

SPREE 2011

FIREWORKS SHOW DRAWS AN ESTIMATED 200,000 TO LIVONIA
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ALL-AREA BASEBALL

TEAM PACKS A PUNCH AT THE PLATE
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THURSDAY

June 30, 2011

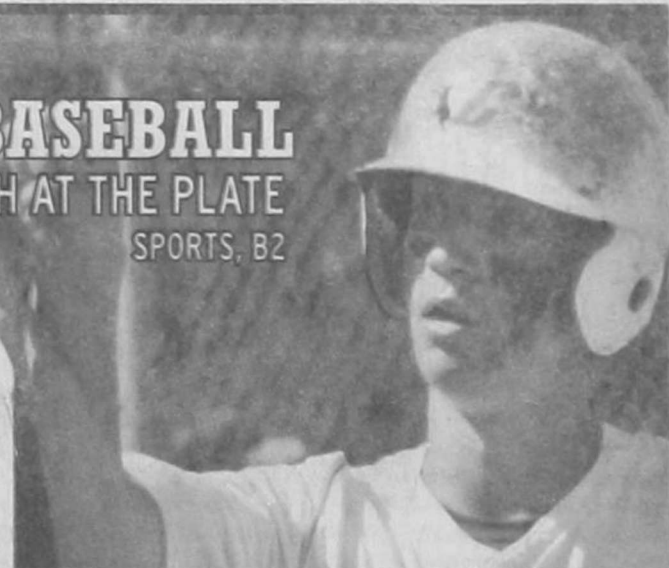
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SCHOOL ELECTION DEADLINE NEARS
LOCAL NEWS, A2

CONNECTION

Christmas in July

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win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to celebrate Christmas in July. Find this holiday beach ball on the pages of INSPIRE and enter to win.

See more details in the July INSPIRE in print and online at hometownlife.com.

Fond farewells

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members, district staffers and a large audience bid farewell to retiring administrators at Tuesday's school board meeting.

George Belvitch, the district's director of elementary education, is retiring after 37 years serving the district. Belvitch, whose retirement is effective Friday, taught at Tanger Center and Eriksson Elementary School and has also served as a principal at Isbister and Tonda Elementary schools, along his career path.

Ray Bihun, the district's executive director of human resources, also retires effective Friday. He had been with the district for nearly 10 years.

Top nurse

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital named Canton resident Ani Abraham, R.N., M.S.N., as the 2011 Nurse of the Year.

The Nurse of the Year Program was developed to encourage recognition of positive nursing performance. The program is intended to distinguish and reward those nurses who exemplify clinical excellence in nursing care.

"I am proud to have Ani as a member of our outstanding nursing team," said Bette Fitz, vice president of patient care. "She is a role model professional nurse, an excellent critical thinker and very caring in her interactions."

Abraham works in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. She is a master's prepared nurse and has served as a TB compliance officer and an instructor for annual nursing mandatory education. She's been a nurse with the Detroit Medical Center for over 21 years. She received her undergraduate and master's degree from the University of Kerala in India.

"It has been so important to me to know that my efforts as a nurse are appreciated," said Abraham. "Being nominated as Nurse of the Year has given me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people."

Local districts get boundary shifts

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State House and Senate districts representing Plymouth, Canton and Northville were among those affected Tuesday when the House passed the bill that redraws district lines in light of the 2010 Census.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, gets a slightly larger slice of Canton Township but loses the City of Wayne in his 20th House district, while state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, sees her district stay largely the same, although she lost a little bit of eastern Canton but retained Belleville and most of the part of Van Buren Township she already represented.

The redistricting was passed in the House Tuesday, and now heads back to the Senate for confirmation.

Heise, in his first term as a representative, said no significant changes are expected in the Senate.

"I'm very happy with it," Heise said. "I think it will be a more manageable district, and the people represented in the district will have a more common interest. It's been difficult to balance the interests of the people in Northville and in Wayne, because



Heise



Slavens



Colbeck

there are so many variables. This creates a far more balanced district with more common interests and a more common background."

The final version of the House map gives Heise all of Northville, all of Plymouth and the eastern third of Canton Township. Previously, Heise only represented the part of Canton east of I-275. Now, a "zig-zagging line" from roughly Morton-Taylor east to Lilley, to Haggerty and then toward Michigan Avenue, is in Heise's district. Heise said he's been told the

new lines make the district "more Republican leaning."

"It's about the same size (population-wise), but it's actually more compact," Heise said.

THE 21ST

Slavens, meanwhile, maintains the rest of Canton Township, the City of Belleville and a large part of Van Buren Township. She said while she's fine with the district's boundaries, she voted against the House bill because of the process used to get it passed.

Slavens said she felt the process was "rushed," and didn't provide enough of a voice to the people.

"This is going to affect our state for

Please see **DISTRICTS, A6**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Janet Morris Grimes credits her move from Nashville to Detroit with providing the impetus she needed to get her first book published. It's titled 'The Parent's Guide To Uncluttering Your Home.'

Author translates lessons into first book

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident Janet Morris Grimes has parlayed her move from Nashville, her struggle to find a job, her lifelong writing hobby and an online contest into getting her first book published.

It didn't hurt that she had to downsize from a two-story, four-bedroom home to an apartment less than one-third the size.

Grimes, 45, smiles as she holds a copy of her new book, *The Parent's Guide To Uncluttering Your Home*. It's a topic she learned the hard way, even though it helped her achieve a dream that started early in life.

"I always wanted to be a writer," she said. "I remember being given an assignment in the sixth grade to write one paragraph. Mine ended up being eight pages long."

Grimes, a mother of three,

has made strides in her writing career since she moved two years ago from Nashville, where husband Thomas worked for a Ford Motor Co. windshield-producing facility before he was transferred to the Dearborn Truck Plant.

HITTING THE ROAD

They picked up their roots from the country music capital and headed toward

Please see **AUTHOR, A5**

Accused killer finally set to stand trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By the time her accused killer stands trial, Canton mother of two Stephanie Stone, 32, will have been dead nearly a year.

"I still cry all the time," her mother, Pamela Lawson, said Tuesday. "I just miss her so bad."

Lawson, breaking into tears during a telephone interview from her Belleville home, said she is hopeful that justice finally will be done when Bradley Wayne Howard, a 35-year-old Ypsilanti man, faces a jury of his peers in Washtenaw County Circuit Court.

According to the court, Howard faces trial Oct. 3 following charges he drove drunk last Oct. 26, ran a red light in Ypsilanti Township and crashed his Ford Mustang into Stone's Ford Taurus, killing her and injuring her two children, Brandon, 13, and Savannah, 11.

Howard, accused of being a repeat drunken driver, remains jailed without bond. If convicted, he could face life in prison for second-degree murder; operating while intoxicated causing a death and serious injury; a third drunken driving offense; failing to stop at an accident causing a death



Howard

and serious injury; driving with a suspended license causing death; driving a second time with a suspended license; and having an open alcohol container in his car.

Defense attorney Mark Hugger declined to make any statements on Howard's behalf.

"I have no comment on the case," Hugger said Tuesday.

Barring a plea before Oct. 3, Howard has been scheduled to stand trial nearly a year after Stone, a Dairy Queen employee described by her own mother as "a good mother," was killed during the crash at Ecorse and Harris roads.

Washtenaw County authorities have said Howard was driving 70-80 mph when Stone was killed. Her son, a front-seat passenger, was critically injured while her daughter, sitting in the back seat, suffered only minor injuries.

The family was wearing seat belts. Lawson has said Stone "was very strict about seat belts."

Just a few months before Stone was killed, Lawson

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Cameras flashed and screams were rendered as Selena Gomez hit the stage during her Monday appearance at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Look for a photo gallery of her visit to Livonia online at hometownlife.com.

Disney star draws screaming fans to mall

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Tucker of Plymouth took her two young daughters, 10-year-old Erin and 6-year-old Erika, to Laurel Park Place Mall in Livonia Monday and got in line around 1 p.m. to see Disney Channel actress/singer Selena Gomez.

The Tuckers joined a neighbor who had actually been there since 8:30 a.m. to reserve space for the scheduled 7 p.m. appearance by Gomez, in town to promote her new movie, "Monte Carlo," which opens nationwide Friday. At the mall, they joined what became thousands of screaming young fans eager to catch a glimpse of the 18-year-old star.

By 5:15 p.m., though, Tucker's neighbor had bailed when the crowd became too much to bear. The Tuckers, however, stuck it out, and were rewarded around 6:45 when Gomez finally popped on stage just outside the mall's Parisian store.

"My children are both huge fans," Tucker said. "They've got all her CDs, they've got her lat-

est music in their iPods."

Ten-year-old Erin Tucker was happy just to see Gomez. "She's pretty," 10-year-old Erin said of Gomez. "I like her music, I like the beat."

Alexsa Selitaj of Sterling Heights said she is Disney Channel actress/singer Selena Gomez's "biggest fan." Judging by the size of the crowd, which stretched as far as the eye could see in the mall, she's not alone. Selitaj was crammed into the hallway in front of Parisian, screaming along with thousands of other "biggest fans" of Gomez.

The visit put Selitaj, who came to see Gomez with her big sister, Rosa Palushi of Livonia, one step closer to a dream. "I want to meet (Gomez) some day," the 12-year-old Selitaj said. "I love her songs, her personality."

The popular Gomez, star of the Disney Channel series "Wizards of Waverly Place," came out on stage around 6:45 p.m., led the crowd in an a capella version of her song, "Who Knows?" and answered a few hand-picked questions

from fans during about a 20-minute appearance.

Some 50 fans won tickets to do a meet-and-greet with Gomez, while about another 1,000 earned blue wrist bands that allowed them to get in the fenced-off section closest to the stage. The other gazillion fans who showed up had to crowd as close as they could get which, in most cases, wasn't all that close.

Eight-year-old Sydney Raab — "I love her singing!" Sydney said of Gomez — of Canton was in that first section, along with her cousin, Mackenzie Korschuh, 11, of Chelsea, her 9-year-old neighbor, Katlyn Dushary, and her 5-year-old brother, Jeremy.

Riding herd on the kids was Sydney's mom, Jennifer Raab of Canton, who said going to the mall was a sort of last-minute thing.

"We made the decision (Monday) morning," Raab said, smiling. "The kids are huge fans."

Not all of the fans were young girls. Sarah Ostrander, 33, of Novi waited in line

with her 29-year-old friend, Melanie Reid of Canton. Both proclaimed themselves "huge" fans of the 18-year-old actress.

"She's pretty cool and very popular," Ostrander said. "She's got lots of talent."

Having thousands of people jammed into the mall for that period of time can be a blessing and a curse, according to Claudia Frederick, the mall's public relations chief. While the throng did make getting to stores near Parisian difficult, the food court, for instance, did booming business.

"It's an event that draws a lot of people," said Frederick. "Some of the stores see a drop-off, but hopefully some of those people come back. Our food court has been very busy. It's good PR."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Board uses fund balance to eliminate deficit

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Trustees on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education better hope it quits "raining" on the financial landscape pretty soon.

Board members passed a balanced budget Tuesday, beating the state-mandated deadline by a couple of days, but in the process exhausted some \$7.8 million in the district's fund balance — euphemistically called the "rainy day" fund — and an additional \$3.4 million in Durant lawsuit money to cover an expected \$11.2 million deficit in the 2011-12 budget.

The move leaves the district with a projected 2012 fund balance of just more than \$70,000.

"That's a fund balance that's razor-thin," Jim Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services, told board members Tuesday. "But it does allow the board to pass a balanced budget."

The board passed its balanced budget, with projected revenues of \$148.8 million and expenditures of \$159.9 million, after spending most of the year considering cuts made by the administration.

Administrators, using recommendations made by department heads, committee members and the public, recommended some \$13.6 million in cuts. The board, however, acted on only \$7.2 million of those cuts, eschewing big-ticket cuts such as closing Fiegel Elementary School (which would have saved an estimated \$1.4 million) and laying off teachers to save an additional

\$5.5 million.

Board members said they were passing the balanced budget in accordance with state law, but that they understand there is much left to do.

"We're passing it with the understanding we have more work to do," board President John Jackson said.

Among the work left to do is making decisions on privatizing noncore academic services such as custodial, transportation and food service, and contract negotiations with union groups, particularly the district's 1,100 teachers.

The district can qualify for an additional \$100 per student by satisfying four of five criteria set up under Gov. Rick Snyder's education reforms, which would bring an additional \$1.9 million or so to the budget.

But union concessions are clearly where the board is looking.

"We can recover money for better performance (under Snyder's plan) in those five categories," said board Treasurer Judy Mardigian. "And (budget work) is contingent on conversations with our employees. Those are the conversations we have to have. We can't cut the fabric of who we are."

Union representatives said they're concerned with "what appears to be premature reliance on bargaining concessions."

"At the same time we know that during a school year budgets are changed many times," said Bob Thomas, MEA UniServ Director. "We are going to withhold further comment until we have time to further study the budget."

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Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

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TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

had returned to Michigan from Arkansas, where she had lived about 20 years. She came here so her daughter could help her as she battles lupus — a chronic, autoimmune disease that can affect the skin, joints, blood, kidneys, heart and other body parts.

"She wanted to help take care of me," Lawson said.

Lawson got to spend just four months with Stone when she moved to Michigan. She said she had difficulty functioning after her daughter's death.

Right after the accident happened, Lawson said Savannah got out of her mother's badly damaged car and gave her cell phone to someone to call relatives. Lawson went to the scene.

"They had the wreck covered with a sheet," she said last November. "That's when I knew she was gone."

The day before Stone died, she had worked at Dairy Queen, where employees recalled how she was talking about the fun she was having carving pumpkins with her children for Halloween.

"Our memory of her is of her always smiling and laughing," Donna Brancart, a co-worker, said at the time.

Lawson said it has been difficult waiting — and waiting — for Howard's court case to work its way through the criminal justice system and its legal hearings and motions. But now, it appears, Howard may finally be headed for trial.

"I'm just so glad," Lawson said.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Self-inflicted death

1 A man who lives in the Academy Point mobile home park, southeast of Haggerty and Michigan Avenue, shot and killed himself while sitting in front of a trailer, despite a request by police for him to put his gun down, a police report indicated.

The incident occurred following an earlier incident that had attracted a crowd of people.

Police had been dispatched to the mobile home park about 9:30 p.m. Saturday on reports that the man had assaulted his sister by beating her with a gun, though he never fired any shots at her. As police arrived, a large crowd of people waved them to the scene, according to a police report. Police learned that the man and his sister had ongoing troubles after the sister had allegedly gotten into an argument with the man's daughter.

According to police reports, the man had grabbed his sister, held her in a "choke position," pulled a 9mm handgun and hit her on the head, prompting the call to police.

An officer arrived on the scene and had drawn a gun on the man, who still had the 9mm handgun in his hand. Police told neighbors to disperse while an officer talked with a woman who was described as the mother of the man and his sister.

Eventually, as police tried to convince the man to give up his weapon, he pointed it to his head, pulled the trigger and fired a shot that ultimately killed him, though

Canton paramedics took him to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti.

Funny money

2 A man who sold his Apple MacBook laptop after advertising it on Craigslist contacted Canton police after the buyer paid him with counterfeit money, according to a police report.

The man last week received a call from a buyer and agreed to meet him at the Starbucks coffee shop at Ford and Lotz. He said the buyer was dropped off by another man.

CRIME WATCH



also exposed himself to a woman who got off the elevator on the floor where he was staying.

The man initially resisted police, refused to pack up his things and drew a clenched fist on the officer, prompting the officer to prepare to use a Taser if necessary. The man then complied with police orders without the Taser being fired.

Warrant arrest

4 Canton police arrested a man about 6 p.m. Sunday at Briarfield and Applewood, southeast of Palmer and Sheldon, after learning he had several outstanding warrants in Canton, Westland and Battle Creek for loud music, failing to pay fines, possession of marijuana, speeding, driving with a suspended license and a vehicle equipment violation.

Police arrested the suspect on the warrants after stopping him for an unrelated issue and finding that he was uncooperative during the investigation.

Home invasion

5 A resident who lives on Streamview Court, southeast of Cherry Hill and Haggerty, contacted police after a home invasion occurred shortly before 1 p.m. Saturday.

The victim reported that a garage door and home-entry door had been left unlocked while the homeowner's two daughters had gone to the store. When they returned, they learned that someone had entered the home and stolen a laptop computer and two diamond rings. In all the items were valued at over \$1,500.

Break-in, theft

6 A man who lives on Old Haggerty, southwest of Warren and Haggerty, reported that his residence had been broken into between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Friday.

He told police his laptop computer and semiautomatic handgun were missing. It appeared the intruder had removed a screen and gone through a window that had been left open on the rear of the home.

Caravan stolen

7 A woman told police her 1994 Dodge Caravan was stolen between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Friday while it was parked on Honeytree, southeast of Joy Road and I-275. She said she left the vehicle in a parking spot under a carport. She said she locked it but later found it had been stolen.

Tires slashed

8 A woman who lives on Trails Court, southeast of Joy and Canton Center, contacted police after someone slashed the tires of her vehicle sometime late June 22 or early June 23.

— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE



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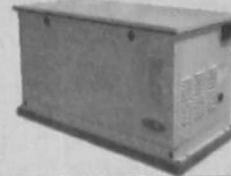


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Canton adopts deficit-reduction plan to address certain funds

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Striking back against budget deficits in Canton's golf course and public improvement funds, the Canton Township Board of Trustees agreed Tuesday to siphon \$836,774 from the \$5.3-million general fund balance, though officials expect to replenish the money.

The latest township audit by an outside firm, Plante & Moran, revealed a \$583,446 shortfall in the public improvement fund, which is used to boost efforts such as road projects, and a \$253,328 deficit in the golf course fund, affected by issues ranging from an economic downturn to weather-related woes.

Due to state mandates that force a deficit-elimination plan, township trustees voted Tuesday to dip into the general fund balance. However, Finance Director Rick Eva said the money likely will be replenished as Canton benefits from sources such as an increase in the constitutional portion of state-shared revenue, due to the community's 18-percent population growth during the last decade.

Plante & Moran also cited a \$302,917 deficit in the community improvement fund, although Canton already has erased that shortfall after receiving federal dollars that hadn't arrived when the audit was done. Supervisor Phil LaJoy blamed that temporary deficit on "a timing issue" that was resolved.

The public improvement fund shortfall occurred after land the township had expected to sell along Michigan Avenue near Lilley hit a snag, resulting in less revenue than had been anticipated. Eva said Canton still could witness new revenue once the land does sell.

The golf fund deficit came as the Pheasant Run and Fellows Creek courses suffered amid an economic downturn and what local officials blamed on less usage due to weather issues.

"The weather wasn't great," Eva said.

By taking \$253,328 from the general fund, local officials can restore the golf fund and have the money they need to cover a portion of the golf-course debt that occurs each year. The money will be used toward a long-term debt of \$5.3 million that is expected to be paid off around 2020.

Despite the latest moves to address certain budget deficits, Plante & Moran auditors, overall, gave Canton high marks on its latest financial audit for the fiscal year that ended Dec. 31. Auditors lauded local officials for cost-cutting measures that helped to preserve a \$5.3-million general fund balance.

However, auditors warned local officials to remain vigilant.

"I think we're holding our own," township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said. "We have guarded enthusiasm for the future."

That cautious enthusiasm came as auditors indicated that local property values could potentially begin a slow rebound as early as next year. McLaughlin also said efforts "from Supervisor (Phil) LaJoy on down" to contain costs and lure new businesses also have helped.

"We're pursuing growth and keeping our community polished and attractive for potential home buyers and new businesses," McLaughlin said, adding later, "We're doing everything we can internally to continue to shave costs."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

AUTHOR

FROM PAGE A1

Motown, bringing their 17-year-old daughter, Mallore, but leaving behind two adult children, Crystal and Andrew, and other family members.

In what proved useful for her home-uncluttering book, Grimes sold many sentimental belongings — her children's furniture, a dining room set, a new bedroom suite — that she couldn't cram into the family's 1,000-square-foot apartment in Canton.

"I watched 25 years of my life walk out with other families," she said.

Amid housing-market woes, Grimes and her husband settled for renting out their Nashville home. She stayed there a year longer than he did, then braved a colder Michigan climate and an even frostier job market.

Grimes had worked in Nashville as a police dispatcher and then as a director of events for Lipscomb University, yet metro Detroit proved an elusive job market.

"I couldn't find a job," she said, adding that when cold weather kept her indoors, "I thought I may as well write."

Her publishing break came after she saw an online writing competition and sent samples to Atlantic Publishing Co., which chose her to pen a 65,000-word, 272-page book, *The Parent's Guide To Uncluttering Your Home: How To Organize What You Need and Recycle What You Don't*.

It can be found on websites such as www.amazon.com, www.borders.com and www.target.com, and it typically sells for \$15 to \$24. Grimes also has donated copies to the Canton and Plymouth public libraries, which she frequents.

ADVICE GIVEN

She wrote her book in stages, interviewing Realtors, home-organizing sources, feng shui experts and others. She offers a wide array of advice — tidying a room in 10 minutes; cleaning tips while on the phone; keeping mail sorted; finding hidden storage space;

finding the right place for everything from winter gloves to summer flip-flops. Even her book is compartmentalized.

Grimes finally got a job in January as a front-desk supervisor for Canton's Summit on the Park, but she hasn't abandoned her writing and has attended writing conferences.

Her new book aside, Grimes attends Lifechurch in Canton and has become involved in Canton Communicators, a social group that encourages public speaking. She has started other book projects, developed a website (www.janetmorrisgrimes.com) and continued her Abandoned Ministries (www.abandoned.com), a writing and speaking ministry intended to help others find God — as Abba, or father — when they feel abandoned.

The latter project has helped Grimes honor her father, the late minister David Morris, who was killed in a car accident when Grimes was only 6 months old and when her

only sibling, Jeanna, was just 3. Grimes still has her mother, Jeannine, who lives in Nashville.

Through all of her life changes, from childhood to her move to Detroit, Grimes has found comfort in writing, and she hopes she can use it to help others.

"I'm not content until I've written something every day," she said.

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Music is key component of holiday party **DISTRICTS**

FROM PAGE A1

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An "old reliable" and a new feature will add a musical touch to the annual Fourth of July celebration in downtown Plymouth this year.

First up is the popular Plymouth Community Band, which kicks off the holiday weekend Thursday with a 7:30 p.m. concert in Kellogg Park.

The band, general composed of some 55-75 volunteer, amateur musicians, has been entertaining local audiences since it was founded in 1960. Under the direction of long-time conductor Carl Battishill, the band rehearses once a week, year-round (except for August), and performs other outdoor concerts as well as a slate of indoor concerts during the school year.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Zap Toro provides the music for the weekly Music in the Air concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

Then comes the new — a concert featuring the Michigan Philharmonic (formerly the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra), a patriotic performance set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, also in Kellogg Park. It's the first time the Philharmonic has been part of the Fourth of July festivities.

Called "An American

HOLIDAY WEEKEND FUN

Here's a quick look at the activities for the Fourth of July holiday:

Music: Plymouth Community Band, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Kellogg Park

More music: Zap Toro, Music in the Air Concert series, 7 p.m. Friday, Kellogg Park

Orchestra music: Michigan Philharmonic patriotic concert, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Kellogg Park

Fireworks: Plymouth Township's annual fireworks display, Plymouth Township Park at Ann Arbor Trail and McClumpha, around 10:15 p.m.

Parade: Good Morning USA parade steps off 9 a.m. Monday

Picnic: The Good Ol' Fashioned Picnic, hosted by Plymouth Township, 11 a.m. Monday at Plymouth Township Park

Salute," the free concert will feature patriotic music.

"We're hoping this new concert will become a new tradition," said Tony Bruscatto, operations manager for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, which presents the concert in conjunction with its sponsor, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Bruscatto promises a "fun and family friendly concert showcasing popular American



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zack Rubin handled the violin during the Michigan Philharmonic's performance at the recent Canton Liberty Festival. The Philharmonic makes its Plymouth Fourth of July weekend debut with a concert Saturday in Kellogg Park.

composers. Among the selections — a medley of patriotic songs, including *Yankee Doodle, You're a Grand Old Flag, This Land is Your Land and God Bless the USA*, along with the *Stars & Stripes Forever* march.

The big brass cannons and church bells of Tchaikovsky's

1812 Overture provide the concert's grand finale.

Coupled with the fireworks display Sunday, the Good Morning USA parade Monday morning and the Good Ol' Fashioned township picnic Monday, Bruscatto sees a wealth of patriotic celebration within the community.

"This is an exciting week for downtown Plymouth with five days of Fourth of July activities that will bring lots of people downtown," Bruscatto said. "There's no reason to leave Plymouth to enjoy the Fourth of July."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

10 years ... we want to make sure the voters have their voices heard," Slavens said. "I felt it was something that needed more transparency for everyone to see, including myself. I'm disappointed they rushed it through."

SENATE MAP

The biggest change could be in the 7th Senate District, represented by state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton. Under the old map, Colbeck's district included Canton, the Plymouths, Wayne, Belleville and then slid Downriver.

Under the new boundaries, Colbeck loses the Downriver portion of the district, but adds Livonia and its 100,000 population. The new map also includes Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Wayne.

Colbeck said he's "confident in the process that was used," and points to some Republican unrest with some of the boundary decisions as an indication it wasn't completely political.

He said he's "disappointed" to lose the Downriver area, but downplays the challenge of adding a city like Livonia, where he hasn't had to campaign before and where he might not be as well known.

"I'm comfortable with the Livonia and Wayne areas because I have some family roots and friends there," Colbeck said. "I gained two additional communities I have relationships with, and I'm comfortable with that."

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July 15.....Steve King and the Dittillies (Rock)
July 22.....Gia Warner Band
July 29.....The Bluescasters (Blues)
Aug. 5.....Those Delta Rhythm Kings (Swing)
Aug. 12....Michael King & Friends (Rock)
Aug. 19....Mass Transit Band (Top 40)
Aug. 26....Randy Brock Group (Blues)
Sept. 2....Lady Sunshine and the X Band (Soul)

Be sure to look for this article in the Observer every Thursday to find more information about each week's "Plymouth Music in the Air" performance.

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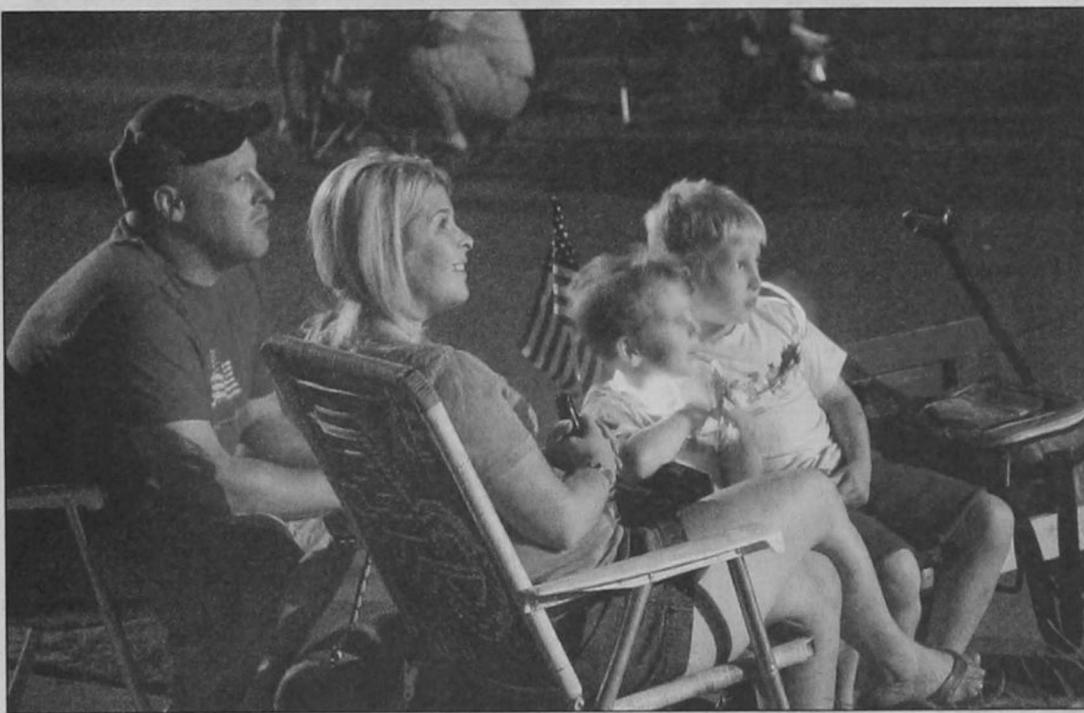
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

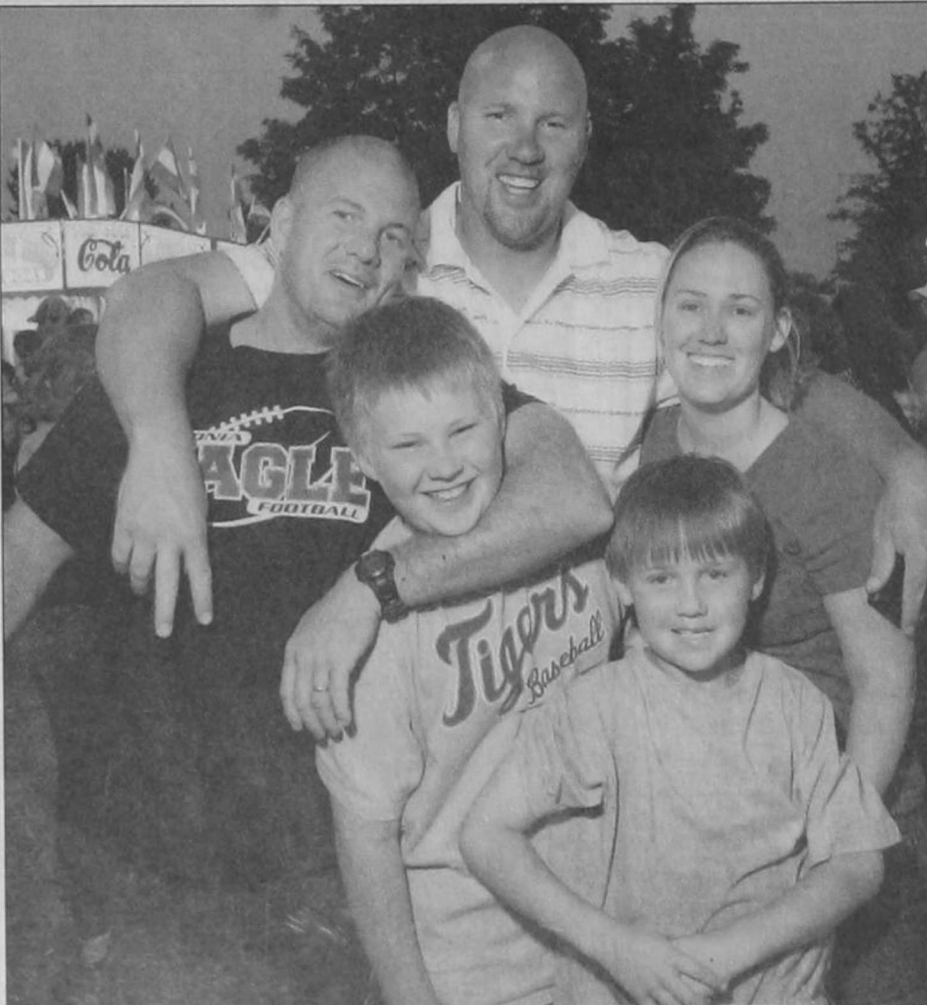
Spree 61 fireworks start off with a bang.

Fireworks show draws an estimated 200,000 to Livonia



Daniel and Jen Sitarski, with sons Rylan and Jase, watch the fireworks. They're from Howell, but both Daniel and Jen grew up in the Livonia/Redford area.

Ken Abraham, Dave Stokes, Julie Stokes and sons Andrew and Bryan Stokes enjoy Sunday night at Spree 61.



The fireworks show in Livonia Sunday may have been one of the best-attended in the city's history.

The combination of perfect weather for viewing fireworks and a reduction in the number of cities offering fireworks because of the expense drew more than 125,000 people to Ford Field for the 30-minute display and grand finale of Livonia Spree.

"We were extremely packed," said Dan Spurling, president of the Livonia Anniversary Committee, which sponsors Livonia Spree, the city's weeklong birthday celebration.

"The breeze was minimal; there were no clouds. You couldn't have asked for a better evening," he said. "I think it brought out more people."

He said the Spree committee was getting calls from as far away as Waterford and Brighton from people asking about Livonia's fireworks. "People just love fireworks; they will drive miles to see them," he said. "A lot of these communities are cutting back."

He said in addition to the 125,000 at Ford Field and the immediate vicinity, there were an estimated 25,000 to 75,000 more spectators watching from homes and businesses and other locations throughout the city.

Spurling said the show, choreographed to music and put on by American Fireworks, keeps getting better each year. "There were more shells ... some new designs. Technology keeps advancing with fireworks."

The weather was certainly improved from the past two years. "Last year we fought the storms," he said. "We didn't even know if we were going to be able to shoot them."

Livonia Spree and the fireworks are free for people to attend, thanks in part to corporate sponsorships and numerous volunteers.

Spurling said the Spree committee plans to keep admission and parking for the city's annual celebration free again next year, just like the founders of Spree intended.

"We're planning Spree 62 as we speak," he said.

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CHAMBER CHAT

Artist on display

TCF Bank presents local artist John Middlestead in an exhibit at its Canton location 7-9 p.m. Thursday, July 14.

Middlestead is a local artist known for his breathtaking landscape photography. A reception takes place July 14 for Middlestead. There is no charge for admission.

TCF Bank is located at 45375 Ford Road in Canton.

Volunteers needed

Canton Chamber of Commerce officials are seeking volunteers to pass out Shop Canton bags at the jazz concerts in July and August.

The concerts will be held at various parking lots along Ford Road. Still open are the following dates: July 22 (2), July 29 (1), Aug. 5 (1), Aug. 19 (1).

Anyone interested in volunteering can call the chamber, (734) 453-4040.

Ribbon cutting

Rawlinson Photography marks its move to a new location with a 5 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, July 6.

The ribbon cutting will be followed by an open house, which runs 5-7:30 p.m.

Rawlinson Photography is located at 1365 S. Main in Plymouth.

Grub Crawl

The Canton Chamber of Commerce, Charter Township of Canton and the Downtown Development Authority will be co-hosting Canton's 10th annual Grub Crawl 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. This event is open to the public and participants must be 21 years of age or older.

The Grub Crawl is an opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their cuisine as well as promote Canton's diversity while having fun. In past years there has been participation from about 13 restaurants in the community. This year's line up will be similar with a few new additions.

"The Grub Crawl is a favorite event in the community and this year marks our 10th anniversary," said Tracey Rettig, President of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

According to Rettig, last year more than 500 people attended this event. Tickets (T-shirt) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants. T-shirts are on sale now and can be purchased at the Chamber office. T-shirt sizes are on a first-come, first-served basis so reserve yours early.

Anyone interested in participating in the Grub Crawl can visit the chamber's website at www.cantonchamber.com, click on forms/flyers to print a ticket order form and drop it by the Chamber office at 45525 Hanford Road.

For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

Major Sponsors for this event are Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc., PNC Bank, Schoolcraft College, Showroom of Elegance, TDS Metrocom, and Yazaki North America, Inc.



WALT DMOC

Michigan Hockey readers voted Compuware Arena as the best in the state in the 2011 Quest for the Best Arena poll.

Readers tab Compuware as top arena

BY PHIL COLVIN
MICHIGAN HOCKEY

Since opening in the fall of 1996, Compuware Arena's programs, amenities and prime location have helped it become one of the busiest facilities in Michigan.

The two-rink facility is home to the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers, Compuware AAA Hockey Club, Compuware House League and the Detroit Catholic Central and Plymouth Wildcats high school teams. The arena also hosts hockey schools, concerts, the MHSAA state tournament, high school graduations and college graduations, birthday parties and a three-screen Drive-In Movie Theatre in the parking lot all summer long.

Michigan Hockey readers noticed and voted Compuware Arena as the best in the state in the 2011 Quest for the Best Arena poll.

"That's very exciting and an honor," said Denise Ronayne,

Compuware Arena's director of sales and marketing. "I'm glad the readers of Michigan Hockey cared enough to pick us. Our staff takes pride in making this a great place to skate and we appreciate the recognition."

Built by Compuware Corporation owner Peter Karmanos Jr. on a 30-acre parcel of land on the east side of Beck Road just north of M-14 in Plymouth Township, Compuware Arena sits on the highest point of the property surrounded by woods and natural wetlands.

"After spending many years in rinks around the United States and Canada with his youth teams, Mr. Karmanos wanted to build a first-class facility for parents and their kids in this area," said Compuware Arena President Mike Vellucci. "With all the events going on here, we've become a big part of the community. People enjoy coming to Compuware Arena."

The 170,000-square-foot facility has a large lobby with

a concourse that runs between the two ice sheets and arenas. One side contains a NHL-sized ice surface with seating for over 3,500 (standing room capacity of approximately 4,500), private suites, a press box and is the home ice to the OHL Whalers. The other arena has an Olympic-size ice surface and seating for 800.

Compuware Arena includes 11 locker rooms, three dedicated locker rooms, video arcade, the Slap Shot snack shop and the Whalers Cove pro shop.

C.J.'s Brewing Company, a full service restaurant and bar with a meeting and party room, occupies a large spot in the front of the complex at the same level as the ice arena concourse.

The arena also runs Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Hockey classes, holds Open Skate and Sticks and Pucks sessions and figure skaters use the Olympic-size ice surface to train.

"We've really tried to get as many kids involved in the game as we can," said

Ronayne.

With its seating capacity, terrific amenities and proximity to the multiple hotels and restaurants of western Wayne County, Compuware Arena is well equipped to host large gatherings.

The facility has also hosted ice shows, trade shows, pro wrestling and several concerts. "Compuware Arena is a perfect size for concerts, it has great acoustics and a location that can't be beat," said Dan McGowan of the Crofoot Ballroom, who moved a concert that had outgrown the Crofoot to Compuware Arena earlier this year.

"We're looking to book even more shows," said Mike Henry, Compuware Arena manager. "We'd like people to see that we are a good venue and have more acts start coming."

Measuring your online presence

BY JON GUNNELLS
GUEST COLUMNIST



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

It used to be that if you had a problem about a product or service you would call and complain, write a nasty letter, or if you were really annoying — contact a government representative.

Not anymore. Consumers now use social media to communicate directly with businesses and if a customer has a bad experience, they can air the dirty laundry online for the entire world to see.

Negative feedback is bad for business, so as you could imagine, companies react quicker than they used to.

This however, isn't about how companies can leverage social media to have better customer service and happier clients. This is about how consumers can build an online reputation to help themselves through customer service issues.

There are a handful of websites that track activities and rate your reputation on the Internet, but the site that has its biggest share of fans (and detractors) is Klout.com

Users who link their Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn accounts with Klout will receive a ranking based on how well they interact on the internet. Think of it as a digital score about how well you play with others within social space.

Scores are on a 100 point scale with the higher numbers being better. On Klout, users won't necessarily increase their score by having as many friends and followers as Justin Bieber, but they can increase their numbers by starting conversations, sharing information, and responding to others.

Some say the algorithm used to determine Klout scores is arbitrary, because there is no perfect way to do social media. Tweeting for example isn't like throwing a baseball or growing a vegetable garden. There's no completely right or wrong

way. Still, Klout makes a compelling argument about why you should try and interact on your social networks — because businesses are watching. It's nothing

new for businesses to offer freebies or discounts to online influencers. Klout just makes scores easier to understand and makes the online influencers easier to identify. Online influencers are essential to service providers because they are key to cheap online advertising.

Take The Palms hotel in Las Vegas for instance. In the fall, The Palms began creating the Klout Club that would allow certain perks for hotel guests with higher Klout scores.

The way it works is, a high profile celebrity, or say, a social media guru with a high Klout score could get an upgrade for having a strong online presence. It's the hotel's hope that the aforementioned power user would share their great experiences with their highly engaged fan base and create some buzz for much cheaper than a commercial or billboard.

In the past year, other companies have reached out Klout users who are influential in certain areas to help promote their cause. A snack manufacturer, for instance, may send free samples to users who are influential about junk food in the hopes that they will rally their fans to go buy a new product.

But it's a two-way street and while companies can use people with high online rankings to improve their web visibility and sentiment, users can also use their high online rankings to improve the way they are treated by companies.

If you have a high Klout score, or are simply have an

How to interact in social space

While there is no perfect way to use social media, there are a few easy ways to improve your presence

- Interact with others. Don't simply post status updates or Tweet. Reply to others, respond to posts and start conversations.

- Don't use social media to only be negative to companies, or even people. Give credit where credit is due.

- Share information. While it may be fun to sit back and observe, the Internet is great because of the wealth of information users have at their fingertips. Start adding to it!

engaged readership that will allow you to broadcast a message, companies that are serious about customer service will take notice.

Whether they are a Las Vegas hotel, a potato chip manufacturer, or any other service provider — companies cannot afford negative feedback — especially in social media where comments could spread like a virus.

Next time you're online, think about quickly registering for Klout.com or another online measurement site to see how strong your presence is and what you are influential about.

Who knows, the next time you have car trouble, or get a fly in your soup at a national restaurant chain — your online presence may help you get solutions.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media, driving and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

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Walsh: Medical marijuana needs better regulation

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

House lawmakers are expected to study a package of bills introduced Tuesday that proponents hope will clarify ambiguities in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, said he and a bipartisan group of state lawmakers have proposed bills that aim to ensure medical marijuana is "properly certified and acquired appropriately" by patients.

Walsh announced the legislation at a press conference in Lansing with Attorney General Bill Schuette, state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, and Berrien County Prosecutor Art Cotter.

Walsh said lawmakers wanted to "clear up the ambiguity involving the law and get the focus back to what people intended when they voted for this in 2008 to assure that medical marijuana is available for patients who truly need it."

"Voters approved the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, but they did not vote for legalization of marijuana," Walsh said.

The proposed legislation:
• Requires traditional doctor-patient relationships to end the current practice of some doctors certifying patients for medical marijuana without even seeing the patient or knowing the patient's medical history. Walsh said a recent *Detroit Free Press* article reported that

just 55 doctors have certified about 45,000 — or 71 percent — of all medical marijuana registrants;

• Enhances public and patient safety by prohibiting patient-to-patient transactions and requiring growers to keep their plants in enclosed, locked facilities accessible only to the registered caregiver or patient;

• Protects patients from unnecessary pursuit by law enforcement officials by giving law enforcement officials access to the medical marijuana patient registry during the course of their official duty; and

• Clarifies zoning guidelines as many city, village and township boards do not know how to classify dispensaries opening within their boundaries.

The bills will go to the House Judiciary Committee.

BETTER DEFINITIONS NEEDED

"The two biggest issues with the MMMA are the definitions," Walsh said. "The physician-patient relationship is poorly defined, and the caregiver-patient relationship is poorly defined."

Attorney Michael Komorn, president of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Association, said Wednesday he was disappointed with the legislation. Komorn said that the proposed reforms fail to address the patients' need for protection and assist more with law enforcement, creating what he called a "new niche" for prosecutors.

"This (medical marijuana) is new



Pictured from left at the news conference are Berrien County Prosecuting Attorney Art Cotter; Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan; Rep. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy; Rep. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth; Attorney General Bill Schuette; Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia; Rep. Gail Haines, R-Waterford; Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake; and Rep. Joseph Haveman, R-Holland.

to law enforcement and new to the communities," Komorn said. Some law enforcement agencies "are arresting first and asking questions later," Komorn said.

Komorn said that patients often need to exchange marijuana because it can take four or five months to grow. "They may need it right now," Komorn said.

Prohibiting patient-to-patient or caregiver-to-caregiver transactions

would reduce or eliminate access for many users, he said. "Where are they going to go?" Komorn asked.

The legislation is not realistic, Komorn said. "It doesn't consider the community's need." Komorn also noted that 63 percent of Michigan voters supported medical marijuana and that some claims of abuses of the law are "overblown and hyperexaggerated."

Walsh said prosecutors have told

lawmakers that caregivers will take care of their legitimate patients, then sometimes sell any excess medical marijuana to other patients or on the open market. Prosecutors are also finding that doctors will conduct Internet consultations without actually seeing patients who seek medical marijuana and want the cards, Walsh said. Other doctors may set up storefronts, charging a flat fee, without an actual exam, Walsh said. Walsh said he has heard these complaints from prosecutors all over the state.

Walsh wants the definitions tightened and better zoning regulations in the new legislation. Walsh said lawmakers were working on regulations for dispensaries.

"We'll be reaching out to the medical marijuana community to get their input on the bills over the summer," Walsh said. Walsh doesn't expect a 100 percent "buy-in" on the bills, but wants a comprehensive discussion before public hearings are held in the fall on the legislation.

"Regulation will help the patient," Walsh said. "Better regulations on what is legal also will help police and prosecutors."

Komorn said the legislation and the attorney general's opinion are not the way to create dialogue on the topic. "You should contemplate both sides," Komorn said.

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Plan ahead to eliminate family infighting during times of death



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

I was watching TV last week when a story popped up about the Michael Jackson estate. The story dealt with the fights within the family regarding how the estate is being

administered.

It's not a surprise to anyone that an estate like Michael Jackson's would have issues. Obviously, our situations are a lot different than Michael Jackson's. However, what caught me by surprise was when the commentator of the story implied that family infighting was reserved for the rich and famous. I wish that were true, however, the reality

of the situation is that family infighting happens across the board whether it's a large estate, small estate or even sometimes when there's no money involved.

Family infighting upon death goes across all lines of our society and is something that everyone needs to be aware of.

It's not just death that causes family disagreements.

Issues such as how to handle a family emergency or decisions regarding elderly parents can also cause tension within the family.

The reality is no matter what you do and no matter how well you plan, you cannot totally eliminate family disagreements. However, planning does allow you to do is minimize the likelihood that a family disagreement will

result in lawyers and judges being involved.

Good planning provides the methodology to resolve disputes. For example, a durable power of attorney appoints an individual to make decisions in your absence. Without a durable power of attorney, if you are unable to make decisions for yourself, loved ones would have to go to court to seek that power.

Whenever courts get involved, there is no doubt it complicates matters and is more expensive and time-consuming. The goal of good planning is to reduce costs and make things as easy as possible on your loved ones.

Most people don't do any planning. It is beyond me why they don't. After all, do they think they are going to escape the inevitable?

The reality is people don't plan because they're busy with other things and this is something that no one likes to think about. It's easy to find an excuse, but that doesn't diminish the need to plan.

As adults, we have responsibilities and one of those is to plan for the inevitable and for other bumps in the road.

Estate planning doesn't have to be expensive. There are free forms for medical powers of attorney, durable powers and wills, available on my website (www.bloomassetmanagement.com) under the Bloom University heading — click on Legal Forms. These forms are not for everyone, but they work for many families.

Doing things such as checking beneficiaries and creating a document locator, listing what your assets are and where they and your important papers are located, does not have to cost a thing. On the other hand, if you need professional advice, hire an attorney that specializes in estate planning and don't be afraid to discuss costs and fees ahead of time.

An attorney who does not want to discuss costs and fees ahead of time is an attorney you don't want to deal with.

I assume Michael Jackson did not want to have his family fight and be in litigation for years after his death. I also assume that none of us would want our families to suffer because of us.

When we are no longer here, we want our family and friends to remember us fondly rather than as the cause of family strife. Therefore, to do the right thing, take time and plan.

Good luck!

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



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OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fire and safety officials would rather residents left the fireworks displays to professional observances like this one in Canton, or the one coming up Sunday in Plymouth Township, but urge safety for residents intending to use their own fireworks.

Fun Fourth

Safety should be top thought for the holiday

It seems an obvious message to deliver as the Fourth of July approaches — be safe with fireworks — but that doesn't mean it's not a message worth delivering.

That's because, from the various fire officials in the communities we cover, we know a few things about this time of year:

- In the United States, on July 4, there are more fires reported than on any other day of the year.
- Fireworks account for more than 50 percent of the reported July 4 fires. Fireworks caused an estimated 22,500 fires in 2008. These included 1,400 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires and 20,600 outdoor fires. These fires resulted in one civilian death, 40 civilian injuries and \$42 million in direct property damage.
- But this was just the tip of the iceberg.
- U.S. hospitals treated more than 7,000 people for fireworks-related injuries in 2008. Of that number, 53 percent were to the extremities and 37 percent were to the head. The age groups at highest risk were teens 15-19 years old and children 5-9 years old.
- Eighty-four percent of fireworks-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involved fireworks that federal regulations permit consumers to use.

In Michigan, any firework that flies, spins, twirls or explodes is illegal to purchase or use without a permit. While legislation is currently pending in the state Legislature to allow consumer fireworks, this bill obviously will not be signed into law in time for this year's celebration.

The National Fire Protection Association, along with virtually any fire department official you care to ask, recommends that residents leave fireworks to the experts and find a public fireworks display to enjoy (there's one in Plymouth Sunday, for instance) this Fourth of July holiday.

However, we understand there are going to be people who purchase and use fireworks. If you're one of those people, at least please follow these safety rules from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that fizzle and don't go off.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- After fireworks fully complete their functioning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding to prevent a fire.

Many communities — Canton and Livonia among them — have already had their public fireworks display, so there might be a sense the danger has passed. However, safety officials point out research shows that typically 60 percent of fireworks injuries occur from the end of June through the last weeks of July.

Obvious or not, this is a message worth heeding.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What are your plans for the Fourth of July?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"We always have a pool party."

Jennifer Greene
Canton



"Just hanging out with family. We'll probably barbecue or something like that."

Elias Musallam
Ypsilanti



"Nothing at all other than probably cooking out."

Dustin Isaacson
Canton



"We might just have some family over."

Lanny Henderson
Canton

LETTERS

Be considerate at commencement

On June 10, I attended Salem High School's 2011 commencement program. Before diplomas were handed out, the audience was politely asked to hold their applause, not to whistle or call out to their graduate so each student's name could be heard by family and friends.

For the first one-third of the program, people did comply with that request. Then some groups started applauding, yelling and even sounding bull horns. Does simple courtesy only pertain to a few rather than to the whole audience?

It was very disconcerting and many people including the graduates were embarrassed that adults could be so inconsiderate. Of course, we are proud of all the graduates and wish them well.

J. Dore
Livonia

Thanks for help

"OH ... MY ... GOSH ... I can't believe this ..."

I repeated this over and over until I realized that I was not dreaming. In April, I received a call from Jim Cisek, who represents Christmas in Action of Wayne County, to let me know that I am one of 10 people whose houses that will be repaired. I was speechless, my heart was pounding, my eyes were full of tears, my body was shaking, I was in shock.

That was the beginning of many changes that were about to take place in my life. Throughout this process, one of the greatest lessons I learned is that it is OK to accept help and there are still people who want to reach out and help others while not judging.

In January, my friend told me she read about Christmas in Action of Wayne County, Inc. and how it offers free home repairs to the elderly and disabled who can't afford their own. She strongly encouraged me to get online and submit an application. I was hesitant at first, thinking that there are others in greater need, and she kept reminding me that I, too, am in need and have nothing to lose.

In March, Jim Cisek came to my house for an interview and to go over my application for what work needed to be done. I asked that my crumbling front porch be repaired and that a railing be added, to repair my cracking driveway and that I needed a new front door since mine was falling apart and losing so much energy.

This was very humbling for me. I'm not used to asking for help. Although Jim was very kind and friendly, I still felt guilty when he spoke aloud of what repairs I requested, knowing that someone else may need more help than I do. He said that he would let me know whether or not my application was approved.

During the days leading up to this unbelievable project, Jim explained all that would be done, including a port-a-john on my corner and that tables and chairs would be set up outside so that CIA could feed all the volunteers. He had every detail covered, including the cleanup, from where, from when, from how, to for what. He also advised me, if I was interested, an interior decorator would come and give the room of my choice a facelift. It was at this time I finally realized that I can say "yes" and accept help.

I was then introduced to some very special people. Kim from Calvary Baptist Church and her team; Bill Dunphy, the house leader; and many other special volunteers, including Jim's son. These people worked so hard to complete such a professional job while all were happy to be there with

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

smiles on their faces.

I don't know how to begin to explain how much this has all meant to me. I want to let as many people know about this special organization as I can. Please remember that this project can only survive with grants and donations. I urge all, when able, to help this organization continue its very helpful and heartfelt work. I will in turn do the best I can to give back to the community and be the best person I can be. Jim, you've touched not only my heart, but my family's. I'm sure that your kindness will come back to you over and over.

Thank you again for everything.

Debra Woods
Canton

Change the process

One of the most important decisions made in a democracy is determining the composition of legislative districts, since it establishes the constituencies that elect our representatives. The way districts are drawn has a significant impact on the outcome of elections.

There are legal guidelines that must be followed such as population, preserving local political boundaries, compactness and compliance with the Voting Rights Act; however it is easy to adjust lines to give an advantage to incumbent legislators or a political party.

With this understanding, several members of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County attended the meetings of the Wayne County Apportionment Commission beginning April 12. We came to observe the process and report back to our membership.

Members of the commission are Chairman Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Wayne County treasurer; Vice-Chair Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County clerk; Kym L. Worthy, Wayne County prosecutor; William J. Runco, Republican Party representative; William M. Wolfson, Democratic Party representative.

The commission's responsibility was to revise the boundaries of the 15 districts based on the 2010 Census data and the criteria mentioned above. The commission hired Data Driven Detroit, a business incubator to develop a number of options for the commission to critique and then decide on one.

At each meeting there was a written agenda, but all of the information from Data Driven Detroit was projected on a screen with no paper copies available to the public. At the end of each meeting, Wojtowicz asked for public comment. It was difficult to study and prepare meaningful comments when the information was posted on the Wayne

County clerk's website only one or two days before the meeting.

On May 27, the commission voted to accept option six of Data Driven Detroit's various proposals. At this meeting it was announced that the public can submit alternatives between June 9-21. Option six was posted June 1 on the website of the Wayne County clerk as the finished product.

As a proponent of an informed and educated electorate and transparency in government, League members recommend that the public be given a substantial opportunity to critique and provide input to the plans submitted by individuals, groups and Data Driven Detroit before a vote is taken by the Apportionment Commission.

In geographic areas that do not have to meet the rules of the Voting Rights Act, the district lines should be drawn so one party does not have a substantial advantage over another. In one new district in western Wayne County, it is an 80-20 percent split, creating a situation where the commissioner elected by the 80 percent can ignore the concerns of the 20 percent and still get re-elected. This is not what our founding fathers intended.

When young people say they don't vote because their vote doesn't count, they have a point. We need to change the re-districting process. We all have the right to make our elected officials more accountable, and we all have the right to fair representation at the county, state and federal levels of government.

Angela Ryan, president

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Teen restrictions unfair

Being a 16-year-old who drives, it has been brought to my attention that driving regulations for anyone with a graduated one driver's license have been extremely restricted. Although such laws were passed in order to benefit society and protect citizens of all ages, there comes a point where one needs to draw the line on how much to control people's lives. Not only do teens go through intense training to receive their license in the first place, but they also reach a milestone in their life when they gain a sense of freedom after finally receiving their first driver's license.

After 50 hours of parental supervised driving, three weeks of three-hour classes almost every day, and a formal driving test with a certified trainer, there is no reason for teenagers to be in by 10 p.m. and never have more than one person in the car. However, these regulations should be enforced if irresponsible teens violate other driving laws. The responsible teens who meet all expectations and follow driving laws just as well as any other driver should not be punished because of other foolish acts. Therefore, responsible teens should be able to take three friends out to a movie that starts at 9 p.m. and arrive home no later than midnight.

Furthermore, stricter rules and regulations lower the expectations for maturing teens and disappoint those who have worked for and deserve to be treated like an adult. Any further restrictions for teens regarding their licenses should be left for their parent or guardian to determine. I understand the purpose for the revisions that were made; however, I think the government should consider the large percentage of teens who have not done anything wrong in order to earn such punishments. I hope many people take these points into consideration the next time this topic is brought up.

Ashley Kaminski
South Lyon

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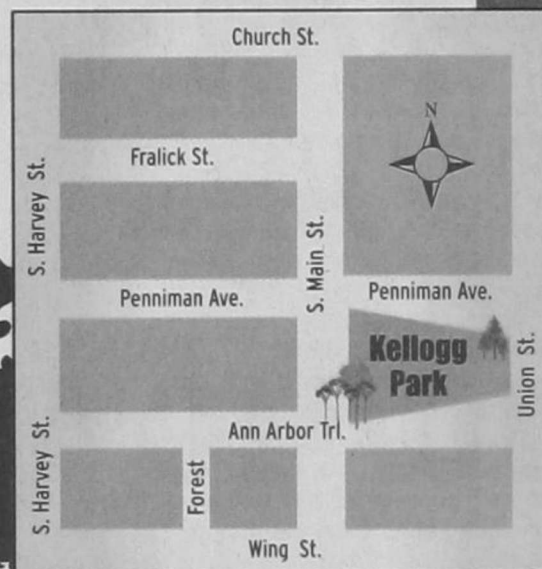
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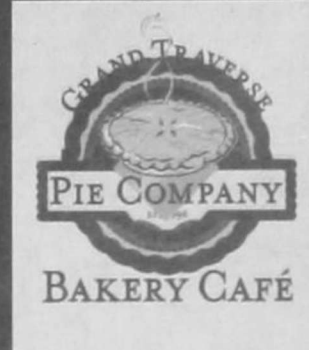
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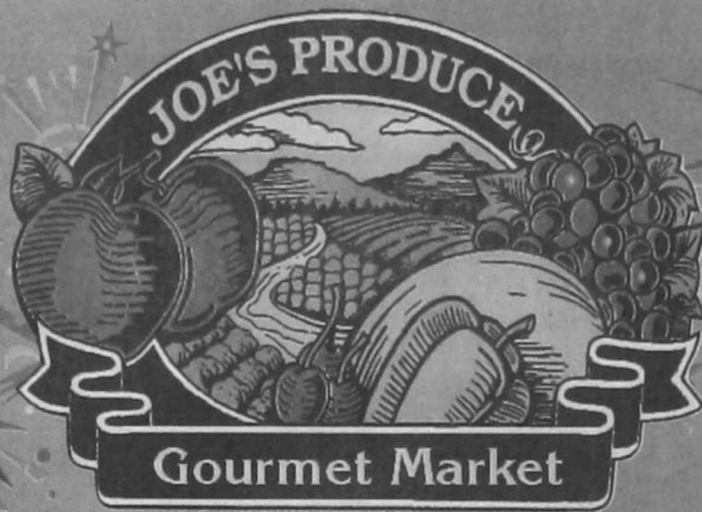
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Despite injuries, Moss flourishes with Calgary

Livonian completes fifth NHL season with Flames

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Moss has become an avid golfer, but the right winger from the Calgary Flames would prefer to keep his clubs in storage during the months of April, May and June.

The Livonia native and Detroit Catholic Central High grad just completed his fifth season for the Flames, who just missed the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the second straight year.

Moss, a member the Flames' top line which includes Jarome Iginla and recently re-signed Alex Tanguay, went down with a freak ankle injury while skating in a practice during mid-March.

After scoring 17 goals and adding 13 assists with a career-best plus-9 rating, Moss' presence in the lineup was sorely missed.

"I was going to catch a pass and got caught in a rut," Moss said. "I missed the last 15 games and we were making a run. (Teammate) Brendan Morrison also got hurt and that didn't help."

The 6-foot-3, 205-pound forward was the Flames' seventh-round draft pick (220th overall) in 2003 and has appeared in 285 NHL games with 59 goals and 56 assists.

But his last playoff appearance was in the 2008-09 series against his hometown Detroit Red Wings.

"I don't know if it was one thing why we missed it," Moss said of the two-year playoff void. "We were definitely close both years. We had stretches - where you can't do in the NHL - when you're in a really bad funk. The first few months of last year we really put ourselves behind the eight-ball."

"After the All-Star break we were one of the better teams in the league. It's one of those things where you put yourself too far back, too early and you can't climb out of the hole. The teams are too good. You're close, but it's a matter of taking that next step, and in Calgary I think we have the team to do that."

Moss hasn't been on skates since the March 15 practice injury, but was scheduled to be back on the ice Wednesday.

Please see **MOSS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia native David Moss just completed his fifth season with the NHL's Calgary Flames.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The man of the hour, Jesse 'SuperJess' Lindlbauer, is flanked by his dad, David Lindlbauer (left) and close friend John Etienne in the Michigan Blue Jays dugout Monday night.

'SuperJess' Classic a smash hit

Benefit baseball game supports Canton teenager

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There were no raindrops - finally - but plenty of happy tears Monday as two teams of Jesse Lindlbauer's baseball buddies played the long-awaited "SuperJess" Baseball Classic at Plymouth High School's varsity field.

Postponed from June 22 due to rain, the first-annual classic pitted two U16 travel teams mostly comprised of players from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Whatever the Michigan Blue Jays and Plymouth Grizzlies could do on the baseball diamond paled in comparison to the reason everyone was there.

The star of the event was 16-year-

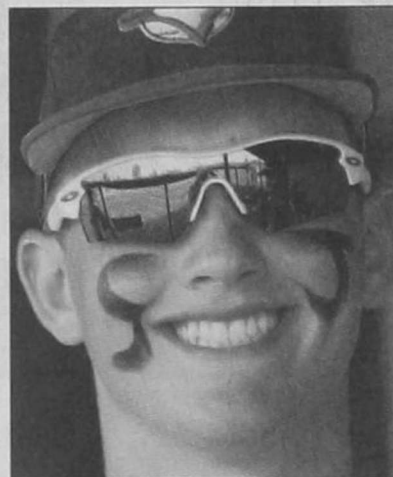
old Jesse, whose family wheeled him out to the pitcher's mound for the ceremonial first pitch - delivered by Jesse's younger brother Noah.

Jesse wore a smile and Blue Jays cap as waves of people made sure to greet him with smiles and encouraging words.

"They've been here every step of the way," said David Lindlbauer, Jesse's dad. "Six months later they're still following us, following the progress."

"We certainly appreciate it because we can't let down. There's a little ways to go, so we're still pushing forward and we need the support, trust me."

Please see **SUPERJESS, B3**



Zach Bird of the Michigan Blue Jays happily displays the S and J letters painted on his face as a tribute to Jesse 'SuperJess' Lindlbauer.

SIDELINES

All-star standout

The official end of Jason Wilson's high school football career merged nicely with the start of his college career Saturday.

The former Farmington High wide receiver caught two touchdown passes in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's 31st annual East-West All-Star game.

Wilson's first-half touchdowns sparked the East to a 16-7 halftime lead and an eventual, 30-13 victory at Central Michigan University.

Wilson, a two-time, All-Observer player, will play college football in the same Kelly-Shorts Stadium for the CMU Chippewas.

He finished with three receptions for 136 yards. His TD catches, both thrown by Detroit Cass Tech's Keith Moore, covered 61 and 68 yards.

Wilson just missed a third TD reception late in the game on a pass from Harrison quarterback Tommy Vento, who was 8-of-16 passing for 78 yards.

Michigan Amateur

Both of Madonna University's golf programs were represented in the final 64-player field with women's assistant coach Brian King (Livonia) and recent men's program graduate Brett Quitiquit having advanced to the match play event at the 2011 Michigan Amateur Championship held at The Heather at Boyne Highlands Resort in northern Michigan.

Willie Mack III of Flint defeated Joey Garber of Petoskey, 4-and-3, for the coveted title.

In the stroke play portion of the championship, King shot rounds of 76 and 72 to tie for 13th in the field. He was ousted by Patrick Colburn, 1-up, in the first round of match play.

Quitiquit, a Highland native who was the NAIA National Tournament runner-up medalist in 2010, shot an 80 in the first round of stroke play, but rebounded in round two to card a 71 and tie for 29th in the field.

He was eliminated by Canton's Mike Fedewa in the first round of match play, 2-and-1. Mike Fedewa then ousted Steve Fedewa of Howell, 3-and-2, before losing to Mack in the quarterfinals, 5-and-3.

Livonian Kevin Janasik also qualified in 47th with a 79-74-153. He was ousted by Jerry Gunthorpe in the first round, 2-up.

Hole-in-one club

Jim Ewald of St. Clair Shores used a 20-degree Orlimar to ace the 146-yard, No. 17 hole Saturday at Redford's Glenhurst Golf Course.

For the 64-year-old Ewald, it was his first hole-in-one in 34 years. He shot 87 for 18 holes.

MU guides lauded

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Sports Information Directors Association recently announced its 2010-11 publication awards and three guides produced by the Madonna University Sports Information Office took home top-10 honors.

The 2010 volleyball media guide placed second among the 22 entries while the 2011 baseball media guide took home seventh in the Walt McAlexander Baseball Brochure contest and the women's basketball guide ranked eighth.

All three guides were produced by Madonna University Sports Information Director an alumnus Patrick Moore, with assistance from assistant athletic director Noel Emenhiser, along with volleyball student-athlete Anna Gatt (Livonia Churchill) and former interns Erik Gruenewald and Jarrett Fenech.

A victory for retired ballplayers

Area men win compensation for ex-major leaguers

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If it was a baseball game, it would be the equivalent of a 22-inning marathon. Like the winning team, Al Moran and Jim Acho have been rewarded for their persistent efforts, too.

For the last eight years, the Farmington Hills men battled Major League Baseball in the courts, fighting on behalf of former players who were excluded from a 1980 change in the pension agreement.

The announcement this spring that MLB and the Players Association had worked out a deal to compensate those players is a victory for Acho and Moran.

Acho, the attorney for the Livonia-based law firm that represented the players, did all of the legal work on the case since the original lawsuit was filed in 2003.

Moran, a former shortstop who played for the Mets and Red Sox in the early 1960s, served as the Midwest representative in the class-action suit.

When Moran played, a minimum service of four years on a Major League roster was required to earn a pension. Under a new agreement in 1980, players needed only 45 days for a pension and one day for health insurance.

Moran and others like him were never included retroactively in the new

Please see **COMPENSATION, B3**



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attorney Jim Acho (left) lights a victory cigar as he and former major leaguer Al Moran celebrate the agreement awarding compensation to older retired players.

Hard-luck Rams drop another close game

The Michigan Rams were looking for some momentum heading into the five-day Fourth of July holiday weekend.

But the 20-and-under Rams suffered their sixth, one-run loss of the season in Livonia Collegiate Baseball League action against the 22-and-under Michigan Pride, 2-1, Monday at Bicentennial Park.

Kevin Zak went 3-for-3 with an RBI and Garrett Green also drove in a run as the Pride improved to 12-6 in league play.

Winning pitcher Charlie Fisher went the first 6.2 innings allowing just one run on four hits and three walks. He struck out seven before giving way to closer Randall Stempel, who fanned the final Rams batter to earn the save.

Losing pitcher Tyler Owings allowed two runs, but only one earned, in five innings. He allowed five hits, walked four and hit one batter. Reliever

Zach Wedesky pitched a scoreless sixth.

Caleb Wick knocked in the lone run for the Rams, who slipped to 10-8 in the LCBL.

The Rams played their last game before the break Wednesday at Bicentennial Park against Advanced Baseball.

COBRAS 5-1, RAMS 4-2: In a battle Saturday of LCBL 20-and-under teams at White Lake Lakeland High School, the Rams (10-7) earned the split by beating the Michigan Cobras (9-9) in nightcap of twinbill.

Starter Mike Schypinski allowed just one runs on five hits and two walks in six innings as the Rams pulled out the Game Two, 2-1.

Schypinski, the winning pitcher, struck out seven before giving way to reliever Jay Perry, who pitched a scoreless seventh despite giving up a pair of hits.

Losing pitcher Aaron

Saarela (Madonna University) went all six innings, allowing two runs on six hits. He struck out five and walked three.

Miles Sorise had two hits and an RBI for the Rams, while Mike Carson drove in John DiLaura with the game-winning RBI in a two-run third.

Pat Lancaster also added two hits for the Rams, who scored both runs in the third inning.

Despite being out-hit 12-8, the Cobras won the opener in eight innings, 5-4, as MU's Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) drove home Jim Andrejewski with the game-winning run.

Wayne State's Jeff Sorenson (Livonia Stevenson) and Jake Moore each went 3-for-4 with an RBI for the Rams.

Colin Gerish also had two hits and an RBI, while Carson also collected two hits.

The Cobras used three pitchers with Dan Saier, who threw in the eighth, getting

the victory.

Rams middle reliever Jake Engels, who went 1.1 innings and allowed three runs on three hits, took the loss.

Starter Greg Spiess went 5.2 innings, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks. He struck out two.

COBRAS 3, RAMS 2: Madonna All-America Jeremy Gooding (Dearborn Divine Child) struck out 13 in going the distance as the Cobras (8-8) edged the Rams (9-6) Friday at Ford Field.

Gooding, the Livonia native, allowed just one earned run on four hits and two walks.

Jeff Sorenson had the lone RBI for the Rams, while Mark Zuchaib, Jim Andrejewski and Victor Barron (MU) knocked in runs for the Cobras.

Losing pitcher Alex Pierce gave up three runs on four hits and five walks in 5.1 innings. He struck out eight before giving way to reliever Jake Engels.



VERN WILLIAMS

Stephen Fedak, who will be a sophomore this fall, competed in the Boys 15-16 age division and cleared a personal best 10 feet, 6 inches Saturday in the Spree 61 pole vault competition.

Peterman leads Spree 61 Vault

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan, captured the title at 12-6.

It was a Who's Who among area pole vaulters who competed Friday and Saturday in the Spree 61 Vault event held at Livonia's Ford Field.

Michigan State University's Derik Peterman, an NCAA Division 1 regional qualifier, posted the best mark of the two-day event on the portable 130-foot wooden runway by clearing 16 feet to capture the College/Open Men's Division.

Peterman's former Livonia Churchill High teammate Joe Tesner (Westland), a senior at Eastern Michigan University, was runner-up at 15-6.

In the College/Open Women's Division, Commerce Township's Kiley Tobel, an NCAA Division 1 qualifier from the University of

Katlyn Shelar (Novi) of the West Virginia University was runner-up at 12-0.

Masters age-group winners included: Matti Kilpelainen, Canton, 65-69 (11-0); John Large, Belding, 60-64 (11-6); Bob Schuster, Petersburg, 45-49 (12-0); and Jim Fast, Eaton Rapids, 40-44 (11-0).

Among the boys age-group champions were: Cory Miller, Adrian, 17-18 (15-6); Daniel Kndra, Warren, 15-16 (11-6); and Alex Fast, Eaton Rapids, 14-and-under (12-6).

Girls age-group winners included Claire Tewksbury, Dexter, 17-18 (12-3); and Alex Kitz, Livonia Stevenson, 15-16 (10-6).

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Concealed captures Battle of the North

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Host Concealed Security proved to be the sole survivor among six teams in the Battle of the North 16-and-under baseball tournament held last weekend at Livonia Stevenson High School.

Concealed captured six-of-seven game over a four-day span including a 6-1 victory over the Portage Storm in Sunday's championship game as Alec Padilla (Romeo) went all seven innings, allowing just five hits and two walks while striking out seven.

Arizona transplant Hunter

Green, a switch hitting catcher and outfielder from West Bloomfield, went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI to pace Concealed's offensive attack.

Center fielder Kevin Nisun (Livonia Franklin) was named the tournament MVP after hitting .385 and posting an on-base percentage of .579.

Tom Daffron (Grand Blanc) went 3-for-3 and Alex DeYonker (Franklin) added two doubles and an RBI as Concealed advanced to the final with a 4-3 semifinal triumph Sunday over the Lincoln Park Rails.

Kenny Miller (White Lake Lakeland) was the winning

pitcher and Concealed got out of a jam in the bottom of the sixth inning by turning a double play on a wheel play with runners on first and second followed by a pick-off move two pitches later on a Rails runner at second base.

Miller also pitched a shutout in the tournament opener Thursday as Concealed downed the Macomb Inferno, 7-0, followed by an 8-6 victory over the Rails.

On Friday, Concealed rocked the Storm, 17-7, and edged the Grosse Pointe Elite, 11-10, as Nisun made a game-saving catch.

On Saturday, the Oakland

Thunder handed Concealed its first setback of the tourney, 10-5.

Rounding out the Concealed squad, now 12-7 on the season, are Rodney Bies and Austin Stevens, both of Livonia Stevenson; Brandon Waack, Plymouth; Nolan Clenney, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central; Anthony DiPonio and Zach Schmidtke, both of Dearborn Heights and Divine Child; Zach Tallman, Brownstown; and Kyle Squibb, South Lyon.

Concealed is coached by Lou Pirronello, Steve Tallman, Jeff Richard and Bob Bies.

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Flash '03 wins soccer title

The Farmington Soccer Club's under-8 boys Flash '03 team is the Western Suburban Soccer League's Division 3 champion in the spring session with a record of 6-2. The team members are (front row, from left) Ty Blair, Diego Espinosa, Daniel Bass, Josef Bass, Daniel Hanus, (back row, from left) coach Eileen Monique, Maxim Wyrwa, Eli Bride, Aaron Percival, Samuel Monique, Joe Daniels and coach Paco Espinosa. Not picture is Nate Wygonik.



Silver spikers

The Livonia-based Triple-Threat Volleyball Organization captured first place in the 14-and-under Silver Division at the Asics Junior National Championships held June 21 in Chicago, Ill. Team members include: (top row, from left) Lauren Schornack, Sarah Allmacher, Jayci Forster, Kayla March, coach Jill Ruark; (bottom row, from left) Amanda Rybak, Alison Hige, Mikayla Seinkiewicz and Anika Mukherji.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wayne needs coaches

Wayne Memorial High School is accepting applications for girls varsity volleyball coach and boys varsity cross country coach for the fall season, along with a boys varsity track coach for the spring season (2011-12).

Interested applicants should contact Greg Ambrose at (734) 419-2201; or e-mail ambrose@wvcs.k12.mi.us.

Youth soccer academy

Plymouth United F.C. is launching a new academy program for under-8 players. The Academy is competitively priced and designed to help players and their parents make the transition from recreational soccer to select soccer.

For more information, visit www.plymouth-united.com.

Food collection, cupcake baking sweeten Vacation Bible School

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Cupcakes and chefs, pandas and bamboo will keep Vacation Bible School lessons lively at local churches next month.

"Oh, it's food, so it's going to be fun," said Kim DeSantis, describing Vacation Bible School's "Shake it Up Cafe" theme at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia. DeSantis directs the Vacation Bible School at St. Matthew's, which is collaborating with two other churches, Faith Lutheran and Holy Cross Lutheran for the second summer.

Approximately 100 youngsters in preschool through sixth grade attended the joint school last year. DeSantis expects at least as many for the session that will run 9 a.m.-noon, July 18-22 at St. Matthew's, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Registration is \$10 and includes all food, supplies and a T-shirt. Advance registration isn't required, although it will help Vacation Bible School planners order the correct amount of supplies and T-shirts. Call (734) 422-6038.

"We have a recreation segment, games and snacks. There's a full music section. Everyday we're doing a mission. We're going to do a food theme."

Youngsters will donate a different food each day according to a theme. On "Prince of Peas" day they'll take canned vegetables to school. A Pasta Paul Day will round up pastas and grains. On the final day of school they'll make and decorate cupcakes to share during a joint Sunday church service on July 26.

"I went to Vacation Bible School in Kentucky," said DeSantis, recalling her own childhood experience. "It was nothing like this at all like this. We were all together sitting and hearing a lesson. It was more like a very long Sunday school class."

"This (Shake it Up Cafe) is very structured, but the curriculum gives us leeway about how much we want to put into it. If kids walk away from Vacation Bible School remembering even one thing, that's what's important to us."

TASTY LESSONS

At Berean Bible Church, 35375 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, volunteers are gearing up for "Pandamania," Vacation Bible School, where even the snacks will help reinforce Bible lessons.

"I know we're doing a Jonah story. The grapes will be the bubbles coming out of the fish's mouth," said Sue Endlein, who is co-directing the program. Fish-shaped crackers will represent the whale that swallowed Jonah.

Youngsters of different ages are grouped in small teams that move from activity to activity together. Endlein said the grouping creates a "family" in which "older kids rise to the occasion to help the younger ones."

Crafts, games and Bible stories, along with a daily video story, round out the curriculum.

"The story in the cinema revolves around a character who goes to a panda refuge. There are all these panda bears involved and we decorate with bamboo and pandas."

The session is free and runs 9 a.m.-noon, July 11-15. Walk-ins are welcome. Pre-registration also is accepted at (734) 728-4028.

Here's a sampling of other Vacation Bible Schools

- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, "Pandamania," 9 a.m. to noon, July 11-15; (734) 464-0211

- Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, "Shake it Up Cafe," 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., July 25-29; (734) 425-7280. Aimed at children age 4 through fifth grade. Will include games, music, skits, snacks, crafts, Bible stories, and more. Suggested donation is \$15 per child and includes a T-shirt. Registration is open until first day of event, but preregistered participants also receive a CD.

- Bell Creek Community Church, in McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia, "Shake it Up Cafe," 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., July 18-22; (734) 367-4632. For children entering kindergarten-fifth grade. \$10 per child/\$25 max per family; www.bellcreek.org

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BACK, RONALD SCOTT

Went to be with the Lord, June 23, 2011. Beloved father of Holly & Lisa. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Roberta and parents Marion and Gordon Back. Survived by many who loved him dearly. A memorial service will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Livonia at 11:00am on Saturday, July 2nd.



HARMON, MARYELLEN, RSCJ

Educator and race relations consultant, died Saturday, June 18 at the age of 87. She ministered in education for more than 50 years. Sister Harmon served as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit for a number of years. Following her tenure as Superintendent, Sister Harmon taught at the University of Detroit and Madonna University. A memorial service will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 1, at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, 1250 Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills. For more information, please visit www.rscj.org/node/1644.



MAGEE, ELLIS L. JR. 'FRED'

June 27, 2011 age 87 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Lucienne. Loving father of Robert (Jeanne), Carol McMichael, David (Lori), Sandra (Leo) Biting, and Mark (Mary). Proud grandpa of eight and great-grandpa of four. Dear brother of Joyce Skoglund. Fred was retired from Ford Motor Company after 40 years of service. He also honorably served in the US Army during World War II. Long-time member of WWCCA (Western Wayne County Conservation Association). Visitation Friday 3 PM until the 7 PM funeral service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

FISHER, HELEN

Age 81 June 27, 2011 of Garden City. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland. 734-326-1300 vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GYDE, ONALEE

June 26, 2011, age 93, of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Kenneth. Beloved mother of Patsy (George) Alver, David (Joyce), and the late Sally (Frank) Busha. Proud grandmother of Sue (Richard) Hoy, Jim (Lori) Busha, Pam (Dave) Pedlow, Julie (Greg) Flanders, Mike (Diana) Alver, and the late Janet Breland. Also survived by 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral service was held Wednesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Interment Kinyon Cemetery, Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

LITTLE, BEVERLY M.

Age 68, of Farmington, MI. Passed away June 24, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

SHELL, CLARENCE

Age 64, June 28, 2011 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Frances. Loving father of Robert (Theresa), Lowanda, Carlen Holbrook, Tina Wisniewski, Julian Shell and the late Jami Holbrook. 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Funeral Service Saturday 10 AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Friday 2-9 PM. Please share a memory of Clarence at www.rggharris.com

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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JUNE 30-JULY 6
Concert
Time/Date: Dessert at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, June 30
Location: St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Songs of the 1950s; dessert costs \$5 per person
Contact: (313) 534-7730
Guest speaker

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, July 3
Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Bernard Gaulier takes over the pulpit for a sermon on "Churches, Patriotism and the American Flag" during Sunday service
Contact: (248) 354-4488
Lecture
Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, 13, 20 and 27
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard N. Lupovitch teaches a summer series called "Esther's Children: Persian Jews Under Emperor, Caliph,

Sultan, and Shah." Each lecture will be self-contained and can be attended independently. Tuition is \$50 for the series or \$15 per lecture. Advance registration is requested to help plan seating and photocopied handout materials, but walk-ins will be accommodated. Topics are "The World of Esther and Mordechai" on July 6; "Jews in Shi'ite Society," on July 13; "Under Sultans and Shahs" on July 20 and "Israel, Iran and the Persian Jews" on July 27. To sign up, send a check made payable to Congregation Beth Ahm, to 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield MI 48322 (Attention: Adult Ed). Also may pre-register by calling the office and pay at the door
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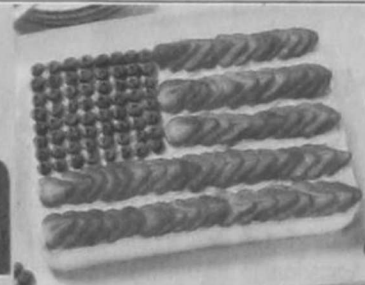
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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, June 30, 2011

hometownlife.com

Food for the **4th**
PAGE B8



Symphony in the park

Celebrate the nation's birthday with a star-spangled concert

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Pack a picnic, grab a blanket and head to Kellogg Park in Plymouth Saturday for an evening of patriotic tunes and music by American composers.

There's no better way to kick off the holiday weekend, says Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic Symphony.

"It's a great way to celebrate the Fourth, by having the symphony in the park. All over the country that's the big thing. People like to hear classical music in the park," Stewart said. "We hope it will be really big and that everyone comes down for it."

Free concerts will fill Kellogg Park with music for three days this week, beginning with Plymouth Community Band at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, followed by Zap Toro's Latin sounds at 7 p.m. Friday, July 1, and culminating with the Michigan Philharmonic's An American Salute at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 2. The *Observer*, Sensors, Inc. and Biggy Coffee are sponsoring the An American Salute.

The Michigan Philharmonic's pops concert line-up includes selections from Broadway musicals, *Carousel* and *West Side Story*; a song from the epic film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*; *The Star-Spangled Banner*, American favorites such as *Yankee Doodle*, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, favorites from George Gershwin and Aaron Copland, and the soul-stirring *1812 Overture* by Tchaikovsky.



The Michigan Philharmonic will play its first concert in Kellogg Park on Saturday, July 2. The last time it played in the park — nine years ago — the group was known as The Plymouth Symphony.

DRAWING THOUSANDS

The program will be similar to the symphony's recent concert at Kensington Metropark, with a few changes.

"It's all good stuff. People will get into it," Stewart said. "Even though it was a little chilly at Kensington, several thousand people were out there. It was so well received. The Detroit Symphony had been doing it the last 22 years and this year they didn't want to find the sponsorship to do it, so the parks hired us instead. We didn't disappoint."

Stewart said the last time the Michigan Philharmonic played in Kellogg Park, it was for the one-year anniversary of 9-11. At that time the group was called the Plymouth Symphony. It changed its name after 65 seasons, to reflect its broad scope and stature.

"The DSO is doing its thing at Greenfield Village, but if you want to come out to a free concert ... it's supposed to be a great night Saturday. Warm, but it will be a great kick off to fireworks and the Plymouth

parade," Stewart noted.

Fireworks will light up the sky at 10 p.m. Sunday, July 3, over Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail, east of Beck. The "Good Morning USA" parade was moved from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. this year. With more than 80 units, the parade takes approximately two hours to move along Main through downtown Plymouth. The celebration will continue afterward with entertainment, games, hot dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream at Township Park.

Spend four days of fun in Westland

Westland Summer Festival offers something for everyone, Thursday-Monday, July 1-4 on the Westland City Hall grounds, Ford Road at Carlson.

Visitors can listen to a different band every night, check out "muscle" cars, see exotic animals, browse arts and crafts, play horseshoes and take a spin on a Midway ride.

The festival opens at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at noon Saturday-Monday. Fireworks will cap the festivities at approximately 10:15 Monday.

Here's the schedule of musical performers: Jaded Soul, 8 p.m. Thursday; Impact 7, 8 p.m. Friday; Robots in the Garden, 8 p.m. Saturday; Steven Thomas on saxophone, 3 p.m. Sunday; Tony Phillips, 8 p.m. Sunday; Yankeeville, 1 p.m. Monday; and Second Wind, 7 p.m. Monday.

For more information call (734) 335-7943 or visit www.westlandfestival.org.

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Host a Star-Studded 4th

The Fourth of July calls for a carefree party, with good friends, fab food, fun and fireworks — a real star-studded holiday celebration.

The entertaining experts from Wilton have plenty of ideas to add star power to the occasion, beginning with the decorations. Festive stars and stripes napkin rings in red, white and blue dress up napkins and containers of colorful blossoms to brighten up the table.

Then, on to the main course. Serve an all-American favorite meal of grilled burgers and corn on the cob, appropriately topped with a star-shaped pat of butter.

The grand finale is always part of this all-American celebration. Patriotic Pops cut into star shapes definitely say "Happy Fourth of July." Decorated in red, white and blue icing, red licorice and colored candies, these easy-to-make crispy rice treats are a favorite for both youngsters and the grown-ups. The kids can lend a hand to help decorate by placing the candy pieces on the stars.

Add a taste of nostalgia for the child in all of us with Ice Cream Sandwiches — everybody loves 'em. Homemade brownies and buttery vanilla cookies, sandwiched with the ice cream flavor of your choice are a cut above ice cream truck offerings. Give them the flair of the Fourth by rolling the edges in patriotic sprinkles and sugars. Or, dip part of the sandwich into melted candy melts and decorate with sprinkles for a fun and festive finish.

Even beverages can boast the star treatment. Star-shaped ice cube kabobs in the colors of the day are a celebratory way to keep lemonade icy cold. Or, they're perfect for chilling the holiday cocktail.

Visit www.wilton.com for more celebration ideas, to order decorating supplies, an Ice Cream Sandwich Pan or the Silicone Star Ice Kabob Molds.

ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

Makes about 12 ice cream sandwiches

Brownies:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter with chocolate chips. Whisk in sugar, eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add flour mixture; stir until just combined. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

Vanilla Cookies:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



Star-shaped Patriotic Pops and Ice Cream Sandwiches decorated in red and blue sprinkles, are the finale to an all-American Independence Day dinner.

- 1/4 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup firmly-packed light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract, orange extract or Ground cinnamon (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter. Whisk in sugars, eggs, vanilla and, if desired, other extract or cinnamon; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix until blended. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

To Assemble:

- 1 quart ice cream, any flavor
- Assorted patriotic mix sprinkles and red and blue sugars
- White candy melts, melted (optional)

Scoop about 1/4 cup ice cream onto smooth side of half of the brownies. Top with remaining brownies, pressing gently. If desired, roll edge of sandwiches in sprinkles or sugars. Wrap and freeze immediately.

Or, dip a portion of the sandwich in melted candy melts; add sprinkles and sugars. Freeze 5 minutes to set, then wrap and freeze until ready to serve.

PATRIOTIC POPS

Makes about 2 dozen pops

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal
- 24 8-inch Cookie Treat Sticks
- Red, blue and white cookie icing
- Red and blue candy-coated chocolates
- Red licorice

Spray Star Cookie Treat Pan and rubber spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.

In large saucepan, melt butter. Add marshmallows; cook and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add cereal; mix well. Press into prepared pan; insert cookie sticks. When cool to touch, remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture. (If mixture becomes hard to work with, microwave at 50% power 30 to 60 seconds to soften.)

Outline treat as desired with Cookie Icing; add candy and licorice. Let dry at least 1 hour.

Courtesy of Family Features

Have a flag-waving Fourth of July

Potlucks are a popular way to celebrate just about anything — and July Fourth is a great reason to get the friends and neighbors together for a patriotic potluck.

I'm bringing a fantastic flag cake to this year's party. It serves a lot of people and it's easy to make. I'll let you in on two little secrets that make this cake taste extra good — instant potato flakes keep the cake tender and moist, while mini chocolate chips give you little bursts of chocolate with every bite. The colorful fruit on top not only adds great flavor, but it turns this cake into a showstopper that has guests "oohing" and "ahhing" in delight! If you're going to a potluck party this year, I have some tips for being a good guest:



Mixing it Up

Jenny Harper

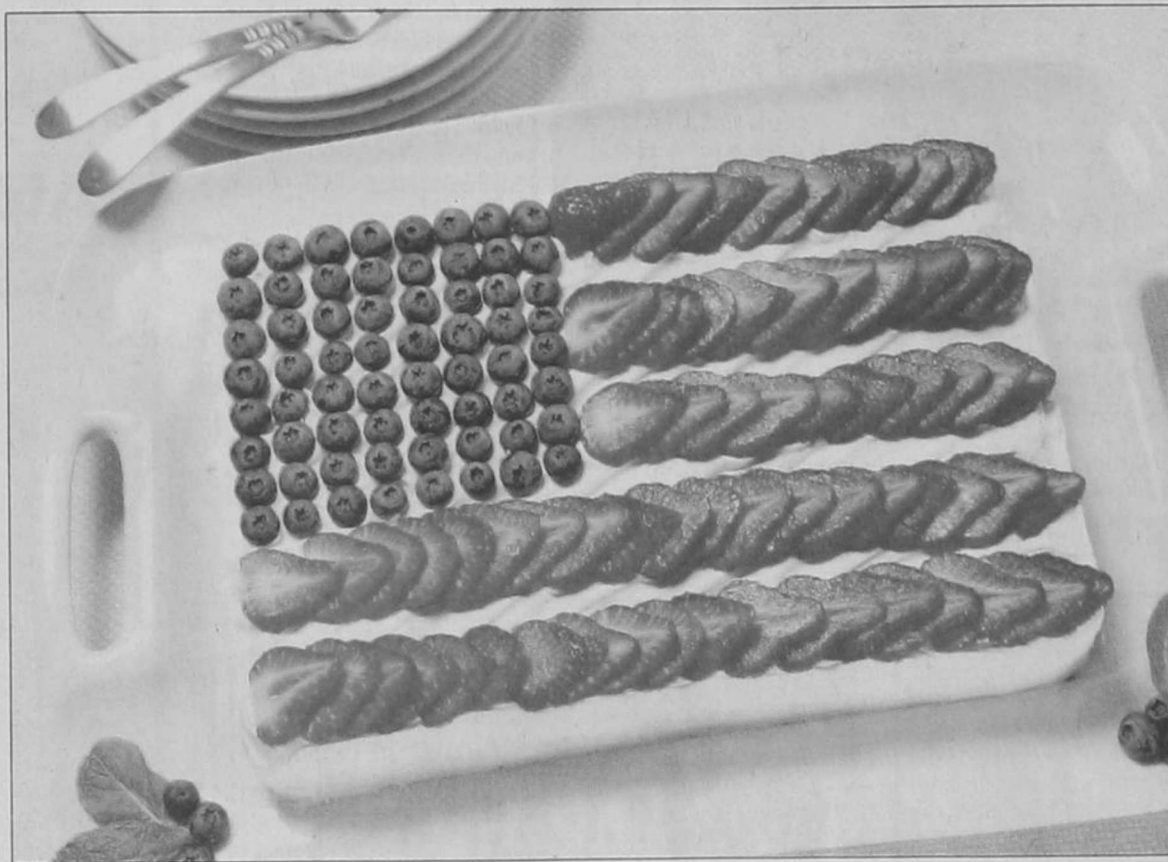
- Keep it safe: It's tricky to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold, so make sure the food you're bringing will be safe at room temperature. For example, on a hot summer day, vinegar-based salad dressings are a better choice than mayonnaise-based ones.

- Keep it simple: Bring dishes that are ready to serve. Asking to pop something into the host's oven for "just a few minutes" is inconvenient for the host and the guests waiting to eat.

- Keep it practical: Label your dish so that guests know what they're getting. It's also a big help if you bring your own serving utensils. The host won't be forced to hunt for something and the line won't get held up waiting.

- Keep it yours: If you need to take your serving dish home, be sure to label it. A bit of masking tape with your name on it can be discreetly placed on the dish so it doesn't get mixed up with someone else's.

For more Independence Day recipe ideas to help you celebrate, visit www.verybestbaking.com.



INDEPENDENCE CAKE

Makes 20 servings

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup instant mashed potato flakes
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 cup milk

2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Mini Morsels

- 1 container (8 ounces) frozen light whipped topping, thawed
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1/2 cup blueberries

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease a 13-by-9-inch baking pan; line with wax paper.

Heat water to boiling in small saucepan; remove from heat. Stir in potato flakes until moistened. Cool to room temperature. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in a medium bowl.

Beat sugar and butter until crumbly. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition; beat in potatoes. Gradually beat in flour mixture alternately with milk. Stir in morsels. Spoon into prepared baking pan.

Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Invert onto wire rack; remove wax paper. Cool completely. Transfer to serving platter.

Frost sides and top of cake with whipped topping. Just prior to serving, arrange strawberry slices and blueberries on top of cake to represent the American flag.

Nutrition Information per serving: 390 calories; 150 calories from fat; 17g total fat; 11g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 250mg sodium; 59g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 38g sugars; 4g protein; 8 percent DV vitamin A; 20 percent DV vitamin C; 6 percent DV calcium; 6 percent DV iron.

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen project manager for the Nestlé Test Kitchens and VeryBestBaking.com.

Her column is courtesy of Family Features.



Boys and Girls!
Celebrate

July 4th

Hey kids!

Unscramble the list
and mail into Scoop!

Win Fun Prizes!

Scoop will pick 5 random winners

Send your unscrambled list
PLUS your photo for the
4th of July Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

All entries need to be received at the
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close
of the business day on July 29th. Winners
to be announced in the August Scoop's
Hound Dog Highlights.

Deadline for submissions: 7/29/11

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July 4th Word Scrambler
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Put on your thinking caps and
unscramble all the patriotic words below!

- WESRIFOKR _____
- RATS NEPLAGSD NANERB _____
- GLAF _____
- DRE, HIETW, DAN LUBE _____
- REBACUBE _____
- TOONTC DANYC _____
- HACEB _____
- SARLEPSK _____
- LUCEN MAS _____
- CEPINEDENDNE YAD _____
- REYILBT LEBL _____
- BETAICERLON _____
- DRAPAE _____
- RTASS NAD PESRITS _____
- DALN FO HET REFE _____
- RIAAEMC THE FETBUAILU _____

Youth Name: _____
Youth Age: _____
Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address) _____

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the
next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight's.

Lucky winners from last month's contest



Melissa
Beyrand
Age: 11
Community:
Milford



Vivian
Williams
Age: 7
Community:
Livonia



Lynnae
Fisher
Age: 9
Community:
Redford



Patrick
Schubert
Age: 8
Community:
Livonia

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!