 62-yard final drive that moved the chains down to Plymouth's 18 — right in front of the goal posts.

"It's only the second one he's made, we've only attempted four on the year," Baechler said. "But it was right down the middle of the field and I'm like 'You know what, with high school kids today a 35-yarder is nothing.'"

No problem

Just before Piwowar lined up to make his attempt, the Wildcats called a timeout to make the kicker think about things a bit. The strategy, which if successful would have forced overtime, did not work.

"It did nothing," Piwowar said. "There was nothing I could have thought of that would have shook me off track. It didn't hurt at all."

"If anything it gave me more momentum because it means they have to do everything they can to try to get me off my game."

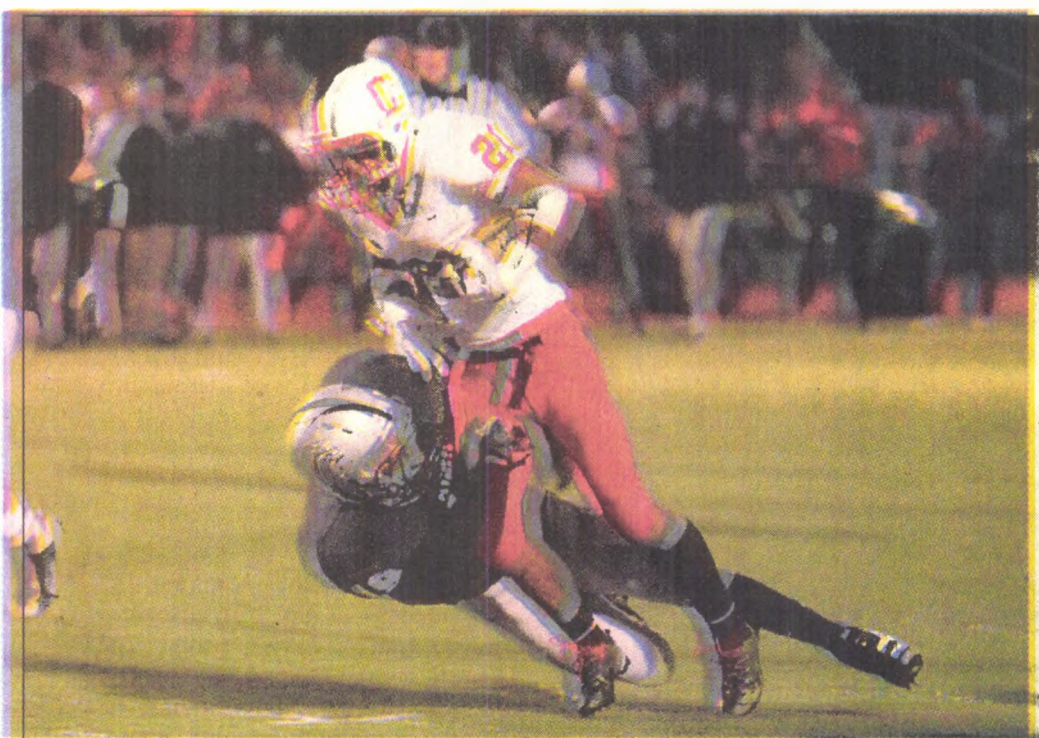
After Piwowar's make avenged an earlier missed field goal and capped off the win, Canton fans swarmed the PCEP varsity turf field.

Meanwhile, Plymouth players squatted in agony over the abrupt close to the season.

Fox in particular was in anguish as he and the Wildcats (8-2) were denied the opportunity to try for another Ford Field trip.

In 2010, Plymouth knocked out Canton in the district final and that started the team's long run of playoff success.

"I'm very, very, very proud of these kids," Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk said. "These kids played their hearts out, and that's two damn good football teams



JOHN KEMSKI

Plymouth junior linebacker Stefan Turrentine (No. 19) puts a licking on Canton senior running back Zac Merillat (No. 21) during Friday's Division 1 pre-district game.

playing right there.

"Either one of these teams can take it all the way."

Back and forth

From the opening whistle, the pre-district game — taking place just three weeks after a stirring Plymouth comeback earned the Wildcats a 31-30 victory over Canton — proved as good as advertised.

Canton broke the ice with 1:25 left in the first quarter when senior running back Kevin Buford (18 rushes, 69 yards; 115 all-purpose yards) pushed through the line from 1-yard out.

The Chiefs were on the move again with their next possession, with a first down from the Plymouth 7-yard line.

But the drive stalled as Plymouth's defense held firm. On third down, Buford was tackled for a loss by senior Faris Abraham and junior Matt Janke.

Piwowar's subsequent 33-yard field goal attempt was wide to the right.

It then only took two plays for the Wildcats to go 80 yards and make it a 7-7 contest.

Plymouth senior quarterback Shaun Austin (5-10, 74 yards; 12 rushes, 111 yards) broke off a 27-yard run.

Fox (15-150) then went 53 yards for the equalizing touchdown.

Like a tank gaining momentum and picking up speed as it rolls downhill, he slowly bolted forward through a wave of defenders and then accelerated through the middle of the line.

He breezed on an angle into the front-right corner of the end zone.

The game remained 7-7 well into the third quarter, until Plymouth went 80 yards in 15 plays over 7:38 to take a 14-7 edge.

There were several key plays in the march. On a third down play, Austin rolled to his right and connected on a 14-yard pass down the right sideline to Janke. That gave the Wildcats a first down at the Canton 37.

A 38-yard pass from Austin to speedy junior wide-out Nate Emminger set up a first down at the Canton 6-yard line and Austin ran it in on the next snap to make it a 14-7 game.

Answer time

But the Chiefs came right back to tie it, scoring on a 41-yard run up the middle by junior running back Malcolm Hollingsworth (8-64) with 1:22 left in the third.

Senior quarterback Kyle Adams (4-6, 51 yards) found Buford for a clutch 11-yard completion to keep the series alive.

After Plymouth couldn't move the ball, the Chiefs got it back and scored again for a 21-14 advantage.

Buford's 16-yard carry set up a first and goal from the 10-yard line and senior running back Ryan Jones (11-51) hurdled over the line for a 2-yard touchdown run with 6:46 to go.

Back came the Wildcats, however. Fox shot through the line for a 59-yard run that would have been a TD if not for a diving tackle by senior Zac Merillat at the Canton 21.

Three Fox rushes later and it was a 21-21 contest.

Canton got the ball back with 4:39 remaining and then went to work on the winning series.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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Two winners on PCEP field

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Friday night was going to end badly, and perhaps unfairly, for either Canton or Plymouth.

A last-second field goal by Canton's Scott Piwowar gave the Chiefs the 24-21 victory in a Division 1 pre-district game at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

But that field goal left Plymouth senior quarterback Shaun Austin wondering about what might have been.

"I was extremely confident," said Austin, about his team's chances if the game moved into overtime. "I was just hoping that I'd get one more chance to get the ball and do what I could with it. We had it in overtime, I guarantee it."

But Piwowar's 35-yarder kept Austin and the Wildcats from finding out. It also meant Plymouth would not be able to start on a run that might again lead to the D1 final.

"They (Chiefs) just made the plays when they counted," Austin said. "I know my guys gave it 100 percent all the time and that's all I can ask for."

"A couple plays here and there and it's a different situation. My team did what they could and I'm going to love them for that no matter what."

So does Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk.

"I love these kids," he said. "They played their hearts out. And my coaching staff did a great job."

Canton head coach Tim Baechler breathed a sigh of relief after Piwowar's 3-pointer. But he had high praise for Sawchuk and the Wildcats, too.

"They're a great team," Baechler said. "Everybody wants to make it the rivalry thing, but ... they're one of the best in the state. It feels good just to beat a great team."

Canton seniors like running back Ryan Jones didn't want the season to be over just yet, either.

"We thought about the seniors, we didn't want to end this," Jones said. "Everybody's got team chemistry and nobody gave up."

Baechler lamented two top-notch teams meeting in the first round, instead of down the road a bit, because of how the district draws played out.

"It's just a shame that it happened so early," he continued. "It just stinks that they're out, it would have stunk if we were out so early."

"It's just the way the playoffs worked."

Blazers prevail in quarterfinal

Penalty strokes determined Livonia Ladywood's fate in a quarterfinal state tournament girls field hockey matchup.

And the Blazers emerged the victor Tuesday with a dramatic 2-1 win over Birmingham Marian in a game hosted by Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Ladywood improved to 15-2-3 overall with the victory and advanced to Thursday's semifinal at Dearborn Edsel Ford where the Blazers will face the Pioneer-Saline quarterfinal winner at 4 p.m.

Anna Arenhart's rebound goal in the second half staked the Mustangs to a 1-0 advantage, but Ladywood senior Kylie Birney dribbled into the circle and scored with only two minutes left in regulation to send it into overtime after 60 minutes.

The two teams were still deadlocked after playing a 10-minute seven-on-sev-

en sudden victory period forcing penalty strokes.

Marian went first with goals by Elle Flynn and Antonia Violante, but Ladywood responded with penalty stroke scores from junior Jackie Snyder, senior Claire McCarthy and senior Molly McLennan to clinch the win.

Ladywood goalie Mackenzie Holme made three saves, while Marian's Grace Lennon had five stops.

"It was a great game and both teams played well," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said.

LADYWOOD 1, CRANBROOK 0: Senior Erin Cronyn's shot off a corner in the first half Saturday was all host Livonia Ladywood (14-2-3) needed to beat Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood in the opening round of the state tournament.

Ladywood goalie Mackenzie Holm made one save, while the Cranes' Colleen Jacob stopped 11 shots.

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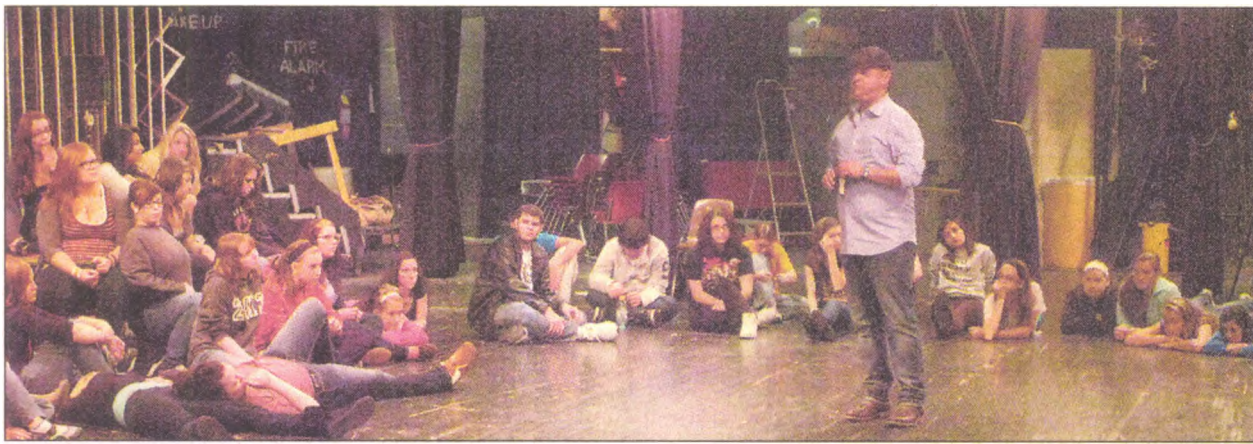
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Mark Teich offers advice to students in the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School in Livonia.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Former Livonia resident Mark Teich shares his knowledge of the performing arts with students at Churchill High in Livonia.

Work hard, be nice

Former Livonia student shares advice about show biz with Churchill CAPA kids

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Mark Teich jokes that he's one of the most famous comedians "people never heard of." The former Livonia resident sold out Carnegie Hall two years ago while touring the country with comedian Stephen Lynch in act. Teich also appeared on two Comedy Central specials, made multiple television appearances and released comedy CDs and a DVD. And that's just his stand-up comedy resume. Teich has acted in numerous stage productions, honed his improv skills at Second City and Improv Olympic, and worked in countless commercial, voice-overs, and print ads. He plays "Principal Jenkins" on *I'm in the Band* and "Mr. Zimbaldi" on *A.N.T. Farm*, both Disney Channel productions, and has guest starred on two other Dis-

ney shows. He's been directed by George Clooney and played opposite Tony Shaloub in the television show, *Monk*. Still, Teich isn't exactly a household name. But the Churchill High School graduate, who is known for his versatile character work on both coasts, takes it all in stride. "You never know where your next job is and you've got to keep working. My struggle and journey is just as difficult as it is for the kids who just got here," said Teich, who lives in Los Angeles, Calif. "In every job interview or audition the key is confidence. If you go in and make good choices and try hard, be polite and pleasant...it really works." Teich, who was in town for his 20-year high school reunion last weekend, shared his experiences and advice with students in the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) program at his

alma mater on Monday, Oct. 24. He led 40-some students in an improv class, listened as they "auditioned" with cold script readings and then brought them together for a Q&A session. Nicklas Casella, a senior, was among the students who read for Teich. "It's really great to have someone here who is in the business, who has gotten jobs on things like Disney channel — that's huge," said Casella, who wants a career in musical theater. "It's great he's willing to share what he has learned from his experience with all of us. It was really fun to do this." **Former teacher** Mary Murphy, CAPA director, taught Teich when he was a CAPA student. She described him as "high energy," and a good student with a "comedic approach" to

his work. "I'm very proud of his accomplishment and so happy that he's here to work with our kids, to share his experience and give them insight and tools that they can use in the real world. It's so vital for these kids to have this kind of information. We're blessed to have him," she said. Teich advised students to "find their voice" and to pursue their own ideas. "You can see what's out there and what's working for people, but you've got to do what you find funny or entertaining or what you're good at, or what your perception of what other people want." He said confidence, hard work and an ability to bounce back after being rejected for a role are all keys to success in the entertainment field. Teich also praised the CAPA program and urged students to take advantage of all it offers. "You've got this amaz-



Teachers Rolfe Bergsman (background, right) and Mary Murphy, along with students in the Creative and Performing Arts program, listen to comedian-actor March Teich talk about show business.

ing environment where no one is hating on you... you've got a training facility where you can try things. That's rare to have in a school. Use it to your advantage. That's what I had and it worked out for me." **Staying grounded** Teich, an only child, discovered acting after being diagnosed with scleroderma, a connective tissue disease, when he was in sixth grade. "I ended up going through a lot of physical therapy and I grew up quickly that year. Luckily for me I found an out-

let and that was performing and being in the arts." He joined the CAPA program in his sophomore year, attended a year at Eastern Michigan University and then switched to Western Michigan University. After graduation he did a stint at Second City, in Chicago and then moved to New York, where he began collaborating for several years while collaborating with Lynch. He moved to Los Angeles in 2003. "When I was at the reunion, people — especially people who had stayed in Livonia — asked what it's like living in L.A. It's not much different. It really isn't. Every place is whatever you make it out to be. Someone could move to Livonia and have it just as good or rough as out here. "It's about what you do, the friends you keep and the perspective you have about every day situations. You've got to keep yourself grounded wherever you are."



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 Thursday, October 27, 6 p.m.
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- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
 Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
 Thursday, November 3, 6 p.m.
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- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
 Guest speaker Ryan Molli, DO
 Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m.
 Call 734-655-2400 to register or for more information.
- **Stress Free Holidays**
 Guest speaker Cynthia Rochon, RN, PMHN, MBA
 Wednesday, November 9, 7 p.m.
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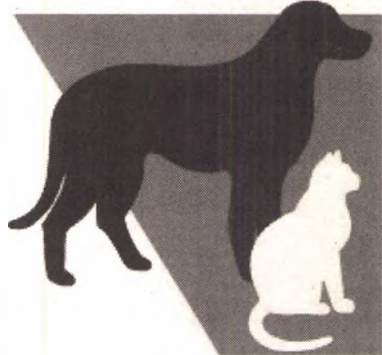
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Adoptable cats go to the movies

Move over, Puss. You won't be the only adorable feline at your film premiere Saturday, Nov. 5, at AMC Livonia 20 Cinema. Almost Home Animal Rescue also will be on hand with adoptable, adorable cats and kittens.



PET PROJECTS

"The theater actually contacted us about doing this and we were thrilled," said Lauren Anchill, an Almost Home member. "We will have as many cats and kittens there as possible, probably around 40."

The adoption event, from noon-5 p.m., coincides with the DreamWorks premiere of the new 3D animated film, *Puss In Boots*, at the AMC Livonia 20 Cinema, 19500 Haggerty, at Seven Mile; (734) 542-3191.

"There is a good chance people will be able to take cats home right then and there but it also depends on the cat," she said. "Our adoption fees for cats are usually \$100 but for special events such as these we usually do a reduced fee around \$25. We have all types of cats — short hair, long hair, blue-eyed, Siamese, polydactyl, Maine coons."

Almost Home Animal

Rescue is based in West Bloomfield and runs a shelter at 25503 Clara Lane, Southfield. For more information about its upcoming cat adoption or other adoptable animals and events, visit www.almosthomeanimals.org or call (248) 200-2695.

Mark your calendar

There's still time to sign up for the 22nd Annual Tail Waggers Bowl, Saturday, Nov. 5 at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Register online at www.tailwaggers1990.org. The event costs \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth and includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, lunch or dinner and a commemorative gift. Registration is due Nov. 1.

Learn to drum at Plymouth arts center

If you've always wanted to play drums, here's your chance to get started.

Pat Sorise, a professional drummer, will teach two four-week classes beginning Wednesday, Nov. 2, at the Artsco House, adjacent to the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) building, 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Intro to Rhythm & Drumming is aimed at ages 4-6 and runs 4:30-5 p.m. and Drum Set 100 is for ages 7 to adult and runs 5:15-6 p.m.

Intro to Rhythm & Drumming will introduce the young student to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes. It also will introduce the drum set. The session costs \$60, or \$50 for PCAC members.

Drum Set 100 will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns. Students will learn about counting, measures, time signatures, different tempos and get a chance to play a full drum set. Cost is \$74/or \$64 for PCAC members. No drumming experience is necessary. The classes are open to all skill levels.

Sorise studied at East Detroit Conservatory under Ray Park-



Drummer Pat Sorise will teach classes for the Plymouth Community Arts Council beginning Nov. 3.

er. He continued to drum through junior and high school and then attended Eastern Michigan University playing with various bands. He has taught classes at Apollo Music in Ann Arbor, Drum Shop in Dearborn and the East Detroit Conservatory. He also teaches private lessons.

Sorise also plays in the band All Directions, which performs at concerts, clubs and private parties.

Register at the PCAC Web site, www.plymoutharts.com, in person at the PCAC or call (734) 416-4278.

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Livonia Garden Club

- Angie Wilkie, a club member, Master Gardener and flower show judge, will explain the basics needed for entering a flower show at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. Visitors are welcome to club meetings.
- The annual Fresh Greens Workshop is set for 9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. To reg-

GARDEN & NATURE

ister, send check for \$24 payable to Livonia Garden Club to Diane Bergendahl, 7841 Oak Knoll Drive, Northville, MI 48168. Participants should bring a box and clippers to the workshop. No refunds after Nov. 1. Questions? Call (248) 486-9676 or e-mail rb@rc.net.

English Gardens

These free in-store demonstrations start at 10 a.m.:

- 2nd Annual Ladies Night runs 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Royal Oak store. The evening will include music, shopping, decorating advice by floral designers and decorators and pampering in a festive holiday setting. Refreshments will be served. The event is free, but

registration is required. Sign up online at www.englishgardens.com

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

Plymouth Nursery

"Christmas Extravaganza," with Christmas sales, refreshments, seminars and a drawing for tickets to *The Nutcracker* will be held Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 12-13, at the store, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, west of Plymouth; (734) 453-5500.

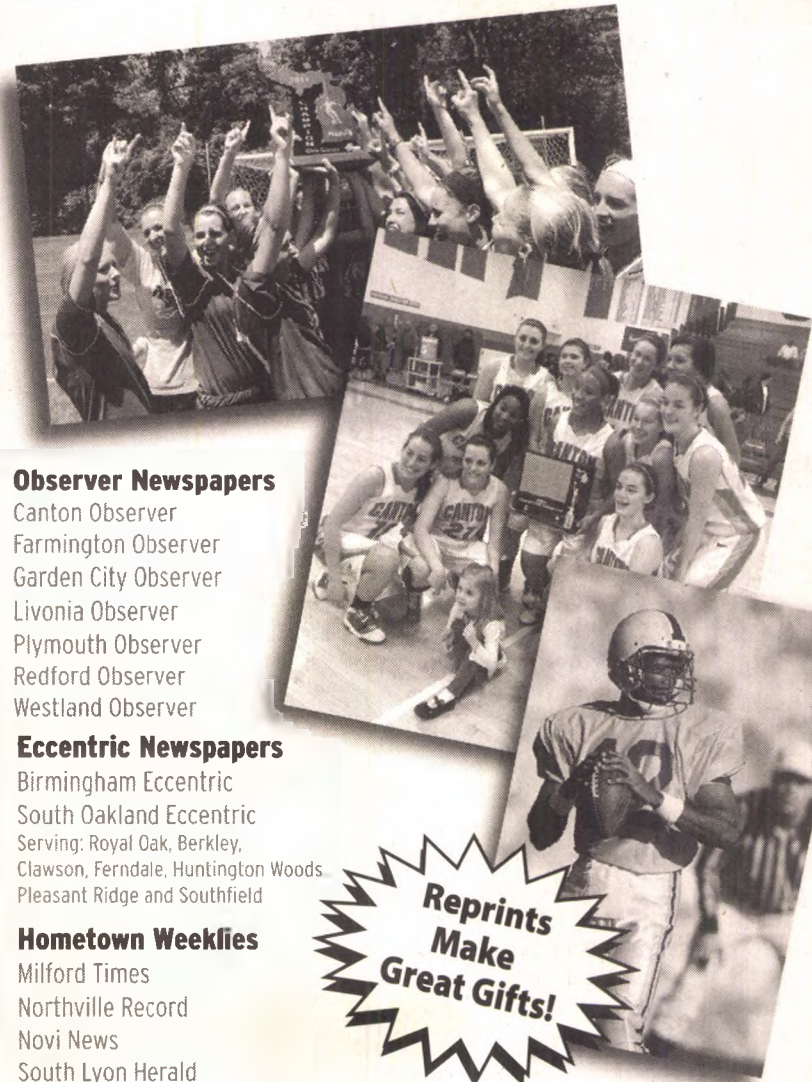
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Kelly Nieto

Thursday, Nov. 3rd at 7 PM

Former Miss Michigan, Kelly Nieto, shares her journey from a very non-religious, secular upbringing to Catholic convert, creator and producer of the Living Stations of the Cross as seen at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

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WATCHFUL WAITING

At times a physician, after speaking with and examining a patient, will not prescribe medicine, order tests, or offer advice. He will tell the patient to return in a week or possibly a month. In the interim, the patient should carry on and observe the pattern of pain or fatigue or whatever matter caused the patient to make an appointment that day. Observation over time is as much an alternative as a non-steroidal medication for possible inflammation.

In arthritic conditions, the greatest use of watchful waiting occurs in back pain. Quick action by a physician occurs in back conditions such as spread of cancer to the spine. However, in most instances back pain from strain or sciatica will clear on its own. A physician will not turn to x-rays of the back or immediately order PT for a patient with acute back pain. Rather, he will turn to time and observation; no interference with the body's effort to right itself, but see the patient again in one or two weeks and check on the patient's progress or lack of it.

Shoulder pain presents another example. Most shoulder pain needs treatment, but not always. The physician may find on examining the patient that range of motion is intact and decide not to inject the shoulder as that procedure is itself a small but definite trauma. The alternative is to ask the patient to return in a week or possibly two weeks, and re-evaluate how the shoulder is doing.

A times, in medicine doing nothing is doing something.

Local celebrities read at festival

The Michigan International Books Festival wraps up Sunday, Oct. 30 with a "celebrity read out loud," books for sale, children's events and seminars.

The festival runs noon to 5 p.m. at Laurel Park Place Mall, 37700 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

The celebrity read on Sunday includes Conrad P. Schwartz, Livonia City Council member, reading children's books at 12:30 p.m.; John Pastor, Livonia City Council member, with children's books at 1:30 p.m.; Pam Rossi, from WCSX and UDetroit Radio, with children's and youth books at 2 p.m.; Deborah Smith Pollard of WJLB, with youth books at 2:30 p.m. and Dr. Roderick Claybrooks, an orthopedic spine surgeon from the Michigan Spine/Brain Association, with college prep books and mentoring at 3 p.m.

A session about ebooks at 11 a.m. kicks off the series of seminars on Sunday and repeats at 3 p.m. Other sessions are Rhonda Knight's aspiring writer's workshop at noon; Mildred "Money Doctor" Dillon with "Money 101" for personal finances at 12:15 p.m.; Patrick Schwerdtfeger's workshop on "Social Media Victories - Real Businesses, Real Campaigns, Real Results," at 1:15 p.m.; Sylvia Hubbard's "Publishing Made Easy" workshop at 2 p.m.; and free home energy consultations with DTE Energy at 4:30 p.m.

For more information call Author Collective, Inc., at (313) 446-2262 or visit www.michiganinternationalbooksfestival.info/index.



Bonita Collins shows her painting, "Hightop," at the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's fall exhibit. Collins won first place for the piece.

Shop and mingle at Women's Expo

The Women's Expo will be open to women of all ages for free, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

More than 45 vendors will be on hand with jewelry, skin care products, accessories, gifts, food and home decor items.

In addition to shopping at the annual event, women can watch Chef Paul's cooking demonstration and hear speakers talk about such topics as "Sparking Healthy Habits" and "Couponing."

Chair massages also will be available. Premium tickets will be available in advance for \$10 per person and will include a delicious continental breakfast, deluxe goody bag, health screenings, and raffle prize tickets.

Get premium tickets at the Summit on the Park or at cantonfun.org through Nov. 7. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information and to view a vendor list, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

Local artists earn honors at VAAL autumn exhibit

Three Livonia artists took top honors in the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's (VAAL) fall art exhibition.

Bonita Collins won first prize for her pop art painting, American Icon Series "Hightop" in acrylic.

A member of the Livonia Arts Commission, Collins is drawn to shapes in her painting, stemming from an early interest in sculpture. She sees forms with the sculptor's eye. She often works with objects that are mundane, like the shoe in her prize winning painting, and gives them a new look.

Collins, who served on the Ontario Provincial Arts Council, lived in Toronto, Ontario, for 28 years, where she was a copy writer and editorial art director of the art magazine, Canadian Art. She has worked in ceramics, sculpting, drawing and painting and holds BFA and MFA degrees from Wayne State University.

Collins said musicians, such as Bob Dylan and John Lennon, as well as artists including Andy Warhol and Franz Kline, inspire her. She refers to her work as "serious fun" and often finds humor in it. She also considers her art to be a social commentary of our time.

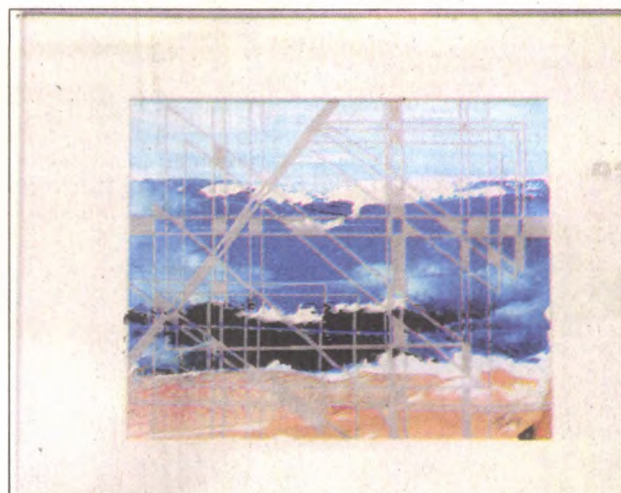
The second place winner was Yvette Goldberg for her acrylic



"Desert Splendor" by Jerry Valentine, third place winner in the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's fall exhibition.

painting called "Seaside Grids," that reflects her love of water. Third place went to Jerry Valentine for his acrylic painting "Desert Splendor."

The following artists received Honorable Mention awards: Virginia Bosak of Livonia, Henry Friedman of West Bloomfield, Diana Jamrog of Livonia, Helena Lewicki of Farmington Hills and Anna Willis of South Lyon. Anna Willis also won the Peoples Choice award for "Are You My Momma?" a painting in colored pencil.



"Seaside Grids" by Yvette Goldberg, second place winner.


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Pat Lyden, RN and Four Seasons' Administrator said, "You typically find people with respiratory therapy credentials in a hospital. Four Seasons is on the cutting edge."

"Most facilities don't offer in-wall oxygen," said Roger Fox. "It's a luxury not offered everywhere and why we're able to care for some pretty special patients."

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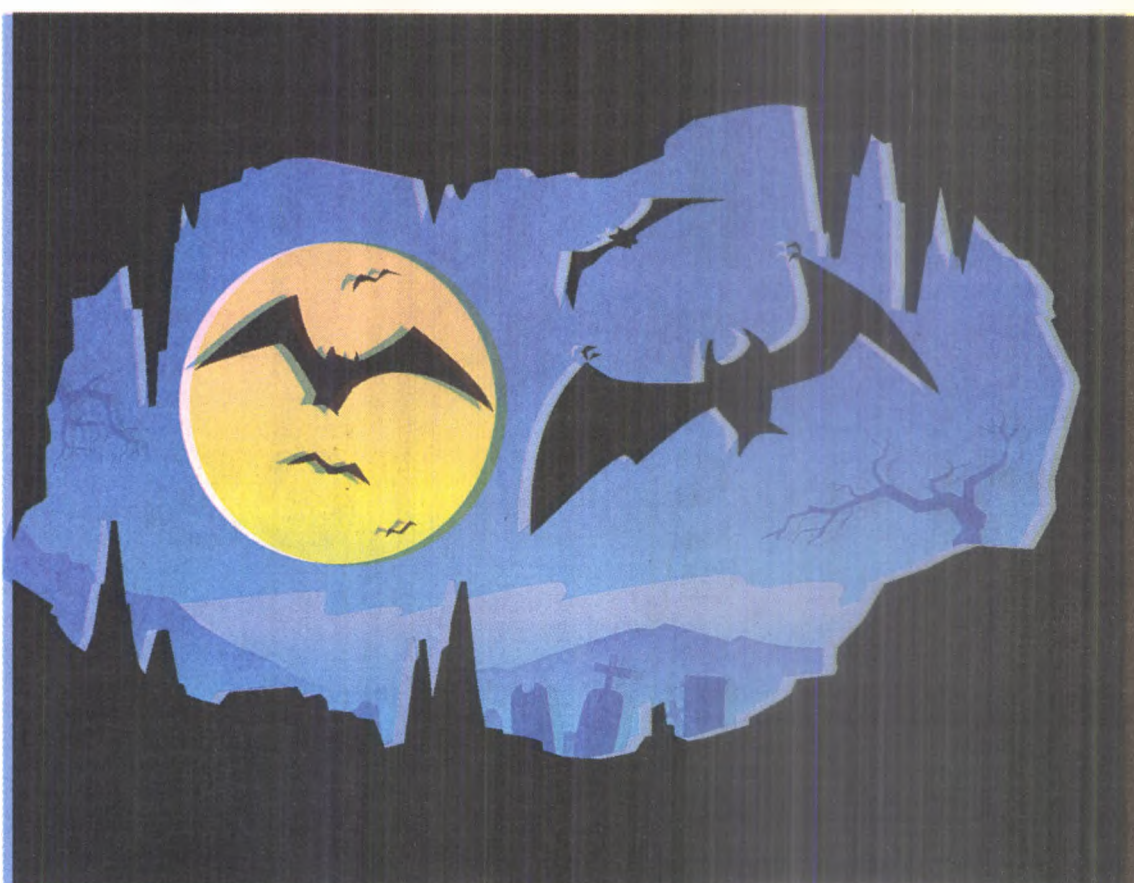
Have a good time: Practice safety with Halloween treats, partytime snacks

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development urges parents to take precautions and follow safe food handling tips this Halloween.

"By following quick trick-or-treat tips, parents are making sure their little monsters and princesses are going to be eating safe treats," said Kevin Bese, food and dairy division director for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. "It's also important to make sure the foods you serve at your Halloween get-togethers are handled safely to prevent foodborne illness."

Bese offers these quick trick-or-treat tips:

- Tell children to reject — and especially not eat — anything that isn't commercially wrapped. Avoid eating home-made treats unless you know the cook well.
- When children bring their treats home, discard any home-made candy or baked goods. Parents of young children also should remove choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies and small toys.
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusu-



al appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

- Parents should wash all fresh fruit thoroughly and inspect it for holes, includ-

ing small punctures. Fruit should be cut open before allowing kids to eat it.

- Some Halloween treats may trigger allergic reactions. Read the complete label and ingredient list of products before interpreting

it is safe for all to eat.

- To help prevent children from eating uninspected treats while they're out trick-or-treating, give them a snack or light meal before they go.
- If juice or cider is served to children at Halloween parties,

make sure it is pasteurized or otherwise treated to destroy harmful bacteria. Juice or cider that has not been treated will say so on the label.

- Proper hand washing is essential to food safety. Remind kids to wash their hands before eating.
- When in doubt, throw it out!

If your Halloween celebration includes a party, remember: Halloween is spooky enough without having foodborne bacteria crash the party. The Partnership for Food Safety Education offers these safe food tips for Halloween:

- When whipping up Halloween treats, don't taste dough and batters that contain uncooked eggs.
- Scare foodborne bacteria away by keeping all perishable foods chilled until serving time.
- At serving time, keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- Throw away any perishable leftovers at the end of your party that have been kept at room temperature for more than two hours.

For more information on food safety, visit www.michigan.gov/foodsafety, www.foodsafety.gov, or www.fightbac.org.

REUNIONS

Send information on local class reunions to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971

Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/RE-

UNIONS.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

LADYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1961

Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact informa-

tion. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

REDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971

40th reunion, 7 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Livonia Marriott. Cost is \$45 per person and includes strolling dinner and DJ. Cash Bar. Contact Susan (Brock) Pfeiffer at (248) 360-8437 or Susan (Matheson)

Plaine at (248) 752-3618 for more information and address to send check. Also listed on Facebook.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

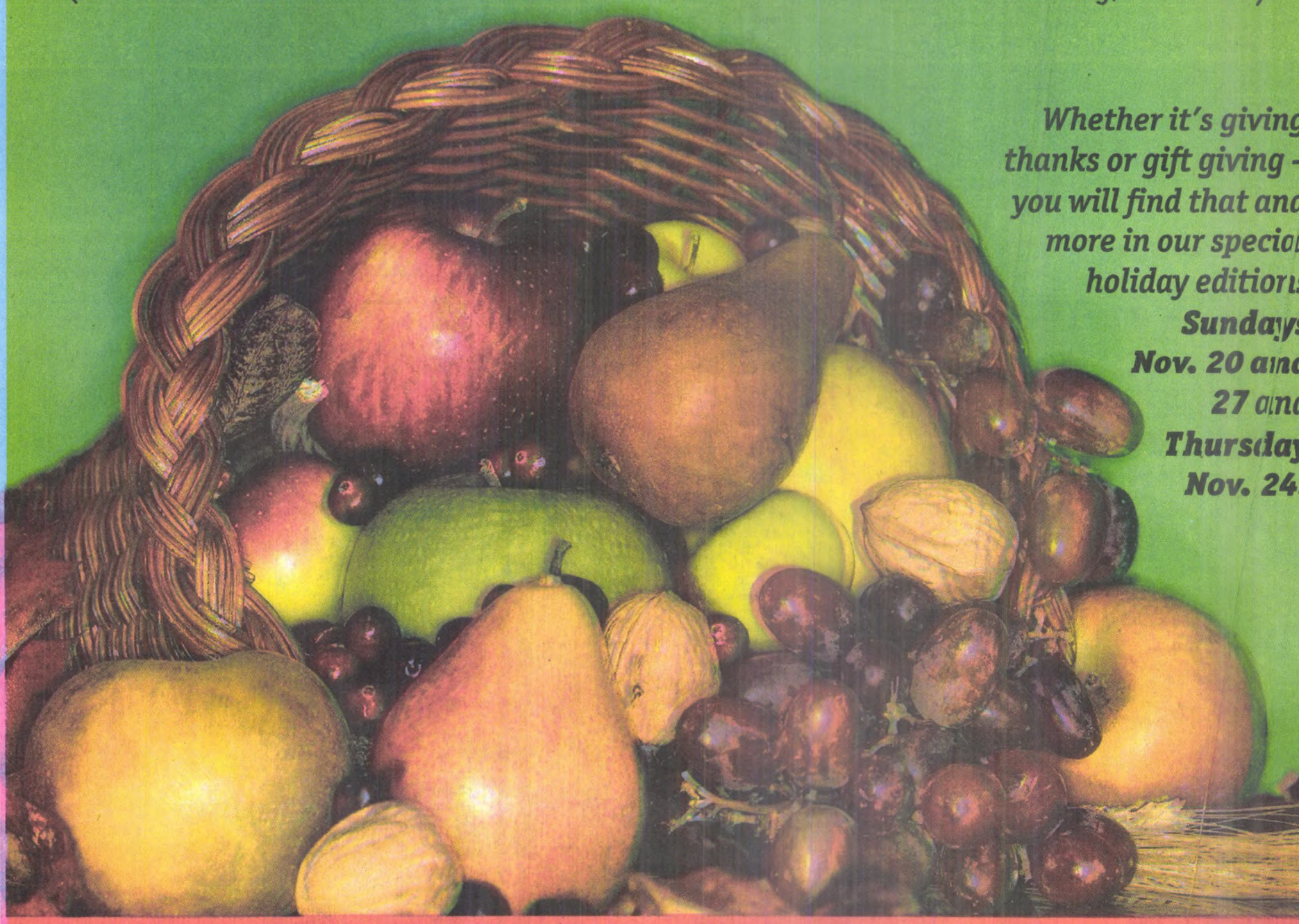
CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19, 2012. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

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Poll shows children lack early dental care

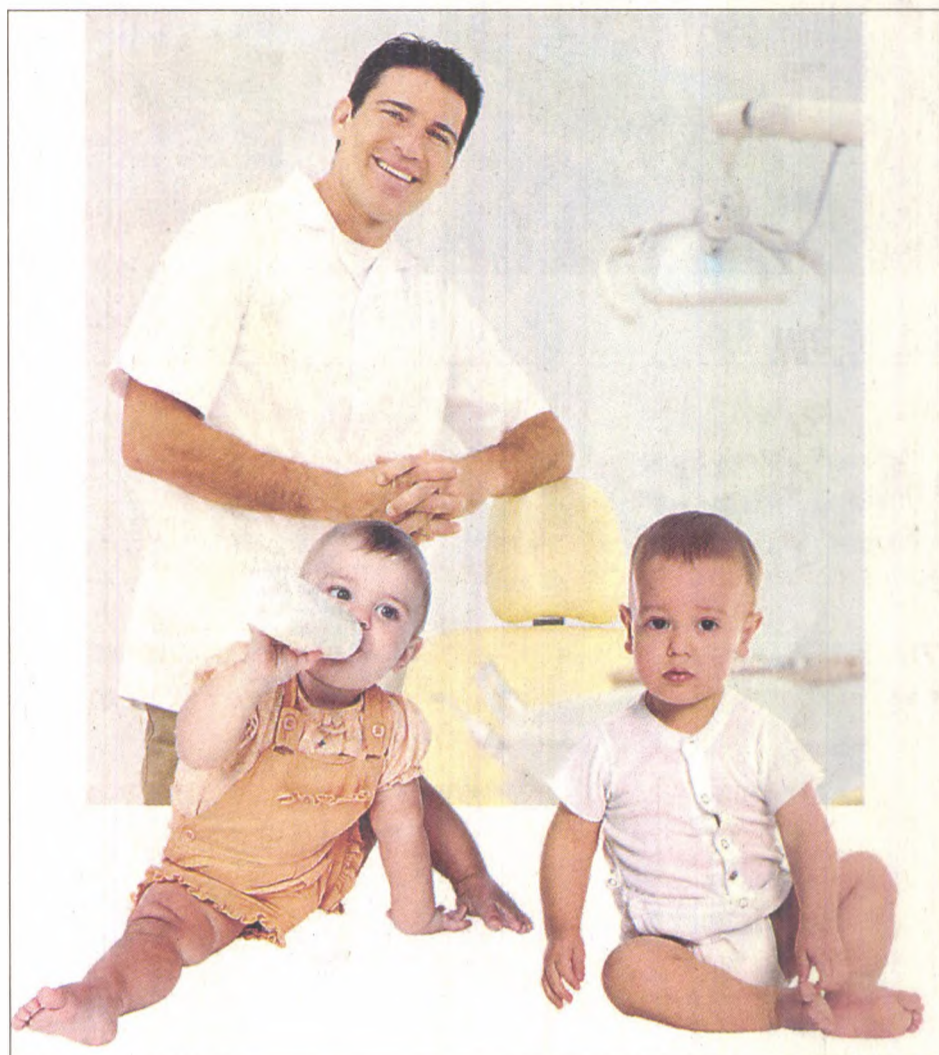
Health experts recommend that children begin oral health care by age 1 or when their first teeth emerge, but a national poll found that only 23 percent of 1-year-olds had been to the dentist.

"Dental problems such as early childhood caries (cavities in the baby teeth) are the leading cause of chronic disease for young children," said Sarah Clark, associate director of the Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Unit at the University of Michigan. "Most dental problems can be prevented through good oral health care."

The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health earlier this year asked parents of children ages 1-5 about dental health care for young children. Some respondents may not be aware of recommendations for early dental health care. Finding a dentist who will see young children - especially those covered by Medicaid - also can be a problem.

Pediatricians and other health care providers can help parents understand the need for early oral health care during their child's wellness exam.

"Well-child visits are critical to making sure that parents understand their role in preventing dental problems, such as how to clean the child's baby teeth and the importance of avoiding sugary beverages and bottles in the crib," Clark said. "Well-child visits are also a key opportunity for a health professional to examine the child's baby teeth and make sure that children with early signs of decay are strongly encouraged to see a dentist."



ly encouraged to see a dentist."

However, less than half of the parents with children, age 1-2, who were polled said dental care was discussed at their child's most recent well-child visit. Less than half of parents said their health care providers talked to them about cleaning their child's teeth or taking their child to the dentist. One in three children didn't have their teeth examined by their health care provider.

"We know that not all children will see a dentist at age 1, but on the other hand, almost all children have well-child visits

The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health earlier this year asked parents of children ages 1-5 about dental health care for young children. Some respondents may not be aware of recommendations for early dental health care. Finding a dentist who will see young children - especially those covered by Medicaid - also can be a problem.

with a pediatrician or other health care provider," Clark said. "The results of this poll indicate that we need to improve the way oral health issues are

addressed during well-child visits so that parents fully understand the need for good oral health care."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

November

FATIGUE

Dr. Stephanie Rose will offer a free presentation on fatigue and explain why individuals feel fatigued and what they can do about it, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 34024 W. Eight Mile, Suite 104, in the Echo Court building, Farmington Hills. Reserve a spot by calling (248) 888-8183.

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

The hospital offers Silver Lining, a five-week wellness program for women cancer survivors. The program is free and designed for women who have survived any type of cancer. It includes meditation, yoga, breast awareness/self-exam, mindful listening and expressive writing. The program helps cancer survivors explore and heal the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of the disease. The program meets for five weeks, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Thursday, Nov. 10 through Dec. 15. All interested participants must attend an evening information/registration session on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Beaumont Cancer Institute in Royal Oak. Participants must be 18 years or older and have completed their cancer treatments. Call Pam Jablonski at (248) 551-4645.

HEALTH CLASS

The National Kidney Foundation presents a free workshop designed to help individuals manage long-term health conditions, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7-Dec. 12 at American House, 11525 Farmington Road, Livonia. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) class is aimed at individuals with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, bronchitis, asthma, and depression. Workshops are conducted by trained leaders who hold informal, small group

discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Facilitators discuss ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from physical activity. To register or learn more about this program, call Elizabeth Star at (734) 425-3050.

ST. MARY MERCY

The Michigan Bariatric Institute at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars, 6-7:30 p.m. in the hospital's auditorium. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of minimally invasive and bariatric surgery and Dr. Jacob Roberts, bariatric surgeon, present information about laparoscopic bariatric surgery. Sessions are Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. For information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) Why-Weight. It's located at 14555 Levan, Suite 311, in the Marian Professional Building, Livonia.

MAPLEGROVE CENTER

A free public panel discussion will address the questions and concerns parents and other family members have about young people who may be using drugs or alcohol, 7-9 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital Ravitz Atrium, 6777 West Maple, West Bloomfield. Betty Conger, Maplegrove Children and Family Program coordinator, will make the keynote presentation on how to better understand and guide young adults who may be struggling with making healthy, mature decisions. Other panelists include Judge Linda Davis with the Macomb County District Court and Families Against Narcotics; Dawn Kepler, Prevention Network College Program coordinator; Tom Ghena, administrative director of Maplegrove Center; as well as a family in recovery. Register at (248) 661-6170 or mce_cp@hfhs.org.

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