

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Raises for three township officials; some trustees criticize the process

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Mid-year pay hikes of up to 10 percent were approved for three Plymouth Township officials Tuesday, while two members of the Board of Trustees dissented on the process and asked for more evidence to justify the raises.

Community development director and planner Jana Radtke, public works foreman Mike Karll and public services director and civil engineer Patrick Fellrath were praised

by the administration for their dedication and willingness to work beyond their job descriptions and for taking on work that was formerly outsourced, saving the township money.

Radtke and Karll were each given a 10-percent raise, bringing their yearly pay to \$52,276 and \$67,685, respectively, while Fellrath was approved for a 4-percent raise, making his salary \$97,523 a year.

"This has to do with saving the citizens of this community a lot of money. We brought

them in low and we're trying to bring them up," Treasurer Ron Edwards said. "We're trying to retain these people here in this community." The three had been at lower pay rates than people with comparable jobs in neighboring communities, officials said.

Data sought

But Trustees Chuck Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz, criticized the process, likening it to a public performance evaluation, and asked for more documentation about savings

and increased job responsibilities.

Curmi said the board should be wary of setting a precedent that other township employees could point to in asking for similar raises.

"We need to have it well thought out so it's bulletproof and can't be challenged easily," he said.

Curmi voted against each of the three raises. Doroshewitz, who had asked that raises be voted on individually, voted for the raises for Radtke and Fellrath and against the 10-

percent raise for Karll.

"We never saw any real data," he said after the meeting.

Voting for all three raises were Edwards, Supervisor Richard Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustees Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly.

Radtke declined to comment Wednesday, while Fellrath and Karll did not return calls seeking comment. Their raises take effect in July.

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FESTIVAL FUN



Luc Damiani, 8, of Plymouth enjoyed the frog jump game during Canton's Liberty Fest over the weekend. Canton Township officials estimated tens of thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed the annual festival. For more on the festival, turn to pages A2 and A6. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK

Media specialists back in as board eyes budget

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education trustees reversed themselves on two key decisions Tuesday as they struggled to balance their 2014-15 budget in light of a hit from the state school aid fund.

Trustees agreed Tuesday they would keep 20 teaching positions - including 16.5 full-time-equivalent media specialist and reading interventionist positions - they'd previously cut. They also agreed to open 200 seats in kindergarten through second grade to a schools-of-choice option.

The moves came as district administrators tried to recover from an \$820,000 hit the budget took when the state Legislature passed the state education budget. While the state added money to help districts deal with their responsibilities for retirement/benefit packages, it also increased the district's responsibilities in that area.

In the meantime, the final state budget levied \$7,251 per student, \$49 less than Plymouth-Canton administrators had budgeted based on Gov. Rick Snyder's initial budget proposal. The reduction cost Plymouth-Canton some \$820,000, leaving the district with a \$7.5 million deficit.

The board is scheduled to finalize its 2014-15 budget at a regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

Media make-up

"We started our (budget) input assumptions with the governor's (original) proposal," said Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent for business and operations. "We knew there was

See BOARD, Page A2

Plymouth Relay for Life set to fight cancer

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Abby Stonerook knows the statistics as well as anyone: One-in-two men and one-in-three women will be diagnosed with cancer in his or her lifetime.

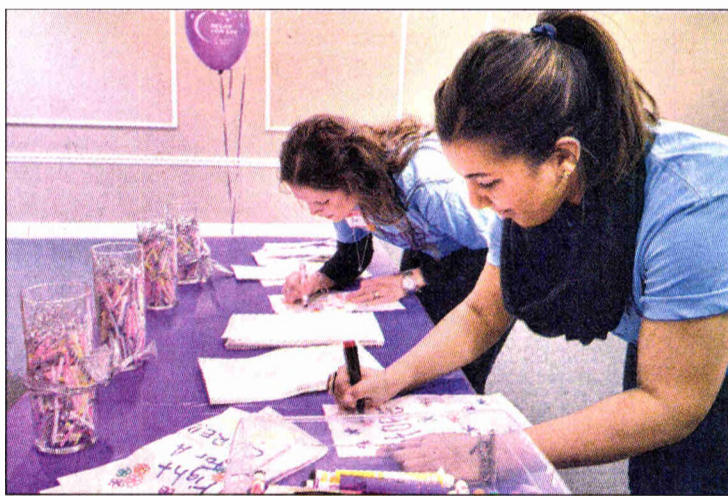
On Saturday, Stonerook - along with more than 20 teams and a large number of volunteers - will continue the fight to eliminate the need for those statistics when walkers hit the Central Middle School track for the 2014 Plymouth Relay for Life. So far, the event has raised some \$55,000 and Stonerook is confident it will reach its \$80,000 goal.

"Those statistics cannot be

ignored and will not go away on their own," said Stonerook, the American Cancer Society staff partner for the Plymouth relay. "The world is relying on someone, anyone, you and me, to do something about it. By coming out and supporting us, you are making a difference and helping create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Silence won't finish the fight - only action will."

The 24-hour Plymouth Relay for Life starts with the opening ceremony and Survivor Victory Lap at 10 a.m. Saturday at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. The victory lap will be

See RELAY, Page A2



Jennifer Bell of Plymouth and Kim Lawrentz of Ann Arbor decorated luminaria bags at the recent kickoff event for the Plymouth Relay for Life, which starts at 10 a.m. Saturday. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



PRICE: \$1

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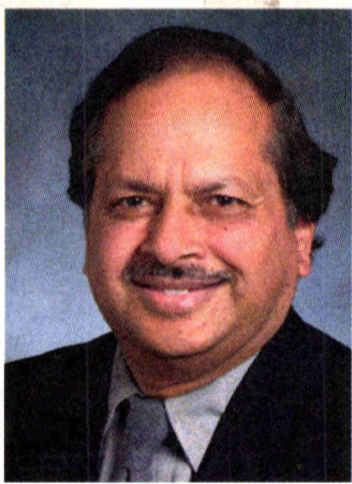
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Mark Gajeski is formally recognized by Supervisor Phil LaJoy after receiving his promotion to police lieutenant. CANTON POLICE

Veteran Canton officer promoted to lieutenant

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Rising through the ranks during a decorated 28-year police career in Canton, Mark Gajeski has been promoted to the position of lieutenant.

"It's very exciting," he said. "Every step up brings new challenges."

In his new role, Gajeski serves as a day-shift commander in charge of patrol officers, dispatchers and two sergeants.

As his parents, daughters and granddaughters looked on, Gajeski was formally recognized by township Supervisor Phil LaJoy for his promotion last week during a Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting.

Gajeski was hired as a Canton police officer in 1986 and promoted to sergeant in 2006. He earned his bache-

lor's degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University and is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff & Command School.

Gajeski served 22 years on the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team. As a member of the elite SWAT unit, he specialized in chemical munitions and explosive breaching. He was promoted through the unit from team leader to senior team leader to executive officer, serving as second-in-command of the multi-jurisdictional team.

In his new role, Gajeski will be responsible for providing training, direction and motivation for subordinate personnel toward accomplishing the department's goals and objectives.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Child overdose

A 5-year-old Canton boy was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital for treatment after he accidentally swallowed too much Keppra, a liquid medication used to treat medical conditions such as seizures, a police report said.

A police officer on patrol on Canton's south end was waved down Monday afternoon by a distraught 43-year-old mother who said she wasn't sure how much of the medication the boy had ingested, though the bottle was empty.

The mother told police she left the bottle on a table while she was doing some home chores and learned the boy drank much of the liquid.

Sex bust

Police ordered four young people not to return to a park area near Craftsbury Court, near Sheldon and Warren, after they were found having sex in a tent, a police report said.

Police received a call shortly before midnight Monday

that, for a second night in a row, a group of young people had parked in the area and gone to the park. The suspects included two females ages 17 and 20 and two males ages 18 and 19. One female and one male were described as a brother and sister.

Police found the teens naked in the closed tent and having sex, the report indicated.

Tax fraud

A 59-year-old Canton man went to the police station Sunday to report someone had tried to file a 2013 tax return using his and his wife's names, according to a police report.

Business vandalized

Police went to Lapp Motors on Michigan Avenue, west of Sheldon, after the owner reported someone had broken out a window of the building between 6 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Monday.

The owner told police he arrived at work and noticed the damage. A police report indicated someone may have

fired a pellet gun or sling shot toward the window, breaking it and causing damage to drywall on an interior wall.

Man arrested

Police arrested a 19-year-old Canton man after finding marijuana, a digital scale, glass pipes and a pistol-shaped knife in his vehicle during a traffic stop that occurred shortly after 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Police stopped the driver after spotting him driving near the scene of an incident in which a security alarm went off at the Jet's Pizza on Palmer, near Haggerty.

The driver told police he had a medical marijuana card and handed an officer two plastic containers of the drug. However, police also found a jar of marijuana in the back seat and learned the driver also was wanted for three unrelated warrants.

Police took the teen into custody and had the vehicle impounded.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Woman scammed

A 71-year-old Plymouth Township woman fell victim last week to a con scheme that used the promise of a \$2.5 million prize as bait.

The woman told police Friday that she had received a letter earlier in the month promising a \$2.5 million cash prize. She also received a check for \$6,850.60, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

She was instructed by phone to cash the check, she said, and ship \$6,100 to an address in New York City, via FedEx, in order to claim the bigger prize.

She deposited the check in her bank account June 11, police said, then took \$6,100 of her own money and sent it to New York.

Two days later, she said, the bank informed her that the \$6,850.60 check was fraudu-

lent. She went to police.

Township Detective Charlie Rozum said bait checks like the one the woman received are commonly used by con artists and should be disregarded.

"It's a scam, even though they use (names of) big-name companies," he said.

Police said the phone numbers used by the scammers originated from Toronto and Calgary in Canada.

Scam try

Another township woman, 76, went to police June 12 after a man claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service tried to get her to send him \$890 to claim a prize of \$3.5 million.

The woman told police she got a call the day before from a man who said he was the "senior chief accountant" with the IRS in Los Angeles and that she was eligible for \$3.5

million in prize winnings that he had "blocked." He told her to send \$890 to cover "insurance" and other costs, a police report said.

The woman hung up, sent no money and notified her bank of the scam attempt, she told police. She said she had received several calls, hanging up each time.

Equipment stolen

A GMC semi truck and a wood chipper were reported stolen June 6 from a storage lot on Ann Arbor Road, west of Haggerty.

The equipment is the property of National Concrete Products, located on South Mill, around the corner from the storage yard, a police report said. The equipment was last seen about a month earlier, police said.

— By Matt Jachman



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NCUA LENDER

Student station simulcasts DDA concert

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When the huge crowd that always fills downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park gathers Friday to listen to Sound Alternative, those in the audience won't be the only ones hearing the music.

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, which sponsors the Friday evening concert series "Music in the Air," partners Friday with WSDP-FM (88.1), the student-run radio station known as The Park headquartered at Salem High School.

The concert starts at 7 p.m.

"Partnering with WSDP gives us a chance to reach out into the Plymouth and Canton communities to showcase our concert series," said Tony Bruscato, DDA operations director. "Those who can't make it to Kellogg Park that night or those who want to stroll downtown Plymouth during the concert still have the opportunity to listen in



Friday's concert featuring Sound Alternative will be simulcast WSDP-FM (88.1-FM), the student-run radio station of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

the stores while they walk around."

Bruscato said the simulcast is "a great way to broadcast" the concerts. He approached WSDP station manager Bill Keith, who agreed it was a good idea. Keith said staffers had talked about being involved in the concert series "for the last few years." They rented the necessary equipment for a test run a couple of years ago that went "extremely well," he said.

The station began raising money to buy the equipment, got donations from the Wilcox Foundation and IBM and

is ready to go.

"We're excited to partner with the Downtown Development Authority to bring these concerts to the community," Keith said. "We think this is a great opportunity for the station to spotlight something great that the city of Plymouth has been doing for years. The concerts have such an incredible following. We also know that it will be a great opportunity for the station to be visible and in front of some great crowds."

In addition to Friday's Sound Alternative concert, 88.1 The Park will

simulcast Boogie Dynomite on July 25, Magic Bus on Aug. 1 and Fifty Amp Fuse on Aug. 15.

The DDA-WSDP pairing is not the only partnership the DDA uses. The DDA also partners with the Michigan Philharmonic and O&E Media, Inc., for the "All-American Salute" concert during the Fourth of July holiday.

The DDA partners with Concours d'Elegance to promote that event and bring visitors from the Inn at St. John's to downtown Plymouth by sponsoring a shuttle bus. In exchange, Concours sponsors the con-

cert the Friday before the event.

The DDA also partners with the Plymouth Salvation Army in November for its Main Street Boulevard Tree Lighting and Red Kettle Kickoff event, which begins the holiday season and "helps make people aware of the needs of people in our community" who are helped by the Salvation Army, Bruscato said.

There's the partnership with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce to bring entertainment to those waiting for Santa Claus to arrive by fire truck to Kellogg Park the day after Thanksgiving and with volunteers who help "make Plymouth pink" when those walking the Michigan 3-Day breast cancer walk come through Plymouth.

"All of these partnerships serve to help the DDA connect with the people," Bruscato said.

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Colbeck hosts veterans event

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck hosts a forum for veterans at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at the historic Lloyd H. Green American Legion Post 147 in downtown Northville.

"Veterans' Forum - Serving Those Who Served Us" will feature an overview from Colbeck, the Canton Republican who represents the state Senate 7th District, and subject-matter experts to talk about issues and provide direction and guidance.

The event coincides with Northville's Arts and Acts Festival. Colbeck will be joined by state, Veterans Administration and other veterans groups officials, including Doug Williams, Mike Stone and James Dunn and representatives from other veterans organizations.

For more information, contact Gordon Cole at P2R Associates at 248-348-2464 or email GCole@p2rassociates.com.

Law firm sponsors essay contest

1-800-LAW-FIRM, a national law firm based in Michigan, wants to help law students pay for their educations.

Ari Kresch, CEO of 1-800-LAW-FIRM, PLLC, knows the practice of law is changing and wants to reward five creative, forward-thinking law students who can articulate a pragmatic plan on how lawyers can re-engineer the way they interact with and serve their clients so that the legal system can better serve the public.

The inaugural Law School Essay Contest will award and present the \$10,000 prize to the winning contestant in

front of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in January 2015.

Additional prizes of \$500 each will be awarded to the authors of the next four chosen essays.

Firm officials believe the legal system can be tweaked to better serve the public by incorporating technology, transparency and trust into its relationship with the public. Law schools and new lawyers need to be empowered to make the changes that will transform the system so that it works better for everyone, officials said, not just the privileged few.

1-800-LAW-FIRM,

PLLC, wants to encourage young lawyers to be part of the change by thinking about it, writing about it and doing something about it. This year's topic, "What would you do to improve how legal services are delivered to the public," is open to all law students who are at least 18 years of age and who will be enrolled or will be enrolling at an accredited United States law school in 2014-15.

Students also must be a U.S. citizen and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. The contest runs from July 1 through Oct. 5. Applications are available online at <http://www.1800lawfirm.com/scholarship>.

www.1800lawfirm.com/scholarship.

Applicants must describe, in at least 2,000 words, the innovative, highly impactful and practical way in which they could aid in re-engineering the way the legal system operates and/or making it more accessible to the public. Applicants' essays must include their plan on how they would improve the legal industry during their career.

"Our system doesn't simply need to be repaired, it needs to be re-engineered," Kresch said. "Law schools must empower their students to be that change."

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<p style="text-align: center;">Events At:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independence Village of Plymouth 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-2600</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rock Around the Clock Wednesday, June 11 1:30 pm</p> <p>Grease your hair and grab your leather jacket. Put on your saddle shoes and poodle skirt. It's time to join us for a 50's-style sock hop with entertainment provided by "The Dance DJ's." Soda shop favorites will be served.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Father's Day Celebration Friday, June 13 1:30 pm</p> <p>Join us to celebrate Father's Day a little bit early as we honor dads with great music, great food and a very special surprise. You won't want to miss this exciting event!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Estate Planning & Asset Protection Workshop Tuesday, June 24 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Elder Law Attorney Nicole Wipp will show you the simplest, smartest path to planning for your family, protecting your assets. Get info on the Veteran's Improved pension benefit as well. Light refreshments will be served. Presented by: Family & Aging Law Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Events At:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Father's Day Brunch at All Communities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Father's Day Brunch Sunday, June 15 White Lake: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm Plymouth: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm</p> <p>Enjoy a delicious brunch prepared especially for your family by our expert chef and culinary team.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Share a meal. Share a memory. Share a laugh. Celebrate dad together with us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adults \$17.00 Children 12 and under \$13.00 Children under 4 eat free</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Events At:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independence Village of White Lake 935 Union Lake Road, White Lake, MI 48386 248-360-7235</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Taste of Italy Wednesday, June 4 12:00 pm</p> <p>That's Amore! Come and enjoy an afternoon Italian style. Experience delicious Italian food and listen to the song stylings of Mario Messina as he sings some of Dean Martin's most popular songs. Presented by: Mario Messina</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Father's Day Celebration Thursday, June 12 1:30 pm</p> <p>Celebrate Father's Day a little bit early with the amazing sounds of The Paint Creek Boys And Fiddler.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nashville Nights Tuesday, June 24 6:00 pm</p> <p>Pull on your boots and grab your cowboy hat. It's time to join us for some foot stomping music and entertainment with the very talented Nashville stage performer Mark Edwards. Light refreshments will also be served. Presented by: Mark Edwards</p>
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Rowdy the border collie, working with Tad from the Muttley Crew Flying Frisbee Dogs, during a performance Saturday, the final day of Canton's Liberty Festival. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK

FUN AT THE FESTIVAL



Liberty Fest rides were full Friday, despite cool temperatures and clouds. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Laurie Swick serves spaghetti at the Canton firefighters dinner. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



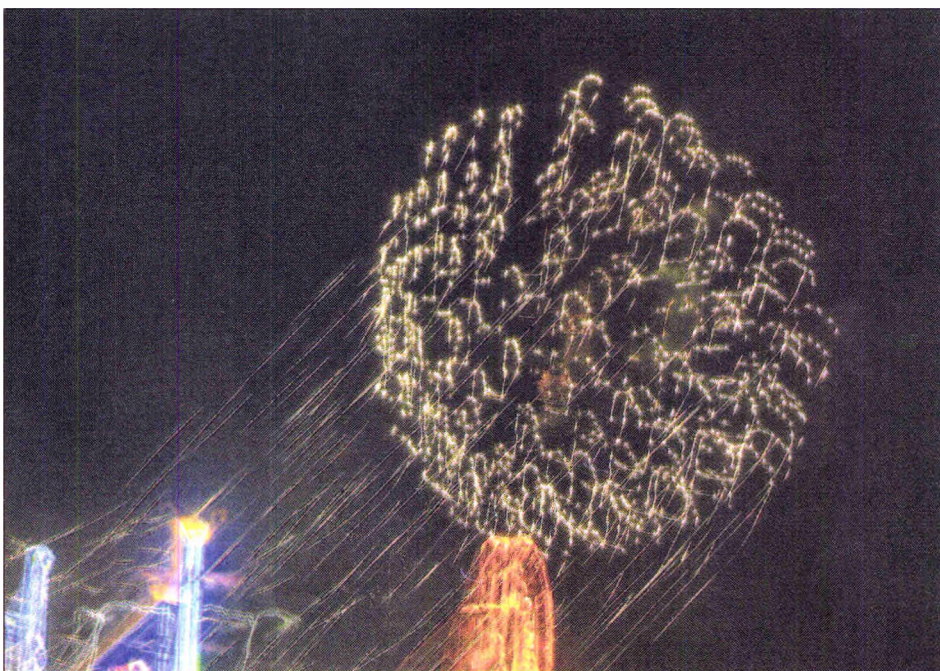
Rick Geney, with Skerbick Carnivals, looks for customers who want to win a prize. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Abigail Snyder of Canton Coney Island serves chicken strips and fries. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This 1968 Mustang coupe was lovingly restored by owners Gerald and Paula Martin. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A dazzling fireworks display Saturday night closed out Canton's Liberty Festival. DEBORAH EDWARDS-ONORO



Orchard Lake's Ken Beesley had his 2007 Ferrari 430 in the America's Most Wanted car show. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK



Bryan Hives (left) and Brandon Gaines of Troop 1539 hold the flag while VFW Post member Bob Lamoureux cuts it, with Ryan Mott narrating from the podium and Amanda Ellenwood (Girl Scout Troop 40338) and Dave Berger (Boy Scouts Sunset District Commissioner) looking on. CHRISTOPHER GUDECK

Ceremony retires 500 American flags

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Some three dozen people turned out Saturday to watch as some 500 United States flags received the final respect of retirement at a ceremony hosted by VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth.

Boy Scouts from Troop 1539, which is sponsored by VFW Post 6695, and a Girl Scout representative joined VFW Post Com-

mander Jerry Thomason, color guard commander Bob Lamoureux and bugler Bill Browning for the presentation.

"The retirement ceremony went very well," VFW spokesperson Gary Kubic said. "We want to teach people the proper reverence and respect for our flag, knowing that so many lives have been given to defend the flag and what it stands for."

Thomason narrated

the event, making the introductions to the audience. The Scouts made four presentations about the flag and then Lamoureux and the Scouts retrieved the ceremonial flag from the post's flag pole, replacing it with a brand new flag while the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The ceremonial flag was then cut up. The stripes were put on the fire, one by one, and the

field of stars was the last to go on the fire. Meanwhile, Scouts were reading famous quotes from Americans throughout history. After Browning played *Taps* on the post bugle, audience members were invited to help retire the flags by putting them into the blazing fire.

It's a ceremony the Post offers twice a year. The next one will take place around Veterans Day (Nov. 11). Flags may

be dropped off at VFW Post 6695 any time (there's a collection box on the right side of the lounge entrance; no large business flags).

Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW Post is located at 1426 S. Mill (Lilley), just north of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-459-6700.

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Classic car show drives into Blackwell Ford

The parking lot of the Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center of Plymouth at Blackwell Ford will feel a little retro Saturday.

Quick Lane of Plymouth at Blackwell Ford will host its inaugural Classic Car and Truck Show from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All makes and models are encouraged to register and compete in the event. More than 90 trophies will be presented. Trophies include Mayor's, Police Chief's and Dealer's Choice awards, Best of Show, Outstanding and Class winners, as well as a dash plaques. The first 100 pre-registered vehicles receive goodie bags and a free concession coupon.

Blackwell Ford is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Festivities including face painting, a disc jockey, concessions and raffle prizes that will take place throughout the day. The Classic Car and Truck Show is free to the public.

"The whole Blackwell team is excited to see what kind of vehicles turn up in the parking lot Saturday, June 21," said Steve Colwell, Quick Lane at Blackwell Ford manager.

"We can't wait to bring back the past with some awesome cars and trucks," said Jim Whyte, Blackwell Ford new vehicle sales manager.

For information on how to register a vehicle in the show or how to participate in the festivities, visit www.blackwellford.com/AutoShow.

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Experience Makes a Difference.

Local businesses featured in prominent publication

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Sweet Afton Tea Room & Restaurant and TranquiliTea, two mainstays of the downtown Plymouth business scene, will be featured in the September/October issue of *Tea Time* magazine.

"They did a real nice photo shoot over at Sweet Afton," TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon said during a break at her tea shop on Ann Arbor Trail. Cannon was using that time for cleanup for her own photo shoot.

"I was making sure everything was beautiful," Cannon said. "Every setup had a lovely, coordinated appearance. I went through and made sure everything was perfect because a trained eye would know."

Cannon's pottery and other tea items were "just so" for her shoot. She worked 17 years as an art director at an advertising agency, including work in catalogs, which helped her.

The photographer for TranquiliTea was here in the spring, having had to reschedule after a winter storm. "He did not want to be here for a Michigan winter storm," Cannon said.

She then did a phone interview with the *Tea Time* editor. Cannon noted it's a story on Michigan tea rooms and as hers isn't a tea room she's just excited to be featured.

"You don't know they're scouting you," Cannon said. "She gets the feel for the place," she added of the scout who visits incognito.



On a recent Saturday, Theresa Sirrine of Brighton enjoys a visit to the Sweet Afton Tea Room & Restaurant with granddaughter Evelyn Kozak, 4, also of Brighton.

Tea Time is based in Birmingham, Ala. The Plymouth businesswomen won't see anything in advance, only when the magazine is published.

"I'm just excited to be in it," Cannon said. "It's a really exciting thing," said Phyllis Wilkerson, who owns Sweet Afton on Forest with husband Al. "I think it's so wonderful," she added, noting the magazine's stature.

Tea Time magazine is also online at www.teatime.com.



"I'm just excited to be in it," TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon said of her business being in a fall issue of "Tea Time" magazine, sold here at her downtown Plymouth store. PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN



Weight loss challenge winner Rich Costantino with the OrangeTheory Fitness studio crew.

Studio challenge spurs weight-loss results

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When a new OrangeTheory Fitness studio opens, Canton studio co-owner Chad Smith said, the first thing the staff does is conduct a weight-loss challenge.

That marketing strategy turned out to be a good one for Rich Costantino.

Costantino, the Canton resident and owner of Rose's Restaurant, was the big winner in the first weight-loss challenge sponsored by OrangeTheory Fitness at its new studio, which opened at 41818 Ford Road in April.

Costantino lost nearly 52 pounds – that's nearly 16 percent of his body weight – during the six-week challenge.

"The program they have there just really pushes you beyond most workouts, where you go by yourself and you don't really know what your body is doing," Costantino said. "This really kicks it up to the next notch."

Costantino said he's had to lay off his beloved bread and pasta and he's told the staff at Rose's to quit letting him taste the sauces.

"It's tough, but it's worth it," he said. "It made me want to show my son that, at the age of 56, if you work hard at something, you can accomplish it."

Costantino credited the OrangeTheory system which, led by professional trainers, uses heart-rate-monitored interval training and short bursts of exercise to create a high-energy fitness experience. Consistent with all OrangeTheory Fitness studios, the 3,000-square-foot

Canton location is outfitted with 12 treadmills, 12 rowing machines, suspension training and weights and features computer screens linked to heart monitors to track target workout zones.

"We actually train smart, using heart-rate-based interval training," Smith said. "That allows us to train each individual in their optimal zones."

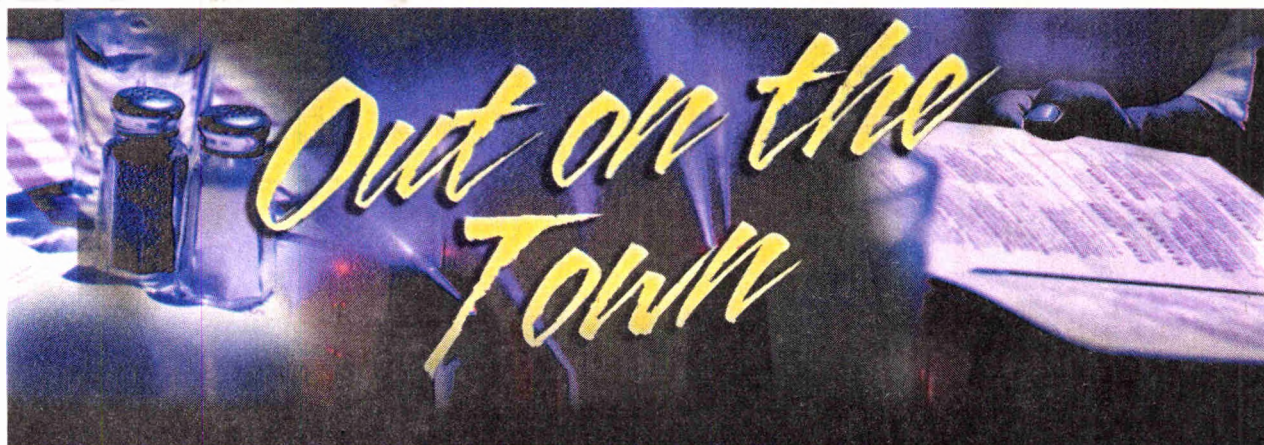
Some 60 people began the six-week weight loss challenge, but that number dwindled with some strict rules. The folks who stuck it out, though, showed real progress. Smith said the top 10 challengers lost more than 300 pounds. The top 10 finishers lost an average of 23.8 pounds and 9.8 percent of their body weight.

Canton resident Karen Slack was the runner up, losing nearly 35 pounds and almost 13 percent of her body weight, while third-place finisher Rachael Hnilo of Dearborn Heights lost 28 pounds and more than 12 percent of her body weight.

"We wanted to prove to people this system does work," said Smith, who pointed out the studio offers some 35 classes per week. "It spreads the word and it allows us to prove this is really different from the gym you go to or the weight-loss program you're going to try."

The studio is membership-based, offering three different packages with no sign-up or cancellation fees. "This isn't a gimmick, it's the real deal," Smith said. "People are seeing results."

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

World Cup watching

Sean O'Callaghan's was recently voted by readers of *Metro Times* one of the top 10 places in metro Detroit to watch the World Cup over the next month (<http://photos.metrotimes.com/the-10-best-metro-detroit-bars-to-watch-the-world-cup/#7>).

Viewers will be able to watch every game throughout the World Cup. Bar officials said they've added four new 50-inch televisions and now have a total of 10.

Sean O'Callaghan's is located at 821 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call 734-459-6666.

Top design firm

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., joins the distinguished ranks of the 2014 *Engineering News-Record* Top 500 Design Firms in the nation, rising

to No. 383 from last year's 413 ranking. *ENR* is a respected construction industry voice with a firm grip on the market.

ENR's Top 500 issue, published annually, evaluates engineering, architectural and environmental design firms based on revenue.

"Success in the current market is not something that can be taken for granted. We want our clients to be taken care of beyond their expectations, always aiming to create added value at each stage of their project – from the planning phase to completion. Our continued rise on *ENR's* Top 500 is evident that MSG is doing just that," said Richard Bertz, president and CEO of MSG. "Our clients lend us the opportunity to do what we do; our desire to serve and aid them in regard to their success solidifies the success of MSG."

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Capitol visit

The children's choir from Our Lady of Good Counsel School had the honor of singing May 28 in the rotunda of the state capitol building. The 44 young singers were recognized on the balcony by both the Senate and House of Representatives prior to their 40-minute program of sacred music.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HISTORY KIDS KAMP

Date/Time: Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its third annual History Kids Kamp, where children can experience aspects of the Civil War by recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken, as well as a chore race consisting of old-fashioned tasks from the mid-1800s.

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

Details: The Plymouth District Library will host music professor Karl Schmidt for a four-part series this summer. Schmidt will present music and video excerpts from films such as The Jazz Singer (1927), Gone With the Wind (1939), The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) and High Noon (1952).

Contact: Call 734-453-0750.

COFFEE WITH COPS

Dates/Times/Locations: Saturday, June 21, 2-4 p.m., at the IKEA store at Ford Road and Haggerty; Tuesday, June 24, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center

Details: The Canton Police Department has scheduled its next Coffee with a Cop sessions, intended to give residents a chance to meet informally with police officers.

GARDEN WALK

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 24, noon to 8 p.m.

Location: The walk features a variety of gardens, descriptions of which are located on the tickets.

Details: The 19th annual "Flowers are Forever" garden walk in Plymouth includes gardens with a variety of features, as well as many ideas that can be adapted to your own garden. Complimentary refreshments and a perennial sale will be at one of the gardens.

Contact: For additional information, contact Marilyn Detmer at 734-454-4625.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Sept. 5-7 Location: Downtown Plymouth's Fall Festival

Details: The Plymouth Fall Festival has openings in the Craft Show. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

Contact: More information can be found on the web site or email Colleen Brown at craft-show@plymouthfallfestival.com.

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Date/Time: Oct. 18 Location: West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Details: The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried Craft Show. Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.

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

GHOSTS OF PLYMOUTH WALK

Date/Time: Sunday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Location: The walk circles Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth and lasts about 90 minutes. Participants should meet at the fountain in Kellogg Park.

Details: Participants can meet and greet some of the characters from Plymouth's past during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Ghosts of Plymouth" walk. Hear the tales of early Plymouth from the characters themselves, such as Phil Markham (inventor of the Markham Air Rifle), his mistress Blanche Shortman and his spurned wife Carrie, colorful physician Dr. Luther Peck and George Starkweather, the first white male born in Plymouth Township.

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

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

Sunday, June 22, Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Monday, June 23, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, 1-6:45 p.m.

Monday, June 23, VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth, 1:30-7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25, Friendship Church, 1240 N. Beck, Canton, 1-6:45 p.m.

Monday, June 30, Salem High School, 46181 Joy in Canton, 3-8:45 p.m.

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives.

Contact: Donors can make appointments by calling 800-RED-CROSS or going to www.redcross.org and enter search by zip code.

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

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

FAMILY BENEFIT SHOW

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 25, 5-8 p.m.

Location: VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth

Details: VVA Chapter 528 and VFW Post 6695, in conjunction with CRUZ'N 528, sponsor a car show to benefit the family of Wayne Pritchard, son of VVA 528 member Gary Pritchard, who died suddenly in April. During the car show, regular menu of food and beverages will be served, 50/50 raffles will be conducted and door prizes will be given. Oldies music will be provided by DJ Koz. All proceeds from the show will go to Wayne Pritchard's family.

Contact: For more information, call 734-459-6700.

LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

Time/Location: Each Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Dates: July 9, Hollywood's Golden Age - The film score hits its stride as it accompanies some of tinsel town's classic films.

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

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Advertisement for Serta VIP REWARDS program, featuring the slogan 'Earn \$100 per year up to \$1,000 off your next bed!' and details on how to earn rewards.

Whirlpool Appliances Bundle and Save!

Whirlpool Suite Package advertisement showing two bundle options: one for \$2096 and another for \$2999, including ranges, microwaves, dishwashers, and refrigerators.

Three promotional offers: KitchenAid 'Invitation to Savings' for up to \$1000, Kitchen Aid Food Processor Training with Chef Pam, and Maytag 'Power Performance Savings' for up to \$250.

Bill & Rod's Appliances & Mattresses advertisement, located at 15870 Middlebelt Road, North of Five Mile • Livonia, featuring a list of services and contact information.

Knightsbridge Antique Mall advertisement, located at 42305 Seven Mile Road, Northville, MI, featuring a variety of antiques and a large inventory of 26,000 sq. ft.



The team enters the building and begins the search for a shooter and assessing the number of victims. A trainer (right) watches and critiques the team's response.



After clearing a classroom, the team prepares to move farther into the school. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'AS REAL AS IT GETS'

Wayne County police officers train for school shooting situations

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

They may use bullets filled with paint, but Livonia Police Capt. Ron Taig knows the school shooting training session done Tuesday by several Wayne County police agencies has the feel of being authentic.

"This is as real as it gets," he said. "We're trying to test their abilities in the struggle."

Several police officers from agencies such as Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, the Wayne County Airport Authority, Dearborn Heights, Northville and Northville Township are participating in a four-day training session, learning the ropes of proper tactics when

dealing with a school shooting situation. Officers ran real-time simulations Tuesday morning at Dickinson School, 18000 Newburgh, in Livonia, complete with "gunmen" opening fire on police. The training runs through today.

The training was made possible by a federal grant obtained by the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security, totaling about \$45,000 for eight days of training for officers. No local dollars funded the sessions.

Officers used Dickinson, which was not in use, as a training ground. Several officers donned blue jerseys, indicating their status as a shooting victim, while others wore

red, labeling them as a shooter in the school.

And these aren't SWAT team officers, either: Taig said the goal is to train every first responding officer to step in and handle a shooter situation inside a school.

"We want to make sure patrol officers were given the equipment and also training to be able to react to an active shooter," he said. "So we put the training together."

Bullets containing paint were fired by officers and shooters during the training, leaving a mark and showing where someone had been shot. Teams of officers covered

See POLICE, Page A11

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All activities are free of charge.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Seminar Presentations

9 - 9:45 a.m.
"All About Stroke" - How to reduce risks and recognize warning signs
Speaker: **Gail Schramek, NP**

10 - 10:45 a.m.
"Maintaining Independence As We Age" - What an assessment and prevention can do to help you stay healthy -
Speakers: **Gerald Turlo, MD & Jessica Weathas, LMSW**

11 - 11:45 a.m.
"Connecting Seniors and Caregivers to Resources" - Learn about exercise programs for seniors and supportive services available in the community
Speakers: **Julie Burt, AADP, CHC and The Senior Alliance Staff**

"Eating for a Healthy You" - Food demonstration
Mary Condon, RD
Boxed lunch provided

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Exhibitors

- "Ask the Nurse Practitioner"
- Senior living
- Joint health
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- Stroke
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- Exercise programs for seniors
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Review, compare fees for financial services

I recently read a story about a man who took a large amount of loose coins to the bank and deposited the money into his checking account. He was upset because when he received his monthly statement, he noticed the bank had charged a fee for counting the coins.

The man wrote that even though there had been other bank fees, this one upset him enough that he ended his relationship with the bank and took his business elsewhere.

The story dealt with the hassle that he had with things like direct



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

deposits and automatic withdrawals, but as he said at the end of the column, it was worth it.

Over the last few years, most consumers have gotten used to paying fees. Whether it is a hotel charging a resort fee in addition to the room rate or an airline charging for checked bags or an aisle seat, fees have become a fact of life.

In many situations,

consumers have to accept the fees. However, in many situations, there are options. One of those is a banking relationship.

Banks have a history of charging excessive fees. Look at what banks have charged for things such as bounced checks, wire transfers or even the cost of printing checks.

And banks have instituted even more fees. Some are charging to talk to a teller, closing out an account or even sending a statement.

Banks have implemented these and other new fees because they know that on the whole

the American public is unaware when it comes to fees.

Many people tend to believe that bank fees are standard and that every bank or financial institution charges the same fees. This is not the case. Every bank has its own set of fees and different accounts at the same bank also have different fee structures. The key is to focus on the fees for services that you use.

Once you understand your bank's fees, you can begin to compare other banks and financial institutions. In addition, also check with credit

unions. Typically, credit unions will have lower fees and just as many amenities as banks.

I recognize banks are a business and need to make a profit. However, just as banks look for ways of cutting costs, consumers need to look for ways to be more efficient and control costs.

Don't forget that fees can be waived. If your bank assesses a fee that you are unaware of, contact the bank to see if it will waive it. You may be surprised how often banks and even charge card companies will waive fees if you request it.

Changing banks is a bit of a hassle and shouldn't be done on a whim. However, if you can save money on a regular basis, it may be worth the change.

Whether you make a change or not, it is important to review your banking relationship to determine if your bank deserves your business.

Good luck.

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

POLICE

Continued from Page A10

themselves going through the hallway, actively searching for the "shooters" and carrying "victims" lying in the hallway to safety.

After the simulation, officers will gather for a debriefing session and break down positives and negatives.

Students become teachers

And as well as learning tactics, participants will then turn around and be able to teach others who were not able to attend. Timothy McGillivray, director of Wayne County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said once these officers are trained, the expectation is that they will return to their departments and conduct the training themselves.

"We can't touch every police officer in Wayne County," he said.

The hope is that every one of more than 1,000 law enforcement officers will receive similar training. In addition to police,

Taig said several firefighters have also taken part in the training, including firefighters from Canton and Livonia.

Taig said the hope is that other communities, such as Redford, Garden City, Westland and Wayne, that have not participated in the training could take part in another session they hope to hold in 2015.

McGillivray said it's hoped the skills learned this week will not ever be needed, but it's important officers in the county know how to handle the situation properly if the need arises.

"We deal with low-frequency and high-consequence events. God willing, this training will never be utilized," he said. "But we know all these police departments have tight budgets. What we bring to the table are the financial resources: the equipment, the training, the support equipment for the guys out on the front lines. And this is an example of that."

"School safety is definitely a priority."

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Team members guard officers helping a victim. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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OUR VIEWS



The state Senate adjourned last week without a plan to deal with roads. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO ROAD PLAN

Senate ignores will, business of the people

It would be considered poetic justice if state senators leaving Lansing last week hit giant, car-damaging potholes after adjourning without doing anything substantive about the condition of the state's roads.

Oh, sure, they adjourned having sent a budget to Gov. Rick Snyder for the fiscal year that begins in October, which includes \$3.7 billion for the Michigan Department of Transportation, but Snyder had sought an additional \$1.2 billion and the House had approved a package that would have raised an estimated \$500 million.

But the Senate couldn't – or wouldn't – reach consensus on new road revenue. Instead, senators say, there's money in the budget to perform stop-gap work on roads now and the Senate will deal with the need for a more comprehensive plan when it reconvenes.

Of course, when it reconvenes, candidates who survive the Aug. 5 primary will be worrying about re-election. Even more likely, they're worrying about re-election now, which is one reason they kicked this particular can down the divot-filled road.

Surveys show most Michigan voters want better roads and they're willing to pay for them. Snyder and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville proposed a wholesale gas tax hike as a long-term solution to Michigan's constant under-funding of roads. Voters are pounding legislators with complaints about the condition of the state's roads, which cost motorists money on a daily basis.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, a Republican from Plymouth Township, said the House plan to raise an extra \$500 million would have earmarked more existing money for roads, increased the penalties for overweight trucks, tied the gasoline tax to the wholesale price of gas and increased the diesel fuel tax.

The wholesale gas tax hike is unquestionably a tough sell, especially in an election year and when you consider the state already has the fifth-highest gas tax in the country (19 cents per gallon for gasoline, 15 cents per gallon for diesel fuel).

But if voters are willing to pay the additional money – and if even Republican leaders think it's the best of what may be bad options to get it done – shouldn't senators have either considered it or come up with ideas of their own?

Isn't it reasonable to ask the Senate to have gotten something – anything – done?

Apparently, Senate leadership is saying the road issue will be dealt with in lame-duck session. That's the chosen way of dealing with tough, unpopular issues lately (road plan, right-to-work, etc.) and it lacks a certain level of accountability.

Heise and others have said they'd "be happy to come back" to Lansing to get a plan in place, but that's not going to happen. Legislators instead will spend the summer running for re-election, rather than doing the business of the people, business that should have been done in the first place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doesn't add up

The PCCS 2014-15 budget dated April 29 states the custodial maintenance cost is \$2,383,266 per year. The contract with the private company states the cost will be \$208,687.17 per month, times 12 months, totals \$2,504,246.04.

Subtract the amount of \$2,383,266 that the district currently pays its own custodians from \$2,504,246.04 that the district will be paying the private company and that equals \$120,980.04 more that the district will actually be paying out, plus the additional \$75,000 per year for equipment.

So a total of \$195,980.04 more per year it will actually cost the district by going with a private company. Yet Brodie Killian stated the district would be saving between \$600,000 and \$700,000 by doing this?

Please publish so the taxpayers can see exactly how these people are running – or should I say ruining – our once great school district.

Lisa Mark
Plymouth

Senate disgust

Sen. Colbeck:

I cannot express the level of disgust I feel for you and your fellow state senators who wasted yet another opportunity to make serious inroads on the deplorable status of Michigan's roads. Poll after poll has told you that your constituents want this taken care of and urge you to make the compromises needed to get this done – including raising taxes to pay for it.

Instead, you chose the spineless approach of having nothing get done if you couldn't ram your personal plan through unchanged. I can only assume that this was to avoid offending the vocal minority who are unwilling to pay for anything the state needs.

Well, guess what? You have offended me. I can't wait to vote against you at any available opportunity. Maybe the next person will be willing to work in the best interests of the state, even if it entails a bit of political risk. If not, at least we'll have a different scoundrel in office.

Bob Nelson
Canton

Supports Proposal 1

Please vote yes Aug. 5 on Proposal 1 to reform the way local governments are reimbursed for providing important local services. The changes would help our local communities and the state.

The proposal is not a tax increase. It would create a Local Community Stabilization share to provide a more stable system for local governments to pay for local services that keep our communities safe, including police and fire, ambulances, jails, roads, schools and libraries.

The proposal also keeps in

place business tax reforms approved by the Legislature, which immediately eliminate the Personal Property Tax on small businesses and phase it out for larger businesses. This makes our local businesses more competitive by allowing them to invest more in job-creation and expansion.

For these reasons, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce urges citizens to vote yes Aug. 5 to help local governments provide the services we all need and help local businesses thrive. For more detail about our support of Proposal 1, please go to our website www.plymouthmich.org.

Wes Graff
president
Plymouth Community
Chamber of Commerce

Great courage

I would like to thank the Canton Board of Trustees for passing the Human Rights Ordinance last week and not waiting for the state to do something.

It took great courage and thought for five of the Canton Board of Trustees to change their minds and pass the ordinance as they did June 10. They knew it was the right thing to do, but were looking to see if the state would act first. It seems in this day and age, everyone is always waiting for the "other person" to do something; it was a breath of fresh air to experience the change and see five of the board members change their mind and pass the ordinance now instead of later.

Leaders lead, they do not follow, and those five trustees did exactly that; they listened and they acted. As one of the speakers quoted at the June 10 meeting, justice delayed is justice denied.

The ordinance should be important to us all, as it is important that discrimination of any kind be stopped. As a member of the community of Canton and a lesbian, I am now proud to say I live in a community that believes in equal rights for all. I had another member of our community share with me that she's "waited for 74 years to see this happen." The importance of the ordinance to me, my family and my friends is that I am now protected by the ordinance. I cannot be discriminated against because of my sexual orientation and I can live in a community who respects who I am.

Tina Terrill
Canton

New Peters ad

A new ad sponsored by Ending Spending seeks to demonize Gary Peters by harping on the false meme (that, not coincidentally, Terri Lynn Land has also glommed on to) that his opposition to the Keystone pipeline is a job-killer. Where? In Michigan? Not likely.

This long debunked claim of tens of thousands of jobs has been cast asunder by the State

Department's Environmental Impact Report that stated only 3,900 rolling short-term construction jobs will be created and that it will take only 35 workers to patrol the entire 1,000-mile plus length of the pipeline once completed. It is difficult to imagine how any Michiganders will be employed on the project.

The ad also makes nebulous reference to red tape and regulation that are stifling our economy of course without naming any. "What kind of regulation?" The kind that outlaws dumping piles of toxic pet coke like those left on the banks of Detroit River by Koch Carbon to blow around freely, polluting the air of several downriver communities, Detroit neighborhoods, riverside sections of Ontario and, of course, the waters of the Detroit River?

What type of red tape? The type which regulates pipelines like the one that ruptured along the banks of the Kalamazoo River, spilling a million gallons of toxic tar sand crude into that waterway ruining it perhaps forever? This same type of toxic sludge will flow through the XL pipeline and will threaten the Ogallala Aquifer when the inevitable spills occur that sadly we lack the technology to clean up.

Do those at Ending Spending or Terri Lynn Land know or care that since Canadian tar sands oil now comes to Michigan and to the Midwest to be refined into gasoline, a Keystone pipeline will divert that supply to Texas, creating shortages here and ultimately driving gas prices up in Michigan, according to the National Resources Defense Council?

And the audacity of the ES ad calling Tom Steyer a "special interest" is beyond hypocritical, although it is pretty "special" for a person to use his personal fortune to stifle global warming, Steyer's stated goal. At least Tom Steyer's "save the planet" based motives seem altruistic rather than steeped in unabashed greed. Conversely, the Koch-sponsored special interest AFP exists for no other reason than to support candidates and pursue policy that will personally enrich the Kochs. Now that is one lofty goal. I guess \$40 billion each just isn't enough!

Mitch Smith
Canton

Ignoring the citizens

I have been attending the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meetings for the past several months and am appalled by some of the things I have observed. It appears the board has no interest in what the people of the community have to say when the wishes of the residents of Plymouth Township differ or conflict with the undertakings of the Board of Trustees.

I have seen dozens of people stand up to express their opposi-

See LETTERS, Page A13

GUEST COLUMN

Canton leads where state should follow

Fairness means that an employee should be evaluated and promoted based on the ability to do the job.

Fairness means that a lease should be renewed based on whether the tenant pays the rent and takes care of the place.

Fairness should not discriminate. But despite living in a democratic republic, where all people are "equal," there are thousands of people who cannot live their full truths, because in the state of Michigan, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people can be fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes and denied access to public



Sommer Foster
GUEST COLUMNIST

space simply for being who they are.

Thirty-five municipalities in Michigan have decided to lead by passing local ordinances that offer protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Last week, Canton Township took a bipartisan vote to become the 35th municipality to provide these protections.

The ordinance Canton approved states that "no person be denied

equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights or be discriminated against because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, condition of pregnancy, marital status, physical or mental limitation, source of income, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status."

A study titled "Degrees of Equality: A National Study Examining Workplace Climate for LGBT Employees," found that 42 percent of LGBT employees report lying about their personal lives as a result of working in an environment that is not always accepting of LGBT people. As reasons for hiding their identities, 28 percent fear not being considered for advancement; 17 percent fear getting fired.

Hiding takes a toll on workers' ability to put 100 percent of them-

selves into their jobs. They have to separate their home life from their work life, which means no personal phone calls that can be overheard or e-mails that can be read, no pictures of loved ones on the desk and no honest personal dialogue with co-workers, clients or customers. ("Are you married and do you have kids?")

All of these things you and I take for granted.

Some think we should have waited for the state of Michigan to act and amend the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. But our local elected leaders took heed to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and embraced the "fierce urgency of now." They not only took a courageous vote to protect all the citizens of Canton, but they also passed a resolution encouraging the Legislature to act before the end of this legislative session.

Our Board of Trustees should be com-

mended – it led and showed the state of Michigan that equality, fairness and the golden rule mean something to the 90,173 residents of Canton.

Waiting for the Legislature would not have helped the lesbian mom feel comfortable putting a photo of her family on her desk at work, but Canton's action will.

Waiting would not have helped the gay college student figure out whether he has a welcoming home in the place he grew up or if he should move to Ann Arbor, Birmingham or Royal Oak like the majority of his friends, but the actions Canton took will.

We all know people who are gay and transgender. They are our neighbors, friends, co-workers and family members. They deserve the same security as everyone else. They deserve to go to work every day knowing that if they do a good job, they will be able to keep that job.

Seventy-four percent of Michiganders believe in these protections.

Gov. Rick Snyder's Department of Civil Rights has said that amending the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act is the right thing to do. The business community and 85 percent of Fortune 500 companies are already offering protections.

It is time for the state of Michigan to follow the lead of Michigan's second largest township and 11th largest community. We have proven that we are willing to be proactive and welcoming to all people by passing this equal rights ordinance. It is time for the state of Michigan to take a step forward in its quest for equal rights for all.

King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." I would argue that it also bends toward inclusion.

Sommer Foster is a Canton resident and director of political advocacy for Equality Michigan.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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County executive candidates try to break through voter anger

Anne Gautrau probably summed up a sentiment shared by many Wayne County residents after she sat through a League of Women Voters-sponsored candidates forum last week that featured 10 of the individuals running for Wayne County executive.

"I just wonder how many lies I heard tonight," the retired Dearborn school teacher said June 12 as she walked out of Henry Ford Community College's Mazzara Conference Center.

Her statement goes to the heart of what so many feel about the current state of Wayne County government. There just isn't much trust anymore.

The forum itself was pretty uneventful. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of it was the fact that most of the heavy hitters were on one stage - with the exception of state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, who was stuck in Lansing working on the state budget.

All the other candidates with a legitimate



Kurt Kuban
STAFF COLUMNIST

shot of winning the race were there: incumbent Robert Ficano, Wayne County Commissioner Keven McNamara, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans and Westland Mayor Bill Wild. I suppose you could include Christopher Wojtowicz in that group, due solely to the fact that his father, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, is a near institution in county government, and Detroiters Bettie Cook Scott, who has served as a state representative.

Other Democrats participating included Westland resident Russell George Leviska and Adam Salam Adamski, neither of whom has much chance to win. There were also two Republicans - Canton's Fred A. Bolden and John Dalton, who probably have no chance considering Wayne County leans

so heavily toward the left.

All in all, there were few surprises during the event. The candidates answered a series of questions, including what their thoughts were on the failed jail project that is going to cost taxpayers dearly.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the night was when Ficano said that has brought "fiscal integrity" to county government since being elected 10 years ago. Integrity probably isn't the adjective most Wayne County voters would use when describing Ficano's stewardship of Wayne County.

There's just no getting around it - there likely aren't many Wayne County residents happy with Ficano right now, which isn't surprising considering the controversies that have surrounded him in recent years, including the failed jail project that has cost taxpayers about \$160 million so far, federal investigations and indictments of members of his administration or the

fact the county has only had one balanced budget during his tenure as executive.

The most recent poll in the race, conducted by Washington-based Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, reflects the dismay with Ficano, who is polling dead last at 10 percent. Wild, Cavanagh and McNamara are all in the 12- to 14-percent range.

While many of us out here in the suburbs probably thought the race would be won by one of those four candidates, it is clear Detroit still rules the roost of Wayne County politics.

If the poll is to be believed, they are all far behind Evans, who is up double digits at 28 percent. Evans is polling well among black voters, who make up 92 percent of the voters in Detroit, which comprises about half of the eligible voters in Wayne County. So it may just be a long-shot for any of the suburban candidates to catch him, though if there is one

positive for them it's the fact that nearly 40 percent of those polled said they haven't yet made up their mind for whom to vote.

There is the thought out there that Ficano could slip through and win the Aug. 5 primary election, because the other major candidates would carve up the vote.

But the reality is Cavanagh, McNamara, Wild and even Ficano are all vying for the same bloc of votes and if they want any chance at winning are going to have to chase the Detroit vote - and chase it hard - because absentee ballots are going to start being mailed out at the end of the month.

So there is little time

to waste to make up the ground and, in the case of Ficano, do enough damage control to turn around his prospects.

Perhaps they can take heart, though, because even the wary Anne Gautrau said she felt pretty good about a couple of the candidates after the forum and wants to learn more about them. She didn't say who those candidates are but, like a lot of Wayne County residents, she is hoping to find the right candidate that she can trust and throw her support behind.

Kurt Kuban is editor of the Northville Record. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com or 248-437-2011, ext. 245.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A12

tion to the building of an amphitheater in the township park. There are many reasons for their opposition: 1) people do not see the practicality of an amphitheater; 2) citizens were not informed of the plan to issue a bond and use the proceeds for an amphitheater; 3) the board did not take the time to study the impact of such a project on the surrounding neighborhoods; 4) this money would be

better spent on maintaining the facilities that are already in the park and which are used on a regular basis; 5) the noise level, traffic and the crowd control could create unwanted problems and disrupt the tranquility of the adjacent neighborhoods; 6) there is a greater need for our fire station to be reopened than the need for an amphitheater; 7) the community was told there was no money to support a fire station, but now they have the money for an amphitheater? 8) why can't this project be put on hold

until some of these concerns are addressed?

The board plans on spending \$9,000 to \$25,000 on a survey to find out what the community wants in regard to recreation. Is the board waiting until the completion of this amphitheater project before it presents a survey? By that time it will be too late to stop a project that it seems nobody in the community wants.

The board has not adequately addressed the concerns of the citizens. Since the board appears to be ignoring pleas to reconsider this

project, there are now whisperings of picketing the construction site and inviting the news media out to record the incident. I would never have thought that this community would have to resort to demonstrating in the streets in order for the citizens to be heard. When democracy is not practiced in your own community, then perhaps such measures are necessary.

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township



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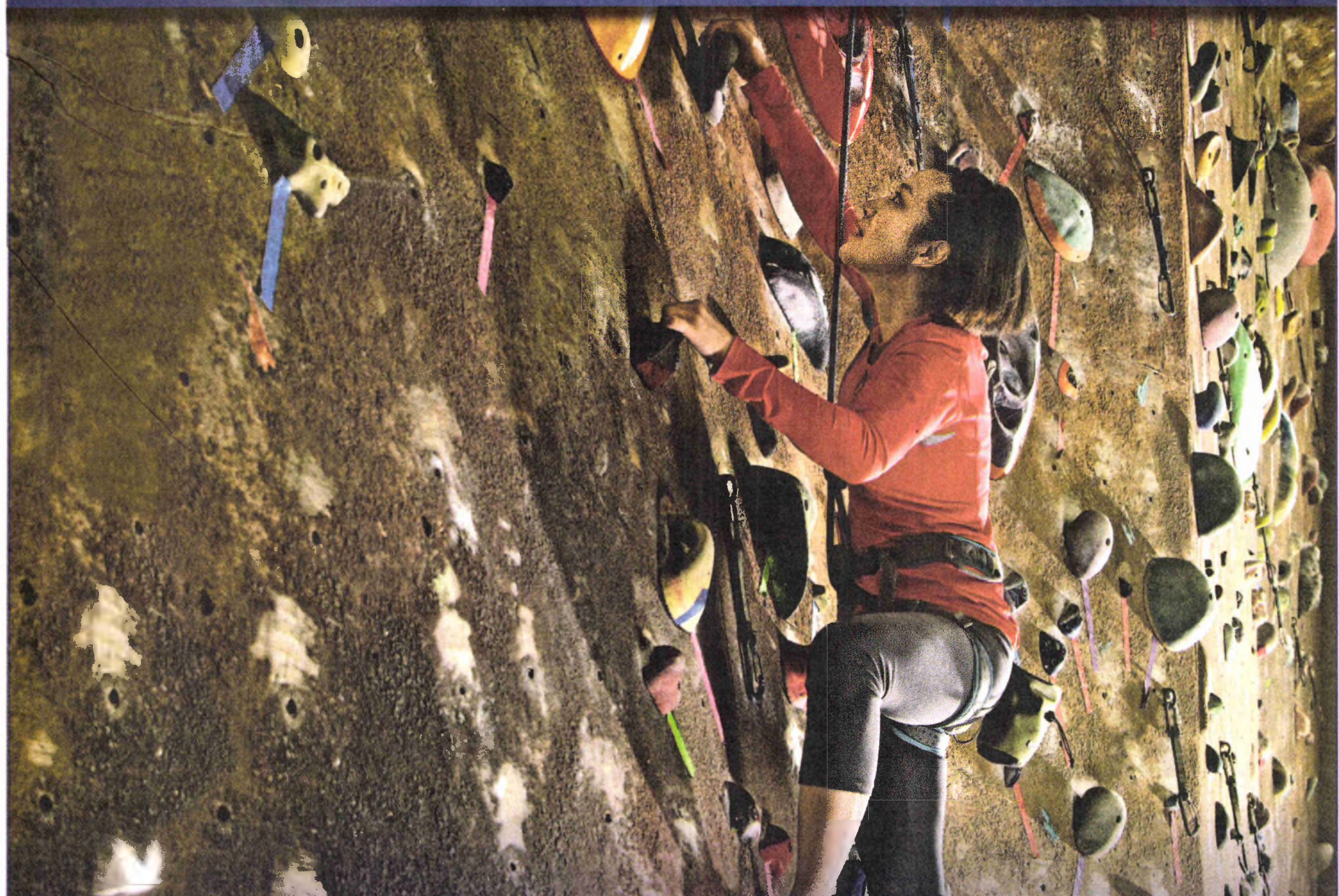
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Falvo was tough, thoughtful coach

Longtime Mercy softball skipper succumbs to cancer at age 63

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Jack Falvo is remembered as a demanding and tough-minded softball coach who cared about his players and wanted to make them winners in life as well as sport.

His purpose and objective was very much in step with the Mercy High School mission of preparing young women for college and the career world.

Mr. Falvo, the highly successful coach of the Marlins for 17 seasons, died Friday at his home following an eight-month struggle with pancreatic cancer. He was 63.

"When the players were between the lines, he was competitive and hard-nosed," longtime Mercy assistant coach Jerry Ashe said.

"But those student-athletes



Falvo

were better prepared for the real world and what a woman of the new millennium would face in life and in the corporate world.

"He was a hard-nosed guy, but he was really a teddy bear off the field — and so generous to his players, as well as the Mercy program."

Dana (Falvo) Haller, who played four years on the Mercy varsity for her father, said she had the best of both worlds.

"He was my dad and he was my coach," she said, citing the many former players who called on the family this week to share their memories.

"I'm glad I was able to share him in that way, as a coach.

You really see the impact he had on so many lives.

"For me personally, he was my first coach in life. So often in my career, he would call me and coach me through different things and give me advice."

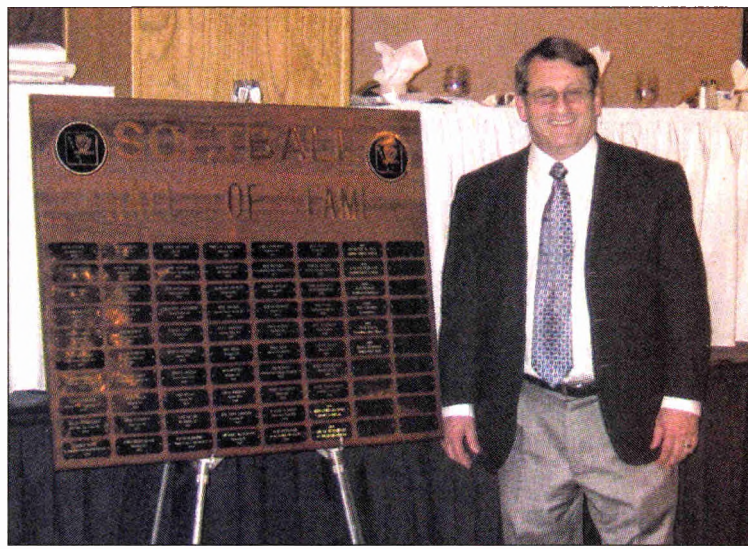
A former all-area outfielder, Dana Haller played at Hillsdale College and is now a television producer with NBC in New York.

Always a teacher

While the details of the play are now forgotten, she recalled her dad using a game situation to teach more than softball.

"He said to me, 'Dana, what you experienced at that moment is a lot like you'll experience in business,'" she said.

"He would always give these lectures in the car after a game, equating a play to business, and I never understood



Jack Falvo is inducted into the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

what he was saying. Then, when I had my own career, he would say, 'See, it was just like that play!'"

"When I was in college, he

would send clippings and motivational cards. He always believed there were bigger les-

See FALVO, Page B4

DIVISION 2 GIRLS SOFTBALL FINALS

Blazers thwarted in state title bid



Ladywood's Christina Meyer tries for a diving catch during fifth inning action against Stevensville Lakeshore in the Division 2 girls softball final. PHOTOS BY KIRTHMON DOZIER | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Stevensville Lakeshore holds off Ladywood, 4-3

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood finally ran out of lady luck in Saturday's MHSAA Division 2 girls softball finals.

The Blazers, making a bid for their second title since 2012, fell one run short in a 4-3 setback to Stevensville Lakeshore, which garnered its seventh championship since 1997 under coach Denny Dock, in a game played at Michigan State University's Secchia Stadium.

Ladywood, which could only muster three hits off Lakeshore senior right-hander Haley Thibeault, ends its season at 29-14 overall.

Lakeshore (35-9) spotted the Blazers a two-run deficit in the top of the first inning.

Lead-off hitter Christina Meyer was hit by a pitch and Haley Lawrence reached base on an error. Rozlyn Price's grounder was misplayed at first bringing Meyer home and Lawrence tagged up from third on Hallea Garcia's sacrifice fly to right field to make it 2-0.

But Stevensville tied it with two in the fourth and took the lead for keeps with two more in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The big blow came in the fourth when Rachel Riedel took Rozlyn Price's first pitch and belted it over the left field fence to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Rebecca Meyer then singled. Courtesy runner Mahri Younger stole second and took third on a fielder's choice before



Ladywood catcher Anna Lewis (left) waits for the ball as Stevensville runner Mahri Younger scores at the plate in Saturday's Division 2 final.

coming home on Rachel Clem's successful suicide squeeze bunt to make it 2-2.

The Lancers then took the lead when Price, the junior right-hander, walked both Haley Thibeault and pinch hitter Mackenzie Sanders to start the inning. Hunter Thibeault was hit by a pitch to load the bases which led to the go-ahead run thanks to Alex Forsythe's bloop RBI single to center.

Riedel then followed with an RBI sacrifice fly to right field to put Stevensville up 4-2.

"I think it was just adjustments between the ears as much as anything," Stevensville coach Denny

Dock said of his team's slow start. "Just from the standpoint that you can't make errors. We were a little nervous, I think. We just needed to get a grip, get a hold of things a little bit. We struck out six out of the first nine times."

"Then, Rachel Riedel got us going. She put a charge into one there. I think that relaxed us a little bit. We said, 'We can do this.' And we had a beautiful squeeze bunt, a suicide to tie it up."

With two-out in the top of the sixth, Ladywood mounted a rally. Price singled, Hallea Garcia reached base on an error and Lauren Holdsworth walked to load the bases.

Rachel Hendrickson,

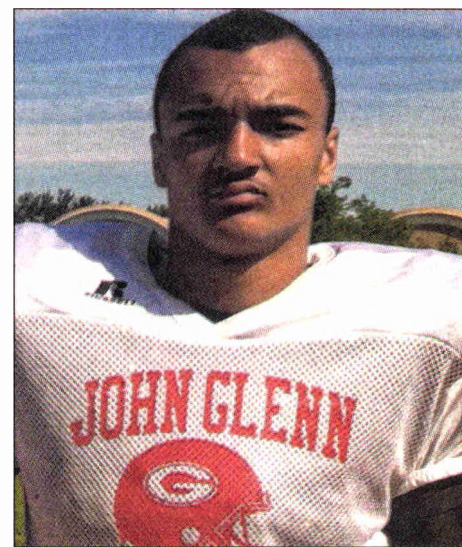
the hero in Ladywood's 4-3 state semifinal win Thursday over Wayland Union, then hit a chopper in front of the plate and reached first safely in what was ruled a single to cut the deficit to 4-3.

But Haley Thibeault, who struck out three and walked two, got out of the inning when Michaela Warner flied out to center.

Ladywood then went down in order in the top of the seventh as Thibeault got senior shortstop Haley Lawrence to pop out to third to end the game. Ironically, just the batter before, the Blazers' Christina Meyer made a bid for an extra base hit near the

See BLAZERS, Page B2

PREP FOOTBALL



Spalding

Glenn back Spalding is co-MVP in Border War

Rocket's 60-yard TD run fuels 27-13 win against Team Ohio

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's Devon Spalding wanted to do the state proud in Saturday's first-ever Ohio Michigan High School Border Classic.

And the Rockets' All-State running back, who will report to Central Michigan University on June 28, came up with one of his signature plays when he broke free for a 60-yard touchdown run to help spark Team Michigan to a 17-7 third-quarter advantage en route to a 27-13 football victory over Team Ohio in a game played at the University of Findlay.

"We pulled our right tackle through the hole to seal off the linebacker, then we just split the seam," said Spalding, who was named the game's co-MVP along with Jared Wangler, a linebacker from Warren De La Salle headed to the University of Michigan.

Spalding, who rushed for 1,761 yards and 25 TDs in his senior season at Glenn, had 79 yards on six carries.

The 6-foot-1, 197-pound Spalding was more than happy to share the load as Team Michigan ran for 240 yards on 47 rushing attempts.

"That game was the most fun I've ever played in because it wasn't all about me," said Spalding, who once ran for a school-record 491 yards in a regular season game against Livonia Churchill. "I wasn't getting the ball every play. In order to win a game like that you have to play as a team. And like I said, we came together really well. We bonded like we were brothers actually. And we were representing the state of Michigan."

Some pre-game banter during Friday night's banquet from Team Ohio fueled Spalding and his teammates.

"We took what they (Ohio) were talking at the banquet," Spalding said. "They were pretty much saying that it was it was going to be easy. They kept saying Ohio has 159 scholarships (play-

See SPALDING, Page B4

Shaw's free camp stresses character as much as technique

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

You can file Saturday's fifth annual Tim Shaw "Dream It! Do It!" Football Camp inside the "The Best Things In Life Are Free" folder.

For the modest investment of four hours of sweat equity, close to 130 area youngsters soaked in the teachings — both football- and life-related — of Shaw and a roster of stellar coaches and former players who he has befriended throughout a sterling gridiron career that took him from Livonia Clarenceville to Penn State University and the National Football League.

In addition to learning some of the intricacies of their favorite positions, the campers were educated on several character-based skills — a point Shaw emphasizes.

"Yes, I want the kids to learn a little football

while they're here, but more important than that is I want them to be around some positive role models," said Shaw, who currently resides in Nashville, Tenn. "I want them to see that, just because I was in the NFL, I'm a normal guy. I want to help them answer the questions, 'How do I get somewhere I want to go?' and 'What does it take to be successful?'"

Despite being undersized by NFL standards, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound Shaw was a special-teams force for four NFL teams from 2007 through 2012. Prior to announcing his retirement prior to the 2013 season, he compiled 127 career tackles and earned a spot on the *USA Today's* "All-Joe Team."

"When I first got into the NFL, I wanted to find a way to give back to my community, my school and the area that I grew up in and love," Shaw

said, when asked why he decided to start the annual camp. "At first, I thought I had to make a name for myself (in the NFL) before I could do something like this, but even after I got cut a couple of times, I decided it doesn't matter if I'm playing or not, I'm going to do it."

Despite a modest advertising campaign, Shaw's camp has drawn at least 100 kids each June. Saturday's draw was the largest to date.

Holmes Middle School eighth-grader-to-be Jack Nolta said he's attended the camp three straight years and has enjoyed every minute of it.

"I like how they divide us into positions, so everybody isn't crammed into one big group," said Nolta, a tight end for the Livonia Eagles. "I've gotten a lot better at making sharper cuts on my routes thanks to coming here."

Nolta said he's



Among the assistants at Tim Shaw's football camp were former Penn State offensive lineman Gerald Cadogan. ED WRIGHT

learned a lot of valuable off-the-field lessons from Shaw and his staff.

"Probably the most important thing I've learned is to surround myself with people who want to do the same things I want to do," he said.

Thirteen-year-old Dan Sweikowsky, a two-year veteran of Shaw's camp,

said it's non-football advice that he'll remember the most from the "Dream It! Do It!" get-together.

"I've learned how important it is to do well in school, not just in football," said the former Westland Comet.

Looking as fit and trim as he did during his playing days, Shaw said

he doesn't have an itch to return to the gridiron.

"The game and I have definitely run our course," he said, smiling. "I currently have some business interests that are keeping me busy while I figure out what that next passion for me is beyond football."

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Comerica champ



Livonia's Shane Rakowski, 12, captured first place in the 11-12 age division of the Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run contest, sponsored by Scotts, held June 7 at Comerica Park. The top three winners from each age group among all 30 MLB teams will have the opportunity to compete in the national competition during All-Star Week on July 14 at Target Field in Minneapolis. The top three winners will be announced June 29 on the MLB Network. Earlier at the third annual Diamond Dig Tourney at Livonia's Rotary Park, Rakowski, who will attend Holmes Middle School in the fall, went all seven innings throwing a one-hitter and striking out 18 in a recent 7-0 victory over the South Farmington Blues travel team. STEVE RAKOWSKI

Despite the tough times, Blazers persevered

Even when times got tough this season, Livonia Ladywood's softball team stayed the course.

The Blazers would be the first to admit they were downright awful at times, but when the MHSAA Division 2 tournament started, something radically changed.

Maybe Hallea Garcia's walk-off three-run homer in the district final proved to be a turning point. And maybe the Blazers' recent history of tournament success also played a factor.

Ladywood walked off the stage Saturday at Michigan State University one run short of its ultimate goal in a 4-3 loss to Stevensville Lakeshore, which won its seventh state title since 1995 under coach Denny Dock.

But despite the heartache, there was some satisfaction from getting to the finals for the third time since 2009 and the fifth trip to the Final Four in seven years.

"I think the seniors always take it hard and they're going to miss those two seniors (Haley Lawrence and Garcia), and we only have two and they're like the ultimate mother hens," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said. "They're really taking care of the sophomores and freshman that are there throughout the lineup and that's what



Brad Emons

they're going to miss the most. The girls had to take so much responsibility being the only two seniors. Usually we have four or five. But having only two they had to take a lot of responsibility. That's what they're going to miss about those two. They're quality people."

Ladywood's 29-14 final record was a bit deceiving because the Blazers played a mostly Division 1 schedule this season trying to get ready for the tournament.

But it became certainly a season of hard knocks as Combs divided the first half of the spring juggling two different programs after taking over the University of Michigan-Dearborn softball team.

"For this team, the only word I have is perseverance," Combs said. "There were a couple of times in midseason tournaments when I just had to grab my bag and walk out and tell them they didn't deserve to be on the field. We took four or five days and just conditioned. We never saw a softball. So our attitude adjustment worked. They realized they just couldn't flip the light switch on and they need-



Ladywood players react following a tough 4-3 loss Saturday to Stevensville Lakeshore in the Division 2 girls softball final at MSU's Secchia Stadium. KIRTHMON DOZIER | DETROIT FREE PRESS

ed to get going. And they did get going, my hats off to them. They all made adjustments, they got better. And that's what I'll remember about this team. They persevered and they knew they were supposed to be here because they couldn't wait too long and go through the motions."

Ladywood's signature win came Thursday at MSU when they upended top-ranked Wayland Union, 4-3, in 10 innings, surviving a tough call by the first base umpire in the bottom of the seventh which would have ended the game right then.

But the Blazers persevered and won it with a run in the top of the 10th to hand Wayland only its second loss in 44 games.

Eight of the Blazers' starting 10, including starting pitcher Rozlyn Price, are scheduled to return, so the future looks bright once again in 2015.

But the way Ladywood came together as a team late in the 2014 season could not be overlooked.

"I'll remember all the personalities," said Lawrence, a senior shortstop who will play next season at Hillsdale College. "There's so many different personalities and they're just really, really upbeat people. And they're always positive, no matter what's happening."

Brad Emons is a sports editor for the Livonia-Westland Observer.

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BLAZERS

Continued from Page B1

200-foot mark at the base of the right field fence only to have it curve barely foul.

Meyer, however, struck out. "If we could have gotten one more hit at a crucial time ... might have been the difference," said Ladywood coach Scott Combs, who was making his third state finals appearance since 2009. "But that's softball and baseball. It's an inch. That last hit by Christina Meyer down the right field line, whether it's a home run or hits fair, she's on third. There's no question of that. It's that close. Good ballgame."

In six innings, Price allowed five hits, walked three, hit three batters and struck out nine. After giving up two runs in the fourth, the two fifth-inning walks and hit batter proved costly in the fifth.

"I'm not sure those were bad innings," Combs said. "She (Price) was getting the pitches she wanted and she's trying to jam them inside. It's a matter of two or three inches and it's a hit batsmen rather than a pop out."

"I just think they (Stevensville) started sitting on a couple of pitches. We went to the change-up more a little later and I think that was effective, but you'll take that pitched ballgame any day of the week to keep you right there and keep you right in."



Ladywood pitcher Rozlyn Price fires toward the plate in Saturday's Division 2 girls softball final against Stevensville Lakeshore. KIRTHMON DOZIER | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Thibeault was a member of Stevensville's 2010 Division 2 state championship team, but as a second baseman and left fielder.

This time she was on the mound and the central focus. "I knew we could pitch and she's a competitor!" Dock said of his ace. "And in that seventh inning she threw five great pitches in there."

Thibeault allowed just one hit through the first five innings and the 2-0 deficit failed to faze her. "I was a little nervous, but I knew we could come back and get it," the senior pitcher said. "I wasn't panicking very much. It actually took a little stress off me

somehow, and I don't know how. Knowing that they weren't hitting the ball hard off me gave me a little bit of confidence because I knew my team could get it under control."

And when she took the mound in the seventh, the intensity heightened.

"I was praying the whole time, holding back so many emotions," she said. "After that strikeout, the second out, I had to hold it together because I was about to lose it."

Combs said his team tried to make some slight adjustments at the plate.

"I think maybe they were overthinking themselves at the plate," the Ladywood coach said. "I tried to tell them to cut the plate in half. Go inside or outside because I watched her (Thibeault) pitch and that's really what her game plan was, to go either in or go out. I think they were thinking a little too much instead of relaxing than going one side or the other."

The Blazers did make contact, but couldn't find the holes against Thibeault.

"We hit off her pretty well," said Lawrence, who will play next season at Hillsdale College. "I think we were just in our own heads today a little bit. We just didn't come up with the one. It was just unlucky. We knew what we had to do. It's just unlucky that we didn't come up with what we wanted."

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Jazz sax artist brings award-winning sound to Schoolcraft College

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Student jazz musicians at Schoolcraft College will rub elbows with a Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Monday, June 30.

Kirk Whalum will teach a music clinic from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center, on campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. At 8 p.m., he'll perform with the college's jazz ensemble and jazz improv bands in the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center. Both events are open to the public.

"He is at an international level of incredible achievement. He has performed with the most notable musicians. It's a pleasure to have someone of that caliber here," said Riccardo Selva, Ph.D., director of jazz studies. "This is a gentleman of international reputation who also plays in nursing homes."

Whalum, an ordained minister who has a master of arts degree in religion, reads Scripture in his daily podcast, Bible in Your Ear. In addition to playing at senior residences and nursing homes, he also works with STAX and missions. He serves as the creative director of STAX Music Academy and STAX Museum of American Soul Music in Memphis, Tenn.

"Music isn't just about making money. People should support artists, but music is about touching lives and changing lives and making life richer ... music really has a positive effect on people spiritually, physically and psychologically," Selva said.

Gospel roots

Whalum grew up in Memphis, Tenn., where he performed with his father's church choir. While at Southern Texas University, he formed a band and began playing clubs in Houston. One night, he opened for jazz pianist Bob James, who invited him to tour and play on one of his recordings. That led to session and touring work with such artists as Barbra Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross and Quincy Jones. His sax solo is featured on Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*. Whalum has earned multiple Grammy nominations for his own albums throughout the past two decades. His song, *It's What I Do*, won a Grammy in the Best Gospel Song category in 2011. The tune, with Lalah Hathaway on vocals, is on his album, *The Gospel According to Jazz Chapter III*.

Selva interviewed Whalum while working on his Ph.D. at Northwestern University. His dissertation looked at the way churches included saxophone into sacred music to connect with the current culture. While researching for the 2003 academic work, Selva discovered that Whalum, early in his career, had learned to model his playing on gospel singers and had been influenced by Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin.

"Mr. Whalum described the tone of the saxophone as a 'voice' rather than as a sound," Selva wrote in his paper. Whalum told Selva the more successful and celebrated saxophonists all demonstrate a "recognizable voice" when they play.

"I was once told by R&B crooner Luther Vandross, with whom I have recorded many times, that I play like he sings. That's a very big compliment and I believe a testament to something innate in the saxophone," Whalum told Selva during dissertation interviews.

Familiar song

After earning his Ph.D. and while working in Chicago, Selva met Whalum again, when he visited the Windy City to play a church concert.

"We spent the day together and got to deepen our friendship. Fast forward years ahead to last August at the jazz festival in Detroit. I was at the jazz festival and heard him play a gospel tune I do myself," said Selva, who also is saxophonist. The experience compelled Selva to invite Whalum to Schoolcraft College.

Selva plans to join jazz students and Whalum in playing the song, *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*, at the concert.

Admission to the clinic is free, although donations will be accepted at the door for students scholarships and the Schoolcraft College Jazz Program. Concert tickets are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors and \$5 for children under 12. All tickets are general admission and are available at the door and at the Livonia campus bookstore or by calling 734-462-4409.



Kirk Whalum will perform with jazz students Monday, June 30, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Stretch, breathe, relax with yoga outdoors

By Diana Wing
Correspondent

Feeling stressed out? Find tranquility, improve your health, have fun and attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the "Longest Yoga Chain," Sunday, June 29, at the Detroit Zoo.

Join The Yoga Movement at 8 a.m. in its attempt to create the longest sequence of poses.

"This is a passion of mine. I wanted to do it," said Gabrielle Gagnon, of United States, a Pontiac-based company that puts on consumer shows, like senior expos and home expos. "This will be our first yoga event and the first at the Detroit Zoo. It's going to be very exciting."

The experience includes an hourlong yoga class led by Gagnon's friend Kacee Must, owner of Citizen Yoga in Royal Oak, and two of Must's instructors — Ann Fancy and Todd Tesen. Must said they'll probably teach a Slow Burn class, defined as "slowing down movement so one can move deeper into the muscular system."

"A Slow Burn is completely led, so nobody's going to feel lost. It will definitely be a challenging class," she said. "Because it's going to be such a big



Kacee Must will lead participants in creating the world's "Longest Yoga Chain" Sunday, June 29, at the Detroit Zoo.

crowd, we'll probably do a bit more playfulness, like some inversions or something that takes people out of their comfort zone and allows them to see that they're more capable than what they think."

Practicing yoga for 20

years, beginning at age 10, Must opened her Royal Oak studio nine months ago.

"We love doing events that are outside what a normal yoga studio would do," Must said. "We like to participate with mass amounts of people, so

(yoga at the zoo) really fits who we are."

Tickets for The Yoga Movement are \$30 and include a T-shirt, an event bag, zoo admission and on-site parking. Check-in is 6:30-7:45 a.m. You must register in advance at

www.TheYogaMovement.net. Call 248-891-4393 for more info. Visit www.citizenyogastudio.com. The Detroit Zoo is located on 10 Mile (I-696 service drive) at Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak.

Looking for more outdoor yoga? You won't have to travel far:

Farmington Hills

Bring a mat and blanket and dress for the weather in layers for this series of one-hour classes in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile.

The class runs 8-9 a.m. Wednesday through Aug. 20 and is for adults of all skill levels. The series began June 18. The fee is \$10 per class. The class meets in front of the Heritage Park Visitor Center. For more information, call 248-477-1135.

Plymouth

Sun & Snow offers yoga at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, July 23 and Aug. 20 in Kellogg Park, in downtown Plymouth. Refreshments and shopping follow the class until 8 p.m. at Sun & Snow, 388 S. Main, Plymouth. A \$5 donation to the Plymouth downtown tree lighting project is suggested. RSVP at meetups@sunandsnow.com.

CORN

on and off the cob

Corn on the cob is a popular summer side dish, but you can do much more with the fresh, juicy vegetable.

"Sweet corn is a truly versatile ingredient," said Justin Timineri, executive chef and Culinary Ambassador of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida. "There are several ways to enjoy this healthy grain."

When buying corn on the cob, follow these tips from Timineri:

» Look for fresh sweet corn with husks. Ears should feel and look moist and thick, with fat and shiny beads of corn. Corn silk should be somewhat sticky, shiny, stiff and wet.

» To peel, pull the husks down to see the grain. Continue to remove the husks and silk.

» To remove the kernels: Hold the tip of the corn, resting the thicker side firmly on the table. Take a sharp knife and cut downward, removing the corn kernels. Be careful not to cut too deep.

These recipes make the most of fresh, sweet corn and are sure to become family favorites. For more ideas about cooking with fresh corn, visit freshfrom-florida.com/Recipes.

Courtesy of Family Features

FLORIDA SWEET CORN WITH SOUTHERN BARBECUE BUTTER

¼ cup your favorite barbecue sauce
¼ stick butter
4 ears fresh sweet corn, shucked
kosher salt to taste
fresh ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven broiler on high. In small saucepan over low heat, combine barbecue sauce and butter until melted and smooth.

Place sweet corn in a medium-sized baking dish and pour barbecue mixture over sweet corn. Broil sweet corn, 4 inches from broiler, being sure to watch the whole time. Turn and baste the sweet corn until golden. Serve warm.

Other ways to spice up corn on the cob:

- » butter with basil and garlic
- » cilantro, lime and honey
- » pesto sauce and Parmesan cheese
- » cinnamon, sugar and butter



SWEET CORN AND BLACK BEAN ENCHILADAS

½ cup onion, chopped
1 cup fresh corn kernels
2 bell peppers, diced
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 cup salsa, your favorite kind
1 can low-sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
10 (6-inch) corn tortillas
2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
1 can enchilada sauce
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
pan-release cooking spray
kosher salt to taste
freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly spray an 11-by-7-inch (2-quart) baking dish with pan-release cooking spray. Add vegetable oil to a medium pan. Cook onion, corn and bell peppers over medium high heat for 3 minutes. Add cumin, salsa and black beans and continue to cook for two minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove pan from heat and let cool slightly.

Place an even amount of the filling mixture in each of the 10 tortillas. Using 1 cup of shredded cheese, evenly distribute it on top of each of the 10 tortillas. Carefully roll up each stuffed tortilla, and place them seam side down in the sprayed baking dish. Pour the enchilada sauce over the rolled enchiladas, spreading to coat all tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until cheese is melted and sauce is bubbly around edges. Remove enchiladas from oven and let cool slightly. Serve enchiladas with diced avocado, salsa and sour cream.



SWEET CORN AND RICOTTA FRITTERS

2 ears fresh sweet corn, kernels removed
½ bunch fresh cilantro, chopped fine
4 ounces low-fat ricotta cheese
2 large eggs, beaten
½ cup self-rising unbleached or whole-wheat flour
olive oil (for shallow pan frying)
kosher salt to taste
fresh ground pepper to taste

In a medium-sized bowl, combine corn, cilantro, ricotta, eggs, flour and a pinch of salt and pepper.

Add a small amount of olive oil to a medium-high preheated sauté pan. Carefully add spoonfuls of the corn mixture to the hot pan. Cook on both sides until golden brown. Test the first done fritter, and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

Serve with low-fat sour cream if desired.



CREAMY CORN AND JALAPENO SOUP

6 ears sweet corn, cleaned
1 small onion, chopped
1 small fresh jalapeño pepper, minced, seeds removed
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 teaspoon ground cumin
2 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
1 ½ cups low-fat milk
fresh cilantro for garnish, chopped
kosher salt to taste
fresh ground pepper to taste

Heat oil in heavy large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion, jalapeño, garlic and cumin; sauté until onion and jalapeño are tender, about 10 minutes. Cut corn kernels from cobs. Add corn to pot. Stir in broth. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat until corn is very tender, about 20 minutes.

Transfer to processor or blender and carefully purée. Add very tender milk to thin to desired consistency. Return to pot; stir to heat through. Don't boil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve in bowls and garnish with cilantro.



