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PEACE WALK SEEKS CHANGE AFTER CHARLESTON CHURCH SHOOTINGS

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

In a strong show of unity against racism and hatred, a group representing a broad coalition of religions gathered Monday evening in Canton to call for change after nine African Americans were gunned down last week in a Charleston, S.C., church.

TejKiran "Sunny" Singh, representing the Canton-based Sikh Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Michigan, said it's critical that Americans stand united against intolerance.

"That unity cannot be violated by any acts of violence or hatred," said Singh, among

about 75 people who gathered in Heritage Park for a round of speeches and a peace walk.

Hasina Abdu, who chairs an outreach committee for the Canton Mosque, joined other Muslims who, during Ramadan, have voiced sorrow after the massacre inside the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"It's important to show that we also hurt with the African-American community," Abdu said, adding later that all segments of the population should work harder to overcome racism and intolerance. "It's something we should all be working together to get over." Canton's gathering was

sponsored by the Plymouth Canton Interfaith Community Outreach and the Beloved Community, two organizations dedicated to fighting racism and hatred.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, the interfaith group's coordinator, called it tragic that the Charleston massacre occurred in a place of worship, "a place where you feel as safe as you do in your home."

The Rev. Virgil Humes of New Hope Baptist Church in Wayne said the church and he, personally, have endured racism. Humes, an African American, said a racial slur was



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After a round of speeches and a little poetry to fight racism, a group of about 75 walked around the lake at Heritage Park.

See WALK, Page A2



TOM BEAUDOIN

Canton resident Onyedika Onwudine and daughter Zitara enjoy the merry-go-round at Liberty Fest.

Liberty Fest wraps up three days of community fun

By Darrell Clem
and Julie Brown
Staff Writers

Canton authorities reported no major incidents as thousands of people gathered in Heritage Park for a three-

day Liberty Fest that ended Saturday night with a dazzling fireworks display.

"Everything went very smooth. It was uneventful from the law-enforcement perspective," Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome said.

"We had no major incidents."

Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein said one young female suffered a broken wrist after she accidentally walked into a car near Heri-

See LIBERTY, Page A8

Township priest back at church Saturday

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A popular priest who was removed as pastor of a Plymouth Township church while the FBI investigated the use of parish money will resume his duties there - with increased oversight of financial matters - beginning Saturday.

The Rev. Thomas Belczak had been on leave from St. Kenneth Catholic Church since October. His return was announced last Saturday at afternoon Mass at St. Kenneth and a letter to parishioners from Bishop Francis Reiss reported that the FBI had closed an investigation.

Reiss' letter, however, goes on to state the parish will be getting oversight from Bishop Walter A. Hurley because of "some concerns regarding St. Kenneth Parish's administrative and financial practices." Hurley, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and a former Detroit auxiliary bishop, will have "responsibility for all fiscal matters," the letter states.

Joe Kohn, spokesman for



Thomas Belczak

See PRIEST, Page A2

Elite hockey program now has own rink to call home

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

An elite hockey training program that's sent about 250 players to the National Hockey League over nearly 20 years has never had its own rink - until now.

USA Hockey, the governing organization for amateur hockey in the U.S., is moving its National Team Development Program into the newly purchased USA Hockey Arena, formerly Compuware Arena. The 3,600-seat venue on Beck Road in Plymouth Township was purchased from Pete Karmanos.

"We are thrilled and excited to bring the program to Plymouth," Scott Monaghan, the NTDP's senior director of operations, said Wednesday during a Plymouth Township Chamber of Commerce breakfast event at Independence Village.

"I'm still struggling to not



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Scott Monaghan talks plans for USA Hockey at the former Compuware Arena.

call it the Compuware Arena," Monaghan said, to laughter, moments later.

USA Hockey's NTDP, founded in 1996, is a training program for many of the best 16- and 17-year-old players in the country. NTDP had been based at leased space at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, which has

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Sue Dillon and Kris Mayer talk before breakfast.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page A1

about 1,000 seats, and is in the process of moving over the summer.

The organization has big plans for its new facility: renovations, updates and a 20,000-square-foot expansion with a total price tag of \$6 million, college hockey and international tournaments and a home-game schedule of between 35 and 50 games in the United States Hockey League, a junior league with teams in 17 Midwestern cities.

USA Hockey Arena, Monaghan said, will also keep programs that have been based at Compuware, such as Catholic Central hockey, Compuware youth hockey, figure skating and, in warmer weather, drive-in movies in the parking lot.

'Gem for community'

USA Hockey will be undergoing renovations, including to locker rooms, this summer to prepare for the incoming group of NTDP players, Monaghan

said. Construction on the building addition, which will include offices, conference space and training facilities, should begin in the fall, Monaghan said.

"It's our objective to make it a gem for the community," Monaghan said of the arena.

About 250 USA Hockey development program alumni have gone on to the NHL, Monaghan said, and more than 300 have gone on to play college hockey.

Township Supervisor Shannon Price said USA Hockey will be a big plus for the township. USA Hockey will continue Compuware's community involvement, Price said, by hosting events like hazardous waste drop-off and training for township firefighters in the parking lot.

"I'm really excited. I think it's going to be a great addition to the community," Price said.

Karmanos also sold his Plymouth Whalers, of the Ontario Hockey League, and the team is moving to Flint.

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Canton family says goodbye to Leader Dog in training

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Huggable, lovable and hard to let go. But the Edgerton family had no choice, so Piper the black Labrador headed Wednesday back to the Rochester-based Leader Dogs for the Blind for continued training.

"It's like having a newborn baby and having to give it up," said Tom Edgerton of Canton, a teacher at Pioneer Middle School.

The family, which includes Tom's wife Dara, son Jonah and daughter Claire, wants the best for Piper. But the four can't deny a smidgen of hope that the little more than year-old dog might find her way back into their arms.

And it's not just the Edgertons who have tears in their eyes. Piper spent the past year going every day to Pioneer, where Tom teaches students with special needs. Piper even attended and participated in Pioneer's eighth-grade graduation ceremony.

"I cried more for her than I think I would for one of my kids' celebrations," Dara said.

On Wednesday, only Tom and Dara took Piper back to the Leader Dogs facility, where she will undergo four more stages of training — if all goes as planned — and finally work with a chosen client, who will



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Piper poses with her Edgerton family (from left) Claire, mom Dara, Jonah and dad Tom.

stay at the Rochester facility.

From the time Piper arrived in Canton, she has been in training with the Edgertons. "Our basic job was to socialize her. We have to take her everywhere we go," said Dara, a teacher for deaf and hearing-impaired students in Dearborn.

When Piper arrived, she was actually already named Lilac. But for Claire, the name just didn't fit: "Flowers are

supposed to be graceful, but she isn't."

Piper, indeed, went everywhere with the family, including shops, restaurants and, of course, school. "With special-needs children, Piper was invaluable part of our school culture," Tom said.

When classes ended and kids made their way into the halls to their next classes, Piper was with them and held her position, as trained. She

was such a large part of the Pioneer culture that Piper has a school badge, is pictured on a school poster and is in the year-book.

The Edgertons got involved with Piper and Leader Dogs when friend Patty Butzin, now retired from Pioneer, where she was a school counselor, asked them if they would be interested in adopting a puppy.

Because school administrators — Principal Kevin Rhein and Assistant Principal Chris Moore — were familiar with Butzin's work, they welcomed Piper into Pioneer. "At school, she is perfect. She is used to her routine," Tom said. "Even when she was in the hallway, she was working."

Piper's growing months have also been a lesson for the Edgertons. "She is entirely intelligent. She can open the windows in the car and can open the doors in the house," Tom said.

Wednesday brought tears for the family as they said goodbye to Piper. But they are going to wait to see if she passes her training before accepting another dog — just in case.

"The hardest part is that she is not our pet. She has been born and bred for this," Tom said.

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WALK

Continued from Page A1

used against him as recently as last week.

"I know the pain of racism and hate and intolerance," he said, but "I'm going to practice love."

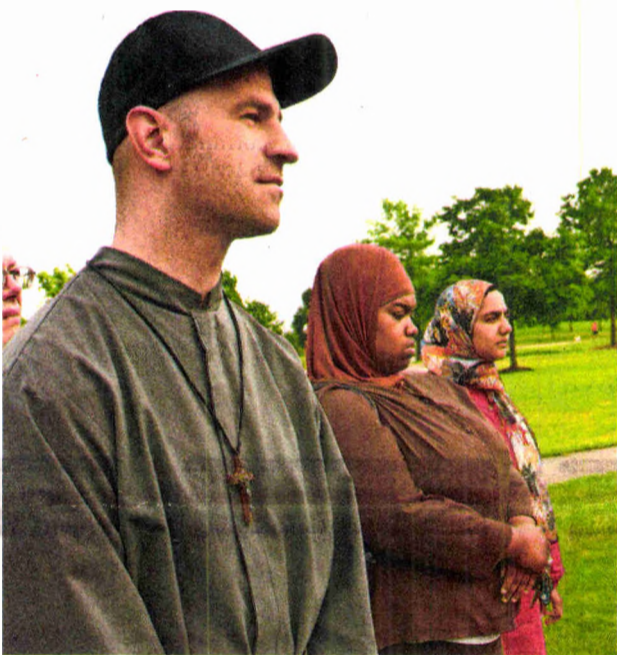
Chandru Acharya, a Canton resident and Hindu American who serves on the board of the Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, said "something has to be done" to stop violence against African Americans and others. He singled out police incidents involving not only blacks, but also a man from India who was left partially paralyzed in Alabama after a run-in with police.

Acharya read a poem that, in part, recalled the words of Eric Garner, a New York man whose words "I can't breathe" became a battle cry.

"His cries fell on deaf ears," Acharya said.

The Rev. Bryan Smith of Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton said he felt "anguish, anger and grief" after he heard about the Charleston shootings. He decried gun violence.

"These mass shootings



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A broad spectrum of people attended the peace walk, including the Rev. Patrick Prajzner, who serves on an Indian reservation in North Dakota and is in town visiting family. Next to him are Shatara Gbeminiyi and Saara Patel.

keep happening and we seem unable or unwilling to respond in a way that will lead us to a better place," he said.

Later, during a formal speech, he called racism "a systemic issue" that historically has led to inequality in the economy, education and health care for African Americans and other people of

color.

Sharika Robinson, one of the Beloved Community organizers, fought back tears as she spoke of trying to explain to her children why nine African Americans died in their place of worship.

"I can't tell you how it hurt," she said, adding that, as an African-American woman, she routine-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
An emotional Sharika Robinson speaks about her own response to horrific acts of violence like the murder of nine African Americans in the historic church in Charleston, S.C.

ly faces racism. Dr. Syed Taj, a former Canton trustee, said racism and intolerance isn't unique to Charleston.

"It can happen anywhere," he said, "and this is the time we need to get the message out that hatred cannot last and that we need a message of love and peace."

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PRIEST

Continued from Page A1

the Archdiocese of Detroit, would not specify

the concerns raised. Kohn said Hurlley, working with the parish finance council, will have final say on parish finances.

Parishioners reportedly rejoiced Saturday at the news of Belczak's impending return.

'Didn't doubt him'
Peggy Darrah of Plymouth, a St. Kenneth member for about 17 years and a newly appointed parish council member, said it was the outcome for which she and others had been praying.

"We're really very pleased that he's back," Darrah said Tuesday. "We didn't doubt him for a minute."

Darrah said she understood the need for Belczak to be away from the church during an FBI investigation. "But I didn't think there would be any merit found," she added.

Belczak, Darrah said, is personable, caring and non-judgmental. He has been at St. Kenneth since 2004; before that, he was pastor at St. Valentine in Redford Township.

Darrah said she wasn't aware of any

"We're really very pleased that he's back. We didn't doubt him for a minute."

PEGGY DARRAH
St. Kenneth parishioner and parish council member

divisions, over the investigation, among parish members. "Everybody I talked to said they wanted him back," she said.

Brother charged

Belczak's older brother, the Rev. Ed Belczak, was removed as pastor at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Troy in early 2013 during an investigation and is now under a five-count federal indictment, charged, along with a former parish administrator, of stealing nearly \$700,000 from that church. That case is still pending.

The brothers' situations have been compared in the media. "These two cases we're treating as being completely unrelated," Kohn said.

"I think most of us thought it was guilt by association," Darrah said of Thomas Belczak's situation. "But none of us have an opinion about his brother, either."

During his absence, Kohn said, Thomas Belczak was able to say Mass, officiate at baptisms and weddings and perform other priestly functions, but was not allowed to be on the campus at St. Kenneth.

Reiss, in his letter to parishioners, said he "deeply regretted how difficult Father Tom's absence from St. Kenneth has been for you." He also thanked the parish staff, the parish council and finance council, the Revs. Robert Blondell, Richard Peretto and Timothy Babcock "and many of the good people of St. Kenneth" for their work during Thomas Belczak's absence.

FBI spokesman Special Agent David Porter did not respond to a call nor an email that sought more information.

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Park pass discounts available through libraries

By Wayne Peal
Michigan.com

With Michigan state parks now on board, the Michigan Activity Pass program appears headed for its biggest summer ever.

"The numbers are really, really, really good," said Jim Flury of the Library Network.

Based in Novi, the Library Network administers the online activities pass program on behalf of the state's public libraries.

Through the program, individuals can sign up for passes to some 400 state attractions, including the state parks, recreation areas and forest



FILE PHOTO

Free daily admission to the Island Lake State Recreation Area and other state parks is now available through the Michigan Activity Pass program. To obtain an online pass, go to your local public library's website.

campgrounds for the first time ever.

State parks offer a free daily admission pass. Admission is often directly discounted or

accompanied by other discounts at other attractions.

There were roughly 75,000 visits to the Michigan Activity Pass web-

site in its first week of operation for the 2015 season, Flury said during a recent promotional appearance.

"That compares with about 300,000 for all of last year," he added.

Participants can go to the site directly at www.michiganactivitypass.info or link through their home library's Web page.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is sponsoring the Michigan Activities Pass program through its MI Big Green Gym initiative, which promotes outdoor fitness activities.

"We see this as a great way to get people outdoors," Blue Cross

spokesman B.J. Puchala said.

This year also merges the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' previous Park and Read program into the MAP program.

Begun in 2006 as the Michigan Museum Pass, the program initially included about 30 attractions in six metro Detroit counties.

"We were the furthest west attraction they had," said Dana DeBenham of the Howell Conference and Nature Center, a participant since the beginning.

The program has been now expanded to libraries in all 83 counties and includes attrac-

tions in the Upper Peninsula as well as Lower Michigan.

The initial program also offered a limited number of paper passes, available only at participating libraries.

Online sign-ups make the program more cost-effective and expand its reach, Flury said.

Passes are available for those with a valid library card.

Other popular participating sites include the Detroit Institute of Arts and Michigan Historical Museum.

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Group of volunteers makes a difference around the world

By Jay Young
Correspondent

For the past five years, a contingent of residents from Canton, Westland and other western Wayne County communities has journeyed to Mount Joy, Pa., to join other volunteers from around the country at a large distribution center operated by Global Aid Network, the humanitarian arm of Campus Crusade.

Seven area residents who made a recent trip include Jay and Linnea Young of Canton, Orville and Pat Butzin of Canton and Dennis and Della Danielson and Ruth Wenzel of Westland.

Founded in 2003 as an outgrowth of Operation Care Lift (another arm of CRU), the organization offers a holistic approach to meeting the needs of displaced and disadvantaged peoples throughout the world through several avenues, including food, seed/harvest, education, water, sanitation and hygiene and relief pro-



More than 100,000 volunteers gather twice a year to sort, stuff, count, package, sew, cut, measure and otherwise perform the time-consuming tasks necessary to get the various supplies ready for shipment.

grams.

According to the latest statistics from the United Nations, the number of displaced persons today stands at more than 43 million, the highest number since the mid-1990s. Of that number, 27 million have fled their home countries due to sectarian conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Of

the total number of refugees, 41 percent are children. Women account for about half of all refugees, most seeking refuge in developing countries which can least afford to care for their needs.

It is within that context that GAIN purchased a large, former fish hatchery in the rolling, rich farm lands of central Pennsylvania and transformed it into a modern distribution facility, complete with a large meeting room, called the Gospel Hall, fully-equipped kitchen and administrative offices amid 70,000 square feet of warehousing space.

Since its founding in 2003, \$226 million in aid consisting of thousands of packets of seeds, bales of clothing, bags of beans and rice, medical and hygienic supplies, blankets, quilts and water filtration and irrigation systems have been shipped around the world.

Much of the work has been accomplished through the efforts of

more than 100,000 volunteers, who have gathered twice a year in June and October to sort, stuff, count, package, sew, cut, measure and otherwise perform the time-consuming tasks necessary to get the various supplies ready for shipment.

"We couldn't afford to ship nearly the amount of aid around the world we do without the help of these volunteers," said Phil Liller, director of the GAIN Logistics Center. "We purchase some aid and stockpile donations for months prior to our two work weeks to provide the items to keep our hundreds of volunteers busy. Local residents also come in throughout the year to sew, quilt or string gospel beads and process clothing, among other things."

In addition to gathering and shipping aid around the world, GAIN supports trips to a number of third world countries, where volunteers conduct vision screenings and construct eye glasses; distribute water filtration and irrigation

systems; provide natural disaster aid; and host dental or medical clinics organized by in-country CRU staff.

GAIN president Al Goff challenged this year's volunteers to "go, give, volunteer and pray." He told the story of an encounter with a Syrian refugee during a recent trip to a Middle Eastern refugee center to illustrate the harsh realities of life for thousands of displaced persons.

While at the camp, he met a young woman who was forced to marry at age 13, had three children and was then abandoned by her husband by age 19. She was subsequently imprisoned for two years for her conversion to Christianity before being released and escaping to a refugee center in a neighboring country, where she was helping other refugees cope with being separated from their homes and families.

"Action Speaks" was the theme of this year's work week, emblazoned on T-shirts worn by volunteers, and was a moti-

vating factor for the Michigan volunteers in attendance. "I love to give of my time and effort," Pat Butzin said, "because I truly believe my actions to help others, counts."

"I shared my knowledge of quilting with two teenagers this year as we worked on dozens of quilts destined for needy families and children. Some people don't realize how good it makes you feel to help others," she added.

Anyone interested in going, volunteering, giving or praying for the work of GAIN is encouraged to go to its website at www.gainusa.org. The reward is knowing your efforts are helping to alleviate the suffering of others in need throughout the world.

Jay Young of Canton has been part of a group of volunteers to the GAIN Logistics Center for the past five years. He is the former director of community relations for the Livonia Public Schools. Retired in 2007, he and his wife Linnea like to travel and do volunteer work.

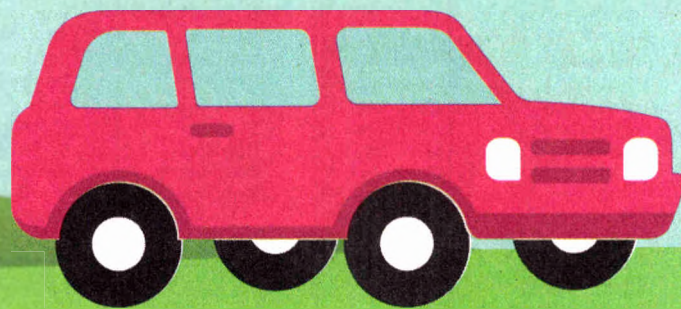
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Economist predicts global expansion

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Businesses need to get past a "recession hangover" to take advantage of a global economic expansion that's coming next year and in 2017.

That was the advice last week from Alan Beaulieu, an economist and president of the Institute for Trend Research, when he spoke to business leaders during Vistage Michigan's economic summit in Plymouth Township.

The day-long June 17 conference at the Inn at St. John's brought together more than 200 top leaders, such as chief executive officers, owners and presidents, from small- to medium-sized businesses around the state. Vistage Michigan is an executive coaching company and part of a network of similar organizations around the country and the world.

Jane Owen, president of Vistage Michigan, said Beaulieu made three major points in his keynote speech:

» Both the U.S. and global economies will be expanding in 2016 and 2017.

» The result of the U.S. presidential election

next year won't alter the course of the coming expansion.

» Companies need to overcome a "recession hangover" from the recent downturn and "act boldly."

The last point especially resonated with Owen.

"That was a great takeaway for me. ... Not that I feel I'm holding back because of the recession, but he used the words 'act boldly,'" Owen said by phone during a break in the conference. "With the economy growing in the next couple of years, that's really important to keep that in the forefront of my mind."

ITR is an economic research and forecasting firm that claims an accuracy rate in its industry and market forecasts of close to 95 percent. Vistage Michigan often taps Beaulieu - or his brother Brian Beaulieu, ITR's CEO and also an economist - to speak at its every-other-year economic summit.

"We hire really great speakers, so our members can learn and grow," Owen said.

Uplifting message
Theodore Barker, president of Shaw Con-

struction & Management Co. in Livonia, said he liked Beaulieu's positive message.

"For the better part of the last six years, all we have heard is the constant drum of negativity about our economy, specifically here in southeastern Michigan," Barker wrote in an email. "It was refreshing and quite motivating to take away so many positives from a leading economist, particularly when he spoke about the upward turn for our great state."

Barbara Roden, director of client relations at Senior Helpers, which provides a range of services to senior citizens, said Beaulieu's talk gave her confidence to keep investing in her business and her employees.

"He discussed the increased demand for services and that home care as well as other senior-related services is a great industry for the future," Roden said. "After hearing this Vistage speaker, I plan to expand our services to additional cities in Michigan."

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Jane Owen, president of Vistage Michigan, with economist Alan Beaulieu of the Institute for Trend Research. Beaulieu spoke June 17 at a Vistage Michigan economic summit at the Inn at St. John's.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Planter pilferer sought in Plymouth

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a woman who walked out of a downtown Plymouth boutique with a \$90 planter of dried flowers.

The shoplifting at Home Sweet Home on Ann Arbor Trail occurred the afternoon of June 5, said Lt. Jamie Grabowski of the Plymouth Police Department.

The woman was wearing a light-colored top and dark shorts that ended above the knee.

She was carrying a reddish-colored, triangular-shaped purse and was in the store alone.

Grabowski said there were no witnesses to the theft, but that security video was reviewed once it was discovered the planter was missing and the theft was captured on the video.

Anyone with information about the woman or the incident can call Grabowski at 734-453-1234, ext. 272, and reference case number 15-2684.

Drunken driving

A 23-year-old man was arrested on a drunken driving charge in Plymouth Township early Saturday after a patroling officer noticed what appeared to be new accident damage on the man's car.

A police report said the officer was on Ann Arbor Road, near Main

Street, shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday when he saw fresh accident damage toward the rear of a Honda Accord. The Accord's driver pulled into the parking lot of the Plymouth Roc bar and restaurant, the report said, and the officer pulled into a lot across the street to watch.

The Accord's driver, police said, got out and inspected the accident damage and the officer approached. The driver, police said, told the officer the Accord had been struck in the parking lot of a bar in Livonia and he thought the responsible driver had gone to the Roc.

But the man smelled of alcohol, police said, and said he'd had four beers. He performed poorly on field sobriety tests, police said, and about a half-hour later registered a 0.17 and then a 0.18 on two blood-

alcohol tests.

No permit

A 24-year-old man was ticketed for soliciting without a township permit June 18 after a complaint that a door-to-door salesman was being overly aggressive.

Police were dispatched to the area of Ann Arbor Road and Ridge shortly before 8 p.m. and found a salesman on North Quail Run Drive, a police report said.

The man denied he was being too aggressive in trying to sell apparel, police said, but said he had been wishing people blessings.

But he also admitted he didn't have a township permit, police said, and was ticketed for the ordinance violation.

- By Matt Jachman



PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

A still from a security video at Home Sweet Home in Plymouth captured this image of a woman who walked out of the store June 5 with a planter of dried flowers.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross asks eligible donors to donate blood in the weeks surrounding Independence Day to help ensure a sufficient blood supply now and throughout the summer.

Blood donations often decline during the summer months, but every day this summer is a chance to give hope to patients and their families by donating blood.

To encourage more people to donate around Independence Day, all those who come out to

donate blood July 2-6 will receive a Red Cross embroidered hat, while supplies last.

Eligible donors are encouraged to choose their day to make a difference. To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Upcoming blood drives include:

Canton
» July 1: 1-6:45 p.m.,
bd's Mongolian Grill,
42089 Ford Road

» July 3: 1-6:45 p.m.,
Resurrection Catholic
Church, 48755 Warren
Northville

» July 6: 1-6:45 p.m.,
Glens of Northville, 20969
Woodland Glen Drive

» July 13: Noon to 5:45
p.m., Northville Fire
Department, 45745 W. Six
Mile

Plymouth
» July 6: Noon to 5:45
p.m., Plymouth Commu-
nity Arts Council, 774 N.
Sheldon Road

» July 6: 1-6:45 p.m.,
Church of Christ Ply-
mouth, 9301 Sheldon

**PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 30, 2015, at 6 o'clock p.m., at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, the Board of Education of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2015-2016 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2015-2016 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2015-2016 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Katherine Borninski
Secretary, Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Published: June 25, 2015 LO-000247809 3x3

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
CLOSE OF REGISTRATION
PRIMARY ELECTION, AUGUST 4, 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that registration of qualified electors for the August Primary to be held on TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015, will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk during regular office hours. Close of registration is Monday, July 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to vote in the Primary Election. Any interested person may also register at any Secretary of State Branch Office during their regular business hours. Qualifications of an elector (registered voter) are as follows:

1. Citizen of the United States
2. At least 18 years of age
3. Resident of the State of Michigan for thirty (30) days
4. Resident of the City of Plymouth on or before thirty (30) days prior to the day of the election

Qualified electors who are registered now with the City Clerk, will not have to register or re-register. If you have a physical problem and cannot come into City Hall, please call and make other arrangements. The telephone number is 734-453-1234 x225 or 234. Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Published: June 25, 2015 LO-000245343 3x3.5

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|---|---|

www.buddyspizza.com

14-year-old Livonia boy launches his own Web design business

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Grant Sobczak has no doubts about his goals: He wants to run a successful \$100 billion company.

He thinks he's got a pretty good start, becoming the youngest member of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce with his business, Modern Mind Technology.

The 14-year-old, who will be a freshman at Churchill High School this fall, launched his company earlier this year, offering services such as social media management, Web design and app design.

Designing products and websites that are appealing to look at and do the job is a strength of his company, Sobczak said, something he doesn't see with smaller companies like his.

"We want to change that and make something that's beautiful and func-



Sobczak

tional," he said. "I think that's what's going to make us successful against our competitors."

His company, found at modernmindtechnology.com, has partnered with several local groups, including Livonia Public Schools and the Livonia Rotary Club, which will induct Sobczak as its youngest youngest member Thursday.

Sobczak's mother, Casandra Sobczak, said she's tried to support him in all his ventures, even signing the paperwork for him when he created his business because,

legally, he was too young to do it himself. She said she's gone with the flow and it has seemed to work out well for her son.

"When he would say these things, I would say, 'I don't know, Grant,'" she said. "He's always been one to have really big ideas. It seems like every time he does something, it ends up happening."

Much attention

His work has even gotten the attention of several Livonia Chamber of Commerce members, president Dan West said. Sobczak came and discussed his business with several chamber members last month and came across as a professional who knows what he's doing, he said.

"Grant came in and really impressed the board with his wit and his intelligence," West said. "You could really tell he was focused on making this work."

It began during his time as a member of the Emerson Middle School Technology Collaboration, a group of friends who did technology work at the school.

"It was like a little group of friends who helped with school and improved it with websites and if a teacher needed some kind of survey done, we'd conduct that," he said. "Then around October, we decided to start this new project."

That project, creating online data binders for the Franklin Covey "The Leader in Me" program, came as a necessity, Sobczak said, as the paper folders would get to be too much.

"That was really a problem, because they were falling apart and they were heavy," he said. "The idea was to take everything in that binder and put it online."

They then began marketing the idea across Emerson, taking some

time to find the best way to spread the idea to the group's fellow students. It's grown so much, Franklin Covey became interested and contacted the students. Sobczak and other students continue to remain in touch to find a way to implement its technology in their platforms.

"That's when I realized this product will be worth something," he said. "We're still waiting to see the details."

And he and his friends are looking toward the future in product development. He said they're currently working on a project he was not willing to share the details on, but promises it will impress.

"I'm thinking it's going to be the next big thing," he said.

Ann Owen, principal of Emerson Middle School, is the one who got Grant involved with the Rotary by having him do some Web work for the club. She said he

is far more tech-savvy than the average eighth-grader.

She said she is impressed with his entrepreneurial skills, saying he researched how to start his own business, including how to form a limited liability corporation.

He recently spoke at a symposium at Schoolcraft College in front of 400 educators and got a standing ovation, she said.

Owen said Grant, who hopes to be the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates, is one of those few exceptional students an educator runs across in her career.

"I hope his business plan includes me in his retirement sharing," she said.

Staff Writer Karen Smith contributed to this report.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728

Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LANDING SAFELY

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1

Location: General Purpose Room, Yankee Air Museum, 47884 D. St., Belleville

Details: Randy Hotton will talk about his adventures and misadventures while learning how to land on an aircraft carrier

Cost: Free

Contact: 734-483-4030

MEETINGS CHANGED

Time/Date: 3-5 p.m. second Sunday of each month, beginning July

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth

Details: PFLAG P-C has changed its meeting days. PFLAG P-C is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

PASSION FOR SHERLOCK

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 25

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton



Randy Hotton will talk about his adventures and misadventures while learning how to land on an aircraft carrier at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at the Yankee Air Museum.

Details: Scott Monty, editor-in-chief, founder and co-host of I Hear Sherlock Everywhere, a website devoted to news and information about Sherlock Holmes in popular culture, will share his passion for Sherlock Holmes as a character and discuss the evolution of this beloved character in popular culture.

Contact: The library at 734-397-0999

BIG BAND

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Saturday, June 27

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Big Band @ The Elks will feature The Dr. Pocket Big Band.

Cost: \$10 donation, includes food

Contact: 734-453-1780 or go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com

CARS & CAFFEINE

Time/Date: 8-10 a.m. each Sunday

Location: Parking lot of Biggby Coffee, 44601 Five Mile, Plymouth

Details: Car buffs and enthusiasts are invited to bring themselves, their families and their classic or hot-rod vehicles for a weekly gathering for talk and coffee

Cost: Free

JOINT REPLACEMENT SEMINARS

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 25

Location: Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy-Livonia, 36154 Five Mile

Details: The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Livonia offers

free monthly educational seminars. Expert staff will answer questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures and available implant options.

Contact: To register, 734-655-2345.

FLOWERS ARE FOREVER

Time/Date: Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 30

Location: Plymouth

Details: The Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Trailwood Garden Club, will host the annual Flowers are Forever Garden Walk. Several gardens are featured. Complimentary refreshments are offered. Perennial sale and master gardeners are available.

Tickets: \$8 pre-sale; \$10 day of walk; children 12 and younger tickets are half off; babes in arms are free. Strollers are not permitted. Tickets available from Garden Club members, Backyard Birds on Main Street, Saxton's Power Equipment Center on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth and Sideways on Forest.

Contact: Kate Kerr at 734-455-6867

BLUES AND JAZZ @ ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second

Tuesday of each month is Blues @ The Elks; 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month is Jazz @ The Elks

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Elks offer live music and dancing

Cost: \$5 donation at door for blues nights; \$10 donation for jazz nights

Contact: 734-453-1780 or go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com

CANTON MARKET

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday (except July 5)

Location: Preservation Park on Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Canton Farmers Market now open

PLYMOUTH MARKET

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Saturday through Oct. 30 (except July 12 and Sept. 6)

Location: In and around The Gathering, downtown Plymouth

Details: Plymouth Farmers Market open

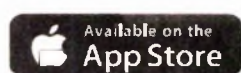


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Garden City DDA goes 'nuts' over Lucky Squirrel event

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

The Garden City Downtown Development Authority is going "nuts" over its Lucky Squirrel Festival this Saturday.

There was such a huge response to the Lucky Squirrel Festival last year, the group just had to repeat it – not once, not twice, but three times this year.

"That's right, our Lucky Squirrel event will take place once a month in June, July and August," DDA executive director Kim Dold said.

The event is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 22, in the Farmers Market lot located on Middlebelt, north of Ford.

The Lucky Squirrel Festival is geared to the hoarders, crafters and the treasure seekers.

"There are more than 80 vendors registered,

with more than 100 spaces rented," Dold said. "We have arts, crafts, home business products and 'stuff I've got to sell.' We'll also have a sprinkling of third-party sales, such as Pampered Chef, Origami Owl and Younique."

Local crafters will provide a selection of crocheted items, beaded jewelry, outdoor yard art and wind chimes, to name a few.

Some nonprofit organizations also will be in attendance. "The Friends of the Library is offering used books, with the Garden City Community Resource Center providing information about health care and food services," Dold said.

Different this year is that the crafters, organizations and flea marketers won't be segregated into different areas of the parking lot.

"They will have to

walk past each other," she said, adding that it's "a way to generate interest among the whole pool of vendors."

Also taking place during the festival is a Ford Motor Co. Drive 4UR Community fundraising event to benefit the Garden City Rotary. North Brothers Ford is teaming up with Rotary Club to host the event.

The public will have the opportunity to raise money by test driving new Ford vehicles. For every person who test drives a Ford that day, Ford Motor Co. and North Brothers Ford will make a \$25 donation to the Rotary Club. The limit is one donation per household.

For questions, or more information, contact North Brothers Ford at 855-739-2023.

Go to the Garden City DDA website at www.downtowngardencity.com.



The Lucky Squirrel Festival is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 22, in the Farmers Market lot located on Middlebelt, north of Ford.

Travel insurance: Assess your risk and shop around for best rate

I was talking to a client who is in the process of planning a trip of a lifetime. He's going on a cruise and taking all his children, their spouses and grandchildren. In all, there are more than 20 people going.

After discussing whether he can afford the trip – which he can – the question came up whether he should buy travel insurance. His travel agent recommended it, but he balked because of the cost (approximately 10 percent of the trip total).

I am a believer that



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

insurance, whether life insurance, disability insurance or travel insurance, is a means of covering risk. The question is if the event you are insuring happens, do you have the resources to protect yourself or would the loss cause a financial hardship. If the loss would not cause any financial hardship, then insurance is not needed.

On the other hand, if the loss has a financial impact, insurance is something to consider.

For those who consider travel insurance, the first thing to understand is not all travel insurance is the same. There are a variety of different policies that cover different risks.

For example, you could buy a policy that provides medical benefits in cases of emergency, while other policies will provide reimbursement if your luggage is lost. The most popular type is one that provides

protection if for some reason you need to cancel your trip.

Before buying travel insurance, determine what you are insuring and if you already have certain types of coverage. For example, with lost baggage there is some coverage through the airline.

In addition, many charge card companies provide this coverage automatically if you use their card. Prior to buying any type of travel insurance, it is important to see if you're already covered.

When most people buy travel insurance, they go through a travel agent. That route is easier, but generally more expensive. I recommend shopping around. Two websites that can provide competitive bids are www.insuremytrip.com and www.squaremouth.com.

When receiving a competitive bid, it's not the cheapest company that you should automatically go with, but one that honors claims and provides the coverage needed. Spend time researching the

company and the terms of coverage.

After discussing travel insurance with my client, he decided to purchase it and he did shop around. He was able to reduce his cost by 40 percent.

The money he saved looks better in his pocket than in anyone else's.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

NOVI Grand Opening Celebration

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, July 8th • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

39500 High Pointe Blvd., Suite 200 • Novi, MI 48375
(Just north of 8 Mile Road at the corner of Haggerty & High Pointe Blvd.)

- Refreshments
- Educational Videos
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Kids' Corner

- Kids' Craft
- Free Book: *The Berenstain Bears – Dollar\$ and Sen\$e*

RSVP by July 1st and attend the Open House to have a chance to win an iPad Mini!*

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Prizes!*

- 2 Detroit Tiger game tickets and a \$50 gift card
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN NOVI

Tuesday, July 14th: BOSS Seminar #1 - Grow Your Business Through Leadership
7:30 – 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast & Presentation
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Lunch & Presentation
Free Book: *Launching A Leadership Revolution* by Orrin Woodward

Wednesday, July 22nd: No Pension? No Social Security? No Problem!
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - Dinner & Presentation

Wednesday, July 29th: Low Rates? Other Options!
7:45 – 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast & Presentation

RSVP: Call 800.287.0046, x 1009

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TOM BEAUDOIN

Canton sisters Kyra and Lily Lowhorn enjoy the breeze as they ride on one of the many rides.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Polynesian dancers from the Triple Threat Dance Co. of Plymouth perform at Liberty Fest.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Anna Ballet and Dance Co. from Canton performs at the International Festival.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Shuwei Wang of Ann Arbor enjoys a ride on a motorcycle ride Saturday during the annual Liberty Fest.



JULIE BROWN

Fireworks wrapped up Liberty Fest, drawing an appreciative crowd.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Cynthia Haddad and son Giovanni build sand art Saturday afternoon.

LIBERTY

Continued from Page A1

tage Park Drive and Canton Center and fell backward. She was taken to a medical facility for treatment.

The incident happened Saturday afternoon. Otherwise, Canton firefighter paramedics handed out ice bags and bandages for a few festival-goers who had minor scrapes and bruises.

"We helped a few people sit down after they experienced dizziness (from carnival rides)," Stoecklein said.

Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz said the 24th Liberty Fest was a success, even though the festival grounds became saturated by heavy rains.

"It went very, very well," she said.

Bilbrey-Honsowetz refuted rumors that some rides shut down because they were tilting on rain-soaked ground.

Greg Hohenberger, Canton Leisure Services operations manager, said some rides were closed to patrons due to generator problems and, in the case of the Megashot, an issue with computerized controls that couldn't be repaired on-site.

The minor snags didn't appear to deter festival-goers such as Courtney and Andrew Krupsky of Canton, who are big Liberty Fest fans.

"We've been here every day now," said Andrew Krupsky, holding son Jack, 2, and dodging Saturday morning's rain at the Kids Without Cancer tent in Heritage Park. "We came Thursday and it rained a little bit."

Courtney added, "It's still fun," noting Friday's

picture-perfect weather.

They also saw the Liberty Run runners Saturday morning as they enjoyed their first Liberty Fest since moving to Canton from North Carolina in 2011.

"We thought Jack was old enough to come this year," Courtney Krupsky said, adding Jack liked the kiddie rides while the family also enjoyed Thursday's "dueling pianos."

The Kids Without Cancer tent in Heritage Park was manned by Michael Conklin of Plymouth Township, president of the Michigan State University chapter, and Jason Bohl of Canton, its treasurer. They were getting the word out on their 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, fundraiser at Elizabeth Park in Trenton.

"It raises money for pediatric cancer research," said Bohl, 21, an

MSU senior in finance. Kids Without Cancer, founded in 1981, is online at www.kidswithoutcancer.org and also on Facebook.

"I saw there was a U-M chapter. I asked if I could start a Michigan State chapter," said Conklin, 20, a senior bio-systems engineering major. "A lot of people are interested in it."

As they spoke, visitors stopped by to adopt rubber ducks for \$5 to be raced Sept. 20. "We're going to festivals this summer" to spread the word, Conklin said.

Information on the Motor City Quack Attack on Sept. 20 with its "Adopt a Duck - Save a Child" theme is available at www.duckrace.com/detroit.

Liberty Fest also included a car show, entertainment stages and carnival rides. Saturday night fireworks, which



TOM BEAUDOIN

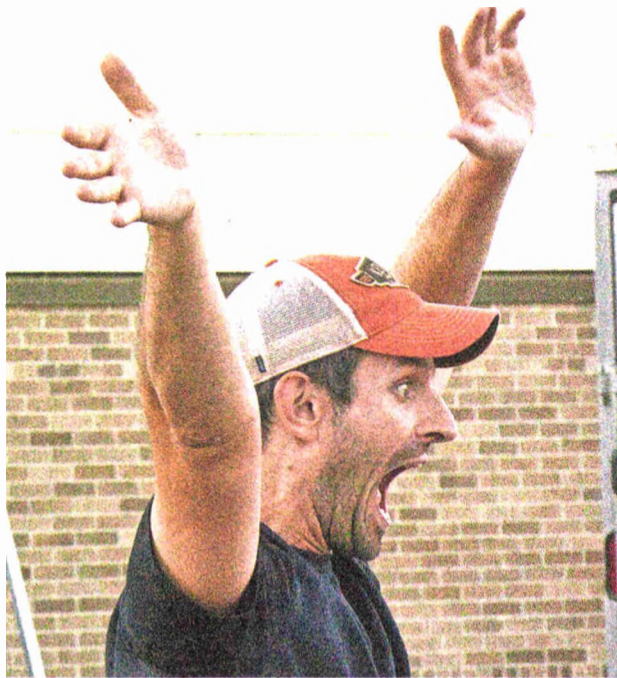
Jillian Neal and dad Rick of Canton enjoy a leisurely canoe ride in Heritage Park.

went off without a hitch, wrapped up the event.

The arts were well-represented at Liberty Fest, both a variety of international-themed performers and several organizations in tents. Laura Kitzman of Canton was there with the Village Theater at Cherry Hill-based Spotlight Players.

Kitzman said Liberty Fest offered good exposure for Spotlight Players. "It's a wonderful way to reach the community, wonderful," she said. "We've had a presence here for years," she added.

dclm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Monson tries to fire up daughter Isabella, who was riding a kiddie ride but, according to dad, was kind of grumpy.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Four-year-old Hailey Kroeger hugs her prize.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Five-year-old Noah Bolender makes it through the fun house barrel with help from mom Renea Bolender. They are from Livonia.

Ready, set, Spree: Annual event opens



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Madison VanAmburg jumps for joy, perhaps because it is the first day of Spree.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Two-and-a-half-year-old Julian Ceane feeds hungry goats with his mom Lauren Ceane. They are from Livonia. When asked where they were from, the goats declined to comment.

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The food. The rides. The fun. Livonia Spree has returned to Ford Field and will continue through Sunday. Crowds flocked Tuesday to the grounds near Eddie Edgar Arena for the opening day of Spree 65.

The opening day saw many more people than last year's opening day, which was hampered by rain and clouds. Two of those people enjoying the sunshine Tuesday were Nate and Christie Grubaugh, who brought their three children to Spree for the first time. It's an appealing place

for them because of the atmosphere, Christie Grubaugh said. "It's family-friendly," she said as she waited for her daughter to come off the Ferris wheel. "It's a great family activity in the summer." Families can stop by

any of the new rides featured this year, including Beach Shack and The Mega Drop, which is returning after a one-year hiatus. All-day wristbands for rides are \$25 at Ford Field. Music will be in full force again this year, with

a national act taking the stage Saturday night. Rare Earth, the Motown group from the 1970s, will perform on the south stage beginning at about 9 p.m. Saturday. The festivities wrap up Sunday night with the annual fireworks show,

which will take place at approximately 10:20 p.m. For more information, including a schedule of events, go to the event's website at livoniaspree.com. dveselenak@hometownlife.com 734-678-6728

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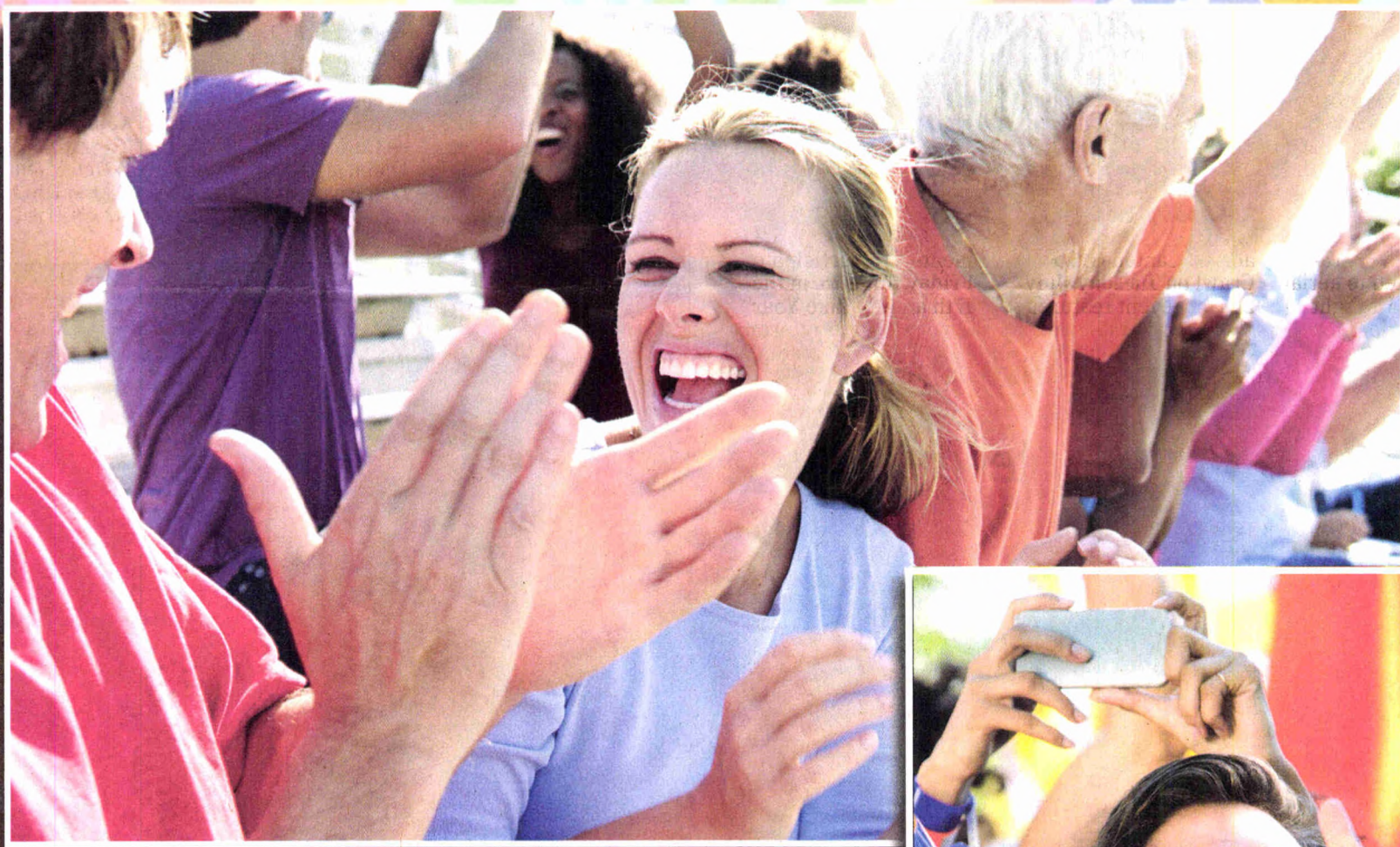
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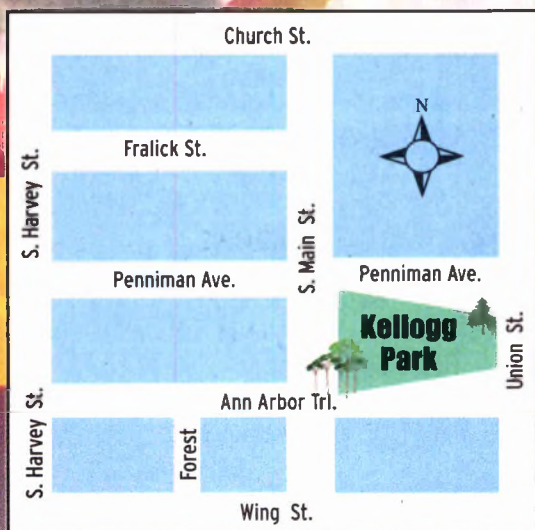
The Michigan Philharmonic conducted by Nan Washburn
7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27 in Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

This fun, family-friendly concert showcases music from the '60s and '70s.



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Agreement for Eckles industrial site set for approval

Development could bring 1,000 jobs

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Another vacant lot in Livonia could be primed for major industrial development and adding as many as 1,000 new jobs.

A development agreement between the city and Canton-based Ashley Capital was reviewed by the city council during its study session June 15 for the property at 13000 Eckles near I-96 and I-275, the site of the former Spring and Bumper Plant. In the development agreement, Ashley Capital states it plans between \$20 million and \$30 million in development on the 116-acre site beginning as early as next year. A goal of 1,000 jobs at the site is the target the company hopes to reach.

"We've been working on this project for a number of months," said Michael Balow, a senior manager at Ashley Cap-



DAVID VESELENAK
A sign on the fence of the 116-acre property faces Amrhein in Livonia. The property, which was the site of the old Spring and Bumper plant on Eckles, is slated for multimillion-dollar development. It was sold from the RACER Trust to Canton-based Ashley Capital last year.

ital. "Our intention, ultimately, is to develop something similar to what you are familiar with elsewhere in Livonia."

The other project in Livonia Balow was speaking of is the two buildings in the Millennium Park development, as well as the Plymouth Road Technical Center on

Plymouth Road. The company also owns an office building near Laurel Park Place.

The property has been listed for sale by the Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response, or RACER, Trust, for some time. It was announced back in December that Ashley Capital intended on pur-

chasing the land and eventually developing it.

"A site of this size can support a variety of different configurations," Balow said. "One that we've been toying with is two buildings that might give you 1.5 million square feet of size on the roof. You could chop that up any number of different ways."

Balow said a 1-million-square-foot warehouse facility could be constructed first, but the company is looking at several options for the site and could change depending on needs.

"As the market recovers, we think it will make a fine site for a multiple building industrial park that will attract one or more manufacturing or warehouse users," he said.

City excited for development

The site was previously owned by GM, where bumpers, leaf springs, coil springs and struts were manufactured. GM ceased opera-

tions there in 1998 and sold the coil spring business to an independent company. The buildings on the site were removed in 2001.

The city has included language requesting the site from being utilized as a junkyard or recycling center, as well as incinerators, auto repair services or vehicle impound lots.

Mark Taormina, the city's planning director, said Livonia has seen an increase of occupancy in certain industrial areas of the city. He said it's becoming more difficult to find buildings of a certain size for industrial or warehouse usage.

"We're looking forward to working with Ashley on this project in the future," Taormina said. "We hope to attract Class-A industrial users to the property."

The property is the second in Livonia in as many years to find a developer through the RACER Trust. Livonia-based Schostak Brothers & Co. Inc., purchased the

former GM Livonia Powertrain Plant off Plymouth Road in early 2014. Schostak Brothers indicated they planned to find multiple tenants to fill facilities on the site there.

The agreement was placed on the city council's consent agenda for its July 8 regular meeting, meaning it is expected to be approved.

Maureen Miller Brosnan expressed happiness at seeing the development agreement at the city council meeting, saying working with Ashley Capital to develop the land was a big step forward for increasing the city's business sector.

"I was excited tonight when I saw Ashley Capital on our agenda for this project," she said. "The fact that we're seeing the industrial section of our community grow and develop and be filled is exciting."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

FAA approval

McMahon Helicopter Services of Canton was approved June 17 by the FAA to operate Unmanned Aircraft Systems for commercial use. This exemption will allow McMahon to utilize unmanned aircraft for clients requiring low-level aerial work in numerous industries across the United States.

UAS operations will complement McMahon's existing helicopter charter business and significantly reduce the cost of certain aerial applications for customers. Currently, UAS operations are limited to aerial imaging and ultralight equipment payloads.

As the UAS technology and payload capac-

ities improve, McMahon plans to add additional unmanned aircraft to the fleet and expand into applications other than aerial imaging. For now, McMahon is one of few companies in the Midwest to be authorized for UAS operations.

Founded in 1980, McMahon Helicopter Services, Inc. is a licensed air carrier that provides numerous industries with a wide range of helicopter related services.

Reserve Grub Crawl

Reservations are now being taken for the 14th annual Canton Grub Crawl on Tuesday, July 21. This event features many local restaurants that offer free sample portions of their special-

ty foods throughout the evening. Drink specials are also available for purchase throughout the evening. Each attendee is given a starting point at one of the participating restaurants. You arrive there and park and then move to another restaurant.

Tickets (T-shirts) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants. Call the chamber office at 734-453-4040 for more information.

Dogs welcome

Village Green Apartments will participate Friday, June 26, in the 17th annual Take Your Dog to Work Day, established by Pet Sitters International.

The effort at Village Green Apartments, with a complex in Canton, will include allowing employees to bring their dogs to work for a \$30 fee.

TYDTW Day was established by Pet Sitters International in 1999. This annual event urges businesses around the globe to experience the joys of dogs in the workplace for just one day to celebrate the great companions dogs make and to promote adoptions from local shelters, rescue groups and humane societies.

Village Green has

participated in event for the past 15 years. In 2013, Village Green employees and other auction participants raised more than \$8,012 and, in 2014, more than \$14,580. This year, Village Green plans to exceed that amount.

Items donated by various sponsors will be used in a raffle or the Online APB Auction (open to the public). Proceeds raised from all of the company's regions — Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Indiana, Minnesota and St. Louis — will benefit local ani-

mal organizations or shelters. Go to <https://dogday.villagegreen.com> for more information and the auction.

Canton ribbon-cuttings

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosted ribbon-cuttings for these new business recently: Veneto Shoes at 6124 Canton Center Road; Goldfish Swim School of Canton, 225 Sheldon Road; A+ Dentistry, 47166 Michigan Avenue; Tilted Kilt of Canton, 42059 Ford Rd.

Test drive this new technology

Modern technological advancements are improving the quality of life by saving time and adding convenience to life. While they are not as impactful as the wheel, indoor plumbing or electricity, who can argue with the ingenuity and importance of the DVR and Wi-Fi?

This year's tech advancements won't rival the aforementioned inventions, but they are certainly notable for tech geeks and those looking for a bit more ease in their hectic lifestyle.

Local energy provider DTE is at the forefront of one advancement with its app DTE Insights. The application links your Apple or Android smart phone with your advanced metering device to provide insights about your energy usage. For example, a DTE advanced metering customer can download the app and use it to see how every appliance from a refrigerator to a phone charger impacts your energy usage and costs.

The application will chart trends for your household over time to help you understand usage trends and peaks. Historical data can help you benchmark and make changes to save money and energy.

The application can also integrate with an energy bridge that DTE will provide at no cost. With the bridge, your phone will display instant energy statistics that can help consumers take action immediately. Other uses for the application are in testing and, if my sources are correct, will be an absolute game-changer for those who want to cut energy usage and costs.



Comcast has also recently rolled out a pair of useful technologies for those who love entertainment. The first is a voice-activated remote, which is free to subscribers who have an X1 set top box — which is the most advanced cable box in the industry. I tested the remote at a recent media event and fell in love with the ease of use. Customers can use the remote to look up listings, future listings or set recordings on the DVR. They can also search for sporting events, watch archived sporting events like Tigers games from the past week or search for shows with their favorite actors.

The X1 also learns your viewing habits, which makes the voice-activated option even more impressive. With a voice-activated remote, a user can find a program or set up a recording in mere seconds.

The new remote, which is available to customers now, has me reconsidering my entertainment provider. With the X1, customers can also send streaming video to their DVRs so that others can view the media in real-time.

Sounds a bit unnecessary until you think about the practical usages. Pretend you are at your son's or daughter's sporting event or dance recital. Family members from out of town can witness the action in real time if they have X1. Simply record your media and send it to their set top

box using the Comcast app. It's that easy.

Photos and videos can also be sent to the devices and have a 30 GB capacity. With that much storage, your phone will die or fill up before the internal hard drive on the X1.

For those who enjoy spending money on the outside of their home, a new sprinkler management system called Blossom will certainly make watering your lawn and garden easier and faster. Blossom is the sprinkler version of Nest (a smart thermostat) which promises to save you money through water intelligence.

Blossom programs itself with the precise watering schedule for your home (up to 12 zones) and suggests users can use up to 50 percent less water, which has financial and environmental benefits.

It can be controlled via computer or smart phone and syncs with your Wi-Fi (or standard electric outlet that turns power lines into Wi-Fi-capable ones) to understand real-time weather data. If rain is in the forecast, your scheduled watering will be canceled for the day.

Blossom costs \$199 and includes a weather-resistant controller that can be installed inside or outside your home and provides access to the app, which is available for Apple and Android devices.

Check out this new technology and share your experience with me and readers.

Jon Gunnells is a social media professional and freelance writer. He can be reached at Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.

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OUR VIEW

Hiring of political ally casts shadow on Plymouth Township credibility

Some Plymouth Township elected officials have complained they get more than their share of bad press and public criticism. With the recent hiring of Mike Mitchell — a political protege of Supervisor Shannon Price — as parks and grants director, township officials should gird themselves for more public outcry.

The hiring of the biochemist, chemical and paint engineer and co-founder of a bio-research firm, didn't require township board approval. But some board members previously publicly questioned the need to create a parks director position for a township that doesn't have many parks.

Mitchell's educational and professional background don't necessarily jibe with what most assume a parks director does. The hiring has many wondering why a scientist would want a public job that likely offers far less than he can earn in the private sector.

Folks may also remember that when the township board approved the parks position, Price made it clear he wanted a candidate with engineering experience. Indeed, critics point to the logical assumption

that the parks job was created for Price's political ally. It is also interesting that when job openings all over Michigan draw hundreds of candidates, the township interviewed only three, including Mitchell.

It is, however, the close political ties to Price that have piqued the attention of the supervisor's critics and township residents.

Mitchell, who runs the Wayne County Conservative PAC, which contributes to the supervisor's campaign efforts, was Price's legislative director when he served as a Wayne County commissioner. Until he was offered the parks director job, Mitchell served in the same capacity for Joe Barone, who took Price's seat on the county commission. Mitchell is also chairman of the 11th District Republican Congressional Committee.

You can't blame anyone for drawing conclusions from what appears to be a pattern. The unfortunate part of the focus on Plymouth Township's political gamesmanship is that it leaves many taxpayers wondering who is minding the store and doing what is right for the residents and the community.

Based on this pattern, the township's elected officials should not be surprised by the groundswell of criticism, finger-pointing and general assumption that some Plymouth Township officials make highly politicized decisions, including bringing in their personal and political allies.

The issue is not Mitchell nor his ability to do a good job as parks director. The issue is credibility, a very basic tenet of politics and governance. When the public witnesses and decries decisions seemingly based on political partisanship and friendship, credibility has been lost.

Social media right now is full of accusations and questions about this hiring and whether it is a prelude to Price's run for supervisor in 2016. That's a logical question when Mitchell's political association with Price is considered.

Township officials will continue to claim they get far too much bad press and public criticism. Unfortunately, they have only themselves to blame.

LETTERS

Political appointment

Outside forces recruited by Ron Edwards and his "Band of Bullies" continue to converge upon occupied Plymouth Township for power profit and personal gain.

The handwriting was on the wall and it was long predicted that Shannon Price would be appointed township supervisor and a job would be created for Mike Mitchell. A part of me did not want to believe it.

I didn't think they'd be brazen enough to do it. Shannon Price (political consultant and past Wayne County commissioner) just resigned his seat as commissioner and moved into Plymouth only two months prior to being appointed to be the township supervisor. The slide was greased and the job was handed to Price.

Mike Mitchell (assistant to Price when Price was commissioner and current 11th Congressional District chairman) needed a job, too. Price and friends decided to "create" a job for him and last week announced that Mitchell will fill the newly created, just for him, \$60,000 per year, cushy job as the new "parks and grants director." This was clearly a political appointment; there isn't enough work for a full-time parks director. His real job will be township-paid campaign manager for Price's 2016 re-election.

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours using taxpayers' money. This sort of immoral-crony-shady-back room deals are what gives all politicians a bad name. If you're in politics because you can't find a job in the private sector, do us all a favor and stay out of politics.

If they are willing to go to this blatant extent of impropriety in full public view, what are they capable of doing behind closed doors?

Duane Zantop
Plymouth

Reap what you sow

I see where the Republican politicians in Lansing are continuing their assault on the working people of this state. The latest attack occurred when the Senate approved a bill to abolish the prevailing wage law. The PWL assures that workers on public projects receive a livable wage.

The backers of the recently passed bill say it will save government bodies money. These people are very naive or flat-out liars. In my opinion, most fall in the latter category.

The corporations that work on these projects will not drop their bids by one centavo. The difference being that the workers' wallets will be lighter and the company coffers fatter.

Since Gov. Snyder has stated that he wants to keep the PWL on the books (true or not), the rich and powerful honchos are making a back-door run to make sure the bill they paid for is veto-proof. They are hiring circulators to gather signatures in the Republican districts. Once they have a small portion of the total number of our state voters sign, they present it to Lansing and, presto, no veto. The Senate has already made sure its bill is safe from being placed on the ballot by adding a couple of dollars and calling it an appropriation bill.

All this evil coming from those hallowed halls is mainly due to moderates and Democrats deciding to sit out the last election. You reap what you sow.

James Huddleston
Canton

Pack up party puffs

Another Mackinac Policy Conference has come to a conclusion and it is time to pack up the balloons, the party puffs, the togas and cheese curls. For a week we heard talk about Detroit schools, roads, race relations, presidential aspirations or the lack thereof, the Wayne County budget struggle, the future of the automobile industry in Michigan and something called "recalibrating how our government works."

A successful conference or meeting has measurable results that are quantified and given completion time frames along with weekly or monthly updates. Let's hope the Detroit Chamber, the sponsor of the event, comes up with such a plan and then publishes it for the attendees and all of us the "unwashed" who did not attend the Conference. Of course that would be a stretch and it would be more productive and fun to just stop at exit No. 326 and wrestle with the giant clam!

Bill Kalmar
Lake Orion

Practicing love instead of hate



Janice Ford, Kimberly Ford and Kamren Martin listen to words about the killings. Speaking are Sharika Robinson and Anne Marie Graham-Hudak.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some 75 people who represent Canton's diversity are right on as they call for peace and unity in the aftermath of shootings at a church in Charleston, S.C. The crowd gathered for a peace march Monday night in Heritage Park.

GUEST COLUMN

Our very lives depend on addressing racism

We were never meant to survive." That was my first thought when I heard about the attack at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Then I thought about Sept. 16, 1963, when four children — Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley — were killed when a bomb exploded at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

And also July 1, 1974, when Alberta King, the mother of Martin Luther King Jr., was shot as she played the Lord's Prayer on the organ during Sunday morning service at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

And 1996, when Congress held hearings after more than 70 black churches were set on fire across the south.

And Nov. 4, 2008, when The Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield, Mass., was torched with gasoline as a response to the election of President Barack Obama.

That phrase, "We were never

meant to survive," which is part of Audre Lorde's *Litany for Survival*, was the recognition that hate crimes and terrorist attacks have targeted our places of worship since slavery — when black churches were often forbidden or dismantled, sometimes burned — and stretches over generations to the brutal killing of nine people that happened last week.

Although we know that this type of tragic incident has played out over and over again since the founding of this nation, we are angry, we are mournful, but we are dedicated to moving forward.

We know that we will never end the phenomenon of racist violence if we keep waiting until a tragedy occurs to acknowledge and deal with our history of oppression. We know that racism is built into the very fabric of this nation and that does not go away by denying what lies in front of us.

Racism is the birth defect of our nation and we consent to its existence every time we turn a blind eye and remain silent when we hear a racist joke or a comment about "those people" or accept the very stereotypes that seek to separate us rather than bring us together.

We know that even in diverse areas such as Canton, we self-

segregate. Very few of us have close friends of different races and religions who we worship with or invite over for a Sunday evening meal. They say 11 a.m. Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America.

When this tragic incident occurred, we immediately said that the murderer who committed this atrocity needed to be brought to justice and he was arrested within 24 hours.

Although the perpetrator of this crime has been caught, the killer remains at large.

Where is the accountability for those who taught this man to harbor such a serious hatred for black people, for those who made him believe that he needed to take his country back from the black people who were taking it over? Where is the accountability for a nation that has racism in its very DNA?

We know that racism exists; it is an epidemic that plagues our existence. The choice we have to make as a community is whether or not we are willing to take it on in a real way.

I hope we are, because our lives, quite literally, depend on it.

Sommer Foster is legislative director of Equality Michigan, co-founder of The Beloved Community and a Canton resident.

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Petition launched to create 'downtown' area in Livonia

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Heather Douglas has lived in several communities since growing up in town, including Birmingham and Northville. What sets those communities apart from Livonia, she said, is a walkable space with businesses

and other storefronts – a "downtown."

She thinks she may have an answer to Livonia having its own similar space and has gathered support from more than 1,200 people in an online petition.

Douglas launched a petition earlier this month titled, "Create a 'downtown' at Seven Mile

and Farmington" on the website change.org. Nearly 1,300 people had signed it as of Tuesday afternoon.

"I didn't expect to get it to so many people so quickly," Douglas said. "It excited people. That says a lot if you can get people excited about things these days."

Her argument for that

area, as opposed to somewhere else along Plymouth Road or at Five Mile and Farmington, is the belief that the Kmart on the northwest corner will not be a viable business in the coming years and could close, coupling that area with some of the surrounding businesses near the intersection.

If that were to happen, Douglas said, development could take place at that site for a walkable area with shops and other attractions.

"I think it's key for us to focus on recycling space," she said. "This is a huge parking lot with vacant buildings. It makes us think of Farmer Jack at Seven Mile and Middlebelt."

Kmart has closed hundreds of stores since 2003, with stores in Detroit, Rochester and Madison Heights closing within the past few years. There has been no word from the corporation if the Livonia store will close.

Many have also left comments on the petition, with many arguing a concept like this could work in town:

» "I feel that Livonia needs to have a designated downtown area," Judy Shepard wrote.

"This city is really missing out on the charm and revenue that this could provide."

» "I think that this would be a great idea for Livonia because I love going to downtown Plymouth, Northville and Farmington," Tracy Rhodes wrote. "Also because we don't like seeing vacant building and parking lots in our area. It would be a wonderful addition for Livonia!!"

» "I agree Livonia needs a downtown area with more small shops and a farmers market," Maureen Lefebvre wrote. "This would bring my business back to Livonia, currently spend most of my time in Farmington and Plymouth. Both cities have great downtowns."

Douglas said she's heard from a wide range of people, including some who expressed interest in other areas of town for such a project, like along Plymouth Road. She said she'd like to see more involvement in development of not just a single location with a downtown atmosphere, but perhaps other smaller, similar districts that could pop up along Plymouth.

"I'd like to also find an alternative for an area that's vacant down there as well," she said. "We might be able to figure out a way for them to have something, too. I think that's a good way to do things. We would have somewhere for everyone."

More information can be found by searching for "Create a 'downtown' at 7 and Farmington" on change.org.

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Good cause, great fun



JULIE BROWN

Children from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton sing a song they'd learned at Vacation Bible School the previous week for the congregation during worship Sunday, June 21. As part of VBS, a collection for Soles4Souls gained 255 pairs of shoes. The church also raised \$188 to use toward sending those shoes to the distribution center. More than 70 children participated.



DAVID VESELENAK

One Livonia resident has launched a petition drive to have Seven Mile and Farmington looked at as a possible "downtown" in Livonia.

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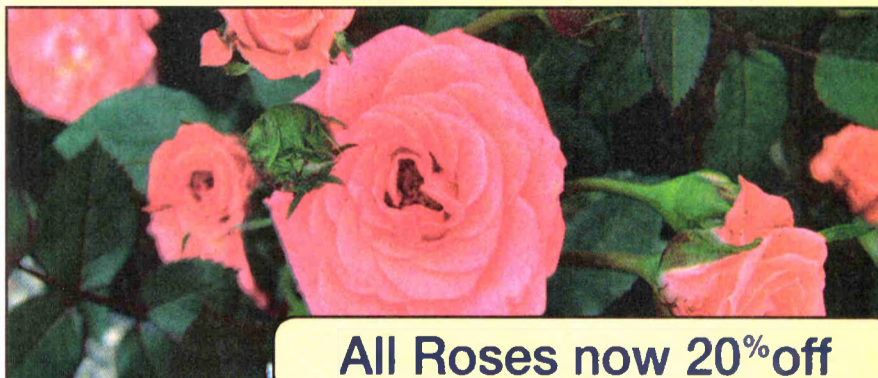
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County funding: Too many appointees, corruption, incompetence at all levels

In the Sunday, June 21, *Canton Observer*, there was a front page story, "County rape cases get suburban money boost," written by Darrell Clem, about an effort by suburban women to help fund the tackling of thousands of rape cases. What is curious, Natalie Mosher, a Democrat, may very well have organized this event in order to get her name and photograph into the news. As a former candidate, she may be planning another run for office, considering the 2016 November election coming up. Although this effort is admirable, it is questionable how much this effort will accomplish.

The story should have been the failure of Democratic-run Wayne County government to place the highest priority on the safety and security of the county's residents, in particular Detroit's women.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has



Michael Hansel
GUEST COLUMNIST

battled the county for sufficient funds to adequately fund not just the testing of the very large number of rape kits, but also to properly fund her office. The untested rape kits were found in a Detroit Police storage facility in 2009, with some rape kits possibly as much as 35 years old. Cuts were made in the prosecutor's office, with more than 40 percent staff attorney positions in the prosecutor's office and 37.5 percent of the attorneys in the warrants division eliminated.

These staff cuts caused the release of numerous suspected murderers and rapists, due to the backlog in warrants, and caused the failure to prosecute criminals who committed these types of crimes

Wayne County's residents need to elect responsible, competent officials, not just someone because of their political affiliation. Elected officials should believe in serving all of the people ...

because of the shortage of prosecuting attorneys.

It is not clear how many criminals have been free to commit additional crimes, but one can draw their own conclusions. Worthy continues to perform as the prosecutor, investigating and prosecuting criminals, with the limited resources available, but not at the level required. The article states \$10 million will be needed to investigate and prosecute the cases, connected to the rape kits.

In the article, Worthy is quoted, stating she has "about 65 cases in some stage of prosecution, with another 600 ready to go." How many of these

cases would already have been prosecuted by this point, had the rape kits been tested promptly? How rapes and murders could have been prevented, had the rape kits been tested promptly and the criminals involved prosecuted? One can conclude these prosecutions are specifically attributable to the testing of the 11,341 rape kits that have been tested to date.

The testing of the 11,341 rape kits, reported to cost \$490 each, comes at a calculated total cost of \$5,557,090. The primary funding of \$4,900,000, for testing the rape kits came from the state, due to the efforts of Republican Sen. Patrick Colbeck of Canton,

shortly after taking office in January 2011.

Instead, Wayne County has been funding a new jail that is projected to come in substantially over budget, projected to cost the county's residents hundreds of millions of dollars. Expenditures were made for the construction of the new jail, instead of funding the prosecutor's office and putting these murderers and rapists in prison.

A great deal of incompetence, mismanagement and self-serving corruption has occurred involving the construction of the jail. Corrupt officials have had to be prosecuted because of these prosecutions and the time involved, the resolution of the jail has had to be delayed.

In the meantime, the county's residents are paying the interest on the jail's construction costs, without the benefit of a new jail. The county will require a substantial

additional amount of funds to complete the jail, at a time when the county is operating with a deficit and is experiencing difficulty paying its bills. An alternative is to sell the unfinished structure at a loss, with the cost of the loss also coming out of county residents' wallets.

Wayne County's residents need to elect responsible, competent officials, not just someone because of their political affiliation. Elected officials should believe in serving all of the people, not just some special interest, and appoint and hire officials who are like-minded. There have been too many political appointees, too much incompetence and self-serving corruption in Wayne County government, being responsible for the dismal financial state the county is in.

Michael Hansel is a Canton Township resident.

Early childhood education – the best investment we can make

Gov. Rick Snyder has become a champion for investing in preschool education, doing far better than all his counterparts across the nation. He is making a wise investment in our children and our collective future. His most recent budget continues this trend.

It makes a lifetime of difference – brain researchers vouch for it, educators swear by it and Nobel Prize-winning economists say it is the best investment we can make as a state and nation. Parents instinctively know it matters.

What is "it?" High-quality, early childhood education.

My teenage daughter grasped the importance when she asked me about the speech I was working on while serving as Michigan's state superintendent more than a decade ago. I rambled on in greater detail than any teenager wanted to hear from her dad about the importance of the first few years of life, how up to 85 percent of the human brain is developed in these critical years. She cut me off with a roll



Tom Watkins
GUEST COLUMNIST

of her eyes: "Duh – well, if that is true, dad, why doesn't school begin until age 5?"

Why, indeed? Out of the mouths of babes ...

Researchers continue to document the value and importance of the early childhood years. The "nerd" governor knows how to dissect data and the data is clear: investment in quality preschool education pays off.

Susanna Loeb, a professor of education at Stanford University, has found that K-12 schools do not create achievement gaps, because by the time children enter kindergarten, dramatic socioeconomic and racial school readiness gaps are deeply entrenched. The gap surfaces as early as 18 months of age and widens throughout early childhood, her research shows.

About 75 percent of America's 17- to 24-year-olds are ineligible for

In an attempt to "catch up," we need to stop the ideologically driven debates and have a stronger push to invest in education from the cradle to the grave. Looking at the research, data, return on our investment and a Chinese long view of the world, we would be wise to continue to invest in the earliest years.

military service due to a lack of quality education, health problems or criminal history, according to the report "Mission: Readiness – Military Leaders for Kids" (missionreadiness.org).

Retired Gen. Hugh Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in releasing the report said, "We need to ensure all young Americans get the right start in life." Investing in the early years will help remedy the problem.

James J. Heckman, a professor of economics at the University of Chicago specializing in the economics of early childhood, won a Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking work (www.heckman

equation.org). Heckman shows from an economic perspective that investing in the early years is a solid investment for all of society. "Every child needs effective early childhood development to be successful, but disadvantaged children are least likely to get it. We all suffer as a consequence," he said.

The dropout problem facing Michigan and America does not spring from the rebellious teen years. It begins early on, when we do not provide the foundation on which all children can succeed.

As president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County Florida (1996-2001), a private business organi-

zation consisting of the community's top business leaders, we joined forces with educators and youth advocates in 2000 and passed a dedicated tax increase for early childhood education. The business community looking at the data knew it was a wise investment.

Global collaboration/competition

Snyder, a strong advocate for quality early childhood education, has traveled to China on four international trade missions. He understands Michigan is two beautiful peninsulas; we are not an island.

There are many who fear China's rise will come at our demise. They express that fear of China as "little red ants" or cheap labor being the "factory for the world." Yet the greater threat is China's desire to become the "innovation nation."

John Kao, dubbed "Mr. Creativity" by *The Economist*, is chairman for the institute of large-scale innovation and author of *Innovation Nation*. Kao

points out China's investment in human capital is for the long haul. In his blog (www.johnkao.com) on China and innovation, he presents a startling picture of a country on the move, whose drumbeat is ... innovation.

Staying even is falling behind. In the game of global economic competitiveness, Michigan and America are far from even.

In an attempt to "catch up," we need to stop the ideologically driven debates and have a stronger push to invest in education from the cradle to the grave. Looking at the research, data, return on our investment and a Chinese long view of the world, we would be wise to continue to invest in the earliest years.

As my daughter would have said: "Duh!"

Northville resident Tom Watkins is president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (dwmha.com). He served as state superintendent of schools (2001-05) and as state mental health deputy and director (1983-90). Follow him on Twitter #tdwatkins88.

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Messages from policy conference impact metro Detroit mayors

There was a sense of urgency among the 1,700 attendees at the recent Mackinac Policy Conference and that is to fix Michigan roads. It was among the top issues coming out of this year's conference that should be of concern to metro Detroit mayors.

I had the honor of sitting on the roads panel on the last day of the conference where Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders of Michigan, not only presented research he conducted about why Proposal 1 failed, but properly noted that "we've been talking about this issue far too long."

It's my belief that Michigan residents realize they have to pay more for better roads, but they also want assurances that the new money will trickle back to their local streets and be built to last. As a new roads plan is created, I believe it is imperative that the state includes Michigan's mayors in the road funding and spending talks so we can communicate to our residents which streets



William Wild
GUEST COLUMNIST

and highways will get fixed, if new taxes or user fees are imposed.

The ballot proposal soundly defeated by voters in early May also would have raised taxes for schools and local governments, while increasing a tax break for lower-wage residents as part of a legislative compromise. These add-ons were needed to build bipartisan support, but led to confused voters.

Whatever we agree to do, mayors should have a seat at the table because, as the elected leaders closest to the residents, we bring a perspective that you don't get from polling or focus groups. We have to solve this roads problem and now is a great opportunity for lawmakers to show some leadership and get this thing done.

One of many topics
However, the roads issue is just one of many

topics that mayors around the state need to be at the table on. We also need to weigh in on issues that affect our cities, like the proposed new regional Water Authority and what it means to suburban water users, such as if the system is now on the hook for Highland Park's debt.

I think as mayors and residents, it's universal that we all want Detroit to succeed. Mayor Mike Duggan gave an impressive presentation at the conference on the progress he and the Detroit City Council are making post-bankruptcy.

However, it is not the responsibility of suburban water users to cover the shortage of Detroit and Highland Park. It is unfair to ask our residents/taxpayers to pay for this. Even though Highland Park officials dismiss talks of dissolving their city to make way for the new Great Lakes Water Authority, we cannot ignore the possibility; each mayor or must question what this means to your city.

As suburban leaders, we have to question the

prospect of the new authority being saddled with unpaid water bills from Highland Park, Detroit and other places. As mayors, this is an issue we should research and fully understand what it could potentially mean to our residents that Highland Park owes more than \$20 million to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for unpaid bills.

In Westland, we take calls daily from angry water customers on the new fixed costs that have been pushed out system-wide by the DWSD to cover existing debt, over and above any actual water usage. Fixed charges are now higher than actual usage on many residents' water bills.

I left the 2015 Mackinac Policy Conference more convinced than ever that residents need their mayors at the table on these and other regional issues.

William R. Wild is the mayor of Westland.



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O&E TOURNAMENTS

Get your drive on for popular golf events

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Perhaps the most-anticipated golf competitions in suburban Detroit are just several weeks of teeing off.

The annual *Observer & Eccentric* women's and men's open golf tournaments are set for Aug. 1 and Sept. 6-7, respectively.

The women's 18-hole medal play event will be held at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia, while the men's two-day, 36-hole competition will be hosted by Fox Creek on the

first day and Whispering Willows the second.

All participants must have a current United States Golf Association Index to enter.

The registration fee for the women's tournament is \$50. Entries close for the tournament at 6 p.m. July 25.

Women participants can gain access to pairings at tee times by calling 248-476-4493 after noon Thursday, July 30.

This year's men's tournament will feature a guaranteed \$2,500 in prizes, which will be rewarded in gross and net divisions. The entry fee for the

two-day men's event is \$99.

The registration window will close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28. Pairings and tee times can be obtained by calling either 248-471-3400 or 248-476-4493 after noon Thursday, Aug. 27.

The field for the men is limited to the first 120 entrants.

There will be a senior flight (55 and older) and regular flight.

For more information, go to golflivonia.com.

Drive, Chip and Putt

From noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Whispering Willows will



CITY OF LIVONIA

Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia will serve as the host for the *Observer & Eccentric* women's tournament, as well as the second round of the men's event. Fox Creek in Livonia will be the site of the opening 18 holes of the 36-hole men's competition.

serve as one of several hosts across the country for the popular Drive, Chip and Putt competition, which sends qualifiers to next April's national finals in

Augusta, Ga.

Registration is closed for the Whispering Willows portion of the event, which has drawn at least 180 entrants.

PLYMOUTH YMCA FATHER'S DAY RUN



Runners hit full stride during the first 100 yards of Sunday's Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run.

THE DADDY OF ALL 5Ks

Hundreds flock to downtown Plymouth for annual races

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Judging by the attendance at Sunday's annual Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run, running shoes may have supplanted ties as dads' favorite Father's Day gift.

Hundreds of people — many of them fathers, celebrating their special day by running stride for stride with their

kids — ran through the tree-lined streets of downtown Plymouth and its adjoining neighborhoods in a trio of races that featured one-mile, five-kilometer and 10-kilometer distances.

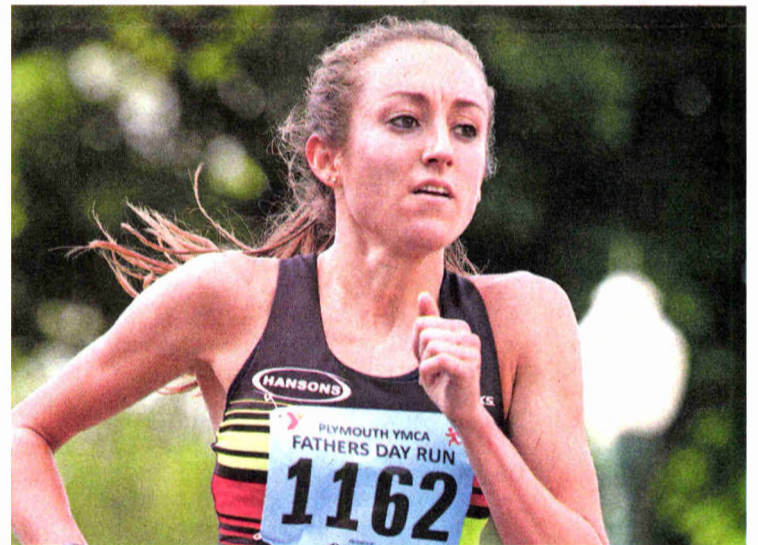
While a good chunk of racers were decked out in top-flight running gear, many of the runners' accessories revealed that this is a once-a-year deal for them and their

children.

The common bond among all the participants — broad smiles, a reflection of the high-quality event the Plymouth YMCA orchestrates each June.

The finish of the marquee 5K race could not have been any more exciting as Ann Arbor's Nicholas Stanko, 34,

See RACE, Page B2



PHOTOS BY PLYMOUTHPICTURES.COM

Cally MacUmer won the women's five-kilometer race Sunday.

CLUB TRACK

Farmington's Trevisan runs well on big stage

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington High School's Maddy Trevisan placed among the top distance runners in the country June 19-20 at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals in Greensboro, N.C.

Trevisan, who will be a senior in the next school year, finished 11th in the 5,000-meter race Friday night with a time of 17:17.72. She returned the next day to run a time of 10:54.53 in the two-

mile run and place 15th.

Because of a weather delay, the 5,000-meter event didn't start until almost midnight Saturday.

It was the first time Trevisan ran that distance on the track. She far exceeded her best time of 18:12 in cross country last fall.

"For the first time being on the track, that was an excellent finish," Farmington coach Charles Bridges said. "Maddy

See TRACK, Page B2



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maddy Trevisan was among the top runners in the 5,000-meter and two-mile distances.

Golfers 'ace' Father's Day

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was a great Father's Day for Canton's David Bringley and Steve Wiczorek.

Both sank a hole-in-one Sunday to put a special mark on the holiday.

The 55-year-old Bringley registered a hole-in-one Sunday, June 21, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center.

Using an 8-iron and hitting a Nike golf ball, Bringley aced the 134-yard No. 2 hole at the Fox Hills Lakes Course.

Meanwhile, Wiczorek's hole-in-one — his first in 47 years of playing golf — took place at Willow Golf Course in

New Boston.

Wiczorek, who was playing a round of golf on Father's Day with Len Byrne, Mike Olds and Dennis Olds, ripped a tee shot on Willow's No. 6 hole and it rolled into the cup 180 yards away.

He used a 4 Rescue club for the feat.

» Northville's David Brass, 51, registered a hole-in-one June 18 at Fox Hills' Golden Fox course.

Brass aced the 168-yard No. 6 hole using a 6-iron and Calloway ball. He finished his nine holes with a score of 41.

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GIRLS BEST TRACK TIMES

SHOT PUT
Emily Meier (Canton) 46-2
Chelsea Savage (Harrison) 38-10
Gabrielle Carter (Churchill) 38-7
Kyla Roland (Harrison) 37-8
Shara Long (Salem) 36-9/4
Amani Echols (Farmington) 35-5/2
Kelly Solak (Ladywood) 34-0
Sophia Modes (Franklin) 33-11
Rebecca Falzon (Stevenson) 33-9/3
Nonye Amadi (N. Farmington) 33-3

DISCUS
Emily Meier (Canton) 134-2
Gabrielle Carter (Churchill) 125-7
Shara Long (Salem) 121-11
Kyla Roland (Harrison) 120-5
Chelsea Savage (Harrison) 119-7
Rebecca Falzon (Stevenson) 117-4
Staneisha Chambers (C'ville) 107-6
Ellisandra Modes (Franklin) 106-4
Nonye Amadi (N. Farmington) 103-8
Melissa Fular (Churchill) 101-3

HIGH JUMP
Katherine Harris (Plymouth) 5-3
Morgan Murphy (Farmington) 5-3
Juliet Hope (Churchill) 5-2
Arianna Allman (Mercy) 5-2
Julia Wonch (Franklin) 5-2
Ryan Sparks (Canton) 5-1
Hannah Gove (Ladywood) 5-1
Bailey Brown (Plymouth) 5-0
Jillian Betts (Plymouth) 5-0
Ogechi Nwaopara (Mercy) 5-0

LONG JUMP
Juliet Hope (Churchill) 16-5/2
Mikaela Hille (Franklin) 16-0
Diane Senkowski (Stevenson) 15-10/2
Anna Lukens (Plymouth) 15-7
Erin McCann (Salem) 15-6/2
Anna Lectka (Ladywood) 15-6/4
Aly Hill (Ladywood) 15-5
Casey Iles (Farmington) 15-4/2
Nicole Sokolowski (Stevenson) 15-3/2
Taylor Pelland (Canton) 15-1

POLE VAULT
Olivia Rytarsky (Churchill) 11-1
Kayla Janevski (Plymouth) 11-0
Emily Caragay (Plymouth) 10-6
Nicole Sokolowski (Stevenson) 10-0
Elisabeth Schenk (Churchill) 10-0
Emily Welch (Plymouth) 10-0
Sommer Pappas (Stevenson) 10-0
Alexann Zahara (Churchill) 9-6
Kelly Shrosbree (N. Farmington) 9-6
Victoria Denise (Garden City) 9-0
Haley Metz (Plymouth) 9-0
Natalie Janke (Plymouth) 9-0

100-METER DASH
Maya Roberts (Harrison) 11.69
Anavia Battle (Wayne) 12.44
Ryen Draper (Plymouth) 12.52
Asia Gardner (John Glenn) 12.54
Ce'ndra Moing (Garden City) 12.64
Chanel Gardner (Churchill) 12.64
Jaila Brooks (Farmington) 12.70
Aria Moore (Farmington) 12.72
Bryah White (Franklin) 12.73
Myciah Lewis (N. Farmington) 12.84
Shekinah Johnson (Salem) 12.84

200 DASH
Maya Roberts (Harrison) 25.24
Jewel Davis (Plymouth) 25.39
Ryen Draper (Plymouth) 25.45
Anavia Battle (Wayne) 25.54
Aria Moore (Farmington) 25.73
Asia Gardner (John Glenn) 25.84
Raven Tatum (N. Farmington) 25.94
Akhil Echols (Farmington) 26.00
Al Williams (N. Farmington) 26.11

400 RUN
Jewel Davis (Plymouth) 57.52
Shekinah Johnson (Salem) 57.65
Chanel Gardner (Churchill) 58.90
Al Williams (N. Farmington) 58.93
Dasia Johnson (Thurston) 59.36
Kaya Knake (Salem) 59.46

Julie Wonch (Franklin) 59.48
Aria Moore (Farmington) 59.76
Ryen Draper (Plymouth) 1:00.07
Ogechi Nwaopara (Mercy) 1:00.25

800 RUN
Kaya Knake (Salem) 2:15.78
Morgan Merlino (Farmington) 2:17.91
Jenna Wisner (Luth. W'land) 2:23.80
Megan Gendjar (Churchill) 2:23.91
Gabrielle Swider (Churchill) 2:24.25
Allie Creelius (Ply. Christ.) 2:27.02
Skyler Spanabel (North Farm.) 2:28.04
Addison Mussen (Churchill) 2:28.10
Alysen Eads (Mercy) 2:28.12
Caroline George (Churchill) 2:28.49

1,600 RUN
Maddy Trevisan (Farmington) 5:04.50
Lauren Arquette (Salem) 5:10.78
Jenna Wisner (Luth. W'land) 5:14.60
Alysen Eads (Mercy) 5:19.29
Kathleen George (Churchill) 5:23.16
Christina Murphy (Churchill) 5:24.43
Caroline George (Churchill) 5:28.47
Addison Mussen (Churchill) 5:32.80
Alycia Washington (Mercy) 5:32.99
Ellary Marano (Franklin) 5:33.81

3,200 RUN
Maddy Trevisan (Farmington) 10:40.12
Lauren Arquette (Salem) 11:03.60
Kathleen George (Churchill) 11:35.66
Alysen Eads (Mercy) 11:46.59
Caroline George (Churchill) 12:13.89
Kory Szymaniak (GC) 12:14.17
Christian Murphy (Churchill) 12:15.25
Annie Bonds (Plymouth) 12:19.83
Catherine McLaurin (L'wood) 12:21.46
Madalyn Simko (Salem) 12:23.10

100 HURDLES
Maya Roberts (Harrison) 13.55
Beatrice Metasorg (Farmington) 16.47
Mia Flynn (Mercy) 16.54
Brianna Essien (Salem) 16.77
Kirsty McInnes (Plymouth) 17.08
Haven Essien (Salem) 17.13
Sabrina Morrison (Luth. W'land) 17.14
Aleah Rogalski (Plymouth) 17.34
Morgan Murphy (Farmington) 17.39
Hannah Gove (Ladywood) 17.39

300 HURDLES
Aubrey Mavin (Franklin) 47.83
Ryen Sparks (Canton) 48.99
Kirsty McInnes (Plymouth) 49.56
Aleah Rogalski (Plymouth) 49.85
Sabrina Morrison (Luth. W'land) 50.80
Hannah Gove (Ladywood) 50.81
Kourtney Strong (Churchill) 50.92
Tionna Thompson (Garden City) 51.06
Brianna Essien (Salem) 51.09
Beatrice Metasorg (Farmington) 51.24

400 RELAY
Farmington 48.85
Farmington Harrison 49.84
Salem 50.23
Westland John Glenn 50.60
North Farmington 50.70

800 RELAY
Farmington 1:42.39
Plymouth 1:42.75
North Farmington 1:44.01
Westland John Glenn 1:46.72
Salem 1:47.39

1,600 RELAY
Salem 4:06.08
Plymouth 4:06.60
Livonia Franklin 4:10.18
Farmington 4:13.00
Canton 4:14.69

3,200 RELAY
Livonia Churchill 9:47.10
Salem 9:59.89
Farmington Hills Mercy 10:06.42
Livonia Franklin 10:14.10
Livonia Ladywood 10:20.97

All-American!



MICHELE HARVATH

Salem High School's varsity "Rockettes" received All-American honors June 18-21 at the UDA Pom Camp at Oakland University. From left are senior Paige Libres, senior Maddie Harvath, junior Olivia Benintende and senior Becky DeWater.

SUMMER CAMPS

Lions youth football

The Observer & Eccentric has partnered with Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp again for a chance to win a scholarship to an upcoming football camp.

The promotion is open to girls and boys ages 6-14. Youths can submit an essay of 50 words or less telling why they want to attend the camp.

Parents are asked to submit the letter, along with a photo of the youth, youth's name, age, community of residence and phone number, to cbjordan@michigan.com with the subject line "Football Camp Contest."

All letters must be received by Monday, June 22, to qualify. The winners will be announced in a future edition of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Winners will have the chance to select from one of the following camp locations: Canton: 8:30 a.m. to noon June 29 through July 2; Brighton: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 11-12; White Lake: 8:30 a.m. to noon. July 20-23.

Madonna volleyball

Madonna University will host two more volleyball camps in early July.

The first is a setters and hitters-session 1 camp June 29-July 2. The second is a hitters-session 2 and

defensive camp July 6-9.

For camp information and registration, contact Madonna head coach and camp director Jerry Abraham at 734-432-5612 (office), 734-748-3128 (evening) or jabraham@madonna.edu.

To view or print a camp brochure, go online to madonnacrusers.com.

Churchill football

The Livonia Churchill summer football camp for kids entering grades 3-8 will be held from 7-9:20 p.m. July 22-23 at the school's football stadium.

The fee is \$35 if registered before July 1 and \$50 after that date. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

All participants must bring cleats, running shoes and have a signed liability form.

For more information and registration form, visit churchill.livoniapublicschools.org.

Churchill boys hoops

The Livonia Churchill boys basketball camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon June 22-25. The camp is for boys entering grades 5-9 and the cost is \$50, which includes a T-shirt. For more information, call 734-744-2650, ext. 46194, or visit churchill.livoniapublicschools.org.

Churchill hockey

The Livonia Churchill hockey camp will be held 8-9:20 p.m. Aug. 3-7 and Aug. 10-14 at Eddie Edgar Arena. The cost is \$175.

For more information, contact head coach Jason Reynolds at JayRey48152@gmail.com.

Churchill soccer

The Livonia Churchill soccer camp for boys and girls will be 9-11 a.m. June 22-26 at the school's turf athletic field. The camp is designed for kids ages 10-16.

The cost is \$49. Participants must be equipped with cleats or flats, shin guards and a soccer ball.

For more information, email mgrodzic@livoniapublicschools.org or rfriedri@livoniapublicschools.org.

Stevenson hockey

The Livonia Stevenson Summer Hockey Camp will be held July 6-21 at the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. The camp will include on-ice and off-ice sessions. The camp will be run by head coach David Mitchell, his staff and former Stevenson players. Camp will cover skill development, position development and scrimmages.

For more information contact Mitchell at dmitchel@livoniapublicschools.org.

NEED MORE CUSTOMERS?

EDUCATION

Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

By Brad Kozlowski

When Canton's annual Education Foundation Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Ritz-Carlton last night, it was a special occasion for the community. The luncheon was held in honor of the foundation's 25th anniversary. The foundation has awarded over 250 scholarships to students in the Canton area. The luncheon was held at the Ritz-Carlton and was a great success. The foundation has a long history of supporting education in the Canton area. The luncheon was held at the Ritz-Carlton and was a great success. The foundation has a long history of supporting education in the Canton area.

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10:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Address: 10000 W. 10th Ave., Suite 100, Overland Park, KS 66211

The Mask is open to everyone in the community. No prior experience is necessary. Good times will be had by all. Food, drinks, and entertainment will be provided. Free admission. Free will contribution.

Please RSVP to (734) 716-5588

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201 N. Canton

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• Why simply taking thyroid medication may not impact your condition.

• What Really Works to improve your condition. Safely, Healthfully!

Please RSVP to (734) 716-5588

Limited Seating Available. Feel free to bring a guest

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Locals are reading the Observer & Eccentric

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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Plymouth Township home offers prime location

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Quail Ridge Estates subdivision in Plymouth Township offers desirable living, as seen through a new listing at 11141 Academy Ct. "It's close to downtown," said Realtor/listing agent Bob Merry of RichRealty of Plymouth. "It's an original owner. It's a stable neighborhood."

The home is listed at \$364,900 and went on the market June 15, said Plymouth Township resident Merry, who's worked in real estate 30 years. The Academy Court home is within walking/bicycling distance to Plymouth Township Park, and a resident could easily bicycle the two miles into downtown Plymouth, he said, noting the many sidewalks on the route.

"You could safely walk it or ride," said Merry. The Bona-deo home was built in 1979. "It was very good construction," he said.

The home has 2,482 square feet, four bedrooms and two and a half baths. Its two-car garage is attached.

The home has a covered deck, as well as hardwood floors and cathedral ceilings.

"They are scaling down and getting into a one-level condominium in Lyon Township," Merry said of the sellers. He finds the area desirable for buyers.

"I think one of the draws is downtown Plymouth," Merry



The Plymouth Township home has four bedrooms and two and a half baths.

said. "It's really a family-oriented community. It's more homey and a relaxed kind of feeling."

Merry grew up in the community, graduating from Plymouth Salem High in 1974. He recalled I-275 going in and Ford Road going from dirt to busy business district.

Merry anticipates an offer on the Academy Court home

soon. "There's not a lot of quality inventory out there," he said. "There is a shortage."

This home is definitely not a fixer-upper, he agreed. "I think everybody comes in and puts their own taste and feel to it," Merry said of decor.

Canton resident Rich Eisinger, a Realtor and RichRealty owner, said, "I would say Plymouth, Canton and

Northville are the main driving forces for that," noting rising home values locally. "Our prices were driven down so low for the financial crisis in 2007," added Eisinger, in the field for 23 years.

RichRealty is at 734-459-5100.

jbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie

Payment plan available for back property taxes

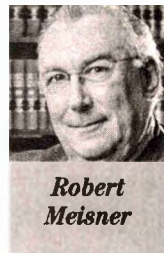
Q: I am behind on my property taxes. I heard that there is a new statute regarding installment payments for delinquent property taxes. Can you help me?

A: Michigan Public Act 499 of 2014 states that at the request of a property owner, a government unit may withhold a property from its foreclosure petition when the total household resources fall below a certain threshold, the owner has made the initial payment under the plan, and is not delinquent in satisfying the delinquent property tax installment payment plan for any other property within the foreclosing government unit. At the successful completion of the payment plan, the local government unit must waive accrued interest. You are best advised to consult with your local government taxing authority to work out these arrangements.

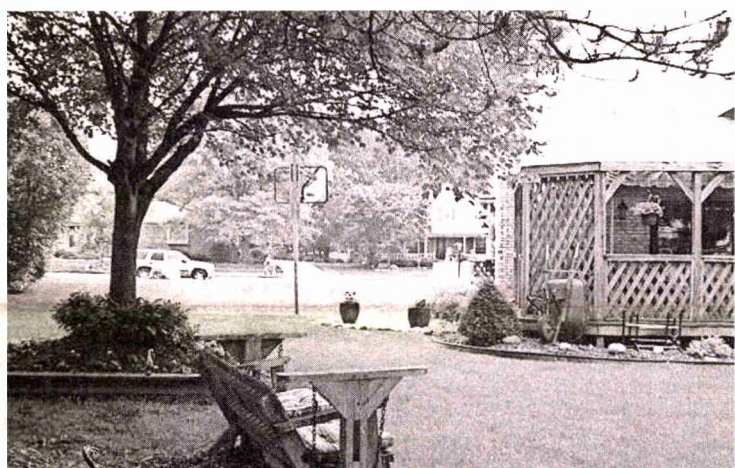
Q: I regularly contribute to local nonprofits, but I hear that changes to the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act make them accountable for what they do with my money. Is this true?

A: It would take pages to tell you what egregious changes were made by the Legislature. Among other things, a nonprofit can now virtually eliminate any liability for a director of a nonprofit. So, you may want to consider whether you wish to give any money to a charitable organization or, for that matter, rely on the integrity of the directors who are free from liability even if they are grossly negligent. You should write your Legislator and demand a retraction of these egregious provisions.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner



The yard's landscaping enhances the home's appeal.



The kitchen is a focal gathering point, especially for foodies.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 23-27, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
6909 Bunkerhill Ln \$125,000
43886 Cherry Grove Ct W \$180,000
2483 Cranbrook Rd \$185,000
44309 Hanford Rd \$160,000
4162 Hawksbury Ct \$289,000
1135 Longfellow Dr \$187,000
6173 Meadowview Dr \$370,000
46660 Michigan Ave \$20,000
1311 Mistwood Ct \$450,000
1653 N Beck Rd \$115,000
8217 N Pointe Ct \$365,000
43848 Palisades Dr \$167,000
1934 Pebble Creek Dr \$170,000
4717 Pond Run \$272,000
49690 Potomac Rd \$235,000
1891 Vine Way Dr \$120,000
1981 Vine Way Dr \$106,000
1708 Whittier Dr \$98,000
1708 Whittier Dr \$143,000

28499 James St \$81,000
28741 Kathryn St \$95,000
32941 Rosslyn Ave \$82,000
27616 Sheridan St \$104,000
29645 Windsor St \$95,000
LIVONIA
31456 Alabama St \$160,000
29549 Bobrich St \$40,000
32992 Brookside Ct \$335,000
33590 Clarita St \$125,000
9831 Doris St \$100,000
16214 Edgewood Dr \$260,000
32837 Fargo St \$30,000
34748 Haldane Dr \$322,000
12253 Inkster Rd \$54,000
16701 Inkster Rd \$35,000
11435 Mayfield St \$163,000
15562 Nola Cir \$186,000
27725 Norfolk St \$50,000
29500 Norfolk St \$171,000
15930 Oporto St \$70,000
28605 Pickford St \$205,000
36408 Rayburn St \$184,000
38140 S Vista Dr \$260,000
33645 Wood St \$202,000
NORTHVILLE
17032 Algonquin Dr \$470,000
16771 Carriage Way \$165,000

16477 Cypress Ct \$380,000
19781 Scenic Harbour Dr \$260,000
43050 Steepleview St \$340,000
19325 Surrey Ln \$108,000
44900 Thornapple Ln \$450,000
15744 Troon Ct \$722,000
41051 White Haven Ct \$347,000
PLYMOUTH
46363 Burning Tree Ln \$375,000
49561 Donovan Blvd \$128,000
13836 Eaton Dr \$345,000
41020 Greenbriar Ln \$175,000
13982 Pleasant View Ct \$374,000
10579 Red Maple Dr \$379,000
9263 Rocker Ave \$231,000
546 Roe St \$283,000
760 S Evergreen St \$260,000
1199 S Sheldon Rd \$30,000
101 S Union St \$213,000
374 W Spring St \$284,000
9311 Westbury Ave \$160,000
REDFORD
19923 Beech Daly Rd \$53,000
17678 Fox \$73,000
19628 Garfield \$45,000
17170 Lennane \$33,000
24970 N Sylbert Dr \$76,000
17349 Norborne \$27,000

18420 Wakenden \$53,000
15502 Winston \$35,000
15502 Winston \$40,000
20428 Woodworth \$25,000
20450 Woodworth \$20,000
WAYNE
35150 Ash St \$105,000
WESTLAND
1263 Alvin St \$109,000
33634 Avondale St \$99,000
35151 Bayview St \$58,000
8606 Beatrice \$125,000
6621 Deerhurst Dr \$124,000
2521 Eardman Ct \$118,000
341 Larchmont Dr \$155,000
7909 N Henry Ruff Rd \$135,000
128 N Hix Rd \$129,000
32065 Parkwood St \$75,000
8357 Randy Dr \$139,000
2340 Stockmeyer Blvd \$165,000
6307 Twin Oaks \$135,000
39061 Willow Creek \$188,000
Pkwy
1018 Woodbourne St \$87,000
7500 Woodview St \$40,000
32957 Woodworth Ct \$68,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

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.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 2-6, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS
32435 Madison St \$235,000
21671 Meadow Ln \$320,000
BINGHAM FARMS
23775 Ravineview Ct \$380,000
BIRMINGHAM
620 Bannville Ave \$600,000
519 Bird Ave \$598,000
2290 Carrollwood Ct \$385,000
2822 Dorchester Rd \$615,000
1694 Graefield Rd Unit 55 \$131,000
1551 Henrietta St \$1,275,000
1291 Humphrey Ave \$517,000
499 N Eton St # A1 \$133,000
373 N Old Woodward \$350,000
1003 N Old Woodward Ave \$173,000
1132 Northlawn Blvd \$385,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
4001 Fairlane Dr \$844,000

2033 Regent Dr \$223,000
626 Yarbboro Dr \$2,300,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
3666 Darcy Dr \$330,000
1102 Hillpointe Cir \$235,000
2017 Lakewood Ln \$195,000
4961 Rands Rd \$900,000
5630 Roundhill Rd \$420,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP
4025 Forest Edge Dr \$228,000
2323 Palmetto \$246,000
1895 Portlock Ave \$36,000
3205 Twinleaf St \$117,000
FARMINGTON
22566 Lilac St \$125,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
38369 Church Hill Ln \$170,000
31132 Country Blf \$128,000
38907 Country Cir \$121,000
25184 Dunham Ct \$144,000
30038 Fiddlers Grn \$130,000
30295 Kingsway Dr \$315,000
21784 Manchester Ln \$345,000
29670 Middlebelt Rd Unit 1202 \$103,000
29624 Middlebelt Rd Unit 2903 \$86,000
29495 Minglewood Ct \$172,000

31711 N Marklawn St \$192,000
FRANKLIN
30725 Roberts Dr \$212,000
HIGHLAND
3926 Loch Dr \$215,000
448 N Tipsico Lake Rd \$218,000
2670 Vero Dr \$285,000
LAKE ORION
18476 Roseland Blvd \$160,000
18830 San Diego Blvd \$160,000
MILFORD
2275 Childs Lake Rd \$165,000
1634 Hidden Valley Dr \$329,000
715 Manor Dr \$158,000
866 N Main St \$57,000
548 Uphill Rd \$365,000
NORTHVILLE
1148 Concord Ct \$170,000
38289 Southfarm Ln \$281,000
21257 Woodfarm Dr \$260,000
NOVI
24476 Acorn Trl \$645,000
41863 Cherry Hill Rd \$208,000
27974 Declaration Rd \$140,000
45449 Galway Dr \$317,000
22706 Heatherbrae Way \$198,000
24335 N Le Bost \$187,000
25999 Petros Blvd \$250,000

23602 Stonehenge Blvd \$125,000
SOUTH LYON
61107 Greenwood Dr \$82,000
54302 Royal Troon Dr \$350,000
58683 Winnowing Cir S \$73,000
SOUTHFIELD
30380 Balewood St \$260,000
27072 Belmont Ln \$163,000
23256 Coventry Woods Ln \$215,000
25675 Farmbrook Rd \$265,000
24401 Martha \$110,000
Washington Dr
20412 Melrose St \$50,000
23240 Morningside St \$233,000
26202 Oakcrest Rd \$184,000
30310 Park Ln \$143,000
26497 Primary Dr \$50,000
28770 Ranchwood Dr \$120,000
27261 Shagbark Dr \$61,000
16190 Templar Cir \$123,000
17340 Wiltshire Blvd \$75,000
WHITE LAKE
9055 Ashdown Ave \$158,000
934 Sloane Ct \$130,000
320 Woodsedge Ln \$46,000

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 21 Relay segment
 22 Handles dough
 26 Minty drink
 29 Dust cloth
 30 Item in a poker pot
 31 Singles
 32 Low-tech cooler
 33 Wide st.
 34 Ms. Hagen of films
 35 "Casablanca" pianist

DOWN
 36 Urban transports
 37 Hamster or guinea pig
 39 Glove leather
 40 Roanoke loc.
 41 Sold
 45 Force or compel
 49 Othello's betrayer
 50 Bug repellent
 51 Karate level
 52 Joule fractions
 53 Blues singer - James
 54 Mild interjections
 55 Business encl.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | E | O | E | L | E | C | T | B | L | T |
| O | A | T | M | A | L | A | Y | I | N | |
| Q | U | I | I | S | B | N | M | U | T | T |
| | S | A | N | T | A | R | A | | | |
| D | C | M | E | L | O | N | S | A | L | E |
| I | R | A | M | A | E | L | S | T | R | O |
| S | E | R | A | U | R | E | S | A | G | E |
| C | E | N | T | I | G | R | A | M | T | I |
| S | K | E | T | C | H | N | U | T | N | D |
| | A | H | A | D | D | E | D | | | |
| A | M | O | R | S | L | E | D | O | O | |
| C | A | W | P | E | A | R | L | L | O | U |
| E | V | E | M | A | N | S | E | E | W | E |

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Want more puzzles?
 Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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!

TALLEST BUILDING WORD SEARCH

WORDS

AEON CENTER
 ANTENNA
 BUILDINGS
 BURJ KHALIFA
 CENTRAL PLAZA
 CHRYSLER BUILDING
 CITIC PLAZA
 CITY
 COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
 CTF FINANCE CENTRE
 EURASIA
 FRANKLIN TOWER
 GUANGZHOU
 JIN MAO
 LANDMARK
 MERCURY CITY TOWER
 OCCUPIABLE
 OFFICE
 PANORAMIC
 PETRONAS TOWER
 POINT
 RESIDENTIAL
 SHANGHAI TOWER
 SKYSCRAPER
 STRUCTURAL
 SHAY
 TAIPEI
 URBAN
 VIEW
 WILLES TOWER
 WINDS
 WORLD TRADE CENTER
 ZIFENG TOWER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

Word Search

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



BRING FARM FRESH FLAVORS TO THE DINNER TABLE

Wonderful food, worthy to be shared with family, begins with only the finest, most wholesome ingredients. Bring the farm fresh flavor to any meal, any time of day. From delightful snacks to appetizing bites and satisfying entrees, these recipes capture the flavors only nature can create.

Courtesy of Family Features



ROASTED POTATO CROSTINI WITH PESTO CHEESE

Servings: 8
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Total time: 35 minutes

Nonstick cooking spray
½ pound (4 medium) Wisconsin Red or Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into ½-inch-thick slices
½ teaspoon garlic salt
¾ cup (6 ounces) soft cream cheese
¾ cup prepared pesto
¼-½ teaspoon red pepper sauce (optional)
¼ cup finely chopped prepared roasted red peppers
Snipped fresh chives or minced green onion (optional)

Heat oven to 400°F. Spray baking sheet with cooking spray. On baking sheet, arrange potatoes in single layer; spray lightly with additional cooking spray. Sprinkle evenly with ½ teaspoon of garlic salt.

Roast 20-25 minutes or until potatoes are tender and browned, turning potatoes over halfway and sprinkling with remaining garlic salt.

Meanwhile, in small bowl, mix together cream cheese, pesto and red pepper sauce, if desired. Pipe or spoon about 2 teaspoons pesto mixture onto each potato; top with red pepper. Sprinkle with chives, if desired.

Nutritional information per serving: 157 calories; 10 g fat; 4 g protein; 2 g fiber; 10 g cholesterol; 285 mg sodium.



GLAZED LEMON AND POPPY SEED POPCORN

Yield: 4 quarts

4 quarts unbuttered and unsalted popcorn (air popped)
1 egg white
¼ cup sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon lemon extract
2 teaspoons lemon zest
1 teaspoon poppy seeds

Heat oven to 300°F. Line large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper (or foil sprayed with cooking spray). Spread popcorn onto prepared baking sheet.

In small bowl, whisk together egg white, sugar, salt and lemon extract until foamy. Mix in lemon zest and poppy seeds. Pour over popcorn and toss to coat evenly.

Bake 20 minutes, stirring once midway through baking time. Cool completely before storing in airtight container.

Note: The use of egg white helps flavors adhere to popcorn, without adding fat through more traditional use of oils.



BEAR TOOTH ALASKA COD TACOS

Recipe provided by Chef Natalie Janicka, Bear Tooth Grill, Anchorage, Alaska

Servings: 4
Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

4 ounces hefeweizen beer
12 ounces Colorado sauce (store-bought red chile sauce or red enchilada sauce)
4 wild Alaska cod fillets (4 ounces each)
8 flour or corn tortillas (6-inch)
1 ½-2 cups cooked mixed beans (pinto and black), seasoned to taste
Chopped romaine lettuce
Sliced radishes
Sour cream
Guacamole
Salsa
Tortilla chips, for serving

Combine beer and sauce in large pan. Add cod and coat fish all over with marinade. Marinate 10-15 minutes.

Heat boiler to high. Remove fish from marinade, drain thoroughly and place fish on foil-lined baking sheet or broiler pan. Broil on high about 4 inches from heat for 5 minutes, or until just cooked through. To serve, spoon beans onto tortillas, top with cod and garnish as desired. Serve with tortilla chips.

CITY BITES

Healthy Harvest Garden & Nutrition Series

Garden City — Learn about good nutrition and staying healthy while working on a community garden with others in this four-week class. Class runs 10:30 a.m. to noon July 9 through Aug. 13 at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood. Healthy Harvest helps income-eligible community members stretch their food dollars. Free giveaways and educational materials available to all who join. Call Janelle Palmer, 734-727-7238 or email palmer15@msu.edu to register.

Food Trucks

Novi — From vegan ice cream and kale slaw to fried pickle spears and barbecue fare, there's something for every palate at Northern Equities Group's lunch time food truck rallies. Six food trucks, Hero or Villain, Norma G's, The Rolling Stoves, Smoke Ring BBQ, Treat Dreams and Detroit Stockyard, will serve their specialties from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, in the parking lot at the Art Institute of Mich-

igan, at the Haggerty Corridor Corporate Park, 28175 Cabot Drive. Check out menu offerings at facebook.com/HeroOrVillainVan; demitartgourmet.com; facebook.com/RollingStovesMI; facebook.com/smoke-ringbbqdet; detroitstockyard.com/food-trailer; treat-dreams.com.

Nationwide — Get Up and Grow! North American Tour sponsored by Dole, will swing through southeastern Michigan July 16-19 with a challenge to residents to adopt a healthier diet and lifestyle. Those who do will get a chance to receive six months of fresh produce and a dream wellness vacation in California. A tour caravan will stop at supermarkets and public events, offering tasty recipe and product samples, a do-it-yourself smoothie bar, free giveaways for the kids and adults and other surprises celebrating the fun, flavor and health benefits of fruits and vegetables. For the continually updated Get Up and Grow Tour schedule, go to www.dole.com/GetUpandGrow. In the meantime, here's one of the Get Up and Grow! recipes.

GRILLED BANANA PARFAIT

Prep: 20 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

2 Dole bananas, peeled
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup fat-free vanilla Greek yogurt
1 cup quartered Dole strawberries
1 cup Dole blueberries
½ cup low-fat granola
1 teaspoon honey
3 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
4 mint leaves



Grilled Banana Parfait

Heat grill to high heat. Slice bananas diagonally. Sprinkle with cinnamon and grill, for 3 minutes on each side.

Layer banana, yogurt, strawberries, blueberries, granola, honey, pomegranate seeds and mint leaves in parfait glasses. Serve immediately.