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McCotter resigns position, cites 'nightmarish month and a half'

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter has resigned.

The five-term Congressman from Livonia has ended his term six months early after what he called a "nightmarish month and a half" in apparent reference to his duplicated signatures on petitions turned into the Secretary of State that resulted in an investigation by state Attorney General Bill Schuette. The duplicate signatures were invalidated, so he fell short of the minimum signatures required to run.

McCotter

On Thursday, *The Detroit News* reported that McCotter also wrote a TV pilot, described by *The News* as a "crude variety show," last year as it appeared his presidential campaign was failing.

Late Friday afternoon, McCotter issued the following statement:

"Today I have resigned from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District. After nearly 26 years in elected office, this past nightmarish month and a half have, for the first time, severed the necessary harmony between the needs of my constituency and of my family. As this harmony is required to serve, its absence requires I leave.

"The recent event's totality of calumnies, indignities and deceits have weighed most heavily upon my family. Thus, acutely aware one cannot rebuild their hearth of home amongst the ruins of their U.S. House office, for the sake of my loved ones I must 'strike another match, go

Please see MCCOTTER, A3

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Seven-year-old Nicklaus Williams is ready to roll in the bike parade.

Plymouth celebrates Fourth of July holiday

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

As Cameron Adamski was pulled by his dad in the group of bicyclists who opened the annual Good Morning USA parade in downtown Plymouth Wednesday, his mom, Kristin, was considering pulling off the triple play of Fourth of July events in Plymouth.

The family, Plymouth residents, had already attended Tuesday night's weather-threatened fireworks display, then got up early to participate in the 9 a.m. start of the annual parade. On deck following that: Plymouth Township's Good Old Fashion picnic at Plymouth Township Park.

"(The fireworks) was just phenomenal," said Adamski, whose brother-in-law, visiting from California, agreed. "These are the kinds of events that bring people together. It's a fantastic event."

Tuesday's fireworks drew an enthusiastic crowd to Plymouth Township Park, despite the rain — "It stopped just in time," township supervisor Richard Reaume said — that threatened the event.

And Wednesday's parade drew a huge crowd, with some observers estimating it was even bigger than last year's. It was the second straight year the parade started at 9 a.m., after beginning for years a couple of hours earlier.

Dylan DeSantis and Lauren Jacoboni compete in the pie eating contest, sponsored by Grand Traverse Pie Company.

The thousands who lined main street saw much the standard fare — the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps, the Redford Township unicyclers, entertainers Mark Randisi and Steve King & the Dittilies.

They stood and offered their loudest cheers for the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 and the veterans who followed.

When the parade was over, scores of people made their way back out to Plymouth Township Park, where organizers had hot dogs, chips, pop and ice cream on hand, and ran a variety of events for children, including the annual bike-decorating contest.

Please see HOLIDAY, A5

Sgt. Joseph Girolamo salutes during the Plymouth "Good Morning USA" parade on the fourth of July. The 91-year-old veteran, who served in the US Army's 2755 Combat Engineer Company during World War II, lives in Livonia.

Art in the Park returns to Plymouth

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The best-established and perhaps biggest of its many festivals returns to downtown Plymouth next weekend.

Art in the Park, which will bring together more than 400 artists and crafters from around the U.S. for three days, opens at 11 a.m. Friday in Kellogg Park and on surrounding streets. Artists will be on hand, and their works in many media, including painting, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, woodwork, photography, glass and fiber, will be for sale.

"A lot of fun things coming together," said festival founder Dianne Quinn, who now runs the festival with daughter, Raychel Rork. "I'm looking forward to a really spectacular show."

Art in the Park was launched in 1980; this year's festival will be the 33rd.

In addition to the artists and their displays, this year's Art in the Park will include daily shows by the reggae band One Love; the family friendly My Adventure Theater, with actors chosen on the spot and audience participation encouraged; an assortment of food booths; Slurpee samples from 7-Eleven; and favorite displays from past years, including the Living Art Mural (incorporating canvas, paint and human figures); George Tait's Living Statue; and a chalk mural at Main and Penniman (a reproduction of an Edouard Manet painting).

The Living Mural is done by Kristen Dillenbeck-Anderson of New York, formerly of Canton Township, and the chalk murals are by her sister Erin Dillenbeck, who lives in Canton.

New this year, Quinn said, is an enlarged section for children artists, near the Kellogg Park fountain. Quinn said 25 young artists, working in a variety of media, will be displaying their works.

"Because we've had so much interest in that section, we've expanded it," she said.

Several streets in downtown Plymouth will be closed because of the event, and a free Art in the Park shuttle service will run, all three days, between City Hall and the ACH (formerly Visteon) plant on Sheldon Road at M-14.

For details on Art in the Park, including festival hours, show times for One Love and shuttle details, visit the website www.artinthepark.com.

Art in the Park is expected to again draw huge crowds to downtown Plymouth.

Voter deadline

Municipal clerks are reminding voters the last day to register to vote for the August primary is Monday.

The City of Plymouth clerk's office is located at city hall, 203 S. Main in Plymouth. Plymouth Township voters should check with the township clerk's office, 9955 N. Haggerty, in Plymouth Township.

Autism panel

Gov. Rick Snyder announced appointments to the recently created Autism Council, including two appointees from Plymouth.

The 12-member council was announced in June and will operate within the state Department of Community Health to oversee Michigan's Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) State Plan. Appointees included:

- Kimberly Gaedeke of Plymouth, who will represent the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) for a two-year term. Gaedeke founded C&K Strategies, LLC, an issue advocacy firm, and has a bachelor's in political science and public policy from Western Michigan University.
- Elizabeth Knisely, also of Plymouth, is director of the Bureau of Community Mental Health Services within DCH's Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration. She previously worked at Common Ground Sanctuary serving as vice president of psychiatric services, staff nurse and manager for the crisis screening unit, and as a psychiatric screener.

Photo finish

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the photographic works of Bruce Giffin through July 30 in the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org.

Photo buys

If you've ever seen a photo in the *Plymouth Observer* and thought, "I just have to have that photo," you're in luck. Any staff photo is available for purchase online. All you have to do is simply click on the "buy photo" button and a new browser window will open to the photo store.

Anyone who needs help should contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com or by calling (313) 222-8730.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

TRAIL CLEANUP

Date/Time: Thursday, July 12, 6:30-9 p.m.

Location: Meet on the trail or in the parking lot on the north side of Hines Drive just east of Northville Road.

Details: Join the Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail for a trail work day. Despite the hot, dry weather, the vegetation is growing out of control, so volunteers will be beating back the brush on the section just north of Hines Drive. Bring clippers, pruners, loppers, scythes/sickles, rakes, brooms and anything else that would be helpful for trimming the brush. Make sure to wear protective eye wear, work gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt; poison ivy is always a concern. Water and light snacks will be provided.

Contact: For more information call Dave Duffield at (248) 994-3074, or visit us on Facebook or our Webpage: http://www.I-275.michigantrails.org.

TINY TOTS

Location: The Salvation Army Plymouth, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Salvation Army is taking registration for its Tiny Tots Preschool and Young 5s program. Classes range from 2-4 days a week, depending on the child's age. A four-day Young 5s program is new for 2012/13.

Contact: Sheila Johnson, preschool director, (734) 453-5464, Ext. 27, or email sheila_johnson@usc.salvationarmy.org

WRESTLING CAMP

Date/Time: July 16-19, 5:30-8 p.m.

Location: Salem High School

Details: Salem Wrestling is holding a summer wrestling camp for all 7-12th graders that are attending and/or going to be attending Salem High School. The cost is $25 which includes a camp T-shirt. All current Salem wrestlers are required to attend and will concentrate on technique and conditioning. It will be run by current Salem Assistant Varsity Coach and High School State Wrestling Champion Jeremy Henderson.

Contact: Coach Henderson at jhendy189@gmail.com or visit www.wrestling.salemrocks.com for more information.

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Salvation Army gets 'major' changes

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After three years in Owosso, Majs. Keith and Colette Bailey take over the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps, replacing Majs. Dan and Jolene Hull.

The Salvation Army has moved Majs. Keith and Colette Bailey around more than perhaps the couple would have liked over the last few years.

But it's tough for the couple to complain about the assignments. After all, their last assignment took them home to the Owosso corps, a stone's throw from where they grew up in Flint.

And their latest assignment, as the new corps officers for the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps, brought them to what both acknowledge is "the jewel" assignment in the state.

They replace Majs. Dan and Jolene Hull, who were reassigned to the Salvation Army's Divisional headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind.

"We have heard absolutely nothing negative about Plymouth," Colette Bailey said. "There's so much cooperation around here, and the support for the Salvation Army (from the community) is amazing."

The Baileys were ordained in 1985, coming a little later to the calling than many ministers. They were the third-oldest couple in their session.

"We had our oldest son with us when we went to training," Keith Bailey said. "We worked out our ministry with our family while we were there."

Landing spot

After bouncing around from places like Oshkosh, Wis., and Grand Forks, N.D., the Baileys were in Terre Haute, Ind., when they got word they were returning home, to the Owosso Corps. Keith said he didn't even tell Colette — "I wanted to be absolutely sure, because I know she'd be excited," he said — until they had orders in hand.

The couple had to rebuild the Owosso corps, which had been closed for years. They re-established the corps and got it up and running — then got orders for Plymouth.

"We were there just long enough to get it going," Colette said. "You were just beginning to see the congregation growing, just getting a taste of what it was going to be like, and then you get moved."

And now they're in Plymouth.

It's the latest stop on an unexpected journey. Keith Bailey had never had much interest in ministering. Working for AC Spark Plug in Flint and attending church with Colette, he finally gave his life to the Lord. He'd been having "long conversations" with his father about his faith, and "I was losing the argument," Keith says now.

He finally told Colette he felt the calling to enter the Salvation Army. Colette, who grew up around it — her dad was the sergeant major in Flint — was stunned.

"I thought he was nuts," she admitted, laughing. "I told him, 'You have no idea what you're getting yourself into.'"

Small world

He does now, and the couple — married for 35 years — has been ministering for the Salvation Army for some 27 years.

It's not the Baileys' first connection with the Plymouth Corps. They are friends with former corps officers Steve and Jackie Hull. Jackie Hull's dad grew up with Colette's dad.

Keith Bailey said he used to bounce Steve and Jackie's son, Phil, the son of Steve and Jackie Hull, on his knee.

"Now (Phil Hull) is the worship leader here," Keith Hull said, shaking his head with a smile. "It's a small world."

They'll attack it the way they always have. Keith is more the preacher, using his guitar and music skills to help get his message across. Colette is the "kid person," which means the youth ministry in Plymouth will get her attention.

"The youth is the key thing," Colette said. "Hopefully, it'll reflect in the growth of the congregation here."

That'll be a bit of a switch in Plymouth, where the congregation is made up of older folks.

"You have no idea what getting (older congregations) to accept young people will be like," Colette said. "That's going to be a challenge."

They've looked at the staff — "We couldn't be blessed with better people," Keith said — and the programs, and can already tell how the Salvation Army is perceived in the community. The Baileys just want to continue that.

"(Programs) show the Salvation Army is valued in the community," Colette said. "That doesn't always happen."

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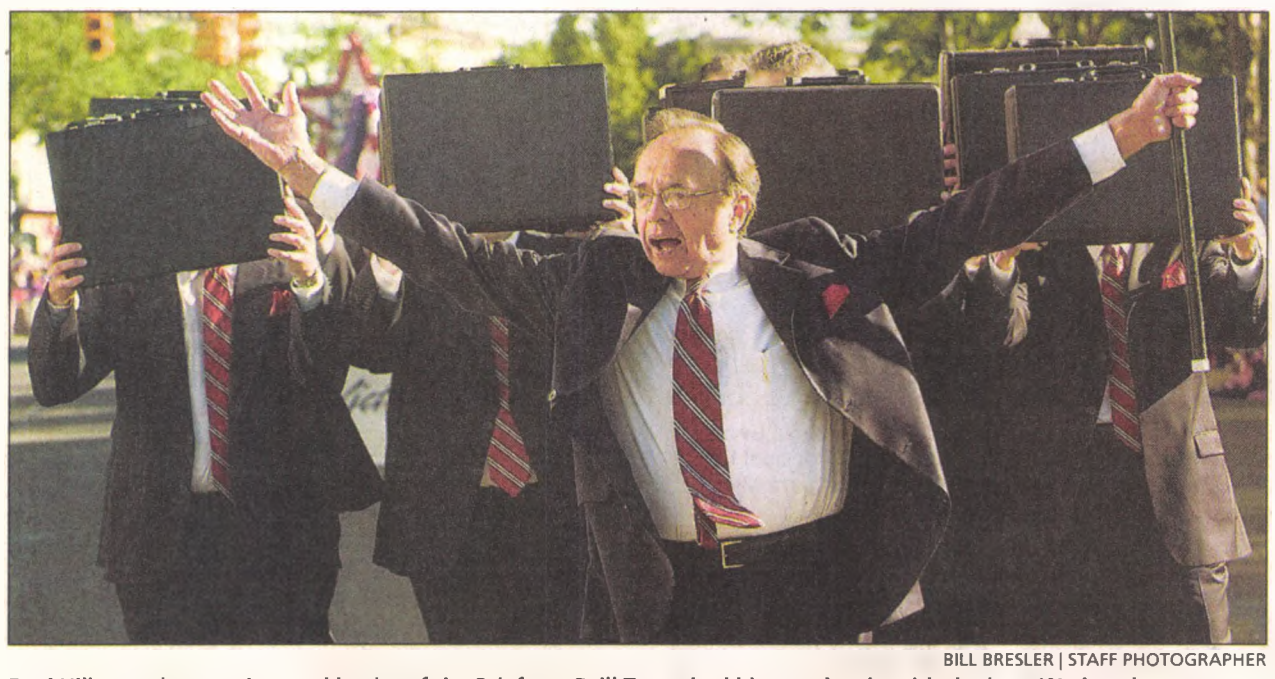

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fred Hill, parade organizer and leader of the Briefcase Drill Team, had his own battle with the heat Wednesday.

Plymouths battle heat wave

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Amid soaring temperatures and a slate of outdoor community events, officials in Plymouth and Plymouth Township were keeping an eye on public health last week.

But the heat wave — the area's high temperature hit 102 on Wednesday and neared 100 Friday afternoon — didn't prompt any extraordinary measures, nor a spike in heat-related medical runs, officials said.

"Knock on wood, no," said Northville Fire Chief James Allen on Friday when asked if his department had responded to a lot of heat-related medical emergencies. "It's hard to believe."

Allen said that with the recent long stretch of hot weather and increased public awareness of the importance of keeping cool and drinking plenty of water, "I think people have learned to make the best of it." The Northville Fire Department, along with the nonprofit Huron Valley Ambulance, responds to medical emergencies in the city.

"We've not seen anything significant heat-related at all," said Chief Mark Wendel of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which along with HVA serves Plymouth Township. "I think people are much more educated now about heat-related incidents."

Allen and Wendel had simple advice for people out in the heat: drink plenty of water, wear a hat for sun protection, don't overexert, and keep in the shade as much as possible.

Fred Hill, who organized and marched in Wednesday's Good Morning America Parade in Plymouth for the Fourth of July, apparently had a bad reaction to the heat at the close of the parade and was briefly hospitalized.

Hill said he was feeling weak when a volunteer asked if he was OK, and it dawned on him that he wasn't.

"I think several of the Briefcase Drill Team guys grabbed me so I didn't hit the ground," Hill said. An ambulance crew tended to him and took him to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where he was kept cool and given liquids and released after about a two-hour stay, he said.

Hill said on Friday that he felt well. He is the founder and leader of the Briefcase Drill Team, a fixture at parades locally and nationally.

"It was a hot day and I started really early in the morning" for the parade, he said. "I was paying more attention to getting the parade going."

In Plymouth, thousands of people were expected at Kellogg Park Friday evening to hear Steve King and the Dittilies, usually the top draw during the Downtown Development Authority's Music in the Air concert series. DDA director Tony Bruscato said both a fire department ambulance and HVA paramedics would be standing by for the concert in case of medical emergencies, heat-related or otherwise.

"It's going to be very hot at concert time," Bruscato said. "Hopefully ... people will bring plenty of water."

Officially, Bruscato said, the city had no cooling center, but unofficially, residents who decided the heat was too much for them could go to the Plymouth Cultural Center and take refuge in the air-conditioned lounge.

Similarly, township Supervisor Richard Reaume said the township didn't have a cooling center, but was prepared to take action in partnership with the city should the need arise.

MCCOTTER

Continued from page A1

start anew' by embracing the promotion back from public servant to sovereign citizen.

"I do not leave for an existing job and face diminishing prospects (and am both unwilling and ill-suited to lobby), my priorities are twofold: find gainful employment to help provide for my family; and continue to assist, in any way they see fit, the Michigan Attorney General's earnest and thorough investigation, which I requested, into the 2012 petition filing.

"While our family takes this step into the rest of our lives, we do so with the ultimate confidence in our country's future. True, as at other times in the life of our nation, we live in an Age of Extremes that prizes intensity over sanity; rhetoric over reality; and destruction over creation. But this too shall pass, thanks to the infinite, inspired wisdom of the sovereign people who, with God's continued blessings, will again affirm for the generations American Exceptionalism. Truly, it is a challenging and fortunate time to live in our blessed sanctuary of liberty.

"In closing, to the people of Michigan's 11th Congressional District, I can but say this: Thank you for the privilege of having worked for you."

In the statement, McCotter's press spokesperson Randall Thompson indicated that the Washington, D.C., Milford and Livonia offices will continue to operate under the direction of the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives. "Staff will still be available to serve the needs of the citizens of the 11th Congressional District for any constituent needs," the statement reads.

McCotter also reaffirmed that he will not conduct any interviews until the findings of the Michigan Attorney General's investigation have been made public. "As a private citizen, Mr. McCotter will reserve comments until this time," the statement reads.

Contacted late Friday, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said he was shocked and surprised by McCotter's resignation.

"I thought he'd at least finish out his term, but at the same time I realize the importance of keeping your family foremost in your thoughts," Kirksey said. "I hope his future will work out well for him."

Michigan Republican Party Chairman Bobby Schostak issued the following statement: "We wish Congressman McCotter and his family the best and thank him for his time serving our state. The Michigan Republican Party remains concentrated and focused on ensuring the 11th Congressional District receives common-sense Republican representation this fall."

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Board of Education President John Barrett talks about Leola Gee's work with The Perspective, the student newspaper of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Board of Education President John Barrett, Leola Gee and retired Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski after Gee was honored with the Extra Miler Award.

Gee a whiz at Extra Miler

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Bill Zolkowski noticed something in the halls of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park this past year he hadn't seen in his previous years as the park principal.

Students were walking the hallways, reading the school newspaper, *The Perspective*, as they moved along from class to class.

Seeing students reading the paper wasn't so unusual; it was more seeing them occasionally bump into each other while they walked and read that impressed Zolkowski.

That kind of renewed respect for the student paper is an indication of the effect journalism advisor Leola Gee had in her first year leading both the newspaper and the yearbook staffs.

And that's why Gee was recently awarded with the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award.

"Speaking on behalf of Leola Gee is a daunting task," said Zolkowski, who recently retired as the park's first, and only, principal. "What I see are the tangible products she leads students to produce. They say a great deal about who she is."

Gee, an English teacher at Plymouth High School, was nominated for the award by Zolkowski's secretary, Barb Zdrodowski. The Extra Miler award is presented by the Board of Education for "demonstrating qualities of which the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools could and should be justly proud."

Zdrodowski, in her nomination, called Gee the "epitome of an educator."

In addition to the award-winning school paper, Gee advises students on the Park's yearbook, which Board of Education President John Barrett called "a work of art."

"They call her a park treasure," Barrett said of Gee. "I think everyone agrees."

While Gee called the award "touching" and said it was "an honor" to receive it, she quickly pointed to the efforts of everyone else involved.

"Nobody walks that second mile alone," Gee said. "This room is filled with people who walk it every day. I so much appreciate their support."

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School receives flag flown in Afghanistan

There's now a special American flag flying over Plymouth-Canton Montessori School. The flag previously flew over the U.S. Army's base camp at Kandahar's Valhalla Compound in Afghanistan.

Students recently received the flag with a certificate of recognition from the Department of the Army after they sent 90 personalized, hand-written cards and gifts over the Christmas holidays last year to soldiers stationed in Afghanistan.

Carolyn Pelli, who serves on the school's staff, learned from family friend and U.S. serviceman, Jake Harrison, how much mail means to soldiers. Harrison, a former Marine who will be returning in November from a tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army, told Pelli that receiving mail can mean all the difference between having a good day or a bad day.

The students and teachers quickly responded by collecting wipes, Chapstick, candy and baked goods, and making cards for delivery to the soldiers overseas.

"We feel very honored and proud to have received this flag," said Linda Myers, administrator for Plymouth-Canton Montessori.

The school's nine-week summer camp began is underway. For additional information, call (734) 459-1550 or visit www.pcmontessori.org.

Students and staff of Plymouth-Canton's Montessori's three classes are pictured outside the school.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Math all-stars

The Michigan All-Star team of 45 high school mathematics students fielded three teams in the 23rd American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition earlier this month on the campuses of the University of Iowa, Pennsylvania State University, University of Georgia, and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

The Michigan team competed in Iowa. A total of 140 teams of 15 students each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. International teams competed in the International Regions Mathematics League (IRML).

Plymouth-Canton students taking part included Natasha Consul of Salem High School and Plymouth High School students Kevin Shi and Nitin Ram.

Members of the Michigan team were selected from the top 100 students out of about 10,000 who participated in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) last fall, an activity of the Mathematical Association of America-Michigan Section.

The competition consists of several events, which include a team round, a power question (in which a team solves proof-oriented questions), an individual round, two relay rounds (in which a contestant solves a problem and passes his/her answer to another team member, who uses this answer to solve another problem), and a super relay.

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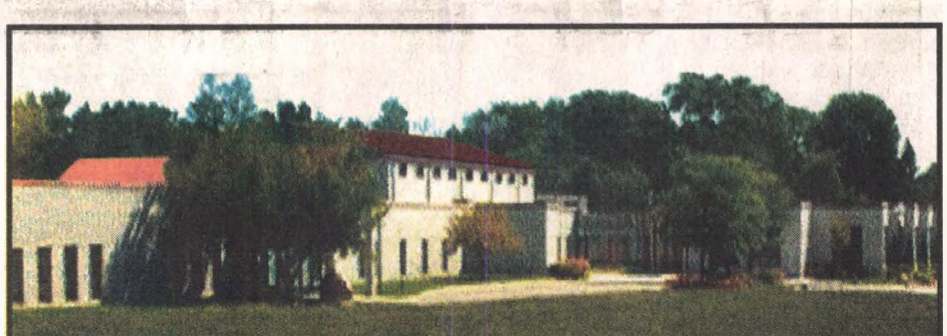

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

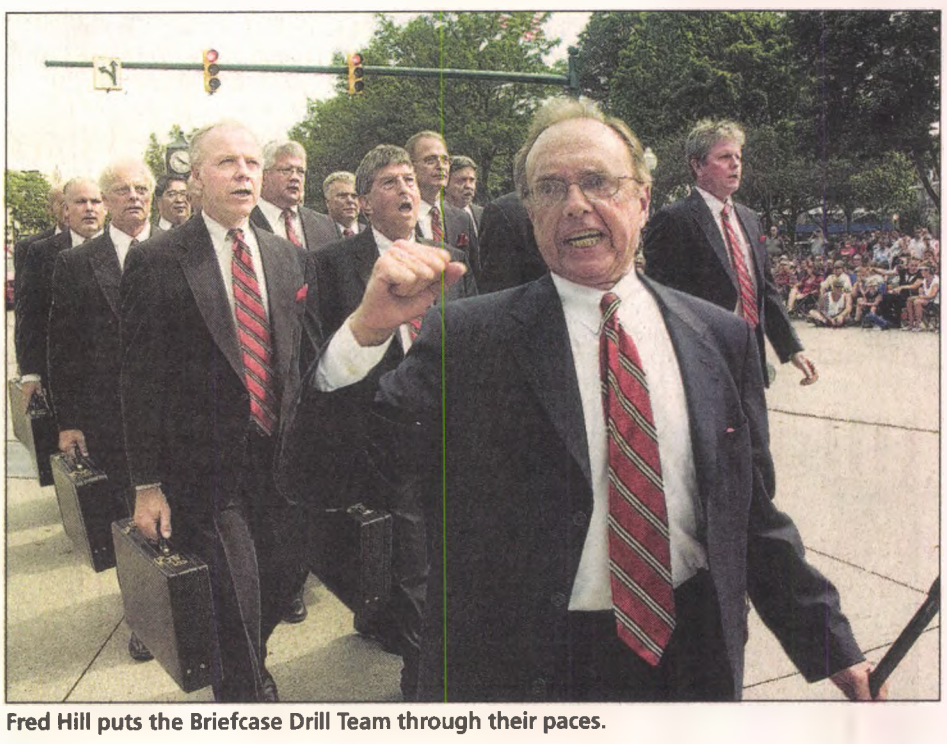
Area Vietnam veterans drew loud applause and appreciation as they walked Wednesday's parade route.

Kirk and Ginny Weaver arrived in time to get a good seat for the parade. They are from Canton.

Jill Andra Young and Henri ride along with the Bark For Life Canton group.

The Plymouth Canton Marching Band is in the house.

Picnic volunteer Mindy Ozdarski delivers another tray of hot dogs for the picnic crowds. Volunteers grilled, bunned, wrapped and served about 6,000 of them.



Fred Hill puts the Briefcase Drill Team through their paces.

The park's splash pad is a popular spot on a sizzling 4th of July.

HOLIDAY

Continued from page A1

Steve and Sandy Marulis were in Seattle, Wash., over the previous weekend for a wedding, but made sure they were back in time to take their traditional place as Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty, walking the parade route for the "seventh or eighth" year, according to Sandy.

"We will always come back for this," said Sandy Marulis, who with Steve has done her share of traveling since retiring from their downtown store, Michigan Made & More. "This is a priority."

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Taj gets local Dems' nod; Roberts wants Obama impeached

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

The 11th Congressional District race for the Democratic Party nomination is between an Asian-born doctor and a longtime supporter of Lyndon LaRouche who wants to see President Barack Obama impeached.

Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton resident who recently retired as chief of medicine at Oakwood Hospital, has received support from the 11th Congressional Democrats and local Democratic clubs throughout the district.

Bill Roberts, 31, has worked for 11 years with Lyndon LaRouche on what Roberts said was restoring the "FDR legacy of policy making," but he also worked recently to impeach Obama. Several LaRouche supporters, including Roberts, stood outside local post offices in the area and on street corners holding up photos of Obama with a Hitler-style mustache, asking residents to sign petitions.

Taj, 65, a Canton trustee since 2008, has decided not to seek re-election to the Canton board, and now is campaigning to win a seat in U.S. Congress. Taj came to the United States in 1982 when he was 35 after practicing medicine in India and the United Kingdom. Taj is running because he believes the United States should provide quality health care for every individual.

Taj spoke with U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow about his support for a single billing system, instead of billing several insurance companies, when the health insurance issue was being discussed in Congress in 2009, but that amendment fell short of votes. "The single biller is a better system," Taj said.

AHCA a 'good foundation'

"It is a good foundation," Taj said about the Affordable Health Care Act. "We have to do preventive care, with early diagnosis; it doesn't cost that much."

For example, prostate and colon cancers are treatable when caught early.

Taj wants to keep Medicare and Social Security intact. "It is difficult for seniors to understand the Medicare system," Taj said. "Social Security is not a Ponzi scheme. It is something that really helped the people especially the senior population," Taj said. "Seniors are doing OK. They aren't rich, but they survive. Otherwise 50 percent of them would be living in poverty."

Education was important in his family, Taj said. "We have to improve our system and our schools," Taj said. Federal government loans are important for students to obtain low interest, along with grants to hire more teachers.

"You can't survive just by going to high school," Taj said. He wants vocational training for those who don't attend college so they can become more employable.

Roberts, who works as a full-time political organizer for the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee, decided to run on a national slate for Congress. What prompted that is a number of Democrats didn't stand up to what Roberts called the wrong policies of Obama. "Our motto has been principle over party," Roberts said.

"This administration has continued the pro-dictatorship, Fascist policies of the Bush-Cheney administration and to even greater extremes," Roberts said. "The illegal wiretapping under the Patriot's Act has been massively expanded. The National Defense Act is a complete suspension of due process. Any citizen can be picked up off the street and detained indefinitely by simply being labeled a terrorist and no court process has to occur."

Wall Street bailout 'almost treason'

Roberts also disagrees with the Wall Street bailout Obama continued, now to the tune of $30 trillion. "It is a complete attack on the American population, to dump worthless obligations on the taxpayers to bail out Wall Street. It is almost treason in my mind," Roberts said. The president had another option in the Glass-Steagall Act, which is the full separation of commercial banking from private investment banking, Roberts said.

"That is the only way to initiate real economic recovery and to begin to start a process to get people back to work," Roberts said.

Roberts was asked about the appropriateness of comparing Obama to Hitler and working to obtain signatures on petitions with a photo of Obama with a Hitler-like mustache. "Yes, I've done that," Roberts said about collecting the signatures.

"It's a very honest assessment of the president's personality," Roberts said of the photos of Obama with the Hitler mustache. "Fascism starts somewhere, in the commitment to saying that there are certain lives that are unworthy of life and that it's more important to have a policy of austerity and propping up the banking cartel.

"Clearly no one is setting up gas chambers, but it is the idea that in this period you have the president who has this policy of approving millions of cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and at the same time putting in trillions of dollars to bail out financial institutions."

When elected, Obama said he would emulate FDR, Roberts said. "It was clear (Obama's presidency) would be modeled after fascism," Roberts said. "I don't pull my punches, I say what I think is true."

Glass-Steagall is supported by 70 Democrats in Congress, Roberts said, but opposed by Obama. Roberts was asked about Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who Roberts called "unacceptable." Romney "would not be able to stand up to another Democrat" if Obama were ousted from the presidency.

Opponent an 'imposter'

Taj recently called Roberts an "imposter" running as a Democrat and told voters "not to be fooled by a fake Democrat." Roberts responded: "The idea that you have to take a loyalty oath to a president no matter what happens and what heinous crimes he commits, it's cultish," Roberts said. He added: "The idea that you have to be an Obama supporter to be a Democrat is ridiculous."

R. Karl Burnett, vice chair of the 11th District Democrats and president of the Livonia Democrat Club, called Taj a "remarkable, wonderful guy."

"He's very approachable," Burnett said. "His desire to serve in Congress is deeply seated, and he has a strong desire to work for others."

Burnett said Taj has shown his knowledge of the health care issues in news articles and that his experience in India and England will assist him in improving health care in the United States.

Burnett said Taj has been active with the 11th District Democrats for years.

Burnett said the Obama characterization with a Hitler mustache was "an outrage" and that the supporters of LaRouche had extremist views.

"You don't have to be a member of a political party to file as a candidate for either party," Burnett said. "Dr. Taj is sincere, and he deserves support for being sincere and genuine in that endeavor."

The candidates highlight their platforms at their respective Web sites: Roberts' Web site is billrobertsforcongress.com; Taj's Web site is at tajforcongress.com.

The Observer will highlight the Republican candidates on Thursday.

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WILLIAM F. "BILL" ROBERTS

Age: 31
Family info: Single
City of residence: Redford
Occupation: Political Organizer
Education: High School, one year of studies at Temple University, Philadelphia
Previous elected offices held: None
Community service:

Bill Roberts

If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?

Given my recent work organizing support for a plan known as the North American Water and Power Alliance, a continent-wide infrastructure project for water, food and power security, I would most likely seek an assignment to the House Committee on Natural Resources. That assignment would best enable me to work on bringing this shovel-ready, FDR-style economic recovery program into existence.

What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?

What is often missing in political decision-making is the measure of truthfulness discussed in Plato's Theatetus dialogue: the effect a decision will have on the future. Popular opinion or "consensus" is not a substitute for truth. It should be noted that I have called for the impeachment of President Obama, and the selection of a qualified Democratic Party candidate for that office.

The oath of office says you will defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. Do you consider the Constitution relevant today? Or is the Constitution an 18th century document that's no longer relevant in the 21st century?

The United States Constitution has been severely abused under the three most recent presidential administrations. Many of the most heinous violations of the Constitution committed under the Bush Administration have been expanded under the Obama Administration, from illegal wiretapping to extrajudicial assassinations, including against U.S. citizens. Members of Congress who don't take the Congress' role seriously as a check against abuses by the executive branch do not deserve to be members of Congress.

What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?

If the nation avoids a catastrophic economic breakdown, it will be because a handful of people fought like patriots to bring the hyper-inflationary bailout of Wall Street and London to an end, by restoring Glass Steagall. The legislation for doing so exists and could be passed immediately if Barack Obama were impeached now.

What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?

Most of the public concern about immigration policy is about illegal immigration across the Mexico border. This has been largely caused by a collapse in Mexico's economy after the implementation of pro-globalization policies like NAFTA, especially a collapse in agricultural output. The implementation of a program called NAWAPA XXI, as detailed on my website, would address this problem.

What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?

The Act should be repealed. It explicitly calls for cutting the cost of medical care by denying services or penalizing over-utilization of certain services, and establishes an independent payment advisory board to do so, especially targeting the elderly and poor who are enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid.

Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?

Better yet, the United States should cooperate with Russia to build a bridge across the Bering Strait to connect North America with Asia by rail, expanding cooperation with the rapidly developing nations of the Asia and the Pacific region. We need to move way beyond a localist idea of our economic self-interest and consider the potential, for example, of cooperation around Arctic development.

Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?

I support the

Please see ROBERTS, A8

SYED TAJ

Age: 65
Family info: Wife Sofia and son Asad
City of residence: Canton
Occupation: Physician
Education: Medical School, India; post-graduate work, Great Britain and the U.S.
Previous elected offices held: Canton Township Trustee (2008-12)
Community service: Canton Community Foundation-Board, Senior Alliance, APIA Advisory Board (Asian Pacific Islander Association)

If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?

Members of Congress are assigned committees according to their seniority and area of interest. As a physician with 40 years experience and coming from a Great Lake State, I believe I can be most effective on the Energy and Commerce or the Transportation Committee.

What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?

Knowledge of the issue, gathering information from my constituents and advice from my party leadership will all be taken into consideration before casting a vote.

The oath of office says you will defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. Do you consider the Constitution relevant today? Or is the Constitution an 18th century document that's no longer relevant in the 21st century?

Of course my duty as a member of Congress will be to uphold the Constitution, but I believe it is a living document. All laws should accurately reflect the society in which they serve.

What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?

As a physician, I understand how the financial and the medical sides of our health system work. My legislative priorities are aiding our economic recovery, supporting growing industries in Michigan, improving our health care system and the ACA, supporting our veterans, and reducing hyperpartisanship in Washington. These are my benchmarks for success as a Representative from Michigan's 11th District.

What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?

Dr. Syed Taj

We need a coherent federal immigration policy that ends disjointed state action on this issue. This includes retaining highly skilled immigrants, creating a path to citizenship by passing the DREAM Act, securing our borders and better funding our border agents, and preserving the family unit in the immigration process. Streamlining our immigration policies is both an economic and moral imperative and cutting the red tape at the level where the process begins.

What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?

As a physician with 40 years in the medical field, I am very passionate about health care reform. I support the individual mandate, treatment of pre-existing conditions, state exchanges and how it lowers overhead costs. The ACA is not without flaws and in Congress I will advocate a patient-outcome model based on patient outcomes and quality care to improve the law.

Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?

I support the construction of the New International Trade Crossing proposed by Governor Snyder. Nearly 25 percent of all merchandise trade between the U.S. and Canada crosses the Ambassador Bridge, making it the busiest crossing by trade volume. I oppose private ownership and development of this project and applaud the Governor's partnership with Canada without costing taxpayers a dime.

Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?

While federal expenditures play an important role during recessions – keeping local teachers, firefighters and safety workers employed – we should be aiding the current recovery with an eye on our growing public deficit.

Please see TAJ, A8

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The sooner you start saving for retirement, the better

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: After being unemployed for a few years, I finally got a job. There are a few different options and I hope you can assist me. I am 35, single and no dependents. I have very little savings and I am renting an apartment. With my new job, I will be able to save some money every paycheck. Through my new employer, my first option is whether I take advantage of the 401(k) Plan. They do some matching but not the whole amount. Should I take advantage of the 401(k) and if so, should I use the Roth or the traditional option? My employer also provides me, at no cost, life insurance equal to one year's worth of salary. I do have an option to purchase more life insurance. Should I take advantage of it?

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: The job market is still very difficult so congratulations for finding a new job in this environment.

With regards to your finances, take advantage of the 401(k) Plan. As far as I'm concerned, the day you start working is the day you start saving for your retirement. After all, someone like you can be retired for more years than they worked. Therefore, the sooner you start saving, the better. I also recommend the Roth option. The downside of the Roth option is that you're investing money that you've already paid taxes on. However, the upside is that when you withdraw the money it is totally tax free. I believe taking a short-term hit now for a long-term gain is certainly worth it. In fact, in most situations I recommend that people take advantage of Roth 401(k)s.

As to the amount you should contribute, at a minimum contribute up to the match. The question is should you contribute above and beyond the match. Since you have little savings, it makes sense that after you have taken advantage of the match begin to build an emergency fund.

I believe everyone needs an emergency fund that covers three to six months of living expenses. Once you build your emergency fund then I totally fund your Roth 401(k).

For those in their 20s, 30s and 40s I cannot stress enough the importance of saving for retirement as soon as possible. I recognize that it is difficult at that age to think about retirement but you must. After all, I'm not sure people in that age group can depend upon Social Security for their future.

Generally, if someone is in their 50s or above I will factor Social Security into the equation. For someone who is under that age, I generally do not. This coupled with the fact that pensions are a thing of the past means that you have to do it on your own. The sooner you start saving for your retirement, the easier it will be.

In regards to the life insurance, obviously there's no downside to take advantage of the free insurance that your employer is providing. The question is why do you need more?

I do not look at life insurance as an investment but rather as risk management. The question is if you pass away is there anyone that loses financially. Since you are single and you have no dependents, there is no reason to have additional life insurance. Save your money no matter how inexpensive the life insurance may be and use the extra money to build your emergency and retirement funds.

One last note regarding life insurance, for the majority of people, I recommend term insurance. I think it is the best and the most affordable type of life insurance. 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.

ROBERTS

Continued from page A7

creation of a Credit Fund, similar to Franklin Roosevelt's Reconstruction Finance Corporation, to finance very large scale infrastructure projects, with credit backed by the sovereign powers of the federal government. The point is to increase productivity long-term, not just to create temporary "jobs" that later disappear.

Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?

If Americans were presented real solutions to the collapse of the economy, which included the creation of millions of good paying jobs, and the end of bailouts for too-big-to-fail banks, most would unify around those proposals. The program for doing so has been presented on the policy page of my website.

What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?

I agree with both Lyndon LaRouche and current Russian "anti-drug czar" Viktor Ivanov that wiping out the financing of the international drug trade would go a long way toward wiping out terrorism internationally and an international coalition to stop narcotics production and trafficking should be formed. Terrorism is generally financed by drug money.

TAJ

Continued from page A7

Infrastructure projects, the Small Business Tax Credit Initiative, lowering college costs, incentives to hire new workers, and tax reform will have important impacts on Michigan's economy and the nation.

Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?

Congress' fundamental duty is compromise. Leadership is not about receiving credit for sponsoring legislation but bringing people together to move things forward. My objective is to engage in a healthy discussion of public policy and values, not persuade others to one viewpoint. This is the standard our constituents should hold us to and that both parties have neglected for years.

What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?

Preserving our national security means protecting our interests at home and overseas without inflaming hatred toward America or the West. I highly support a comprehensive approach involving counterintelligence, international diplomacy, securing our borders, and utilizing smart power. This means coordinating with regional sources in Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to thwart plots on our soil and against our allies.

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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Youngsters and their parents celebrate the end of the school year with a picnic in the play yard at McKinley Cooperative Preschool in Westland.

Sienna Ruel of Wayne takes big bite out of her sandwich at the picnic.

Preschool like family for teacher, parents, students

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The playscape and classrooms are quiet, a sure sign that it's summer vacation for the youngsters who attend McKinley Co-Op Preschool.

For teacher Carol Miles, it means 29 of her students have moved on to kindergarten or a Young Five program and that in a few months a new group will be sitting at her feet, listening to her read stories.

"It's hard to say good-bye, some of them I've had since they were two years old," said Miles, who's been with the program for 30 years. "I get to know them, I've seen them grow up. I know their families, we become part of a family."

The preschool got its start at McKinley School in Livonia in 1975 and, when the space was needed by the Livonia Public Schools, it moved to the former Good Shepherd Reformed Church in Westland. The preschool recently moved to St. John's Episcopal Church at Bayview and Wayne Road in Westland when Good Shepherd closed and the building sold.

Parents' role in McKinley goes beyond dropping and picking up their children. Because it is a cooperative preschool, they spend twice a month helping in their child's classroom. They are assigned jobs like housekeeping and tending to the library. They also serve on the board and are expected to attend general membership meetings once a month.

Stephanie Flaherty's daughter McKenzie attended McKinley and now her three-year-old son Aiden is studying with Miles. She describes herself as the "party mom" because she handles the class parties.

"I like the co-op because I can work with the kids," she said. "It's sad that some parents don't like it because they have to work in the room or do fund raising, but they don't realize that they get to see how their children grow and what they get to learn. I like that."

McKinley didn't have a website when Flaherty was looking for a preschool. She went and saw it. She liked its open layout and the fact that it had a parent and tot class starting with two-year-olds. She also liked the structure.

Now she can't say enough about Miles. She not only has taught her children a lot, she's has taught her a lot as well. She uses her lessons at home and still goes to her for advice. Aiden likes her as well. He gets up every morning and wants to go to school.

"She's a wonderful person and a wonderful teacher," she said. " He has learned a lot and I love that. He told me he wants to be a teacher so he can get hugs and kisses as the kids come in the door."

"I have a daughter who's 4½ months. If Mrs. Miles is still here, she's definitely coming to McKinley," she added.

Like Flaherty, Becky Heffner has her second child enrolled at McKinley. Son Brendan was the first graduate and daughter Aubrey is following in his footsteps. She had searched online and found McKinley for her son. He learned a lot of different things that helped him and now her daughter Aubrey is learning them.

"I like the fact that Mrs. Miles used to be a teacher, I think it helps," Heffner said. "He's in first-grade and this program helped him to be student of the month and a better student."

"It's a great school, a very good school, it's awesome," she added. "This was the best decision I every made."

Miles smiles when she hears their comments. She relates her longevity as a teacher to that.

"You don't stay on the job as long as I have without a wonderful family like this," she said.

The families come from Westland, Livonia, Canton, Garden City, Dearborn Heights and even South Lyon "because they had a connection," said Miles. Many times itd because one sister tells another sister about the preschool.

"I've had three families that were my former students who came back with their kids," said Miles. "I've just gotten invitations to graduation parties for two of my former students."

The preschool will hold a Meet and Greet Picnic at 6 :30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, for families. It'll give new parents an opportunity to meet the members, the teacher and preschool board and for children to meet their classmates. More information about the program registration information and enrollment forms is available on the preschool's website, mckinleypreschool.org.

"The best kept secret is a cooperative preschool," said Miles. "No one knows what it is, but it's the best."

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Officer continues diabetes mission with 'Dominic's Dream Ride'

Classic cars will join motorcycles in Dominic's Dream Ride through the western suburbs on Saturday, Aug. 4, a second-annual event that benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

In the inaugural event last September, more than 40 people rode and more than 50 people gathered at a post-ride picnic along Hines Drive to raise more than $5,000. Organizer Jim Green said "it is not unrealistic" the second annual event will double its performance this year.

Green, a sergeant and veteran officer for the Livonia Police Department, created the local event with his wife Kelly in honor of their 8-year-old son who suffers with Type One Diabetes, an autoimmune disease that struck him suddenly at age 3 and has no cure.

Dominic Green, shown with his dog, constantly wears an insulin pump to keep him alive. His finger is poked six times a day for a blood-sugar check.

Dominic presses ahead to live a normal life as he prepares for third grade this fall, but he will be dependent on insulin for the rest of his life. He constantly wears an insulin pump to keep him alive. His finger is poked six times a day for a blood-sugar check. He needs multiple doses of insulin each day – either by his insulin pump or injection. And anyone who cares for Dominic must know how to handle these tests and injections, along with other diabetic needs.

With the thousands of finger pokes and shots he has taken already in his short life, "it is a constant challenge to maintain correct glucose levels for him and is overwhelming for anyone – let alone a child," Jim Green said.

According to the national research, 1 in 400 youngsters under the age of 20 has diabetes, which elevates other health risks such as heart and kidney disease, stroke, blindness and nervous system issues.

In addition to raising money to support those dealing with diabetic patients, the Livonia couple hopes Dominic's Dream Ride boosts community awareness of the disease, particularly the intensity required to treat diabetics.

Last year's event was gratifying for Green because there was so much support from people who were not directly impacted by diabetes.

"It was just nice to see something so positive," he said. "In the media, we see so much bad news and negative things going on in the world, so it was really nice to see this event come together last year. Now, we hope to make it even better this year."

Dominic's Dream Ride was initially created as a motorcycle poker run, but organizers are adding cars to the ride as some supporters want to cruise in their classic vehicles. Registration on Aug. 4 will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Motor City Harley Davidson, 34900 Grand River Ave., in Farmington Hills. The last vehicle out will be at 12 noon.

A minimum $20 donation is requested to participate in the event, which is also sponsored by the Superior Township Warthogs.

For those not riding, there are other ways to support the cause. People can attend the event-ending picnic at 4 p.m. which will take place at Plymouth Riverside Park on Hines Drive near Haggerty. Prizes will be raffled off at 5 p.m., including a separate raffle for a go-kart, sponsored by Keith's Muffler and Brakes in Westland. Tickets for the go-kart raffle can be purchased now at the shop located on Wayne Road near Marquette Road.

For more information, call Jim or Kelly Green at (734) 432-2610.

Those who cannot participate in any of the Aug. 4 festivities, but wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the cause, can visit website www.jdrf.org, and click on donate at the top of the page, then select the green sneaker to donate to Dominic's Dream Team, or donations can be made out to JDRF and mailed to: Dominic's Dream Team, c/o Superior Township Warthogs, 37637 Five Mile Road No. 124, Livonia, MI 48154.

Bug hunt shows two branches of Rouge improving

Friends of the Rouge's 2012 Spring Bug Hunt Report, released July 2, has some good news for the Rouge River.

Two branches of the Rouge River - the Middle Branch and the Main Branch – are showing an upward trend in scores.

The Spring Bug Hunt is an annual event that is part of a program to collect data on the "bugs" that live in the streambed. Technically called "benthic macroinvertebrates," the type and abundance of mayfly, dragonfly and stonefly larvae can be translated into a "score" for a site, telling biologists whether a site is good, fair, poor or excellent. Friends of the Rouge have been collecting data since 2001.

The two branches that showed improvement were the Middle Branch that includes Johnson Creek and the Walled Lake Drainage and follows Hines Drive from Northville to Ford Road in Dearborn, and the Main Branch in Troy, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Beverly Hills and Southfield.

The Spring Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that was created in 1998 to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge in partnership with Wayne County Department of Public Service Watershed Management Division and supported by the Erb Family Foundation.

The Fall Bug Hunt will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, and volunteers are welcome. Preregistration is required. For more information or to sign up, visit therouge.org/index.php?id=687627.

Friends of the Rouge is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts.

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SPORTS

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Olympic swimmer

Bachrouche eager to compete in pool at London Games

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

Katya Bachrouche of Farmington Hills attended the recent U.S. Olympic Trials in swimming, not to compete but to train for the upcoming games in London, England.

Bachrouche, who will represent Lebanon, was already assured of an Olympic berth, and it stirred her competitive spirit to watch other Americans strive for that goal.

"It made me really excited and eager to race," she said. "We don't have anything like the Trials in Lebanon. Seeing everybody gear up and race was really cool."

Bachrouche, a state champion at North Farmington High School and an All-American at the University of Virginia, holds dual citizenship through her father, who was born and raised in Lebanon.

With his help, Bachrouche met with members of the Lebanese Olympic Committee last year, trained with a club team in Beirut and represented that country at international swim events.

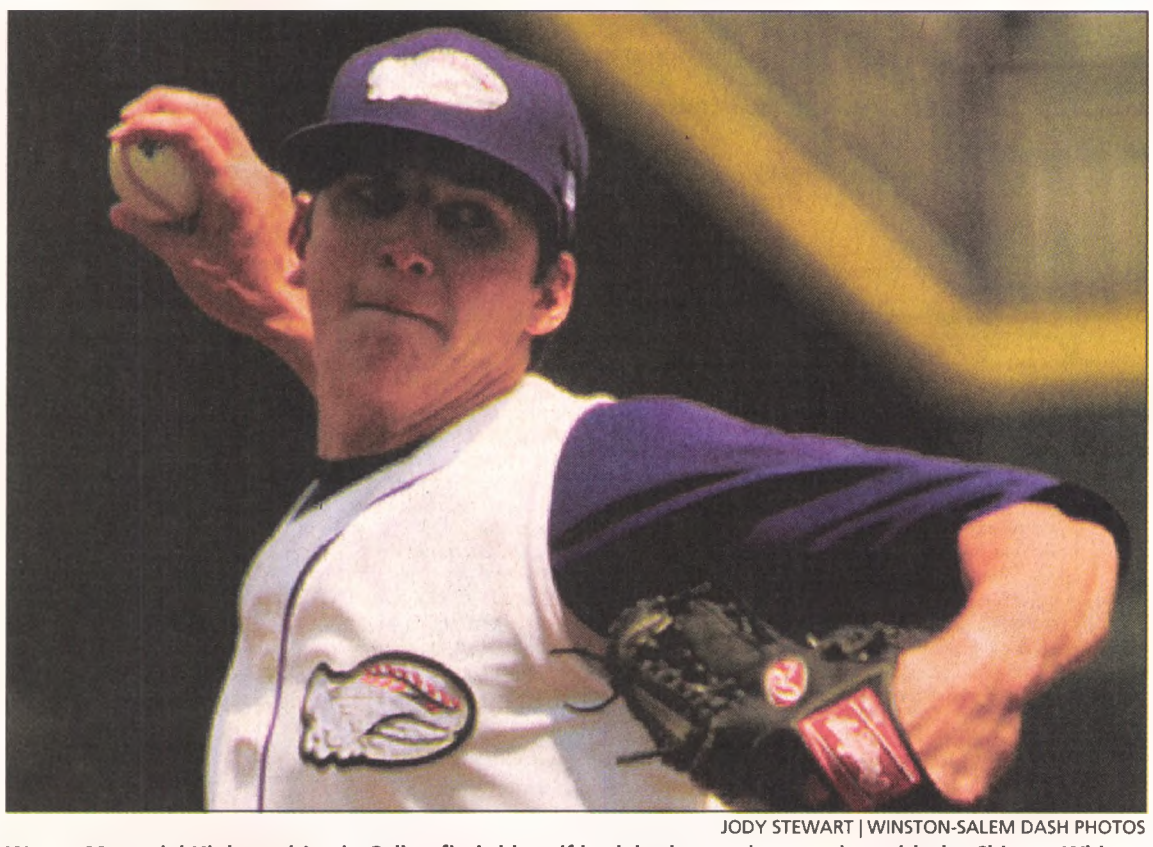
At the World University Games last summer in China, Bachrouche finished seventh in the 400-meter freestyle, becoming the first Lebanese athlete to make the finals in any sport in that competition.

She participated in the Lebanese championships in September, but that was more of a technicality, something she had to do to be eligible.

Please see SWIMMER, B2

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Katya Bachrouche of Farmington Hills won four gold medals in swimming at the Pan-Arab Games.



JODY STEWART | WINSTON-SALEM DASH PHOTOS

Wayne Memorial High grad Justin Collop finds himself back in the starting rotation with the Chicago White Sox's high-Class A affliliate Winston-Salem (N.C.) Dash.

Back in the groove

Ex-Wayne pitcher Collop thrives in minors

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Justin Collop isn't afraid to give you an honest assessment of his four-year minor league baseball career thus far.

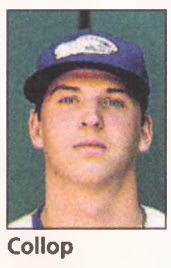
"I'd say I'm a little behind – last year didn't help," said the 2006 Wayne Memorial High grad and former University of Toledo pitcher. "I was hurt for most of the year and it kind of held me back, so you just kind of build your way back. By sitting out and being hurt, you just kind of learn, but now I'm rolling and getting through it."

Collop, who was a sixth-round pick of the Chicago White Sox in the 2009 MLB Draft, will be making his seventh start of the season on the mound Sunday for the Winston-Salem Dash of the Class A Advanced Carolina League.

And 24-year-old Collop is enjoying his best season statistically with a 6-2 record and 3.63 earned run average. In 62 innings, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound right-hander has struck out 41 and walked 24.

The former Zebra standout, who battled rotator cuff tendonitis last year while throw just 53.2 innings, has found his niche during his second year with Winston-Salem.

"I'm definitely glad to be



Collop

back in the rotation," Collop said. "I'm more comfortable there. It's where I've been my whole life. I've just been doing what they want me to do lately and it's kind of working out for me. I just like starting because you can control the game and make adjustments throughout the game instead of one or two innings. It fits my personality better doing it."

And Collop's contributions haven't gone unnoticed as the Dash captured the Southern Division first-half title with a 44-19 record.

"Collop is having a terrific year," Winston-Salem manager Tommy Thompson said. "He's been a long guy, been a setup guy and he has closed games. He has done everything he has been asked to do, and he has stepped up well with his win-loss record. He is healthy this year, which is a great sign for him and he competes and goes out there and pitches like a bulldog."

Collop is not considered a strikeout pitcher, but he is learning the tricks of the trade. He'll use a four-seam fastball, a sinker, changeup, slider and split-finger.

"I feel I have the tools," Collop said, "but you've got to utilize them in a way to get hitters out – reading hitters, seeing where they're at in the box, their approach to a certain pitch ... you try and build off of that . I've worked on a fastball, a sinker, off-speeds and just try and polish the whole repertoire."

Although there was an adjustment period of leaving the bullpen, Collop knows what it takes to go the distance. During his second minor league season with the Kannapolis (N.C.) Intimidators of the Class A Atlantic League, Collop logged a career-high 154 innings going 9-12 with a 4.26 ERA as a starter.

"You have to have the stamina to go out there six, seven, eight innings as opposed to being a reliever,' Collop said. "In both, you have to be in shape, but starting you're more on a scheduled routine. When you're a reliever, you kind of work here-and-there and have a day off. The running is a little different. The big thing is to recover quickly and get back out there a day or two later. But when you're starting, you have four days off."

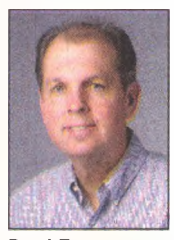
Please see COLLOP, B3

This old stash is a Pot o' Gold

Sometimes you question yourself on why you've become a pack rack.

I'm probably Exhibit A. I'm not totally messy, but I tend to stack things instead of throwing things away.

I have just about every sports section I've ever produced at the Observer in my 33 years on the job. That's approximately a total of 3,432.



Brad Emons

It's my own personal archive system, but it's probably a fire hazard as well. I have papers stacked in various places in my home office upstairs that total 70 inches high.

Then I have several grocery sacks, three big boxes and another 42-inch stack of old sports sections stack sitting in my basement.

So why do I keep them?

Because from time-to-time, I get some outlandish requests such as: "You wrote a story about my daughter's softball team in 1986, where can I get a copy?"

Our electronic archives only go back to the turn of the century, while anything prior to that might – and I say *might* – be somewhere on microfilm at the Livonia City Library.

One of those crazy requests came earlier this spring from a lady in Tennessee who said we wrote an article about her husband calling his own shot – a-la Babe Ruth – for a Livonia Adray sandlot baseball team to beat the Canadian Olympic Team at Ford Field.

Not positive

She wasn't sure it was 1983 or 1984, but she was sure persistent with the e-mails because she had to have a copy of the story. That's because she wanted to frame it and give it her husband as a 25-year anniversary gift in June.

Of course, one of the former Livonia Adray coaches, Stu Rose (now an assistant at Madonna University, referred my name to her. (Thanks, Stu, I thought you were a friend.)

Frankly, I would have remembered like it was yesterday if John DePillo (who he went back then by the spelling of DiPillo), had homered to beat the Canadian Olympians.

Please see EMONS, B3

Hockey-playing couple ties knot at rink

PHOTOS BY CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

Newlyweds Laura Vogel and Michael Ellis skate a post-ceremony victory lap at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills.

Suburban Ice Farmington Hills plays host to wedding party

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

This was one wedding in which everybody had cold feet, and nobody thought that the least bit unusual for the occasion.

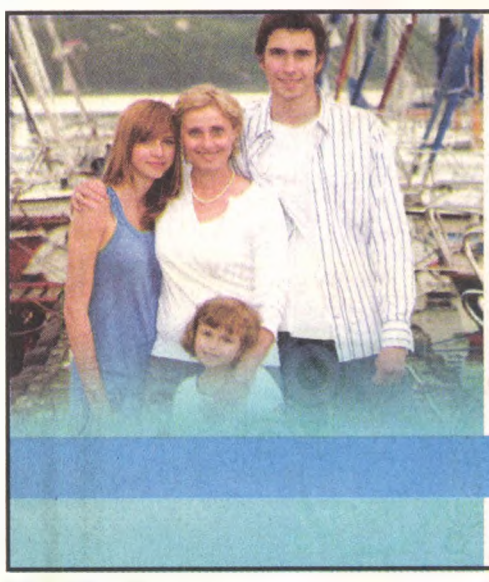
Michael Ellis and Laura Vogel were married June 28 at center ice inside Suburban Ice Farmington Hills, so that small inconvenience was to be expected.

The couple met there during a session of the Breakfast Club, a morning instructional hockey class for adults and one of numerous offerings by Suburban Hockey.

Vogel, 49, said the plan to have the wedding on the ice sheet at Suburban Ice was the brainchild of Ellis, 54.

Please see WEDDING, B3

It was wedded bliss on ice for Laura Vogel and Michael Ellis.



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All-Area baseball team stocked with diamond gems

FIRST TEAM

Chris McDonald, P, Stevenson: The senior right-hander, bound for Hillsdale College, finished with an 8-2 record with one save.

The second-team Division 1 all-stater boasted an earned run average of 1.76 with 78 strikeouts in 71.2 innings.

McDonald also made all-district, all-region and all-KLAA.

When he wasn't pitching, McDonald also played third, second and shortstop while hitting .386 with 28 RBI.

"Chris pitched a big game in the districts and got a win and a save in the regional," coach Rick Berryman said.

Sterling Sharp, P, North Farmington: The junior pitcher was his team's MVP, posting a 7-0 record with three shutouts and one no-hitter. Coach Mike O'Connell was careful to protect Sharp's arm, limiting him to eight starts. Sharp had 50 strikeouts and just seven walks in 48 innings, and he had an impressive 1.90 ERA. Sharp, who is being recruited by numerous Division I schools, also played shortstop when he wasn't pitching. He batted .254 and had 10 RBI.

"What makes him a good pitcher is he changes speeds well," O'Connell said. "He can unleash the fastball, but the best thing about him is he changes arm slots and speeds. Sometimes, I wish he'd go to the fastball and blow it past them, but he's a pitcher as opposed to a thrower. I think all these college and pro scouts, when they see him, that's exactly what they see. If he continues to work hard, he has a great future ahead of him."

Tyler Steele, P-1B, Garden City: The senior completed a stellar high school career by going 6-2 on the mound while hitting at a .360 clip at the dish. Headed to Concordia University in Ann Arbor to play football and baseball, Steele posted a sterling 1.85 earned run average in his role as the Cougars' pitching ace. The four-year varsity letter winner was a two-time all-WWAC performer.

"Tyler has left an outstanding legacy at Garden City, helping us to win three straight league championships and two districts," coach Steve Herman said. "He's been a great leader for the young players, both on the field and off. He's an outstanding student and a great kid; he has an outstanding future ahead of him."

Rich Guglielmi, C, Plymouth: The senior catcher brought an all-around game that sparked Plymouth to its first KLAA South Division championship and 27-9 record.

He hit .429 with nine doubles and three homers while throwing out 70 percent of baserunners trying to steal on his arm.

Guglielmi earned team MVP honors, as well as selection to the all-conference and all-district teams. And he was named to the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

"Rich was the best defensive catcher we saw this year," coach Bryan Boyd said. "He was a catalyst for our 27-9 season and our first division championship in school history.

"He will be missed next year behind the plate and in the middle of our lineup."

Guglielmi, who also excelled his senior year as goaltender for Plymouth's hockey team, will play baseball at Saginaw Valley State University.

Mike Vomastek, C, Stevenson: The junior catcher, a three-year starter, hit .398 this season with 34 RBI and seven extra base hits after moving from the second to the third spot in the batting order.

The all-KLAA pick finished with an on-base average of .526. His career batting average is .390.

"Mike is one of the best defensive catchers in the area," Berryman said. "He had only three strikeouts in 146 plate appearances this season."

Tyler Goble, 1B, Plymouth: Another key player for the Wildcats' team success this spring was the senior first baseman.

Goble batted .407, with a team-high 44 hits, along with 10 doubles, two triples and two homers and 31 RBI. His defense also was superb.

"It's not easy to put together back-to-back 40-hit seasons," Boyd said. "Tyler's leadership was a big part of our success this year."

He was honored with the team's Chase Zebari Academic Achievement Award for grade-point average (3.85) and was Plymouth's male athlete of the year.

Other accolades included all-KLAA, all-district and all-district academic honors. Goble, also an outstanding linebacker at Plymouth, will play Division I football at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Travis Harvey, infield, Stevenson: The first-team Division 1 all-stater, who played primarily infield, finished his junior year with an impressive 55 RBI.

The all-KLAA selection was also among the state's leaders in homers (eight), including three grand slams while hitting .373. He posted a team-high 15 doubles and with a slugging percentage of

"Travis was a versatile player who could play third, second and was our back-up catcher," Berryman said.

Ryan Bazner, 3B-P, Canton: The senior pretty much did it all as a four-year player for the Chiefs and was rewarded with his selection to the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

Bazner, a team co-captain, hit .366 with nine extra-base hits and 15 RBI. On the mound, the hard-throwing righty went 4-3 with a 3.32 ERA while striking out 53 batters in 46.1 innings.

During his Canton career, he compiled a won-loss record of 19-3.

"Ryan had an outstanding four-year career both as a pitcher and position player at Canton High School," said coach Mark Blomshield in an e-mail to the Observer. "His nomination as an all-star was primarily due to his long-term consistency as a strong high school player."

Bazner will be playing college baseball at Saginaw Valley State University.

Josh Gorman, infield, Franklin: The versatile junior infielder was the Patriots' top hitter on the season with a .451 average (37-for-82) including 10 doubles, a triple and two homers to go along with a team-high 26 RBI.

The all-KLAA and all-district pick struck out only nine times and boasted a slugging percentage of .671 and an on base percentage of .536.

"Josh had a great year for us," coach Matt Fournier said. "He hit in the three-spot from Day One this year and led in the team in almost every big offensive category.

"Although primarily a third baseman, he was our most versatile infielder. He made all the routine plays at second and short when needed to pay there, and excelled in all the games he was at third. We look forward to having him next year."

Connor Dwyer, OF, Churchill: The senior outfielder, headed to Saginaw Valley State on a four-year President's Scholarship in the pre-med program , finished the year with a .378 with 22 runs scored and 20 RBI.

The all-KLAA selection also stole 11 bases while drawing 15 walks.

"Connor hit in the three-spot for us all season and was as consistent as ever," coach Ron Targosz said. "You knew that he was always going to put the ball in play, as you could see that he only struck out four times all season.

"Connor was very solid for us in the outfield where he committed only three errors while have five assist. His extra base power, along with his speed on the bases, were trouble for many teams this season."

Connor Mohr, OF, Farmington: Mohr is a three-year starter in center field for the Falcons. He batted .438 as a junior the past season; his 46 hits included four doubles, seven triples and two home runs. From the lead-off position, Mohr had 17 walks and 20 RBI; he had 18 stolen bases and scored 45 runs. His percentages were .667 for slugging and .542 for on base. The left-handed Mohr also made six pitching starts and had three complete games with one shutout. He was 3-4 with a 2.20 ERA and team-high 41.33 innings.

"Connor is very reliable at the plate and extremely fast," coach Pete Finn said. "He's one of the best competitors I've ever had, and I'm very proud of him. I'm looking forward to having one more year with him.

"I kinda forced him into pitching, but he's doing a lot better at that. He has a very good change-up. He's learned how to pitch over the last couple years, which I think is pretty cool."

Nick Hazergian, OF-P, Canton: In just his sophomore season, Hazergian proved versatile for the Chiefs at the plate, in the outfield and as a left-handed pitcher.

He batted .404 in his second year with the varsity, clubbing a team-leading four home runs and driving in 24.

In just over 37 innings pitched, Hazergian struck out 50 batters, going 4-2 and posting a 2.25 ERA.

For his efforts, Hazergian was named Canton's MVP, along with selection to the All-KLAA, all-district and academic all-district teams.

"Nick is a tough competitor and ultimate team player which has earned him all-conference and all-district honors as a sophomore (in his) first full season on the varsity squad," Blomshield said.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Rick Berryman, Stevenson: The eighth-year coach guided the Spartans to the Division 1 state quarterfinals and a school-best, 28-12 record this season.

The 64-year-old Berryman is 367-249 overall in 19 seasons as a varsity coach including a 152-114 mark at Stevenson and a 215-135 record at Redford Union where he retired as an administrator in 2002.

Berryman led Stevenson to a pair of Kensington Conference and KLAA Lakes Division crowns in 2010 and 2011.

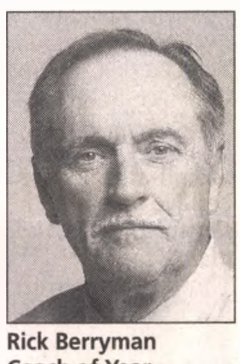
The former Eastern Michigan University pitcher (1966-1969), where he went 19-6, has also a longtime summer sandlot coach with Michigan Rams of the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League.

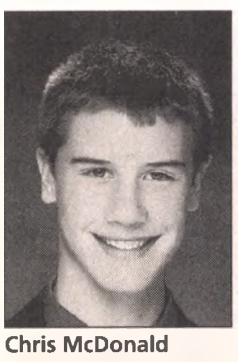
He credits much of Stevenson's success to his coaching staff of Lou Pirronello, Dave Marcon and Nate Hoffman, along with scorekeeper extraordinaire and wife June Berryman.

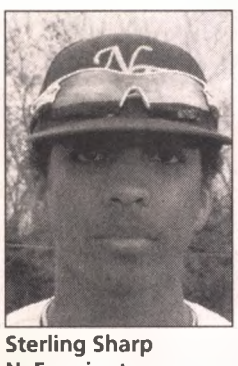
"This is a team that hit a bad spell and we lost to Northville and Novi, and then all the sudden got hot and peaked at the right time," said Berryman, whose team captured district and regional crowns. "Mike Kanitra and Chris McDonald (both pitchers) were good all year. Mike got very good and our bats just got hot. We had a five-game run of three games in the district and then two in the regional where we hit like we've never hit all year."

The 2013 season also looks promising for the Spartans.

"We lost only four seniors, two of whom were starters," Berryman said. "We have pitching, hitting and all those guys coming back. But McDonald will be hard to replace, but (Jake) Semak and Kanitra threw very well this year. Between them they had 12 victories."


Rick Berryman
Coach of Year


Chris McDonald
Stevenson

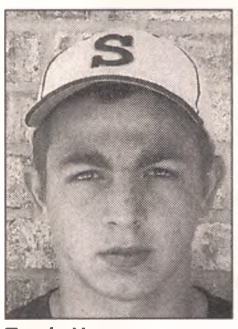

Sterling Sharp
N. Farmington

Tyler Steele
Garden City

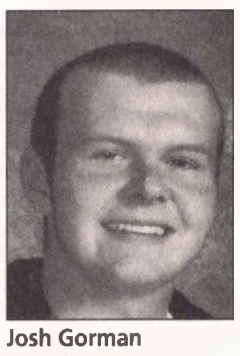
Rich Guglielmi
Plymouth

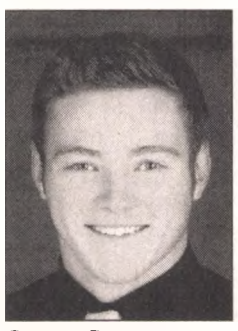
Mike Vomastek
Stevenson

Tyler Goble
Plymouth


Travis Harvey
Stevenson

Ryan Bazner
Canton


Josh Gorman
Franklin


Connor Dwyer
Churchill

Connor Mohr
Farmington

Nick Hazergian
Canton

2012 ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL

FIRST TEAM

Chris McDonald, Sr. P, Liv. Stevenson
Sterling Sharp, Jr. P-SS, N. Farmington
Tyler Steele, Sr. P-1B, Garden City
Rich Guglielmi, Sr. C, Plymouth
Mike Vomastek, Jr. C, Liv. Stevenson
Tyler Goble, Sr. 1B, Plymouth
Travis Harvey, Jr. Inf., Liv. Stevenson
Ryan Bazner, Sr. 3B-P, Canton
Josh Gorman, Jr. 3B-SS, Liv. Franklin
Connor Dwyer, Sr. OF, Liv. Churchill
Connor Mohr, Jr. OF-P, Farmington
Nick Hazergian, Soph. OF-P, Canton

SECOND TEAM

Mike Kanitra, Jr. P, Liv. Stevenson
Mike Stafford, Jr. P, Canton
Justin Thompson, Sr. P, Plymouth
Dan Cameron, Jr. C, Liv. Churchill
Daniel Jipping, Soph. C, Ply. Christian
Eric Stanis, Jr. C, N. Farmington
Nick Lagerstrom, Sr. 1B, Liv. Stevenson
Brent Ochodnicky, Sr. P-1B, Churchill
Ben Gehan, Sr. 1B, Liv. Clarenceville
Troy Mitchell, Jr. 1B-OF, Farmington
Jonny Deutsch, Sr. 2B, N. Farmington
Matt Janke, Jr. 2B, Plymouth
Jacob Lefler, Sr. SS, Wayne Memorial
Zak Kmet, Jr. SS-P, Garden City
Steven Marowski, Soph. 3B, Harrison
Daniel Ammons, Jr. 3B, Westland Glenn
Sean Fox, Sr. 3B-C, Garden City
Joe Barczuk, Sr. Inf., Liv. Franklin
Taurrek Fikes, Sr. OF-P, Luth. Westland
Tyler McCurry, Sr. OF-P, Wayne
Robert Seal, Sr. OF-P, Redford Union
Casey Sudz, Jr. OF, Plymouth
Demetrius Dunlap, Jr. OF, Salem
Robert Shelton, Sr. OF, Red. Thurston

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Tyler Keeter, Derek Jakubowski, John Szymanski; **Franklin:** Kevin Nisun, Alex DeYonker; **Stevenson:** Josh DeYonker, Jake Semak, Justin Small; **John Glenn:** Zach Quinn, Danny Croft; **Wayne:** Jordan Lowry; **Lutheran Westland:** Nick Flanery, Nick Andrzejewski; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Ryan Schaffer Alex Harris; **Clarenceville:** Damien Sanchez; **Plymouth:** Brian Schmid, Jamarl Eiland, Brendan Swanson, Nick Sandberg, Austin Ebeling; **Canton:** Jake Boucher, Weston Price; **Salem:** Scott Theisen, Jack Driscoll, Brett Ramirez, Austin Silletti, Justin Sydlowski; **Plymouth Christian:** Daniel Slater, Michael Slater, Matt Read; **Farmington:** Jon Perry, Tyler Tompson, Davis Vandercook, Chris Zuby; **Harrison:** Joe Carter, Mitchell Kramer; **North Farmington:** David Lett, Bobby Lett, Eric Waldron, Mike Mackie; **Garden City:** Tyler Glenfield, Austin Kidd, Matt Stark; **Redford Union:** Jon Evans, Patrick Wierimaa; **Redford Thurston:** Zachary Pawloski, Damin Harris, David Dudenas.

COACH OF YEAR

Rick Berryman, Livonia Stevenson

SWIMMER

Continued from page B1

"It wasn't as intense as people might think," she said. "It was more relaxed, a lot of fun. The environment was more of a summer league meet for me in that there were a lot of kids everywhere and everybody was having fun. It wasn't as focused other nations' national championships."

It was more serious in December when Bachrouche returned to the international stage for the Pan-Arab Games in Doha, Qatar.

She won four gold medals in the 200, 400 and 800 freestyle and the 200 IM, and she also earned bronze medals in the 100 butterfly and 50 freestyle.

"From a swimming perspective, it was the best meet I've had," Bachrouche said. "I dropped time in just about every event and earned some gold medals for Lebanon. That was a really great time.

"I had competition in every event, which helped me to go my best times. It was just a really cool experience. It was a half-way check point for the year, to get some races and to see where I was at."

Bachrouche moved from Virginia, where she had been training, to Los Angeles in February to work with the Trojan Swim Club, a post-grad team at the USC. That's how she ended up at the U.S. Trials in Omaha, Neb.

"The team has a large international contingent," she said. "There were eight of us who couldn't swim in the U.S. Trials. Instead of being by ourselves in California, the coaches took us with them and trained us in a pool nearby while the Trials went on."

Bachrouche, who is the only woman and one of two swimmers on the Lebanese team, goes to France on July 14 to continue her training in a lead-up to the London Games July 27-Aug. 12.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Katya Bachrouche confirms it is indeed gold.

"Most athletes are going to some European country to train to get used to the time difference," she said.

Chosen event

Bachrouche will swim one event, the 800 freestyle, at the Olympics. The prelims are Aug. 2 and the final race is the night of Aug. 3.

"I had to pick one of three, so I picked the 800," Bachrouche said. "That's not til the fifth day. The 400 is the second day, and I want to go to the opening ceremonies. I can do that and give my legs enough time to recover before I race.

"It would have been nice to swim more than one event, but I can focus all my energy on one. It's a long event, too. It's not like I'm going to swim for a minute. I feel I'm getting the biggest bang for my buck, if you will."

Bachrouche also believes she has the best chance to do well in the 800. Her best time is 8:44.5 and is well under the Olympic selection time of 8:51.82.

Realistic goal

She said many people don't understand how keen the Olympic competition is and what reasonable expectations are.

"They say, 'Oh, you're going to win a gold medal,'" she said. "No athlete will going into it saying, 'I don't want to win one.' Swimmers can be pretty realistic about where they stand with the rest of the world. In other sports, a terrible team can have the game of its life. Swimming is a lot more difficult than that.

"My goal time is to hit the A standard (8:33.84). I don't know what place that will put me. If I can crack the top 16, that would be amazing. If I get a second swim (in the final), I'll finish in the top eight."

Bachrouche, who speaks the Arabic dialect of Lebanon, said the Lebanese Olympic officials have welcomed her with open arms.

"The Arab Games was the solidifying fact," she said. "I spent a lot of time with the Olympic Committee members. With the success I had, it made them more aware of me.

"It helps that I have language on my side. I'm very culturally in tune; I grew up in a very Lebanese family. I'm lucky for my dad instilling that in me from a young age."

Proud moment

Her parents will be in London to see her swim, and family and friends in two countries will be watching on television.

"I'm proud to be able to represent Lebanon in the Olympics and put them on the map," Bachrouche said. "From a family perspective and broader national perspective, it's the opportunity of a lifetime, and I'm really fortunate to have it.

"Going for the U.S. would be really cool. But Lebanon is such an underdog in the world, I think it's nice to be able to try to advance their place in it.

"I think I can do enough to make people recognize the country. It's not about me. I'm there to represent my country and not just myself."

EMONS

Continued from page B1

And Jackie DiPillo, John's wife, wasn't going to quit.

I finally cried "uncle" as she finally badgered me to go down into my archived dungeon on a cold Saturday afternoon in April and start what I thought was a fruitless search.

The search didn't go well at first, but after 20 minutes, I eventually I dug it out of a box buried amongst several other boxes and stumbled – and I mean *stumbled* upon – the article.

No byline

And of course, I didn't remember writing it. That's because I didn't cover that story in July of 1984. It was Chris McCosky, who now covers the Detroit Lions beat for the Detroit News, who wrote about the infamous "calling his own shot" homer while as John DePillo was overheard saying while waiting in the on-deck circle.

That was almost 28 years ago to be exact, and needless to say, Mrs. DiPillo was pleased I was able to retrieve it and mail my only original copy to her.

Of course, I was sworn to secrecy because she wanted to present it to her husband as a surprise.

And speaking of surprises, I stumbled upon another surprise just this past week in my dungeon of archives.

An e-mail came in recently from an Amy Mullins, a former member of the 1987 Livonia Franklin girls soccer team.

The e-mail read:

Dear Mr. Emons~

Recently there was an article in the Livonia Observer stating that the Livonia Franklin girls soccer team won their first ever districts. I believe that back in 1987 they also won. Could you please look into this?

Thanks so much~

Amy Mullins

Not quite right

When our Garden City-Redford sports editor Ed Wright covered Franklin's upset 2-1 shootout district final win last month over 17-1 Garden City, everybody connected with this Franklin team was convinced it was the school's first-ever district title.

Apparently there were no records kept at the school, or anything documenting that fact inside Franklin's main gymnasium where the championship teams are listed on the wall (by sport).

Given it was late and being on a tight Friday night deadline, I didn't question the validity of Ed's story, but upon reflecting back, a red flag immediately was raised in my mind.

I put in a quick call to Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye, who couldn't verify one way or another. I even searched on the internet for a phone number for tJudy Brda, who I did remember being the coach.

But given the limited time, I had no success.

There was a little nugget, however, inside my brain that kept telling me that Franklin, had indeed, previously won a district title.

And what I've learned in my 33 years in the newspaper business, any (small or big) mistake will eventually be exposed.

So I went back to the dungeon – once again – and began my search (minus any incendiary devices).

Stand corrected

And low-and-behold, Amy Mullins was dead right.

The Observer headline read: "Chargers, Franklin motor toward regionals."

To refresh anybody's memory, Franklin crushed host Southfield for the district title that year, 7-0, behind two goals apiece from Gayle Cheadle and Heather Colvin. In that game, Linda McCaul, Deanne Brda (Judy's daughter) and Andrea Horn also scored goals for the Patriots.

Ironically, Franklin's district semifinal win was even more amazing – 18-0 over Redford Bishop Borgess. (So now you know why the Michigan High School Athletic Association instituted an eight-goal mercy rule.)

What I didn't remember at all – going back 25 years – is that the 1987 Franklin team also won a regional game against Dearborn Edsel Ford and lost in the regional final, 3-1, to a 19-1-1 Troy Athens squad. (Salem went on to beat Livonia Churchill that year for the state title, 2-1.)

Franklin finished 8-9-1 overall that season and that team can still claim it was the most successful in school history when it cp,es to making a state tournament run. (This year's Franklin team finished 6-12-4 overall and lost in the regional semifinals to host Saline, 5-0.)

The moral of this story is that you can't take everybody's word at face value, and if you have any doubts that something is inaccurate, go to the dungeon and start sifting through all the boxes.

Those stacks of sports sections still come in handy, I'm slowly starting to learn.

Brad Emons covers sports for Livonia-Westland and can be reached via e-mail at bemons@hometownlife.com.

COLLOP

Continued from page B1

And what a difference a year makes.

"Last year I was healthy, got hurt, healthy, got hurt and was never really on a roll," Collop said. "Right now I feel good."

And playing in Winston-Salem has been nothing but a positive experience.

"It's an awesome environment," Collop said. "The stadium (BB&T Ballpark) is brand new, a lot of fans are here every night and it's definitely the best place I've ever played in the minor leagues. We ended up winning the first half and we'll be in the playoffs at the end of the year. Everybody works hard and plays together. That's why we were successful."

Following his first year in the minors, Collop came home and stayed during the offseason with his family in Wayne. The second year he worked out and continued to pursue his degree (in personal finance) at the University of Toledo.

During this past offseason he lived with his brother Tommy and spent time in working out during the winter months at the University of Miami (Fla.).

"When you're in a warm weather state like that you can work out, get you're throwing done and not have to worry about going indoors," Collop said.

The next jump for Collop is Class AA Birmingham (Ala.) followed by Class AAA in Charlotte (N.C.).

Comiskey Park seems thousands of miles away, but Collop isn't jumping ahead. He can only control and be concerned about the present and get back on schedule.

"You've got to go with the flow," the former all-Observer pitcher said. "You never really know. You just keeping doing what you're doing and hopefully things work out."

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Madonna lands two spikers from D2 champion Fruitport

Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham signed two more players to NAIA letters-of-intent Friday in Fruitport alums Breanna Geile and Ashley Hulbert.

The 5-foot-9 Geile, who helped Fruitport to back-to-back MHSAA Division 2 titles in 2010 and 2011, will join promising sophomore sister Samantha on the MU squad, the first duo of siblings to play for the Crusaders since Jacqui and Anna Gatt (Livonia Churchill).

"Breanna is a dynamic athlete with excellent court skills and game sense," Abraham said of the two-time all-state selection. "She was all-state as an outside hitter, but will probably be one of our most intense defensive players. Breanna sees the other side of the court very well and is an excellent all-around player who can have an immediate impact on our team."

The 5-foot-10 Hulbert comes to MU after two seasons at Muskegon Community College where she led the NJCAA Division II ranks in total kills (689) and kills per set (4.65) as a sophomore.

She is a two-time NJCAA National Player of the Week and led Muskegon to a share of the MCCAA Western Conference title while earning all-MCCAA and NJCAA Region 12 first-team honors.

"Ashley is an experienced outside hitter who is a real smart hitter,' Abraham said. "She has a set of versatile shots in her attack and plays all the way around. She is a great athlete who is quick and a very good defender. We brought her in to challenge for a starting position immediately."

WEDDING

Continued from page B1

"It was all Michael's crazy idea, actually," she said. "He announced in class one day we were getting married, which we were. And, then, he turned to one of the coaches and said: 'And we want to get married here on the ice.'

"The coach looked at me and said, 'Are you OK with that?' It wasn't something we had really talked about. He wanted to make sure it would be special and memorable, so I was like, 'Yeah, why not?'

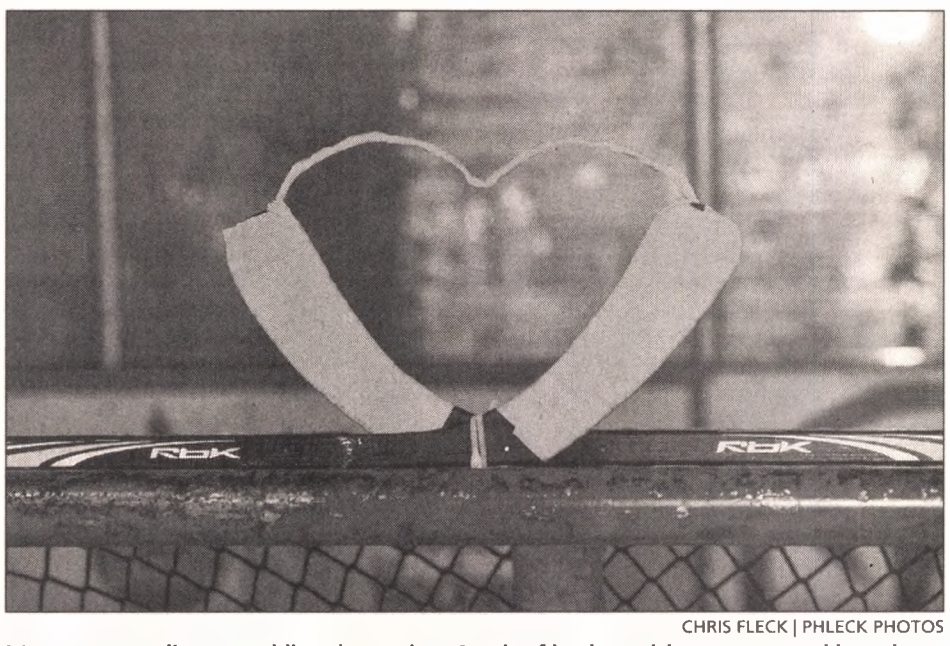
"He planned the whole thing; I just had to show up."

Ellis, a salesman and former Garden City resident, wanted to do something quick and low-key, that wasn't going to be too big a deal, he said. There were about 50 invited guests and maybe twice that many who were at the rink and witnessed the event.

"It was nice and it all worked out very well for us," Ellis said. "We'll all remember it for the rest of our lives, and everybody went away saying it was the best wedding they'd been to."

There was a very practical reason why people would say that, too.

"It was a hundred degrees outside, and we were in the rink," Ellis said. "We looked like geniuses at that point. It was quite nice. It was just low-key. We had the best man, the best woman and all our friends from the hockey team."



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

It's not your ordinary wedding decoration. A pair of hockey sticks are arranged into the shape of a heart.

The bride and groom wore skates, and guests were offered them if they chose to be seated on the ice; otherwise, they sat on the team benches or in the stands.

The couple was married legally in a civil ceremony earlier that day. Lyle Phair, the Breakfast Club instructor, officiated in the more-relaxed setting of Suburban Ice, sending the couple to the penalty box for a *holding* infraction.

While the newlyweds served their two minutes, the gathering was treated to a pair of Frank Sinatra love songs. Vogel, a lawyer, and Ellis returned to the ice and exchanged vows when the clock showed their penalty time had expired.

At the conclusion of the wedding, they skated through the "Tunnel of Hockey Love." Instead of crossed swords as in a military wedding, friends and teammates held hockey sticks aloft to form the tunnel.

"Once we went through, we couldn't stop," Ellis said. "We had to turn around and go back through. It was really unique."

"It was the most fun I've ever had," Vogel said of the entire event. "It's a shame more people don't have fun at their wedding as opposed to being stressed out at their wedding."

Ellis added Suburban Hockey, which didn't charge for the ice time, was very accommodating and generous.

"Suburban did a really nice job with the rink," he said, regarding the many decorations. "They dressed it up like we were special.

"Basically, they did this for us for free, and that's just unbelievable — that somebody would do that for you. We're real appreciative to Suburban Hockey."

Ellis and Vogel share an obvious love for the game of hockey, too. But they're not spectators; they're on the ice playing nearly year round. Vogel plays on four teams, Ellis three.

"She skates through the summer," Ellis said, adding he needs the time off, citing team commitments, the Breakfast Club and invitations to play drop-in hockey. "Before you know it, we're on the ice six days a week."

For a honeymoon, the newlyweds spent the weekend at a family cottage.

"We tried to go to drop-in hockey, where you just show up and play, but we couldn't find one," Vogel said.

Hoeft takes cage job at Lutheran Westland

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Lutheran High Westland is staying within the family to select its new boys basketball coach.

Jim Hoeft, a former three-sport athlete in basketball, football and baseball and 1994 Lutheran Westland grad, has been named to replace Doug Haller, who stepped down after three seasons to free up more time to pursue a masters degree.

Haller, also a Warrior alum, finished 26-37 overall in three seasons and guided Lutheran Westland to a 12-10 record and the finals of the Class D district tourney before losing to Detroit Westside Christian Academy.

"We were very pleased with Doug's coaching and were looking forward to him continuing as our head coach, but also understand his need to pursue an advanced degree at this point in his life," Lutheran Westland athletic director Mike Unger said.

"We wish him nothing but the best."

The 36-year-old Hoeft currently teaches seventh- and eighth-grade at Concordia Lutheran Grade School where he has spent the 12 years. He also serves as the school's athletic director and has coached at the Redford grade school (formerly known as Hosanna Tabor).

"I do not know much about the team, and from what I saw a little bit last year, the height is not quite there," said Hoeft, who is a Concordia University (of Ann Arbor) graduate with a degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in math and English. "But I'm am looking to get out and run and play some defense. My main concern is always defense first – making sure we shut down the other team before we put the ball in the basket. Defense is where it's at for me."

During the 1998-99 season, Hoeft served as an assistant coach at Lutheran Westland under Dan Ramthun.

"Offensively – because of the height disadvantages – I'm not necessarily trying to stick with a perimeter team," Hoeft said. "I told other people, too. I'm not trying to be Rich Rodriguez and strip down the offense to what I want to do with it. We've got to go with what we have and adapt an offense to what we have."

After working a Lutheran grade school basketball camp last week, Hoeft said he plans to get acquainted with the team before the summer ends.

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Titans triumph

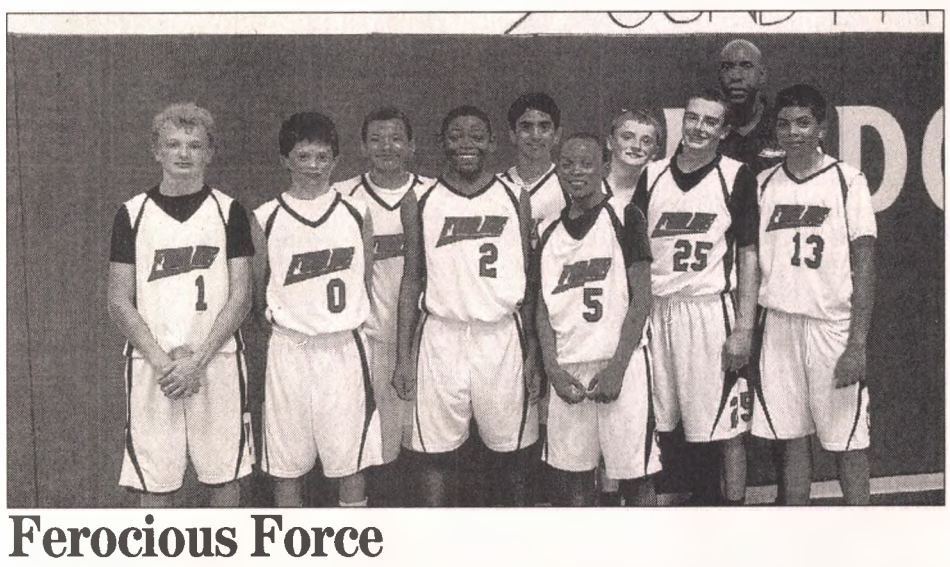
The Livonia Titans, a 13-and-under team, captured the Southeast Michigan Baseball Tournament title June 17 at the Eastern Michigan University Recreation Complex in Ypsilanti. Team members include (front row, from left): David DeNova, Tim Ohtake, Joe Wozniak, Brayden Dewhirst, Joe Hattley, Evan Cummins; (middle row, from left) Mark Pettersson, Aaron Youmans, Brian Turske, Nate Leach, Kolby Dewhirst, Nick Beers; (back row, from left) coaches Tyler Dewhirst, Harry Youmans, Brian Dewhirst and Mike Wozniak.

League soccer champ

The Farmington Soccer Club's under-9 Flash Black 03 is the champion of the Western Suburban Soccer League Division 5 spring session with a record of 6-2-0. The team members are (front row, from left) Sameer Torke, Eli Worthing, Jake Michalski, Hemil Shah, Connor Jaisle, (back row, from left) coach Eileen Monique, Jacob Kujawa, Martin Marks, Aidan Dsouza, Ronit Dey and Shrey Udupa.

Blues sing happy tune

The 14-and-under South Farmington Blues won the Brighton Baseball Classic June 24. The Blues scored victories over the Michigan Bulldogs, Southwest Oakland Warriors, Grosse Pointe Redhawks and Brighton Bulldogs. The team members are (front row, from left) Frank Zak, Rich Lantz, Shoya Ishikawa, Dan Carty, Nate Wenson, (back row, from left) manager Doug Creighton, coach Paul Wenson, Stephen Satterfield, Ian Schmitzerle, Nico Janigian, Mike Scott, Cam Creighton, coach Mike Lantz and coach Sean Carty. Not pictured are Evan Esicher and Will Krushena. The Blues also won the Play at the Cage tournament in Ypsilanti and were runners-up in Frankenmuth.



Ferocious Force

The 6th grade Plymouth Canton Force travel basketball team went undefeated at the recent AYBT Oxford/Macomb DSE basketball tournament. Decisive victories were posted against the CYO Allstars (46-14), West Bloomfield B3 Bombers (57-18), Detroit Arsenal (39-25) and Ann Arbor DSO Sports (55-13). Pictured from left are Connor Engel, Brandon Stevens, Andrew Neal, Noah Brown, Amit Tiwari, Eian Barker, Matt Buschman, Trevor Genaw, coach James Brown and Himmat Jagdev. Not pictured are Max Okolo, Colin Troup and Niko Barach.

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Give peace a chance

Livonia group focuses on inner calm, education, advocacy

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Members of Citizens for Peace staff a booth at the recent Inner Peace Festival in Ann Arbor. That's Colleen and her husband, George, at right.

Colleen Mills wants to make your life more peaceful.

She and her colleagues at Citizens for Peace plan a day-long yoga event this summer designed to help you find inner peace.

They'll also welcome Keith Gunter, member of Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 and founding partner of Beyond Nuclear, to their next meeting to talk about nuclear waste — an experience aimed at enhancing your peace education.

Their mid-summer vegetarian potluck will offer tasty cuisine while offering a chance to meet other peace advocates and reflect on nonviolence to animals.

"Peace is for everyone and it's so much fun," said Mills, president of the Livonia-based nonprofit organization. "Piece by piece, we are shifting the consciousness of people. We've influenced thousands of people who have come to our events. We've been non-stop doing incredible work. It will be nine years and we've never missed a monthly meeting. Peace doesn't have time to take a summer vacation. We keep working."

Citizens for Peace meets at 7 p.m., the second Tuesday of the month at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile. Gunter's talk on nuclear waste and decommissioned nuclear plants in Michigan is set for Tuesday, July 10. The next meeting, at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 14, is an annual potluck dinner. Participants can bring a dish to pass or make a $10 donation. "Peace, Love and Yoga: Movement ... Mandala ... Movie ... Meditation," a special event, runs 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Farmington Road and Five Mile. It will feature yoga sessions for all skill levels, lunch, meditation, mandala coloring, and a film, with the $35 per person proceeds split between Citizens for Peace and the Yoga Association of Greater Detroit. Its last summer meeting, 7 p.m. Sept. 11, will focus on readings from the peace collection of more than 650 books the organization donated to public libraries in Livonia, Redford, Westland and Commerce Township.

Membership

"We're one of the newest peace groups of 160 peace groups in Michigan, but we're the most diverse, dynamic and energized. We combine inner peace, education and influencing the political arena. We have people coming from all over for our meetings," Mills said, adding that the group's 13 board members live throughout the Metro area. "We have a little over 70 paid members, but we've literally influenced thousands of people."

Through the years, the group has distributed information at numerous events — everything from a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert to the recent Ann Arbor Inner Peace festival. It sponsored retreats, workshops on nonviolence, a film festival and welcomed dozens of guest speakers and experts to monthly meetings. Last year it organized a rally in Lansing, as a part of the "moveable peace movement" that encouraged participants to walk from Detroit and other cities to the state capitol building.

Just 15 individuals started the group nearly nine years ago after they attended a meeting on advocating for a U.S. Department of Peace. Participants at the meeting met in small groups and were charged with contacting their U.S. representatives. Mills had just retired from teaching elementary school in Detroit after 35 years, and wasn't sure how she would spend her leisure time. After the advocacy meeting, which drew experienced and budding peace activists from across the state, Mills knew she wanted to do more than simply contact her congressman and pen a letter to the editor.

"I made a commitment. I said, I'm going to have a meeting every month."

Setting goals

Mills and her colleagues met with Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of the 11th congressional district, and Mills' husband, George T. Mills, a former public relations officer for the Navy and a retired Detroit school teacher, got information about the Department of Peace to the press. Mills is proud that the fledgling Citizens for Peace was the first of 15 groups, formed from the advocacy meeting, that contacted both the press and a congressman. But as she vowed, Mills took the process a few steps further.

"The next few meetings we came up with a mission statement, and goals and objectives. We came out with what was important to each of us," she said, explaining the organization's inception. "Education was huge. Everyone voted for that. The other was influencing the world. We also wanted to be peaceful ourselves. We didn't want to be angry, anti-war protestors out there.

"We're trying to spread the idea that peace is possible. People feel discouraged. They have to realize that it (peace) comes from within, then their relationships with others will be more peaceful. They'll draw more peace into their lives. If you focus on the negative, that is what you'll get."

Mills said the group tries to keep meetings light, even when discussion topics are weighty.

"We try to present a perspective that makes sense to us and have fun doing it," she said. At the upcoming meeting on nuclear waste, for example, the guest speaker will give participants a chance to spin his "Wheel of Misfortune."

"People will be informed ... but we do it in a fun way."

For more information about Citizens for Peace, read the group's blog at www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com or call Mills at (734) 261-7589.

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REUNIONS

BELLEVILLE

Class of 1957

55-year reunion, Sept. 21-22, at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, I-94 and Belleville Road. Informal gathering starts at 6 p.m., Friday. Social time starts at 5 p.m., Saturday, followed by dinner. For more information call Donna (Watkins) Gotts at (734) 331-9180 or e-mail to donnagotts@aol for more details.

CENTERLINE

CLASS OF 1977

35-year reunion, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at Ernie's in Clinton Township. $25 per person. E-mail to clhs1977@hotmail.com.

DEARBORN FORDSON

CLASS OF 1948

The January and June classes will hold a 64-year reunion lunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 20, at the American Legion, Carl E. Stitt Post, 232 Warren Road, Dearborn. For more information call Rose Marie Listwan Kopelkin at (734) 421-1485.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ROBICHAUD

CLASS OF 1962

50th class reunion, Sept. 29 at the 1-Under Bar & Grill Banquet Facility in Livonia. The committee is looking for classmates and contact information. All classes are welcome to attend. Send names, contact info and questions to the reunion committee website, robichaud62@yahoo.com. Check out "Robichaud 50th Reunion Class of 62" on Facebook and on classmates.com. Or call Paula (McGue) at (517) 304-9755.

DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

1950S, 1960S

Annual Cody 50s-60s picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, Nankin Mills Pavilion in Hines Park, located at Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. Music, camaraderie, memorabilia, door prizes, hot dogs, chips, bottled water, baseball hats, T-shirts, sweat shirts, tassels, beads, music CD's are all available. Special parking for classic cars. Bring chairs and pop-ups. No need to register. Questions? Call Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or e-mail to Pvarilone@wowway.com; Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134 or e-mail to Jmarsares@sbcglobal.net.

DETROIT MUMFORD

CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion, 6:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Somerset Inn, Troy. Make reservations at www.mumford62.com.

DETROIT WESTERN

ALL CLASSES

Friday, Sept. 14 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Family-style luncheon plus prizes and plenty of school spirit. $25 per person. Phone Mildred (Lois) Carpenter at (248) 427-0673 for tickets. Deadline is Aug. 25.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates from January and June classes for 50th class reunion Saturday, Sept. 22 at Western Golf and Country Club, Redford. Cost is $62 per person. Other weekend activities include tour of school, evening icebreaker and Sunday brunch. For information call Judy Alegnani Murray, (313) 399-0507, Judy Hull Rakowski, (734) 459-3832, Helen Knight Tucker, (734) 285-4927 or Ralph Brighton, (734) 513-7499.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

The 50th class reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills; (248) 477-7800. The $60 per person cost includes a welcome reception from 2-5 p.m. and an evening dinner dance with cash bar. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations deadline is Sept. 1. For more information call Michele Cook Hoffmeyer at (602) 290-6006 or e-mail to russmichele@yahoo.com. Check Classmates and Facebook FHS Class of 62 Reunion pages for more information.

CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on facebook. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net.

GARDEN CITY WEST

CLASS OF 1972

6:30 p.m. Oct. 27. For more information e-mail to Janine (Alioto) Brown at jbrown@psm.inc.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder.com, or call (586) 215-9445.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

CLASSES OF 1971-73

A "40ish" class reunion hosted by the class of 1972 is planned for 6-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Holiday Inn Laurel Park, 17123 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia. Friends from junior high may also attend the gathering. Tickets are $65 per person. Go to www.churchillalumni.com for a registration form. Contact Susan Burke at susanamyburke@gmail.com if you want to help organize this party.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1987

25th reunion, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, July 28, in Livonia. For information or to register contact Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail rsculbert@sbcglobal.net.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

PONTIAC CENTRAL

CLASS OF 1962

Informal social gathering, 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21 and reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, both at the Radisson Hotel, 30475 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. For more information call Bob or Marilyn (Coffing) Pomeroy at (248) 625-5301.

CLASS OF 1972

40th class reunion Sept. 22 at The Lafayette Grand of Pontiac. A "Meet & Greet" also will be held Friday, Sept. 21. Location to be determined. E-mail Tina Johnson tinastribe@charter.net.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

ALL CLASSES

7 p.m.-midnight, Oct. 6, at the Polish Cultural Center in Troy. $45 per person. For more information contact Rose Ann Filar (Novik) at rjfilar@yahoo.com or (248) 770-1271.

ST. BENEDICT HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1962

The Highland Park school will hold a 50th year reunion Aug. 25. Contact Milt Dugas at (248) 446-6042 or mgdugas@sbcglobal.net.

STERLING HEIGHTS HENRY FORD II

CLASS OF 1982

30-year reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane Dr., Sterling Heights. The cost is $45 per person. For tickets, contact Dana Anthony Sullivan at (586) 246-4679 or henryford30th@yahoo.com.

Flea market benefits historic mansion

Got a few gently-used items you no longer need?

Consider donating them to the Governor Warner Mansion's Flea Market on the Lawn in Farmington.

Proceeds from the sale, which runs 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at 33805 Grand River Ave., will help cover the costs for the Mansion's foundation repairs and other expenses.

Donations will be accepted from 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 13 and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, July 14 at the Mansion Carriage House, located at the end of the circle driveway.

For more information, call (248) 474-5500, Ext. 2225.

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FIBROMYALGIA TODAY

Fibromyalgia is well known. The condition came to light in medical journals in 1905 under the name Fibrositis. Not until the late 1970's did investigators in the field realize that inflammation played no role in the condition, making the "itis" term untenable. Then physicians changed the name to the present designation of Fibromyalgia.

Until 2010, physicians recognized Fibromyalgia by a patient history that included daily pain, migrating pain, sleeplessness, fatigue, headaches, and chest pain that could not be explained as related to heart disease or esophageal reflux. Doctors considered the finding, on physical examination, of multiple pressure points, as crucial to the diagnosis.

In 2010, the American College of Rheumatology, in response to calls from its physician membership, reviewed the criteria being used to make the diagnosis of Fibromyalgia. The review revealed that requiring pressure points, usually 18 or more, was limiting the ability of doctors to make a diagnosis of a pain syndrome that clearly was Fibromyalgia even if the patient lacked 18 or more specific painful pressure sites.

The new definition, which is in use today, and which is proving better for physicians, keeps the character of Fibromyalgia and its emphasis on a patient experiencing daily pain. However, now the pain need not be confined to a definitive site, but may be over an arm, down a leg, and may not be pain but numbness or a buzzing discomfort. Pain should be at multiple sites, wax and wane, even disappear for hours or days, and then without provocation, appear again.

Today this pattern fits Fibromyalgia.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

July

ADULT ACADEMY

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The Rev. Paul Stunkel will lead adult learning. The series is "Theology for the Fearless: Who is God? What do we mean by 'incarnation?' and Other Conversations"

Contact: (734) 422-1470

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, July 28

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton

Details: Free clothing and shoes to anyone in need

Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480.

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 19

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church & School, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Details: Spoke Folk Christian music concert; free will donation

Contact: (734) 728-3315

FREE LUNCH

Time/Date: Noon– 2 p.m., July 14

Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Road, (northbound Southfield service drive), north of Eight Mile, in Southfield

Details: This is a free luncheon and all are welcome

Contact: (248) 569-2972

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date:7 p.m. July 14 and 11 a.m. July 15

Location: Detroit Laestadian Lutheran Church, 290 Fairground, Plymouth

Details: Emmanuel Ametsife, a lay minister from Lome, Togo will speak at the Detroit Laestadian Lutheran Church about the history and activities of the Laestadian Lutheran Church of Togo. Ametsife has been involved with Laestadian Lutheran Church mission work in both Togo and Ghana since it began in November 2000. In addition to serving as a lay minister, he serves on the national board of the Laestadian Lutheran Church of Togo, and as a translator on Laestadian Lutheran Church mission trips. The event is open to the public

Contact: (734) 459-8292 or (248) 875-7011

MOVIE NIGHT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

Location: Bixman Hall at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "The Way" will be screen. A brief discussion will follow the film. Admission is free and refreshments will be served

Coming up: See "Monsignor Quixote" at Summer Movie Night, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 at the church

Contact: RSVP at (734) 425-5950

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday-Friday, July 12-13

Location: St. Innocent Russian Orthodox Church, 2330 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Contact: (313) 538-1142

SEEKING CRAFTERS

Time/Date: Show is Oct. 6

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: An 8- by 10-feet space can be rented for $30. Tables are available for $5 and electricity for $5. Crafts must be handmade; no resale. Profits will go to mission work in the community

Contact: (248) 478-4708 or e-mail jsinc2436@yahoo.com

SUMMER RETREAT

Time/Date: 8:30-11 a.m. July 11 and Aug. 1

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia

Details: The retreat is aimed at moms and will begin with Mass at each session, followed by a continental breakfast and a program. The theme for the series this year is "Whole and Holy: The total Catholic Woman." Participants may sign up for 1, 2 or all 3 classes to fit busy schedules. A children's ministry is available at $2 per child per meeting. The first session was held in June. The second session will focus on body and will include a spa morning. The last session will discuss spirit, looking to St. Teresa of Avila and St. Francis de Sales for ways to integrate women's daily lives with a heart for holiness. The series is open to all and registration is required

Contact: (734) 261-1455 Ext. 207 or www.livoniastmichael.org

THEOLOGY DISCUSSION

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 11

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills

Details: "Wine, Cheese and Theology" brings folks together for conversation over light refreshments. It is led by First Presbyterian's Transitional Associate pastor, the Rev. Jim Faile. Discussion topic is forgiveness

Contact: (248) 474-6170

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m., Monday-Friday, July 9-13

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, between W. Chicago Road and Joy, in Livonia

Details: For children, age 4 through 5th grade. No registration fee

Register at: http://www.christthekinglivonia.com.

Contact: (734) 421-0749 or (734) 469-4190

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. July 23-27

Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School, 3885 Venoy, Westland

Details: The theme is "IncrediWorld Amazement Park." Kids will experience the wonder of God's creation made in six days. As they travel back to the beginning, they will put on their "Bible glasses" and get a closer look at God's design features in animals. Kids will make crafts, play water games, relays and more. Aimed at age 3 to 6th grade.

Contact: (734) 425-0261

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m.-noon, July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2

Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: "Sky - Everything is Possible with God" is the theme. Aimed at children, 3-5th grade. Preschoolers must be potty-trained. Free CD of music from the week. Cost is $10 per child, $25 for families with three or more children. Registration forms are available in the church office. Church office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call ahead to assure someone can help you

Contact: Pam Gunderson at (734) 422-0494, Ext. 14, or visit rgpc.children@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m.-noon, July 30-Aug. 3

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: "VBS Olympics" is aimed at children, age 3 through 5th grade and will include story time and lesson, music, crafts, recreation and snack. Cost is $5 per child and registration is available now

Contact: (734) 422-1470, ext. 17 or e-mail to christianeducator@sppc-email.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: Social hour at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Cash bar and dinner buffet followed by cards, games and conversation until 9 p.m. Cost is $15 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door with cash only. RSVP by July 10

Coming up: Dinner at 6 p.m.at Hazel Park Raceway, 1650 E. 10 Mile at Dequindre in Hazel Park. For menu, info and sign up, call Marilyn at (248) 543-1018. Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 21 at St. Valentine Church, 14841 Beech Daly, Redford, followed by social hour and snacks. Sign up to bring food items such as veggie tray, dip, chips, salad, cheese and crackers. RSVP by July 12 to let organizers what dish you'll make. Call Ann Marie at (248) 477-6167, Donna at (734) 420-0461 or Laura at(734) 942-3866

Contact: Mary Anne at (313) 565-5749, Joan at (734) 331-6866 or Carol at (313) 562-3080 for G. Subu event

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Time/Date: 11 a.m., July 15, 22 and 29

Location: at the Cherry Hill Schoolhouse, located at Cherry Hill and Ridge Road in Canton

Details: St. Michael Lutheran Church hosts the service. Bring a lawn chair to the event

Contact: (734) 459-3333

August

CROP WALK MEETING

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 1

Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Individuals, faith communities and other organizations interested in participating in the Plymouth/Canton CROP Hunger Walk on Oct. 7 may send a representative to this orientation meeting. Attendees will receive Walk materials and strategies for recruiting walkers

Contact: Donna Gray at (734) 812-7698; dgrayce@sbcglobal.net

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

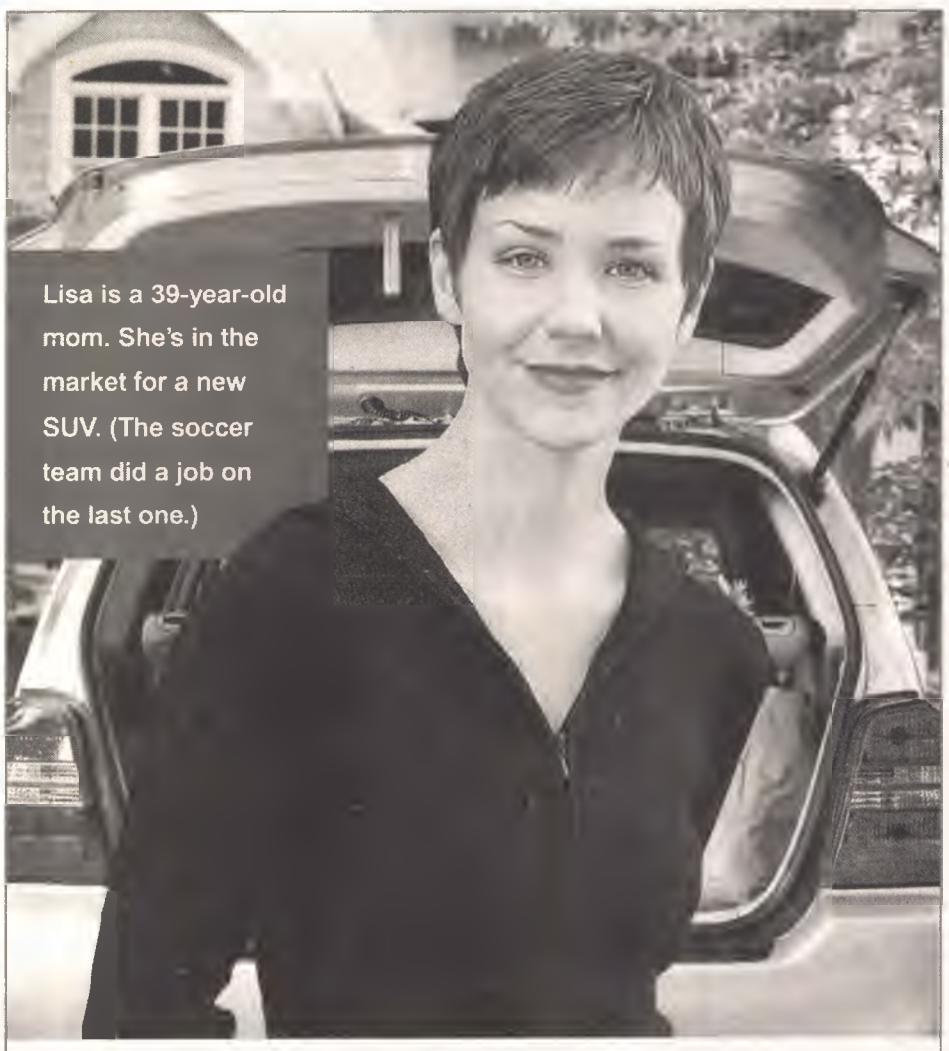
Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000



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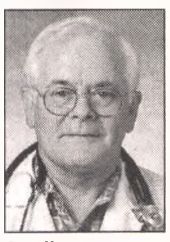
E-mail causes me to worry about you

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

In all my years of writing this column I have received many e-mails from readers and each one has been important and most have been sent a reply.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

When I send a reader my personal cell number and ask him or her to call me, you can bet that the issue is very serious or maybe even life threatening.

I did that a few weeks ago with the writer of the following correspondence and I have not heard from Caite.

She wrote: "I had an Uncle Joe who could fix everything for everyone in the extended family. His humor was like yours, too. My problem: Only occasionally does my LG front loader not drain at the end of a cycle. After about a month's respite, it has begun not to drain once more. When this happens I set it for the drain and spin cycle which successfully drains. This has just now happened and if it happens again, I will write you soon again.

"Other than for this problem, I do like this washer very much for its energy saving of water and the fact that stains come out fine and the motion is gentle on fabrics and pillows, sometimes baseball caps, too. I manage the mold buildup by using OxyClean for several cycles, and also monitor the rubber seal, wiping it out with Oxy and removing as much scum as possible. So this machine and I function together pretty well. But how about this occasional drain problem? Do I have to call for a repair man? … to tell me…what?

Dryer problems

"Another problem: The Maytag dryer, the middle grade one, purchased around 10 years ago. It coughs at the end of its cycle, jumping a bit when it finishes and sometimes dumping articles on its top to the floor. I have adjusted the legs at the base of the machine to conform to the floor level. Once again this does not always occur. I have set the cycle for five minutes and stayed to watch the action. It didn't happen when I was watching. The Gremlins don't like to be watched.

"Another subject: Thank you very much for your latest fine article on cleaning out dryer vents. My husband and I spent a couple of hours doing this together a month ago. It was rewarding work, and shocking, too. I did not realize that the dampness causes the lint to form a substance something like paper Mache. Most interesting phenomenon and there comes a good deal of accumulation of it. It's clearly a fire hazard. I wrote to a niece in San Francisco, quoting from your article and she wrote back that she was going to get the project back onto her front burner. Her mother, my sister, urged me to write, and she, too, is convinced to be regular about a thorough cleaning. So goes the grape vine.

"But I want to thank you sincerely for your article. If Uncle Joe were alive he probably would have lectured me the same way. Maybe his spirit inspires us all. We all carry a share of the load of wisdom to be communicated. Hope to hear from you."

Call me

Why am I worried about this reader and why did I send her my cell number? In this e-mail she tells me that the clothes dryer coughs and jumps at the end of the cycle. This could be the drum rollers seizing up because of bad bearings. Should this happen during the run cycle, the drum will stop turning but the burner assembly will continue to heat and ignite the clothes inside the drum. It's happened to many clothes dryers and I don't want it to happen to Caite. Please call me Caite so I can stop worrying about you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. Joe's Consumer Tips can be seen on WADL Television. You can e-mail your problems and questions about appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

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

Country Garden Club

The 19th Annual Garden Walk, sponsored by the Country Garden Club of Northville, Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 11. The tour includes six gardens. Other unique attractions include a garden market, live music, and refreshments at historic Mill Race Village. Proceeds from the event support charitable contributions to local and national horticultural causes. Tickets are $10 at Gardenviews, 117 E. Main, Northville; (248) 380-8881. Limited tickets will be sold the day of the event and will cost $12 at Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold Ave., Northville. Visit the Country Garden Club of Northville website at http://cgcnv.org.

Butterflies

Learn how to maintain a butterfly garden at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Get tips on how to improve your butterfly plantings and increase the number of the creatures you attract to your yard. $3 for non-members. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or www.sembabutterfly.com.

Belleville Walk

The Belleville Area District Library will present its seventh annual Garden Walk, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, July 22. The theme is "The Decorated Garden" with an emphasis on using art and other objects as focal points in the garden. Each of the five gardens on the tour artfully incorporates manmade objects. The Garden Market Place returns to the library lawn this year. A Garden Walk ticket is not necessary to shop the Market Place. Advance tickets are available for $10 each at the Belleville Area District Library, Antiques on Main, and Garden Fantasy Greenhouse & Florist until July 21. On the day of the Garden Walk, tickets are $12 and available only at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville. Addresses with maps are available at the library on the day of the walk. Call (734) 699-3291 for additional information or visit www.belleville.lib.mi.us for a copy of the brochure. All proceeds from the garden walk benefit the library.

English Gardens

• Learn how to care for your summer garden at a free presentation 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 and 10 a.m., Saturday, July 14.

• Discover hydrangeas at a free store presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 19 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 21. The presentation will include information about the four categories of hydrangeas and care tips.

• Get tips on planning, planting and maintaining flowers in the shade at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 28.

• Learn to arrange flowers in a vase at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. This step-by-step demonstration features lots of inspirations and design basics to get your started.

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

BENEFIT SHOW DELIVERS HOPEFUL MESSAGE

People International Incorporated will spread a positive message through music and dance, 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 13, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

People International is a non-profit musical performance organization made up of members ranging from teens to seniors, who come from all over the country, from various socioeconomic backgrounds, different religions, various careers and who possess a wide range of talent, from amateur to professional.

Their concert, "Keep Holding On," is centered is centered on the theme of hope. The show illustrates the idea in many different ways and across many different musical styles. The goal is to leave audience members uplifted and re-energized, feeling that they can overcome their struggles.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $12 for youth and seniors. They're available at the door, online at cantonvillagetheater.org and by calling (734) 394-5300. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, a local non-profit group dedicated to fostering cultural arts in the Canton community.

For more about People International Incorporated, visit www.peopleinternational.org.

Milestones

50th anniversary

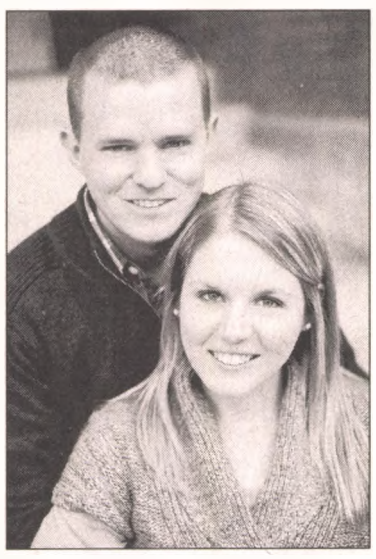
John and Marge Gjernes of Livonia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 7. The couple met in 1961 while teaching at an army dependents school in Boeblingen, Germany. They were married at St. John's Catholic Church in Monroe.

They returned to Germany where Larry, Dan, and Terese were born. They returned to Michigan in 1965, and another son, John was born in 1970. They now have 13 grandchildren.

John and Marge are involved in real estate after retiring from teaching. They are involved in church activities and enjoy golf, travel, visiting family and friends, and ushering at the Fox Theater.

John and Marge Gjernes

Racine-Shonce



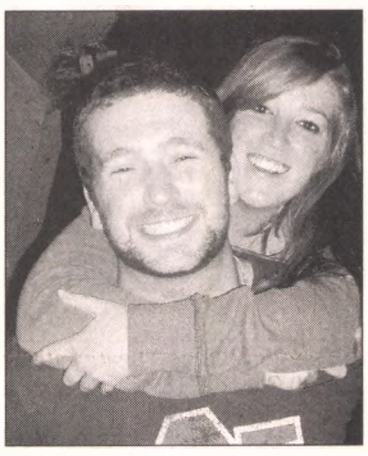
Courtney Robin Racine and Stephen Bradley Shonce announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Bob and Pat Racine of Ann Arbor, graduated in 2004 from Pioneer High School and in 2008 from Michigan State University. She attends Eastern Michigan University, where she will receive a master's degree in speech pathology in April 2013.

Her fiance, son of Kevin and Jan Shonce of Livonia, graduated in 2004 from Stevenson High School and in 2009 from Michigan State University where he received a master's degree in accounting. He is employed as a certified public accountant with Deloitte & Touche LLP.

An August 2012 wedding will be held in Traverse City.

Piwowar-Gelven



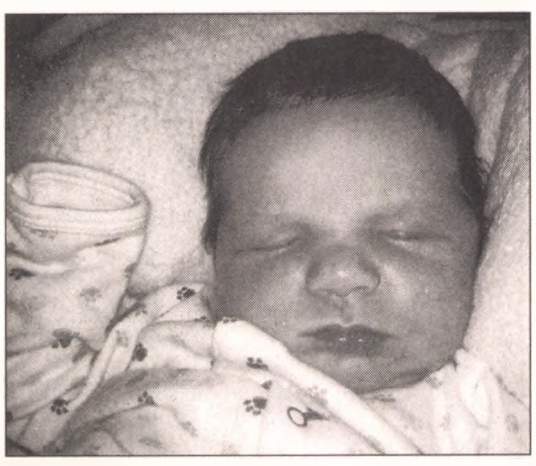
Kara Piwowar and Derek Gelven announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Daniel and Nancy Piwowar of Northville, is a registered nurse and works in the emergency room at Botsford Hospital in Farmington. The 2007 Northville High School graduate earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Michigan State University.

Her fiancé, son of Robert and Stacey Gelven of Northville, is a registered nurse and works in the emergency room at U of M Hospital. He plans to continue his education and become a nurse anesthetist. He also graduated in 2007 from Northville High School and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Michigan State University.

An August 2013 wedding is planned in Leelanau.

Max Alexander Matthew Giffen



Matthew and Jessica (Balko) Giffen of Anchorage, Alaska are proud to announce the birth of their son, Max Alexander Matthew Giffen. Max was born May 2, 2012. He weighed 9 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

Max was welcomed home by his big brother, Jack, 20 months.

Proud grandparents are Rex and Claudia Balko of South Lyon, Isabelle Pappert of Canton, and Denis and Marion Giffen of Royal Oak.

SpringElation event benefits Farmington Hills-based JARC

This year's 14th annual JARC SpringElation event at the Detroit Zoo attracted nearly 2,000 partygoers, who joined event chairs Adam Becker of Bloomfield Hills, Dani Gillman of West Bloomfield and Julie Hertzberg of Bloomfield Hills.

The fundraising event raised more than $320,000 for Farmington Hills-based JARC, a non-sectarian, non-profit organization founded in 1969 by a group of parents concerned about the future of their children with developmental disabilities.

Today, JARC is one of the nation's largest providers of community-based residential services, serving more than 170 adults in its group homes and various supported independent living arrangements.

In 1998, JARC discovered a need in the community for support services for families who have a child with a disability living at home. Through the establishment of the Harris Children and Family Division, JARC is able to provide these services to over 450 families.

SpringElation is the major source of private funding for JARC's services for children and their families. All proceeds raised at this family community event benefit children with disabilities receiving services through the organization's Merle and Shirley Harris Children and Family Division.

For more information on JARC, visit www.jarc.org or call (248) 538.6611.

Smykowski-Weidner

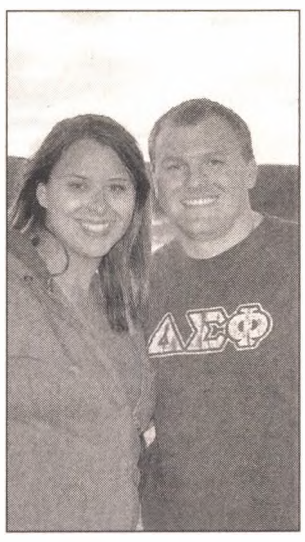
Timothy Bailey and Joan Smykowski of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Theresa Bailey, to Nathan Weidner, son of Wayne and Sandra Weidner of Florissant, Mo.

The bride-to-be received a B.F.A. in industrial design from Wayne State University in Detroit. She is employed by BMW Motorcycles Southeast Michigan in sales, marketing and social media.

Her fiance is completing a Ph.D. in industrial psychology from Wayne State University. He plans to complete the degree in summer 2012. He has accepted a faculty position with Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Mo.

The couple resides in Dearborn, but will move to Rolla at the end of July 2012.

Although the final arrangements have not been made, a wedding tentatively is planned for October 2013.



Passages

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BARAN, EVA M.

Redford, MI. Age 86, died July 6, 2012. Visit, Tuesday, 2-8PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial 2 PM, Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at St. Patrick Catholic in Brighton.

EANES, LEWIS C., SR.

Age 62, July 1, 2012 of Waterford. Beloved husband of Tania. Loving father of Lewis Jr. and Jacob.Cherished son of June and the late John. Dear brother of Deborah (Patrick) Kenny, John (Mary Ann), Barbara (Charles) Darnell and Christopher (Sheila). Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Funeral Service Friday 12 Noon at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd (between Ford & Cherry Hill) Westland. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

HOLLINGSHEAD, CAROL MAY

Age 89. Died October 23, 2011 in Bedford MA. Born August 18, 1922 to Earl and Evelyn May and raised in Highland Park. Graduated from the University of Michigan and married Pell Hollingshead in 1944. They moved to Birmingham in 1947 where she lived until 2001. Predeceased by Pell in 1989, she is survived by children Carol Jane, Robert, David, Ann, their spouses and nine grandchildren. A beloved wife, mother and grandmother, she was also a tireless volunteer in the community at St. James Church, the Senior Men's Club, St. Ann's Mead, BASCC, the Baldwin Library and Birmingham Heart Association. A memorial service will be held at St. James Church, Birmingham on July 14 at 10:30.

JOHNSON, BARBARA A.

60, of Eureka, formerly of Detroit, Michigan and Denver, Colorado, died on Monday July 2, 2012 at 8:50 AM at Advocate Eureka Hospital. She was born February 16, 1952 in Peoria to Herman and Mary Ann Sauder Baer. Her mother survives in Eureka. Also surviving are one daughter; Kyra Johnson of Goodfield, one brother; Ron (Deann) Baer of Edelstein, one sister; Deb (Leon) Klopfenstein of Haviland, Ohio and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, and one brother Raymond Baer. Barbara was a computer programmer for many years. She retired from Lockheed Martin in Denver in 2003. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church in Washington and formerly in Detroit and Denver. She loved the outdoors. Especially hiking and gardening. She had a green thumb and enjoyed working with her flowers. There will be a funeral service for Barbara on Friday July 6, 2012 at 10 AM at the Washington Apostolic Christian Church. Church ministers will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday July 5, 2012 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at Deiters Funeral and Crematory in Washington and from 9 – 9:45 AM Friday at church. Burial will take place in Princeville at the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery at 2PM Friday. Memorials may be made to Eureka Apostolic Christian Home or to Woodhaven Retirement Community, 29667 Wentworth St., Livonia, MI 48154. Barbara's memorial website may be found at www.deitersfuneralhome.com where online condolences may also be sent to the family.

KAYS, JOSEPH LEONALD

Age 82, of Bloomington, Indiana died Friday, June 29th at Bell Trace Health & Living Center. Graveside services were held Saturday, July 7th at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Pike County, Indiana. Joe was born in Pike County, Indiana on April 6, 1930 to Oliver T. and Mary Etta (Harris) Kays. He graduated from Winslow High School in 1948 and Indiana University, School of Business, in 1952 with honors. Following graduation, lSI Lt. Joseph L. Kays served in the Air Force as an auditor during the Korean Conflict. After his Air Force service, he was employed by General Motors at facilities in both Michigan and Indiana retiring in 1987 with 32 years of service. Following retirement he returned to the Bloomington, Indiana area. Joe was a member of the church of Christ. Most recently he was a member and former elder of the North Central Church of Christ in Bloomington. Joe is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rowena Alice (Chesser) Kays, whom he married September 17, 1950. He is also survived by his daughter, Kim (Dennis) Dirks of Avon, Indiana and his son, Mark (Kim) Kays of Canton, Michigan. Survivors also include his granddaughter, Courtney Dirks, and his grandsons Jeremy (Rachel) Dirks, Steve Kays, and Tim Kays. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Wilma (Kays) Grow, and his brother Ancil O. Kays. Joe's family would like to express special thanks to all the staff at Bell Trace Health & Living Center and the Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice for the wonderful care that was given to Joe during the last five years. Memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer Association of Greater Indiana, 9135 N. Meridian St., Suite B-4, Indianapolis, IN 46260; Alzheimer's Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871; IU Health Bloomington Home Health & Hospice, Medical Arts Building, 619 West First St., Bloomington, IN 4740 I in memory of Joseph L. Kays.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

LEFLER, ROBERT "BOBBY", II

Age 37, of Westland, died suddenly 06/30/12. Visitation Sat. 7/7/12 from Noon-5pm with the service beginning at 5pm at Casterline Funeral Home, 59255 10 Mile Rd., South Lyon.

MARTIN, RANDALL A.

Age 58. June 24, 2012. Beloved husband of Holly, Dear father of Mark and Julie. Dearest son of Patricia and the late Albert Martin. Brother of Mark and Scott. Funeral Service Sunday, July 8, 2012, 2:00p.m. at Crosspointe Meadow Church. 29000 Meadowbrook Rd., between 12 Mile and 13 Mile Road in Novi.

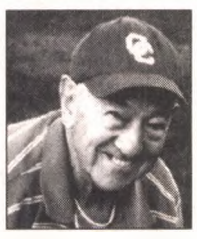
MEFFER, DONNA J. "YaYa"

Willis, MI. Age 82. Died Friday, June 29, 2012 at her daughter's home with her loving family around her. She was born February 20, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of John and Madeline Smith. On April 26, 1947, she married Angelo Meffer and he preceded her in death in May of 1987. Survivors include four children: William "Bill" (Bev) Meffer, Patricia Taylor, Catherine "Cathy" (Mark) Martin and Barb (Brad) Davidson; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Funeral service was celebrated on Monday, July 2, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at Janowiak Funeral Home with her son-law-law, Brad Davidson officiating. Burial will follow in Cadillac West Memorial Cemetery, Westland, MI. Contributions in her memory may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home where the family will receive friends on Sunday from 2-8 p.m.

MICHELIS, JUDY ANN

Age 69, June 30, 2012. Beloved wife of Richard. Dear mother of Matthew (Mary), Leah, Anne (Stacey) and Valerie (Scott). Loving Nannie of Karlee, Kamryn and Evan. Special friend of Danielle and Melanie. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Arrangments by Santeiu & Son Funeral Home.

www.santeiufuneralhome.com



POLICE, FRANK L.

Age 83 of Livonia, passed away on June 30, 2012. Loving husband of the late Louise B. Beloved father of Frank Police, the late Daniel Police, Eva T. Police, Maria (Anthony) Kraska and David Police. Proud grandfather of Shannon Police, Steven and Angela Kraska. Funeral service Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from St. Michael's Catholic Church 11441 Hubbard Rd, Livonia, Mr. Police will lie in state beginning at 10:00am until time of mass at 10:30am. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth on Monday, July 9, 2012 from 1-9pm with a Rosary service at 7:00pm. Frank will be buried next to his beloved Louise at United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital -Tribute Program P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142 Memphis, TN 38148-0421. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.

SILLS, THOMAS M.

Age 71, of Las Vegas, formally of Sterling Hts, died June 25, 2012. A memorial mass will be held at 10am on July 25th at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park Rd, Sterling Hts.

WINSLOW, INEZ M.

92; June 30, 2012. Inez was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin E., Esq. (d. 2008). Dear mother of Chaplain David A. (Doribell) Winslow, US Navy Retired; devoted grandmother of Frances Papapietro and David A. Winslow Jr.; Mrs. Winslow is also survived by her great grandchildren, Richard Papapietro III and Gabriella Papapietro. Inez graduated with a B.A. degree from Whittier College, Whittier, California in 1941 and received her M.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in medical social work in 1947. She was a longtime teacher and social worker in the Detroit, Highland Park and Farmington schools. A graveside service was held at South Oak Grove Cemetery, Stuart, Iowa. No local services are planned. Arrangements are entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington, (248-474-5200) heeney-sundquist.com

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HEALTH

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Take a summer break from video, computer screens

With warm weather to bask in, there are plenty of reasons to cut down on screen time. Replacing sedentary hours with creative or physical activities can lead to a happier and healthier home. To help your family unplug, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a national non-profit founded by the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation to combat childhood obesity, brings you 10 ideas on how to cut down screen time:

1. Create a schedule – Craft a plan to decide which shows your family will watch. To increase effectiveness, create a schedule for other electronic use, such as Internet and video games.

2. Keep a log – Have your kids track the time they spend in front of screens. The number may prompt them into making behavioral changes.

3. Make goals – Instead of setting strict time limits, create goals for cutting back on screen time and reward your family for reaching them.

4. Mix and match – Constructively multitask when using electronics. While watching TV, perform exercises or make crafts. When using the computer, take breaks to stretch and walk around.

5. Participate in outdoor activities – Join a family club or play a sport.

6. Find a hobby – Adding a hobby to your family's day can help you evade those omnipresent electronics.

7. Screen-free zones – Eliminate screens from mealtimes. Instead, have family discussions or eat outside if the weather permits. In addition, remove screens from bedrooms.

8. Cover it up – Cover up electronics not in use. This will encourage your family to engage in other activities.

9. Build a blockade – Put all electronics in one room for a day and avoid the space at all costs.

10. Have a library adventure – Take a family trip to the library. Reward your child for reading by allowing them to stay up 15 minutes past their bedtime.

For more tips on ways you can cultivate a healthy lifestyle and help reverse the trend of childhood obesity visit: www.HealthierGeneration.org.

The goal of the Alliance is to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity by 2015, and to empower kids nationwide to make healthy lifestyle choices.

NEW FACES

Two doctors have joined the staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Ekaterina Lensou Vaysberg, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist who sees patients in her office located at 19855 W. Outer Drive, Suite 208E, in Dearborn.

Vaysberg

Vaysberg completed the doctoral program in clinical psychology at University of Detroit-Mercy. Her clinical training includes an inpatient psychiatric practicuum at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac; an outpatient psychiatric practicuum at Psychological Assets, P.C., in Southfield; and the psychology internship at the University Psychiatric Centers of Wayne State University in Detroit.

Vaysberg, who speaks Russian fluently, is a member of the American Psychology Association and the Michigan Psychological Association.

Patricia Strimpel, M.D., is a board-certified neurologist who sees patients at the three offices of Associates in Neurology, P.C.: 27555 Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills; 26850 Providence Pkwy., Suite 210, in Novi; and 22250 Providence Dr., Suite 602, in Southfield.

Strimpel

After receiving her medical education from American University of the Caribbean Medical School, Strimpel performed her first year of clinical training at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. She served her neurology residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Strimpel also trained for a year in a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

July

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

Here's a sampling of offerings:

- Eating Disorders Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, 18 and 25.
- Alzheimer's Support meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 11
- "Focus on Living" Cancer Support is a monthly self-help group facilitated by a nurse. Next session is 7 p.m. Thursday, July 12.
- Diabetes Summer School is a two-hour class with a speaker presentation and discussion each month during the summer. The session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 17 is "A Look Backward and Forward at Diabetes Medications."
- Breastfeeding class runs 6-9 p.m. Monday, July 23 and is aimed at expectant mother. There is a fee for this one-time session.

The Diabetes Summer School will be held in the community room at Westland Shopping Center, located at Central City Parkway and N. Wayne Road. Other classes are held at the hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City; (734) 458-4330.

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Upcoming 2012 Course Offerings

Course	Start Date	Days	Location
· EMT Saturday Class	6/23/12	Sat	Southfield
· EMT-S Bridge Class	7/8/12	Sun	Taylor
· EMT-S Bridge Class	7/10/12	T-Th	Southfield
· EMT Saturday Class	7/21/12	Sat	Taylor
· EMT Day Class	8/7/12	T-Th	Taylor
· EMT-S Bridge Class	8/7/12	T-Th	Taylor
· Paramedic Evening Class	9/4/12	T-Th	Southfield
· Paramedic Evening Class	10/9/12	T-Th	Taylor

Late Registrants Accepted

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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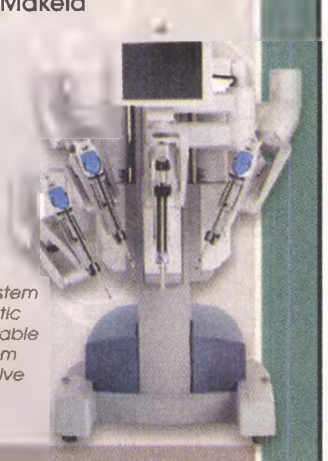
Approximately one-third of U.S. women will have a pelvic health problem by age 60. This includes stress urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, abnormally heavy menstrual periods and uterine fibroids. These conditions become more common with age. Pregnancy, childbirth or being overweight can stretch and weaken muscles that support your pelvic organs. Dr. Makela will discuss pelvic health, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options.



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Anthony Balderrama, CareerBuilder.com writer

You're special.
Your mom and dad told you. Your Little League coach told you. You tell yourself in the mirror every morning.
Anyone who encounters you must recognize what a unique snowflake you are, right?
Maybe, but not necessarily. If you're looking for a job, don't assume the hiring manager is going to look at your cover letter and think, "This job candidate is The One." That could happen, but you should do all you can to make that realization occur.
In the interest of spreading the word about your unparalleled qualifications and stunning personality, we've compiled some questions you should ask yourself at each stage of the job-hunting process. Some of these questions can apply to each stage.

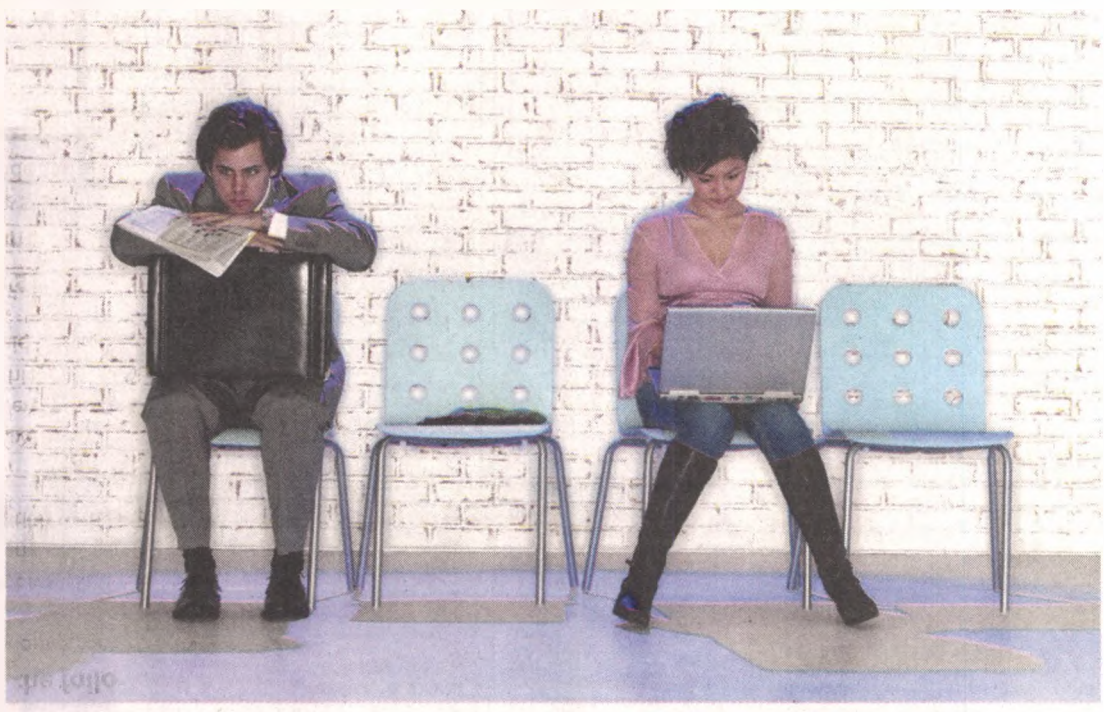
When writing the résumé

Q. What about my education sets me apart?
A. Although degrees are more common than they once were, not each one is created equal. Most programs have enough freedom built in to them to allow students to customize their courses. The combination of your major and minor or your courses can give you a background that no one else has.

Q. Do I care about all of this?
A. This resume is about you, so you probably have more interest in it than the average employer, but if you're bored, everyone else will be, too. If your attempt to show how unique you are results in a dense list of your jobs and skills that make the page look like one huge block of text, you're probably not focusing enough. Keep details short, informative and, above all else, relevant. Your paper route in junior high doesn't matter if you're 25 and have a college degree. Your GPA, awards and recognition are good examples of items that do set you apart. They won't land you the job by themselves, but they are additional assets that can differentiate you from the next resume in the stack.
When writing your cover letter

Q. What's implied on the résumé but not explicitly stated?
A. Have someone else read your resume and explain your strong points to you. If you don't hear something you were expecting, figure out why. You might think your extensive work history painted a clear picture for readers, but it might not. The cover letter is your chance to connect the dots and (eloquently) tell the hiring manger, "Hey, look what I have to offer!"
Maybe your internship with an employer was more involved and relevant to the position you're seeking than the resume suggests. Go into details and prove why that experience matters to this job.

Q. Does this sound like me or like Janet Q. Jobseeker?
A. Professionalism is key in a cover letter, but so is your personality. Now is not the time to be a comedian, but if your cover letter could have been written by any other applicant and been about any other applicant, then it's not special. As a result, the employer won't think you're special.
If you have extensive knowledge of the industry, have a contact at the company or possess strong communication skills, don't be afraid to let it shine through.
When interviewing



Q. Would I hire me?
A. An interview is basically an extended, interactive form of this question. If you get an interview the employer thinks you fit the job requirements, but whether or not you're the perfect candidate is still in question. In addition to elaborating on your skills, only one thing can make or break you at this point: your personality.
Your personality is unique to you, so don't be scared to let it show. As with the cover letter, don't be so casual that you come off as unprofessional, but now is the time to show your sense of humor and your interpersonal communication skills. Fading into the background will only help you be forgotten.

Q. What is the one thing I want the hiring manager know about?
A. Hiring managers don't know you, so they're probably asking you the same questions they asked other candidates. If you want to prove that you're a three-dimensional person who exists beyond undergrad business courses, have an actual dialogue. A hiring manager doesn't need you to echo everything he or she already read about you.
The time you helped your group tackle a problem during a brainstorming session? The interesting marketing book you just read that has given you some new ideas? Let these facts out if they're relevant to the conversation.

Q. Why do I want to work here?

A. Interviewers often ask this question of candidates, and candidates have learned to come armed with a response. But do you know why you want to work there or do you just know what you want them to think?
Everyone wants to be hired so they can get a paycheck, add another line to their resume and move up the chain. Do you want to transition into a new industry? Do you think you can bring a fresh perspective to the company (without sounding arrogant)? Does the position sound like the one you've been preparing for and you have the experience to show for it? You need to know the answer and believe it before you walk into the interview.

Anthony Balderrama is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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IAC Group is a leading global supplier of automotive components and systems, including interior and exterior trim. IAC Group's 2011 sales were $4.4 billion, and the company operates 76 manufacturing facilities in 16 countries. IAC employs approximately 23,000 people around the world. For more information, visit www.iacgroup.com.

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- Preferred experience in HVAC industry
- Preferred experience in food processing industry
- Understanding of stainless sheet metal
- Willingness to do some travel
- Excellent communication skills within team environment and ability to build customer relationships

This position has the following duties:
- Produce installation layouts from customer site visits and meetings
- Coordinate new project installations and follow-up
- Organize and oversee installations
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Interested? Please send your resume to:
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Amtrade System Inc.
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Help Wanted-General

Automotive Service Technician & Porter
Hines Park Ford is seeking ambitious and motivated individuals to join our Service team! We are in need of individuals to fill a Heavy Engine Tech position and a Service Porter position. Individuals must have prior Automotive Service Technician experience, technical automotive knowledge, organizational skills, and a strong work ethic. We offer a great work environment, medical, dental, and life insurance, as well as paid vacations and a 401K plan!
Email resume to: jobs@hinespark.com

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Call Don: 313-535-7631

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Exp'd. for construction co. in Farmington Hills. Excellent pay & benefits. **Please email: villanova_jobs@yahoo.com**

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Must have flexible day shift hours. Start immediately. Call (734) 834-7066

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We offer a position with an excellent opportunity for the right candidate possessing the following qualifications:
- Experience with MS office (or similar)
- Experience with AutoCAD (2D) or Solid Works (3D)
- Preferred experience in HVAC industry
- Preferred experience in food processing industry
- Understanding of stainless sheet metal
- Willingness to do some travel
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This position has the following duties:
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- Organize and oversee installations
- Consistent communication with current and potential customers

We offer a highly competitive salary and benefits package that includes health coverage, Simple IRA plan, paid vacations, company vehicle, travel reimbursement and paid training.

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DIRECT CARE: Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our **Job Line 734-728-4201, O#**

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JANITORIAL WORK: Comm building detail cleaning Livonia and Plymouth areas. Tile, carpet cleaning & maintenance positions also avail in all areas. Call Mon-Fri 9am-5pm **734-744-5612** email resume to: babkis@twmi.rr.com

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Needed for Westland apt. community. Some benefits available. Exp preferred.
Wayne Wood Apartments Please apply in person at: 6737 N. Wayne Rd.

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Help Wanted-General

PARKING ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANT
Part Time

The City of Birmingham is seeking qualified candidates to assist the Police Dept. in enforcing parking ordinances up to 20 hrs/wk. Duties include patrolling by foot & vehicle, issuing parking citations, & assisting in other dept. activities. Applicants must possess HS diploma or equivalent, valid MI driver's license, and 1-2 yrs of work exp. involving substantial public contact. Some college coursework in Crim. Justice or a related field preferred. Starting at $13/hour. Accepting applications until Friday, August 3, 2012. EOE

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OFFICE MANAGER
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DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full time. Exp w/Dentrix req'd. Full digital office located in Farmington Hills.
Fax 248-539-2970
Email: dentist@SuperiorFamilyDental.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full-time and benefits. Friendly Farmington office. Exp. Call 248-478-3285

Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT:
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Environmental Services Director
In search of individual to manage and work Full Time position and hands on with team of Housekeeping/ Laundry & Maint workers for a 55 bed, Faith based, Not-for-Profit Skilled Nur-sing Facility. Must have Management ability & Nursing Home Experience in Housekeeping, Laundry & Maint. Must also be professional, self motivated & enthusiastic. Please incl your salary requirements with Resume.
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Livonia, MI. 48154
Attn.: Administrator
Resume' also accepted by email at jim@marycrestmanor.org

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CATS: Fixed rescues & 2 male, 9 wk old kittens, must stay together, need loving homes. 248-738-4901, 248-214-9898

Cats

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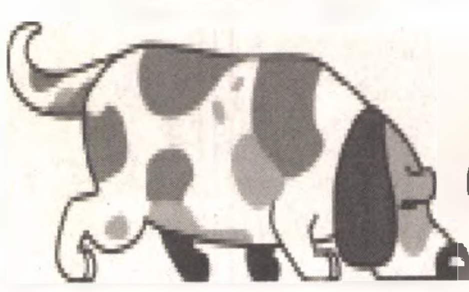

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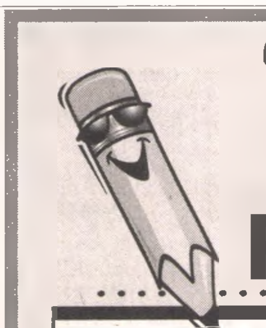

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Nozzle site
5 Breath freshener
9 Role for Madonna
12 Browser bookmarks
13 ORD guesses
14 Feel poorly
15 Like a bow string
16 Many layers
18 Glossier
20 Home with a dome
21 Fair-hiring abbr.
22 Suffix for forfeit
23 Squeezes oranges
26 Try
30 Vase with a foot
31 Tribute in verse
32 Sister of Helios
33 Fields
36 Hawk's refuge
38 Charged particle
39 Force open
40 Morticia's husband
43 Glues tight
47 Perfume bottle
49 Decree
50 Erwin of films
51 Centering point
52 Humerus neighbor
53 Flat-bladed gardening tool
54 Takes off
55 Kipling's "— we forget ..."

DOWN

1 Rough shelters
2 Ph.D. exam
3 Swing around on an axis
4 Regard highly
5 Skirmish
6 Route for Ben-Hur
7 Badger
8 Jeans go-with (hyph.)
9 Countess's spouse
10 Italian wine
11 What is more
17 Ess molding
19 Bout enders
22 Pass near Pikes Peak
23 Molasses-based drink
24 Previous to
25 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
26 Circulars
27 Debussy subject
28 Taro-root paste
29 Mao — -tung
31 Pay for
34 Carpe —!
35 Trickling through
36 Branch
37 Good look
39 Strasbourg papas
40 Knife wound
41 Comic-strip dog
42 Wry face
43 Yield territory
44 Longest river
45 Beiges
46 STAT
48 Collection of fauna

Answer to Previous Puzzle

■	M	U	T	E	D	■	Q	U	O	T	E	■
S	U	N	D	A	E	■	U	S	H	E	R	S
W	E	B	S	■	F	R	E	D	S	■	R	I
E	S	O	■	■	■	E	R	A	■	B	O	G
E	L	L	A	■	W	A	Y	■	W	A	R	M
P	I	T	S	T	O	P	■	M	E	N	S	A
■	■	■	C	N	N	■	E	E	L	■	■	■
R	E	P	O	T	■	B	L	A	S	T	E	D
I	N	I	T	■	J	O	Y	■	H	E	R	E
S	T	E	■	P	A	Y	■	■	■	M	A	C
E	R	■	R	E	U	S	E	■	A	P	S	O
N	E	W	T	O	N	■	T	A	T	T	E	R
■	E	V	E	N	T	■	C	R	A	S	S	■

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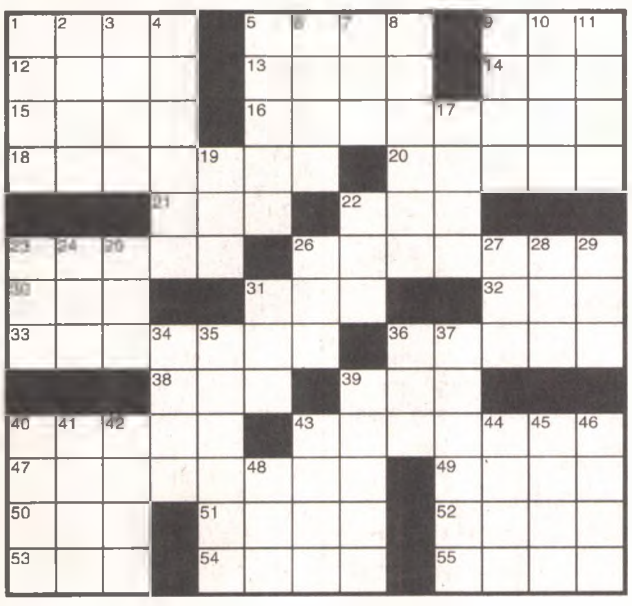

Want more puzzles?
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SUDOKU

8			9				6	7
	7	5	3		1			
	6	9		8		5		
2	8							
7	9				8	4	3	
	5		2	7	4		1	
5	3	7		2		1		
		8		1	7		2	
1					9			5

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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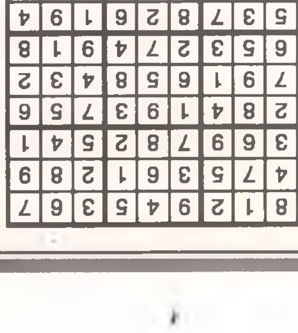
Word Search — Sensational Salads

B	D	F	U	N	D	S	F	Y	T	O	A	W	N
C	C	M	D	V	G	C	N	D	F	C	H	X	L
W	Z	A	S	K	M	R	R	O	A	Z	Q	S	E
I	C	E	B	E	R	G	A	A	T	L	E	H	S
S	S	E	R	C	R	E	T	A	W	U	A	M	S
R	R	K	I	H	N	E	D	G	O	M	O	S	O
K	I	O	X	K	C	A	M	N	A	I	Z	R	T
I	G	G	M	U	A	E	Q	I	K	X	J	E	C
Q	M	J	T	A	S	L	R	S	L	P	I	Z	T
W	J	T	B	C	I	P	E	S	E	L	A	M	B
A	E	B	L	A	D	N	R	E	A	W	N	Q	J
L	I	U	R	X	P	I	E	R	F	F	D	K	U
B	N	O	T	S	O	B	R	D	M	P	X	K	G
J	H	J	H	T	W	O	D	I	A	T	X	C	T

Bib, Boston, Croutons, Dressing, Iceberg, Kale, Lamb, Lettuce, Mesclun, Mix, Oak leaf, Romaine, Salad, Toss, Watercress

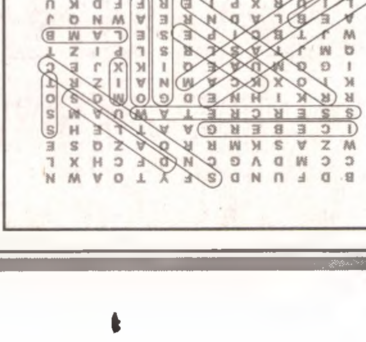
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search



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