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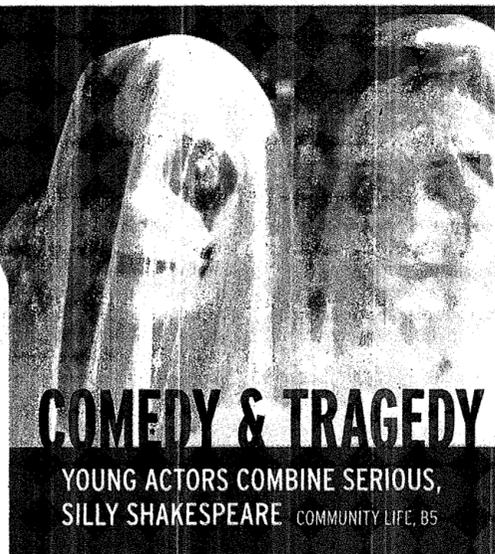
Look Inside! **MONEY SAVING COUPONS!**

MCCOTTER OPENS PLYMOUTH HQ FOR PRESIDENTIAL BID, A3

SUNDAY
August 7, 2011

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IN BRIEF

Tony Bennett sweepstakes

Our website, Hometownlife.com, just started a new contest for Tony Bennett tickets at the Fox Theatre. Two lucky winners will get a pair of tickets to the Aug. 24 show. Our Facebook followers can enter once a day and invite their friends to enter the contest for extra entries. Every time a person you invite enters, you get another chance to win! Just go to Hometownlife.com and click on the photo of Tony Bennett in our Don't Miss module to enter (which is located on the right side of our homepage.) The deadline to enter is midnight, Thursday, Aug. 18.

Prize winner

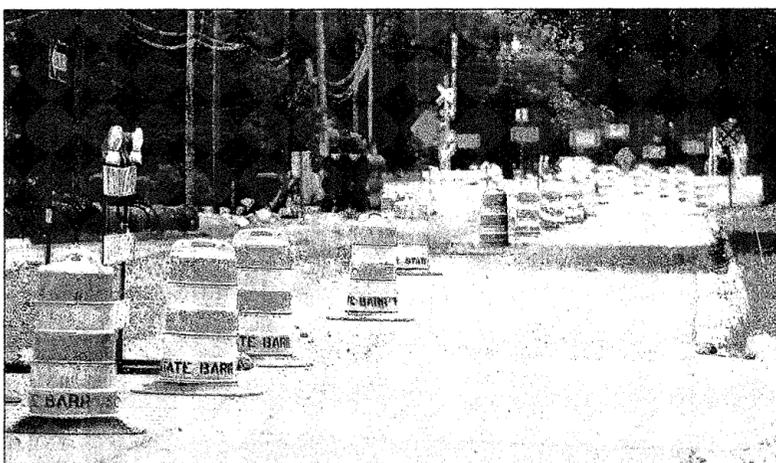
Big Lots Chairman and CEO Steve Fishman and Senior Vice President of Marketing Rob Claxton will be at the Big Lots store in Livonia Friday to present Wayne Memorial High School with a check for more than \$20,000, after the school's video about its music program won the grand prize in Big Lots fourth annual Lots2Give video contest. Wayne Memorial was among 35 winning schools from across the country in the contest. Big Lots asked participating schools to submit a short video and brief essay explaining why their need for financial support. Along with the Lots2Give video contest, Big Lots collected in-store donations to help the 206 schools enrolled in the Lots2Give program. From April 25 through July 4, Big Lots customers were invited to make \$1 or \$5 donations at participating stores. Due to the generosity of the public, this initiative raised more than \$130,000 for the schools.

In conjunction with the Lots2Give program, Big Lots will acknowledge the efforts of educators by hosting an in-store Teacher Appreciation Day event Saturday, Aug. 13. All educators with a valid school identification card will receive 10 percent off their entire purchase.

Quilt show

The popular Plymouth/Westland Gramme Quilt Show will be taking place at a new location this year. The annual quilt display, with vendors, classes, food and door prizes, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at St. John Lutheran School, 2602 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Parking is off of Glenwood behind the school and beside the church. Donations will be accepted at the door. Leora Smith, show coordinator, said quilted items of all types, including clothes, can be entered. The items can be delivered to the school, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19. There will be a 'People's Choice' award given at the end of the show on Saturday. For more information, call Smith at (734) 398-5190.

"We hope that the stretch between Venoy and Wayne Road will be completed before school starts, it looks close." - GREG BARACY, superintendent



A string of orange barrels and black pipes line Glenwood by Schweitzer Elementary School. With the start of school about a month off, it's clear school officials will use an alternate plan to get students to school.

Glenwood road rebuilding enters 'challenging' phase

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials see the installation of curbs along Glenwood east of Wayne Road as a good sign that that portion of the three-mile road work will be completed by next month. "We hope that the stretch between Venoy and Wayne Road will be completed before school starts, it looks close," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. Glenwood is being completely rebuilt between Venoy and Newburgh. The work includes the installation of a 24-inch water main by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department.

"It's coming along, they've started putting in the curb and gutters and should start putting down asphalt in the next few weeks," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford. "This three-mile stretch was a complicated project and then they threw in a 24-inch water main."

Traffic on Glenwood has been limited to one way since April and there have been intermittent lane closures. Buford has met periodically with Wayne and Westland city officials as well as representatives of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools as the work has progressed. And with a mutual

aid agreement, the Wayne and Westland police and fire departments have covered for each other in the area.

"It's been a great cooperative program," Buford said. "The cities were able to get a federal grant to cover more than 81 percent of the cost. They were going to share the remaining 18 percent, but that is being paid for by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department so it could do the water main work at the same time."

"The mile left to complete from Wayne Road to Newburgh is the most challenging portion of the project," said Buford. "Workers will be boring under Wayne

Please see **ROADWORK, A2**

RESA taps Weaver for W-W board

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Former Wayne-Westland Board of Education President Fred Weaver thinks the district he used to lead "faces more challenges than there have ever been" and believes his eight years of experience, including three straight years as president, makes him the right choice to fill an open spot on the board.

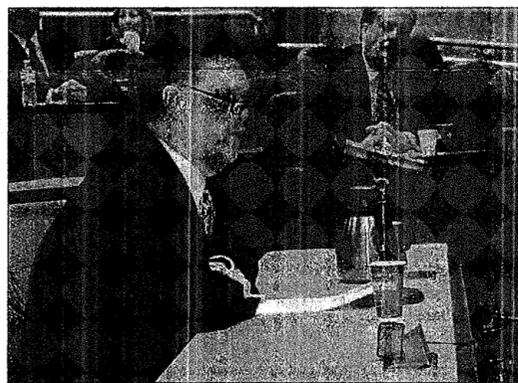
The five-member Wayne Regional Educational Services Agency board agreed with him Wednesday, plucking Weaver from among a field of six candidates to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of William Gabriel.

Weaver, who served eight years on the board before resigning in 2008 after taking a position with a church in Midland, was obviously pleased to be the choice to serve the remainder of Gabriel's term, which expires June 30.

"I'm excited about the opportunity given to me to again work with (Supt.) Greg Baracy and the other board members to move our district forward," Weaver said after the decision was announced.

Weaver beat out five other candidates: Scott Davis, general manager at Value City Furniture making his fourth

Please see **BOARD, A2**



Former board president Fred Weaver was chosen by the Wayne RESA board to fill the Wayne-Westland Board of Education vacancy.

Cover letter to address technology costs in U-verse agreement

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

U-verse subscribers will have to wait a bit longer to see WLND programming.

Westland Mayor William Wild has told the council that he and City Clerk Eileen DeHart School will not sign an contract with AT&T until he brings a cover letter addressing additional costs for upgrades during the three-

year agreement.

The council had approved the contract in May in which the city will pay more than \$8,218 annually for a high-speed Internet connection which will allow council meetings and other WLND programs to be viewed on AT&T's U-verse system. It included an amendment that any future costs in necessary upgrades in hardware and software caused by changes or upgrades in

AT&T broadcast procedures, maintenance, or practices be included in that \$8,218 charge during the three-year contract.

"AT&T will not change the language in the contract, so they're doing something in a cover letter," Mayor William Wild said. "I think it will satisfy what you wanted to do."

Wild added that he plans to present the cover letter to the council at its next meeting and let the members decide if they

want the administration to go ahead and sign the agreement.

"If you want to tell us to go ahead and sign, we will do that," Wild said.

The three-year service agreement was narrowly approved by the council on a 4-3 vote, and included a cap on the expenditure at \$8,218 per year. Council members Christine Bryant, Adam Hammons, Meriem Kadi and Michael Kehrer supported

the measure, while Council President James Godbout and Councilmen Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves opposed it.

According to Deputy Mayor Jade Smith, AT&T declined to modify the contract to account for the amendment because the document is one that the company uses nationally.

"AT&T wasn't willing to negotiate the language, but it

Please see **LETTER, A2**

Belleville woman gets probation in teen's death

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Belleville woman has been sentenced to probation for interfering with a police investigation in the death of Carlee Morse.

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin sentenced Tina Marie Lowe, 49, to two years probation and ordered her to pay \$783 in fees and court costs. Lowe had been charged with accessory after the fact to a felony and interfering with a

police investigation related to disappearance of the Westland teenager, but the accessory charge was dropped as part of a plea deal.

Lowe is the mother of Nicholas Cottrell, who has already pleaded guilty to helping murder the Westland teen. She was accused to trying to get a witness not to talk to police. The witness had provided information that led police to Cottrell and Justin Yoshikawa, both of whom knew Morse, whose body hasn't been located.

Cottrell pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is serving 25-50 years in prison. He is currently housed at the Saginaw Correctional Facility with his earliest possible release date in 2035.

Part of Cottrell's plea agreement was that he testify against Yoshikawa, who has been charged with first-degree murder. In his testimony in 18th District Court, Cottrell described Yoshikawa as having planned and car-

Please see **SENTENCE, A2**

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SENTENCE

FROM PAGE A1

ried out a plan to strangle the 16-year-old Morse, his former girlfriend.

Morse was reported missing after she disappeared shortly after midnight Aug. 20, 2010. The teen's family and friends searched for her, but the police

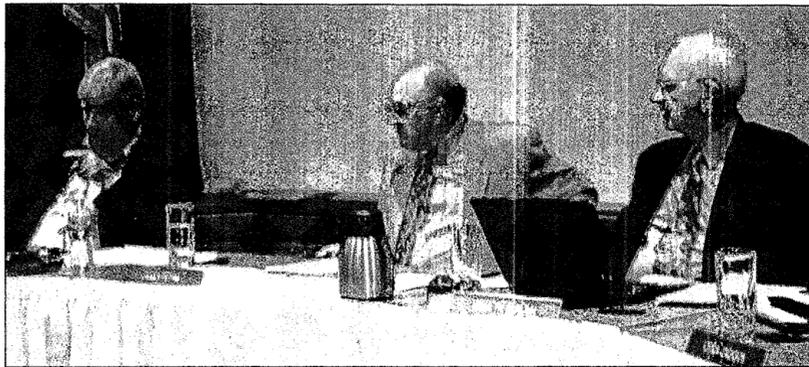
investigation and statements from the defendants were that Morse was killed shortly after leaving her apartment to take a ride with Cottrell.

Both men told police similar stories about Cottrell inviting Morse to take a ride and smoke marijuana while Yoshikawa hid in the back seat. Yoshikawa and Cottrell told police that they smoked marijuana, then drove

around aimlessly before placing Morse's body in a Dumpster outside a church. Her body has not been located.

A jury trial for Yoshikawa had been scheduled for July 13, but has been adjourned until Oct. 3. Yoshikawa has been jailed since his arrested in December 2010.

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Wayne RESA board members James Beri, James Petrie and Kenneth Berlin question Fred Weaver during interviews for the vacancy on the Wayne-Westland school board.

LETTER

FROM PAGE A1

was receptive to a cover letter," said Smith. "The mayor was not inclined to sign the agreement as is, so he is bringing the cover letter to council for its approval."

Due to the different technology used by U-verse, a digital encoder was required to convert the programming, which would be transmitted along a dedicated high-speed Internet connection. Cable

providers WOW! and Comcast don't require any conversion to broadcast the local programming.

Local U-verse subscribers have complained for several years about the lack of local programming even though they pay local franchise fees along with the Public Education Government or PEG fees, the latter designated to pay for local channels like WLND.

While a majority of the council favored the agreement, Godbout saw it as "a bad deal for the city." He had estimated

the city would pay back about \$25,000 of its PEG fees to AT&T which would provide the WLND programming and not the education and local access channels that are also provided by the cable providers.

"We're paying to make them competitive and I've got a problem with that," he had said at the time.

Smith believes that the council will approve the cover letter, clearing the way for the agreement to be signed.

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BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

try to get on the board; former board member Jeffrey Hayton; management consultant Bhagwan Dashairya, stay-at-home mom Michelle Sample; and Kevin Headrick, a manager in the Providence Hospital system.

Virginia Shroat, senior director of business planning and analysis at R.L. Polk & Co. in Southfield, withdrew her name from consideration.

Wayne RESA board members were forced to make the appointment after the Wayne-Westland board couldn't muster four votes for Davis, who had tried three other times — for a vacancy in February, in the May election and for the failed vote for this vacancy. When the W-W board couldn't agree within 30 days of Gabriel's resignation, responsibility for the choice fell to the RESA board.

And members weren't happy about it.

"It would be our wish not to be put in this position," RESA board President Mary Blackmon said, a sentiment echoed by other board members. "But it's a decision that has been thrust upon us, and it's a decision we will make."

Among the challenges Weaver said the district faces are the school aid fund — "Everyone has been forced to live within their means," he said — and increasing test scores.

But more than once during his interview, Weaver alluded to discord among the six current board members, and said the board must come together to work with Baracy to overcome those challenges.

"I'd like to see cohesiveness on the board," Weaver said. "I have no use for board members who have any agenda other than the children of this district. We have to make sure the mission of the district is constantly before us, and that we're working toward that mission."

RESA board members felt like Weaver's candor about

the issues facing the Wayne-Westland board, plus his previous experience on that board, made him the obvious choice.

"It was his experience, and the judgment he'd displayed over the years," said board member James Petrie. "I thought he was a little more candid about some of the issues that are dividing the board. He was more candid about how those were going to need to be addressed."

"There were other people there who were honest, forthright and caring individuals there," Petrie added. "I hope they don't drift away ... they can be valuable assets to that district."

Wayne-Westland board member Cindy Schofield said the choice of Weaver was the right one.

"I think he'll be able to jump right into the decisions and the role," Schofield said. "There won't be a large learning curve for him. These are positives for the district."

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ROADWORK

FROM PAGE A1

Road, a pipe for a county creek and the railroad tracks to install the water line."

Wayne-Westland has two schools along Glenwood impacted by the project. Wayne Memorial High School is on the Wayne side of Glenwood east of Wayne Road, while Schweitzer Elementary is on the Westland side at

Treadwell, west of Wayne Road.

Baracy said school buses are already running alternative routes because of the road work and parents affected by it will be notified by ListServe.

"Right now the one lane is westbound, so whatever the flow of the traffic is that's how buses will come in and exit," he said.

Schweitzer is getting a bus loop as part of the project. The first base course was put down

when the roadwork was moved up a year. It will be finished when the final course is put on that stretch of Glenwood.

"We'll be able to utilize it all next year," Baracy said. "There will be some program inconvenience, but it will be great when it's done."

The work is scheduled to be completed by November.

"This was the right thing to do, Glenwood was in terrible shape," said Buford.

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Michael Goree with his sister Winifred Drumright

Michael Goree and his family became involved with the care of their sister, Winifred Drumright, when she suffered loss of oxygen to the brain during a medical procedure. Thanks to Four Seasons, Winifred returned home and continued progress with supplemental care from Residential Home Health, an agency specializing in treating neuromuscular diseases, Parkinson's ALS, multiple sclerosis, MD, and stroke.

"Winifred's Four Seasons nurse was a wealth of information and gave us great caregiving tips. We're so grateful to the people there," said Michael Goree. "Residential Home Health kept the regimen going—the same bed time, feeding time, medicine schedule. They showed us how to care for her, to keep her healthy."

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Students travel world without leaving studio

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton artist Sharon Lee Dillenbeck has taken 400 area students on a summer journey around the world to places such as the Taj Mahal, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Eiffel Tower and the Egyptian pyramids. They've dabbled in cultures of Russia, Australia, Greece, India and Africa.

And they did it without leaving Dillenbeck's D&M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley near Joy Road, where they have painted, drawn and used materials such as clay and plaster gauze to create art — all part of summer art camps celebrating one theme, "The Face of the Nations."

Dillenbeck, marking her 25th year in business, adapted this year's summer arts program to reflect Canton's burgeoning cultural influences.

"This year we wanted to encompass diversity," said Dillenbeck, vice chair of the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage.

Dillenbeck and her part-time art instructors — Shirley Moore, Bethany Grysko and Kyla Suchy — are teaching age-appropriate, one-week classes for budding artists, ages 6 to 16, who are spending three hours a day creating their own art and their own portfolios.

ALL AROUND TOWN

The youngsters come from communities such as Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Redford, Livonia, Northville and Garden City. Each participant will choose one piece of art to feature in a free, open house set for noon to 7 p.m. Aug. 29 through Sept. 1 and noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 2-3 at D&M Art



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sisters Rachel and Dani Pfannes are six-year veterans of artist Sharon Lee Dillenbeck's summer arts camp.

Studio.

The young artists also have contributed to a large mural inside the studio that encompasses the places and landmarks featured in "The Face of the Nations."

"We make sure we cover every part of the world," Grysko said.

In one camp, 13-year-old Sarah Sebastian of Westland and her classmates used clay to make pots they decorated with Native American art. She enjoys the camp.

"You get to express yourself in your own way," she said.

Canton sisters Rachel and Dani Pfannes have attended Dillenbeck's summer arts camp for six years.

"It's a lot of fun," Rachel, 12, said. "We got to make papier maché masks, and that was fun to do."

"Everybody here is so nice," Dani, 11, said.

Every young artist receives a medal, a certificate of completion, art supplies — and the confidence to continue express-



Bethany Grysko explains the next project to the class — stylized letters that spell their names.



Clay instructor Shirley Moore works with student Santino Colangelo.

ing themselves artistically.

LIFE'S JOY

It's a way Dillenbeck, a long-time artist who studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, can

contribute to a profession that has brought joy to her life.

"It's my passion," she said, sitting in her studio, and although she is a gifted artist herself, "my gift is that I can teach art. I'm now teaching the kids of

the kids I used to teach."

Dillenbeck has two daughters of her own — Kristen Dillenbeck Anderson, 28, a financial planner in New York, and Erin Leigh Dillenbeck, 26, a Wayne-based graphics designer specializing in tattoos. Sharon Dillenbeck has been married for 29 years to husband Larry, an insurance industry professional.

Her last summer camp of the season occurs Friday, Aug. 19. That leaves time to prepare for the open house — an event that allows her summer students to choose their best work for public display.

"They all have an inner artist," Dillenbeck said. "We respect that."

For more on Dillenbeck's business, visit www.dmartstudio.com or call (734) 453-3710

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Pay it forward: Man hopes good deeds are passed on

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

James Beck just wanted to do something good.

On April 1, he gave away his possessions, packed up his car and left his home in Santa Monica, Calif.

Beck began a journey to help others with hopes that those he assists will "pay it forward" and do the same. Beck visited Livonia, his stop in Michigan, the 20th state in his quest to help others in all 50 states.

On Wednesday, Beck sorted T-shirts for the Livonia Senior Olympics. On Thursday, he visited a nursing home. On Friday, he helped clean out a garage at a home in Garden City, then on Saturday, helped move items out of a home in Dearborn Heights to get it ready to sell.

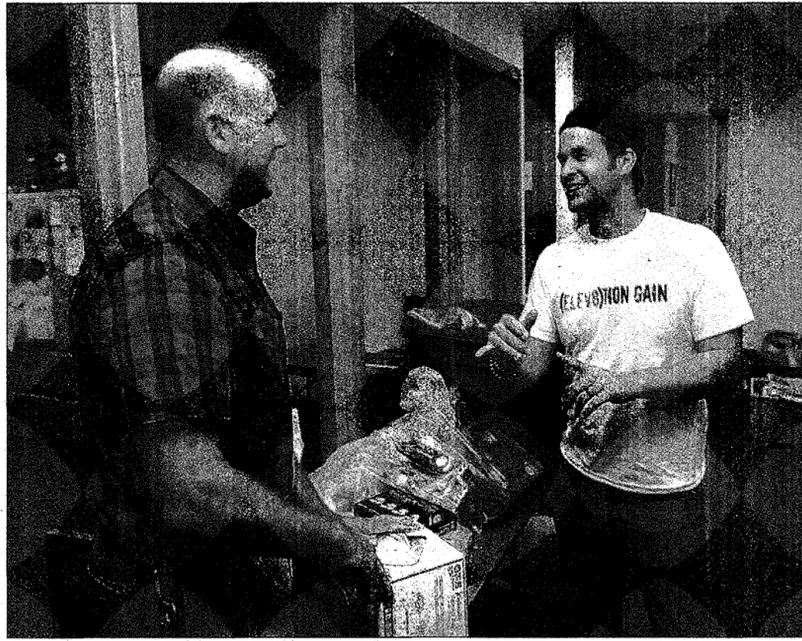
Beck left a life of his material goods behind with hopes of finding more fulfillment in his life through good deeds.

BECK'S LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

Beck worked as a production assistant on the TV sitcom *Men Are from Mars & Women are from Venus*, served tables at Gladstones Malibu and worked as a masseur at Burke Williams Day Spa in Santa Monica, then worked on the show *American Gladiators* and four seasons of *The Biggest Loser*. In 2010, he managed Jade Healing Retreat, a surgical recovery facility that worked with top plastic and orthopedic surgeons in Beverly Hills, including the clinical chief of plastic surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and several doctors.

That life didn't make him happy, Beck said. He felt like he was trying to connect to others through material things, like the seven pairs of sunglasses he owned, even at times exhibiting traits of a hoarder, he said.

So this year the 36-year-old masseur decided to dedicate



Karl Peters, recreation supervisor at the Livonia Senior Center, (left) talks with James Beck during Beck's visit to the center on Wednesday.

his life through 2011 and 2012 to serfbliss, a pay-it-forward social experiment where he spends three days with a family to help others.

He acknowledges that some of his relatives didn't like his decision to walk away from his job and give up his possessions. "My dad didn't quite get it," Beck said. "He was scared about my safety, and my uncle was opposed to it."

But his journey is reconnecting him to old friends and relatives of his friends, too. His Livonia hosts, Mary and Bill Cook, have known him for 10 years through their son, Jai, who lives in California.

GIVING AWAY POSSESSIONS

The Cooks were out visiting Jai and daughter Heather in March. Beck sub-let his apartment to Mary and Bill Cook and lived elsewhere.

"At this point, we know nothing about James' serfbliss

plans," Rose Cook said. "We arrive in Santa Monica, walk into James' apartment, and the first thing I see is a 40-by-40-inch oil painting of a monk walking with a child. I see it as the teacher, Buddha, mentoring a child."

Cook fell in love with the painting, then son Jai tells her about serfbliss. Beck asked Jai to plan a going-away party on April 1, which was also Beck's birthday, where Beck revealed his serfbliss plan and plans to give away his possessions to friends. The Cooks stayed through April 1. Rose told her son that she liked Beck's painting, but insisted to him that he not ask Beck for it.

"If no one else wants it, then it is meant for me to have it. If someone else asks for it, it wasn't meant to be mine," Rose told Jai.

Cook was disappointed on April 1, when Jai told her that Beck had promised his paint-

ing to a friend and that she was picking it up that day. Cook and her daughter left to go out that day, and when they returned, the painting was gone.

BECK VISITS THE COOKS

The Cooks decided to let Beck stay at their home during his journey.

Rose Cook said she believes his deeds will get others to continue his work and extend his message to help others.

"All the good he is doing is a synergistic effort," Rose said. "We're doing good things. It's the whole thing he's doing to pay it forward."

"He's going to clean out my sister's garage, then we're cleaning out a house in Dearborn Heights to sell. James offered to do that."

Beck has performed services that run the gamut, some light and amusing ones, others serious and stressful on families.



This painting, once owned by James Beck, hangs in the living room of Rose and Bill Cook's home in Livonia.

Beck has baby-sat for a family for the parents to go out and celebrate a birthday. He taught an economics class and wrote a speech.

VIDEO SHORTS ARE ONLINE

Beck documents his journey with YouTube videos on serfbliss.com.

In Joplin, Mo., he helped a man around the house who took Beck in even though his son had just died. Beck helped clean the man's yard of fallen trees and accompanied him fishing.

In North Dakota, a family's daughter suffered from dystonia, a painful muscle disorder. Beck called contacts in California and researched to help the parents comfort their 13-year-old girl, who suffered painful spasms, all over her body at all hours of the night. Yet the girl managed to create clay flowers, a part of her therapy, which she donated to a Petal Peace project to help other children.

Beck helped a woman in Nebraska who had a fire and lost many of her possessions. She had difficulty walking, but two days of massages helped her with her condition, Beck said.

People have offered to provide him with a place to stay and donations help him pay for gas and auto insurance, but Beck said he doesn't go out

and ask for money.

"With me, it's just getting others to duplicate, or even triplicate, the process," Beck said.

And that is connecting others through service and good deeds. The service can include washing dishes, repairing a porch, helping out with a relationship, serving others, or even just life encouragement.

"It's about giving the time and skill you already have," Beck said.

"Everyone always talks about how we need to act and live in a different way," Beck said. "This (journey) turns everything on its head. I just take it one day at a time, and so far, it's been successful."

"If you're able to live a life of transparency and honesty, then you're in a good place."

Rose Cook loves that Beck is carrying his message nationally.

"You ask, he will help," Cook said. "If each person he helps, helps someone else and they help someone else ... well, you get the idea."

Cook was disappointed when the painting was gone, but in mid-April, after the Cooks had returned to Michigan, she received a package. She knew what the 40-by-40 inch package contained.

"Before I opened it, I honestly cried with joy," Cook said. "It was the Buddha painting." She learned Jai mentioned to Beck that his mother loved the painting. Beck responded, "Then she needs to have it."

When Rose and her daughter left on April 1 to go out, Rose's husband Bill and Jai packed the painting and had it shipped to Michigan.

"The painting is hanging in my living room," Rose said. "James is sleeping in the same room that his Buddha painting is in."

"Needless to say, James feels right at home in Livonia."

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WOODWARD READY

The Body Curve brings new life to the classics, and more

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The duller and rustier, the better. There's nothing Scott Murphy and his team at The Body Curve can't make shine. The collision and paint shop has been bustling all summer, bringing new life to old classics and fixing those "oops" dents on brand new cars, including a bright green Chevy Camaro currently at the shop. They're even giving a fresh paint job to an old Model A bus, delivered this week from Greenfield Village.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Murphy closes the gullwing doors on a client's late model Camaro.

Just walking into the lobby of the shop, located on Orchard Lake, north of Eight Mile in Farmington Hills, it's obvious that they can make anything look awesome — even the service counter has an electric blue and silver wave pattern; and the doors are pieces of art, too.

The bright orange 1959 Cadillac that's parked in front of the business catches the eye, just as the 1950 Mercury that has a "flip flop" paint job that appears to be purple and blue from one angle and orange from another angle.

"It definitely got a lot of attention," said shop owner Scott Murphy.

'CONVERSATION PIECE'

That beauty is no longer at the shop, but the orange Caddy is for sale (call Murphy at (248) 442-1122 for information). It has a silver base coat and a translucent orange coat to give it a "candy" effect.

"It's a conversation piece," said Murphy.

They've pretty much done a little of everything at The Body Curve, which he opened in October of 1995.

"We just did a 1970 El Camino; we finished a 1967 Mustang," he said.

Currently, they've got a '67 Chevelle, a '57 Dodge panel

van and a '68 Mustang in the shop. They also do motorcycle gas tanks, helmets and just about anything you can think of — from toilet seats and refrigerators to bed frames and hot rods.

"We have all the tints to make any color you can think of," said Murphy. "We can pretty much paint anything."

Murphy, who has been restoring stuff since he was a kid, started his business after he realized he enjoyed bringing things back to life, so to speak.

"It's all about going through the stages," he said. "Instead of trying to run up the steps, you've got to climb."

They paint the vehicles piece by piece, and take great care in making sure the customer is perfectly satisfied.

"I just love taking the old cars and I have a lot of pride in it," said Murphy. "I really enjoy it."

HAPPY CUSTOMER

Joe Derek of Farmington Hills brought his 1989 Firebird to The Body Curve. It had been spray painted by the previous owner.

"It was a 20/20 car," said Derek. "At 20 miles per hour and from 20 feet away, it didn't look bad."

It's the first classic car Derek

and his wife, Judy, have owned — and it's their latest recreation since Derek retired from the Farmington Hills Nature Center last year.

They're enjoying the 350 / 5.7-liter engine and the new Nassau blue paint job. They've already taken the car to the Grand River Cruise-In, which happens every Monday at 5 p.m. at the Village Commons parking lot on Grand River in downtown Farmington, and they've joined the Royal Pontiac Club of America. They'll be hanging out at the Fesard GMC on Woodward during the Dream Cruise, too.

Derek said he's always noticed The Body Curve, and the gorgeous cars parked in front. He's happy with the work they've done on his Firebird.

"The difference is that they take the entire car apart and each piece is painted by itself," said Derek.

With the shiny new paint job and a new rear spoiler, the Dereks are ready to show it off on Saturday, Aug. 20, on Woodward.

"It's the muscle car my parents wouldn't let me have," he said, grinning.

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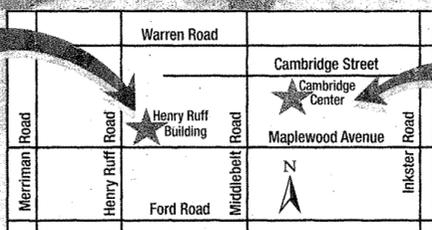
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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Open house

The Garden City Co-op Preschool is holding an open house for parents 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

The preschool offers classes for youngsters 18 months to four years of age. Parents can visit the classroom and enroll their children for the 2011-2012 school year.

More information is available at www.gardencitypreschool@gmail.com.

Rummage Sale

Garden City Presbyterian Church Women's Group will be holding its annual Rummage Sale on Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 18-20. Hours for the sale are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The church is at 1841 Middlebelt, just one block south of Ford Road. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-7620.

Dine and Dash

Tickets are now on sale for the eighth annual Dine and Dash. Dashers may order their tickets simply by call-

ing the Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448 or by stopping at the Garden City Farmers Market on Wednesdays during the month of August to order tickets there.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$70 for party of four.

The event will be held 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13. Tickets include: A souvenir Dine and Dash T-shirt, complimentary appetizers from the participating eateries, transportation (Big Yellow School Buses), and an evening of fun for family and friends.

Limited seating available, so contact the chamber office or visit its website at www.gardencity.org and click on upcoming events.

Dine and Dash is hosted by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce, the Garden City Public Schools and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Golf outing

The Lyman Foundation is sponsoring the 32nd Annual Lyman Golf Outing benefiting Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

The outing will be held on Aug. 13 at Hickory Creek Golf Course. The Lyman Foundation is looking for hole sponsors and golfers for the event! Hole sponsors will be acknowledged in the golfing program and with the local media.

For more information regarding hole sponsors or registering to golf in the event, contact Sharon Lundie at (734) 728-4919.

Museum fund-raising

The Friends of the Museum are continuing their fund-raising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlour for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for the 4-inch by 8-inch size that has up to three lines. The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for up to six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items. Call (734) 838-0650 for more information or visit www.sfonline.org.

County gets clean opinion on audit policies, procedures

Wayne County's audit policies and procedures are once again being held in high esteem.

The Wayne County Office of the Legislative Auditor General received a "clean opinion" from the Association of Local Government Auditors, following a recent external quality control review, or peer review, of the OAG.

A "clean opinion" means the ALGA team evaluated Wayne County's audit policies, procedures and processes and concluded that the county's internal quality control systems were suitably designed and operating effectively.

"I am so proud of our entire audit team, led by our Auditor General Willie Mayo," said Wayne County Commissioner Ilona Varga, D-Lincoln Park, who chairs the commission's Committee on Audit. "To

once again gain such prestigious recognition among peers solidifies our belief as a commission that the Wayne County Office of the Auditor General is dedicated and committed to assuring transparency and maintaining the highest level of accountability."

In the assessment released by the government team, the county's auditing operations were found to be in compliance with industry standards and practices issued by the U.S. Comptroller General and the Institute of Internal Auditors. This marked the second time since 2008 the Wayne County Office of the Legislative Auditor General has received this type of evaluation.

"Most internal audit organizations are either qualified to perform yellow or red book audit engagements," Wayne

County Auditor General Willie Mayo said. "Being an orange book peer reviewed shop means we continue to be a part of an elite rank of internal audit organizations in the country who are qualified to perform both GAGAS and IIA standards audit engagements."

The review covered a period from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2010. Included was a one-week on-site examination in early July that was conducted by government auditors from California, Washington and Florida.

"I believe we are successful because of the training we offer our staff on a continuous basis, the utilization of the state of the art software, OAG's commitment to excellence and, most of all, the support our department receives from the CEO (County Executive Office) and Wayne County Commission leadership," Mayo said. "The OAG's success would not be possible without these key ingredients."

"To have successfully completed our fourth peer review means we are compliant with the Wayne County Charter requirement for the internal audit department to be peer reviewed tri-annually and it adds credibility and integrity to the reports being issued by the OAG," Mayo added.

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Food and wine event benefits Schoolcraft College students

The Schoolcraft College Foundation presents its annual Culinary Extravaganza, a premier food and wine event that highlights the culinary talent of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

This year's event, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, marks two special anniversaries — the 20th year of the food and wine event and the college's 50th.

The extravaganza allows guests to sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon, while at the same time support student scholarships. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships and grants for students. Individual tickets are \$50 each and available at the college or online.

Throughout its 50-year history, more than 300,000 individuals have been educated at Schoolcraft College.

Business and individual sponsorships are still available for this year's event.

"The generosity of our event sponsors is vital to our fundraising efforts and an excellent opportunity to introduce your business to alumni, donors, friends and community members," said Kristina Mayer, an officer of the Foundation Board of Governors and chairwoman of this year's culinary event.

"More importantly, proceeds raised from the extravaganza directly support student scholarships and our culinary arts program. Your support for one afternoon can change many lives," added Mayer, vice president and branch manager of Bank of Ann Arbor's Plymouth Township office.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food, wine and dessert stations, a silent auction and raffle, along with a wine-tasting seminar and wholesome healthy foods demonstration by master chef Jeff Gabriel.

FEATURED

Food and beverage vendors include Five Restaurant at St. John's Inn in Plymouth Township, Toasted Oak Grill and Market in Novi, Old World Olive Press in Plymouth and McCormick Distilling Co.



Culinary guests can expect tasty as well as creative displays of food and beverage at the fall event. At a previous event, guests look at the bread creations made by Jeff Greenwald.

SPONSORSHIPS

A variety of packages ranging from \$5,000 to \$300 are available for this year's 20th annual Culinary Extravaganza on Sunday, Sept. 25, at the Schoolcraft College VistaTech Center.

All sponsor packages include video signage at the event, recognition in print advertising in the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers, name in foundation publications and website and charitable tax deduction.

Sponsorship levels:

- Platinum (\$5,000) includes 12 tickets and admission to pre-event VIP reception, full-page event program advertising, name on outdoor electronic sign and two tickets to the Golden Gala - Ever Upward, a celebra-

In addition to food, attendees can bid on a variety of gifts cards and baskets, including a VIP wine-tasting at Chateau Chantal, a weekend stay at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or sports and entertainment packages.

Highlight of this year's raffle is a Hearts on Fire Diamond necklace from Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville valued at \$3,400. Other raffle prizes include \$500

tion of the college's 50th anniversary on Oct. 22.

- Diamond (\$2,500) includes eight tickets, admission to VIP reception, half-page program ad, name on outdoor sign and two tickets to 50th anniversary gala.

- Gold (\$1,000) includes six tickets, admission to VIP reception, event, program ad, name on outdoor sign and two gala tickets.

- Silver (\$500) includes four tickets and a business card ad in the event program.

- Bronze (\$300) includes three tickets and a listing of your name or business in the event program.

For more information or to secure a sponsorship, contact Marjorie Lynch at (734) 462-4518 or mlynch@schoolcraft.edu.

cash, \$250 cash (two winners) and dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant at Schoolcraft (three winners).

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. In addition, each ticket has value even if you don't win a prize. Patrons can redeem the ticket for discounts at the American Harvest, Steve & Rocky's in Novi and the Ironwood Grill in Plymouth. Raffle tickets are available at the college.

Lowered U.S. credit rating is uncharted territory

BY RICK BLOOM
GUEST COLUMNIST

Q: Dear Rick: I just read that even though our debt ceiling has been raised it's still possible that we could lose our AAA rating. How can that be? Also, if we lose our AAA rating, is that something that the average guy would notice or is it mostly much about nothing?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: There are two separate issues here. The first is the raising of the debt ceiling, the other deals with the credit rating of the United States.

The debt ceiling is how much the United States government can borrow. Congress sets a limit as to how much the government can borrow.

What happened last week was the government reached its borrowing limit. In order for the government to borrow more money it had to be authorized by Congress.

In the past when the government reached its limits, Congress almost always automatically increased the limit. This time, however, many in Congress said enough is enough.

They were not going to just blindly increase the debt limit. These members of congress wanted spending cuts, as opposed to borrowing more money.

The compromise that the Democrats and Republicans reached did call for spending cuts, but also raised the debt limit. Therefore, the so-called debt crisis, which could have led to our country not being able to pay the bills, has now been resolved.

The issue of our country's credit rating is something totally different.

Independent credit rating agencies such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's rate governments and businesses as to their credit worthiness. This rating is then used to determine interest rates paid on obligations. The higher your credit rating, the lower the interest you pay when you borrow money. It's the same with individuals — the higher your credit

scores, the lower your interest rate when you borrow money.

The reason U.S. treasuries pay low rates of return is because of their rating by the credit agencies. The credit agencies rate U.S. debt as the most secure debt in the world, in other words, no risk of default.

Credit agencies change the credit ratings of companies and countries based upon a variety of factors. Because of the amount of debt our country has incurred over the last couple of years, the credit agencies, which are independent, are considering lowering the rating by a notch or two. It doesn't mean that we are at risk of going to junk bond status, but if nothing more, it is a wake-up call that we have a problem with the amount of debt on our books.

I believe there is a 50/50 chance that our credit rating could be lowered. The major impact on consumers would be how that adjustment affects interest rates. More likely than not, the interest rate on U.S. treasuries will rise a little. That could be good news for investors in U.S. Treasuries, but not good for those who have charge cards and mortgages whose rates are tied to U.S. Treasuries. Those with adjustable rate obligations that are tied to the U.S. Treasury may find that their interest rates will rise on those obligations.

Other countries have had their credit rating lowered such as Japan, about 10 years ago. However, because of the unique position of the United States and the dollar in the world economy, lowering our credit rating puts us in uncharted territory.

How markets will be affected is unknown and it doesn't make sense to speculate. However, we do know that if the rating is adjusted, we will see a rise in interest rates.

Therefore, because of the potential of rising interest rates and because it makes good financial sense, investors need to do what they can to reduce the amount of their outstanding debt.

Good luck!

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

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ENROLL TODAY! CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 25!

McCotter opens Plymouth HQ for presidential bid

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

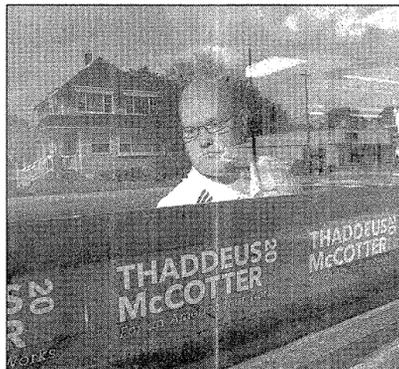
U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, the Livonia congressman and a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, opened his national campaign headquarters in Plymouth on Thursday. The office is at 614 South Main, near Wing Street. McCotter said the headquarters' outside-the-capital location "further proves our commitment to running a winning, grassroots campaign for

the presidency. "We in Michigan acutely understand the challenges of a global economy, and the necessity of shrinking big government and growing our economy," he said in a press release. "Most importantly we share the resilience to ensure that despite all obstacles, our free people will build an America that works, and affirm American exceptionalism in the 21st Century." McCotter, 45, of Livonia, has represented Michigan's 11th District since 2003. A former

Schoolcraft College trustee, Wayne County Commission member and state senator, he graduated from Catholic Central High School and earned both his bachelor's degree and his law degree from the University of Detroit. McCotter also announced Thursday that his former chief of staff, Martin Van Valkenburg, has been named a senior campaign adviser and state campaign director. Van Valkenburg will manage the day-to-day operations at campaign headquarters.

"I am pleased to join the McCotter 2012 team," Van Valkenburg said. "Thaddeus McCotter is the only candidate who understands the challenges facing Americans today, has the vision to lead them through difficult times; and has the fortitude to make the necessary decisions to govern effectively on behalf of the citizens of our great nation." The McCotter campaign's website is www.mccotter2012.com.

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



Martin Van Valkenburg, Michigan Director for Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's presidential campaign, hangs posters in the window of the new campaign headquarters. The office, at 614 S. Main Street, in Plymouth, opened Thursday.

AROUND WESTLAND

Comets honored

The Westland Youth Athletic Association is putting out a call for members of the 2001 Comets varsity football championship team.

WYAA plans to honor the team during halftime of the 2011 Comets varsity Homecoming game Saturday, Sept. 24, at John Glenn High School on Marquette west of Wayne Road in Westland.

Former players can contact Keith Demolay at 734-516-9269 for more information.

Garden event

Brenda Dziedzic, president of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, is holding an open garden event 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at her home at 1263 Springer St., Westland.

There will be butterflies as well as a display of eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises of various butterflies. The *Learn About Butterflies in the Garden* book will be available for \$21.

For more information, call Dziedzic at (734) 326-0578 or go online to www.ButterfliesInTheGarden.com.

Hearing seminar

Personalized Hearing will be hosting "Come HEAR what you may be missing..." presented by Dr. Karissa Jagacki.

The seminar will take place at the Friendship Center on Newburgh south of Ford. 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 2. The free seminar includes a luncheon after the presentation. Call the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628 to sign up.

Under the Big Top

The Kelly Miller Circus will be coming to Westland on Tuesday, Aug. 16, courtesy of the Westland Jaycees.

Public is invited to come and watch the animals being unloaded and the elephants pull the big top into the air to the very moment when the king pole races to the ground at the end of the day and be a part of the magic of "Circus Day" as it has been experienced for more than 200 years.

Activities will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the grounds of the Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road. Guides will be furnished for school groups and anyone attending.

The traditional "old style" circus will present two performances at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy a day at

the circus. Tickets are available in advance for \$6 children up to age 11 and \$10 for those age 12 and older. Call Harold Christian at (734) 502-8847, or e-mail him at International_pm06@yahoo.com.

Outdoor movie

The Westland Downtown Development Authority is sponsoring a Park It movie night Wednesday, Aug. 24 in the parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Yogi Bear will be shown on the big screen at 8:30 p.m., but the fun starts at 7 p.m. There will be live music, inflatable bouncers, kid's activities and free giveaways. There also will be concessions with food available for purchase.

The movie night is free of charge.

Open house

Westland Free Methodist Church will hold a preschool open house and sneak peek 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at the church, 1421 S. Venoy, south of Cherryl Hill, Westland.

Receive enrollment information, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and do fun preschool activities. Parents who enroll a child for the 2011-2012 year will receive half off the enrollment fee - a \$25 savings.

For more information, call the preschool at (734) 728-3559 or send an e-mail to wfm-preschool@yahoo.com. Or visit the website at www.livesare-changing.com/html/preschool.htm.

Summer bowling

Westland Youth Assistance

Program is hosting a free summer bowling league for Westland youth, between the ages of 10 and 16. The league meets 6-8:30 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 12 at Westland Bowl, at 5940 N.

Wayne Road. Space is limited to the first 80 Westland youth to register.

For more information, call (734) 467-7904.

Farmers Market

Westland Farmer's Market is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday in the Westland City Hall parking lot at 36601 Ford Road, through Oct. 25. Stop by and enjoy a wide array of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, jams, flowers, crafts and many other great items.

For more information, call Robert Kosowski at (734) 722-7620.

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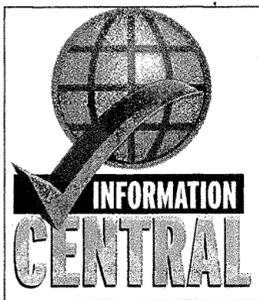
Marvel Comics' amazing Spider-Man

Spider-Man, A.K.A. Peter Parker, first appeared in August 1962 in Marvel Comics' Amazing Fantasy #15. The teenage Spider-Man was created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko. At that time, it was revolutionary that a teenager could be a superhero, not just a sidekick (think Batman and Robin).

Over the years Spider-Man has appeared in comic books, books, TV shows and movies. Spider-Man has acquired nicknames including "Spidey" and "web-slinger." Spider-Man's strength and agility are complemented by spider-like abilities, such as clinging to surfaces, quick "spider-sense" reaction time and the ability to shoot spider webs from his web-shooters.

In addition to his solo work, Spider-Man has worked with superhero teams, including the Avengers and the Fantastic Four.

When not performing his duties as Spider-Man, Peter Parker lives a normal life with his Aunt May and Uncle Ben in New York City. As Peter Parker grows up, he experiences struggles that all of us face - school, work and



money problems. These struggles make Spider-Man more identifiable to his readers than a hero like Superman who is god-like. Read the Ultimate Spider-Man comics to find out about Spider-Man's adventures. Check out other books on Spider-Man like Marvel Comics' "How to Draw Spider-Man," "Spider-Man: The Visual Guide to the Complete Movie Trilogy" by Alastair Dougall and "The Amazing Spider-Man: The Ultimate Guide" by Tom DeFalco, or movies like "Spider-Man" and "Spider-Man 2," "The Spectacular

Spider-Man" series, and "Spider-Man vs. Doc Ock."

In addition to Spider-Man, Stan Lee also created characters including the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, the Avengers, Iron Man, the Hulk, Thor and Daredevil. Stan Lee has also worked with other artists like Steve Ditko and Jack Kirby. The characters Stan Lee worked to create were more complex and flawed than previous superheroes. If you'd like to find out more about Stan Lee or the creation of Spider-Man you might find the following interesting: "Stan Lee: Writer and Creator" by Sue Hamilton, "The Creation of Spider-Man" by Paul Kupperberg and "Jack Kirby: Creator and Artist" by Sue Hamilton.

Give us a call at (734) 326-6123, check the online catalog at catalog.westlandlibrary.org or stop by the library to learn more.

Highlighted Activities

Summer Afternoon Movie: "Cyrano de Bergerac," 3:30 p.m. Aug. 9, Adults and Teens
Join us for the summer version

of Afternoon classics. This month's theme is Foreign Films, this week: "Cyrano de Bergerac" starring: Gérard Depardieu, Anne Brochet and Vincent Perez. This movie is rated PG. No registration needed.

Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting: 2 p.m. Aug. 9, Adults
The Friends of the Library is an independent group of local residents and library users that helps support and promote the Library and its mission. They plan book sales and other fundraising activities for the library.

Flora, Fauna, and the Holiday Nature Preserve: 7 p.m. Aug. 9, Adults and Teens
Join HNP president William Craig in a talk about the colorful and unique flowers and animals in the 500 plus-acre Holiday Nature Preserve in Westland. Learn how you can help HNP, as well.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 p.m. Aug. 10
The Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month in one of the Library's meeting rooms. Board meetings are open to the general public.

Summer Concert Series in the Pavilion: Toppermost Beatles Tribute 7 p.m. Aug. 11, All ages

For our final Summer Concert, we are going retro with Toppermost, a Beatles-tribute band. "The music is perfect for all ages, puts a smile on everyone's face and always manages to get you dancing." Limited seating is available so please bring a chair, if you have one. A 50/50 to benefit the Friends of the Westland Library will take place (winner announced at intermission). In case of inclement weather, the concert will move inside.

Amateur Chamber Music Workshop: 1 p.m. Aug. 13, Adults and Teens

Join a low-pressure group aimed at beginner to intermediate musicians who want to learn, play and practice duets, trios and quartets with other musicians. No instrument is required. A recorder is provided to the instrument-less and/or inexperienced. Please sign up at the Reference Desk or just show up.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and

1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays
Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Information Central was compiled by Tara Scott. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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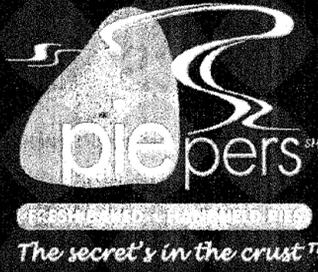
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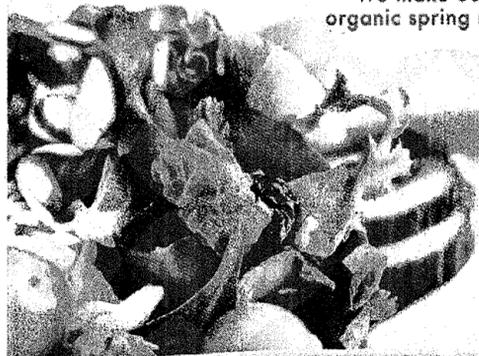
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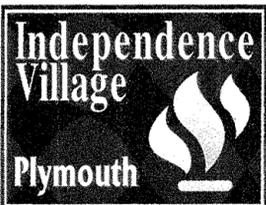
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INSIDE

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Welcome wagon

New faces abound for Madonna men's soccer

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When head coach Eric Scott opens practice Monday for his second Madonna University men's soccer season, he may need name tags.

With eight new recruits and 15 other players gone, the second-year coach will more than likely have an extended "getting acquainted" period.

"We lost (seven) a lot to graduation, so my assistant Ken Shingledecker had to go out and recruit hard and I thought we did a good job for the most part," said Scott, who is coming off an 8-6 season. "We did a lot in the Catholic League and the east side. I'm happy with where we're at."

There are, however, some veterans who return.

Forward Mustapha Olorunnimbe, native of Lagos, Nigeria via Oakland Community College, is back as the team's top scorer (nine goals, three assists). He was a second-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection along with junior midfielder Franco Giorgi.

Others who have starting experience that return include sophomore midfielder Brandon Hess (Livonia/Detroit Catholic Central), senior midfielder Andrew Kidder and sophomore midfielder Jacob Rosiek.

Among the other returnees from



Hess

last year's roster include sophomore goalkeeper Erich Richter, junior forward Steve Templeton and sophomore midfielder Ali Rida.

Junior defender Cayle Lackten, who hails from Ancaster, Ontario, also returns after taking a year off.

"Last year they were getting used to the environment that was created on my part," Scott said. "A lot of it was new and it was hard to jell overnight."

The Crusaders, who finished 3-3 last year in the WHAC (fourth place), will have nearly a month to put the pieces together.

They'll have scrimmages Aug. 25 (at Saginaw Valley State) and Aug. 30 (at Albion College) before the official season opener Wednesday, Sept. 7 at home against Lawrence Tech.

How the Crusaders will fare this season may depend on the eight newcomers led by a pair of highly-touted transfers from Schoolcraft College - midfielder Joe Carver and forward Dane Laird (Farmington Hills Harrison).

The two combined over the past two seasons with the nationally-ranked Ocelots for 16 goals and 17 assists.

"They both play with high pace and energy, something that we didn't have last year," Scott said. "They played in a program where they were always in a high attack mode. Laird is a former hockey player who knows how to get to the goal fast. He'll also

Please see **MADONNA, B2**



TIM BUSCH | MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Lagos, Nigeria native Mustapha Olorunnimbe, a sophomore, returns as the Crusaders' top scorer with nine goals and three assists.

SIDELINES

Titans sign trio

University of Detroit Mercy track and field coach Guy Murray announced the signings Thursday of three first-team All-Observer picks.

Added to the men's squad is North Farmington's Shammah Carter, the 2011 Oakland Country runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles and two-time MHSAA Division 1 semifinalist in the same event.

Carter posted the area's best time (14.6) in the 110 hurdles and ranked fourth in the 300 hurdles (40.1).

Meanwhile, twins Jacquelyn and Josephine Zolyinsky of Farmington High will be joining the women's team.

They were part of the 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 Division 1 state qualifying relay teams in 2011 and the 1,600 relay quartet in 2010.

Josephine and Jacquelyne posted bests this season of 1:00.63 and 1:01.3, respectively, in the 400 dash.

Hildebrandt top pick

The Michigan Bucks' Mitch Hildebrandt (Livonia Stevenson) was named Goalkeeper of the Year in the Premier Development League during the Final Four PDL banquet hosted Friday in Tampa, Fla. by the United Soccer League.

Hildebrandt, an Oakland University senior, began his PDL career in the PDL five years ago while still in high school during a game in Cleveland, Ohio.

He registered a PDL high 12 wins and 12 shutouts on the season, while making spectacular saves in nearly every match.

Hildebrandt is the first Bucks keeper to ever earn Goalkeeper of the Year.

He was also named to the All PDL XI squad along with teammate Stew Givens, the Defender of the Year, as one of the top 11 in the 64-team league with nearly 2,000 players.

Givens led the defense that only yielded nine goals in 16 regular season games this season and did not allow a goal at home until the playoffs as the Bucks fell to the Thunder Bay (Ontario) Chill in the Central Conference final, 2-1.

Givens and Hildebrandt were joined by another OU product, Tom Catalano, on the All Central Conference team.

Gary Parsons, in his third season, was named PDL Coach of the Year after leading the Bucks to a 12-2-2 record and a Great Lakes Division title.

The former Oakland University mentor is the third different Bucks coach to earn the title joining Steve Burns (1997) and Joe Malchino (2000).

O&E men's golf

Registration is on for the 2011 Men's Observer & Eccentric Open, a 36-hole medal play event Sunday-Monday, Sept. 4-5, at Fox Creek and Whispering Willows golf courses.

The entry fee is \$95 and is limited to the first 120 golfers. There will be \$2,500 in guaranteed prizes in three different flights (championship, first and seniors 55 and up). Entries close 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27.

Visit www.golflivonia.com or call (248) 476-4493.

Schmitt defends U.S. freestyle title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

So much for jet lag.

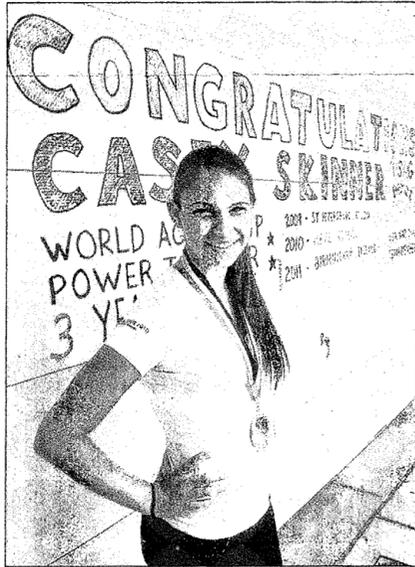
Less than a week after capturing a gold medal in the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay at the FINA World Aquatic Championships in Shanghai, China, Canton's Allison Schmitt returned home to successfully defend her individual 200 freestyle title Wednesday at the 2011 ConocoPhillips National Championships in Palo Alto, Calif.



Schmitt

The University of Georgia junior, representing the North Baltimore (Md.) Aquatic Club, made the halfway turn in ninth place before rallying for the win in 1 minute, 57.94 seconds.

Please see **SCHMITT, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Power tumbler Casey Skinner of Livonia, wearing her bronze medal, is headed later this year to Birmingham, England for the World Age Group Trampoline & Tumbling Championships.

Power tumbler hits World stage Skinner is England-bound

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was mission accomplishment for Casey Skinner, who some day envisions competing in the Olympics.

And now the training will only amp up a notch for the Livonia Stevenson High junior, who has qualified for the Trampoline & Tumbling World Championships, Nov. 16-19, in Birmingham, England.

Skinner captured a bronze medal in power tumbling for Girls 15-16 at the USA Gymnastics Junior Elite

Championships held July 8-10 at the Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio, Texas.

"From here on out I'll be working on new passes because it's an international competition and I'll need to go in there with something else so I can compete," Skinner said. "It's going to be more intense because there are no Worlds next year. As far as the competition this year I had to do what I have to do to medal and placing."

In the Junior Elite power

Please see **SKINNER, B2**

'Run for the Hills' gathers up steam in popularity

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Big-name marathons have nothing on Farmington's Shiawassee Park as far as Ed Anderson is concerned.

And the director of the second annual Run for the Hills figures he has plenty of company as this year's event on Saturday, Aug. 20, draws near.

Anderson, a Farmington Hills resident, said registration numbers for this year's event are about 800 — twice the amount in 2010.

"I think everybody that came last year had a really good time," Anderson said. "First off, the race courses are really scenic and quite nice for the runners. Everybody got free pizza and bagels at the end. People felt they were

really well-taken care of.

"We heard nothing but a lot of good feedback from all of the runners, that they liked the course and the way the community sort of embraced the whole race. They said 'We're coming back next year.'"

They'll be coming from other states and countries to participate in the myriad races slated for Aug. 20. Those

include: a 5k walk; 1k, 5k and 10k runs; and 5k and 10k team races.

Also back will be Eric Green, who captured the 10k race in 2010 and eventually was named Michigan Runner of the Year, Anderson said.

"He already vowed to me that he's never going to miss the race,"

Please see **RUN, B4**

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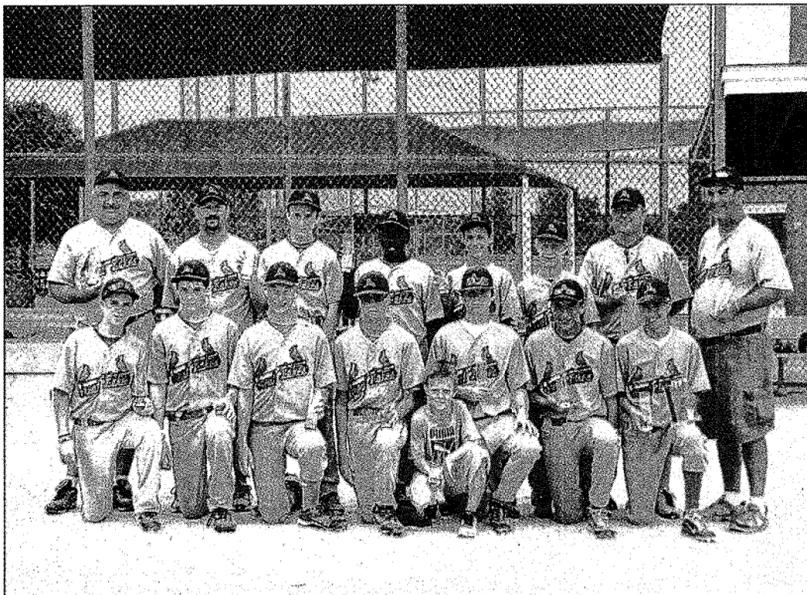
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Members of the 13-and-under Great Lakes Cardinals, the USSSA AAA World Series runner-up, include (front row, from left): Tyler Laurentius, Grant Hartwig, Seth Hubbard, Ravi Mahanti, Trevor Friday, Frankie Bellino, Andrew Hejka; (back row, from left) coach Frank Bellino, manager Dan Hejka, Cameron Stella, Myles Ivory, Cameron Shaughnessy, Zachary Prystash, coaches John Shaughnessy and Emile Mahanti.

Great Lakes Cardinals wind up 2nd in USSSA

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Make way Albert Pujols, Lance Berkman and Chris Carpenter – these Cardinals can play a little baseball, too.

The 13-and-under Great Lakes Cardinals recently completed 49-10 season, including a runner-up finish, July 20-24, in the USSSA AAA World Series in Liberty, Mo.

The Great Lakes Cards went 7-2 during the AAA World Series before losing to Paducah (Ky.) in the finals.

Ravi Mahanti (Farmington) was the team's leading hitter during the tournament with a .678 batting average, while Andrew Hejka (Canton) was right behind at .619.

Seth Hubbard (Canton) collected 12 of his team-leading 60 RBI during the nine-game World Series and Hejka, a shortstop, was named the tournament's top defensive player.

The Cardinals also captured Liberty Park Classic in Sterling Heights along with the Sylvania (Ohio) Fourth of July Tournament this season.

"Everybody put aside their individual accomplishments and accomplished something for the team," said manager Dan Hejka, who was coached the Cardinals for five seasons. "It was all about teamwork."

Grant Hartwig (Plymouth) was the team's leading hitter for the season at .432 followed by Hejka (.403) and Mahanti (.397).

The pitching staff was led by right-handers Cameron Stella (Plymouth) and Hartwig. Stella went 8-0 with a 1.88 earned run average. He struck out 57 in 41 innings.

Hartwig finished 8-3 with two saves. In 63 innings he fanned 88.

Rounding out the Cardinals squad is Tyler Laurentius (Canton), Trevor Friday (Farmington), Frankie Bellino (Canton), Myles Ivory (Ypsilanti), Cameron Shaughnessy (Plymouth) and Zachary Prystash (Northville).

Hejka's coaching staff includes Frank Bellino, John Shaughnessy and Emile Mahanti.

The main core of the Cardinals will move on next season as the 14-and-under USSSA Major team.

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SKINNER

FROM PAGE B1

tumbling, Skinner took first during the prelims with scores of 30.4 and 31.2 and before winding up third after posting a total of 62.7 in the finals.

Royal Oak's Miranda Kerr, a teammate of Skinner's at AGT Flip City in Warren, captured the gold with 63.0, while Brittney Bernard of the Oklahoma (Tulsa) Extreme won the silver with 62.8.

"I think I did the best I could and left everything out of the floor," said Skinner, who was working around a left ankle injury. "I was better in the prelims than I was in the finals, but overall I was proud of what I did. I made my goal, which was to make the national team and go to worlds."

Skinner was given a hero's welcome after her trip to the Junior Elite Championships.

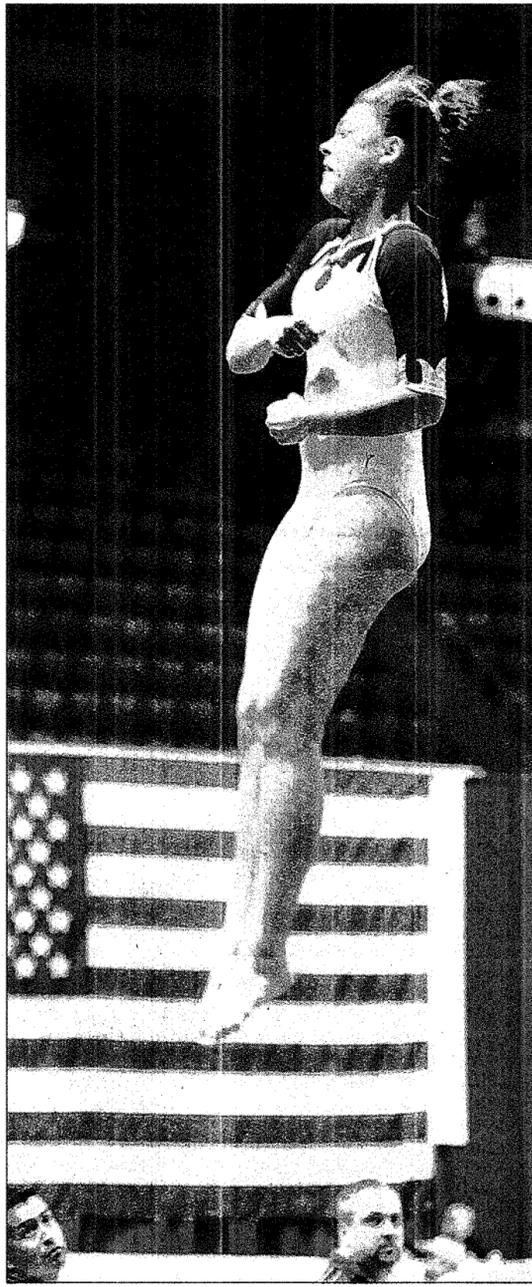
"When I came home there was a banner that said: 'Flipping around the world, but she still trips on the carpet,'" she said. "It was nice to come home and see that. My dad (Ronald) made it and it was kind of cute."

Although Skinner is now one of four members of the USA's World Age-Group Competition Team for 15-16 power tumbling, funds are not provided by USA Gymnastics and she now must raise \$3,000 to make the trip to England.

And it starts with a bottle drive and garage sale, which is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 18-19, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 20-21, at the Skinner's home, which is located at 16805 Wayne Road, just two houses south of Six Mile, in Livonia.

Donations are also welcome by calling Anita Skinner, Cassandra's mother, at (734) 516-0661; or by e-mailing anitafrita@hotmail.com.

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Livonia power tumbler Casey Skinner performs a full-out straight during USA Gymnastics Elite Trampoline & Tumbling Championships held last month in San Antonio, Texas.

Stingrays make waves at YMCAs

July proved to be a busy and highly productive month for the Farmington Family Stingrays swim team coached by Rich Bennetts and Mohamad Bachrouche.

On July 26-29, four Stingrays competed in the 2011 YMCA Long Course Nationals at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta.

The Stingrays were led by Marina Borri, who placed seventh in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:15.86); 15th, 200 breaststroke (2:43.95); 24th, 400 individual medley (5:15.18); and 34th, 50 breast-

stroke (36.09).

The 400 medley relay foursome of Olivia Rath, Borri, Miranda Shelly and Lauren Folkert also placed 15th (4:34.34).

The Stingrays also added a 26th in the 200 medley relay (2:06.66) and 49th in the 400 freestyle relay (4:16.14).

Shelly was 33rd, 200 butterfly (2:28.6); 40th, 100 butterfly (1:07.01); and 41st, 50 butterfly (30.62);

Folkert placed 41st, 200 backstroke (2:28.6); 55th, 50 backstroke (33.43) and 100 backstroke (1:10.23); and

110th, 200 freestyle (2:18.02).

Rath added a 36th, 50 backstroke (32.68); 69th, 200 backstroke (2:31.46); and 82nd, 100 backstroke (1:10.84).

At the Michigan Long Course State Championships held July 22-24 at Jenison High School, 15-year-old Nick Leshok took 11th in the 200 IM (2:20.76); 12th, 100 breaststroke (1:13.73) and 50 freestyle (25.92); along with a 19th in the 200 freestyle (2:04.74).

Teammate Miranda Doepler also competed in the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle events.

SCHMITT

FROM PAGE B1

Catherine Breed and Alyssa Anderson took second and third with times of 1:58.86 and 1:59.31, respectively.

At 100 meters, Schmitt was next to last in 59.20, but finished the final 100 with a negative split in 58.74.

"I was trying to change my race strategy from Worlds," Schmitt told Universal Sports TV commentators Rowdy Gaines and Ted Robinson from the Stanford University pool. "I tried to bring it back and stay out of wakes. It was definitely fun and I tried to bring it home the last 100."

Schmitt is the American record holder in the 200 freestyle (1:54.96 set July, 2009 in Rome). In Shanghai, she placed sixth in 1:56.98.

Last Tuesday, Schmitt placed fourth in the 400 freestyle (4:09.43) at the National as Ashley Steenvoorden won the race in 4:07.63 followed by Chloe Sutton and Elizabeth Beisel in 4:08.52 and 4:09.25, respectively.

In Thursday's 800 freestyle relay, the Athens (Ga.) Bulldog Swim Club placed first as Chelsea Nauta, Morgan Scroggy, Shannon Vreeland and Megan Romano were clocked in 7:58.14.

Schmitt's North Baltimore foursome, including Elizabeth Pelton, Camryne Morris and Kelly Offut, took second in 8:00.51.

In Shanghai, Schmitt anchored the 800 relay foursome of Missy Franklin, Dagny Knutson and Krithryn Hoff to a gold medal in

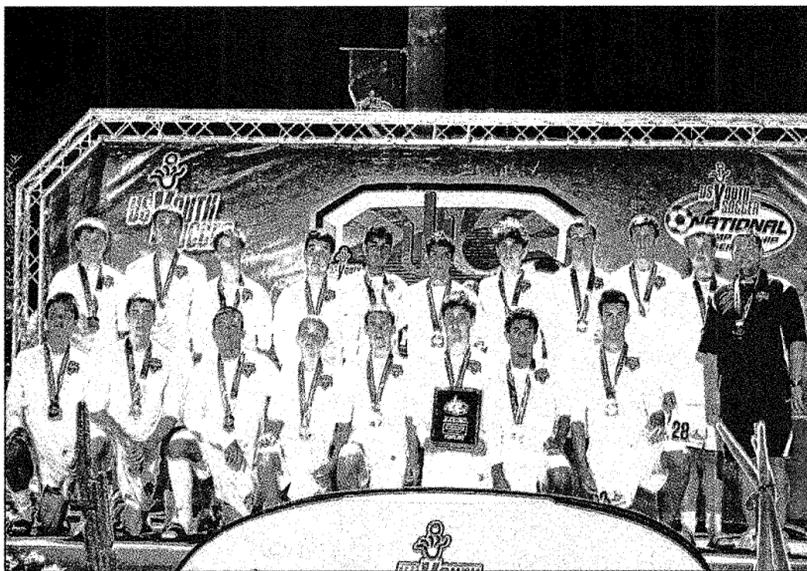
7:46.14 edging second-place Australia (7:47.42) and third-place China (7:47.66).

"It was a lot of fun," said Schmitt, who won a bronze medal in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. "It was a great feeling. It's the first time I've been on the gold medal relay for the U.S. so it's really exciting."

Schmitt is a three-time NCAA champion (twice in the 500-yard freestyle and once in the 200 freestyle), along with being a National champion in the 400 freestyle (2009).

She was also a silver medalist twice in the 2009 FINA Worlds in the 200 freestyle and 800 freestyle relay.

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Members of the Michigan Jaguars, coached by Barry Scott, include Zachary Bock, Jason Carmack, Luai Fakhoury, James Hague, Travis Hamers, Clay King, Matthew Kiura, Ken Krolicki, Vikram Mathias, Nathan McLean, K. Scott Michael, Nichola Oakley, Griffin Parks, Antonio Pisto, Matheo Plate, Philip Ritchie, Joseph VanHouten and Michael Winters.

Michigan Jags U-15 National runner-up

Electricity fill the air as the 2011 US Youth Soccer National champions were crowned July 30-31 at the Reach II Sports Complex in Phoenix, Ariz.

The under-15 Michigan Jaguars, who train out of Total Soccer in Wixom, finished runner-up losing 3-1 to the Chicago Fire Juniors.

The Jaguars are comprised of players from Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Novi, Livonia, Ypsilanti and Commerce Township.

Canton's Griffin Parks staked the Jaguars to a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute of the championship match only to have Michael Catalano, Christian Hanock-Berhanu and Brian Werchek answer with three second-half goals for Chicago.

The Jaguars opened tourney play with a 2-1 victory over FC Dallas Premier (Tex.) on goals by Ken Krolicki (18th minute) and Travis Hamers (27th minute).

Grant Norris countered for Dallas in the 41st minute.

A pair of goals by Alan Winn gave Solar Chelsea 96 (Tex.) a 3-0 win over the Jaguars in the second round.

The Jaguars then reached the finals by defeating the San Diego (Calif.) FC Gauchos, 4-1, on goals by Luai Fakhoury, Parks, Zachary Bock and Michael Winters.

The 2011 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series began in the fall of last year with more than 10,000 teams competing in state, regional and national qualifying tournaments.

The field was paired down to 60 through the state and regional Championships and then the top two boys and girls teams at each age (14-19) battled it out in to determine who would be crowned champion.

The Jaguars qualified for the Nationals in March by winning the US Youth Soccer National League. They finished with a 5-1-1 record, beating top teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, New Jersey and Texas.

MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

provide good leadership."

Forward George Sami and defender Sean Koza, both from Birmingham Brother Rice's 2009 Division 1 state championship squad, could provide immediate help along with Kyle Karmo, a stable and steady defender from Orchard Lake St. Mary Prep.

All three have considerable experience at a high club level

playing for the Wolves East Academy team.

Scott, meanwhile, also signed goalkeeper Scott Poole (Madison Heights Lampshire) along with center-back Nicholi LaRocca (Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley) and midfielder Ryan Williams (Auburn Hills Avondale).

"I'm happy with this year's class and a lot of them could start," Scott said. "We had to

reload with another big class. If they work hard, I think we can get back to where Pete (Alexander) and Tino (Scicluna) had it, then we can scale back a little next year with some high quality kids.

"I know the guys are excited to come to practice. I've gotten messages from them and they're ready to come back."

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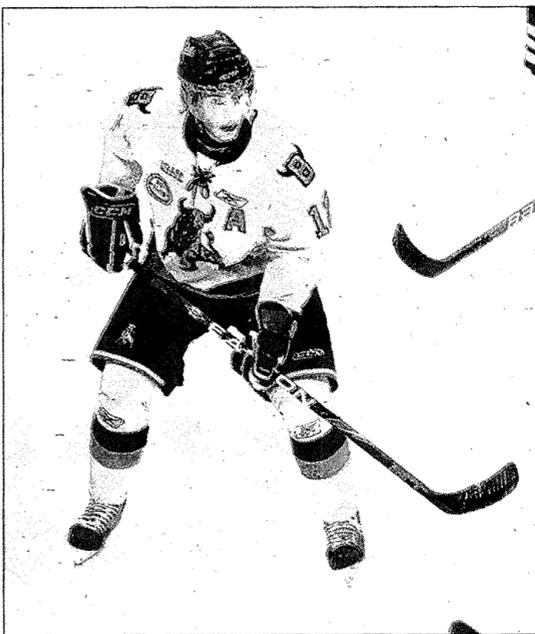


Cobras strike

The Westland Cobras 12-and-under team recently captured the Pony Bronco district title by defeating host Walled Lake, 15-10. The Cobras advanced to the Grand Ledge regional final before losing to Tri-Village, 9-4, and finished with a 5-1 tourney record. Members of the Cobras include (front row, from left): Kevin Behrendt, Evan Kuczmarzski, Drake Snyder, Brett Stern, Joe Targosz, Chris Nehasif; (second row, from left) Daniel Dawes, John Savage, Shane Ciucci, Jack Ores, Wyatt Smith, Daniel Ouaine, Christian Bagnall; (back row, from left): coaches Tom Ores, Ron Targosz and Rick Stern.

New Whaler

The Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers announced the acquisition Thursday of 20-year-old forward Andy Bathgate from the Belleville Bulls. In return, the Whalers send third-round picks in the 2013 and 2014 OHL Priority Selection draft back to Belleville. Bathgate was the Bulls' third-round pick (54th overall) in the 2007 OHL Priority Selection and was taken by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the fifth round (151st overall) in the 2009 National Hockey League entry draft. Bathgate enjoyed his best offensive season in the OHL last season for the Bulls, scoring 25 goals and 35 assists for 60 points in 64 games. The acquisition of Bathgate gives Plymouth five overage players (1991 birthdays) on the roster including forwards Bathgate, RJ Mahalak, Jamie Devane and Peter Neal, along with defenseman Beau Schmitz.



AARON BELL | OHL IMAGES

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Youth baseball tryouts

• Tryouts for the LBSA and Livonia Travel Baseball for the 2012 season are for the following age groups at Bicentennial Field No. 8:
 Under-8: Sunday, Aug. 14 (4-6 p.m.) - manager Bill Schaffer, mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net;
 Under-9: Sunday, Aug. 14 (noon-2 p.m.) - manager, TBD, ccumberger@yahoo.com;
 Under-10: Sunday, Aug. 14 (2-4 p.m.) - manager Aaron Rumberger, Livonia Lakers, ccumberger@yahoo.com;
 Under-11: Sunday, Aug. 14 (6-8 p.m.) - manager Matt Pournier, Livonia Longhorns, mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net;
 Under-13: Saturday, Aug. 20 (10 a.m. to 12 noon), Sunday, Aug. 21 (12 noon to 2 p.m.) - manager Brian Dewhurst, Livonia Titans, wd219@aol.com.
 Please contact the team managers directly with any questions or if you are unable to make the listed date to schedule an individual evaluation.

• Tryouts for the 11-and-under 2012 Canton Cobras will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 and 21 at Massey Field, located at Plymouth and Haggerty roads, in Plymouth.

The Cobras will play in the KVBSA along with two fall tournaments and eight spring and summer tournaments.

For more information, call Jack Murray at (734) 968-5808; or e-mail murray6@woway.com.

• Tryouts for the 15-and-under 2012 Great Lakes Cardinals will be from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21 at Massey Field, located at Haggerty and Plymouth roads, in Plymouth.

The Cardinals will be a tournament team only with three-to-four tournaments scheduled following the high school baseball season.

For more information, call Jack Murray at (734) 968-5808; or e-mail murray6@woway.com.

• Tryouts for the 13-and-under Canton Storm will be from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 and 28 at Griffin Park.

Players from Plymouth-Canton entering seventh grade and no older than 13 by May 1,

2012, are eligible.

For more information, e-mail Robert Brooks at RobBr@mpecinc.com; or call (313) 770-5666.

• Age-group tryouts for 2012 Canton Cardinals travel baseball teams will be Sunday, Aug. 21 at Heritage Park for the following times:

8:30-10:30 a.m., 9-and-under; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 10-and-under; 12:30-2:30 p.m., 11-and-under; 2:30-4:30 p.m., 12-and-under; 4:30-6:30 p.m., 13-and-under; 6:30-8:30 p.m., 14-and-under.

Players are encouraged to attend both tryout sessions per age group, but must attend at least one session to be considered for the team. The age group is determined by the player's age on April 30, 2012.

For more information, contact Canton Cardinals baseball commissioner Alan B. Zidzik at (313) 805-2756.

• Tryouts for the 2012 Motor City Chiefs Baseball Club, a 10-and-under team, will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8 and 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at UAW Local 735 Field, 48055 Michigan Avenue, Canton.

The Plymouth-Canton based Chiefs, who welcome players from all communities, will play in the KVBSA as well local tournaments.

If unable to attend tryout dates an evaluation can occur before Aug. 13.

For more information, call (734) 377-3123; or e-mail motorcitybaseball@gmail.com.

• An open baseball tryout for the newly-formed 11-and-under Dearborn Heights Knights will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 8, at Canfield Arena Field, located on Kinloch (south of Ford Road) between Beech Daly and Inker, in Dearborn Heights.

Players from all communities are welcome and you need to attend only one of two sessions. Arrive 15 minutes prior to each session.

For pre-registration information, call head coach Brad Ebben at (248) 924-0489; or e-mail bebbenlatt.net.

City Golf Challenge

The 52nd annual 2011 City

Golf Challenge, Western Wayne's oldest amateur golf tournament, will be Saturday, Aug. 13 at the newly redesigned Fellows Creek Golf Course.

The event on the 27-hole championship course starts at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$50 (includes cart). Each city must have at least five golfers to be entered in the Challenge with Westland defending its title against teams from Wayne, Canton, Livonia, Belleville, Romulus and Plymouth.

Entrants will be competing for individual awards based upon flights and divisions from each city during the first nine holes. Men and women of all ages will also be competing for each city's top awards.

For more information, e-mail Bill Hawley at bhawk@woway.com; or swinkelman@ci.wayne.mi.us.

Experienced golfers

Golfers with two or more years of experience can learn to swing with balance from an uneven lie from PGA professional Tami Bealeart from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8 at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road (off Ford Road), in Superior Township.

Included in the \$20 cost are practice balls and golf tips (\$10 additional for golf and cart following class).

To reserve a spot (by 3 p.m. Monday), visit TrainwithTami@yahoo.com; or call (734) 731-0238.

Hickory Creek golf

Hickory Creek Golf Course, located at 3625 Napier Road (at Ford Road), in Superior Township, has three upcoming golf events starting with the junior scramble from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Also on tap is Ladies Night Out "Margaritas on the Range" from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25 (cost \$20 if registered by Aug. 15), and the Glow Golf & Fish Fry from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30.

For more information, visit TrainwithTami@yahoo.com; or call (734) 731-0238.

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6400 Eight Mile Rd. (3 Miles East of I-75)

313 891-2902

MADISON HTS.

30391 Stephenson Hwy. (Across from Costco @ 1/2 Mile)

248 585-9050

WYANDOTTE

2151 Eureka Rd. (1 Block East of Fort St.)

734 284-7171

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419 535-1100

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Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

RUN

FROM PAGE B1

Anderson added. "He just fired me an e-mail a couple days ago, and he said he's going to be there for sure."

Just like in 2010, all proceeds from the event will go to Special Olympics.

"I've been a longtime runner and ran a lot of big races, (but) now I'm retired," he said with a laugh. "So obviously I have time, and I had a very strong interest not only in creating a nice event for the town but also to help out Special Olympics. Last year I gave \$5,000 to them from the event."

TEAMING UP

Individual events should be spirited, but ramping things up a bit are the five-runner team races.

"The team races are a way to generate a little more spirit," he said. "Instead of going to a running race by yourself, you make a team with four other runners and you're going to the start line with five people on a team."

"And then you just simply add the times of the five runners and the team that has the lowest combined time obviously is going to be the winner."

The concept is catching on, too. Last year, there were only three teams, which Anderson said wasn't shocking given Run for the Hills was just getting started.

"But this year, I'm thinking we're probably

going to have 15 or 20 teams," he continued. "I can see it eventually growing to, maybe 100 teams."

"I think it's going to get continually more popular because it's a lot of fun to run as a team."

Anderson, a veteran runner who also is founder and director of Tri-County Lacrosse, sees potential beyond this year for Run for the Hills.

"This year we'll double last year and next year there's no reason to think next year we don't double it again," he noted.

Anderson, who competed at the Boston Marathon during his running career, thinks the venue itself has a lot to do with that.

"From what I can see of the running course, and Shiawassee Park, just the whole venue is just going to continue to get more popular," Anderson said. "It really is a great place to run. I've been to a lot of races that have grown in popularity that, I don't think they have as nice a venue as Farmington."

All races will begin and end at Shiawassee Park, which is located near Farmington-Shiawassee roads. Runners will go as far north as 11 Mile and as far east as Orchard Lake.

Registration fees for those signing up until Aug. 19 are as follows: 1k, \$15; 5k/10k, \$30; team, \$125. The cost to sign up will go up slightly on the day of the event.

For more information about Run for the Hills, go to www.farmingtonrunforthehills.com.



Participants of the 2010 Farmington Run for the Hills race get started at Shiawassee Park. The second annual race takes place Saturday, Aug. 20.

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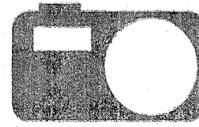


PHOTO GALLERIES

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Comedy and tragedy

Young actors combine serious, silly Shakespeare

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Motor City Youth Theatre (MCYT) will stage two versions of *Macbeth* in less than 90 minutes and all for the price of one ticket next week-end.

Director Nancy Florkowski combined adapted scripts from two different series of Shakespeare's works, added a narrator (her husband, Fred) and chopped the running time to one hour — while still maintaining the 17th century-style language.

A cast of 10 young actors will bring the tragedy to life Aug. 12-14, on stage in Livonia.

"After that, the kids will do a 10-minute version that I wrote, that they embellished and it's hilarious," Florkowski said.

At rehearsals last week the group worked with a Wayne State University graduate student on stage fighting and practiced making Shakespeare's lines their own.

Macbeth, both the silly and serious versions, marks MCYT's third Shakespeare production with an all-kid cast. Florkowski enlisted families for *Midsummer Night's Dream* when she produced it outdoors six years ago in both Redford and Livonia. Adult actors brought *Hamlet* to



Fiona Koenig (left) and Kayden Bryce, both of Livonia, are the spooky apparitions who plague Macbeth.

MOTOR CITY YOUTH THEATRE

What: Shakespeare's "Macbeth"

When: 7 p.m. Aug. 12-13, 2 p.m. Aug. 14

Where: Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, west of Inkster Road, south of I-96, in Livonia

Details: Tickets are \$8 each, \$12 per couple, \$15 per family; available 7-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and before each show

Cast: Sara Borsodi, 10, Redford Township; Shannon Stork, 15, Farmington Hills; Alina Steinberg, 15, Birmingham; Megan Troost, 13, Livonia; Katy Lewalk, 11, Redford; Saskia Koenig, 9, and Fiona Koenig, 7, both of Livonia; Chailyn Bryce, 10, and Kayden Bryce, 8, both of Livonia; and Amelia Fanelli, 16, and William Fanelli, 9, both of Farmington Hills

Crew: Steven Barber, sound and lights and his mom, Cindy Barber, stage manager. Both are from Livonia

Contact: (313) 535-8962 www.mcyt.org

the parking lot at Grantland Street Playhouse — MCYT's home — the following year and then took at job at the Bard with *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* a year later.

When Megan Troost heard Florkowski next wanted to direct youngsters in a seri-

ous version of *Hamlet*, while coaching adults in a *Macbeth* comedy, she had her doubts.

"I never thought kids could do it," said Megan, 13, who will enter the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) program at Churchill High School in Livonia this fall. "But they can. These kids are amazing,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble," say witches Shannon Stork of Northville, Megan Troost of Livonia, and Alina Steinberg of Birmingham.

Even the little kids, they blow my mind on stage."

Megan performed in both the youth-fueled production of *Hamlet* two years ago and in *Midsummer Night's Dream* last year. She plays Lady Macduff, among other roles, in *Macbeth*.

LOYAL ACTORS

Like Troost, most of Florkowski's young Shakespeare actors are MCYT regulars. Shannon Stork, 15, a Farmington Hills resident and Alina Steinberg, 15, of Birmingham, have worked with Florkowski for nearly four years.

"It's like a family here. I just keep coming back," Alina said. She also has performed with the Village Youth Theater in Birmingham and acts in school productions at Groves High.

MacBeth is Shannon's sev-



Director Nancy Florkowski has fun directing the cast of youngsters.

enth full scale show at MCYT. She was "underwhelmed" the first time she saw the theater's playhouse, a remodeled VFW hall in an industrial side of town, but quickly fell in love with the program.

"It's a huge confidence builder and it's a lot of fun," she said. "It's a pretty small building but if you are here and experience the people, the

quality of the teaching, how much fun it can be, you realize it doesn't have to be huge to be great theater."

Florkowski and company have poured "blood, sweat and tears," into the building since acquiring it five years ago. They built a stage, painted walls, added the sound system and are busy working on refurbishing rest rooms. Florkowski also

plans to spruce up the basement and add an elevator.

"It's really a perfect black box theater that people would kill to have and we're lucky to have it," she said.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Wayne State University students and graduates will

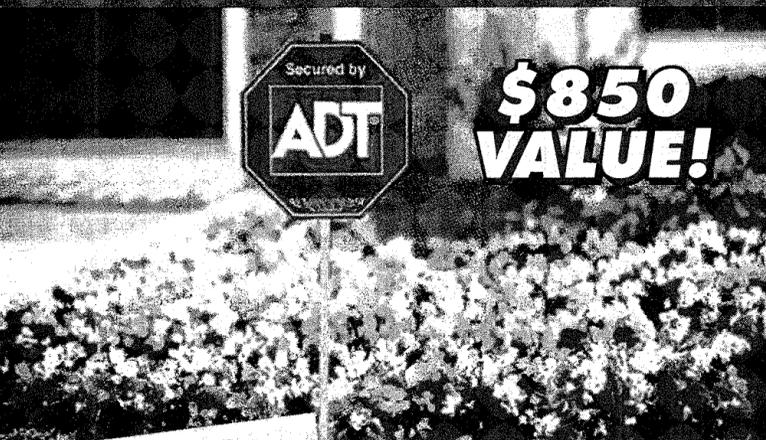
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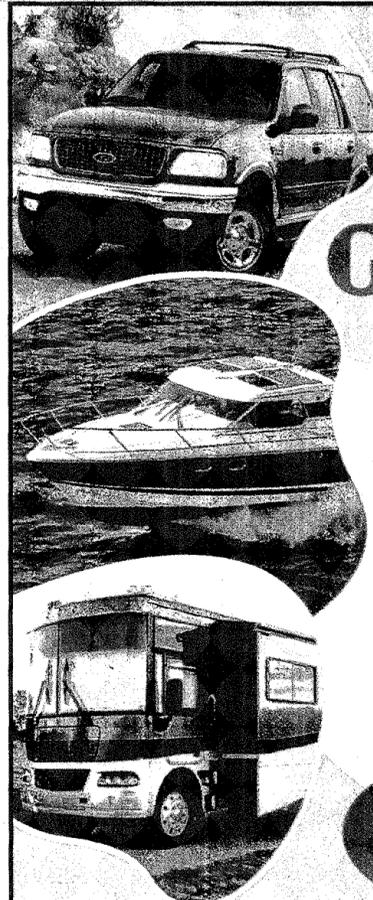
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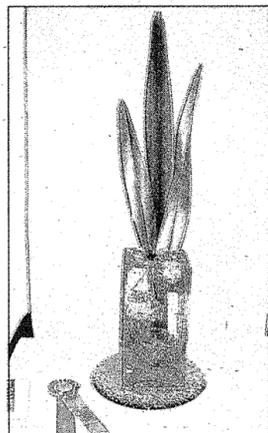
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Garden club shows flowers, plant exhibits

Livonia Garden Club's "Another Op'nin' Another Show" drew more than 800 individuals last month to the Livonia Civic Center Library's atrium. Club members displayed flower arrangements and horticultural exhibits during the two-day show. Judges from around the state awarded prizes to winning displays and several members of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra played a selection of tunes from Broadway musicals.



Della Hayden won a Blue Ribbon and Tri Color Award for this arrangement, which was displayed at the Livonia Garden Club's flower show.

The Livonia Garden Club was founded in 1969 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening, natural resources conservation, civic beauty, and better horticulture practices. The group meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. It encourages prospective members to attend at least two meetings before applying for active membership.



Louise Scanlan, a former Livonia Garden Club president shows her award-winning Woolly Thyme, Crassula and Festuca Amethystina. She won the Horticulture Excellence Award, Grower's Choice Award and a blue ribbon.



Wayne State University theater grad Steve Carson, teaches Amelia Fanelli (Macbeth) and Alina Steinberg (McDuff) basic swordplay. Amelia is from Farmington Hills. Alina is from Birmingham.

SHAKESPEARE

FROM PAGE B5

help teach the theater's classes and camps beginning this fall. Florkowski also created an adult music theater troupe with a show planned for early 2012.

"The kids from Wayne State who are my classmates are so excited. I said, 'guys, you help me form a company and it's yours.'"

After 32 years teaching special education and drama, followed by retirement six years ago, Florkowski, 62, went back to school last fall.

"I was a freshman in the theater department. I had to

audition and do everything the kids do. I loved it."

She hopes to add an undergraduate degree in theater from Wayne State to her educational resume, which includes master's degrees in youth theater and special education. Florkowski performed in three student shows during the 2010-11 school year and studied theater for a month last summer at the Mxat Theatre in Moscow, Russia. The Wayne State University program enabled her to undertake intense work in dance, acting, movement, song and Russian film studies.

"Usually people wait to do this until they are a senior, but I'm 62 and not waiting for anything."

Celebration marks women's voting rights; author to speak on prominent GOP leader

Author Sara Fitzgerald will be the guest speaker at an event marking anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.

The program, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies and Michigan ERAmerica, will run 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at One-Under Restaurant and Banquet Hall, 35780 Five Mile, between Farmington Road and Levan, Livonia.

It is co-sponsored by Business and Professional Women/MI, Coalition of Labor Union Women, League of Women Voters/MI, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/Metro Detroit, Women's Officials Network, and Zonta International.

Fitzgerald authored *Elly Peterson: Mother of the Moderates*, a book about the first woman to serve as chair of the Michigan Republican Party. Peterson

also was the first woman to run for U.S. Senate from Michigan. A staunch supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, she served as co-chair of ERAmerica.

The luncheon costs \$25. Cost after Aug. 13 is \$30.

Make checks payable to Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies (MiCERS) and mail to 21697 McClung, Southfield, MI 48075-7804. Questions? Call (248) 355-5233 or (734) 425-3572.



All Hail the new King William Fanelli, after Macbeth is murdered.

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Groups offer inoculations, feral cat training

LOW-COST VACCINATIONS

Tail Waggers 1990 will offer two opportunities to get dogs and cats inoculated locally and at low cost this month. Clinics run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7 at Sheehy Animal Hospital, 18790 Middlebelt, in Livonia; and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at Wags to Whiskers, 44711 Five Mile, Plymouth. Vaccines for rabies, distemper and bordetella will be available for a package price of \$30 or \$12 for individual vaccines for dogs. Rabies and distemper for cats are priced at \$12 each. Microchips will be offered for \$30, which will include registration, and heartworm tests

will cost \$18 and will be available only on Aug. 7.

Tailwaggers 1990's low-cost vaccination clinics are open to everyone living in any city, regardless of income level.

FERAL COLONIES

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) will hold its third workshop for residents who want to help reduce the number of homeless cats and provide feral cats with much-needed care. The workshop will teach residents how use a "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) strategy, which has proven to be the most effective and humane way of handling feral cats. The program, launched

in May, aims to sterilize thousands of feral cats in the coming years.

The program helps individuals learn what it takes to manage a feral cat colony near their home or place of employment. Caretakers will be trained on proper techniques and equipment to humanely trap feral cats, that they'll bring them to the Michigan Humane Society for sterilization and care. Afterward, the animals will be released back to their habitat.

The workshop is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, at Michigan Humane Society's administrative office, 30300 Telegraph, Suite 220, in Bingham Farms.



Register online or get more information at www.michiganhumane.org or by phone at (866) MHUMANE (648-6263).

Plymouth theater holds open house, auditions

Parents and children will get a chance to meet new instructors and learn about the Plymouth Uptown Players' (PUPS) children's theater program from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, in Plymouth.

Refreshments will be served, and instructors and their assistants will perform improv at the open house. Anyone who attends the open house will receive \$10 off PUPS fall registration fees.

The Plymouth Uptown Players is an experimental theatre group that is made up of elementary and middle school aged children. The program, which began in the mid-1990s, teaches children everything about producing and acting in a play including costumes, sets, directing and working together as a team with other cast members. Children may audition for the group's productions each fall and spring. All children who audition receive a part, and casts generally are divided by age group. The program culminates in performances, open to the public, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Some of the casts are invited to perform for local elementary schools as well.

PUPS instructors for fall 2011 are Katelyn Sigworth and Cara Bosco. Sigworth joins the PCAC with more than six years of experience

working with children's theatre groups. She was instrumental in the founding of the PCCS middle school drama workshop program, and Second Stage Players at Canton High School. Bosco recently graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting and an additional major in psychology. She has performed in a variety of theatrical productions and recently worked at The Williamston Theatre where she earned her Equity Membership Candidacy.

Registration for the PUPS program begins Sept. 1. The cost for the program is \$150 per actor, along with an annual \$30 PCAC membership fee. Auditions are 5-9 p.m. Sept. 8. Actors can drop in anytime during the audition period to try out. The first PUPS rehearsal is Sunday, Sept. 11, with times and days to be determined based on cast sizes. Final performances will take place Dec. 9-11.

The open house, auditions, rehearsals and performances will take place at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

More information about the PUPS program and the Plymouth Community Arts Council is available at www.plymoutharts.com or by calling the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

REUNION CALENDAR

Belleville High School

Class of 1971

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

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1954

A 57-year reunion luncheon is planned for Oct. 6 at the Stitt American Legion Hall, Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information call Nancy Barlow Gaspar at (313) 581-6623 or e-mail to Pat Gaston Chiesa at patc629@aol.com.

Dearborn High School

Class of 1976

35th reunion, Saturday Aug. 13. For details visit <http://www.dhst1976.myevent.com>.

Dearborn Heights Robichaud

Class of 1961

50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734) 595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

Dearborn Heights Crestwood

Class of 1981

30-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Sept. 17 at Crystal Gardens, 5768 Grand River, Howell. Space is limited. Contact Cathy (Mamo) Dedakis at dedakis@chartmi.net, (810) 923-6446 or Sue (Toundaian) Turner at turnercrew@comcast.net, (734) 812-2937.

Detroit Cody

Class of 1961

50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callar Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

'50s and '60s

Free picnic, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21 at Nankin Mills Pavilion, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. Classmates.com will have information and photos from past picnics. Questions? Call Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134 or e-mail to jmarsares@sbcglobal.net or Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or e-mail to pvarilone@wowway.com

Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1971

The 40th reunion, with a "Back to the Bahamas" theme, is scheduled for Aug. 20, at Bahama Breeze Restaurant, 19600 Haggerty, Livonia. The organizers are trying to reach approximately 1,000 graduates from the January and June classes, as well as any other alumni interested in attending the event. Tickets are \$50. Call Barb Blum Douglas at (313) 804-1282, or Marilyn Ogilvy Twa at (616) 802-0305, or e-mail to hfh-s1971reunion@yahoo.com.

Detroit Mackenzie

June Class of 1961

50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail Ivanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

Class of 1962

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

Detroit Northwestern

Class of 1950-51

Three-day event, Aug. 12-14. Anyone interested may contact Marlene Oleson Hanna at (313) 937-8233.

Class of 1971

Celebration Weekend is Friday-Sunday, Aug. 19-21 and will include a meet and greet, class legacy dinner dance and a picnic. A fundraiser, "Bringing Back to the 70s" will be held 7 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, June 25 at Bert's, located in the Eastern Market in Detroit. A portion of the proceeds from the events will be donated to Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc., Michigan Chapter. For more information, call (734) 326-1488 or e-mail to dnh-s40th71@yahoo.com

Farmington High School

Class of 1961

A 50-year reunion of the Farmington High School Class of 1961 is set for 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel at 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi. The party dinner buffet is \$48.75 per person. There will be a 9-hole golf outing at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile Road in Livonia at 10:30 a.m. the day of the reunion. Contact Phil "Jim" Newberg via e-mail at pruddyduck1@sbcglobal.net or call (830) 620-5734; local contact is Louise Giles (248) 224-3369.

Ferndale High School

Class of 1961

4:10-4:25 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9, gathering time at the high school, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. The reunion continues at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Somerset Inn, 2601 W. Big Beaver, Troy, with a social hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Weekend concludes with a final farewell and snack 12:30-1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at Dugan's 31501 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. Bill Stenbak at (231) 544-6522.

Garden City East & West

Classes of 1966-67

A casual, joint reunion is planned for Oct. 8. The organizing committee needs addresses of class members. Call Dale Bowes (Whiting) '66W at (734) 427-7148, Carol Gantt Fenner '67W at (734) 326-8467, Karen Colvard (Domanski) '66E at (734) 427-7012, Cheryl Gibbs '67E at (734) 340-9916/(313) 670-2402, or e-mail Dennis Russell at russ027@comcast.net.

Garden City High School

Class of 1986

25-year reunion, Saturday, Oct. 15. E-mail Trish First (Patty Buggy) for more information at pm2b2005@yahoo.com or contact Kristy Hickson (Roberts) on facebook.

Garden City West

Class of 1981

30-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Livonia. \$45 per person; \$90 per couple. Payment must be received by Sept. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Send a check or money order made payable to GC West Class of 1981, 32511 Windsor, Garden City, MI 48135. Questions? Call Erin (734) 751-2424.

Ladywood High School

Class of 1961

Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandyndmac@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

Livonia Bentley

Class of 1961

Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twm1.r.com.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1966

45th high school reunion, Oct. 8 at Laurel Park Marriott. Seeking classmates and

contact info. E-mail contact info to Larry Ruzsas at Lruzsas187264mi@comcast.net or call him at (810) 599-3509.

Plymouth High School

Classes of 1951-52

Planned for Aug. 19-21. Just show up for gatherings at 6 p.m. Aug. 19 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth and 6 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Box Bar Restaurant in downtown Plymouth. Bring a dish to pass and a large bottle of pop for the picnic at noon, Aug. 21 at the #1 pavilion in Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail. For more information call Ron Beaver at (734) 397-9357, Bea Gray at (734) 453-6613 or Dick Nelson at (734) 453-0798.

Classes of 1965-66

6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, behind the "old" high school. Attire is "whatever makes you feel good." Cost is \$35 per person and includes dinner, live music, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Tour of old high school will run 10-11 a.m. Saturday. Make checks payable to PHS Class Reunion '65 & '66 and sent to Doug Jaskirny, 47237 Hunters Park Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 for the class of 1965. Class of 1966 members send to Donna (Cook) Marshall 1337 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Redford Union

Class of 1971

6:30-11:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Tickets purchased before July 31 are \$38. Tickets after that date are \$48. Look for Redford Union Class of 1971 on Facebook or e-mail to RUHS71@yahoo.com

Class of 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on Oct. 13, 2012. E-mail Linda (Hornung) Tracy at linda-tracy100@gmail.com or call her at (231) 882-7268 or e-mail Madeline Rice at pad-dinmadeline@gmail.com.

Royal Oak High School

Class of 1951

A 60th reunion is planned for Sept. 14 at the Oxford Inn, 1214 Main, Royal Oak. The event will start with a social gathering at 4 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person. For more information and for reservation forms contact Fred Locke and Katy Marsh, 5464 Lakeshore, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059; (810) 385-3253; fjlocke@aol.com

Bowling benefits senior bus campaign

Botsford Commons will sponsor a bowling outing 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia.

All proceeds will benefit the "Next Stop, Our Bus" campaign, a Botsford Foundation project that aims to buy a handicap-accessible bus for the Farmington Hills senior community.

Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids and reservations are required. The price

includes two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. Pizza only is \$5. The event also will include a bake sale and 50/50 drawing.

The "Next Stop, Our Bus" campaign is close to the heart of Botsford Commons residents.

"I would be truly unhappy if I couldn't make it to the local elementary school to read with the children," said assisted liv-

ing resident Sherry Hamilton, referring to one of the many community outreach and charity projects in which Botsford Commons residents participate. "This bus is about our lives touching the community and impacting others."

Merri-Bowl Lanes is located at 30950 Five Mile Road in Livonia. For questions or to donate an item for the bake sale, call Colleen Kashawlic at (248) 426-6943.

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Phone: (248) 478-7860

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The Greeks in the time of Hippocrates used colchicine to treat gout. From that date, approximately 420 B.C. to the present, physicians prescribed the medication just as the Greeks had used it: when an attack of gout comes on, take one colchicine an hour until reaching a total of 12 tablets or when diarrhea occurs from a lesser amount. In addition, the Western medical tradition stated that a patient should take colchicine, one or two tablets a day, to ward off an attack of gout.

Research over the past 15 years has caused physicians to rethink how they should give the drug. First, physicians learned that taking two colchicine tablets immediately when an attack occurred, followed by one more an hour later was just as effective as the old regime of one an hour for 12 hours. Also, taking a total of three tablets instead of twelve cut down the incidence of diarrhea dramatically.

Second, physicians found how colchicine works: it prevents white blood cells from ingesting gout crystals. If crystals enter the white blood cells, the cells burst, spewing irritable chemicals into the surrounding tissues. It is this irritation that causes the swelling and pain characteristic of gout. If no ingestion of crystals occurs, no gout will follow.

However, taking colchicine daily to prevent an attack will not work. Colchicine aborts an attack of gout, but does not prevent one. The best use of the drug is when an episode begins. Using colchicine wisely is of importance, as the cost of the medication has risen dramatically, and what was once a minimal co-pay expense can now become an onerous one.

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MILESTONES



Stanley and Janet Durst of Livonia

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Stanley and Janet (McMath) Durst of Livonia celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary May 19. They were married in 1951 at Evergreen Village Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Their children are Daniel Durst of Livonia, Jennie Durst McIntyre of St. Clair Shores and the late Peter Durst. They also have three grandchildren.

Stanley was retired from employment with the State of Michigan 28 years ago. Janet is

a homemaker. Both volunteer at Fort Street Presbyterian Church where they help feed the homeless.

The Dursts marked their milestone anniversary with two celebrations. They dined with their children and grandchildren at Rocky's in Northville and a party with extended family was held at the home of a nephew in Novi. Janet is of Scottish descent, so the couple also renewed vows in a mock royal wedding ceremony. All women in attendance were asked to don festive hats during the ceremony.

OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED

Audrey M. Sim and Albert G. Urpsis, Jr., both of Royal Oak, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mrs. Alexander J. Sim of Northville, is a 1986 graduate of Farmington High School and Albion College. She holds an M.D. degree and is in private medical practice.

Her fiancé, son of Albert G. Urpsis, Sr. and Allison Urpsis of Royal Oak, formerly Farmington Hills, is a 1986 Farmington High School graduate. He graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma and works for St. John Health System's



Sim-Urpsis

Neurological Recovery Systems.

An October 2011 wedding is planned at Meadowbrook Country Club.

2012 WEDDING PLANNED

Megan Reed and Ryan Koch, both of Royal Oak, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Lee and Linda Reed of Grosse Ile, graduated in 2011 from Western Michigan University and is employed by Sachse Construction in Birmingham.

Her fiancé, son of Gary and Susan Koch of Commerce Township, formerly of Plymouth, graduated in 2009 from Western Michigan University. He is employed by Chrysler Corp., in Auburn Hills.

A wedding is planned for 2012.



Reed-Koch

JULY WEDDING

Kristie Wyler and Todd Yerman were married July 23, 2011, on the Front Porch of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

The bride, daughter of Rita and Bill Wyler of Westland, is the owner of Metro Dance Company, Plymouth.

The groom, son of Mark Yerman, Lawrence Chevalier and Fran Yerman, all of Columbus, Ohio, is director of business development for Hart Associates.

The couple took a honey-



Yerman-Wyler

moon trip to Saint Martin. They reside in Plymouth.

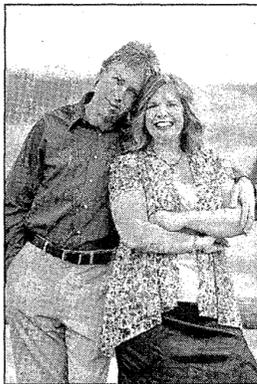
SEPTEMBER WEDDING PLANNED

Jay Melancon of Plymouth and Beverlee Melancon of Ann Arbor announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Melancon Arbury, to William Franklin Snodgrass, son of Henry Snodgrass of Edinburg, Texas, and Mary Pat Wright of Texarkana, Texas.

Laura grew up in Howell and graduated from the University of Michigan. She lives in Fort Collins, Colo., and is a financial adviser for Edward Jones Investments.

Bill lives in Thornton, Colo., and is a program manager for LMKR in Denver, Colo.

They plan to marry in September 2011 in Estes Park,



Arbury-Snodgrass

Colo. The couple will make Fort Collins their home after the wedding.

FINN ARRIVES

Finn Francis Cahill was born July 26, 2011, at University Hospital, in Augusta, Ga.

He weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and measured 20.4 inches.

Finn joins his parents, Courtney Cahill and Lindsay Satchell, and big brother, Alistair, 2, at home in Aiken, S.C.

His grandparents are Terry and Kay Satchell of Hendersonville, N.C., and Frank and Christine Cahill of Farmington Hills.



Finn Francis Cahill

8/7/11 B9

Passages

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BURKHART, RICHARD C.
Age 84, Aug 1, 2011 of Canton. Beloved husband of Lucille. Loving father of Richard, Jr. (Judy), Sandra (Flem) Stiltner, Linda (Eric) Partridge, Edward (Margery) Burkhart, Karen (Tom) Miller and Mary Ann (Greg) Ferrell. Proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Dear brother of Ernest (Esther), Doris (the late Lou) Schoop, the late Homer (Lois), Paul (Pat), the late Edna (Lester) Cummings and William (Gayle). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Wednesday 3-8 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service was held Thursday 11 AM at the funeral home. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Crosswalk Community Church of the Nazarene 38600 Palmer Rd. Westland, MI 48186. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

DRAY, JAMES ANTHONY
Of Redford Township and Plymouth, Michigan passed away peacefully July 27, 2011 in Naples, Florida where he had been residing the past year. James was born November 14th, 1922 in Buffalo, New York. James honorably served his country in the United States Air Force as a B24 tail gunner during World War II. He flew thirty-seven missions for which he received decorations. He attended Wayne State University and accepted a position with Michigan Bell Telephone where he distinguished himself with a thirty-seven year career before retiring. He served as a Post Commander at the Plymouth VFW and was a member of the Optimist Club and Plymouth Elks. His greatest achievement centered on the family his wife, Lorraine, and he built together with their two daughters. He adored his three grandchildren and enjoyed watching and supporting their growth into successful individuals. He loved shopping, winter in Michigan, golf, the shooting range, and afternoon coffee at McDonalds. He is preceded in death by his wife - Lorraine (Green) Dray. He is survived by his two daughters: Valerie (Dray) Mathews, Son-in-Law David Mathews, and Grandson James Mathews from Chicago, Illinois and Cynthia (Dray) Gayer, Son-in-Law Thomas Gayer, Granddaughter Lorraine Lee Gayer, and Grandson Thomas (TG) Gayer from Naples, Florida. A Memorial Service will be held Monday August 15, 2011, 12 noon at The First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Friends may visit at church beginning at 11am. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth with Military Honors. Memorials may be made the American Diabetes Association. www.diabetes.org To sign the guest book: www.schrader-howell.com

BUSH, BARBARA J.
Of Plymouth, MI age 65 passed away July 2011. She was born in Dearborn, MI, the daughter of Clyde & Blanche (Lark) Thrasher. She grew up in Dearborn and met her husband Donald E. Bush at the Dearborn Youth-Center. They dated for five years and married on June 11, 1966. Barbara attended Detroit Business College and worked as a legal secretary and as an executive secretary at ARA Food Service before becoming a co-owner in O. & D. Bush Jewelers, for 30 years. Barb raced Corvettes with her husband at local, state, and national level, participating in autocross and tracks racing across the country. She earned many club and regional championships. She was a member of the Corvette Club of Michigan, and the National Council Corvette Clubs, for 35 years and the legend Corvette Club. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Donald Bush of Plymouth, MI and daughter Tammy Cameron of Concord, N.C. and son in law Dave Cameron. Her brother Ken (Linda) Thrasher of Sterling Heights, MI. A funeral service was held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Memorials may be made to http://www.pancan.org/ or mail to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network 1500 Rosecrans Ave Ste 200 Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266-3721 in Tribute of Barbara J. Bush. Entombment Glen Eden Cemetery. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com.

HANCE, BRUCE D.
August 4, 2011, age 86. WW II Veteran and lifelong supporter of Denison University. Husband of the late Nancy. Dear father of Deborah Paulick (Rodney) and Cindy Van Dusen (Tom). Grandfather of Jennifer, Jessica, John, Joseph, and Patrick. Brother of Virginia Becker. Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Memorial Tributes to Denison University Annual Fund, P.O. Box 716, Granville, OH 43023, Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Rd., Suite 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, or Charity of the Donor's Choice. A. J. Desmond & Sons (248-362-2500). View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

LEE, ARTHUR, J.
Age 90, January 29, 1921-August 1, 2011. Beloved husband of the late Jeanne. Father of Michael (Shariene), Suzanne (Bill) Bowman, Gordon J. and Shirley A. (Peter) Santino. He is the grandfather of 8 and great grandfather of 5. WWII Navy Veteran and retired from Ford Motor Livonia Transmission. Visitation at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile today, Thursday 4-9 pm and 10 am Friday before procession to Parkview Memorial. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

CRITCHER, ISABELLA L.
Age 91, August 4, 2011. Beloved wife of the late William Critcher. Loving mother of K. Norman (Rosemary) and Ronald (Mary) Copeland, Connie (Bob) Laurin, Bill (Joie), Harold (Sharon) Critcher, and Carolyn (Dave) Miller. Also survived by 27 grandchildren, 66 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday 11AM. Visitation Monday from 4-8PM. Memorial contributions may be directed to St. John Providence Hospice, Paralyzed Veterans of America or Penderston Center For The Blind and Disabled. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com

MIKA, VICTOR
Age 65, July 28, 2011. Preceded in death by his parents, Stanley & Margaret. Survived by his loving siblings, Marge (Raymond) Gabel, Mike (Joyce), Tony, Stan (Nancy) and many nieces and nephews. Best friend of Wally and Sue Pociask. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Memorial gathering Thursday 2pm until the Memorial service at 5pm at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com

ROLLINS, DEBORAH "DEBBIE"
Aug 4, 2011. Age 41 of Westland. Beloved daughter of Chris and Renee Rollins. Loving sister of Bradley. Dear granddaughter of Edward and Patsy Rollins. Dear niece of Karen (Michael) Gossett, Matthew (Sarah) Rollins and Nicole Rollins. Dear friend of Cynthia Barton. Debbie will be deeply missed by "Tiger". Funeral Tues 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill) Westland. Visitation Sun 3-9 PM and Mon 3-9 PM. Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens, West. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

SMITH, ALMA
100, died Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at Brownsboro Hills Healthcare Center in Louisville, Kentucky, with her great niece and her great, great niece at her side. She was born October 26, 1910, to Prince Garfield and Mary (Mead) Huston. Reared on a farm near Salem, Indiana, she moved to the city with her parents and graduated from Salem High School in 1929. She received her bachelor's and master's degree in mathematics from Indiana University. After graduation she was involved in the development of the personal computer and was recognized as an expert and teacher in the emerging field of computer science. From 1943-1956, she was employed by General Motors and taught at Oakland Community College from 1965-1975 in Birmingham, Michigan where she and her husband, Warren made their home until his death in 1987. An active member of the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham for thirty years, she was known for her beautiful needlepoint and was a member of the Needlework Guild, an accomplished organizer, and an avid bridge player. In 1988, she became a resident of the Franklin United Methodist Community in Franklin, Indiana. For many years, she continued her interest in playing bridge, raising flowers in their greenhouse, and greeting newcomers. She was a lady of great generosity and strength. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Ernest C. Huston, and Elmo F. Huston, and a sister, Virginia H. Caudle. She is survived by two nieces, Ernestine Huston Thompson of Augusta, Georgia and Mary Jane Huston Bennett of Louisville, Kentucky, and a nephew Ronald Caudle of Berkeley, California; two great nieces, four great nephews, eleven great, great nieces and nephews, and three great, great, great nieces. She chose to be cremated and her ashes buried with her late husband in the Memorial Garden of the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. The family would like to thank the staff at Franklin United Methodist Community and Brownsboro Hills Healthcare system for the care they gave to her. Arrangements entrusted to: Arch L. Heady-Crall Funeral Home, Louisville, KY. www.archheadycrall.com to leave a condolence with the family.

RUCKER, WILLIAM JAMES, SR.
Age 88, of Beckley, passed away Sunday, July 31, 2011 at his residence. Born July 1, 1923 in Ashland, KY, he was the son of the late John Garrett and Mildred Pratt Rucker. William was President and Chairman of the Board of Mt. Eagle, Proud Eagle and Northern Eagle Distributors. He was a member of the Beckley Presbyterian Church and a U.S. Army veteran of WW II. He was a Kentucky Colonel for 58 years and was looked upon as a Kentucky gentleman who wore a suit and tie everyday of his working life, lived by his word and did business with a handshake. He never believed in retirement and worked up until a year before he died. William had a love for thoroughbred horse racing and loved to attend the Kentucky Derby which he did for 60 consecutive years. He is survived by his wife to whom he was married for 55 years, Patricia Ann Johnson Rucker, son, William James Rucker, Jr. of Beckley; daughters, Cynthia Rucker Parkes of Winchester, VA, Catherine Rucker Parkes of Grand Rapids, MI and Carol Jo Rucker Butera of Dearborn, MI and 10 grandchildren. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, August 5, 2011 at the Beckley Presbyterian Church with Rev. Robin Debnam officiating. Friends may visit with the family at the church from 11:00 a.m. until service time on Friday. Pallbearers will be Bradley Parkes, William James (BJ) Rucker, III, Brian Rucker, Patrick Parkes and Chad Parkes. On line condolences may be left at www.calfeefh.com. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Southern West Virginia, P.O. Box 1472, Beckley, WV 25802 or The Beckley Presbyterian Church, 203 S. Kanawha St. Beckley, WV 25801. Arrangements by Calfee Funeral Home, Beckley.

In Memory Of

In Memory of our Lil-O-Trish.

Feb. 2, 1991 ~ Aug. 4, 2010

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HEALTH

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Parents can stress nutrition, safety at physical exam

Annual physical exams are the perfect time for parents and family physicians to collaborate and teach children healthy lifestyle practices, according to University of Michigan family physicians and pediatricians.

Although exams are primarily designed to assess youngsters' physical health, visits can be used as a time for conversation.

"For children between 5 and 12 years old, the counseling aspect of the annual physical is important because children in this age group are establishing patterns of behavior that may last a lifetime," says Dr. Margaret Riley, clinical lecturer of family medicine at the U-M Medical School. "It's important for children to be counseled on leading a healthy lifestyle by their parent or guardian as well as their regular physician."

Discussions also help children develop a positive and trusting relationship with their doctor, Riley says.

Along with the routine physical exam, Riley suggests that parents, physicians and children should talk about healthy lifestyle practices and accident prevention. This includes discussing the importance of eating a proper diet and getting regular exercise, limiting screen time, getting adequate sleep, and the dangers of high risk behaviors. Discussion of each topic varies according to children's age, and should be tailored to the individual child's needs.

• Dietary counseling
Parents and physicians should take advantage of annual visits to remind children of the value of eating fruits and vegetables and limiting sugary beverages and processed foods.

"It's important that children are educated early on about the importance of eating healthy food like lean meats, whole grains, low fat dairy, beans and fish," Riley says. "Teaching children portion control will also help them to avoid becoming overweight."



• Physical activity
Although it's up to parents to ensure children get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day, family physicians and pediatricians can encourage kids to stay active by offering a straightforward explanation of the benefits of exercise.

"Physicians can explain to children how different activities help keep their muscles, heart and bones strong," Riley says. "Demonstrating to kids that even fun activities like playing tug-of-war and swimming help keep them healthy will encourage them to remain active."

• Screen Time
"The more time children spend in front of a screen, the higher their risk of obesity," Riley says. "This includes time spent watching television, playing video games or using the computer."

The average child spends 7.5 hours a day in front of a screen, but the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than one to two hours of quality programming each day for school-aged children.

"To minimize the risk of obesity, it's critical that parents and physicians work together to encourage kids to cut down on time spent in

front of a screen," Riley adds.

• Sleep
Inadequate sleep can lead to behavioral issues, difficulty concentrating at school, and has been linked with obesity.

"Children 5-12 years old need an average of 11 hours of sleep nightly, and getting enough sleep will help them feel their best," Riley says.

• High-Risk Behaviors
According to a 2007 survey of youth in the U.S., 24 percent of those younger than 13 had their first drink of alcohol, 15 percent had smoked an entire cigarette and 8 percent had tried marijuana.

"Screening for high-risk behaviors should occur during annual visits for those 11 years and older," Riley says. "Early screening reduces the risk of substance abuse related injuries, motor vehicle crashes and substance dependence in adulthood."

• Safety
Accidents are the leading cause of death in children ages 5-12, and many injuries are preventable and predictable.

"Motor vehicle accidents and drownings cause the majority of injuries in children," Riley said. "Families should be counseled on traffic safety including seat belts and bike helmets, and children ages 5 and up should be taught to swim."

For more information, visit www.healthychildren.org.

Walk raises money for diabetes research

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is accepting registration for its fundraising walk, Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes planned for Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Detroit Zoo.

Nearly 26 million Americans — over 1 million in the State of Michigan — have diabetes. Although an estimated 18.8 million individuals have been diagnosed, another 7 million are unaware that they have the disease. If current trends continue, one in three American adults will have diabetes by 2050.

"Diabetes is a devastating disease that touches us all," said Christina Johnson, ADA special events manager. "Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes is such a wonderful event for friends and co-workers to come together and help change the future of diabetes. The camaraderie and spirit that is enjoyed by participating in this event is priceless."

To register, volunteer, sponsor or find out more information, visit diabetes.org/stepout or call (888) DIABETES.

The American Diabetes Association funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides diabetes information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes. Founded in 1940, its mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

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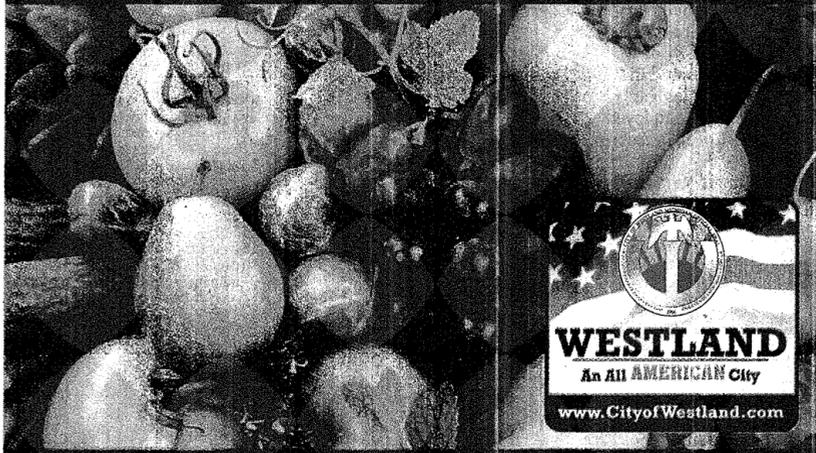
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