

ENGAGEMENTS



CARTER-MICHELL
Tim and Robin Deann of Taylor

KEITH-ALEXANDER

Frederic and Judy Alexander of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter Kimberly Ann to Jason Christopher Keith, son of Michael Keith of Dublin, Ohio, and Melody Keith of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and earned her MBA from Wayne State University last year. She is currently employed at Advance Capital in Southfield.

Her fiancé is a graduate of West Bloomfield High School and earned a degree in product design engineering from Ferris State University. He will finish his MBA from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in December. He is a senior account manager and resident engineer for Bosch Automotive in Farmington Hills.



An August wedding is planned at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Freedom precious for Gulf war survivor

Basma Khoury is a Power Middle School student and second place winner in the recent *What Freedom Means to Me* essay contest co-sponsored by the American Legion Post 346 and the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Committee.

My freedom means a lot to me! I do not take this privilege for granted because I know, from experience, how it feels to be denied this right. I was born in Kuwait and I lived there until I was 4 years old. In 1991, there was a war and many people were killed. Several others, including myself, were devastated by the brutality of the war. For example, the soldiers from Iraq came and raided my home. I was very afraid that my family would be injured or killed.

Escape to Jordan

Shortly after the incident, we left Kuwait and moved to Jordan to live with relatives. We did not know how we would eat, live or survive in Jordan but we had to move because we feared that we would not survive the war. While in Jordan, we learned that our house was destroyed in a war that I did not start or involve myself in by choice. All I wanted was peace, safety and freedom from the violence of war. However, I was denied the right to choose and therefore denied my freedom.

When my family moved to America, I took a deep breath and said a long prayer because I finally felt safe. I never worry about my safety and I can focus on my friends, family and school. My experiences in Kuwait have



Basma Khoury

taught me that freedom is not free nor is it something that people should take for granted. In America, we are lucky because if we do not agree with the government we can write letters or speak about our differences without penalty or fear. In Kuwait, we could not verbalize our disagreement with the government even when the decisions that they made were literally in our home.

In America, I know that there have been many wars and movements that have brought citizens to the point where they can enjoy the right to be free. This knowledge makes me a little nervous and fearful that the peace I feel can be interrupted at any time.

For now, I will enjoy the freedom that I experience but I will always be mindful that freedom is a luxury that is earned not given and it is a precious commodity that definitely is not free!

Movie marathon begins

If watching movies and helping children is your thing, the third annual Hollywood Nights 28-hour movie marathon at Star Great Lakes Crossing is just the thing.

Hollywood Nights, to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, kicks off at 6 a.m. Friday, July 20. Participants must raise a minimum of \$94.70 in pledges, bring them to Star Great Lakes Crossing at I-76 and Baldwin Road, and then sit back and watch as many new releases as they can over 28 hours.

Marathoners will also enjoy unlimited access to select concessions, dinner on Thursday and breakfast on Friday. The "super star" who collects the most money in pledges receives 62 passes for two to any Star Theatre. Registration forms are available by calling CLF at 1-800-825-2536 or through CLF's

website at www.leukemia.michigan.org. You must be 18 years or older to participate.

Hollywood Nights movie marathon is part of WCSX's annual radiothon to benefit CLF. During the same 28 hours, JJ & Lynne will broadcast live from Star Great Lakes Crossing. Radiothon raises funds for CLF through listeners calling in pledges or bidding on items.

Hollywood Nights is presented by WCSX, Great Lakes Crossing, and Star Theatre. WCSX is sponsored by IBEW Local 58 and Michigan Nurses Association.

CLF is an independent statewide organization which provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma and related blood disorders. Until there is a cure, CLF exists to help families overcome by the challenges these conditions present.

Muscular Dystrophy summer camp rewarding

Every year for the past four years, Ruth Moore has counted down the days to enter what she calls another world: Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camp.

Moore volunteers at camp as a partner for children and young people like Anthony Sabienza, Anthony, 9, of Farmington Hills has a neuromuscular disease. Without the help of Moore, his partner at camp this year, and other volunteers, Anthony would have difficulty playing baseball and hockey, going to the beach and riding horses. But he can do these activities and more with ease at camp.

Since 1955, people ages 6 to 21 with neuromuscular disease have attended MDA summer camps. Hundreds of volunteers staff the camps and donate countless hours to ensure that each camper enjoys activities tailored to his or her special needs. Campers play a wide range of games including euchre, football or softball, and participate in other activities

such as a magic show, crafts and a tug-of-war.

It costs MDA \$450 per child to provide the campers with this unique experience. The camp is underwritten by the support of local corporations and individuals. These and other donors will be recognized on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-3, during the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon aired locally on WB-20, Detroit. This year marks the 36th annual telethon.

Dedicated to cure

Founded in 1950, the MDA is a voluntary health organization dedicated to finding a cure for 43 neuromuscular diseases. MDA funds research worldwide and currently funds projects at the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State.

MDA operates 230 hospital affiliated clinics across the country. Local clinics are located at Children's Hospital in Detroit and the Michigan Institute of Neuromuscular Disorders in Farmington Hills.



Breaktime: Ruth Moore, Anthony Sabienza of Farmington Hills and Christy Neph of Commerce take a break from watching a baseball game at Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camp in Lexington recently.

Services include physical, occupational, and respiratory therapy as well as genetic coun-

seling and testing, social services consultations and year-round care.

County offers breastfeeding support series

The Oakland County Health Division is sponsoring a breastfeeding support series. Sessions taught by public health nurses are held at the health division's west office at 1010 E. West

Maple, Walled Lake, a block east of Pontiac Trail.

From A to Z

Information covered includes pumping, solving common prob-

lems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including growth spurts, starting solids and wean-

Information is targeted to participants involved in the first year of breastfeeding. For information or to register, call (248) 926-3341.

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