

SPREE 2011 FIREWORKS SHOW DRAWS AN ESTIMATED 200,000 TO LIVONIA PAGE A8

ALL-AREA BASEBALL TEAM PACKS A PUNCH AT THE PLATE

THURSDAY June 30, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

> Volume 37 Number 2

> > \$1.00

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SCHOOL ELECTION DEADLINE NEARS LOCAL NEWS, A2

CONNECTION

Christmas in July

Look inside this month's edition of Hometown Life Inspire for a chance to win a holiday shopping spree. Three lucky winners will



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

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

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

lop 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

"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





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

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

The final version of the House map

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 (populationwise), but it's actually more compact," Heise said.

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



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

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

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,

Howard, accused of being a repeat drunken driver, remains jailed without bond. If convicted, he could face life in prison for seconddegree 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

license causing death: driving a second time with a suspended

and serious

injury; driv-

ing with a

suspended

license; and having an open Defense attornev Mark Hugger declined to make any statements on Howard's

"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

Please see TRIAL, A4

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Cleanup effort targets more of I-275 trail

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mere weeks after hundreds of bicvclists from across western Wayne County and beyond celebrated the official unveiling of a newly rebuilt stretch of the I-275 Metro Trail, a volunteer group has announced an effort to clean up another section of the pathway.

The 40-mile trail - coupled with the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail that carves a pristine path across Canton has drawn increasing attention since June 4, when supporters marked River Day by inviting bike riders and other outdoor enthusiasts to see a rebuilt section of the paved pathway between Michigan Avenue and Hines Drive.

In the latest effort, a volunteer group, Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail, has announced plans to clean up a section that parallels M-14 by removing overgrown vegetation along the pathway.

We want to keep the path clear and safe for those who use it," Dave Duffield, the group's maintenance coordinator, said. "It's an ongoing effort."

Duffield and other trail supporters say the Michigan Department of Transportation has done its part by improving areas of the I-275 path that had deteriorated and become potentially unsafe for those who ride or walk along the trail.

"MDOT was nice enough to fix it up, and they frankly do not have the money for the upkeep," Duffield said. "That's where we, as volunteers, can step in and do that."

The summer season's first cleanup along M-14 has been scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 9. Volunteers will meet on Schoolcraft west of Haggerty, in an area where Duffield said helpers are allowed to park in a grassy area along the fence.

Volunteers are asked to give an hour or two of their time. The effort is expected to continue until noon or so, though Duffield said volunteers potentially could finish their work earlier if they have a large turnout such as scout troops.

Volunteers are urged to bring work gloves, long-bladed shrub clippers, hand-trimmers, metal rakes and brooms. Organizers also said a gas-powered leaf blower would be helpful.

Water and a light snack will be available. For more information, call Duffield at (248) 994-3074 or visit Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail on Yahoo! Groups or Facebook.

School election deadline approaches

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nancy Eggenberger is in, but so far, she's the only one of the four incumbents on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education who has made a decision.

And, with the Aug. 16 deadline for entering the race approaching, the time for such decisions draws ever

Eggenberger currently occupies one of four seats that will be up for grabs in the non-partisan school election Nov. 8. Also up for reelection, if they decide to run, are current board president John Jackson, vice president Dianne Gonzalez and trustee Steven Sneideman.

Jackson, Sneideman and Gonzalez are still hedging their bets, declining to announce



Eggenberger

any decisions. Not so with Eggenberger, who believes the experience she's garnered in four years is crucial as the board moves forward.

"A lot has happened the last four years," Eggenberger said. "I think the history and the knowledge I've gained from being on the board is something that's essential in moving forward."

Eggenberger becomes the second declared candidate in the race. Plymouth City Commissioner John Barrett, a 40-year educator who retired in 2009 after

11 years as the principal at Farmington High School, is also running.

Barrett is the City Commission's liaison to the school board - a role he pioneered - and said a district workshop last summer, in which participants discussed their vision for the district's future, motivated him to get re-involved in education.

"I sort of got fired up again to get back into the education circle," he said.

Gonzalez declined to say one way or another whether she'd seek re-election. Sneideman said his decision hinges on goals he has set for himself in terms of public service and charitable work he'd like to do.

"(School board) takes up a lot of time and can keep you from doing some of those kinds of things that I think I'd like to do," Sneideman

said. "I'll decide in the next couple of weeks."

As will Jackson, elected in January as the new board president. Jackson said he needs to decide if the school board is where "I can bring the most value at this point in my life."

"I have to answer that question," Jackson said. "I want to do what I can to help students. If I can do that (from the board), I'll decide to run again. If not, I'll decide where else to spend the time."

Petitions and affidavits are due Tuesday, Aug. 16, at 4 p.m. at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty in Plymouth. Forty valid signatures are required for a person to be placed on the ballot. Petitions can be obtained at either the Plymouth or Canton Township offices.

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AROUND CANTON

"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Pancake breakfast

Plymouth

Date/Time: Monday, July 4, 6-11

Location: The Gathering, downtown

Details: The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band Boosters host a pancake and sausage breakfast. Tickets are available at the event for \$7 per person, children under five are free. Pancakes and sausage, juice and coffee. Proceeds benefit the marching band as it prepares for its November appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Spanish camp Date/Time: Aug. 1-5 Location: Praise Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial, Plymouth Details: Join Bilingual Fun for an interactive and educational day

camp for preschool- through fifthgrade students. Kids will learn Spanish through interactive games, crafts, thematic presentations, music and more.

Contact: (877) 686-7399 or e-mail info@bilingualfun.com.

Rockettes golf Date/Time: Aug. 7

Location: Fox Hills Golf Club, Plymouth

Details: The Salem High School Pom Pon team's 11th annual golf fundraiser includes a \$10,000 holein-one contest, prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, first place for men and mixed teams, skins and door prizes. Golfers receive donuts/bagels for breakfast, a hot dog lunch at the turn, and a buffet dinner including a 2 hour open bar. Cost is \$100 per golfer.

Contact: To register contact Coreen at coreen29@wowway.com.

History kids camp Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Price includes a T-shirt . Discount 30% for Siblings (on second signup)

Price includes a T-shirt . Discount 30% for Siblings (on second signup)

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth Details: Children can experience aspects of the Civil War at the Plymouth Historical Museum during the first annual History Kids Kamp. Kids will spend the day recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken, as well as a chore race consisting of oldfashioned tasks from the mid-1800s. Contact: Visit the museum's website at www.plymouthhistory.org for more information.

Hospice support Date/Time: 1st and 3rd Tuesday,

6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Ste. A, Canton **Details**: Compassionate Care Hospice conducts an ongoing grief support group, The Grief Journey, for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The goal of the group is to provide support and education on the grief process. There is no charge. Contact: For information, contact Ann Christensen, (888) 983-9050.

Grief workshop

Date/Time: Saturday, July 16, 9

a.m. to noon Location: Room A-105 at Ward

Church in Northville

Details: Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a one day grief seminar, From Grief to New Hope, presented by Cathy Clough, Founder/Executive Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support and co-author of Grieving Forward: Death Happened, Now What? Contact: Call Barb Brace at Ward Church at (248) 374-5943.

PCA preschool

Date/Time: Now

Location: 43065 Joy Road, Canton (between Lilley and Morton Taylor) Details: Plymouth Christian Preschool, a division of Plymouth Christian Academy, is now enrolling for fall classes. Visit the website for a virtual tour and more information.

Contact: (734) 459-3505 or www.

plymouthchristian.org

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-	July 8	Sheila Landis & Brazilian Love Affair	New Towne Plaza at Kohl's Ford & Sheldon	则
	July 15	John E. Lawrence	Centre Village at Kroger Ford & Canton Center	
	July 22	The Kimmie Horne Show	Home Depot Ford & Lotz	
	July 29	Penny Wells	JC Penney Ford between Sheldon & Morton Taylor	
	August 5	The Brothers Groove	Super Bowl Ford between Canton Center & Sheldo	n III)
	August 12	Randy Scott	Sam's Club Ford & Lotz	
	August 19	Thornetta Davis	IKEA Ford & Haggerty	5
	August 26	"RYZ" & Gerard Gibbs	Lowe's Ford between Sheldon & Morton Taylor	or 🎒

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Watch for updates at ShopCanton.org facebook.com/ShopCanton twitter.com/ShopCanton

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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

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Tucker of Plymouth took her two young daughters, 10-year-old Erin and 6-yearold 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-

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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

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from fans during about a 20minute 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 Konschuh, 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 lastminute 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

\$130[?] Value!

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 realtions 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 dropoff, 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 teachers to save an additional

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

"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

\$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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Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

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

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

"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

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VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE hometownlife com

Self-inflicted death

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.

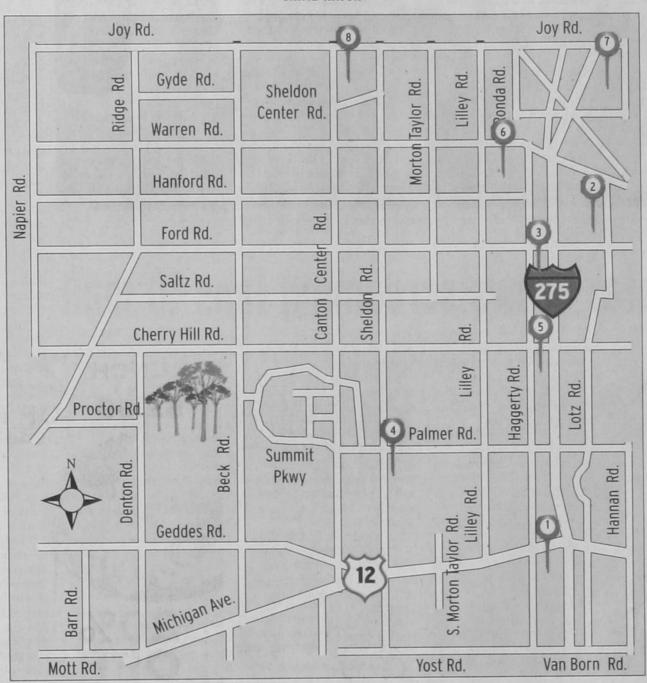
Police had been dispatched to the mobile home park about 9:30 p.m. Saturday on reports that the man had assaulted his sister by beating her with a gun, though he never fired any shots at her. As police arrived, a large crowd of people waved them to the scene, according to a police report.

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 **CRIME WATCH**



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

Funny money

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.

The victim said he sold the Apple MacBook for \$480 but later realized the money was counterfeit. He noticed the money felt different than real

He told police he only had a first name, Benjamin, for the buyer, whom he described as a black male in his late 30s, about 5-foot-8 and 170 pounds with a short Afro hairstyle and a patch over his right eye.

Indecent exposure

Canton police cited a man of for indecent exposure and

attempted assault on a police officer following an incident that occurred shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday at La Quinta Inn, southeast of Ford and Haggerty.

Police went to La Quinta after receiving reports that a man staying in one of the rooms was wearing no shirt and knocking on doors of other customers. A police report indicated the man had been drinking alcohol.

The management wanted police to force the man off the premises, amid allegations he

of \$3000 or more

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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 investiga-

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

6A 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

7A 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.



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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 weatherrelated 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 longterm 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.'

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Motown, bringing their 17year-old daughter, Malloree, 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, vet 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 Abbandoned Ministries (www.abbandoned.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.

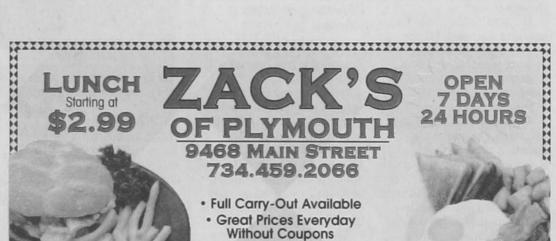
"I'm not content until I've written something every day," she said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Janet Morris Grimes' first published book.



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Music is key component of holiday party DISTRICTS

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 longtime 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 festivi-

Called "An American

HOLIDAY WEEKEND FUN

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011

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

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 Bruscato, operations manager for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, which presents the concert in conjunction with its sponsor, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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



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, Bruscato 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," Bruscato 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

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 Wavne.

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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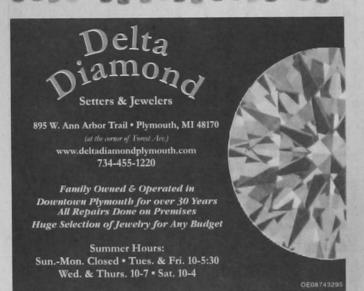
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Save the Date Future Friday Performances of Plymouth Music in the Air:

July 8.....NO SHOW - Art in the Park

July 15....Steve King and the Dittilies (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.

Brought you by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. For the latest Downtown Plymouth News & Events, follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/plymouthdda...or on the web at: downtownplymouth.org

If you would like to have your ad featured on this weekly Music in the Air page call 517-375-1372.

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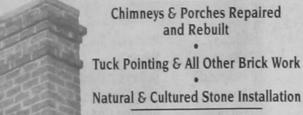
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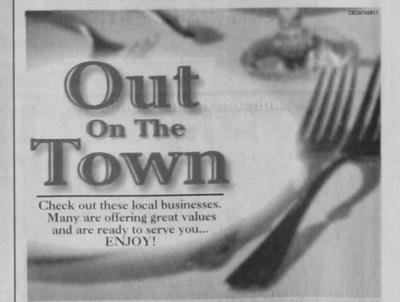
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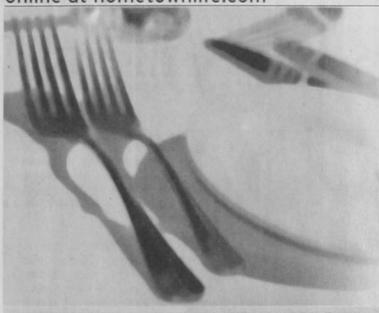
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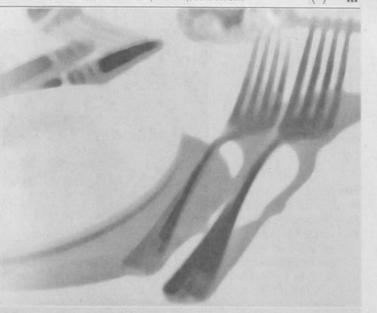
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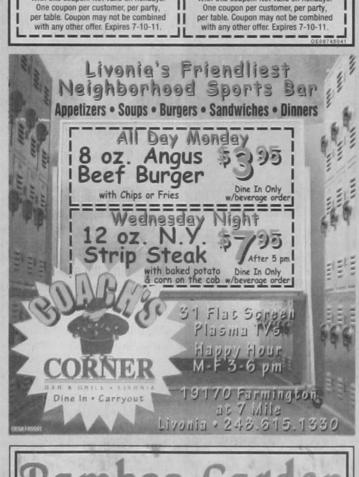
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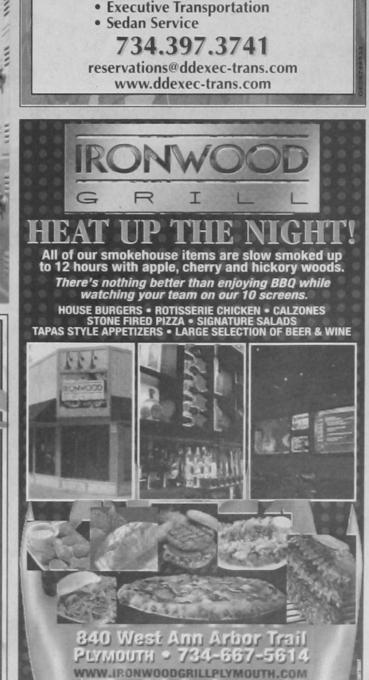
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011





Time for a conga line.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

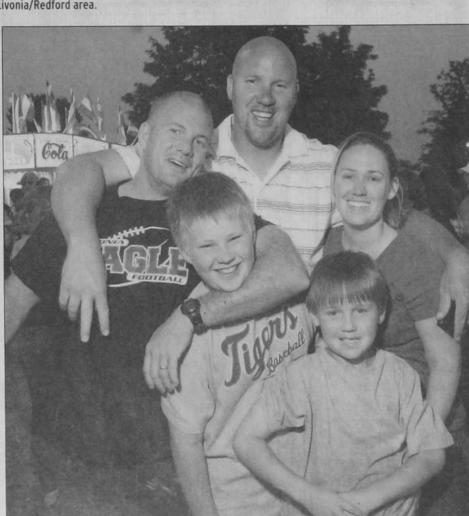
Spree 61 fireworks start off with a bang.

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.

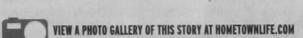
Spurling said the show, choreographed to music and put on by American Fireworks, keeps getting better each year. "There were more shells ... some new designs. Technology keeps advancing with fireworks."

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.





Good seats for the show are everywhere.



Lori and Don Carriere dance to the music of Steve King and the Dittilies.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, June 30, 2011

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

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 cohosting 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 vears 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

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

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 NHLsized 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 Olympicsize 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 Country, 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**

t 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

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



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Still, Klout makes a compelling argument about why you should try and interact on your

- 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 adver-

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

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 @ GunnShOw.



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Walsh: Medical marijuana needs better regulation

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011

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'

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

"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 caregiverpatient 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

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

"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.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

Plan ahead to eliminate family infighting during times of death



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

up about the Michael within the

a story popped Jackson estate. The story dealt with the fights family regarding how the estate is being

was watch-

ing TV last

week when

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

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 timeconsuming. 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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Population trends impact future of region

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kurt Metzger plays the numbers, but what he is betting on has nothing to do with personal

Metzger, who started Data Driven Detroit for the Kresge Skillman Foundation, is betting that his numbers will help everyone from health care organizations to government units and retailers provide the appropriate services for their target audi-

The statistics were anything but dry when Metzger spoke Monday at the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center in Livonia, before a group of about 40 stakeholders at a board meeting of St. John Providence Health System. That health organization has five hospitals in the metropolitan area, including in Southfield and Novi.

One didn't need to see the numbers while looking at one of Metzger's maps showing population trends. A broad expanse of green covered the far western areas of Oakland County and all of Livingston County, depicting the areas with growing popula-

The map made sense to Lou Martin, who handles marketing and communications for Providence Park in Novi.

'We have a terrific number of births at our hospital," he said. "The (I-) 96 corridor, it seems like there's something in the water."

For instance, according to statistics provided by the South Lyon School District, the number of students enrolled increased 2,654 students over 19 years, starting from the 1991-92 school year. But a look at the yearly figures show that the enrollment

dipped slightly in the 2008-09 school year, which is considered to be the beginning the economic collapse in the area. The next three years showed an increase of only 23 students.

Those figures fit with Metzger's contention, based on data from the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, a substitute for the long form of the Census, that sprawl is continuing and having a serious impact on service delivery throughout the nine county region he studies.

Following along the I-96 corridor, after its split west of I-275, are towns like Novi, South Lyon and Brighton, followed by Howell at M-59 and I-96. Without the use of a map, a drive along the corridor shows proof of population growth through major shopping developments at Novi, at Brighton just south of the intersection with US-23, and a major outlet shopping development in Howell.

The impact of that growth means, however, that more land is consumed and that the demands for transportation are growing. "We keep abandoning areas in our core," he said. "Seventy-six percent of the jobs (in the area) are 10 miles or more" from where people live.

"The whole idea is that we operate on a regional economy," something that Metzger adds is the key to the future of the ninecounty area. "We have got to talk about how we can work more together."

If Metzger had one common theme, it was "live local, hire

THE YOUNG LEAVE

Some areas have seen significant declines. "Michigan had more than a 540,000 net loss from 2000-2009," Metzger said. The greatest drop came in the 25-44 age group, he said.

"Young people are leaving the state," he said. Young couples are the most impacted by the last hired, first fired policy of employers, he said. Since many do not own homes, they are better able to move. A lot of those couples, he said, have young children.

Like with the growth of shopping centers, local school officials wouldn't need to see a map to know that the number of local births has dropped for the area and for Michigan. School officials carefully track such numbers, since the state aid to education is awarded on a per student basis.

Some of those young couples who leave also are encouraging their parents to follow them, he added.

At the other end of the age spectrum, "The number of deaths is stable," Metzger said. That means the area's population is growing older and needing different kinds of services.

The baby boomers are here, and they are aging in place," he

"This is reflected in an older workforce," Metzger said. That workforce frequently doesn't have the education and skills

that will induce businesses to locate in Michigan, Metzger

"Opportunity and education are key to the state of Michigan," he said. "...Michigan ranks 37th in the percentage of college-educated residents."

Metzger's stress on the need for education comes at a time when the state Legislature just passed a budget from Gov. Snyder that reduces the amount of state aid to education.

Significant changes also have occurred in the movement of ethnic and racial groups, he said. That's important, Metzger said, for attracting international business and investment.

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM

Metzger expressed optimism on the future.

"The economy really hit this area, but we're about as far down as we're going to get," he said. Still, he cautioned that "we dropped much faster than it is going take to get back." He estimates that it will be five years before the area's economy fully recovers.

There are other ways that Metzger's statistics have an impact on lives in Southeastern Michigan, including the redistricting procedure for congressional and state officeholders now going on in Lansing.

Metzger calls congressional districts 13 and 14 interesting because, for the first time, they cross the Eight Mile Road border that separated Oakland County from Wayne County and from Detroit. Those districts are currently represented by Hansen Clarke and John Conyers.

Once said to be the most segregated area of the country, Metzger said that is no longer

"We're now the fourth," he said.

Metzger cautions that the data only can be interpreted so far. The sample size of the American Community Survey is small, reducing its reliability, he said. And while data for larger towns like Farmington Hills and Southfield will be updated every three years, smaller towns like Ferndale and Royal Oak will have demographics updated every five years.

George Blaty, a business consultant with the Southfield Chamber of Commerce, said the most important statistic to him was the one that said that the 25-44 age group declined. He asked Metzger what the "trigger point" would be for an economic turnaround that would bring people back.

Young people want diversity and a viable urban area, Metzger said. However, "they want the

suburbs, like Royal Oak," when it comes time to buy a house and raise a family. That means that Detroit, Ann Arbor, Saginaw and Bay City all need to be revitalized, he added.

"A city has to have a kind of buzz to it" to attract young people, Metzger said. There was general agreement, though, that no one understood former governor Jennifer Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative.

Revitalizing those cities will take improved housing, because much of the housing there "was not meant to last," Metzger said.

While "single family homes are the strength of the region," Metzger also said that population trends will dictate what regional transportation is needed. That some communities have been allowed to opt out of regional transportation systems "makes no sense at all," he said.

Improved transportation systems could carry people from the core cities right out to that I-96 corridor, where "Novi is an employment center," Metzger said. And it will take that improved housing and access to jobs to repopulate core cities in the area, or, as Metzger said, "Where you live shouldn't determine how you live."

sarmbruster@hometownlife.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on Monday, July 18th, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the Extra Space Storage facility located at:

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Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Publish: June 30 & July 7, 2011

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP SENDS OUT WATER **QUALITY REPORT**

The Plymouth Township Water and Sewer Department has sent out its annual drinking water quality report to consumers. Among other things, the report discloses the amount of various materials in the water, including microbial and inorganic contaminants, and pesticides and herbicides.

The annual report has been required by law since the U.S. Congress passed the 1996 Safe Drinking Act Amendments.

Most of the Detroit metro area, including Plymouth Township, gets its drinking water from the Detroit River. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department operates the water treatment facilities and pumping stations that supply water to the township, which operates the pipeline infrastructure and acts as the retailer to area businesses and residents.

Residents or business owners who have not received the report or have further questions can contact the Plymouth Township Water and Sewer Department at (734) 354-3270.

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Publish: June 30 and July 3, 2011

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NUMBER C-2011-04

AN ORDINANCE TO CONFIRM THE ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THE MICHIGAN PLANNING ENABLING ACT. PUBLIC ACT 33 OF 2008, MCL 125.3801, ET. SEQ., OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE POWERS, DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF PARTS ORDINANCES RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; FOR PENALTY: PROVIDING PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

Section 1. Scope, Purpose and Intent. This section provides for the purpose and intent.

Section 2. Establishment. This section provides for the establishment of the Planning Commission.

Section 3. Appointments and Terms. This section provides for appointments and terms

Section 4. Removal. This section provides for the removal of a

Section 5. Conflict of Interest. This section provides for conflicts of interest.

Section 6. Compensation. This section provides for Section 7. Officers and Committees. This section provides for

the election of officers and committees Section 8. Bylaws, Meetings and Records. This section

provides for the bylaws, meetings and records Section 9. Annual Report. This section provides for the annual

Section 10. Authority to Make Master Plan. This section provides for the authority to make a master plan.

Section 11. Zoning Powers. This section provides for zoning

12. Subdivision and Section Land Recommendations. This section provides for subdivision and land division recommendations.

Section 13. Violation And Penalty. This section provides that any person or that violates the provisions of this Ordinance may, upon conviction, be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

Section 14. Repeal. This section provides that all Ordinance or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 15. Severability. This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the rest of the Ordinance.

Section 16. Savings Clause. This section provides that adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecutions for violation of law, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance

Section 17. Publication. This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 18. Effective Date. This section provides that this Ordinance shall take full force and effect upon publication.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available at the office of the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours.

> Joe Bridgman, MMC Township Clerk

Introduced: June 14, 2011 Adopted: June 21, 2011 June 30, 2011 Effective: Publish: June 30, 2011

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OPINION

THURSDAY, June 30, 2011

hometownlife (iii) com

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

Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

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

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

Adults should always supervise fireworks activities.

· Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that fizzle

 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 buck-

et 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



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

Elias Musallam



"Nothing at all other than probably cooking out." **Dustin Isaacson**

"We might just have some

family over."

Lanny Henderson

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.

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 lessens 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

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?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

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

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

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

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 Country, 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

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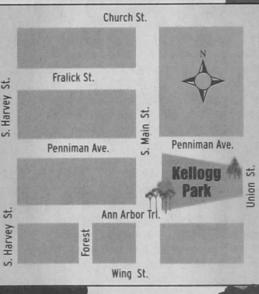
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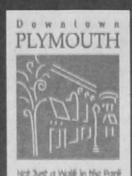
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SECTION B

SPORTS

THURSDAY, June 30, 2011

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PAIR OF PLYMOUTH WHALERS GO IN FIRST ROUND OF NHL DRAFT, B3

ENTERTAINMENT, B6

CLASSIFIED, B9

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 were 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

'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

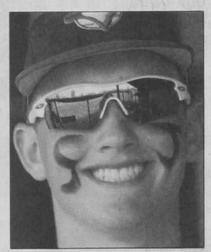
Jesse wore a smile and Blue Jays cap as waves of people made sure to greet him with smiles and encouraging words.

"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.

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,

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 Livoniabased 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.

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.

Wilean just missed a third TD.

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.

Ouitiquit, 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, 2and-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.

All-Area baseball team packs a punch at the plate

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Ryan Bazner, Canton: The junior co-captain was the Chiefs' MVP, batting .506 with 14 doubles while dominating whenever he pitched.

Bazner's 9-0 record, 1.43 ERA and 67 strikeouts in 52.2 innings went a long way toward Canton's 27-7 record, KLAA Central co-title and fourth straight Division 1 district championship.

His efforts were rewarded with selection to the all-KLAA and all-

"Ryan is an extremely focused ballplayer who became a dual threat this season by being the ace of the staff and also leading the team in batting average and extra base hits,' coach Mark Blomshield said

Zak Kmet, Garden City: Kmet was a dual threat for the Cougars, hitting .458 (38 for 83) with seven home runs and 31 RBI from the lead-off spot, while registering a stellar 6-1 record on the mound. The sophomore crafted a solid 2.48 earned run average and struck out 30 batters in 36.3 innings

"Zak had one of the best seasons for a player I've ever coached," said coach Steve Herman. "When you combined his RBI total, batting average and pitching numbers, it's real tough to top. He started the season as our No. 2 hitter, but he hit so well I moved him to the lead-off spot. He had 31 RBI from the leadoff spot, which is unbelievable.

Evan Piechota, Stevenson: The senior pitcher-shortstop, headed to Madonna University, was named to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association East-West All-Star team that was held recently at Comerica Park.

Piechota excelled on the mound with an 8-1 record to go along with a 0.72 ERA. In 58 innings, he struck out 66 and walked only 12.

Offensively, Piechota batted .360 with one homer, 11 doubles and

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team-high 28 RBI. He had a slugging percentage of .500 and an onbase average of .460.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011

Piechota earned all-KLAA, all-district and all-region honors. Collegiate Baseball also gave him honorable mention high school all-America honors.

"Evan played every inning of every game," coach Rick Berryman said. "He pitched unbelievably well for us and played a great shortstop. He had an unbelievable year as a pitcher. He's very focused and very

Ben Matigian, Churchill: As a pitcher, the senior went 5-2 with a 1.67 earned run average and also hit .361 with 27 runs and 21 RBI.

In 46 innings pitched, the all-KLAA and all-district pick struck out 25 and walked just 13 while holding opponents to a .192 batting

Matigian, bound for Madonna University, also slugged at a .458 clip and had a .481 on-base average.

Ben is a very hard-working player who does not take his baseball skills for granted," coach Ron Targosz said. "He continuously works on improving them by taking extra ground balls, extra swings or doing whatever to takes to get things right.

"He's a three-year varsity player that will be extremely hard to replace next season.

Mark Wagner, Stevenson: The senior first baseman was a four-year varsity player who earned all-KLAA and all-district honors.

This season, Wagner was second on the team in batting with a .388 average and finished with two homers, eight doubles and 27 RBI.

He also slugged at a .531 clip and had an on-base average of .516.

Wagner, who will play next season at Henry Ford Community College, carried a four-year batting average of .362 with 101 total hits.

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"The first year he was a catcher, the second year he played third and caught, and this year he filled in at first base and was very capable," Berryman said. "He also did a little bit of pitching and played an excellent first base. What was unique about him was his leadership in the

Scott Devine, Salem: The two-year starter had an outstanding senior year, collecting 45 hits en route to a .445 average and MVP honors.

And he only made five errors in 114 chances for a .956 fielding percentage.

Devine earned selection to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-state teams and was a conference scholar-athlete.

"Scott Devine has been an outstanding player and a better person for Salem baseball," coach Dale Rumberger said. "His leadership style is quiet, but everyone has huge respect for Scott. (He) is the kind of young man you would want your son to aspire to be.

Devine will play baseball at Kalamazoo College in 2012. Chris Perkovich, Canton: Saginaw

Valley State University is calling Perkovich to play there in 2012 and his senior year at Canton provided ample reason why.

Perkovich, besides being co-captain and "a terrific leader by example on the ball field" according to Blomshield, delivered in all aspects of his game in 2011.

He batted .376, belting five home runs and driving in 41 runs to always be in the middle of the Chiefs' rallies. And the all-conference and all-district selection played flawless shortstop.

"Chris has great range and arm at shortstop," Blomshield said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do at the next level."

Dallas Sutton, Harrison: The senior shortstop made the all-area first

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Mike Nadratowski, Sr. OF, Plymouth Kirk Barikmo, Sr. OF, Garden City Damien Quarles, Jr. OF, Clarenceville Braden Price, Sr. OF, Canton Tyler Lynch, Sr. OF, Stevenson

SECOND TEAM Chris McDonald, Jr. P. Stevenson Mike Stafford, Soph. P. Canton Troy Bogenschutz, Sr. P. Churchill Ben Baker, Sr. 1B. Red. Thurston Shawn Schaffer, Sr. C. Huron Valley Brett Ramirez, Jr. C. Salem

Tyler Goble, Jr. 1B, Plymouth John Slater, Sr. 1B, Ply. Christian Ben Gehan, Jr. 1B, Clarenceville Drew Thompson, Sr. SS, Salem Shane Wilson, Sr. SS, Wayne Jonny Deutsch, Jr. 2B, N. Farmington Marc Rosin, Sr. 3B. Luth, Westland

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HONORABLE MENTION Farmington: Jon Perry, Tyler Tompson, Davis Vandercook, Alex Schmitt; North Farmington: Sterling Sharp, Zach Washington: Harrison: Mitchell Kramer Canton: Seth Tschetter, Bernabe Salinas, Robby Golematis, Mark Main; Plymouth: Harrison Michels, Phil Emminger, Justin Thompson; Salem: Devin Price, Matt Rowland, Tommy Rodriguez, Brad Trublowski, Scott Theisen, Demetrius Dunlap, Kyle Penn, Jeremy St. Laurent, Garden City: Zach Vera-Burgos, Kody Richardson; Redford Union: Anthony Stadler, Ryan Powell, Robert Seal: Red. Thurston: Robert Jones, Erik Ellrich, Damin Harris, Andrew Welitzkin; Ply. Christian: Matt Dodson, Daniel Slater, Daniel Jipping, Matt Hagelin; Clarenceville: Eric Trotter, Jimmy Moody, Matt Kurdziel; Churchill: Brent Ochodnicky, Stephen Foster;

Franklin: Dan Muller, Adam Michael, Joe Barczuk: Stevenson: Mike Vomastek, Josh DeYonker: John Glenn: Kevin Karsnick. Caleb Clenney, Shane Anderson: Wayne: Tom Briggs, Jacob Lefler, Shane Wilson: Lutheran Westland: Kent Krzyske, Jake Andrzejewski, Nick Andrzejewski, Taurrek Fikes, Thomas Handschumacher; Huron Valley: Andy Barber.

team a second time after leading the Hawks in all offensive categories. Sutton batted .400 with 34 hits, including seven doubles, a triple and a home run, and 25 RBI. He had only three strikeouts in 85 atbats, and he had 30 stolen bases. In career numbers, Sutton ranks eighth in average (.418), second in doubles (22) and third in stolen

"Dallas is one of the all-time great Hawks," coach Pete Lamerato said. "His leadership was second to none in his three years as a varsity starter. He never cared about his own statistics. All he wanted was his team to win, and he always showed that fire to be successful. Dallas is what every coach wants his captain to be. He never took a pitch off, and his numbers for a career match up with anyone.'

Ben Wohl, Plymouth: The senior was a stabilizing force at shortstop for Plymouth as he wrapped up a successful prep career.

Wohl batted .390, with 41 runs scored and a .937 fielding percentage, and achievements included selection to the all-conference and all-district teams and a scholar-athlete award.

And although the Wildcats do not name captains, he was a team leader who gave it his all on the field.

"Ben is a special player," coach Bryan Boyd said. "He brings it every day in practice, games and in whatever else he does.

Wohl is going to Calvin College, where he hopes to continue playing

Joe Williams, Churchill: The senior third baseman earned first-team all-area honors for the second straight year after hitting .470 with 11 doubles, 22 runs and 17 RBI.

Williams, headed for Siena Heights University, also slugged at a .551 pace and added an on-base percentage of .514 (with only two strikeouts)

"Joe has always been a very good offensive player, but this year he turned himself into one of the best two-way players that I have ever coached," Targosz said of the all-KLAA and all-district pick. "Defensively, Joe seemed to get better and better as a the season went on. This is because he worked on his whole game. He was not happy with just being a very good hitter. Therefore, he continued to work on

Mike Nadratowski, Plymouth: Another Plymouth scholar-athlete and outstanding all-around player, Nadratowski was the team MVP after batting .470.

his field and improved it a great deal."

What's more, he slugged 16 doubles, four triples, seven homers, drove in 38 and had a slugging percentage of .920 while fielding center field flawlessly.

The southpaw also was in the Wildcats' pitching rotation, going 4-1 with a 1.45 ERA. He was named to the all-KLAA

team for a third straight year and all-district selection for a second consecutive season.

"Mike put up some monster statistics over his career at Plymouth," Boyd said. "He is now the school's statistical leader in many categories. Mike is the best defensive center fielder in the area.

Nadratowski will be playing baseball at Grand Valley State



Ryan Bazner Canton



Zak Kmet Garden City



Evan Piechota Stevenson



Ben Matigian Churchill



Stevenson



Scott Devine Salem



Chris Perkovich





Ben Wohl Plymouth



Joe Williams Churchill



Plymouth



Kirk Barikmo Garden City



Kirk Barikmo, Garden City: Barikmo

closed out his high school career in

style, hitting a whopping .466 (27

for 58) while knocking in 27 runs

one double, three triples and two

from the clean-up spot in the bat-

and scoring 25. Among his hits were

home runs. He also walked 14 times

ting order and played a nearly flaw-

"Kirk had a great season," said

Herman. "He improved in every

He went from being a defensive

facet of the game since last season.

liability last year to having an awe-

some year in left. I don't know how

he did it, but he improved his quick-

ness and he was a stealing threat on

the bases. He also cut his strikeouts

in half. When Kirk played well, the

Damlen Quarles, Clarenceville: The

speedy outfielder batted .431 for the

centage and 23 runs scored. Quarles

paths with 19-of-20 on stolen base

"Damien is the player that makes

us go," coach Dan Miller said of the

left-handed hitter and starting pitch-

er. "As our lead-off hitter, he's a spark-

plug in offense. He would usually end

up on second base, wither it was get-

"Either way, he's putting a lot of

pressure on the defense and start-

ing rallies. He also covers a ton of

ground in center field. He gets to

balls that a lot of kids won't get to,

Braden Price, Canton: Speed never goes into a slump, and the same could be seen for the senior Price.

He played flawless center field

and was an offensive catalyst at the

top of Canton's hard-hitting lineup.

and all-district selection, batted

committing one error this season

while efficiently patrolling the out-

Tyler Lynch, Stevenson: The third-

year varsity player was the Spartans

leadoff hitter who led the way with a

398 batting average including nine

Lynch also scored a team-high

32 runs en route to all-KLAA and

all-district honors. He also had a

slugging percentage of .531 and a

His three-year career batting

percentage was an impressive .998.

"Tyler epitomizes hard work

Berryman said. "During the off-sea-

to make himself a better player,

son each Saturday, he was always

average was .372 and his fielding

team-best .532 on-base average.

doubles and two triples.

field gap-to-gap," Blomshield said.

437 with 10 doubles, three triples,

three homers and 38 stolen bases in

Braden can flash the leather only

Price, who was an all-conference

and makes it look easy.

ting a double or stealing a base.

Trojans with a .569 slugging per-

was also successful on the base

team seemed to play well."

Damien Quarles Clarenceville

less left field.



Braden Price Canton



Tyler Lynch Stevenson

the first one there to hit at 8 a.m. He's a very focused and very dedicated player COACHES OF THE YEAR Mark Blomshield, Canton: In four short seasons at the Chiefs' helm,

the former pitcher at Western

Michigan University has transformed the baseball program into a winning machine. Canton went 27-7 to share first place in the KLAA South Division,

winning the tie-breaker with Livonia Churchill for top seed in the conference tournament. The Chiefs then won the D1

districts for the



Mark Blomshield

fourth consecutive season before bowing out in a tough regional contest against Birmingham Brother Rice. That gave Blomshield a

record of 102-38

Canton coach

since taking over in 2008. Meanwhile, he was named MHSAA District Coach of the Year for a fourth time.

"The 2011 Chiefs worked very hard and was a very talented baseball team," Blomshield said. "They played with a high intensity that I haven't seen matched and it was exciting to coach these young men. From first-to-last pitch, these guys were fired up and in the game. Blomshield, an 11-year physical education teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Community School District, holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern

Michigan University. Steve Herman, Garden City: Herman's 13th season at the helm of the Cougars' program was capped by a Western Wayne Athletic Conference title - the second consecutive title for Garden City and fifth championship during Herman's tenure. The



team got better as the season went along and all of the

guidance.

players improved. We were a young Garden City coach had four seniors - but they didn't play like they were young. It was fun to watch these guys grow as a team.

Cougars also cap-

"I thought this

which bodes well for the future. Herman teaches math at Garden City High.

We have 10 players returning,



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SUPERJESS

SUPER SPIRIT

Everybody did their part to get into the SuperJess spirit. Colorful wristbands (sold as tickets to the event) were emblazoned with "SuperJess" on them while some players used eye black to create an S and a J on each side of their

And behind home plate was a "SJ" logo painted behind home plate by Jon Schneider. He created a Superman-like look, with white letters inside a pentagon.

That logo was created before Wednesday's original date, but it remained intact for Monday's festivities.

"We noticed that (SJ logo) Wednesday," David Lindlbauer said. "But it's pretty cool, that's an awesome touch. A lot of the players have S and J painted on their faces too, so that's

Beyond cool was the way the community continues to go all-out for Jesse, a Canton sophomore who suffered a brain abscess last December.

Canton's Jen Deprez, whose son Jacob is a longtime friend of Jesse's, couldn't hold back her tears when talking about Jesse's ongoing fight.

"(He's made) great progress," Deprez said. "I think the power of prayer is amazing. And every event that we go to seems to get bigger and bigger.

"You'd think that after a while the support would start to wane, and it hasn't."

There were more than 300 of the \$6 wristbands sold for admission to the baseball game, won by the Grizzlies 12-11. With the original game postponed, the actual number who came out Monday was closer to 100.

"We appreciate all the support we can get," David



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Making sure they say hi to Jesse Lindlbauer during Monday's benefit baseball game are Jen Deprez (right) and her daughter, Jaclyn Deprez.

Lindlbauer said. "It's a nice turnout, great to see."

REASON TO SMILE

Such events such as Monday's continue to have a positive impact on Jesse, who beams whenever he's in the baseball environment.

"It's definitely his favorite sport. He keeps targeting getting back to playing baseball someday," Lindlbauer said. "We're hopeful. It would be great to see."

He added that Jesse "always has a smile on his face (at such events), it's great just seeing a lot of his friends. And I think just being around all the people, more than anything, is uplifting for him."

Deprez said people continue to show their support by visiting Jesse's CarePages Web page, stopping by the Lindlbauer house, doing whatever they can to be supportive.

"It's the reason he's feeling it, believing it," Deprez said.

In fact, David Lindlbauer said the family is remaining hopeful about Jesse's recovery regardless of how long that might take.

"He's verbalizing a little bit now," Lindlbauer said. "His therapists are working hard with him, with his speech and

"He's able to stand up a little bit using the parallel bars. The sky's the limit, hopefully. The latest results of the MRI came back real, real good."

Another plus, his dad continued, is Jesse is "looking forward to going back to school in tsmith@hometownlife.com

September. It may just be part time to start. But that's a nice step for him."

The community will still be there to root him on, too.

Distributed Monday were flyers for a "Golf For SuperJess" event to take place Saturday, Aug. 27 at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club.

"We're lucky to live in such a great community with such community support," said Plymouth varsity baseball coach Bryan Boyd, who had several of his players on both the Blue Jays and Grizzlies. "When something happens to one of our own you see that people come out of the woodwork to help them and support them and do whatever they can."

Meanwhile, he continues to work out and run during the off-season at his alma mater, the new Catholic Central in Novi, under the guidance of trainer John Vickers of Dynamic Athletic Performance.

Former University of Michigan teammate Brandon Kaleniecki and Ryan Hayes of the Plymouth Whalers meet daily at 7:45 a.m.

"Calgary gives us a good program and I've had the same trainer for three years," Moss said. "CC has a brand new weight room and we do a lot of things on the football field and track. I haven't skated yet, but I feel my ankle is good enough to go."

Moss is in the final year of his contract and will become an unrestricted free agent. He plans to return for preseason workouts in mid-August in Calgary, which he'd like to call his permanent

"It's a fun city to play in," Moss said. "The people are passionate about hockey. It's the only major sport in the city with the exception of a CFL team and their season is well over by the time we're going. The people love it and it's truly a fun city to play in.

"I like it there. If I could I'd like to stay there a long time. Really enjoy it and hopefully I'm not

Moss, who also missed the first nine regular season games with a shoulder injury, proved his worth when he returned after scoring just eight goals and adding nine assists in 64 games during the 2009-10 season.

"The year before I was struggling to score and missed a few games," Moss said. "When you're not producing, you won't play. It was a tough year. But I felt good last year and Brent (Sutter, the Calgary coach) had a lot of confidence in me."

Moss not only played on the Flames' top line, but also earned minutes both on the power play and penalty kill.

Moss said Sutter has developed a good rapport with the players.

'I think he's great," the former CC standout said. "He's played the game and been successful as a player and a coach at different levels. I think his biggest attribute is that he's honest and he's fair with guys. You know where you stand with him. When you're not playing well, he'll let you know. And when you're playing well he's going to let you know. As a player that's all you can ask for."

Despite being thousands of miles from home, Moss does make regular appearances in Detroit and leans on his support system, even when things aren't going his way.

"Your family and friends tell you good things for the most part," Moss said. "My grandfather always gives me fairly good advice and will tell me I'm playing better than I am at the time. It's always nice to have encouraging comments from family and friends because they're always on your side and want you to do

Moss said he doesn't feel it's a burden when coming back home.

"It's been fine," he said. "I think my first year in Calgary we played Detroit in the playoffs and that was pretty chaotic with all the people and the support and stuff.

"But it's great. I love coming back here because you always have your family and friends at the games. You work so hard when you're younger. They want to see you play and there's no better place than Joe Louis where's

there has been a lot of great memories."

And Moss can always lean on his number one advocate - his father, Jim.

"He never played hockey, but he always helped out," David Moss said. "My first couple of years he was a parent that wanted to be involved. I don't think he knew too much about the game, but he was always willing to help. He could probably coach a team now with all games he's seen and all the hockey games he's watched and been around. He knows the game way better now than when he started - that's for sure.'

Moss, ironically, has a distinction of playing before three of the largest outdoor hockey audiences of all time.

There was the Cold War on Oct. 6, 2001, between Michigan and Michigan State that drew 74,544 fans. At the 2010 IIHF World

Championships at Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, he played for Team USA against host Germany before 77,803.

And there was this past February in Calgary at the NHL Heritage Classic against Montreal Canadiens before

"They were all memorable in their own ways," Moss said. "The one in Calgary was probably coldest one I played in."

"We were in Germany and playing Germany. It was crazy. It was their home turf and it was like nothing I've ever seen. It was almost like a soccer game over there. They were cheering the whole game. The fans were there probably six hours before the game tailgating. It was almost like a college football game atmosphere. It was really neat and fun experience. I also played the one at Michigan State I remember we wore extra layers underneath.

"Got three under my belt." Moss is one of several Livonians to make it and thrive in the NHL. And one of those players most recently made it all the way to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals.

'He's a great player," Moss said of Ryan Kesler. "When I skate with him in the summer time, too, it seems every year he gets better and better. Obviously playing in Calgary, he's a rival. He's the type of player everybody would love to have on their team, but you hate playing against him. He's the best two-way player in the game. He won the Selke Award and he's a tough player to play against."

So how does Moss honestly evaluate his golf game these

"Seems like I play less-andless every year," he said. "I enjoy the game a lot, not so much now when I'm hitting it sideways, but I try and play as much as I can. I'd give myself a 12 (handicap) on a

"I got a chance to play Oakland Hills last year and that by far was the nicest course I've ever played and the most challenging. That

was a real treat. "I played way more in my younger days when I was in college - when I had what it seemed like more time and didn't travel

as much." So who is the best Flame player on the links?

"Yea, there's a few guys on our team that can 'chuck," Moss said. "In Calgary, probably Jarome (Iginla) and Alex (Tanguay), they're both good golfers, and Curtis Glencross ... they're all single digit handicaps. They're all pretty good."

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agreement, and their plight was told in Doug Gladstone's 2010 book A Bitter Cup of Coffee - How MLB and The Players Association Threw 874 Retirees a Curve.

Under the 2011 deal, those players will receive anywhere from \$1,200 annually upward to a maximum of \$10,000 based on the amount of time they played in the Majors. Medical coverage is not included.

"It wasn't what we expected, but it's better than nothing at this point," Morar said. "Jim and a lot of guys spent a lot of time on this, trying to get it. It's really not even called a pension. It's called a compensation to the players who didn't have a full four years.

"The guys who are going to get \$10,000 are the guys who were two or three days shy of four years, and then it works down on a percentage. I would say, if you have two to three years, it'll be a nice piece of change for you."

NO SURVIVORS BENEFIT

Furthermore, the deal is only good for two years. After that time, the players could get nothing again, or they could be covered under terms of the 1980 agreement, according to Acho.

"That's why I would stop short of calling it a pension," he said. "It's a two-year charitable contribution in recognition of

"The only bad thing is the surviving spouses are not eligible for this like they would be in a pension. That's the only unfortunate aspect, but at least it's some-

"The truth is we lost in trial court in Los Angeles and on appeal, so they really were under no obligation to do this. The judge said they had a moral obligation to continue to negotiate."

Acho doesn't think the 2011 deal will be undone in two years.

"I don't think they'll do that given they've already made this commitment to these living players," he said. "That would be unfortunate (if they did), and I just don't think they're going to do that. I think they'll continue to do this until this pre-1980 class passes away."

REASONS FOR CHANGE

There are several reasons the older players are getting some money now accoring to Acho.

A change at the head of the Players Association may be the primary reason. Michael Weiner, who replaced Donald Fehr, was much more sympathetic to their

Furthermore, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig is nearing the end of his term and wanted to resolve the matter, Acho added. The third was the publicity from Gladstone's book.

"It was a surprising turn of events and we're glad," Acho said, adding financial compensation for his firm is unlikely. "It's a matter of principle and doing the right thing more than the money. We're just glad it got done."

"Weiner at least listened to the people, and (MLB) kinda felt bad for the guys," Moran said. "The alumni association -Brooks Robinson and his guys — stepped in and were the ones who kinda put this thing together.

"Once the book got out, I'm sure that put a lot of pressure on Major League Baseball after they read all this stuff, too."

MONEY NOT THE ISSUE

Moran, who is a retired carpenter with

about the principle. The baseball compensation was never going to be a make-orbreak deal for him. Another area player in that situa-

a pension from that work, was always

tion is Bill Zepp of Livonia, a University of Michigan grad and retired Chrysler employee. He pitched three seasons in the Majors with the Twins and Tigers.

"It's a nice turn of events; I'm sure everybody feels better," Moran said. "For the guys who are having a tough time, I'm sure they're happy as heck to get it.

"The Major League Alumni Association feels good, because we got something out of it. We were the warriors who started out playing when there were eight teams. We didn't make much money. Now, there are more teams and guys making so much money. The old guys are the pioneers who got this thing rolling.

Moran added the time and effort he put into helping with the lawsuit was definitely worth it. But Acho is the one who deserves all the credit, he added.

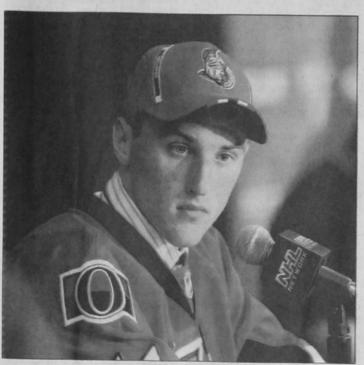
"We can say, 'Hey, we did something;' the follow-up by Jim Acho and a lot of guys (produced a positive result)," Moran said. "I feel bad because of what they spent; they'll probably never get their money back, the lawyers. The guys feel good. We did something; something came forth from it."

Moran anticipates the players will begin receiving their compensation later this

"Someone said it would be after the World Series, because it takes time to evaluate all the ballplayers and send them all the W2 forms," Moran said. "We'll see how this thing plays out. We haven't received anything yet, but their word is pretty good."

domeara@hometownlife.com

Whalers duo selected in NHL draft's first round



picked 21st overall in the NHL Entry Draft by Ottawa.

AARON BELL | OHL IMAGES Stefan Noesen of the Plymouth Whalers addresses the media after being

For the first time in a decade, two Plymouth Whalers players were selected in the first round of the National Hockey League Entry Draft.

Stefan Noesen (21st, Ottawa) and Rickard Rakell (30th, Anaheim) were selected Friday at Xcel Center in St. Paul, Minn. The last time the Whalers

had two players taken in the first round was in 2001, when Stephen Weiss was taken fourth overall by Florida and goalie Jason Bacashihua 28th by the Dallas Stars.

Later in the 2011 draft, Plymouth forward Garrett Meurs — a frequent linemate of Noesen and Rakell last season - was picked in the fifth round (123rd overall) by Colorado. Goalie Matt Mahalak then was picked in the sixth round (163rd) by Carolina.

Noesen was interviewed

Friday night by TSN directly after being selected by the Senators. "I fell in love with the game

through the (Dallas) Stars," he said. "My great grandfather was Canadian and he showed me the ropes and took me to Stars games. I'm really excited to get started."

Noesen was compared on the broadcast to Anaheim's Corey Perry.

'Noesen's the same kind of player," said Ottawa general manager Bryan Murray. "He's a hard-working, competitive person that's paid an awfully big price to be a hockey player, moving away from home and doing the things he's done. We like his competitive nature. Corey's turned out pretty well and we think Stefan will, too.

The Senators acquired the 21st pick from Nashville in a deal during last season's NHL trade deadline for Mike Fisher. Rakell of the Plymouth Whalers.



All smiles after Anaheim picked him 30th in the opening round is Rickard

Hard-luck Rams drop another close game

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

But the 20-and-under Rams suffered their sixth, one-run loss of the season in Livonia Collegiate Baseball League action against the 22-andunder 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

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 Stempek, 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 score-

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 30, 2011

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

COBRAS 5-1, RAMS 4-2: In a battle Saturday of LCBL 20and-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

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 gamewinning RBI in a two-run

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

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

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

Thunder handed Concealed

its first setback of the tourney,

squad, now 12-7 on the season,

are Rodney Bies and Austin

Stevenson: Brandon Waack,

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central;

Schmidtke, both of Dearborn

Zach Tallman, Brownstown;

and Kyle Squibb, South Lyon.

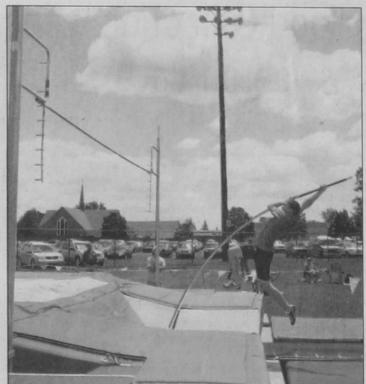
Plymouth; Nolan Clenney,

Anthony DiPonio and Zach

Heights and Divine Child:

Richard and Bob Bies.

Stevens, both of Livonia



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

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 Rounding out the Concealed 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 qualibemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851 fier from the University of

Michigan, captured the title at

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

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-ofseven 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 outfield 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

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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

Concealed is coached by Lou

Pirronello, Steve Tallman, Jeff

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, III. 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

www.hometownlife.com

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 ambroseg@wwcs.k12.mi.us.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Youth soccer academy

hunited.com.

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

For more information, visit www.plymout-

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View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.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

"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."

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at

sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to

include relevant photos as attached jpgs.

Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615

Time/Date: Dessert at 6:30 p.m., con-

Location: St. James Presbyterian Church,

cert at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, June 30

Details: Songs of the 1950s; dessert

25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

costs \$5 per person

Guest speaker

Contact: (313) 534-7730

Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

JUNE 30-JULY 6

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 les-

"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

· 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

Sultan, and Shah." Each lecture will be

pendently. Tuition is \$50 for the series

or \$15 per lecture. Advance registration

is requested to help plan seating and

photocopied handout materials, but

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

Contact: (248) 737-1931

walk-ins will be accommodated. Topics

self-contained and can be attended inde-



BACK, RONALD SCOTT

Went to be with the Lord, June 23, 2011. Beloved father of Holly & Lisa. He was proceeded 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.

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





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.

LITTLE, BEVERLY M.

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

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Observer & Eccentric Call 1-800-579-7355

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"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) Bitting, and Mark (Mary). Proud grandpa of eight and great-grandpa of four. Dear brother of loyce 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)

To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

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 memo-



Sunday service are "The World of Esther and Mordechai" Contact: (248) 354-4488 on July 6; "Jews in Shi'ite Society," on July 13; "Under Sultans and Shahs" on July 20 and "Israel, Iran and the Persian Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, July Jews" on July 27. To sign up, send a check

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UNITED METHODIST

RELIGION CALENDAR

Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, July 3

Details: Bernard Gaulier takes over

the pulpit for a sermon on "Churches,

Patriotism and the American Flag" during

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075

Details: Howard N. Lupovitch teaches a

summer series called "Esther's Children:

Persian Jews Under Emperor, Caliph,

Location: Northwest Unitarian

Highway, Southfield

6, 13, 20 and 27

W. Maple, West Bloomfield

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620

Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns. Jim Braid, Margo Dexter

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GREEK ORTHODOX

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. · Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church

16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia . South of Six Mile Road lursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011. Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

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ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church



36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750

10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron Thursday, June 30, 2011

hometownlife com



Symphony in the park

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

OSE 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 Biggby Coffee are sponsoring the An American

The Michigan Philharmonic's pops concert lineup 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.

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."



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.

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," Steward 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.

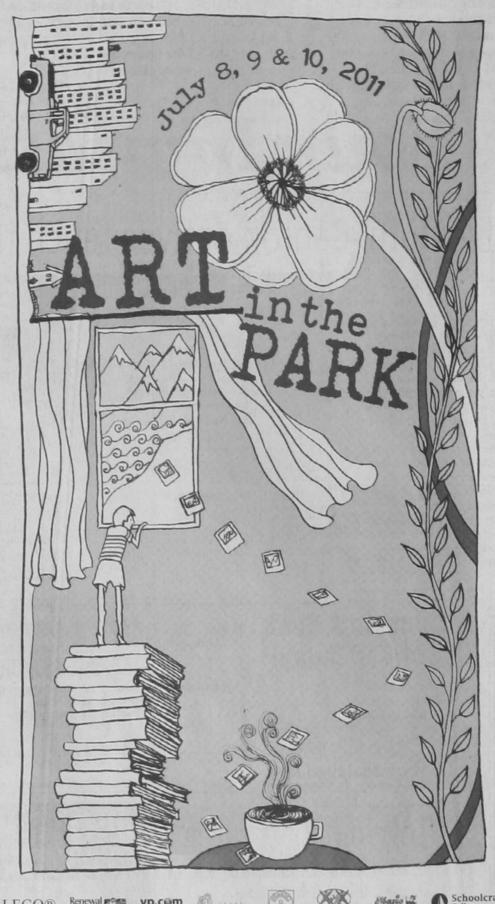
The festival opens at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at noon Saturday-Monday. Fireworks will cap the festivities at approximately 10:15 Monday.

mately 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.





www.artinthepark.com

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through July 2; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday or by appointment Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth Details: "Parts of a Whole," an exhibition of assemblage, includes works by Lynn Krawczyk and Leann Meixner, both of Plymouth, and Joan Potter Thomas, man-

ager of Northville Art House. Contact: (734) 420-0775 or www.artandideasgallery.com

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/ jam session show for improvisers is 10

p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday

and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

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

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Mike Stanley with Mary Ann Demoss and Floyd the Washboard Comic, June 30-July 2; The Dirty Comedy Show, July 6; Isaac Witty with Paul Strickland, July 7-10; Bill Bushart with Trevor Smith and Lee Smith, July 13-16; Steve Sabo with Kris Peters and Brett Kline, July 20-23; Bryan Mcree with Kate Brindle and Nate Armbruster, July 27 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Dwayne Gill, June 30-July 2; Warren B. Hall, July 7-9; Steve Lott, July 14-16; J. Chris Newberg, July 21-23; Cy Amundson, July 28-30; Eric Hunter, Aug. 4-6 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-

castle.com

Contact: (734) 455-1453

The Ark

Time/Date: Stewart Francke, June 30; Andre Williams & Jon Langford, July 1; Dave Alvin & the Guilty Ones, July 2; Boulder Acoustic Society, July 6; Zoe Muth & the Lost High Rollers, July 7; Gandalf Murphy & the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, July 8; Shawn Phillips, July 9; Tom Rush, July 10; Jolie Holland & Sallie Ford and the Sound Outside; July 11; Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience, July 12; Open Stage, July 13; The Tartan

Terrors, July 14; Chris Bathgate & Abigail Stauffer, July 15; Steve Forbert, July 16; Sierra Maestra, July 17; Junior Brown, July 24; Danny Britt & Marvin Dykhuis, July 25; Michael on Fire, July 26; Marc Cohn, July

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Heritage Park

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23, July 7, 21, 28, Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25

Location: 24915 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills

Details: Free summer concert series,

Stars in the Park, kicks off Thursday, June 23 with the Farmington Community Band Coming up: Rock and Soul, July 7; Farmington Community Band Big Band, July 21; Metro Jazz Voices, July 28; Five Guys Named Moe, Aug. 4; Stewart Francke and band, Aug. 11; Arizona Son with Devin Scillian, Aug. 18; and Farmington Community Chorus, Aug. 25

Contact: (248) 473-1848

Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Details: Jazz musicians perform and com-

plimentary hors d'oeuvres are served;

donation \$5. Contact: (734) 453-1780 www. PlymouthElks1780.com

Kellogg Park

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 1 Location: Downtown Plymouth

Details: Zap Toro

Coming up: Steve King and the Dittlies, July 15; Gia Warner Band, July 22; The Bluescasters, July 20; Those Delta Rhythm Kings, Aug. 5; Michael King & Friends, Aug. 12; Mass Transit Band, Aug. 19; Randy Brock Group, Aug. 26; Lady Sunshine and the X Band, Sept. 2

Town Square

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Friday

Location: In the pavilion at Town Square in downtown Northville

Details: Free concert series includes First Presbyterian Church with Americana-style music, July 1; Randy Brock Group with blues, July 8; Shawn Riley Band, top 40 hits, July 15; Steve King and the Dittlies, Detroit rock and roll, July 22; Zap Toro with Latin music, July 29; Michael May and the Messarounds with jazzy blues, Aug. 4; The Crutches with top rock and dance hits, Aug. 12; Gia Warner with rock classics, Aug. 19; and Justine Blazer, rock/country,

Aug. 26 Tunes on Tuesday: The family series of free concerts runs 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and features The Gratitude Steel Drum Band, July 5; The Music Lady, July 12; Rick Kelley, July 19; Palamazoo, July 26; Mr. Seley, Aug. 2; Saline Fiddlers, Aug. 9; Zippity 2Dads, Aug. 16; Imagination

Theater, Aug. 23. Contact: (248) 349-0203

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Kerosene Halo featuring Mike Roe and Derri Daugherty, July 8; Mr. B's Joy Box Express, July 12; Shari Kane and



Musica Batteria performs July 6 in Kellogg Park, in Plymouth.



Stuart Francke will perform July 6 at the **Detroit Zoo**

Dave Steele, July 16; Michael Fracasso with The Potter's Field, July 29; Jennie DeVoe,

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinity-

Moon Dusters

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m. Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the 30s, 40s and 50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

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

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays Details: Jazz for Kids Program Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit Contact: (313) 345-6300,

www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Sunday; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday in July and August. Location: I-696 service drive and

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Woodward, Royal Oak Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

Wild Summer Nights: Concerts in the Main Picnic Grove run 6:30-8 p.m. and are free with regular Zoo admission. Admission prices are reduced to \$5 for all visitors after 5 on Wednesday in July and August. Guests may bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Food, snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase from Zoo concessions. The concert schedule is: July 6, Stewart Francke and His Band (rock and soul); July 13, Mr. Seley and the Troublemakers (children's); July 20, Jody Raffoul (rock); July 27, Grievous Angel (Americana); Aug. 3, Candy Band (children's); Aug. 10, Jill Jack (folk); Aug. 17, Sun Messengers (Motown and R&B); Aug. 24, Straight Ahead (jazz); and Aug. 31, The Verve Pipe (children's)

Contact: (248) 541-5717 Music Hall

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 12 Location: 350 Madison, Detroit Details: 1,000 tickets will be available for free the day of the show on a first come first served basis. Princess Katie is a feisty princess with a penchant for rockin'out and Racer Steve lives for performing guitar solos between laps Contact: (313) 887-8500; www.musichall.

org

FILM

Compuware Drive-in

Time/Date: Dusk, Thursday, June 30 Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth Details: "Mr. Popper's Penguins" (PG), followed by "X-Men: First Class" (PG-13) on screen #1; "Cars 2" (G), followed by "Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides" (PG-13) on screen #2; and "Green Lantern (PG-13), followed by "Super 8: (PG-13) on screen #3. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for kids 4-12; free for kids 3 and under Contact: (734) 927-3284 or visit www. compuwarearena.com/drivein.html.

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 30 Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth Details: "Trust," all seats \$3

Coming up: "Rio," 7 p.m. Friday, July 1, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Satuday-Sunday, July 2-3, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, July 7; "Scream 4," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 8-9 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 10

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

Redford Theatre

Time/Date: 8 p.m. July 8 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. July 9

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "Funny Girl," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," 8 p.m. July 22 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. July 23, seats \$5

Contact: (313) 537-2560

MUSEUMS

Charles H. Wright

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit Details: Eyes on Africa and the African Diaspora: The Photography of Asha Walidah and Bill Gosa, through July 12; Heidelberg 25 through Nov. 27; Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31 Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under

are admitted free Contact: (313) 494-5800

Cranbrook

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield

Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.

Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

Plymouth Historical Museum Time/Date: Through Oct. 23

Location: 155 S. Main, just north of downtown Plymouth

Details: Rediscovering the Civil War

Contact: (734) 455-8940

THEATER

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Fourth Tuesday of the month Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Improvisation workshops for all levels; \$3 per session

Contact: Laura Gumina at (248) 225-0160

Plymouth, Canton natives teach theater camps

Two new instructors will teach students at Plymouth Community Arts Council's summer perform-

ing camps that begin next month. Plymouth native Hannah Fox will lead camps July 11-15 and 25-29 and Katelyn Sigworth will teach the Aug. 15-19 session.

Fox is entering her final year of training in the BFA program at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts in Purchase, N.Y. Last summer, she earned professional-level certification from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England, in the short course, Acting Shakespeare.

Her passion for the stage blossomed closer to home - at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. She participated in



Youngsters take to the stage at a previous Plymouth Community Arts Council summer camp

several PCAC summer camps as a student and eventually worked as a program assistant.

Sigworth worked with children's theater groups for more than six years. She was instrumental in the founding of the middle school drama workshop program and Second Stage Players at Canton High School. Last spring, she directed a full length production at Canton High. Sigworth holds a bachelors degree in biology and theatre from the University of Michigan, and is a state-certified teacher.

All camps run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. Aimed at elementary and middle school students, the camps cost \$135 per week for nonmembers and \$120 per week for

For more information visit www.plymoutharts.com or call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.



LARRY CROWNE' BRYAN CRANSTON CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER TARAJI P. HENSON GUGU MBATHA-RAW WILMER VALDERRAMA. PAM GRIER 🎬 JAMES NEWTON HOWARD 🛲 PILIPPE ROUSSELET STEVEN SKARESHIAN JEB BRODY FABRICE GIANFERMI. DAVID COATSWORTH """"EN TOM HANKS GARY GOETZMAN """"H TOM HANKS ANI NIA VARDALOS VENDOME PLAY-TORE BEST IN HAVE THE TEN CHICAGO SECTIONS AND THE ACCOUNTS

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES



MidMichigan

Midland

Medical Center



FOOD

Thursday, June 30, 2011

hometownlife (m) com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Host a Star-Studded Lith

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

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

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

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

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

¼ teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon salt

¼ cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter 1½ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

% cup granulated sugar

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with veg-

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:

1½ cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt



½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter

½ cup granulated sugar

¼ cup firmly-packed light brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon lemon extract, orange extract or

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 cav-

ity, 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.

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

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

otlucks 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



Mixing it Up

Jenny Harper

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:

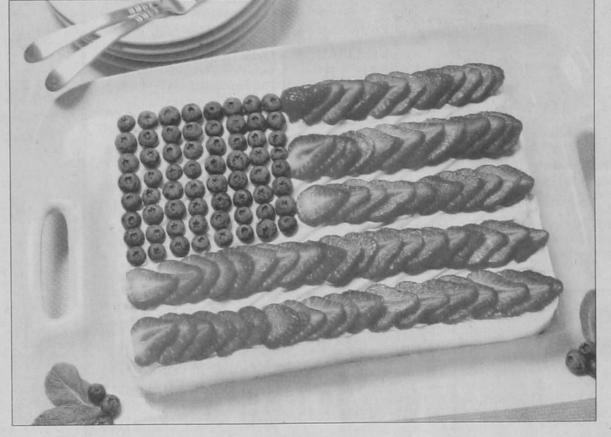
 Keep it safe: It's tricky to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold, so make sure the food you're bringing will be safe at room temperature. For example, on a hot summer day, vinegar-based salad dressings are a better choice than mayonnaise-based ones.

· 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

· 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.



INDEPENDENCE CAKE

Makes 20 servings

1 cup water

1 cup instant mashed potato flakes 2% cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

2% cups granulated sugar 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened

4 large eggs 4 cup milk

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

2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House

1 container (8 ounces) frozen light whipped

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease a 13-

Heat water to boiling in small sauce-

pan; remove from heat. Stir in potato

flakes until moistened. Cool to room

temperature. Combine flour, baking

powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in

Beat sugar and butter until crumbly.

by 9-inch baking pan; line with wax

Semi-Sweet Chocolate Mini Morsels

2 cups sliced strawberries

1/2 cup blueberries

a medium bowl.

topping, thawed

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

REAL ESTATE

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

Julie Brown, editor. (313) 222-6755 ichrown@hometownlife.com

Keep yourself, loved ones safe in a tornado

Severe weather has been a major concern this past spring. The American Red Cross, Southeastern Michigan Chapter, offers this advice related to tornado safety.

During any storm, listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings (in which a tornado has been spotted nearby or indicated by weather radar). You should know your community's warning system — communities have different ways of warning residents about tornado danger, with many having sirens intended for outdoor warning purposes.

Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.

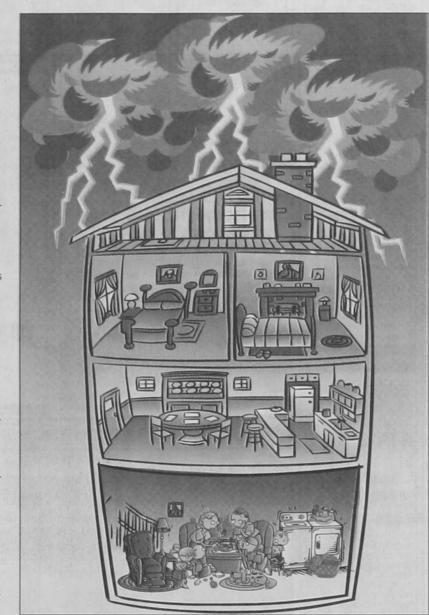
You should practice periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado approaches.

Consider having your safe room reinforced. Plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection can be found on the FEMA website at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/rms/rmsp453.shtm.

Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees. Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

Watch for tornado danger signs, such as dark, often greenish clouds, a phenomenon caused by hail. You may also see a wall cloud, an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm. Also watch for a cloud of debris, large hail, a funnel cloud (a visible rotating extension of the cloud base) or hear a roaring noise.

The safest place for you and your family is an underground shelter, basement or safe room. If none is available, seek a small, windowless



interior room or hallways on the lowest level of a sturdy building.

Mobile homes are not safe during tornados or other severe winds. Do not seek shelter in a hallway or bathroom of a mobile home; if you have access to a sturdy shelter or a vehicle, abandon your mobile home immediately. To to the nearest

study building or shelter immediately, using your seat belt if driving. Do not wait until you see the tornado.

If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot walk quickly to a shelter, immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt

Commerce Township

\$75,000

1325 Penarth St

and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park.

Now you have the following options as a last resort: Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your care in lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.

After a tornado, you should continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updates. If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.

Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes when examining your walls, doors, staircases and windows for damage.

Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately. Stay out of damaged buildings.

Use battery-powered flashlights when examining buildings — do not use candles.

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out of the building quickly and call the gas company or fire department.

Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims. Use the phone only for emergency calls.

Keep all of your animals under your direct control. Clean up spilled medications, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids that could become a fire hazard.

Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to persons in need until emergency responders arrive.

For more information, visit www. semredcross.org or RedCross.org.

Lawyer can advise on lot use

Q: My parents own two lots which they always intended to give to my brother and me. I have installed a mobile home on the land near my brother's mobile home. I have built a garage and decided to build a home on the lot. My father and grandfather helped me with site preparation and my dad helped me obtain a building permit which was issued to him. He has also helped with the construction by putting in the foundation, etc. For some reason now he is refusing to give me a deed to the lot. I am wondering what my recourse might be as we are now estranged?

A: Obviously, if you cannot resolve the matter amicably, you may have to



Robert Meisner

bring a suit seeing specific performance of the promise or damages based upon the value of the house. In a similar case out of state, the Appellate Court held that the trial court should consider whether the facts and circumstances, particularly the parents'

particularly the parents' general promise to give the land at some time, coupled with their affirmative action in allowing the daughter to build a substantial house on the land, made out a case of what is called

promissory estoppel. The court took into consideration that the statements or conduct representing a present commitment to do something in the future reasonably can be expected to induce reliance and can be enforceable. Hopefully, telling your parents of this kind of case decision sent by a lawyer may have a therapeutic effect.

Some states are passing statutes and/or cases upholding the right of an association to collect a transfer fee upon the sale of a unit which goes into the association coffers, but there is much debate and/or controversy about whether a developer can, in effect, create an annuity for itself for an indefinite period of time even if he is out of the project. You should check with your local counsel to determine whether, in fact, there is a transfer fee, and, whether in fact it is enforceable in your jurisdiction.

Q: An owner advised the board of our condominium of his intention to purchase a plug-in electric vehicle and is requesting permission to install a charging station in his assigned parking space. The parking spaces in our garage are assigned but not owned. How should the board respond and what responsibility does the association board have to allow common elements to be altered to accommodate the charging stations? Who pays for the electric service and what requirements, such as maintenance and insurance, should be assigned to the individual co-owner? Does the board have to obtain approval from the other co-owners?

A: This is a very complex and, obviously, bifurcated question. The subject of electric cars and charging stations is becoming a "hot topic" for condominiums. The board should certainly encourage the purchase of electric vehicles and accommodate the necessary stations to service the automobiles to the extent it can reasonably make accommodations which may be difficult or impossible. The board could grant the owners' request to modify the common elements by installing a charging station in the parking space, but will this lead to gas pumps requested to be in garages of condominium units as well? With any consent given, the board will have to determine the means to bill the owner for electricity as a user charge, unless the charging station has a separate meter which the board may wish to require be established. With any addition to the common elements the board may approve, the directors should require the co-owner to provide the necessary insurance and indemnify the association for any damages arising from the use or operation of the station by way of the typical modification agreement which we often provide to our clients. The Association would likely provide for multiple charging stations in a garage and make the maintenance of these facilities part of the common expenses as the board may enhance the marketability of the building by offering this amenity for prospective buyers. In any event, legal counsel should pass on the entire process.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 14-18, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills				
15837 Birwood Ave	\$115,000			
17117 Dunblaine Ave	\$106,000			
16268 Kirkshire Ave	\$210,000			
Birmingh	am			
1205 Chesterfield Ave	\$390,000			
1245 Derby Rd # 4	\$60,000			
1834 Fairview St	\$187,000			
1364 Holland St	\$440,000			
555 Puritan Ave	\$847,000			
885 Redding Rd	\$225,000			
1638 Stanley Blvd	\$188,000			

600 W Brown St # 210	\$135,000
Bloomfield	Hills
3753 Darlington Rd N	\$294,000
2025 Dell Rose Dr	\$303,000
7174 Old Mill Rd	\$205,000
1099 Orchard Ridge Rd	\$2,750,000
956 Rockaway Rd	\$160,000
964 Stratford Ln	\$140,000
2256 Sudbury Way	\$333,000
267 Woodberry Dr	\$864,000
Bloomfield To	wnship
4865 Beacon Hill Dr	\$310,000
1625 Brandywine Dr	\$270,000
2775 Heathfield Rd	\$608,000
2394 Heronwood Dr	\$659,000
1862 Pine Ridge Ln	\$188,000

3543 Sleeth Rd	\$62,000
Farmington	Hills
33533 Colony Park Dr	\$208,000
38888 Country Cir	\$47,000
28112 Hawberry Rd	\$182,000
36465 Howard Rd	\$271,000
29864 Indian Trl	\$87,000
29017 Wintergreen	\$775,000
Lathrup Vil	lage
19578 San Jose Blvd	\$205,000
28420 Woodworth Way	\$128,000
Milford	
316 Bennett St	\$138,000
228 Mulberry Trl	\$200,000
Novi	
24510 Amanda Ln	\$81,000
30784 Ardmore Ct	\$73,000

27303 Benjamins Way	\$45,000
42008 Borchart Dr	\$335,000
25801 Cody Ln	\$385,000
25044 Hadlock Dr	\$698,000
25786 Island Lake Dr	\$400,000
40758 Lenox Park Dr	\$187,000
South Lyon	
54295 Birchwood Dr	\$40,000
57538 Hidden Timbers Dr	\$236,000
22195 Quail Run,3	\$95,000
Southfield	
28425 Red Leaf Ln	\$17,000
28568 Red Leaf Ln	\$68,000
20290 Thornwood Ct	\$84,000
30115 Woodgate Dr	\$130,000
White Lake	
9091 Gale Rd	\$156,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

\$314,000

\$225,000

\$236,000

\$144,000

\$145,000

\$93,000

\$130,000

\$230,000

\$210,000

\$203,000

\$370,000

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 21-25, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
42166 Chase Ct	\$205,000
44350 Harsdale Dr	\$157,000
7614 Haverhill Ln	\$380,000
6984 Longwood Rd	\$230,000
41369 Northwind Dr	\$45,000

	43866 Nowland Dr
	47693 River Woods Dr
	1333 Wagon Wheel Rd
	Livonia
Se.	36652 Six Mile Rd
	37944 Lyndon St
	20311 Milburn St
	37522 Northfield Ave
	18609 Renwick St
	33426 Vargo Dr
	Northville
	17024 Courville Dr

5819 Raven Rd

16464 Cypress Ct	\$300,000
16115 Homestead Cir	\$257,000
19583 Northridge Dr	\$60,000
49759 Parkside Dr	\$355,000
116 S Rogers St	\$127,000
41002 Stone Haven Rd	\$230,000
39522 Village Run Dr	\$210,000
Plymouth	
521 Deer St	\$54,000
11645 Francis Ave	\$82,000
40414 Newport Dr	\$68,000
911 Palmer St	\$350,000

49930 Pointe Xing	\$145,000
9075 Woodgrove Dr	\$330,000
Redford	
14265 Dixie	\$70,000
9386 Hemingway	\$70,000
Westland	
8617 Cavell St	\$80,000
34671 Fairchild St	\$40,000
35012 Glen St	\$18,000
500 Larchmont Dr	\$101,000
33041 Woodworth Ct	\$30,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate Career

There will be a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee and free pre-licensing course. For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Designation

The Charles Reinhart Co. announced that 10 real estate agents recently completed the Graduate, Realtor Institute (GRI) class and received their GRI Designation. Agents earning the nationally recognized GRI Designation include: Jason Boggs, Tammi Ebenhoeh, Ann LaCivita, Maris Laporter, Kathryn Linderman, Kari Newman, Lisa Stelter, Deb Stern, Rick Taylor and Melissa Van Dam.

A minimum of 90 hours of intense coursework is required in order to earn a GRI Designation. Subjects covered include: contract law, professional standards, sales and marketing, finance and risk reduction. Obtaining the GRI designation is an additional measure of knowledge and prestige achieved beyond receiving a real estate license.

"As the maze of real estate continues to become more difficult, these individuals have positioned themselves to provide the best possible service to their clients," said Bill Miller, general manager of the Charles Reinhart Co. "We congratulate them for continuing to increase their knowledge while striving to be their best."

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

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

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

HaMETOWN/ife.com

HARRISVILLE/LINCOLN

for more info visit

www.fsbolostlakewoods.com

Northern Property



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

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- Now, to Caesar 11 Gambling stake 13 Showed the
- 14 Popular cookie
- 15 Sand, silt
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- 16 Precise
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- 20 Common abra-
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- 22 Levin or
- Gershwin 23 - nova
- 26 Factory
- machinery 30 Hearty laugh
- L-o-n-g time 32 Aberdeen's

- river
- building
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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- 28 Reno loc. 29 Opposite of

19 Potpie veggie

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23 So long!

25 Schuss

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24 Belly dance

26 Familiar digit

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- 31 Kind of system 34 Take unfair
- advantage of 35 Just a minute
- amount 36 Fleur-de-
- 37 Praise highly 39 Stale-smelling
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8 3

9

6 8 9

Level: Beginne

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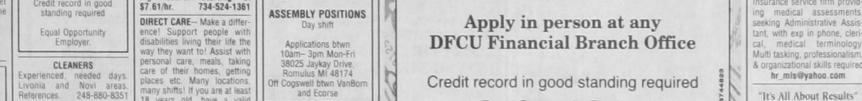
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6300

6360

Lost - Goods

DIGITAL CAMERA-LOST IN DOWNTOWN SOUTH LYONS PARK digital camera and case. If found please mail to PO Box 212 Caro, Michigan 48723 or just the memory card thank





Absolutely Free

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GAZELLE POWER PLUS 248-467-6806

CANTON: Thurs. & Fri. June 30 - July 1st, 9am-5pm Misc. items.

42151 Woodcreek Lane.

E. of Lilley, S. of Palmer

FARMINGTON HILLS:

29268 Lake Park Dr. W. of Farmington Rd. S. of 13 Mile.

9-4nm Clothes & much more

Stacey Court, Quakertown Subdivision (6 Mile & OVEN STOVE Maytag, electric Haggerty). almond in color. Good cond, you pickup, Milford area. Call: 248-887-4495 LIVONIA- Boy's clothing size 3 hometownlife.com

Garage Sales

GARDEN CITY 32263 Pierce

Mon, 9-4pm. Bedroom suite, L-shape leather couch, dining

room table, TV, lamps, & other furniture. No items over \$100

LIVONIA - 34177 Northland

Farmington/7 Mile. 6/30-7/2, 9am-3pm. Boy's & girl's

LIVONIA June 30th & July

2nd, 9am-4pm. Tons of baby/children's items! 38589

clothes and more!

, Ford Rd & Merriman. Fri

mo-5 yrs, toys, household, dryer, shop lights. 6/30-7/2, 9-5pm. 8921 Harvey St., btwn Newburgh & Wayne, N/Joy Rd. LIVONIA: 6/29-7/2, 9-5pm. Exciting 3 generations: gran's antiques, dad's hobbies, mom's 80's clothes, son's 90's toys, 14967 Sunbury, S

LIVONIA: Huge Garage Sale! Toys, clothes & books. Thurs-Sat, 9-5pm. 36981 Dardanella E of Newburgh, S of 7 Mile.

90's toys, 14967 Sunbi of 5 Mi, E of Middlebelt.

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Garage Sales

LIVONIA: Huge Moving Sale! July 1st - 2nd, 9-3pm. Electronics, furniture, household items & much more! 29624 Hillbrook St Middlebelt, S of 7 Mile. Take Curtis, right on Freemont.

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NORTHVILLE: Cleaned out the house & the garage!!! June 30 & July 1, Thurs-Fri. Tons of useful, unique items. Antique garden tools, oak corner curio, manual push mowers, electric Craftsman edger, router table TKO drum set, hamster cage accessories, metal bed frame, shabby chic chair, books, kids clothes (mostly size 10/12 girls), Avon, house-hold, more!! 1075 Allen Dr. W. off Novi Rd., N. of 8 Mile.

PLYMOUTH June 30-July 2, 9am-4pm. Huge! Tons of items! 40300 Schoolcraft Rd., Haggerty. Girl's (10) & woman's (2) brand name clothes, Cheerished Teddies.

SOUTH LYON- Furniture REDFORD - HUGE Christmas tree & der Hitchcock chairs, lots APPLETON BLOCK SALE! 3 blks E of Telegraph, btwn Joy Rd. & W. Chicago. Wed. household! 6/30-7/2; 9-5pm Sun., Jun 29/30 & July 1-3rd | 59378 Pacers Path.

7160 **Household Goods**

7110

Garage Sales

REDFORD: Big Garage Sale!

June 30 - July 3, 9am-6pm Large assortment of items.

Beech Daly, S of Schoolcraft

Downsizing! Toys to furniture yard equipment, bikes, cloth

ing! Sat., 7/2; 9-4pm, 49 Eagle Way, Martindale & 10

WAYNE: Multi-Family, 34505

Harroun. June 30, July 1 & 2, 9-5. 1965 Mustang & parts, kids clothes, toys, household

& patio items, tools, appls

WESTLAND

GARAGE/ESTATE SALE:

1806 Treadwell. June 30 -July 1, 9-5. Lots of antiques

hold items. 7/2 & 7/3, 9-5pm

Moving Sales

SOUTH LYON- Moving

KING SIZE BDRM SET, Queen size brass headboard, black lacquer cabinet, pictures Call: (248) 973-9290

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7410

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7130

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LET'S GO!

I am a SWF, 5'2", in my 60s, brown eyes, brunette, who loves movies, casinos, arts, etc. ISO tall, 60-75, gentleman, for a possible relationship. Call and leave a

SUNRISES AND SUNSETS

Let's be happy together I SWPF, 49, 52°, 110lbs, professional, caring, beautiful and pure, N/S, likes concerts, gardening, dancing, walking along the beach, long drives, seeks a nice, caring SWM, professional, dedicated to family with integrity. 44-50, N/S, who is sincers to

integrity, 44-50, N/S, who is sincere to share loving, beautiful moments and more. \$\mathbf{T}\$38430

TOTAL LOSER!

I have no looks, no interests, no talent no LQ, no friends, no job, and haven dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth. I am a SJPF, 47

5'8", blonde, shapely, bright (advanced

degree), fun, caring, passionats, and one of the nicest people you will ever

one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversation, a great sense of humor, and great klassing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s - mid 60s, for permanent best friend and lover. I'm temporarily liv-ing in Milwaukee but may move to Michi-nan soon. T7324039

8180

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ssage. 17982305

3. Record a voicemail greeting

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SNOW WHITE WiWF, 69, 125lbs, looking for prince charming, to enjoy life together you will be glad when we meet. 2323678

COULD YOU BE THE ONE? Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 49, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 50-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter.

SEEKS HONEST RELATIONSHIP SWF, 45, very petite, blonde hair, hazel eyes, smoker, down-to-earth, kind, sweet, lovee antiques, plays, nice dinners, beaches, nature, outdoor activities, seeks a caring and honest man, 43-64, N/S, for serious LTR. Please no

LET'S MEETI SWF, 44, N/S, pre-op TS, blonde, seeks deg WM, 30-65, N/S, who is clean, sophis cated, dresses nice, for friendship and ore. 2339125

SEARCHING FOR A MAN. 50-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 49-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only SEEKING A BLACK MAN SBF, 44, no children, lives alone, looking for a non-smoking, non-drinking, drug-free man who enjoys travel, playing cards, getting together and just having a good time. \$\mathbf{T} 332295\$

WESTSIDER BOMBSHELL
Very attractive SWF, 50lsh, 56*, 120lbs, brunette, hazel eyes, light amoker, outgoing, romantic, likes music, art, movies, dancling, motorcycles, weekend getaways, camping, amusement parka, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere SWM, 45-55, weight proportionate to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no games. 17245846

FORMER FLIGHT ATTENDANT Recently widowed former flight attendant ISO a meaningful relationship with a Jewish man who is mensch. Fm 63, 100lbs, and look like Fm in my 40s. Fm fm, spiritual, youthful and hope to hear from you soon! \$\overline{2737886}\$ PRETTY ENTREPREUNER

PRETITENTHEPREUNER
WF, 64, loving, giving, fun to with, looking for her soulmate. Any sincere WM,
60-85, who's ambitious, successful,
spiritual and fun. Please reply. I file
movies, plays, concerts, ballet, boating, swimming, traveling, life itself.
TS92074

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP Attractive SWF, 5'5", 125lbs, fun-loving, attractive blonde who is retired would love the companionship of a gentle-man, 65+, with a pleasing personality.

VERY CUTE
SBF, 58, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 46-60, NS, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special states. cial. 2113198 SEEKING A MAN WHO IS.

young-at-heart like me. Recently wid-owed WF enjoys dining, dancing, bowl-ing, golf, good movies and more. Would like to have good male companionship with a WM, 50-65. 27330750 I'LL BE WAITING

PLL BE WAITING
Veryy gorgeous SF, multi-racial, 31, 57*,
medium build, in search of a man, race
unimportant, 40-85, kids ok, who is living
his life to the fullest, financially secure,
sincere, who likes concerts, cooking
and traveling, for friendahlp first leading
to possible relationship. \$\mathbf{T}\$32436

PEOPLE-PERSON
DWF, 65, 5'2", 107lbs, two grown sons and one granddaughter, looking for SWM, 55-66, N/S, who is family-oriented, easy to communicate with, and fun to be with. I love concerts, dining out, taking walks. 27334842

LET'S GO CAMPING SWF, 52, 575", plus size, beautiful eyes, pretty smile, N/S, seeks WM, 50-62, N/S, for long walks, swimming, outdoors, possible LTR. 27338080

SEEKS HONEST MAN
SWF, 53, 5'2", 150lbs, auburn halr, average build, artist, light smoker, likes all kinds of music, seeks WM, 45-85, amoker, for friendship, going out to eat, dancing, social events, possible companionship. 17338127

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

I LIKE TO TRAVEL SWM, 53, 6'3", 200lbs, fit, clean-cut, easygoing, college grad, would like to meet a slim, attractive WF, under 50, for friendship/relationship. 127335730

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
SWM, 53, 5'11", 180lbs, WS, like chess, backgammon, coffee houses, going to the gym, comedy clubs. Seeking SWF, 35-55, with similar interests for friendship first leading to possible LTR. 17218827

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC
Tail, athletic SWM, 48, 6°2", 200lbs, brownblue, no dependents, college-educated, clean-cut, good sense of humor, outgoing, seeks friendly SF for fun. Agel location open. \$\overline{\pi}\$587540 FRIENDS FIRST OK?

FRIENDS FIRST OK?

SWM, 47, 6, average build, business owner, liberal-minded, N/S, likes traveling, the beach, staying active, seeks a kind, honest woman, 25-39, for friendship first. 27339200 MOVED TO THE WEST SIDE

SBM, 41, 59°, silm build, smoker, likes movies, and enjoying good food, seeks a beautiful BF, 21-56, for friendship, hanging out and maybe LTR. 27339183 SEEKING A LATINA WOMAN SWM, 40, 6'3", NS, dark hair, blue eyes, easygoing, down-to-earth, likes travel-ing, dining out, sports, movies, con-certs, seeks HF, 18+, for dating, possible LTR. 27338915

LET'S HANG OUT
SBM, 24, 5'5", 165lbs, have my own
place, smoker, seeks a kind, sweet
woman, 20-50, to hang out, have fun,
maybe serious LTR. 27339321

ROMANTIC LEO SWPM, 40s, 61", 200lbs, dark blond/ blue, laid-back, logical, easygoing, would like to meet a warm, loving, af-fectionate, professional lady, 35-45, who likes romance. 27331259

HONESTY A MUST
SBM, 41, honest and hardworking, does have herpes, looking for an honest woman, 30-45, for friendship first, possibly leading to more. \$\mathbb{T}332549\$

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11

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GM'S NEW CRUZE PRICING OFFERS MORE FOR MORE

CAReport





By Dale Buss

General Motors is making small-car pricing moves now with an eye toward how executives envision the industry six months hence. Sure, by raising the price of the next version of Chevrolet's Cruze compact by an average of about \$1,000, and by setting the sticker of the new Chevy Sonic subcompact thousands of dollars above the Aveo it replaces, GM will attempt to make short-term hay in a small-car market where nearly everyone else is choked by short supplies.

But now, finally competitive in a segment where it was woebegone for decades, GM also is trying to establish a couple of things for the day late this year when Japanese heavyweights finally return in full force.

For one thing, GM wants to get American consumers more used to the idea of paying more for GM's small cars -and, in return, getting more amenities and higher-quality content than they're accustomed to seeing. Plus, if GM can build in a price cushion for six months from now when Toyota Corollas and Honda Civics are likely to be back in full supply at U.S. dealers, GM will be in a better position to continue to compete for customers in what could become a competitive donnybrook of historic proportions.

"Toyota and Honda could price aggressively when they come back, which could lead to an excess of supply in this segment, and price wars," said Jessica Caldwell, senior U.S. industry analyst for Edmunds.com. "Raising prices now as a precursor to that could be helpful, because if GM is going to have to battle Toyota and Honda with incentives, they won't lose as much margin."

Two moves prompt examination of GM's intentions. Recently, the company said that the 2012 version of the Cruze that it introduced last year will cost as much as \$1,045 more than comparable versions of the current model. An LT version of the car with an automatic transmission will be sticker at \$20,220, about \$1,000 more than the 2011 model. The entry-level LS model will be priced at \$17,470, or \$195 more for the new model. And the high-end LT. will start at \$23,860 in the 2012 model year in a few weeks, up nearly \$900 from last year.

The new LT will include as standard a feature package that cost \$525 in the current model and includes Bluetooth phone connectivity, cruise control, a leather-wrapped steering wheel and other amenities. And the fuel efficiency of automatic-transmission turbocharged versions of Cruze will jump to 38 mpg on the highway from 36 in the 2011 model, thanks to changes in the six-speed transmission.



The Chevrolet Cruze is snaring a big share of the small-car market for GM.



The interior of the LT. illustrates Cruze's ample contenting.

But that still leaves a \$500 increase for similarly equipped cars for the 2012 model year.

Of course, everyone in the small-car game has been raising prices throughout the second quarter. The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan hamstrung Toyota, Honda and Nissan production of small cars in North America. Toyota and Ford nudged up official prices across the board in the spring, citing higher commodity prices. And the shortages of small cars, even as American consumer demand was being stoked by higher gasoline prices, meant that incentives dwindled rapidly in deals offered by brands and dealers alike on just about every small and fuel-efficient vehicle in

So GM no doubt is taking some short-term advantage of a favorable pricing climate. "It lets consumers know that the current Cruze is cheaper; therefore, if you're in the small-car market - which is still hot despite the decrease in gasoline prices over the last few weeks -you might

want to get into a Cruze before prices go up," said Ivan Drury, a U.S.-industry sales analyst for Edmunds.com. And Cruze is cruising: GM sold more than 98,000 units in the United States this year through May, and its 23,000 sales during the month were tops among compact cars.

But GM's moves have longer-term roots as well. One of them is that, even before the winter run-up in fuel prices, GM, Ford and Hyundai were notably improving the quality of materials in their small cars and the level of amenities and daring to charge higher prices. They were addressing a longterm enhancement of the small-car expectations of American consumers and taking advantage of their willingness to pay for better vehicles instead of just econo boxes of old. "More small cars but at a higher price point and better-equipped - it's reflective of what [former GM Vice Chairman] Bob Lutz actually predicted years ago," said Rebecca Lindland, senior strategist for IHS Automotive, a consulting firm in Lexington, Mass.

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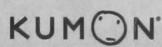
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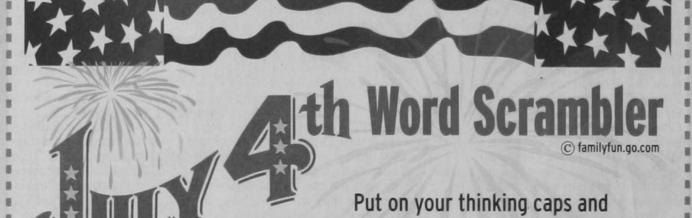
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