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SUNDAY
June 17, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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Reather Everett (from left), husband Arnell Everett and Velma Wilson show the T-shirts being sold to raise money for their historic Annapolis Park neighborhood, which will be getting a state historical marker.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New proposal aims to deal with tall grass

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland city leaders hope to mow down complaints about tall grass by beefing up enforcement efforts.

Mayor William Wild said unsightly properties have become a problem due to some 400 homes left vacant, largely from foreclosures caused by economic woes. His directors also have noticed a surge of complaints.

"This is without a doubt the worst I've ever seen it," Building Director Sue Dodson said, adding that some people are simply "walking away from their homes."

Public Service Director Kevin Buford said the city didn't choose to get involved in mowing residential and vacant properties, "but we've been forced into it."

Wild's administration, in talks Monday with Westland City Council members, proposed measures for addressing the issue before it worsens.

"I think we owe it to the citizens of Westland to do something about this problem," said Buford, a city resident himself.

Among the possible solutions:
■ Identifying grass as a problem when it grows to around 7 inches, compared to the current 10-inch mark.

■ Adopting a quicker timeline for slapping warning stickers on properties in efforts to force owners, including banks, to address the problem.

■ Increasing penalties by adding fees to owners who refuse to comply. Costs could increase by 30 percent if the city has to mow grass and put the price tag on tax rolls.

■ Using outside contractors to help city workers mow what has become an unmanageable number of properties.

■ Cutting grass on residential properties twice a month rather than once — and on commercial properties once a month rather than twice during the mowing season.

■ Putting money collected from penalties into a special grass-and-weed fund to pay for ongoing efforts.

Dodson, calling the problem of tall grass "epidemic" in nature, said residents on one street recently applauded when city workers arrived to mow a property.

Buford said tall grass could lead to more problems with rodents unless the situation is addressed.

Wild's administration hopes to draft a new proposal as soon as possible so that city council members can vote on it.

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Fashion statement

Annapolis Park residents put history on T-shirts

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Annapolis Park, which brought national attention to Westland as one of the first U.S. suburban neighborhoods settled by African Americans, is gearing up for a yearlong celebration of its heritage.

And residents have the commemorative T-shirts to prove it.

"It's a very proud moment," said Reather Everett, area representative for the long-active Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

Annapolis Park, a 354-home subdivision built in the 1950s southwest of Annapolis and Middlebelt, has made the National Register of Historic Places and earned a state historical marker that is expected to be in place

before summer's end.

"Now the game is on," Kenneth Reeves, the homeowner group's president, told city leaders earlier this month.

The state marker, which cost the group nearly \$3,000, has been ordered. It will likely be placed near Middlebelt and Hanover, and Everett said a second marker will likely be bought eventually.

To help pay expenses, 100 residents — many of them original homeowners — paid \$20 to include their names among 100 history-makers listed on the back of the commemorative T-shirts. A map of Annapolis Park adorns the front.

In a continuing fund-raising effort, T-shirts are now being sold



T-shirts being sold list 100 history-makers of Annapolis Park, including some of the original residents of the historic neighborhood on Westland's southeast side.

Please see T-SHIRTS, A2

Festival Ride for Thunder to help vets

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With a loud roar signaling a passion for helping veterans, a motorcycle ride organized by a national charity group will coincide with this year's Westland Summer Festival.

It's billed as Ride with the Thunder, and it's a charity ride that will benefit the John Dingell VA Medical Center's hospice unit in Detroit, which helps war veterans from all over.

The event will be the first charity ride by the nonprofit Foundation for American Veterans, an organization that started in 1996 in southeast Michigan and has grown to 33 states,

said FAV national program Director Bob McDonald of West Bloomfield.

FAV's projects have included redecorating hospital rooms to make them seem more like home for terminally ill veterans, sending veterans to Special Olympics and artist competitions and paying the cable TV tab at the Detroit-based VA hospital, said FAV President Larry Siedell of Canton.

In all, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised and spent to help improve the lives of veterans.

Registration for Ride with the Thunder will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 30. Riders will start at the Westland City Hall parking lot, go to Heck Park in Monroe and return to the

Westland Summer Festival for prizes awarded at 9 p.m.

The last bike out will be at 2 p.m. Entry costs are \$25 for each rider and \$20 for each passenger. Special T-shirts will be given to the first 400 people who enter.

First-place prize will be a night for two people at the Windsor Casino Hotel with \$100 in restaurant credit and \$100 in cash. The second-place winner will receive \$100 and third-place \$50. Fourth and fifth prizes will include FAV jackets. To sign up for the ride, call (248) 661-9365. For more information about FAV, visit its Web site at www.fav.org.

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4 more candidates file petitions for City Council race

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Four more candidates had entered the Westland City Council race as of early Friday afternoon, widening the field of hopefuls to seven.

Candidates who plan to run for council, mayor or city clerk face a 4 p.m. Tuesday filing deadline at City Hall, on Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh.

The latest council candidates include:

■ Gary Bulson, 38, owner of Men on the Move moving company. Bulson, saying his cam-

paign slogan will be Moving Westland Forward, cited his involvement in such organizations as Westland Jaycees, Rotary, S.P.A.R.K. (Sports, Parks and Recreation for Kids), the Westland Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion.

"I've always been involved in the community," Bulson said, adding that he views a council bid as the next step in helping Westland. "I'm all about community service."

■ Todd Kangas, 44, chief of investigations for an unemploy-

Please see COUNCIL, A2

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Patriots' Class of 2007 gets grand send-off COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

Franklin High School's Class of 2007 celebrated graduation on Sunday, June 10, at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

The school's Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps did the presentation of colors. Soloist Justin Jaroh sang the National Anthem. School board president Lynda Scheel offered greetings from the board of education, and principal Dan Willenborg introduced guest speaker Tom Tobe, principal of Emerson Middle School.

The Senior Choir sang "I Will Remember You" by Sarah McLaughlin.

Class co-presidents Meagan Buchler and Jessica Eskildsen and Student Congress President Cassandra LaPrairie offered reflections and presented the class gift. Other Senior Congress officers included Olympia Ackall, vice president; Lea Bowers, corresponding secretary; India Milne, recording secretary; and Christopher Noffze, treasurer. Other 2007 class officers included Heather Gatewood, vice president; Angela Shamus, secretary; and Lauren Bailey, treasurer.

After Willenborg made a declaration of credit completion, officials handing out the diplomas included: Scheel, and school board trustees Cynthia Markarian, Robert Freeman, Tom Bailey, Steve King, Daniel Lessard and Greg Oke, as well as Supt. Randy Liepa and Sheila Alles, director of academic services.

Two honorary graduates included Diana Cevallos, a foreign exchange student from Ecuador, and Laura Eickert, a German exchange student.



New Franklin graduates send their caps flying to celebrate the end of the commencement ceremony.



Class Congress President Cassandra LaPrairie makes a speech during the graduation ceremony for Franklin High School on June 10.

ment agency. Kangas has been long active in the Westland Youth Athletic Association and has been a strong proponent for building Frontier Park, a massive recreation complex that would be built west of Central City Park.

Kangas also cited curbside recycling and the cleanup of Central City Park, which is contaminated with lead, as issues he wants to address.

"Westland has taken a wrong direction and is sliding down a slippery slope right now," he said.

■ Michael Kehrer, 53, inspector for an engineering firm. Kehrer is in his sixth year as a council incumbent and hopes to win re-election.

"I've always been involved in my community, and I got on the council to make a difference," he said.

Kehrer said he hopes to address such issues as tall grass on vacant properties, curbside recycling to reduce tax-disposal costs, and maintaining the city's \$2 million budget surplus.

■ Mark Rodriguez, 49, operations manager for the custom cabinet division of a Canton

remodeling company. Like Kangas, Rodriguez has been long active in the Westland Youth Athletic Association and has been a vocal proponent of the grassroots Frontier Park proposal.

Rodriguez has said that improving recreational opportunities, particularly for youngsters, is needed to make Westland a place where residents want to live. Recreational facilities in Westland "are old and inadequate," he said.

If nine or more council candidates enter the race, there will be an August primary. If not, the four seats will be filled in the November election. The top three vote-getters will earn four-year terms; the fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term.

As of Friday, City Clerk Eileen DeHart was unopposed in her bid for a four-year term. Mayor William Wild, appointed in January by his council colleagues, was facing a challenge by council President Charles Pickering. The mayoral winner will finish the remaining two years of the term of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, now a district judge.

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T-SHIRTS

FROM PAGE A1

for \$25 each. To get one, call Everett at (734) 595-4533.

Reeves and others have commended local historians Ruth Dale and Edna Parker for doing much of the research that helped Annapolis Park earn its national and state honors.

Now, residents are moving to the next phase to plan what Everett said will be a year-long celebration, called Come On

Home To Annapolis Park.

The celebration, including erecting the historic marker, has left Annapolis Park residents, particularly original residents, beaming with pride.

"We are getting calls from people who once lived here who want a T-shirt," Everett said. "We're really looking forward to our celebration. When we look good, Westland looks good."

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Battle of the Badges is Monday

On Monday, June 18, it will be the 2007 "Battle of the Badges" blood drive, pitting the Westland Police Department against the Westland Fire Department in an effort to see which department can sign up the most people to donate blood to the American Red Cross. The drive will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road behind Westland City Hall. Walk-ins are welcome.

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools

announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. Meals will be provided at the sites listed below:

Jefferson-Barnes Elementary 32150 Dorsey Westland, MI 48186
Lincoln Elementary 338800 Grand Traverse Westland, MI 48186

Lunch Service will start June 25 through August 10 (no service the week of July 2) at both sites.

Lunch service times will be 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at both sites.

For more information, please call 734-419-2118.

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Police seek suspect in aborted robbery

A lone gunman abruptly aborted a robbery at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the 7-Eleven store on the southeast corner of Joy and Merriman roads.

"He pulled out a gun and wanted to rob them, then something scared him off and he took off running," police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said.

The gunman was described

as a 6-foot-1, 170-pound white male. He wore a dark cut-off sweatshirt, blue jean shorts, tan hiking boots and a blue-and-white bandana on his head, Trzybinski said.

Anyone who has information about the incident is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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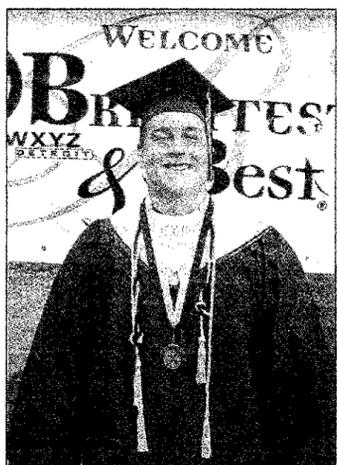
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Brightest and best

Adam Goring of Wayne Memorial High School has been selected as one of WXYZ-TV's Brightest and Best High School Seniors for 2007.

Budget will offer full program for WW students

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools managed to finish the current budget year better than expected, but will have to use more of its reserves to balance next year's budget.

That was the word from Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services, during a budget hearing last week.

Martin told the Board of Education that higher than anticipated revenue and lower expenditures saved \$925,000 and trimmed the amount of reserve funds needed to balance this year's budget to just over \$2 million.

But facing flat or possibly declining revenue in the 2007-08 budget year, the district will use \$5.6 million of its \$14.8 million surplus to make ends meet.

"We offered in 2006-07 a full program of academics and extracurricular choices and will continue to do so in 2007-08," Martin said. "We will maintain a full menu of classes for students."

Helping this year's bottom line was state lawmakers' resolution of the current budget deficit.

Had that not happened, the district could have lost \$1.7 million in state school aid for this year, Martin said.

The district also had better than anticipated interest income, which helped increase revenues by \$615,000, while expenditures were down \$310,000.

"We had a reduction in utility costs due to a relatively mild winter so we saved on gas and electric charges," Martin said.

Martin is projecting the district will take in \$117.4 million in revenue in 2007-08. Most of that money — \$89.6 million — comes from the state, while local revenue, including the 18-mill non-homestead tax, will generate \$25.5 million.

Expenditures, however, will be \$122.9 million, leaving the district to use \$5.6 million in reserves to make up the shortfall.

The budget includes a projected \$100 per pupil increase in state school aid, the percentage of payroll retirement costs remaining at this year's 17.74 percent and anticipates health care costs to increase 5-6 percent.

"We must adopt a budget prior to June 30, but we don't have state aid act for 2007-08," Martin said. "It's not totally unusual, it's been that way the past few years. It would be nice to have one adopted before we go into the new budget year."

Supt. Greg Baracy, in response to a question from Trustee Steve Becher about the certainty of the \$100 increase, called it a "best-case scenario."

"It's risky, but we hope the Legislature will put their bickering aside and do something to solve structural problem that has existed the past couple years," he said. "Adopting the budget amendment is bittersweet and that we were not prorated was good, but the structural flaw was not solved, it was pushed into next year. Without some serious deliberate action, it will not be solved."

Baracy added that optimism for an increase is based on talks with some legislators that there could be a modest increase, possibly \$100.

"If not and they don't solve the structural flaw, I can share with you unequivocally that next year we will be doing what other districts around us are doing — cutting programs and looking for significant containment over and above what we have done in the past few years and we have cut millions out of our budget the last three or four years," he said.

In addition to approving the new budget, the school board also voted in the tax rates for 2007-08. In addition to the 18-mill non-homestead tax, the district will levy 3.15 mills for debt retirement in all but the Dearborn Heights and Romulus annex, where the levy will be 3.12 mills, and 0.9992 mill for its sinking fund.

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LPS lays off 10 teachers, psychologist

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools trustees have approved the layoff 10 teachers and a school psychologist due to budget cuts and a projected decline in enrollment.

LPS has a projected deficit next year of between \$4.5 million and \$7.5 million and expects student count to be down by more than 350 students.

If things change, teachers will be recalled to positions where they are certified and qualified, said Dorothy Chomicz, director of human resources.

"We would hope that as things progress over the summer that those individuals would be called back," said Supt. Randy Liepa.

The laid-off teachers were hired between August 2004, and August 2006. They include two first-grade teachers; one each in second,

third and fourth grades; a teacher for gifted fifth- and sixth-graders; two visual arts teachers, a part-time physical education teacher, a part-time dance teacher at Churchill High School; and a part-time school psychologist. In terms of full-time equivalent staff, 8.7 jobs were cut.

"This is an example of the funding situation," said Carolyn Norris-Deyell, president of the Livonia Education Association. "All of this rhetoric is hurting our teachers."

Budget cuts are tough, Trustee Robert Freeman said, adding: "It's even more difficult when names become associated with that."

LPS is fortunate in a sense to have such a relatively small amount of layoffs, Chomicz said. Some districts are laying off upwards of 60 teachers.

Earlier this year, LPS offered an early retirement incentive to staff nearing retirement, which left openings in special education. Nine teachers were

hired within the student services department. The buyout didn't vacate as many elementary teachers' jobs.

The buyout helped, Norris-Deyell said, but didn't go far enough. She said she thinks it is likely some teachers will be called back over the summer. In coming years, she said more elementary teachers will be retiring, but in the meantime, with so many districts cutting teaching jobs, some teachers may leave the state.

"That would be an absolute shame," she said, pushing for some resolution to the state's school funding dilemma. "We need to find a way to save these wonderful people."

LPS still has 13 teachers on its layoff list 2006, Chomicz said.

They include four physical education teachers, six elementary teachers, two media specialists and one secondary education teacher.

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Hospital has weekly wellness programs

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, June 18

Smoke Free, Your Choice (third of four classes) at 11 a.m. The four-week series will help the smoker identify the triggers and addictions associated with cigarettes/nicotine. The one-hour sessions will be held on Thursdays at the Garden City Health and Education Center, Classroom 7, 6701 Harrison, north of Maplewood. There is a \$45 fee. For more information or to register, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Education (sixth of six classes) at 6 p.m. This six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2 1/2 hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, June 19

Diabetes Self-Management Education (third of four classes) at 9:30 a.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-4341 for more information or to register.

Yoga (second of four classes) at 4 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Smoke Free, Your Choice (third of four classes) at 6 p.m. The one-hour sessions will be held on Thursdays at the Garden City Health and Education Center, Classroom 7, 6701 Harrison, north of Maplewood. There is a \$45 fee. For more information or to register, call (734) 458-4330.

Cerebral Aneurysm and Stroke

Club at 7:30 p.m. Support is offered to those who have had an aneurysm or stroke as well as to their family and friends. The club meets every third Tuesday of the month. This free group is held in Garden City Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit dining room. For more information, call (734) 458-4392.

Wednesday, June 20

Free blood pressure testing for senior citizens at 10:30 a.m. The staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing free of charge every other Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Attention, CPAP and BIPAP users, visit the Sleep Disorders Center in Room 329 at Garden City Hospital, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

CPR -Adult at 6 p.m. Approved by the American Red Cross, prepares participants to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies in victims aged 8 and above. The class is offered at Garden City Hospital's Health and Education Center at 6701 Harrison just north of Maplewood. There is a fee. Participants will receive certification upon successful completion. Call Community Education at (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, June 21

Babysitting Class (second of two) at 1:30 p.m. This two-session program is designed to prepare future babysitters with the skills necessary to care for young children. There is a \$30 fee. Call (734) 458-4330 for details and to register.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (third of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

'Sellabration' marks Jack Demmer's 50th anniversary

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to think of a black and gold 1957 Ford Edsel as a family heirloom, but it is to Jack Demmer's family.

The car, according to son Jim Demmer, is a symbol for the Wayne dealership which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week.

"It reminds us where we started from," the Plymouth resident said. "We learned from my father that if you treat customers right, they will come back and want to do business with you again."

Straddling the corner of Michigan Avenue and Newburgh, the dealership is staging a week-long 50th anniversary "sellabration" with clowns for the kids, refreshments and live feeds by radio stations WOMC-FM on Monday and WYCD-FM on Thursday. The dealership got its start when Jack Demmer partnered with Jimmy Spittler to open the Jimmy Spittler-Demmer Edsel dealership on Wayne Road on June 17, 1957.

When the Ford Motor Co. bought out its Edsel dealers, the partners switched to the Ford brand and moved the dealership to South Lyon in 1960. But three years later, Spittler-Demmer was back at a

location on Michigan Avenue west of Wayne Road.

It stayed there until 1969, when it moved to its current location. Six years later, in 1975, Jack Demmer bought out Spittler's interest and changed the name to Jack Demmer Ford. "We've gone through a few additions and expansions since then," Jim Demmer said. "We bought the gas station on one corner and a former restaurant on the other side of the dealership."

AWARD WINNER

The dealership has won a number of awards from Ford, including being in the top 100 dealerships more than eight times. It also was one of four dealerships in the 1970s selected to market Ford recreational vehicles.

"Part of that is the market area," Jim Demmer said. "We're experienced in taking care of our customers. We have a good reputation in the community and we know how to handle new products in the right way."

At age 83, Jack Demmer remains CEO of the dealership and still comes into work. Son Bill is the president and Jim is the vice president. Jim and Bill Demmer started in the business sweeping floors, stocking parts and

washing cars. According to Jim Demmer, "We started on the ground floor and worked in all the departments of the dealership."

The same is true of Bill Demmer's son Matt, who started on the ground floor and has worked his way up to manager of Jack Demmer Lincoln-Mercury in Dearborn. The family acquired the former Krug dealership in 2000, a perfect fit for Jack Demmer, a longtime Dearborn resident.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The Demmer family also has made a commitment to be involved in their communities. Jack Demmer is a longtime Dearborn Kiwanis member. Jim Demmer is on the board of directors of the Canton Community Foundation and the Wayne Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Bill Demmer has been active in industry-related functions, including serving as senior co-chair of the North American International Auto Show in 2003.

Today, like most businesses in the state, the dealership is "surviving as best we can," Jim Demmer said. The family is tapping into the experi-

ences of previous downturns in the economy, especially in the 1970s and 1980s.

"We learned firsthand back then about treating customers right when the economy was down. It was our loyal customers who kept us alive," Jim Demmer said. "We believe all of our employees and customers are important to us. We do our best to keep doing that. Every decision is based on that."

As for that 1957 Edsel that's a family heirloom. That car was bought from the Jimmy Spittler-Demmer dealership in 1957 and, 10 years later, the customer came back to trade it in, Jim Demmer said.

"It reminds us how important repeat business is," he said. "We're proud to be a Ford dealer for 50 years. We're proud to be a Ford business."

Jack Demmer Ford will celebrate its anniversary with a "sellabration" Monday-Saturday at the dealership, 37300 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call the dealership at (734) 721-2600.

smason@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2112

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Games of chance

Games of chance are a popular part of our everyday life. You may play bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League or at your local church, you may buy raffle tickets at a fund-raising event or maybe you have neighbors over for a friendly game of poker.

Games of chance are most prevalent, of course, at the casinos, where they offer card games, dice games, roulette, slot machines, and more. Whereas, most games of chance are a "gamble" (betting on an uncertain outcome), poker and blackjack are said to require a certain degree of skill.

Before venturing into this world of "chance," it is probably a good idea to gain some background on the subject. The library owns many

books, along with videos and DVDs on the various games. We have books to teach you the ins and outs of the casino world: "Ultimate Casino Guide: 1000 Great Casinos from America, Canada and around the World" by Wiesenberg, "Casino Gambling for Dummies" by Blackwood and "Beat the Odds" by Allen.

"Breaking Vegas: The True Story of the M.I.T. Blackjack Team" is a fascinating DVD. "How to Play Winning Poker" by Cardoza, Quick and "Easy Texas Hold 'em" by Myers and "Beat the Craps Table" by Jensen are three of our most recent book purchases on the subject.

Although gambling is a popular sport in America, it can also be addictive. If it becomes a problem, "Out of Control: Gambling and Other Impulse-



Control Disorders" by Bayer and "Don't Leave It to Chance: A Guide for Families of Problem Gamblers" by Federman may be helpful.

"James Bond 007" is the theme of this year's Adult Summer Reading Program! Adults age 18 and older are invited to take a chance and register at the Reference Desk any time between June 16 and Aug. 4. Complete details will be available at the Reference Desk as of June 16. Pick up a copy of "Casino Royale" by Ian Fleming to make your experience complete.

Whatever information you need, whatever your interest, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is at your service. Please visit us soon, call us at (734) 326-6123 or view our Web site at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Book Club: 7 p.m. June 19. Join us as we discuss "The Inn at Lake Devine" by Elinor Lipman. You can check out the reading guide on our Web site. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

Internet 101: 2 p.m. June 22. A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Afternoon Movie: 2 p.m. June 23. Join us for our first James Bond movie showing of the summer. Register for the Adult Summer Reading Program and unleash your inner spy. No registration is necessary.

Information Central is compiled by Janet Sowards. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 on 5/24/07 at 12:00 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1164- Darryl Dunham-lamps, washer, dryer
1272- William Davis III-2 chairs, 2 dressers, 2 end tables
2038- Jean Kirby-20 boxes, 20 bags, toys
2283- Tammy Butler-18 totes, dresser, mattress set
3012- Samco-Office furniture and equipment.

Publish: June 10 & 17, 2007

CE0583944-2x25

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF

HICKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: June 28, 2007

Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after June 8, 2007.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Detroit, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: June 10 & 17, 2007

CE0583911-2x4

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 on 5/24/07 at 12:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
2031- Larry Adams- boxes, washer, dryer
2055- Pamela Avery- mattress set, TV, tool boxes
3013- Jennifer Stoneberg- big screen TV, microwave, tables
3032- Sarah Howard- sofa, boxes, kids toys
3097- Thomas Lippford- 2 TVs, speakers, sofa
4008- Nicole Spisz- mattress set, entertainment center, boxes
4046- Curt Campeau- ATV, construction supplies, tools
4054- Judy Younce- 14 totes
4074- Stephen Czach II- Ford Thunder bird, canoe, boxes
5019- dresser, electric wheel chair, TV
5026- Yvette Passament- Boxes, Love Seat, Portable Television
5043- Yvonne Blanding- leather couch, bikes, china cabinet
5055- Robert Howell-2 bags, boxes, sled
6014- Jacquelyn Rice- TV, dresser, beds
6027- Chris Campbell- boxes, bags, dining table
6031- timothy Gallagher- computer, boxes, cabinet
6095- Patrick Patterson- boxes, totes
7029- Mansfield Sports Cards- boxes of baseball cards
7058- Arthur Mesler- toys, boxes, bunk bed
7119- Lisa Thompson- china cabinet, dresser, grandfather clock
9028- Cindie Bargowski- totes, boxes
9029- Benjamin Williams- couch, loveseat, bags
9061- Tegra Hall- bunk bed, TV, dresser

Publish: June 10 & 17, 2007

CE0583938-2x45

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

ON ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 26th day of June, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at the Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan, to consider the approval and adoption of the operating budget of the School District of the City of Garden City for the fiscal year of 2007-2008.

Copies of the proposed budget are on file with the Business Office at the Garden City Public Schools' Administrative Service Center, 1333 Radcliff, Garden City, Michigan, for inspection during regular business hours. At the public hearing, all citizens, taxpayers, and property owners of the City of Garden City, shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the proposed budget. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan.

George Kordie, Secretary
GARDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Publish: June 17, 2007

CE05836121-2x5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48034 (248)263-3880 5/24/2007 at 1:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1013- David Vassallo- mattress set, speakers, dresser
1101- Lashunda Miller- toys, chairs, 3 bikes
1126- Willie F Hodge Jr.- 2 dressers, couch, 20 boxes
1134- Gerald Ouellette- tool box, couch, mattress set
119- Jubilee Party Paper- shelving, 4 desks, 50 boxes
127- Jacqueline E. Aiken- mattress set, kitchen chairs, refrigerator
137- Donna Alexander- dryer, 8 totes, vacuum
139- Randal J Robillard- vacuum, TV, mattress set
149- Jullian Gruber- 40 boxes, 20 totes, bikes
233- Barbara Jones- sofa, love seat, boxes
325- Christopher Ellis- 2 totes, books, toys
405- Christine Lockhardt- 50 boxes, suitcases, clothing
422- Patricia Reyna-bags, boxes, misc. items
532- Heather L Hooker- washer, dryer, dresser
607- Daniella Aguinaga- 4 totes, 10 boxes, desk
651- Taquana Brooks- TV, dresser, mattress set,
654- Dennis C. Raymond- misc. items
657- Kymane R Clark- couch, bed frame, boxes
658- Davis Zimmerman- boxes, motorcycle parts
717- Tammy Gonzalez- 2 mattress sets, microwave, 2 TVs
800- Gregory Bader Jr.- 2 TVs, mirrors, power tools
813- Amanda Costa- washer, dryer, china cabinet
912- Angela Dilaura- 2 end tables, 20 boxes, totes

Publish: June 10 & 17, 2007

CE0583937-2x45

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 5/24/2007 at 11:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
D036- Dameka Williams- misc. items
A016- Tracey Wilburn-3 TVs, microwave, bags
B035- Stephen Koons- ac unit, 25 bags, 25 boxes
B064- Yvette Jones- 30 boxes, toys
B068- Perry T. Christy- boxes, desk, file cabinets
B072- Michael Kowalski- boxes, boxes, tools
B118- Robert Smith- dryer, entertainment center, 2 end tables
B130- Jana Funtukis- 10 totes, table, chairs
B166- Lorena Gutierrez- TV, boxes, bags
B182- Cecilia Anderson- television, microwave, kitchen chair
B322- Jon Rhodes- microwave, bag, chairs
B331- Daniel Page- vacuum, totes, old LP records
B381- Romare Redden- refrigerator, stove, coffee table
C002- Melissa Offord- bike, ac unit, couch
C015- Alaina Silagy- file cabinet, 30 boxes, desk
C037- Howard Harris II- desk, dresser, table
C039- Ali Yassine- boxes, mattress set, coffee table
D006- Celestine Henry- television, bags, bikes
D025- John Jackson- 30 Boxes, Couch, Love Seat
D036- Dameka Davis-misc. items
D044- Cortny Smith- stove, washer, dryer
E042- Sally Porter- 3 totes, 12 boxes
F043- Denise Beard- couch, washer, dryer

Publish: June 10 & 17, 2007

CE0583937-2x4

Asset allocation is key to investment during volatile times

Dear Rick: The market has taken a downturn as of late. Is it time to bail out?

I have never believed in market timing and I do not believe it is a strategy that works. I don't know anyone who has been able to do that consistently. In the market, good news is bad news and bad news is good news, therefore, it is very difficult to predict how different events will affect the market.

My strategy is based upon asset allocation. Asset allocation means maintaining a position in the market during good times and bad times and investing in different sectors of the economy. It also means investing both domestically and internationally, the theory being that just because one part of the economy takes a hit doesn't necessarily mean other parts will as well. I always retain a fixed-income portion of the portfolio to protect



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

approach and don't be concerned with temporary fluctuations.

Investors need to recognize that just because the Dow fluctuates one to 200 points, the entire stock market doesn't react the same way. The Dow Jones is only 30 stocks and with the way it is weighted, you can have one or two stocks move the entire index up or down. The same thing can be said about the S&P 500, which is based upon the company's

against downturns in the market.

The stock market is not gambling. Investors should not focus on what happens day-to-day or even week-to-week. Instead, take a long-term

value. So, once again, a few companies could also move the index.

I have always believed that what makes an investor successful is having a game plan. With the end of the quarter in a few weeks, we will all receive our quarterly statements. It is a great time to review your goals and objectives and to remember why you are investing. Make sure you have the proper allocation between stocks, bonds and cash. If you are out of balance, don't hesitate to readjust. Your portfolio won't be as volatile if investments are properly allocated.

The market will always go through volatile periods and it appears that we are in one now. The lesson investors must learn is don't panic and don't overreact. Stay the course and you will succeed.

Dear Rick: I purchased some U.S. Savings Bonds in the past, but I cannot

locate them. What should I do? Also, what do you think of savings bonds for a high school graduation gift?

It is not unusual for people to lose U.S. Savings Bonds. In fact, I always believe the government counts on a number of people losing their bonds and never requesting them to be replaced. In order to get replacement bonds, you need to complete a form, PDF 1048E — Claim for Lost, Stolen or Destroyed United States Savings Bonds. You can get the form at the U. S. Treasury's Web site, www.treasurydirect.gov. The U.S. Treasury will then do a search

for the bonds and eventually replace them.

In regard to buying new U.S. Savings Bonds, I am not a big fan if it's for a child's college education. The current rate on bonds that are issued between now and October 2007 is 3.4 percent. In addition, even though you can begin redeeming bonds after one year, if you redeem before five years you forfeit three months of interest.

My recommendation is put the money into a 529 Plan like the Michigan Education Savings Plan. The MESP has a \$25 minimum investment, just like U.S. Savings Bonds.

In fact, you can even deduct your contribution off your Michigan Income Tax Return. The MESP can be invested in a variety of different manners, including equity investments which will pay more than a U.S. Savings Bond.

To invest in the MESP, go to www.misaves.com.

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

Explore government contracting

Because the United States government purchases more than \$250 billion worth of goods and services a year, it is an excellent source of business for small - and medium-sized companies. If you need to know more about contracting with the federal government or the state of Michigan, set aside 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 21, for a seminar focusing on how to become a government contractor.

Seminar participants will learn how to classify their

product or service with the federal government and how to register. They will examine appropriate laws and regulations, marketing strategies and ways to find opportunities for selling to the government.

Topics involving the state of Michigan include vendor registration, getting bidding information, how the state buys goods and the bid process.

There will be a review of helpful resources for doing business with the state and federal government, includ-

ing the services and support available from the Schoolcraft College Business Development Center.

The seminar fee is \$40. To reserve a space, call (734) 462-4438. Schoolcraft College is a public two-year college, offering classes at the Livonia campus on Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City and online.

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FEATURES OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

You experience a pain in your hand or shoulder and a friend tells you that "you may have rheumatoid arthritis."

You note continuing pain or swelling in a joint, go to your doctor, and mention about what the friend said or what the blood work showed. You receive a quizzical look from your doctor. Why?

The reason is because the nature of rheumatoid arthritis is far different from the pain you experienced. Often rheumatoid arthritis announces itself by the appearance of fatigue. Profound tiredness comes on before the appearance of joint pain and swelling. The joints involved are the hands and feet. In fact, foot pain may precede hand swelling. Furthermore, the foot pain is in the ball of the foot. Discomfort in the top of the foot or in the heels (comes from another problem not rheumatoid arthritis).

Rheumatoid arthritis also causes morning stiffness. You are unable to use your hands for up to two-three hours in the morning. Other conditions cause morning stiffness and aching; the severity of the impairment is particular to rheumatoid arthritis. Wrist, shoulder, knee, and ankle swelling occur in rheumatoid arthritis, but follows after hand and foot pain.

Finally, no blood test diagnoses rheumatoid arthritis; tests only help confirm that you have the condition. Your experiences with joint pain and your doctor's examination determine if you have rheumatoid arthritis and need treatment for it.

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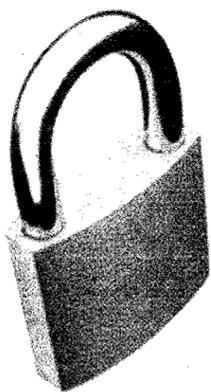
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michelle Suttle owns Georgia's with her brother, Michael McCarty. The store is named after their mother.

Georgia's takes new look to new home

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Georgia's Gift Gallery will carry the same name, but a different look, when the store moves later this month to Livonia.

After 25 years in Plymouth — opening in Old Village before moving to its current downtown Forest Avenue location — the brother-sister owners will move to Six Mile and Newburgh area, across from Laurel Park Mall.

"We want to give a fresh start to the type of store

we've become," said Michelle Suttle, 57, who owns the store — named after their mother — with her brother, Michael McCarty, 51. "People think of us as the old store."

Suttle and McCarty say the store that once flourished by selling collectibles will get a makeover, to one which McCarty calls "a gift boutique."

"Things have changed with the dawn of the Internet and auction sites," McCarty said. "Michelle has done a great job of bringing in new items, like shoes and jewelry."

Suttle said, "The feminine

mystique has become an amazing phenomena."

The owners say that while the new facility will be a bit smaller and more cost-efficient, the new store will be closer to their Livonia homes, making it more accessible as they look to their golden years.

"When I look back, I have fond memories," said McCarty of their 25 years in Plymouth. "However, I never look back with sadness. I look forward to it as a new journey."

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HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the second semester at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland are:

Highest Honors 3.75-4.0 GPA

Amanda Gruenewald of South Lyon, Lauren Adlof of Canton, Colin Beerbower of Livonia, Emily Helwig of Livonia, Samantha Barber of Wayne, Kayla Stockdale of Westland, Michael Cyr II of Westland, Hannah Good of South Lyon, Bryan Gruenewald of South Lyon, Sarah Helwig of Livonia, Matthew Kempainen of Livonia and Mark St. John of Farmington.

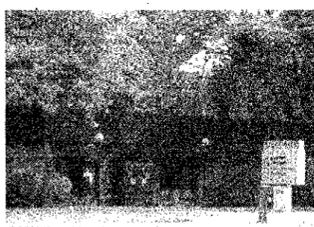
High Honors 3.5-3.74 GPA

Tod Bartholomew Jr. of Wayne, Katie Kipfmiller of Flat Rock, Catherine St. John, of Farmington, Crystina Gutierrez of Farmington Hills, Kimberlee King of Dearborn Heights and Michaela Van Patten of Howell.

Honors 3.0-3.49 GPA

Jeremy Elias of Redford, Erin Henkel of Canton, Scott Hoff of Livonia, Kurt Metzger of Livonia, Eryn Van Patten of Howell, Lauren La Manna of Plymouth, Brandy Nocella

of Newport, Robert Russ of Belleville, Kathryn Strauch of Livonia, Lorna Sweet of Westland, Carole Beckler of Ypsilanti, Lindsay Bushong of Redford, Abby Hoff of Livonia, Aaron Howell of Wayne, Lauren Lovell of Canton, Katie Markham of Westland, Eric Schaffer of Westland, Marrison Stalker of Westland, Kyle Tacia of Plymouth, Brandon Barnum of Northville, Adam Buccilli of Novi, Katherine Cromwell of Farmington Hills, Kelly Kubinski of Westland, Rachel Purdue of Westland, Anna Schaffer of Westland and Claire Wood of Westland.



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U.S. adopts Israeli methods in Iraq war

On his grave in Livonia, my dad's tombstone is inscribed with five words, Jabra Ahwal - Simple and Kind. These words describe a father of eight who lived for 76 years in a sometimes harsh and cruel world. But he always faced the world and its problems in stride, displaying kindness, and simplicity. My father was a carpenter who lived under several colonial and occupational regimes in Palestine but never dabbled in politics or protested the indignations imposed on him and others from their occupiers. His goal in life was to make a sustainable living for his family.

Yet, the qualities of this wonderful man did not matter to the Israeli soldiers who broke down our door and entered our house, dragging and beating our father with the butts of their guns while we watched. To the Israeli soldiers, my dad was the face of the enemy: an insurgent, terrorist or whatever label was ingrained in the minds of young soldiers who work on the front line of occupation.

Like the Israeli occupation, our country has implemented the same manual and applied its tactics in Iraq. Collective punishment such as curfews, town closures, home searches and detention of blind-folded men kneeling on concrete to checkpoints and building of walls to contain a whole population are eerily exact policies.

The resemblance is not by accident. Our Iraqi war architects including Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Cheney, and Feith are not only admirers of the State of Israel, but are ideologues who believe that the Middle East will only be changed from their current regime by force. They claim that the democratization of the Middle East is essential to the stabilization of the region and therefore the best way to implement it is by force. After all, they adhered to Israel's propaganda that "Arabs only understand force," a racist and dangerous notion that inflames hatred rather than securing or stabilizing the region.

And since we adopted this policy, we find ourselves (especially our soldiers at the forefront) losing a battle that not only robs many of them of their lives, but also robs them of their soul and idealistic American beliefs of fairness and liberty for all. In a May 4 survey conducted by the Pentagon, it has been reported that the mental health of soldiers and Marines deteriorated significantly because of the extended or multiple deployments. The report says: "Approximately 10 percent of soldiers and Marines report mistreating non-combatants (damaged/destroyed Iraqi property when not necessary or hit/kicked a non-combatant when not necessary)."

The report also found that fewer than half of all soldiers and Marines would report a team member for unethical behavior and more than one-third believe that torture should be allowed. The conduct of the soldiers is not surprising; we train soldiers to view everyone as dangerous enemies who need to be crushed and then we expect them to uphold our laws and make snap judgments in extreme circumstances.

The conducts of our soldiers are no different than other occupying powers. During my recent visit to the West Bank in April 2007, I witnessed a Hebrew-speaking young soldier screaming at a herd of Palestinian people (who don't speak Hebrew) trying to cross a checkpoint. The checkpoint, which is connected to a wall dividing the community, is in itself oppressive, but ill-mannered soldiers who arbitrarily issue judgment, which makes life more difficult for people who are at their mercy, always man it. I have no doubt that the soldiers are just following the policies dictated to them from their government. They are put in a situation, which provokes hatred and hostilities, making violence the only outcome.

Violence is not the only outcome of occupation. Like Israel, conquering an Arab country was easy. Our forces are far superior to the entire Arab regime in the region. Therefore, we should not judge our victories with the bombs we drop. We should judge them with the climate, cost, and consequences we created by occupying a whole population. Aside from the carnage, destruction, and human tragedies created by this repugnant policy of attacking to exert our might, the cost is astronomical and never-ending.

Most of Israel's budget is set aside for its defense and security and now we are doing the same. According to *The New York Times*, the cost of war will exceed \$1.2 trillion by next year and judging from the debate we see, there is no cohesive policy of how we get rid of this occupation.

So far, the president's military surge has furthered the disaster with no military solution in sight. As for an immediate withdraw? We can succeed if we apply the same policies proposed by Baker/Hamilton's report, which was rejected earlier. As for our demand that the Iraqi government take leadership in stopping the violence, let us be realistic. The Iraqi government is useless, impotent, factionalized government that has no power or will to change society. We are the puppeteer who controls their every move. It is up to us to change the status quo and bring our soldiers back to safety. In the words of Colin Powell - "We break it, we own it." The road map to peace in Iraq and Palestine is clear, we just need to have the will follow the path.

Terry Ahwal is a Canton resident.

Energy plan can make Michigan a trailblazer

As we strive to diversify and strengthen Michigan's economy, we can look to the past for inspiration. Michigan has always been a trailblazer. The same state that gave birth to the auto industry can pave the way for the renewable energy economy and the thousands of good-paying jobs that come with it.

The 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan will establish Michigan as a powerhouse of renewable energy production. By positioning our state at the forefront of this emerging industry, we can attract cutting-edge industries, create good-paying jobs and boost our economy.

Michigan has the resources and the highly skilled workforce needed to be a leader in the renewable energy industry. The Great Lakes State ranks second in the region for wind-generation potential, but we have yet to capitalize on that. With our production and manufacturing know-how and our world-class universities, we can attract emerging, cutting-edge industries to our state. All we are lacking right now is direction, and that is where the 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan comes into play.

This plan lays out the framework for Michigan to make use of its considerable renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and biomass-based power. It will require that renewable energy sources account for 10 percent of the state's energy production by 2015, and 25 percent by 2025.

The plan will include solar and wind generation and fuel-cell technologies among those that qualify for renaissance zone tax abatements, fostering "alternative-energy renaissance zones" and helping to spur local investment in renewable energy.

In addition, it will promote energy conservation by establishing a statewide target of reducing electricity consumption by 1 percent per year, updating our construction codes and creating consumer tax credits for energy-efficient appliances. It also will provide tax credits for the purchase of solar equipment.

Focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency would create tens of thousands of new jobs and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Michigan's economy, according to a recent study prepared for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality by

This plan lays out the framework for Michigan to make use of its considerable renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and biomass-based power. It will require that renewable energy sources account for 10 percent of the state's energy production by 2015, and 25 percent by 2025.

NextEnergy, a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic security through energy diversity.

In addition to creating jobs and diversifying our economy, there are other enormous benefits to increasing Michigan's production of renewable energy.

We can decrease our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. Michigan depends almost entirely on imported fuels. In fact, our state has the nation's eighth-highest cost burden when it comes to the amount spent on energy, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. By producing our own energy from renewable resources, we can break that dependence and invest those dollars into our own economy.

We can also help in the fight against global warming, while protecting our Great Lakes and other natural resources. Scientists and leading environmental groups, including researchers at the University of Michigan, warn that without a substantial reduction in harmful emissions, the effects of global warming will take a greater toll on Michigan - reducing the volume of the Great Lakes, sparking droughts, and causing a spike in the number of over-90-degree days in Detroit. Michigan has the power to make a difference and help combat global warming.

Michigan can be a trailblazer again as a leading force in the production of renewable energy. The 21st Century Renewable Energy Plan will help make our state a serious player in this emerging field and position us to be a powerhouse in the 21st century global economy.

State Rep. Marc Corrivau, D-Northville, represents the 20th State House District. He can be reached at his office at (877) 208-4737.

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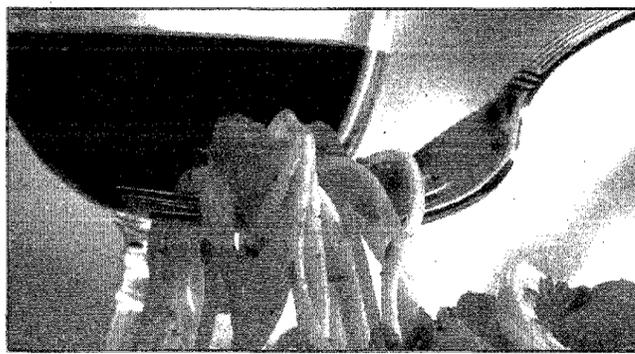
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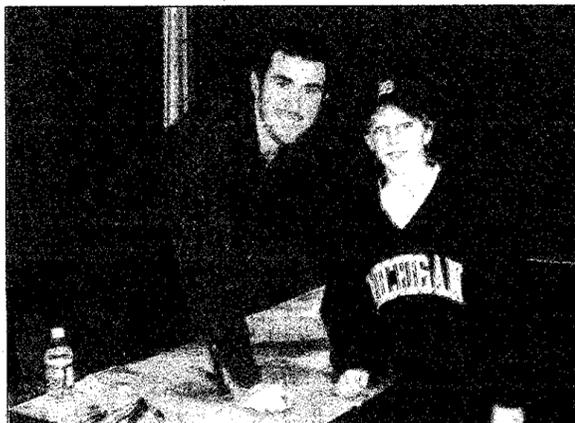
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton 13-year-old pitcher Justin Thompson tossed a no-hitter Wednesday, less than 24 hours after he watched Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander throw a no-no at Comerica Park.



JOEL THOMPSON

Canton resident Justin Thompson is pictured above with Detroit Tiger pitcher Justin Verlander this past winter at the Gibraltar Trade Center. Both Justins threw no-hitters last week.

2 Justins, 0 hits Canton teen matches Verlander's feat

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday night, 13-year-old Canton resident Justin Thompson was one of the 33,555 adrenaline-filled fans on hand at Comerica Park to witness Justin Verlander's historical no-hitter, the first by a Detroit Tiger at home since 1952.

Less than 24 hours later, the younger Justin was throwing a masterpiece of his own. Thompson, a seventh-grader at Pioneer Middle School, matched his namesake's remarkable feat on Wednesday when he registered a no-hitter in a Canton Little League game played at Griffin Park in Canton. Relying on a three-pitch repertoire that included a 55-miles-per-hour fastball, a change-up and a knuckleball, Thompson struck out 14 batters in the Canton Cubs' 4-0 victory.

"When we were driving home from the Tigers' game Tuesday night, Justin asked me, 'What if I throw a no-hitter tomorrow night?'" Joel Thompson, Justin's dad remembered. "Then he went out and did it."

"There were a lot of similarities between the two no-hitters. Both pitchers' first names were the same, both teams won 4-0 and I read somewhere that Justin Verlander threw his first no-hitter in a Little League game when he was 12."

Even though he isn't equipped yet with Verlander's

'There were a lot of similarities between the two no-hitters. Both pitchers' first names were the same, both teams won 4-0 and I read somewhere that Justin Verlander threw his first no-hitter in a Little League game when he was 12.'

JOEL THOMPSON, Justin's dad

100 mph heat, Thompson managed to strike out the side in the third, fourth and sixth innings.

The biggest threat to the no-no came in the fifth inning when the opposing team's clean-up hitter reached base after he hit a ball hard to the left side of the infield.

"The ball landed in our third baseman's mitt, then it popped out, and the batter got to first base," Justin Thompson said. "I thought (the no-hitter) was over, but then somebody told me it was an error, so I still had a no-hitter going."

Thompson's gem was aided by a couple of sterling defensive plays by his teammates. Catcher Ryan Siegler threw out a runner trying to steal second in the first inning and first baseman Derek Gielarowski made a fine play on a grounder in the second.

"I started to get a little nervous in the last inning," Thompson admitted. "Their

Please see **JUSTIN, B6**

COMPARING THE NO-HITTERS

Canton resident Justin Thompson threw a no-hitter Wednesday night, one night after Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander accomplished the same feat. Following are a couple comparable facts about the two gems:

- Thompson struck out 14 batters; Verlander K'd 12;
- Thompson is 13 years old; Verlander was 12 when he threw his first Little League no-hitter;
- Both no-hitting pitchers' teams won 4-0;
- 33,555 were on hand to witness Verlander's no-hitter; approximately 33,500 less than that saw Thompson's;
- Verlander's fastball tops out at 100 mph; Thompson has hit 55 on the radar gun;
- Verlander's "out" pitch is his fastball; Thompson's is his knuckleball.

DALE chronicles Earnhardt's life on, off the track

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The only authorized documentary celebrating the life and career of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt will make its way to the area beginning at Tuesday, June 19 at the Livonia 20 Theatre.

"DALE," produced by NASCAR Images and CMT Films, will also be shown June 20-21, June 26-28, at Livonia 20, located on 19500 Haggerty Road. (All shows start at 7:30 p.m. but check your local movie listings.)

Narrated by Paul Newman, "DALE" is the first documentary on the late driver that has been given full support of Teresa Earnhardt, Dale's widow and executor of his estate.

"Dale's legendary persona inspired people who had never even met him," Teresa Earnhardt said, "and this film will keep those who see it and

Please see **EARNHARDT, B2**



Dale Earnhardt is gone but not forgotten as the documentary DALE premieres Tuesday night at the Livonia 20 Theatre.

Words about fair play ring hollow

Every time boys and girls compete in Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments, the announcements flood the airwaves about the life lessons learned through prep sports. Public address



Tim Smith

announcers read MHSAA-scripted copy about dealing with adversity, working as a team, playing games with concepts such as sportsmanship at the top of the list.

With apologies to Jerry Seinfeld, yada, yada, yada.

Listening to the animated, finger-pointing people who sit in the stands or bleachers at state districts, regionals, or finals in whatever sport, one wonders who is fooling who. Umpires and officials must dodge verbal

brickbats from parents whenever a call goes against that mom or dad's student-athlete.

And officials don't get a free pass either, often fanning the flames of controversy with their short fuses to any perceived slight against them. Last weekend at the Division 1 state baseball regional at Saline, Garden City's hopes for a regional championship were squashed by an unusual balk call against senior pitcher Aki Itoh (the balk was called after he pitched the ball and retired the batter on a fly ball).

One inning later, the Cougars were on the verge of a rally to possibly tie or win the game against the regional host Hornets. But a bases-loaded smash down the third-base line was ruled foul, even though the ball appeared to most to bounce over the bag.

That incensed Garden City

Please see **FAIR, B2**

Sidelines

Rams topple Bulls

The 20-and-under Michigan Rams scored four times in the fifth and added two in the bottom of the sixth to down the 22-and-under Michigan Bulls, 6-4, in Livonia Collegiate baseball League action Wednesday at Ford Field.

Starter Shane McCatty pitched 6.1 innings, allowing three runs (one earned) on six hits and three walks as the Rams improved to 5-3 in the LCBL. McCatty struck out five before giving way to Justin Mazur, who gave up one run on one walk and one hit while striking out two.

Losing pitcher John Filecchia allowed four runs (one earned) on four hits in 4.2 innings. He struck out one and walked one.

Andrew Stafford went 1-for-3 and knocked in two runs, while Frank Persichino went 2-for-2 with an RBI. Mike Kittle and Nick Urban each scored two runs, while Drew Churchward also had an RBI.

Rudy Jovanovski and Dennis Jones each collected two hits for the Bulls, who fall to 4-3-1 in the LCBL. Kevin Zerbo added a RBI, while Josh Ivan doubled.

Each team drew four walks.

Hill's goal lifts Hawks

Lauren Hill's first-half goal proved to be the difference Thursday night as the Michigan Hawks Women scored a 1-0 W-League soccer victory over the West Michigan Firewomen at Livonia Stevenson High School.

Jessica Boyle assisted on the game-winner as the Hawks improved to 4-0-1 in the Central Conference's Midwest Division.

Goalkeeper Lauren Jarman made three saves en route to the shutout.

Ashley Swartz made six saves for the Firewomen, who fall to 0-2-1 in the division.

MU Baseball Showcase

The Madonna University baseball program will stage its 2007 Showcase from noon to 3 p.m. Monday, June 18 at Hlitch Ballpark in Livonia.

MU coaches Greg Haeger and Stu rose will be working out any interested 2007 and 2008 graduates, as well as any ball players with college eligibility. Pre-registration is not required for the free workout.

For more information, call coach Haeger at (734) 432-5609; or e-mail him at ghaeger@Madonna.edu.

EARNHARDT

FROM PAGE B1

help carry on his legacy." Earnhardt earned more than \$41 million in his career, winning seven NASCAR championships and virtually every major NASCAR event. His death in 2001 on the last lap of the Daytona 500 moved America more than any other athlete's death. His appeal bridged a huge core of race fans and the general public, not so much for his wins, but for the way he won them - spectacularly and with gusto. The film includes archival race footage, rare outtakes, never-before-seen family home videos with his closest friends and family, toughest competitors and most avid fans, illustrating the depth of Earnhardt's influence on the racing world and beyond. The film has been shown in select cities in conjunction with the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series. DALE was also released on DVD in January. Called the "John Wayne of Racing," the documentary chronicles his 20-year frustration before winning the 1998 Daytona 500. Earnhardt is interviewed extensively at one of his favorite fishing holes near his home in Kannapolis, N.C. Earnhardt patterned his career after his father Ralph, who died at age 45 of a heart attack. Among those interviewed are his mother Martha, two brothers, two sisters, four children and widow Teresa, who helped create Dale Earnhardt, Inc. (DEI) in 1998. Earnhardt quit high school to drive in the red clay dust on small town tracks before earning NASCAR Rookie of the Year honors in 1979. A year later he took the overall points title, one of his record-tying seven on the NASCAR circuit (tying Richard Petty). The story also highlights his days sponsored by Wrangler Jeans where he was called, "robust, down-to-earth and one-tough customer." The film details his fierce rivalry with fellow driver Darrell Waltrip, along with his infamous wreck at Pocono

in 1982 where he suffered a broken leg and raced the following week. As one NASCAR official said: "Dale wasn't racing to make friends, friends just got in the way." Earnhardt also developed a close and long-standing relationship with race manager-owner Richard Childress. "Dale Earnhardt will always be one of the most dominant figures in the history of NASCAR," Childress said. "He meant so much to the millions of his fans throughout the world and I think DALE will give everyone a unique perspective on him both as a racer and as a human being." In 1988, the Intimidator drove the No. 3 black Goodwrench car and became a household name after winning four points crowns in five years before going winless in 59 consecutive starts. Many outtakes feature him working on his farm as he jokes to himself, "Jack of All Trades, Master of None." Also interviewed was drive Steve Park, who won a race after his death, along with numerous interviews with son Dale, Jr., who won dramatically at the Pepsi 400 just six months following the tragedy at the same Daytona Speedway. NBC News anchor Brian Williams and his son also are featured in the film, while the documentary examines the evolving relationship between Dale and his son Dale, Jr., including a funny mock interview between the two. The showing comes on the heels of the Citizens Bank 400 this weekend at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. "This film provides an incredible opportunity to reach the very audience that Dale's life and legacy mean so much to," said Jeff Yapp, executive vice-president of MTVN. "We'll create large event screenings in Nextel Cup Series markets preceding race weekend, with a goal of creating an event atmosphere more like a live concert than a traditional movie screening."

bemons@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2123

City Golf Challenge gives area competitors new opportunity

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Golfers in western Wayne County have been put on notice. The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will stage its 2007 City Golf Challenge, Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 4-5, at recently refurbished and redesigned Fellows Creek Municipal Golf Course in Canton. The Challenge includes the cities of Wayne, Westland, Romulus, Plymouth, Canton and Livonia. Former Wayne High athletic director Bill Hawley has come up with a unique format to determine champions from each city including men's and women's divisions, seniors (50 and up) and super seniors (65 and up). You must have at least five golfers for the city to be entered in the Challenge.

There will also be an open division. Hawley harkens back to the old days when Wayne and Livonia were two of the biggest participants in the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association state tournaments. Hawley also will ask the Wayne Rotary Club to sponsor a traveling trophy for yearly the City Challenge winner. "We want to see which city has the best golfers and the Wayne golfers say, 'bring it on,'" he said. "This is also a great opportunity for novice golfers to get into competitive golf. We'll flight everybody after the first day (Friday) based on their first-day scores. It's a fun thing and we want people to have a great time. A lot of people who normally shy away have an opportunity to kind of whet their appetite for competition." Last year's overall medalist

was Westland's Ernie Kent, who competed as super senior. "This is not a tournament for only the best golfers," Hawley said. "Everyone can compete against someone of their own ability." The entry fee is \$60 per player (carts extra). Awards are included with trophies going to the first three finishers in each flight. Tee times will begin at noon each day. "Fellows Creek is a good test of golf for everybody," Hawley said. "It's not as easy as people think, but it's not too tough. It's a good track." Call either Jeff Rutter or Steve Winkleman at the Wayne Community Center at (734) 721-7400. You can also visit the City Challenge Web Site at www.whitworthfamily.org/2007citychampionships.htm.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net (734) 953-2123

FAIR

FROM PAGE B1

fans along the first-base side-lines, and they didn't sugarcoat their feelings toward the ump. The official, perhaps still fuming over how he was criticized for the earlier balk call, pulled up his pants and dug in. Had the ump been miked for sound, he might have spouted out something like "This is my baby and there's nothing you can do, I am in complete control. I maybe blew the call, but there's no way I'm going to admit it." Meanwhile, some of the college-age Saline faithful were getting aggressively giddy up in the stands behind home plate, taunting the Cougars and perhaps collecting money to put up a shrine for the umpire. How does any of this match up to the MHSAA sportsmanship handbook? Professional and college sports are cut-throat, with a "win-or-you're-a-loser" mentality. Sadly, that attitude now is trickling down to high school, middle school, even youth leagues. There's a lot of money spent trying to get Alex or Alexis to a level where their could be enough success to result in a college scholarship. Maybe Alex can open the eyes of a major league baseball scout, the way Redford Union's Toby Matchulat did (sometimes it works; Matchulat was recently drafted by the Detroit Tigers). But most youngsters just want the experience of playing games they love, perhaps just to be with their friends and classmates wearing their high school colors. Maybe future state tournaments should include another PA announcement to "Chill, folks." Otherwise, why bother with the charade?

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Garden City and Redford Observers.

O&E champ Omietanski to guide Stevenson golf

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Although the change of seasons by the Michigan High School Athletic Association will move boys golf from the fall to the spring, new Livonia Stevenson varsity coach Jim Omietanski wants to get a head start. The two-time defending Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournament champion will stage summer conditioning workouts at 11 a.m. each Friday (through August) beginning June 22 at Fox Creek Golf Course, located at

Seven Mile and Wayne roads. The cost is \$12 per 18 holes. To schedule a tee time, call the Fox Creek pro shop at (248) 471-3400. Omietanski took the job in March when Jason Delo decided to concentrate on the girls varsity position. "Jason is getting married in August and he thought coaching two sports would be too much," Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman said. "Jim is quite a player himself, very knowledgeable. He'll connect and have rapport with the student-athlete. He should be a great asset to our program."

This is Omietanski's first stint as a high school coach. He played one season of golf at Henry Ford Community College and has coached hockey at the AAA and AA level. "I met some of the kids last month, they're eager and ready," Omietanski said. "I also want to touch base with some of the incoming freshmen." "Course management to me is huge. I'm excited and looking forward to the challenge."

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Clarenceville athletes faced with pay-to-play

The Clarenceville Board of Education took action May 24 to begin a Pay to Participate program for athletic participation for the 2007-08 school year. The fee for athletics is \$75 for the first sport at the high school level and \$25 for the middle school level. Each subsequent sport for the same student is at no cost. Athletic fees are due the

first day of team participation (official Michigan High School Athletic Association start date). In an e-mail, Clarenceville athletic administrator Kevin Murphy said participation in athletics or activities is based on individual interest and ability. The payment of the participation fee does not guarantee a particular role on the team, in an activity, or that a student

will play in contests. There will be no refund for injury, while students are encouraged to stay with the team to earn their award. There is no refund if a student quits or is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons. Payment method should be in check or money order and placed in a payment envelope (no cash). Checks should be made pay

able to: Clarenceville School District. Envelopes must be turned into the coach or athletic director. Receipts may be requested. The athletic participation fee does not cover participation in other student activities for which a fee may be required. For more information, call Murphy at (248) 919-0217.

BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES

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ON SALE THIS SAT. 6/23 • 10 am

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WU-TANG CLAN, NAS, CYPRESS HILL, TALIB KWELI AND MORE
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8/29 • THE BANGLES
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COMING THIS WEEK

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CREEDENCE • CLEARWATER REVISITED
wsg RANDY BROCK
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

FRIDAY • 7:30 PM
TED NUGENT
wsg ALEX WINSTON
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

JUNE

29 CHICAGO / AMERICA • DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

30 ABBA THE TOUR • DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

JULY

1 PSYCHEDELIC FURS • THE ALARM / NAKED EYES
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

3 TOOL
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

5 JOHN MAYER
wsg BEN FOLDS
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

6-8 TOBY KEITH
wsg MIRANDA LAMBERT & KEVIN WILSON
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

7 THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND
wsg THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND & THE OUTLAWS
VOLUNTEER JAM TOUR 2007
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

8 LIVE / COLLECTIVE SOUL
wsg BIE HEAD TODD and THE MONSTERS
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

11 TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

12 1964 THE TRIBUTE • MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

13 BOYZ II MEN wsg 112 • DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

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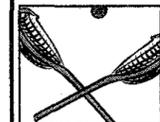
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Canton's Super Bowl hosts 2008 USBC Women's Open

The debate goes on every year about which city has the best bragging rights on its sports teams.

Naturally, we think we are the best of all since the resurgence of the Tigers as one of the elite baseball teams and current American League champions.

Even though neither the Detroit Pistons or Red Wings made it to their respective finals, they both finished on top of the divisional standings and only a few fluke plays prevented them from advancing further in the playoffs.

If the Lions can finally get their act together, the Detroit area would be on top in all of the four major sports, ahead of New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis or Los Angeles.

You can add the sport of bowling to the mix as well, since this area is universally recognized as this nation's most active bowling metropolis.

We have the largest number

of bowling participants by far, the most bowling centers and arguably the best bowlers. Our local area will host the 2008 U.S. Bowling Congress Women's Open.

This tournament is the single largest women's athletic competition in the world with about 80,000 participants expected to come here and compete in the event.

The 2007 event is being staged in Charlotte, N.C. with players from all 50 states, Latin American nations, Canada and as far away as Australia.

It will run from April 10 to July 6, at Mark and Diane Voight's Super Bowl on Ford Road in Canton. In addition, the USBC Youth Open Championships will be July 7-15, 2008, at Skore Lanes in Taylor, while the Pepsi USBC Youth Open Tournament will run from July 14 - 16, 2008, at Sunnybrook Bowl in Sterling Heights.

These major events will focus the sports world on Detroit and add even more luster to our bragging rights.

Happy Fathers Day to all you dads.

I hope your loved ones went out to the local pro shops and bought

that new bowling ball for you - the one that advertises more power; it will absolutely demolish the pins with every shot.

Don't forget to take advantage of summer time open lanes to work on your game.

If any of your kids are headed for college, they do not have to be a 265 pound linebacker to get a scholarship.

Danielle Fesco, 17, of Redford was awarded a full scholarship on bowling. She will join the bowling team at Fayetteville State University (N.C.) based on her success as captain of the Clarenceville High School girls team as she averaged 191 this past season with a high game of 289.

"It's an awesome opportunity," said Danielle when she first heard the good news.

Her coach, Pam Jones, added: "She came in as a sophomore averaging 111 and ended the season at 190. She's the hardest working girl I've ever coached and she is totally dedicated to becoming a top-notch bowler."

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839 or e-mail: tennipalley@sbcglobal.net

THE WEEK AHEAD

W-LEAGUE SOCCER
Thursday, June 21
at Michigan State University
Mich. Hawks vs. W. Mich. Firewomen, 7 p.m.

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE
BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE
Monday, June 18
at Livonia's Ford Field
Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Rams, 5:45 p.m.

Michigan Bulls vs. Detroit Eagles, 8:15 p.m.
Wednesday, June 20
at Livonia's Ford Field
Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Bulls, 5:45 p.m.
Detroit Eagles vs. Michigan Rams, 8:15 p.m.

Friday, June 22
at Livonia's Ford Field
Michigan Rams vs. Detroit Eagles, 5:45 p.m.
Michigan Bulls vs. Oakland Cubs, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, June 24

at Livonia's Bicentennial Park
Michigan Rams vs. Detroit Eagles (2), noon
Oakland Cubs vs. Michigan Bulls (2), 5 p.m.

PREMIER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE SOCCER
Wednesday, June 20
Mich. Bucks at W. Michigan Edge, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 23
at Saginaw Twp. Soccer Complex
Michigan Bucks vs. Indiana Invaders, 8 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Coaching opportunities

Plymouth High School is looking for a varsity boys hockey coach. If interested, fill out the application that can be found at www.pccs.k12.mi.us and submit it to the Plymouth Athletic Department.

Canton High School is looking for a head coach and an assistant coach for its boys lacrosse team. Candidates for both positions need to be high school graduates, have experience in high school-level coaching or playing experience in the sport, have a time schedule compatible to that of the high school, have CPR training, and have the demonstrated ability to work with parents and their children.

Interested individuals who work within the school district should address a letter of intent for the position to the Athletic Office, 8415 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187.

Interested individuals who are not employed by the school

district must file a coaching application and include a letter of intent for the positions with the Athletic Office. All applicants will be notified as to their status regarding the positions.

For more information, contact Canton Athletic Director Sue Heinzman at (734) 416-2925.

Summer girls hoop camps

The annual Canton/Salem girls basketball camps will be held in June in the Canton and Salem high school gymnasiums.

A camp for girls who will be starting seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the fall of 2007 will be held June 18-22 from 1-3 p.m. The seventh graders will be at Salem while the eighth and ninth graders will utilize the Canton gym. The cost of the camp is \$70.

A camp for girls who will be starting fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall of 2007 will

be held June 25-29 from 1-3 p.m. The fourth graders will be at Salem while the fifth- and sixth-graders will utilize the Canton gym.

Campers will receive instruction from members of the coaching staffs of Canton and Salem high schools as well as from high school players.

Players can register through Plymouth-Canton Community Education, which is located at 40260 Five Mile Rd. in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-2940.

Football camp

The Plymouth Wildcat Youth Skills Camp will be held June 25-27 from 5-7 p.m. on the PCEP varsity football field. It is a fundamental camp for kids who are in 5th through 9th grades.

Interested participants should visit www.plymouth-wildcats.com for a copy of the camp brochure. For additional information, contact head coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 582-5696.

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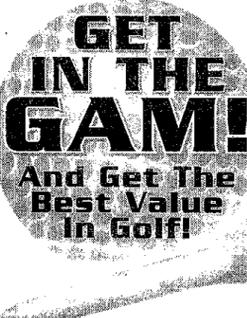


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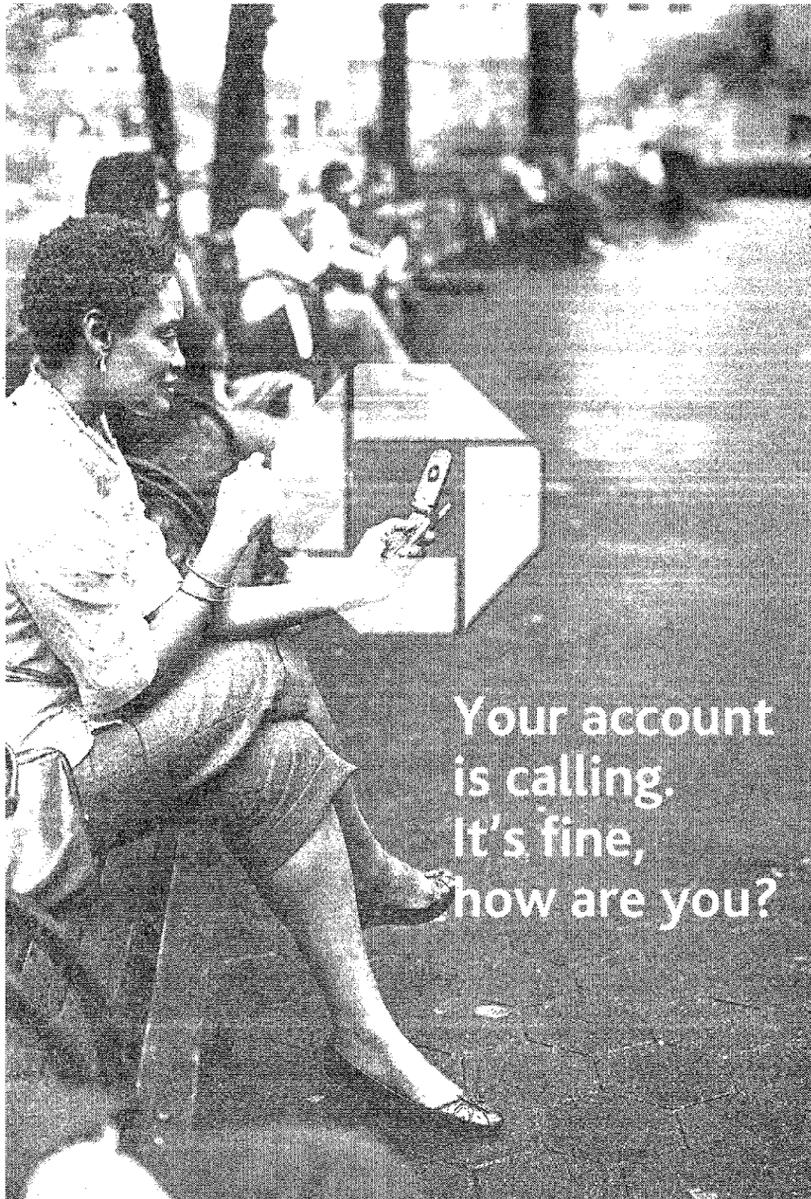
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 Seeking dependable person for a 2 person general front office capable of multi-tasking, strong attention to detail. Must have good telephone communication skills. Responsibilities include general office duties, data entry, intermediate skills in MS 2003 Word & Excel. Proficient in QuickBooks Pro & Internet. Email Resume: echurley1@aol.com

ADMINISTRATOR
 Able to multitask be a self starter, detail oriented, have people skills & strong administrative skills. Long term employment. Immediate opening. Fax resumes to 248-553-9534

BOOKKEEPER
 Bookkeeper/Accountant for growing west side graphic arts design agency. Computer and QuickBooks experience necessary. CPA firm recruiting for client. Fax resume to (734) 462-1406 or send to: Bookkeeper Swad & Company 38701 Seven Mile Road, Suite 245 Livonia, MI 48152

BOOKKEEPER
 Farmington Hills Accounting position. Duties incl. A/R, A/P, P/R, G/L entries. Requires computer skills. Send resume to: apply@corrigano.com

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 For small law firm. Multi-task at answering phones, typing dictation, appointments & scheduling duties. Must be computer literate & type 60 wpm. Send resume: Paskel, Tashman & Walker, P.C., 24472 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075 Attn Sherri

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 Top Producing Realtor seeking FT, motivated, positive assistant. \$10/hr to start, no benefits. Must have good communication and computer skills. Please fax resume to Nancy Downey 248-347-6791 or email NDowney@aol.com

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 Perfect knowledge of QuickBooks & computers a must. Construction exp a plus. Fax resume to 734-422-5554 or call 734-422-5557.

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 \$7.75-\$10+ bonus. Pleasant phone manner, will train. Leave Message: (248) 426-0733

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 Growing computer company seeks assistant to work with sales and marketing team. Duties include administrative tasks, customer service, order processing, tracking and other projects. Full or part-time. Please fax resume to (248) 473-2201 or email khspeelman@acc-online.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

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DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Friendly, busy, non-smoking pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full-time assistant, 1 yr. exp. preferred. Will train. Must be detail oriented, calm, self-starter & adaptable to change. No evenings. Benefits. (248) 478-8232

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DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
 2 days, NW suburb. Basic assisting skills helpful, customer service skills required. Reply to: ddsdoe@yahoo.com

DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER/ RECEPTIONIST
 Needed - A team-oriented specialist dental practice looking for an energetic, self-motivated, well-organized person to oversee dental team covering 2 locations. Experience in dental or medical a must. Insurance knowledge, collections, and word processing skills preferred. Fax resume to: 586-254-1169

DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Plymouth/Northville office with two doctors. Seeking energetic part-time team player available to work evenings and two Saturdays a month. Must be willing to learn orthodontics, have some assisting exp and be x-ray certified. Please fax resume and copy of x-ray certificate to 734-420-8304

DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Exp'd chairside, roving position. Large group practice. Call Sherree at (734) 420-2326

DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Troy office seeking experienced FT Dental Assistant. Applicants must have a polished appearance, at least 2 yrs dental assisting experience at chairside, X-Ray and CPR certified, experienced taking impressions and making temporaries. Dentrix and imaging knowledge a plus. Fax or email resume to: Dr. Ted Degenhardt: 248-643-6463 info@DrDental.com

DENTAL HYGIENIST
 Livonia/Novi/Northville area. Please fax resume: (248) 349-4849

RECEPTIONIST/ SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

ACTIVITY AIDE
 Marywood Nursing Care Center, a skilled long-term care facility, is seeking a qualified candidate to join our Activity Department staff. The ideal candidate will enjoy working with a senior population. A kind heart and an easy-going personality are a must. Are you punctual, dependable, crafty, creative, enthusiastic, energetic, and respectful of others? If so, we would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss joining our team. This is a part-time afternoon position, 2:30-7:45pm, approximately 20 hours/week. Please apply in person at: Marywood Nursing Care Center 36975 Five Mile Livonia, MI 48154

ASSISTANT to office manager
 for medical office in Livonia. Two days per week to start. Medical office experience a must. Email resume to: kabgcp@yahoo.com

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
 2 afternoons per week. 2:30-7pm. Experience helpful but not necessary. Must have 4 arms & 6 legs and be able to do 10 things at one time. Leave the kids at home and come talk to adults for awhile. Tepper Chiropractic Clinic, 6/Newburgh. (734) 464-9595

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
 Permanent part-time position. Mon, Wed & Fri. 2:45-7:30pm & Sat. 8:45-1:30PM. Clerical skills & computer knowledge required. Willing to train qualified person. 27527 Joy Rd., 1/2 blk W. of Inkster, Westland. 734-522-5501

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MDS COORDINATOR
 Autumnwood of Livonia is currently seeking an exp'd F/T RN MDS Coordinator with knowledge of PPS, Care Planning, & MDS Scheduling. The Coordinator's responsibilities will include supervision of MDS Nurses and coordination of the IDS process for assessments and care planning. We offer a competitive salary & benefits package. Qualified candidates, fax resume to: 734-426-4327 Attn: Director of Nursing

Medical Assistant
 Medical office seeks experienced Receptionist. Must have strong computer & medical insurance knowledge. Full Time with exc. pay & benefits. Ann Arbor area. Fax resume to: 734-996-8767 or Email: a2derm@aol.com

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
 for local internal medicine office. 1 yr. exp. required. Friendly, good personality & hard working are essential. Fax resume to: 734-522-7754

MEDICAL ASSISTANT or LPN
 Part-time for allergy practice in Bingham Farms. Fax resume: 248-723-5346

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

BANQUET SERVERS
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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Buick Open tickets

A special Father's Day ticket package is available for the 2007 Buick Open, June 25-July 1, at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc.

The package includes two any-day tickets and a free parking pass to Michigan's only PGA tour event for \$50. This is an \$80 value as tickets regularly go for \$35 each (starting June 25) and parking is \$10. This special package is available through Father's Day (June 17).

Daily tickets (Thursday through Sunday) are \$30 (if purchased by June 24), or \$35 at the gate. A book of daily tickets is \$250 (if purchased by June 24). Other ticket packages include grounds badges (week long access) for \$95; and clubhouse badges (week long access to Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club clubhouse and grounds) for \$185. For tickets, call (800) 878-OPEN; or visit www.buickopen.pgatour.com. Pro-Am and hospitality packages are available by calling (248) 203-8754.

Livonia Y leagues

The following leagues are now underway for registration at the Livonia Family YMCA including:

Co-ed T-Ball, coach-pitch and kid pitch league (ages 4-10) and pee wee soccer (ages 3-6), July 7-Aug. 11; fall soccer (starts early Sept.) instructional (ages 3-8) and recreational (boys and girls under-9 through under-14).

New sports camps and off-season sports training are also offered. Prices vary.

For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

Youth Fitness Meet

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Fitness meet for boys and girls ages 7-14 will start at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 28 at Rotary Park.

Free registration is from 9-9:45 a.m. on June 28. Youths must live in the Livonia or Clarenceville school districts to participate.

Among the events include standing long jump, running long jump, chinning, dashes, agility course and softball throw.

For more information, call

(734) 466-2410.

Archery introduction

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage an introduction to target archery class from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturdays on Aug. 18 and Sept. 22, at the Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

The fee is \$12 (residents) and \$14 (non-residents). Children 9-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 12100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. A limited number of instructional bow, arrows and other supplies are available to use at no additional cost. Class participants may also bring a lunch if desired. A half-hour break is scheduled during the workshop.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA football signup

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association football will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The WYAA has two units. The Westland Meteors practices at Voss Park (Henry Ruff and Palmer) and play their home games at Wayne Memorial High School. The Westland Comets practice at Marshall Middle School and play their home games at John Glenn High School.

Age groups for both units include freshman (8-10), JV (11-12) and varsity (11-14). Players are subject to weight restrictions. All players who register must produce a copy of their birth certificate (not hospital certificate) and a recent school photo. Call the WYAA during normal business hours at (734) 421-0640.

Instructional football

Registration is under way for the WYAA's new instructional football program for ages 7-8 at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

No scores will be tabulated and coaches will be allowed on the field for instructional purposes. Games will be played prior to Meteors and Comets on their respective game dates.

Participants must have a maximum weight restriction of 115 pounds and must supply a copy of their birth certificate to the league.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

Drop in H.S. hockey

High school drop in hockey will be available from 3:30-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The fee is \$8 per player. It is limited to 24 players and four goalies.

All players must show their high school I.D., read and sign a rules form, along with a liability waiver form.

WYAA cheerleading

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association cheerleading will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Registration for the Westland Comets and Meteors cheerleading squads is open to all girls ages 6-14 (as of Sept. 1).

Both units will cheer for the Meteors and Comets freshman, JV and varsity football squads during the season and also participate in the Western Suburban Junior Football League cheerleading rally.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or visit www.wyaa.org.

All-Star Showcase

The Michigan All-Star Showcase, open to all high school players (2007 through 2010 grads) interested in playing college baseball will be Monday-Tuesday, July 2-3, at Fifth Third Ballpark, home of the West Michigan Whitecaps of the Class A Midwest League.

Twelve Michigan colleges will be in attendance.

For more information, call (616) 635-0010; or visit gvsulakers.com (go to baseball camps).

MU baseball tryouts

Five members of the 2007 Madonna University baseball team were discovered at the annual MU Baseball Showcase, including two-time All-WHAC selection Manny Alvarado, a Southfield High alum.

Crusader coaches will again look for the next MU baseball player when they hold the 2007 MU Baseball Showcase Monday June 18 at Ilitch Ballpark.

Festivities begin at noon and all players who wish to come to the open tryout are asked to be at Ilitch Ballpark, stretched and ready to go by noon.

All junior college players, as well as 2007 and 2008 high school graduates, are invited to attend the free showcase.

For more information, contact MU baseball coach Greg Haeger at (734) 432-5609.

C'ville hoop camp

The Trojan Fundamental Basketball Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon (boys and girls grades 4-8) and 1-4 p.m. (grades 9-12), Monday through Thursday, June 18-21, at Livonia Clarenceville High School. The cost is \$60.

CAMPS/CLINICS

The camp will be run by Clarenceville varsity boys coach Corey McKendry, along with Grandville Elementary School coach Stefan Terpack.

Guest speakers include former Clarenceville All-State guard Donnie Carson, now at Idaho State, along with registered MHSAA officials and current Oakland University players.

For more information, call (248) 919-022, Ext. 217.

GC youth grid camp

Garden City High School is hosting a two-day Cougar Youth Football Camp, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. both Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23.

The cost to participate is \$40, with payment due in cash or money order. Youngsters ages 7-14 are invited to take part in the camp, which will be held on the football field and be taught by Cougars head football coach Mike Salter and his coaching staff.

For more information, leave a message for Salter at (734) 762-8350.

Blazer spiker camp

Livonia Ladywood will stage a volleyball camp from 9 a.m.

to noon (grades 3-6) and from 6-9 p.m. (grades 6-9), Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, at the high school. E-mail Cameron Kompoltowicz at ckompo@yahoo.com.

Franklin pom camp

The Livonia Franklin varsity pom team will stage a clinic for girls ages 6-14 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, July 28 at the high school gym.

Included in the \$35 cost is a T-shirt and pizza lunch. A parents and friends performance will follow at 2:15 p.m. You must pre-register by July 10 because space is limited.

For more information or to pre-register, call Nancy Kuzura at (734) 502-0877.

Glenn football camp
The Westland John Glenn football summer skills camp for incoming grades 5-10 will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, June 19-22, at high school.

The cost of the camp, directed by Glenn varsity coach Todd DeLuca, is \$50 (includes awards and pizza party).

Call Dan Massey at (734) 419-2329.

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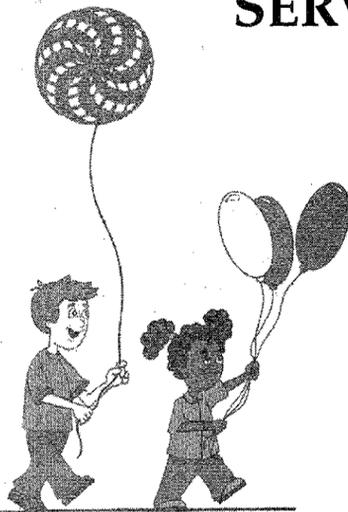
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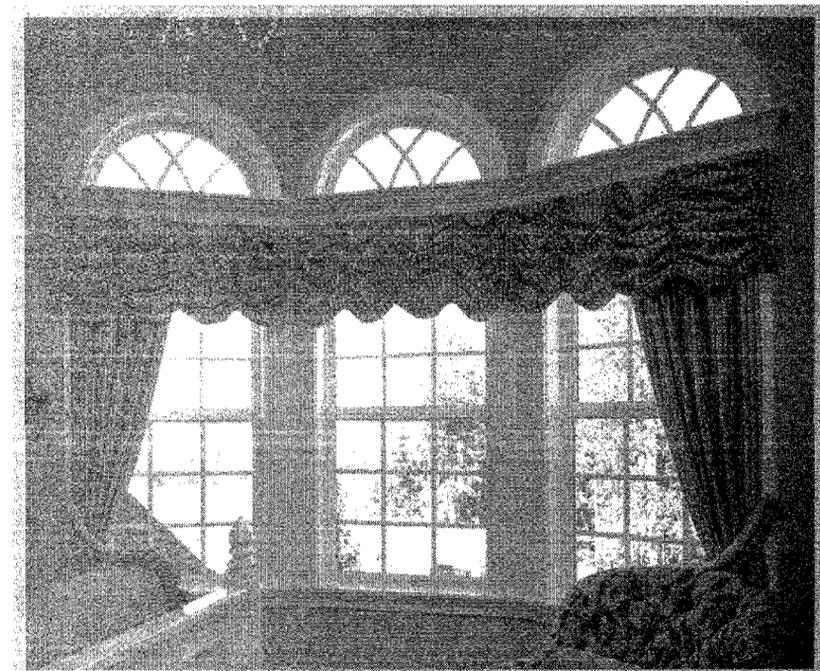
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JUSTIN

FROM PAGE B1

last batter was kind of short, so I was worried I might walk him. But I struck him out with a knuckleball."

"I think I was more nervous than he was in the last inning because I know the significance of a no-hitter and how rare they are," said Joel Thompson. "When he got the last out, I was the loudest one out there. And the proudest."

Coincidentally, both no-hitting Justins - Verlander and Thompson - met face-to-face at an autograph session at the Gibraltar Trade Center this past winter.

"He's a great guy," Joel Thompson said of Verlander. "He was very friendly and personable with the kids."

"I took a photo of Justin with Verlander when he was signing a baseball. After we walked away, I noticed the photo was kind of blurry. When I went back to see if we could re-take the photo, Justin Verlander actually had Justin come behind the table with him so we could get a better shot. A lot of other players would have said, 'Take a hike.'"

Justin Thompson is writing a letter to Verlander in hopes of setting up a meeting with the Major Leaguer.

"That would be cool to meet him again and talk about our no-hitters," he said.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108

Pictured is the opponents' side of the scoreboard that was used for Justin Thompson's no-hitter. The K's represent strikeouts.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton teenager Justin Thompson tossed a no-hitter in a Canton Little League game Wednesday night at Griffin Park.

Redford Rebels get the win with 7th-inning run

The Redford Rebels 16-Under travel baseball team edged Northville's Broncos 4-3 on Thursday at Capitol Park to improve to 2-1 in the early stages of the team's debut season.

Solid defense, good pitching and timely hitting helped the Rebels to the victory in the second game of a home-and-home series with the Broncos.

Contributing two hits each were Jesse Hess, Joe McCulloch and Ryan Smith while Brian Corner drilled an inside-the-park home run to pace the offense.

The game was 3-3 entering the seventh, and Rebels starting pitcher Jeremy Wafer mowed down the Broncos in order. That led to the winning rally, with Ryan Smith doubling and scoring on a single by McCulloch.

Wafer earned the victory with his complete-game effort, scattering seven hits and striking out five.

Head coach Bruce Corner's squad took part Saturday in its first-ever tourney, the South Farmington Blues Tournament.

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Graduates are facing up to the future

This has been a banner year for our family. Two of our five grandchildren are graduating. Where has the time gone?

Ryan McGriff was embracing this time in his life. He has been in the high school ROTC program for the last three years. He made up his mind at Christmas to join the United States



Donna Kenske

Army Rangers after graduation, and has successfully passed both the physical tests and the mental tests. He will belong to the U.S. Army as of July 11, 2007. May God watch over him, and all of the other young men in our Armed Forces.

Our little princess, Olivia Rose McGriff, however, is the total opposite. She has had small bouts of sadness and tears over graduating for the last few weeks. She

has been practicing her graduation song over and over.

Normally, she is not a shy girl in front of an audience; I think the last few years of dancing solved that. My daughter, her mother, told me however, that she almost had a panic attack over singing this song. All I could think of is what in the hell kind of song was it?

Olivia couldn't wait to show me the picture in her cap and gown taken a few weeks ago. She looked beautiful. Her deep brown curly hair framed her oval face. The rich blue of the gown brought out her green eyes and those long dark brown eyelashes. She doesn't need the help of make up, God took care of that.

"Grandma," she said in a whisper. "I don't know if I'm ready to graduate."

She hadn't confided any of this to me before and I was stunned to say the least. "Olivia, what do you mean you don't think you're ready?"

Taking my hand into hers she said, "I'm never going to see any of my friends again after we graduate. My best friend, Giselle, is going to a different school and Gaby said she's not going to school at all in the fall."

If it hadn't been for the tears in her eyes I would have thought she was kidding me. But the expression on her face showed me she meant what she said. Why in the world didn't my daughter warn me that there was more to this than just a song, so that I could have more time to prepare a response? Did she even know?

"Have you talked to Ryan about any of this, you know, to get a guy's viewpoint?" I asked. "He's graduating too." As the words came out of my mouth, I knew they sounded pretty lame.

"Oh, he's happy about it." Her voice started to crack. "He doesn't even care what school his girlfriend is going to go to. It's all Army, Army, Army. Ugh! He tells everybody he works with that we're graduating together; like we're the only brother and sister ever to do that."

I really thought she was going to cry. "Um, you haven't shown me what dress you're wearing to graduation, honey." I said, hopefully changing the mood.

She perked right up, "Oh Grandma, it is sooo beautiful. Let me show it to you." Jumping to her feet she sprang down the hall to her bedroom. She was right. The dress was perfect for her. When I left I felt confident that her sadness had ended.

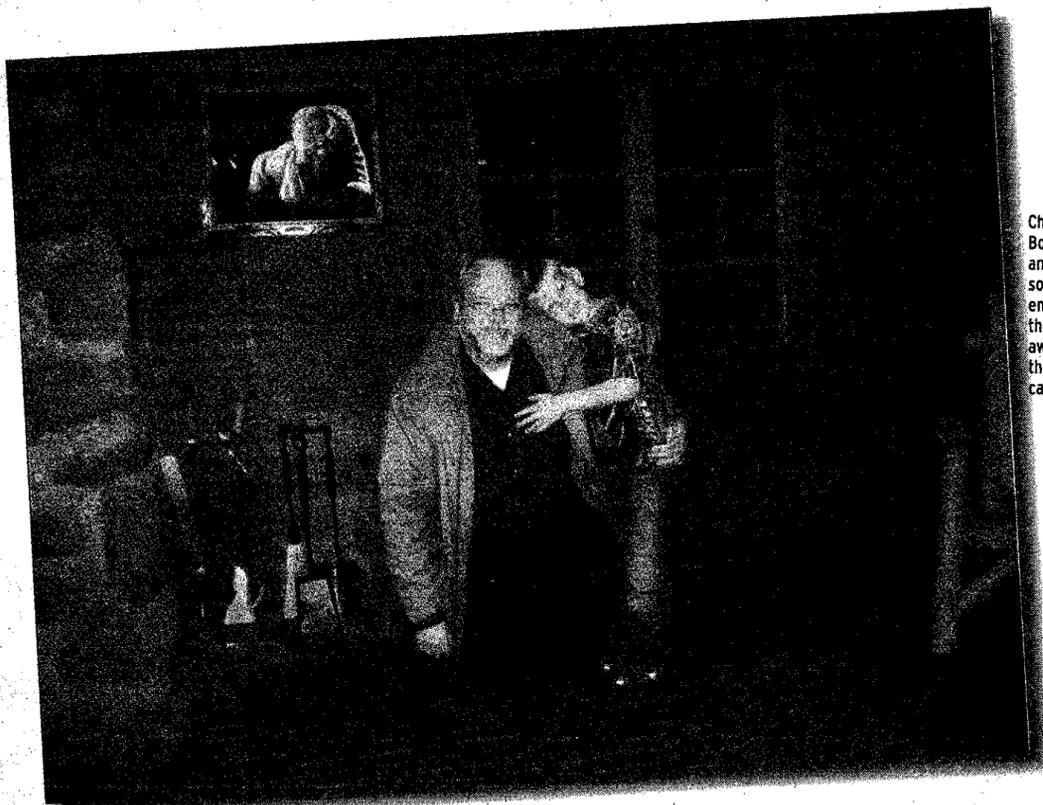
Here at last, graduation day has finally arrived. My job today is to save my husband a seat, not just any seat, but one in the front row. From the minute she was born he dubbed her as his very own little princess, and she loved it.

The music started as the graduating class began its procession to the stage. Olivia gave us a little wave and then flashed her biggest smile at her Grandpa. The music started and they all began to sing. She made it through the song without incident. We didn't. Tears of happiness and joy fell down both of our cheeks as my husband whispered into my ear, "She's so beautiful. She's growing up so fast." We didn't dare look at our daughter. I didn't want to see if she, too, was crying.

As they tossed their hats into the air, I knew that Olivia had finally made peace with her fears. She is now ready to move on to Kindergarten. What a month!

Donna Kenske lives in Canton.

Gone fishin'



Charlie Bonner and his son Joe enjoy their time away at the YMCA camp.

Adventure Guides give kids quality time with dad

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Neal Haldane and his daughter Laura blow bubbles at the spring campout at Camp Nissokone near Oscoda.

Jenni Kirby loves spending time with her dad, Mark, especially when he's the one baiting her hook during their camping trips with Adventure Guides. The YMCA program offers parents of both sexes the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with their children. The Kirbys belong to the Livonia branch, but Adventure Guides is offered through Y's in Farmington Hills and Plymouth as well.

"It's really fun having quality time with my dad," said Jenni Kirby, 12. "What's special about my dad is probably

Please see **GUIDES, C2**



Jenni Kirby shows off the feathers she's earned as an Adventure Guides Princess.

Rescue groups gather for doggie adoption day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Trixie the Beagle is very tolerant of children. She is about 1 to 2 years old.



Hoppie, a 5-year-old Samoyed/Golden Retriever/possibly Chow mix, will be available for adoption through Daisy's Doghouse Rescue on June 23, at the K-9 Academy. He has an old back injury and has difficulty walking. That's why he's called Hoppie.



Henry is a 14-month old Rottweiler in need of a home. He is available through Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan.

Trixie is one tolerant dog. When Rachel McLellan's 3-year-old daughter, Keela, rubbed Elmer's Glue into the beagle's fur, the young dog barely moved a muscle. Lovable Trixie is just one of the dogs looking for a permanent home during the first Adoption Day 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at the K-9 Academy Training Facility south of Michigan Avenue, east of Venoy, in Wayne. For more information, call (734) 641-9507 or visit www.k9atf.com for directions.

McLellan runs Daisy's Doghouse Rescue which saves dogs from kill shelters and provides foster homes until animals are adopted. McLellan's

Please see **DOGGIE, C3**



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313-527-4000

Southgate Urgent Care
15777 Northline Rd., Southgate
734-324-7800

Warren Urgent Care
31700 Van Dyke Ave., Warren
586-276-8200

Woodland Urgent Care
22341 W. Eight Mile, Detroit
313-387-8700

GUIDES

FROM PAGE A1

everything. This Saturday we went camping. A few weeks ago, we went to see a movie. The program has really brought us closer."

Adventure Guides, formerly known as Indian Guides, meets monthly in Circles based on age. The groups are responsible for organizing activities from crafts and a pine box derby to an overnight stay at a submarine in northern Michigan. Three times a year, members of a Circle go away to camp with their parents. Jenni belongs to a Princesses Circle for daughters and dads, but programs are available for father-sons, mother-sons and mother-daughters. Tommy Kirby, 11, enjoys doing new activities with his dad as a Guide.

"It's fun," said Tommy Kirby. "You get new experiences like learning how to do archery. We went to camp in May and did canoeing and caught some King frogs. My dad's special because he takes time out of his work to spend time with me."

The main reason Mark Kirby joined Adventure Guides 15 years ago with his daughter, Amy, now 19, was to share quality time with his children individually. His wife, Linda, became involved with the program 23 years ago with son James, now 28. All five Kirby children have

been in the Livonia Guides which Linda now directs.

"It's become an all-consuming part of my life. I define myself as being a dad before what I do for a living," said Mark Kirby, 47. "I want for my kids when they have kids to have the same relationships that I've tried to nurture with them. This is one of the only programs available where you spend one on one time with your kids. There's no mom. You get to do things you don't usually like Zipline across rivers, lakes, fields. Everything's safe because you're strapped into this harness. Jenni and I just returned from Oscoda where we got to take out a 15-man canoe on the lake, got to go fishing and sometimes take her fish off. I'm trying to get them to be more independent."

'A BLAST'

Neal Haldane cherishes the fun times with his kids in Adventure Guides. He would like to encourage more parents to consider joining the Livonia Y program he belongs to with daughter Laura, 15, and son Chris, 12.

"It's a blast," said Neal Haldane, a Madonna University journalism professor. "At a campout last weekend in Oscoda with Laura, we went kayaking, did bows and arrow, and just generally hung out and walked along the lake. You're not dropping your kid off. You're interacting with

your child."

Kids and parents from Commerce to West Bloomfield enjoy the Farmington Y Adventure Guides for ages 5 and up. As a former volunteer Guides' Navigator, Charlie Bonner helped plan the events that begin Sept. 16 with a canoe and barbecue at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Bonner has three children in program - Joe, 7, Chris, 11, and Alex, 14, who is now in the Trailblazer program for older kids. On Father's Day, he will be driving Chris to a two-week camp run by the Y in Oscoda.

"He got a taste of what camp is all about and wants to go to regular camp," said Charlie Bonner, 46, of Wixom. "It makes memories with the kids, and I think it sticks with the kids too. My first memory of Indian Guides is when I was a child. It's one of the favorite memories of my dad."

Like Bonner, Rob Ferree was in Indian Guides with his dad. The Plymouth Township man enjoys the program with his daughters so much he serves on the Plymouth YMCA board. About 50 families participate in Plymouth Guides including Rachel, 14, Hannah, 12, and Emma Ferree, 10.

FAMILY TIES

"We were in Girl Scouts and church programs, but this was a father-daughter program," said Rob Ferree, a 46-year-old geologist who works as an environmental consultant. For me it's enjoying my three girls and has helped benefit our relationship so I'm not seen as this foreign thing when they become teenagers."

For more information about the Livonia Adventure Guides, call Linda Kirby at (734) 464-1360. Bryan Baker, who oversees the Farmington YMCA Guides, can be reached at (248) 553-4020, Ext. 121. Plymouth YMCA executive director Josh Landefeld is Guides liaison. Call (734) 453-2904.

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(734) 953-2145



Children from Livonia, Westland, Canton, and Redford had fun last summer at the camps run by the YWCA of Western Wayne County in Taylor's Heritage Park.

YWCA camps offer fun for the summer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

It's Erin Evans job to make sure this summer's YWCA camps draw children from around the area to Heritage Park in Taylor for the week long sessions of fun. This summer she's scheduled a variety of activities for kids (ages 6-15) who live in Livonia, Redford, Canton, Westland, and other communities in Western Wayne County.

The camps begin June 18, and continue to Aug. 31. Campers can sign up for the entire summer or only one week.

The cost is \$100 per week per child. Discounts are available for siblings. YWCA membership is not required and financial aid is available.

For more information, call Evans at (313) 561-4110, ext. 14.

Camp activities include basketball, scavenger hunts, science experiments, arts and crafts, and a talent show.

"We have theme weeks with activities, games, guest speakers including people from the humane society, on disability, nature, a career week with 5 different professionals, the fire department," said Evans, program director. "We're trying to

make it fun. Every week they'll be going swimming, to the library, on various field trips. They're going to be learning a lot. We want to provide high quality child care in the summer."

Youths, ages 12-15, can sign up to participate in the Counselors-in-Training Program designed to teach the basics of camp counseling. The program helps develop job skills including communication, leadership, and understanding the importance of responsibility and decision making.

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Free water aerobics program boosts fitness

Mothers and seniors around Metro Detroit can get a free fitness boost this summer thanks to a water aerobics program sponsored by Health Alliance Plan (HAP). Moms in Motion and Senior Splash Bash water aerobics classes will be offered for free this summer in 10 Southeast Michigan communities including Livonia and Westland.

Moms in Motion and Senior Splash Bash classes give seniors a low-impact, calorie burning workout and help mothers get in shape to keep up with their kids and have energy to spare to take care of themselves. The program begins in June and ends in August.

While the program targets mothers and

seniors, any adult may participate.

Physical activity can help reduce the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke, depression, colon cancer, and premature death. Water aerobics can be ideal for just about anyone because the buoyancy of the water reduces stress on joints, bones and muscles, and participants can burn calories more efficiently than in traditional workouts.

Livonia classes run noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from June 23 to Aug. 18, at the Sheldon Pool, 3123 Van Court.

Westland classes continue 3-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Aug. 11, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road.

For more information, call (313) 664-8420.

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DOGGIE
FROM PAGE C1

organization, Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan, Mutts & Mutts, Michigan Weimaraner Rescue, Gibraltar Vets, Shipperkee Rescue, Michigan Miniature Schnauzer, and Pet Angels for Life will fill the 4,600-square-foot K-9 facility with dogs of every shape and size. McLellan and her daughters, Keela and Charity, will be at the event with Patsy, a Westie/Pomeranian mix, and Hoppie, a Samoyed/Golden Retriever/possibly Chow mix.

Adoption fees and policies vary with organization. "Keela will be heart-broken when Trixie leaves," said McLellan of Canton. "Trixie is very tolerant of children and also very smart so she's trainable, about 1 to 2 years old, healthy, and mastered sit and shake hands in one day. "The Adoption Day is important because it gets dogs attention. My little beagle girl has been with me four months and it's a chance to promote her rescue. We'll also be fund raising. We rescue dogs that cost

over \$1,000 in medical bills. I sell my homemade dog cookies made with rice flour instead of wheat and dipped in carob (chocolate substitute), and homemade kitty cat toys filled with organic cat nip to raise funds."

Judy Sabo would do just about anything to find dogs a forever home. Sabo, co-chair Tina Foley, and the K-9 Academy staff are holding a raffle for T-shirts, dog treats, leashes, and toys to lure prospective dog parents to the event. Each new owner will receive a \$50 coupon for an obedience class at K-9 ATF. "We hope to have a lot of fun," said Judy Sabo, event chair and an obedience trainer at the K-9 Academy owned by Terry Foley, a Wayne Police canine handler. Foley trains 60 law enforcement K-9 teams in the area.

"Dogs give unconditional love. I grew up with a beagle from age 4. My brother and I used to bring home every stray we found."

Julia Hornshaw began working with Rottweiler Rescue of Southeastern Michigan coordinator Toni Hetherington in Auburn Hills about 6½ years

ago. Hornshaw is bringing two Rottweilers - Eleanor, 4, and Henry, 14 months old - to the Adoption Day.

Hornshaw can't say enough good things about the breed. "We call them Velcro dogs (because they stick to you)," said Hornshaw of Livonia. "I've had dogs all my life, Rotties 11 years, and I understand Rottweilers are not the dog for everyone, but like the Lab and Golden Retriever they just want to be loved.

"Henry was being left out in back yard in a kennel and his dog father was beating him up all the time so he has scars on his nose. He wants to be with you all the time."

Cindy Orlandi of Michigan Weimaraner Rescue is bringing Casey Jones, a 6-year-old neutered male currently looking for a new home. She says the way to Casey's heart is through his tummy as he is a very food-motivated learner and loves to practice his obedience so he would make a great 4-H dog. Casey interacts well with all the dogs in rescue, and is learning to live with a cat in his foster home.

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Saturday June 23rd Gates Open 2:30pm

- 3:30pm • Nelson Rangell [wsg Philippe Saisse]
- 4:45pm • Spyro Gyra
- 6:15pm • The Sax Pack [feat. Jeff Kashiwa, Kim Waters & Steve Cole]
- 7:45pm • Brenda Russell
- 9:15pm • Dave Koz "At The Movies" [feat. David Benoit & Phil Perry]



Sunday June 24th Gates Open 2:30pm

- 3:30pm • Lin Rountree
- 4:45pm • Kelly Sweet
- 6:00pm • Alexander Zonjic [wsg James Lloyd]
- 7:30pm • The Rippingtons [featuring Russ Freeman]
- 9:15pm • India Arie

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REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

St. Mary of Redford

All classes
St. Mary of Redford School Alumni "All Class Sock Hop" (Reunion) will be held Saturday, October 6; 4 p.m. Mass, 6 p.m. Reunion. For further information, please contact: Dave DiPonio at ddi-ponio@wadetrim.com or (313) 363-6153 or Jamie Sloan at jes521970@aol.com or (248) 391-0607. The Sock Hop will be held in the "Old" SMR Gym on Mansfield in Detroit. Reservations required by Sept. 14.

Fordson High School

Class of 1969
Planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Garden City High School

Class of 1972
A 35-year reunion is planned for Saturday Oct. 13, 2007. For more information, contact Lori Howe Richardson at (734)421-7808 or lhowrich@hotmail.com or Sharon Burke Parkila at (734)421-3108 or sparkila72@aol.com.

Class of 1987

Searching for all class of '87 Alumni for a 20-year reunion. Need to find current information on alumni (name, address, phone, email, etc.). Contact GCHSClassof87reunion@comcast.net or call Sheryll (Prietryka) Catton at (734) 367-0898.

Class of 1989

Need classmates to register online with names, addresses and email addresses to Paula at gch-1989reunion@hotmail.com and check out web site at www.myspace.com/gchs20threunion. The reunion date has not been set yet. In addition to our class we are also looking for members in the classes of 87, 88, 89 for a combination reunion at some point. So if you are in any of those classes contact us also.

Hamtramck High School

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion 1:30-8 p.m. Saturday, July 28, 2007, John Barclaycorn's Bar & Grill, 112 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Tickets are \$30 a person or \$60 a couple. Web site www.1987hamtramckhigh.com. For more information, contact Jayne Panicker at (630)338-9622 or email itsabouttime1987@comcast.net or jaypanicker@yahoo.com.

Kennedy High School

Classes 1966-69
Aug. 4, 2007, at Crystal Gardens, Southgate. For more information, contact Nancy Mascaro Miller at nancy.mm@comcast.net or (313)291-

3558.

Livonia Churchill

Classes of 1971-2007
Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or Chris@ChurchillAlumni.com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ChurchillAlumni.com.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969
A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com.

Novi High School

Classes of 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977
A combined class reunion, July 28, 2007 at Rock Financial in Novi. For information please contact: Laurie (Maier) Butler (1974) lbutter@motorcityharley.com; Claire (Salow) Klingelhofer (1975) clairek1@comcast.net; Leigh (Tarczy) Guzowski (1976) laguzow@alumni.nmu.edu; Patty (Pohlman) Mayer (1977) mayer123@comcast.net

Our Lady of Sorrows

Class of 1966
Aug. 17, 18 and 19. For more information, call Pat Ormsby LaPlante at (248)476-0634.

Redford Thurston High School

Classes of 1957, 1958
A 50-year reunion is planned with several events Sept. 14-16 at Embassy Suites, Livonia. For information, contact Ron Beller at (989)652-9724 or e-mail at Admiral741@yahoo.com or Marian Keegan Hierholzer at (248)349-2697 or e-mail at Mamia@comcast.net

Classes of the '80s

Thurston High School's '80s Reunion Committee will host a 2007 THS Multi-Year Reunion from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Hyatt Regency, in Dearborn. A limited number of first-come/first served tickets at \$59 per person will be available and no tickets will be sold at the door. E-mail Andrea Gambotto (Class of '86) at andshaffer@netscape.net or Dan Phillips (Class of '82) at DanielP422@yahoo.com. Representatives from graduating classes of '80, '82, '88 and '89 are sought.

Inkster Roosevelt High School

Class of 1957 and 1958
A combined reunion on Sept. 21-22, 2007, at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. All classes welcome. For information, contact Yvonne (Guertin) Mack at (734)464-7748 or email ymack@wmj.rr.com or Stan Plentack at (734)475-2797.

Roseville High School

Class of 1956
A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information,

call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at alijune1939@scbglobel.net or thehermans2002@comcast.net.

Roseville High School

Class of 1957
Seeking classmates for 50th reunion, Oct. 13, 2007. Contact Rich Crowe at (248)583-9784 OR email: crowe_123@hotmail.com.

Royal Oak Dundero High School

Class of June-Jan. of 1959
Seeking classmates for Aug. 4 reunion. Include name, address and e-mail address to: Jean (Elliotte) Palmer 248-435-7875, TJPalmer73@aol.com, or Mike Soule at 248-853-7483.

Royal Oak Kimball High School

Class of 1977
A 30th reunion, 6-12 p.m. Oct. 6 at Berkley American Legion Hall, 2079 W. 12 Mile, Berkley. Cost \$25 per person includes buffet dinner, beer, soft drinks, DJ and photographer. Casual dress. Organized by Sue (Bush) Carlin and Evelyn (Alverson) D'Arca. For information, contact Sue at (248)788-2109 or Susieluwho@aol.com or Evelyn at (810)678-3090.

Southeastern (Detroit)

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion is being planned for summer 2007. Looking for graduates of June 1987. If interested in attending or know of whereabouts of graduates, contact Terri Banks-Faison at (313)220-4769 or tntfaison@aol.com

Southfield High School

Class of 1977
A 30th Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007. For further information, contact MDurz@aol.com or IleneSilvermanAbrinSHS1977@comcast.net

St. Anthony Elementary

All classes
Reunion on Oct. 6, 2007 for the Detroit school at 25th and Vernor. Email mrk44yaho.com or call (734)995-9243 for further details and to give us your contact information.

St. Casimir School and Church

Graduates and parishioners of St. Casimir's School and Church are invited to a two-day celebration at Madonna University on July 14-15. It includes a reception, dinner-dance, Mass, brunch, bus tour and picnic. For more details, contact Tom Wozniak at 734-525-7240 or twozniak@twm.rr.com. The parish and school Web site is www.saintcasimir.com.

St. John the Baptist grade school

In conjunction with its 100th anniversary, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Detroit hosts a reunion of all former students of the parish grade school (1940s to 1980s). The event takes place 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 22, at the St. Joseph Banquet Center, 26440 Ryan (one block south of I-696) in Warren. Cost is \$45. For more information e-mail Eugenia Tkacz at genia46@juno.com or call (734) 284-2159.

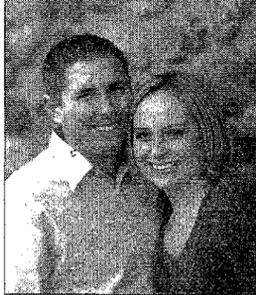
ENGAGEMENTS

Hall-Kondratowicz

Rick and Shila Hall of Plymouth announce the engagement of their son, Jeffrey Charles, to Sheri Ann Kondratowicz, the daughter of Dennis and Patricia Kondratowicz of Superior Township.

The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2002 and a master's in social work in 2006 from the University of Michigan. She is currently employed by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

The prospective groom is a 1997 graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 2003. He is currently



employed by Barton Malow and is working on the North Terminal Redevelopment Project at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A June 23 wedding is planned at Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens.

ANNIVERSARIES



Smarts 50th anniversary
Robert and Marilyn Smart will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bob & Marilyn were married June 15, 1957 in Sarnia, Ontario.

They are the proud parents of six children. Rob (Jan), Terri (Todd),

Tracey, Ruth (Mike), Chandra (Adam) and Leanne.

They have 11 grandchildren: Brittani Pulver, Melissa Smart, Brandy Smart, Robbie Smart, Tyler Sall, Aaron Sall, Kayleigh Dowling, Devin Dowling, Zenah Mitchel, Yakirah Mitchel and Aveevah Mitchel and 1 great-grandchild, Santiago Montelongo.

Bob and his son Rob own Garden City Upholstery of Farmington. Marilyn is a homemaker and volunteers for several community organizations. They will celebrate their special day at their home.

Setlock-Bischoff

Brian and Joan Bischoff of Midland announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Bischoff to Scott Setlock, son of Richard and Faye Setlock of Canton.

Christina received a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University and is currently in the master's program at Grand Valley to become a physician's assistant.

Scott received a bachelor of business administration degree from Grand Valley. He is currently a credit manager at Mercantile Bank working toward a master of business



administration from Grand Valley.

A wedding is planned for Dec. 15, 2007, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Grand Rapids.

Davis-Creech

Susan C. and Roger L. Davis of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie Davis, to Scott Ray Creech, son of Marj A. and Jack J. Stewart of Clawson.

Angela attends Washtenaw Community College studying nursing. She works at the University of Michigan health system as a patient services assistant.

Scott has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University and is working at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design as a human resources coordinator.



An Oct. 20, 2007, wedding is planned for Immanuel Bible Church. A reception will follow at Chelsea Comfort Inn Village Conference Center.

Mooradian-Fahlstrom

Mrs. Kathleen Mooradian of Redford Township announces the engagement of her daughter, Kathryn A. Mooradian, to Eric T. Fahlstrom, son of Daryl and Judy Fahlstrom of Jackson, Mich. Kathryn is also the daughter of the late Martin C. Mooradian.

The bride-to-be graduated from Redford Union High School and Grand Valley State University. She is employed by American Laser Centers, Inc.

The prospective groom graduated from Lumen Christi High School and also attended Grand Valley State University. He is employed by Jasman Construction, Inc.



A late August 2007 wedding is planned at St. John Catholic Church in Jackson. The couple will make their home in Stockbridge, MI.

Darnells' 60th anniversary

James Darnell and Donna Darnell (Campbell) were married June 20, 1947 at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Detroit, Michigan.

The celebration of their 60th anniversary is shared with them by their children, Mary Ann, Lorne, Judy, Dennis, Robert, Jean, Kathleen, Patricia, Thomas and Stephen (Mark and Carl deceased), and 28 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, as well as their many relatives and close friends.

Mr. & Mrs. Darnell wish to express their sincerest gratitude for all the unending love and support accorded to them by so many people over so many, many years.



Coles celebrate 50th

William and Joanne (Oestreich) Cole of Plymouth celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with a luncheon at Fox Hills June 16. The couple wed June 22, 1957 in Luckey, Ohio.

After earning her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Joanne started her business teaching career in 1954 at Bentley High School in Livonia, where she continued until the birth of her son, David. After that, she taught part-time at Schoolcraft College and earned a master's degree from U-M.

In 1969 Joanne became the first court recorder in the newly established 16th District Court in Livonia. She resumed teaching in Livonia Public Schools in the early 1970s until her retirement in 1995.

William graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in secondary education and obtained his master's degree from U-M in 1959. He had various experiences in the tool-and-die industry before and after entering his major career of teaching industrial education.

In 1955 William started his teaching career at Bentley High School. He retired in 1991.

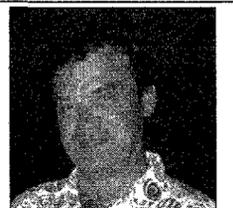
The couple has two children, David (Dina Mansour) Cole of Grabbill, Ind., and Susan (Peter) Makarov of Independence, Minn., and four grandchildren: Leyla Cole, 18, Jasmine Cole, 14, Peter Makarov, 11 and Kirsten Makarov, 16.

Passages

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In Memory Of



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We miss you Dad and Papa! You left us so suddenly; there were many things we had to say, we think of you each and every day. We love you Love, Jen, Shane, Ashton and Dakota.



ELEANOR CAROLINE SIMULA

Age 91. Wife of the late Robert. Beloved Mother of Gail (Fred) Engdahl. Loving Grandmother of Robby and Timmy Engdahl. Dear sister of Wilbur (Phyllis) Sheibels and Robert (Esther) Sheibels and the late William Sheibels. Also leaves numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. Eleanor was active with Bostford Hospital Volunteer Guild, Grace Lutheran Church and worked at Detroit Edison. Visiting Monday 4-9 pm Services Tuesday 10 am at Charles Step Funeral Home 18425 Beech Daly (Btw 6-7 Mile). Interment Roseland Park Cemetery. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

RICHARD LYLE LARKIN

Born October 20, 1921. Passed away June 4, 2007. Beloved husband of Virginia M. Larkin to whom he was married for 65 years, and loving father of Susan Corwin, Janis Cosgrove, and Beth Curtis; adored grandfather of Michael, Ryan and Matthew Cosgrove; Jenna Corwin Moscoso and David Corwin. Former longtime resident of Plymouth. A long-time Prescott resident, Richard passed away quietly in his sleep. He was born in Pontiac, MI, and raised in Northville, MI. Richard's older brother, Harry, a hero of Omaha Beach, predeceased him; his sister, Verna Thompson, lives in Garden City, MI. Richard served in the U. S. Navy in the South Pacific during WWII. Virginia was the love of his life, and he always credited everything they shared to her love and understanding. He is now happily reunited with his father, who died when Richard was only seven, his two sisters who died in early childhood, and a very loving dedicated mother. A celebration of Dick's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the Prescott United Methodist Church in Prescott, AZ. Family suggests memorials to Prescott United Methodist Church for either the Chancel Choir Fund or MYF, 505 W. Gurley, Prescott, Arizona, 86301. You are invited to log in to sign Dick's guestbook and view a tribute to him at: www.ruffnerwakeup.com

CARVELL F. PERRY

Age 91, who lived with daughter, Jean Garcia in Westland, MI, went home to be with the Lord on May 23, 2007. Born in Hickman KY. Burial took place on May 30, 2007, in Mayfield, KY.

NORENE E. PILURAS

Age 74 of New Port Richey, Florida, formerly of Westland, MI. Died June 9, 2007. Beloved mother of Tom (Sally) Piluras, Lynn A. Taylor, Drn Ann Lovely, Michael D. Piluras. Loving grandmother of Angie, Doug, Demitra, Andrea, Julie, Tyler, Virginia, and Emily. Dearest great-grandmother of Dezarae and Keiandre. Norene was a strong, giving, and caring woman who will be missed by all. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice 12107 Majestic Blvd, Hudson, Florida, 34667

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

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Culver's contest looks for summer flavor favorites

Looking for a cool way to celebrate summer and make every day deliciously different? Culver's of Westland is kicking off a What Flavor Are You Today? Contest on Thursday, June 21, with two tasty ways to enter and win: guests can either express their flavor personalities on video or create their own customized original flavors.

To inspire local contestants and to celebrate the return of summer, Culver's, at 6500 Newburgh Road, will give away complimentary samples of Culver's local Flavor of the Day on June 21. This is Culver's third annual free sampling day.

"Culver's guests are passionate about our fresh frozen custard," said Bob Fitzpatrick of the Westland's Culver's restaurant. "The What Flavor Are You Today? Contest is our way of rewarding that passion and giving Culver's loyal frozen custard fans an opportunity to express their own unique flavor personalities to win cool prizes."

With more than 100 taste-tested Flavors of the Day served at Culver's, topping today's favorite flavors won't be easy, but Culver's of Westland is confident custard cravers and summer snackers will be up to the challenge. After all, there are more than 1,000 ways to customize Culver's frozen custard treats with more than 30 types of nut, fruit and candy toppings.

People can submit their entries beginning June 21 through July 27 by completing an entry form on www.myflavortoday.com. Guests can create a video that tells Culver's about how their favorite frozen custard flavor helps them celebrate an everyday occasion or reflects on their mood or personality, then upload their videos on YouTube.

Or guests can enter Culver's original flavor contest by choos-

'The What Flavor Are You Today? Contest is our way of rewarding that passion and giving Culver's loyal frozen custard fans an opportunity to express their own unique flavor personalities to win cool prizes.'

BOB FITZPATRICK, Culver's restaurant

ing to build either a sundae or Concrete Mixer, selecting a favorite flavor of frozen custard and up to three toppings. After creating and naming the original flavor, complete an essay describing the choice of flavors and the occasion for enjoyment.

Based on the originality and creativity of entries, a panel of judges including Culver's co-founders Craig and Lea Culver will narrow the field to up to six original flavor entries and up to five video entries for an online voting phase. As a contest finalist, guests could win a chance to receive coupons for either 30 Sundaes or 30 Concrete Mixers courtesy of Culver's.

Once contest finalists are selected, a two-week period to vote online for the best original flavor and video will run Aug. 6 through Aug. 17 at myflavortoday.com. The video and original flavor receiving the most online votes will win.

Guests can learn more about the What Flavor Are You Today? Contest and enter at myflavortoday.com for a chance to win a \$1,000 Frozen Custard Treat Spree, to appear in a Culver's TV commercial, or to see their favorite flavor combination in Culver's restaurants.

No purchase is necessary to enter or win the What Flavor Are You Today? Contest or to enjoy Culver's complimentary Flavor of the Day on June 21.

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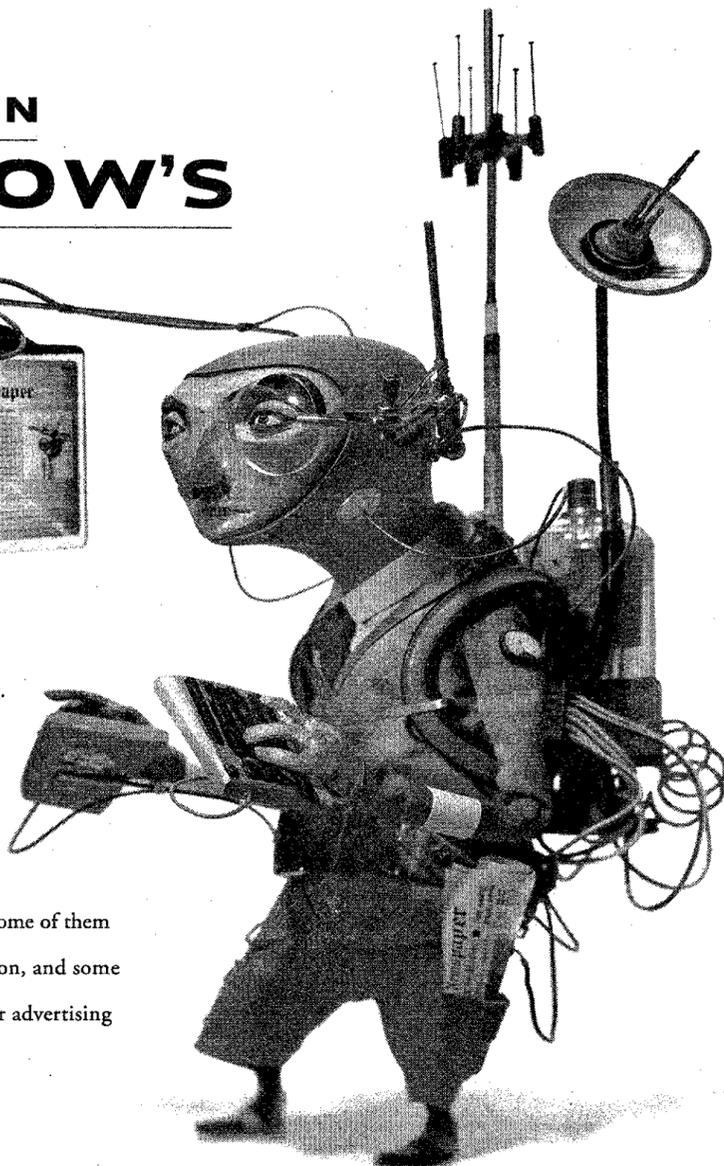
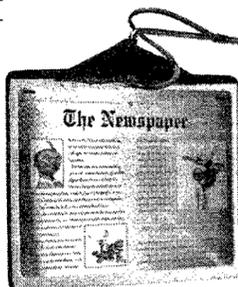



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All in the genes VHL disorder requires constant monitoring

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Wheatley Coleman is busy planning her wedding for July 2008, but between now and then she'll make time to fly to Maryland for brain and spine scans as part of a National Institutes of Health study on von Hippel-Lindau syndrome (VHL).

Coleman might never have known she has VHL if not for the genetic testing she went through during her senior year at Plymouth Canton High School. Since then, the 26-year-old Detroit school teacher has been monitored annually for the presence of tumors and cysts, which could lead to vision and hearing loss, paralysis and kidney cancer, among other problems.

Coleman's mother had VHL and left it up to her children to decide whether they wanted to know if they carry the gene. All three eventually underwent genetic testing. Neither Coleman's sister nor brother has VHL. Their mother died five years ago at age 45 after a tumor hemorrhaged during her 10th brain surgery. VHL tumors in the brain, spine, retina and other parts of the body are benign, but can cause deadly complications. VHL tumors in the kidneys can be cancerous and metastasize.

"My mother's strength and ability to cope with an illness like this has inspired me," said Coleman, who lives every day to the fullest. Coleman played basketball in high school and college and still occasionally coaches seventh-grade boys basketball. "It definitely affected my life, made me very aware of my mortality and made me prioritize better."

Regularly-scheduled monitoring is essential to prevent

complications, according to Dr. Ghaus Malik, who's treated patients with VHL for the last 30 years. Malik is chief of neurosurgery at Beaumont Hospital and vice chair of neurosurgery at Henry Ford Hospital. He says symptoms such as headaches and vision loss could indicate VHL.

"You have to have periodic examinations," said Malik, of Bloomfield Township. "Eyes seem to get affected earlier. If you have family history, start evaluating the children. It is relatively uncommon, but we have a higher concentration of VHL here in Michigan. Being a genetic disorder, once it gets started, it runs in families."

Fran Mott is an exception. She is among the 20 percent of patients with a new mutation or change in the sequence of DNA coding. Mott was a 10-year-old growing up in Livonia when she began losing vision, but was not diagnosed with VHL until her early 30s. Today, physicians are monitoring the eight tumors in her brain.

"You can live with brain tumors as long as they don't cause problems," said Mott, who's had three brain surgeries. "Tumors in the eye can blind you, in the middle ear cause hearing loss and balance problems, in the spine can cause paralysis."

Over the years, Mott has read everything she could about the genetic disorder. As chairperson of the Michigan chapter of VHL Family Alliance based in Boston, Mott helps VHL patients understand the defect named after Dr. Arvid Lindau, a Swedish pathologist, and Eugen von Hippel, a German ophthalmologist, who first recognized the disorder. Founded in 1993, VHL Family Alliance is in touch with about 14,000 VHL patients in 72 countries, and Mott with about 200 VHL patients in Michigan.



Wheatley Coleman (right), sister Elizabeth and dog Cessna pose on top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Upper Michigan. Wheatley has von Hippel-Lindau, a genetic disorder. Elizabeth does not.

"People who died of renal cancer, now their kids can be watched," Mott said. "They may never have tumors. It's best to see a geneticist who coordinates patient care because you need a team of doctors. With early detection, careful monitoring and appropriately timed intervention, a lot of the problems can be avoided."

Not every tumor is removed. Three of Mott's brain tumors were watched for eight years before one required surgery.

"We monitor them and if they start growing or caus-

ing pressure, then you remove them," Malik said. "At times, they might not grow very fast. In the past when you got a tumor in the kidney, they removed the entire kidney. Now they're able to remove only part of the kidney."

Dr. James Montie believes treatments will continue to improve. The University of Michigan urologic surgeon has been treating VHL patients for about 25 years.

"It's an inherited susceptibility, but there may be ways to prevent or decrease the

frequency, change how quickly the lesions may grow," said Montie, the U-M Valassis professor of urologic oncology. "There's been a great deal of progress in understanding when to intervene with surgery, ways to treat cancerous lesions when small. Research into genetics of VHL translated into understanding the molecular problems that led to a treatment for the same cancer in people without VHL. The way some of the drugs are being developed may slow down the growth of some kid-

ney cancers."

In the meantime, Malik applauds the work of VHL Family Alliance.

"They have been doing a wonderful job in educating people, providing support," he said. "The battery of tests — MRIs, CT scans — can become taxing on patients."

For more information about VHL and the VHL Family Alliance, call Mott at (248) 887-8617 or visit www.vhl.org.

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This Father's Day, urge dad to take care of his health

An estimated 766,860 men will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year in the U.S. Sadly, 289,550 of those will lose their life to the disease that's more than four times the seating capacity of Ford Field.

This Father's Day, make sure your Dad gets the facts on cancer and the risk factors associated with it. Educating men to become active participants in their own health care is one of the most effective ways to reduce their personal risk for cancer. More men die of lung cancer than any other cancer yet are most frequently diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Across the U.S., 116,560 men will die from some form of lung or prostate cancer accounting for nearly half of all the cancer deaths faced by men this year. Luckily, the death rate for lung cancer in males continued to decline significantly from 1991 to 2003 by about 1.9-

percent per year. However the most prevalent risk factor for lung cancer is still cigarette smoking. If you or your Dad smoke, please urge them to quit.

While prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men, it is not a death sentence. With early diagnosis and treatment, survival rates approach almost 100-percent. Age, ethnicity and family history are all risk factors for prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that any male over age 50 ask their doctor for annual screenings and men with higher risk should begin early detection testing at age 45.

African American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer incidence in the world, with a one in five probability that they will develop the disease in their lifetime. African American men also face mortality rates more

than twice as high as those of white men.

While these facts about prostate cancer are a wake-up call, there is good news. In the last decade, there has been much progress in the battle against prostate cancer. Testing and treatment options have improved and have been accompanied by a growing movement to educate men. The ACS urges all men to get as much information about cancer as they can, and to talk with a doctor to determine their personal risk.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. For more information, call (800) ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE

Locks of love

A fund-raiser to raise money for Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that makes wigs for children who have suffered hair loss due to medical conditions such as cancer. The event takes place 1-5 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Shula's Steak House in Troy. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, live entertainment, an entry into a raffle for many great prizes. Children under age 12 are free. For tickets, call (248) 680-9616 or send e-mail to michelle.hoika@marriott.com.

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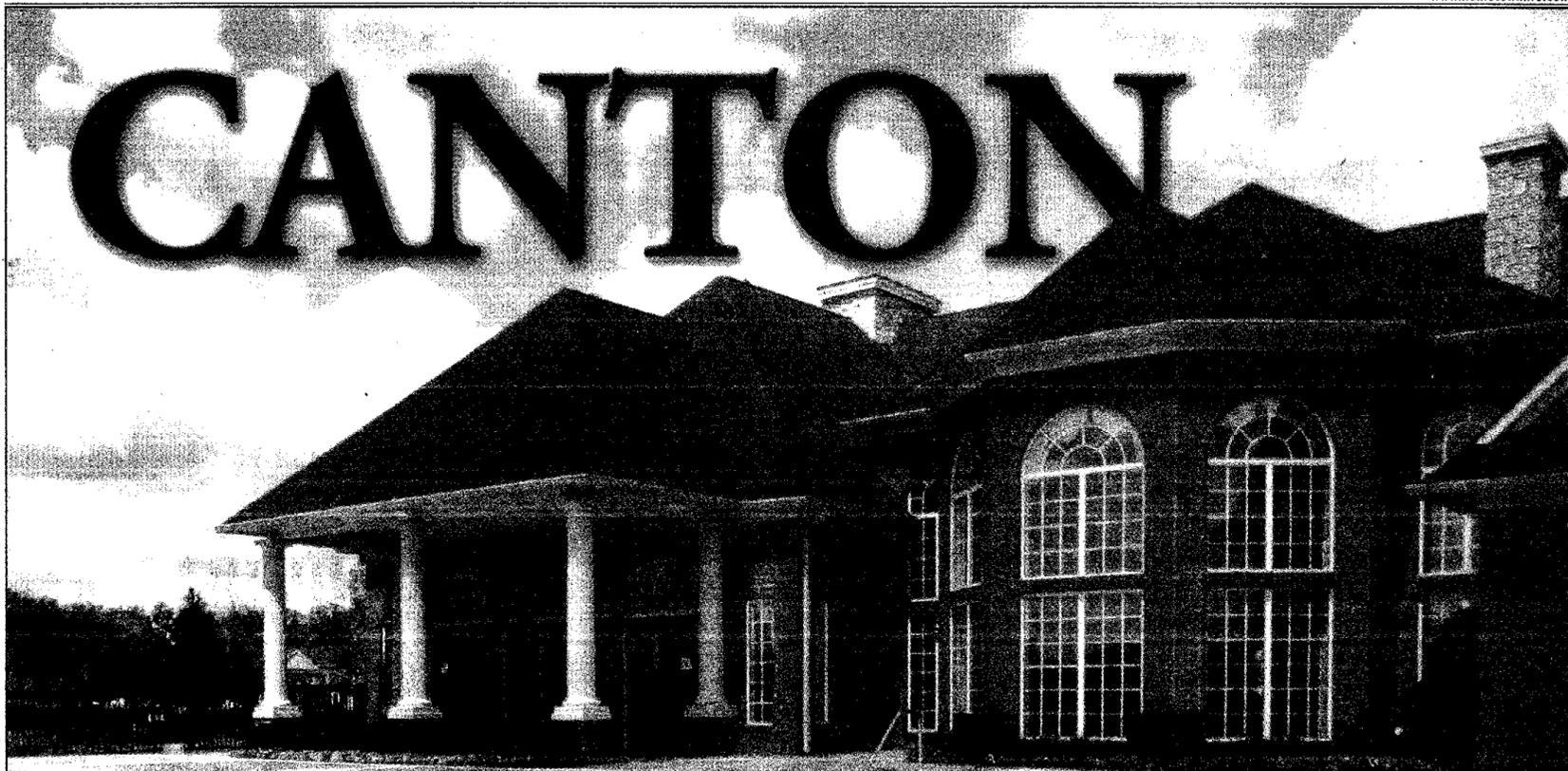
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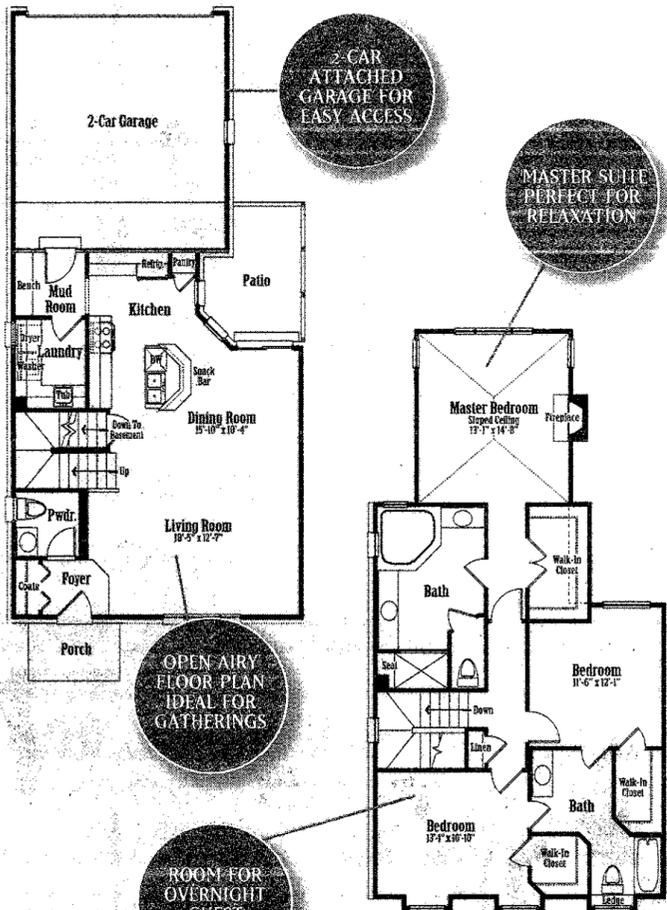


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