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DECISION

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Yo-yo mania

The city of Plymouth Department of Recreation, in cooperation with Duncan Toy Crew member Yo Jake, hosts a summer YoYo/Juggling Camp for kids ages 8-14.

The class takes place from 10:30 a.m. to noon July 9-13 at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Advance registration is required at the recreation office or online at <https://www.plymouthwebtrac.net/>. The cost of the class is \$45 and city of Plymouth residents will receive a discounted price for the class. For more information, call (734) 455-6620.

Fireworks special

Plymouth residents heading to Livonia for the Spree fireworks display have a chance to avoid all that Spree traffic.

The Madonna University athletics program again hosts a family friendly site to view the Livonia Spree fireworks on Sunday night, June 24. Representatives from the athletic department will be taking donations for parking in a great place to view the fireworks that would allow viewers to avoid the traffic snarls caused by Spree.

Madonna is located at the corner of Levan and I-96. Public restrooms will be available.

Biggest loser

NBC's popular reality series *The Biggest Loser* is launching a 13-city cross country search to find new contestants for the next edition of the hit show. Individuals who have at least 85 pounds to lose are encouraged to apply for the new season, which will air in January.

The closest casting call point is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at the Gardner-White Furniture Store, 45300 Hayes in Macomb.

Break from Detroit lets township cut water rate

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Bucking the trend in suburban Detroit, Plymouth Township is cutting the price of water to residents and businesses starting next month.

The township Board of Trustees voted 7-0 Tuesday for a new water-rate schedule that includes a price drop of 45 cents per thousand gallons, bringing the combined water and sewer rate from \$9.05 to \$8.60 per thousand.

With the average township household using about 20,000

gallons of water every three months, that puts the typical quarterly residential water bill at \$172, plus a fixed meter charge (\$1.80 or \$3 quarterly for the most common household meter sizes).

Officials say the reduction was made possible by a cut of 14 percent in what the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department charges the township for water. Detroit's price cut, officials say, is due to township water customers' limiting water use during periods of peak demand, when it is more expensive for DWSD to

deliver, and to improvements to the township's water system that also helped cut peak demand.

Detroit's new wholesale rate, which also takes effect in July, is \$17.86 per thousand cubic feet of water, down from \$20.82 per thousand. A thousand cubic feet of water is nearly 7,500 gallons.

The price cut, however, follows several successive rate increases in recent years, including a hike of about 8 percent a year ago. The township was hit in 2011 with a proposed 40-percent increase in its wholesale water

rate; negotiations with Detroit brought that increase to about 18 percent.

The township is continuing improvements to its system this year with the construction of a \$375,000 booster station near the water tower at Five Mile and Beck. Officials say the equipment will help fill the tower more efficiently; the tower is typically filled during nighttime hours, when demand on DWSD is less, and the water used during the day in order to lim-

Please see WATER, A5



Now-former Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski (left), who retired when the 2011-12 school year ended last week, moves into the hospitality industry with longtime friend Mark Hodesh.

'Garden' party

Retirement lets 'Z' make new career move

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

For the first time in about 20 years, anyone looking for Bill Zolkowski come September is going to have to look somewhere other than inside a school building.

Zolkowski closed out the educational part of his career this month, when the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park dismissed classes for the last time. Students will return in September.

Zolkowski won't.

"Change has been a pretty consistent element in my life," said Zolkowski, for the last three years the Park's first and only park principal. "I've moved from career to career in kind of a planned way. It started to feel like it was time."

Plucked out of the South Redford schools three years ago to become the first principal

to head all three high schools at the Park, Zolkowski leaves three years later ready to take on another challenge.

Garden party

He will open Bill's Beer Garden in downtown Ann Arbor, hopefully sometime next month. The idea came around when longtime friend Mark Hodesh suggested it during a dinner meeting a few months ago.

"He threw out the idea for a beer garden," Zolkowski said. "It'll be a seasonal thing, and we'll feature Michigan-crafted beers."

He leaves behind a park he and other administrators feel is more united, more organized and more cohesive than it was when he got there. Before Zolkowski's arrival, each building had its own principal, and its own system. The knock on it was a lack of sameness, a lack

of system.

After bringing in a former state board of education official to consult on possible leadership models, the district decided on the park principal system and hired Zolkowski to be the man.

Dr. Jeremy Hughes is the consultant the district hired to develop the model. He later became the district's superintendent.

"The intent of that job was to restore a sense of unity to the Park some felt had been lost," Hughes said. "Bill definitely did that. He re-energized the phrase, 'Three schools, one Park.'"

One Park

Zolkowski agrees. He said in the last few years, the Park's leadership team has standardized the curriculum and class

Please see RETIREMENT, A2

Trustee's absentee idea fails

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

An attempt to further secure the handling of absentee ballots by the Plymouth Township clerk's office fell flat Tuesday, but not before sparking lively discussion during a township Board of Trustees meeting.

Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, saying a candidate — Clerk Joe Bridgman in this case — and his supporters should not have control over absentee ballots before they're counted, suggested having two employees witness certain procedures, such as the pickup of ballots from the drop box outside township hall.

But his motion to adopt the measures died for lack of support from other board members.

"It's a good accounting practice," Doroshewitz said in opening remarks. "It protects the clerk's office from an accusation somewhere in the future."

In a crowded township race this year, Doroshewitz said, many candidates are going to lose, and "at least one of them is going to be convinced there's a conspiracy there." He compared handling uncounted ballots to handling uncounted cash: one wants to have at least one witness for everyone's protection, he said.

The township primary is Tuesday, Aug. 7.

But Bridgman, saying he takes "a little bit of offense to this," insisted current procedures are secure and allowed by state and federal law.

Please see ABSENTEE, A4



Doroshewitz



Bridgman

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RETIREMENT

Continued from page A1

offerings, established the same expectations for students in all three buildings, and unified most of the systems to put everyone on the same page.

"You go to any office in any of the schools, and you get the same answers to the same questions," Zolkowski said. "It didn't used to be that way."

While he's proud of the

things the team — and he's quick to point out it was a complete team effort — accomplished, there are things Zolkowski wishes he had gotten done. At the top of the list, he said, is a "fair, consistent, rational grading policy."

While there is "a long list" of policy considerations centered around grading, the one Zolkowski finds grating is the idea of "averaging." He said the idea of including early low scores in a stu-

dent's final grade hurts the student.

"The football team can have a crummy practice on Tuesday and Wednesday, get a little better on Thursday then win on Friday and we don't put an asterisk on the win because of those early bad practices," Zolkowski said. "In the classroom, however, a student who starts slowly has all of those early low grades averaged into the final mark, dragging down the final grade. Averaging is just one of many topics that are worthy of inclusion when discussing a progressive grading policy."

"A B should be a B should be a B, no matter whose algebra class you have," he added. "That is not the case for any school that has not tackled the issue consciously and aggressively."

Into the future

That'll be an issue facing the new leadership team (the district is going back to individual school principals at the three high schools). Zolkowski's issue will be growing his beer garden in downtown Ann Arbor, which he hopes to open in July. He said he knows little about the hospitality industry, though in an earlier life



Bill Zolkowski, who was the first park principal when he arrived three years ago, is leaving his educational career behind and opening a beer garden in downtown Ann Arbor.

he spent some time with a wholesale/retail operation, importing for a retail store.

Still, the prospect doesn't frighten him.

"Downtown Ann Arbor is such an exciting place ... to see where it is now and to have a chance to get back is exciting," Zolkowski said. "I'm not scared about it at all. It's a good feeling to be going to something, rather than running away from something."

He said his wife, Susan Hawley, who owns the Michigan Language Center in Ann Arbor and teaches English to speak-

ers of other languages, is excited for him.

"She knows it was time for me to make a change," Zolkowski said, and then smiled. "Frankly, she was a little afraid I'd just hang out at home."

He's at least partly right about that. Hawley said she never figured her energetic husband was much of a threat to sit around and do nothing.

"He's at the point where he needs to be doing something different," Hawley said. "He's got a lot of energy, and he needs to be around peo-

ple. I think the beer garden is perfect for him."

While Zolkowski is excited at the opportunity that lies ahead, he's also a bit misty about the career he's leaving behind. "Sure I'm a little sad, although the transition hasn't given me much time to really think about it," he said. "Since I made the decision, almost every day I think of something I'm going to miss. There's sadness, but no regrets, and a lot of pride about what we accomplished."

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JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 26, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Details: It's another exciting night of great American jazz as Jazz @ The Elks presents the Terry Lower Quartet featuring Terry on Keyboard, Russ Miller on

AROUND PLYMOUTH

Reeds, Jim Ryan on Drums, and Ray Tini on Bass. The \$10 donation includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or visit plymouthelks1780.com

POM CLINIC

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 14, 9-11:30 a.m.

Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

Details: The Canton Chiefettes host their pom pon clinic for potential cheerleaders ages 5-14. Students will learn pom pon techniques and a short dance routine. Parents will be treated to a performance at 11:30 a.m. Participants will also perform

at the Canton High School varsity football game Aug. 30. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, \$50 at the door.

Contact: Pre-register at www.cantonchiefettes.com; call (734) 397-1782 for more information.

AUTHOR AUTOGRAPHS

Date/Time: Saturday, June 23, 1 p.m.

Location: Redford Township Library, 25320 W. Six Mile in Redford.

Details: Award-winning author Cheryl Vatcher-Martin will be autographing copies of her books as part of the author fair. Two titles that will be available are, "Haiku For You: With Some

One Room School House History," and "The Cornstalks Are Whispering." Her book, "The Cornstalks Are Whispering" is displayed inside of the Historic Kingsley House in Romulus, Mi. across the street from the historic school house. This popular book for children of all ages teaches some history with a twist with the setting the week before Halloween. Her latest award was for her story written in October 2011, "Trapped in the Basement," a time travel fictional story that will be released in book form.

Contact: She can be reached at (734) 397-1626, peroinc5@comcast.net

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Roc keeps license, but scrutiny increased

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

With owners vowing tighter management and security measures, some of which are already in place, a Plymouth bar and restaurant made its case for Monday keeping its liquor license.

The Plymouth City Commission voted 6-1 Monday to agree with owners of the Plymouth Roc, on Ann Arbor Road at Harvey, to the steps they are taking and plan to take to prevent alcohol-related problems

there. Commissioners, concerned about several incidents reported by police this spring, including allegations of underage drinking and staying open past the 2 a.m. closing time, had been considering recommending to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the Roc's license to serve alcohol be revoked.

Roc owners John Mourselas and Stavos "Steve" Stergiou said they would increase owner presence at the Roc on busy nights, not hesitate to call police in the event of any crim-

inality there, keep the kitchen open until midnight, consider canceling drink specials and undergo quarterly reviews of the operation by the commission's Local Liquor License Review Committee, among other measures. The Roc had already taken some steps to tighten alcohol controls, including increasing security, using an electronic identification verifying device, limiting the ability of patrons to leave and re-enter and retraining employees to spot patrons who've had too much. In addition, a manager at

the Roc who was on duty during some of the reported incidents was fired last month.

"Now it's up to the Roc to live up to that expectation, and I'm completely confident they will," said attorney Keith Kecskes, who represented the bar Monday.

Kecskes and the owners met with the three-member LLLRC for nearly an hour before the city commission meeting.

Kecskes acknowledged some "pretty significant bumps in the road," later he said that while the bar owners disagree

with some of the allegations, they want to work cooperatively with the city to head off any problems.

"There is no denying there are a number of events that have occurred," he told LLLRC members Mayor Dan Dwyer and Commissioners Meg Doolley and Ed Hingelberg.

Dwyer said the Roc needs to become more of a "family friendly" restaurant which, he said, was part of the business plan filed when the establishment, formerly Boulders, changed hands three years ago.

People International concert to benefit Canton arts

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Amy Wood could have as many as 20 people camping out on the living room floor of her Canton home for a week in July, but she's not too concerned about it.

If it happens, it'll mean a successful annual conference for her chapter of People International, the non-profit group which promotes a lifestyle with a "strong moral base" for which she's the national coordinator.

People International (PII) rotates the location of its annual conference, and this year is Canton's turn.

PII strongly believes in what the group calls "Four Absolutes:" Unselfishness, Honesty, concerned Love and Self-discipline. The group promotes the kind of lifestyle that incorporates all four ideals.

"For a lot of members, it has become a safe place," said Amy Wood, whose husband, Ken, is

DETAILS

What: People International annual conference

When: July 7-14; final concert July 13

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Canton; final concert is at Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

How much: Conference is \$275 (open to the public); tickets to the performance are \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids and seniors 60 and older.

How to help: Donations are welcome if you can't attend the conference or the performance.

Contact: Amy Wood, (734) 748-3828 or email amymilligan@comcast.net



People International will perform at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill July 13 at the end of the group's week-long conference in Canton.

According to the Woods, PII was born out of the ashes of the "Sing Out" movement, which died out in the late 1990s. Ken Wood, a Dearborn Heights native, was a member of the Sing Out Dearborn group from 1987-1990, and remembers it as a favorite time of his life.

Sing Out was the "cool" thing to do, with casts as big as 100 people for a program that eventually became a sort of "feeder" program for PII. Ken Wood said PII reminds him of his childhood time spent in Sing Out Dearborn. The conference transports the Dearborn

Heights native back in time.

"For me, it's like spending a week as a teenager again," said Wood, who pointed out three-fourths of his wedding party were people he met in PII. "I've made a lot of friends from PII."

Planning for the conference started around Thanksgiving, when the conference director and the performance director were chosen. The conference, being staged at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton, runs much like a retreat. Between rehearsals for the final performance, attendees take part in workshops,

team- and self-esteem-building exercises and other activities.

The end-of-conference performance will feature artists with varying degrees of experience, ranging from the professional (including a couple of opera singers) to the amateurs who've never set foot on a stage before.

The show is choreographed, though "we don't make the choreography too crazy," said Carol Milligan of St. Clair Shores, Amy Wood's mother and a member of PII.

Because people are taking time off from work and often can't afford hotel rooms for a week, Amy Wood said her living room often resembles a campground during the PII conference.

"It's not uncommon for me to have 20 people sleeping in my house," she said. "Some of them just don't have that much money."

While they're in town, PII members will sing the National Anthem at the

Detroit Tigers game July 8 at Comerica Park. It'll be their third time at bat for that.

"It's a rush to stand at home plate and sing," Milligan said. "It's so big and so vast, and there are so many people."

The Woods are hoping to generate some new members from the conference, which she encourages people from the community to attend. The group, she said, could use an infusion of youth.

"We need our group to grow," she said. "I'm the youngest in our group right now, and I'm 40. We need some youth to sustain ourselves."

Proceeds from the final performance will benefit the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

"It's a very generous thing for them to do," said Jill Engel, the partnership's executive director. "I'm really looking forward to seeing their show."

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Canton Police say this heavily clothed woman who allegedly robbed the Credit Union Family Service Center in Canton is believed to remain at large.

Police seek robbery suspect

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A heavily clothed woman who allegedly robbed the Credit Union Family Service Center in Canton is believed to remain at large and is being sought by township authorities, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said Monday.

Police have released a photo of the suspect, though Schreiner noted the woman was heavily clothed and apparently tried to conceal her identity by wearing a hat, a hoodie, sunglasses and gloves.

"She was very well-concealed," he said.

The incident happened just before 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, at the Credit Union Family Service Center, 5810 N. Sheldon. The woman didn't reveal a weapon.

"It was a woman, and

there was no weapon implied," Schreiner said. "She produced a note demanding money."

The suspect is believed to have been a young adult female, though witnesses couldn't provide much additional information because the woman wore so much clothing and accessories.

"We're still looking for tips," Schreiner said.

Anyone who has information is asked to call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

Anonymous tips for a possible cash reward also may be made by calling Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP, going to www.1800.speak-up.org or texting CSM and the tip to 274637, or CRIMES.

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Pizza, landscaping trucks burglarized

Trucks at two different Plymouth Township businesses in the area north of M-14 and east of Beck Road were broken into late June 14 or early the next day.

Tools and landscaping equipment, including leaf-blowers, brick saws and a gravel compactor, were reported stolen from Highland Landscape and Snowplowing, on Mast Street, and 50 cases of Haagen Dazs ice cream and 19 cases of frozen pizza were reported stolen from Edy's Ice Cream, on Port Street, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports.

A lock had been removed from the truck in each case, the reports said. At Highland, the lock to the rear doors was missing, and at Edy's, the truck driver found the lock on the ground outside the truck, police said. The break-ins occurred some time between the evening of June 14 and the next morning.

Township detective Sgt. David Hayes there was no definitive evidence to link the two break-ins, but it's possible they were related.

Car break-in

A laptop computer was reported stolen Friday from a Chevy Silverado that was parked outside a house on Hill Top Drive, north

CRIME WATCH

of North Territorial and west of Beck. A second vehicle burglary occurred in the same neighborhood during the same time frame.

The truck had been parked in a driveway and left unlocked, the complainant told police. The laptop had been taken out of its case, which had been left behind, police said.

The burglary occurred between midnight and 5 a.m. Friday, police said.

iPods boosted

On Fawn Woods Court, two iPods, an older model and an iPod Touch, were reported stolen Friday from a parked Ford Explorer.

The Explorer had been left in the driveway of a house, police said. It was not reported whether it had been locked, but police found no signs of forced entry. The burglary had occurred some time since 6 p.m. on June 14.

Property stolen

Compact discs, an iPod cord and a pack of cigarettes were reported stolen Friday morning from a Chevrolet Aveo parked outside a house on Princeton Drive, west of Haggerty just south of M-14.

The burglary had occurred some time since midnight, and the car had been left unlocked, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

Fire runs

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period June 13-19:

• Tuesday, June 19 — Rescue runs on Beck and on Northville Road.

• Monday, June 18 — Rescue runs on M-14, on Governor Bradford, on Newporte, on Ann Arbor Road, on Wellington and on Wilson.

• Sunday, June 17 — Rescue runs on Tyler, on Sheldon, on Ann Arbor Road, on eastbound M-14 east of Sheldon, at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, on Thornridge, on Tavistock, on Haggerty, on Heritage, on Northville Road, on Ann Arbor Trail, and at Five Mile and Beck.

• Saturday, June 16 — Rescue runs on northbound I-275 at Ann Arbor Road, on Oakwing, on S. Main, on southbound I-275 over the CSX crossing, on Tamarack, on Eckles, on Newporte, on Cedar Lane, on Crabtree and on Arboretum.

• Friday, June 15 — Rescue runs on Northville Road, on Greenview Place, on Ann Arbor Road, on Wildwing, on Brentwood and on Port.

• Thursday, June 14 — Rescue runs on Old Pond Circle, on Port, on Sheldon, on Crabtree and on Turtlehead.

• Wednesday, June 13 — Rescue runs on northbound I-275, on Clare, on Arboretum and on Northville Road.

South Lyon woman killed in township crash

A crash in Plymouth Township involving a Ford Explorer and a semi-tractor truck left a 79-year-old South Lyon woman dead Monday morning, police said.

The collision occurred shortly after 7 a.m. at Five Mile and Beck, said township Lt. Robert Antal, who was investi-

gating the crash. The victim, who had been driving the Explorer, was pronounced dead at the scene, Antal said.

The semi driver, a 40-year-old man from Westland, was uninjured, police said.

Details of the investigation were not available, but Antal said alcohol did not appear to have been a factor.

ABSENTEE

Continued from page A1

"We have to account for every ballot that goes out and every ballot that comes back," he said.

Doroshewitz had said that employees of the clerk's office should not pick up filled-out ballots at the post office, but rely on mail carriers to deliver them, or send an unaffiliated employee, not the clerk or a supporter, to the post office if need be.

Bridgman said his office doesn't pick up any

mail, then allowed that it is standard on election nights for him to check with the post office for any undelivered absentees and pick them up, or send someone to do so, if there are any. Doroshewitz said his resolution would have sent a witness along on election-night pickups.

The process, said Bridgman, has "been working for many years. It's not broken."

Doroshewitz said his recommendations weren't aimed at Bridgman personally, and that the clerk "protests too much."

"Guys, this is for your protection," said Doroshewitz to Bridgman and Eric Bacynski, the deputy clerk, who was watching from the back of the board room. "We owe it to every candidate in this election to make sure that no ballot is left alone with one person until it's counted."

But Doroshewitz failed to win over other board members.

"I don't really think it's the board's position to do this," said Trustee Steve Mann, adding that he likes Doroshewitz's suggestions, but it's up to Bridgman if he wants to adopt them.

There are already consequences in place for ballot-tampering, Mann said, and holding elected office means being given a certain amount of public trust.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH ACCURACY TESTING FOR VOTING EQUIPMENT FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012, 10:00a.m. PRIMARY ELECTION

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the Accuracy Testing for the Optical Scan Voting Equipment, as well as the Hearing Impaired Equipment, for the Presidential Primary Election to be held on TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012. The testing is scheduled for FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Election Source will be conducting the testing to assure that the voting equipment has been programmed appropriately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: June 21, 2012

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World record tops Liberty Fest

WATER

Continued from page A1

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton's 21st Liberty Fest, crowned Saturday by fireworks erupting over Heritage Park, has been deemed a rousing success and broke the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people dressed as the Statue of Liberty.

Jon LaFever, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator, cited "record crowds" and a festival that was "bigger than ever" as he estimated the three-day turnout at nearly 50,000 people.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner reported "no major incidents" as festival goers descended on Heritage Park for carnival rides, a rainbow of entertainers and myriad activities for all ages.

Jeanette Williams, recreation specialist, said more than 700 people dressed in Statue of Liberty costumes during a gathering that coincided



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Country band Annabelle Road played the Canton LIVE! stage Friday during Canton's Liberty Fest.

ed with 5K, 10K and one-mile races. Counting people who didn't dress up, the races drew 1,200 runners and walkers.

Williams said the event far outpaced any other gathering for the most people dressed as a national monument.

"We're just finalizing everything with the Guinness Book of World Records," she said.

LaFever reported no serious glitches during

Liberty Fest. Even the heat didn't seem to take too much of a toll on the festival crowds.

"We had two medical calls all weekend, despite the heat," LaFever said, citing one sprained ankle and one heat-related issue.

The Canton Firefighters Local 2289 Charity Foundation sold 891 spaghetti meals in less than three hours Friday evening, Fire Capt. Ron Battani said.

"We did good," he said, saying the event raised about \$7,000 and outpaced sales of recent years that had faced challenging weather.

Much of the money will go to the wife and two young children of the late Canton firefighter Ryan Swick, who in May lost his battle with cancer.

"The firemen here take a lot of care in what they do," Battani said.

In one of the more surprising moments of Liberty Fest, a large crowd of dancers suddenly broke into a choreographed routine to the song *Holding Out For A Hero* during a flash mob performance about 7:40 p.m. Saturday near the amphitheater.

"It was great, and everybody was really surprised," said Kaya Dobson, a Canton event coordinator and flash mob participant. "It seemed like everybody really enjoyed it."

In a nod to Liberty Fest's theme of celebrating community heroes, some dancers donned costumes representing superheroes such as Batman and Spider-man.

The political season made an appearance, too, as some candidates mingled among the crowds seeking votes for local races.

Overall, Liberty Fest was called upbeat by those attending, though they had different reasons.

Some, like Canton resident Matthew Pucci, lauded "the family environment, the entertainment and all the activities," while his son, Matthew Pucci Jr., came to "talk to girls and ride rides."

Whatever the motivation, the festival seemed to please, LaFever said. "It was a very smooth year."

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Festival celebrates liberty



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

A 'flash mob' breaks out while the next band gets ready to go on stage.



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Canton resident Bill Trank looks on the list of people who lost their lives on the 9/11 Memorial at the Canton Fire Station.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Liberty Fest draws a Friday night crowd.



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Stan Cole of Plymouth wins among many awards, Best in Show for his mint 1957 Chevy Bel Air.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Magician Eugene Clark sets up the old "Where's The Magic Scarf?" trick with 11-year-old Silvia Gonzalez. Silvia was at the Liberty Fest with Mom, Silvia, Dad Ruben and brother Alejandro, who is 7 years old.



Elisa Quinn (with mom Saki) of Canton puts the finishing touches on her heart basket provided by Home Depot. They had nearly 400 kids build various wood projects on Saturday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chung Do Kwan Tae Kwon Do demonstrates on Friday evening.



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

As always, the fireworks were one of the highlights of the Liberty Fest.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bethany Grysko, of D and M Art in Canton, demonstrates how Jackson Pollack might have painted if he had a squirt gun.

Better Business Bureau warns against Canton business

Consumers from across the country have contacted the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Detroit & Eastern Michigan alleging poor business practices against the Outdoor Fun Store including failure to ship products, shipping incorrect items, and failure to refund money for items not received. All complainants have indicated they made numerous

attempts in writing and by phone to contact the company but have not been successful in reaching company representatives.

One complainant is The Osage Nation from Pawhuska, Okla., who ordered equipment from the Outdoor Fun Store to be used by a tribal family preservation unit that helps tribal families in crisis. The tribe contacted WDIV's

"Ruth to the Rescue" producers and the BBB for help.

"We made two payments totaling \$6,578.44, but have not received any of the playground equipment. We have made numerous calls and sent a demand letter which have all have gone unanswered. The money for the equipment was originally federal grant funds; therefore, the Osage Nation

had to reimburse the grant with its own funds. We are hoping that WDIV and the Better Business Bureau can help us recoup our money," said Clint Patterson, assistant attorney general, Osage Nation.

Another complainant also contacted WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" producers about her purchase of play-scape accessories that she never received despite

phone calls, e-mails and an in-person visit to the store. However, after this WDIV report, she was refunded her money, while other complaints have yet to be resolved.

Following the WDIV report, the BBB reopened all complaints and contacted the owner via certified mail. To date, the company has not responded to any complaints and currently

has an "F" rating on their BBB Business Review.

The BBB warns buyers to be wary of doing business with the Outdoor Fun Store until they have shown good faith in responding to and resolving all customer complaints. The business in question is based in Canton and operates at the following address: Outdoor Fun Store, 8551 Ronda Drive, Canton 48187.



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Analyzing expenses is first step to budgeting

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

It's hard to believe that we're just about half-way done with 2012. Before you know it, we'll be talking about year-end tax planning. That being said, this is a great time of year to take a step back and review how you are doing and to see if any adjustments are needed.

One area that everyone needs to pay attention to is expenses. In most situations, there's not much that we can do when it comes to revenue. However, there are things to do when it comes to



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I recommend that at least a few times a year, everyone itemize expenses so that they know exactly what they are. You can't make adjustments on the expense side unless you know what you are spending. Although it would be

keeping expenses under control.

The first step to controlling expenses is to know what they are.

I recommend that at least a few times a year, everyone itemize expenses so that they know exactly what they are. You can't make adjustments on the expense side unless you know what you are spending.

Although it would be

nearly impossible to account to the penny, you should be able to itemize the great portion (95 percent) of your expenses. If you can't, you have a problem. Only after you itemize can you analyze the information to know what you can reduce.

In analyzing expenses, some things to consider include shopping around for homeowner's and automobile insurance. If you haven't done it in a while, it's time. We live in a competitive world. We might as well let competition work in our favor.

Another way to reduce expenses is to consider

refinancing your home. Interest rates are at a record low. If you have a 5- or 6-percent mortgage, you may be able to refinance and reduce your housing cost. Of course, if you are going to refinance, pay close attention to fees. Not all mortgage companies are the same when it comes to fees. Some companies have reasonable fees, while the only way you can describe other fee structures is excessive.

Successful businesses have one thing in common — they are always looking at ways to reduce costs. Individuals need to do the same.

Obviously, there are some costs that we cannot control. However, you'd be surprised how many costs you can do something about.

Determining what it costs to live for a month is one of the most important numbers to help plan your financial future. Knowing if you have enough money to retire is based upon this number. It's not a number that you calculate once. It's a number that you recalculate at least a couple of times a year.

If your expenses are going up and your revenue is not keeping pace, you could have a prob-

lem. You don't want to face the problem when you have no alternatives. You want to deal with the problem while you still have options. There's nothing worse than running into a financial problem and having no options. One way to prevent that is to always have a handle on your expenses. Good luck!

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

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WSU hosts Saturday Tech Fair

The Wayne State University Moving-Media film celebration announces its third consecutive year in partnership with the Detroit-Windsor International Film Festival. The DWIFF is one of America's cutting edge film festivals and is dedicated to showcase the newest and most diverse voices of independent film.

The festival kicked off Wednesday with a reception in the Kresge Court at the Detroit Institute of

Arts, with keynote speakers including Sam Kadi, Elliot Wilhelm, Carrie Jones and Beauty Queen director Anna Fleury, who presented her new film.

The Tech-Fair takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 23, at State Hall on the campus of Wayne State University. It will feature film industry pros such as Daniel Phillips, Wayne McLean, Jeff Jantz and producer Charles Cirgen-ski.

Gary Cendrowski will speak on "Live Streaming" and Raymond Rolak will address his recent film project along with the importance of wardrobe conservation. Cendrowski is a veteran post-production specialist in computer, audio and video special effects.

Rolak, who participated in and helped showcase "Get A Job" last year at the DWIFF, will present a follow up on the journeys of the award winning comedy.

Part of the mission of Wayne State's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts is to carry on the tradition and leadership of great filmmaking practices.

"For the first time in Moving-Media history, we have decided to offer a high school category," said Kelly Gottesman, WSU Moving-Media's coordinator.

For more information, visit www.movingmediafilmfestival.com and www.dwiff.org

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Amish Tables opens its 3,000-square-foot facility in Plymouth with a grand-opening event Friday and Saturday. The store is located at 236 N. Main.

Amish Tables hosts grand opening

Amish Tables, the award-winning furniture retailer dealing in hardwood Amish furniture, hosts a grand opening event Friday and Saturday, June 22-23, to celebrate the opening of its new store in Plymouth.

The event takes place noon to 7 p.m. on June 22 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on June 23 at 236 N. Main Street in Plymouth and will feature special savings, giveaways, and refreshments.

Amish Tables, a family owned business, operated for the past 17 years from Ann Arbor. With the growth of the business, the company needed a more retail-focused location, which is when they found the over 3,000-square-foot space on Main Street.

"We invite the public – and especially our new clientele in the Plymouth area – to come visit us in our new space to see all that we have to offer," said Nell Narowski, CEO and owner. "We'll have a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce at 11 a.m. on Friday."

The grand opening festivities will feature door prizes for the first 100 customers, coupons, giveaways to local Plymouth businesses, light refreshments from local venues, and a floor model sale.

The local company also sells nationally and internationally through two popular internet sites — www.amishtables.com and www.amish-furniture-home.com.

"We offer hardwood furniture for every room of your home and each piece is built to the customer's specifications," said Deb Stewart, Business Manager.

"Whether online or in our showroom, the customer can select style, size, wood type and stain for any product we offer, allowing a custom look for your home," said Monica Williams, Sales Associate.

Amish Tables has been providing hardwood, quality furniture for every room of the home since 1995 both locally and nationally.

For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Amish Tables at (734) 927-1110.

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chamber breakfast

Mary Kramer, vice president and publisher of Crain's Detroit Business, will be the featured speaker at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's Good Morning Plymouth breakfast 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, June 27 at the Red Olive Banquet Center.

As a foremost authority on the local business climate, Kramer will share her views about the future of our region, the hottest growth industries, attracting talented workers, utilizing our own resources and people, entrepreneurship, education and public policy. She also will leave plenty of time for questions and answers.

Cost is \$12. RSVP no later than June 22 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the event.

VP appointment

Pi Inno, the vehicle electronics innovator, announced the appointment of Dwight Hansell as vice president for Business Development. Hansell enjoys a distinguished reputation for strategic sales and program management, developed over 20 years of working at the heart of the Michigan automotive industry.

Hansell joins Pi Inno from AVL Powertrain Engineering Inc. where he served since 2003 in a variety of roles that strengthened the business and positioned it

for growth, culminating in leading the Sales and Program Management teams. During this period AVL successfully entered new markets and achieved impressive sales growth.

Hansell joins the commercial team based at Pi Inno LLC headquarters in Plymouth, MI. He has a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Illinois and a master's degree from Stanford University.

Internet marketing

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors a search engine and internet marketing optimization workshop 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 26, at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

The workshop, presented by Terry Krieg and Mark Hutchins, focuses on



New home

First Preferred Mortgage cut the ribbon on their new location in downtown Plymouth at 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Pictured cutting the ribbon is Hale Walker, Senior VP and to his left is CEO Mark Walker. Also pictured are their staff, business associates and members of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Committee. Since First Preferred Mortgage Company was founded in 1992, they now operate in 25 states and have nearly 360 employees to serve their clients.

website search engine optimization and internet marketing. This will be a great workshop for anyone who is looking to improve the visibility of their website. Combining an SEO-friendly website with an effective internet marketing strategy is one of the best ways to boost your company's online presence and increase sales.

To RSVP call the chamber at (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org.

Business news

From the desks of our friends at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Sharer Cabinetry samples have arrived at Sharer Design Group. Come see which style would look great in the kitchen or bathroom. This original line of cabinetry has been designed by Justin Sharer. Photos on the group's Facebook page.

- The 28th season of Music in the Park started Wednesday and Genuine Toy Co. will be there every week with free gifts for kids, as well as some cool toys to show off. There will also be special offers - but only for those in attendance.

- For the second year in a row, Scotty Morrison won Sean O'Callaghan's Shepherd's Pie Eating Contest. Scotty ate an unbelievable 8 pounds, 6 ounces of Shepherd's Pie in eight minutes.

Wireless Bluetooth: boombox reinvented

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Remember when portable music was carrying a boombox over your head at the beach? I don't (I'm not that old). More than two decades later, we finally have a better option for portable music than lugging a stereo full of D batteries.

Wireless Bluetooth speakers are a terrific way to take music wherever you go — without the need for cords, packs of batteries or even a wi-fi signal. With Bluetooth-capable speakers, music lovers can stream music from any device — a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone.

As you can imagine, the electronic stores and big box retailers are full of portable speakers, stereos, iPod docks and more. You can cut through all of the confusing choices by figuring out what functions you want in a stereo or portable speaker.

If you simply want to dock your smartphone or MP3 player in your home, a docking system or even an RCA cable might be for you. But if you're looking for music on the patio, or on the go with your tablet, your best bet may be to skip the plug and play speakers and go completely wireless.

Wireless units are available in all price ranges from about \$40 to \$60 for Logitech speakers up to \$399 for impressive Bose or Jambox devices.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Best devices

It's no surprise that the best devices on the market are the most expensive. The

industry leader is the Jawbone Big Jambox device, which acts as a wireless speaker and speakerphone and can play for up to 15 hours of continuous music. The Jawbone Big Jambox also has a built-in lithium battery that can be recharged and played through a USB cable or wall outlet.

The 2.7-pound Big Jambox can connect via Bluetooth from devices up to 33 feet away. Jawbone also makes a smaller version that retails for \$199. It offers the same features and functionality, but with smaller speakers, less bass and lower top volumes.

For those who don't want to break the bank on one speaker, there are a variety of other options available. iSound offers a line of speakers called the Twist that has a similar 33-foot Bluetooth range, a lithium battery and speakerphone options. It retails for less than \$75. The one drawback of the Twist speaker is that it only plays for five hours, much less than the Jawbone Big Jambox. However, five-hour continuous play is standard within the industry.

Now that you know about a few speakers at a variety of price ranges, you must decide how you will play your music. You can always play songs directly from your mobile device hard drive. So if your iTunes catalog is loaded up on your phone or tablet or even in the cloud, you can listen to any of your music at anytime.

Whenever you have a wireless signal, you can even stream music through apps such as Pandora, Grooveshark and Spotify Premium.

Portable speakers are also compatible with more than just music. A powerful unit like a Bose speaker can be used as a makeshift soundbar to complement a TV — although at that price, you could just buy a soundbar that plugs in.

The speakers can also be used to add some more surround sound for streaming movies through Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu or just YouTube videos.

If you are interested in a portable speaker to replace your iPod dock or even 1980s stereo, you can visit ABC Warehouse, which offers a variety of speakers compatible with all of your electronic devices.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

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OUR VIEWS

Yes on DIA tax

Benefits to taxpayers, region worth the cost

Residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties will vote Aug. 7 on a proposed property tax to help fund the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The proposal — 0.2 mills for 10 years — would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home about \$15 annually over the next decade.

We recommend voters approve it because of the direct benefits to themselves and the Metro Detroit area.

While no one likes to pay more in property taxes, the amount is relatively small.

Residents in the counties that approve the tax would receive free general admission to the museum. Admission is \$24 for two adults and two children so the tax would be a savings for families that visit the DIA just once a year.

Plus, community outreach and programs for seniors would be expanded and field trips for schools would be free. Also, some money would be available to help schools pay for transportation to and from the museum.

Tri-county residents are being asked to approve the tax because they are the ones who use the museum the most. They make up the majority of ticket buyers, 38 percent in Wayne, 28 percent in Oakland and 12 percent in Macomb.

Without the tax, the DIA may be forced to close selected galleries on weekdays, and eliminate school tours and community outreach programs. The DIA receives no state, county or city funding. It has been relying on the private sector to make up the shortfall in its \$25 million operating budget, something it can't do long term. Raising admission prices won't help because admissions make up just 3 percent of the DIA's revenue. To raise prices high enough to cover the annual operating gap would make the cost to visit the museum prohibitive.

The DIA is one of the top six comprehensive fine arts museums in the United States, up there with The Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. It attracts visitors and potential future residents from around the world.

According to ArtServe, a statewide nonprofit that advocates for the arts, for every \$1 that is invested in nonprofit arts and cultural groups, \$51 is pumped back into the Michigan economy.

The DIA employs 282 people who pay taxes and support local businesses. In 2011-12, the DIA spent \$7.1 million on vendor goods and services — \$4.3 million in Wayne County, \$2.3 million in Oakland and \$415,000 in Macomb.

Visitors spend money on local restaurants and shops.

The DIA has been fiscally responsible. It cut staffing by 20 percent in 2009, more than 60 full- and part-time positions, and reduced its operating budget by \$9 million. It currently has no debt.

Each county that approves the tax would have an authority to oversee how the money collected is spent — \$10 million in Oakland, \$8 million in Wayne and \$5 million in Macomb. The authority members would be appointed by the county commissioners and executives in each county, which would also have contracts with the DIA.

Voters in at least two of the three counties must approve the ballot proposal or the DIA will have to start severely cutting programs and services.

It would be a shame to let a jewel like the DIA slowly fade from existence, especially when the benefits to taxpayers and the metropolitan area far outweigh the cost.

Vote yes on the DIA ballot proposal Aug. 7.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite summertime activity in Plymouth?

We asked this question at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.



"Walking around downtown. Especially during days like this; there're a lot of people, a lot of kids."

Allyson Lejzorowicz
Walled Lake



"I guess, you know, having a walk through Plymouth, a walk through the park, and then having the Friday evening concerts."

Kathy Bailey
Canton Township



"Music in the Air. ... We've lived here for 30 years and we love it. ... The fact that 4,000 people come down every Friday night."

Martha Walton
Plymouth



"Music in the Air, Friday nights. Love it."

Ed Walton
Plymouth

LETTERS

Supports Bridgman

I will be supporting Joe Bridgman for Plymouth Township Clerk on Aug. 7.

I have known Joe for several years and consider him to be a great example of what it means to serve our community. He has always made himself available to me and constantly goes out of his way to solve problems.

While serving as Plymouth Township Clerk the past four years Joe has cut the cost of doing business in the clerk's office while offering the same level of service. He is active in our community as a board member for the Colonial Ki-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

wanis Club of Plymouth, the 35th District Court Advisory Board, he's an active parent in the Allen Elementary PTO, and a member of Northridge Church.

I also support Joe because he's an independent thinker. He is a man of his own will and opinion and does not do what is politically advantageous just because it is so. He follows the law and does what is prudent for the taxpayers of our community.

Please join me in voting to re-elect Joe Bridgman as our Plymouth Township Clerk on Aug. 7.

Dennis Neubacher
Plymouth Township

STAFF COLUMN

Trail Friends help turn no-man's land into recreation space

Water bottles and hamburger wrappers are tossed out the car window, the remains of exploded tires, propelled by the currents of 75 mph-plus traffic, make their way to the freeway embankment, and vines, weeds and long grass everywhere encroach on what should be a presentable public space.



Matt Jachman

Vast stretches of roadside no-man's land are one of the byproducts of urban sprawl, and caring for such acreage, never a priority, is at the bottom of the list when state and local governments are faced with dwindling resources, growing needs and persistent antitax sentiment.

Anyway, who cares? Hurrying from one destination to the next, focused on the traffic ahead and (sometimes) the latest high-tech gadgets, background becomes a blur and ugliness breeds indifference — and then more ugliness.

The Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail care.

The Friends is a nonprofit that maintains and advocates for the bicycling and pedestrian trail that roughly follows I-275 in Oakland and Wayne counties, including Plymouth and Canton townships, Livonia and Northville. Formed a few years back when a portion of the trail was widened and resurfaced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the group includes cyclists and walkers who regularly use the trail, and is hitting its stride — pun intended — with new plans for twice-a-month volunteer trail-grooming events.

In addition to keeping a large public space clean, the group is promoting the recreational and social use of what would otherwise be a wasteland of overgrown buffer zones and unsightly freeway sound barriers. (I would question why runners, walkers and cyclists should be relegated

MORE CLEANING

The next Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail cleanup is 6:30 to 9 p.m. today, June 21, on the section just north of Eight Mile. Volunteers will meet on the trail or in the parking lot of the Meijer at Eight Mile and Haggerty. Bring clippers, pruners, loppers, scythes, rakes and brooms; work gloves, eye protection and appropriate clothing (poison ivy is a concern) are recommended. For more information, call Dave Duffield at (248) 994-3074 or visit the Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail on Facebook.

to the side of a noisy, soulless freeway, but maybe that's another column. And, anyway, the more scenic, and serene, Hines Park is not far off.)

I joined a dozen Friends on a recent evening as they trimmed grass and weeds, cut down vines and pruned low-hanging branches along the pathway between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail. There were founding Friends members as well as newcomers who had heard about the cleanup and wanted to do their part.

"It beats sitting home doing nothing," said Jan Bates of Westland, who was on the trail for the first time. "And it's better for you."

Things started slowly as the volunteers with loppers, rakes, power trimmers and other tools began their work near Ann Arbor Road. But workers soon found a rhythm, and before long, trimmers were moving steadily northward, leaving others in their wake sweating over rakes and brooms.

Later, filled yard-waste bags were carted and carried to each end of the trail segment for pickup by Plymouth Township crews; in about two hours, the distance to Ann Arbor Trail had nearly been covered. Cyclists, walkers and run-



Diane Bancroft of Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail gives instructions to cleanup volunteers before they headed out to work on the segment of the trail north of Ann Arbor Road.

ners passed every so often, and two or three offered thanks or encouragement.

"It's a lot of work to keep a trail nice," said Diane Bancroft, the Friends president, a Canton resident who is often on the trail with her bike or her dog, Jake.

The Friends' efforts to cut back vegetation on the trail had previously been limited to periodic MDOT-sponsored highway cleanup days. Shorter but more frequent efforts, Bancroft and the Friends hope, will make the overall task a little easier; earlier in the spring, the group held several litter pickup events, collecting, Bancroft said, 55 bags of trash accumulated during the winter.

The group is responsible for some 34 miles of trail, she said, and has a core of about two dozen active members, though turnout at a given event is usually considerably less. But organizers were pleased with the volunteer response on this particular evening, and the Friends seemed to be in a position to gain a few new, well, friends.

In an era of so many economic and social challenges, when governments are pinched and many taxpayers pinched even more, it's good to see groups like the Friends investing their labor for the public good.

Matt Jachman is a reporter for the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or at mjachman@hometownlife.com

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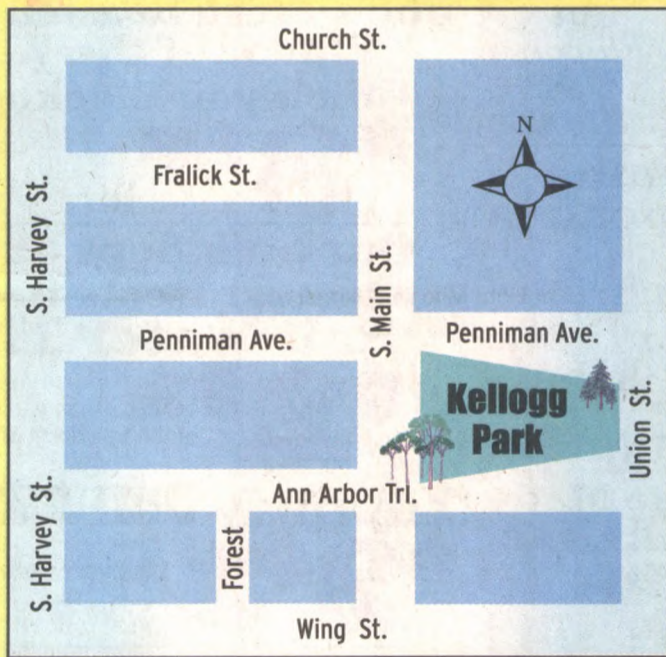
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State-ing their case

SHOWCASE PUCK PRIMER

What: High School Hockey Showcase at the third annual Meijer State Games of Michigan.

Basics: The showcase is Thursday through Sunday, at Griff's

Ice House, Grand Rapids Edge and Patterson Ice Arena in the Grand Rapids area. Opening ceremonies will be Friday.

Overview: The Metro West squad,

comprised of players from area high school teams, will play at least four games in the round-robin, Olympic-style format beginning Thursday.

Medal games will be played on Sunday. There are eight regional teams in the tourney.

Metro West: Players from 11 area high school teams (who have not yet graduated) were selected following April tryouts.

On the roster are the following, listed by school: Plymouth - Mitch Claggett, forward;

Kyle Bauer, defense; Salem - Kyle Downey, forward; Evan Patton, defense; Jake Sealy, forward; Livonia Churchill - Drew Puishes, defense; Matt Sinclair, forward; Livonia Stevenson - Dominic Lutz, forward; North Farmington - Reede Burnett, defense; Steven Coulter, defense; TJ Zak, forward; Novi - Patrick Carney, goalie; Milford - Kyle Hamilton, forward; Lakeland - Trevor Kalinowski, goalie; Orchard Lake St. Mary's - Sean Harrington, forward; Cooper Marody, forward; Chris Mayer, forward; Michael Muller, forward; Waterford Kettering - Jayson Magnan, defense; Waterford Mott - Austin Sereño, forward.

Coaches: The head coach is Salem's Ryan Ossenmacher, assisted by Ken Anderson and Dan Whitener.

Web site: Go to www.statgamesofmichigan.com for more information.



Metro West hockey players listen as head coach Ryan Ossenmacher (foreground, left) discusses upcoming drills during last Thursday's practice at Arctic Pond Arena in Plymouth. Players from 11 high school programs comprise the tournament team.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hockey players ready to hit road for Olympic-style tournament

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

When the Metro West team convened last Thursday for its first full-scale practice, players from 11 high schools stepped onto the ice at Arctic Pond in Plymouth.

Watching them spin around the boards seemed like peering into a swiftly revolving clothes dryer featuring swirls of red, blue, green and white.

They wore a mish-mash of different-colored clothing and equipment from their local teams. They came with unique points of view on how to play the game — also courtesy of their individual high school hockey resumes.

But as they left for the locker room following two hours of drills and chalk talks, they were united as a single 20-player group — amped up to compete this week at the third



Going full-tilt during Metro West practice drills are (from left) Salem's Jake Sealy and Orchard Lake St. Mary's Michael Muller. In the background is Novi goalie Patrick Carney.

annual Meijer State Games of Michigan's High School Hockey Showcase.

According to Plymouth defenseman Kyle Bauer, who teamed up much of the workout with Salem's Evan Patton, the quality of the practice bodes well for Metro West's chances at Olympic-style tournament in Grand Rapids. Games begin today.

"It's a lot better" than expected, Bauer said. "It's real tough, real high-paced."

As Livonia Churchill defenseman Drew Puishes left the

rink, he nodded his approval about the way the team meshed.

"We looked good for the first time all together, not bad," Puishes said. "It's going to be fun, I can't wait."

North Farmington players — encouraged by their coach to sign up — also are geared up for a new experience.

"It's a different style of play than what I usually play," said defenseman Reede Burnett. "It's more of a contain-the-

Please see ICERS, B4

DIVISION 1 BOYS GOLF

'Cats finish 10th at finals

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Although not exactly what Plymouth head boys golf coach Chris Moore and his team expected, the Wildcats did manage to sneak into the top 10 at the Division 1 finals.

A six-stroke improvement Saturday (310) lifted Plymouth from 12th place (where the team stood after the first day) to 10th, with a two-day total of 626 at the Meadows in Grand Rapids.

Canton placed 14th out of 15 teams, with a tally of 325-

331-656. Finishing first with a second-day surge of 298 was Birmingham Brother Rice, totalling 602 to edge out Battle Creek Lakeview's 603.

"That's three straight years in the top 10... I think we can be very proud of that. We had higher expectations, but it is what it is."

Moore said the Wildcats also are the first team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to string together three consecutive finishes in the top 10.

Leading the Wildcats, who won the D1 regionals at Grosse Ile to advance to the finals (Canton finished third at those regionals), was junior Kyle Rodes with a 78-76-154 tally.

Also cracking 160 were senior captain Josh Heinze (78-80-158) and sophomore Chris Kozler (77-81-158), followed by junior Ryan Rieckhoff (83-77-160).

"That's three straight years in the top 10... I think we can be very proud of that."

CHRIS MOORE
PLYMOUTH COACH

Please see GOLF, B4

DIVISION 2 SOFTBALL FINALS

Blazers nab first championship

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

This one didn't come out of left field, it came out of right field instead.

Summoned to make only her second start of the season when ace Briana Combs injured her knee in Friday's semifinal, sophomore left-hander Lauren Hayes pitched the game of her life delivering Livonia Ladywood its first-ever state title with a 4-0 victory Saturday over Saginaw Swan Valley in the Division 2 championship game at Battle Creek's Bailey Park.

Ladywood, 39-3 overall, becomes the first softball team from Livonia to win a state crown since 1986 when Franklin beat Waterford Kettering, 1-0, in Class A.

Hayes was informed only five minutes before game time that she'd be standing in for Combs, the Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year with 142 career wins. In Friday's 4-2 win over Wayland Union, Hayes got the save by getting a



Ladywood sophomore pitcher Lauren Hayes turned in her finest hour when she threw a three-hit shutout in the Division 2 state final against Saginaw Swan Valley Saturday in Battle Creek.

JULIAN GONZALEZ | DETROIT FREE PRESS

pair of strikeouts after Combs had to exit prematurely with a painful left knee.

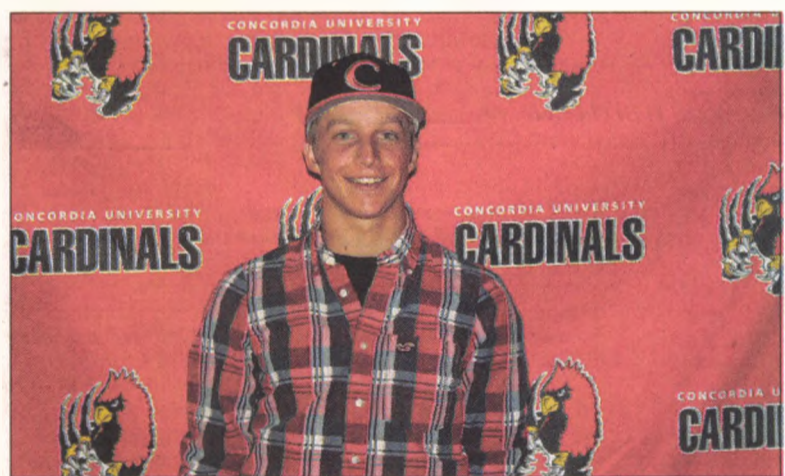
No time to fret

And Hayes came through in the clutch allowing just three hits and a pair of walks while striking out two in a

complete-game outing.

"The good thing was that she didn't know she was pitching until five minutes before game time," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said. "When we were taking infield she ran out to right field.

Please see BLAZERS, B3



Justin Thompson, a recent Plymouth High School graduate, will pitch next season at Concordia University.

Cards come calling for JT

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Now that Justin Thompson's high school baseball career at Plymouth is over, he is confident Phase 2 of his career will mirror Phase 1.

Phase 2 for the 18-year-old Thompson is Concordia University, a NAIA college he recently signed to pitch for.

The first phase, obviously, was with the Wildcats. Thompson and other teammates advanced in unison from junior varsity to varsity a couple years ago, and the squad went on to post a school-record 27-7 record this spring.

The right-handed starting pitcher had a lot to do with that success, going

GOOD STUFF

Who: Justin Thompson, 18, pitcher who just graduated from Plymouth High School.

Next pitch: Thompson signed to play baseball at Concordia University, where he will also pursue a business degree.

Family: He lives in Canton with parents Joel and Diane Thompson. Joel coaches the Michigan Blue Jays travel team, which Justin plays for during the summer.

Helping a friend: During his junior year, Justin was

instrumental in organizing benefit events during 2011 for friend Jesse "Super Jess" Lindlbauer, who suffered a brain abscess in December 2010.

"I played baseball with Jesse, so I felt like we were pretty close," Justin said. "I felt like it was a good thing to go out there and help raise money for the family. He's doing a lot better. He's playing in the (Plymouth) Miracle League now, so I'm going to go out there and watch him and see how he does."

5-3 on the mound with a 2.55 earned run average his senior season. He also won the Wildcats' Pitcher of the Year

Award. "Our JV year, that was the first year we were

Please see THOMPSON, B4

All-Observer boys get it done in track & field

FIRST TEAM INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
Devin Ryles, Thurston (shot put): A three-year varsity letter winner, Ryles was a two-time state qualifier his final two seasons at Thurston. He excelled in both the shot put and the discus, posting personal-best distances of 51 feet, 4 inches in the shot and 113-8 in the discus. He is a two-time Western Wayne Athletic Conference champion in the discus and a reigning Division 2 regional titleist. An all-area quarterback, Ryles is set to play collegiate football beginning in the fall.
Justin Shelton, N. Farmington (discus): Shelton threw the discus an area-best 150 feet, 11 inches to set a personal record and finish fifth in the Oakland County meet. He was throwing in the high 120s last year and got steadily better in his junior year. Shelton won OAA White Division and Division 1 regional championships with throws of 137-3 and 143-0, respectively. His best effort ranks second among North Farmington throwers in the last 18 years. "Justin made great improvement from where he started last year," coach Todd Schultz said. "He just worked hard. Coach (Chris) Gadjev worked with him, improving his technique. Justin took the ball and ran with it and got better. "The nice thing is he's a junior. He's eager to work on it and keep improving to be a top thrower next year. He already asked for a discus to work with in the summer. He likes to push himself; he just thrives on getting better, and his confidence builds once he has some success."
Tre' Goynes, Redford Union (high jump): Goynes set the bar high goals-wise for his senior and he clear it by a mile, winning the Division 1 high-jump title with an effort of 6 feet, 6 inches. A three-year letter winner at RU, Goynes won a regional high-jump title and a Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division championship when he cleared a personal-best height of 6-9. Goynes is headed to Indiana Tech to compete in track and field.
 "Tre' did everything we asked him to this year — and more," said coach Tom Kessel. "He set a goal at the beginning of the season then he followed through and achieved his goal. He worked very hard at this."
Eric Wilson, Thurston (long jump): Wilson graduated earlier this month as one of the Eagles' all-time most-accomplished athletes — both in football and track and field. Headed to Northwestern University with a football scholarship, Wilson capped an outstanding prep track career by winning the Division 2 long jump championship with a lead of 22 feet, 7.5 inches. He was also a state qualifier in the 200-meter dash with a personal-best clocking of 22.51 seconds. His top 100 time was 11.01. Wilson qualified for the state meet in the long jump as a sophomore and was a regional champion in the event last spring.
Alex Rytkarsyk, Churchill (pole vault): The four-year varsity letter winner was a state qualifier in Division 1 after winning the Canton regional (12-10).
 The Evans Scholar recipient, headed to the University of Michigan in the fall, also captured the Kensington Conference and Livonia City meet titles.
 "Alex was clutch for us in big meets this season," coach Rick Austin said. "He especially stepped up to help his pole vault team win the Observerland and Raider relays titles.
 "He has a number of interests outside of our sport, which challenged his level of commitment making his performances that much more memorable this season. It seems like Alex has been in our program forever and I will miss him greatly."
Joe Amado, Salem (110 hurdles): A senior and four-time letter winner for the Rocks, Amado's stellar prep career culminated with his all-state performance in the 110 hurdles, finishing sixth with a time of 15.07. He was also all-state in the 300 hurdles with an eighth-place time of 39.96.
 A five-time state qualifier during his career, Amado set school and district records in the 300 hurdles (38.75) while earning a personal best time of 14.86 in the 110 hurdles.
 Along the way this season were championships in both

2012 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TRACK TEAMS
Shot put: 1. Devin Ryles, sr., Redford Thurston; 2. Adell Cothron, sr., Thurston; 3. Dawson Davenport, sr. Lutheran High Westland.
Discus: 1. Justin Shelton, jr., North Farmington; 2. Shawn Cummings, sr. Livonia Clarenceville; 3. Bryan Bartig, sr., Livonia Churchill.
High jump: 1. Tre Goynes, sr., Redford Union; 2. Matt Schacht, sr., Canton; 3. Jamal Dixon, soph., Canton; and Chris Dierker, jr., Salem.
Long jump: 1. Eric Wilson, sr., Thurston; 2. Nick Podulka, sr., Livonia Stevenson; 3. Caleb Kempf, sr., Lutheran High.
Pole vault: 1. Alex Rytkarsyk, sr., Churchill; 2. Jacob Hage, soph., Churchill; 3. Jimmy Bagazinski, sr., Livonia Franklin.
110-meter hurdles: 1. Joe Amado, sr., Salem; 2. Tom Brokaw, sr., Franklin; 3. Josh Craven, soph., Farmington.
300 hurdles: 1. Jake Fairbairn, sr., Lutheran High; 2. Andrew Crechiolo, sr., Franklin; 3. Terrell Gray, sr., Thurston.
100 dash: 1. Ryan Jones, sr., Canton; 2. Alex Perelli, soph., Franklin; 3. Steven Homrich, soph., Salem.
200 dash: 1. Kassius Kelly, sr., Clarenceville; 2. Thomas Crawford, sr., Salem; 3. Chris Massey, sr., Farmington Harrison.
400 dash: 1. Jason Ervin, sr., North Farmington; and Lucas Bunting, jr., Plymouth; 2. Zaid Shareef, jr., Stevenson; 3. Ken Russ, sr., Harrison; and Colin McCormack, soph., Salem.
800 run: 1. Max Rogowski, soph., Plymouth; 2. Ryan Wise, sr., Churchill; 3. Jeremy Griffin-Jackson, sr., Thurston.
1,600 run: 1. Miles Felton, sr., Canton; 2. Ruben Maya, sr., Westland John Glenn; 3. Drew Lindman, jr., Farmington.
3,200 run: 1. Derek Gielarowski, sr., Plymouth; 2. Stephen Fenech, soph., Stevenson; 3. Steven McEvilly, jr., Salem.
400 relay: 1. Clarenceville (sr. Sam Brown, soph. Jalen Bryant, sr. Mike Demmons, sr. Kassius Kelly), 2. Canton (jr. Colby Morris, sr. Zach Smilo, sr. Demetre Lopez, sr. Ryan Jones), 3. Franklin (jr. Joe McRobb, soph. Alex Perelli, sr. Andrew McGaughey, sr. Andrew Crechiolo).
800 relay: 1. Harrison (sr. Ken Russ, sr. Chris Massey, jr. Dorian Fields, sr. Trae Parker), 2. Franklin (sr. Andrew McGaughey, jr. Brett Gutkowski, soph. Alex Perelli, sr. Andrew Crechiolo), 3. Salem (soph. Drake Jordan, jr. Ivan Rhodes, sr. Thomas Crawford, jr. Chris Dierker).
1,600 relay: 1. Salem (soph. Colin McCormack, sr. Joe Amado, sr. Chase Minshew, sr. Thomas Crawford), 2. Franklin (sr. Andrew Crechiolo, sr. Andrew McGaughey, jr. Jordan Bickham, jr. Brett Gutkowski), 3. Stevenson (sr. Tony Wilson, sr. Craig Wilkinson, jr. Adam Wheeler, jr. Zaid Shareef).
3,200 relay: 1. Plymouth (sr. Derek Gielarowski, fr. Jonny Dalton, sr. Evan Johnson, soph. Max Rogowski), 2. Stevenson (jr. Jacob Colley, sr. Ben Lambert, jr. Mike Sopko, sr. Matt Garon), 3. Farmington (jr. Paolo Guarano, sr. Nimantha Herath, jr. Drew Lindman, sr. Shawn-Michael Fields).
COACH OF THE YEAR
 Kyle Meteyer, Salem

hurdles at the KLAAs meet and D1 regionals as well as an Observerland championship in the 110s.
 "He's the smoothest hurdler I've seen in high school this year," coach Kyle Meteyer said. "Other guys might have a little more foot speed, a little more explosiveness. Joe's the smoothest one over the hurdles."
 Among colleges being considered by Amado are Eastern Michigan and Central Michigan. Meteyer said Amado's talent, work ethic and coachability bode well for his college career.
Jake Fairbairn, Luth. Westland (300 hurdles): The senior was the Division 4 state runner-up in the 300 hurdles (40.46) after capturing the regional at Lutheran Westland (40.41).
 Fairbairn also took home a regional title in the 110 hurdles and was Michigan Independent Conference champ in both hurdles events. He also captured the MITCA Division 4 meet and took home titles at the Monroe Jefferson and Dearborn Heights Crestwood invitationals.
 "Jake had never run hurdles previous to high school, but as a freshman, we could see the talent he possessed as an intermediate hurdler," coach Mike Unger said. "When we told him about it, he took to the event and worked very hard at developing that talent. Every year his hurdling skills improved and his times dropped becoming the hurdler he is now. Having lost two all-state high hurdles to graduation last year, Jake was asked to run the event this year, something he had never done before. Being the team-oriented person that he is, he agreed and became proficient at that event. He also high jumped and anchored our 1,600 relay (50.6 split)."
Ryan Jones, Canton (100 dash): A stellar career with the Chiefs wrapped up with Jones' second all-state performance in the past two years.
 He took seventh place in the 100 dash with a time of 16.27 seconds and also ran on the state qualifying 400-meter relay his junior and senior years.
 Other successes his senior year included winning the D1 regional (11.31) and KLAAs meet (11.14) while posting a personal best of 10.8 during the season.
 "Ryan was one of the finest sprinters in the history of Canton High School," coach Bob Richardson said. "He was one of the team captains this season, (and) Ryan placed in the state finals for the past two years."
 Jones, who also starred with Canton's football team as a running back and defensive back, is looking to attend Eastern Illinois University.
Kassius Kelly, Clarenceville (200): The senior, headed to

Rogowski is running like a seasoned veteran for the Wildcats. This year, he qualified for the D1 state meet thanks to a second-place time of 2:00.51 at regionals and also made the cut with the 3,200-meter relay (victorious with a time of 8:04.65).
 At the KLAAs meet, he ran the 800 in 1:59.77 (second place). His personal best was the fastest among Observerland runners (1:58.76).
 "Max has accomplished a lot and is only a sophomore," Mikosz said. "He is a dominant runner that tries hard every day and shows that hard work pays off."
 "He is already a three-time state qualifier (once as a freshman). I am looking forward to the next two seasons when he starts to compete at the next level."
Miles Felton, Canton (1,600): The senior posted the second-best time in the mile run among Observerland runners (4:29.7), and finished third at the D1 regional in the event with a 4:29.81 mark.
 Felton qualified for the state meet in the 800 run, winning the regional with a time of 2:00.09.
 And at the KLAAs meet, he posted a time of 4:30.09, good for second.
 "Miles was a great tactician on the track, displaying a keen understanding and comprehension of his fitness level and the demands of each race situation," coach Bob Richardson said.
 Felton's success in college is predicted by Richardson. "Miles is an articulate and intelligent young man with the personal capacity to achieve new heights of academic and athletic success at the collegiate level."
 Felton also was a varsity letter winner with the boys cross country and basketball teams.
Derek Gielarowski, Plymouth (3,200): Whatever Gielarowski was asked to deliver throughout his four years on the Plymouth varsity track and field team, he came through with flying colors.
 His senior season was no exception, qualifying for the D1 state meet in the 3,200 run and two-mile relay while finishing first in both events at the regional and conference meets.
 At the KLAAs meet, his time of 9:47.23 was his personal best.
 "Derek is the type of runner who can do everything from the 400 to the 3,200 at a highly competitive level," Mikosz said. "He is the type of guy who never hesitates; if you ask him to run something, he just jumps on the track and gets it done."
 "He is one of the best distance runners in school history, and he is going to be hard to replace next season."
 Gielarowski, also an all-stater in cross country, was named Plymouth Track Athlete of the Year.
FIRST-TEAM RELAYS
400, Clarenceville (Sam Brown, Jalen Bryant, Mike Demmons, Kassius Kelly): This quartet set a school record by winning the Oakland County meet (electronically timed 43.79).
 They were also Livonia City and Observerland champions, along with a fourth-place finish at the regional and state qualifiers (44.1).
 "This relay was a great team to coach and ran its fastest times in the biggest meets," Gustafson said.
800, Harrison (Ken Russ, Chris Massey, Dorian Fields, Trae Parker): The Hawks ran consistently good times and won the OAA White Division championship at 1:30.4. They were third in their regional (1:30.44) and qualified for the Division 1 state meet in which they were 11th in the prelims (1:30.13). Harrison also was fourth in Oakland County with a time of 1:30.57.
1,600, Salem (Colin McCormack, Joe Amado, Chase Minshew, Thomas Crawford): This quartet captured the regional with a season-best time of 3:28.47, enabling the Rocks to end its 1,600-meter relay team to the Division 1 state meet a fourth consecutive year.
 They also were victorious at the Observerland Relays, with sophomore speedster McCormack leading off the relay followed by experienced seniors in Amado, Minshew and Crawford.
 "Having a solid squad of 400 runners is essential to a successful track team," Meteyer said. "They can usually run sprints or distance events, making your team

 Devin Ryles Thurston	 Justin Shelton N. Farmington	 Tre' Goynes Redford Union
 Eric Wilson Thurston	 Alex Rytkarsyk Churchill	 Joe Amado Salem
 Jake Fairbairn Lutheran Westland	 Ryan Jones Canton	 Kassius Kelly Clarenceville
 Jason Ervin N. Farmington	 Lucas Bunting Plymouth	 Max Rogowski Plymouth
 Miles Felton Canton	 Derek Gielarowski Plymouth	 Sam Brown Clarenceville
 Jalen Bryant Clarenceville	 Mike Demmons Clarenceville	 Ken Russ Harrison
 Colin McCormack Salem	 Chase Minshew Salem	 Thomas Crawford Salem
 Jonny Dalton Plymouth	 Evan Johnson Plymouth	 Kyle Meteyer Salem coach

more flexible and versatile."
 Not surprisingly, Crawford — dubbed by Meteyer the "fastest 400 sophomore around" — also qualified for state in the 800 relay and 200 dash while Amado earned all-state honors in both hurdles.
3,200, Plymouth (Derek Gielarowski, Jonny Dalton, Evan Johnson, Max Rogowski): The Plymouth tradition of sending the 3,200-meter relay team to the D1 state meet continued for the sixth straight year.
 Sparked by a freshman, sophomore and two seniors, the quartet posted big-time successes including winning regional with a time of 8:04.65. They set a KLAAs conference meet record with a first-place time of 8:11.61.
 "Evan finished a great running career at Plymouth by helping the relay team make it to the state finals," Mikosz said. "Jonny had an impressive freshman season and was a big part of the relay team's success."
 The relay went undefeated in dual meets along with the conference and regional titles.
COACH OF THE YEAR
Kyle Meteyer, Salem: A very successful season for the Rocks turned out to be Meteyer's swan song with the team as he announced he was stepping down after seven seasons at the helm. But what a year it was as Salem won the Division 1 regional championship for the second time in the past three seasons.
 The Rocks also boasted a number of top-caliber athletes who qualified for the D1 state meet. Of those, senior Joe Amado earned all-state honors in both hurdles events.
 "This year, I was happy to win the regional again, which was a nice goodbye present from the kids," said Meteyer, himself an accomplished prep hurdler at North Farmington.
 Meteyer also cited "watching our kids shatter some school records, watching kids qualify for states after working hard all season and hearing from student-athletes who have graduated, whether they continued their track careers or not."
 And six of the school's 17 records (and five Plymouth-Canton Educational Park) were set during his Salem coaching career.
 One key reason Meteyer felt comfortable stepping down was the quality of his assistant coaches. Those include Steve Aspinall, Kurt Britnell, Geoff Baker, Brad Waidmann and Jim Crabill.
 "There is not yet a new head coach, although my fantastic group of assistant coaches have expressed that they'll stay," Meteyer added.
 He will be attending Eastern Michigan University's Ed.D program with the hope of some day being an athletic director or building administrator.

OBSERVERLAND BOYS TRACK & FIELD BESTS

BEST OBSERVERLAND BOYS TIMES SHOT PUT

Devin Ryles (Thurston) 51-1
 Connor Ferguson (Farmington) 50-7
 Adell Cothron (Thurston) 49-11
 Bryan Bartig (Churchill) 49-9
 Dawson Davenport (Luth. W'sld) 48-8.5
 Adam Clay (Franklin) 48-3.75
 Itoh Buley (N. Farmington) 46-10.25
 Shawn Cummings (C'ville) 46-10
 DeJuan Pope (N. Farmington) 46-7
 Sherrick Glass-Shepherd (GC) 45-10

DISCUS

Justin Shelton (N. Farm.) 150-11
 Shawn Cummings (C'ville) 149-7.5
 Bryan Bartig (Churchill) 146-11
 Connor Ferguson (Farmington) 141-7
 Danny Pocalujka (Stevenson) 137-4
 Brandon Ogden (John Glenn) 137-0
 Sherrick Glass-Shepherd (GC) 135-5
 Dawson Davenport (Luth. W'sld) 135-1
 Eric Jipping (Ply. Christian) 132-0
 Vonn Pallett (Farmington) 131-10

HIGH JUMP

Tre Goynes (Redford Union) 6-6
 Jamal Dixon (Canton) 6-4
 Chris Dierker (Salem) 6-4
 Quinn Culbertson (Harrison) 6-3.25
 Matthew Schacht (Canton) 6-3
 Kevin Brown-Bayko (GC) 5-11.09
 Akil Wade (Canton) 5-11
 Nathan Harris (Plymouth) 5-10
 Chad Evans (Churchill) 5-10
 Terrell Gray (Thurston) 5-10

LONG JUMP

Eric Wilson (Thurston) 22-7.5
 Nick Podulka (Stevenson) 21-6
 Caleb Kempf (Luth. W'sld) 21-3.5
 Tony Wilson (Stevenson) 21-0.25
 Thomas Crawford (Salem) 21-0
 Mike Demmons (C'ville) 20-11
 Brett Gutkowski (Franklin) 20-7
 Tre Goynes (Redford Union) 20-6
 Jamal Dixon (Canton) 20-3
 Jordan Degreffenreed (Farm.) 20-2.5

POLE VAULT

Alex Rytarskyk (Churchill) 12-11
 Jacob Hage (Churchill) 12-10
 Jimmy Bagazinski (Franklin) 12-8
 Erich Hinkle (GC) 12-6
 Brandon Stanhope (Canton) 12-6
 David Mittelbrun (N. Farm.) 12-6
 Mitch Nickert (Canton) 12-3
 Mike Farner (Stevenson) 12-0
 Joshua Meseroll (Churchill) 12-0
 Alex Teasdale (Ply.) 11-11
 Stephen Fedak (Churchill) 11-11

110-METER HURDLES

Joe Amado (Salem) 14.5
 Tom Brokaw (Franklin) 14.8
 Josh Craven (Farmington) 15.1
 Denzel Owens (Harrison) 15.2
 Kenzel Jefferson (Churchill) 15.2
 Zach Zoltowski (Churchill) 15.3
 Jake Fairbairn (Luth. W'sld) 15.6
 Sam Brown (C'ville) 15.7
 Ma Sambou Jatta (C'ville) 15.82
 Darrien Lankford (GC) 15.83

300 HURDLES

Joe Amado (Salem) 38.4
 Jake Fairbairn (Luth. W'sld) 39.78
 Andrew Crechiolo (Franklin) 40.6
 Terrell Gray (Thurston) 40.9
 Ma Sambou Jatta (C'ville) 41.3
 Tom Brokaw (Franklin) 41.3
 Denzel Owens (Harrison) 41.4
 Josh Craven (Farmington) 41.5
 Sam Brown (C'ville) 41.7
 Joe Mims (Stevenson) 42.0

100 DASH

Kassius Kelly (C'ville) 10.5
 Jason Ervin (N. Farmington) 10.7
 Alex Perelli (Franklin) 10.8
 Ryan Jones (Canton) 10.8
 Thomas Crawford (Salem) 11.0
 Steven Homrich (Salem) 11.0
 Jaron Flournoy (Glenn) 11.1
 Vaughn Frederick (GC) 11.1
 Alexander Rogers (Ply.) 11.14
 Darrien Lankford (GC) 11.2
 Hunter Rimatzki (Churchill) 11.2
 Dan Duncan (Franklin) 11.2
 Willard Harris (Wayne) 11.2
 Trae Parker (Harrison) 11.2
 Drake Jordan (Salem) 11.2

200

Kassius Kelly (C'ville) 21.36
 Jason Ervin (N. Farm.) 21.9
 Eric Wilson (Thurston) 22.27
 Thomas Crawford (Salem) 22.5
 Chris Massey (Harrison) 22.75
 Steven Homrich (Salem) 22.8
 William Askew (Plymouth) 22.84
 Alex Perelli (Franklin) 22.9

Colby Morris (Canton) 23.0
 Andrew McGaughey (Franklin) 23.1

400

Lucas Bunting (Plymouth) 49.7
 Jason Ervin (N. Farmington) 49.7
 Zaid Shareef (Stevenson) 50.25
 Ken Russ (Harrison) 50.8
 Colin McCormack (Salem) 50.9
 Matt Schacht (Canton) 51.1
 Jimmy Parks (Ply. Christian) 51.8
 Caleb Kempf (Luth. W'sld) 52.0
 Louis Jaquet (N. Farmington) 52.0
 Brett Gutowski (Franklin) 52.4

800

Max Rogowski (Plymouth) 1:58.4
 Miles Felton (Canton) 1:58.9
 Ryan Wise (Churchill) 1:59.2
 Jeremy Griffin-Jackson (RT) 2:00.1
 Shawn-Michael Fields (Farm.) 2:01.4
 Jacob Colley (Stevenson) 2:01.5
 Jewell Jones (Glenn) 2:02.36
 Nimantha Herath (Farmington) 2:02.9
 Jonny Dalton (Plymouth) 2:03.31
 Jhaira Johnson (Garden City) 2:03.5

1,600

Derek Gielarowski (Plymouth) 4:25.2
 Miles Felton (Canton) 4:29.7
 Max Rogowski (Plymouth) 4:33.4
 Ruben Maya (Glenn) 4:33.8
 Drew Lindman (Farmington) 4:34.0
 Keenan Jones (Franklin) 4:34.3
 Shawn-Michael Fields (Farm.) 4:35.9
 Jhaira Johnson (Garden City) 4:36.11
 Max Bradley (N. Farmington) 4:38.0
 Steven McEvilly (Salem) 4:38.6

3,200

Derek Gielarowski (Plymouth) 9:47.23
 Stephen Fenech (Stevenson) 9:51.7
 Steven McEvilly (Salem) 9:52.3
 Drew Lindman (Farmington) 9:57.6
 Zane Berlanga (Plymouth) 10:08.43
 Ben Yates (Churchill) 10:10.5
 Andrew Brown (Farmington) 10:11.5
 Keenan Jones (Franklin) 10:14.66
 Andrew Malik (Churchill) 10:16.0
 Colin Murphy (Churchill) 10:18.0

400 RELAY

Clarenceville 43.4
 Canton 43.5
 Franklin 43.6
 Farmington Harrison 43.7
 Redford Thurston 43.9

800 RELAY

Harrison 1:30.1
 Franklin 1:30.5
 Salem 1:30.6
 Stevenson 1:31.63
 Farmington 1:32.5

1,600 RELAY

Salem 3:28.1
 Franklin 3:28.1
 Stevenson 3:28.96
 Plymouth 3:30.05
 North Farmington 3:31.1

3,200 RELAY

Plymouth 8:04.3
 Stevenson 8:09.0
 Farmington 8:09.6
 Churchill 8:18.2
 Salem 8:18.4

BLAZERS

Continued from page B1

She did not know she was pitching. And so that was probably good. She had no time to think about it or squeeze the ball. She just went out there and threw strikes, so that was great."

Hayes, who threw just 74 pitches, including 44 for strikes, got flawless support from her infield and outfielders. Twelve of her 24 outs were either pop-outs or fly outs.

"I had no idea I was going to pitch this final game," Hayes said. "I thought Briana was going to start. When I saw she was hurt and my coach said, 'You're going to pitch this game,' I was focused and determined to take it home for my team."

"I had no doubt in my mind, no doubt at all. My mental focus was there today. I was nervous this game, but just the way I was focused gave me the confidence."

And Hayes' teammates gave her plenty of cushion offensively with a nine-hit attack.

Swan Valley pitcher Mackenzie Buehler, who struck out 15 in Friday's 2-1 semifinal victory over Coloma, held Ladywood to one hit over the first three innings.

But the Blazers scored their first run in the top of the fourth inning on a double by Hayes and a



Livonia Ladywood players proudly display their MHSAA Division 2 state championship trophy following Saturday's 4-0 victory over Saginaw Swan Valley in the finals at Bailey Park in Battle Creek.

of 40 games our number one throws, but we bust them with bullpen every single day.

"I'm going to tell her over there — two months ago she pitched in South Lyon (and) she was ready to quit pitching. She threw that bad and she knows it, but I said, 'You've got to get back on the horse and you've got to keep going.'"

Hayes rewarded the coach for that advice, not allowing any Swan Valley runners past second base.

Swan Valley's best threat came in the sixth when Mary Berden left off with a single and Buehler walked with two outs, but Lawrence gobbled up a hot shot to short and threw to first baseman Andria Gietl for the putout to end the inning.

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double by Celeste Fidge (scoring courtesy runner Kristen Eisterhold).

In the top of the fifth, Ladywood made it 2-0 when Briana Combs drew a one-out walk, followed by a sacrifice bunt by Nicole Payne and an RBI single by Haley Lawrence (scoring courtesy runner Victoria Williams).

And in the seventh, Ladywood tacked on two more runs when Payne led off with a bunt single and scored all the way from first when Hayes' single to right eluded Swan Valley's Madison Malott, and went all the way to the fence. Hayes, who took third on the play, then came home on Celeste Fidge's RBI ground out to second.

In the zone

Hayes, seeing the finish line, sealed the deal

when she retired the Vikings (37-4) in order in the bottom of the seventh capped by a pop out to short.

"I was more focused this game than any other game I've played in my life," said Hayes, who had pitched less than 10 innings all season. "I didn't have any idea Briana would play this game. She was very hurt. When she got in the game (as a pinch hitter twice), of course, I got a little emotional because she wanted to play this game. She did not want to sit. ... We were all there for her, and for her to get in the game I felt good for her."

Combs, who has been troubled by the left knee for almost a month, didn't get very far in her pre-game practice session.

"I threw one pitch and

I fell to the ground," said the Ladywood senior ace, who has signed with Cleveland State. "It was pretty bad. I thought I might be able to do it. If I could have I would have, but I just couldn't. I haven't hit in awhile and I thought I would try and swing. It felt O.K. and he

(Scott Combs) wanted to get me into the game."

Ironically, Hayes' first start in an early season tournament game didn't go well.

"I'm happy because we've been talking about being a pitching staff," Scott Combs said. "But I know 40-something out

Whalers sign young goalies

Plymouth Whalers general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci last week announced the signing of two 16-year-old goaltenders.

The Whalers signed Alex Nedeljkovic, Plymouth's selection in the sixth round (120th overall) of the 2012 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection and Riley Corbin, who was acquired from the Sudbury Wolves in a trade earlier this month.

Both will be attending high school at Plymouth-Canton Education Park in the fall.

"We think Nedeljkovic and Corbin have a chance to be a big part of our success," said Plymouth assistant general manager Brian Sommariya. "We like Riley's athleticism and Alex's technical skill. We hope to help both young men take their careers to the next level."

Nedeljkovic — from Parma, Ohio — played last season for the Belle Tire U-16's, where he recorded a 1.88 goals against average, .903 save percentage, three shutouts and a 12-1-4-3 won-loss record. He is a student of the Bandits Goaltending School, which is run the Plymouth goaltending coach

OHL HOCKEY

Stan Matwijiw.

The young goalie also attended the Whalers Rookie Orientation in May and played well.

"It's exciting to be drafted by the Plymouth Whalers," Nedeljkovic said. "It looks like we'll be a young team this year with a lot of skill."

"Stan (Matwijiw) really helped me last year with the way I approach the game, mentally — both in practice and in games. I can't wait to get started."

Track record

Originally selected by the Wolves in the fifth round (102nd overall) of the 2011 OHL Priority Selection, Corbin played for the Thunder Bay Kings midgets last season, where he posted a 1.72 goals against average, .924 save percentage, three shutouts and an 8-3-2 won-loss record.

"I love the fact that Plymouth is an organization that has made the playoffs 21 straight years," Corbin said. "The goalie coach (Matwijiw) has done a good job developing goaltenders. I'm not big or tall (5-feet-11, 170 pounds), so I have to make the most of my talent. I'm sure Stan will help me."

Nedeljkovic and Corbin are expected to report to the Whalers training camp in late August.

Peters inks pact

Vellucci previously announced the signing 15-year-old defenseman Alex Peters, who was taken by the Whalers in the second round (31st overall) of the 2012 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection.

Peters (who turns 16-years-old in July) also will go to PCEP in the fall.

"I'm overwhelmed," Peters said. "It a great privilege to be part of the Plymouth Whalers organization. It's a happy day. I can't wait to get started."

Peters (6-foot-4, 188 pounds) scored 11 goals with seven assists for 18 points and 20 PIM's in 45 games for the Huron Perth Lakers midgets last season.

Earlier this spring, the Whalers signed 17-year-old center Ryan Hartman, who was selected by Plymouth in the fifth round (95th overall) of the 2010 OHL Priority Selection.

Plymouth also signed left wing Zach Bratina, who was taken in the first round (19th overall) in the 2012 OHL Priority Selection.

Golfsmith

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THOMPSON

Continued from page B1

a solid team," Thompson said. "After that we knew we were going to have a solid varsity team, because we were all returning. ... Being on a record-breaking team is pretty special."

At Concordia, Thompson is looking forward to growing as a player under the watch of second-year head coach Kyle Rayl and his pitching coach, Tim Shafto.

"They're a young team and they're looking for pitchers," noted Thompson, nicknamed JT. "This year they had a better season, they won 15 more games than the (previous) year."

"They're like Plymouth was, they started off a little rough ... and now they're on the rise."

Friendly advice

Attention paid over the past year or so by Rayl and Shafto gave Thompson another reason to commit to Concordia — which is only a 25-minute drive from his Canton home.

"Both of the coaches were friendly, they'd call and check up to see how I was doing during the season," Thompson said. "The pitching coach, Tim Shafto, he'd come out to the games and talk to me after."

"He would just tell me I was hitting my spots good, I was keeping the ball low and keeping them off balance. That's

basically what they wanted."

His high school coach, Bryan Boyd, is optimistic that Thompson's pitching abilities and nose-to-the-grindstone mind-set will yield success at the collegiate level.

"Justin has worked very hard to put himself in this position," Boyd said. "He has known for a long time that he wanted to pitch in college and was willing to do whatever it takes to get himself to that elite level."

"He will be a great addition to their staff."

Fine tuning

Thompson also credited personal instructor Geoff Zahn, a former major league pitcher, for helping him get to where he is today.

At Zahn's Saline-based Michigan Sports Academy, Thompson honed pitching mechanics. Those included slowing down the windup, finding the right arm slot and having a purpose with every pitch.

As a result, he is more consistent with his repertoire of fastball, curve, changeup and cutter.

"It is a slider that comes in as fast as a fastball and drops a little bit, it has a fastball spin," Thompson explained. "It's a good deceptive pitch, I try to throw it low and away on a righty and it drops out."

Learning new pitches is part of the fun of the position.

"It's fun just to see what they do, if you can get outs with them," he

said. "That helped me a lot this year."

Another plus at Plymouth was his battery mate, catcher Rich Guglielmi (who will play at Saginaw Valley State University).

"He would call a great game, I never had to shake him off once with pitches," Thompson continued. "He knew what to call for me in what situations."

He expects his coaches at Concordia to do all that beginning next season.

Getting ready

But over the next several months, Thompson will play again for the Michigan Blue Jays travel team (coached by his dad, Joel Thompson) and go to work on getting even stronger before beginning his college career.

In the fall, he will compete in an informal league with the Cardinals.

Thompson is looking forward to the challenge. "I'm excited to see what college brings," he said. "To see how the talent level is different and learning a lot of new stuff."

Another plus is playing in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, the same circuit Madonna University plays in.

"It's going to be fun having a bunch of people come out and support me," Thompson added, "and playing against people I played with in high school and travel."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stick handling during a drill last week is Metro West forward Mitch Claggett (No. 15), who attends Plymouth High School.

ICERS

Continued from page B1

puck style, we're used to dump and chase kind of play. It's going to be a good time."

His North teammate, forward TJ Zak, said the opening practice was good on several levels.

"It's just getting your legs back under you today, trying to buy into one system," Zak emphasized. "It was pretty quick tempo, a lot of talented players from a bunch of different schools."

"The chemistry will get there with practices this week and I'm looking forward to the upcoming tournament will be playing in. It looks to be promising."

Game plan

One player who already knows what to expect at the showcase is Salem forward Kyle Downey, part of the 2011 Metro West team that won the gold medal.

"It was a great time up there," Downey said. "It's just fun, a round-robin, very competitive, Olympic set-up over there."

"It's just hockey, fun just to play. Whether it's drop-in or a tournament, anything in the off-season is just fun to do."

But they aren't boarding a team bus this morning and traveling 150 miles just for enjoyment's sake.

Head coach Ryan Ossenmacher (also Downey's Salem coach) expects Metro West to make another strong run this time around.

"I think we got some talented players," Ossenmacher said. "We're going to try to play a puck-possession style of game, which is what we did last year."

"The guys we selected



Salem's Kyle Downey lugs the puck up ice during Metro West's first full-scale practice at Arctic Pond in Plymouth. Downey is one of five Park players headed up to Grand Rapids for the Meijer State Games tournament.

are guys we all feel can handle the puck and be patient with the puck."

Metro West's roster also includes players from Livonia Stevenson, Novi, Milford, Walled Lake Northern, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Waterford Kettering and Waterford Mott.

Some 65 players from 20 regional teams skated during April tryouts.

"So we were looking to complete a team," Ossenmacher said. "We had a philosophy in mind of what we wanted to do when we go there so we were looking for players that would fit that bill."

Because players must be returning to their high school teams for 2012-13, some teams with a lot of top players recently graduating (such as Canton) did not garner a roster spot.

One Canton underclassman, goaltender Robbie Beydoun "had a pretty good shot, he was one of our finalists for one of the goalie positions."

In net will be Novi's Patrick Carney and Lakeland's Trevor Kalinowski.

"Both goalies are phe-

nominal goalies. They'll both play," Ossenmacher said.

But the June excursion isn't just about hockey.

Big picture

Ossenmacher said going to the Meijer State Games also will be a good way for kids to bond and share a unique experience, regardless of how the team fares.

"It's something that involves more than just hockey," Ossenmacher noted. "There's a whole bunch of sports that are involved. It's kind of like a mini-Olympic event. They have an opening ceremony, the players get to see other events."

"So it's kind of a smaller part of a bigger picture. It's kind of a neat event, it's not just a hockey tournament."

Friendships will be made, sights will be seen and — hopefully — medals will be won.

"That'd be cool," said Bauer, about winning gold, silver or bronze.

Let the games begin.

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Plymouth's Justin Thompson (seated right) is all smiles after signing his national letter of intent to pitch at Concordia University. Also at the ceremony are Concordia head coach Kyle Rayl (standing, left) and Justin's parents, Joel and Diane Thompson.



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GOLF

Continued from page B1

Splitting duties in the team's fifth spot were sophomores John Tatti and Evan Chipman, combining to shoot 84-77-161.

"My sophomores played awesome," Moore said. "Chris Kozler both days played well, Evan Chipman came in and played well."

"It was a really good experience for them as they move on, and of course what we call the Big Three — Josh Heinze, Kyle Rodes and Rieckhoff — they are just very solid golfers."

Tricky course

For the Chiefs, at the team finals for the first time since 2002, solid performances were turned in by freshman Donnie Trosper (79-76-155) and junior Tyler McMahan (76-82-158).

Other Canton golfers included Alex Champagne

(83-84-167), Brent Perry (88-89-177) and Josh Maxam (87-93-180).

Regardless of the final scores, both Moore and Alles said it would be good to take those with a grain of salt due to the difficulty and unfamiliarity of the course at Grand Valley State University.

They said pins were in tough positions, sometimes at the front of greens or even slightly elevated, which Moore said made it "difficult getting their approach shots close for birdie attempts."

"It (the course) was very difficult, they only had one practice round that they were entitled to," Alles said. "And I think that's a course that really benefits a player whose played it more than once. It's pretty tricky."

According to Moore, the finals put an exclamation point on a season to remember.

"Overall, this season was a big success for the Wildcats, with team records and individu-

al records being broken," Moore said.

Ace for Heinze

Another highlight of the trip to The Meadows was the first hole-in-one of Heinze's career, during Thursday's practice round.

Heinze sank a tee shot on the 175-yard No. 7 hole, using a 6 iron for the feat.

"His leadership and his talent will surely be missed by our team," Moore said.

Meanwhile, Alles said having the chance to participate should pay dividends for those who will return in 2013.

"I think it will be a very, very important experience for them to play at that level with the best teams in the state," Alles noted. "They got a taste of what it's like. And despite the fact that they didn't play all that well it was a good learning experience."

Among individual qualifiers, North Farmington's Austin Alexander finished 10th with a two-day score of 161. Placing 14th was Livonia Stevenson's Dante Cicchelli (83-86-169).

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

June

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 23

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton

Details: Free clothing to anyone in need

Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

COURAGEOUS LIFE SERIES

Time/Date: June 24

Location: Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The church wraps up its series with a screening of the film, "Courageous," at 6 p.m., June 24. Series topic for the day is "Team Players Versus Lone Rangers"

Contact: (248) 476-8222

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, June 21 and 28

Location: Our Lady of Victory Parish, 133 Orchard Dr., Northville

Details: The "Grieving with Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include the Rev. Denis B. Theroux, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good

Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www.goodmourningministry.net or call the parish office.

Contact: The church at (248) 349-2621, www.olvnorthville.org

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 7 p.m. June 26

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Robert J. Muise, an attorney, director of the American Freedom Law Center and an expert on constitutional law, is the featured speaker at a discussion about religious freedom and a controversial federal mandate requiring all health insurance plans to offer coverage for contraceptives at no cost. Other speakers will include the Rev. Williams H. Tindall, along with Sharon Williams, pastoral associate

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, June 28-30

Location: In the thrift store at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: All items, except those marked firm, priced over \$1 are 50 percent off the price marked; bake sale

Contact: (313) 534-7730

SUMMER RETREAT

Time/Date: 8:30-11 a.m. June 27, July 11 and Aug. 1

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia

Details: The retreat is

aimed at moms and will begin with Mass at each session, followed by a continental breakfast and a program. The theme for the series this year is "Whole and Holy: The total Catholic Woman." Participants may sign up for 1, 2 or all 3 classes to fit busy schedules. A children's ministry is available at \$2 per child per meeting. The first session will highlight the mind and will use the teachings of Pope John Paul II to illustrate the connection between faith and reason. The second session will focus on body and will include a spa morning. The last session will discuss spirit, looking to St. Teresa of Avila and St. Francis de Sales for ways to integrate women's daily lives with a heart for holiness. The series is open to all and registration is required

Contact: (734) 261-1455 Ext. 207 or www.livoniast-michael.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 24

Location: St. Columban Church, 1775 Melton, north of 14 Mile between Woodward and Coolidge in Birmingham

Details: The peer group celebrates its 10th anniversary. Includes Mass, refreshments and fellowship. Enter from the rear of the building before 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Gerry at (586) 795-0477

July

MOVIE NIGHT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

Location: Bixman Hall at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "The Way" will be screen. A brief discussion will follow the film. Admission is free and refreshments will be served

Coming up: See "Monsignor Quixote" at Summer Movie Night, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 at the church

Contact: RSVP at (734) 425-5950

Vacation Bible School

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m., Monday-Friday, July 9-13

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, between W. Chicago Road and Joy, in Livonia

Details: For children, age 4 through 5th grade. No registration fee

Register at: http://www.christthekinglivonia.com/

Contact: (734) 421-0749 or (734) 469-4190

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7

a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: KJV Scripture Read-

ing, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

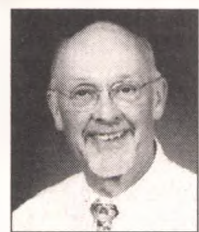
Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of Letter to the Hebrews. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniast-michael.org

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ANTHONY, Ph.D. JAMES L.

Age 65, passed away May 21, 2012 at his home in Northville, MI. He maintained his private practice of clinical psychology for 31 years in Canton, MI. Dr. Anthony is survived by his wife of 43 years Marilee, by three children and their spouses, Jason (Teresa) Anthony, Jessica (Ryan) Tye, Aimee (Lucas) Simpson and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter Leah. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, June 30th at 11:00am with visitation to follow, at Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Road in Ann Arbor. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church of Trenton, MI or the National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation.

CORWIN, WILLARD MILO "BILL"

Age 76 of Coldwater MI died Friday June 15, 2012 in Coldwater. Bill was born August 20, 1935 in Plymouth MI to Lester and Mary (Mauck) Corwin. A Memorial service will be held 1:00 p.m. Wed. June 21 2012 at the Gillespie Funeral Home, Coldwater, MI. Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Branch Co. MI Visit www.gillespiefh.com to leave a message or condolences to the family.

DREWS, THOMAS M.

June 16, 2012, Age 66 of Plymouth. Beloved son of the late George and Georgia Drews. Dear brother of Gerald (Phillis), Dennis (Patricia), Steven (Carrie) Drews and the late Gloria (Terry) Johnson. At Mr. Drew's request, cremation has taken place and there will be no visitation or services. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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Pray before you play at Livonia festival

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Livonia Spree will continue a longtime tradition of offering Catholic and Protestant worship services Sunday, June 24, the final day of the community festival.

Rev. Jim Terhune, senior pastor of Faith Bible Church will conduct the Protestant services at 11 a.m. and the Rev. Pastori Mafkin, associate in residence at St. Aidan's Catholic Church, will officiate at Catholic services at 8:30 a.m. Both are held in the Labatts Blue Tent on the festival grounds at Henry Ford Field, located at Lyndon and Farmington Road, south of Five Mile in Livonia.

"We've probably had 125-150 for the Protestant service and between 250-300 on the Catholic side. It's an outdoor event as opposed to being in a church. A lot of people know of the Mass and they like the idea of having an outdoor Mass," said Paul Mallie, a Spree board member who organizes the service.

Services were moved out of the sun and into a tent three years ago after being held at an outdoor stage for several years. Mallie said Livonia Spree began offering onsite worship services many years ago primarily for workers and volunteers. Services are open to the public.

"We found that a lot of the carnival workers as well as volunteers were unable to get to Sunday services. With respect to carnival workers, they didn't know where the churches were."

He said St. Aidan parish began offering a Mass on the grounds between its morning services. A Protestant service was added a few years later.

Mallie pointed out that Catholics can enjoy breakfast after their service — and Protestants can dine before church — at the Ed McNamara Pancake Breakfast held inside the Eddie Edgar Arena. Cost is \$4 per person.

"They also have a car show that runs simultaneously," he added.

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Youth theater offers camp show, musical

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Students in Broadway Bound, the musical theater camp housed at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia, will take the stage Friday, June 22 to belt out favorite tunes from *Grease*, *Chicago*, *Newsies* and *Follies*.

Camp founder Pat Hutchison stresses the performance isn't just a recital for parents, but a public show.

"We put it on our website and advertise it around the church. It's called Star Dreams. We have a program and everything," she said.

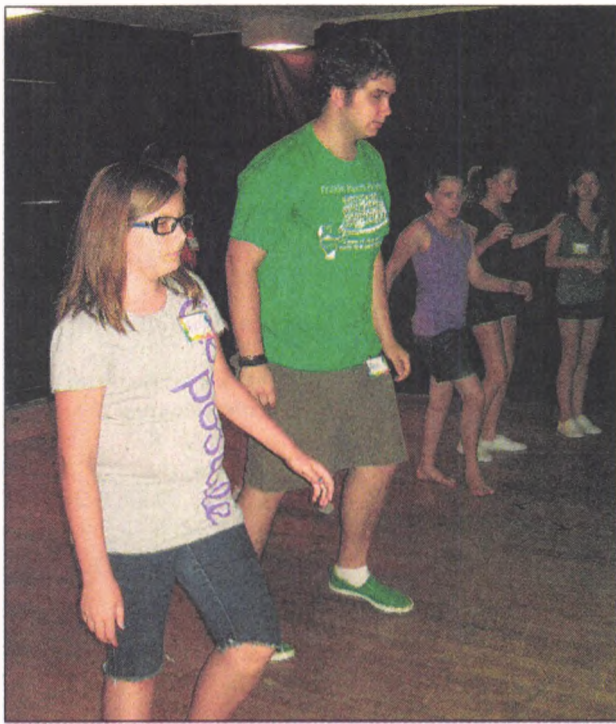
The show, which wraps up the one-week musical theater camp, will start at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 27475 Five Mile. Admission is \$3.

Hutchison, a former teacher in Livonia schools and music director at the church, runs the camp as a program of Paul's Players, the adult community theater troupe that she founded last year.

The camp has grown since last June.

"I didn't have any boys last year. This year we have three boys and 26 girls. But they are all interested in music, so there is no change there."

Sixth through ninth graders work from 9



Katie Bernwanger of Redford learns steps with learning steps with program intern Joe Debbs, a recent graduate of Livonia Franklin High School.

a.m.-5 p.m. each day of camp on dance and singing skills. Amanda Koba, an instructor at Plymouth East Middle School, teaches vocal music, Karen Barsy, a dance teacher and music therapist, choreographs the routines and Pam Gunderson is camp manager.

"We're using seven group numbers in the show. At the end of (Monday) we had already worked on six," Hutchison noted.

Students who want even more stage time had the opportunity this week to audition for Paul's Players' newest program, a full-scale summer musical production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The show will run July 26-28 at the church.

Although the first round of auditions is over, Hutchison said she hasn't completed casting. Performers, ages 8-21, who

are interested in the show may call her at (248) 347-4134 or e-mail paulsplayers@gmail.com.

"This is a short musical and it's very fun. It's all music and there is no (dialogue) script."

Hutchison has staged *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* three other times. The last was in 1997 with her vocal music classes at Churchill High School in Livonia. One of her students, Brian Haverkate, who played Joseph in the production, directs vocal music at Clarkston High School and will direct the cast of this new show.

She said the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical appeals to all ages and features a wide variety of musical styles — from cowboy tunes to Elvis-style rock.

"Having one of my former students directing the music is just icing on the cake."

Plymouth artists compete for prize at Detroit festival

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

If you plan to visit the Detroit River Days festival this weekend in downtown Detroit, be sure to include a stop at Jennifer and Joe Rutherford's carousel along the RiverWalk.

You can't ride the fused-glass horses, rooster, lion and deer set inside the 9-foot-tall metal structure, but you can vote for the piece.

The Rutherfords of Plymouth are among the 10 finalists in the festival's inaugural Detroit River ArtScape competition for their 3-D fine art work, "Once Upon a Carousel."

"It was created for Art-Prize in 2010," said Jennifer Rutherford, referring to the annual Grand Rapids event. "We won first prize at the Delphi Art Glass Festival in 2011 in Lansing. Hopefully we'll win here, too."

Jurors will award the first place winner \$2,500 and give \$1,000 to the next in line. Visitors can vote for their favorite piece in the People's Choice category. When the festival closes on Sunday, June 24, the artist with the most votes will receive the award and \$2,500.

Rutherford figures she and her husband worked on the carousel for 730 hours in their studio. That doesn't include design time.

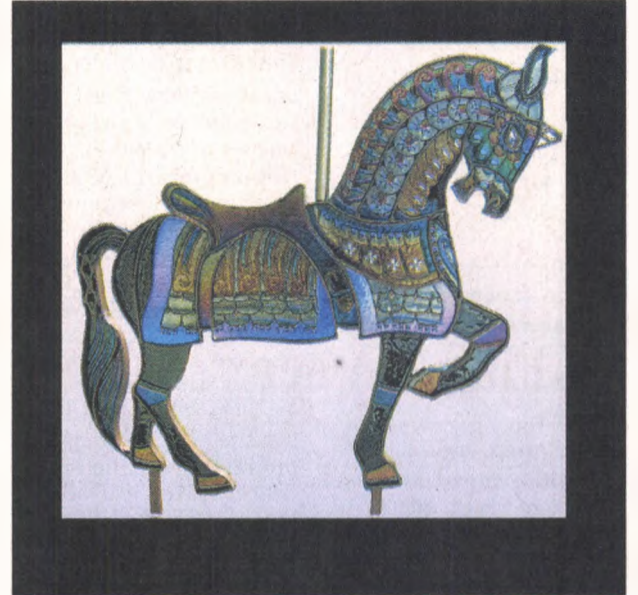
"That was our job for three months," she said.

Murals, fairs

The couple sells their work at art fairs, including the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Art & Apples in Rochester, Funky Ferndale Art Fair and the Wyandotte Art Fair. She works with glass and he creates in metal. Together, they also paint wall murals.

"We do glass flowers, fish and turtles, a lot of garden art," Rutherford said. "We've been doing our work for 13 years together. We do some commission pieces, too."

They're currently working on a piece for a Department of Natural Resources conference center in Houghton. They also are creating a bigger, eight-animal carousel for ArtPrize 2012, a 19-day event that begins Sept. 19 in Grand Rapids. Their piece incorporates clay and mosaics in addition to metal and glass and will be stationed outside the



The armored horse is one of four glass animals that are part of "Once Upon a Carousel," artwork that will be on display at River Days in downtown Detroit.



Jennifer and Joe Rutherford's carousel will be on exhibit this weekend at the River Days festival along the riverwalk in downtown Detroit. The piece includes metal work by Joe, fused glass by Jennifer and mural paintings by both artists. The couple lives in Plymouth.

entrance to the Courtyard Marriott.

"It's going to have a lot of different elements to it. It's all done by my husband and me."

Passion for glass

Rutherford studied dance at the University of Michigan and her husband went to a graphic arts school in Canada. He took metal classes locally and studied welding at Schoolcraft College.

"Both of my parents were artists. My dad was more a fine artist and my mom did more crafts. He taught me my mural technique. When it came to glass, that's always been a passion," Rutherford noted. "I took every course

imaginable. When I took glass fusing, it clicked."

The Rutherfords will be on hand at Detroit River ArtScape all three days of the Detroit River Days festival, which runs 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, June 22-23 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 24, along the RiverWalk. Admission is \$3 before 5 p.m., \$5 after 5 p.m. on Friday. In addition to the art exhibit, the festival features live music on two stages, rides, games, a Taste of Detroit food court, tours of a tall ship and U.S. Coast Guard cutter, children's activities and more. Visit www.DetroitRiverDays.com.

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Fiery winner

The Visual Art Association of Livonia continues its spring exhibit, Artistic Expressions through June 28 at the Civic Center Library, 33000 Civic Center Drive, east of Farmington Road, in Livonia. "A Controlled Burn," by Northville artist, Martha Barnes, took first place in the exhibit. Barnes photographed a blazing structure — set on fire to train firefighters in Oregon — and then decided to paint the scene in acrylic. For more information, call (734) 838-1204.

Art

ART IN THE SUN

Time/Date: 3-9 p.m. Friday, June 22, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, June 23; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 24

Location: Downtown Northville

Details: Outdoor art festival with works by more than 85 artists from across the country. The event includes a children's art area, miniature art hunt in downtown businesses and musical entertainment.

Contact: www.northvillearts.org or (248) 344-0497

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through June 29; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Location: At the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: The Colored Pencil Society of America presents works by members of its Detroit chapter

Contact: (248) 473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through June 24

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "West of Center" 4th Annual All Media Show

Contact: (248) 344-0497 or e-mail to arthouseoffice@northvillearts.org

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through July

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Behind the Lens 6" includes more than 100 photos taken by Pioneer Middle School 8th graders during a trip to New York City

Contact: (734) 416-4267

VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: Through June 28

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, 33000 Civic Center Drive, east of Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Spring Art Exhibit, "Artistic Expressions," includes watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel and mixed media art work, juried by Nancy Wolfe of Eastern Michigan University.

Contact: (734) 838-1204; www.vaalart.org

Comedy

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 4

Location: The Power Center, E. Huron at Fletcher in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: Song parodies and sketches by political satirists,

GET OUT!



John DeMerell, (left) who plays Greg, is wary of the advice he gets from Joshua Brown, who plays Tom, in Two Muses Theatre's production of "Sylvia." The comedy continues through July 1 in the theater at Barnes & Noble, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple, in West Bloomfield.

The Capitol Steps. Tickets are \$30-\$50

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or A2SF.org

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Davin Rosenblatt, through June 23

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Dance

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, June 24

Location: Power Center, E. Huron at Fletcher in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: Pilobolus performs styles ranging from playful to intense to gravity-defying. Tickets \$30-\$50; kids, \$10

Coming up: Circa performs a fusion of acrobatics, aerial stunts, tumbling and contemporary dance, 8 p.m. July 6-7 at the Power Center; tickets \$25-\$45 for adults, \$10 for children

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or A2SF.org

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Thursday, July 5

Location: Michigan Theater, located on E. Liberty, just west of S. State, in downtown Ann Arbor

Details: "Cintematic Titanic" features the original cast and creators of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" riffing on some of the cheesiest movies ever made; \$25 general admission

Contact: (734) 764-2538 or A2SF.org

Auditions set for 'The Biggest Loser'

If you need to lose at least 85 pounds, here's your chance to win a spot on NBC's hit weight-loss television show, *The Biggest Loser*.

Auditions for season 14 will be held 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at Gardner-White Furniture, 45300 Hayes, Macomb, as a part of a 13-city cross-country search for new contestants. The new season will air January 2013.

Casting producers are looking for charismatic individuals who have the desire to change their lives forever and vie for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lose weight and compete for a grand prize of \$250,000. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and legal residents of the United States. Participants will not be allowed to line up prior to three hours before the start of the open call. Candidates should bring a non-returnable photo of themselves.

The casting team will strive to make sure that everyone arriving before the end of the open call will be seen.

Alison Sweeney is the host of the show that challenges overweight contestants to shed pounds in a safe and recommended manner through comprehensive diet and exercise as they compete for the grand prize. The series provides the contestants with challenges, temptations, weigh-ins and eliminations until the final contestant remains to claim the title of "the biggest loser." Contestants work out under the supervision of professional trainers Bob Harper and Dolvett Quince.

For those who are unable to attend a casting call, information on how to apply to the show and submit a video is available on www.thebiggestlosercasting.com.

Festival seeks original plays

TLC Productions is accepting scripts for the 2013 Canton One Acts Festival, postmarked no later than Aug. 24. The Festival will take place Jan. 18-20, 2013 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

TLC, which consists of Canton residents Tim Chanko, Linda Pohl and Christopher Tremblay, seeks original plays in length from 15-20 minutes. Multiple submissions from a playwright are accepted, but no children shows will be considered.

For a list of complete guidelines and for information on the judging process go to cantononeacts.com.

Semi-finalists will be notified. In October and TLC will present dramatic readings of their scripts. Selected shows for the One-Acts Festival will be announced online at cantononeacts.com by Oct. 31. Auditions for the selected plays will be held in November. Finalists may request to direct their own show or TLC Productions will appoint

a director. Preference will be given to aspiring directors.

TLC Productions will award first, second and third place awards based on audience votes.

The One-Acts Festival is organized by TLC Productions, sponsored by the Partnership for the Arts and the Humanities, and offered in partnership with The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

For more information e-mail to tlproductions@wowway.com or visit cantononeacts.com.

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THERE SHE GROWS



Kristen Reese

Carrie Divine

Women farmers share family recipes and what it's like growing America's food

When you try to picture what a farmer looks like, you probably don't picture a woman. But women operate more than 30 percent of the more than 3 million farms in America — making them a large part of raising your food.

Kristin Reese and Carrie Divine are two women whose farming roots run deep. Reese grew up on a farm in Ohio and now has a farm of her own with her husband and kids. Divine is an eighth-generation farmer on her family's land in Kentucky. Both women say the hardest part of being a farmer is not the hard work, it's that today's farming is often misunderstood. Some consumers often think their food comes from large, impersonal corporations. The fact is, 98 percent of farms and ranches in the United States are family owned and operated. That's why Reese and Divine joined CommonGround, a movement that fosters conversations among farm women and women in cities and suburbs around the country who want to know more about their food.

Through local events and the website www.FindOurCommonGround.com, women farmers share facts about today's agriculture and dispel misconceptions about modern farming.

"I can empathize with mothers who might be confused about making healthy food choices amid all of the information surrounding their food," said Divine. In her role with CommonGround, she talks with people who may have never been on a farm about the truth of where their food comes from and how it is raised.

"If most consumers had a better understanding of the people who grow their food and raise the animals and the practices used, they would feel more comfortable with their food choices," Reese says.

Here, Divine shares a family favorite for the grill — The Stenger Family Not-Secret Pork Mignon. She uses freshly ground pork and a tangy barbecue sauce for a fresh take on a basic burger.

Reese says that her American Lamb Arugula Salad with Blackberry Vinaigrette is simple, but has big flavor. "I enjoy making this because we raise blackberries, lamb and arugula, so all the ingredients are at my fingertips. If you don't have that luxury, the ingredients are easy to find at the local grocery store."

To learn more about family farming, get food facts, find more recipes, or pose your own question to a farmer, visit www.FindOurCommonGround.com.

American Lamb Arugula Salad with Blackberry Vinaigrette

By Kristin Reese
Makes 4 servings

1 to 2 pounds sliced roasted lamb leg
2 bunches of arugula, washed and dried
10 ounces soft, mild goat cheese
Blackberries
½ cup toasted pecans
Salt and pepper to taste
Blackberry Vinaigrette:
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
¼ cup blackberry preserves
½ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons fresh herbs, such as basil and thyme
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 450°F.
Place lamb leg into a roasting pan and roast uncovered for 20 minutes, or until a crust forms that will seal in the juices. Lower heat to 300°F. Finish cooking (bone-in roast requires additional 20 minutes per pound; boneless roast requires additional 25 minutes per pound). Internal temperature should reach 130° to 135°F for a medium rare roast. Remove from oven and let rest for 20 minutes before carving. Carve against the grain about ½ inch thick per slice. Whisk all Blackberry Vinaigrette ingredients in a bowl. Arrange arugula in mounds on 4 plates with equal parts goat cheese in center of each mound. Arrange lamb slices around goat cheese and drizzle with vinaigrette. Garnish with blackberries and toasted pecans.

Serve with crusty French bread and a crisp Sauvignon Blanc.



American Lamb Arugula Salad with Blackberry Vinaigrette

Stenger Family Not-Secret Pork Mignon

By Carrie Divine
Makes 8 servings

2 ½ pounds lean ground pork (I usually ask the local grocery store meat department to double-grind a pork loin or trimmed Boston butt for me.)

¼ teaspoon black pepper
¼ teaspoon sugar
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 teaspoons salt
8 bacon slices
For sauce:
1 cup BBQ sauce (hickory smoke flavor)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon steak sauce
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon season salt

Mix the spices with pork. Don't think of doing this with a spoon — get your hands in there. Form into patties 1 inch thick. Wrap bacon slices around outside and secure with toothpicks. Place bacon-wrapped patties on grill over a slow fire. Begin basting immediately with sauce mixture. Turn patties over every 10 minutes and repeat basting. If sauce begins to brown too quickly, place patties on aluminum foil. Cook over slow fire 30 to 40 minutes until done.

Stuffed Jalapeño Peppers

By Linda Schwartz
Makes 10 servings

33 large jalapeño peppers
1 pound spicy sausage
1 bunch green onions
1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar or Worcestershire sauce

¼ to ½ teaspoon garlic powder
1 pound thin-sliced bacon
Prepare jalapeños by cutting off tops and removing seeds and membrane from insides using an apple corer. Be careful not to poke holes in sides of peppers. Drain on paper towels. Wearing gloves is recommended for this spicy project. Brown the sausage in a sauce pan. Chop onions fine in a food processor. Add browned sausage and process until meat is finely chopped. Add cream cheese, balsamic vinegar and garlic powder. Process until combined. Stuff peppers with sausage mixture using a jerky shooter, pastry bag or small spoon. Cover top of pepper with one-half slice of bacon, using a toothpick to secure. Place in jalapeño pepper cooker or custard cups, making sure peppers remain upright. Bake in a 350°F oven for 1 to 1 ½ hours. The longer they bake, the milder they are.

Courtesy of Family Features



Stuffed Jalapeño Peppers



Stenger Family Not-Secret Pork Mignon

Millennial generation key to housing market's future

The next two decades in housing markets depends largely on the "Echo Boomers." That's according to panelists at the "Shifting Demographics and Housing Choice: A Whole New World?" session May 18 during the Realtors 2012 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo in Washington, D.C.

There are approximately 62 million echo boomers in the U.S. Also called "millennials," echo boomers are currently ages 17-31. According to the 2011 National Association of Realtors Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, younger homebuyers — those ages 18-34 — represent 31 percent of all recent home purchases.

"We know that although many young people may be delaying home purchases in today's economic climate, most of them still aspire to homeownership," said NAR President Moe Veissi, broker-owner of Veissi & Associates Inc., in Miami. "Realtors are committed to ensuring that the dream of homeownership can become a reality for generations of Americans to come."

During the session, economists from NAR, the University of Washington, and Florida State University presented various research and data that illustrate the future of homeownership from a generational standpoint.

"Demography is destiny," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "In that vein, demographics can provide very useful insights into the future of housing and homeownership, and the results of these reports indicate that certain generational shifts will have a significant impact on the real estate industry over the next two decades."

NAR Economist Selma Hepp identified several key demographic trends on both ends of the housing age spectrum. The demand for affordable, accessible housing will increase as the 65-and-over population grows; at the same time, as seniors leave their homes and move into assisted living and other arrangements, they will add



to the current supply of housing. Because of their sheer size, however, echo boomers will significantly impact the next two decades in housing.

"Echo boomers represent a long-term opportunity for a housing market recovery, but they are struggling in the current economic crisis," said Hepp. "Consequently, demand for rental housing is likely to climb in the near term."

As a group, the echo boomers are more racially and ethnically diverse than their baby boomer parents. While 65 percent of baby boomers are Caucasian, only 55 percent of echo boomers are Caucasian. Echo boomers are also more likely to be college-educated than previous generations, and are remaining single longer.

Glenn E. Crenlin from the

Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies at the University of Washington shared his insights into recent declines in homeownership and whether those declines indicate possible generational trends.

"It is worrying that the homeownership rate for those under 35 has fallen more sharply than the rate for older Americans," said Crenlin. "But I think we need to examine homeownership rates by generation in a more balanced way. Although the Millennial generation does not own homes at the same percentages of those in other generations, many of them are still in the early stages of household formation — in fact, some of them are still in high school."

Crenlin presented data from the American Commu-

'Given these data, what we're looking at in terms of the millennial generation is likely only a delay in homeownership of three to five years, not a long-term trend away from homeownership itself.'

GLENN E. CRENLIN
University of Washington

nity Survey that shows a significant increase in homeownership among millennials when compared to baby boomers at the same age. While 900,000 households in the millennial generation own their own home, only 500,000 baby boomer households owned their own homes at the same point in their lives.

"Given these data, what we're looking at in terms of the

millennial generation is likely only a delay in homeownership of three to five years, not a long-term trend away from homeownership itself," said Crenlin.

The National Association of Realtors is America's largest trade association, representing one million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 12-16, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
45439 Augusta Dr \$318,000
6801 Devonshire Dr \$177,000
951 Foothill Rd \$151,000
4757 Grove Ct \$64,000
47963 Jake Ln \$325,000
857 Mystic Ct \$239,000
41332 Northwind Dr \$45,000

48271 Nottinghill Ln \$145,000
2022 Otter Pond Ln \$117,000
2030 Pinecroft Dr \$85,000
6186 Raintree Dr \$163,000
47449 Raminder Ct \$230,000
1754 Tremont Rd \$273,000
1318 Whittier Dr \$115,000

GARDEN CITY
31720 Maplewood St \$74,000
29614 Rosslyn Ave \$60,000
LIVONIA
36838 Clarita St \$199,000
17230 Deering St \$80,000
14879 Fairfield St \$140,000
15505 Green Lane Ave \$65,000
33157 Grennada St \$158,000

14238 Knolson St \$79,000
34975 Norfolk St \$370,000
18933 Shadyside St \$95,000
14286 Sunset St \$170,000
29824 Trancrest St \$125,000

NORTHVILLE
16435 Cypress Ct \$365,000
44243 Cypress Point Dr \$50,000
16900 Lairdhaven Dr \$335,000
49839 Parkside Dr \$365,000
49633 S Glacier \$323,000
39639 Springwater Dr \$115,000
18870 Valencia St \$140,000
16722 White Haven Dr \$220,000

PLYMOUTH
550 Ann St \$350,000

382 Auburn St \$139,000
11169 Chestnut Dr \$158,000
50430 Elmwood Ct \$308,000
15135 Inbrook Dr \$199,000
11656 N Haggerty Rd \$9,000
440 N Harvey St \$375,000
42512 Parkhurst Rd \$98,000
47212 Stonecrest Dr \$167,000

REDFORD
14106 Arnold \$75,000
20515 Dalby \$18,000
26501 Glendale \$75,000
26760 Joy Rd \$13,000
15372 Lons \$11,000
9195 Sioux \$51,000

WESTLAND

37460 Barkridge Cir \$58,000
7400 Central St \$14,000
7966 Hugh St \$56,000
32049 Mackenzie Dr \$82,000
34267 Marquette St \$85,000
1192 Michael Dr \$95,000
2254 N Hix Rd \$21,000
6163 Oak Pointe St \$89,000
38339 Oakwest Dr \$155,000
38211 S Jean Ct \$50,000
34622 School St \$40,000
36705 Spanish Oak Dr \$119,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 27 to March 2, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS
21690 Meadow Ln \$225,000
BINGHAM FARMS
24030 Bingham Pointe Dr \$198,000
BIRMINGHAM

985 Emmons Ave \$144,000
1765 Yosemite Blvd \$460,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
4759 Burnley Dr \$180,000
563 Fox Hills Dr N \$53,000
421 Fox Hills Dr S # 4 \$45,000
1741 Huntingwood Ln # D \$76,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
1521 Bataan Dr \$190,000
487 Hupp Cross Rd \$650,000
2295 Lancaster Rd \$140,000
1837 Squirrel Valley Dr \$225,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP
6163 Birchcrest Ln \$406,000

175 Liza Ln \$243,000
FARMINGTON
22483 Hawthorne St \$69,000
33221 Oakland Ave \$175,000
22705 Power Rd \$92,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
22208 Averhill St \$40,000
33623 Edmonton St \$122,000
30151 Kingsway Dr \$185,000
33615 Kirby St \$110,000
29115 Lake Park Dr \$170,000
24466 Penrose Dr \$177,000
28420 W Eight Mile Rd Unit B1 \$25,000

MILFORD
853 Bishop St \$80,000
270 Cumberland Trl \$284,000
2010 E Commerce St \$175,000
1159 Pleasure St \$80,000
NOVI
43100 12 Oaks Crescent Dr \$125,000
45192 Bartlett Dr \$84,000
44020 Durson St \$110,000
22480 Haverdale St \$329,000
24210 Kings Pointe \$108,000
40617 Lenox Park Dr \$261,000
26258 Mandalay Cir \$125,000
45275 Sedra Ct \$70,000

SOUTH LYON
53708 Edgewood Dr \$25,000
53833 Edgewood Dr \$25,000
20988 Oak Tree Dr \$25,000
52896 Willowbrook Dr \$50,000
SOUTHFIELD
22903 N Bellwood Dr \$75,000
25425 Saint James \$74,000
5000 Town Ctr \$18,000
WHITE LAKE
10974 Hillway St \$173,000
1994 Kingston St \$116,000
9496 Leona St \$92,000
8954 Satellite Dr \$100,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate Career Seminar

Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee Thursday, June 21, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For more information, contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or mworkman@kw.com.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tues-

day at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month

at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership.

Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler, (313) 277-4168.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@add-edvaluerealty.com or visit Free-ForeclosureTour.com.

On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKREMAX and get clear, expert answers in real time.

Visit www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX.

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your

purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Tai - ch'uan
- 4 Lucy Lawless role
- 8 Axe handle
- 12 Support
- 13 Greedy
- 14 Linchpin locale
- 15 Mao - tung
- 16 Of the sky
- 18 Thickset
- 20 Three tsps.
- 21 Watch pocket
- 22 Status -
- 23 Cogito - sum
- 27 Perfume label word
- 29 Dry, in combos
- 33 Estuary
- 34 Lingerie buy
- 35 Just barely win
- 36 Diamond stats
- 38 Gives the go-ahead
- 39 Mukluk
- 40 ChapStick target
- 42 Make tracks
- 44 Roof runoff

DOWN

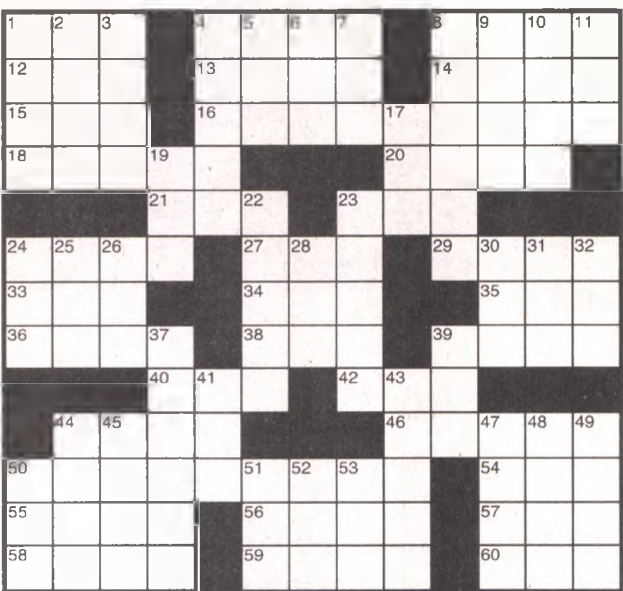
- 1 Ailurophobe's fear
- 2 High school subj.
- 3 Prefix for logical
- 4 Hobby knife (hyph.)
- 5 Festive night
- 6 Zilch
- 7 Juice-based drink
- 8 Round container
- 9 Poles' connector

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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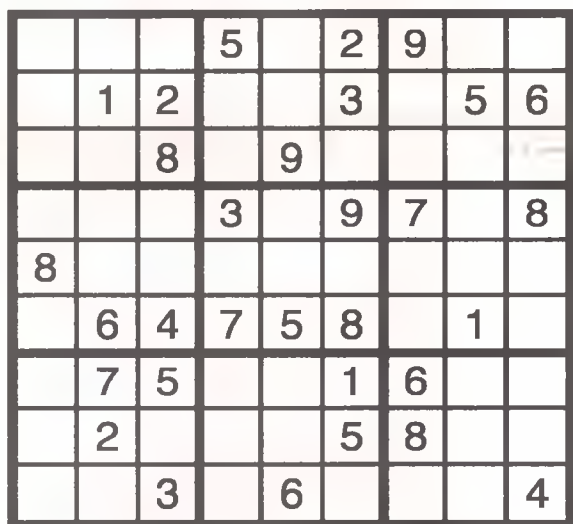
J A Y S   C D T   W Y O
I C O N S   R U E   H E R
G E N O A   E D D Y I N G
           D O G G O   S O S
W E E P   A L B   U K E S
A G R E E   E E C   S M U
S R   D E B   Y A P   B E
P E A   L E O   B O D E D
S T E M   A X E   N O D E
           G E O   Y A R D S
F L E A B A G   N E A R S
B O A   E R E   A R G O T
I O N   Y I N   S E C Y
    
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Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

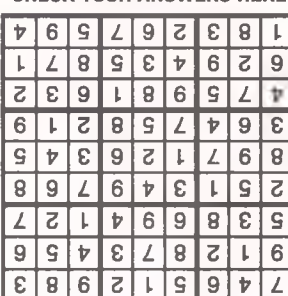
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — Grab a Book

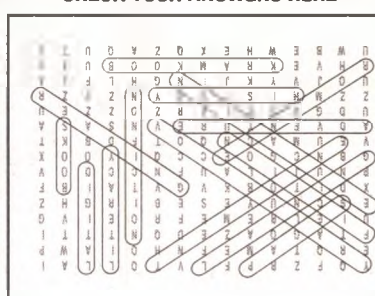
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 E R Q T A M E F N H O I A W P
 F T A G O A Z E D Q N T T T I
 U I E L R E M E F R O E I V G
 E S C N U Y E S E B I R G H Z
 X D I T O B K V G V T A I B F
 P N U J I L A U F N C C D O V
 G B N C G O E C F Q I Y O O X
 V E U M A C N Q O T F D B K T
 A D V E N T U R E V N S A S A
 U D G A O C I P R Z O Z Z E U
 Z Z M H I S T O R Y N Z V Z R
 U O J V Y K J I N G H L F J A
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 U W B E W H E X Q Z A Q U Z E

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|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Adventure | Digital | Fiction | Literacy | Reading |
| Bookmark | Education | History | Nonfiction | Romance |
| Books | Enjoyment | Learning | Pages | Vocabulary |

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



HOMES

apartments.com HomeFinder

Lakefront Property

MARQUETTE - UP
 Lake Superior - 500ft sand beach, deluxe home with access to 700 private acres. Owner Financing at 1% interest. Low Down Payment. 906-249-1633

Northern Property

BY OWNER

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 Retired owner selling 11,000 sq. ft. retail building with view of marina and Mackinac Island. Also, lakefront residential lots on Straights of Mackinac and view of Mackinac bridge. Call David: 906-643-9268

Homes For Rent

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
 3 bdrm brick ranch, bsmt, fenced yard, garage, \$850/mo. + security. (248) 661-9062

Farmington Hills: 12 Mile & Middlebelt. 3 bdrm, 1 bath on lg lot with att gar, \$800/mo. + Security. 248-626-2875

GARDEN CITY: Nice 3 bdrm ranch, shed, fenced, Inkster/Ford Rd. \$775/mo. 313-722-4449, 313-600-1122

LIVONIA SCHOOLS- immaculate 3 bdrm ranch, 2.5 heated gar. No smoking/cats. \$1050 + 1/2 mo. sec. 586-291-9675

WESTLAND: Exc area! 3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, bsmt, c/a. New carpet & paint. No pets! \$875 - Special. 734-591-9163

WESTLAND: Nice 2 or 3 bdrm duplex, new carpet & paint, fenced yard, some with appli. 313-418-9905

WESTLAND: Pretty 2 bdrm ranch. Appliances included. 1.5 car garage. No pets. Immed. occ. \$595/mo + sec. Agent: (734) 522-2429

WESTLAND: Super cute updated 2 bdrm, C/A, bsmt, appli, deck, new paint, carpet, hwdwd \$700/mo. Sect 8 welcome. Agent: 734-646-4957

Mobile Home Rentals

FARMINGTON HILLS OWN OR LEASE

\$575. OR LESS

- Site Rent Included
- 3 bdrm, 2 full baths
- All Appli. • We Finance
- New & Pre-owned avail.

Little Valley

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LIVONIA: Furnished, kitchen privileges, cable, washer/dryer, all utilities. Retired male preferred. \$360/mo + \$100 deposit. (734) 469-4902

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 2 Locations
 Beautifully redecorated. Great rates incl utilities. **CERTIFIED REALTY INC.** (248) 471-7100

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 1/2 off sec. dep. If qualified **FREE HEAT!** 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489

GARDEN CITY:

2 bdrm, upper unit, heat & water incl., quiet, clean. Mo to mo lease. **SPECIALS!** (248) 474-3005

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PLYMOUTH:

Downtown, quiet, 1 bdrm, C/A, storage, carport, laundry facilities, walk-in closet. \$585/mo 231-645-7222

WESTLAND

\$300*
 Moves You In! Spacious 1 bedroom Private entry On-site maintenance Hurry, won't last! 734-721-6699 EHO *call for details

BY OWNER

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3 bdrms, 1.5 baths, full bsmt, wonderful community w/large pool & clubhouse. Livonia schools. \$33,000 Available immediately! 734-536-6669

Open Houses

By Owner

LIVONIA
 9060 Hanlon, 48150. Open house Sun 1-4pm. Move-in ready 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1266 sq ft. ranch offers 2 car gar., kit w/new granite counters & birch cabinets. Updated baths. New plumbing, electrical & furnace. \$129,900 Call Don 734-762-9276

Open Houses

By Owner

LIVONIA
 9060 Hanlon, 48150. Open house Sun 1-4pm. Move-in ready 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1266 sq ft. ranch offers 2 car gar., kit w/new granite counters & birch cabinets. Updated baths. New plumbing, electrical & furnace. \$129,900 Call Don 734-762-9276

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 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home For Sale
 •All Appliances •Deck •Shed •Central Air Academy/Westpoint Canton, MI

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Own this home for only \$599 per month. Includes site rent \$8,264.70 includes tax, 10%, 15.5% APR. 10% dn, 3 yr. Expires 6/30/12. Financing arranged through Sun Home Services. NHLS #320675. EHO

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- WE FINANCE!
- LOW DOWN PAYMENT!
- MOVE IN FAST!
- NICE HOMES FROM ONLY \$12,000!

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CANTON: Busy Michigan Ave corridor. New 5100sf building, completely occupied. 4.5 acre site has room for another 15,000sf building. \$1,400,000, #2615853 Bela Sipos 734-669-5813, 734-747-7888 Reinhart Commercial

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*Offer valid on select homes only. Expires 5/31/12. WAC www.academywestpoint.com

OE06778971_V3

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MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR RENT

3 bed/2 bath starting at \$599!

\$399 moves you in, no rent until 9/1/12!*

College Park Estates Sun Homes

Apply at: 4collegepark.com Hurry won't last! (888) 264-4080

*Some restrictions apply, call for details. EHO Exp. 6/30/12

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THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A
BRINKS Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.375	0.375	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.3	1	2.75	0.5	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	4	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	4	0	3.375	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.375	0.5	2.8	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.75	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	3.25	1.375	2.625	1	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 6/15/12 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A= Arm, V= VA, F= FHA & NR= Not Reported.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO. - New & repairs
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City cert. Violations corrected.
Service changes or any small
job. Free est. 734-422-8080

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A-1 HAULING
Move scrap metal, clean base-
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Lowest prices in town. Quick
service. Free est. Wayne/
Oakland Central location
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Clean-up/Hauling Srv.

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bsmts, attics. Free Est.
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ing, sodding, hydro-seeding,
retaining walls, ins. work,
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foundations built up. Weekly
lawn maintenance. Haul away
unwanted items. Comm. Res.
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All Home Improvements!

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New & previous gardens, \$35
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PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int
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Thorough preparation, futher
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Help Wanted-General

ASSISTANT CREDIT MANAGER

New Hudson Building Supply Company is looking for a full-time Assistant Credit Manager. Position requires experience in business accounting. Applicant must have strong communication, negotiation and problem resolution skills. Applicant must be able to handle multiple tasks, maintain confidentiality and be able to maintain excellent public relations with external and internal customers. Qualified applicants can send resume to: sdueweke@leewholesale.com or mail to: Lee Wholesale Supply Attn: S. Dueweke P.O. Box 299, New Hudson, MI 48165-0299

AUTO USED VEHICLE SALES

Experience Required Great Pay/Benefits Email Resume to Bob Jeannotte Jr bob@jeannotte.com Bob Jeannotte Buick GMC Plymouth MI

CAREGIVER

For autistic boy in Farmington area. Afternoons. Weekends \$8.50/hr. (248) 636-2461

Help Wanted-General

Are you organized and have outstanding communication skills? PRE-PRINT SPECIALIST WANTED

This is a full time position offering daily challenges in a high volume department for our newspapers. Candidates would act as liaison between advertising staff and the printer/packaging center and are required to have the ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously. Responsibilities include: scheduling, distribution and delivery of National/Major accounts, accountable for various inserted materials. The Pre-Print Specialist will be responsible for receiving, processing and scheduling electronic preprint orders in addition to verifying accuracy of the orders. You will also be responsible for coordinating the printing and delivery of specialty products. An Associates Degree with one or two years of related experience or equivalent is required. Professional written and verbal communications skills are a must. Including the ability to interact well with internal and external customers.

To apply visit website at: <http://successfactors.gannett.gci> choose the careers tab, and type in requisition number 4105.

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JOBS

builder.com

Help Wanted-General

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For infants, toddlers & pre-schoolers.
Call: 248-471-1022

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Gardner-White Furniture, serving Michigan for 100 years, is hosting Sales Open Houses for Career-Minded People to join our growing Sales Team. Gardner-White is expanding, with a new facility opening soon in Auburn Hills. We will be holding Sales Open Houses at our Warren and Canton stores with immediate interviews for Sales Positions at all locations!

Monday, June 18, 2012 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At our Warren Location 4400 East 14 Mile Rd. Warren, MI 48092

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Detroit, MI 48226

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Plymouth, MI 48170

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Finding a reliable contractor requires asking questions

By Helen Niemiec

Contributing Writer

Tom Vartanian, of Vartanian Home Improvement in Livonia, said pushy sales efforts and promises that sound too good are warning signs to anyone looking for a new roof, windows or any other home project this summer.

"Talk to the contractor. Ask a lot of questions. If they are pushing you into something, it's best to back away," Vartanian said.

In business for more than 40 years now, he said his clients come from word-of-mouth and by recommendations from former clients.

"It's about integrity. Don't be fooled by hoopla and fancy panel trucks," the Livonia businessman said.

Choosing the wrong contractor can be very expensive, he said, especially if the work does not hold up well and needs to be redone or pieces replaced.

"Some companies give what I call a 'tail light warranty.' Once your check is cashed, you'll never see them again," Vartanian said.

So what is a homeowner to do? Others who deal with contractors agree with Vartanian — check out the contractor, find out if there are complaints and, most impor-



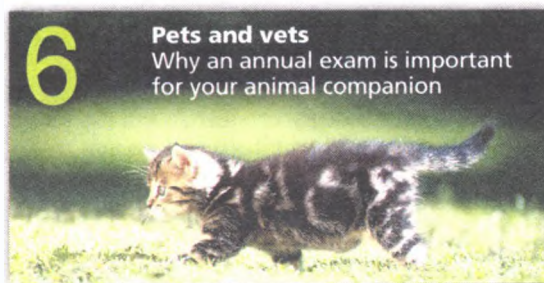
tantly, make sure they are licensed. Check the local chamber of commerce roster, since companies with ties to the community are more apt to value being highly regarded in their area and will back up their warranties.

Birmingham building official Bruce Johnson said the only way to go is to hire a licensed contractor and make sure that

the company obtains all necessary permits. Should things go wrong, a complaint can be filed with the state and, in the case of fires, insurance companies may not cover claims if the wiring wasn't done by a licensed contractor who obtained permits.

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Why an annual exam is important for your animal companion



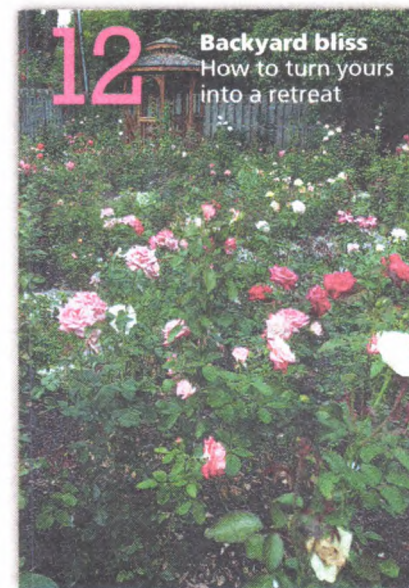
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Cars as stars
Local shows highlight vehicles



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Summer's the season for area festivals



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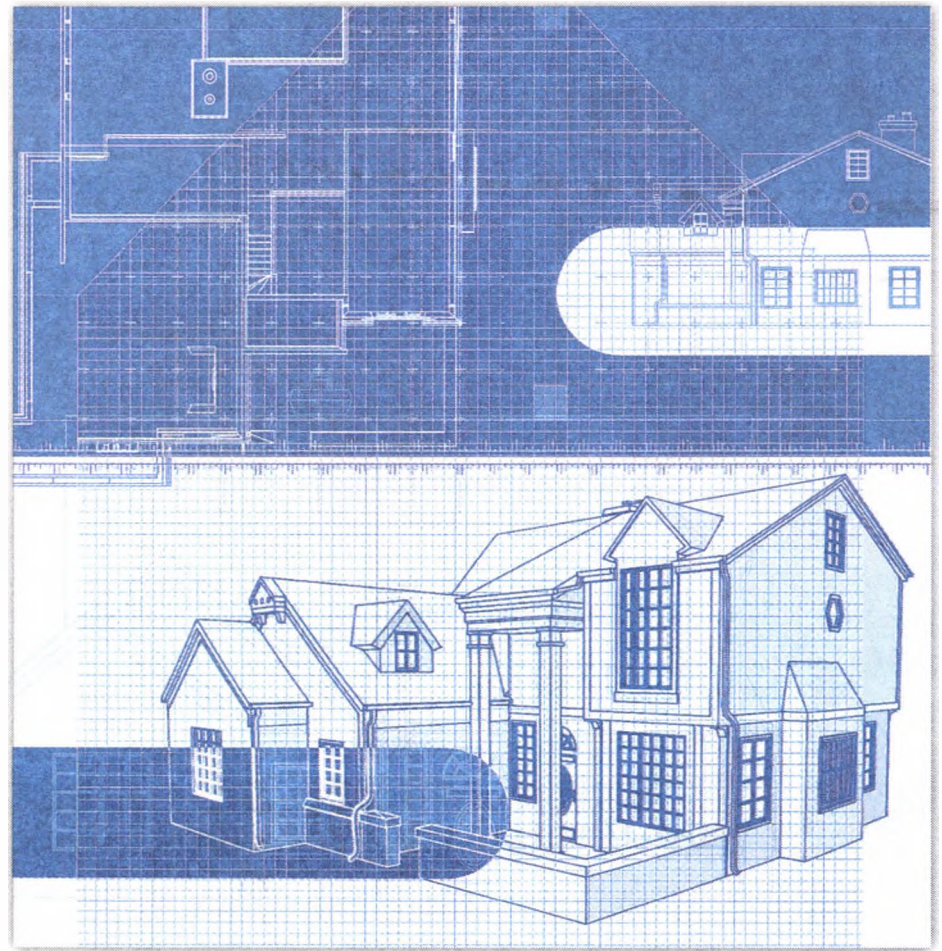


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CONTRACTOR

Continued from page 3

"I recommend that people look around town and see who is doing work in the neighborhood," Johnson said. "Talk to your neighbors and see if they were satisfied. Narrow it down to three, get bids and then go with the one you're most comfortable with and not necessarily the lowest price."

A key question, when talking to neighbors, is to see how the contractor handled it if there were glitches. Johnson said small problems often arise, but the way a contractor handles the complaint and adjusts to please a customer is a consideration.

With a licensed contractor, serious problems that aren't fixed can be reported to the Bureau of Construction Codes for relief.

Once a person is narrowing down the selection, a call to a city or township office is one way to make the final selection. The building department can tell a caller if any complaints were filed, though specifics would have to be obtained from the Bureau of Construction Codes.

"We can't make a recommendation. We can tell you if there have been complaints

filed," Johnson said.

Homeowners who hire non-licensed contractors have only one recourse and that is to file a civil suit, Johnson said. That remedy is time-consuming and costly, he said.

Another resource is checking with the Better Business Bureau. The website lists tips to avoid being scammed by contractors. A call to its Southfield office, at (248) 799-0326, will tell a homeowner if complaints have been filed with that agency.

The BBB receives most of its complaints about itinerant contractors who knock on doors and solicit driveway sealant, driveway repairs, gutter cleaning and hot tar roofing work. The hot tar solicitation is more often made to small businesses than homes.

Melanie Duquesnel, BBB's chief executive officer, said that anyone knocking on the door and offering to do work because they have leftover materials from another job should send up an immediate red flag.

"Request a list of references and check them before agreeing to hire a contractor," Duquesnel said. "Get everything in writing. Include start and completion dates in the contract. Never allow yourself to be hurried into making a decision. Reputable contractors will not try to pressure you into hiring them."

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'My pet looks OK':

Annual exams, inside and out



By **John S. Parker, D.V.M.**
Guest Columnist



Dr. John S. Parker

What would happen if human beings only lived to be 15 or so years old, the exceptionally healthy ones to 20 or 21? It would probably make an interesting sci-fi story or a movie, but that is precisely the case with our domestic pets. Most dogs have a lifespan of 10-15 years depending on the size and breed, with cats nowadays living routinely in the neighborhood of 15-17. The oldest cat I ever treated was 26 and I was 25 at the time.

Birds are another story. Quite frequently, I get asked about the lifespan and care of larger parrots that have a lifespan that can cover decades. Middle-aged clients who are considering the purchase of a large parrot need to consider the likelihood that such a bird may outlive them.

The point is that pets age far faster than humans. This fact of life presents a challenge for veterinarians: How to keep your pet healthy for as long as possible. The cornerstone of preventive medicine is the annual examination, usually done with the annual vaccinations.

At first glance, an examination doesn't look like much; a squeeze, a feel, a look and a listen. Most veterinarians, myself included, don't usually verbalize what we are actually doing and looking for during an examination. It may appear that we veterinarians are simply gliding our hands over a pet, listening to their heart and looking in their eyes and ears, but in reality, we are gathering much more information than meets the eye. What we're really checking is your pet's lymph nodes, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, eyes, ears and skin, musculoskeletal system, digestive system, nervous system, urinary system as well as checking for tumors (benign or otherwise) and indirect evidence of dermatitis from evidence of skin licking or scratching.

A little secret: when we are taking a history before we see your pet, we're usually looking for signs of subtle lameness or difficulty moving around the exam room, particularly in older pets. These signs can be very subtle and difficult to detect, but may be significant in helping to diagnose osteoarthritis or other orthopedic conditions.

Just as important as the external is the internal exam. While we cannot

Please see EXAM, 14

Sudoku

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	2	3						
	7	4			5			8
9			1			3	7	2
	8	3			4			5
4			5					
	5		6	3				
		8		1				9
5			7	6		2		
		7			6	8		

Level: Beginner

				1	8			
			4	3	1			
		2					3	
1		8		2		6		
	4		3					
9		7		1				
4			6			5		
		7			8	4		
		1					2	

Level: Intermediate

6	2			7				
	7		1	4				
	3		5					8
								2
				7	8			
			2	8	5	4		
	6	9		1				4
5	1						3	
		7		9				5

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 14

July 4th: Area parades, fireworks, holiday fun

•**The 54th Annual Target Fireworks**, one of the world's largest and most magnificent fireworks displays created and produced by The Parade Company, will light up the sky at 10:06 p.m. on Monday, June 25 on the Detroit River in downtown Detroit. This free, world-class event brings hundreds of thousands of spectators from across the region to attend and experience one of Detroit's most anticipated summer nights in the city.

•**Sparks in the Park**, Saturday, June 30, fireworks show starts at dark (approximately 10 p.m.), Milford High School, 2380 S. Milford Road, Highland. The fireworks display is part of a communitywide event organized by The Highland-White Lake Business Association. Camp under the stars at Milford High School. Huron Valley Recreation is offering The Great Campout (www.huronvalleyrec.com or call (248) 676-8390 to save your space). Live bands will perform pop, rock, classic rock, bluegrass and original tunes. The Novi Concert Band will play patriotic music during the fireworks display. Visit www.huronvalley.k12.mi.us or www.hwlba.com for more information.

•**City of Birmingham Fireworks**, Tuesday, July 3, at Lincoln Hills Golf Course, 2666 W. 14 Mile. The entrance gate is located at the corner of Lincoln and Cranbrook, across from Seaholm High School. Gates open at 7 p.m. The fireworks will begin at dusk (approximately 10 p.m.). Parking is available at Seaholm High School. Bring your picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for your comfort. Alcoholic beverages and sparklers are not permitted. There is no entrance fee to enter the golf course to watch the fireworks. Raindate is Thursday, July 5, at the same time.



•**Plymouth Township Fireworks** on Tuesday, July 3, at Hilltop Golf Course, Ann Arbor Trail between Sheldon and Beck roads. Fireworks begin at dusk.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the display.

•**Good Morning USA Fourth of July Parade** sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. Parade begins at 9 a.m. on Main Street from Theodore to Hartsough. Come early and enjoy the Good Morning USA Pancake Breakfast beginning at 6 a.m. (served until 11 a.m.) in The Gathering, across from Kellogg Park. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band.

•**Plymouth Township's Good Old-Fashioned Picnic** starts at 11 a.m. July 4 in Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail just east of Beck Road. Hot dogs, chips, pop and ice cream can be purchased for five -cents each. Children's activities, entertainment and games are featured in the 80-acre park setting which offers three sheltered gathering places, walking paths, a children's PlayScape area, fishing pond and dock, and SprayScape.

•**City of Northville Independence Day Parade** starts at 10 a.m. in downtown Northville featuring music, floats, marching bands, clowns, children's characters, vintage and classic cars, bike parade and pet parade. The event is hosted by the Northville Community Foundation. Kids are invited to decorate their bikes and enter the Bike Parade. The best decorated bikes will receive a prize. Bike entries do not have to pre-register. Parade goes take note. The 2012 route has been changed due to construction. This year's parade will travel Griswold to Main, Main to Wing, Wing to Cady. Cady to First, First to Fairbrook, Fairbrook back to The Downs. There will be no viewing on Main Street west of Wing and no viewing on Rogers.

•**Westland Summer Festival Fireworks Display** caps off the six-day event on July 4 at Westland City Hall grounds, 36601 Ford Road. Visit www.cityofwestland.com. Fireworks start at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Celebrating summer cuisine, All-American style

It's that time again – cookouts, picnics, family reunions and backyard parties are happening all over the country.

Looking for some inspiration for a get-together? Look no further than time-tested and always versatile potato salad. There are many variations of this classic side, from mayonnaise-based dressings to zesty vinaigrettes. But it's the dish's delicious "accessories" that make it a crowd pleaser.

Black olives are a popular addition to American potato salad. Known for their versatility, black olives are the perfect accessory to potato salad, adding a subtle, savory flavor to this party staple. And here's something you might not know – 95 percent of the nation's black and green ripe olives are grown on family farms in California, making them a true all-American ingredient.

While red, yellow and purple potatoes provide the ideal canvas, it's the California Ripe Olives that make this potato salad a winner. For more recipe ideas, visit www.calolive.org.

Red, White and Blue Potato Salad

Makes 4 servings

- ½ pound red potatoes, diced
- ½ pound Yukon Gold potatoes, diced
- ¼ pound purple potatoes, diced
- ½ cup California Ripe Olives, halved
- ½ cup green onions, chopped
- ½ cup celery, diced
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons capers, drained
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, chopped



Red, white and blue potato salad.

In large pot, boil water and potatoes. Cook until tender, drain and cool to room temperature. Combine potatoes, olives, green onions and celery in a large mixing bowl and set aside. In medium bowl, whisk together red wine vinegar, mustard and capers. Gradually whisk in olive oil, then season with salt, pepper and parsley. Pour dressing over potato mixture and toss until evenly coated.

— Courtesy Family Features

A Nite at the Park

7th Annual Classic Car Show Hosted at **Hines Park**

THURSDAY, JULY 19th

5:30pm-8:30pm

1-96 & Milford Rd. Event located by the parking lot of Hines Park Ford Wash & Detailing.

All proceeds from the show will go to the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

Additional Hines Park Ford Car Show dates: Sept. 13th - 6th Annual Drive-In Movie & Car Show

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On the road again

Car shows appeal to enthusiasts of all ages



Here they come! Classic cars of all makes and models marched down Berkley's 12 Mile Road for the annual Cruisefest Parade.



The Woodward Dream Cruise is the world's largest one-day celebration of all things car and car-related.



Johnthan and Alvin Brock of South Lyon stroll past some of the classic cars at a Sunday car cruise at Bakers of Milford.

By Bill Emerick
Contributing Writer

Ever since Henry Ford motored through the streets of Detroit in his new-fangled contraption for the first time more than 100 years ago, people of the Motor City have taken great pride and joy in showing off their fancy rides every chance they get.

With the arrival of summer and long, sunny days, the opportunities to display a classic car or cruise in a hot rod are virtually limitless.

Just about every automobile enthusiast is familiar with the Woodward Dream Cruise, the mammoth gathering of gearheads that takes place each year in August along the fabled state highway that gave the event its name. Whether you love it or loathe it (and most people fall into one camp or the other), the Dream Cruise is the centerpiece of the classic car season in Michigan. This year's edition will take place Saturday, Aug. 18, through the heart of Oakland County.

But if massive crowds and grid-locked traffic don't sound appealing, there are countless other car events scattered about the metro area just about any day of the week for the next several months. They range from small gatherings of friends and neighbors to larger shows sponsored by car clubs or civic groups.

They run the gamut — some charge entrance fees, while others are free; some help benefit a particular cause or charity, while others have no purpose other than a good time. Some showcase only a certain model or make of automobile, while others feature a come-one, come-all attitude; some are one-off shows, while others are scheduled weekly or monthly.

Whether you own a vintage vehicle or just appreciate the craftsmanship that went into manufacturing automobiles from a bygone era, there is undoubtedly a car show that's right up your avenue.

So fill up the tank, pack a cooler and chairs and get ready for another summer of cruising and perusing. While the accompanying list is in no way comprehensive, it offers a sampling of what the area has to offer. For a more complete list of the biggest car shows throughout the state, visit <http://www.festivals-and-shows.com/michigan-car-shows.html>.

An ocean blue Chevy truck drives slowly along Woodward during the cruise.



Elliot Alvara looks over a 1935 Ford parked along Woodward.

PUT IT IN DRIVE

On any given night during the summer throughout the Detroit area, car enthusiasts are gathering to celebrate their infatuation with classic automobiles. This is a representative list of what's offered in the coming months.

Weekly or monthly shows

- Baker's of Milford (2025 S. Milford Road, Milford) hosts a cruise event 3-7 p.m. each Sunday through September.
- The Comeback Inn (1451 S. Milford Road, Highland) hosts a cruise event from 5 p.m. to dusk each Tuesday throughout the summer.
- The Grand River Cruisers organize a cruise-in from 5 p.m. to dusk each Monday in the parking lot of the Village Commons strip mall, on Grand River Avenue near Power in downtown Farmington.
- VFW Post 4156 (321 Union Lake Road, White Lake) is hosting a car cruise from 5 p.m. to dusk each Thursday until Sept. 1.
- Lake Street in downtown South Lyon hosts a monthly event hosted by a different car club. The road is shut down to traffic 6:30-9:30 p.m. the following Wednesdays: June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26.
- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 (1426 S. Mill Street, Plymouth) hosts a car show 5-8 p.m. each Wednesday until Sept. 5.
- VFW Post 345 (27345 Schoolcraft, Redford) hosts a cruise event from 5 p.m. to dusk each Tuesday until Sept. 25.
- The A&W Drive-In in Clawson (corner of Main Street and 14 Mile) hosts a cruise-in each Thursday evening during the summer.

American Legion Post 32 (9138 Newburgh Road, Livonia) presents "Cruizin' at 32 Car Shows" 5-8 p.m. every Thursday (rain or shine) through Aug. 30. Prizes awarded in various categories. Food is available to purchase and there is no entry fee.

Concours d'Elegance of America on the grounds at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township, Five Mile and Sheldon roads, Sunday, July 29. See www.concoursusa.org for details.

Charity shows

- The Italian American Banquet & Conference Center (39200 Five Mile, Livonia) hosts a cruise to benefit Go To Light of Life Foundation, 5-9 p.m. on select Mondays: June 25, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20 and Aug. 27.
- Bill Brown Ford (30400 Plymouth Road, Livonia) will host an event to benefit the Livonia Public Schools Foundation, 6-9 p.m. Monday, July 16.

Garden City High School (6500 Middlebelt, Garden City) will be the site of a show to benefit the Garden City Community Coalition from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6.

One-of-a-kind show

- The Dearborn Heights Justice Center (25637 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn Heights) will be the site of an emergency response vehicle show, featuring ambulances, fire truck, police cruisers and more, from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, July 9.

The big cruises

- The 18th annual Woodward Dream Cruise, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, stretching from Eight Mile Road at the Ferndale-Detroit border through Royal Oak, Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills to Pontiac.
- The 10th annual Gratiot Cruise, Saturday, Aug. 5, runs along Gratiot Avenue from 14 Mile Road to Metropolitan Parkway in Clinton Township.
- The 13th annual Cruisin' Downriver will take place beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 30, along Fort Street from Outer Drive at the Lincoln Park-Detroit border to Sibley Road in Riverview.
- The fifth annual Cruisin' Michigan Avenue, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 14, heads down the famous US-12 through Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Westland and Wayne.
- The second annual Cruisin' Hines is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, along Hines Drive from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive.

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Create that 'get-away' backyard space

A sandaled foot steps onto a brick patio. Eyes catch lush trees and colorful flowers. A cooking area is emitting wonderful aromas.

A get-away Up North? No, it's a backyard and reflects the growing trend to transform the rear lot into a personal vacation place, created using the homeowners' personalities and preferences.

Whether that back yard is small or more spacious, any homeowner can turn that area into a private paradise.

Designers agree that the first step in the transformation is considering how the new area will be accessed — though a back patio door or the side door of a house. Bricking the patio, if it isn't already, and then creating an inviting walkway toward it is a first step.

The area could be made more "room-like" by providing privacy features, either with trellises of climbing vines and flowers or by erecting a canopied structure with a curtain on the sides that face neighbors' yards.

Do you entertain?

The next thought is lifestyle. "Some folks do a lot of entertaining and may want a large dining set which can accommodate eight people," said Linda Vespa Yugovich, buyer for English Gardens Patio Future & Décor Division. "For

others, a small bistro set for two might be all that's needed."

The furniture is the focal point, the designers agree, saying it determines how the space will be used.

"Cast aluminum is a popular choice, since it is durable and nonrusting. There are so many choices in table size and design, but bronze is the most popular. All-weather wicker is the hottest trend right now, in both deep seating and dining, with colors ranging from espresso to weathered white," Vespa Yugovich explained.

The space also needs seating for lounging, not just eating.

The cooking area can be as simple as a barbecue grill or a full open kitchen. Fire pits provide light and create ambience for gatherings that linger after the sun has set. The fire can be used for toasting marshmallows for a family activity or can ward off the chill from a late summer night. A glowing fire can also encourage guests to stay a bit longer, or serve as a way a family can spend "just a few more minutes" outdoors before heading inside for the evening.

Enhance your space

Next step is enhancing the area around

Please see **SPACE, 13**

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SPACE

Continued from page 12

that living space.

The experts at Bordine's say that making a space unique is easy. Plant herbs around cooking areas. Not only do growing herbs provide a great scent, the plants are available for snipping for those who are doing meal preparation outdoors.

Choice of flowers and greenery to surround spaces runs the gamut. Small trees have been in high demand, used to better enclose an area. Shrub roses also are very popular.

Container gardens to mark off the edges of a space is a popular idea, just using ceramic pots filled with colorful annuals placed to mark the edges of decks and patios.

Finally, the lighting and decorations are what personal a home's private space.

Solar lights to line a pathway or surround a patio are trends, as are twinkle lights in shrubs or trees that create a magical glow. Lanterns are another choice, whether placed on a patio table or on a deck or patio floor.

Outdoor pillows placed on benches or chaise lounges reflects a homeowner's preference in both color and texture. Designers recommend that three to four colors be chosen for the color scheme and then use them throughout, to unify the look. Designers say this year's color palette includes the deep, primary colors but also neutrals and outdoor shades of green.



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EXAM

Continued from page 6

directly look inside of your pet, technology allows us indirect access to your pet's internals. Digital X-ray and ultrasound, for example, have expanded our diagnostic abilities greatly. The images generated by these technologies allow us to "see" what normally would be impossible.

Most pets do not require an ultrasound or X-ray examination in conjunction with an annual health examination and vaccination visit. However, there is one important part of a complete examination that should be done once a year, and that is an annual blood health screen.

Twenty-some years ago, we began to get concerned about diagnosing patients with disease conditions that were either at the middle or advanced stages; kidney, liver or thyroid diseases seemed to be the most common and these patients appeared perfectly healthy on the "outside" right up until the point where they started acting sick. Many veterinarians shared the same concerns. How can we catch these diseases earlier when we have a better chance to treat, control and possibly cure some of these conditions?

Enter the annual health screen.

In our clinic, we have three age groups for health screening: 1-6, 7-10 and 10+ years of age. This allows us to test for things that are normally seen in each age group. While it is called by other names (blood panel, health panel, profile, wellness testing, etc.), there are two basic parts to annual blood testing for well pets. The first is called the "blood chemistry" which tests various enzymes, electrolytes, glucose and blood proteins.

What are we looking for in the chemistry part of the panel? We like it when we find normal, boring test results on health screens; nothing exciting.

When we do find an abnormal test value, then we need to decide if it's really an



indicator of a "silent" medical problem or a temporary condition. Most times we will recheck to see if the abnormal test value is persistent. If it is persistent, this indicates a medical problem and we may need to address it with additional tests to precisely define the condition, medication or diet, or a combination of diagnostics (such as X-rays or ultrasound) and therapy.

The second part of the screen is the CBC (Complete Blood Count). This part of the screen looks at the red cells, white cells (five different types) and platelets, which are the cells floating around in the bloodstream. Abnormal values, like with the chemistry, should be investigated and treated.

Normal is boring and boring is good when it comes to your pet's health. We don't mind being bored.

Dr. **John Parker** graduated from Michigan State University in 1988 with his doctor of veterinary medicine degree. After spending a year in Ohio in an exclusively equine practice and three years in mixed animal practice in Illinois, he returned to Michigan to join Dr. Ron Studer at Briarpoint Veterinary Clinic, 47330 10 Mile, in Novi. Parker has a geriatric golden retriever, Cider, and lives with his family in Lyon Township. Visit www.bpvets.net/ for more information.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

8	1	2	3	9	7	5	4	6
3	7	4	2	6	5	9	1	8
9	6	5	1	8	4	3	7	2
7	8	3	9	2	1	4	6	5
4	9	6	7	5	8	2	3	1
2	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	7
6	3	8	4	1	2	7	5	9
5	4	9	8	7	6	1	2	3
1	2	7	5	3	9	6	8	4

Intermediate

3	5	4	2	9	1	8	7	6
7	8	9	4	6	3	1	5	2
6	1	2	8	5	7	9	3	4
1	3	8	7	2	4	6	9	5
5	4	6	3	8	9	2	1	7
9	2	7	5	1	6	3	4	8
4	9	3	6	7	2	5	8	1
2	7	5	1	3	8	4	6	9
8	6	1	9	4	5	7	2	3

Advanced

6	4	2	8	3	7	9	5	1
8	7	5	1	9	4	2	6	3
9	3	1	2	5	6	4	7	8
7	8	6	4	1	5	3	9	2
2	5	4	9	7	3	8	1	6
1	9	3	6	2	8	5	4	7
3	6	9	5	8	1	7	2	4
5	1	8	7	4	2	6	3	9
4	2	7	3	6	9	1	8	5



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