

Woman sheds pounds, gains self-confidence
Sports, B1

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Absentee ballots are still available

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland voters who can't make it to the polls for Tuesday's primary needn't worry.

City Clerk Eileen DeHart is reminding voters there's still time to cast absentee ballots. Put more bluntly, there's no excuse not to vote.

The clerk's office, on the first floor of City Hall on

Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne, will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for special

Saturday hours to allow voters to pick up absentee ballots.

It's also the last day the clerk's office will mail out absentee ballots to voters' homes.

Voters who miss their opportunity on Saturday still needn't worry. They can go to the clerk's office until 4 p.m. Monday for an absentee ballot, but on that day they will have to vote on the premises, DeHart said.

Just this week, DeHart predicted that voter participation in Tuesday's primary could reach 18 percent. In all, she said, the city has just over 60,000 registered voters.

Westland's turnout for a primary election is typically around 15 percent, DeHart said, but she said interest could be a little higher this year as voters cast ballots in the 12th District Wayne County Commission race.

With longtime Commissioner Kay Beard stepping down in March due to health reasons, voters will decide their party nominees from among eight Democrats and two Republicans.

As of Monday afternoon, DeHart's office had issued 4,300 absentee ballots and received back 2,700.

For more information about absentee ballots or Tuesday's primary, DeHart encouraged voters to call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3185.

Coming Sunday, the Observer will recap Tuesday's primary ballot.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

In the swim



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hot summer weather has youngsters like Tyler Riblett, 9 of Westland turning out at the Bailey Recreation Center's outdoor pool. Families also can enjoy a dip and also help celebrate National Clown Week at the annual "Magic Monday" Family Night 7-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4. Hosted by WMCC "Magic" radio and Clowns Around Redford, the event will include inflatables, games, swimming and use of the Bailey Center gymnasium and Tot Town in Tattan Park. Admission to the pool will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for children to swim, the other activities are free of charge. For more information, call the center at (734) 722-7620. The Bailey center and outdoor pool are located in the city's civic center complex at Ford and Carlson, west of Wayne Road.

Officials: Fires were caused by arsonists

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Arsonists struck twice in Westland within a 26-hour period that ended early Monday, leaving authorities to investigate two fires that apparently are unrelated.

The first incident happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday when a fire was intentionally set while a family was away from home on Cashew, a street in the Westland Meadows mobile home park near Merriman and Van Born roads, Fire Chief Michael Reddy said.

"It was a total loss," he said. Fire investigators found accelerants at the scene, Reddy said. It wasn't known why anyone would burn the home, which was set ablaze while the parents and two children were away, he said.

The mobile home park is located on Westland's far southeast side. The family was apparently staying

with family or friends, Reddy said, and a local charitable organization, Westland Goodfellows, had provided a few hundred dollars to help the victims with immediate needs.

The second incident happened around 1:30 a.m. Monday when a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a front window of a house on Pattingill, near Newburgh and Cherry Hill on the city's west side, Reddy said.

Police Lt. Daniel Karrick said two or three people were inside the house, but no one was injured. Authorities reported some fire damage to the living room. The incident remained under investigation.

"We are working on it in conjunction with the fire department," Karrick said. Anyone who has information is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Group launches effort to recall 5 city officials

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A group calling itself Save Our Neighborhood filed proposed recall language Tuesday amid hopes of ousting Mayor William Wild and four Westland City Council members for supporting a \$35 million senior housing complex on the city's north side.

Recall supporters Donna DeWitt and Rosemarie Rembisz submitted the language to the Wayne County Elections Office, firing the first round in a recall campaign against Wild and council members James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves.

Recall organizers have accused the five elected officials of ignoring their concerns by supporting developer Glenn Shaw Jr.'s proposal to build a 147-unit, three-story apartment building, 20 duplex condominiums and 54 stand-alone homes on a 24-acre site near Joy and Newburgh roads, next to Sts. Helen & Constantine Church.

"What we're saying is, it's a wonderful project, it's just in the incorrect part of Westland," Rembisz said Wednesday. "This niche of Westland is paradise."

Wild defended the project, saying it will generate \$250,000 a year in city tax revenues and create jobs during an economic slump. He also said it will provide housing for longtime residents who are aging and want to stay in Westland.

"It's going to be a shot in the arm to the community," Wild said Wednesday.

The Wayne County Elections Commission, composed of Chief Probate Judge Milton Mack Jr., Clerk Cathy Garrett and Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, is expected to consider the proposed recall language during an Aug. 12 meeting at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

If the panel approves it, recall supporters will have to collect 6,818 sig-

Please see **RECALL, A2**

Residents ready to go green

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dozens of Westland residents already have embraced Mayor William Wild's new initiative to make this city of 86,000 people more environmentally friendly and cost-efficient by ramping up efforts to expand recycling, conserve energy, encourage "green" development and use fuel-efficient vehicles.

This is no Mission Impossible. It's Mission Green.

"We've got a lot of catching up to do, but it's the right thing to do," Wild said Tuesday evening, addressing a group of people who signed up for Team Green.

Nearly 40 people, including students, retirees, city officials, recycling enthusiasts and others, came to Westland City Hall for a start-up meeting aimed at making this city an area leader on the environmental front. Others who couldn't attend already have told Team Green leader Bruce Thompson, the city's planning director, that they want to become involved.

Thompson told volunteers to "be ready to roll up your sleeves" during a public goal-setting session scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at City Hall. Thompson indicated that seemingly small measures, like shutting off computers, buying energy-saving light bulbs and recycling plastic water bottles, can save money and protect the environment.

Even though Westland isn't as big as cities like Miami, Chicago, Toronto

and Seattle, it can adopt many of the green initiatives started on larger scales, city officials said.

Wild indicated that a curbside recycling program will be recommended to the Westland City Council within 30-45 days. Moreover, he wants Team Green to explore other efforts, such as making government buildings more energy-efficient and vehicles more fuel-efficient.

City officials already have adopted some measures, such as expanding the recycling center on Marquette east of Newburgh and adopting a paper-recycling program in city buildings.

Volunteers indicated Monday that they're up to the challenge of helping Westland go green. Wild also wants to inspire residents to change their behavior at home.

"It's an exciting start to put into motion," said Nancy Foreich, a long-time city recycling committee member.

Judy Rubasky and Lee Duffey, two women from the Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation & Smart Growth, appeared equally as eager to help with Mission Green.

"I think this is kind of a landmark thing for Westland," Duffey said, adding that the city has never before asked residents to get involved on this level.

Rubasky agreed. "It's a real turning point. We can see exciting things happening in Westland."

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Coming Sunday:
Comedian Jack Black:
'I want to make sure my kids can be proud of me.'



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Campers enjoy a game of musical hot potato.

Salvation Army campers have fun, grow in faith

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You just might see Savannah Smith, 11, as a counselor at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army day camp in a few years.

That appeals to Savannah, an Adams Middle School seventh-grader, "especially because I like kids so much."

There are plenty of kids at the summer day camp at the corps center on Venoy in Westland.

"My mom goes to work every day," said Savannah, taking a break from camp fun. "She didn't want me to stay home. I like when we sing the songs before and after."

She likes when songs are put up before the group so they can sing, and enjoys the spiritual development.

"Field trips" top the list for Tyler Simmons, 10, a Jefferson-Barns Elementary School fifth-grader.

"Last year, I came at the end," Tyler said of camp. He'd play video games inside and then visit friends when not at camp.

The June 30 to Aug. 8 camp is for ages 6-12 and has about 50 kids, mostly from the neighborhood.

"The thinking behind it is to have a safe, healthy environment for the kids," said Greg Barta of Garden City. "We just got back from Greenfield Village."

The director of youth and community ministries for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, Barta said the youngsters enjoy physical and spiritual activities. They've visited Kensington Metropark, the Detroit Science Museum and saw the Detroit Shock women's basketball team at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The home team won that game.

Day camp cost is based on income and starts at \$40 per week, Barta said.



Seven-year-old Adam Hainley paints a cross-shaped coin bank during arts and crafts at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army summer camp.

"We also offer some scholarships, full scholarships," he added.

He's pleased with "great response" to the camp, with 45 campers coming on a regular basis. The campers love their counselors, who are local high school and college students.

Barta's looking forward to after-school tutoring which will be starting soon at the Salvation Army and is encouraging retired teachers to consider volunteering a few hours a week. People inter-

ested in tutoring can reach Barta at (734) 722-3660.

Summer's not over yet, though, as he reminded campers at the Monday, July 28, session where they moved from the gym to other rooms in the building for arts and crafts, music, spiritual development, games and more. Barta offered a short scripture lesson in the sanctuary on the importance of humility.

"The kids have just been having a great time," he added.

3 W-W staffers take on new assignments

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There will be new faces in the top spots at Wayne-Westland's two high schools this fall.

The school board earlier this month has approved the appointment of Valerie Orr as principal at Wayne Memorial High School and David Ingham as principal of John Glenn High School. They replace John Albrecht, who has joined the district's administrative staff as the executive director of student and legal services, and Joan Sedik, who has been named the executive director of human services.

Orr told the board she was "very excited, overwhelmed and humbled" by the appointment.

"There's not many people in world who can say they got the job they always dreamed of," she said. "My roots grow very long in this community. I love Wayne-Westland, I love the kids, and I am very proud to be here. There's no better place than Wayne Memorial High School."

Orr, a Wayne resident, has been with the district since 2001. She was a mathematics teacher at Franklin Middle School for six years before being named an assistant principal at Wayne Memorial. She has a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and sociology from Eastern Michigan University and a master of arts degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Phoenix.

She has participated in the Wayne County RESA Aspiring Principals Program, trained as a district staff development leader and

developed and presented staff in-services on student-led conferences. She also has served on the district's middle school scheduling committee. Orr also thanked her husband, Brent, telling the board that he "has been very supportive and understanding of my love of education."

Ingham is a familiar with John Glenn High School, having served as an assistant principal there during the 2003-04 school year. He moves from Adams Middle School where he had been the principal since 2003.

"This almost seems like an awards acceptance speech because I'm thanking everyone," the Howell resident said. "But it's appropriate because we need support of everyone here."

Ingham has a bachelor of science degree in natural resources management from the University of Connecticut, a master of arts degree in management and supervision from Central Michigan University and a master of arts degree in secondary education from Marymount University. He was a teacher, department head and interim assistant principal at Taylor Truman High School before joining the Wayne-Westland district in 2002.

Ingham also had a special thank you for Superintendent Greg Baracy for hiring him from Taylor schools.

"You gave me the opportunity to be in excellent district where focus is always on students and matches up to our focus," he said. "I appreciate that and accept the opportunity to serve."

Sedik also was thankful for being tapped for the human resources position.

"This was not some I had imagined as my plan for the future," she said. "I'm excited about the new challenge and the new position, and I look forward working with human resources, Dr. (Greg) Baracy and the board."

Sedik will move a few hundred yards down Marquette from the school she's been at since joining the district in 1970. She worked as a teacher at John Glenn High School for 25 years before being named an assistant principal in 1995. She was named principal in 2000.

A Westland resident, Sedik has a bachelor of science degree in business education, social science and English from Wayne State University, a master of arts degree in reading from Eastern Michigan University and an education specialist degree from WSU in general administration.

The appointments drew praise from board Secretary Cindy Schofield, who was excited to see the three administrators "step forward to new positions."

"I know the three of you will do a wonderful job, you will be a real asset to Wayne-Westland," she said. "Thank you for stepping up and taking on new responsibilities."

"It's always been our objective, and my objective, to hire from within and this shows we have many talented people in school district that can move into these positions," added Trustee Skip Monit.

Board President Martha Pitsenbarger also added her congratulations, saying that "I think it's great and our schools will benefit from it."

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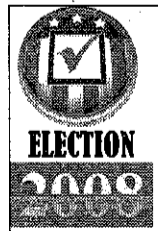
LeBlanc: Property tax relief, economy issues in 2nd term

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, has cited jobs, the economy and property tax relief as top issues he hopes to address as he seeks a second two-year term.

His chances of winning appear overwhelming good, considering he has no Democratic opponent and no Republican challenger this election season.

LeBlanc had nearly forgotten that his name would even be on the ballot until a longtime supporter told him that she had voted for him on her absentee ballot. As a lone candidate for the 18th District state House seat, which represents only Westland, LeBlanc hasn't had



to actively campaign by knocking on doors and mailing literature.

Still, he said he has continued to respond to constituent concerns, attend 18th District events, work in Lansing even when legislators aren't in session, and drive home to Westland every day.

"My responsiveness has not changed," LeBlanc said.

He cited jobs and the economy as the top issues facing Michigan and his district.

"I am beating my head against the wall to see if there's a magic bullet or panacea out there," he said.

For now, he hopes that a plan he introduced with state Rep. Richard Hammel, D-Mount Morris Township, will at least help ease the property tax

burden on homeowners. The proposal would guarantee that when a home's value decreases, the taxable value couldn't increase — as it currently can.

"Enacting this property tax reform will make our system fairer and help thousands of working families who are at risk of foreclosure," LeBlanc said. "We have to do everything we can to support Michigan's hard-working residents during these tough economic times."

He conceded that the plan could encounter some opposition from some local governments and school districts that could stand to lose some tax revenues. However, he said he believes the proposal is the right thing to do for residents.

LeBlanc was first elected to the state House in 2006. Prior to that, he served on the Westland City Council and the Wayne-Westland school board.

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13 candidates vie for county treasurer

Nine candidates have filed to run against incumbent Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary. Two Republicans are seeking the GOP nomination. The county treasurer serves a four-year term. The position pays \$128,768 a year.

All candidates were asked to respond to an online questionnaire by Gannett Newspapers in Michigan for our online

voter guide. Three Democrats, Wojtowicz, County Commissioner Philip Cavanagh and Beverly Kindle-Walker and two Republicans, former county auditor Brenden Dunleavy and Timberly Robinson responded.

Kevin Kelly of Grosse Ile, Thomas Marciniak of Plymouth, Robert John Nozicka of Dearborn, Brian O'Donnell of Dearborn, Catherine O'Meara of Grosse Pointe Farms, Sigmunt John

Szczepkowski of Riverview, Keith Windham of Detroit, and Linda Kay Zebrowsk of Garden City did not respond to the questionnaire.

These are the responses of the Democratic candidates to the questionnaire. The responses of the Republican candidates will run on Sunday.

For responses in this and other contests, go to the Voter Guide at www.hometownlife.com.

WOJTOWICZ CITES LONG SERVICE

What makes you the most qualified to hold this position?

My experience. Navigating in these unprecedented economic times requires knowledge and experience to collect delinquent taxes but also the sensitivity to respond to the needs of the many families just trying to survive each day. This year, my office has completed a record borrowing for delinquent taxes, nearly \$300 million at below market rates, savings



Wojtowicz

millions for the County. I have guided the County's investment activities, never losing a dime nor missing a payment. We have the most extensive and most effective Community Outreach Program in the State, with demonstrated results. More than 3000 people have been helped by our Taxpayer Assistance Department this year. We do not auction occupied properties. Hardship applications have more than doubled versus last year to over 1300. More than 2700 properties have been saved by accepting payments after the March 31 statutory deadline. I have faced change and challenges with honesty, integrity and genuine concern for my constituents. I will continue to use my experience to deliver for Wayne County taxpayers.

What are the two most important issues facing the treasurer's office, and how would you address them?

1. Keeping families in their homes. It is a multi-faceted and complex issue. The extended adverse economic climate has had a severe impact on a family's ability to pay taxes. For this reason, Phase I of

RAYMOND WOJTOWICZ

Party: Democrat
Age: 79
Marital Status: Married
Family: 5 children, 9 grandchildren
City/Town: Lifelong resident of the City of Hamtramck
Education/Degrees: Graduate of St. Ladislaus High School Great Lakes College, Diplomate Medical Radiographer
Occupation: Wayne County Treasurer
Experience: I have had the honor of serving as the Wayne County Treasurer since August 1976.

"Operation Normandy" was launched in February 2008 to enlist the support of more than 20 community organizations to provide a wide range of services to help the citizens of Wayne County. As a result of the innovative and creative approaches taken by my office, we are recognized as setting the standard in educating and helping families stay in their homes. 2. Safeguarding County funds in the current challenging market. My office invests all County funds in such a way as to judiciously protect the safety and security of those funds, while meeting liquidity requirements and maximizing yield. We constantly monitor key financial data, using only those institutions with acceptable levels of estimated risk.

Just a few, quick, personal trivia questions: What was the last book you read?

The Century by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster. What is the best movie you've seen in the last 12 months?
The Sound of Music.

CAVANAGH SAYS FORECLOSURES TOP ISSUE

What makes you the most qualified to hold this position?

I have served as a Wayne County Commissioner for the last eight years, overseeing the budget and trying to get a handle on how many properties have gone through



Cavanagh

the annual proceeds or the accumulative total from auctioning off our county's assets. I am not sure they know how much money they are holding. I have an MBA and a law degree, both would prove invaluable with the continuous avalanche of litigation plaguing the treasurer's office from improper procedures. I have also studied at Harvard University and learned nationally acclaimed programs to fight foreclosure and blight from other county treasurers. I have the energy and ambition to bring proven best practices from around our state and

country to turn the tide on the escalating problems facing our neighborhoods.

What are the two most important issues facing the treasurer's office and how would you address them?

1. Foreclosures, home and business - most counties in our state have NEVER taken an occupied home or business. The treasurer does so as a matter of procedure. It takes hard work and compassion to put the effort into helping someone stay in their home not just referring them to a non-profit that does the heavy lifting. We need people to stay in their homes to stabilize our communities.

2. Stabilizing property values and reducing blight by maintaining or rehabbing the 9000 County Treasurer owned properties. This will create JOBS! The treasurer's office has reserved all the auction proceeds for pending litigation. We need procedures in place so we are not wrongfully taking someone's property and being sued. Therefore the proceeds can be used to develop and reconstruct our neighborhoods.

Tax Delinquencies! 201,000 of 857,000 residential taxpayers are currently

PHILIP CAVANAGH

Party: Democrat
Age: 46
Marital Status: Married to Lily Cavanagh
Family: Three daughters. Veronica and Erin (17), twins, just graduated from Thurston High School, attending U of M in the fall and Mary (16), senior at Thurston High School and three stepchildren: Alex, 28; Stacey, 26; and Raymond, 21
City/Town: Redford Township
Education/Degrees: Milford High School, class of 1979 BS and BA from Aquinas College (1983) in Accounting and Business Administration; Juris Doctorate and MBA (1998) from the University of Detroit Mercy; Harvard JFK School of Government: Senior Executive in State and Local Government Program (2005). Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellow at MSU (1998)
Occupation: Wayne County Commissioner, 9th District Attorney and Counselor at Law (part time) Business Consultant (part time)
Experience: County Commission - Vice chair of Ways and Means Committee, also served or am serving on Economic Development, Public Safety Judiciary and Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Government Operations and Mental Health Taskforce Committee. Attended Harvard JFK School with Dan Kildee, Genesee County Treasurer, and learned best practices for national model of land banks. Balanced budgets and eliminated deficits as treasurer of the Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Board and Health Choice.

delinquent on their taxes. The County government cannot own a quarter of the County. Residents are fleeing Wayne County. We have to stop this trend before the 2010 federal census.

Just a few, quick, personal trivia questions: What was the last book you read?

The Secret by Rhonda Burne
What is the best movie you've seen in the last 12 months?
No Country for Old Men by the Cohen Brothers (2007).

KINDLE-WALKER WANTS TO PROTECT VULNERABLE

What makes you the most qualified to hold this position?

The qualifications for the office of Wayne County Treasurer is to be at least 18 years old, a registered voter in Wayne County and receive the most votes. I have a record of service which is unmatched by any other in this race. I believe that I am the best candidate because I have made it my chief concern, since 1996, to determine how the Wayne County Treasurer could better serve its citizens. I have consistently challenged the status quo. When Public Act 123 (which accelerated to tax reversion process) went



Kindle-Walker

into effect in 2000 I began to alert people to the potential problem. The Treasurer was too slow in responding. Thus we experienced this crisis which started to escalate in 2004. We need a visionary with compassion in this office. Over 71,000 people have voted Beverly Kindle-Walker for Wayne County Treasurer in the last three elections. What are the two most important issues facing the office you are

running for, and how would you address them?

A: Responding to the crisis of tax-reverted foreclosed homes is a great concern. The Treasurer has the discretion to withhold any property from foreclosure. I would enter into special payment arrangements with those most vulnerable citizens. As the keeper of all County funds I would make certain that millages are used as the voters intended. I would protect retiree pensions from the likes of Bear Stearns investments and MCA/RIMCO type investors and speculators.

Just a few, quick, personal trivia questions: What was the last book you read?

Currently reading *Raised from the Dead* by former TV anchor Frank Turner (sharing the book with my husband). The last book that I read is *Bishop C. H. Mason and the Roots of the Church of God in Christ* by Bishop Ithiel Clemmons. What is the best movie you've seen in the last 12 months?
The Great Debaters with Denzel Washington. My all-time favorites are *Beaches* with Bette Midler and *Eddie* with Whoopi Goldberg.

BEVERLY KINDLE-WALKER

Party: Democrat
Age: 54
Marital Status: married
Family: one adult son
City/Town: Detroit
Education/Degrees: Associate's degree, General Studies, Wayne County Community College District Transfer Student, B.A. Community Development-Public Administration, Central Michigan
Occupation: Legislative assistant to Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, 1st District (currently on unpaid leave)
Experience: I have over 20 years of administrative and managerial experience in public and private sector employment.

Hospital seeking volunteers

The volunteer services department of the new Providence Park Hospital in Novi is beginning its first volunteer recruitment campaign. The hospital is scheduled to open Sept. 5 and expects to recruit some 400 new volunteers within the first year.

Kathy Zaguroli, manager of volunteer services, said, "Hospital volunteers not only make a difference in people's lives, but at the same time they experience a sense camaraderie amongst their peers, and a sense of fulfillment in giving back to the community."

Volunteers are needed for responsibilities in the Emergency Center, surgical lounge, pediatric department, gift shop, and visitor services, as well as duties in the areas of spiritual care, transporter, clerical, patient greeter.

The hospital is looking for adults 18 and older to work a minimum of one, four-hour shift per week.

Interested persons may request a volunteer application packet by calling (248) 465-4096 or e-mailing volunteerservice@stjohn.org.

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OUR VIEWS

Fast action is best response to mold

Westland officials must be wondering when enough is enough.

First it was the contamination of Central City Park that had residents in a dither. Then it was the discovery of methane gas and a concern that it might leak into city buildings that had employees on edge. Now it's mold in the basement of city hall.

When is it going to end?

The past two years have been a roller coaster ride for the city with the park and now, when it looks like something may actually be done to clean up a portion of it, the city has a new hot potato to handle.

The mold problem was uncovered when repairs were made after the city hall basement was flooded. We guess we could thank the vandals who cut the water line, since it was their mess that was being cleaned up when the discovery was made.

An investigation has found some common mold, but also traces of the more scary black mold. A report city officials received last week says it doesn't pose a health hazard nor does it require a mass evacuation of city hall. That should be reassuring to city employees who work in the building, especially since their break rooms and the mail room have now been moved to the upper floors. But there are those who probably have an I-told-you-so attitude. They've been complaining for years that the building was making them sick.

We like that city officials are responding quickly to the problem. The fact that they are wasting no time in removing the mold and improving air quality sends a clear message that the health and safety of employees is first and foremost.

The city hall basement has been a problem for years. It comes from being built in an area with a high water table. A lot has been done to dry it up and a lot will need to be done in the future to keep it dry once the mold has been removed. The city will have to remain vigilant.

We are glad that this is one problem that can be taken care of quickly. And we hope that a plan will be put in place to address employees' concerns like those raised about the environmental quality of city hall. We've probably all complained at one time or another that our job made us sick, but with the potential for mold in the basement, city officials will have to listen a little more closely.

We support no-reason absentee voting

Every Election Day, there are countless people who plan to vote, but don't make it to the polls for one reason or another.

These well-intentioned citizens want to participate in our democratic system, but the logistics of life prevent them from doing so.

Perhaps they have to work a long shift or stay late at the office to finish up a project. Maybe they commute a long distance to work and have to leave before 7 a.m. and don't get home until 8 p.m.

Maybe they have young children or an elderly family member to care for at home and can't get anyone to relieve them. Or perhaps they have to rush home after work to fix dinner for the family and then rush out the door again to drive a child to soccer practice or attend a child's recital.

Whatever the reason, it's no reason not to vote.

That's why we support no-reason absentee voting in Michigan.

Currently, the only people in Michigan eligible to vote by absentee ballot are those who are 60 years old and older, incarcerated, have religious reasons for not voting on election day, plan to be out of town, or need assistance voting.

Earlier this month, state Sens. Liz Brater, D-Ann Arbor, and Gilda Z. Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, announced a "No Excuses Voting Initiative" that supports the passage of Senate Bill 12, which would allow voters to vote by absentee ballot for any reason.

We support the passage of S.B. 12 as well. Any change in law that would give more people the chance to participate in democracy gets a yes vote from us.

These well-intentioned citizens want to participate in our democratic system, but the logistics of life prevent them from doing so. Perhaps they have to work a long shift or stay late at the office to finish up a project. Maybe they commute a long distance to work and have to leave before 7 a.m. and don't get home until 8 p.m.



LETTERS

Consider Bowman's service

I am writing in response to some concerns about Commissioner Bowman's candidacy for Wayne County commissioner, District 12. One of the writers expressed concern about the cleanup of Central City Park, and that has been one of her priorities since becoming a commissioner. She has been working closely with county officials involved in the cleanup and they are moving quickly to a resolution. In addition, she has requested funds for additional park projects in Westland to provide updated services to the residents, a task that would not be possible without the support of the other commissioners.

As Commissioner Beard's assistant for more than two years, she also attended many events and meetings for her in all three communities in the district, enriching her knowledge of the district's needs.

As for the concern about her move to Westland in March, which has been previously reported and discussed in the newspaper, what is not being discussed is her commitment and dedication to the district for the past 20 years. Although she physically resided 1 1/2 miles out of the district, she was employed in the district and involved in more grassroots organizations, activities and committees in the district than any of the other candidates. The majority of her commitment of time and energy has been in the district.

Commissioner Bowman missed voting in the last school board election because she was in New York for her mother-in-law's 95th birthday that weekend and her return was delayed. Her voting record is stellar and she takes voting in every election very seriously. She has also served many years as a precinct delegate and has worked on many political campaigns.

It bothers me that some will overlook her lifetime of public service, the thousands of lives she assisted as a social worker and as a missionary in Haiti and St. Vincent, the thousands of hours she committed to community and civic projects, i.e. recycling in Livonia, task forces for both the Livonia and Wayne-Westland Public Schools, social justice causes, diversity issues, planning MLK programs for both Livonia and Westland, political campaigns, and local civic involvement, and they will instead form an opinion of her based on 1 1/2 miles and one missed vote.

Deborah Mecks
Westland

Vote for Godbout

Cast your important vote on Aug. 5 for James Godbout for Wayne County commissioner, 12th District. He is a lifelong resident of Wayne County and has resided in Westland for 29 years. Westland Council President Godbout has a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

He serves on two committees for the Michigan Municipal League, namely the Legislative Governance Committee and

the Energy and Technology Committee. Jim Godbout implemented the Technology Committee which has meant better services for our city.

He has strong qualities in financial knowledge and leadership ability, both of which are important factors in serving as a county commissioner. Because of Jim's interest in the environment he has promoted a citywide recycling program since 1999. In 2001, he reformed the Recycling Committee and served as chairman for several years. He is a member of the Holliday Nature Preserve and participates in the annual Rouge River Cleanup.

Jim has been involved in many, many community activities, such as Summer Festival Committee, Nankin Transit Committee, Westland Lions Club and Goodfellows.

James Godbout is the current president of the Westland City Council and has nine years experience on this governing body which would give him a distinct advantage as a Wayne County commissioner. Be sure to vote for James Godbout for county commissioner on Aug. 5.

Ruth Dale
Connie Hierta
Westland

Voting for Gebhardt

On Aug. 5, I will be voting for Joan Gebhardt for Wayne County commissioner in District 12.

Joan has been my friend since we met in junior high school, and I have had the opportunity to see her in many different situations, facing all kinds of challenges. She is exactly the kind of person I want representing me for the County Commission.

Joan Gebhardt is a problem solver. She is smart, creative and compassionate. She never forgets that her decisions have an impact on real people. She is not afraid to stand alone for what is right and fair — a kind of courage we rarely see in government officials. She has the ability to look at a problem from many different angles, and she listens to other points of view with a willingness to consider other possible solutions.

The challenges we face as a county — from foreclosures to declining revenues to the need to improve our infrastructure — demand that we elect a candidate ready to embrace new solutions. That candidate is my friend, Joan Gebhardt.

Many candidates identify foreclosures as a crisis for Wayne County. Joan Gebhardt is the only one suggesting ways in which we can address the problem — one-stop shops for advice and resources to avoid foreclosure and a neighborhood-watch style program to address the impact of vacant homes on our neighborhoods and our home values.

Joan Gebhardt has the right blend of dedication, skill, creativity, energy and caring. Elect her and we get a county commissioner who really listens to us and is ready to take on all the challenges we face as a county.

On Aug. 5, I'm voting for Joan

Gebhardt for Wayne County commissioner.

Gerry Wiatr
Westland

Bowman is honest, concerned

I am writing in support of Ronalee Bowman for Wayne County commissioner. I have known Ronalee for 15 years, and I know her to be an honest, concerned, hard-working, dedicated person who will represent all of the residents of the district.

I am concerned about the tactics of one of her opponents, who has been going to my friends and relatives who have Bowman lawn signs on their property with lies and innuendos in the hope of garnishing votes. I know for a fact that Ronalee does reside in Westland and that she moved before she was appointed to the position of commissioner. I will continue to encourage my friends to support Ronalee Bowman because I think she is the best person for the job.

Carol Sparks
Westland

Supports Larkin

To the voters in the 11th District with Thaddeus McCotter, I urge your vote for Joseph Larkin.

If you oppose the Iraq war, its loss of life on both sides and the billions needed at home instead, are angry about the cost of gas, the expected foreclosures of 10,000 homes just in Oakland County in 2008, the many with no health insurance, then change in is order if you think like I do. I also live and vote in the 11th District.

Your *Observer* made an informed and wise endorsement of Mr. Larkin. Joe will work hard for you as your representative in the next Congress. We have seen and been through enough this past eight years under McCotter.

Florence Anderson
Waterford

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"It's very viable. It's going to create jobs, and as we all know soccer is a growing recreation sport for kids. We definitely have a need for soccer fields."

— Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale about a new development plan for the former Cooper School site

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

State constitution needs revisiting, but not through wacky proposal

It's hard to remember a ballot proposal in recent years that has had our entire political class hyperventilating the way the proposed Reform Michigan Government Now amendment has.

The proposal (RMGN for short) was initially billed as a neutral, "good government" attempt to amend the current state constitution. And, indeed, it has some attractive features, such as making redistricting a truly non-partisan activity.

But the veils fell quickly after a PowerPoint presentation — supposedly prepared by RMGN advocates — was discovered on a United Auto Workers union Web site last week.

The slide show indicated that the proposal's real objective is "changing the structural obstacles to Democratic control of state government in 2012-2020." That sent critics immediately jumping all over the proposal, labeling it "cynical," "deceptive" and "disgusting." The state Chamber of Commerce promptly said it will sue, alleging violations of the Campaign Finance Act. (Though supporters filed far more signatures than officially needed, it has yet to be certified for the November ballot, and all sorts of court challenges are likely.)

Supporters of the amendment promptly fired back at critics, rolling out a poll showing 70 percent support statewide, with even more Republicans endorsing the proposal than Democrats.

Opponents quickly labeled the poll a "bogus mountain of garbage" and so on and so forth. Not your average reaction to a supposedly neutral bipartisan proposal, is it?

Yet beyond the sound and fury, and regardless of the merits of this particular proposal or the motives behind it, some things are becoming clear. For example, there are problems embedded in Michigan's too-frequently amended constitution, problems that have contributed to an atmosphere of toxic hyper-partisanship in Lansing.

To mention just two of the most obvious: term limits and the way legislative districts are drawn. Voters added term limits to the constitution in 1992, limiting state representatives to three terms of two years each and senators to two four-year terms.

After that, they can never serve again as long as they live. Although term limits remain popular with the public, anybody who has had anything to do with the way Michigan government works knows they have had a terrible effect.

Inexperienced lawmakers often have little idea what they're talking about and lack the time to master the subtleties of crafting legislation. And they can't possibly achieve the time-consuming process of building relationships across the aisle that are essential to crafting compromise agreements. Facing a necessarily short tenure, newly elected legislators quickly start raising money to run for the next office rather than doing their jobs.

Worst of all, term-limited lawmakers often adopt a short-term mindset, preferring to duck the tough votes and instead kicking the can down the road to the next occupant in office. That was a large part of

the reason for last year's budget disaster.

Drawing new district boundaries is equally political. Officially, Michigan's constitution calls for a legislative apportionment commission of eight members, split evenly between the two parties. If the commission cannot agree on a redistricting plan (almost always the case), the issue goes to the state Supreme Court. Currently, Republicans hold a big 5-2 majority, meaning the present system is tilted toward the GOP.

That gave us a system overwhelmingly gerrymandered to help Republicans — and it gets worse. Operating according to the principle of "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," the vast majority of legislative districts today are also gerrymandered to favor either one party or the other. So in both Democratic- and Republican-leaning districts, the real election takes place in the August primary.

Given the fact that voter turnout in Democratic primaries is skewed toward the left, the candidates that usually win are liberals. Republican primary voters tend to be equally right of center. What all this does is almost guarantee that the most liberal Democrats will face off against the most conservative Republicans when they get to Lansing.

No wonder they have trouble getting along. RMGN proposes to amend this system through an independent nine-member reapportionment commission. That's fine. But at the same time, it requires nearly three-quarters of each new district be drawn to be safe for either Republicans or Democrats. That's no help at all, as the net effect would be to legally disenfranchise millions of Michigan voters.

There's lots more wrong with the proposal. But it may just be that the biggest effect of this whole brouhaha will be to focus attention on whether to call a constitutional convention.

Two years from now, we will face a statewide vote on that, as our current constitution requires.

Until now, I've been firmly ambivalent. Argument in favor: There are sizable problems with the present constitution that require thoughtful consideration at a convention rather than a piecemeal and expensive amendment through the ballot initiative process.

Argument against: There are a lot of crazy people out there who would dearly love to control a constitutional convention and produce a version that would make the present document, even with all its flaws, look wonderful.

Moreover, there are far fewer sensible political godfathers around today — who can keep the crazies under control — than there were back in 1961-62, when we last went through this process.

Until now, I've been highly reluctant to support calling a convention. But everything now says to me that we'd better give the idea of a convention a much more favorable look.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent the official views of The Center. Comments are welcome at ppower@the-centerformichigan.net.



Phil Power

You don't have to be rich to benefit from a living trust

I had a meeting with a client regarding estate planning. During the course of the meeting, the client was surprised because I recommended a living trust. He said his estate wasn't large enough to pay estate taxes, so why would he need a living trust.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

There is a misconception about living trusts because many people believe the only advantage they offer is to avoid estate taxes. For people with large estates (over \$2 million), a living trust can be an effective vehicle to avoid or reduce estate taxes but it isn't the only reason to establish one.

First, it is important to know that a living trust is nothing more than a mechanism to hold property during your lifetime. For example, as opposed to me owning my mutual funds in my name individually, they are owned in the name of my trust. Since I am the trustee of my trust, I have complete control of my investments as if they were in my own name individually. The major difference is if I am incapable of handling my financial affairs, or upon my death, the mechanism is in place so a new trustee will take over and manage my trust without outside interference.

There are three advantages to using a living trust. One is it helps to reduce or eliminate estate taxes, the main reason people with high net worth do living trusts.

There are a couple other advantages to a living trust that sometimes get forgotten but are just as important as saving on taxes. The first is whatever assets are in the trust upon death avoids the probate process. Although there are now many ways to avoid probate, the living trust is the most effective. Probate is the process that upon death the deceased assets go through a legal process so they can be distributed to the appropriate individual(s). My problem with probate is

in many cases it becomes very time-consuming, contentious and expensive.

In most situations, probate is unnecessary and one that people should seek to avoid. I generally believe the more you keep judges, court and lawyers out of family affairs the easier life is.

The other benefit of a living trust (and the one that I mentioned to my client) is you can control your money past your death. This idea is appealing. Whether the beneficiary is a minor or someone who cannot handle an inheritance no matter what the size of your estate, a living trust is a viable alternative.

In my client's situation, his beneficiary would be unable to handle any inheritance. By using a living trust he can protect the beneficiary by having someone else manage the money.

This is a huge advantage of living trusts that people tend to forget. A living trust can be used to spread a beneficiary's money over a period of time. In addition, you don't need to have court supervision or get outsiders involved.

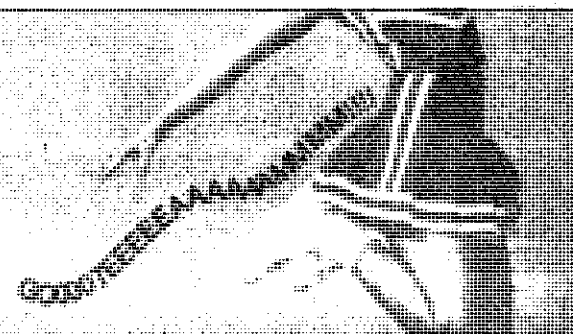
Many people are under the misconception they must use banks or lawyers to act as trustees. Not true. In the majority of situations, I recommend using other family members. After all, if the trustees need professional assistance, they can always hire someone and they can fire that person if they are not satisfied with the services.

Of course, there are situations where a professional trustee such as a bank or a lawyer is appropriate.

Since a living trust can exist many years after your death and because of the complexities, I recommend hiring an estate planning attorney. Understand what the fees will be and don't be afraid or intimidated to talk cost with the attorney. After all, the attorney works for you.

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

Cheer for the hometown, read today's **SPORTS** section



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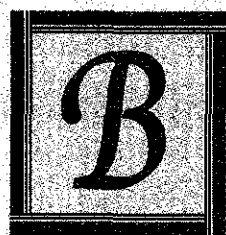
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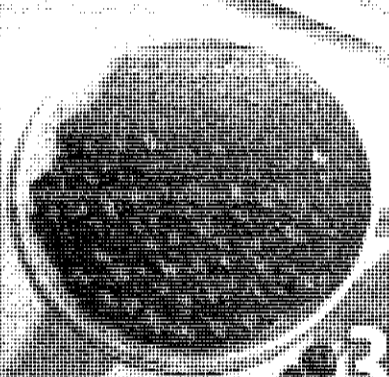
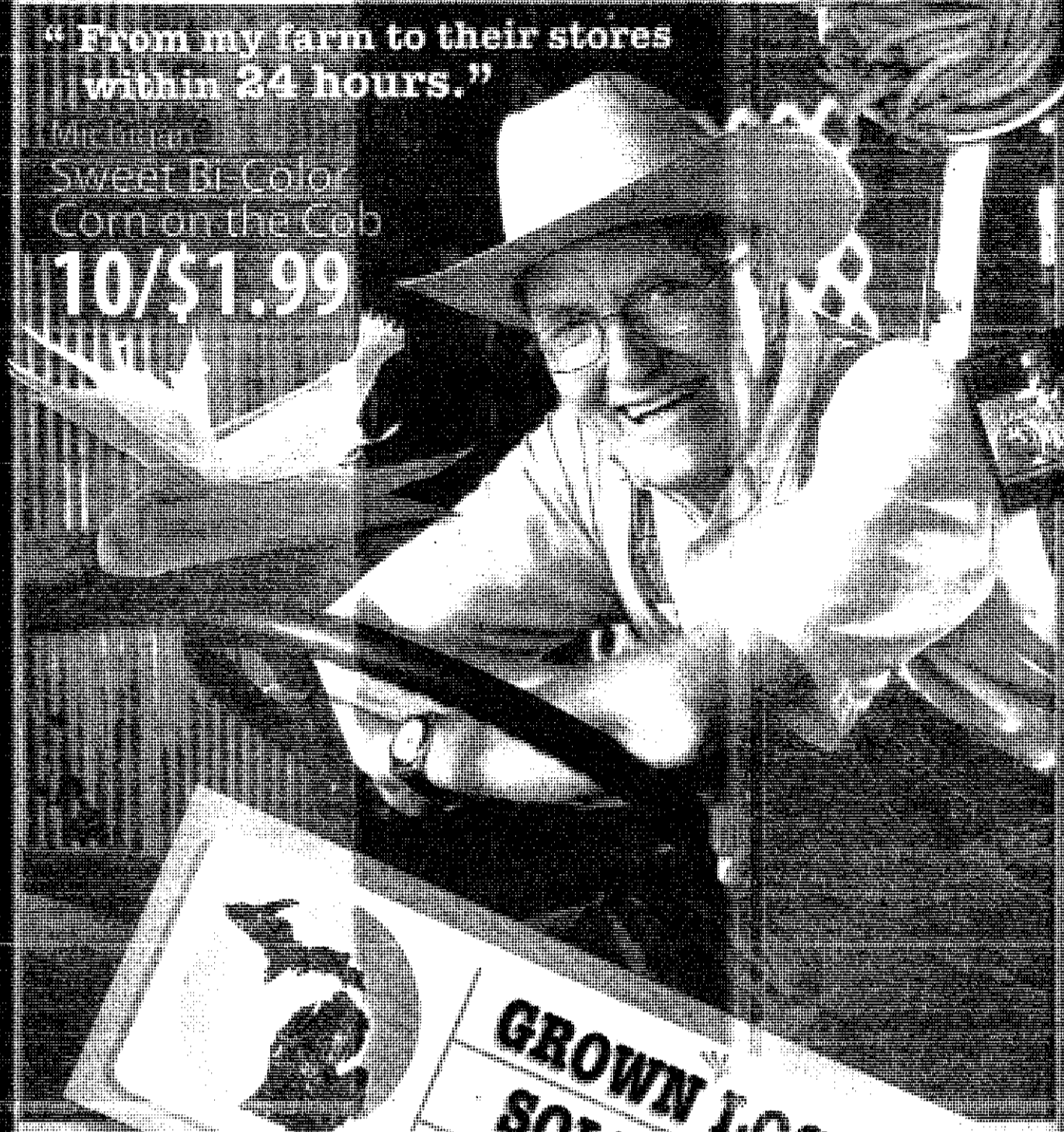
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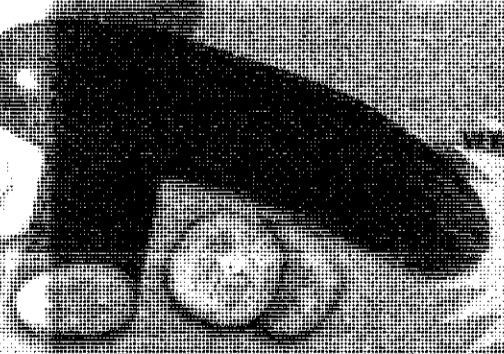
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Today's summer camps not about lazy memories

Remember when summer camp meant swimming, swatting mosquitoes and munching S'mores?

Well, they don't seem to make 'em like that anymore. For starters, young hockey players got a jump start on the upcoming season last week, thanks to five-day camps at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills.

There were separate camps for the boys and girls to attend, both with the simple catch phrase to "Get Better." With ex-college and professional players leading the myriad drills, players of various ages and experience levels from all over southeast



Tim Smith

ized sports camps such as those at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills. How about a "Summer Blast" soccer camp just around the corner in Garden City?

Or baseball, soccer and basketball camps served up by the Plymouth Family YMCA?

Many older athletes gearing up for the high school year take place in so-called camps for their future teams in just about every sport. But for them, it's not really summer camp because one year just blends into the next.

Then there's the Detroit Ignition professional indoor soccer team. The Ignition recently hosted a camp at Pembroke Park in Livonia.

For five days, kids got their kicks getting plenty of soccer instruction from some of their Ignition heroes — guys named Callahan and Mack, for example.

"The kids are having a blast because the Ignition players are so enthusiastic about what they're doing," said Mark Warner, a Livonia youth coach. "And the kids aren't just having fun — they're learning important skills. This week is something they'll remember the rest of their lives."

He's right. Today's youth have so many dynamic summer offerings to choose from that can't help but build memories that trump those of yesteryear, like corn-eating contests or target practice.

It's great that they have such choices that can develop life-long passion for hockey, soccer or whatever sport they are interested in. Camps these days aren't just for the scrapbooks.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Redford and Garden City Observers. He can be reached at (734) 953-2106 or via e-mail at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



Michigan Bucks midfielder Ty Shipalane and his teammates were upset victims in the Round of 16 Saturday night in the United Soccer Leagues-Premier Development League national tournament, falling to the Kalamazoo Outrage, 3-1, in overtime.

Outrage ends Bucks' year, 3-1

BY DAN STICKRADT
O&E STAFF WRITER

The No. 1 seed and high expectations didn't save the Michigan Bucks Saturday night.

After reaching the USL Premier Development League national championship each of the past two years with the same core of players, the Bucks were upset in the Round of 16 Saturday night at the Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

The bucks gave up a late goal in regulation and two more in overtime in suffering a season-ending 3-1 defeat to the Kalamazoo Outrage.

On Sunday night, second-seeded Thunder Bay Chill ousted Kalamazoo 4-0 to claim the Central Conference regional title and advance to the PDL Final four.

"We just didn't get it done," admitted third-year Bucks head coach Dan Fitzgerald, who cited many reasons for his team's

unexpected upset exit from the national tourney.

All-PDL midfielder Nate Jafta, who had missed five games during the last month due to injuries, was held out and fellow all-league forward Kenny Uzoigwe, ranked in the top 10 in the nation with 23 points during the regular season, went down with a re-aggravated hamstring injury in the seventh minute and didn't return. With two core players gone from the Bucks' attack, Michigan struggled to find the back of the net.

"With Nate out and Kenny going down in the first few minutes, it really hurt," offered Fitzgerald. "We had to move people around. But even with them out, I think we dominated a little bit. We just couldn't get that second goal to put it away."

Michigan (13-3-2, 13-2-2 against PDL teams) took the lead in the 31st minute, when forward Doug DeMartin (Mason/Michigan State) fin-

ished off a cross from Billy Weaver (Lake Orion/Indiana).

That proved to be the Bucks' last goal of the season.

Kalamazoo (10-7-2), which opened the PDL tourney with a 2-0 victory of favored Chicago Fire, finally weather the storm of Michigan's attack and forced overtime in the 86th minute. Eric Alexander's cross into the box was redirected into the goal by Tom Oatley, who headed the ball past Bucks netminder Steve Clark.

"They gained a little momentum after that goal," said Fitzgerald. "We had our chances, but they were the ones that scored in the overtime. It's disappointing."

Lance Muckey scored the go-ahead goal in the 98th minute of the first overtime, finishing off a cutback pass by Chase Corricelli.

Kalamazoo goaltender Bobby Shuttleworth proved many key saves down the stretch and the

Outrage sealed the upset with a late insurance tally in the 120th minute by Alexander, who walked in a shot when the Bucks had most of their team pushed up into the offensive side trying the net the equalizer.

"What are you going to do," asked Fitzgerald. "We probably had 10 good chances in overtime. But if you can't score, it doesn't matter."

4 Bucks All-Conference

Bucks attacking midfielder Nate Jafta and forward Kenny Uzoigwe were both honored for the third straight year on the United Soccer League's Central Conference First 11 team as selected by the coaches and general managers.

Bucks captain Mike Holody (Clarkston/University of Michigan) earned his second straight honor, while Oakland University goalkeeper Steve Clark (Mason) earned his first selection.

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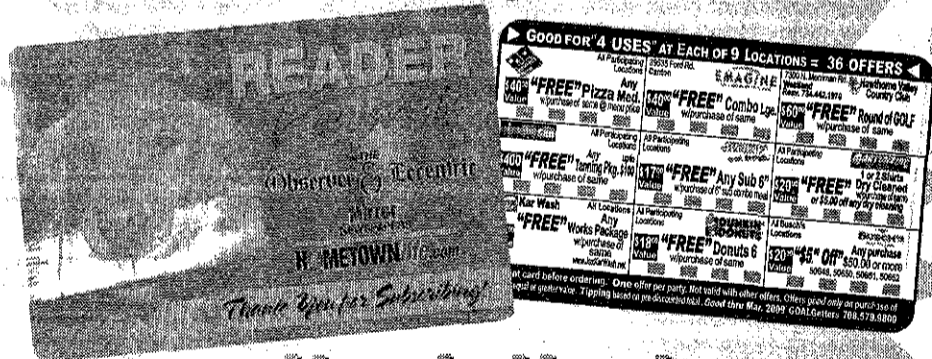


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True to forms

Over the Fourth of July weekend, Kil's Taekwondo of Livonia came away with three medals in the 2008 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships and USAT Junior Olympic Championships held at Detroit's Ford Field. The event attracted nearly 3,000 athletes from all over the country competing in four different categories including forms, weapons, board breaking and sparring. Representing Livonia were Master Choi (top row, left), a fifth degree black belt who was born and trained in South Korea, and Master Tim Dennis (top row, right). Also representing Kil's were (front, from left) Ryan Delp, Ali Birge, Shane Morge and Laurent Shala, all of Livonia. Dennis, a fourth degree black belt, captured a gold medal in forms and competed in sparring despite a broken thumb. Delp, a heavyweight blue belt and Shala, a lightweight red belt, each captured silver medals in sparring while also competing in forms as 11-year-olds. Birge, 9, was the only female who competed in forms as a lightweight red belt, while Moore, 8, was a lightweight blue belt who competed in forms and sparring. Beau Bloomfield (not pictured), 13, was a first degree black belt who competed in board breaking and forms.

DARNELL

FROM PAGE B1
It's going to be mostly all hockey when we're there, but I think we'll have a little sightseeing and team building the first few days." Darnell was invited last month to earn a spot on USA Hockey's 2008-09 Under-17 National Select Team (based in Ann Arbor) during a player development camp at the ESL Sports Centre in Rochester, N.Y. The camp featured several of America's top players born

in 1992. Darnell, entering his third year on the varsity with the Shamrocks, did not make the cut, but benefitted immensely from the six-day camp. "It was pretty intense, we had one practice and then we'd have a game," he said. "There were a lot of college and junior scouts there and I tried to make a good impression. It was a top camp, a ton of fun and a great experience." Darnell attended St. Michael's grade school for eight years before enrolling at Novi-Detroit CC as a ninth-grader.

He began playing organized hockey as a Mite with the Livonia Hockey Association Sabres where he was coached by John Louwers. He also played for the Livonia Knights, a squirt travel team, in 2001-02. He credits his stepbrother Brad Darnell, now a Livonia police officer, for exposing him to the game. "I don't play any other sports, he's the one who got me into it," said Brent, who aspires to play collegiate hockey some day.

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TWINS

FROM PAGE B1

Brianna Taylor also echoed Brittany's sentiments. "It's the best campus we visited," she said. "It's modern, it's clean and they're always putting up a new building. It's perfect for me, right in the middle (between a big school and a small school)." During the summer the Taylor sisters have been busy playing softball tournaments for the Livonia Storm, but now they will concentrate on winter basketball season in preparation for the late November start. Both will opt out of playing volleyball this fall for the Patriots. Brittany also entertained

thoughts of playing high school golf in the fall, but decided otherwise. "Golf is fun, but I wanted to work out for basketball as far as college and the high school season," she said. "I want to play with more confidence and start off this year the way I finished last season." Added Brianna: "Personally I want to become more rounded offensively and defensively. I want to become a better defensive player. Team-wise, I think we can go pretty far — possibly the regional final or beyond." Their father, Reno Taylor, was also impressed with Grand Valley, which captured the NCAA Division II national championship in 2005-06.

"They have a good team already, they're just missing a couple of key ingredients," Reno said. "They play a good schedule. It's a good program and they put a good offer on the table." The Taylor twins said Burgess also left the door open to play softball. "We still love to play softball," Brianna said. "Before we worked to become better at both (sports), but now we're going to try and get better to play basketball." "She (Burgess) said that we could choose softball as well as basketball," Brittany added, "but the first year we're going to concentrate on basketball because the first-year is a transition year."

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AREA GOLF DIVOTS

O&E Women's Tourney

"Drive" time is fast approaching for all women golfers looking to claim the title of 2008 Observer & Eccentric Women's Open champion.

The one-day, 18-hole tournament is set to tee off Saturday, Aug. 16, at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The deadline for entries is 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

All entrants will be trying to dethrone defending champion Susan Macinkowicz, who earned medalist honors by carding an impressive round of 78.

Participants must have a current United States Golf Association index to play in the annual O&E Open.

Registration forms can be picked-up at Whispering Willows Golf Course, which is located at 20500 Newburgh Road, Livonia; at Fox Creek Golf Course, which is located at 36000 Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Registration forms can also be found at www.golflivonia.com. The entry fee for the tournament

is \$50, which does not include a cart. For pairings and starting times, participants are encouraged to call (248) 476-4493 after noon on Thursday, Aug. 14.

The O&E men's tournament is scheduled for Sept. 20 and 21 at both Whispering Willows and Fox Creek golf courses. The men's event is a 36-hole tourney.

Hole-in-one club

■ On July 27, Steven Berriman, of Livonia, used a 9-iron to record an ace on the 126-yard, No. 4 hole at Idyl Wyld Golf Course. It was his first ace in 19 years. Berriman shot a 102 for 18 holes.

■ On July 28, James Paval, 52, of Livonia, used a pitching wedge to ace the 119-yard, No. 4 hole at Redford's Glenhurst Golf Course. For Paval, who shot a 39 for nine holes, it was his third ace in 29 years.

■ On July 26, Stephen Morawa, of Livonia, used a 7-iron to ace the 144-yard, No. 17 hole at Whispering Willows Golf Course. It was Morawa's first ace in 10 years.

He shot a 42 for nine holes. ■ Also on July 26, Kevin Elsner, 23, of Canton, used a pitching wedge to ace the 150-yard, No. 6 hole at Fox Hills Classic Hills.

■ On July 25, Andrew Vagnetti, of Livonia, used a 9-iron to ace the 126-yard, No. 4 hole at Idyl Wyld Golf Course. It was Vagnetti's first ace in three years. He shot 90 for 18 holes.

■ On July 22, Evan Chipman, 12, of Canton, used a 9-iron to ace the 90-yard, No. 1 hole at Fox Hills Strategic Fox.

■ On July 18, Cliff Fair, of Livonia, used an 8-iron to ace the 161-yard, No. 11 hole at Fox Creek Golf Course. It was Fair's first ace in 48 years. He shot 87 for 18 holes.

■ On July 18, Harry Ganas, of Livonia, used a 5-iron to ace the 184-yard, No. 3 hole at Fox Creek Golf Course. It was Ganas' first ace in 43 years. He shot a 38 for nine holes.

■ On July 15, Jacob Hettell, 11, of Plymouth, used a 7-iron to ace the 94-yard, No. 3 hole at Fox Hills Strategic Fox.

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- Lisa Callebs - A429 - 3 Bikes
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HORNETS

FROM PAGE B1

Horde also had three hits, while Semak went 2-for-4. A 3-0 record in preliminary round play put the Hornets into the regional semifinals with Jawad going 3-for-4, including a pair of doubles and three runs scored in an 11-6 triumph over the Illinois Big Dogs.

Conti added two hits and two RBI, while Horde went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Roed also knocked in three runs.

Ginster (5-2) worked the first four innings to pick up the win. Roed came on for the final three innings in relief to

pick up his fourth save of the year. The pair combined to allow six runs on six hits and five walks.

The Hornets will fly out next Wednesday and play against the host team beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. The game will be broadcast on local Puerto Rico television and radio. Area fans can follow the game on www.tutv.puertoricopr.

"It's a big deal down there, the mayor gets involved and the whole town shuts down," said Pirronello, who last guided a Concealed team to the 2003 16-and-under AABC World Series.

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Members of the Pee Wee Reese 12-and-under American Amateur Baseball Congress regional championship team headed next week to Puerto Rico for the World Series includes (bottom row, from left): Alex Roed, West Bloomfield; Badh Jawad, Dearborn Heights; J.T. Conti, Trenton; Mike Vomastek, Livonia; (middle row, from left) John Slater, Southfield; Drew Horde, Oak Park; Jake Ginster, Commerce Township; Zach Tallman, Brownstown; Jake Semak, Livonia; head coach Lou Pirronello, Livonia; (back row, from left) assistant coaches Todd Conti, Trenton; Chuck Ginster, Commerce; Spencer Roed, West Bloomfield.

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A priest for peace goes to war

BY LUIS CARLOS MONTALVAN
CORRESPONDENT

Jesuit priest the Rev. Timothy Meier does not exactly fit the typical profile of a soldier serving in a war zone. And yet Meier, director of the Honors Program in Biology at Stanford University, was mobilized to go to Iraq on June 30.

"I never dreamed of being a soldier," said Meier, 52. "I never, ever dreamt it. I was a kid during Vietnam and felt it a mistake for us to be there. I saw people mutilated from the war. My cousin, George, was severely wounded, his right arm damaged along with other wounds, and still walks with a perpetual limp."

Meier never thought he would become a Jesuit priest, either.

"Who wants to not be married and vow to a life of poverty?" Meier said with a chuckle.

Born in Detroit and raised in Farmington Hills, Meier worked seven days a week at his local parish and at a racket club doing administrative work to help pay his tuition to University of Detroit High School, where he graduated as class valedictorian.

It was after completing bachelor of arts degrees in biology and music with honors from Kalamazoo College that Meier decided to become a priest. And it was while on foreign study in Spain that he felt compelled to become a Jesuit. From

1978-80, he was a Jesuit Novice. In 1982, Meier received a Master of Arts in Philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago. He was then sent to La Specola Vaticana, the Vatican Astronomical Observatory, in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, where the pope has his summer residence.

While there, Meier identified 700 late-type red giant stars near the center of the galaxy. He also had the privilege of singing an a capella solo for Pope John Paul II at a Mass in his private chapel at the 17th-century Castel Gandolfo near Rome. The pope was still recovering from gunshot wounds he sustained in an assassination attempt the previous year.

"Every night I would walk to the heights of a spiral staircase of the medieval castle because I learned the acoustics were incredible. One day, some Polish children, who were visiting Pope John Paul II, heard me singing. For a few weeks we got to know one another and would sing together," said Meier.

One day, Meier was summoned to the Pope's private residence in the castle where he celebrated Mass. The pontiff had heard Meier's mellifluous tenor voice and the then 26-year-old was asked to sing at a Mass celebrated by John Paul II for a group of Canadian pilgrims. Afterwards, the pope gave him a modest pen and a photograph of Meier with the pontiff.

In 1984, Meier attended

Georgetown University and earned a master's of science in Biology (immunology), graduating again with distinction.

From 1984 to 2004, Meier vigorously pursued his studies. He was a Jesuit Fellow in Biology at John Carroll University in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

From 1990-91, he attended the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., earning masters' degrees in divinity and theology. In 1998 and 1999, Meier received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (molecular neurobiology) and a post-doctoral degree in molecular virology from Stanford University. From 2002-04, Meier earned his post-doc in molecular neurobiology from Stanford, where he has been undergraduate research coordinator and director of the biology department's honors program since 2004.

"It is a joy to mentor students who are so dedicated to the pursuit of scientific research and advancement. They challenge me and I them. It is such a privilege," Meier said.

In 2006, Meier was commissioned a captain in the Chaplain Corps of United States Army Reserve. Later that year, he was transferred into the California Army National Guard. While at Stanford, Meier taught, coached and mentored R.O.T.C. cadets who studied there but travelled to train in military science elsewhere.



The Rev. Timothy Meier is a Jesuit priest and a U.S. Army captain now serving as a chaplain in Iraq. He served Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville shortly before leaving for the war-torn country in June.

The kind of help that cadets and soldiers want and need of chaplains these days is rare.

A shortage of chaplains, who give invaluable counsel to soldiers in times of stress and personal hardship, comes at a time when the number of suicides among active-duty U.S. soldiers has seen a sharp increase.

According to a statement given at the American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting in Washington on May 5, Thomas Insel, the U.S. government's top psychiatric researcher and director of the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md., said, "The number of suicides among veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

may exceed the combat death toll because of inadequate mental health care."

Army Capt. Meier knows he is unarmed in a dangerous place where his entire life's experiences will be put to the test.

"My goal in Iraq is to provide spiritual comfort to women and men who place themselves in harm's way," Meier said.

Meier is the son of Tom and Nancy Meier of Northville.

Luis Carlos Montalvan is a former Army cavalry captain who served two tours in Iraq and is recovering in New York from various wounds sustained in combat. Meier is his Catholic priest and spiritual counselor.

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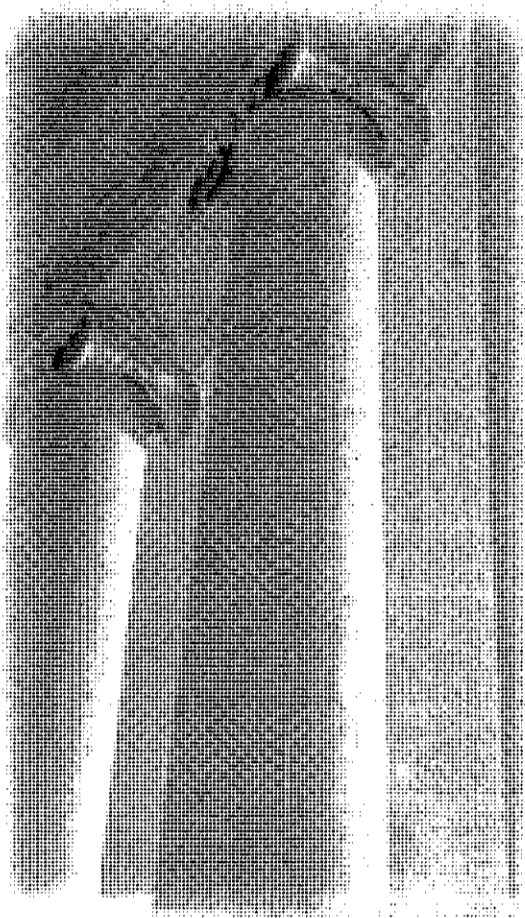
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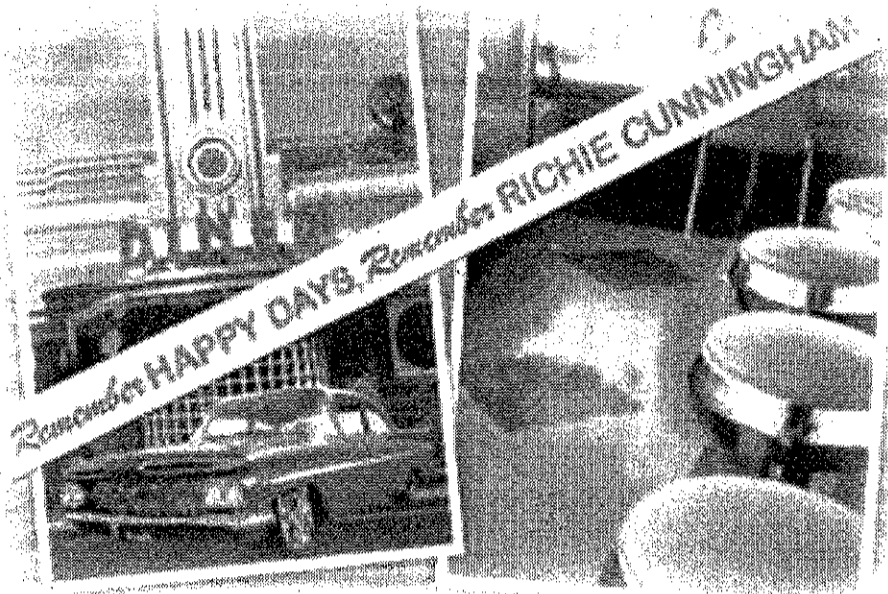
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Not Personal Experience."*

PLATO



Former Recorder's Court Judge **Richard Cunningham** is seeking election to the office of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge. He is one of eleven candidates seeking three open seats. His professional experience, demonstrated leadership and commitment to public service make him uniquely qualified for this important position.

Richard Cunningham is currently an attorney in private practice. His 29 year legal career includes service as an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, a trial court judge, an ethics prosecutor for the Attorney Grievance Commission, and staff attorney for the Veterans Administration. *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* named him an "Attorney Of The Year" in 2000. His exemplary judicial service was recognized by a major newspaper, which noted that he was among the 10 Michigan judges least likely to be reversed.

Richard Cunningham serves as an elected member of the Board Of Commissioners (the board of directors) of the State Bar of Michigan. He previously served two terms on the State Bar Representative Assembly. Other professional leadership positions include a term as President of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar and three terms as Chairperson of Criminal Law Section of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. He is a Trustee of the DMBA Foundation, and a Fellow of the State Bar Foundation.

Richard Cunningham is dedicated to the principle of "due process" for those accused of crimes, but has demonstrated his sensitivity and concern for crime victims. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Save Our Sons And Daughters (SOSAD) and on the National Board of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

Richard Cunningham is involved in the community. He is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for U-SNAP-BAC, a non-profit housing corporation. He is a graduate of Belleville High School, and was recognized in 2004 with a "Distinguished Graduate" award. He has served as an adjunct instructor at Henry Ford Community College.



Rated OUTSTANDING - Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

This is the highest rating available to a candidate for judicial office. Richard Cunningham is the only one of the eleven candidates for this office to receive the "Outstanding" rating.

Major Endorsements Include

THE DETROIT NEWS (Editorial endorsement on July 18, 2008)

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS (Editorial Endorsement on July 24, 2008)

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

Military Service

Richard Cunningham served our country as a combat infantryman in Viet Nam. He is a member of the Viet Nam Veterans of America and a Life Member of the Veterans Of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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This campaign message is authorized and paid for by RICHARD CUNNINGHAM FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE, 9311 E Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48213

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COMEDY

Comedienne Chelsea Handler talks about Detroit.



PAGE D8

FOOD



Chef Michelle Bommarito waxes on healthy eating at Concours d'Elegance

PAGE D6

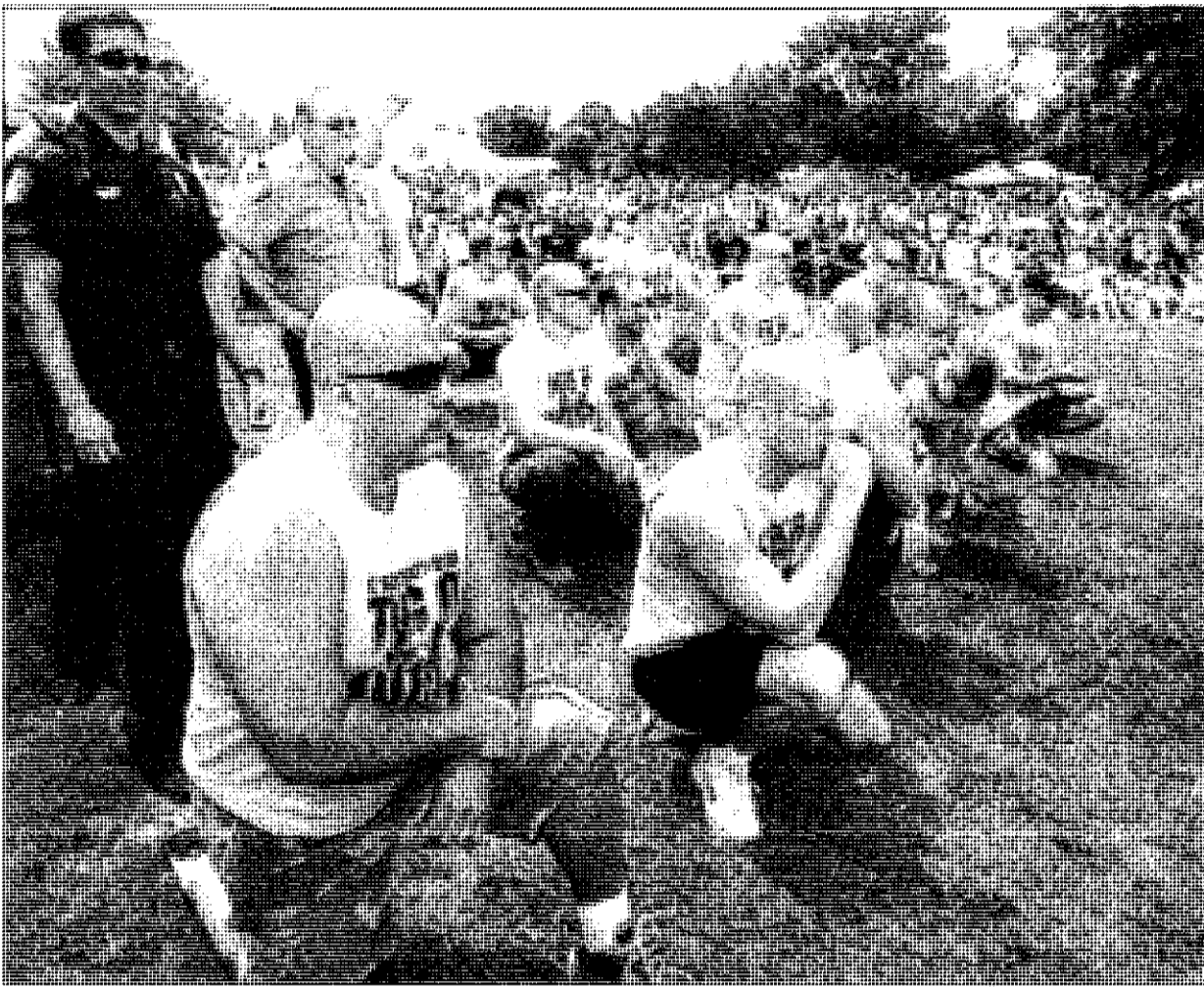
www.hometownlife.com

The St. Andrew's Society 159th Annual Highland Games

Livonia Firefighters ready to cream Marines



The big burly type will be showing off their strength in the traditional contests.



Who will win the tug-of-war at the Highland Games? The Livonia firefighters? The Harley riders? The Marine Corps or the Army?

Event takes place at Highland Games - Royal Oak woman crowned queen



Fiona Dohanyos was crowned at the Highland Games. Her goal is to preserve her heritage and better the community.

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

Livonia Fire Captain Robert Simmons was ready to do some Marine Corps trash-talking. Relax, he means no disrespect, it's all in good fun. Besides, Simmons has to regain his team's title. The Livonia Firefighters lost a tug-of-war contest to the U.S. Marine Corps last year. It was the first time in four years the firefighters were defeated.

"But we're taking a different approach this year," Simmons said, treading carefully not to reveal too much of his strategic tug-of-war secrets. See the event at The 159th Annual Highland Games, taking place Aug. 1-2 at Historic Greenmead Village in Livonia.

"We have a 300-pound anchor (a firefighter) who will have the rope tied around his waist," Simmons said.

Other than that there's no gloves, no spiked shoes — just strength.

Each team is permitted 2,200 pounds of weight — which could mean about 12 men weighing 183 pounds — or fewer men with a lot more muscle.

The firefighters will pull against the Marines. The Harley-Davidson group will pull against the U.S. Army and then the two winners will pull for the title. Simmons is coaching his team. The fun begins with a Scottish party on Friday, Aug. 1. Saturday,

Aug. 2 are the games. Highland Games is the longest, continuous running Scottish festival in North America and is organized strictly through volunteers.

The tug-of-war begins at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday.

And there's beauty. Fiona Dohanyos of Royal Oak was crowned queen of the games. Her Scottish roots are traced to clans Buchanan and Ramsay.

"I'm so excited," Dohanyos said. "The group does a lot for many charitable organizations and I want to be a part of that ongoing effort."

Proceeds from the games go to many charities.

A cosmetology student, Dohanyos said she wants to carry the independent spirit of Scots throughout her life and help people everywhere.

IT'S ALL COMPETITION

During the games, where will be Scottish music; athletic games; bagpipe, drumming and dance competitions; parades including clans from across the country, and food.

The highlights though are the hulks.

The games include massive men who are among the Earth's strongest who toss large stones, hammers and the popular caber.

"We're fortunate to have most of the continent's top performers coming to compete year after

THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY 159TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND GAMES

Where: Historic Greenmead Village; 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia

When: Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2

Parking: It's hard to find at the village after 11 a.m. on Saturday. Park at Schoolcraft College on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile roads. Free shuttle every five minutes.

What is it: Heavy athletic games, genealogy and clan tents, Scottish food, music, dancing and bagpipe contests, vendors, kids games, and a lot more Scottish fun.

Special: The event is handicapped accessible.

Tickets: For Saturday, \$15 at the door, \$10 in advance with free admission for kids under 12. Purchase at www.highlandgames.com

For the Friday Ceilidh, tickets must be purchased in advance, \$15. Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) is a traditional Scottish party with food, drink and entertainment.

Hours: 5 to 11 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; Register for amateur athletic and drumming games at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Details: (734) 742-4100. See full schedule at www.highlandgames.com

Please see **GAMES, D5**

Farmington Hills hosts Johnny Cash tribute

He's the ultimate cool guy — Johnny Cash.

The man in black will be remembered tonight as the Farmington Hills "Stars in the Park" series features Terry Lee Goffee, known as the "ultimate" Johnny Cash tribute artist.

The concert at Heritage Park begins at 7:30 p.m. where you will hear Cash's most popular songs including *Ring of Fire*.

Goffee grew up admiring Cash's music. One of his greatest thrills was when he was performing and Cash's brother and sister attended the show. Joanne Cash Yates told him, "you don't impersonate my brother; you pay tribute to him with honor."

The concert takes place in the new amphitheater, opened last month, situated in a grassy "bowl" with outdoor acoustics. Heritage Park is located at 24915 Farmington Road, just south of 11 Mile.

Call (248) 473-1848.

-L. Mini



Count On Kidpalooza at Kellogg Park

Plymouth's Kellogg Park will surely be kid central 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, in celebration of Kidpalooza. Participating youngsters are invited to embark on a Treasure Hunt through the downtown shopping district, where they'll play games, watch kid-friendly street performers and earn prizes.

"This is really about families discovering the treasures of downtown Plymouth," said Jessica Perlman, event chair. "It's exciting to be doing something new and different."

To participate, stop by Kellogg Park any time after 10 a.m. and register. Activities are meant for children 6-12, though all ages are welcome. Child care will not be provided. Call (734) 455-1453 or visit www.downtownplymouth.org.

-S. Casola

Top Chefs work to end hunger

Talented chef Rich Travis of Tribute restaurant in Farmington Hills gathers six top chefs from the Detroit-area and around the country to create a masterful menu paired with exquisite wines for Share Our Strength's *A Taste of Pursuit* presented by Lexus, on Monday, Aug. 4.

Funds raised from the high-end dinner and auction will support Share Our Strength's efforts to end childhood hunger in America. Other chefs include: Steve Allen and Chuck "Rocky" Rachwit of Steve & Rocky's in Novi; Brian Polcyn of Five Lakes Grill in Milford; Greg Stroker, pastry chef of Tribute Restaurant in Farmington Hills; Bradford Thompson of Lever House in New York; and Don Yamauchi of Porté Restaurant in Birmingham.

Also special guest Tony Abou-Ganim, The Modern Mixologist of Bar Milano in New York, will demonstrate his cocktail craft. Each chef will prepare a course.

The live auction will be conducted by Billy Harris, one of the country's most sought-after corporate entertainers. Guests can bid on culinary and travel items.

Tickets are \$150 each. Tribute is located at 31425 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. Reservations can be made by visiting www.strength.org/atp_detroit or calling (248) 848-9393.

-L. Mini

Birmingham appraiser featured on 'Antiques Roadshow'

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

What: The popular PBS show stops in Michigan

When: Saturday, Aug. 9

Where: DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids

Tickets: Distributed earlier this summer based on a random drawing. For more information, visit http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/cities/grandrapids_2009.html. Only those with tickets may enter, and they may bring two items for appraisal.

Watch: Season 13 will begin airing Monday, Jan. 5, 2009 on PBS stations.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Birmingham's Caroline Ashleigh grew up surrounded by art, antiques and collectibles in her Michigan home. She was bound for a career steeped in art and culture. And since the popular PBS program *Antiques Roadshow* got its start, she's been featured as an appraiser, circling the country in search of American treasures.

On Aug. 9, the show will film in Grand Rapids. According to Erika Denn, a marketing executive with WGBH in Boston, this marks a notable return. *Antiques Roadshow* filmed in Southfield in 1996, for an episode that aired in

its first season the following year.

Antiques Roadshow serves as a sort of Americana treasure hunt, drawing people from across the country who bring their collectibles, heirlooms and more to be appraised by experts like Ashleigh.

Born to parents who were avid collectors, she said: "I decided really early on I wanted to pursue a career in art." She worked at her parent's shop, Noah's Ark Antiques in New Hudson, Mich., to gain practical experience and earned her bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Boulder, Colo.

After working as an art dealer on Rodeo Drive, Ashleigh

Please see **ROADSHOW, D3**



Birmingham appraiser Caroline Ashleigh (right) estimates this 18th Century men's embroidered vest is worth between \$3,000 and \$5,000, during a Season 12 episode of "Antiques Roadshow" in Baltimore.

JEFF DUNN

Lebanese Fest includes ethnic bazaar, music, dance and comedy

The Lebfest in downtown Birmingham's Shain Park was so popular last year - that this year the festival has expanded.

Last year, it was held during the week. This year it has a precious weekend spot - all day and evening Friday and Saturday August 1 and 2. This year there's even more entertainment that celebrates the music, food, culture, dance, crafts and art of Lebanon and the Lebanese American community.

The musical mix is interesting - from jazz to a master oud player (a stringed instrument with an exotic sound) to music performed by several Lebanese divas.

The event kicks off with some Motown. Detroit's Martha Reeves will sing the National Anthem on Friday.

The festival is organized by the Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm so glad that Birmingham welcomed us back so warmly this year," John Akouri, the chamber chairman said.

Presented by Mezza Mediterranean Grille, the second annual event - is also known as a *Mahrajan* - which is Lebanese for festival.

There's also dabke dance (Lebanon's national dance) and traditional bellydance performances.

The festival is influenced by the Baalbeck International Festival of Lebanon that includes classical music, dance, theater, jazz, and modern world music.

In Birmingham there will be *An Evening of Lebanese Stars* featuring Jimmy A & his Rat Pack Rollers (paying homage to American greats); heart-throb teenage male singer Lance Attalla and teen sensation Ashley Peters; popular Lebanese

singers Amalia Kaddo and Soumaya Aziz; energetic Arabic performers Bassam Saleh and Usama Baalbaki; the Our Lady of Lebanon Dabke Troupe, Detroit Bellydance, jazz by Eric Watson, actor Alex Safi, New York veteran comedian George Saba, Oud player Karim Badr and others.

"This year we have a true national presence," Akouri said. "Attending will be film directors, national book authors, international singers. The support we are seeing locally and regionally - including the Lt. Governor (and his wife who is Lebanese), and the arrival of dignitaries, diplomats and celebrities is a nice attest to the work that we do."

Well-known faces who will attend: Honorary Chairman of the Festival Host Committee this year is Detroit Pistons Trainer Mike Abdenour. The 2008 LEBFEST Grand Marshall is NFL Great Lomas Brown, who will officially

cut the ribbon to open the concert. The former Detroit Lion will be joined by US Ambassador Sam Zakhem, Lt. Governor John Cherry, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, Detroit Red Wings singer Karen Newman, WNIC Radio Personality Kevin O'Neill, Miss Michigan 2006 Angela Marie Corsi, Lebanese Consul General Bachir S. Tawk and Birmingham Mayor Donald Carney.

As part of the closing ceremonies, the Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce is hosting a screening at the Landmark Maple Art Theatre in Bloomfield Township, of a yet-to-be released film shot entirely on location in Beirut, on Sunday, August 3, at 12:30 p.m.

Director Deborah Harse will attend that screening and discuss the film. Seating is limited to the first 400 guests.

LEBFEST

What: Lebfest 2008, the Lebanese Festival

Where: Shain Park, Birmingham at Bates, Merrill, Martin, and Henrietta streets, just west of Woodward and south of Maple.

When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2

Admission: Free

Details: Visit (248) 320-7300 or www.lebanesefestival.org

Special details: Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on to enjoy the concert. Opening ceremonies take place Friday at 7 p.m.

Events: Singers, food, bellydance, dabke dance, shopping area & more

Woodward Dream Cruise music

The Woodward Dream Cruise has an official song. It's all about stopping and going and checking out the sights at the country's biggest love it or hate it car cruise.

The song *Drive On!* was created by metro Detroit recording artist RG Dempster and features music by accomplished musicians Johnny Trudell and Richard Becker.

The single has that 1950s feeling, and soon an entire album will follow.

Hear and purchase it at detroitrocksna.cc, or www.woodwarddreamcruise.com.

- L. Mini

The Great Art-doors

The Village of Rochester Hills will transform into an open air art gallery once again for its Summer Fine Art at the Village festival, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 and noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 at the corner of Adams and Walton roads in Rochester Hills.

More than 100 artists will present works in a wide array of media for this juried event.

"We believe the beautiful and relaxed atmosphere of the Village of Rochester Hills is the perfect setting to view artwork of this caliber and meet the artists," said Donna Beaubien, executive director of the festival. "Along with enjoying the exciting fine art and fine crafts, patrons can stroll the tree lined streets and visit the over 50 intriguing shop and restaurants. Children can enjoy the playground and participate in the free arts and crafts activities." Visit www.FineArtAtTheVillage.com.

- S. Casola

8 great works

Barebones Theatre Productions offers 8X8@8, an evening featuring eight plays by eight local playwrights beginning at 8 p.m. and running Aug. 6-8 at the Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Company Founder and Rochester Hills resident John Rutherford has assembled a cast of 10 local actors to feature this collection of funny and dramatic works centered on intimate and relatable moments in interpersonal relationships. The works are: *Blockbuster* by Birmingham's Kitty Dublin; *How Many Chuck's Would* by Pontiac's Janet Torreano Pound; *East Call* by Farmington's Jan Radcliff; *The Tide That Binds* by Rutherford; *Subtext* by Beverly Hills' own Kim Carney; *Revelation* by David McGregor of Brighton and *Housewife With An Attitude* by M.V. Patton of Ferndale. Tickets \$10-\$15, call (586) 215-7538 or e-mail btptix@gmail.com.

- S. Casola

Arts and Apples in Rochester

In a recent edition of FILTER, we failed to include The National City Art and Apples Festival among a list of upcoming local art fairs. Presented by Paint Creek Center for the Arts, the 43rd annual festival will take place Sept. 5-7 in Rochester Park, located in downtown Rochester. To find out more about the state's second largest juried

art fair, visit www.artandapples.com or stay tuned to FILTER.

Chopper Show Detroit Revs into Corktown

Choppers, custom motorcycles, art enthusiasts, rock music devotees, entertainers and barbecue connoisseurs will roll into Corktown Tavern 3 p.m. Aug. 9 for the fourth annual Chopper Show Detroit. Bikers are welcome to view motorcycles created by customs by Ron Finch, Keith Coleman and Garage Built, or ride in and compete for Chopper and Custom Class trophies. The event also features an art exhibit, live music, a fashion show with vintage wear from Mother Fletchers and performances by The Motor City Dolls. Foxy Fearless will offer a Burlesque Tribute to Tiger Stadium, while The Chanteuse From Crud hosts an R-rated dunk tank.

Corktown Tavern is located at 1716 Michigan Ave. in Detroit. Call (248) 924-0298 or visit www.choppershowdetroit.com.

- W. Von Buskirk

Illuminated Pleasures in Ferndale


The public is invited from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, to Lawrence Street Gallery in Ferndale for the opening reception of this vintage-inspired show that runs through Aug. 30.

Artist Larry Zdeb of Troy and Gene Smith, formerly of Michigan and now in North Carolina, say "Objects d'Art" is an exploration into the past. The artists use vintage found objects as a major component in their constructions along with elements of data, randomness and chance. Layer after layer, the surfaces of these constructions reveal a variety of stimulating possibilities to the viewer.

Lawrence Street Gallery is located at 22620 Woodward, two blocks south of Nine Mile. Call (248) 544-0394, or visit www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

- L. Mini

BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES MEADOW BROOK



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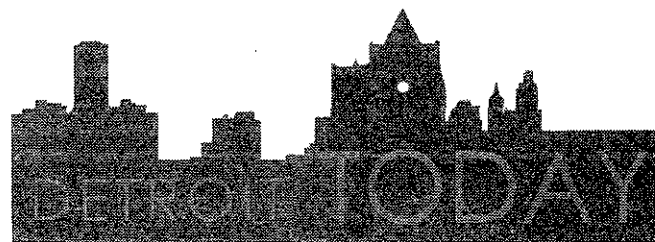
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ROADSHOW
FROM PAGE D1

returned to her Michigan roots to start a family. To stay connected to the art scene, she volunteered as a docent for the Detroit Institute of Arts and worked as an educator at Cranbrook Art Museum. She sought advanced degrees in fine and decorative arts and appraisal studies at New York University, which led to work for such prestigious auction houses as Sotheby's and Doyle New York. In 1994, Ashleigh brought all of that expertise into her private practice, Birmingham-based Caroline Ashleigh Associates. "I always think of my job, not as a job but as enjoyment," said Ashleigh.

She was familiar with the British version of *Antiques Roadshow* when she was asked to be part of the American series. Now on its 13th season, the show draws in 11 million viewers every week and is considered the most-watched series on PBS.

It blends a penchant for art and family history with the suspense of an appraisal that could far exceed or fail to live up to its owner's expectations. "It's real people and real stories. 'I do love Americana,'" Ashleigh said. "I do love meeting the people."

She said *Roadshow* visitors are as individual as the items they bring with them. And she never knows what might come her way. She once appraised a 12-foot propper dating back to 1920 and a rice kernel with an Elvis painting on it, all in the same day.

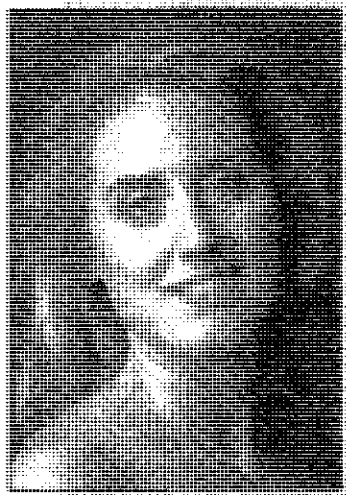
The visitors with the best stories, those that could have a very valuable item, those with a piece that hasn't been appraised on air before, or those who have a reproduction or less-valuable item have the best shot at making it on the show. Producers have the final say when it comes to who will appear on camera. But appraisers wait until those cameras roll to share their findings, ensuring an authentic reaction. "You get a lot of hugs," Ashleigh said. "There are a lot of grateful people. Sometimes tears well up and the people become very emotional. It's always fun to make a grown man cry."

Of course not everyone who is filmed will appear on the show. After editing is complete 15 to 20 people make it through the final cut. Episodes filmed this summer will air at 8 p.m. Mondays, beginning in January 2009 on PBS.

Pure Picks

Fill up your local entertainment lists for the weekend of Aug. 1-3.

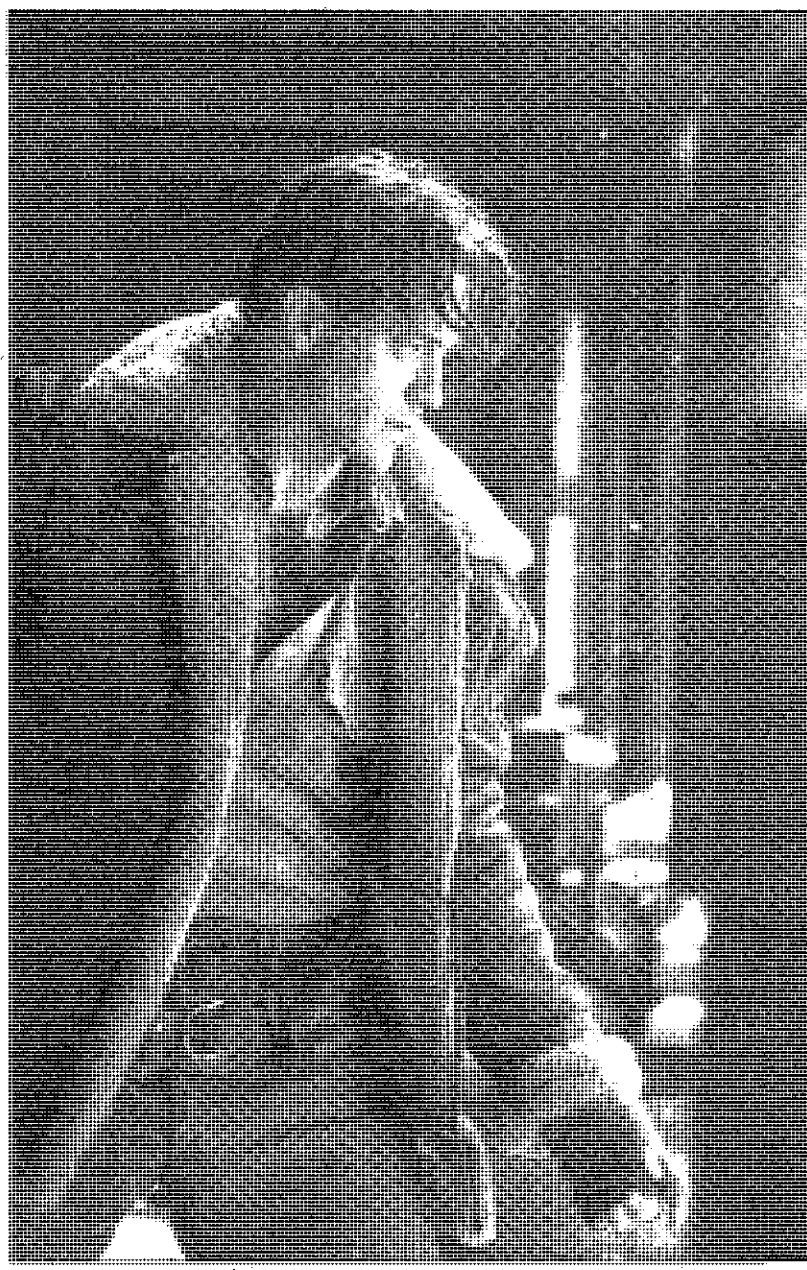
1 Celebrate the finale of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's summer season tonight when Leonard Slatkin conducts *Sight on the Opera*, including selections from some of the greatest operas of all time.



Brendan Fraser stars in 'The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.'

Let us hear Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *La Bohème* and Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*. Slatkin and soprano Jacqueline Wagner of Kalamazoo will be among artists featured for this musical, musical night under the stars. The show will begin at 8 p.m. at Ideare House.

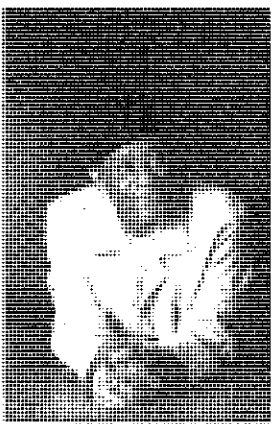
Music Festival. Walkers at Adams Road on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$15-\$50, call (248) 945-1999 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.



JASIN BOLAND

3 Hit up a Sunday matinee and see the latest chapter in the adventure series, *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. Brendan Fraser reprises his role as explorer Rick O'Connell and he's out to defeat the resurrected Han Emperor (Jet Li) in an epic flick that races from the catacombs of ancient China up into the frigid Himalayas. The Universal Pictures release opens this weekend at area theaters and it's rated PG-13.

2 Jazz is the word when The Friends of African and African American Art present their annual gala and fund-raiser **Bal Africain** 6 p.m. tonight at the Detroit Institute of Arts, at 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Explore the legacy of this musical genre under the 2008 theme *Jazz: An African American Art Form*, and stay late for the Cool Jazz afterparty 8:30-9:30 p.m. The 45th annual event will honor Grammy-winner Al Jarreau for his musical contributions, though he won't be performing. In addition to dinner, dancing and open galleries, the event will feature music by Jimmy McKee, Modern Tribe featuring Charles and Gwen Seales and Marcus Belgrave's All Star Jazz Ensemble. Proceeds from the Bal Africain are used to acquire African and African American works of art to add to the DIA's collection. Tickets \$150-\$500, call (313) 833-1049 or visit www.dia.org for details.



Al Jarreau

4 The Detroit Opera House's Cadillac Cafe hosts a free Poet's Corner tonight featuring South Carolina Poet & Writer's Community founder Laurel Mossom, Kent State's Brooke Horvath and Detroiters Mary Sible and Suzanne Scarfone. The poetry flows 6-8 p.m. at 1530 Broadway, Detroit. Call (313) 961-0200 or visit www.detroitoperahouse.org.

Brendan Fraser stars in 'The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.'

5 Superstar songstress and multi-Grammy winner *Sheryl Crow* "Detours" into metro Detroit tonight. She will be joined by openers the oh-so-Beautiful James Blunt and reggae legends Toots and the Maytals at DTE Energy Music Theatre, at I-75 and Sashabaw in Independence Township. Tickets \$25-\$59.50, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.palacenet.com.



Sheryl Crow

Sheryl Crow returns to DTE Energy Music Theatre, performing songs from her latest CD, 'Detours.'

Compiled By Stephanie A. Casola

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Don't miss this week's
V98.7 Smooth Jazz Summer Concert!



Friday, August 1- Randy Scott
7-9 p.m., IKEA Canton

Located at 41610 Ford Rd, just west of Haggerty.
(In the event of rain, concert will be held indoors at Super Bowl of Canton.)

It's ALL Here- on Canton's Ford Road...and Beyond!

GAMES

FROM PAGE D1

year," said Kurt Pauli, a four-time champ himself.

Adult guests can participate in amateur athletics and the stone-put.

The live music includes The Raggle Taggle band — the only local group performing this year. Raggle Taggle plays traditional and modern Scottish favorites at 5 p.m. Saturday, said Raggle's guitarist Franklin Dohanyos.

Other musicians include Needfire, a Texas-based Celtic-rock band; Alex Beaton, a singer and storyteller; Barleyjuice, a band

featuring guitar, fiddle, accordion, bagpipes, bouzouki, mandolin, harmonica, banjo, tinwhistle, piano, bass and drums — played by just six members.

Dancing includes the Highland Fling — a wild dance that originated as a celebration of victory after every battle.

Kids will love the Wee Bairns where they can paint a shield for protection on the journey; take a wee tour of Scotland; visit MacFarlane's Company; drill with the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment; march in the Wee Bairns' Clan Parade; toss a wee caber; play cricket and race for prizes in organized field events.



The Raggle Taggle Band is the only local musical group performing at the Highland Games. Metro Detroiters pictured from left to right: Bob Ervin of West Bloomfield, Jeff Axelsen of Redford, John Dooley of Chesterfield, Franklin Dohanyos of Royal Oak, Ron Karvonen of Waterford and Jean Dohanyos of Royal Oak.

FILTER-ED BLOGS

Check out blogs by FILTER staff writers Stephanie Casola and Lana Mini, or start your own blog.

Visit www.hometownlife.com and click on "Voices and Views."

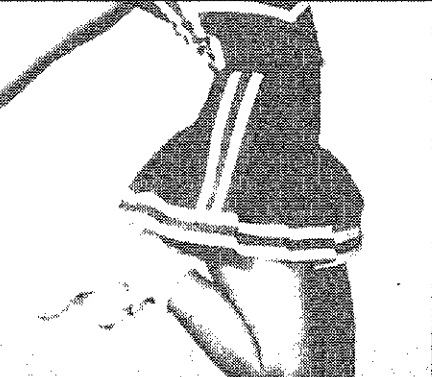


Casola



Mini

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section



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5:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

HIGHLAND GAMES
AUGUST 2, 2008
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

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Morgan showcases Santa Lucia Highlands wines



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

Cooled by winds from California's Monterey Bay, the Santa Lucia Highlands, located in the eastern foothills of the Salinas Valley, is an ideal location for chardonnay and pinot noir vineyards. That's where we located Daniel Morgan Lee (better known as Dan) and followed his footsteps in Morgan Winery's Double L vineyard in the northern, cool end of the Santa Lucia Highlands, planted to two-thirds pinot noir and one-third chardonnay. "After pinot noir," he said, "I think that syrah will be the best grape for the Santa Lucia Highlands, especially in the warmer, southern reaches of the region. Since our vineyard is closer to the ocean and cooler, our emphasis is pinot noir and chardonnay."

small farming town south of Modesto. I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian, but in my junior year I took an introductory viticulture class and fell in love with growing grapes." Lee is one of the rare people who got into the wine industry without first earning a fortune in another business. "When we got into the wine business," he explained, "we had a brand but no vineyards. We had a couple of tanks, we bought 50 barrels and 30 tons of fruit and we were off and running. We started our business in the midst of a recession in 1982 and our friends warned us against starting our winery. People were having a tough time selling wine. We were too dumb to know better so we just plowed ahead and did it anyway."

Double L is the only certified organic vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands, so if earth-friendly strikes a chord with you, Morgan is a winery to get to know.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Lee fell in love with the wine business while at the University of California Davis. "I was born and raised in Turlock, Calif.," he said, "a

WINE PICKS

Focus on Wine offers details about MORGAN WINERY and here's WHAT TO BUY:

- 2007 Morgan Sauvignon Blanc, \$15 - bright citrus notes with refreshing crispness.
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- 2006 Morgan Metallico, \$22 - one of the best unoaked styles on the market.
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- 2006 Morgan Double L Vineyard Pinot Noir, \$62 - from a certified organically-farmed vineyard.
- 2006 Morgan Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir, \$62 - from another top Santa Lucia Highlands vineyard growing superior pinot noir.

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor, or since these are domestic wines, order direct from the winery.

Chef Michelle Bommarito waxes on healthy eating at Concours

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ferndale-based Chef Michelle Bommarito made a name for herself as a foremost wedding cake and culinary artist in the metro Detroit area and beyond. But the energetic entrepreneur is about to step out of the bakery and devote more time to culinary coaching and promoting healthy living through her specialty - delicious cuisine.

The timing couldn't be better as Concours d'Elegance organizers have asked Bommarito to host two interactive cooking seminars at its inaugural Destination d'Elegance event on Aug. 2. Visitors to the Rochester Hills automotive event will taste the good life during this new day-long soiree, including Bistro d'Elegance food vendors, Shoppes on the Green and Ferrari seminars.

The Farmington Hills-bred chef began her career in the hotel business, after earning a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Michigan. She lived as far away as Italy and studied at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York, before she began working at the esteemed Waldorf Astoria Hotel or serving as a freelance artist for Martha Stewart Omnimedia. Since 2004, Bommarito has been featured on The Food Network six times in culinary competitions, taking home a gold medal in 2006. She crafted a cake that resembled a stack of antique books for a segment on the show *Sugar Rush*.

It was a Food Network appearance that led to her participation at the Destination d'Elegance. "I was so excited that they asked me," she said. "It's about food, cars and the luxury lifestyle."

Though her name may be synonymous with artistically crafted wedding cakes, Bommarito has devoted her life to living, eating and being healthy - and she's ready to share all she's learned and prove that healthy choices can taste delicious too. She offers private at-home courses, and culinary classes - from Cake Decorating to Super Power Foods - at Specialties Showroom in Berkeley, Whole Foods in Rochester and Schoolcraft College in Livonia, to name a few. At Destination d'Elegance, she'll auction off a private cooking class for one lucky winner and up to 30 friends.

Bommarito is a believer in eating all foods



Ferndale-based Chef Michelle Bommarito is at home in the kitchen. She'll share healthy tips and techniques during Destination d'Elegance at Meadow Brook Hall.

DESTINATION D'ELEGANCE

What: Culinary seminars add new flavor to Concours d'Elegance events

When: "Che Buono! Panini with the Posh Lifestyle" begins at 11 a.m. and "Cooking Healthy" begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.

Where: Meadow Brook Hall, at Adams and Walton roads on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills.

Tickets: \$60 per person, visit www.mbconcourse.org or call (248) 643-8645

in moderation. "When you eat well, you won't believe how much energy you'll have," she said.

And she's a fiery testament to her words. In her first year of college, she was diagnosed with the fatigue-inducing Epstein-Barr syndrome. But through exercise and adopting a holistic diet, she found boundless energy - which comes in handy while working straight through the night to perfect a wedding cake.

Bommarito's approach to eating all but omits fast food, white flour, white sugar, and cream sauces. She favors flax seed, brown

rice, whole wheat pasta, quinoa, organic meats and locally-grown produce. It's a lifestyle built around being active, planning ahead and enjoying foods for fuel. But she doesn't rule out what she calls "celebratory foods." Wedding cake is one of them. Fettuccini is another.

She doesn't ban anything completely - she just wants to inform, educate and show how healthful choices can make a difference. "It's not a diet," she said, "it's a lifestyle change."

During the cooking seminars on Aug. 2, she'll discuss the benefits of buying locally-grown food. Bommarito suggests shopping at your farmer's market, getting to know the grower and feeling good about what you purchase. "There are too many unknowns when you buy commercially," she said.

At Destination d'Elegance, she'll share preparation tips and grant tasting portions of healthy meals including roasted salmon with a yogurt dill sauce on a bed of fresh greens with candied walnuts, pistachio-encrusted goat cheese and toasted quinoa, and a flat iron steak with a horseradish yogurt sauce.

For more about the chef herself, upcoming classes and appearances, visit www.michellebommarito.com.

Jack Black

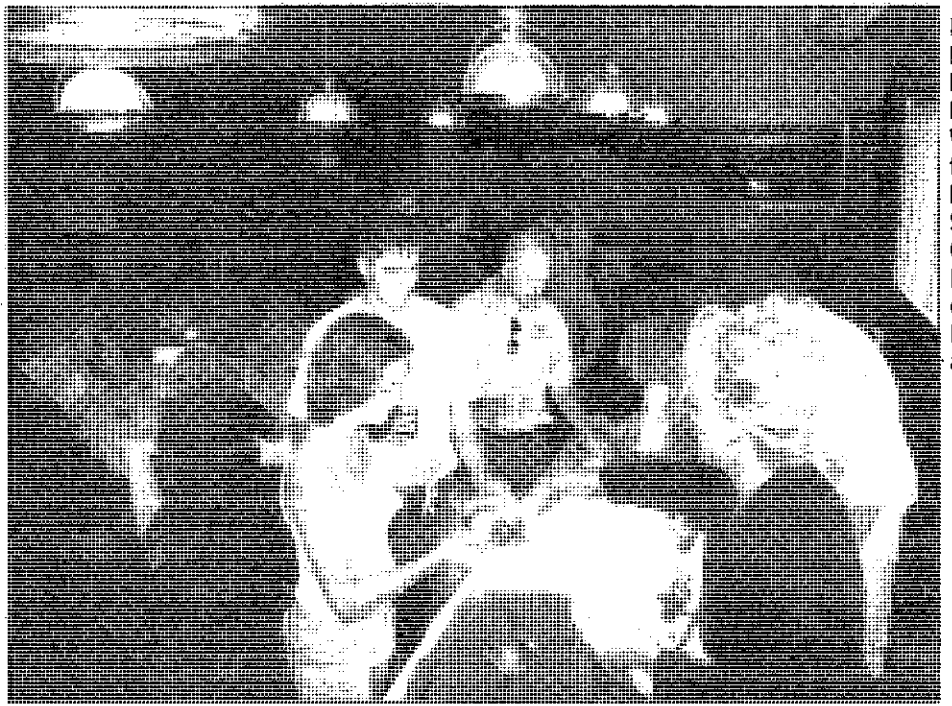
The comedian reveals a softer side to his funny-guy persona.



USA WEEKEND MAGAZINE

THE Observer & Eccentric AND Mirror NEWSPAPERS HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

This Sunday in



Last year, Nicole Miller and Benjamin Whitefoot try out the beef at Station 885. Chef Mark Hincker carves and Kim Buerkle adds sauce.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Be hungry, and then get ready for Plymouth charm

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

What a lovely way to absorb the charm of historic Plymouth: a walking tour of area restaurants.

Bring your empty belly. It's time for the Plymouth's ninth annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl. It's a three-hour event which gives you plenty of time to digest tasty food and hop from restaurant to restaurant.

The event, organized by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, is Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Last year, hundreds of people attended. So this year, tickets must be ordered in advance, said Plymouth Chamber Executive Director Wes Gaff.

Participating restaurants are Grecian Café, Hermann's Olde Town Grille, Station 885, Crawford's Kitchen and Plymouth Fish & Seafood Market.

At each restaurant, guests are offered a sampling of food items.

For example, at Plymouth Fish on Starkweather, patrons will get pieces of cod, steak cut fries and cole slaw dinners.

"It's a fun event, we really look forward to it," said Lorenzo Toia, whose parents, Vince and Lori Toia, own the restaurant.

"My dad and mom helped form the first restaurant crawl, we participate in it every year."

The Canton family has owned the restaurant for 12 years.

OLD VILLAGE RESTAURANT CRAWL

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. They can be purchased at any participating restaurants or at the Chamber of Commerce office, located at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Tickets must be purchased in advance, call (734) 453-1540.

At the Grecian Cafe, on Main Street, the restaurant is regularly open late nights and can be crowded even at 3 a.m. Regular menu items include Greek salads, big breakfasts, Greek, Mexican and American fare. Expect some of the cafe's most popular menu items to be served at the Crawl.

At Station 885, a family restaurant (but it also has a martini and wine menu) on Starkweather, regular menu examples are the Heartland Salad with candied walnuts, field greens and dried cherries. There's also a wild mushroom pasta and gourmet burgers. Expect to see hearty items at the Crawl.

At Crawford's Kitchen, on Starkweather, the ambiance is friendly and regular menu items include sandwiches and salads plus veggie options. The restaurant will serve its more interesting food items, too.

At Hermann's Old Town Grille on Liberty, there's often live music and pizza, burgers, quesadillas and more. You won't leave the place hungry.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

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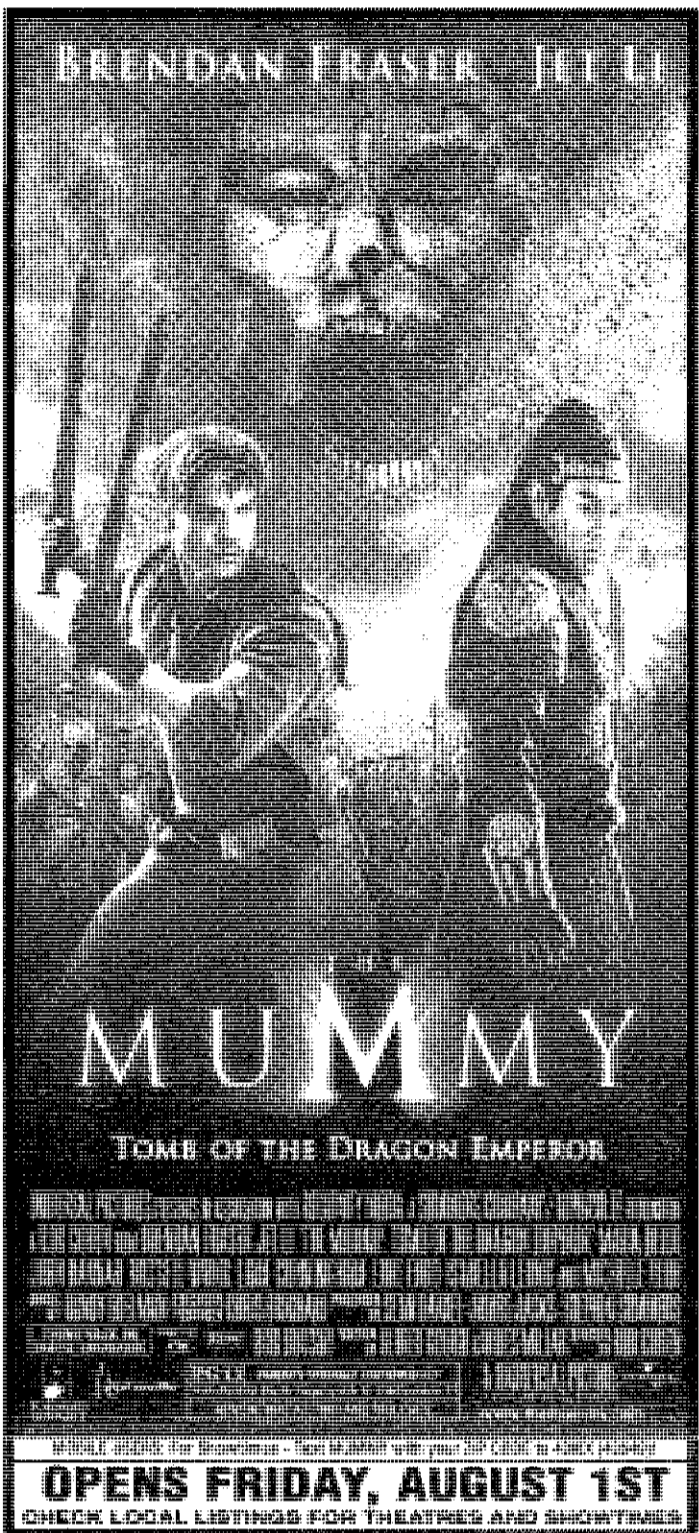
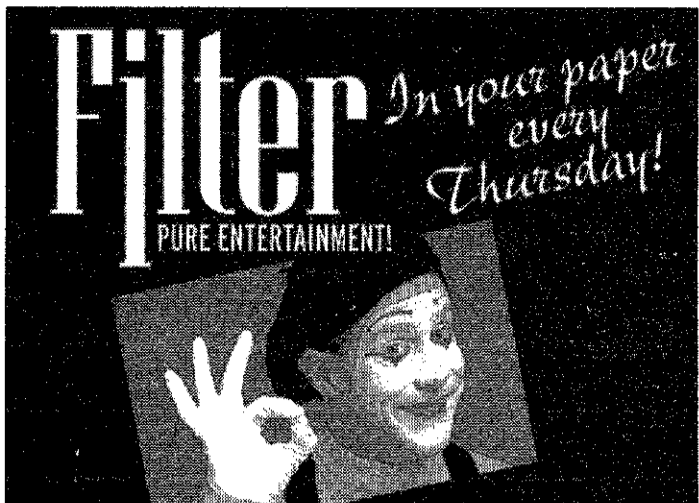
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Chelsea Handler talks about Detroit

Hilarious comedienne Chelsea Handler is coming to Meadow Brook next week — and popping in for a book signing for her very funny book *Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea* earlier that day.

We had a little e-mail chat with her recently and here's what she had to say.

Being a New Jersey girl, what's your opinion on Detroit?

My opinion on Detroit is that it gets the same rap as New Jersey. Although, you guys have the advantage of only being a city and we are an entire state. You win!

Why did you turn down "Dancing With The Stars?" No desire to dance? (We know you would do better than Jane Seymour, for example!)

I'm never doing DWTS, primarily because I'm already on a show five nights a week and don't want to force myself down everyone's throats every time they turn on their television. The second reason is that I'm a horrible dancer and I prefer to be horrible alone. Not with a partner.

You hold nothing back on your celebrity jabs, have you had instances of celebs confronting you for the insults? If so, can you share a story?

I haven't been confronted by anyone yet. Dina Lohan came up to me and told me she loved the show. I can only assume she can't hear.

How did you find Chuy? We love him.

I was looking for a nugget and they brought Chuy to me. I asked him what 2x2 was and he said 18. That's when I hired him.

How has your standup style changed from your initial days until now?

When I started doing stand-up I was 21 and a waitress, so my material primarily revolved around that experience. My material was a lot angrier when I started because I was generally a pretty angry person. I hated waiting tables and never knew if and when I was going to make it. I thought people were obnoxious and couldn't understand how it could take 20 minutes to decide what kind of pasta to have for lunch.

Do you have a preference between writing books and standup?

I prefer stand-up, because there's an instant reaction to a story although writing allows you to get into many more details of a story. With stand-up, the punch line needs to be close by, but with writing, it's easier to give into your imagination.

On your show, your humor of course is more celebrity-based rather than political — do you intentionally avoid politics?

I'm very interested in politics, but since my show is on E!, there's an expectation for it to be celebrity heavy, and I think most

CHELSEA HANDLER

Comedienne Chelsea Handler
Saturday, Aug. 9
5 p.m. In-store book signing
at Barnes & Noble, 2800 S.
Rochester Road,
Rochester Hills
8 p.m., Meadow Brook Music

people watching my show are trying to get away from the serious news of the day. It's my job to give people's brains a timeout.

Tell us a bit about your live performances — what can people expect?

I talk much more about my personal life during stand-up than on the show.

Favorite songs in your iPod?

Natasha Bedingfield's "Pocket full of Sunshine." I'm listening to a lot of Shooter Jennings, Sheryl Crow and Estella.

The best thing about your hunky boyfriend Ted Harbert?

Ted is a silver fox and he's very, very patient when I have episodes.

Mojito or Margarita?

Margarita.

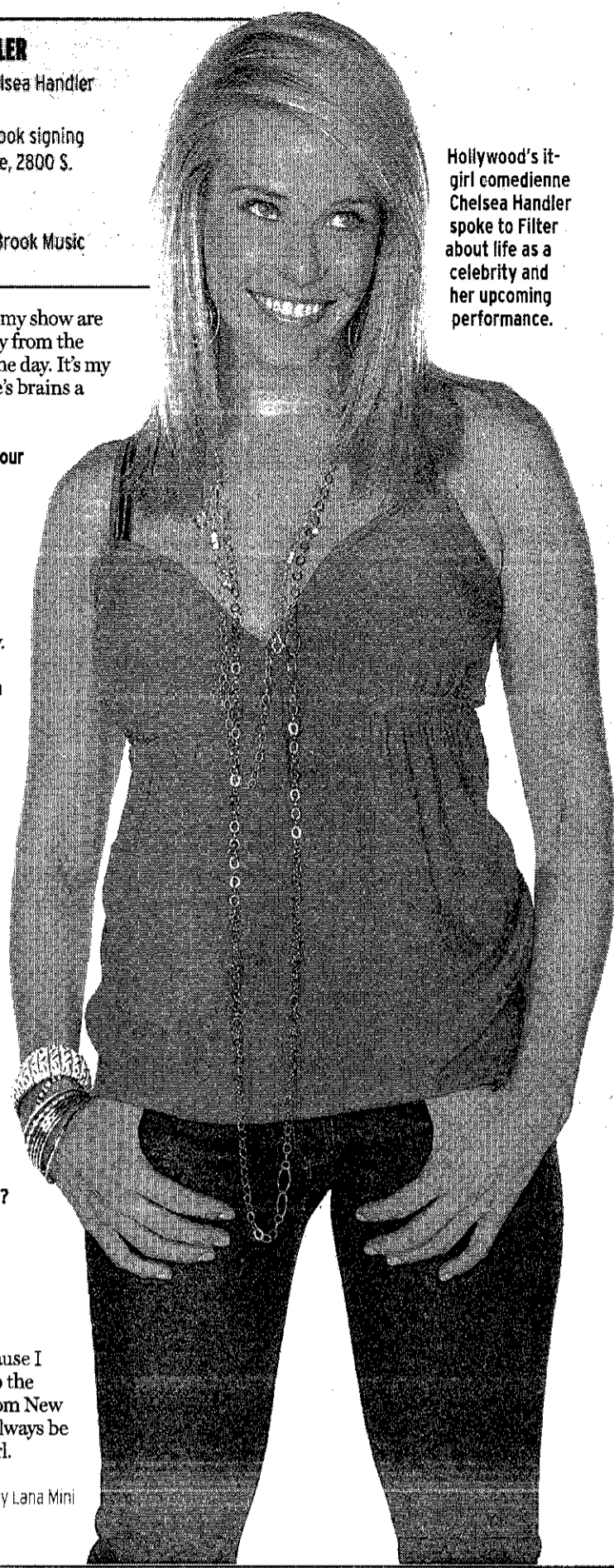
Steak or tofu?

Steak.

LA or NY?

I love LA, because I get to run next to the water, but I'm from New Jersey, so I will always be an East Coast girl.

—By Lana Mini



Hollywood's it-girl comedienne Chelsea Handler spoke to Filter about life as a celebrity and her upcoming performance.



Where available by deadline, features are listed.

Call your local theatre for showings for this week.

Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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CE08613458

city bites

Wine, chocolate, travel locally

BY LANA MINI
OSE STAFF WRITER

TRAVEL LOCALLY

Save money but still travel ... right to Livonia. Take a little getaway, for example, at a Bed & Breakfast at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Livonia at 17123 Laurel Park Drive. The B&B package includes a \$20 breakfast voucher for couples and \$30 voucher for families. Rates begin at \$99 per night. Some rooms have "Sleep Number" beds. The hotel includes an atrium, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, lounge, and state of the art fitness center. Visit www.radisson.com/breakfast for more information.

PB&J AND A COLD BEER

Who doesn't love PB&J? We just had to share this little tidbit from the July/August issue of *DRAFT* magazine: What beer do you pair with a peanut butter and grape jelly sandwich? Answer: Sierra Nevada Porter "The porter's dark roasted malt flavors match up well with the roasted peanut taste, while the beer's effervescence washes the stickiness from your teeth. Plus, the sweet grape jelly evokes chocolate notes in the porter, creating a truly grown-up snack experience," the magazine states. Also try: Deschutes Black Butte Porter, Marin Point Reyes Porter.

CHOCOLATE, I NEED CHOCOLATE!

Panera Bread and The Henry Ford have teamed up to offer discount cards, good for 25 percent off admission to Henry Ford Museum which is hosting a huge chocolate exhibit. The cards, offered at all 44 southeast Michigan Panera Bread locations, are available for the duration of the exhibit through Sept. 7. Visitors attending the decadent event, may sample Panera's chocolate-themed products on select weekends. Henry Ford Museum is open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$14 adults, \$13 seniors and \$10 youths; members and children 4 and under are free. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.org or www.panerabread.com.

POPULAR CHEF TAKES NEW POSITION

Jim Barnett, former executive chef for The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, has been appointed executive chef for The Westin Book Cadillac Detroit, the 455-room, 33-story historic hotel that will reopen Oct. 1 following a \$200 million restoration. Chef Barnett will be responsible for all culinary operations including the 125-seat restaurant, The Boulevard Room, and Motor Bar. He will also oversee the hotel's 24-hour, in-room dining services; the gourmet "grab-n-go"

coffee outlet; banquets and catering and all menu content and execution.

"We are thrilled to have chef Barnett join our Westin team," said The Westin Book Cadillac Detroit General Manager Tim Freisen. "He has tremendous culinary experience and knows our community well. Our hotel guests, including meeting and conference groups will be very pleased with his creative offerings."

Prior to joining The Townsend, Barnett was a corporate executive chef for the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group based in Bingham Farms. Over the last five years Barnett provided culinary leadership for the *Detroit Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation*, a fund-raising event to help end childhood hunger in America. Barnett was named the Midwest Operation Frontline Chef of the Year in 2000. Learn more about the hotel at www.westin.com/bookcadillac; or call (313) 442-1600.



Barnett

IT'S VINO MANIA!

The Community House in Birmingham hosts *Vino Mania*, an event that combines wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, wine trivia games and live jazz on the terrace, Thursday, Aug. 8, from 7:30-10 p.m. Proceeds benefit Children's Health and Wellness in Oakland County on behalf of the Junior League of Birmingham and The Community House's 21st Century Leaders Program. Hosting the event is certified sommelier Nidal Daher, who has worked in the wine industry for more than 15 years. He has served as the wine director, event sommelier, and catalogue scribe for the Detroit International Wine Auction; is a former fine wine director and buyer for the Merchant of Vino and is a professional member of the French gourmet society Chaine De Rotisseurs. Reservations for *Vino Mania* are \$55. Contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates St., Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com. Ages 21 or older only.

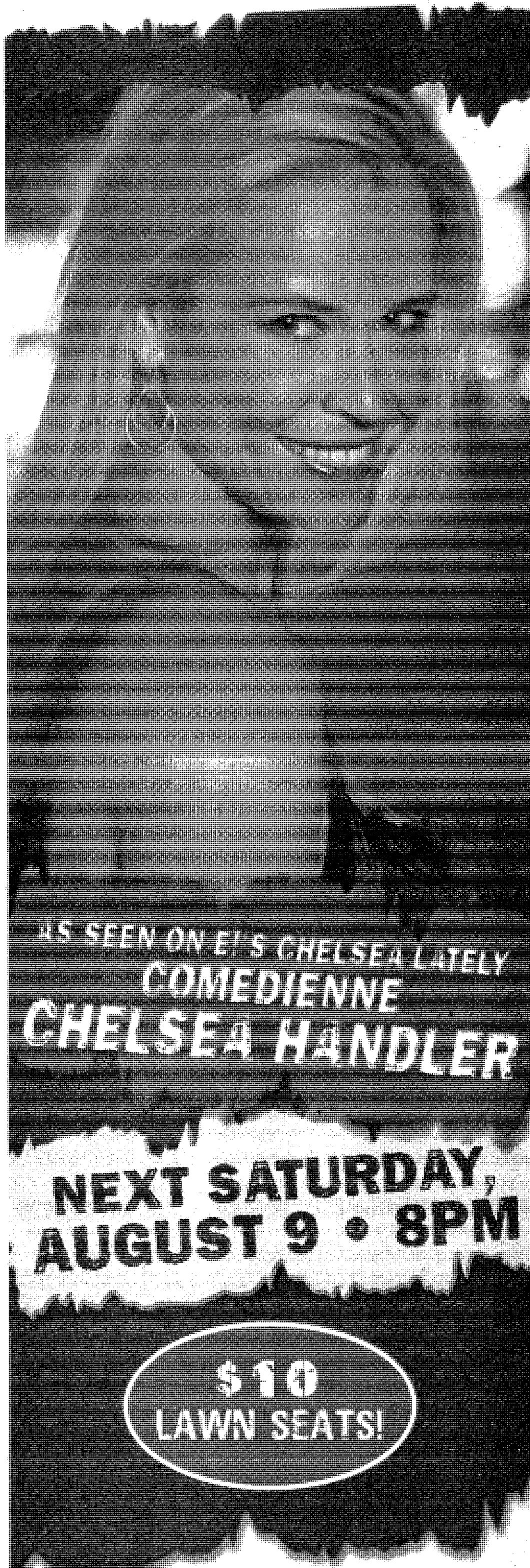
AND MORE WINE ... THIS TIME AT DTW

Vino Volo (derived from the words "wine flight" in Italian) is a contemporary wine tasting room and retailer that just opened at Metro Airport's McNamara Terminal at gate A-45. There travelers can taste wines and enjoy small food samples while chilling on lounge chairs. More *Vino Volo's* are supposed to open in the Detroit area over time. Each store includes a lounge, tasting bar and boutique retail area. Tastings are served in Riedel crystal glasses and the menu offers rotating selections of wines grouped either by wine region or the grape variety.

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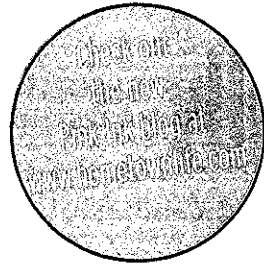
...and the support of the Michigan Knights of Columbus and the Brothers of Holy Cross. We thank you for your love and support over the past 60 years.

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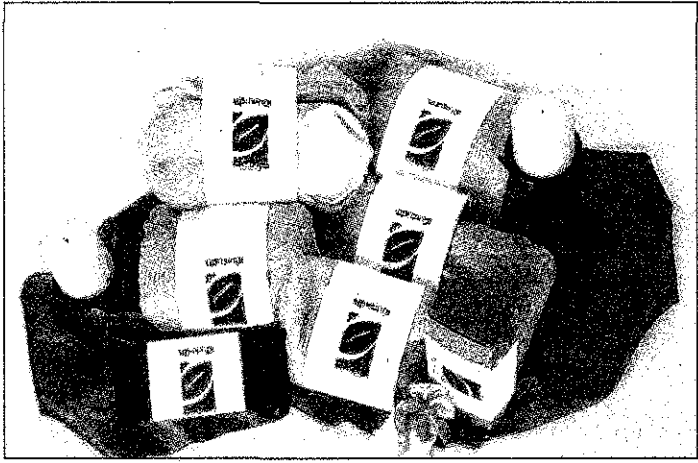
pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk, Features Editor (734) 953-2019, w.vonb@hometownlife.com



Duct Tape Duds

A local couple won stylish second place in the national "Stuck at Prom" Scholarship Contest, which challenged students to create formalwear from Duck brand duct tape. Haley Cavanaugh, 17, of Farmington Hills, and her date, Keith Porter, 17, of Grosse Pointe Shores, each won a \$2,000 scholarship, along with \$2,000 for Cavanaugh's school, Mercy High... Their purple, white and black geometric prom looks (above) impressed judges, who selected 10 top finalists based on workmanship, originality, use of colors, accessories and quantity of duct tape used. The public then voted for their favorite ensembles during a two-week online voting period. Next year's contest is slated to start on March 2, 2009 and end on June 8. Visit www.duckproducts.com for more.



Find Meghan Rossi's Uprising spa products at Plum Market or online at www.uprisingholistichealth.com.

Comfort goes green with new Uprising spa goods

For Birmingham's Meghan Rossi a splendid spa experience simply goes hand-in-hand with sustainable environmental practices. But early on, she noticed the spa industry itself had some catching up to do when it came to going green. Rossi has long held an interest in homeopathic treatments. For years she dabbled in creating comforting spa products on her own. So much so, she said, "my brother called me the witch doctor." Her combined professional experience working in the fields of homeopathy, nutrition and spa treatments has led her to create her own line of products under the name Uprising Holistic Health and Spa Products.

"Uprising is definitely a political type of word, but I see it as people coming together for a change," she said. And that's just what she's aiming to do. From spa pillows to eye masks and neck rolls to sweet sachets, Rossi combines natural, sustainable, fair-trade ingredients and materials with whimsical patterns for plush comfort in the spa, at home, or as fabulous gifts. When Rossi began working in the spa industry — at the prestigious Golden Door Spa in Telluride, Colo. — she noticed the vast amount of paper, plastic and waste involved in the practice. "At that point, we

weren't doing anything green in the spa," she said. She pondered solutions even before she headed back to her home state to start her own practice. At Uprising Holistic Health, she offers massage, mud wraps, salt scrubs and other treatments, as well as health and nutrition consultations and homeopathic remedies, all based in Royal Oak. "I wanted to provide a product for people to take care of themselves," she said. Rossi researched all sorts of textiles, fabrics and materials, conceptualizing, sewing and testing every prototype to find out which worked best. She tried out everything from toasty booties to warm neck rolls on family members and friends. After more than two years of development, Uprising products are now available. Veering away from lotions, soaps and potions — simply because there are so many quality items on the market — she's focused on comfort items her clients can purchase for themselves. Uprising bath soak is made of Celtic sea salts, Epsom salts and an array of seaweeds that leaves water



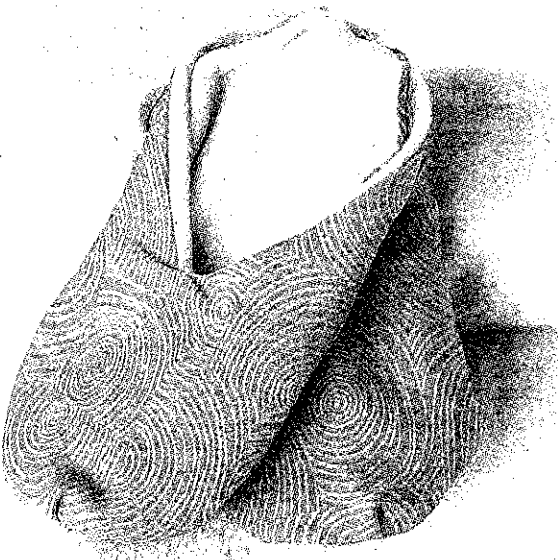
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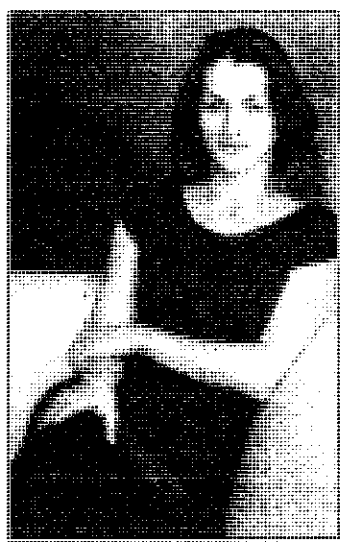
Stephanie Casola

certified organic flax seed and buckwheat," she said. After trying various seeds and beans to fill the organic cotton spa products, she opted for those that heated without burning and had the most subtle scent. Perhaps the most pampering items in her line include plush mittens, booties and a neck roll that would easily make any PINK girl feel like she's escaped to a spa while right at home. The packaging is made

PHOTOS BY KAREN LIPPONITHS
Uprising comfort booties, made with organic materials, will warm you up.



Uprising Holistic Health offers lovely sachets made with sustainably-harvested hemp and silk, and filled with organic herbs and fragrant essential oils.



Meghan Rossi

of biodegradable cellophane and recycled paper. Rossi believes these products can be both environmentally friendly and luxurious. Still an upstart venture, Rossi sews and fills every product by hand. The green goods — in a variety of patterns and colors — are available at Plum Market in Bloomfield Township and in Ann Arbor, as well as online at www.uprisingholistichealth.com. Rossi is currently expanding her line to include travel eye masks, yoga props and plush robes. She's also scouting for area boutiques interested in carrying these nurturing products.

Uprising Holistic Health is located in Suite 140, 225 South Troy Street, Royal Oak. Call (248) 414-4275 or e-mail meghan@uprisingholistichealth.com for products or information. Stephanie Angelyn Casola plans to sport a pair of comfort booties while working on deadline. She covers beauty, fashion and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Have an idea suitable for Dollface? Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

STYLE BRIEFS

Rock the Runway

Kid Rock, Mariah Carey, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce and Rihanna will perform at the fifth annual Fashion Rocks concert celebrating the relationship between music and fashion. The event will be held Sept. 5 at Radio City Music Hall, and will air in a two-hour special on CBS the following night. Proceeds will benefit Stand Up to Cancer. Also performing: Keith Urban, Chris Brown, Fergie,

Lil Wayne and the Black Eyed Peas. Fashion Rocks magazine will also return for its annual issue. The magazine, helmed by *Vogue* Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour, will accompany the September edition of 16 Conde Nast magazines.

Pattern Mixing Primer

There seem to be no "rules" when it comes to mixing patterns and prints — a hot trend in the youth market. But here's some advice if you want to get the look:

- Work in color schemes — perhaps blues and greens, or oranges and yellows, or choose only one patterned item and mix it with pieces in solid colors that wouldn't normally seem complementary. For example, a pink floral-pattern skirt is OK with a solid blue T-shirt.
- Allow one large-scale pattern per outfit, Harmon says. A small dot or floral, or a thin stripe can almost be treated like a solid, though.
- Don't just mix patterns, mix styles, too. Try an argyle

sweater with rugged denim or a letterman sweater with a graphic tee underneath. ■ Your daughter will get more use out of a crazy pattern skirt with a lot of colors in it than one with just one or two colors, because it will go with many solid-colored tops. ■ Choose patterned socks or a patterned backpack if you want to be stylish but not draw too much attention. ■ For girls, printed leggings can replace tights on cool mornings. Samantha Critchell, AP

Hills & Mainstreets

Saks Debuts David Yurman Fragrance

TROY — The David Yurman Fragrance Collection will debut at Saks Fifth Avenue on Friday, Aug. 1. The floral-chypre fragrance captures strands of exotic woods, patchouli, soft musk, rose, peony, water lily, and accents of mandarin, cassis and fresh green petals. Call (248) 614-3370.

Salon Awesome Makeovers

PLYMOUTH — When Kidpalooza takes place in downtown Plymouth 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 2, more than 25 stores will help create an entertaining family-friendly summer day. Salon Awesome, 290 S. Main St., will offer princess makeovers for \$10 per child, along with a story-reading and signing by Cheryl Zuzo, author of "Being Bella." Call (734) 927-0800.

FGI Honors Local Icon

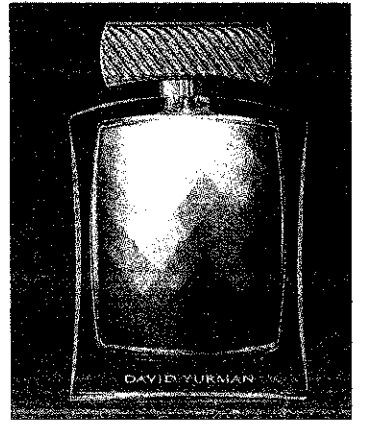
TROY — Fashion Group International of Detroit will honor Irene Miller, founder of the legendary Claire Pearono boutique, with an intimate gathering 1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Somerset Collection South Rotunda. Miller is credited with helping to launch designers like Valentino, Oscar de la Renta and Geoffrey Beene. Tickets, \$25, include hors d'oeuvres and drinks from Brio. RSVP at (248) 540-6202 or FGI.Detroit@gmail.com.

Parisian Laurel Park Events

LIVONIA — Earn a free \$10 gift card for every \$50 you spend on your Parisian card through Aug. 3 at Parisian Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Receive a free 8-piece gift with any Elizabeth Arden purchase of \$24.50 or more through Aug. 17. Call (734) 953-7536.

Books & Buds at The Village

ROCHESTER HILLS — The Village of Rochester Hills, in partnership with Rochester Hills Public Library, continues "Books, Buddies & Blankets" in



The David Yurman Fragrance comes in a pressed Italian crystal bottle designed to reflect the David Yurman Jewelry Collection.

Village's Festival Park. On Aug. 6 hear Cynthia Furlong Reynolds read her story "Grammie's Secret Cupboard." For a complete list of guest readers, visit www.villageofrochesterhills.com.

Rochester Offers Property Tour

ROCHESTER — The Rochester DDA will host its first-ever Downtown Rochester Property Tour 1-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, showcasing available retail lease space in the downtown, and hopefully sparking interest in new business ventures. Check in at 314 Main Street, and use maps and brochures to navigate the self-guided tour. Call (248) 656-0060 or e-mail Sheila@DowntownRochesterMI.com.

Get your pass to Glamour

METRO DETROIT — Shop, save and support a great cause with the Glam Pass, available in all Detroit area Macy's stores Aug. 1-23 for \$5. The Glam Pass highlights the season's hottest trends and includes coupons. Proceeds benefit Beaumont Hospitals. Visit www.macys.com. Compiled by Wensdy Von Buskirk

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